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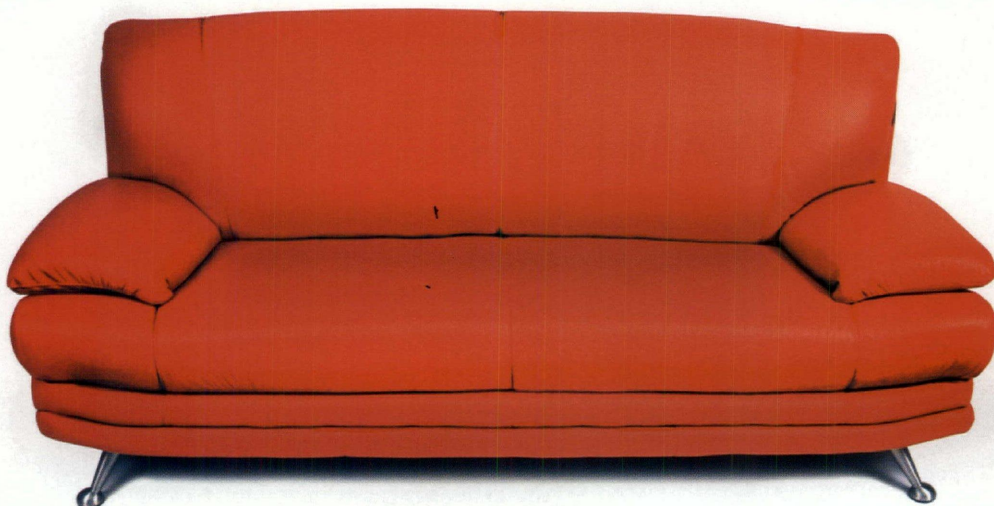
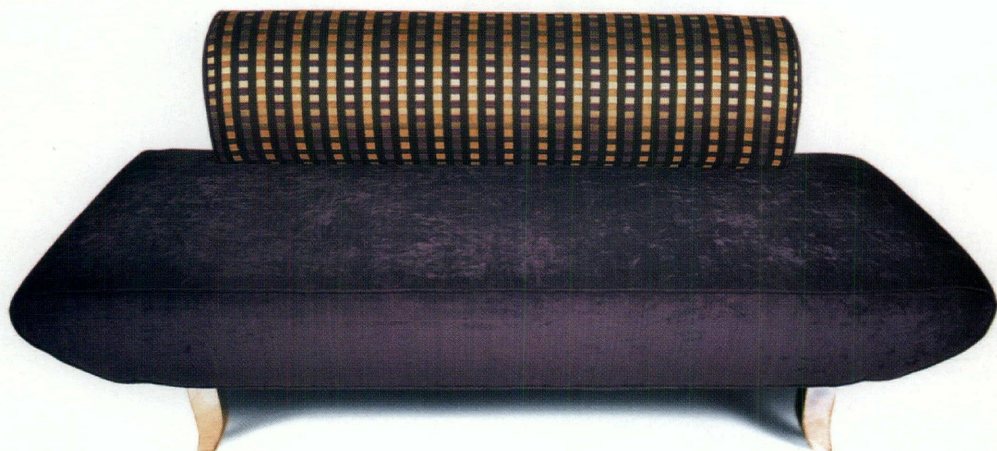
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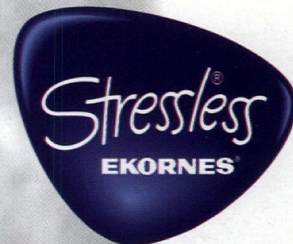
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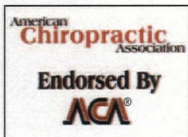
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COURTESY EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

MOVEABLE FEAST

It may seem sudden to some but those in the know have been aware that East Carolina University has been quietly turning into a major regional university with a national reputation. Founded at the beginning of the 20th century, the once modest teacher's college is today a 21st-century powerhouse enrolling 20,000 students and offering a strong curriculum and a medical school complex known around the world. The struggle and success of the little college that could is a saga of determination and devotion to its mission to serve the eastern region of the state with a multi-faceted program of involvement and achieving national ranking in the process. It's a great story and there is plenty more to come from ECU as our *Metro* team of Rick Smith, Patricia Staino and Mike McPherson discovered in our special report on the school that's making Triangle universities look over their shoulders.

Education being the big topic in this issue, we also present our annual look at the latest developments in the world of academe. George Leef offers up a compendium of outrages in the public school system, accompanied by charts and graphs relating the situation in North Carolina. Must reading if you understand that our school systems are the key to our economic, social and cultural future.

In a sense, an addition to our theme is developing here we hadn't anticipated. Diane Lea's coverage of the emerging Museum Park rising out of the NC Museum of Art's tract on Blue Ridge in Raleigh hints at the educational benefit of designing an outdoor venue for art that breaks down the mental barriers preventing people from striding across the threshold to a museum. The Museum Park will create access and enjoyment for all citizens as well as play a major role in extending the Museum's cultural and educational mission to all citizens.

November and Thanksgiving launch the season of discarded diets and our annual dedication to feasting. Food writer Moreton Neal interviews the up-and-coming chef in the region, Bryan Stapleton of the

Carolina Inn, and wine writer Barbara Ensrud recommends the right wines for the perfect Thanksgiving meal. Be sure to be here in December when the Gourmet team hits the final stretch for ultimate Christmas wining and dining. In another unintentional coincidence, Carroll Leggett advocates and advances the trend to fresh food in the home and on local menus in his *Between You and Me* column. Something to think about on Turkey Day.

Retired Admiral and jet pilot Ferg Norton has been applying his quiet and disciplined experience—earned landing fast planes on slow aircraft carriers—to ensuring that the big to-do December 17 at Kitty Hawk to celebrate the 100th anniversary of flight goes off perfectly. As executive director of the First Flight Centennial Foundation, the admiral has been deploying men and materiel since the late '90s in preparation for the event. Learn about the man and the mission in Rick Smith's *MetroProfile*.

Looking good means smelling good, and fashion savant Molly Fulghum-Heintz sticks her nose in the air to pick up the latest stylish fragrances wafting around the haute monde. Louis St. Lewis flies high in *Artist-at-Large*, and PvV catches up with on-air personality Kitty Kinnin and her revival of the *Jazz Brunch* on area radio. Art Taylor's *New & Noteworthy* gives you a heads-up on a writer's conference worthy of notice along with the latest releases and events in the region. Patrik Jonsson's *MetroIndex* focuses on John Edwards trivia, and Frances Smith's *MetroPreview* hails the cornucopia of events on tap in November.

Thanks for reading and be on the ready for the seasonal surprises and delights coming to you in the December *Metro*. Gift subscriptions are available.

—Bernie Reeves,
Editor & Publisher



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Correspondence

THE IMAGINARY MARTYRDOM OF DOUG MARLETTE

I apologize for testing *Metro* readers' patience with the details of a controversy that had, I thought, vanished from human memory several years ago. But Kristy Shumaker's most recent version of the trials and triumphs of Doug Marlette (September *Metro*) cannot be allowed to stand without comment or amendment. This was not the first—nor the second, nor the fifth time Ms. Shumaker has celebrated the accomplishments and aired the grievances of the combative cartoonist. During her tenure at the *News of Orange*, our local weekly, Marlette features appeared so often under her byline that local wits renamed the paper "The News of Doug." But the only paragraph in this recycled story that concerns me is the one that refers to the Hillsborough "fatwa" against Marlette's recent novel and names me and my wife Lee Smith as two of the offending mullahs.

Ms. Shumaker has at no time asked us for our response to this accusation, nor in fact consulted any sources other than Doug Marlette. Back when the story was current, she was not the only journalist who committed this sin against professional procedure and common courtesy, but she's the only one who has committed it repeatedly. In fact there has never been and never will be any corroboration of this peculiar story, because it is and was a figment of Marlette's imagination. To the best of my knowledge no writer of any description—including the injured party, Allan Gurganus—ever did anything to interfere with the commercial success of this book, which I have never read. And of course I know for certain and will testify under oath that my wife and I played no role whatsoever in the alleged "conspiracy"—if I had known of any such petty, infantile behavior, I would have condemned it as

vigorously as Marlette does.

The very odd thing is that Marlette, after a tortured phone conversation and an exchange of letters, conceded in print that we had probably done none of the things of which he accused us—though we were faulted for failing to leap to his defense. I have the letter if anyone cares to read it. So why, 30 months later, is the accusation resurrected? Is this one of the most durable paranoid fantasies in the annals of American obsession?

Though my wife and I are bewildered to find ourselves still numbered among the saboteurs who tried to blow up "The Bridge"—that was a movie, I guess, or seven movies—at least we know how we made the list in the first place. Lee, who tried to help Doug when he was writing the book, called him after reading his galleys—as his friend—and advised him to drop the caricature of Allan Gurganus. I called my former publicist and advised her—as her friend—that representing this book might cost her a lot of business from authors who would side with Gurganus. She went to work for Marlette anyway, bearing my message.

That's way too much on this teapot tempest of long ago. But this is for the permanent record. When someone tells an outright, unqualified lie about you in public—repeatedly—the most charitable thing you can think is that he, at least, believes it. Now that I have ample reason to doubt that he believes it, malice aforethought begins to occur to me. As a former friend of Doug Marlette, I've worked my way through amazement, indignation, and anger to—finally—pity and grave concern.

Hal Crowther
Hillsborough

BEYOND RIDICULOUS

Relative to the My Usual Charming Self commentary, "Say A Little Prayer" by Bernie Reeves in

Bernie Reeves
Editor and Publisher

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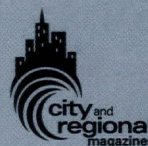
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the October issue of *Metro*, I agree with his thoughts about how in general the universities have promoted communism, or at the very least minimized the atrocities committed in its name.

But in this same article, comparing "evangelical Christians" (which I am) to "lunatic Muslims touting suicide bombs" is beyond ridiculous.

K. Neal Hunt
Raleigh

Editor's note: *I apologize for lumping extreme Christian radicals under the term "evangelical," which is a movement crossing many denominational lines. I stand corrected.*

— Bernie Reeves

EPISCOPAL SCHISM

I just wanted to thank Bernie Reeves for the truly great editorial "Say a Little Prayer" he wrote in the September *Metro*. It was a factual history lesson and a keen observation of the state of the Episcopal Church. I think the time is ripe for a revolt by the conservative wing of the church.

What course of action would be most effective? I have heard some say they will make only a token pledge next year and others say they may restrict their pledge to local programs with none to go to the National Church. Are there other alternatives?

Incidentally, my youth followed the same itinerary as Bernie's step-by-step at St. Philip's Church in Durham. And I too spent a couple of summers at Camp Vade Mecum. The Church had dignity then.

I have sent copies of the editorial to several like-thinking Episcopalians. I hope others have followed suit. Keep the ball rolling—something good may come of it.

Robert W. "Judge Carr," ALA
Durham

GOOD DAYS GONE FOREVER

In the commentary by Bernie Reeves in the September 2003 issue, "Say A Little Prayer," he hit the nail on the head. I too have been an Episcopalian since birth. He played the hand bells; I was a boy soprano in a 20-member boys' choir at Good Shepherd in Rocky Mount. (They tried to make me a eunuch, but I declined.) I did the YPSL and all the rest.

At Spring Island here in South Carolina, we did an annual Easter service out of the 1928 prayer book. The church has meant a lot to me, but those days are gone forever.

Tommy Baysden
Beaufort, SC

INACCURATE PORTRAYAL

To Bernie Reeves, regarding his commentary in the October issue in *My Usual Charming Self*:



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Several years ago I wrote commending you for your accurate portrayal of the lack of history taught in our public schools. Now, however, I must write to correct your recent incredibly inaccurate portrayal of evangelical Christians of which I am one.

Comparing evangelical Christians as you did to Muslims is beyond bizarre. For instance, which group would bother you boarding a plane—a group of us with Bibles or a group of Muslims with their Koran?

Throughout Raleigh, there are thousands of evangelicals whom you call “useful idiots” running businesses and raising families while attending Church and Bible Study. By the way, the Bible tells us that God’s wisdom will be foolish to man or I guess the “Stupid Movement” to quote your article.

Please take this opportunity to truly learn about Jesus Christ by studying God’s word in a Bible Study. However, if you do, you may have to write a difficult article next time regarding evangelical Christians.

Stephen F. Kenney
Raleigh

Editor’s note: I apologize again for not clarifying that I did not mean “evangelicals” as referred to by Mr. Kenney but rather fundamentalist zealots of the Church of God of Prophecy and similar sects.

—Bernie Reeves




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BALLET JUST PERFECT

I saw the *Carmina Burana* last Saturday, and it was the greatest experience I’ve ever had at a ballet that did not feature Hadley Grace Vickers. Since *Metro* is involved and covers the group, please pass along my thanks for the wonderful entertainment.

Lynne Taylor-Corbett’s choreography was as consistently astonishing as it was pleasing, and all the dancers were to my eye just perfect. Christopher Rudd had the greatest opportunities to stand out, and he took full and talented advantage.

I would never have gone had I not wanted to hear a full symphony and chorus do the *Carmina*, which was just as good as I hoped it would be. The excellence of the imaginatively choreographed dancing was a totally unexpected delight.

In December 1969 I by chance walked into the Covent Garden ticket office just after someone had returned two tickets to Nureyev’s *Nutcracker*. Until last Saturday that was my fondest ballet memory. Now I’ve got a fresher and better one, and I’m not exaggerating.

Jim Vickers
Chapel Hill

CORRECTIONS

For the cover of the September 2003 issue, Hillary Vermont was not credited for her artwork. We apologize for the oversight.



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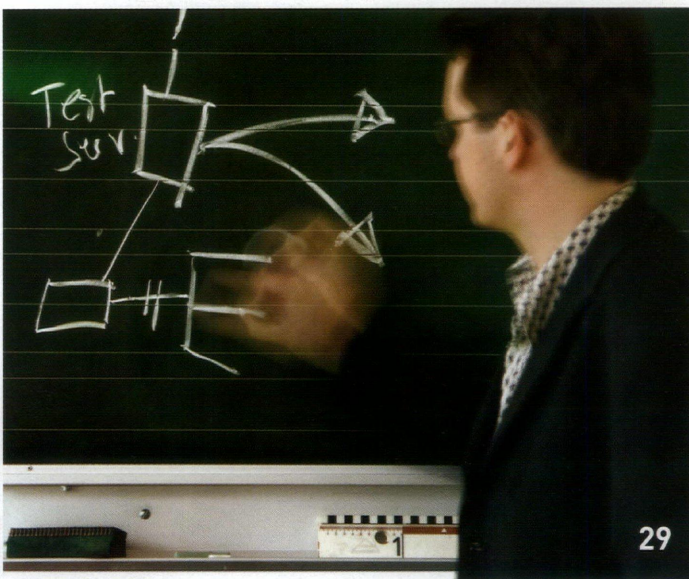


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Metro Signature Section

EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY: A SAGA OF TRIUMPH AND PRIDE

After a century of struggle and success, East Carolina University combines its regional mission and national reputation into a bold plan for the future. From its founding as a teacher's college to its status today as a major university with a world renowned medical center, the ECU story is a saga of triumph and pride with positive consequences for Eastern North Carolina.

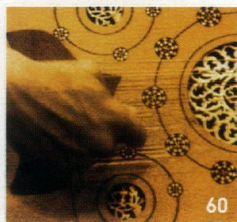


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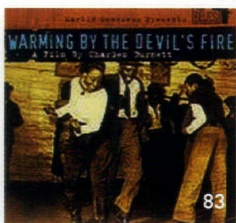
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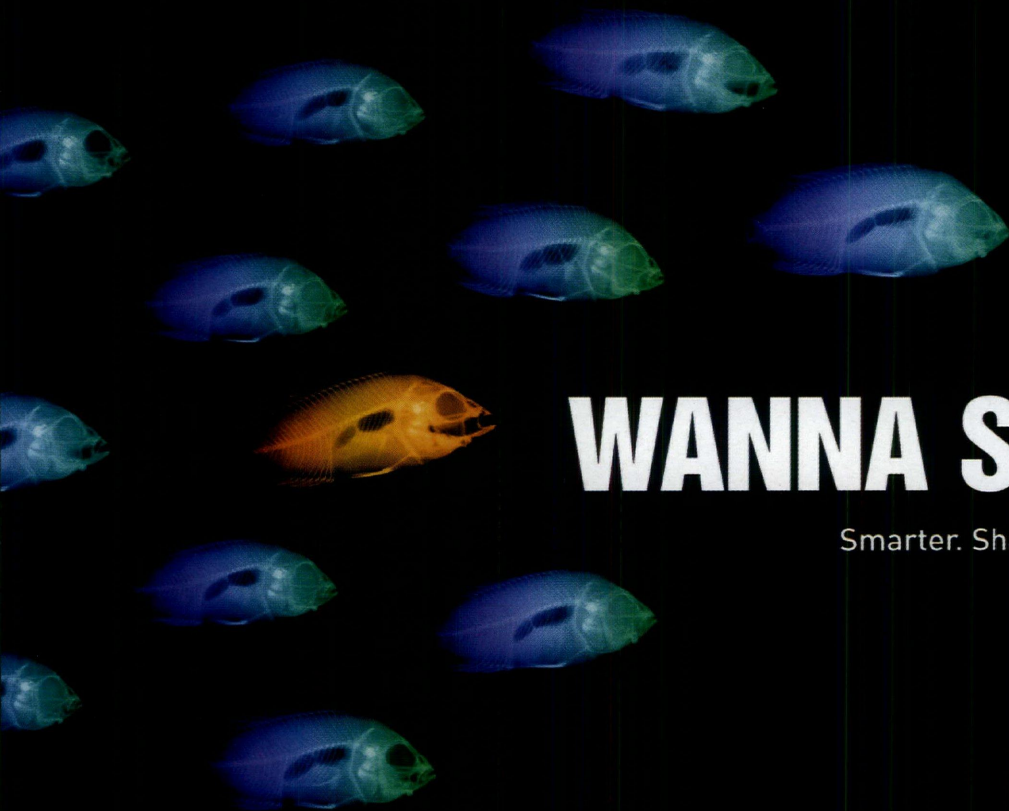
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SECRETS OF STATE

"New Town" on the Albemarle

Edenton Sandy Point Plan a Go

A "new town" on the Albemarle? It's looking likely. The Fund for Sandy Point North Carolina and The Foundation for the Renewal for Eastern North Carolina (FoR ENC) hosted a design charette October 6-13 to develop the concept plan for a 900-acre tract on the Albemarle Sound eight miles from historic Edenton.

A team of 12 architects from the design firm DPZ, led by Andres Duany and Elizabeth Plater-Zybek, joined local architects in a work session that included public input and discussions with state and local officials, representatives of state and federal regulatory agencies, and several local and regional preservation and historical organizations. Duany and Zybek are credited with reviving traditional town planning in over 200 "new towns" worldwide, including the model community Seaside on Florida's northwest coast.

In introducing Duany and The Fund for Sandy Point North Carolina to the Sandy Point site, FoR ENC president Phillip Horne described the Sandy Point community's potential for reinvigorating Northeastern North Carolina's economy by providing attractive second home opportunities and bringing commercial and retail enterprises to the region. Duany, who presented the results of the effort at a public meeting held at the Edenton Country Club, expects the multi-use residential community to attract Triangle faculty members seeking comfortable and affordable second homes and other knowledge professionals whose Internet-powered lifestyles will be enriched by the area's peaceful natural beauty, history and access to water recreation.

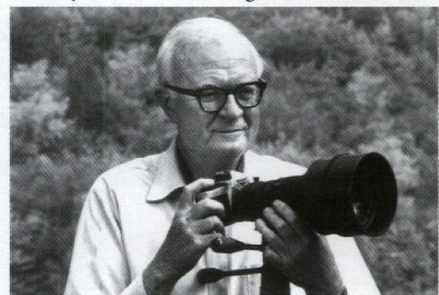
—Diane Lea

Grandfather Mountain's Hugh Morton

UNC-CH Exhibits Morton Photos

Almost 70 of Hugh Morton's photographic highlights are now on display in an exhibit in the North Carolina Collection Gallery of UNC-Chapel Hill's Wilson Library. Open through December 31, the exhibit celebrates the

recent publication by the UNC Press of Hugh Morton's North Carolina. Some of the photographs in the exhibition are enlarged as much as three by four feet, including one of the Charlotte



COURTESY UNC PRESS

Hugh Morton

skyline taken from Grandfather Mountain.

Morton, a 1943 UNC alumnus, a combat photographer in World War 11 and unofficial state photographer for some 60 years, was an avid photographer while he was a Carolina student, taking pictures for *The Daily Tar Heel* student newspaper and the school's annual, the Yackety Yack. Morton has photographed an array of state leaders and the UNC men's basketball team since the 1940s—at home and in tournament play.

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Watch for a review written by Hugh Morton's grandson in the December issue of *Metro*.

Education Advocate

Kathy Taft to Seek State Senate Seat

Education policy maker Kathy Taft of Greenville has decided not to run for the office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction in order to seek the District Five State Senate Seat in 2004. Taft, currently serving her second 8-year term on the North Carolina State Board of Education, told *Metro*, "While I am flattered to be considered as a candidate for the Superintendent's race, I am more interested in serving my constituents in the State Senate."

Taft, a mother of four, served on the board of the Governor's School and six years on the Pitt County Board of Education. She is known for her stand to "ensure that bright students are not left out in the state's efforts to have all children achieve their potential." She is currently serving as chairperson of the High Student Performance goal and the Ad Hoc Writing Committee of the NC Board of Education. She serves on the boards of the Public School Forum, Communities in Schools and the Advancement Council for the East Carolina University College of Education. She was inducted into the Educators Hall of Fame at ECU October 25th.

Making an Indelible Mark

Lichtins Honored as Outstanding Philanthropists

Noel and Harold Lichtin will be honored as the Triangle's Outstanding Philanthropists at the 14th Annual National Philanthropy Day Awards Celebration hosted by the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Triangle Chapter.

The awards ceremony will take place during a networking reception on November 20 from 4:30-7:30 p.m. at the NC Museum of Art. This year's theme is "First in Flight—First in Philanthropy," offering the community an opportunity both to celebrate Triangle philanthropists and view the exhibition "Defying Gravity: Contemporary Art and Flight" at the Museum. Walteye Rasulala, Development

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Duke's President Keohane Receives University Medal

After giving the keynote address recently for her last Founders' Day ceremony as Duke University president, Nannerl O. Keohane was presented with the University Medal, the university's highest honor.

Keohane was the surprise third recipient of the medal, joining Joe Pietrantonio, the recently retired associate vice president for auxiliary services, and A. Morris Williams Jr., alumnus and trustee emeritus. The award recognizes individuals for years of exceptional service to the University.

Having announced in February that she will be stepping down as President in June 2004, Keohane used the keynote address to "briefly replay the tape in the opposite direction" and to look at what has changed at the University during her term as president. Keohane particularly noted Duke's accomplishments in establishing an international identity.

"One of the commitments I made in October 1993," she said, "was to lead our institution to a more certain awareness of what it means to be an 'international university,'" Keohane said. "I believe we have made good on that. Duke has a stronger and

more deliberately focused international presence. ... I have no doubt that this effort will continue to be one of Duke's priorities in the years ahead."

Another of Keohane's emphases has been the study of ethics. Her contributions in this area are being honored by the AJ Fletcher Foundation and its president, James F. Goodman, with a \$1.33 million donation to Duke's Kenan Institute for Ethics. The gift will be matched by \$670,000 from Duke's Nicholas Faculty Leadership Initiative to establish a \$2 million endowment that will fund the Nannerl O. Keohane Directorship of the Kenan Institute for Ethics.

Director, NC Partnership for Children, will emcee the event.

The Lichtins have made an indelible mark on the Triangle community with financial support and personal time commitment in fostering endowed scholarships at North Carolina Universities, enriching the lives of children with the Boys and Girls Club of Raleigh and honoring non-profit agency directors with their Service Award.

Other award recipients to be honored at the Awards Celebration are

- Chris and Bill Hamlin, Outstanding Volunteer Fundraisers
- NC Farm Bureau, Outstanding Corporation
- Fox Family Foundation, Outstanding Philanthropic Organization
- Keosha Johnson, Boys & Girls Club, Outstanding Youth
- Bert Armstrong, Methodist Home for Children, Outstanding fundraising executive
- George and Julia Brumley, Special Remembrance for Outstanding Contributions to Philanthropy

The Lichtin Family Foundation will also present their 3rd annual Award for Service to Betsy Bennett, Director of the NC Museum of Natural Sciences. This award honors a nonprofit executive who demonstrates innovative and creative solutions to community problems.

The National Philanthropy Day Awards celebration is open to the public and admission is \$30 for AFP members, \$40 for non-AFP members and \$50 at the door. If you wish to attend, call 919-676-2646 or email afptriangelenc@hotmail.com. Deadline for reservations is November 7.

NC among Worst in Nation

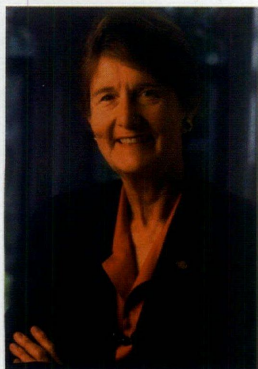
Small Business Survival Index Ranks NC 37th

North Carolina Ranks 37th in the nation on the Small Business Survival Index, according to the annual rankings of the Small Business Survival Committee (SBSC).

According to SBSC chief economist Raymond J. Keating, author of the study, "The Small Business Survival Index 2003" compares how governments in the states treat small businesses and entrepreneurs. Since small business serves as the backbone of the US economy—for example, by providing the bulk of new jobs and

continued on page 85

COURTESY OF DUKE UNIVERSITY

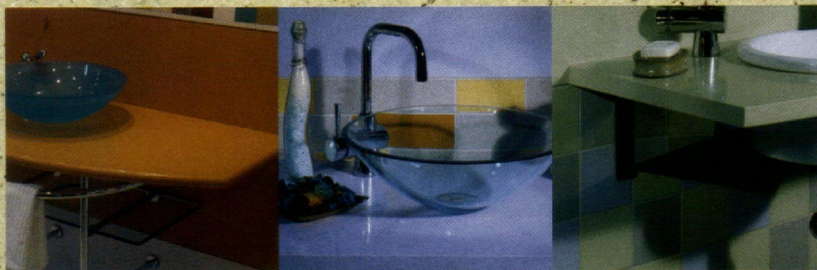


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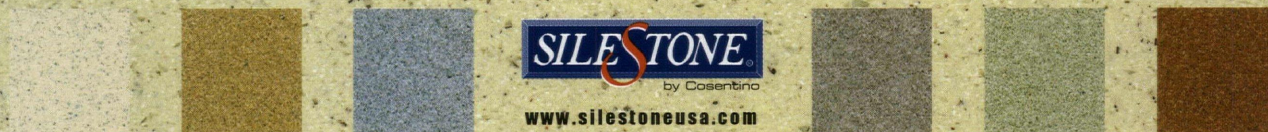
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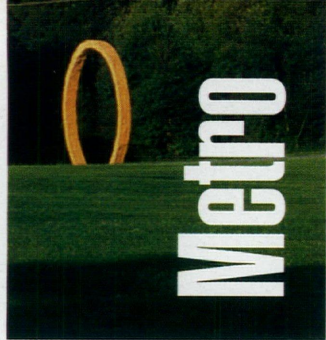
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Design

by Diane Lea

The NCMA's Museum Park:

BRINGING ART, THE ENVIRONMENT AND PEOPLE TOGETHER

The Museum is at a crossroads," Larry Wheeler, director of the North Carolina Museum of Art, said recently. "We are reinventing ourselves. When the decision was made in the early 1970s to build a new Museum of Art on 50-plus acres next to a declining prison facility in what was then the edge of Raleigh and the emerging Triangle, it sparked a five-year controversy, which held up construction and escalated the cost of the building. There was an understanding at that time that at some point the Polk Youth Center would be closed and the Museum would have land for expansion, but there were no commitments."

Now Wheeler's fondest dream of demolishing the prison facility has been realized through funds provided by museum patrons Ann B. Goodnight, a former president of the North Carolina Museum of Art Foundation, and husband James Goodnight, founder of the SAS Institute in Cary. "It's gone," said Wheeler, "and we have embarked on a decade-long project to transform the Museum campus into an art park, perhaps one of only six in the world."

Here, Diane Lea takes you on a time-journey through the museum's evolution into an indoor/outdoor museum with a magnificent "art park."

West Raleigh's Blue Ridge Road, aptly named for its elevation and ridgeline, is a well-recognized exit from Interstate I-440/Beltline and a major nexus in the Triangle. Heading north, past the site of the former Polk Youth Center prison, Blue Ridge Road's four-lane arterial intersects with the dual entry drive of the

North Carolina Museum of Art, one of the state's most notable public cultural institutions.

Art is apparent as you enter the curvilinear driveway and wind around a well-tended oval green furnished with a painted and burnished minimalist construction by Ronald Bladen. A graceful grassy berm is the site of Bill and Mary Buchen's intriguing *Flight Wind Reeds*, five aluminum rods that turn and spin, creating a soft sound of bells like a massive wind chime. Adjacent to the diagonal lines of the parking court are inviting walkways bordered by live oaks and perennial beds that alternately showcase formal marble creations by the redoubtable Henry Moore and cunningly reveal partially hidden "critters" formed from tree trunks by artisan Clyde Jones. These sense-stimulating footpaths lead to the Museum's entrance beneath



Giraffe "critter"

a cantilevered canopy and beyond to a tiered seat amphitheater. Opened in 1997 and named for Greensboro philanthropist Joseph M. Bryan Jr., the amphitheater is highlighted by the words "Picture This," spelled out in 80-foot letters created from diverse natural materials by textural artist Barbara Kruger and a design team that included architects Henry Smith-Miller and Laurie Hawkinson and landscape architect Nicholas Quennell.

It is clear that captivating things happen in this place, outside, in the air and on the ground.



The Museum's octagon-shaped *Cloud Chamber*, is the newest in artist Chris Drury's series of cloud chambers, each of which functions as an oversized camera obscura, with a small aperture in the roof focusing an inverted image of the sky and clouds above onto the floor of the chamber below

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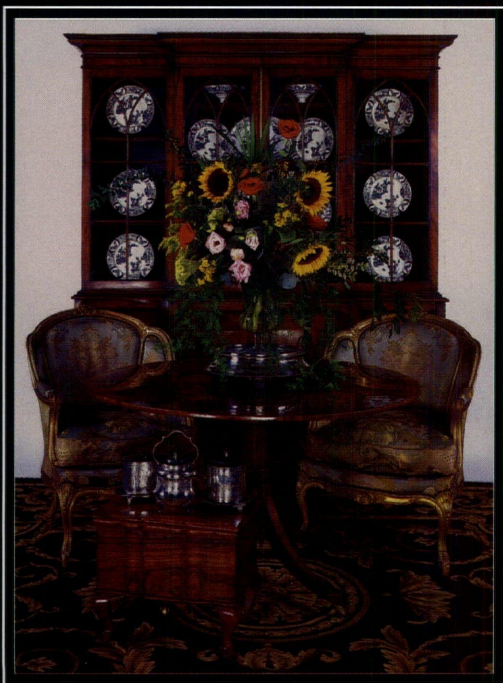
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The museum, a spare contemporary structure completed in 1983 from a design by the New York City firm of Edward Durrell Stone in collaboration with Holloway-Reeves of Raleigh, features softly lit interior galleries with a central atrium. It boasts what is today the finest and most comprehensive collection of European art in the Southeast, a considerable achievement for a state museum not funded by a Mellon or a Rockefeller. The collection was begun in 1947 with a \$1 million appropriation made by the General Assembly and greatly enhanced in 1960 by a \$2 million gift of works from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation. Support from numerous foundations, corporations, private individuals and the State has aided in enlarging and enriching the collection.

