

9-25-1968

Computer Simulated Horse Race at the Fall Campus Carnival

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Recommended Citation

"Computer Simulated Horse Race at the Fall Campus Carnival" (1968). *News Releases*. 3391.
https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls/3391

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SEPTEMBER 25, 1968

From: Union Activities Organization via the General Publicity Office

"They're Off and Running! As they break from the gate....."

Sound like the start of a horse race? It is. But not the usual type of horse race. It is a wedding of horse flesh and the computer. It will take place this Friday evening during the annual Fall Campus Carnival at the University of Dayton and students from the University's Computer Science Department will use a computer to simulate the horse race. Carnival action goes from 7 P.M. to midnight on the UD tennis courts.

Here is how it will go. Through the use of General Electric time-sharing facilities a portable teletype is tied into Bell Telephone lines and linked to a computer in Cleveland, Ohio. The machine prints the position and the distances between each horse as they break from the gate. Similar results are recorded when the horses reach the quarter mile pole, the halfway mark, and as they round the turn and come down the stretch.

And all the ingredients are there. You can place a bob or two on win, place, or show on any of the eight competing horses. All bets are entered into the computer through the teletype and the final odds are computed. After the payoffs on a quarter bet for win, place and show, students take over, giving prizes for the winning tickets. Then they take the wages for the next race.

But the technology age doesn't end there. Because all the information is printed at the teletype, where viewing space is limited, the computer science students have sought the assistance of Elementary Education Department students who will install a closed-circuit television camera and three monitors near the scene of the action.

And while all this is going on, 41 other campus organizations will serve up games, drinks, cakes, cookies, pizzas and food, food, food. WING-Radio will spin records. The public is invited.