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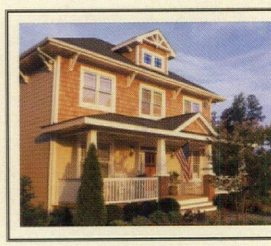

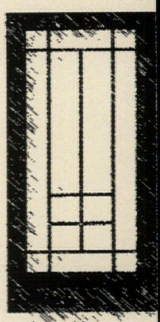

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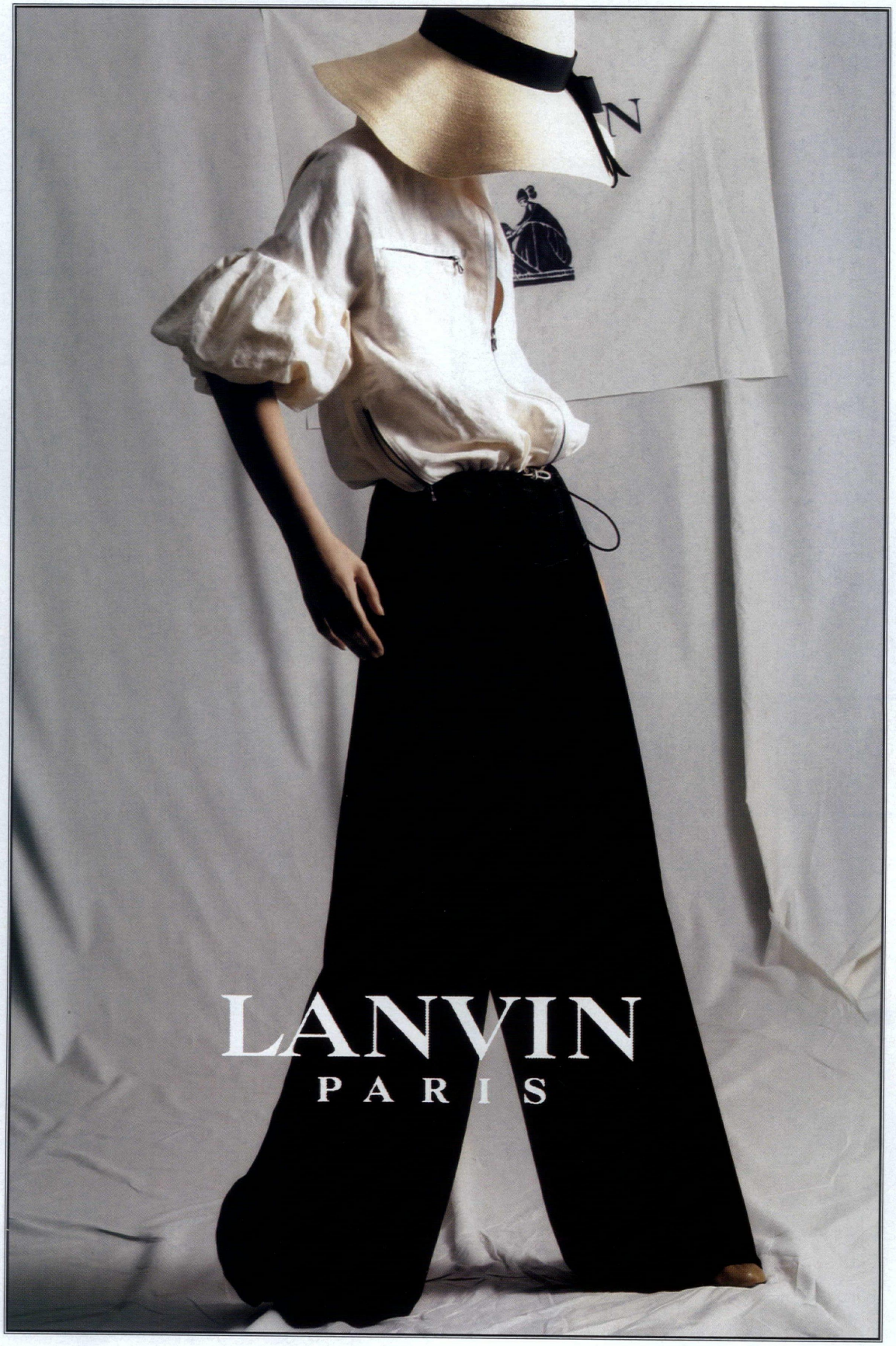

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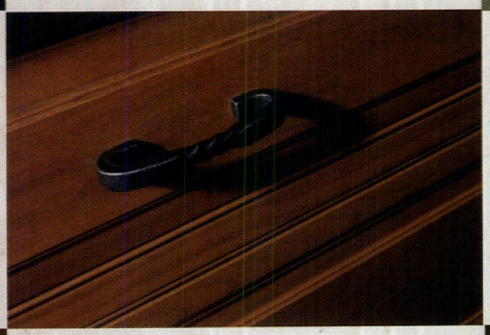

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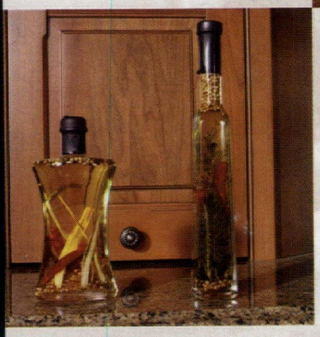

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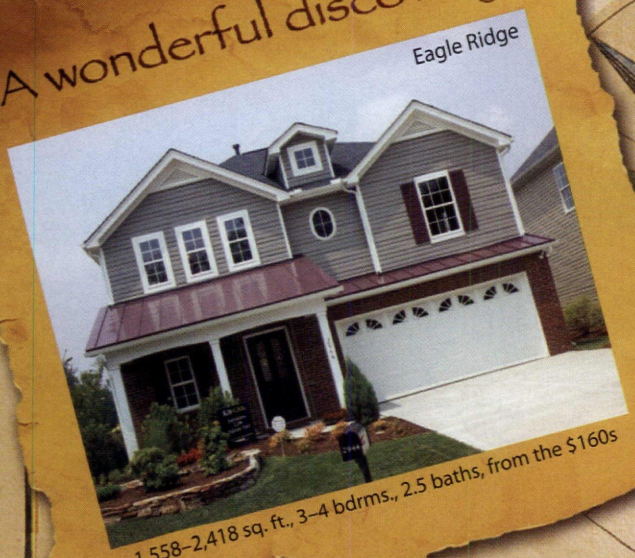

1,558–2,418 sq. ft., 3–4 bdrms., 2.5 baths, from the $160s

Eagle Ridge dining/living room

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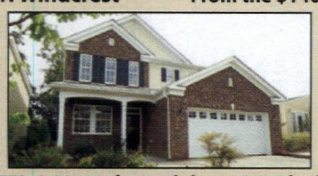

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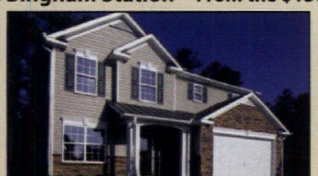

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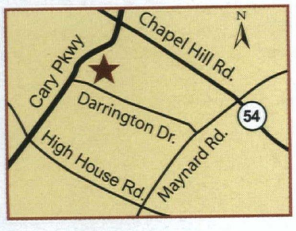

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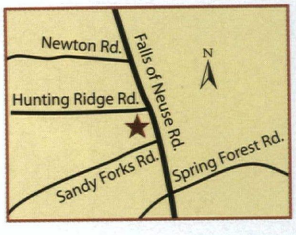

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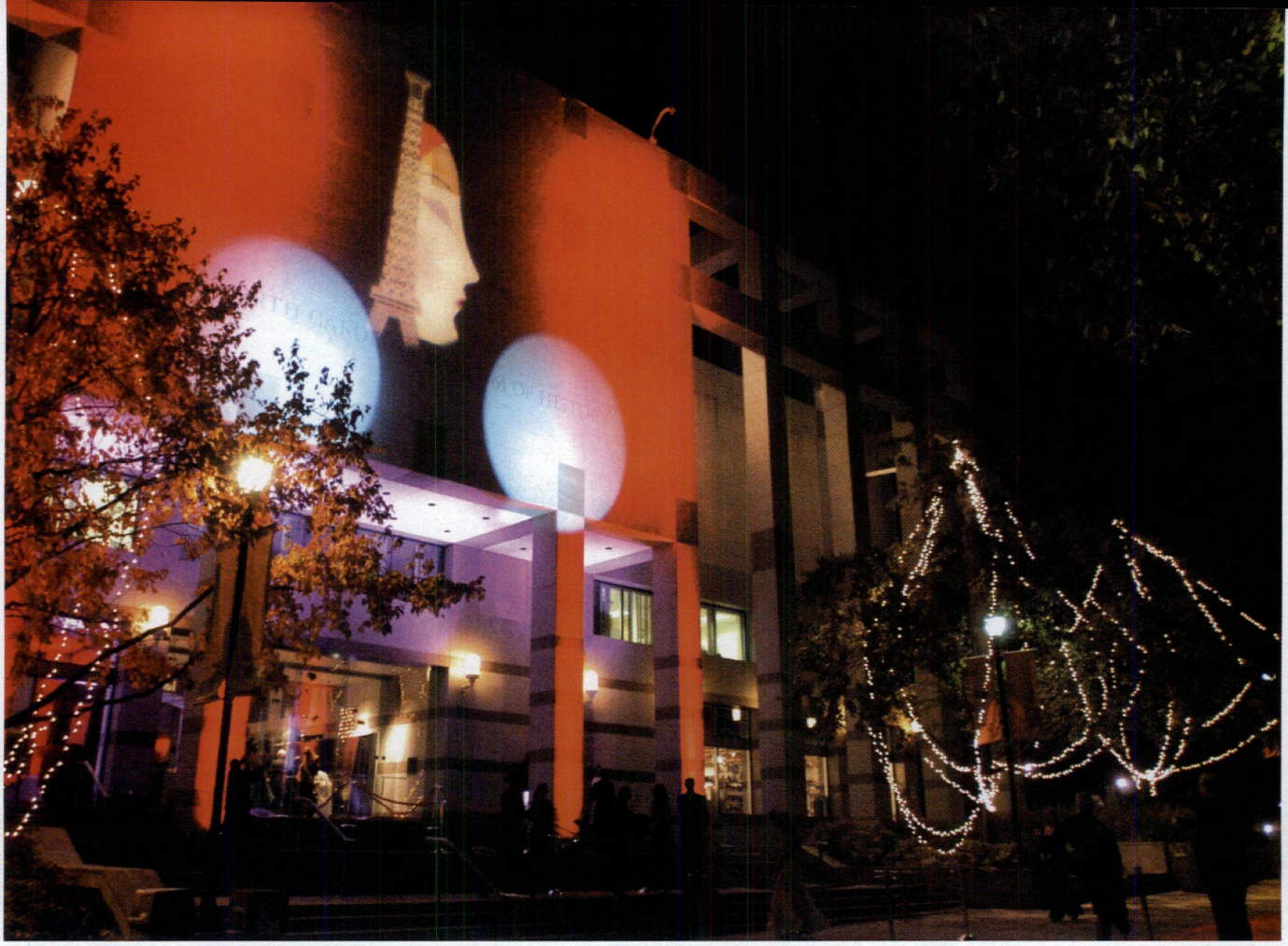


ERIC BLEVINS/NC MUSEUM OF HISTORY

Museum of History entrance for Mannequin Ball

CHRISTMAS MOMENTS

Christmas catches you off-guard. I was hurriedly skating about town, fretting over the usual details of life—they become more complicated as the holidays approach—when through my open car window wafted church bells playing a Christmas carol. That brief and unexpected moment somehow said a lot, as does this issue of *Metro*, a virtual Santa Claus loaded with sacks of good cheer, great gift ideas and a warm, cozy feeling appropriate for the season.

Metro elves indeed do a lot of your holiday heavy lifting: Gourmet editor Moreton Neal offers her inside view of the best cookbooks for Christmas giving; Wine editor Barbara Ensrud knows what wine lovers want under the tree; Fiction editor Art Taylor recommends a sleigh-full of great gift books; Raleigh girl in New York City Molly Fulghum-Heintz suggests the right things for the fashionable stocking-stuffer; Off the Menu editor Fred Benton adds to the list of cookbooks and points to events for foodies for the holidays; and Tricia Horatio has gone the extra mile to present an eclectic and useful *Metro* holiday Gift Guide.

Art critic Louis St. Lewis gads about the party scene with coverage of the annual Playmakers Ball in Chapel Hill—and the stunning Mannequin Ball held in Raleigh, conceived by *Metro* VP Katie Reeves and presented by *Metro*, The NC Museum of History and Associates and Saks Fifth Avenue. There's added coverage of the Mannequin Ball in Secrets of State and in the Style column.

And you can always to go to www.themannequinball.com and view photographs of the festivities.

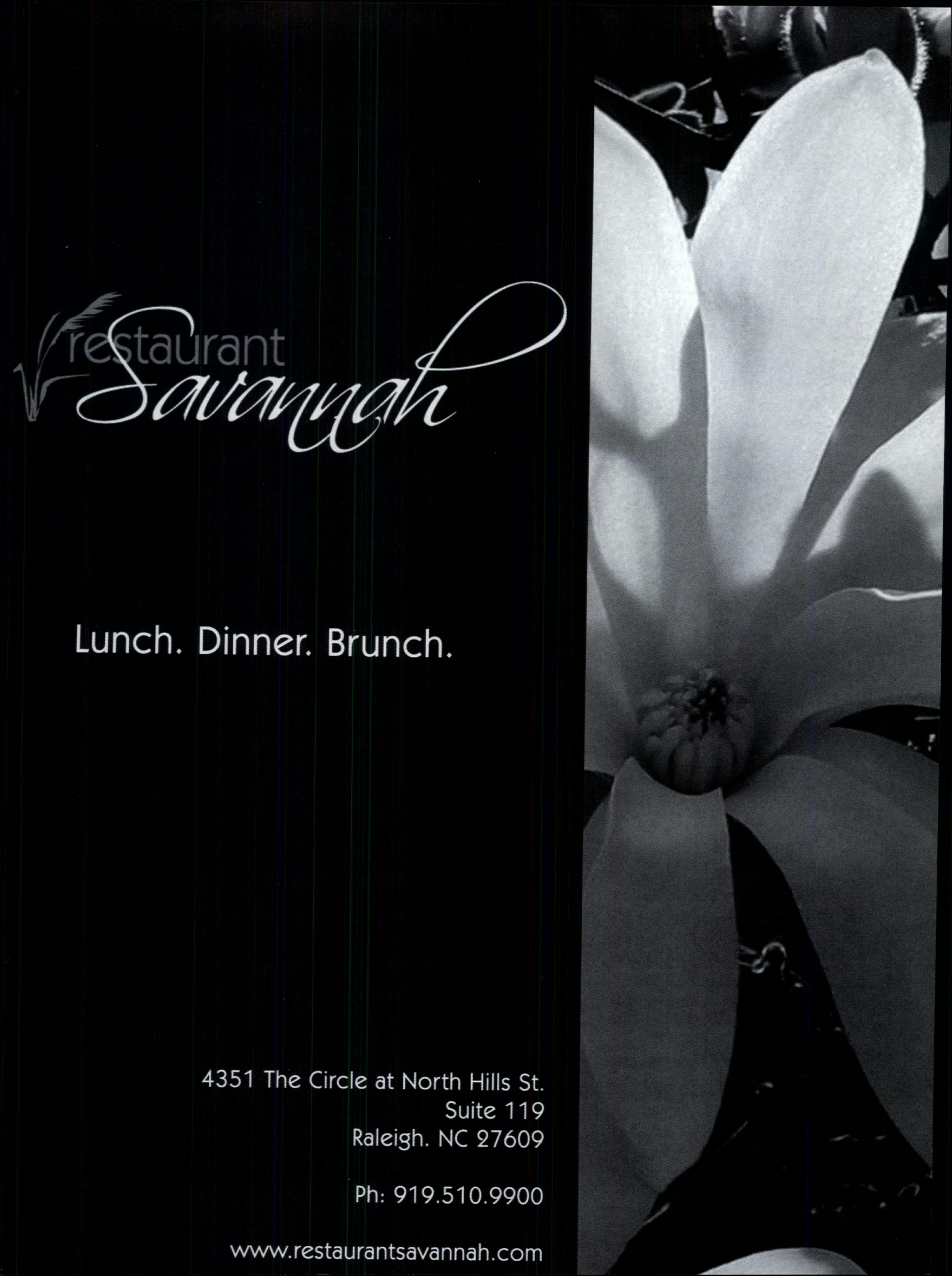
Over in Durham it's Christmas all year long as the American Tobacco Warehouse project takes shape, bringing smiles to tenants and City fathers brought on by this stylish and unique complex. Design Editor Diane Lea brings you the history, the architecture and the feel, all neatly wrapped in words and photos. Editor-At-Large Jim Leutze has good tidings of progress on the coast, but warns of stormy seas ahead if action is not continued to protect our beaches and sounds.

Vibes artist Steve Hobbs is a sensation in jazz circles. Music Editor Philip Van Vleck catches up with the busy musician after the release of his most recent CD, a great gift for music lovers. Carroll Leggett profiles Scotland Neck, an Eastern North Carolina town with a special mission to ensure the future is preserved in its own terms.

Tune in for the January issue and our annual presentation of Who's Who in the region and an in-depth section on the up and coming Wake Technical Community College.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from us all at *Metro*!

—Bernie Reeves, Editor & Publisher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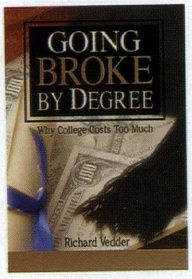
Correspondence

SHOVELING MONEY TO EDUCATION

Metro's November issue had a marvelous juxtaposition—Jim Leutze's column arguing that UNC system schools need more money (which should come from increased taxes) and Rick Smith's article on the Pope Center's recent conference, in which he focused on the keynote speaker, Professor Richard Vedder.

Professor Vedder contended in his speech, and also in his recent book: *Going Broke by Degree*, that American universities cost far more than they need to, mainly because of the low productivity of the faculty. In opposition to the conventional wisdom that the more we spend on higher education, the stronger the state's economy will be, Vedder finds that there is actually a slight negative correlation. More higher education spending draws resources away from relatively high output uses and devotes them to higher education, where we are well past the point of diminishing returns.



Rather than continuing to shovel more money into UNC, I submit that we ought to take Professor Vedder's advice and find ways to get more educational value out of the dollars currently spent on it.

George C. Leef, Director
John William Pope Center for Higher Education Policy
Raleigh

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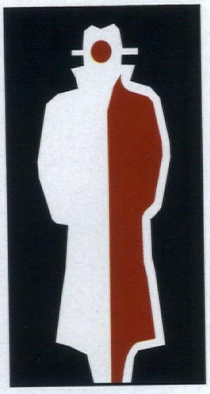
Talks by John Earl Haynes and Steve Usdin



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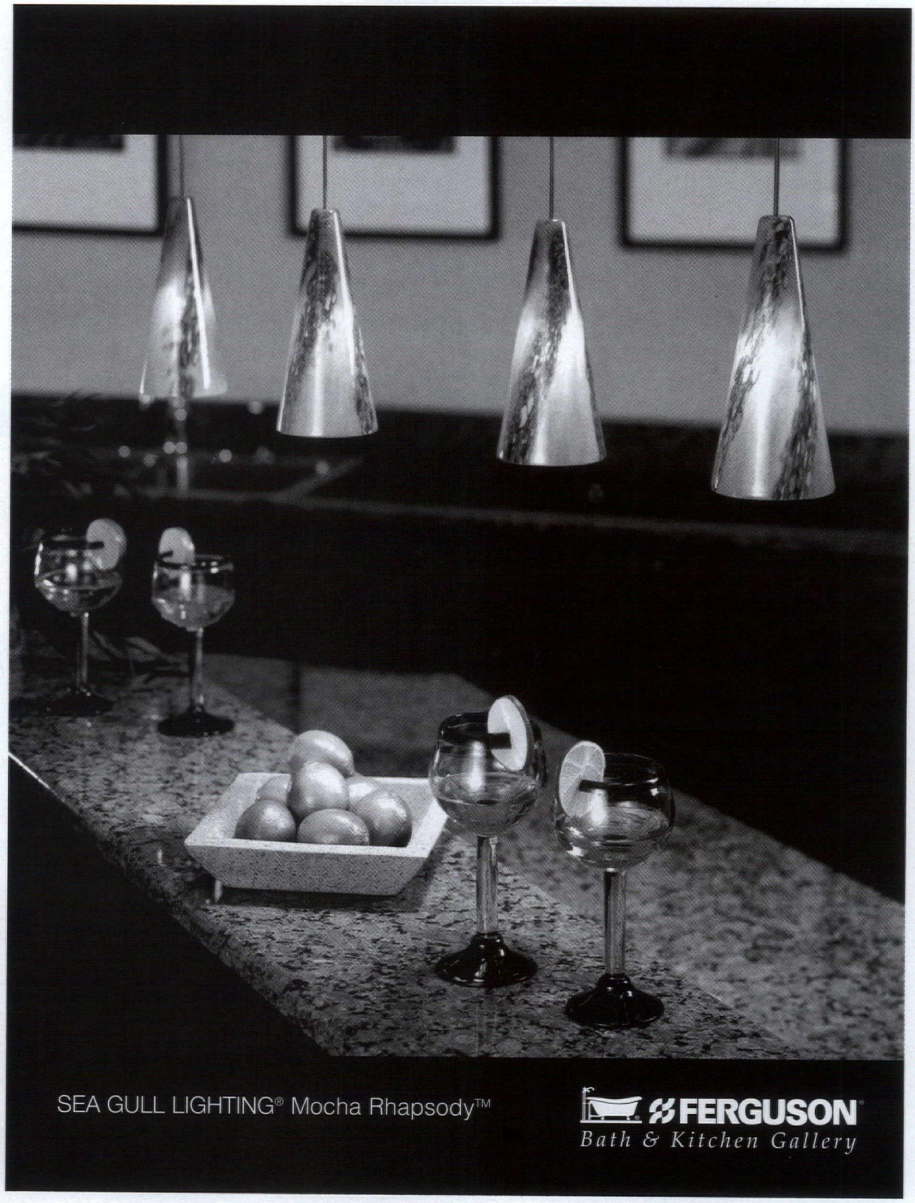
BPA WORLDWIDE CONSUMER

NEGATIVE IMPRESSIONS

As usual your lack of research and poor fact finding make it difficult for me to understand why you are in business. After reading the article on college basketball, I felt it necessary to enlighten you and your writers. You failed to mention that Michael Jordan did indeed graduate from UNC. Perhaps Mr. Jordan left early to join professional basketball; however, if you came from his economic standing what would you do. Most of the players you describe grew up desperately poor. I wonder if you could pull your family out of the projects and provide stability what your choice would be. By the way, what is your zip code and what kind of automobile do you drive? Also, I think you should re-name your magazine to "The world according to Bernie and please only read this rag if you live inside the Beltline." With sincere regrets that you are so small minded.

PS. Has the Pope called to thank you for your expert knowledge of Catholicism?

Jim Blessing
Raleigh



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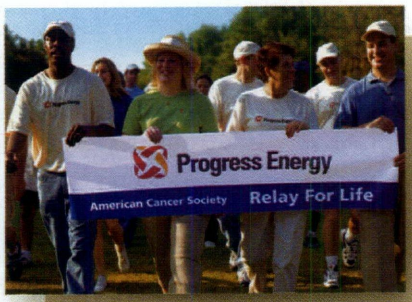

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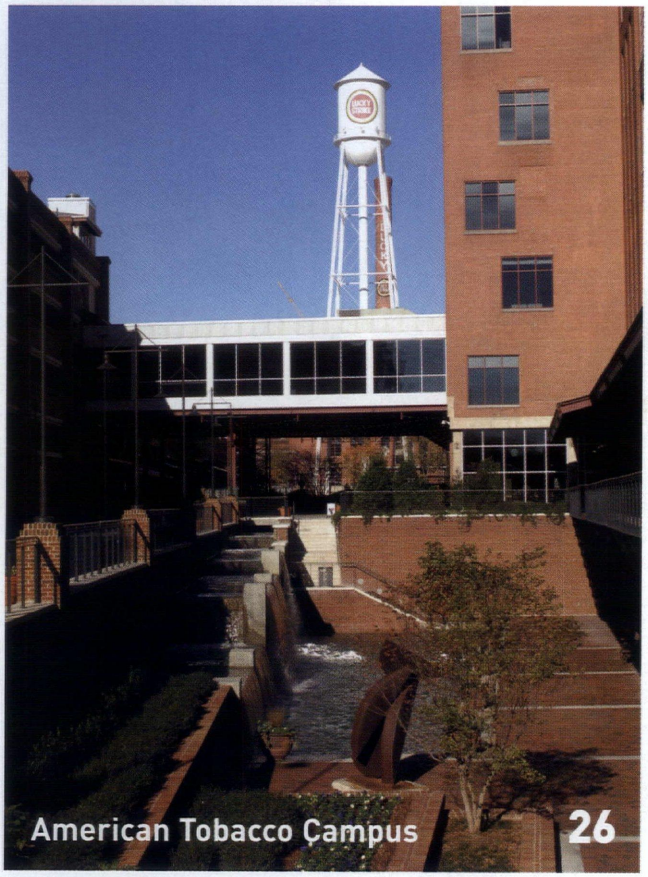

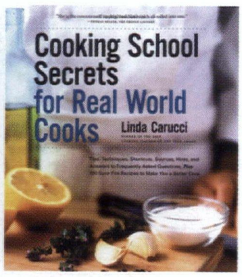

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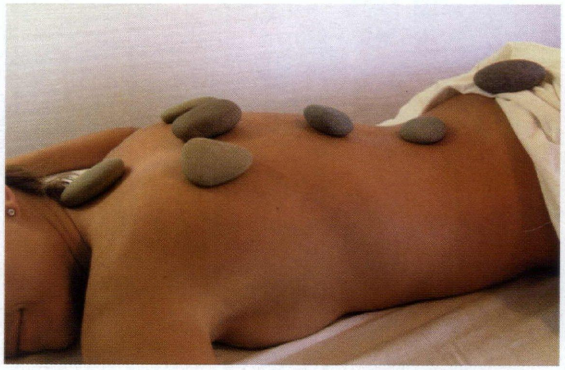

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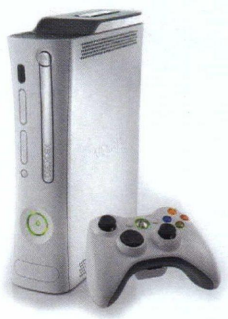
Holiday gifts for the important people in your life.



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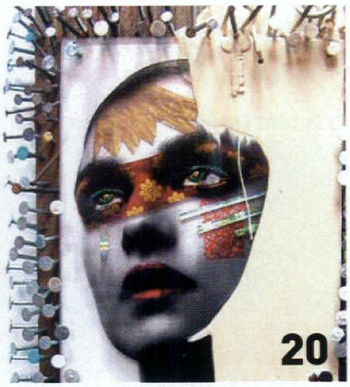

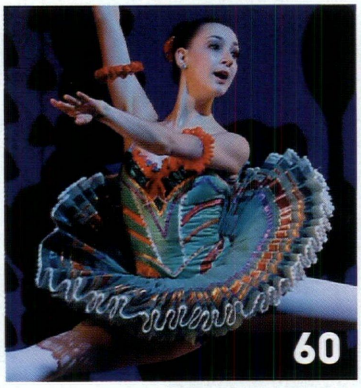

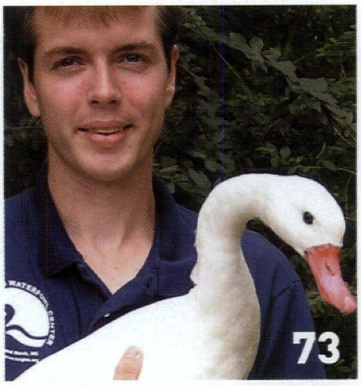

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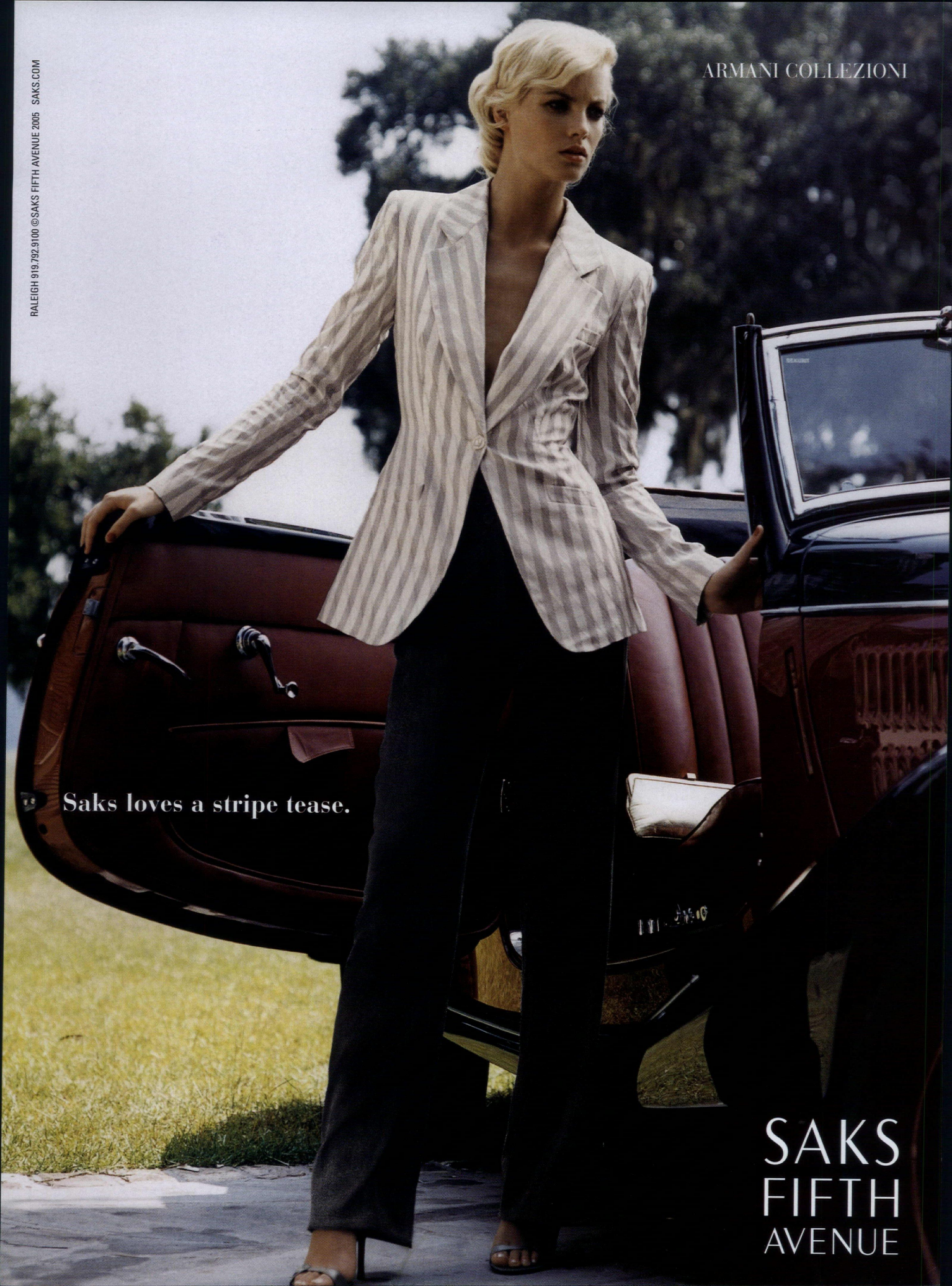
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"I wish I had a million dollars."

Sarah Goodman, age 6

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SECRETS OF STATE

Umstead Hotel to Open in Late 2006

The region's first deluxe hotel is rising out of the ground in Cary on 12 acres adjacent to the 200-acre SAS computer headquarters off Wade Avenue on the edge of Cary. The six-story Umstead, the creation of owner/developer Ann Goodnight, wife of SAS

THE BUZZELL COMPANY

founder Jim Goodnight, will feature 150 over-sized guest rooms, large and security-equipped elegant suites on the top floor overlooking a 3-acre lake, an 8,000-square-foot meeting area with state-of-the art technology, a 90-seat restaurant featuring Modern American cuisine with a "Southern flair" and a 12,000-square-foot spa featuring 10 treatment rooms, a "meditation" courtyard, casual lounges and terraces.

The new hotel, expected to open in late 2006, seeks a "casually elegant yet sophisticated" design, including original artworks, 32-inch LCD flat-screen room televisions, pillow-top beds, Rivolta Italian linens and signature bath products. The restaurant is designed around an "open-kitchen" layout featuring curved ceilings, architectural lighting, customized art and sculpture from well-known artists. A first-class wine cellar is planned along with special event wine dinners, live music and afternoon tea.

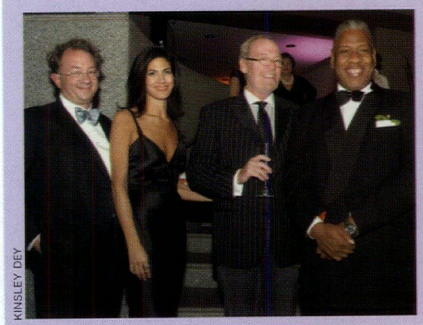
Tar Heels Gather in New York To Support Environmental Defense

A crowd of 200, mostly from Raleigh and other parts of North Carolina, attended a recent benefit in New York City for Environmental Defense, raising $50,000 for the restoration and protection of the coastline and waterways in North Carolina and the Southeast. Venue for the benefit was Fred's, the restaurant in Barney's department store.

Supporters from the Raleigh area included

International Fashion Celebrities Attend Mannequin Ball

Four celebrities from the fashion world came home to North Carolina for the first **Mannequin Ball** on **Friday, Nov. 11**, at the **NC Museum of History**. Fashion and home furnishings designer Alexander Julian, Broadway costume designer William Ivey Long, *Vogue* magazine editor-at-large André Leon Talley, and *Trading Spaces*



KINSLEY DEY

designer Hildi Santo Tomás attended the elegant gala, with proceeds to benefit the costume and textile collection at the NC Museum of History. The designers, all native North Carolinians, were honored guests for the occasion.

The Mannequin Ball was presented by *Metro Magazine*, the NC Museum of History, the Museum of History Associates and Saks Fifth Avenue. Katie Reeves, who created the event to "celebrate art, fashion and history," served as Ball Chairman.

After a red-carpet entrance under a display of original illumination, the designers and mannequin artists mixed with the large crowd during the festive evening, which exuded the ambience and allure of a chic Paris nightclub with music by New York City's DJ Angola. During the soirée, the crowd watched 16 models from Saks Fifth Avenue highlight the latest evening-wear. Original art mannequins designed by 12 acclaimed area artists were sold during the event's live auction, and guests admired a variety of mannequins dressed in designs from area boutiques and jewelers.

To view and purchase photos from the Mannequin Ball, visit www.themannequinball.com.

Charles Anderson, Louis Bacon, Zack Bacon, Bill Bateman, Parker Bell, Paul and Peggy Bitler, Kasey Gore, Claiborne Hancock, Georgia Hanford, Will Henderson, Hobby Holmes, Brad Hyler, Parker and Elizabeth Johnson, Ashton and Fran Poole, Catherine Skvarla, David Snider, and Robert and Caroline Williamson.

Also in attendance were Jane Preyer, Director of the Environmental Defense North Carolina office, and Fred Krupp, President of Environmental Defense.

"North Carolina is the most important fishery in the country," Preyer told the group, "as the nursery habitat for all the fish we love to eat, including flounder, grouper and snapper. Seventy-five percent of the fish on the East Coast have to live in North Carolina to survive. There is a real threat. Environmental Defense is going after this problem and making progress."

Established in 1988, the North Carolina office of Environmental Defense is working to develop a network of no-fishing areas in the sea as part of its mission to meet the environmental challenges of North Carolina and the Southeast. The Raleigh-based staff of scientists, lawyers and policy analysts works closely with private and pubic partners to help solve urgent environmental problems.

For more information, contact Jane Preyer, Environmental Defense, 2500 Blue Ridge Road, Suite 330, Raleigh, NC 27607, or call 919-881-2601.

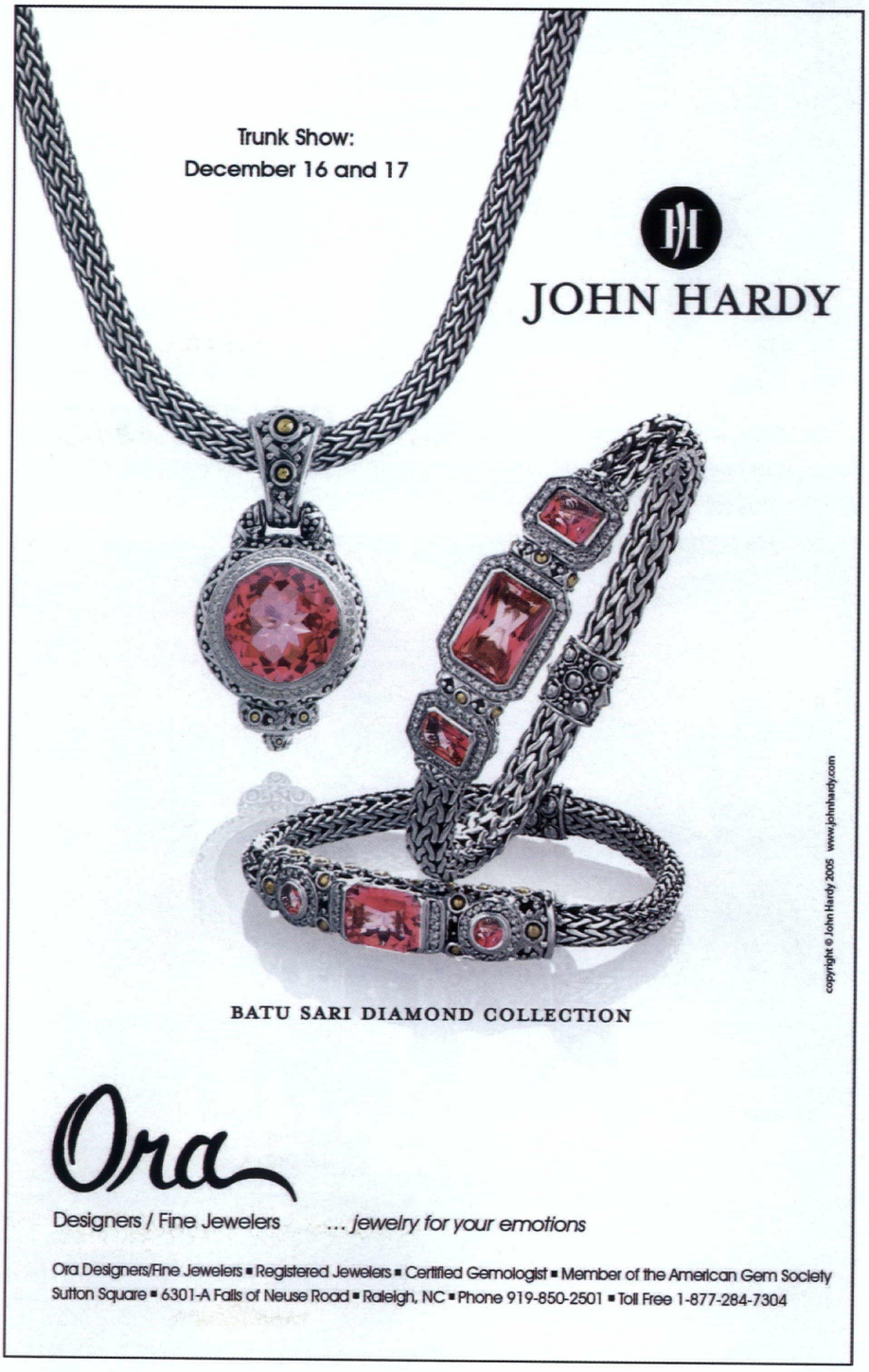
Liberty and Order–A Conference about Ideas and Books

A conference entitled "Liberty and Order: F. A. Hayek and *The Road to Serfdom*," held at Chapel Hill in November, featured presentations by authorities on the Nobel laureate who lived from 1899-1992. Hayek was a great champion of liberty and free market capitalism, warning in *The Road to Serfdom* (1944) that socialism of any sort threatened liberty. *The Constitution of Liberty* (1960) elaborated on the interdependence of economic and civil liberties, and explained that both require limited government under the rule of law.

