



RALEIGH DOWNTOWNER™

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 11

RALEIGH ENTERTAINMENT, ARTS & CULTURE, DINING, EVENTS, AND MORE

FREE

Holiday Gift Guide

Local gift-giving ideas
for the holidays
and New Year



IRREGARDLESS

Fred Benton falls in love with an old Raleigh tradition



COACH 10 Qs

Ten questions with Hurricanes' Coach Paul Maurice

**RALEIGH
DOWNTOWNER**
**READER
REWARDS**

SIGN UP TO WIN!

Win free tickets, gift certificates and more

Last Minute Gift Guide, Downtown-Style

Find downtown gifts for the holidays (and other special occasions)



By Elizabeth Shugg

there's just one week left to finish your holiday shopping. It's crunch time. Go time. Just-get-it-done time. But that doesn't mean you have to forego creativity. Our last-minute holiday

gift guide will show you where to find a diverse roundup of holiday gifts for everyone on your Christmas list – all within downtown Raleigh.

EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY

Sinfully Good

Transform a loved one's morning cup of coffee into

DJ Kitty Kinnin's Bad Kitty Blend organic coffee



a sinfully delicious experience with custom blends from Eighth Sin Coffee Company located at 1011 East Whitaker Mill Road. This local gourmet roaster recently partnered with 100.7 The River's morning DJ Kitty Kinnin to create "Bad Kitty Blend," a custom organic blend Kinnin created herself. There's even a charitable bonus: when you buy a bag of Kinnin's custom blend for you or someone on your list, Eighth Sin Coffee Company will donate 30 percent of "Bad Kitty Blend" sales to Interact of Wake County, a private, nonprofit United Way agency that provides safety, support and awareness to victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Each bag costs \$9.99.

Visit http://8thsincoffee.com/Kitty_Kinnin to learn more.

Chocolate Cheer

For those on your list with a sweet tooth, the Wooden Gift Box Set (\$34.99) from Escazu Chocolates makes the perfect gift. Hallot Parson and Robert Henkins founded Escazu, located at 610 Glenwood Avenue, after traveling to Venezuela and Costa Rica to learn more about Latin American ingredients and the chocolate-making process. Their store in Glenwood South features chocolate bars, truffles, hot cocoa, and chocolate, so you'll have a mouth-watering chocolatey array of items



Escazu Chocolates, located on Glenwood Avenue, offers artisan chocolates to thrill your palate

from which to choose. For more on what Escazu offers, visit their website at www.escazu.chocolates.com.

Continued on page 3

The Raleigh Downtowner Vol. 4, Issue 11



COVER PHOTO:
Holiday lighting extends along Fayetteville Street to the State Capitol Building

LEFT:
Window display at Fallon's Florist on St. Mary's Street.

UPCOMING

Volume 4, Issue 12 - Downtown Visual Arts



The Downtowner is a local monthly print magazine dedicated to coverage of downtown Raleigh. Our online publication encompasses downtown as well as the surrounding area.

617 West Jones Street ■ Raleigh, NC 27603

919.821.9000

www.raleighdowntowner.com ■ www.raleigh2.com

The current print issue, ad rates/media kit, rack locations and archived issues are available at www.raleighdowntowner.com

For advertising, call or send email to ads@raleighdowntowner.com

All press releases should be sent to press@raleighdowntowner.com

General inquiries may be sent to office@raleighdowntowner.com

PUBLISHER / OWNER	Crash Gregg
FOUNDERS	Sig Hutchinson, Randall Gregg
FOOD EDITOR	Fred Benton
COPY EDITOR	Melissa Santos
SALES / ACCOUNT MANAGERS	Chris Moutos, Michelle Schaefer
FASHION WRITER	Kelly Hubbard
WRITERS	Dave Rose, Chris Moutos, Melissa Santos, Crash Gregg, Joyce Kohn
PHOTOGRAPHERS	Jeff Basladynski, Brendan Meyer
LAYOUT / PHOTO EDITING	Tina Savoy

© Copyright 2005-2008, Downtown Raleigh Publishing, LLC

The name, logo, and any logo iterations of the Raleigh Downtowner, Raleigh Downtowner Magazine and the Downtowner D graphic are a TM of Downtown Raleigh Publishing LLC.

No part of this publication may be reproduced without express written permission.



At NOFO @ the Pig, you'll find a wide assortment of unique gifts, food items, wine, beer, and more.

Score Hostess Points

Need a unique and perfectly presented gift for the host or hostess of your next holiday party? Stop by NOFO @ the Pig in Five Points and pick up a NOFO gift basket. Inside, you'll find a delightful mixture of packaged foods, freshly prepared foods, wine, beer, and other festive gift items. Go to www.nofo.com/tour_pig.php for more details or stop by the store at 2014 Fairview Road.

GREEN CHRISTMAS

Give the Gift of Grow

Davenport Florist in Five Points has an imitation-proof, truly green gift idea. In addition to the florist's diverse range of bouquets, check out the terrariums, which range in price from \$24 to \$250

and feature a variety of flowers and plants for the green thumb on your list. Visit Davenport Florist at 2007 Fairview Road or online at www.davenport-florist.com.

Buy a Tree. Get a Spree

Logan Trading Company at 707 Semart Drive in Seaboard Station is now offering a wide selection of artificial trees starting at five feet that come with a gift certificate you can use in December to purchase, among other things, one of Logan Trading Company's beautiful Christmas Poinsettias for

Christmas trees and poinsettias are just a few of the festive items you'll find at Logan's



someone on your gift list. There are a variety of options, and for a small fee, you can even have it gift wrapped with a seasonal bow. Visit www.logantrd.com for additional information.

PURRFECT PRESENTS



Cindy's Pet Sitting Service will love your pet like you do

Keep Pets Happy at Home

Friends and family members who can't bear the thought of boarding their pets will simply adore a gift certificate to a professional pet-sitting business this holiday season. Cindy's Pet Sitting Services, licensed with the City of Raleigh and bonded and fully-insured, is owned by North Hills resident and Raleigh native Cindy Golden and services

Continued on page 4

NOWELL'S
CONTEMPORARY FURNITURE

Re-defining Style Since 1905

900 E. Chatham St., Cary, N.C. 27511
919.467.9224
nowellsfurniture.com
Open Daily 10-6
Open Sun. 1-6

RECEIVE \$200 OFF
a Stressless recliner when you donate \$50 or more to Interact.

interact
safety support awareness

Interact is a United Way agency that provides safety, support, & awareness to victims & survivors of domestic violence.

Stressless

CHECK IN. THEN COMPLETELY CHECK OUT.

Whether in our well-appointed rooms, an exquisite dinner in Posta Tuscan Grille, or simply our exceptional service, the Raleigh Marriott City Center strives to provide the best.

Marriott Raleigh Marriott City Center
500 Fayetteville St., Raleigh, NC 27601
To reserve your room, call 1-800-MARRIOTT, 919.833.1120 or visit www.marriott.com/rdume

Glenwood South, Five Points, Cameron Village, Historic Oakwood, North Hills and all points in the following zip codes: 27601, 27605, 27607, 27608, 27609 and 27612. Cindy and her sitters charge \$17 per visit. Book five visits when you mention this gift guide and you'll get one free! Cindy also offers live-in pet care and overnight stays in your home. Learn more at www.formc.com.

Bling It Up

Pooches sparkle and felines shine with a Swarovski Crystal ID Tag from Raleigh-based Here Kitty Kitty... And Your Little Dog Too. Available in brushed bronze or nickel silver finish with any stone color, these customized pet-cessories feature fully-jeweled fronts and customized engravings on the back. Small tags are available for cats or small dogs less than 40 pounds, and larger sizes are available for large-breed dogs over 40 pounds. Each tag costs \$68.95, which includes free shipping inside the United States. Visit www.here-kittykitty.com, email hkk513@yahoo.com or call (888) 901-2287 to place your order.

GAL GIFTS

Hark the Handbag

FOGG's large single strap tote (\$86), available from Holly Aiken Bags/Stitch at 20 E. Hargett Street, comes in a variety of colors and makes a snazzy statement. It's fully lined and includes a convenient interior pocket, snap closure, vinyl base and geometric shapes on the front and back. The stylish woman on your list is sure to love this tote.



Holly Aiken knows handbags...

Turbo Jr.'s small snap-side tote, also available at Holly Aiken Bags/Stitch, is a smaller version of the regular sized Turbo bag and comes in vibrant hues with patterns ranging from classy stripes to stars or flowers. The Turbo Jr. has a vinyl base and interior, is fully lined, and features two interior pockets and snap closure, and is priced at \$112. Stop by Holly Aiken Bags/Stitch or visit www.hollyaiken.com to learn more.

It Takes Ten Thousand Villages

This 18-inch Marble Swirl Glass necklace from Ten



International gifts from around the globe can be found at Ten Thousand Villages in Cameron Village

Thousand Villages in Cameron Village embodies international art with heart. The company ensures vital and fair income to artisans in developing countries by selling their handicrafts and telling their stories in North America. Ten Thousand Villages works with artisans who would otherwise be unemployed or under-employed to bring their beautiful, international art to you. Learn more about Ten Thousand Villages' mission at <http://www.tenthousandvillages.com>.

Wrap Her in Velvet

The luxury-loving woman on your list won't be able to resist slipping her toes into these velvet ballet slippers from Victoria's Secret in Cameron Village the moment she unwraps them. Marked down from \$25 to just \$15, these slippers — available in pink, red, midnight blue, burgundy, hot pink, periwinkle and black — offer opulence at a truly affordable price. Buy a pair at www.victoriassecret.com.

