Profile: Doug Littlejohns

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Metro is off and running on a monthly schedule beginning with this issue. The two Millennium launch issues are in the archives, literally and figuratively, and can be accessed online at metronc.com. Newsstand copies are available across the Triangle and down to the coast and our paid subscriber base is running well beyond projections. Thank you readers for your warm and enthusiastic welcome to the magazine that sets the tone for this metropolitan and cosmopolitan world-class region.

And so away we go with this our April issue, full of new departments and columnists, profiles and features and mainstays from our launch issues. MetroPreview and Secrets of State return joined by a significant feature story showcasing the really good news that, in the face of hurricanes, floods, hog spills and the incessant war against tobacco by our own government, one of our oldest traditional industries is thriving.

Patrik Jonsson's piece, with photographs by Jim Turcotte, captures the essence of the impact of the burgeoning boat-building phenomenon energizing the eastern region. In little coves and mammoth boatyards—from Edenton down to Wilmington, and familiar spots in between—manufacturers, from the single craftsman whose ancestors started it all in the 17th century, to recent newcomers rolling out multi-million dollar motor yachts, are helping to transform economic development along the coast. Metro examines this explosion of creativity and entrepreneurship and discusses the successes and frustrations faced by the industry and state economic development policy-makers.

In this issue we begin a regular monthly profile, this time of the fascinating Doug Littlejohns, former British naval officer and partners with the prolific novelist Tom Clancy in Red Storm Entertainment, a fast growing video games firm located in the heart of the Research Triangle. Senior Editor Rick Smith weaves together a tale of adventure on the high seas with the fast-paced world of life in the high-tech fast lane.

New columns to keep you on top of events debut with a flourish: MetroBooks this month focuses on two recent releases that viewed together open up the connection between the radical movement in the US during the Cold War and revelations from the most secret KGB files recently made available to the West in a riveting story of personal bravery and determination. The Sword and the Shield: The Mitrokhin Archives, written by Mitrokhin and Dr. Christopher Andrew, chairman of the History Faculty at England's Cambridge University is fascinating and shocking. The second book, Communists on Campus, brings the truth closer to home. Reviewer and attorney Arch T. Allen, whose two-part installment in our

Millennium issues describing the heavy seas buffeting the governance of North Carolina's state-supported university, returns in this informative and revealing look at undercurrents that continue to define our culture in the new century.

Rick Smith kicks off an innovative and informative monthly column that will take you through the confusing maze of high-tech development and beyond to what we see ahead in the world of tomorrow. ADC (after.com) is must reading to navigate the brave new world lurking on our horizon.

Well-traveled and notably published food writer Nancie McDermott joins these pages with a monthly feature covering cuisine from around the world and right in our backyard. A North Carolina native, Nancie has returned home to the Old North State bringing with her a real affection for the exotic and a new appreciation for her native fare. In this issue Nancie discovers that Asian food has become a mainstay of area food markets, proving once again that while Tar Heels cherish their past, they welcome at table the galaxy of delicious options brought here by our new neighbors from around the world.

You will welcome I'm sure “Box Seats,” the insider's guide to what's brewing beneath the cultural and social activities arising on the agenda in the region. While MetroPreview informs you of where to go and what to see, author Maudy Benz will highlight the people and events that make it all happen.

Philip van Vleck, veteran music writer and video hound appears in these pages beginning this month with a regular column that keeps you cool and hip and in the know. No one does it better so tune in and see what I mean.

Each month we'll present MetroIndex, a compilation of fascinating and often obscure tidbits about the world around us. The popularity of “Pocket Knowledge,” interesting facts about North Carolina's history that appeared in our Millennium launch issues, told us that readers enjoy fun and illuminating trivia. We welcome ideas for future installments of MetroIndex.

I'll be writing a column in the “back of the book” each month entitled, by unanimous acclamation by the staff “My Usual Charming Self.” No further comment is needed.

... Important notice! Be sure to vote in the first annual MetroBravo! Awards. The ballot appears in this issue and online at metronc.com. We need your response by April 30 so vote now. The results will appear in our June issue.

Which is another of many great reasons to subscribe today!

—Bernie Reeves, Editor & Publisher
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UNUSUAL SUSPECTS

Your reference to Len Garment and “Deep Throat” (Eyes Only, February 2000) brought back searing memories of my own past as a member of Richard Nixon’s old law firm. With your impeccable sources, you probably know that as head of litigation at the Wall Street law firm of Nixon Mudge Rose Guthrie Alexander & Mitchell in the ’60s, Len Garment guided prosecution in the case of Hill v. Time Inc.—a private claim for invasion of privacy allegedly resulting from an article in Life magazine. The case was appealed to the “Warren Court,” where it was argued for the Hills by the firm’s new partner from California—Richard Nixon. My office mate at the time was involved in the case, researching materials on the need for privacy—including a study of ways to detect taping and other eavesdropping techniques.

I also have some recollection of an article in Time in the ’70s that included John Sears, another contemporary at Nixon Mudge, among a list of “Deep Throat” suspects. Although he is a Washington lawyer and Republican Party “operative,” to my knowledge John has never been an elected official. Nor was he a “highly placed official” in the executive branch (which, I believe, is the current Woodstein description).

I wish John a long life. But I would like to know the identity of “Deep Throat.” Perhaps Len Garment’s revelation will be on the mark. He was unwittingly close to some of the usual suspects.

Marvin E. Taylor Jr.
Cary

THE INCREDIBLE LIGHTNESS OF PRIVILEGE

Bernie Reeves’ editorial, “Freedom Is Not Just Another Word” (February 2000), has a point: It can be exhausting, demanding, and often downright inconvenient being a citizen of this country. It is an exhausting proposition being asked to uphold our society’s standards of decency—daily demonstrating basic courtesy and respect for others, honoring others’ rights and opinions, and abiding by laws designed to protect others and ourselves.

Gosh darn it, that constitutional democracy just asks so much of us!

As Reeves’ piece hints at (and the issue’s content testifies), the state of freedom is not so much inherent as it is created—created for us by our formerly un-free revolutionary forefathers, created by society for a formerly enslaved class of people in the past century, and created around the world by the American economic, diplomatic and military presence.

After 200 years and 27 constitutional amendments, it appears that the creation of freedom is a never-ending process with which our nation has been charged. As stewards of this democratic vision, we Americans are asked to continually push the envelope: to ensure access to opportunity for all citizens (even linguistic access), to provide equal protection to the advantaged and the vulnerable (even if it inconveniences), to weigh the infringement of one set of rights against the greater public good (even if it hurts), and, yes, to constantly and vigilantly monitor our motives at home and abroad (as human creators, we are, after all, fallible).

Phew! Freedom-building is hard work that we all engage in, and benefit from, every day. The work of the American revolutionaries seems never to be done. Perhaps heaviest lies the head that does not wear the crown.

 Martha A. Schütz Lo
Chapel Hill

WOMAN AT THE FRONT

Not only am I impressed with MetroMagazine, so is my best friend for these past 57 years, Dot Helms, who went through it from cover to cover and pronounced it “great.” Bear in mind that I met Dot when she became the first woman reporter since 1924 hired by The News & Observer (in 1941) when I was working for Tony McKevlin in the sports department.

Senator Jesse Helms
Washington, D.C.

WOMEN AT THE FRONT

As president of Peace College, I very much enjoyed reading “No Longer Mrs. Wife: Women Move to Leadership Roles” (December 1999) in the inaugural issue of MetroMagazine. Proud college presidents can’t resist opportunities to acknowledge extraordinary graduates. I’m no exception, especially as president of my alma mater.

Peace boasts alumni with distinguished records of public service: Gertrude Dills McKee, North Carolina’s first woman state senator, graduated in 1905; Governor John Motley Morehead’s granddaughter, Lily Morehead Mebane, class of 1891, was elected to the State House and served with Sen. McKee in the 1930s. Mebane’s sister, Peace alumna Mary Kerr Morehead, was the South’s first female judge. Other Peace alumnae elected to the state legislature are Lura Self Tally (Cumberland), Mary Seymour (Wake), and Arlene Pulley (Guilford). Mary Owen Graham, the first woman president of Peace in 1916, was also the first woman—and the only woman until 1923—to serve as president of the North Carolina Education Association.

Considering that these women leaders emerged from small student bodies, a healthy percentage of state leaders in
the 20th century were alumnae of institutions like Peace College. To build on this foundation of women leaders, Peace has created the state’s only undergraduate major in leadership studies, with a mission to prepare women to lead and serve with insight, a collaborative spirit and integrity. Onward!

Laura Carpenter Bingham
President, Peace College
Raleigh

MISSING MARON

In his excellent article on North Carolina writers, “A Goodly Crop” (February 2000), Art Taylor makes a curious omission when he neglects to mention Margaret Maron. Maron writes mysteries, but they are mysteries that examine the many worlds that comprise the state in which we live.

She takes on disparate topics such as farming, women who do men’s work, practitioners of moonshine, and the furniture industry. My personal favorite is her description of the competing interests that use the resources of our finite and threatened shoreline and waters. In Shooting at Loons, Maron pits against each other developers, commercial fishermen, sport fishermen, recreational users, and those who simply live with the ocean and its inlets and rivers. No one is a hero just as no one is a villain in her eyes. She makes us realize that questions such as pollution, over-fishing, and high rise developments on fragile barrier islands are complex and, in some cases, heartbreaking issues for those involved.

Patricia Hawkins
Raleigh

Art Taylor replies:

As both a friend of Margaret’s and an ardent admirer of her mysteries—particularly Bootlegger’s Daughter, truly one of the genre’s seminal works—I regret not having included mention of her in my article. In my defense, however, I have written extensively on Maron’s work elsewhere, both in reviews of her six most recent books and in lengthier features in The Armchair Detective, in The North Carolina Literary Review and on MysteryNet.com. More importantly, perhaps, it’s a testament to the greatness of our region’s literary talent that not all of the notable writers could be acknowledged in my article—whether Maron or sci-fi master John Kessel, who teaches at N.C. State, or others including Judy Goldman, Jim Grimsley and June Spence, as well as a score of others whose works should certainly not be overlooked.

WELCOME ANY TIME

I enjoyed your editorial, “Freedom Is Not Just Another Word,” and “Legacy of Valor: Our Proud Military Tradition” (February 2000) very much. You hit the right buttons for us here in Warsaw. We are the oldest celebration of Veterans’ Day in America with this being our 80th year coming up on November 11, 2000. We are proud of our military heritage, as we celebrated Armistice Day, known as Veterans Day now, five years before the final recognition by Congress in 1926. Come down and visit us sometime and you will be welcome.

Susan Greenhill
Warsaw

THE YOUNGER HILL

A small correction to Rick Smith’s fascinating article on Tar Heels in the military (“Legacy of Valor,” February 2000): The D.H. Hill Library is not named for Confederate general D.H. Hill (as Mr. Smith notes) but for his son, Daniel Harvey Hill Jr. Mr. Smith quotes from the younger Hill’s book, Confederate Military History, on page 15.

Keith Morgan
North Carolina State University Libraries
Raleigh

LETTER HOME

I enjoyed your article “Legacy of Valor” (February 2000) in MetroMagazine. I went to high school with Hiram Strickland and was a pallbearer at his funeral. The letter he wrote was still in his pocket when he was killed during an ambush at which time he was helping another soldier that was wounded. The letter was printed in Reader’s Digest and in the Army Times. Thanks for the article.

Master Sergeant William Dunlap
U.S.A.R

THE BOLSHEVIKS ARE COMING

After reading the second installment of Arch Allen’s ruminations on the plight of our public university system in North Carolina, “The Voyage Ahead” (February 2000), I am right concerned about my old school chum’s emotional well-being—or at least about his blood pressure. He surely is wrought up. You just don’t often hear such wide-ranging and impassioned jeremiads from folks who presumably are products of the “New South”—the dyspeptic intensity of it sort of puts one in mind of those radio talk-show callers back in the 1950s who used to warn us about the perils of fluoride in the drinking water. Goodness gracious sakes alive! To hear Arch tell it:

- There’s a Bolshevik or Maoist (or at least a Leftist devotee of social engineering) behind every lectern, column and bush over on the Chapel Hill campus.
And the professors have actually managed to wrest control of the curriculum away from ... (well, he does not say exactly from whom, but clearly from somebody who is better equipped than mere teachers to know what and how to teach).

And the evils of "academic freedom" and "tenure" have been interposed to virtually put a halt to the firing of professors who get out of line by inviting exploration of "anti-American notions" (e.g., maybe the theory of evolution or the deleterious health effects of smoking tobacco or the alternatives to capitalist generation of national wealth?).

And, perhaps worst of all, various university policies, programs and activities are being appropriated to encourage understanding and acceptance of racial and ethnic "diversity" of the type that increasingly characterizes the regrettably "real world" in which college graduates today will have to live and work.

With all of the ills afflicting higher education, I suppose it was a blessing that Arch's tenure as a vice chancellor at Chapel Hill was as brief as it was. Can you imagine what it must have been like for him—"ordinary American" that he professes to be—just to have to set foot on that campus each morning, much less associate with the perverse assortment of "leftists," "education-establishment liberals," and "tenured radicals"?

And the cure for what ails us? Well, apparently Arch believes it would go a long way toward fixing things if a new litmus test based on political party affiliation were adopted when recruiting faculty employees. He deprecates the fact that some students have never had a "Republican professor" (though how he knows that, absent a dress code mandating lapel pins that feature either a donkey or an elephant, is hard to fathom). Sounds suspiciously like he's advocating his own special version of quota-driven affirmative action! He's sure a sport.

Richard H. Robinson, Jr.
Vice President and General Counsel,
University of North Carolina
UNC-CH class of 1960
Chapel Hill

Arch Allen replies:
Rather than attack me personally, Dick Robinson might have criticized my article substantively. As the former counsel to the UNC system and a capable lawyer, he could have addressed merits, rather than mischaracterize my writings. He should read Berkeley philosopher John Searle, Penn historian Alan Charles Kors, Yale computer scientist David Gelernter and other contemporary scholars who criticize "political correctness," rather than cast me as a 1950s boob. Robinson prefers to shoot the messenger rather than hear my wake-up call about the politicization of the American academy.

To set the record straight on a few of his personal attacks, I add that I enjoyed my four years as vice chancellor at UNC-Chapel Hill and that I especially enjoyed my relationships with many of the outstanding faculty there. Never once did I inquire or care about the personal politics or political party affiliation of anyone with whom I worked. On the other hand, I arrived at that position with a known political identity as a Republican, thanks to Robinson's Democratic friends on the UNC system board of governors who tried unsuccessfully to prevent my appointment because of my political party affiliation. As the lone known Republican vice chancellor in the UNC system at the time, I experienced some stigma.

Contrary to Robinson's suggestion, my article did not propose any political party affiliation test for employment in the public universities. As a lawyer, I know that such a test would be unconstitutional. Nor did I write about "the evils of 'academic freedom.'" For the record, I advocate equal employment opportunities for Republicans and Democrats. I advocate free speech rights and academic freedom for those who oppose "political correctness" as well as for those who have imposed it upon our universities. Robinson may be interested to learn, as I recently learned, that only one out of over 30 faculty members at UNC-Chapel Hill's law school is a Republican. (Another one retired a few years ago.) And I recently read that only four out of over 20 faculty members in the economics department there are Republicans. With those numbers in law and economics, imagine what they are in English and the liberal arts. Robinson need not worry about a Republican takeover of Chapel Hill. When I worked there, I met six Republican professors. And I didn't ask; they told.

CORRECTIONS
The architectural firm for Meymandi Hall was listed incorrectly in "Buildings on the Rise" (February 2000). The correct name is Pearce, Brinkley, Cease and Lee.
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And Aweigh We Go...  
by Bernie Reeves

Carolina Flare: Boatbuilders Launch  
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by Patrik Jonsson

Larger Than Life: From Sub Commander to  
Red Storm CEO, the Life of Doug Littlejohns  
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—Arthur Beiser, *The Proper Yacht*
A Modern Tradition:

Boatbuilding Boom Launches Economic Renaissance in Eastern North Carolina

BEAUFORT, N.C.—It’s become clear to Mike Bradley that North Carolina boatbuilders, after four centuries, are still sorely misunderstood. The part-time sailor and chief boat industry guru for the state has spent seven years trying to bring landlubbing economists and burgeoning cliques of independent-minded watermen together, as one of the state’s oldest industries tries to capture a proper share of the boom-town dollars being spent by benefactors of the New Economy. Yet in this second coming of North Carolina boatbuilding, Bradley and others are seeing nearly as much opportunity lost as riches gained.

“In a way, this state turned its back on the water a long time ago,” laments the Beaufort-based Bradley, director of the North Carolina Marine Trade Services, a small-business consulting division of UNC-Wilmington. “It’s having trouble finding its way back.”

In a state with as rich a marine history and economy as North Carolina, that is surely hard to believe. Boatbuilders and sub-contracting shops employ perhaps as many as 25,000 in a rural region otherwise unable to keep up with the high-tech firebrand crackling up and down I-40 and U.S. 70. The classic high-prow “Carolina flare” design, a throw-back to early boatbuilding along the graveyard of the Atlantic, is as distinctive as a Cadillac and continues to show up at slips from the Chesapeake Bay to the Tasman Sea—captained by such rug-cutting icons as the singer Madonna and margarita king Jimmy Buffett. And, geographically, the state occupies a unique and famous “staging point” between the south and north Atlantic, a strategic resting place taken advantage of through the centuries by pirates, tradesmen, shipping magnates and round-the-world sailors, not to mention generations of Southern pleasure boaters.

On this firm historical foundation, today’s North Carolina boatbuilders are toasted in velour-walled state rooms around the world: New Bern’s Hatteras Yachts, Greenville’s Grady-White, Edenton’s Albemarle Yachts, Regulator Marine and Carolina Classic, Washington-based Fountain Yachts, Beaufort’s Jarrett Bay and Parker Boats, to name but a few of the state’s top 100-odd builders. Coming onto the scene in the past year are new faces, notably the Michigan-based Tiara Yachts in Swansboro and KCS International now setting up in the Wilmington area. Virtually every one of these builders is on a manic labor spree to man manufacturing space expanding by hundreds of thousands of square feet a year.

Most builders come from centuries-old traditions grown out of the particular and treacherous geography of the North Carolina coast, dominated as it is by shifting spits and barrier isles, shallow sounds, and maze-like inlets and rivers. The strong traditions of power and sailboat designers and builders can be traced back to small watermen communities up and down the coast, from Bald Head to Nag’s Head, with Harkers Island still taking a prominent place as a boatbuilding capital. Such early skiffs, skerries, sprits’les, shadboats and sharpies made way for famous rescue craft and today’s extravagant, and tough, sportfishing and recreation boats and yachts.
Typical of most home-grown boatbuilders along the coast, Jarrett Bay yachts began in a tin shack. "It finally blew down with the storms last fall," says President Randy Ramsey. Now building ever larger custom yachts wearing the suggestive "exaggerated flare" typical of "Carolina-style" boats, Jarrett Bay has also ventured into real estate. The company has recently moved to a huge complex on the Intracoastal Waterway in Beaufort. The firm now hopes for a large industrial park to crop up around the new boatworks and boat yard on Sensation Weigh.

