Shavlik Randolph

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THERE'S A SPRING IN OUR STEP

In Ancient Greece he'd be the subject of a major statue. Six foot-ten basketball player Shavlik Randolph, however, is a citizen of the 21st century in America where we worship our athletes with college scholarships and lucrative professional contracts. And Shav is certainly worthy of our highest tribute. The Raleigh Broughton junior, whose bloodlines run deep in the region, epitomizes the attributes we held sacred until the showoffs took over the game. Take a look at Metro's in-depth profile by Jack Morton and Patrik Jonsson on the bashful kid from Raleigh who's turning heads in basketball circles nationwide with his pure style and gentlemanly behavior.

Our pets, many believe, say a lot about ourselves. But how we care for animals in our community is a sign of our progress as a humane civilization. The Wake County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, since its inception in 1967, has led the way for the region. Now they are poised to take animal care to the highest level in a noble undertaking to create a state-of-the-art facility on 24 acres off Tryon Road in Raleigh. After you read our special section on the SPCA's past and future, call to find out how you can help them help our four-footed friends.

Talk about patience. The developers of Meadowmont, the very latest in planned urban communities—now rising out of the ground on the Raleigh side of Chapel Hill—have labored over nine years to see their vision realized. Design Editor Diane Lea offers up the inside story, including interviews with the planners and developers. At Meadowmont, the future is already here, and it looks great.

Hats off again to Events Editor Frances Smith. This month's MetroPreview is busting out all over before June even gets here with events for your enjoyment from the Triangle to the coast. MetroBooks turns to non-fiction with insightful reviews by Arch Allen on a hero of our political culture and George Leef on a book that verifies what we feel in our bones: our freedom as Americans is disappearing before our very eyes.

Philip van Vleck in his PV column this month uncovers the music of the greatest performer of the Piedmont Blues, a unique musical genre native to our region, accompanied by the latest in music and video releases. Rick Smith offers up tech tidbits from the world of after dot com, and note that MetroGourmet is absent this month. Nancie McDermott is visiting Taiwan and will return next month with a full report on the latest and best culinary trends in that hotbed of cuisine.

One more thing—the ballots for the 2001 MetroBravo! Awards are rolling in. This issue is your last chance to vote for your favorites so take the time to give credit to those who deserve it.

—Bernie Reeves, Editor & Publisher

Attention Artists and Galleries

Metro's May issue will present an opportunity for you to display your work in living color to our 140,000 readers. Contact us at 919-831-0999.
THINK BIG

Your feature on Marc Basnight got me thinking about the use of tax monies.

If we don’t do something soon, we are going to take up the call to repeal the meals tax in Raleigh. The polls have done everything but what they said they were going to do with the money.

Why doesn’t Raleigh start thinking about using all those meals tax dollars to build a World Trade Center? That would give us something that Charlotte doesn’t have. Moreover, I’d like to see that old convention building downtown imploded and something new built there that would complement the BTI Performing Arts Center and Memorial Auditorium.

I am not sure a World Trade Center would work downtown, but if we built one out near the Entertainment and Sports Arena it could double as a convention center and more. If we go that route, we’d still have to build something significant downtown.

I would also like to see them open up Fayetteville Street Mall again. Most cities where they have closed off the center or main street like that have had problems. Think about what we could put downtown that would complement things and bring people downtown—maybe in smaller groups but more often than a convention center.

I also think we need to think of mass transit from downtown to this new World Trade Center and Entertainment and Sports Arena.

I think the time is right for a World Trade Center. If we get one, North Carolina will get a commuter airline from the mountains to the coast and much more as a result. We could expand the Foreign Trade Zone to include this TWC.

It is one thing to be against a convention center but something else to be against a World Trade Center.

T. Jerry Williams
President and CEO
North Carolina Restaurant Association
Raleigh

TAKE A BOW

“Bravo” to Bernie Reeves and all the good people at MetroMagazine for the stellar special section on Meymandi Concert Hall, A. J. Fletcher Opera Theater and the North Carolina Symphony.

Indeed, the opening of Meymandi Concert Hall vaults the Symphony and the entire arts community into national prominence. During its opening week, four consecutive sold-out performances proved to audiences what Metro had boldly proclaimed in the weeks prior—that the work of Pearce, Brinkley Cease + Lee together with Lawrence Kirkegaard & Associates have created a performing arts Mecca in the City of Raleigh.

Thank you to Metro for such thoughtful, careful and insightful pieces on the history of this great project both architecturally and acoustically. Metro’s coverage of the Symphony at this exciting time was extensive and comprehensive and we send our congratulations on a job well done.

May opening week at the BTI Center for the Performing Arts be only the beginning!

David Chambers Worters
President & CEO
North Carolina Symphony
Raleigh

VERY SPECIAL MAN

I was given a copy of Metro by a friend who is a subscriber. I am absolutely delighted with the February issue.

Dr. Suiter and I have been long-time supporters of the North Carolina Symphony. He died on January 11, 2001 and I’m sorry that he could not have lived long enough to see his dream come true of the opening of the Meymandi Concert Hall. He would have also enjoyed reading this special issue of your magazine giving the details of the building and remodeling of the BTI Center for Performing Arts. Dr. Meymandi is indeed a very special man. We have had the privilege of knowing him for a number of years.

Having reserved patron seats for the classical as well as The Pops Concerts, I know the opening gala on Wednesday night was more meaningful because of the Metro articles.

Toni Suiter
Rocky Mount

PS. Did I detect a slight conservative note in your column “My Usual Charming Self” (February issue entitled “Fallen Idols,” disagreeing with the decision to remove the statue of Sir Walter Raleigh in London to be replaced with a “tribute to women?”) As an organizer of North Carolinians Against ERA in the late 70s I too ask the question: “Do women really want to be lumped in a group rather than singled out for individual achievement?”

RE-EDUCATE ME

Another great issue! Keep up the good work! Bernie Reeves’ articles (“Fallen Idols” and “Lunatics Running the Asylum”) are right on target.

Isn’t it interesting that the “open-mindedness” and “sensitivity to the opinions and feelings of others,” and general spirit of “inclusiveness” espoused by so many liberals only seems to apply to those who think and act as they do? Odd, isn’t it, that some of the most “conservative” people in the country profess to be its most “liberal.” Dare we call it hypocrisy?

Call me paranoid, but it seems the relentless drive of naïvely liberal, Pollyanna ideologues to subvert, distort, and ultimately destroy the very foundation blocks of our society—religion, morals, heritage, and culture—and replace them with ones more conducive to their utopian, “One-World” vision never ceases.

My apologies for airing such obviously narrow-minded, conservative, provincial, and redneck opinions. I will report myself to the Commandant of the nearest “Re-Education” camp for immediate remedial socio-political instruction.

I do hope you will honor the subscription cancellation request of the gentleman in your February issue, “Not In My Mailbox” (Correspondence, February 2001),
Catch of the day

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LTC (Ret.) Sion H. Harrington III
Erwin, N. C.

OLD SUPPLIES, NEW IDEAS

I want to thank you so much for the great informative announcement you put in MetroMagazine about the Unnatural Resources Fair. It helps me get more support here in the area for the event.

When I started it, there were a lot of skeptical people, some who thought I was a taco short of a combination plate. They are finally realizing that there are over 3000 companies in the country that are making things out of unnatural resources and we need to realize that that is where a lot of entrepreneurial companies are going to be coming from. Children can start early and may have jobs before they graduate if they come up with a great idea. It will also save teachers and school systems money if they are taking things and remaking them for their projects. Companies and families can collect supplies during the year that the teachers can use in the classroom for learning experiences.

That is how older generations taught children. That is how kids made the old playhouses. We just throw everything away now without teaching people how to reuse our supplies that are abundant. With six billion people in the world, we are going to be running out of resources if we keep piling them up and putting dirt over them.

Future generations will be mining the landfills for resources and they won't be in the same condition they were in when they threw them away.

I hope more people understand the concept of this fair. I hope someday to take it across the state to all counties and have a State Fair with all the winning entries in the spring for Earth Day.

Jacqueline G. Ponder
PCUR Fair Founder and Chairman

CLARIFICATION

Dr. Leon Lucas, who was interviewed in our March issue, is both a plant pathologist, someone who studies plants and their uses, as well as an agronomist, who studies plants and soils as they relate specifically to agriculture. Both terms to some confusion were used to describe Dr. Lucas, the "turf doctor" who makes house calls to troubled greens and fairways on behalf of the Carolinas Section of the United States Golf Association.

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, P.O. Box 6190, Raleigh, N. C, 27628, or e-mail the magazine at email@metronc.com.

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MetroProfile...

10 SHAVLIK RANDOLPH: BACK TO THE BASICS WITH BASKETBALL BOY WONDER—The boy they call Shav is only 17, doesn't have a driver's license and still prefers the Sega Dreamcast over dating. But after beating the point-per-game record of another Broughton High School alum—NBA great “Pistol” Pete Maravich—suddenly the hopes of high school hoops, college ball and even the NBA are trained on this 6’10”, 215-pound Raleigh kid—the grandson of the late and great N.C. State center Ronnie Shavlik. Many say he's the biggest thing to come out of North Carolina since Wilmington native Michael Jordan took basketball to the next level. by Jack Morton and Patrik Jonsson

Special Section...

21 NEW DAY DAWNING FOR FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS—The SPCA of Wake County’s plans to build a new “animal adoption and education center” off Tryon Road represents a quantum leap in animal care. Metro's special section lets readers know what they can do for the SPCA, and all the new things that the SPCA can do for them. by Diane Lea and Patrik Jonsson

Feature...

40 CITY LIFE IN CHAPEL HILL—After 10 years of planning, the historic DuBose Farm just outside Chapel Hill has been transformed into an ambitious project to mesh the city life of the 21st century with natural surroundings reminiscent of the villages and towns of the colonial era. Low curving stone walls, a familiar landscape feature throughout the UNC-Chapel Hill campus and the town’s older neighborhoods, flank the entrance to what is becoming a unique experiment in the country’s move toward “new urbanism.” by Diane Lea
You put a ball near Shavlik Randolph and what happens next is inevitable.

Unthinkingly, with a bemused expression, the grandson of the late N.C. State center and record rebounder Ronnie Shavlik, taps it, twirls it, swings it around his back, shoots it, swooshes it—or, rather, "ooshes" it. The latest and perhaps greatest protagonist to appear in Raleigh's basketball diaries, this 6'10" power forward for the Broughton High Caps has built his knack for speed, agility and killer shooting into becoming a seamless roundballer now busy setting the basketball world up for a slam.

The boy they call Shav is only 17, has no driver's license, and still prefers his Sega Dreamcast over dating. But over the past year the hopes of basketball fans from San Jose, Calif., to Gainesville, Fla., have become trained on this shy kid from Raleigh, whose fame seems to be rising in converse proportions to the depth of his humility.

"I think Shav has his whole life together," says Lou Pucillo, one of Ronnie Shavlik's best pals and N.C. State teammate from their playing days in the 1950s. "If you want to be a total person, you must be strong spiritually, physically and emotionally, and Shav is already a role model for those attributes. His head is on right, he's humble, he's dedicated, and he's just a great kid. If he never touched a basketball, he'd still be such a great kid."

Inspired by stories of his famed grandfather, and as a little guy bowled-over first by the Harlem Globetrotters and then by the "sleek" Michael Jordan, Shav did more than touch the basketball; he melded with it. Like Jordan, Shav sat mostly on the bench his first year on an AAU team, the Raleigh Heat. But after becoming the first player since "Pistol" Pete Maravich to make it as a Cap Nine player as a sophomore, Shav blew all the expectations away in his
BROUGHTON BOY  The 215-pound, 6'10" junior gets hundreds of recruiting letters a day. Duke is a possibility; but so is N.C. State, his grandfather's alma mater.

SHAVLIK RANDOLPH PUTS THE ‘FUN’ IN FUNDAMENTALS

by Jack Morton

You love this kid, don’t you? You can’t help being attracted to his soft-spoken demeanor, respect for his peers, and tireless work ethic. He even makes a point to tuck in his shirt whenever there’s a sign of dishevelment. And you can see all of this in him in the opening minute of a high school basketball game.

Shavlik Randolph is a throwback, a player from a bygone era trapped in the early stages of basketball’s second century. As if sent from 1955 in a hoops time capsule, this Raleigh Broughton High School junior has such a firm grasp on the fundamentals of the game that purists throughout North Carolina and beyond are turning away from the modern-day youth obsession with dunks, no-look passes and points per game. He’s quickly proving that success on the hardwood can come via an understanding of the basics of basketball, a tenacity to perfect those essentials, and an unmistakable respect for everyone in the gym, whether it’s the two opponents guarding him or the man in the last row who’s brought his young son to see the greatest rising junior playing in the United States.

The musty, nostalgic feel to Broughton’s Holliday Gymnasium renders memories of past basketball glory and high school legends. You can hear the squeaking of sneakers, smell the popcorn and ponder the perfection of a 28-minute clash for the privilege of going home a winner. The lobby alone captains a visual journey to hardwood heaven, starting with a silver basketball commemorating the 1927 state championship. Each dent represents a moment, a burst of effort or instant of hustle. The dust and tarnish on the trophies preserve nostalgic moments in time, such as the trophy for the 1935 Capital City Championship, complete with the names of the coach,
junior year, outscoring and outselling both his granddad and Maravich—who went on to become perhaps the greatest offensive guard ever to play the game.

What’s more, the boy related by blood to the birth of big-time basketball in the region is also the latest progeny of one of the most legendary high school gyms in the country: Broughton’s hallowed Holiday Gym, where "Pistol" Pete tore up the floorboards in the mid-1960s.

Indeed, unlike either his grandfather or Maravich, who were imported to the area before making their reputations, Shav is a home-grown North Carolina treasure.

No one can remember any other local high school legend, including Maravich, sparking such a demand for tickets that 500 people had to be turned away from Holliday Gym in January, forcing the school to move the next week’s game to N.C. State’s Reynolds Coliseum where a sold-out crowd of over 12,000 showed up.

Duke and UNC are slavering over him, as is Florida. But the obvious favorite, N.C. State, where legions of alumni still remember his grandfather’s magical court maneuvers, has just suffered through a lackluster season under head coach Herb Sendek.

Indeed, Shav has sparked off a recruiting war as hot as any seen around here in a long time. Everybody in Raleigh wants him to go to State, but Shav himself has said Duke may be the place. But, to be sure, those decisions are still some time off—though speculation will only rise until Shav makes his pick. Chants of “We want Shavlik” have greeted him on unofficial recruiting visits to college gyms.

Thousands of recruiting letters have pored into the “Shavlik-Randolph” mailbox on Williamsborough Court. Big-name college coaches were seen at almost every match-up this winter, waving and smiling from an NCAA-sanctioned distance [see sidebar on recruiting]. Underground recruiting web sites are buzzing with Shav’s prospects—just type “Shavlik Randolph” into Yahoo and see for yourself.

As the Duke recruiting web site boldly states: “This kid is, as we have said before, going to be one of the great in-state recruiting battles, and he’s very much for real.”

Shav is hitting the scene just as professional basketball is on the wane in America, mourning the loss of its stand-up standouts, like Michael Jordan, Larry Bird and legends such as Bob Cousy and the great Maravich.

Even Shav’s NBA prospects are being considered—even though he’s barely got his peach fuzz going. Some say he could easily be a top three NBA draft pick after his senior year—an unlikely option for Shav, but real enough.

“He’s one of the most versatile big guys I’ve seen in the last 20 years,” one assistant ACC coach told Michael Kruse, a writer for the prepstars.com web site. “He does it all. He can put it on the floor. He’s a very good passer. He can block shots. He can really get up and down the floor. And he’s very, very knowledgeable of the game.”

But one incident perhaps epitomizes the reign of Shav more than any other. In an exciting game earlier this season, Shav surpassed Maravich’s 47-point scoring record at Broughton, besting 50 points for the first time in the school’s history. Only thing is—it took a few minutes for anyone to notice.

