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AS THE SEASON TURNS

Ask you, seriously, where else but in *Metro* could you find writers and features that connect you to the essence of the community? Each issue amazes, with stories and profiles across the wide spectrum of the region.

Liza Robert is on a mission to recognize "unsung heroes," this week profiling Nancy Olson — the den mother of the literati, headquartered in her nationally known independent Quail Ridge Books in Raleigh — and Sarah Powers, who has relentlessly sought out and supported budding and established artists as chief of Wake Visual Arts.

The new building on the Triangle skyline is not located in one of the area’s downtowns. It rises dramatically out of the suburbs in the North Hills master complex off Six Forks Road and the I-440 beltline. Diane Lea scaled the 17-story monolith and says the view is fine, whether from ritzy new law offices or the myriad of businesses that call CapTrust Tower home.

As fall beckons, Helen Wallace - in her debut fashion column - introduces the uninitiated to the free-form couture of the hot new designer Rachael Zoe. Louis St. Lewis delves into his childhood to discuss the art scene; Jim Leutze provides the second of his 2-part series on China (in this case, "sorta China") and Rick Smith reviews the impact of the 7th Raleigh Spy Conference held August 24-26.

Moreton Neal sifts through and recommends the best new fall cookbooks (and happily notes some of the best are by Triangle foodies); and Barbara Ensrud explains that 2009 was a very, very good year for Burgundies — a perfect wine for autumn dining and holiday events.

Film editor Godfrey Cheshire is a Beatles devotee, nay fanatic. Combining love for the Fab Four with expert film credentials, he provides readers with the most in-depth examination you can access of Martin Scorsese’s new movie portrait: *George Harrison: Living In The Material World*. The film debuts on HBO this month.

Cyndi Harris and intern Lane Mason provide information you need in the material world, including the *Metro* Social Calendar twice-a-year listing of charitable fund-raisers; our Preview calendar of events; and fashion event listings.

On The Town presents the people making a difference in the region, and Secrets of State provides news you can't find anywhere else. And there is more online: Dan After Dark by Dan Reeves keeps you posted on the local music scene; and Art Taylor’s New & Noteworthy fiction is available 24/7 at www.metronc.com.

November features *Metro’s* focus on education and our Quarterly Medical Special Report.... see you then.
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Correspondence

Metro apologizes to writer Nan Miller whose byline in the August/September issue was published as “Ann” Miller. The editor, who has known Nan Miller most of his life, was last seen heading down Highway 70 East to New Bern in search of the famous “Kicking Machine”. His last words were: “the horror, the horror”.

CORRECTION: On page 42 of the August/September issue, the photograph of the eye doctor is identified as a doctor with Eye Care Associates. She is actually a doctor at Duke Eye Center. Metro apologizes for the error.
Proceeds from *Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner?* benefit the United Arts Council and *Artists in the Schools*, its signature program. This partnership program of United Arts, Wake County Public School System and Wake PTAs provides arts education and opportunities for K-12 students.

Artists in the Schools supports the placement of professional teaching artists in public, private and charter schools with more than 300 artist events in 140 area schools each year.

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- Steve McLaurin
  United Arts Board Chair

**The United Arts Council thanks those who made its signature fundraising event a huge success!**

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Special thanks to Jennifer Hudson, the 2011 Ambassador for EIF's Women's Cancer Research Fund and Saks Fifth Avenue's Key To The Cure.

*Saks will donate 2% of sales Thursday to Sunday, October 20 to 23, up to $500,000. Visit saks.com/KTTC to learn more.
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Brian Kelley Passes Away: Acclaimed CIA Officer Key In Establishing Raleigh Spy Conference

Brian Kelley, the former CIA classified counterintelligence officer who played a major role in establishing and planning the Raleigh Spy Conference, passed away in his sleep September 20. He was in Raleigh as a speaker for the 7th spy conference August 24-26.

Brian loved the conference, and used his considerable access and respect in the intelligence community to recruit speakers from the highest echelons, for example 2011 keynote speaker Michael Hayden — the only person to serve as director of NSA and CIA.

I first met Brian Kelley attending the celebration marking the opening of the International Spy Museum in Washington in July of 2002. Two months later came the sensational news Brian had been falsely accused in 1999 by the FBI of being a Soviet mole working against the United States.

For two years he lived in agony, knowing he was innocent, but fearful he would be officially charged as a spy. Fortunately, a former Soviet intelligence operative told the FBI he could provide them with the KGB/SVR file on their suspected mole for $7 million. The FBI paid, and the file was delivered to the Hoover building in Washington. The investigators licked their chops as they opened the pricey package containing the proof Brian Kelley was a Soviet spy.

Among maps and papers was an audiocassette of a conversation between the KGB handler and his American mole.

But the mole’s voice was not Kelley’s. After investigation, the FBI figured it was Robert Hanssen, one of their own, who held a high-ranking position at the Bureau. The movie Breach picks up the story from that point, and a half-dozen books have been written and a television drama aired re-telling the sordid Hanssen’s treachery, according to Brian one of the most “devastating spies” in US history.

Yet Brian did not express bitterness, stating he was not interested in maligning the FBI, nor his employer the CIA, because, as he said, he did not wish to stain their reputations and diminish their good work to maintain the security of the United States. But he did ask for an apology from FBI director Louis Freeh, which never came.

Felix Bloch

Although Brian was interviewed twice on CBS 60Minutes, his first public appearance since the disclosure of the FBI’s tragic error was the first Raleigh Spy Conference in 2003. And there was another connection to the region for Brian — former State Department official Felix Bloch, who arrived in Chapel Hill in 1993 after his dismissal from his post as Deputy Chief of Mission at the US Embassy in Vienna.

Bloch, a spy for the Soviets in the 1980s, was under investigation by Brian Kelley. Later, this involvement led to the convoluted conclusion and false accusation by the FBI that Brian had tipped Bloch off in 1989 that he was under surveillance. Bloch took off from Vienna to Paris, where he was filmed by French intelligence agents handing a briefcase over to a known Soviet spy.

He was summoned to Washington, with network television cameras filming his every move for the evening news, and dismissed with no severance or pension. The State Department and the intelligence agencies involved decided that trying Bloch for treason would force divulging sacred secrets.

Further investigation revealed that Hanssen (serving a life term in prison) tipped off Bloch and Kelley passed away dedicated to the goal of bringing Felix Bloch to justice, one of the reasons that led him to North Carolina where he has hundreds of new friends in his role as a key force in the establishment of the Raleigh Spy Conference.

Brian’s enthusiasm, bonhomie and grace under fire during the Hanssen affair lifted him into a level of high regard in the intelligence community. And those who were fortunate enough to know Brian personally will never forget he was a gentleman — a rare distinction in the modern era.

— Bernie Reeves

Moving Midway Film To Air On UNC-TV

Godfrey Cheshire’s acclaimed documentary Moving Midway will air on the North Carolina’s statewide television network October 13 at 10PM and October 14 at 4AM.

The film, that received high praise across the nation, examines slavery and southern culture in the context of the physical move of “Midway” - the plantation home of Cheshire’s family built in the 18th century — to save the building from the encroachment of suburban growth on Highway 64 East just outside Raleigh.

Cheshire weaves cultural history with real life events that propel the film into permutations and emotional consequences that represent the complicated layers of southern life.

Go online to www.movingmidway.com for more.

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OCTOBER 2011 METROMAGAZINE
SPIES AMONG US
Capturing Bin Laden Discussed at 7th Raleigh Spy Conference
By RICK SMITH

The 2011 Raleigh Spy Conference attracted an audience of over 300 attendees from across the United States, the United Kingdom and Puerto Rico to hear leading intelligence officers, operatives and authors, including keynote speaker General Michael Hayden – the only person to serve as director of both the National Security Agency and the Central Intelligence Agency.

They range from teachers to entertainers, laborers to students and scientists, even journalists, special people dispatched by foreign governments to spy on the United States and the West. And not to be forgotten are the terrorists trained to assimilate within Western society to carry out missions of destruction.

They are “illegals” – but not in the sense most people think. They are “The Spies Among US”, the title of the 7th Raleigh Spy Conference held August 24-26 at the NC Museum of History in downtown Raleigh.

In the vocabulary of intelligence agencies, the use of the word “illegals” has nothing to do with the political hot potato of illegal immigration. Rather, the term refers to professionally trained spies dispatched to foreign countries where they operate outside the realm of diplomatic immunity and embassy cover. And they are not something to take lightly.

So said Brian Kelley, the longtime CIA counterintelligence veteran (who passed away September 20, less than a month after his appearance at the Raleigh Spy Conference) who has helped plan the conference since its founding in 2003 by Bernie Reeves, editor and
"This is deadly dangerous business," said Kelley. "When the KGB ring (later the SVR) was broken in the United States last year, I called Bernie and said 'This is our theme for the next conference.' People need to be educated about how serious the threat is."

Reeves concurs, adding that "illegals have a long and important role in spycraft — and are among the most carefully trained of all spies."

**Putin's Fascination**

While some media dismissed the arrest of the 10 Russian illegals as a gang that couldn't spy straight, Kelley and other speakers at the Spy Conference insisted otherwise. Dating back to the foundation of the Soviet state nearly 100 years ago, Communist governments have used specially trained illegals to carry out espionage — from stealing weapons secrets to executing economic and technological espionage.

"Putin's fascination with illegals" led to the training and creation of the ring that U.S. counterintelligence managed to uncover", Kelley added. While the true nature of their assignment remains undisclosed, Kelley said the years spent in training the group and the money invested in establishing them in the U.S. reflected a long-term commitment to undermining the U.S. through enemies within.

**The “Precious Assets”**

The topic of illegals was close to Kelley's heart. Before becoming ensnared as the "wrong man" in the Robert Hanssen case, he helped unravel the Soviet method to communicate with illegals. He stressed to the audience that these agents were "trained one-on-one" for several years before being dispatched. The organizations running them were "highly compartmentalized," and the illegals often "worked under the radar, assimilating themselves as part of American or Western society with jobs and families."

"These illegals are handled as 'precious assets' — that's how they are defined by the Russians," Kelley stressed. "They look like every day average people." So highly prized are the illegals that the KGB and SVR people who train them are regarded as "the real heroes" of those agencies, Kelley said.

How much did Russian leader Vladimir Putin value the broken U.S. ring? Kelley noted Putin declared: "Do not doubt that a Mercader has been sent" to find the KGB colonel, a reference to the assassin Stalin sent to Mexico to murder his rival Leon Trotsky.

**Misconceptions**

Michael Sulick, former head of the CIA's National Clandestine Service, sought to "dispel misconceptions" about illegals created by films, books and the media. "This is a vast, extensive network that operates

**Author's Roundtable**

Writers David Wise, Douglas Waller and Kent Clizbe participated in an Author's Roundtable at the conference led by Brian Kelley.

**Chinese Espionage**

Illegals are not just a threat from Russia, warned David Wise, the acknowledged dean of U.S. spy authors who focused on China in his latest book *Tiger Trap: America's Secret Spy War With China*.

Wise recounted the Katrina Leung case involving a Chinese American spy who turned against the U.S. and became the lover of two FBI agents after being "flipped" by the Chinese. "Unvetted" information from her was fed to four U.S. presidents, Wise noted. "She had access to the top leaders in China. That flow of misinformation could have had — or did have — impact on U.S. China policy."

Chinese agents also managed to steal data to build miniaturized nuclear warheads. A four-year investigation involving 300 people and 11 agencies was unable to figure out what happened," Wise said. "That's how effective Chinese intelligence has been."

**Wild Bill Donovan**

Author Douglas Waller discussed his new biography *Wild Bill Donovan*, a new history drawing on newly declassified information about the founder of the Office of Strategic Services during World War II, the predecessor agency to the CIA.

Waller noted the use of illegals in Donovan's OSS, and how espionage was institutionalized in the US under Donovan.

**The Continuing Threat**

Kent Clizbe, a former CIA officer and operative, is author of *Willing Accomplices* that examines the Soviet influence on Western institutions and culture.

He noted that the 2010 Russian illegals case clearly demonstrated the new Russian government under Vladimir Putin and successor Dmitry Medvedev hasn't changed much when it comes to spying.
under the radar," he explained in delivering a historical overview about illegals. They maintain a "charade" to disguise their "parallel residences" away from embassies. While the KGB and other foreign intelligence spies are sent home if caught, these illegals know that if they are captured, a life behind bars awaits.

"They go through very intensive training, spend years abroad developing their cover stories and learning the culture," Sulick explained. "Unlike the United States, Russia is very patient, and they invest a lot of money. "They have had incredible successes, too, from Richard Sorge who posed as a correspondent in Japan before World War Two and uncovered Japan's plans not to attack the Soviet Union, thus allowing Stalin to move forces to Moscow from Siberia to beat the Germans. The problem was, Stalin didn't believe him at first." Sulick added that illegals helped the Russians gain advanced U.S. radar that 'saved them hundreds of millions of dollars.'

The threat hasn't disappeared. Sulick noted that one of the 9-11 masterminds was educated in North Carolina. Plus, he noted the arrests of men living in the Triangle who, while not illegals, were arrested and charged with plotting terrorist acts on behalf of Al Qaeda.

Sulick added that Cuba China, recruit aggressively from students and scientists who come to the U.S. for education or jobs.

**They Are Committed Agents**

British intelligence expert Nigel West reviewed in detail how the Soviets established and maintained illegal networks throughout the Cold War. He noted that illegals had to be committed to their cause - whether it be terrorism or Communism.

"The work is so dangerous," he said. "There is no diplomatic immunity." The threat can be handled only by "remarkable people" who can live a double life. "They are not gray individuals, not analysts living in ivory towers."

