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Rochelle Davis  
Nov. 19, 1997

The Derby is the greatest two minutes in sports. However, there is a lot of activities that led up to the actual event. These activities start several months before the actual race. My research project is on the Derby festivals and traditions before, during, and after the actual race. I started my research by collecting Courier-Journal articles from April 20, 1997 to May 5, 1997.

In my research, I found that barbecue was an essential food for Derby festivals. Mostly organizations held barbecues as annual fundraisers. The barbecues are usually held outside and include some type of music. People come to the barbecues for the food, fun, and to support a worthy cause. For example, the Lincoln Foundation held its 12th annual barbecue to raise money for its summer math and science program. The program is held at the University of Louisville each summer and is suppose to give high school students a boost in their work. People ate under a red and white tent while the Luis Taylor Trio played jazz.

Another example is the Kentucky Colonels' Barbecue. The Colonels' Barbecue featured The Platters, a musical group. The Colonels planned to give the money they made from the barbecue to charitable causes. However, the article did not state any of the charitable causes that have been helped by the Colonels. People at the barbecue either sat in folding chairs or on the grass. During the barbecue the present governor of Kentucky is always presented with an official Kentucky Colonels' jacket.

The weather is a major factor in most of the Derby events since many of them are held outside. An article was written on the weather for Derby Day. The article included the highest, lowest, and wettest Derby in history. The weather for the 1997 Derby festivals was mostly rainy and windy. However, there were a couple of days that were just sunny and cold. A lot of the articles compared the weather from the year before. For instance, thunderstorms sent guests at the Colonels' barbecue home the year before, but in 1997 the sun was shining. However, the wind, cold, and rain did not seem to keep people away from the Derby events. At most of the longer events like the parade and Thunder Over Louisville people brought blankets with them to keep themselves warm from the cold and wind. At the Oaks the rain drenched crowds, soaked hats, and ruined \$100 hairdos. Some people used the wet weather to act like children. For example, two people in the infield during the Derby had a mud fight.

Hats are another essential part of Derby. It is believed that only women wear hats at Derby events, but men wear them also. For example, Sam Robinson, president of the Lincoln Foundation, wore a straw hat to his organization's barbecue. A fifteen year old wore a jester-style felt hat to the Derby Parade. A couple of high school boys wore chapeaus to the parade, while others sported "Cat in the Hat" type hats.

People not only wore hats to Derby events, but bought them there. For instance, decorated hats were sold for ten dollars at the Farmington Brunch. The decorated hats were not only for sale, but they also served as centerpieces for the table. Hats were even found during fundraisers. A high school boy found a gray Kentucky Derby

baseball cap while cleaning up Churchill Downs after the Derby. He was able to earn money for his school's baseball team by cleaning up trash at Churchill Downs.

Another essential of Derby is celebrities. Celebrity fundraising parties are always big news during the Derby. Darrell Griffith, a former Utah Jazz basketball player, had a party to raise money for the Neighborhood Youth Board scholarship program. His guests included talk show host, Geraldo Rivera, Samaki Walker of the Dallas Mavericks, Greg Minor of the Boston Celtics, and comedian Steve Harvey.

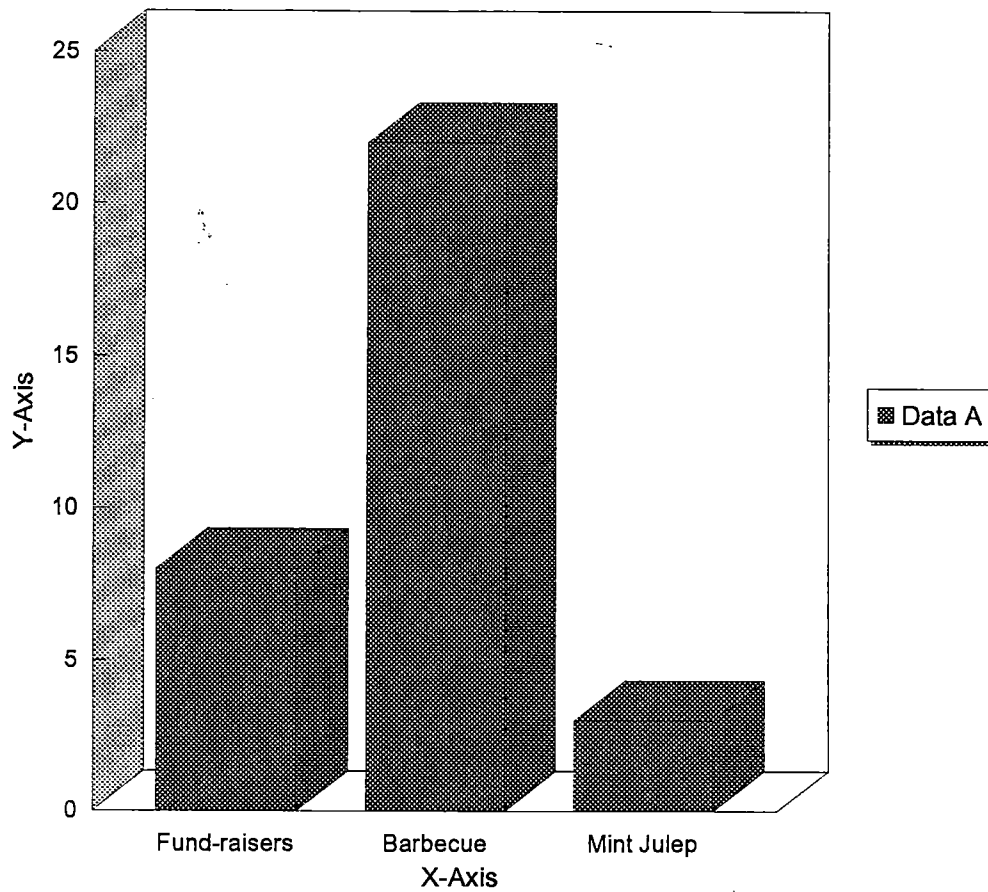
Celebrities are a part of the Derby parade and one is always chosen to be the grand marshal. At the 1997 Derby parade Captain Scott O'Grady, the Air Force pilot shot down in Bosnia in 1995, was the grand marshal.

Celebrities even have their own special seating at the Derby. They sit in places called Millionaire's Row and Turf Club. The Turf Club is becoming the in place to be for celebrities. It has better service and is closer to the track than Millionaire's Row. Millionaire's Row now has more people from the media than celebrities.

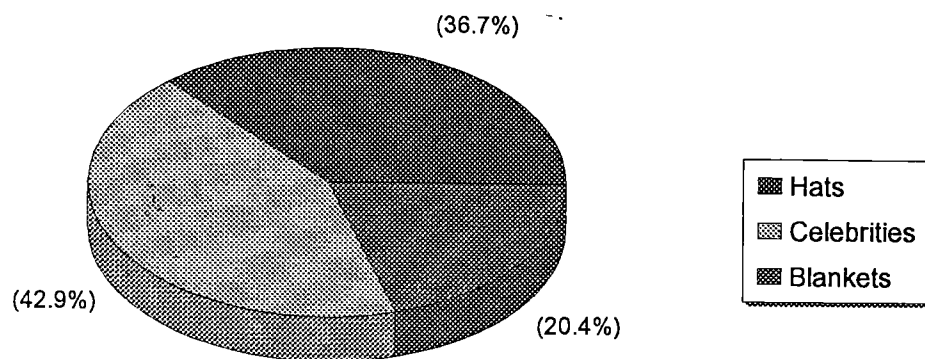
My research did not find everything that I associated with Derby. For instance, Mint Julep was mentioned three times and Derby Pie was not mentioned at all. That surprised me because all the newscasts at Derby always mentions Mint Julep, and they always show the cup it comes in with the mint hanging out the side. Also, Derby pie can be bought throughout the year, but many places like, Honey Baked Ham, only carry it around Derby.

The Kentucky Derby is a time to host barbecues and fundraisers. It is a time to wear hats and watch out for celebrities. The people who attend the Derby events brave whatever the weather may bring so they can be a part of the annual traditions and festivals.

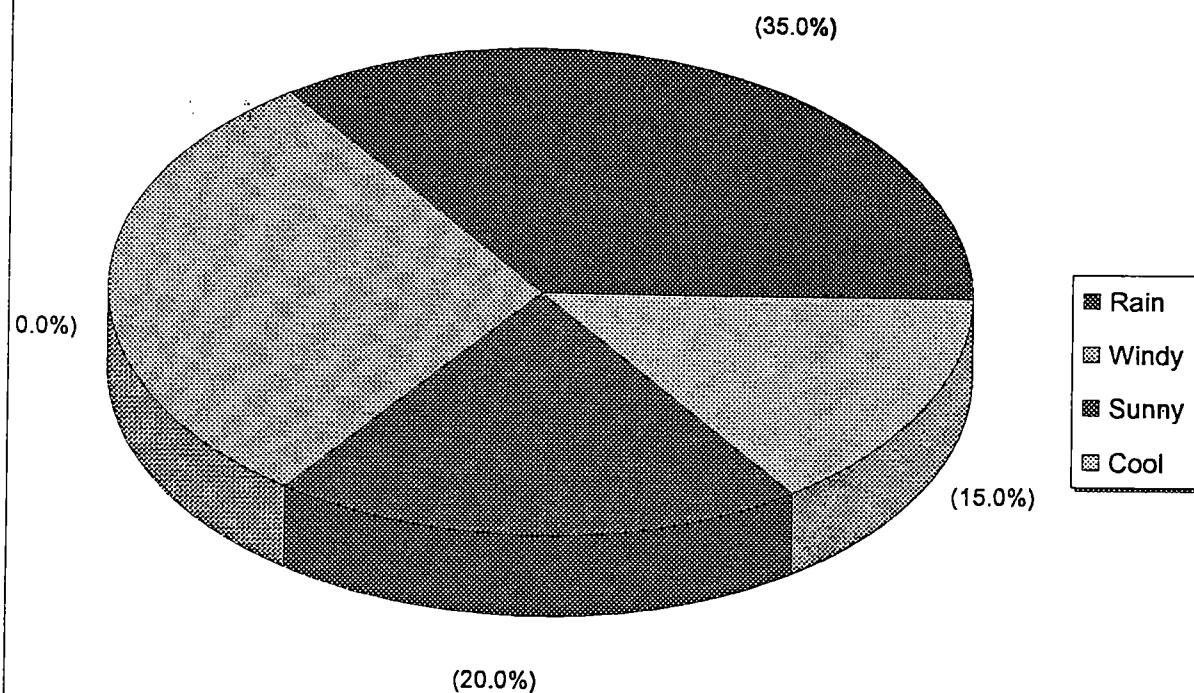
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# Weather



Return this spectacle survey to: Alan McBrayer, 2420 Hatherly Road, Charlotte, N.C. 28209

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<input type="checkbox"/> Circular	<input type="checkbox"/> Pin-slider	<input type="checkbox"/> "C" bridge	<input type="checkbox"/> Clear
<input type="checkbox"/> Oval	<input type="checkbox"/> Loop-to-loop slider	<input type="checkbox"/> Crank bridge	<input type="checkbox"/> Green
<input type="checkbox"/> Octagonal	<input type="checkbox"/> Turnpin	<input type="checkbox"/> Peaked "C" bridge	<input type="checkbox"/> Blue
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<input type="checkbox"/> Quadragular	<input type="checkbox"/> Double hinged(Ayscough)	Hallmark:	
<input type="checkbox"/> "D" shaped	<input type="checkbox"/> Unusual		
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Comments: \_\_\_\_\_



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Nina Walfoort	"Derby fans desceend on Downs in high style or low budget"	C-J	5/4/97	A10



Runners fanned out along New Cut Road near Iroquois Park just after the start of the 13.1-mile race, which ended downtown.

PHOTOS BY DURELL HALL JR., THE COURIER-JOURNAL

## Time's of the essence at finish line

By DAVID MCGINTY  
The Courier-Journal

Clad in a dark green running suit, wearing a cap with a bright floral print, Willy Higgins sipped from a cup of something invigorating early yesterday morning and settled in for a Derby-time custom — watching the Derby Festival miniMarathon runners come struggling in.

Higgins was standing by the finish line at Sixth and Market, watching for his buddy Beetle Bailey ("Yep. That's what they call him.") It was shortly before 9 a.m. and perfect running weather: sunny and cool. At the moment, Beetle was somewhere in the distant herd of runners still thundering toward the finish.

Higgins is a vigorous 77 years old — he caddies at Valhalla Golf Club — and a veteran mini-goer. He has come out for years, in all kinds of weather, to see friends finish. He is also a yardstick of how far the event has come.

Higgins ran the mini several times himself in the 1970s. He was 60 when he ran the first one, which must have made him one of the oldest participants. He doesn't recall how long it took him to finish.

"I made it, period," he laughed.

"It was less than a day," quipped a friend, Sam Alvey.

In those days the race finished at Churchill Downs. Running was still a fringe activity, with a faintly geeky image. The people who turned out for the mini were numbered in the hundreds, and running times didn't seem so important. Just finishing the distance was a feat.

Now they come by the thousands and pack several blocks of downtown streets near the finish line. There the runners suddenly slump into exhaustion, guzzle thousands of gallons of water, and they talk, it seems, about nothing but times.

"When I saw that clock, I knew I was going to break 1:30," a 30-something runner announces with satisfaction to a companion.

"I'm 50, he's 20, and he beat

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### RACE RESULTS

The Courier-Journal will publish a complete list of miniMarathon runners and their times on May 5.

After May 5, the results will be available on The Courier-Journal's Internet site at:  
<http://www.courier-journal.com>



Women's winner Mary Anne Lyons captured her second straight Louisville Triple Crown of Running title. Page B3.

"Yeah. I smelled a lot of pot smoke there," he said.