As his father and AAU coach Kenny Randolph says: “I can’t tell whether he’s scoring 17 or 47 points, he plays with such humility. God certainly blessed him with height and natural talent, but God also blessed him with the heart and the desire to be the best that he can be. And he’s relentless with it. He’s actually a prime example to people that hard work does pay off.”

NATURAL-BORN TALENT

Pundits say Shav has inspired this sudden fascination with local high school basketball because of his dedication to the fundamentals and his ties to the very soul of Southern Basketball. That’s easy to understand. His grandfather led Broughton to a championship in 1952 and then became the greatest N.C. State rebounder ever under the late and legendary Everett Case, the first coach to bring big-time basketball to the South.

Long before he retired from basketball, Ronnie Shavlik started his own janitorial service, which eventually grew big enough to be written up on the front page of the Wall Street Journal. Meanwhile, his friends say he became part of the bedrock of the greater Raleigh community. "A solid player, a solid citizen," a local sports scribe once said.

Shavlik and his parents, Kenny and Kim Randolph, grandmother Beverly Shavlik, brother Dexter, 10, and sister Senna, 15, now all live together in grandfather Shavlik’s house with African gray parrot Clever, who, they say, has a 2000-word vocabulary. Mother Kim and grandmother Beverly are nationally-known dog breeders, winning the Best of Breed with a Labrador Retriever at the prestigious Westminster Dog Show at Madison Square Garden in New York City in 1998.

Shav grew up soaking in the Ronnie Shavlik legend—and his own part in it. As Ronnie Shavlik’s daughter, Kim Randolph, came within months of giving birth to Ronnie’s first grandson, the legendary ball player and community leader died prematurely at age 49. That bittersweet year was 1983. In that way, Shav bears not only his grandfather’s name, but also, some say, even a patch of his spirit.

At the very least, Shav inherited his grandfather’s feet. Now a size 18, Shav can continue on page 16
RONNIE SHAVLIK'S LEGACY

The future mayor of Raleigh cried that night in 1956 in front of the radio. His hero, Ronnie Shavlik, broken wrist and all, had almost led the N.C. State Wolfpack into the second round of the NCAA tournament, but the team heartbreakingly lost by a point in triple overtime to Canisius College, nine seconds from victory. Smedes York, then 15, felt so rotten he went out into the night and sulked up a tree in the backyard.

"I remember my brother and I listening and crying and screaming," says York, one of Raleigh's top real estate developers and Raleigh mayor from 1980 to 1986. "It's the worst defeat I've ever listened to. The thing is, he was a hero to us back then, but he became even more of a hero when I knew him later as a businessman and civic leader."

Ronnie Shavlik himself always looked back fondly on his days as a ninth-grader, meeting this All-American hero. And he was extremely nice. I had this wonderful feeling about that meeting, and about how he was almost on the same level as me, sharing a few thoughts about basketball primarily. He even showed me a few moves." Shavlik, whom Coach Case had recruited from Denver, Colo., demonstrated his business acumen as a senior at N.C. State when he borrowed $3000 from York's father to start a janitorial business. At its zenith, the company, Carolina Maintenance Company, was worth more than $250 million.

But first basketball called. After graduating in 1956, Shavlik signed a contract with the New York Knicks for $14,000 a year—and a $5000 bonus. Today, the deal would have been worth millions, basketball scouts say. Meanwhile, his wife Beverly took care of the fledgling business. After playing with the Knicks for three years, Shavlik took a spot on the Baltimore Bullets, where he played about 100 games. With the move, he was able to come back to Raleigh to manage the business during the week and drive to Baltimore on the weekends for the games.

After retiring from basketball, Shavlik's business bloomed. In 1966, he merged it with the Service Corporation of America of Boston, becoming vice president of the multi-national enterprise, but working out of Raleigh. Ten years later, Shavlik bought out his shares and brought the whole company back to Raleigh, where CMC Maintenance still operates today guided by his son Dean, a standout football player at N.C. State, and his son-in-law and Shavlik's dad, Kenny Randolph. His success made him one of the city's most respected businessmen.

"When I was a young business guy, around 1970, Hal Worth, [partner and now executive VP at York Properties], and I were trying to get him to come down on his janitorial prices. We met with him and said, 'We've got some lower bids.' He said, 'Well, Smedes and Hal, we'll do it for any price you want. We'll just shovel it out if you want to.' And that always stuck with me, and I've used it 100 times: It's not only price, it's quality of service."

But Ronnie Shavlik became a civic leader by doing the right things with not just his business acumen, but his time. A regular on the N.C. State Athletics Council and Student Aid Association, Shavlik also started the Shavlik Summer Basketball League (eventually merged into the city recreational leagues) and roasted Indiana basketball coach Bobby Knight as the chairman of the 1982 Multiple Sclerosis Dinner of Champions.

At a time when integration was a touchier issue in the South, Shavlik often took part in summer basketball camps at Shaw and St. Augustine Colleges, working with young black players. Shavlik didn't just spread his civic charm to sports-related activities. He became a champion for the mentally retarded in the greater Raleigh community, founding the Wake County Shelter Workshop in 1964 and serving on the city's Employment of the Handicapped committee for several years. He was also cited as North Carolina Employer of the Year in 1993 for his employment of the handicapped in his business. Consequently, President Lyndon Johnson also honored him with a Meritorious Award.

According to Lou Pucillo, who became life-long close friends with Shavlik when they were teammates at NC State: "Ronnie wasn't only one of our greatest basketball players, he was a fantastic businessman and a great community leader."

—Patrik Jonsson

PHOTO BY CHANCE LEE, COOK/STAFF. MAGIC MAN Ronnie Shavlik (number 84) led N.C. State through ACC Championships
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Shavlik Randolph, playing basketball for the city's most fabled high school, has resurrected a nostalgia for those who saw Maravich and those who only know the legend. While Randolph's court magic is different from Maravich's, it is attracting comparisons. Where Pete at the guard position was flashy and never saw a shot he didn't like, Randolph at the center position is cool, collected and dedicated to the fundamentals.

The National Basketball Association has changed the perception of talent in the world of roundball by placing more emphasis on pure athleticism over the last 10 years. Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson and Larry Bird were phenomenal athletes, but their fulfillment of fundamental perfection is what made them legendary. Their predecessors like Bob Cousy, Bill Russell, Oscar Robertson and Jerry West laid an axiomatic foundation that has since become a distant memory, as today's generation is more excited by a Latrell Sprewell dunk than a Jason Kidd assist. That is why Shavlik

continued on page 17

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move with a smooth, almost skating gait that those who used to watch Ronnie Shavlik play instantly recognize. Shav also has his grandfather's penchant for lightning-quick dribbles and grabbing loose balls. Yet he's already further along than Ronnie Shavlik was at the same age.

Still, when it came to choosing jersey numbers, Shav picked 42 instead of Ronnie's 84. "I can only hope to be half the player that my grandfather was," he said, now famously.

But if Ronnie Shavlik provides Shav the spiritual inspiration, the comparisons to "Pistol" Pete Maravich, who became perhaps the greatest offensive guard ever to play in the NBA, have fueled the intrigue around what Shav is actually capable of doing.

To be sure, their playing styles differ by miles. And even though they both knew their dads as their coaches, the legendary Press Maravich was known to pull the trigger to get Pete to go shooting some days, while Kenny Randolph sometimes struggles to get his son away from the court.

"I have to take him and a friend camping for three days just to get him away from the gym," says Kenny Randolph. "I keep telling him that rest is a big part of the game too."

A GOOD INFLUENCE
Judging by the attendance numbers, Shav has introduced many of the region's newcomers to some of the finest high school ball in the country—and surely he will pull off similar feats in college. But Lou Pucillo and other old-timers say Shav is not just the scion of a local basketball legacy, but a possible savior of an NBA that has been facing a tumbling attendance even as the game becomes focused away from balls-manship and team play, to attitude, individual showmanship and tattoos.

Many are looking to Shav to become, if not the boy that would revamp the NBA, at least a humble ambassador of the way the game used to be played—and maybe should be played again. Should Shav realize his dream of playing in the NBA, he could indeed become a VIP, as some of the teams in the league try to get away from showboating and back to basics, a la the Dallas Mavericks, which just became the first team in the NBA to hire a "basics coach" to teach the showy street players the fundamentals.

"It's easier for the press to cover a guy like Charles Barkley who gets into trouble than someone like David Robinson who takes kids to the basketball game," says Pucillo. "But we need the David Robinsons and we need the Shavlik Randophs. You want to be able to take your kids to a ball-game and try to establish their interest by showing them a great basketball player who's a nice kid instead of someone who's in your face. Now, spectators and fans are rejecting that kind of misbehavior because that's not what we'd like our children and grandchildren to be like. I remember in the earlier NBA, Julius Erving got into a scuffle and the NBA said, 'Golly, please don't do that. You're our saviors, the guys the kids look up to. You're like the church choir.' The fact is, you're there being an influence on society and young kids whether you want to or not."
Randolph is so special; he can throw down that dunk, but it's the foot work, positioning and drop step that lead to the jam which make him a modern-day rarity.

The effectiveness of this 6-foot-10 oak tree of a 17-year-old was on display in a state 4A playoff game versus Hope Mills South View High School on March 2. Their tallest player stood only 6-foot-5, and Randolph took over immediately. Within the first 35 seconds of the game, Shav, as everyone calls him, made a free throw, had two steals, and grabbed both an offensive and defensive rebound. By the end of the first quarter, number 42 had seven points, five rebounds and a blocked shot. By halftime, he had tallied 13 points and 10 rebounds. But the best was yet to come.

With his team up 7 coming out of the break, Shavlik scored 12 points in the third quarter and grabbed 3 more rebounds, swatting an astonishing 5 shots in the seven-minute period. Every offensive possession for the Broughton Caps seemed to be a mirror image of the previous; Randolph would post up with ease on his defender, catch the feed, fake, spin and lay a finger roll off the glass. When his teammates needed to move the ball, Shav was the first man there, setting screens and making passes. Every move he made was designed with precision, whether side-stepping through the lane to avoid a three-second violation or shuffling his feet to slow down as he planned his leap for an offensive rebound. With 1:14 left in the third quarter, a Broughton guard missed a jump shot that caromed off the rim at an angle making it virtually impossible to put back. But there was Randolph, soaring from the left side of the lane, grasping the Wilson with his left hand at the zenith of his vault and plunging it through the basket with rim-rattling supremacy.

A wave of disbelief and delight swept through the gym. Fans were so accustomed to his solid, fundamental play they forgot about his ability to provide the spectacular. The crowd of close to 3000 was reminded continued on page 19
RECRUITING WARS ALREADY UNDER WAY

Comparisons are unavoidable; fans always seek an analogy, a player they can compare to a youngster as he gains distinction.

"He’s a lot like Christian Laettner around the lane and a bit like Tim Duncan with a jump shot," said famed recruiting analyst Clint Jackson of highmajorhoops.com. "Shavlik is a complete player inside and out and works tirelessly on the essentials. I’ve never seen a junior so polished. He’s more like a college junior than a high school one."

As the top-rated junior in most national recruiting polls, Shavlik Randolph is the target of every collegiate powerhouse in the nation and is fielding significant attention from NBA teams as well.

"He’s a huge ACC target," Jackson remarked. "The three Triangle schools, Wake Forest, Stanford, Kentucky, and Florida are the leaders from what I understand. It has been confirmed that N.C. State, UNC, and Duke will make the final cut of five or six schools under consideration."

Shav will have the pick of the litter when it comes time to decide upon his next destination after averaging 25 points, 13 rebounds, and five blocks per game as a junior. Projected by some experts as a lottery pick in the 2002 NBA Draft, Randolph seems to desire a program that plays a fast-paced game.

"I want to go to a school where’s there’s a tempo I can fit into," he said. "The type of people they have, the chemistry—those are important. I want to play inside and out, ideally in an up-tempo style, but most importantly I want to get along with the coach."

College coaches abide by strict rules when recruiting a high schooler. Conversations are forbidden at times, but even a wave of acknowledgement at a high school game can leave an impression.

"There have been a lot of coaches at most of my games, but I try and ignore it and focus on what’s happening on the court," Shav said. "All of the mail and phone calls are flattering, but I just try and maintain my focus and know that I’ll get around to making a decision."

Comparisons to Shav include Tim Duncan, the 6-foot-11 All American at Wake Forest University when he was a senior in 1997. In addition to his massive size, Duncan’s delicate footwork, instinct for rebounds, long wingspan and soft shooting touch made him virtually impossible to contain. The one element that Duncan lacked was an outside jump shot, a tool he would have rarely used because of his consistent size advantage.

Another is Dirk Nowitski, the second-year, seven-foot center/power forward for the NBA’s Dallas Mavericks, one of the league’s most diverse players because of his ability to step out and shoot the three pointer. Likely the most accurate concordance to Shavlik Randolph, Nowitski was heavily recruited by most of the top collegiate programs, but opted to go straight to the NBA out of high school.

"Shavlik’s not leaning towards anything right now," said his father Kenny Randolph. "He communicates with coaches under the NCAA guidelines and we’re going to take some unofficial visits this summer. I feel like he’ll seriously narrow his list by then, but there’s no timetable. He’ll commit when the feeling is right, and he truly believes that God will tell him where to go."

A high schooler can take as many unofficial visits as he or she likes, and Shav has trips planned to the University of Florida, Kansas, and Stanford among others this spring and summer. A player is allowed five official visits during their senior year, trips that are paid for by the hosting university.

"The last 12 months have been mind-boggling," Kenny Randolph commented. "For years I was a father that attended Salvation Army games and watched my son grow. All of the attention he’s receiving has taken some getting used to, but he’s got his head on straight and we don’t worry one bit about his ultimate decision."

"If anyone deserves it, it’s Shav," said his father proudly. "He’s put so much blood, sweat and tears into practicing around the clock. I know that the rewards for all of his hard work will be very satisfying."
Statistics and Accolades

2000–2001 Season
- recently named High School Junior Basketball Player of the Year by The Sporting News magazine
- averaged 25 points, 13 rebounds, 5 blocks per game during junior season
- named Cap Nine Player of the Year
- named to All Powerbar All Star Team
- led Broughton Caps to 23-6 record and 4A Sectional Championship
- named Most Outstanding Player of 2000 Roundball Holiday Classic—The Citadel
- named to All-Tournament Team for 4A Final Four
- set all-time single-game scoring record for Broughton with 50 points in one regular season game, a record previously held by Pete Maravich
- finalist for Sports Illustrated High School Player of the Year (winner not announced at press time)

1999–2000 Season
- averaged 19 points, 11 rebounds, 3 blocks per game
- named Cap Nine Player of the Year—first sophomore since Pete Maravich
- led Broughton to Conference Championship
- named to All-Tournament Team for 4A Final Four
- named News & Observer Old Reliable Athlete of the Year
- led United States Junior All Star Team to Bronze Medal—youngest player ever selected to team—past players include Vince Carter, Tim Duncan, and Magic Johnson
- AAU All American as a 16-year-old playing in 17-year-old division
- named one of top 10 players out of 180—Nike Camp

of this talent in the fourth quarter when Shav received a pass on the left side of the lane on a fast break, planted his feet in the middle of the paint and threw down a reverse dunk with two-handed authority on the right side of the basket. As the student section jumped and hollered with approval, the congenial sensation simply said "thanks" to an opponent's compliment.

This one game is a microcosm of the nightly exhibition that Shavlik Randolph so humbly provides for fans and players. However, as the new breed of the new millennium focuses on elevation and the extraordinary, Shavlik Randolph remembers the fundamentals he learned during his early days in youth league play.

"I started dedicating myself to getting better when I was 11 or 12 working out at the Salvation Army," said Shav. "I'm not nearly as gifted as some of the other guys out there, but I think my work ethic and will to improve will take me places.

"My instinct around the basket is my greatest strength and footwork seems to come pretty naturally for me," Randolph observed. "If a double team's coming, I can usually tell what my defender is thinking."

Four hundred jump shots a day is routine for this phenom, so it comes as no surprise that excessive social activity is minimal. Shavlik attended his first high school dance this past February, escorting a female friend to the Queen of Hearts celebration.

"It was a lot of fun," Shavlik laughed. "I like any music with a good beat, and getting dressed up was pretty cool."

