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MAGAZINE

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 9

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ON THE COVER Over 36,000 people attended SPARKcon 2009.

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Fayetteville Street Comes Alive!



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Raleigh Wide Open 4 October 24th

BY KATRINA DONHAM

Raleigh's front door will be thrown wide open on Saturday, October 24, with a celebration for the new downtown City Plaza, coinciding with Raleigh's fourth annual Wide Open Music Festival.

The \$14.8 million dollar City Plaza, or as Director of Raleigh's Public Affairs Jayne Kirkpatrick deemed it, "Raleigh's celebration central," is designed in conjunction with downtown's revitalization and stands as Raleigh's premier outdoor downtown venue for cultural and social events. The plaza is a team effort by the City of Raleigh, the City's design consultant, Kimley-Horn and Associates, and the Project of Public Spaces, a New York-based firm specializing in the analysis and design of public gathering spaces.

Both the public and City boards and commissions made suggestions on the design in fall of 2006.

Design elements include flexible seating, a motion-sensitive water fountain, planters, and trees. Greensboro native and artist Jim Galluci designed four light towers to allow for stage lighting control, the lower designs of which include LED lights, stainless-steel oak leaves and concealed power and electrical panels. For the weary pedestrian, the towers also contain >>>



Daytime crowd packed F-Street at RWO2
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granite bumper seats. City Plaza continues Raleigh's emblematic oak-leaf design with bollards positioned throughout the design to direct traffic.

Four new retail pavilions surround the plaza, providing food, drink and shopping for residents and visitors to downtown Raleigh. The first tenant is to be sandwich chain Jimmy John's, serving up gourmet sandwiches fast and late 'til 3:00 am. Krispy Kreme will be the second vendor—but no "Hot Doughnuts Now" sign. The downtown establishment will be supplied by deliveries three times a day from the iconic Person Street outlet nearby. The Collector's Gallery of City Market is the third-announced vendor, a full-service fine art and craft establishment providing both residential and commercial consultation and custom conservation framing. The fourth pavilion tenant is expected to be announced soon by the City of Raleigh.

While the official opening of the plaza will be at noon on Friday, October 23, the celebration really kicks off the next day at 10:00 am with the parade, which will start on Morgan Street, travel by the Capitol, continuing five blocks down Fayetteville, and end at Lenoir Street. This year, the parade will have several bands, floats and international elements as well as the usual crowd favorites.

Several vendor tents will line Fayetteville Street the remainder of the day. A wine and beer tasting will also be available, featuring local and state wineries and breweries as well as a kids' section with special

guest Stormy, the mascot of the Carolina Hurricanes. Several games and hockey activities will be provided for children of all ages.

"Last year, the festival attracted over 75,000 visitors," said Kirkpatrick. "For Raleigh Wide Open 4, we expect to break 100,000."

The big show will be on the main Fayetteville Street at 7:00 p.m., when the self-styled "folk rock n' roll" of Tao Rodriguez-Seeger precedes three-time Grammy award-winner Delbert "Givin' It Up For Your Love" McClinton, the headliner for the day-long event. McClinton's 9:00 pm. show will be followed by a fireworks show. Admission is free. In addition to the main stage performances, Zydeco and Carribean music will be performed on the steps of the courthouse earlier that afternoon.

For those with more esoteric taste in music, the second annual Cherry Bounce Alternative Music Festival looks to be bigger and better than last year's inaugural festival. The Hargett Street stage between Wilmington and Fayetteville Streets will host 15 local and national acts. Food and beverage will be provided courtesy of Empire Eats. The event is sponsored by Red Bull, the Raleigh Times and others. The Raleigh Downtowner Magazine will be providing the Cherry Bounce bands "green room" in their new offices above the Raleigh Times Bar on Hargett Street.