**Canada As Staging Ground**

Dan Mulvenna, a retired intelligence officer from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, said the discovery of illegals not only helps protect the homeland but also can lead to penetration of the country or group that has dispatched them.

"Illegals can lead you to very important sources," he said.

Controlled from the KGB "Center" in Moscow, Russian illegals were among the earliest involved in atomic espionage. In the Cold War, an illegal was known as "Main Source" within NATO. Many times, illegals used cover stories as journalists. Mulvenna described jobs as reporters as a "favored occupation."

Today, illegals have evolved in their use of technology from the days of invisible ink and one-time pads to the latest computer thumb drives and use of Internet cafes to avoid electronic monitoring. Illegals still operate within self-contained groups and seek to leave no electronic footprint. But monitoring of electronic communications did help lead to the unraveling of the SVR illegals last year.

---

**SPECIAL AWARD FOR CONFERENCE FOUNDER REEVES**

Also at the event, Bernie Reeves was honored by the Association of Former Intelligence Officers for his work in establishing the Raleigh Spy Conference.

Reeves received the "Association For Intelligence Officers Community Award" from Gene Poteat, who is president of the worldwide organization. The award is a hand-carved and painted plaque featuring the seals of all agencies of the Intelligence Community.

The award has been presented to only two other people: Former Director of National Intelligence Mike McConnell and Peter Earnest, who was cited for long service to the AFIO, the CIA and the Spy Museum, which is located in Washington, D.C.

"You are in an exalted, small circle, and deserves to join the other recipients for your impressive dedication and performance with the Raleigh Spy Conference," Poteat said.
Let It Be

SCORSESE'S KALEIDOSCOPIC PORTRAIT OF GEORGE HARRISON

The macro view: People looking back centuries from now, I am firmly convinced, will regard the work of the Beatles as among the most important and enduring art of the 20th century. Those songs and albums and associated images and creativity are our Parthenon, our Chartres Cathedral, our Sistine Chapel. And like the buildings just mentioned, the greatness of the Beatles rests on a vision that is not just individual and aesthetic, but also collective and spiritual — a sense of divine purpose within human possibility.

The micro view: I recall exactly where I was standing (halfway down the steps in my parents' house) one cold Friday morning in early January 1964 when I first heard "I Want to Hold Your Hand" on Raleigh's WKIX-AM. I was 12 years old and from then on was a complete Beatles fanatic. Saw them on the "Ed Sullivan Show" and, once, in live concert. Got every album and single as soon as it appeared. Read every book and magazine about the band, collected every collectible. I still have most of these items, carefully preserved and treasured as the resonant relics they are.

No doubt there are people reading this who've had Beatles-immersive experiences similar to mine, and to those folks I would say one thing first of all about Martin Scorsese's three-hour documentary, George Harrison: Living in the Material World (HBO, Oct. 5 & 6): You will be amazed at the images it contains. If you have been consuming pictures and film clips of the Beatles for nearly 50 years, you think you must be familiar with the best of them. Scorsese, though, seems to have set off to uncover images less familiar and well-known, and he has come up with a dazzling trove.

These range from grainy photos of the boys as kids in Liverpool, to arty shots of their scruffy days playing rough bars in Hamburg (many of these by their German friend Astrid Kirchherr, who helped create their sense of style), to a whole galaxy of images evidently drawn from obscure archives and personal collections. These visual treats, together with the film's interviews with many of the band's intimates, have the effect of wonderfully refreshing the whole sensory aspect of the well-known Beatles saga.

Watching these images and hearing the reminiscences and chunks of Harrison's and the Beatles' music makes for an exhilarating ride, one that I enjoyed tremendously and would certainly recommend to anyone drawn to the subject. But I must add that I came out of the film with a number of reservations about how it tells its tale, especially in the first half, which covers Harrison's life until near the end of the Beatles.

I guess you could call Scorsese's approach associational or impressionistic, but it skips around in time and leaves out a lot. Early on, for example, we see a bit about the Beatles' breakup, and then we're back to their early days. We hear nothing of the Cavern Club; their meeting with manager Brian Epstein or his crucial shaping of their image; their early touring and the amazing brilliance and rapidity that conquered Britain, then Europe, then America and the world.

And this may astonish you, considering that Scorsese's a film buff, as well as a filmmaker, but there's no hint that Harrison was an actor in several movies. We see virtually nothing of Help!, Magical Mystery Tour or Yellow Submarine (brief clips from A Hard Day's Night and Let It Be appear, but the films themselves go unmentioned).

Perhaps this rather unorthodox (shall we say) organization and selectivity came from the same impulse that spurred Scorsese to seek out so many previously unseen images: a desire to cover such well-trodden ground in a fresh, surprising way. Whatever the rationale, it left me thinking there are essentially two audiences for this film. Those, like me, who know the basic material well, can enjoy the images and sounds, and either ignore or raise an eyebrow at all the odd time-jumps and omissions. For others, especially the curious young, though, I'd recommend seeing a more straightforward and complete doc like The Beatles Anthology to complement and help sort out Scorsese's kaleidoscopic version.

Still, even if his rendering of the facts may be debatable, Scorsese ably evokes the main themes of Harrison's life and work. The youngest Beatle, the "quiet Beatle," still a teenager when he became...
world famous, was a self-taught guitar whiz who, as a songwriter, had to labor in the shadow of the Lennon-McCartney genius songwriting machine through his whole Beatles career. But more crucially, he was an integral part of an extraordinarily cohesive unit. One of the silliest of latter-day Beatles debates comes from people (too young to have been there, usually) arguing over which Beatle was more talented or important. Paul McCartney’s answer is elegantly precise. The Beatles, he says in the film, were a square: four equal sides. Remove one and the thing doesn’t exist.

Epochal wealth and fame came quickly, and in such abundance that Harrison was soon convinced that all such goals were illusory and unworthy. After he and John Lennon and took LSD the first time (they were dosed unawares by their dentist!), he recalls hearing a voice saying, “Yogis in the Himalayas.” Scorsese omits the episode where Harrison discovers the sitar while shooting Help!, and his account of Harrison’s various life-changing trips to India can be called skimpy at best, but it’s clear that the Beatles discovered his greatest mentor in sitarist Ravi Shankar, who introduced him not only to a country and a new musical language, but also to the whole spiritual universe of India.

Can Harrison’s journey into that universe — and out again, bearing its riches — be called the most remarkable spiritual odyssey undertaken by any Western popular artist in the last century? In my view, it surely can. And while any such an odyssey is ultimately singular, Harrison’s also involved the Beatles in ways musical and otherwise. The band members all plunged into a study of the teachings of the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi and together made a pilgrimage to his Indian ashram (where they wrote most of The White Album). Surely future historians will give the Beatles due credit for opening Western minds to Indian music, yoga and especially meditation. (McCartney and Ringo Starr are still avid supporters of the Maharishi’s meditation techniques.)

The joy in their friendship and creative collaboration that the Beatles often spoke of — and that radiated from their public personas — perhaps could not have lasted much longer than it did; the strains of being in a group became too much, and they all had individual lives and other interests that beckoned. Once the band disbanded, it was if Harrison had been spring-loaded by both creative frustration and spiritual attainment to catapult into a personal renaissance. Building on the brilliance of late-Beatles masterpieces like “While My Guitar Gently Weeps,” “Something” and “Here Comes the Sun,” he raided his vast unrecorded song catalogue and unleashed the masterful All Things Must Pass, still to my mind the greatest of all post-Beatles albums. And not long after that feat, at the urging of Shankar, he mounted the Concert for Bangladesh, the first all-star relief concert.

It’s hard to avoid the impression that in some ways Harrison’s life crested during this period. Afterward, there was weirdness of various sorts. The thing that surprised me most in the film was bassist/artist Klaus Voormann recalling how in the ’70s Harrison dipped back into drugs (presumably hard ones); after this, we see Harrison on the Dark Horse tour and he looks and sounds terrible. But this, thankfully, was just a phase, one that suggests his pain over the Beatles’ demise was not so easily left behind.

Mostly, though, his post-Beatles life was full and happy, and this is why in some ways the second half of Scorsese’s film is the more satisfying: It gives us a greater sense of the man behind the image and the career. He had the comforts of life at his Friar Park estate with his wife Olivia and son Dhani. He had various creative endeavors including film producing, which yielded such memorable titles as Monty Python’s Life of Brian, Mona Lisa, The Long Good Friday and Withnail and I. And he was particularly rich in friendships, with the likes of Eric Clapton, Bob Dylan, Eric Idle, Tom Petty and race car driver Jackie Stewart (with the exception of Dylan, all are interviewed in the film).

Yet the thing that most distinguished Harrison’s life once he discovered India, and evidently sustained him thereafter, is close to inexpressible. This was not religion (a constant thread in the Beatles story). And it was not spirituality of some vague sort. It was “the inner journey,” to use his words, “direct experience” of the divine. Which is to say, mysticism of the most real and profound sort. But we don’t teach this in schools, so it’s barely a will ‘o the wisp to anyone who’s not tasted the experience themselves.

Indeed, all of Harrison’s music and everything in Scorsese’s film can only point obliquely toward the radiant heart of his life, the “secret of the secret” as the Sufis say. Olivia Harrison, a wonderful presence throughout Scorsese’s film, says that if Harrison had been given a choice between working out his karma over five normal lifetimes, or packing everything into one extraordinary lifetime in order to achieve liberation from the cycle of rebirth, he would surely have chosen the latter. And perhaps he did.
Unsung Heroes

by Liza Roberts

NANCY OLSON AND SARAH POWERS CREATE VITAL COMMUNITIES

Unsung heroes work on behalf of others, such as Nancy Olson and Sarah Powers. These champions of literary and visual art create communities of artists and arts lovers, stoking the conversations that feed creativity — and invite the world to participate.

NANCY OLSON, FRIEND TO READERS AND TO WRITERS

Nancy Olson’s fans will point out that she and her Quail Ridge Books are hardly “unsung” heroes.

After all, the independent Raleigh bookstore has received numerous national awards, including Publishers Weekly’s “Bookseller of the Year.” Olson herself has been awarded the city’s prestigious Medal of Arts. Her reading recommendations can be heard on NPR; her biggest fans are some of America’s biggest writers, like Charles Frazier and Jill McCorkle; she has thrived in the era of e-books and Borders-like bankruptcies.

But what is not as widely acknowledged about Olson and her bookstore is why. Why it is that her modest bookstore — nestled between a NC State T-shirt shop and a Rite Aid pharmacy — has earned such accolades, has incited such feverish devotion? Have you ever heard, for example, of any other retail establishment with a dozen-plus volunteers to help man the floor, shelve the books and run the register?

The answer is that Quail Ridge Books is less a bookstore than a library; less a place to get a hardback signed than a graduate seminar we’re all invited to audit. It’s a town hall, a concert hall, an ongoing civic conversation.

Yes, the store’s frequent author readings are like many other book-selling events, but no other bookstore attracts the top talent like Olson: Charles Frazier, for one, launched his blockbuster Cold Mountain and his newest, Nightwoods, with Quail Ridge readings. Nor do other bookstores host 15-plus book clubs and discussion groups, several writers’ groups, countless free concerts and quarterly “town meetings.” Just about every night of the week, there’s an event at the bookstore, and the public is invited.

“LET’S OPEN IT UP”

“Our town meetings were started when we decided to provide a forum for people to come and address subjects that are important to all of us,” Olson says, referring to the open discussions Quail Ridge hosts on subjects as diverse as the federal budget, health care, the Koran and Flannery O’Connor. “We were hosting authors who generated discussions on these subjects, and we thought, all right, this is a good thing for the community. Let’s open it up.”

Figuring out what’s a good thing for her community is the key to her success, Olson says. “That’s the mark of an independent bookstore — to get to know what people want to read, to serve them.” Sometimes to “serve them” means to invite the community to use her space for public events; other times to “serve them” means to provide a welcome mat and not ask questions. Last winter, Olson says, a customer undergoing chemotherapy spent most afternoons sleeping on a sofa near the music section.

“I had no idea it would become a community center the way it has,” Olson says. “I’m very grateful.”

COMMUNITY OF READERS ... AND WRITERS

Olson’s community is not only made up of devoted readers. Part of what sets her apart is the community of writers she has championed, supported and, in some cases, even launched. “She has done as much for North Carolina’s writers, and North Carolina’s literary culture, as anyone,” the North Carolina Writers’ Network noted in its newsletter.

Bestselling author Jan Karon is just one
example. Olson read Karon's At Home in Mitford when it was a little-noticed novel published by a small Christian publishing house. "I thought: 'There is a huge market for this book,'" Olson says. "I sent it to an agent I knew in New York. A big publisher bought it immediately, and it got her on her way. I've done that several times." Plum agent I knew in New York. A big publisher for this book,'" Olson says. "I sent it to an agent I knew in New York. A big publisher bought it immediately, and it got her on her way. I've done that several times." Plum

She offers space in her store to several writer groups, from teens on up, and sees the cultivation of emerging talent as a key component of life at Quail Ridge. What inspires Olson, she says, is her life-long love of reading. Weekly visits to the local public library were a mainstay of her Richmond childhood, and when she first envisioned opening her own bookstore in 1984: "I had in mind a place where people could come and get the kinds of books that I love." She laughs: "That sounds elitist, but I read a broad spectrum of books. We hand-pick every book we have in here."

That explains why her fans say Olson can put a book in your hands that you’ll love if you tell her what else you like to read.

