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he departure of four underclassmen starters from UNC's national champion basketball team last spring raises questions that hearken back to collegiate athletics in the middle of the past century, with several twists, most notably just what does a college education have to do with fielding a nationally known sports program? Kicking off our annual Education Special Report, senior writer Johnny Kerr performs a full-court press to bring readers a courtside view of big-time college athletics today.

Editor-at-large Jim Leutze, who served as president of Hampden-Sydney College and chancellor of UNC-Wilmington, brings his first-hand experience to the issue of college tuition on the heels of efforts by the big campuses in the UNC system to set their own prices. Non-Fiction Book Editor Arch T. Allen, Raleigh attorney and a former vice-chancellor at UNC-Chapel Hill, ponders whether or not a college education is wasted on college students, and senior editor Rick Smith reports from the annual conference hosted by the Pope Center for Higher Education.

Design editor Diane Lea uncovers a delightful way to downsize and maintain the feeling of a country estate; Gourmet editor Moreton Neal keeps up with the breathless pace of area restaurant guru George Bakatsias and his new steak house, Bin 54 in Chapel Hill; Fred Benton reports on the culinary scene in Off the Menu; Style editor Molly Fulghum-Heintz says boots are kicking for the fall and winter; and Philip Van Vleck finds the latest book on legendary bluesman BB King well worth the investment.

Senior Editor Frances Smith is once again screaming for space for events listings and Trish Horatio presents the first of our two holiday gift guides. Art Taylor serves up a smorgasbord of new books and book events, including a major literary event on the Crystal Coast, and art critic Louis St. Lewis brings news of social events that signify the lively arts scene in the region.

Thanksgiving has families scurrying around planning how to seat everyone for this uniquely American feast, which set Carroll Leggett to reminisce and wine editor Barbara Ensrud to recommend the best wines for the holiday repast.

But November is now the month for the hottest event of the new century. Vogue magazine's editor-at-large André Leon Talley, Tony-winning costume designer William Ivey Long and trend-setting fashion designer Alexander Julian usher in the Mannequin Ball, set for Friday, the 11th, at the North Carolina Museum of History. Sponsored by Metro, Saks Fifth Avenue, the NC Museum of History and its Associates—and over a dozen of the area's top fashion and jewelry retailers, the black-tie gala celebrates fashion, art and history to assist the Museum's textile and conservation programs.

Twelve Artist Mannequins, currently on display at sponsor retailers around the Triangle, will be available at auction during the event: (Go to www.themannnequinball.com for a complete listing of locations and a link to television coverage of the artists.) Guests will be greeted by a Red Carpet opening, bulb-flashing paparazzi and 16 Saks models. The black-tie event features cocktails, heavy hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction, a raffle and music by the hot celebrity musical star, New York City's DJ Angola.

The theme for the Mannequin Ball is "Paris After Dark" and designers, caterers, volunteers are preparing what promises to be an event to remember.

Call the Mannequin Ball hotline to ensure an invitation: 919-807-7846, or go to www.themannnequinball.com.

—Bernie Reeves, Editor & Publisher
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Street Brewer
Charlotte

NOT EVERYONE WEARING FUR
I usually enjoy reading your magazine and keeping up with what is happening in our area, but I was extremely dismayed to see your "Fall Fashion" (September 2005) article heralding the wearing of real furs. Every other photo showed an outfit with some kind of fur. And is that a dead coyote draping the model's shoulders on page 35? Why didn't you accompany the article with a story about just how the fur gets onto these clothes? You could show a sable farm worker breaking the necks of sables (it takes over 100 of them to make a coat), or a fox farm worker anally electrocuting foxes (yes, that is how they kill foxes for their fur), or a beaver or coyote caught in a leg-hold trap trying to chew off its own foot to escape and/or being clubbed to death while desperately trying to flee the trap.

Perhaps in Russia, the people are more inclined to wear real furs in order to keep warm in their extreme below zero temperature, but here in North Carolina, wearing furs is ridiculous and a total waste. Your article states that "Fur is everywhere..." Well, it's definitely NOT in my house! If your magazine has an occasional ad placed by a local furrier, that is one thing, but devoting an entire lead article falsely insinuating that "everyone is wearing it" is very disturbing.

Theresa A. Korab
Apex

NEW FILM EVOKES MENTAL LANDSCAPE
The film Proof reminded me of an era gone by. The University of Chicago, where the film/play's writer David Auburn earned his BA degree in 1991, does not just finish the geographical backdrop of the Pulitzer Prize-winning-play-turned-film, but also
the mental landscape against which the drama plays out. Watching this movie was like a ride back to graduate school in Hyde Park—an island of intellectuality in a sea of... everything else. The UC and its surrounding neighborhood, Hyde Park on Chicago’s gritty south side, could not seem farther from the sunny Triangle of North Carolina. Cold and dreary during the long winters, collar-blackening in the humid summer, haunted by scruffy and, for the most part, cheerful brainy types from its beginnings, the UC has managed over the decades to remain skeptical of all ideologies cum ideology, all fraudulent promises of Truth, with only a few isolated cases of flirtations with academic fads.

But the UC is no liberal ivory tower. It’s proud of its “products” (students or faculty) whose impact has reverberated far and wide from its quiet eminence—Enrico Fermi, Saul Bellow, Mike Nichols and Elaine May, Milton Friedman, Arthur Laffer, George Shultz, Richard Epstein, Leon Kass, to name a few.

We did have a sit-in once back in the '70s. But unlike other university presidents...
and mayors who called in the police, the National Guard, dogs or other tough characters, the then university president, Edward Levi, General Ford’s future Attorney General, brought it all to a fizzling end with a pitiless weapon: time. “Let them get bored!”—the ultimate Chinese torture to UC students. (Gwyneth Paltrow’s abnormal character Catherine pays her more normal suitor a genuine compliment by telling him, “You seemed not boring.”) After that it was off to those administrative building’s dirty floors supporting filing cabinets full of boring information and to the overstuffed reading chairs in the well-stacked Regenstein Library and, in a few cases, expulsion.

When Jane Fonda visited back then to extol the virtues of communism and the North Vietnamese, a mostly student audience grilled her, Aristotelian-style, on everything from her pandering of the Viet Cong and the Palestinians to her socialist economic theories—probably not exactly what the adulated daughter of Henry Fonda was expecting.

Paltrow performs stunningly as the loving, gifted, alienated, distressed young daughter of her crazed and formerly brilliant mathematician father, played by Anthony Hopkins. As the family drama unfolds between father, daughter, sister and boyfriend, the passions and terrors driving it emerge as well: the hubristic intellectual ambition, the rejection of sentimentality, the insistence on unpleasant truths over pleasant illusions, patience and persistence in the long quest, the sickening dread that one is past one’s prime at 26, the social isolation of genius, and the horrifying and saddening awareness of the proximity of genius and craziness. All these swatches of heavy material are sown together with silken threads of kindness and tenderness by Gwyneth Paltrow as Catherine.

See the film. You will not be bored.

Sally Reynolds
Raleigh

ABOUT BERNIE REEVES

Editors: Surely you can do better for a columnist than Bernie Reeves. His column should be re-titled “MY USUAL INTELLECTUALLY SLOVENLY SELF.”

When he sermonizes that “if education in this country ceased its preoccupation with multi-cultural platitudes and politically correct curriculum,” what is he referring to, Martin Luther King Day? How about the Fugitive Slave Act which was behind the “federal power” he says we don’t know. Is he an anti-Semite denying the Holocaust? An apologist for Jim Crow? Exactly what multi-curriculum is he talking about? Since there is no federal curriculum, is he criticizing a curriculum in North Carolina?

If so, where? Let him be specific about his obviously right-wing jaundice toward minorities. Is this the kind of view that Metro Magazine wishes to establish for an obvious multi-cultural population in the Raleigh area? Come on Bernie, let’s be specific instead of hiding behind the platitudes you won’t identify.

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Dr. Law, a Raleigh native, practiced aesthetic plastic surgery in Beverly Hills until returning to his hometown in 2003, to be near family and open his solo practice. He and his wife Kile reside in Raleigh with their two young sons. Since opening his NC practice, Dr. Law has been recognized with numerous 'best of' awards. Dr. Law is chosen by patients nationwide who seek beautiful, natural results. He performs all aesthetic surgeries in a hospital O.R. and provides a complimentary overnight stay in the hospital to enhance patient comfort and to provide peace of mind to both the patient and their loved ones. Pre- and post-operative medical spa treatments, post-op pain control devices and the highest quality compression garments are all provided to enhance patient comfort and accelerate recovery. Dr. Law has been featured extensively in national media including a cover article in Plastic Surgery News, the official news journal of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons.

Dr. Law and his wife Kile own and operate Blue Water Spa, a plastic surgery medical spa and laser center.
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Area Artists Take On Mannequins

You see them in store windows and floor displays, draped in trendy styles, but you’ve never seen them quite like this. Twelve original art mannequins designed by acclaimed Triangle area artists will be the center of attention at the Mannequin Ball, a black-tie fund-raiser at the NC Museum of History on Friday, Nov. 11. Guests at the gala, presented by Metro Magazine, the NC Museum of History, the Museum of History Associates and

Saks Fifth Avenue, will have the chance to bid on the one-of-a-kind figures in a live auction. For more information, go to www.themannequinball.com or call 919-807-2846.

Among the artists who took up the aesthetic challenge is Clyde Jones, well known for his fanciful chainsaw creations. Jones used a softer touch for his vividly painted Gumbo Woman. Karen Mason, whose forte is garden art assemblages, offers a fascinating hybrid—part planter, part aquarium, part lamp. Mia Yoon’s mannequin is illuminated from within and embellished with floral images. Sculptor Paul Hrusovsky chose to concentrate on a series of individual hands. Other participating artists include Jason Craighead, Amy Levine, Bill Moore, Michelle Natale, Jane Filer, Tisha Edwards, André Leon Gray and Metro Magazine’s art critic Louis St. Lewis, who coordinated the art mannequin project (LouisSdlewis@aol.com).

Claiming their own share of attention at the evening affair will be special guests Vogue magazine editor-at-large André Leon Talley, Broadway costume designer William Ivey Long and fashion and home furnishings designer Alexander Julian, all native North Carolinians and luminaries in their fields.

Born in Durham, André Leon Talley joined Vogue in 1983 as fashion news director and worked as creative director from 1988 to 1995. He returned to Vogue in 1998 as editor-at-large. Talley works closely with some of the most celebrated names in fashion, entertainment and the arts.

A native of Seaboard, William Ivey Long has built an illustrious career on Broadway, earning four Tony Awards and other honors for his costumes. The spring 2005 revival of A Streetcar Named Desire marked his 50th design for the Broadway stage. Long was recently inducted into the Theater Hall of Fame.

Alexander Julian, who will be recognized at the Mannequin Ball for his 30-year career, skyrocketed to fashion industry fame. The Chapel Hill native became the youngest designer to enter the Coty Hall of Fame and the first American clothing designer to create his own exclusive fabrics. He also outfitted the NBA Charlotte Hornets, becoming the first menswear designer to create professional sports uniforms.

These special guests and other attendees will be treated to valet parking, a red-carpet entrance and champagne upon arrival at the gala, which will feature models from Saks Fifth Avenue in the latest evening wear and music by DJ Angola of New York City. Guests can bid on items in a silent auction as well as vie for the art mannequins in the live auction.

A portion of the proceeds from the Mannequin Ball will benefit the NC Museum of History’s costume and textile collection. Tickets are $250 per person. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 919-807-2846.

CAROLINA BALLET ANNOUNCES $10.5 MILLION 3-YEAR CAMPAIGN

Carolina Ballet, in its eighth year as a professional ballet company based in Raleigh, has announced the official launch of a $10.5 million campaign to secure the financial future of the company. The campaign, “World Class American Ballet—Make it Yours,” began its silent phase in 2004 and will culminate in 2007. Already 46 percent of the goal has been secured in pledges from corporations and private donors. By reaching its fundraising goal, Carolina Ballet can continue to present traditional ballet and contemporary works with premier dancers and choreographers from around the world.

In 1998, founding artistic director Robert Weiss set a goal for Carolina Ballet to be one of the top 10 ballet companies in the United States in 10 years. As indicated by critics regionally, nationally and internationally, he and the company have achieved that status in less time based on critical acclaim locally, nationally and worldwide. In the Wall Street Journal, Terry Teachout recently stated that Carolina Ballet—along with Miami City Ballet and select theater groups, symphonies and museums across the country—“all rank high on my personal list of America’s top arts organizations” outside of New York City.

Melissa Podcasy & Timour Bourtasenkov perform as the star-crossed lovers in Carolina Ballet’s Romeo & Juliet

Through the support of corporations such as Progress Energy, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of North Carolina, GlaxoSmithKline, Capitol Broadcasting and Time Warner Cable and with an expanding donor base of 2024, Carolina Ballet has increased its annual operating budget from $2 million to $4.3 million in the first seven years. The success of the campaign will allow Carolina Ballet to build upon and sustain the following areas:
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www.CFNC.org/Savings
• Education—Already bringing the arts to 10,000 public school fifth graders each year, the company will be able to expand its reach to even more children.
• Music—Dancers will be able to perform more frequently to live music.
• Choreography—Carolina Ballet will continue to create innovative works that will leave a legacy.
• Dancers—The dancers will receive pay raises to bring them closer to the competitive wage standard for dancers around the country, an incentive that will help retain a high caliber of dancers.
• Sets and Costumes—The Ballet will have the funds to create even more beautiful scenery and costumes.
• Build the audience—The Ballet troupe will be able to tour more frequently around the state and beyond, increasing awareness as well as broadening its base of support.

Carteret County Makes Ready To Welcome Tall Ships
The arrival of PEPSI AMERICAS’ SAIL 2006, slated for June 30 through July 5, is several months away, but already anticipation of the celebration to take place in Beaufort and Morehead City has the wheels of preparation whirling. “We have been moving forward to bring 15 to 20 magnificent tall ships, and the notoriety that surrounds this international event, to Carteret County,” says Sondra Reed, Event Coordinator. “There will be a significant positive economic impact for Carteret County and the state of North Carolina, as we are expecting over 150,000 people in attendance, participating in tall ship viewing and activities planned throughout the week in three separate venues,” Reed continues.

All ports for the America’s Sail 2006 have been identified, beginning in Fortaleza, Brazil. From there, the ships will travel to Casa de Campo to take part in the 500th Anniversary of the Dominican Republic. Afterwards, the tall ships will sail to Beaufort, NC, where the Pepsi Americas’ Sail 2006 celebration begins. Class A tall ships will be docked at the Morehead City Port, with Class B & C ships at the Beaufort waterfront and Gallants Channel.

Beaufort was selected as the site for this historic 2006 visit as it is the home port of Horatio Sinbad, Captain of the Meka II, who was awarded the Americas’ Sail Trophy for winning the 2002 tall ship Class B competition. The North Carolina Maritime Museum and the Friends of the Museum helped sponsor Captain Sinbad’s participation in the event.

The founding sponsor of Pepsi Americas’ Sail 2006 is Minges Bottling Group of Ayden, NC. Other business and individual sponsorships are available now, with benefits ranging from VIP Passports and personal social events aboard the tall ships, to special advertising opportunities. Various fundraising events will be ongoing throughout the coming months. For more information, visit the Web site at www.nctallships.com, or call 252-728-7471.
It's a No-Win Situation When Deer and Motor Vehicles Collide

Motor vehicle crashes involving wild deer remain a serious and growing problem in North Carolina, according to a new University of North Carolina study of data collected statewide during 2004.

Highway Safety Research Center senior database analyst Eric A. Rodgman led the record search and evaluation in what has become an annual effort. "We saw in 2003," says Rodgman, "that about 6.7 percent of all reportable crashes involved a motor vehicle and a deer in some fashion. These 15,509 crashes—a new record—showed up when investigating law enforcement officers used the word 'deer' in the narrative portion of reports submitted to the NC Department of Motor Vehicles."

Deer crashes occur most frequently in October, November and December and are more likely to happen from 5 to 7 a.m. and between 6 p.m. and midnight, Rodgman said. "The likelihood of a deer-related crash is greater the further east you go in North Carolina," he said.

Last year, of the more than 15,000 total 15,509 (6.7%) crashes involved a deer.
deer crashes statewide, nine were fatal to motorists. "Of those," says Rodgman, "the drivers often got in trouble not by actually hitting deer but by trying to avoid them and ending up in a collision with something else such as a tree or vehicle. For fatal deer crashes, 77 percent of drivers were thought to have swerved to avoid the animals. In half of the collisions in which drivers were injured, drivers had veered to avoid the animals."

Property damage totals were estimated to be well over $36 million last year. Bertie, Jones, Washington, Duplin, Gates, Pender, Caswell, and Hyde Counties each had deer-related crash ratios that were at least five times the state average, he said. Wake County, with 900, had the most deer accidents, nearly double the next leading counties, Duplin and Guilford.

"To minimize the likelihood of being involved in a deer-related crash, be aware of the time of day, the month of the year and watch for deer crossing the road particularly in rural areas," Rodgman said. "Note that deer often travel in groups, so if you see one, you may see more. Always wear your seat belt to prevent personal injury. If a collision with a deer is unavoidable, maintain control of your vehicle. At higher speeds, veering off the road or into the opposing lane can be more dangerous than hitting the deer."

For driver-safety tips and complete deer-motor vehicle crash data, including data for each NC county, visit www.hsrc.unc.edu.

New Shorebird field trip
At "Wings Over Water"

This year's "Wings Over Water" festival presents a new two-day workshop and field trip, "Shorebirds for Dummies," led by bird guide and artist Mike Skakuj, for people
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who love the birds of North Carolina's shores but can identify only a few. The 9th annual festival, celebrating wildlife and wildlands in eastern North Carolina, takes place at the Alligator River Wildlife Refuge, November 1-6.

Shown here are Pea Island Shorebirds—in the foreground the Purple Sandpiper, left background the more numerous Dunlin and right background the Sanderling. For registration and additional information on the “Wings Over Water” nature festival, visit www.wingsoverwater.org or call the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce at 252-441-8144.

How to Harness E-mail Overload

Like a runaway horse, e-mail has the computer bridle in its mouth and its rider is barely able to stay in the saddle. The situation is all too familiar: e-mail gradually piles up, until one day your inbox holds a thousand messages.

Researchers at UNC Chapel Hill and Duke University have been tackling this problem for three years. Now, they have created an online tutorial on how best to manage e-mail and computer files, available free at www.ils.unc.edu/digitaldesktop. They also will offer a free public workshop on the management tools and other findings on Sept. 23, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., in UNC’s Wilson Library.

Their project, “Managing the Digital University Desktop,” involves studying ways that employees at Duke and all 16 UNC campuses deal with the masses of e-mail and other electronic information that come their way. The researchers will discuss managing electronic files and findings from their study.

Lee Stout, university archivist at Pennsylvania State University, a past president of the Society of American Archivists and a member of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, will be keynote speaker. The Triangle Research Libraries Network and the Robertson Program, which encourage collaboration between UNC and Duke, will fund the workshop.

Besides the tutorial, the researchers have posted presentations online that can be used for instruction. The Web site also includes an extensive bibliography, links to associated resources and a list of frequently asked questions regarding e-mail and file management.

“Information overload and e-mail management are insidious and universal problems that threaten the retention and retrieval of institutional digital assets,” said Dr. Helen Tibbo, a principal investigator for the project and a professor at UNC’s School of Information and Library Science.

Peace Groups Want War Says New Book

What’s behind the anti-war movement is a question that needs to be answered as various acronyms gather in seemingly large numbers across the globe to denounce the United States, whether for the war in Iraq, avoiding the Kyoto Protocol on environmental issues, to support North Korea and Cuba (and to denounce US policy in Israel and Haiti), or to fuel a constant vitriolic attack against President George Bush.
In *The Politics of Peace*, a new book by John J. Tierney, the Walter Kohler professor of international relations and faculty chairman at the Institute of World Peace in Washington, DC, dozens of groups are described, with most connected to the Vietnam era and all, in Tierney's view, linked to the indigenous peace movements present in colonial times.