"The twist this year is that Cherry Bounce actually starts rocking out days in advance of the Hargett Street action," said Billy Warden, one of the Cherry

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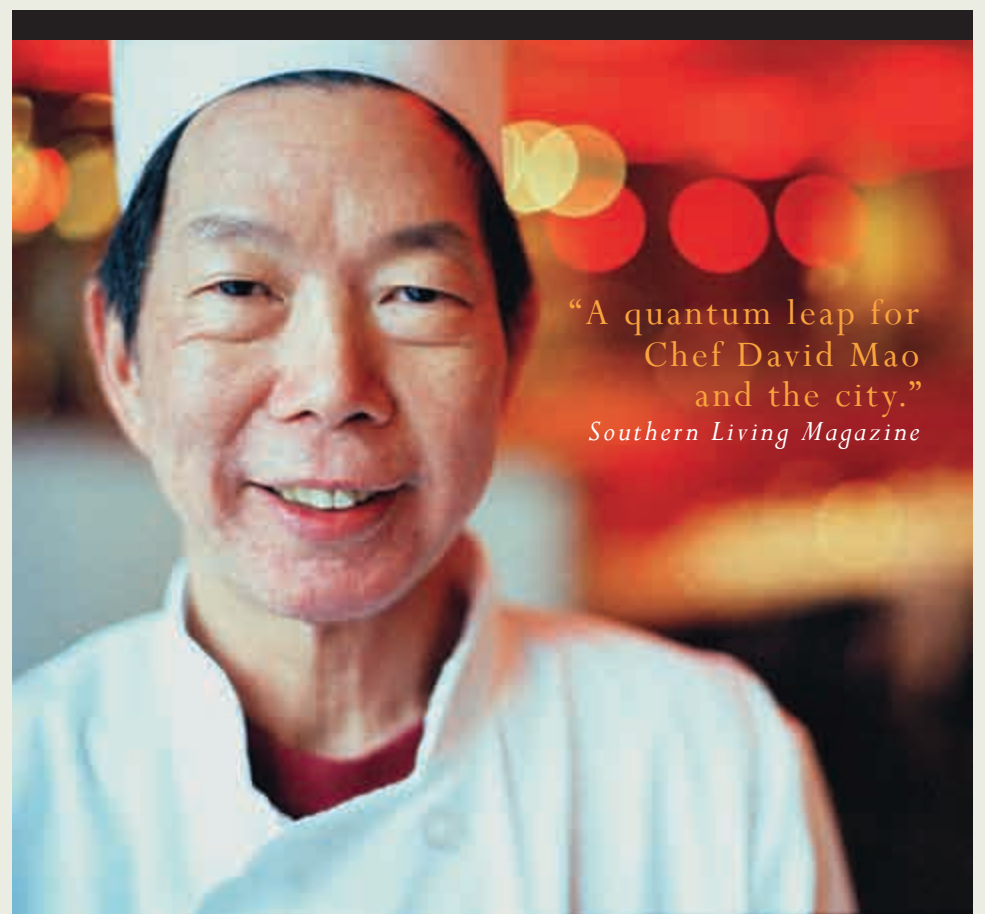
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Bounce festival's producers. "Clubs such as Deep South, the Raleigh Times, Slim's, Tir Na Nog, Busy Bee and Berkeley Cafe are serving up special Cherry Bounce music nights."

The second annual Art Raleigh will also be held in conjunction with this year's Raleigh Wide Open festival. Art Raleigh is produced by Artsplasure, "a nonprofit organization with 30 years of arts festival experience," according to their website (www.artsplasure.org). The contest was designed as a venue to celebrate and highlight Raleigh's visual arts scene, an opportunity for art enthusiasts and collectors to view the best art of our city and state—ceramics, fiber art glass, jewelry, metal, painting, photography, and wood. Over 21 artists will be showcasing their work. The Art Raleigh art market will be open from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm on Charter Square along the side of Bank of America. (This site will also be used as the location of the ice rink to be installed this winter.)

Accompanying the festival's activities will be Mayor Charles Meeker's announcement of the winners of the Moore Square Redesign Competition at noon on Moore Square. A five-member jury will review design concept entries and decide on first, second and third place winners. First-place will receive \$6,000; second, \$4,000; and third, \$2,000. The first place winner will assemble a design team and participate in the planning for the new Moore Square. The winning design will be on public display in a downtown location and posted on the City of

Raleigh's website: www.raleighnc.gov. The City of Raleigh intends to approve a final design for Moore Square in early 2010.

"[I look forward to seeing] all of Raleigh's communities come together and show how beautifully we all celebrate together," said Kirkpatrick. "Despite all the chaos and stress that goes into planning, it makes it very well worth it."