Uncommon Enterprises

Style and Flare

Some might say it's a bit too much, but Jarrett Bay yacht owners swear by the radical lines of the boats, intended to push off churning surf and drive through even choppy seas at high speed—a requirement for today's new breed of sport fishermen.

Just as the hardscrabble geography had varying influence on builders from north to south, so it figured in how early English settled the coast. Still imbued with a distinct working class aura—especially around the deeper ports of Morehead City and Wilmington—the coast has no neon-lit boardwalks nor many all you can eat sushi bars. Nor do North Carolinians seem particularly interested in such bauble, content with preserving their quiet coves and sounds, where coastal plains Indians once burned out cypress logs to fashion seaworthy canoes. Constantly changing with the tides, the coast remains a gritty mix of danger and beauty. Indeed, the nooks and crannies of the North Carolina coast define its boating history—and perhaps its boating future.

BUT THE REBOUND OF THE INDUSTRY since a devastating rout in the late-1980s—and its role in guiding Eastern North Carolina out of a pervasive economic morass—has barely registered in official channels.

Only three years ago did the state move the governance of its gem of an N.C. Maritime Museum in Beaufort from the Department of Agriculture to the more-apt Department of Cultural Resources. Despite the industry's remarkable impact on coastal economics—half a billion dollars a year is one estimate—no one at the Department of Commerce or Labor has yet produced a study on the industry as a whole. And it was only two years ago that the first serious and widespread training program for fledgling laminators and boat carpenters began at the community college level.

And then there's the map. Instead of bolstering its only resource to visitors, a 300,000-circulation map called the "North Carolina Boating Guide," the state almost quit publishing it this year. Shocked, Bradley managed to save it, but not without a renewed sense of disbelief about the state's fogginess when it comes to boating.

"These are huge investments, BMW-style investments, that nobody has paid any attention to," says Bob Irwin, a
If Jarrett Bay represents the up-and-coming New Economy tycoons, Hatteras Yachts in New Bern, the grandfather of today’s growing crop of boatbuilding firms in Eastern North Carolina, represents old money. The company revolutionized the yachting industry in the ’60s by applying fiberglass technology to a tradition firmly entrenched in cedar and mahogany construction. Although the firm was nearly gutted during the late-’80s slump, it is now back with a vengeance, competing successfully against challengers from all over the world.

Beaufort artist and avid industry observer upset by the state’s perceived insouciance. “North Carolina has been trying to buy industry, the airport scenarios and so forth, and here is this existing industry that is begging for support and help and the government hasn’t done jack for them.”

In February, the Governor’s Rural Prosperity Task Force confirmed Irwin’s view that there’s something inherently skewed about how the state invests in its rural villages and townships. Lacking full support from the community college systems, facing flagging tobacco, cotton and hog sales, and smarting from inland-focused investments in central and western North Carolina, Eastern North Carolina’s rural denizens now deserve their due, says Roland Vaughan, mayor of Edenton and a member of the task force.

“This state has underinvested in rural North Carolina for many, many years,” Vaughan says, although acknowledging that the state recently pitched in millions to bring the huge NUCOR steel plant to the region. “The numbers are so skewed now that you’re looking at a desperate need to catch up on the investment side. Nobody is asking for a handout, but they are asking for resources, mostly to help them move into the modern-day economy and be successful—or at least have a chance to.”

But in a state that dreams in highways not waterways, the rift is understandable. Turning most of its commerce away from the waterfront with the advent of road and rail in the early part of the century—as did the rest of the nation’s seaboard to a large extent—the state continues to invest almost exclusively in roads. Other states, such as New Jersey and Florida, divert much larger shares of taxes and resources to the boating community.

And perhaps what happened a decade ago lingers as a bad taste on the tongues of economists. Those were the dark days of the now-repealed 10 percent luxury tax on boats, compounded by the post-Reagan recession that saw boat sales cut
Although technically a production line boat, the Parker brand, built in Beaufort, comes slowly off the line. Workers donning the latest in protective gear carefully mold hulls bearing traditional Harkers Island lines into nifty, but hardy fishing and recreation boats.

Pictured is a Parker classic, the 2801 Center Console.

by as much as half nationally, from 787,140 boats sold in 1988 to 448,000 in 1991. Hatteras laid off nearly all its then-1900-strong work force and Bayliner abandoned its three North Carolina plants. Inarguably a luxury item, boats are among the first products to suffer if the nation’s vitality shrivels.

Nationally, the boating industry still lags behind the $18 billion a year figure it reached in 1988, now rising slowly at 6 percent a year to $14 billion. States such as Florida, Michigan, New Jersey, South Carolina and even the land-locked state of Tennessee, are sharp contenders. Florida tops the market in total production and sales. Although North Carolina places a meager 12th in new boat registrations, experts agree that it’s now cornering the market, even from Florida, in the mid-size yacht class. It’s also ideal for new builders looking for a tradition of boatbuilding, strategic location, as well as access to what’s known as the “ditch”—or the Intracoastal Waterway—that allows boaters to travel up and down the Atlantic coast without having to brave big seas.

Consumers also continue to buy “more boat,” says the National Marine Manufacturers Association, a fact that is helping the Tar Heel boat industry grow as fast as any. As Jarrett Bay president Randy Ramsey says about the largest ship yet to go out of his shop along “the ditch” in Beaufort: “There’s four state rooms on that boat. And that’s after we convinced the guy that five was too many.”

Although the industry is part of the state’s roots, it was in the early-1970s, before the commercial fishing industry foundered under heavy new regulations, when many of the current crop of builders got their start in earnest. Their formula? Using the stylish bow-flare design “exaggerated” in North Carolina to beat back the churning inlet surf, the builders saw their next customer coming down the dock. And he didn’t look a whole lot like the hard-timers eking out a living fishing for menhaden or shrimp. This customer had swagger. This customer had money to burn.

Madonna, for example, buys Tiara. The actor George Kennedy likes Grady-White boats. Hatteras Yachts is famous for the vintage of its clients, most of whom are so reclusive that the firm won’t talk about who they are. One such client recently gave his wife “the old yacht” so he could buy a “bigger, faster and better one” from the company, says Bradley. Fountain Boats breaks world records under the captaincy of well-heeled investors. Jimmy Buffett is a known fan of Carolina-style boats, and recently hired a Morehead City tool shop to build a cannon for his newest fishing machine. And at Jarrett Bay, the custom yacht builder in Beaufort, oil tycoons, welding industry magnates and baseball team owners come in regularly to oversee—or, as the builders quibble, “meddle with”—the building of their boats.
I knew from when I was a kid what a boat would look like," says Linwood Parker, the owner of Parker Boats in Beaufort. Originally a fisherman, Parker turned to boatbuilding in the 1970s. He went back home to Harkers Island to find the right designs among the craftsmen whose legacies underpin today's North Carolina boatbuilding tradition.

LINWOOD PARKER, A FORMER FISHERMAN who grew up on Harkers Island, built his whole line of production fiberglass fishing and recreation boats from a few classic "plugs," or wooden boat molds, laid from memory by legendary Harkers Island craftsmen. Just down the road, with 6800 Caterpillar horses in its belly, a Jarrett Bay yacht, the kind that perhaps most epitomizes North Carolina's "exaggerated flare" tradition, recently left the firm's Beaufort yard at 6 in the morning and arrived in Florida at 9 at night—a testament to the local boats' lightness, fuel capacity and sheer speed in rough seas. This blend of history and ruggedness is what you need in your boat in order to get out to where the big boys and girls play.

Indeed, as commercial fishing continues to decline, exemplified by the two ancient minesweepers off Beaufort that make up the last remnants of North Carolina's once-flourishing menhaden fishery, off-shore sport fishing for tuna,
Fascinated, two boys eye a recent catch from off North Carolina's coast. Giant swordfish are bearers of tasty meat, but are also a formidable sport fish with a Hemingway-esque legacy for rugged off-shore fights. Situated in the fish-rich waters where the cold Labrador current crashes into the balmy Gulf Stream, North Carolina has in the past few years become a mecca for off-shore fishermen—one of the driving forces behind today's yachting boom—who chase not just swordfish, but also marlin, tuna, king mackerel and, along inshore channels, even the prehistoric tarpon.

marlin, king mackerel and dolphin is on the rise, a trend that's also driving the current rush for off-shore-grade yachts. Cape Hatteras, in fact, juts out just where the cold, southerly Labrador Current and the balmy Gulf Stream "grind against each other like tectonic plates," according to writer Roy Attaway, creating a turbulent, but verdant fishing (and proving) ground. Fifty-eight coastal fishing tournaments now dot the coast every summer, contributing up to $18 million a weekend to local communities and becoming points of pride not just with the fishermen, but the men and women who make their boats.

Meanwhile, there's more than one kind of boat buyer, exemplified by a few recent boat and marine trade shows here in Raleigh and in Ft. Lauderdale, the home of the IBEX 2000 trade show, one of the largest of its kind in the country. Outside the IBEX show, as builders, subcontractors and economic development types buzzed around inside the Ft. Lauderdale Civic Center, the cream of the country's yachting community slip up narrow channels—to dock in the back of expansive ranch homes. At the snowed-in Raleigh Boat Show in January, far from the coast but looking the part, the big names in North Carolina boating exhibited their well-waxed wares to up-scale buyers.

In contrast, at the Raleigh Power and Sail Boat Show at the State Fairgrounds in February the boats were smaller, cheaper, and mostly production models rather than custom-builds. "Credit cheaper than cash" deals abounded. On a blue-sky afternoon, thousands wended their way past the stalls of Sea-Doos and 22-foot Toyota outboarders. But few were buying, says David Katzenmeyer, a salesman for Water World in Durham. At a show like that, where people's pockets aren't as deep, Katzenmeyer speculates that baby boomers are now starting to put their kids through college—and are holding off on the boat. "We're just holding steady," Katzenmeyer says about his corner of the market.

At such boat shows, too, you can get some real perspective on what it means to own a boat, if you're anywhere close to being on a fixed budget. "It's the worst investment you can make—on the other hand, I'm ready to make it," says one dad with three kids. "We're fishermen and we..."
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Overall boat sales are up 6 percent since 1998, but sales of smaller boats, the focus of the Raleigh Power and Sail Boat Show at Dorton Arena in February, remain fairly flat.

need a boat,” explains one rugged salt wearing a B.A.S.S. hat. “Who doesn’t dream of owning one?” wonders another bedazzled onlooker.

BOATBUILDERS AREN’T THE WHOLE STORY, though, says Bradley, who is a devoted sailor in his spare time. He says North Carolina must build a reputation as a boating destination before it can truly fulfill its economic destiny. He’s trying to get people to see the ocean for the waves. As happens all along Florida’s coast, and up in Maine, “boating tourists” coming down the ditch or in from deep sea adventures are sparking waterfront revivals all over. Worth $60 bucks a day per person, such tourists are the Golden Fleece of an entire industry that North Carolina should get in on, Bradley contends. In love with the state’s coastline, Bradley himself wanted to face the Atlantic every morning. Before he got his trade directorate with the state, he admits, “I was fumbling around to see what I could do to stay on the coast.” But he’s found since taking the job that he’s having to fight stubborn historical and cultural forces resistant to the glitz and esprit of other yachting hideouts up and down the Eastern seaboard.

Still, a growing number of coastal towns, once annoyed by their salty backwaters, are acknowledging their distant past and—without nostalgia—want it back. Inland, Washington is trying to return its waterfront to its past stature in the community, as are Elizabeth City and Edenton, where the town is using materials picked from a wrecked bridge to build new public slips—and saving $1 million in the process. Other towns are finding both success and difficulty as they turn to their neglected waterfronts, often facing tough Army Corps of Engineer stipulations that are new to the nation’s coast. Wilmington, Morehead City and New Bern have all successfully revitalized their docks in the past 15 or so years. But as far as such “eco-tourism” goes, the state has a long way to go, Bradley says.

While Bradley and others try to unite, someone is always segmenting the state. Geographically, that strategy often makes sense, as the state has scattered a handful of regional trade zones, as well as its community college system, into rough regions instead of in a statewide swath. That strategy caters to particular needs, but often fogs in larger objectives, Bradley says.

“The state’s approach is very disjointed,” he says. “We seem to always be
working at cross-purposes.”

As past public investments around the state's major cities are now being harvested, there's a new sense of urgency among more rural “economic zones.” Economists see wage scales quickly flying out of whack as salaries in the East plummet compared to those of the high-tech wunderkinds parading around the night clubs and fine eateries of Raleigh and Durham.

**FOR A LONG TIME, BOATBUILDERS** didn't much care. They helped themselves, finding markets on their own, training their own people, and drawing attention, if not from Raleigh, from the world outside. Most big boat sales now go out of state, to Florida, New Jersey, New York, Maine, and even internationally, as is often the case with Hatteras and Fountain. “When it comes down to it, most of these guys have always had customers,” says Roger Allen, the chief of the Maritime Museum's Watercraft Center in Beaufort.

But what they're finding now is that they don't always have the labor. In some places, thousands of square feet of new manufacturing space stand empty, not for lack of orders, but lack of trained, capable manpower. In many cases, although a huge shop, Grady-White in Greenville is still known for craftsmanship and ruggedness. Designed by a noted Massachusetts draftsman, Grady-White's new line of boats has found fans all over the country, many of them in New England's cold, choppy waters.
are now trying to find ways to tap the growing Hispanic community for help. "This is one of the biggest issues we’re dealing with," Bradley says about the labor crunch. It’s also where the state can most help, experts say: By crafting a unified agenda for turf-hungry community colleges, the state could set out in earnest to educate a new generation of boatbuilders. Although some schools have offered small classes in the past, what’s needed is the kind of practical and technical education now provided by Coastal Carolina Community College in Jacksonville for Tiara—a program the state had almost nothing to do with. Slowly, that’s happening. And, slowly, the tide is turning on the region’s plight. More and more legislators and other political honchos are calling Bradley on his cell phone, asking about this program, or that manufacturer. There’s also the $600 million suggested by the Rural Prosperity Task Force, but no one yet knows where exactly such funding would fit into the demands of the boating industry.

IN BEAUFORT RECENTLY, down at the N.C. Maritime Museum’s cedar-infused boatworks, volunteer draftsman Rolf Anselm, a sucker for a randy line in a boat, is trying to archive the old-timers’ ideas by "backwards engineering" their aging skiffs and spirts’les—the original designs that underpin today’s boating boom in the state. He says, “I’m going backwards to find out how they did it. They never wrote anything down. They just felt how it should be. And they just did it.”

Seaworthy Load
A semi pulls out the back of Parker Boats with a rack of newly minted hulls. 233,900 outboard boats were sold last year in the U.S. while the industry estimates sales of inboard craft at 15,000 for 1999.

companies who don’t compete in the boat market find themselves in tense, local labor wrangles. Parker, the Beaufort boatmaker, recently added almost 200,000 square feet to his production line, which already churns out about a dozen boats a week. "Technically, I could add one new employee every three days," Parker says. "But, realistically, that’s not happening." The high-tech markets flowering all over the inland portions of the state are also taking the gleam off the boatbuilders’ good run. Says Ramsey, the Jarrett Bay chief: “It seems like everyone’s forgotten that we still need workers who build things, not just work on computers.” As farmers have done for years, many boatbuilders...
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MetroProfile:
From Submarine Commander to Red Storm CEO, the Remarkable Life of Doug Littlejohns
by Rick Smith

Tom Clancy has sold millions of books worldwide with his novels of war, heroes, valor, politics, terrorism and, on occasion, even love. Someday, he should write a book about the adventurous life of his best friend.

Doug Littlejohns, best known today as chief executive officer of computer games company Red Storm Entertainment in Morrisville, was in a former life a highly decorated British Royal Navy submarine captain and strategist.

There's the ramming of a Soviet sub with his own sub—something Littlejohns won't confirm.

Then there's the time his nuclear boat rammed a dead whale at 25 knots while steaming deep, deep in the ocean. And when the sub hit the whale, a stressed sonar man suddenly decided to go berserk in the control room.

Oh, and how about the time his diesel boat sprung a huge leak while at maximum diving depth in the Mediterranean while chasing a Soviet sub?

Not yet told are stories from the Falklands War, which probably no one will know outside of the official-secrets protectors in Great Britain. All Littlejohns will say is: "I was at sea." Period. End of discussion.

From chasing Soviet submarines to participating in the Falklands War, the Persian Gulf War and other hot spots, Littlejohns was one of the top submarine commanders and staff officers in Great Britain's Royal Navy. For 30 years he was a warrior in the Cold War, earning two personal decorations from Queen Elizabeth II. Unfortunately, his oath of secrecy with the Navy and the threat of prison if he violates it prohibit him from telling most of his wonderful tales.

From the stories he can relate—or at least allude to—plus an examination of his career record, and an anecdote in the best-selling book Blind Man's Bluff on submarine espionage, it's clear that Littlejohns is a larger-than-life character.

"I was one of those," he said sheepishly when talking about the submariners in Blind Man's Bluff. In fact, he was awarded the prestigious Officer of the Order of the British Empire for what he modestly and coyly calls "doing silly things in submarines."
UNDERSEA WARRIOR

Captain Doug Littlejohns, Commander of the Order of the British Empire,*
British Royal Navy (Retired)

born: May 10, 1946, in Galston, Ayrshire, Scotland. (His father was a veteran of the Royal Navy)

resides: Cary (Prestonwood)

Married to Debbie ("Debs") for 13 years; has three children who live in Great Britain

Littlejohns spent 30 years in the Royal Navy, retiring in 1994. He chose to pursue a business career when it became clear that post-Cold War downsizing meant significant reductions in Great Britain’s armed forces. Here’s a chronology of Littlejohns’ naval career:

1964–65
Attended Britannia Royal Naval College, the equivalent of the U.S. Naval Academy

1965–66
Served aboard HMS Chilcompton, a minesweeper, in the Persian Gulf and Aden; also was aboard the HMS Albion, a commando carrier, during the Singapore-Indonesian confrontation

1966–69
Attended Reading University, earning first class honors in mathematics and computer science

1969–70
Professional courses

1970–71
Assigned to his first submarine, the HMS Onyx, as a trainee then torpedo and later navigating officer

1972
Served aboard HMS Oberon (diesel) as sonar officer

1973
Served aboard HMS Sovereign (nuclear) as it was building

continued on next panel →

Here’s an anecdote that could be about Littlejohns from Blind Man’s Bluff:

Late 1981: HMS Sceptre of Great Britain’s Royal Navy

This nuclear-powered British attack submarine collided with a Soviet nuclear sub that she was trailing in northern waters close to the Arctic, according to reports a decade later in the British media. One officer said the Sceptre had lost contact with the Soviet boat for as long as thirty minutes before his boat shook. “There was a huge noise,” he said, adding “Everybody went white.”