But peace is not the goal of the peace groups formed in the 1960s and '70s. At the outset of the "movement" against the war in Vietnam, these modern activist organizations mixed a doctrine of Marxism and Soviet communism from the 1930s and '40s with the preternatural propensity of some to advocate against war and violence, adding dollops of outrage against capitalism, racism and chauvinism to create what is basically a war against America.

Today, a network of a few dozen peace groups drop their differences to make a good showing of protest against the US. The largest and most notable single organization, ANSWER (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism) is anti-Semitic and pro-Palestinian and virulently anti-American. Former US Attorney General Ramsey Clark is a prominent devotee, as is Rosenberg son Robert Meeropol; but ANSWER is connected to NION (Not In Our Name) with a roster including writers and professors and activists (including Tom Hayden) and actors Danny Glover, Ed Asner and Peter Coyote as well as disc jockey Casey Kasem. These are just two of the larger groups, but they all are interrelated in various ways, including United for Peace and Justice; The Green Party; Code Pink; Moveon.org; National Lawyers Guild; Center for Constitutional Rights and the Institute for Policy Studies.

Order this book and grimace in amazement at the platitudes and threats, the hatred and the anger of the peace groups and their members, perhaps causing you to agree with the Cold War's leading strategist George F. Kennan, speaking of the Vietnam era model of peace activist: "These people also pose a problem in the quality of their citizenship... they all seem to have in common—the angry ones as well as the quiet ones—a complete rejection of, or indifference to, the political system of this country."

Call the Capital Center: 202-483-6900 or go to www.capitalresearch.org.
College basketball has never been more popular and, as a result, more lucrative. There are many ways to measure the sport’s remarkable success, but one clear indicator is the $6 billion contract CBS has recently signed to televise the NCAA men’s basketball tournament for the next 11 years—big bucks that the three Triangle universities, Duke, NC State and UNC have already enjoyed. Yet, in the midst of this boom in popularity and prosperity, it appears the best college players are trying to get out of college basketball as quickly as possible.

Consider the four young men from UNC’s 2005 National Championship team who, even before their Nike Zoom 2k4 shoes (available in assorted colors) had cooled down from the championship game, announced their decision to enter the NBA draft and surrender their remaining eligibility to play college basketball. Sean May, Marvin Williams, Raymond Felton and Rashad McCants set a new school record for the most players to exit early from one team.

“I’m not sure what to completely make of the fact that four players left at the same time, but certainly that result would have been much different had we not won the championship,” said Jack Evans, a professor at UNC’s Kenan-Flagler School of Business.

Evans is also a member of the NCAA Management Committee that crafted many of the new academic reforms implemented this fall. They include new rules that require student athletes to be on track for graduation in five years, and require programs like basketball to achieve a certain graduation rate or face penalties.

The changes are one side of the battle line that divides the mission of higher education against the economic forces of big-time college athletics. Caught in the middle of this conflict is the athlete, expected to perform on the court and in the classroom.

“What is being demanded of athletes today in the top programs is to compete against the nation’s top players on the court and then compete against some of the best minds in the classroom,” said Art Padilla, a professor at NC State’s College of Management and a veteran of reform efforts in college athletics.

Perhaps tougher academic demands helped persuade Sean May and company to join the large contingent of players entering the NBA draft early in 2005, a draft that senior CBS sports writer Greg Dovel called “the most humiliating NBA draft in history.” He based his opinion on the inordinate number of players who went undrafted with no option of returning to school, like Raleigh’s Shavlik Randolph who played for Duke.

THE HARDSHIP RULE

It is a given in today’s college basketball world that a highly-touted recruit coming into a program will be leaving before his four-year eligibility is spent. By now the arguments are conventional wisdom: why risk a career-ending injury as an amateur when a player can always return to college for a degree after a pro career.

But historically, this has not always been the case. Years ago, The NBA had the “four-year rule,” requiring that a player could not be drafted or signed to a contract until his class had graduated. That all changed in 1970 when 19-year-old Spencer Haywood sued the NBA arguing he was the soul wage earner in his family. His case went all the way to the Supreme Court, which agreed with him, thus creating the “handicap” rule, allowing players with economic pressures to leave for the pro ranks early.

One year later it was a Tar Heel player who provided the first high profile use of the rule. Bob McAdoo was academically ineligible to enter Carolina as a freshman. He attended a junior college to be able to play for UNC coach Dean Smith. And it was no secret that this first team All-American struggled to remain academically eligible. As an underclassman, McAdoo was able to enter the NBA draft early by claiming economic hardship, but some feel he simply was unable make it as a student.

The NBA kept the hardship rule for only five years. It was replaced with a requirement of a 45-day notice from a player about to enter the draft. As a result, not only could underclassmen become eligible, players could skip college all together and play professional ball straight from high school.

Since then, the list of players entering the NBA without completing their NCAA eligibility, or not going to college at all, has been a who’s who of professional basketball, including Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson, Isaiah Thomas and Shaquille O’Neal.

NBA FARM CLUBS

Historically, the NBA has acted as gatekeeper to a college player’s ability to enter the draft as underclassmen. But on the NCAA and university side of the equation, some educators and leaders see a sinister side to marquee college recruits who, in their view, use college as a spring board to the big show, making a mockery of the educational mission of the academy. They see early departure as a high profile case of a student athlete failing to get a degree a failure of the system.

“We are becoming a farm club for the NBA,” said Dr. William Friday, who spent 30 years at the helm of the UNC system,
and has not slowed down in his efforts to keep college athletics focused on the student athlete receiving an education.

"Society has promoted sports to a religion and young people are being given a distorted view of what sports can do," said Friday. "There is a moral obligation that once you accept a student, to help that student be a success."

Reformers like Friday see the trend as part of the overall problem of big-time college athletics getting bigger and becoming more separate from the university.

The total athletic budgets for both NC State and UNC Chapel Hill were just over one million dollars each in the late 1960s (Duke, as a private university, does not release budget figures). The current athletic budgets are $45 million for UNC and $34 million for NC State, according to the athletic department of each school. And the growth and size of both of these sports programs falls right in line with the growth and size of most NCAA Division 1-A schools.

The NCAA educational reforms now being implemented, what Evans refers to as "a complete system of new standards, new measurements and new consequences," are actually part of a historical continuum of reform efforts by the NCAA.

All the way back in 1948 the NCAA enacted the "Sanity Code" to provide tuition for "exceptional" athletes as long as they could qualify academically. The Sanity Rule lasted 10 years, later to be replaced in 1965 with the "1.6 rule" that set a minimum academic standard an athlete must meet to receive financial aid. Under this rule, a prospect had to be able to project a grade-point-average of 1.6 based on his grades in high school.

In 1973, the NCAA abolished the rule and replaced it with a 2.0 GPA standard requiring an athlete to maintain 2.0 to keep his financial aid. "This change effectively weakened an already slack academic standard and it was at this point that we started seeing a rash of scandals in university athletics," said Padilla, who worked under William Friday's co-chairmanship of the Knight Commission, formed in 1989 "as a decade of highly visible scandals in college sports drew to a close," according to the commission.

More specifically, 109 colleges and universities were "censured, sanctioned or put on probation" by the NCAA in the 1980s. And during that decade, of the 106 universities making up NCAA's Division 1-A, 48 had graduation rates less than 30 percent in men's basketball, according to the commission. The accusations of recruiting and admissions violations leading to the 1989 resignation of NC State basketball coach Jim Valvano put NC State high on the commission's list of evil doers.

Although the Knight commission had no formal authority over schools, it claims that nearly two-thirds of its recommendations were adopted by the NCAA. In 1996, the NCAA approved the "most significant of these recommendations" by removing governing control from athletic administrators into the hands of college presidents. This same structure exists today and is placing academic heat on coaches and players.

ACADEMIC PROGRESS RATE NOW IN EFFECT

Under new rules now in force, university athletic programs must meet acceptable graduation levels based on a formula that calculates an "academic progress rate" or APR. If the school fails to meet the standard, it faces an assortment of penalties, including becoming ineligible for post-season play.

And the number of players leaving early for the NBA has a negative impact on a school's APR.

"When I take a player, I am not going to be concerned about my APR," said Tar Heel coach Roy Williams recently to the Washington Post. "I am not going to care about the APR at all. The fact of a guy leaving early for the NBA, that may be what I think about, but the APR is not what I will be thinking about."

William Friday puts the onus on the NBA. "The burden is on the NBA to demand that players stay in school at least
three years like baseball,” he said.

But Major League Baseball has a minor league system and can afford to put limits on college players coming to the league. “Universities are in fact the minor league system for the NBA,” said Padilla. “Why should they cut off their talent pool?”

Padilla sees NCAA basketball as having “an almost monopolistic control of labor”

“Society has promoted sports to a religion and young people are being given a distorted view of what sports can do. There is a moral obligation that once you accept a student, to help that student be a success.”

— Dr. William Friday

over players who aspire to the NBA. “Not allowing players to exit school early could be viewed as a monopolistic restraint of trade; it simply may not be in a star player’s best interest to stay in school,” he adds.

“Players leaving school early for the draft is not a problem in and of itself, rather it is only an economic outcome of the system,” he says. “College athletics writ large is what makes a mockery of higher education.”

Padilla is not alone in recognizing big-time college athletes as a big-time economic activity.

“Instead of tinkering with reform, it is time for the NCAA to wash its hands of big-time sports by ending its role as a training camp for professional players,” argues Casey Lartigue of the Cato Institute in an article for The Libertarian Enterprise. “It should declare a separation of academics and major athletics.”

But only a very small percentage of college athletes go on to a professional career in any sport. “I take exception to terms like labor and monopoly,” said Jack Evans. “We are really talking about three classes of student athletes here: the star, the budding talent and everybody else. As educators, we have a responsibility to all students enrolled in the system.”

Educators like Padilla and Evans agree that for any true educational reform to occur, universities must reclaim ownership of their athletic departments. In its initial report, the Knight Commission identified an ongoing “arms race” in big-time university sport programs where schools have to build ever-grander sport facilities to keep up with the competition. Again, the student athlete is only a pawn in this race and receives no financial remuneration for the contribution he makes to success.

“Given what athletes receive in return, the NCAA should be experiencing the kind of labor dispute the NBA experienced last season,” said Latrigue. “The NCAA skillfully wraps itself in the pious mantle of amateurism whenever someone offers the unpaid superstars an option.”

Barring the unlikely move by the NBA to reinstall age limits, or offering young players a true minor league system, the trend of more players leaving college teams early will continue.

Regardless of what happens in the business of big-time college athletics, any young person going to a university with aspirations of playing a sport needs to understand he or she will be required to stay on track to graduate in five years or not be eligible to compete.

Raleigh’s Will Roach is a senior at NC State who entered with a basketball scholarship. After three years of practicing and playing on the team, he opted not to play his senior year. “At some point with all the school work, the travel and the practice, sometimes you just get exhausted,” he said.
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NEW COMPACT NEEDED TO ADDRESS COLLEGE TUITION
by Jim Leutze

Ah, autumn: wood smoke, apple pie, tailgate parties and the annual scrimmage over college tuition. In North Carolina this year the tension is heightened because the Political Action Committee (PAC), formed by UNC-Chapel Hill and NC State, is trying to convince the General Assembly to allow the two institutions to bypass the Board of Governors (BOG) and set their own tuition rates. According to some Chapel Hill alums, this move is needed so they are not “dragged down” by their sister institutions in the UNC System.

Before going into the larger issue of tuition, let me tell you why the UNC-CH/NC State idea is a bad one. The Board of Governors, now headed by Erskine Bowles, Charlotte business man and former Democratic candidate for the US Senate, should set tuition for all schools in the UNC System. Whether intended or not, taking this responsibility from the Board and the President would weaken the whole structure of governance, perhaps fatally. Moreover, it would make good sense to let Bowles investigate the needs of the two flagship campuses and to have him appoint a Blue Ribbon Committee to investigate a whole range of governance issues. There are many questions about the way the System is being managed: the size and composition of the BOG; the length of term; the method by which they are chosen; and the relationships among the various campuses—including their tuition.

As far as tuition in general is concerned—in all likelihood it is going to go up and someone has to pay for it. Who gets caught is the middle class. For poorer students, there are scholarships, grants and loans—on average 60 percent of North Carolina students receive some kind of aid—at some institutions, 80 percent. The wealthy get a bargain while those who don’t qualify for aid write a check and their kids work 20 or more hours per week. And for those who point to the 1868 Constitution that says that costs of attending the University of North Carolina should be as nearly free as “practicable” (can’t you hear Bill Clinton defining that), in 1868 the state paid almost 100 percent of the cost.

My feeling on tuition, as on the lottery, is that we need more money. I like neither the lottery, which someone described as a self-imposed tax, nor higher tuition, which could be called a user fee. Everyone in the state benefits from a better-educated citizenry, so the best way to pay for education is through a tax paid by everyone. It will be noted, however, that the General Assembly has displayed a distinct disinclination about increasing or reinstituting taxes. When I say reinstituting, I’m referring to the fact that in the mid 1990s, taxes were cut by approximately $1.4 billion dollars. Replacing that money would go a long way toward solving educational and other shortfalls.

In my case, as a university chancellor at UNC-Wilmington, I noted the effects of the tax cuts as the amount of money the state paid toward the cost of education went down by approximately 1 percent per year. When I came to UNCW in 1990, the state was paying approximately 55 percent of the cost of education—when I left in 2003, it was down to about 43 percent. As someone suggested, we went from being a “state institution” to being a “state-supported institution” and we’re on our way to being an “institution in the State of North Carolina.”

What happens when the state cuts back on support while institutions are trying to prepare students for an increasingly competitive world? Tuition takes the place of state assistance. Over that 10-year period, 1994-2004, to the distress of students, parents and some administrators, tuition has gone up rapidly. However, since UNC tuition started at a very low rate, our schools are still relatively a bargain. When considering undergraduate tuition and fees at flagship universities nationwide, North Carolina ranks 33rd with a total of $4,451. The group is led by Pennsylvania with a bill of $10,856, but in the South you find Maryland at $7,426, South Carolina at $6,416, Kentucky at $5,239 and Arkansas at $5,135. (The average for flagships is $5,724.) When you consider undergraduate tuition and fees at Comprehensive Universities (most of the rest of the UNC System), you come out at 38th with a price
of $3,129. New Jersey comes in at $7,875 (so that’s why we see so many New Jersey students) but our southern neighbors also out-charge us with Maryland at $6252; South Carolina at $5,542; Virginia at $5,479; Arkansas at $4,575; and Alabama at $4,413. (The average for Comprehensives is $4,545.)

Then there is the issue of whether the Board of Governors or the General Assembly sets tuition. I would argue that the Board of Governors has that responsibility. However, it is not a secret that the Board would like to “encourage” the General Assembly to put more money into the system. But when the Board says, as they did this year, “we’re not going to raise tuition,” the General Assembly gets irked with the Board for handing them this hot potato and may or may not provide additional funding.

How about this? Why not have a “compact” between the Board and the General Assembly stipulating that the Board’s tuition rate increase would be matched by a General Assembly increase for things they are not already committed to funding such as enrollment increase. There are such “compacts” in other states.

The bottom line is that education needs more money. In the current tax-averse climate, we either can watch the quality of our schools decline along with our competitiveness, or we can get used to tuition increases, become creative in identifying other funding sources, try to cut money out of budgets already constricted after five years of recession, or a combination of the above. Whatever the choice, as I snidely suggested in an earlier column, “it’s gonna cost ya.”

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If youth is wasted on the young, is college wasted on college students?

In Binge: What Your College Student Won’t Tell You, Barrett Seaman raises the question and provides an insightful account of contemporary college life at a selection of elite campuses. Seaman, like many of us, recalls his own college experience with fond memories mixed with some regrets, but he is worried about college life today. The old blend of excessive alcohol use with a little sex has bubbled into a scarier concoction—lots of booze and sex, boosted by some drugs, sometimes leading to outright debauchery.

Those of us who misbehaved during our own college years will not want our sons and daughters to experience the contemporary campus scene. As we wistfully recall our youth and remember Oscar Wilde’s whimsical lament of its waste, we should ask whether college is wasted now on college students. In Binge, despite Seaman’s thoughtful concern and clear writing, he answers ambiguously. Yes, he acknowledges the expensive education at elite campuses is wasted on many students, leaving them still immature, uneducated on important subjects and morally confused. But no, he counters, some students somehow survive elite college life, and like many of his generation, they go on to succeed in careers and contribute to society.

Seaman graduated in 1967 from Hamilton College, a small liberal arts school in upstate New York. Hamilton was then all male, and fraternities dominated the campus social life. Seaman and his fraternity brothers enjoyed keg parties and took road trips to all-girl colleges, tossing a couple of six-packs into the car for the trip. Much has changed since then, of course, there and elsewhere. Hamilton is now coed, and fraternities have been transformed into student associations and their houses converted into regular student residences.

After retiring early from his career as a newsmagazine correspondent, and while serving as a trustee at his alma mater, Seaman spent time with students there and at 11 other elite residential colleges and universities, investigating firsthand the new student life. The scene that has emerged after decades of student-life and social engineering by college administrators includes some ironic contrasts, such as strict prohibition of under-age drinking on campus and the unintended consequence of students’ “pre-gaming” with several shots of vodka in their dorm rooms before going out. Sexual liberation is now history, of course, and old notions of privacy and propriety long ago gave way to coed dorms.
where almost-anonymous “hooking up” occurs for casual sex. “Date rape” is a problem, as are false accusations. Along with loveless sex and alcohol abuse, drugs are available, Seaman reports, almost as easily as a dorm pizza delivery.

Seaman’s non-fiction account sounds much like Tom Wolfe’s fictional account of college life in *I Am Charlotte Simmons* (2004). Both spent much time on many campuses, including Duke in Seaman’s case and Chapel Hill in Wolfe’s, and both are fathers of recent college graduates. One can imagine each wanting to whisper to his daughter as he left her on campus for the first time, just as Wolfe has Charlotte’s mother whisper to her, “Don’t worry, little darling.” But worry they should. We can only hope that the scene improves at least by the time their grandchildren attend college.

In the meantime, Seaman worries about more than alcohol abuse, casual sex and illegal drugs. He questions “diversity,” college athletics, student workloads, cafeteria-style curricula and the remoteness of faculty members from students. He also contrasts the libertine private social behavior by students with their politically correct college activities, noting abdication by student-life administrators of any moral authority over the former, and a nanny-like reign over the latter. Among his personal observations and illustrative anecdotes, he mixes summaries of scholarly surveys and the opinions of various experts into thoughtful and helpful discussions of problems and what can be done about them.

Despite Seaman’s talent in describing problems, and his earnestness for solutions, he is not bold enough in addressing causes and proposing remedies. Yes, as he explains, all the student-life administrators attended the same graduate schools, attend the same conferences and have the same politically correct mindset, but Seaman does not explore the Marxist inspiration underlying the mindset of the campus apparatchiks. He states that students are drilled about “diversity” and “tolerance,” but he does not illuminate the academic orthodoxy and illiberal group thought being instilled under those mantras. And many undergraduates are pampered with light workloads and confused by their curricula and moral choices, but he does not challenge the underlying causes of ideological multiculturalism and moral relativism. More faculty involvement with students that he calls for could be nice, but nostalgia for the Mr. Chips professors of old must reckon with their replacement by the now-notorious Ward Churchill types of today.