Shavlik Randolph is a breath of fresh air. His balance of humility and fame is scarce in today's basketball world, and his focus on the essentials sets him apart from his peers. Hoops fans worldwide, frustrated with basketball's emphasis on the theatrical over the fundamental, should flock to Holiday Gym this coming winter and revitalize their faith in the game. Number 42 could be leading a sentimental revolution, returning basketball to a pure style of play while stealing hearts with his "Aw, shucks" demeanor.
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Humans to the Rescue

SPCA BREAKING NEW GROUND IN ANIMAL CARE
SNUGGLE BUNNIES  The SPCA of Wake County has helped 47,000 animals find new homes—now it’s the organization’s turn to get a new roof over its head

SPCA POISED FOR A NEW ERA

W
den Mrs. Martha Gappins
donw in Whiteville neared her
death in 1967, one of her last
wishes was for her estate to donate $5,000
to the SPCA (Society for the Prevention of
Cruelty to Animals). Knowing that
Whiteville didn’t have an SPCA, Mrs.
Gappins, an animal lover, figured that
Raleigh, the capital city, would surely have
one, and bestowed her gift in her will.

Her intentions were surely right, but
her assumption was definitely wrong. The
closest thing to an SPCA shelter in
Raleigh in 1967 was the home of a Mrs.
Von Glahn on Canterbury Road. The
German lady had been taking in stray cats
and dogs for years. And then there was
Dr. Ralph Williams, one of Raleigh’s only
veterinarians at the time, who would do
his best to take care of unwanted or stray
animals. Still, no SPCA. For a moment,
it looked as if the gift would be gobbled
up in the estate.

Luckily, it was Dot Helms who took the
call from the banker for the estate, Lacey
Tate. Married to the broadcaster Jesse Helms,
the future powerhouse Senator from North
Carolina, Mrs. Helms was at that time busy
in the city’s social and philanthropic life, after
working as the News & Observer’s first female
staff writer in the early 1940s.

“It was a good sum of money, so I called
[the late] Diana Maupin, Armistead
Maupin’s wife, and she was very interested
in animals, always was,” said Mrs. Helms
in an interview from her Washington,
D.C., home. “So I asked Diana if she’d be
interested in starting an SPCA, and she was
delighted. We had our first meeting at the
S&W cafeteria when it was downtown on
Fayetteville Street. We met in the upstairs
room, and I think we had about 200 peo­
ple. The first president was Harry Johnson,
who worked for Westinghouse at that time.
Armistead Maupin was the attorney who
incorporated the agency for us.”

Thirty-three years after Mrs. Helms
took the call from Whiteville, the SPCA
she and others so fortuitously helped found
is taking another historic step: a $4.3 mil­
ion fund raising campaign that is sched­
uled to yield a 17,000-square-foot,
state-of-the-art, pet adoption and educa­
tion center off Tryon Road in Raleigh. The

new building will replace the current shelter built by the fledgling organization in 1971 on Highway 70.

The current 6,000-square-foot building has served the community well over the years. However, a new facility is long overdue—animal shelters typically last only 20 years due to the constant cleaning necessary for the proper care of the animals. In this building, the SPCA has placed over 47,000 pets in new homes and reunited thousands of lost pets with grateful owners. Currently, the SPCA offers an array of services—from reduced adoption fees for senior citizens to community rabies vaccination clinics—which benefit thousands of pets and people.

The new sheltering facility will double the number of animals that the SPCA is able to care for. Moreover, the new shelter will enhance the SPCA’s ability to carry out its primary mission to protect, shelter, and promote the adoption of homeless animals and to provide education about responsible pet ownership. At three times the size of the current building, the new shelter will allow the SPCA to offer even more services like dog daycare, a dog park, and animal obedience and behavior training that will allow trained professionals to teach animals obedience lessons and resolve behavior problems—the most common reason for pet abandonment.

In 1967, animals in Wake County had it tougher than today. Not only did people still regard most animals purely as chattel; the idea of having a local organization looking out for the interests of pets had not yet caught on, even though independent regional societies, patterned upon the British Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, had been springing up around the country since the late 1800s. A majority of Americans have since started to accept the idea that animals are indeed sentient, intelligent and emotional beings. Indeed, the view of animals as close kin to humans is now mainstream.

Furthermore, the rise in placing attention on animals as friends, rather than subjects, comes as science has shown the documented health benefits of pet ownership. Animals are now known to decrease stress, which can reduce blood pressure and lengthen life. Some dogs can even sniff out cancers and there are ever expanding ways that animals are assisting people with disabilities.

The trend of redefining the relationship between man and beast that the SPCA is tapping into is “all part of educating people, changing the paradigm, so that people act more responsibly to animals, so they’re more aware that, no, animals should not be treated as a commodity to exploit or make profits from, but are indeed living beings that deserve to be treated responsibly, and in a way that their needs are respected,” says Dr. Elliot Katz, a veterinarian who founded In Defense of Animals, a Mill Valley, Calif, animal rights group, in 1983.

Education is one of the primary services that the SPCA provides. The organization offers free public seminars to educate children and adults about responsible pet ownership. Studies have shown that just a little bit of pet-owner education can make the difference between an animal remaining in a home or being turned over to a shelter. Another important SPCA community service and education outreach is the successful low-cost spay/neuter program for all dogs and cats. Working on the principle that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, the SPCA proactively

TOO CUTE An abandoned puppy patiently waits

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encourages people to spay or neuter their pets.

While the SPCA works to advocate responsible pet ownership and to inspire owners to remain true to the life-long commitments they make to their pets, they remain realistic about the pet overpopulation problem in Wake County. Dr. Dale Oller, who just finished his second term as SPCA of Wake County president, says the new shelter will help the SPCA reach a goal of a 100% adoption rate by 2006 for all adoptable animals in their care.

“We need to get to the point where any animal that could be adopted is adopted,” says Dr. Oller. “What we can’t do is adopt out animals that are horribly injured, incurably ill, or aggressive to people or other animals. There are some things you can do and things you can’t do.”

Due to the hard work of the SPCA and similar humane organizations across the country, euthanasia rates have dropped from 13 million in 1973 to around 5 million today—and that trend is holding true locally as well. Meanwhile, the SPCA has increased its adoption rates year by year, now finding homes for 2,100 animals a year out of the nearly 10,000 that come through its doors. In addition, each year the SPCA happily reunites approximately 1,000 lost pets with their owners.

In order to get ready for the peak of the capital campaign that still needs to raise over $2 million, the SPCA vowed to ratchet up their outreach into the community, expanding adoption and education programs, while broadening their spay and neuter voucher initiatives.

Meanwhile, the new facility will be an aesthetically pleasing place to visit both for animals and humans. The technology of animal sheltering has progressed significantly in the 30 years since the current shelter was constructed. One practical and aesthetic change in the new shelter will be the housing of 12 to 15 dogs in smaller rooms, as opposed to 40 dogs in one big room. Not only will this
Dir. Janet Herzberg in Floyd's wake

SPCA SAVES PETS WHEN DISASTER STRIKES

The call from Cora Tyson was no joke. As floodwaters rose menacingly over Eastern North Carolina following Hurricane Floyd in September 1999, the animal rescue coordinator for Pitt County had a sobering message for Wake County's frontline humane agencies and animal control workers: "We need you—now!"

Carried to the flood front by Army Blackhawk helicopters, SPCA of Wake County shelter manager Kim Fisher and executive director Janet Herzberg dropped into the center of the disaster, as floodwaters covered hundreds of thousands of square miles, leaving not only people, but thousands of pets, stranded and struggling for life.

Headquartered out of the then not-yet-opened animal wing of the East Carolina University teaching hospital in Greenville, dozens of animal rescuers worked for weeks on end, finding, rescuing and treating animals. Once stabilized, the hard work to find the owners of all the dogs, cats, turtles and hamsters began. Meanwhile, hog and chicken farmers put into action established rescue techniques and, despite losing millions of chickens, turkeys, and pigs, were better organized than the pet rescuers, who had never dealt with that degree of mayhem.

"It got for real, very fast," says Fisher, who just months earlier had sat through an animal rescue training session thinking that she'd likely never get to use the information. In the end, 980 pets, ranging from

continue on page 28
NEW FACILITY MARKS NEW DAY FOR SPCA

A

nimal shelters are evolving from minimally equipped facilities, to multi-faceted animal adoption and education centers," says Carl Winstead, a Raleigh architect with Winstead Wilkinson Architects. "In facilities where this transition has occurred, there has been a tremendous increase in the rate of animal adoptions."

Winstead, a pet owner who found his dog Bernie at the SPCA of Wake County's Adoption Center, is on a mission to help that organization create such a state-of-the-art facility. He describes the SPCA's current facility as pretty utilitarian and typical of animal shelters when it was constructed in 1971 on a shoestring budget of donations. "The organization had planned all along to expand on its current three-acre site," says Winstead. "Then about a year ago, a new SPCA Board decided to go in a totally different direction."

The Board's decision led to a comprehensive search for a site that could accommodate not only a new and better building but also a dog park, an obedience center and administrative offices. The 46-acre parcel is at Tryon Road and Withers Road, near Raleigh's southern boundary with Garner, and provides convenient access for Cary animal lovers as well. Formerly owned by CP&L, the land chosen by the SPCA was valued at $1,400,000. The new facility will be built on 24 acres of the parcel, while the remaining land will be sold to offset the cost of the purchase. The purchase of the site and construction of a new building required a major capital campaign that is entering its final leg. The SPCA is looking forward to breaking ground for the new building in autumn. Winstead is enthusiastic about the land. "It has no buildings on it, just woods and open space. There are wetlands that might lend themselves to a conservation easement, and a portion of the parcel can be sold to recapture much of the cost."

To begin the process of designing the new adoption center, Winstead and SPCA Board members and staff visited several new facilities, borrowing and adapting ideas from each to fit their special vision. "We want the building to reflect the heritage of Wake County, so we're looking back to our agricultural heritage with a vernacular barn design." The high ceilings characteristic of a barn will bring light into the open lobby area and natural wood finishes will provide warmth. "We really see this Adoption and Education Center as a place for school children to come on a field trip to learn about responsible animal care and hygiene, and about the history of our area," he added.

At the proposed 17,000-square-foot Adoption Center, individuals and families will have the opportunity to talk with volunteers and staff about the kind of pet they want and learn about what kind of pet would best suit their lifestyle and resources. Visitation rooms will give the animals and potential owners a place to meet and respond to each other under the supervision of a trained handler. High-tech mechanical systems will clean and circulate the air to reduce the spread of disease, and surfaces and finishes in all animal rooms and runs are designed to be easy to clean and disinfect. Flad and Associates, a national architectural firm specializing in research facilities, is cooperating with Winstead and the SPCA in determining specifications for the building, and several other consultants, ranging
from site designers to structural engineers and mechanical engineers are providing expertise for the project.

"The SPCA wants to do extensive temperament testing on newly arrived animals," says Winstead. "It will be easy for the staff and volunteers to accomplish these tests with appropriate spaces and conditions."

The SPCA is also planning for a building that will ensure a healthy and happy place for its staff and volunteers. The organization's web site, www.spcawake.org, emphasizes the role of volunteers in the group's mission "to protect, shelter and promote adoption of unwanted animals, to provide education about responsible pet ownership and to reduce pet overpopulation through spay/neuter programs."

"These dedicated volunteers deserve a comfortable, pleasing place to work the long hours required to keep an animal adoption shelter going," says Winstead.

Winstead's work to design an animal hospital for a veterinarian friend led to an introduction to the SPCA staff and Board members. Now he's totally immersed in the adoption shelter design and hopes to have it ready for review by the end of the capital campaign. "We're going from a 6,000-square-foot shelter to a 17,000-square-foot pet adoption center," says Winstead, "but I'm looking to the next phase, which could take us to a 38,000-square-foot facility with an obedience center, seminar space and more offices."

With the SPCA's 858-square-mile Wake County service district and the area's burgeoning population of 600,000 people and an estimated 300,000 cats and dogs, Carl Winstead's vision of the future for the new Pet Adoption and Education Center is on target and certain of community support.

A MATTER OF SCALE These diagrams show the scope of the SPCA's fund raising gambit.
snakes to horses, were rescued from Floyd's grip; hundreds, perhaps, thousands of others perished.

It got even more real for the rescuers: "By the second or third day, as we were going out into the floodwaters, that's when it really dawned on me that this was a big disaster, something really happening to people and animals, and I can't even begin to describe what I saw," Fisher added. "It was said. It was such a tremendous level of destruction. It was so big that, even two years later, it's been hard to really process it all and find where to put my feelings."

To the public, pictures of hogs swimming to high ground on the tin roofs of their barns defined the national coverage of the disaster. But there were thousands of other animal tragedies—large and small.

Rescuers saw first-hand how the bonds between humans and their pets can be so strong that they're dangerous. Several times, rescuers happened upon people who—when faced with the decision of having to abandon their pets—decided to stay and endure the raging floodwaters.

Herzberg and Fisher were far from alone those three weeks. They were in constant contact with the shelter crew back in Raleigh, where volunteers were gathering and shipping supplies, a monumental job while tackling the task of trying to unite owners with their rescued pets.

The need for a centralized animal rescue headquarters became a top priority after the floodwaters receded. Today, with the help of former Governor Jim Hunt, the SPCA has worked with the State Animal Response Team to provide a seat for animal rescuers at the Emergency Management headquarters in downtown Raleigh.

In addition, the SPCA has incorporated instructions about how to keep your pet safe during a disaster into its educational outreach program and, during hurricane season, sponsors a disaster preparedness education day.

"Next time, we'll be ready," says Herzberg.

What the SPCA can do for you... and what you can do for the SPCA

Since 1967, the people behind the SPCA of Wake County have worked to take care of the region's homeless animals, be they cats, dogs, rabbits, horses or iguanas. Along with their basic mission to protect, shelter and promote adoption of homeless animals, the SPCA provides many additional services, including:

- Offering free public seminars to educate children and adults about responsible pet ownership
- Investigating alleged cases of animal cruelty and neglect
- Promoting improved legislation on animal issues
- Administering a low-cost spay/neuter program for all pets
- Advocating for animal welfare through public relations and the media
- Offering a reduced adoption fee for senior citizens ages 60 or older
- Reuniting lost-and-found pets with their owners
- Operating a foster-care program for pets that are too sick, too injured, or too young to be adopted. Volunteers provide loving care until the pet is ready to be placed in a permanent home
- In addition, each animal adopted from the SPCA is spayed or neutered before they leave the shelter. The SPCA provides animals with vaccinations and tests to ensure that every adopted animal is healthy. Cats are tested for feline leukemia and dogs are tested for heartworms. All adopted pets receive microchip identification.

The SPCA knows they need the help of all their loyal supporters and all the animal lovers in Wake County in order to make the new shelter possible. The Pet Adoption and Education Center will be a safe harbor, a training center, a care facility—a true center of the community. In addition to the $4.3 million needed for the new facility, the SPCA is also working to fund the annual operating budget which pays the electric bill, and ensures that every day animals in need will have a refuge and will never be turned away.

There are several ways to help:

- **Donate.** The SPCA and the animals of Wake County need your help. There are many ways to give to the building fund. Naming opportunities are available throughout the facility—from a kitten adoption kennel to the dog adoption wing. Call 919-772-2326 to name an area of the facility. Your contribution will be honored with your name displayed in that area of the shelter.

  Also available are inscribed bricks that will create the path to the shelter. You may consider inscribing the 4" x 8" bricks with the name of a loved one, a beloved pet, or even your company name. Call 919-772-2326 for an order form.

  A limited number of customized tiles are also available. These 6" x 6" tiles will be installed in the lobby of the new shelter. Choose from a handpainted cat or dog paw print with your pet's name or, for a slightly higher donation, choose a tile with a photograph of your pet printed right on it. Call 919-772-2326 for an order form.