Lawrence J. Wheeler, whose 10-year tenure as Museum Director has encompassed a remarkable period of growth, educational outreach and the building of public support, looks out from his window-walled corner office as he talks about the Museum's future. The view reveals nature and art comfortably integrated. Wheeler points out Thomas Sayre's monumental *Gyre*, a progression of three earth-cast rings that were literally raised from the red clay on which they rest partially submerged. Not far away, surrounded by grazing horses from the neighboring North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine, stands Vollis Simpson's fanciful *Wind Machine*, a colorful 35-foot whirligig.

These creations represent the early beginnings of the long-anticipated Museum Park. Though the recent demolition of the adjacent prison facility is a landmark event that enables the Museum Park plans to move forward, the Museum has assiduously sought its destiny as an indoor/outdoor museum and art park through years of endeavor. During the late 1980s and early 1990s, a series of state and foundation grants, as well as a major award of \$250,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts, enabled the Museum to develop a master plan for Landscape + Art, an expanded view of the museum's mission within its physical setting. It evolved into the concept for the Museum Park. "In the Park, art and nature are to be equal part-



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COURTESY OF NC MUSEUM OF ART

A portion of the Museum's 164-acre campus featuring the Joseph M. Bryan, Jr., outdoor theater. The facility spells out Picture This in 80-foot letters.

ners," says Wheeler. "There will be collaboration among artists, architects, landscape designers and environmental scientists to preserve open space, restore ecosystems and introduce the citizens of North Carolina to new ways of exploring contemporary art and nature."

Wheeler is especially pleased with an agreement reached with the State Department of Corrections, which transferred the property adjoining the Museum to the Department of Cultural Resources. "This assured us the use of the total 164 acres for the eventual expansion of the Museum building and the creation of the Museum Park," he says. The Master Plan calls for incorporating an alternative transportation system into the Park's greenspace and trails system that would connect the Museum Park to the Raleigh Greenway system and to the State Park system at Umstead Park.

"What we're proposing will not only be a place for artists, environmentalists and



North Carolina Museum of Art Amphitheater, Raleigh, N.C.

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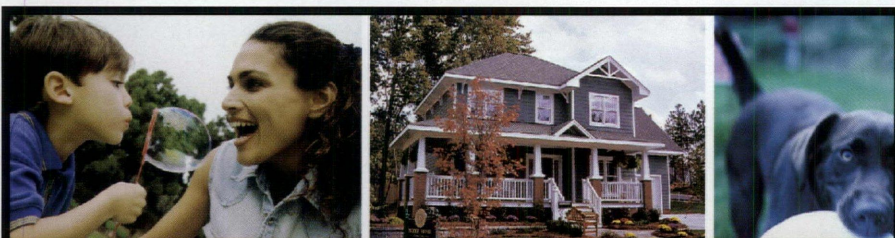
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RALEIGH WILMINGTON CHARLOTTE ORLANDO NEWPORT NEWS

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A family enjoys strolling along the Museum's paved bicycle path through the Sayre installation Gyre. The kinetic sound sculpture *Flight Wind Reeds* (right) was inspired by the aerial stunts of Russian stunt pilots.



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the public to interact with nature," says Wheeler, "but ultimately an alternative transportation route whereby people from many parts of the Triangle can get to the Museum by means other than automobiles." The State Board of Transportation has awarded a contract to build the two-mile Reedy Creek Greenway System, a trail that will lead around Meredith College, beneath Wade Avenue and over the I-440-Beltline to the Museum Park. The 660-foot fabricated steel truss bridge that will cross over the Beltline north of Wade Avenue is projected to be completed by November of 2004.

Dan Gottlieb, the Museum's Deputy Director for Planning and Design, has been immersed in the development of the Park Master Plan since his arrival in 1999. "When I looked at the scope of the Museum Park project and the complexity of the natural environment in which we were to



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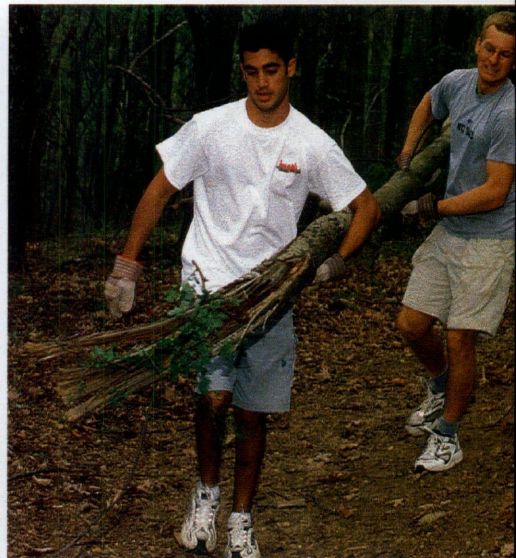
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COURTESY OF NC MUSEUM OF ART

Museum volunteers clear a trail.

work, I turned for advice to North Carolina State University's College of Natural Resources," says Gottlieb. There he found Theodore Shear, associate professor in the Department of Forestry. "Shear directs the Restoration Ecology Program in the Department of Forestry," says Gottlieb. "I put together a multi-disciplinary team (including Ted, a curator and educator) to address the rebuilding of the Museum's pond as a living ecosystem and the restoration of the forested areas throughout the site. In addition, there will be a restored prairie area with tall grasses and long-leaf pines."

The Museum's partnership with Shear and the NCSU College of Natural Resources has led to an opportunity for the College to collaborate with the Department of Cultural Resources for the long-term planning and management of the Museum Park. "This collaboration between a cultural agency and environmental scientists and scientists is probably unique in the art museum world," notes Gottlieb.

Another of the key contributors to the Museum Park Master Plan is Amaechi Okigbo, associate professor of Landscape Architecture at Cornell University and member of Gottlieb's planning team for the Museum Park. Okigbo, who was formerly an associate professor in the Department of Horticultural Science and associate faculty member in the Landscape Architecture Program at NCSU's College of Design, heard about the prospects for expanding the Museum into the land around it while



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he was still teaching at NCSU. "I called up to learn more about this idea and found Dan," says Okigbo. "He invited me to a planning workshop and from that contact we continued to collaborate on the Master Plan." Eventually, Okigbo used the Museum Park as a graduate design studio project for his students at Cornell.

Okigbo's analysis of the effort that went into the Master Plan lays out the key elements that this remarkable project encompasses. He emphasizes the need for continuity between the old and the new, both in the current Museum building and the proposed building expansion. "We were dealing with the Museum mission to make art accessible to the public, literally unfolding itself in the natural environment surrounding the Museum," says Okigbo. All of the other factors—entry and circulation by both pedestrian and vehicular traffic, the exhibition of art and its involvement with recreation, leisure and education, and the dramatic nature of the seasonal changes of the land, and how to make the landscape visually accessible were unlike anything any of us had done before."

Gottlieb sums up the Museum Park as a bit of uncanny prescience, first on the part of the early decision-makers who chose to establish a creative institution in a location where there was room for expansion. "In the 1970s this state was doing some amazing things," says Gottlieb. "The Research Triangle Park was being developed, and we were building a new North Carolina Museum of Art. We agree with the research and writings of national figures like Richard Florida, the author of *The Rise of the Creative Class: And How It's Transforming Work, Leisure, Community and Everyday Life* and an expert on economic development, that economic viability and creativity are related. That is, what it takes to attract creative people and build sustainable communities is a place where creative and diverse things can happen, where a creative and diverse public can enjoy music, performances, art events and outdoor recreation."

We in the Triangle and throughout North Carolina owe a debt of gratitude to the talented and determined people who have worked so diligently and successfully to bring us the Museum Park. **MM**

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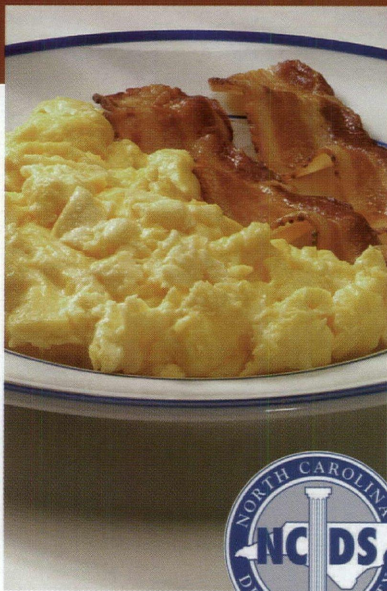


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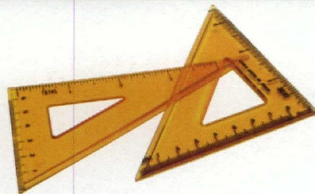
METRO MAGAZINE'S ANNUAL EDUCATION REPORT



The State of Public Education

Are our public schools educating our children or are we hopelessly bogged down in academic propaganda and teacher union forced mediocrity?

George Leef references the latest news from the classroom.



How Well Prepared Are American Teachers? by George Leef

How well are American teachers prepared for their important work? Consider the following statement by Heather Mac Donald in her essay "*Why Johnny's Teacher Can't Teach*."

For over eighty years, teacher education in America has been in the grasp of an immutable dogma, responsible for endless educational nonsense. That dogma may be summed up in the phrase: Anything But Knowledge. Schools are about many things, teacher educators say... but one thing they are not about is knowledge. Oh sure, educators will occasionally allow the word to pass their lips, but it is always in a compromised position, as in "constructing one's own knowledge," or "contextualized knowledge."

Plain old knowledge, the kind passed down in books, the kind for which Faust sold his soul, that is out.

Mac Donald's essay, included in her book *The Burden of Bad Ideas*, reveals the utter inanity of the education school curriculum, inanity that reflects the commitment to "progressive" education ideas prevalent among the education elite. While most parents may believe that schools should concentrate on teaching children how to read and use English well, how to perform mathematical operations, the crucial facts of our history and similar things, the educationists know that schools must be about more important matters, such as multicultural sensitivity, self-esteem and wellness. To them, taking time away from those lofty concerns to instruct students on mere facts is the worst of sins.

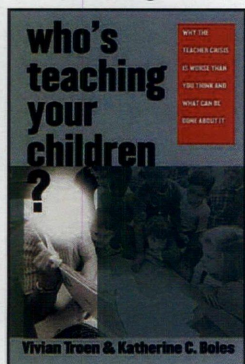
At least since the publication of Rita Kramer's *Ed School Follies* in 1991, there has been a growing awareness in the US that many teachers, especially those certified to

weak, poorly versed in their subjects, and committed to faddish educational notions. Consequently, some states have begun testing to discern the level of competence of new teacher applicants and found that many of them ought to be sent back to school. In 1998, Massachusetts had a failure rate of 59 percent on a test of basic academic ability geared to a 10th-grade level.

Concern over teacher competence is now reaching into the ranks of education professionals. Vivian Troen and Katherine Boles, two experienced teachers with well-polished credentials (Troen is currently on professional development school initiatives at Brandeis University and Boles is a lecturer at the Harvard Graduate School of Education) have written a book that explores the problem of poor teaching. They write, "Public education

in America is in serious trouble. By 'in trouble,' we mean that the number of good classroom teachers, and therefore the quality of teaching itself, is in perilous decline and will continue to worsen." Their conclusion is incontestable, but the authors do not accurately diagnose the problem and their proposed solution would do little to solve it.

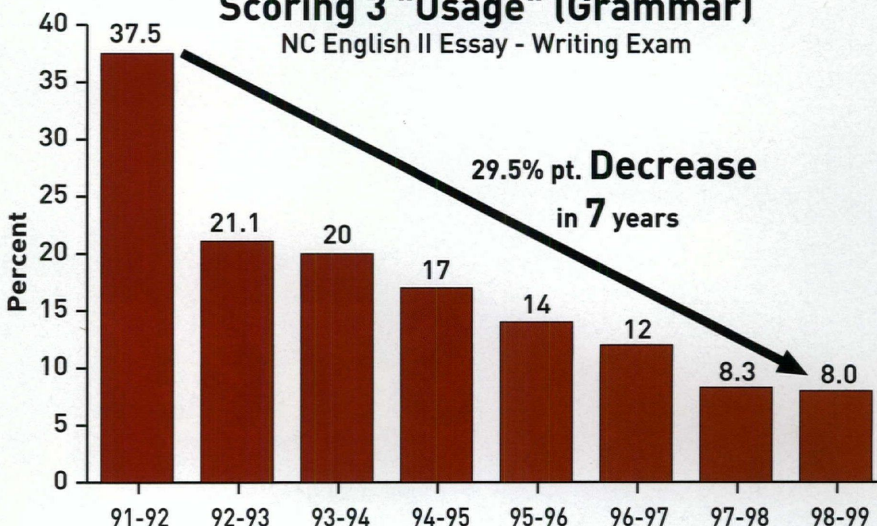
Troen and Boles argue that America faces a "trilemma dysfunction" regarding teacher quality. First, very few academically gifted young people are drawn into K-12 teaching. Very bright—or even average—students rarely pursue an education degree, which is seen as a dead end having no value outside of primary and secondary school teaching. Consequently, ed school professors teach classes mostly filled with dull and credulous students who know that the curriculum is



Who's Teaching Your Children?

by Vivian Troen and Katherine C. Boles
Yale University Press,
2003, 222 pp.

North Carolina 10th Graders Scoring 3 "Usage" (Grammar) NC English II Essay - Writing Exam



During the 1990s the NC Department of Public Instruction (DPI) reported to parents and the public that students in the public school system were becoming more proficient in writing. However, the DPI test scores reported did not reflect proficiency in the mechanics of writing. As the chart above indicates, grammar proficiency was actually falling dramatically while DPI was claiming writing ability was improving. Proficiency in other elements of writing such as spelling and usage was also declining. When questions were raised about DPI's failure to include proficiency in spelling and grammar as part of the reported scores, DPI was forced to consider revisions to the writing test. DPI has not yet come up with a new test they believe will produce acceptable results.

simple, the grades are high, and the end result is a secure job. Few of those who enter teaching today have much scholarly inclination. They like the idea of being a teacher, but don't have a passion for transmitting knowledge about an academic field.

The second part of the "trilemma" is that teacher preparation programs are weak. One problem that Troen and Boles recognize is that American teacher-training programs have low academic standards in order to maximize their enrollments. The authors have hit upon the explanation for much of what has gone wrong in higher education when they write, "you don't put bodies in seats—and keep them there—if you're too tough on your customers." The desire to keep students happy by making education fun and easy is rampant throughout our education system, and nowhere is that truer than in schools of education, where the academic demands are notoriously low. The authors quote a student who was pursuing a master's degree in education at the supposedly elite Columbia University Teachers College: "One of our seminars... was described to us as 'the back-



"Public education in America is in serious trouble. By 'in trouble,' we mean that the number of good classroom teachers, and therefore the quality of teaching itself, is in perilous decline and will continue to worsen."

—Vivian Troen and Katherine Boles


bone of our teacher-training experience.' A lot of the three hours was spent writing with magic markers on easel pads, in order to 'share our experiences.' Pabulum like that dominates teacher-training programs. Unfortunately, the book doesn't delve nearly far

enough into the problem. Teacher education isn't just academically flimsy, but many of the theories taught are downright harmful.

"Progressive education" is a menagerie of theories on how to teach, and as Heather Mac Donald observed, what they have in

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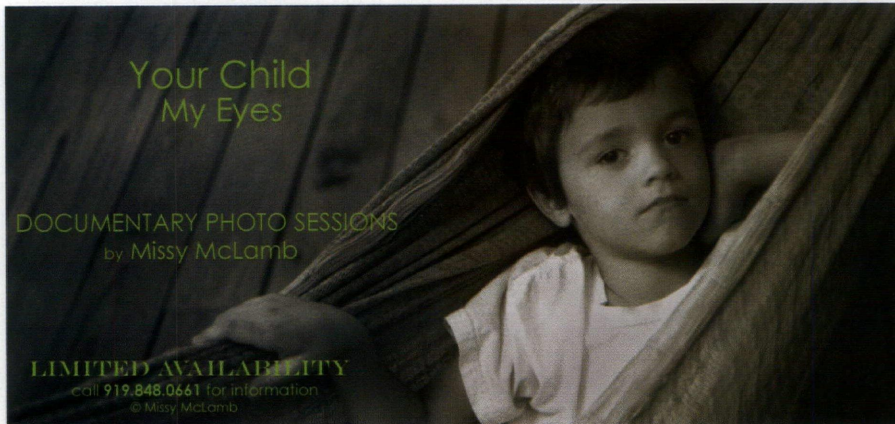
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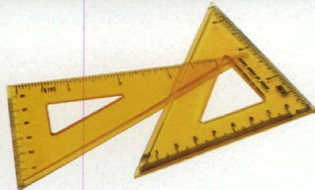


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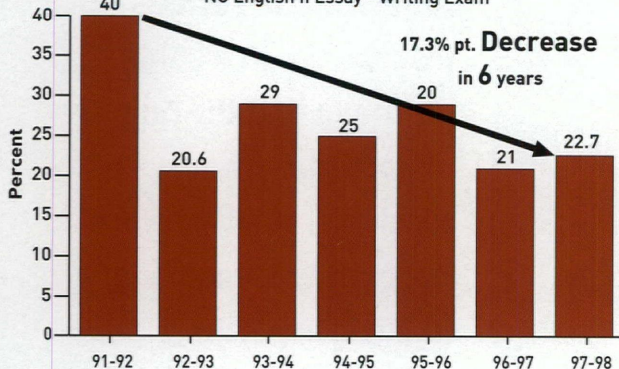
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Metro Annual Education Report

North Carolina 10th Graders Scoring 3 "Mechanics"

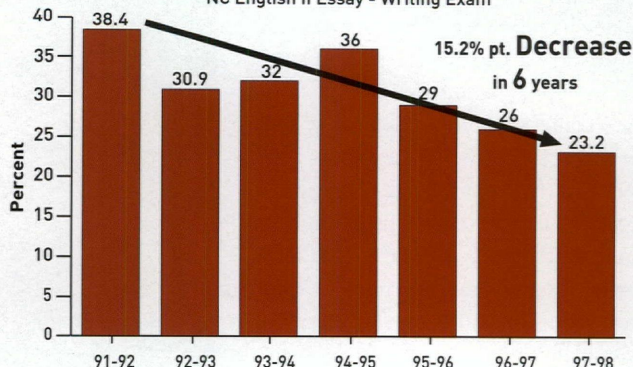
NC English II Essay - Writing Exam



Source: Charlotte Mecklenburg PTA Council

North Carolina 10th Graders Scoring 3 "Spelling"

NC English II Essay - Writing Exam



Source: Charlotte Mecklenburg PTA Council

common is their denigration of the idea that teachers should transmit knowledge to students. Most prospective teachers are told that they must act as facilitators rather than instructors because it is vital that students "construct their own knowledge." That notion has spawned numerous progeny, such as the admonition not to worry about whether students write and spell properly. To correct a student's writing is to interfere with his "authentic voice," many future teachers are told.

Another pernicious offspring is the notion that learning should be as cooperative as possible, and competition should be banished. Accordingly, student time and effort are increasingly spent on group projects with little academic content.

Then there is the theory of "multiple intelligences," holding that humans are "intelligent" in at least eight ways, including "interpersonal intelligence," "artistic intelligence," and "kinesthetic intelligence." Thanks to the

spread of this egalitarian belief (everyone's a genius in some way!), we find teachers assigning tasks such as the painting of a picture to show how a student felt about a book, rather than writing an old-fashioned book report. In his marvelously incendiary book *Class Warfare*, J. Martin Rochester describes the capstone project for his son's Greek mythology unit in a top-notch high school. The students were to make a collage containing contemporary references to Greek culture. The lad completed the assignment by cutting and pasting ads for Ajax cleanser, Nike shoes, Olympus cameras and so on. The idea that such absurd assignments are appropriate is propagated in the ed school hothouse.

Another virulent notion that one often finds in ed school courses is that schools should be used to promote "social justice." Therefore, some teachers come to see their calling as the creation of activists rather than scholars and the inculcating of beliefs hostile to capitalism and the market order.

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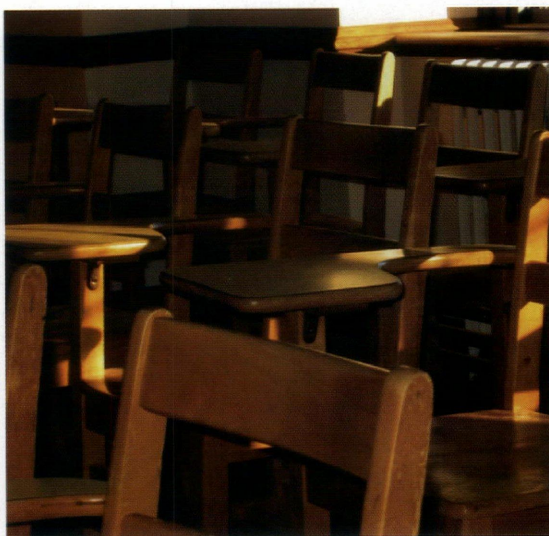
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"improvement," as Troen and Boles say. They are so thoroughly steeped in perverse ideas about what education is that "improving" them is certain to be a futile exercise. Those who run the education schools are deeply committed to their view of education, and because they hold a monopoly on the training of teachers (for public schools, at least), they don't bear the cost of being wrong. Ed schools won't be improved, but they could be avoided if states would stop making them a prerequisite to a teaching career. The authors, however, are not fond of market processes and fail to see that the primary reason why we have poorly trained teachers is that we have substituted government regulation for market competition in the training of teachers.

I will skip over the third leg of the "trilemma" (the argument that the professional life of the teacher is "on the whole unacceptable") to move on to the authors' solution for poor teaching. They propose to create a new kind of public school—the "Millennium School."

As they describe it, "A Millennium School

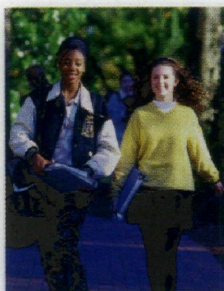


offers teachers a multilevel career path that rewards advanced training and experience with higher levels of pay, responsibility, supervision and team management." Troen and Boles are very excited about their idea, but it is impossible to see how it could make any significant difference in the quality of instruction in American schools. Public education is inextricably caught between the

Scylla of the many groups that want to control it for ideological purposes (including the education theorists), and the Charybdis of teacher unions that want to squeeze as much money out of the system as possible. Creating new schools within a system subject to those powerful forces and expecting them to function more effectively than current schools do is wishful thinking.

Let me offer some specifics on how unrealistic the "Millennium School" idea is. It would establish a hierarchy of teachers and at the pinnacle would be a small number of "chief instructors" who have been certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). These "master teachers" would work with the lower levels of teachers to raise their ability. Troen and Boles seem to envision something akin to Itzhak Perlman holding master classes to help improve the playing of up-and-coming violinists. The difficulty here is that certifica-

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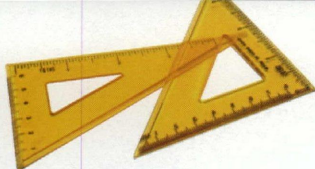
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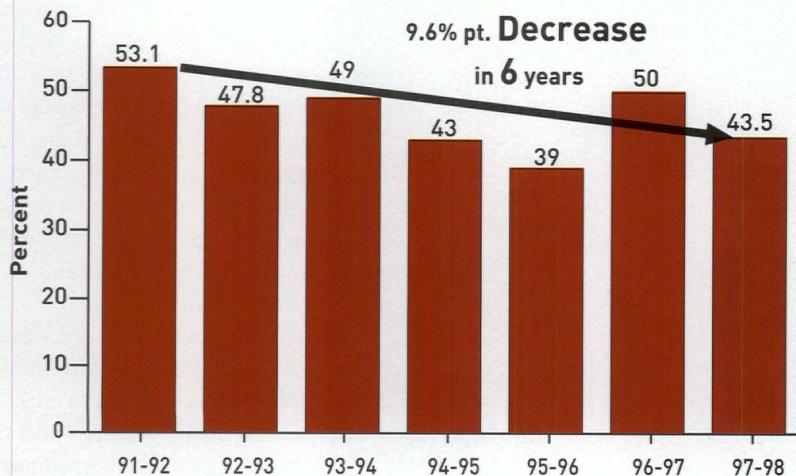
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North Carolina 10th Graders Scoring 3 "Sentence Formation" NC English II Essay - Writing Exam



Source: Charlotte Mecklenburg PTA Council

tion by the National Board is no guarantee of teaching expertise.

NBPTS enjoys glowing reputation in the education community, but many outside observers (including this reviewer) have concluded that it is an emperor wearing no clothes. Its standards are suffused with "pro-

gressive" notions of how to teach, and its certification program consists mainly of subjective testing of the teacher's ability to expound on those notions. The teacher's command of his subject is of little importance, and evidence of student learning plays no role at all. One can obtain National Board certification

North Carolina Student, School/District Characteristics

Student Characteristics

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Number enrolled: | 1,315,363 |
| Percent in Title I schools: | 35.7% |
| With Individualized Education Programs (IEP): | 14.2% |
| Percent in limited-English proficiency programs: | 4.0% |
| Percent eligible for free/reduced lunch: | 38.4% |

School/District Characteristics

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Number of school districts: | 212 |
| Number of schools: | 2,234 |
| Number of charter schools: | 93 |
| Per-pupil expenditures: | \$6,346 ¹ |
| Pupil/teacher ratio: | 15.4 |
| Number of FTE teachers: | 85,684 |

Racial/Ethnic Background

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| White: | 60.0% |
| Black: | 31.3% |
| Hispanic: | 5.2% |
| Asian/Pacific Islander: | 1.9% |
| American Indian/Alaskan Native: | 1.5% |

Source: Common Core of Data, 2001-2002 school year

1: Common Core of Data, 2000-2001 school year

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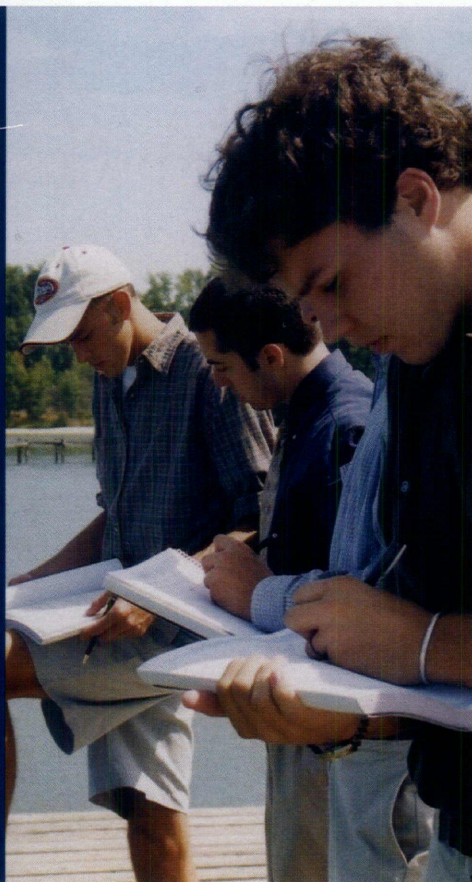
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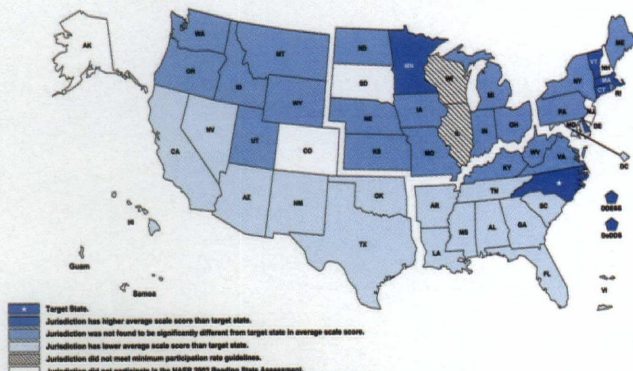
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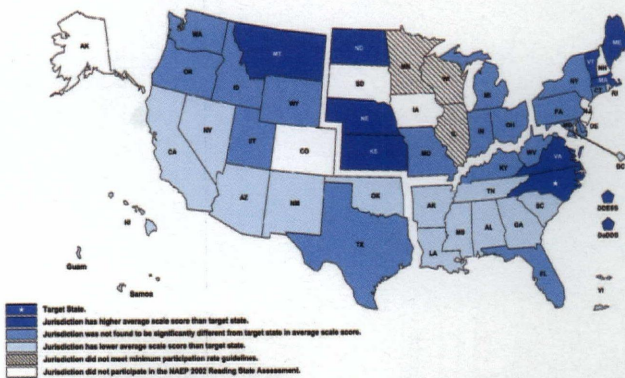
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North Carolina's average reading scale score compared with scores for other participating jurisdictions, grade 4 public schools: 2002



DOES: Department of Defense Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools.
 DODDS: Department of Defense Domestic Dependent Schools (Overseas).
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2002 Reading Assessment.

North Carolina's average reading scale score compared with scores for other participating jurisdictions, grade 8 public schools: 2002



DOES: Department of Defense Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools.
 DODDS: Department of Defense Domestic Dependent Schools (Overseas).
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2002 Reading Assessment.

without being a particularly effective teacher.

There is no reason to believe that giving a few "chief instructors" authority to oversee the development of other teachers would improve the performance of the latter. Given the degree to which belief in "progressive" education ideas has permeated the system, it is likely that the "experts" would merely reinforce in their subordinates the kinds of fatuous educational theories that are so much to blame for our woeful performance.

And then, there is the looming obstacle of the teacher unions. Troen and Boles gullibly accept the public relations pronouncements of the National Education Association and American Federation of Teachers about their commitment to "high

standards" and "educational excellence." Naturally, the unions say such things, but their overriding desire is to maintain and improve upon the very comfortable status quo they have obtained for teachers. Parents may worry that their children are not learning the "Three R's" very well, but that hardly matters to union officials. The standard-less world of progressive education suits them very well because it makes teachers' jobs easier and simultaneously makes it impossible to hold them accountable for results. Therefore, we can expect that the unions will fight tooth and nail against any proposed changes that they don't think are in their interest. Two recent books that make this point very strongly are Peter Brimelow's *The Worm*

in the Apple and Sol Stern's *Breaking Free*. Union demands for power and money always trump concerns over student learning. If the "Millennium School" model could actually be put into effect, its good intentions would soon be subverted by union demands.

