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CELEBRATE!

It's our first birthday here at Metro, and this December issue shows us in full stride and ready to move on to the year ahead. Pull off the bow of this holiday edition and dive in as we take you on a sleigh ride across the Triangle and down to the coast to meet the people and see the places that make us special.

It is fitting indeed that we showcase the venerable North Carolina Capitol building as a loving and authentic restoration is proceeding apace. Join Design Editor Diane Lea on this special tour of our heritage.

Down east a bit Senior Editor Rick Smith pays a call on the future with an in-depth examination of the Global TransPark project dedicated to reviving the economy of central eastern North Carolina. You'll find the dream alive and its completion a reality.

Managing Editor Patrik Jonsson gets to the heart of things in the Triangle with an interview with Reyn Bowman, the man who puts Durham first with a vengeance. This is definitely an important read that helps you get your bearings in the sometimes heavy seas of regional unity.

In after.com, Rick Smith uncovers the next wave in politics, online voting and polling. In MetroGourmet Nancie McDermott lays on a holiday spread and Philip van Vleck in PVV uncovers Southern Culture on the Skids, among other musical delights. Of course Frances Smith is right on top of holiday events for your enjoyment in MetroPreview.

Molly Fulghum Heintz and Jeff Taylor have brewed up another eclectic and useful holiday gift guide just for you and Fiction Editor Art Taylor offers up a delectable choice of books ideal for holiday giving.

We think it every issue but this could be the best yet and it's our birthday too. Just in time an essay arrived discussing our mission to reunite the Triangle with the coast. It appears right after "My Usual Charming Self" in the back of the book. See what you think.

Cheers everyone!

—Bernie Reeves, Editor & Publisher
Experience the enduring character of Bald Head Island. You may never be the same again.

Imagine an extraordinary cape island whose enduring character is shaped by the sea. A quiet retreat without highrises or cars, where families gather year after year to spend time together and lazy days by the shore. A naturally beautiful place where more than 10,000 acres of salt marshes, tidal creeks and maritime forest have been set aside as preserves, and white sand beaches give way to blue-green ocean for 14 uninterrupted miles.

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THE ENEMY WITHIN
Your editorial in this month’s issue of Metro has saved me from depression over the real problems of our nation, and the recent election events which bear greatly on them. I had begun to believe that I was nearly, if not completely, alone.

The term “idealistic socialism,” like a code word, let me know that you do recognize the real enemy within. If you had used “liberalism” or “social reformation” or even “Social Democrats,” I would have appreciated your empathy, but not your understanding. You did, however, still fall a little short. You did bow to the god of “political correctness” in your article by using the word idealistic. Don’t make this mistake in the future. Socialism is socialism, regardless of the prefix.

As you can tell from this note, I am less well armed for this battle of ideas and ideals. I would therefore like to request an electronic copy of your article, and permission to distribute it to my very small group of friends. If this is not possible, may I please have a reprint and the necessary permission? (My small group of friends numbers no more than 50.)

Thank you for making my day, at least, and here is another one for you to ponder, for $64,000 of course.

The form of government we have in the United States is called:

a) Democracy
b) Representative Republic
c) Socialist Republic
d) Constitutional Confederation

Don’t you wonder what the final answer will be?

Bob Bannister
Raleigh

STATE OF THE EDUCATION STATE
Your recent editorial (“The Education State,” November 2000) proved that we have not kept you informed about North Carolina and Texas leading the nation in public school improvement. For that I apologize and pledge to do better in the future.

Your editorial seemed to pine for the “good old days” when you said we led the South in educational attainment. Frankly, that is not good enough for a time when we compete globally, not just with our Southern neighbors.

I have observed firsthand what is going on in 105 of our 115 school systems and more than 600 schools since Governor Jim Hunt selected me to chair the State Board of Education three years ago, and I am constantly amazed at how much more today’s students are learning than I did—and at an earlier age.

Critics claim grammar and spelling are not being taught, yet I see it being emphasized in many classrooms. Character education is also being integrated into the curriculum in most schools. Discipline is better than popular perception in most schools, but it is deplorable in others. Moreover, leadership and firm, consistent enforcement of the rules are needed so that every student is in a disruption-free classroom. Teachers cannot teach and students cannot learn if we do not provide a safe, orderly and caring environment.

Christmas and other holiday celebrations are still observed in our increasingly culturally diverse schools. Only the absurdities and exceptions in this area get public attention. I do not approve of the Supreme Court rulings as far as prayer in the schools, and the Congress needs to find a solution. I do see many schools observing a moment of silence and having students recite the pledge of allegiance each day. Thankfully, the pendulum is swinging back toward common sense.

Teachers today face so many incredible challenges—even more than when I taught in the Salisbury City Schools, and it was difficult even then. Administrators, teachers, school boards and, yes, parents must support order and discipline in every classroom. I believe that ability grouping is proper in academic courses. A classroom of 30 students at 30 different levels of achievement presents an almost impossible situation for many teachers.

Your implication that local school bond issues have been defeated in large numbers is erroneous. In the past 20 or so years, more than 85 percent of them have passed, often by large margins. That is not an indictment of public schools as your editorial suggested. I would also point out that 92 percent of our students are being educated in public schools, and that percentage has not changed much in recent years.

In fact, our schools are not in decline, as you have claimed. Obviously, we have not informed you of the good, but accurate news.

From President Clinton’s 1999 State of the Union Address to the National Alliance of Business, groups and individuals who track education progress are holding North Carolina up as a model for other states to emulate. As a matter of fact, we were recognized as the Top Education State of the Year by the National Alliance of Business in 1999.

In its 1999 report, the National Education Goals Panel placed North Carolina among the highest-performing states in the nation on three measures of progress. In fact, we have achieved progress on more of the national goals
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EXPERIENCED BEYOND ITS YEARS.
than any other state for three consecutive years. North Carolina was also cited as one of two pacesetter states in the public school standards and accountability movement at the 1999 National Education Summit.

As a result of the ABCs of Public Education (North Carolina's school-by-school accountability program), the number of students considered proficient in reading and mathematics has increased to 69.1 percent, up 9.1 percent from 1996–97 when the ABCs program began. I expect to see this number increase even further as Student Accountability Standards are fully implemented statewide, beginning this year with fifth-graders and next year with third- and eighth-graders.

As for how our students compare nationally, fourth- and eighth-graders taking the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) tests in reading, mathematics and writing scored at or above the national level.

North Carolina was one of only four states to receive a “B” for Improving Teacher Quality, according to Education Week’s fourth-annual 50-state report card on public education. A letter grade of “B” was the highest grade given to any state in this category. This recognition also earned the state mention in the March 1 edition of Teacher Magazine as one of four states “moving the fastest and doing the most” to improve teacher quality.

The Excellent Schools Act, passed by the North Carolina legislature in 1997, is credited with bringing the state’s teachers’ salaries to the national average and for raising teacher standards by increasing accountability, providing two years of paid mentoring for new teachers, strengthening evaluations, and streamlining the process to terminate poor teachers. As a result, our state is able not only to attract quality teachers but to retain them in the classroom.

North Carolina’s average total SAT score moved up two points in 1999–2000, continuing the upward trend that the state has experienced since 1989. Among “SAT states”—states where more than 40 percent of the seniors in 1999–2000 took the test—North Carolina leads the 24 states in the points gained on the SAT from 1990 to 2000. North Carolina’s gain was 40 points during this period, 10 points higher than three other states with big gains. We need to do better. Getting more students to take Advanced Placement courses is one of the solutions.

North Carolina has the tenth largest number of SAT takers in the nation. In 1999–2000, 43,077 students in North Carolina took the SAT. This is up 4.5 percent from the previous year, when 41,209 students took it. It is generally the case that the higher the percentage of a state’s students taking the SAT, the lower that state’s average score will be.

After equaling the Southeast score in 1999, North Carolina’s 2000 score is two points below the Southeast average and 31 points below the national average. The 31 points still represents considerable progress when compared to the 83-point gap in 1972 and the 53-point gap in 1990. Of other Southeastern states, Georgia gained five points, South Carolina gained 12, Florida gained one, and Virginia gained two.

The College Board reports that students who take higher level courses, more than the minimum required courses, and the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test post higher scores than their peers. The College Board reports that the proportion of students taking the test is the most important factor to consider in interpreting scores for a state, school or district. North Carolina tests 61 percent of eligible students while Mississippi, for example, tests only four percent. The College Board tells us every year that it is ludicrous to rank states.

Some other good news:

- Education Week says that no other state is doing more than North Carolina to put in place real and meaningful accountability measures and to improve teacher quality.
- Local Smart Start partnerships are assuring that children are coming to school healthy and ready to learn.
- School violence is down, immunizations are up.
- In his February 22, 2000, Seventh Annual State of American Education Address, U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley referred to North Carolina’s education system as a “model for the nation.”
- North Carolina accounts for about one-quarter of the teachers throughout the nation who have earned board certification since the program was founded in 1987.
- President Clinton in his January 19, 1999, State of the Union Address, touted the state’s efforts to turn around low-performing schools as a model for others to emulate. The President also noted that North Carolina had made the biggest gains in test scores in the nation the previous year.
- North Carolina was one of only five states or jurisdictions that had significant gains in fourth-grade reading skills from 1992–98, according to the 1998 state reading assessment results released by NAEP. Results showed that the state’s fourth- and eighth-graders’ reading skills have surpassed the national and Southeast averages.
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THE BOLD LOOK
OF KOHLER.
Why is this tremendous progress occurring in North Carolina?

The Rand Corporation did a study on why North Carolina and Texas schools are leading the nation in progress. They found that sustained bipartisan leadership in the legislature and the Governor’s Office, focused commitment to high standards and expectations, the positive involvement of the business community, and sticking to reforms like the ABCs were the reasons.

Business and industry have pushed us hard to raise standards and expectations for all students and all educators.

Several of your “solutions” have already been adopted. North Carolina Citizens for Business and Industry, which I head, led the successful fight to do away with tenure for principals.

While abolishing tenure for teachers is desirable, we lobbied successfully for changes which now do not allow teachers to receive tenure until their fourth year in teaching, and there is a problem with the principal if he or she cannot decide in four years if the teacher is capable. After that, a teacher may be fired for any of at least 12 reasons, and recent changes have shortened the process.

Teachers are already required to pass two competency tests to be certified, and Praxis II is among the most rigorous in the nation.

Standards have been raised dramatically. Social promotion is ending, and students must pass a rigorous exit exam and a computer competency exam (the first in the nation) in order to receive a diploma. We will count on continued strong support of the business community for rigorous accountability as it comes under attack from those who do not desire to be held accountable.

Your attack on Governor Hunt’s education credentials is grossly unfair. Even though I am a committed and strong Republican, there is no leader in America who is as passionate and committed to public schools as Governor Hunt.

Finally, thank you very much for your support of the Wake County school bond and the bonds for the University of North Carolina and community colleges.

Phillip J. Kirk, Jr.
Chairman, State Board of Education
Raleigh

CORRECTIONS
The phone number for artist Sam Bass in item number 58 of the November 2000 gift guide was listed incorrectly. The correct number is 704-455-6915. Also, The Sanderling Inn’s correct number is 800-701-4111.

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 email the magazine at email@metronc.com.
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FEATURE...

BOON OR BOONDOGGLE?
12 The tax dollars poured into a distant rural trade zone called Global TransPark regularly send state budget hawks into paroxysms. But with a Democratic governor now assured in Mike Easley, the odds suddenly favor the park and its aggressive commander-in-chief. By Rick Smith

METROPROFILE...

REGIONAL WARRIOR
20 Durham's Reyn Bowman is working relentlessly to put his city in the best light on the national stage—but at what cost to hard-earned Triangle unity?
By Patrik Jonsson

COVER...

CAPITOL, REBORN
26 With foresight, economy and common sense, North Carolina has assured itself one of the nation's landmark Capitol buildings. Architecture writer Diane Lea reports on the quiet renovations that have restored the interior to its 19th-century original.

SPECIAL SECTION...

GIFTS FOR THE AGES
33 On the heels of the deals and finds in November's holiday gift guide, Metro editors show again that they have shopping savvy. Here's Part II of the gift guide for the ages—be they boomers or X-ers.

DEPARTMENTS...

1 Introduction from the editor and publisher
4 Metro uninformed, writes education boss—Correspondence
53 Singing, dancing, touring the town to celebrate Christmas—MetroPreview
60 The Holiday Gourmet finds relief for tired cooks—MetroGourmet
65 Winter is the time for buying books—MetroBooks
67 Southern culture gone awry—PwW
71 The wild new world of politics on the Web—after.com
75 Political wages and monster flatheads—Metrolndex
76 Flamenco, Pops and giving James Davis his due—SOS
79 My Usual Charming Self by Bernie Reeves with a special guest essay
KINSTON—Paul Busick likes to think that the crucible of fire he faced over a long military career steeled him for the daily heat he faces as the head of the Global TransPark, the international air cargo and industrial park in eastern North Carolina that has been on the drawing boards for a decade.

"I have given 40 or so speeches in two years, and I don't know how I can put it any more clearly than to discuss how other projects have fared, and I ask people how this one could be any different," says the GTP's affable and graying president. "They really don't have any answers. They just want it."

"But," Busick adds, "that doesn't mean anyone can wave a magic wand and make it happen."

Foot by foot, yard after yard of concrete, day-by-day the GTP is in fact being built. Dump trucks, road graders and cranes are hauling, scraping and digging. A massive runway extension is nearing completion. A cargo ramp is being built. A four-lane highway is close to paving stage. And Busick is constantly working the phones, recruiting the businesses that he hopes someday will transform GTP into Eastern North Carolina's economic powerhouse it was envisioned to be back in 1990.

"The fact is, we are doing what we have to do," Busick says.

As the GTP president, he serves as the lightning rod for much of the criticism that seems to be as integral a part of the project as gravel and steel. Critics call it a white elephant, a boondoggle, a joke. Some, such as the John Locke Foundation in Raleigh, already have labeled the GTP a failure.

"Talking about the TransPark is one of the most fun things I do," says Locke vice president Don Carrington, who is a fiscal analyst and was among the first people ever briefed about the GTP idea. "Having the GTP out there will maybe keep state government in the future from investing in an idea like this."

Yet Busick perseveres, determined to see the project through, and he urges patience.

"Yes, to be perfectly frank with you, to get even close to what the concept describes you are talking a minimum of five years," he says. Early projections called
for thousands of jobs and new businesses by now. But delays, from the need to develop complex master plans and address environmental concerns to limits on funding for projects such as highways, have all helped push the timeline back, according to Busick. And he insists that a benchmark study conducted for the GTP by East Carolina University shows it is at a similar stage of development as Research Triangle Park was at 10 years as well as similar air cargo facilities constructed in Texas and Ohio. "I don't have a billionaire helping me like Ross Perot," Busick says in reference to the Texas effort where the father-and-son Ross Perot team built a facility called Alliance.

John Kasarda, the professor at the University of North Carolina's Kenan Institute who originally conceived the idea, concurs. "I don't think many people realize what major infrastructure projects on this scale require to take place," he says. And until high-speed road lengths are in place from the GTP to I-95 near Wilson, Kasarda feels industry simply wouldn't locate there. Adds Busick: "My goal is to get all those roads put in to the GTP as soon as possible."

After an investment of an estimated $100 million thus far, the Global TransPark is still envisioned as a facility where industry assembles, stockpiles, and delivers goods for quick distribution through a huge airport facility that is linked by interstate quality highways to the rest of the Southeast. The GTP will include state-of-the-art telecommunications, plenty of water, sewer and power, and will provide access to a workforce that can be quickly trained.

Extending and strengthening the runway in order to service huge cargo jets, adding the ramps to service aircraft and provide areas for industrial plant construction, upgrading water, sewer and telecommunications and putting in the roads are all essential pieces of the puzzle, Kasarda says. "Without the infrastructure, there's no reason for business to come. Many people don't appreciate what has to be done for a project of this scale and to make it competitive. Along with the fact you are starting with a region that historically has not been a magnet for industries, you have to overcome the disadvantages."

"POLITICALLY CHARRED PROJECT"

"When we get this built, it is going to be a commercial success," Busick declares. "The GTP in a lot of respects is like a community that knows a Wal-Mart is coming. The Wal-Mart can't sell you anything. It can't hire anyone. It can't influence the economy until it's built and the roads are connected and its staff is trained and your products are in the buildings ready to go."

Highways are, in fact, being built or planned; the training facility is built; the runway and cargo ramp projects are well in hand. International trade zone status was secured, clearing up any customs impediments. So Busick sees a light at the end of the tunnel—it's just a bit of a drive yet. But he readily admits it will be a challenge to get to the end game. And he believes his background gives him the knowledge—and backbone—to see the project through.

A retired Coast Guard rear admiral, he's been part of terrorists-attack investigations, dealt with political hot potatoes and managed bureaucracies before.

"The Global TransPark is a politically charged issue in North Carolina," he
EXPERIENCE AT THE TOP  GTP director Paul Busick has his work cut out for him, but has handled similar challenges before in the Clinton administration.

Acknowledges. "Stay the course" is an oft-repeated phrase in his vocabulary. He takes comfort in something told to him by a long-time member of Research Triangle Park's dream team: "Hey, it takes a long time from seed to harvest."

Busick later asks forgiveness when his emotions rise as he is quizzed about the GTP. "It flows trippingly off the tongue to call this a white elephant," Busick says. "We had to ask ourselves: How would we react? Were we ready?" Threats on air, land, sea and even online, were all handled by the DOT. What he called "cyber commerce" became a hot topic because of the damage hackers might do. "We thought a lot about that," he says. And much of the challenge was dealing with the broad scope of danger to U.S. civilians and commerce. "It's pretty rare to have intelligence that terrorists would attack a certain airliner on this day at this location. You just can't decide that there was a threat at New York City. The threat can be pretty mobile."

Busick also recalls that the higher he rose in the Clinton administration, the greater the risks became. "When you are in those positions, your career is on the line a lot." Make a wrong policy decision or muffle the regulatory process and someone might get hurt. He says the responsibility could be "frightening."

But when he looks at the GTP project, the former helicopter pilot says it's a task he can handle. "The maritime transportation arena has been my whole life," says Busick, who was graduated from the Coast Guard Academy. Before leaving the Coast Guard, Busick heard about the GTP job and spoke to then White House Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles of Charlotte about the job and Bowles put Busick's name before the search committee tasked to find a new president. Busick's Coast Guard career had led him to a post at Federal Department of Transportation where he dealt with security and intelligence gathering about threats to highways, railways and airways. "I have been a sponge for learning about the larger picture of transportation. I have implemented policies and been involved in the policy process. Now it's my job to take the idea of a UNC professor and put it into reality on the ground," he says.

And he knows he is under a microscope. Long before the election, Busick met with Lt. Gov. Mike Easley, a Democrat, and Republican challenger Richard Vinroot. "Easley told me he would be supportive," Busick says. "Vinroot told me he would take an objective look at it." Busick constantly monitors the state of political support for the project and says he has seen "no signs" of diminishing support.