**THE RULE OF THE TENURED RADICALS**

Therein lies a fundamental problem, as
recognized recently by a retired UNC-Chapel Hill professor. In a letter-to-the-editor commending a Wall Street Journal column about the continuing effects of the late 1960s upheavals, he noted that, among those effects, academia has been taken over largely by the ‘60s “tenured radicals.” Roger Kimball explains the take-over in Tenured Radicals: How Politics Has Corrupted Higher Education (1990, second edition 1998) and The Long March: How the Cultural Revolution of the 1960s Changed America (2000). As Kimball explains, when the New Left radicals of the ’60s failed to revolutionize the nation at the ramparts of the 1968 and 1972 elections, many of them retreated to graduate school and became professors. After gaining tenure, they stepped-up the long Marxist march through the academy.

The march began just before Seaman graduated from Hamilton, and soon had led to the radicals taking over nearby Cornell—at gunpoint in fact—and the rest of academia symbolically. While Seaman went on to succeed in the mainstream media, the radicals marched on, so that by the time he returned to campus as a trustee, they could welcome him with tenured smiles—and their radical curricula and programs. Indeed, through one such program at Hamilton, the radicals recently invited one of their own, Ward Churchill, an irresponsible impostor, who gained tenure at the University of Colorado at Boulder, to visit and speak. Among the other recent radicals invited to Hamilton are a former prostitute and porn star and a 1960s convicted-felon and bomb and weapons supplier with the Weather Underground.

Similar “enrichment” programs exist at many campuses, the result of the long march by the radicals that has led, in the terms of Binge’s sub-subtitle, to “campus life in an age of disconnection and excess.” The radicals have taken over much of the mainstream media as well, perhaps explaining Seaman’s apparent acceptance of them in academia.

Not as accepting is Tom Wolfe. Although Wolfe only glances at the radicals in I Am Charleston Simmons, he focused his sharp eyes and stiletto style on them in an earlier essay, “In the Land of the Rococo Marxists” (Harper’s, June 2000). Wolfe there slices up some heavyweights of academia’s radicalization, including literary theorist Stanley Fish, formerly at Duke, for their elaborate theorizing and debased debunking of moral, cultural and academic traditions. Wolfe’s earlier criticism may explain, as the title of a favorable review of his latest novel suggests, “Why the Critics Hate Charleston Simmons.” (Academic Questions, Winter 2004-05.) As explained there, Wolfe’s fictional campus reflects the moral and cultural reality constructed by the radicals, “a world without constraints on impulse or personal will.” It is the world remaining after the long march against moral, cultural, academic traditions.

Seaman is to be commended for Binge’s commentary on the resulting student life, which as the subtitle says, “your college student won’t tell you.” We must look elsewhere, however, for exposure of the other wrongs wrought by the tenured radicals, such as the misrepresentations to parents and students about what is really going on in the classrooms—the academic fraud, in

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NOVEMBER 2005 METROMAGAZINE
the words of historian Alan Kors, for purporting to educate students while trying instead to indoctrinate them. The tenured radicals try to indoctrinate their students under the guise of teaching—and the student-life apparatchiks try to indoctrinate them under the guises of new-student orientation, speech codes and group-thought student activities.

Fortunately, not all the faculty is composed of radicals, and many professors, regardless of their personal politics, are committed to academic integrity and open intellectual inquiry. Unfortunately, many of those traditionalist scholars are cloistered in their academic specialties, especially in the hard sciences, and remain silent about broader campus issues. But some faculty, like Penn’s Alan Kors, Yale’s David Gelernter, Harvard’s Harvey Mansfield, and Princeton’s Robert George, and organizations like the National Association of Scholars, the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, and Students for Academic Freedom, openly oppose the radical politicization of higher education.

To de-politicize higher education does not mean replacing the “left university” with a conservative “right university,” as James Piereson explains in a recent article, but means restoring “the real university, dedicated to liberal education and higher learning.” (“The Left University,” Weekly Standard, 3 October 2005.) Such a restoration may be beginning to happen, and Piereson suggests that it may become a revolution. Indeed, as Roger Kimball observed in “Retaking the University: A Battle Plan” (New Criterion, May 2005), if there is any good news from the Ward Churchill contretemps, it is that the tide may be turning against the tenured radicals, their politicization of higher education, and their moral and cultural relativism.

To turn the tide fully, however, we need conviction and courage from non-radical faculty and administrators, trustees, parents and students. We need them to stand up and say they demand the real university. Perhaps then we can be assured that college life is not being wasted on college students.
The clarion call among many academics and politicians that increased spending in higher education leads to greater economic growth is simply balderdash, an economist told the annual higher education conference presented by the Raleigh-based Pope Center for Higher Education recently in Research Triangle Park.

Richard Vedder, a professor of economics at Ohio University, rebutted the economic growth claim in a speech at the daylong event. Vedder recently published, "Going Broke by Degree: Why College Costs Too Much" which fit well with the conference theme: "Do Students and Taxpayers Get Their Money's Worth?"

Citing figures based on a complex formula of statistics, ranging from tax rates to spending on higher education and per capita spending, Vedder found that "increases in the proportion of a state's income used to support higher education are associated with lower rates of economic growth." He estimated the negative impact could reach one percent.

The touted "human capital formation" claims made by economists and others to support increased spending "are, for the most part, illusory," he wrote. "The incremental funding is a means of redistributing income from the tax payers to the university system."

The University of North Carolina System already absorbs more than 8.7 percent of the state's general fund, according to figures published by the Pope Foundation. Governor Mike Easley called for a 12 percent increase in system funding for the current fiscal year, or a total of $2.1 billion. Federal and other funds pushed the system's projected total to nearly $3.5 billion.

And higher costs are coming. The UNC Board of Governors is expected in November to approve 10 percent increases in tuition costs for the 2006-07 school year.

Students at UNC-Chapel Hill already pay more than $4,500 a year in tuition and fees; students at NC State pay more than $4,200.

However, those costs are lower than the national average of $5,491 at public schools and $21,235 at private schools, according to the College Board. Cost increases are averaging 7 percent, compared to a national inflation rate of 3 percent this year.

In his remarks, Vedder called for universities to make better use of the funding they already receive. "There will be blood on the floor at some universities," he said, noting spiraling costs and demands for more productivity from professors, as well
as reduced dropout rates. “Change is coming.”

Vedder stressed a point made by several other speakers at the event—professors are required to do less teaching than ever before, even as they earn more. He noted that benefits and salaries for professors are one reason why costs continue to increase. Another speaker noted that the “research imperative” is driving professors to spend more time reporting and writing rather than spending time in class.

Statistics show the average research professor teaches five hours a week for 32 weeks a year, with salaries increasing more than 50 percent since the 1980s—“not including fringe benefits,” Vedder said.

Other speakers said students aren’t getting their money’s worth because of speech codes and other restraints labeled “political correctness.” For example, Professor Mike Adams, a criminology professor at UNC-Wilmington and a former Democrat, said “politically correct thought police” ensure that some subjects such as support for President Bush or the war in Iraq are frowned upon. He sees help on the horizon, however, with more conservative journals being launched as a counter to leftist control of existing publications.

Many courses are also being “dumbed down,” and such trends as “holistic grading” are threatening to worsen grade inflation, other speakers added.

But academics and those who run the institutions are not alone in sharing the blame for lack of freedom and learning on campus, stressed Murray Sperber, a retired University of Indiana English professor who once sparred verbally with basketball icon Bobby Knight.

“Students don’t demand much of their teachers,” Sperber said. “It’s too much of a party atmosphere.”

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Downsizing in Style

COUCH FARM A COZY RETREAT

It's a classic story with an engaging twist. The grown children and the extended family begin to gather to share vacations and holidays at a retreat on the coast rather than the old home place. So, without a gaggle of kids coming to visit, downsizing to a smaller house in the Triangle seemed reasonable and appealing. Thus the decision was made to move from a 400-plus acre horse and cattle farm, with a new-old 7,800-square-foot Federal-style house, to a house with an enormous fieldstone chimney. Alice recalls traveling up the Couch Farm's long driveway and stepping out of the car to gaze up at the towering trees surrounding the house and outbuildings. “When I saw those magnificent white oaks, I realized this was where we wanted to be,” she says. George Horton, an experienced developer and contractor who had done much of the tree-conserving land planning for Pleasant Green Farm, agreed with her.

The historic Sam Couch Farm in Durham County. The twist—the now comfortably renovated farmhouse is a compact 1,700 square feet.

“We consulted restoration contractor John Shoneman and met with the State Historic Preservation Office restoration architect Mitch Wilds to discuss our plans for keeping as much of the original fabric of the house as we could,” says Alice. Little did the Hortons know that when they attempted to shore up the log floor joists they would find that the bark covering on the logs concealed irreparable termite damage. Much of the home’s siding had to be replaced, and the porch floor and a 1900s addition were compromised. The job of finding good salvage materials to rebuild their cherished old farm house was made easier when the Hortons discovered a 19th-century Durham home slated for demolition. “We managed to re-clad our farm house and the addition with the old clapboard siding from that house,” remembers Alice.

Other necessary salvage materials were provided by their friend, master craftsman Alf Sjoberg, who went to Virginia for the heart pine flooring and added touches, such as the antique beaded beams in the living room. Sjoberg’s affiliation with the Hortons includes work on their former residence, as well as more than nine months on site crafting the interior of their family beach house on Bald Head Island.

PROJECT PARAMETERS

Meanwhile, the Hortons began working with Orange County-based architect Fred Stewart to plan the rear addition that would replace the deteriorated portion of the house. Stewart, a versatile architect whose commissions include the new A Southern Season store in Chapel Hill, as well as the renovation and expansion of the 1817 Pilgrim’s Rest in Hillsborough, worked with the Hortons to determine the parameters of the project. “We didn’t want the new addition to overwhelm the origi-
The Hormans' renovation of the 1848 Couch Farm House preserved a rare surviving example of a post-and-beam antebellum house.
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The home’s new kitchen-dining-sitting area features an Irish cupboard with original paint.

What makes a small house workable is the efficiency of the spaces,” says Alice.

Stewart worked with The Kitchen Specialist principal Mary Liebhold to incorporate many of her design ideas into the compact kitchen. One side features floor-to-ceiling cabinetry built around appliances and a deep porcelain farm house sink; on the other is a combination work island—cabinet designed like an old jelly cupboard that divides the kitchen area from the rest of the airy gathering room. The counter tops are dark soapstone that plays well against the subtle antique glazing on the cabinets—the work of Debbie Delany of The English Painter. An Irish cupboard, with its original paint purchased at the Wind Rose in Greensboro, holds cook-

The home’s new kitchen-dining-sitting area features an Irish cupboard with original paint.
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American County furnishings from the Hortons' former home fit nicely into the new farm house parlor.

books, baskets and pottery and makes a nice transition between the kitchen and the dining and sitting area. The farm table was purchased at Hillsborough's Fetch, a new antiques and collectibles shop owned by Karen Sjoberg, Alf Sjoberg's wife.

The view from the kitchen-gathering room is through mullioned casement windows toward the log kitchen house and the granary and tobacco barns. A stone terrace and walkways, designed by Laura Baldwin of Reba and Roses, creates a link between the house and the old kitchen and serves as a favorite outdoor space for entertaining. It is easily accessible from the house through a screened porch adjacent to the kitchen-gathering room. The porch wall shows off the silvery patina of unpainted clapboard and the room is set with wicker pieces and a table hand-painted in a flower motif by Marsha Stanley, also of Reba and Roses. More flowery touches are evident in Alice's arrangement of container plantings set on an old watering trough on the edge of the terrace and in view of the screened porch.

CHARMING LANDSCAPE

The Hortons labored to enhance the setting of the house while building on sev-
American County furnishings from the Hortons' former home fit nicely into the new farm house parlor.

eral existing landscape features. A single stone pillar off the rear elevation was replicated with fieldstone taken from an old chimney on Pleasant Green Farm. The new row of pillars forms supports for a small picket fence and gate leading to the back porch door. The plantings within this charming space are often treats for the deer that move happily about the Hortons' woods, meadows, gardens and the sur-

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rounding Duke Forest preserve. Pleasant Green Farm fieldstone was also used in the foundation of the addition.

Similar blending of old and new elements enriches the farmhouse's interior. The Hortons removed old sheetrock to reveal many delightful details, including the original balustrade on the tight winder stair leading to the upper floor, and took away the plastic tiles that covered the surround of the living room fireplace with its tall retard de tare mantel. "We had layers of polyurethane scraped off the mantels in the living room and the second parlor which is now a guest bedroom," recalls Alice. The guest bedroom ceiling retains its gently faded mottled green paint, which reminds Alice of ceilings she looked up at as a child in summer camp.

Furnishing the house was a special pleasure for Alice, who managed to use many of the pieces from her former residence. From her former family room came a comfortable leather armchair and a loveseat in pale blue linen, which fits nicely into the farm house living room. A pair of Windsor chairs flanks the fireplace, and a handsome Tennessee chest with original paint displays recent family photographs. The master bedroom occupies one of the two upstairs rooms and accommodates the couple's bedroom suite and an antique
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Beaded beams found in Virginia by craftsman Alf Sjoberg add to the coziness of the living room. A folk art fireplace screen conceals a firebox thought never to have been finished for use. While unpacking from the move, Alice propped old family portraits on the mantel shelf and liked the effect so much she left them there.

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Renamed PleasantView, the farmstead includes its original kitchen house, a granary and a corn crib.
The ceiling in the guest room retains its faded green paint, bringing memories of summer camp.

Though the renovated farmhouse was intended to serve as a guest house for a main residence the Hortons anticipated building, George and Alice have postponed, for now, the idea of constructing a new house. George's next task is to renovate the half-dovetailed log kitchen house thought to be on its original site. For now, the Couch Farm is making a graceful transition into the Couch-Horton Farm, that the Hortons have named PleasantView. The lucky old house standing on it will continue to be home to a family that loves it.
IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR, or at least it can be with our help. In Part I of Metro's annual gift guide features a mix of classic, memorable and fun gifts for everyone on your list. And since most of our gifts are available online, giving has never been this easy or this much fun. Grab a pen and paper and get ready to enjoy the most wonderful time of the year. —Tricia Horatio

**Gifts for Her**

Give her the gift that is at once provocative, entertaining and human—On Beauty, from the author of White Teeth, Zadie Smith $25.95. Available at Barnes & Noble stores or www.barnesandnoble.com

Even her I-pod can be stylish with the Kate Spade Fulham I-pod shuffle case. Inspired by London's Fulham road and lined with gently textured copper leather, the Fulham case is vibrant and playful. $45. Available in coral, chocolate, black and lemon at www.katespade.com or Saks Fifth Avenue, Triangle Town Center.

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The latest scent from Narciso Rodriguez was meant “For Her.” $94. Eau de parfum 3.3 oz available at Nordstrom, The Streets of Southpoint; or Saks Fifth Avenue, Triangle Town Center.

It looks like an ordinary necklace, but it's not. It's much cooler. Each single strand, comprised of jewel-like magnets and seed pearls or Swarovski crystals, can be worn singly, wrapped or as a ponytail holder. $65 per strand. Available at Lark Home/Apparel, Chapel Hill.
Luxury for the jet setter in your life means 100% silk Shantung travel accessories from the Bombay Collection at Cole Haan. The set includes slipper mules and pouch, eye mask and inflatable neck rest. $95. Available at Cole Haan, The Streets at Southpoint; or www.colehaan.com

To tuck or not to tuck, that's the question this season. Make the decision a little easier for her with these unique jeans from Thirteen Denim. These jeans feature built-in socks that make baggy knees a thing of the past. $230. Available in different fits, washes, and sock lengths at www.thirteendenim.com

For the trendsetter - Jose and Maria Barrera gunmetal jet and tiger eye earrings, $213, and necklace, $588. Available at Vermillion, Raleigh.

For the serious fashion lover, Ann Sui combines warmth, color and embellishment in this metallic thread long cardigan. Available at www.neiman-marcus.com or www.net-a-porter.com

Two gifts in one. Delight her and help fight breast cancer with the Burberry Pom Pom cashmere scarf. $195. Available at www.burberry.com. Burberry will contribute 30% of the sales of this exclusive scarf to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation.
It may not be too useful on a Safari, but the Botkier Safari bag is the perfect companion any other time. $655. Available at Fleur, Cameron Village, Raleigh; or www.shopbop.com

Why should personal style end with your wardrobe? The people at Sony say it doesn’t have to. Help her make a statement with the new Sony Vaio FJ180PR. $1599. Available in raspberry red, pearl white, sky blue, jade green and onyx black at www.sonystyle.com.

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The gift that will earn you a thousand thanks: Christian Louboutin dark red suede shoes. $720. You can-preorder at www.neimanmarcus.com and receive them in time for the holidays. Expected to ship no later than 11/7/05.

Fur is everywhere this season, why not put it in her closet. Black Searle fox-fur trim coat. $2995. Available at www.bergdorfgoodman.com

It’s quilted, it luxurious, it’s perfect – the Marc Jacob’s quilted multipocket bag in petrol. $1100. Available at Saks Fifth Avenue, Triangle Town Center; or www.saksfifthavenue.com

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He'll love the **Gucci G round watch** with perforated calf-skin strap. With a black sun-brushed dial and date display, it's timely and stylish. $995. Available at Saks Fifth Avenue, Triangle Town Center; or www.saksfifthavenue.com

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The saga is finally complete, but his collection won't be without **Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith**. $29.98. Available at Barnes & Noble or www.barnesandnoble.com
The **Legacy leather slim commuter** is slim and luxurious with two inside open pockets, zip-top closure and double handles. $428. Available at Coach stores or www.coach.com.

Help him perfect his game with **Smart Fit Custom Club Fitting**. The smart fit system will ensure that your golf enthusiast is fitted with the right size club. Visit www.golfsmith.com for more details.

With the **Smokey Mountain Cooker Smoker**, he can have authentic smokehouse flavor any time he wants. The two 18-1/2 inch diameter-cooling areas and heavy-duty plated steel cooking grates are large enough to cook a ham and a turkey at the same time. Visit www.weber.com to find local dealers.

Give him the fresh, warm woody scent from Issey Miyake, **L'Eau D'Issey pour homme** 4.2 oz. $69 Available at Nordstrom, The Streets of Southpoint; or www.nordstrom.com.

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What girl wouldn't want to tote around her laptop in this "vintage" tie-dyed case? Vintage Juicy Couture velour laptop case, $75, at www.neimanmarcus.com

This Vietnamese tea set makes a thoughtful and beautiful gift. Made by Craft Link, an organization working with, training and assisting ethnic minorities in the remote Central Highlands of Vietnam, the tea set comes from Bat Trang, a small village near Hanoi, on the Red River, which has been famous for its ceramic since the 15th century. $60. One World Market, Durham.

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A portion of the proceeds from this event will benefit the Museum of History's Textile and Conservation Programs.
In the Mood, a famous Big Band theatrical swing review that goes back to the WWII era when swing music and dance moved the nation’s spirit, will open on Nov. 12 at the Clayton Center, Clayton. (For details, see Preview Stage & Screen.)

Sewn into this Jingle Dance Dress are hundreds of jingles fashioned from the lids of snuff cans. As the Indian dancer moves, the jingles ring. The dress is on view in an exhibition “Powwow: the Heartbeat of a People” now open at the NC Museum of History, Raleigh. (For details, see Preview Museums.)

North Hills of Raleigh will celebrate the opening of the holidays on Nov. 15 beginning with the lighting of a 40-foot Christmas Tree on the Commons and followed by three presentations of North Carolina Theatre’s “Musical Spectacular,” featuring Ray Walker and young talent from NCT’s Kids on Broadway. (For details, see Preview Potpourri.)
NOVEMBER EVENTS HERALD THE HOLIDAYS

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• BUILDING PEACE- LEN NEWELL: Visual Art/Mixed Media; Upfront Gallery; Nov. 4-26.
• COLOR RELIEF PRINTS- RANDY HINSON: Visual Art/Printmaking; Lobby; Nov. 4-26.
• STAMMER: Artspace’s bi-monthly multi-art extravaganza featuring spoken word, poetry, featured films, musicians and performance art; Gallery 2; Nov. 11.