Greg Ulm, 52, was relaxed and relieved. He had just put his first mini behind him.

Coming into the race, he said, "I was very apprehensive, because I'd heard about the hills in Iroquois Park. I come from Terre Haute, and there's not a hill in Terre Haute. Walking up the driveway is about as steep as it gets."

Ulm spent the night before the race in Tell City, playing euchre and drinking beer. "That's my training routine," he quipped.

He rose at 4 a.m. yesterday to drive to Louisville for the 8 a.m. race. He attacked the dreaded Iroquois Park hills, which come in the first six miles of the 13.1-mile race, then hung on for the rest of the course, finishing in 1:50 and some change. He was happy.

"I'm kind of a plodder," he said. "I'm a Bill Clinton kind of runner."

On Seventh Street, just before

the corner where runners turn onto Market for a one-block sprint to the finish line, Ronnie Johnson leaned against a traffic sign, sweat and salt drying on his body, and watched for fellow runners from Austin, Ind.

"There's about eight of us from Austin," said Johnson, 40, who'd finished in 1:17. He has run the mini three times now, and he finds it a nice race.

"You've got people all the way through," he said. "If you get tired, they'll cheer you on."

Johnson is a serious runner, but it's getting harder to keep up, he said. He's married; he has three kids; he has a job. He took time off from the job, at an automotive parts factory, to run yesterday's race.

That decision might have cost him \$150 in wages, he said, but he had no regrets. His glance took in the blue sky, the cheering bystanders, the weary runners closing in on the finish line.

"I can always work," he said. "I won't always be able to run."

## Enthusiasm blankets bed races

COURIER-JOURNAL  
4/29/97 B1



PHOTOS BY JAMES H. WALLACE, THE COURIER-JOURNAL

The team from Nationwide Paper streaked toward the finish line to win a heat in the Fun Division of the Bedlam in the Streets competition last night at Louisville Motor Speedway.

## Record crowd sees 31 teams in roll-offs

By PAUL BALDWIN  
The Courier-Journal

His veil mussed and his party hat cockeyed, Ed Kupper was spent — but he'd been wise enough not to wear a smart pair of high heels to go with his dress.

"Bout killed me," said a winded Kupper, who helped push Nationwide Paper's entry in the Budweiser/Derby Festival Bedlam in the Streets Bed Races last night. "Dennis Rodman is finished."

Kupper and three co-workers dressed in drag and adopted the theme "Paper Dolls" for their first try in the annual event, which challenges teams of five — four pushers and one driver — to turn beds into racing machines.

"Last year they said they were going to do it and I volunteered," said Karen Franczek, the driver and only genuine woman on Nationwide's team. "It's total fun."

A record crowd of 8,000 packed Louisville Motor Speedway to watch the event, which was moved last year from downtown.

Thirty-one teams competed, running in heats of two, in either the Fun or the Open Division.

In the first heat, Showcase Cinemas' entry, which featured the logo for the upcoming film



Pat McCray cracked a whip as her GE Range covered-wagon bed paraded before its race. The team won for best costume.

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"The Lost World," appeared to be headed for extinction after it misjudged the finish line and stopped before the 200 yards was up.

Later, perhaps out of sympathy, the Showcase entry was allowed to run again, taking second place in the Fun Division, which was won by the General Electric Appliances Laundry Division.

In the Open Division, Executive West Hotel officials pushed their way to victory over 300 yards.

"I kept telling them to push,

push, push," said Doris Foote, the team's driver. "By far, I got the better end of the deal."

An award for perseverance could have gone to the graduation-gown-clad team from Spalding University, which lost two of its four bed pushers and picked up a barnacle-like orange pylon under its front wheels, but still defeated a team running as Columbia Hospital of Louisville.

"You never give up," said Chris Huff, Spalding's golf and basketball coach and one of the two surviving pushers.

The winners in the two divisions, plus the best-costume winner — GE Range — will appear in Thursday's Pegasus Parade.



## Crowd takes hats off to parade.

By KAREN MERK  
 and DICK KAUKAS  
 The Courier Journal

The Pegasus Pride balloon, stubbornly resisting the efforts of Providence wranglers trying to keep it aloft, was not wearing one. But Garfield, who stayed upright, was. The Louisville Fire Department Dalmatians — who tickled the crowd during yesterday's Kentucky Derby Festival Pegasus Parade by rolling over and doing tricks in the street — were not wearing them either.

But lots of marchers representing other countries were. If you thought hats were only for Derby Day, you haven't been to the Pegasus Parade lately.

The parade, which made its annual trek down Broadway to the delight of young and old, drew a crowd of 200,000 to 220,000, said Derby Festival spokeswoman Stacey Yates.

It was a generally well-behaved crowd; there had been only a few minor arrests, Yates said.

The grand marshal — Capt. Scott O'Grady, the Air Force pilot who was shot down over Bosnia in 1995 and survived six days in the wilderness — was the last celebrity in the parade. Sitting on the trunk of a convertible with his sister, Stacey O'Grady, he waved to the crowd and got waves from many in return.

**THE CROWD** was swelled in part because of the wonderful weather — about 60 degrees and sunny at parade time, with a nice breeze. Chilly in the shade, but lots better than a few hours earlier, when it was dreary and felt downright cold — contributing, no doubt, to the prevalence of headgear, silly and otherwise.

Michael Craft, 15, of Pioneer Village was wearing his uncle's hat, and it was a bonus — a jester-style felt hat bought from a parade-route vendor.

Michael's 18-year-old uncle, Donald Craft, said he has several silly chapeaus. Some of their friends at North Bullitt High School wear them, they said.

"I like them, that's why I have them," Donald Craft said. "Because they look weird."

More popular — mostly among teens and younger kids — were the tall "Cat in the Hat" style nuggin'-covers, decorated all kinds of ways, some with stripes, others with cartoon characters or marijuana leaves.

Demetrius Morrison, 13, had a black-and-white one with polka dots. "I like it," he



By MICHAEL HAYMAN THE COURIER JOURNAL  
 Chris Nguyen pointed out some of the sights of the parade to his sister, Emily Nguyen, as they sat along the route.

said. "I don't know if it's fashion, but I like it."

Nancy Considine was selling more traditional Derby hats, straw numbers she decorated herself "just for fun."

She had them laid out on a blanket behind the crowd and had sold one midway through the parade — a black one with red accents, including a cardinal bird, a feather and some veiling. Oh, and a gold plastic horse.

Considine, a 34-year-old hairdresser, said she was enjoying the parade, which she was attending for the first time, even though she was born and raised in Louisville.

It wasn't 18-month-old LaKayla Crawford's first time at the parade, but she was too little to remember last year's, said her mother, Lisa Crawford.

LaKayla, who was wearing adorable corn-

rows, but no hat, was sure having fun yesterday, clapping and boogieing as bands marched past, and waving at the big "Odie" balloon.

Crawford's husband, Lawrence Crawford, said they had taken their daughter to the Great Balloon Glow and the Great Balloon Race in addition to the parade. "We've never missed the parade," he said.

But they're not going to the Kentucky Derby tomorrow, Lisa Crawford said. "This is enough crowd for me."

**PLENTY OF** early birds beat the crowds and were rewarded with front-row seats, including Mildred Vest, 73, of Lyndon, who arrived around noon. She didn't want to miss seeing her granddaughter, Natalie Nixon, 14, clad in a Dalmatian costume, march as part of a Girl Scout unit.

Vest set up folding chairs on the curb near Sixth Street and pulled a blanket over her knees to stay warm. "I had it over my head when it got windy," she said, "and it was windy and cold, believe me."

Even by parade time, when the weather was significantly more cooperative, the wind caused a few problems — especially for handlers of the parade mascot Pegasus Pride balloon.

In the early going, the balloon just lay on its left side; the crowd cheered as it was righted.

Things appeared to get easier down toward Roy Wilkins Avenue and the parade's end, as the balloon moved away from the crosswinds caused by downtown buildings.

But then suddenly, it landed briefly atop a small tree and, a few moments later, almost got snagged in a barbed-wire fence.

"It's the wind," explained Mike Del essio, a Providence employee who has helped guide the balloon for five years. "Any kind of crosswind brings it down."

But for most everyone else, it was an "up" kind of day.

Like Ballard High School seniors Ben Weinstein and Michael Johnston, who were perched, along with a few others, atop the wall in front of the Kentucky Easter Seal Society building at Floyd Street, with a perfect view.

They could see the parade, their friends in the school's marching band, and just then, the Brown & Williamson float saluting farm families. Weinstein said the float, four giant heads, "is the weirdest I've ever seen."

Information for this story was also gathered by staff writer David Heath.



By MICHAEL HAYMAN THE COURIER JOURNAL  
 Staci Anderson, who is from Texas, perched atop two horses as the Equiline USA group took part in yesterday's festivities.



By MICHAEL HAYMAN THE COURIER JOURNAL  
 Gov. Paul Patton and his wife, Judi, waved as they rode along Broadway in a Kentucky-built Corvette.



By MICHAEL HAYMAN THE COURIER JOURNAL  
 The Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp. float, filled Salute to Farming Families, was the largest in the parade.



By MICHAEL HAYMAN THE COURIER JOURNAL  
 The grand marshal, Air Force Reserve Capt. Scott O'Grady, and his sister, Stacey O'Grady, waved to the crowd.

# Thunderful

B1  
4/20/97

1-13  
COURIER JOURNAL  
4/20/97



The finale of the pyrotechnic spectacular lit the sky and the Clark Memorial Bridge in a blaze of glory. BY MICHAEL HAYMAN, THE COURIER-JOURNAL

## Fireworks show tops them all

By JIM ADAMS  
and ANDREW MELNYKOVICH  
The Courier-Journal

**DERBY**  
APRIL 18 — MAY 4, 1997

The ninth Thunder Over Louisville delivered on its name once again last night, shaking both banks of the Ohio River with a massive, flamboyant show of fireworks that required the heavens for a stage.

What was billed as the nation's largest fireworks display was the culminating event of an extravaganza that began at 2 p.m. with a 136-plane air show — itself billed as the nation's largest. All of this was witnessed by what may have been the largest crowd ever for an event in downtown Louisville.

Viewed from the Belvedere over the downtown waterfront, the fireworks show was as much a physical experience as a visual one. One first saw the fireworks, then heard them, and then felt them in the crowd.

The barrages of loud shells in the "false finale" — and particularly in the real thing — set the Belvedere and everyone on it literally vibrating.

Kim Coleman of Pikeville watched the spectacle on the Belle of Louisville with her boyfriend, Randy Powers of Louisville, and his parents. "I thought it was awesome," she said. "I'm from Eastern Kentucky, and I've never seen anything like this before in my life."

The epic fireworks display was followed swiftly by an epic traffic jam. Streets leading from the waterfront in downtown Louisville

were so clogged with pedestrians that there was nowhere for cars to go. Despite some reports of fights earlier in the evening, the throng generally seemed to be orderly as it began to disperse last night.

Throughout the day, there was a heavy police presence through the entire area of the event — where 900 officers and support personnel were on duty, the most ever for any event in Louisville.

Officer Aaron Graham, Louisville police spokesman, said at 11:45 last night that police had made 21 arrests in connection with Thunder yesterday, most of them after the fireworks show and most for drunkenness, with a few for fighting. He said that figure was likely to rise before the night was over.

Graham also said that seven people had been taken to hospitals, including two or three pregnant women with symptoms of labor.

In Indiana, people lined the riverfront in Jeffersonville, some snuggling in sleeping bags for warmth. More than 30 people gathered for Michael Joseph's annual Thunder party at the Harbours condominiums and marveled at having the best view from the highest point on the Jeffersonville riverfront.

See THE SKY  
Page 4, col. 1, this section



BY MICHAEL HAYMAN, THE COURIER-JOURNAL

Skyrocketing bursts of fireworks silhouetted the Clark Memorial Bridge, seen here from the Louisville shore.



The Louisville skyline was ablaze with eye-popping color in this view of the fireworks from Shippensburg Island. BY JAMES H. WALLACE, THE COURIER-JOURNAL

# The sky is the limit for Thunder's fireworks show

Continued from Page One

"It gets bigger and better each year," said guest John Macpherson of Louisville, as he looked over the 11th-floor balcony. "It's really going to be a chore for them to top this next year."

"It was worth the 15-block walk and all the traffic," said Darlene Shively of Louisville, who watched Thunder in Jeffersonville with her husband, Henry. "It was everything they built it up to be and more. It was just phenomenal."

**THE SHOW** was ignited 10 minutes late, a glitch attributed to a power surge that temporarily put two computers — one controlling the music, the other the fireworks — out of sync. By 9:40, the problem was corrected, and a synchronized show was under way.

The prospects for such success were not evident early in the day, for yesterday dawned wet and remained unseasonably cool. Clouds shaded the entire day in grayish casts — the grays of wings and warplanes.

Still, people came, dragging strollers and chairs, coolers and sleeping

bags, tarps and blankets, ultimately filling downtown with a crush of people. At 8 p.m., Broadway — many blocks from the river — was jammed with cars, and its sidewalks were alive with folks heading north.

Neither police nor the Derby Festival officially estimated the size of last night's crowd, although the Festival loosely puts the attendance each year at between 300,000 and 600,000. Last night, officials were guessing that the crowd reached 650,000, which would make it the largest ever. If it did reach that number, it approached the entire population of Jefferson County, which was counted at 664,937 in the 1990 U.S. Census.

Yesterday's clouds played a supporting role in the show, in more ways than one. To some extent, they constricted the aerial show by lowering visibility. However, when the show's searchlights began fanning across the sky shortly before 9 p.m., the low-lying clouds provided an unexpected texture upon which the brilliant beams played.