GUY GIFTS



Find lots of outdoor guy (and gal) gifts at Great Outdoor Provision Company

Tough and Comfy

Clarks Wallabee boots originated in 1965 and are still going strong. The classic moccasin design features plantation crepe outsole cushions, plenty of toe room and a leather sock liner to keep feet dry.

Perfect for the outdoorsmen on your list, Clarks Wallabee boots are available in several colors for \$130 at Great Outdoor Provision Company in Cameron Village. For more information, visit <http://greatoutdoorprovision.com/clothing-equipage/footwear/brands/clarks/>.

DryPod

If your guy loves his iPod, he'll never leave home without this H2OAudio waterproof iPod covering. This case — also available at Great Outdoor Provision — is ideal for camping trips or outdoor hikes that turn rainy. Several styles and sizes are in stock, including cases for older iPods. Prices range from \$79.95 to \$99.95. Visit <http://greatoutdoorprovision.com/search/iPod+case> for more details.

Wrap Photos Up—and Around

The Joby Gorillapod SLR (\$45.95), also at Great Outdoor Provision Company, firmly secures an SLR camera to just about anything — anywhere. Unlike traditional tripods, the Gorillapod features flexible, gripping legs that can wrap around almost any surface, making that hard-to-get photo not so hard to get! Learn more at www.joby.com/products/gorillapod/slr.

Steel Stuffer

Whether you're shopping for a husband, brother, son or dad, Nathan steel printed water bottles slide sleekly into stockings of all shapes and sizes. Since they aren't made out of plastic, these Bisphenol-A-free bottles are durable. Nathan water bottles come in a variety of colors and sizes, many of which feature flip-top straws and mouthpieces, built-in backpack clips and fun, artistic prints. They're also dishwasher-safe, making cleanup a breeze. Nathan water bottles are available at Great Outdoor Provision Company in a range of prices.

Chain It and Frame It

This Bicycle Chain Photo Frame made in India from recycled chains, is perfect for the cyclist in your life. Just add a victorious photo from his big-race win or personal best ride, and this gift is sure to rank as a favorite! This frame is available for just \$20 from Ten Thousand Villages. For this and other gift ideas visit <http://www.tenthousandvillages.com>.

Recycled chain frames lend a cycling theme to any photo



Continued on page 5



The Penguin blazer doubles as a blazer and outer coat

Cozy Couture

Warm your favorite guy's heart with this classy Penguin v-neck sweater (\$66), available in red, gray, black, blue and brown at Wardrobe in Cameron Village. A long Penguin blazer, which comes in caviar (a deep navy hue), doubles as a blazer and an outer coat so your guy doesn't have to buy both. For something more casual, try Penguin's waffle knit shirt, available for \$46 in orange, white, blue, dark gray and heather gray. Wardrobe also carries brands like Diesel, Rock & Republic, True Religion,

Denim by Victoria Beckham, Seven, Puma, Penguin, Ben Sherman, Scotch & Soda, BCBG, Trina Turk and Nicole Miller. Stop by the store, located at 430 Daniels Street, for gifts for the guys on your list or call 919.828.8700 for more information.

GIFTS FOR TWO

That's the Ticket

Performing arts options in Raleigh are vast and varied. Deciding which couple to give tickets to will probably be easier than deciding what tickets to give them! Choose from Theatre in the Park, Burning Coal Theatre Company, Raleigh Little Theatre, Broadway Series South, Raleigh Ensemble Players, and North Carolina Theatre. Tickets to the Carolina Ballet promise mesmerizing grace, and the North Carolina Symphony always delivers classical grandeur. The Opera Company of North Carolina launched its "A Taste of Opera" series in September which combines music with dinner. A full schedule

of dinners throughout spring will be announced soon. Tickets to PineCone, the Piedmont Council of Traditional Music, offers fiddle tunes, ballads, bluegrass, blues, gospel, swing, folk and other traditional variations. With this many performing arts options, you can cover several couples on your list.

Broadway Series South
www.broadwayseriessouth.com

Burning Coal Theatre Company
www.burningcoal.org

Carolina Ballet
www.carolinaballet.com

North Carolina Symphony
www.ncsymphony.org

North Carolina Theatre
www.nctheatre.com

The Opera Company of North Carolina
www.operanc.com

PineCone, the Piedmont Council of Traditional Music
www.pinecone.org

Raleigh Ensemble Players
www.realtheatre.org

Raleigh Little Theatre
www.raleighlittletheatre.org

Theatre in the Park
www.theatreinthepark.com



Continued on page 6

STRAIGHT from **BROADWAY!** 08/09

BROADWAY

S E R I E S S O U T H

ON SALE NOW!

919.834.4000 | www.broadwayseriessouth.com

RALEIGH MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM

Center for the Performing Arts



Hand-carved soapstone box

Carved With Care

Classy couples on your list will find just the right spot to display this hand-carved 5x4x3-inch soapstone box (\$44), available from Ten Thousand Villages in Cameron Village. Vietnamese artisans carved the intricate Tree of Life design, then polished it with care and finished it with color stain to accentuate the details. For other couples' gifts, check out <http://www.tenthousandvillages.com>.

Nights at the Museum



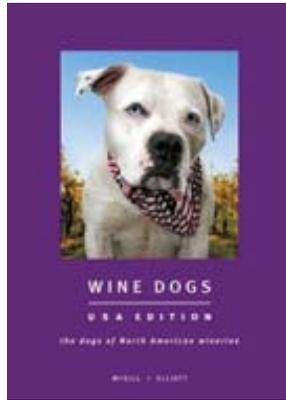
Memberships at the NC Museum of Natural Science or Museum of History make a great thoughtful gift, as do the plentiful items available in their gift shops

Add a holiday gift twist to your list this year by purchasing a N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences or N.C. Museum of History membership for that nature lover or history buff in your life. Each membership offers free admission to traveling exhibits like the Dead Sea Scrolls; discounts in the museum gift shop and on classes, workshops, trips and museum



birthday parties; free admission to 250 other science museums; a complimentary subscription to Naturalist magazine; and access to annual holiday sales with increased discounts. There's even a little gift for you, since museum memberships are tax-deductible! Memberships are \$55 for families and \$45 for individuals.

While you're at the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences, discover its best-kept secret – the gift shop! Choose from an assortment of items for everyone on your list: educational toys, games and books for the kids; natural gemstone jewelry and leaf leather handbags for the ladies; eclectic ties, cufflinks and key chains for the gents; and nature-inspired original arts and crafts from Bulldog Pottery, Freechild Pottery, Nine Toes Pottery and etchings by Jay Pfeil for those special couples on your list. Learn more at www.naturalsciences.org.
Perfectly Paired

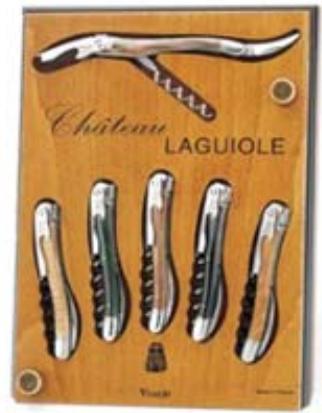


Wine Dogs available at Seaboard Wine

Quirky in a classy sort of way, "Wine Dogs USA Edition" exposes the dogs of North American wineries. Available at Seaboard Wine Warehouse in Seaboard Station, this popular 536-page book features 300 wineries across the United States with more than 450 photos of their loyal hounds. The wine — and dog — connoisseur on your gift list will enjoy this photographic journal and story-packed hardback, pre-packaged with two postcards and a bookmark for \$39. Visit www.seaboardwine.com for more information.

A Very Dry Wine—Decanter

Here's a useful gift for the wine lover on your list. This 12.5x 7-inch decanter drying stand keeps condensation from forming inside the decanter after you wash it. Just turn it upside down for the night and you'll find it completely dry the next morning. This gift is also available at Seaboard Wine Warehouse in Seaboard Station for just \$12.95.



French Twist

Seaboard Wine Warehouse also offers an exhaustive selection of corkscrews. The Laguiole (pronounced "lie-OLE") corkscrew was made in the south-central French town of Laguiole, known for manufacturing the country's finest cutlery. These distinctive corkscrews, which first appeared in 1880, were hand assembled by the town's craftsmen and required a minimum of 105 operations. Seamless and easy to use, each design offers heirloom quality and comes with its own leather case and are available in blue, black horn, olive wood, rosewood, natural wood and stainless steel for \$129.00.

■RD

Free Wine Tasting
Nips & Nibbles
5:00-7:00
Every Thursday

The Balcony @ the Pig

NOFO @ the Pig
 2014 Fairview Road
 821.1240 www.nofocom.com

North Carolina Homegrown Gifts

No parking problems with mail-order gifts from our great state

By Fred Benton
Food Editor

I don't mind shopping, but sometimes it's tough to find parking spaces and not worth the risk of potentially risking your life fighting for a bargain. I think surfing the web for bargains at sites like overstock.com and ebay is ideal for finding interesting goods you might not find on local shelves; the best part is that you can shop locally on the state level while sitting in your chair enjoying a relaxing cup of coffee. Below are some



mail-order businesses located in our state that I recommend and have used personally.