- **Offer a donation of needed supplies.** The SPCA always has a 'wish list' of items.
- **Volunteer your time.**
- **Choose your next pet from the SPCA Adoption Center.** They have plenty of animals just waiting for homes like yours.
- **Participate.** Throughout the year, the SPCA of Wake County sponsors numerous fund raising events. The SPCA's 2nd Annual K9 3K Dog Walk, a fun dog walk plus dog activities and events, will be held May 12 at NC State University's Centennial Campus. The biggest annual fund raising event is the SPCA Fur Ball, a black-tie gala event held this year on Sunday, October 7 at the North Ridge Country Club in Raleigh.

Call 919-772-2326 for more information or visit the SPCA web site at www.spcawake.org.
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Welcome, Sweet Springtime

On sunny days or rainy, April is wonderful—lawns green up, streams run clearer and the heartbeat of life grows stronger. Small wonder people are bursting with vigor that translates into uplifting music, dance, art, theater and outdoor pleasures.

We were impressed by three top-quality dance concerts that soon will be whirling into the region. In Raleigh, Carolina Ballet will perform three exquisite ballets choreographed by Lynne Taylor-Corbett. One of these, Carmina Burana, is a world premiere. The prestigious dance troupe of Garth Fagan, renowned choreographer of the Broadway hit, The Lion King, will leap onto the stage at East Carolina University with an original, high-energy concert. And UNC-Chapel Hill will host the Moscow Festival Ballet performing the classic ballet blanc, Giselle.

Music to suit all tastes will echo through the concert halls in April. World-renowned pianist Murray Perahia will perform at the A. J. Fletcher Opera Theater in Raleigh’s BTI performing Arts Center. Popular singer Patti LuPone, who has had starring roles on Broadway and London stages, will present a concert called “Matters of the Heart” in Durham on the Broadway at Duke series. And if you like musicians who can climb Billboard’s chart, Matchbox 20 and their lead singer Rob Tomas are coming to the Entertainment and Sports Arena in Raleigh.

Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet, Ibsen’s A Doll’s House, Little Shop of Horrors and Annie are only some of the fine dramatic performances that are coming to the area’s stages in April. And the museums and galleries are painted with masterpieces by classic artists such as Stanton Macdonald-Wright and Pablo Picasso, as well as work by contemporary ones such as John and Carol Becker and Louis St. Lewis.

But have fun outdoors as well. You can watch the opening season of the Waves, a new baseball team in Wilmington; cheer for your favorite horse at two steeplechases; or get out the binoculars for International Migratory Bird Day at Blue Jay Point.

Potpourri is brimming with a variety of events, indoors and out, that will appeal to almost every interest. Check out the colorful Azalea Festival in Wilmington, Sky Rambles at the Morehead Planetarium, the 50th anniversary of the Elizabethan Gardens in Manteo, the Biennial Pilgrimage in Edenton. …Read on, my friends.

—Frances Smith, events editor

DANCING INTO SPRING

The Moscow Festival Ballet, directed by the Bolshoi Ballet’s legendary principal dancer Sergei Radchenkov, will come to Memorial Hall at UNC-Chapel Hill on April 18. Presented by the UNC-CH Carolina Union Performing Arts Series, the 50-member company will perform the full-length classical ballet blanc, Giselle. Call 919-962-1449.

The world premiere of choreographer Lynne Taylor-Corbett’s Carmina Burana will be presented by Carolina Ballet in Raleigh Memorial Auditorium on April 19, 20, 21 & 22. Accompanied by the North Carolina Symphony and singers from the Raleigh Oratorio Society Symphonic Choir, the spectacular show will feature the music of Carl Orff. Also on the program—and also choreographed by Lynne Taylor-Corbett—will be The

Gabor Kapin, Dameon Nagel and Attila Bongar of Carolina Ballet perform in Carmina Burana
Great Galloping Gottschalk, music by Louis Moreau Gottschalk, and Chiaroscurro, the Play of Light and Shadow, music by Francesco Geminiani.

Garth Fagan, who gained fame as the choreographer of the Broadway hit, The Lion King, and who is considered one of the greatest reformers of American dance, will bring his original and high-energy troupe to East Carolina University's Wright Auditorium on April 24. Recognized by a raft of honors and awards, Fagan will be presented as part of the S. Rudolph Alexander Performing Arts Series. Call 252-328-2788.

SHOWERS OF MUSIC

Andreas Haefliger, pianist, will present a concert in Kenan Auditorium at UNC-Wilmington on April 10. He has been widely acclaimed at concerts, recitals and orchestral performances all over Europe. Call 910-962-3500.

Matchbox 20 and their lead singer, Rob Tomas, will arrive at the Entertainment and Sports Arena in Raleigh on April 16. Coming off a Grammy-winning year for his duet with Santana, Rob and his bandmates are climbing the charts. Their newest single, "If You're Gone," is No. 8 on Billboard's Hot 100. They will bring with them the groups Everclear and Lifehouse. Popular teen idols Matchbox 20 will provide, at no charge, a Parents' Quiet Room at the arena where parents can relax while their children enjoy the concert. Call 919-861-2300.

Catch the beat of a Louisiana Dance Hall Band when Nathan and the Zydeco Cha Chas perform on April 17 in Page Auditorium on Duke University's West Campus, Durham. Nathan Williams and his back up, the Cha Chas, specialize in the native music of Southern Louisiana, known for its Creole and Cajun influences. The concert is a part of Duke's On Stage Performing Arts Series. Call 919-684-4444 or visit http://www.union.duke.edu/.

Award-winning singer-actress Patti LuPone will appear in Matters of the Heart, a concert on the Broadway at Duke Series, April 17. LuPone, who played the original title role in Evita on Broadway and starred in the original London productions of Les Miserables and Sunset Boulevard, will sing contemporary songs as well as classics. The venue will be Page Auditorium on Duke University's West Campus, Durham. Call 919-684-4444.

Tom Paxton, who became a voice of his generation by addressing issues such as injustice and inhumanity and celebrating the tender bonds of family, is considered to be one of the most talented and humorous folksingers to emerge during the last half of the 20th century. He will appear at the ArtsCenter in Carrboro on April 20. Call 919-929-2787.

Also at the ArtsCenter in Carrboro, double Grammy award nominee Nickel Creek will perform on April 21. Their self-titled Sugar Hill debut release is the biggest selling release in the label's history. Last October, the band was named IBMA Emerging Artist of the Year. This may be your last opportunity to see Nickel Creek in such an intimate venue. Check them out at the ArtsCenter. Call 919-929-2787.

Murray Perahia, recognized worldwide as a pianist of rare musical sensitivity, will perform in the new A.J. Fletcher Opera Theater at Raleigh's BTI Performing Arts Center on April 22. His program will feature Schubert's B-flat Sonata and works by Mozart and Chopin. Call 733-2750.

And if you like jazz piano, you won't want to miss a performance in Durham by world-famous actor and comedian Chevy Chase. Many people don't know that Chase's other love besides acting and comedy is playing jazz piano. He will present his first feature concert as a pianist in Duke's Page Auditorium on April 23. The Duke Jazz Ensemble will join Chase for the concert. Call 919-684-4444.

Meymandi Concert Hall in Raleigh's BTI Performing Arts Center will be jumpin' and jivin' on April 27 & 28 when Guest Conductor Jeff Tyzik closes out the North Carolina Symphony's Pops Series with the sounds of Big Band and Swing. Call 919-733-2750.

Spring is jazztime in the Triangle. The Lenny Marcus Trio's performance schedule is booked and will include performances at Raleigh's ArtsPlosure Jazz and Art Festival, May 19. Saturday afternoon the Trio will present a concert at Greenshields Pub in Raleigh's City Market, and that evening, also at Greenshields, they will hold their famous Jam Session—where jazz
Star-crossed lovers facing an uncertain future in Romeo & Juliet.

Star-crossed lovers can drop by to play and onlookers can stop in to listen. On the preceding evening, the Trio will perform at Sullivan's Steak House on Glenwood Ave. Prime mover for the Trio is drummer Peter Ingram, who in 1968 opened and ran the storied Raleigh jazz venue The Frog and Nightgown. Ingram also helped start ArtsPlosion 20 years ago. Other upcoming venues on the Trio's schedule include: Roanoke, Va., Montano's Restaurant, April 28 & May 26; and Winston-Salem, Downtown Jazz & Blues Festival, May 4. Call 919-660-2695. (Watch May Preview for more about ArtsPlosion.)

The intimate main stage of Thompson Theatre was transformed into a Shakespearean hamlet at the end of March, when N.C. State University Theatre opened the well-loved romantic tragedy Romeo and Juliet. The star-crossed lovers, played by Katie Flaherty and Brian Tavener, remind the audience of how fragile love and life can be. John C. McLwhee, director of University Theatre, will direct the large cast in the complicated staging of the tragic drama. The best news is that there are four performances left—April 4-7. Call 919-515-1100 or visit www.ncsu.edu/arts.

One of modern realism's most powerful and original works, Henrik Ibsen's A Doll's House, will come alive on the stage of McGinnis Theatre at ECU in Greenville, April 5-10. The main character is Nora, who, chafing against the strictures of a male-dominated world, is awakened to her own identity and self-worth. The play is presented by the East Carolina Playhouse. Call 252-328-6829.

OdysseyStage will present A.R. Gurney's Last Life at the ArtsCenter in Carrboro, April 20-21 & 27-28. The story is about two divorcées who have known each other in youth. They meet at a party and are faced with a second chance at lost love. Call 919-929-2787.

Raleigh Little Theatre will produce Little Shop of Horrors in the Rose Garden Amphitheatre June 8-17; Auditions are April 9 & 10. If you'd like to tryout the auditions will be held on RLT's Main Stage. The "physical" Audrey II is portrayed by a series of puppets that grow progressively larger. Performers who are interested in operating the puppets should apply to director Haskell Fitz-Simons. Call 919-821-4579. (Watch for more about the production in the June issue of MetroPreview.)

PAINTING APRIL BEAUTIFUL

Is synchromism a new word for you? Are you familiar with the artist Stanton Macdonald-Wright? You'll never forget either when you see the N.C. Museum of Art's stunningly colorful exhibition, Color, Myth and Music: Stanton Macdonald-Wright and Synchromism, on view now until July 1. A bold, original and deeply passionate artist, Macdonald-Wright saw relationships between the musical scale and the color spectrum, a premise he interpreted in his abstract art. UNC-TV has produced a 30-minute documentary video on the museum exhibition and the career of Macdonald-Wright to air April 4 & April 25 with additional showings in May. The N.C. Museum of Art is located on Blue Ridge Road in Raleigh. Call 919-839-6262.

Works of art completed during the third annual Bald Head Island "No Boundaries" Art Colony will be on exhibit at the Visual Art Exchange in Raleigh now—April 28. Fifteen international artists and 17 American artists attended the colony, producing some 150 paintings and mixed media works that were inspired by their stay on the secluded island. Some of these will be on view at the VAE exhibition. A reception will be hosted at the gallery on April 6. The exhibition and reception are free and open to the public. Visual Art Exchange is located on Blue Ridge Road in Raleigh. Call 919-966-5736.


Star-crossed lovers facing an uncertain future in Romeo & Juliet.
Broadway comes to Raleigh
From the creator of the hit musical Swing!

Carolina Ballet
Robert Weiss, Artistic Director
presents

Carmina Burana

April 19-21, 2001 at 8pm
April 21 & 22, 2001 at 3pm

Raleigh Memorial Auditorium
with The North Carolina Symphony
and 150 singers from the Raleigh Oratorio Society

Music by Carl Orff,
Louis Moreau Gottschalk,
& Francesco Geminiani after Arcangelo Corelli
Choreography by Lynne Taylor-Corbett

Tony nominee and Broadway sensation
Lynne Taylor-Corbett ignites the stage with
her vision of Wall Street and the power of
seduction. Also on the program are
Great Galloping Gottschalk and Chiaroscuro.

ticketmaster 834-4000
BalletLine 303-6303
Group Sales 469-8823

located at 325 Blake St. in Raleigh. Call 919-828-7834.

Noted Edenton artists, John and Carol Becker, will be honored at a reception featuring their work at the Chowan Arts Council. April 6 in the CAC Gallery, 200 East Church Street in Edenton. Call 252-482-8005.

The Farmville Community Arts Council will host An Artistic Discovery, the 20th Annual Congressional Art Competition, on April 16-30 at the Farmville Community Arts Center. All entries (high school students only) must be submitted to Congressman Walter B. Jones' Greenville District office by April 1. A reception will be held at the Center on April 20. Call 252-753-3832.

Gallery C of Raleigh will present a stunning exhibition, Clear Visions, by Chapel Hill Artist Louis St. Lewis, May 4–June 6. Fresh from recent success at both the San Francisco and Toronto International Art Expos, St. Lewis will bring to Gallery C a glittering display of large-scale see-through paintings imbedded with rhinestones, 18th-century text and found objects. The exhibition will also include self-portraits that the artist has been taking daily. Look for more on this artist in Metro’s May arts issue. Gallery C is located at 3532 Wade Ave. Call 919-828-3165.

OUTDOOR SHENANIGANS

Fans will be galloping to the Sandhills on April 7 for the 50th running of the Stoneybrook Steeplechase at the new Five Points Horse Park 12 miles from Southern Pines at Montrose. Ready to jump and prance on a state-of-the-art 7/8 of a mile turf track, the thoroughbred horses, mostly former flat racers, compete at 32 steeplechase stops. It’s a social occasion as well as a race, with a children’s area, equestrian exhibitions, shopping at vendor tents, tailgate contests, hat contests, a party on Thursday night and a gala on Friday night before the race. Stoneybrook returns this year after a five-year hiatus from the racing scene. Call 888-615-4520 or email: stoneybrook@pinehurst.net.

The Big Dawg Productions Golf Tournament will tee off at the Cape Fear Golf and Racquet Club on April 8. The entry fee will cover 18 holes of golf, cart fees, lunch and prizes. Proceeds will go to help fund the educational outreach program and another season of theatre. Call 910-799-9321.

The Wilmington Waves Baseball Team is making a splash as the newest member of the South Atlantic League and a Class A affiliate of the Los Angeles Dodgers. Play Ball North Carolina, the ownership group headed by Sims Hinds of Raleigh, selected Wilmington as the home of the new franchise. UNC-Wilmington will be the team’s headquarters during the inaugural 2001 season. The first home game at Brooks Field, UNC-W, is scheduled for April 11 & 12 (opening night, 11th) against Capital City. In other April home games, the Waves will play against Savannah on April 18-20 (Double Header, 19th) and Augusta, April 21-24. Call 910-794-4614 or visit www.wilmingtonwaves.com.

Elizabeth City & Pasquotank County will hold their 8th annual Tar Wheel Century bike race through the picturesque coastal countryside on April 28. Call 252-330-1559.

The Crystal Coast Bike Tour will start at Oceanana Resort Motel on Atlantic Beach and travel varied routes along the island and mainland on April 27 & 28. Rest stops will be hosted by the Morehead City Jaycees. The event benefits the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Call 800-682-6858.

Blue Jay Point County Park on Pleasant Union Church Road near Raleigh will hold its annual Songbird Celebration in conjunction with International Migratory Bird Day, April 28. The all-day festival will feature crafts, Bird walks, Workshops, food and music—all focusing on bird conservation. Call 919-870-4330.

If you love the steeplechase, there’s another fine race in the area. Come over to Clayton on May 5 for the running of the Ninth Annual Brookhill Steeplechase, sponsored by the Raleigh Jaycees. In addition to the races, where purses for the winners range to $40,000, there will be traditional hat and tailgate contests with prizes for spectators. Proceeds from the event will help fund many of the 120 projects run by the Raleigh Jaycees each year, including Goodfellows, numerous child literacy and mentorship programs and the Jaycees Burn Center. Early arrival will help you avoid parking.
"Come on down! We'll show you around," says a winsome river otter at the N.C. Aquarium on Roanoke Island. For tickets, railroad or tent information, call 919-838-1492 or info@brookhillsteeplechase.com.

The Waters of the Outer Banks is the theme for the North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island in Manteo. In this rich cache of sea exhibits and lore, you can explore environments where sea turtles swim, fishes school and sharks patrol a sunken civil war shipwreck replica, the USS Monitor. In an open-air wetland, you can see river otters play, alligators bask and snapping turtles snap. Located at 374 Airport Road on the north end of Roanoke Island, the Aquarium is open daily. Call 252-473-3494. The other two North Carolina Aquariums are located at Pine Knoll Shores on Atlantic Beach (252-247-4003) and at Fort Fisher on Kure Beach (910-458-8257).