Although marginalized during some of his academic career by the dominance of socialist and state-interventionist economics, in 1974 Hayek was awarded the Nobel Prize in economics. His free-market ideas then became policies under Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan. Later, after the collapse of Soviet Communism, his free-market ideas acquired new followers in former socialist countries. Many scholars now think that the 20th century ended as a Hayekian triumph. (See "MetroBooks," November 2001, November 2002, and February 2004.)

In the first conference presentation, George H. Nash, author of *The Conservative Intellectual Movement in America Since 1945* (2nd ed. 1996), explained the fusion of Hayek's classical liberal or libertarian ideas with traditional conservatism into modern American conservatism. Bruce Caldwell, economics professor at UNC-Greensboro and editor of Hayek's collected works, to be published by the University of Chicago Press, discussed Hayek's contributions to economics, law and political philosophy, drawing upon his authoritative intellectual history, *Hayek's Challenge: An Intellectual Biography of F. A. Hayek* (2004).

Alan Ebenstein, economist and Hayek's



biographer, drew on his book, *Friedrich Hayek: A Biography* (2001) and *Hayek's Journey: The Mind of Friedrich Hayek* (2003) and Graham Walker, a political scientist and author of *The Ethics of F. A. Hayek* (1986), challenged Hayek's agnostic and evolutionary approach to ethics and argued that traditional Judeo-Christian ethics are a better basis for classical liberalism and free-market capitalism.

After their separate presentations, all four authors joined in a panel discussion with Michael Munger and Thomas Nechyba, chairs of the political science and economics departments at Duke University. Questions from the audience, a mix of students and academics with others interested in Hayek, resulted in enlightening discussions.

The Intercollegiate Studies Institute of Wilmington, Delaware, sponsored the conference, with funding by the John W. Pope Foundation of Raleigh. The conference presentations will be available online at www.isi.org.

—Arch T. Allen

Arthritis Research Center Establishes Joseph Archie Professorship

The Thurston Arthritis Research Center at the UNC School of Medicine has received a $3 million gift to establish the Joseph P. Archie Jr. Eminent Professorship in Medicine and help fund its research of autoimmune diseases such as lupus and rheumatoid arthritis. The center was chartered in 1981 by the UNC School of Medicine as a Multipurpose Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Diseases Center.

The gift includes $2.5 million from an anonymous donor to create the professorship. The remaining portion was given by the William R. Kenan Jr. Charitable Trust and the NC Distinguished Professors Endowment Fund. According to Dr. Dhavalkumar Patal, the center's director, the professorship will enhance the center's ability to carry out its mission to "investigate the causes, consequences and treatments of arthritis and autoimmune diseases, and to reduce their effects on patients, their families and society." Patel stated that "we are deeply grateful for this exceptionally generous gift in support of our research objectives. This endowment will enable our center to continue to fight to understand how autoimmune disorders work. Only by understanding the mechanisms of immunologic and autoimmune disorders can we determine the best approach for treatment, management and, ultimately, prevention."

The professorship is named for Dr. Joseph Archie Jr., a 1968 alumnus of the UNC School of Medicine who held a private practice as a vascular surgeon in Raleigh from 1981 until his retirement in 2000 and served as past president of the UNC Medical Co-Founders Club. During his career, Dr. Archie, served as both clinical professor of surgery at UNC and adjunct professor of mechanical engineering at NC State University and has published numerous articles and journals among other accomplishments.

Endowed professorships are among UNC's highest priorities and are crucial in order to retain and recruit the top scholars and teachers in their fields.

Senior Service To Build US Army Museum

Now here is a good idea in the face of the anti-military slant on campus and in the mass media: The Museum of the US Army, to be constructed 16 miles south of Washington, DC, near Mount Vernon (fittingly) on 55 acres on the grounds of Fort Belvoir, Virginia. The $200 million, 80,000-square-foot facility will include an outdoor parade ground, an amphitheatre, public galleries and theatres, interactive exhibitions, live events and a memorial walk.

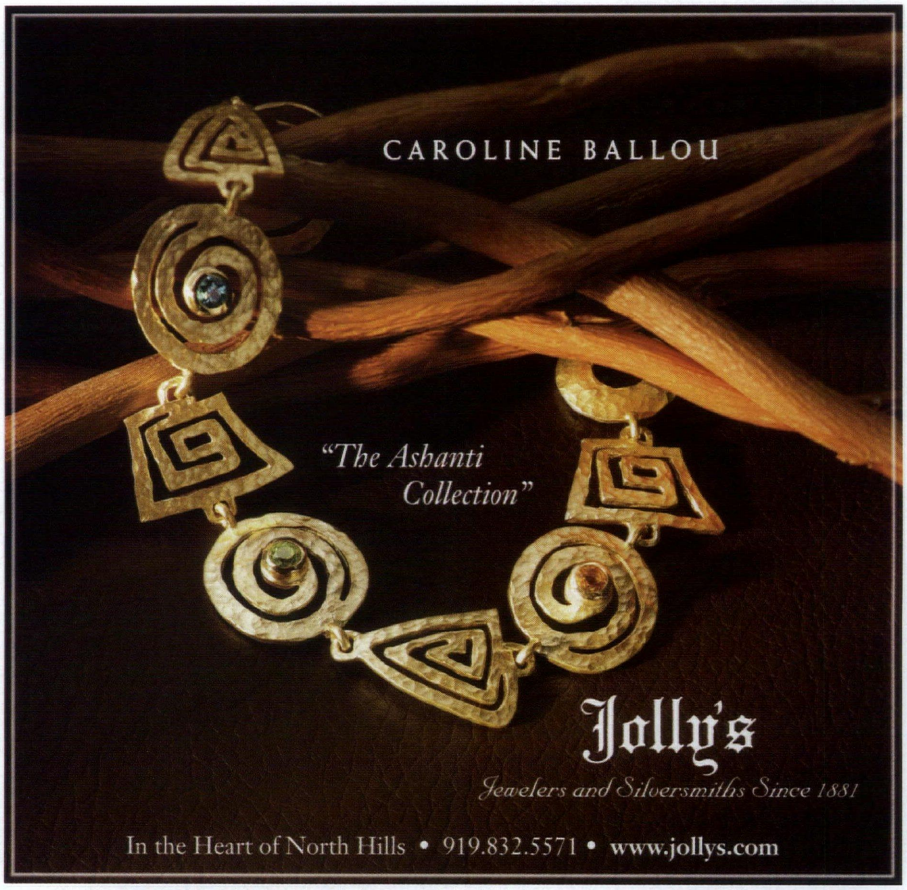
General Tommy Franks, chairman of the Museum, is soliciting donations for as little as $20 to "embody the heart and soul of all who wore, wear or will wear the uniform of the US Army," including the creation of the Registry of the American Soldier that lists all who served in the "senior service".

For more information, write: The National Museum of the US Army, 2425 Wilson Boulevard, Dept. DM, Arlington, VA. 22201 or go to: www.armyhistory.org.

Raleigh Boychoir Sings The Carols of Christmas

Under the artistic direction of Thomas Sibley, the Raleigh Boychoir is preparing its 36th consecutive performance of "The Carols of Christmas." This Raleigh tradition will be presented on Tuesday, Dec. 20, at 7 p.m., Edenton Street Methodist Church in downtown Raleigh.

Performing with guest harpist Anita Burroughs Price, the program will feature "A Ceremony of Carols" by Benjamin Britten; "Angel's Carol," by John Rutter, "The Holly and the Ivy" and "Jesus Christ the Apple Tree"



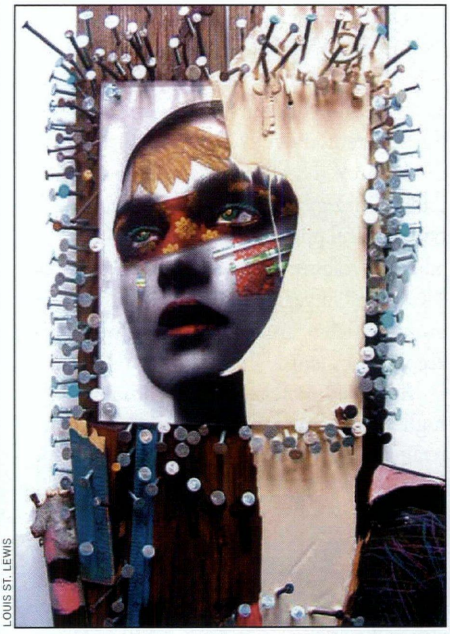
by Andrew Carter, and traditional carols. Tickets are only available in advance: Adults $15, Seniors $13 and Students $11 at Quail Ridge Books and Music, Ridgewood Shopping Center, Raleigh; Burt Music Company, 1341 Kildaire Farm Rd., Cary; or The Raleigh Boychoir Centre, 1329 Ridge Rd., Raleigh.

The Raleigh Boychoir provides a comprehensive musical training program for boys, ages 7-15, and the opportunity to perform in distinguished venues throughout the United States and Europe. For information on audition and performance opportunities with The Raleigh Boychoir, call 919-881-9259 or visit www.raleighboychoir.org.

St. Lewis On A Roll

Metro columnist and Artist-at-Large Louis St. Lewis, recently commissioned to create the season poster for the Playmakers Repertory Theatre in Chapel Hill, has walked away with the first place $1,000 prize money at the 51st annual Durham Art Guild Juried Exhibition. His piece, *Nailed Martyr*, shown here, was judged and chosen by artist Judy Chicago, the celebrity guest juror. In addition to the prize money, St. Lewis was also awarded a solo exhibition for next season at the guild. His review of the exhibition appears in his column in this issue of *Metro*. MM

continued on page 95



LOUIS ST. LEWIS

Trimming the Hedges, a stylized watercolor by Russell Yerkes of Tarboro, was the winning artwork in the Watercolor Society of North Carolina's annual juried exhibition, recently judged and on display, now through Jan. 5, in the Salem College Fine Arts Center Gallery, Winston-Salem. Yerkes is a self-taught watercolorist, who works and sells his art from his Tarboro Watercolor Studio.

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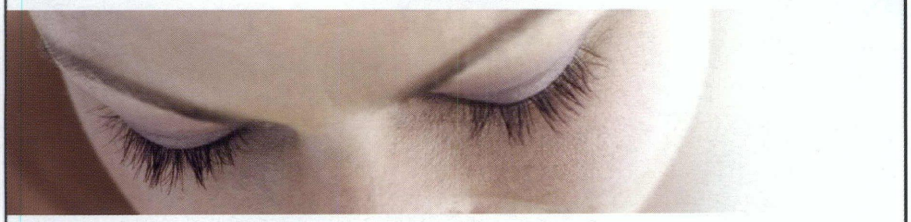

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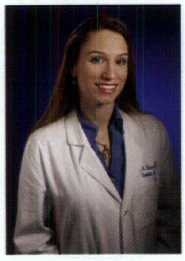

Julie A. Woodward, MD

Dr. Julie Woodward specializes in the latest aesthetic and cosmetic procedures. As a full-time faculty member, Dr. Woodward offers a complete program of cosmetic laser surgery at the Duke Center for Aesthetic Services, one the most comprehensive surgical and non-surgical cosmetic enhancement centers in the country.

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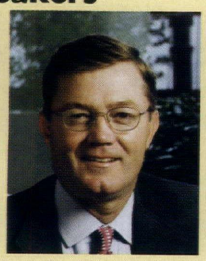
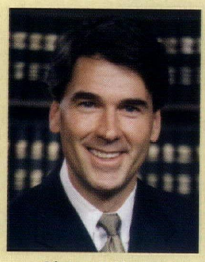
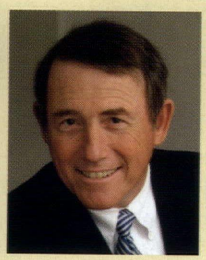


Ken Thompson
Chairman & CEO
Wachovia Corp.
named 2005 Banker of the Year by *American Banker* magazine



Richard Moore
North Carolina
State Treasurer



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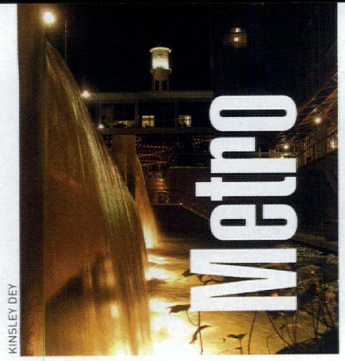


KINSLEY DEY

Design

Photography by Kinsley Dey

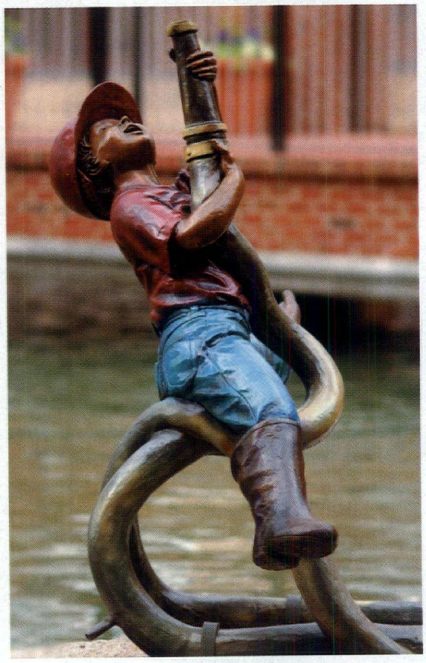
by Diane Lea

Historic Landmark Comes Alive

AMERICAN TOBACCO CAMPUS FLOURISHES AGAIN

The American Tobacco Campus, adjacent to the $16 million Durham Bulls Ball Park in Downtown Durham, is a complex of renovated historic brick Romanesque Revival buildings that were once the center of James B. Duke's American Tobacco Company. Laid out in a compact wedge bounded by Willard, Blackwell, Pettigrew and Carr Streets, the 1-million-square-foot complex includes warehouses and cigarette manufacturing buildings dating from the late 19th century to the mid-20th century. It is, with Duke Chapel and the Ball Park, arguably the most impressive and well recognized of Durham's landmarks.

The buildings are described by architectural historian Catherine Bishir as a combination of functionalism, exuberant brickwork and medieval-inspired historicism. They represent some of Durham's finest architecture as well as the tobacco industry that built Durham into a thriving metropolis of the New South. The earliest structure in the complex was built in 1874 by the W.T. Blackwell Company, the original maker of Bull Durham Plug Tobacco. In 1890 James B. Duke formed the conglomerate American Tobacco Company, that ultimately produced 90 percent of the cigarettes made in the United States. Duke purchased the Blackwell building, as well as the Bull Durham brand. Between 1897 and 1911, he added buildings to his American Tobacco complex to house the specialized equipment necessary for cigarette manufacturing. They were built of brick to resist fire and used massive heart pine columns and metal trusses in order to support the weight of 1,000-pound hogsheads of tobacco, as well as the heavy cigarette rolling machines and production equipment. Lucky Strike cigarettes were produced in these buildings and a smokestack, emblazoned with the famous logo, still stands tall in the center of the complex.



The American Tobacco Company and its spin-off companies continued to add buildings to the site well into the 1950s, and remained a major employer for the City of Durham until the 1980s. In 1986 the fortunes of tobacco waned and American Tobacco closed; 1,000 people lost their jobs. Durham then began the transformation from a tobacco manufacturing town to The City of Medicine, choosing as its imprimatur prestigious Duke University's burgeoning medical and research institutions. And the once proud manufacturing hub between Willard and Pettigrew Streets became derelict and unloved.

BASEBALL TO THE RESCUE

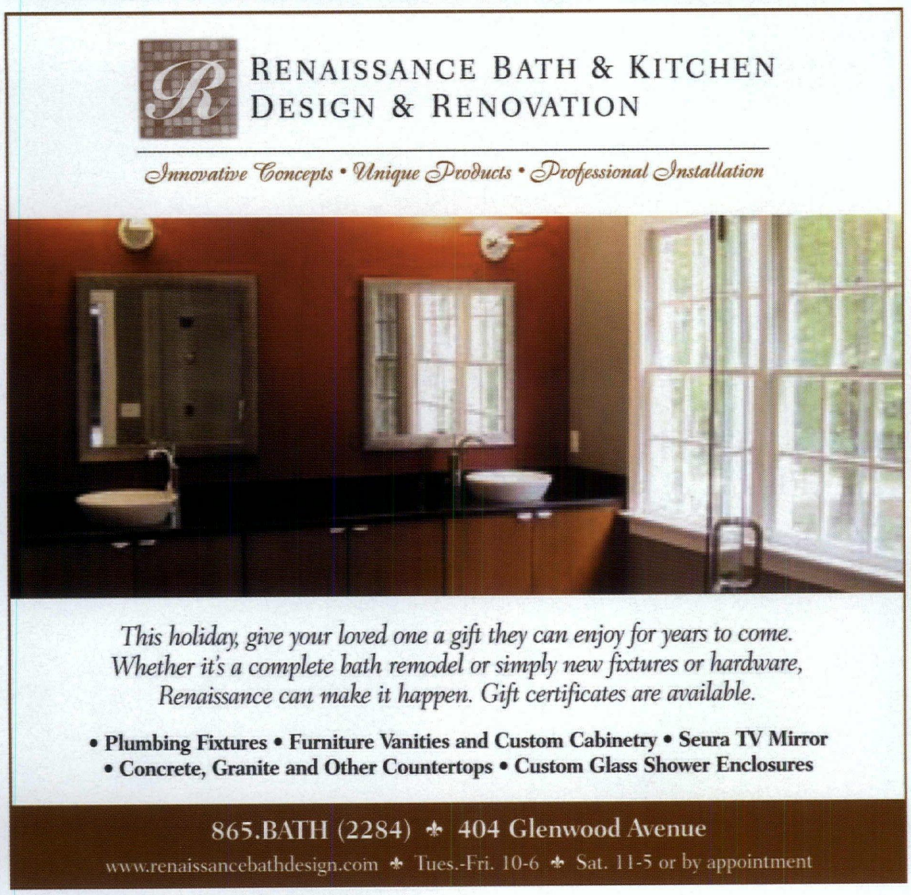
So how did a troublesome eyesore, surrounded by broken concrete and chain link fences, become the bustling revitalized American Tobacco Campus and American Tobacco Historic District? The answer is baseball—specifically the Durham Bulls Baseball Team and the new Durham Bulls Ball Park located next door to the Campus—and an amazingly successful public-private partnership that included the Durham City and County government and Capitol Broadcasting Company, owners of WRAL-TV and the Durham Bulls.

Jim Goodmon, President and CEO of Capitol Broadcasting Company, bought the Durham Bulls as part of a strategy to create a Triangle Central Park near the airport. Envisioned as a destination with a sportsplex, convention center and arena, the Park would have been an ideal venue for the popular baseball team. Goodmon credits Durham with stepping up to the plate when the idea for the Park didn't work. "Durham picked up the ball and built the Durham Bulls Ball Park," says Goodmon. "That was the City and County's most effective commitment to revitalizing Downtown Durham. We wanted to help that effort pay off."

Mike Hill, Vice President and General Counsel of Capitol Broadcasting Company, remembers the day in 1999 when Goodmon approached the administration and elected officials of Durham's City and County government to propose a partnership to renovate the American Tobacco facility as part of the Downtown revitalization. "Jim told the gathering that he supported their goal and, if they wanted him to, he would work to renovate the old American Tobacco Company buildings," says Hill. "From then on we got tremendous support from the city-county government, part of which came in the form of paying for two parking decks that anchor the Campus on the North and the South. The City agreed to build the South Deck and the County to build the North Deck."

Goodmon and Capitol Broadcasting were already stakeholders in Downtown Durham as owners of the ball team and as the

The historic water tower and the Lucky Strike chimney stack are focal points.

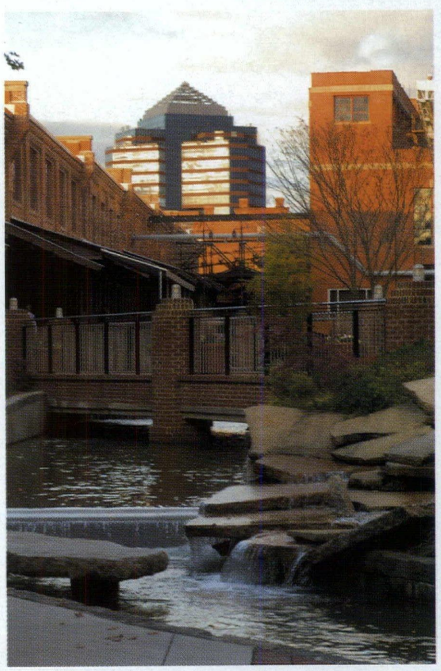


developers of Diamond View I, an office building adjacent to the ball park the company constructed on land purchased from the City. Hill points out that Capitol had originally thought to enlist an experienced developer to construct the office building. To encourage this, Goodmon and Hill went to Duke University and GlaxoSmithKline seeking tenants. Then Duke President Nan Keohane was enthusiastic about the project and so was Bob Ingram of GlaxoSmithKline. "We suddenly had our tenants lined up and decided to do it ourselves," says Hill.

THE RENOVATION

Though new to the development business, and impressed with the complexities of renovating historic buildings, the Capitol team found excellent resources for restoring American Tobacco in the Durham firm of Belk Architecture. Principal Eddie Belk had a roster of preservation projects to his credit, including the renovation and adaptation of the Downtown Raleigh Briggs Building, a project supported in part by the A. J. Fletcher Foundation, administered by Jim Goodmon and his wife Barbara.

To ensure that the American Tobacco Campus project would qualify for the federal tax credits available for the renovation



The affectionately named Bull River is a central feature of the Campus.

The Campus and its courtyard are welcoming both in daytime and at night.

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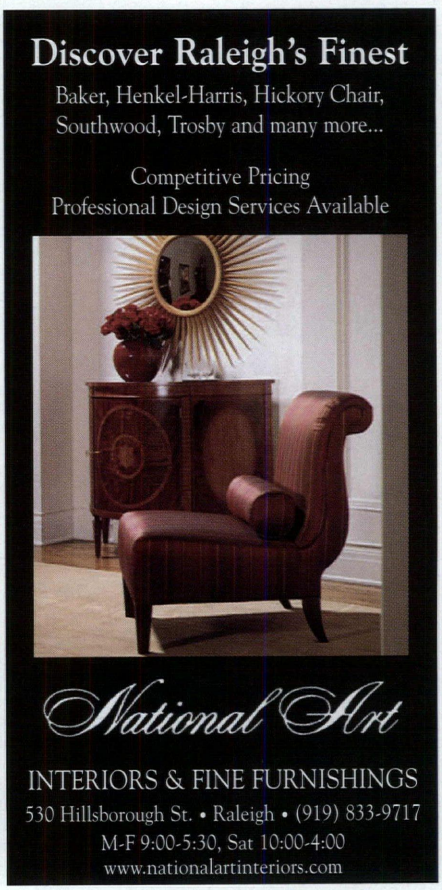

of historic structures, Belk and the Capitol team worked with Restoration Architect Mitch Wilds and Tax Act Coordinator Tim Simmons of the State Historic Preservation Office. "For this project to work financially," says Hill, "we needed to have our plans certified by the National Park Service so we'd be eligible for the tax incentives. The state people helped us every step of the way, and we received quick approval on our application to the Park Service."

As the project architect, Belk Architecture has been involved with every facet of the American Tobacco Campus—including the selection of the Atlanta firm of Smallwood, Reynolds, Stewart and Stewart to serve as interior and site consultants. "We all wrestled with how to make the courtyard space a gathering place with life and activity, yet with a tranquil aspect, too," says Belk. "The decision made with Smallwood Reynolds to expand the water feature into a river was the right choice and actually based on historical precedent."

BULL RIVER

Belk points out that there was a small

reservoir at the north end of the former industrial site, and a small stream flowed where the courtyard is today. The affectionately named Bull River now flows from terraced headwaters on the north end of the campus to a recessed lower level waterfall on the south end, forming a pleasant axis that organizes the two nearly parallel rows of historic structures. The rippling river, complete with large distressed concrete blocks and crisscrossed by two diagonal brick bridges, was constructed by the firm Cost of Wisconsin that built Jurassic Park River Ride at Universal Studios' Islands of Adventure and much of the concrete work at Disney's Animal Kingdom.

Other visual elements highlighted by Belk are the steel frame coal sheds, located slightly north of the power plant and near the river's headwaters, and the power plant itself. "The power plant was the heart of the old industrial complex and remains the heart of the American Tobacco Campus," says Belk. "It will be a dramatic space for the right tenant. The ceiling is 51 feet tall and the windows wrap around the interior where the boilers were located." Belk also likes the juxtaposition of the towered and belt-coursed plant with the spare metal frames of the coal sheds where coal cars were brought by rail to be offloaded for the boilers.

Sculpture is displayed throughout the Campus, and regular art tours are planned.

MICHAEL ZIRKLE PHOTOGRAPHY

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Rare Collector's Item

Walnut Chippendale chest of drawers, Virginia or North Carolina origin, ca. 1780. Most desirable small size. h: 37"; w: 36"; d: 19.75"

Providing light and interior access within the buildings was a major challenge for Belk and his staff. "We were faced with buildings that had become fortress-like over time," says Belk. "We reopened windows and created internal concourses between buildings and offices, and we developed exterior entrances on the Blackwell Street side of the Campus." One of the most dramatic double entrances is the 1954 Crowe Building where a ground floor level entrance from the central courtyard leads into a two-story atrium lobby. The commanding staircase rises to the second level Blackwell Street entrance. The staircase reverses and continues to the third floor and the reception lobby of venture capital firm Intersouth Partners, one of the Campus' early tenants. The Crowe Building is also interesting for its Crowe Bridge, a second story connector that runs across the Campus courtyard. "The Crowe Bridge used to be the American Tobacco cafeteria," says Belk. "It had no windows so workers wouldn't be tempted to linger after they ate. We opened it up and now people below can enjoy the comings and goings of people above, and visa versa."

Each building's lobby is distinctive and features art by a different North Carolina artist.

Belk is particularly excited about the almost completed WUNC Public Radio offices in Bay 6 of the Washington Building. Here his designers have opened the studios used as broadcast sites for popular programs by adding large format interior windows linked visually with Bay 7, the Campus' event space. "We expect people to enjoy viewing the programs on the air and maybe watching interviews with visiting personalities," says Belk.

PROUD TENANTS

An indication of the enthusiasm of the American Tobacco Campus tenants, which include the headquarters offices of six major companies, is the care taken by each group to furnish and arrange its space. The ad agency firm of McKinney-Silver has a ground level entrance lobby featuring an open stringer staircase rising to two higher levels with glass-walled conference rooms. The upper floors are interestingly stacked and angled one above the other and features a loft seating area with contemporary furnishings. The glass walls frame the interior spaces like art.

Glass walls are also used to great effect in the newly opened YMCA fitness facility located in the lower level of the Fowler Building. A convenient and private place

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The Crowe Building's double entry lobby opens to Blackwell Street and the courtyard.

for a workout, the glass-walled area allows clients to enjoy views of the waterfall while pacing a treadmill.

And there is art everywhere. Vice President and General Manager Paul Pope has the happy task of purchasing and placing much of the Campus' growing art collection with plans to host regular art tours. "Each building lobby features works by North Carolina artists," says Pope, whose selected pieces also include historic floor plans and blueprints of the original American Tobacco Company buildings. These delicate hand-done blue line drawings provide a good balance with the Campus' other art works, many of them bold abstracts in vibrant colors and textures. Sculpture is used extensively throughout

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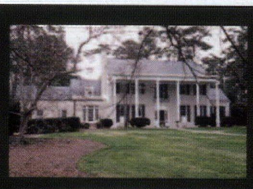

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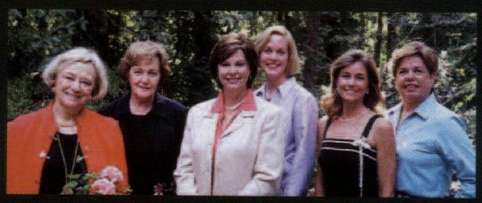

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WUNC Public Radio's offices are visually linked to other Campus areas.

the Campus and pieces from Goodmon's own collections are on display, including the painted bronze Fire Boy, situated by the river's edge near the Symposium Café. Pope notes that the Fire Boy is functional art with water re-circulating through the hose he brandishes at an imaginary fire.

Durham's American Tobacco Campus is distinctive as a monument to the functional and aesthetically enriching architecture of an age and an industry. Some would say it symbolizes the renaissance of a city that is experiencing the transition from a 19th to a 21st-century economy. And it is a monument to the public spirit of a community and an individual who have joined in a commitment to renewing life and opportunity in a beautifully executed monument to both the history and the future of a time and a place. MM

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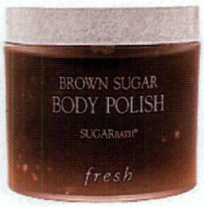
Metro Magazine's

Gift Guide

We're back with Part II of our holiday gift guide, and this time we have even more gift ideas for that special someone on your list. For the women, we stayed close to home, perusing local retailers for special holiday treasure. For the men, it is all about fun this time around, from racecars to cruise bikes, you name it, we've got it. You'll also find great gift ideas that will appeal to the little dreamer in your life, as well as classic gift ideas for everyone else on your list. Happy Gift Giving! —Tricia Horatio

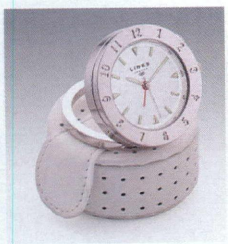
And you thought brown sugar was only good in the kitchen. **Fresh Brown Sugar Body Polish** is a blend of real brown sugar and fine oils that will leave her skin soft and radiant, 15 oz. $60. Available at Sephora, Crabtree Valley Mall, Raleigh.



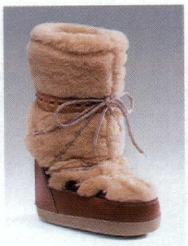
Made of handmade glass and sterling silver, the **Poppi stripy pink ring** is sure to delight. $64 Available in a variety of colors at Moondance Gallery, Meadowmont Village, Chapel Hill.

You've given her beautiful jewelry, now what? Give her something beautiful to store them in. This **reverse glass painted jewelry box** is a product of the Allpa artisan group, an alternative trading organization that reaches approximately 2,000 families from 100 artisan groups and family workshops in different parts of Peru. $78. Available at One World Market, Durham, 919-286-2457. Sales at One World Market provide a sustainable source of fair pay that helps ensure a living wage for thousands of people in developing areas.

Keep her hands warm with the **Italian nappa Stephanie glove**. These gloves are handcrafted in Italy and feature complementing hardware and cashmere lining. $120. Available in black, cigar, scarlet and spinach at Cole Haan stores, The Streets at Southpoint or www.colehaan.com.

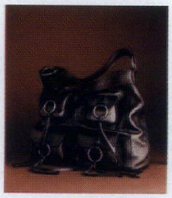


For the jet setter – Links of London **silver-plated travel alarm clock**. $125. Available at Saks Fifth Avenue, Triangle Town Center, Raleigh or www.saks-fifthavenue.com.



Indulge her feet in Marc by Marc Jacobs **ivory faux fur snow boots**. $195. Also available in dark brown and plum at Saks Fifth Avenue, Triangle Town Center, Raleigh or www.saks-fifthavenue.com.

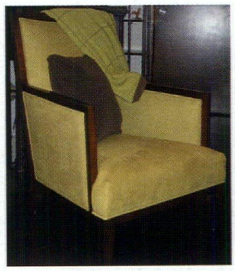
BedHead's Luxe Pajama combines the beauty of a sateen jacquard finish with the comfort of cotton. $195. Available in aqua, terra fleur or sage at Haven, The Lassiter at North Hills, Raleigh.



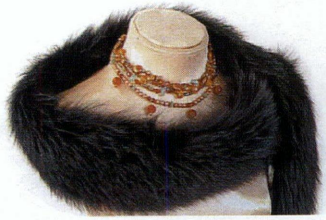
Hold everything! That's exactly what she'll be able to do with the roomy **Bloomsbury Pocket Shoulder Tote** from Banana Republic. Made of fine Italian leather and embellished with solid brass hardware, the Bloomsbury tote is sophisticated and practical. $300. Available in Cognac (13" x 17" x 7") at Banana Republic at The Streets at South Point, Durham or Triangle Town Center and Crabtree Valley Mall, Raleigh.

Luxury she can slip into: The **Petit Bijou gold silk and black lace chemise**. $160. Available at Lavender and Lace, Cameron Village Shopping Center, Raleigh.

For the woman with style, this **Kerry Catherine silver cuff** makes the perfect gift. $350. Kerry Catherine Jewelers, Raleigh, 919-831-227. Photo by Mandy Scoch.



Brighten up her life with the **Bright Chair Company Lorin armchair**. 28"w x 32"d x 37"H, light walnut finish, apple green ultra suede. Available at Minta Bell Design Group, Meadowmont Village, Chapel Hill. Call 919-933-9800 for details.



For the Diva – **Dyed Fox Scarf** by Anne Dee Golden, $460; Alex Pittar beaded three-strand necklace, $525. Available at Razook's, Cameron Village Shopping Center, Raleigh.

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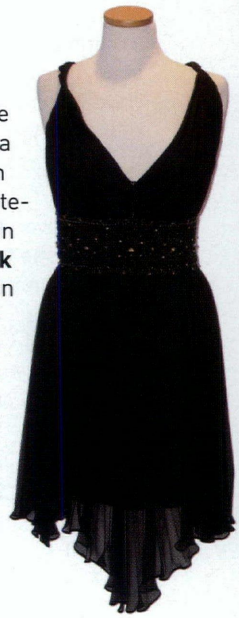
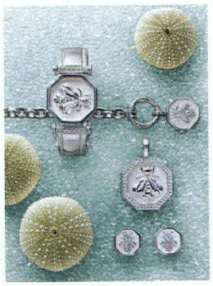
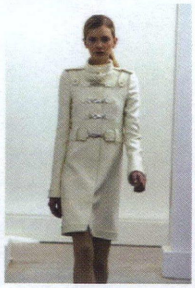


Forget about that little black dress and take a look at this little plum dress. She will definitely make a statement in the **Hidy Ng raisin silk dress** with lace/sequin detail at waist and pleated skirt. $550. Available at fleur, Cameron Village Shopping Center, Raleigh



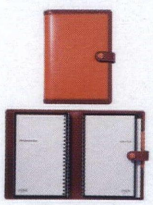
They say you catch more bees with honey. Find the **Slane & Slane Bee Collection** at The Elaine Miller Collection, The Lassiter at North Hills, Raleigh. Bee bangle in sterling silver, bee charm bracelet in sterling silver, extra large sterling silver bee pendant with pavé diamond border and sterling silver bee omega earrings with pavé diamonds. Call 919-571-8888 for details.

The perfect evening bag – **Moo Roo feather bag**. $645. Available at Vermillion, The Lassiter at North Hills, Raleigh.

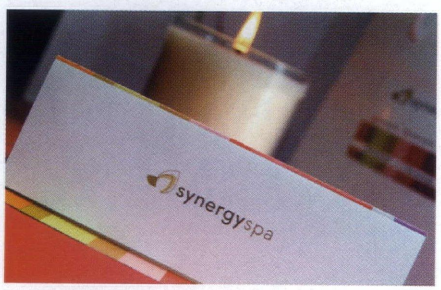


A **winter white coat** from Balenciaga. Need we say more? Available at Vermillion, The Lassiter at North Hills, Raleigh. Call 919-787-9780 for details.

Keep up-to-date with **Coach 6x8 Calfskin Agenda**. Features an address book, calendar, multiple pockets for cards and receipts and a coordinating lacquer pen to fit pen loop. $218. Available in black, dusty rose or sky at Coach stores, The Streets at Southpoint, Durham; Crabtree Valley Mall, Raleigh; or www.coach.com.

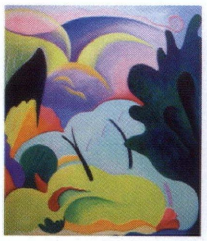


Johnson's Jewelers of Raleigh is excited to introduce the **Lagos Caviar Collection**. Lagos features a variety of colored stones and diamonds set in elegant sterling silver and yellow gold. Call 919-783-9504 for details.



Give her the gift of indulgence: A **Synergy Spa gift certificate**. Synergy Spa combines advanced clinical aesthetics with comprehensive spa therapies in a simple comfortable atmosphere. Synergy Spa, Shoppes of Glenwood Village, Raleigh. For more information visit www.feelsynergy.com or call 919-510-5130.

Wrap her in one of these fabulous **Rani Arabella co-cashmere throws**. Made of a luxurious cashmere and silk blend, they're finished with a chocolate suede border that is sure to please. $375. Available in blue, taupe and grass at Haven, The Lassiter at North Hills, Raleigh.