Kirkpatrick encourages Raleigh downtowners and visitors to participate in the festival's activities. She also adds that the best view for the fireworks is directly on Fayetteville Street. For more information on this event, check out www.raleigh-nc.gov.

SPARKcon 2009 Recap

BY PETER EICHENBERGER

On certain days of the year, a host of citizens divided by career and geography are drawn downtown by interests as varied as the people are themselves. On such events, yuppies might be seen rubbing elbows with bikers with kids, hipsters co-mingling with old Raleigh types. The public forum provides an atmosphere that fosters the sort of easy democracy that historically formed the core of American public life before we collectively became absorbed in our internal lives and by portable



electronic doo-dads and such. The reopening of Fayetteville Street has brought a venue that continues the reordering of what downtown means to the Capital city. Formerly, while major outdoor gatherings generally schooled up in Moore Square, Fayetteville Street has provided another larger canvas that allows us to discover sometimes jarring life-altering experiences that we could all use a little of from time to time. So it was with last week's SPARKcon, one such event of a plethora of new experiences to take home after the equipment has been struck and loaded out and the crowds have drifted back to their respective lives.

In the three years from its inception, SPARKcon has grown up into an event that stretches the conventional ordering of public events and time itself. While educational systems and cultural patterns have instilled in the public a view of time that is linear in construct, the more we learn about how internal, personal time works—the sort of time existing behind the limiting, jittery, sequential system beaten into our collective heads, the one that ensures that the trains run on time (the railroad being the impetus for the standardization of time), the more one can begin to glimpse that personal time is more akin to a circle, a sphere or (my favorite) perhaps a torroid, that mathematical figure best illustrated by a doughnut or an inner tube. One thing does not necessarily lead to another in a straight line. >>>

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At the myriad SPARKcon venues, the visitors and performers could assemble a pastiche of experiences that more conform to one's own shifting, mutable personal reality bubble, without an external ring-master directing the collective attention. Dig fashion shows and street art? Good. Interested in seeing how competitive bartending looks? Gotcha covered. Wanna see experimental short films? Cool. Perhaps a break for a Bloody Mary? Hey, we're downtown.

After the busy days of SPARKcon, I dropped by Design Box, a sort of local think-tank for intelligent solutions to matters of the material and have a chat with Aly Khalifa, a product designer, one of the progenitors of SPARKcon and all-round nice, nice guy who graciously met with me in the middle of his busy schedule. We ascended a flight of stairs and after we got settled, I asked him how it went.

"Fantastic. It went beyond anything we had dreamed of," he said, smiling and nodding as we spoke in the upstairs conference room of the building in the heart of the old warehouse district over on West Martin. "There were some 1,200 performers, people creating art and expression of some kind." He went on to credit the 70 or so volunteers with mounds of praise and appreciation. "In terms of website traffic, there were 36,000 on Saturday," ten times the number of last year's Sparkcon. In terms of how many spectator and participants, "It's so diverse; it was hard to track what's going on."



PHOTO COURTESY WWW.BRETTARTHURPHOTO.COM (THANKS BRETT)

Aly continued, "This was the first year I think that people got it. I think we were beating this drum, open-source, potluck, bring to it what you are and we'll provide the structure. You create what it is. The first years it was 'what are you talking about?'" SPARKcon's not a festival and a widely held expectation of passive entertainment is an aspect SPARKcon has had to contend with. Aly and I chatted about the nature of personal reality, that if one doesn't take the trouble to create one's own reality, there are any number of commercial media enterprises more than delighted to fulfill that lack—and make a bundle in the process. Of SPARKcon, he said, "It's something completely different. It's open-source."

"It's sort of like the Burning Man vibe," I noted, the 40,000 person art-collective held annually on the Black Rock Playa in northwestern Nevada, where new attendees are repeatedly, gently reminded that

while gawking is part of the experience, participation is what makes it work, becoming involved to some extent, dress, activity, planned or not.

"We're part of the Burning Man network. SPARKcon is on the Burning Man calendar. They're enthusiastic about what we are doing. We've connected a lot more," Aly said, invoking Pecha Kucha, a global organization the name of which comes from a word meaning chit-chat in Japanese, the core of which was started by Japanese architects. Pecha Kucha is a presentation method based on a strict schedule frame that limits speakers to a certain interval as short as 20 seconds as a way to avoid standard professional wordiness. "Pecha Kucha has become a global phenomenon. We're just one of 230 chapters."