The tenure of the GTP's biggest supporter is about to end, so Busick is looking ahead. Gov. Jim Hunt, who helped recruit and hire Busick, has long been an advocate of the GTP. He recently spoke to two Chinese airlines about using the GTP, and he is constantly recruiting potential clients. Eastern North Carolina's economic future, he says, is directly linked to the project's success. And that has been his stance from the get-go.

Hunt took on an active role soon after taking office as Governor for the third time in April 1993. Replacing former Governor Jim Martin as chairman of the GTP, Hunt declared in a speech, as quoted by The Associated Press: "The Global TransPark is not just the chance of a lifetime for us here. It's a chance of many lifetimes—of many generations. This isn't just a discussion about building runways, it's about building futures."
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In November of 1999, Hunt also called for more attention to be given to GTP. "There is no more important strategy for eastern North Carolina than building this Global TransPark," he said. "We've got to push it faster than anybody says we can."

CRITICS STILL TAKE AIM
Not so fast, says Carrington. In fact, he doesn't mince words when he's asked about the GTP. "It's a joke," he says.

Carrington, a vice president of the conservative think tank John Locke Foundation in Raleigh, has been among the GTP's most vocal critics. "I know they're worried down there. I know they were really worried if Vinroot had come in," Carrington says. "With Easley, they'll have a little more protection, I think."

Subsidies given to lure industry, the amount of money poured into infrastructure and the impact the GTP is having on road construction in the region are among Carrington's concerns. And what is to prevent other regions getting their own kind of underwritten project? "There's just no end to it," Carrington says. "Every county needs a GTP, right? Every county needs an interstate, right? You keep a little bit ahead of demand and try to be efficient, but you don't build giant roads to nowhere and you don't extend runways where there's no demand."

Carrington, formerly assistant research director for the state, was among the first people briefed by Kasarda, the UNC professor, about what became the GTP concept back in "1988 or 1989." GOP Gov. Martin wasn't briefed until 1990. "I said it was a great idea, but who pays," Carrington recalls.

A decade later, it's still state, local and federal agencies underwriting the project. And that frosts Carrington, especially the highway cost. He estimates now that $200 million has been invested in the GTP when taking into account all highway planning.

"The estimates are there has been $100 million in road building switched around in the last few years to help the TransPark," Carrington says. He adds that Department of Transportation decision making data is "pretty hard to pin down," but insists that GTP has not yet and isn't likely ever to generate the kind of traffic which would justify the limited-access road links to I-95 and I-40. "I still contend roads should be built on real need, on real data, not on speculative data. That's improper, no matter where in the state you are talking about."

GTP does have a new hangar, built through funding provided by the private Global TransPark Foundation, which has raised $18 million or so toward a goal of $30 million. Mountain Air Cargo moved into the facility and another hangar is being built. The passenger terminal at the formerly named Kinston Jetport is getting upgrades. Nearby, a new pharmaceutical distribution plant is under construction. But the business successes have been few thus far.

One of those—the location of Seagrave Aviation to the GTP earlier this year—led to criticism by another tenant, ISO Aero Service. ISO claimed incentives given to Seagrave gave its competition an unfair advantage. "The ISO Aero thing shows how screwed up things are down there," Carrington says.

Both firms service aircraft, provide charter flights and perform other services. But Busick noted that increased competition resulted in lower fuel prices—some 50 cents a gallon. Seagrave was convinced by Busick to relocate to GTP from Greenville. He said Seagrave had considered moving to Washington.

The GTP also lost its only passenger aircraft service in January when a subsidiary of USAir ended daily flights to Greenville. Busick said the GTP hopes to recruit another airline in the future, although he added the facility's focus remains cargo. "I've had discussions on and off with three carriers," he says.

But the Locke Foundation isn't the only critic of the GTP. Angry letters to the editor can be found in newspapers, and editorial page attacks are fairly frequent.

In 1996, The News & Observer, saying it had "largely escaped any state oversight", criticized GTP Authority spending. Among other things, Seddon "Rusty" Goode Jr. of Charlotte, who stepped down in 1995, was criticized by state Senate leader Marc Basnight of Manteo for using state-operated aircraft for what The News & Observer termed "routine flights" from his Charlotte residence to Raleigh. Hunt also issued a call for a crackdown on spending.

Last year, The N&O also ran a very critical assessment of the GTP—something GTP officials say was a "hit piece."

Carrington's criticism of the GTP has drawn attention from out of state. Not long ago he was flown to West Virginia to testify about the GTP at hearings set up to debate a possible air cargo center there. Carrington's opinions about the GTP were only strengthened when Robert Reebie, a retired transportation consultant in Pinehurst, who also questioned the GTP concept, contacted him. Reebie told Carrington that a massive study on the concept of such a facility would only be successful if a TransPark were built jointly in London and Tokyo and cargo planes flew solely between those cities. Reebie also told Carrington he had reviewed the GTP feasibility study documents and concluded, "none of the information that should be required to justify the expenditure was presented in the proposal."

In a report issued earlier this year, the Locke Foundation said the state "should end all subsidies for" the GTP and sell state ports at Wilmington and Morehead City as well as the N.C.-owned railroad so that more transportation spending could be directed to roads. But Carrington
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INDUSTRIOUS DREAMS. “The Global TransPark is not just the chance of a lifetime... it’s a chance of many lifetimes,” says Governor Jim Hunt.
doesn’t expect anyone at the General Assembly or in the new Easley administration to pull the plug on the GTP. “With all the heavy subsidies, they don’t want a failure,” he says. “They have to save the reputations of the people who got us here, and I think they will.”

Busick, however, defends the support given the GTP. “I would say Eastern North Carolina has put its money where it’s mouth is,” he says, referring to the foundation, local and county tax contributions and such things as a $5-per-license plate fee which raised several million dollars. Busick also said the East has not reaped nearly the investment the state has poured into such things as the North Carolina Biotechnology Center, the Microelectronics Center (MCNC) and others. “Over the course of the last 20 years, the state has poured more than $400 million” into RTP-related projects, he says. “The investments down here pale in comparison to those, and it’s only in the last couple of years we are starting to see a payoff.” If more funds had been provided earlier in the process, Busick adds, progress would have been faster.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

A huge variety of environmental concerns also had to be addressed in order to get the GTP to where it is today. The Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency required an expensive, multi-year environmental impact statement to be completed. And when the state granted a permit for the destruction of 871 acres of wetlands as part of the GTP expansion, the Neuse River Foundation cried foul. GTP negotiated a settlement with the foundation, agreeing to spend $100,000 on the acquisition and restoration of wetlands in the Neuse basin and the transfer of the 3141-acre Dover Bay wetlands site to a nonprofit land trust or a government natural resource agency. GTPA also agreed to some other limitations on water use and wastewater management. The authority already had agreed to restore the Dover Bay site near Cove City as “mitigation” for the wetland destruction on the GTP land. In all, the authority will spend approximately $10 million in “environmental enhancements” on the GTP site, including the planting of 32,000 trees and 3600 shrubs.

“A group of people prior to me worked very carefully so the GTP can be an environmentally friendly and economically sound project,” Busick says. “Those things take time.”

According to Kasarda, the GTP “was wise to work hand-in-hand with people about environmental concerns. “Research Triangle Park didn’t have to deal with the environmental the GTP did,” he says.

Busick adds, “In North Carolina, it takes 11 years to build a road. You have to balance the road, growth and environmental protection. Guess what, this place is no different from that.”

STILL A BELIEVER

As work continues, Kasarda, who maintains that he only acts as an informal advisor, says now is not the time to turn back and remains committed to the project.

“Absolutely,” he says. The concept still has merit, “and it’s being reinforced by developments around the world. Today, its validity is more substantiated, certainly more than in the early 1990s when the concept was first introduced. The importance of speed, the importance of supply-chain management or order fulfillment is even more essential, particularly with the rise of e-commerce in the last five years.

“In 1995, e-commerce didn’t exist. Now it’s a multiple-billion-dollar business and is approaching a trillion dollars. Consumer-based sales rely increasingly on agility, speed and fulfillment. After all, the web won’t deliver the box. You have to fulfill orders business-to-business and business-to-consumer, and those orders need to be fulfilled quickly.”

Facilities being built or planned in Thailand, Panama and the Philippines (all at former U.S. military bases) reflect the merit of airport-based manufacturing, stocking and delivery facilities, he adds, much like GTP. “Seventy percent of air cargo transport is now fulfilled by express delivery,” he continues, noting that air cargo also represents 40 percent of international trade.

Kasarda says the building of the training center also should help draw industry. “It’s a remarkable facility,” he explains. The $6 million building includes state-of-the-art telecommunications and also features huge areas where assembly lines can be built for testing and training. Education support is an essential part of the GTP’s complete package: multi-modal transportation (rail, highway, air, sea), integrated telecommunications, the establishment of the foreign trade zone, one-stop servicing support for industry and working training. “It doesn’t matter what particular skill set that’s needed. Industry can bring training to the site in real time,” Kasarda says.

Looking back, Kasarda says choosing a location other than Kinston would have accelerated development. Due to the lack of industry already there plus lack of highways and infrastructure, Kasarda says the GTP “started with one hand tied behind its back.” “There’s no question in my mind that this would have gotten out of the chute a lot faster if we had located in either the Triangle, the Triad or Charlotte,” he adds, “But in the long term, the GTP is meant to fill an economic development function and to help the economic region transform.”

The question remains: Will the GTP deliver on its promise? Busick says the region has no choice.

“You can’t get there without the TransPark,” he says.
Troublemaker or prophet?

REYN BOWMAN EMBRACES A NEW VISION FOR THE TRIANGLE

DURHAM, N.C.—You might call Reyn Bowman the Triangle's proselytizer-in-chief, lobbying tirelessly for the region's due recognition and respect on the national stage. But is there a shrewd Brutus hidden behind his humble spectacles?

To be sure, even as the Triangle once again got top honors from Money Magazine in November, the palace intrigue deepened behind the region's bucolic facade—with Bowman in a leading role.

Boss of the Durham Convention & Visitors Bureau, Bowman is in fact an unassuming but not unwilling legionnaire for ideas and trends determining the future of the Triangle—a rough triangular alliance cobbled together in the 1950s around Research Triangle Park, and later perfected by shrewd pundits who took the Triangle concept out to the constituent cities of Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill.

Indeed, while Bowman, a tack-sharp Idaho native and law school graduate,
The Bowman dossier

Reyn Bowman is a native of the part of Idaho near Yellowstone National Park. He worked his way through college as youth conference coordinator for Brigham Young University and graduated in 1972 with a BA in History.

While attending law school at Gonzaga University in the 1970’s, Bowman directed an effort to attract conventions and visitors to Spokane, Washington, during the Expo 1974 World’s Fair. As general manager, he later helped found the Spokane Area Convention & Visitors Bureau.

In 1978, Bowman became president and chief executive officer of the Anchorage Convention & Visitors Bureau in Alaska. During his tenure, he helped fashion the Alaska Cooperative Visitor Marketing Program and found the Anchorage Organizing Committee for the 1992 Winter Olympic Games. For work in Anchorage, Bowman received a national CLIO Award for Advertising Excellence.

Since 1989, as President & CEO of the Durham Convention and Visitors Bureau, he has helped jump-start a community-wide effort to attract and serve visitors to Durham as a means to create jobs, generate revenues for local government and improve the business climate.

Bowman is a past president of the North Carolina Association of Convention & Visitor Bureaus and a past Presidential delegate to the White House Conference on Travel and Tourism. He currently serves on the Board of the Crime Cabinet, Durham Rotary Club, the Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce, and the NCCU Hospitality Advisory Board.

He and his wife Patty and their English bulldog Toady live in the Trinity Park neighborhood of Durham.

Source: Durham Convention and Visitors Bureau

One day you’ll wake up and look just like everybody else — but you can’t find your soul.” — Reyn Bowman
relentlessly insists on accuracy in media
depictions of the area, he's in fact vying
for an entirely new vision. Downplaying
what he calls the "geo-fiction" of the
Triangle, Bowman says the region should
go back to marketing its distinctive cities,
ahamlets and geography, unhampered by
an overbearing regional entity with too
much influence from Raleigh.

This may not suit the Triangle's
founders, who, smitten by "Charlotte-
envy," have envisioned a powerful
regional government seated at Research
Triangle Park. But quoting trend-master
John Naisbitt's 1994 predictions in
Global Paradox, Bowman says the
world, in the midst of economic global­
ization, is actually breaking down into
smaller, more unique segments, as peo­
ple yearn for solid definitions of their
hometowns. In Durham, Bowman and
others are already reclaiming "Durham-
ness" with a vengeance that some say
threatens to slip a dagger into the cloak
of hard-earned Triangle unity.

"That the Triangle should somehow
become one place because that's how
everyone thinks of us has never been the
case, but is often used as conventional
wisdom," Bowman says in his defense.

"Actually, surveys of Triangle residents,
national residents and the national and
Southeastern media have all shown that
the majority think of us as separate but
linked communities. What is true, how­
ever, is that people here put out a lot of
confusing information."

In fact, the Triangle proper covers six
counties, a larger media market overlay
covers 23 counties, while the official Met­
ropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) in the
New York Times Almanac reads "Raleigh-
Durham-Chapel Hill" (in the future it
may well change to Raleigh-Durham-
Cary). Indeed, there may be as many as 10
different regions patched together in the
Triangle—all in search of maximum mar­
keting muscle. Then there's of course
Raleigh-Durham International Airport,
another repository of great confusion.

"For those who don't know squat
about Raleigh or Durham or Chapel Hill,
it's, to say the least, annoying to fly into
Raleigh-Durham and find road signs at the
interstate pointing in different direc­
tions," Bowman says. "The number of
visitors greatly inconvenienced is legion."

GRACEFUL CONSPIRATOR
Bowman is loath to be denounced as a
conspirator against the great Triangle. In
fact, until the concept is abandoned or
revised, he'll make damn sure Durham
is not left out.

To that end, he's armed to the hilt
with definitions and delineations. Surely
he's the only civic booster in the region
in charge of a five-person phone bank
manned with skilled media lobbyists—
ready to call any editor as soon as a mis-
characterization hits the streets. He's
made thousands of calls and sent hun­
dreds of letters demanding clarification.
Managing editors at Money, Forbes,
Time, New York Times, not to mention
local publications, have all felt the pin­
prick of his corrections.

Indeed, Bowman will with special
pleasure challenge the accuracy of news­
paper datelines, stories, ranking sum­
maries, summations, sunrises and surmises
that put Raleigh ahead of the other
Triangle cities and towns. To Triangle
adherents, such tactics amount to guerilla
warfare, a rebellion from within.

For sure, the Triangle concept may be
too much for unwitting, far-away editors
to get right the first time. But, in fact, it
was the depth and extent of the local con­
descensions and behind-the-scenes snip­
ing that really surprised Bowman when
he came here in 1989. Part of Durham's
problem, he says, is that no one spoke up
when Raleigh realtors pooh-poohed
Durham taxes or Wake County bosses
hinted that Durham should just pay
Raleigh to do its marketing.

The final straw came when Bowman
discovered that the Triad region around

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Greensboro had three times the convention business as the Triangle. Why? Instead of pushing the uniqueness of the Triangle's many quarters, marketing people in Raleigh had pushed the area as just one destination—often Raleigh.

"Prior to the mid-90s, we thought it was impolite to raise our hand and say, 'Excuse me,' when someone misstated the facts," Bowman says. "That's no longer the case."

While confused or misguided visitors may not have been deliberately misled, they were perhaps not informed properly. Indeed, the confusion may have hurt Durham's economy as much as its pride, Bowman contends.

"What really burns some people is when Raleigh realtors are selling people on not living in Durham because the tax rate is higher," Bowman says. "We've even had people go through permitting and zoning in Durham, we've provided incentives to them, and they bring in their CEO and the guy says to the mayor of Durham, 'It's great to be here in Raleigh today.'"

He adds: "When the [Triangle] concept becomes abusive is where the pushing and shoving starts."

To win those shoving matches, Bowman proposes to do what he did at his two previous convention chief posts in Spokane, Washington, and Anchorage, Alaska: Downplay misconceptions, play to strengths and puff out the chest.

What Bowman learned in Spokane, as he fought visions of the city as a podunk, blue-collar backwater—most of which came from across the mountains, from ultra-liberal Seattle—he later perfected in Anchorage when he took over as Convention & Visitors Bureau chief there in 1979.

At that time, according to Bowman, most Alaskans looked down on the city—even as they heavily depended on its commerce. That attitude had colored many attempts to bring more conventions and tourists. What no one had thought to do until Bowman came along was to reframe the city's image by playing to its strengths—including an urban wilderness that held an 1100-head herd of moose and bald eagles roosting among the skyscrapers.

Now in Durham, Bowman has become somewhat of an adopted hometown hero. One huge fan is Dave Hughey, the publisher of the Durham Herald-Sun. Praising Bowman's "spirit," he says, "Reyn reminds us of our distinctiveness. And he does it by reminding people to be accurate when they talk about us."

WHERE ARE WE, MAMA?
The Triangle's latest identity crisis is underscored by the decision by President Clinton's Office of Management and Budget to separate Raleigh and Durham into two separate statistical areas—just as the one-millionth person moved into the area.

Used originally as neat ways to package population and income statistics, it's now true that MSAs's clunky stats are largely left in the dust by high-speed data crunching software that can instantly configure regions by coordinates or radius. Bowman argues that the MSAs—and all the other confusing overlays that form the rough assemblage of the Triangle—are becoming anachronistic in the information age.

To parry with this new-fangled trend-spotting, the OMB's game plan is to divide a half-dozen existing MSA subgroupings even further. This means that entrepreneurs, investors and companies looking for regional data about shopping trends, rents, average bar tabs, number of dance clubs and salaries will have crisper, more accurate figures. Furthermore, under the new system, they will be able to cobble together whatever neighborhoods and towns their fancy desires with the click of a mouse, creating their own personalized regions unbeknownst to anyone else.

To be sure, despite their critics, MSAs, first concocted by the federal government in 1949, remain powerful tools for marketers and investors alike: Today MSAs make up only about 16 percent of the country's land mass, but contain 75 percent of the country's population.

And as regional publications such as the Spectator and Triangle Business Journal (formerly published by Metro editor and publisher Bernie Reeves) proved in the early 1980s, such outwardly dry statistical areas, after all, came to vigorous life in the minds of locals through combined cultural coverage of each of the three key downtowns.

There's a catch, though, to the new borders. In fact, those who have become addicted to the region's endless top rankings may have to find another fix if the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill MSA (one of the fastest growing in the nation) is busted up in 2003. In that case, the region's steady stream of national rankings could subside as economies of scale diminish—and as editors at the ranking magazines turn over. Though the Triangle name will likely remain, there's a chance that it could become at best a shadow boxer, a ghost of its old self.

"Quite frankly, in order to come out number one in all these rankings about best place to live and best place to work, we need each other," says David Heinl, the director of the Raleigh/Wake County Convention & Visitors Bureau, who is old friends with Bowman and in fact urged him to apply in Durham.