For the art lover –**Gallery C's 21st annual Holiday Exhibition** provides the perfect opportunity to add Gordon Jameson's "Elyse" to her collection. The highly anticipated show features numerous Gallery C artists shown alongside incredible international crafts, textiles, ornaments and jewelry. Visit www.galleryc.net or call 919-828-3165 for more details.

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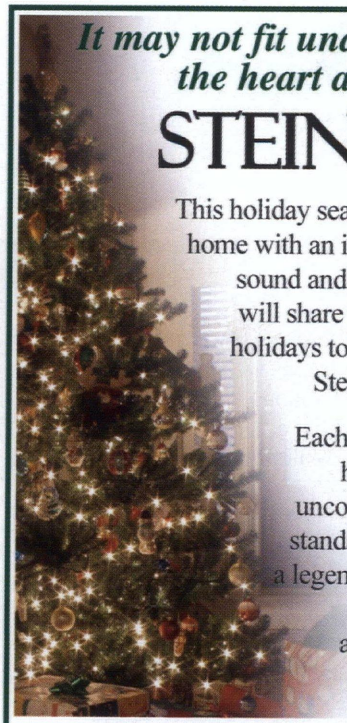

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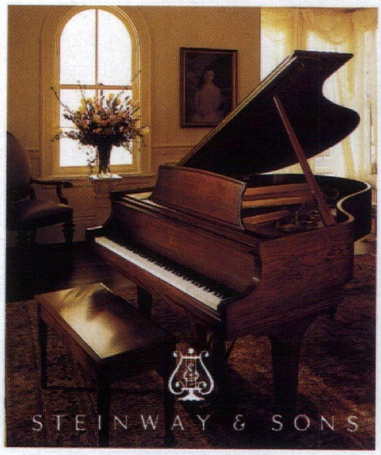

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Gifts for Him

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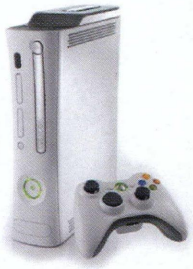
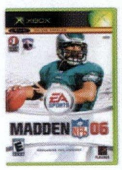


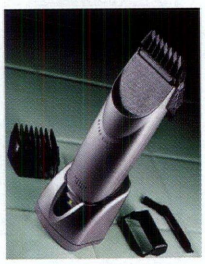
For the big kid – **Microsoft Xbox 360**. $299.99 Available at Best Buy stores or www.bestbuy.com.

For the utilitarian – The **SwissMemory 1GB Alox** features 1GB USB memory stick, blade, nail file with screwdriver, scissors and key ring. $192. Available at www.swissarmy.com.



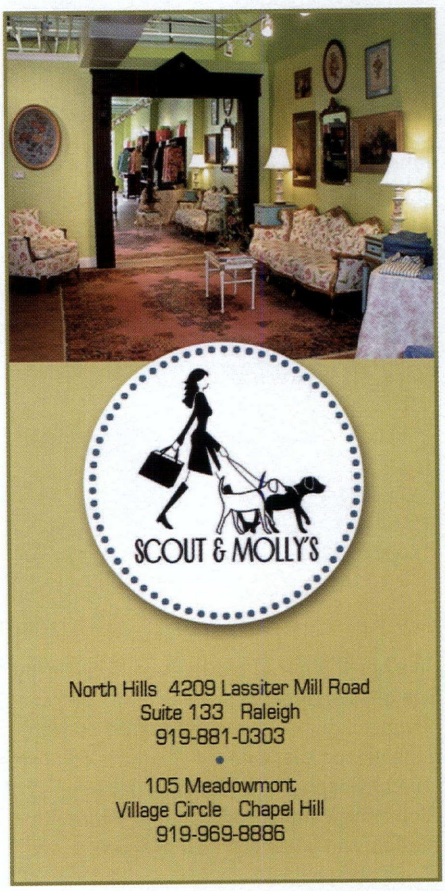
For the sports fanatic –**Madden NFL 2006** for Xbox 360. $59.99. Available at Circuit City stores or www.circuitcity.com.

For the class act — **Talbot sterling silver cufflink**. $285. Available at Normon Stockton, Meadowmont Village, Chapel Hill.



For the pretty boy – The men's cordless **Ultra Groomer** from Sharper image, comes with 3, 6, 9 and 12 mm deep hair length guides to trim and thin hair. $39.95. Available at Sharper Image, Crabtree Valley Mall, Raleigh or www.sharperimage.com.

For the Cruiser — **BMW Cruise Bike**. Available in 18 or 20-inch frame, both in sparkling graphite with a height of 65-69 inches or 68-74 inches. $800. Available at BMW dealerships or www.bmw.com



For the man of leisure – **Brooks Brothers terrycloth robe**. $148. Available in white and blue at Brooks Brothers, Crabtree Valley Mall, Raleigh or www.brooksbrothers.com.

For the gentleman — **Robert Talbott Best of class ties**, $105 each; and Pink herringbone ($135) and pink gingham ($185) medium spread collar one pocket button cuff shirts. Available at Norman Stockton, Meadowmont Village, Chapel Hill.

For the tech wiz – **Razrwire eyewear**. Give him hands-free communication while protecting his eyes from the sun. Razrwire combines Oakley optics with Motorola Bluetooth technology, so he can wear his phone. $295. Available at Oakley stores or www.oakley.com.

For the daredevil – The **LRS Formula 1 Driving Experience** is the ultimate gift. Give him the chance to drive authentic modern era formula 1-race cars on the Las Vegas Motor Speedway in Las Vegas, Nevada. With a 700hp F1 engine roaring at close to 15,000 RPM, he'll feel nothing but speed. Programs starting January 2006. Visit www.lrsformula-usa.com or call 800-818-5564 for more details.

For the vinyl lover – **LP to CD Recorder Stereo System by Hammacher Schlemmer**. With this unique recorder/player he can record and preserve his classic vinyl records on CDs, play his 33s, 45s and 78s or listen to the built-in AM/FM stereo with analog tuner and single CD playback tray. $399.95. Available at www.hammacher.com.

For the Handyman – The **Sharper Image Multi-tool kit** features a stainless steel hammer multi-tool and screwdriver, large pocketknife multitool, penknife multitool, bubble level, tape measure, aluminum flashlight, two jeweler screwdrivers and a microfiber case. $69.95. Available at Sharper Image, Crabtree Valley Mall, Raleigh or www.sharperimage.com.

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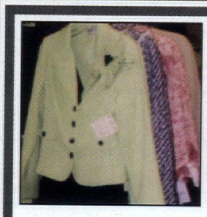
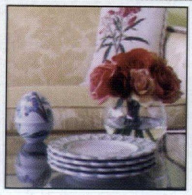


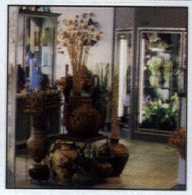
FINE FEATHERS

A ladies specialty shop featuring collections for special occasions, daywear, playtime and evening wear from distinctive designers such as Giorgio Armani, Valentino, Escada, Louis Feraud, Burberry, Etro, Agnona and many more. Ladies return faithfully for the personal service and comfortable atmosphere.



PEACOCK ALLEY

Peacock Alley is a treasure trove of beautiful accessories and gifts with such names as Herend, Katherine Houston, Mottahedeh, Heacley, Quimper and Jay Strongwater. A glorious selection for the new baby from crib to christening gowns to hand-painted tables and chairs.



BOTANICA

Offers an array of fresh, interesting and unusual flowers - available by the stem, bunch, or arranged simply in a vase. In addition, the store specializes in beautiful orchids and orchid pots, vases, and decorative art pieces. You can design an arrangement yourself or our experts will do it for you.

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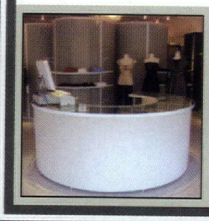

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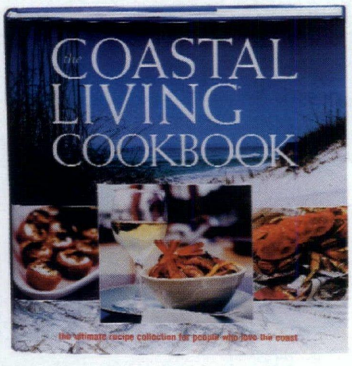

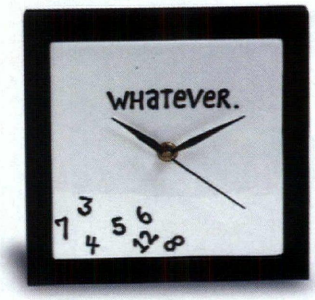

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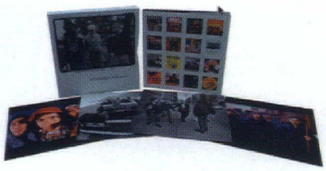
For the engineer – **Step 2 Canyon Road Train and Track Table**, 3+ years. Includes three-piece train set, three friction-powered cars and colorful landscape decals. $69.99. Available at www.imaginarium.com.

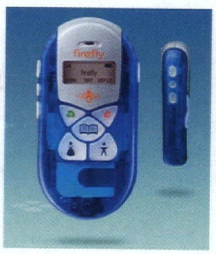
For the all-star – **NBA Pro Series Backboard**. The NBA Pro Series basketball system adjusts from 7.5' to 10', features a 54" steel-framed acrylic backboard and a 20° pole angle for maximum playability. $229.99. Available at Target stores or www.target.com.

For your princess – **Brian Andreas Story People** "More than a Princess" Sculpture. "Are you a princess?" I said & she said, "I'm much more than a princess, but you don't have a name for it yet, here on earth." $150. Available at Little Art Gallery and Craft Collection, Cameron Village Shopping Center, Raleigh.

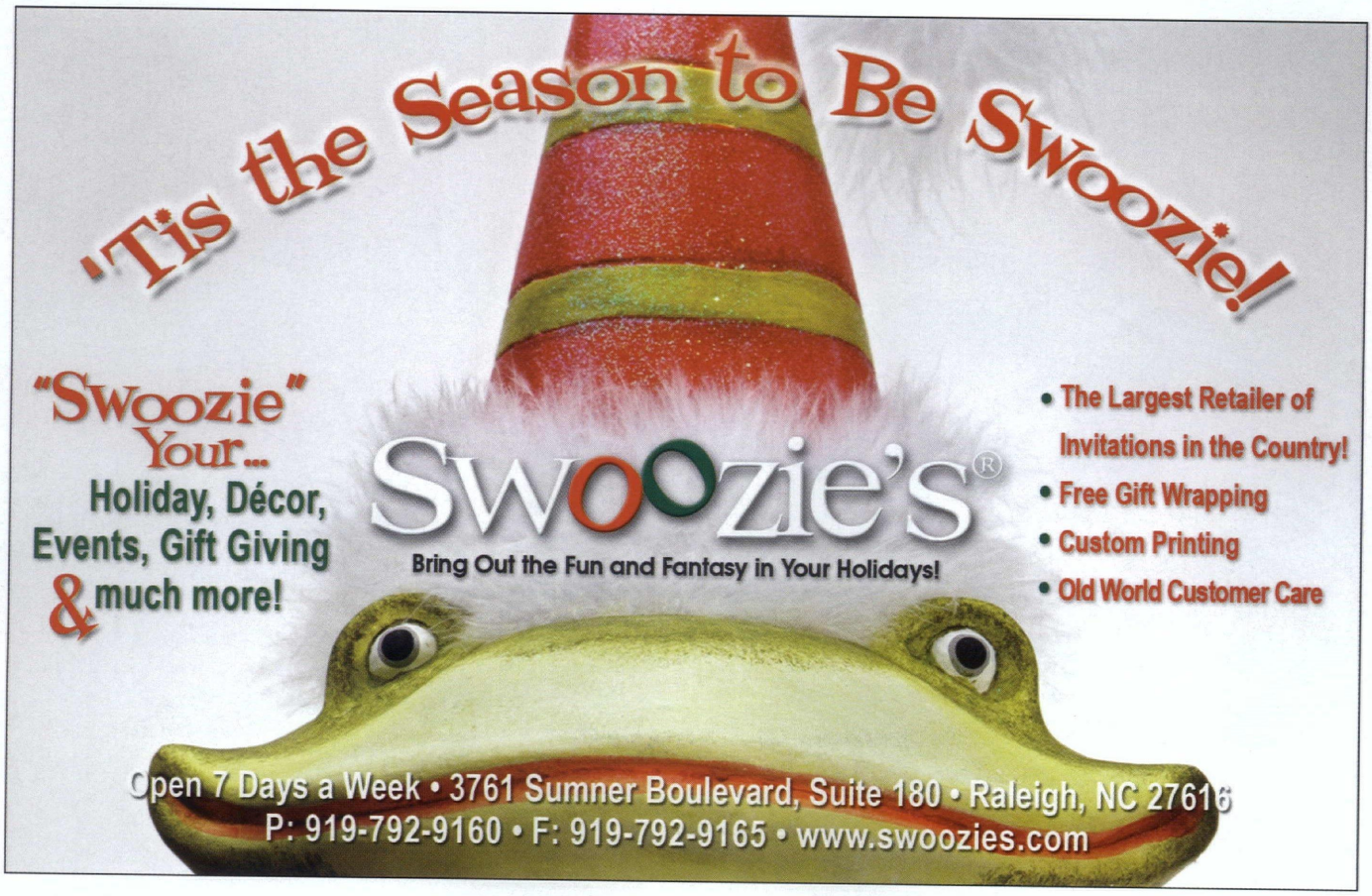
For the astronomer – **Meade 70AZ-A Telescope**. $79.95. Available at Discovery Channel Store, Crabtree Valley Mall, Raleigh or www.shoppingdiscovery.com.



For the old school rapper – ***Beastie Boys Anthology: The Sounds of Science*** 150g import 4LP limited edition box set. Includes 4 LP set on 150g vinyl, 88-page hard cover book and limited edition numbered box set. $134.99. Available at www.elusivedisc.com.



For the mini you – **Firefly mobile phone** for kids. $99. The firefly is designed to fit a child's hand, has a five-button keypad with parent and 911 speed dial keys, comes with a pin protected phone book that stores up to 20 numbers and can reject incoming numbers that are not in the phonebook. Available at Target stores or www.target.com.



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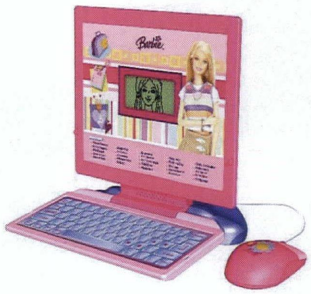

For the businesswoman in training — **Barbie Desktop Computer**, 4-7 years. $42.99. Available at www.amazon.com.

For the gamer – **Nintendo Gameboy Micro**. $99.99. Available at Bestbuy stores or www.bestbuy.com.

For the littler gardener – **Five-piece garden play set**. $20. Available at www.babydilly.com.

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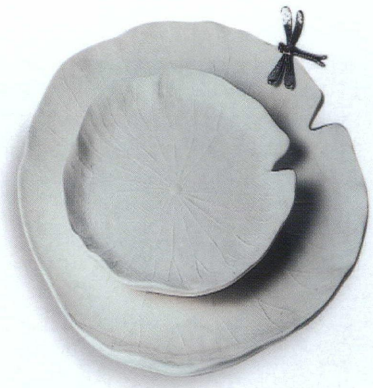
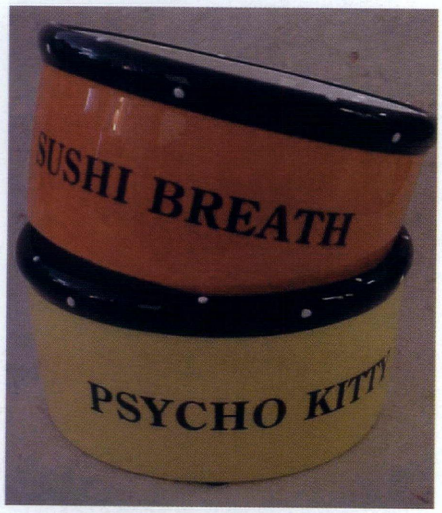


Bring nature indoors with the Michael Aram Lotus Pond Dinner plate ($24) and desert plate (18.75). Each Michael Aram Lotus plate is handmade and hand finished. Available at Quintessentials, The Lassiter at North Hills, Raleigh.



Why should we have all the fun? Your four-legged friend will enjoy eating out of these amusing **ceramic pet bowls** from Tumbleweed Pottery. $12.50 Available titles include "Sushi Breath," "Psycho Kitty," "His/her Majesty" and "Psycho Puppy." Available at Moondance Gallery, Meadowmont Village, Chapel Hill.

Do you remember Pop Rocks? What about Bubble Gum Cigarettes or Slo Pokes? The **Holiday Retro Candy Gift Box** has them all. Available at Candy Crate, the nostalgic candy and gift store, the holiday retro candy gift box is full of nostalgic candy assortments (more than 50 pieces) from past decades. Select from the 1940s – 1990s. $24.99. A gift they are guaranteed to love. Visit www.candy-crate.com for ordering details.

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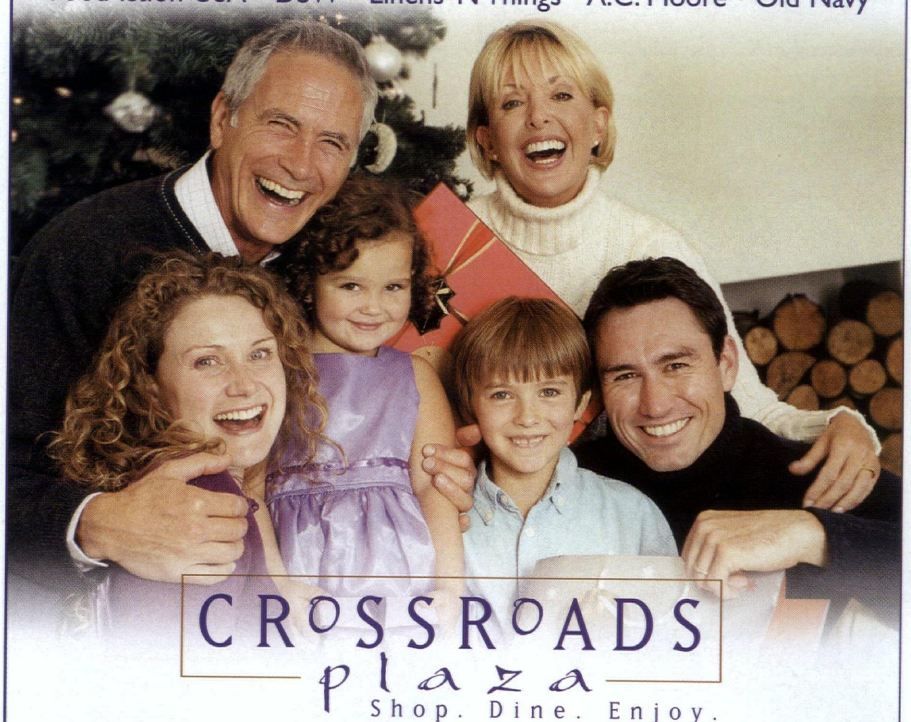

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www.shopcrossroadsplaza.com

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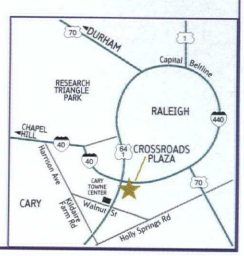

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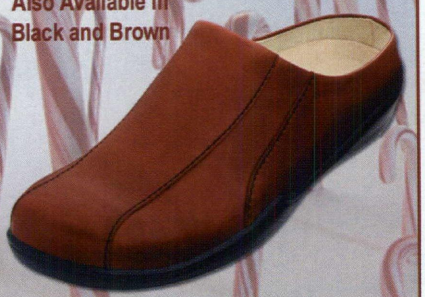

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Eastgate, Chapel Hill 919.933.1300

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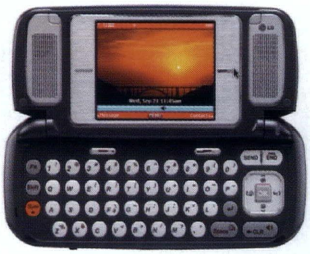
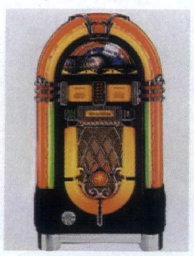
Give them all the bells and whistles of the **LG VX9800 Multimedia phone**. The LG 9800 has near broadband speed for on-demand TV through VCAST, Bluetooth, a stereo MP3 Player, a 1.3 megapixel camera and an expansion memory slot. And just case you need further convincing, it also features advanced voice dialing, a huge color screen and a QWERTY keyboard. $299.95. Visit www.lge.com to find local dealers or purchase online.



For the consummate chef – **KitchenAid Artisan Stand Mixer**. Includes a flat beater, dough hook, wire whip and pouring shield. $269.95. Available in persimmon, cobalt blue, majestic yellow, empire red, pink, white, onyx black and blue willow at Williams-Sonoma stores, Triangle Town Center and Crabtree Valley Mall, Raleigh; or The Streets at Southpoint, Durham;

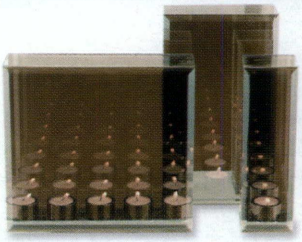


Talk about a CD player! The **Wurlitzer Jukebox** plays 100 CDs on the 200-watt six-speaker Philips CD system. Made in Germany from steel, hardwood veneers and chrome-tone plastic, it's not only an amazing sound system, but it looks pretty cool, too. Visit www.sharperimage.com for more details.

Increase their vocabulary with the **Rare Words Paperweight Cubes** (set of three) from Levenger. $12.95. Each Levenger rare word cube features six unusual words pulled from Levenger's Rare Words book. Available at www.levenger.com.

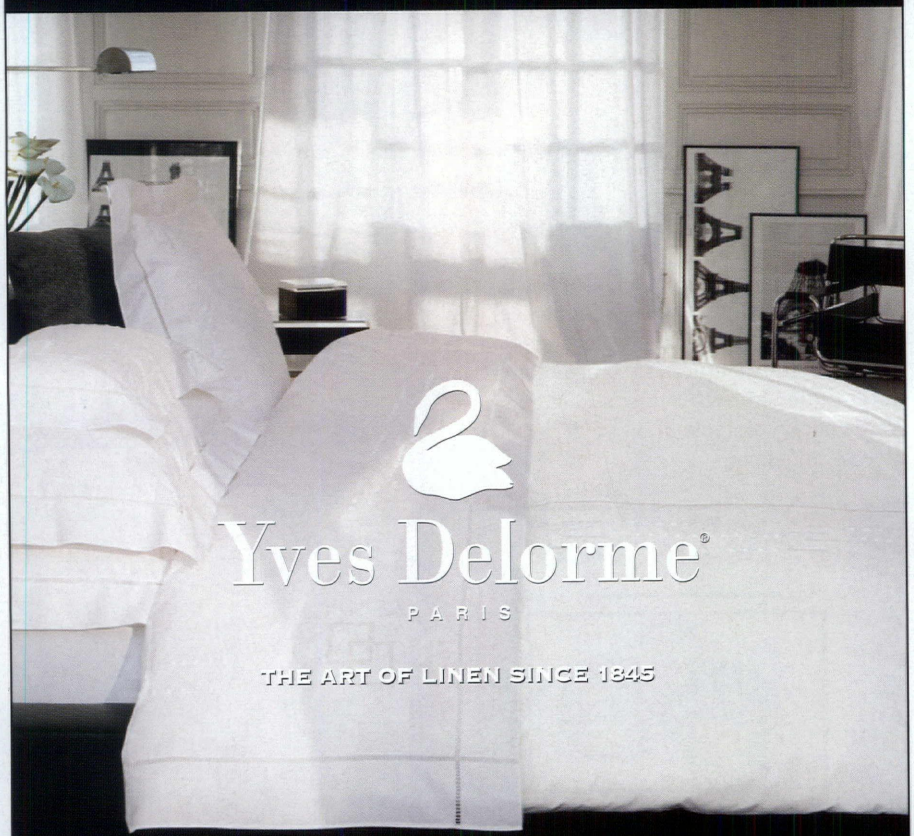
Once you have selected gifts for everyone on your list, wrap them in this beautiful handmade silk fiber paper from **Bonoful Handmade Paper**. Started in 1996 with funds from the Japanese and German embassies, artisans at Bonoful make paper from cotton, hemp, wheat straw and pineapple leaves. $3.50/sheet. Available at One World Market, Durham, 919-286-2457.

Fragrance their home with **Agraria AirEssence**. Presented in hand-blown Italian crystal fragrance bottles, each AireEssence is filled with signature potpourri oils available in a variety of fragrances: bitter orange, lemon verbena, lavender and rosemary, and balsam. $105. Available at Haven, The Lassiter at North Hills, Raleigh.



The **Reflective Lights Votive** makes a great gift. Available in 5 flame (10x11) $132; 3 flame (12x7) $110; 10 flame (15.75x25) $285 at Quintessentials, The Lassiter at North Hills, Raleigh.

BRIDAL REGISTRY & GIFTS



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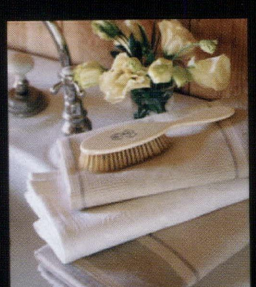

RALEIGH | 4421 SIX FORKS ROAD | 919-791-0014
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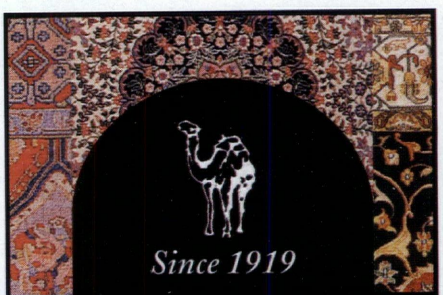
*Custom orders excluded

O2FITNESS

With the end of the year fast approaching, it is time to start thinking about New Year resolutions. Help that special someone on your list get a head start with an **O2 Fitness Membership**. Located in Cary, Chapel Hill, Raleigh and Wilmington, O2 is the premier health club in the Triangle, offering state of the art facilities and a dedicated staff of professionals. With 40 fitness class; "Cardio Get Away," a large screen plasma cardio theatre;" day care; and a techno gym, O2 has something to meet everyone's needs. Visit www.o2fitnessclubs.com or call 919-678-6302 for membership information.



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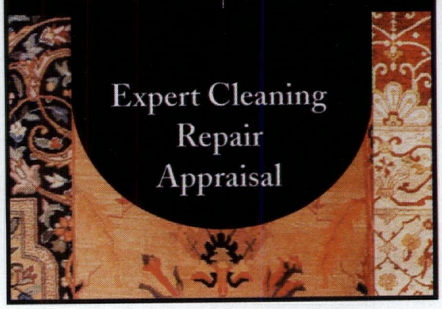


Metro Magazine

Spa Guide

by Tricia Horatio

The Age Issue

It's the age-old predicament. When you're young, you'll do anything to look older and when you're old, you'll try anything to look younger. The difference is that until recently, it was a lot easier to add five years to your age than it was to subtract five. A shorter skirt here, a little more blush there, the right shade of red glossing your lips, and presto you were

BLUEWATER SPA

21. At least that was my story. Well, times have changed. Thanks to the growth of a new "youth" market, it is getting easier to subtract the years. Anti-aging/wrinkle creams, over-the-counter skin peels, diet books, fitness clubs and exercise videos all cater to a reverse-the-clock mentality–and the timing couldn't be better, with more than half of the population age 55 and older, the race for the fountain of youth has never been faster.

Enter MedSpas. Medical Spas or "MedSpas" are the newest and fastest growing segment of the beauty/skin-care industry. A "marriage of science and beauty," MedSpas are licensed medical outpatient facilities that combine medical-level treatment and therapies with the pampering and nurturing of the traditional spa environment. According to MedSpa owners, Kile Law president of Bluewater Spa, a plastic surgery spa in Raleigh and Karen Albright president of BodyLase Skin Spa in Cary, much of the vast appeal of MedSpas can be attributed to advanced technologies, which are helping customers achieve dramatic results. "The day of beauty is gone," Law says, with the pressures of family and work, people want results without the down time.

MedSpas such as Bluewater and BodyLase are just two of the North Carolina MedSpas/Skin Care Centers catering to this need. Also following the trend are Personal Image Center in Cary and Ocean of Youth in Wilmington. Each facility promises to rejuvenate, reinvigorate, and revitalize, but remain unique in their approach.

MedSpas/Skin Care Centers from the Triangle to the Coast

Raleigh: Bluewater Spa

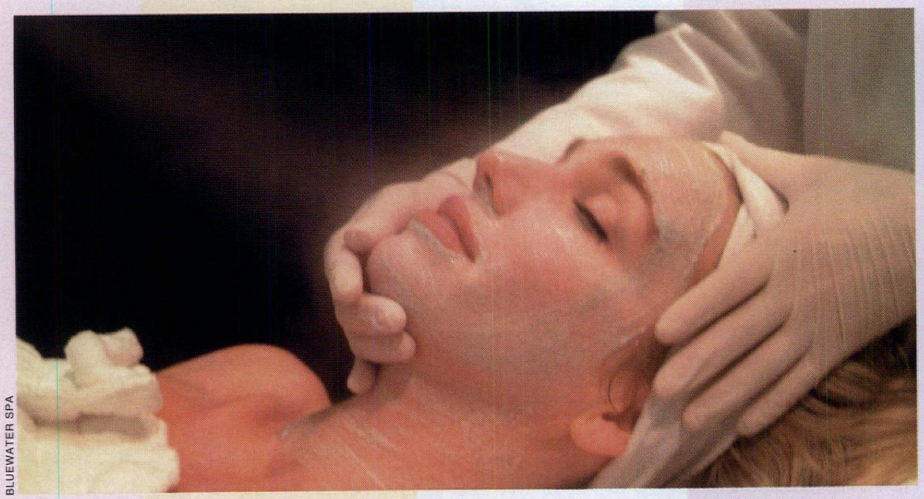
10941 Raven Ridge Road,
Suite 103, Raleigh
(919) 870-6066
www.bluewaterspa.com

Kile and Dr. Michael Law of Bluewater Spa wrote the book on Medical Spas. She is a spa and esthetics expert who is on the advisory board of the National Day Spa Association, and he is a board-certified plastic surgeon. Together they started Bluewater Spa, the first plastic surgery medical spa in North Carolina. As authorities in the MedSpa business—when physicians want to open a MedSpa they call the Laws—Kile and Michael Law combine and apply their expertise to ensure that their clients get the results they want. At Bluewater, clients can choose from "a facial to a facelift to everything in between." According to Kile, what makes Bluewater unique is its alternative approach. "In some atmospheres its surgery or nothing, here, we provide alternatives. The staff at Bluewater consults with each client and provides the necessary information for him/her to make the right decision for their skin. "If you give us an hour or less" Kile says, "you will see a dramatic difference in your skin"—without surgery. With state-of-the-art facilities that feature five multipurpose rooms for Botox, microdermabrasions, peels and facials, the finest products and equipment, and skilled licensed professionals, Bluewater is committed to excellence and results.

Cary/Raleigh: BodyLase Skin Spa

501 Keisler Drive
Suite 201, Cary
(919) 851-8989
6531 Creedmoor Rd., Suite 102, Raleigh
(919) 954-2288
www.getbodylase.com

As the most experienced laser center in the Triangle, BodyLase Skin Spa does more than rejuvenate the skin of its clients; it also offers a warm inviting atmosphere. The staff at BodyLase works hard to make clients feel at home. "Sometimes spas can be very intimidating," Karen Albright, President and co-owner of BodyLase, said. "We are the opposite of that. We make people feel warm." BodyLase specializes in esthetic laser treatments for the removal of unwanted hair and the rejuvenation of the skin. The spa also offers a full range of therapeutic facial and waxing services, laser vein therapy, which helps reduce the appearance of leg and facial veins to improve the texture of skin, and collagen replacement therapy, which helps reduce the appearance of wrinkles and fine lines. With a highly trained staff led by medical director Dr. Daniel J. Albright, a board-certified sur-



BLUEWATER SPA

geon with more than 15 years experience as a medical physician, and first-class lasers designed to treat various skin types and tones, BodyLase provides the best in health, comfort and beauty for esthetic laser treatment.

Cary: Personal Image Center
2501 Weston Parkway Cary
(919) 677-2711
www.picnc.com

Don't call it a Spa because in actuality, it is not. Though the Personal Image Center offers its clients a relaxed, calm and supportive environment in which to address their beauty and skin care needs, its primary focus, according to patient care coordinator Mary Ellen Esposito, is to deliver professional medical treatment that will produce transformative results. The Personal Image Center is a plastic surgery and skin care center specializing in body contouring, facial sculpting, breast reshaping, and a host of skin care procedures that include microdermabrasion, permanent cosmetics and laser hair removal. The staff at the Personal Image Center prides itself on delivering the best in customer service and skin care. Dr. Geoffrey Hilliard, a cosmetic and reconstructive surgeon with more than

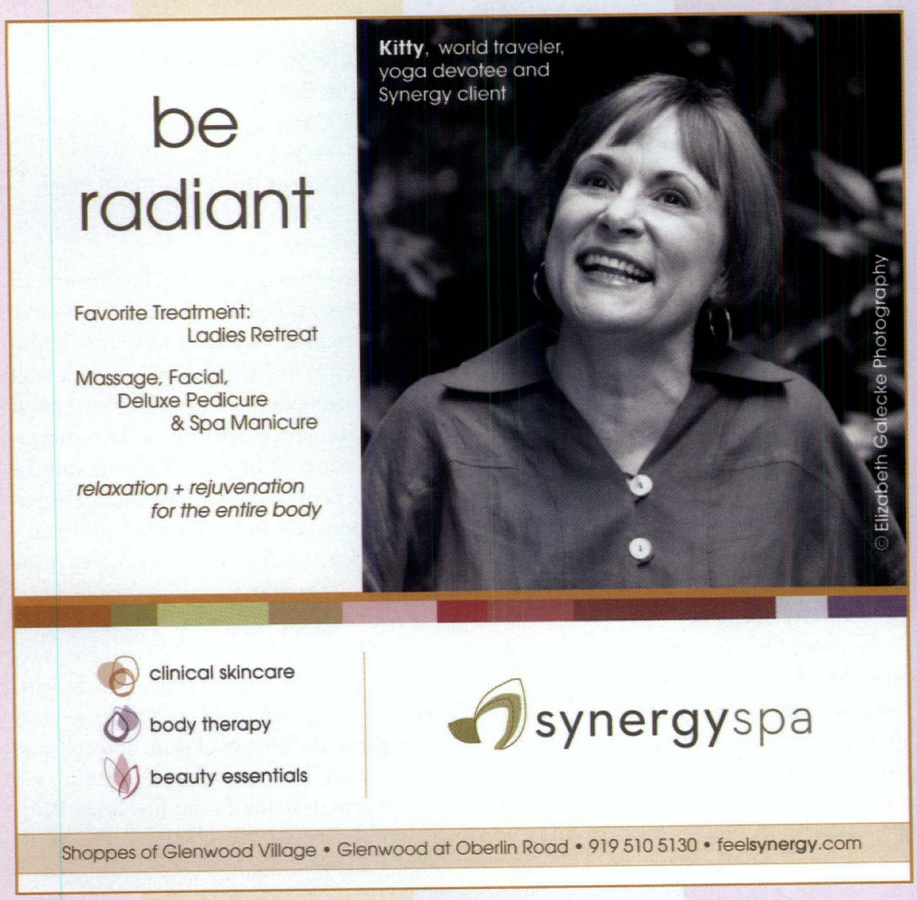
11 years experience, is onsite five days a week providing in-depth consultations and services, while trained quality skin care professionals ensure that clients receive the highest standard of care. With the best and latest technologies at hand, the Personal Image Center makes beauty easy.

Wilmington: Ocean of Youth
1404 Commonwealth Drive, Suite 101
Wilmington
(910) 256-9899
www.oceanofyouth.com

Ocean of Youth is committed to offering the best in dermatologically and medically based skin-care programs. With a team of physicians and esthetic surgeons trained to develop treatment plans to suit individual skin types, Ocean of Youth ensures that the treatment you receive is personalized and safe. Among the many esthetic enhancements and body treatments available at Ocean of Youth are Botox, collagen injections, permanent makeup, microsclerothearpy, facials, microdermabrasion, laser hair removal and massage. MM

Choosing a MedSpa/ Skin Care Center

- We know that navigating through the array of beauty options can be frustrating, so we asked some of our beauty experts for helpful tips to keep in mind when choosing a MedSpa/Skin Care Center.
- Do your research. Check out the spa online, ask friends or family who have visited the spa for their thoughts, opinions, etc.
- Make sure the MedSpa/Skin Care Center has an onsite physician or clinical professional available to provide consultations and answer your questions.
- Consider the investment the spa is making in you: Do they have multiple lasers, the latest equipment, excellent customer service, etc.
- Consumers are entitled to ask questions—so ask.