EVENTS AT TYNDAIL GALLERIES: University Mall, Chapel Hill; Contact 919-942-2290 or www.tyndaillgalleries.com.
• HOLIDAY EXHIBITION: (Opening Reception Nov. 20) Nov. 20-Jan. 11


29 July 2005, oil on canvas, by Lynn Boggess hangs in her “New Paintings” exhibition showing now thru Nov. 12 at Tyn dall Galler y, University Mall, Chapel Hill.

Morn, Big Horn Lake by Mary Shannon Johnstone will be on view in “Fact, Family, Fantasy,” at the Artspace Artists Association Biennial Juried Exhibition, opening Nov. 12 at Artspace, Raleigh.


DISTINCTIVE LANDSCAPES: Marvin Saltzman shows his works from the last 15 years; Betty Ray McCain Gallery, Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts, Raleigh; thru Jan. 6. Contact 919-828-6500 or www.rcgallery.com.

GM Hosta by Kathy Hopwood, a leaf sculpture made from an actual leaf cast in specially formed cement, is from her exhibition, “Fall Reflections,” showcasing art mosaics & sculptures for her fourth annual Art Show, opening Nov. 11 at SafeSkills Training Center, Durham.

Lady Lucille, oil on board, by Jimmy Craig Womble II, is part of a body of new work by Womble, opening with a reception on Nov. 5 at Gallery C, Raleigh.

MFA OF THE MONTH- KENBROW BRAAK: Visit with the artist and view his work during First Friday, Renaissance Design & Renovation, 404 Glenwood Ave. Raleigh; Nov. 4. Contact 919-856-2284 or for more info on Kenbrow Braak visit www.kenbroart.com.

THE WATERCOLOR SOCIETY OF NC ANNUAL JURIED EXHIBITION: Over 40 artists from the Metro region have been accepted to this show; Salem College Fine Arts Center Gallery, Winston Salem; thru Jan. 5. Call 336-998-4218.

THE GRINCH- Original Cels & Drawings from the classic Christmas animation feature; Animation & Fine Art Galleries, University Mall, Chapel Hill; Nov. 1-Dec. 31. Call 919-968-8008 or www.animationandfineart.com.


TIME AND TIDE...COASTAL CAROLINA IMPRESSIONS: New work by Kathleen Newman; Fountain Fine Art Gallery, Wilmington; (Opening Reception Nov. 4) Nov. 4-7. Contact 919-256-9956 or www.fountainsidegallery.com.

FALL REFLECTIONS: Kathy Hopwood’s 4th Annual Art Show—mosaics, cast stone sculpture & leaf art cast from real leaves; SafeSkills Training Center, Durham; (Openings, Nov. 11, 12 & 13) continuing by appointment until Dec. 11. Call 919-644-1335 or visit www.kathyhopwood.com.

ENVIRONMENTAL ART: Thru Nov. 15. Contact 252-633-4369 or www.carolinacreations.com.


HOLIDAY PREVIEW EXHIBIT: featuring new paintings by Gallery artists, sculpture, handcrafted ceramics, blown-glass vessels & stemware; City Art Gallery, Greenville; (Opening Reception

Tibetan Lamps, 3D Wall Relief by Robert Rauschenberg, will hang in the 10th Annual POP Art Show, opening Nov. 11 at Animation & Fine Art Galleries, Chapel Hill.

10TH ANNUAL POP ART SHOW: Animation and Fine Art Galleries, University Mall in Chapel Hill; (Opening Reception Nov. 11) thru Dec. 6. Contact 919-968-8008 or www.animationandfineart.com.


HOLIDAY PREVIEW EXHIBIT: featuring new paintings by Gallery artists, sculpture, handcrafted ceramics, blown-glass vessels & stemware; City Art Gallery, Greenville; (Opening Reception

NOVEMBER 2005 METROMAGAZINE


La Chaland, Paris by Hilarie Lambert, oil on canvas, will be on view in a "Holiday Preview" exhibition opening Nov. 17 at City Art Gallery, Greenville.

SERTOMA ARTS CENTER GALLERY EXHIBITS: Raleigh, (Opening Reception Dec. 4) thru Dec. 27; Contact 919-420-2329 or visit http://parks.raleighnc.gov:
• PHOTOS BY CAPITAL CITY CAMERA CLUB: Dec. 1-27.
• FELTING BY USA HONEYCUTT: Dec. 1-27
• WATER COLOR AND ACRYLICS BY WARREN WEBBER: Dec. 2-27

EVENTS AT NCSU GALLERY OF ART & DESIGN: NCSU, Raleigh; Call 919-515-3505 or www.ncsu.edu/grad:
• ALEXANDER BOGARDY (1901-1992): Exhibition to spotlight two of Bogardy’s career paths as a painter and writer; thru Dec. 17.
• SYMPOSIUM-THE DIVINE AESTHETE: Gallery of Art and Design symposium, scholars from around the country discussing complexity of researching & understanding the outsider artist; Nov. 5.
• HANG IT UP BABY!: an open art hanging for any NCSU student, staff, faculty, or alumni who wishes to participate; Nov. 10-Dec. 17.

CLASSICAL
NC SYMPHONY EVENTS: Raleigh; Contact 919-733-2750 or www.ncsymphony.org
• VADIM GLUZMAN VIOLIN CONCERT: Featuring guest conductor, Vadim Gluzman and Vadim Gluzman, violin; Nov 4-5.
• A YOUNG PERSON’S GUIDE TO THE ORCHESTRA: Orchestral tour to introduce children to symphonic music; Nov 12.
• LEON FLEISHER PIANO CONCERT: Featuring Resident Conductor, William Henry Curry, Leon Fleisher, piano and members of the NC Master Chorale; Nov 17-19.
• HOLIDAY POPS WITH THE MASTER CHORALE: Seasonal favorite featuring Resident Conductor, William Henry Curry and NC Master Chorale; Nov 25-27.

JACQUI CARRASCO: Classical and jazz violin; Nelson Music Room, Duke University, Durham; Nov. 4. Contact 919-660-3300 or www.duke.edu/music/events/masterclasses.

FISK ORGAN DEDICATORY RECITAL: Janette Fishell


TRIANGLE WIND ENSEMBLE: Concert under the direction of Robert C. Hunter; Cary Academy, Cary; Nov. 5. Contact 919-856-3751 or www.trianglewind.org.

THE RITZ CHAMBER PLAYERS: The nation’s first chamber music ensemble comprised solely of musicians spanning the African diaspora; Fletcher Opera Theater, Progress Energy Center, Raleigh; Nov. 6. Call 919-821-2030 or visit www.rcmg.org.

MEREDITH STRING ORCHESTRA FALL CONCERT: Wide variety of orchestral literature, including traditional works of Corelli, Handel and Bartok, and other contemporary works; Carswell Concert Hall; Nov. 7. Contact www.meredith.edu/calendar.


EMANUEL GRUBER AND PAUL TARDIF: Cello and piano concert; Nelson Music Room, Duke University; Nov. 10. Contact 919-660-3300 or www.duke.edu/music/events/masterclasses.

CELLO MASTER CLASS: Emanuel Gruber; Bone Hall Biddle Music Building, Duke University; Nov. 11.

PIANO MASTER CLASS: Paul Tardif; Nelson Music Room, Duke University; Nov. 11.

EXPERIENCE BOONE
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NOVEMBER 2005
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UNIVERSITY CHORAL WITH THE ROBERT L. JONES DISTINGUISHED VISITING PROFESSOR MARY GOETZE: Wright Auditorium at ECU, Greenville; Nov. 19. Contact 252-328-4370 or www.ecuarts.com


EVENTS BY RALEIGH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, Raleigh; Call 919-546-9755:
• THE FREE SPIRIT: Performance of dance music; Covenant Christian Church, Cary; Nov. 13
• RSO’S HOLIDAY FESTIVAL: Family Series performance of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" and Lind’s "The Brightest Light"; Jones Auditorium, Meredith College, Raleigh; Nov. 27

POP MUSIC

SCHEDULE CHANGE FOR CHRIS BOTTI CONCERT AT CAROLINA THEATRE: Originally slated for Wednesday, Nov. 2, concert now scheduled at Carolina Theatre on Jan. 6. About Tickets: 1) Tickets with original date will be honored at new concert date or 2) Tickets brought back to theatre will be refunded. Refunds must be completed by Wednesday, Nov. 2 at 6 p.m.

BILL LESLIE & LORICA: Popular vocal group headed by WRAL-TV anchor Bill Leslie on Sundays in Clayton Series, Nov. 6, the Clayton Center, Clayton


THE BOBS: Co-presented by WHQR 91.3 FM; Historic Thalian Hall, Wilmington; Nov. 20. Contact 800-523-2820 or www.thalianhall.com.

TRANS-SIBERIAN ORCHESTRA: RBC Center, Raleigh; Nov. 21. Call 919-962-1039 or www.cellardoor.com

SAKURA JAZZ ORCHESTRA: with special guest Bruce Molsky presented by Pine Cone Down-Home Series; Fletcher Theater, Raleigh; Nov. 10. Contact 919-831-6060 or www.pinecone.org.


THE BOBS: Co-presented by WHQR 91.3 FM; Historic Thalian Hall, Wilmington; Nov. 20. Contact 800-523-2820 or www.thalianhall.com.

CONCERT EVENTS AT THE ARTSCENTER: Carrboro. Contact 919-929-2787 or www.artscenterlive.org:
• PADDY KEENAN & PATSY O’BRIEN: Nov-5.
• UBAKA HILL: Innovative drummer featured as part of The Artscenter’s World Arts Festival; Nov. 18.
• 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF CRIS WILLIAMSON’S CHANGER AND THE CHANGED: Premiere performance in celebration of Williamson’s groundbreaking women’s music album, a celebration of Women’s Music and Culture; Nov. 19.

EVENTS AT CAROLINA THEATRE: Durham. Contact 919-560-3040 x224 or carolinatheatre.org:
• ROCKIN’ BLUES REVIEW: A triple bill treat of three legendary Blues guitar icons; Nov. 9.
• THE END OF THE MOON: Laurie Anderson; Nov.13.
• THE MANHATTANS: Featuring Gerald Alston & Blue Lovett; Nov.17.

STAGE & SCREEN

BAREFOOT IN THE PARK, presented by University Theatre; Thompson Theatre, NCSU, Raleigh; Nov. 2-6. Call 919-515-2405.

POMPEII: World premiere of the new musical set in ancient Rome’s playground of the rich and famous; Historic Thalian Hall, Wilmington; Nov. 2-13. Contact 919-343-3664 or www.thalianhall.com.

THE PARSONS DANCE COMPANY: Stewart Theatre at NCSU, Raleigh; Nov. 3. Contact 919-515-1100 or www.ncsu.edu/arts.

THE KING AND I: Classic story based on Anna & the King of Siam; New Bern Civic Theatre, New Bern; Nov. 4-6, 11-13, & 17-19. Contact 252-643-9057 or www.newberncivictheatre.org.

Please join us for an unforgettable journey.

UNC-TV's Great Canadian Rockies Tour
June 24 - July 1, 2006

Join UNC-TV Director and General Manager Tom Howe for a once-in-a-lifetime travel experience inspired by the popular PBS series Great Lodges of the Canadian Rockies.

Book passage on a tour of one of North America's last great wilderness areas, and take in breathtaking views of unspoiled nature while enjoying the elegant accommodations and fine dining afforded by four world-class Fairmont Hotels.

Reservations for UNC-TV's Great Canadian Rockies Tour begin at $3,550 per person, double occupancy* (excluding air fare). For more information and reservations, call Jessica Kleig at UNC-TV, 1-877-423-0075, e-mail her at canadianrockies@unctv.org, or visit our Web site at www.unctv.org/canadatour. Space is limited, so please call early. *Single prices available upon request.
A unique, innovative approach to living is coming to Cary, North Carolina. It's SearStone, a vibrant, not-for-profit community for people 62 and better. Destined to be the perfect balance of active city living and comforting country ambiance. Elegant, amenity-rich lifestyle choices that are steps away from an abundance of retail shops and personal services. Surrounded by convenience. With stress nowhere in sight.

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www.ncartmuseum.org

Made possible by National Endowment for the Arts
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NORTH CAROLINA
Museum of Art
2110 Blue Ridge Road, Raleigh


STEEL MAGNOLIAS: Comedy/drama about gossip Southern ladies at Truvy’s beauty salon; Cape Fear Regional Theatre, Fayetteville; Nov. 4-20. Call 910-323-4234 or visit www.cfrt.org.

NORTH CAROLINA DANCE ALLIANCE ANNUAL EVENT: This annual gathering of NC dance professionals and students will have a focus on world dance; Waverly Garrison, Meredith College Raleigh; Nov. 4-5. Contact 919-760-8015.

ABRACADABRA! MIND, MIRTH & MAGIC: Arts Council of Wilson’s fun and magical day with a family matinee, magic class, and evening performance; Boykin Center, Wilson; Nov. 5. Contact 252-291-4329 or www.wilsonarts.com.

Leave the work to us...

and start your holiday off right!

rates as low as $129*

Thursday: Thanksgiving Extravaganza
Friday: Captain’s Party
Saturday: Festival In the Park: Flotilla & Spectacular Fireworks Show

800.541.1161 BLOCKADE-RUNNER.COM WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH, NC


The Rainbow Fish will splash into Wright Auditorium, Greenville, on Nov. 5 as part of ECU’s Family Fare Series

THE RAINBOW FISH: Colorful production by ECU’s Family Fare Series; Wright Auditorium, ECU, Greenville; Nov. 5. Call 1-800-ECU-ARTS or 252-328-4788.


IN THE MOOD: Big Band Theatrical Swing Review originally produced by National Archives to commemorate 50th anniversary of WWII, now nationally acclaimed; The Clayton Center, Clayton; Nov. 12. Call 919-553-3152 or visit www.theclaytoncenter.com

FROM DUSK TIL DAWN MOVIE-A-THON: Fundraising event to help support the Carolina Cinema and keep independent film in Downtown Durham, six movies, prizes and good cheer; Carolina Theatre, Durham; Nov. 11. Contact 919-560-3040.

STRING OF PEARLS: Production by PlayMaker’s Rep-
**DOROTHY GILLESPIE - REFLECTIONS:** Includes two site-specific sculpture installations in Museum's Sculpture Court and Pond as well as the Samuel Hudson Hughes Wing; thru Feb 19.

**THE ELEMENTS:** Thematic reinstallation of museum's permanent collection offering diverse paths in the viewer's aesthetic journey of discovery; C. Reynolds Brown Wing; thru Feb. 12. (The Elements Collection Tour Nov. 25)

**FROM MEMORY - MAUD GATEWOOD:** 25 painting Exhibition illustrating how the artist skillfully moved from the subject of figure to landscape to express isolation, loss and hope; thru April 16

**MAUD GATEWOOD AND DOROTHY GILLESPIE GALLERY TALK:** Curator Anne Brennan walks through featured exhibitions discussing Gatewood's & Gillespie's work; Nov. 5 & 25.

**ARTISTS SPEAK! WITH JANE BALDRIDGE:** Informal conversation series discussing how the artists see and work; Nov. 6.

**EVENTS AT THE NORTH CAROLINA MUSEUM OF HISTORY:** Raleigh; Contact 919-807-7900 or www.ncmuseumofhistory.org.

**HISTORY A LA CARTE:** The Art of the Powwow: Joe Liles, who has created posters for American Indian powwows for over 30 years, will talk about his favorites from the exhibit “Powwow: The Heartbeat of a People”; Nov. 9.

**ARTISTS AT WORK:** ARNOLD RICHARDSON: Haliwa-Saponi artist constructs a traditional log house on the grounds of the state capitol; Nov. 14-20.

**10TH ANNUAL AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE CELEBRATION:** Celebrate NC's American Indian Heritage at this exciting festival, fun for the family featuring music, dancing, storytelling, food & more; Museum of History and Bicentennial Plaza; Nov. 19.

**ARTISTSPEAK! WITH JANE BALDRIDGE:** Informal conversation series discussing how the artists see and work; Nov. 6.

**EVENTS OF WITHERSPOON ART MUSEUM-LOEWENSTEIN:**

**LEGACY:** Elliott University Center, UNCG; Contact 336-334-5770 or www.uncg.edu/~pllucas/loewenstein.html

**MODERNIST ARCHITECTURE SYMPOSIUM:** Nov. 3

**SELF-GUIDED TOUR OF MODERNIST HOMES DESIGNED BY LOEWENSTEIN:** Irving Park & Downtown Greensboro; Nov. 4 & Nov. 5

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**EVENTS AT TRYON PALACE HISTORIC SITES & GARDENS:**

Tryon Palace, New Bern; Contact 800-767-1560 or www.tryonpalace.org

**TRYON PALACE GARDEN LECTURE:** Tryon Palace Visitors Center Auditorium; Nov. 12.

**AFRICAN AMERICAN LECTURE—FREE BUCK SLAVE HOLDERS IN NORTH CAROLINA:** Dr. Darin Waters speaker, sponsored by Tryon Palace Historic sites and Gardens and the James City Historical Society; Nov. 17.

**AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORIC DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR:** 300 years of African American history on a walking tour of downtown New Bern; Nov. 25.

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walking tour of New Bern’s Historic District; leaving from Visitors Center; Nov. 20.

• BOUNTIFUL HARVEST CELEBRATION: Puppet show, crafts, & holiday traditions from early period of colonial settlement including elaborate meal preparation; Tryon Palace & Robert Hay House; Nov. 25-26.

• SATURDAY SAMPLER: VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT WORKSHOP: Make & take home unique 1880s Christmas ornaments popular during Victorian era; Nov. 26. For reservations contact 252-514-4935.

EVENTS AT NORTH CAROLINA MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCES: Raleigh, Contact 919-733-7450 or www.naturalsciences.org;

• A PRIMITIVE EXPERIENCE: A day of “living primitively” and learning skills involved in daily life of long ago; Nov. 5.

• DISCOVERING CHIMPANZEESE—THE REMARKABLE WORLD OF JANE GOODALL: Museum’s newest exhibit explores decades of research by Jane Goodall; Thru Jan. 10.


GREENVILLE MUSEUM OF ART FINE ARTS BALL: Held in memory of Marvin K. Blount Sr., proceeds benefit Greenville Museum of Art; Rock Springs Center, Greenville; Nov. 19. Contact 252-830-9230 or 252-758-1946.


EXHIBITION AT THE HORACE WILLIAMS HOUSE: Presented by Preservation Society of Chapel Hill, etchings and engravings by Henryk Fantazos, Raku pottery by Ronald R. Franklin, and photographs by Bob Gilgor; Horace Williams House, Chapel Hill; thru Nov. 27. Contact 919-942-7818.

• 4TH ANNUAL ANTIQUE-A-THON:

• MILL CREEK OYSTER FESTIVAL:

• BOATSHOP BASH & AUCTION:

• BOUILLABAISSE COOKING COMPETITION:

• VETERAN’S DAY PARADE:

• CRYSTAL COAST BOOK FESTIVAL:

• CRITICAL AREA ARTIST S FESTIVAL:

• 37th ANNUAL CAROLS OF CHRISTMAS:

• 4TH ANNUAL ANTIQUE-A-THON:

• CRYSTAL COAST BOOK FESTIVAL:

• CRITICAL AREA ARTIST S FESTIVAL:

The Raleigh Boychoir presents
37th Annual Carols of Christmas Concert
Directed by Thomas E. Sibley
Tuesday, December 20th 7:30 pm
Edenton Street United Methodist Church
Ticket information: (919) 881-9259
Advance tickets only

Experience the Christmas Village in New Bern this Holiday Season
Stroll down the quaint streets. Delight in the festive decorations. Listen to the harmonious sounds of carolers. Sip hot chocolate or egg nog in a restaurant or cafe. Think back to an uncomplicated time when there was less hustle & bustle and more joy in the season. When you experience New Bern’s charming Christmas Village... it will warm your heart!

