

Metro

MAGAZINE

Raleigh
Research
Triangle
Eastern
North
Carolina

NE 2000 \$2.95

Broadcaster On-call

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DAVID CRABTREE



Island Castle

Hidden Treasure on Ocracoke Island

Farmers Market Madness

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And The
Winners
Are...

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And the living is easy

The stretch from September through May seems ceaseless in activity. There's school to deal with, politics are in the air, and every group schedules its meeting and social events before summer. But around here activity doesn't end with the hot weather—it just changes to a more leisurely cadence. Just look at what Frances Smith has singled out for MetroPreview and you'll find enough to keep everyone busy all summer. And there's much more that's worthy of your attention in this June issue.

First of all, we present the winners of our annual MetroBravo! readers poll. Here we publish who and what you choose to be the finest in several categories, from historic buildings to fine wine, from TV anchors to politicians, from shopping malls to sports cars. Read and enjoy your own handiwork and then make plans to see for yourself what your fellow readers recommend. And please, give us your comments. We want next year's MetroBravo! to be even bigger and better.

Art Taylor has crafted a summer reading compendium designed to fit your hot weather lifestyle. Whether sitting in the sand, lazing by the river, rocking on the porch or hiding from the heat in the cool sweet air conditioning, you'll find something to occupy your mind, but nothing to overheat your brain when we hit the low 100s around the middle of July.

Design writer Diane Lea has uncovered in Ocracoke a jewel in the crown of North Carolina's ever changing and ever romantic coastal area, the Castle at Silver Lake, a loving renovation that will gladden your heart and have you making plans to spend a day or two. On your way, drop off at the farmers markets that come to life in our region this time of year. Food editor Nancie McDermott is your guide.

Rick Smith takes a trip down the I-Highway in this month's after.com column, Philip van Vleck offers up the best brew of new music in PvV, while in her current installment of Box Seats, Maudy Benz keeps you posted on the people

behind the events that make this area so special. Secrets of State is full of tasty summer tidbits, MetroIndex keeps you on your statistical toes, and of course, I'm my usual charming self in the back of the book. All in all, a nicely balanced summer menu for your enjoyment.

♦ ♦ ♦

We've been all around the region since we cranked up last fall and I must say you make us feel good about *Metro*. The formula is working, based on the flood of subscribers we've been receiving, your truly wonderful compliments and the investment from advertisers in our enterprise. Thanks to you all. And if you haven't already, go ahead and subscribe. You'll be glad you did.

Next month is a biggie. We've engaged a brain trust of top leaders in technology to serve on a panel to help us compile the Top One Hundred High Tech Firms from the Triangle to the coast. This special double issue will be the reference guide for our region with worldwide readership. Advertisers, hurry. Space is limited.

—Bernie Reeves, *Editor & Publisher*

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THE DIFFERENCE IS

QUESTION OF HERITAGE

In his article about anti-growth alarmism ("Growth is good," April 2000), Bernie Reeves notes that "care must be taken not to destroy our heritage, whether man-made or natural, as communities grow and prosper." His argument crumbles on that single term, "heritage."

I would simply ask, What is our heritage, Mr. Reeves? If my survey of our history is accurate, then our "heritage" was characterized by an agrarian populace, widely and rurally distributed across

It may be true that some overpopulation fears are overblown. But as usual, the solutions lie not at either extreme, but toward the middle. When Mr. Reeves finds a way of reconciling urbanization with our heritage then he will have a recipe for the charmed life here in the goodliest land.

this state—coincidentally, the most biodiverse state in the continental U.S.. This is precisely the heritage that is extinguished by the urban sprawl he endorses. Heritage is a word with a nice gloss about it, but it remains a synonym for inheritance.

It may be true that some overpopulation fears are overblown. But as usual, the solutions lie not at either extreme, but toward the middle. When Mr. Reeves finds a way of reconciling urbanization with our heritage then he will have a recipe for the charmed life here in the goodliest land.

*Bryan Albin Giemza
Raleigh*

BURIED HISTORY

A recent issue of *Metro* included an article by Rick Smith about North Carolinians who served with distinction as members of our country's armed forces ("A legacy of valor," February 2000). This was a much deserved tribute to some outstanding citizens, but there was a serious omission.

Lieutenant General Frank A. Armstrong, Jr., born in Hamilton, raised in Hobgood, and a graduate of Wake Forest College, should have been mentioned. Armstrong's papers repose at East Carolina University, but documentation of his contribution must be buried deep in the stacks at the state archives in Raleigh.

Of course, I might have a bit of a bias—he was my uncle, my mother's only brother.

General Armstrong was born in 1902 and died in 1969. From 1928 until 1961, he served in the Army Air Corps, which became the Army Air Force and later the U.S. Air Force.

On August 17, 1942, Frank Armstrong led the first daylight bomber attack by the USAAF over Axis territory. In February 1943, he led the first heavy bomber attack over Germany.

General Armstrong's story formed the basis for the novel *Twelve O'clock High*. In fact, the book, written by Sy Bartlett and Beirne Lay, Jr., was dedicated to Armstrong.

From England, he was transferred to the Pacific Theater and flew the longest and last heavy bomb attack of the war in August 1945, from Guam to Honshu, Japan.

Immediately prior to his retirement, he commanded all American armed forces in Alaska.

General Armstrong was awarded the Silver Star, British Distinguished Flying Cross (the first U.S. officer to be so hon-

ored), Distinguished Service Medal, Distinguished Service Cross, Air Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Distinguished Flying Cross with four Oak Leaf Clusters, Belgian Croix de Guerre and the Gold Medal of the Aero Club of Norway.

His only child, Air Force Major Frank A. Armstrong III, was killed in action in Vietnam.

*Tim Valentine
Nashville, N.C.*

BEEN THERE, SLICED THAT

I thoroughly enjoyed Tom Regan's story of golf in the kingdom. I roared at his description of the group teeing off on the first hole—been there, done that more times than I can remember. My one puzzlement is that your magazine would allow Regan to be quite so effusive about a course in California, of all places, thereby dissing Pinehurst No. 2 and other hallowed ground in the Old North State. I hope we can look forward to another Regan piece in the future, recounting his experiences playing one of North Carolina's fine courses.

*Doug Wellman
Raleigh*

STRANGE FRIENDS

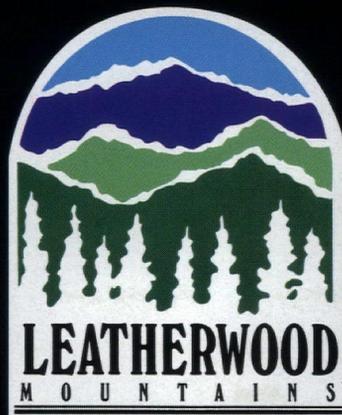
I think your magazine is a wonderful contribution to our community. I enjoy it very much. In particular, I enjoyed reading the articles in the May issue of *Metro* that focused on golf and tennis ("The soul of the game" and "Smashing success," May 2000), even though I'm proficient at neither. By the way, I was also fraternity brothers with a couple of the guys you featured in your golf time-line, as well as with tennis star Ally Baker's father, Bill Baker, at Kappa Sigma.

Curtis Strange and I have been great

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Metro
MAGAZINE

CORRESPONDENCE

friends in the past. In fact, I caddied for him in several international events. I carried his bag in the 1983 Ivory Coast Open, the 1985 Dutch Open and the 1987 Irish Open. We went black marlin fishing in Australia in 1989, but after he quit winning tournaments apparently he could not afford to let me tag along anymore. His fraternity nickname was "Brutus," though I have always called him "Sunshine" because of his sunny disposition.

Also, I believe the photo on page 21 that identifies Jay Haas is, in fact, a picture of Jay's brother, Jerry Haas, who is now the golf coach at Wake Forest. Jay's fraternity nickname was "Weasel." I could be wrong about the identification, but I will be happy to wager a six-pack that I'm right.

*John Walter Bryant
Raleigh*

CORRECTIONS

In the May "Box Seats" column, a local project on Jewish history was misspelled. The correct spelling is "Five Faiths Project." An item in that exhibition was also incorrectly identified. It should have read "kiddush cup."

In the April Metro article entitled "A modern tradition," a large catch on page 18 is identified incorrectly. It's a marlin. **MM**

WRITE US: MetroMagazine seeks to keep the record straight. Please write us and include your full name, hometown, and daytime phone number. Address correspondence—as well as corrections or clarifications of fact—to: Editors, MetroMagazine, PO Box 6190, Raleigh, N.C., 27628, or e-mail the magazine at email@metronc.com.

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COVER STORY...

52 CASTLE LIVING

The royal treatment is a given at Ocracoke's renovated 'castle,' a stunning architectural landmark on North Carolina's northernmost coastline. *Architectural writer Diane Lea reports in MetroDesign.*

PROFILE...

30 MAINTAINING STANDARDS

WRAL-TV's veteran anchor, David Crabtree, is the favorite among Metro's readers, says a new poll. Find out why his life in front of the lens approaches the spiritual. *Patrik Jonsson reports from WRAL headquarters on Western Boulevard.*

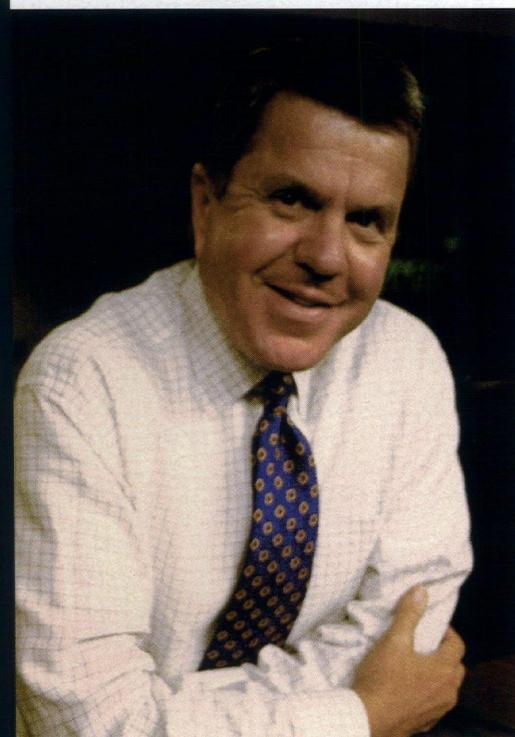
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Strawberries as big as your fist, flowers the color of gallant rainbows. North Carolina's sandy soil and red clay are great for growing the finest vegetables and blossoms in the country, as food writer Nancie McDermott finds out in this preview of the region's farmers markets.



DEPARTMENTS...



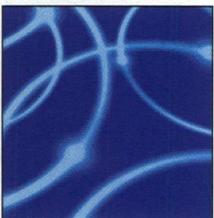
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MetroMagazine LLC
Postage paid at Raleigh, N.C.
Published 12 times a year.

*Executive, editorial and
advertising office address:*
P.O. Box 6190
Raleigh, N.C. 27628

Phone: 919-831-0999
Fax: 919-831-0222
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Subscription: \$22 one year
Direct subscription line: 800-567-1841

Postmaster send address changes to:
MetroMagazine LLC
P.O. Box 6190
Raleigh, NC 27628

Audit applications submitted
Reprints available

www.metronc.com

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ISSN 1529-4404

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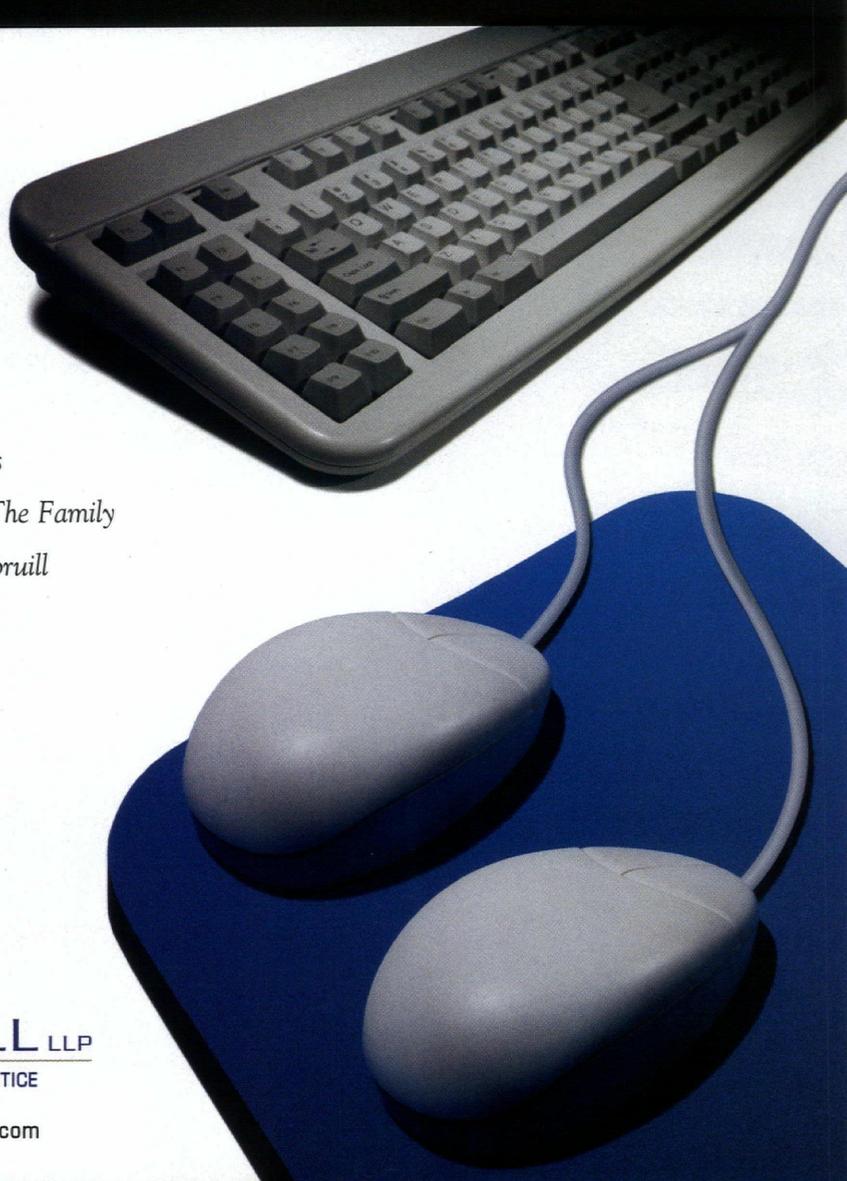
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THE FINER THINGS IN LIFE, FROM THE TRIANGLE TO THE COAST

The First Annual

METROBRAVO!TM

AWARDS

Good life hunting

Er...uh...(tap, tap) is this thing on? Welcome, folks, to the first annual MetroBravo! awards special presentation, based on reader ballots from the Triangle to the coast. The ballots are counted and the results are in.

Verification of the region's cosmopolitan self-image appears throughout the ballot responses. Who would have thought that a question about best city hotel would bring nominations for the Waldorf-Astoria and the Plaza in New York—or hotels in Tokyo or Dallas for that matter? Or that readers would pick Nordstrom's as a favorite department store—although the high-end retailer won't open here until 2001.

However, we haven't forgotten our roots. Our favorite trucks are still Fords, and we still like country-fried chicken at Mama Dip's. Miller Lite, not a batch-brew, won the top award in the beer category. And when we asked about shopping, many readers preferred the historic charm of shopping in downtown Beaufort and Wilmington.

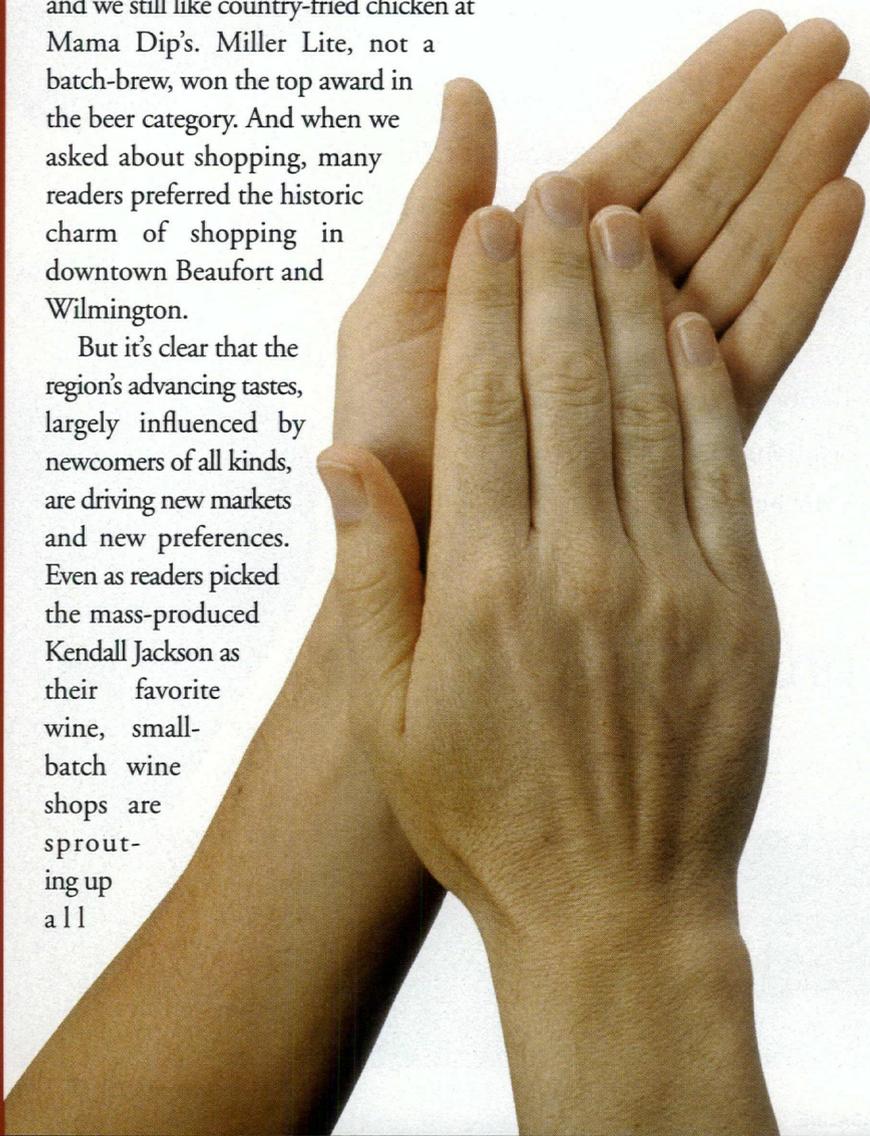
But it's clear that the region's advancing tastes, largely influenced by newcomers of all kinds, are driving new markets and new preferences. Even as readers picked the mass-produced Kendall Jackson as their favorite wine, small-batch wine shops are sprouting up all

over. The finest cigars can be had in the region, as can exquisite dishes prepared by a growing number of international chefs running local kitchens.

It's clear that North Carolinians like to venture out into the world and make a name for themselves. And now it seems they're coming home. Our MetroBravo! survey, which ties the tastes of the East with the preferences of the Triangle, demonstrates that the country's finest are flocking to the state's central and coastal region, loving it and staying put—and enriching us all in the process.

The winner in each category receives a Standing Ovation, the runner-up a MetroBravo, and the other winners an Honorable Mention.

And now, the envelope please...



Guilty pleasures

Don't drink? Don't smoke? So, what do you do? In what now thankfully appears to be a post-politically correct culture, *Cigar Aficionado* magazine is bursting up the charts and the risqué *Maxim* is the top-selling men's magazine. In moderation, the wonderful vices define our prosperity—and bring us together. How pleasant to savor the peaty hint in a good lowland single malt. And, FYI, that tinge of guilt usually disappears as soon as the tip of the Macanudo flares up. Here's a *skål* and a *prosit* to the champs of MetroBravo's guilty pleasures department!

little mild for me, but, yeah, they're a good seller," says Dan Churchill, manager at Tobacconists of Raleigh on Capital Boulevard. "A lot of your people who are new to cigars like them." The Bravo goes to **Don Diego**, another Dominican brand. This slightly more beefy cigar is produced by Consolidated Cigar. Honorable mentions go to **Olivero** and **Cohiba**.



sort of like doing a poll on French fries and McDonald's coming out on top. [KJ] really pioneered this sort of rich, buttery, super-oaky sweet style of Chardonnay." OK, we're sold. The MetroBravo! award goes to **Sutter Home Zinfandel**. This winery redefined dinner drinking in America when it came out in the mid-1970s with a rosé wine that just exploded, with the "zin" later emerging as the company's top seller. Honorable Mentions go to **Firestone**, **Biltmore Cabernet**, **Beringer** and **Pommard**.

BEER

In the MetroBravo! beer category, **Miller Lite** got the Standing Ovation from our tailgate readers, with its tangier Dutch brother and sailboat favorite **Heineken** scoring the Bravo award. Thick-bottled

VODKA

The Russians made a name for this distilled potato spirit; the Swedes now define

CIGARETTES

A few years back, RJ Reynolds started pitching Winston as the cig without additives, after American Spirits of New Mexico pioneered this novel concept. It's paid off among today's discerning smokers, at least from the Triangle to the coast, as *Metro's* readers put both **Winston** and **Winston Lights** in top place, with the namesake getting the Standing Ovation nod and the Light receiving the Bravo. Classics **Marlboro Lights** and **Camel Lights**, as well as **Salem**, the mentholated other half of the local namesake, get Honorable Mentions.

CIGARS

If only Castro would quit so we could finally normalize the cigar trade. Until then, readers discreet enough to hide their Dutch-procured Cubans under their bed picked a few fine ones. Mild **Macanudos**, a Dominican-made cigar produced by General Cigar, won the Standing Ovation in this fine-life category. "They're a



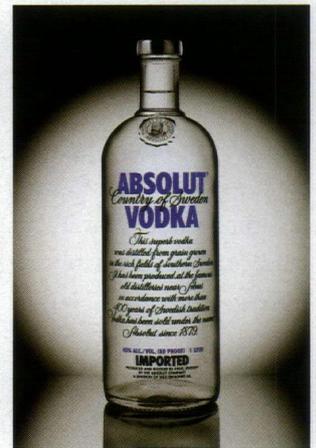
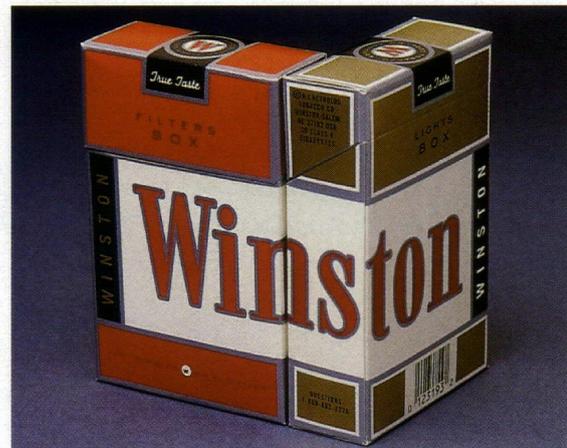
Corona, Brahmin-inspired **Samuel Adams**, and pool-hall favorite **Icehouse** got the Honorable Mention nods.

WINE

Metro's favorite wine was a shoo-in, says Matt Matthews, manager of Carolina Wine Company in Cary. The Standing Ovation goes to **Kendall Jackson**, the California winery that has grown to become the Mickey D's of the grape world. "It's just a huge, huge producer," Matthews says. "It's



it. **Absolut**, one of Sweden's GNP heroes (right up there with Volvo cars and Ericsson cell phones) is standing Ovation winner. This vodka (and all its fruit and berry-tinged varieties) grew out of the Scandinavian dinner tradition of *snapps*, a sharp, spice-infused aperitif able to bring any boorish table to song. Americans seem to like its crispness and clarifying qualities—plus, those ads really are very effective. The Russians, in



fact, didn't even crack the top categories, with the French **Grey Goose** receiving the readers' MetroBravo! plaque. **Stolichnaya** and **Smirnoff**, the good Russians, get Honorable Mentions by *Metro* readers.



BOURBON

The Samuels family had been making tasty bourbon in small family batches since the third generation Scottish-Irish clan first arrived in Kentucky in the 1780s. Six generations later, descendant Bill Samuels burned the 170-year-old recipe and nearly torched his home whilst crafting a new small-batch bourbon. What might have seemed foolish, was not. The result, **Maker's Mark**, received a Standing Ovation from our readers. A favorite among hunters and a fellow Kentucky spirit, **Wild Turkey**, received the MetroBravo! in this woody category—bottled at 101 proof and at least 8 years old at the time of sale. Three other fireplace favorites, **Black Label**, **Bookers** and **Rebel Yell**, venerable Southerners all, received Honorable Mention nods.

GIN

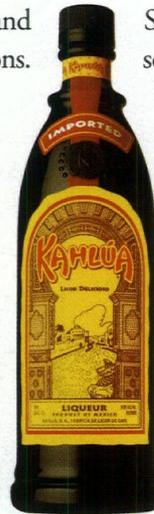
Infamous as “the curse of the working class” in industrial England, the juniper-flavored drink gained presidential stature when, according to drink-book author Salvatore Calabrese, FDR mixed the first legal martini in the White House when Prohibition ended in



December 1933. Roosevelt served Russian tyrant Joseph Stalin a martini during the 1943 Tehran Conference. Perhaps prophesizing the chilled relations to come, Stalin remarked the American-born drink was cold to his stomach. The martini was later regarded by Nikita Krushchev as “America's lethal weapon.” In our reader poll, martini-standard **Tanqueray** received the Standing Ovation award and **Bombay Sapphire** the Bravo; **Beefeaters**, **Gordon's**, and **Boodle's** all got Honorable Mentions.

LIQUEUR

Kahlua: Is it Spanish? Is it Hawaiian? We didn't know until we found out, but it's damn good in a Black Russian, earning this nectarine concoction the top-shelf Standing Ovation. Bravo for **B&B** in those delicious *Between the Sheets*; and a most Honorable Mention to **Grand Marnier**—what's a Mimosa without it?



SCOTCH

In the *Nick Adams Stories*, a young Ernest Hemingway writes about Nick and Wemedge getting tipsy off papa's whiskey in front of a roaring fire, as a house-shaking fall storm sweeps over the Upper Peninsula. The bite of the spirit is amplified by the smoke coming off the boots propped on the fireplace. Such breathy reminiscences are always sparked at the first touch of a good scotch on the tongue. Around here, the always well-made **Dewar's** is the Standing Ovation winner, with single-malt **Glenfiddich** securing the Bravo award. **Johnny Walker Red** and **Famous Grouse**,

along with the Scottish high-land **McClelland's**, get the Honorable Mentions.

SOFT DRINKS

Pepsi might be born in North Carolina, but Coke knows the South best—or at least so say our readers. Standing Ovation winner **Coke** is predictably yummy, a chilly constant, and a standard that somehow never clashes—the unpretentious quencher that is an icon of the Southern day. The Bravo Award does go to **Pepsi**, first blended in New Bern in the early 1900s. Honorable mentions go to **Dr. Pepper**, the hyperactive **Jolt** and **Cheerwine**, born and still made in Salisbury.



DIET SOFT DRINKS

Let's face it: Deprivation dictates that diet sodas must satisfy. That 3:30 caffeine high must be delivered by a palatable Coke substitute, so it is only fitting that readers anointed **Diet Coke** the top honors. A diet drink a day keeps weight watchers at bay, and maybe that's why our Bravo



award was bestowed upon **Diet Dr. Pepper**, the spicy Coke substitute. The Pepsi clan earned two Honorable Mention ribbons for North Carolina's own **Diet Pepsi** and **Pepsi One**. Extreme Metro dieters, meanwhile, 'do the **Diet Dew**.'

