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RESTAURANT REVIEWS



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Co-founder of Apple to speak at festival

Louisville event attracts thinkers

By **Robert Schoenberger**
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The Courier-Journal

Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak, inventor of the company's first computer, will be a speaker at the 2007 IdeaFestival in Louisville in September.

Besides Wozniak, the festival is working to attract journalists, chefs, designers and filmmakers.



Steve Wozniak, who will speak in Louisville in September, has been credited with making the home computer possible.

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IdeaFestival founder Kris Kimel said big-name speakers are more willing to come to Kentucky as the event has matured since being introduced in 2000.

"When we first started, we had a lot of trouble just getting on people's radar screens," Kimel said. Last year the festival drew Burt Rutan, a pioneer in space tourism.

Set for Sept. 13-15 at locations around Louisville, IdeaFestival gathers thinkers from various backgrounds to talk about big ideas and how innovations can change the way we live.

Kimel called Wozniak a great example of someone whose idea changed the world.

With current Apple CEO Steve Jobs handling much of the design and business work, Wozniak pulled together the hardware and wrote the software for the Apple I.

"Why have memory for your TV screen and memory for your computer? Make them one, and that shrunk the chips down. ... One thing after another after another happened. I wound up with so few chips, when I was done I said hey, a computer that you could program," Wozniak said in the 1996 PBS documentary "Triumph of the Nerds," a history of the personal computer.

Documentary maker Robert Cringely credited Wozniak with making the home computer possible by eliminating some of the complexity found on earlier homemade systems.

Retired from Apple, Wozniak has become a philanthropist, spending his time and money on education issues.

Kimel said he is still working to develop this year's speakers list. Besides Wozniak, it currently includes Homaro Cantu, a Chicago chef and inventor; fashion designer Karen Walker; and Tiffany Shlain, a filmmaker and the inventor of the Webby Awards.

"We're really excited, not just because of the names but because of the diversity" of backgrounds and specialties, Kimel said.

Cantu won a battle that aired Sunday on the Food Network's "Iron Chef America" television show. Cantu cooked with lasers and liquid nitrogen.

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Kimel said he hopes to showcase Cantu's cooking at the festival, but the chef's complex gear may pose a challenge.

"We're trying to figure out how to capture that at the festival," Kimel said.

The festival will have a similar format to last year's event, with multiple attractions at different locations. Kimel said organizers are increasing sessions for teenagers and children.

"We want to connect the big ideas to the young people who are going to live" in a world changed by them, he said.

Reporter Robert Schoenberger can be reached at (502) 582-4669.

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