Thus, not everyone is so willing to go along with Bowman's vision of a decentralized Triangle. Indeed, some say his in-your-ear proselytizing about accuracy and equal rights may be undermining years of hard-fought negotiations and developments. Indeed, animosity between Durham and Raleigh, at least some spearheaded by Bowman's believers, has
stood in the way of several regional ideas, including an expanded trade zone and a joint—and giant—Triangle convention center.

As for his complaints about Raleigh's insouciance in taking the lead in matters triangular, the fact remains that Raleigh has become the region's powerhouse player, far outdistancing the others in population and economic growth, and becoming the state's second-largest city in the process.

It seems Bowman's efforts to clarify the situation may have led to even more confusion. Is he too good of a cheerleader? Durham, for instance, is listed as the region's largest city in the new Rand McNally Road Atlas—a stretch even if you include total county population numbers. Until recently, if anyone typed in Raleigh on the Weather Channel web site, no search entries came back. Durham, however, registered.

But Bowman denies any "shenanigans" when it comes to his own manipulation of the media. Instead, he is just trying to correct common mistakes. Over the years, he has insisted that stewardesses use the Raleigh-Durham name when flying in, not just "Raleigh." He's admonished CNN for airing a political speech from Durham and listing Raleigh as the date-line because that's where the feed went through. If anyone deigns to use Raleigh-Durham instead of Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill when talking about the Triangle, expect a call from Mr. Bowman. When Money Magazine in November ranked the Triangle as one of the top places to live, the area was, unlike some years past, listed correctly—a clear nod to a recent Bowman media blitz.

Common mistakes that Bowman finds include the local television market of Raleigh-Durham-Fayetteville getting short-handed to Raleigh-Durham; Raleigh-Durham being used to designate a community based on the name of the airport; and weather readings credited to Raleigh when the actual National Weather Service readings come from RDU.

"The fact is," Bowman says, "when we try to get Durham its due, we often step on the toes of people who have applied Durham as a ring city for Raleigh, and who regularly take credit for Durham things. People assume it's an issue of being competitive, but all we want is a level playing field."

FIGHTING OVER GIRLS
To be sure, even long-time locals admit that it seemed like academic folly to try to arrange a shotgun alliance between sons from Raleigh who fought with sons from Durham over girls and football games.

Indeed, when academics outlined the region, they may have ignored the cultural and geographic realities in favor of business proposals. Where Durham is an esoteric Piedmont city carved out by business magnates, Raleigh is the capital of Eastern North Carolina, erected, famously, by middle-class bureaucrats just where the last ripples of the Smokies fade into the sandy flatlands of the Coastal Plain.

Durham, in many ways, became the central bank for the tobacco leaf, once the "currency of the South," a development that later gave rise to local social uprisings against the wealthy tobacco bourgeoisie. Bowman says the early perception of Durham was as a "Wild West town with blacks and whites working side by side"—a travesty in the eyes of the bureaucratic nobles in Raleigh.

In its youth, Durham grew rapidly, becoming an industrial and academic giant, indeed a Southern anomaly with its heady population mix of Southerners, Greeks, Jews, Russians and blacks. Raleigh, on the other hand, resisted growth, instead laying out quaint, affordable neighborhoods protected by rigorous zoning that prohibited mall development near homes. Such a hold-out on business development was the Capital City that it didn't run water and sewer lines out to its half of RTP until 1993.

Eschewing trade, Raleigh wrote rules. Embracing blue-collar industriousness, Durham wrote creeds to class equality. Both dealt with lingering insecurities and jealousies by making jokes and putting each other down.

In retrospect, radical activists that dominated Durham's government, many voted in by the so-called People's Alliance, made it so Durham became known more as an anti-establishment hotbed than a place to live and do business. Those visions for a Southern utopia faded as Durham's murder rate skyrocketed and schools fell into disrepair. It's an open secret that many people left Durham so their kids could go to better schools elsewhere. Only four years ago did Durham cede to what Raleigh did in the 1970s: join county schools with city schools, thus breaking apart a city district that had become 95 percent black, when the national percentage of blacks hovered at around 13 percent.

Durham is glad to point out that novelist Thomas Wolfe said he went to Chapel Hill for study, "but to Durham
for fun.” Raleighites, meanwhile, find pleasure in the fact that Durham planners are now trying to emulate Raleigh’s success in drawing newcomers to its protected neighborhoods.

But what really got Durham’s goat was that despite its early investments in RTP water and sewer lines—which gave a Durham address to all the major founding businesses at the Park—most of the incoming workers picked Raleigh as their hometown. In fact, the region’s original infusion of high-tech workers—the 2500 IBM-ers who came here to open the firm’s “applied research” branch in the late 1960s—moved into Raleigh neighborhoods. And it pained Durham’s pride particularly when a new CEO of Liggett & Myers Tobacco Co. moved to the area—and straight into Cary’s tony McGregor Downs.

The fact remains; such stigmas linger with or without Reyn Bowman. Take Exhibit B as in baseball: Unable to get together with the Durham Bulls for a 3A baseball team, Raleigh and Wake County officials built the Mudcats stadium in Zebulon, exactly 35 court-ordered miles from the homeplate at the Durham Bulls diamond.

Ironically, it may be among academics that the sniping gets meanest. Even as they have built an internationally known academic consortium at RTP, old rivalries, pushed along by modern-day athletic games, still push through to the surface. Among insiders, N.C. State is still only the “land grant college” when compared to the liberal arts reputations of UNC and Duke.

MEDIA MONSTERS
Meanwhile, the mainstream media has worked perhaps the hardest to unify the region, while paying the least attention to the real situations in the towns they’re covering. A great example of this is how the News & Observer broke a gentleman’s agreement with the Durham Herald-Sun and opened an office in downtown Durham with a staff of 40 in the mid-1990s. What they found, however, was difficulty in covering both towns. When a reporter approached Bowman for a comment on sprawl in Durham, the convention chief said, “We dealt with most of those issues 20 years ago.” The reporter’s reply? “That’s not what my editor’s gonna want to hear.”

And such a facade of regional coverage seems to symbolize the crux of the Triangle’s identity crisis, Bowman claims. “I know what’s going on in Afghanistan but I don’t know what’s going on in Forest Hills,” he says. “The old media markets were set up when broadcast media paid you based on how big your throw was, and that’s why we have a huge 23-county media region that’s just absolutely useless. Local news is like a travelogue. Somebody moving here doesn’t have a clue to what these places are: Goldsboro, Wilson, three sound bites in Rocky Mount. It if wasn’t for that obso-

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History is almost tangible in the order and beauty of the domed building standing amid the old oaks and lawns of Raleigh's Union Square. The perfectly proportioned elevations of North Carolina's Capitol reach out to the four points of the compass, welcoming citizens and visitors to one of America's most architecturally distinguished seats of government. The Capitol building sits on one of the city's original squares, the largest of five laid out by surveyor William Christmas in 1792, when the city of Raleigh was established as North Carolina's capital city. Described by architectural historian Edward T. Davis as the "most important civic structure ever built in North Carolina," the existing gray stone Capitol occupies the site of the first State House built between 1792 and 1796 as North Carolina's first capitol. The present Capitol's relationship to that earlier structure, its construction between 1833 and 1840, and its subsequent restoration and refurbishing span 167 years of North Carolina history and tell us much about our state and its past.

Built by designer-carpenter Rhodham Atkins, the earlier State House was extensively enlarged and remodeled between 1820 and 1824 by state architect William Nichols. Nichols, an Englishman, improved the original hip-roofed brick Georgian structure by extending the eastern and western pavilions to form short wings fronted with rusticated basement supporting pedimented pseudo-porticos, thus creating an unusual cruciform floorplan. He also added a third floor and a dome whose rotunda illuminated the building's main level and its newly acquired marble statue of George Washington by the noted Italian sculptor Canova.

When the State House burned in 1831, the legislature established a five-member commission, the North Carolina Commissioners for Rebuilding the Capitol, and empowered it to contract for the design and construction of a new Capitol. The legislature stipulated that the new building should follow the general plan of the State House and, importantly, be fireproof.

ARCHITECTS AND ALTERATIONS

John Sanders, Professor Emeritus of Public Law and Government of the Institute of Government at UNC-Chapel Hill, has been a student of the Capitol's architecture and history for over 50 years. Seated on a bench on the second floor of the building as school groups hurry past toward the Capitol's splendid House of Representatives and Senate Chambers, Sanders reflects on the unusual nature of the building's design and construction.

"The Capitol is the product of several architects," says Sanders. "Unlike some buildings, each one improved the design."
photographs by
Bryan Regan

THE BIG DOME Poverty and conservatism were big factors in preserving the Capitol's original Greek Revival lines
To select an architect for the new Capitol, the Commissioners reviewed plans offered by several firms, including a temple form by the prestigious New York firm of Ithiel Town and Alexander Jackson Davis. Their selection of former state architect William Nichols was consistent with their interest in building a Capitol that followed the pattern of the first one. Nichols, represented in Raleigh by his son, William Nichols Jr., submitted a draft plan in May 1833, received a substantial fee from the Commissioners and was not heard from again. In August of that year, when the Capitol's foundation had already been laid to the height of three feet according to Nichols' cruciform plan, Ithiel Town appeared in Raleigh, recommending changes to the building's design. The alterations by Town and Davis of the Nichols' original plan produced the building's classic Greek Revival style and its most striking features. Impressive additions included the elegant stonework of the basement story, the Ionic columned porticos on the east and west fronts, the square-headed first-floor windows, and the embellishment of the north and south elevations with pilasters—column-like projections that define the building's second and third stories.

Town and Davis were also responsible for bringing to the project the last designer to place his mark on the evolving structure. He was David Paton, an Edinburgh- and London-trained and experienced Scottish architect whom Town sent to Raleigh in 1834 to act as clerk of the works for the building. Paton, responsible for preparing all of the project's working drawings, soon added his own distinctive touches to the plan. He used masonry vaulting to cover the first-floor offices and corridors as an additional fireproofing measure, moved the State Library Room and the Supreme Court Chamber to the third floor to gain space, and designed the top-lit, third-floor vestibules to the library and court rooms. He also added third-floor public galleries in the legislative chambers and introduced the circular opening in the second floor of the rotunda. These improvements won Paton a place in architectural history when Talbot Hamlin, author of *Greek Revival Architecture in America*, praised Paton for "the beautiful execution which guaranteed the effectiveness of the building."

The cost of the Capitol at its completion in 1840 was $533,000, an astounding sum at a time when the state's annual tax revenues rarely exceeded $150,000. This was despite savings in not having to pay for the land, and having the building material, gray gneiss (granite), available only a quarter-mile from the site. John Sanders credits the extraordinary cost of the Capitol with helping to preserve it from either expansion or replacement. "Poverty and conservatism protected the Capitol from change," says Sanders. "By the time the state was wealthy enough to contemplate the construction of a new Capitol or an enlargement of the old one, there was sufficient attachment to this one to discourage it."

LOOK SKYWARD  David Paton, the Capitol's "clerk of the works," opened this view to the second floor in 1834.
Sanders also notes that the Capitol has been kept alive as a functioning office for the Governor and Lieutenant Governor even after the legislature moved out of the historic building. “The legislature held its last session in the Capitol in 1961,” says Sanders. “It moved into its new quarters in the Holloway Reeves-Edward Durrell Stone-designed Legislative Building in 1963. At about that time, the second floor (where the House and Senate Chambers are) and the third floor (where re-creations of the State Geologist’s Office and the State Library are now located), were converted to a museum and historic site. The House and Senate Chambers are also used for ceremonial occasions.”

RESTORATION NOT RE-CREATION
In the late 1960s Director of the Division of Archives and History Dr. H. G. Jones encouraged Governor Bob Scott to support a refurbishing of the Capitol in anticipation of the 1976 American Bicentennial. “Jones encouraged an ongoing program to repair, conserve, and preserve the building,” says Sanders. “It put into play the series of conservation efforts which have culminated in the past decade’s extremely successful restoration of the decorative plaster work in the House and Senate Chambers. It also led to the discovery and restoration of the building’s true original interior paint colors and faux finishes.”

A key figure in the on-going restoration and conservation of the building is Capitol Historian Raymond Beck. The Capitol has fascinated Beck since his early 20s when, as a UNC-Greensboro M.A. graduate in history, he was asked to review research supporting the recreation of the State Geologist’s Office. Beck soon became the first on-site historian and the research staff for the State Capitol. He used his considerable talents to convince the State Capitol Foundation, the non-profit organization established in 1976 to raise money to refurbish and refurnish the Capitol as it appeared between 1840 and 1865, and to begin, in 1990, to reexamine the paint colors adopted during the 1970’s renovation.

“I called 1977 to 1990 the Gray Poupon period,” says Beck, “because the paint research didn’t go far enough to document existing paint layers and so all the colors were too dark and not appropriate for 1840. When George Fore was commissioned in the early 1990’s to reexamine the color scheme, he found original paint samples beneath overpainting, sometimes removing as many as 27 layers of paint on woodwork to find the original finish.”

As work progressed on the paint restoration project, Beck continued to explore the connection between architect David Paton, who selected the Capitol’s color scheme, and an 1828 treatise entitled The Laws of Harmonious Colouring as Adapted to House Painting, by Edinburgh native David Ramsay Hay. Beck thought it was likely that Paton knew and relied on Hay’s work since there were no guidelines available for the decor of public buildings. “Laws of Harmonious Colouring remained a popular sourcebook for interior painting well into the 1880’s,” says Beck. “I contacted a Scottish architect, Ian Be^, looking for a connection between Paton and Hay. You can imagine how delighted I was to have Begg confirm that Paton and Hay had collaborated on several projects.”

As a result of Beck’s persistence and Fore’s expert work, the original 1840s paint scheme of the Capitol has been almost completely restored. The House
Chamber, a square room with a dramatic coffered half-dome ceiling and Corinthian columns which define the amphitheater containing the members’ desks and chairs, is a warm pearl gray with a white ceiling. Two tiers of windows are hung with painted roller shades decorated in a Greek motif derived from a proposal written by Paton in 1840. Above the speaker’s chair is an 1818 portrait of George Washington by Thomas Sully (after Gilbert Stuart), which was saved from the 1831 fire.

The sense of history and drama conveyed by the House Chamber’s authentic colors, original furniture and art is continued across the rotunda’s gallery in the Senate Chamber. Sky-blue paint and white trim brighten this space, which has four fewer windows than the House Chamber. The Senate is a Greek cross-shaped room with corners enclosed for offices and anterooms creating more intimacy than the House. The coffered fully domed ceiling is supported by arches and angled walls or piers that define the members’ seating area. The original desks, built in 1839 by Raleigh cabinetmaker William Thompson, are still in use in both chambers, though the original chairs have been replaced by reproductions to withstand the frequent use by guests attending events in the Capitol.

The most dramatic element in the multi-phase reproduction of the original Capitol paint scheme has been the reworking of the interior walls of the first to second floor stairhall and the upper rotunda in a faux stone finish. “There was some concern that painting the interiors to resemble stone would make the building too dark,” says Beck. “But the outcome has been just the opposite.” Beck is especially pleased with the work...
BRINGING OUT THE GRAIN  Faux finishings on the doors require bringing out the original feel of the oak.

of Virginians Linda Croxson and Philip Ward, the husband and wife team who executed the faux finishes on the Capitol walls. "There were 588 imitation blocks of stone to be reproduced in the upper rotunda," says Beck. "And each stone required six layers of paint before it took on the proper appearance."

Croxson and Ward's most recent accomplishment is the regraining of the doors found throughout the two upper levels of the Capitol. The doors on the second level are grained to resemble white oak, while those on the third floor are a deeper red oak color. "We're currently at the stage of completing details," says Beck. "Our next tasks include faux painting the baseboards to resemble granite and renewing worn carpeting with a reproduction pattern possibly derived from a small carpet fragment found in an attic over the Senate Chamber."

Characterized by architectural historian Wayne Andrews as "the most distinguished of all our state capitols," North Carolina's Capitol is remarkable for its architectural and historic authenticity. Sanders describes it as "a renewed building that never underwent serious physical change, not a re-creation in the manner of Tryon Palace." Clearly this has been the goal of the State, the State Capitol Foundation, and the Division of Archives and History of the Department of Cultural Resources. Thanks are owed to the skill and perseverance of Capitol advocates and researchers John Sanders and Raymond Beck. There is much to be said for personal dedication to scholarly investigation and an appreciation for fine old things. This most recent restoration of the Capitol is a milepost in North Carolina's history in both scholarship and accuracy of detail.

DESIGN NOTES

North Carolina is recognized as the "State of the arts," as a tourism promotion once termed it. Art and creative accomplishment flourish even in our smallest communities. Take the case of photographer John M. Hall, now a resident of New York City, a world traveler and the creator of a series of stunning photographs that illuminate *Adventurers with Old Houses*, the witty and informative book written by fellow North Carolinian Richard Hampton Jenrette.

A native of Hurdle Mills, John Hall is a graduate of both the North Carolina School of the Arts and North Carolina State University. Hall's work has been exhibited in galleries from Paris's William Foucault Gallery to Chapel Hill's Somerhill Gallery, where owner-director Joseph Rowand has presented Hall since 1979. Rowand shared some of Hall's photographs of his own residence in Orange County in *Metro's* November issue and notes Hall's innovativeness in his range of subjects and methodology. "John has returned seasonally to several distinguished American gardens, recording their singular qualities under a range of conditions," says Rowand. "A selected group of these images was displayed in John's third solo exhibition, "Natura Gloria," which opened in June at the prestigious Beadleston Gallery in New York City. The large-scale 20-by-24-inch images for this exhibition are particularly evocative of the inherent artistry of each of the gardens. They explore traditional perceptions of beauty." Rowand was pleased that the "Natura Gloria" exhibition contained many images of Hillsborough's Montrose Garden, whose creator Nancy Goodwin is recognized for her dramatic use of color.

The Beadleston exhibition also featured a series of iris prints—large format, digitally scanned archival prints. "The iris prints are remarkable for their richness of tone," explains Rowand. "It's achieved by spraying environmentally friendly organic dyes on the surface of a rotating printer drum via an electronic data stream. Acid free watercolor paper is used to achieve a more delicate texture, avoiding the hard quality of conventional cibachrome color printing."

Hall's work has been acquired by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and his photographs appear regularly in various interior design and architectural magazines. He has authored and contributed to numerous books on art, antiques, architecture and flowers.

*Milford, Path with Obelisk—John Hall*
There is a place that's as real as can be, a place where nature is everything your mind could ever imagine. That place is Leatherwood Mountains. Surrounded by thousands of acres of remote mountain woodland near Boone and Blowing Rock, Leatherwood Mountains is a wilderness community and resort — a place of beauty, tranquility and privacy. Add to that miles of trails for hiking, horseback riding and mountain biking, pristine lakes for fishing, and stars so bright they serve as streetlights. And then, there is our own Saddlebrook Restaurant, where you can relax and enjoy steak, pasta, seafood and other homecooked delicacies.