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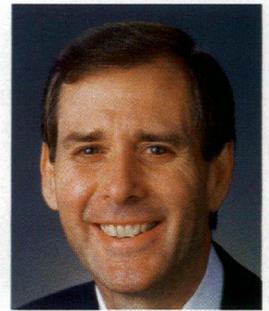
Wes Goforth



Greg Fishel



Skip Waters



Tom Suiter

Messengers of the medium

They are our TV friends, our constants, there to assure, warn and inform us. Their modulated voices and empathic faces greet us in the morning and sometimes even put us to bed at night. The Triangle and Eastern North Carolina are blessed with a rich tradition of broadcast news that has yielded today's crop of news anchors and weathermen, sports announcers and radio hosts. Some are outrageously popular, with WRAL-TV's weatherman Greg Fishel heading up the "most likely to succeed" ticket. Others, like anchors David Crabtree and Miriam Thomas, are favorites for their depth, insight and friendliness. As cable and the Internet redefine broadcasting, our local TV and radio hosts have a more important job than ever—reminding us where we actually are. Judging by readers' responses, they're more than ready.

TRIANGLE ANCHOR

Six years as the front-man at WRAL has turned the expressive and penetrating **David Crabtree** into a local celeb with a dutiful sense of journalism. Crabtree, featured in a special BravoProfile (see page 30), helped take the locally owned TV channel to new heights, when he traveled to India to attend Mother Teresa's

funeral and later produced a history-making documentary on the Vatican—in a special new high-res TV format. WTVD veteran **Larry Stogner** received the Bravo award, while his newsdesk sidekick **Miriam Thomas**, along with WRAL's **Bill Leslie** and **Deborah Morgan**, received Honorable Mentions.

DOWN EAST ANCHOR

Maybe they're not in the big markets, but their job is just as important to viewers across Eastern North Carolina. On the hurricane front, these eastern stations are the first in the nation on the job when you need them the most. They cover the military, the environment and help to maintain the bonds among the many communities in the coastal plain region. The Standing Ovation goes to WCTI's **Wes Goforth**, and the Bravo! goes to WITN's **Linda Shore**. Honorable mentions go to **Jan Beam** of WCTI, **Gary Dean** of WITN and **Alan Hoffman** of WNCT.

TRIANGLE WEATHERMAN

Who else calls rain a "precipitation event?" Who is the geeky guru of weather in the capital city? Who's the greatest of them all? WRAL-TV's veteran meteorologist and cult personality **Greg Fishel**, who gets the Standing Ovation. Coming in second and receiving the MetroBravo! award is **Mike Maze**, also from WRAL. Honorable Mentions go to **Elizabeth Gardener** of WRAL, **Bill Reh** of WB-22 and **Patty Darak** of WTVD-TV.

DOWN EAST WEATHERMAN

Down East, meanwhile, *Metro* readers picked **Skip Waters** of WCTI in New Bern as the Standing Ovation winner, with **Marvin Dougherty** of WITN in Washington as the Bravo designee. **Steve Howley** of WITN, **David Sawyer** of WNCT in Greenville and station mate **Philip Williams** were Honorable Mentions.

SPORTS ANNOUNCER

Ladies and gentlemen, we have a tie for first place. Standing Ovations go to veteran WRAL-TV sports anchor **Tom Suiter** and WNCN-TV's rising star **Bobby Estill**. Suiter's dramatic style and Estill's low-key approach give the Triangle region's viewers a real contrast in sports delivery. Congrats to them both. The MetroBravo! goes to the stalwart and steady **Bob Holliday** of WRAL-TV. Holliday's low-key professional style adds in-depth background to the station's sports coverage. Honorable mentions go to Tar Heel play-by-play announcers **Woody Durham** and **Mick Mixon**.

RADIO HOSTS

Morning radio is as addictive as a cup of joe. What's your flavor? Shockjocks like Howard Stern, curmudgeons like Imus or just the zany banter of personalities staging birthday pranks, ticket give-aways and hilarious dialogue, ragging on each other and everything current? Many *Metro* readers get their fix listening to **Bob and Madison**,

giving the G-105 morning crew the Standing Ovation applause. The MetroBravo! goes to **Bill** of Bill and Shotzie on WRAL-FM radio. Honorable mention goes to the syndicated **John Boy and Billy** of Charlotte.

Where to eat, sleep and play

We all know there's nothing better than to curl up under a handmade quilt at a coastal inn, listening to the roar of the surf while perusing something meaningful, like Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina*, in the streaming light of a glowering evening sun. Or driving to the city for a bistro pizza and a \$20-bottle of Australian merlot. Or heading out to a country BBQ joint for pulled pork with genuine dirty sauce. We all work hard. We deserve our just rewards. As do the inns, eateries and slips whom our readers applauded the loudest.

RESORT

Our readers want it all, and they come pretty close when they visit **Sanderling Inn** on the northern Outer Banks, our Standing Ovation winner. Not only is it a quick sprint to some of the best fishing around, but the resort is perched so that visitors get a great view of both sunrise and sunset. The famous old-world **Homestead Resort** in Hot Springs, Va., and North Carolina's own venerable **Pinehurst Resort** tie for the MetroBravo! award among our readers. **Grove Park Inn** in Asheville, the old-style **Greenbrier** in the mountains of West Virginia, the **Cloister** in Sea Island, Ga., **Bald Head Island** near Southport and Wrightsville Beach's **Blockade Runner** all received Honorable Mentions.

CITY HOTEL

Donated by the Watts Hill family of Durham, the beautiful **Carolina Inn** on the UNC campus, the Standing Ovation champ, is a perfect retreat for a weekend get-away or to hold that important business meeting. There's a tie for MetroBravo! between the **Siena Hotel**, designed as a Tuscan Villa, and the reliable **Embassy Suites**, always the secure choice for fine accommodations in the Triangle area with suites-only rooms. Honorable Mentions go to **Marriott**, the **Velvet Cloak Inn** and **Washington Duke Inn**.

B&B's

Although **Ferrington House Inn** has received votes in other categories, this 20-year-old dining, lodging and wedding institution receives a Standing Ovation award for finest bed and breakfast. "Our staff here are proud of what they do," says General Manager Richard Delany, and it shows at this nationally recognized North Carolina hallmark, that includes a working dairy farm, extensive gardens and interesting shops. There is a tie for the MetroBravo! award between the beautifully appointed **William Thomas House** in downtown



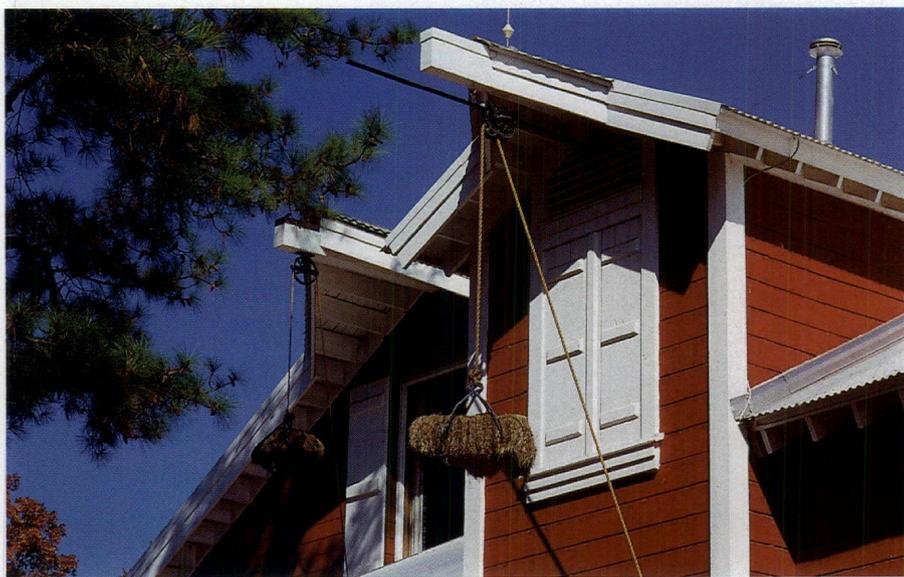
The Sanderling Inn



The Carolina Inn



Ferrington House Inn



Angus Barn

Raleigh and the elegant **Graystone Inn** in historic downtown Wilmington. Raleigh's **Oakwood Inn** receives Honorable Mention.

CITY RESTAURANTS

Thick, aged steaks, a top-notch wine cellar, and a Tar Heel country atmosphere—the **Angus Barn** has earned many accolades for its fine dining since its founding by famous restaurateur Thad Eure Jr. (and Charles Winston) in the early 1960s. Today, Eure's daughter, Van, runs this institution with grace and style. Metro readers overwhelmingly give the

famous eatery a Standing Ovation for being the best city restaurant from the Triangle to the coast. The Bravo award goes to **Il Palio** in Chapel Hill, part of the Siena Hotel. Honorable Mentions: The restaurant at **Ferrington** in Chatham County, **Magnolia Grill** and

Nana's in Durham, and **Vinnie's**, **Margaux's** and **Lucky 32** in Raleigh, and the quirky and delicious **Crook's Corner** in Chapel Hill.

SMALL TOWN RESTAURANTS

Eighteen different vegetables, luscious country-fried chicken, original BBQ sauce and "Good Morning America"-praised pecan pie. It's no wonder that **Mama Dip's** in Chapel Hill—started 24 years ago by Mildred "Mama Dip" Council—receives the Standing Ovation award. We know. Chapel Hill is a university town, but where else can you get this kind of authentic small-town atmosphere and food? A hearty Bravo goes out to the even older **Sanitary Fish Market** on the Morehead City waterfront, where the Seamon and Garner families built one of the state's finest casual seafood restaurants and fish markets—still run by a second-generation Garner. Honorable Mentions include the **Colonial Inn** in Farmville, **Sunnyside Oyster Bar** in Williamston and **Christopher's Filling Station** in Robersonville.

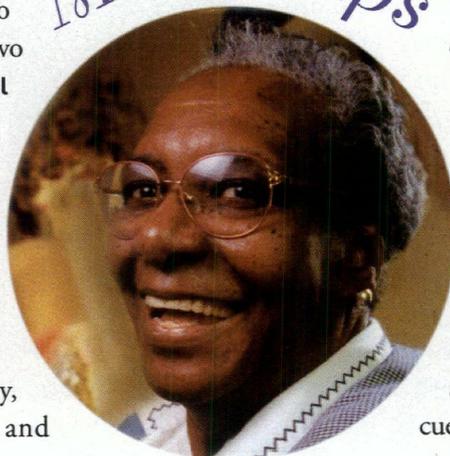
BBQ's

It figures the centuries-old debate between sliced or chopped barbecue shows up in the MetroBravo! ballots. The way it works, for those who don't know, is that west of Raleigh people like

their pig out of oak ovens and sliced to eat. Raleigh east,

it's chopped barbecue all the way. Sure enough, we have a tie between the two culinary traditions. **Allen & Sons** in Pittsboro, just west enough to like it sliced, ties with the pride of Goldsboro, **Wilber's**, the traditional place to stop for chopped barbecue between Raleigh and

Mama Dip's



the coast. Congratulations to the winners and to our readers for their refined discernment in barbecue preparation. The MetroBravo! goes to an institution in downtown Raleigh, **Cooper's Barbecue**, that serves chopped barbecue to Raleigh's lawyers and politicians. Honorable Mentions go to **Bullock's** in Durham and **Red, Hot and Blue** in Cary and Chapel Hill.



Mill Creek Golf Course



Finley Golf Course

PUBLIC GOLF COURSE

As you learned from last month's Metro, North Carolina is the home of golf in America. From Donald Ross' famous designs at Pinehurst and across the region to the coast, the great game of golf is growing faster than ever. Our readers have picked **Mill Creek** in Mebane and the newly-renovated Tom Fazio-designed **Finley Golf Course**, a part of the University of North Carolina, as the Standing Ovation winners. Partly

because of confusion over whether or not Pinehurst is public or private, the famous **Pinehurst No. 2** course won the MetroBravo! all by itself. Number 2 was the site for the 1999 U.S. Open, which returns to these famous links in 2005. Honorable Mentions go to the challenging **Washington Duke Inn Golf Course** (which is actually more private than public), **Pinehurst No. 7** and **Porter's Neck** just north of Wilmington.

PRIVATE GOLF COURSES

While Cape Fear Country Club is the oldest in the state, Raleigh's strictly private **Carolina Country Club**, the Standing Ovation winner, has developed a reputation for quality since its establishment in 1910. Over the past 15 years, the hilly yet challenging course has undergone major renovations and the implementation of a long-term landscaping and greens development program. As one

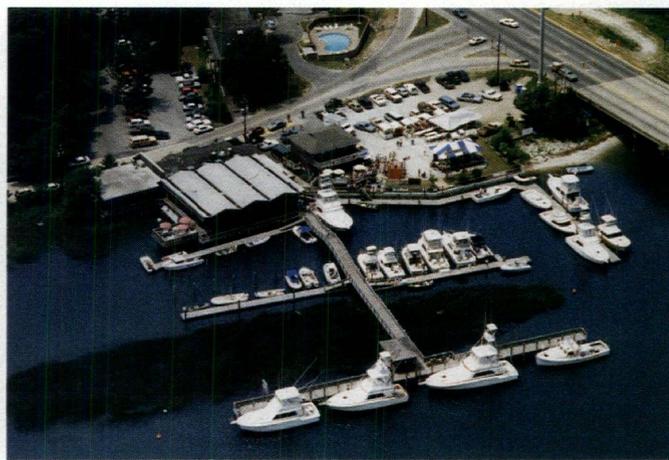
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Carolina Country Club



Bridge Tender Marina

member put it, "It's the easiest place to make a double-bogey in America." MetroBravo! goes to the Jack Nicklaus-designed 27-hole **Governor's Club Course** located in Chatham County near Chapel Hill. This beautiful course is carved out of the highest topography in the region around Edwards Mountain, giving the golfer magnificent vistas of all he surveys. Honorable Mentions go to the **Country Club of North Carolina** near Pinehurst, **North Ridge Country Club's** two 18-hole tracks in Raleigh and North Raleigh, the venerable **Cape Fear Country Club** in Wilmington and **Walnut Creek Country Club** in Goldsboro.

MARINAS

Like an oasis for wandering sailors, marinas play a vital role in the reputation for boating enjoyed by North Carolina. You need gas, ice, bait and a place to berth, and you need to choose carefully. Plus, they're a major international tourist draw for boating enthusiasts meandering up and down the Intracoastal Waterway. And the Standing Ovation winner in our reader poll is the **Bridge Tender** at Wrightsville Beach. **Bailey's Marina** in Morehead City and **Coral Bay Marina** at Atlantic Beach tie for the MetroBravo! award.

Buildings, museums and gardens

Is it any wonder that the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and the *Wall Street Journal* all carried flattering stories about Raleigh, the Triangle and Eastern North Carolina in the past few months? We have not only do we have perfect seasons, great universities, and a skilled, happy work force, but also exceptional buildings, both new and historic. The *NYT*, usually on the snobby side, even meowed about Raleigh's eclectic mix of Victorian and modern—with about 10 other styles thrown in for good measure. Now, *Metro* readers have told us the buildings and institutions that mean the most to them.

PUBLIC MUSEUM

The **North Carolina Museum of Art**, the Standing Ovation winner, started with a vision by Greenville's Robert Lee Humber, who pushed through legislation to establish a museum of art for the betterment of North Carolinians. Humber, while in Paris after World War I, befriended the Kress family and convinced them to donate part of their priceless collection of old masters to the cause. The North Carolina Art Society held on to this gift in small

quarters in an old state building until the completion of the magnificent North Carolina Museum of Art, which opened its doors in 1982. Today, the museum boasts the most valuable collection in the Southeast and is ranked as one of the top museums in the United States. With no further ado, the Standing Ovation award goes to our fabulous Museum of Art and to the many people who over the years supported this grand effort to its fruition today as the cultural engine for our state. The Rodin Exhibit on display through the summer is a watershed in what has been a continuous outpouring of the very best there is in the world of art.

The MetroBravo! award goes to the newly-opened and dramatic **North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences** in downtown Raleigh, another tribute to the dedication of area citizens who have strived to bring the very best to the people of North Carolina. Once a stuffy and antiquated facility, the new museum is now housed in a soaring building that contains some of the most exciting exhibits in the nation, including a moving dinosaur exhibit that will thrill kids of all ages.

Honorable Mentions go to the small, yet elegant **Ackland Museum of Art** on the UNC campus in Chapel Hill, known for its fine collection of drawings and other art, and the **Duke University Museum of Art** on the Duke campus and the **Museum of Life and Science** in Durham.



North Carolina Museum of Art



Tryon Palace

HISTORIC BUILDING

Wake County is named for Margaret Wake, the wife of North Carolina's royal governor, Lord Tryon. The palace he built as a colonial ruler in historic New Bern ranks with any restored building in the United States for authenticity and evocation of another era. It's no wonder that readers chose the graceful and stately

Tryon Palace for the Standing Ovation award in the historic building category.

The winner of the MetroBravo! award is the people's own **State Capitol** building in downtown Raleigh, considered one of the finest in our new nation after the Revolutionary War. The first structure burned to the ground and was replaced with this most beautiful and

elegant building that we often take for granted. Today's Legislative Building, located a block away on Jones Street, the first of its kind in the nation, was constructed as a separate building in order to avoid marring the integrity of the old Capitol Building with wings and additions. Even though it's presently undergoing a complete restoration, a visit



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today to the State Capitol building will instill you with pride as a Tar Heel, infuse your soul with the stirring emotions of American independence, and fill your senses with the grace and symmetry of the architecture of an era gone by.

Honorable Mentions go to the Queen Anne-style gingerbread **Governor's Mansion** in downtown Raleigh and **Duke**

Chapel, the soaring Gothic cathedral on the Duke campus.

HISTORIC SITES

For historic sites, get this. We have a four-way tie for the Standing Ovation award. The historic town of **Bath** on the Pamlico River, the **Wright Brothers Memorial** at Kitty Hawk, site of the first manned

flight, **Chinqua-Penn Plantation** near Durham, the private residence of a wealthy and acculturated Durham family, and the **Mordecai House** and grounds in downtown Raleigh, the centerpiece of the genealogy of the history of Raleigh and home to two daughters of Raleigh's founder, Joel Lane.

There's another tie for the MetroBravo!

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Mordecai House



Sarah P. Duke Gardens

award, **Oakwood Cemetery** in downtown Raleigh and historic **Wilmington**, North Carolina, where history is at your footsteps as you walk along the waterfront and marvel at the Colonial architecture and ambience of North Carolina's port city.

PUBLIC GARDENS

North Carolina arose out of the soil, and today Tar Heels are always busy growing useful crops and beautiful flowers. Gardens abound throughout the region, whether in a backyard or a large public site. Our readers have chosen for the Standing Ovation award the **Sarah P. Duke Gardens** on the Duke Campus at Durham. The MetroBravo! award goes to the **Gardens at Fearington Village** outside Chapel Hill, and honorable mention goes to the **UNC** and **N.C. State University Botanical Gardens**, **Tryon Palace** and the **Elizabethan Gardens** on Roanoke Island in Manteo.

SCENIC COLLEGE CAMPUS

Do students study better in beautiful surroundings? We can't answer that one, but we can report what our readers think are the most scenic college campuses in the region. The Standing Ovation goes to the site of the nation's first state-supported university, the beautiful **UNC campus** in the heart of Chapel Hill. MetroBravo! award goes to the vision of the Duke family, who moved Trinity College from

outside Greensboro to create the Gothic architecture of **Duke University** in Durham. Honorable Mention goes to the up-and-coming **UNC-Wilmington** with its mixture of traditional and modern architecture, and the old site for Wake Forest University, now the North Carolina Theological Seminary in the town of Wake Forest just north of Raleigh.

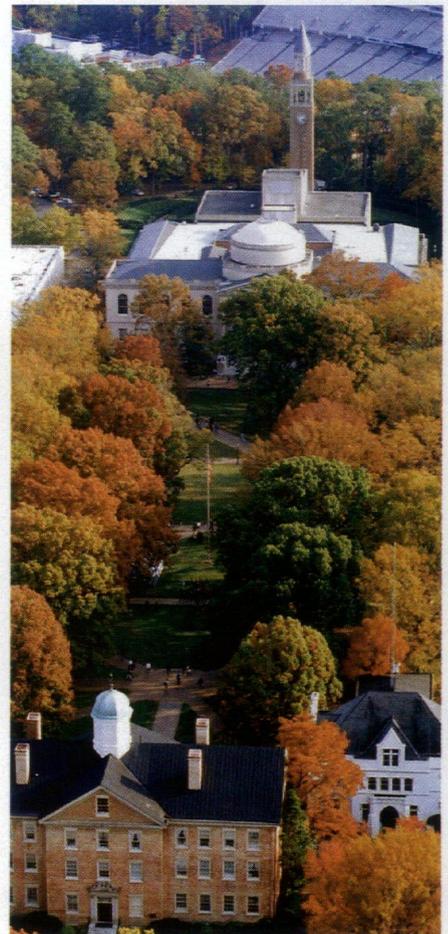
ART GALLERIES

Raleigh's **Artspace** is a public-private venture that was the brainchild of now-deceased architect Terry Alford, who worked with developer Steve Stroud to renovate the old Sanders Ford building



Artspace

and turn it into a multi-dimensional art facility, including artist studios, exhibitions and related events. Congratulations to Artspace for winning the Standing Ovation award. The MetroBravo! award goes to the private **Sommerhill Gallery** in Chapel Hill, and Honorable Mention to **Art Source** in Raleigh's Five Points area.



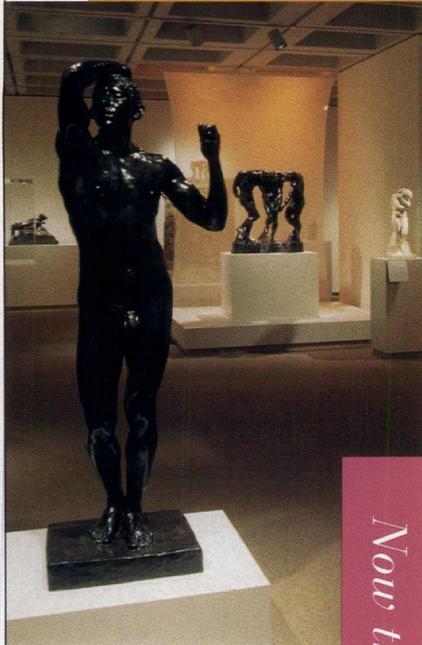
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Down East, the winners are: **Carteret Contemporary Gallery** in Morehead City, Standing Ovation; **New Elements Gallery** in Wilmington, MetroBravo; **Greenville Museum of Art** and **Island Gallery**, Honorable Mention.

Shopping meccas

How many ways can you spend your money? Shopping habits have been studied for years, and it seems that bigger, bigger, bigger means more, more, more spending. While we welcome more choices and national names, North Carolinians would never eliminate charm in the shopping equation. Downtown shopping has made a comeback and nothing is finer than the smiling faces and quality of service that our local merchants offer us in the Triangle and Eastern North Carolina.

TRIANGLE MALLS

Don't dot.com me: Malls are getting more pitter-patter of feet than ever, and **Crabtree Valley Mall** received more votes than anyone in any other category for Mall in the Triangle. Applause! Applause! MetroBravo! goes to **Cary Towne Center** and Honorable Mention goes to **North Hills Mall** in Raleigh and **Northgate Mall** in Durham.

DOWN EAST MALLS

In Eastern North Carolina, the place to go shopping is Colonial Mall Greenville. You can also pay your respects to the original land owner and Pitt County farmer, Moses Evans. Evans sold the land to developers in the mid-60s, but kept the burial plots on the land. Hidden behind the mall is a cemetery where the original occupants lay. **Colonial Mall Greenville** received the Standing Ovation for Mall

in Eastern North Carolina. **Cross Creek Mall** in Fayetteville gets the MetroBravo! Award, and honorable mention goes to **Independence Mall** in Wilmington and **Myrtle Square Mall**, south of the Border in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

TRIANGLE SHOPPING CENTERS

Raleigh's **Cameron Village**, the Standing Ovation winner, was the first planned-unit shopping center built in the United States in 1949. J. Willie York had the vision and stuck to it, creating Cameron Village on a former plantation owned by Duncan Cameron. Today's "Oberlin community," a largely black neighborhood, is populated by descendants of the slaves who worked on the old Cameron Plantation. Cameron Village has survived the growth of Raleigh and the proliferation of suburban enclosed malls to be today one of the most pleasant places to shop in an open-air environment with a "village" atmosphere. The MetroBravo! award goes to Cary's **Crossroads Mall**, more like a city than a village, but pulsating with active shoppers from all over the region. **New Hope Shopping Center** in Durham, **Sutton Square** in Raleigh and **Triangle Factory Outlet Mall** in Morrisville receive Honorable Mention.



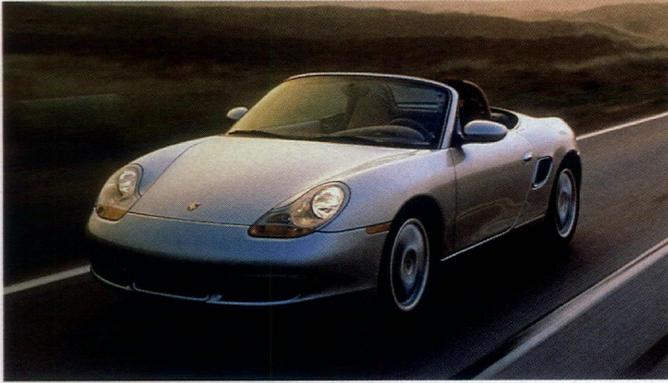
CRABTREE VALLEY MALL

DOWN EAST SHOPPING CENTERS

Situated exactly at the halfway point between Florida and New York, Standing Ovation winner **Carolina Outlet Center**



Carolina Outlet Mall



Porsche Boxer S



Jeep Grand Cherokee

on I-95 in Smithfield, a locally owned enterprise, has become a shopping phenomenon. Featuring all from Hilfiger to Claiborne, Carolina Outlet has “the wonderful name brands that people are looking for—at 30 to 70 percent off!” says a center rep. A hearty Bravo goes to **Lumina Station Shopping Center** in Wrightsville Beach, and Honorable Mentions go to **Beaufort’s downtown shopping district**—where history is a setting for finding just the right item.

DEPARTMENT STORES

Today, the Standing Ovation winner, **Belk Stores**, is part of a huge chain of department stores based in Charlotte. In the old days, the Belk family made deals with local owners to create department stores from South Carolina to West Virginia. The Hudson family of Raleigh is still involved in the Hudson Belk chain as they modernize and upgrade their stores to meet the challenges of national competition. The MetroBravo! goes to **Lord & Taylor**, recently arrived from New York City, and **Hecht’s** out of Washington, D.C. Honorable Mention goes to **Dillard’s**, the Arkansas-based chain, and **Nordstrom’s**, soon to come to Durham.

FURNITURE STORES

Raleigh’s **Herb Highsmith Interiors** received the most votes in this category, securing the Standing Ovation nod and indicating a new sophistication in furniture shopping in the area. **Nowell’s Furniture** of

Cary and **Jones Brothers** in Raleigh tied for the MetroBravo! award. Honorable Mention goes to the **Bob Timberlake** line of furniture, the eclectic **Domicile** store in Raleigh and Chapel Hill, and the venerable **Ethan Allen Gallery** in Raleigh.

Vehicles to die for

As MIT age researcher Joe Coughlin said recently about baby boomers approaching their retirement years: “They were likely conceived in their cars, and they likely won’t mind dying in their cars.” As the American driver evolves, so has his metal beasts. Often tainted as unnecessary luxuries, SUVs are actually the practical replacement for yesteryear’s low-flung family station wagon. It’s no surprise that Ford stock has surged on the back of its newest, biggest SUV truck ever. Still, today’s car buyers aren’t afraid to buy for speed—nor for heft, for that matter. A special shot goes out to Ford, whose F-series pick-ups—let’s face facts now, folks—have been making a majority of hometown boys extra happy for so many years now.

SPORTS CARS

As you’d expect, this was a neck-and-neck finish, with Standing Ovation winner **Porsche** narrowly edging out MetroBravo!

awardee **Miata** at the flag. Die-hard sports car fans will bicker over this for months to come, but that’s how the votes fell in this reader poll. **BMW** and **Corvette Spyder** receive Honorable Mentions in this speed freak category.