New Bern
North Carolina Begins Here
Craven County Convention and Visitor’s Center
201 South Front Street • New Bern, NC 28560 • 252-637-9400 • 800-437-5767 • www.visithnewbern.com

POTPOURRI

THE WILD PLACES OF MADAGASCAR: Presentation designed to acquaint people with the flora, fauna and culture of the island country of Madagascar given by Charlie Welch of Duke University Primate Center; NC Botanical Garden, Chapel Hill; Nov. 4. Contact 919-962-0522.

WILSON WHIRLIGIG FESTIVAL: Arts festival showcasing the diversity of people of Wilson as well as artist Volis Simpson and his colorful, wind-driven works of art; Downtown Wilson; Nov. 4-6. Contact 252-299-2395 or www.wilsonnc.org/whirligig.

CAPITAL AREA HANDbell FESTIVAL: A day of ringing & learning for handbell ringers from all over North Carolina & nearby states; Kerr Scott Building, NC State Fairgrounds, Raleigh; Nov. 5. Contact 919-847-7574 or www.nr.org.

ASTRONOMY VIEWING SESSIONS AT JORDAN LAKE: 280 State Park Road, Apex; Nov. 5. Contact 919-362-0566 or www.ils.unc.edu/project/join/home.html.

ORANGE COUNTY ARTISTS GUILD OPEN STUDIO TOUR: Over 60 Orange County artists participating in juried exhibition & sale; Maps available at ArtsCenter, Carrboro, & Burwell School, Hillsborough; Nov. 5 & 6. Contact Gordan Jameson 919-932-3438 or visit www.openstudiotour.com.


NORTH CAROLINA ANTIQUES SHOW: Sponsored by Women’s Club of Raleigh; NC State Fair Exposition Center; Raleigh; Nov. 18-20. Contact 919-715-9923 or 919-781-9048 or www.womensclubofraleigh.org.

CRYSTAL COAST UPCOMING EVENTS: Crystal Coast Tourism Authority; Contact 252-726-8148:

• VETERAN’S DAY PARADE: One of North Carolina’s largest veteran’s parades; downtown, Morehead City; Nov. 5. Contact 252-728-8440.

• CRYSTAL COAST BOOK FESTIVAL: Sponsored by The Talk Station 107.3 & Carteret Community College English Department, book talks and signings by state & local authors; Events at Carteret Community College, Webb Center & locations in downtown Morehead City; Nov. 4-5. Contact 252-247-9265.

• MILL CREEK OYSTER FESTIVAL: Benefits Mill Creek Volunteer Fire Dept. Steamed oysters & other favorites served all day; Mill Creek Volunteer Fire Dept.; Nov. 5. Contact 252-726-0542.

• 4TH ANNUAL ANTIQUE-A-THON: Gathering of experts to answer questions about antique pieces they bring in; The History Place, Morehead City; Nov. 5. Contact 252-247-7533.

• BOATSHOP BASH & AUCTION: Blue Moon Quartet, food and drinks; NC Maritime Museum Watercraft Center, Beaufort; Nov. 5. Contact 252-728-7317.

• BOUILLABAISSE COOKING COMPETITION: Informal exchange event of Beaufort Sister Cities & Carteret Community College Culinary School; CCC Culinary School; Nov. 19. Contact 252-725-0556.

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NOVEMBER 2005 METROMAGAZINE
Carolina Ballet's
Evening in the Land of Enchantment

Monday, December 19th, 2005
from 5:00 until 7:30
Raleigh Memorial Auditorium Lobby

Experience a Rare Opportunity to Mingle with Characters from Nutcracker and have your picture taken with your favorite Carolina Ballet Dancer

The entertainment begins at 5:30 with a reading of Nutcracker by North Carolina First Lady Mary P. Easley and concludes with an exciting performance by Mother Ginger and her Gingerbreads

Also, cocktails and nibbles for moms and dads, Special dinner yummies for children, Dessert Showcase featuring confections from the Triangle's top pastry chefs, and a Land of Enchantment Boutique featuring one-of-a-kind Nutcrackers and ornaments

Land of Enchantment Attendees will have the opportunity to purchase Nutcracker tickets at a 20% Discount. + Call the box office for details 719-0900.

+Sponsor to seating and availability

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT DINNER CLUB: Professor Elliot Engel will present “Nathaniel Hawthorne”; Brownstone Hotel, Raleigh; Nov. 14. Contact 919-303-6737 or authorsonline.com.

METROPREVIEW

ISSUES CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

This past September, the Capital City inducted its first honorees into the Raleigh Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame was organized last year from a group of volunteers that greatly values those who have contributed to making Raleigh the charming, dynamic place we are so proud and fortunate to call home. The Raleigh Hall of Fame developed a process for celebrating this proud and precious history. This process seeks those individuals and non-profit organizations which have made an enduring and significant contribution to the character of Raleigh.

To be considered a candidate for the Raleigh Hall of Fame, nominees must meet the following criteria:

- Candidate must have made a significant and worthy contribution to Raleigh.
- Candidate may be living or deceased and must have been a resident of Raleigh at some point in his or her life.
- Raleigh non-profit organizations are eligible for nomination.
- The enduring value of achievement(s) and lasting importance of contribution(s) should have stood the test of time.
- These achievements/contributions must have occurred 10 or more years ago.
- Nominations must be received by January 20, 2006.

The nomination form must contain a statement explaining the significant and worthy contribution this candidate made to Raleigh. This statement should be no longer than two pages, double-spaced. Please include any pertinent biographical information that supports consideration of this candidate. Additional supporting material that can be documented and directly attests to the candidate’s contributions, achievements and character may be included. Supporting letters of recommendation will be accepted. All materials submitted will become the property of the Raleigh Hall of Fame, Inc. and will not be returned.

Submit 10 copies of the completed nomination form by 1/20/06 with supporting documentation to: Raleigh Hall of Fame, P.O. Box 6128, Raleigh, NC 27625-6128, Attn: Selection Committee

For more information, email info@raleighhalloffame.org or visit us online at www.raleighhalloffame.org

RALEIGH HALL OF FAME

JCRA; Ruby C. McSwain Education Center at JC Raulston Arboretum, Raleigh; Dec. 4 Contact 919-515-3132 or www.ncsu.edu/jcraulstonarboretum.


3RD ANNUAL SOUTHERN COASTAL BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL: Presented by Children’s Theatre & Thalian Community Theatre; Community Arts Center, Carolina Beach; Nov. 5-6. Contact 919-251-1788.

Rivers in New Bern come alive with bright lights on Dec. 3 as local boaters parade their boats in a Christmas Flotilla along the New Bern waterfront.


Our thanks to Cyndi Harris, Mary Younger for their assistance with MetroPreview.
PARTYING FOR CULTURE

There is no one on this planet who loves a good party as much as I do, so I have been in hog heaven this year with all the great cultural events going on here and around the state. The North Carolina Museum of History (www.ncmuseumofhistory.org) recently held a party at the home of Dr. Everette James and his lovely wife Dr. Nancy Farmer in Chapel Hill. I was right there in the living room enjoying a fat crab cake and a glass of cool Riesling when the couple were presented The Order of the Long Leaf Pine by our own Lt. Governor Beverly Perdue. In case you don't know about The Order of the Long Leaf Pine, dear reader, it's only the highest award given to a citizen of our state and this couple deserves it. Dr. James and Dr. Farmer have long been avid collectors and promoters of Southern art and artists—look for Dr. James' 600+ page book on the collecting of American art to come out later this year.

After that party I drove, with a questionable blood-alcohol level, to beautiful Whitehall at the Villa (www.whitehallantiques.com) on Franklin St. to enjoy the libations along with the gangbuster crowd that showed up for good times and great music to celebrate the Chamber Orchestra of the Triangle, (www.cvnc.org). This organization always has the best of the best in performances for us to enjoy. Mrs. Pat Owens, along with David Lindquist, has developed an enthusiastic membership base that only continues to grow.

NASHER GALA

And, of course, how can I leave out the party of parties, the stupendous blowout, a black-tie gala held for the new Nasher Museum of Art at Duke (www.duke.edu/web/duma). As soon as I stepped into the amazing open space, I felt like dancing in a sea of black—black gowns, black tuxes, black label scotch, everything black other than the glare of a 20+ ct. diamond here and there to act as a beacon, like bright stars on an inky black night. After everyone had a good champagne buzz, we were all herded onto private coaches for the short trip over to the Washington Duke Inn for a sit-down dinner where New York gallery dealers rubbed shoulders with museum curators and deep-pocketed patrons and tried to talk to each other over artistically cantilevered floral arrangements. The museum is a spectacular achievement and I strongly suggest that you check it out anytime you are brave enough to drive to Durham—to get the same effect I did, I suggest you go to a good party first.

GALLERY C CELEBRATES 20TH

I want to congratulate Charlene Harless and the staff of Gallery C (www.galleryc.net) for surviving 20 years in the rough world of fine art. I was with Charlene from around 1986 until just a few years ago, so I guess I can speak about the gallery and my experiences there about as well as anyone on the planet. I clearly remember Gallery C when it was over in the Five Points area off Glenwood Avenue. I walked in all suited up with my briefcase and an attitude to show my artwork only to have Charlene tell me that she didn't look at "walk-ins" and to leave. Thank goodness my persistence was up to the challenge because within days I was signed to the gallery.

Charlene has always had an eye for marketing and knows how to sell. Our very first show together was held in the back of a limo. We would pick up patrons two or three at a time, give them some bubbly while we cruised around town, show my portfolio and collect checks hand
over fist. The late Karen Jones, a beacon of light and an inspiration to many during
the time, even brought along her baby to buy art Charlene doesn’t mind starting out
collectors young.

When Charlene moved into her glamorous space in Cameron Village, I was the
very first show in that new space and we turned it out—drag queen hostesses passed
trays of great food, while disco rocked from
the speakers. At another one of my openings, after the gallery had made the jump
to its present location at Ridgewood shopping center, the snow was just a-coming
down, but Charlene took up the gauntlet. Always willing to take a chance and have
fun with a marketing idea, Charlene hired men dressed as Russian Cossacks to serve
shots of ice cold vodka while a babushka serenaded the crowd with Russian love
songs. Anyone with 4-wheel drive was there and one collector dropped off her
floor-length fur to reveal that she was only wearing a gold mesh bodysuit and boots...
now that’s an opening.

I have great respect for Charlene and
wish her 20 more years of success. Over the
years the roster of artists that have made
Gallery C home at one time or another is
amazing: Jane Filer, Wayne Trapp, Tisha
Edwards, Matt Cooper, Michelle Natale,
Joseph Cave, Sally Bowen Prange, Amy
Levine, Ken Kotara, Norma Murphy...
the list goes on and on. Stop by and con-
gratulate Charlene yourself and buy some
art, she ain’t in this for her health I assure
you.

By the time you read this, I’m certain
that each and every one of you will have
chosen your very best Valentino, Posen,
MacQueen or vintage Balenciaga to wear
to what will be the most talked about party
of the year: the Mannequin Ball, being
held November 11 at the NC Museum of
History. The red carpet is going to go on
for miles, so practice your best cat-walking
now. The fashionistas include the ever so
stylish style king André Leon Talley of
Vogue fame, as well as Tony award winning
costume designer Williams Ivey Long,
Alexander Julian, celebrating 30 years as
one of the top men’s fashion designers (as
well as furniture and interiors) and famous
names to be announced that you will be
able to get up close and personal with so
you’d best look great, or suffer the conse-
quences. Go to www.themannequinball-
.com or call the Mannequin Ball hotline
to attend: 919-807-7846.
SONGS FROM THE HEART

Each year at the holiday season, my inclination is to write something sweet, sentimental and uplifting that will tease the memory, tug at heartstrings and prompt a gentle smile or even a tear. After all, it's that time of the year when there is much talk of family, of traditions, of time, of things and people sadly past.

Then I am reminded, "It's time for holiday songs," and I suppress the urge to mutter, "I hate 'em!"

How did we ever get so bored in a song like "Over the river and through the wood" (no, there is no s on wood) "to Grandfathers house we go?" It's totally irrelevant. Even if you were country born and bred, it's been 100 years since most folks lived across the way from Grandpa and hitched a "dapple gray" (tell me you know what a "dapple gray" is) to a sleigh—a device rarely used in the South because it traveled on an extremely rare commodity, snow—and made the trip to Grandpa's for Thanksgiving dinner.

Forgive me if I do not sing along lustily as I sit under the steering wheel of a motorized vehicle—the only kind I have ever known—and navigate through traffic on I-40 and US 64 as I make my way across the state to a festive holiday dinner in a planned community Down East. Here is a place to which some thoughtful, mature adults retreat for peace and quiet and to make sure children and grandchildren are not just a sleigh ride away.

Grudgingly, I admit that I will cross "over the river"—the Neuse east of Raleigh—and go through a long stretch of "the wood" between Wilson and Greenville. But that is hardly an experience of which songs are made. And parking? Space is tight as it is. Suppose I arrived via horse and sleigh—a very, very tired horse, by the way. That would take at least two premium spots. And hay for the "dapple gray"? No chance. I would never get invited back.

"Then we pass around white meat. Thank you for your special treat." Grandpa Tucker, how could you be so cold?

There is one about Tommy "the turkey star," a guest at Thanksgiving dinner who volunteers to get roasted because there are lots of veggies on the table but no white meat. Tommy! You're quite a guy!

Having once had an Aunt Tilly Down East in Plymouth, I was taken by "Here we go over to Silly Tilly's" about a chipmunk, bunny, field mouse, turkey and woodchuck who gather at Silly Tilly's for a potluck Thanksgiving dinner and dine on delicacies that include acorn jam, pop corn, oat bran pudding, nut cake and cranberry stew.

Then there is the politically incorrect tune titled, "Turkey Day" in which the singer addresses the turkey and declares, "Nice big bird, we have a date. I will see you on a plate," and ends with, "Then we pass around white meat. Thank you for your special treat." Grandpa Tucker, how could you be so cold?

However, one holiday song I hummed ended with a happy thought: A turkey who apparently kept his head about him—perhaps the White House's ceremonial turkey presented by the National Turkey Federation—and had a great Thanksgiving himself dining at the Pizza Hut. Good for him.

It occurred to me that there might be some Thanksgiving hymns that are a cut above the time-warp drivel of "Over the river." I found The Book of Hymns I had bought for a buck at a yard sale and started to turn pages. Then I remembered that we sang songs each day in Ada Brickhouse's fifth grade—songs, and often hymns, that changed with the seasons. But for the life of me I couldn't recall what we sang at Thanksgiving.

I flipped to the index and looked under "Thanksgiving." There
it was: “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come.” What a grand tune:
Comne, ye thankful people, come.
Raise the song of harvest home.
All is safely gathered in,
er the winter storms begin.
God our maker doth provide
for our wants to be supplied.
Come to God’s own temple come.
Raise the song of harvest home.

We sang that song in a less complicated

We sang that song in a less complicated
time in a public school classroom in a
small, homogeneous community of mostly
Baptists and a few Methodists, though that
curch eventually locked its doors due to
lack of interest. Though the conflict was
over, we still sang the old WWI favorite,
“Keep the Home Fires Burning,” with its
poignant lines by Lena Ford: “Though your
lads are far away they dream of home... Turn
the dark clouds inside out, till the boys come
home.” We also remembered rationing, and
“God our maker doth provide” still had
meaning for us.

Prayers at Thanksgiving tables in Buies
Creek and all across Down East still ended
with remembrances of those whose chairs
were empty and who had breathed their
last in Germany, or France, or the Pacific.
We still needed the comforting words of
“Come, Ye thankful People, Come.” And
we could still sing with feeling the words
of yet another great hymn:

For all the blessings of the year,
for all the friends we hold so dear,
for peace on earth, both far and near,
we thank thee, O Lord.

After “The Great War,” there were four
tables in the little village of Buies Creek with empty chairs. One was the table
where my family gathered. At the holiday
season, Papa would get markedly quiet,
and the “old folks” would say quietly, “In
his heart, he still believes Fulton will come
home one day.” Fifty years later, after his
father had died, he did. His remains were
found, along with the rest of his flight
crew, on a remote mountain in China.

This Thanksgiving we are at war again.
Tens of thousands of men and women in
uniform will eat a traditional Thanksgiving
dinner far from their families and, if lucky,
attend USO events and sing together with
tears in their eyes and aching hearts the
timeless song Robert Allen and Al Stillman
wrote:

Oh, there’s no place like home
For the holidays, ’cause no matter
How far away you roam
If you want
To be happy in a million ways
For the holidays, you can’t beat
Home, sweet home.

Now there’s a song for you.
This year in this land of ours, there
will be some 2,000 holiday tables with
empty chairs. Two thousand homes have
in some special place a hallowed, tightly
folded American flag. Between you and
me, I almost feel I know the young souls
whose presence will be so keenly missed.
I have seen their faces and heard their
names and, like you, I expect, been con-
founded by the reality of their short lives
and unfulfilled promise. Let’s remember
them and their sacrifices and those who
will forever grieve for them in Thanks-
giving prayers.
DON'T MISS THE BOOT

You may notice large numbers of people looking at the ground this fall. It's not because of a sudden collective depression or shyness. It's because the season has ushered in some of the coolest boots seen in years—can't help but stare. Complementing the Edwardian trend are coy lace-up boots with heels, like the ruched maroon leather boots from Anthropologie, which work perfectly with skirts below the knee or cropped trousers (www.anthropologie.com). The easy-going wedge heel makes a great everyday boot and is an ideal partner to shorter skirts; check out the suede “Mix” boot by Exchange (www.nordstrom.com). A throwback to the eighties, the studiously chic slouchy boot offers an instant rock star vibe. Studio Pollini’s eye-catching cuffed slouchy boots have a rounded toe and three-inch stacked heel (www.saks.com). A little more daring is the over-the-knee boot shown by designers such as Stella
McCartney with short sweater dresses. A bit medieval, a bit punk, go for it if you’ve got the long legs to pull it off. The sleek equestrian riding boot is a perennial staple and gives just the right heft to an A-line skirt in colder weather. Of course, horsey house of Burberry offers the quintessential pair (www.burberry.com). And if you’ve flipped through a recent magazine, you can’t have missed the proliferation of cowboy boots this season. But the real must-have that will see you through into 2006 is a pair of ankle boots. Not only do they protect the foot in chilly weather, they are also perfect with pants and pencil skirts. The ankle boots by designer Julia Lundsten of Finland are so striking they are being published in architecture and design magazines and other fashion bibles. Her gorgeous green Sail Boot features a custom-made Brazilian hardwood heel and a striking two-tone leather upper. Lundsten’s line of footwear is available under the label FINSK (www.finsk.com). Less exotic but quite stylish (and affordable) are the suede ankle boots from Aerosoles (www.aerosoles.com), or for evening consider the lovely turquoise satin booties by Eugenia Kim (www.saks.com).

DOUBLE-DUTY FASHION

Based on the very recent history of the world, the new exhibit at Museum of Modern Art in New York, “Safe: Design Takes on Risk,” seems timely, if somewhat anxiety-producing. The show presents innovative design solutions that address psychological and physiological threats to human beings, from new ways to collect safe drinking water to protective gear for public demonstrators. A section devoted to safe fashion features the work of the design collective Safeware, who have developed a...

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line of bullet-resistant clothing called "Safe Being" that could take a trip down the runway in any fashion capital. The most striking piece, a stunning blouson, takes advantage of the natural ballistic properties of swan feathers, weaving them together in a netting of cotton. Their polycarbonate

Safeware T-shirt

and cotton T-shirt and vest are designed to provide extra protection to the heart and other internal organs. Safeware's T-shirt is available at the museum's gift shop along with the "Final Home 44-pocket parka" by

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Kosuke Tsumura, an adjustable nylon jacket with numerous pockets providing a place for all your necessities, allowing it to become a kind of make-shift nomadic home (www.moma.org). The "Safe" exhibit runs through January 2, 2006.