Littlejohns’ service record shows he was in command of the Sceptre, a nuclear attack submarine, from 1981 through 1983. Was he the captain chasing that sub? He can’t say.

Anyone who has seen or read Hunt for Red October or read Blind Man’s Bluff and other cold war tales knows there are few more dangerous acts than silently tracking another sub. Collisions occur. Near fights happen. And in the Cold War, perhaps no theater of operations was so hotly contested than beneath the waves as East and West struggled to earn military supremacy.

Another passage in Blind Man’s Bluff cited the caliber of commanders and crews the British spy submarines were trained to be:

Tightly coordinating their efforts with U.S. submarines, British subs sometimes helped fill in what had become a nearly seamless round-robin surveillance of the Soviet ports in the Barents. There were only a couple of British subs trained for the task, and they went near Soviet shores only during spring and fall, but those subs were dedi-
icated to the spy mission, and that's what their commanders and crews specialized in. They were good at it, and they were aggressive. The British Royal Navy just didn’t mind confronting the Soviets.

Submariners (which he pronounces without the accent on the ri as Yanks do) are often called members of the "Silent Service," referring to their secret, quiet, underwater stealth warfare. But in the case of Littlejohns and men like him, “silent” also means keeping mouths shut about the battles waged with the Soviets. “That book could not have been written in Great Britain,” Littlejohns said of Blind Man’s Bluff: The book is almost entirely about U.S. crews and commanders, and how accurate it truly is continues to be a matter of debate. But if Littlejohns could talk, he would at length describe the years spying on the Soviet Union, tracking Soviet subs, and getting involved in the clandestine type of antics that have helped make Clancy such a powerful big seller.

“I'm aggressive,” Littlejohns explained. “When I was commanding a diesel submarine we were the best in the squadron. When I was in nuclear submarines, we won torpedo-firing championships. And

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**CAPTAIN DOUG LITTLEJOHNS’S CV, CONT’D**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>Served aboard <em>HMS Otter</em> (diesel) as navigator then executive officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>Attended the Commanding Officers Qualifying Course, also known as &quot;The Perisher,&quot; which is one of the most demanding training courses in the world. Candidates are pushed to their physical and mental limits to see if they “break” or if they realize their limits and therefore won’t push themselves, or their boats, too far thus risking life and crew.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975–76</td>
<td>Given command of submarine <em>HMS Osiris</em> (diesel)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976–77</td>
<td>Staff warfare officer to a submarine squadron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977–78</td>
<td>Served as executive officer aboard <em>HMS Superb</em> (nuclear)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>Staff warfare officer for all submarines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979–81</td>
<td>Flotilla warfare officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981–83</td>
<td>Commander, <em>HMS Sceptre</em> (nuclear); “at sea” during the Falklands War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983–85</td>
<td>Flotilla operations officer, NATO submarines, Eastern Atlantic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985–87</td>
<td>Assistant director, Naval Warfare for missile submarines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987–89</td>
<td>Commander, <em>HMS London</em> (anti-submarine destroyer-frigate); escorted tankers in Persian Gulf during Iran-Iraq war</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989–91:</td>
<td>Principal staff officer to Chief of the Defense Staff; was among the first officers to fly into Kuwait City during Gulf War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991–92</td>
<td>Earned MBA with distinction at Warwick University Business School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992–94</td>
<td>Commander, Royal Navy Engineering and Defense Studies University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Honors include:  
CBE [Commander of the British Empire] and OBE [Officer of Order of the British Empire]; he was decorated by Queen Elizabeth II.

**Sources:** Doug Littlejohns; SSN by Tom Clancy

— Rick Smith
in both submarines I was involved in quite special operations.”

If only he could talk about them—and Clancy certainly keeps trying to get Littlejohns to break. He won’t. “Tom says he’ll take me out on a mountain somewhere and make me talk,” Littlejohns said, breaking into his deep laugh. “But I have a stronger constitution than he has.”

Littlejohns was stunned, saying Clancy disclosed information “that if I had talked about would have put me in the Tower of London.” He couldn’t wait to meet “this chap” and got the chance over dinner with other officers and Clancy in Virginia. But the captain didn’t just kiss Clancy’s hand when they met; he was candid enough to point out some errors Clancy had made. And when Clancy offered up some ideas about his second book (Red Storm Rising, from which the company gets its name) Littlejohns offered up a “No!” to his request.

Clancy reacted well to the criticism, however, and soon asked Littlejohns for some advice. He later created “Doug Little” as a character in Red Storm and the two struck up a relationship which deepened over the years. While Clancy went on to write best-seller after best-seller, Littlejohns went back to sea and served out the Cold War in numerous posts. But the two always stayed in touch and became struggling golf partners.

“Tom and I are quick decision makers. We decided we liked each other, and we worked at staying in touch,” Littlejohns explained. “It was a genuine friendship growth rather than a ‘Right, see you every three years’ sort of thing.”

By 1995, after Littlejohns retired from the Royal Navy, Clancy was working with a friend in Raleigh (David Smith, founder of VIRTUS Corporation) to create a submarine warfare game for PCs called SSN. The acronym stands for nuclear attack submarine, and who better to help Clancy and Smith design the game than Littlejohns?

The game and an accompanying book by Clancy were smash hits in 1996. But before those hit the market, Clancy already was thinking about creating a game company of his own. Littlejohns, then a rapidly rising executive with a London-based company, was his choice to run it.

“Doug is a leader, not a manager,” Clancy told Forbes ASAP in 1999. “He was my only real choice.”

To Littlejohns, the decision to end his budding business career, steady salary, and stock options was hard enough. To move away from his two daughters and son and leave his homeland was not an easy choice for the Commodore.

“It took a long time,” Littlejohns recalled. “I suggested to Tom that if he wanted to get serious about games he needed a separate games company. In January of ‘96, he rang me up, said he was taking my advice, was spinning off a games company and wanted me to run it. This was a bolt out of the blue. I didn’t even play computer games.”

Littlejohns spent months researching his next possible mission. “I had to make sure I wasn’t burning all my bridges, I wanted to do my own research, and I also wanted to make sure we had a fighting chance of success. I didn’t want to
come home six months later with nothing but my cap in my hands. It was tough, and I made it deliberately tough.”

Debs finally made the call. “The person who really clinched it was my wife, who said, ‘I really don’t want to live with you 20 years down the road and have to hear you muttering about ‘I wish I had done it.’ When I realized she was happy to pull up stakes and come over here—that clinched the deal.”

His wife concurred. With a smile, she said, “I couldn’t have lived with him.”

Littlejohns wasn’t a neophyte to business when he took the job, either. While in the Navy he attended the equivalent of the U.S. Naval Academy, earned degrees with honors in mathematics and computer science later at Reading University, and went on to an MBA with distinction at the prestigious Warwick University Business School. The man who at 29 became one of the youngest commanders of a British submarine also was among the first to get an MBA at his age and rank.

By 1994, with the Cold War over and the British Navy shrinking, Littlejohns chose to retire rather than fight for promotions and responsibilities. But he said he’s never regretted the decision, saying what he does now is “the most exciting time” of a remarkable life.

IMMIGRATION NIGHTMARE

Not that there haven’t been bumps in the road. Littlejohns and Debs, his wife of 13 years, agree that the worst experience they have had in moving to the States was the immigration process. He is working under his second three-year work permit and has been in the queue to get a “Green Card” for more permanent work status for more than two years.

If that weren’t aggravating enough, Debs is considered a “non-person, or baggage,” as Littlejohns described it. “When we took in our papers to apply for Social Security cards and such, they took mine but tore hers up right in front of her. That wasn’t a very warm welcome to America,” Littlejohns said, the anger evident in his voice. “But she does have a tax number. This has been quite an experience for a woman who was quite self-sufficient as an artist before I met her in London.”

Debs is an accomplished artist, taking commissions to paint pet portraits, such as a remarkable one of the Littlejohns’ two big, beautiful black Labs, Wigeon and Tumbleweed. She also does engravings. But she is not working now, which she said is fine. “I’m too busy looking after the house and the dogs,” she said with a chuckle. The Littlejohns live in a spacious home in Cary’s Prestonwood,
and if the weather permits, they often play golf together on Saturday and Sunday. Debs also is seeking a master's degree in homeopathy. "Homeopathy was used to treat me 28 years ago in South Africa, and whatever they did to me—it worked," she said.

The Littlejohns do travel back to England twice a year, where his three children still live. Andrew, 26, is a lawyer. Daughters Imogen, 21, and Diana, 20, are both in college.

Will the Littlejohns seek to become US citizens at some point? "We have to take things one step at a time," Littlejohns said. "I have to get the Green Card first."

After a host of business plan rewrites and strategy sessions, Red Storm was created in November of 1996 with VIRTUS as a partner. Despite some rough seas, one canceled game, Planet Texas, and a couple of games that haven't sold well, the company has flourished. Amazingly to some, the two men have managed to remain close friends even though Clancy, as chairman of the Red Storm board, is Littlejohns' boss.

"The mantra in business is do not go into business with a friend," Littlejohns said. "The challenge is to separate the business from the personal. There are times we do not see eye-to-eye, but we don't let that affect our friendship, and I think we've been very good at it."

His admiration for Clancy runs deep. "The thing I most admire is that he's a man of his word, a man of honor, and there are not many of those left. He doesn't say one thing and change his mind two seconds later. That's very refreshing. He stands by his friends. He's a good chap."

However, there is no question as to which man runs the company. "Tom is chairman of the board but it's my job to run the company," Littlejohns said. "I'm the CEO of the company. He put me there, so I make the calls unless he fires me."

Clancy currently is in what Littlejohns describes as "book mode." Clancy's next Jack Ryan book will be out later this year, and he is striving to finish it. Littlejohns can envision Clancy pounding away at his Macintosh, smoking a cigarette, then gazing off into space as he attempts to create the next scene in Ryan's life. Littlejohns paid his respects to Clancy with a little speech following the wedding. "Don't criticize him when he's looking out the window," he said of the writer. "He's working."

The chairman has withdrawn from a more active role in the company. But he and Pearson LLC (a European conglomerate) are the major shareholders in Red Storm. Littlejohns also is part owner as is VIRTUS, and a growing number of employees also have begun exercising options to buy stock.

THE EVOLUTION OF SUCCESS

Red Storm has soared from $1 million in revenues and a handful of employees to $60 million and nearly 100 employees. Games such as Rainbow Six and its sequel, Rogue Spear, have been huge artistic as well as financial successes.

And part of the company's success has to be attributed to Littlejohns, who helped create the company's evolving five-year plan, made key hires, then set the tone for the place with a style akin to that of a submarine. No stiff shirts, white ties and levels of protocol, the lack of which were major reasons he chose to serve in submarines when his hopes of becoming a fighter pilot were quashed by the Royal Navy. The style is relaxed, employees are trusted to be well trained and to do their jobs, creativity is encouraged, and Littlejohns doesn't meddle.

"Working at Red Storm is different from my past experiences—management, including our CEO, fully supports
Littlejohns talks strategy in his Red Storm command post.

making games and provides us with what we need to produce top-notch products,” said Phil Deluca, a veteran of the gaming industry who is producer for UFS Vanguard, an upcoming Red Storm game featuring combat in space. “I’m grateful to have managers concerned with the products as much as the team members are.”

Littlejohns, or “Commodore” as his staff calls him, divides the Red Storm forces into teams (artists, engineers, producers) for game creation. The Vanguard group is called “Churchill.” Another group is rolling out Shadow Watch, which is tied in with a Clancy espionage paperback by the same name. And down another hall a group is working on a series of games based on best-selling author Anne McCaffrey’s Freedom series.

LIFE AT THE TOP CAN BE LONELY...

“Being a CEO is like being the captain of a ship,” said Doug Littlejohns, who commanded two submarines and an antisubmarine frigate in the Royal Navy. “It’s a lonely job.”

So what’s a chief executive officer supposed to do in times of crisis, of need, of challenge? Turn to fellow CEOs.

That’s what Littlejohns and thousands of men and women do around the world as part of an organization known as TEC, or The Executive Committee, founded more than 40 years ago. CEOs must meet certain specifications in terms of company size and revenues before gaining admittance to an exclusive club. And they pay several thousands of dollars a year for the chance to attend monthly one-day sessions with groups of 16 or so fellow CEOs plus have regular chats with a TEC mentor. TEC also has a program for emerging entrepreneurs.

“CEOs of varying backgrounds meet once a month, the doors are locked, and you can be completely open and honest with each other because you know what’s said is not going outside the room,” Littlejohns explained. “It’s nice to be able to really open up on problems which I really couldn’t do here at the office and certainly not at home.

“It’s a mutual sharing of experiences, and although there’s been no one moment of ‘By God! In one blue flash of lightning there’s the solution to all my problems’ the experiences and suggestions rub off on you and help you chart your way through rocky waters.”

TEC has strict rules, such as competitors and executives who do business with each other can’t be in the same group. All conversations are to stay private. Members are encouraged to present problems to each other, and sometimes the going can get tough. “The environment is one of complete openness,” said Pat Henry, one of two TEC facilitators in the Triangle. “A lot of times, the guys and gals don’t want to hear [criticism].” But they do so anyway.

TEC is a two-way street with people giving and receiving help. But, given his background, Littlejohns tends to give more to his group than he receives, according to Bill Buxton, who works for TEC and meets one-on-one with Littlejohns. “He is a leader, he is a leader in TEC, and he commands great respect,” Buxton said. “He came into TEC highly skilled. He very seldom comes to the group and says, ‘I have this big issue. How do I solve it?’ He has already learned through his career how to deal with problems.”

What help he does receive, Littlejohns certainly appreciates. “You get so locked in to your own little problem that you can’t step back and see it from the outside,” he said. “Other people can see it from the outside, and they say ‘Have you thought about this?’ I also am able to bring my experiences to bear for other people as well.”

Buxton, for one, is glad Littlejohns has shared. “I’ve dealt with CEOs for 20 years, and if I wanted somebody to lead my mission, he’d be among the top two. Doug’s a fine man on top of all his other qualities that I respect.”

For more information about TEC, contact Buxton at 919-968-0501.

- Rick Smith
Red Storm Rising – Charting A Company’s Growth

Red Storm Entertainment was launched in November of 1996 as a joint venture between VIRTUS Entertainment of Cary and Tom Clancy. The company’s growth has exploded since. Pearson LLC, a European conglomerate, made a substantial investment in 1997. VIRTUS still has a minor holding. Several employees, including CEO Doug Littlejohns, now are part owners.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Titles Produced</th>
<th>Employees</th>
<th>Revenue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Politika, ruthless.com, Dominant Species, Rainbow Six</td>
<td>45-50</td>
<td>$2 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Rogue Spear, Eagle Watch mission pack, Aironauts - Europe only, Rainbow Six, Nintendo, Rainbow Six, PlayStation, Rainbow Six, Gameboy</td>
<td>70+</td>
<td>$16 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Projected 16 games to be released</td>
<td>90+</td>
<td>$60 million +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Also in production is a series of games based on the Roswell animated TV series.

Red Storm titles are making their way onto platforms other than PCs such as PlayStation, Nintendo and GameBoy.

The move beyond Clancy-based titles and PCs reflects Littlejohns' determination to diversify. “We’re not the Tom Clancy game company,” he said. Just like in a submarine control room, he also must constantly alter strategy and attack plans in the cutthroat business where Red Storm’s financial success is the exception, not the rule. “We’re a fashion business,” he explained. “There isn’t a lot of brand loyalty. Players are very choosy. We can’t sit back and relish our success.

We have to win every day.”

To Red Storm’s chief financial officer, Littlejohns' style works. “The challenge and employment at Red Storm is the speed of change and therefore the decision making, and the fact that the ‘numbers’ are rarely the sole answer,” said Mike Oliver, who worked for the old Interactive Magic games company before coming to Red Storm. “You throw out the spreadsheets, the MBA’s and make a lot of gut calls. This industry requires fast, decisive action and real-time coordination among your team.”

Turnover rate at Red Storm also is remarkably low, about 4 percent, a fact attributed in part to Littlejohns' openness. The company has weekly “beer and
chip” sessions and occasional outings. At those, people are encouraged to ask questions of all kinds. “Everyone knows where we stand,” he said. “I’m very open with them.”

The process of bringing a game to market is tedious, including focus groups and extensive market research. And a veteran games analyst, Mario Kroll of the www.wargamers.com web site, said Red Storm’s attention to quality as well as consumer feedback has been crucial to its success.

“Overall, there has been a huge degree of separation from Politika (its first title in 1997) to Rainbow Six,” Kroll said. “Right now, they are riding high. Rogue Spear is fantastic and has been received very well. Based on the preview we saw, we knew it would be fantastic. From what I’m hearing right now, the next mission pack for Rogue Spear looks to be very hot, and Vanguard looks pretty good.

“At Red Storm, everybody I talked to, from developers to artists and the marketing people—it’s clear everyone there really likes what they are doing, and it shows up in the end product.” Kroll also said Red Storm “actually listens to their audience, and you’ve got to do that. A lot of companies, frankly, don’t.”

GOING GOLD
In the games business, when a new product is finally ready for production and selling at stores it’s called “going gold.” To Littlejohns, that’s as exciting an experience as playing cat-and-mouse 20,000 leagues under the sea.

“The most exciting thing to see is the strategic plan coming together and you realize all that you’ve been doing is justified,” he said. “But you never know if a game is going to be successful. That’s the unknown. You show the game to focus groups to get feedback—to buyers, to retailers. But you’re not sure till people start to buy.”

Red Storm faces fierce competition in the $9 billion games and entertainment marketplace, and the company is not nearly as large as some. Still, Littlejohns knows the company is making serious inroads.

“Yes, of course I have,” he responds when asked if he has considered taking Red Storm public. “But I’m not going to rush blindly into an IPO (initial public offering) which seems to be the mantra of a lot of companies, because, quite frankly, the marketplace has not been kind to game companies the last two years. None went public in ’99, and two did in ’98 but hardly either could be considered a success. However, you never say never.

“We know we are on the radar screens of a number of different companies, and we’ve had some interesting discussions. We are profitable, we have money in the bank, and we are growing. The bigger we get, the more profitable we become, and the greater the options we will have for an IPO or a merger.”

Whatever track Red Storm takes, Littlejohns will make sure his crew helps shape the course. Drawing on his submarine career, he explained: “Over 30 years, one thing I learned in the military is to think ahead and to have a Plan B and in some instances a Plan C in case something goes wrong. Then, when a problem arises it’s not ‘Oh my God, I didn’t think of that!’ It’s OK, fine, let’s switch to Plan B. I don’t want to be in a position where you make a decision in 10 seconds because that would indicate a lack of foresight.”