SUV’s

A stroke of genius on the part of car manufacturers, SUV’s, which boomed unbelievably in the ’90s, are the vehicles everybody loves to hate—and hates to love. One thing’s for sure: They’re big, comfy, fit a lot of kids and gear, plus they get you up and above the traffic, allowing even the tiniest soccer mom to feel like a veteran long-haul trucker. Didn’t you know that’s what everybody really wants? From the Triangle to the coast, the **Jeep Grand Cherokee**, sort of the granddaddy of the SUV’s, gets the Standing Ovation applause, with the capable and fun **Ford Explorer** snagging the MetroBravo! honors. Another Ford creation, the larger **Expedition**, the shiny, detailed **Lexus** and the reliable **Toyota 4-Runner** get the Honorable Mentions in this category.

VANS

SUV’s, however, still can’t outpack a good, old van, especially the descendants of the original VW and Econoline. Now, the Japanese have grabbed a firm hold of this category, getting the hang of American quirks such as tail-gate parties (check out Honda’s cool folding tail-gate tables) and late-night family ice cream



Dodge Grand Caravan



Ford F-Series

runs. An exquisite import, the roomy, drivable **Honda Odyssey** ties with the American classic, **Dodge Grand Caravan**, for the Standing Ovation award. The **Mazda MPV**, meanwhile, garners the MetroBravo! honors, and **Voyager**, **GMC Safari** and the new **Volkswagen** bus all get Honorable Mentions.

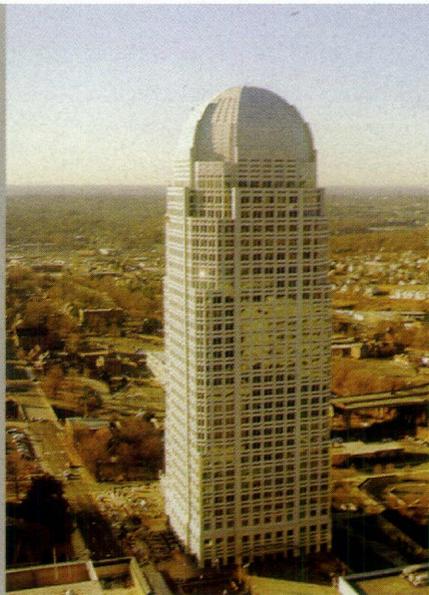
TRUCKS

There's no mystique about **Ford's F-series** trucks, the Standing Ovation winners in this red, white and blue category. You can take them to the peaks of mountains and to the lowest desert canyon—and trust them to take you back home. If you're like a certain Metro

staffer, you can even spend a whole Colorado winter camping out in the back of one. Despite heady challenges from some of the best truck manufacturers in the world, Ford staves them off with a measure of grit, reliability and undeniable popularity. The beefy **Chevy Z71** and **Dodge Dakota** tied for Bravo honors, while **Dodge Ram** and the **Chevy Silverado** nabbed Honorable Mentions.

Financial services

North Carolina is home to four of the biggest banks in the world. It was Charlotte-based Bank of America, under its dynamic chairman Hugh McColl, who defied regulators and crossed state lines to create the behemoth it is today. Wachovia and First Union followed suit, and new mergers created large banks out of little banks including BB&T, Centura and CCB. And new small banks are being formed as we write to offer even more personal service. The Standing Ovation goes to **Wachovia Bank**, long a stronghold of conservative banking services and expansion of branches to reach customers in every nook and cranny of the region. Durham-based **CCB** (Central Carolina Bank), which recently merged with a large Tennessee bank, wins the MetroBravo! award, tied with **BB&T**, the Wilson-based bank that has expanded with mergers and is presently headquartered in Winston-Salem. Honorable Mention goes to **Centura Bank**, the Rocky Mount-based financial institution that has become a powerhouse over the past 10 years, absorbing smaller banks, insurance agencies and other financial institutions, and to Charlotte-based **First Union National Bank**.



WACHOVIA

Telephony services

Today's world literally buzzes with a New Economy driven largely by players that grew from the scorched ground left behind by the Ma Bell break-up. New technologies have enhanced communications to the point where people can stay in touch no matter where they are. This wave of new tech gadgets and digital phones, as well as the Internet juggernaut, has washed over nearly every corner of our lives, turning us all into gadget geeks. With choices wide open, consumers have become knowledgeable—and very picky about their hip phones and e-organizers.

In the cell phone category, the Metro poll showed a tie between **Alltel** and **Bell South Mobility DCS**, with **Sprint** nabbing the MetroBravo! honors. Honorable Mentions are **GTE Wireless** and **Nextel**.

Even though they call them baby bells, they're still big bells to us, as Metro readers signified in the local phone service category. Here, **BellSouth** won the top Standing Ovation honor while

ALTEL

Sprint hailed the MetroBravo. BTI and GTE are Honorable Mentions.

The long-distance market, ever hyper-competitive, yielded many votes from Metro readers, who chose AT&T as the Standing Ovation appointee and

MCI as the MetroBravo! winner.

Sprint gets the Honorable Mention here.

The Internet world is changing as fast as the information that flows across it,



symbolized most fervently by the success of high-speed cable lines now porting into thousands of homes from the

BELLSOUTH

Triangle to the coast. Mammoth AOL gets the Standing Ovation from our readers, while Mindspring, the



AT&T

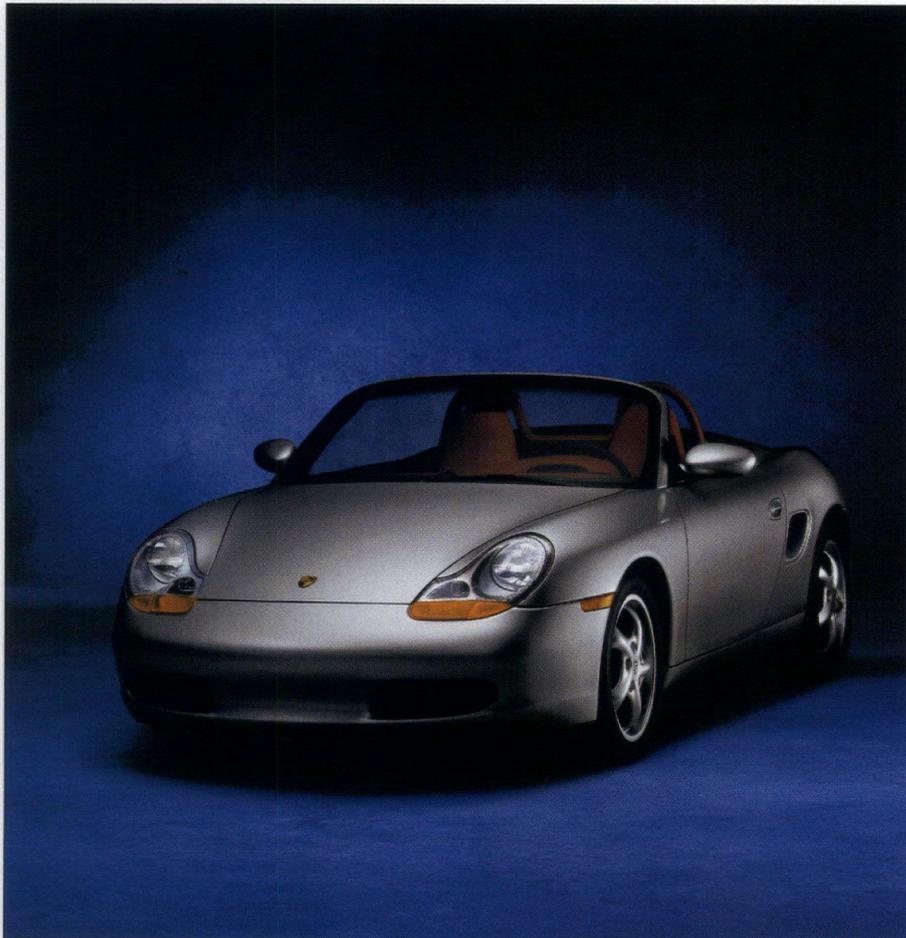
frisky Atlanta firm, gets lots of applause as the MetroBravo! winner.

Earthlink, which just bought Mindspring, and the embattled MSN get Honorable Mention nods.

Public servants

North Carolina is fortunate that good people seek public office. All the gubernatorial primary candidates were high-minded people with records of contribution to our state. Although Dennis Wicker and Chuck Neely are out of the race for governor, we can be proud of our two candidates Mike Easley, for the Democrats, and Richard Vinroot, for the Republicans. Call it a tie between these two for the Standing Ovation award. Our readers preferred George Bush over Al Gore for president. It should be pointed out that Martin Sheen, who plays the President on the hit show "The West Wing," received several votes from our readers. Let's see what happens in November. **MM**

Metro promised one lucky reader a dinner for four at the Angus Barn for taking the time to fill out the MetroBravo! reader poll. The winner is Ryan Rohm of Cary, one of several hundred people who sent in ballots for the first annual MetroBravo! awards.



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WRAL-TV'S DAVID CRABTREE STAYS ON TOP OF NEWS RANKINGS WITH SUBSTANCE AND STYLE

During a difficult stretch in his personal life, David Crabtree still went on camera every night, delivering the 6 o'clock news on WRAL-TV in his usual easy-going style, his boyish face genuinely lighting up amidst the anchor desk banter.

Actually, the senior TV news correspondent, a perfect natural in front of the camera, sought out the lens for solace in the face of turmoil.

"My attorney and close friend knew what I was going through at that time and would ask me how I could keep going in front of the camera every night," says Crabtree, now 50. "But the fact was, in front of that camera is where you can't think of anything else but what you're doing. I look forward always to sitting in that chair. In a way, it's peaceful."

His almost spiritual relationship with the camera has touched a soft spot among viewers, many of whom just anointed the 16-year news veteran as the Triangle region's top anchor in the MetroBravo! awards, earning him a Standing Ovation award from the magazine's readers.

Six years after legendary Ch. 5 stalwart Charlie Gaddy "passed the blowtorch" to Crabtree, it's clear that the viewing audience has sensed the deeper workings of an heir apparent who as a teenager rigged up a mock studio in his bedroom and delivered the day's news in the voice of Walter Cronkite.

Though clearly pleased at the applause from viewers, Crabtree, who is rarely caught taking himself too seriously, said factors outside his immediate control have contributed to his success.

"I'm not a Ken doll, but neither am I a Frankenstein," he says. "I have this God-given talent. I'm 50 years old, I'm average-looking, and I'm not a threat to anyone."

Crabtree knows that, in a business wracked by an onslaught of cable channels and other "new media," it's imperative to stay humble.

"The way I look at it is, we renew our contract with the viewer every 10 seconds as they hold that remote," Crabtree says. "That's always a tough challenge. But what we don't want to do is pander to our audience—ever. The result is that there are very few local news channels in the country like us, and our viewers realize that."

Yet the fight between old media and new rages on, flaring up in earnest in May when Time-Warner dropped Disney's ABC channel—including the popular *Who wants to be a millionaire?* show—over a lingering contract dispute. The Triangle was one of seven markets affected. Meanwhile, TV commercial actors went on strike to protest new methods of paying talent, brought on by the onslaught of cable channels—most which are owned in cartels by a handful of existing entertainment conglomerates. These spats are just the opening act of future battles over who will control the media of the future as the digital revolution turns televisions into interactive fun centers.

Still, Ch. 5's ratings with new viewers continue to rise, as Crabtree, whom younger staffers still refer to as "the dinosaur," defines a disappearing breed of local TV stations unwilling to sacrifice independent enterprise journalism

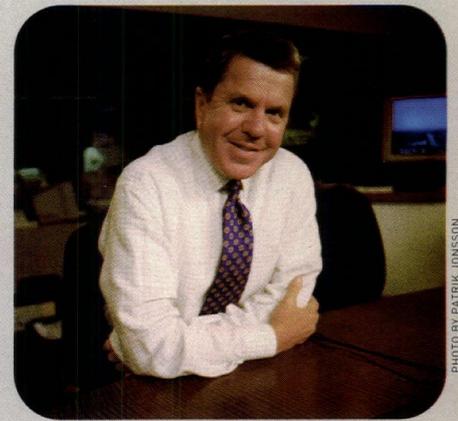


PHOTO BY PATRIK JONSSON

in the the face of flashier, attention-grabbing headlines preferred by some of the new kids on the TV news block.

In many ways Crabtree has become the outward face of a station that, by staying true to its mission, is partly credited with helping turn the tide away from newscasts specked with gore and sex toward reports of substance and import.

So committed, in fact, is the channel to quality programming that it puts out more documentaries than even the local PBS outfit, including recent stories on the moving of the Hatteras Lighthouse, an in-depth look at modern race relations, the workings of organ donor shops, the burial of Mother Teresa, and an exclusive inside look at the Vatican.

In the tradition of the now retired legendary CBS national news anchor Walter Cronkite, and his replacement Dan Rather, Crabtree's name is becoming synonymous on the local level with a brand of inquisitive, forthright journalism that competes head to head with newspapers. Despite his role in the station's success, Crabtree, however, is fond of saying that he never views himself as the story.

The story is exactly what Crabtree was, however, after management at WRAL-TV hired Crabtree to replace the station's long-time evening anchor Charlie Gaddy, a fixture on the screen and in the community. The elder journalist was more than gracious and kind

to the new guy at the station. He was also honest. While escorting the new anchor on a "tour" of the area, the usually cucumber-cool Crabtree couldn't help but ask: "If you were me right now, would you be nervous?" Gaddy didn't miss a beat: "Yes."

Jim Goodman, who took over the Capitol Broadcasting juggernaut from its founder, his grandfather A.J. Fletcher, gave Crabtree a long-term deal to leave Denver after six years in what he calls a "great news market." The contract was good—but so were the opportunities. Crabtree says he made his decision appreciating fully the rarity of the Ch. 5 news mission.

Crabtree's expressive face—"You can't be afraid to show your emotions," he says—were part of his formula to endearing himself to the Triangle market. But then there's the seriousness, wit and sincerity associated with his most famous local telecasts, including his trip to the Vatican and to India for Mother Teresa's funeral.

It is the Vatican documentary that Crabtree says is "in the top three assignments" of his 16-year TV career. The idea came, really, out of a daydream. Crabtree had planned a personal trip to Rome, and happened to mention it to a Ch. 5 camera veteran. "Can you imagine filming that?" Crabtree said to his friend.

They looked at each other. "Yeah, I could," said the cameraman.

Religion reporting in the heart of the old Bible Belt is a sure-bet ratings idea. But there was a greater story that made it newsworthy: Roman Catholics were flocking to North Carolina in unprecedented numbers—not just from up north, but from Mexico and even Korea. One of the major causes of the influx came hand-in-hand with the growing movement of Hispanics into North Carolina's agricultural heartland. Latinos remain one of the most dedicated Catholic forces in the world—thus tying a current event story to a very filmable subject.

It took almost a year of negotiations with the Vatican to secure the necessary invitations to film the most secret chambers of the relics and saints. But the trip made history, becoming the first serious High Resolution Digital TV documentary to record the interiors and details of the Church's inner sanctums.

The station has demonstrated its journalism beneficence in other ways. When WRAL produced two documentaries about the moving of the Cape Hatteras lighthouse, it had cameramen on the scene—living in a beach house at one-week stretches—recording the action for nearly a year.

That kind of driven tempo resonates deeply in Crabtree's own daily life, which orbits around the daily story budget.

The schedule of the region's senior TV correspondent is grueling, but he speaks of it with fondness: Rise at 5:30 to prepare for 6 o'clock broadcasts on WRAL-FM radio and the company-owned North Carolina News Network. At approximately 12 past 9, he walks into the WRAL-TV studios on Western Boulevard in Raleigh and remains there amidst the whirl of the day's news, building up always toward the release of the actual newscast at 6. Unless a story is breaking, Crabtree walks off the set at 6:30 and calls it a day, 12 hours after he made his first radio broadcast.

His dedication to the news, however, lay latent until past his 30th birthday. Although the Tennessee-born Crabtree loved newspapers from an early age, especially the *Washington Post*, he never went to journalism school, deciding instead for a political career working as a legislative liaison. He then went into business as a stockbroker, while also attending divinity school. An adventurer at heart, he's also lived in Israel and is now planning a trip to Normandy and a return voyage to Rome.

A divorce at age 32 shook Crabtree awake to see his dreams. He made the

decision to get in front of the camera. "If I knew how naïve I was, there's no way I would've made the decision again," he says. Crabtree worked his way up, eventually spending two years as a reporter in Washington, N.C., before landing the Denver job, where he became a mainstay of the evening news for six years.

But from his first assignments at a small Tennessee channel, Crabtree says he's never been nervous when he sits down in front of the robotic TV cameras. That doesn't mean he can't get rattled. But it's at odd moments, like talking to a group of 5th graders, that he starts straightening his tie and clearing his throat.

Such flushes of humility, his fans say, shows through in his broadcasts.

Crabtree says that one secret is to stay innocent, to turn away from the quick judgment and the flashy footage to get at the inside of a story.

He puts that across to his two daughters. He's also been known to corner staffers to reprimand them for particularly cynical jabs at working stories.

"Fighting cynicism on a daily basis is something I have to do," he says frankly, recalling the Niagara Falls wrecks, scandals and natural disasters that plunges into the news room everyday. "Skepticism is what we're really about, but, oh, how that line between cynicism and skepticism can blur easily."

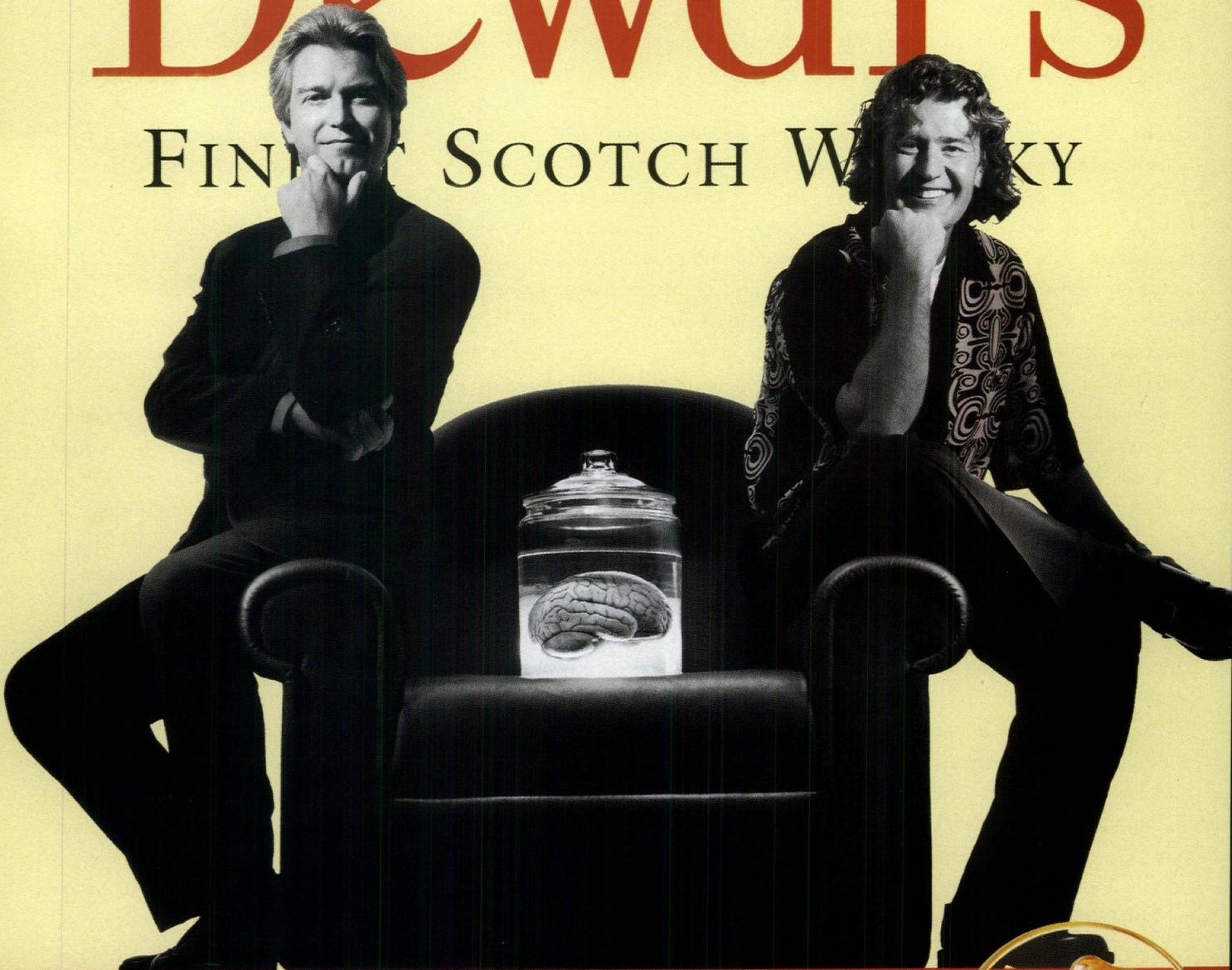
But then on a screen the spires of the Vatican come up against a crisp sky, and a clearly moved Crabtree speaking to the Raleigh audience from Rome. Crystal-clear images bracket the story of Catholicism, told from its birthplace. Effective TV journalism comes down to this: the juxtaposition of powerful stories with vivid footage. The eye is drawn, the mind engaged and the emotions come tumbling out.

Crabtree breaks into his trademark grin: "When you put words and pictures together, the world comes alive." **MM**



Dewar's

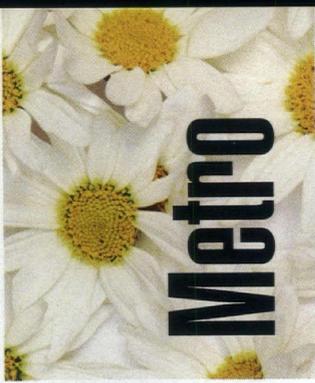
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They're out of their minds. When Whit and Richard walked out the gates of a major software developer to build a board game, friends thought they'd lost it. But they put their heads together with an art guru, a wordsmith and a talkative mime — and the result was Cranium®. It's the first game designed to use both sides of the brain. It's selling like crazy, and they're looking pretty smart.



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Preview

by Frances Smith

“What is so fair as...

As our senses are piqued by the unfurling of summertime, *Metro* readers satisfy their creative urges and congregate to attend music, ballet, opera, drama and sports events all across the region, while the magnificent Rodin exhibit continues at the N.C. Museum of Art.

The Opera Company of North Carolina and Carolina Ballet will both bring June productions to Raleigh Memorial Auditorium, and Down East *The Lost Colony*, Paul Green’s widely applauded outdoor drama, will begin its summer-long schedule of performances at Waterside Theatre on Roanoke Island. Plays are ready to open at the East Carolina Summer Theatre in Greenville, the Art Center in Carrboro, the Sandhills Theater in Southern Pines, The Cape Fear Regional Theatre in Fayetteville and in dozens of other venues across the area.

The North Carolina Symphony is scheduled to perform from the Triangle to the coast. The perennial Summerfest concerts at Regency Park in Cary will begin on June 3 and continue weekly into July. And in several towns further east, the Symphony will send waves of music rising into the air at outdoor concerts.

Water sports will quicken the pulse of many during June. Fishermen and their boats will cruise into fishing tournaments, boat races and other exciting events on the region’s inviting rivers, sounds and waterways.

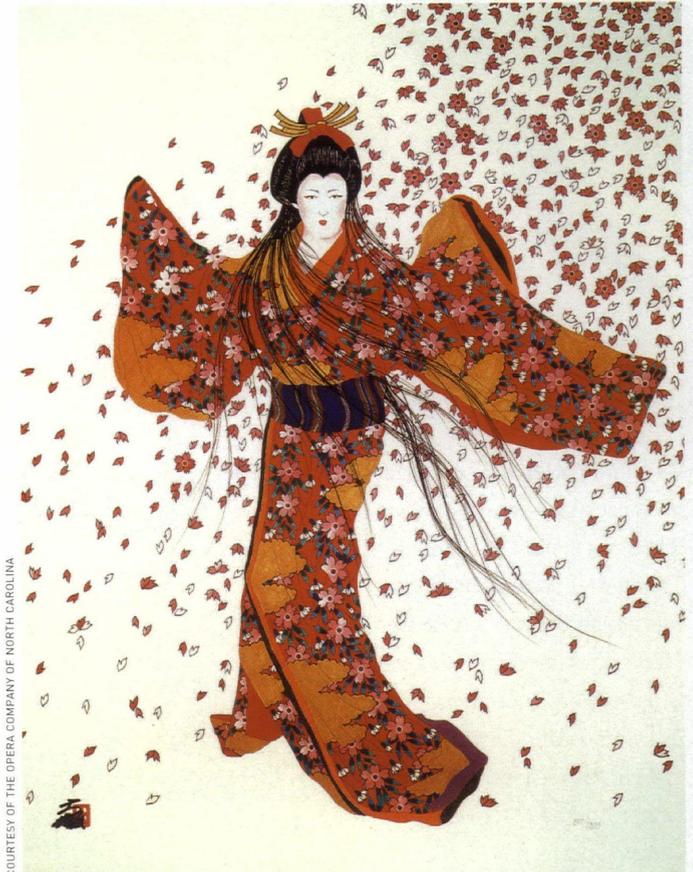
And for landlubbers, the sporting life will bring cheers and chatter to tracks and fields everywhere. When the “State Games of North Carolina High School Baseball Tournament” comes to the Triangle in June, you can watch some of North Carolina’s finest young pitchers, batters and fielders show their stuff and strive for the coveted championship.

Brought in from near and far, handsome horses, groomed and practiced, are already on parade and will continue to prance and perform at area horse shows all through the month.

Check out MetroPreview for exhibits to see, trips to take, historic homes and gardens to tour, and kick back and watch the pleasures of summertime, whether a scheduled event or one of the little thrills of the season that make our area special. Enjoy.

—Frances A. Smith, events editor

...a day in June?”



COURTESY OF THE OPERA COMPANY OF NORTH CAROLINA

A beautiful geisha is like a butterfly.... The Opera Company of North Carolina presents Madama Butterfly

STARS ON STAGE

Puccini’s exotic opera

Madama Butterfly will come to life on the stage of Raleigh Memorial Auditorium on June 23 & 25 when the Opera Company of North Carolina presents its own production of the well-loved masterpiece. The cast will include internationally renowned soprano Maryanne Talese in

the title role of Cio-Cio-San, Metropolitan Opera tenor and Charlotte native John Fowler as American naval officer Benjamin Franklin Pinkerton and internationally acclaimed baritone Robert Galbraith in the role of Sharpless. The opera is presented in conjunction with the Triangle-wide arts celebration, “Festival Rodin.” Call 919-834-4000.

PHOTO BY BARBOUR PHOTOGRAPHY



"Come to the Cabaret, my friend"—staged by Carolina Ballet

Carolina Ballet will conclude its second season with two ballets never before seen in the Triangle—*Cabaret* and *Rodin, Mis en Vie*, June 1–4 at Raleigh Memorial Auditorium. *Cabaret* is a premiere choreographed by Lynne Taylor-Corbett to the style of the famous cabaret singer Andrea Marcovicci, who will perform with the ballet. Durham resident Glenn Mehrbach, who arranges much of Marcovicci's music, will accompany her for the Carolina Ballet performances, along with a small cabaret orchestra. *Rodin, Mis en Vie*, in which the great statues of Rodin virtually come to life, is presented with support from the North Carolina Museum of Art. Choreography is by Margo Sappington with music by Michael Kamen. Call 919-303-6303 or 919-834-4000.



COURTESY OF THE NORTH CAROLINA SYMPHONY

It's time for "Summerfest" at Regency Park

The **North Carolina Symphony's** popular outdoor "Summerfest" concerts will begin on June 3 at Lakeside, Regency Park in Cary. Guest star for the opener will be well-loved jazz vocalist Carol Sloane. "Summerfest" will continue at Lakeside on June 10, 17, 24 and into July. In addition, the orchestra has booked June outdoor concerts in several other towns between the Triangle and the



PHOTO BY RAY MATTHEWS

An audience with the queen in the historic outdoor drama, *The Lost Colony*

coast: Tryon Palace in New Bern, June 12 (call 252-514-4900); Morehead City, June 13 (call 252-504-2477); Snow Hill, June 18; and Tarboro, June 20. (For Raleigh, Snow Hill and Tarboro, call 919-733-2750.)