There is a place and it's waiting for you. Homesites, vacation rentals and unspoiled wilderness. Leatherwood Mountains — you don't have to imagine it, just live it.
December is upon us, and, with respect to holiday shopping, time is of the essence. Gifts featured this month cover the range of ages on your list. Affordable and current, they are sure to bring a smile to faces young and old.
Gifts For Echo Boomers (tots to early twenties)

Do you hear an Echo? Not unlikely. “Echo Boomers,” the babies of Baby Boomers are one of the fastest growing consumer groups in the country. Also known as “Gen Y,” yell “Mouse!” at one of them and they don’t even blink. Having grown up with computers, their kind of mouse is hooked up to a port and has a customized pad. Buying gifts for this media and market savvy generation can be a little intimidating. Young people today have more products to choose from than ever, as does anyone hunting for them. Remind them that the world is not virtual with some colorful, three-dimensional gifts.

The Hot Mama Kit by Too Faced will instantly take a look from neutral to knockout. That Girl lipstick plus Bronze Rose Zsa Zsa eye shadow plus Tart nail lacquer equals glamour. All items are neatly stowed in a zippy zebra print makeup bag. $32.50 at Sephora, Chapel Hill and at www.sephora.com.

Anyone who has read Kay Thompson’s books can’t help but want to move into the Plaza Hotel with Eloise and her pet turtle Skipperdee. The Eloise Game is as close as most of us will come. Players help plan a party at the penthouse and have to skibble all over the hotel to consult with everyone from the telephone switchboard operators to the hotel detectives. The goal is to find the decorations and refreshments before the party begins. As Eloise would say, “Buy this game for Lord’s sake, and CHARGE IT, please.” $19.99 at the Store of Knowledge, Crabtree Valley Mall, and at www.storeofknowledge.com.

Collect the snowman family from Bath and Body Works. Each lotion and bath gel has its own personality and scent, like Juniper Breeze or Winter Garden. A fun stocking stuffer for little and big girls alike. $10 each at all Bath and Body Works locations including Cameron Village and Crabtree Valley Mall.

The Meade 60 AZ-M Telescope is a wonderful gift for a budding astronomer. Check out moon craters or Saturn’s rings and learn to identify the stars that make up constellations. The telescope comes with a 60 mm optical glass objective lens, a hardwood tripod, and altazimuth PC-compatible astronomical software. $119.99 at the
This year Ralph Lauren came out with a fragrance geared to his younger clientele. "Ralph" is light and fruity and is available in eau de toilette and a range of body products. Let her test the new scent with a bright bottle of You've Got Gel for the bath. $20 at department stores where Ralph Lauren fragrances are sold.

Sometimes it just feels good to make noise. Help them turn that noise into rhythm with a set of maracas made from dried gourds. These hand-etched and lacquered maracas are attached to a sturdy wooden handle. $14.95 at Ten Thousand Villages, Cameron Village, and at www.tenthousandvillages.com.

During thundershowers, she'll be as snug as a bug in her red ladybug raincoat. Complete the ensemble with rainboots and a cheery umbrella, and then she'll be ready for some serious puddle jumping. Coat, $28, boots, $21, umbrella, $14, at Doodlebugs, Cameron Village.

"I'm ready for my close-up, Mr. DeMille." She'll have fun primping like a movie star with her collapsible vanity mirror in the shape of a flower and a sparkly plastic makeup case with a tray. Mirror, $9.50, makeup case $10 at the Limited Too, Crabtree Valley Mall.

The Kaleidoscope dollhouse by artist Laurie Simmons and architect Peter Wheelwright is a beautifully designed toy that lets kids experiment with ideas of space (the walls are sliding transparent panels) and art (a miniature collection of contemporary pieces is included). $200 for house, $30 for doll family and for each furniture suite. Available from the Chiasso catalogue, 800-654-3570, or at www.chiasso.com, and at the North Carolina Museum of Art Shop.

The Kaleidoscope dollhouse by artist Laurie Simmons and architect Peter Wheelwright is a beautifully designed toy that lets kids experiment with ideas of space (the walls are sliding transparent panels) and art (a miniature collection of contemporary pieces is included). $200 for house, $30 for doll family and for each furniture suite. Available from the Chiasso catalogue, 800-654-3570, or at www.chiasso.com, and at the North Carolina Museum of Art Shop.

Three, two, one...blast off! His new rocket clock may just inspire him to jump out of bed in the morning. $125 at Dilly Dally, 203E Whitaker Mill Road.
Once upon a time, there stood an enchanting mansion where weary souls journeyed to find comfort.

Westglow Spa provides the perfect venue for revitalizing your body and soul. This European-style facility offers a vast array of luxuriating services such as massage therapy and herbal body wraps as well as scenic mountain hiking, recreational activities and delectable cuisine. Make your reservation for a rejuvenating experience at Westglow today, so you can rediscover yourself and live happily ever after.

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*Based on double occupancy with a three-night minimum. This special may not be combined with any other promotional offers and must take place during December 2000 thru February 2001. Special rate will not apply if reservation is rescheduled beyond these dates for any reason.


Keep your little roughrider toasty on winter mornings with a red flannel robe in a rowdy rodeo motif. $84 at Dilly Dally, 203E Whitaker Mill Road.

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Gifts for Gen Xers (mid-twenties to mid-thirties)

How do you keep up with Gen X? Once called a cynical, lost generation, Gen Xers seem to have found themselves. Entrepreneurial and creative, Gen Xers have landed plum jobs in the new economy and know just when to get in on an IPO. Having grown up in the excessive eighties and lived through the minimalist nineties, Gen Xers like high quality in small doses. Settling in and looking to the future, Gen X is all about balance. Give them fun but useful gifts.

“Kitten goes to Paris” powder by BeneFit is for girls who like to sparkle. With a silvery lilac finish and an enticing scent, Kitten powder lends a moon-lit glow to face and shoulders for evening. $24 at Sephora, Chapel Hill, and at www.sephora.com.

Bloom Eyelash Essentials pack is key for any self-respecting flirt. Included are eyeliner, mascara, and an eyelash curler. Stare, bat, bat, stare. Her “come hither” look never looked so good. $25 at Sephora, Chapel Hill, and at www.sephora.com.

Millennium Music has something for every ear, carrying three times the volume of most music stores. If you know a friend’s taste in tunes, a box set makes a thoughtful gift. From Elton John to Miles Davis to Cuban bands, box sets range from $40-$300 and are often only available around the holiday season. Visit the store on Capital Boulevard or their website, www.millenniummusic.net.

Faces of curly wool fleece and appliqued details. $38 in the Garnet Hill Catalog, 800-622-6216 or www.garnethill.com.

Giesswein cuffed slipper boots for infants are made of pure boiled wool and decorated with adorable animal details. $38 in the Garnet Hill Catalog, 800-622-6216 or www.garnethill.com.
If you know an old-fashioned girl who needs to get organized but disdains PalmPilots, get her a charming Kate Spade day planner. In a variety of colors, the planner is stocked with refillable pages displaying whimsical watercolor sketches of quotidian items, like a shoe or a dress. She'll never dread looking at her schedule again. $255 at Frances T. King, Cameron Village.

There's nothing worse than being cold. For a rough-and-ready guy who would never admit to having goose bumps, choose a pair of thermal boxers. Breathable and lightweight, new technology makes boxers and other undergarments act like a second skin—perfect for skiing or hiking in winter. $28 at Great Outdoor Provision Company, Cameron Village.

Even if his skin is chapped and flaking, it's doubtful that a man would intentionally put moisturizer on his face. But what about a nice glob of "Face Protector?" Packaged in manly containers, one of which resembles a bottle of automotive oil, the Skin Mechanics collection for men from the Body Shop may be just the way to get him one step beyond basic hygiene. Shown here, Face-Protector "Self Defense for Your Face," $10, and Cooling Shampoo, $9. Available at the Body Shop, Crabtree Valley Mall.

The new Cranium Game is out to unseat that mainstay of board games, Trivial Pursuit. Unlike Trivial Pursuit, which only tests your knowledge of trivia (and common sense), Cranium gets players use both sides of their brain, the logical left and the creative right. You'll hum, whistle, sketch, sculpt, and act, among other tasks. One dollar from the purchase of Cranium benefits charities promoting arts and education for children. For ages teen to adult. $34.95 at participating Starbucks Coffee locations.

For your trendiest friend, head to Nina Lou, one of the best new boutiques in Raleigh. Carrying hip styles and affordable designers, Nina Lou has clothing, handbags, and jewelry that are a fashionista's dream come true. Shown here an A-line leopard print skirt in nylon/lycra from Hippies by Australian designer Vanessa Palmer. $68 at Nina Lou, 404 Glenwood Avenue.
Kate Spade has cornered the market on simple but classy handbags. Practical and durable, a sleek Kate Spade bag is worth a little investment. Nylon bags with a black label outside made her famous, but the designer has since expanded to leather and cloth, like the hound's-tooth wool bag with leather strap shown here. $325 at Beanie + Cecil, Cameron Village.

Brilliant! It's a robe and a mohair sweater in one. In vermillion red, powder blue and basic black, this hooded short robe from Victoria's Secret is sensual and toasty. Perfect for staying warm without looking like the Michelin Man. $58 at Victoria's Secret, Crabtree Valley Mall.

The best gifts come in small packages. With the Gateway Solo® 1150, that couldn't be more true. This uniquely designed laptop comes loaded with a 12.1" display, integrated modem, Intel® Celeron™ processor and CD-ROM drive. With prices starting at $999, it makes the perfect holiday gift.

Coach presents its version of the classic army knife. Covered in supple cowhide leather and available in red, mahogany, black, and vicuna, this knife will look stylish coming to the rescue when a ribbon needs cutting or a wine bottle uncorking. Are army knives really used for anything else? $88 at the Coach Store, Crabtree Valley Mall, or at www.coach.com.
Whether inspired by classic or contemporary themes, Ora is your place for the best in fine jewelry.
Gifts for Baby Boomers (late thirties to mid-fifties)

The generation that defined the century, Baby Boomers are busy buying gifts for their own families this time of year. But what to get the Boomer who has everything? Boomers work hard and play hard. These movers and shakers need to relax and indulge in something just for themselves. How many times have Boomers been told to “chill out” by their offspring? Here are some gifts that will help them do just that.

Looking for love? The Lucky Chick Lucky in Love Box will put you in the right frame of mind, leaving you relaxed and smelling sweet. A Happy Meal for beautyphiles, this box contains candles to set the mood and a personal spa treatment. All of the products are enriched with aloe vera, vitamin E, and elder flower, all known for their soothing qualities. The gift box includes Love Potion Shower Gel, Emotion Lotion Body Lotion, Lucky in Love Body Mist, Magic Moment Massage Oil, Lucky in Love Candle (all scented in mimosa, jasmine, and violet), and a nylon mesh sponge. $30 at Sephora, Chapel Hill, or at www.sephora.com.

Posters from the ’20s and ’30s, with their bright Deco graphics, have become popular collectors’ items. A little window into the lifestyle of days gone by, the travel posters reproduced in the Nostalgia Calendar are a colorful addition to any room. Produced by the National Railway Museum, original posters were designed to be displayed in railway stations. $15 at Quail Ridge Bookstore, Ridgewood Shopping Center.

Editor’s note: If intensive shopping has left you haggard, buy yourself a little pick-me-up. The Prescriptives Luxe and Magic lines will leave you glowing like an
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angel at holiday cocktail parties. The amazing water-based moisturizing formulations also contain a little sparkle. Available at Prescriptives counters at fine department stores.

**Artwork** is a unique gift and also an investment. Check out what is available in the area by visiting the Smallworks Exhibit, put on by the Artspace Artists Association and running from December 1 to January 6 at Artspace. While you’re there, see C.O.U.C.H (Contemporary Objects and Utilitarian Crafts for the Home), a juried exhibition of original home furnishings, furniture, and *objets d’art*, which also runs through January 6. Artspace is located at 201 E. Davie Street, 919-821-2787. www.artspace.citysearch.com.

The **Leatherman Super Tool** has become a favorite of many weekend fixer-uppers. Ten tools are conveniently and economically packaged in one streamlined piece, including: a saw, a serrated knife blade, regular and needle nose pliers, wire cutters, a clip-point knife, a metal/wood file, a can opener, regular and Phillips screwdrivers, among others. Each blade locks into place to prevent folding during use, and a handy nylon belt sheath for the Super Tool comes with purchase. $80 at most hardware stores or at www.leatherman.com.

Created in 1992, Thierry Mugler’s **Angel** has had the impact of a modern Shalimar. Called a “gourmand” perfume, Angel has notes of vanilla but was one of the first perfumes to incorporate the scent of chocolate. The Angel line has expanded to include bath, body, and hair products. For a lower dose of this heady perfume, choose the beautifully packaged **body cream**. A 6.7 oz. jar is $75 at fine department stores.
Instead of languishing on a beach during your next vacation, why not hike your way through the Andes or the Cotswolds? Country Walkers offers trips that cover the globe. You’ll see new things, meet new people, and have so much fun you won’t even notice that you’re also burning calories. Country Walkers employs experienced guides who know the best views, the best trails, and the best places to experience the authentic cuisine of the region. Choose from rigorous to leisurely paces, or customize a trip for your group. Call 800-244-5661 or visit www.countrywalkers.com.

If your weekly poker night needs a dash of elegance, give a buddy these limited-edition 19th-century French playing cards.

For smokers who love their ritual, an attractive lighter or cigarette case is something they’ll use every day. Accipiter carries svelte brass lighters, $45, and etched silver cigarette cases, $19.95–$24.95. Accipiter, Cameron Village.

A gift to save for a special occasion: This briarwood cigar case holds a single cigar (like this hand-rolled Arturo Fuente cigar from the Dominican Republic), made in Italy for the Savinelli Company. Case, $44, cigars, $3–$16 each, at Pipes by George, 1209 Hillsborough Street.
**Bacardi 8 Millennium** is hand-bottled and specially finished in small, aged sherry barrels and presented in a unique limited-edition Baccarat decanter. It was first launched in September 2000 to coincide with what would have been the 186th birthday of the founder of the company, Don Facundo Bacardi in October. A special selection of sherry cask finished Bacardi 8 rum, it is one of the finest deluxe rums ever produced in the world. Only 3000 Bacardi 8 Millennium decanters are available worldwide. In the U.S. only 500 enthusiasts, collectors and connoisseurs will have the opportunity to own a decanter. Sold three bottles to a case for $2400.

**Bald Head Island**, off the southeastern coast of North Carolina, boasts an 18-hole championship golf course and 14 miles of secluded Atlantic beach, plus picturesque maritime forest and marshland. A prestigious resort and vacation, try it out with their gift certificates for Christmas and New Year’s getaway packages on the island, including accommodations, round-trip ferry passage, parking, temporary club membership, and at least one festive dining event. To inquire about holiday gift packages, call 800-234-1666, ext. 7440.

**Bombay Sapphire**, the gin of choice for spirit connoisseurs, offers the martini lover on your list a collector’s edition martini glass accompanied by a 750ml bottle of Bombay Sapphire in a decorative gift box. The festive presentation enhances the graceful design of Bombay Sapphire and concludes your search for a “gem of a gift” this holiday season. Available throughout the holiday season for $18.69.
Gifts for Parents of Baby Boomers (late fifties and up)

All those Boomers came from somewhere. Parents of Baby Boomers are last but not least in our gift guide. Many are seniors but have more energy than their grandkids. With a lifetime of experiences and memories to draw on, many older people find beauty and humor where others don’t see it. They know that sometimes it’s the simplest things that bring the greatest enjoyment.

Tartan is in for fall, but this is a sweater she’ll enjoy for many seasons to come. Hip-length with a jewel neckline, Talbot’s creates another classic. $98 at Talbot’s, Cameron Village or at www.talbots.com.

You don’t have to look far for some of the most impressive pottery in the United States. Phil Morgan of Seagrove, NC, is a master potter who creates stunning pieces in porcelain clay with crystalline glaze. The NC Museum of History Shop carries these and other treasures produced in the state, from jewelry to ornaments. Phil Morgan vases shown here, $230-$315, at the NC Museum of History Shop, 5 East Edenton Street.

You may find many new audio books in stock at up to 40% off. *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, 12 tapes, $39.95, on CD, $69.95 at Audio Bookworld, Inc. at North Hills Office Mall or at www.audiobookworld.com.

Keeping a room or drawer smelling sweet with charming sachets, like these in the shape of tiny pink shoes. $27 for a pair at Lavender and Lace, Cameron Village.

With a book on tape, you can clean, cook, or exercise while listening to a captivating narrative. The Harry Potter books have been a hit with adults as well as children, and grandparents may enjoy hearing *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* and then discussing the finer points with grandkids. Of course, Audio Bookworld carries many more titles, from classics to new releases. Currently, the store is selling many new audio books in stock at up to 40% off. *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, 12 tapes, $39.95, on CD, $69.95 at Audio Bookworld, Inc. at North Hills Office Mall or at www.audiobookworld.com.

Some of the most interesting period design is reflected in clocks. Capture a piece of time with a reproduction clock ranging from $85 to $375. At Domicile, in Raleigh and Chapel Hill.

Keep a room or drawer smelling sweet with charming sachets, like these in the shape of tiny pink shoes. $27 for a pair at Lavender and Lace, Cameron Village.
There's nothing more thoughtful than a "homemade" gift. At Baldoria.com, you can custom design a silk scarf or tie. From bold cubist shapes to impressionist pastels, Italian-based Baldoria offers a unique gift with a personalized touch. Scarves, about $200, ties, about $125, at www.baldoria.com.

It's hard to resist this droll little deer. The suave "Dasher" ornament in blown glass is one of a series of Santa's reindeer from Pottery Barn. A perfect gift to open the night before Christmas. $16 at Pottery Barn, Crabtree Valley Mall, or at www.potterybarn.com.
At Crabtree and Evelyn, each old-fashioned soap smells better than the last. If you just can’t choose between them, opt for the lovely Soap Sampler with nine of the store's most popular bath bars. $32 at Crabtree and Evelyn, Crabtree Valley Mall.

Antique confit pots provide a stylish way to create a little extra storage room in the kitchen, or, as creative types know, they can be converted into beautiful lamps. Small, $175, medium, $325, and large, $375 available at Highsmith Antiques, 106 Glenwood Avenue. For more information, call 919-829-5999.

On a cold winter night, nothing beats climbing into a bed made up with flannel sheets. Soft, warm, and comforting, flannel still gives polar fleece a run for its money.

Cheerful snowflake patterned flannel sheets from the Company Store will keep you toasty during a cold snap. $82 for a queen size set. Call 800-285-3696, or visit www.thecompanystore.com.

Nothing smells quite as good as rich tobacco smoke from a pipe. If he’s a pipe smoker or you'd like to wean him from cigarettes, a handmade pipe is a beautiful gift. Shown here, a pipe made of briarwood with a bamboo stem, $175, and a briarwood bjørne pipe made in Denmark, $400. Available at Pipes by George, 1209 Hillsborough Street.

We are subjected to so many stimuli in our daily lives that sometimes the stillness of silence is deafening. Gentle and consistent background noise can help us relax. The Sound Soother from The Sharper Image can replicate up to twenty calming environments and can be programmed to turn off automatically after you have drifted off to sleep.

$129.95 at The Sharper Image, Crabtree Valley Mall, or at www.thesharperimage.com.