Littlejohns also is no Captain Queeg. “You can run a boat two ways, from the top down and tell everybody what they’re doing, or you can do what I did and what my colleagues did: Keep people in the picture as fully as I could. Then when something happens, people won’t be saying ‘What’s that silly bastard doing now?’”
Growing up in North Carolina gave me an early introduction to the pleasures of the kitchen and the table. From hush puppies, ham biscuits and creamed corn to banana pudding and my Grandmother’s famous fresh coconut cake, I loved Southern food with a passion and observed early on that cooking it was almost as much fun as eating it.

On my first trip to New York City during a spring break from UNC Chapel Hill, my friends and I camped out in the Queens apartment of my paternal grandparents. Though Mama’s lyrical Irish brogue contrasted strongly with my Southern grandmother’s way of speaking, her dinner table revealed a culinary sisterhood: three meats, five vegetables, two breads and three desserts, and a clear though unspoken policy that if you didn’t have seconds on everything, there was something wrong with both you and her. Two of the meats were new to me: a whole roasted chicken (why hadn’t she fried it?) and a glorious leg of lamb, exotic and therefore all the more delicious to me.

Expeditions into Manhattan yielded more treasure: amazing hot dogs laden with sauerkraut and onions (were they out of chili and slaw?), immense mustardy pretzels, corned beef sandwiches (fabulous, but where was the corn and how could beef be as pink as a ham?). Then there were bagels, which like all the bread up there came cold and so chewy it seemed to bite you back, but in a good way.

Nighttime found us in Chinatown, a fantastic neon-lit bazaar at the end of a blur of subway rides. There we wound our way through the crowds to WoHop’s at No. 17 Mott Street, clutching our well-thumbed copy of New York on clear chicken broth blessed with a shot of toasted sesame oil. We bought beef chow fun because the book said to, and another gateway to heaven swung open wide—big fat rice noodles, fresh and soft and, of course, chewy, stir-fried with soy sauce and lots of Chinese greens. There was more, but these I remember best, along with cannoli and cheesecake and Yonah Schimmel knishes.

I went to Thailand as a Peace Corps volunteer a few years later. I didn’t see it as a gastronomic adventure, but of course it was. Thai food had not yet “arrived” on these shores, and I took my time making friends with the chili peppers and cilantro, shrimp paste, whole fish and tamarind, acclimating myself gently on fried rice and Chinese-style noodle soups. Eventually I tried everything and adored most of it, returning home three years later with a permanent hunger for Thai flavors.

To the rescue came the Oriental Store of Greensboro, where I was teaching English and social studies in a junior high school. This Korean-owned shop was short on fresh produce but long on the shelf-stable essentials of basic Asian home cooking. For my purposes this meant cans of Thai red curry paste...
and coconut milk, packets of woody-looking dried galanga, an enormous bottle of fish sauce, and a 50-pound sack of jasmine rice.

On weekend visits with friends who had settled in New York City, I filled in the gaps from Chinatown's bounty, stocking up on fresh lemongrass, Thai eggplant, palm sugar, tamarind, Thai coffee and fresh rice noodles. Then I moved to New York myself, living within walking distance of three Thai restaurants and near enough to Chinatown to be a regular at its two Thai markets.

My next move took me to Southern California for my husband's work. Suddenly I had access to entire Asian communities—Vietnamese in Garden Grove, Cambodian in Long Beach, Thai in Los Angeles, Lao in San Diego, Japanese in Gardena and Chinese in Monterey Park. Each community had built up its own culinary infrastructure to keep those home foods cooking.

Small groceries and noodle cafes came first, with butcher shops, seafood markets, noodle factories, bakeries, take-out shops, supermarkets and restaurants opening their doors as more immigrants put down roots. These establishments offered the real thing to anyone coming in the door. Surrounded by tastes of Asia, I was soon enjoying festivals at the Thai Buddhist temple in North Hollywood, teaching Thai cooking classes and writing about food, first for newspapers and magazines, and then in my own cookbooks.

My husband's work brought us to North Carolina last year, and we rejoiced at living near family and friends. The prospect of easy access to biscuits, butterbeans and barbecue in all its regional incantations brought satisfaction as well, but I foresaw that my Asian food resources would shrink up like fresh spinach in a hot wok. Being thoroughly mistaken has never brought me such delight.

My dear friend Debbie, mastermind of that spring break pilgrimage to New York City, welcomed me back with her latest clipping file ready. Right on top was a newspaper article entitled, "Triangle Ethnic Markets." Going down the list has kept me busy and I have stocked my kitchen handsomely since last fall.

Clearly the Asian population of the Triangle had soared in my absence, resulting in a multitude of excellent Asian grocery stores, ranging from mom-and-pop operations with the charm and challenges of a true Southeast Asian
market, to Western-style supermarkets with wide aisles, shopping carts, extensive selection and produce labeled in English.

Grand Asia, an example of the latter located in Cary's South Hills Mall, certainly lives up to its name. The largest Asian store in North Carolina and one of the newest in the region, it draws customers daily from throughout the Triangle, and on weekends and holidays from southern Virginia, South Carolina and around the state. On a recent Saturday afternoon, the aisles were an international bazaar, teeming with people. Infants and white-haired elders, homesick graduate students, restaurant employees with a list from the chef, Muslim families and returned Peace Corps types like me, all buzzed around the beehive of edible merchandise, woks, steamers and cleavers, tonics, teas and calendars for the Year of the Dragon.

The woman behind Grand Asia's great success is Jenny Chang, a native of Taiwan who came to the United States as a university student 20 years ago. She had dreamed since childhood of owning and running her own business, but due to her concern over her English language skills, she decided to study computer science rather than the MBA program she longed to pursue. After 10 years in computer programming, first in Arkansas and later here in North Carolina, Jenny found pressures of the high-tech industry and the monotony of endless days sitting before a screen no longer acceptable and decided to make a change.

"I said to myself, 'What is unique about me?' and decided that my Chinese language ability was my basic treasure." Now completely fluent in English, she felt ready to handle the business world. The particular nature of the business she attributes to her father and the Raleigh-Durham International Airport.

"My father arrived for his second visit here after five years' time, and his first impression on arriving at the airport from Taiwan was that this area was undergoing tremendous growth." The bustling airport seemed like a different place from the one he had first seen several years before. The building boom intrigued him, as did an increasingly visible Asian community. He asked her about Asian markets in the area. By the time he returned home, father and daughter were laying plans for the Asian supermarket that they felt the area was ready to support.

They set up a partnership with the owners of a small existing Asian market, since Jenny wanted experienced help. But after settling on a space and moving forward with renovation plans, the partners decided to withdraw. "I was scared. The building was rented, ready to renovate from a clothing and fabric store into a specialty supermarket. Here I was writing checks for $1000, and then $10,000. I'd never dealt with such big money in my life!"

Her husband, Long Chang, a civil engineer, encouraged her to pursue her dream, and she did, renting the building in May and completing renovations, hiring and stocking in time to open Grand Asia in November of 1997. "That first year was a slow start, but I hung in, and after one year, we knew enough about staffing, product promotions, and coupons to begin to grow." Word of mouth helped as well, and Jenny credits her manager, Ah Sim, with helping her take the store to the next level. Having worked in Asian markets in the New
York area for years, his knowledge of organizing, pricing, volume, and product placement have been a major asset.

Now a seasoned businesswoman, Jenny enjoys her realized dream, except for the long hours and the fact that she finds herself sitting at a desk more than she would like. "I thought, a grocery store is a good business for me to run," she laughs, "because I'll have to move lots of stuff up and down. It's active and I'll save money at the gym!" For now, someone else is handling the boxes since Businesswoman Chang is needed in the office.

THE ASIAN INVASION

The Triangle's Asian population is estimated at 15,000, the majority Chinese, but stores like Grand Asia serve cooks and food lovers from around the world. Conversations swirled above the throng, Hindi and Japanese, Vietnamese, Arabic and Korean, Spanish with the flavors of Mexico and Honduras, English with the intonations of Jamaica and Trinidad, Australia and Fayetteville, N.C. Clustered around the cakes and sweet snacks, an exuberant quintet of Filipino women exulted in their native Tagalog dialect on finding a favorite sweet treat, then paused to explain their delight to a Chinese-American woman in English.

On the noodle aisle a dedicated stock clerk with a newly priced case of canned lychees squeezed past a Vietnam veteran, while over at the seafood counter a regal woman from Ghana supervised the cleaning of three whole fish from her side of the fish and seafood counter.

Pleasantly dazed by the tumult, I wound around to the rear of the store, which in true Asian market fashion, houses Ming Kee Hong Kong Style Food Court, a small noodle shop serving terrific noodle soup with pork and shrimp dumplings and an array of stir-fried dishes served over rice. It's all made in-house, from the delicate chicken broth and won tons to whole barbecued duck and exceptional barbecued pork, and you're welcome to eat in, take out, or both.

I do both, noting with a twinge of regret that the soda case does not carry Cheerwine, but ginger ale stands in nicely. Thus fortified I merged back into traffic on the curry paste aisle, piled my cart high, checked out and drove off into the sunset with everything on my list.

Now the Styrofoam quarts of brunswick stew in my freezer sit shoulder to shoulder with sacks of pork dumplings and crab wonton, Japanese edamame beans and the delicate Filipino spring rolls called lumpia. Bunches of cilantro and Asian basil are in jars of water on the counter. The salad greens in the crisper have graciously made room for the snow pea shoots and the Shanghai bok choy, and my sheaf of fresh lemon grass reclines on the shelf above. Fitting these skeins of dried rice noodles and a sack of dried shiitake mushrooms into the pantry amongst the cereal and crackers presents a challenge I'd rather think about tomorrow. Right now it's time to fire up the rice cooker, put that noodle soup on the stove to warm up gently, and go sit out on the screened in porch with a double-tall Thai iced tea.

Nancie McDermott is a nationally recognized authority on the cuisines of the Far East. She is the author of Real Thai: The Best of Thailand's Regional Cooking. Nancie lives in Chapel Hill.
Good Fast Food

Going shopping for groceries always makes me hungry, so I confess to having a particular affection for those markets which are in close proximity to a good, quick place to satisfy my immediate hunger and fortify me for the trip home with provisions for the next feast.

I also patrol the freezer cases in search of Asian treats that provide extraordinary flavor in the time it takes to boil water. Here are three worth seeking out and keeping on ice:

1) Edamame Beans:
Often available in sushi bars, these are soybeans “on the hoof,” that is encased in their diminutive natural pods, flash frozen and ready for boiling and noshing. Look for one-pound sacks, often made of foil and emblazoned with a photo of said beans. Edamame (æ-dah-mah-may) are finger food, so split open a pod and eat the elegant little beans within.

To prepare: Bring a large saucepan of water to a rolling boil, add a teaspoon of salt and then the beans. Cook for 5 minutes, drain and then rinse with cold water. Serve at room temperature or chill and serve cold, providing a bowl in which to pile up the leftover pods.

2) Chinese Dumplings:
Look for big plastic sacks of frozen dumplings, tortellini-sized or larger, filled with ground pork, shrimp, chicken, or vegetables. Get them home and back into the freezer with haste, lest they thaw and then stick together, causing the dough to tear open when you try to separate them again. Serve as a hearty starter, or have a bowlful for lunch or supper with a salad or sautéed greens.

To prepare: Bring 2 quarts of water to a wild boil in a large pot. Drop in frozen dumplings, one by one, about 20 per batch. Stir gently with a large spoon to prevent sticking to the bottom, and cover. Cook about 5 minutes, or until the water returns to a lively boil. Add \( \frac{2}{3} \)-cup cold water to the pot, cover and bring to a boil again. Add another \( \frac{2}{3} \)-cup cold water to the pot, cover, and when the water boils again, remove dumplings to a platter with a slotted spoon. Serve at once, offering each guest a small bowl to hold dumplings and dipping sauce. Simple sauces include: Soy sauce with a splash of vinegar and minced garlic; soy sauce with a splash of toasted sesame oil; and vinegar with thin strips of fresh ginger. Add a little chili paste, chili oil, or sugar to any of these to your liking.

3) Bah-Tsang or Jung-Zuh
Dried bamboo leaves are softened and shaped into angular packets of savory sticky rice studded with pork, salty egg, dried shrimp and peanuts, and seasoned with soy sauce and sesame oil. They may remind you of the delicious rice packets wrapped in lotus leaves and served at dim sum restaurants.

To prepare: The best way is to steam the still-frozen rice packets, still bound with cotton string, over actively steaming water, for 20 to 30 minutes, until softened outside and heated through. Or loosely wrap one frozen packet in a wet paper towel and microwave first on the Defrost setting for about 5 minutes, and then on a high setting until softened and heated through, 3 to 5 minutes. Serve hot or warm, cutting the strings and unwinding the bamboo leaves to find the rice, which unlike the plain sticky rice of Laos and Thailand is eaten with chopsticks or a fork.
Asian Market Roundup

CARY
Asian Market
101 Nottingham Drive [at Buck Jones Road], Cary (Near Hot Point Deli and Gold’s Gym, across from South Hills Mall) 919.467.2005 Open daily

Grand Asia
1253 Buck Jones Road, Cary (In South Hills Mall) 919.468.2988 Open daily

Toyo Shokuin
Japanese Market
748-L East Graham Street, Cary (In Chatham Square Center) 919.319.1620 Open daily

Triangle Oriental Market #2
748-D East Chatham Street, Cary (In Chatham Square Center) 919.319.1203 Open daily

CHAPEL HILL
Eastern Market Oriental Food
505 West Rosemary Street, Chapel Hill (near Carrburitos and Mama Dip’s) 919.968.1703 Open daily

Silver Wok Oriental Grocery
#7 Mariakakis Plaza, U.S. Highway 15-501 Bypass, Chapel Hill (Near Eastgate Shopping Center) 919.933.1295 Open daily

DURHAM
Asia Market
2726 Chapel Hill Boulevard, Durham (Between Foster’s Market and Biscuitville) 919.490.0974 Open daily

Far East Market
2720 Chapel Hill Road, Durham 919.401.2346 Closed Monday

Oriental Market
4201-105 University Drive, Durham (Near South Square, by K-Mart) 919.490.8888 Closed Monday

Oriental Supermarket
4411 Chapel Hill Boulevard, Durham (On frontage road of 15-501 between South Square and I-40, across from La Quinta Inn) Closed Sunday

HAVELOCK
Havelock Oriental Market
5 East Plaza, No. 5, Havelock 252.447.3890 Open daily

Smoked meats and fowl hang in the meat counter at Cary’s Grand Asia Market

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Asian Market Roundup, continued

**Food Mart**
302 North Reilly Road, Fayetteville
910.867.5413
Open daily

**Pan’s Thai Market**
817 Hope Mills Road, Fayetteville
910.424.6909
Closed Sunday

**Spanish and Far Eastern Market**
138 North Main Street, Spring Lake
910.497.6900
Open daily

**Thai and Spanish Market**
122 South Main Street, Spring Lake
910.436.2564
Open daily

**Youn Oriental Food Store**
205 Hope Mills Road, Fayetteville
910.424.4377
Closed Sunday

**JACKSONVILLE**
**International Supermarket**
425 West Railroad Street, Jacksonville
910.346.2611
Closed Sunday

**RALEIGH**
**An Chau Oriental Market**
3312 Capital Boulevard, Raleigh
919.790.9300
Open daily

**Far East Market**
2265 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh
[ Brentwood Shopping Center]
919.872.7489
Open daily

**Lotte Oriental Food Market**
6311 Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh
919.571.7777
Open daily

**Oriental Store of Raleigh**
3601-101 Capital Boulevard, Raleigh
[at Old Buffaloe Road]
919.876.6911
Open daily

**Triangle Oriental Market #1**
5003-G Falls of the Neuse Road, Raleigh
[located in rear left corner of shopping center]
919.790.9044
Open daily

**WILMINGTON**
**Saigon Market**
4507 Franklin Street, Wilmington
910.793.9911
Closed Monday

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Pickled foods—even lemons and limes—are big in Asian cooking.

Still mostly catering to Asian immigrants, many markets advertise sales in an amalgam of English and Chinese.
Recipes

Served with generous amounts of jasmine, basmati or any plain rice you like, the following three recipes make an Asian-style meal for 4 people. Each dish is strongly seasoned to go with rice; but you could use pasta, couscous or bread on the side instead of rice, to balance the intense flavors.

Keep appetizers simple. I like edamame beans and Japanese-style rice crackers, or tortilla chips and salsa, because they are ready in advance and easy on the cook.

For a sweet finale, sliced fresh fruit is the Asian tradition, but check market freezers for ice cream surprises: Mango, coconut and green tea ice cream are our house favorites, served this time of year with Girl Scout cookies and jasmine tea.

For a simpler menu, try either the Shrimp in Thai Red Curry with Asian Basil, or Chicken with Fresh Lemongrass, accompanied by a simple salad and lots of rice or bread. Asian Greens with Garlic and Pepper can be the star if you toss them with short pasta such as penne or small shells, and shower on toasted pine nuts and Parmesan cheese.

Shrimp in Thai Red Curry with Asian Basil

2 1/4 cup unsweetened coconut milk (one 14-ounce can)
2 tsp. Thai red curry paste
2 tbsp. fish sauce
1 tbsp. palm sugar or brown sugar
1/2 lb. raw shrimp
Fresh Asian basil, or Italian basil

Stir coconut milk well and pour 1 cup into a large, heavy skillet, a wok or a medium saucepan. Bring to a gentle boil over medium high heat and simmer until fragrant and beginning to thicken, about 2 minutes.

Add curry paste and cook 2 more minutes, pressing with a spoon now and then to dissolve the paste into the coconut milk. Add fish sauce, palm or brown sugar, and remaining coconut milk and stir well.

Reduce heat to medium and simmer gently for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Meanwhile, prepare a handful of fresh basil leaves and a few beautiful sprigs for garnish, and set these aside by the stove.

Increase heat to medium high and add shrimp as soon as the curry reaches an active boil. Cook 2 to 3 minutes, stirring occasionally, until the shrimp are through. Stir in the handful of fresh basil leaves and then transfer curry to a serving bowl and garnish with fresh basil sprigs. Serve hot or warm with lots of rice. Serves 4.

COOK’S NOTES
Try this with a combination of bay scallops, tiny clams and shrimp, or with meaty chunks of fish. To prepare with chicken or beef, add the meat, cut into generous bite-sized pieces—after stirring in the fish sauce, sugar and additional coconut milk—and simmer for 5 to 10 minutes, until meat is done.