The Lost Colony,

America's longest running symphonic outdoor drama, will begin its season 2000 on June 2 at Fort Raleigh National Historic Site on Roanoke Island. Performances will continue nightly (except Sundays) until Aug. 25. Paul Green's renowned play relates the story of our country's first great mystery—how a small band of courageous souls settled in an unknown land and later disappeared without a trace, except for the word *Croatan* carved on a tree. The recently renovated 1600-seat Waterside Theatre is located on Roanoke Island, three miles north of Manteo. Call 252-473-3414.

A 50-foot-tall candy-striped tent will tower above the grounds of the North Carolina Museum of Art, June 18–July 2, when the museum

welcomes the North American tour of **Les Colporteurs**, an acclaimed French circus now making its debut before American audiences. Performing in conjunction with "Festival Rodin," the circus will present its premier production, *Filoo*, with high wire and trapeze artists, illusionists and musicians. Call 919-715-5923.

North Carolina State

University Theatre will begin its summer TheatreFest on June 1 with the comedy/drama *Daddy's Dyin', Who's Got the Will?* by Del Shores. The show will run June 1, 3, 7, 9, 11, 15 & 17 in repertory with

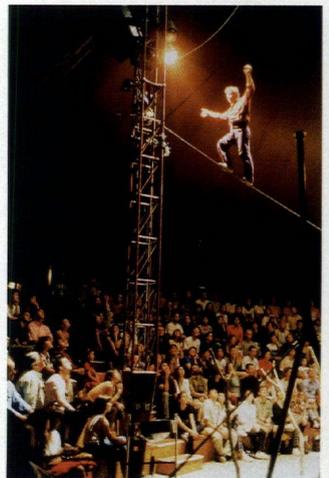


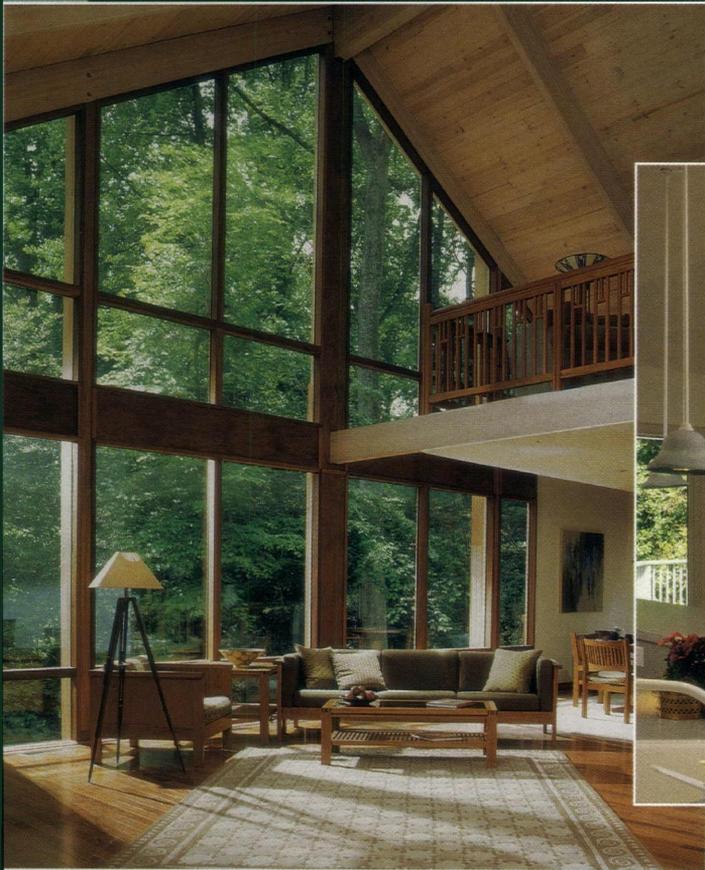
PHOTO BY JEAN PIERRE ESTOURNET

Antoine Rigot balances on the high wire in *Les Colporteurs' Filoo* at the North Carolina Museum of Art



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For over fifty years, Deck House and Acorn architects have designed the most unique homes in the world. Over 20,000 of them, and no two alike! Yours will be designed to bring out the best in your home site - the views, the contours, and the path of the sun - and in your personal housing vision. Together we'll create a totally personalized house that is a joy to live in.

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COURTESY OF THE ARTCENTER

It's not your usual Peter Pan—at the ArtCenter



COURTESY OF AMERICAN DANCE FESTIVAL

Pilobolus brings its unique gyrations to the American Dance Festival stage

the touching comedy *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*, a Tony-award winning play by Alfred Uhry, author of *Driving Miss Daisy*. *Ballyhoo* will run June 2, 4, 8, 10, 14, 16 & 18. Because of lighting upgrades now being installed in Thompson Theatre where TheatreFest normally plays, the shows will be presented in Stewart Theatre on Cates Avenue, NCSU campus. Call 919-515-1100.

A new take on J.M. Barrie's *Peter Pan* is coming to the ArtCenter stage in Carrboro, June 1-4 & 8-11. In this innovative look at Never-Never

Land, the more adult, underlying themes of the century-old fairy tale come into view. The ArtCenter is located at 300-G E. Main Street, Carrboro. Call 919-929-2787.

Sandhills Theater

Company will present the old favorite *Arsenic and Old Lace* by Joseph Kesselring, June 2-4 & 7-10 at Sunrise Theater, 250 N.W. Broad Street in Southern Pines. The two elderly ladies, Abby and Martha Brewster, will be portrayed by Irene Martin and Fran Raynor. Jack Causier will direct the melodramatic comedy. Call 910-692-3799.

The East Carolina Summer

Theatre in Greenville will produce the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical *The King and I*, June 20-24. Known for its dazzling score and uplifting story, the musical tells the story of a young English widow who becomes a tutor in the palace of the King of Siam. The Summer Theatre performances will take place in the McGinnis Theatre on the ECU campus. Call 252-328-6829.

Cape Fear Regional

Theatre in Fayetteville will close its 38th season with the North Carolina premiere of the off-Broadway musical success *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, June 9-25. A collection of scenes and songs takes the audience on a musical roller coaster ride through the modern-day mating game. Cape Fear Regional Theatre is located at

1209 Hay Street in Fayetteville. Call 910-323-4233.

The 2000 American Dance

Festival will bring ensembles of talented dancers from many locales to Duke University stages in Durham, June 8-July 22. Highlights of June performances will include the Martha Graham Dance Company, which will open the festival with Graham masterpieces such as *Appalachian Spring*, Page Auditorium, June 8-10; Pilobolus, masters of zany acrobatic art that extends human motion to new limits, Page Auditorium, program A, June 13 & 14; program B, June 15-17; and Eiko & Komo, who will dance the premiere performance of an evening-length work, *When Nights Were Dark*, Reynolds Industries Theatre, June 20-21.

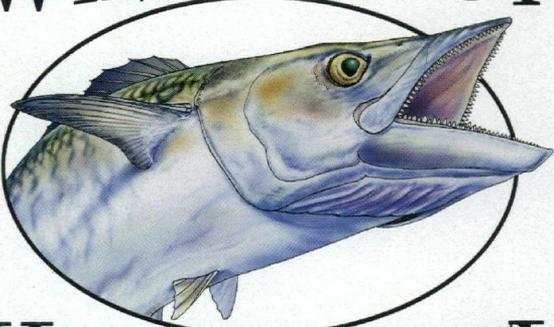
The **Chowan Arts Council** will host its 2nd annual Waterfront Concert at Edenton's Waterfront Park on June 10,

featuring performances by talented local musicians including the Edenton Men's Chorus. The Chowan Ruritan Club will provide food for the occasion. Call 800-775-0111.

SPORTS OF SUMMER

Between 800 and 1000 boats will converge on the Cape Fear River at Historic Downtown Wilmington for the first annual **Greater Wilmington King Mackerel Fishing Tournament**, June 15-17. A food fair, a spirited weigh-in, and live music and dancing in the evening are on the tournament agenda. The event, expected to draw 20,000 people per day, will raise money for the Children's Fishing Foundation. Call 910-686-5433.

The **Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament**, a World Billfish Series Tournament, will dominate the waterfront in Morehead City, June 10-17.

Greater
WILMINGTON

KING MACKEREL
 Tournament

COURTESY OF GREATER WILMINGTON KING MACKEREL TOURNAMENT

If you thought Rodin's
 sculptures were amazing, just
 wait until you see them move at
 Carolina Ballet



Daphne Falcone and Christopher Rudd in Rodin, Mis en Vie. Barbour Photography

Cabaret & Rodin, Mis en Vie
 June 1-4, 2000

Thursday-Saturday at 8pm, Saturday & Sunday at 3pm
 Raleigh Memorial Auditorium

Sponsored by  AT&T

Internationally-acclaimed cabaret singer Andrea Marcovicci teams with Broadway choreographer Lynne Taylor-Corbett to bring you *Cabaret*, an all new show you won't want to miss! Then, Auguste Rodin's sculptures come to life with Margo Sappington's choreography for *Rodin, Mis en Vie*, funded in part by the North Carolina Museum of Art.

For Tickets  919-834-4000  919-303-6303 Group Sales 919-469-8823

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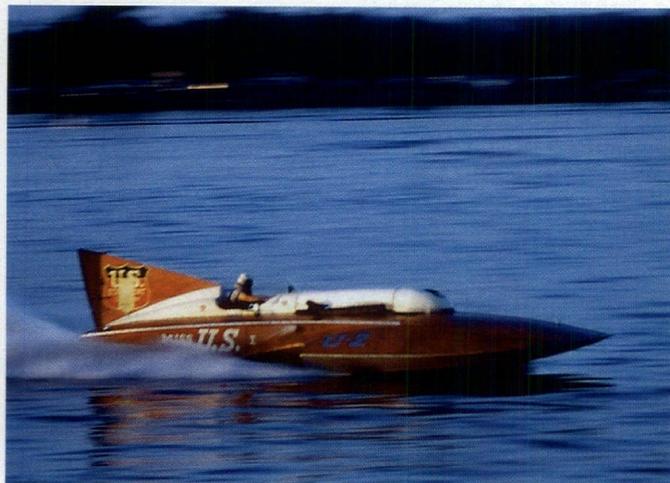
 *unitedarts

 CITY OF RALEIGH ARTS COMMISSION

 CITY OF RALEIGH ARTS COMMISSION

 Metro

COURTESY OF ELIZABETH CITY-PASQUOTANK TOURISM BOARD



A powerboat on the Pasquotank: fast as a speeding bullet

Tournament officials expect over 200 boats and a purse of over \$1 million. Weigh-ins will be held on tournament afternoons on the Morehead City waterfront. Call 255-247-3575.

Another big splash will echo up-coast on the Pasquotank River when 75 to 100 high-speed powerboats slice through the water on the Elizabeth City waterfront for the **River City-Coca-Cola Powerboat Rampage**, June 10-11. A rock band, gospel singers and food vendors will add to the festive spirit while 75 to 100 speed teams from up and down the East Coast rev up and cut loose at speeds up to 100 miles per hour. In conjunction with the race, a regional fishing tournament, the "Hooks Against Crooks Bass Blast," will attract participants from a 600-mile radius to Waterfront Park. For information on both events, call 252-338-2191.

To get a glimpse of North Carolina's best high school baseball talent, be on hand

for the **State Games of North Carolina High School Baseball Tournament**, slated for June 21-25. Three locations—N.C. State University's Doak Field, Five-County Stadium in Zebulon and Garner High School—will host all the baseball action. Call 800-277-8763.

Horse shows at the Senator Bob Martin Eastern Agricultural Center near Williamston are in full swing and will continue throughout summer and into fall. The Carolina Classic Horse Show, coming up June 15-17 will show 300 American Saddle Bred and Morgan horses. Other June shows will include the N.C. State Barrel Finals, June 22-25, and the Firecracker Jubilee/TN Walker Show, June 30-July 1. Call 252-792-5802.

POTPOURRI

Sid Luck, a traditional North Carolina potter from Seagrove in Randolph County, will be "Artist at Work" at the North



PHOTO BY DIANE HARDY

Dames in a Beaufort garden—the coastal town has lost little of its colonial charm

Carolina Museum of History, June 14-18. Visitors can watch Luck and chat with him as he works at the potter's wheel in the museum's Demonstration Gallery. His pottery will be on view in the museum's exhibit "The Spirit of Community: North Carolina Folklife." The Museum of History is located at 5 E. Edenton St. in Raleigh. Call 919-715-0200 ext. 313.

Beaufort, North Carolina's third oldest town, will put its old-South charm on view when the **Historic Beaufort Old Homes and Gardens Tour** celebrates its 40th Anniversary

on June 23-24. Private homes on the tour range from fishing cottages to grand manors and feature examples of period architecture and antiques. Six privately owned gardens will be open and a double-decker bus will offer a narrated tour describing the history and legends of the old town. During the weekend, also, the Crystal Coast Civic Center in Morehead City will present its annual Antiques Show and Sale. Call 252-728-5225.

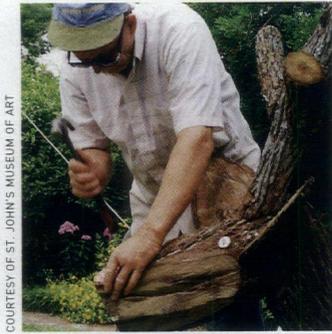
Curious critters of a special species will take up habitation on the grounds of **St. John's Museum of Art** in Wilmington on June 17 when colorful "Outsider" artist Clyde Jones of Bynum brings his menagerie for the museum's annual "Family Day Celebration." During a day of music, tours and activities, Jones will collaborate with children to create large canvas murals of real and imaginary animal drawings.

Family Day will open an exhibition, "Haw River



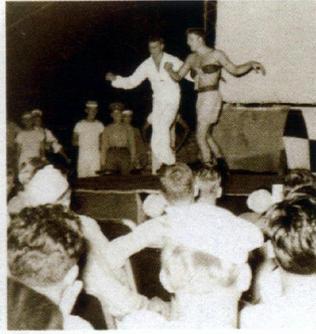
COURTESY OF N.C. MUSEUM OF HISTORY

Sid Luck turns clay into art at the Museum of History



COURTESY OF ST. JOHN'S MUSEUM OF ART

Artist Clyde Jones creates a new "critter" at St. John's Museum



COURTESY OF UNC-WILMINGTON'S RANDALL LIBRARY

A laugh is still a laugh at the "Fabulous Forties Film Festival"



COURTESY OF THE OCRACOCKE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

A July 1955 shot of an Ocracoke ferry on view at Ocracoke Museum



COURTESY OF THE OCRACOCKE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Anne Frank—the power of the individual voice—opening at Exploris

Crossing: The environment of Clyde Jones," on view June 17–Sept 3. The exhibit will feature Jones' three-dimensional "critters" made from trees and found objects, as well as his two-dimensional paintings. Call 910-763-0281.

The **Battleship North Carolina** (at permanent anchor in Wilmington) and UNC-Wilmington's Randall Library will present "The Fabulous Forties 50-cent Fantail Film Festival" on four Friday nights, June 2, 9, 16, & 23, projected on the big screen of the ship's deck. Hosted by Dr. Philip Furia, a professor in UNC Wilmington's department of creative writing, the series will take a nostalgic look at the classic films *Yankee Doodle Dandy*, *Stormy Weather*, *Meet Me in St. Louis* and *Easter Parade*. Call 910-251-5797.

Tryon Palace in New Bern offers an "Invitation to Dance" every Wednesday evening in June at the Palace auditorium. Simon Spalding, living history programs manager will teach the country dances of colonial America. No prior

dance experience is needed and children 8 years old and older are welcome with an accompanying adult. (Bring comfortable walking shoes.) Call 800-767-1560.

Just across the river from New Bern is Bridgeton, where things will be rocking on June 9–11. That's when the 5th annual **Bridgeton Blueberry Festival** takes over the town. Friday night entertainment, a Saturday parade, fun for the family and blueberry dishes to sample—such is the festival menu at Bridgeton. Call 252-637-3697.

The **North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences** invites you on a series of overnight trips this summer to nearby locations that are teeming with natural history, beauty and wildlife. Hatteras Village on the Outer Banks is the pivot location for "Life on

the Gulf Stream" on June 3 & 4. Participants will pull up anchor, head out to sea aboard the 72-foot *Miss Hatteras* and travel 25 miles from Cape Hatteras to the waters of the Gulf Stream. Petrels, tropicbirds, humpback whales and other seldom-seen sea creatures will be on view, and during lulls, those who wish can wet a hook. Call 919-733-7450.

Ocracoke Island, July 1955 is an exhibition of documentary photographs detailing the life of the isolated island fishing village of Ocracoke during that summer. Open now through November 26 at the Ocracoke Preservation Society Museum in Ocracoke Village, the exhibition features 30 prints from a collection of 115 pictures taken that month by Martha McMillan Roberts. The pictures

capture the last pre-tourism days of the island, when there was no paved road leading to Hatteras-Inlet, ponies roamed freely through the village, mail was delivered by boat and ferries were small, private operations. The exhibit is curated by Ocracoke photographer Ann Sebrell Ehringhaus and sponsored by the Ocracoke Preservation Society. Call 252-928-7375.

One voice: From the Pen of Anne Frank, a new exhibit at Exploris in Raleigh, will open on June 12, the anniversary of Anne Frank's birthday. Designed to simulate Anne Frank's living quarters during the Holocaust, the exhibit will feature excerpts from her diary, World War II artifacts and photographs, and relics from the time. Exploris is located at 201 E. Hargett St. in Raleigh. Call 919-834-4040. **MM**

COURTESY OF N.C. MUSEUM OF NAT. SCI.



Exotic Gulf Stream creatures—on view during the Natural Sciences pelagic tour

EDITOR'S NOTE: Send information about your area's upcoming events (with color photos or slides) to: Frances A. Smith, events editor, *Metro Magazine*, 5012 Brookhaven Drive, Raleigh, N.C. 27612. Email address: frances33@earthlink.net. Entries for July & August should arrive by June 7 for our big July–August double issue. (Photos and slides will be returned.)

Not to worry, Mom.





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For information, call one big happy toll-free number: 1-800-33-HONDA or visit www.honda.com. EX model shown. *NHTSA NCAP driver & passenger front and side collision tests. © 2000 American Honda Motor Co., Inc.



by Maudy Benz

Box Seats

Touched by the hand

RODIN IN RALEIGH

Despite gray skies the North Carolina Museum of Art glowed April 29 as the extravaganza of the Rodin Gala unfolded. Beginning with a champagne toast, the evening grew increasingly enchanting as patrons of the party moved down into the museum, drinking libations that tasted otherworldly when in the presence of the master's works.

The monumental marble *The Hand of God*, unseen for 100 years by the public, transfixed all. Adam and Eve tumble as they kiss inside God's curled hand. Never has the creation appeared more joyous, and that human touch can be found in all the works on view in this, the largest exhibition of Rodin's work shown in America in the last two decades.

The flair of Raphael Lopez-Barrantes of Celebrations Inc., who managed production and staging, was apparent in every detail—the tall light fixtures that resembled surreal trees, the three stages under the dining tent, featuring flamenco, Indian



Larry Wheeler and Iris Cantor dancing at the Rodin Gala

and ballet dancers. Guests found their tables under sections lighted by assigned celestial emblems.

For this night all those attending were resplendent: stars, moons, or suns. At each place a mask made by a local artist lay ready for donning.

In opening remarks Julia Daniels, Chairwoman of the North Carolina Museum of Art Board of Trustees, invited all to "have the best time of your lives." David Steel, curator of the exhibition, was exalted for his fine work. Betty McCain, Secretary of the Department of Cultural Resources spoke of the exhibition's success. The *Los Angeles Times* has named Rodin as "a top exhibition in the world, not to be missed." And *The*



Ballerinas at the Rodin Gala

New York Times featured news of NCMA's Rodin recently in its travel section.

McCain thanked Bill Cavanaugh of CP&L and media sponsor Capitol Broadcasting, among others. Museum director Larry Wheeler thanked Iris Cantor and M. Jean-Paul Monchau, the Consul General of France, for making this exhibition possible. Mrs. Cantor and M. Monchau took the stage to a round of applause.

The evening's spell deepened with performances by the Carol Parker Dancers and Triangle Youth Ballet and by magicians, fire-eaters, and jugglers from the French-Canadian circus, Cirque Eloize. Dinner was served and dancing commenced, which

was the perfect way to honor the works of M. Rodin, who introduced expression and movement to sculptures of the human form.

The Rodin Gala Chairmen were: Mr. and Mrs. James T. Fain, Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. McKinney, Mr. and Mrs. G. Allen Mebane IV, Ms. Melissa Peden and Mr. Robert Irwin, Mrs. Moses Schwab and Mr. Christopher A. Shuping.

VIPS GATHER TO TOAST NATURAL HISTORY

Before the 24-hour public opening of the new North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences began, a group of VIPs and donors were received at the Executive Mansion in Raleigh. Mr. and

COURTESY OF THE NORTH CAROLINA MUSEUM OF ART / PHOTOS BY KAREN MALINOWSKI

COURTESY OF THE NORTH CAROLINA MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCES



Opening ceremonies land a state-of-the-art museum

Mrs. James B. Hunt Jr. hosted the seminal event. Sunlight flooded high arching windows to brightly decorated rooms where guests talked, ate hors d'oeuvres and felt very much in touch with history.

In attendance were Elaine Marshall, Secretary of State; Representative David Price; Senator Ham Horton; and Jonathan Howe, the past secretary of the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources. The ambience was as Southern as the lemonade and sweet tea served. Everyone felt the tug of childhood shortly before five when the group moved outside. We knew dinosaurs and fossils and fish awaited us just down the street!

The group assembled behind the players of North Carolina State University Pipes and Drums dressed in Highland regalia. The well-known songs of the lone piper of Edinburgh were

played. Our castle was the shining new museum. The state's Scottish history filled the air, as did a burgeoning pride in this day. Our museum would in the following weeks be the focus of a front-page article in *The New York Times*.

Under Carolina-blue skies outside the museum, emcee Ira David Wood introduced speakers. Museum director Betsy Bennett welcomed guests and thanked Honorary Chairs of the public opening, John and Ginger Sall and Richard and Jere Stevens.

Pulitzer prize-winning composer Robert Ward conducted the debut of his "Hymn to the Environment," performed by the Mallarmé Chamber Players and the National Opera Company.

Captain Charles Brady, a North Carolinian and NASA astronaut who flew in the longest space shuttle mission to date, said when he



PHOTO BY PATRIK JONSSON

ROAR OF THE PACK

The thunderous hooves of the steeplechasers and their jockeys provided an adrenaline boost to a hot day at the Brookhill Steeplechase race this year in Clayton, put on for the 8th time by the Raleigh Jaycees. But Preakness favorite Fusaichi Pegasus wasn't the only winner at the event, which as usual was crowded with tailgate BBQs and corporate tents—'deal-making dens,' as the *N&O* referred to them. 'This is all public relations,' retired restaurateur Cole Porter told the Old Reliable.

recognized the rivers of the Piedmont from the shuttle, he wanted to touch home. "I just wanted to hug every one of you in North Carolina," he said. He promised to take with him on his next space mission some of the water collected for the opening from the 17 rivers of North Carolina—to then be added to the museum waterfall once returned to Earth. Dancers from the Rainbow Dance Company poured the river water into two vessels—one for rivers emptying into the Gulf of Mexico and one for those emptying into the Atlantic.

The ceremony ended with

the Official Toast of the State of North Carolina and a promenade into the museum where a green bough of native North Carolina flowers and plants graced the doorway. While on tour we stood in front of the waterfall that will circulate the state's river waters, and I overheard a woman say excitedly to her friend, "Isn't it refreshing?"

INTERNATIONAL PASSIONS

A black-tie reception-benefit for the North Carolina Opera Company will precede the June 23 performance of Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* in the Carolina Room at



COURTESY OF THE NCPIC

Jugtown pottery, circa 1940 by Ben Owen Senior

Memorial Auditorium.

Margaret Poyner Galbraith, co-director of the Opera; Linda Brovsky, stage director; Lorenzo Muti, artistic director; and Florence Poyner will all be honored at the event. Tax deductible tickets at \$50 each will be sold separately to the reception. Call 919-783-0098 for information.

This famous opera about a Geisha who vows to honor her American husband and does so until passion severs their bond, is not to be missed. If you loved *Miss Saigon* this is for you.

A CENTER'S HEART OF CLAY

Wyndham Robertson and Mimi Fountain hosted a gathering in Chapel Hill to benefit The North Carolina Pottery Center, located in Seagrove. Ben Owen III, Seagrove Potter, and Charles G. Zug, author of *Turners and Burners* and scholar of regional pottery, both spoke while spring flow-ers filled Owen's vessels set on Robertson's table. Owen said

the Center connected him to the history of North Carolina pottery and to the Earth itself. He noted how so many potters had come to the state in years past because of the special clay.

Seagrove is one of the oldest and largest communities of working potters in America that continue today in communities across the state. The Center houses a permanent exhibit of over 200 pieces of art documenting the evolution. Every year in April the Center has a pottery auction benefit—in alternating years the auction takes place in Raleigh. Call 336-873-8430 to join or learn more about The Center, which has educational outreach programs for children among other programs.

ROOSTING BEHAVIOR

Like migrating birds, baby boomer retirees are said to be heading South, and Wilmington was rated as one of the "fifty most alive places to live"



PHOTO BY WAYNE IRVIN

From the loft inside the Pottery Center one has a fine view of the exhibits below on the main floor

by *Modern Maturity* magazine.

Wilmington placed fifth in the "Quirky" town category, referencing the town's horse-drawn carriages coupled with movie making and inline skating. Other quirky cities were Key West, Reno, Santa Cruz, and Sioux Falls.

MAJESTIC WHALEHEAD CLUB REOPENS

The Whalehead Club in Corolla, N.C., (as mentioned in May's *MetroPreview*) has reopened for tours after one year of its restoration project was completed.

The building is beginning to look as majestic as it did when built by railroad executive Edward Knight Jr. and his wife, Marie LeBel, an avid

huntswoman. It was the first home on the Outer Banks to have a basement, elevator and swimming pool. The mansion has five chimneys and other fine features such as cork floors, corduroy walls and copper shingles.

Once fully restored the building will showcase the wildlife heritage of the coastal region and serve as The Currituck Wildlife Museum. The centerpiece collection will be a group of duck decoys recently acquired for the Museum.

Star watch

DOUBLETAKE HUGE DESPITE NO-SHOW DAWSON'S

Unfortunately for DoubleTake Film Festival the *Dawson's*

Creek cast party was held the same night as the Double-Take Gala Dinner, and the kids stayed Down East.

Dawson's Creek, the weekly hour-long drama that has teenagers as its rapt devotees, is filmed in Wilmington and on its nearby beaches (Wrightsville, Carolina and Kure). The series is about six teenagers growing up in a quickly changing world. They live in "Capeside," Massachusetts, our Cape Fear. Created by N.C. native Kevin Williamson (Director of *Scream*, *Scream II* and others); the show is based on his life in rural North Carolina.

A recent *Dawson's Creek* FAQ Sheet notes that tours of the EUE/Screen Gem Studios on 23rd St. in Wilmington can be made on weekends. Contact Silver Screen Tours 910-675-8479.

Fans are also welcome to a self-guided tour of often used landmarks in the city such as: The Ice House (where Joey worked), Screen Play Video (Pacey's after school workplace), Mollye's Market (Capeside hangout), Island Passage Elixir (the boutique in *Full Moon Rising*), Thalian Hall Center (interior of the Rialto Theatre) and Riverfront Park (where Andie and Pacey first kissed).

Security around the stars is tight but fans can write for autographs c/o *Dawson's Creek*, The WB, 4000 Warner Blvd., Burbank, CA 91522. Memorabilia can be pur-

chased at the Hollywood Connection Cafe across from the Studios, or on-line at www.dawsonscreek.com.

Meanwhile, the Double-Take Film Festival grew this year to be the largest festival dedicated solely to documentary films in the country. At the awards night in April

a pastiche of clips from films was presented. With verve and sensitivity, director Nancy Buirski has put Durham on the map of documentary Meccas.

