

Census continued from page four

The census, taken every ten years, is distributed to every household in the U.S. The questions for Census 2000 were selected by a review of the 1990 Census, consultations with federal and non-federal data users, and by conducting tests.

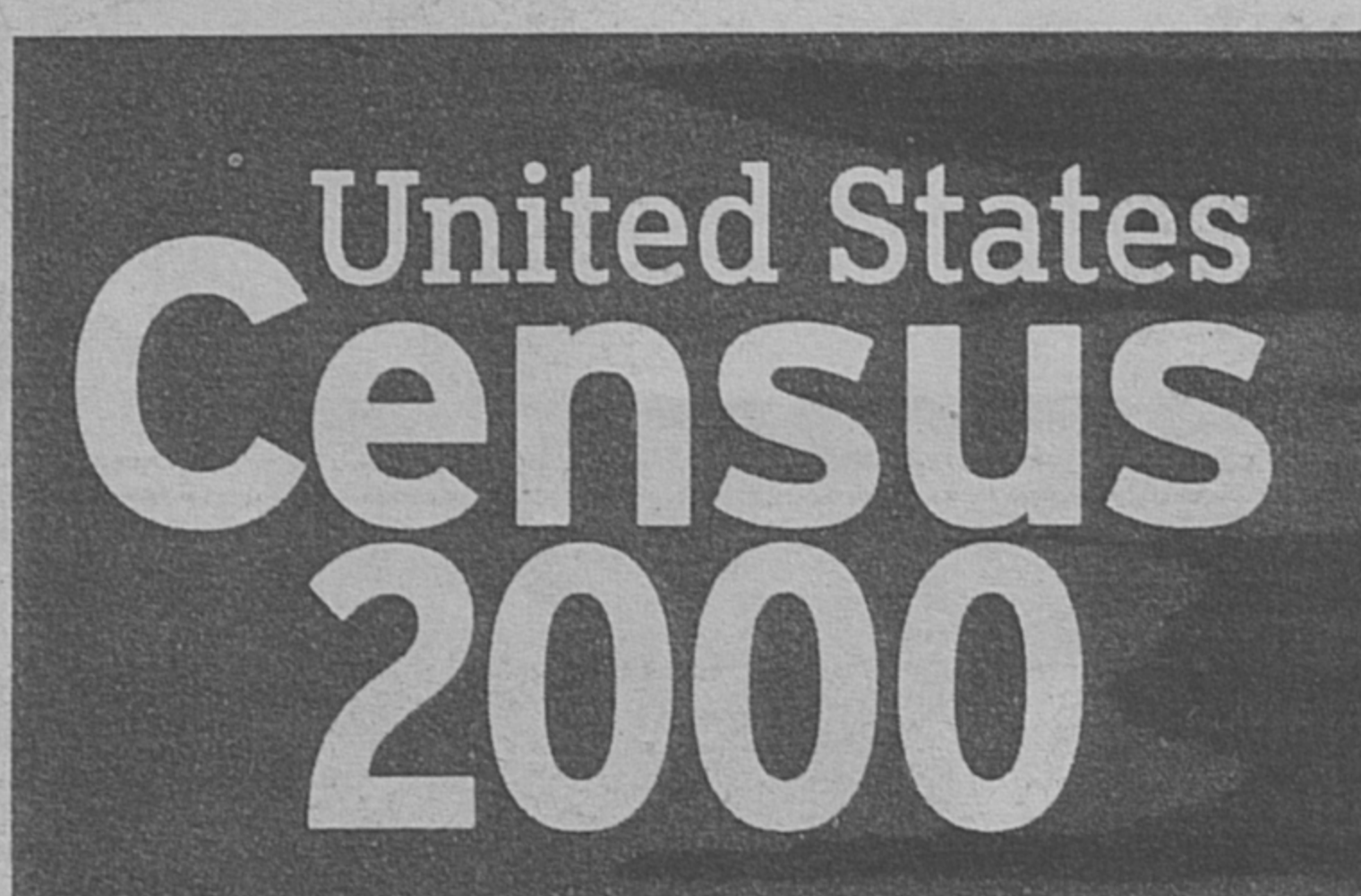
Questions cover topics such as housing, utilities, employment, and income to assess social and physical characteristics of population, and physical and financial characteristics of housing. Only sworn Census Bureau employees see questionnaire responses.

Census data is released as state population counts to the President on or before December 31, 2000. These numbers are used to reapportion the seats of the U.S. House of Representatives.

The Census Bureau provides states with race and ethnic data by April 1, 2000. Other data will be released periodically from June, 2001 through September, 2003.

The census does ask other seemingly hot-button questions about race and Hispanic origin; in fact, race questions have appeared since the first census in 1790. The Census Bureau has said it uses those statistics for policy decisions, promotion of equal employment opportunity, and assessment of racial disparities in health and environmental risks. Questions on Hispanic origin are used for enforcement of bilingual election rules under the Voting Rights Act, monitor-

ing and enforcement of equal employment opportunities, and for programs at the community level.



The bureau also points to efforts to count folks who live in "non-conventional housing" such as homeless shelters, beaches, soup kitchens, underpasses, campgrounds, etc. One population that was recently brought to officials' attention is the "couch surfer" teens, who, said Nepton, "are quite often teenagers in the gay and lesbian community." However, the census does not actually record their GLBT identity itself.