Chicken with Fresh Lemongrass

2 green onions
3 stalks fresh lemon grass
1 tbsp. coarsely chopped garlic
1/2 lb. boneless chicken breast or thigh, cut in generous bite-sized chunks
2 tbsp. vegetable oil
1/2 cup coarsely chopped onion
1/2 cup chicken broth
1 tbsp. fish sauce
1 tsp. sugar
1/2 tsp. soy sauce
1/4 tsp. salt
Generous pinch of freshly ground pepper

Chop green onions crosswise into thin rounds and set aside. Trim lemongrass by cutting off root portions to leave a smooth base. Cut away and discard leafy top portions, leaving a stalk about 5 inches long. Cut these stalks crosswise into 1/2-inch sections, and then chop coarsely.

Place chopped lemongrass and garlic in a blender or mini food processor and 3 tablespoons of water. Cover and...
Recipes, continued

process until you have a fairly smooth mush, pulsing on and off and adding a little more water as needed to move the blades. Transfer lemongrass mush to a bowl along with the chicken and mix to coat the meat well. Cover and refrigerate for 20 to 30 minutes. In a small bowl, combine the broth, fish sauce, sugar, soy sauce, salt and pepper, and set aside.

To cook, heat the oil in a wok or large heavy skillet over medium high heat until hot. Add onion and toss until shiny and beginning to wilt. Add chicken and toss to separate pieces. Cook until meat changes color, tossing occasionally, 2 to 3 minutes. Stir chicken broth mixture well and add to the pan. Continue cooking, tossing occasionally, until chicken is cooked through. Stir in green onion and toss well. Transfer to a serving dish and serve hot or warm. Serves 4.

COOK'S NOTES
Add coarsely ground dried red chili peppers if you like things hot, and coarsely chopped peanuts if you like things crunchy.

Prep the Asian greens by trimming away several inches at the base, and then chop crosswise into 2-inch lengths. Rinse, drain and set aside. (Spinach can be left whole.) If your greens have especially thick, sturdy stalks, separate leaves and stalks in different bowls.

In a wok or a large, heavy skillet, heat the oil over medium and add garlic. Toss well and as soon as it is fragrant, add the sturdy stalk portion of the greens. Turn them over gently for a minute or two, until they are wilting and turning bright green.

Add the broth, salt, sugar and pepper and simmer 1 to 2 minutes, until softened. Add leafy greens and toss well. Cook 3 minutes or so, tossing now and then, until greens are tender. (Spinach will cook more quickly.) Transfer to a serving dish and serve hot or warm.

COOK'S NOTES
Try this with such healthful greens as Chinese broccoli (gai lan), water spinach (long choy), bamboo mustard cabbage (juk gai choi), bok choy, Shanghai bok choy or snow pea vines. Or use Swiss chard, collards or mustard greens. Serves 4.

Asian Greens with Black Pepper and Garlic

2 tbsp. vegetable oil
1 tbsp. coarsely chopped garlic
Leafy Asian greens or fresh spinach, about 6 cups when chopped and loosely packed

1/3 cup chicken broth or vegetable broth
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. sugar
A generous pinch of freshly ground pepper
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AWARDS

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Ballots must be marked and returned by April 30, 2000.
You can also get your ballot online at www.metronc.com.
Results will appear in a special section in Metro's June issue.

WIN DINNER FOR 4 AT ANGUS BARN!

There will be a drawing from all ballots submitted. Be sure to include your name, address and phone number in order to qualify.

Rules:
1. You must complete at least 10 categories for ballot to count.
2. Ballots must be received by April 30, 2000.
3. Only one ballot per reader, please.

SUBMIT YOUR BALLOT TODAY!
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Mail your ballot to:
MetroMagazine
Post Office Box 6190
Raleigh, NC 27622
Spring is Bustin’ Out All Over from the Triangle to the Coast

It’s an exciting adventure to launch a monthly regional magazine, especially one about North Carolina’s Research Triangle and down-east communities. It’s also an eye-opening experience—discovering what a truly fertile and burgeoning territory we are covering. The events are boundless. Exciting festivals, art shows, sporting events, concerts and theatrical productions are appearing like pop-up figures across the spring horizon. We’ll try to select wisely to let you know what’s coming up and going down.

This month three extraordinary events that will appeal to people in all corners of the region highlight the scene: two in Raleigh—on Bicentennial Plaza, the opening of the new North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, the largest museum of its type in the Southeast; and at the North Carolina Museum of Art, the opening of an exhibition of sculpture by Auguste Rodin, considered the greatest sculptor since Michelangelo; and in Wilmington—the festivities of the 53rd annual Azalea Festival, a much heralded extravaganza that showcases Eastern North Carolina’s springtime charm, beauty and pageantry.

And there’s much more: dogwood festivals in Farmville and Fayetteville, polo games in Pinehurst, the music of Johann Sebastian Bach at Duke, Neil Sedaka with the North Carolina Symphony, baseball season openings and a spring garden tour in Chapel Hill. These and other inviting events form a colorful mosaic on Preview’s April pages.

—Frances Smith

EDITOR’S NOTE:
Send brief information about your area’s upcoming events along with color photos or slides to: Frances A. Smith, events editor, MetroMagazine, 5012 Brookhaven Drive, Raleigh, N.C. 27612. Email address: frances33@earthlink.net. Send information and photos to arrive six weeks preceding the issue-month in which you wish the item to appear. (Don’t forget the pictures!)
RODIN’S MASTERPIECES
ON VIEW AT ART
MUSEUM
The time is at hand for the long anticipated opening of the North Carolina Museum of Art’s exhibition of 130 works by celebrated sculptor Auguste Rodin. From April 16 through Aug. 13, museum visitors can view many of the artist’s well-known works, such as The Thinker and The Kiss, as well as individual figures and groups relating to works such as The Gates of Hell and The Burghers of Calais.

Curated by David Steel, the museum’s curator of European art, the exhibition Auguste Rodin’s The Kiss contains some 70 bronzes from the collection of Iris and B. Gerald Cantor, plus more than 50 works borrowed from public and private collections. It is the pivot for a variety of related events.

Highlights include:
Members Opening, a preview of the exhibition, April 15, with music, fine cuisine and a tour of the exhibition (non-members may buy tickets to attend also); a Dance With Rodin, featuring Rodin-inspired “improv” and movement workshops by the David Dorfman Dance Company, April 29, outside the Museum of Art entrance, near Rodin’s The Thinker; and the 15th Robert Lee Humber Lecture, featuring Daniel Rosenfeld, director of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, on “Rodin’s Kiss: Rodin’s Marbles and the Legacy of The Gates of Hell,” Sunday, May 7.

The N.C. Museum of Art is located at 2110 Blue Ridge Road in Raleigh. For information on Rodin-related museum events, call 919-839-6262.

BEAUTY ENGULFS
WILMINGTON’S
AZALEA FESTIVAL
It’s a 53-year-old tradition for people near and far to travel to coastal North Carolina for the definitive rite of spring, the Wilmington Azalea Festival, being held this year April 6–9. In addition to breathtaking flowers, the festival offers a plethora of colorful activities, including a queen and her court, a spirited parade, national and local entertainers, tours, exhibits and fireworks. Following are highlights.

Azalea Festival Coronation Pageant, featuring the arrival and crowning of Queen Azalea LIII, April 6, at Riverfront Park.
18th Annual Juried Spring Art Show and Sale, sponsored by the Wilmington Art Association, April 7–9, at St. Thomas Preservation Hall, 208 Dock Street.

Azalea Festival Garden Tour, sponsored by the Cape Fear Garden Club, April 7–9, beginning with the Queen’s Garden Party at 2521 & 2525 Mimosa Place and continuing to 10 other gardens, expansive vistas along the Intracoastal Waterway and diminutive walled patio gardens.

Azalea Festival Parade, April 8, in downtown Wilmington, featuring circus elephants, floats, marching with the beauty of thousands of azaleas plus the charm of 96 “Azalea Belles,” the Azalea Festival Garden Tour is “a joy forever.”
bands, clowns and horses, with Queen Azalea presiding. For more information on Azalea Festival events, call 910-763-0905.

FESTIVALS APPLAUD THE DOGWOOD
In spring its beauty spreads like a white cloud over the Triangle and Eastern North Carolina. Small wonder that the blossoming dogwood also inspires festivals.

The Farmville Dogwood Festival, sponsored by the town of Farmville, April 27-30, will cover the town with activities, including live bands, performers, music, vendors, food concessions and an antique car show. At the May Museum the festival will take on a historical perspective, with an on-grounds camp-out all weekend and Civil War Reenactors. Call 252-753-5814.

The Fayetteville Dogwood Festival will be held in downtown Fayetteville, April 13-17. Activities will include a Festival Rodeo, April 13-15, at Cowboy Cove; a Street Fair, April 14-16, with vendors and two stages of live entertainment; and evening musical performances—The Embers, Friday; Men of Soul, Saturday; and Jazz on the top of the Prince Charles Radisson, Sunday. Miss Dogwood, to be chosen and crowned on April 8, will preside over the festivities. Call 910-323-1934.

TWO ARRESTING ART SHOWS
"Critic's Choice: Julia Morton," Duke University Museum of Art's invitational exhibition featuring the work of area artists, will be open April 13-May 28. Each year a Triangle art critic is invited to curate a show. This year's critic, Julia Morton, has chosen for the exhibit the work of local artists Andrea Lekberg, Michael Salter and Kent Williams. The exhibition opening & "After Hours" will be April 13 in the Upper Gallery. Call 919-684-5135.

"Rowan LeCompte: Sixty Years of Color and Light" celebrates the work of Wilmington master of stained glass Rowan LeCompte, who designed and installed more than 45 windows for the Washington National Cathedral. The exhibition, on view at the St. John's Museum of Art in Wilmington now until June 4, unveils a new LeCompte stained-glass window, Two Trees Amid Harvest, which will be installed in 2001 in the new Louise Wells Cameron Art Museum. Call 919-763-0281.

THE SPRING SPORTS SCENE
The NASCAR Touring Goody's Dash Series is coming to the Coastal Plains Raceway on April 22 with Jimmy Britts Jr. was last year's Goody's Dash Series winner.
drivers from all over the country competing for championship points. The brand-new Coastal Plain Raceway is located in Onslow County on Highway 258N, between Jacksonville and Richlands. Call 910-455-5455.

The Durham Bulls' home season opener, April 12, will bring the baseball crowd to the Durham Bulls Athletic Park to see the Bulls play the Columbus Clippers of Ohio, the Triple A affiliate of the 1999 champion Yankees. Call 919-956-2855.

At the Pinehurst Harness Track, polo games are scheduled to challenge man and horse on Sundays in April and May. Call 910-295-4446.

The Carolina Mudcats will open their home season against the Tennessee Smokies on April 14 in an enlarged and renovated Five-County Stadium with more seats, more concessions and upper-level picnic areas. Call 919-269-2287.

YIKES, IT'S BIKES!

The 7th Annual Tarwheel Century 2000 bike race on April 29 will follow a scenic waterside route from Elizabeth City through historic downtown areas of Hertford and Edenton. Sponsored by the River City Cycling Club, the four-level race will start and finish at River Road Middle School in Elizabeth City. Call 252-338-1559.

The Tour De Moore, held April 29 in Southern Pines and Moore County, draws bike riders from around the world to participate in several levels of cyclists competition. The feature race is 100 miles around Moore County. Call 910-692-2463.

DUKE CELEBRATES BACH

In tribute to the 250th anniversary of the death of Johann Sebastian Bach, the Duke University Department of Music in conjunction with the Institute of the Arts will present an array of events, including four all-Bach concerts.

The Phantasm Viol Quartet, critically acclaimed and winner of a Grammy Award, will perform Bach on historical instruments, April 15, in Duke's Nelson Music Room.


The Duke Collegium Musicum, Timothy J. Dickey, director, will centerpiece a full performance of the Cantata BWV No. 61, with the
well-known Duke University organist, will perform a concert of Bach organ works including the Passacaglia and Fugue in C Minor, April 2, on the renowned Flentrop Organ in the Duke University Chapel. For Bach concert information, call 919-660-3333.

MUSIC! MUSIC! MUSIC!
In addition to the Bach celebration at Duke, the April music calendar is brimming with must-hear concerts from the Triangle to the coast. Here are a few.

**Neil Sedaka**, singer, pianist and composer of a thousand memorable songs, will perform with the North Carolina Symphony on April 14 and 15 in Raleigh Memorial Auditorium. Call 919-733-2750.

The **Raleigh Oratorio Society Symphonic Choir** will present Bach's St. Matthew Passion at Raleigh Memorial Auditorium.

**Dr. Robert Parkins**, Collegium choir and Baroque chamber orchestra, April 1, in Duke's Nelson Music Room.
Auditorium on April 16. Members of the North Carolina Symphony will accompany the 170-voice choir and seven soloists. Call 919-856-9700.

The Eroica Trio, a chamber trio, will perform on the Main Stage of Thalian Hall in Wilmington on April 27. Call 910-343-3664.

The 12th Annual Beaufort By-the-Sea Music Festival, sponsored by the Beaufort Business Association, will swing into action for a full weekend of free concerts on downtown stages, April 28-30. Call 252-728-6894.

POTPOURRI

The Chapel Hill Spring Garden Tour, sponsored by the Chapel Hill Garden Club, is a walking tour through 10 gardens in Gimghoul, Chapel Hill’s most historic neighborhood. Mature plantings of lush azaleas, redbuds and dogwoods display the magic of a Southern spring, April 8-9. Call 919-962-0522.

The 3rd annual Doubletake Documentary Film Festival, an international festival of documentary cinema, will take place April 6-9 at the Carolina Theatre in Durham. Produced in association with the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University, this year’s festival addresses the crisis of youth and the media with a special series of films, two sidebar series and panel discussions. Call 919-660-3699.

Like an imaginary surrey ride to the frontier, the North Carolina Theatre’s presentation of the musical Oklahoma, now through April 2 at Raleigh Memorial Auditorium, will transport its audience to the beginning of an earlier century when a new state was coming to life. The musical’s unforgettable Rodgers and Hammerstein songs—“Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin’,” “People Will Say We’re in Love” and “Oklahoma”—embellish the story. Call 919-834-4000 or 919-831-6950.

“Dance 2000,” the annual dance concert of the East Carolina Playhouse, producing arm of E.C.U.’s Department of Theatre & Dance, will be held April 22-May 2 in the McGinnis Theatre on the ECU campus. The concert will feature a variety of dance styles, including ballet, jazz, modern and tap. Call 252-328-6829.

The History Players will perform short dramas based on the lives and words of real North Carolinians in the “Health and Healing” exhibit at the North Carolina Museum of History, 5 E. Edenton St. in Raleigh, April 1 & 2. Call 919-715-0200.
APRIL’S BIRTHSTONE IS DIAMOND... WOULDN’T SHE JUST LOVE FIVE...

The Garden Lights Diamond Collection
...JEWELRY FOR YOUR EMOTIONS
Box Seats

BALLET RISING
Robert Weiss and the Carolina Ballet were handed the highest compliment on January 30 in the Sunday New York Times. The Raleigh-based professional dance company was compared to the Miami Ballet, one of the five strongest ballet companies in the nation. High praise indeed for the Carolina Ballet.

If you saw Weiss’ Handel’s Messiah this holiday season you experienced a visionary ballet executed with verve and sensitivity. The piece drew large audiences and virtually transformed Handel’s score with daring choreography, opulent costumes and innovative sets. Images of love, forgiveness, sacrifice and joy reigned. Perfectly cast, flawlessly performed, this ambitious piece seems destined to become a company—and possibly a national—classic. Negotiations to take Handel’s Messiah to London are in process.

Artistic director Robert Weiss used street smarts when developing his company, and with Ward Purrington as board chairman, he launched the real thing. During the same weekend that patrons gathered on February 27 at The Carolina Country Club to celebrate at the 5th annual Mardi Gras benefit for The Carolina Ballet, Weiss debuted a new original ballet at the Reynolds Theater on the Duke Campus, entitled The Kreutzer Sonata. The music was by Beethoven, Janek and a commissioned piece by J. Mark Scearce. A second premier work was performed by the ballet entitled, While Going Forward, choreographed by Tyler Walters and accompanied by the music of Philip Glass’ String Quartet No. 5. The 5th Mardi Gras benefit was a black-tie event honoring Eve and Sherwood H. Smith for their contributions to the arts and the Carolina Ballet. Cee Cee Scott was the chairwoman of the ball.

MORE DANCERS
Of dancers we’ll soon see more, in sculptures and a rare selection of drawings by Auguste Rodin, in the American debut of the Rodin traveling show, opening April 16 at the North Carolina Museum of Art. A special part of the exhibition will focus on dance. Rodin’s Thinker and The Kiss will be on view among other famous pieces.

Like Michelangelo, Rodin celebrated the human body and depth of emotions expressed in gesture and expression. He influenced sculpture toward the human. He also changed the history of poetry. The poet Rilke worked as Rodin’s secretary in his late 20s. "Travailler! Work!" Rodin shouted at Rilke in explanation of how one accomplished art.

When Rilke had writer’s block, Rodin ordered him to the zoo. He said, “Look at the animals until you can write about them. It might take you a week!” After Rilke wrote his zoo poems, the use of visual imagery became central to modern poetry.

The Rodin Gala opening will be held at the museum on April 29. The black-tie extravaganza, in support of the Rodin exhibition, will include cocktails, dinner and dancing and will feature a French-Canadian circus and a Fellini-esque Fantasy.

MOZART’S BIRTHDAY
Mozart’s birthday, May 4, marks the date for the fundraiser for The Yates Mill restoration project and the educational park to be developed on the 612-acre site off Lake Wheeler Road in Raleigh. Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Hyde will host the Yates Mill Gala. Funds raised at the
benefit will go to restoration of the mill's interior. Governor James B. Hunt Jr. is one of the honorary chairmen of the project.

The water powered grist mill, circa 1756, stands there today calling out for completion of the restoration. A partnership, between the Wake County Parks and Recreation Department, North Carolina State University and Yates Mill Associates Inc., has formed to restore the mill and develop the park land.

Derek Odgen, the millwright who restored George Washington’s mill, began work this March to get the 12-foot wooden waterwheel turning. In the fall of 2000, water from the restored mill-dam will turn the wheel again.

Through a second partnership, the N.C. Department of Agriculture will grant the use of additional land for the project. There are plans for camps, education programs, and hands-on experience with preservation, ecology and wetland habitats.

**MUSEUM GRAND OPENING**
The New North Carolina Museum of Natural Science’s official 24-hour grand opening celebration will be an adventurous happening April 7 with live animals, discovery carts and special exhibits. Several festive benefits for the museum held in the month of March sold out quickly. A Gala Dinner March 24 hosted 450 major donors and distinguished guests with music and dancing till midnight ($275 per person). Saturday, March 25, an Evening of Surprises provided North Carolina cuisine, music and sounds from nature ($125 per person).

