

BOARDWALK SJM 3-24-93 1B

Twist and shout: Boardwalk adds spinning Wipeout

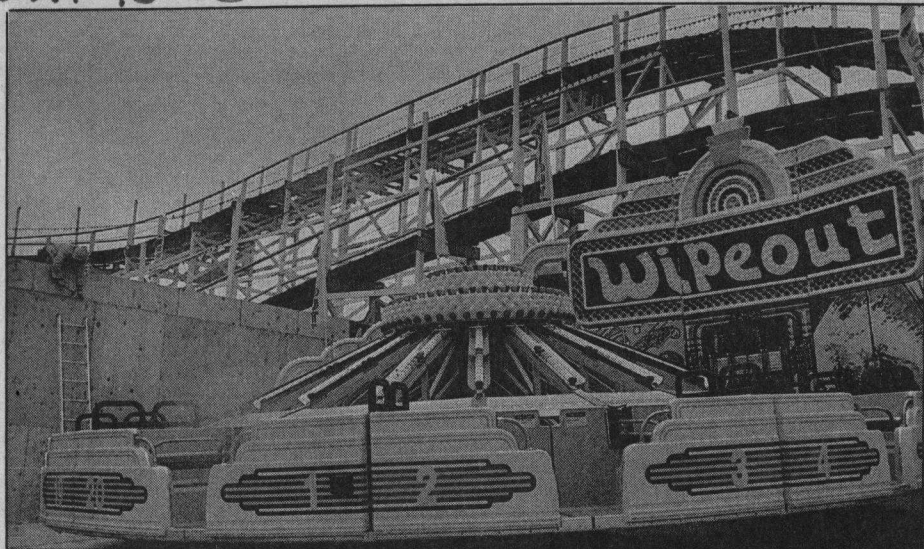
BY LEE QUARNSTROM
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Just sitting there, awaiting its first daring customers come Easter week, the Wipeout truly looks like a gut-wrencher.

This year's addition to the thrills and chills at the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, the Wipeout will open with little fanfare when spring-break students begin arriving at the seaside amusement park on April 3.

Boardwalk spokeswoman Ann Parker, noting that the ride has been thoroughly tested, promises it will be "really lively" and won't repeat the experience of the Hurricane, which had to be toned down last year after opening-day riders complained of back and neck pains.

Lively seems hardly the word: This thing, which has pods with seats attached to spokes decorated with colorful lights, spins around its hub 20 times a minute. That's one revolution every three seconds!



RICHARD WISDOM — MERCURY NEWS

The Wipeout, which sits under the Giant Dipper roller coaster, will open April 3.

On top of that, notes Parker, as many as 60 riders at a time on the \$500,000 attraction will twist, spin, bank up and down, rock side to side and, to make matters worse — or better, boardwalk officials promise — wobble.

All of the action will be accompanied by multicolored lights and rock music

and surfer tunes from the 1950s and '60s.

Built by Chance Rides Inc. of Wichita, Kansas, the Wipeout replaces the old Auto Scooters, the less well known of the boardwalk's two bumper-car rides.

The Wipeout sits beneath the boardwalk's most-famous attraction, the 69-year-old Giant Dipper roller coaster.