OMNI FARM

omnifarm.com

This is a mail-order company that's family-operated by the Gimlin family in NC's Blue Ridge Mountains. They're famous for their Fraser firs, ornamental wreaths and garlands. They also offer the Kinner Tree Stand (\$79), which is the S-class Mercedes in terms of tree stands. It's super-easy to use, will hold up to a ten-foot tall tree and up to two-and-a-half gallons of water. The last week of shipping is Dec. 15-19. All the greenery is hand cut and brought in fresh from the fields. For more information, call 1.800.873.3327

SOUTHERN SUPREME FRUITCAKE COMPANY

southern supreme.com

A fruitcake from Southern Supreme, a Bear Creek mail-order family-run business, is a must for me! It's just not a holiday without one! This nutty cake is the fruitcake for those folks who hate fruitcake — like me. I think the difference between a Southern Supreme fruitcake and those other dreadful ones is the nut content; Southern Supreme



doesn't skimp on the nuts. Last year I ordered a fruitcake from Southern Supreme just for myself; it was so good I didn't share. Contact them at 1.877.815.0922

Continued on page 8

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL ARTS

SCENE BY SIPPING LARRY'S COFFEE

(We Provide Day Jobs For Some Of Raleigh's Most Talented Artists)

Larry's beans.

FAIR TRADE, ORGANIC, SCREAMIN' GOOD COFFEE

Shelton's Furniture Company

New and used furniture and one-of-a-kind antiques such as these square ceramic mod lamps - \$59 each

NEW & ANTIQUE ~ CLASSIC & ECLECTIC
607 W. Morgan St. • Raleigh NC 27603

Receive 10% off when you mention this ad!
FREE DELIVERY TO DOWNTOWN AREA*

833-5548
Mon-Sat 10-6

Two Menus
One Experience

Second Empire
RESTAURANT AND TAVERN

330 Hillsborough Street
www.second-empire.com
(919) 829-3663

15% OFF WITH THIS AD!

NO PLACE LIKE HOME

pet sitting service for downtown raleigh

natalie wade
919.827.5452
www.noplacelikehomenc.com



CAROLINA COOKIE COMPANY

carolinacookie.com

This Greensboro-based mail order company bakes some of the best cookies I've ever tasted. My personal favorites are the Butter Pecan and Triple Chocolate Pecan. They even offer sugar-free selections. For the gift that keeps on giving, consider their Cookie of the Month program. Call 1.800.447.5797 for more details.

MRS. HANES' HOME-MADE MORAVIAN COOKIES

hanescookie.com

Made as they were a century ago, these Moravian cookies, made in Winston-Salem, are the most famous of the super-thin, ginger-rich sweets. My mother loved them, but I disliked them as a child. Now, with a glass of milk, Moravian cookies are the most popular with Santa. And Mrs. Hanes makes the best — and in a variety of flavors. Place an order at 1.888.764.1402



ADAMS RIB RUBB

ribrub.com

Garner resident Michael Adams developed his prized rub (a mixture of dry seasonings) in his own kitchen and taste-tested his product by literally barbecuing ribs, chicken, beef and pork on the side of the road. Everyone loved the flavor! His rub is made with a unique formula: it's dry when you rub it on, then it liquifies. "Don't risk it, Rubb it!" Call 1.888.742.7822 for more information.



LARRY'S BEANS

larrysbeans.com

Larry Larson and his Raleigh crew are "Coffee artists on a mission." I think Larry's Beans offers the best coffees that can be brewed. Plus I like the fact that Larry

is committed to "fair trade," meaning that coffee growers with small farms can band together with other small growers in a co-op to compete with the big guys, and Larry makes sure they are all paid a fair price for the fruits of their labor. He frequently visits coffee farms around the world to make sure conditions and wages are as they should be. Yep, we're big fans of Larry's. Our publisher Crash swears by this coffee year-round. Stop by the office and you'll find a fresh pot of Larry's brewing every day of the week. I recommend their holiday blend, which is available through December 31st; it's always a huge hit. You can reach them at 919.828.1234



■RD



TS. "I could tell you stories. But that would be breaking bartender/client privilege."
- Jay, the beer whisperer

IT IS THE BEST OF TIMES. PERIOD.

raleightimesbar.com

THE RALEIGH TIMES
TODAY'S NEWS TO-DAY

Live Work Play
DowntownRaleigh.com
just got better...

on your iphone!

DowntownRaleigh.com

alter EGO
FEATURING EXPERT STYLIST MARY-TAYLOR

First appointment \$25 OFF CUT with Mary-Taylor
OR \$35 OFF COLOR

Expires February 15, 2009

alter EGO
HAIR / NAILS / MAKEUP
119 E. Hargett Street
Downtown Raleigh
(919)832-6239

10 QUESTIONS: Paul Maurice



CAROLINA HURRICANES HEAD COACH



by Crash Gregg

For this issue's edition of **10 QUESTIONS**, we interviewed the Hurricane's returning coach Paul Maurice after a recent hockey practice session and posed ten sports and personal questions. The Downtowner has a long-standing relationship with the Canes and we expect nothing short of great results from Paul.

1 How did you initially get involved with hockey?

PAUL MAURICE: Playing as a kid. I'm from northern Ontario; you're born with a coupon for skates up there. The transition into coaching came when Jimmy Rutherford fired me as a player and hired me as an assistant coach.

2 What was your proudest moment in coaching?

The crowd noise before Game Three of the 2002 Stanley Cup Finals against Detroit. I hope I get to hear that again, but I don't think there's another city that could match that noise level. A personal achievement I'm proud of is when I was coaching in the All-Star Game in 1997 and flew my mom and dad out to San Jose. The Legends game was going on before the All Star game. I walked out of the room just to catch my dad watching all the NHL legends going onto the ice right beside him – everyone of his hockey heroes. My dad was born in Montreal so when Gordie Howe and Jean Beliveau and the rest of his idols walked by, he became a five-year-old boy again. It was great to see him so happy and so in awe.

3 What's your first order of business now that you're back with the Canes?

Well, there was a list of things that Jim Rutherford asked me to work on. Containing the other team when we don't have the puck is our first focus. Secondly, we need to make sure that we maintain our attack mentality. A lot of what this team does well is go forward and attack, and we want to make sure we keep that intact.

4 What do you miss the most about Canada?

Just my family – but definitely not the cold.

5 What do you like best about being in Raleigh?

That it's not cold (laughs). Actually, there are two things: the first is the weather. I think about how many days of the year we have blue skies here, seeing that always puts me in a good mood. Six weeks into being back in Canada, I just felt terrible but couldn't figure out why. And then we had a sunny day, and it shocked me how much better I felt. The next best thing to the weather is the people in the area; everyone here is so nice. Those were the two things I loved from the moment I got off the plane.

6 Do you have a favorite food you can only find in Canada?

There's a burger chain up there that I'm partial to called Harvey's. I wish that would get imported to the U.S., but in the meantime, I'm going to have to do some research on all the local burger joints in Raleigh to see if I can find a favorite.

7 Have you found a favorite food here that you didn't have in Canada?

Barbeque! My first introduction to it was at a small restaurant in Cary called Davis Family Bar-B-Q. I've also discovered these chocolate-covered cherries from A Southern Season that I wish you could find in Canada. My wife would always special order them when we were back in Canada.

8 What's your favorite movie?

I like all of the Harry Potter movies because they make my kids so happy. I don't really watch them myself, but seeing how much my kids enjoy them makes them enjoyable to me.

9 What team would you love to face off against and beat to win the Stanley Cup?

There's only one team that I got fired by and am not currently working for, but that game will never happen (Toronto Maple Leafs). I think every year you want to face the defending Stanley Cup champions, and this year it's the Detroit Red Wings.

10 Other than hockey, what's your favorite spectator sport?

There are a few sporting events that I don't particularly watch, but I respect the athletes' focus and dedication to their training. Other than that, I enjoy watching golf.

MRD



By Fred Benton
Food Editor

When my publisher Crash first assigned me to review Irregardless Café, I have to

admit I was someone hesitant because I hadn't eaten there in awhile and had a preconceived notion that the patrons were all Birkenstockers quaffing mineral water and eating sprouts. I was wrong, wrong, wrong! About everything! Since the last time I went to Irregardless, my opinion on the restaurant has changed. I was considerably younger back then – a secret fast food junkie, a chain smoker and a confirmed carnivore – so I felt out of place at Irregardless back then. I ignored Arthur and his mission to bring healthy dining to Raleigh. What a mistake.

But since my first visit, Irregardless has changed too. Chicken and red meat have found their way onto Irregardless' menu, which offers options more acceptable to the diverse dining-out population. And I've discov-



ered that I actually prefer to dine more lightly and more healthfully than I did when I was a youth. In perusing the menu I moved quickly past the **Grilled Lamb Chop** and the specialty of the house, **Chicken Marsala**, to hone in on **Butternut "Ark"** (\$12), a vegan

preparation described as a small butternut squash oven-roasted, de-seeded and filled with a variety of sautéed vegetables (green chayote, yellow squashes, onions, tomatoes and peppers), all served on a bed of barley/mushroom/lentil and carrot pilaf with a side

of cranberry/ginger chutney. For me, this dish was addictive and I'm sitting here now thinking of when I can go back and get this again. I loved the butternut squash and the contrasting crunchy nuttiness of this dish.