For younger members of the museum’s new Pathfinders’ group, an Urban Safari Party was held March 31, 8–11 p.m. ($25).

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**ART SHOW**
Down-east the Wilmington Art Association’s Spring Art Show and Sale will be open April 7 at St. Thomas Preservation Hall in downtown historic Wilmington. This event is associated with the North Carolina Azalea Festival.

Also in Wilmington an Inn with a Cupid’s touch has been noted. Commitment-phobes beware, the Graystone Inn—chosen as one of this year’s Top 10 most romantic Inns by American Historic Inns Inc., a prime publisher of bed and breakfast guidebooks—might bewitch you into tying the knot. What was it about the Graystone Inn that couples remembered most? The setting on the Cape Fear Coast and the Wilmington historic district were mentioned, as well as luxurious decor, hospitality and overall romantic mystique. The 14,300 square-foot Inn was the Bridgets Mansion built in 1905, and new owners Paul and Yolanda Bolda have returned the home to its original grandeur. Book ahead for Valentine’s Day next year, or try it out sooner, at your own risk. The inside word is: Romance isn’t all that goes on there—movies are filmed on site and the Inn’s a favorite resting stop for notable persons.

The Historic Albermarle Tour doesn’t boast you’ll be
“A CAVALRY CHARGE PAST A GREAT LAWN PARTY.”

What an appropriate description.
Saturday, May 6, join the Raleigh Jaycees for the eighth running of the Brookhill Steeplechase, a nationally sanctioned race with a purse of over $60,000. The sporting event of the season, where seeing it is almost as important as being seen at it.

BROOKHILL FARM CLAYTON, NC

Brookhill Gala sponsored by Special Olympics, May 5

Call 919.838.1492 for tickets or information.
www.brookhillsteeplechase.com
struck by Cupid's dart while touring, but it is the state's oldest organized historical cultural consortium, celebrating a silver anniversary this year. There are 27 sites on the tour. So you know you'll be getting some exercise, and the endorphins might flow—then again love is possible.

**FILM FESTIVAL**
The Third Annual Doubletake Documentary Film Festival begins April 6, with a kick-off party entitled "Opening Night Under the Stars" at The Carolina Theatre in Durham, Thursday evening at 7 p.m. Following the world premiere of the film *The Rough South of Larry Brown*, there will be a discussion of the film by filmmaker Gary Hawkins and author Larry Brown, and Brown's wife Marie Annie. On April 8, film buffs, priority pass-holders, sponsors, honored guests and filmmakers will attend a dinner at Brightleaf 905 at 10 p.m. Robert Duvall and Ken Burns and Serena Altschul will attend, among other luminaries. During the Festival Ken Burns will be giving a first look at one episode of *Jazz* his forthcoming documentary set to air in January 2001.

**ALSO UPCOMING:**
The annual Afternoon Garden Gala for the J.C. Raulston Arboretum at NCSU will be held Sunday, May 7, beginning with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and a Silent Auction at 3 p.m., followed at 6 p.m. with dining in the Secret Garden and a Live Auction. By invitation. Call 515-3132 for information.

With a world-class ballet company and Rodin's work in Raleigh and with romance in the air down-east, April shouldn't be the cruelest month this year. The hurricanes and the snow lie behind us, the dogwood blooms among us, and the beach glints ahead of us. And we'll continue to bring you behind-the-scenes events that inform and entertain.
World Beat Warrior Storms Local Label

The brilliant, eclectic Basque accordionist Kepa Junkera; the young kora player from Mali, Mamdou Diabate, carrying on a family musical legacy that dates back centuries; Gerardo Núñez, a Spaniard and arguably the greatest flamenco guitarist of his generation—all gifted world music artists—have been brought to the attention of U.S. music fans by a record label based in Durham.

As unlikely as it seems, Alula Records, one of the hottest world music labels in the United States, is housed in an inconspicuous office building at the corner of Broad Street and Club Boulevard, facing the North Carolina School of Science and Math in central Durham.

Angel Romero, the co-founder of Alula, presides over stacks of compact discs and stacks of press materials. His personal office, a haven amidst the sort of clutter that translates as success, is furnished with keep­sakes from around the world, including a pair of excellent West African drums and an ornate Moroccan drum. He sits behind his desk, facing a formidable audio system that constitutes his tools of the trade.

Romero spent most of his childhood on Spain’s central plateau. “I was born in Madrid, Spain,” he said. “I’ve lived many places. I spent time in Colorado when I was a kid, moved back to Spain as a teenager, and lived in southern Spain later. I’ve also lived in the Canary Islands. When I married my American girlfriend seven years ago, we decided that, instead of having her move to Spain, I would move here, to the U.S.”

Like many of us, Romero was a music lover from childhood. He never developed into a musician, however. “I took music classes—piano and music theory, but I didn’t get very far,” he laughed. “I became a collector and a music journalist. I was an editor for many years. Eventually I became a producer of a music show for TV-E, the Spanish national TV network. It was an eclectic show that featured everything from Philip Glass to Pat Metheny to the Bulgarian Women’s Choir.”

Romero’s entrance into the business side of music was undertaken in rather halting fashion. He first became involved in exporting Spanish music to interested indie labels in Japan and the U.S. “The business was profitable,” he said, “but I ran out of LPs to sell.” Later, when he was a student at the University of Madrid, Romero started a rock label.

This time his problem was one familiar to many college students—classes kept interfering with his outside pursuits. Romero finally had to bag the record label and concentrate on his homework.

Eventually, Romero’s globetrotting brought him to a record label in Long Island, N.Y., called Ellipsis Arts, where he worked as a producer and international marketing director. Although he put together several important compilations for Ellipsis, Romero wasn’t a happy camper. He wanted to start his own record label.

“I spoke with many people,” he explained. “Some were procrastinators,” he chuckled, “and some were not. After a while I hooked up with a Japanese musician/producer.
[Akira Satake] who lives in New York and we decided to start a label.” At that point Romero left Ellipsis. He knew that he needed what he referred to as “transition work,” something to keep him afloat financially as he began the process of starting Alula. The record label Music of the World, which is based in Chapel Hill, offered Romero some consulting work and, since the Triangle was one area he'd been considering anyway, he made the move to North Carolina. Alula began in 1996 in a spare bedroom in Romero's first house in Durham.

Voices, won the AFIM Indy Award for best cover design.”

The second release was flamenco master Gerardo Nuñez’s Jucal. “Both releases sold well, for world music albums, but we were surprised in that Voices sold less than we thought it would and Gerardo’s album sold better than we anticipated,” Romero noted.

As Romero got Alula off the ground he was looking to license albums from European labels as well as produce some acts for Alula. Over the past three years, what’s happened is that Alula has produced more than it has licensed. Romero’s most successful release to date is bluegrass notable Tim O’Brien’s project The Crossing, which came about as a result of O’Brien’s interest in bringing together traditional music and musicians from the U.S. and Ireland.

Alula’s most recent releases feature the kora artist Mamadou Diabate, a native of the West African nation of Mali who presently lives in the States, and De Madera, a Latin guitar duo from, surprisingly, Charlotte.

The Diabate CD is titled Tunga. He recently performed a showcase that was received with a great deal of acclaim at the Folk Alliance Conference in Cleveland. De Madera’s album, Aire y Candela, is the work of Jaime Ibarra and Juan Benevides, both of whom were at one time in the group Fuego del Alma, based in Greenville, N.C. In past years both Ibarra and Benevides also attended East Carolina University.

As Romero contemplates the world music possibilities in his own neighborhood, the unqualified success of Africa Fete ’99, staged last summer at the North Carolina Museum of Art’s Bryan Museum Park Theatre, has convinced him that a world music festival in North Carolina is a sound idea. Romero maintains that “If the people who fund the arts in the Triangle would pool their resources, we could have a really good world music festival that would attract a lot of attention. The interest is here.”

Romero’s daily task, building a better Alula, is guided by a mentality that considers all “roots” music to be potential world music. “American bluegrass musicians, for instance, wouldn’t consider what they’re doing world music,” Romero noted. “That’s like their local music. But to people in other parts of the world, it’s American world music. The same for the blues. We don’t have any blues artists on Alula right now, but I love the blues.”

In the space of three years Romero has made Alula a respected player in the world music business. Given the treacherous waters of the music business, Romero has proven to be another formidable Spanish navigator. Expect nothing but the best from this Durham-based label in the coming years.

World music lovers can find Alula on the Internet at www.alula.com.
MUSIC FOR SALE

Harris, Osby, Moran & Shim:
New Directions
Blue Note label

James Cotton:
Fire Down Under the Hill
Telarc label

Liz Carroll:
Lost in the Loop
Green Linnet label

Jimmie Dale Gilmore:
One Endless Night
Windcharger Records/Rounder

Anyone looking for who's happening in jazz today will find this CD to be an excellent destination. Sax player Greg Osby has joined forces with a twentysomething crew of Stefon Harris (vibes), Mark Shim (alto sax), Jason Moran (piano), Taurus Mateen (bass) and Nasheet Waits (drums) to cut these tracks, and everyone has ample opportunity to stretch out. The CD has enough mood swings to keep most jazz fans listening. We get some compelling freeform solos from Osby, Shim and Harris on “No Room For Squares,” something darker and more minimalist from Moran on “Commentary On Electrical Switches,” and tempestuous piano and sax solos within a fairly structured groove on “Recorda Me.” This CD showcases some of the young lions of jazz and let's us in on what's cookin'.

Despite voice difficulties that stem from throat cancer (he’s had laser surgery treatments and is hanging in there), James Cotton remains one of the truly renowned blues harp players and one of the most distinguished alumni of the legendary Muddy Waters Band. Cotton sings a couple of tunes on this outstanding CD, with surprisingly moving results, and singer Darrell Nulisch pitches in on several other tracks. With the stellar support of David Maxwell (piano) and Rico McFarland (guitar), Cotton demonstrates that he can still kick the hell out of a blues tune. Just listen to his harmonica on the title track—that's Delta blues, via Chicago, that cuts to the bone. Cotton is still the boss.

Carroll is a mighty fiddler and composer who won the All-Ireland Fiddling Championship (that's the Senior Division championship) at the age of 18. She's a native of Chicago, but her playing is straight from the auld sod. She's been composing since she was nine years old and, in fact, the first jig she ever wrote, “The Champion Jig Goes To Columbia,” is included in this collection. The album was produced by the estimable Seamus Egan and contains enough reels, jigs, hornpipes, slow reels and airs to carry an Irishman to heaven. Carroll's playing is fluent and fiery by turns, her bowing is sinuous beyond reason and, as a stylist, she's a perfect example of the nimble Irish fiddling tradition. Lovely stuff.

This is your classic “eagerly anticipated release;” it's been four years since Gilmore’s last album. Evidently he spent at least part of that interlude collecting great songs from the likes of Butch Hancock, Jesse Winchester, John Hiatt, Willis Alan Ramsey and the late Townes Van Zandt. He also co-authored three songs for the album, including the title track (and an unlisted bonus track), and snagged Buddy Miller to produce the whole enchilada. It's quintessential Jimmie Dale music—Texas country Zen, an alluring combination of flatlander twang and visions that shimmer like a highway in the West Texas heat. The uncanny effect of Gilmore’s distinctive voice remains one of the mysteries of country music. The album closes (but not really) with a cover of Brecht and Weill’s “Mack The Knife” that, for once, captures not only the emotional weight of the song but also the weltanschaung of Threepenny Opera.
VIDEOCENTRIC

Hellhounds on My Trail
WinStar TV & Video; documentary

This video documents some of the events, and a good deal of the music, surrounding the induction of blues legend Robert Johnson into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1998. One of the highlights is the performance of Johnson's music by artists such as Keb’ Mo’, Sonny Landreth, Roy Rogers, Robert Lockwood Jr., Honeyboy Edwards, Gov’t Mule, Joe Louis Walker, Guy Davis and Marcia Ball.

In Search of Kundun with Martin Scorsese
In Pictures/Hollywoodn't; documentary

Not a Martin Scorsese documentary but, rather, a documentary about the making of Scorsese’s brilliant film *Kundun*. Written and directed by Michael Henry Wilson, who benefited not only from his access to everyone involved in the making of *Kundun*, but also from the presence of the Dalai Lama, who appears at several points in the film and delivers some good karma. An engaging and artful video which also serves to remind us that the archaic Chinese communist government is still doing its best to destroy Tibetan culture.

An American Tail: The Treasure of Manhattan Island
Universal Studios Home Video; animation

Everyone’s favorite Russian Jewish immigrant mouse is back in this made-for-video feature. Fievel Mousekewitz, family and friends encounter Native American mice while searching beneath Manhattan for a treasure. The attention to historic detail is remarkable in Fieval’s 19th-century New York City, and the treasure turns out to be a spiritual prize rather than a material one. A good title for kids 4–10.

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SEEING RED

Vasili Mitrokhin didn't act or look like an important international espionage agent. Known among his KGB comrades as unenthusiastic about the Soviet system, he ended up with what appeared to be a clerical job, archiving the secret police agency's mass of classified files and reports as part of a move from the infamous Lubyanka KGB headquarters to a suburban Moscow office complex. Over a 12-year period, from 1972 until his retirement in 1984, Mitrokhin combed through the Soviet empire's most secret files, going back as far as 1917 and through 1984, the peak of the Cold War. Retreating to his weekend dacha, Mitrokhin would turn his pockets inside out. Secrets poured out, hand-written in tiny scratches on snatches of paper. Copying the notes on a typewriter, Mitrokhin then hid his explosive cache in buried milk bottles under his cottage.

In 1992, the Soviet empire crumbled and Mitrokhin felt free to travel. He arrived at the British Embassy in Latvia, carrying a suitcase that held 100 sample pages of notes. Just a few minutes earlier down the street at the American Embassy, a clerk turned down the former agent, not knowing he possessed a treasure trove of secret files. Finally, in exchange for British citizenship, protection and a promise that his work be made public, Mitrokhin handed over 25,000 type-written pages revealing Soviet repression and paranoia at home and the extent of Communist infiltration into Western nations.

The British secret service agencies asked noted British historian Christopher Andrew, chair of the Cambridge University history department, to fulfill Mitrokhin's request that the secret archives be made public. The result is The Sword and the Shield: The Mitrokhin Archive and the Secret History of the KGB. Held up for publication for two years due to legal issues and circumstances regarding current cover of former agents, the book exposes the KGB's intimidation, imprisonment and execution of Soviet citizens—as well as the agency's propaganda campaign within the Soviet bloc and against the West. The book also confirms Soviet obsession with "active measures," concerted disinformation campaigns aimed at destabilizing Western governments and political organizations, even using the civil rights movement in the U.S. as a tool for cultural shake-up. Although the most concerted effort was against the United States, "active measures" were employed by KGB agents to infiltrate and control Communist party activities in the parliamentary systems of Western Europe, most notably the French and Italian Communist parties. Finding a compliant media in the West, agents planted spurious and scandalous items about political leaders. For example, the disinformation that FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover was a closet cross-dresser came out of a KGB "active measures" campaign.

While KGB espionage against the West began after the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, it intensified in the 1930s and became widespread after the Soviet Union became a Western ally during World War II. With the door open, the book reveals, the Soviets enjoyed carte blanche to infiltrate U.S. government agencies, research industries and the Manhattan Project. John Haynes, coauthor of...
The Secret World of American Communism, in a recent lecture, said that Soviet espionage penetration of the U.S. during this period was "massive—agents were literally tripping over each other." U.S. counter-intelligence agencies seemed incapable of preventing the infiltration, partly due to a pro-Soviet mindset by certain high-level government officials.

These officials were among many in the U.S. who became confused about the aims of capitalism and democracy, and who either worked directly for the Soviets or maintained their identity as "fellow travelers." Affected by the Great Depression and what looked like the collapse of capitalism, they misunderstood free enterprise and overestimated a collective solution.

The Sword and the Shield confirms that the Roosevelt Administration, which lasted from 1932 until 1945, was penetrated at high levels by Soviet agents. Although Vice President Henry Wallace (1941-1945) was not himself a party member, he had many Communist sympathies and connections. Fortunately, Harry Truman replaced Wallace as vice president before Roosevelt's death. Truman, not Wallace, then became president. As Chris Andrew remarked in a television interview, "The United States came within a whisker of having a pre-planned KGB-controlled administration with Henry Wallace as president, agent Lachlan Currie as secretary of state and agent Harry Dexter White as secretary of treasury."

The most widely known high-level Soviet agent that has been exposed so far in the Roosevelt Administration was Alger Hiss, who was exposed in a sensational trial with testimony by former Communist and magazine editor Whittaker Chambers. The Western agents was largely ideologically motivated. In Great Britain, the famous Cambridge "moles," including the notorious Kim Philby, had their counterparts in the U.S. with New Deal intellectual rising stars such as Alger Hiss, Harry Dexter White, Noel Field and Lachlan Currie, among others. Through the efforts of these ideological spies, Stalin was armed with more information about Allied plans.

While KGB espionage against the West began after the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, it intensified in the 1930s and became widespread after the Soviet Union became a Western ally during World War II. With the door open, the book reveals, the Soviets enjoyed carte blanche to infiltrate U.S. government agencies, research industries and the Manhattan Project.

Hiss trial can be said to have launched the political dimension of the Cold War. During this period, from 1948 to 1953, Klaus Fuchs was charged in Britain and convicted as a Soviet atomic spy—and Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were tried and sentenced to death as couriers for Soviet infiltration of the Manhattan Project and other technical Western secrets.

WHAT STALIN KNEW
From the mid-1930s through World War II, espionage by than were most high-ranking British and American officials. In 1945, when Truman went to Yalta to tell the Russians about the bomb, "Uncle Joe" Stalin was hardly affected—he already knew about it.

Stalin also knew more from his spies about the secret American decryption of Soviet spy messages, only recently made public, than did senior British and American policymakers—including Truman. (In 1995, the National Security Agency and the Central Intelligence Agency declassified decrypts of Soviet cable traffic to American Soviet agents that exploded the myth that the Communist Party in America had no ties to Moscow. Called "the Venona Files," these intercepted messages proved once and for all that the Rosenbergs, Alger Hiss and hundreds of others were indeed acting as Soviet agents.)

The astonishing penetration of American institutions by the KGB was achieved by espionage agents working under cover as officials at the Soviet embassy in Washington, by American Communists sympathetic to the Soviet cause and by KGB "illegals" who stole their way into top government levels using false identities. The Sword and the Shield discloses that sex was frequently used to achieve espionage goals. For example, a married couple, both illegals living in Washington, ingratiated themselves with high government officials. They...
were able to gather secret information by joining in "sex clubs" and in more personal sexual encounters. In other instances, a “sparrow” would seduce, compromise with photographs, and then blackmail a high official into revealing sensitive information. Also, a “Romeo” would seduce a lonely secretary possessing high-level access. Using a “false flag” pretense that the information would be used for some made-up cause, the Romeo would entice the smitten party to copy sensitive documents. Also, minuscule cameras were hidden in items such as cigarette lighters and lipstick cases. Signal intelligence was used extensively, including listening devices planted at the American embassy in Moscow. Later, the Soviets were able to lift sensitive information from fax machines.

