

Run for the Roses: Flowers essential to horse race

United Press International
The life of the average race horse is no bed of roses but expensive blankets of sweet-smelling blossoms lie in store for those thoroughbreds fortunate enough to win a Triple Crown race.

The traditional flowers — roses for the Kentucky Derby, "black-eyed Susans" for the Preakness, and green carnations for the Belmont Stakes — have become as much a part of the racetrack pageantry as the trophies, drinks and songs associated with the springtime contests.

In fact, the Kentucky Derby winner's famed horseshoe-shaped garland of 500 red roses prompted a New York sports-writer to dub the race "The Run for the Roses" back in 1925.

"Once you take a rose off the

Derby blanket, what is there left? It's the thrill of a lifetime," said Shirley Foster, whose husband owns 1983 Derby winner, Sunny's Halo.

Mrs. Foster, of Toronto, was more fortunate that some past owners in that she still has one of the prized roses in her possession — a bloom preserved in a music box that plays my "Old Kentucky Home."

In 1981, bystanders grabbed the rose garland after it was removed from the neck of Pleasant Colony, stripped the flowers from their backing and then passed them up the grandstand as souvenirs.

"John Campo (Pleasant Colony's trainer) never got any roses and he was really disappointed," said Edgar Allen, a spokesman for Churchill Downs. Allen said Campo was

About 2,400 dyed daisies go into the 80 inch by 30 inch blanket used to cover the horse fortunate enough to make it into the Preakness winner's circle. About five of the florist's staffers work three days to glue the flowers onto the burlap blanket, which is lined with felt to protect the winning thoroughbred from its scratchy surface.

eventually appeared with a couple roses that were found on the ground and some from other bouquets.

The track paid about \$2,000 last year to Kingsley Walker Florists of Louisville, Ky. — the racetrack's florist for more than 50 years — for the winner's garland, jockey's bouquet and

other roses used in the Derby, Allen said.

Floral designer Don Nicoulin said it takes two people about eight hours to fashion the 90 inch by 14 inch Derby garland from 500 Viva roses, which this year will be imported from South America.

"Each rose has to be hand-

sewn onto heavy backing, with about four stitches each. The garland also has to be lined with slipper satin so the horse won't be poked by the stems," said Nicoulin, adding that a debate arises each year over whether to trim the ends with emerald green or deep red ribbon.

Neither Nicoulin nor Allen said they knew why roses were chosen over other flowers for the Derby's post-race presentation — but said the tradition started back in 1896.

The story of the Preakness' black-eyed susans is a little less fuzzy. In an effort to give the second leg of the Triple Crown its own, unique floral tradition, Pimlico Race Course officials stopped draping the Preakness winner with roses back in 1940 — and started using Maryland's black-and-yellow state flower.

However, the decision has proven to be a headache for florists charged with making the winner's blanket because black-eyed Susans are out-of-season in mid-May, the date when the Preakness is traditionally run.

"Since black-eyed Susans are not available anywhere, we've found it necessary to improve on nature. We take daisies — tint their petals yellow and dye their centers black — and they become 'black-eyed susans,'" said Paul Raimondi Sr., manager of Raimondi's Florists in Baltimore.

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lap blanket, which is lined with felt to protect the winning thoroughbred from its scratchy surface.

"The blanket is only on the horse's back for a short time when he comes into the winner's circle — and then it's right off. But it makes a picture," said Joseph Jr., the Farmingdale flower wholesaler who provides the green carnations for the Belmont Stakes.

Natalie estimates that florists, who buy loose carnations, spend about \$100 to cloak the Belmont winner with carnations.

"It's not cheap, not cheap at all. But I think the race is worth it — and able to do something a little better," Natalie said.

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Emotional abuse from kid's teacher can cause truancy

United Press International
CHICAGO — Children who fear or avoid school may not be just expressing a desire to play hooky — they may be suffering emotional abuse from their teachers, researchers say.

Dr. Richard D. Krugman and registered nurse Mary K. Krugman of the University of Colorado School of Medicine in Denver studied 17 children in the third and fourth grades assigned to a male teacher in an upper middle-class school district.

The teacher called the students "stupid" or "dumb," screamed at them until they cried, allowed some students to harass and belittle others, set unrealistic academic goals for the grade level, tied string to a child's chair and pulled it out from under him, threw homework at children, pinched, slapped and shook them and pulled their ears.

In September 1982, the children began to undergo behavior and personality changes that were noticeable to parents within two weeks of the beginning of school.

The symptoms included excessive worry about school performance, bad feelings about themselves, hatred of school and onset of headaches, stomach aches, nightmares and withdrawal.

"Many parents initially attributed the behaviors to normal anxiety as the children adjusted to a harder grade level," the researchers said in the American Medical Association's American Journal of Diseases of Children.