River Road, which lay under 15 feet of water just 43 days ago, endured another inundation yesterday. A close study of this flood of human-

ity showed that "doing Thunder" is a skill in its own right — distinct from "doing" the Pegasus Parade, or even the Derby itself.

**FOR EXAMPLE**, when Michael and Casey Gray of the Okolona area brought their children Evan, 4, and Tori, 2, to their first Thunder Over Louisville, they packed a pair of heavy-duty mufflers, the kind designed for ear protection on firing ranges. They also brought five blankets, two pillows, two folding lawn chairs, a stroller, a duffel bag and a vinyl tent to shield the children from the wind.

When they arrived around 11 a.m., the Grays selected a fine plot of sidewalk on River Road just east of Sixth Street and plunked down all they had brought. Toward evening, as Michael wrestled with Tori on a blanket, the child's hearing was protected against Thunder by both the hood of a winter coat and the big-league ear muffs. Military jets roared overhead.

The Grays estimated that they would spend about \$50 yesterday, mainly because they planned to patronize vendors selling what Michael Gray called "the carnival food."

A chair, stool or cushion seemed to be the key to contentment on River Road yesterday, as thousands upon thousands formed a sprawling mass upon the concrete. Many spread blankets over tarps or sheets of plastic, to protect against the dampness from Friday night's rain.

Two of the more innovative devices provided support for cousins Andy Stewart of Grayson County and Wally Stewart of Louisville: They were sitting low, but contentedly, upon dandy folding stools hand-crafted by Carl Carrier, Andy's neighbor in Millwood, Ky. The lightweight wooden stools collapsed neatly for carrying and seemed unparalleled for fireworks-watching. "Great for fishing, too," Andy Stewart said.

The day was not completely without hitches:

■ About 1:30 a.m. yesterday, fireworks stretching some 1,500 feet along the Clark Memorial Bridge discharged, possibly because of static electricity or lightning, according to Wayne Hettinger, the producer of Thunder Over Louisville. Those fireworks were replaced by 10:30 a.m., thanks to the fact that Zambelli Inter-

nationale, the fireworks provider, had extra explosives on hand as a contingency.

"It was like it never happened," Hettinger said. "They pulled a rabbit out of their hat."

■ Early in the afternoon, inbound traffic backed up severely on all three interstates, more so than in past years. Police and Derby Festival officials offered several reasons: Many Thunder-goers may have left home later than in the past because of the damp, dreary morning; the crowd at the "static" air show at the Kentucky Air National Guard base at Louisville International Airport was possibly twice the size of last year's crowd; and minor accidents were reported on Interstates 71 and 64 early yesterday afternoon.

■ Early in yesterday's air show, an Air Force parachutist was forced to release his main chute and deploy his reserve, according to Thunder officials. The parachutist landed safely on a barge as planned, and his main chute landed somewhere downtown near I-65, they said. It was not clear last night why the main chute failed to operate properly.

■ Police said a fight involving about 100 people — apparently members of rival gangs — occurred about 9 p.m. around Fourth Street and River Road. Police made no arrests, and knew of no injuries, but briefly detained and photographed some of those involved.

**WHEN ALL** the fireworks had ended, one question hung like the silent cloud of smoke in last night's air: What can the Festival do next year to top this one?

Stacey Yates, Festival spokeswoman, said the air show was special this year because of the 50th birthday of the Air Force, so it can't be staged on such a scale again. But she said the fireworks show has grown every year; the first Thunder, in 1989, was a lunch-hour affair with 3,000 shells, the same number fired in the first 15 seconds of last night's show.

And next year — when the show will have a "Mickey Mouse" theme in conjunction with Disney — it will be "bigger, better and more colorful," she said.

Information for this story also was gathered by staff writers Mark Schaver and Camille Diana Barbee.





Andre Skiles kept the beat going on conga drums as he performed with the Ron Hayden Group last night during the second annual African Ball at the Kentucky Center for the Arts.

BY PAUL L. NEWBY II, SPECIAL TO THE COURIER-JOURNAL

## And they're off — to parties

Griffith party is All-Star success for up to 2,000

Neither rain nor wind could dampen the spirits of Derby party-goers in Louisville last night. Here's a look at three fund-raising bashes that kept celebrants smiling through the night.

By LAWRENCE MUHAMMAD  
The Courier-Journal  
5/3/97 B1

Talk-show host Geraldo Rivera topped the guest list last night at "Darrell Griffith's All-Star Celebrity Affair."

Just the night before, Rivera had partied at Anita and Preston Madden's Derby Eve bash in Lexington.

So how did Griffith snag the TV personality for his party at Louisville's Club Hotel by Doubletree? "He heard about it and called me up," Griffith said.

"We're here to have a good time and to thank Louisville for supporting our show, as well as because of our relationship with WDRB," which airs the show, said Rick Marker, a sales representative for Tribune Entertainment, which distributes "The Geraldo Rivera Show."

With about 2,000 patrons, some believe Griffith's party is fast becoming Louisville's premier African-American Derby bash.

It was started five years ago by the Louisville businessman and former University of Louisville and Utah Jazz hoops star to attract the city's debonair young moderns who were too hip for formal parties and too stylish to come in jeans.

"It's growing," Griffith said, "and we hope it becomes the biggest social event of the year."

In addition to Rivera, Griffith's celeb list included former U of L stars Samaki Walker of the Dallas Mavericks and Greg Minor of the Boston Celtics and comedian and TV personality Steve Harvey.

Griffith boasted that, at \$15 a person, his party is "the cheapest Derby ticket in town."

The party benefits the Neighborhood Youth Board's scholarship program and has raised \$35,000 for it in the past three years.

### Nite Cap offers intimate affair

By FRAN ELLERS  
The Courier-Journal

For guests at the fourth annual "Nite Cap Affair" on Theatre Square, \$125 wasn't much to spend to benefit a good cause, especially with all the perks it bought, including:

■ No rushing around to change out of Derby attire into more party-ish duds: Guests came from the track as they were, greeted by makeup stylist Sherry Broyles of Mary Kay cosmetics to freshen up the women.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN BOHANNON, SPECIAL TO THE COURIER-JOURNAL  
Cassandra McMillan of Louisville, a radio producer, conversed during the Nite Cap Affair dinner at Rick's Square Piano Bar.

**DERBY BRUNCH:**  
Cuisine salted with history makes a winning combination. B4

After spritzing on a sniff of Mary Kay's Tribute perfume, Sonia Kapostins of San Francisco announced, "Now we're all fresh and cute and ready for vodka."

■ No wait to get at the food: The party started at 6:30 with appetizers, such as caramel brie with walnuts. The dinner was just as tasty: Two kinds of salmon and luscious desserts (double-chocolate mousse, white amaretto cake with apricot filling).

■ No lack of low-key entertainment, from a gratis booklet about the history of Churchill Downs to jazzy piano solos by Rick Bartlett of Rick's Square Piano Bar, where the party was held. Local band Peaches also played dance music.

The intimate gathering was popular with the 100 or so guests. "The band's good; the food's good; just kick off your shoes and wind down," said Melanie Sherrard of Louisville.

Sherrard was more passionate about this party than some — she is a nurse in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Kosair Children's Hospital, the beneficiary of this year's proceeds.

### African Ball adds touch of elegance

James Washington felt a little awkward in his royal-purple African tunic and pants.

He and his wife, Wilma, weren't used to dressing in traditional attire and had borrowed the outfits they wore to last night's "African Ball" at the Kentucky Center for the Arts.

But Washington's awkwardness melted away as he and his wife merged into a sea of friends. "It's something where we can celebrate with our own people. Something different," Wilma



At the Nite Cap Affair, Larry Ensor danced with Barbara Romine of Indianapolis. She and her husband, Paul, were guests of Ensor and his wife.

Washington said.

That's exactly what the sponsors intended for the second annual ball.

Derby hasn't always "been an event that the black community has really been a part of," sponsor Musa Uthman said.

But last night's party, with its traditional African cuisine, dress and entertainment, is "finally something that's elegant" for those who feel left out, Uthman said.

"It gives people in Louisville the opportunity to see the other side of African or African-American culture," said Joanne Lander, a retired teacher, classical pianist and speaker on African-American history. "It's classic."

This year's entertainment included the Khamisi African Dance Theatre; the Ron Hayden Quartet, a jazz group; and a fashion show.

Tickets were \$35. Sponsors hoped to draw enough people to donate money to a cause in honor of Cyndi Sweeney-Brown, Uthman's sister, who was killed by her ex-husband in 1995.

1-15  
COURIER-JOURNAL  
5/3/97

## Among the huddled masses, roses were red, lips were blue

By DICK KAUKAS 5/4/97  
The Courier-Journal A15

By 3:30 yesterday afternoon, a couple of hours before the Kentucky Derby, John and Lisa McCarty of Chicago had had enough of Churchill Downs.

Both of them had dressed for 70-degree temperatures and were unprepared for the occasional rain and the wind gusts that tore at their summery outfits.

He had no coat, just slacks, a yellow long-sleeved shirt and a tie. She wore a light jacket, straw hat and a skirt slit up the side. Her lips were pale and she was shivering as they headed toward a TARC bus.

"We'll watch it at our friends' house," John McCarty said.

"It's colder here than it was at home, in Chicago, when we left," his wife said.

It was cold enough — 51 at post time — to prompt a smattering of people to leave the track before the big race they had come to see.

Laura Calacci of Washington, D.C., and her father, Benjamin F. Walsh, a petroleum consultant from New Orleans, decided to watch the 123rd running on TV at the bed and breakfast where they were staying.

As they left in a wind-blown rain, Calacci said she was cold even though she had resisted the temptation to come in the "fabulous" orange dress and orange shoes she had bought for the occasion. Instead, she wore a more practical blazer and slacks.

It was cold enough that June

Swaim of Louisville, who arrived at the track just about the time Calacci and her father were leaving, said she felt just great in her mink vest.

"It's cold, but I'm comfortable," she said as she headed toward the betting windows with a friend in a long wool coat.

Fur, wool and sensible shoes were necessities at the track yesterday, with winds of about 20 mph producing a wind-chill factor of 32 degrees at race time.

But it wasn't the coldest Derby Day ever. Records of post-time temperatures go back only to 1940, and yesterday's matched the second-lowest since then. It was 47 when the starting gate opened on May 4, 1957, and 51 at post time on May 6, 1989.

Here are some past Derby Day weather extremes, according to the National Weather Service:

■ Lowest low temperature for the 24-hour period: 36 degrees on May 4, 1940. (Of course, the day's low temperature probably wasn't at race time.)

■ Highest high: 94 on May 2, 1959.

■ Lowest mean temperature (average between the day's high and low): 42 in 1957.

■ Highest mean temperature: 78 on May, 1886, and May 9, 1889.

■ Wettest: 2.31 inches of precipitation on May 11, 1918. One inch of that fell in the afternoon during races. (Yesterday's intermittent rains didn't come close to that.)

Information for this story also was gathered by staff writer Pat Howington.



MAY 1, 1997

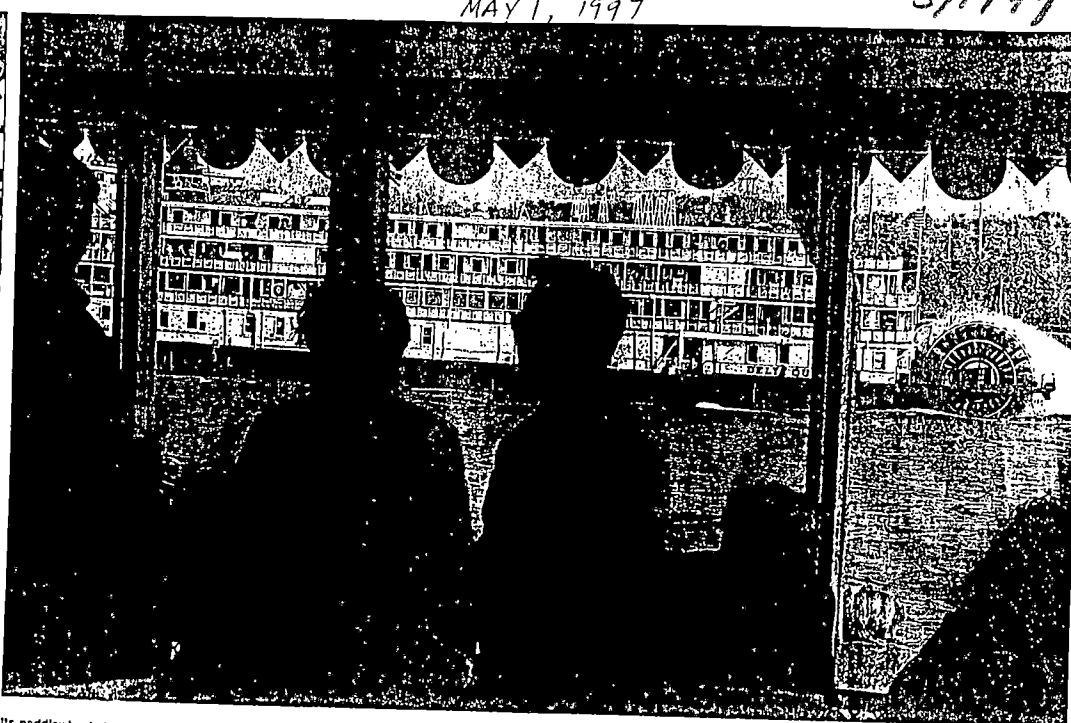
5/1/97



BY DUFFELL HALL JR., THE COOKIER-JOURNAL  
Erica Lee, 4, watched preparations for the boat race.



BY JAMES WALLACE, THE COOKIER-JOURNAL  
Larry Skinner and The Riverboat Five provided pre-race music.



Its paddlewheel churning, the Delta Queen, in background, had pulled even with the Belle of Louisville by the time the steamboats reached Cox Park on their way upriver yesterday.