Only a thin layer of fur rests between their skin and the elements. Give your pooch a little extra protection this winter with a stylish dog coat from Coach Pet. Wool plaid trimmed in black cowhide leather with adjustable velour closures. XS–XL. $108 at the Coach Store, Crabtree Valley Mall, or at www.coach.com.
Put holiday shopping blues in your rear view mirror

Last month we provided you with some car-related gift ideas for the people on your list that seemingly have everything. Well there were so many choices to sift through we’ve gone into the final lap to bring you the-up-to-the-last-minute car-related “good stuff” gift list. So if you put the gift warning buzzer on cruise control and motored on, it’s now time to get out of the pits, get on track, and charge to the winner’s circle. Once again, most of these items can be ordered with a click or call, but check delivery dates to insure you’ll receive them in time.

This very special Jaguar sedan is distinguished from its siblings by bold seven-spoke wheels and a distinctive mesh radiator grille that recalls classic Jaguars of the 1930s. Inside, the XJR is outfitted with amply bolstered seats covered in embossed Connolly leather, heated front seats and a 320-watt audio system with CD autochanger. The XJR’s twin-intercooled 32-valve, alloy AJ-V8 produces 370 horsepower at its peak. Backed by a stout five-speed automatic transmission, the XJR sedan can accelerate from zero to 60 mph in 5.4 seconds. The XJR retails for $69,355. For more information checkout www.jaguarcars.com or visit Leith Jaguar or your nearest Jaguar dealer.

From racing tire clocks to a line of 1950s GAS-O-Matic fiberglass replica gas pumps, Firebird Fiberglass Products, Inc. can custom design the perfect display piece for your den, office or shop. The Gas-O-Matic 50s line of fiberglass replica and custom gas pumps are designed with great respect to authenticity and attention to detail. Prices range from around $350.00 for the tire clocks to $2,100.00 for a full-size gumball dispensing gas pump replica. For complete ordering information and to view all their creations check out www.firebirdfiberglass.com or call 800-726-8677.
In a short time Measurement Specialties with their Accutire line of tire gauges has become the choice of automotive service professionals. This tool is just the thing for maintaining tire pressures on your special collector car, or luxury daily driver. The MS-4000 Model is available in The Sharper Image Catalog, at Sears Tire Centers, and Brookstone stores for around $29.99. That price includes a hard leather-like storage case. For more information check out www.msiusa.com or reach the company at 973-808-1819.

GMP/Peachstate meticulously re-creates versions of classic automobiles and vintage race cars. Vehicles range from '60s muscle cars to 21st century race cars. No detail is left out. Peachtree’s latest offering is the $1/8 scale 1968 McLaren M8A Can-Am car. This metal car has exceptional detail including opening side doors, pad-printed graphics, lift-off rear engine cover exposing the accurately painted engine with oil, fuel and coolant lines. The M8A has a price of $79.95. To view Peachtree’s complete die cast line visit their website at www.peachgmp.com. Call 800-536-1637 for availability, pricing and delivery options for the holidays.

A luxurious sports car with powerful Jaguar looks—and performance to match—the XK8 is powered by the first V8 engine designed by Jaguar, the naturally aspirated 4.0-liter, 32-valve AJ-V8, which produces 290 horsepower and features a ZF five-speed automatic transmission. Fine wood veneers and premium Connolly leather reflect traditional Jaguar elegance. Round analog gauges and Jaguar’s J-gate transmission shifter link the XK8 to its predecessors. The XJ8 coupe and convertible siblings retail for $69,155 and $74,155 respectively. For more information checkout www.jaguarcars.com or visit Leith Jaguar or your nearest Jaguar dealer to order yours.
Remember piloting a steel-framed go-cart in your youth? If you do you’ll understand the appeal of Midwestern Industries line of gas-powered mini-cars. With over 80 different body styles available you’re sure to find a favorite among the Indy cars, stock cars, pickup trucks, gift ideas for car enthusiasts. There are unique items for men, women, and children. For an office conversation piece the speedometer desk clock is just the thing for keeping track of those redline meetings. Set in an attractive stainless steel housing, this clock duplicates the speedometer from the sporty 3-Series convertibles and sedans. It retails for $98. To view the complete collection you can pick up a catalog at authorized BMW centers, see the collection online at www.bmw-online.com or call 888-269-6654.

We literally stumbled across this mail order/Internet company a short time ago and discovered it to be a gem. MotorCam

airplanes, semis, Chevys, Corvettes, Mustangs, Camaros and antique Model T style versions. Starting at $1295, you can get a 3hp car or truck bodied mini-car. For information on specific cars or a distributor location visit Midwestern online at www.midwesternindllc.com or call 219-831-5200.

If your yard is too small for a mini-car how about a radio-controlled 4x4 instead? Nikko America is the world’s largest maker of radio-controlled vehicles and boats and is one of the few R/C manufacturers in the world to offer customer service to consumers and a 60-day manufacturer warranty. This season the most popular R/C vehicle is Nikko’s F150 Hercules 4x4, which retails for $200. Check out the specs for Nikko vehicles as well as boats and airplanes at www.nikkoamerica.com. Nikko R/C vehicles are also available at major toy retailers.

Whether you own a BMW or not, the BMW Lifestyle Collection offers exclusive apparel accessories and

Media specializes in video, DVD, and audio for the car enthusiast. There are literally hundreds of car-related titles from feature films, documentaries, how-to, import cars, NASCAR, drag racing, Indy, and Sprint Car titles to help round out the choices. MotorCam specializes in hard-to-find car movie titles like Hollywood Knights, Two Lane Blacktop and Vanishing Point. Other movie selections include those notorious black and white “hot rod” movies like The Choppers, Hot Rod Girl and the T-Bird Gang from the late 1940s to the early 1960s. Items are priced from $9.95. To request a catalog or to place and order call 800-240-1777, or log on at www.motorcam.com.
A company called Krause Publications is a one-stop book shop that can help you begin an automotive library. From special interest books like American Fire Trucks to T-Bird: Forty-five Years of Thunder or the Standard Catalog of Cadillac: 1903-2000, you'll be able to find an authoritative book on the favorite car or truck of your hard-to-buy-for auto enthusiast. Books begin at around $21.95. Give them a call at 800-258-0929, or visit them online at www.krause.com.

Performance Products.com was created with the car enthusiast in mind. This online auto warehouse has accessories including, car covers, wind/bug deflectors, grille guards, bike/ski racks, security devices, floor mats and more for over 70 vehicle makes. You can reach them online at www.performanceproducts.com or request print catalogs at 800-789-1891.

How does a luxury 4-wheeled sleigh for the holidays sound? Actually the all-new 2002 Cadillac Escalade is not available just yet, but it looks to be a sell-out next year. With a thundering 345 horsepower engine, StabiliTrak, standard third-row seating, and all-wheel-drive, the 2002 Escalade has all the SUV "good things." Cadillac has announced pricing at $49,990 MSRP at introduction for the 4WD model. For more on the Escalade and to locate the Cadillac dealer in your area, see the inside front cover and page one of this issue or visit www.cadillac.com. The '02 Escalade will be available in the first quarter of 2001.

Well that's a wrap for this year. So browse these choices and surf the websites, but tell everyone you searched for months to find these gift ideas—I'll keep your secret. Happy Holidays!
There's a big, bright package under the tree

THE HOLIDAY SEASON'S CHRISTMAS PRESENT

December comes wrapped and tied with a bow like a Christmas gift that, when opened, spills out a sparkling array of celebrations—music, stage performances, exhibits, candlelight tours, open houses and general merry-making.

Everywhere, Christmas parades are scheduled early and decorations already brighten downtown. Churches will soon begin special pageants and services, and choirs and choruses will sing the glories of the season.

An exquisite highlight among the events is the presentation of Handel's Messiah by three of the region's performing arts leaders. Carolina Ballet, the North Carolina Symphony and the Raleigh Oratorio Society will collaborate for the third year to present this inspiring interpretation.

Because young singing voices are so appealing at Christmas, you’ll want to hear the Raleigh Boychoir perform their Christmas concert in Raleigh, and if you live near the coast, both a boys’ choir and a girls’ choir will present holiday concerts in Wilmington.

Theatre in the Park will stage its rollicking rendition of Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol in Raleigh Memorial Auditorium for the 26th season—with Ira David Wood as the bah-humbug guy, Ebenezer Scrooge. Another production with a Dickens theme will premier at Peace College in Raleigh. A new play, Charles Dickens, Tonight, by widely recognized Dickens authority Dr. Elliot Engel, recollects readings Dickens himself gave in England and America.

Groomed and decorated horses and ponies pulling antique carriages will parade through Southern Pines, and in Wilmington visitors can tour the city's historic downtown in a “reindeer” drawn carriage.

The parties, performances and pageantry will come to a joyful climax in the Triangle when First Night Raleigh 2001 brings in hundreds of performers to entertain some 75,000 people who will gather in downtown Raleigh to say farewell to the year 2000 and tip their hats to a brand-new 2001.

Many more seasonal events are planned for the Triangle and Down East. Don’t spend December in shopping malls. Fill your holiday calendar with happy times.

—Frances Smith, events editor
MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS
For the third year, three of the area’s leading fine arts groups, Carolina Ballet, the North Carolina Symphony and the Raleigh Oratorio Society will collaborate for a unique presentation of Handel’s Messiah at Raleigh Memorial Auditorium.
When stirring instrumental music and full-bodied vocal solos and choruses combine with artistically choreographed dancing, an uplifting interpretation of Handel’s masterpiece is created.
Performances will be Dec. 21–24, 26 & 27. Call 919-303-6303 or Ticketmaster at 919-834-4000.

Christmas music in Duke Chapel is always an inspiration and this season a number of special concerts are offered. Here are three we recommend, each conducted by Rodney Wynkoop:
• The Duke Chapel Choir will present Handel’s Messiah with orchestra and soloists on Dec. 1–3. Call 919-684-3898.
• The Duke Chorale will offer its Christmas Concert on Dec. 7. The donation of one non-perishable food item is requested.
• The Choral Society of Durham will sing Carols for the Nativity, with an instrumental ensemble featuring N.C. Symphony harpist Anita Burroughs-Price. The program is scheduled for Dec. 9 & 10. Call 919-560-2733.

The UNC-CH Chamber Singers, Susan Klebanow, conductor, with the UNC-CH Consort of Viols, Brent Wissick, director, will perform a Christmas concert, Sacred Masterpieces: A Celebration of Music and Art, on Dec. 3 at Hill Hall Auditorium in Chapel Hill. The concert is in conjunction with the Ackland Art Museum’s special exhibition, Mass and Masterpiece: Celebrating the Eucharist in the Renaissance and Baroque. A reception at the Ackland will follow the concert. Call 919-966-5736.

Billed as “an evening of Southern hospitality, great American music and side-splitting comedy,” the American Music Jubilee Christmas Season Show will be rocking in Selma several times a week now until Dec. 23. This new Branson-style variety show entertains visitors from a dozen nearby counties and motor-coach groups from New York to Miami. After an opening comedy set, the cast will break out into traditional and modern Christmas music, ranging from ’50s rock and roll to classic country and gospel. The venue is the renovated, 585-seat Rudy Theatre, 300 N. Raiford St., Selma. Call 919-202-9927 or 877-843-7839.

With humor and zest, the highly regarded British a cappella quartet, Scholars of London, has traveled the world presenting a special Christmas concert entitled Make We Joy. On Dec. 14 the four will bring their unique talents to Wright Auditorium at East Carolina University in Greenville. The performance covers several centuries of European Christmas music and carols, some well known, some unknown, some from the 16th century. Call 252-328-4788 or 800-328-2787.

The clear, bell-like singing voices of young boys herald Christmas and the holidays with special joy. You will agree when you hear the 30th Carols of Christmas Concert performed by the Raleigh Boychoir on Dec. 22 at 7:30 p.m. in Edenton Street United Methodist Church in Raleigh. Thomas E. Sibley will direct 50 boys in both Christmas and Hanukkah favorites. The choir, made up of boys 8 to 15 from Wake County and surrounding communities, has performed at the White House, the World’s Fair and Carnegie Hall. For more about the Christmas concert or to arrange for auditions, call 919-881-9259.

Two other youth choirs are also noteworthy. The 30-voice Boys Choir of Wilmington Holiday Concert will present seasonal music at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 16th and Market Streets in Wilmington on Dec. 9 & 10. And the Girls Choir of Wilmington Holiday Concert will be held at the
Dressed to the nines, but witty to the core, The Scholars of London will perform at ECU in Greenville same venue on Dec. 15. For both choirs, call 910-799-5073.

As a Christmas gift to the community of Manteo and its visitors, the Roanoke Island Festival Park and The N.C. School of the Arts will present A Christmas Gift: Performances of the Season, a variety of concerts and performances at the Festival Park, Dec. 2-8. Call 252-475-1506.

DECEMBER ON STAGE
Cinderella, the annual holiday musical comedy of Raleigh Little Theatre, returns for its 17th year, running almost nightly Dec. 1-17. Both children and adults have embraced this light-hearted interpretation of one of the world's best-loved fairytales. Raleigh Little Theatre is located on Pogue Street in Raleigh. Call 919-821-3111.

The Cape Fear Regional Theatre will present a Holiday Cabaret with Lisa Layne (CFRT's Patsy Cline & the River Rats) on Dec. 2 & 3 at the Cape Fear Regional Theatre, 1209 Hay Street in Fayetteville. The production is billed as "a great family show bursting with Holiday Spirit!" Call 910-323-4233.

It's anything but "Bah, Humbug!" It's funny, enchanting and entertaining—Theatre in the Park's holiday musical production of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. For the 26th year, this seasonal favorite, with Ira David Wood in his inimitable portrayal of Scrooge, will be performed in Raleigh Memorial Auditorium, Dec. 5-13. The show has been seen by more than a million people internationally. Call 919-831-6058.

Yes, it's a jungle out there—but on ice? That's the scenario for Disney's Jungle Adventures on Ice at the Entertainment and Sports Arena in Raleigh, Dec. 6-10. On a jungle journey, popular fictional characters Simba, Mowgli and Tarzan from Disney's The Lion King, The Jungle Book and Tarzan perform a graceful skating choreography. The Entertainment and Sports Arena is located at 1400 Edwards Mill Road,

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Pick up your copy of MetroMagazine at The Green Shutter.
A new play by Dr. Elliot Engel, *Charles Dickens, Tonight*, presented in collaboration with Jeffery West, will premier Dec. 20-23, 27-30 in Peace College's Leggett Theatre in Raleigh. Engel, an internationally known Dickens scholar and lecturer, and West, local actor, director, and Duke Drama Program professor, will both appear onstage. Engel will highlight occasions when Dickens gave readings in the United Kingdom and the United States and West will impersonate Dickens with readings from the author's work. Call 839-6255 or 800-392-4434.

**SHOWCASING ART SHOWS**

*Carolina Preserves* will be University of North Carolina-Television's first digital television production, to be telecast on Dec. 2. The program is an anthology of images and thoughts from notable North Carolinians who wish deeply to preserve significant moments, places and ways of life that lie at the core of North Carolina’s identity. Taped in the beauty and clarity of High Definition Television, the collection will be narrated by artist William Mangum and his paintings will be linked to stories told by those featured in the telecast. Call 919-549-7182.

**TOURING THE TOWNS**

Last month we announced the sounding of the Christmas guns when the gates of Tryon Palace Historic Sites and Gardens in New Bern opened to celebrate the season. The Candlelight Tours will continue to give a holiday glow to the period decorations on Dec. 1 & 2, 8 & 9, and 15 & 16. Guests may tour the first-floor rooms of the Palace, various houses, and Civil War Camp. Call 800-767-1560 or 252-514-4937.

Candlelight Christmas in Historic Murfreesboro will be a progressive dinner this year on Dec. 5 & 6. As guests tour through some of the town's historic, decorated buildings, the courses of the dinner will unfold, culminating at the Murfree Center where the main course will be served. Afterwards, assorted desserts will be offered in the Hertford Academy for the Arts. The Historic District will be decorated with thousands of tiny white lights and a community Christmas tree. Call 252-398-5922.

Beaufort is making ready for their annual *Coastal Carolina Christmas Walk* on Dec. 9. This year the walk will begin at the Beaufort Historic Site, parade past ancient buildings and grand homes, and will visit the town’s bed and breakfast inns decorated for the holiday season. Call 252-728-5225 or 800-575-7483.

In the historic district of New Bern, *The Holly & the Ivy*, a holiday homes tour,
The 1929 Packard 633 Phaeton—note windshield between front and back seat to protect the ladies from the wind

will feature seven private homes decorated for the holidays. SugarPlum Treats will be served at the Centenary Methodist Church on New Street. The event, to be held on the afternoon of Dec. 9, is presented by the New Bern Woman’s Club. Call 252-514-6622.

Christmas caroling with Santa? It will happen in Wilmington when visitors take a ride in a “reindeer” drawn decorated carriage or trolley for a tour through downtown Wilmington. Get aboard at the foot of Market and Water Streets, Dec. 15-24. Call 910-251-8889.

POTPOURRI
Do all the new cars look alike to you? Here’s a switch: Kelly’s Classic Autos, located just south of Aberdeen on U.S. No. 1 in Pinebluff, is now open, Tuesdays through Saturdays, with over 40 antique cars representing each decade of the 20th century. All are either in or have been restored to original condition. Each automobile has accompanying information in front of the vehicle and people are encouraged to look around at their leisure. Call 1-800-346-5362.

Wilmington’s finest ante-bellum mansion, the Bellamy Mansion Museum of History and Design Arts, is polished, shining and decorated for the holidays. Volunteers, including decorator Christy Woods, have researched the antebellum era and re-created the decorations of the time. Fruit wreaths, handcrafted decorations, magnolia bouquets, cedar swags, candles and topiaries evoke the Christmas spirit of years past. The Bellamy Mansion, located at the corner of Fifth and Market Streets in Historic Downtown Wilmington, is open Wednesdays through Saturdays. Call 910-251-3700.

The Morehead Planetarium in Chapel Hill is again showing Star of Bethlehem, a holiday favorite for more than four decades. Comets, supernovae and planetary alignments will be investigated in a quest to identify the famous star reported over Bethlehem 2000 years ago. The show runs Wednesdays through Sundays, now through Dec. 15. Call 919-843-7952.

Christmas of bygone days will come alive on Dec. 2 & 3 when Raleigh’s oldest home, the Joel Lane Museum House, holds its annual Christmas Open House with holiday decorations reflecting the way the area’s ancestors celebrated Christmas. Costumed docents will offer free tours of the

The Spirit of the Holidays Comes to Life!


November 25 Candlelight Tour Grand Opening with the firing of the Christmas guns. Tryon Palace Historic Sites and Gardens officially begins its holiday season. Join 18th century dancers, carolers and costumed guides for the grand opening of the 2000 Candlelight Tours. 5:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m.

December 1–2, 8–9, 15–16 Candlelight Tours at Tryon Palace Historic Sites and Gardens. The palace comes to life during the evening hours with beautiful candlelight tours. Tours are highlighted by special entertainment and a Civil War Encampment. December 2 Christmas Parade in downtown New Bern. Begins at 3:00 p.m.