On my several visits to the two-day event, I was greatly enthused to see the sights and the crowds of people dawdling on Fayetteville, getting into that SPARKcon vibe as they strolled by looking at the arts and crafts, especially by the brave sorts who took the participatory nature to heart, kneeling on the pavement and executing original chalk on asphalt blackboard, that temporary medium that perfectly encapsulated the spirit of SPARKcon. A manifestation of the human spirit—temporary, fugitive beauty akin to that of a flower—washed away by city crews Monday morning, as Raleigh put her feet on the ground for a new day, hopefully somehow more inspired than before.

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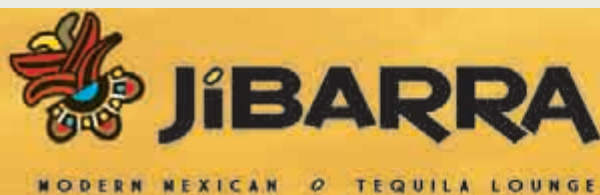
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Hibernian

BY BRIAN ADORNETTO, *Contributing Food Writer*



While our regular foodie Fred Benton takes some time off from his Food Editor position at the Downtowner, Brian Adornetto will be filling in. Brian is a culinary instructor, freelance food writer and personal chef. He teaches regularly at A Southern Season in Chapel Hill and his business, Love at First Bite, specializes in private cooking classes and intimate dinner parties. For more information, please visit Brian at www.loveatfirstbite.net.



In the spring of 2000, Niall Hanley opened Hibernian Pub and Restaurant in a space originally occupied by a television repair shop. That opening brought the number of social gathering establishments on Glenwood Avenue to three. While that may be hard for some of us to imagine with the multitude of choices here now, Hanley knew the time was right for the revitalization of this area then and he continues to focus the bulk of his efforts in Glenwood South. Niall's next project was the popular Solas, a restaurant, lounge and rooftop bar, just over a year ago, and this fall he'll be opening The Diner. This venture will be a retro classic American diner serving breakfast, lunch, dinner, and late night as well as malts and old fashioned fountain sodas.

Entering Hibernian is like stepping into an authentic century-old Irish Pub. The dark wood, stone tiled floor, black tin ceiling, and dim lighting transport you to another place and time of a small Irish town. While



taking in the ambience, you will be greeted by a friendly and good humored staff that is quick to welcome you and offer a libation.

In all, Hibernian has three full bars in back to back rooms. Each has its own fully stocked bar, flat screen televisions and dining area. The middle room sports floor

to ceiling glass doors that open out onto Glenwood Avenue in good weather and provide warm, natural light. The farthest room from the entrance is "The Green Room" which is used for private parties or overflow from the other two bars. In addition, there is also sidewalk seating featuring tabletop heaters for those chilly winter Raleigh nights.

On Sundays from 11 am until 2 pm, Hibernian offers an all-you-can-eat "Hangover Brunch" as Niall likes to call it, for only \$12.95. It includes a wide variety of food plus coffee, tea, juice, and dessert. Hibernian has also added a Bloody Mary Bar to its brunch for those in need of the "hair of the dog".

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It may be a pub, but Hibernian's kitchen serves fresh, made-to-order food that is inventive and well prepared. In addition to brunch, it serves lunch, dinner, and late night snacks. While there are daily food and drink specials, soon to be released is a \$5 lunch menu that will allow guests to mix and match half sandwiches, cups of soup, and half salads.

On our latest visit to Hibernian, we began our lunch with the Spinach and Artichoke Dip (\$9) and Smoked Salmon (\$11). The warm dip was creamy and quite cheesy as its recipe includes four different cheeses. The Smoked Salmon comes from Scotland and is served on authentic Irish Brown Bread along with the traditional accompaniments. The Brown Bread

was exceptional (I even wanted to take some home). The whole wheat soda bread, a staple in Irish homes, was dense, moist and slightly nutty.