POTPOURRI FOR SPRING

Haywood Hall, one of the most important historic homes in Raleigh, is now open for regular tours every Thursday, now through December. Designed for gracious entertaining, it was a favored location for many early Raleigh social and political gatherings and is available today for special events. Haywood Hall was built in 1799 by John Haywood and his wife Eliza. While serving 40 years as North Carolina's first elected treasurer, Haywood was also Raleigh's first mayor, a founder of historic Christ Church and an original trustee of the University of North Carolina. For more information or to plan a special event, call 919-832-8357.

Sky Rambles, Morehead Planetarium's most popular live program for all ages, is showing on Fridays in the Star Theater now through June 8. A Planetarium staff member will guide you through the current night sky, helping you discover visible constellations, identify planets and learn about sky events coming soon. Small children will enjoy the Saturday morning presentation, Winnie the Pooh and the Golden Rocket, also showing through June 8. Pooh Bear and his friends try to build a rocket in hopes of traveling to Mars. Morehead Planetarium is located on the UNC-Chapel Hill campus. Call 919-549-6863.

Celebrating 100 Years of Women at N.C. State University, a special exhibition featuring historic correspondence, publications, photographs and memorabilia relating to women students and faculty, commemorates the 100th anniversary of the University of North Carolina.

GALA CONCERT

Saturday, March 10, 2001 - 7:30 PM at Meymandi Concert Hall - OCN Gala Concert followed by Black-Tie Dinner
Honorable Betty McCain, Master of Ceremonies; Internationally Renowned Stars: Jennifer Larmore, John Fowler & Maureen O'Flynn; Capital Area Chorale and Members of the N.C. Symphony

BIZET'S SIZZLING CLASSIC,

CARMEN

Featuring
Victoria Livengood
and John Fowler

The Passion...
The Voice...
The Opera!!

RALEIGH MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM
Wednesday, May 30 at 7:30 PM & Friday, June 1 at 8 PM
Sunday, June 3, 2001 at 2 PM

For ticket information contact the Opera Ticketline at 919/859-6180 or TicketMaster at 919/834-1000

STAR BIRD

Henry Mollicone's
an opera for children and their families!
A.J. FLETCHER OPERA HOUSE IN RALEIGH
Saturday, March 31 at 11 AM & 1 PM
Sunday, April 1, 2001 at 2 PM

The OPERA COMPANY OF NORTH CAROLINA

2001 Season of Passion, Wonder and Imagination!

Fresh ... Dynamic ... World-Class
A few of N.C. State's outstanding alumnae featured at a special exhibition, "Celebrating 100 Years of Women at N.C. State University," now through June 2.

of the enrollment of the first female student at N.C. State. Sponsored by the NCSU Libraries, the exhibit will run now through June 2 in the D.H. Hill Library, located on the Brickyard at N.C. State in Raleigh. Call 919-515-2273.

A new exhibit now open at the N.C. Museum of History in Raleigh celebrates the 1999 Special Olympics World Summer Games. The exhibit, called Its All About Attitude, recounts the occasion with photographs, information panels and mementos. Since the first International Special Olympics Games took place in 1968, the Games have grown into one of the largest multi-sport competitions in the world. The 1999 World Games was an unforgettable experience for the athletes and fans. The Museum exhibition will remain open until June 10. Call 919-715-0200.

Last month we announced the 54th Annual Azalea Festival in Wilmington, April 4–8, and spotlighted the grand parade and the Cape Fear Garden Club's Annual Garden Tour. Here are other events planned in association with the famous festival: legendary crooner Tony Bennett in concert, Trask Coliseum, April 5; Festival Antique Extravaganza, antique dealers throughout Wilmington, April 5–7; Clyde Beatty-Cole Brothers Circus, Fairgrounds, April 5–8; Festival Coronation Pageant (this year's queen Azalea is Nikki DeLoach, a southerner who is the lead singer for the all-girl vocal group, Innosense), Riverfront Park, April 5; Festival Horse Show, Hugh MacRae Park, April 6–8; Juried Spring Art Show & Sale, St. Thomas Preservation Hall, April 6–8; and Festival Home Tour, sponsored by Historic Wilmington Foundation, April 7, 8. Call 910-794-4650.

During springtime, touring becomes a favorite pleasure throughout the region. And it's time for the 52nd Annual Home & Garden Tour in the Sandhills of North Carolina. The Southern Pines Garden Club will sponsor the tour on April 11. Call 910-692-3965 or visit www.sandhills.org/events/tour2001.

It's almost Easter and if you look down the streets of Wilmington April 13-15, you'll see the Easter "Bunny" Drawn Carriage Tour venturing through the historic downtown district. The giant "bunny" will make rabbit runs throughout each day until 10 p.m. Call 910-251-8889.

In the Albemarle area, Edenton will hold its Biennial Pilgrimage, on April 20 & 21, hosted by the Edenton Women's Club. On tour will be 13 private homes and several churches and public buildings. Three historic museum homes will be open: Cupola House, Barker House and Iredell House. Special events will include fish dinners, a pig pickin', arts festival, organ concert, and Soup & a Bowl at the Chowan Arts Council, featuring homemade soup and souvenir.
pottery bowls. Proceeds will benefit historic preservation. Call 800-775-0111.

The Founding and Future: A Day of Garden Celebration will be the theme for the 50th Anniversary of the Elizabethan Gardens in Manteo, April 21 & 22. The full program on the 21st will be free, including garden tours all day; a lecture by Todd Lasseigne, "A Grand Tour of English Gardens;" a theatrical performance, Elizabeth R., starring Barbara Hird; and a talk by Dr. Elliot Engel, "Our Slippery Mother Tongue." Madrigal singers and music will be interspersed throughout the day. Reservations and a $60 donation are required for the dinner on Saturday evening. Reservations are also needed for the Sunday brunch and the tribute to people who started the Elizabethan gardens. Call 252-473-3761.

The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation is holding a gala, Dinner with Master Chefs, on April 22 at the Carolina Club in Chapel Hill. Nine of the top chefs of the Triangle will converge there to serve their culinary specialties to guests who come in support of finding a cure for cystic fibrosis, a genetic disease affecting both the lungs and the digestive system. The extravaganza will highlight acclaimed chefs from such restaurants as The Capital City Club, The Cardinal Club, Elaine's in Chapel Hill, Treyburn Country Club and others. Chef Coordinator Walter Royal (Executive Chef of the Angus Barn) will help each chef showcase special talents and styles for different courses throughout the evening. Other features of the gala will include both silent and live auctions, a guest speaker and the musical styles of Lola Lewis & David Jarman. Call 800-822-9941.

Remember haiku? If you’ve always liked those three-line, unrhymed Japanese verses, maybe you’d like to know about the North Carolina Haiku Society and attend their Haiku Holiday on April 28 at Bolin Brook Farm near Chapel Hill. Activities will include a “haiku walk,” where people take a walk in the natural world, write haiku about what they see and discuss their poetry afterward. Call 919-929-4884 or visit the Haiku Society web site: http://nc-haiku.org.

The second annual Fearrington Spring Garden Art Show will display local artwork throughout the Fearrington Gardens at Fearrington Village in Chatham County, April 28 through May 27. Stone sculptures by Jimmie Haynes, metal work by Gretchen Lothrop, and woodcarvings by Zen Palkoski are among the artists’ work to be included. On April 29 the Fearrington garden staff will host a tour. Gardeners will speak about the gardens they tend and will be available to answer questions. Pre-registration is required.

Call 919-542-1239 or visit http://www.fearrington.com/calendar/calendar.html.

The 2001 Annual Meeting of the Garden Club of North Carolina will be held April 29–May 1 at the Sheraton Capital Center, 421 Salisbury Street in Raleigh. Keynote speakers will be Bryce...
AUTHOR SIGHTINGS

Here are the leading literary events across the region for April. For more information or a complete schedule of events, call the bookstore or college directly.

RALEIGH
Barnes and Noble, 919-782-0030: Hester Baer, translator of Nanda Herbermann’s The Blessed Abyss, April 12; Allen de Hart, Hiking North Carolina’s Mountains-To-Sea Trail, April 17; Stacy Torian, Soul Speak, April 22; Cindy Winter-Hartley, contributor to Heartwarmers of Love, April 28.

Quail Ridge Books, 919-828-1588: Betty Adcock, Intervale: New and Selected Poems, April 7; Darryl Wimberley, A Tinker’s Dream, April 12; Patrick Bizzaro, Fear of the Coming Drought, and Keith Flynn, The Lost Sea, April 14; Wallace Kaufman, Coming Out of the Woods, April 18, Kathleen Carroll, In Sunlight, In a Beautiful Garden, April 19; Tim Junkin, Good Counsel, April 20; Readings by contributors to Earth and Soul: An Anthology of North Carolina Poetry, April 22; Tom Earnhardt, Boats for Fisherman, April 25; Jan Karon, A Common Life, April 26 (location to be announced); Kathleen Norris, The Virgin of Bennington, April 29.

CARY
Barnes and Noble, 919-467-3866: Tim Muth, Mountain Biking North Carolina, April 10; Mike Marsh, Inshore Angler: Coastal Carolina’s Small Boat Fishing Guide, April 17; staff of John F. Blair, Publisher, Travel North Carolina, April 26.

DURHAM

The Regulator Bookshop, 919-286-2700: Michael Steinberg, The End of Tobacco Road, April 4; Elizabeth Cox, Bargains in the Real World, April 6; Haven Kimmel, A Girl Named Zippy, April 9; Mark Wincgardener, Crooked River Burning, April 10; Peggy Payne, Sister India, April 12; Ariel Dorfman, The Nanny and the Iceberg, April 17; Dave Eggers, A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius, April 18; Adam Gopnick, Paris to the Moon, April 19; Kathleen Cambor, In Sunlight, In a Beautiful Garden, April 26; Kathleen Norris, The Virgin of Bennington, April 30.

PITTSBORO
McIntyre’s Fine Books, 919-542-3030: Elizabeth Cox, Bargains in the Real World, April 14; Noah Adams, Far Appalachia: Following the River North, April 21; Jan Karon, A Common Life, April 25; Frances Fyfield, Staring at the Light, April 28.

WILMINGTON
Barnes and Noble, 910-395-4825: Lee Bell, Under Oath: Memories of an Honest Politician, Bob Evans, Secrets of Beau Rivage, Andy Koppel, Wilmington Now and Then, and Mike Marsh, Inshore Angler, April 21; open mic poetry: winners of children’s April poetry contest, April 23.

Bristol Books, 910-256-4779: Peggy Payne, Sister India, April 21; publication party for Atlantis, the UNC-Wilmington student literary journal, April 26.

READINGS AT UNIVERSITIES AND OTHER VENUES

N.C. State University, Raleigh. North Carolina Writers Series, 919-515-2861: Daniel Wallace, Ray in Reverse, April 10, Thompson Theatre; Spring Dinner with Tony Earley, Jim the Boy, April 27, McKimmon Center.


Lone, undergraduate coordinator at NCSU [Monday luncheon] and Cecelia Grimes, author and incoming president of the Siler City Garden Club [Tuesday luncheon]. Call 919-834-9900.

Poet and novelist Allan Gurganus will be this year’s honoree on April 30 when Chowan College in Murfreesboro presents its annual Mary Frances Hobson Prize for Distinguished Achievement in Arts and Letters. After private events, the day will be open to the public for a book signing followed by dinner and the presentation of the award. A free lecture by Gurganus will conclude the day’s activities. Preceding the event, on April 2, 9, 16, and 23, Sarah Davis, director of the Chowan College Writing Lab, will hold a course on Gurganus’ writings. The course will include a showing of the mini-series based on Gurganus’ first novel, Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All. Call 252-398-4330.

Durham Mayor Nick Tennyson and Grammy nominee, Nnenna Freelon will host the Historic Preservation Society of Durham’s fifth annual Historic Durham Home Tour on May 5. This year’s tour will focus on residences in downtown Durham’s city center. Sponsored by Blue Devil Ventures and The Liggett Group, the tour will spotlight new and creative residential spaces above historic retail/commercial structures on Main and Parrish Streets, along with the newest apartments in West Village—former Liggett & Myers tobacco warehouses. Tickets go on sale April 1. Call 919-682-3036 or visit www.preservationdurham.org.
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Meadowmont
THE TRIANGLE’S NEW-OLD NEIGHBORHOOD

It is a sunny early spring day and the trees along Highway 54 near Chapel Hill are beginning to take on the softening contours and subdued colors of new growth. Mid-day commuters pause at the signal light at the entrance to the new community of Meadowmont. Suddenly an exuberant motorist stretches his head out an open window and exclaims, “The meadow is back!”

The meadow in question, a long-time Chapel Hill landmark once known generically as the DuBose farm for the family that owned the property, is indeed back. Newly terraced and enhanced with a meandering pond, the gently rising meadow that was once home to a rough horse barn and grazing animals, is again gracing the town’s east entrance. After less than 18 months of construction, much of the infrastructure needed to support Meadowmont, the Triangle’s most ambitious mixed-use community, is in place. New water and sewer lines, underground electric lines and hightech fiber optic cables, even a pedestrian tunnel that provides access to the William and Ida Friday Continuing Education Center, are carefully planted with native varieties of trees and shrubs. Low curving stone walls, a familiar landscape feature throughout the UNC-Chapel Hill campus and the town’s older neighborhoods, flank the entrance to Chapel Hill’s latest and most comprehensive sustainable community.

Master developer Roger Perry of East West Partners, a 30-year veteran of residential development across North Carolina, is pleased to be in the forefront of a new kind of residential and commercial community. “We can’t continue to develop the way we were doing it,” says Perry, whose efforts to gain the necessary approvals and permitting for Meadowmont took nine years and innumerable public hearings, community forums, and work sessions with planners and the Town Council. Despite the lengthy and costly delays, Perry is upbeat about his commitment to what is known as the new urbanism, a return to traditional ways of combining work places, residential areas and recreational spaces within walking distance of commercial, retail and institutional uses. “We have to move away from segregated zoning,” says Perry. “It places the things we need too far away from us and creates problems that we solve by paving over more and more countryside instead of concentrating development where city services and transportation systems already exist.”

A long-time member of the Urban Land Institute, a professional organization for planners and developers, Perry is an advocate of many of the neo-traditional concepts espoused by world-famous planners and designers Andre Duany and Elizabeth Plater-Zybeck. He got the opportunity to create his version of a new community when the DuBose family approached him in 1994 to develop 435 acres of their country estate. “The heart of the estate is Meadowmont, the splendid Georgian Revival residence built in 1933 for David St. Pierre and Laura Valinda Hill DuBose,” says Perry. “Both the home and its classic English garden are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. We took the name for the development from the name of the house.”

Deeded by the family to the University in 1988, Meadowmont and a 28-acre setting remained Mr. DuBose, Sr.’s home until his death in 1994 at age 96. At that time, the University and the Kenan-Flagler Business School, assisted by a Kenan Foundation grant, undertook a $15 million program that included a restoration of the house and construction of new buildings. The house has been adapted as the dining and social center for the conference complex named for former business school dean Paul J. Rizzo. “We were enthusiastic about working with the land in part because of its connection to the Conference Center,” says Perry. “The Center hosts 10,000 guests a year. All those folks will enjoy walking down to the Village Center for fine dining, personal services and just to hang out when they want a change of scene.”

Though Perry had the template for the Village Center in mind, he turned to his friend and associate Raleigh developer Smedes York of York Properties for its execution. York is the son of J. W. (“Willie”) York, who developed Cameron Village, the first shopping center in the Southeast. He remodeled the venerable retail center in 1990, turning it into a town center to make it more attractive and pedestrian friendly. “We took out a large parking deck and returned parking to the streets, landscaped extensively, and made a virtue out of losing the
large major department stores by encouraging specialty shops, restaurants, service businesses and office space in their place,” says York. “When Roger Perry interviewed us to do the Town Center for Meadowmont, we were ready.”