December 2 Christmas Flotilla begins at dusk following the Christmas parade. Boats festively lit up for the season travel down the Trent River and arrive at the Sheraton Grand New Bern on the waterfront where Santa disembarks.

December 3–4 Handel’s “Messiah” to be presented by a community mass choir at Centenary United Methodist Church in downtown New Bern under the direction of Dr. Jim Ogle. 7:30 p.m. Sunday and 4:30 p.m. Monday.

December 9 “The Holly and the Ivy” holiday homes tour in the historic district. 12:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m. Trolley car tours of historic downtown New Bern are a perfect prelude to Christmas Candlelight Tours at Tryon Palace Historic Sites and Gardens. “Christmas Past” tours and regular tours are available. Call (800) 437-5767.
"Too bad the Academy doesn't have a category for Best Performance by an Acorn."
—Dave MacMillan

"This party's a work of art."
—Don Pausback

First Night Raleigh 2001

Music, Theater, Magic, Comedy, Entertainment. You'll enjoy a year's worth of fun in a single night on the town. So buy your buttons today and then come and join the party that makes the First Night of next year one of the best of all.

Opens December 31, 2000

To get details or to buy buttons, visit our website: www.artsploration.org

Buttons are also available at Harris Teeter Stores and other area locations

• Through December 29: Adults $8, Children $5, Ages 2 & under, Free.
• December 30–31: Adults $13, Children $8

An Artsploration event: For more information, call (919) 990-1158.
A unique Christmas parade claps down the streets of Southern Pines

Red Grammer welcomes 75,000 to First Night Raleigh 2001

house and grounds while others introduce visiting children to colonial games and crafts. The gift shop will be open and the annual bake sale will be held. The Joel Lane Museum House, located at the corner of St. Mary’s and West Hargett Streets near downtown Raleigh, will remain open for holiday tours on Tuesdays through Saturdays until Dec. 16. Call 919-833-3431.

The honking of horns, screeching of tires and revving of motors will cease for a while in downtown Southern Pines on Dec. 9, when the streets are cleared for the Christmas Horse Carriage Drive. Beautifully groomed horses and ponies will be put to a variety of antique carriages—with drivers, horses and carriages all dressed in Christmas finery. Call 910-692-8526.

Dr. Frederick P. Brooks Jr., a pioneer in the world of virtual reality and founder of the UNC-CH department of computer science, will be the featured speaker for the Dec. 5 chancellor’s Science Seminar Series. The free public lecture, Is There Any Real Virtue in Virtual Reality? will be held in Memorial Hall on UNC-CH’s north campus. Call 919-962-8415.

Our state government will brighten the Christmas season on Dec. 7 when Governor and Mrs. Jim Hunt light the official state Christmas tree on Capitol Square in Raleigh. The event will include an open house inside the Capitol and activities on the Square. Call 919-733-4994. The same day, the Executive Mansion’s Holiday Open House will begin. The Mansion will remain open through Dec. 10. Call 919-733-3456.

People near and far know that Wilmington is home to the world’s largest living Christmas tree. This season will mark the 72nd year that the giant live oak has been lighted. The tree’s 7000 lights will brighten the sky on Dec. 8 during an evening ceremony at its permanent site in Hilton Park off N.C. Highway 117. Santa will arrive and local choirs will provide music. The tree will be illuminated nightly through Dec. 31. Call 910-341-7855.

The Museum of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City will host a Holiday Cultural Extravaganza on Dec. 9. The regional event will include historical exhibits and a day of fun for the holiday season. Call 252-335-1453.

A NEW YEAR’S EVE EXTRAVAGANZA

First Night Raleigh 2001 will bring the holiday season and the year 2000 to a close. The New Year’s Eve celebration of the arts will feature hundreds of performers in some 50 indoor and outdoor venues in downtown Raleigh. The eclectic band of players will provide music, dance, comedy, theater and surprises for the 75,000 people expected to attend this family friendly, alcohol-free event.

A Family Celebration at Exploris will begin the extravaganza on Dec. 30 and will feature Red Grammer, popular children’s performer and recording artist. On the following day, the Children’s Celebration will be held at the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences and N.C. Museum of History, where activities, storytelling, music and comics will entertain all ages. The People’s Procession, led by Trigon the Dragon, will take thousands through downtown for the Kids’ Countdown. And at midnight the final Acorn Drop will ring in the year 2001. Buy a button and be there. Call Arts-plosure at 919-832-8699.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Send information about your area’s Jan. & Feb. events (with or without color slides or photos) to Frances A. Smith, events editor, Metro Magazine, 5012 Brookhaven Dr., Raleigh, N.C. 27612. Email address: frances33@earthlink.net. Entries for the big Jan.-Feb. double issue should arrive by Dec. 8.
Treats of the Season
DOWN HOME GOODNESS—IN A BOX

This is my second holiday season back in North Carolina, after more than a decade in Southern California. Year round, San Diego has charms galore. Despite the abundant December sunshine and absence of anything resembling a mantle of snow, gas-logs crackle and glow, and swags of evergreens deck the malls and hotels. The town of Encinitas is the poinsettia capital of the world and pyramids of the plant adorn entryways and public spaces. Soaring palm trees get belted with countless strands of tiny white lights, and wreaths are festooned with blue-green eucalyptus leaves and sprays of yellow acacia blossoms.

Despite such earnest visual cues, December always brought me a fresh batch of memories from my Carolina childhood Christmases. In the kitchen and on the table, I wanted the real thing, the holiday aromas and flavors I had known all my life. On fall trips to North Carolina I stashed fruitcake and tins of Moravian ginger cookies in our suitcases, and back in California I watched the mail for a package of shelled pecans from my friend Sara’s family farm in Roxboro. On the stove we simmered apple cider with cinnamon and cloves while my mother’s date-nut cake and cherry-wink cookies baked in the oven.

Although I can now find pecans at Cliff’s Meat Market in Carrboro and Moravian cookies and fruitcake throughout the land, I remember longing for familiar treats and the pleasure of finding something precious and delicious in the mail. Now that I’m back living in North Carolina, I find more good things to choose from than ever before. This holiday edition of Metro Gourmet brings you a taste of the comfort foods of the season, a little roundup of treats with a North Carolina flavor. Send some to homesick friends and family far away, or set them out on your own holiday table. I hope this list will provide you a sweet and savory start on celebrating this season of lights and good company with satisfaction and joy.

Now all I need is for someone to send me a traditional Southern California holiday treat, you know, the dates, candied fruit, dried figs and apricots all shrink-wrapped onto a little wicker tray? And if anyone happens to be heading for San Diego, could you just bring me back a dozen tamales from El Nopalito and a sack of this year’s pistachios from Trader Joe’s? And maybe you could see your way clear to stick in a box or two of See’s Candy, just in case we run out of cherry winks around here.

BE SURE TO PUT THESE GOODIES ON YOUR LIST!

MAMA DIP’S PECAN PIE
If we ever adopt the Japanese practice of designating and honoring Living National Treasures, Mama Dip will surely be one. She’s been a North Carolina treasure for two decades and more, but ever since she cooked her famous pecan pie out in the Quad at UNC-Chapel Hill for Good Morning, America the week of Thanksgiving 1998, she had to go national. The release last fall of her cookbook, Mama Dip’s Kitchen brought further acclaim, and now every week she bakes extra pies over and above what her West Rosemary Street restaurant needs, and ships them off overnight to Philadelphia, California, Hawaii and points in between. Her pecan pie is sublime and it travels well, but the restaurant gets busy around the holidays so place your order ahead of time. Mama Dip also ships out her fine apple pie and fruit cobblers, as well as...
her own Barbecue Sauce, Chow-Chow, Sauerkraut, Molasses and Tomato Preserves. Just back from her New York appearance on the TV Food Network's *Sara Moulton Live* she's home in North Carolina for the holidays, so when you order ask for an autographed copy of her cookbook to go along with that pie.

Mama Dip's Kitchen
408 West Rosemary Street
Chapel Hill, N.C. 27516
Telephone: 919-942-5837

**Kwanzaa Bounty**

Bring a soulful sweetness to your Kwanzaa table with the African-American classic, bean pie. Like fruitcake, its name doth not inspire everyone to beg for a bite, but if you have had a good one, you will likely become a devotee. You'll find extraordinarily good ones by the piece or in whole pies to go in the restaurant at the Know Bookstore in Durham, across from North Carolina Central University. Go for a sweet potato pie and a pineapple cake with cream cheese icing while you're planning your dessert table, and if it's not the year to cook at home, talk to Bruce about catering an entire Kwanzaa feast for you.

The Know Bookstore
2520 Fayetteville Road
Durham, N.C. 27707
Telephone: 919-682-7223

**Southern Supreme Old Fashioned Nutty Fruitcake**

Berta Scott started stirring up nut-laden fruitcakes in her garage back in 1984, and right from the start people liked them a lot. Nowadays Scott can get her car back in her garage, since her homespun fruitcake business has grown itself a building, a gift shop and a full line of specialty foods and treats. It's still a family business run by lots of Scotts. Fruitcake lovers, rejoice, for this is a winner. If you don't usually count yourself amongst the fans of the classic holiday sweet, give this fruitcake a chance. It's nutty and moist and delicious. Here are the Southern Supreme's Seven Ways to Use Foster's Seven Pepper Jelly, and you will discover how these cookies are made. Now the cookies come in flavors (all good, but ginger still reigns), and there are baking mixes for gingerbread and sweet potato muffins. If time permits, head west on Interstate 40 to fetch your cookie supply in person, and explore Old Salem during its 50th anniversary year. The Winkler Bakery is a must for food folks, an 18th-century bakery still cooking up breads and cakes in traditional wood-fired ovens. Add Moravian sugar cake to your shopping list if you go in person, since it's glorious and freezes well.

Old Salem Catalog
P.O. Box F, Salem Station
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27108
Telephone: 800-822-5151
Fax: 888-721-4138
Visitor info: 800-OLD-SALEM
Web site: www.oldsalem.org

**Foster's Seven Pepper Jelly**

Maybe you make pepper jelly at home. In that case you will not need Foster's superb version. But maybe you don't, or maybe you ran out, or have only enough left to bestow on your short list of beloveds. Then you are in luck, because Sara Foster's Seven Pepper Jelly is hot stuff, but not too hot. In fact, it's just right, and not only will you love it with cream cheese and crackers, but it comes with perks. You will benefit from Sara's list of Seven Ways to Use Foster's Seven Pepper Jelly, and you will discover...
which seven peppers of the world go into the jars to make it terrific. Foster's can also supply you with glorious gift baskets and fantastic gourmet-to-go for holiday entertaining.

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750 Airport Road
Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514
Telephone: 919-967-3663
Web site: www.fostersmarket.com

KOSHER FOODS FOR HANUKKAH
If you long to celebrate the Festival of Lights and need a source for traditional kosher foods, get in touch with Chana Lew at Chabad of Chapel Hill. She has frozen kosher chicken, beef brisket and more on hand, and can special-order many additional items on request. Mrs. Lew does kosher catering, and is a fountain of information on Jewish food and culture. So if you’d like to make latkes, sufganiyot, or challah for your holiday celebration and need a little advice, she is one who knows.

Chana Lew at Chabad of Chapel Hill
Telephone: 919-932-9932
E-mail: clew@pipeline.com

HANNUKAH TREATS
Head to the Godiva shop at Crabtree Valley Mall in Raleigh, or the Godiva counter in Southern Season in Chapel Hill for a ballotin of their finest chocolates encircled with a cobalt blue ribbon with a handsome blue and gold dreidel dangling from the bow. Don’t forget a generous supply of gelt, chocolate coins imprinted with a star of David and wrapped in gold foil. Foster’s market in Durham and Chapel Hill also carry little net bags of gelt, as well as festive chocolate lollipops in both Star of David and dreidel shapes. See entries for Foster’s and Southern Season elsewhere in this story for their contact information.

Godiva Chocolates
4325 Glenwood Avenue
Crabtree Valley Mall
Raleigh, N.C. 27612
Telephone: 919-781-0930

WILLA’S CHEESE BISCUITS
Made by Willa Allen in Hendersonville, these crisp little bites of cheddar flavor will please you and yours. They keep well in their 19-ounce tin, but if you want to put their keeping properties to the test, you may have to hide the tin. Did I mention she makes extraordinarily irresistible cookies too?

Willa’s Shortbread
202 Chadwick Avenue,
Hendersonville, N.C. 28792
Telephone: 828-696-9339
Fax: 828-696-2759

ANGUS BARN BY THE BASKETFUL
That faraway fan of the Angus Barn will love you bunches for sending out a few of the venerable big red’s delicious signature savories. Start with Angus Barn Barbecue Sauce, made and bottled right there in the Barn’s kitchen. Then add handsome little crocks of cheddar cheese and blue cheese spreads, that tangy and delectable duo that keeps us calm while we wait for our table. With the cheeses you’ll need a sack of the A.B.’s rustic crackers, and a bottle of their Poppyseed Dressing for a Barn-worthy spinach salad. There’s more, and they can put baskets together if you like, so call them. Ask upstairs in the office if you want to shop between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., before the restaurant opens for dinner.

Angus Barn
98401 Glenwood Avenue
Raleigh, N.C. 27612
Telephone: 919-787-3505
Fax: 919-783-3568
I was always proud of him.

In the Napa schoolyard I'd often say,

"My dad's cabernet can beat your dad's cabernet."

"Growing up on the family vineyard, I saw my father's hard work turn a dilapidated barn into one of the most successful wineries in California. So it's only fitting that this wine be named after my dad, Mario Trinchero. Of course, since his name is on the bottle, it had to be great. So we built M. Trinchero Winery with two goals in mind: To make world-class Napa Valley wines and to make dad proud."

- Roger Trinchero, owner.
WALDENSIAN-STYLE SCUPPERNONG SPARKLING CIDER

Made from the juice of scuppernong grapes and apples, this bubbly elixir is crisp and pleasing, alcohol-free and bubble-rich. Found at:

Wine n' Things in Raleigh Telephone: 919-847-4986
A Southern Season in Chapel Hill Telephone: 800-253-3663
Or order directly from N.C. Valdensus Products
1530 19th Street SW, Hickory, N.C. 28602 Telephone: 704-327-3867

NOT AFRAID OF FLAVOR: RECIPES FROM MAGNOLIA GRILL, BY BEN AND KAREN BARKER (UNC PRESS, 2000).

This brand-new book is your gift for the serious cook on your list who wants to set out an inspired holiday feast with traditional Carolina roots. You will be appreciated for years to come, and may well be invited over this holiday season to help said cook enjoy the likes of Carolina Grits Soufflé, Curried Butternut Squash Soup, Angel Biscuits and Chef’s Favorite Lemon Tart.

Available at bookstores including Quail Ridge Books in Raleigh, Regulator Bookshop in Durham, McIntyre’s in Fearrington Village, or call the Magnolia Grill in Durham.

Magnolia Grill Telephone: 919-286-3609 Web site: www.magnoliagrillcookbook.com

A SOUTHERN SEASON

The shortcut to all this is to get in touch with these friendly and knowledgeable folks, where they specialize in all things Carolina-esque. You can use the phone or Internet, but if you go in person you can nosh on samples as you stroll around, gaze on the splendid bakery confections, and rest your dogs at the espresso bar while you check your list, twice. Did I mention they do gift baskets?

RECIPE

MAMA DIP’S ONE-ROOM SCHOOL TEA COOKIES

Mama Dip recalls enjoying these little cookies with cocoa at the Christmas parties at school during her childhood. If you recruit a child or two to help you make these simple, delicious cookies for your holiday celebrations, you will get extra credit from me. This recipe comes from Mama Dip’s Kitchen, by Mildred Council (UNC Press, 1999).

1 cup butter, softened
2 cups sugar
4 eggs, beaten
5 cups self-rising flour
1/2 tsp. baking powder
2 tsp. lemon extract, or vanilla extract
2 tbsp. milk

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Cream the butter and sugar together until light and fluffy with a wooden spoon or a mixer. Beat in the eggs. Mix the flour and baking powder together and then combine with the creamed mixture, lemon or vanilla extract and milk. Mix well with your fingers. Roll the dough out about 1/4-inch thick, and cut into rounds using a 2-inch biscuit cutter or a wine glass or jelly jar turned upside down. Bake on an ungreased cookie sheet just until firm, about 10 minutes. Remove from the cookie sheet and cool on brown paper or a kitchen towel. Makes about 3 dozen cookies, which keep nicely when sealed airtight.
Makin’ a (book) list, checkin’ it twice

NEW RELEASES AND OLD FAVORITES MAKE FINE HOLIDAY GIFTS

Is there anything better on a midwinter’s eve than cozying up by a still-smoldering fire with a great book? A good book has its pleasures and its comforts, and avid readers would be distressed to imagine the holiday season coming and going without finding a brand-new hardcover tucked under the tree or even a paperback sticking out of the Christmas stocking.

There’s certainly no shortage of noteworthy titles available for holiday shoppers. Those who favor historical fiction, for example, can explore 19th-century America with Larry McMurtry’s latest western saga, Boone’s Lick; chart the changes in 20th-century Mexico with Carlos Fuentes’ sprawling opus, The Years with Laura Diaz; or check out Canada in the 1930s and ’40s in Margaret Atwood’s playful and highly praised new novel, The Blind Assassin. Likewise, readers seeking sharp-eyed critiques of the here-and-now need look no further than Tom Wolfe’s recently published Hooking Up.

A quick scan of short story collections discovers a trio of books which also range across cultures and even continents: John Updike’s Licks of Love: Short Stories and a Sequel, Rabbit Remembered, Alice Walker’s The Way Forward Is With a Broken Heart and William Trevor’s The Hill Bachelors promise small masterpieces of the form. And if Trevor’s Irish countryside isn’t exotic enough, readers can roam even further abroad with recent Nobel Prize winner Gao Xingjian’s collection of plays The Other Shore. (And if you’ve already discovered that book, then stay tuned for his much-touted masterpiece. Soul Mountain, whose American debut is scheduled for January 2001.)

Closer to home, regional titles also abound. Readers might try Blue Ridge, the first novel in seven years from T.R. Pearson, who first won fame with A Short History of a Small Place. Another book sure to be savored? John T. Edge’s Southern Belly: The Ultimate Food Lover’s Companion to the South, which includes visits to Eastern North Carolina landmarks including Ayden’s Skylight Inn, Beulaville’s Wagon Wheel and two barbecue restaurants in Goldsboro. Edge is as fine a food writer as you’re likely to find, and his latest book makes an interesting follow-up to last year’s must-have collection, A Gracious Plenty: Recipes and Recollections from the American South.

But while these and other books come highly recommended, other titles might succeed on several counts as more appropriate for gift-giving. While the reader on your list might easily pick up the latest novel by a favorite author during almost any trip to the bookstore, he or she might hesitate to indulge some greater extravagance—purchase a more expensive volume, for example, or splurge on a special edition or track down a hidden gem. And yet it’s often that very sense of extravagance or extra effort taken which makes a gift so memorable.

Here then is a short list of suggestions that can hardly fail to satisfy—several of them boasting a regional flavor.