For our main lunch plates, we had the Black and Bleu Salad (\$12), Fish and Chips (\$13), Reuben (\$8), and Smoked Salmon Panini (\$9). This salad was a big hit at our table. Composed of romaine lettuce, Roma tomatoes, tender steak, crunchy bacon, and chunky bleu cheese, it was hearty, smoky, peppery, and tangy. The cod in the fish and chips was lightly coated in Hibernian's special Harp beer batter and fried to order. The result was moist fish with a crisp flavorful crust. The Reuben, served on marbled rye and pumpernickel bread, was made with house-cooked corned beef, thinly sliced and piled high. The side of chips (thick-cut French Fries) was cleverly served in a mini fryer basket. It was easy to see why the Reuben is a best seller. The Smoked Salmon Panini was a special of the day and was our clear cut favorite. The unique combination of smoked salmon, brie cheese, and bacon was complimented with lettuce and tomato then placed between two slices of Texas Toast and cooked on the grill. It was a great, well balanced gourmet sandwich, simultaneously crunchy, smoky, and creamy.



Hibernian has been a well-known favorite for dinner and late night revelry for more than nine years and now it's quickly becoming a popular lunch and brunch spot as well. 🍷

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Hillsborough Street History: Cycle Logic & The Pink Panty

— BY PETER EICHENBERGER —

Our dear little Hillsborough Street. I grew up watching the transformation from a highway turned college drag—the bars, a raft of fraternities; tiny Edwards Grocery, College Pharmacy, clothiers for the NC State kids, an antique movie-



set pool room named “The Empire Club” (run by a wizened old fellow associated with the Embers empire called variously Cap, Cappy or Captain)—several typewriter shops which moved around, and so forth.

Following the shock wave of North Hills, in a trice, everything changed. The stretch of commercial addresses hemmed now between the IHOP and Jade Garden restaurant became sort of a Raleigh-style microcosm of the commercial and societal changes sweeping across

the land. Lured by the shiny and new, a substantial percentage of the auto-benumbed shoppers simply abandoned Hillsborough and one by one, the old mom ‘n’ pop businesses became missing teeth in a formerly bustling street facade. Oh, I’ve seen ‘em come and I’ve seen ‘em go. The old stuff’s a short list—the PR (Player’s Retreat), Sadlack’s, Mitches (formerly the Jolly Knave), and Western Lanes (now The Alley). You have to be fairly sanguine about this journey called life, especially about the changes concerning your bars.

Visiting the State Archives downtown and reviewing Hillsborough Street address by address in old city directories is a great way to spend an afternoon. From our go-go Interstate air-conditioned perspective, the history of Hillsborough Street is worth a look, if only to see how the Eisenhower system changed America, relegating the two-lane US highway system and the “mother road,” US 1, to has-been status. Raleigh’s segment of US 1 was home to a variety of suspicious beer joints, dinky

little home-brew restaurants and drive-ins, shady rabbit warren paste-board motels, and “tourist homes”—private dwellings that took on travelers half-way to Florida or the northeast. If your long distance travel between those poles didn’t include idling down Raleigh’s colonial main drag, safe to say you were probably lost or on the run.

Almost any address on the street would suffice as a point of reference to examine changes the years have brought to Raleigh and the nation. For my purposes, it’s 1211, chosen solely for an unlikely expanse of the glittered, flocked wall of the stairway leading to the basement of Cycle Logic, Ed Gaddy’s bike shop, a subterranean void crammed to the ceiling with bike-shop stock and a solid collection of old and antique dusty two-wheeled non-gas powered transportation—exactly the sort of local operation that gives Hillsborough Street its flavor.

When I inquired about the glittery wall, Ed chuckled, “the Pink Panty.” A topless bar. I paused

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during the descent downstairs to marvel at the horrid innocence of the wall treatment. “Before the Pink Panty it was Les Parker’s bar, the old “Hole in the Wall,” a hippie-era reference, when Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid was a hit. Aptly named, the only way into the bar, other than the stairwell which meant going through an entirely different business upstairs which was not allowed, was through a large opening in the wall out back downstairs. Not really a doorway, it was actually more of a true hole in the wall. Coupled with bargain-basement rent, the downstairs offered fine habitat for new sorts of businesses (for Hillsborough Street), the newly launched “head shops,” not one but two, as well as the “jiggle joints” of which half a dozen have called Hillsborough home. Just down from the Pink Panty, the Brite Spot aka Charades, (now the Jackpot), was a fixture for decades. I remember one night in 1990, one of the girls out at the curb had a bit of sport with me, hiking her top amid a country whistle as I (*en motorcycle*) bobbled and wobbled



through what was usually a routine left on Ashe Avenue. Thanks, toots, it was all proper Hillsborough Street fun.