One of our favorite entrees of the evening was a special served on Friday and Saturday evenings only, **Paella** (\$21), a Spanish rice dish with chicken and seafood. At Irregardless, the seafood includes shrimp, scallops and mussels. The chicken is relegated to chicken wings. I tried a chicken wing, which to me was quite remarkable: succulent flesh hidden by a toasted, seasoned skin. I could dine on these babies all night long! Fantastic! Another favorite of Crash (and his son) was the **Asian Stir-Fry Stir-Fry Lo Mein** (\$16), which was more than plenty for two.

But I'm ahead of myself. The evening's dinner began with **Warm Goat Cheese Salad** (\$8) which is fresh goat cheese covered with herbs then seared and toasted, served on fresh greens with Craisins, spicy

Continued on page 11

When it's too far to Walk but too close to drive, Wake County's only 100% environmentally friendly Transportation company is the best way to get around downtown Raleigh.

Now providing 7 day a week shuttle service for the five downtown districts and surrounding neighborhoods. Our Drivers act as concierge and safely take you to the doorstep of any downtown business as well as provide recommendations.

Call 919-623-5555 for a dispatched pick-up and LET'S TAKE A RIDE.

Advertising on a Rickshaw is the best way to bring attention to your business, product or event. Call us now about '09 availability. We are available for weddings and special events.

623-5555 www.raleighrickshaw.com

BETTER LIVING

BEST OF THE BEST! And now our new READER POLL!! (see below) Fred Benton knows the Triangle! Benton, long-time lifestyle journalist covering the Triangle for over 20 years, has definite ideas about businesses that he feels are particularly consumer-friendly and offer superlative product and service. This list is the sole property and decision-making of Fred Benton and BetterlivingNC Productions and is not affiliated with the Raleigh Downtowner. This list is a companion information guide that Benton presents on WCKB radio and is heard throughout southeastern NC.

Angus Barn - Glenwood Avenue, close to RDU International Airport, 787-3505. *The BEST steaks!*

42nd Street Oyster Bar - 508 West Jones Street, Raleigh, 831-2811. 42ndstoysterbar.com *BEST Seafood Salad!*

The Point at Glenwood - 1626 Glenwood Avenue at Five Points, Raleigh, 755-1007. *BEST Reuben Sandwich!*

larrybeans.com - 828-1234. *Your web site for BEST coffees.*

Lilly's Pizza - Five Points, Raleigh, 833-0226. *lillyspizza.com BEST pizza! BEST house side salad! BEST beer selection!*

Waraji Japanese Restaurant - Duraleigh Road, corner of Duraleigh and Pleasant Valley roads, 783-1883. *"If you knew sushi like I know sushi." BEST sushi! warajirestaurant.com*

Nina's Ristorante - 801 Leadmine Road, Harvest Plaza, 845-1122. *BEST NY-style Italian!*

Trish the Dish Catering - Raleigh, 852-0369. *Fabulous fun food for the budget-minded!*

Cafe Tiramisu - North Ridge Shpg Ctr, near Ace Hardware, Falls of Neuse Road, 981-0305. *BEST stuffed pork chop! BEST fried cheese souffle!*

William and Garland Motel - Hwy.58, Salter Path, 252-247-3733. *BEST budget-friendly family accommodations on the Crystal Coast!*

The Black Mountain Inn - 828-669-6528. *Best in Black Mountain! Pet-friendly! www.blackmountaininn.com*

The Lamplight Inn - Henderson 252-438-6311. *Pet-friendly, great breakfasts! www.lamplightinn.net*

Springfield Inn - a bed and breakfast, 252-426-8471, *springfield@springfieldbb.com. In Hertford, BEST breakfast! Farm-fresh everything!*

Dakota Grill - 9549 Chapel Hill Road (Hwy. 54), intersection with Cary Parkway, 463-9526. *BEST exotic burger (double bison burger), and BEST chili for pepperheads.*

Simpson's Beef & Seafood - at Creedmoor and Millbrook roads, 783-8818. *BEST prime rib! BEST coconut shrimp!*

Apex Chiropractic - Apex, 362-9066. *I could hardly walk. Acupuncture saved my life!*

Vic's Italian Café & Restaurant - City Market at 331 Blake Street, 829-1790. *BEST Lobster Ravioli, BEST Ricotta Cheesecake, BEST Chicken Piccata*

Tasca Brava - 607 Glenwood Ave., 828-0840. *tascabrava.com BEST Sangria, BEST Paella*

Broadway Series South - Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts, 831-6060. *BEST dramatic arts performances; stellar 09 season that includes "Chorus Line" and "Wizard."*

READER EMAIL POLL: At what restaurant do you feel you get the best value for your money? Please send your vote to betterlivingnc@yahoo.com.

glazed walnuts and dressed with a creamy shallot vinaigrette presented was a symphony of exquisite flavors. Magnifique!

Just like the food, the atmosphere is top-notch, too. Live music is on hand nightly. We were treated to the fun, unstuffy sounds of the Don Martin Duo, which consisted of a clarinet and guitar. From time to time they would leave the stage and weave through the tables to take requests and literally play to that particular table. Everyone felt singled out and important. All in all there was a joie de vie I've never felt in any other restaurant. But perhaps that was felt most remarkably at

our table because Arthur sat with us, as did his wife, Anya, whose conversation we all enjoyed.

I'm officially a convert now, a devoted Irregardless fan — and happily a fan of Arthur and Anya. I thank them both for a memorable, fun evening that gave me a reason to be jolly this holiday season.

Irregardless Café

Lunch: Tue - Fri 11:30am - 2:30pm
 Dinner: Tu - Th 5:30 - 9:30pm,
 Fri & Sat 5:30 - 10pm
 Sunday Brunch: 10am - 2pm
 919.833.8898
www.irregardlesscafe.com

■RD

The Butternut Ark is a healthy and popular dish



Irregardless owners Arthur and Anya Gordon have been a mainstay in the Raleigh restaurant scene since 1974

Russell Goetcheus & Velásquez
Attorneys at Law

Your best choice for family, traffic,
 criminal and business law needs

919.754.3904
 Located in the Lane Building
 727 W. Hargett Street, Suite 109
 Raleigh NC 27603

Free initial consultation with this ad

VISA / MC / Discover accepted, Payment plans available

RUSSELL GOETCHEUS & VELÁSQUEZ
 ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Hello 2009!
 Change we can
 all party to.

Ready to say adiós to 2008?
 Then join us December 31 for
 Raleigh's biggest party of the year.

You'll need a button to party:

FIRST NIGHT®
RALEIGH
2009

Featuring a
 performance by
 The Smithereens!

\$9 in advance at
 your local Harris Teeter or Rite Aid
 and etix.com starting Dec. 1.

At the event: \$12 for adults
 \$10 for kids up to 12 years old
 5 and under free

Sponsors:
 Progress Energy
 WRAL-TV5 / MIX 101.5
 Time Warner Cable
 The News & Observer
 City of Raleigh
 City of Raleigh Arts Commission
 North Carolina Arts Council
 United Arts Council
 of Raleigh and Wake County
 RBC Bank
 Squirt

www.firstnightraleigh.com
 An Artsposure Event

SEASONS CHANGE. TASTES DON'T.

The Anytime Lime

The days are shorter and the temperatures lower, but Bud Light Lime is always refreshing. It's the superior drinkability of Bud Light with the refreshing taste of lime. One taste and you'll find the summer state of mind, any time. It's in "The Lime."





dine • lounge • roof

solas
419 glenwood ave
919.755.0755

mon-sun
restaurant & roof
4pm-2am

thurs-sat
lounge 9pm-2am

solasraleigh.com

**DOWNTOWNER AFTER-WORK
SPECIAL FOR TWO \$49**
5:00-6:30 pm

CHOICE OF ONE APPETIZER

Hot Rock with Filet and Gulf Shrimp
BBQ Duck Quesadilla with Mango Avocado Salsa
Tuna Tartare with Citrus Oil and Fried Wontons
Mussels with Masuman Curry Cream

CHOICE OF TWO SALADS

Mixed Green with Pecan Vinaigrette and Goat Cheese
Caesar Salad with White Anchovies
Beet and Feta Salad with Champagne Vinaigrette
Duck Consommé with Vegetable Paysanne and Duck Confit

CHOICE OF TWO ENTREES

Grilled Filet Mignon (6 oz.) with Cognac-Truffle Butter
Fall Vegetable Risotto with Wild Mushrooms and Root Vegetables
Bronzed Tuna Steak (6 oz.) with Shiitake Merlot Reduction & Garlic Aioli
Seared Wild Boar Chop (8 oz.) and Hedgehog Mushroom Glaze
Sautéed Sea Scallops with Charred Tomatillos and Corn Salsa

CHOICE OF TWO SIDES

Grilled Asparagus with Gruner Butter
Loaded Yukon Gold Potatoes
Creamy Lobster Risotto
White Truffle House-cut Fries with Fines Herbes
Mushroom Mèlange Sautéed with Madeira
Sugar Snap Peas with Marcona Almonds

JOIN US FOR A UNIQUE NEW YEAR'S EVE DINING EXPERIENCE.

New Year's Eve
DINNERS

BY SOLAS RESTAURANT
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31ST

Early Menu: \$55 pp Feature Menu: \$75 pp
3 Courses 4 Courses
4 - 6:30 PM 7 - 11 PM

Dinners by reservation only which can be made at the front desk, or by calling 919.755.0755.