SPA LOCATIONS IN YOUR AREA

APEX

Cary Skin Center
200 Wellesley Trade Lane
919-363-7546
www.caryskincenter.com
Services: body sculpting, facials, chemical peels, microdermabrasion, and waxing

Life's Little Pleasures
134 Salem Towne Ct.
919-362-6311
www.llpleasures.com
Services: massages, facials, body wraps, nails, microdermabrasion, photo facials, cellulite reduction

Tanas Hair Designs and Day Spa
105 Baines Court
919-380-0221
www.tanashairdesigns.com
Services: hair, nail artistry, skin care, body wraps, lash and brow services, massage therapy, body treatments, hair removal

CARY

B. Roman Skin & Body Therapy
2425 Kildaire Farm Rd.
919-851-2255
www.b-romandayspa.com
Services: Vichy shower, salt polishes, wraps, bronzing treatments, gentlemen specials, sports massage, reflexology, aromatherapy massage, La Stone therapy, skin peels, nails, makeup artistry, waxing

BodyLase Skin Spa
501 Keisler Drive
919-851-8989
www.getbodylase.com

Services: Laser hair removal, skin rejuvenation, Botox, Wrinkle Fillers, Lip Augmentation, Laser Vein Care, Waxing, Facials

Cary Massage Therapy Center
1330 SE Maynard Rd.
Suite 203
919-319-4911
www.carymassagetherapy.com
Services: facials, massage, reflexology, acupuncture

La Therapie Day Spa
1000 Darrington Drive
919-380-0041
www.ltdayspa.com
Services: acupuncture, facial treatments, massage, body treatments, nail services, waxing

Nippon Spa & Nails
6448 Tryon Road
919-851-0101
www.nipponspa.com
Services: massage, body treatment, facials, waxing, and nail care

Skin Sense, A Day Spa
1269 Kildaire Farm Rd.
919-468-1230
www.skinsense.com
Services: nails, body treatments, salt rubs, seaweed treatments, body wraps, facial treatments, Ayurveda massage, microdermabrasion, hair removal, La Stone therapy, hydrotherapy

Tanas Hair Designs and Day Spa
1398 Kildaire Farm Rd.
919-380-0221
www.tanashairdesigns.com
Services: hair services, nail artistry, skin care, body wraps, lash and brow services, massage therapy, body treatments, hair removal

Von Kekel Salon Spa
2230 Walnut St.
919-859-0888
www.vonkekel.com
Services: facials, peels, massages, eye treatments, glycolic treatments, baths, hair, nails, waxing

CHAPEL HILL

Aveda Institute Salon & Spa
200 W. Franklin Street
919-960-4769
www.avedachapelhill.com

Day Spa 255
255 S Elliott Road
919-968-1066
Services: hair, makeup, facials, nails, massages, waxing

Forever Young Spa
400 Market St. Suite 100
919-928-9490
www.foreveryoungspa.com
Services: hair, nails, skin care, waxing, coloring, massages

Krisztina Kozmetika
304 W. Weaver St.
919-933-2400
www.krisztina-kozmetika.com
Services: specialty facial treatments, waxing, makeup application, eyebrow and lash tinting, massage

Mina's Studio
400 S. Elliott Road
919-968-8548
www.minasstudio.com
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Serenity Day Spa
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919-932-6800
www.serenity-day-spa.com
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252-453-9799
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800-701-4111
www.thesanderling.com
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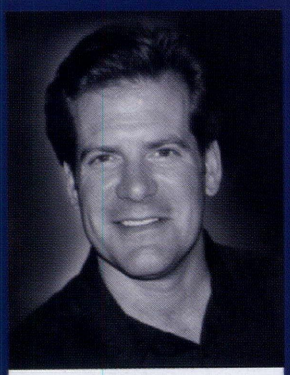


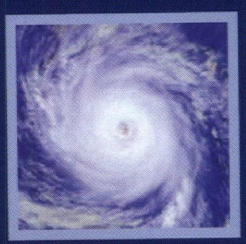
Dr. Law, a Raleigh native, practiced aesthetic plastic surgery in Beverly Hills until returning to his hometown in 2003, to be near family and open his solo practice. He and his wife Kile reside in Raleigh with their two young sons. Since opening his NC practice, Dr. Law has been recognized with numerous '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.

"Great Plastic Surgery Doesn't Look Like Surgery, It Just Makes People Look Great."

-Michael Law MD

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLASTIC SURGEONS

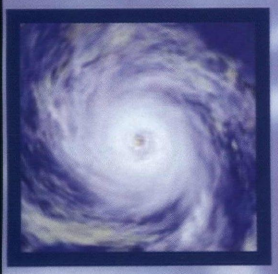


Hurricane Katrina Relief
100% of Sunday Revenue from laser hair removal, laser facials and all spa services goes to Hurricane Katrina Relief

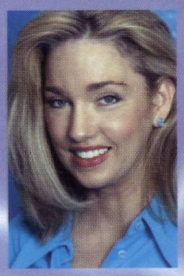
MichaelLawMD
AESTHETIC PLASTIC SURGERY
www.michaellawmd.com

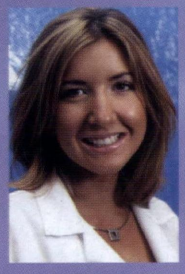
bluewaterspa
www.bluewaterspa.com

10941 Raven Ridge Road Suite 103 Raleigh, NC 27614 Phone: 919.256.0900



Hurricane Katrina Relief
100% of all Sunday Revenue goes to aid Hurricane Katrina Survivors





The Marriage of Science and Beauty

Blue Water Spa has been recognized as a best spa since opening in 2003 and was voted best spa in the Triangle by Citysearch 2 consecutive years. The spa has been featured extensively in national media including cover articles of plastic surgery and spa journals, and several television programs. Blue Water Spa provides the ultimate in results and relaxation. Our advanced treatments offer immediate, visible results.

Blue Water Spa is a nationally known and respected spa, owner Kile Law is one of five spa owners nationwide appointed to the 2005 National Day Spa Association Advisory Board. The 2004 ABBIES award, one of the highest honors in aesthetics was awarded to Blue Water Spa, and medical spa professionals everywhere look to Blue Water Spa for expertise in providing the safest and most effective treatments available. Our experience includes working with the inventors of microdermabrasion and developing the protocol that has been used worldwide for over a decade. Since 1995, we have provided professional training in spa treatments, endermologie and laser hair removal.

Blue Water Spa is owned and operated by board-certified plastic surgeon Dr. Michael Law and his wife, Kile. Dr. Law practiced aesthetic surgery in Beverly Hills before returning to his hometown of Raleigh to raise a family.

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www.bluewaterspa.com

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1841 Martin Luther King Parkway
919-403-8159

www.sheer-blissdayspa.com
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The Body Café Salon & Day Spa
3400 Westgate Dr.
Suite A-10
919-493-7900
www.thebodycafe.com
Services: nail care, massages, reflexology, waxing, facials, hair

Fayetteville

Day Spa Salon and Skin Care
5407-B Ramsey St.
910-488-4247
Services: massage, hair, nails, body treatments, facials

Ravenhill Dermatology Medical Day Spa and Salon
1534 Purdue Drive
910-323-3131
Dr. Sidney E. Thompson, Medical Director
Services: specializing in the repair of skin, hair, nails and wellness from damage

Renaissance European Day Spa
860 Elm Street
910-484-9922
www.therenaissancedayspa.com
Services: facials, massages, hair, nail, body treatments, waxing, custom makeup

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828-699-0192
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Services: nail, skin care, massage and body services, makeup

Fountain of Youth Day Spa and Salon
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www.fountainofyouthdayspa.com
Services: facials, massages, nails

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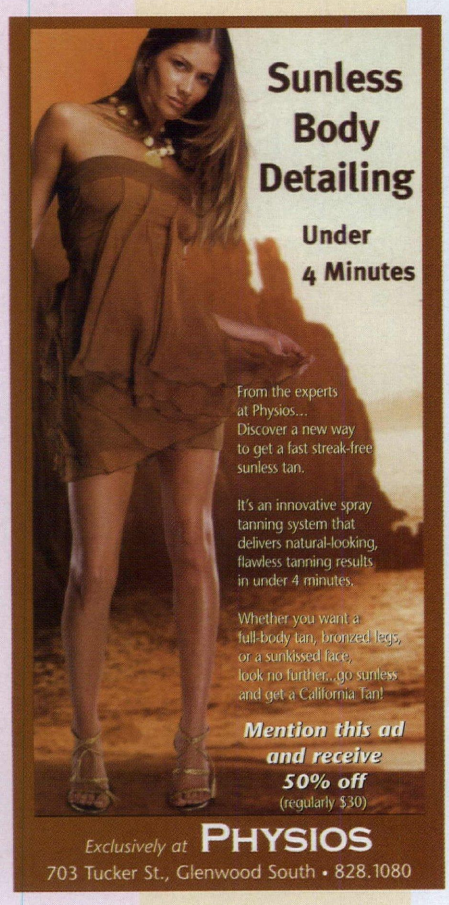

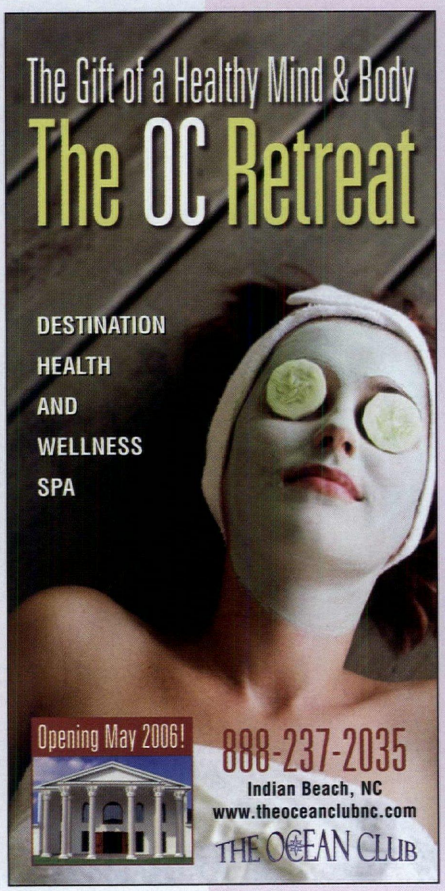

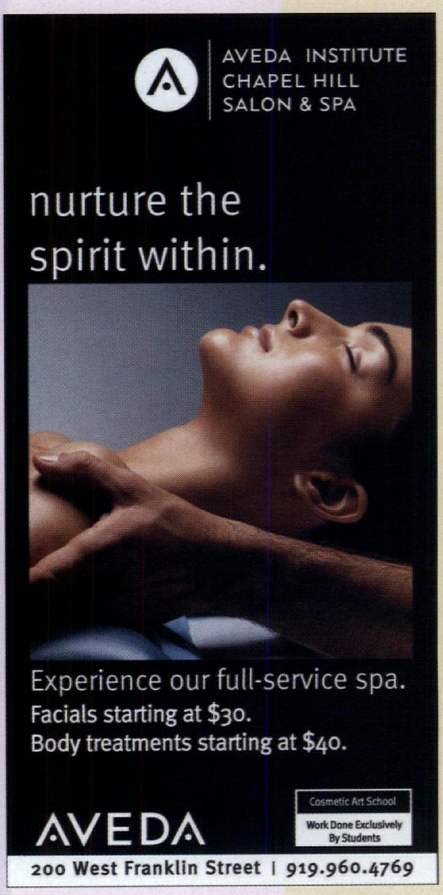

www.getbodylase.com
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www.devinelines.com
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www.luxeapothecary.com
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919-828-1080
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919-755-3990
Services: skin care, facials, massage, body wraps, waxing, nails, hair styling and coloring, makeup application

Skin Sense, A Day Spa
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8441 Brier Creek Parkway
919-870-0700
www.skinsense.com
Services: nails, body treatments, salt rubs, seaweed treatments, body wraps, facial treatments, Ayurveda massage, microdermabrasion, hair removal, La Stone therapy, hydrotherapy

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919-872-3108
Services: hair, massage therapy, nails

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919-870-6050
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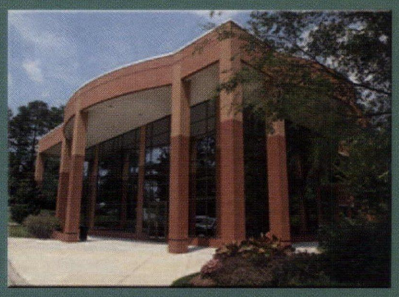

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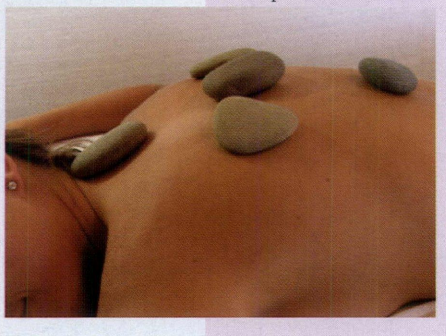

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910-509-0410
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Lakeview at Fontana
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www.greenbrier.com
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The Homestead Resort
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Hot Springs, VA
800-838-1766
www.thehomestead.com
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Asheville
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www.groveparkinn.com
Services: nails, skin care, hydro-bath treatments, massages

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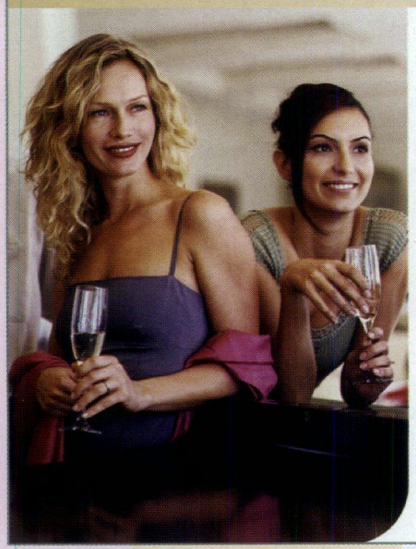

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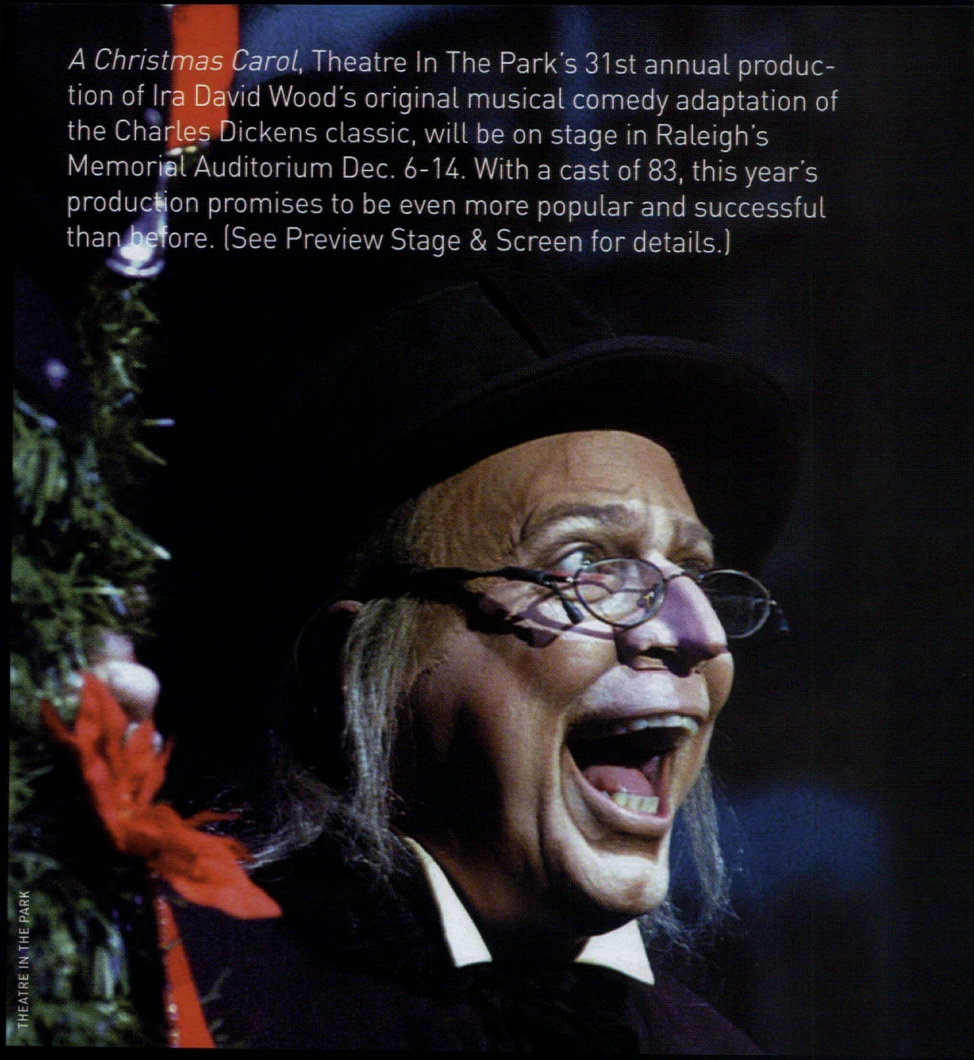
This 9-foot-tall poinsettia tree is one of many breath-taking sights you'll see at the Poinsettia Open House on Dec. 4 at the J.C. Raulston Arboretum, Raleigh. Sponsored by the arboretum and NC State Floriculture, the exhibition will display over 110 poinsettia cultivars. You can vote for your favorites. (See Preview Potpourri for details.)

JC RAULSTON ARBORETUM

A Christmas Carol, Theatre In The Park's 31st annual production of Ira David Wood's original musical comedy adaptation of the Charles Dickens classic, will be on stage in Raleigh's Memorial Auditorium Dec. 6-14. With a cast of 83, this year's production promises to be even more popular and successful than before. (See Preview Stage & Screen for details.)

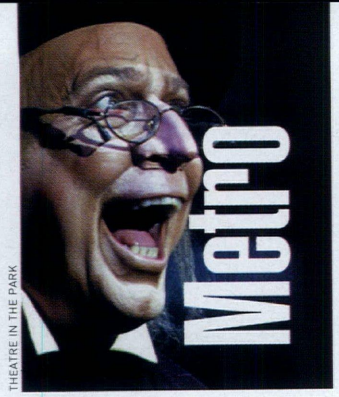


THEATRE IN THE PARK

Openings

The Tryon Palace Fife & Drum Corps, composed of uniformed student musicians from Craven and Carteret counties, contains six regimental drums, three bass drums, seven fife players, a flag bearer and rifle carrier like those that paraded in the 1700s. The director is Dr. Robert Bianco. The Corps will perform during the Tryon Palace Christmas candlelight tours on Dec. 10 and 17, New Bern. (See Preview Museums for details.)

TRYON PALACE



THEATRE IN THE PARK

Preview

by Frances Smith

HOLIDAY EVENTS

GALLERIES

WANG ART GALLERY

Bridge of Flowers by Bonnie Brooks is on view in the Grace Li Wang Holiday Exhibition, running throughout the month at Wang Art Gallery, Raleigh

GRACE LI WANG HOLIDAY ART SHOW: Featuring 8 artists including Bonnie Brooks and Grace Li Wang; Grace Le Wang Art Gallery, Raleigh; thru Dec. 31. Contact 919-278-6507 or www.graceliwang.com.

THE CHOWAN ARTS COUNCIL MEMBERS EXHIBIT: Items available for purchase; Chowan Arts Council, Edenton; Thru Dec. 31. Contact 252-482-8005 or www.visitedenton.com.

MANDY ROEING: Pastel pet portraits exhibit; The Farmers Market & Gallery, Rams Plaza, Chapel Hill; thru Dec. 31. Contact 919-929-7137.

21ST ANNUAL HOLIDAY EXHIBITION: Unique gift ideas for holiday season; Gallery C, Raleigh; thru Jan.3. Contact 919-828-3165 or www.galleryc.net

WORKS OF 9TH ANNUAL STUDIO SHOW: Open at Nancy Tuttle May Studio, 806 Ninth St., Durham; thru Feb. 15. Contact 919-688-8852 or ntmink@aol.com.

WELLINGTON B. GRAY GALLERY: Annual Holiday Exhibition & sale; ECU, Greenville; Dec. 2-3. Contact 1-800-ECU-ARTS or www.ecuarts.com

MERRILY STRICKLAND: Paintings of Ireland & Scotland; Tir Na Nog Irish Pub, Raleigh; (Opening Reception Dec. 2) thru Jan 1. Contact 919-880-0738 or www.merrilystrickland.com.

NANCY TUTTLE MAY

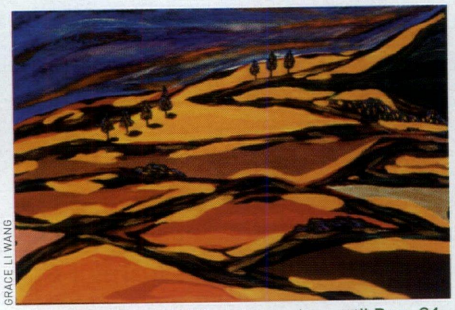
Il Fait du Soleil by Nancy Tuttle May is on view in the 9th Annual Studio Show, open through Feb. 15 at Nancy Tuttle May Studio, Durham

MARVIN SALTZMAN- DISTINCTIVE LANDSCAPES: Betty Ray McCain Gallery, Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts; thru Jan. 6.

NATURE: An exhibition by Grace Li Wang; Cody's Asian Bistro and Pub, Raleigh; thru Dec. 31. Contact 919-899-6428 or www.codysbistro.com.

MERRILY STRICKLAND

Behind the Bar at O'Loclainn's Pub by Merrily Strickland hangs in a month-long exhibition beginning on Dec. 2 at Tir Na Nog Irish Pub, Raleigh



GRACE LI WANG

Field #7 by Grace Li Wang is on view until Dec. 31 at Cody's Asian Bistro & Pub, Raleigh

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AND FROM Prudential Carolinas Realty OFFICES AND AGENTS THROUGHOUT THE TRIANGLE.

DYES ON PAPER BY JEAN CERASINI: Nested Home and Gift Gallery, Carrboro; (Opening reception Dec. 9) thru Jan. 31. Contact 919-338-8023.

THE GIFT OF ART: Fine Art Show; Animation & Fine Art Galleries, Chapel Hill; (Opening Reception Dec. 9) thru Dec. 31. Contact 919-968-8008 or www.animationandfineart.com

TYNDALL GALLERIES HOLIDAY EXHIBIT: Paintings, sculptures, ceramics, photography, and fiber by gallery artists; Tyndall Galleries, Chapel Hill; thru Jan. 7. Contact 919-942-2290 or www.tyndallgalleries.com

TYNDALL GALLERIES

Dance to the Cadence of Flutes and Drum, ceramic kimono by Ellen Kong, hangs in a Holiday Exhibition, now through Jan. 7 at Tyndall Galleries, Chapel Hill

HOLIDAY ART SHOW: 30 artists in the largest exhibition of the year; New Elements Gallery, Downtown Wilmington; thru Jan 7. Contact 910-343-8997 or www.newelementsgallery.com.

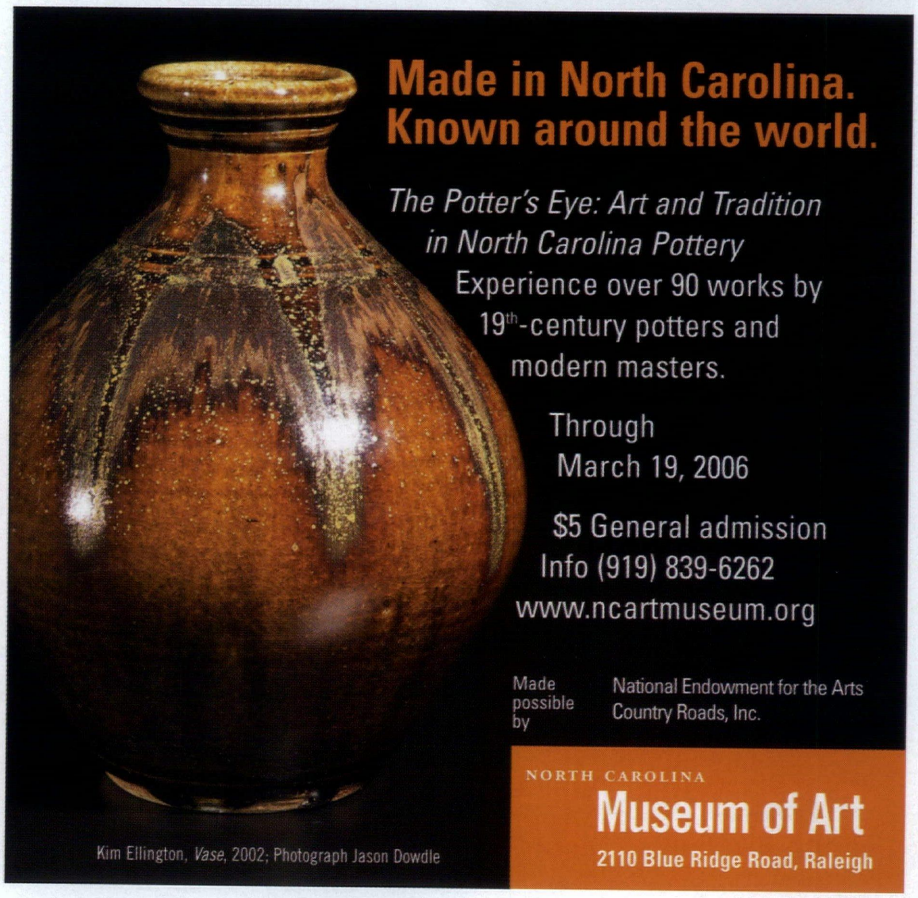
TELL ALL THE TRUTH, BUT TELL IT SLANT: Exhibition by Louanne Watley; Rebus Works, Raleigh; thru Jan. 22. Contact 919-754-8452 or www.rebusworks.net.

SERTOMA ARTS CENTER GALLERY EXHIBITS: Raleigh, (Opening Reception Dec. 4) thru Dec. 27; Contact 919-420-2329 or http://parks.raleighnc.gov:

- **PHOTOGRAPHY BY THE CAPITAL CITY CAMERA CLUB:** Dec. 1-27.

NEW ELEMENTS GALLERY

Poppy by Nancy Tuttle May is on view through Jan. 7 during New Elements Gallery's Holiday Show in downtown Wilmington



Christmas Candlelight Tour

December 10 & 17

Tryon Palace

Historic Sites & Gardens
New Bern

www.tryonpalace.org
1800-767-1560

- **FELTING BY LISA HONEYCUTT:** Dec. 1-27
- **WATER COLOR AND ACRYLICS BY WARREN 'CHIC' WEBBER:** Dec. 2-27

RALEIGH CONTEMPORARY GALLERY

View from Spot Knob by well-known landscape artist Henry Link will be on view through Dec. 31 at Raleigh Contemporary Gallery

EVENTS AT RALEIGH CONTEMPORARY GALLERY: Raleigh, Contact 919-828-6500 or www.rcgallery.com:
- **HENRY LINK - NORTH CAROLINA LANDSCAPES:** Dec.1-31.
- **PHILIP LEVINE - STILL LIFE:** Dec. 1-31.

EVENTS AT ARTSPACE: Raleigh, Contact 919-821-2787 or www.artspace.org:
- **LISA F. PEARCE - FROM OUR HANDS:** Visual Art/Sculpture; upfront gallery; Dec.2-31.
- **ASHLYNN BROWNING - NEW DRAWINGS:** Visual Art/Drawing; Lobby; Dec 2-31.
- **MICHAEL THRUSH - NAUGHTY:** Visual Art/Painting; Gallery 2; Dec.2-Jan. 27.

CLASSICAL

ECU GUEST ARTIST SERIES - THE OBERLIN TRIO: A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall, Greenville; Dec. 2. Contact 1-800-ECU-ARTS or www.ecuarts.com.

TRIANGLE WIND ENSEMBLE: With Concert Singers of Cary; Herbert Young Center, Cary; Dec. 3. Contact 919-856-3751 or www.triangle.org.

DUKE CHAPEL CHOIR: Rodney Wynkoop, director; Duke Chapel, Durham; Dec. 2-4. Contact 919-660-3300 or www.duke.edu/music/events/calendar.html

DURHAM SYMPHONY HOLIDAY POPS CONCERT: With Special Guests Durham School of the Arts Chorale; Downtown Durham Armory; Dec.4; First Baptist Church, Clinton; Dec.11. Contact 919-560-2736 or www.durhamsymphony.org.

ECU SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: Wright Auditorium, Greenville; Dec. 6. Contact 1-800-ECU-ARTS or www.ecuarts.com.

GERMANE GERMANS CONCERT 2: Duke Symphony Orchestra Concert with Randall Love Pianist; Baldwin Auditorium, Duke University; Dec. 7. Contact 919-660-3300 or www.duke.edu/music.

CAPITAL CITY GIRLS CHOIRS: Christmas Concert; Jones Auditorium, Meredith College; Dec. 10. Contact 919-760-2840 or www.meredith.edu/calendar.

MESSIAH - NC MASTER CHORALE: Alfred E. Sturgis, Music Director; Meymandi Concert Hall, Raleigh; Dec. 11. Contact 919-856-9700 or www.ncmasterchorale.org.

RALEIGH BOYCHOIR - CAROLS OF CHRISTMAS: Traditional Christmas Carols with guest harpist Anita Burroughs-Price; Edenton Street United Methodist Church, Raleigh; Dec. 21. Contact 919-881-9259 or www.raleighboychoir.org.

NEW YEAR'S EVE CONCERT & GALA WITH NC SYMPHONY: Special Guest Caitrin Finch; Meymandi Concert Hall, Raleigh, Dec. 31. Contact 919-733-2750 or www.ncsymphony.org.

POP MUSIC

EMILE PANDOLFI AT CHRISTMAS: Thalian Hall, Wilmington; Dec. 2. Contact 910-343-3664 or www.thalianhall.com.

COMBINED JAZZ ENSEMBLE, CONTEMPORARY JAZZ ENSEMBLE, JAZZ BONES: ECU Arts series; Wright Auditorium; Greenville; Dec. 2. Contact 1-800-ECU-ARTS or www.ecuarts.com.

PLAID COWBOYS: Pop concert; Tony's Oyster Bar, Cary; Dec. 2. Contact 336-803-4547

MEREDITH CHRISTMAS CONCERTS: Seasonal Music performed by all Meredith's musical ensembles; Jones Auditorium, Meredith College; Dec. 4. Contact 919-760-2840 or www.meredith.edu/calendar

International group Tres Chicas will perform Rock for Reproductive Rights, a benefit for IPAS, Dec. 17, at The ArtsCenter, Carrboro

SCHOOL OF MUSIC FRIENDS' HOLIDAY CONCERT: ECU Wind Ensemble & University Chorale; Wright Auditorium, Greenville; Dec. 4. Contact 1-800-ECU-ARTS or www.ecuarts.com.

CHRISTMAS WITH AARON NEVILLE & QUINTET: Featuring Charles Neville, Katrina Relief Benefit Concert; Carolina Theatre, Durham; Dec. 7. Contact 919-560-3040 or www.carolinatheatre.org.

POP CONCERTS AT THE ARTSCENTER, Carrboro; Con-

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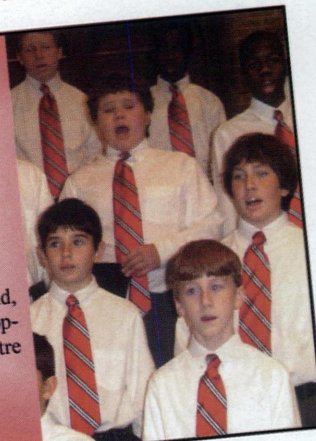


tact 919-929-2787 or www.artscenterlive.org:

- **DIPPED IN MOONLIGHT WITH COSMIC CHARLIE,** Dec. 9
- **5TH ANNUAL SONGS FOR PEACE BENEFIT CONCERT:** Benefit for Israeli-Arab alliance project, Dec. 10
- **CHRIS BOERNER QUARTET: INCOMING,** CD release concert; Dec. 15.
- **ROCK FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS,** featuring Tres Chicas; Benefit for IPAS, Dec, 17

A CLAY AIKEN CHRISTMAS - JOYFUL NOISE 2005: RBC Center, Raleigh; Dec. 22. Contact 919-861-5470 or www.ticketmaster.com.

SAX PACK PRESENTED BY DDT ENTERTAINMENT: Carolina Theatre, Durham; Dec. 30. Contact 919-599-3072.

STAGE & SCREEN

STRING OF PEARLS: Production by PlayMakers Repertory Company; Center for Dramatic Art, Chapel Hill; thru Dec. 11. Call 919-962- 7529 or visit www.playmakersrep.org.

JON GARDINER

(left to right) The ensemble: Susan Barrett, Diane Ciesla, Kathryn Hunter-Williams and Allison Reeves perform in PlayMakers Repertory Company's production of Michele Lowe's *String of Pearls*, thru Dec. 11 at the Center for Dramatic Art, Chapel Hill

THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER: Rivertowne Repertory Players; Sudan Shrine Center, New Bern; Dec. 2-10. Contact 252-637-9400.

THE POLAR EXPRESS* AND *HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE: IMAX Theater; Exploris, Raleigh; Showings vary throughout Holiday Season. Contact 919-857-1085 or www.exploris.org

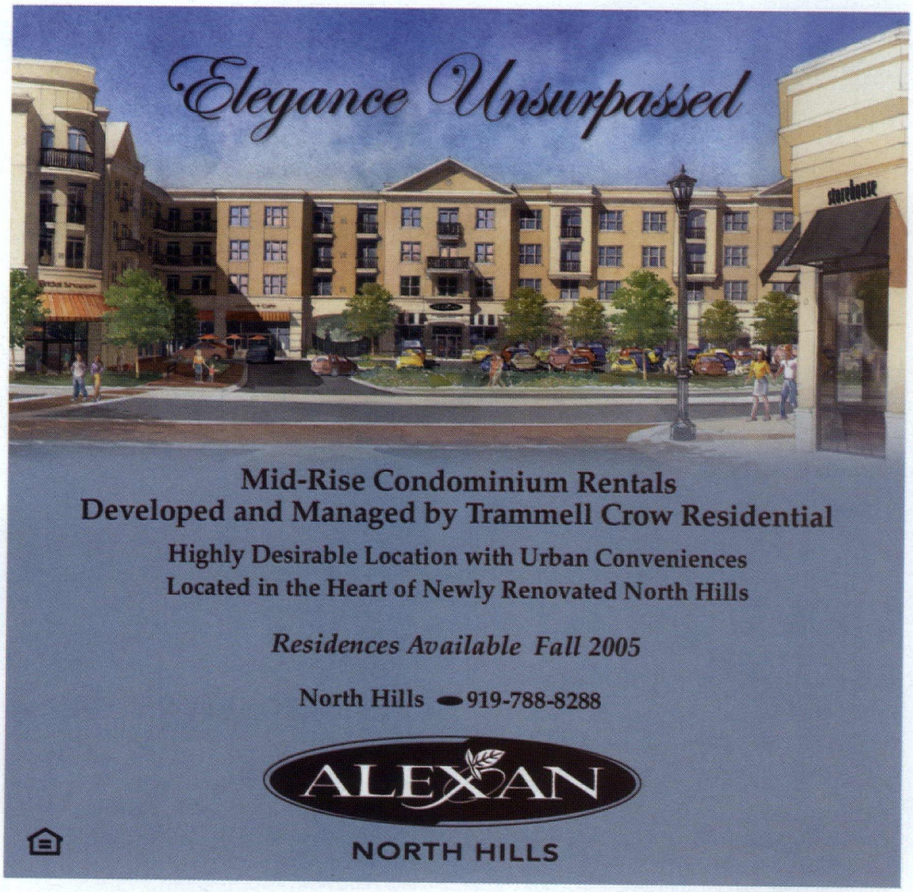
WARNER BROTHERS

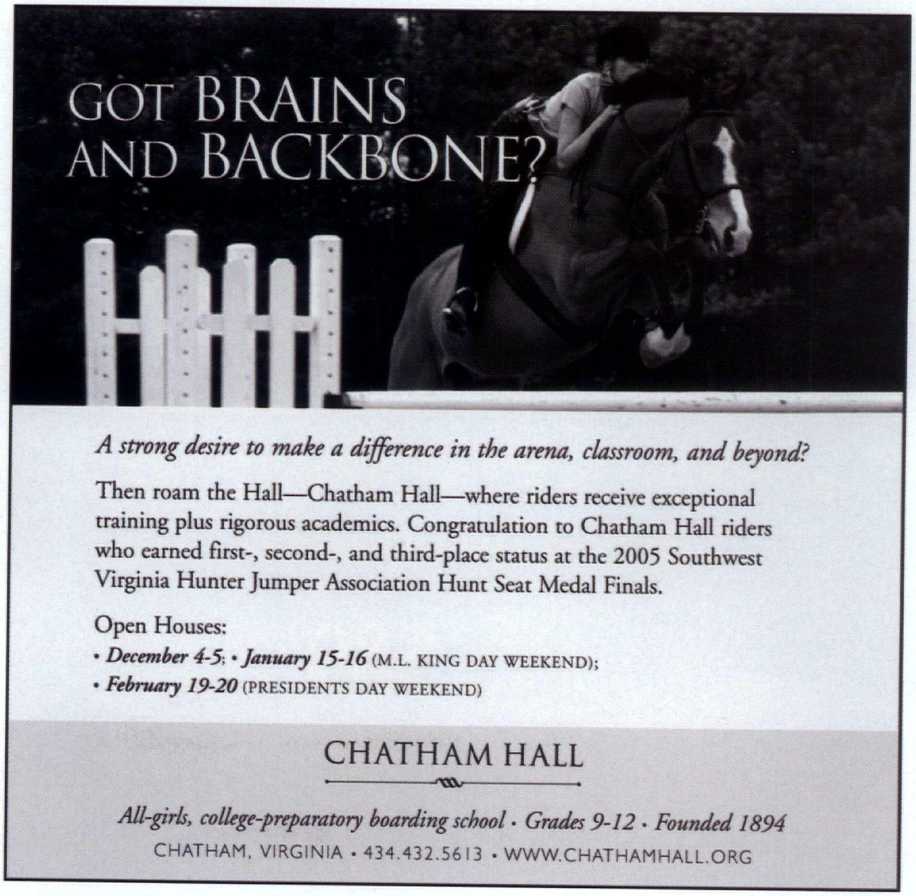
Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (the latest in the Harry Potter Series) is now open for the holidays in the IMAX theatre at Exploris, Raleigh

A CHRISTMAS CAROL: 31st Annual production of the Ira David Wood musical comedy adaptation; Memorial Auditorium, Raleigh; Dec. 6-14. Contact 919-834-4000 or www.theatreinthepark.com.

THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER: Cape Fear Regional Theatre, Fayetteville; Dec. 9-11 & 16-18. Contact 910-323-4234 or www.cfrt.org.

TRIANGLE YOUTH BALLET PRESENTS *THE NUTCRACKER:* Carolina Theatre, Durham; Dec. 10-11. Contact 919-969-9693 or www.carolinatheatre.org.





RUSS HOWE

Yvette Sumner, Hong Yang, Margo Martin, Caitlin Mundth, Erica Sabatini and company perform in Carolina Ballet's *Nutcracker*, choreography by Robert Weiss, thru Dec. 23 at Memorial Auditorium, Raleigh

JOHN & JEN: A new musical presented by ECU/Loessin Playhouse; Studio Theatre, ECU; Dec. 10-11. Contact 1-800-ECU-ARTS or www.ecuarts.com.

THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM: The Emmerich Theatre performing their Christmas Musical; Rocky Hock Playhouse, Edenton; thru Dec. 17. Contact 252-482-4621.

NUTCRACKER: Carolina Ballet presents the company's fifth production of the Holiday Classic; Memorial Auditorium, Raleigh; thru Dec. 23. Contact 919-719-0900 or 919-834-4000.

