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Anthropology of the Crowd, Blog 9

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people watching preperation

When I first heard about the bike race i thought that it was simply a local Richmond race, not, as I soon found out, and international race that will double the population of the city. At the moment I truly don't have very many expectations for the crowd beyond 'huge' and 'loud', however I am excited to get into it and find out what it will really be like. Knowing that there will be people from all over the world to see this race I imagine that the crowd will be avid about biking and perhaps very critical of Richmond's road quality as well as appreciative to see just how much of a biking city Richmond really is.

I try to always reserve how I think something will be until I actually experience the event, never having experienced a bike race before I find it hard to think about what the crowd will be like until I see them. But as with any sort of sport that people are avid about I can't help but think that fans will potentially become very competitive and possibly a fight may occur during the race as I have often heard about fans fighting over every other sport.

Thinking about it I imagine that since it is an international race I will hear many different languages, some that I may recognize but many more that I won't. Flags from different countries of the people cheering on those racers who are from their country seem like they will be prominent as well as many bike themed shirts. Beyond that I find it hard to try and guess at what the crowd will look and sound like with so many people coming to see the race and take part in everything that's going on it seems as though any assumptions beyond general or vague ones would soon be proved to be false or not

applicable to most of the crowd.

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