

Donut Wars 09

Meet the new Champ, same as the old Champ
By Keegan Frank

"I like the doughnut that's in front of me best."
—Southern Food Writer, **John T. Edge**

Dateline: Lexington, Kentucky. The sun is slowly creeping over the horizon. This is the hour of the working people. Gone are the days of a full course breakfast. Who has the time? We need something that only requires one hand, as the other is busy driving, writing, or operating a ten key. Enter the doughnut.



I could not tell you the first time I had one, but I can tell you the most recent: last Thursday at Third Street Stuff. Three esteemed members of the community and I convened for Ace's Donut Wars 2009, the first such doughnut judging since the category was retired from Best of Lex I-don't-know-when. Joining yours truly at the judging table



Julia Wilson, Tread, and Doug Martin.

were Julia Wilson of *Kentucky Bride Magazine*, 10th District Councilmember Doug Martin, and Ace's very first Brains on Film columnist, Larry Treadway (Tread).

Four competitors were selected. Two local fixtures, Spalding's and Donut Days, went up against national giants Dunkin' Donuts and Krispy Kreme. All submissions were of the traditional glazed variety. As the 2008 Best of Lex "best coffee and free wi-fi" winner, Third Street Stuff provided the location, and the coffee. (Lipitor sprinkles were requested, but none materialized.)

Each donut came in from another room on an anonymous white plate to ensure that no brand partiality would interfere with the contest. Also, each judge was limited to one fourth of a cake per entry to avoid interference with regularly scheduled cardiovascular activity.

Council Member Martin planned to adjudicate and then depart for a family trip to gamely ride rollercoasters. But his motions to bifurcate couldn't be heard above the din.

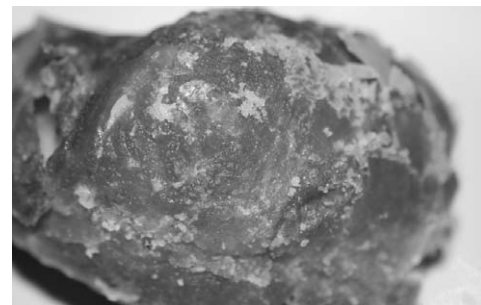
Judges rated the contestants on: taste/flavor, texture, and appearance. A one-to-five scale was used, with one being "eww" and five being "yum."

Donut C from Spalding's Bakery had a hard time retaining its anonymity — its telltale fritter-esque body is like no other doughnut in town.

More than one judge complimented the homemade taste of Donut Days.

But the winner with a 13.5 out of 15, Spalding's Bakery! Still the reigning doughnut king and the very reason doughnuts retired from the Best of Lex ballot.

Online, you will note Spalding's prominence among foodie lists of "five foods to try before you die." (The fried green tomato pie at Holly Hill Inn also makes that list, but the menu changes, so some folks may have to die unhappy). ■



Your winner, and still delicious.

Photos and video at www.AceWeekly.com and www.Facebook.com/AceWeeklyFans.

Homesick?

What would you miss about Lexington?
By Jay Atwood

"How do we build a place that the next generation will be homesick for?"

—**Rebecca Ryan**, Madison-based consultant, addressing CommerceLex visitors this Spring

The other night in my taxicab, I picked up a girl who graduated from UK back in May. I've driven her for most of the time she has been here. She told me that this would probably be the last time I drove her because she was "moving away from Lexington next week and wouldn't miss anything about it."

I didn't press the matter, but she couldn't be more wrong. Lexington might not be as cosmopolitan as LA or New York City or as exciting as Las Vegas or Miami, but there are things to be missed here, little things you can't find any place else. Things like Ramsey's fried green tomatoes; or, Saturday mornings spent browsing the farmers' market and then a quick lunch at Giacomo's; or, the gang (not

flock) of ducks lurking outside the Tates Creek Super-America ready to pounce on any discarded potato chips or hot dog buns.

Or, tailgating at Commonwealth Stadium with ice-cold beer & spicy wings from Indi's



Who wouldn't be homesick for Ramsey's fried green tomatoes?



Billy's BBQ retired the BBQ category a few years ago

people screaming; or, how Billy's BBQ makes the entire Chevy Chase area smell delicious; or, story hour at Joseph-Beth; or, stumbling the block from Two Keys Tavern to Tolly-Ho for cheddar tots at 2:30 in the morning.

Or, the feeling you get when the sun finally comes out to stay at Keeneland; or, the Big Ass Fans billboard on Winchester Road; or, the scary late night taco vendor at the corner of Alexandria & Versailles Road; or, the equally scary Rocky Horror experience at the Kentucky Theatre; or, how the Ashland area of East Main looks when it snows, a sight worthy of its own postcard (if postcards were still relevant).

And Henry Earl? How can you not miss Henry Earl? ■

What would you be homesick for if you left Lexington tomorrow?

Email editor@aceweekly.com. Your responses may be included in the Best of Lex edition, on stands September 17.

on a brisk fall afternoon; or, the Good Times mural on the side of Al's Bar; or, snickering when you find that forgotten curiosity you now just have to have at Pop's ReSale; or, randomly running into Gatewood during breakfast at Perkins; or, the house on Chinoe that can be seen from space at Christmas.

Or, the roar of the crowd in Rupp Arena after a clutch three hits the bottom of the net and your realization that you are one of the