## Contest more like pro wrestling than a sprint

BY ANDREW MILNYKOVYCH  
The Courier-Journal

Paddlewheelers are the heavyweights of boat racing. Known more for size and power than for speed and agility.

Then competitors are less akin to boxing than to professional wrestling — valued more as entertainment than as legitimate sport.

The results are, in part, delicately predictable. The principal element of suspense comes, by way of the creative but notorious means often used in win.

So about the only surprise in yesterday's Kentucky Derby Festival Great Steamboat Race was how easily the Delta Queen disposed of the Belle of Louisville. There were no showmen's efforts to affect the outcome, not even an effort to make the contest seem close.

Even the start seemed a bit questionable, with Belle Capt. Mike Fitzgerald doing his usual masterful job of saving the home-river advantage at the outset. The Belle was well ahead when Fitzgerald got Delta Queen Capt. Clarke "Doc" Hawley on the radio.

I asked him, "Are you ready?" and he said, "Yes, I'm ready." Fitzgerald said of the decision on when to fire the cannon that starts the race, "So it was an agreed-upon firing of the cannon. We were certainly ahead when the cannon went off."

The Belle didn't stay ahead for long. By the time the boats passed

the Louisville Water Co. plant at Zorn Avenue, the Delta Queen had established a sizable lead.

That advantage stretched to half a mile or so by the turnaround at the head of Six Mile Island. The Belle made no headway on the down stream leg, losing by about a mile.

Students of the race's history could find ample evidence to suggest that only the dimensions of the winning margin were in doubt when the boats left the shore.

After all, not since 1983, when the Belle of Louisville took a 10.8 lead in the series, has either boat held more than a one-victory edge in the series. Not since 1986, when the Delta Queen won its third consecutive race to grab an 11-10 edge, has a boat prevailed in more than two races in a row. The Belle entered yesterday's race with a 16-15 edge and a two-race winning streak.

Keeping the races and the series close often has involved questionable deeds and strange twists. In 1995, the Belle won when the Delta Queen mysteriously stalled at the touch.

The Great Steamboat Race's complex history is accompanied by a traditional and steadfast insistence by the participants that the contest is entirely legitimate. That was certainly the case in this year's race, with both captains bristling at any suggestion to the contrary.

"It isn't a game, it isn't rigged," Hawley, who's captained the Belle in the early 1970s, said before the race.

"Both boats try so hard and it means

DEBBY FESTIVAL



BY JAMES WALLACE, THE COOKIER-JOURNAL  
Delta Queen Capt. Clarke "Doc" Hawley grinned at his passengers.

Steamboat aficionados

Six generations ago, her ancestor Mary Miller became the first woman to earn a steamboat pilot's license. Custer said, "In her, the Great Steamboat Race's history came alive."

The race "keeps aspects of steamboat racing alive," she said. "It doesn't matter who wins."

Information for this story was gathered by staff writers Michael Jennings and Rick McDonough.



Not content during a festive Derby Week celebration to simply walk up and claim the prize, Delta Queen walter Bernard Johnson danced gleefully along at the head of a procession of his crewmates yesterday.



Californians Alex Yawornsky and his wife, Helen, put their hands together yesterday as the Delta Queen passed the finish line to claim victory. The win brought the Derby Week series to a 16-16 tie.



Delta Queen dockhands Larry Garnett, left, and Rick Welch displayed the golden antlers, traditional sports belonging to the Great Steamboat Race victors.

# Farmington's Derby brunch is awash in cuisine, history

## 19th fund-raiser for historic homes braved wind, chill

By LESLIE SCANLON  
The Courier-Journal

Aaaah, elegance in the rain!

She looked lovely, simply lovely, in her short, chic, sleeveless black dress.

She looked classy.

She looked cold.

"Such darling outfits!" said a guest with a coat at the upscale, outdoors Derby brunch yesterday at Farmington. "I'm sorry they have to freeze themselves."

When the sun peeked out, it was a splendid affair: about 800 people gathering under tents in Derby finery for a classic Kentucky brunch to benefit the Historic Homes Foundation Inc. With a jazz band setting the tone, they feasted on Bloody Marys, roast beef, country ham, grits, fried apples, asparagus, biscuits and gravy, and chocolate nut pie.

"Very low-calorie, non-fat food," one diner said with a grin.

"I like to see the people," said Boo Snyder of Louisville, who came with her friend, Missy Cubine. "And the food is always good."

This is the 19th year the brunch has been held to benefit the Historic Homes Foundation, a non-profit group that operates four historic homes — Farmington, Locust Grove, the Thomas Edison House and White Hall. With tickets ranging from \$80 to \$105 a person, this event is open to the public — but many who come are the well-heeled employees or guests of corporations or longtime support-

DERBY  
KENTUCKY  
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ers of historic preservation in the area.

"This cannot be done without volunteers and the sponsorship of corporations," said Beverley Ballantine, who is regent of Farmington. And the benefit is "not only the money that's brought in, it really is to raise historic awareness. People come to these sites and they get a deeper appreciation of history, for the people who built these homes and the African-American community that kept it going."

**WHILE THE GUESTS** yesterday clearly were enjoying the people-watching and the chance at a glimpse of history, they clearly were saving a big chunk of their attention for the weather. One big gust toppled a pole supporting one of the tents, a problem quickly rectified.

Ballantine said she attended the Kentucky Oaks on Friday, and when the heavens opened up just before the big race, "I wasn't the least bit concerned about the horses. I was thinking about the tents" at Farmington.

Third Ward Alderman Tom Owen came with his wife, Phyllis, and her brother and sister-in-law, Paul and Toni Johnston of Fort Worth. The two couples have spent much of the week in wall-to-wall Derby fun: taking in the Great Steamboat Race, the Pegasus Parade, the Oaks and yesterday's brunch.

And last week the Owen family played host to a foreign-exchange student from Spain, taking her to the hot-air balloon race, the miniMarathon and the Cherokee Triangle As-

sociation's Olde Time Arts and Crafts Fair.

**AT THIS POINT**, "stamina is an issue," Tom Owen said with a laugh.

Mary Ann Mitchell of Henry County also has been doing a Derby marathon: with parties Friday and last night and the Kentucky Colonels' barbecue today. Her husband, William R. Mitchell, skipped the brunch yesterday morning, telling his wife "9:30 is too early."

But she came anyway and was delighted to purchase one of the \$10 Derby hats volunteers had made and which served as centerpieces on the tables (until a buyer snatched them up). One purchaser confided: "I know it's a man's hat. But the wind was so bad this morning I put on my daughter's golf hat," and she knew the hat she found on her table was better than that.

**YESTERDAY'S GATHERING** was full of interesting etiquette twists.

How can a woman shake someone's hand when she's trying to hold her hat on with one hand and her skirt down with the other?

Is it tacky or terrific to wear old shoes with your new dress when you trudge through the mud?

And, pointing to a man who was trying to work his way through the buffet line and talk on a cellular phone at the same time, Mitchell remarked that at the Kentucky Colonels Ball Friday night, "the phones were ringing all over the place."

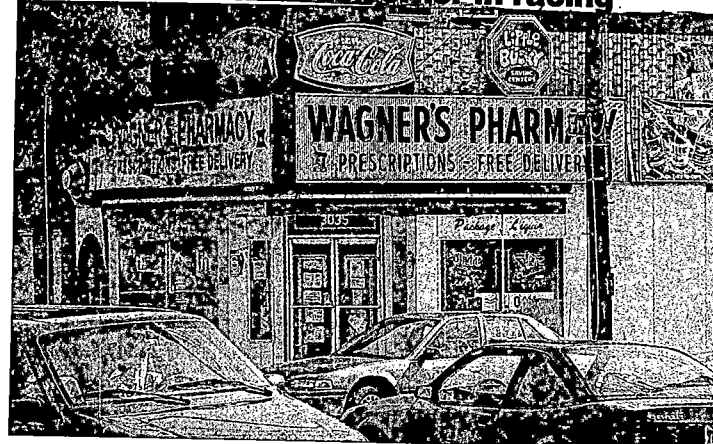
Christie Shackell and her husband, Dan, who moved to New Albany from Chicago last October, attended their first Derby brunch yesterday. "This is very interesting — it's very nice," said Christie, who looked splendid in a white and green outfit and hat. She looked down at her mud-splattered heels. "Next year, I'll wear black."

...It's the most famous corner in racing'

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COURIER-JOURNAL

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Wagner's Pharmacy is scheduled to close to make way for the widening of Central Avenue. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HAYMAN, THE COURIER-JOURNAL

## Pharmacy lunch counter serves final Derby Week

By NINA WALFOORT  
The Courier-Journal

5/2/97 B1

Bob Baffert holds his plate up to Lee Wagner to show that he hasn't finished his lunch. He ordered the Thursday special at Wagner's Pharmacy — a barbecue sandwich and potato salad — but his jumpy stomach could only handle three-quarters of it.

"A week ago I would have polished this off," Baffert, trainer of Derby contender Silver Charm, tells Wagner apologetically. "The closer it gets to the Derby the less I can eat."

On the cusp of the big race, Wagner Pharmacy is in full swing, doing the lunch thing for the last time during Derby Week. The pharmacy and its lunch counter are scheduled to close by year's end to make way for the widening of Central Avenue.

**THROUGHOUT** the week a steady stream of humanity — from penny-strapped grooms to multimillionaires — is crossing Fourth and Central from Churchill Downs to the classic luncheonette, seeking solace for their souls and their stomachs.

"It's like the TV show 'Cheers,'" said trainer Nick Zito. "Everybody knows your name."

"It's the most famous corner in racing," said jockey agent Don "Hee Haw" Alvey, exaggerating in the way that is customary here. "It'll be sad next year when they tear it down."

At the peak of yesterday's mid-morning rush, six waitresses bumped around behind the lunch counter, grabbed burgers and eggs off the grill, whirled blenders full of milk shakes, poured coffee, dished out one-liners — and called you by your name, if they knew your name.

**THE QUARTERS** are close and it's hard to mind your own business.

Did you hear that LeRoy Neiman came in yesterday and is going to do a painting of the restaurant?

Did you see that guy get out of his car and try to punch the driver of the car in front of him? Right out front!

Did you hear the one about the guy whose lucky number was five? He had five kids, his phone number was 555-5555. He went to the Derby and the fifth horse in the fifth race was Mister Five. The guy bet \$1,000 on him and sure enough, the horse came in fifth.

Haw, haw, haw.

"If you like to watch people, this is the place to sit and listen and watch," said Wanda Cundiff, a lunchtime regular who works at nearby American Filter. "I like to see Nick Zito because he's such a good-looking doll."

Wayne Catalano, trainer of Crypto Star, packed two tables with family, friends and children, snarfing plates of ham and eggs. Their goldenrod Catalano Stables jackets added a flash of color to the restaurant's wood-paneled interior.

At the next table the gregarious Zito, trainer of Derby hopefuls Jack Flash and Shammy Davis, ate a cheese and lettuce sandwich, palled around with friends



Raymond Warren of Louisville dunked a doughnut at the lunch counter. Next to him was Louis Giglio of Boston.



Lee Wagner took over the pharmacy from his father, who opened it in 1910.

and talked on a cellular phone.

Scott Stauffer, Zito's buddy from Houston, left no trace on his plate of his scrambled eggs, sausage and toast.

"I love this place," Stauffer said. "It's like stepping back in time 25 years. The pictures on the walls, see that one of Nick Zito winning the Kentucky Derby? If I lived here, I'd come here every day."

**ZITO CALLED** Alvey to his table and asked him what he liked about Wagner's. Alvey surveyed his substantial girth and asked, "What else? The food! Everything in here is not good for you. I love it. The only thing healthy is in the pharmacy."

Wagner, a second-generation pharmacist whose father opened the store in 1910, said the coffee shop is just one service he pro-



Horsemen and racing fans often gather at the pharmacy's lunch counter.

vides. The pharmacy stocks medicine and bandages for people and horses. Upstairs, another Wagner-owned company, Becker & Durski, makes saddle equipment, silks, and blankets for the Derby horses.

His store stocks liquor, greeting cards, Derby T-shirts and glasses. He cashes checks for backside workers from out of state. "The grooms and hotwalkers, they depend on this place," he said.

He said he hopes that somewhere in Churchill Downs' redevelopment plans he'll be able to open a new place. It would be bigger and nicer in a way, he said, but wouldn't have the same ambience. "Maybe we could try to recapture some of it," he said.

But volumes of history will be left behind, he said. "There's been a lot of Derbies run up there at the bar."

**DERBY**  
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# Infield opens up for local partying

By KIRSTEN HAUKEBO  
The Courier-Journal

If you've been to Churchill Downs for the Kentucky Oaks in recent years, you know the Friday event has gotten crowded.

What used to be "Louisville's day at the races" on the day before the Kentucky Derby has become an international event. Tomorrow's activity is second only to Saturday's Derby as the biggest day in American thoroughbred racing.

Churchill Downs is responding by opening the infield today in hopes of giving more Louisville residents a chance to take part in the track's Derby week hoopla.

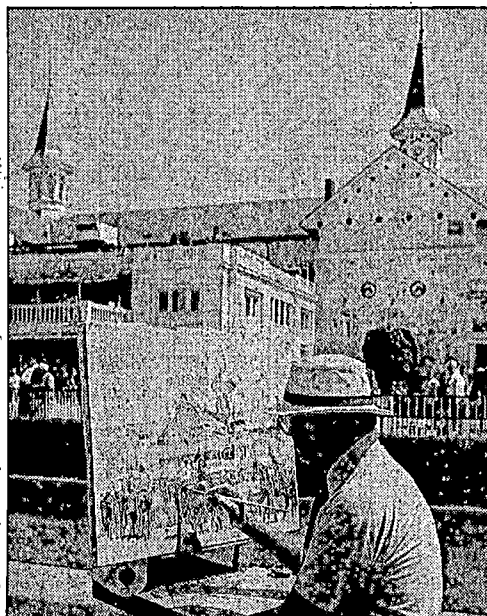
Churchill is calling today's event "Festival in the Field." It's aimed at attracting college-age people who might become permanent racing fans. It only costs \$2 to get into the infield today; it's \$30 for the Derby. There will be rock bands and games.