Southern Belly
by John T. Edge

Carolina Preserves
by William Mangum: Mangum’s project was simple in conception. The Greensboro watercolorist invited prominent North Carolinians to contribute essays to the book, planning to combine these with his own paintings of images from around the state. Remarkably, folks including Michael Jordan, Billy Graham,
Elizabeth Dole, Dean Smith, Lee Smith, Richard Petty and Bill Friday responded—and that's only a partial list of the contributors. Plus, UNC-TV agreed to do a program about the book and the project as well (it premieres Dec. 2). At $95, this is surely the most expensive of the books listed in this column, but it promises to be a keepsake for the ages.

Jazz: An Illustrated History by Geoffrey C. Ward and Ken Burns: After gaining fame for his PBS series The Civil War, The West and Baseball, Burns has set his sights on another fascinating aspect of the American experience: the evolution of jazz and its impact on history, society and culture. Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, Charlie Parker, Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Ornette Coleman—if their stories are all here, then the only thing that's missing is the music. (Luckily, there's a CD tie-in available from your local music merchant.) The 10-part series won't begin airing until January, but the book's been available since early November.

Plays 1937–1955 and Plays 1957–1980 by Tennessee Williams: The Glass Menagerie, A Streetcar Named Desire and Cat on a Hot Tin Roof have long been considered staples of modern American literature, but the Library of America's new two-volume collection of Williams' writings prompts a new look at the author's œuvre, from early offerings including Spring Storm and Not About Nightingales through increasingly unsettling stage works such as Sweet Bird of Youth and Suddenly Last Summer to the later, nearly ignored efforts Out Cry and Vieux Carré. (Fans of the Library of America series will also applaud the new two-book set American Poetry: The Twentieth Century with volumes covering "Henry Adams to Dorothy Parker" and "e.e. cummings to May Swenson.")

Country Churchyards: by Eudora Welty: While most people know and revere Miss Welty as a gifted storyteller—certainly the leading lady in the world of Southern letters—she was also a talented photographer, who helped document Depression-era Mississippi under the aegis of the Works Progress Administration. An earlier volume of these photographs, One Time, One Place, was published in 1971 and remains in print today. Country Churchyards, released earlier this year and featuring a foreword by Elizabeth Spencer, collects nearly 100 thematically related images, punctuated by selected passages from Welty's writings.

Brother to a Dragonfly by Will D. Campbell: This new-classic Southern memoir charts the lives of Campbell and his brother Joe from the Depression through World War II and the civil rights movement. Campbell, a Baptist preacher and civil rights activist whose views are anything but simplistic, possesses an easy, inviting style, and this sometimes tragic tale about his brother and himself brims with insight. The book has been reprinted this year in a 25th Anniversary Edition— which is odd, only in that it was originally published in 1977 (but even if the math doesn't add up, there's not really a wrong time to pick up this book). The new edition, available in hardcover and paperback, also features an introduction by Jimmy Carter. (And on that note, fans of Southern autobiogra-

Happy holidays.
Corn liquor, big hair and shot guns
SOUTHERN CULTURE ON THE LOOSE

The Chapel Hill-based band Southern Culture on the Skids (SCOTS) is nothing less than an institution among southern rock acts. Critics have variously dubbed the band's sound psychobilly, rockabilly revival, surfer punk, alternative rock, southern roots rock and rockabilly boogie. Elements of all those styles do figure, one way or another, in the SCOTS sound, but the fact is that in the last 15 years the band has developed into a creative force that can't be adequately portrayed with descriptive labels, no matter how cleverly conceived they are.

Anyone who has caught SCOTS in concert knows that founding member Rick Miller and his bandmates Mary Huff, Dave Hartman and Chris Bess (a.k.a. Cousin Crispy) are outstanding musicians who work a very tight sound. They also know how to have a good time on stage. SCOTS is, without question, one of the greatest bar bands in the history of bars and bands.

Miller is a virtuoso rock guitarist with a gift for writing witty, slightly skewed songs, which often deal with matters close to the hearts of Southerners, i.e., corn liquor, banana pudding, shotguns, pork, dirt track racing, big hair and fried chicken. Miller's songs found him out in the sticks, at his home near Mebane, North Carolina.

Shortly after I arrived at Miller's house, he took me transforming the garage into a recording studio.

“I bought the house and the garage at the same time,” he noted. “The whole thing

ON THE SKIDS  Rick Miller (right) hangs out with SCOTS bandmates Mary Huff, Chris Bess, and Dave Hartman
Hillsborough after I went to court with my girlfriend, Sarah, and I noticed a cabin advertised in a realtor’s window. It was on four or five acres out by the Haw River. I'd been looking for a place to build a studio, because I was so tired of throwing money away in the studio—it’s so expensive. I mean, for what it was costing us to make a record, a person could get a nice start on his own recording studio.

“So when I saw that cabin, I was thinking, ‘Well, I could build a shed to go with that and start a studio,’” he continued. “So I went in and talked to the realtor. As soon as he found out I was looking for a house with an outbuilding, he said, ‘I’ve got a great place in Mebane.’”

“So there we were, standing on that great place in Mebane, looking at Miller’s anonymous, gray garage. He has been working on the studio for a year-and-a-half. “This space was so big and so kick-ass that I had to build my studio here,” he said as we walked inside. “The guy who built this garage was a mason. He built muscle cars in his spare time. It’s the perfect place to record rock ‘n’ roll.”

The game plan is obvious. Miller builds his studio and SCOTS doesn’t have to pay studio time anymore to anybody. The band can record at its own pace. “My initial thing was to get the studio happening enough so that we could cut our new record here,” Miller explained. “When we started, we didn’t even have a record deal. But I had some money in the bank and I just said, ‘Okay, this is it.’ I bought the house, bought the garage and started equipping the place. Just the necessities—a tape deck, some preamps, some microphones. And I got some guys in here to do some construction work, to make the space right. We cinder-blocked this one bay door,” he said, pointing to a spot on the wall that had obviously been a garage bay door at one time.

“I felt like there was a need for a studio like this around here,” Miller observed. “A studio with a good room, natural sounds, predominantly analogue with some digital capabilities; kind of an old-school place, where the sounds come from the room and not a digital reverb unit.”

“So what does the room sound like? “It sounds great,” he replied. “It’s got very little flutter. It’s got a very natural sound, as far as the drums are concerned; very spatial. Not cavernous at all. You know, this is the size room I like to go into to listen to bands. Like a 250-capacity room. I always thought that if I could find a studio room with as good a sound as some of the clubs we’ve played in, that would be a great place to make a record.

“I like the ambience created by the concrete block walls,” he added.

“It’s somewhere between a studio and a rehearsal space.”

It took SCOTS a year to record their new album, Liquored Up and Lacquered Down. “It took so long because we’d record for a while and then we’d stop and build part of the studio for a while,” he laughed. “But the record turned out really good. And we had control. You know? We had control over every aspect of the recording process, including how long we took to do it, without having a bunch of record guys sticking their noses in our business. I mean, we’ve been a band long enough that we know what it takes. We’ve always come in under budget; we’ve always met our recording deadlines.”

The members of SCOTS started tracking their new album before they had a record deal because they knew they’d get something sooner or later. The band had a deal with Geffen Records at one time and recorded Dirt Track Date, the album that yielded the radio hit “The Camel Walk.”

The follow-up record, Plastic Seat Sweat, didn’t fare as well as its predecessor. “By the time Plastic Seat Sweat came out, Geffen was really just a shell of a label,” Miller explained. “They hadn’t generated a big hit in a long time, plus they’d been bought out by a bigger company, which meant a lot of layoffs. It wasn’t a very good atmosphere in which to release a record. We toured for that album for about a year-and-a-half. Geffen quit working the record after about six weeks. We realized there was something wrong at Geffen while we were still on the first leg of the tour. One of the promoters said, ‘We didn’t get any posters or any photos from the label.’”

SCOTS called up Geffen to find out what was up with their non-support. They were told that the label ran out of photos and posters and didn’t intend to have any more made. Rick, Dave and Mary thought, ‘uh huh,’ and left Geffen.

The Internet music site, eMusic, came to the rescue. A friend who had worked for Geffen moved to eMusic and got in touch with SCOTS because eMusic was looking to sign rock acts. They had worked a distribution deal with TVT Records and the situation looked good to SCOTS, so they did it.

What this means is that you can find Liquored Up and Lacquered Down in brick-and-mortar-land and you can download the album with your mp3 technology at www.emusic.com. Either way, you’ll be getting the latest tunes from a band that is truly one of our great southern institutions.

Rick, Mary, Dave and Cousin Crispy have taken their moonshine, banana pudding and hairspray and gone digital.
MUSIC FOR SALE

Various Artists:
David X. Young’s Jazz Loft
Jazz Magnet Records

John Hiatt:
Crossing Muddy Waters
Vanguard

Erin McKeown:
Distillation
Signature Sounds

Hiatt, one of the most important songwriters in American roots music, has an acoustic album here that is not only one of his best albums, but also one of the best releases of 2000. Like Steve Earle’s Transcendental Blues, reviewed here in September, Hiatt’s new one is a slice of Americana, rich in twang and loaded with stories worth the telling, most of which focus on dead relationships. He cut the album with David Immergluck (guitar and mandolin) and Davey Faragher (bass), players who have worked with him for ages, and the string trio format provides an elemental foundation that gives the sound plenty of room while keeping the musical vibe direct and understated. The country blues of “Lincoln Town” and “Take It Back” is very much at home with the old-time bounce of “Gone,” the oblique gospel reference of “Lift Up Every Stone” and the roots rock feel of “Only The Song Survives.” This is certainly one of the more eccentric outings I’ve heard this year. McKeown is something of an alt.diva. A cherubic Brown University student working on her undergrad degree in ethnomusicology, McKeown’s music is not as obscure as her major, at least, not if you understand that her generation mixes genres like cocktails. Her particular thing runs together jazz, modern folk, rock and the odd pop standard like “You Mustn’t Kick It Around” into an absorbing mess. Her range of musical influences does provide a snappy vehicle for lyrics that are, to put it mildly, studied. Her lyrical preoccupations are occasionally more expansive than they are inspiring, but when she’s at her idiosyncratic best, on tunes like “The Little Cowboy,” “Blackbirds,” “Queen Of Quiet,” “La Petite Mort” and “Love In 2 Parts,” you’ll catch more than a hint of her considerable musical and literary gifts, which bring to mind early Patty Larkin.
If there's one person who would've enjoyed the celebrity heaped on bluesman Robert Johnson in the last dozen years, it's Robert Johnson. Too bad he died 65 years ago. For anyone who fancies modern interpretations of classic RJ tunes like "Dust My Broom," "32-30 Blues," "Stones In My Passway" and "Walkin' Blues," this album would make a nice addition to their blues collection. The performances featured here are uniformly excellent and it's difficult to rate one over another. Just be advised that among the cool tracks here we've got Corey Harris' version of "Walkin' Blues," Dave Van Ronk's banjo-fueled interpretation of "Last Fair Deal Gone Down," Kenny Neal's "I'm A Steady Rollin' Man," Sue Foley's low-down cover of "From Four Until Late," guitar wiz Paul Geremia working "32-20 Blues," Josh White Jr. doing a solid version of "Come On In My Kitchen" and Guy Davis' rough-hewn take on "Stones In My Passway."

The Whites—Buck White and daughters Cheryl and Sharon—have only cut four albums in the last 12 years (including this one), so this release is something of an event for bluegrass, country and southern gospel fans. Jerry Douglas produced the record and plays dobro on all but one track. Fiddler Aubrey Haynie and guitarist Bryan Sutton also sat in on several tunes, and Emmylou Harris sings with Cheryl and Sharon on Maybelle Carter's "Fair And Tender Ladies." There's a nice diversity to the material here. They perform "Texas To A T," a cool Texas swing tune, a bluegrass instrumental titled "Old Man Baker," the western folk ballad "Before The Prairie Met The Plow," and the uptempo gospel number "Jesus Is The Missing Piece." One of their most striking harmony vocals comes on the classic country piece "How Many Moons," and they knock down another great country tune with Jim Lauderdale's "I Miss Who I Was (With You)."

This well-known documentary, which chronicled events at the Rolling Stones' ill-fated concert at Altamont Speedway in 1969, has been restored and re-released in DVD and VHS formats, to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the film's release. The filmmakers really do a wonderful job of capturing the doomsday quality of the entire escapade, from the headline-grabbing bluster of attorney/celebrity Melvin Belli to the utter cluelessness of Jagger and company, who assumed that this slapped together gig at Altamont would somehow magically unfold as some sort of hippy-dippy lovefest, à la Woodstock. What they got instead was a close look at the real world, à la Hell's Angels. The footage from Altamont is mesmerizing—like watching a danse macabre. We're center stage as the wretched excesses of acidhead dunces and pampered, self-involved, rock stars are deconstructed by a bad vibe. The revolution eats its children.

Winner of the Best Foreign Film Oscar in 1972, Luis Buñuel's The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie is considered by many film critics to be Buñuel's masterpiece. The film opens with two couples showing up on the wrong night for dinner at another couple's home. This well-heeled sextet will continue, throughout the film, to come together for a meal that is never eaten. The interruptions become increasingly nonsensical and the characters even begin to dream about interrupted meals, among other things. The deeper we go into the film, the more Buñuel tinkers with our perception of time and space, as the male characters' anxieties are played out in dream sequences that effectively collapse the narrative. The director was well known for injecting surrealistic elements into otherwise linear narratives, and that tendency is given free play here, as Buñuel sends up the vapid, immoral, haute bourgeoisie and their mediocre preoccupations.
Wired elections

MAKING WAY FOR THE E-CAMPAIGN

Our first time at the polls in the new century should be noted as the first "wired" election. And not just because of online voting, which I predict will be widespread by the next presidential race, but due to the online world's growing influence over campaigns at all levels.

This should be viewed as great news. Just as the Internet has helped level the playing field in business, so the net is providing access for all candidates who can afford a basic web site and e-mail program to the public for news and advertising.

The Internet could be a significant tool for the rise of a third party as well. It will be interesting to see how the Green Party and other smaller groups further integrate the web into their marketing strategies in order to raise their profiles since they are still locked out of the major debates and don't get the federal matching campaign funds directed to the two major parties. This campaign season helped them get started.

We also could see more debates in the next campaign via the web, with candidates taking questions online. An online debate (chat, video conference, audio and more) format could avoid the 90-minute time limit, restrictive format of the televised debates. And, perhaps, we will get other candidates involved. After all, Ross Perot surely made the 1992 debates more interesting.

The Internet also has passed the critical threshold of 50 percent household penetration and continues to increase. This means more people had 24-hour-a-day access to news and the ability to conduct safe e-commerce in 2000. That could trigger widespread, legitimate online balloting beyond the 2000 experiments. E-voting would make voting easier, allowing more people to participate.

Not all e-vote news is good. This campaign featured "vote swapping" sites where Democrats tried to entice Ralph Nader supporters to "trade" their votes in battleground states. The idea was that a Nader supporter in Oregon could swap his vote with a Gore supporter in Texas so the Oregon vote would go for Gore. Now this is an idea that needs to be nipped in the bud. After all, we should cast our vote in the community where we live, and what guarantees can there be that these "swaps" will be honored? Yes, there is a dark side to online voting. But these "swaps" show how the Net is triggering creative thinking.

Most candidates at the state and local level now have web sites. It will be interesting to see how they expand these sites to recruit more money and supporters, get their news and views out, and to publish position papers. I liked other neat interactive features, such as the tax-cut calculators that showed up ("How much will this tax-cut proposal benefit you?"). The major parties are moving from direct mail to e-mail. (Did you get an e-mail from Colin Powell or Jesse Jackson?) And we can expect more web site advertising as candidates try to reach wider audiences with more reasonably priced ad schedules than expensive TV spots.

Election spending topped $3 billion alone at the national level in 2000, and another $1 billion was spent on the local level. According to the Washington Post, that total represented a 50 percent increase over 1996. You can bet that much of the billions to be spent in 2002 and 2004 will go to web sites and e-campaigns.

In a sense, for many people this was an "underground" election. They went to the Internet to get news and information either not available anywhere else or that received little exposure in the major media. The best example of this trend is polling data. The major networks and their newspaper partners (Wall Street Journal and NBC, as an example) sponsor their own polls and note the findings of other major polls. But some of the best polls are underexposed. The net-wise, however, know where to find them.

For example, Portrait of America (www.portraitofamerica.com), which is based in
North Carolina, offered extensive daily national polls and periodic state snapshots. The bipartisan Battleground Poll (www.voter.com) not only had daily polls but also created a nice portal to point its readers to the best of the political news from many other sources.

Another interesting spot to track was a poll aggregator called Real Clear Politics (www.realclearpolitics.com). The site also linked to selected daily news stories and provided a regularly updated Electoral College map. This group compiled its own average and predicted a landslide Bush victory, which turned out to be wrong. However, pollster John Zogby, (www.zogby.com) who offered daily interest updates for a fee, turned out to be right.

Hotline, a Washington, D.C., institution, was made available free of charge online for the fall campaign. At www.honlinepolitics.com, readers got not only polls and pointers to other news but the best inside-the-Washington-Beltway scuttlebutt.

The networks also offered up special web-only programming for folks who couldn't tune in the nightly news. Politics Only! was an MSNBC feature and included a video rundown of the latest skirmishes and news. MSNBC also used the show to unveil its daily tracking poll. At ABC, the Sam Show, featuring Sam Donaldson, focused many times on the political action.

One of my favorite sites to track was www.freerepublic.com. It's very conservative, but the beauty of the site is the interactivity on message boards and news postings. Another neat feature was the rapid response of site users, called "freepers," who immediately posted news and poll updates with links to the respective sites. The members also offer plenty of editorial comment, giving outside viewers a great snapshot of what people are thinking.

Another dandy site was www.webwhiteblue.org, which included input from a wide variety of groups and candidates. The site allowed people to pose questions to candidates, and they or their campaigns often responded. This kind of interaction could help increase public participation in the process because more people would feel they are being heard, not ignored. Hopefully, a similar site www.politics1.com will stick around.

Some organizations and the parties also used the web to increase voter registration, such as www.youthvote2000.org. But I believe a well-educated voter is the best benefit of the Internet. Because so many newspapers, alternative news sources and media outlets are online seven days a week, every hour, and providing fresh updates, there is no excuse for any thinking person not to get the information needed to make an informed choice. Even in a newspaper town like Raleigh, the John Locke Foundation was able to provide daily political news via its web site www.carolinajournalonline.com.

Not every political site survived. The domain name for Politics.com is being sold and the site shut down. The site's widely respected political director and longtime network analyst, Hal Bruno, should land on his feet somewhere. E-magazines www.slate.com and www.salon.com are hanging in there as alternative news sources, and conservatives can log in at www.townhall.com.

It's too bad Wall Street has turned so sour on the "dot com" world. Intrepid entrepreneurs had a real chance to create the equivalent to the Reform Party, Libertarian Party or Green Party by creating a "third press." The Internet could have been used to develop neutral news oriented web sites at local, state and national levels and encourage the small but growing conservative press, www.newsmax.com and www.worldnetdaily.com, etc.