"Nancy and her staff really care about books ... and our town," says John Balaban, professor of English and the director of the MFA program at NC State. "Nancy and Jim raised their children in Raleigh and sent their children to NC State. The chain stores could never imitate this closeness to community. ...What would Raleigh be without Nancy and her energy to bring books, readings and authors to use?"

SARAH POWERS, ARTIST ADVOCATE

Don't let first impressions fool you. It might look like Sarah Powers operates an art gallery in downtown Raleigh. And she does — a gallery considered one of the city's most diverse and thriving art spaces. But what you can see with your eyes at the Visual Art Exchange (VAE) is a fraction of what's really going on.

"We are a creativity incubator," Powers says. The nonprofit organization's mission is indeed that broad. Acting as a hub for the city's burgeoning arts community, the VAE teaches, showcases and supports regional artists; it spearheads the annual "creative potluck" arts festival known as SparkCon (host to just about anything "creative," from circus acts to colloquies on urban planning); it puts artists in residence in local schools to create public art; it displays works by local artists in hospitals and libraries; and, in the last year, hosted 56 educational programs for artists.

The gallery itself is in constant motion, holding more than 60 shows a year to exhibit the work of more than 800 North Carolina artists. And now there's room for more, as a recent move from City Market to West Martin Street — in the heart of the city's emerging warehouse district arts scene — has more than doubled the VAE's exhibition space.

"A LOT OF ART HAPPENING HERE."
The organization's expansion is a reflection of the city around it, Powers says. "We are growing in every way, and it's getting better every day," she says, not about her gallery, but about the Triangle. "There's a lot of art happening here." Powers believes that the area's influx of new people, new artists and new opportunities "gives a sense of optimism" to the artistic community, as does the fact that Raleigh is, to her way of thinking, "a 'yes' city," a place where the reaction to a new concept is very often: "that's a great idea."

A change-is-good mentality in the community is the key to the success of VAE, Powers says, and one the organization itself tries to exemplify: "We don't want it to stop evolving. Artists don't stop evolving."

Marjorie Hodges, associate director of nearby Flanders Gallery, says artists need guidance as they evolve and VAE performs that vital function. "They do a great job in providing advice, critique and support," she says. "It is imperative that artists learn how to participate in art as a business. Sarah has really done that, and we're so glad to have them in the warehouse district. There's always a lot of activity around VAE."

"PEOPLE SHOW UP FOR THE ARTS HERE."

Still, as the VAE begins to stretch into its far bigger, more visible space and considers ways to expand its reach, Powers doesn't want the organization to lose touch. "It's important to stay nimble," she says. "Artists don't want to hang out with 'the man.'"

It's hard to imagine the young and stylish Powers embodying any such thing, particularly as she comes to her job from the perspective of an artist herself, one interested in growth and change. Her urban landscapes, many depicting construction cranes at work, can be found at Raleigh's The Mahler fine art gallery. "Being an artist can be very solitary," she says. "But artists need to connect to their communities."

Powers sees making that connection — between artists and the community, and the community and its artists — one of the central aims of the VAE. Luckily, she says, Raleigh and the Triangle make it easy: "People show up for the arts here."
CapTrust Tower
Raleigh's Midtown Landmark Stands Tall
by Diane Lea

Photography by Kinsley Dey

CapTrust Tower, a seventeen-story landmark rising from the suburban footprint of the revitalized North Hills mixed-use development in Midtown Raleigh, houses 275,000 square feet of office space, 26,000 square feet of retail space and a 750-car parking garage. The Tower is the result of a cooperative effort between Duke Realty Corporation and Kane Realty Corporation, two major players in mixed-use development in the Triangle. Designed by Indianapolis-based CSO Architects, and erected by Duke Realty’s construction team in 2009, the Tower is consistent with North Hills developer John Kane’s original vision to create a walkable and environmentally friendly redevelopment.

“We started purchasing land on the east side of Six Forks shortly after we put the old North Hills Mall property under contract about eleven years ago,” says Kane. “We saw that parcel, actually about 18 separate parcels, as being the location of a series of high-rise buildings, including green space and residential and retail components. Today, the CapTrust Tower rises above our Park and Market residences that feature a unique exterior design, a Harris Teeter supermarket that’s accessible by elevator and a parking garage accessible to our residents and visitors. Numerous restaurants, bistros, and service providers headline the hospitality and retail establishments in the neighborhood. And, of course, these amenities provide great opportunities for the tenants of the CapTrust Tower.”

Jeff Sheehan, Senior Vice President of Duke Realty Corporation, notes that the first tenant for the CapTrust Tower, CapTrust Financial Advisors, is also its largest tenant, occupying two floors or 60,000 square feet of office space. “When CapTrust Advisors CEO Fielding Miller signed on with us, we knew the CapTrust Tower would be the giant addition to the North Hills mixed-use development that we envi-
sioned," says Sheehan.

What Duke Realty and Kane Realty saw in the 230-foot high Tower was desirable and accessible location, Class-A office space unique in the Triangle, and the quintessential live, work and play experience. John Kane's vision for North Hills has been consistent. "I want our tenants, residents, shoppers and clients to be able to walk or bike to work or play, entertain clients at lunch or dinner, and pick up groceries on the way home. All in the same neighborhood," says Kane.

Duke Realty and Kane's firm added an extra challenge to their dream project: green building principles that utilize sustainable construction techniques and energy efficiency. The CapTrust Tower has been certified as a LEED Gold structure, the second-highest level in the internationally recognized green building certification system administered by the U.S. Green Building Council.

In addition to the building's sustainability and consistency with the neo-urbanist philosophy of North Hills-Midtown, its design is unique in the Triangle. The space is disaggregated with multiple levels and a delightfully canted projection on the south elevation. It is an eye-catching element when approaching the building from the I-440 interchange. Materials are straightforward and textural. The glass curtain-walled exterior is accented by panels of precast concrete and perforated metal. The lower level is accessible by stairs with stainless steel corded balustrades and spacious pedestrian terraces. Exterior terraces on the eighth and 16th floors offer views toward downtown Raleigh. The sophisticated but welcoming entrance lobby features a nicely detailed two-part barrel-shaped ceiling with subtle lighting emanating from the almost adjoining sections. Raindrop patterned plexiglass squares fill a niche in the beautifully matched grained wood alcove that surrounds the seating area. Terrazzo floors in pale neutral colors flow throughout the space.

The grained wood of the lobby carries into the interiors of the individual elevators. When the doors open, the visitor steps out into a tasteful vestibule that serves as a forecourt for the floor's offices. On the ninth floor, the double beveled-glass entrance doors of NovaQuest Capital Management, L.L.C., a private equity management firm, reveal a paneled reception desk backed by a partition wall with a generous opening that showcases antique style lamps and the building's signature western view. Elegant fabrics in subtle colors sheath comfortable wing chairs surrounded by fine art framed in gilded frames.

One floor up, Wasserman Media's minimalist decor features wall-to-wall glass with a generous pedestal conference table set with stylish ergonomic webbed and comfortably padded chairs covered in soft grey and white. Take the elevator to the 11th floor and the lobby of the law firm of Ogletree Deakins features cleverly criss-crossed ornamental wood on paneled walls. The coffered ceiling and columned spaces of the lobby blend nicely with the conference table's cushioned white leather chairs.

North Carolina art punctuates the Kil-
The elegant lobby of NovaQuest Capital Management.

patrick Townsend law firm space on the 14th floor. Partner Jeff Benson oversaw the firm’s move from their former Glenwood Drive offices and the design of the space for 40 lawyers and about 30 staff. Benson worked with John Warasila of Durham-based Alliance Architecture and The Mahler fine art gallery in Raleigh to accomplish the task. Though proud of the firm’s commitment to build sustainably according to LEED certification requirements, Benson acknowledges that the pleasure of the finished product rests largely on the firm’s extraordinary art collection. According to Megg Rader, one of the principals of The Mahler, Kilpatrick Townsend was interested in displaying their current pieces, collected over a 15 year period, in the new location to give them a fresh look. What Rader found exciting was the firm’s interest in expanding their collection to include more North Carolina crafts in the lobby with emphasis on glass and pottery.

Rader notes that the firm had a custom-
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Friday, October 7 - 9:00AM
Friday, October 14 - 9:00AM
Friday, October 28 - 9:00AM

Grades 6 - 12
Friday, November 4 - 9:00AM

PK - Grade 5
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The lobby of the Kilpatrick Townsend law firm includes a collection of North Carolina crafts.

made shelved credenza built in the lobby that provides a perfect place to display the work of a young and very talented glass artist, John Geci. "His are the trio of vessels on the top of the credenza," says Rader. "The light from the large lobby window reflects on the glass and just makes it shine." Also in the credenza are two bowls by Robert Levin, an internationally recognized glass artist who lives in Celo, North Carolina. Other pieces displayed to advantage in the credenza include pottery by established artisans Marsha Owen and Ken Sedberry and wood vases by Jason Van Duyn. Also included in the collection and on display in the conference room is pottery by emerging artist Daniel Johnston.

Among other recent Kilpatrick Townsend acquisitions are works by Raleigh sculptor-craftsman Thomas Sayre, painter Mary Roundtree Moore, printmaker Ann Conner and sculptor Edwin White. According to Rader, the Sayre piece is currently at a special exhibition at The Umstead Hotel but will soon be in its place at Kilpatrick Townsend.

CapTrust Tower is a crowning symbol of the North Hills redevelopment story, and a proud addition to the identity of Raleigh's Midtown neighborhood.
Dick Bell Honored with Lecture Series

To honor a lifetime of achievement in and for the profession and practice of landscape architecture, North Carolina State University (NCSU) has announced the Richard C. Bell Lecture Series.

Bell himself gave the first lecture September 19, titled appropriately enough: “Bridge Building,” that also refers to the title of the first volume in a series of autobiographical books published this year.

“The essence of my practice has been making friends and building relationships with colleagues in order to get landscape architecture projects done,” says Bell, who has completed more than 2000 projects throughout a long career.

Among his best-known projects here are NCSU’s “Brickyard” and Student Center Plaza, Pullen Park, the Amphitheatre at St. Mary’s College, Peace College’s campus master plan, and the Legislative Building grounds.

Bell graduated from the NCSU School of Design (now College of Design) in 1950 as part of Dean Henry Kamphoefner’s first class. At the age of 21, he was the youngest person to receive the Prix de Rome.

Harmon’s Lath House was a pro bono project and a gift from the firm to the Arboretum. It’s an open-air laboratory for horticultural research. Freelon’s library was designed for the Anacostia section of D.C., one of the toughest sections of the nation’s capital, to embrace the needs of young and old alike.

Merit awards went to Kenneth Hoggood, LS3P Associates, The Freelon Group, Clearscapes with Pugh + Scarpa, and HagerSmith Design.

Vernacular Studio’s Seismic Shift

Anticipating the tremors felt here a week later, Chad Parker and Brett Hautop sent their own August shockwave through the Raleigh design community when they announced that Vernacular Studio would be joining forces with Gensler, the international architecture, design and planning firm. They’ll both serve as studio directors of Gensler’s Raleigh office.

On the Road to Richmond

George Smart and his Triangle Modernists are heading north to the former Capital of the Confederacy on Saturday, Dec. 3. They’ll eschew Jefferson’s capitol building in Richmond, but take time to cruise Monument Avenue, a Valhalla to Southern luminaries such as Lee, Jackson, Stuart and Davis, then wind up at the Virginia Center for Architecture, formerly the baronial Branch House designed in 1916 by John Russell Pope. There, they’ll see an exhibit of some of the mid-Atlantic’s finest architecture, called “Design 2011 A Retrospective of Winning Work.” The real raison d’être for the tour, though, lies in visits to some of the capital city’s more interesting gems by modern masters, including Neutra, Matsumoto, Jamgochian and Raleigh’s own Tonic Design/Build. To sign up for the tour, call 919.740.8407.

Zinc Paneling Donated for AIA NC HQ Building

Construction on the AIA NC’s new and sustainable headquarters building downtown is moving along, with completion scheduled for late November. Much of the material used has been donated, including $70,000 worth of standing seam zinc panels for the roof. The zinc came from Umicore Building Products USA (UBP), headquartered here.

Reese Joins Weinstein Friedlein Architects

Architect John Reese has joined up with Weinstein Friedlein Architects in Carrboro, after a three-and-a-half-year stint with Duda Paine Architects in Durham. Weinstein Friedlein’s design for a headquarters for the Buckner Company was featured recently in Modern Steel Construction magazine.

J. Michael Welton writes about architecture, art and design for national and regional publications, and publishes an online design magazine at www.architectsandartisans.com.
OCTOBER

Oct. 1
BIG BAD BALL
For: Hospice of Wake County
A black-tie event open to the community presented by the Young Executive Members of the Capital City Club. A ticket is $125 per person. Enjoy food, two bands and multiple silent auction items. Capital City Club, Raleigh. For reservations or ticket info, call the Capital City Club at 919-832-5526 or visit www.bigbadball.com.

Oct. 1
BRIMLEY BALL
For: NC Museum of Natural Sciences

Oct. 2
FUR BALL
For: SPCA of Wake County
A black tie event with a live and silent auction, heavy hors d’oeuvres, beer and wine and live music celebrating this 16th Annual SPCA fundraising event. Tickets are $125 per person. The State Club, Raleigh. Call 919-532-7065 or visit online at www.spcawake.org.

Oct. 3
ANNUAL BENEFIT GALA
For: Nasher Museum
Join Coach Krzyzewski and the Duke Basketball team and enjoy food, drink and an installation of the video inspired by the global impact of basketball. Tickets are $250. Visit online at www.nasher.duke.edu/gala.