At the dinner at Brightleaf 905 Restaurant after the festival, filmmakers gathered to celebrate their showings. Martha Lubell and Barbara

Attie talked of the way filming *Daring to Resist* had changed them. The film tells the story of teenage girls who resisted Nazi terror—one a partisan, one a ballet dancer who rescued Jews and one a Zionist who forged documents. The women spoke excitedly of the collaborative nature of filmmaking. **MM**

Backstage

Triangle Community Foundation Director Shannon E. St. John, whose group publishes the newsletter *Philanthropy*, attended **The White House** Conference on Philanthropy last fall. Call 919-549-9840 ■ Sommerhill Gallery Director Joseph Rowand addressed the "History of **Art in Orange County**" at a North Carolina Museum of History Associates meeting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. James A. Heavner of Chapel Hill ■ Also in Chapel Hill, Dr. Kenneth Janken, UNC professor of African and Afro-American Studies, has won a 2000-2001 fellowship to the National Humanities Center in the RTP, where he will **complete a biography** of NAACP leader Walter White ■ The Southern Environmental Law Center has moved into an office above Restaurant 23, where director

Mark Hays leads **legal battles** that have in the past stopped the Charleston Harbor dredging and influenced hog lagoon decisions. Call 919-967-1450 ■ In Durham, the Duke University Museum of Art will host the Seven Schools Art Showcase, June 7 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., where teachers from the seven **Duke partner schools** will learn more about art enrichment programs ■ Down East, a benefit for Durham's Caring House—**The Summer Fling Auction**—will take place the evening of June 16 at the Coral Bay Club, Atlantic Beach, N.C., presented by chairpersons Valinda and Jerry Coates, and Kathryn and Michael Coyle ■ The newly renovated aviary at the North Carolina Zoo is scheduled to open Memorial Day weekend—the aviary was 25 years old and needed

new plants and birds. Call 336-879-7250 ■ The North Carolina State University Libraries have risen to place 35th out of 111 members of the Association of Research Libraries, and have **also won** the first Excellence in Academic Libraries Award from the Association of College and Research Libraries ■ "An unstuffy evening featuring the silent and live auction of **furniture and fantasy**," was the tagline for a Triangle Hospice benefit held at Chapel Hill's Domicile store in May, with Keith Brodie, Anne and Mike Liptzin, and Mary D.B.T. Semans listed as honorary chairpersons ■ Lemurs, **endangered primates** from Madagascar, are the subjects of current studies at Duke as well as the beneficiaries of a silent auction held at the Ginger Young Gallery in Chapel Hill in May. **MM**

Market Madness:

Forget the stock market for a day.

Take a morning road trip back to the way markets were designed to work.

Close your eyes and imagine the curtain coming up on the opening scene of a spectacle for all your senses, a carnival of color and aroma and sound. Picture a cast of characters of every age and description, garbed in costumes fancy and plain. Expert lighting conveys the tranquility of early morning, and the scene hums with anticipation and energy.

Now picture yourself in a surprise walk-on role, stepping onto the stage and taking your place within the cast of this

longest-running (since 1951) in Raleigh, the newest (since 1999) in Lumberton, and the remaining markets in Greensboro, Charlotte and Asheville. Open seven days a week throughout the year, these markets provide enclosed heated space as well as large covered open-air venues for farmers and craftspeople. Behind the extensive public retail market areas are large warehouse-like structures which serve wholesale customers.

The markets in Raleigh and Greensboro have restaurants on the premises

By Nancie McDermott

craftspeople gather to sell their wares. From a small roster of vendors in 1977, the market has grown to more than 90 marketing their own produce and products. It thrives under shelters built by the town of Carrboro to support the market, using funds from agricultural grants from the state General Assembly.

"Locally Grown, Nationally Known" is the Carrboro market's motto, referring to their great success and the recognition they have earned from around the country, by offering farmers and craftspeople within a 50-mile radius a venue for offering their own homegrown, handmade produce for sale. Many markets in the greater Triangle area, including those in



living theater. You got in absolutely free, and even without an audition, you get to be part of the show.

The production, which may well be playing in your own community, is the old-time farmers market, and throughout North Carolina you will find long-running versions, revivals and brand-new productions going strong.

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture operates five farmers markets around the state, with the largest and

servicing home-style North Carolina cooking, much appreciated by those of us who get hungry perusing the markets' abundance of gorgeous farm-fresh produce. The brand-new Southeastern North Carolina Farmers Market in Lumberton includes a large meeting facility run by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture.

The Carrboro Farmers Market has blazed the trail for the revival of old-time farmers markets, where local growers and

Hillsborough, Cary, Fearington Village, and Pittsboro, have organized themselves along these lines.

Most markets operate rain or shine, since people who work this closely with nature tend not to be shrinking violets. Throughout the summer season many markets host special events such as strawberry days, tasting days devoted to tomatoes, melons and corn, and pumpkin carving contests.

Each farmers market is unique in its

particulars, but a common atmosphere of pride and good spirits pervades each one. Most people appear to be glad they came and pleased to linger, and even the names of vendors' farms set a sweet, easy tone: Maple Spring Farms, Pine Knot Farms, Moon Dance Farms, New Hope Farm, Cud-Zu Goat Farm, Promised Land Poultry and Busy Bee Apiaries, to name a few.

Once it's hot you'll almost always find tomatoes worthy of being called "maters," the kind that have shoulders and fragrance and the girth to fill a tomato sandwich with one center cut slice. Sacks of salad greens are tender and washed and ready to tumble in a bowl and help you grow. Vendors give verbal recipes and preservation tips while babies gaze up from their

instead find yourself the proud owner of a long, aromatic cedar planter box, as I did from Graham Family Farm of Silk Hope on a recent Saturday morning. By the time I returned home, it was sharing trunk space with a lemon chess pie and four fried peach pies (three, actually, by that point) from Miss Emma at the Durham market, half of a brown sugar pound cake (which I bought from Mama Queen of Carrboro market in that form—it is not true that I ate the other half en route), a dozen eggs from happy hens, a flat of tomato plants, eggplant, basil and the other usual herbal suspects, ready to jumpstart my garden, a jar of pear preserves, a small, precious sack of shelled black walnuts, and an armload of flowers, including ethereal



EARLY MORNING CATCH The lettuce looks perfect at the Carrboro Farmers Market

strollers at the carnival swirling above them. Nobody seems to be in a terrible hurry, and most folks appear delighted at the opportunity to support one another, some by growing and making food and plants and hand-made goods, and the rest of us by buying from them.

It's a good idea to clear out the trunk or the back of the van—you may honestly intend to score a few tomatoes, a pint of strawberries and a bouquet, but

lavender iris just like my grandmother used to grow.

From the asparagus, sugarsnap peas and tomato plants of April to the butternut squash, scuppernong grapes, pecans and crysanthemums of September, the markets reward us tenfold for the time and money we spend on them. Here's to a bountiful summer and a sweet harvest season to one and all. See you at the market! **MM**

Market shopping tips a la David King

Free lance writer David King, author of a forthcoming book on Triangle area farmers markets, kindly shared a few of his expert tips for making the most of your market expeditions:

- ① Take cash, preferably in small bills. (I've found that many vendors will also accept checks.)
- ② Take along tote bags, baskets and sturdy sacks if possible; though vendors will usually have shopping bags if you need them.
- ③ Go early if you can for the best selection, since some items run out fast, especially when they are first coming into season. (But if you oversleep or get stuck in traffic, come on down—the markets are well worth a visit even close to closing time.)
- ④ Dress for the weather, since markets are outside, with Mother Nature in charge of the heating and air conditioning.
- ⑤ Leave dogs and other animals at home, since health department regulations prohibit their presence at farmers markets.
- ⑥ In autumn, check into a given market's closing date, since most markets close down for the winter as supplies dwindle.
- ⑦ Ask questions. Farmers love their work and provide us with a rich source of information on gardening, cooking, traditional ways and local history.
- ⑧ Go with an air of celebration, because farmers markets are a gift to us, there to be celebrated.

List of farmers markets

To get you started on your farmers marketing adventures for the summer of 2000, here is a list of many of North Carolina's farmers markets. Please write and let me know if I have missed a farmers market in your area:

Nancie McDermott, Food Editor

MetroMagazine

P.O. Box 6190

Raleigh, NC 27628

Please include as much information as you can provide, regarding address/location, days and hours, and a contact person for the market. Many thanks!

FARMERS MARKETS IN THE TRIANGLE:

Carrboro Farmers Market

Wednesdays, 4 p.m.–7 p.m.;
Saturdays, 7 a.m.–12 noon;
Carrboro Town Commons

Cary Downtown Farmers Market

Tuesdays, 3 p.m.–6 p.m.; Saturdays,
8 a.m.–12:30 p.m.; between Academy
and Harrison, north of Chatham, in the
train depot parking lot

Durham Farmers Market

Saturdays, 8 a.m.–12 noon; at Historic
Durham Athletic Park, ancestral home
of the Bulls and the much-missed
Dragons, in downtown Durham

Ferrington Farmers Market

Tuesdays, 4 p.m.–6:30 p.m.;
Ferrington Village, on U.S. 15-501,
8 miles south of Chapel Hill and 8 miles
north of downtown Pittsboro

Fuquay-Varina Farmers Market

Wednesdays, 3 p.m.–6 p.m.;
Saturdays, 8:30 a.m.–1 p.m.;
233 South Main Street

Hillsborough Farmers Market

Saturdays, 7 a.m.–1 p.m.; Wednesday
afternoons from midsummer;
Central Carolina Bank parking lot on
Churton Street downtown

Pittsboro/Chatham County

Farmers Market; Thursdays, 3:30
p.m.–6:30 p.m.; Chatham County
Fairgrounds in Pittsboro

Raleigh: City Market

Thursday–Saturday, 7 a.m.–6 p.m.;
333 Blake Street, near Exploris museum
in downtown Raleigh

Raleigh: State Farmers Market

Monday–Saturday, 5 a.m.–6 p.m.;
Sundays, 12 noon–6 p.m.;
201 Agriculture Street, off Lake Wheeler
Road, north of I-40

FARMERS MARKETS OUTSIDE THE TRIANGLE AND TO THE COAST:

Edenton/Chowan County Farmers

Market; Monday–Saturday, 9 a.m.–
4 p.m., depending on availability;
North Granville Street and Virginia Road

Elizabeth City/Pasquotank County

Farmers Market Fridays and Saturdays,
8 a.m.–1 p.m.; Pritchard Street

Goldsboro Farmers Market

Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–6 p.m.;
Center Street in downtown Goldsboro

Greenville/Pitt County Farmers Market

Saturdays, 8 a.m.–12 noon;
County Home Road next to Wintergreen
Elementary School

Lillington/Harnett County Farmers

Market Tuesdays, 3 p.m.–6 p.m.;
Saturdays, 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.;
New County Government Complex,
Highway 401 just north of Lillington

Louisburg/Franklin County Farmers Market

Tuesdays and Fridays, 11:30 a.m. until
sold out; Saturdays, 10 a.m. until sold
out; Shannon Village Shopping Center,
just off Bickett Boulevard

Lumberton/Southeastern North Carolina Farmers Market and Agricultural Center

Monday–Saturday, 6 a.m.–1 p.m.;
Sundays, 1 p.m.–6 p.m.; 1027 Highway 74
East in Lumberton, 1 mile east of I-95
(take exit No. 14 and follow signs)

Lumberton/Roberson County

Farmers Market Wednesdays and
Saturdays, 7 a.m.–1 p.m.;
corner of 8th and Elm Streets in
downtown Lumberton

New Bern/Craven County

Farmers Market
Saturdays, 8 a.m.–12 noon;
Tryon Palace Drive

Rocky Mount/Nash County Farmers

Market Saturdays, 7:30 a.m.–11 a.m.;
1217 Bethlehem Road at St. Paul's United
Methodist Church

Sanford/Lee County Farmers Market

Wednesdays, 3 p.m.–6 p.m.;
Saturdays, 8 a.m.–12 noon;
Lee County Fairgrounds

Tarboro/Edcombe County

Farmers Market

Tuesdays and Fridays, 7 a.m. until
sold out, usually late morning;
Albemarle Avenue and Church Street

Wilson/Yancy County Farmers Market

Wednesdays and Saturdays, 9 a.m.–12
noon, sometimes later; 2200 Downing
Street at Unity Church

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Recipes

Curry Dip with Fresh Vegetables

Blanching broccoli, snap peas and snow peas as you would asparagus and new potatoes heightens their color and softens their raw crunch just enough. With the sunny color of curry and the array of hues provided by the crudites, this beautiful, healthful starter doubles as a centerpiece.

Dip:

- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1 tbsp. curry powder
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- minced cilantro or parsley
- 2 tbsp. minced spring onions
- 2 tbsp. minced fresh cilantro or dill

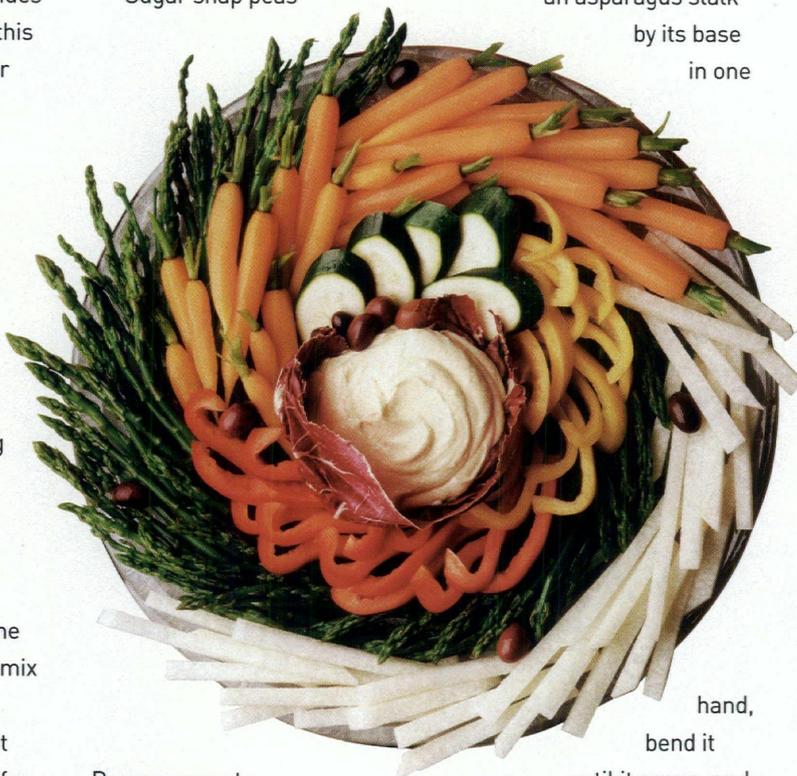
In a medium bowl, combine all ingredients and stir to mix well. Cover and chill until serving time. Makes about 1 cup dip, which will keep for 2 to 3 days.

Fresh Vegetables for Dipping:

The method is the same for any amount, but a double handful of each prepped vegetable will generously

serve 10 to 12 people, and leftovers make instant snacks or salad for the next few days.

- Carrots
- Cucumbers
- Radishes
- New potatoes
- Asparagus
- Broccoli
- Snow peas
- Sugar snap peas



Prepare carrots by trimming away tops and tips, peeling, and cutting into carrot sticks. Peel cucumbers, leaving some peeling on for color, and cut into long, chunky strips. If radishes still have fresh, lovely green tops,

wash them well, trim away root tip and otherwise leave whole. If very large, trim away tops and tips and slice into thick ovals or rounds.

To prepare remaining vegetables, bring a pot of water to a rolling boil. Meanwhile, prepare each vegetable and set aside by the stove. Holding an asparagus stalk

by its base
in one

hand,
bend it

until it snaps, and discard base. Cut broccoli into bite-sized florets. Halve new potatoes. If snow peas and sugar snap peas are very tender, leave them whole, or string them and trim away tops if they are not.

Place a large bowl of ice water by the stove, along with a cookie sheet or large baking pan lined with kitchen towels.

Using tongs, two slotted spoons or a large strainer, lower the new potatoes into the water and cook until they are tender enough to be pierced by a fork. Remove quickly to the bowl of ice water, but keep the pot of water boiling. When water returns to a rolling boil, add each remaining batch of vegetables, one at a time, and cook until tender but still firm, 3 to 5 minutes. As soon as each batch has cooled, lift it out of the cold water bath, drain, and transfer to towel-lined cookie sheet to drain further. Replenish ice as needed.

Transfer cooled, blanched vegetables to a serving platter, or to individual containers or plastic bags and refrigerate, covered, until just before serving time.

Arrange vegetables on serving platter with bowl of dip and serve cold or at room temperature.

Fresh Strawberries Dipped in Chocolate

This is so easy, you may feel a tad bit sheepish when some folks swoon at your creation. Don't say a word except "Thanks." It takes a batch or two to get the hang of it, and you went to the trouble of finding wonderful chocolate and beautiful berries, so bask in that praise.

WEBSITES WORTH A LOOK:

- Carolina Farm Stewardship Association: www.carolinafarmstewards.com
- Carrboro Farmers Market: www.carrborofarmersmarket.com
- Department of Agriculture Sites: www.agr.state.nc.us/markets/facilit/
www.usda.gov/farmersmarkets/
- Ferrington Farmers Market: www.ferrington.com

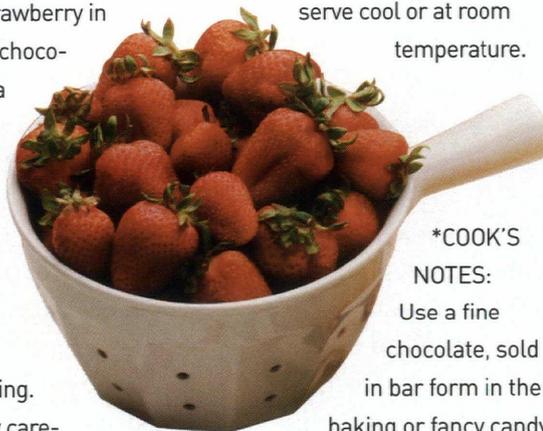
- 16 oz. semisweet or bittersweet chocolate*
- 1 qt. (approx.) of strawberries
- Waxed paper, plastic wrap or aluminum foil

Gently wash strawberries and pat them very dry, leaving green stems and tops intact. Line a platter or cookie sheet with waxed paper, plastic wrap or aluminum foil.

Break the chocolate into small pieces and set aside. In a double boiler, or a metal bowl placed over a bowl of actively simmering water, melt the chocolate. (You can also melt chocolate in the microwave, stopping often to

stir and check the state of meltedness.) Stop before chocolate is completely melted, as small lumps will continue to melt as you stir when it is off the heat.

Dip a strawberry in the melted chocolate, using a spoon to coat the bottom half of the berry well but leaving some red berry showing. Place berry carefully on lined platter and continue dipping until you have used up chocolate and berries.



(If chocolate sets up before you have finished, gently reheat it.)

Place platter in the refrigerator to let the chocolate set. Remove from refrigerator shortly before serving, and serve cool or at room temperature.

*COOK'S

NOTES:

Use a fine chocolate, sold in bar form in the baking or fancy candy section, or in bulk at a food specialty shop or by mail order. Chocolate chips were

born to maintain their little curly shapes, and therefore do poorly in this kind of dish. You can also use fine milk chocolate or white chocolate in this recipe.

If you can't manage this whole process, serve a platter of ripe strawberries along with bowls of sour cream and brown sugar, and/or whipped cream, and let them dip their own.

If you pick your own berries, you can leave long stems attached, (or ask your friendly farmers market vendor to bring you some stemmy berries next week.) Long stems look lovely and make dipping easier. **MM**

Off the Menu

True grit

SHAD FEST UNFAZED BY STORM'S RAVAGES

A mere seven months after Hurricane Floyd wreaked havoc on the town of Grifton, this Pitt County community courageously put on its 30th annual Grifton Shad Festival in early April.

The largest crowd in the event's history showed up to celebrate survival and shad, applauding the parade, swarming the rock climbing wall and amusement rides, dancing in the streets, waving at Shad Festival Queen Lidiann Melhado, and enjoying fantastic food. In addition to funnel cakes and other

standard fair fare, festival-goers feasted on fried hickory shad, fried herring, fried ham, barbecued chicken, and Grifton's local specialty, fish stew, simmered up this year by the Lions' Club with catfish, potatoes, onions, and lots of love.

Some Picasso with that?

ART TO EAT AT DURHAM FEST

Make your way to the Durham Arts Council on Sunday, June 11th, 4:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m., for their eighth annual Edible Arts Festival. This delicious occasion benefits the Durham Arts Council School, which offers classes in visual and performing arts to the community throughout the year, and the CAPS program, (Creative Arts in the

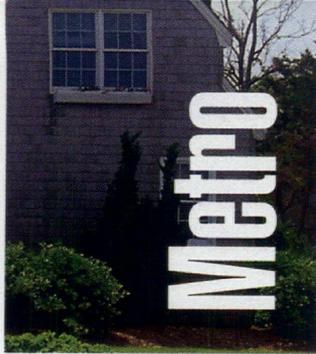
Public/Private Schools), which brings artists into Durham and Orange County schools to teach core subjects and skills through the arts.

Offering tastings against a backdrop of live music and works of art are such area restaurants as Brightleaf 905, Carolina Crossroads at the Carolina Inn, Fairview Restaurant at the Washington Duke Inn, Francesca's Dessert Cafe, George's Garage, Il Palio at the Siena Hotel, Magnolia Grill, Nana's, and Sitar India Palace, along with Durham's Marriott Civic Center and Sheraton Imperial Hotels, Broad Street Coffee Roasters, and Counter Culture Coffee. For details, call (919) 560-2722 and/or visit www.durhamarts.org.

Grill and boy

DURHAM RESTAURATEURS NOT AFRAID TO SHARE THE FLAVORS

Magnolia Grill, the renowned local restaurant and the original star in Durham's culinary crown, is about to go national—no, we don't mean a chain, nor do we forecast a franchise. It's their first cookbook, certain to find its way onto countless kitchen counters around the nation. For more on their book, *Not Afraid of Flavor: Recipes from Magnolia Grill*, by Ben and Karen Barker, to be published this fall by UNC Press, check out their website, which will be up the first of June: www.magnoliagrillcookbook.com. **MM**



Design

by Diane Lea

King of the coast

RESURRECTING OCRACOKE ISLAND'S LANDMARK INN

Sailing into Silver Lake, Ocracoke Island's picturesque little harbor, lifts the spirits and sets the tone for one of the most delightful experiences to be found on North Carolina's famed Outer Banks: a visit to a slow-paced coastal village and a welcoming historic inn. There at the southern end of Silver Lake, on a bright green square of lawn, sits the Castle on Silver Lake, a grand old shingled structure that is a vision from New England's Nantucket Island. The Castle's three-storied facade is capped by seven gabled dormers, and the widow's walk tops a shingled tower.

The waves lap gently

on the bulkheaded lawn, and a southwesterly breeze snaps the pennants of handsome vessels tied up at its docks. The Castle on Silver Lake seems to sparkle in Ocracoke's crystalline light, as well it should. After lying vacant and neglected for almost two decades, this island landmark has been rescued and renovated and is again living up to its heritage as a place of hospitality and welcome.

Once known as the Berkley Castle, after owner-builder Sam Jones of Berkley Machine

Works in Norfolk, Virginia, who made his fortune by developing a process to load coal into locomotives, the Castle on Silver Lake Bed and Breakfast is the brainchild of Steve and Mary Wright of Rocky Mount. Steve first came to Ocracoke with his father in the 1950s and the Wrights have long enjoyed family vacations on the island.

Steve and Mary became owners of the venerable building in 1994 when Steve and partner David Esham, a native Ocracoker and owner of the Pony Island Motel, purchased the Castle and an auxiliary harborside house known as the Whittler's Cottage. "David and I just couldn't let



the Castle and its setting be spoiled," says Wright. "We didn't know what we were going to do with it, but we wanted to do something worthy of its classic architecture and historical significance. Besides, the site commands the finest view of Ocracoke's Silver Lake. When visitors coming to Ocracoke on the

ferry look across the harbor and see the Castle, it kind of sets the stage for all the island's wonderful history and tradition."

The idea to adapt the Castle, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, as a bed and breakfast was a natural extension of the building's history, first as the

home of Sam Jones who used it as a corporate retreat and later as the island's unofficial community center. Jones fell in love with Ocracoke when he visited it in 1939 with his first wife, a relative of the island's Howard family. From that time until his death in 1977 at the age of 84, Jones made Ocracoke his special

project and entered fully into the community's life.

Jones not only donated generously to the Island's two churches and the nation's only mounted Boy Scout troop, but also devised entertainments for all the Island residents. Jones' favorite recreation, after hunting and fishing, was square dancing, and



PHOTOS BY JIM TURCOTTE

when he outgrew his first Island house, he made sure his new home, the Berkley Castle, included a ballroom large enough for square dances and costume balls.

Jones favored a combination of Shingle Style and Colonial Revival architecture and used elements from each in designing his Ocracoke homes. He built three of them during the 1950s and 1960s, and their distinctive

harbor, an 18-by-60-foot ballroom, and its rustic companion, the Whittler's Cottage. The last of Jones' creations is the Homeplace, a smaller version of the two earlier structures which sits on the west side of the harbor nestled in myrtle and bay trees. It is still owned by Jones' heirs.

Sam Jones designed all the homes and their accompanying buildings. He is said to have drawn sketches in the

love of paneled wainscoting, Federal-style mantels and dentil molding is reflected prominently in each of his homes. Crafted of mellow handpicked cypress characteristic of all Jones' interiors, the Williamsburg detailing remains among the most charming aspects of the Castle on Silver Lake.

Jones added to the castle continuously for almost 20 years, until it grew to the

estate, Wright and Esham split the original acreage into parcels. Esham took the Whittler's Cottage and a lot across the street from the cottage where he built a residence, again using the motifs of shingles and steep gables to complement the Castle's architecture.

"David also owned the back portion of the Castle itself," says Wright. "But I bought that piece back when



Cues at the ready for fun at the castle



A grand place for sumptuous summer dinner

shingled towers still frame the harbor. The first, known as the Berkley Manor, is situated on the north side of Silver Lake and includes an annex for guests known as the Ranch House, as well as stables for ponies and sheds for boat storage. Then came the Berkley Castle, with its spectacular site at the head of the

sand for his carpenters at the beginning of each day. Built exclusively by local craftsmen who worked for Jones when the weather was too bad for fishing or crabbing, the homes are exceptionally well constructed and finely finished with decorative elements drawn from Colonial Williamsburg models. Jones'

12,500-square-foot structure that Wright and Esham purchased. The Whittler's Cottage, a small rustic structure on the harbor's edge, was built when Jones decided that his retired fishermen friends needed a gathering place to gossip and whittle decoys.

After purchasing the property from the Sam Jones

I decided to adapt the rear portion of the Castle as part of a courtyard villa complex that would house eight individual villas but look like a rambling annex to the original building."

Wright's decision to use the back part of the Castle for his new units probably cost him more than building from

the ground up. "I just couldn't give up the beautiful quarter-sawn fir that was used in the main-floor ballroom and another large room on the second level," says Wright. "The space yielded four villas, each with interesting nooks, crooks and angles that give character to the living spaces.

Wright takes pride in having saved every available inch of the huge structure, with the exception of a deteriorated

but we were able to keep the original configuration of the rooms pretty much intact."

To achieve this, Steve camped out for months in the rear ballroom section of the Castle. "I'd walk around the front, older portion of the house and think about how it could be made into comfortable rooms for a bed and breakfast," says Wright.

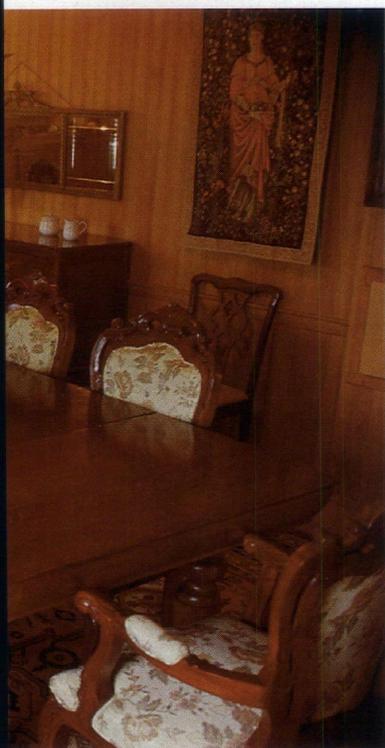
Finally he turned for help to Billy Wiggs, a friend and

years before he was ready to open the downstairs of the front portion of the Castle for guests. "We only had four rooms when we opened in 1997," says Wright. "It took us another year to get the upstairs ready and to complete our present number of 10 rooms."