MUSEUMS

EVENTS AT CAMERON ART MUSEUM: Wilmington; Contact 910-395-5999 or www.cameronartmuseum.com

- **GUEST COLLECTION- BATTLESHIP NORTH CAROLINA:** thru March 26
- **DOROTHY GILLESPIE - REFLECTIONS:** Two site-specific sculpture installations in Sculpture Court & Pond; thru Feb 19.
- **THE ELEMENTS:** A thematic reinstallation of the museum's permanent collection, an aesthetic journey of discovery; C. Reynolds Brown Wing; thru Feb. 12.
- **FROM MEMORY- MAUD GATEWOOD:** Exhibition of 25 paintings; Samuel Hudson Hughes Wing; thru April 16.
- **MUSICPLAYS! BARBARA GALLAGHER & FRIENDS:** Celtic and Holiday Favorites; Dec. 9.
- **ARTISTSPEAK! WITH A. DUMAY GORHAM III:** Informal conversation series discussing how the artists see and work; Dec. 4.

EVENTS AT THE NC MUSEUM OF ART: Raleigh; Contact 919-839-6262 or www.ncartmuseum.org

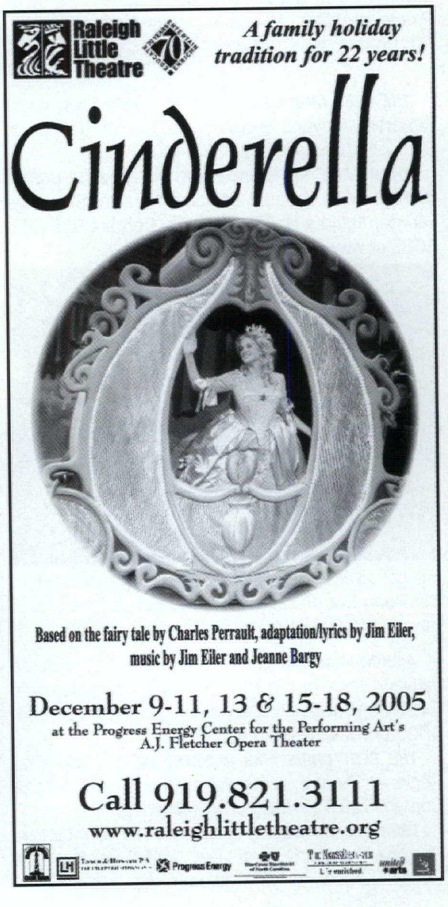
- **THE POTTER'S EYE:** Art & Tradition in North Carolina Pottery; thru March 19.
- **CROSSCURRENTS:** Art, Craft and Design in North Carolina; thru Jan. 8

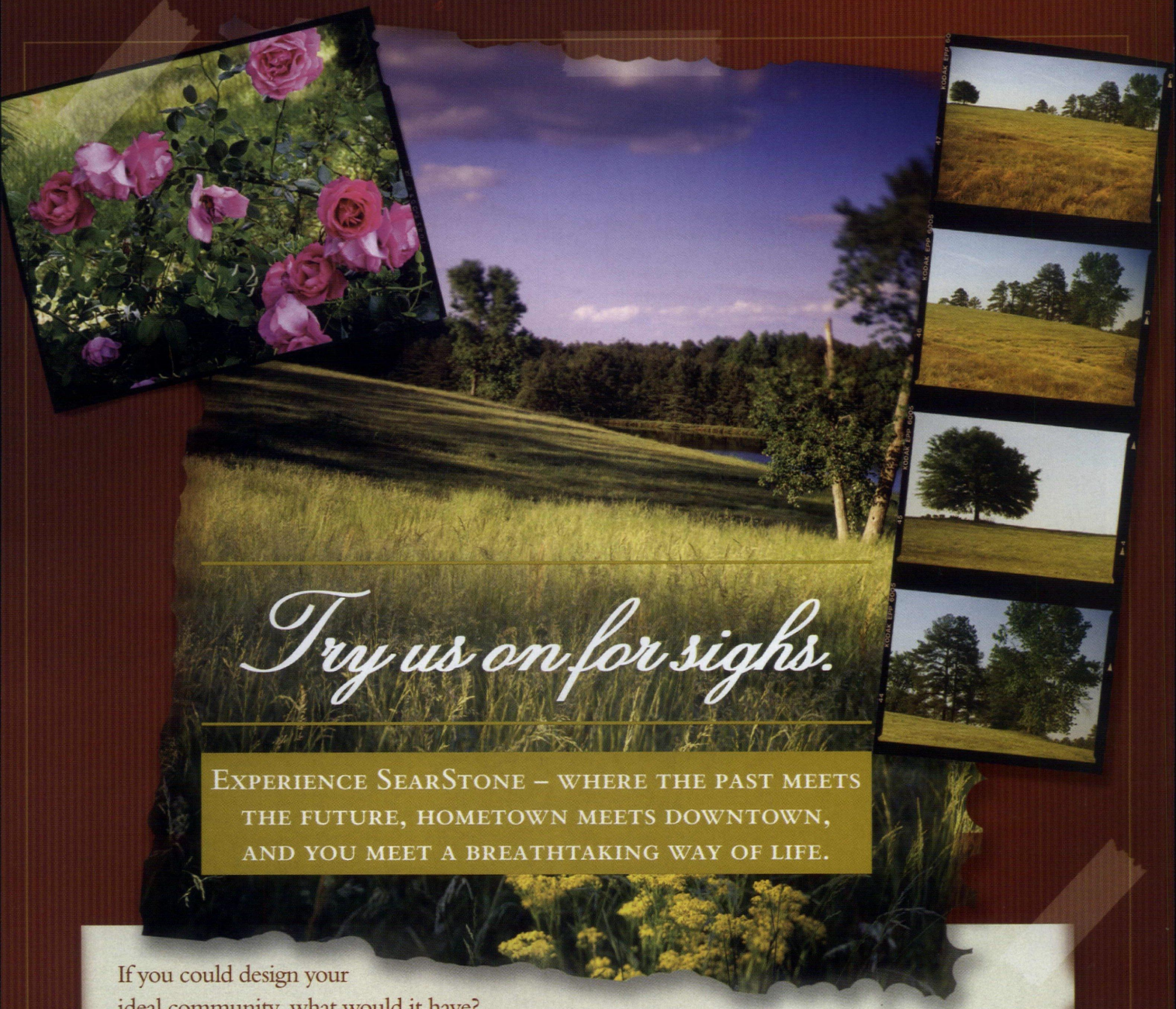
EVENTS AT THE NC MUSEUM OF HISTORY: Raleigh, Contact 919-807-7943 or ncmuseumofhistory.org:

- **CAPITOL TREE LIGHTING:** Dec. 8
- **MISHPACHA:** Traditional & contemporary Jewish music quartet; Dec.11
- **HISTORY A LA CARTE:** Moravian traditions in NC; Dec.14

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

- **DISCOVERING CHIMPANZEES - THE REMARKABLE WORLD OF JANE GOODALL:** thru Jan.10.
- **WATERFOWL IN WINTER:** Spend a day observing winter birds along the East Coast of NC; Dec. 9-10.
- **FOCUS ON NATURE:** Mark Bashista and Ray Ellis exhibit color photography; Nature Art Gallery, Museum Store; Dec. 2-Jan. 30.





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EVENTS AT TRYON PALACE: New Bern, Contact 252-514-4937 or www.tryonpalace.org:

- **COLONIAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION:** Dec. 1-31.
- **A CIVIL WAR CHRISTMAS AT TRYON PALACE:** Dec. 3.
- **THE LION, THE EAGLE, AND DIXIE:** Dramatic Presentation by actor Howard Burnham; Visitors Center Auditorium. Dec. 3.
- **FESTIVAL OF TREES:** Over 40 decorated trees & other holiday festivities; Dec. 1-3. Contact 252-633-8247.
- **TRYON PALACE CANDLELIGHT TOUR & FIREWORKS:** With Signora Bella, Italian Equilibrist; *Mr. Punch Meets Governor Tryon*, Puppet Show; Dec. 10 & 17.
- **FIFE AND DRUM CORPS:** Uniformed marching group of student musicians with 17th century-type Fifes & Drums, to perform during the Candlelight tours, Dec. 10 & 17.

EVENTS AT NC MUSEUM OF LIFE AND SCIENCE: Durham; Contact 919-220-5429 or www.ncmls.org:

- **STRANGE MATTER:** Exhibit uncovers the science behind the everyday; thru Jan. 8
- **BUILDING FUN:** The world of KAPLA returns; Aerospace Gallery; Jan. 29

COLLECTING CONTEMPORARY PRINTS: Eleven new prints recently purchased will be on display; Ackland Art Museum, Chapel Hill; thru Dec. 31. Contact 919-843-1611 or www.ackland.org

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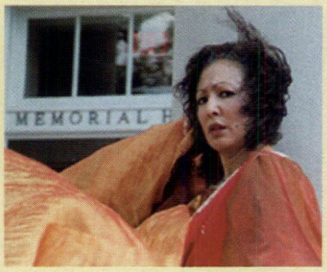

By Richard Strauss

February 17, 2006 at 8 pm
February 19, 2005 at 2 pm
Join us for our first performance
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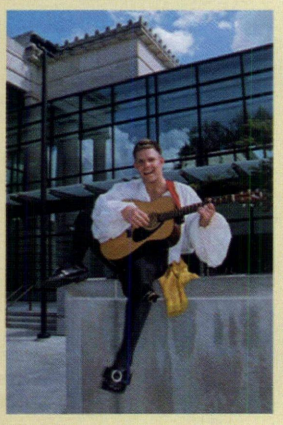
in Chapel Hill



The Barber of Seville

By Gioacchino Rossini

June 2, 2006 at 7:30 pm
June 4, 2006 at 2 pm
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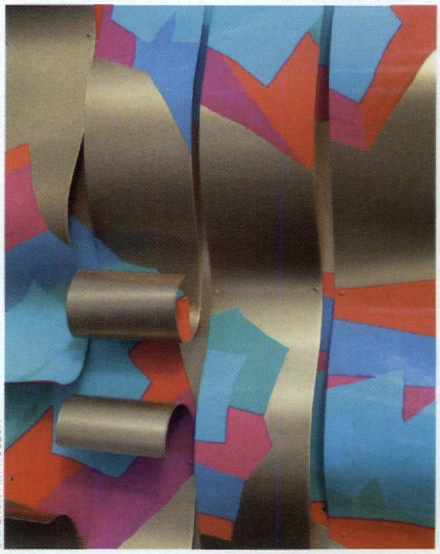
LUTHER H. HODGES—THE INTERNATIONAL LEGACY OF AN NC STATESMAN: Chapel Hill Museum, Chapel Hill; Thru Dec. 31. Contact 919-967-1400 or www.chapelhillmuseum.org.

HORACE FARLOWE—FOUR STONE SCULPTURES: Greenville Museum of Art, Greenville; (Opening Reception Dec. 9) thru Feb. 19.



CAMERON ART MUSEUM

Water Sculptures I-X1V, colorful ribbons of painted aluminum by Dorothy Gillespie, will float in the museum pond through Feb. 19 as one of two installations in the exhibition "Reflections," at the Louise Wells Cameron Art Museum, Wilmington

MARY CRUTCHFIELD & JOHN WALL: Exhibition of paintings and photographs; Horace Williams House, Chapel Hill; (Opening Reception Dec.4) thru Dec. 23. Contact 919- 942-7818 or www.chapelhillpreservation.com.

POTPOURRI

CHICK-FIL-A CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS AT ALLTEL PAVILION: Holiday tradition with elaborate light displays, children singing, Santa's Village and holiday treats; Alltel Pavilion at Walnut Creek, 3801 Rock Quarry Road, east of Raleigh; dusk to 10 p.m. nightly thru Jan. 1. Call 919-834-4000 or visit www.ticketmaster.com. (Tickets also at gate).

ALLTEL PAVILION

A sparkling array of lights turns on the holidays; now thru Jan. 1, dusk to 10 p.m., at the 8th annual Celebration of Lights, Alltel Pavilion, Walnut Creek, Raleigh

ENCHANTED AIRLIE: New event at Airlie Gardens featuring illuminated trees, live music, model trains, hot cocoa, seasonal treats; Airlie Gardens, Wilmington; thru Dec. 17. Contact 910-798-7700 or www.airlie-gardens.org.

CARY ACADEMY ANNUAL HOLIDAY SHOPPE 2005: Over 100 vendors offering holiday gift items for sale—jewelry, holiday ornaments, hostess items, children's gifts, apparel, food, handmade crafts; proceeds go to community outreach & need-based scholarships; Cary Academy, 1500 N. Harrison Ave., Cary; Dec. 1-3. Call 919-228-4653.

HOLIDAY SHOW: Annual juried show and sale of Carteret County Arts & Crafts Coalition; The History Place, Morehead City; Dec. 1-11. Contact 252-729-9311.

BANKER'S HOLIDAY: Music by Bill Myers Quartet & The Rubberband, drinks, dancing, food presented by Wilson Arts Council & Wilson Bankers; Wilson Arts Center, Wilson; Dec. 2. Contact 252-291-4329 or www.wilsonarts.org.

CORE SOUND WATERFOWL WEEKEND & DECOY FESTIVAL: Celebrate cultural heritage surrounding Core Sound, waterfowling and fishing; Harkers Island School, Harkers Island; Dec. 2-4. Contact 252-838-8818 or www.coresound.com.

LIGHT UP DURHAM: Festival with music, dancing, food, & family fun; Carolina Theatre, Durham; Dec. 3. Contact 919-560-3040 or www.carolinatheatre.org.

MORDECAI HISTORIC PARK HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE & LANTERN TOUR: Mordecai Historic Park, Raleigh; Dec. 3. Contact 919-857-4364 or www.raleighnc.gov.

CRYSTAL COAST CHRISTMAS FLOTILLA: Seasonal parade along Morehead City and Beaufort waterfronts; Dec. 3. Contact 252-726-8184.

CHATHAM COUNTY STUDIO TOUR: Variety of works from 58 artists; various Chatham County Studios; Dec. 3-4 & 10-11. Contact www.chathamstudiotour.com

POINSETTIA OPEN HOUSE: Sponsored by NC State Floriculture and the JCRA; JC Raulston Arboretum, Raleigh; Dec. 4. Contact 919-515-3132 or www.ncsu.edu/jcraulstonarboretum

7TH ANNUAL CANSTRUCTION COMPETITION - ON THE MOVE: Architectural and design firms compete to win building competition using nonperishable food items to build "can sculpture," contest to benefit food bank of NC; Exploris, Raleigh; thru Jan. 8. Contact 919-857-1085 or www.exploris.org.

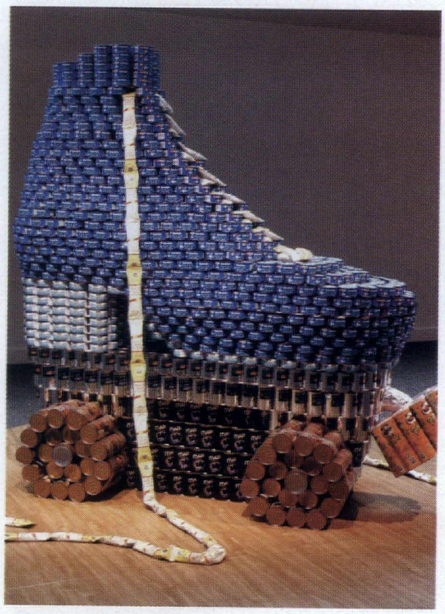
RALEIGH GARDEN CLUB AT JC RAULSTON ARBORETUM: For members, gardeners & guests; Nikki Gordon to speak on "Traditional and contemporary Holiday decorations for your home"; York Auditorium, JC Raulston Arboretum, Raleigh; Dec. 7. Call 919-387-0290 for lunch reservations.

THE COASTAL CAROLINA CHRISTMAS WALK: Beaufort historical buildings and bed and breakfast tours included on walking tour; Beaufort Historic Site, Beaufort; Dec. 10. Contact 252-728-5225 or www.beaufforthistoricsite.org/calendar/christmas.htm.

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE & CANDLELIGHT TOUR: In conjunction with "Holidays around the World Event" (Dec. 6-11); Oak View County Park, Raleigh; Dec. 10. Contact 919-250-1013.

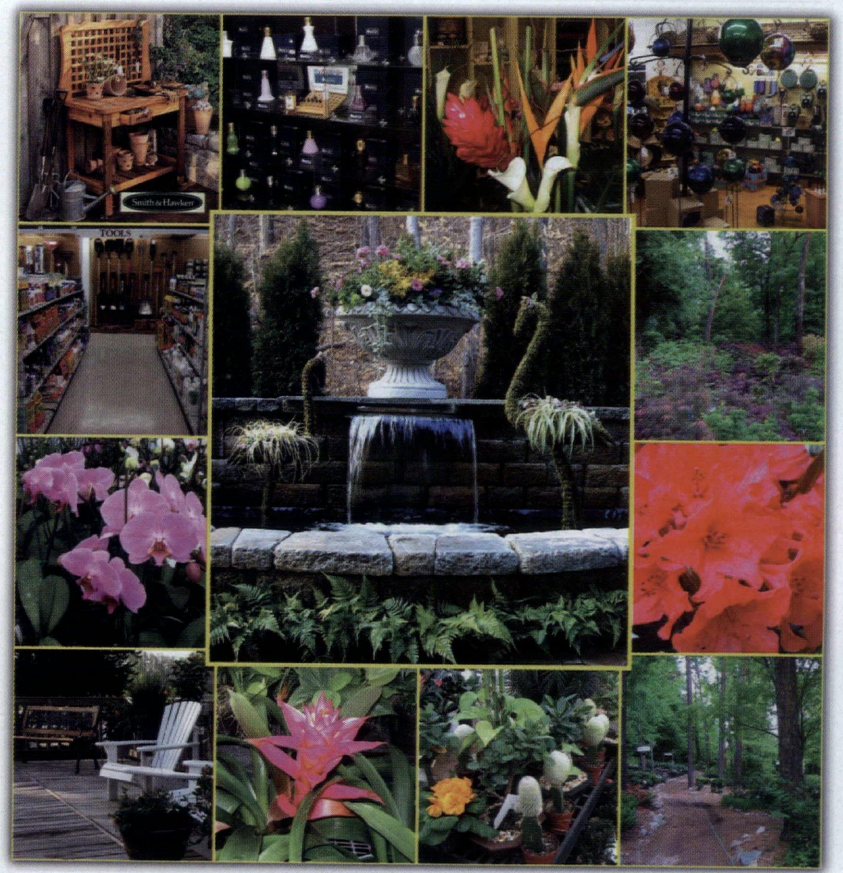
CHRISTMAS IN EDENTON WEEKEND: Edenton; Dec. 9-11. Contact 1-800-775-0111 or 252-482-3400

- **CANDLELIGHT TOUR:** Self-guided tour of homes decorated for holiday season; Tour Headquarters-Barker House; Dec. 9-10. Contact Edenton Historical Commission 252-482-7800.
- **CAROLING ON THE COURTHOUSE GREEN:** East King Street; Dec. 9, 6 p.m. Contact 252-482-2637.
- **THE BARKER HOUSE HOLIDAY REPAST:** The Barker House; Dec. 9 & 10, 1 p.m. until. Contact 252-482-7800.
- **THE IREDELL HOUSE GROANING BOARD:** Refreshments



We're on a Roll to End Hunger, a tin-can sculpture created by Cline Design Associates of Raleigh, is the "Best Use of Labels" winner in the Canstruction Competition on display through Jan. 8 at Exploris, Raleigh

Atlantic Avenue Orchid and Garden Center



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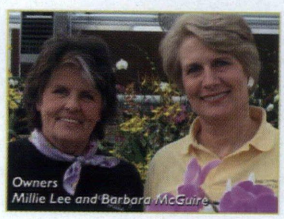

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CHOWAN COUNTY TOURISM

The Barker House, circa 1782, shown here frosted with snow, will be Headquarters for the Edenton Candlelight Tour, Dec. 9 & 10

and entertainment; The Iredell House; Dec. 9 & 10, 1-5 p.m. Contact 252-482-2637.

- **THE CUPOLA HOUSE WASSAIL BOWL:** The Cupola House; Dec 9 & 10.

HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR: Hidden Gems in Battle's Park, Chapel Hill Preservation Society House Tour; Horace Williams House, Chapel Hill; Dec. 10-11. Contact 919-942-7818 or www.chapelhillpreservation.com.

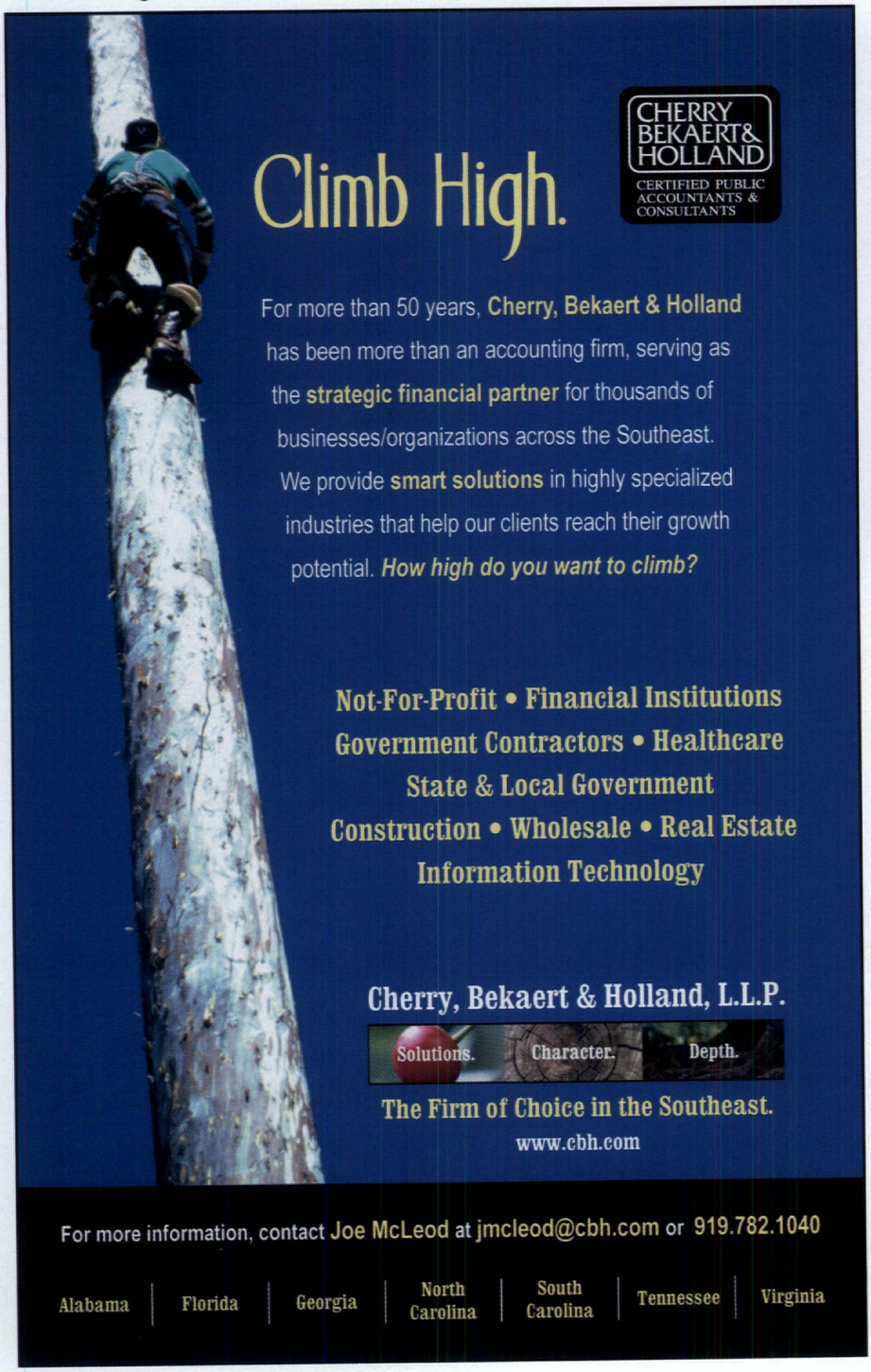
FRIENDS OF SCANDINAVIA CELEBRATE SANTA LUCIA: St. Giles Presbyterian Church, Raleigh; Dec. 11. Contact 919-782-3806 or www.rtpnet.org/nordic

THE HOT FM MONSTER BIRTHDAY BASH: Senator Bob Martin Eastern Agricultural Center, Williamston; Dec. 15. Contact 252-672-5900 or www.showwithus.com

BOOK SIGNING: Meet the authors and book signing with Marcie Cohen Ferris, author of Matzoh Ball Gumbo and Moreton Neal, author of *Remembering Bill Neal*; Design Workshop, University Mall, Chapel Hill; Dec. 16. Call 919-968-1720.

EVENTS AT CAROLINA BEACH - ISLAND OF LIGHTS CELEBRATION: Contact www.carolinabeachgetaway.com.

- **LIGHT UP THE LAKE:** Lighted displays along Carolina Beach Lake; Carolina Beach; thru Jan. 1.
- **HOLIDAY FLOTILLA:** Dec. 3
- **HOLIDAY HOME TOUR:** Dec.10
- **NEW YEAR'S EVE COUNTDOWN PARTY & FIREWORKS:** Dec. 31



MICHAEL ZIRKLE

Revelers enjoy fireworks and the Raleigh Acorn Drop at the finale of First Night Raleigh 2005

EVENTS AT FIRST NIGHT RALEIGH: Downtown Raleigh; Dec. 31. Contact 919-990-1158 or www.firstnightraleigh.com:

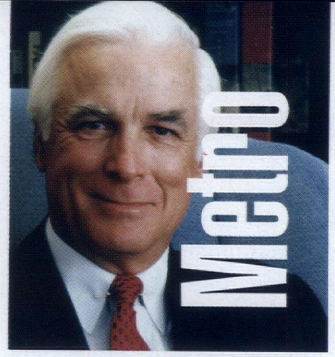
- **THE CHILDREN'S CELEBRATION:** North Carolina Museum of History and North Carolina Museum of Sciences; 2-6 p.m.
- **THE PEOPLE'S PROCESSION:** North Side of State Capitol Grounds, Raleigh; 6 p.m.
- **EVENING PERFORMANCES:** Over 100 performances in 25 different downtown Raleigh venues; 7-11 p.m.; For more Information and individual listings please visit www.artsplosure.com
- **ADRIENNE YOUNG & LITTLE SADIE:** Several Performances during First Night; First Presbyterian Church.

BOUGE BANKS BOOGIE: New Year's Contra Dance retreat; Trinity Center, Pine Knoll Shores; Dec. 31-Jan.1. Contact 252-504-2787 or www.downeastfolkarts.org/retreat.html.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT: A seasonal tradition, learn about early winter bird populations and gather data; Blue Jay Point, Raleigh; Jan. 2. Contact 919-870-4330 or www.wakegov.com/county/parks.

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

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Please send events info and color images, slides or photos 6 weeks before publication date. Send to Frances A. Smith, Metro Magazine, 1033 Oberlin Rd. Suite 100, Raleigh, 27605 or email: fsmith5@nc.rr.com.*



Editor-at-Large

by Jim Leutze

COASTAL DIAGNOSIS

Over the last several months, I've written about various issues facing the coast of North Carolina: reduced or limited funds for dredging inlets and the waterway; reduced or limited funding for beach renourishment; increased building; potential oil drilling in coastal waters; and reduced numbers of boat-launching ramps. Let's look at these developments in combination.

If you were to give the North Carolina coast a physical exam, I think the results might be: overweight, high cholesterol, indications of anxiety and stress: prognosis—uncertain. Some coastal towns are experiencing a growth spurt that threatens to erode their charm. Housing prices are off the charts. Moreover, there are threatening developments that make a long-term prediction difficult.

First, the good news and maybe the bad news, too. The housing boom (bubble?) has hit the coast. In Carteret County, in fiscal 2004, they issued 790 building permits with a residential value of $49.6 million. In the year 2005 they have issued 1,012 permits with a value of $77.8 million. New Hanover County issued 1,631 single-family permits in fiscal 2004-2005 (July 1–June 30) worth $265 million. Since July 1, New Hanover has issued 639 permits with a value of $129.7 million. The same trend applies in Brunswick County. In January–December 2004, they issued 1,116 single-family building permits. Since January 2005, they have issued 1,363.

Prices are following growth-up. The average price for a house in New Hanover County went from $169,488 in April 2001 to $253,642 in April 2005. More dramatic still is the increase on Wrightsville Beach where prices for single-family homes have gone from approximately $263,000 in 2000 to approximately $1 million in 2005. Intracoastal Realty, located in Wilmington, announced that their sales for 2005 reached $1 billion dollars. That means that their sales representatives sold $4 million worth of properties every day.

The growth along the coast has had at least two consequences. First, the Coastal Resources Commission and local officials have been challenged by a deluge of requests for zoning changes or variances. Needless to say, none of these changes is intended to decrease density or move buildings away from the beach or sound shores. Atlantic Beach has decided to revamp completely its historic central district to include high rise buildings. Carolina Beach has also formally revised its building codes to allow denser development. Others are waiting in line. Not everyone is happy with these developments, as evidenced by elections in Carolina Beach and Kure Beach that voted out incumbents, while Wrightsville Beach seems to have voted to remain a family beach.

A less-anticipated and unintended consequence has been the gobbling up of commercial property to feed the residential market. A primary concern in the recent election in Wrightsville Beach was the disappearance of restaurants, markets and other small businesses. Land is currently much more valuable when turned into condos than it is as a commercial enterprise. This is also true along the Intracoastal Waterway where marinas are being snapped up for development. The result of this movement is that boaters are going to have an increasingly hard time finding a launching ramp, while visitors will have to leave the coast for ice cream and gas.

GOOD NEWS

While all this is going on, the current national administration, as though oblivious to this swarming of the beaches, seems determined to cut out or severely limit waterway/inlet dredging and beach renourishment. But to our happy surprise the 2006 budget for waterways has just been agreed upon by the House and Senate conferees. As a result of a bi-partisan effort by our delegation in the US Senate and House, the vigorous lobbying by North Carolina Beach Inlet & Waterway Association (NCBIWA) and the American Shore & Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA)—and the devastation in Louisiana and Florida—beaches, waterways and inlets received unexpected funding. The ill winds of Katrina blew in at least more recognition of coastal value and vulnerability. Unfortunately, the Intracoastal Waterway, which needs $11 million for dredging, received only $1.36 million. And there is every indication that this "Perils of Pauline" funding scenario will go on next year: The President puts no money in the budget; he is supported by the Office of Management and Budget; and our congressional delegation fights and bargains for funds. With every fight and every bargain, their effectiveness is reduced a little bit. They can't win every cliffhanger. Sooner or later we have to come up with a strategy for insuring federal funding, finding other sources of funds, or be forced to change our way of life along the coast. What happens, for instance, if there is no beach at Topsail Beach, or there is no inlet at Bogue Inlet, or no waterway between Wrightsville Beach and Carolina Beach?

Concurrently, the Bush Administration is pushing for drilling off all the coasts of the United States. Congressmen Walter Jones and Mike McIntyre are tying to ensure that the State of North Carolina would have the final say, but the legislation is yet to be finalized. Needless to say, oil rigs off our coast could have unforeseen envi-

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ronmental and aesthetic impacts.

But the biggest unknown is embodied in the recommendations of the President's tax reform task force. Among other things, in order to make the tax code "simpler and fairer," they are proposing the elimination of the real estate tax exemption. Currently, owners of real estate write off the interest paid on their mortgages. One of the primary things keeping the real estate bubble inflated is this generous tax policy. Why not buy an expensive house or maybe even two houses if you pay only two percent or three percent on the loan after taxes. There are now even 10-year interest-only loans at a guaranteed low rate. Some—maybe as many as 40 percent of the people buying coastal real estate—are buying it on speculation, assuming that they can turn over or "flip" their purchase after a year or so. The impact of the proposed tax change on this kind of "development" could be devastating.

Sooooo—keep tuned; only time will tell what our real prognosis is. MM

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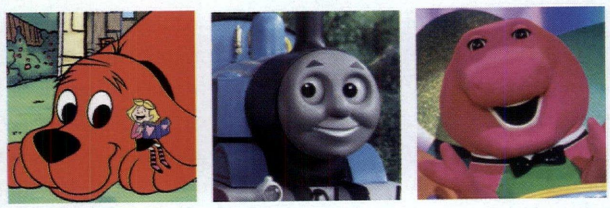

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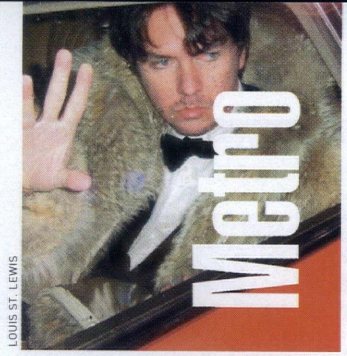


LOUIS ST. LEWIS

Artist-at-Large

by Louis St. Lewis

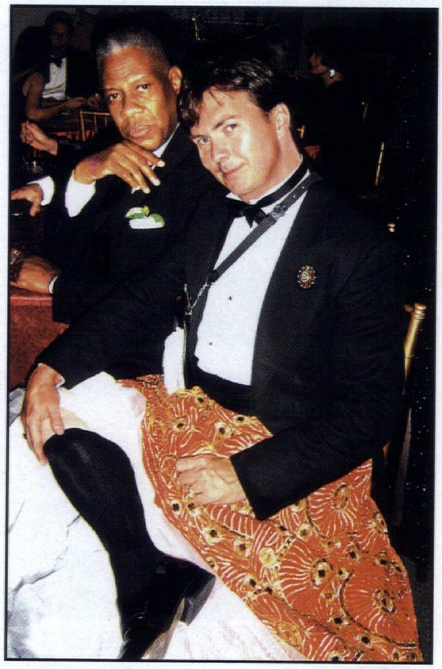
MANNEQUIN BALL, PLAYMAKERS TOP SOCIAL SCENE

If you could not attend the recent Mannequin Ball to benefit the North Carolina Museum of History's textile collection, you really missed a party. My friend, entrepreneur and car enthusiast Jim Grosslight of Peak Auto Restoration Preservation & Speed, chauffeured our group in his drop-dead gorgeous 1934 Citroen Traction Avante. It was built in Paris so what better vehicle to show up in for a party themed as "Paris after dark"? After dodging the paparazzi and masked Saks models that greeted guests at the dramatically illuminated Red Carpet entrance, we headed straight for the martini bar, which was carved from solid ice and lit from below. In fact the entire lobby was transformed into a lush glowing nightscape, replete with dance floor and thumping beats courtesy of NYC's own DJ Angola, who kept the crowd grooving until the wee hours.

I was just standing there having my third martini and plate of fresh oysters (catering by George Bakatsias) trying to decide if it was more fun to watch ex-mayor Tom Fetzer twirl in his cape, or try to see who designer Alexander Julian was talking to, when who should saunter in with his own entourage: André Leon Talley of *Vogue Magazine*. "Louis St. Lewis," he bellowed, in that way that only André can bellow. "What are you doing in that skirt?" gesturing toward my floor-length vintage embroidered Indian skirt resting on significant tulle I wore under a tux jacket. "Having a great time," I replied." Well it looks fantastic," André continued, 'but take that sporran off the skirt—it's the wrong proportion. Wear it over your shoulder… like that… that's it, that's much more chic!" And with that he was off to one of the intimate lounge areas filled with lovely women in Herrera, Valentino, Oscar and Posen gowns.

Talley, from Durham, joined other famous Tar Heels as guests-of-honor: fashion and furniture designer Alexander Julian from Chapel Hill; *Trading Spaces* host and interior designer Hildi Santos Tomas of Raleigh (now living in Paris); and three-time Tony-award winning costume designer William Ivey Long from Raleigh.

All night I kept hearing: "I can't believe I'm in Raleigh." Stay tuned to hear what Mannequin Ball founder Katie Reeves has in store for next year.



André Leon Talley and Louis St. Lewis at the Mannequin Ball.

JEWELS IN THE CROWNS

As you can see, party season is in full swing, and I have been taking advantage of all I can. All the swell playguys and playgirls recently showed up for the annual PLAYMAKERS BALL over in Chapel Hill for a night of serious carousing at 500 bucks a head to celebrate the Playmakers Repertory Theater's 30th anniversary. The theme this year was "The Jewel in the Crown" and the crowd took it to heart. I have never seen so many megawatt gemstones dangling from everybody and everything in my life.

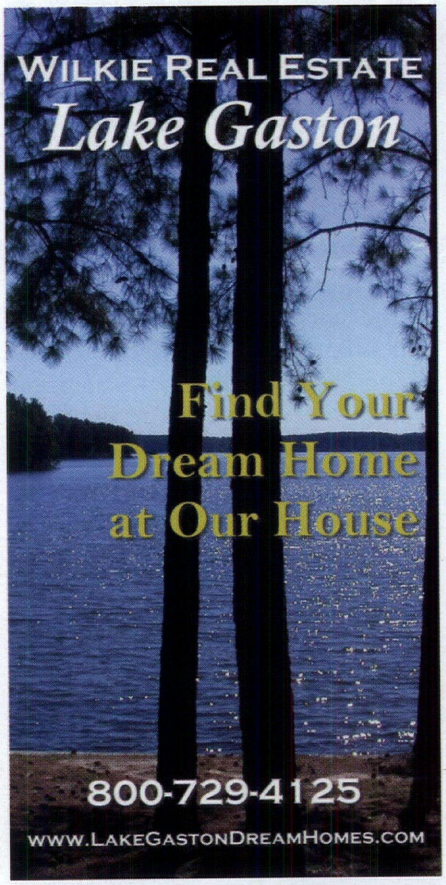
I ran into Tom Kenan at the bar while both of us waited impatiently for more champagne, and he was telling me all about the horrible hurricane damage done to several floors of the little hotel down in West Palm Beach, Florida, that his family owns—the BREAKERS! Even as my tears welled up at the thought of damage to that gorgeous hotel, I couldn't help but notice that Tom was wearing the rarest and most beautiful set of 19th-century frog shirt studs, in Columbian emeralds, of course. After a quick word or two with the huge contingent from the Opera Company of North Carolina, who were out in full force, I ran into a human jewel, the gorgeous Georgia Kyser. The famed Ford model of days gone by, and widow of big band maestro Kay Kyser, gave me a first-hand account of her modeling for the beautiful nude art deco statue of Venus that stands at the entry of the Women's Museum in Texas. Actually, Georgia only modeled her face, her mother wouldn't let her disrobe!

The crowd really lit up when artistic director David Hammond was presented with a lifetime achievement award and then we all trotted through the halls to our allotted private dining rooms, each with a different theme. The Amethyst room was swathed in purple silk; another room was decorated to the hilt as a lush Moroccan tent; and another as a ruby room. I found my home in the Emerald room, a nest of incense and diaphanous drapery, with a living goddess perched upon a table of ferns and twisted branches, a brainstorm of none other than George Bakatsias, who showed even more taste when he entered the room with a simply drop-dead gorgeous Asian beauty named Kelly, a Hong Kong designer with several stores in the Orient …as well as a talented pianist!