Oct. 8
21ST ANNUAL WORKS OF HEART ART AUCTION
For: Alliance of AIDS Services - Carolina
Bid on both live and silent auctions to fight AIDS. This year’s 2011 signature artist is John D. Gall. Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts, Raleigh. Call 919-834-2437 or visit www.worksofheart.org for more information.

Oct. 20-23
SAKS’ KEY TO THE CURE
For: Women’s Cancer Research Fund
Join Saks Fifth Avenue in the fight against women’s cancers when Saks will donate 2% of all sales to local and national women’s charities. Contact 919-792-9100.

Oct. 22
BHA FALL FUNDRAISING PARTY
For: Beaufort Historic Site
Enjoy this Gala fundraiser featuring works of artist Bob Rankin and music by Jeanne Jolly in the waterfront home of Gail and Sam Williams, Beaufort. Contact 252-728-5225 or www.beauforthistoricsite.org for more information.

Oct. 29
REX GALA
For: NC Cancer Hospital at Rex
The black-tie event will feature a healing garden atmosphere, dinner, dancing, auctions and entertainment and will benefit the NC Cancer Hospital. Raleigh Convention Center, Raleigh. Call 919-784-4434 for reservations, ticket and sponsorship information, or visit www.rexhealth.com.

NOVEMBER

Nov. 3-6
27TH ANNUAL “A SHOPPING SPREE!”
For: Junior League of Raleigh
This four-day spree will include over 140 exhibitors showcasing jewelry, clothing and accessories for women, men & children, home décor and gifts. Four-day pass is $10; Raleigh Convention Center, Raleigh. Visit www.jlraleigh.org for details.
Nov. 3-5
GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER?
For: United Arts Council
Break bread and "break the ice" with one of our state's great artists in one of Wake County's most impressive homes while benefiting the United Art's Artists in School Programs. Ticket sales begin Oct. 3. Visit www.unitedarts.org.

Nov. 4
8TH ANNUAL A VINTAGE AFFAIR
"VIVA LAS VEGAS"
For: Children's Flight of Hope
Hosted in the General Aviation Terminal at RDU Airport, enjoy entertainment and food in support of the Children's Flight of Hope. Tickets are $50 per person. Contact 919-466-8593 or visit www.childrensflightofhope.org.

Nov. 4
ART BALL 2011 "A ROYAL AFFAIR"
For: Cary Visual Art
Celebrating 15 years, Cary Visual Art invites you to an evening of cocktails, dinner, dancing and art auctions to raise awareness and support for art and artists in the community. MacGregor Downs Country Club, Cary. Call 919-531-8149 or visit www.caryvisualart.org.

Nov. 8-13
FESTIVAL OF TREES
For: Sandhills Children's Center
A display of over 200 decorated holiday trees, wreaths, gingerbread and gift baskets will be available for silent auction. The Carolina Hotel,

The staff of 18 Seaboard and Cantina 18 would like to thank Metro Readers for their support in the 2011 Metro Bravo Awards.

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Jason Smith - MetroBravo

Best Restaurant
18 Seaboard - Standing Ovation
Best Mexican Cuisine
Cantina 18 - Honorable Mention

Best Restaurant for Power Lunch
18 Seaboard - Standing Ovation
Best Margarita
Cantina 18 - MetroBravo
Nov. 11
RALEIGH ROUNDUP
For: American Cancer Society
Hosted by Red Sword Guild, highlights include
casino style gambling, mechanical bull riding, live
and silent auction, raffle, food provided by Chef's
for a Cure, and live music by Chatham County Line
and The Blue Dogs. Tickets are $150; Kerr Scott
Building, NC State Fairgrounds. Call 919-334-
5218 or www.raleighroundup.com.

Nov. 13-14
4TH ANNUAL ARTISTS FOR HOPE SHOW
For: Foundation of Hope for Research
and Treatment of Mental Illness
Paintings, jewelry, gifts and other items available for
purchase. Angus Barn Restaurant, Raleigh. Con­

Nov. 17
10TH ANNUAL NC CHILDREN'S PROMISE
RADIOthon/TELEthon
For: NC Children's Hospital
In conjunction with Curtis Media Group and Time
 Warner Cable, this signature event raises funds to
benefit children's programs and further support the
continuation of excellence within the medical and
surgical programs. Listen, watch, pledge! Housed
at the NC Children's Hospital. Call 919-843-3948
or visit www.ncchildrenspromise.org.

Nov. 18
JUPITER BALL
For: Morehead Planetarium and
Science Center
Enjoy food and entertainment by The Headliners
in the intimate setting of the State Dining Room, tour the DESTINY lab and more to help fund need-based scholarships for Morehead fieldtrips and outreach visits, as well as a Jupiter Ball Fellow, a student employee selected to develop a special project sustaining Morehead's Mission. Morehead Planetarium and Science Center at UNC, Chapel Hill. Call 919-843-3474 to request an invitation.

Nov. 19
ANNUAL COLLECTORS GALA
For: Artspace
Benefiting the exhibitors, educational program-
ming and community outreach, this event will feature a dinner in the artist studio, live and silent auctions. Tickets are $150 per person, black-tie optional; Artspace, Raleigh. Call 919-821-2787 or visit www.artspacenc.org.

**Nov. 20**

**HOLIDAY HOME TOUR AND PARTY**

For: Habitat for Humanity of Raleigh

Help raise money to build another affordable home for a local family while enjoying food and desserts from local restaurants and live music. Habitat ReStore, Raleigh. Contact 919-833-1999 or visit www.habitatwake.org.

**DECEMBER**

**Dec. 3**

**TEDDY BEAR BALL**

For: Duke Children's Hospital

Phylicia Rashad to host this black-tie event which provides sponsors, donors and guests with an evening full of the essence of the holidays and the chance to enjoy fine food and company all in the name of helping sick children. Single ticket is $250; Durham Convention Center, Durham. Visit www.dukechildrens.org or call 919-667-2562.

**Dec. 9**

**17TH ANNUAL JINGLE BALL**

For: The Salvation Army

This year's goal is to collect 3,500 toys to distribute to Wake County children through the Salvation Army's Christmas Cheer Program. The event will include food, beverages and entertainment. Bring a new, unwrapped toy for a child with a $20 value, or $30 for admission; Cocktail Attire; Marbles Kids Museum, Raleigh. Visit www.jingleball.org for more information.
Dec. 31  
NEW YEAR'S IN VIENNA  
For: NC Symphony  
Paying tribute to one of music's oldest traditions with Music Director, Grant Llewellyn and Soprano, Sari Gruber. Contact www.ncsymphony.org.

JANUARY

Jan. 22  
TASTE OF HOPE  
For: Inter-Faith Food Shuttle  
Experience several gourmet courses, each created by a different celebrity chef, variety of fine wine and both a live and silent auction to benefit the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle. The Umstead Hotel and Spa, Cary. Call 919-250-0043 or visit www.foodshuttle.com.

FEBRUARY

Feb., 2012  
TRIANGLE WINE EXPERIENCE  
For: Frankie Lemmon Foundation  
Experience the Triangle and Carolina's premier wine event encompassing tasting, dinners and a Grand Gala with Fine Wine Auction over a three day period. Visit www.trianglewineexperience.org or call 919-845-8880.

Feb. 11  
MARDI GRAS BALL  
For: Carolina Ballet  
Annual flamboyant, fun-filled evening to take place at the Raleigh Marriott City Center. Visit www.carolinaballet.com.

Feb. 11  
24TH ANNUAL PLAYMAKERS BALL  
For: Playmakers Repertory Co.  
Black-tie event featuring dancing to the Bill Bolin Orchestra and dinner created by chef, Jim Reale. This year's Distinguished Achievement Honorees are The Red Clay Ramblers, Carolina Inn, Chapel Hill. Contact 919-452-8417 or www.playmakersrep.org.

Feb. 23  
THE ARTS TOGETHER AWARDS  
For: Arts Together  
Benefiting The @ Fund which offers scholarships for talented young people in need or assistance and more. First Citizens Bank Headquarters, Raleigh. Contact 919-828-1713 or visit www.artstogether.org.

Feb. 25  
TRIANGLE HEART BALL  
For: American Heart Association  
With over 500 guests representing the Triangle's top business, medical, civic and social leaders, join them in the advancement of groundbreaking medical research and lifesaving knowledge for the Triangle community for this social event. Raleigh Convention Center, Raleigh. Visit www.heart.org for details.

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Artspace Annual Collectors Gala

Wake Radiology BREAST IMAGING CENTERS

ARTSPACE ANNUAL COLLECTORS GALA
CHILDHOOD DREAMING

I miss childhood, don’t you? Especially nowadays when the world spins in such an erratic orbit, far removed from the smooth reliable hula-hoop circles of days long gone by. If they had told me as a young lad what being an adult would actually encompass, I may well have joined Peter Pan and simply stayed a child forever and echoed Dorian Gray: “When I find that I am growing old, I shall kill myself.”

When I was a whippersnapper knee high to a grasshopper, my mother was in and out of mental institutions with almost clockwork regularity. A talented and engaging paranoid-schizophrenic-alcoholic (as was my father), she was a poetess who dressed to the nines in our small Carolina hamlet back when Baptist ladies were required to be demure. During those frequent months when she was locked up at Dix Hill, our maid Louesta would either take me in and add me to her brood of grand babies or one of my eight aunts — with names like Penelope Estillina and Veronica Pines — would abscond with me and provide the stability missing back home.

Each of my aunts had graduated from Duke or UNC-Greensboro, back in the day when it was known as The North Carolina College for Women, so I was surrounded by lots of confident, smart ladies with flash cards 24/7. I was drilled in everything from classical music to entomology. After all these years I can still find my way around everything from an adagio to an aedeagus (that might be your word of the day!).

At age 2 I was reading, at 3 I was being displayed as a curiosity in local schools and performing recitations of Shakespeare on table tops at the local Lions Club. The fact that my mother swam in brandy and my father thought that he was Jesus really didn’t seem odd to me at all. It felt like Alice in Wonderland come true. Childhood is like that. It buffers out all the bad with a scrim of complete optimism and great expectations for the future.

THAT FORBES

Even though I must now reluctantly admit to being an adult (dragging my feet each step along the way), I still love to read children’s books. The rocking and the rhythm, the Little Golden Books, the innocence, all takes me back to those early enchanting days. So it was with great pleasure that I discovered, through my good friend Ann Stewart, that her UNC chum Robert Forbes (yes, THOSE Forbes) had written a wonderful children’s book, Beastly Feasts: A Mischievous Menagerie in Rhyme.

“He spends a lot of time looking out the window,” was the statement made by his 7th grade teacher, and it shows to this day. While many in Forbes’ fortunate circumstances would be busy bathing in bullion, Forbes reached out with this, his second children’s book, and the results have been remarkable. With illustrations by renowned artist Robert Searle, the book is charming, and Forbes has been a hit here in NC with readings at UNC, the North Carolina Museum of Art, as well as to several hundred elementary students at local schools. On top of that, Forbes recently gave an excellent lecture on his collecting of art and has graciously loaned several stellar works to the Ackland Art Museum for their most recent exhibition.

GEOMETRIC ABSTRACTIONS

When I was a young artist, but not a child, Rubel Romero of Spectator Magazine (run by our very own Bernie Reeves) gave me a lovely review and helped to launch my career here in the area.
Recently I met a young artist who seems wiser than his years, and it is a pleasure to tell you about him. Works by Parker Emmerson are currently on display at the Gallery Restaurant of Raleigh's Sheraton Hotel. His works are sleek, calculated, engaging and thought-provoking.

To me they immediately called to mind the geometric abstractions of Victor Vasarely, but after engaging with Emmerson, I was impressed with his mind and his mathematical and spiritual influences regarding his creations. Working with visual issues, such as "an orbifold, spacetime-like framework," Emmerson states that "we must sometimes set aside what we know about a system in order to visualize a function so that we may perceive beautiful forms." Heady stuff, I know. Lucky for all of us, we do not need a degree from MIT nor a library of books on quantum physics to appreciate the elegant lines, undulating forms and sophisticated color interactions evident in his creations.

CRAIGHEAD AT FLANDERS

And last but not least, congratulations to Metro favorite Jason Craighead for his recent highly successful exhibition at Raleigh's own Flanders Gallery. Craighead has been a leading talent in our state for a while now, but his new works, dramatic in both sheer size and artistic ambition, fit perfectly in Flanders Gallery, a glamorous SoHo-of-the-South industrial space. For many years, Jane Tyndall had the most gorgeous gallery in the area, but now Flanders has upped the ante in both scale and edginess. There can’t be too many great galleries and great artists in any one location, and the Triangle is being blessed more and more by those willing to take a risk.
For my debut fashion column I couldn't resist — in true Metro style — to give a bit of the history behind the popular Rachel Zoe Collection.

Rachel Zoe, who has built an empire putting together perfect looks for many of Hollywood's A-listers — including Anne Hathaway, Eva Mendes, Jennifer Garner, Liv Tyler and Demi Moore — has no formal training in fashion styling or design. But Zoe has "an eye," the inherent talent not every designer possesses.

Zoe turned 40 this year and also became a first-time mother. She graduated from George Washington University where she studied sociology and psychology. Before becoming what in the sports world would be considered a "free agent," Zoe worked in the magazine industry for several well-known publications.

I recently attended the Vermillion Autumn/Winter 2011 Fashion Show and got a firsthand look and feel of several pieces from Zoe's debut collection. It is impressive and exciting! Ashley Harris and her team do an amazing job reaching out and engaging their customer base with unique events and an impressive runway show twice a year. I would also like to mention Clyde Harris, Ashley's husband, who is very hands-on with the business. He also mixes the fresh music that sends the models down the double-lined, audi-
A few standout pieces from the collection for me were the beautiful cream-colored tuxedo jacket and matching boot-cut tuxedo pants. The look says powerhouse with a feminine, sexy look. The signature ence-packed runway.

