

A scenic mountain landscape with snow patches and two cyclists on a dirt trail. The background features a large, rugged mountain peak with significant snow cover. In the foreground, a dirt trail winds through a valley with sparse, dry vegetation. Two cyclists are riding away from the viewer on the trail; one is in the distance wearing a yellow jacket, and another is closer in the foreground wearing a red jacket. The overall atmosphere is bright and clear.

# Adventure CYCLIST

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# LOVING ‘LOVE AND LIGHT’

I want to thank you for including the article on the adventures of Daniel White (“Love and Light,” May 2019). I enjoy this type of human interest story, which was much more than the typical bike journey. I definitely agree with Daniel that the Ohio to Erie Trail, which crosses the state of Ohio, has lots of points of historical significance and passes through the beautiful landscape of the Amish countryside.

Bob Niedenthal | Oxford, Ohio

We applaud the team at *Adventure Cyclist* for the two articles in the May 2019 issue about the adventures of Daniel White and Kenn Dixon (“This Pastor Wants You Riding a Bike”). Highlighting the lack of diversity in bike travel — long-distance, self-supported, or sometimes any type of cycling — is one aspect of the important discussion that the country needs to continue to have on race.

All self-supported bike travelers frequently have to be worried about cars and sometimes bears and snakes, as Daniel’s mom points out. But as a white person, the fear that Daniel had to also be worried about (and that most of us don’t even need to think about when traveling by bike) is coming across racists. All of society can only really come to terms with the pain and missed opportunities of racism and how to fight it when we understand and acknowledge what many of us benefit from: white privilege.

Our family recently did an 11-day self-supported ride to celebrate our daughter’s 11th birthday. During the whole trip, I don’t think we came across one person of color on a bike. We hope your article will act as a catalyst to further the conversation on this important issue for society and also encourage more people of color and

diverse ethnic backgrounds experience the joy of bike travel.

David Read | Topsfield, Massachusetts

One lament I have heard throughout the bicycle tourism industry is that many tours lack diversity, with older white men being the primary participants. Yet if you look around, you see an enormous diversity of people on bikes going about their daily lives, particularly in big cities. But for a lot of city cyclists, getting away for an overnight bike tour — let alone one that goes on for weeks — is a big step.

So I really appreciated Ellee Thalheimer’s article about Daniel White. It’s nice to hear about how someone whose “friends didn’t understand and still don’t” can find such joy in bicycle touring. Perhaps Daniel can inspire others who ride locally to try bicycle touring as well. He is an inspiration for us!

Lukas Herbert | New York, New York

## NO FREE ADS FOR UBER

I agree with you: we ought not go out for a ride unless we can change a tire at least — unless we’re a transit or taxi ride from home (Letter from the Editor, April 2019). Uber has its own management problems, in addition, but all companies like it are basically a way to make it easier to use a car. Here in San Francisco, the ride app companies are calculated to have added 25 percent more vehicles to the city’s congestion. Many of the drivers commute in from 40 or more miles away, and then drive around the city waiting for a rider. That is hell on our air quality. Bicyclists and transit operators find the ride app drivers to be even worse than other drivers in terms of blocking bike lanes and bus stops, and parking anywhere/anytime for a fare, regardless of whose travel (e.g., bus rider or cyclist) they might be stopping and endangering.

So ... as Adventure Cycling, I know the mission is enjoyable travel by bike. But I think it’s equally important to attend to what makes bike travel (on rural roads or in cities) dangerous and unpleasant. Anything that makes it easier for private vehicles is not going to help us — or, I’ll add, the planet, since we’ve just given a nod to Earth Day. Transit is our friend. Thanks for the work you’ve been doing related to Amtrak. There’s more good work like that to be done.

Peggy da Silva | San Francisco, California

## HOOKED ANOTHER ONE

Well, it worked. Your sneaky plan to attract new members by allowing current ones to nominate friends for temporary memberships snagged another one. Immediately upon opening the glossy pages of the April 2019 issue of *Adventure Cyclist*, I was hooked. Just as my tolerance for a certain national bicycling magazine (which shall remain nameless) has worn terribly thin, I found stories of real people with whom I could identify and advertisements and reviews of products I might actually use. And not only that, it’s clear that your magazine is as much about current trends and future innovations as it is about tradition and history. Reading *Adventure Cyclist* cover to cover lifted my spirits and restored my faith in humanity. Thanks for the work you do to support and strengthen this end of the cycling spectrum. I look forward to sharing the road ahead with you and your other readers. My membership check is in the mail.

George Swain | West Park, New York

*Your letters are welcome. We may edit letters for length and clarity. If you do not want your comments to be printed in Adventure Cyclist, please state so clearly. Include your name and address with your correspondence. Email your comments, questions, or letters to editor@adventurecycling.org or mail to Editor, Adventure Cyclist, P.O. Box 8308, Missoula, MT 59807.*