**Choose An Aggressive Attorney
with Integrity**

WILLIAM D. YOUNG IV
Attorney at Law

Former Wake County Criminal Magistrate
Former Small Claims Court Magistrate

DWI DEFENSE
TRAFFIC • CRIMINAL LAW

We can help you avoid higher
insurance rates & unnecessary court
appearances at a reasonable cost



919-856-3945

FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION

www.hatchlittlebunn.com
wyoung@hatchlittlebunn.com

Free Parking

327 Hillsborough St.
PO Box 527
Raleigh NC 27603

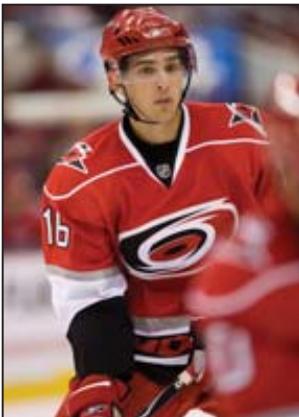
**HATCH,
& LITTLE
& BUNN, LLP.**





AROUNDTOWN **AROUND** TOWNAROUND TOWNAROUND

Hurricanes photos from recent games (Photos by Downtowner photographer Jeff Basladyński from jbaz.net)





AROUND TOWN AROUND TOWN **AROUND** TOWN AROUND



Contemporary Art Museum's New Home Soon To Be a Reality



By Joyce Kohn

In 1997, the Contemporary Art Museum (CAM) purchased a 20,000 square-foot warehouse on West Martin Street in Raleigh's historic warehouse district to become the site for its permanent home. The museum's historic warehouse renovation is being designed by the bi-coastal architectural teams Clearscapes of Raleigh and Pugh+Scarpa of Santa Monica, CA, lead by Raleigh's own Steve Schuster.

In tackling the renovation design, the architects were charged with designing a modern contemporary museum while respecting the simplicity and heritage of the existing structure. As the photographs show, the design team has achieved CAM's vision.

CAM is a non-collecting museum of contemporary

art and design. Its exhibitions reflect the leading edge of visual arts and design practice, and its educational programs offer a unique perspective on the role of creativity in everyday life. When CAM settles into its permanent home in downtown Raleigh, it will offer residents and visitors dynamic exhibitions and installations, inspired interactions with resident artists, designers and curators from a variety of fields, expanded offerings of after-school and Saturday programming for K-12 students in addition to internships, student docent programs, and continuing education for teachers. When the museum is completed, it will be the cornerstone to the Warehouse District's revitalization.

The Contemporary Art Foundation board has initiated a \$5.2 million capital campaign to renovate the existing structure that will accommodate all of CAM's operational goals. Included in the campaign are expenses for the entire museum up-fit and

equipment, three years of building operating expenses as well as an endowment to ensure future support.

The Foundation board and its capital campaign committee have raised over \$2.5 million dollars towards its renovation goal. In addition to a \$1 million grant from the City of Raleigh, it recently received a \$500,000 grant from the Goodnight Family Foundation to meet a matching grant for 2008. The building renovation plans have also recently been approved to qualify for approximately \$750,000 in historic tax credits.

To help be a part, learn more, get involved or simply donate, please visit www.contemporaryartfoundation.org or contact Joyce Kohn at 919.827.0256 or jkohn@kohnassociates.net. ■RD

Above: East/rear view of the CAM building rendering
Below: Interior gallery area



A Capital Christmas!

December not only marks the beginning of winter weather in Raleigh, but also a time of rich holiday celebrations throughout the city. Founded in 1792 as the state capital, people slowly migrated to Raleigh and brought with them Christmas traditions that became indigenous to the city.

In 1881, Christmas became an official state holiday. Prior to Christmas being recognized by the state, it was considered a private, family holiday. Some of the city's earliest family traditions included firing guns before dawn as children banged thick boards against the frozen ground. Those who could afford firecrackers used them as noisemakers as well. Aside from a loud awakening to mark Christmas morning, some Raleigh residents would also greet friends and family by shouting, "Christmas gift!" Then whoever received this greeting would traditionally give the greeter a Christmas present. This custom supposedly began with the enslaved, who hoped their owners would give them simple gifts such as articles of clothing.

Regardless of one's social status, early presents seem humble when compared to more recent traditions. Ellen Mordecai, a member of a prominent Raleigh family, told her grandchildren that gifts were not meant to be extravagant. Antebellum stocking stuffers may have included raisins, an orange, peppermint candy, a book, and perhaps a doll. Gift giving on a larger scale did not appear until the turn of the twentieth century when stores such as Briggs Hardware began to advertise their toys and goods in conjunction with the holiday season.

In addition to gift giving, Christmas meals also represented the spirit of the season. For many, breakfast and dinner consisted of sausage, chitterlings, biscuits, and battercakes. Wealthier families enjoyed elaborate meals that included ham, roast turkey, cranberries, and various vegetables. Not to be outdone by the main course, desserts included delicious treats such as plum pudding, stewed apples with cream and cheesecake pudding.

As the antebellum period transitioned into the tumultuous Civil War, holiday celebrations assumed a more somber tone. Yet Raleigh families tried to harness the holiday spirit despite many shortages and the Union blockade. Sadly, some children woke up Christmas morning to no gifts. Not surprisingly, the *Raleigh Register* also noted that desertions increased during the holiday season.

Between the Civil War and World War I, Christmas celebrations had a similar appearance to many customs held today. The first Christmas tree arrived in Raleigh in 1879 when a St. Mary's teacher introduced the Germanic tradition to students who stayed at the school over the holidays. Gifts gradually became more extravagant and children may have found toys such as tops, marbles, harmonicas, and dolls waiting for them Christmas morning.

While many of our holiday celebrations echo the past, Raleigh is constantly developing new traditions. Historic Oakwood is offering candlelight tours for its thirty-seventh year; First Night, the New Year's Eve celebration, has existed since 1990; and let us not forget the annual lighting of the State Capitol tree in December.

Here at the Raleigh City Museum, families will learn about holiday lights with Ann Fearington, local author of *Christmas Lights* and *Who Sees the Lighthouse?* on Saturday, Dec. 13, at 1:00pm. Ann will explore local holiday traditions and read her book *Christmas Lights*, which highlights local holiday favorites such as the WRAL tower and Pullen Park train. Families will also engage in fun holiday activities and enjoy tasty treats. Admission to the program and refreshments are free. You can also take home *Christmas Lights* and at a special 50% off holiday discount.

The Raleigh City Museum is located at 220 Fayetteville Street in downtown Raleigh and is open from 10am-4pm Tuesday through Friday, and 1-4pm on Saturdays. If you have any questions, please call 919-832-3775 or check out our website at www.raleighcitymuseum.org.



1930s Santa with local Raleigh children



Mid twentieth century Fayetteville Street holiday decorations



W.T Grant Company parade float, titled "Santa's Doll Land"



NC High Country Skiing



By Jack Glasure

North Carolina's ski season started early this year as cold weather invaded the mountains well before

Thanksgiving. This created the perfect scenario for a late November ski trip to the High Country, where I decided to tackle two of the state's most popular ski resorts: Sugar Mountain and Ski Beech.

I left Raleigh Friday afternoon and rolled into Banner Elk three-and-a-half hours later. The 210-mile trip was surprisingly easy – especially the stretch of U.S. 421 from Winston-Salem to Boone, which is now four lanes all the way.

As darkness descended, our party checked into the

Blueberry Villa, a posh eight-room Italian villa located at Banner Elk Winery. The villa is run by Dede Walton; her husband Dick Wolfe operates the winery. By 6:30p.m., we were in the winery and enjoying a tasting with Wolfe, whose wines have won multiple gold and double-gold medals at the North Carolina State Fair. We sampled several excellent wines including Seyval Blanc, Chardonnay, Banner Elk White, Banner Elk Red, and the Cabernet Sauvignon. The winery is a pioneer in the High Country, and Wolfe works with local tobacco farm-

ers to convert their crops to grapes. Back at the villa, dinner was catered and we enjoyed a low-key evening around the table as a fire crackled in the main room.

Saturday morning, we made the ten-minute drive from Banner Elk up to Beech Mountain for a day at Ski Beech. The ascent up Beech Mountain was beautiful as the sun reflected off the snow-covered

Continued on page 19

Sign Up for Free Reader Rewards!

the Downtowner is proud to continue yet another issue of Reader Rewards. Each month, we give away gifts and services to our loyal readers, with this month's Rewards worth over \$750.

To sign up for Reader Rewards, just visit our website at www.RaleighDowntowner.com and click on the SIGN UP NOW! button. You'll be eligible to win Reader Rewards each month as well as receive our online news magazine. The Downtowner will help keep you informed about all the latest news and events happening in and around Raleigh.

THIS MONTH'S READER REWARDS

- Four tickets to an upcoming **NC Theatre** production. Locally-produced and directed theatre productions. www.nctheatre.com
- Four tickets to an upcoming **Broadway Series South** show. Broadway quality shows brought directly to you. www.broadwayseriesouth.com
- Four tickets to an upcoming **Carolina Ballet** performance. Experience world-class ballet here in Raleigh. www.carolinaballet.com



- Four \$25 gift certificates for services at **Salon 21**, located in the heart of Glenwood South. Trendy and cutting edge, Salon 21 knows your hair speaks volumes about your style. www.salon21raleigh.com

- Two \$30 Segway Guided Tours from **Triangle Segway**, located in City Market next to Moore Square. Take a memorable sightseeing adventure of Raleigh's historic landmarks on an eco-friendly self-balancing Segway. www.trianglsegway.com

- Two \$25 OFF gift certificates towards a cut, and two \$35 OFF gift certificates for color at **Alter Ego Salon with expert stylist Mary-Taylor**. For new customers only.