Rachel Zoe Motorcycle Leggings paired with Faux-Fur Turn Lock Jacket

Rachel Zoe Double Platform Pump

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Rachel Boot-Cut Jeans with gold trim were also amazing and destined to become favorites. And at $175 per pair will not take a huge chunk out of your season's fashion budget.

The dark denim is thick with a hint of stretch — perfect for fall paired with your favorite boots and cozy oversized sweaters. For a more conservative look, try a crisp, white blouse tucked in with a luggage-brown colored skinny belt for casual but smart Fridays, or a tie-neck plunge blouse.
for a bit of a '70s look with sophisticated polish.

The Blouson Maxi is unmistakably Zoe. I have forever and a day loved the ethereal, effortless look this dress evokes ... beautiful and comfortable equals a perfect match. Also, be sure to check out the Motorcycle Leggings. The versatile pant, paired with Zoe's Faux-Fur Turn-Lock Jacket, gives an edgy, tough, cool look.

The Double Platform Pump is a must for your shoe collection this season. The 5-inch wedge heel offers an always welcome leg-lengthening look with a chic, fashion-forward color-block effect of neutral-colored suede with contrasting wooden trim. This shoe will take you through all seasons.

Zoe's debut ready-to-wear contemporary collection includes outerwear, shoes and handbags. Be sure to check out the collection for yourself at Vermillion, as well as Saks Fifth Avenue, Nordstrom and Neiman Marcus.

In an interview with People magazine, Zoe said: "I can't ever design anything that I would not wear myself ... if I can't see myself in it, or someone close to me in it, it doesn't happen." Zoe says her inspiration for her upcoming Spring/Summer
**FASHION NEWS**

**Elaine Miller Collection** will host an Elizabeth Locke Trunk Show on Nov. 8. The Lassiter at North Hills, Raleigh. Contact 919-571-8888

**Events at Saks Fifth Avenue, Raleigh, 919-792-9110:**
- Designer Gown Trunk Show, Oct. 5-8. For four days only, view designer gowns from MLMonique Lhuillier, Theia by Don O’Neill, Notte by Marchesa and Badgley Mischka. Call 919-792-9100, ext. 5495.
- Oct. 13: Preview the latest designs from Kay Unger’s Fall 2011 collection and receive a personal consultation from the designer. Space is limited, please call 919-792-9100, ext. 549.
- Oct. 18: Key to the Cure Celebration Event with Pretty in Pink; Oct. 21 from 6-8 to honor and celebrate life during Breast Cancer Awareness Month. 10% of proceeds from the event will benefit Pretty in Pink Foundation.
- Steven Webster Trunk Show; Oct. 20 and Oct. 21.
- Roberto Coin Trunk Show; Oct. 21.
- Konstantino Trunk Show; Oct. 22.
- David Meister Fashion Show at the Junior League SPREE!; Nov. 4 from 6-8 at the Raleigh Convention Center. Enjoy a girl’s night out event featuring top gown designer David Meister, who will showcase looks from his winter 2011 collection.

**Liles Clothing** will host a Scarpe di Bianco trunk show on Oct. 8, an Italian line of custom made shoes that is exclusive to Liles in the Carolinas. Founder of the brand, Bill White to be present. Oct. 10th, Liles will host a show with Oxford Clothes, featuring suits, sport coats and trousers made by hand in Chicago. Chris Brukner to represent the line. North Hills, Raleigh. Call 919-510-5556.

**Monkee’s of Chapel Hill** will host several trunk shows this fall. J Brand trunk show; Oct. 14 with a rep in-store to help customers pick out fit. Customers will be registered to win a free pair of jeans with purchase. The Elizabeth McKay trunk show will allow customers to order from the fall collection and will feature a trunk show with Paul Mayer shoes; Oct. 28-30. Meadowmont Village, Chapel Hill. Call 919-967-6830.

**CT Weekends** will host a Dress for Success fundraising event on Oct. 11 to help disadvantaged women and a Fashion Show Luncheon on October 13 at 18 Seaboard, Glenwood Village, Raleigh. Call 919-787-9073.

2012 collection was “Brigitte Bardot meets the south of France.”

**Zoe’s Spring/Summer 2012 collection** wowed the crowd attending Fashion Week in New York City in September, who noted her transition from stylist to designer with her addition of creations drawing on her life’s style influences to her signature boho-chic look.

On a personal note, I cannot wait for the long, hot, humid days of summer to give way to the shorter, cooler days and nights of fall and winter. The shorter days and cooler temps mean that it is finally time for putting together my favorite looks and to splurge on sweaters and outerwear in amazing fabrics, textures and colors. From everything I have seen this season there is a lot to be excited about. So get out there and support the women’s and men’s fashion options that our area has to offer. You don’t have to travel to the big cities to find it. **MM**
More cookbooks have been written or published in North Carolina in 2011 than ever before, and almost all of them share the same theme: Southern cuisine (Why not? It IS the most delicious food in the world.). The trend is not exclusive to our state.

**Cooking in the Moment: A Year of Seasonal Recipes**
By Andrea Reusing

2011 has been a big year for Andrea Reusing. This past May she was named “Best Chef of the Southeast” by the James Beard Society, and her long-awaited book came out about the same time. Fans of Andrea’s acclaimed Lantern restaurant in Chapel Hill will be surprised to discover this book is far from the expected “chef” book with complex recipes from Lantern’s Asian menu. *Cooking in the Moment* is a whole different critter, a user-friendly celebration of North Carolina’s seasonal bounty. The recipes are easy as pie. Easier! Discerning shopping, rather than sophisticated cooking skills, is the key to success with these concoctions.

Many of Andrea’s dishes contain less than six ingredients. Such unfussy recipes as crookneck squash with butter and basil, roasted sweet potatoes with butter, molasses and salt, and oyster stew, are all about using the freshest possible produce, seafood and meats. Nothing else will do. If you shop in farmers markets all year round, and appreciate short prep time, this elegantly designed and beautifully photographed cookbook is a godsend.

**Sara Foster’s Southern Kitchen**
By Sara Foster

Each one of Sara Foster’s cookbooks is terrific, but *Southern Kitchen*, her fourth and most personal effort, is the best of all. Here she pays homage to her grandparents and their Tennessee farm, a culinary heritage that, after years of working with Martha Stewart in New England before opening Foster’s Markets in Durham and Chapel Hill, Sara is ready to claim. If you want to make traditional buttermilk biscuits, fried chicken, a “mess o’ greens,” or seven minute frosting — Sara, in the pages of this cookbook, will stand in for your own grandmother and teach you the basics. Then she ups the ante by using fresh herbs and vegetables Granny most likely did not — her tomato aspic uses fresh tomatoes, and snap beans are coated with pesto made with arugula, an ingredient Granny probably never laid eyes on. Buttermilk panna cotta with balsamic strawberries represents the best of both worlds. Southern Kitchen’s photographs are beyond mouth-watering, they are food porn at its most culinary salacious.

**The New Southern Garden**
By Sheri Castle

Unless you have had the pleasure of attending her popular classes at A Southern Season’s cooking school, you may not have heard of Sheri Castle. But if you use cookbooks by North Carolina authors, you are already familiar with her work. Sheri has adapted and tested recipes for many collections, including Bill Smith’s *Seasoned in the South*. Now she has written her own, and it’s a jewel.

Like many professional cooks, including Sara Foster, Sheri’s muse is her grandmother, a talented home cook who cultivated a large garden on her Blue Ridge Mountain homestead. Sheri grew up cooking at her side. A sojourn in Umbria, Italy, as a young adult, exposed her to a different kind of farm-oriented cuisine, and also reinforced her appreciation for the produce-driven cooking of her childhood.

*The New Southern Cookbook* is arranged in chapters devoted to a single fruit or vegetable from apples to zucchini. In between, you will find field peas and figs, ramps and raspberries, tomatoes and turnips, and just about every item available at North Carolina farmers market and roadside stands. Vegans and vegetarians will enjoy the book, but be warned: Sheri uses a liberal amount of bacon and ham hock in many of these dishes, as a Southern girl should.

**The New Southern-Latino Table**
By Sandra A. Guiterrez

Like Sheri Castle, Sandra Guiterrez is new on the cookbook scene, but is also well known among Triangle foodies as a cooking instructor at A Southern Season. Born in the U.S. and raised in Guatemala, she now makes Durham her home. Sandra has produced a unique fusion of culinary styles. Familiar Southern dishes take on another dimension with added Latin ingredients (cinnamon enhances chocolate cake and fig preserves, jalapenos and chilies kick up traditional cornbread and pimento cheese). And Latin specialties are improved with Southern touches (peaches and bourbon gussy up tres leches cake, enchiladas are stuffed with squash casseroles). The gift of this book is the introduction of flavor combinations you may never have imagined. Unlike many Southern recipe collections that overlap somewhat, *The New Southern-Latino Table* fills a unique niche. This is the perfect gift for cooks who already have a large collection of cookbooks. I know of nothing else quite like it.
NIBBLES

The authors of most of my cookbook recommendations are now approaching the tail end of their book tours, but some may appear locally for signings before Christmas. Be on the lookout on websites of our independent book sellers — The Regulator, Quail Ridge Books, McIntyre’s, and Flyleaf Books — for possible upcoming appearances around the Triangle.

Prolific cookbook writer Nancie McDermott (her latest is Southern Pies) has initiated an organization of food lovers interested in culinary history. Named Culinary Historians of the Piedmont (CHOP), its first season of programs begin this fall with John Shelton Reed and Dale Volberg Reed, authors of Holy Smoke: The Big Book of North Carolina Barbecue, discussing “the history and culture of one of our area’s iconic foods.” The free event will take place at 7:00 p.m., October 19, at Flyleaf Books in Chapel Hill. On November 16, Randy Fertel, author of The Gorilla Man and the Empress of Steak: A New Orleans Family Memoir at the same time and location. You can become a member of CHOP at a membership fee of $20.

In Morehead City, Café Zito has closed. Brian Carithers owner of the popular Front Street Grill at Stillwater in Beaufort, has opened a new restaurant, City Lights, on Zito’s spot at 105 South 11th Street.

Congratulations to Ashley Christensen, chef/owner of Poole’s Downtown Diner, on her recent appearance on Food Network’s Iron Chef. Even though Bobby Flay won the contest, Ashley did us proud with her improvisations using chum salmon, her elegant, dignified demeanor, and her respectful relationship with her assisting cooks. The dynamic chef has just opened three more establishments in downtown Raleigh. Fox Liqueur Bar at 101 Martin Street, Chuck’s, featuring burgers, and Beasley’s Chicken and Honey around the corner on Wilmington Street.

Raleigh’s historic City Market welcomes a new Turkish restaurant, Troy Mezze Lounge, owned by Arif Denk. For reservations, call 919-834-8133.

In Durham L’Uva Enoteca has opened at American Tobacco Campus just a block away from chef/owner Jim Anile’s original restaurant, Revolution. L’Uva, already receiving raves for its rustic pasta dishes, boasts a tempting selection of Italian wines. Find out more at www.luvaenoteca.com.

We look forward to the appearance of food trucks around the Raleigh area beginning October 1. The City Council passed the ordinance allowing them in its September 6 meeting. Food truck prohibition is now officially over!

Farm Fresh North Carolina
by Diane Daniel

Though there are a few recipes scattered throughout its pages, Farm Fresh North Carolina is not really a cookbook. It’s a guide to the places our food is grown and processed — the farm side of “farm to fork,” and a gastrotourist’s dream.

Diane divides North Carolina into five distinct regions — Triangle Area, Triad Area, Charlotte Area, Coastal Regions and Sandhills, and Mountains. Within each of the five chapters you will find dozens of family friendly places open to the public: farms, orchards, farmers markets, country stores, wineries, inns, produce-driven eateries and food-related events. Tomatopalooza, Benson Mule Days, and Henside the Beltline Tour d’Coop (!) are just a sampling of the down-home festivals that take place each year in our own Triangle area. Whether seeking a short day trip or planning a longer vacation that may include children, food lovers of all ages will find this book indispensable.

The Happy Table of Eugene Walter: Southern Spirits in Food and Drink
edited by Donald Goodman and Thomas Head

I fell in love with Eugene Walter after reading Milking the Moon. In that captivating memoir, the diminutive Alabamian shared his adventures growing up in Mobile, and his later years in Paris and Rome where he wrote novels and cookbooks, acted in movies, designed costumes, and entertained famous ex-pats and movie folk. His raucous sense of humor and fondness for harmless gossip inspired the nickname, “the nice Truman Capote.” Walter’s most successful book, American Cooking: Southern Style, was published years before his death in 1998.

According to the publisher, UNC Press, “This charming cookbook includes more than 300 recipes featuring the use of spirits in the food and drink of the South, as well as humorous asides, lovely short essays, and countless witticisms that make for great reading as well as good cooking.” The book will be out in October, and I’ll be the first in line to buy a copy.

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A night at Sitti, Authentic Lebanese
It Was A Very Good Year Indeed

LUSH AND LOVELY 2009 BURGUNDIES

The 2009 vintage was outstanding in France—and across Europe. Most of the serious reds are not even here yet, and a lot of them have been pre-sold, especially those from the fine estates of Bordeaux and Burgundy.

But I want to call your attention to the vintage. In a great year like this, where the grapes fully ripened and produced hugely flavorful wines, it's a tide that lifts all boats. Even at modest levels the wines are very good, with many excellent values.