Afterward, everyone cut a rug in the main ballroom and swilled vintage port until the witching hour when out came the sables and off went the beautiful people back to their humble mansions. **To view and purchase photos from the Mannequin Ball, visit www.themannequinball.com.**

JUDY CHICAGO IN DURHAM

When I was a young man in art school back in the far reaches of time, one of the first artists we focused on was the amazing Judy Chicago (www.JudyChicago.com). Ms. Chicago recently turned the art world on its ear with her outrageous and beautiful "Dinner Party" installation that made homage to great women throughout history and brought Judy much deserved accolades and fame. When I heard that Judy Chicago was the guest Juror for the 51st annual Durham Art Guild Juried Competition, I knew I had to meet the woman up close and personal. I was lucky enough to be able to witness Judy as she looked over the photography room and was duly impressed with the professionalism she displayed. She truly studied each work, sometimes laughed, sometimes asked questions or opinions from those who had been invited to help her for the day, including Ann Stewart (www.AnnStewartFineArt.com). Judy would look at an example of someone's work, compare it to another and discuss the relevant strengths and weaknesses. Before you knew it, the room took shape, balanced with the eye of an artist, the mind of an instructor and the caring of a mother. I have met some famous people who were really snotty, but Judy Chicago greeted me with a hug and a warm smile. What was really interesting to me was that even from a distance, or with just a quick glance, Judy could immediately tell if the artwork was man made or from a woman's hand (amazingly, she was correct, even though the artist's names were not revealed until later in the day). She spoke of scale, intensity, perceived power roles in society, and everyone within earshot learned a lot about the process of creation. I loved meeting Judy and know that the Triangle art scene is all the better for her visit. Here is hoping she comes back soon with more of her great insight and taste. MM



Between you and me...

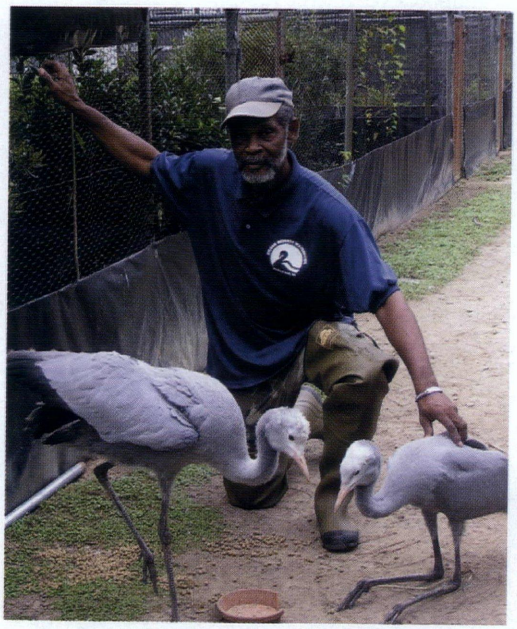
by Carroll Leggett

SCOTLAND NECK: DOING THINGS ITS WAY

I was in Scotland Neck, NC recently with a film crew recording the exciting things going on there. Scotland Neck is a town with character and spirit that is determined to survive without selling its birthright: thousands upon thousands of acres of the state's most productive farm land; the Roanoke River with a mother lode of striped bass, brim, perch and catfish; woods where deer are more plentiful than when the area was settled; and abundant quail, doves, waterfowl and wild turkeys.

In Scotland Neck, folks welcome strangers but are still curious about them. Big houses and historical markers speak to the fact that there is pride and tradition and that this small town has produced able leaders for the state and nation. Farmers park beside the road to sell homegrown watermelons and sweet corn in July, and pumpkins, cushaws, and deer corn in the fall. Families live close enough to each other to gather for Sunday dinner, and in the summer neighbors leave, inside each others' screen doors, ripe tomatoes begging for two slices of light bread and Duke's mayonnaise.

Certainly it's a birthright worth preserving, and Scotland Neck, located in the southern tip of Halifax County, is doing just that. For town and county leaders, it has been a thoughtful process in which they have taken a realistic look at their assets and how to market them. Mayor Robert Partin, a retired educator, is leading the effort with evangelical fervor. Town administrator Nancy Jackson jokingly refers to Partin as "Our best cheerleader." It's pretty clear that he is also the quarterback, calling a lot of the plays. "I haven't met anyone who believes so strongly in what Down East can and should be since Leo Jenkins died." The mayor often quotes the late, fearless East Carolina University Chancellor and refers to his vision for the East.



John and little blue cranes at the Sylvan Heights Waterfowl Center.

Scotland Neck has set itself apart from other Down East communities that are struggling to sustain themselves. While local officials vigorously pursue new industries and jobs that will boost the economy (AirBoss of America Corporation just located there), they realize that the incentive-laced industry chase is an iffy thing, at best. So they have decided to use another tack—a program they call DOORs—Developing Our Own Resources.

Partin is a master of networking and identifying resources. He has secured significant grants, including assistance from the Golden LEAF Foundation, and, in turn, has taken the Scotland Neck story to meetings of town officials all over the state and nation. His enthusiastic presentations have caused communities throughout the United States to look closely at themselves to see what they have that is unique and marketable.

Branding itself "An Outdoor Paradise," Scotland Neck decided to market what it had the most of—natural resources and outdoor splendor, or, as one brochure puts it, "hunting, fishing, water sports, bird watching, cycling and much more." Guide services offering access to tens of thousands of acres of prime hunting land have sprung up and are attracting sportsmen from many parts of the country. To accommodate them, Scotland Neck has a new motel—a Best Western, which I found comfortable and hospitable, and modest cluster businesses are developing, including food services, outfitters, and a taxidermist. The great thing about participating in Scotland Neck's Country Roads Bike Tour, held each May, is that most of the land is as flat as a pancake requiring a minimum of huffing and puffing as recreational cyclists enjoy the breathtaking cloud formations and vistas of eastern North Carolina.

I went with the mayor to the new boat ramp located by the Roanoke River bridge just a few miles out of town, which state officials recently have upgraded to make access easier. Powell Kemp, who operates Carolina Woods and Water—one of several local guide services—met us there and took the camera crew for a quick ride up the river toward Roanoke Rapids. This area of the Roanoke is one of the best anywhere for striped bass fishing, and a few years ago my long-time friend Tom Earnhardt from Cary led the successful battle by sports fishermen to protect and conserve it. Earnhardt is an attorney and the world-famous fly fisherman has taken former President Bush and other notables saltwater fly fishing off the North Carolina Coast.

Kemp is the grandson of the late "Kitch" Josey, crack attorney and state legislator from Scotland Neck, and knows the area like the palm of his hand. He has more than 10,000 acres of hunting land under contract, including "lush agricultural areas and pristine hardwood ridges," and his hunting lodge, which sleeps 10-12 people, has one of the most impressive collections of mounted trophies anywhere. His Down East hospitality is extraordinary. If you want to hunt or fish in "an outdoor paradise" during this holiday season or the coming months, check the Town of Scotland Neck Web site for a complete list of local guide services. www.townofscotlandneck.com.

THE WATERFOWL FACTOR

Between you and me, I have always been a bird enthusiast. Growing up, friends and I, including Carol Rogers (a great fellow who spelled his name with only one r and one l) and Larry Stewart, rambled the woods around Buies Creek looking for hawks, nests and checking out tobacco barns at night to catch a glimpse of brilliantly

marked flickers—large, elusive birds that are members of the woodpecker family.

Imagine my excitement when I learned that Scotland Neck is the home of one of the best-kept secrets in North Carolina—Sylvan Heights Waterfowl Center. Its founders, Ali and Mike Lubbock—a delightful British couple—manage a facility that is known throughout the world for breeding and protecting waterfowl, including ducks, geese, swans and other birds. They have bred and reintroduced into their natural habitats some of the rarest birds in the world. When the phone rings in this fascinating, cobbled-together facility tucked back in the woods off a main street in Scotland Neck, it could be a zoo in Australia, a frantic breeder in Madagascar or Siberia, Disney's Animal Kingdom, a volunteer arriving from the Netherlands, or the Queen's representative calling from Buckingham Palace where Mike Lubbock has helped care for Her Majesty's waterfowl collection.

On any given day, there are 3,000 birds and 130 species at the Center, including some of the rarest waterfowl in the world found no place else in the United States. Recently, when the National Zoo in Washington closed its waterfowl section, it donated 60 birds to Sylvan Heights based on Mike Lubbock's reputation for successfully breeding numerous rare and endangered species of waterfowl in captivity. By all accounts, these big city birds have adjusted well to the bucolic setting of Scotland Neck, NC.

The story of how the Center came to be in Scotland Neck is one of friendship and eastern North Carolina graciousness. Bill Herring and his wife, Hanna Kitchin Herring, had a collection of wildfowl on the present site of the Center in Scotland Neck. The Lubbocks were living in western North Carolina and breeding birds there. The couples became friends and visited back and forth. When the owner of the Lubbocks' site died and they were forced either to relocate or go out of the business, the Herrings offered their Scotland Neck site to them. The Lubbocks made the move.

Now the Center has established a strategic relationship with the North Carolina Zoological Society, which has purchased a 19-acre site adjacent to the 8-acre Center. The Sylvan Heights Eco-Center now under construction will be a destination for school children and other visitors from across the state, nation and the world. The Eco-Center, operated by the Zoological Society in cooperation with the Lubbocks and Sylvan Heights, will offer educational programs and allow visitors to view selected waterfowl grouped by continents in small ponds. Projected opening date is May 2006. I can hardly wait.

Having seen the Eco-Center in its early construction stage, I can tell you it is going to be top-drawer and a draw for eastern North Carolina and Scotland Neck. It is not yet fully paid for, so bird lovers and Ducks Unlimited members sit down right now and write a check to the Zoological Society to help make up the difference.

Didn't I tell you exciting things are going on in Scotland Neck?

Happy Holidays. And if you are Down East on Sunday, December 4, go by Scotland Neck for the annual Christmas on the Commons celebration at 3 p.m. Tell the mayor how proud you are of what Scotland Neck is doing to preserve what's good about Down East, and ask about the drive-in that sells the super fried chicken. Or check out Luigi's, the Italian restaurant. They were mighty nice to us, too, and the food was great. MM

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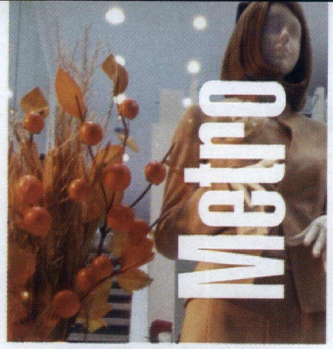


Style

by Molly Fulghum Heintz

Mannequin Ball Puts Fashion First

LE EVENT HOT IN RALEIGH

by Tricia Horatio

For one night only, the plaza between the Capitol Building and the Legislative Building in downtown Raleigh was transformed into the fashion capital of the world.

Patrons of fine art, history and fashion came out Friday, Nov. 11, in force and style to support the NC Museum of History's Costume and Textile Collection for the first Mannequin Ball. The brainchild of Katie Reeves of *Metro Magazine*, the event was presented by *Metro*, the North Carolina Museum of History and Associates and Saks Fifth Avenue. The Mannequin Ball honored the "critical mass of creativity that has built up in the area, particularly in the realms of fashion and fine art," according to Katie Reeves.

For those of you unable to attend, allow me to paint a picture of the event. Picture lights, cameras, models, Paris runway shows, famous guests and, of course, mannequins. Think delicious food, fine jewelry, luxurious fashion, sparkling champagne and wicked beats spun by New York's DJ Angola. Imagine all the beauty, glamour and sophistication of the luxe Parisian nightlife—and you have the Mannequin Ball.

Designed to impart the spirit of the Rive Droite and the Rive Gauche, The Mannequin Ball kicked off at 7 p.m., introduced by "Hollywood" lights and masked models from Saks serving as red carpet escorts. Inside, guests partied among mannequins designed by 12 acclaimed artists, mannequins "dressed" by art retail sponsors, and live mannequins wearing the latest in evening wear.

The art mannequins were available for preview at participating retailers and jewelers a month before the event and offered for auction at the ball. Also decorating the museum were large screen visuals of Paris runway shows, an ice-sculpture martini bar, a sumptuous array of food by Giorgio Bakatsias and display cases which held notable items such as the inaugural dress of First Lady Mary Easley and jewelry from Jacqueline Kennedy's collection.

KINSLEY DEY

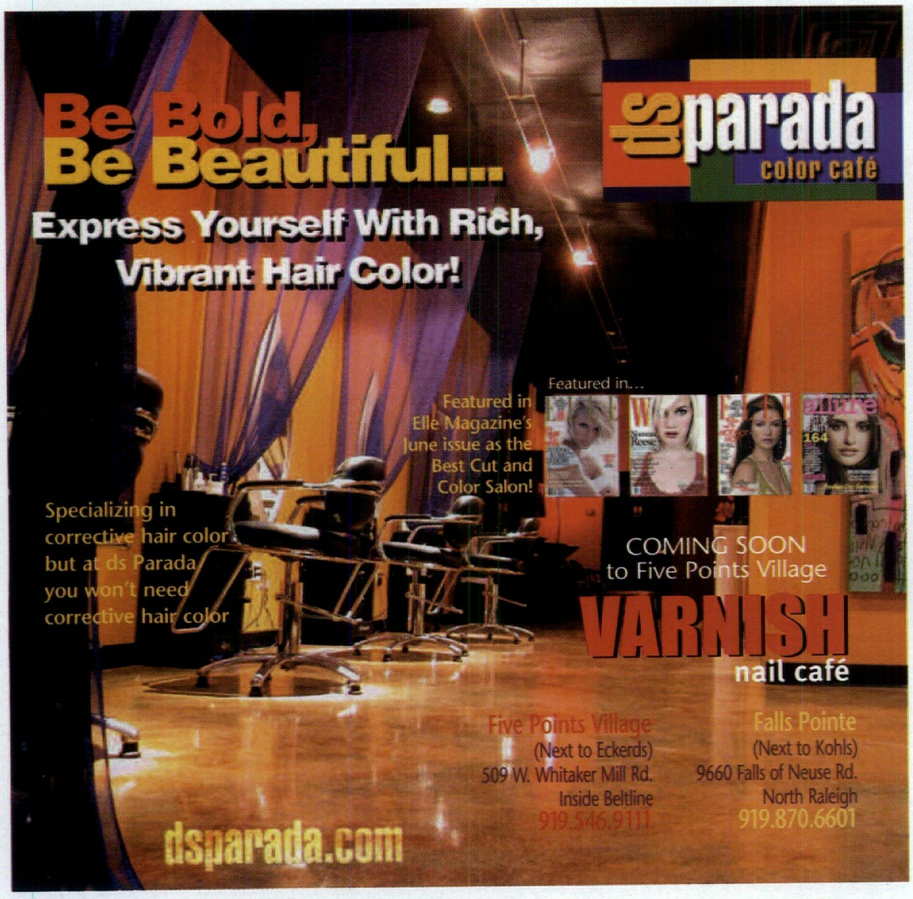
KINSLEY DEY

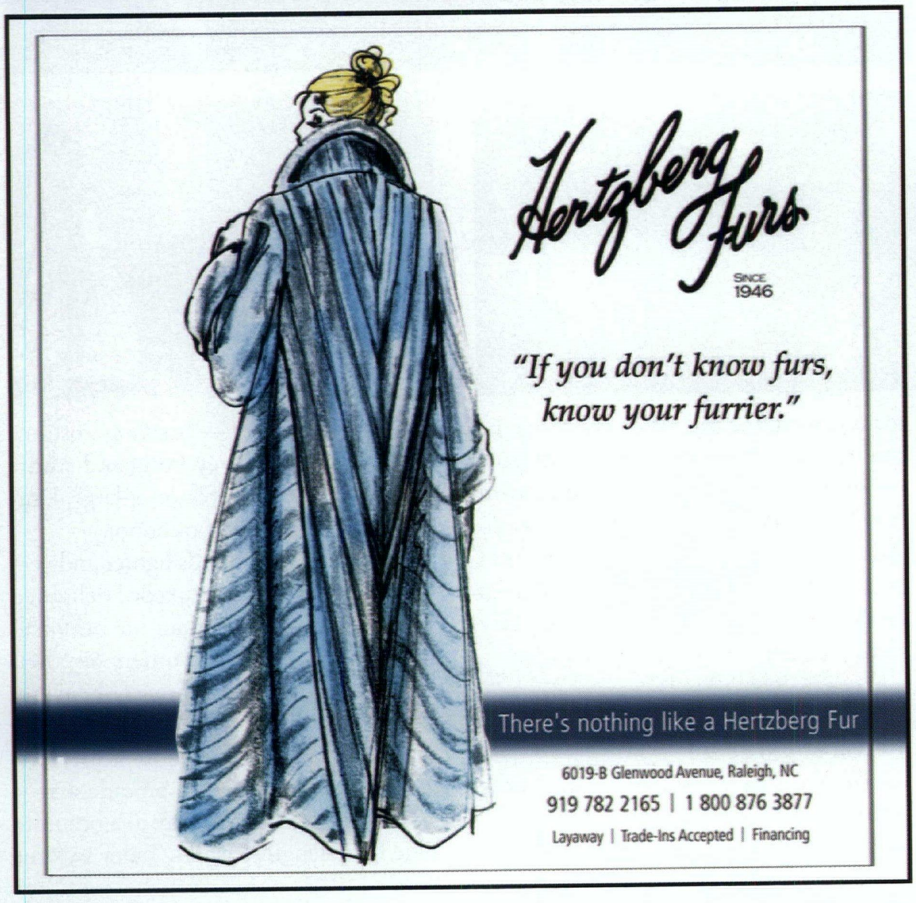
ERIC BLEVINS/NC MUSEUM OF HISTORY

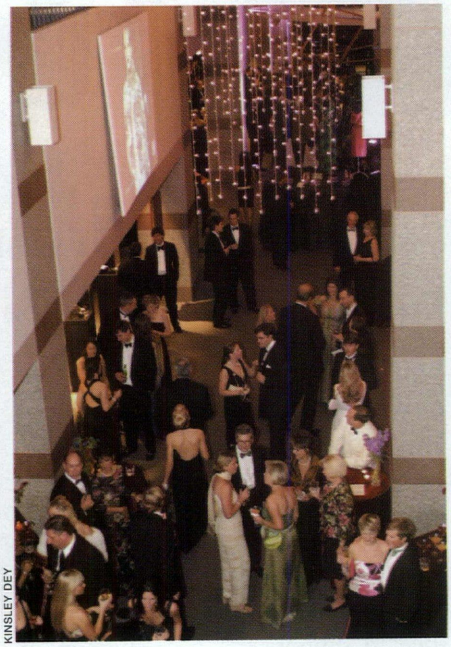
BUT NOTHING COMPARED TO THE GUESTS

Trading Spaces designer Hildi Santos Tomas was on hand, as was fashion designer Alexander Julian—celebrating 30 years in the business—Broadway costume designer William Ivey Long and André Leon Talley—*Vogue's* editor-at-large, Durham native, and guest of honor.

Talley, several pounds lighter and very handsome in a black tuxedo, delighted guests with his larger-than-life personality. Complimenting women on their gowns, speaking with aspiring fashionistas, and organizing mini fashion shoots, many starring *Metro* art critic Louis St. Lewis—in a fabulous red and gold brocade skirt—and artist André Leon Gray in a beautiful blue floor-length dashiki. Talley was the







KINSLEY DEY

star of the show. Accompanied by friends, Tai Parker of Atlanta, GA, and Lauren Dyas of Auburn, AL, whom he met while staying at the Duke Diet & Fitness Center, Talley joked with guests and managed to make everyone feel tres magnifique.

Fortunately, Talley didn't have to try hard because guests came dressed to impress and ready for their close-up. One-of-a-kind jewelry, such as the Carole Tanenbaum vintage necklace worn by *Metro*

ERIC BLEVINS/NC MUSEUM OF HISTORY

staffer Karla Pyrtle decorated the necks, ears, hands, and wrists of many of the evening's guests. With the men in black tie and women dressed in everything from Tadashi to Proenza Schouler to Carolina Herrera (our own Katie Reeves), the guests of the Mannequin Ball looked as if they had stepped out of the pages of *Vogue*. But the dress that had every head turning was worn by April Stroth, a writer at the *Independent Weekly* and date of artist André Leon Gray.

Jonathan Gatlin, a textile student at

North Carolina State University, designed Stroth's dress. She came across Gatlin's work while searching for a local artist to design and construct her gown for the Mannequin Ball. After speaking with Gatlin, she commissioned him to design her dress, and later wrote about her experience working with the designer in the *Independent Weekly* article "Handcrafted Couture." The result of their collaboration can only be defined as spectacular.

Described as a " tasteful electro-mermaid," the dress, made of a Peridotic green fabric with "multicolored metallic thread running throughout," had a "traditional silhouette and was fitted above the knee

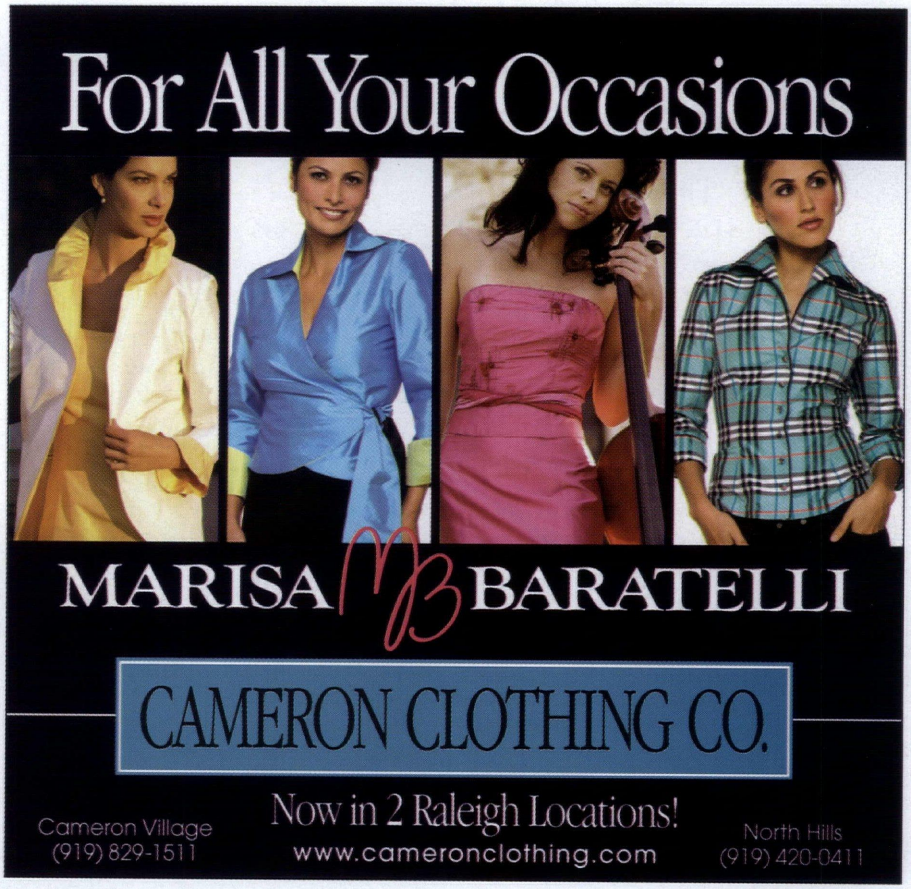
KINSLEY DEY

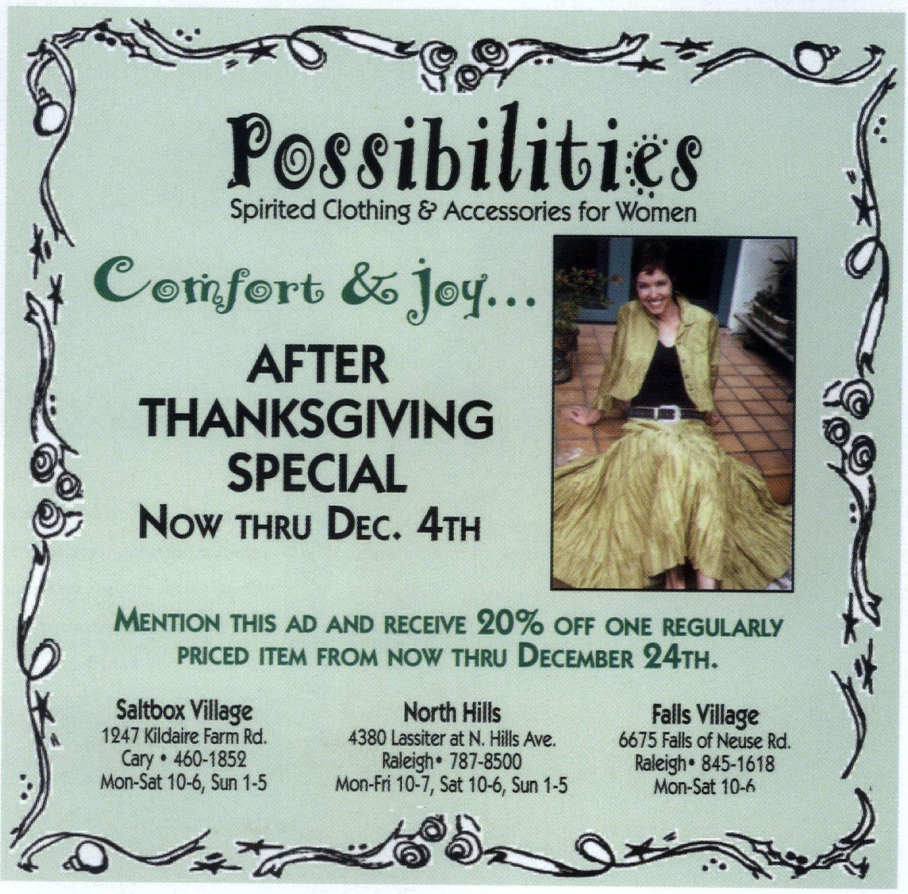
in the front" and "a small train in the back." A patchwork texture covered the entire dress, which fanned at the bust and was cut low to reveal Stroth's back. It was the perfect dress for the "the hottest soirée of the season."

And they call Paris the fashion capital of the world?

To order photos from The Mannequin Ball go to www.themannequinball.com. MM

Jonathan Gatlin dress details courtesy of "Handcrafted Couture," April Stroth, *Independent Weekly.*





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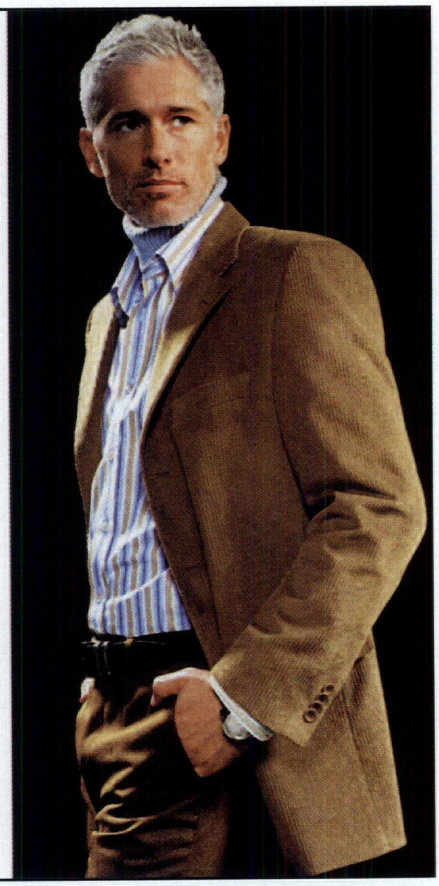

STOCKINGS FULL OF FUN FASHIONS

Holidays are about celebrating old traditions and occasionally introducing a new one. This season some classic fashion and beautycompanies are offering new takes on timeless looks, or introducing designs that blow a breath of fresh air into their repertoire. The result is gifts that can't miss. Below is a Christmas short list for the stylish stocking...

STOCKING TYPE: SILK

Women have waited five long years for the House of Creed to launch a new fragrance, and now, just in time for the holidays, Love in White has washed upon our shores. A sparkling scent inspired by the sea, master perfumer Olivier Creed drew from his maritime travels to create the fragrance, and indeed many of the ingredients come from coastal lands. The citrusy top note is orange zest from southern Spain; middle notes include young iridescent rice husk from Tonkin in the south Asian seas, iris from Egypt, white jasmine

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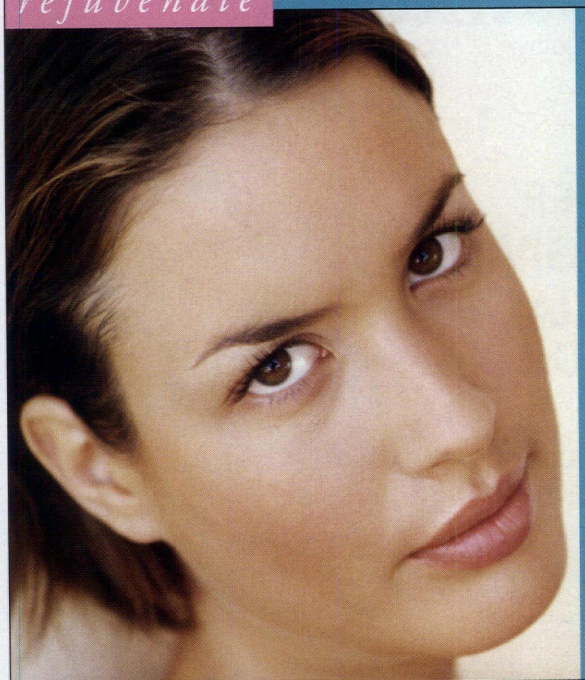

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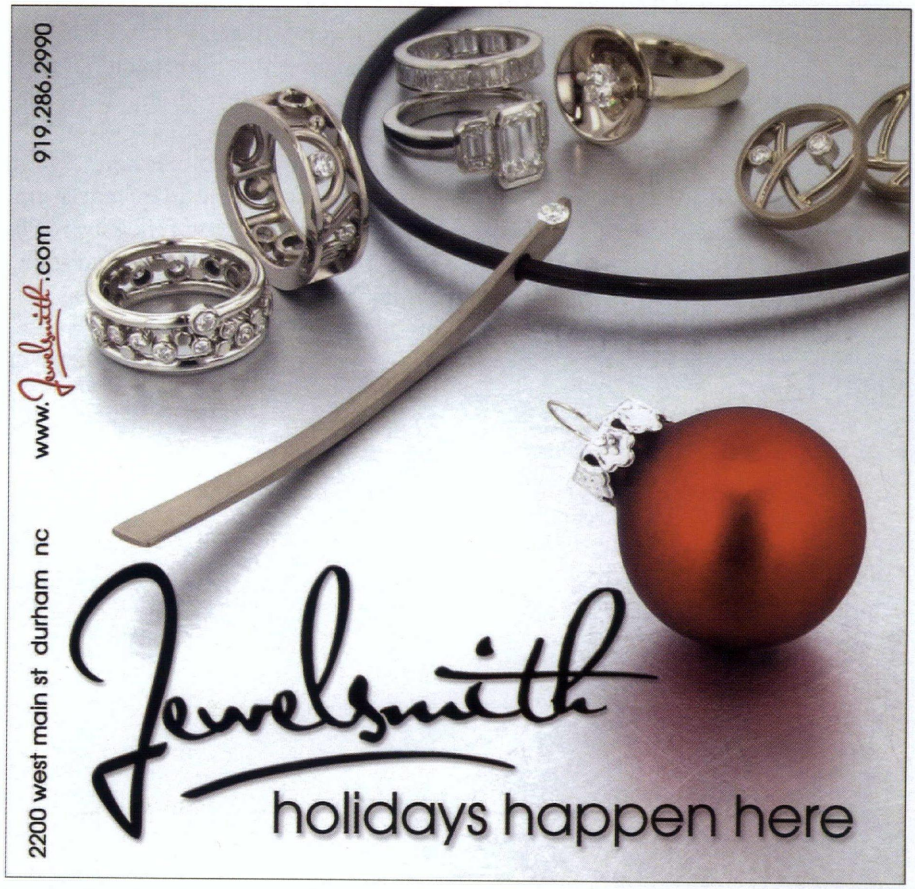
from the Italian coast, daffodils from the French Riviera, magnolia from the mountains of Guatemala and Bulgarian rose; base notes of vanilla from the island of Java, ambergris and sandalwood from Mysore, India, round out the blend. Love in White comes in a crisp white bottle with a silver bow, and starting this month, it's available at Saks Fifth Avenue in Raleigh. And when you buy Love in White for yourself or someone else—a portion of the purchase price will be donated toward UNESCO. ($195 for a 75 ml bottle, $110 for the 30 ml travel size).

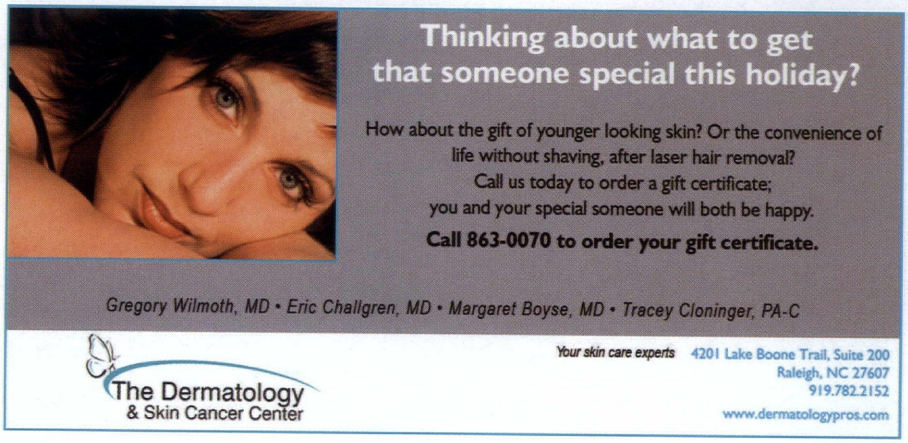
STOCKING TYPE: ARGYLE

Back in the early '80s, a knit Lacoste polo, or as they were better known, "an IZOD," was a necessity of life. For any devoted prepster, it was the crocodile or die. Lacoste and IZOD ended their partnership in 1993, but preppy, collegiate looks remained strong and are now a staple of wardrobes across the globe. Well, Lacoste and their iconic croc are back, and have been rebuilding their brand into a fashion powerhouse over the last few years. This season they've introduced sporty basics with contemporary appeal. For women, must haves are a deep purple velvet blazer with two-buttons and a Kelly green ski jacket with a fitted silhouette; for men, a color block track jacket with vintage sensibility (www.lacoste.com). These may be a little bulky for the stocking, but will sit perfectly well on top of the plaid tree blanket.

STOCKING TYPE: FISHNET

Benefit Cosmetics has a soft spot in the heart of many a fashionista. Why? While other companies take makeup SO seriously, Benefit makes getting beautified fun. This cult brand has rethought the purse and made it into a sassy little bag perfect for holding makeup or even using alone. Users of the True Confessions line wear their hearts on their snap clutches. With a '50s vibe, the bags sport phrases like "Fickle One: People in my town look at me and shake their heads. 'That fickle one,' they murmur. 'She couldn't make up her mind which brother she wanted to marry.' But I know which one I wanted—and so does my husband!" Available at Sephora



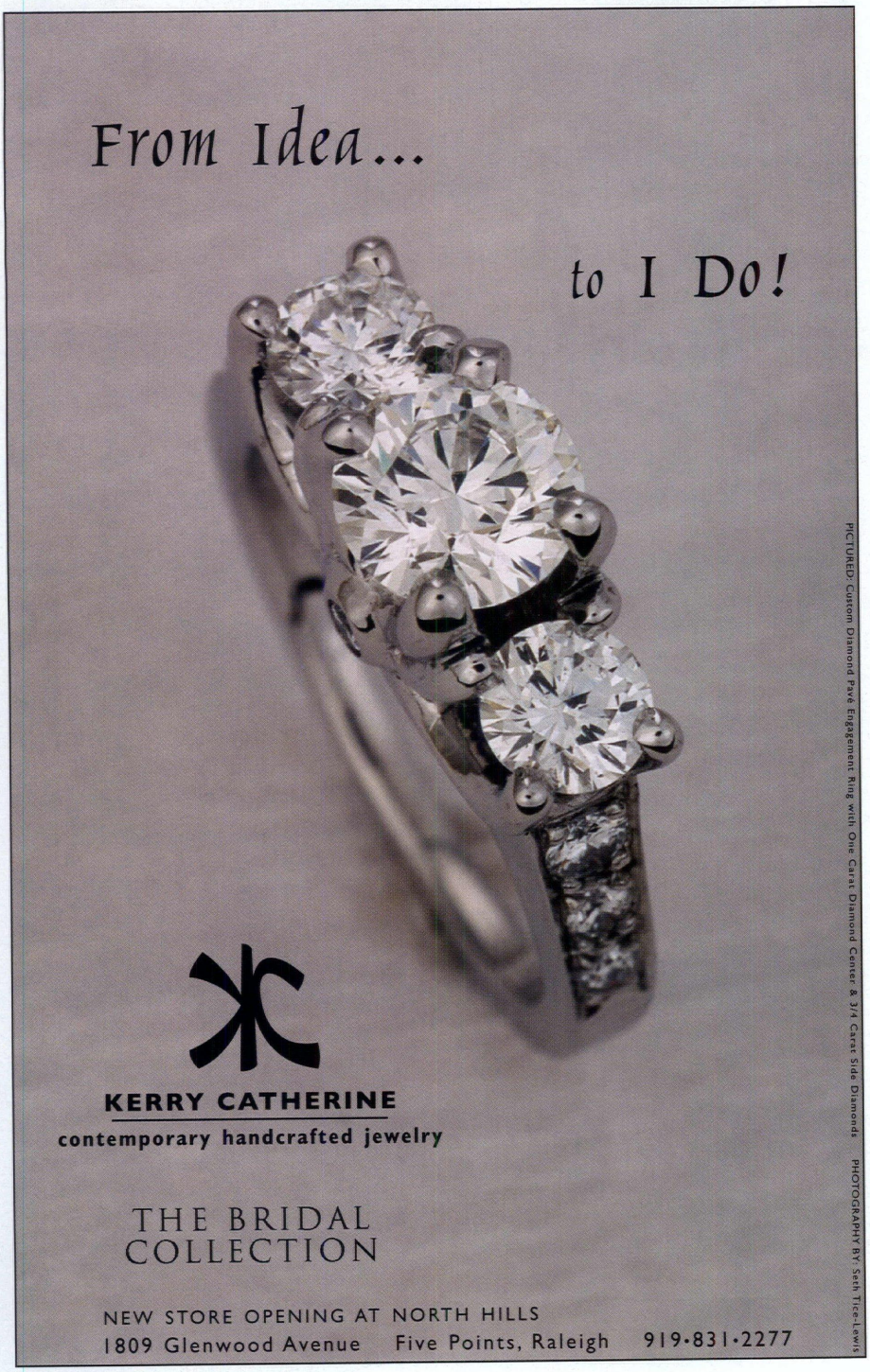


(www. sephora.com) or www.benefit.com ($22-28).

