

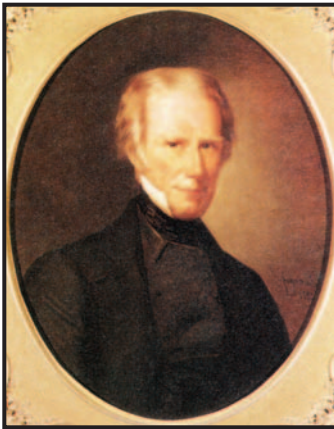
Passing Lane

Commentary on Life in Kentucky

Kentucky Horse Park Honors Henry Clay

THIS Spring, the Kentucky Horse Park's International Museum of the Horse will honor Henry Clay.

Clay possessed a keen eye for fine horses, and was one of the leaders in establishing the Bluegrass region of Kentucky as the nation's premier Thoroughbred breeding center.



Clay's stock was some of the finest in the Bluegrass. He imported mares from Virginia and jacks and jennies from Spain and Malta to his Ashland Thoroughbred Stock Farm. The blood of his foundation mares pulsed through the veins of 11 Kentucky Derby winners, two of which were foaled at his farm.

Included in this fascinating exhibit are racing trophies, original pieces of Henry Clay's furniture, silver and paintings, along with Civil War and horse related artifacts from his descendants.

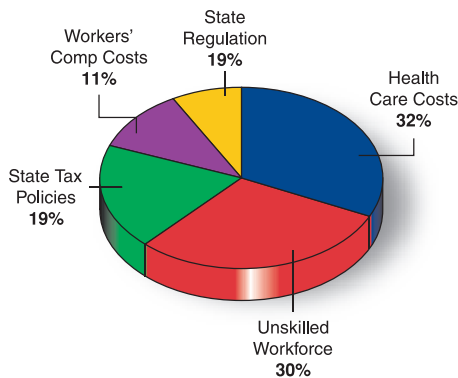
Cordish Company Founder Says Fourth Street is Live

DAVID Cordish is a happy man. Downtown Louisville's "Fourth Street Live" is exceeding forecasts.

The \$72 million entertainment facility, which the Cordish Company developed, has created 1,500 jobs and is projected to attract 4.3 million people this calendar year. The attraction will generate over \$3 million in state and local tax revenues. The Hogan Group, the Cordish Company's local partner, reports that 35 retail and commercial leases have been inked for the downtown development.



Which is the greatest deterrent to business growth in Kentucky?



Source: Public Affairs Membership Survey, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, 2004

17 Floors and 500 Jobs



WITH its opening planned for March 28, Louisville's new Marriott downtown is looking for a few good men and women. The new high-rise hospitality facility will employ about 500 with compensation ranging from \$20,000 to \$100,000 annually. The new 616-room Marriott sits on top of a 490-car underground garage, offers 50,000 sq. ft. of meeting and event space, and will be connected to the 300,000-sq.-ft. Convention Center via an elevated pedway.

Metro Louisville Law Strips Rights of Adult Bookstores and Clubs

A recent ordinance prohibits nudity at Louisville strip clubs and requires approximately 20 clubs and adult bookstores to close at 1:00 a.m. The ordinance was ruled constitutional by Jefferson Circuit Judge Stephen Ryan, but his ruling has been challenged in the state court of appeals.

The appeals judges will have to flesh out the facts of this case before making a final ruling.

The Great Book Heist at Transylvania University

IN December, four Lexington college students stole rare books from Transylvania's Special Collection Library. The extremely valuable books and manuscripts were up to 580 years old and included:

- A first edition of Charles Darwin's "The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection" (1859)
- 20 sketches by James Audubon created in 1855;
- An English manuscript written and hand painted in color for the Knolles Family (1425).

Four days after the books were stolen, they were offered for sale to Christie's Auction House

in New York City. Shortly thereafter, Lexington police and the FBI arrested the quartet.



We have some advice for these college criminals. While they are serving their sentences in the federal penitentiary, perhaps they should research and write some new books, entitled:

- "How to Ruin Your Family's Reputation in Fourteen Days"
- "Guide to Successfully Selling Extremely Rare Stolen Manuscripts to World Renowned Auction Houses"

• "The Origin of Convicted Felons by Means of Utter Stupidity"

Louisville Mayor, Metro Council Get High Marks

ACCORDING to a recent Blue Grass poll conducted by the *Louisville Courier-Journal*, the majority of Jefferson County residents approve of the job performance of Mayor Jerry Abramson and the Metro Council.

Of those surveyed, 81 percent said they strongly approve or somewhat approve of the mayor's performance, and 71 percent rated the Metro Council's efforts in a positive manner.

Deposit Burley Buyouts into Kentucky Banks

FARMERS in Kentucky will receive \$2.23 billion in buyout payments for owner and grower burley tobacco quotas. We recommend that quota owners deposit their payments into Kentucky banks so these funds can be used to boost economic development in our state.

The injection of over \$2.23 billion into Kentucky's banking system would be very beneficial to local communities.

File photo



Aquarium Catches Bird Snatchers

AN Ohio man and woman were charged with theft – in this case, a felony – for stealing a Chattering Lory, an endangered species, and five Loricats from the Rain Forest exhibit at the Newport Aquarium.

The bird heist perpetrators and their automobile were identified by a video surveillance system. Two days later, they were seen at an exotic bird show in Sharonville, Ohio, where the birdnappers were nabbed by local police. The stolen birds were returned to the Newport Aquarium. The estimated value of the six birds is \$4,500.

A bird snatcher in the slammer is worth two on the lam.

How to Reach The Lane Report

WE welcome your letters and comments and will consider them for publication. We prefer to receive letters via e-mail, without attachments. All letters must include an address and daytime phone number. We reserve the right to edit letters for clarity and space.

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