The children reported ac-

tions by the teacher that problems. But parents initially did not pay much attention to complaints, attributing the school adjustment problems to the child's initial adjustment to the new school. The school administrators initially took the possibility that children were functioning academically and then represented an attention deficit disorder.

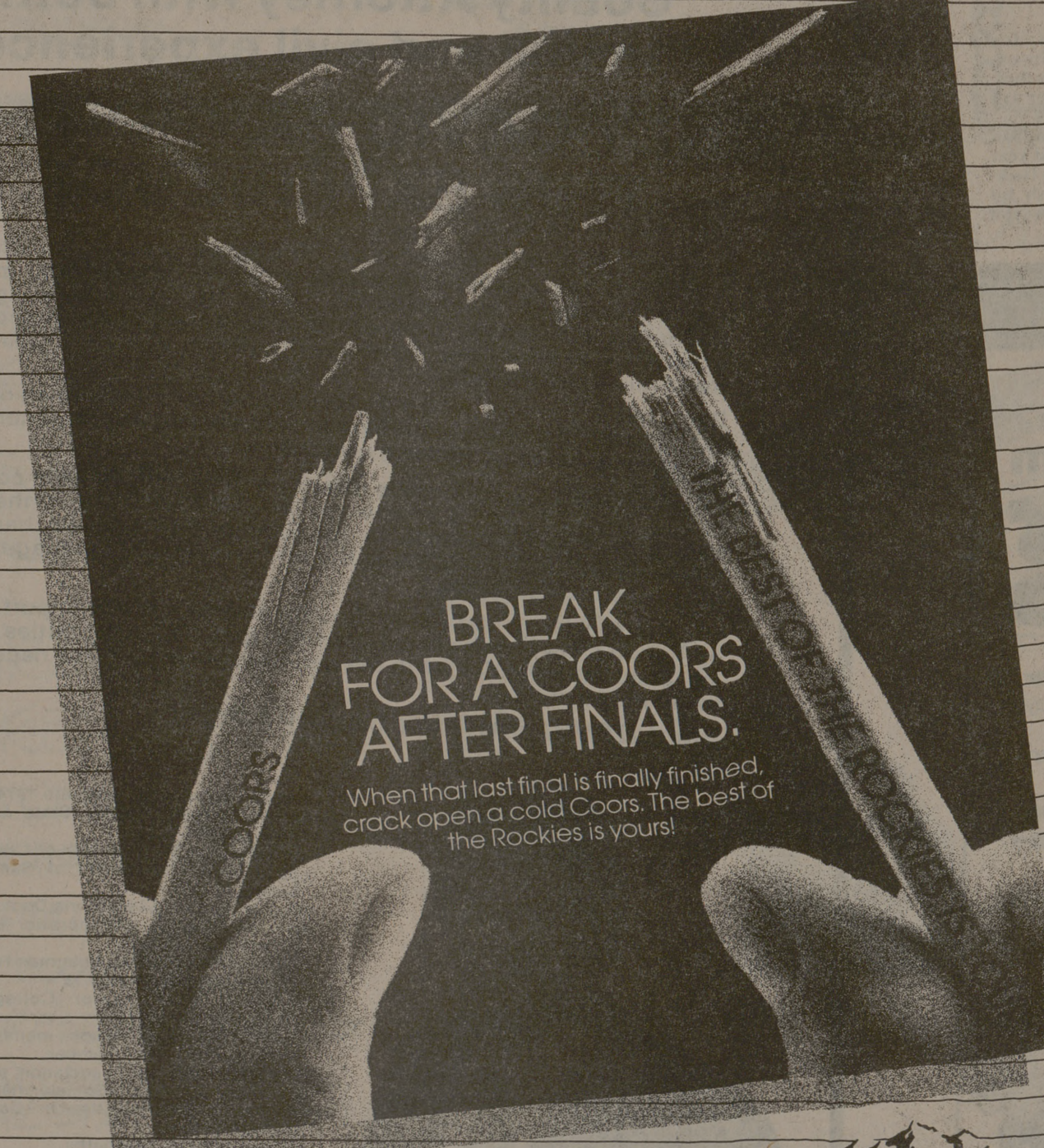
Finally, the teacher was removed. A new teacher with the appropriate goals to the setting, the researchers said. Symptoms among the 17 children disappeared two weeks, they said. The two children required psychiatric therapy to help rebuild self-esteem.

"The school experience is his workplace, the crucibles of life," researchers said. "Positive team is the essence of the identity and it rises and relation to the behavior of interacting with the child."

Pediatricians should advise children about themselves, their families, the research said, and about whether they are aware of their emotional state.

"The pediatrician recognize symptoms of emotional abuse, differentiate from school phobia and act as the child's advocate to prevent serious sequelae," they said.

"Learning how to handle the show la growing up but each serves to do his developmental tasks in a safe environment free of emotional or physical abuse."




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