Still, *Who's Teaching Your Children?* is worth reading because it dares to say that much in our public education system is dysfunctional. Coming from education insiders, that is significant. The book ultimately disappoints, however, because it falls into that well-worn trap of believing that public education can be "saved" by making some minor adjustments at the margins. That approach has no chance of success. **MM**

continued on page 53



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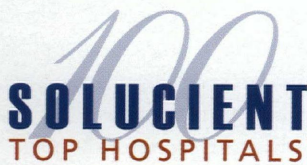
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And, more recently, Pitt County Memorial Hospital was selected as one of the 100 best work environments in the country by *Working Mother* magazine. That's good news for eastern North Carolina. Outstanding healthcare *and* a great place to work — at home in Greenville.

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East Carolina University

HEADS UP TRIANGLE UNIVERSITIES.

East Carolina University is fast becoming a serious rival for the recognition usually reserved for UNC, NC State and Duke. From a small teacher's college at the beginning of the 20th century, ECU now boasts 20,000 students and schools and departments with national reputations bestowing Masters and PhD's along with a medical school that is producing doctors to serve the eastern region of the state. But the big news is the creation of a medical complex creating original research and procedures known around the world.

The saga of ECU is abundant with dedication and success. But down in Greenville it's the future they're thinking about. Read on to discover for yourself what a few have known all along.

East Carolina University

Tomorrow Starts Here

Relying on its successes, East Carolina University undertakes ambitious strategic plan for the new century

by Rick Smith

Following a century of startling growth and nationally recognized accomplishment, East Carolina University is implementing a strategic plan as it looks ahead to its Centennial in 2007. This ambitious initiative for the new century emphasizes the role of ECU as the educational, medical, cultural and economic engine for the eastern region of North Carolina.

Located 90 miles east of the state capital, ECU is a growing economic, educational and medical service beacon for the eastern third of North Carolina.

Fighting against the education oligarchs in Raleigh from the time of the university's founding, ECU's leadership, faculty, staff and supporters have waged a stubborn—and successful—battle to build their institution. After several unsuccessful attempts to establish a school in the East, the state granted a charter in 1907 to East Carolina Teachers Training School, which opened to students October 5th, 1909 with 174 students enrolled in a two-year program. College status was conferred by the General Assembly in 1951; despite significant pockets of opposition, East Carolina was granted university status by the state in 1967. Today, the university has an enrollment of more than 20,000, graduating approximately 4,000 students a year with bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees, including doctor of medicine (M.D.).

ECU backers also had to wage a tremendous battle to establish a medical school. That concept finally won approval in 1976, and the Brody School of Medicine welcomed its first students in 1977.

Reflecting the growing stature of the university's programs, in 1998 ECU was classified as a Doctoral Level II university in recognition of its focus on research. It now offers a wide variety of doctoral programs including medicine, coastal resource management, communications sciences, education, anatomy, microbiology and immunology, physiology, pharmacology, nursing, and bioenergetics.

With the recognition and additional pro-

grams has come a surge in research grants from federal, state and local governments and the private sector. Funding reached \$11.87 million in fiscal year 2001-2002, an increase of nearly 58 percent in five years.

ECU's broadening variety of programs has helped double enrollment since 1971, producing graduates in 13 different categories in 2002. The 3,400 freshmen enrolled for the fall semester for the 2003-2004 school year brought with them the highest average SAT scores (1050) in the history of the university.

And ECU's athletic program continues to

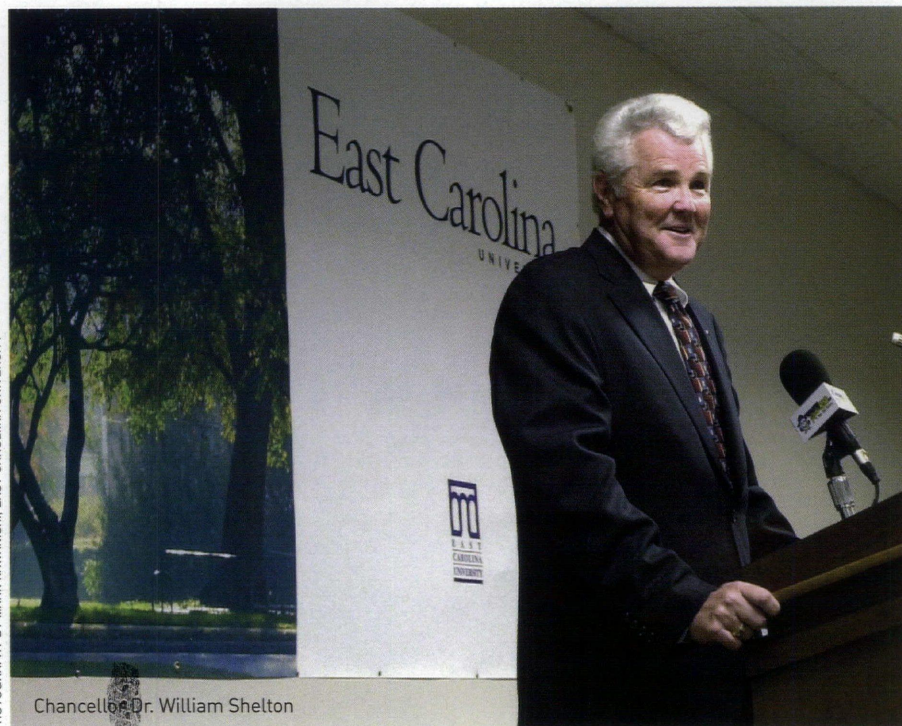
grow as well with a new baseball stadium planned and the recently opened \$13 million Murphy Center for sports training

But there is a strong hunger for more.

In a reflection of these uncertain times, the university recently established a program in Security Studies with plans to offer a degree program in homeland security.

The school is also offering accelerated undergraduate and graduate degree programs in 40 areas of study in which students can complete programs in three years.

And, recognizing its importance as an eco-



Chancellor Dr. William Shelton



nomic growth engine for the region, ECU has opened a Center for Tourism as part of the Department of Nutrition and Hospitality Management.

The university also sought funding from the North Carolina General Assembly in 2003 for a cardiovascular center. The \$60 million proposal won approval in the House but failed to win support in the Senate, which was committed to a \$160 million cancer center at UNC-Chapel Hill. Neither project was funded.

ECU, in partnership with Pitt County Memorial Hospital and University Health Systems of Eastern North Carolina, is determined to build the cardiovascular center, according to Jim Talton, chairman of the Board of Trustees. "There is absolutely no question that we are committed to this," Talton said.

FOUR PILLARS: A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

It is clear from talking with faculty, administrators and alumni that ECU's drive and determination to expand and to improve is as strong today - if not stronger - as in the early years when it fought for and won respect from the Legislature in Raleigh, the people of North Carolina and, in recent years, the nation.

Before settling on a strategic plan for the future, the university wanted to know if an agenda set by the institution should be imposed upon the region, or should the needs of the communities be reflected in the final decision? School leaders decided to blend a tour of the region with an assessment of the university's strengths, and the results astounded them.

Traveling across Eastern North Carolina visiting Chambers of Commerce, Rotary Clubs, schools, and business and government leaders, ECU administrators asked people to tell them about their hopes, their needs, and what they see as problems.

Afterward, they visited the academic units on the campus and discovered that there was a congruence between the problems of the region and the strengths of the university. ECU realized it could help meet the needs of the region by exercising and extending its strengths.

The result is the "four pillars", an initiative to attack the future by implementing a bold strategic plan built upon the university's strengths in education training, addressing the health needs of the community, providing first class arts and community programs, and serving as the incubator for job creation for the eastern area of the state.

"We have a sense of place, and by that I

mean Eastern North Carolina. These four pillars reflect the needs of our region as well as the strengths of our university," says Dr. William Shelton, interim chancellor at ECU. "This is where we live. This is where we are located as a university. This is the place where we can provide so many things. But we also realize pieces of our programs have national and international implications."

"We have a sense of place, and by that I mean Eastern North Carolina. These four pillars reflect the needs of our region as well as the strengths of our university."

—Dr. William Shelton

The blending of hometown service and worldwide achievement is creating, in the view of Shelton and the university leadership, the opportunity for ECU to be an even more important factor in the region's future.

"I would characterize this as a strong sense of determination to allow the largest campus east of Interstate 95 to reach its full potential educationally, economically, medically and culturally," says board chairman Jim Talton, who grew up in Wilson and was graduated from the university in 1965. "The new strategy is built on the legacy of ECU's supporters over the previous decades who had to overcome persistent opposition.

"If you have studied the history of East Carolina, the university's gains have not come without substantial effort - including the medical school and virtually all aspects of academic programs and athletics," he says. "Over the years, it has been a fierce struggle to gain the stature and recognition we now have."

Like Talton, Janice Faulkner, a 1950 ECU graduate who grew up on a tobacco farm in Martin County, is a strong advocate for the uni-

versity and the four pillars plan. A faculty member and administrator for 37 years, as well as a former top official in the Jim Hunt administration, Faulkner sees ECU as a "hidden gem."

"It's one that continues to be polished in every facet. I think the university already has had several phases in its history where it has bloomed. It's probably on the verge of another. It's in a spiral - always moving upward and outward."

MATCHING NEEDS AND EXPERTISE

"The four pillars are not just marketing concepts," stresses Shelton, who came to ECU in July as Vice Chancellor for University Advancement. He had stepped down as president of Eastern Michigan University in 2000, a position he held for 11 years, to return to a faculty position. "I was brought here to implement this vision. There is no need to reinvent the wheel. These four pillars are very appropriate."

Through the strategic plan, the university intends to:

Meet the needs of improving education by providing better-trained teachers, who also are encouraged to remain in the classroom;

Help address the health care needs of the region's population by building upon the medical school - not only with services but also research into causes and prevention;

Provide arts and entertainment through encouraging and expanding the university's performing arts involvement in local communities;

Serve as an incubator for job creation and economic growth by expanding technology transfer, company creation and training more skilled workers for the manufacturing sector.

"It's not enough to say: 'Yes, we are moving,'" Dr. Shelton says, "but rather 'we are moving in the direction we need to be going.'"

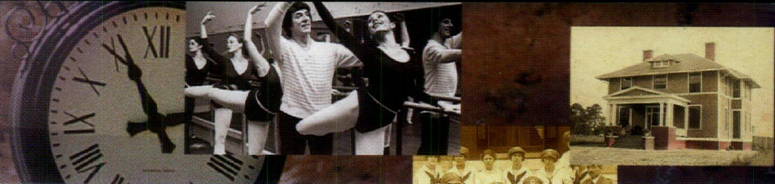
THE TIMES ARE A'CHANGING

Shelton points out that East Carolina's four pillars plan is a necessary response to changing times and demands. While the university has been a crucial leader of the state's eastern region in the past, the new strategy requires even more involvement.

"I do believe that public institutions years and years ago could always operate within their walls and not have to engage the outside community," he says. "We could be behind those ivy-covered walls, but today we are much more integrated into the broader community."

Shelton counts himself among those who will be actively involved in community affairs

East Carolina University



and touting the ECU message.

"In many cases today the leader of an institution of higher learning spends more time external to the institution, telling the story, seeking support," Shelton acknowledges. "I do think the institution needs to feel stability on the inside but also needs to have a sense that it is represented on the outside.

"We're alive and well and going on. It has been my responsibility to assure people both inside and outside that the mission of the institution is being fulfilled."

EMPHASIS ON EDUCATION

In the history of the university, nothing has been more important than the commitment to the education and training of quality teachers through the College of Education. East Carolina produces approximately 300 new

now reached 40 percent, aggravating the shortage created as older instructors retire and public school student populations continue to grow.

To address the problem, the College of Education will include better preparation for teachers entering the university. Says Shelton: "They need to have a better assessment of the challenges they will face in the classroom, and as early as their sophomore years they will be introduced to very realistic school environments."

Additionally, teachers will receive extended assistance after graduation, including advice, consultation and encouragement. The intent is to extend the program through the first five years of a teacher's professional career to improve long-term retention.

ECU already has established "Partnership

of the so-called "Stroke Belt." "There are certain parts of Eastern North Carolina that would rank 51st if they were a state," Dr. Shelton says. "Diabetes. Heart issues. Cancer. Cardiovascular problems. Our region has some huge health needs that we can meet with the health system, from family practice to telemedicine as well as education programs."

The ability to address these needs is possible due to the establishment of the ECU medical school, one of the most significant events to occur in the eastern part of the state during the past quarter century.

The university's Brody School of Medicine, School of Nursing and School of Allied Health Sciences are focused on three major areas—prevention, diagnosis and treatment—in a determined effort to improve quality of life across the region.

In addition, the university has become the major hub for the provision of health care services in the region, sprouting a major secondary medical industry in Greenville.

ECU is also the largest producer of nurses in North Carolina (more than 200 per year), another professional field where demand is high and retention low. The quality of its graduates has led to recognition of the university nationally as one of the top five nursing schools in non-urban areas.

In addition, ECU surgeons perform more bypass surgeries than either hospital at UNC-Chapel Hill or Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem. The extent of heart disease is a reason why East Carolina actively supported the development of minimally invasive robotic surgery. Doctors from around the world are coming to Greenville to study and to be trained in the technique.

Prevention is a key focus of the health care pillar. ECU has teams of researchers focused on blood pressure, cholesterol and the onset of diabetes linked to obesity.

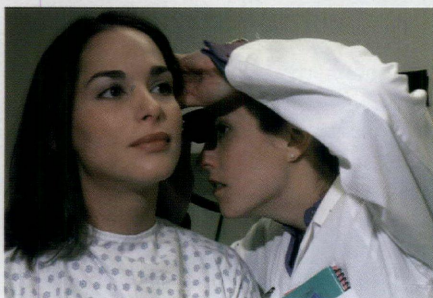
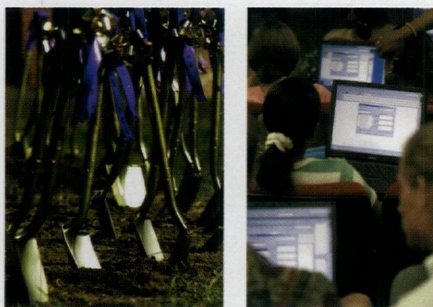
PERFORMING ARTS

The university also is a high-profile cultural resource for the region through its College of Fine Arts and Communication.

"We are the place," supporters of the performing arts like to say. "There is no need to go to Raleigh or to Virginia. We have it all here— theater, dance, music."

Shelton, who shares that belief, says the university is considering the possibility of building a new performing arts facility. It could be located outside of Greenville, reflecting the

continued on page SS 14



teachers each year, more than any other school in the state.

To recruit and train even more teachers is crucial because of the growing need, according to Shelton, driving ECU to make education more accessible and interactive.

"A major point of emphasis will be tele-education," Shelton says. "We want to be able to have teachers in rural areas feel connected to the university so they don't have to drive 70 miles to seek advice or receive professional development. But that is just one of the things we are doing."

A key element of the four pillars goes beyond teacher education. The exit rate for teachers after five years in the classroom has

East" to offer teacher education at community colleges in the region to provide staff and distance learning through the Internet. One goal is to establish a full time advisor on community college campuses.

Continuing education also rates a higher profile through the four pillars. Most masters degree level courses for teachers are available online, and the university plans to work even more closely with public schools to see how it can better meet their needs.

HEALTHCARE

The second of the four pillars is built around health care—and with good reason since Eastern North Carolina is an established part



Advancing Patient Care

by Patricia Staino

You may not equate a world-class medical facility with Pitt County Memorial Hospital. You may not think of East Carolina University as a hot-bed of cutting-edge research and technology advances. You may not think of Greenville as North Carolina's other City of Medicine. But you should.

The East Carolina University Brody School of Medicine has come a long way in a short time. It is one of the ten "youngest" medical schools in the country, admitting its first class of students in 1977. In that short time it has become the focal point for many advanced therapies and treatments that are drawing doctors from around the nation and the world to Greenville for training.

The medical school and its teaching hospital, Pitt County Memorial, are forerunners in a number of areas, including telemedicine, robotic heart surgery, laparoscopic gastric bypass surgery, diabetes treatment and genetic therapies.

The superior level of treatment and research conducted at Brody is recognized on par with many of the best medical facilities in the country. How these advanced treatments and specialties found their way to a rural area of North Carolina is connected to the city of Greenville and its surrounding communities. They are the inspiration for every program established at the school and hospital. ECU's medical school exists because of its community.

Dr. W. Randolph Chitwood, director of the North Carolina Cardiovascular Diseases Institute for University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina, explained that "the Brody School of Medicine, Pitt County Memorial Hospital, and the University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina are the major health providers in eastern North Carolina. The hospital is the major tertiary referral hospital for the region and already has a nucleus of well-



"Minimally-invasive robotic and endoscopic cardiac surgery are not available at most hospitals and universities in our state. These operations are routine at our center."

—Dr. W. Randolph Chitwood

trained specialists, albeit an insufficient number to provide optimal care for the region."

SERVING THE UNDERSERVED

The first thoughts of establishing a medical school began in 1964. Dr. Ernest W. Furguson, from the small eastern North Carolina town of Plymouth, stopped by the home of university president Leo Jenkins on a Sunday afternoon. Dr. Furguson had just left a conference at Duke where he and fel-

low small town doctors, each the sole practitioner in their towns, expressed frustration at not being able to serve all the medical needs of their communities. He was angry that residents of eastern North Carolina did not have the same access to medical care available elsewhere in the state.

Jenkins took up the cause. Despite many struggles with the state legislature—many of whom were concerned with protecting the interests of the medical school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill—a four-year medical school

was established at ECU in 1974, and the first class was admitted in 1977. The school has pushed forward ever since with a curriculum designed with the needs of eastern North Carolina in mind. From the beginning, the purpose has been to train students from North Carolina (no out-of-state applicants are accepted) to become doctors who will serve North Carolina, particularly the state's rural and underserved areas.

Dave McRae, chief executive officer of

East Carolina University



PHOTOGRAPHY BY CLIFF HOLLIS, EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

Dr. Randolph Chitwood, left, and Larry King, PA, prepare the patient to have his mitral valve repaired using the da Vinci Surgical System.

University Health Systems, explained that “by having a medical school and a school of allied health, we produce doctors and nurses, many of whom stay in the region for their working careers.” Many of the programs available through Brody, Pitt County Memorial Hospital and University Health Systems have been highly advanced in their techniques and achievements, drawing the attention and gaining the respect of the medical community as a whole. According to McRae, the impetus of the research and treatment available have little to do with gaining notoriety or fame, and everything to do with serving local patients better. Fortunately, in striving to make its surrounding community the healthiest it can be, the medical school and hospital have developed and pioneered some of the most advanced treatments available.

INTERNATIONAL ACCLAIM

The Brody School of Medicine’s cardiovascular program provides one of the best examples of how the school has continued to focus on fulfilling its mission—serving the medical needs of the eastern Carolina community—while turning the eyes of the international medical community toward Greenville.

In 1996, Chitwood, then chairman of Brody’s department of surgery, developed a procedure for performing mitral valve surgeries with just a small incision using a scope. In 1998, his team brought the first robotic surgery system to the school. ECU heart surgeons were the first to use the system, named da Vinci, to perform heart surgery.

Chitwood’s leadership and achievement in minimally-invasive heart surgery have made Brody a center for the research and treatment of cardiovascular disease. The hospital’s cardiovascular program was recently included in a top 50 ranking by U.S. News and World Report. Its training center was the first to teach robotic cardiac surgery and has trained more than 250 surgeons and 30 teams from around the world. The school now has two heart programs, one dedicated exclusively to training surgeons on the technique.

“Minimally-invasive robotic and endoscopic cardiac surgery are not available at most hospitals and universities in our state. These operations are routine at our center,” said Chitwood. “Moreover, we have been leaders in developing new operations for cardiac rhythm disturbances and many of our therapies are [otherwise] only available outside of the state.”

How a rural North Carolina medical school, barely 30 years old, become the leader in such forward-leaning technology and techniques was accomplished, according to school administrators, by responding to the needs of the patients it was serving. North Carolina, it turns out, is one of the ten worst states for premature mortality. Heart disease accounts for 40 percent of all deaths in the state and one in four North Carolinians has some form of cardiovascular disease.

“If North Carolina was ranked against all of the states in terms of premature mortality, it would be number 49,” said Dr. Chitwood. “Only Mississippi would have a higher rate.”

Statistics are even worse in the eastern part of the state. The 30-county region has a much higher incidence of cardiovascular disease compared to the other 70 counties, and the death rates for individual cardiovascular disease processes are among the highest in the country.

Compared to the rest of the state, eastern Carolina’s premature mortality rate from heart disease is 23 percent higher; from diabetes 27 percent higher; and from stroke 35 percent higher. In addition to the medical and quality of life issues, these statistics have a significant impact on the economic well-being of the area due to loss of work, a diminished workforce, a rise in health insurance costs, and costs to the state for health care for the uninsured.

Brody’s cardiovascular programs developed out of the serious health needs of its local community. Some of the school’s most advanced training and research are focused on heart disease, stroke, and diabetes, the most common threats to the population of the region.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Furthering its commitment to treating heart ailments in eastern North Carolina, the Brody School of Medicine recently announced plans for a \$60 million state-funded cardiovascular institute headed by Chitwood. The institute will concentrate all of the school’s heart specialists and programs in one location to consolidate and improve patient care.

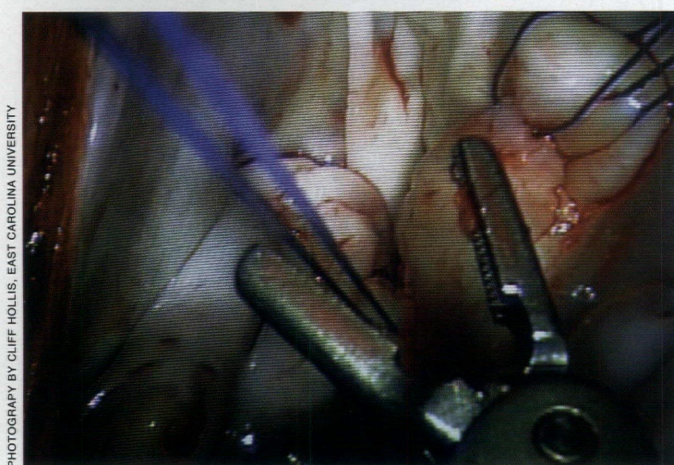
The Legislature did not accept the proposal for the institute outright; a \$180 million cancer center was proposed for UNC-Chapel Hill at the same time, and the Senate passed a bill funding the cancer center but not the cardiovascular institute. House members from eastern Carolina insisted that the state fund one if it was going to fund the other. It



PHOTOGRAPH BY CLIFF HOLLIS, EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY



Above, Dr. Randolph Chitwood performs surgery from the da Vinci Surgical System console during the 100th mitral valve surgery at Pitt County Memorial Hospital. Left, Console view of the da Vinci Surgery System.



PHOTOGRAPH BY CLIFF HOLLIS, EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

of hospitals and physicians involved in a daily battle with this disease in our region."

The institute will include a 150-bed cardiovascular hospital with operating rooms, a cardiac intensive care unit, laboratories, and support services, as well as an adjacent

facility for doctors to conduct patient appointments, educational activities, and research. An addition is also planned for the medical school's life sciences building to house cardiovascular research.

A variety of circumstances converged to make ECU the focal point for such a state-based institute. According to Chitwood, the unusual prevalence of cardiovascular disease and the desire to decrease disease-based health care expenditures in the state while improving patient outcomes are just the starting points to justify establishing the institute. Include the current patient clinical volumes experienced at University Health Systems,

Brody's track record for inter-institutional research collaboration, its world leadership in minimally-invasive and robotic cardiac surgery, and the presence of an established primary care network already in place, and the institute is just the next logical step in the medical school's growth.

The facilities are part of a larger plan to improve patient diagnosis and care. Chitwood envisions a center that will bring together all the specialists involved with caring for heart patients to focus on heart and blood vessel disease and congenital heart disease. He believes this approach will help diagnose patients earlier by avoiding the delays and disconnects that can occur when medical providers work from distant facilities. He would also like to further Brody's innovation and leadership in cutting-edge treatment techniques such as the da Vinci robot.

Chitwood, who recently turned down a position at Harvard and Brigham and Woman's Hospital in Boston, maintained that the "the Institute will allow the citizens of North Carolina to be among the first in the world to benefit from the latest innovations in cardiovascular disease prevention and treat-

was just the latest push-and-pull between the state's only public medical schools, a struggle that has persisted since ECU's medical school was first proposed.

After visiting Chitwood in Greenville, however, some legislators seem ready to support the institute. More will be visiting the center in the next few months, prior to reconsideration of funding next spring.

"This institute will be an important step in fulfilling our basic mission to improve the health of all of the residents of eastern North Carolina," said McRae. "We will do that by not only creating this resource in Greenville, but by linking with and supporting the work

East Carolina University

ment. Our center is unique in studying these diseased populations and the effects of treatment through close association with our nationally-known primary care programs. This allows us to do population-based outcome studies and to distribute cardiovascular health care to the patients through primary care doctors."

Currently the heart center sees many more patients than any public university program in the Carolinas, Virginia, West Virginia, or Kentucky, and is drawing a very large number of national referrals.

While the Heart Center and Cardiovascular Institute have grown out of the needs of the surrounding community, ECU officials are quick to point out that its resources are designed to serve a greater good, dismissing the notion that Brody is at odds with UNC's medical school.

"The institute is being established as a resource for the entire state," said Dr. Chitwood. "Similar opportunities have not existed at any other state institution in North Carolina because of the urban location, travel distances and patient volumes."

"Eastern North Carolina did not get the services it needed and the best way to fix that was to create a hospital and medical school in the heart of the area," said McRae. "But we're part of the UNC system that is dedicated to serving the needs of the whole state. Our programs can learn from UNC's and their programs can learn from ours. We try to model the two schools as collaborators."

PATIENT CARE COMES FIRST

The cardiovascular institute is only one of many initiatives focused on improving patient care. For years, Brody has paid special attention to the education, treatment, and prevention of heart disease and stroke. The school has been a forerunner in addressing obesity issues, including housing one of the top teams for performing gastric bypass procedures, the weight loss surgery that gained



COURTESY DIVISION HEALTH SCIENCES, ECU

"Our purpose is to bring together faculty across the ECU campus who are involved in helping children achieve a healthy weight."

—Dr. Kathryn Kolasa

worldwide attention when performed on singer Carnie Wilson and television personality Al Roker. The school operates a number of diabetes programs and has recently launched a new pediatric obesity program.

"Our purpose is to bring together faculty across the ECU campus who are involved in helping children achieve a healthy weight," said Dr. Kathryn Kolasa. "Different groups of people around campus have been working on this issue in isolation and we want to bring a synergy to their work." The program includes primary care physicians, faculty involved in Pitt County school programs and extracurricular activities, and scientists researching causes, treatments, and cures.

Some of the existing programs targeting childhood obesity include pilot programs to educate patients on healthy eating, physical fitness and self-esteem, including the ViQuest Center's Bodyworks and Fun For Kids fitness

programs, and continuing education for the hospital and school's staff on advances in prevention and treatment. A number of ECU faculty members were also a part of the state's task force for its Moving Our Children Toward a Healthy Weight initiative.

"We have data showing eastern North Carolina kids are larger than the rest of the state and those in the state are larger than many in the rest of the country," said Kolasa.

She believes the region's childhood obesity issue can be attributed to the same reason that made the establishment of the Brody School of Medicine in the '70s such a necessity. "Traditionally this area has been underserved by health care and we're still playing catch-up."

Dr. Kolasa cites factors such as lack of access to medical care, dietary issues inherent to the region such as the prevalence of high fat and low dietary fiber foods, and a lack of infrastructure (no sidewalks and a limited number of parks) for children to maintain physical activity.

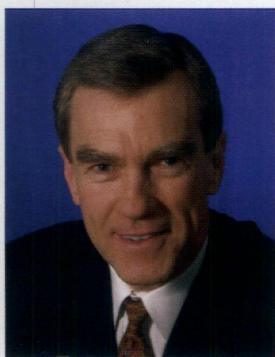
According to University Health System's chief executive McRae, the most vibrant years of research and innovation are still ahead for Brody. "In its first 25 years the medical school put much emphasis on training but in recent years it is putting more attention on research and grants," he says. "Any medical school needs to do this to continue to attract students and faculty."

He pointed out that while the cardiovascular programs and the new institute are often in the spotlight, the school and hospital are just as attentive to other health issues affecting the community.

"The medical school focuses on research that is of particular interest to eastern North Carolina, such as sickle cell anemia, of which there is a high incidence in our area, stroke, and diabetes. It's unique to the kind of population we serve here," he said. "The focus recently has been on the cardiovascular institute, but we're putting equal emphasis on the cancer institute and diabetes programs."

According to heart specialist Chitwood, the newest programs to be implemented at Brody and ECU are a continuation of the school's commitment to serving its community. "ECU as a global university has identified health care as one of its four areas of emphasis, and is committed to serving the region through improved health care for the citizens of North Carolina and the region."

A lot has happened since 1977 at ECU's medical school and related programs. Look for much more to happen very soon. **MM**



COURTESY DIVISION HEALTH SCIENCES, ECU

"This [cardiovascular] institute will be an important step in fulfilling our basic mission to improve the health of all of the residents of eastern North Carolina."

—Dave McRae, CEO of University Health Systems



The school that would become East Carolina University was started more than 90 years ago with one goal in mind—to serve the education needs of eastern North Carolina. Since then ECU has grown and changed in many ways, but always with the mission of serving its community at the forefront, which wasn't always easy.

The East Carolina Story

by Patricia Staino



IF THERE IS ONE OVERWHELMING THEME—other than service—to be found in ECU's history, it's the role of the underdog. More often than not, the school and its leaders were told something couldn't be done, and each time ECU achieved what many thought would be impossible. Like its mascot, the pirate, ECU has always done things outside the expected boundaries and come away with a treasure chest of success to show for it.

1901 Community leaders from Wilson urge the General Assembly to open a "Normal College" (a teacher training school) for women to complement the existing school in Greensboro. The house Committee on Education dismisses the proposal because it would "interfere with" the college at Greensboro.