By 1950, according to Andrew, “the menace of Soviet atomic espionage burst on the front pages of the American press” when Wisconsin Senator Joseph McCarthy, at a political dinner in Wheeling, West Virginia, announced he had a “list” of 205 Communist agents who were “shaping American foreign policy.”

Although Andrew admits that McCarthy was making “outrageous inventions and exaggerations,” he concludes that McCarthy’s tactics actually helped the Soviet cause: McCarthy’s abrasive style and accusatory tone made him more of a target than the actual Communists working in government. McCarthy and his crude crusade against the Communist menace made many skeptical of the reality of Soviet spying. Some made it an article of faith that the Rosenbergs had been framed and that His was innocent. Today, we know that some of McCarthy’s accusations were correct, but his style covered up the reality.

Still, during the McCarthy era, the head of the Communist Party USA (CPUSA) and 10 of its other leaders were convicted of advocating the forcible overthrow of the American government. After the United States Supreme Court upheld their convictions, more than one hundred others were convicted of similar charges.

Andrew finds it ironic that at the height of McCarthyism, the CPUSA was least able to assist Soviet spying. Only later in the 1950s, after another Supreme Court case, were Americans allowed to join the CPUSA as long as they did not have the specific intent to forcibly overthrow the U.S. government. The party regrouped with only 3000 open members.

**AMERICA THE GULLIBLE**

Throughout the Cold War, Soviet spying permeated the West. But it centered on the United States, which after World War II replaced Britain as the code-named “Main Adversary.” For example, the newly opened United Nations in New York City was used by the Soviets as a staging ground for infiltration by hundreds of KGB agents. However, to a large extent, the Cold War era saw a change in Soviet spies motivated by ideology to agents motivated by greed. These new mercenary spies sold significant secrets, especially from American defense contractors. Indeed, *The Sword and the Shield* attributes most Soviet weapons development during the Cold War to stolen American technology. Ironically, while the Soviet Union criticized through propaganda everything American, it relied on American technology for its weapons systems.

As the Cold War continued, Soviet agents, according to *The Sword and the Shield*, engaged in extensive political disinformation. A gullible, and in some cases sympathetic, media accepted much of it unquestioningly. For example, the KGB planted a fake letter ostensibly from Lee Harvey Oswald suggesting a CIA connection with the Kennedy assassination. It planted a false news story that American biological warfare efforts produced the HIV-AIDS virus. It created dozens of “front” organizations, such as the World Peace Council, that were organized to destabilize the American political environment. Soviet infiltration included control of the World Council of Churches, which is today still an acolyte for Communist Cuba. “Active measures” were designed to discredit American values and to highlight perceived American weaknesses, including race problems, the war in Vietnam and the existence of poverty. These activities went beyond the ideological and political: Mitrokhin exposes in the book that the KGB hid caches of explosives in the U.S. and Europe, ready for interrupting pipelines and power grids to spark the planned revolution.

From *The Sword and the Shield* we learn that, despite the depth of KGB’s political and espionage penetration of the West, the Soviets had a limited ability to analyze their extensive intelligence. This resulted in a shallow and paranoid view of the West. As Marxist believers in the socialist faith, they did not understand capitalism or democracy. Trying to evaluate American prosperity, they thought that a cabal of capitalists secretly governed the country, beyond the reach even of KGB intelligence. Not surprisingly, therefore, the Soviets did not appreciate a dispatch from one “illegal” that demonstrated disenchantment with Communism: “Without creativity and free enterprise, a society is not viable, and it becomes the victim of bureaucracy.”
MEANWHILE, BACK ON CAMPUS

Although not discussed in The Sword and the Shield, a Supreme Court case of the Cold War era is of particular interest to North Carolinians. Junius Scales, a North Carolina native and University of North Carolina student in the 1940s, became chairman of the Carolinas District of the Communist Party USA. Scales attempted to recruit a Duke University law student, eventually unveiled as an FBI informant, who testified that Scales had numerous contacts with Communists in North Carolina and that he advocated a Communist revolution in the United States. In 1961, the Supreme Court upheld Scales' conviction for illegal membership in the CPUSA.

Evidence at the trial showed that Scales and the CPUSA made efforts to enlist black Americans in their planned Communist revolution. Through an elaborate underground "apparatus," including a National Training School in New York, the CPUSA taught its recruits that Communism could only be achieved by a violent revolution. The CPUSA borrowed from Soviet history, and taught the recruits that the Marxist-Leninist coalition of workers and peasants would have a counterpart in an American coalition of workers and blacks, especially in the South. (Of note, Andrew and Mitrokhin report that Martin Luther King Jr. withstood constant efforts by Soviet agents and American Communists to recruit him to the cause.)

The Scales case foreshadowed other North Carolina events. In 1963, the state legislature banned "known Communists" from speaking on public university campuses. The Speaker Ban law targeted UNC at Chapel Hill, not only because of the activities of Scales and others, but also because students and faculty there were involved in civil rights demonstrations in the early 1960s in the aftermath of the McCarthy era.

Communists on Campus chronicles the Speaker Ban controversy, which caused much consternation before a federal court declared the law unconstitutional in 1968. The book's author, a North Carolina native now lecturing in California, posits that the Speaker Ban law was a microcosm of anticommunism existing in the country. As a history, Communists on Campus is long on how the Speaker Ban's misplaced anticommunism masked anti-civil rights sentiment. However, it is short on the real threat posed by Communism and the legitimacy of the efforts of anticommmunists. There are still questions about the suspicious events surrounding Communist activities of that era. For example, the book tells us that a civil-rights demonstrator defected to Communist Cuba, but tells us nothing of his connection, if any, with the Communist Party. The book also tells us that a UNC Marxist-Leninist student group spent $36,000 for roundtrip airfare to Cuba, It mentions the writings of ex-Communists during that era, but belittles their views by calling them victims who falsely see a "Communist conspiracy." It complains about "anticommunist demagoguery," but not about Communism. In short, Communists on Campus has a transparent "anti-anticommunism" theme.

Nevertheless, the book makes a valuable contribu-

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tion to the story of the Speaker Ban, but minimizes the reality of the extent of communist infiltration of many institutions in North Carolina and the nation.

EXPLODING MYTHS

They and *The Sword and the Shield*, along with the Venona files, explode the myth that the CPUSA consisted merely of idealist socialists, and establish that Soviet Communism controlled the CPUSA and extended it into espionage and subversive activities. Communist infiltration went beyond spying and subversion. Despite the gloss of *Communists on Campus*, these recent revelations demonstrate that Communist influence reached into the American intellectual elite, black and white.

Perhaps the soon-to-be-published second volume of *The Sword and the Shield* will continue to shed light on KGB efforts to infiltrate academia, the civil rights movement, and the late-1960s New Left. In any event, we now know that Communist infiltration and influence continued well beyond the McCarthy era.

As recently as the mid-1970s, according to *The Sword and the Shield*, a California Democratic Party activist, not identified by name in the reports noted by Mitrokhin, was recruited as a KGB agent during a 1970s visit to the Soviet Union. The activist-agent “had a wide circle of influential contacts in the Democratic Party: among them Governor Jerry Brown of California, Senator Alan Cranston, Senator Eugene McCarthy, Senator Edward Kennedy, Senator Abraham Ribicoff, Senator J. William Fulbright, and Congressman John Conyers Jr.” The activist-agent met for hours with Brown and Cranston and then-presidential candidate Jimmy Carter about his campaign, and later provided the KGB with information about Carter so significant that it was forwarded to the Soviet Politburo immediately after Carter’s election.

In Volume II of *The Sword and the Shield*, we will learn more names of others who sided with the Soviets. Luckily, the real stories are there—little messages in Mitrokhin’s bottles. 

*In our May issue, MetroBooks takes a look at The Black Book of Communism, a revelatory expose that has caused an uproar in France, and Robert Conquest’s Reflections on a Ravaged Century.*
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Say ‘Hi’ to the Next High-tech Trend

Driven by developments in the mapping of human genes (the genome project) as well as genomics (using genetic research to improve drugs) and other factors, the biotech industry is riding high. And many of the leading companies and research institutions call Research Triangle area and Eastern North Carolina home.

At UNC’s medical center, for example, some of the world’s leading work is under way to combat cystic fibrosis. A team at Cary’s SAS Institute, meanwhile, is using powerful “data mining” software to study Alzheimer’s victims in hopes of developing the information needed so others can build customized treatments for the disease. So-called bioinformatics will enable scientists to manage, understand and massage the incredible amounts of data now being made available by ever-stronger computers and improved understanding of genetics.

For example, attendees at a recent conference were told that Glaxo scientists have discovered susceptibility genes for migraines and adult-onset diabetes. The pace of progress is amazing even the scientists. “We are entering the bioeconomic age,” is how Dr. Allen Roses, vice president and worldwide director of genetics at Glaxo, described biotech’s looming influence at a recent presentation. “The rate of change in science is accelerating to approach the rate of imagination.”

Another local example of leading edge research is Xanthon in Chapel Hill, which has developed a proprietary genomics technology licensed from UNC. The company hopes to use what it calls electrochemical technology in the march toward development of diagnostic procedures at the molecular level.

Agricultural chemical research is exploding, and companies are seeking ways to apply lessons learned there to life sciences and bioscience. The state is the “Mecca for agricultural chemical research” with 5000 jobs produced and $300 million alone spent on facilities, according to Charles Hamner Jr., president and CEO of the Biotech center.

The Triangle also is home to Quintiles, the world’s largest contract research testing organization and builder of the popular “webMD” site. Sixty-two other contract research companies call the state home; all but 12 are based in the Triangle area. Others are found in Wilmington [3], Pittsburg [2], Greenville [2] and Tarboro.

Not all news for the state’s biotech industry is good. Giant Glaxo may be moving its headquarters to New York, a counter to the growth trend.

WATCH THOSE BIO-STOCKS

The rapid growth of biotech could make that industry every bit as important as high-tech in propelling growth in the Triangle and Eastern North Carolina. “Biotech stocks have now replaced Internet stocks as symbols of the frothiest type of speculation,” reads a recent CBS Marketwatch story.

According to the state’s Biotechnology Center, North Carolina-based biotech companies employ more than 20,000 people and generate $1.8 billion in sales. The growth rate is averaging between 10 percent and 15 percent a year, making North Carolina one of the top five centers for biotechnology in the country. (Other top areas include San Francisco, San Diego, Boston, Washington, D.C.—Maryland and New York—New Jersey.)

Biotech workers also are among the state’s highest paid at better than $50,000 on average, according to the state employment commission.

But Tar Heels haven’t seen anything yet. The Biotech center (www.ncbiotech.org) forecasts there will be 200 biotech companies with 100,000 employees and $15 billion in sales by the year 2020.

Fostering that growth, ADC was told the state is heavily recruiting a new life sciences division of Monsanto. And the forestry industry will soon be funding a National Institute of Forest Biotechnology that will initially be based at the Biotech center.

UNC’S GENOME CONNECTION

Decoding the human genetic blueprint could be the key which unlocks many mysteries behind diseases of all kinds, and the man heading the United States government’s gene mapping effort has a strong North Carolina connection. Dr. Francis Collins, who received his M.D. from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1977, now serves as director of the National Human Genome Research Institute in Bethesda, Md. The project team has set a goal of mapping the human genetic code by 2003—if not sooner. Mapping genetic code could lead to the discovery of what The Washington Post has
called "spelling errors" in chromosomes that may make people susceptible to certain diseases.

But the National Human Genome Project isn't the only one seeking to unravel the secrets of genetic code. A private company, Celera Genomics, is also in the race. Ten major drug companies and the Wellcome Trust charity in Great Britain are helping underwrite the cost of a new public joint venture project.

Just last December, Collins announced the Human Genome Project had discovered almost all of the millions of "letters" that make up the code of a human chromosome. He said the sequence map was "a dream come true."

Collins received his B.S. from the University of Virginia in 1970 and a Ph.D. from Yale University in 1974.

**HIGH-TECH = HIGH PAY**

Between 150,000 and 250,000 workers in North Carolina are now directly involved in the high-tech industry, according to a forthcoming report from an organization whose business is to track information technology and related fields.

The North Carolina Information and Technology Association, which is based in Raleigh, has mined mounds of data to come up with what it feels is the definitive number of high-tech workers. "You could have high-tech farmers and people working in banking and retail who aren't involved at high-tech at all," ADC was told. "We are focused on the creation, development and application of high-technologies."

Some figures on high-tech have run as high as 265,000, but NCEITA says that number includes the non-internet technology firms. The organization also hopes to provide a wealth of data on every IT company in the state, a number that continues to swell. NCEITA itself counts as members more than 3000 companies and individuals.

According to "Vision 2030," 5.4 percent of the high-tech workforce is focused in the Wilmington/Southeast economic development region.

High-tech is a rapidly growing part of the Tar Heel economy, producing some of its most affluent workers. The average wage is a whopping $48,000 vs. $26,500 for average manufacturing. But high-tech is a long way from dominating the economy. Statewide, traditional manufacturing employs more than 830,000 people.

Eastern North Carolina also is getting some of the high-tech growth. According to the state's "Vision 2030" project, 5.4 percent of the high-tech workforce is focused in the Wilmington/Southeast economic development region, and 7.2 percent are located in the Global TransPark region. The RTP region leads at 32.6 percent followed by the Carolinas/Charlotte at 26.2 percent, the Piedmont Triad at 16.2 percent, Advantage West (Asheville), 10.9 percent and the Northeast, a meager 1.7 percent.

NCEITA hopes to have the data ready before its annual technology conference April 12-13. Visit www.nceita.org for details.

**HIGH-TECH GOES COUNTRY**

High-tech's importance to today's economy, especially to areas lagging in technology, is not high-hype. Erskine Bowles, the Charlotte financier and former chief of staff of President Clinton, said the Rural Task Force determined that improved access to technology through the Internet was essential. "If we don't make these investments now, we will see our rural communities fall farther and farther behind," Bowles said of Internet access and other programs such as more money for economic development and improved infrastructure. Two points in the Task Force's recommendations addressed high-tech:

1. Provide, at affordable rates, high-speed reliable Internet access to the homes and businesses of rural North Carolina
2. Ensure that people across rural North Carolina have the skills and knowledge necessary to take advantage of high-speed information technology

However, a major reason the new wired companies have flourished has been lack of government intervention, regulation and taxation. And how will independent Internet companies such as Coastal Net of New Bern, which has worked so hard to spread Internet access across Eastern North Carolina, deal with a heavier government hand?

John Hood, president of the conservative John Locke Foundation in Raleigh, expressed reservations about the Task Force's plan. He described it as "too expensive" and also said discouraging people to move from rural communities to urban areas was counter-productive. History shows, Hood added, that civilizations have grown more prosperous when people leave farms for higher paying jobs.

One recommendation that had merit in Hood's view: opening up the state's own telecommunications network to private business. That would require reworking of the Umstead Act which prohibits private industry from using the network. But Hood said any businesses should pay the full cost of any such use. No subsidies.

(Have any items for ADC? Send suggestions to rrsmitth@interpath.com.)

Metro Senior Editor Rick Smith is co-author of the book, The Internet Strategic Plan.
Amount given by Raleigh resident Marcie Akers, in the name of her husband on Valentine's Day, to buy a tree to help reforest the storm-stricken Chateau de Versailles in France: $154

Percent of the $400,000 collected to replace 2400 trees felled at Versailles—including a Revolutionary War vintage Virginia tulip brought to France by General Lafayette—donated by Americans: 40 percent

Average amount of time it takes to get a green card in the U.S., and the fee: 18 months, $200

Average amount of time it takes to secure a bogus green card and Social Security number 'package' on the black market in North Carolina, and the price: One day, $50

What a Japanese blue-collar worker made in 1995 in relation to $100 earned by a worker in North Carolina: $135

What a Japanese worker made in 1999 compared to $100 in U.S. wages: $97

What a similar worker in Germany earned in 1999 for every $100 earned in North Carolina: $149

Number of North Carolina textile workers who lost their jobs in 1997: 7200

National ranking of the state's total textile job losses in the same year: 1

Amount spent per North Carolina household on retail products in 1990: $18,179

In 1997: $26,411

Peak height in feet of flooding at Little Fishing Creek near White Oak after Hurricanes Dennis and Floyd in September 1999: 31.7 feet

Peak level recorded after Hurricane Fran at same location in 1996: 26 feet

Annual percentage growth of North Carolina's budget since 1992-3: 8.6 percent

Average percentage budget growth of 50 U.S. states in same time frame: 5 percent

Percentage growth of offshore fishing tournaments on the North Carolina coast per year: 15 percent

Sales of North Carolina boats in 1999: $172,787,000

Sales of N.C. boats in 1996: $114,057,000

Percentage of total agriculture losses in the past decade attributed to stunting related to increasing ozone smog levels over North Carolina: 10 percent

National ranking of N.C. as nuclear-generating state: 5

Percentage of married people in North Carolina who confess to having an affair in the last year: 3.5 percent

Percentage who admit an affair at some time in the past: 16 percent

Ranking of North Carolina among the 50 states as a strawberry producer: 4

Acres of strawberry bushes planted: 2400

Percentage of North Carolina's 18,500 acres of potatoes turned into potato chips: 75 percent

Amount spent by visitors to North Carolina last year: $1.6 billion

Amount of cash North Carolina-filmed movies such as Tom Hanks' The Green Mile and Sandra Bullock's 28 Days, as well as 24 episodes of the TV show Dawson's Creek, helped generate in 1999: $300.1 million.

National ranking of state as entertainment power: 3
"We could have easily been somewhere along Mulberry Street in Italy...the voice of Frank Sinatra drifts through the smokey haze of the bar and mixes with the noises of glasses tinkling, lots of talk, lots of laughs.”

BUSINESS NORTH CAROLINA

- New York Style
- Chop House
- USDA Prime Beef
- Fresh Seafood
- Italian Specialties
- Premium Liquors
- Fine Wines
- Exceptional Cigars
- Banquet Facilities
- Late Night Dining
ADVENTUROUS HOMES

Financier and Raleigh native Dick Jenrette, the J in DLJ Direct and chairman of the Equitable insurance behemoth, has written a book about his life's passion, the purchase and restoration of important homes and buildings in America, called Adventures with Old Houses. With a foreword by friend and fellow architectural traditionalist Charles Windsor, i.e., HRH The Prince of Wales, the book is loaded with beautiful photographs of Jenrette's achievements including Ayr Mount outside of Hillsborough, the Roper House in Charleston, the Hudson River mansion Edgewater, the George F. Baker townhouse in New York City and Milford Plantation in Low Country South Carolina. And there's more, including interiors for public buildings and corporate headquarters, detailed information on paintings and priceless furniture, and an intriguing narrative of how he started and how he did it. Best of all, he wrote the text himself making this a unique and valuable possession. The publisher is Wyrick & Company, 1-A Pinckney Street, Charleston, S.C. 29401.