Once Thursday becomes a more established "big day" at the races, Churchill is hoping companies will consider bringing clients or employees on that day. The track has a waiting list for corporations wanting accommodations for Oaks day.

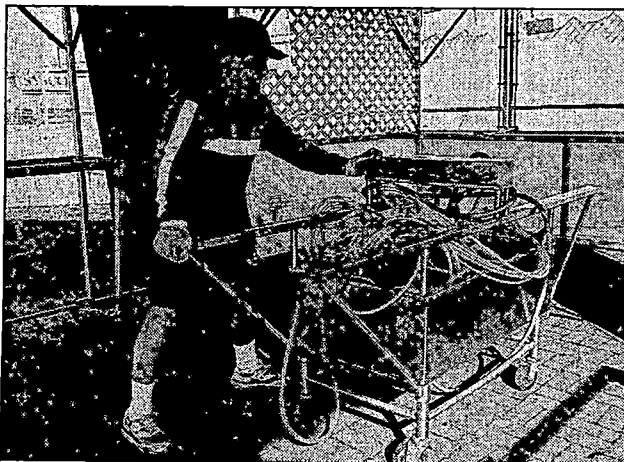
"This may be another opportunity to bring customers out and see the races Derby week," said Ray Potts, area market development manager for Coca-Cola, one of the sponsors. Coke traditionally has played host to as many as 2,800 retailers on the Wednesday before the Derby; this year, the company moved its event to today.

About five years ago, Churchill began setting up the Marquee Village, the collection of corporate tents behind the grandstand, on Thursday, said Lore Boehman, director of product sales. It started as a way to accommodate overflow from the clubhouse's Skye Terrace.

New features this year include concerts by two nationally known alternative-rock bands, Better Than Ezra and The Hunter. Miller Lite will hold a version of MTV's matchmaking show, "Singled Out," and Coca-Cola is organizing games like "bungee run," a horizontal version of bungee jumping.



BY PAT McDONOGH, THE COURIER-JOURNAL  
Louisvillian Peter Williams began painting Derby scenes 12 years ago.



BY BILL LUSTER, THE COURIER-JOURNAL  
Ramon Albo of Aramark moved a beer machine yesterday for the "Festival in the Field," in Churchill Downs' infield.

"This will be more of a college-oriented day. Some of them will be out of school and finished with their finals," said Larry Sinclair, the track's director of marketing services.

"The Oaks is starting to be more international, because so many hotels have packages where if you want to be here for the Derby, you have to stay Thursday night through Sunday," he said.

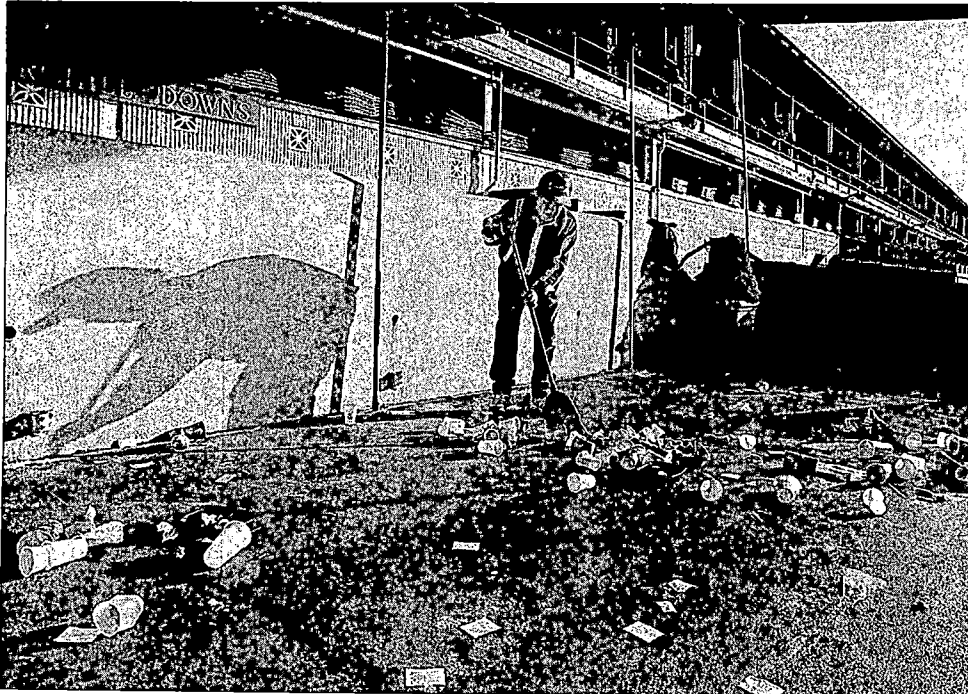
Churchill is adding a second \$100,000 stakes race to the day — the Mamzelle, a turf race for 3-year-old and older fillies and mares. The other is La Troienne.

In the past, the infield has been open only for the Derby, Oaks, Breeders' Cup and Kentucky Sampler Days, which features Kentucky crafts and food. It has been open for occasional classic car shows. On non-racing days, it's used for barbecues, Boy Scout camp-outs and other events.



BY PAT McDONOGH, THE CJ  
Brandi Curtis, also with Aramark, helped unload cases of bourbon yesterday.

## DERBY KENTUCKY



PHOTOS BY JAMES H. WALLACE, THE COURIER-JOURNAL

Churchill Downs employee Ralph Wells worked alongside his shadow in the early morning sun yesterday.

# Treasure may hide in Downs' trash

Cleanup crew  
can hit jackpot  
day after Derby

By BEN Z. HERSHBERG  
The Courier-Journal

Brian Smith hit a belated Kentucky Derby jackpot yesterday morning at Churchill Downs as he worked with the Doss High School baseball team cleaning up debris at the track.

He cleaned up, for himself, by finding a \$100 bill in an envelope as he worked the box seats near the finish line.

"It seems, the closer you get to the finish line the more you find," said Smith, an assistant coach. He said one of his players found \$373 last year.

The 23 teens from Doss were among more than 400 extra workers cleaning up the mess left by a crowd of 141,981 people, the fourth-largest in the track's history. Many of the laborers came from high school athletic teams and helped the Downs' regular crew of about 70 cleaners get ready for yesterday's racing. They started Friday night, working for five or six hours after the Kentucky Oaks, to get the track ready for Derby Day.

"The Oaks was miserable with all the rain," said Butler High School baseball coach Rick Dotson. But the 65 players from Butler's freshman, junior varsity and varsity teams who helped will earn \$2,500 for the school, Dotson said. On a cool, bright morning yesterday, the students said they thought the effort was worthwhile.

"I found this hat," said Danny



Brittney Bassett, left, of Fern Creek High and Kim Roberts used a snow shovel yesterday on the blizzard of post-Derby debris left by the crowd of 141,981 on Saturday.

Willis, a Butler sophomore, as he pointed happily to the new gray Kentucky Derby baseball cap on his head.

When the cleanup crews arrived about 6:30 a.m., said Justin Aubrey, a Butler senior, "you couldn't see the ground very much" because the trash was so thick.

He and his teammates used brooms, rakes and blowers to gather trash into large piles so it could be shoveled into bins that were rolled through the stands.

Michael Hall, a Doss High senior, said he was surprised at just how many empty liquor bottles were in the stands.

Some of his players found a cluster of surgical gloves blown up into oddly-shaped balloons.

Dotson's analysis: A group of medical students must have played volleyball for a while with

See TREASURE

Page 4, col. 1, this section



# Treasure can hide in the trash after Derby

Continued from Page B 1

their glove-balls.

He marveled at just how much trash a crowd of race fans could generate.

"It was a mess this morning, with popcorn boxes all over, chicken bones thrown everywhere, potato salad," Dotson said. "I don't know how people could sit in it."

Smith said Doss has little trouble attracting players to help with the cleanup. They have fun working together, Smith said, and he believes everyone finds something — whether it's a mint julep cup, a baseball cap or serious amounts of cash — that can be taken home.

One of the Doss players found \$80 Friday night, Smith said. He didn't come to the Downs this morning, apparently thinking he'd used up his quota of luck for the weekend.

The \$100 Smith said he found may go toward a trip to Florida or for a new golf club.

"We'll be doing this every year," he said, because the work is such a good fund-raiser.

Aubrey, the Butler senior, said he was happy to help his team raise money for next year. But working at the Downs the morning after Derby has given him a different view of trash from the one he once had.

"I'm never going to litter again," he said.



Kourtney Stewart, 14, of Waggener High School worked in the grandstand. The Downs' crew of 70 got help from 400 extras.

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B 4

THE COURIER-JOURNAL • METRO /

# DERBY KENTUCKY

5/5/97

## Lincoln Foundation barbecue is feast with a worthy mission

By BILL PIKE  
The Courier-Journal

With a straw hat and a big smile, Sam Robinson seemed to relish greeting practically everyone heading into the Lincoln Foundation barbecue yesterday at the Water Tower on River Road.

"Well, hello there," Robinson said to several people in just a minute or two. "Nice to see you. How are you doing?"

Between greetings, Robinson explained what the barbecue — and the foundation — was all about.

"This is our 12th annual barbecue. It's a fund-raiser. We hope to raise \$25,000 for our summer math-and-science program for kids," said Robinson, the foundation's president. "We're a public foundation with programs for kids who are academically talented but economically disadvantaged."

Robinson said the foundation sold 1,500 tickets at \$25 each to the barbecue. "That more than doubled what we sold last year," he said. He attributed the increase to WGZB Radio, which helped sponsor the event this year and promoted it on the air.

Robinson said the foundation, which sponsors a variety of educational programs and scholarships for youngsters, grew out of the old Lincoln Institute in Shelby County, a high school for black youngsters, at which he was principal until it closed in 1966.

Behind Robinson, people lined up for barbecued pork ribs, chicken, baked beans, fried biscuits and salads catered by Jay's Cafeteria, 1812 W.

**"This is the last Derby Festival event. It's a nice way to close out the festival. It's laid-back and peaceful."**

Ben Johnson, a program officer with the Lincoln Foundation

Muhammad Ali Blvd.

"I keep coming back every year because of the fine people, the hospitality, the food," said Lylia Barbour, of Crestwood. "I went to the institute when I was a girl. It was my home away from home."

Jay's owner Frank J. Foster said he and his workers prepared 4,500 pounds of ribs and 420 chickens. Those numbers didn't sound high to Evan Clemons, a Fern Creek High School student and volunteer server. "Hey, people want something on their plates," Evan said, dishing up big servings of potato salad and cole slaw.

"I'll have a serving of each, please," said Walter Hutchins, a vegetarian and possibly the only person at the barbecue not eating ribs or chicken.

Evan said he's a member of the Phi Sigma Beta Club of Louisville, an organization of high school students affiliated with Phi Sigma Beta, a service

fraternity.

"Dr. Robinson asked us if we would help," said Shawn Walker, a member of the fraternity, University of Louisville student and barbecue volunteer. "Sure, we'd help. It's fun and it goes for charity. It's a good thing."

Shanna Ellis, a Noe Middle School student, knows better than most people how good it was because she's enrolled in a two-week Lincoln Foundation program in math and science this summer at U of L. "What I hope to get is help so I'll do better in high school."

Shanna's brother, Antwan Ellis, is also enrolled in a foundation program, which their mother, Pam Dotson, said gives them a big boost in school.

"The programs gave them extra academic training," Dotson said. "The programs help their grades and their attitude. They learn to have a positive attitude."

Schoolwork was about the last thing on Jackie Russell's mind as she waited in line for supper. "This is my first time here. I heard it advertised on the radio, and I'm here to do the electric slide," Russell said, referring to a dance scheduled after dinner. "I want to have a good time."

Ben Johnson, a program officer with the Lincoln Foundation, looked into the big red-and-white tent, where the Luis Taylor Trio played jazz for tables that could hold about 1,000 diners. "This is the last Derby Festival event," he said. "It's a nice way to close out the festival. It's laid-back and peaceful. People come out and take it easy and see who's here."

# At Colonels' barbecue, sun shines bright for platters and Platters

By CYNTHIA EAGLES  
The Courier-Journal  
5/5/97 B4

BARDSTOWN, Ky. — Yesterday's event came close to being the epitome of a Kentucky Colonels' Barbecue.

The sun shone warmly, for the most part, on the usual throng of 5,000. The main act, The Platters, actually got to perform. And no one had to slog through mud to get their pork chops and pork burgers or huddle under dripping flaps at the burgoo tent.

Unlike last year, when thunderstorms sent barbecue guests home early, this year's sunshine allowed the Colonels to follow their official toast and offer people "that country of content where slower clocks strike happier hours."

So Jeff Brock of Harlan and Michelle Brown of Middlesboro flopped onto the grass and spent the afternoon listening to music. The barbecue meant a drive of more than three hours, but it was a chance for rest and relaxation.

"This is great," Brown said, as she sipped her mint julep.

"I've been here in the rain before, and this beats it all to pieces," Brock said, as he stared up at the bright-blue sky.

Across the lawn Jacqueline Calloway and Shelby Dreher of Louisville were having a few slow and happy hours, too. They were sitting in folding chairs watching the crowd

wander back to tour the Wickland estate house and look over a display of World War II Army equipment.

"This is one of the rites of spring," said Dreher, who estimated yesterday was at least her 10th barbecue. "When we get the barbecue out of the way, then we can get on with our lives."