BEST FRAGRANCE FORWARD FOR MANNEQUIN BALL

Raleigh and the Triangle and party-lovers from around the state are coming out dressed to the nines for the soiree of the season, the Mannequin Ball at the NC
Museum of History. Special guest (and North Carolina native) André Leon Talley of Vogue magazine will lead the night of festivities on November 11, along with costume Tony winner and NC native William Ivey Long and Chapel Hill’s own Alexander Julian, who is celebrating 30 years at the top of the international world of fashion design. If you want to smell as dazzling as you look for the big event, try Narciso Rodriguez For Her, one of the prettiest new perfumes to debut this fall. Containing honey flower, solar musk, orange blossom, osmanthus, amberlyn, vanilla, tactile musk and woods and vetiver, the latest scent is a lighter, more floral version of Rodriguez’s original Musc For Her. Warm but feminine, it’s an enchanting scent for this enchanted evening.

P.S. Trovata, a fashion design collective of four that includes Cape Hatteras native Josia Lambert-Egan, is one of 10 finalists in the running for the prestigious Council of Fashion Designers of America/Vogue Fashion Fund award to be awarded at Los Angeles Fashion Week at the end of October. Look for Trovata to be featured in the November issue of Vogue.

Rodriguez
be radiant

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FASHION NEWS

During the month of Nov, Elaine Miller Collection will hold the following events: Nov 2nd-3rd: Elizabeth Locke Trunk Show Nov 12th: book signing with André Leon Talley editor-at-large of Vogue magazine Nov 15th-16th: Vendorata Trunk Show Nov 18th-19th: Diane Mazza Trunk Show Raleigh, 919-571-8888

Nov 4th-5th: Vermillion will host a Megan Park Trunk Show, featuring a preview of the spring '06 collection, as well as Vintage Jewelry Show, including pieces from Miriam Haskell and Kenneth Jay Lane. A great opportunity to buy baubles for the Mannequin Ball! Nov 17th-19th: Vermillion announces an Anne Dee Goldin Fur Show with fun fur pieces for the holidays. At this time, they will also host a Subversive Jewelry Show for customers, containing reworked and vintage 'one of a kind' pieces of jewelry. Raleigh, 919-787-9780

Nov 11th-13th: Hamilton Hill will hold two trunk shows for shoppers; Gellner: The Spirit of Pearls and Pedro Boregaard will be open for customers from 11am-6pm on the 11th-12th and from 1pm-5pm on the 13th; Dec 2nd-4th, they will also host a Bikakis & Johns Trunk Show and Baccarat Trunk Show. Durham, 919-683-8792

Nov 15th-16th: Fine Feathers will host an Anne Pederson Trunk Show for shoppers. Chapel Hill, 919-942-3151

Razook's invites shoppers to view their evening collection to get ready for the Mannequin Ball. Raleigh, 919-833-6121

Scout and Molly's Raleigh store will move to North Hills in Nov; Nov 17th-19th, customers will receive 15% off storewide. On Nov 17th, the Raleigh store will be open until 9pm, serving wine and cheese to shoppers. Raleigh, 919-848-8732

Nov 17th: Bailey's Fine Jewelry will hold a Juliska Trunk Show in the gift gallery of their Raleigh store; Nov 18th-19th, they will also host a Simon G Trunk Show. On Nov 4th-5th, Bailey's will hold a Slane and Slane Trunk Show at their Greenville location. Raleigh, 919-829-7337; Greenville, 252-353-3434

Nov 20th: Jewelsmith will unveil their latest winter styles for customers at the Annual Holiday Fashion Preview. The catered event will go from 6pm-8pm. Durham, 919-286-2990

Possibilities at North Hills: Nov. 17th-19th Trunk Show with local artist Marcia Scott for holiday dressing Nov. 5 at Cary location: Mary-Michele Little Trunk Show
Back to the Future

BIN 54 STEAK HOUSE TAKES CLASSICS TO NEW LEVEL

Warning: Vegetarians and teetotalers may want to skip this article—likewise, delicate souls offended by the thought of boiling live lobsters, force-feeding geese or massaging cattle with sake. For those on cholesterol-lowering medication or strict dining budgets, proceed at your own risk. Our first destination is not for the faint of heart, stomach or bank account. We'll be talking about hard liquor, red meat, buttery sauces, rich desserts and none of them cheap.

For those sinners still reading, follow me. We're going straight to heaven. Its name is Bin 54.

But first, let's backtrack. When the extravagant Spice Street opened in Chapel Hill in 2003, I was absolutely certain that it was George Bakatsias' pièce de résistance. I considered his decreasing visibility there a sign that he was busy overseeing other restaurants in his empire, among them Vin Rouge, Parizade, George's Gourmet Garage, and Verde. Well, Giorgio has been busy, all right, and now we all know why. Maintaining the status quo is never enough for George Bakatsias, a man with boundless energy and imagination. The name of his game is vision.

As so often happens with visionaries, the flip side of that coin is usually excess. Bakatsias' restaurants, though wildly different in theme and style, all share a delightful over-the-top quality. But not Bin 54. Ironically, the "wow factor" of the place is in its restraint. Stained concrete surfaces, soft leather banquettes, deep rich colors and human-scale rooms give the space a quiet, contemporary elegance. Dramatic drum-shaded ceiling lamps bathe diners in a flattering glow. This is a place one would expect to see the sleek, well-dressed cast of a TV courtroom drama rather than more typical Chapel Hill carnivores—coaches with seven-foot recruits knocking their heads on the chandeliers.

When general manager Brett Davis handed us the cocktail list, we realized the mid-century lampshades were a subtle hint of things to come. At Bin, the old is new again. Highballs, lowballs, all the drinks our parents and grandparents ordered in the '40s and '50s are here—Daiquiris, Manhattans, Old Fashioneds, Sazeracs—and the bartender is either old enough or well trained enough to make them exactly right. Even the garnishes are traditional, down to the maraschino cherry in the Rob Roy and the slice of lime and mint sprig in the Mai Tai, just as Trader Vic first served it in 1944.

Bin's menu is simple and familiar, a throwback to upscale steakhouses of the '70s when the tradition of "baked potato and salad included" gave way to strictly "à la carte." When you order steak, you get just that, accompanied by nothing but a small gravy boat of your chosen sauce. Not even a sprig of parsley. Can this concept work in a town whose hotspots are Lantern, Crook's and Top of the Hill, places where garniture and side dishes are as important as the main course? There's
good reason why steakhouses such as Ruth's Chris and Capital City Chophouse chose to locate on the other side of the Triangle: Contrarian Chapel Hill has never been a steakhouse kind of town. That being said, never underestimate Bakatsias, the man who rushes in where angels fear to tread. In this case, he revisits a well-worn path, but with a twist. Bin's slightly tongue-in-cheek retro style is clever, but its substance is unquestionable. Chef Dale Ray, trained at the Inn at Little Washington, takes his straightforward dishes to a level of perfection rarely achieved. Dry-aged New York Strip with Bearnaise Sauce, American Kobe Ribeye with Green Peppercorn Butter, even the humble but incredibly flavorful hanger steak, surpassed expectations. Truly, I didn't think it was possible for meat, or even lobster, my favorite protein, to taste quite this good. Is there a secret beyond the quality of ingredients? "We cook everything over a wood fire," Bakatsias revealed, "just as we did when I was a child in Greece. It's primitive but basic."

Appetizers were equally impressive—an extraordinary crabcake with dijonaise, fresh foie gras on polenta with fig butter, caramelized sea scallops with truffle potato puree. With one of Bin's large salads, each of these would be an excellent meal in itself.

We had just as much fun with the desserts as we had with the cocktails. "We're taking the classics to the next..."
level," Davis claimed, though this could be said about every item on the menu. At this point we could guess many of the sweets: banana pudding (made with crunchy bourbon pecan cookies instead of vanilla wafers), apple crisp with homemade vanilla ice cream, a molten chocolate cake with orange sauce and buttermilk ice cream, pecan pie. Déjà vu all over again—but better!

Bin is located on the site of the former Grill at Glen Lennox. This address has housed a succession of popular neighborhood-oriented eateries dating back to the long-lamented Dairy Bar in the '50s. Is Bin the natural successor to these beloved hangouts? Maybe not. The place is nothing if not "fine dining." But I can honestly say...
Searching for the perfect spot to have the company's holiday party?

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www.cattailsrestaurant.com
RECIPE CONTEST AT NOFO

The gang at Raleigh's NOFO in Five Points, the popular "everything-funky" store with terrific regional foods, decided they needed inspiration to bolster their repertoire. In mid-summer, co-owner Jean Martin and her staff initiated a recipe contest to include frozen foods and casseroles. Everyone was invited to compete for a grand prize of a $500 gift certificate to NOFO. If you've been to the funky retail-eatery, you know that this is a valuable prize, particularly with the holidays looming. I spoke with Jean recently and she reported that over 500 recipes were submitted and, although the emphasis was on casseroles, the winner was NOFO's STEAK SOUP A LA McCAYL.

NOFO's STEAK SOUP A LA McCAYL

3 lbs. steak or sirloin or filet
1/2 cup butter
2 12-ounce cans diced tomatoes
1 cup flour
1 T. Worcestershire sauce
1/2 T. combined salt & pepper
85

Cut Steak into 1-inch cubes. Braise or saute meat in half the butter and a little olive oil in a Dutch oven or stockpot. Add veggies, spices and stock. Cook for 10 minutes stirring frequently. Add tomatoes, spices and stock. Cook 1 hour. Add half-&-half in the last 5 minutes. (Note: You may add cooked potatoes, but they do not freeze well.)

GOOD FOOD AND GAMES AT FRANKIE'S

After reading the press release touting the opening of Frankie's Restaurant, I wasn't quite sure what to think. It is an unlikely pairing: a major entertainment complex with Go-Kart tracks, Laser Tag, Miniature Golf and highly sophisticated high-tech video games complemented by a first-class restaurant. First-rate cuisine backed by the cacophony of game noises? But I was intrigued enough to visit the entertainment complex, located off T.W. Alexander Road, just off Highway 70 (Glenwood Avenue) beyond the Angus Barn. It was amazing—and, in fact, I found the game energy to be potent. It was like being in Las Vegas! And very little noise filtered through the doors to Frankie's Restaurant, an "old-world" Italian oasis, perfect for a top-notch Cosmo—and/or a really superb meal—while the kids are playing Laser Tag.

Frankie's Restaurant could stand alone and be acclaimed. My dinner companion and I, after downing a delectable Cosmo (nicely balanced—and with the classic lime garnish), enjoyed two appetizers: Mini Crab Cakes, a tad pasty but beautifully spiced and accented well with a mustard sauce, and Tower of Fresh Mozzarella, incorporating summery vine-ripened tomatoes with fresh mozzarella flavored with a balsamic vinaigrette with fresh basil. So fresh! Outstanding. Even though fall had fallen, this dish whisked me back to a picnic table and fresh tomato sandwiches.

As to our entree I wanted to shake the hand of Chef Carlos Caceres for his Veal Portobello with Marsala Sauce. Noting the fork-tender, succulent veal and the elegance of the preparation, I said to Chef Carlos, "This dish would make the Italian mothers and grandmothers on Ashe Avenue (in New York City) weep with joy!"

I was interested to see among the entrees for dinner Stuffed Cornish Hen. It is a rarity that this young chicken (and that's what a Rock Cornish Hen is) makes it to a restaurant menu in these parts.

Frankie's Restaurant is very highly recommended! The contact number is 919-433-7899.

MOUNTAIN ITALIAN

While writing of Italian restaurants, let me take this moment to recommend a superb eatery in Asheville. Those of you traveling to this mountain city to take in the holiday festivities at Biltmore House should not miss Sorrento D'Italia at 875 Tunnel Road. Upon arrival you will most likely be enfolded into the arms of proprietors B.J. Jabari, a charming, energetic lady who will, no doubt, ply you with her family's own smooth-as-silk red wine and meatballs that were, I promise you, the best I've ever tasted. My entrée was a rich but light Walnut Pasta. To learn more about this charming eatery, visit their web site at (http://cgi.asheville.com/restaurants/Sorrento/). My thanks to the lovely June Bergeron at the Black Mountain Inn (blackmountaininn.com) in Black Mountain for pointing us to a memorable Italian experience.

DURHAM HOTEL RESORT RE-OPENS IN STYLE

But no culinary experience can be as memorable as the mega-bash held by the Washington Duke Inn and Golf Club in Durham to celebrate the completion of its $25 million expansion. The Durham four-diamond hotel closed to the public for a splashy Grand Re-Opening "do," filled to the rafters with VIPs touring the palatial terraces, high tech meeting spaces and elegant new guest rooms. The evening began with butler service and drinks on the terrace. Sitting at our table enjoying our Bloody Marys and passion fruit lemonades, we happened be in the path of the servers so we feasted happily on lobster medallions, chicken salad biscuits, foie gras, peaches wrapped with prosciutto and other superb items. The sumptuous food and energetic live music was spread strategically all over the first floor of the hotel, with one area devoted to sushi service, another to grilled meats and pasta dishes. The sushi bar was packed, so I headed to the cocktail lamb chops and beef tenderloin, and finally waddled up to my room (each guest was given a room for the evening) having to miss the dessert buffet, but I was pleased to note a small gold box of Godiva chocolates on my pillow.

It was a fabulous way to celebrate a "new" and even more fabulous hotel. My compliments to the entire staff at the Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club.
42nd Street Oyster Bar – 508 West Jones Street, Raleigh (919) 831-2811. A Raleigh tradition since 1931. Serving quality seafood, steaks and pasta in a casual atmosphere. Steam offered over oysters and clams available. Serving lunch Monday through Friday and dinner seven nights a week.


Bloomburs Bistro – 509 West Whitaker Mill Road, Suite 101, Raleigh. (919) 834-9011. Everything you love about fine dining without the hype. Sophisticated food and wine in a comfortable neighborhood setting. Featured in Southern Living, Gourmet Magazine and USA Today.

Bogart's American Grill – 115 Midtowne offers a contemporary metropolitan cuisine with multi-cultural influences. The 109 bottle wine list offers opportunity for great pairing of fantastic affordable 'great find' wines (high dollar and economy too) with incredibly fantastic food. Lunch Monday through Friday 11:30am-3pm. Dinner Monday through Thursday 5:30pm-10pm, Friday and Saturday 5:30pm-11pm.

Capers Restaurant – 115 Midtowne offers a contemporary metropolitan cuisine with multi-cultural influences. The 109 bottle wine list offers opportunity for great pairing of fantastic affordable 'great find' wines (high dollar and economy too) with incredibly fantastic food. Lunch Monday through Friday 11:30am-3pm. Dinner Monday through Thursday 5:30pm-10pm, Friday and Saturday 5:30pm-11pm.

Carolina Ale House – 512 Creekside Drive, Raleigh. (919) 835-2222. 4512 Falls of Neuse Road, Raleigh. (919) 431-0001, 2240 Walnut Street, Cary. (919) 854-9444. Carolina Ale House has something for everyone – we serve our award-winning menu from 11 am until 2 am and give you over 40 TVs for your front row seat to all the sports action. Daily lunch and dinner specials, the coldest $2 pints in town, Shrimp Special Mondays and 99 cent Kid’s Tuesdays, we’ve got your family covered. So come home to the Carolina Ale House today: great food, sports and fun.

Cuba – 19 West Hargett Street, Raleigh. (919) 833-4440. Enjoy Latin flavors and Spanish wines in a colorful and lively atmosphere. Salsa music adds spice to the already sizzling dining experience.

Enoteca Vin – 410 Glenwood Avenue, Suite 350, Raleigh. (919) 834-3070. Located in Glenwood South’s Creamery building, Enoteca Vin’s warm urban interior, bar and patio provide a casual but sophisticated environ for serious dinners or soteric rendezvous over wine and cocktails. Metro Best Chef Ashley Christensen proudly accepts the responsibility of supporting our local and organic farmers and purveyors. Our ingredient-driven menu is built around the seasons, with small and large plates, artisan cheeses and cured meats. Our wine list features 55 wines by the glass and received Wine Spectator’s Best of Award for Excellence in 2004. Serving dinner Tuesday through Sunday, Sunday brunch and late night Fridays and Saturdays. For menus, events and hours please visit www.enotecavin.com.

Daniel's Restaurant - 1430 NC 55, Apex. (919) 303-1006. Relaxed, casual atmosphere featuring freshly sauteed pasta dishes, eclectic chef’s specials, and homemade desserts. Enjoy a selection from our 500 bottle wine list. Outside dining and catering available. Reservations accepted. Hours of operation are Sun-Mon 5-9pm, Tues-Sat 5-10pm.

Eston Est Est Trattoria – 19 West Hargett Street, Raleigh. (919) 890-4500. Since 1984, customers have loved their delicious North Italian dishes. Pastas, breads, mozzarella and desserts are made in-house.

Frazier's – 2418 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh. (919) 828-6699. Frazier’s has been rated one of the top ten restaurants in the triangle since opening in 1998. An eclectic, ever-changing menu is executed in a newly renovated, very hip but casual atmosphere.

H5 – 510 Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh. (919) 834-4335. For food and fans, H5 is the place to watch. Over 30 TVs, including 10 plasma screens and a huge projection screen. Full menu with 20 varieties of wings, pizza, burgers, nachos and more. DJ on Thursday, Friday, Saturday. Open 7 days. 11:30-2 am. www.h5raleigh.com.

Lucky 32 – 832 Spring Forest Road, Raleigh, (919) 876-6932. 7307 Tryon Road, Cary. (919) 233-1632. Seasonal fare with influences of regions across the country. www.lucky32.com.


The Melting Pot - 3100 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh. (919) 978-0477. At The Melting Pot, fondue becomes a memorable four-course dining experience where patrons can really "Dip into something different!" Guests enjoy a choice of four flavorful fondue cooking styles and a variety of unique entrees combined with special dipping sauces. The menu also includes creamy cheese fondues, fresh salads, fine wines and mouthwatering chocolate fondues desserts. www.meltingpot.com.


Nana's Chophouse – 328 West Davie Street, Raleigh. (919) 829-1212. Nana's Chophouse is a high energy, contemporary Italian style chophouse infused with Southern American flavors and local ingredients. Nana's features complementary valet parking, live jazz, generous chops, fresh seafood and Scott Howell's signature risottos. Seating in the bar and outdoor patio are first-come-first-serve. Hours of operation are Monday-Thursday 5:00-10:00 pm and Friday and Saturday 5:00-11:00 pm. Call for dinner reservations.

NoFo Market and Café – 2014 Fairview Road, Raleigh (919) 821-1240, 1125 Military Cutoff Road, Wilmington (919) 256-5665. NoFo Market and Café is open for breakfast or brunch, lunch and dinner everyday. Settle inside in our café, sit at the bar, or dine outdoors. Choose from award-winning salads, soups, sandwiches and entrées. Don’t miss the nightly specials like prime rib, country fried chicken and shrimp and grits. Winner of “Best Salads,” Wilmington Magazine, “Best Bloody Mary,” Metro Magazine, and “Best Gift Store,” Wilmington.com.

Porter's City Tavern – 2412 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh. (919) 821-2133. Porter’s City Tavern was chosen “Best New Restaurant” of 2004 by the readers of Metro Magazine. A fresh open floor and sidewalk/patio showcases a diverse menu of steaks, pastas, salads, sandwiches, and fresh fish. The menu is prepared using the freshest local ingredients available.


Rey’s – 1130 Buck Jones Road, Raleigh/Cary. (919) 380-0122. With a vision of quality, Rey’s features fine dining with a French Quarter flair, blended with ambience and exceptional service. Owner Rey Arias created a menu offering signature “New Orleans-Inspired” meals. From the highest quality of steaks and seafood to homemade desserts, Rey’s offers something for everyone! Customized catering for 6-200 is also available. www.reys-restaurant.com.