Long a partner in her husband's enterprises, Mary Wright took on the job of decorating the Castle in the

in the rooms and living areas." The Wrights have also collected historic photographs that document early scenes of Ocracoke Island, of Jones and his friends and family, including a favorite horse Ikey D, and of the Castle in its various stages. These reminders of the Island's past are displayed throughout the bed and breakfast.

As plans for the Castle on Silver Lake Bed and Breakfast



A welcoming room for relaxing at the beach

breezeway, and feels a special satisfaction in how much of the original Castle's historic fabric was preserved. "We put in new wiring, heating, cooling and added seven and one-half bathrooms," says Wright. "There is a new kitchen on the main level with a laundry and pantry, and a hospitality kitchen on the second level,

craftsman who had helped build a home on Wright's farm in Virginia. "Billy was invaluable in figuring out how to find places to put the chases for the new bathrooms and how to disguise the modern heating and air conditioning systems." Wright worked with contractor Larry Ihle and two free-lance carpenters for two

Sam Jones style and scoured the Southeast for furniture and accessories. "Sam Jones loved antiques," says Mary. "He would acquire oriental rugs and when he ran out of places to put them, he'd layer them on top of each other. His tastes ran to elaborately carved Victorian pieces and some Art Deco which you see

coalesced, Wright decided to make the Castle the main focus of his time and resources. He sold a wholesale plumbing company in Rocky Mount and began thinking of ways to make the Castle a true resort destination which would encourage guests to come for extended stays and really enjoy Ocracoke's many

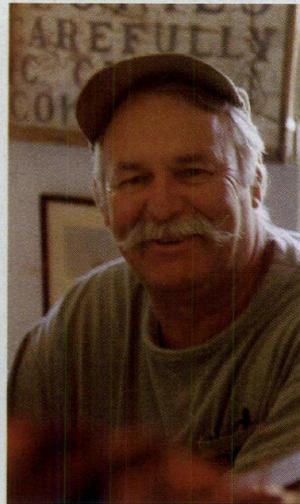
Collector's spot

OCRACOKE'S DOWNPOINT DECOY SHOP

Decoy carver David O'Neal is a native Ocracoker whose family has been on the island for more than five generations. He speaks with a distinctive "hoigh Toider" accent and his face is bronzed by life on the Outer Banks and a career in the Coast Guard. O'Neal's shop, the Downpoint Decoy Shop, takes its name from the portion of the island where he lives and carves. It is almost directly behind the Castle on Silver Lake.

Though O'Neal has been

buying and selling decoys for more than 22 years, he has only had a shop for about six years. "This is my second shop," says O'Neal, as he looks around the small one-room building where every available surface is covered with the beautiful objects he sells. "Some of the wood used in it came from the old Green Island Hunt Club that Sam Jones used to own. We tend to recycle everything around here." O'Neal's career as a decoy carver began when his



David O'Neal: old salt, decoy artist

uncle-in-law encouraged him to carve some pieces for a show in Virginia Beach. "I sold every piece; there were 11 of them," recalls O'Neal.

"From there it was just natural to keep on carving and then to begin buying and selling decoys."

Though decoys have been long prized by a few collectors, they have now become big business. O'Neal points to an auction brochure featuring an Elmer Crowell carved goose. "That goose sold in February at Sotheby's in New York for \$684,500—the highest price ever paid for a decoy," says O'Neal. "I'm fortunate to have a couple of Crowell pieces in my own collection."

—Diane Lea



Decoys aren't just to attract ducks anymore

attributes. "There's an incredible artist colony on the island," says Wright, "and artists and decoy makers from all over the country exhibit their works in the galleries here." Wright points out that the Downpoint Decoy Shop run by David O'Neal has been featured in the *National Geographic Traveler* magazine.

To achieve his goal of promoting the Castle and Ocracoke, Wright realized he needed to provide more guest accommodations. "I knew we had to have more than the 10 rooms with private baths that we designed for the Castle," said Wright. "And I wanted to add some amenities to the site to make it stand as an independent resort destination."

In 1998, with these goals in mind, Wright built the Castle Villas, a duplex that looks like a single residence and offers two six-bed units of about 2500 square feet. Unlocking connecting doors can combine the two sides of the Villas, and they are often rented that way to larger families or corporations. "The summer rental fees for these units provide a good return," says Wright. "They helped to finance the construction of the eight individual courtyard villas while we were getting the bed and breakfast going."

Wright worked with Tennessee-based architect Bill Denton on the design of the individual villas. "We think the courtyard villas really complement the original

BOOK SHORT

The farthest outposts

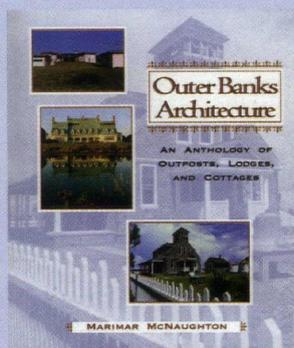
OUTER BANKS' GEOGRAPHY SHAPED ITS ARCHITECTURE

"Government-built shelters are the cornerstone of Outer Banks architecture," is how Marimar McNaughton, a talented freelance writer from Southern Shores, N.C., begins her story about the early days of barrier isle life. But the government's sometimes clumsy hand wasn't necessarily a bad thing—nor was it the whole story.

Up the coast a way, along sounds in Currituck County and on Roanoke, Ocracoke and Portsmouth Islands,

Barely inhabited until the early 1800s, the Outer Banks eventually became home to duck-hunters, surfmen and government lighthouse keepers.

there were permanent settlements in the late 18th century, but the outer spits were colonized very cautiously. Barely inhabited until the early 1800s, the desolate, ever-shifting Outer Banks eventually became home to duck hunters, surfmen and government



Outer Banks Architecture: An anthology of outposts, lodges and cottages

By Marimar McNaughton
John F. Blair, 2000, 114 pp.

lighthouse keepers. Early structures, built by locals, were in the Carpenter Gothic style, in which timbered exterior details reflected the frame of the building.

A decade before the Civil War, a small group of Northern tycoons discovered the prime duck hunting along the area's marsh islands, wetlands, sand hills and oceanfront, and established the isles' first lodge: the Currituck Shooting Club, now the oldest active hunt club in the country. J.P. Morgan, W.K. Vanderbilt and Henry O. Havemeyer, president of Domino Sugar, were eventual members.

"In [the club's] heyday, its 21 members and their guests were aroused by the rising sun," McNaughton writes. "After hurriedly eating breakfast, they scrambled for guns, ammunition and decoys in a mad dash for the boat landing."

Around 1875, during Reconstruction, Treasury Department architects and engineers introduced different styles of government buildings, most of which were plain, but proper and handsome in their functionality—these talented government artists drew from a blend of classic academic styles from Europe.

Humble and straightforward, the 1894 Portsmouth Island Lifesaving Station, a cedar-shingled, Quonochontaug-type shelter became a lasting landmark—and community center. The closeness between surfmen and townies came to the fore during the bizarre events that took place May 8 and 9, 1903. With the help of practically the whole town, the all-volunteer surf crew rescued 399 passengers and 22 crew members from pounding surf after a 605-ton brig from Massachusetts ran aground en route to Cape Verde.

"Every local man and every boat or skiff available were deployed in the mission," McNaughton writes. "[Meanwhile], the captain of the vessel fled the scene in an act shrouded in suspicion. He may have been smuggling cargo—214 barrels of whale oil reportedly worth \$6000. That cargo was also saved by the Portsmouth Islanders."

—Patrik Jonsson

architecture,” says Wright, who planned each unit with a lock-out room for separate rental or privacy. To preserve the Castle’s front elevation, Wright and Denton tucked a heated pool with sun-

bathing deck and a separate spa-cabana building behind the villas. The new building contains a steam room, sauna, massage room, and showers and changing rooms for guests. “The island gets

really crowded in the summer,” says Wright, “and we wanted our guests to enjoy some luxury and privacy after a day of ocean kayaking, walking on the beach or touring the galleries.”

The Wrights’ love of things historic, and their sensitivity to preserving them, has made the six-year renovation and expansion of the Castle on Silver Lake a notable achievement. And, to Steve and Mary’s surprise and delight, they are natural innkeepers. The couple often stay on their 42-foot sports fishing boat while tending to their duties as owners and innkeepers.

“Mary and I have gathered an excellent staff, but I still like it when guests gather in the kitchen while I fix a big breakfast,” says Wright, who employs a husband and wife team and two assistants to keep up with the bed and breakfast and villas. “I really enjoy getting to know our guests and much of our business is return business, so I guess they enjoy it too.” Sam Jones would certainly approve. **MM**



A stunning view of the bay from atop the balcony at Silver Lake

DESIGN NOTES

Natural legacies

COUNTY FIRES UP CONSERVATION LAND-GRAB

Orange County, part of the fast-growing Research Triangle, has instituted the Lands Legacy Program, the first comprehensive land acquisition program in the state.

Administered by the Orange County Environment and Resource Conservation Department, the Lands Legacy Program is

charged with preserving high priority natural and cultural land throughout Orange County.

“Our task in the Lands Legacy Program,” says Rich Shaw, the Department’s Land Conservation Manager, “is to preserve natural areas and wildlife habitats, riparian buffers, farmland, historic and cultural sites and scenic areas, and to find ways to set them aside for long-term management and enjoyment. For a county that has been in

existence for over 200 years, we own very little land.”

The Department plans to use a variety of methods to preserve critical lands, including outright acquisition, accepting donations or charitable gifts from landowners, asking owners to place conservation easements on their property and receiving land as “set asides” during the development process. There is also the option of life-lease agreements where the land is sold to the county but

the landowner retains the right to remain on the land for a specified time.

Shaw points out that the County’s Land Legacy Program will work with non-profit conservation groups like the Triangle Land Conservancy, the Conservation Trust of North Carolina and the Eno River Association to ensure that owners who are willing to donate land or place conservation easements on it are eligible for all tax reductions and tax credits. **MM**



PwV

by Philip van Vleck

Revolutionary venue

BLOOD, SWEAT AND TEARS BUILD MUSIC MECCA

What do Nine Inch Nails, Buddy Guy, Indigo Girls, and Alan Jackson have in common? Well, in North Carolina, they have Alltel Pavilion at Walnut Creek in common. In the past nine years, all of these artists and hundreds more have performed at Alltel Pavilion, formerly Hardee's Walnut Creek Amphitheatre.

The Pavilion is celebrating its 10th anniversary season this summer. This music venue, which can accommodate 20,000 fans and has drawn nearly four million customers in the past nine years, has dramatically altered the music scene in eastern North Carolina.

Wilson Rogers, who was General Manager at Walnut Creek when the venue opened its gates on July 4, 1991, offers a first-hand perspective on the arrival of this outdoor amphitheater in Raleigh.

"When we came in in '91, the only large concert venues in Raleigh were Dorton Arena and Reynolds Coliseum [on the NCSU campus]," Wilson noted. That pretty well sums up the state of affairs in

Raleigh in terms of rock concerts. In 1991 there was the Dean Smith Center, of course, on the campus of UNC-Chapel Hill, but, like Reynolds, that too is a basketball venue and, fancy this—no beer sales.

"Up until Hardee's arrived, Greensboro had always been the concert mecca, even after the Dean Dome was built," Wilson said. "And Fayetteville

"...if there was ever a large music venue built in Raleigh, it was gonna be a great market."

got more concerts than Raleigh," he added. "Everybody understood that if there was ever a large music venue built in Raleigh, it was gonna be a great market." But it seemingly took forever for Raleigh finally to get the sort of outdoor music amphitheater that it needed. It's pretty bizarre that a market the size of Raleigh-Cary-Durham-Chapel Hill did not have a major, credible music venue as late as 1990. Wilson attributed

this oddity to the conservative nature of the Raleigh and Wake County governments. "Building this sort of venue is an expensive undertaking," he said, "and they're lightning rods for all kinds of craziness."

It's ironic that, once Raleigh did commit to the construction of Hardee's Walnut Creek Amphitheatre, things went relatively smoothly. "We broke ground for that building on January 23, 1991," Wilson said, "and it opened for business in July 1991. It was a public/private venture. It came in on time and under budget. And except for local residents who had their own agendas, the venue was never a lightning rod for criticism."

Wilson cites Alltel/Hardee's location as a critical factor in its long-term success. "Having spent a lot of years in eastern North Carolina," he observed, "I can tell you that it's difficult to retrain people. I don't think Walnut Creek would've been as successful if it had been placed in Greenville or Fayetteville, or even Durham. The reason is that people from the eastern part of the

state are accustomed to going to Raleigh. They go there to do Christmas shopping; they go there for the State Fair every year. I remember that there were people who wanted to see Walnut Creek put in Research Triangle Park. That wouldn't have worked as well either. Where it sits gave it the best chance for success. In my mind, it's just like any other real estate deal: Location, location, location."

Located in southeast Raleigh on Rock Quarry Road, immediately accessible from I-40 and Raleigh's beltline, Alltel Pavilion is not only easy for Triangle residents to reach, but it's also very well situated for people coming from east of Raleigh. And in 1991 there was a sizable potential audience for this venue living in Wilson, Rocky Mount, Goldsboro, Kinston, Greenville, New Bern—all the way to Wilmington and Atlantic Beach. The choice of site for Alltel Pavilion maximized the chance of tapping those music fans, and they have responded in the tens of thousands in the last nine years.

"It's not just Raleigh's amphitheater," Wilson noted. "It's eastern North Carolina's amphitheater."

What Raleigh got for its money with Alltel Pavilion was a state-of-the-art concert facility. It opened as a venue with good sightlines, an excellent sound reinforcement system (which was updated within five years) and lots of parking. The Pavilion's most obvious flaw—inadequate women's restroom facilities—is a problem shared by every entertainment venue in the world. Evidently it's impossible to place enough women's restrooms in an entertainment facility.

"And I still think it's the best sited venue I've ever seen," Wilson noted, "in terms of where it's situated in the landscape. You turn into the facility off Rock Quarry Road and drive down that long driveway. You can't see the amphitheater until you make that final turn, and then it's like the opening of a movie. It springs out at you and it's an overwhelming sight."

Wilson also pointed out that the amphitheater benefited from a good deal of insight and experience in the planning stages. "I remember a meeting that we held in Houston, Texas, and we had a model of the venue and the architects' drawings. There were seven general managers from seven amphitheaters owned by Pace Entertainment (owners of Walnut

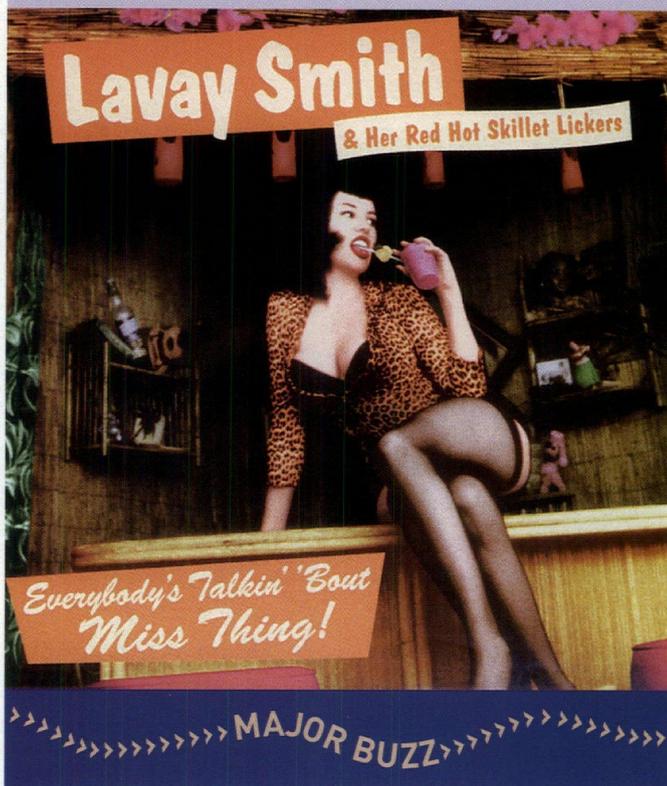
Creek Amphitheatre) and they stood around that model and the drawings and tweaked it. Some changes were dramatic, some weren't, but they tweaked it to the point that it was, from a functional standpoint, as good as it gets. It loads well for the spectators. For the artists it's an easy-in-easy-out deal. And inside the venue, the crowd flows easily. The whole venue flows easily."

Of course, Alltel has its critics. The concessions are high and someone is always complaining about the acts that are booked. But as a stand-alone concert facility, it cannot be faulted in terms of location, design, sound system or acoustic viability. Though too many acts appear on Alltel's stage that would be better off in retirement and abiding in silence, the venue's 10th anniversary season has already seen the appearance of Widespread Panic and Nine Inch Nails and will feature Indigo Girls (June 4); Red Hot Chili Peppers, with Foo Fighters (June 11); Britney Spears (June 16); and Santana, with Macy Grey (July 25), with more unannounced acts to come before the season concludes in October.

In the past nine years, Alltel Pavilion has transformed the Triangle into a major music market and provided eastern North Carolina music fans the opportunity to hear some of the best acts in the industry. **MM**

MUSIC FOR SALE

Lavay Smith & Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers:
Everybody's Talkin' 'Bout Miss Thing!
Fat Note Records



Smith and her Skillet Lickers have been generating a major buzz in the San Francisco club scene for years, selling out the trendy Café du Nord every Friday night with a jump blues/swing sound that immediately brings to mind the heyday of Kansas City jazz players like Jay McShann. Smith is a fully realized chanteuse. She shows up for work with a gorgeous voice—think Ida Cox, Alberta Hunter, Peggy Lee—plus a large measure of sex appeal and a gift for songwriting. The CD features a number of original tunes,

written by pianist Chris Siebert and Smith, including the swingin' title track, "Blow Me A Fat Note," "Roll The Boogie" and "Honey Pie." Smith and her crew also shine when covering tunes like Jay McShann's "Hootie Blues," Dizzy Gillespie's "He Beeped When He Should Have Bopped," and Billie Holiday's "Now Or Never." Stellar solo work from journeyman players Allen Smith, Charlie Siebert, Ron Stallings, and Jules Broussard seal this deal. For anyone who likes swing blues, Lavay Smith is your girl singer.

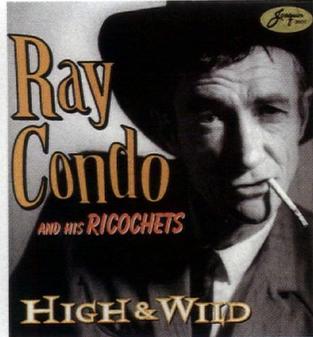
MUSIC FOR SALE, continued

Eliane Elias:
Everything I Love
 Blue Note



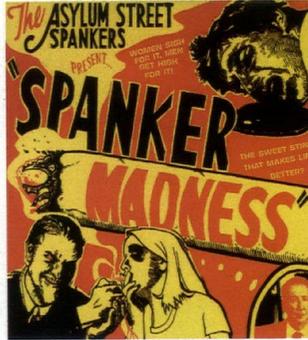
This is Brazilian-born pianist Eliane Elias' ninth album for Blue Note and we find her in top form. Working with drummers Jack DeJohnette and Carl Allen, and bassists Marc Johnson and Christian McBride, Elias cruises back and forth between some very wistful melodic explorations and hard bop sorties that highlight her fiery right hand. She opens with "Bowing To Bud," a beautiful and vigorous tribute to bop legend Bud Powell. The title track, with Johnson and DeJohnette, is another bop foray that gives vivid evidence of Elias' virtuosity as a soloist. Elias' 1998 release for Blue Note, *Sings Jobim*, featured her singing Jobim's bossa nova material. She also sings a few tunes on *Everything I Love*. Her best vocal effort comes with "I Fall In Love Too Easily." Elias' voice is a frail thing that is not the basis of her jazz success, but on this number she delivers a performance that brings to mind Chet Baker's distinctive vocal work.

Ray Condo and His Ricochets:
High & Wild
 Joachin Records



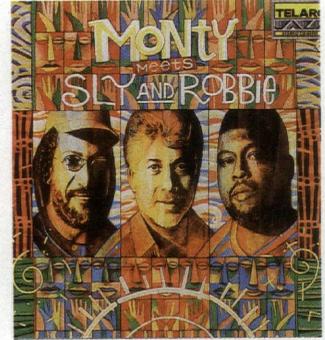
You might not expect to find the masters of western swing and rockabilly in British Columbia, but, in fact, Ray Condo and His Ricochets are from Vancouver, B.C., and they are one of the best indie label country acts in North America. *High & Wild* is Condo's third, and best, release for Joachin Records. In the course of a dozen tracks, Condo and his boys work the western swing of "Ft. Worth Stomp" to perfection and drop down into a classic jazz swing groove with "Whatcha Gonna Do When There Ain't No Swing?" which Condo sings brilliantly. They haven't forgot how to light the fuse on a rockabilly number, either, as we hear on "I Can't Find The Doorknob" and "Baby I Don't Care." And do check the wonderful interpretation of the Cole Porter standard "What Is This Thing Called Love." Great band, great album. This is a CD that's worth a lot more than the asking price.

Asylum Street Spankers:
Spanker Madness
 Spanks-a-Lot Records



This Austin, Texas, musical consortium, known for playing gigs without any sort of amplification, has a concept album here. The concept is dead simple: Blowing weed. Every song on the CD, in one way or another, addresses smoking reefer, except "Beer," which sings the praises of brew (but still mentions weed), and the insightful "Winning The War On Drugs," both penned by the lunatic Wammo. Spanker diva Christine Marrs, one sultry blues singer, has written five tunes, including "High As You Can Be," "Wake And Bake" and "Pakalolo Baby," a ukulele-driven ode to Hawaii and some of the things one might do when in paradise. Come to think of it, Wammo's tour de force, "Amsterdam," alludes to Afghani hashish, not reefer. Next time someone tells you vaudeville is dead, give him or her this album.

Monty Alexander:
Monty Meets Sly and Robbie
 Telarc Jazz

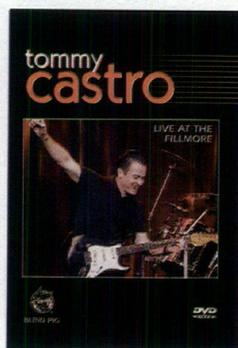


This album is so good it's amazing. Jamaican jazz pianist Monty Alexander, who has gigged with the likes of Sonny Rollins, Ray Brown, Milt Jackson and Dizzy Gillespie, has teamed up with the monster rhythm section of reggae-masters Sly Dunbar (drums) and Robbie Shakespeare (bass) to lay down some very compelling takes on standards like "Sidewinder," "Chameleon" and "Mercy, Mercy, Mercy." The result is electrifying. If you run across this CD, cue up "The In Crowd" and take a big bite out of this awesome groove. Alexander's playing throughout is incredibly fluent and often tantalizingly epigrammatic, and Dunbar and Shakespeare are just untouchable as a rhythm duo. We hear musicians talking all the time about wanting to push into a groove-rich vibe in their studio tracks. Here's an example of what that sounds like when it happens.

VIDEOCENTRIC

**Tommy Castro Live
at the Fillmore**

Blind Pig Pictures; 60 mins.
Concert video. DVD/VHS.



Guitarist Tommy Castro is one of the hottest blues players on the West Coast and this long-form music video captures him live at the storied Fillmore Auditorium in his hometown of San Francisco. Working with his regular band—Randy McDonald (bass), Billy Lee Lewis (drums) and Keith Crossan (sax)—and guests, Castro works his way through 10 original tunes. The groove is blues and soul. The band is way solid and Castro, on lead guitar and vocals, leaves no doubt that he is a blues artist headed for major national recognition. The DVD version also features an interview with Castro and a biography.

Tom Sawyer

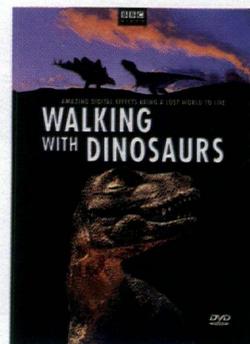
MGM Home Entertainment;
89 mins. Animation. DVD/VHS.



Mark Twain's masterpiece comes to animation with a distinct country flavor. The characters are various animal types, with Tom and Becky being of the feline persuasion and Huck, appropriately, cast as a fox. Country stars Rhett Akins (Tom), Lee Ann Womack (Becky) and Mark Wills (Huck) lend their voices to the effort, as does Don Knotts (Mutt Potter) and Betty White (Aunt Polly). The soundtrack, which is available on CD from MCA, features some very catchy country tunes. The animation is first-rate; the story is no secret. Good for kids from 6 to 12, at least, though country fans of all ages may find the music quite appealing.

Walking with Dinosaurs

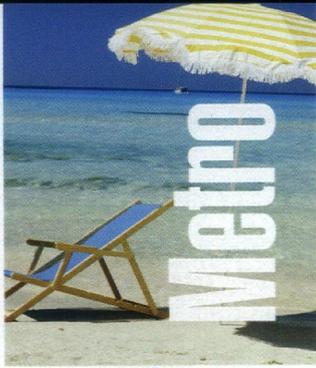
BBC Video/20th Century Fox
Home Entertainment; 3 hrs.
Documentary. DVD/VHS.



This series of six 30-minute programs was a smash hit on British television—over half the television viewers in England watched it. Small wonder, given the stunning computer-generated animation and animatronics deployed here in the service of science. Walking with Dinosaurs offers a gosh-wow look at a couple of hundred million years' worth of dinosaur evolution and it is a visual achievement of serious significance. The program aired in the U.S. on the Discovery Channel in April of this year. Anyone who is interested in dinosaurs will be thrilled with this series. The animatronics are better than Jurassic Park, plus the information imparted is actually accurate. **MM**

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Books

by Art Taylor

Books on the beach

TAR HEEL WRITERS HEAT UP SUMMER READING

One hot summer day in 1997, I watched a woman sitting by the pool at the Coral Bay Club in Atlantic Beach, sipping a cool drink and reading the first few pages of Charles Frazier's *Cold Mountain*.

While the book in her hands wasn't entirely surprising—after all, wasn't *everyone* reading Frazier's best-seller that summer?—the image itself seemed internally incongruous. Could the woman possibly concentrate fully on *Cold Mountain's* dense imagery, intricate sentences and meditative tone while people chatted to each side of her, children raced behind her chair and others splashed in the pool at her feet?

It's certainly possible to read *Cold Mountain* while sipping a cool cocktail—or Shakespeare on the sand or Sartre by the surf or Thomas Pynchon while stretched out on a plush towel. But the idea of “beach reading” might more often bring to mind lighter fare: a suspenseful

whodunit, a thrilling sci-fi adventure, a steamy romance.

Which is not to imply that summer reading needs to be shallow—any more than mysteries or science fiction novels or even romances are, by necessity, substandard literature. Though such fiction often gets less attention than more categorically literary works, the fact is that books from each genre can prove not only worthwhile but perhaps even challenging.

And fortunately for North Carolina readers, our state has a number of celebrated writers in each of these fields.

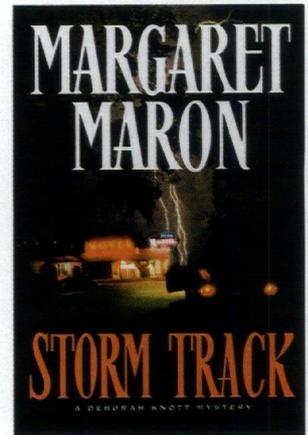
CRIMINAL WAYS

Perhaps more than science fiction, definitely more than romance, mystery novels as a genre have earned some considerable measure of respect from the literary community and even literary critics. *The New York Times Book Review* regularly provides critical coverage of the latest mystery publications. Highbrow literary critics from Yale's Geoffrey Hartman to Duke's Frederic Jameson have weighed in on the form. Even the venerable Library of America has allowed Dashiell Hammett, Raymond Chandler and a series of mid-century crime

novels to rub elbows (or at least dust jackets) with Melville, Twain and Faulkner—though it has clearly produced its own friction among literary purists.