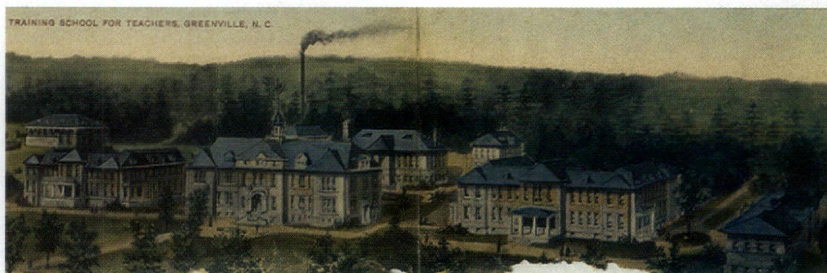
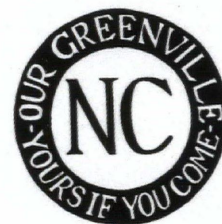
1905 The state denies requests from Edenton, Washington, and Elizabeth City as well as Chowan, Columbus, and Pasquotank Counties to build a normal school in the eastern part of the state. In response to the flurry of requests, a *News & Observer* editorial states, "We have a State Normal and Industrial College. No other such institution is now needed."

1907 Pitt County school superintendent William Henry Ragsdale replaces log school-houses with wooden buildings, making the county the most progressive in education reform in the eastern part of the state.

1907 On January 9, the Pitt County Chamber of Commerce holds a banquet to kick off its efforts to lobby the state to build a normal school in the county.

1907 On March 8, a bill is ratified creating the East Carolina Teachers Training School, a high school-level institution. Almost immediately Elizabeth City, Edenton, Rocky Mount, Tarboro, New Bern, Washington, Kinston, and Greenville begin vying to house the school.

1907 On July 10, the State Board of Education chooses Greenville as the site of the new teachers' school.



1909 Panoramic view of East Carolina Teachers Training School

East Carolina University



1908 Groundbreaking

1908 On July 2, groundbreaking ceremonies are held on a 47 acre site in Greenville.

1908 The Executive Committee chooses red tile roofing for the campus buildings, a bold and unique choice at the time. The Spanish mission influence would be copied later around town resulting in red tile roofs becoming a signature architectural element in Greenville.

1908 In December, Josephus Daniels, editor of the *News & Observer*, runs a feature article entitled, "Model Town of East Carolina: Greenville and the New Teacher's Training School," naming Pitt County as the center for eastern educational progress.

1909 On June 11, Robert Herring Wright, a 39-year-old native of eastern North Carolina and graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill—who made a name for himself in the Baltimore school system—is named the new school's president.



Wright

1909 On October 9, dubbed "Greenville's Glad Day" by the Greenville *Daily Reflector* newspaper, 174 students arrive for the opening day of East Carolina Teachers Training School. President Wright proclaims, "This school is an expression of that determination, it was built by the people, for the people, and may it ever remain with the people, as a servant of the people."



1920 Panoramic view of East Carolina Teachers College



Class of 1909-1911

1909 President Wright champions the idea of admitting students with a variety of educational levels and backgrounds to allow students with shaky starts to reach their full potential. His decision receives a great deal of criticism and backlash as many complain he is setting low standards for the school.

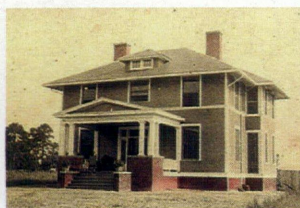
1909 Students are asked to suggest choices for school colors that were then voted on by a student committee. The winning combination, old gold and royal purple, was submitted by Addie Rollins Fields of Bethel, N.C.

1909 The College of Arts & Sciences, the School of Art, the School of Education, the School of Human Environmental Sciences, and the School of Music are established.

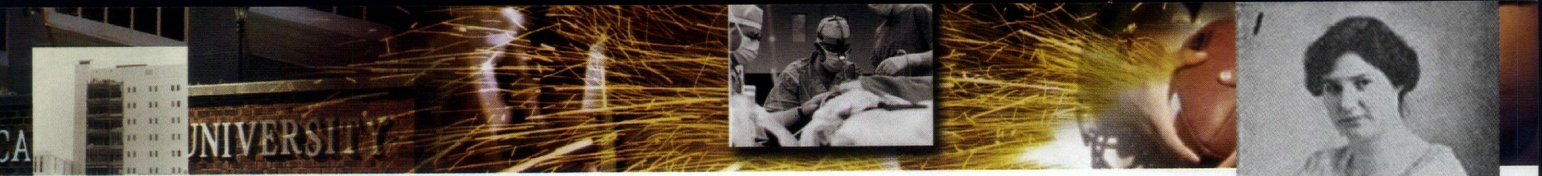
Male students form the first athletic organization at East Carolina, the Base Ball Club. The female students later organize their own sports clubs, starting with a basketball team.

The first two-year class graduates from the school. It presents the first senior play that evolves into a long-standing tradition. The following year, the graduating class performs *The Mikado*, which is praised by the community and newspaper critics, and reaches such financial and artistic success that it begins a longstanding dramatic tradition at the school and in the community.

1916 Helen Keller speaks at the school. As with all lectures and special events at the school, the surrounding community is invited to attend what becomes the highlight of the year.



President's house 1920



1917 The school takes on the responsibility of running a three-room country school just outside of Greenville through a cooperative arrangement with the Pitt County school system. The Joyner School was planned as a model rural school that, in addition to teaching children, would be involved in developing the surrounding community.



1921 Sports captains

On December 19, East Carolina Teachers School is renamed East Carolina Teachers College, a four-year institution granting a B.A. to graduates. The student body represents 55 counties and six states at this time.

1921 Students created the Student Self-Government Association, creating the college's student council. Eleven years later, in 1932, at the request of the male students on campus, one male representative was allowed to take part.



1924 The college's trustees nearly double the size of the campus by purchasing an additional 42 acres of land.

1932 The first intercollegiate sports team on campus is organized. The men's basketball team plays its first game against Campbell College, winning an unexpected victory. It is followed that same year by a baseball team and a football team. The basketball, baseball, and football teams are all coached by volunteers from the community.

1933 The first M.A. degree in education is conferred, for an additional year of study, to alumna Deanie Boone Haskett.

1933 President Wright approves the formation of intercollegiate sports teams for women students. In 1934 the women's basketball team completed an undefeated six-game season, and the overall program proved popular with the student body. In 1939 the program was phased out because the college had a difficult time finding other schools with women's teams to play.

1934 Male students organize the Men's Student Self-Government Association. The Female Student Self-Government Association, however, continues to hold the power and make most decisions regarding student life.

1934 The sports teams, which played under the straightforward moniker of "Teachers," are renamed the Pirates on February 26. The East Carolina Men's Athletic Association took the name from Edward Teach, better known as Blackbeard, the most well-known pirate connected to the Carolina Coast.

1934 President Wright announces that female students are no longer required to wear hats when walking downtown.



Meadows

1934 Following Wright's death, Leon Renfroe Meadows is named president of ECTC.

1940 East Carolina students begin regular participation in programs on Greenville's radio station, WGTC, including a show focused on the college's news and activities.

1941 Trustees approve a plan to develop a non-teaching degree program in the Graduate School.

1941 The ECTC football team plays an undefeated season. It is the only team in the history of the school to do so thus far.

1941 On November 17, Eleanor Roosevelt addresses students and community members on campus.

1944 Meadows is removed as ECTC's president after he is investigated and put on trial for embezzlement of funds. In the next three years, the college will have four different presidents.



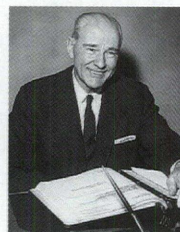
Class of 1915

East Carolina University

1945 Meadows is found guilty of false pretense and embezzlement and sentenced to three years in prison. He is released after serving 21 months. During the trial, a number of faculty are fired and some students are expelled for their roles in encouraging and aiding the investigation of Meadows.

1947 John Decatur Messick is named president of ECTC. During his tenure, enrollment grew from 1,300 to 5,000 students; 80 acres and ten new buildings were acquired; the library holdings were doubled; the faculty tripled; and a school of nursing was established.

1950 Toward his goal of providing "the best type of Christian education possible," Messick brings Dr. Robert L. Holt to campus as the director of religious activities. By the following year, 23 religious groups exist on campus.



Messick



Air Force ROTC 1951

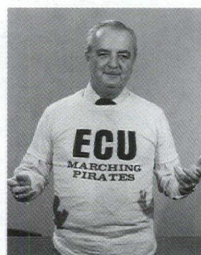


Football co-captains, 1954

1951 ECTC is renamed East Carolina College.

1959 The school gains national attention in January when an off-campus house party is raided by the police and school officials, resulting in a ten-day suspension for 47 students. President Messick's comments on the affair, which include an explanation of "the difference between a proper goodnight kiss and the other kind.... This clinging kiss of such a long nature will cause people to begin talking," is written about in newspapers all over the country. The unfortunate attention dubs East Carolina a "party school."

1959 Stating that he is "tired of being tired," Messick resigns as president in October.



Jenkins

1960 Leo Warren Jenkins is named president of ECC.

1960 The School of Nursing and the School of Business are established.

1961 Originally founded as an institution for white men and women, ECC adopts a policy of admitting qualified students of any race. Jenkins begins recruiting black faculty as well.

1963 The state's General Assembly declares that the Consolidated University of North Carolina is the only institution that can award "the doctor's degree," and that the three branches of the Consolidated University would be UNC-Chapel Hill, UNC-Greensboro and North Carolina State University. A year later the Assembly names Charlotte College as the fourth branch, elevating it to the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

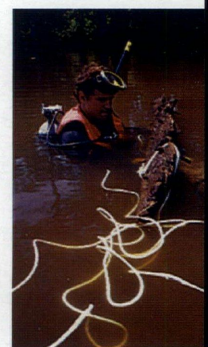
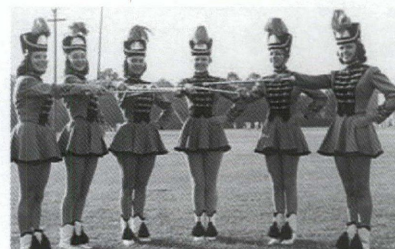
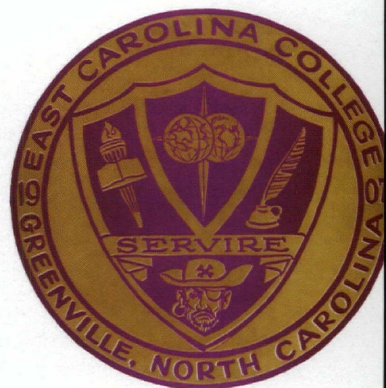
1964 A *News & Observer* editorial notes of ECC: "It has won the hearts and loyalties of its constituents, who feel that nothing is too fine for East Carolina and that no job is too tough for ECC to tackle with every chance of success."

1964 Dr. Ernest W. Ferguson of Plymouth contacts President Jenkins to say the school could be doing more to meet the healthcare needs of eastern North Carolina. Jenkins begins to develop a proposal for a two-year medical school.

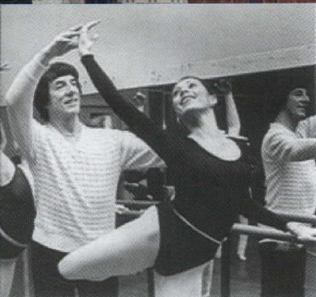
1964 After ten years of trying, the school's athletic programs join the Southern Conference.

1964 The Graduate School is established.

1965 Despite opposition from UNC supporters, as well as Piedmont-area state senators who support the establishment of a four-year medical school in Charlotte, the state senate passes a bill allowing for the establishment of a two-year medical school at ECC. One detractor laments, "If a two-year medical school is established in Greenville, the next move will be to give university status to East Carolina College."



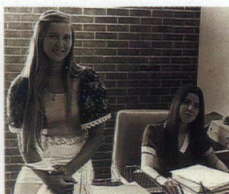
Maritime history, 1982



Dance 1981



School of Industry & Technology 1981



1966 ECC is approved by the Board of Higher Education to offer M.B.A. degrees.

1966 The chairman of the Dare County commissioners declares: "What we can build for East Carolina College, we build for Eastern North Carolina."

1967 East Carolina becomes the largest college in the South and one of the largest in the country.

1967 *The News & Observer* declares: "ECC Found Not Prepared to Become a University." That same year, the General Assembly authorizes the school's university status and it becomes East Carolina University.



1967 School of Allied Health Sciences established.

1969 The General Assembly adds the colleges at Asheville and Wilmington to the Consolidated University.

1969 The General College is established.

1971 The School of Industry & Technology is established.

1971 The General Assembly appropriates \$1.4 million to start a medical school at ECU.

1972 The Consolidated University is restructured and becomes the University of North Carolina, a 16-school system that includes East Carolina University.



Brewer

1974 The East Carolina Medical School is established after ten years of fighting between East Carolina and UNC administrators.



Brody School of Medicine

1976 The Brody School of Medicine is established.

1978 Thomas Bowman Brewer becomes the first chancellor of ECU.

1979 Construction of the Brody Medical Sciences Building begins.

1981 The medical school graduates its first class of doctors.

1983 ECU grants its first Ph. D. degree.

1986 The School of Social Work & Criminal Justice Studies is established.

1987 On February 17, the first heart transplant at ECU is performed.

1993 The School of Health & Human Performance is established.

2000 The School of Computer Science & Communication is established.



Surgical teaching 1982



First School of Medicine graduate, Thomas L. Beatty Jr., 1981

East Carolina University

Tomorrow

continued from page SS 8

commitment to regional outreach.

"We are looking at a variety of things," he explains. "We recognize that some kind of exceptional fine arts performance center is needed. Now, is it needed on the campus, in the local community, in a summer community near the ocean? I don't know."

The university has truly become the hub for theater, music and the arts in Eastern North Carolina. Not only does the school play host to a myriad of events on campus, it also sends performers to other communities, including Washington, New Bern and Oriental. The university also brings internationally known talent to Greenville for performances as part of its S. Rudolph Alexander Performing Arts Series.

The quality of the university's arts program is evidenced by three alumni in particular: actresses Sandra Bullock and Emily Procter, who have found considerable success in movies and television, and Pulitzer Prize winner and best-selling author Rick Atkinson. Atkinson and Procter agreed to participate in a recent video program promoting the University.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Working with county, city and state institutions as well as the private sector to improve the economic climate for the region is the university's fourth pillar.

In the school's home of Pitt County alone, ECU has an economic impact of \$1.4 billion a year. The university reported in a recent study that the amount includes the school's \$370 million budget and \$90 million in spending by students. That figure dates to the 1999-2000 fiscal year and was an increase of nearly \$600 million from five years earlier.

ECU's own growth, forecast by Al Delia, associate vice chancellor for economic and community development, predicts that an additional 9,000 students and as many as 400 faculty positions will be added over the next several years. To accommodate that growth, Delia said the university plans to add 3 million square feet of facilities. That expansion will cost more than \$800 million.

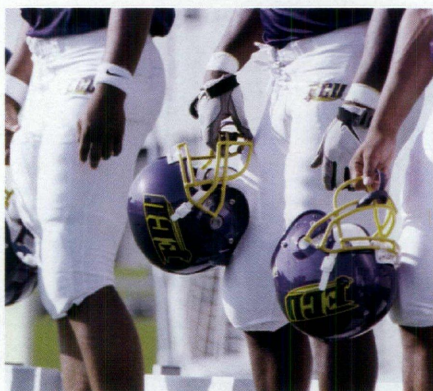
But growth plans call for improvements beyond the campus.

East Carolina is working with the City of Greenville on a plan to develop the 10th Street Connector that would streamline access to the university and promote economic development in the downtown area.

Shelton also will be talking with leaders in other communities about "training programs and a variety of other initiatives" related to job growth.

Creating jobs in a region suffering from the steady decline of tobacco and agriculture is perhaps the most complex issue faced by the community and the school. But the university plans to continue to have a major impact in several ways.

The university produces graduates in general business as well as construction and hospitality management, crucial fields of expertise



in providing the talent the region needs to drive growth. Hospitality takes on an even greater role as the eastern part of the state works to expand its appeal as a tourist destination.

ECU also is committed to creating its own engineering school to fill jobs required by the number one employer in eastern North Carolina, small manufacturing firms who need trained graduates in design, production and management. And the university intends to be more of an economic catalyst through technology training. ECU opened an Office of Technology Transfer in 1997 which has helped lead to the launch of several companies. The Chronicle of Higher Education ranks ECU second in the United States in return on investment for technology licensing efforts. Technology transfer includes both patent transfer and intellectual property licensing.

Recent successes in that area include Epi-Genesis Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and Telemedicine Technologies. "Speech Easy" devices, designed to help ease stuttering, were developed at ECU. While the university holds the patent for this remarkable device, it has licensed a company in Greenville to produce and market it worldwide. University researchers, working in conjunction with others at UNC-Chapel Hill, also developed a means of freeze-drying blood. That technology has been transferred to

private enterprise for development and commercialization through the company Hemocellular Therapeutics Inc.

ECU's advancement of research and technology is being noticed. According to the Southern Technology Council, the university ranked second in the nation in startup companies formed per \$10 million spent in research, third in inventions per \$1 million in research, and sixth in U.S. patent applications per \$1 million in research. No other university in North Carolina had a top 10 finish in any category.

A reflection of the university's commitment to technology is the construction of the Science and Technology Building that opened for the Fall 2003 semester. Including classrooms and lab space for research and development, the structure is seen as one of the most significant additions to the campus in recent years.

The university also is deploying a wireless network to link laptops, hand-held devices and desktop computers. It is part of a three-year \$4.68 million partnership funded by the U.S. Department of Education, the Ericsson company, and the university. The partnership will eventually provide students and faculty access to network resources from anywhere on campus.

A contribution ECU has made over the past decade to the region is the fostering of high-speed Internet and networking services. The university was an early advocate of high performance computing and technology used widely now for telemedicine and distance education. A high-speed network links many of the region's hospitals, with the medical school serving as the hub. Professors can observe student teachers in the field, thus preserving face-to-face conversation and interaction without either person having to commute.

COMMITMENT TO THE REGION

"The heritage of this institution in and of itself is very special," Shelton says. "Go back and read the challenges to the location of the school, the naming of it as a university, the timing of the medical school. It stands as a major institution of higher learning."

"As we approach our 100th anniversary and, indeed, into the second 100 years, we certainly see the responsibility in our mission. We know where we are going, and we have a plan to get there."

Faulkner concurs with that opinion. "This strategy is what the university has been about — and continues to be about." **MM**



Livin' in Pi' Rat Country

by Michael D. McPherson

My heart lilts whenever I hum that tune and think about the days I spent as a student at East Carolina University. ECU was more than a place of learning and parties. For me, ECU was where I grew up. I saw ECU grow up, too, evolving into one of the diamonds in the crown of the University of North Carolina system.

I came to ECU in 1987. I traveled two

hours from Fayetteville and set foot on a campus graced with deep green trees, elegant buildings, and beautiful women. It was like loosening the chain on a happy Labrador retriever. I didn't know what I was going to do, but whatever it was it was going to be thrilling.

I'd heard stories of the "party school" long before I set foot on her hallowed ground. I drank in the experience of that

first year. I joined the drum line for the Marching Pirates and for the first time played their haunting renditions of "The Star-Spangled Banner" and the soulful "Alma Mater."

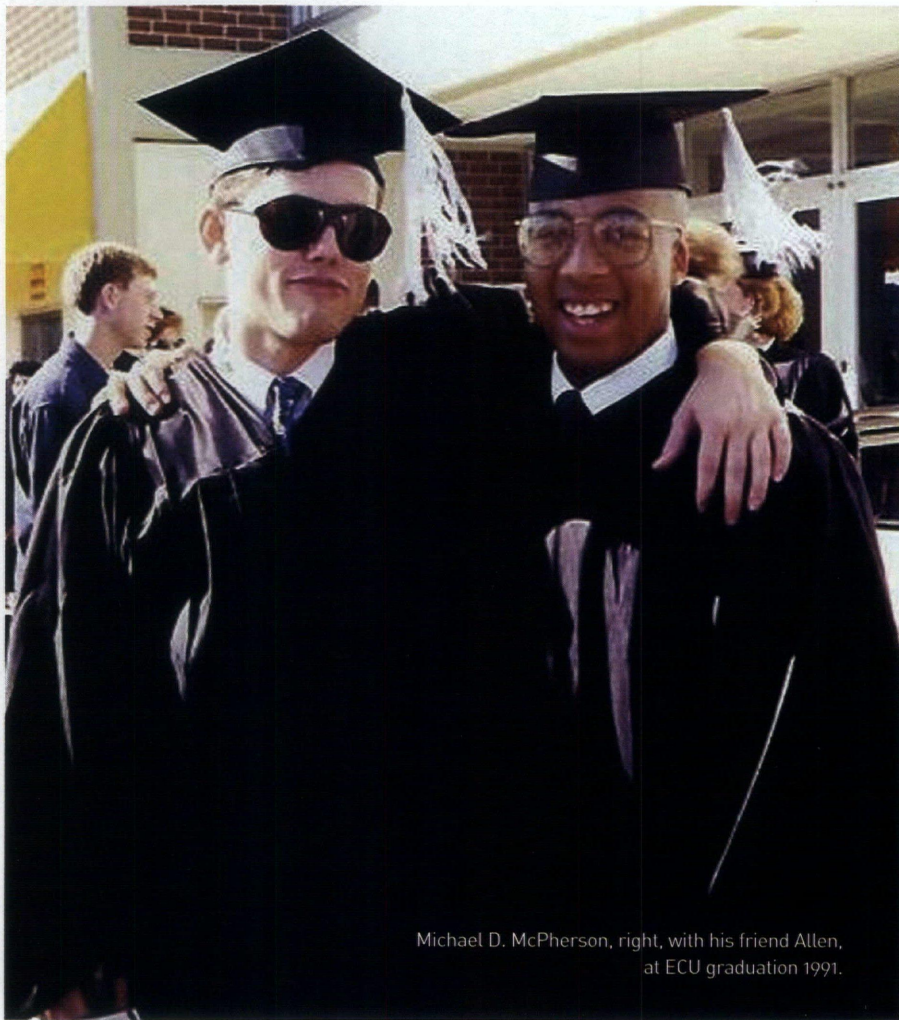
My fondest memory that year was witnessing my first college football game. It was a stunning 32-14 victory over North Carolina State University at Carter-Finley Stadium in Raleigh. I remember running, carrying a tenor bass drum on my chest as a gate came down and a sea of excited fans flooded the rain-soaked field whipping the fool out of each other.

Back then, ECU was parties, parties, and yes, more parties. Fraternity parties. Sorority parties. Social mixers. I had become a social butterfly, an expert in the Greenville school of beer-bonging and shot-gunning. I knew every party game by the end of the first semester and had won—and lost—my fair share.

When the folks got the bill and the grades I decided it was time to tighten up. ECU decided it was time for a change, too.

Sophomore year was my year of discovery and catch-up. I had spent the two previous semesters, well, "wasted." My memories of that exhilarating time were of "covert ops" missions. We'd get a bunch of guys and steal away into Cotton, Greene, or White Halls down on Central and West campus and play with the girls. I remember running to a gig in town with a bunch of Alphas and Kappas, then ducking for cover when the Q-Dogs showed up, muscle-bound and hell-bent for leather, and started into this little hole in the wall called The Invisible Touch. I declared English as my major that year (seeing how there was too much math in the computer science world) and Army ROTC as my path toward military success. I spent a fantastic summer working in college radio.

Greenville became my stomping



Michael D. McPherson, right, with his friend Allen, at ECU graduation 1991.

East Carolina University

ground. I learned to play golf in Ayden and ate collards at its yearly festival. I eased down the street and consumed shad and beer in Grifton. I'd meander downtown for half a chicken and sweet potato biscuits at Venter's Grill or out U.S. 264 west to B's Barbecue for some southern pig. I'd pile in a car with friends and a case for a jaunt to Little Washington or the beach. I remember the highlight of fall was the infamous Halloween party. ECU was finding herself in 1988 and shedding her party image, and so was I.

Junior year comprised crisp fall afternoons spent in high browed rhetorical conversations with friends over cappuccinos at the University Bookstore or Coronas at Chico's. I was discovering my writing craft and employing it working on several school publications. The General Classroom Building was finished that year, a stylish landmark that marked the turn in the road for ECU. There were late afternoon sandwiches at The Sub Station, a Cubbie's cheese steak at the namesake restaurant on Fifth Street. It was airborne school, tailgate parties, jam sessions. It was Barefoot on the Mall and watching "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" under the stars. It was a year of creation and creativity. I was changing, finding myself. And so was ECU.

Senior year found the two of us focused, determined, and committed to excellence. There was growth, change, all positive, all hopeful. Soon the sybarite of the East was living up to her new name: the Spirit of the East. Senior year at ECU was about accomplishment, notoriety, lifelong friendship. We had a winning football team with NFL draft picks. I hummed the "Alma Mater" more often. I thought about where I was headed and the education I received. It was more than beer and girls. It was indeed a quality education on life. Senior year was the year I met the love of my life, whom I later married.

I remember standing on the football field in Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium on a brisk December morning. I wore two hats: the familiar graduation cap and a warrior's crown. It was December 7, 1991, 50 years to the day of the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the day I was commissioned an Army Second Lieutenant. I looked back on what I had done while at ECU. I was afraid to leave her. I hummed that tune and wiped wet eyes. Purple and gold coursed through my veins. I did leave her, but only for a short while.

In 1992 I returned to my old haunt to attend graduate school and teach English. ECU had made the turn in the road and I

ing to see students excited about attending an institution that is the envy of most colleges and universities around the country.



Michael D. McPherson, top center, with his ROTC buddies at ECU 1990. Left, tailgating with Melissa, fall 1991.



fell into her jet stream of success. There was a newfound pride embodied by staff, faculty, and students. I hummed the "Alma Mater" more and more. The words gained new meaning. ECU wasn't just in my mind; she was in my heart, too.

I left down East heading west in 1994. Raleigh-bound. New career. New wife. Still singing ECU's praises.

I took my wife and son back to ECU late last year. We strolled the campus, marveling at the exciting metamorphosis of the caterpillar school of the South into the butterfly of the UNC system. It was electrify-

I pointed out to Willem his papa's old stomping grounds. ("This is where papa used to hang out. This is where papa studied his writing craft. This is where papa met mama.") Melissa smiled. Willem is too young to understand the heartfelt pride I feel about being a graduate of ECU. One day he will. I had the chance to go to Carolina. I'm glad I chose the other Carolina.

I hope that one day my son will look to ECU for his education. God willing, I know the Spirit of the East will be an even more advanced institution than the one I left years ago. Maybe he'll catch an earful of the emotional meter of the "Alma Mater." Maybe one day he'll sit in his office all decked out in purple and gold and for no reason at all hum that powerful tune...

"Praise to your name so fair, Dear old East Car'lina..."

...and remember with pride what it was like for him growing up in Pirate Country. **MM**

Teacher Unions Build Berlin Wall to Obstruct Education

by George Leef

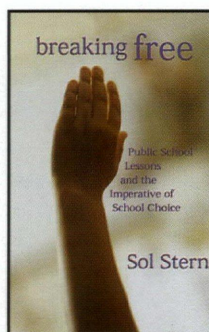
Liberals mugged by reality" is the (increasingly) common expression used to describe people like Sol Stern. As a young man, he was a Berkeley radical espousing the leftist cant about the oppression of capitalism and the need for solidarity among its opponents. As a parent of two children in the New York public school system, however, Stern got a hard lesson in the results of having turned public schools over to leftist ideologists and their teacher union allies. Whatever Stern's other political views may be, he is now a vigorous proponent of school choice and high on the list of enemies at the National Education Association.

While *Breaking Free* recounts the author's experiences in battling against the stultifying effects of union domination and the concomitant "dumbing down" of the schools his sons attended in New York, the book addresses a problem that is national in scope. Public education in New York has deteriorated

further than it has in most other places in the United States, but the essence of the problem is the same everywhere. The educational product offered by the government school cartel is of declining quality, and people need to have other choices.

The most valuable service Stern renders is to rip to shreds the "good public schools" mystique. He lives on Manhattan's elegant Upper West Side and enrolled his son Jonathan in P.S. (Public School) 87, the "hot" elementary school in his district. Stern assumed that P.S. 87 would live up to its reputation as a good school, but was soon disabused of that notion:

Change was evident when I stepped in P.S. 87's "child-centered" classrooms. My first



Breaking Free: Public School Lessons and the Imperative of School Choice
by Sol Stern
Encounter Books, 2003, 248 pp.

shock was that there were no desks lined up in rows. From kindergarten through fifth grade, children sat in little clusters, either on the floor or at tables. The young teachers were often dressed in jeans and T-shirts. They spent very little time in front of the room offering instruction; instead, they wandered around the room, observing the children working on their assignments in small groups.

Reading was taught through the "whole language" or "holistic" method rather than the traditional phonics approach. On my first visit to P.S. 87, one teacher told me that she was helping the children "construct"

their own knowledge.

Stern had encountered the world of "pro-

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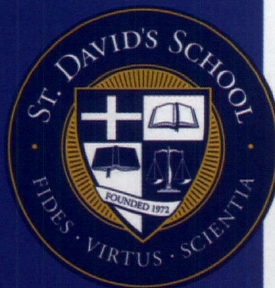
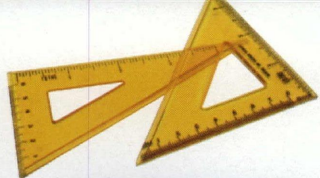
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gressive" education theory in action. By attaching euphemistic labels to it, the education theorists have managed to pull the wool over the eyes of parents and taxpayers, leading them to believe that this easy-going, la-dee-da approach is a great improvement over old-fashioned methods of teaching that they de-



...the essence of the problem is the same everywhere.

The educational product offered by the government school cartel is of declining quality, and people need to have other choices.

ride as "drill and kill." Many Americans, like Stern before his eyes were opened, think that because their children attend schools that are clean and attractive, employ only state-certified teachers, don't have obvious problems with drugs and violence, and have above-average standard test results, they must therefore be "good" schools. Stern's experience with the elite New York schools showed him that a school can look excellent in all those respects but still give students a feeble academic program more like baby-sitting than teaching and learning.

In third grade, for example, Jonathan's teacher devoted the year in math to creating a Japanese garden. When Stern would ask him what they did in math class, Jonathan would reply, "We measured the garden." Asked about the appropriateness of spend-

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ing so much time on that project rather than learning the multiplication tables, the teacher gave a stock progressive answer: The garden project gave the children "real life" mathematical practice.

The inability of school administrators to find and keep competent, energetic teachers and jettison the dead wood is a key theme of *Breaking Free*. Between the state's teacher licensing law and the union contract, principals have little freedom to hire and fire according to their first-hand knowledge of a teacher's ability. Stern writes appreciatively of the principal of P.S. 87, who used the small cracks in the system as best she could. "Bending the rules, she often hired bright young people with only a B.A. degree, then protected these gifted beginners until they had accumulated the necessary graduate credits to obtain their permanent licenses." Stern has a lot of company in his belief that the "education school" credits mandated by the state are a waste of time.

One case especially stands out. Eventually, Stern's son was accepted into the ultra-prestigious Stuyvesant High School. He was placed in a math class taught by a Romanian immigrant with a Ph.D. in math, but no "education" credits. Despite his strong accent, the teacher, Ifimie Simion, proved to be outstanding. However, Stuyvesant nearly lost Mr. Simion due to the financial strain on him of having to pay to take useless education courses, the \$882 per year in union dues (the same for all teachers, regardless of pay) and the fact that notwithstanding his excellent teaching, he was at the very bottom of the pay scale based entirely on seniority.