Second Empire Restaurant and Tavern – 330 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh. (919) 829-3663. Two Menus, One Experience! Enjoy the ultimate
fine dining experience in the elegant yet relaxed atmosphere of our main dining rooms or a more casual dining experience in our Tavern. Raleigh's own AAA Four Diamond Restaurant! Wine Spectator Awards of Excellence.

Stonewood Grill & Tavern - 6675 Falls of Neuse Road, Raleigh (919) 649-3304. 1080 Darrington Drive, Cary (919) 481-0174. Stonewood is a warm, comfortable, inviting place where guests are provided an exceptional dining experience through market fresh, superior quality dishes prepared with passion, complemented by an extraordinary wine list and served with attention to every detail.

Taverna Agora - 6101 Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh. (919) 881-8333. Candlelit tables enhance the festive mood of this rustic, welcoming restaurant. Meet at the bar for a quiet drink or unwind under the pergola as you contemplate the extensive menu and wine list. Fresh poultry, meats and seafood are always the rule of the kitchen. Open nightly for dinner, Sunday brunch, catering available. Taverna Agora, Absolutely Greek.

Tavola Rossa Ristorante Italiano - 5300 Homewood Banks Drive, Raleigh (919) 532-7100. Our menu features pasta, brick-oven pizza, chicken, veal and seafood. The open kitchen lets you in on the action while our patio allows you to dine alfresco. Fabulous wine menu. Serving lunch 11:30 am - 3:00 pm, 7 days and dinner 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm Sunday-Thursday and 5:00 pm - 11:00 pm Friday and Saturday.


Vinnie's Steakhouse and Tavern - 7440 Six Forks Road, Raleigh (919) 847-7319. Since 1987, Vinnie's has established itself as a culinary icon in the Triangle area. Vinnie's has become known as Uptown Raleigh's very own "Legendary Hangout." Enjoy true New York - Chicago style steakhouse ambience serving the finest steaks, seafood and Italian fare. Vinnie's will make your dining experience a lasting and memorable occasion.

Zely & Ritz - 301 Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh (919) 828-0018. Zely & Ritz is all about fresh, organic, locally grown dishes served in tapas style small plates (so that you can order several and share) in an upscale, casual, yet hip and smoke-free environment. Chef Sang uses Mediterranean and Middle Eastern spices in unexpected ways to create fantastic culinary works of art paired with the best boutique wine list in Raleigh. Serving lunch, dinner and late night—call for hours and to make reservations.

Zest Café & Home Art - 8831 Six Forks Road, Raleigh (919) 848-4792. Located in North Raleigh, Zest has been offering the freshest, finest food served with a zestful outlook since 1995. Dine in our café or outdoor patio for Lunch, Tues-Sat 11:00am-2:45pm; Dinner, Wed-Sat 5:30pm-8:30pm; and Brunch, Sunday 10:00am-2:00pm. Also, enjoy our Home Art selection of fun and whimsical home accessories, furnishings and gifts.

### DURHAM


**Café Parizade** - 2200 West Main Street, Durham. (919) 286-9712. High ceiling with Renaissance-inspired murals, brilliantly colorful surrealist works of art and casually chic crowds feasting on Mediterranean dishes. Serving lunch Monday-Friday 11:30 am - 2:30 pm and dinner Monday - Thursday 5:30 - 10:00 pm, Friday and Saturday 5:30 - 11:00, and Sunday 8:00 - 8:30 pm.

**George's Garage** - 737 Ninth Street, Durham. (919) 286-4131. Enjoy our casual upbeat atmosphere with the freshest seafood and authentic sushi bar. After hour celebration and dancing and a fresh to-go market and bakery.

**Nana's Chophouse** - 2514 University Drive, Durham. (919) 493-8545. See Raleigh listing.

**Vin Rouge** - 2010 Hillsborough Road, Durham. (919) 416-0406. Vin Rouge, a French café and wine bar, treats guests to provincial cooking at its finest in a chic, intimate setting. Serving dinner Tuesday - Sunday, 5:30 - 11.00 pm and Sunday brunch 10:30 am - 2:00 pm.

**Verde** - 2200 West Main Street, Durham. (919) 286-5755. New American cuisine in a sleek and modern atmosphere.

**Xios Authentic Greek Cuisine** - 800 West Williams Street, Suite 100 Apex. (919) 363-5288. Tapas-style Mezethes is the specialty at this family-owned restaurant. Xios is the gathering spot in the Triangle for good food, good drinks and endearing conversation. Join us for a romantic evening with a group of friends or the entire family. Sample menus and wine lists available at www.xioscafe.com.

### CHAPEL HILL/CARRBORO


**Jim's Famous BBQ** - 115 S. Elliott Road, Chapel Hill (919) 942-7472. Happiness, Food & Spirits served up in a fun, casual atmosphere Award-winning pit-smoked barbeque including fall-off-the-bone Baby Back and St. Louis style pork ribs, Western beef ribs, pulled or chopped pork shoulder, beef brisket, chicken, turkey and sausage. Plus catfish, wings, salads, burgers and more! Full service dine-in, take out, delivery and catering. Complete menu served all day long, seven days a week. Write to us: jim@greatpigs.com.

**La Residence** - 202 West Rosemary Street, Chapel Hill. (919) 967-2506. French-inflected, new American cuisine, warm inviting, ambience, superb service, all are combined for your dining pleasure in downtown Chapel Hill. Enclosed heated patio, late night live music.

**Pazzo!** - Southern Village, 700 Market Street, Chapel Hill. (919) 929-9984. Pazzo's dining room welcomes you with contemporary Italian cuisine in an intimate casual environment. Need a quick bite on the run? Our Gourmet-To-Go offers fresh salads, antipasto, as well as traditional and gourmet pizza.

**Provence Restaurant** - 203 West Weaver Street, Carrboro. (919) 967-5008. Included in Morton Neal's Top 25 restaurants for 2005, Provence is a casual restaurant in a quaint setting, in the heart of Carrboro, featuring authentic cuisine from the South of France. Fresh seafood specialties, outdoor patio. Serving dinner Monday-Saturday, 5:30 pm. Reservations suggested.

**Spice Street** - 201 South Estes Drive, Chapel Hill, (919) 928-8200. A revolutionary new concept in dining entertainment, Spice Street is a culinary experience created to nourish the soul and share flavors from around the world. Spice Street celebrates food and life.

**Talulla's Restaurant** - 456 West Franklin Street, Chapel Hill. (919) 933-1177. The newest addition to the Restaurant Mecca of West Franklin Street in Chapel Hill. Talullas is an instant success with its "ethnic elegance" and "beautifully prepared food." Its Eastern Mediterranean cuisine is simple, fresh, and exotic. Tuesday - Sunday 6-10 Dinner, 10-2 Bar/Lounge. www.talullas.com.

**The Weathervane** - 201 South Estes Drive, Chapel Hill. (919) 929-9466. Voted "Dining destination of the year" by the Triangle Business Journal. Our menu reflects the goodeats that made A Southern Season famous. Memorable patio setting and sophisticated dining rooms. Comfortable bar offers quality pours and live music nightly.

### BEYOND THE TRIANGLE

**Blue Moon Bistro** - 119 Queen Street, Beaufort. (252) 728-5800. Coastal cuisine in a historic setting, these innovative dishes bring a welcomed departure from the expected offerings of other coastal venues. Chef Swain's eclectic menu includes references from Asia, France and America. For a balanced plate, enjoy a well-matched wine to accompany your entrée. Open for dinner Tuesday-Saturday.

**Chef Warren's** - 215 NE Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-5240. Warren and Marianne Lewis invite you to their Southern Pines Bistro offering patrons a variety of delicious specialties from an eclectic menu of anything from Ostrich to Fork Chops. "Local touch, international cuisine," Magazine Metro's Moreton Neal. Open for dinner Tuesday through Sunday.

**Deluxe** - 114 Market Street, Wilmington, (919) 251-0333. Deluxe offers upscale dining for today's savvy gourmand in an aesthetically stimulating and casual atmosphere. New American style dinners feature innovative creations with worldwide influences prepared with an emphasis on fresh local ingredients. Largest selection of fine wines in the region and one of Wilmington's superior branches. Open for dinner every evening at 5:30; Sunday brunch 10:30-2:00pm. Wine Spectator Award of Excellence, All ABC permits. View current menus and wine list at www.deluxenc.com. Reservations suggested.
WINES FOR THANKSGIVING FEASTS... WITH A NC SPIN

FLAVORS OF THE SEASON

The season of feasts and fêtes is upon us—this is the time of year when more wine is bought and consumed than all the previous 10 months put together.

Thanksgiving is often the biggest feast of the year for many. It’s interesting how every year some folks try to come up with alternative menus, something other than “the same old turkey ’n trimmings.” For me, however, it’s about the only time I like to roast the big bird (at Christmas I opt for goose—wild, if possible) and serve the traditional family dishes that always made Thanksgiving such a significant event in my family.

The choice of wines for Thanksgiving is fairly broad and depends on whether you prefer red wines or white—or both for different parts of the meal. Not just any red or white, however; some work better than others, especially with all the savory, spicy dishes that accompany the roasted bird, such as sweet potatoes, mashed turnips, relishes, cranberry sauce and the like. Cabernet sauvignon, for instance, doesn’t work all that well with roast turkey, the white breast meat in particular. Many Cabernets are too herby and tannic, characteristics that create an odd metallic taste in the meat.

Cabernet franc, on the other hand, with its juicy red-currant fruit can be very good, especially the fruit-drive versions from our own nearby vineyards in North Carolina, Virginia and Georgia—such as Round Peak 2003 or Shelton 2002, both of which won silver medals in the 2005 North Carolina State Fair wine competition.

Merlot can also work quite well, as long as it is soft and fruity rather than dense and tannic as are some of the big, expensive choices. On the other hand, you don’t want one too wimpy either. A few I’ve particularly liked recently are: Blackstone 2002, $12, quite juicy and mellow; Luna 2001, $18, a new label from California; and a very attractive French import, Red Bicyclette 2004, a great value at $9-$10.

Zinfandel is something of a tradition with Thanksgiving dinner. The blockbuster Zins will overwhelm turkey, but the fruitier, medium-bodied styles can be just right for the mild-mannered meat but lively enough to complement many other flavors on the table. A few good candidates: Chateau Souverain 2003, $15, Kunde 2002, $14, Rancho Zabaco Reserve, $18, Steele DuPratt 2002, $15.

Lighter reds also work well, particularly Pinot Noir, well suited to the meal’s variety of tastes. There are so many good ones around right now, both from Oregon and California that you can’t miss with any one of these: Beringer Founders Reserve 2002, California $12; Bethel Heights 2002 Estate, Oregon, $25; Chateau St. Jean 2002, Sonoma, $16; Edna Valley Vyd., Central Coast 2003, $15; Five Rivers 2003, Central Coast, $13; MacMurray Vyd. 2002, Sonoma, $19; Steele Carneros 2002, $18; and Willamette Valley Vyd. 2003, Oregon, $18.

I often like Beaujolais-Villages at Thanksgiving, which is best slightly cooled to make the fruit more refreshing. Some of the 2003s—a very warm, ripe vintage—are still lively and good, including cru, or village, Beaujolais such as Fleurie, Brouilly or Moulin-à-Vent. I’ve sometimes served Beaujolais Nouveau at Thanksgiving. In a good vintage and properly served lightly chilled, it can nicely handle all those spicy flavors. The 2005 Nouveau comes in on the 17th this year, so we have the week before Thanksgiving to check out this year’s wine and see if we like it. Triangle wine shops will probably have a few to taste, so make the effort.

If white wines are your preference for the turkey feast, I would suggest dry riesling from Oregon or Alsace, Pinot Gris or Viognier: Chehalem Dry Riesling 2004, $17; Henry Estate Dry Riesling, $14—both from Oregon; RayLen Yadkin Gold 2004, $14; King Estate Signature Pinot Gris 2004, $15; Childress Pinot Gris (North Carolina) 2004, $14; and a quar-
tet of very appealing Viogniers from North Carolina, medal winners in this year's State Fair competition: Hanover Park Vyds 2003; Horizon Cellars 2004; RayLen 2004; and Westbend 2004 ranging in price from $13-$16.

AND THE WINNERS ARE...
The 2005 NC State Fair wine competition that took place on Oct. 10 proved anew that North Carolina vineyards are producing very good wines, some already recommended above as wines to consider for the Thanksgiving meal. The number of wineries continues to expand, now a total of 48, with a few more in the planning stages.
The young industry is gaining strength and generating lots of enthusiasm for what is possible here in North Carolina. Over 100 wines were deemed worthy of gold, silver or bronze medals. The 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon from Irongate Vineyards—one of the state's newest wineries—is outstanding, with appealing fruit and fine balance, possibly an exception to the caveat about cabernet with turkey. The wine received a Double Gold (meaning it was a unanimous panel pick).

I plan to start my Thanksgiving feast with the elegant Biltmore Blanc de Blancs, a crisp, dry sparkler made from mostly chardonnay, very Champagne-like—and end it with a glass of Gold Medal dessert wine, Duplin's Hatteras Red, or the Benjamin Scuppernong, either of which would make a luscious finish to a fine meal.

GOLD MEDAL NC WINES
Here is a list of gold medal wines made from grapes grown in North Carolina (complete list of medal winners can be found at www.ncwine.org.)

- Benjamin Scuppernong
- Biltmore Chateau Reserve Blanc de Blancs (sparkling)
- Childress Pinot Gris 2004 DG
- Childress Sauvignon Blanc 2004
- Childress 2004 Chardonnay
- Childress Serendipity Red (Muscadine)
- Duplin Hatteras Red (Muscadine) DG

BEST MUSCADINE
- Duplin Magnolia (Muscadine)
- Irongate Cabernet Sauvignon 2004 DG

BEST OF SHOW
- Old North State 38 Vines Chardonnay 2003 DG
- RayLen Viognier 2004
- Westbend Barrel-Fermented Chardonnay 2004

[Note: DG means "double gold"—meaning a unanimous panel pick]

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NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

FESTIVALS, READINGS AND NEW RELEASES

The first weekend in November kicks off the first annual Crystal Coast Book Festival, Friday and Saturday, Nov. 4-5, in Morehead City. The event features a wide range of nationally best-selling authors and regional favorites, including Haywood Smith, author of *The Red Hat Club*; novelists G.D. Gearino, Doug Marlette and Laurence Naumoff; mystery writers Emyl Jenkins, Margaret Maron and Sarah Shaber; and authors across other genres including children's literature, religion, history and politics.

The festival is separated into two distinct days, with morning panel discussions and special “Dine with the Author” opportunities headlining Friday’s schedule. Friday morning welcomes several children’s book authors to discuss kids’ literature and promote reading and writing in the schools, and a second panel discussion focusing on “Tar Heel Poetry,” led by poet and literary journal editor Peter Makuck; both events take place in Joslyn Hall at Carteret Community College.

Haywood Smith welcomes fellow Red Hats for a literary lunch at the Dunes Club—ladies, be sure to bring your headwear! That evening, a selection of fine restaurants throughout Morehead and Beaufort hosts other participating writers for dinners benefiting various local libraries, schools and nonprofits. Reservations are required for these events.

While the literary lunches and dinners require some advance notice and payment, all Saturday events are free and open to the public, with more than 30 authors reading from their work, talking about writing and signing copies of their books at locations including Webb Memorial Library, the Train Depot and Captain Bill’s restaurant. The book talks begin after Morehead City’s annual Veteran’s Day Parade.

To obtain a full schedule and a complete list of venues, authors and costs for Friday dining opportunities, visit www.crystalcoastbookfestival.com.

AT THE OTHER END OF THE STATE...

Just a quick reminder of another major literary event taking place the same weekend in a completely opposite direction. Readers and writers should check out the North Carolina Writers’ Network’s fall conference in Asheville, Nov. 4-6, featuring keynote speaker Susan Orlean, NC Poet Laureate Kathryn Stripling Byer and bestselling author Robert Morgan, among many others. For information, visit www.ncwriters.org.

...AND OUT TO THE STRATOSPHERE

I’ll admit it: I’m a horoscope junky. Among my favorite astrologers is syndicated columnist Rob Brezsny: provocative, unpredictable, highly literate, occasionally inscrutable, regularly a little wacky (and I mean that in a good way). Brezsny, who writes the *Real Astrology* column and has also written a number of books, visits Durham’s Regulator Bookshop on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 6, on tour for his latest: *Pronoia Is the Antidote for Paranoia: How the Whole World is Conspiring to Shower You with Blessings*—the title of which in itself encapsulates some of the spirit of Brezsny’s outlook on life.

It’s a little infectious, actually. And not a bad way to spend a Sunday afternoon. (For your own message, check out Brezsny’s website at www.freewillastrology.com).

GOOD TIMES, GOOD FOOD

Among those blessings that the universe is doling out this month is a new cookbook from Mildred Council, owner of Mama Dip’s Kitchen in Chapel Hill and author of the previous bestselling cookbook, *Mama Dip’s Kitchen*.

The new collection of recipes, *Mama Dip’s Family Cookbook* (published by UNC Press) includes more Southern favorites and broadens perspectives to encompass family-favorite foods for parties and community gatherings. Over 300 recipes are featured in all, and Council’s wit and wisdom continue to shine through as she shares memories of her own life.

Council makes a pair of Triangle appearances in conjunction with the new publication at Durham’s Regulator Bookshop on Thursday evening, Nov. 10, and...
then at Raleigh’s Quail Ridge Books on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 13.

Another local favorite—Bill Smith, chef at Crook’s Corner in Chapel Hill—continues his tour this month for Seasoned in the South: Recipes from Crook’s Corner and from Home, already reviewed in last month’s issue of Metro. After a late afternoon event on Monday, Nov. 1, at Wilson Library on the UNC-Chapel Hill campus, Smith visits the Country Bookshop in Southern Pines on Friday evening, Nov. 4, and McIntyre’s Books in Fearrington Village on Saturday morning, Nov. 19.

LOOKING BACK

Two notable historians have recently published new books on American life in the 20th century—one from a personal and one from a political perspective.

John Hope Franklin—one of the nation’s leading experts on African-American history, a distinguished professor at Duke, a winner of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and author of the bestseller From Slavery to Freedom—possesses a privileged and hard-earned perspective on literature past, present and future. He brings these insights and attitudes to bear on his new book of essays, Where the Southern Cross the Yellow Dog: On Writers and Writing, in which he examines the current state of literary output and consumption—from writing programs to reading trends—and considers what might come next for the novel and the poem and the author in general.

What does literature mean to today’s readers? Rubin himself will be on hand to discuss these and other topics at the Market and Café at Fearrington Village on Thursday afternoon, Nov. 10.

REGIONAL ROUNDUP

A number of local and regional writers have recently published new books, and many will begin or continue tours of area bookstores this month. In loose chronological order:

Ron Rash, who recently won the 2005 Best Book Award from the Southeastern Booksellers Association, reads from his latest novel, One Foot in Eden, on Saturday afternoon, Nov. 5, at the Country Bookshop in Southern Pines.

News & Observer columnist G.D. Gearino reads from his new novel Wrong Guy, centered around church burnings, on Tuesday evening, Nov. 8, at the Cary Barnes & Noble.

A favorite among readers, Lynne Hinton, returns with her latest novel, The Arms of God, exploring relationships between mothers and daughters—specifically between a young woman reunited briefly with the mother who abandoned her at the age of 4. Hinton visits the Country Bookshop in Southern Pines on Thursday evening, Nov. 10; the Regulator Bookshop in Durham on Monday evening, Nov. 14; McIntyre’s Books in Fearrington Village on Wednesday evening, Nov. 16; and Quail Ridge Books on Monday evening, Nov. 21.

Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist Doug Marlette presents a slide show and lecture about his work, including the nationally syndicated comic strip Kurdeu, in the Shirley Recital Hall at Salem College on Thursday evening, Nov. 10.