STOCKING TYPE: HAND-KNIT

Chico's has become a favorite of women who may be tired of matching shoes and belts and appreciate stylish but comfortable silhouettes. The boutique with the crafty vibe may be most popular with Baby Boomers, but even the younger crowd can appreciate their intriguing and reasonably priced jewelry collection. The Feodora line features a dramatic silver loop pendant with a leather cord, perfect with a black turtleneck and only $38 (www.chicos.com).

And fashion devotees take note: if your Christmas gift happens to include a trip that passes through New York City, you'll be happy to know that the Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology has just installed its first permanent collection. Now whenever you visit, you can view couture highlights that include everything from 18th-century drop-dead gowns to Comme des Garçons' 2005 biker/ballerina ensemble. And, if you've just dropped your last dime on Fifth Avenue, don't worry: admission to the museum is free (www.fitnyc.edu). MM



FASHION NEWS

Dec 2nd-4th: **Hamilton Hill** will host a trunk show previewing collections from **Bikakis and Johns** and **Baccarat**, who is introducing a new jewelry line. A gift certificate drawing will also be available. **Hamilton Hill** has extended store hours for the month of December and will be open until 7pm on weeknights and from 1-5pm on Sundays; Durham, 919-683-1474

Dec 2nd-3rd: **Elaine Miller Collection** will feature a **Slane and Slane Trunk Show**; on Dec 9th-10th, they will also host a **Chad Allison Trunk Show**. Raleigh, 919-571-8888

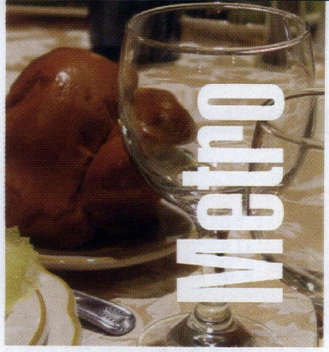
Dec 7th: **Razook's** will host a **Magachoni Trunk Show** from 5pm-8pm, along with a Sip & Shop, featuring champagne and hors d'oeuvres for shoppers they can be entered into a drawing for a $500 **Razook's** gift certificate. Raleigh, 919-833-6121

Dec 9th: **Goldworks** will host a **Holiday Open House** from 5pm-8pm, featuring new jewelry by **Wren** and **Ted Hendrickson** and **Anne Courie-Meulink**; these goldsmiths create contemporary heirlooms in gold, platinum and mokume gane. Custom designs are still available for the holidays. Chapel Hill, 919-932-1771

During the month of December, **Jewelsmith** invites shoppers to check out their newest holiday collection from five original goldsmiths. Jewelry from the **Jewelsmith** collection was worn at the 2005 Emmy Awards; some of these pieces are still available for purchase. For more details, call 919-286-2990, Durham.

Dec 2nd-3rd: **Bailey's Fine Jewelry will host a Kwiat Trunk Show** at their Cameron Village location; Raleigh, 919-829-7337

Dec 3rd: **Luxe Apothecary will have Red Flower Hammam Body Treatments** in their new treatment room. Indulge in a Hammam Hand or Foot treatment; call for details. On Dec 8th: **Customers can meet Susan Posnick**, creator of colorflo cosmetics and receive a makeup application. Space is limited; call to secure an appointment; Raleigh, 919-881-7828 or 1-866-FOR-LUXE.



Gourmet

by Moreton Neal

COOKBOOKS FOR HOLIDAYS KEEP ON GIVING

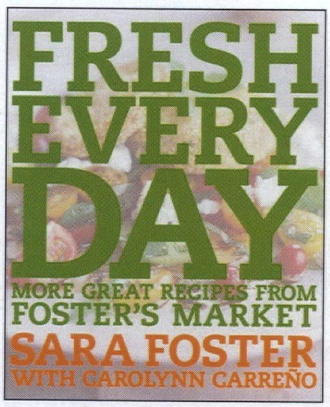
"The gift that keeps on giving" isn't always a magazine subscription (except for *Metro*) or a fruit-of-the-month club membership. Like the Energizer bunny, a good cookbook never runs out of steam. And what other gift so effectively stimulates fantasies and offers the means to turn them into reality—without breaking the law?

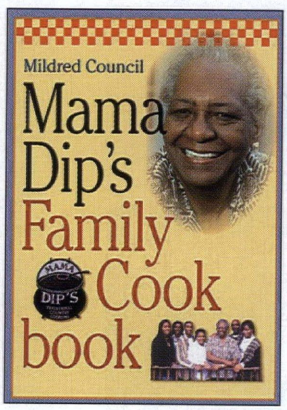
Eventually, a well-used cookbook becomes a repository of nostalgia, each stained page evoking memories of occasions shared with loved ones (sometimes hilarious cooking disasters). I would no more part with a special cookbook than I would a treasured photograph album. Don't ask which I would choose to salvage from a burning house. These books are family!

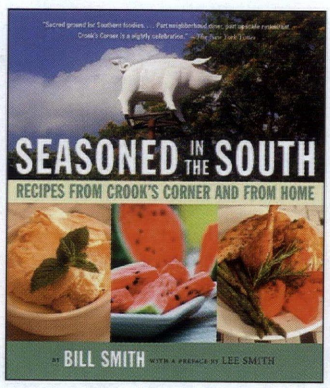
Though I'm the last person in the world who needs another cookbook, there's no gift I enjoy more. Choosing cookbooks for gifts is just as much fun, an excuse to rummage through the cooking sections of favorite bookstores for hours.

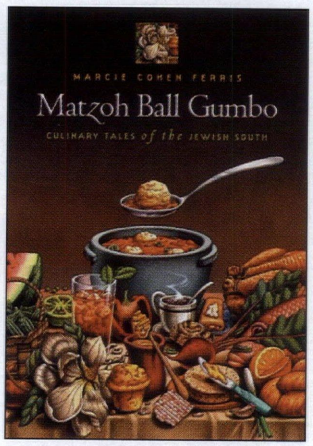
This year *Metro* area booksellers have loaded up their shelves with books by several of our own star-chefs. Here are my choices for holiday giving in 2005, along with a suggestion for the more ambitious gift-giver: a cookbook by itself is a wonderful thing, but imagine the delight of receiving a cookbook accompanied by a homemade treat from its pages. If your budget is limited, hang on to the book and pass on the goodies.

Sara Foster's long-awaited second book, ***Fresh Every Day: More Great Recipes from Foster's Market*** lives up to high expectations. Foster's imaginative soups and veggies are the highlight of this edition, but desserts are also impressive. For the winter holidays a batch of her Mexican Wedding Cookies or Thumbprint Cookies would be standouts on anyone's cookie tray.









Those who fell in love with Mildred Council after reading her first cookbook *Mama Dip's Kitchen* will be thrilled that UNC Press talked her into following up with ***Mama Dip's Family Cookbook***. Try "Mama's coconut squares" for a welcome addition to a holiday spread.

Bill Smith's ***Seasoned in the South: Recipes from Crook's Corner and from Home*** has been selling like hotcakes since its October publication. Already, this charming book by Crook's beloved chef is the number-one seller in independent bookstores in the whole country. So hurry to your favorite bookstore for your copy, then reward the effort with Bill's easy-to-make Candied Pecans.

Marcie Cohen Ferris, professor of Jew-

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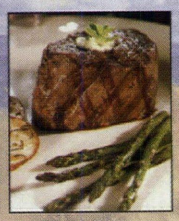

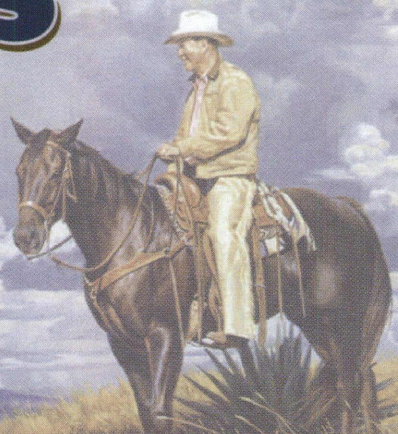

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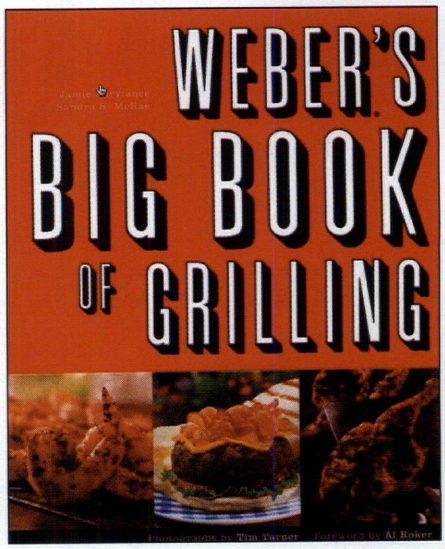
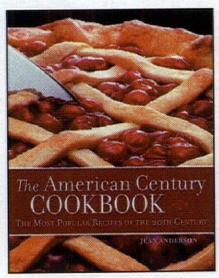
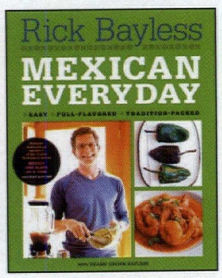


ish Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill, offers a different perspective on Southern cooking in ***Matzoh Ball Gumbo: Culinary Tales of the Jewish South.*** This fascinating social history explores a unique blend of cultures "from the perspective of the dinner table." Ferris shares over 30 recipes including the eponymous kosher gumbo. I can't wait to try Rosh Hashanah Jam Cake, traditionally served in the Ferris home with a glass of port.

Fans of Jim Early (author of *The Best Tar Heel Barbecue Manteo to Murphy*) will welcome his latest, ***Jim Early's Reflections:***





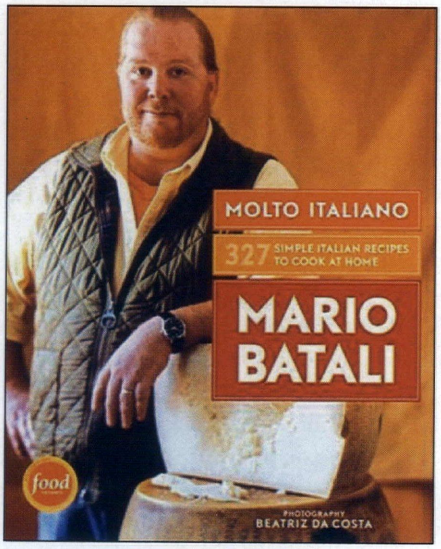
The Memories and Recipes of a Southern Cook. Early focuses on dips and spreads, but the glory of this volume is its collection of sinful desserts. His recipe for Seafoam Candy with Pecans brought back sweet memories of Christmas Eve at my grandmother's home when carolers were rewarded with eggnog, Bourbon-soaked fruitcake, and the best homemade candy in the world, old-fashioned seafoam.

History buffs, as well as cooks, will be drawn to ***Dining at Monticello*** published by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation. Beautiful enough for star billing on a coffee table, *Dining* answers those important questions such as, "Who was responsible

for bringing ice cream to America?" Damon Leigh Fowler, author of *Classical Southern Cooking* updates dozens of recipes authentic to the period, including Jefferson family staples such as Monticello Beef Soup, Cabbage Pudding and, of course, ice cream.

Speaking of presidential food, do you know the favorite food of FDR or JFK? Raleigh native Jean Anderson does, and shares the answers along with a plethora of fun food facts and recipes in her ***The American Century Cookbook***, newly available in paperback. The whole family will enjoy discovering the origin of 20th-century classics such as Toll House cookies, pineapple upside-down cake, vichyssoise, and Cobb Salad over a Christmas breakfast of "Campbelled" eggs.

That old warning, "Never trust a skinny cook," always rang true to me. So what are all these waifs doing on cookbook covers nowadays? Tyler Florence, Bill Granger, Daisy Fuentes—even Bobby Flay



are all too thin and pretty for my taste, though I admit Flay's recipes are exceptional. Give me Mario Batali any day. The man nicely fills up the cover of ***Molto Italiano***, an auspicious sign. Now that's a book I would buy for its cover! Rick Bayless may not be fat, but his cooking surely is. I'd be overjoyed to find his ***Mexican Everyday*** under my tree. Paula Wolfert doesn't stint on the goose fat in her newly revised ***The Cooking of South-West France***, which made my mouth water, as did Sheila Lukin's whimsically illustrated

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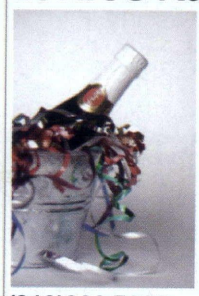

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SPECIAL SECTION
January 2006 Issue of Metro
featuring:
THE NEW AGE OF EDUCATION
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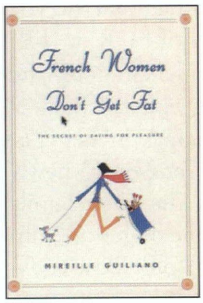
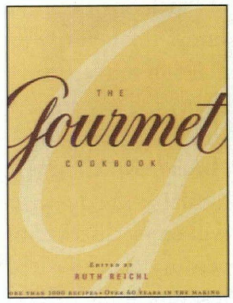
All Around the World Cookbook.

For serious cooks seeking to improve technique, ***The Kitchen Detective*** by Christopher Kimball, longtime editor of *Cook's Illustrated* magazine, analyzes what makes recipes work (or not). In the same vein, Linda Carucci's brilliant ***Cooking***





School Secrets for Real World Cooks offers much more than recipes. With chapters such as "Using Your Senses When You Cook," "Understanding Your Palate," and "Creative Cooking," Carucci's book could eliminate the need for any other cookbook. But that wouldn't be any fun, now would it?

Bob and Melinda Blanchard's beautifully photographed ***Cook What You Love*** promises rewarding meals without a lot of fuss. ***Weber's Big Book of Grilling Book*** will please the grill-meister of the family with its terrific food "porn"—pictures so tempting that it's hard to refrain from licking the page. For extra-well-behaved cooks this year, Santa may leave the new ***The Gourmet Cookbook*** if he can squeeze this enormous tome through the chimney. Editor Ruth Reichl has chosen 700 classic recipes from *Gourmet* magazine's 60 years of publication and introduces each with the story of its origin. This is a book I could spend some quality time with.

So many tempting volumes lure me, yet the book I may choose to give to friends of either sex, even at the risk of offending its recipient, is not really a cookbook. Nor is it the diet book one expects from the title. ***French Women Don't Get Fat*** is, in fact, a memoir of Mireille Guiliano, CEO of Veuve Cliquot Champagne. In these enchanting pages, the epicurean Guiliano reveals her secrets for maintaining good health while getting the utmost pleasure from food, wine and from life.

Isn't that the gift we all really want to share with the people we love? MM

Off the MENU

by Fred Benton

COOKBOOKS AND CULINARY NEWS

As with my friend and *Metro* columnist Moreton Neal, a lot of new cookbooks cross my desk each year. For any foodies on your holiday gift list, a cookbook is always welcome, so I've culled a few of the best for your attention. These cookbooks have just been published, so most likely the lucky recipient doesn't already have it:

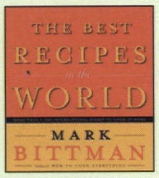
I've been visiting so many bed & breakfast establishments lately that this one, for me, is a must: ***North Carolina Bed & Breakfast Cookbook: From the Warmth and Hospitality of 62 North Carolina B & B's and Country Inns*** by Melissa Craven (3-D Press Inc.). Heavy on upscale to "old-fashioned renditions" of breakfast foods, but does have a chapter on luncheon and dinner entrees.

The Passionate Olive: 101 Things to do with Olive Oil by Carol Firenze (Ballantine Books) "Firenze shares wonderful family recipes, fascinating history, and useful information about this natural marvel."

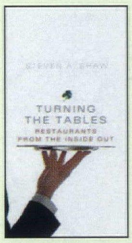
Andrea Immer Robinson's 2006 Wine Buying Guide for Everyone: Featuring 700 Top Wines Available in Stores and Restaurants by Andrea Immer Robinson (Broadway Books, paperback).

Food for the Soul: Recipes and Stories From The Congregation of Harlem's Abyssinian Baptist Church (Ballantine Books). "...the congregants of this nationally renowned church (founded 200 years ago, this church is one of the five oldest African-American churches in the country) share their favorite recipes, the heart-warming stories behind them and the role that food has played in their own spiritual experience."

The Best Recipes In The World: More Than 1000 International Dishes To Cook At Home by Mark Bittman (Broadway Books). To put together this enormous compendium of recipes, the author traveled 44 countries to pull together a culinary journey that takes the foodie throughout Europe and Asia to come to the conclusion, as the author did, that we all in fact have quite a bit in common: the love of good food!

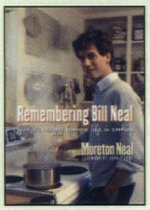


You don't have to keep a kosher kitchen to appreciate and benefit from ***Kosher By Design Entertains*** by Susie Fishbein. The recipes are great for parties but also for everyday use. I love the dessert chapter, filled with luscious, easy-to-make sweets.



These two books are for anyone who appreciates fine restaurants and how they attain their fineness: ***Turning The Tables: Restaurants From The Inside Out*** by Steven Shaw (HarperCollins) and ***The Seasoning of a Chef*** by Doug Psaltis (Broadway Books).

And last but not least, it's Moreton Neal's own book, published last year but still a winner: ***Remembering Bill Neal*** (UNC Press). One hundred-fifty Southern-to-the-core recipes plus delicious anecdotes.



HOLIDAY EVENTS

For holiday fun and Christmas cookies check out the Historic Oakview Christmas Open House & Candlelight Tour, Dec. 10, 1 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. "Just four miles east of downtown Raleigh, this antebellum farmstead is lit with luminaries for the holiday open-house. On Dec. 10, from 1 p.m.–5 p.m. (candlelight tour will be from 5 p.m.-7:30 p.m.), guests can tour the 1855 Greek Revival house and visit with Santa in the living room, devour freshly baked cookies in the plank kitchen, and explore the cotton gin house museum, 1870s gazebo, and a Farm History Center. Sleigh rides will be given around the pecan grove, snow or shine."

And if you know the words to "The Twelve Days of Christmas," then you'll want to visit the acclaimed Carolina Inn in Chapel Hill, Dec. 4-Jan. 6, for their annual exhibit of the same name. Admission is free to stroll through the historic inn to view the outstanding decorations. There are also special dinners held to mark the occasion. For more information call 919-933-2001.

WINE EVENTS

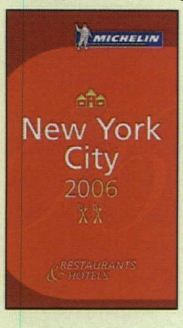
Mark your calendars way ahead for The Triangle Wine Experience, a Frankie Lemmon Foundation Benefit, Feb. 16-18, 2006. This is a superb wine-tasting marathon that includes some of the most interesting wines, as well as upscale restaurants in the Triangle. To learn more and to make reservations online visit www.twenc.org. To prelude the Experience, there's Women and Wine: Caymus Special Select Dinner, Jan. 19, 2006 at Nana's Chop House. This event is for women only and seating is extremely limited. Also, Top Flight Cab Tasting: An extraordinary opportunity to taste Cabernets from California, presented with dinner at Margaux's, Jan. 13, 2006. By phone, to make reservations for either event, call 919-845-8880 or email: info@twenc.org.

Wine lovers can also enjoy "the hottest winter weekend in Boston" at the largest consumer wine-tasting event in the country, the 15th Annual Boston Wine Expo held at the Seaport World Trade Center, Jan. 28-29, 2006. Sample over 1,800 wines from around the world and meet the winemakers who produce them. The Grand Tasting features the hottest wines in the industry and attracts the nation's top chefs to entertain and educate at the Celebrity Chef Stages. All levels of wine drinkers can expand their wine knowledge by participating in the Seminar Series and the world's greatest vintages will be featured in the Grand Cru Wine Lounge. The Vintner Dinner takes place on

Saturday night. For more information call 1-877-946-3976 or online visit www.wine-expos.com/boston.

MICHELIN COMES TO BIG APPLE

The famed *Michelin Guide* has hit Manhattan, and some think it's the worm in the Big Apple. Critics and restaurateurs have been uneasy that this guide, based on hardcore snooty principles that recently had a chef in France commit suicide because his eatery was to lose a star, will be a French terrorist in their midst. Now, the *Guide* is out and the winners (3-stars), according to the *New York Daily News*, are: Alain Ducasse, Jean-Georges, Le Bernardin and Per Se.



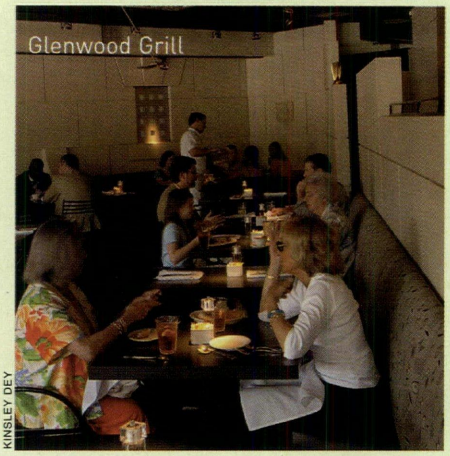
CHEF HONORED

And on the local scene: Known for its gracious hospitality, exceptional service and award-winning cuisine, the Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club, Durham, is pleased to announce its Fairview Dining Room Chef de Cuisine, Michael Gunyan, was awarded the National Trophy of Cuisine et Patisserie. Gunyan competed against numerous well-known chefs from across the country in The Academie Culinaire de France culinary competition, hosted at the Western Foodservice & Hospitality Expo in Los Angeles in August. Gunyan will represent the United States in the International Culinary and Pastry Trophy in Paris in November 2006.

NEW TEAM FOR THE GRILL

I want to welcome officially the Glenwood Grill's new chef team, Jim Maple and sous chef David Mitchell. I visited the Grill recently to check out the new menu and was most impressed with Fried Green tomatoes layered with goat cheese over red pepper coulis, Pumpkin Ravioli swimming in brown butter with the addition of roasted pumpkin seeds, and sage and a delectably quirky rendition of Low Country Antipasti plate with slices of a fresh cheese from a local dairy, thinly sliced Johnston County country ham, salami, pickled asparagus spears, sliced pickled okra, pimento cheese (house-made), olives and house made crackers: yummy! Salad lovers will appreciate the freshness and slight bitterness of fresh arugula complemented well with goat cheese, sliced almonds and figs, dressed with a sherry vinaigrette. And no low country-styled menu would be worth its salt without She-Crab Soup and a highly seasoned, zesty Shrimp and Grits (the andouille sausage gravy with lots of sweet bell peppers and mushrooms makes this dish!).

Farm-raised salmon, according to health experts, can contain chemicals that could prove harmful, so the caution is to eat no more than one meal of this salmon a week. Fortunately the salmon I had at the Grill is wild Canadian (perfectly safe) and was accented very simply with broccoli rabe, roasted beets and mushroom broth. Special kudos as well for the sweet potato hash that accompanies the Grilled Pork Tenderloin. My meal ended sumptuously with a Grill signature dish: the Carpet Bagger: two four-ounce tournedos of filet mignon with Parmesan fried oysters, roasted shallot mashed potatoes, baby green beans, Madeira sauce and



bearnaise. Too full for dessert? Do as I did and get the pecan tart with chocolate crumb crust. You can check out the entire menu and other data about Glenwood Grill online at www.glenwoodgrill.com. For reservations (recommended), call 919-782-3102.

AND NEARBY...

There's more culinary treasure in Glenwood Village, namely Hereghty Heavenly Delicious, a to-die-for patisserie and café that opened about six months ago. Before I discovered Hereghty, I would make periodic sojourns to the Watergate Pastry Shop in DC to assuage my passion for Napoleons with a creme patisserie that made France famous. But brothers Chris (the pastry chef with Swiss training) and Brian (formerly an architect) had a life-long dream to open a first-rate European bakery—and their dream has become a reality.

Lunch, according to Brian, is their peak period of the day when diners can sit inside (room for 16) in comfortable chairs or outside at café tables (seating for 8) and nosh on quiche, one of the best renditions I've tasted made in a commercial kitchen. And I hail it a "best" simply because, unlike in every restaurant in which I've eaten quiche, the bottom crust is actually cooked! Everywhere else it's soggy, pallid raw dough. I visited Hereghty's the other day in the early evening and really enjoyed sipping a glass of wine outside where each table had a lit candle, watching the bustling Glenwood Village world go scrambling by while I sunk a fork into a variety of mousses: cakes that with every taste brought to my palate the finest ingredients. I have a particular fondness for their lemon tart, which is wonderfully tart and smooth (the secret, confided Chris, was the use of glucose that adds silkiness to the filling).

Gourmet coffees are also offered along with coffee drinks (how about a Liquid Brownie?). The list of their "incredible edibles" would read a mile long. But these are delectable, as well as beautiful sweets. And they also do sweet trays for parties—which for me is a boon. I hate cooking sweets. Just reading the tarts list makes my sweet tooth go on alarm: how about a rice tart? Never had a rice tart but this is a Swiss specialty with hazelnut dough, apricots, golden raisins, milk rice filling with a hint of cinnamon and finished with a rum Bavarian cream. I asked Chris his two favorite pastries; he responded with the Paris and the Zurich. The menu describes the Paris as "chocolate cake with two layers of chocolate sponge, light rum syrup and a light 58 percent chocolate mousse"; the Zurich is "a layer of flourless coconut sponge, milk chocolate praline crunch, passion fruit cream and chocolate mousse." The Zurich was my favorite only because of the crunch of the praline, but both were "heavenly" good.

As I mentioned, party trays are available that take these delicious cakes to more bite-sized portions, plus the bakery will be doing all sorts of holiday traditional fare. Hereghty's is big business. They have a 2,800-square-foot production kitchen at another location in Raleigh. They also prepare wedding and specialty cakes. Choice holiday gift: a gift card to this amazing place. For more information call 919-510-9161 or online at www.hereghty.com. MM

Metro Magazine's Premiere

RESTAURANT GUIDE

RALEIGH/CARY

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. Steamed oysters and clams available. Serving lunch Monday through Friday and dinner seven nights a week.

115 Midtowne - 4421 Six Forks Road, Raleigh, (919) 787-8963. 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 - 2:30pm; dinner Monday through Thursday 5:30pm - 10pm; Friday and Saturday 5:30pm - 11pm.

Bella Monica - 3121-103 Edwards Mill Road., Olde Raleigh Village Shopping Ctr., Raleigh (919) 881-9778. Family-run Italian restaurant. Delicate, thin-crusted Neapolitan pizza with gourmet toppings. Pork Piccatta, Shrimp Scampi, Portobello Lasagne & Cannoli. Neighborhood bar with all-Italian wine list. Patio dining. Lunch, Dinner, Late Night on weekends. Closed Sunday. "Simply superb-three stars." – *News & Observer*

Bloomsbury 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 – 510 Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh (919) 832-1122. Steaks, martinis and impeccable service never go out of style. Rotisserie-grilled items dominate the menu. Sensational steaks, seafood and pastas, homemade desserts and countless specialty martinis. Casual retro ambience. Live music nightly and late night action Fri-Sat. Lunch M-F, Dinner 7 days. Sun. brunch.

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 an 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 spontaneous rendezvouses 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 sautéed 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.

Est 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.

Hi5 – 510 Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh. (919) 834-4335. For food and fans, Hi5 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.hi5-raleigh.com.

Lucky 32 – 832 Spring Forest Road, Raleigh, (919) 876-9932. 7307 Tryon Road, Cary, (919) 233-1632. Seasonal fare with influences of regions across the country. www.lucky32.com.

Maximillians – 8314 Chapel Hill Road, Cary (919) 465-2455. Maximillians, owned and operated by Michael and Gayle Schiffer, features American Fusion cuisine, intimate dining and an extensive wine bar. Voted "Best Fine Dining" in the *Cary News* Readers Poll. *News & Observer* praised food as "inventive fusion cuisine" with 3 1/2 stars.

The Melting Pot - 3100 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh. (919) 878-0477. 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 fondue desserts. www.meltingpot.com

Michael Dean's Wood Oven and Seafood Grill – 1305 Millbrook Road, Raleigh. (919) 790-9992. Casual American seafood and wood-fired specialties. Menu changes monthly with delicious low-carb options as well. Enjoy the wide drink selection, outdoor patio and live party bands on Friday and Saturday. Where there's smoke, there's fire. Lunch M-F, Dinner 7 days. www.michaeldeans.com.

Mura at North Hills - 4121 Main at North Hills St, Raleigh. (919) 781-7887. Experience the ultimate Japanese fusion cuisine at Mura, Raleigh's premiere Japanese restaurant and sushi bar. Savor exclusive Kobe Beef and unique fusion dishes in an upscale contemporary setting. Open for lunch and dinner 7 days a week.

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 more. 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 (910) 256-5565. 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," www.citisearch.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.

The Red Room Tapas Lounge – 510 Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh. (919) 835-1322. When you want to paint the town, only one color will do. Serving appetizer-sized, Spanish-style tapas. Bring a group and prepare to share. Wine, sangria and signature red cocktails. DJ-powered lounge music nightly. Open Tuesday – Saturday at 6 pm. www.redroomraleigh.com.

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.reysrestaurant.com.

Restaurant Savannah - 4351 The Circle at North Hills Ave, Suite 119, Raleigh (919) 510-9900. Enjoy Southeastern low-country fare with a modern twist by co chefs de cuisine Scott Grimm & Jeremy Clayman. Offering favorites such as She Crab Soup and oyster stew as well as a full bar and custom blend coffee. Open for lunch, dinner, late-night dining and brunch Sat. and Sun with private dining area for groups and parties, visit www.restaurantsavannah.com.

Ruth's Chris Steak House – 2010 Renaissance Park Place, Cary. (919) 677-0033. Home of the Sizzling Steak. Serving generous cuts of corn-fed USDA Prime Midwestern beef, custom-aged to the peak of flavor.

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) 847-5304. 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.

Twisted Fork – Triangle Town Center, Raleigh. (919) 792-2535. Play with your food! Twisted Fork offers thousands of possibilities, from fresh soups, hand-tossed salads, build-your-own sandwiches and grilled meats. Dozens of fresh-baked desserts and breads daily. Twisted specialty "drinx" and Market Meals To-Go. Open 7 days, lunch and dinner. www.thetwisted-fork.com.

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 Sarig 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 zesty 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/APEX

Bakus Tapas and Wine Bar – 746 Ninth Street, Durham. (919) 286-0777. Winner "Best Ethnic Cuisine" Taste of the Triangle, 2004. Voted one of the Top All Around Restaurants, Top Ten Vegetarian Restaurants, and Top Ten Restaurants with Outdoor Dining by AOL Cityguide, 2005. Visit our restaurant for delicious food and wine in a vibrant atmosphere! Our menu features a wide variety of wine and tapas dishes. Ask us about our special event rental and beautiful canopied outdoor patio. Hours are Monday-Friday 4pm-Midnight, Saturday & Sunday 2pm-Midnight. www.bakus.us.

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 pm. and Sunday 5:30 – 9:00 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 – 2514 University Drive, Durham. (919) 493-8545. Soon after Nana's opened in 1993, *Esquire Magazine's* John Mariani dubbed it one of the best new restaurants in the country: "A perfect example of the way regional American food, sensibly influenced by nontraditional flavors, is unbeatable when it comes to gastronomic satisfaction." Chef Scott Howell still pleases over a decade later.

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) 286-9755. 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

Crook's Corner – 610 West Franklin Street, Chapel Hill (919) 929-7643. "Sacred ground of Southern foodies." –*New York Times.* "The menu combines vintage Bill Neal with the personal touch of chef Bill Smith. ...The combination is a winner." –*Mid-Atlantic Monthly.* Patio dining, weather permitting. Acclaimed Sunday brunch. Open for dinner Tues-Sun at 5:30 pm, Sun Brunch 10:30 am-2:00 pm, www.crooks-corner.com

Jim's Famous BBQ - 115 S. Elliott Road, Chapel Hill (919) 942-7427. 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@great-pigs.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 Moreton 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 pm. Dinner, 10-2 am. Bar/Lounge. www.talullas.com

The Weathervane – 201 South Estes Drive, Chapel Hill. (919) 929-9466. Seasonal menu reflects the good taste 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 Pork Chops. "Local touch, international cuisine," *Metro Magazine's* Moreton Neal. Open for dinner Tuesday through Sunday.

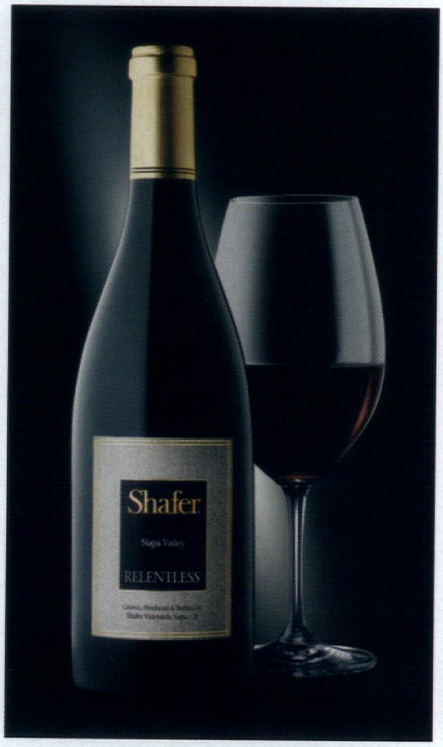
Deluxe - 114 Market Street, Wilmington. (910) 251-0333. Deluxe offers upscale dining for today's savvy gourmand in an aesthetically stimulating and casual atmosphere. New American style dinners feature innovative creations with worldwide influences prepared with an emphasis on fresh local ingredients. Largest selection of fine wines in the region and one of Wilmington's superior brunches. 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.

Cork Report

by Barbara Ensrud

THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY....

On the first Christmas Eve I spent in New York it snowed. For this native of the Deep South who had never experienced a white Christmas, it was stunning. We had finished dinner in Greenwich Village with friend Ingrid from Sweden, who prepared a traditional Scandinavian holiday feast—lutfisk (codfish in



a light-as-air cream sauce with nutmeg), savory Swedish meatballs, caramelized potatoes, braised red cabbage and limpa, the dark sweet Swedish rye, spread with superb Swedish farm butter. After dinner we drank our Christmas toasts with Ingrid's special version of julglögg, a spicy mulled wine perfect for sending us off into cold wee hours of Christmas morning.

Outside, great wet flakes of snow floated down, coating the city in white. New York is never prettier than in the first moments of snowfall, when a damp mist haloes every street lamp and an awesome quiet settles on the streets. Traffic virtually stops, as it had that evening, so we walked the 40-odd blocks home bathed in the glow of snow crystals and radiant city light. Scarcely feeling the cold, we were somewhat aglow ourselves, warmed through with Ingrid's fortifying glögg.

It's a great drink for holiday gatherings, a wonderful way to warm up after chilly outings, and as it simmers gently on the stove, the house fills with the sweet-spice scents of the season.

WOWING THE WINELOVER(S) ON YOUR LIST

With jillions of wines out there, how do you choose just that special one?

You can make it a favorite if you know what that might be, but wine lovers are infinitely curious about trying new and different things, so here are a few suggestions available at Triangle wine shops. (If they don't have the one you're asking for, they can order anything available):

Stag's Leap Wine Cellars Artemis 2002, Napa Valley, $45. A beautifully balanced Cabernet from two of the winery's top vineyards, Fay and Stag's Leap. Either drink this season, or age a decade (though it will go longer, I'm sure). Nothing better for crown roast of beef or lamb.

Shafer Relentless 2002, Napa Valley, $62. If your wine lover likes to be bowled over by ripeness and power, this Syrah may be the one, with its dark lavish fruit.

ITALY: La Poderina Brunello di Montalcino 1999, Tuscany, $60-$70. This big Tuscan red will probably go two or three decades, but who could wait that long? Another fine match for roast beef or lamb.

Ruffino Chianti Classico Riserva Ducale Gold 2000, $33-$40. Consistently one of the top Chiantis: dark and rich, suave and

smooth; the '99 also very good.

Luna Vineyards 2003 Sangiovese, Napa Valley, $18. A well-muscled version of the Tuscan grape grown in the New World.

PINOT NOIR: Learn what all the fuss kicked up by the movie Sideways is about with these beauties.

Robert Sinskey Carneros 2002, $28. Rob Sinskey likes full-flavored wines and this one packs a spicy mouthful; made from organically grown grapes.

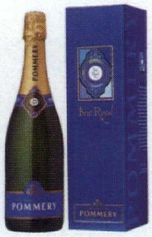
Louis Jadot 2002 Pommard, Burgundy, France, $35. Jadot produces some of the sleekest, best-balanced wines made in Burgundy. Lovely if roast goose is the centerpiece of your Christmas feast.

Sokol-Blosser 2002 Dundee, Oregon, $27. A classic Pinot from one of Oregon's pioneering wineries.

CHAMPAGNE: So many good ones—I do believe sparkling wines are better than ever! Check out these:

Laurent-Perrier Grand Siècle, $85, I've always liked the elegance and finesse of Laurent-Perrier Champagnes; elegant new bottle design makes this a classy gift.

Veuve Clicquot La Grande Dame 1996, $130. Glamour and quality, great finesse—real star power!



Pommery Brut Royal, $26-$28. One of the more reliable and appealing non-vintage bruts; great value, too.

Taltarni Brut Taché 2003, $23, Australia. A stunner from Down Under—very French in style.

VINTAGE PORT: The 2003 vintage is a splendid one for Port lovers. Tuck one under the tree for yours—with admonitions to keep hands off at least a decade. Almost every Port house "declared" 2003; it's one for the ages. Look especially for this one: Quinta de Roriz, $55, a single estate port that will evolve superbly. For immediate drinking, choose a Ruby or Tawny, preferably a 20-year-old from the likes of Dow, Graham or Fonseca.