Owing to a fairly ferocious body count of pedestrians, something’s been needed for years, which is currently in progress. Of the curiosity of a highway

with roundabouts, I remain expectant and more or less positive. While Hamlett Construction is proceeding in an efficient workmanlike fashion, the coupling of the improvements with the economic conditions has made for a Darwinian stage for the remaining businesses, as in *survival of the fittest*. When the street is re-launched, I expect a whole new mood on the street, perhaps—and with the hopes of the current tenants—à la Glenwood South. All I can say to the merchants is “hang in there.” To the residents of Raleigh, deal with the dust and inconvenience and make a special effort to support those businesses that are braving the



changes amid the rough waters of the larger canvas. “Why drive when you can walk” is an attitude that will foster new life for an old street. 🚲

Peter is composed of one part writer, one part first-person historian and one part environmental activist, stirred together with bicycle parts and a love for downtown Raleigh. He can be reached for comment, criticism or ideas at peter@raleighdowntowner.com.

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Raleigh Trolley New ride provides refreshing escape to the past BY AMY GRETENSTEIN



“Ding-ding!”

chimes Raleigh’s new historically-designed trolley. Each Saturday, tours depart from the Mordecai house for an hour-long journey through downtown Raleigh, chronicling its 200 years of history.

While the trolley loops through the now modern Raleigh streets, the trolley’s guide cheerfully recounts the city’s history through landscape, architecture and landmarks.

“The trolley makes three additional stops at Bicentennial Plaza, Pullen Park and City Market,” assistant site manager for the Mordecai property Erin Campo said. “[Riders] will see a lot of old, really beautiful houses in Oakwood, which is an entire district of Victorian houses.”

The tour starts just north of the Governor’s mansion on the Mordecai family property, one of the oldest plantation-style homes in the area, built in 1785 by Joel Lane for his son Henry. Henry gifted the property to his daughter upon her marriage to Joe Mordecai giving the property its more common family name.

At one time, the Mordecai family owned more than 5,000 acres of what is now known as Raleigh reaching north to Five Points, including Oakwood Cemetery, and all of downtown. The Mordecai family and Joel Lane are significant players in the history of the city and their influences are highlighted throughout the tour.

The trolley ride includes a thorough tour of both past and present government buildings located in the downtown area with emphasis on the state capitol. The tour also touches upon North Carolina State University’s foundation, Hillsborough Street’s



original measurements and several notable pieces of downtown architecture.

Dutchie Sexsmith, a seven year veteran guide with the trolley, says she never tires of the tour. She loves the staff and cannot get enough of the history. She particularly loves sharing the history of Blount Street.

“It’s so great to share Raleigh’s history with people from all over,” Sexsmith said. “The English think we have a quintessential charm.”

The “City of Oaks,” as Raleigh is lovingly nicknamed, was a planned city and very modern before its time. The original 1,000 acres allotted to create the state capital and Wake County were surveyed and laid out just as they are utilized today. These lands along with land provided by NCSU’s founder Richard Pullen helped to create many of Raleigh’s celebrated green spaces.

“I learned during the trolley ride that Raleigh has the third oldest city park department in the nation, behind only New York City and Boston,” trolley rider Taylor Strickland said. “That shows the city has some true history and has been a leader in city development.”

Beyond the Saturday tours, the city of Raleigh charters the trolley for private tours. Troy Burton,

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site manager for the Mordecai property and the trolley, says that charters account for more than half of the trolley's income with many brides, retirement homes and business groups taking advantage of the unique type of transportation.

While the trolley is just three months old, Burton says he is already looking to the future. He hopes to add a second trolley to help accommodate more tours and charters.

"Our biggest challenge is just sheer volume," Burton said. "In terms of our programming, we are at capacity."

During the fall and winter months, specialty tours are offered to riders featuring haunted houses, ghost stories and Santa's little helpers. Campo said their themed trolley rides are even more popular.

