

Masthead Logo

The Iowa Review

Volume 29
Issue 2 Fall

Article 47

1999

Soap Box Derby Queen

Laura Sullivan-Hackley

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.uiowa.edu/iowareview>

Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Sullivan-Hackley, Laura. "Soap Box Derby Queen." *The Iowa Review* 29.2 (1999): 157-157. Web.
Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.5151>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by Iowa Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Review by an authorized administrator of Iowa Research Online. For more information, please contact lib-ir@uiowa.edu.

Laura Sullivan-Hackley

SOAP BOX DERBY QUEEN

I was Soap Box Derby Queen 1971 in a silver pipe cleaner crown,
captive grand marshal leading the boys' procession of pine boxes.

They shoehorned me into a striped go-cart, strapped me down
with a paper sash that read, "QUEEN." I knew nothing of axles,

of inertia, of wanting to win; I was 4 years old, a braided brunette
coached to use one hand for holding my crown in place, the other

for gripping splintery pine as I careened down McCowans Ferry at
30 miles an hour in a race against no one. At the foot of the hill, a stir

of wind-chapped hands managed quiet applause to congratulate
the Queen, not for speed but for arriving, sash and tiara intact.