Jonathan Stern was fortunate to get Mr. Simion, but other students were stuck with an almost retired math teacher who didn't know the material any better than they did. Why would such a teacher be employed at Stuyvesant, where gifted students were supposedly getting top-notch instruction? Because the union contract allowed teachers with high seniority to transfer at will into schools when there was a faculty opening. Stern bitterly writes, "The interests of employees often trumped the interests of children."

Besides giving a startling picture of the dysfunctionality of New York's "elite" schools, Stern also gives the reader an excursion

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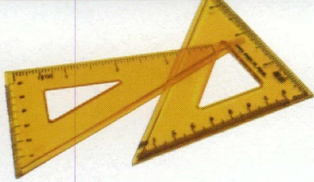
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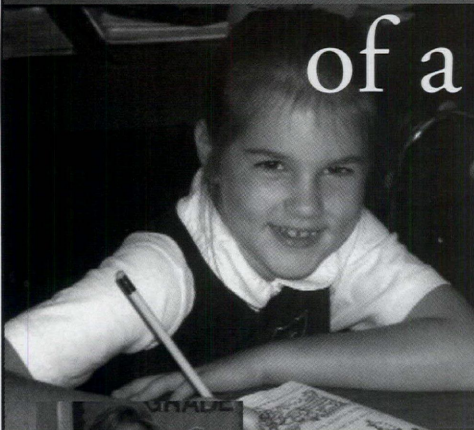
through inner-city schools that work remarkably well despite having miniscule budgets and run-down facilities. He visited several Catholic schools in New York and discovered a world of discipline and educational progress vastly different from that of the far more costly public school system. Not only do students in Catholic schools—including those enrolled in schools where virtually all

of the students come from poor, minority families—progress faster in basic learning than do public school students, but they are not subjected to the drumbeat of “multiculturalism” that stresses the differences among Americans and focuses entirely on the negative aspects of our history. “Catholic schools,” Stern writes, “are now among the last bastions in American education upholding the

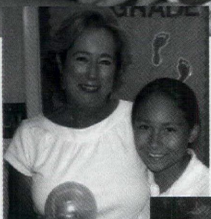
ideal of a common civic culture.”

Vital to the success of the Catholic schools is the freedom of principals to set budgetary priorities, hire teachers on the basis of teaching ability rather than paper credentials, and to require that students and teachers follow the rules. And of course, there is one more ingredient in this recipe—the possibility of failure. Without any guarantee of enrollments and revenues, the Catholic schools have to serve the desires of the parents. When dealing with the public school bureaucracy and unions, Stern was merely an annoyance who could be brushed

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aside with a haughty “we’re the experts” attitude. Non-government schools can’t afford to ignore and alienate their customers, so they don’t.

Stern likes what he has seen in charter schools and thinks that the voucher program in Milwaukee is working well. The union public relations machine tries to paint these endeavors as harmful failures, but to Sol

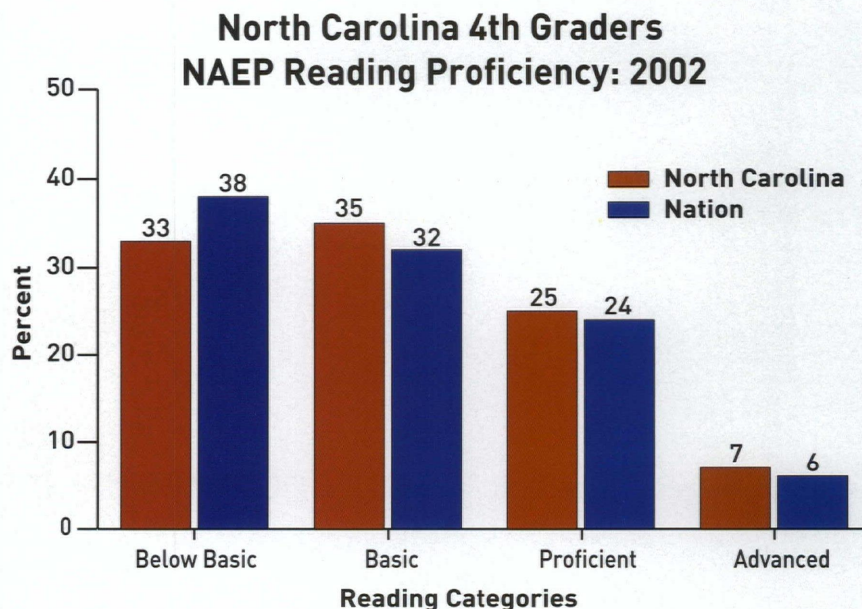
Stern, educational freedom of choice is a good thing. It's like garlic to the vampire of public education monopoly.

The villains of *Breaking Free* are the union officials who will say and do anything to protect their cushy deal, and even more so the politicians who pose as "friends of education" while invariably siding with the interests of the education establishment. Pompous and hypocritical windbags like Senator Ted Kennedy come in for richly deserved scorn. "With support from Kennedy and others," Stern writes, "the unions have built a Berlin Wall that protects the public education system from competition and prevents poor children from leaving bad schools." A direct hit.

The book also has its heroes, especially the people who are struggling to give parents educational choices. For example, Stern introduces us to Dr. James Leininger, a physician in San Antonio who made a fortune from a medical supply company he founded. After learning that his company employed some people who were illiterate despite having graduated from public high schools, Leininger decided to establish a private voucher program in San Antonio. Within days of running an ad in the local newspaper saying that he was offering several hundred scholarships that would pay half the tuition at private schools, more than 3000 applications were received from poor families. Alarmed by this crack in the dike, the teachers' union publicly demonized Leininger as "an extremist trying to undermine public education."

Armed with millions in compulsory dues money to fight any change in their comfortable status quo, the unions are formidable opponents, but their cause is a bad one. They rely on disinformation to keep American parents from realizing that their monopoly hurts students. Sooner or later, Stern believes, the truth will get through.

I can imagine an angry group of parents marching on City Hall, waving their latest government letters about their children's dreadful schools and shouting, "We want out!" When this finally happens—an event that will be as momentous as the marches against segregation in places like Selma and Birmingham—the old monopoly system of



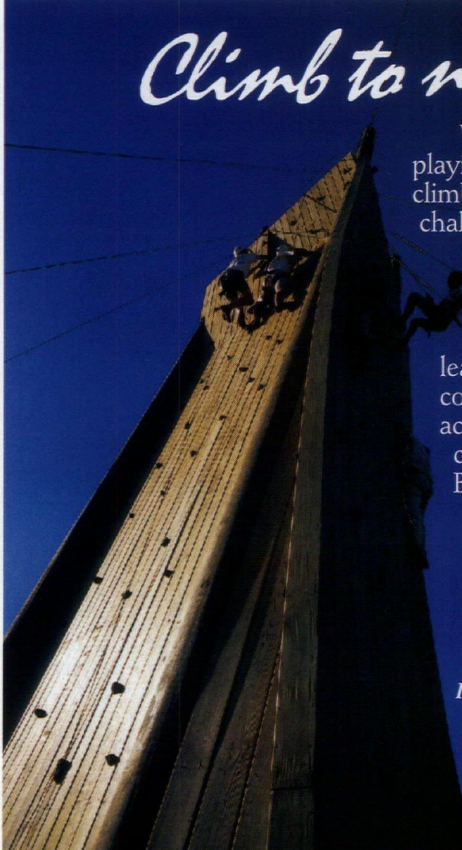
Source: John Locke Foundation

public education will be finished.

Breaking Free is an incendiary book, the kind of expose that gets people angry and galvanizes them to action. If you're willing to

chance becoming infected with the bug of educational radicalism—alas, giving people freedom of choice is a radical idea in education—read this exceptional book. **MM**

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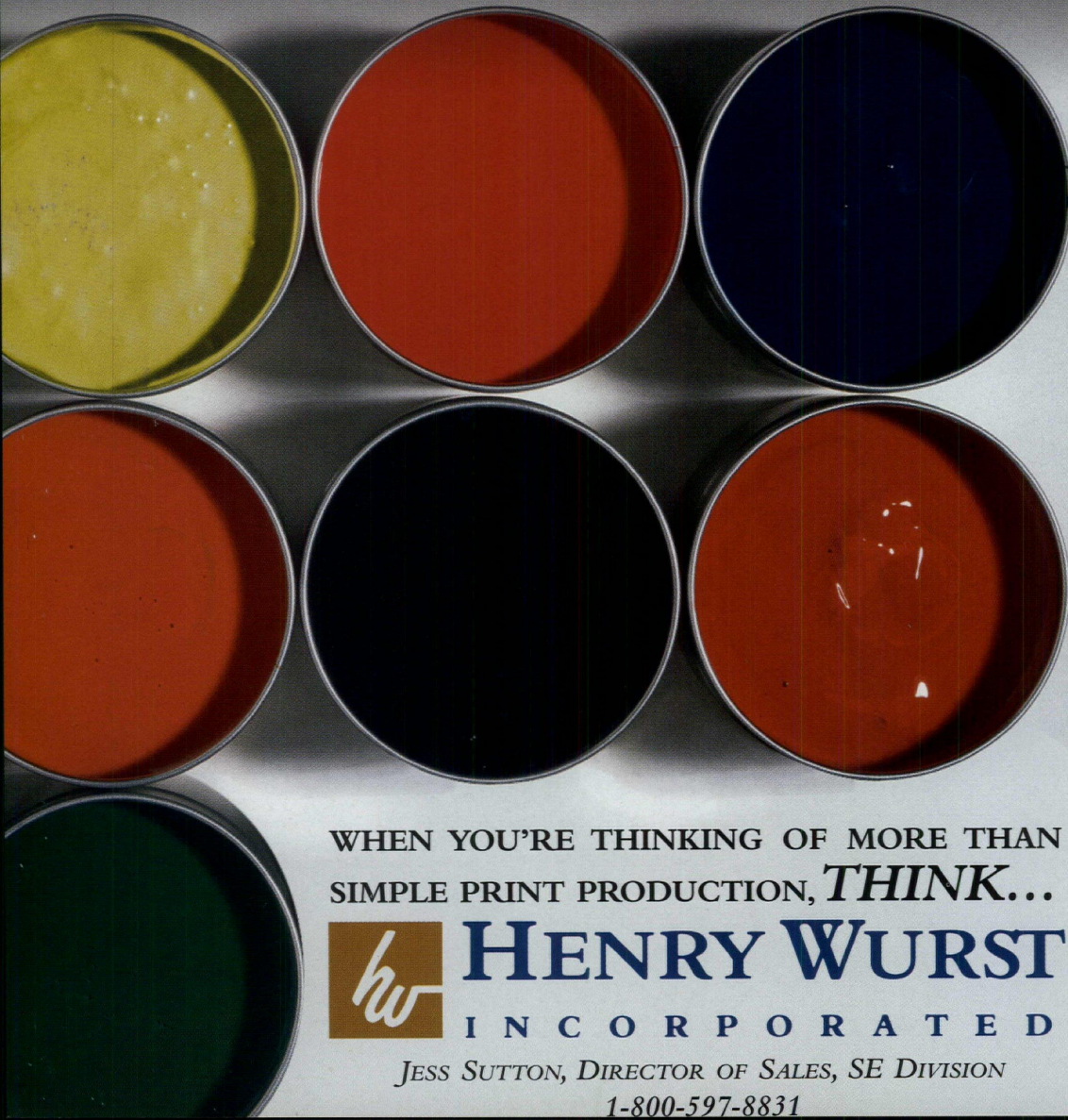
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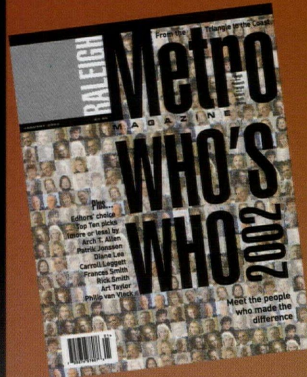


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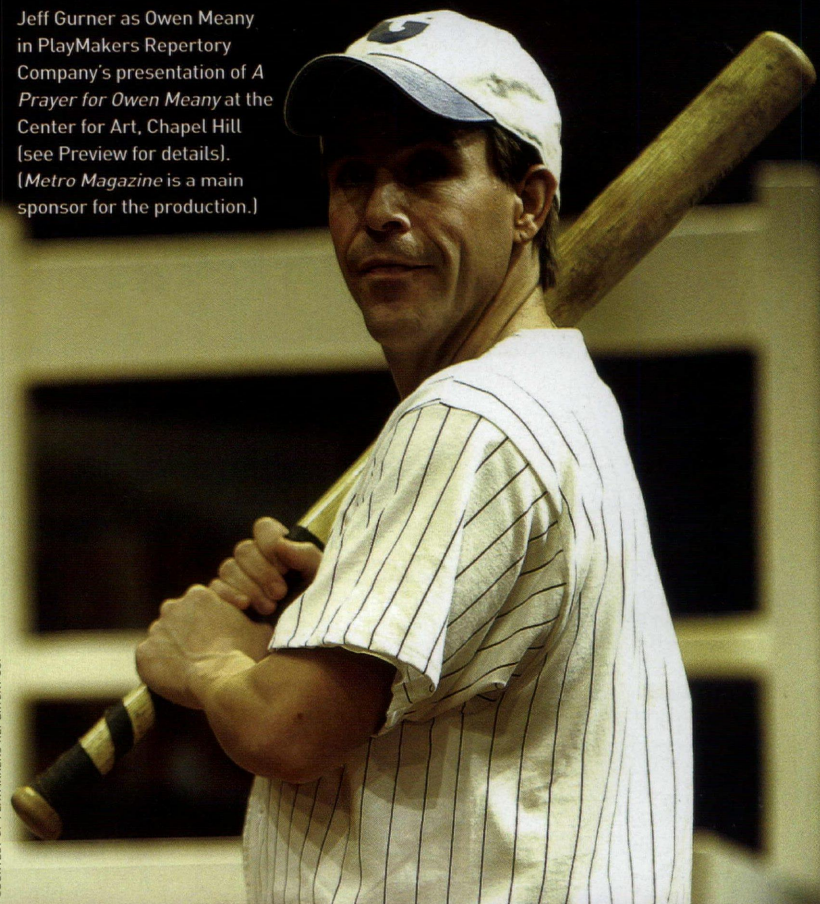
Metro



Festive carolers at the Tryon Palace Holiday Celebration, Nov. 26-Dec.28, New Bern (see Preview for details).

Jeff Gurner as Owen Meany in PlayMakers Repertory Company's presentation of *A Prayer for Owen Meany* at the Center for Art, Chapel Hill (see Preview for details). (Metro Magazine is a main sponsor for the production.)

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Openings



Charles A. Lindbergh stands by the *Spirit of St. Louis* at Lambert Field, St. Louis, en route to New York in 1927, one of 400 artifacts on view in a traveling exhibit at the NC Museum of History, Raleigh (see Preview for details).

Preview

by Frances Smith

The Holiday Season Resounds Through the Region

IN THE MUSEUMS

Plum, Pine & Bamboo, Nature and Buddhism in Japanese Art, 20 Japanese artworks from 12th-19th centuries; Ackland Art Museum, Chapel Hill; now until Jan. 1, 2004. Call 919-966-5736.

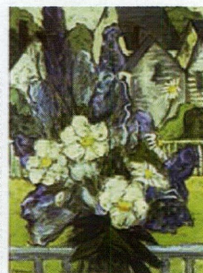
Collection of Provincetown Art Association, 80 works of art by artists associated with Province-

town Art Association; Louise Wells Cameron Art Museum, Wilmington; now until Jan. 18. Call 910-395-5999 or visit www.cameronartmuseum.com.

Art Works in Beaufort, watercolor exhibit & workshop featuring five North Carolina artists; NC Maritime Museum, Beaufort; Nov. 2-7 (reception Nov. 2, reservations required). Call 252-728-7317.

Fossil Fair, 40 exhibits, displays, activities and presentations about fossils with paleontologists Julia Clarke and Peter Dodson, NC Museum of Natural Sciences, Raleigh; Nov. 8. Call 919-733-7450.

Lindbergh, a traveling exhibit featuring over 400 artifacts related to Charles A. Lindbergh & his historic transatlantic flight; NC Museum of History, Raleigh;



One of 80 works by artists associated with the Provincetown Art Association on view at the Louise Wells Cameron Art Museum in Wilmington

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Japanese art, centerpiece of show "Plum, Pine & Bamboo" at the Ackland Art Museum in Chapel Hill

COURTESY OF ACKLAND ART MUSEUM

Nov. 8-Feb. 1. Call for special events and other information 919-715-0200 or visit www.ncmuseumofhistory.org. (See photo on Openings page.)

Boatshop Bash, Friends of the Museum annual fundraising party; NC Maritime Museum, Beaufort, Nov. 8. Call 252-728-7317.

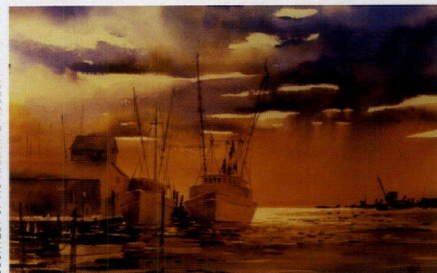
Textile Industry Conference, two-day conference devoted to technical presentations (marks first integration of resources from Institute for Textile Technology and NC State University's College of Textiles); College of Textiles Building, NC State University Centennial Campus, Raleigh; Nov. 12-13. Call 919-573-7583 or visit www.itt.edu.

Flight of the Bumble Bee, Grayden M. Paul II tells the story of the first helicopter and other inventions by his grandfather, William Luther Paul, NC Maritime Museum, Beaufort; Nov. 14. Call 252-728-7317.

Gelede Spectacles! Project Community Workshop, an African American Dance Ensemble Residency Project, featuring visual arts, African drumming & refreshments; Louise Wells Cameron Art Museum, Wilmington; Nov. 14. Call 910-395-5999 or visit www.cameronartmuseum.com

Trip to Reed Gold Mine, the site of the first documented discovery of gold in the United States (pan for your own gold); NC Museum of Natural Sciences, Raleigh; Nov. 15. Call 919-733-7450 or 919-834-4000.

Artists at Work: Herman and Loretta Oxendine, members of the Lumbee tribe, craft pine needle baskets, coil pottery and other traditional crafts:



Harbor Highlights, watercolor by Charles Sharpe of Durham and Morehead City, on view in "Artworks in Beaufort," NC Maritime Museum.

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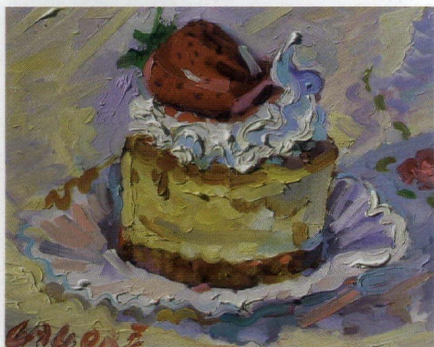
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NC Museum of History, Raleigh; Nov. 19-23; (part of Indian Heritage Celebration, below)

Eighth Annual American Indian Heritage Celebration, with music, dancing, storytelling, crafts & food, also the case exhibit *Community and Culture: North Carolina Indians*; NC Museum of History, Raleigh; Nov. 22. For information and to register, call 919-715-0200 or visit www.ncmuseumofhistory.org.

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One of Pam Calore Cuddyer's works for "Dessert for the Eyes," an exhibition at Green Tara Gallery in Chapel Hill

Dessert for the Eyes, Featuring dessert theme, works by Painter Pam Calore Cuddyer; Green Tara Gallery, Chapel Hill; now until Nov. 22. Call 919-932-6400 or visit www.greentara.com.

Colors of the Spirit & Large Works exhibits; Grace Li Wang Gallery, Raleigh; now until Dec. 31. Call 919-871-5800 or visit www.graceliwang.com.

Miró: Surrealist Painter; Animation & Fine Art Galleries, Chapel Hill; Nov. 4-29. Call 919-968-8008 or visit www.animationandfineart.com.

Fall Expressions, recent work by 10 area artists; Exhibit 20, Raleigh; Nov. 7-30 (opening reception Nov. 7). Call 919-831-5454.



Jardin Au Clair De Lune, by Joan Miró, Lithograph, 1973, at Animation & Fine Art Galleries in Chapel Hill

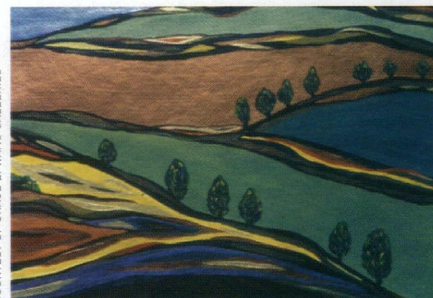
2nd Friday Art Walk, Orange County Studio Tour; Nov. 14. Call 919-929-2787 or visit www.artscenter-live.org.

100 square inches, new exhibit featuring water colors acrylics, etchings and oils by eastern NC artists; Carolina Creations, New Bern; Nov. 14-Dec. 31 (opening reception Nov. 14). Call 252-633-4369.

Alive After Five featuring an art walk; downtown New Bern; Nov. 14. Call 800-437-5767.

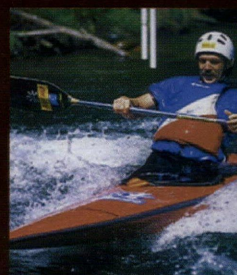
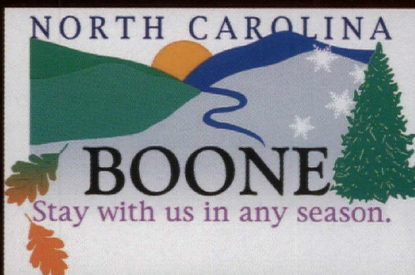
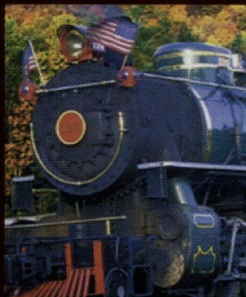
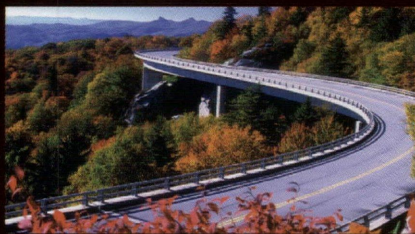
Collectors Gala, annual dinner and art auction; Artspace, Raleigh; Nov. 22. Call 919-821-2787 or visit www.artspacenc.org;

7th Annual Studio Show; Nancy Tuttle May Studio, Durham; preview Nov. 22, open Nov. 23-Jan. 31. Call 919-688-8852 or visit www.nancytuttlemay.com.



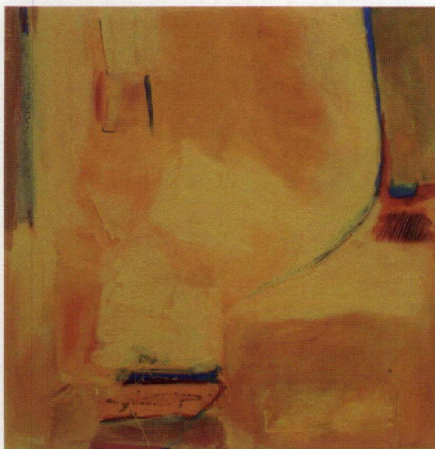
Field 2, by Grace Li Wang is featured in "Colors of the Spirit," Grace Li Wang Galleries

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COURTESY OF NANCY TUTTLE MAY STUDIO



New Dawn, mixed media by Nancy Tuttle May is the showpiece of the annual Studio Show at Nancy Tuttle May Studio in Durham

Holiday Showcase, various one-of-a-kind items for sale; Bank of the Arts, New Bern; Nov. 28-Dec. 24. Call 252-638-2577.

Celebrating the Holidays: Open House, featuring gallery artists, gift tree and live music; Green Tara Gallery, Chapel Hill; Nov. 29-30. Call 919-932-6400 or visit www.greentara.com.

ON STAGE & SCREEN

A Prayer for Owen Meany, presented by Playmakers Repertory Company with *Metro Magazine* as a main sponsor; Center for Art, Chapel Hill; Oct. 15-Nov. 9. Call 919-962-PLAY or visit www.playmakersrep.org. (See photo from the play on Openings page.)

A View from the Bridge by Arthur Miller, a long-shoreman harbors two Sicilian cousins who have illegally entered the country; Thalian Hall, Wilmington; Nov. 5-9; 12-16. Call 910-343-3664 or 800-523-2820 or visit www.operahousetheatre.net.

Rocky Horror Show, cult musical merges the old school sci-fi horror flick with bawdy rock-n-roll; City Stage, Wilmington; Nov. 7-9. Call 910-342-0272 or visit www.level5atcitystage.com.

How the Other Half Loves, a rollicking farce about marriage, miscommunication and mayhem; Raleigh Little Theatre, Raleigh; Nov. 7-23. Call 919-821-3111 or visit raleighlittletheatre.org.

Swingin' at the Roxy, high-energy musical; Arts-

Center, Carrboro; Nov. 8. Call 919-929-2787 or visit www.artscenter.com.

Ballet Folklorico Quetzalli De Veracruz, colorful displays of traditional dance & music from several regions of Mexico; two venues: Carolina Theatre, Durham; Nov. 13; Call 919-560-3030 or visit www.carolinatheatre.org; Thalian Hall, Wilmington; Nov. 14. Call 910-343-3664 or visit www.thalianhall.com.

No Room at the Inn by Gloria Emmrich; Rocky Hock Playhouse, Edenton; Nov. 13-Dec. 20. Call 252-482-3400.

Transactors Improv. Co., short and long form improv; ArtsCenter, Carrboro; Nov. 14. Call 919-929-2787 or visit www.transactors.org.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, musical performance directed by Lee Russell; New Bern Civic Theatre, New Bern; Nov. 7-22. Call 252-633-0567.

Yerma, second play of Lorca's trilogy of the Spanish earth; ECU's McGinnis Theatre, Greenville; Nov. 20-25. Call 252-328-6829 or visit www.theatredance.ecu.edu.

The Nutcracker, NYC's Ballet of Young Audiences returns with its popular one-hour narrated version of this holiday classic; Thalian Hall, Wilmington; Nov. 22-23. Call 910-343-3664 or 800-523-2820 or visit www.thalianhall.com.

Hobson's Choice, 1915 comedy directed by Blake Robison presented by Playmakers Repertory Company; Center for Art, Chapel Hill; Nov. 26-Dec. 21. Call 919-962-play or visit www.playmakersrep.org.

The Nutcracker, presented by Dance Theatre of Wilmington, UNC-W, Kenan Auditorium, Wilmington. Nov. 29-30. Call 910-962-3500 or 800-732-3643 or visit www.uncw.edu/kenan

The Nutcracker, performed by Carolina Ballet and the NC Symphony; Raleigh Memorial Auditorium, BTI Center for the Performing Arts; Raleigh; Nov. 28-30. Call 919-719-0900 or visit www.carolinaballet.com.

CLASSICAL CONCERTS

Durham Symphony Classical Concert; Carolina Theatre, Durham; Nov. 2. Call 919-560-2736 or visit www.durhamsymphony.org. (*Chamber Music concert set for Oct. 25 has been postponed until Feb. 15, PSI Theater, Durham Arts Council.*)

Ciampi Quartet with Robert Black; Reynolds Theatre, Duke University, Durham; Nov. 7; Call 919-684-4444 or visit www.duke.edu/edu/arts.

NC Symphony, all orchestral; Meymandi Concert Hall, BTI Center for the Performing Arts, Raleigh,

Nov. 7 & 8. Call 919-733-2750 or visit www.ncsymphony.org.

An Evening with Bach, NC Master Chorale; St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Raleigh; Nov. 8. Call 919-856-9700 or visit www.ncmasterchorale.org.

Bang on a Can All Stars; Reynolds Theatre, Duke University, Durham; Nov. 8; Call 919-684-4444 or visit www.duke.edu/edu/arts.

Capital Area Handbell Festival, 30+ bell choirs from several states, sponsored by the Raleigh Ringers; Raleigh Convention Center, Raleigh; Nov. 8. Call 919-847-7574 or visit www.rr.org.



Ignat Solzhenitsyn's lyrical and poignant interpretations have won him critical acclaim.

Ignat Solzhenitsyn, piano, part of the NC Symphony's Great Artists Series; A.J. Fletcher Theater, BTI Center, Raleigh; Nov. 11. Also, performance with the NC symphony; Meymandi Concert Hall, BTI Center, Nov. 16. Call 919-733-2750.

Ring of Fire, free concert by an internationally acclaimed youth handbell choir; St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Raleigh. Nov. 12. Call 919-847-7574 or visit www.rr.org.

NC Symphony with cellist Mark Kosower, Chapel Hill Bible Church; Nov. 20. Also, at Meymandi Concert Hall, BTI Center; Raleigh Nov. 21-22. Call 919-733-2750 or visit www.ncsymphony.org.

First Flight Centennial Celebration, Daedalus String Quartet, presented by The Chamber Music Society; Carteret Community College, Morehead City; Nov. 22. Call 252-728-4488. Also, at UNC-W, Thalian Hall, Wilmington; Nov. 23. Call 910-343-1079 or visit www.thalianhall.com.

Turtle Island String Quartet with Paquito D'Rivera; UNC-Chapel Hill, Carolina Union; Nov. 22. Call 919-962-1449 or visit www.performingartsseries.unc.edu.

Triple Helix, presented by the Raleigh Chamber Music Guild; A.J. Fletcher Theater, BTI Center; Raleigh; Nov. 23. Call 919-821-2030.

Holiday Pops, Durham Symphony with Durham School of the Arts chorale; Carolina Theatre, Durham; Nov. 30. Call 919-560-2736 or visit www.durhamsymphony.org.

POP MUSIC

Steve Earle and the Dukes, five-time Grammy nominee showing off his country-blues style; Carolina Theatre, Durham; Nov. 5. Call 919-560-3040 or visit www.carolinatheatre.org.

Herbie Hancock, Duke Jazz series; Reynolds Theatre, Duke University, Durham; Nov. 10 & 11. Call 919-660-3300.

Laurie Lewis with Phillips, Greer & Flinger, Berkeley, CA, singer/musician Laurie Lewis performing with bassist Todd Phillips, opening performance by David Greer; ArtsCenter, Carrboro; Nov. 12. Call 919-929-2787 or visit www.artscenterlive.org.