The best mystery writers have succeeded both stylistically (Chandler, of course) and, more often, thematically—with novels which can engage cultural issues, sociological concerns and ethical dilemmas. And the best mystery writers can also keep their readers on the edge of their seats—or their beach chairs.

Among America's finest contemporary mystery writers is Margaret Maron, a Tar Heel native and resident whose current series features Judge Deborah Knott from fictional Colleton County, N.C. The series has already won its fair share of awards, and the first of these novels, 1993's *Bootlegger's Daughter*, is the only book in history to sweep all four of mystery's major prizes: the Edgar, Agatha, Anthony and Macavity. Throughout the series, Maron has explored a litany of North Carolina and regional themes, including grassroots politics (*Bootlegger's Daughter*), traditional men's work versus traditional women's work (*Southern Discomfort*), coastal politics



Storm Track

by Margaret Maron

Warner Books, 2000, 260 pp.

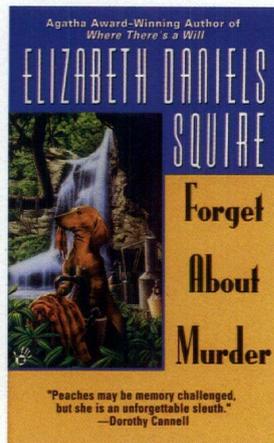
(*Shooting at Loons*) and the problems of unregulated growth and development (*Up Jumps the Devil*). Two of her most recent books—*Killer Market* and *Home Fires*—touch far ends of the spectrum: the first, thematically lighter, is set against the backdrop of the High Point Furniture Market; the second struggles with racism and the burning of black churches in the South.

Fans of Maron's novels will be happy to learn that her latest has hit the shelves just in time for a long weekend's read. *Storm Track* follows in the footsteps of Maron's last book, *Home Fires*, by continuing a story focused on the African-American community and specifically Cyl DeGraffenried,

an aggressive young assistant district attorney. The mystery at hand involves the murder of a prominent attorney's wife (found scantily clad and strangled by her own stocking) and takes place against the backdrop of Hurricane Fran. The book should prove particularly pleasing for fans of *Home Fires*, one of Maron's finest. And for those who missed that novel last year, the release of a paperback edition has fortunately coincided with *Storm Track's* hardcover release.

Maron is, of course, not the only North Carolina crime writer whose books make worthwhile beach reading this summer.

Weaverville resident and Raleigh native Elizabeth Daniels Squire's amiable Peaches Dann series—seven novels, all published as paperback originals—follows the adventures of an older amateur sleuth, whose absent-mindedness hasn't necessarily hampered her detective skills. Squire's journalistic background includes work as a police reporter in Connecticut and a columnist in Beirut, and service on the board of directors for *The News and Observer* (when it was her family's newspaper), and her writing skills can only be said to have sharpened as Peaches' memory has faltered. Squire's latest book, the just-published *Forget About Murder*, finds Peaches herself taking a job as a newspaper reporter, only to become embroiled in



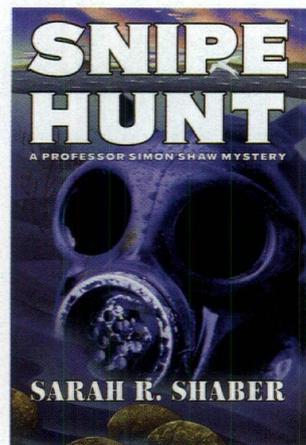
Forget About Murder

by Elizabeth Daniels Squire
The Berkley Publishing Group,
2000, 279 pp.

yet another series of murders.

Equally engaging are two novels by Raleigh writer Sarah Shaber. Her first book, 1997's *Simon Said*, featured Raleigh landmarks both real and fictional (like Kenan College on the corner of St. Mary's and Hillsborough Streets) and combined history and archeology for a satisfying storyline. The debut won the St. Martin's Press Best First Traditional Mystery Contest, and Shaber's recently published sophomore effort, *Snipe Hunt*, has also received strong reviews for a plot that once again mixes historical detail and regional flavor, this time on the Outer Banks.

Nancy Bartholomew of Greensboro has penned two humorous/romantic mysteries featuring Sierra Lavotini, a stripper-turned-amateur-sleuth in Panama City, Florida (*The Miracle Strip* and *Drag Strip*), but her latest book, *Your Cheatin' Heart*, a paperback



Snipe Hunt

by Sarah R. Shaber
St. Martin's Press, 2000,
287 pp.

original published in February 2000, is set in Greensboro and centers on a jilted housewife suspected of killing her ex-husband.

Another North Carolina author writing about Florida is Durham's Ann Prospero, a poet and journalist who helped found *The Palmetto Review* and wrote for several South Florida publications before relocating to the Tar Heel State. Her just-published first novel, *Almost Night*, follows homicide detective Susannah Cannon as she investigates a series of murders in modern-day Miami.

Those looking for something a little more hard-boiled in their mysteries should also check out Katy Munger's Casey Jones series, set in Durham, focusing on a feisty, no-nonsense female heroine and offering some unique perspectives on the modern South. The series began with 1997's hotly

praised *Legwork* and continued with paperback originals *Out of Time* and *Money to Burn*; June 2000 greets the latest of Munger's mysteries: *Bad to the Bone*.

Fans of Patricia Cornwall (largely disappointed by her Charlotte-set books) might instead pick up a copy of Kathy Reichs' best-selling 1997 debut, *Déjà Dead*. Reichs is a UNC-Charlotte anthropology professor and a forensic anthropologist both for the state's chief medical examiner and for Montreal, Quebec, her second home. Though *Déjà Dead* is set in Quebec, the novel's heroine, Temperence Brennan, has North Carolina ties, and the book itself has been roundly lauded for its suspense, its scares and its storytelling.

Finally, as true crime aficionados know, not only is the master of that genre a North Carolina native (now living in Asheboro) but his most successful books, *Bitter Blood* and *Blood Games*, have covered the state's own more grisly murders. Jerry Bledsoe's latest, *Death Sentence*, charts the life, crimes and death of Velma Barfield, who poisoned four people, including her own mother, and eventually became the first woman executed in the United States since 1962. Released in paperback at the end of 1999, the book tells the story of Barfield and her last days in Raleigh's Central Prison, and sheds light on capital punishment, the

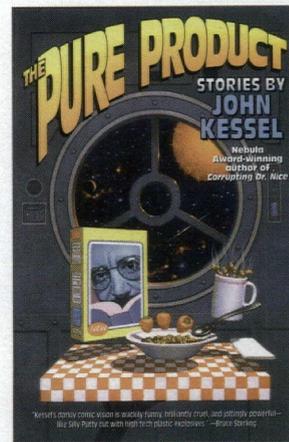
legal system and even the role that one woman's fate played in the political campaigns of incumbent senator Jesse Helms and his challenger, James B. Hunt. Poisoning and politics? Perfect for the summer before the big elections.

CONFRONTING TIME AND SPACE

While regional settings and local color can enhance mysteries, North Carolina science fiction writers are less likely to situate their plots along Raleigh's Hillsborough Street or on the Beaufort boardwalk or in Rocky Mount, Wilson or Goldsboro. More likely? A 26th-century Stardock (the

opening pages of William Barton's *Acts of Conscience*) or the island of Ornifal in a medieval universe (David Drake's "Lord of the Isles" trilogy). Meanwhile, *Corrupting Dr. Nice*, a time-travel adventure by John Kessel, covers its own wide spectrum of settings: from Jerusalem in the time of Christ to "Connecticut, 2063 C.E." (Common Era). Kessel, a professor at N.C. State University, has achieved an enviable position in the sci-fi community: critical acclaim, awards and a readership that numbers genre as well as mainstream readers. His novels and stories are noted for being clever,

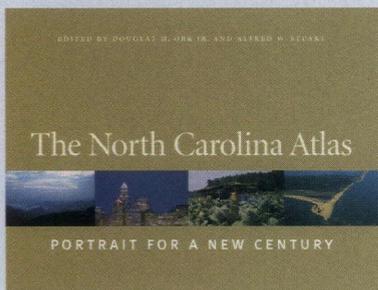
satirical, thought provoking... above all, fun to read. *The Pure Product*, a 1997 collection of his short works recently published in paperback, might be the best place for most readers to start. The book reprints nine stories from a previous collection, then adds in eight other tales, two poems and one short play, "Faustfeathers: A Comedy," which was awarded the 1994 Paul Green Playwrights Prize. The collection might surprise readers who equate science fiction writers with tales of spacemen and aliens, and connote fantasy writers with Tolkien's wizards, hobbits and half-orcs. The opening



The Pure Product
by John Kessel
Tom Doherty Associates, 1997,
381 pp.

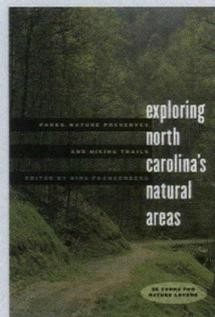
story features a time traveler come to 1963 L.A. to rescue Marilyn Monroe from death. "Herman Melville: Space

celebrating north carolina



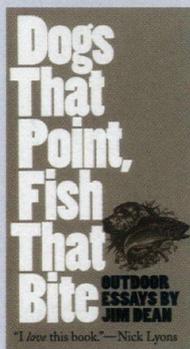
The North Carolina Atlas

Portrait for a New Century
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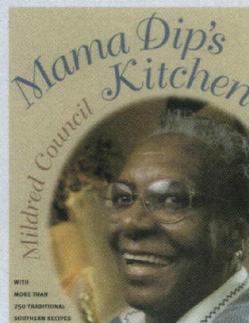


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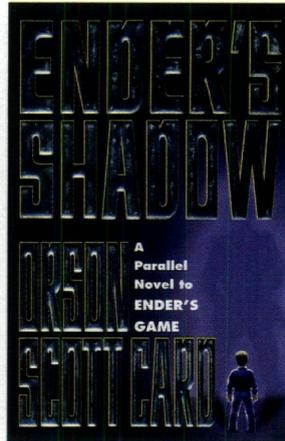
THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA PRESS at bookstores or call [800] 848-6224 | www.uncpress.unc.edu

Opera Virtuoso” re-imagines Melville as the early 20th-century sci-fi author of *White Rocket*, *Red Sun* and the epic *Starry Deeps*, or *The Wail*. “Not Responsible! Park and Lock It!” opens with the birth of a baby boy in the backseat of a Chevy; the date is June 13, 802,701, and a robot doctor facilitates the delivery.

Also noteworthy in Kessel’s oeuvre is a 1996 collection which he co-edited: *Intersections, the Sycamore Hill Anthology*, created from the seventh Sycamore Hill Writers’ Conference, which met in the summer of 1994 at N.C. State. The book collects 13 stories and one novel excerpt

from participants in the group, and readers interested in the processes behind creative writing conferences will also appreciate the workshop comments and author’s commentaries which accompany each of the stories, as well as the appended “Turkey City Lexicon: A Primer for SF Workshops.”

More hard-core than Kessel’s works are the sci-fi novels of Greensboro resident Orson Scott Card, whose much-admired 1986 novel *Ender’s Game* tracks a group of children bred by the military to defend earth against alien attack. *Ender’s Game* won both the Hugo



Ender’s Shadow

by Orson Scott Card

Tom Doherty Associates, 1999, 379 pp.

and Nebula awards and sparked a series of four more books, including 1987’s *Speaker for the Dead* (also a

Hugo and Nebula winner) and 1999’s *Ender’s Shadow*, which takes a Rashomon-like approach to the events of the first novel. In addition to the Ender’s novels, Card has penned several other series: “The Tales of Alvin Maker,” a fantasy series set in the American frontier; “The Homecoming Saga,” which retells ancient scripture as modern sci-fi; and a group of contemporary novels including 1998’s *Homebody*, a modern-day ghost story set in an old Greensboro home.

The word hard-core—in its more prurient form—can also be applied to the sci-fi works of William Barton of

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Durham. His novels and particularly his collaborations with Michael Capobianco—including *Alpha Centauri*, *White Light* and *Iris*—have achieved some notoriety for their explicitly sexual content. Barton's 1997 novel *Acts of Conscience*, for example, follows a sexually troubled orbital mechanic who witnesses the depredations of man across the universe and discovers an alien plot to destroy humanity. Are Barton's novels brutally honest explorations of morality and sexuality in a futuristic context? Or are they self-indulgent exercises in gratuitous sex against a sci-fi backdrop? Only one way to find out...

Chapel Hill writer David Drake is perhaps best known for his military sci-fi—from his first book, 1979's *Hammer's Slammers*, to this year's soon-to-be-published *Lt. Leary Commanding*. But Drake's recent "Lord of the Isles" trilogy—including *Lord of the Isles*, *Queen of Demons* and *Servant of the Dragon* (1997-99)—is less strictly science fiction than fantasy. In the latest novel, the quartet of protagonists, Cashel, Sharina, Garric and Ilina, continue their journey through this world of swords and sorcery, warriors and wizards.

A graduate of Duke Law school who spent eight years as assistant town attorney for Chapel Hill, Drake is now a full-time and extremely prolific writer, responsible for

over a hundred titles, including books he's written or co-written, edited or co-edited, or novels for which he provided the plot outline and let another writer flesh out the story. Add in around a hundred short stories, and Drake alone has provided plenty to read not just for a weekend at the beach, but perhaps even for a season... or two.

THE SCIENCE OF LOVE

Often derided if not entirely dismissed by so-called serious readers, romance novels and American readers' passions for the genre have prompted real study by at least one critic—Duke's Janice Radway. Her book, *Reading The Romance: Women, Patriarchy and Popular Literature* (1991), explores not only the conventions of the romance novel but also the ways in which both these novels and their readers defy certain stereotypes, usually proliferated by people who don't read the books themselves. Radway's study is a fascinating and controversial bit of sociological literary criticism, but whatever its merits, one fact remains clear: Women who read romance are legion, and romance novels remain the best-selling genre of books in American publishing today.

North Carolina has a full supply of romance novelists, many of whom are members of the Heart of Carolina Romance Writers, the local chapter of Romance

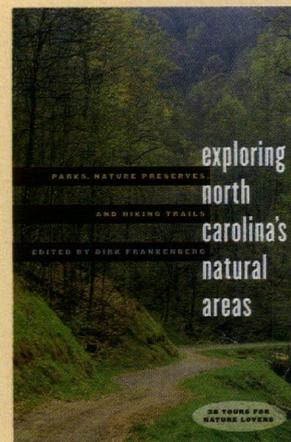
BOOK SHORT

SAMPLING A DELICIOUS COUNTRY

Exploring North Carolina's Natural Areas is exactly the book I needed. Used to Maine's rockier coasts and Colorado's rugged peaks, I was having trouble figuring out North Carolina's geography: the misty, hard-to-see mountains, the dark, moody rivers, a coastline that physically twists like a topographical snake. But Dirk Frankenberg, a UNC-CH marine scientist, gives newcomers like me (and old-timers, for that matter) a fresh way to look at the state's geography—and tells you exactly how to get out there and find it.

Reminding us that the tips of the Smokies once were at ground level before the dirt around them eroded away, Frankenberg writes, "In the West, you should be thinking about negative space—that is, the volume of the landscape not filled with mountains. When visiting the seacoast, don't think that the landscape is flat and topographically dull; think of the thousands of feet of mountain and Piedmont rock fragments that lie between the soles of your feet and the continental rocks that first fractured to open the Atlantic."

After the stunning introduction, the book falters a bit—if only due to its academic treatment of ecological



Exploring North Carolina's Natural Areas: Parks, Nature Preserves and Hiking Trails

Edited by Dirk Frankenberg
The University of North Carolina Press, 2000, 412 pp.

havens, and each suggested trip's lack of human characters. But, the criticisms are trifles. Frankenberg capably illuminates the great variety of ecology in a state that, on first glance, can seem simply flat, leafy and hot. Without it, I wouldn't know about the state-run old growth forests near Durham, the Lumber River's natural blackwater riches, nor the mysteries of the Lonely Mountains.

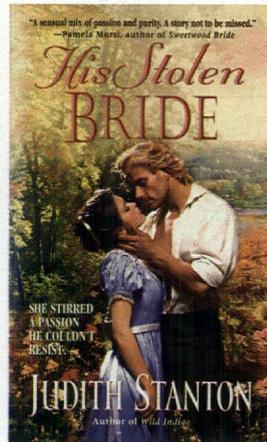
Indeed, from Roanoke's tupelo swamps to the "extreme sand hills" near Southern Pines, this fantastic resource tells you the state's natural history, its key remnants and how to find them. It dares you to find out why surveyor general John Lawson, after a 1701 tour of the state, called it "a delicious country."

— Patrik Jonsson

Writers of America. Most of these writers are publishing paperback originals, many through the Harlequin line or one of its subsidiaries. For example, Raleigh writer Virginia Kantra has published three novels in the Silhouette Intimate Moments series: *The Reforming of Matthew Dunn* (winner of RWA's Golden Heart Award for Best Romantic Suspense); *The Passion of Patrick MacNeill* (a finalist for RWA's prestigious Rita Award) and *The Comeback of Con MacNeill*, published in March 2000. Fayetteville writer Lynette Kent is regularly publishing under the Harlequin Superromance line. Her just-published *Luke's Daughters*, set in Myrtle Beach, tells the story of Luke, who married his presumed-dead brother Matt's pregnant fiancée to provide a family for her unborn child, only to have his brother come back six years later and claim Luke's family for his own. A sequel, *Matt's Family*, is due out in September.

However, not all of the Heart of Carolina writers are publishing under the Harlequin name, or even solely in paperback. For example, Julie Tetel Andresen, a linguistics professor at Duke who has over 15 historical romances to her credit (under the name Tetel), published her most recent book, 1998's *The Blue Hour*, in hard-cover through Madeira Books in Durham.

As a member of academia

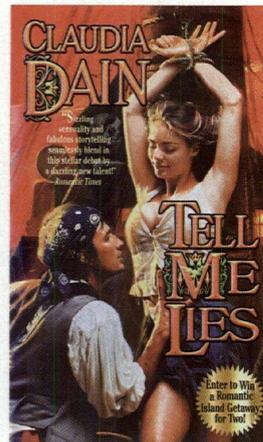


His Stolen Bride

by Judith Stanton

HarperCollins Publishers
1999, 436 pp.

who writes in a genre traditionally disrespected by academics, Andresen suggests that "any good novel transcends its genre," emphasizing that "Shakespeare wrote romance as well." Though not a few might find this a troubling equation, Andresen has certainly attempted to raise the bar on the genre with *The Blue Hour*, a "reincarnation novel" which tells two parallel stories: the first about a failed romance in the 1880s which has an impact on the second story in the present, where reincarnated lovers must learn from the past to avoid its mistakes. Adding this extra dimension to more traditional narrative structures gives *The Blue Hour* a twist that might prove attractive to readers who have shied away from romance as a genre. And the fact that a good part of the novel is set in the Research Triangle, and specifically Duke University, where



Tell Me Lies

by Claudia Dain

Dorchester Publishing Co.
2000, 362 pp.

protagonist Alexandra Kaminiski works as a microbiologist, should win the interest of readers looking for a different brand of regional fiction.

Another romance writer who has used local settings and North Carolina history for her novels is Judith Stanton, a former professor of feminist history whose *Wild Indigo* and *His Stolen Bride* take place largely in the Moravian community of Old Salem. *His Stolen Bride*, published in December 1999 and recently nominated for a Rita, recounts the story of Nicholas Blum, who leaves Old Salem and his intended bride to work as a shopkeeper in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, only to find unexpected love up north just as complications arise down home.

Of course, not all of North Carolina's romance writers are setting their novels within the borders of their resident state. Raleigh author Sabrina Jeffries'

regency period trilogy—*The Pirate Lord*, *The Forbidden Lord* and March 2000's *The Dangerous Lord*—all boast English settings, though much of *The Pirate Lord* takes place on the high seas, where a shipload of women are captured by pirates and pressured to marry the crew. (The novel has notably feminist twists, including chapters beginning with quotations from feminist essays and literature.)

Another pirate fantasy, whose provocative cover is matched by its suggestive content, is Claudia Dain's *Tell Me Lies*, published in March as well. At the story's opening, pirates are crowded around the virginal young heroine, whom they've claimed for their booty. By the end of the first chapter, the woman has secured her survival by willing herself to the handsome captain... and she's found herself a virgin no longer.

Other North Carolina romance novelists include Liz Carlyle, Kathryn Fox, Patricia Hagen, Brenda Jernigan, Jill Jones and newcomer Sarah Winn, who has positioned herself on the cutting-edge of romance novelists. Her novel *The Silver Heiress*, a historical romance set in the Territory of New Mexico, is an e-book, which readers can download via the Internet at www.hardshell.com or request on disk.

Of course, whether an e-book makes for good reading on the beach is up to you... and your technology. **MM**

ADG

After.com

by Rick Smith

High-speed Connections

'I-WAY' SWEEPS THE COUNTRY

Communications, Internet and telephone companies have been promising superhighway-online speed to homes for years. But until recently folks in Eastern North Carolina were out of luck unless they happened to attend a school or work at a business that could afford high-speed dedicated Internet access.

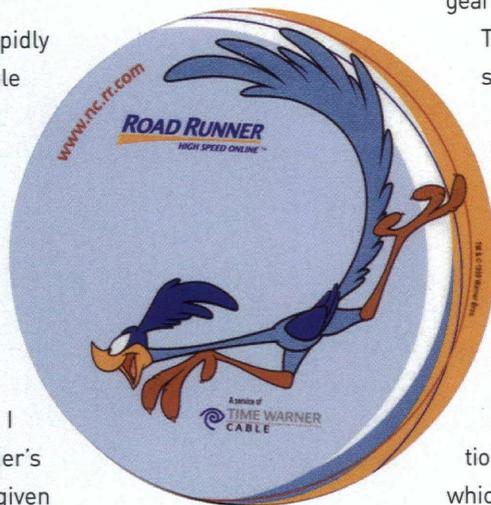
Two choices are rapidly becoming available: Cable modem via Time Warner and so-called Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) from telephone companies due to equipment limitations and network upgrades.

Eager to get high-speed access myself, I signed on for Time Warner's "Road Runner" service, given that DSL was still unavailable in my neighborhood and also because Road Runner will let me network all the PCs (four) in our humble abode.

And so far, I have to give Road Runner kudos. The service is all I expected and more.

A colleague of mine captured quite succinctly the meaning of Internet access via cable modem: "Fast. Very fast," he said. "It's really cool." He's

absolutely right. Road Runner is spreading rapidly across the region, and the days of the "world wide web wait" are practically over for those people signing on. Data moves downstream 50 times faster (or more) than a typical dial-up modem, and because of Time Warner's massive footprint



Meep Meeeeeep! High-speed internet service coming through!

across the state thousands more people are eligible to get access on a daily basis.

Because of its tremendous bandwidth (read that as "super highway speed"), cable Internet access rapidly moves us toward the days of truly interactive entertainment. Rather than waiting 30 seconds for a standard

site to open or minutes for downloads of music and video, we can, from the privacy of our own homes, click once and get virtually instantly any kind of content we want.

The potential also is there for schools and institutions to provide more school-to-home services as well. How about teacher conferences online? More distance learning? (Businesses will have to wait. Time Warner is gearing up for service to them.)

The capabilities of high-speed Internet, which before have been limited to network users at school or work, is one reason why 2000 people signed up for Road Runner in the Triangle months before the service was offered and why the company can't keep up with installation orders now. Group Ware, which is a subcontractor handling the in-home installations, has people working six days a week, 12 hours a day, and more installers are being hired. Widely available in the Research Triangle now, Time Warner is promising access in Fayetteville shortly. More communities will be on board shortly.

The thirst for high-speed Internet access is showing in the marketplace, too. According to *PC Computing* magazine,

cable Internet earned 4 percent of the U.S. marketplace in 1999, and that percentage is expected to jump to 14 percent by 2003.

(Another high-speed alternative is so-called DSL or Digital Subscriber Line service, and the major telephone companies are offering it as well as several specialty companies. But DSL service is limited to a few thousand feet from a DSL-equipped central telephone office facility, and coverage even in the Triangle is as spotty as a leopard. Also available is ISDN. Check with your phone company for pricing and details. A word of warning: your phone company may not allow you to network computers for use with DSL. Be sure to ask up front. Otherwise, you will have to buy multiple connections.)

Speaking from a personal perspective, I ordered Road Runner with a typical journalist's point of view: cynical. I didn't expect anything to go correctly, from the installation right through to the service itself.

Frankly, I was completely wrong. While I can't speak for everyone, and there are complainers about cost, reliability, security and speed, I can say Road Runner rocks in my house. Soon, we will network every PC we have and put in cable Internet outlets every

place we plug in cable TV.

The connection is always on, too, barring service interruption. One click and I'm at my favorite web site. No more waits to dial and the symphony of tones as my old modem tries to link with another.

By the way, the service is separate from your TV cable feed, so there's no problem watching the tube. And if your PC is already equipped to handle a standard Internet Service Provider connection, such as from America Online, your cable Internet feed shouldn't impact it.

Road Runner also offers

other advantages beyond speed.

There can be a cost-savings for many households. For example, remove a standard phone line (and all the related taxes and fees) and you save about \$20 a month. Cut down on multiple ISP accounts (we have four in our house for such needs as simultaneous log-ins, etc.) and you can save more. My intent isn't to sound like a Road Runner commercial, but I did plenty of homework before signing on and prepared a case to move on from my old dial-up services.

Time Warner also is committed to providing news and

local information online. Michael Carmean, a former news editor at *The News & Observer* and veteran of other Road Runner efforts, is the editor for the Triangle site. He is rapidly developing a news portal that serves as a launch pad to everything from *MetroMagazine* to the latest "traffic cam" images from the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

On-line artists

PHOTOGRAPHER CREATES 'PUBLIC TV OF THE ARTS'

Christian Bonanno knows what it's like to be a struggling artist

looking for promotion, exposure and business. So he's taken on the challenge of providing fast Internet access and a host of web tools to fellow startup artists in the Triangle area, no strings attached—and no pun intended.

"My dream is to build sort of the public TV of the arts," said Bonanno, who is a former network engineer at Cisco and now makes his living as a professional photographer. Bonanno, 33, has developed a web site (<http://chapelhillarts.com>) which new artists in Chapel Hill and the Triangle can use free of charge.

Home computing

LIGHTNING-FAST INTERNET IS COMING

Service: Road Runner is Internet access delivered via high-speed cable modems to homes. No phone lines or cable access are required, but non-cable customers will pay \$20 more a month. DSL can work with existing phone line(s).

Download speed: Up to 4096 kilobytes per second (vs. 56 kbps at best for a dial-up modem) for cable; up to 7270 for DSL.

Upload speed: 2500 kbps for cable; 1536 for DSL

Cost: \$39.95 per month, unlimited use, for T-W cable customers; installation is extra, costing about \$150 if you have wiring run and a cable port installed. Price includes the network card for your PC and rental of the cable modem. DSL prices range upward from \$39 per month.

Service includes: For cable, one dynamic IP number (Internet address) plus eight e-mail addresses and 5 megs of

space for a personal web site on the T-W server. (No business web pages allowed.) DSL provider or telephone company may prohibit networking and multiple IP numbers.

Networkable: Yes, you can set up a home cable Internet network with the necessary equipment (network cards, a network hub, wiring). However, basic service only includes one IP address. Off the record, T-W says, software solutions can be found that permit simultaneous log-ons using one IP. If you don't want to go that route, T-W will provide additional IP numbers at \$10 a month.

Can you get training: Yes. T-W hosts free sessions at local offices. Also, depending upon who your installer is, you will get a thorough or basic set-up of your machine and a walk-through of all the services as well as the various

manuals. Be sure to ask lots of questions. DSL providers need to be asked individually.

Is the Road Runner service reliable? Well, how reliable is your cable TV? Also, T-W has a crew dedicated to network monitoring, and as bandwidth demands increase, the company claims it can allocate bandwidth to meet it. (At my house, the service installer had to throttle down the data flow to the cable modem.)