Clyde Edgerton continues the tour for his new memoir, Solo: My Adventures in the Air, at Quail Ridge Books on Saturday afternoon, Nov. 12.

Best-selling novelist Jan Karon concludes her Mitford Years series with Light From Heaven. She’ll be reading from the book at the McKinnon Center on the NCSU campus. (Tickets are $5, or admission is free with the purchase of a book; the event is co-hosted by Quail Ridge Books.)

Reynolds Price reads from his new novel, The Good Priest’s Son, on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 20, at the Cary Barnes & Noble.

Cary-based lawyer Jay Lillie has recently published the political thriller Havana Passage through Raleigh-based Ivy House Books. The book is set several years in the future amidst dealings between America (led by its first female president) and Cuba in the wake of an international incident involving an American fishing boat leaving Cuba and boarded by the US Coast Guard.

And finally, looking slightly ahead, novelist Leah Stewart—whose first book was the engaging Body of a Girl—returns with The Myth of You and Me, about two childhood friends who reunite under mysterious circumstances. Stewart’s first area signing is at McIntyre’s Books on Saturday morning, Dec. 3.
Blues fans would do well to check the latest B.B. King biography, written by author and photographer Dick Waterman and King. Titled *The B.B. King Treasures*, the coffee table tome is published by Bullfinch Press and features removable memorabilia—tickets, posters, photographs, a CD (music and interviews), equipment lists, backstage passes. The book is an extraordinary piece of work that does a fine job describing King's early life and the arc of his remarkable career, placing special emphasis on the recognition that has come his way in later years.

Waterman, a native of Massachusetts who now makes his home in Oxford, Miss., became enthralled with the blues as a young man at Boston University. He became a noted photographer and, in the early 1960s, founded Avalon Productions, the first agency devoted exclusively to managing and promoting blues musicians. *Smithsonian Magazine* noted, “No one alive today has known more blues masters more intimately than Richard A. Waterman.” Waterman's own book, *Between Midnight & Day: The Last Unpublished Blues Archive*, is a superb photographic record of the legends of the blues, enhanced by pithy commentary.

In explaining how he came to the B.B. King project, Waterman stated:

“When they came to me to do the book, I said there had been two B.B. biographies done before. I told them that I thought it was just a little bit late to start talking about the R&B chart position of ‘Sweet Little Angel’ and stuff like that. I wanted to do a sort of summing up and place B.B. as an American icon through the second half of the 20th century, rather than go song by song.

“I just wanted to show the growth, the development, and the perseverance of the man and ultimately his acclaim and recognition outside of the music industry. I especially wanted to bring forth his Kennedy Center recognition, his performance for the Pope and his greatly under-appreciated Polar Prize, which was given to him in Sweden. The Polar Prize is the arts equivalent of the Nobel Prize, given to B.B. hand-to-hand by the King of Sweden in the same auditorium where the Nobel laureates are gathered. They don't even give the Polar Prize every year.”

*The B.B. King Treasures* is packaged by Seattle company Becker and Mayer that has previously published books on Arnold Palmer and Frank Sinatra that have removable memorabilia. They approached King's management and explained they envisioned a similar book.

King's management expressed interest, but didn't want to become too involved in the project due to their busy schedule. Becker and Mayer asked if they could recommend a writer to take on the assignment.

“It so happened that when B.B. had received his Kennedy Center award, I'd written an article in the local newspaper here in Oxford, Mississippi, about B.B. getting this award,” Waterman explained. “That article eventually found its way into B.B.'s official concert program, which they sell at his shows. B.B.'s management recommended me, and then Becker and Mayer found my book *Between Midnight and Day*, and that helped convince them I could do this book on B.B.

“The publishers totally left it up to me who I interviewed, plus I had a tremendous amount of B.B. King text available, so I basically tried to splice together different perspectives on the same events—from B.B.'s point of view and from the point of view of others who were involved in whatever I'm describing.” Waterman noted that although he's known King for almost 40 years, in working with him to create this book he realized that his knowledge of the man was far from complete.

“His ability to stay focused on the task at hand is far beyond my previous appreciation of him,” he said. “What I found in being close to him absolutely made that all the clearer and very starkly so. We know him as being congenial, but the work ethic
It isn’t as if Waterman had been intent on revealing the unknown B.B. King, so to speak, but rather that in *The B.B. King Treasures* he wanted to offer a portrait of the artist that highlighted his humanity and his professionalism, as well as his brilliant musicianship.

“There were certain things that I wanted to point out,” he said. “For instance, when B.B. finishes a show and the roadies are doing their thing, B.B. still has a long night ahead of him. The blues community in every city uses the backstage area, or B.B.’s bus, as its meeting point. Now, the blues community may have become fragmented wherever B.B. plays, but they come together when B.B. comes to town. And no one in B.B.’s management ever gets in front of B.B. and points to their watch when he’s with these fans. It is forbidden. B.B. knows that all these people want from him some of his time. He’s extremely gracious.

“When I mentioned this to him, he shrugged and said that every one of these fans has given him something over the years,” Waterman continued. “They’ve all helped me at some point in my career, and they all want some time, and that’s okay. It’s the least I can do.”

Waterman went on to mention an anecdote provided by Quint Davis, tour manager for B.B.’s 1973 African tour, regarding a concert in Ghana. “It must’ve been 95 degrees and they played outside,” Waterman said. “After the show the crowd kept moving toward him. The security guards and State Department personnel wanted to get B.B. out of there and into a shaded dressing room or something, but the people just kept coming. They just wanted to touch him, to embrace him. They didn’t even want to talk with him, because they didn’t speak English. B.B. just kept saying, ‘That’s okay, let them come, that’s okay.’ Quint said B.B. stood there for a couple of hours until the very last person had come and gone, and he just kept saying, ‘Leave them alone, I’m okay.’ His graciousness is beyond words. He’s probably one of the most accessible major artists in the world, and has been for half a century.”

Regarding King’s amazing musical chops, Waterman briefly related an event Al Kooper described in the book. “Kooper put together Blood, Sweat & Tears back in the ’60s, and they were a tight band,” he said. “Well, they played a show in New York City on the same night as B.B. was playing another New York City venue. After they finished, Kooper and the band went over to where B.B. was playing and did a set for him, and then they asked B.B. to sit in. As Al Kooper said in the book, ‘Whatever we thought B.B. could do, he just blew us away. He was playing stuff like we never thought he was capable of playing.’

“As many years ago as that was, I think people still have a tendency to underestimate him as a player. They say, ‘oh, it’s just the blues,’ Yet, within his milieu B.B. is supreme.”

Supreme is, indeed, an apt description of B.B. King’s guitar playing, and *The B.B. King Treasures* is a first-rate portrait of one of the great Americans of our time.
John Stossel, co-host of 20/20 on ABC News, will speak on the campus of UNC-Chapel Hill at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 16. The free, public lecture will be held in Memorial Hall. A book signing and reception will follow. Stossel's speech, Freedom and Its Enemies, will cover individual freedom, free markets and what Stossel has learned in his 30-year career in the media. The Lotus Espirit, the flashy British sports car in the 1977 James Bond movie The Spy Who Loved Me was recently voted the most memorable car in film history by the UK DVD rental Lovefilm. Now, the first Lotus dealership has opened in this area. David "Sport" Durst, CEO & President of Millennium Auto, is transforming the old Toyota of Durham into a dealership featuring—in addition to Lotus—Lexus, BMW, Mercedes and Jaguar. Nearly 300 area business leaders will convene Nov. 10 at the 2005 Triangle CEO Summit to discuss major issues that affect businesses and communities in the Carolinas. Panelists include: Bob Greczyn, president & CEO of Blue Cross & Blue Shield of NC; Stephen P. Zelnak Jr., chairman & CEO of Martin Marietta Materials Inc.; Jim Hyler, vice chairman & COO of First Citizens Bank; Robert McGehee, chairman & CEO of Progress Energy Inc.; and Jim Goodman, president & CEO of Capitol Broadcasting Co. The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development has selected UNC-Chapel Hill as one of six institutions nationwide—and the only one in the South—to kick off an unprecedented effort examining the effects of environmental, social, behavioral, biological & community factors on US children’s development. DREAMS of Wilmington, a youth development program that uses the arts to help marginalized youth, is launching a line of 24 holiday cards created by student artists during DREAMS' summer arts program. All profits from sales go to DREAMS, with 10 percent going to the artists themselves. The cards sell for one dollar each. For information, a catalog, or to buy holiday cards, call DREAMS of Wilmington 910-772-1501 or visit www.dreamswilmington.org. Philosophy scholar Dr. C.D.C. “David” Reeve has been named Delta Kappa Epsilon Distinguished Professor, the first professorship at UNC-Chapel Hill to be funded by a Greek organization. Delta Kappa Epsilon began efforts to establish a $1 million endowed professorship at UNC in 2000 when Edward “Tee” Baur of St. Louis kicked off the campaign with a lead gift of $100,000. Some rare American films are seeing new life through a project by three UNC-Chapel Hill organizations and Folkstreams Inc. The groups have created folkstreams.net, a video-streaming Web site built as a national preserve of documentary films about American folk & roots culture. Currently the site streams 48 films by some of America’s best-known independent documentary filmmakers, including Dr. William Ferris, senior associate director of UNC’s Center for the Study of the American South. A "green" doghouse with a vegetated roof, a photovoltaic solar panel and recycled building materials, fetched $525 during Animal House 2005, a fundraiser for Triangle Beagle Rescue of NC, held in Durham. This pooch palace, dubbed the Dog Box by its creators, was designed & built by the team at Frank Harmon Architect, Raleigh, to demonstrate that principles of green, or sustainable, architecture can be applied to any built structure—even a dog house. Ticket sales for MerleFest 2006 will begin on November 8 at 2 p.m. The 19th annual festival in celebration of the music of the late Merle Watson and his father Doc Watson, will be presented by Wilkes Community College on its campus in Wilkesboro, NC, on April 27-30. To acquire tickets, visit www.merlefest.org or call 1-800-343-7857. Alcoa Inc. is donating 1.3 million artifacts, revealing information about North Carolina’s earliest inhabitants, to UNC’s Research Laboratories of Archaeology from the 10,000-year-old Hardaway archaeological site near Badin in Stanly County. The Alcoa Foundation is awarding UNC a $220,000 grant for outreach programs to educate school children & the public about the artifacts and the site, which is a National Historic Landmark. Dennis Werner, Ph.D., has been appointed as the new director of the JC Raulston Arboretum at NC State University, Raleigh. Dr. Werner is a professor in the Department of Horticultural Science at NC State and a long-time collaborator and member of the Arboretum. He begins his new duties as Arboretum director on Dec. 1. Trees Across Raleigh, an all-volunteer community service that helps the city plant trees in public places, will hold a fall tree-planting event on Saturday, Nov. 5, in Biltmore Park in Southeast Raleigh, beginning at 9 a.m. rain or shine. Since its inception in 1997, Trees Across Raleigh has planted about 5500 trees in 24 locations around the city. The Louis Round Wilson Academy, a newly formed academy of some of the world’s information and technology management leaders gathered recently at UNC-Chapel Hill for a two-day inaugural meeting, seeking to identify methods to advance knowledge, trust and stewardship and make information more useable by consumers. UNC’s School of Information & Library Science convened the group. Duke University’s Fuqua School of Business and Tsinghua University’s School of Economics and Management (SEM), Beijing, China, have signed an agreement for an exchange program for a period of three academic years. Three students from the MBA program of SEM will take courses at Duke’s Fuqua School for one semester and an equal number of Fuqua students will take MBA courses at SEM for one semester. Special Olympics North Carolina held a news conference and week-long training camp recently to welcome the 115 athletes and 30 coaches selected to represent the state at the first-ever Special Olympics USA National Games. The North Carolina team will be one of the largest delegations at the National Games in Ames Iowa in July 2006, according to SONG President/CEO Keith L. Fishburne. For the 2005-2006 school year, the United Arts Council of Raleigh & Wake County is providing more than $100,000 to 120 Wake County public, private and charter schools in support of the Artist in the Schools program, a partnership with the Wake County Public School System and associated PTAs. The program supports the placement of professional artists in grades K-12, for curriculum-based performances, workshops and residencies. On November 17 at 7 p.m., the Shoals Club on Bald Head Island will host their second annual Le Beaujolais Nouveau Celebration, the date when this coveted, festive wine is shipped to all parts of the world. The Shoals Club event will feature a four-course dinner & wine tasting for club members, temporary members & guests. The $60 price per person includes dinner and a bottle of Beaujolais Nouveau. PlayMakers Repertory Company has honored director, playwright and professor David Hammond with the Playmaker Award for Lifetime Achievement. Hammond, the theater company’s Artistic Director, is also a professor in the Department of Dramatic Art at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Each year the National Trust for Historic Preservation honors 12 communities from across the USA that have preserved their sense of place & character, have dynamic downtowns, a strong commitment to historic preservation & revitalization, interesting architecture and cultural diversity. To give your favorite destination this recognition, you can nominate it for the list, 2006 Dozen Distinctive Destinations. Nominees should be recognizable locations—a town, city, neighborhood or region. For information, visit www.nationaltrust.org/ddd, or contact the Office of Communications, 202-588-6141. Long Leaf Opera of Durham and Chapel Hill has been accepted into Full Professional Company membership by Opera America, the country’s association of leading opera companies. Founded in 1998, Long Leaf Opera is one of two companies in the entire nation dedicated to the performance and commissioning of operas composed in English.
THE TRAGEDY OF RAIL TRANSIT

Hats off to the Raleigh News & Observer and staff writers Bruce Siceloff and Andy Curliss for their in-depth series investigating the pros and cons of the rail transit system looming on the horizon of Raleigh and Durham. Readers of this column know my views on the Triangle Transit Authority boondoggle. And almost every objection I’ve voiced was covered in the N&O report. Yet, it’s as if the series was designed to cleanse the project by immersion in the waters of truth, thus anointing it as the only option we have in Raleigh and the Triangle to confront our future transportation needs.

Had I been a TTA board member or a vocal devotee, I would hide my face in shame after reading the N&O articles. Yet no one connected with it, political leaders who have allowed the project to reach this alarming state, TTA board members, area advocates, transportation planners... no one seems to have any sense of mortification for this gigantic waste of public money—and worse, no apology for creating an environment in the region that de-emphasized road funding and planning, allowing TTA to carry on under the epithet: “It’s a hideous waste of money that will cost even more in the future while only siphoning a pitiful fraction of motorists. It is infected with the bacillus of central state planning controlled by a small cadre in an attempt to change the pattern of development of one the most regarded communities in the world for quality of life without a single vote being cast by area citizens or their locally elected representatives. But it’s all we have because we neglected the stewardship of our future by ignoring road planning, assuming TTA was the answer.”

Put another way, TTA’s train has cost so much that if we change our minds now, we’ve wasted more money. It’s like a business deal that needs cash. Investors are told: You’ve got a million in it now, but if we don’t put in another million, we’ll lose it all. TTA types are sort of doing the same thing, but no businessperson would act so disingenuously in the asking. TTA has cooked the ridership numbers and members seem proud they misrepresented the facts to the feds who hold final approval. Flush with federal cash—that no one is accounting for—property has been seized and plans implemented in a frenzy to create a fait accompli before anyone notices. Each plan they have concocted has met with the reality that the city and region just don’t qualify for rail transit. Advocates need triangle-wide population and traffic figures to justify the project; but that approach spreads the geography too far to create density. A Raleigh-outward plan probably has merit, but spending nearly a billion to connect downtown Durham to downtown Raleigh is simply petulance, especially in light of Durham’s continuing effort to separate itself from Raleigh and the Triangle concept.

Frustrated that the facts don’t tote up with their utopian idealism to push rail transit because it is the “green” thing to do, we now have a plan that goes nowhere people want to go. The idea is then, let’s make them want to go where the tracks go by building stations that will attract development and presto, the train system will work. This is like a meeting of the Politburo planning the next Five Year Plan. Moving populations around was a favorite Soviet strategy, and TTA shares that same disregard for the individual when it orders people to live near hypothetical train stations in the name of the common good. In this case, hypothetical “density” displaces “sprawl,” which we used to call neighborhoods. Isn’t Raleigh so attractive due to its neighborhood pattern of development? What right do these rail activists have to alter an entire city for their own agenda?

MADAME CHAIRMAN

I know and like Carter Worthy, head of the TTA board, but her letter to the N&O after the series on rail transit divulged the mind-set of rail enthusiasts. She uses the word “sprawl” as if it were foul language, ignoring the desire of citizens to live in neighborhoods rather than dense condo projects alongside a train track. The choice to live in a spread pattern is a unique North Carolina quality since the early settlements under the Lords Proprietors in the 17th century all the way through the modernization of the state. Historian Milton Ready, in his new
Looking for its identity in a growing complex of metropolitan areas, North Carolina has managed to retain much of its love of dispersion, of space and land, with its new growth and development. In so doing, it has become an attractive prototype for urbanization in the nation's future, all the while bedeviling economists and urban planning specialists who stubbornly have predicated its consolidation and high-density concentrations for the past three decades. See Carter, living in dispersed patterns is in our ecumenical blood.

Another issue with Carter’s defense of TTA is her belief that those who object to TTA are typically troglodyte tax naysayers who want to shoot down the train because it costs money. As if the disclosures in the N&O series weren’t enough to make her at least act a little sorry for the waste and incompetence in the TTA saga, she still actually wonders why there is “uncertainty” about the project in the community since there is, “broad support from grass-roots activists to local, state and federal leaders. . . .” The uncertainty does not come entirely from those who fear the future burden of paying for a rail system even its advocates say will not come close breaking even. It comes from citizens who love their city who fear it will be sacrificed on a cross of smart growth, forever altering its character.

Carter leaves out that a cadre of activists (as she correctly labels them) did indeed go after a pool of money in Washington for rail transit, but no entity elected by the people either took it up for a vote or has monitored its activities. As I wrote earlier, TTA is a homunculus, an “other being” that has imposed its doctrinaire vision on the community using and wasting taxpayer money with no citizen voice in the process. TTA, as now proposed, is not of us, nor does it have the community’s best interest at heart.

NOTES FROM LA-LA LAND

Effused with the righteousness of rail transit, local leaders have not stood up to the state to demand they return road money owed to towns and counties stolen to balance the budget, leaving Raleigh, for example, watching its vaunted quality of life disappear down deep potholes riddling the main thoroughfares. Now we discover that the 10-mile strip of I-40 from RTP to chapel hill and points west, recently widened and re-surfaced after a 10-year delay caused by a two-person environmental group in Durham, has to be torn apart due to shoddy workmanship. It’s beginning to take on the odor of a conspiracy around here when it comes to road building, and this goes for the recent road bond issue in Raleigh that turns out to be one of those “smart growth” deals to impose “traffic calming” projects—roundabouts and sidewalks—to create a more pedestrian-friendly city. Meanwhile, Raleigh’s roads are sinking into third-world status.

The recent film that revises the history of the speaker ban law, criticized in the July 2005 Metro along with a new book on the subject, has won the Berkeley Film Festival first prize. That says all you need to know about that.

I watched in astonishment as the author of the new book 1491, about the Americas before the Europeans, answered the question of how it was that these Indian societies that he thinks so highly of did not invent the wheel. His answer: The Europeans hadn’t discovered “zero” in their calculations, insisting that the Incas and their neighbors were just as advanced as the Europeans because they had, which is preposterous. This guy gets face time on NPR and C-Span because he writes about empowering indigenous peoples in a positive way to the detriment of Europeans. Because he is willing to alter the facts to make an emotional point currently in vogue in academia and publishing, he is given carte blanche to revise history to elevate the self-esteem of failed cultures. I’m sure the book will become de rigueur on campus, where scholarship has been hijacked by the tenured radicals, adding to the mountain of propaganda and disinformation masquerading as truth in a concerted effort to undermine Western achievement.
The obvious choice.