I'm especially keen on Burgundy—even though the great Burgundies are now so expensive I can't drink them as frequently as I once did. With a vintage like 2009, however, the occasional splurge is worth it. Here is what a top London wine merchant, Berry Bros & Rudd, has to say: "One is tempted to want to play down the hype surrounding the 2009 Burgundy wine vintage but it is hard to do so. While this is not 2005, a vintage of unparalleled density and a firm tannic structure for exceptionally long ageing, 2009 ranks among the very best Burgundy wine vintages of recent times."

Many are comparing 2009 to 1990 (an almost perfect vintage, with the best wines still, after 21 years, quite gorgeous); some liken it to the similarly big and rich great vintage of 1959.

Red Burgundies are made entirely from pinot noir; white Burgundies, including Chablis, are from chardonnay and Burgundy vintners were excited even while the grapes were still on the vine. Early flowering from the end of May to early June was followed by warm and sunny weather, forecasting an early harvest. Just the right amount of rain came in July, but under a bright August sun the grapes fairly romped toward ripeness. Picking began at most properties the second week of September under optimum conditions.

The whites are excellent, very fruit-forward, but also well-structured, so they will age well—as will the reds, which are precociously fruity—juicy in some instances. The appealing ripe fruit of the reds—with enticing aromas and flavors of ripe berries and cherries—has led vinophiles to wonder if these wines are flash in the pans that will fade within a few years.

I think not. There is good acidity and body in both reds and whites, which bodes extremely well for now and the future. I actually think this is one of those vintages in which the wines will be delightful to drink throughout their life span—a good decade, probably longer for the top reds. And this is a great time of year for red Burgundies too—just in time for autumn game birds, Cornish game hens, and duck to turkey—plus sausages, roast pork, even grilled salmon.

The 2009 vintage has such irresistible charm that Burgundy lovers will snap up these wines as soon as they appear. So I want to alert you to some that are available now, and recommend that you rush out and grab them because they won't linger on shelves for long.

Joseph Drouhin, a venerable name in Burgundy, who sold out most of its 2008 wines (also a very good vintage), is one the first to release quantities of its 2009 vintage. To look at the 2009s, check these out. You will find them Triangle wine stores including The Raleigh Wine Shop, A Southern Season, Hillsborough Wine Co., 18 Seaboard, and The Wine Merchant.

Here are descript-
CORK REPORT

ations and places to purchase 2009 Burgundies in the area:

2009 RED BURGUNDIES

Drouhin Beaune-Grèves, $53. A little reserved when first opened, but with air it opened up nicely. Big aromas of black cherry and spicy berries, lovely flavors on the palate; definitely one to age, but also enjoyable now if decanted.

Drouhin Gevrey-Chambertin, $47-52. Juicy and vibrant, this village red is delicious now, notable for the warm ripe-berry flavors and a freshness that blew me away. Despite the come-hither allure for drinking now (making it great for restaurant wine lists), it has the balance and depth to age a decade.

Bourgogne Rouge. The basic appellation for red Burgundy, and the one to buy if you just want to get an idea of '09 Burgundian pinot noir. Several producers have released their 2009s, so look for these Bourgogne Rouge, ranging $18-25: Bachelet-Monnet, Billard Hautes-Côtes de Beaune, Chanson, Vincent Girardin, Joseph Drouhin, Louis Jadot. More producers will be shipping in their wares later this fall and winter.

WHITE BURGUNDIES

I'm also quite thrilled with the 2009 white wines from Burgundy. Even the simple Mâcon wines — un-oaked and showing pure chardonnay fruit — are the best in recent years, with mouth-filling flavors of citrus, pear and honey-crisp apples and minerally accents that make them crisp and appetizing. Look for these appellations, $12.99-17: Mâcon-Villages, Mâcon Charnay, Viré-Clessé, and Saint-Véran.

Somewhat more expensive are the 2009 Chablis, but you can do no better in chardonnay to pair genuine French Chablis with shellfish, especially raw oysters or clams. Producers to look for are Dauvissat, Joseph Drouhin, Jean Paul Droin, William Fèvre, Frédéric Magnien, Gilbert Picq — and more to arrive later in the season.

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"SORTA CHINA"

Last issue I wrote about my visit to China, or maybe I should say "sorta China". Before the trip people would ask where we were going and I'd say "Xiang" and they'd look at me blankly before saying "why?" I didn't have a really good answer, but now I do. At the time, all the information we had was we were to follow the Silk Road; where we were going was "a really different place"; and my good friend Doug Lay thought it was a great trip.

Here is what I've learned since, and wish we'd known before: The Silk Road is not a road but a series of ancient towns where traders for thousands of years dropped off and picked up all kinds of stuff; Xiang is an "autonomous" region of China which might better be called an "ambiguous" region of China; the modern hotels and other aspects of 21st century infrastructure were built on a foundation (sometimes literally) of an ancient empire known as Western Xia or Tan gut; this part of Asia was a veritable mixing bowl of ethnic groups including Mongols — yes Genghis Kahn was here — Tibetans, Turks, Kazaks and Chinese.

This shouldn't be surprising when you realize Xiang borders Mongolia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, India and Nepal. It is one of the remotest parts of the world, sometimes called by the Brits "the back of beyond". Few Westerners have ever been there and it is common to refer to those who have as "foreign devils". There are places better to trace the history of modern Asian religions and it is currently the site of a little noted effort by the majority Chinese, the Han, to obliterate a Muslim minority, the Uighurs.

The Silk Road is actually a series of several roads, most particularly a northern and southern route which skirted the treacherous Takmalakan Desert after which, going West, they joined at Kashgar and passed through the Karakoram Mountains which comprise the world's highest concentration of peaks over five miles in height. Today the route through the mountains is traced by the Karakoram Highway that links China and Pakistan. We traveled this highway and visited various stops along the route including Kashgar, Turfan, Dounhang and Kohan. We also visited the ruins of ancient cities which had withered because of lack of water after the end of the last ice age (still a problem) and have now been partially swallowed by the desert.

AUTONOMOUS IS IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

Xiang is autonomous in the same way that Tibet is autonomous and that is hardly at all. Autonomous means "acting independently and have the freedom to do so." Not here, where China calls the shots in Xiang. Like Tibetans, the Uighur's have a spokesperson similar to the Dalai lama, but Rebiya Ka deer, who resides in Washington, has no Nobel Prize and no international reputation. The World Uighur Congress is located in Germany. There have been various efforts to establish a separate state in the region by the East Turkestan Islamic Movement that has been labeled a terrorist group. There have been numerous clashes between Chinese authorities and Uighur groups, the latest just after we returned to the US. Twenty protesters were killed in a clash with police in Hotan. Uighur terrorists briefly surfaced in the American press when it was learned they were held at Guantanamo Bay after being picked up in Afghanistan.

All of the cities we visited had modern hotels and were in the midst of a building boom. The Chinese government in Beijing has invested billions of dollars in infrastructure development — including a road across the Takmalakan Desert, rail lines, natural gas pipelines and vast agricultural projects. These projects are designed to "bind Xinjiang more closely to the rest of the Peoples Republic of China (PCR)." The obvious reason the Chinese are doing this is maintain access to Xinjiang's vast natural resources in the form of coal, oil, natural gas and precious metals as well as significant agricultural potential — if irrigated. But what makes some of this so striking is that most of the Uighur's are still living as they did 300 years ago in one-storey, mud brick compounds without running water. Their method of transportation is often donkey carts or maybe motor bikes. As you can imagine they have mixed feeling about the "improvements", but we didn't hear much about that.

The Uighur's don't look Chinese; they look more Turkish or Central Asian. They have adopted bits and pieces of modern or western dress but generally wear a hodge-podge of ethnic attire. Head scarves abound for the woman and a few wear the burka, but the colors favored range from bright to garish. The men wear trousers and suit coats with odd square hats. Obviously, this has been an amalgam of races since ancient times, indicated by recently discovered mummies. Actually, they aren't mummies like Egyptian mummies but rather bodies that were buried and dried out by the desert climate. Over 2,000 years old, some of these bodies are clearly Caucasians, some of them 6' tall. Where did the blond-haired blue-eyed people come from and where did they go? How did they get to this God forsaken part of the world.

The people we encountered beyond the tourist business, looked at us like we were from the back of beyond. Since they had clearly seen very few folks like us, it was not unusual to have people following us around when we went to open-air markets or other public places. It also was not uncommon for those who spoke English to ask questions like, "How much money do you make?" or "How much do your shoes cost?" These questions weren't meant to be impertinent or impolite, just an attempt to connect us with something they could understand. A great crowd pleaser was taking their picture with our digital cameras and showing it to them. This always brought a broad smile with lots of teeth — or lack of teeth. They were so impressed by the condition of our teeth that one young girl asked us how she could keep her teeth like ours.
RELIGION TRAVELS THE SILK ROAD

Over the centuries another commodity that traveled on the Silk Road was religion. From what we saw this was a one-way traffic. Religions came from the West into Xiang and China but didn’t go east. Although there were Christian concepts like Manichaeism that traveled east into this region, the most prominent religions that came this way and ultimately clashed were Buddhism and Muslimism. Buddhism had come to this region of China as early as the first century A.D. With it came monks who built countless temples cut into the soft rock faces of cliffs. Usually these places of worship were small caves in remote areas suitable for undisturbed contemplation. The monks brought with them the Serindian art that covered the cave walls and ceilings. Not content with only paintings they also created sculptures depicting Buddha in human form. From Xiang the Buddhist faith followed the Silk Road east all the way to Japan.

The Golden Age of Buddhism and its art corresponded with the T'Ang Dynasty (618-907), the period when the Silk Road was the most busy and the safest. The T'Ang emperors protected the traders who in turn paid them a tribute in taxes. After two centuries of violent confrontations between rival factions the T'Ang Dynasty collapsed, signifying the decline of the Silk Road.

The next invasion, and here the term is literal, to enter the area were the Muslims. They not only sought to convert the Uighurs, they also set out to destroy Buddhist art for its portrayal of the human form, anathema to Muslims. It took centuries for the Muslims to convert the region, but by the 15th century the entire Taralkan area had turned to Muslimism. At approximately the same time the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) closed China to the outside world, and with it the Silk Road. The irrigation skills that had made the desert bloom had slowly been lost and the shrinking of the glaciers left the region to the mercy of the desert. Whole cities and Buddhist caves were enveloped by sand not be seen again for hundreds of years.

THE GREAT GAME

For those who value art the excavation of cities and caves was distinctly a mixed blessing. Westerners were drawn to the area in the 19th century because of the potential conflict between Russia and Great Britain. Fear of Russian expansionism was not a 20th century phenomenon — in the 1860s the British feared a potential Russian attack on India. As unlikely as it actually was — they thought an attack through Xiang was a possibility and they tried to control the Afghan passes. The army patrols sent into the region to access the possibilities soon learned how tough the Xiang route actually was, but they also brought back tales of buried, lost cities. These reports intrigued archeological adventurers who set out to authenticate the tales. To their surprise and delight they found buried treasure in the form of the Buddhist cave art. As was common in the 19th and early 20th centuries, the “foreign devils” proceeded to “save” the art by chipping it off the walls and sending it to European museums. Consequently, what is to be seen today in Xiang are fragments of the originals, still striking and beautiful, but really only tantalizing reminders of what once was. Today, we describe such actions as looting but it may well be that the art actually was saved since the Muslims of the time destroyed everything they could find.

That brings us to a contemporary process of cultural scrubbing. (It is too obvious and brutal to be described as cleansing.) Wherever you go in Xiang you see big signs with maps and graphics describing new housing developments. It is part of the Chinese effort to build 350 million housing units in the next 15 years, but in this part of China it is part of a more dubious enterprise. If you ask you are told that it is an effort to provide more earthquake proof housing for the poor Uighers. Hmmm. How much danger is there in a one-story mud house? Maybe some, but the real reason the Chinese are bulldozing whole communities is to erase cultural traditions and break up communities. Stacking people in ten-storey apartment buildings is seen as a way of heading off protests as more and more Han are moved into Uigher cities and towns. The explanation for the program of adding Han to the population is that the locals don’t have the educations or the skills to run the new industries. That may be true, but it is also true that changing the ethnic mix makes for a more passive population.

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GALLERIES

GALLERY C EVENTS: New location; 540 N. Boulevard, Raleigh; Contact 919-828-3165 or www.galleryc.net.

• WILLIE MARLOWE PAINTINGS FROM VENICE: 2006-2011; Sept. 29-Oct. 26
• ALL GLORY: THE USUAL SUSPECTS PORTRAITS IN OIL; Oct. 27-Nov. 26

DURHAM ARTS COUNCIL EVENTS: Durham; Contact 919-560-2719 or online at www.durhamarts.org.

• PEOPLE YOU MAY KNOW: Contemporary Portraits; Oct. 8-Jan. 9
• BALLPOINT ABSTRACTIONS BY MATT MCICA: Allenton Gallery; Sept. 30-Nov. 30
• NEW PAINTINGS BY LAURA AZAR; Oct. 7-Nov. 27

BEGINNING: Work by Brandon Cordrey on display at Gallery A.

Sevens Gallery; Sept. 30-Nov. 30

• CHAOS & COSMOS BY SHELLY HEHNER-MARQUET; Sevens Gallery; Sept. 30-Nov. 30
• A CULTURAL LANDSCAPE — NC MOUNTAIN COUNTIES BY ARTIE DIXON: Ella Fountain Pratt Legacy Gallery; Sept. 30-Nov. 30

VISUAL ART EXCHANGE ASSOCIATION AND GALLERY EVENTS: Raleigh; Contact 919-828-7834 or www.visualartexchange.org.