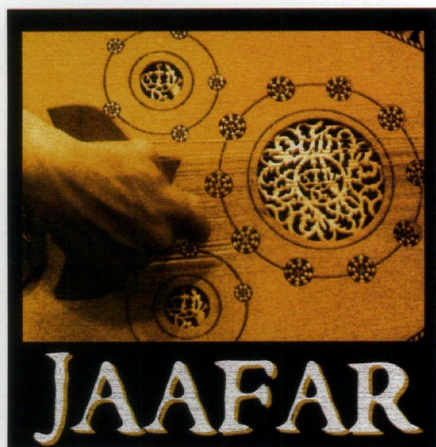
Jaafar, Western rock meets Eastern culture to produce a Middle Eastern/Arabic jazz-funk sensation; ArtsCenter, Carrboro; Nov. 14. Call 919-929-2787 or visit www.artscenterlive.org.

COURTESY OF THE ARTSCENTER



Swingcats from *Swingin' At the Roxy*, a high-energy musical set in the hey-days of American Swing at the ArtsCenter in Carrboro

COURTESY OF THE ARTSCENTER



Jaaffar blends eastern instruments with acoustic base, double-neck and flamenco guitar to make middle eastern/arabic music at the Artcenter.

6th Annual NC Symphony Songwriters Competition, area songwriters competing for \$600 in cash with last year's winner Kyler England performing prize-winning songs & others from her new cd; ArtsCenter, Carrboro; Nov. 15. Call 919-929-2787 or visit www.artscenterlive.org.

Rubbing Elbows with Ian Anderson, evening of acoustic songs, music & interesting stories from Jethro Tull; Carolina Theatre, Durham; Nov. 18. Call 919-560-3040 or visit www.carolinatheatre.org.

Curtis Stigers, new man on international jazz scene & his inventive interpretations of jazz standards & more; Thalian Hall, Wilmington; Nov. 21. Call 800-523-2820 or visit www.curtisstigers.com.

Emil McGloin Release Concert, unique sound of Emil McGloin, with differing musical styles from Folk to hip hop; ArtsCenter, Carrboro; Nov. 21. Call 919-929-2787 or visit www.artscenterlive.org.

8th Annual Toys for Tots Concert with John Berry in An American Christmas, holiday classics as well as Berry's own country music hits; Carolina Theatre, Durham; Nov. 30. Call 919-560-3040 or visit www.carolinatheatre.org.

POTPOURRI

Triangle Metro American Heart Walk, annual fundraising event for local branch of American Heart Association, supported by Triangle Subway Restaurants, who will donate 3000 sandwiches for the event; Imperial Center, RTP, 4700 Emperor Blvd, Interstate 40, Exit 282; Nov. 2 (registration, 2 p.m., walk, 3 p.m.). Call 919-463-8300.

2nd Annual Second Empire 5k Classic to benefit the Arthritis Foundation Carolinas Chapter Eastern Branch; Second Empire, Raleigh; Nov. 4. Call 919-829-3663 or visit www.second-empire.com.

Success and Sagacity: Spirited Conversation with Women Entrepreneurs, interactive panel presented by Council for Entrepreneurial Development & National Association of Women Business Owners; Sheraton Imperial, RTP; Nov. 5. Call 919-754-3955 or visit www.cednc.org/programs/special_events/nawbo_forum.html.

18th Annual Fish Baron's Ball and Silent Auction, banquet featuring a seafood buffet, entertainment, and a silent auction; New Bern; Nov. 8. Call 800-438-5767.

Peanut Festival, a parade, band competition, crafts and food; John A. Holmes High School, Edenton; Nov. 8. Call 800-775-0111 or 252-482-3400.

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Airlie Gardens, The Rain Garden, a Tryon Palace Garden Lecture with Thomas Herrera-Mishler, director of Airlie Gardens, presenting an armchair tour of the renowned Rain Garden; Tryon Palace, New Bern; Nov. 8. Call 800-767-1560.

Holiday Floral Seminar, with Vietri co-founder Frances Gravely and Fearington Floral Designer Bill Pressley, lunch at Fearington House; Fearington Barn, Fearington Village; Nov. 13. Call 919-542-1145.

Mental Health Matters: STRESS: Good or Bad? Dr. A. R. Mangiardi, discussing why we need stress & how destructive it can be; Cumberland County Headquarters Library, Fayetteville; Nov. 13. Call 910-483-7726, ext 210.

Festa Italia, celebration of everything Italian, including food, wine, music & games; Silver Coast Winery, Ocean Isle; Nov. 15. Call 910-287-2800 or visit www.silvercoastwinery.com.

Children's Book Week Preschool Programs, children 3-5 years old, storytime with favorite picture book characters, including Liz the Lizard from *The Magic School Bus* series & Poppa Dumb Bunny from *Dumb Bunnies* books; Cumberland County Libraries; Nov. 17-25. Call 910-483-1580 or nearest regional library.

Tryon Palace Holiday Celebration, traditions from two centuries of American Christmases at North Carolina's first capitol, including tours of decorated buildings, music, a Civil War Encampment & costumed characters, Nov. 26-Dec. 28. Call 800-767-1560 (see photo on Openings Page).

Raleigh NAWBO Monthly Chapter Luncheon, \$25 for members and \$35 for guests; Capital City Club, Raleigh; Nov. 19. Register online at www.nawbo-raleigh.org.

The Perennial Border in Fall, Plantsmen's Tour of Perennial Border; J. C. Raulston Arboretum, NC State



COURTESY OF HISTORIC EDENTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Peanut Man will be on parade in the annual Peanut Festival and Band Competition in Edenton.

University, Raleigh; Nov. 21. Call 919-515-3132 or visit www.ncsu.edu/jcraulstonarboretum.

Holiday Show, the Carteret County Arts and Crafts Coalition's annual juried show and sale; The History Place, downtown Morehead City; Nov. 22-Dec. 13 (opening reception Nov. 21). Call 252-726-3262.

Jumble Sale, an old-fashioned flea market with vendors selling arts, crafts, antiques, food and more; Beaufort Historic Site, Beaufort; Nov. 22. Call 800-575-7483.

Jewelry and Fine Arts Show, a gathering of jewelry artisans & fine arts representatives from Eastern

& Coastal North Carolina; Crystal Coast Civic Center, Morehead City; Nov. 22. Call Janie Jones at 252-247-3883.

Community Thanksgiving Feast, a mid-day dinner prepared by local restaurants; Beaufort Historic Site, Beaufort; Nov. 23. Call 800-575-7483.

Coastal Invitational Showcase, a holiday arts and crafts show including gifts, handmade items, food, décor, & more; Crystal Coast Civic Center, Morehead City; Nov. 28-30. Call 252-247-3883.

Seaside Santa Arrives by Boat on Downtown Beaufort Waterfront; Santa's Seaside Workshop on the Boardwalk, Beaufort; mid-day hours Nov. 28-Dec. 20. Call 252-728-4611.

Holiday Decoration Walking Tours; Tryon Palace & New Bern; Nov. 29, Dec. 6 & 13. Call 800-767-1560.

Swansboro Christmas Flotilla, to organize at Swansboro Yacht Basin & float along the Downtown Waterfront, plus food and live entertainment; Swansboro; Nov. 29. Call 910-353-0241.

10th annual Jingle Ball, presented by Capital City Clauses to spread Christmas among Triangle needy children, admission: a toy valued at \$20 or more or \$30 per person, food & beverages provided; Exploris, Raleigh; Dec. 4. Call 919-821-2777 ext. 302 or visit www.jingleball.org. MM

Our thanks to Suzie Humphrey and Bess Futrell for their assistance with Preview.

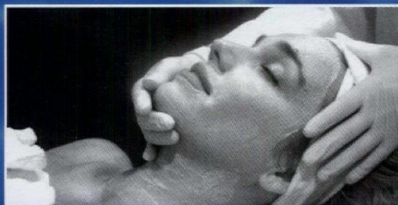
EDITOR'S NOTE: Please send events info and color images, slides or photos 6 weeks before publication date. Send to Frances A. Smith, Metro Magazine, 1033 Oberlin Rd. Suite 100, Raleigh, 276005 or email: fsmith5@nc.rr.com.

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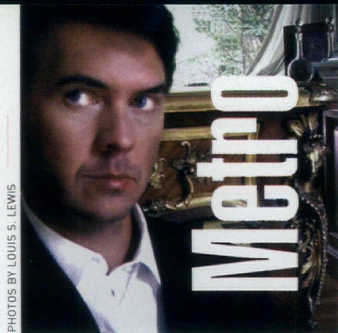
HIGH POINT: High Point Theatre
Dec. 5, 11, 12, 13 (8pm); Dec. 7 & 14 (2pm)

GREENSBORO: Aycock Auditorium
Dec. 16 (8pm)

WINSTON-SALEM: Stevens Center
Dec. 19 & 20 (8pm); Dec. 20 & 21 (2pm)

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PHOTOS BY LOUIS S. LEWIS

Artist-at-Large

by Louis St. Lewis

Pushing People Out of Planes

FLYING HIGH AT NC MUSEUM OF ART

I love to fly. Anytime someone sends me a first-class ticket or, even better, invites me on a private jet, I take advantage of the offer. But, when I hear of a plane crash, I often have nightmares for many nights. After those Jetliners slammed into the World Trade Center, it took months to get the image of the second impact out of my mind. The way the jet sliced at an angle into the building on that cloudless morning was frightening and yet at the same time eerily beautiful from a purely academic and artistic viewpoint. This year I flew to New Orleans on September 11, and it was an uneventful trip except for having to remove my Kenneth Cole's at the security station due to my buckles making the alarms go off. Nonetheless, I steadied my nerves in a big way with a couple of rounds of Stoli and a Valium or two before I boarded the plane. Moments later, with a fresh glass of champagne in my hand, I gazed over billowing clouds, glassy lakes and patchwork patterns of farmland meadows. Flight is still magical and amazing to us even after a century.

After a series of lackluster shows, the North Carolina Museum of Art is exhibiting "Defying Gravity: Contemporary Art and Flight," which opens November 2 and lasts until next March. Linda Johnson Dougherty, in my opinion, has the freshest eye of any of the curators at the museum and her presence helps lift the contemporary department up and away from its normally dowdy and leaden offerings. This is an ambitious and interesting exhibition that is certain to be much more entertaining than that boring show of Henri Toulouse-Lautrec posters we were burdened with not too long ago.

The curators used a voracious eye, and it looks like anything that had wings made it into the show, from the wildly imaginative installation by Albert Chong to the

impressively un-impressive computer print-outs by Michael Salter, whose images are as boring as flight safety manuals. Some artists, however, manage to fly high. Ralph Helmick and Stuart Schechter created an amazing 3-dimensional X-35 fighter jet from over 1000 mylar butterflies. It hovers over the museum's staircase, and it really is impressive the way it hangs in the air and emits vapor trails of roses and daisies. The butterflies are supposed to be motorized and

move, but on the day I was there, it must have been mating season or something because all they did was kind of click together and make noises like roaches.

I knew I was on to something when I rounded a corner and viewed the showstopper of an image by Rosemary Laing, titled *Flight Research #5*. It is an amazing photograph of a woman in a wedding dress in the middle of the sky after being dropped out of a plane. I was frozen in my tracks in absolute



Above: Albert Chong, *Winged Evocations*, 1998–2003, kinetic installation, approx. 25 x 25 ft.

Right: Ralph Helmick and Stuart Schechter, *Rabble*, 2003, suspended airplane of Mylar butterflies anchored by pewter weights with contrails of fabric flowers, approx. H. 10 x W. 15 x D. 44 ft.



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COURTESY SANDRONI REY, VENICE, CALIFORNIA

Soo Kim, *Atlantic*, 2001, chromogenic print

awe—very impressive. Over the years I have accumulated a long list of people whom I would like to push out of airplanes and take photographs of, and this young woman has truly inspired me to move forward with my dream with gusto. Soo Kim, a Korean American from Los Angeles, also has photographs, but his are of the underside of airplanes as they cross overhead (he must live near an airport). The images are interesting, but I truly don't want to spend my time looking at the bottoms of airplanes anymore than I would want to look at the underside of say, a buzzard. The list of artists goes on and on, from modern master James Rosenquist to Triangle artist David Solow, a classmate of mine at the NC School of the Arts who hung up his ballet shoes for a blowtorch and video projector.

All in all "Defying Gravity" is a clever production and a good hype job for the museum. Success is all about numbers, so to keep the people coming through the turnstiles, it's important to crank out a show once in a while that is guaranteed to be a crowd pleaser. This one should be. It's colorful, interactive, and they can spin it around the state until the cows come home. The only thing that irks me is the price of tickets, at \$7.50 you really have to ask yourself whether your money is better spent going to see *Lord of the Rings 3*, *Matrix 3*, or an art exhibition. I may be in the minority in my viewpoint, but I strongly disagree with our state museum's charging a fee for admission. Add a penny tax to cigarettes or put a tollbooth at the ABC stores if the museum is that low on funds. If people choose to make a donation, great, but art is unpopular enough as it is without scaring away or intimidating the very people it should be embracing.

However, this is a strong show and I suggest you go see it. **MM**

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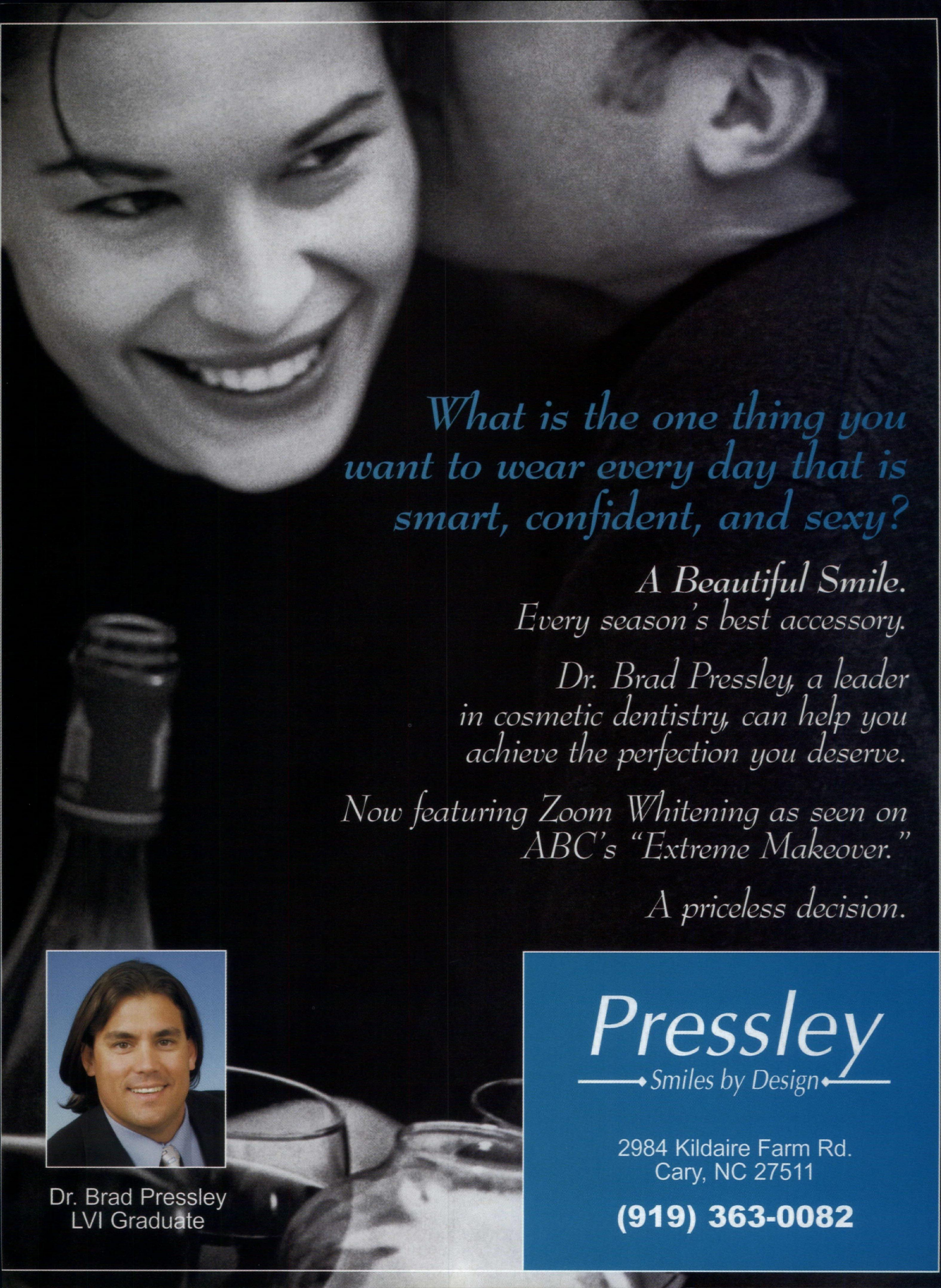


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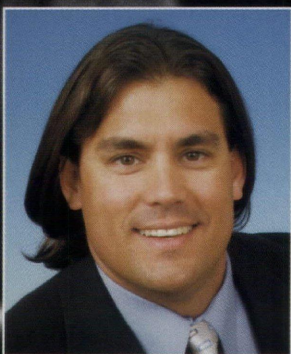
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FARM TO TABLE

About this time last year, I caught the sweet, musty smell of cured tobacco in the air and started thinking about the empty auction houses in the old market towns Down East. It had been 25 years or so since the last time I had heard an auctioneer's chant, and I realized that I surely would never hear it again.

Then, early this summer, I read that 75 percent of the tobacco harvested in North Carolina this year was grown under contract with the cigarette companies and would never see the auction floor. So I was all the more certain that for the last time I had entered a dusty, cavernous, old shell of a tobacco warehouse and heard an auctioneer ply his trade.

But I have learned to never say never.

Just the other day, I found myself standing in the historic Yeargin warehouse in Oxford, operated by third-generation tobacco man Billy Yeargin Jr., and listening to the raspy, cigarette-cured voice of John Acai, who represents the dying breed of auctioneers who used to move from warehouse to warehouse in the fall coaxing high dollars from company buyers by day and enlivening the social scene after dark.

John and I swapped stories before the auction began, and I told him how my mother spoke disparagingly about the "market crowd"—auctioneers, buyers and others—and rued the day each year when they rolled into town and filled the rooms of the boarding houses. In her eyes, they were commissioned by the Devil to lead astray the town's men folks—husbands, fathers and deacons—and her voice took a hard edge and lost every trace of civility when she referred to them.

John laughed, nodded his head knowingly, took a last puff on his cigarette, crushed it on the concrete floor with the toe of his shoe, moved over to the aisle and then started his chant. "Ten dollars, \$10,

I've got \$10, who'll give me 11," I heard John say.

"Ten dollars?" The best pile of tobacco on opening day of market—second primings, good body, heady aroma, solid gold and in perfect order—never brought close to \$10 a pound.

A hand shot up, and he had an \$11-bid on...on...on a bushel of shiny, green tomatoes. He teased the buyers some more and finally knocked the tomatoes off at \$21. Twenty-one dollars for a bushel of green tomatoes!



Phillip Barker, whose family had grown them, struggled hard to suppress a grin as they went out the huge warehouse doors and down the street to a local restaurant to be sliced, dipped in egg, coated in seasoned corn meal, fried crisp and served up to patrons who savor this Down East gastronomic treat.

Each Tuesday and Thursday afternoon this summer, farmers converged on Oxford with loads of fresh produce from their fields. They offered them to the highest bidders at an auction sponsored by the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service and underwritten by the Golden-LEAF Foundation, which administers half of the state's tobacco settlement money.

Earlier, at about 3 o'clock the afternoon

I was there, pickup trucks had started rolling up to the side doors of the Yeargin warehouse bringing fruit and vegetables—peaches, nectarines, apples, eggplant, zucchini, summer squash, peppers, purple-hull Crowder peas, butterbeans, Blue Lake beans and the like. Some folks, such as John Ayers, had boxes stacked higher than the cab. Others, like Joe Bowan, offered only eight or 10 bushels of freshly pulled corn—a variety called "ambrosia" with mixed white and yellow kernels.

I jumped at the chance to take home a dozen ears grown by Bowen—a Vance County farmer well into his 70s, I suspect—who has been slowed by a stroke. His wife of a lifetime is his helpmate and looks as comfortable riding the country roads in their pickup nestled next to the door on the passenger side as Bowen looks in his faded overalls and baseball cap. I had met them earlier at Phillip Barker's place where they had driven a couple of hundred yards up a dusty, rutted road to Barker's former packinghouse—now a makeshift, tomato-grading facility—to sell him some corn and buy a bushel of his freshly washed "breakers" (tomatoes that are just on the verge of ripening) to sell at their roadside stand.

I'll take just a minute to tell you how I fixed my corn when I got home and then move on. I read somewhere that Rose Kennedy, former President Kennedy's mother, was so tight that she forbade the cook to serve her a baked potato—it took too much electricity to run the oven for an hour to cook it, she declared. I have always felt a bit that way about corn-on-the-cob. Boiling water for 15-20 minutes to cook a couple of ears of corn amounts to both a waste and an aggravation.

But I have learned a secret. Simply trim both ends of the corn, making sure not to leave half a worm up amongst the silks, wrap it in a wet paper towel and microwave it for four minutes. The shucks

and silks will peel right off—but be careful not to let the captured steam burn your hands. Slathered with butter and sprinkled with salt and pepper, the corn will be the best you ever ate.

The produce auction in Oxford is unique. For two hours the auctioneer chants and buyers—restaurant owners, green grocers, locals eager to pickle some peaches for Thanksgiving dinner, and others—examine the produce carefully and bid on it. It's in its second year, and I hope to goodness it becomes a local fixture and eventually is replicated in towns across the state.

I've never seen wild butterbeans or Crowder peas or sweet, red peppers volunteering roadside. It takes hard work and aching muscles to plant, tend and get produce from the farm to our tables, and somehow we have to make it worthwhile for folks like Joe Bowen and his wife and Phillip Barker and his wife and son to invest their time and effort and do it.

Providing dependable markets, such as the Oxford auction, where farmers can get top dollar for the fruit of their labor is one

way to do that. Another is for us to seek out the folks who are growing fresh produce and selling it at farmers' markets, tailgate markets, and roadside stands—especially those who are pioneering in organic, sustainable agriculture—and encourage and support them. Hats off to a few of these eastern North Carolina organic growers: Ward Brothers Farm in Whiteville, Hannah Creek Farm in Four Oaks, Black River Organic Farm in Ivanhoe, Pine Knot Farms in Hurdle Mills and Parker Farms in Elizabeth City.

And we can insist that restaurants we patronize buy local produce and, just as important, thank those who already do, such as Dennis Quaintance and Nancy King at Lucky 32; Ben and Karen Barker at Magnolia Grill; Bill Smith at Crook's Corner; and the folks at Second Empire, Bloomsbury Bistro and Farrington House.

"Community Supported Agriculture" is more than just a neat catch phrase. It's a way to ensure there is a plentiful supply of the food that is a part of Down East culture—the home-grown fruit and produce

that will make Thanksgiving celebrations memorable in places like Bear Grass, Harrells and Roper—and to ensure, also, that the land that produces it will stay in families who will keep cultivating it.

I can't imagine summer without local tomatoes—grown for eating and not for shipping; silver queen corn still wet from the morning dew; and "pickling" cucumbers the size of your thumb cut up and served in apple cider vinegar with salt and pepper.

As the holidays approach and the air gets crisp, others may yearn for the hot summer sun and the cool ocean breezes that tempered it. But between you and me, I have sweet dreams of sandwiches of meaty, heirloom tomatoes and Duke's mayonnaise spread on Merita bread—here at Thanksgiving, just a remembrance of the season past. And I think beyond the holidays and the cold, harsh months of January, February and March to when the first, exceptionally flavorful, small English peas will portend a bounty of other fresh vegetables for my table from April until October. **MM**

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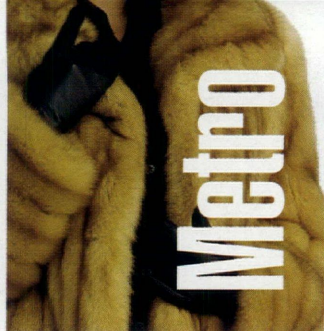
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Style

by Molly Fulghum Heintz

Stepping in style with the season

ENCHANTING WINTER FRAGRANCES, FABRIC COATS & FURS, BOTOX IN A BOTTLE AND A NEW BOOK BY A STYLE ICON

Fall 2003 will go down in history as the season that launched a thousand fragrances. Cosmetic companies, fashion designers and perfume artisans have turned out a bumper crop and made the world a more aromatic place. One of the best new perfumes this season lives up to its quirky name, "Very Irresistible," by Givenchy. Floral and warm, this fragrance radiates optimism and femininity and brings a compliment every time I give it a test run.

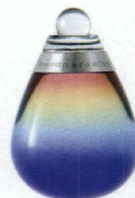
"Sicily," the new scent from Dolce & Gabbana, is slightly more mysterious. Floral, but with sensual strains of ylang-ylang and vanilla, the Sicily woman is soft and beautiful, but has a hidden edge, as if she is capable of carrying out an ancient



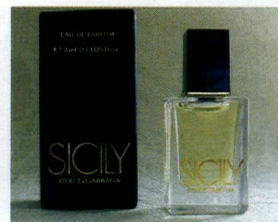
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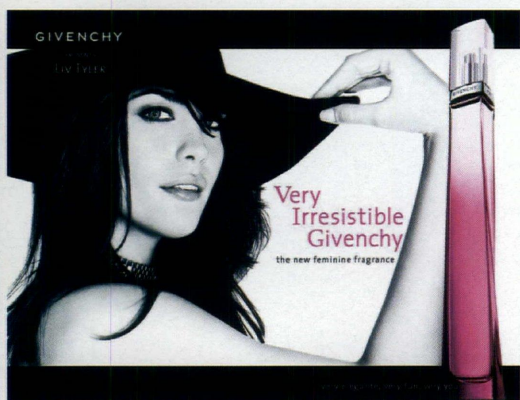
Dolce & Gabbana

fragrance geared toward a woman who likes her vanilla extract straight-up. "Brit" starts fresh but changes quickly to sugar-cookie sweet (but the tartan bottle would look cute on any vanity). "Beyond Paradise" by Estee Lauder is candy for the nose and eye; I would love to drop everything and step into the rainbow dreamscape that model Carolyn Murphy inhabits in the ads for the perfume.

If you like fragrances that don't shout from the mountaintops and seek special blends that the person beside you in the elevator won't be wearing, try something from Histoires de Parfums. This charming French label takes its inspiration from historical characters such as Empress Eugenie, Colette and Mata Hari. My favorite is "1804," inspired by Georges Sand, forward-thinking female novelist and paramour of Chopin; it's a warm floral blend with a touch of fruitiness that makes it sparkle. (Men: There is also "1828: Jules Verne" for you.) Fortunately for Raleigh, this exclusive line is available at Luxe Apothecary. Luxe and Razook's also carry selections from the House of Creed, gorgeous natural blends from one of the world's oldest perfumers. So, no excuses for not smelling enchanting this winter.

THE RIGHT EVERYDAY COAT

Winter means coats. At the end of last winter, I learned the true meaning of "threadbare" from my loyal red wool coat. The wool fabric had lost all its fuzz at the cuffs and on the belt, and the poor threads were sitting there buck-naked. My coat looked like it needed a coat, so it was clearly time for Old Red's retirement. And as the mercury continues to drop, I'm getting anxious about finding the right everyday coat for winter. Here's the inner monologue: "Would love a white one but will spill cof-



family vendetta. At New York Fashion Week, each editor received a bottle of J. Lo's new perfume "Still." It wasn't for me, so I asked a friend if she wanted it; she sniffed and wrinkled her nose. After three other friends had the same reaction, I think it's safe to say that "Still" is a weak follow-up to J. Lo's best-selling "Glow."

From the Burberry clan comes "Brit" a



fee on it the first day... needs a belt so I don't look like a blob... but shouldn't be too close-fitting so I can wear a thick sweater underneath... is double-breasted too much work (?)... needs good pockets so gloves won't fall out in coat check room... so sick of black but so practical... waterproof would be nice..." *Maddening.*

Thank goodness for Beanie + Cecil, which carries Edward An coats that come in beautiful colors and have lovely clean lines. Ann Taylor steps up to the plate with a simple and elegant long coat in winter white. For little velveteen jackets that look great with a turtleneck, go to Banana Republic (attention petites: full petite selection available at bananarepublic.com).

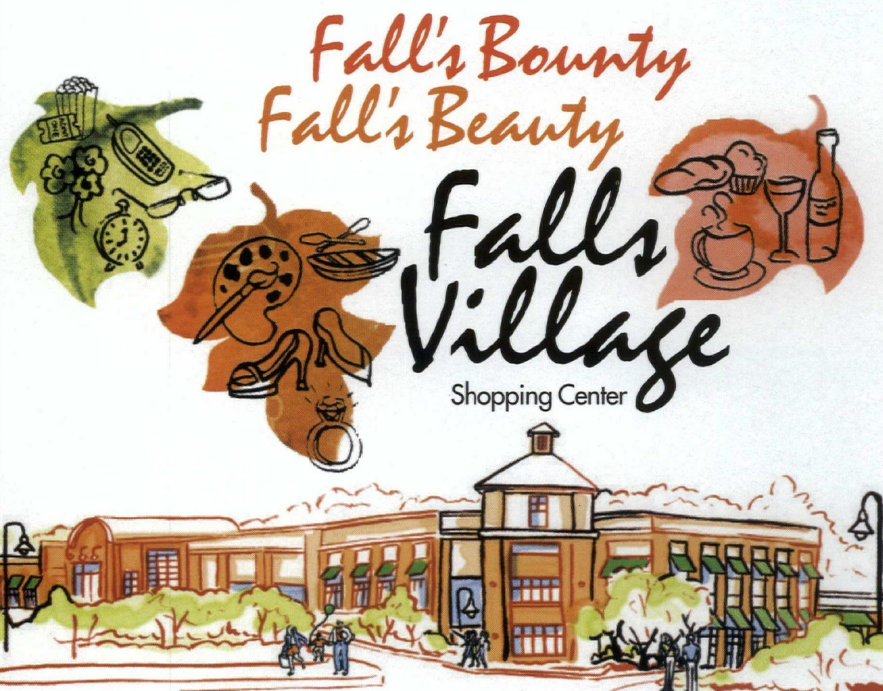
But when it becomes bone-chillingly cold, there is nothing like fur for staying toasty. An older acquaintance of mine who once lived in Chicago told me that she was only able to walk to work in the middle of winter by wearing a fur hat, a fur coat and fur boots. And, unlike Old Red, furs last a very, very long time. A friend of mine just bought a gorgeous vintage fur that she is excited to wear this winter. While older styles have a romantic Russian princess-Breakfast at Tiffany's aura, the newest furs have surprisingly contemporary styling. Check out a sheared beaver chubby in shocking blue, yellow or pink or try a woven fur vest or sweater that looks as if it came off a loom.

Raleigh is home to top-drawer furriers, such as Hertzberg's and Serotta's; an educational visit to their cold storage is well



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Banana Republic

worth the trip to see the latest techniques and view lightweight furs suitable for a North Carolina winter. Or get familiar with the big designer names in fur, like Dennis Basso and Louis Feraud at saksfifthavenue.com. Fashion retailers with a younger customer have also stocked up on fur this season. Uniquities has a charming brown rabbit fur coat from Theory, while Bebe carries a white rabbit bomber that would look perfect ice-skating (accessorize with white fur muff) or sitting around the fire roasting marshmallows.