York partnered with Craig Davis, another Raleigh commercial developer, and the two placed the design of the Center in the hands of Jeff Davis, then a principal in the Raleigh architectural firm of Cline-Davis. Davis, now of JDavis Architects, is architect of record for the Center. “We loved Roger’s idea of having residential and office on the upper floors over retail establishments,” says York, who anticipates that residential will be added to Cameron Village in the future. “Davis’ condominium designs are especially appealing. They incorporate high ceilings, hardwood floors, fireplaces, porches or balconies, and covered parking and elevator access to all levels of the homes.”

Davis, whose credits in residential design include working with developer Roland Gammon to adapt the old Raleigh Cotton Mill to upscale condominiums, designed free-standing condominiums which Gammon will build adjacent to the Village Center. Davis also donated his time to the Orange County Housing Development Corporation, builders of an affordable housing component which will neighbor Meadowmont, to ensure that all of the housing elements are compatible in scale, materials and design.

Meadowmont’s Village Center, a 20-acre parcel at the edge of the community within easy access of the 258 Apartments at Meadowmont, bus transportation and Highway 54, will include 102,400 square feet of Class A office space and 125,000 square feet of retail space and high-end residential condominiums. The main shopping street is really a boulevard, with a wide landscaped median and angled parking facing both the park and the shops. Other extensively landscaped parking areas are located on the periphery of the Village Center. Tower-like buildings with bracketed eaves beneath the rooflines, reminiscent of railway stations in small Southern towns, grace a main street where sidewalk dining and lounging on benches will be encouraged. A central fountain at the intersection of four shopping streets forms a visual terminus for the main boulevard and adds a European air to the emerging buildings.

Davis notes that the challenge posed by the Village Center was to make it appear as a town center that had evolved over time, not a Disneyesque pastiche of Main Street. “Settle Dockery, who heads up York Ventures, a division of York Properties, went to the State Division of Archives and History and collected archival photographs of older downtowns for us to follow,” says Davis. “It
really helped us define the relationship of the buildings. Each of our storefronts is different and the signage is suited to the individual storefront.

York sees the Village Center developing in a logical sequence. "First, we looked for our anchor," says York. "We have a big grocery store coming in. Then we identified our restaurants. We've already attracted three of the five restaurants slated for the Center, including the Carolina Café, a popular Raleigh restaurant. Without good restaurants it would be harder to attract the specialty retail we want." York envisions about 40 shops and businesses in the Village Center, including a major spa, which has already leased space, and is working to encourage variety and quality in the Center's tenants.

Just as the design for the Village Center harkens back to Chapel Hill's pedestrian-friendly, tree-canopied Franklin Street, so the design of the residential component of Meadowmont incorporates designs and guidelines drawn from architectural styles found in Chapel Hill's historic neighborhoods. Jim Wiley, project manager for Meadowmont, remembers driving through Raleigh's Hayes Barton neighborhood and wanting to create new neighborhoods with the same charm and graciousness. "The architecture and the siting of the homes are key to Meadowmont's success," says Wiley, who joined Roger Perry and the Meadowmont project in 1997.

Wiley credits architect Michael Hubbard of Small Kane Architects in Raleigh with the design details and architectural styles that will make Meadowmont a reflection of the old neighborhoods he loves. Hubbard, who once worked in Chapel Hill, did an intensive study of Chapel Hill architecture, photographing selected homes in the old neighborhoods and analyzing their settings. The result is the Architectural Design Guidelines & Architectural Review Committee Procedures which guide Meadowmont home owners in sensitive issues such as site design and landscaping, driveways, walkways and fences, as well as in selecting architectural features like exterior materials and colors, rooflines, porches, decks and terraces. "In the Cottage Homes section of our residential area, homeowners will have a choice of about seven house designs, with variations, based on the Colonial Revival, Craftsman, Greek Revival and Neo-Classical styles popular in the older neighborhoods," says Wiley. "In other parts of the community, owners building custom homes will choose their..."
own house styles, observing the
design guidelines. That will
give Meadowmont a harmo­
nious look throughout.”

Of special interest to devel­
oper Roger Perry is the residen­
tial neighborhood known as
Summit Park, where Perry and
wife Linda will build their
home. The Row House area is
reflective of the urban row
houses of Washington’s George­
town and Boston’s Beacon Hill.
“When I worked on the Bran­
dermill Community near Rich­
mond, Virginia,” says Perry, “we
lived in the historic Fan
District. I loved the tall, close to
the street, three-level homes
there and asked Jeff Davis to
design our row houses with
those same features.” Davis
 teamed with John Felton of
Cline-Davis to develop Summit
Park, which he considers the
centerpiece of the residential
development. “Roger Perry
knew exactly what he wanted,”
says Davis. “He beat on John
and me until we got it right.”

Of paramount importance
to Meadowmont is the organ­
izing theme of landscape
throughout the 435-acre site.
Following traditional methods
of connecting places by inter­
esting curvilinear paths, the
individual elements of Mead­
owmont are all within walking
distance of one another. The
community will eventually
include a retirement center (The
Cedars of Chapel Hill Retire­
ment Community), a UNC
Wellness Center, a swim club,
a public school, a recreation
field and a woodland park.
There is also a large easement
dedicated to a future Transit
Corridor where the Triangle
Transit Authority hopes to
locate some form of mass tran­
sit, possibly light rail. All these
elements relate by intercon­
ected walking trails, and each
residential neighborhood has its
own park. Perry is proud that
one-third of the land in
Meadowmont is dedicated to
conservation and public use.
“We have 26 acres of preserved
meadows, a 70-acre Town Park,
and a 22-acre school site,” says
Perry. “That comes to about 130
acres of recreational, public and
open space for the community
to enjoy.”

Scott Murray, Meadow­
mont’s in-house land planner,
worked with Brad Davis of
Land Design in Charlotte and
landscape architect Linda Harris
of Jerry Turner and Associates of
Raleigh to implement a devel­
opment plan sensitive to the
site’s Critical Water Quality de­
signation which protects Little
Creek, the stream that flows
through the property. Murray
also prepared a landscaping list
of native and drought-tolerant
plants to help residents avoid
the need for irrigation systems
and excessive watering.

As he watches the heavy
equipment move about the rap­
idly emerging Village Center
and walks through the first of
the Cottage Homes to come
out of the ground, developer
Roger Perry is grateful that he
had the opportunity to create
Meadowmont. “A lot of people
liked it once they understood
it,” says Perry. “I think Chapel
Hill is the perfect place to build
a Meadowmont, a community
that will be home to 1300 resi­
dents with diverse incomes and
specific housing needs. It’s
going to be a fabulous place to
live and work.”
you never drew inside the lines.
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A group of builders and concrete contractors in Raleigh may have a rock-solid solution for building hurricane-proof homes.

Concrete.

Secure Building Group LLC recently completed its first two concrete town homes in Raleigh. On the outside, they look like a typical home. On the inside, too.

But the walls and ceiling are concrete four inches thick and strengthened with steel bars. According to the company, the walls and ceiling are like pill-boxes, standing strong in face of flood. "They should not be structurally damaged unless they are in the main flow of a strong current," Rufty said. "These homes will not rot. The minimal amount of interior walls that are made of wood and covered with Sheetrock will incur similar problems to standard wood frame construction," he added but noted further, "There is not any interior insulation to be destroyed."

Concrete homes also could qualify as "green," or environmentally friendly, since they require less maintenance, fewer trees and increase energy efficiency. Exterior walls also are lined with two inches of insulated foam.

According to Rufty, the Advanced Energy Corporation reviewed the structures and said less energy will be required for two reasons: Air doesn’t infiltrate through the walls and the density of the concrete maintains heat or coolness.

These aren’t prefab homes, either. Concrete is poured in place and strengthened with steel bars. They cost a bit more than standard homes, too, from 3 percent to 8 percent higher.

If you want to see the first town home, it’s located at 1109 Wake Forest Road in Raleigh. Cost is $189,900. The group plans to build on the coast in the future.

Showing promise

NextAudio, AccessDTV

The free-fall of the Nasdaq and the many dot com failures are not sufficient reasons to say the high-tech sector is dead. Many companies still show promise. Here are two of them:

AccessDTV of Raleigh hopes to capitalize on high-definition television by using its spectrum for high-speed data transmission. Imagine watching TV programs when you want, plus augmenting those programs with additional Internet features, and doing this all on your desktop PC. Check out www.accessDTV.com.

NextAudio of Durham, meanwhile, is bringing music to web sites. And it’s licensed, so there are no Napster problems. NextAudio features a service called “My Radio” which allows Web users to tune in their personal preferences. For details, visit www.myradio.com.
anonymous donor who kicked in $25 million. Four buildings are to be constructed for genomics research, and 40 new faculty positions will be created. A center for special genetic protein research will be named in honor of the late Dr. Michael Hooker, who was UNC chancellor from 1995 to 1999.

Biotech consortium
UNIVERSITIES, CORPORATIONS SIGN ON
The UNC initiative followed closely on the heels of the decision to form a genomic and bioinformatics consortium late this year. Heading up the effort is Dr. Ken Tindall, senior vice president for science and business development at the North Carolina Biotechnology Center. Among the biggest supporters are Senate President Marc Basnight, D-Dare, Gov. Mike Easley, former Gov. Jim Hunt and Dr. Charles Hammer, president and CEO of the state's biotech center.

A purpose of the consortium is to coordinate the tremendous amount of research taking place in the state in the areas of genomics (study of structure, function and interaction of genes in a cell), proteomics (study of proteins in a cell) and bioinformatics (storage, retrieval and assessment of data from various studies).

The consortium includes industry partners BIOGEN, Cogent Neuroscience, Glaxo SmithKline, iBiomatics, SAS Institute, Paradigm Genetics, IBM, Xanthon and Aventis CropScience. The state's major universities and the community college system are involved in the project.

Surviving dot com meltdown
"BEST PRACTICES" INCLUDE BETTER SERVICE
Best Practices LLC of Chapel Hill has some advice for executives trying to escape the dot com business massacre. Based on analysis of the methods put in place by some of the world's top companies, Best Practices cites four areas of emphasis:

“Service—Leading companies use the Internet to cement relationships with customers through personalization, real-time service and additional value-added options.

“Sales—Techniques for utilizing the Internet as an integrated sales channel and a tool to enhance sales organization productivity.

“Marketing—Solutions for mass customization of marketing messages through customer micro-segmentation.

“Strategy—Methods for structuring e-business initiatives to maximize return on investment and attain corporate goals.”

The company's report can be found at www.best-in-class.com

Bird in the hand
FBI AGENT REPORTEDLY USED PALM PILOT
Robert Hanssen may not be the poster child the hand-held computer company Palm is looking for, but he is bringing the company some publicity.

London's electronic Telegraph reports that Hanssen, who was arrested recently and charged with spying, "may be the first spy suspect to use a Palm Pilot electronic organizer to betray secrets. The FBI claimed that he used flash memory cards, computer diskettes, a Palm Pilot, and computer encryption techniques to plan meetings and pass 6000 pages of classified documents..." The newspaper also said Hanssen was lobbying his benefactors for an upgrade to Palm VII so he could transmit data wirelessly.

Destiny's children
WILMINGTON FIRMS REAP TOP HONORS
Accu-Form Polymers of Warsaw, with revenues of $5 million in sales in 2000, is Business North Carolina's "Small Business of the Year." Pat Renfro is president and founder of the company, which builds plastic moldings and products such as kayaks. The 38-year-old grew up the son of a tobacco farmer in eastern Wake County, attended N.C. State, and founded Accu-Form in 1990. The company, with 43 employees, started with just one—Renfro. As an entrepreneur who had helped start another company before Accu-Form and sold out for a loss, Renfro told Business North Carolina he learned a major lesson about business: "Control your own destiny. You do that, you can be successful. And I learned."

Pharmaceutical Product Development, a contract-research organization firm in Wilmington, is Business North Carolina's runner-up high-tech firm for 2000. PPD was second behind microchip leader RF Micro of Greensboro. Another Wilmington firm, aaiPharma Inc., a biotech and drug research firm, also made the magazine's top high-tech company list. Eighteen of the 30 companies cited were from the Triangle area, including Quintiles (fourth), BTI (fifth) and SpectraSite (seventh).

Honors for NCSU
TWO PROFESSORS Elected TO ACADEMY
Dr. Robert Davis and Dr. Thom Hodgson of N.C. State recently were elected to the National Academy of Engineering, one of the top honors in their field. State now has 10 academy members on its faculty.

Davis, a world leader in semiconductor materials research, is Kobe Steel Ltd. Distinguished University Professor of Materials Science and Engineering and has been at NCSU since 1972. Hodgson is a specialist in the advancement of industrial, manufacturing and operational systems. He is James T. Ryan Professor of Industrial Engineering and director of NCSU's Integrated Manufacturing Systems Engineering Institute.
Great black hope
THE CONTRARIAN SPIRIT OF AMERICA'S "ELDERADO"

If you love America but doubt American conventional wisdoms, you should discover Larry Elder. He loves America—and he destroys conventional wisdoms. On his talk radio show in Los Angeles and in written commentaries, he respects no sacred cows, including mainstream-media agendas. Taken by his written commentaries, I have been tempted to fly to Los Angeles to hear his talk radio show live, joining his other listeners known as "Elderados." Sparing me the airfare for the time being, he wrote Ten Things You Can't Say in America.

Larry Elder is a self-described "fiscal conservative" and "social liberal," but is known to others as a firebrand libertarian. He finds that our government is too big and spends too much of our money controlling our lives. It has destroyed incentives for many working people while it created a class of dependent citizens who otherwise could become productive and contributing members of our society. To counter those ills, he earlier proposed "Ten Steps To Fix America," basically a libertarian agenda. He acknowledges that we need not agree completely with his agenda. But he asks that we agree that a good government is a small one and that the most important function of government is to protect its citizens. Simply comparing the tax rates and the crime rates shows government failure, and he wants Americans to act together to "get this country moving in the right direction."

He expands his call to action in Ten Things You Can't Say in America. In separate chapters he attacks conventional wisdoms about the current American way. For example, he cracks the conventional wisdom of the "glass ceiling" said to deny women career success. In others, he criticizes the welfare state and the overemphasis on other problems, including racism. He believes that "America's greatest problem" is illegitimacy, not just the Murphy Brown kind but especially "children having children." He attacks Hillary-Care and other statist solutions to the health-care "crisis," saying that there is no crisis, only market distortions caused by earlier government "solutions."

Because he is a libertarian, he sees "maybe a dime's worth of difference" between Republicans and Democrats. He opposes the War On Drugs. He fires away at gun-control advocates: "good guys with blood on their hands." In a courageous early chapter, he attacks mainstream media bias—"It's real, it's widespread, it's destructive."

His most courageous stands are in his first two chapters: "Blacks Are More Racist than Whites" and "White Condescension Is as Bad as Black Racism." Now you know why the book title is about things you can't say. He disavows black "victimization" and disowns black "victicrats," including Johnnie Cochran of O.J. fame and, yes, the Reverends Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton. He is equally harsh on condescending white-guilt liberal advocates of affirmative action. He urges the black victicrats and the white liberals to study "Economics 101."

For him, "the question comes down to this: Do we live in a society where the rule of law, economic freedom, and limited government interference produce conditions allowing one to apply one's self and get somewhere?" That's all a society can hope for, and that is quite good enough."

Larry Elder was reared in Los Angeles, where his father owned a small café catering to working people. He went east for an Ivy League education, and was graduated from the University of Michigan law school. Despite his high-level education, he has maintained a sense of balance and a sense of
If you ask Americans to list what they regard as the most troubling trends in the country, very few would put on the list “loss of legal protection for my rights.” But after reading *The Tyranny of Good Intentions* by economist Paul Craig Roberts and legal scholar Lawrence Stratton, you might put that at the top of your list. This is one of those books that gives you the same feeling you get when you hit a patch of black ice on the road and start skidding out of control: I have good reason to be very afraid.

How safe are people from the encroachments of government into their lives? That prospectus has varied from place to place and time to time. In Stalin’s Soviet Union, for example, people had no security whatever. The rulers could do with them as they pleased because the concept of a sphere of personal freedom protected by the rule of law was unknown. Even the wealthy and powerful could be summarily tried and executed when their superiors thought it expedient.