Voters still lack choices for unbiased reporting and editorial staffs that are not blindly loyal to party. Unfortunately, the "dot com" downturn means the chances of venture capital flooding in to help foster a third press are doubtful for now.

But Wall Street turmoil aside, the wired election campaigns are here to stay. The news media, the parties and more people every day realize the incredible value of the Internet. That's good news for America.
N.C.'s high speed network?
UNC TV, HDTV & YOU

Much talk is devoted to making sure high-speed Internet access is made available to every resident of North Carolina. In many places now, so-called broadband technology hasn't been deployed for economic reasons. It's expensive to put the capability in place (especially underground fiber and supporting equipment). There's also not much commercial payback in remote areas.

However, the passage of the UNC bond issue could open the doors for over-the-air data broadcasting via high-definition television. The UNC television network, with 12 different stations, covers 98 percent of the state with its signal, according to Jim Goodman of Capitol Broadcasting. And he believes HDTV can be used to deliver tremendous amounts of web-enabled data to TV sets.

In fact, Capitol continues to experiment with data-over-TV through its DTV Plus company. PCs equipped with special receivers that look like rabbit ears and tuner cards can bring down TV broadcasts and web data on demand.

"Why, we've got PCs out there with rabbit-ear antennas on them, and they're doing fine," Goodman said in a speech to the Consumers Electronic Association conference in New York recently. Goodman has been encouraging the UNC folks to consider using HDTV funding to implement its own datacasting solution. "We're working with them," he told ADC.

Social Security online
YOU CAN APPLY VIA THE NET

Speaking of hot political issues, the Social Security Administration is now permitting people to apply for benefits online. Reforming and extending the life of Social Security will be hotly debated in years to come. For those expecting to receive benefits soon, go online at www.ssa.gov to get the details.

The agency, which turned 65 in August, said the online process should expedite the distribution of benefits and also will save taxpayers $500,000 a year. Sounds like a double win for John Q. Public.

New treatment for Colitis
SALIX LAUNCHES COLAZAL

The estimated 500,000 people in the United States who suffer ulcerative colitis have a new choice for treatment thanks to a pharmaceutical firm based in Raleigh. Salix Pharmaceuticals announced in October that the FDA had approved COLAZAL for marketing in the United States.

Ulcerative colitis is defined as a "chronic and debilitating inflammatory disease of the gastrointestinal tract." Salix focuses on products for treatment of gastrointestinal diseases.

For more information, visit www.salixpharm.com.

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PROTECTING E-DATA

If you and your company are concerned about all those electronic data files, check out Triangle Resource Group. The company, formed in Raleigh in 1996 by president Robert Bruce and chief executive officer Howard Udell, is helping companies protect data with its Saf-T-Net Automatic Backup Services product. Saf-T-Net works with Windows 95 and 98, 2000 and Windows NT. For more information, call 919-838-8390.
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Drink that the normally teetotalling Governor Jim Hunt pulled out when the legislature passed the budget ahead of schedule this year: champagne

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Democrats in the Tar Heel legislature</td>
<td>101</td>
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<td>Number who will take office in January</td>
<td>97</td>
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<td>Number of Republicans now in the legislature</td>
<td>68</td>
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<td>Number who will take office in January</td>
<td>73</td>
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<td>Number of Reform Party members now in the legislature</td>
<td>1 Next year: 0</td>
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<td>Number of key incumbent Democrat judges who lost the election</td>
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<td>Average winning margin for Tar Heel judge races in 2000</td>
<td>2 percent</td>
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<td>Percentage of people who voted for the higher education bonds on November 7</td>
<td>73 percent</td>
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<td>North Carolina's ranking when it comes to spending on education</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>Taxes the average Tar Heel pays a year</td>
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<td>Taxes the average U.S. resident pays</td>
<td>$10,447</td>
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<td>Average weight and length of flathead catfish caught in Wilmington's Sutton Lake</td>
<td>13 pounds, 30 inches</td>
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<td>Biggest largemouth bass found in a Sutton Lake flathead's belly during a study of the cat's destructive hunger</td>
<td>19 inches</td>
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<td>Number of miles of &quot;shoreline stabilization&quot; using riprap and bulkheads along Eastern N.C.'s coastline</td>
<td>133</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expected impact of increased shore stabilization on coastal fish spawning grounds</td>
<td>&quot;great&quot;</td>
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<td>Reduction in flue-cured tobacco production since 1999, despite one of the best growing seasons ever in 2000</td>
<td>5 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reduction of burley 'baccy production under same favorable conditions</td>
<td>25 percent</td>
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<td>Average hourly wage for a log skidder driver in the Tar Heel woods</td>
<td>$9.48</td>
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<td>Average hourly wage for forest conservation workers in North Carolina</td>
<td>$15.15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Top employer in North Carolina</td>
<td>Winn-Dixie</td>
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<td>Average annual salary for a grocery store clerk</td>
<td>$13,728</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Carolina legislator's annual salary</td>
<td>$13,951</td>
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<td>Number of executions in North Carolina since 1976</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Executions nationally since then</td>
<td>669</td>
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<td>Average annual amount spent on inmates nationally</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amount spent annually on a North Carolina prison inmate</td>
<td>$25,303</td>
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Spanish influences
DURHAM GUITARIST CLIMBS NEW AGE CHARTS

The Triangle has spawned yet another up-and-coming star on the national music scene. This time it's Lawson Rollins, a Durham native and Duke alumni, whose band Young & Rollins is moving up Billboard’s top 25 New Age chart with a debut record called “Salsa Flamenca.”

The album, which courses with “new flamenco” guitar riffs, is the first outing of a multi-album deal that Rollins and band mate Dan Young signed with a major independent label in California. Already, the duo’s sound is garnering attention from the top talents of the salsa genre. They were recently featured on the top-selling compilation “Guitar Greats: The Best of New Flamenco.”

The Latin American Folk Institute said the duo’s work shows great promise. “Rarely do we find a debut album in which the songs are as musically vibrant and masterfully performed,” the institute declared in a review.

Rollins now lives and works in Washington, D.C., but has extensive ties to the Durham and Triangle community through family, friends and his Duke connections. The band's web site is www.youngandrollins.com.

Waters under the bridge
NEWS VETERAN TO LEAVE WRAL AFTER 23 YEARS

For over two decades, Ben Waters has been an anchor for the anchors over at WRAL-TV on Western Boulevard. Starting in 1977 as news director, Waters will now retire at the end of the year as vice president of administration. He is likely to continue to contribute to the station with special assignments.

Waters’ shoes will be filled by two new promotions: Jan Sharp, corporate director of human resources, is being promoted to vice president of human resources, and Paul Pope, station manager of WRAZ-TV in Durham, is being promoted to vice president of community relations.

Aside from a keen news sense first put to use at a Washington, N.C., station in 1964, Waters has also become a community relations phenom. He has held a wide variety of community posts, including top seats at the 2000 United Arts Campaign, the Raleigh City Museum's capital campaign, the American Heart Association, the Triangle has spawned yet another up-and-coming star on the national music scene. This time it's Lawson Rollins, a Durham native and Duke alumni, whose band Young & Rollins is moving up Billboard’s top 25 New Age chart with a debut record called “Salsa Flamenca.”

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Raleigh Little Theatre, Keep North Carolina Clean and Beautiful, the Rex Hospital Foundation, and the Buy Dot Com Carolina Golf Classic board. He was also chairman of a committee that initiated an experiment with cameras and microphones in North Carolina courtrooms.

Good luck on the golf course, Ben.

Classical arena

**BOSTON POPS HEADED FOR A COZIED-UP ESA**

Here's a major coup for the Entertainment and Sports Arena in Raleigh: The Boston Pops Orchestra, trailing more than a century of popularity and recognition, will bring its special mix of light classical music, Broadway scores and patriotic favorites to the ESA in March.

The show will be unique for the arena. In keeping with the café-style setting inaugurated by the Boston Symphony's first summer program of light music on July 11, 1885, the ESA will arrange table seating on the arena floor and serve light refreshments while the audience listens to the colorful Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra under the direction of its popular young conductor, Keith Lockhart.

Known for his high energy and spontaneity, Lockhart has a diverse musical background. Though thoroughly steeped in the classical tradition, having been associate conductor of the Cincinnati Symphony and now music director of the Utah Symphony, he also played in a rock band through college and in a circus band on sax.

But “I would hate to be accused of being an advocate for dumbing-down the medium,” Lockhart told the Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel. “Classical arts groups have a great responsibility to keep alive some of the most sublime expressions of the human experience.”

Yet, he believes that reaching new, especially younger audiences “was part of the mindset to bring me in for this job, that maybe I would have more appeal to Baby Boomers, who thought of the pops as their parents' music,” Lockhart continues. “Now I do see families with high school kids there and college kids on dates. That's really music to my eyes.”

Evening at Pops, a television production of WGBH-TV in Boston and the Boston Symphony Orchestra, has been broadcast nationally on PBS since 1969 and attracts a cumulative audience of 40 million viewers each season. Pops is acknowledged to be the most-recorded orchestra in the world.

**They called him 'Coach'**

BROGDEN INFLUENCED PLAYERS, PARENTS AND, INDEED, LIVES

Leon Brogden may forever be known as the best high school football coach ever to stomp the sidelines in New Hanover County. But after Brogden passed away at age 90 in October, it's his friendship, not just his championships, that locals really miss.

“I don't want to go into a lot of flowery stuff because the coach wouldn't want to go into that,” Jasper Davis, a former player and top assistant for Brogden, told a local newspaper reporter. “People who knew Coach Brogden knew what he meant and what he stood for. The community has lost a great person and all of us will suffer because of it.”

Coach Brogden coached football, basketball and baseball at New Hanover from 1946 to 1967. His most famous products are two quarterbacks: Roman Gabriel, who spent 16 seasons in the NFL, and Sonny Jurgensen, who was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1969.

Retired UNC-Wilmington legend Bill Brooks, who was hired at New Hanover in 1950 by Coach Brogden, said Brogden's influence is legend.

“I'll bet there were 1000 boys who thought they were No. 1 in his heart,” Brooks told the press. “That was the kind of man he was.”

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With a gorgeous sunrise shot of an Outer Banks pier on the cover, classy Globe-Pequot Press just published *Off the Beaten Path: North Carolina*, an unusual exploration of the state's back roads and country towns “that most tourists miss.” The first winner of a new scholarship that honors James Davis, a Virginian who in 1749 became the state's first printer and newspaper
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.”

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SECRETS OF STATE

publisher, has vowed to help get Davis his proper due in Tar Heel history. With the help of Virginia Pou Doughton of Raleigh, who gave $40,000 last year to establish the scholarship, scholarship winner and Ferguson, N.C., native Anna Marie Mitchell, a senior at UNC’s J-school, is considering writing an article or book about Davis. A planned $14 million renovation of UNC-CH’s 70-year-old Memorial Hall into a “modern performing arts and student convocation center” appears to be going forward after voters approved the higher education bond on November 7. Citing strong ties between the Triangle and Silicon Valley, Midway Airlines is now flying two daily non-stops to San Jose, California—for as little as $19 one-way. If ideas are money, then a new deal with super-conglomerate Procter & Gamble could pay off for N.C. State. On November 15, the company handed over a sheaf of patents and “intellectual property” that, if successfully developed, could revolutionize the paper recycling business—and pay big dividends for the school. To make sure “smart growth” doesn’t become “slow growth,” the brand-new Triangle Community Coalition plans to speak up for property rights and against “narrowly focused” arguments from the environmental left. Call 919-848-3609. The American Orient Express, North America’s finest rail service, has added a seven-night journey through historic Dixie, with Carolina’s Coastal Plain as a main draw alongside “the small towns, pecan plantations and pine forests quintessential to the South.” For the virtuous realists among us, virtual reality guru Dr. Frederick P. Brooks Jr. will give a free public lecture on “virtue in virtual reality” at Memorial Hall in Chapel Hill starting at 7 p.m. on December 5. Think your day is going to hell? Consider checking out “Apocalypse Then,” a new exhibition at UNC-CH’s Ackland Art Museum. The collection traces apocalyptic imagery through history. Carolina Ballet principal dancer Lilyan Vigo danced circles around dozens of dancers from around the country as she received the prestigious Princess Grace Award, named after the late American film star Grace Kelly, who of course became Princess Grace of Monaco after marrying Prince Rainier III. It was a “red letter day” for UNC-W’s Cameron School of Business on November 20, as CP&L honored two of its former board members by, at their request, establishing two new professorships with a gift of $900,000. The Gordon C. Hurlbert Endowment will support a professorship in information systems, while the Betty H. Cameron Professorship, named for the wife of Daniel D. Cameron (who is the school’s namesake), will support a faculty member in entrepreneurial studies.
WAR IS HELL

The Second American Civil War has been brewing for over 40 years, the historians will say after the smoke has cleared in Florida where Democrat and Republican armies clashed, plunging the nation into crisis and strife. Will the election be decided by the people or the courts, by the media or the Joint Chiefs of Staff? The nation is divided and the forces have taken the field. North against South, East against West, black against white, woman against man, the federal government against the states, collectivist theory against the individual, all these things are coming to a head as swords are drawn in the Sunshine State.

The activist clique of left wing Democrat forces was ready for Florida. After all, hadn't they cut their teeth infiltrating into the South as Freedom Riders in the 1960s, as “free speech” protestors at Berkeley, as agents for the Soviets demonstrating against their own country’s role in Vietnam, as agents provocateur in manipulating college curricula? They covertly labored to free mental patients from hospital rooms in order to stick the “homeless” in the face of prosperous and free market America. They manipulated public institutions into taking anti-American stances, including guilt over winning World War II and the Cold War. If you listen carefully and observe what kids are reading in school and absorbing in the mass media, you will discover that they have succeeded in portraying America as an evil, selfish place ashamed of its heritage and reeking with racism, chauvinism and homophobia, hell-bent on destroying the environment and mistreating minorities.

No fact or institution will stand in the way of the phalanx on the Democrat Left to reach its goal of destroying the old America and replacing it with their ideal of a regulatory federalist system that liquidates states rights and demeans the individual to a cog in the great socialist machinery. That means Al Gore, although he is not as far left as they, has to win no matter the cost to the Republic. If it means throwing the country into chaos, no matter the consequences. If they were willing to nullify the sanctity of trial by jury in the OJ Simpson case under the banner of “critical race theory” and “jury nullification,” they are even more prepared to toss out the Electoral College and file lawsuits like rounds of ammunition to win in Florida. Jury nullification in California, election nullification in Florida.

The war they have been waiting for is finally here. Don’t expect them to act like ladies and gentlemen. Even if Bush takes office, the war will continue by other means—in the courts and in the media. The strategy and tactics are predictable. Take the moral high ground; litigate until you get what you want, no matter the damage to faith in the political system. They don’t like America as it is anyway.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Metro is now one year old.
Our mission to reunite Raleigh, The Triangle region and Eastern North Carolina back into their natural and historical patterns of community in our pages is succeeding. Readers and advertisers alike have expressed their pleasure at the accomplishment and we thank you all for your support as we look ahead to year two.

As a punctuation mark to this achievement, an old friend submitted the following essay from his digs in Winston-Salem (via Washington D.C., where he worked for former U.S. Senator Robert Morgan of Lillington). He demonstrates that being from Eastern North Carolina is indeed a state of mind.

By Carroll Leggett
I visited my brother in Greenville recently, and he gave me a copy of Metro. “Roddy Jones sent me a handful of these and told me to spread them around,” brother Don said. I accepted with pleasure. I love magazines. I love eastern North Carolina. And I like Roddy Jones.

Don then explained to me the concept behind Metro as he understands it. I won’t try to explain it as he explained it to me but the premise is that there is some sort of brotherhood and sisterhood (I refuse to use the word
“synergy”) from the Triangle east that will support a magazine. I flipped through the pages quickly and then, later, as I drove back to Winston-Salem, gave the notion more serious thought—assuming you are willing to accept these thoughts as “serious.”

I have a friend whose family roots are deep in Winston-Salem and the Piedmont. A fledgling novelist, he has placed one manuscript with an agent and is hard at work on novel number two. Both are set in Eastern North Carolina. He has many friends down east and spends a lot of time on the outer banks where the old Eastern North Carolina families congregate. But try as he can, he just cannot fully comprehend the Eastern North Carolina mentality.

At one critical point in his writing, he called me. “I need to talk with you for a couple of hours,” he said, “about the old Eastern North Carolina for a couple of hours,” he said, “about how folks from Eastem North Carolina who weren't born there or whose family trees don't go back 300 years or so. They are a valuable and important part of the “new east,” but I don't purport to know much about what makes them tick. About all I do know is that I am not kin to them, as I am to most of the other crowd (particularly those from Bertie County), and that when the name of one of these new easterners is mentioned, my Down-East “who-are-his-or-her-folks?” computer comes on automatically, tries to boot up, and then crashes.

For example, to some people Metro editor Bernie Reeves is just “Bernie Reeves,” but to me he is Ralph and Cam Reeves’ son. Regardless of his accomplishments, mention Bernie and I feel compelled to tell you about his folks, his glamorous mom, his incredibly talented father, the good times we had dining together, the time his father accidentally threw his mother’s jewel box (with jewelry inside) down the trash chute of their Washington, D.C. condo complex, etc. That’s the eastern mind. We simply have to put people in context before we can get on with conversation.

For instance, non-easterners have a difficult time trying to make sense of the Biblical statement that the sins of fathers (in fact, several generations) will be visited upon their children. Not us. How many times did we sit at the supper table and hear someone say, “Did you know that so-and-so got caught passing bad checks?” to which one of the “old folks” quickly replied, “Are you surprised? You know who his grandfather was.” Of course, if you didn’t, you asked and got a salacious story about his no-count grandfather that occurred some 75 years before.

Betty McCain, our loquacious Secretary of Cultural Resources, has many delightful stories about her hometown of Faison. “Momma always said,” (that’s the way we easterners usually insert into a conversation something momma never would have dreamed of saying) “if somebody goes around singing ‘Nobody knows the troubles I’ve seen,’ they aren’t from Faison, ‘cause in Faison everybody knows all your business.” Betty’s point is well taken. It’s that way in Eastern North Carolina.

Easterners, also, have a natural affinity for one another. As time goes on, I believe more and more it is because, to one degree or the other, we all are kin. One easterner will find another in a crowd of hundreds, strike up a conversation, talk five minutes and become friends for life. The talk will begin with mutual friends, then turn to how their folks are doing, marriages, dalliances, surgery, pig pickings, deaths, births, gall stones, deb balls, and bankruptcies. “Excuse me,” I have had a companion say, “I am going to get another drink while you two talk ‘Eastern North Carolina,” and then been scolded later. It’s rude, my God, it’s rude and we know it, but we just can’t help it.

I hope that Metro, indeed, can strike a responsive chord and become the publication that folks from the Triangle east look forward to receiving each month. Metro cannot be just for those of us with the ingrained, perhaps inbred, Eastern North Carolina mentality that I have touched on ever so briefly. But there are a lot of us, and we certainly hope to be one target audience.
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