THE PHANTOM STRIKES

He's proven so slippery to police in Lee County that they've dubbed him "The Phantom."

The Phantom, a Hispanic male, goes underground for months, then suddenly appears in a flourish of activity, as he did recently at the Winn-Dixie on Horner Boulevard in Sanford, selling green cards and Social Security cards out of the back of his late-model van as though they were tickets to the opera—and at about the same price.

Inside that van, sources tell SOS, The Phantom has installed a "mobile printing press" capable of churning out government-grade fake IDs. It's a business that's especially lucrative in North Carolina, partly because of the increasing numbers of Hispanics arriving here from places such as Guatemala and Los Angeles, and partly because it's so easy to get a driver's license—in many ways the key to American society.

The Phantom also most likely uses his own forgery apparatus to keep himself deep under cover inside the bureaucratic and political tangle that now represents the immigration picture in North Carolina, where enforcement efforts by the INS are complicated by the important role many illegals play in the state's fragile agri-economy. Whereas legal residency in the United States is for most immigrants a nightmare of red tape, the illegal Hispanic community now has a much simpler and quicker route to instant citizenship.

To give perspective on the breadth of the state's problem with illegals, a priest in Siler City recently testified that perhaps as many as 90 percent of his Hispanic parishioners are here illegally. Another priest had previously estimated his flock of illegals at 50 percent of the congregation. Since most Hispanics, like long-time Southerners, are ardent churchgoers, that figure carries weight.

Indeed, forgery cases involving immigration documents continue to filter through district courts all over the state. In Lee County early last year, jurors convicted a woman selling forged documents for $300 on the black market. As black-market competition has stiffened, prices have plummeted. The Phantom's parking-lot trade testifies to that. Sources within the Hispanic community have told police that the wily forger sells his wares for between $40 and $60.

CITY COUNCIL LIKE 'HERDING CATS'

New Raleigh Mayor Paul Coble took off the gloves and threw some right uppercuts at the City Council during a recent John Locke Foundation event. Referring to a TV ad from Electronic Data Systems showing cowboys trying—with great difficulty—to herd cats, he said, "You know what I feel like [with] my new council." The crowd responded with a hearty laugh. Coble also called for "some alternate forum to The News & Observer."

But the loudest reaction came to Coble's promise to cut the city tax rate enough to balance higher values coming through new reappraisals. He also predicted a $75 million bond measure would be approved, with $45 million to be spent on roads, $16 million on parks and $14 million on affordable housing. "If we want good roads in Raleigh," Coble said, "we're going to have to do a large part of that."

By the way, Coble was still showing the effects of a stress fracture suffered while jogging. On his right foot, of course, was a well-padded support shoe.

BYE TO RALEIGH'S 'MATT DRUDGE'

Long before Matt Drudge broke the Monica Lewinsky story, a veteran, traditional journalist was using non-traditional media to track Tar Heel politics. Seth Effron, formerly capitol correspondent for The Greensboro
News & Record, came to Raleigh seven years ago to start “the insider,” a fax newsletter.

Effron quit “the insider” and his post as executive editor of Nando.net, an award-winning online news operation, to join Capital Strategies, a public relations firm in Raleigh. Effron joins Ken Eudy who covered the state Capitol for years as a Charlotte Observer reporter. Denying any problems at Nando or “the insider,” Effron told SOS that he wanted to explore different opportunities. “It’s a great, high-energy place,” he said of Capital Strategies.

A novel concept at the time, Frank Daniels III, at that time executive editor of The N&O, bought into “the insider” and underwrote the startup. Unlike most unconventional publications and e-commerce startups, “the insider” was popular from the get-go and is a profitable part of the McClatchy empire which now owns The N&O. “the insider” was popular from the get-go and is a profitable part of the McClatchy empire which now owns The N&O. “the insider” was popular from the get-go and is a profitable part of the McClatchy empire which now owns The N&O.

Effrons last day was just before the big snowstorm hit Raleigh in January. He was such a part of both operations that a staffer said ruefully: “Hell, in fact, has frozen over.”

REFORM OR ‘MIDDLE-CLASS WELFARE’?

Some conservatives call it “middle-class welfare” and denounce the state’s newest effort at insuring its uninsured as “just plain creepy.”

But Health Choice, the Medicaid-infused program narrowly approved two years ago after a bitterly partisan legislative squabble, has had amazing results. Costing up to $108 million a year in state and federal funds, the program has in less than two years scooped up 58,000 of 71,000 “working poor” children whose families’ incomes fall under $32,000 a year. Providing free or cheap coverage, the program is a breeze to sign up for—a simple two-page enrollment form can be mailed in without an interview—and even provides dermatology and dental care to school-age children up to age 18.

“This is the best thing that could have happened to children’s health care,” said Dr. Olsen Huff, former president of the North Carolina Pediatric Association.

Although many states have received ovations for their interpretations of the five-year, $24 billion Children’s Health Insurance Program legislation approved in 1997, a recent survey put North Carolina at the top of the 12 states that started out with the highest number of uninsured. Beating out, among others, Texas and California, North Carolina’s Health Choice garnered more families quicker than anyone else. The plan also has several elements that now form the foundation to Vice President Al Gore’s healthcare reform plan, which includes expanding CHIP to working poor adults.

“We just ended up doing a whole lot of things right,” said Adam Searing, a Raleigh healthcare advocate.

Not only did the state take away almost all barriers to enrolling—nobody checks what model car you drive, for example—it also farmed out most of the work to county agencies, many which have put on major enrollment drives including anti-acne poster campaigns and door-to-door drives by volunteers. To keep it simple, the State Employees Health Insurance Plan, administered by Blue Cross/Blue Shield, has been expanded to include the new school-age enrollees.

Critics of the program point out, however, that there’s no way to tell if new enrollees were previously uninsured—or if they stopped paying for private insurance in order to take advantage of the free or cheap government-subsidized offering.

A ‘STARR PERFORMANCE’

Judge Ken Starr, who failed ultimately to remove President Bill Clinton from office, was in Raleigh to address the 10th anniversary of the John Locke Foundation. SOS wanted to talk with Starr about Dan Blue (featured in the February edition of MetroMagazine), the former NC House Speaker who was Starr’s “moot court” partner during their Duke Law School days. Starr politely declined.

But Starr seemed to delight in the warm attention and hearty applause that greeted him from the crowd of some 300 people at every turn. In an after-dinner speech, he didn’t rail against the president other than to compare the cooperation afforded an independent counsel looking into Jimmy Carter with that of the current occupant. “Our investigation did not meet that level—why are they laughing?—of cooperation or waiver of privilege,” he said as many in the crowd chuckled. Starr also lamented that “the independent counsel was left defenseless when the political life of [Clinton] was threatened.” In an earlier interview, Starr had expanded on that point, saying that in retrospect he needed plenty of public relations help, given the torrential barrage heaped on him by the president, his wife Hillary, and hordes of Democrats as well as the media.
Most of his speech, however, was devoted to campaign finance reform. Starr warned that the recent Supreme Court decision by a 6-3 margin to uphold campaign finance limits in Missouri isn't the last battle to be fought. "Votes may be growing," he said, to revisit limits on so-called soft money. In particular, Justices Stephen Breyer and Ruth Bader Ginsburg seem to be headed that way.

He closed his remarks with a powerful, somber warning: "But what and who will remind us of the purity of the First Amendment?"

Blue, by the way, was scheduled to attend. A reunion with Starr would have been interesting, but Blue ended up being a no-show.

BASHING THE CLINTONS
Conservative journalists are few in mainstream media as various surveys have shown. But a few of them were in Raleigh for the Locke gathering, and they went after President Clinton, Hillary (as she prefers to be called now), Al Gore and Democrats in general.

Reverse media bias, you might say. And here are some highlights:

Michael Barone, who writes for US News, ripped the Clintons. "We're talking about criminals," he said, adding that they were "clever enough to get away with anything." Of Gore, Barone said the vice president adopted a "wee wee defense," saying he had drunk too much tea and wasn't in the room when political fundraising was discussed in the 1996 campaign. The FBI, by the way, was questioning him, Barone noted. Gore "turns out to be more of a scoundrel than was thought" and he is a "regular liar."

But Barone also noted Democrats didn't have a monopoly on criminals in the White House, referring to Richard Nixon. That drew some groans from the crowd. Barone also showed a non-partisan streak by criticizing the GOP majority on Capitol Hill. The "so-called leadership" he said had a "hanged-dog, whipped-dog look" and dared not confront Clinton.

Fred Barnes of The Weekly Standard called for the defeat of Bobby Etheridge, the 2nd District Representative who is a Democrat. (Daniel Heimbach of Wake Forest, who is running against Doug Haynes of Rocky Mount in the GOP primary, used to work for Barnes.) But he erupted at the thought of Senator Clinton. "Hillary in the Senate? My God!"

David Horowitz, the controversial best-selling author who was a '60s radical liberal, warned that the 2000 campaign will be all-out war. "You have to be geared up for a tremendous battle," he said, adding, "Gore is as dishonest and corrupt as Clinton."

"This is war," he added again. "Nothing's fair in war. If war was fair, Clinton would be in jail."

HERE COMES THE JUDGE
By far the hardest campaigner at the Locke event was Judge Bob Edmunds of Greensboro who wants Democrat Franklin Freeman's seat as Associate Justice on the state Supreme Court. Unabashedly, Edmunds handed out a two-page brochure to any attendee who wanted it. The brochure listed Edmunds' credentials, including his current term as the only Republican judge on the state Court of Appeals. From 1986 to 1993, he was U.S. Attorney for North Carolina's Middle District, having been nominated by Senator Jesse Helms. Bud Edmunds will first have to beat Republican Marvin Schiller of Raleigh in the May 2 primary.

However, the other race for the Supreme Court—that of Chief Justice—is drawing the most attention. Democrat Henry Frye, the first black appointed to that post, is opposed by I. Beverly Lake Jr., a Republican from Raleigh. The media can't resist pointing out in virtually every story about the race that Lake's father was the last segregationist to run for governor.

"The son of a prominent segregationist will challenge the state's first African-American chief" is how The News & Observer summed up the story when Lake announced his candidacy in January. Not until the ninth paragraph, however, did readers find this fact: "Beverly Lake Sr. ran on platforms of segregation and states' rights as a Democratic [emphasis added] candidate for governor in the 1960s."

DIPLOMACY ONLINE
"If this be victory, what might defeat look like?" So reads one line of a compelling journal on diplomacy and statesmanship published right here in the Triangle called American Diplomacy. True to the Triangle's high-tech image, it's published on the web.

Kohn, who once was chief historian for the U.S. Air Force, helps support American Diplomacy, which is published quarterly by American Diplomacy Publishers in Durham. Subscriptions are free. (The journal, in its fifth year of publication, can be found at www.unc.edu/depts/diplomat.)

Light reading or Internet gossip this is not. It's designed to present in-depth commentary of what the journal's name implies—American diplomacy. And despite the end of the Cold War,
foreign policy remains big business for the United States. In a recent issue, for example, Kohn wrote, “Indecision Is Our Fatal Flaw.”

In its most recent issue, American Diplomacy featured articles on the “infernal triangle” of the Middle East (Lebanon, Syria and Israel) and a retrospective on Boris Yeltsin.

Contributor Keith Moon drew the following comparison between Yeltsin and President Clinton:

“Both men have faced intense public scrutiny of their private lives, Clinton for his reckless womanizing, Yeltsin for his legendary alcohol consumption. Despite his personal failings, Clinton used his unflagging political energy and encyclopedic understanding of domestic policy to govern over a historic peace-time expansion. Yeltsin, meanwhile, squandered countless opportunities to establish a stable and legal government, allowing instead his political needs of the moment always to outweigh his vision of Russia’s future.”

The journal is edited by Henry Mattox, a long-time professor at N.C. State and a retired member of the U.S. Foreign Service. Kohn is on the editorial advisory board along with six other retired Foreign Service veterans. The publisher is retired Ambassador Trusten Crigler who also is part of Trusten Associates in Durham.

Looking back at the past century, Mattox praised the United States’ triumph over Communism.

“But my nomination for the most important, lasting, and successful American initiative in diplomacy (combined with military power and a system of alliances, to be sure) during the 1900s has to be the strategic concept of ‘containment,’ containment of the Soviet Union and world communism,” he wrote. “The USSR, after 70 long years of nationhood, disintegrated. Where there had been two superpowers for an entire generation, the United States now stood alone. How many more decisive triumphs can one locate than this in the pages of history?”

The Triangle Institute for Security Studies also supports the Journal. TISS bills itself as an interdisciplinary consortium of Duke, N.C. State and UNC, led by a six-member executive committee which includes one political scientist and one historian from each school. TISS puts on a number of forums and invites special speakers to discuss a wide variety of issues.

(To reach TISS, call 919-962-8601 or visit its web site at www.unc.edu/depts/tiss.)
GROWTH IS GOOD.  
SO WHY THE COMPLAINING?

The good news that Wake is the fastest growing county in North Carolina and 17th nationally, with New Hanover coming in sixth statewide, demonstrates that the Raleigh, Research Triangle, Eastern North Carolina region is indeed one of the most important emerging metros in the country. The Research Triangle has been predicted to become larger than Charlotte/Mecklenberg in the year 2010. The new numbers make the point. But stop the parade. Planning types, environmentalists, anti-growth activists and newspaper editorial writers are not happy. To them it's proof that "urban sprawl" is choking the landscape, that the end may be near if we don't stop growing.

Urban sprawl comes hissing off the tongue of social planners like profanity. Due to population growth, they say, we must abandon the automobile, curtail economic development, lock up our coastline, move from our homes into apartment modules and generally feel lousy about ourselves. Insinuated into newspaper articles and broadcast sound bites is a sneering and condescending tone that implies human beings are committing a moral crime by procreating and choosing to live in a growing robust community such as the Research Triangle. The most vicious derision is reserved for those venal enough to dare to want to live on the coast.

Environmental radicals churn out anti-growth propaganda quicker than you can fill up your SUV. Pliant and agenda-driven media spread the doomsday scenarios and politicians cower from the onslaught. Transportation planners are afraid to build roads fast enough, fearful they will be stained by the "greenies" as insensitive. As is always the case with passionate radicals, the facts of the matter do not stand in the way of the cause. The truth is that the United States, and North Carolina, are nearly empty of human habitation in relation to their landmass.

By the year 2050, according to the latest projections available, the population of the United States will increase by 50 percent—entirely by immigration. Put another way, we have reached zero population growth. Without increasing birth rates, growth stagnates and there goes the prosperity we rely on to keep the American economic engine running smoothly. If you don't believe me, consider Italy, where a declining birth rate has strangled economic growth. One of the few good reasons why Italy gave up its national identity and joined the European Union was to be part of a growing transnational economic trading block that may stem the decline of its economy.

The modern canard that world population growth, not decline, would lead to economic failure, famine and world war was put forward by Paul Erlich in his book The Population Bomb, published in the twilight of the 1960s. Typical of the anti-Western tirades of the era, and influenced by socialist doctrine, the book follows the now familiar party line, sadly still extant even after the collapse of the Soviet Union, that the only salvation for mankind's proliferation is to cease procreation and capitalist urges, abandon nationalistic sovereignty and join hands in the global harmony of one-world government. Just about every prediction in The Population Bomb was wrong, yet its doctrines and conclusions continue to permeate environmental agitation today.

The real facts of the matter, that low birth rates can cause hard times, should make us wonder at the policies and
regulations we have allowed to stifle our future growth. In the 1980s, the U.S. Department of Agriculture published a policy paper on population along the lines of the fabrications in Erlich's thesis. The *Atlantic Monthly* magazine wondered in print what business it was of the USDA to issue doomsday population prophecies and decided to investigate. The editors discovered that the statements were made by idealistic (read leftist) department workers who looked out their window at the DC traffic, computed in the fuel crisis of the 1970s and concluded it was their solemn duty to put a stop to the madness of growth. With the passion common to all reformers, they baldly stated that the US was becoming urbanized at a rate 50 percent faster than before World War II. At that rate, they exclaimed, there would be no more “green space” left in the country. This report actually generated federal legislation allowing tax breaks for farmland contingent to urban areas if left undeveloped.

Very typical this of well-meaning idealists. They contorted the facts to meet their emotional rationalizations and used the official USDA government platform to issue their dire predictions. The *Atlantic* talked to actual population experts and discovered the following: If every man, woman and child in the US was given one acre of land, it would not fill 10 percent of the landmass of the country. If you took everything built in the US—including underground utility infrastructure, highways, runways, shopping centers, skyscrapers, individual residences and factories—and laid them all out separately, the entire aggregation would not fill the state of Nebraska.

The United States, and North Carolina, are actually underpopulated. Look out the airplane window crossing the vastness of America, or drive at night through northeastern North Carolina and see for yourself. Getting the facts right will help you to quit worrying about population growth and get mad as hell at your elected officials for allowing traffic jams in Raleigh or on crowded highways leaving the coast on the Fourth of July. Then really get vocal when it hits you that transportation planners in Raleigh and Washington are accomplices with the environmental left. The activist bureaucrats actually hold up highway projects to create gridlock in order to force their agenda against the automobile. They cherish and pray for mass transit so they can control where you live and where you work. They believe in collective solutions and abhor the freedom of the individual to live how and where he or she pleases. Like a lot of failing institutions, they don't recognize the need to please the customer, in this case the overwhelming majority of citizens who rely on their automobiles to live their lives.

We need to manage growth, not curtail it. I say build roads 24 hours a day every day. The anti-growth activists have cooked the statistics and set their own agenda in defiance of the facts for too long. It is obvious that lurking underneath the anti-growth mantra is the belief that mankind is evil for daring to displace mother earth to build homes, office buildings, manufacturing facilities, airports and highways. Certainly care must be taken not to destroy our heritage, whether man-made or natural, as communities grow and prosper. However, the present reality that our own government dedicates itself to intangible ideals of its own making, in direct defiance of the needs of its citizens, is ludicrous and ominous.

Urban sprawl is actually healthy economic growth created by the reality that there is land aplenty. It drives central planners crazy, but people prefer to live with other people. In America, as I understand it, they are free to do so. And they exercise their freedom of movement in their automobiles. Moving people around to suit some sort of idealistic symmetry to control growth, as urban transit enthusiasts desire, is actually totalitarianism disguised as environmentally sensitive public policy.

And hey, being bigger than Charlotte suits me just fine.
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