How and whether the census, a federal undertaking, would have to change to accommodate domestic partnerships and/or same-sex marriage in the 2010 Census is not yet known. ▼

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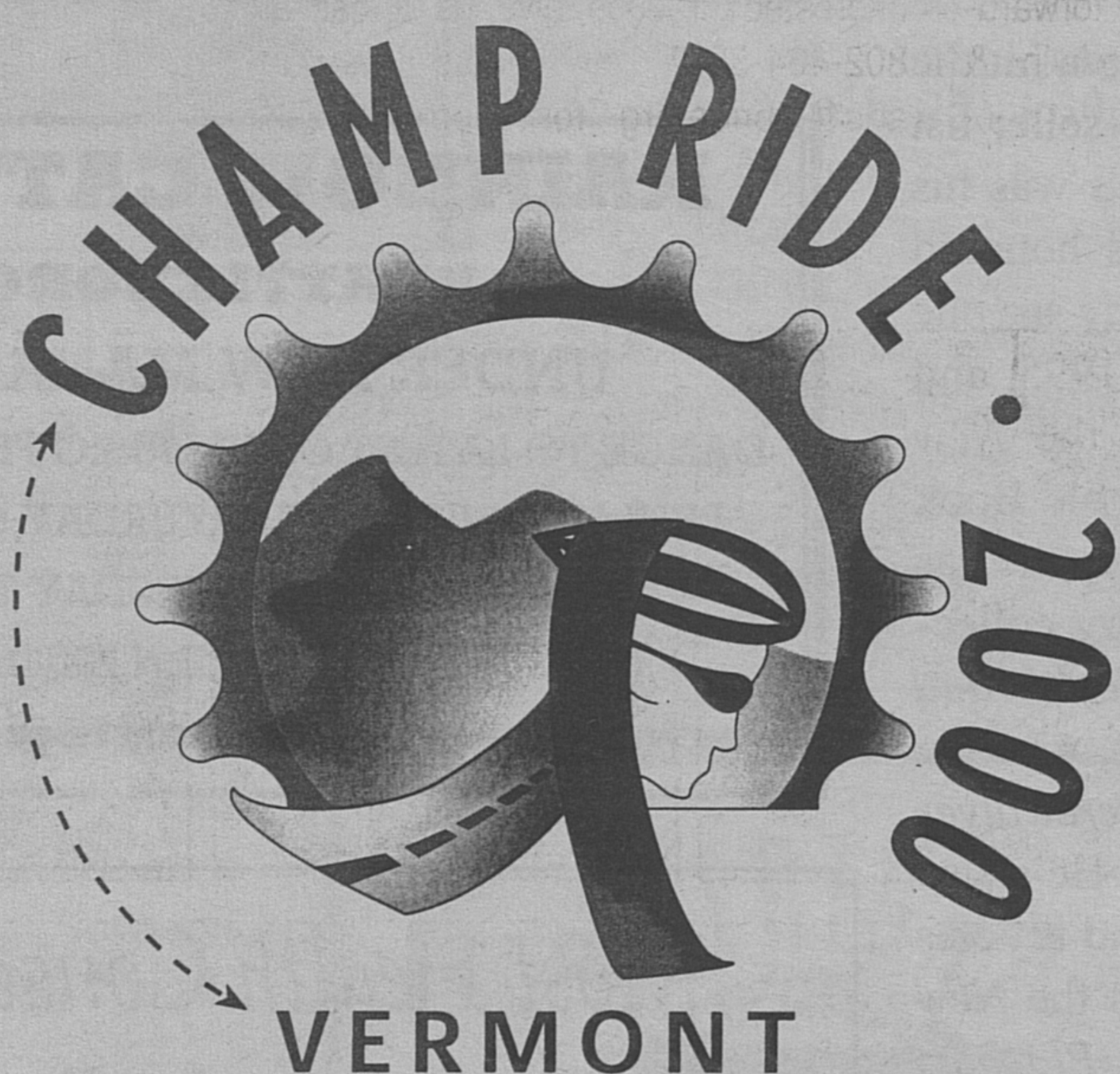
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On Saturday, June 10, cyclists from around New England and New York will get together in Vermont for Champ Ride 2000. This is Vermont CARES' 2nd Annual Bike Ride to raise critically needed funds to continue prevention education and direct services for people living with, or at high risk of, HIV/AIDS.

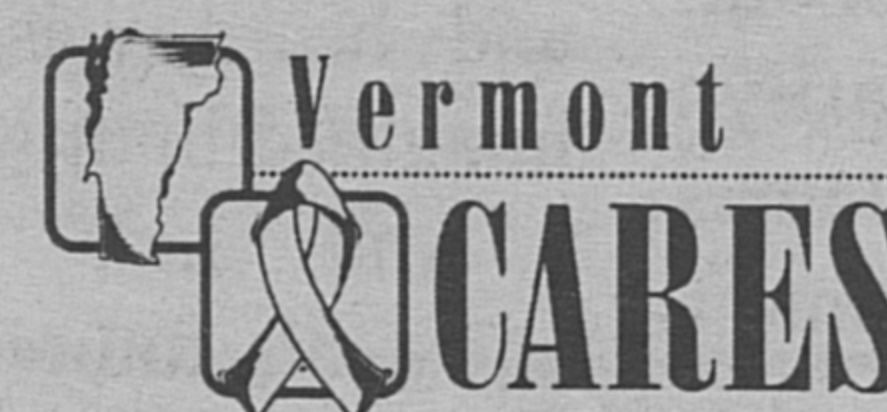
The ride is a 10/25/50/100-mile ride. Everyone can participate, no matter what your cycling ability.

This is a great event for both the novice and avid bicyclists alike and a wonderful opportunity to get out there and test yourself, while marveling at some of Vermont's beautiful country landscape.

We hope you will help us make this annual ride a tremendous success — either by participating in the ride itself, making a generous donation in support of other cyclists, or volunteering on the day of the event.

Help Vermont CARES celebrate its community and continue its commitment to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS.

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