

The final stretch

Horses, art, wine ...
what's not to love?

ONE GREAT DATE

Paula Burba



art or furniture acquisition?

A tip not about a horse: Take a look at the paintings of Trent Altman of Creative Diversity. I don't aspire to art criticism, but Altman makes color mesmerizing on canvas. I love his work. And I love wine. Imagine my joy at finding a bottle of the tastiest wine (apologies to winemaster Leonard Olson for my lack of a more sophisticated description) last month with a special label featuring one of Altman's works called "Life, Love, Explosion." Perfect name for the painting, the wine and the title of my memoirs someday.

That find was at a preview party for **River Bend Winery**, 120 S.10th St., near the corner at Market. As of last night, the winery is open 4 to 11 p.m. Thursday through Saturday.

If I have to tell you that a wine tasting is a romantic date, well, you might just be hopeless. But here's another non-equine tip: If I wanted to vividly impress a date, I would locate a bottle of this winery's Chocolate Decadence. It is wine, but it also tastes like chocolate. More art and liquor will be showing and flowing at the "**Brush, Bottle and Barrel of the Bluegrass**" fund-raiser tonight from 5:30 to 8:30 at Louisville Collegiate School, 2427 Glenmary Ave. Charity events are the quintessential Derby Season date. But this one benefits the Legal Aid Society, which gives free legal services to the people who really need them. Excellent reason for a party.

Here, you may preview **Cherokee Triangle Art Fair**

I adore Derby season. Single, married, divorced, other — who cares? It's Derby. Let us all just get out there!

We're entering the final stretch of Derby season proper — that second chaotic week of decadent socializing during which the mightiest Louisvillians flutter straight through some of the most bizarre, yet brilliant, excuses to party.

A case in point: the "**Unstable-Barn Party**" from 5 to 11 tonight at the Mellwood Arts & Entertainment Center, 1860 Mellwood Ave. No A-list or B-list here, unlike that other similar-sounding party. But you can win prizes for best celebrity look-alike or best Derby hat.

Well, truthfully, there will be two A-list jockeys of the disc here: WFPK's Woody Chancy and Matt Anthony. Tell the truth: You've had a soulful, reflective moment with these guys on a lonely Friday or Saturday, haven't you? I admit I frequent the Juke Joint of the Mind.

Unstable-Barn is part of the **FAT Friday trolley hop**. That's the one based on Frankfort Avenue that includes much of Mellwood Avenue. **Creative Diversity**, one of the studios at the arts center, will be open and will also have a special sale down the street at **eyedia** — a sort of decorating consignment mecca at 1631 Mellwood. Does anything say "love" quite like



By Jim Wilkinson, The C-J

Trent Altman's "Life, Love, Explosion" is the perfect name for his painting, the wine and our columnist's memoirs.

works before the weekend fair begins tomorrow (and it will include more Altman works). Sample wines from several Kentucky wineries as well as these bourbons: Four Roses, Buffalo Trace, Barton Blends, Maker's Mark, Woodford Reserve and Old Rip Van Winkle. Tickets are \$75 (502-767-7814, also available at the door).

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