- Four \$25 gift certificates to **Solas**. Dine, lounge, roof. Raleigh's all-inclusive three-floor restaurant, dance lounge and rooftop experience. www.solasraleigh.com

We'd like to thank our readers and advertisers for making the Downtowner a huge success. Reader Rewards are our way of saying thanks. **Be sure to sign up and win your share!** www.RaleighDowntowner.com

ground. Ski Beech, at 5,506 feet, is the highest ski area in Eastern North America. The Costin family, who owns the resort, invested on new snow guns and snow-grooming equipment, and the results are obvious. The base was already covered in over 20 inches of snow and several trails were open.

The nice thing about Ski Beech is the ride to the summit. A high-speed quad zooms up the mountain, where you unload into a covered chalet. The view is



spectacular from the top, although I didn't make too many runs from there. I preferred the intermediate trails that cut a wide swath across the mountain. Ski Beech added tubing this year and a second terrain park, where I saw snowboarders taking full advantage of the mounds and features. There's also an ice skating rink at the center of the resort's Alpine village. All in all, Ski Beech provided an excellent skiing experience. The resort has enough open space to handle a lot of skiers so we never felt cramped.

Although Ski Beech offers night skiing, we elected for a cozy fireplace dinner at Jackalope's View. Located midway down the mountain, Jackalope's overlooks Banner Elk and Sugar Mountain. We enjoyed a superb meal of pecan-crusted fresh mountain trout, shrimp ziti pasta and all-natural pork tenderloin with black bean puree and chimichuri sauce. Now I know why the restaurant has the word "view" in its name. We gazed at a 180-degree view highlighted by night skiing at Sugar, our next destination.

Sunday morning, we made the short drive to Sugar Mountain Resort. Sugar has a summit elevation of 5,300 feet and boasts the most vertical drop in the High Country: 1,200 feet. Sugar also has the only double-black diamond run in North Carolina, but I left that to the experts.

Sugar Mountain's operation – which included a terrain park, ice skating, snowshoeing and tubing – was very efficient. That made for a great day of skiing before making a final run at 2p.m. and heading



for the parking lot. Less than four hours later we were back in Raleigh, although the High Country was still on our minds.

For detailed info on skiing in the NC High Country, visit www.skiithehighcountry.com.

One Tank Trips is a regular column about road trips to great destinations within a gas tank's range of Raleigh. Send us your ideas for future trips or stops along the way that we shouldn't miss to onetanktrips@raleighdowntowner.com.

Jack Glasure is Chief Marketing Officer at French/West/Vaughan and can be contacted at jglasure@fjw-us.com.

■RD

All photos courtesy Todd Bush

The wait is over...

Sitti
authentic Lebanese
— NEOMONDE

137 S. Wilmington St., Downtown Raleigh, 919.239.4070
www.sitti-raleigh.com - www.empire-eats.com



The Deep South Local Music Review

Each month, we look at three local bands within a wide range of music types, from rock to reggae, country to classic. You won't find any negative or bad reviews here, just bands worth hearing in your favorite local music hangout. Enjoy the reviews, check out the bands when they're in town and be sure to mention you read about them in the Raleigh Downtowner Deep South Local Music Review.

Artist: **Pico vs. Island Trees** Album: **Just Wait** Genre: **Pop/Rock** www.myspace.com/pico



Bryan Carter (lead vocalist/guitar) and Jeremy Bullock (guitar/vocals) knew they wanted to form a band after playing together in their seventh-grade talent show. But it wasn't until the duo watched a film in class about the 1982 Supreme Court case against the Island Trees School District that they found an appropriate name for their band.

After the group – better known to friends and fans as Pico – stumbled upon Brian Howell (bass/vocals), the trio began spreading their sunny pop/rock sound across the east coast, eventually gaining a large following in Raleigh, their hometown.

But the guys' big break came when Los Angeles producer David Kershenbaum (Duran Duran, Joe Jackson) heard one of their songs on the radio. Just a short time later, they were boarding a plane to California.

After eight months and a new album made with the help of Mark Endert (Maroon 5, The Fray), Pico was ready to head out with its two new members: Tommy Perkinson (drums) and John Henry Trinko (keyboard).

Catch them when they return to Raleigh January 8th for the Rock the Ball event at Lincoln Theatre presented by the Junior League of Raleigh.

Artist: **Little Brother** Album: **And Justus for All** Genre: **Hip-Hop/Rap/Soul** www.myspace.com/littlebrother

This Durham-based group first came together in 1998 when Phonte and Big Pooh performed for a local hip-hop group. The guys worked together here and there on different projects but didn't officially team up as Little Brother until August 2001.

Just two years later, they hit it big with their ABB Records release *The Listening*, which quickly caught the attention of artists like The Roots and Jay-Z. Major record sales and positive feedback from the mainstream media earned them a deal with Atlantic Records in 2004.

Drawing much of their influence from artists like De La Soul and A Tribe Called Quest, Little Brother blends that classic, characteristic hip-hop sound with topical lyrics. They released *And Justus for All* in June – their fourth complete album since 2003.



Artist: **Thad Cockrell** Album: **To Be Loved** Genre: **Country/Rock** www.myspace.com/thadcockrell



As the son of a Baptist preacher, Cockrell wasn't exposed to a lot of rock or country music growing up. It wasn't until he discovered country music on commercial radio that he was introduced to artists like Merle Haggard and George Jones.

Although Lynchburg, VA – where Cockrell attended Liberty University – wasn't exactly a music mecca, Cockrell managed to find enough musical inspiration for songwriting. When he moved to Wake Forest, NC, to attend the Southeast Baptist Theological Seminary, he spent many of his nights playing these tunes for tips at a coffeehouse near the campus.

Ready to advance his music career, Cockrell moved to Nashville and quickly gained popularity. His recent EP *To Be Loved* brings together his two passions: faith and music. His sweet-spirited voice and honest lyrics are just as soothing as they are uplifting.

After two months of opening full-house gigs nationwide for Matt Wertz this past summer, he has returned to NC – this time settling in Raleigh – to make a new life and new music.

The Deep South Local Music Review is written by Dave Rose with contributions by Elizabeth Barrett. Dave is the co-founder and co-owner of Deep South Entertainment. Formed in 1995, Deep South Entertainment is a record label, artist management company, and concert event production company with offices in Raleigh, North Carolina, and Nashville, Tennessee. Deep South is best known locally as producers of the Bud Light Downtown Live summer concert series, featuring national recording artists. Their latest addition to downtown Raleigh is Deep South–The Bar. Elizabeth is a UNC student working part time for Deep South and the Downtown Live concert series.



What Gen Y & Z are listening to...

By Elizabeth Barrett (Deep South Entertainment)

Wonder what music college and high school students are listening to and downloading onto their iPods? Each month we'll give you a quick look as to what you're likely to hear blaring out of dorm room windows on college campuses and out of car windows throughout the Triangle.



Artist: **Diplo**
Album: **Florida**
(Electronica/
Psychedelic/
Reggae)

www.myspace.com/diplo



Artist: **Jump Little Children**
Album: **Between the Dim & the Dark**
(Alternative/Rock)

www.myspace.com/jump



Artist: **moe.**
Album: **Sticks and Stones**
(Jam Band/
Pop/Rock)

www.myspace.com/moe

FULL FLAVOR
99 CALORIES
3.1g CARBS



THE EXCEPTION TO THE RULE

Conventional wisdom says a full flavor beer can't be low in calories. Yet, Budweiser Select delivers the full-flavored taste you want in only 99 calories. Experience the exception to the rule. Budweiser Select.

RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS® ©2008 Anheuser-Busch, Inc., Budweiser Select® Beer, St. Louis, MO 99 calories, 3.1g carbs, 0.7g protein and 0.3g fat, per 12 oz.

Sitti - Authentic Lebanese

By Melissa Santos

Sitti, pronounced se-thē, is the latest restaurant from Empire Eats, and is a partnership with Neomande, a popular deli near Meredith College that offers authentic Lebanese and Mediterranean cuisine and groceries. Located at 137 S. Wilmington Street in downtown Raleigh, Sitti features a custom-made

family-style dining table in the restaurant's center consisting of a base which once rested in the Library of Congress and a refurbished antique bar – purchased and shipped from Chicago – and dates back to the 1930s. There is also an outdoor seating area in the rear of the restaurant and a private dining room in the basement downstairs.

Sitti, the Lebanese word for grandmother, is a reflection of how these caretakers of the family instilled in the younger generations a sense of connectedness and pride in their culture through food. In homage to their grandmothers, six Old-World photos of Greg Hatem and Saleeh's – the owners of Nemonde – sitti's line the restaurant's northern wall.

Chef Ghassan's menu is authentic to the delicious and abundant meals served at the long, communal tables of Lebanese families. Though each dish is based on a traditional recipe, Ghassan has fused the home country with the family's new homes in NC to



create a signature twist.

Lunch appetizers include everything from the Mediterranean staple **Hommos** (\$4.99), a purée of chick

peas whipped with sesame paste, garlic and lemon juice to Hot Mezze items such as **Cheese Rolls** (\$5.59), which are fried, crispy paper-thin pan-

Continued on page 23

III Euro Motors
Service and Sales

NOW OPEN!