• THE WHITE SHOW; Opening reception Oct. 7, exhibit shows through Oct. 27
• CARMEN GUEDEZ, WARREN HICKS, CYNNY MALLARD, RYAN MCKELLAR, KRISTINE PIERCE & MADELYN SMOKA: October Exhange Gallery; Opening reception Oct. 7, exhibit shows through Oct. 27
• CHRISTIAN RYAN: Pleasureware + Speculative Bodies; through Oct. 22
• WILLIAM BREAZEALE EXHIBIT; MJH Gallery; Opening reception Oct. 7, exhibit shows through Oct. 27
• DOUG STRICKLAND EXHIBIT; Duke Raleigh Hospital; through Nov. 15
• TRISH NARDOZZI EXHIBIT: Cameron Village Library; through Nov. 15

“UN SUSPENDED”: BRANDON CORDEY EXHIBIT; Gallery A, Raleigh; Opening reception Oct. 20, exhibit shows through Oct. 27

SCALE DOWN: PAINTINGS BY PREMIERE NC MURALIST MICHAEL BROWN: The Mcraper; Raleigh; Opening reception Oct. 7, exhibit shows through Oct. 29. Contact 919-896-7503 or www.themahlerfineart.com

VISIONS BY NANCY BAKER AND STEVE MCCLURE: “Confronting classical and personal icons that question passages of time, place and value”; Block Gallery, Raleigh; Opening reception Oct. 6 with dance performance by Rainbow Dance Company, exhibit shows through Nov. 14. Contact 919-996-3610 or online at www.raleighnc.gov/arts

EVENTS AT ARTSOURCE: Raleigh; Contact 919-787-9533 or online at www.artsource-raleigh.com.

• “NATURAL FORMS”; Recent work by two prolific NC artists whose works are focused on the use of color and form; Opening reception Sept. 23 from 7-9 p.m.; Exhibition Sept. 23-Oct. 23
• “PAINT AND POUR” WITH JEANNE BESSETTE; Oct. 19
• “PAINT AND POUR” WITH GINA STRUPIT; Oct. 27

19th ANNUAL HOLIDAY ARTSOURCE SHOWCASE OF GALLERY ARTIST: Featuring the works of Ted Jallow; Opening reception Nov. 11, exhibit runs through Dec. 31

EVENTS AT LOCAL COLOR GALLERY: Raleigh; Contact 919-754-3887 or www.localcolorleigh.com

• SPLASH OF COLOR: Featuring “Mixed Media” by Adrien Montoya and “Stained Glass” by Lizzie Bailey; Opening reception Oct. 7, exhibit shows Oct. 1 through Oct. 29

KYLE HIGHSMITH EXHIBIT: “Still the Best Place to Be...”: scenes from France, Italy and North Carolina; Little Art Gallery and Craft Collection, Raleigh; Reception Sept. 17, exhibition shows through Oct. 15. Contact 919-890-4111 or visit www.littleartgalleryandcrafts.com

HILLSBOROUGH GALLERY OF ART EVENTS: Hillsborough; Contact 919-732-5001 or www.hillsboroughgallery.com

CHATHAM BACKWATER: Work by Michael Brown on display at The Mahler.

ALL OF THEM WISHES: Jewelry and drawings by Sarah Warner; Bull City Arts Collaborative, Durham; through Oct. 29. Contact 919-599-0684

17th ANNUAL OPEN STUDIO TOUR: Over seventy artists to participate in the juried event, opening their studios located throughout Orange County and surrounding areas; Nov. 5-6 and Nov. 12-13. Contact 919-933-2891 or www.orangecountyartistsguild.com

224 SOUTH THIRD: One of the many homes on the Back Door Kitchen Tour of Old Wilmington.

JAPAN AT THE RAC: Artist, Lisa Marcuson to showcase one-of-a-kind Japanese Haiku and other works that date from 1920-1970; Roundabout Art Collective, Raleigh; Nov. 11. Contact 919-818-5191 or www.lib.ncsu.edu

CLASSICAL

EVENTS AT THE NC SYMPHONY: Meymandi Concert Hall and various locations, Raleigh; Contact 919-733-2750 or www.ncsymphony.org.

• ROGE PLAYS POULENC AND MOZART; Oct. 2
• TCHAIKOVSKY’S FIFTH SYMPHONY; Miguel Harth-Bedoya, Conductor; Oct. 14-15

• A GERMAN ODYSSEY: The theme from 2011 launches a concert to remember with William Henry Curry, Resident Conductor; Oct. 27-29

• ESPANISH! A fresh look at how Spanish flavors inspired French music and vice versa with Sarah Hicks, Associate Conductor; Nov. 4
• LISZT & RACHMANINOFF; Virtuosos by the beloved composers with Grant Llewellyn, Music Director; Nov. 10-12

RALEIGH CHAMBER MUSIC GUILD EVENTS: Raleigh; Contact 919-821-2030 or www.rcmg.org

INALARE CONCERT: Chamber ensemble based in Boone, NC to perform “Mirror Image in Song” Women’s Music of Women”; Oct. 9

NEW ZEALAND STRING QUARTET: The third appearance by the premier chamber ensemble; Nov. 13

POP MUSIC

EVENTS AT THE DURHAM PERFORMING ARTS CENTER: Durham; www.dpac.com

• LINDSEY BUCKINGHAM: Singer, guitarist and former co-leader of 70’s super group, Fleetwood Mack performs hits from the old days and his new solo material. Maybe Stevie Nicks will make an appearance; Oct. 1

Lindsey Buckingham

• PETER FRAMPTON: Do you feel like we do? Guitar god from the seventies and classic rock royalty is still shredding his Les Paul and wowing audiences with that talk box. Get tickets now; Oct. 5

• CHARLIE WILSON with special guest LOOSE ENDS; Oct. 6
• ARETHA FRANKLIN: The one and only incomparable "Queen of soul" will grace our presence belting songs like "Respect," "Think" and "(You Make me Feel) Like a Natural Woman:" Oct. 16.
• Adele: Pop sensation, singer and performer whose songs have shot up the charts this year and amazed audiences of all ages: Oct. 8.
• WEIRD AL YANKOVIC: The master of parody is back on the road lampooning the greatest hits of today and yesterday in a style all his own. Let's hope he does "Like a Surgeon" or "Fat." Oct. 9.
• JOE WALKER WITH THE KENNY WAYNE SHEPHERD BAND: Former Eagle and monstrously popular solo artist performing Eagles hits and songs of his own; Oct. 18.
• WILLE NELSON: The red headed stranger and country god is still kicking after 40 years of performing to armies of dedicated fans; Oct. 20.
• LORETTA LYNN: The toughest woman in country, the coal miner's daughter, the one and only queen of the Grand ole Opry will play songs from her massive canon of songs from the past and from her more recent explorations and collaborations with current musicians like Jack White; Oct. 23.

METRO PREVIEW

The Raleigh Dance Theatre presents its production of Storybook Tales at The Fletcher Opera Theater at Raleigh's Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts.

CAROLINA BALLET EVENTS: Various locations; Contact: 919-794-0900 or visit www.carolinaballet.com
• DRACULA, THE MASQUE OF THE RED DEATH: Fletcher Opera Theater; Oct. 13-30
• STRAVINSKY: CONCERTO FOR TWO SOLO PIANOS, CINDERELLA: Raleigh Memorial Auditorium; Nov. 23-27

THE PORCH THEATRE EVENTS: Wilmington; Contact: 919-232-6611 or online at www.porchtheatre.com
• MURDER IN THE LIBRARY: STORYBOOK MYSTERY DINNER THEATRE COSTUME PARTY: Dress as your favorite Storybook character and watch characters in the books come alive to cause mischief; Oct. 13 and 20

THE CINEMA, INC. EVENTS: Rialto Theatre, Raleigh; Visit www.cinema-inc.org
• CACHÉ: Oct. 9
• BLACK NARCISSUS: Nov. 13

EVENTS AT KOKA BOOTH AMPHITHEATRE: Cary; Contact: 919-462-2052 or online at www.bookamphitheatre.com
• SEVERITY GIRLZ: Presented the Fall Folage Bonanza Concert; Oct. 2
• 5th ANNUAL CARY EID FESTIVAL: Oct. 8
• DINKALI- SANSKRITI: Culture transcending borders; Oct 22
• BE BOLD BENEFIT CONCERT: Featuring Gabbie Rae and special guests, The Rusty Bucket Band and the Sacred Poets presented by the NC Psychoanalytical Foundation; Oct. 23
• FAAN WALK FOR FOOD ALLERGY: Nov 5
• WALK-N-WAG: Nov 6

PLAYMAKERS REPERTORY COMPANY EVENTS: Chapel Hill; Contact: 919-962-7529 or www.playmakersrep.org
• "IN THE NEXT ROOM (OR THE VIBRATO PLAY)": By Sarah Ruhl; Sept. 21-Oct. 9
• "THE PARCHMAN HOUR: Songs and Stories of the 61 Freedom Riders": Oct. 26-Nov. 13

PROGRESS ENERGY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS EVENTS: Raleigh; Contact: 919-831-6060 or www.progressenergycenter.com
• STORYBOOK TALES: Presented by the Raleigh Dance Theatre including "The Little Mammal"; "Fancy Nancy: Bonjour Butterfly," "Sleeping Beauty" and "Bourbonville Divertissements"; Fletcher Opera Theatre, Raleigh. Contact: 919-834-1058 or online at www.raleighdance.org
• EVENTS AT THE RBC CENTER, Raleigh; Contact: 919.861.2300 or www.ticketmaster.com
• TAYLOR SWIFT CONCERT: Nov. 17

• LIZZ WRIGHT: Reynolds Industries Theatre; Oct. 7
• BASSEKOU KOUYATE & NGONI BA: Reynolds Industries Theatre; Oct 14
• GORAN BREGOVIC & HIS WEDDING AND FUNERAL ORCHESTRA: Page Auditorium; Oct 16
• RANDY WESTON, PIANO: Nelson Music Room; Oct 21
• ALEXI MURDOCH & MOUNT MORIAH: Reynolds Industries Theatre; Oct 22
• PHILIPPE JARLOUSSKY, COUNTERTENOR & APOLO'S FIRE, BAROQUE ORCHESTRA: Reynolds Industries Theatre; Oct. 26
• CHUNKY MOVE, "CONNECTED:" Reynolds Industries Theatre; Oct. 28
• CHRISTIAN TETZLAFF: VIOIN & LARS Vogt, PIANO: Reynolds Industries Theatre; Oct 29
• INGRID FILTER, PIANO: Reynolds Industries Theatre; Nov 4
• BILL FRISELL & BILL MORRISON, "THE GREAT FLOOD": Reynolds Industries Theatre; Nov 5
• SCHOLA CANTORUM DE VENEZUELA, CONDUCTED BY MARIA GUINAND: Duke Chapel; Nov. 9

NASCHE MUSEUMS EVENTS: Durham; Contact: 919-549-2122 or online at www.nashemuseum.org
• "BECOMING: PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE WEDGE COLLECTION" EXHIBIT; through Jan. 8, 2012
• "EATING ANIMALS: A THEMATIC INSTALLATION OF ART INSPIRED BY THE BOOK "EATING ANIMALS" BY JONATHAN SAFRAN FARK: through Oct. 16
• "LAND, SEA AND SKY IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY" EXHIBIT; through Jan 29, 2012

Cape Fear Red Trout

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• LANDSCAPE SUZUME: CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUMS: Raleigh, Contact: 919-513-0946 or www.ncartmuseum.org
• OUR DOG: NORTH CAROLINAS PLOTT HOUND: Opening Sept. 9, exhibit runs through Sept. 30, 2012
• "THE CAROLINAS: BLIND BOY CHOCOLATE AND THE MILK SHEIKS": Oct. 9

MUSEUMS

CAMERON ART MUSEUM EVENTS: Wilmington. Contact: 910-395-5999 or www.cameronartmuseum.com
• DUO SURENO, CLASSICAL VOICE AND GUITAR: Oct. 13

CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM EVENTS: Raleigh, Contact: 919-513-0946 or www.cameronartmuseum.com
• REBECCA WARD: Exhibition; thru Oct. 31

NC MUSEUM OF HISTORY EVENTS: Raleigh; Contact: 919-807-7943 or www.ncmuseumofhistory.org

NC MUSEUM OF ART EVENTS: Raleigh, Contact: 919-839-2622 or visit www.ncmuseumofart.org
• FILM: COCTEAU'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST: Oct. 8
• FILM: DONKEY SKIN (PEAU D'ANE): Oct. 14
• FEEST REMBRANDT: A DINNER CELEBRATING REMBRANDT IN AMERICA: Oct. 28
• FILM: LITTLE OTIK: Oct. 29
• CHILDREN'S PERFORMANCE: "GEMS" BY APOLLO'S FIRE: through Oct. 16

COURTAGE FOR A CAUSE: 3rd annual fast-
METRO PREVIEW

POTPOURRI


20th ANNUAL SCUPPENRONG RIVER FESTIVAL: Festivities for the entire family on the waterfront including food, music, entertainment, amusement rides, fireworks and more; downtown Columbia, NC, Oct. 8. Contact 252-796-2781 or www.scupprenong.com.

21st ANNUAL WORKS OF HEART AUCTION: The Triangle’s Art Auction against AIDS; Fletcher Opera Theatre, Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts, Raleigh; Oct. 8. Contact www.worksofheart.org.


 TAVERN PARTY IN THE GARDENS: Toast the contributions of Raleigh’s founding father, Joel Lane at the current location of his home built in about 1770; The Joel Lane Museum House, Raleigh; Oct. 27. Contact 919-833-3431 or www.joellane.org.