BOTOX IN A BOTTLE

New York Fashion Week has come and gone, and the tents at Bryant Park were buzzing about two things. The first was the profusion of the color yellow in the Spring 2004 collections. If I could invest in color futures, I would definitely be buying yellow. The second was an item found in the "7th on Sixth" editor's gift bag, an unassuming white and gray jar. Editors clumped together holding their little pots, murmuring "Botox in a bottle... Botox in a bottle!" The substance in question is the new face cream from the Avon Anew Clinical line that promises to give Botox-like results without the creepy side effects (like not being able to frown for

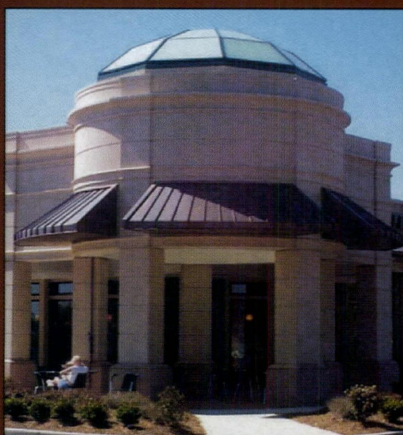


Ann Taylor

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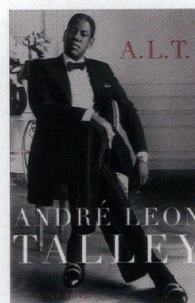
a week). For your own little pot and to view the entire Clinical line, go to avon.com. (P.S. I think the stuff works). Also circulating in gift bags around town this season are samples from a new beauty line that hails from France. Called Avancé, the products were developed in Brittany, a picturesque region, home to many spas that specialize in *thalassotherapie*, or "seaweed therapy." If you can't reap the benefits of the beach and sea during the winter, Avancé might be able to tide you over until your next trip to Wrightsville. Go to avanceskincare.com or call 1-800-777-SKIN.

LEON TALLEY COMING TO TOWN

Vogue readers will know that this very column owes a great deal to André Leon Talley's monthly "StyleFax." That's why I was thrilled to learn that on November 7, Talley, North Carolina native, *Vogue* editor-at-large and international fashion guru, will be coming to Raleigh to speak at an event held by the Alice Aycock Poe Center for Health Education. Talley will be read-

ing from his wonderful new book *A.L.T.* and signing copies; in between there will be a fashion show and lunch of "New Southern Cuisine." All events will take place at North Ridge Country Club (6612 Falls of Neuse Road) between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. This is a great opportunity to meet a fashion icon and donate to a worthy cause. Tickets are \$75 and are available by call-ing the Poe Center at 919-231-4006 or through their Web site, www.poe-health.org. Books will be available for pur-

chase for \$25 (\$10 of which will go to benefit the Poe Center). In addition to gift bags put together by the shops at The Lassiter and North Hills, there will be a raffle with amazing prizes up to \$2500 in value (check the Web site for details). I'll see you there... *bon chance!* **MM**



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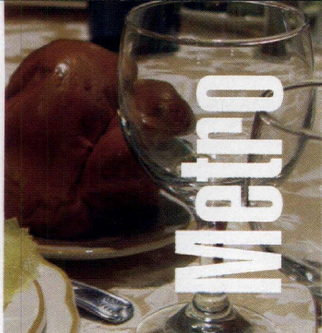
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Gourmet

by Maudy Benz

Exceeding Expectations

CHEF BRIAN STAPLETON TAKES CAROLINA INN DINING TO NEW HEIGHTS

When it was announced in 1993 that UNC was turning over the Carolina Inn's management to the private sector, there was a collective town-and-gown uproar in Chapel Hill. That venerable institution, referred to as "the university's living room," threatened to mutate into a big corporation's living room shedding its old-fashioned charm and accessibility to locals. Even more worrisome, what was to become of the "university's dining room," the Inn's mythic cafeteria? Each Sunday Chapel Hill nabobs mingled there with bow-tied professors and their families, eccentric old bachelors and other town characters, all chowing down on the best fried chicken, sweet potato casserole, collard greens, and banana pudding you ever tasted outside grandma's kitchen—at graduate student prices.

Sentiment rarely halts the wheels of progress and, in spite of the protests, the Inn closed for the dreaded renovations. When it finally reopened more than a year later, surprisingly the place still felt like a home, but someone else's home, as if a wealthy young couple had moved into a musty old professor's house on Franklin Street and hired a society decorator. The Inn looked stunning, but more like that bastion of New South values, Atlanta, than Chapel Hill, an icon of small town academia. "It's just so bright," townsfolk whispered, trying hard to hide their hesitant approval of the Inn's new cheerful colors and squashy chintz furniture. The renovations extended to the staff. Replacing Granny's country cooks were bona fide chef school graduates trained in international cuisine. The Inn's grand opening showcased the new kitchen's talents, and everyone attending the event (including most of the old regulars wisely included by the Inn's savvy PR staff) was instantly impressed.

Sustaining that first impression proved to be another story. The new dining room's cuisine consistently maintained a reputation for inconsistency—until four years ago when Brian Stapleton was hired away from the inn's closest rival, Il Palio, the Siena Hotel's upscale restaurant. Under Brian's regime, Il Palio had been elevated from the status of a "hotel restaurant" to a fine dining destination spot of its own. Inn management hoped he would do the same for their restaurant, the Carolina Crossroads.

Brian has succeeded beyond expectations. After garnering countless diamonds and stars and other top hotel dining awards, he recently received one of the most prestigious accolades of the American culinary scene, an invitation to showcase his talents at the James Beard Foundation. "To go to the Beard House was like being in the Mecca of the food world," Brian enthused at a recent dinner at the Inn. "Sometimes you are a little looked down upon as a hotel chef, so to go from a hotel was a very big deal."

The Crossroads menu is eclectic. When asked to give it a label,

Brian resists. "It's definitely seasonal, and it's at least a little bit Southern." Items such as "Roast Suckling Pig on Mom's Greens, Black Eyed Pea Salad and Seasoned Braising Jus" and "Summer Squash and Bean Succotash, Braised Greens, Sweet Summer Corn



Chef Brian Stapleton of the Carolina Inn.

COURTESY OF CAROLINA INN

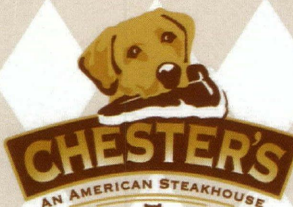
Flan, Anson Mill's Pimento Cheese Grits" may use ingredients commonly available in these parts, but they certainly are not what we consider traditional Southern dishes. Brian represents a different breed, a new generation of chefs who are committed to using the freshest local produce available and refer to their menu as "seasonal produce driven." "I'm interested in supporting local farmers," he said. "Without them, good fresh local food will be gone, and the connection to our land will be lost."

Brian doesn't claim to be a Southerner himself, though he married into a family of inspirational Southern foodies (Magnolia Grill's Ben Barker is his brother-in-law). Raised on a farm outside Sacramento, California, his fascination for cooking blossomed as he watched his mother preserve the farm's extensive bounty and helped his father barbecue his own meat. Following a brief stint as a ski instructor, Brian trained in San Francisco at the California Culinary Academy. Soon after graduating he was recruited by the Sheraton Grand where he cooked with Alain Ducasse for Hollywood luminaries and several heads of state. Later he joined the staff of the Ritz Carlton, arguably the best hotel restaurant chain in the country, before landing in Chapel Hill, his wife's hometown and a desirable place to raise their children.

At the Crossroads, Brian has surpassed himself. Not only has the dining room attained the status of a "destination restaurant," as Il Palio did under his leadership, but its menu no longer really needs a label other than Brian Stapleton's cuisine. His touch is unique—light, healthy, yet at the same time, intensely flavored. Sauces, usually reductions of wine, pan juices, or exceptional vinegars, are used sparingly but with great effect; portions aren't huge in spite of rather long-winded names. "Roasted Duck Breast on Homemade Duck and Sweet Garlic Sausage, Braised Cabbage and Chili Orange Duck Jus" was a favorite of mine—just the right amount of sweet and pungent sauce to accent, rather than smother the two contrasting duck items, the braised cabbage maintaining a perfect balance between softness and crispness. One of Brian's many strong suits is his skill with vegetables. He manages to hit the spot between almost-raw (one of the more obnoxious vestiges of "Nouvelle Cuisine"), and traditional Southern over-cooking ("if you recognize the veggie, it's not cooked enough"). Brian's side dishes are full of flavor, but don't break your teeth, and are perfectly com-

patible with their accompaniments. "Cast Iron Seared Sea Scallops on Wild Mushrooms with Fresh Thyme Braised Greens, Leek Confit, Vin Blanc" was another highlight, the vegetables no less impressive than the succulent scallops.

Each night Crossroads offers, in addition to the regular menu, a sampling of Brian's best concoctions paired with appropriate wines on the "Chef's Tasting Menu." For a light meal, more familiar fare and tapas—such as "Fried Cajun Catfish Strips and" "Cheese and Jalapeno Quesadilla"—are available in the cozy bar. Lunch and breakfast are served daily as well as Sunday brunch (die-hards still call it dinner). Instead of the old institutional-looking cafeteria lineup, there is now a grand carving station, an omelet station and dozens of silver chafing dishes on a lavish buffet to rival that of the Queen Elizabeth II. Among offerings such as "Grilled Swordfish with Heirloom Tomato and Corn Salsa" and "Roast Squab with Persimmon Compote," are a few homages to the old cafeteria—fresh collards, sweet potato casserole and banana pudding. This time, however, the pudding is gussied up with white chocolate. Even Granny would admit it's the best she ever tasted. **MM**



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Cork Report

by Barbara Ensrud



A Zinfandel Thanksgiving

THE RIGHT WINES FOR TURKEY DAY

Choosing a wine for roast turkey is easy. Almost any wine—red, white or pink—will accommodate turkey, white meat or dark. The challenge is all the “trimmings.” Finding a wine that won’t clash with candied sweet potatoes, cranberries and other relishes, mashed turnips or spicy acorn squash narrows the choices a bit.

Over the years I’ve tried just about every combination to see what works best. For me, it’s red wine—and since it’s such a uniquely American holiday, I look to American reds first, and most particularly that uniquely American red wine, Zinfandel. Now, if white Zinfandel is your favorite, by all means go with it. Some folks don’t even realize that Zinfandel was red long before a white (read blushing pink) version was made. The roaring tide of white Zinfandel almost wiped out the red version in the ’80s, but fortunately excellent stands of Zin, some quite old and packed with character, were saved. In my view many Zinfandels—and when I say Zinfandel, I mean red—are better than ever. Zinfandel’s robust fruit and full-bodied flavor can actually handle sweet potatoes, mashed turnips and the like.

Admittedly, styles vary; some of the lighter, inexpensive styles can be bland and mediocre. And if you’re thinking about those heavy dudes of 15 percent alcohol, loaded with extract and thunderous flavor, don’t! Save those (you will know them by their exalted price and high alcohol content!) for rich game and other hearty dishes, or savory cheeses; they’ll just overwhelm turkey and the other dishes too.

The roundly rich and flavorsome Zinfandels recommended here (see box) are well balanced and very engaging. Some producers make several different Zinfandels, so pay attention to the label to be sure you’re getting the right one. Dry Creek Vineyards, for instance (situated in Dry Creek Valley in Sonoma, a favored spot for Zinfandel) makes three or four Zinfandels—all quite good, actually—but Dry Creek’s Heritage Clone Zinfandel would be my choice for Tom Turkey and accoutrements.

Dancing Bull is Rancho Zabaco’s most popular and widely available Zinfandel, but on this occasion I’d opt for their Dry Creek Valley Reserve if you can find it—any regional store can

order it, so act soon if you want it for the big day. It’s delicious. Another good one is Bonny Doon’s Cardinal Zin, which owner Randall Grahm calls his “full-bodied paean to little red fruits,” as in raspberries and red currants. Don’t let the screw top put you off. Grahm, winedom’s notorious maverick, has gone entirely to screw tops—a huge mistake for age-worthies such as Le Cigare Volant, but not a problem for wine to drink in the near term. And at that it’s better than those horrendous, corkscrew-bending plastic plugs!

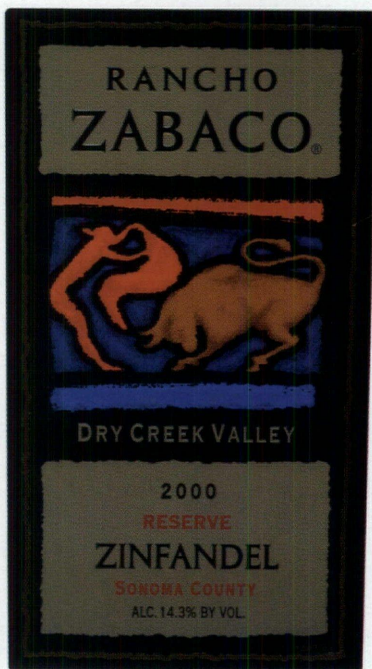
Though Zinfandel is a good all-American choice for this American holiday, it isn’t the only red that will work with the turkey feast. I also like some of the medium-bodied Syrahs—such as R.H. Phillips EXP Syrah 2000, with its fine flavors of black raspberries and a hint of black pepper. Also Castoro 2000, which may be harder to find in the Triangle but its juicy flavors are tasty and alluring. Australia and France also produce excellent values in Syrah—again the bigger Rhône versions, such as Châteauneuf-du-Pape, may be a bit heavy but Syrahs such as those of Domaine Miquel or Antonin Rodet are just right. There are so many Australian Shiraz it’s hard to pick just one—so your own favorite should be fine, or pick from the ones recommended below.

If you’re set on white wines, I would suggest either Fumé Blanc, American Pinot Gris, and possibly Viognier. Dry Riesling (or just off-dry) could work beautifully, such as Trefethen White Riesling or Bonny Doon Pacific Rim.

Finally, at a table that will include some who prefer red wines and some who like chilled wines, I will often serve the new Beaujolais Nouveau, if it’s a good year—nicely (but not overly) chilled. It’s robust enough for red wine lovers, refreshing for those who rarely drink reds. As of this writing, the 2003 nouveau is in vats and will soon be bottled and shipped the third Thursday of November—if it’s good you’ll hear about it—and it may be just the ticket for the feast.

Happy Thanksgiving. ...

Barbara Ensrud is on the web at <http://www.bewinewise.com>.
Mailing address: WineWithFood, P.O. Box 51064, Durham, NC 27717



Barbara Ensrud Recommends...

ZINFANDEL

BEST VALUE: Rancho Zabaco Reserve,
Dry Creek Valley, \$18-\$20

Bonny Doon Cardinal Zin 2001,
"Beastly Old Vines," \$22

Cline Cellars 2001, California, \$9

Dry Creek Vineyards Heritage Clone, Sonoma, \$15

Ridge Sonoma Station, \$18

Sobon Estate "Rocky Top", Shenandoah Valley, \$13

Nickel & Nickel Ponzo Vyd, [New] \$45

Ravenswood 2000, Sonoma, [New] \$18

SYRAH/SHIRAZ

BEST VALUE: R.H. Phillips EXP Syrah,
Dunnigan Hills, \$14

Castoro Cellars 2000, Paso Robles, \$18

Cline Cellars 2001, Sonoma, \$16

Domaine Miquel 2001, Pays d'Oc, \$11

Fess Parker 2000, Santa Ynez Valley, \$18

Meridian 2001, Central Coast, \$15

Penfolds Koonunga Hills Shiraz, Australia, \$13

RayLen 2002 Carolinius, North Carolina, \$18

A.Rodet Syrah 2001, Languedoc, \$9-10

Rosemount 2001 Shiraz, Australia, \$27

WHITES & OTHER

TOP PICKS: Robert Mondavi 2001
Fumé Blanc, Napa Valley, \$18

Beaujolais-Villages 2002 or
Nouveau '03 (chill lightly)

Bonny Doon Pacific Rim Riesling, Monterey, \$14

Honig 2002 Sauvignon Blanc, Napa Valley, \$15

Meridian 2002 Pinot Grigio, Central Coast, \$11

Mont-Pellier 2001 Viognier, Monterey, \$9

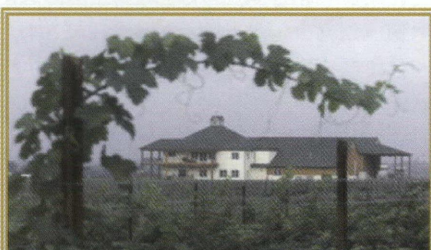
Pascal Jolivet 2001 Sancerre, Loire Valley, \$23

R.H. Phillips EXP Viognier, Dunnigan Hills, \$15

Trefethen 2001 White Riesling, Napa Valley, \$17

West Bend 2001 Seyval Blanc, North Carolina, \$12

Mirabelle, sparkling wine, \$20



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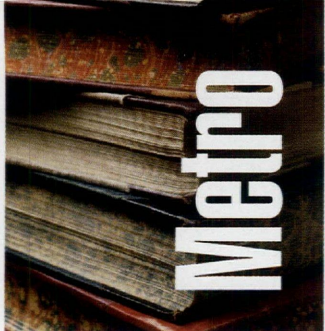
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Books

by Art Taylor

WRITER'S CONFERENCE, JIMMY CARTER VISIT CAP MONTH OF LITERARY EVENTS AND NEW BOOKS

Even without noted NPR commentator Andrei Codrescu headlining the event, the North Carolina Writers' Network's Fall Conference in Wilmington would still stand tall as this month's leading literary event. And with Codrescu on board... well, it's a

N.C. writers include Durham novelist Haven Kimmel, presenting the Saturday banquet reading; Wilmington-based authors Ellyn Bache and Wanda Canada; UNC-Chapel Hill writers/professors Bland Simpson and Trudier Harris-Lopez; and award-winning children's

book author Jackie Ogburn. Many more authors are among the workshop leaders, as are nationally recognized agents and editors.

Before Nov. 5, registration for the weekend's events cost \$200 for Network members and \$250 for nonmembers, and includes classes, roundtables, readings, meetings, entertainment and two meals. After Nov. 5, registration costs an additional \$40 and does not include meals.

To register or for more information, contact the NC Writers' Network at 919-967-9540 or visit the web site at www.ncwriters.org.

A PRESIDENTIAL VISIT

Next to the extravagance of authors gathering mid-month in Wilmington, November's next most important event is surely the latest Triangle visit by former president Jimmy Carter. Carter visits Durham's Regulator Bookshop on Tuesday, Nov. 18, to sign copies of his latest book, *The Hornet's Nest* (Simon & Schuster), the first work of fiction ever published by a U.S. President.

The Hornet's Nest offers a look at the Revolutionary War in the Deep South, detailing the adventures of a cast of characters in Georgia (some of them based on Carter's own ancestors) as they adapt to frontier life, interact with Native American tribes and ultimately take up arms against the British. The Regulator signing starts at 6:30 p.m., but fans should arrive early; the last time Carter visited the Triangle for his memoir *An Hour Before Daylight*, more

than 2000 people showed up for a signature.

Also worth discussing again is another Revolutionary War novel on the shelves these days. As mentioned in last month's column, N.C. native Robert Morgan's *Brave Enemies* (Algonquin) follows a 16-year-old Appalachian girl who disguises herself as a boy and enters the war as a member of the N.C. militia. Morgan's book tour continues in November with three Triangle appearances: Friday evening, Nov. 14, Raleigh's Quail Ridge Books; Saturday morning, Nov. 15, McIntyre's Books in Fearington Village; and Saturday evening, Nov. 15, the Regulator.

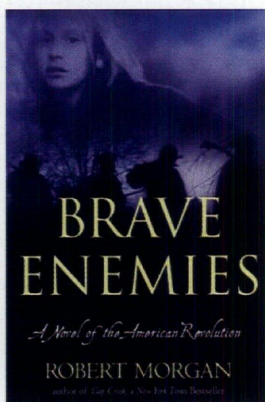
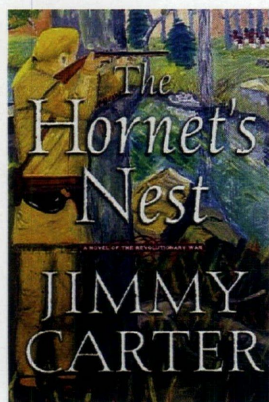
NEW YORK AND NC

This month, the stage adaptation of Allan Gurganus' best-selling novel *Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All* opens on Broadway at the Longacre Theater. The one-woman production stars the Tony- and Academy Award-winning actress Ellen Burstyn and has already received positive reviews during its pre-Broadway run.

To celebrate the premiere, Gurganus has been touring bookstores across the state, and two Triangle readings are still ahead. On Sunday afternoon, Nov. 2, he visits Raleigh's Quail Ridge Books, and on Thursday evening, Dec. 11, he'll read at the Burwell School for Girls, a historic site in downtown Hillsborough. Even if you've already read the novel (or at least seen the TV miniseries), this "bound for Broadway" book tour marks an excellent occasion to revisit the best-known work by Gurganus.

AROUND THE STATE

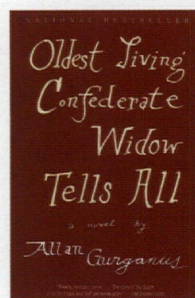
Two new books take readers around the state—each in its own way.



weekend not-to-be-missed for would-be writers or for anyone interested in a behind-the-scenes look at both the craft and the business of writing.

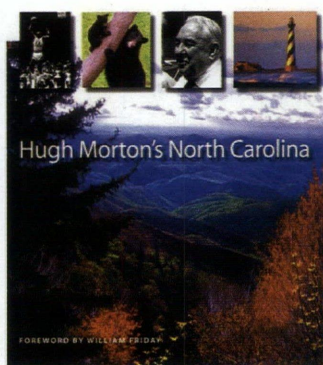
Codrescu offers the keynote address and leads a memoir workshop for the three-day event, taking place Friday-Sunday, Nov. 14-16, at the Hilton Wilmington Riverside. A weekly NPR commentator, he is also the author of five collections of poetry, five books of fiction and a dozen other volumes, spanning essays, memoirs and travel writing. Add to this list television commentator, screenwriter/filmmaker, newspaper columnist, anthology editor and translator, and you may begin to get a sense of Codrescu's prodigious talent and prolific output.

But while Codrescu headlines the program, he's far from the only reason to attend. Presenters also include an impressive line-up of North Carolina authors, many of them from UNC-Wilmington's creative writing program, such as Clyde Edgerton, Philip Gerard, Mark Cox, Lavonne Adams and Philip Furia. Other



Hugh Morton, president of Grandfather Mountain and a noted environmentalist, offers 60 years of photojournalism in *Hugh Morton's North Carolina* (UNC Press). The book delivers nature scenes from around the state, presents portraits of some notable North Carolinians and surveys our vibrant sports scene, particularly at the college level. Morton himself will be touring extensively this month, with readings Sunday afternoon, Nov. 2, at the Weymouth Center in Southern Pines; Friday evening, Nov. 7 at Quail Ridge Books; Saturday morning, Nov. 8, at McIntyre's Books; Sunday afternoon, Nov. 23, at the Regulator Bookshop; and Sunday evening, Nov. 23, at the Cary Barnes & Noble. (Hugh Morton's grandson Jack will review the book in the December 2003 issue of *Metro*).

And urging North Carolinians to get out and see their state firsthand is veteran travel writer Lynn Setzer, whose new guidebook *North Carolina Weekends* (John F. Blair) offers 49 "mini-vacations." Setzer will discuss the book—and offer travel suggestions—on Saturday afternoon, Nov. 2, at the Country Bookshop in Southern Pines and on Friday

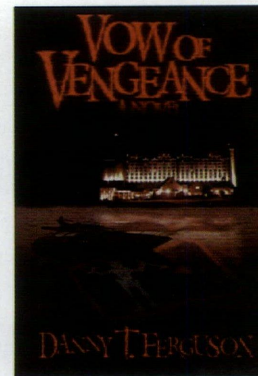
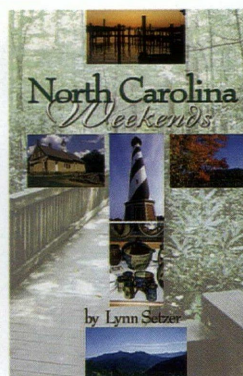


evening, Nov. 14, at the Greenville Barnes & Noble.

LAWYERS TURNED AUTHORS

Watch out, John Grisham? Two more southern lawyers have recently tried their hand at writing—with debut novels that perhaps couldn't be more dissimilar.

East Carolina University graduate Danny Ferguson, a criminal defense attorney who divides his time between Winston-Salem and his waterfront home in Bath, will be reading from his novel *Vow of Vengeance* (Harlan Publishing), at the Greenville Barnes & Noble on Friday

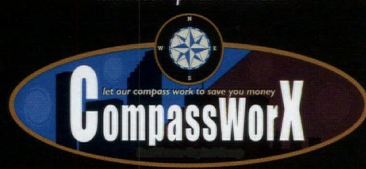


evening, Nov. 7. Combining political thriller and swashbuckling pirate tale, *Vow of Vengeance* puts a direct descendent of Blackbeard back on the state's coastal waters, dealing drugs and driving a fast-paced Fountain speedboat. Stirring up the plot are a marine in pursuit of this 21st-century outlaw, a young lawyer representing a death row inmate, and the convicted killer himself, just days away from execution.

Perhaps a little more high-brow in its ambitions is Steve Berry's *The Amber Room*, based on a true-life historical mystery and recently published by Ballantine Books. Created in 18th-century Russia, looted by the Nazis at the

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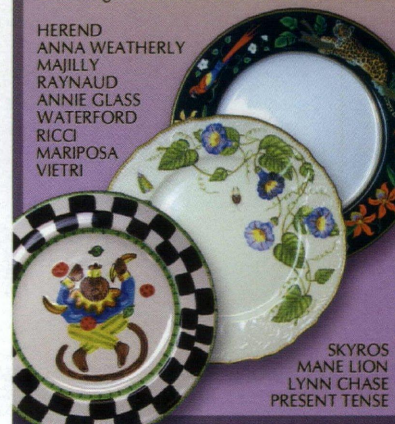
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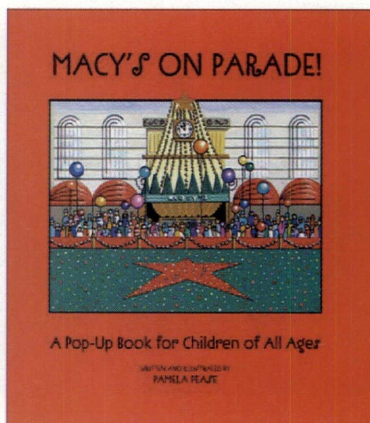
beginning of World War II and hidden during the Allied bombing of Germany, never to be found again, the Amber Room is a legendary art treasure—its walls, decorations and furniture created entirely of jewel-grade amber.

Drawing on these facts, Georgia lawyer Berry has crafted a story of international intrigue, beginning in a concentration camp in Austria, continuing in Atlanta with a secret passed from a dying man to his daughter and ending on the streets of St. Petersburg itself. The book boasts a laudatory dust-jacket blurb by best-selling author Dan

Brown of the *Da Vinci Code*, and Berry is already slated for two more novels down the road: *The Romanov Prophecy* next year and a book on the Knights Templar currently in the works. Get it while it's hot.

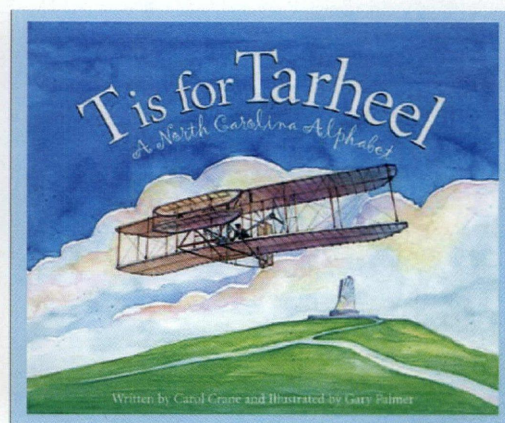
SEASONAL OFFERINGS

Lest we forget Thanksgiving, local pop-up book author Pam Pease focuses on a holiday classic with her latest multi-dimensional work,



Macy's On Parade: A Pop-Up Book for Children of All Ages, published last year by Paintbox Press. From skyscrapers and a high-flying Snoopy balloon to the Radio City Rockettes to Santa Claus himself, the 3-D illustrations take readers along the parade route and behind the scenes. The book even includes a batch of confetti to add to the fun. Pease will offer a reading of her book on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 16, at McIntyre's Books at Farrington Village.

And with December's Wright flight centennial just around the corner, it's worth closing this column with a quote from the new chil-



dren's book *T Is For Tar Heel: A North Carolina Alphabet*, written by Holly Springs-based author Carol Crane and illustrated by Charlotte artist Gary Palmer: "K is for Kill Devil Hill, / where the Wright Brothers first flew their plane. / They chose this place near Kitty Hawk, / for they needed a windy terrain." In addition to charming ditties like this one, the book also features short history lessons on various aspects of the state's life and history. To hear more or to meet the author in person, stop by Crane's discussion and signing session at the Cary Barnes and Noble on Friday evening, Nov. 21. **MM**

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by Rick Smith

The Wright stuff**FIGHTER PILOT AND RETIRED REAR ADMIRAL FERGUSON NORTON APPLIES SKILLS TO CENTENNIAL OF FLIGHT**

Mention to a flyer, aviator, pilot or fighter jockey the poem “High Flight” and chances are they will begin to recite it by memory.

John Gillespie Magee Jr., a young American volunteer fighter pilot in the Royal Canadian Air Force, wrote in 1941:

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed—and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds—and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of—wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air.
Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace
Where never lark, or even eagle flew—
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand and touched the face of God.

L. Ferguson Norton, retired Rear Admiral and fighter pilot in the US Navy, knows “High Flight.” These days, Norton is best known as the executive director of the First Flight Centennial Foundation. He's been among the key people preparing the world for the 100th anniversary in December of the Wright Brothers' first powered flight at Wright Brothers National Memorial on the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

The non-profit Foundation he heads is an official fundraising partner of the National Park Service with the responsibility to renovate and improve the Wright Brothers National Memorial, help produce the Centennial Celebration and generally communicate the story of the Wright Brothers with specific events and related activities. The Foundation has accomplished its goals, including building a new pilot facility to serve transient flyers using the First Flight Airfield and completing a \$2 million, 20,000-square-foot visitor's Pavilion that also serves as an auditorium and exhibit hall. The Foundation has engaged in a myriad of fundraising activities, including arranging the striking of a First Flight commemorative coin by the United States Mint.

