

BLACK EXPO READY TO MAKE ITS MOVE - Columbus Dispatch, The (OH) - February 5, 1988 - page 1B

February 5, 1988 | Columbus Dispatch, The (OH) | Jack Willey | COLUMN | Page 1B

A major neighborhood event is set to move Downtown and expand its scope statewide this summer.

The Columbus **Black Expo**, a 1-day arts, entertainment and business festival that drew 35,000 people to Mt. Vernon Plaza last year, will become the **Ohio Black Expo** this year.

Plans are to spread the event over a 2-day weekend, move the date from August to September and relocate indoors Downtown, probably in Veterans Memorial.

Black Expo's board will announce the plans this afternoon at the Columbus Chamber of Commerce.

Spokesman Tim Widman said the board was reluctant to move the event out of the East Side neighborhood where it has been held the last 7 years.

"It's a consequence of success," Widman said. "The event is too big for the space we had to work with. And there is no reason a **black** business and entertainment event can't work Downtown."

A similar event in Indianapolis attracts more than 100,000 people to the Hoosier Dome over 3 days.

The **Expo's** Community Awards Reception will remain in the neighborhood at the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for the Performing & Cultural Arts.

O'GUNNING - Word from the smoke-filled rooms has it that Municipal Judge James J. O'Grady may challenge Common Pleas Judge Dale A. Crawford in November.

The final matchups will be determined by the Franklin County Republican Central Committee. Crawford's is one seat that GOP strategists think can be taken with the right candidate.

O'Grady confirmed that he wants to move up to the common pleas bench. Against Crawford? "That's up to the committee," he said.

SHAKE IT UP - Ron Bright is amazed at the things that normally sedate people get involved with around Ugly Bartender time.

Bright and Dennis Kozloski, a fellow accountant at Peat Marwick & Main, were joined by Mercedes-Benz dealer Skip Potter on Wednesday night at Fifty- Five on the Boulevard.

"We served drinks, sold raffle tickets and generally did whatever was necessary to get people to put money in the bucket," Bright said.

Whatever included a professional belly dancer who Kozloski imported to help shake out the change, which came to about \$4,000 for the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

LIFT LINES - One of the events at this weekend's 92-X Budweiser Mad River Mountain Festival is a trash bag race on the ski slope. No skis, just bag up and slide.

The festivities at the slopes near Bellefontaine include real ski races, a scavenger hunt, a slopeside brats and beer cookout, and prize giveaways that include ski trips to Eastern resorts. McGuffey Lane entertains tonight and Saturday.

More serious-minded skiers should check out The Skismith Open races on Saturday and the Columbus Ski Club Cup Challenge on Sunday at Clear Fork near Butler, Ohio, in Richland County.

You news media ski bums who'd like to compete in the celebrity race Saturday morning should call Butch Reber at The Skismith, or me.

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