Calloway said the women stake out the same spot every year and settle in for some serious people-watching.

"It's surprising the number of people you know who will come by," she said.

Of course, some of those people were the familiar barbecue characters: the women who wear outlandish hats, the guys who dress up like Col. Harland Sanders of Kentucky Fried Chicken fame, and other improbable combinations, such as Dan Hall of Russell, Ohio.

He attended the barbecue wearing a jacket that said "Syrian Kentucky Colonels." When asked what that was, Hall, 61, described a parade unit from a Cincinnati Shriners temple that wears the traditional white Colonel's outfit and a Shriner's red fez.

Of course, there was also that guy who looks like a governor, Paul Patton.

His costume this year included an official Kentucky Colonel's jacket that the organization gave him yesterday as "commander-in-chief" of the Colonels.

"It even has Kentucky Colonels

buttons on it," said James Molloy, the Colonels' national commanding general, as he handed Patton the coat.

H. Lynn Ledford, chairman of the barbecue, said the jacket presentation is a recent tradition, started because former Gov. Wallace Wilkinson lost his coat eight years ago when he came to the barbecue.

The Colonels gave Wilkinson an official jacket to replace the lost coat.

But the tradition skipped former Gov. Brereton Jones because he never came to the barbecues, Ledford said.

Patton, in a brief speech, thanked the Colonels for the coat, then reminded the small crowd watching the presentation that the Colonels have given \$12 million to \$14 million over the years to charitable causes. The barbecue is more than a good time, because it helps the Colonels raise money, Patton said.

As he spoke, The Platters were in the middle of a set. Molloy's rapid bark on the podium microphone brought the group's performance to a halt, and the clearly surprised performers had to stand around onstage awkwardly for about 15 minutes before they could continue.

But Platters member Monroe Powell was gracious about the glitch when asked about it between sets.

"Aw, that was nothing," Powell said, as he busily autographed photos of the group for barbecue goers. "I just wish we could have met him (Patton) today."



# Almost anything goes, despite wind, chill and rain



Different areas draw different crowds, but resourcefulness pays off everywhere

By JIM ADAMS and KIM WESSEL  
The Courier-Journal

The sky was the color of slate, the wind was so sharp you could hear it, the air was so cool your fingers got stiff, and the ground was so wet you could drown in a place or two.

If misery loves company, it had plenty yesterday in the infield of Churchill Downs, where the rain spat down and the mud was so thick it could grab your shoes. Fifty thousand people? Sixty? More. And once again, as in every year since 1875, they formed an occupying army inside the track of the ancient racing grounds.

Back in 1875, it was called the "free field," because it cost nothing to get in.

Yesterday, for the first time, it cost \$30, up from \$20 in recent years, and still they came — and they drank, they huddled in masses beneath blankets, they shouted, they vomited on themselves, they bet, they stood in line. They came together — temporarily forming the third largest city in Kentucky — and seemed, in many instances, to live under a code of conduct unique to this place and this day in May.

Tip: If you seek the placid side of the infield, go west. Put yourself on the bricks in the middle, or anywhere to the west, around the first turn of the race track. The people there spread themselves on blankets, chairs and coolers yesterday and remained low-key.

That crowd included Michelle Husted, 25, of Lexington, and Katie Nasser, 23, of Memphis, Tenn., who were not prepared for the cold, windy day. Wearing shorts and carrying a Mickey Mouse raincoat inadequate for its task, Husted said: "The hair on my legs has grown about 12 inches since I got here."

She and Nasser had found some sit under their tarp, which blocked the wind and rain and a little bit of the chill. "Yeah, we're moochers," Husted said. "Now, we're just waiting for them to start giving us some food."

That side of the infield has drawn the Coniglios from Chicago for 11 years. They were camped in their usual spot near the finish line. Expecting bad weather, they brought an inflatable palm tree, hoping to create a warmer illusion. Strangers asked to take pictures underneath it all day.

Bernie Coniglio, 35, said he and his wife, Bobbie, have endured bad weather on Derby Day before. Even so, "today's been a little windy," he said. Tip: If you seek the wild side, go east, to the turf between the third and fourth turns. This is where the college-age crowd sneaked in what seemed like one or two million Ziploc bags containing bourbon, rum and vodka taped to unseen parts of their bodies.

This is the side of the infield where a virtually non-stop circus of women was hoisted onto shoulders, where the women were urged to lift their shirts by throaty choruses from athletic males. Many of the women

obliged, rain, wind and cold notwithstanding.

One young woman, who said she was a senior at a Louisville high school, was held aloft at least twice and bared her chest "because I think everybody should be comfortable with their sexuality." She was not comfortable enough with it, however, to let a reporter hear her name, explaining that "my mom would kill me."

Indecent exposure and groping would be offenses on the outside; in the infield, they are part of the scenery — and realistically speaking, probably too often a part of the scenery for police to stop.

The same could be said for the large number of people in the east end of the infield — men and women alike — urinating against brick restroom buildings, against green concession tents, between bushes, out in the open, and even against portable toilets themselves.

By mid-afternoon, the restroom facilities in the east end were completely inadequate to the demand, all with long lines. Two former Indiana University basketball players — Anyela Thompson, 26, and Jenny Davis, 25 — did what many women were doing yesterday, and borrowed a stall in the men's room. "The line in the ladies' room was at least 15 minutes long," Davis said. "In the men's room, we were in and out in 10 minutes."

Similarly, Julie Farrer and Jared Janeczko, both 20-year-old students, from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, found themselves desperate and relieved themselves beside a brick building where programs and tip sheets were on sale. "When you're desperate, you're desperate," Farrer said. "Anything goes in the infield."

One denizen of the infield's east end who waited 45 minutes in the ladies' room line was Jenny Veach, a 23-year-old third-grade teacher from Ekron, Ky. Her gray sweat shirt was speckled with mud, the consequence of getting too close to a mud-wrestling match. Was she bothered by all the stuff going on around her in the infield? "Absolutely," she said. "But, what is Derby Day? Anything goes."

However, not all things were tolerated. Lt. J.C. Wantland of the Kentucky National Guard's 22nd Military Police Company said he went into a men's restroom about 4 p.m. as two men, who had removed a woman's pants and underwear, were trying to force her into a stall. He said he stopped them and they were later turned over to Jefferson County police.

John O'Bryan, 21, a University of Kentucky student, was wondering what it takes to get oneself arrested in the infield — and saw an opportunity to ask, when a line of helmeted county officers passed by, escorting a handcuffed young man.

"What do you have to do to get arrested?" he called to the officers.

One replied: "Well, I guess you have to really use off." Another police officer added: "And you really have to try."



Two people took advantage of the soggy conditions, staging an impromptu mud fight while some infield patrons stood back to watch.



George and Shirley Williams of Columbia, Tenn., found a relaxing spot as they waited for the second race to begin. The area near the first turn of the track is more reserved; the party factor increases near the turf between the third and fourth turns.



Shanon Cox, left, of Baton Rouge, La., and Laura Salata of Jeffersontown cheered on their picks in the first race. They lost. Both were attending their first Kentucky Derby.



Steve Whitworth, right, of Louisville helped steady the crowd.

BY JOURNAL PHOTOGRAPHERS

MAY 4, 1997

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BY DAVID LUTMAN, SPECIAL TO THE C-J  
Robert Fingo of Jupiter Isle, Fla., made do at his first Derby with an impromptu rain hat. The weather didn't seem to dampen his spirits.



Derby novices Sterling and Robin Nelson of St. Louis had one thing to say about their day at the Downs: "It's freezing." As other Derby first-timers noted, you can see the race coverage on television, but it's different when you're there in person.

BY PAM SPAULDING, THE COURIER-JOURNAL

## Memories begin here

Couple celebrates 50th anniversary with 'ultimate' gift

By KAREN MERK  
The Courier-Journal

For Joe and Shirley Zito of Baton Rouge, La., Kentucky Derby Day has always been a pretty special day.

They're longtime thoroughbred-racing fans, and every year they have a big Derby party for their many friends and large family.

But this year it was one for the scrapbooks.

The Zitoss, who are a couple of the most charming people you'd ever want to meet, were thrilled to be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary yesterday at Churchill Downs, thanks to a surprise gift from their four children.

"My son heard me say one day that the ultimate thing for me would be to go to the Kentucky Derby," Shirley Zito said. "And here we are."

Their middle son, Don, arranged for his parents to get a hotel room and grandstand seats for yesterday's races with help from his friends Suzanne and Gary Gilpin of Louisville.

Since the Zitoss drove in Wednesday, the Gilpins have taken them on a whirlwind tour of Derby Week, Louisville style. They also celebrated Shirley's 69th birthday on Thursday.

Highlights included a trip to the backside at Churchill Downs, where they met jockeys and trainers, including past Derby winners D. Wayne Lukas and Nick Zito. The trainer is no relation, Joe Zito, 73, said with a laugh, "but we'll claim him anyway."

Oldham County Judge-Executive John Black made an honorary Kentucky Colonel out of Joe Zito, who's retired after 42 years with Exxon Corp. They were even on the radio.

The interviewer asked Shirley Zito, a retired Catholic school teacher and bookkeeper, if she had learned to make a mint julep yet.

In recounting the exchange, she lowered her voice the way some women do when they're going to say something a little naughty, and then said, grinning, "I told him no, but I'd sure like to learn how to drink one."

They hadn't won any money, at least by the time of yesterday's seventh race, but they didn't care.

"There have been some memories here we'll never forget," Shirley Zito said. "It's one thing to come in and sit down and bet on the race, but to meet the trainers and jockeys ... well, that's just been marvelous."

"It's a wonderful, wonderful city. I'd love to come back, if I could get tickets."

They weren't the only first-timers at Churchill Downs yesterday.

Jody Imel of Marin County, Calif., was enjoying her first Kentucky Derby — part of a trip that was a gift from her father, Bob, to mark her 16th birthday next month.

Jody, who takes lessons in English-style hunter-jumper riding, became interested in the Derby years ago,



BY PAM SPAULDING, THE COURIER-JOURNAL  
Patricia Klotz of Shively, a teacher at Gutermuth Elementary School, won her Derby ticket while on a field trip to the Kentucky Derby Museum.

she said. By the time she was 10, she had memorized the names of Derby winners going back decades, her father said. (Her all-time favorite is the all-time great Secretariat.)

Any time Derby trivia questions come up, Jody knows the answers.

"She's become an encyclopedia of the Kentucky Derby," he said.

Other first-time Derby-goers included three North Hardin High School seniors, Stacy Bishop, Kikkle Lewis and Regina Skaer, who were enjoying a break from their pizza-making duty at the track and doing some people-watching.

The teens had volunteered for the pizza detail to earn money for their drama club, so they were staying pretty busy. But they had seen some pretty cool hats, including the famed Churchill Downs steeple-style hat decked with red roses.

They were all glad to be there, soaking up the atmosphere.

"You see it on TV all the time, but it's different when you come in person," Stacy said.

Would it be her last time?

"Hopefully not," she said. "Next time, though, I hope to be a spectator."



BY KEITH WILLIAMS, THE C-J  
Shirley and Joe Zito.



BY KEITH WILLIAMS, THE COURIER-JOURNAL  
Larry Wong wasn't going to go home without video memories of his first Derby. Wong is the executive chef of the Jockey Club in Hong Kong.



BY PETE SOUDA, SPECIAL TO THE COURIER-JOURNAL  
As her hat proclaimed, Dakota Baser of Louisville celebrated her birthday yesterday at her first Kentucky Derby. She was being held by her mom, Kelly, while her dad, Steve, enjoyed a beverage.

# THE RICH & FAMOUS

A12  
MAY 4, 1997  
COURIER-JOURNAL



Lea Thompson, the star of the television comedy series "Caroline in the City," was in a black hat and pearls. She chatted on the Turf Club terrace.

BY MARY ANN LYONS, THE COURIER-JOURNAL

## Millionaire's Row unseated as celebrity central



Country singer Lorrie Morgan was with her husband, John Randall, who stood behind her, in the Turf Club.

### Country-music, TV, movie stars favor Turf Club

By BEVERLY BARTLETT, RICK McDONOUGH and VEDA MORGAN The Courier-Journal

John R. Johnson, chairman of orthopedic surgery at the University of Louisville, was within shouting distance of some of the biggest stars the Derby had to offer.

Little of country-music sweetheart Lorrie Morgan was being swallowed up by a great big hat. Barbara Eden, the former Jeannie, was casting a spell on onlookers. Country-music hunk George Strait was puffing on a cigar. Lea Thompson — Caroline in the River City, you might say — was eating and watching the horses.

And in the other direction, a few million dollars' worth of horseflesh was thundering by.

Pleased with your seats, Dr. Johnson?

"This," he said, "is the place to be." And the place was not Millionaire's Row.

Of course, lots of rich and famous people still go to Millionaire's Row. The three swank floors officially known as the Skye Terrace (floors 4-6 of the Clubhouse) have traditionally provided the Derby with its glitz and

glamour. Glitz and glamour it still has. But more and more these days, the Turf Club really shimmers.

"The politicians go up to the Skye Terrace," said Johnson, who gave up his Millionaire's Row seats three years ago. "The good celebrities are here."

"On Derby Day, the Turf Club is the place to be," agreed Ed Prell, a Louisville resident who has come to the Derby for the past 34 years and who was surveying the Skye Terrace crowd yesterday. "There used to be more stars here, but the Turf Club has better service."

Lisa Krawczyk, who was waiting tables for Brown & Williamson on the fourth floor of the Skye Terrace, put it more bluntly.

"This is Millionaire's Row, and there ain't no celebrities," Krawczyk said. "There's more press here than there are celebrities."