THEY INVENTED FLYING

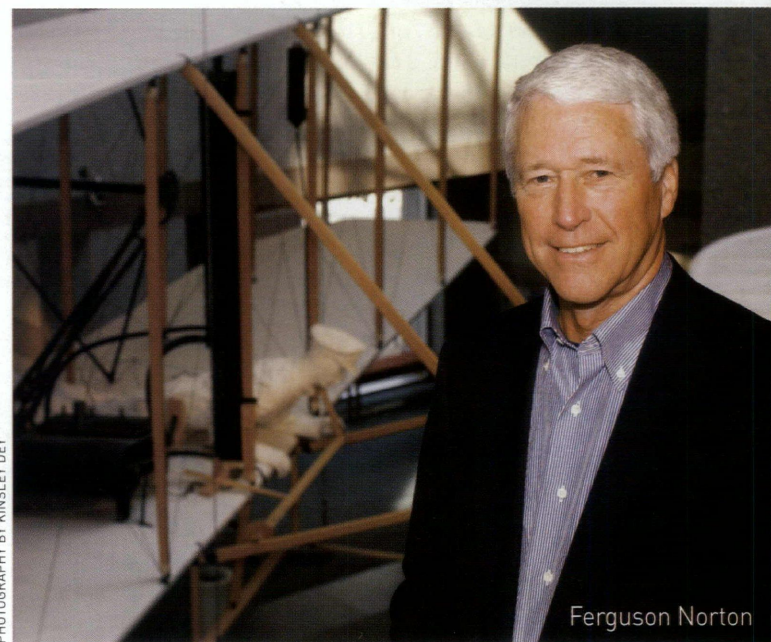
“Think about Wilbur and Orville and their accomplishments,” Norton says in his handsome Raleigh home that looks out over Fletcher Park. “They invented flying. Stop and think about that.”

And, he adds, the glee evident in his voice, “What will the next

100 years bring?”

Flights to Mars and beyond? Maybe fast-as-speed-of-light travel? True Star Trek and Star Wars stories?

To soar first to the sky then to the moon and on to the stars has been the dream of men and women since the days of Daedalus and his son Icarus in Greek mythology. The Wright Brothers opened the doors to powered flight, making the myths come true and providing an unimagined access to the world for the common man.



Ferguson Norton

PHOTOGRAPH BY KINSLEY DEY

But unlike the vast majority of flight lovers who sit on commercial jets, Norton has savored the thrill of flight as a pilot. He once soared as high as 74,000 feet, equipped in a special pressure suit “so my blood didn't boil. It will at those altitudes. You wouldn't want that to happen.”

Only pilots truly understand the appeal of flight. To hold the stick. To move the rudder, the flaps. To lower the landing gear. And Norton is among the elite pilots who have landed more than 800 times aboard the heaving decks of aircraft carriers.

BAND OF BROTHERS

Pilots of both sexes and all races are a band of brothers who have chosen the thrill—and danger—of soaring in the clouds over a more pedantic life anchored to asphalt and SUVs.

The blue eyes of Lafayette Ferguson Norton (he jokes that he came to call himself Ferg because "I couldn't spell Lafayette") sparkle with the radiance of youth as he recalls the days he fell in love with the sky. As I sipped coffee from a mug labeled "Ferg" and adorned with pilot's wings, he remembered his first commercial flight. "It was a clear day," he says almost reverently. "My face was pasted against the window."

His path to the clouds and a career as a Navy F-4 Phantom fighter pilot began at the wee age of 8 when the boyfriend at that time of his sister Jerry took him up in a two-seater. "I was just in awe."

On trips to his uncle's farm, Norton couldn't wait to watch crop-duster pilots at work, flying low and fast to deliver their payload of chemicals. One mistake or miscalculation and the pilot could bury his aircraft in the unforgiving earth.

"Whenever I heard them, I would run out and climb up on the fence or go to the barn and get up on the roof so I could see. They were exciting to watch—but it's a risky profession."

A future military career was not out of the question for Norton. His father, John William Roy Norton, had served on George S. Patton's staff in North Africa during World War II. "I always enjoyed hearing him tell stories about his time overseas," he recalled. "I had not set my sights on military service, but my father encouraged but did not push me to join ROTC."

By the time Norton was graduated from Raleigh's Broughton High School in 1957 and headed for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, he was excited about flying. He was commissioned through UNC's Navy ROTC program and went on to a career spanning more than 30 years as a Naval aviator.

BASEBALL OR FLYING?

The love of flying and a commitment to the Navy helped dissuade him against a potential professional baseball career. An all-state quarterback at Broughton who played in the state Shrine all-star game in 1956, Norton actually excelled more at baseball. He played Little League, Pony League, American Legion, and went on to star at UNC. Playing third base, he was an All-Atlantic Coast Conference pick as a junior and senior. Triples were his specialty, batting five in his junior year alone when he hit better than .300 help-



COURTESY OF FERGUSON NORTON

Ferg Norton in his younger days as a Navy fighter pilot.

ing UNC reach the College World Series.

Ferg went on to play in the Pan American Games for the United States in 1963 and recalled "talking to a lot of folks" about turning pro. But he chose to honor his commitment to the ROTC, joined the Navy, earned his wings and went on to fly two combat tours in Vietnam. Ninety-four of his sorties were combat missions.

"How did it feel to fly in combat? Were you ever afraid during those times?" we asked.

"I don't know of anyone who got sick from fear and couldn't or wouldn't go on and do the job. For my part, I tried to minimize the danger and not dwell on it. When one is flying into a defended area and anticipates defensive fire, then, in there in the midst of it, it is hard to ignore it. One still must concentrate on the task and keep the keen presence of mind to fly the airplane and execute the mission. This is important for the individual and collective safety of the flight of airplanes involved. If there were someone in these circumstances who was not just a little excited and apprehensive, I would like to meet him."

After deciding to make the Navy a career, Norton went on to hold several different commands. He headed two different fighter squadrons at Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia; he considers the command of Station Oceana one of his most responsible and important jobs. He also was named Commander, Fleet Air Caribbean, which put him in charge of four bases. When not flying

and commanding, he found time to earn a Masters in public administration from George Washington University.

Norton took his sons Lance and Mark up in the sky whenever he could. Lance went on to join the Navy and become a pilot. He now flies for Northwest Airlines. Mark went on to become a builder and built the home where Norton now lives.

After retiring in 1993, Norton still felt the lure of the skies. He became involved in the planning for the First Flight celebration, and then took on the full-time job as executive director of the First Flight Foundation.

REMEMBERING THOSE "12 SECONDS"

He caps his devotion to flight in December when, as executive director of the First Flight Centennial Foundation, he will be involved in the 100th anniversary celebration of the Wright Brothers' flight at Kitty Hawk.

The flight of "12 seconds that changed the world"—the 120 feet the Wright Flyer covered—will be commemorated Dec. 12-17. Dec. 17, the last day, will be highlighted by a reenactment of the first flight and by a staggered 100-plane flyby and the appearance of astronaut Neil Armstrong; Chuck Yeager, the first pilot to break the sound barrier; and an array of aviation luminaries.

The celebration on the Outer Banks concludes a decade-long effort by the State of North Carolina and many organizations to pay homage to Orville and Wilbur Wright, the bicycle mechanics from Dayton, Ohio, who changed the world.

Ferg's involvement in the event has further deepened his appreciation of the Wright brothers' achievement and the wonders of flight.

"This has been an exciting experience," he says. "The greatest part of it—the most important part—has been learning and appreciating, in depth, the story of Orville and Wilbur and how they came to do what they did. It's a wonderful and inspiring story."

The celebration of the First Flight by the Wright Brothers will cover six days from Dec. 12-17. The Foundation is working with the National Park Service, the State of North Carolina and the people of the Outer Banks to present programs, events, exhibits, shows and festivities centered around the heritage of aviation. Tickets for the Dec. 17 finale are sold out. For details on the many attendant events, go to www.first-flightcentennial.org. **MM**



All That Jazz

DEEJAY FINDS HOME IN RALEIGH RADIO

In October 2003, deejay Kitty Kinnin marked her first year hosting/producing The Sunday Jazz Brunch on STAR 102.9 FM in Raleigh. Kinnin's Jazz Brunch has been a moveable feast during the past 15 years.

A native of Miami, Kitty went to college at the University of Florida in Gainesville before moving to Colorado for a few years.

"I moved from Gainesville to Boulder, Colorado, because I fell in love and followed this guy out there so he could go to school," Kitty explained. "I lived in the mountains for a year, did my Kitty hippie thing in a little cabin in Cold Creek Canyon. I'd hitchhike down the canyon to work for a law firm as a legal assistant. I thought I might go to law school, but then Bob Brown [her college radio mentor] called me. He'd bought these stations in Winston-Salem and wanted me to come work for him, so I went to Winston.

"I was doing sales and traffic and setting up systems at WKZL; I wasn't on-air," she continued. "But when the midnight-to-six guy quit, and Bob was out of town, I asked him if I could go on the air in that slot. He said okay, as long as I took the engineer with me. So I took the engineer in and faked it. I've been on the air ever since. I started doing the album of the week, and I started doing the Touch of Jazz show. Bob would fly me all over the country, and I'd interview jazz musicians and then do a two-hour show on that artist. I ended up doing nights at KZL—I had a 22 share in my time slot [a 22 share is a radio listener rating, and it's a huge number]."

Kitty was riding high at KZL when she got married. That led to a baby named Lucas, and then Kitty and family moved to Raleigh. She intended to be a stay-at-home mom, but that was modified to deejay-mom before long.



Deejay Kitty Kinnin

"WRDU hired me to develop what became Jazz Brunch," she noted. "That was in 1985. I did Jazz Brunch and the midday show for 12 years at RDU."

The buyout of WRDU by SFX in 1997 was one of several in the late 1990s that had the cumulative effect of turning commercial radio in the Triangle into garbage. Corporations like SFX—now Clear Channel—operate on the assumption that radio listeners are morons who are satisfied listening to the same 40 pop songs ad nauseam. Their business model eliminates the need for imagination and/or variety in programming. Needless to say, SFX fired Kitty Kinnin and several other long-running deejays immediately.

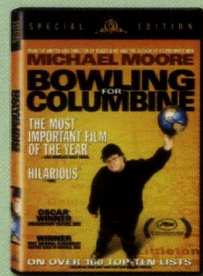
Kitty moved to WZZU in Raleigh, tak-

Videocentric

Bowling for Columbine.

MGM, Inc. 120 minutes.

Michael Moore's Academy Award-winning documentary takes a hard look at America's fixation on guns, in light of the gun-related disaster that befell the students of Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, April 20, 1999. Nobody is better at asking the right questions at the right time than Moore, and he does plenty of that here. Moore ponders Canada, where gun ownership is higher per capita than in the US, yet gun-related deaths are a fraction of those in the US. When he presents this quandary to Charlton Heston, president of the National Rifle Association, Heston responds by asserting that the US has a more violent history than Canada or



Europe. Someone please send Heston a European history textbook. Moore notes that while violent crime is on the decline in the US, gun ownership is rising. He points to news media here, citing its penchant for covering violence. Moore

also takes two survivors of the Columbine shootings to K-Mart, where the perpetrators bought their ammo, and asks K-Mart to stop selling ammunition for handguns. Amazingly, K-Mart agrees to do just that. The film is funny, provocative and shrewdly done. Moore doesn't have the answer for American gun violence, however. We might begin to search for that answer by asking why Americans don't seem to mind living in a shooting-gallery society that appalls the rest of the civilized world. **MM**

ing Jazz Brunch with her. That lasted a year before she moved to Foxy 107. She did a midday show and Jazz Brunch at Foxy until Radio One bought the station.

"That's when I said, 'You know what? I'm just gonna give up corporate radio,'" Kitty recalled. "I decided to start doing freelance voice-over work full-time. I set up a studio at home and that's what I've been doing for the last few years."

Kitty started KatChatAudio. Her home studio allows Kitty to provide voice-overs and production for radio, TV, web audio and various other projects, in addition to creative scriptwriting.

Not long after starting KatChatAudio, radio came calling again.

"Carl Venters called me from Wilmington," she explained. "Carl used to own RDU with Jack McCarthy, when I worked there. He asked me to move to Wilmington and do the Jazz Brunch for one of his radio stations. I told him I wasn't sure I was ready to relocate, but we worked out a deal where I do my show live every Sunday and stay through Monday to do voice-over stuff for Ocean Broadcasting, which is Carl's radio company. They own four stations in Wilmington. So Jazz Brunch returned, every Sunday from 10 till 2 on 106.7 at the beach."

After a year of Jazz Brunch in Wilmington, Kitty returned to the Triangle, hosting The Sunday Brunch with locally owned Curtis Media station, Star 102.9, now run by Kitty's former general manager at WRDU, Phil Zachary.

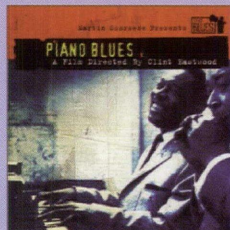
Kitty has programmed her own Brunch since its initiation, choosing to pick music, not by chart popularity, but quality and variety. It's jazz-based (straight-ahead to progressive), spiced with blues and, as Kitty likes to say, "anything that works." She also features interviews and local music. She's currently in negotiations with several groups about syndicating her show in other markets not only in the US, but Europe, where, Kitty says, "jazz fans tend to be much more progressive in their musical pursuits."

Kitty's Jazz Brunch is happening every Sunday from 8 to 11 a.m. on Star 102.9 FM. While not exactly a brunch-esque time—10 to 2 p.m. would be so much better—it's good to know that Kitty Kinnin and her Jazz Brunch are back on the Triangle's airwaves. **MM**

DISCOLOGY

The PBS series *The Blues*—executive producer Martin Scorsese—which aired on PBS from September 28 through October 4, not only yielded seven brilliant films by such directors as Scorsese, Wim Wenders and Clint Eastwood, but also produced seven extraordinary blues CDs. Four of those albums are discussed here.

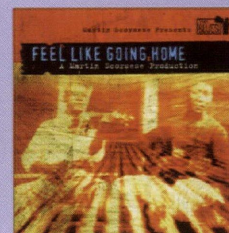
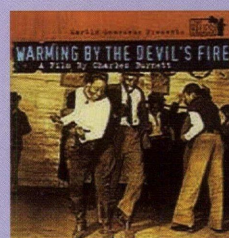
Piano Blues, from the Eastwood-directed film of the same title, includes 20 tracks and offers a very cool mix of players. Professor Longhair performs "Tipitina," Thelonious Monk is featured on "Blue Monk," and Ray Charles works his legendary tune "What'd I Say, Parts 1 & 2." We also hear from Chicago bluesmen and Muddy Waters Band veterans Otis Spann—"Good Morning Blues" and Pinetop Perkins—"Carmel Blues." Dr. John delivers "Honey Dipper" and "Big Chief" and performs with Pete Jolly and Henry Gray on "How Long Blues." Another choice track finds Duke Ellington, Charles Mingus and Max Roach covering "Backward Country Boy Blues."



Warming by the Devil's Fire, a film by Charles Burnett, explores the tension between the sacred and profane. A 12-year-old boy, visiting Mississippi during the 1950s, is kidnapped by his uncle so that the boy might see what his impending baptism is meant to deny him. The music on this CD is fabulous. Featured artists include Sister Rosetta Tharpe, Robert Johnson, John Lee Hooker, Sonny Boy Williamson, the Memphis Jug Band, Elmore James, Charley Patton, Jelly Roll Morton, Ma Rainey, Bessie Smith, Son House and Muddy Waters.

Wim Wenders' film **The Soul of a Man** focuses on three bluesmen: Skip James, Blind Willie Johnson and J.B. Lenoir. He also wanted their music to be interpreted by contemporary musicians, in hopes that this would make the music of James, Johnson and Lenoir more accessible again. Contributing players on this album include Lucinda Williams, Lou Reed, Bonnie Raitt, John Mayall & The Bluesbreakers, Nick Cave and The Bad Seeds, The Jon Spencer Blues Explosion, Beck, Shemekia Copeland, Alvin Youngblood Hart, T-Bone Burnett, Cassandra Wilson and Los Lobos.

Scorsese's film, **Feel Like Going Home**, takes us back to the Mississippi Delta as a starting point. Scorsese was keen on finding the roots of the blues, and to that end he set out with blues artist Corey Harris to follow the music back across the Atlantic to West Africa. Featured artists here include Salif Keita, Ali Farka Touré, Lead Belly, Muddy Waters, Son House, Johnny Shines, Robert Johnson, Otha Turner, John Lee Hooker, Taj Mahal and Corey Harris. **MM**



continued from page 18

being a font of innovation— every state and local lawmaker should be concerned with how their policies impact small business.”

The index analyzes 21 major government-imposed or government-related costs affecting small businesses and entrepreneurs such as personal and business tax rates, property taxes, as well as electricity and health-care costs, and computes an overall rating. The entire report is available at www.sbsc.org.

According to the report, North Carolina benefited from fairly low property taxes, no individual or corporate alternative minimum taxes,



Keating

no sales tax on Internet access, fairly low workers compensation costs, while also being a right-to-work state. As for the state's negatives, North Carolina has very high personal income and capital gains taxes, an added death tax, and a fairly high crime rate.

Art Show, Raffle, Dancing

Day with the Arts Showcases Artists, Benefits MS

“A Day with the Arts,” sponsored by Chix in Business, will hold an event on November 15 that will fulfill a two-fold purpose—to introduce emerging artists in the Triangle and to benefit the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

The day will begin with an art show and sale showcasing the work of the artists, including painting, photography, jewelry, pottery, handmade furniture, textiles and much more. Participants can register to win prizes donated by the artists and local businesses in an all-day raffle. Part of the proceeds from artist sales will be donated to MS as well as all of the sales from tickets to the event. The Web site, www aday-withthearts.org, presents the artists with a sample of their work as well as names of supporters of the event.

The mission behind “A Day with the Arts” is to help emerging artists present their works in the community while donating the proceeds from the event to a charity that is researching a cure for Multiple Sclerosis.

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**EYES
ONLY**

Rudolph Giuliani, mayor of New York City during the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, will speak on "Leadership in Difficult Times" at WakeMed Foundation's Annual Recognition Dinner on Nov. 3 at the hospital. Proceeds from this year's event will benefit the ex-

pansion of WakeMed's Emergency Department. ■■■ **Global Knowledge**, a worldwide leader in information technology education based in Cary, has been awarded *Windows & .NET* Magazine's Readers' Choice Award. Global Knowledge recently introduced an expanded web and applications development curriculum, including 20 new courses and four new certifications.

■■■ **The North Carolina Symphony** has won a \$10,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to support the residency, Nov. 11-17, of pianist and conductor **Ignat Solzenitsyn**. The residency will reach communities in Raleigh, Southern Pines, Winston-Salem and Henderson, SC. ■■■ A personal gift of \$5 million from **Dorothy Park** (widow of distinguished NC State Alumnus Roy Park) will make possible a long-planned **NC State University alumni center**, a 56,000-square-foot office and meeting facility, to be located on Main Campus Drive on Centennial Campus. ■■■ **The Foundation of Renewal for Eastern North Carolina** (FoR ENC) has announced the closing of the first round of funding on its "WaveLength" high-speed broadband fixed wireless and WiFi Internet initiative. In November the project will roll out service to select areas within the 41 counties of Eastern North Carolina. ■■■ **Dr. Harold S. Roberts**, **Sarah Graham Kenan** distinguished professor of medicine and pathology at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Medicine, is the 2003 Norma Berryhill distinguished lecturer. Roberts was the first to show that mutations in the factor IX gene caused mild and moderate hemophilia. ■■■ **Capital Investment Companies**, an independent financial services and brokerage firm, has announced that Jeffery Johnson and Angela Eddins have joined Capital as broker/dealers for First National Bank in Asheboro. ■■■ After managing historic **Chinqua-Penn Plantation** for 17 years, NC State University is putting the property up for sale. The 23-acre plantation in Reidsville features a stately manor and an art, antique and furnishings collection. Proceeds from the sale will fund a scholarship endowment in the name of the Penn family. ■■■ **Pamela L. Kohl**, Executive Director of the Alice Aycock Poe Center for Health Education in Raleigh, recently assumed presidency of the National Association of Health Education Centers. **NAHEC** is a network of more than 40 health education centers in 20 states.

■■■ Seventeen North Carolina artists—composers, songwriters, writers, playwrights, and screenwriters—will share \$136,000 as recipients of the **2003 NC Arts Council Fellowship** awards. Each artist receives \$8000 to further his or her work. ■■■ **William H. Johnson**, administrator for Wake Radiology in Raleigh, has been named medical group **Administrator of the Year** by the North Carolina Medical Group Managers' association. ■■■ **Dr. Susan Foley Pierce**, an associate professor at UNC's School of Nursing, has been named president of the NC Nurses Association.

■■■ NC State University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences has named **Dr. Julia L. Kornegay** as head of the Department of Horticultural Science. ■■

Metro INDEX

Bill that Sen. John Edwards' father could not pay on the day his son was born to get his wife and the baby out of the hospital: **\$100**

Amount of interest Sen. Edwards' father ended up paying on a \$50 loan to get his family home: **100 percent**

Cost of Sen. Edwards' wedding ring when he married his wife, Elizabeth: **\$22**

Cost of her ring: **\$11**

Number of times, at least, the Edwardses have been late on tax bills: **30**

Number of pumper trucks lost by the Swan Quarter Fire Department during Hurricane Isabel: **3**

Number of times the department moved the trucks to higher ground before finally losing them to a storm surge: **4**

Number of North Carolina state troopers now wearing extra padding over their bulletproof vests: **1800**

Amount of money the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill made in royalties last year from their powder-blue college merchandise: **\$3.6 million**

Ranking of UNC nationally among most popular school caps and shirts: **1**

Number of years in a row the school has earned that honor: **3**

Duration of North Carolina Rep. Cass Ballenger's marriage before a legal separation this year caused by stress on the couple from having a Muslim advocacy group operating near their Capitol Hill home: **50**

Number of blocks from the Capitol that the Council on American-Islamic Relations operates: **2 1/2**

Year when Rep. Ballenger's marriage was also strained over the Republicans' decision to forbid lobbyists' gifts, which helped, according to Ballenger, fund "a social life for [congressional] wives": **1995**

Number of hand-written newspapers published by the "eccentric" Harnett County writer and editor John McLean Harrington between 1858-1869: **277**

Year that Harrington—whose paper's motto was "The world is governed too much," and, "America could kick all nations as fast as a cow licketh salt"—died: **1887**

My Usual Charming Self

by Bernie Reeves

PHOTO BY JIM TURCOTTE



DRIVIN' ALONG IN MY AUTOMOBILE

The theft of my automobile didn't make the headlines. I guess the Michael Peterson and Meg Scott Phipps trials were deemed more important. And face it, car thefts and home burglaries are a commonplace, even in allegedly low crime zones like Raleigh. But I feel that what happened to me is worthy of making the permanent record based on the similar experiences shared by friends and associates. It seems many of us have been victims of the crime no one wants to do something about.

On Labor Day Sunday morning, I walked out of my side door with keys in hand to discover a blank space where my car had been the night before, not 10 feet away from the guest room that was actually occupied with guests. No one heard anything, including my two Chinese Chow-Chows who usually burst into a barking frenzy when the postman stops two blocks away.

I called the police, who arrived promptly. I told the officer I had satellite auto location capability so we should be able to track down the car in an hour or so. He said he would call OnStar and report the theft while showing me the onboard computer in the squad car with all my pertinent data displayed. He said not to worry, we'll find it.

A few hours later there was no word from RPD or OnStar, so I called the number on the card the officer gave me, naively thinking it was his direct cell phone line. Instead I was disappointed to reach the main number for police dispatch. I asked to speak to my case officer and was told, "I've got 400 names here and they're single-spaced and not alphabetized and I can't find

the officer's name."

With this unforeseen setback in mind, the next morning, Labor Day, I called OnStar myself only to discover they had never been called by RPD to report the theft. I gave them the case number and headed out about my business and called the house an hour or two later to ask my wife Katie if she had heard anything.

Yes, she said, they have found your car. Before I could celebrate she added: "The police got into a high-speed chase and the car hit a pole (I'm thinking, not good news but still, they have the car) and ...pause... the engine caught on fire." This was not good news indeed. The car was basically new and I'm thinking it will never have the same value and I'm screwed-until it hit me it must be a total loss and I began ruminating about the choices before me: Do I replace it with the same model car or do I want to change to something else...mmmhh, maybe this will work out to my advantage.

Until I talked to Sybil, the claims adjuster with Progressive Insurance. She called me responding to a message I left with my local agent and her local office the moment the car was stolen on Sunday morning. No one was available then, but on Monday Sybil was back in the saddle and in rare form. After accusing me of stealing my own car-she actually did- Sybil lapsed into bureaucratic order-giving that would put former Soviet security police to shame. She announced she was switching on her tape recorder with a tone that suggested she was on to me and the tape would tell the tale. I capitulated to the interrogation after some

resistance and answered the questions. After that, she explained that she was sending me an affidavit to fill out and have notarized. "Notarized?" I said. In her calm, sinister voice she said yes and added: "I am enclosing in the package an envelope. You are to enclose all keys you have to your vehicle and return them with the notarized affidavit."

In effect, I screamed at Sybil-you are taking my car from me. In that quiet Gestapo voice, she let me know that there would be an investigation, again hinting that I had stolen my own car. Right about here in the story my agent returned to town and prevented Sybil from taking me to the gas chamber and things settled down until the next day when Sybil announced that the car was not a total loss.

By this time, late Tuesday, Sybil had seen the car but had forbade me from viewing the patient. The next day I was allowed to visit the injured automobile in a junkyard in Southeast Raleigh hidden behind truck depots I never knew existed. As daylight was fading, I accelerated out of primal fear down the South Blount Street Connector and fortunately located what can only be described as Purgatory for deceased cars whose souls had passed into automobile heaven leaving behind their mortal coils of twisted steel, tires akimbo, their headlights dark.

The Jim Croce song about Superman popped in my head as Katie and I tiptoed around two junkyard dogs with pit bull features into the office trailer populated by what looked like bounty hunters and found out where my car was located in the vast graveyard of contorted metal corpses.

"Looks totaled to me," I said peering at

the crushed right front and the fire damaged engine area.

After our escape in the gloaming I called Sybil and said, "How in the name of all that's holy could you say this car is repairable?" I'll spare you the details of her response but basically Progressive Insurance wasn't about to pay to replace a new car and that was that.

SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY

After more innuendoes from Sybil that I had stolen my own car, Progressive went on with the repairs at my choice of shops (I didn't trust their offer to have it done at one of their "network" repair centers, for obvious reasons). To his credit, my agent ran down the headman for Progressive in North Carolina to complain about Sybil but the guy turned out to be a caricature of the glad-handing PR flak that feels your pain and keeps right on sticking it to you. Then I found out that my rental-car allowance in the policy was good for one week. This was getting expensive as well as annoying and time-consuming and I wanted to blame someone besides me and the thief, whom I would never meet and for sure wouldn't have insurance of his own.

So I called the Raleigh City Manager, the man in charge of the police department, to report that this harrowing series of events would not have happened if the police officer that took the initial theft report had done what he said he would do and call OnStar. I also communicated my disbelief that the dispatcher could not locate the officer when I called to verify he had called OnStar. Worse however, was the high-speed chase by the RPD that caused the wreck. I had actually tracked down the other officers involved (it took two weeks) and they basically said they spotted the car after the report from OnStar (the one I called in, by the way) and engaged in a chase that caused a collision and yes, the engine did catch on fire.

The City Manager was nice enough but did not see that the RPD had caused my woes, stating that their actions are protected by the doctrine of "sovereign immunity" so tough luck. And tough luck it has been. At this writing my car is not ready two months after the incident. The repair shop keeps towing it hither and yon to replace

this and that, indicating to me that it is never going to be right to drive. I can't receive a "depreciated value" payment, as the thief has to have his own insurance for that to happen. I have made payments on the car without being able to drive it and I've incurred costs driving a replacement and using Katie's leased vehicle for out of town trips. This is eating up her mileage allowance, creating an overage that will have to be paid when the lease is up.

As you find out when disasters strike, many others have suffered the same thing. But that is little solace when it happens to you. But there are bright spots. The Wake County District Attorney's office sent out a Victim's Information Report so I could track the process from arrest to, in this case, conviction. They take down personal property losses and include them as required payments from any funds collected from the thief from work relief.

And I confess, I had hidden a spare key in the console of the unlocked car. But I ask you, don't you feel awkward locking your car 10 feet from the door? There are other lessons here as well. Although crime is down, we still live in an unsafe world. And police today are, as the Captain of the Pinafore puts it, "exceedingly polite," I suppose from the pressure to be politically correct. But are good manners and a winning smile fighting crime? I prefer to think what happened to me is an exception when it comes to the police. But what is not an exception is the frightening attitude by Progressive Insurance. We have as much to fear from the corporate world as we do from government agencies. Insurance companies, cell phone providers, credit card providers... this is the new fascism that threatens the well-being and sense of security and well-being in our society.

And for those of you with OnStar, ask yourselves this: Wouldn't you call the police before calling OnStar? After all, you can't track down the thieves. Let my experience help. Be sure to call OnStar no matter what the police tell you.

As for the dogs, I forgave them... they usually sleep in the guest room.

NOTES FROM LA-LA LAND

The Brits are often ahead of us when it comes to zany public policy. Parliament is

arguing the need to end light pollution so city-dwellers can see the stars at night. The argument that urbanites can simply drive out into the countryside to view the planets is not having an effect on the advocates.

...

And be on the lookout for another Soviet-style policy now in place in UK that's sure to come here, the Diversity Directorate that employs 655 agents nationwide to ferret out politically unacceptable speech. The stated mission ("core objective") is: "to improve the prevention and investigation of racial and violent crime by setting minimum qualitative standards and creating a review process". So far the Directorate is having problems identifying perpetrators but is dedicated to "developing anti-hate crime partnerships".

...

Writer Tom Wolfe is standing up for Edward Durrell Stone, the great architect who defied in his buildings the post-World War 11 socialist Bauhaus school of design imported to the US by German Marxists and rapturously embraced by architects and design schools in the 1950's and 60's. The issue at hand is the imminent destruction of the Stone designed Huntington Hartford Museum (now the Museum of Arts and Design) on Columbus Circle in New York City. In the Triangle there are actually three Stone buildings, designed in association with my late father's firm Holloway-Reeves: The Legislative Building (still graceful and functional after 42 years); the Duke School of Music; and the NC Museum of Art, which is actually only 1/3 of the original design as certain nefarious parties conspired to halt its construction in the 1970's arguing the site was too far outside of town. Now, the decision to build the museum on Blue Ridge Road is regarded as visionary. Go to www.nytimes.com/2003/10/12opinion/12wolf.html.

...

Finally the *New York Times* is owning up that it has held on to a Pulitzer for work by reporter Walter Duranty whom they have known was a Soviet agent of influence. Duranty, one of the Soviet regime's "useful idiots," wrote a piece in 1932 that praised the communist state but neglected to mention the famine in Ukraine that killed millions due to Kremlin policy.



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