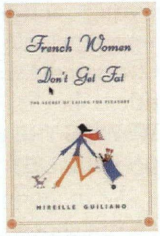
FASHIONABLE WINE

Chapel Hill's own famous fashion designer Alexander Julian now has his own wine label: Private Reserve, a Cabernet blend from—appropriately—Alexander Valley in Sonoma, a premier region for flavorful Cabernet. I had a chance to taste it in October at Julian's College Shop (founded by Alex's father Maurice and operated by sister Missy) on Franklin Street, where he slipped in a few bottles. It's dark, rich and very good. Limited in production, the exclusive label is sold only at a handful of top restaurants in the US. But when you're in New York, you'll find it at The Four Seasons: Price, $180 a bottle.

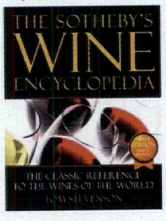
WINE BOOKS

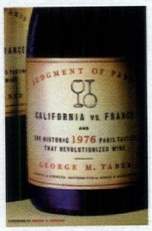
Every wine lover owns a wine library—or should. Sipping a good glass–such as one of the above—is only enhanced by a good vinous read:

French Women Don't Get Fat, by Mireille Guiliano, $25. The title is a little misleading—the real point and punch of this book are the pleasures of eating and drinking well. And who knows better than a French woman, particularly this French woman who just happens to know a considerable thing or two about wine. Guiliano is president of Clicquot, Inc. in the US. Her husband, in addition to being a scholar and university administrator, is a wine critic. Together they make quite a team—and this book is a delightful read. One of the main points: if Americans weren't quite so obsessive about food (and wine) and viewed it as something to be enjoyed and relished, we might have fewer health problems. In moderation, of course. Amusing, informative and appetizing!



The Sotheby's Wine Encyclopedia, by Tom Stevenson, $50. You definitely must be comfortably seated to handle this 640-page tome, but it makes for great browsing among the wine regions of the world, zeroing in on the top wines of each region. Tons of other relevant info, as well.





Judgment of Paris, by George Taber, $26. The fascinating story of how American wines went global overnight (reviewed in October 2005 Cork Report).

EYE-CATCHING WINE COOLER

Wine lovers of all stripes enjoy the trappings and accoutrements of wine–gadgets, corkscrews, diverse glassware, servers and totes. There's an explosion of wine-related items in wine stores and gift shops, everything from stocking stuffers to Baccarat decanters.

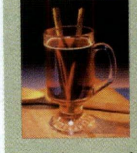
Bread and Budder Buckets

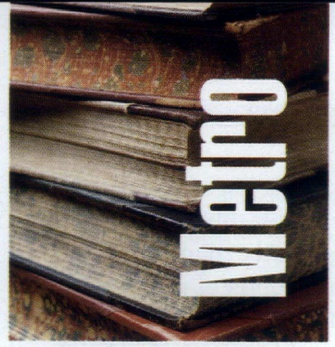
I'm always searching for the right wine cooler—one big enough or deep enough to chill the entire bottle. Bread and Budder Buckets has designed a bevy of stylish containers that work great for chilling wine. Covered in your choice of colorful and snappy fabrics, they are perfect for buffets, or casual patio dining next summer—especially the oblong one pictured below [at right, or left], that can handle three or four bottles at a time. See catalog at www.breadandbudder.com or call 1-877-5BUDDER. MM

Ingrid's Swedish Glögg

2 bottles red wine
1/2 cup extra fine sugar
8 to 12 cloves
2-3 sticks cinnamon
2 tbs. Cognac or other brandy
Raisins
Slivered almonds
Additional sticks of cinnamon, for garnish

Combine the red wine, sugar, cloves, cinnamon sticks and Cognac in a heavy saucepan or stockpot. Warm over medium heat to just below boiling (do not boil!). In punch cups or coffee mugs, place a few raisins and slivered almonds, and pour in the hot glögg. Add an optional cinnamon stick to each cup as a garnish and for stirring.





Metro Books

by Art Taylor

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

The day after Thanksgiving once marked the beginning of the holiday shopping season. The busiest retail day of the year, it has long been termed "Black Friday"—the annual turning point where retailers shift out of the "red" and into their yearly profits. But then new reports two months ago claimed that the holiday shopping season was starting much earlier this year—well before Halloween, in fact—and at least one TV financial consultant, ABC's Mellody Hobson, urged spreading out your shopping—and your bills—over even a longer period to avoid a sudden crunch on the budget.

All of which may mean that the titles recommended below are already slated for "last-minute" gift giving, at best—and perhaps I should be compiling instead a list of suitable titles for Valentine's Day? (If so, Charles Baxter's *The Feast of Love* wouldn't be a bad choice at all, along with a bottle of wine and half-dozen roses.)

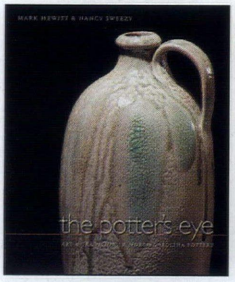
Still, for those who are still working toward Christmas, there are plenty of good options—many of them courtesy of local booksellers who have offered recommendations of their own.

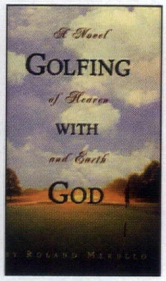
HOMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

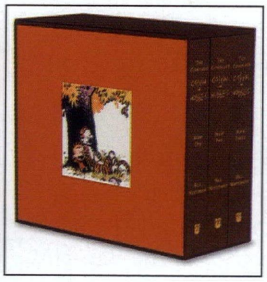
First up is a book that I've particularly admired recently: *Writers of the American South: Their Literary Landscapes*, by architectural writer Hugh Howard and photographer Roger Straus III.

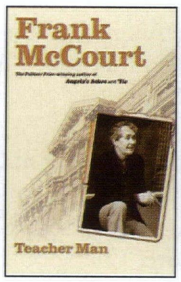
The book focuses on 22 writers, including some of the major names—William Faulkner, Flannery O'Connor and Eudora Welty—but also a wide chronological and geographical range: Kate Chopin's Louisiana, Margaret Mitchell's Atlanta, Zora Neale Hurston's Florida and then the very different Florida of contemporary novelist Carl Hiaasen. The word "landscape" in the title is, however, a fluid one in this case. While region and aspects of each region's history, society and culture have helped to define these writers as clearly as these writers have helped to evoke and, in turn, define again the regions which engendered them, the book also explores the more immediate environment of each author. It's not just Margaret Mitchell's Atlanta that's the point of interest, for example, but specifically her small apartment in a Tudor Revival house on Peachtree Street—a place she herself referred to as "The Dump." Region, locale, architecture, even furnishings help this study to reveal something about the artists and their works.

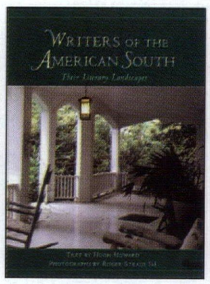
Two North Carolina writers are included in the book: Thomas Wolfe and Allan Gurganus. While Wolfe's relationship to Asheville may have been long familiar to anyone interested in his work, the peek inside Gurganus' house and his world is revelatory—for reasons beyond the simple fact that the Wolfe boarding house is open to the public. The section on Gurganus provides several examples of what makes this book so compelling. It's not simply an architectural survey and certainly not just a series of beautiful pictures (though the photography is lavish indeed). Instead, a project that frankly risks becoming an elegant if empty coffee table book draws on a brief examination of the author's work, a short examination of the author's life and interviews with the author himself to present a multi-faceted, yet integrated, portrait of the artist both at home and at work. In addition to the fine writing and the excellent photographs (taken in natural light, as the introduction points out), each chapter also features a bibliography of primary works by the authors chosen, giving readers even more directions to explore beyond the pages of this collection.

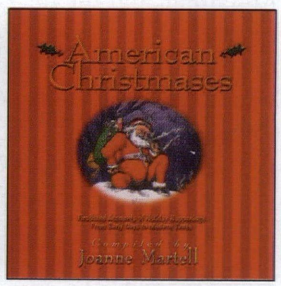












CAROLINIANS FOR CHRISTMAS

North Carolina-themed books are regularly a treat this time of year, and one new title from UNC Press even offers the opportunity for a themed presentation.

The Potter's Eye: Art and Tradition in North Carolina Pottery by Mark Hewitt and Nancy Sweezy surveys the state's distinguished history of craftsmanship and artistry over the last two centuries and connects the work of modern potters to other versions produced both throughout America and overseas. The book is

rich with photographs—235 color illustrations in all, taken by photographer Jason Dowdle—and the book also serves as the catalogue for an exhibition of NC pottery already underway at the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh (continuing through mid-March). Possible themed tie-in gifts include tickets to the exhibition or, of course, an original piece of the state's pottery. Hewitt, a British-born potter currently living in Pittsboro, will discuss the book at Raleigh's Quail Ridge Books on Tuesday evening, Dec. 6, and again at Durham's Regulator Bookshop on Thursday evening, Dec. 8.

Among the several gift-giving suggestions from Rene Martin of Quail Ridge Books is another North Carolina-themed art book, *Quartet: Four North Carolina Photographers*, published by Safe Harbor Books, through John F. Blair, Publisher of Winston-Salem. The photographers highlighted are Rob Amberg, Caroline Vaughan, Elizabeth Matheson and John Rosenthal, and the images range from portraits to landscapes to architectural images (and on that latter point, I also want to recommend particularly Matheson's collection *Blithe Air: Photographs of England, Wales and Ireland*, though individual titles by each photographer are also available and worth a look). The book also features an introduction by Georgann Eubanks.

Not incidentally, Martin's other suggestions include *Montrose: Life In A Garden* by Nancy Goodwin (published by Duke Press), Frank McCourt's *Teacher Man*, and Jan Karon's *Light From Heaven*.

'TIS THE SEASON

One of the natural additions to the booklover's Christmas list are, of course, Christmas-themed books, and Kay Grismer of The Country Bookshop in Southern Pines led the way by recommending a great title in this regard: *American Christmases: Firsthand Accounts of Holiday Happenings from Early Days to Modern Times* by Joanne Martell, a writer based in the North Carolina Sandhills. Published by John F. Blair of Winston-Salem, the book includes 250 letters, journal entries and memoir excerpts spanning more than 400 years of US history. At one end of the spectrum is a 1608 entry by Captain John Smith; at the other end is Major Carrie Acree's letter from Iraq in 2004; and in-between is a mix of famous figures (Daniel Boone, George Washington and Edith Wharton, among others) and everyday folks. Martell will discuss the collection at The Country Bookshop on Thursday evening, Dec. 8.

Another great Christmas title is the third in a series of Southern-themed Christmas anthologies published by Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill. *A Dixie Christmas* joins last year's *Christmas in the South* and 2003's *A Very Southern Christmas*—each edited by Charline R. McCord and Judy H. Tucker—but the latest title features a new batch of holiday treats, from writers including Rick Bass, Fred Chappell, Ellen Gilchrist, Marianne Gingher, Michael Parker and George Singleton. Three North Carolina contributors—Chappell, Gingher and Parker—headline readings from *A Dixie Christmas* on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 4, at Raleigh's Quail Ridge Books, and on the following Sunday afternoon, Dec. 11, at McIntyre's Books in Fearrington Village.

CARTOONS FOR ALL-YEAR ROUND

Finally, on the gift-giving list: Though it doesn't entirely fit in with any themes above, Valerie Bullaughey of the Barnes & Noble at New Hope Commons in Durham offers an excellent choice, *The Complete Calvin & Hobbes*, a three-volume set by Bill Waterson. Though this is far from an inexpensive gift (retail price is listed at $150), the fact is that Waterson's not making any more of these strips, so fans should stock up now. And this irrepressible duo is sure to light up the holidays and any day all year round.

ALSO NEW AND NOTABLE

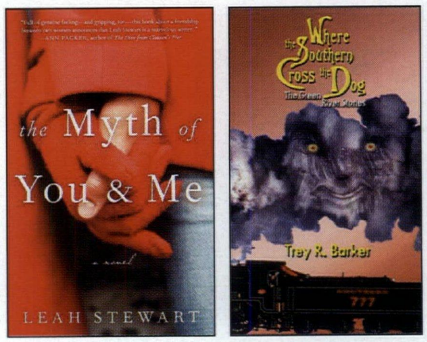
Chief among other recent titles and upcoming events is a series of local visits by Roland Merullo, author of the new novel, *Golfing with God*, in which late golf pro Hank Fins-Winston finds himself summoned to give some lessons to a fairly notable student. (See the book's title, if you're unsure to Whom we're referring.) The novel takes Fins-Winston and his new pupil on a tour of courses in heaven (8,187 at last count) and on earth as well (Pinehurst, anyone?). Merullo will also be making the rounds, reading from and signing copies of the new book at The Country Bookshop in Southern Pines on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 3, and at McIntyre's Books in Fearrington Village on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 4.

Several authors of books previously mentioned in this column are also continuing their tours this month, including these:

Novelist Leah Stewart, author of *The Myth of You and Me*, at McIntyre's Books on Saturday morning, Dec. 3.

Mildred "Mama Dip" Council, author of *Mama Dip's Family Cookbook*, at McIntyre's on Saturday morning, Dec. 10.

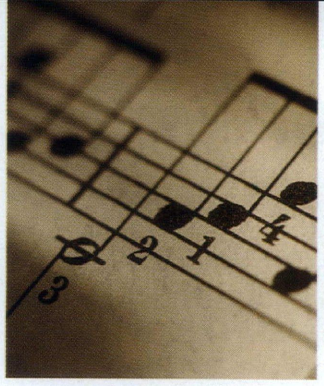
Sara Foster, owner of Foster's Market in Durham and author of several cookbooks including *Fresh Every Day*, at the Barnes & Noble at New Hope Commons in Durham on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 10.



Louis Rubin, author of *Where The Southern Cross The Yellow Dog: On Writers And Writing*, at Raleigh's Quail Ridge Books on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 10.

Additionally, several bookstores are hosting special literary-themed holiday events. McIntyre's, for example, welcomes noted storyteller Donald Davis on Saturday morning, Dec. 17 (donations of canned foods are requested, to benefit Chatham County's CORA group). And Quail Ridge brings bluegrass musicians Nixon, Blevins & Cage for a Pickin' on Christmas concert on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 11; a visit from Santa on Saturday morning, Dec. 17; a concert of Hanukkah music on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 18; and then later that same day, an evening with Reynolds Price reading his favorite poems.

Happy Holidays to all! MM



PvV

by Philip van Vleck

RALEIGH VIBES VIRTUOSO STEVE HOBBS CELEBRATES NEW RELEASE

Raleigh native and jazz vibraphonist Steve Hobbs released his sixth album as leader this past April. Titled *Spring Cycle*, it's a 10-song gem that features eight original songs by Hobbs and pianist Bill O'Connell.

The jazz press has given Hobbs a good many positive reviews in the past 17 years.

KINSLEY DEY

Steve Hobbs

He's often been identified as a bop stylist, but *Spring Cycle* will no doubt force some critics to re-evaluate Hobbs as both a player and a composer. The album has its bop-influenced moments, such as O'Connell's "Crosswinds," but a good deal of what's heard here is more individualistic than a programmatic bop outing.

Spring Cycle is a fine ensemble effort. Hobbs and O'Connell are joined by bassist Peter Washington and drummer John Riley to form the base quartet. Tom Harrell joins the foursome on trumpet and flugelhorn for several tracks. Tenor sax player Bob Malach, flautist Dave Valentin, and percussionist Steve Berrios also appear on the record. The material on *Spring Cycle* is generally upbeat, and provides Hobbs and Harrell with a good deal of improvisational latitude. Harrell's horn sound is a thing of beauty whenever he takes flight, and Hobbs' vibe solos swing relentlessly.

Hobbs noted that after being essentially jerked around by his previous label, Candid, he went looking for a change of scenery.

"I called my record promoter and told him I wanted a new label," he said. "He sent me stuff by three very prominent labels, and I told him that I thought the records on Random Chance were the best. He agreed with me and added that Random Chance was pretty aggressive as well. I had offers from two other labels, but I went with Random Chance. The label has encouraged me to be creative and not simply do what everybody else is doing."

Hobbs and friends recorded *Spring Cycle* in the summer of 2004 and saw it released this past April. He tracked the album at Skyline Studios in Clinton, NJ.

"The label had me booked at a studio in New York City, but I didn't want to record in the city because it's such a hassle getting my vibes around the city," Hobbs explained. "Skyline is in this rural area of New Jersey and it's really nice. The guys who played on the album were coming from New York City and they liked this location. Clinton's actually more of a rural setting than Raleigh."

Most musicians, when asked if they're pleased with their latest recording, usually offer a rather obligatory affirmative reply. Hobbs, however, is clearly extremely pleased with *Spring Cycle*, and that's a change of pace for this exacting artist.

"This is the only record I've done in my career that I'm happy with," he allowed. "This is the first record I've ever done that I thought went beyond good music and right into spirituality.

"Another thing I like about the record is that the four soloists—Tom, Bob Malach, Bob and myself – all have very different styles, and we were bringing a lot of different flavors to the plate. Bill is a very

fiery player, while Tom is very lyrical. Bob and I are somewhere in between." Hobbs went on to note that tracking original jazz tunes is often risky business.

"Critics have liked my mainstream stuff, but when you cut original material you're leaving yourself open to get bad reviews," he said.

"With original material you're talking about fresh tunes, and new material is harder for critics to judge. I wasn't worried about the reviews, however, and neither was my label. I mean, Chick Corea's album *Now He Sings, Now He Sobs* got one star from Downbeat magazine in 1969, but two years ago it was nominated for best jazz record of the 1960s.

When you do original music—like Corea did on that album—you put yourself out on a limb.

"Random Chance wanted me to do original tunes, so I asked them to send me all sorts of jazz and they did," he added. "For about six months I listened to all kinds of stuff—not at all the kind of music I'd been doing—just to clear out my head, and then I started writing."

Pianist Bill O'Connell also started writing, as it turned out, and ultimately contributed three excellent tunes to the new album.

"I'm very pleased with the material Bill O'Connell wrote for *Spring Cycle*," Hobbs stated. "I particularly like "Crosswinds" and "Loon Lake." I'd never had a piano player offer to write music for one of my albums before, but Bill did just that, and I love his songwriting."

Hobbs' latest disc adds to a string of artistically strong recordings, all of which have been released while he was living and teaching in Raleigh.

"I went to Our Lady of Lourdes K-through-5, then my folks pulled me out of Catholic school in sixth grade because they knew I wanted to get in a band," Hobbs said. "I played in the Aldert Root Elementary band, the Daniels band and the Broughton High School band. I had a scholarship offer from East Carolina University but I passed it up and went to Berklee.

"I had too many friends who were party animals who went to ECU, and I knew if I went there I'd flunk out," he laughed. "I went up to Boston, cut my hair, wore polyester pants and glasses. I tried to look as square as I possibly could so people would leave me alone. I was practicing all the time."

Hobbs attended the Berklee School of Music in Boston between 1974 and 1978. Afterward he toured with funk groups until 1980, when he enrolled at the University of Miami (1980-82). He then proceeded to the University of Northern Colorado, to work on his doctorate.

"I dropped out in '83 because I got so busy playing gigs in Denver with all these heavyweight players who'd moved out there from New York," he explained. "I was working with Tom Harrell and Phil Urso, who played tenor in Chet Baker's band, and Freddy Rodriguez, who played with Rahsaan Roland Kirk. I was also playing with Randy Johnston and Spike Robinson. I really made most of my connections in the industry in Denver between 1982 and 1988."

Hobbs moved back to Raleigh in 1988 and has been teaching in the Wake County Public School System ever since. "I've been teaching for 17 years and I have five sick days," he laughed.

"My sister has been teaching 22 years and she's accumulated 265 sick days. I've used most of my sick days to play gigs, but I don't want to be 70 years old playing gigs with arthritis, if you know what I mean.

"I teach at Fuller Elementary School, which is a gifted and talented school near downtown Raleigh. I've been there three years. Some of the kids I've taught in band years ago are in New York playing, and they're doing pretty well."

Aside from maxing out his sick days, Hobbs also takes full advantage of the summer vacation in terms of working gigs.

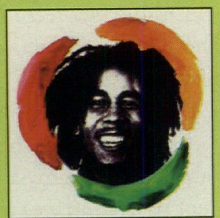
"I've got an Italian tour coming up thanks to this new record," he said." A promoter heard the album and flipped and he's bringing me over to Italy in June for three weeks. I'm also working on something in Korea, and I've got stuff coming up in New York, Erie, Ann Arbor, Cleveland, and Akron. When I'm in town I play at Nana's Chop House in Raleigh."

Jazz fans can catch Steve Hobbs and Friends at Nana's Fridays from 7 to 10 p.m. MM

QUICK FIX

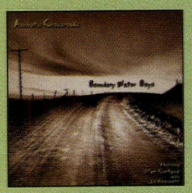
Bob Marley & The Wailers:
Africa Unite: The Singles Collection
(UMusic)

Seventeen classic reggae hits plus a new single—"Slogans"—and a pair of very cool remixes. Truly the stuff legends are made of, on one disc.



DISCOLOGY

Boundary Water Boys:
Acoustic Crossroads
(Spiritwood Music)



This is an impressive assemblage. Singer/songwriter Pat Surface got together with compadres Bill LaPlant (mandolin) and Don LaPlant (acoustic bass), violin virtuoso Eli Bissonett, percussionist Robin Adnan Anders, lead guitarist Bill Bulinski, cellist Leo Robinson, and acoustic bassist Dr. Rob Mattson, and tracked 15 songs that cover a good deal of roots territory. The tunes are mainly traditional nuggets such as "Old Suzanna," "Farmer Is the Man," "Cold Frosty Morning," "Irish Washerwoman" and "Orange Blossom Special." One Surface original—"Repo Man"—is also included, and they also cover the Django Reinhardt and Stefan Grappelli song "Minor Swing" and Howlin' Wolf's "Sitting on Top of the World." The material is drawn from blues, folk, hot jazz, bluegrass and traditional sources, but the vibe is most consistently bluegrass or Celtic. The musicianship is uniformly adept, and though some of the song choices are rather quaint—do we ever need to hear "Irish Washerwoman" again?—the album is certainly bereft of any sort of overblown production values. This is a journeyman piece of work that roots music fans will doubtless enjoy.

EYES ONLY

Forbes Magazine has ranked the **Raleigh metro** number two in places to live in the US behind Boise, Idaho. ■■■ The UNC-CH Board of Trustees has presented four leaders with the prestigious **William Richardson Davie Award: Marjorie Bryan Buckley** of Bethlehem, Pa.; **Donald Curtis** of Raleigh; **Frank Daniels Jr.** of Raleigh; and **Richard J. Richardson** of Pittsboro. The Davie Award, named for a Revolutionary War hero who is considered the father of the university, is the highest honor bestowed by the trustees. It recognizes extraordinary service to the university or to society. ■■■ **NC Citizens for Business & Industry President and CEO Phil Kirk** notified the NCCBI Executive Committee Wednesday that he **intends to resign** effective Dec. 31. Kirk has led the state's top business advocacy organization for 16 years. ■■■ **Dean & Linnea Smith** were honored recently by UNC-Chapel Hill for their contributions to improving education in the state and across the nation. The former Carolina men's basketball coach and his wife, a psychiatrist and advocate for exploited women and children, shared this year's **Peabody Award**, the highest honor bestowed by the UNC School of Education, for their dedication to children and youth. ■■■ The **UNC-CH School of Education** also named four recipients of its 2005 distinguished alumni awards: **Dr. James Gordon Merrill**, superintendent of Alamance-Burlington Schools, Distinguished Leadership Award; **Dr. H. Dickson Corbett III** of Malvern, Pa., an independent educational researcher, Alumni Achievement Award; **Leslie Baldwin**, foreign language program specialist with the Winston-Salem-Forsyth County Schools, Excellence in Teaching Award; and **Alvera Junice Lesane**, chief quality assurance officer for Iredell-Statesville Schools, Outstanding Young Alumna Award. ■■■ The exhibit ***North Carolina and the Civil War***, which drew thousands of visitors to the NC Museum of History in Raleigh from 1999 to spring 2005, is closed, but now you can **experience it online** via the museum's Web site at ***ncmuseumofhistory.org***. The online exhibit features a virtual tour, detailed information from each exhibit section, close-up images of galleries & artifacts and a dramatic reading. ■■■ The **Business and Professional Women's groups** of Raleigh and the Triangle has presented **2005 Opening Doors awards** to three outstanding professional women in the Triangle: **Dr. Betsy Bennett**, director of the NC Museum of Natural Sciences; **Dr. Cynthia A. Toth**, Professor in the Department of Ophthalmology at Duke University Medical Center; and **Sepideh Asefnia**, PE, President and Founder of SEPI Engineering Group in Raleigh. ■■■ **Dr. Chris Clemens**, physics & astronomy professor at UNC-Chapel Hill, recently represented UNC at a ceremony in Sutherland, South Africa, to dedicate the **South African Large Telescope (SALT)**, the largest diameter telescope in the Southern Hemisphere. UNC-CH, one of 11 partners in the SALT project, contributed $1 million to its development. ■■■ Representatives at ***Progressive Farmer Magazine*** have deemed the **Pine Ridge Farm** at McLendon Hills Lake & Equestrian Community to be one of their most successful idea-home projects to date, with more than 7,000 guests touring the home from June through late September. People visited from all over the south and Midwest, coming from as far away as Illinois to see Pine Ridge. ■■■ **Eric M. Solomon** was recently installed as **Rabbi at Beth Meyer**, the only Conservative Jewish congregation in Raleigh. Rabbi Solomon has served as Assistant Rabbi of Congregation B'nai Jeshurun in New York and most recently as founding Rabbi of Congregation Tehillah, a direct outgrowth of B'nai Jeshurun. ■■■ **Bland Simpson** and **Randall Kenan**, creative writing faculty members at UNC-CH, recently received **North Carolina Awards**, the state's highest civilian honor. The awards, coordinated by the **NC Department of Cultural Resources**, recognize **outstanding lifetime achievements** by North Carolinians in the fields of fine arts, science, literature & public service. Simpson, who directs UNC's creative writing program, received the fine arts category award. Kenan received the award for literature. ■■■ **Alan Shapiro** and **Lawrence Naumoff**, also of the creative writing faculty at UNC-CH, have won **2005 NC Book Awards** for fiction and poetry, presented by the NC Literary & Historical Association. Shapiro, William R. Kenan Jr. distinguished professor of English, received the Roanoke-Chowan Award for Poetry for ***Tantalus in Love***. Naumoff, a lecturer, won the Sir Walter Raleigh Award for best work of fiction for ***A Southern Tragedy, in Crimson and Yellow***, a novel based on the tragic 1991 chicken plant fire in Hamlet.■■■ Duke University environmental scientists have received a **five-year, $1.88 million grant** from the **National Science Foundation** to develop an advanced **wireless sensor network** that can measure, model and predict biophysical changes in the forest environment. **Dr. James S. Clark**, who is H.L. Blomquist Professor of Biology at the Nicholas School of the Environment & Earth Sciences, is **principal investigator** on the grant. ■■■ **Broadcasting guru Carl Venters** of Wilmington and partner **Dan Tilley** have opened a new car-care center, **PRISTINE AUTO SPA**, in Morrisville. The new facility offers a car wash & detail facility, a lobby with a 51-inch plasma TV screen, a pastry & coffee bar and a kid-friendly atmosphere. ■■■ The **NC Sustainable Energy Association** and **NC Million Solar Roofs Partnership** have named **Giles Blunden** winner of the **2005 Solar Hall of Fame Award**. A longtime solar energy development leader, Blunden has begun the **Carrboro Collaborative Development Association** to develop affordable, sustainable neighborhoods. The first neighborhood, **Pacifica**, is to be finished by June 2006. Two members of the NC General Assembly, **Senator Charlie Albertson & Representative Pricey Harrison**, who have supported sustainable energy initiatives, received NCSEA's Legislative Champion Awards. ■■■ **HCA Inc.**, a leading provider of health-care services, has given **$1 million** to the **Fuqua School of Business** at Duke University. The unrestricted gift is available to provide support in such areas as new facilities, student scholarships & programming, faculty development, equipment or other priorities of the school. ■■■ **Paul Jones** of UNC-CH will serve as a judge for a newly created annual award for **bloggers-turned-published authors**. The world's fastest-growing provider of print-on-demand books, **Lulu.com**, has set up the **Blooker Prize** for authors who began their writing as blogs and have turned them into fiction, nonfiction and comic "blooks" in print form. ■■■ **Rhein Interests** has opened competition for the 2006 Rhein-Medall Prize for Community Art. The sculpture contest, sponsored by **Durham's Brightleaf at the Park**, a new master-planned community in Durham being built by Rhein, invites talented students from North Carolina universities to create designs for public or outdoor art. The 2006 contest will focus on the theme, **Water's Connection to the Environment**. ■■■ The **NC Museum of History** has been awarded a **$126,750 technology grant** from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), allowing the museum to begin **Moving Beyond the Museum Walls**, updating its video technology for public access. New audiences, including individuals and classes will be able to "visit" the museum's exhibits and programs using two-way videoconferencing and interactive online video streaming. ■■■ **The Melting Pot** of Raleigh, located at 3100 Wake Forest Rd., has announced that it will **celebrate its 20th anniversary** during the entire month of December 2005. The dinner-only fondue restaurant, locally owned and operated by Bill Holt, opened in its original location at 602 Creekside Drive in December of 1985. As part of its anniversary celebration, The Melting Pot is giving away **free fondue for a year**. This December, guests at The Melting Pot can enter a drawing to win one fondue dinner for two a month for 12 straight months. The winner will be announced in January 2006. ■■■ The **Healing Place of Wake County** will open its new facility for women and children on January 15, 2006.

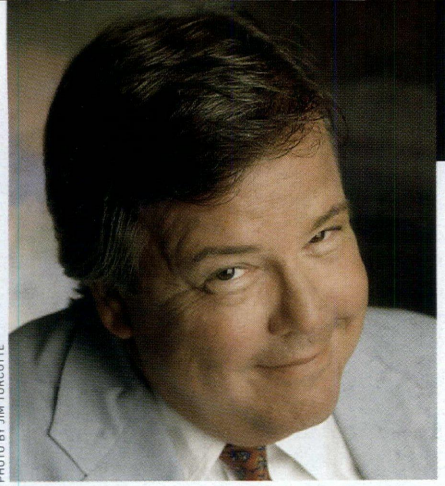


PHOTO BY JIM TURCOTTE

My Usual Charming Self

by Bernie Reeves

REALITY AND TREACHERY IN IRAQ

Scene: ...Driving through Jacksonville, NC where hundreds of homemade banners welcome a contingent of Marines back from Iraq. ...Stopping in a shopping center where wives and children cling to daddy (and in some cases mommy), happy he is home, their pride in his uniform shining in their eyes.

Scene: ...The father of a slain army sergeant holding back tears at the burial of his youngest son..."He died for his country and I am very proud," he says to the camera. "He fought so others could be free."

These scenes involve real people, so real they transcend the artificial reality of the political debate over the US mission in Iraq. Does it really matter whether or not intelligence reports were inexact about the existence of so-called "weapons of mass destruction" since the justification for ending the regime of Saddam Hussein was obviously the right decision? The Maximum Leader of Iraq was a genocidal tyrant responsible for the cold-blooded murder of hundreds of thousands of his political enemies and a constant threat to stability in the Middle East. His remaining followers, syncretic gangs impassioned by a lunatic doctrinal cocktail of secular Nasser-styled Ba'athism and Bin-Laden concocted Islamic extremism, are the heart of the darkness of the global Al-qaeda terrorist campaign.

Now we know that Saddam maintained he was in possession of chemical and nuclear weapons for fear he would be invaded by Iran if he admitted his weakness. The WMD issue, stirred up by the non-issue of the covert cover name of the mediocre CIA employee Valerie Plame (aided and abetted by her cover boy husband Joseph Wilson) is a lame sortie to bring down the Bush administration to end the war in Iraq.

We expect Ted Kennedy, John Kerry, Joe Biden, Nancy Pelosi and the gang to attack the war and, in the process expose their genetic hatred for the United States. Soldiers in the field expect this as a function of the death throes of the Old Left: They act more and more desperately and hysterically as the end nears for their nearly extinct political positions.

THE MURTHA MATTER

But John Murtha is another story. The Vietnam veteran and United States Congressman, associated with the admired species we used to call Conservative Democrats, suddenly performed a public volte face on the war, suggesting—in neo-Vietnam era key words—that we pull out of Iraq. Like the anti-war gang already in place, Murtha offered no agenda and no solution to the problems a withdrawal raises. He just had a mysterious come-to-Jesus moment and transformed himself from a patriot to a coward—and a traitor.

Yes, traitor: to his uniform, as he knows personally the effect of what he has done to the men and women on the ground in Iraq; and to his country, the one he used to fight for, for undermining the official policy of the United States in wartime. Murtha's anti-war epiphany—typical of these episodes, it is not thought out and serves only to assuage some inner angst he feels the need to extinguish by a public demonstration—coming as it does from a veteran, inflicts real pain on the military. He knows this, so he is fully conscious that his silly little mental breakdown is taken as a serious incident. The quality of his citizenship is in question, and for sure you don't want to be in a foxhole with Jack Murtha.

As it turns out, no matter how the far Left, and its pliable media consorts, trumpet Murtha's treachery (NPR: "what courage it took for him to do this"), only 19 percent of Americans think we should pull out of Iraq before finishing the job. The Marines and their families in Jacksonville, the parents of slain American soldiers who believe in the heroism of their children: This is the real America, the one that will defy its traitors and carry on in the name of freedom and liberty for all people everywhere.

NOTES FROM LA-LA LAND

North Carolina's US Senator Liddy Dole has been gone from North Carolina so long she is actually a clone of another outsider US Senator, Hillary Clinton, the Chicago-born Arkansas-seasoned political diva who duped New Yorkers into thinking she had their interests at heart. Dole's reversal on condoning interim funding of the notoriously corrupt and ludicrous rail transit plan for Raleigh and the Triangle is contemptible. I guess she just changed her mind.

•••

If you go carrying pictures of Chairman Mao, as the Beatles noted, read the new biography *Mao: The Unknown Story* by Jung Chiang and husband Jon Holliday. The first paragraph sets the tone: "Mao Tse-tung, who for decades held absolute power over the lives of one-quarter of the world's population, was responsible for well over 70 million deaths in peacetime, more than any other 20th-century leader." Gee, remember the activists and academics who praised the "Great Helmsman"? They are still teaching on campus, tenured and unrepentant.

•••

Chicken Little indeed. The panic over "bird flu" has gripped the chattering classes with another round of apocalyptic seizures. They typically magnify potential problems through the lens of their internationalistic view, born of the belief in the "one-world" calculus of the human condition. This too will pass until the next delusional episode that spells world catastrophe and proves our weakness as nation-states. Flu victims of the world unite! MM

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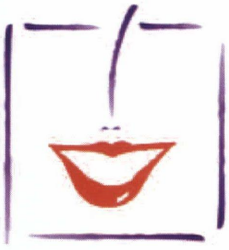

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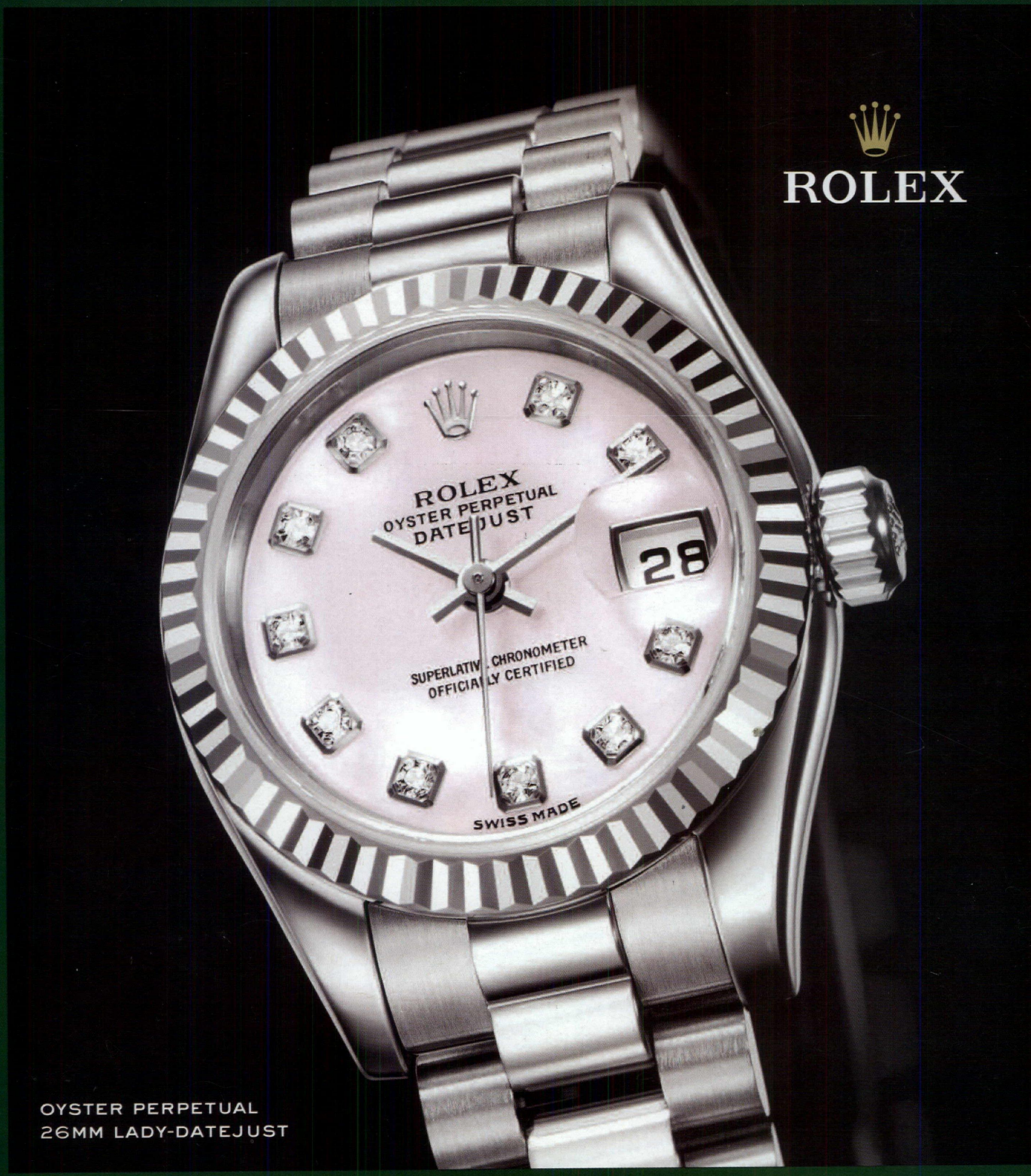

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