Actually, there were some celebrities. Gail O'Grady, who stars in the movie "That Old Feeling" and was in TV's "NYPD Blue," was just a few steps away. John Corbett, the "Northern Exposure" disc jockey who made women swoon, was mingling in the crowd. Soap-opera star Tonya Walker, from "One Life to Live," was talking about bets. Singer Huey Lewis was signing autographs.

But the shift toward the Turf Room is real. It probably started nine years ago when a woman in the Highlands started a little party. Now Patricia Barnstable Brown's annual diabetes fund-raiser is the headline Derby par-

ty. And her guests go to the Turf Club. She said track officials steered her there; she assumes that's because it is so nice. Nice it is.

It has all the elegance and atmosphere of the Skye Terrace, but it's closer to the track. Churchill Downs officials hint that the Turf Club, which is visible from some Clubhouse seats, better serves the celebrities' need to be seen while providing some privacy.

Security is tight at both Millionaire's Row and the Turf Club. But the area of the Turf Club where celebrities sit holds only about 300 people. The fourth floor of the Skye Terrace holds about 1,800.

That means there are relatively few people in the Turf Club to ask for autographs, snap pictures and generally fawn all over a celebrity who is trying to watch a race.

But the celebrities do get to flirt with the crowd — especially when they go to a back balcony for media interviews. They can gaze at the paddock crowd and mug a bit from the balcony, like royalty. Yesterday, Rebecca Hunt and her sister Deborah Walhus — both from LaCrosse, Wis. — spread a blanket in the paddock area star-watched.

Don Rickles was one of the first stars to appear, drawing so many cheers even he seemed amazed. "Clint Eastwood couldn't get the attention I'm getting," he joked.

The size of a star, of course, depends on your viewpoint.

Ask one 15-year-old boy what he

thinks of George Strait and he says: "Is he on 'Baywatch'?"

Uh, no. That would have been actor David Chokachi, who was dining nearby. But Jackie Cecil, a St. Matthews resident turned celebrity watcher, was more enthusiastic about Strait.

"He's so cute," she said. "And he sings well too."

She yelled. "Have him turn around!" when Strait turned his back to the crowd for a balcony interview.

Eventually he did, taking a handful of betting tickets out of his shirt pocket and tossing them. But celebrities don't always get treated like royalty at the Derby.

Consider Ed Lauter. You may not know his name, but his face and bald head are instantly recognizable as belonging to a cinema bad guy. His movies include "The New Centurions" and "The Longest Yard."

But when Lauter got off the elevator on the sixth floor of the Skye Terrace, he was stopped by a security worker like everyone else.

"I don't think she knows who you are," said Lauter's host, Jim Britt, a Louisville wholesale jeweler.

"I don't care who you are: you're not getting in without a wristband," said the security worker.

The actor eventually got by her anyway. Lauter, who had tickets for the Turf Club, was hot on the trail of some Skye Terrace regulars — George Steinbrenner and Rick Pitino. See, there are still stars in the Skye after all.



Professional golfer Fuzzy Zoeller of Floyd Knobs, Ind., shared a joke with Tom Cunningham of Detroit yesterday in the Turf Club.



A Skye Terrace conversation featured Hunt Rounsavall, left, chief executive of Dixie Warehouse & Carriage; WAVE-3 General Manager Guy Hempel, center; and Rob Reifensnyder, president of Metro United Way.

BY MICHAEL HAYMAN, THE COURIER-JOURNAL

# Oaks infield: A family affair

COURIER-JOURNAL

5/3/97

1-28

Crowd of 92,547  
sets record for  
3rd straight year

By JIM ADAMS 5/3/97  
The Courier-Journal 4-1

Tens of thousands of people — kids and grown-ups, locals and strangers, sloppy drunks and innocent babes — sprawled inside the oval of Churchill Downs yesterday in what is quickly becoming another major Louisville event: the great infield party for the Kentucky Oaks.

A family from Fern Creek dragging its supplies for the day on a hand truck. A cop from Illinois lobbing a Frisbee with his two little girls. Paul from Phoenix coaxing women into rides in his shopping cart. Many like Wayne and Sandra Blanton from Clarksville, Ind., who explained what they have become in recent years: "We're Oaks people."

The Oaks has clearly become more than just a day at the races. Yesterday, despite the general-admission price increase from \$6 to \$15 this year, the Oaks once again set an attendance record — 92,547, further stamping Derby Eve at Churchill Downs as North America's second-best-attended day of racing. For the third straight year, and for the 11th time in 12 years, the Oaks set an attendance record.

It was a day that ended wet, with a fierce, wind-blown, horizontal rain that struck just before post time for the Oaks. It drenched the crowd, soaking showpiece hats and \$100 hairdos by the time Storm Song was awarded third place in an inquiry — and soaking most of all the largely unprotected



BY MICHAEL HAYMAN, THE COURIER-JOURNAL  
Claudia McCrocklin and her 8-month-old daughter, Mariah, were among the thousands of people who frolicked in the infield at Churchill Downs yesterday for the Kentucky Oaks.

**DERBY**  
KENTUCKY  
SATURDAY, MAY 3, 1997

**THE WINNER:** Blushing K.D. thundered through a driving rain to win the Kentucky Oaks yesterday. **Sports, D1**

**THE FACTS:** Columnist Bob Hill says one Kentuckian has all the answers — to any Derby question. **Scene**

**VISITORS:** A delegation from South Korea is visiting Kentucky to learn more about the racing industry. **Business, E1**



BY PAT McDONOUGH, THE COURIER-JOURNAL  
C.B. Clark and Belinda Herrod of St. Louis were among the race fans watching the activity in the paddock area yesterday.



# Oaks still offers family fun despite growing infield crowd

Continued from Page One

crowd in the infield.

That infield seemed to struggle with its own identity all day long. Can the Oaks infield continue to draw huge throngs and still endure as a wholesome, family-rich antidote to the fabled debauchery of the Derby infield?

**THE OAKS** infield seems to want to be the antidote, and the local schools go along with the idea by closing up shop for the day.

Coca-Cola set up a series of games for kids, including a football toss, a basketball-shooting competition and a batting cage, where John Klefot, 40, of St. Regis Park, stood in line with his daughter, Shelly, who is 9.

"I think it's great," Klefot said. His family came, he said, "because a lot of our friends last year came and said how much fun it was, so we (he and his wife, Mary Ann) both took off work today and came on out."

After Shelly had swung gamely at 10 or so soft rubber balls with the plastic bat provided, she was rewarded with the same prize a lot of the little batters were given — a white Miller Genuine Draft sun visor, compliments of the other major sponsor of infield events, Miller Lite beer.

**MILLER — AT A HUGE**, temporary stage erected beside the

kids' games near the center of the infield — sponsored a series of dating-game contests called "Singled Out." Patterned after a popular MTV show of the same name, the game matches gyrating, would-be dating partners through a series of questions, often involving double entendres and sexual intimations. (Is your kissing style "on the cheek" or "tongue in cheek?" Is your weight preference best described as "Miller Lite" or "Full calorie?")

The crowd that packed closest to the stage appeared to draw mostly from the 10-to-15-year-old set. Three Bullitt Central High School freshmen — Cassie Popplewell, Cristin Chesnut and Christy Hicks — said they enjoy the show on MTV and would not agree that it encourages people to judge each other by surface characteristics. While Cristin said the host on TV does sometimes seem to try to embarrass contestants, she thinks it is good entertainment. So yesterday, she and her friends joined the fans before the Miller Lite stage.

**SUCH IMAGES** of seeming conflict were everywhere in the infield — a place overrun with children was also overrun with adults spilling the contents of enormous, green plastic "Bones of Beer." A Bone of Beer stands 18 inches or more tall and is shaped like a bone — or like a dumbbell. It holds 28

ounces and costs \$7.75, or \$4.50 for a refill.

All through the infield, men and women held these great green vases like scepters — occasionally failing to figure out how to get the last few ounces out of the bulbous bottom.

**UNABLE TO GET** it into his mouth, Rick Walker of Louisville, who said his family is in the jewelry and pawn business, splashed the last swallow of his beer onto the ground and cursed the concept of the Bone of Beer. "By the time the beer got to here," he said, pointing to the middle of the thin stem, "it was all hot and nasty."

But his friend Robert Smith said he succeeded in drinking all 28 of his Bone's ounces. "It just takes a little talent," he said, offering this advice for today's Bone-drainers: "You gotta look down the barrel to finish it off."

**THE FIRST PERSON** observed passed out in the infield, however, was not a Bone-sucker, but rather Mackenzie Myers of Fern Creek. "This is her first infield," explained her mother, Dana Myers, as Mackenzie slept in her tidy portable crib.

Mackenzie, who is 11 months old, her mom and her dad, David, the Fern Creek High School track coach, were among a party of 13 who lugged their day's necessities — stroller, cooler, chairs and crib

included — into the track on a sturdy dolly.

"We just take her everywhere we go," Dana Myers explained.

For this generation of young parents — many of whom said yesterday that they had attended Derbies in the past, then had children and now seek a Derby-like experience acceptable for their children — the Oaks seems to satisfy. This explains at least some of the surging interest in Oaks Day.

**THIS IS PRECISELY** what has drawn Tom and Nancy Hilgenbrink from the Chicago area almost every year for the past five or so. Tom Hilgenbrink, a police officer in Du Page County, was playing leisurely with daughters Casey, 5, and Genna, 3, in uncrowded territory in the infield's western end.

"It's basically because of our change of lifestyle, because of the kids," Tom Hilgenbrink said, explaining why he and his wife and Louisville friend Robert Payne have abandoned the Derby for the Oaks. "On Derby Day, this area would be solid blankets," he said, gesturing to the expanse of open lawn around him.

From Miller Lite's undulating "Singled Out," which was being staged by people from WTFX-FM, also known as The Fox, the Hilgenbrinks had found distance, literally and figuratively.

# DERBY FESTIVAL

APRIL 18 - MAY 4, 1997

## 7 giant balloons will rival 8 floats in Pegasus Parade on Broadway today

By KAREN MERK  
The Courier-Journal

The 1997 Pegasus Parade will lope down Broadway this evening with eight floats — just one more than last year, when some viewers were disappointed with that number.

But Kentucky Derby Festival spokeswoman Stacey Yates said this year's floats are of "incredible" quality — and several new giant balloons will help keep the "ooh-aahh" quotient high.

The parade's theme is "Frontiers Across the Centuries," interpreted broadly to include everything from space flight to new roles in society for women.

The grand marshal will be Capt. Scott O'Grady, the Air Force pilot who was shot down over Bosnia in 1995 and survived six days in the wilderness behind Serb lines by eating bugs and grass and drinking rain water. He's now in the Air Force Reserve.

There will be seven inflatables this year, up from three or four in previous years. They'll include Garfield the cat; his perpetual victim, Odie the dog; the giant Pegasus Pride balloon from Provident Corp., the parade's sponsor; Babar the elephant; and Whiskers the Patriotic Mouse.

While Kentucky Derby Festival officials would love to have more floats, balloons can be cheaper and quicker for sponsors, Yates said.

LG&E decided this year to reuse its float — a tribute to the circus — that won the competition last year.

Spokeswoman Kathy Campbell said the decision enables the company to use the money to help sponsor KyDzFest, a child-oriented activity that's in its second year as a festival event.

Creating a float requires months of hard work and a major commitment of time and energy from employees who already may be stretched with job and family responsibilities.

Vangie Satterfield knows all about that.

She's chairwoman of the Alliant Health System float committee that spent at least 300 person-hours putting together the "Frontiers of Fun" float, a giant spectacle that includes a Ferris wheel, a locomotive, Mr. Potato Head and other surprises.

"I'm single, and I'll be honest with you — from mid-February till parade day, this is my life," she said.

Her team of 35 to 40 started in December to come up with a theme. By the end of January, it was ready to get to work.

Satterfield, who works in Alliant's clinical-education department, is in her fifth year on the float committee, and said it's something of a shoe-string operation.

Its \$10,000 budget is relatively small, as float budgets go, and this year it was stretched to cover rental space and new beds for the flatbeds,

as well as the usual costs of materials, costumes and food for the volunteers who build it.

They reuse everything they can. This year, two of the locomotive's wheels had previous lives as clocks on the Peter Pan float a couple of years back. Mr. Potato Head's eyes, nose and mouth are scraps of old costume material.

She said she's a little uneasy because four of the floats this year were built commercially, instead of by volunteers for the companies that sponsor them. "I sometimes wonder about judging a self-built float against a commercial float," she said. "But the most important thing is what the parade overall does for the community."

One of Brown & Williamson Tobacco Co.'s two floats and the entries from Jewish Hospital/Kentucky Organ Donors, the Kentucky Department of Travel Development and the Fillies Inc. were built by private companies.

The Fillies float, a tribute to women, was built by Page Display, a local company that has specialized in parade floats and convention decorations and displays for more than 35 years, owner Harold Page said. It's his ninth year doing the Fillies float, on which the Derby Princesses and Queen will ride. This isn't a new thing, he said; years ago, all the floats were commercially built.

"The most important thing is that the parade have floats. What's a parade without floats?" he said.