36TH ANNUAL PEANUT FESTIVAL: Parade and events throughout the day ending with a street dance on Broad, Edenton; Oct. 36. See www.tryonpalace.org for a full schedule of events.

FALL FESTIVITIES

36TH ANNUAL PEANUT FESTIVAL: Parade and events throughout the day ending with a street dance on Broad, Edenton; Oct. 36. See www.tryonpalace.org for a full schedule of events.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Please send events info and color images, slides or photos 6 weeks before publication date. Send to Cyndi Harris, Metro Magazine, 1033 Oberlin Rd. Suite 100, Raleigh, 27605 or e-mail: cyndi@metromagazine.net.
RESTAURANT GUIDE

RALEIGH/CARY

18 SEABOARD — 18 Seaboard Avenue, Suite 100, Raleigh. 861-4318 www.18seaboard.com. Chef-Proprietor Jason Smith welcomes you with sensibly inventive American Cuisine using North Carolina ingredients. From the downtown views of our open-air mezzanine to the staffs warm hospitality, 18 Seaboard is the place for casual dining or special occasions.


THE ANGUS BARN — 9401 Glenwood Avenue. Raleigh. 781-2444. www.angusbarn.com. The Angus Barn, a Raleigh landmark offers Angus steaks, seafood, an extensive wine list, experienced and knowledgeable staff and much more in its elegant barn setting. Since opening in the 1960s, the basic principles - hospitality, attractive atmosphere, and value have remained the same.


BONEFISH GRILL — 4411-112 Six Forks Rd., Raleigh. 782-5127. Specializing in market fresh fish and seafood cooked over a wood-burning grill. Eight or more fresh fish selections daily, paired with original topings. 1/2 price appetizers from 9 p.m.-10 p.m. every live night. Live music Thursday nights from 9 p.m.-11 p.m. Bar and outdoor patio dining available. Located at North Hills. M-Th: 4 p.m.-10 p.m., F-Sat: 4 p.m.-11 p.m., Sun: 4 p.m.-10 p.m.

CAFÉ TIRAMISÚ — 6196-120 Falls of Neuse Rd., Raleigh. 981-0305. Northern Italian Cuisine: A family owned and operated restaurant originating from an old Raleigh favorite Piccolo Mondo restaurant. Slick and contemporary décor; will give fine dining at its best.


FIREBOLDS ROCKY MOUNTAIN GRILL — 4330-118 Lafayette at North Hills Ave., Raleigh. 788-8778. A unique style of American cuisine that originated in Aspen Colorado. Open-flame grilled steaks, herb roasted prime rib, fresh seafood, hearty pasta, awesome burgers and giant salads served in a cozy, comfortable setting. Bar and outdoor patio seating available. M - Th: 11 a.m. - 10 p.m., F-Sat: 11 a.m. - 11 p.m., Sun: 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.

THE FLYING BISCUIT CAFE — 2016 Clark Ave., Raleigh. 833-6924. Online at www.flyingbiscuit.com and www.raleighbiscuit.com. Serving breakfast all day and hearty entrances, sandwiches and salads for lunch and dinner, this Cameron Village restaurant also boasts a full bar. Open 7 a.m. until 10 p.m. daily.


MIDTOWN & BAR 115 — 442-1-15 Six Forks Road, Raleigh. 782-WINE. www.midtownandbar115.com. Recognized as one of the "Best Places for a Power Lunch," by Metro Magazine, Midtown offers the experience of a New York bistro and bar in the heart of Raleigh's new midtown. Enjoy contemporary cuisine and distinctive wines served by a professional wait staff. Lunch and Dinner Mon-Sat. 115 open until midnight. Thurs-Sat.

THE MINT RESTAURANT — 219 Fayetteville St., Raleigh. 821-0011. www.themintrestaurant.com. Mon-Thurs. 5-9 p.m.; Fri and Sat. 5-10 p.m. The Mint in downtown Raleigh offers contemporary fine southern dining with global influences. Chef/Director Christopher Hytken presents new and exciting culinary combinations paired with The Mint’s unfailable service standards.


THE PIT AUTHENTIC BARBECUE — 328 W. Davie St. Raleigh. 919.890.4500. www.thepit-
THE RALEIGH TIMES BAR — 14 E Hargett St, Raleigh, 919.833.0999, www.raleightimesbar.com. This timeless watering hole in the old The Raleigh Times building in downtown is known for its classic bar and fan favorites, such as barbecue pork nachos and PBR-battered fish and chips, and an inventive drink menu and extensive beer selection.

RUTHS CHRIS STEAK HOUSE — 4381-100 Lasiter at North Hills Ave, Raleigh. (919) 791-1103. New Orleans-inspired appetizers, aged USDA Prime steaks, fresh seafood, signature side dishes and homemade desserts served with genuine hospitality. Among the most distinctive dining destinations in the Triangle.

RIMRS  CHRIS STEAK HOUSE — Lassiter at North Hills Ave, Raleigh. (919) 787-5300. Serving American cuisine in two dining atmospheres. Upstairs in the Tavem and Atrium enjoy the lighter fare menu and cozy atmosphere. AAA Four Diamond, DiRoHa Award, Wine Spectator Award.

SHERATON RALEIGH HOTEL — The Grove Café — 421 South Salisbury St, Raleigh. 834-9900. Located on second floor of the Sheraton Raleigh Hotel, serving Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner in an open atrium atmosphere. The cuisine is American Continental, serving a daily Breakfast & Lunch Buffet, and a complete menu for all day dining. Also enjoy live entertainment on Wednesday nights in The Bar.

SUUUJUVAN^  STEAKHOUSE — 137 S. Wilmington St, Raleigh. 919.239.4070, www.sujujavians.com. The most beloved figure in any Lebanese family is the grandmother, or sitti. At Sitti, in downtown Raleigh, we honor those ancestors by carrying on their tradition of welcoming guests with delicious food and endless hospitality.

TROPICAL SMOOTHIE CAFE — 1028 Oberlin Rd, Raleigh, 755-2222. www.tropicalsmoothiecafe.com. Tropical Smoothie Cafe is more than just great tasting smoothies. Kewy the great taste and high quality that Tropical Smoothie is known for, we also offer healthy alternatives to regular fast food. Our gourmet wraps, specialty salads and sandwiches are made with the highest quality Delz and Watson meats and cheeses. Come early to enjoy our breakfast wraps and bagels. Catering is available.


SECOND EMPIRE RESTAURANT & TAVERN — 3228 Hillsborough St., Raleigh. 829-3663. Visit online at www.secondempire.com. Award winning cuisine in two dining atmospheres. Upstairs enjoy the ultimate dining experience in an elegant yet relaxed atmosphere of charm and grace. Downstairs in the Tavern and Atrium enjoy a lighter fare menu and cozy atmosphere. AAA Four Diamond, DiRoHa Award, Wine Spectator Award.

DURHAM APEX/MORRISIVILLE

DURHAM APEX/MORRISIVILLE

BLUE MOON BISTRO — 214 Middle Lane, Beaufort, NC 28516. 252-728-7777, www.bluemoonexperience.com. "Aqua's urban-chic decor whets the appetite for sophisticated, internationally inspired food... On all counts, Aqua was an exceptional dining experience. Moreton Neal in Metro June 2005. Open for dinner: Tues.-Thurs. 6 p.m., Fri & Sat. 5:30 p.m.


BLUE MOON BISTRO — 117 Queen Street, Beaufort, 252-728-5800. Coastal cuisine in a casual historic setting. Offering innovative dishes that bring a welcomed departure from 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. Dinner Tues-Sat.


FISH TALES WATERFRONT RESTAURANT — 222 W. Beaufort Rd, Beaufort 252-594-7263. Visit Web site online at www.fishtalesdrinking.com. Have your Holiday Party on the Waterfront this year! Fish Tales offers the best food selection, and a great atmosphere for your special event. We can provide the perfect setting no matter what the occasion. Our facility accommodates parties from 10 to 1000. Call today or come by for a personal tour.

MERTOMAGAZINE OCTOBER 2011 53
On the Town
by Helen Wallace

7th Annual Raleigh Spy Conference
North Carolina Museum of History
Raleigh, NC
August 24-26, 2011
Photos by Kinsley Day
Vermillion A/W 2011 Fashion Show
North Hills
Raleigh, NC
September 22, 2011
Photos by Helen Wallace

Meg Vertana, Lila Hobgood

Ainsley Bunn, Elizabeth Goodwin, Kristin Williamson

Betty Vermillion, Wendy Bryant Gow, Kari Appleby, Lekita Essa

NC Museum of History Young Associates
Pharaohs at the Museum Soda Shop Opening
NC Museum of History
Raleigh, NC
September 23, 2011

Martha and Ken Howard

George Lennon, George McNeil (Pharaohs at the Museum owner) and Betty Anne Lennon

METROMAGAZINE OCTOBER 2011
My Usual Charming Self

ACC IS ALL ABOUT THE MONEY

And then there is the expansion of the Atlantic Coast Conference, a supreme example of the rich getting richer. As scandals generated by money continue to rock college athletic programs (the UNC case just one of many), the ACC unabashedly adds two more teams to an already augmented league (from 8 members to 12 in the past 19 years) purely for the TV lucre. Commissioner John Swofford (ironically a former UNC athletic director) did not even attempt to hide his greed with the usual saccharine references to the quality of the two new schools entering the conference.

It is the revenue to be derived from TV and cable deals that counts - to hell with the fans or traditional rivalries, the cadence of sports scheduling or the consequences from augmenting an already obscene cache of money. Swofford is obviously unaffected. He says he will add more teams to bring the conference membership to 16 in the near future.

I imagine former UNC system of colleges and universities president Bill Friday became nauseous witnessing this naked aggression. As a long-time advocate of removing the corruption of big money from college programs, he served as chairman of the Knight Commission two decades ago that sought to blunt the harm to the academic reputation of big-time sports colleges. It is my guess Friday recommended that UNC chancellor Holden Thorpe terminate football coach Butch Davis unexpectedly in August to help stop the damage affecting the university from the NCAA football probe. And Thorpe, even though the organizational chart says he is in charge, must have come to realize that he has no real management control over the self-funded and wealthy sports program.

At UNC, and every big-time sports college, money is the root of all evil. But the defenders of big-time programs have persuasive arguments beyond pleasing alumni donors and the lure of winning teams to induce student applications. Sports programs are mostly funded by outside sources of revenue, booster clubs and the ever-dominating TV money that continues to flow unabated by conscience. Football and basketball team revenues pay for the 20-odd "non-revenue" sports programs are committed to providing - from field hockey to swimming, from baseball to volleyball. And the alumni who donate the money also pay the coach the big bucks beyond the school's paltry stipend, build the stadiums and invest in athletic infrastructure.

Wrapped in this righteous cloak of doing good, it's tough to argue against big time sports advocates who push for more and more money. With many non-revenue sports taken up by women, who now dominate enrollments nationwide, these ancillary programs will never be terminated - and the cry for more TV money from the revenue sports will grow more intense. That is why schools actually sell their name for advertising from Nike and others, an indication that the money tail is indeed wagging the dog.

But money taints a program, causing the National Collegiate Athletic Association to bring sanctions, which in turn harms the academic reputation of the school. Heads must roll, but nothing really changes - not only due to the generous support given to minor sports, but because college athletic programs fulfill a sacred goal for any self-respecting politically correct and multicultural university - enrollment of minority athletes.

Certainly campuses extend outreach to non-athlete minority students, but minority scholarship athletes need more attention due to their schedules that require constant practice, time for games and long road trips. And the reality is, in most cases, minority athletes are not as academically advanced as ordinary minority students. It's a dilemma for colleges, and for society, that cracking down and requiring academics to supersede winning the big game is not fair to the athletes, and in the end the students and alumni who identify so strongly with the team.

Many of the top athletes are recruited beginning in Middle School. Unlike non-athlete minority students, they are praised and coddled for their athletic prowess, not their promise to do well academically. This is a serious problem when the young athlete arrives as a freshman and is no longer the very big man on campus. He is faced with a college academic load, strict practice sessions, serious pressure to win, criticism in the media and little spending money. He can't take pocket money from anyone on the school. Winning the big game is not fair to the athletes, and in the end the students and alumni who identify so strongly with the team.

One solution is to separate scholarship athletes into their own "sports" curriculum outside the requirements for regular students. Another is to offer scholarship contracts over a 5-year period, allowing the athlete the time to finish school and play ball, removing the year-to-year pressure.

Another idea is to pay athletes salaries to play for their school, but this endangers the ruse that scholarship athletes are students in the truest sense of the word.

Improving the tutoring programs for athletes is one method schools attempt to address the problem. Yet this is fraught with difficulties, as evidenced by the tutor/player infractions alleged at UNC and the revelations that teachers who take on minority athletes cut corners and create cripples, a well-known practice that goes back to the 1920s. Another response, one suggested by the NCAA, is to monitor closely the use of electronic communications by athletes. In other words spy on them, hardly a savory solution - and one that proves the process is out of control.

Read more commentary by Bernie Reeves at www.therivenees.com and at the American Thinker (www.americanthinker.com)
Innovative Power

The current-generation hybrid system on the RX 450h began with a challenge: Develop the most efficient RX Hybrid system to date without sacrificing an ounce of performance. Just a few of the systems that answered the challenge: a gasoline engine that converts more energy generated during combustion into mechanical energy; an Exhaust Gas Recirculation system that captures, cools and reuses a portion of the exhaust gasses, reducing emissions and improving fuel efficiency; and an Eco-Driving Indicator that provides real-time feedback of economical driving practices.
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