- Convenient downtown location: Intersection of Capital and Crabtree Blvd (across from Bank of America)
- Sales of fine European luxury pre-owned autos
- Factory trained certified master technicians
- From preventive maintenance to complex diagnostics & engine repair
- Honesty and integrity at a fair price
- Complete computer diagnostics
- Warranty on all parts and labor
- Superior customer service


 Mercedes-Benz

 LAND-ROVER

2220 Capital Blvd Suite 106
 Raleigh, NC 27604
 info@EuroMotorsDowntown.com
 www.EuroMotorsDowntown.com

(919) 821 5222

Making your home cleaner is what we do best.

- Serving the Triangle for over 30 years
- Mildewcide for effective mildew removal
- Antique, Persian and fine wool rugs cleaned safely
- Complete interior upholstery cleaning
- Residential and commercial
- Pet odor removal
- Guaranteed results

Call or email us for a free quote and ask about our seasonal specials.

Mention this ad for 10% off



Mid-Atlantic Carpet Cleaning
Expert carpet, rug and upholstery cleaning
Emergency water removal

Terry Henderson
 DOWNTOWN OWNED AND OPERATED
 Tel 919-831-1981 Cell 919-612-3076
 terry@midatlanticcarpetcleaning.com



range from flatbread oven specialties to entrees like **Samkeh Harra** (\$14.99), a baked salmon filet topped with a blended sauce of onion, tomato, garlic, cilantro, and cayenne pepper. Sitti also features a variety of desserts including **Halwet el Jebn** (\$5.59), a sweetened cheese filled with milk pudding, orange blossom water syrup and crushed pistachio or **Ahsta** (\$5.59), layers of phyllo dough, milk pudding, bananas, honey, and pistachio.

This highly-anticipated restaurant is intended to be a reproduction of the close-knit Lebanese dinnerhalls where strangers are always welcome and treated like family. Everything from the warm decor to the long communal dining table makes patrons feel just that way.

Sitti
 137 S. Wilmington Street
 Raleigh, NC 27601
 919.239.4070
www.sitti-raleigh.com

Continued from page 22

cakes rolled in a mix of cheeses. For dinner, starter options are more plentiful. Try the **Feta Cheese Dip** (\$6.59)

blended with herbs and diced tomatoes, served with crispy pita chips or the **Kibbeh Nayyeh** (\$10.99), a Lebanese steak tartar made with cracked wheat and spices and topped with olive oil.

Lunch entrees include the standard **Chicken Kabob** (\$7.99), tender pieces of marinated chicken grilled on skewers served with garlic whip and served with Sitti rice, sumac, onion and grilled tomato. Dinner options

■RD

Go Gas-Free!

Segway Tours, Sales & Service

Triangle SEGWAY
 Triangle Segway at City Market
 327 Blake Street • 919-828-1988
www.trianglesegway.com

605 Glenwood Avenue
 919.239.4926
 7 days, 5pm to 2am

brooklyn heights
 spirits & everybody

A private club for members and their guests

Must be 21+ for membership
 Memberships available online
www.brooklynheightsbar.com

dress code is at management's discretion

BIG BOSS BREWING COMPANY
 TITLE BROWN ALE
BAD PENNY

BIG BOSS
 BREWING COMPANY

CRAFT BEER FROM RALEIGH, NC

BIGBOSSBREWING.COM



By Kelly Hubbard

When you're making a holiday shopping list, you'd better check it twice to ensure your fashion-conscious friends and family members get what they asked for. Since everyone has their own style and preferences, here are a few suggestions sure to please even the most particular of people.

TRENDY TREATS

The latest celebrity accessory is the headband, with stars like Mischa Barton and Nicole Ritchie sporting the look. If you have a fashion-forward girlfriend or sister who is not afraid to bring a Hollywood trend mainstream, this would be a perfect gift. Headbands can really make a statement with designs ranging from cloth to a single strand of jewels to glass beads. This get-noticed head jewelry can help your recipient channel their inner rock star or princess. Another trendy headwear gift is a slouchy knit hat or beret.

An oversized clutch shows off your fashion sense as well; any size clutch for that matter is a stylish way to vamp up an outfit for that holiday office party. If you want to find something chic but versatile, a clutch with a simple shape in a metallic like platinum, gold or bronze can create the same impact as a brilliant necklace. Don't be afraid of animal prints either; a sexy, leopard-print clutch can be the ultimate accessory.

Flannel has made its way onto the fashion scene again. Guys and girls

can bring back the signature grunge look – but in a more put-together way than that of the early 90s. For the trendy music lover in your life, look for flannel button down shirts. Ladies can pair flannel blouses with a belt to accentuate the waist – another great idea for the fashionista on your list.

probably more familiar with their style. If you don't know their measurements and can't sneak into their closet, the best approach is to simply ask. You can always say, "Let me jot down your measurements and shoe size, just in case I find something for you while I'm holiday shopping." This way you have all of the information you need,

CLOSE TO HOME

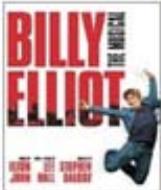
Shopping for a sibling or significant other is usually easier because you're

Continued on page 25



NYC Broadway Shows

Beechwood Tours Value Package




JANUARY 16-18, 2009

- * Two nights at the Millennium Broadway
- * Friday 8pm - SHREK THE MUSICAL * All taxes included
- * Saturday 8pm - BILLY ELLIOT THE MUSICAL

NYC PACKAGE RATES

Double: \$598	All rates are per person. This package does not include airfare.
Triple: \$560	
Quad: \$530	



Beechwood Tours Inc.

919-571-4608

888-633-7315

For other NYC packages, see www.beechwoodtours.com
Email: beechnwoodtours@msn.com



David, I'm jealous. Everyone's raving about the new dishes. What about me?

Now, Duck...You KNOW celebrity status is not what it's quacked up to be.

Well, that was just fowl.

Everyone loves chef David Mao's savory new dishes. Well, most everyone.

222 S. Blount St. 919.838.0085 theduckanddumping.com



the duck & dumpling®

and your gift can still be a surprise.

Designer denim is wildly popular and could make a great gift if you're willing to put some thought into it. Do your research, not only with their size but their style preference. Do they prefer a boot cut, straight or skinny leg? Light wash, dark wash or distressed? When in doubt, ask a sales associate about their favorite brand or which look works best for the recipient's body type. William Rast is a well-liked brand of denim designed by singer Justin Timberlake and is known to offer a flattering fit for the ladies. Guys may like a pair of Paper Denim & Cloth jeans which are known for their extremely soft brushed denim and clean style.

Shoes are a shoo-in as far as great gifts for that special someone. This season you can't go wrong with a pair of patent leather peep-toe heels for a lucky lady. Ballet flats are also a safe bet because they're stylish, versatile and there are so many to choose from. Animal prints or metallic flats look great with black pants or jeans.

ONE-GIFT-FITS-ALL

Accessories are a great option to buy for anyone on your list. Scarves and



wraps of all shapes and colors are popular these days. Even guys can wear a masculine scarf to brave the cold weather; celebrities like Jay Z have been spotted rocking this cozy look. A silk or cashmere pashmina is a versatile gift for the ladies that can be worn around the neck, over the shoulders or tied in a knot for a dressy-casual look. Pashminas are shawl-sized, delicately-woven scarves available in many colors and patterns, often with tassels at the ends. A great way to add some sparkle to your gift is to add a brooch or clasp. You can even make it personal it by finding a pin with her first initial.

Personalized or engraved items make gift-giving unique. Guys may expect to receive a wallet for the holidays but why not surprise him with a money clip engraved with his initials? Cuff links can be a stylish, engravable gift for the dapper man in your life, plus it's something that they may not think to buy for themselves. Or you can

mix business with pleasure with a personalized business card holder.

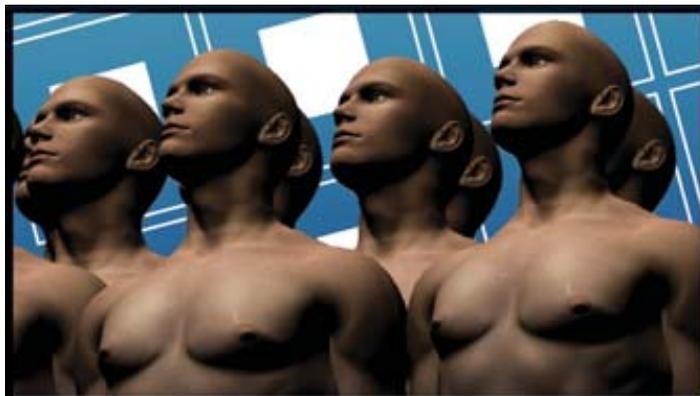
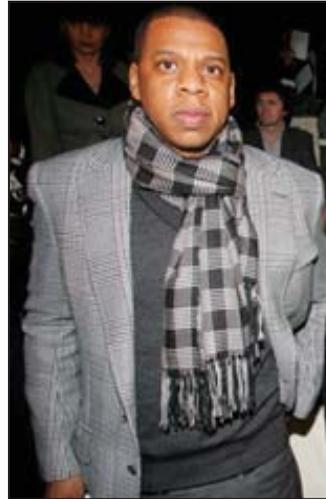
Stylish gifts don't always have to be clothing or accessories; gifts for pampering can be just as exciting. Primp Salonbar and Salon 21 in downtown Raleigh offer gift certificates for their services. For that person who has everything, a salon gift certificate can be a welcomed change. Your friends will thank you when they receive the certificate and thank you again after they use it for a manicure or pedicure.