### PARADE LINEUP

1. Theme Banner
2. Louisville police Crime Buster Car
3. Louisville police, Jefferson Co. police and Jefferson Co. corrections color guards
4. Louisville Division of Fire
5. Kentucky Derby Festival parade banner
6. Pegasus Pride banner
7. Provident Corp.
8. Provident Corp. VIPs
9. University of Louisville
10. Kentucky Paso Fino Association w/Stardust
11. Novartis County Judge-executive; county police Boss Mustang
12. The Fillies Inc.
13. Owen Valley High School
14. PTA/Jefferson County
15. Eastern High School
16. New Albany City Slickers
17. River City Carriage: VIC/BoHO & Rags
18. VIP-Tim McGraw
19. Deas High School
20. Methodist Church/WLLV
21. Cadillac Motor Car
22. VIP-Mindy McCrady
23. Budweiser Katoo Band
24. Budweiser Clydesdales
25. Morris City Omaha-Entfeld
26. LG&E
27. "Gal Milk" in-line skating team
28. Equilong USA/Women Even
29. Assumption volleyball team
30. Jeffersonville High School band
31. Chevron USA/MIX 102: VIP-Matt Bataglia
32. GMC minivans
33. Huron High School
34. Antiques Silver Saddle Brigade
35. Brown & Williamson/Louisville
36. World Communities: VIP-Catherine Bell
37. Male High School
38. River City Carriage equestrian; Kentucky Derby Festival chairman
39. Operation Brightside Trolley, Kentucky Derby Festival chairman's family
40. Hilliard-Lyons/WWKV
41. Beech Grove (Ind.) High School
42. Wood One Wheelers
43. Antioch Shrine mounted patrol
44. Alliant Health System
45. Musical Circus Wagon/The Clowns
46. Campbellsville Marching Band
47. VIP-Anna Maria Horsford
48. Kasair Brass Band
49. Kasair MGs
50. Kasair Oriental Band
51. UPS/WAMZ
52. VIP-Jere Burns
53. Ballard High School
54. Tom Bass Riders
55. Kentucky Derby Festival event winners
56. Jewish Hospital/Kentucky Organ Donors
57. Knights of Columbus/T. Burger
58. Courier-Journal Headliners
59. Corydon Central High School
60. Derby City Mustangs
61. VIP-Alex the Medicutler
62. Jefferson Co. Mounted Sheriff's Posse
63. Jansie Overland Steacoch
64. National City Bank/WGZB
65. Pope High School
66. Gov. Paul Patton/Lt. Gov. Steve Henry
67. Ky. Department of Travel Development
68. Kentucky Girl Scouts/Shively Fire Department
69. Wild America & Bluegrass Mini Horse Clubs
70. Jasper High School Band
71. Capt. Scott O'Grady
72. "Roll Models" Big Brothers/Big Sisters
73. Kasair "Sond Bugs" with Divan
74. Kasair Shrine float, semitrail, tee
75. Butler Traditional High School
76. Bank of Louisville/WDJX
77. Caldwell County High School
78. Sir Friendly "C"
79. One Church/One Addict
80. Louisville Area Ford Dealers/WKRA
81. Brown & Williamson/Macon
82. Oldham County Sheriff's Posse
83. Jefferson County fire departments

**THE PEGASUS PARADE TODAY AT 5:30 P.M.**

**STREET CLOSINGS:**

- ✓ **Assembly area:** Broadway east of Barret will be closed about 1 p.m., as will parts of several streets south and north of that stretch. Some streets will close before 1 p.m.
- ✓ **Dispersal area:** About 1 p.m., Seventh, Eighth and Ninth streets will be closed between Broadway and Kentucky, as will some interior streets in that area.
- ✓ **Broadway:** Broadway between Barret and 12th Street, and all streets crossing Broadway from Barret to Ninth, will be closed starting around 4:45 p.m. Access to nearby streets parallel to Broadway along the parade route may be limited.

**HOW TO FIND YOUR SEATING**

NORTH SIDE OF BROADWAY											
101N	102N	103N	104N	105N	106N	107N	108N	109N	110N	111N	112N
BROADWAY											
SOUTH SIDE											
101S	102S	103S	104S	105S	106S	107S	108S	109S	110S	111S	112S
7TH ST	6TH ST	5TH ST	4TH ST	3RD ST	2ND ST	1ST ST	BROOK ST	FLOYD ST	PRESTON ST	JACKSON ST	CLAY ST

# Queen leaves Belle far behind <sup>A1</sup> 5/1/97

By ANDREW MELNYKOVYCH  
The Courier-Journal

Unlike past Great Steamboat Races, which have been marked by close finishes and allegations of underhanded dealings, yesterday's 34th sailing produced a predictable and clear-cut result.

The Delta Queen triumphed easily over the Belle of Louisville, cruising beneath the finish line at the Clark Memorial Bridge with a lead of nearly a mile over its longtime rival.

For those who believe the race is a legitimate contest, the Delta Queen's victory was the inevitable result of conditions that favored the larger, heavier boat. Other, more cynical minds might have eyed the Belle's two years of winning and suggested the outcome was preordained in other ways.

Whatever one's perspective, yesterday's sunny and warm, if blustery, weather was ideal for viewing the Kentucky Derby Festival event that most reminds Louisville-area residents of the area's past. Thousands gathered to picnic, party and watch the historic sternwheelers' picturesque progress.

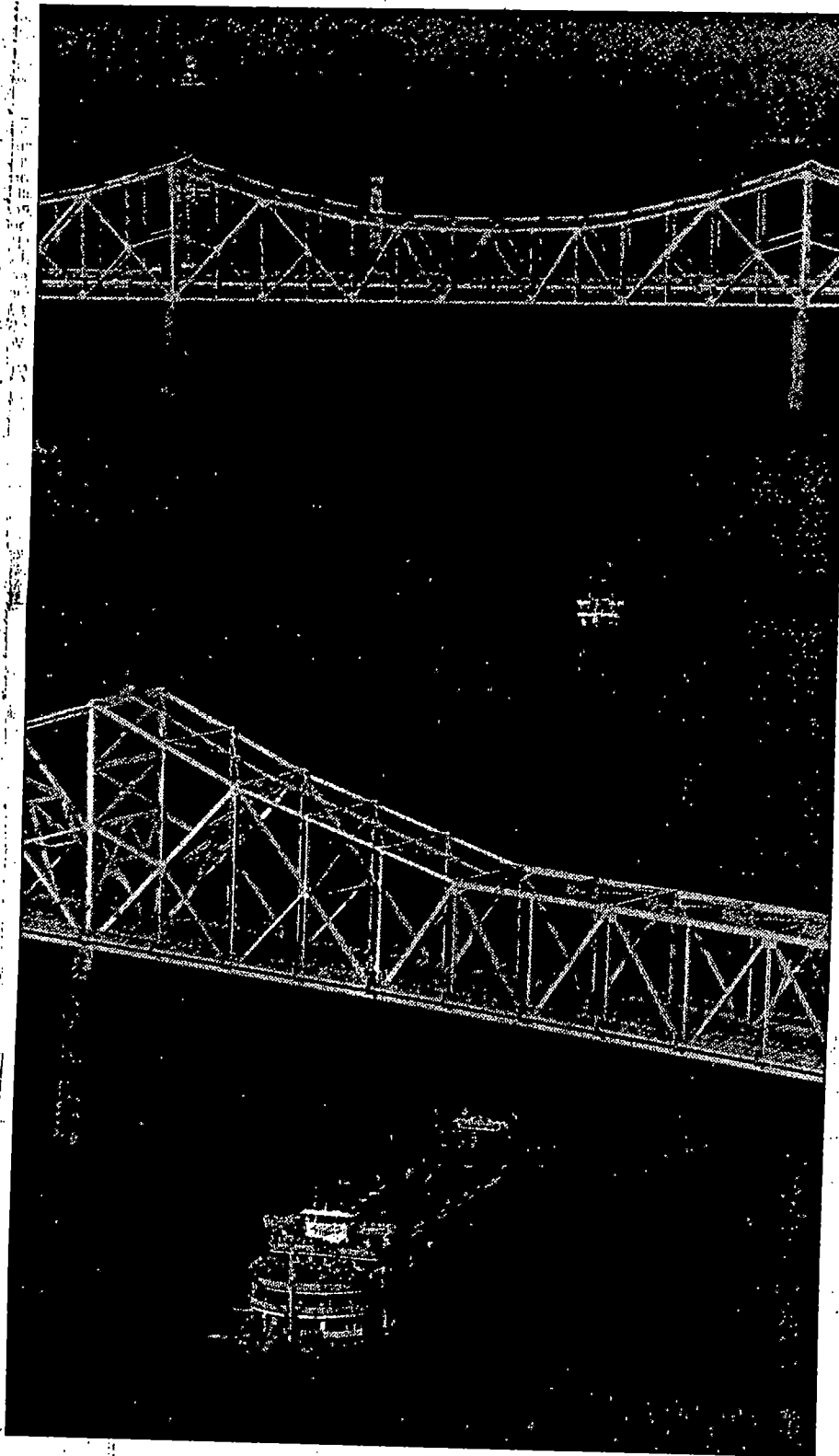
The Ohio is relatively low and slow, robbing the Belle of the advantage that can come with racing along the Indiana shore, where the current is favorable when the river is high. And the lighter and less powerful Belle was at a disadvantage in yesterday's high winds, Capt. Mike Fitzgerald said.

"On the way upstream (to the head of Six Mile Island), we weren't battling the Delta Queen so much as the wind," he said at the post-race ceremony, where he handed over the golden antlers.

They will reside on the Delta Queen's pilot house for the next year. With the series tied at 16 wins each, next year's winner is harder to predict, whether one uses logical or meteorological analysis.

## RIVER RASSLING:

The race is more like pro wrestling than wind sprints. **A8**



BY MICHAEL HAYMAN, THE COURIER-JOURNAL  
The Delta Queen cruised beneath the Clark Memorial Bridge almost a mile ahead of the Belle of Louisville to win yesterday's Great Steamboat Race.



Jill and Donna Dyson of Valley Center, Calif., look the bus to Churchill Downs yesterday, two of about 28,000 race fans TARC gets to the Derby each year in the town's largest people-moving operation. BY BILL LUSTER, THE COURIER-JOURNAL

## Derby fans descend on Downs in high style or on low budget

Limos, buses, even rickshaws carried crowd

By NINA WALFOORT  
The Courier-Journal

Johnetta Robinson snoozed on her way to the track yesterday. She glided peacefully through the crowds and arrived at Gate 1 without walking a step or spending a penny.

She may have had the cushiest ride to Churchill Downs, but not everyone has a grandmother like Vern Parks, a Derby regular who pushed Johnetta's stroller nearly two miles from Eastern Parkway and Crittenden Drive to bring the 23-month-old Johnetta to her first Derby.

"It was fun seeing all the people and their outfits," Parks said.

Rolling, walking, pedaling, cruising, the droves descended on the Downs — some in high style, others going low-budget.

Nicole Sexton, a guest of Churchill Downs President Tom Meeker, flew in from Indianapolis in her family's 10-seat Merlin and then was whisked to the track in the Downs' VIP van. Her plane trip was a little bumpy, but it was less than an hour from Indy to the track. "That's the way to go," she said. "I have nice parents. They said, 'Honey, you don't have to drive.'"

Kim Dinkel and Vicki Van Veen stepped out of a white stretch limo

outside Gate 1, immaculate and dry in their off-white suits.

Dinkel said they were going to take a cab, but then he hired the limo for \$40 as they left the Galt House East. "We came out of the hotel and he was there and we rented it."

Victor Doolan wasn't as pleased with his chauffeured ride in a white Cadillac limousine. "We would prefer a BMW," said Doolan — who happens to be president of BMW of North America Inc. Instead, he rode in the limo owned by his host, local car czar Sam Swope. "We'll have to make do with a Cadillac," he said.

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott of Mississippi and his party of four were chauffeured around in two leased Lincoln Town Cars.

Jane and Neil MacDonald had a bigger challenge transporting the 60 folks they host each year with Brooks and Marilyn Bower. Two chartered TARC buses carried their crowd from a friend's Hurstbourne home, downtown to the Pendennis Club for brunch, off to the track and then back to Hurstbourne for dinner.

"It's wonderful," Jane MacDonald said. "... Out-of-town guests don't have to worry about which streets are one-way, or where they're going, or drinking. We've done it for years and it's just the best."

The biggest people-moving operation was TARC's, with its express bus service that hauls about 28,000 Derby-goers each year.

Lee Weber said he's taken TARC to the track on Derby Day for the past 20 years, and Kirk Nixon said he didn't see any reason to hire a limou-

sine — for about \$1,000 a day — when the bus costs \$10 round-trip and gets from downtown to the track in 15 minutes. "Louisville has this system down so well," Nixon said. "This is the best way to go."

Despite the crush for parking spaces, thousands came in cars.

Chris Elliot and four friends drove to a University of Louisville parking lot and then paid a buck a head to ride in the back of a Ranger pickup that was shuttling up Fourth Street. Jill Melfert cruised the U of L lots in her Dodge Ram, offering rides for \$2 a head, but sometimes getting less. "You just wheel and deal," she said.

David Salmon parked in a friend's parking lot on Third Street, then popped for a \$4 bicycle-powered rickshaw ride. "It looks like it's going to rain, and the ladies I'm with would like to ride," he said.

Randy Smith, one of the three rickshaw drivers working Central Avenue, said he would get a good day's wage and a major-league workout making 50 round trips, half of them "right into the wind."

Frank Lewis and Shelley Boles hopped on a golf cart to ride the long block from Gate 3 to Gate 1. "It was for her," Lewis said. "She has high heels."

Todd Exley just sniffed at the notion that it was hard to find parking on Derby Day. He parked for free somewhere on Taylor Boulevard that he didn't want to get too specific about, then walked "a couple blocks" to the track.

"When you've been coming as long as I have," he said, "it's easy."



People rushed by the track's Gate 1, near the entrance to the Kentucky Derby Museum. The cool weather and occasional rain seemed to add some haste to an already fast-paced day. BY SAM UPSHAW, THE COURIER-JOURNAL



Golf carts served as shuttles for some Churchill Downs patrons. It can be a long walk from one gate to another at the race track. BY SAM RICHE, SPECIAL TO THE COURIER-JOURNAL



On Central Avenue outside the track, Neal Davis, left, Drew Mens, Carson Carr and William Allen, all of Nashville, Tenn., played for tips from passers-by. BY SAM UPSHAW, THE COURIER-JOURNAL