Contrast the situation of a high Soviet official like Nikolai Bukharin (who was summarily tried and executed in one of Stalin’s great purges) with that of an unemployed British coal miner at the same time. The lowly coal miner’s life, liberty and property was protected against government incursion as strongly as were the crown jewels. “The Rights of Englishmen” was a revered notion that kept government in check.

Under our constitution and common-law heritage, Americans too enjoyed “the Rights of Englishmen,” but as Roberts and Stratton demonstrate, we are rapidly losing the legal protections that British coal miners and our own ancestors took for granted. The authors write, “America’s reputation as ‘the land of the free’ is rooted in its Anglo-Saxon legal and political tradition. As the 21st century begins, there is evidence that much of this tradition has been lost.” They proceed to prove that the laws that used to shield Americans from grasping, self-promoting officials have been so weakened in recent decades that we are now quite at the mercy of politicians, bureaucrats, and especially rogue law enforcement agents.

The examples Roberts and Stratton provide are numerous and frightening. One of the greatest of the holes in the rule of law has come from asset forfeiture provisions, which now put the property of every American in jeopardy. Yes, every American. There is no way for people to ensure that some spurious charge of illegal activity won’t be made against them, or that someone won’t somehow use their property in connection with any of our growing list of crimes. Consider, for example, the case of Exequiel Soltero. In 1993, the Drug Enforcement Agency seized his Seattle restaurant under the justification that...
his brother, who had no owner­
ship in the business, had sold
some cocaine in the men's
room. The complete innocence
of Exequiel was irrelevant—his
property had been “used in the
commission of a crime” and
that's all it takes. When the mis­
deeds of others can cost you
your property, no one is safe.

The Soltero case isn't a
unique, isolated instance.
Seizures like that happen rou­
tinely as “law enforcement”
officials have realized that the
easiest way to pad their budg­
ets is to seize property. Even if
the case is thrown out, rarely
does the owner get back all that
he has lost. Often our illustri­
ous law enforcers will strike a
deal like this: “We'll give you
back half if you agree not to sue
for it all—but if you do, we’ll
tie you up in court for years.”

Roberts and Stratton are not
saying that all or even a signifi­
cant percentage of law enforce­
ment personnel are so dishonest
as to use the forfeiture provi­
sions for their own gain, but it's
clear that it is now possible for
them to do so. Asset forfeiture
laws are a temptation to those
who are not burdened with too
much conscience, and we can
anticipate more and more
abuses in the future.

Also frightening are the
cases Roberts and Stratton
present showing prosecutors
who are so interested in pol­
ishing their public image (usu­
ally in quest of higher office)
that they will prosecute and
convict innocent people.
Under our old legal order, it
was a given that “Since the
prosecutor's function is to find
truth, he must not override the
rights of the defendant in order
to gain conviction.” But that
ethic has eroded badly and has
been widely replaced with a
win-at-all-costs mentality
among prosecutors, who now
frequently withhold exculpa­
tory evidence, manipulate the
media to color public percep­
tions of the case, suborn per­
jury, and use other tactics
designed to make themselves
look “tough” and “effective”
to the public. In the rare instances
when prosecutors are exposed as
having broken the rules to
“nail” someone, the punish­
ment is usually just a judicial
rebuke—certainly not enough
of a deterrent to ethically chal­
lenged prosecutors.

Other targets of Roberts
and Stratton include the crim­
inalization of accidents, the
trend toward allowing ex post
facto laws, and plea bargaining
as a form of coercion.

Who is responsible? Both
liberals and conservatives have
a lot to answer for, say the
authors. Much of the erosion
of our legal protections has
come at the hands of liberals
eager to use draconian meas­
ures to, as they see it, “protect
the environment.” And much
has also come at the hands of
conservatives who have con­
cluded that the war against
drugs cannot be won without
resorting to methods reminis­
cent of the Inquisition. People
in both main political camps
have shoved aside our tradi­
tional legal order with its
strong defense of life, liberty
and property for all, in their
zeal to win the political battles
of the day.

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Rev. Gary Davis (1896–1972), a major figure in the history of Piedmont Blues, is of particular importance to North Carolina, having spent a good deal of his life in the Tar Heel State. This Shanachie box set is particularly welcome because Davis did not do a great deal of recording during his life and finding good Davis records has been a challenge for blues musicians and fans. This collection, compiled by Stefan Grossman and featuring 57 tracks, is a Rev. Gary Davis treasure.

Scott Ainslie, a Durham-based blues guitarist and recording artist, is quite a reputable blues scholar as well as a gifted musician. He has been featured in a Starlicks Master Sessions teaching video, *Robert Johnson's Guitar Techniques*, and is the author of *Robert Johnson: At the Crossroads—The Authoritative Guitar Transcriptions*, which supplies transcriptions for every Robert Johnson song and also includes a biography of Johnson, annotated lyrics (including footnoting of black idiomatic expressions), introductory notes to all the songs and information on other blues artists and the Delta blues style.

Ainslie was very excited to learn of the Rev. Gary Davis box set. His estimation of Davis as a guitarist and blues interpreter is very high indeed. "When it comes to Carolina blues, Gary's it," Ainslie stated. "He seems to have taught everybody of note, particularly here in Durham, including Blind Boy Fuller. The story is that Fuller only knew how to play in open tunings, like an open D, or an open G—probably G, and he played with a slide. Davis taught Fuller how to play in the key of A, and probably some other keys as well, and really brought his guitar playing up to snuff. So when listening to Fuller's landmark recordings, we should remember that Davis taught Fuller how to play in standard tunings."

Ainslie went on to elaborate a bit on guitar tunings. "That's the first guitar technique that black players learned, playing in open tunings and using a slide. With white players, we tend to look at slide as..."
an advanced technique. We learn how to play in regular tunings and then you go to open tunings, 'cause that's exotic.

"When someone hands you a guitar and you don't know how to play it," he continued, "the smart thing to do is to tune the instrument to a chord and then use a slide on the first string, to get as much out of it as you can. That's how I'd teach a kid to play guitar. That's the best way to learn guitar, and then you can move to standard tunings. White people have been learning it backwards."

Ainslie pointed out that one of the significant things about Davis' playing is that he made very few recordings, especially when he was performing in the Carolinas (1911 - early 1940s).

"There were very few of his records released," he explained, "so the genealogy of his playing is by direct transfer. People saw and heard him all over the place. He spent his whole life playing in public, on street corners, house parties, playing for the tobacco workers down around Pettigrew Street in Durham, wherever. So the players who learned what he played weren't learning it from records, they were learning from listening to him playing right in front them."

Davis was born in Laurens County, S.C., in 1896. By 1911 he was a working musician and he was definitely living in Durham by 1926.

"By the time Gary arrived in Durham, he'd been playing guitar, banjo and harmonica and singing on the streets for about 15 years. When he hit Durham he was a monster player and I think he just terrified everybody. I characterize him as the lion of guitar players in the Carolinas. And he lived up to that image. I mean, when he was in his 60s he was still the best guitar player anyone had ever heard."

As a musician who made his living playing for folks on street corners and at house parties, Davis was likely to play anything that would empty someone's pockets. He had a considerable repertoire, which Ainslie likens to that of Virginia native John Jackson.

"John will play dance tunes, rags, early swing band stuff, a little bit of jazz, pop tunes and all the Piedmont blues you could possibly want to hear," he noted. "He is probably a pretty good analogue for Gary, in terms of his repertoire. When we look at John now, at age 76, we can kind of see Gary echoed in him."

In the Demons and Angels liner notes, Stefan Grossman states that Davis was partially blind from birth and his sight deteriorated from infancy. Ainslie heard a somewhat different account, in which Davis was blinded by a doctor who put the wrong medicine in his eyes when he was two weeks old. The two versions might sync-up if, perhaps, Davis was partially blind at birth and a medical treatment went wrong and thoroughly blinded him in infancy.

Davis attended the South Carolina School for the Blind when he was a teenager. "He said he left the school because he didn't like the food," Ainslie laughed. "And he probably didn't like the food, but the fact is he'd been playing on the streets and making music for several years before he dropped in at the School for the Blind, and he probably didn't care for the regimentation. I'd guess he bridled under those kinds of restrictions. I notice that his song 'Sportin' Life Blues' is on Volume Two here, and my guess is that Gary had been living that sportin' life pretty hard by the time he was in his late teens and just couldn't hang with the School for the Blind."

Davis eventually proved to be one of the great inspirations for the folk revivalists of the 1950s and '60s. He moved to New York City around 1942 and the Greenwich Village folkies began to pick up on him about a decade later.

"All those folk guitar cats went to school on Davis and Mississippi John Hurt," Ainslie noted. "Listen to the revival guitarists and Hurt's all over them, and so is Gary. All the heavy-hitter guitar guys like Grossman and Bromberg took a big piece out of Davis' book. It's a lucky thing too, because the Piedmont Blues could have easily died right here. Had Sonny Terry, Brownie McGhee and Gary Davis stayed in Durham, the influence of Piedmont Blues would probably have expired right here after World War II. But when you take those guys and drop them right in the middle of the leftist, radical, folk community in the 1950s, and we extrapolate from that the political activism and the civil rights movement, it's amazing the influence Davis eventually had."

The Demons and Angels collection is now available from Shanachie Records, catalogue #6117. To find out what Scott Ainslie is up to, visit his web site at www.guitarpicker.com.
Music for Sale, continued

Dave Matthews Band:
Everyday [RCA]

This is the DMB's fifth full-length studio album and producer Glen Ballard has managed to put a muddle on a good thing. This album is too slick, too easy, too tame. Ballard, a producer who has worked with Alanis Morissette, is not the guy who should be producing DMB albums. If it weren't for Matthews' inspired, eccentric vocal style and sexually loaded songwriting, this CD would not be recognizable as a DMB project. Leroi Moore (saxophones) and Boyd Tinsley (violin) have been marginalized by Ballard and in their place we find what? electric guitar? It's always a good idea for a band to push its sound in new directions, the sort of instrumental fire that has inspired, eccentric, vocal style and sexually loaded songwriting, this CD would not be recognizable as a DMB project. Leroi Moore (saxophones) and Boyd Tinsley (violin) have been marginalized by Ballard and in their place we find what? electric guitar? How original. The album is short on instrumental fire that has aided and abetted Matthews' vocals. It's always a good idea for a band to push its sound in new directions, but when a group puts a leash on it, one has to wonder what's up. The album isn't without strong tunes—"Angel," "I Did It," "Fool To Think"—and this is still a powerful band, but they need to kick Ballard down the stairs and get a little messier again.

Amanda Ghost:
Ghost Stories [Warner]

The most fascinating female vocalist England has produced in a very long time, Ms. Ghost (a.k.a. Amanda Gosein), who wrote every song on this, her debut album, has entered into a generally fruitful collaboration with remix master Lucas Barton and keyboardist/programmer Sacha Skarbek. The album has produced a huge dance hit for Ghost in "Filthy Mind," the opening track, but if you take a trip through the album, what you'll find is a group of tunes more oriented toward a dark pop sound than the dance/club scene. Like most English releases we're hearing nowadays, Ghost Stories is over-produced, but, unlike most recent U.K. releases, Ghost's music generally survives the overzealous efforts of producers Burton et al., who would probably add a damned string track to a Robert Johnson song if they got the chance. After coping a major buzz off "Filthy Mind," check the decidedly moodier songs "Idol," "Cellophone," "Silver Lining" and "Glory Girl."

Various Artists:
Untamed: Next Generation Celtic (Narada World)

For fans of Celtic music who can do with a bit of musical innovation, the groups represented on this compilation give ample evidence that the future of the music is in adventure-some hands. Four groups: Kila, Peatbog Faeries, Lúnasa and Shooglenifty contribute a total of 10 tunes to this party and it's some fine stuff. These groups can play as traditional as anyone—check Lúnasa's terrific traditional medley on "Dr. Gilbert/Devis of Dublin/Black Pat's" and the classic musicianship of Shooglenifty's "Björk's Chauffeur." The most telling tracks, however, are pieces like Peatbog Faeries' hip-hop tribalism on "Faerie Stories," the progressive mix of Shooglenifty's "August" and the emphatic rhythmic texture of Lúnasa's "Eanár." These artists are certainly better schooled in world music than their predecessors from previous generations. These tracks are suggestive of musicians who are rightly respectful of their musical heritage but not exactly chained to the tradition, which should make for some intriguing music.

VIDEOCENTRIC

Genghis Blues
Docurama; 90 mins. Documentary. VHS.

This documentary won the Audience Award at the 1999 Sundance Film Festival and relates an amazing story. Paul Pena, a blind, Creole-American musician, journeyed to Kyzy, the capital of Tuva (a central-Asian republic in the Russian Federation), in 1995 to compete in that country's throat-singing competition. He ended up winning the Audience Favorite award and earning the nickname "Earthquake" from his Tuva hosts. This improbable series of events began when Pena heard a Russian broadcast of Tuvan throat-singing on his shortwave radio. He not only taught himself this incredibly complicated style of singing (the vocalist produces two distinct notes simultaneously), but he also learned to speak some Tuvan, which he accomplished by learning Russian and translating Tuvan into Russian, then translating Russian into English (there are no Tuvan-English dictionaries), using Braille as his reading tool. The filmmakers followed Pena on his adventure in the steppes of Central Asia and captured a meeting of cultures that is unlike anything you've ever seen.

Hitler's Lost Sub
WGBH Boston Video; 120 mins. Documentary. VHS.

In 1991, professional diver John Chatterton stumbled upon a sunken Nazi submarine 60 miles off the coast of New Jersey. He was initially unable to identify it, and naval officials in both the United States and Germany had no record of a sub being sunk at that location. Chatterton realized he had a mystery on his hands and set to work. Enlisting the aid of a number of divers, Chatterton and his crew spent the next six years struggling in adverse underwater conditions to find something that would identify the anonymous submarine. Finally, in 1997, from a label on a box of spare parts, buried deep within the sub, they found their answer. The submarine was U-869, a boat which the German Navy assumed was lost off the coast of Morocco in 1945. Originally aired on PBS' Nova, Hitler's Lost Sub is a superb bit of undersea sleuthing and a must for WWII history fans. 

The most fascinating female vocalist England has produced in a very
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pieces of recruitment mail that Broughton High roundball phenom Shavlik Randolph received from the University of Southern California Trojans in one day:</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of pets in Wake County today:</td>
<td>280,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total number of pets expected in Wake County in the year 2020:</td>
<td>407,520</td>
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<td>Percentage of adoptions of abandoned animals at the SPCA of Wake County today:</td>
<td>30 percent</td>
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<td>Hoped-for percentage of pet adoptions in the year 2006 by the local SPCA:</td>
<td>100 percent</td>
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<td>Age of the oldest citizen to put a handprint on Farmville's new Millennium Fountain:</td>
<td>94 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age of the youngest citizen to put a footprint on the fountain, the Tar Heel State's only legacy to the 21st century:</td>
<td>3 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amount spent by Wake County's &quot;nonprofit culture&quot; on new building projects in 1999:</td>
<td>$222 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total economic impact in 1999 of the county's nonprofits:</td>
<td>$467 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost to build a Mars Rover:</td>
<td>$500 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The average length of stay in Raleigh by business travelers:</td>
<td>3 nights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average length of stay in the city of &quot;historical/cultural travelers&quot;:</td>
<td>5 nights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Tar Heel teens who reported smoking pot in 1992:</td>
<td>42 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average percent of local high schoolers who report smoking pot today:</td>
<td>60 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of NBA basketball players estimated to be smoking pot today:</td>
<td>60 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status of weakfish in North Carolina shore waters:</td>
<td>&quot;Strongly recovering&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status of the state's striped bass stock, going into the fishing season:</td>
<td>&quot;Viable&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount it costs to attend the N.C. State Stream Restoration Design Principles course:</td>
<td>$395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of Nat Greene Fly Fisher Scholarship given each year to an aspiring Tar Heel marine industrialist:</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent tax break on saved earnings expected for Tar Heel fishermen and farmers under a proposed &quot;farm and fish&quot; bill in Congress:</td>
<td>20 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact of costly prison counseling programs on depressed women prisoners:</td>
<td>&quot;Insignificant&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact of more family visits on sullen female inmates:</td>
<td>&quot;Happiness went up.&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Exceeding expectations

NYT: NEW MEYMANDI HALL IS AN ACoustical achievement of Baroque proportions

Those who have had the pleasure—and, indeed, honor—of hearing the unsurpassed acoustics at the new Meymandi Hall will certainly agree with the New York Times' assessment of the North Carolina Symphony's new home at the BTI Center for the Performing Arts.