If you feel like a gift card can be impersonal, create a theme gift by pairing a comfortable robe and slippers with the certificate. Many name-brand hair styling products are offering gift sets with shampoos, conditioners and hairsprays in holiday packaging. Lip gloss with a carrying case for the ladies or a shaving kit for the guys is also a thoughtful way to add to the theme.

As with any gift it's the thought that counts. If you put in the extra effort to pick out a special gift for your loved ones, it will be all the more cherished. Happy Holidays!

MRD



SEABOARD FITNESS AND WELLNESS

"The club that's as unique as you are"

At Seaboard Fitness, we realize that all bodies are not alike. No matter what kind of shape you're in when you begin, WE'RE HERE to help you look and feel your best.

**TRY US FOR
30 DAYS!
Just \$39!**

Expires 12/31/08



**NO ENROLLMENT
FEE AND
1 MONTH FREE!**

See sales staff for more details
Expires 1/31/09

802 Semart Dr. Raleigh, NC 27604

919-833-5800

www.seaboardfitness.com

LIVE MUSIC
♦
SPIRITS
♦
STOGIES

106 GLENWOOD AVENUE
919.828.8488

WWW.AMRASRALEIGH.COM
SUN-THURS 4PM-2AM ♦ FRI & SAT 1PM-2AM

REAL ESTATE

\$36,000 IN CREDIT ON DOWNTOWN CONDO FOR \$7000!

Buyer opting out of downtown condo with rooftop pool. Over \$36,000 in purchase credit for only \$7,000. Can be assigned to any condo over \$375,000. Call 919.821.9000 for details.



HISTORIC OAKWOOD BOYLAN HEIGHTS CAMERON PARK
 800 N Bloodworth St 5BR/4.5BA \$975,000
 315 S Boylan Ave 3BR/2.5BA \$750,000
 1415 Park Dr 4BR/4.5BA \$675,000*
 409 E Jones St 5BR/2.5BA \$569,500
 312 Oakwood Ave 3BR/2.5BA \$550,000
 221 Elm St 3BR/3BA \$545,000
 500 Polk St 3BR/2.5BA \$519,900
 710 N Person St #306 1BR/BA \$145,000
 *Buy or rent.
 Pics, plans & maps at
www.peterRumsey.com
 Prudential Carolinas Realty
919.971.4118

MORDECAI/SEABOARD AREA
 Downtown single family 3/4 BR, 3.5 BA home with 2800+ SF Hardwoods, heavy moldings, granite, cherry, built-in stereo, bonus pre-wired for surround sound, 2-car garage, brick-enclosed rear and side courtyards + much more. Within walking distance of downtown venues/shopping. \$544,875. chris@raleighdowntowner.com

317 W. MORGAN ST.# 326
 Gorgeous 1BR/1BA unit at the luxurious Dawson on Morgan! Hardwoods, granite countertop, stainless appliances, Huge walk-in closet, & Juliet balcony! \$1,100/mon. Glenwood Agency! 919.828.0077

114 HATFIELD
 Incredible corner townhouse in Downtown Raleigh @ 150 St. Mary's! 2BR/2.5BA w/ brick exterior, nine ft ceilings, open floor plan, bay window, hardwoods, storage and great upstairs bedrooms! \$1,300/mon. Glenwood Agency! 919.828.0077

317 W. MORGAN ST#506
 Great unit @ the Dawson w/ over 1380 sqft! 2BR/2BA, Granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, beautiful cabinets. 10ft. ceilings, hardwoods, tile floors in bathrooms! \$1,450/mon. Glenwood Agency! 919.828.0077

317 W. MORGAN ST#303
 Awesome 2 BR/2BA condo at the Dawson! Hardwoods, granite countertops, recessed lighting, stainless appliances, Juliet balcony, great view! \$379k. Glenwood Agency! 919.828.0077

200 S. DAWSON#301
 Remarkable corner warehouse-style flat over looking Nash Square Park!

3BR/2.5BA w/ recessed lighting, granite countertops, hardwoods, upgraded finishes! Amazing master suite! \$430k. Glenwood Agency! 919.828.0077

704 DAVIDSON STREET



DANIELS/BROOKS schools! RARE story & 1/2 trad BRICK. 3,000 sq FT Beautifully & totally done, 5 bdrm home. New DREAM kit w/ granite. Family rm/stack stone wood burn fireplace, LARGE SUNROOM, mstr 1 or 2 floor. Marble bath, wooded lot, formal liv & din. New paved drive way, Walk to shopping & dining, don't want to miss this! HARDWOODS ON BOTH FLOORS. \$459,900

POSITIONS AVAILABLE AT THE RALEIGH DOWNTOWNER

INTERNSHIPS

We are accepting resumes for interns for the upcoming Spring semester. Graphic design, layout, writing, photography, editing, and reporting are., nmb./?

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

We are looking for writers for website articles. Send writing ideas and samples to: office@raleighdowntowner.com. New categories ideas and articles welcome!

PAID / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

We need photographers with their own equipment to cover events and article photography. Some pay + free events, get experience, make great connections, and be a part of the Downtowner family. Send us photo samples and/or website info to: office@raleighdowntowner.com.

WHY PAY TO WORK OUT?

RIDE A RICKSHAW... GET PAID!

Raleigh Rickshaw Co. is currently looking for drivers. Set your own hours, burn those calories while having fun, Help reduce emissions downtown. Very rewarding! Cyclists with outgoing personalities preferred, but not required. We train; you get paid to get in shape. Call Nick at 601-9146.



www.yshomes.com

VISIT OUR NEW DOWNTOWN OFFICE AND WE'LL SHOW YOU THESE AND OTHER EXCITING DOWNTOWN PROPERTIES.

BLOUNT STREET COMMONS, Raleigh's newest downtown neighborhood, circa 1869
www.BlountStreetCommonsRaleigh.com, 919-239-7000

HUDSON, luxurious urban downtown condos, Jewell Parker, 919-582-1697

HUE, contemporary condos from the \$160s
www.HueRaleigh.com, 919-755-5005

MORDECAI TOWNES, New townhomes minutes from Downtown Raleigh, Stewart Cordiani, 919-227-7291

PALLADIUM PLAZA, 1, 2 & 3 Bedroom condos ranging from 690-2,100 square feet. \$199K-\$620K.
www.PalladiumPlaza.com, 919-719-3131

THE RESIDENCES AT QUORUM CENTER beautifully appointed 1, 2, and 3 bedroom condos with unparalleled city views, Connie Floyd, 919-931-0222

RBC PLAZA CONDOS, unprecedented living in downtown Raleigh's tallest building, Jackie Savage and Neal Husey, 919-227-7323

THE VILLAGE AT PIDOT MILL, single family homes from \$450K, www.VillageatPidotMill.com, 919-838-5050

YARBOROUGH PARK, townhomes in Mordecai from \$250K, Laura Brandhol, 919-601-1616

226 FAYETTEVILLE STREET
 919-719-3134 TOLL FREE 866-912-6980

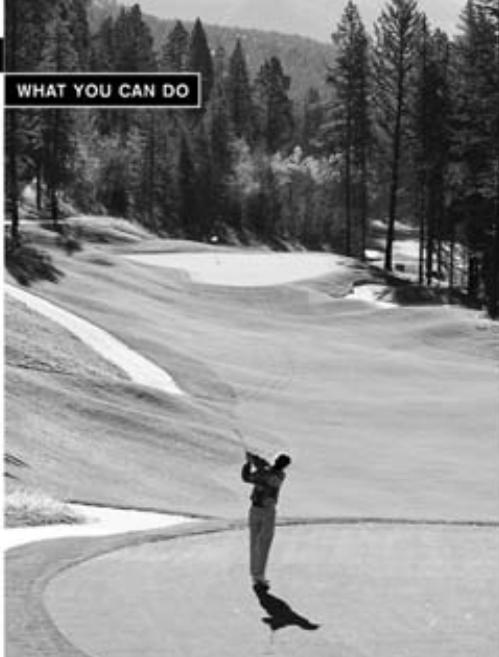




WHAT WE DO

- Tenant/Buyer Representation
- Landlord/Seller Representation
- Land Sales
- Investment & Owner-Occupied Sales
- Shopping Center Management & Leasing
- Office Building Management
- Industrial Property Management
- Residential Property Management
- Maintenance
- Landscaping
- Security
- Build to suits
- 1031 Exchanges
- Sale/Leasebacks
- Asset Management

WHAT YOU CAN DO



Commercial real estate, property management, value-added services—and the experience to do what needs to be done. Call today so you'll have time for other things.

919.821.1350
919.821.7177
yorkproperties.com



BACARDI. MOJITO THE ORIGINAL



BacardiMojito.com

DRINK RESPONSIBLY

BacardiMojito.com

©2008 BACARDI AND THE BAT DEVICE ARE REGISTERED TRADEMARKS OF BACARDI & COMPANY LIMITED
BACARDI U.S.A., INC., MIAMI, FL. RUM - 40% ALC. BY VOL.



Celebrate!

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL EVENING

NEW YEAR'S *The Mint*
EVE AT

AT ONE EXCHANGE



LIVE MUSIC 6-10PM

DJ (LIGHT LOUNGE) 10PM-12AM & DJ ROSEMAN 12-2AM

3 SEATINGS FOR 4-COURSE DINNER AT 6PM, 8PM AND 9:30PM (\$65)

CALL 821.0011 FOR RESERVATIONS

VISIT WWW.THEMINTRESTAURANT.COM FOR MORE INFO