How secure is Road Runner? "Warning! Warning!" as Robbie the Robot would say. Hackers and so-called sniffers are always looking for exposed servers and networks. Be sure to look for some firewall software to protect you.

Where is service available? Check out www.nc.rr.com for frequent news and updates. For DSL coverage, check with ISP or local phone company. **MM**

COURTESY OF ROAD RUNNER WEB SITE: [HTTP://NC.RR.COM](http://nc.rr.com)

	Intel-based		Macintosh	
	Minimum	Recommended	Minimum	Recommended
Processor	Pentium-class	Pentium 166	68040	PPC 6500, 250mhz
Memory	32 Meg.	32 Meg.	32 Meg.	32 Meg.
Available Hard Drive Space	110 Meg. Available	250 Meg. Available	110 Meg. Available	250 Meg. Available
Video Card	SVGA, XGA or 8514/A Graphics Card	SVGA w/2 Meg. or 16 Bit Color Depth	16 Bit Color	32 Bit Color
Sound Card		Windows 95 Compatible w/Speakers		
Mouse	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Operating System	Windows 95	Windows 95 or Higher	OS 7.5 w/Open Transport	OS 8.0 or Higher
Network Card	Open ISA or PCI slot with available IRQ, if network card not present	Open ISA or PCI slot with available IRQ, if network card not present	Paralox Etherwave or Available AUI Port	Available AUI Port



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.CHAPELHILLARTS.COM

Artists on-line: Christian Bonanno and The Trout Band offer music via the Web

They get up to 30 megabytes of space, plenty of web tools (such as audio and video streaming) and fast server response through a T-3 Internet connection.

Several people already have signed on. "It's cooking," said Bonanno, who is paying \$300 a month out of his own pocket to provide the site. He is seeking sponsors and donations, a la NPR and PBS, but he intends to keep the effort what he calls "no profit."

As an additional benefit, the site could bring some publicity for his own musical group, "The Trout Band." Made up of four members, the band has been active in Triangle music since 1992 and delivers an eclectic mix of rock, jazz even bluegrass. "One of the boys loves the banjo," Bonanno said, chuckling.

Free 'Xpression'

XANTHON EXPANDS PHARMA EMPIRE

Xanthon, the cutting-edge genomics company in Chapel Hill, is rapidly moving toward launch of new products

designed to help pharmaceutical companies in gene screening and drug discovery. The company has leased 14,000 square feet of space in Research Triangle Park for use as a manufacturing facility, and earlier it had signed on for another 6000 feet for use by its engineering and software group.

According to Xanthon, the company will make its "Xanthon Xpression Analysis System" available sometime in 2001. The product is designed to deliver high-throughput analysis for drug screening labs. For more details, check out www.xanthon.com.

Blazing trails

WEB SALESMEN ON THE GO

MindBlazer.com is the latest Tar Heel company to burst on the national Internet scene. MindBlazer, which is based in Charlotte, works with clients to present interactive sales and other presentations via the web. Ted Leonsis, president of America Online's properties group, utilized MindBlazer

services to present a 90-minute talk recently. He talked about numerous topics, from telephony over the Internet to targeting communities of interest and online music. If you're interested in learning more and want to move past slides or can't afford live videoconferencing, visit www.mindblazer.com.

Going South

NATIONAL 'PUBS' EXPAND TRIANGLE COVERAGE

Digital South magazine offers an interesting addition to local business coverage with its www.dbusiness.com site. Three reporters operate out of an office in Durham to provide coverage of the Triangle and Down East. The service also has reporters assigned to other regions. The RTP crew breaks many stories, many of which don't appear in the standard papers or on TV.

Check it out.

Comeback magic

MONEY PAINS EASING FOR LOCAL GAMING CREW

IEntertainment Network, formerly known as Interactive Magic, has made substantial progress in its comeback from near-delisting on Wall Street and financial heartache. The company reported a first-quarter loss of \$1 million, a vast improvement over the first-quarter 1999 loss of \$6.1 million.

Strictly an online game company now as opposed to PC-based, IEntertainment also said its Internet revenues were

\$1.5 million, nearly \$1 million more than the 1999 figure. The company is shooting for \$10 million in revenue in 2000, according to dbusiness.com.

Your own sportscaster?

TOTALSPORTS ABOUT TO GET PERSONAL

Do you get tired of watching ESPN or Sports Illustrated or Fox on cable, having to wait 10 minutes to see a 30-second recap of the Yankees game? You may have another choice in the near future.

TotalSports, which calls Raleigh home and was created by Frank Daniels III, apparently is considering launching personalized sportscasts for the web. Individuals can pick and choose the sports and teams they want information about in a multimedia format (video, audio, stats, and a talking head).

Although a spokesman for the company was mum on the idea, ADC has been told directly that the sportscasts could happen soon and sportscasters are being recruited.

The new service, of course, could fall victim to recent goings on at TotalSports, which has slowed down movement toward an initial public offering and is looking for more financing.

George Schlukbier's unexpected departure as president of TotalSports probably doesn't help matters. Schlukbier has been Frank Daniels III's right-hand man dating back to the launch of Nando.net by the then-Daniels-owned *News & Observer* in 1994. MM

rat race

shed your skin

vs.

fast pace

2000 Inaugural Season

March 30*	at Albany Firebirds	7.30 pm	
April 6*	NEW ENGLAND SEA WOLVES	7.30 pm	beef.com
April 14	FLORIDA BOBCATS	7.30 pm	7up
April 20	at Los Angeles Avengers	10.30 pm	
April 27	ORLANDO PREDATORS (TNN)	8.00 pm	Capital Bank
May 5	at Tampa Bay Storm	7.30 pm	
May 13	at Florida Bobcats	7.30 pm	
OPEN WEEK			
May 26	NASHVILLE KATS	7.30 pm	Alltel
June 2	at Orlando Predators	7.30 pm	
June 9	MILWAUKEE MUSTANGS	7.30 pm	Touchstone Energy
June 16	at New England Sea Wolves	7.30 pm	
June 23	at Nashville Kats	8.30 pm	
June 30	HOUSTON THUNDERBEARS	7.30 pm	Rex Healthcare
July 8	at Arizona Rattlers	10.00 pm	
July 14	NEW JERSEY RED DOGS	7.30 pm	Triangle Rent-A-Car
July 21	TAMPA BAY STORM	7.30 pm	Design Nation

Presenting Sponsors:

Single tickets start at \$10

Call Ticketmaster, 834-4000

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1-877-4-COBRAS



www.carolinacobras.com

Metro INDEX

Under proposed changes to emergency dispatch procedures, the number you would call if your cat was in a tree: 311

If your house is on fire: 911

Number of plant species found only along the Carolina coast: 22

Favorite name for an indigenous animal species found nowhere else in the world: Waccamaw fatmucket mussel

The average first-year math teacher's salary: \$25,735

The average starting salary for college-trained high-tech worker: \$40,920

Overall state jobless rate in 2000: 3.9 percent

Number of jobs added to U.S. economy in April: 340,000

Average hourly earnings in America today: \$13.64

Time needed to move 18,000-troop divisions, the Army's current basic fighting unit: Three months

Deployment time of the Army's new and nimbler 5,000-troop fighting units being developed in N.C.: 96 hours

Decrease in violent crime in North Carolina since 1998: 8 percent

The decrease in number of murders in the same timeframe: 68

Increase in convenience store robberies over the past year: 20 percent

Japan's share of international aid in 1998: \$10.4 billion

The U.S.'s share: \$7.8 billion

Percentage of U.S. budget that share amounts to: .11 percent

Investment in the Triangle by Japanese companies: \$284 million

Number of workers employed by those firms: 1550

Where Triangle ranks nationally as far as "doing business": 18th

The ranking of the Triangle among high-tech and high education metros around the country: 12th

Ranking of state in the plastic manufacturing business: 5th

Ranking of the state's real estate market: 24th

Decline in North Carolina crop exports over last year: 30 percent

Increase in the export of North Carolina stone, clay and glass products in the same timeframe: 406 percent

"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*
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Steak House & Tavern

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Raleigh • (919) 847-7319
4pm-12am 7 Days A Week



...at Wrightsville Beach
1900 Lumina Station
(910) 256-0995

Eastward expansion

NORTH CAROLINA, HERE I COME

U.S. Congressman Bobby Etheridge told a small gathering in Raleigh that Silicon Valley high-tech firms are looking hard at expanding into North Carolina and the Triangle/Coastal region due to continuing restrictions by the California legislature on environmental requirements for new research labs.

Etheridge also commented that farm production is down across the country. The John Deere farm implement manufacturer showed a \$1 billion decline in gross revenue for 1999, the congressman reported.

Media might

SUCCESS ALWAYS RISES

Success magazine, started in Chicago in 1891, has been re-launched and relocated to Raleigh after its bankruptcy in the mid-1990s—the deal is using funding from Mayflower Capital, a Raleigh venture capital firm headed by Stan Van Etten. The magazine is targeted to sales and marketing managers, emphasizing self-reliance and entrepreneurship.

The June 2000 issue includes a piece by former Raleigh mayor Tom Fetzer, discussing how local governments can become more efficient by following the philosophies of private enterprise. Fetzer makes the point that local government is the closest to the needs of citizens, saying, “Think for a moment about the impact on your life if your congressman doesn’t show up for work for a week. Now consider the consequences if your garbage man doesn’t show up for a week, or the policeman, or the fireman.”

The former mayor maintains that

changes in the efficiency of federal and state systems will occur only after local governments cut taxes, reduce crime and force city workers to compete with the private sector for the business

**SECRETS
OF STATE**

of their customers.

According to Fetzer, local government must “revolutionize heretofore sacrosanct approaches to essential services like education, water quality, parks, and pot-hole patching.”

Editorial and corporate offices for *Success* magazine are located in the First Union National Bank Building, 150 Fayetteville Street Mall. The web site is www.successmagazine.com.

Living large

THE HOUSE OF JENRETTE

Raleigh native Dick Jenrette, founder of Wall Street brokerage Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette (DLJ) and who also serves as chairman of the gigantic Equitable insurance company, was awarded the North Caroliniana Society award during a dinner in his honor at the Friday Center in Chapel Hill.

Speakers Frank Daniels, Jr., former publisher of the Raleigh *News & Observer*, C.D. Spangler, former president of the UNC system, and John Sanders, former head of the Institute of Government, presented homilies to Jenrette’s accomplishments from childhood to business, to his grand hobby: the restoration of historic homes in America.

Jenrette was graduated from UNC and the Harvard Business School and

began work on Wall Street for Brown Brothers, Harriman, where one of his clients was the mysterious Greta Garbo. In 1960, he formed DLJ, the first New York brokerage to offer shares to the public. Jenrette engineered the merger of DLJ with the then-Equitable Assurance company and succeeded as chairman of the combined company to organize the largest “demutualization” in financial history.

But Jenrette’s life-long passion is the restoration of historic and beautiful homes. His recent book, *Adventures with Old Houses*, with text written by Jenrette, discusses and displays his accomplishments in restoring and refurbishing homes in Charleston, S.C. and the Hudson River Valley, a townhouse in Manhattan, a plantation in South Carolina, and the beautiful Ayr Mount outside Hillsborough, N.C.

Jenrette fondly remembered growing up in Raleigh, the quality education he received at Broughton High School, and the friendships he made at UNC, commenting that the qualities of fair play, solid schooling and the nature of the people of his home state are the enduring hallmarks of his success.

Jenrette’s *Adventures with Old Houses* is available from Wyrick & Company, 1-A Pinckney Street, Charleston, S.C. 29401.

Swan songs

LOCAL BLUEGRASS SCRIBES PICKED FOR HONOR

At MerleFest 2000, a remarkable thing happened during the Chris Austin Songwriting Contest: Two of the four winners were from the Triangle. Tift Merritt won the country category with a song titled “Blue Motel,” and Jason Harrod won the bluegrass category with his original tune “When I Get Home.” They received Epiphone

guitars, valued at about \$700, as well as cash prizes of \$125 and a set of D'Addario guitar strings. And they performed their songs for a huge audience at the Cabin Stage.

Beyond their initial prizes, winning this songwriting contest can lead to bigger things. Both locals made some very valuable industry connections among the judges and they caught the attention of a good many artists and record label types. Almo recording artist Gillian Welch is a previous winner in the Austin Songwriting Contest.

The Chris Austin Songwriting Contest is one of the most eagerly anticipated events at MerleFest—the annual four-day bluegrass festival held in Wilkesboro, N.C., in memory of Eddy Merle Watson. Every year the contest judges, headed by Nashville-based singer/songwriter Jim Lauderdale the last few years, receive hundreds of entry tapes from all over the U.S. and Canada.

Power struggle

ARMY CORPS EXTINGUISHES MANTEO LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT

The Army Corps of Engineers, the protector and architect of the state's shifting coastline, has upset residents by squashing a Manteo lighthouse restoration project.

The decision so puzzled local dignitaries and boating industry people that they brought the subject up at a recent meeting with Sen. Jesse Helms in Washington, D.C., where the senior Republican senator reportedly vowed to look into the issue.

While the Corps is supposed to protect citizens, the environment and shipping lanes, few Manteo residents have figured out the reasoning behind

the Corps' decision to turn down a plan that locals say could boost ecotourism and would also beautify the area. The town is simply asking to rebuild a lighthouse where one once stood. So far, the Corps has not let on what led to the decision.

Some people's Arrogance

THE BAND THAT TIME WON'T SOON FORGET

Back in the hazy, club-crawling days of the '70s, a local band like no other emerged. Since its shade-wearing members are still healthy, and still like each other, Arrogance is back for a couple of Raleigh shows in June.

Though its members are now on to bigger and better things, including producing major national acts (Dixon now produces his wife, the singer Marty Jones, whom he says he met "in the lingerie section at Belk's), they aren't too proud to reunite, promising a run-down of old as well as newer material from albums such as 1979's *Suddenly* and 1981's *Lively*.

The band was a mainstay through much of the vibrant local rock scene in the '70s and '80s, playing regularly at now closed legendary clubs The Pier and the Bear's Den in Raleigh and the still alive and kicking Cat's Cradle in Chapel Hill.

The driving scene

N.C. SENIORS FACING MORE DRIVING TESTS

Taking on a fresh resonance after an 89-year-old woman backed into a group of Smithfield school children—killing one and injuring several others—is a proposed North Carolina law that would force seniors to take arduous, and potentially life-defining, driving tests as often

as every three years.

One of 16 states pondering such "driving while elderly laws," North Carolina already allows doctors to pull driver licenses if they have concerns. But the North Carolina law, if passed during the current session, won't go as far as a three-year-old Missouri law that allows family members anonymously to tip the authorities off to notoriously bad drivers—be they old or young.

But is all the attention warranted? "It's a myth that seniors cause a lot of car crashes," says John Eberhard of the National Traffic Safety Administration. Only 18 percent of car crashes are caused by seniors, although they have more crashes per mile than any other age group save teenagers. Seniors, too, rely more than anyone on cars to stay connected with the world outside—and to get the groceries and aspirins from the store. It's also true that when car wreck deaths do occur on the highways, it's usually the elderly who succumb.

Knowing that, older voting groups in Minnesota and, more notably, Florida have been ganging up on "dwe" laws for years—and beating them every time. They say the laws are discriminatory. Still, 16 states now have such laws on the books, including some that test those over 80 once a year.

Although no charges were filed in the Smithfield case, questions about older drivers will only continue to intensify. And many say laws should be drafted quickly. By the year 2020, one in four drivers will be over 65—as the politically active baby boomers reach their golden years. **MM**

A sense of place

"YATES MILL WHEEL"

Stars on the pond like corn kernels split
under the stones' great gnashing still float
form steadier centuries, when nights'
slick surfaces bore their weights—

days of water-rush from the dam made powerful
by a print like broken grains: elemental
bright bits that Creation had scattered,
here reflected and regathered.

Likewise, Yates Millpond held local folk
from wagons and buggies. Men would smoke
a corncob pipe while children splashed and laughed,
with voices the mill race hushed.

So cracking and gathering the kernel-years, this mill
founded a people by waters, where a wheel
and its whirling stones marked the times' returns,
celebrating families' reunions.

Three stories trembled with the heavy grindstone.
Wheat from the smutter higher ascended again
and cooled in the hopper boy. The bolster
sifted it through a silk cylinder

till it floated the chute, fine enough for a wedding
cake. Men bagged flour, hearty, grinning,
then wagoned home this marrow of life,
bread-bond between husband and wife.

The gift of this simple mystery is a trust:
this energy of gravity that our ancestors thrust
over a wheel, from its storage in water,
to grind the grains and saw their timber.

The force that pulled hydrogen into bright
points of stars propelled water as a weight
onto the bucketed rim: the wheel as it whirled
on its axis like the turning world.

So Yates Mill lives, an idea of order
we learn better as we grow older, and newer
solutions complicate our hours—paging
us just as we seemed to be hearing

the season's turning. Here at Yates Mill,
a forest circle encloses the water still.
Heirs of the past, we'll continue a cycle
by restoring this symbol wheel.

Rescued from neglect and a hurricane,
the granite teeth will taste corn again,
Generations gathered on the millpond's shores
will recognize those starry years.

*Presented by Raleigh poet James Applewhite on the
dedication of the new Yates Mill Pond county park,
which restores the hurricane-damaged historic Steep Hill
Creek landmark to its pre-Hurricane Fran condition.*

EYES ONLY

Intelligent humor does indeed still exist, as evidenced by the performance by Washington, D.C.'s satiric comedy group, the Capitol Steps, who performed their **zany skits** to a full house on behalf of "Arts N.C. State." The 19-year-old comedy troupe **spared no one** in the political spectrum. In a politically correct world, it was indeed refreshing to see satire applied objectively and unsparingly. ■■■ Rumor is that North Carolina native **Vince McMahon**, the founder and chairman of the World Wrestling Federation (WWF) who recently chartered his own football league to debut in the fall on NBC, has his eyes

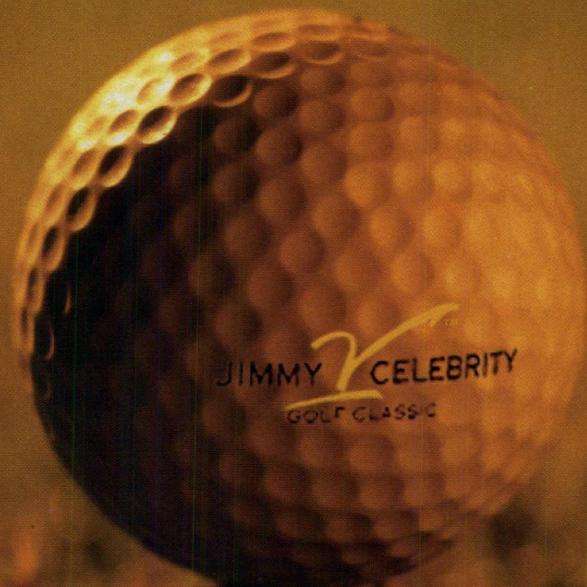


on **purchasing Playboy** Enterprises. Vinnie's Steakhouse in North Raleigh is named for McMahon through the media mogul's friendship with restaurant owner and former high school roommate, Dusty Anderson ■ ■ ■ One way to boost lagging Internet service development in Eastern North Carolina and keep the region from "falling **hopelessly behind**" is to add 8-cents to everyone's monthly phone bill to fund new projects, according to a study. ■■■ Women should be able to serve on Navy submarines, one of the last areas of the U.S. military that is still **exclusive to men**, according to a civilian advisory

panel. ■■■ A day after the AP reported that Russia may be building a new intelligence "**listening post**" in Cuba, a House panel voted to lift sanctions on sales of food and medicine to the rogue island state. ■■■ The Carolina Cobras arena **football expansion** team is hot, with star Jack Jackson helping to make the debut season an exciting one for fans. But some fans at a recent game said they'll keep coming back to also see the Snake Charmers, the team's sexy **dancing cohorts**, who dress for games in seductive black vinyl. ■■■ The **hottest job markets** in the country aren't the huge metropolises, but smaller, higher-education driven metro areas such as Charlottesville, Va., and our own Raleigh, N.C. ■■■

THE 7TH ANNUAL

JIMMY  CELEBRITY
GOLF CLASSIC



AUGUST 27, 2000

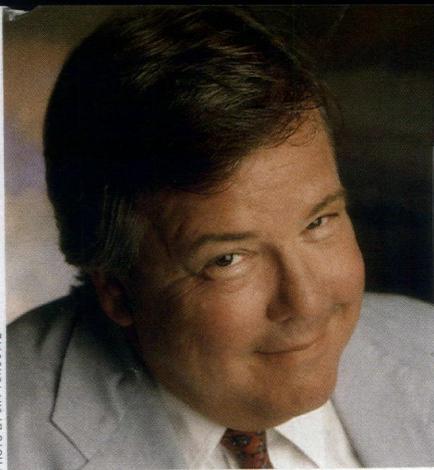
Prestonwood Country Club
Cary, NC

for more information,
visit www.golfclassic.org

DON'T GIVE UP, DON'T EVER GIVE UP

My Usual Charming Self

by Bernie Reeves



ALIEN INVASION

A good case can be made that it's more potent than atomic power. It's addictive, informative, maddening, powerful and ubiquitous. Since its arrival on our planet, it has grown and grown, adapting itself to our environment, incessantly and instantaneously appearing in every nook and cranny of our visible world.

In mid-century, when it first appeared, world leaders and governments recognized its potency immediately. They sought to control it for their own purposes to prevent the omnipotent force from falling into the hands of the wrong people. It is now known that it played a critical role in the collapse of the Soviet dictatorship. Stalin's successors could control the private lives of their citizens, but in the end they could not control this. Politicians have risen high and fallen hard under its spell. Parents fear its power, knowing they are helpless to compete against its influence over young minds. It is the most potent force in the history of man. In the 21st century, it will control us completely.

An obscure Canadian professor predicted this would happen. He said simply: "The medium is the message" and today it's gone beyond even Marshall McLuhan's prophecy that television was not merely another medium, like a newspaper, or a book, or a brochure, or

even radio. No, television is an entity unto itself—a "cool" medium that transcends human communication to an interaction that subsumes entire cultures into a variation of itself—in which flesh and bone human experience is inseparable from the image on the screen. Form becomes substance. The message is irrelevant. The medium is everything.

Western nations with the technology to develop television in the late 1940's recognized its latent power to disseminate propaganda and created state-owned broadcasting institutions that exist today in every European state. By the 1960s, every emerging nation controlled television with state-owned institutions. The Soviet Union and its captive "satellites" and then Communist China, used state-owned broadcasting to propagandize its subjects and to depict the West as greedy, impoverished and inhumane. Ironically, it was television signals from the free European nations that helped undermine the Soviet dictatorship by showing Russian citizens the true nature of democratic free-market economies.

We did it differently in the United States. Political leaders relied on the concept of a free press and the fear of central government control of commerce to carve out a unique compromise. The airwaves, it was decided, were owned by the people of the United States who would, through the federal Communications Commission, allow individuals and businesses to broadcast signals but mandat-

ing that license holders would "serve the public interest." Every three years, that license had to be renewed. If citizens had rightful complaints, licenses were revoked and assigned to new owners.

All broadcast licenses are local. Networks are merely sources for programming. It is up to the local station to decide whether or not network programming is appropriate or violates the public trust. An example of how the moral atmosphere has changed and how the licensing system works happened in 1972. WRAL-TV, today the CBS affiliate in Raleigh, refused to carry the French film *A Man and a Woman* because it was deemed then to be too risqué for local viewers. Today, the film could be shown in kindergarten classes and not cause an eyebrow to rise. Back then, the station's decision not to carry the movie was argued for weeks afterward in the community. Ultimately, however, it was Channel 5's decision not to risk its license to broadcast.

This public/private licensing arrangement lasted until the early '70s when cable came along. At first it was called Community Area TV since its purpose was to transmit local television signals to homes in remote areas. Then pioneers like Ted Turner turned marginal UHF stations into "movie channels" and negotiated deals with cable firms around the country who needed programming. Turner's Atlanta-based "superstation" went national. Others followed and cable companies began to search for other

programming. Home Box Office was born followed by dozens of unlicensed cable networks on view today. Cable grew from reaching less than 20 percent of television households in 1971 to nearly 80 percent today.

Cable operators were able to convince regulators that they were merely utility providers, not broadcasters or networks.

The software geeks, the network suits, the cable guys, the telephone and cell companies, even the electrical utility monopolies are in the fray.

Today, however, through mergers and changes in technology, unregulated cable companies are providing a large portion of total television programming.

In 1978 Congress refused to regulate cable and began deregulating local broadcast stations. The buffer that upheld moral standards provided by the local license holder began to weaken. The big three networks began to lose audience to cable systems offering non-commercial programs, movies, special interest commercial channels and pornography. In the mid-'80s a watershed was reached. For the first time cable programming outdrew network fare in a major market. Then came the information explosion, including the Internet and the evolution of computers as media for electronic programming.

The recent public quarrel between Time Warner Cable and Disney/ABC is just an opening salvo in what will be a battle of titans among a myriad of combatants for the right to take television to the next level, whatever that might be. The media moguls aren't exactly sure. The software geeks, the network suits, the cable guys, the telephone and cell

companies, even the electrical utility monopolies are in the fray. The Telecommunications Act of 1991 has created a deregulatory fever that will not desist in the near future.

So what about the local broadcaster? In the technological and deregulatory melee of the past 20 years, merely owning a license to broadcast, at one time the most powerful and profitable asset in electronic media, has fallen far down the food chain. However, it turns out things aren't so bad after all. The rush to deregulation, while a blow to public decency as networks and stations scramble to see who can produce the most tasteless programming, is a boon in another way. Local licensees can now own other stations in the same market to help concentrate their hold on local advertising dollars. They have been granted free licenses on the UHF band to develop HDTV (high definition TV technology), the license period has been extended, and stations benefit from the trend created by public demand for more local media content.

How about us, the public? Some sleazy players have emerged from the maelstrom of technology and deregulation, like the despicable Sumner Redstone, the MTV/Nickelodeon/USA Network/Viacom/Blockbuster chairman—who has now taken over CBS. And too often the same suits own most of the cable channels and local radio and TV stations. But choice is better than pre-new economy regulation in which Raleigh and Durham had only two TV stations for over 25 years. And a few local owners still care about decency and morals, like Jim Goodman, owner of WRAL-TV, whose commitment to old-style broadcasting values may win the whole war when the matter is finally decided. Goodman is also one of the national leaders in HDTV, a technology that promises new approaches for

delivering signals and data yet to be determined.

Personally, I'm upset that A&E and public TV programming have gone to hell, I can't stand "letterboxing," and, yes, I sneer at most TV fare, and, yes, I sometimes pretend I don't watch a lot of TV. But I'm about to go nuts without *The Sopranos* and I don't like it when *Millionaire* skips a night, and that 1942 Frederic March film I caught on expanded digital cable the other night was truly great and...

♦♦♦

Regarding my piece on growth, there has been much comment: The following information, sent to me by a reader, comes from a study by a consortium of engineering, construction and road-building organizations entitled "Building Better Communities: A Toolkit for Quality Growth." The information about the study appeared in the May 8, 2000, issue of the respected journal *Engineering News & Record* (ENR) and can be accessed online at www.highways.org.

The study demonstrates that "while automobile ownership has increased 90% and highway travel has increased 131% in the past 30 years in the US, road mileage (i.e., more highways) has increased a scant 5.7%." In other words, as I have maintained, planners and activists are holding up building roads with false environmental data in order to create enough gridlock to force motorists out of their automobiles and into planned mass transit.

The study maintains that traffic congestion costs motorists \$72 billion a year in wasted time and fuel costs. They add that a plan to fix just one of the country's most severe bottlenecks, the Interstate-10 junction on I-405 in Los Angeles would, over 20 years, "reduce carbon monoxide 'greenhouse gas' emissions by over 3 million tons, over 50%." ■■■

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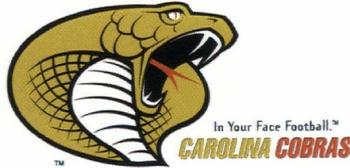
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