"This is a warm and living sound environment," writes critic Bernard Holland in the Feb. 22 Times. One hears the orchestra's constituents individually and clearly. The North Carolina Symphony—with its 65 members, 45-week season and $8.5 million budget—is clearly emboldened by its new home.

On opening night, says the Times, the NCS did "very well" with Shostakovich's thunderous "Festive" overture "and with the exceedingly complicated music from Leonard Bernstein's On the Town. ...The familiar Firebird Suite by Stravinsky was completely done."

The hall opened to great fanfare—and heightened expectations—as "a good-looking crowd of patrons made their way between generous spreads of magnolia blossoms and Champagne bars." In fact, some paid as much as $500 a head to be part of the concert and attached festivities.

The hyper-sensitive acoustics showed that not only can every note be heard, but so can every orchestral mistake—and patron's sneeze. Executive Director David Worters even urged concert-goers to keep it quiet; though the unraveling of hard candies was still heard.

The depth of the Meymandi achievement (not to mention the hard-to-come-by $39 million in funding to build the entire BTI Center for the Performing Arts, of

---

Eastern Philosophy Meets the Western Golf Swing

Heads up golfers, you can create the perfect swing by following the methods recommended by Ted Kiegiel, currently head pro at Raleigh's Carolina Country Club after stints at The Country Club of Brookline, Mass., and Augusta National. Kiegiel, who has earned a national reputation instructing young golfers, has written Balanced Golf: Harnessing the Simplicity, Focus, and Natural Motions of Martial Arts to Improve your All-Around Game, published by Contemporary Books of Chicago.

Kiegiel, a Master Level 6th Degree Black Belt in Kempo Wa-Jutsu, with additional Black Belt rankings in Tae Kwon Do (Korean) and Pentjak Silat (Indonesian), with advanced training in several other Oriental traditions, combines martial arts with the basics of the golf swing that seeks out "the natural movements already in the possession of anyone who wants to unlock his or her true potential." The book is the first of three in a series to be published by Kiegiel and Contemporary Books. Kiegiel can be reached at 919-787-2134.

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Drunks debunked

STUDY: DRINKING DROPS AFTER GREEKS LEAVE DORMS

In the past, research has often linked belonging to a fraternity or sorority to heavy drinking during college. Now, however, contrary to popular belief, students who drink a lot as part of fraternity and sorority life do not necessarily keep drinking at that level after they have finished college, a unique new study shows.

In fact, excessive alcohol use in college often does not carry into adulthood. Belonging to and participating in the social organizations, which tend to accept heavy drinking as normal, is what promotes the behavior, not a predisposition to drinking, the study shows.

Other research has demonstrated that changing surroundings and social roles associated with work, marriage and parenthood tends to promote varying degrees of abstinence.

"In a sense, what we found echoes the expression 'When in Rome, do as the Romans do,'" says Bruce D. Bartholow, assistant professor of psychology at UNC-CH. "When people are no longer in Rome, they aren't expected to act like Romans and usually stop doing so. In general, the same holds for drinking behavior."
the voice of Frank Sinatra drifts through the smoky haze of the bar and mixes with the noises of glasses tinkling, lots of talk, lots of laughs.

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which Meymandi is a third) certainly resonated with the *Times*, one of the only newspapers in the country that still retains some concern for cultural quality.

“The Meymandi Concert Hall is a 21st-century rebirth of an early 19th-century theater, the kind of space for which so much of the symphonic repertory was intended and where it thrives,” the *NYT*’s Holland says in his report from Raleigh. “Ambitious cultural planners for American cities are advised to put delusions of civic grandeur aside and come down to Raleigh and have a look.”

**BRINGING HOME THE BACON**

**SODFATHER JIM GRAHAM FINDS NEW ROLE AS STATE AGRI-SAGE**

It didn’t take long for legendary Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham to find a new gig after retiring last year from a 36-year reign as North Carolina’s sodfather.

Graham has taken a volunteer job with N.C. State’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences as a kind of sage liaison between agri-business, farm schools and other agriculture groups.

“The state’s citizens will continue to benefit from this great man’s wisdom and unparalleled commitment to agriculture, to education and, most importantly, to people,” says Dean James L. Oblinger in announcing Graham’s decision.

Graham earned his bachelor’s degree from N.C. State in agricultural education in 1942. He went on to be an agriculture teacher, superintendent of the Upper Mountain Research Station in Laurel Springs, and general manager of the State Farmers Market before he began service as agriculture commissioner in 1964. He stepped down last December, after deciding not to run for re-election.

“I feel like I’ve come home,” says Graham, an N.C. State alum, about his new assignment.

**Women’s Wiles**

**SOUTHERN PINES HOPES LPGA FANS TAKE SWINGS OF THEIR OWN**

There are two great reasons to swing down to Pine Needles Golf Club in the Sandhills in late May and early June. First, the U.S. Women’s Open will showcase its cadre of world-renowned female players for golf fans who make the trip. But more importantly, those inspired by the women’s pro game are for once being encouraged to hit the links themselves.

After all, there are over 40 golf courses in the area, offering visitors a unique opportunity to attend the Open in the morning and play a round of golf in the p.m.—or vice versa. Sadly, Opens are usually played in areas that frown on visitors who double up their days with their own round of golf instead of watching the tourney all day.

Instead “we encourage visitors to bring their clubs when they come to the Women’s Open,” says Caleb Miles, the CEO of the area’s Convention and Visitors Bureau. “No, they won’t be able to play in the championship themselves but they’ll be able to play on other excellent area courses. They’ll be assured a wonderful experience in our area. Web site: www.homeofgolf.com
Fifteen years of fun

AMATEUR ATHLETES START TRAINING FOR LOCAL GAMES

The 16-sport State Games of North Carolina will be held in the host city of Raleigh from June 2-24. It's the Olympic-style mass competition's 15th year—and it continues to grow.

Designed to promote personal development through physical fitness and health, the Games are for all citizens of North Carolina. To make events fun and fair, competitions are divided in most cases by age and skill level. Any North Carolina resident, including military personnel and college students, can enter the State Games as long as they have lived in the state for at least 30 days.

Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department facilities, local schools and universities and other venues throughout Raleigh and Wake county will serve as backdrops to some of North Carolina's premier amateur athletic competition.

A few sports, such as figure skating (Hillsborough) and shooting (Durham and Sanford), will be held outside Raleigh for logistical reasons. Remember: These events aren't just fun to take part in, but also to watch.

Last year's State Games, also held in Raleigh, involved more than 12,500 athletes and coaches from 98 of North Carolina's 100 counties, plus 550 volunteers. For more information on the 2001 Games, go to www.ncsports.org.

Driving while black

DO BLACK PEOPLE GET MORE TICKETS BECAUSE OF RACE— OR DRIVING HABITS?

An N.C. State research team is drawing a lot of controversy for broaching an uncomfortable tenet of the massive effort to understand racial profiling—or the perceived practice of police disproportionately pulling over black motorists more often than white drivers.

With N.C. State professor Matt Zingraff at the helm, two teams of graduate students set out last summer in rented vans, clocking drivers on mostly urban interstates and large state highways. About 7000 speeders were identified—and their race—"white, black or other"—duly noted.

The Zingraff study won't be released until August, but already the Justice Department (which put $470,000 toward the project) has identified it as one of the country's key probes after Attorney General John Ashcroft vowed to the Legislative Black Caucus that he would get to the bottom of the issue. Since racial profiling, or "driving while black," rose up as an issue in the early 1990s, over 400 police departments are now tracking traffic citations along racial lines. Congress, meanwhile, is mulling a Traffic Stop Statistics Act.

For his efforts, Mr. Zingraff has been labeled a "police apologist" and a practitioner of "loony science" for daring to broach the idea that maybe blacks drive worse than whites—thus accounting for blacks being pulled over about 20 percent more often (and searched up to 60 percent more often), at least by the Highway Patrol, which cooperated with N.C. State and North Carolina Central University on the study.

Zingraff, meanwhile, is convinced that racial profiling does happen. But he believes it has more to do with what he calls "cognitive and statistical stereotyping"—the tendency of many cops to defend their actions by using statistics that say blacks commit more crimes than whites.

"In the long run, I think we're going to learn that the disparity that does exist is a

Tar Heel lenses

"Imaging North Carolina: The Early Years of Photography" will be the subject of a daylong conference at the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh on Nov. 9. Co-sponsored by the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association, the Federation of Historical Societies, the North Carolina Collection and the Museum of History, the conference will feature papers on the early technology and the photographers who helped shape the visual image of the state.

A panel of photographers, journalists and historians will speak on a variety of subjects, from early photography in Moravian communities to Civil War imagery. Veteran photographer Hugh Morton will be the dinner speaker.
result of a lot of other things than racial animus,” says Zingraff.

N.C. market forecast: Bring your umbrella

BUT MANY EXPECT ECONOMY TO BOUNCE BACK BY FALL

Sure, the national and local economic outlook looks a bit cloudier than in years past. State agencies are in a huff about having to curtail projects and expenses (maybe even cell phones and Internet time, gasp!). And, indeed, the new North Carolina Economic Outlook forecast shows a slowing economy in the state and most of its regions. Never fear, though: There’s hope for your portfolio yet.

Statewide, the Economic Activity Index, a composite measure of the economy, is projected to decline by 1.9 percent during 2001. There was a similar decline in 2000.

In 2001, retail sales, adjusted for inflation, will rise a modest 1.9 percent and the value of residential construction is forecasted to drop 3.1 percent. A modest 1.5 percent increase in state jobs will cause the state unemployment rate to jump 7.1 percent.

But the silver lining in the forecast, says Dr. Michael L. Walden, an extension economist at N.C. State, is that most of the decline in the Economic Activity Index is forecast to occur in the first half of 2001. There should be noticeable improvement in the economy during the second half of 2001, probably as a result of the Federal Reserve’s interest rate cuts.

Likewise, the Economic Activity Index is expected to decline or show zero growth in 15 of the state’s 20 commuting zones. The exceptions, which are projected to post gains in the Economic Activity Index, are the Downeast, Greenville-Coast, Greater Winston-Salem, Rocky Mount-Wilson, and Greater Wilkes zones.
The evil that lurks in the heart of man has been rising to the surface lately, leaving in its wake murdered school children and unsurpassable grief. Parents everywhere swallow down acidic gulps of fear as their children are herded into monochromatic school buildings that only a bloated and arrogant bureaucracy could love. Once inside, children are captives to trendy theories that pass for education and the danger of bodily harm.

The very idea that school, the place so central to the young, that in previous generations offered security and involvement, has degenerated into an Orwellian nightmare is a hideous reality to contemplate. Yet it is true. American high school seniors rank at the very bottom in academic achievement amongst the top 15 industrialized countries and a clear and resounding No. 1 in exposure to daily violence. It’s safer in school in Bosnia.

Mass media pundits point, as usual, to the obvious. It’s guns in society, they say. It’s broken homes say others. It’s alienation resulting from our culture—laden with wealth and superficiality—that smothers values. What they don’t talk about is their own role in this national calamity. Screaming and yelling about “censorship” and hiding behind the skirts of artistic freedom, mass media have inundated the immature psyches of school children with content that adults as late as the 1970s could only find in Tijuana and Amsterdam.

Granted, the problem in schools starts with the academic and political establishment that has allowed standards to erode continuously for the past 30 years. Enamoured with forced busing, the activists in the educational system were conspirators in the movement to lower standards and promote facetious techniques of learning to replace the tried and true methods of the past. The once sanctified calling to teach became the duty to impose unproved theoretical constructs, including self-esteem training, ethnic awareness, hard-line feminism, gay studies and the stifling of free expression—so necessary to the young—with politically correct speech codes that Hitler and Stalin would admire. Long gone are the days when classrooms began their day with a moment of silence that settled the mind and focused students on the day ahead where learning from the precedent of history provided stability and security.

The result of all this dickering by the teaching establishment is the abandonment of the old values that bonded a school into an effective and secure environment for learning. These old values gave kids a foundation to stand on, or at least lean on, as the vicissitudes of life knocked the props out from under them. School used to be a haven for kids with problems at home. They could forget the poverty, the violence, the marital breakups once they entered its portals. In school there was the system. There were rules of behavior and dress codes. The generally agreed upon standards of society dictated the school day. A kid with problems at home could leave them at the school’s front door. If he or she didn’t, the school intervened in an organized manner to address the problem, usually with parental consent.

Today school is dominated by a hodgepodge of unrelated and contradictory ersatz values cooked up by political theorists to
What's missing is the counterpoint to these appalling murders—220 incidents nationwide in the past year—adults outside the education bureaucracy know that had these kids been kept on track with the values that formerly undergirded the school day, these events would not have happened. The erratic and vacuous curriculum, that harps on the importance of the victimized and downplays the true stories of the obstacles overcome by the heroic people who built our nation, has combined with the half-baked social theories bandied about by the majority of modern school administrators and teachers in an unwitting conspiracy that has left the killers, the victims and potential victims vulnerable and exposed to a continuing fear of the next school day. We are reaping what we allow to be sown through the politicalization of education by a coterie of doctrinaire activists with a larger anti-American agenda, laden with theory and totally lacking in positive benefit.

How to go about undoing the past in order to create a new day in education is elusive and daunting. It is possible to start by abandoning the disruption of family and school life with a return to decentralized neighborhood schools where parents and peer pressure can have an impact on teachers and kids. Today, in 95 percent of households with children, both parents work. To accommodate this reality, school days should run uniformly by opening at the same time across all grade levels (staggered times are imposed by busing imperatives) and not close until four or five in the afternoon, providing time for students to finish homework, take advantage of tutoring and not close until four or five in the afternoon.

Since this is purportedly still a free country, these elements have to exist in order to secure our other, less sensational, freedoms. What's missing is the counterpoint to these now ubiquitous influences that used to be codified in our values as a nation and exemplified in the curriculum and behavioral codes of our schools. Without this counterbalance, kids are swallowed up in a world of triviality and obscenity. By default, the solutions they decide upon are predicated on what they see on their video screens and absorb secretly through their earphones.

Whether Columbine or Santee, or all the schools in between that have witnessed young people for the sins of mankind. Since they are propagandized in school to believe that their species is evil because it violates the environment, is it really that strange that kids develop negative attitudes and seek bizarre and violent solutions to their predicament? The denial of free expression in classrooms today only deepens the contempt students feel for authority.

English must be taught to all students. Hispanic newcomers are denied the opportunity to move up economically due to white liberal insistence on teaching Spanish as their primary language. The problems associated with a bilingual system only exacerbate an already complex and volatile school environment. Members of Congress could finally provide useful assistance to education by adopting English as the official language of the United States.

A dress code would help immensely. People clothe themselves in direct relation to the respect they have for the occasion at hand. As school is the central force in a young person's life, how a student dresses to attend class is directly related to the regard they hold for the institution. From what is observed today, that respect is absent, helping to create a disorderly and out of control environment.

To achieve some modest forward progress, we must address the qualifications of educators. The job of teaching has become more dedicated to the desires of teacher unions than to a professional commitment requiring the sacrifice of high pay for the noble mission of educating young people. Testing is beginning to take hold for new teachers, but what about the bad ones that have burrowed in the system, protected by tenure and their peers? In Massachusetts over 60 percent of new teacher applicants failed a simple competency test. But legislators could not garner enough votes to force testing of existing teachers due to pressure from the teacher union. That is the necessary next step that could lead to the sea change needed to return our schools to efficiency and security. Tomorrow, as we have learned to our regret, may be too late.
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