"We do Haunted Trolley rides where riders learn all about ghost stories and legends with a stop at City Cemetery," Campo said. "We also do Santa Trolley rides where an elf guides the tour looking for Santa in Raleigh."

The busy trolley bus itself is based on Raleigh's deep history in city transportation. Raleigh's first public transportation were mule-driven street cars in 1888 which turned into electric street cars in 1933. The street-car faded from Raleigh streets for



several decades but returned in 1989 to provide the public historic rides.

While the subject of the tour is historic, the trolley itself is anything but antique. The brand new diesel engine trolley holds up to 30 people in its wooden park-bench type seats. Each window boasts old-fashioned designs and the ceiling is lined with streetcar type lighting fixtures.

The historically-themed trolley is also very modern. Sexsmith and frequent driver Bonnie Bauerle both agree the best new feature provides

the most refreshing change: air conditioning. Sexsmith noted the previous trolley buses did not have such luxury. 📷

To discover Raleigh's charm, the trolley tours depart every Saturday March through December at 11am, 12:15pm, 1:30pm and 2:45pm. Adult tickets are \$8, children ages 7-17 are \$4, and under seven ride free. Reservations are strongly encouraged as the seats are limited. Themed trolley rides have special times and prices. For more information visit their website at www.raleighnc.gov/Mordecai or call (919) 857-4364 Tuesday through Saturday.

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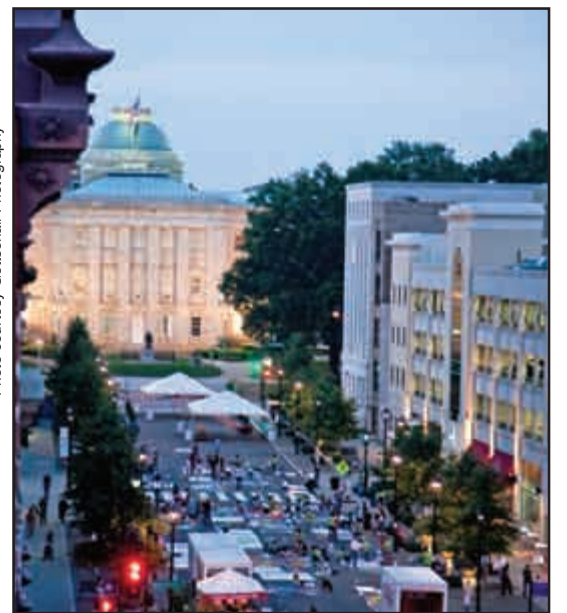


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AROUNDTOWNAROUNDTOWNAROUNDTOWN

The photos below are from the Raleigh Hall of Fame Awards Ceremony at the Raleigh Convention Center. *Photos by Darryl Morrow*



Sono BY BRIAN ADORNETTO, Chef, Food Writer

Modern, sleek, delicious, hip, vibrant, and sexy. Sono, the Japanese fusion and sushi restaurant located in the heart of downtown on Fayetteville Street, is all of these things—especially delicious.

When G. Patel, of Mura and Oxford fame, partnered with Michael Lee to open Sono, he found a passionate 15-year sushi veteran. Lee, who also operates Sono, is a native of Japan and has worked in over 20 Japanese and sushi restaurants in cities such as



Chicago, Las Vegas and Denver in order to learn the different styles of American sushi-making. After extensive traveling, Lee decided to settle down in Raleigh. “It’s a great place to live,” he says. “It has everything you need in a big city—without the hassles—and it still maintains a friendly feel.”

The predominately red and black decor in Sono is striking. Dark wooden floors, red walls, black leather couches with candlelit cocktail tables, and the red curved bar and sushi bar with their glittery black counter tops, give the space a cool, sophisticated vibe. Comfortable banquettes, romantic tables for two, quiet booths, tall window-front tables with a view of Fayetteville Street, as well as bar and rear sushi bar seating, provide the opportunity to match your dining experience with almost any mood.

In addition to an amazing sushi menu which features over 40 Maki and Temaki rolls and over 30 sashimi options, Sono offers an imaginative menu



Michael Lee

of soups, salads, hot and cold appetizers, entrees, and side dishes. With steak, duck, chicken, tofu, and cooked seafood on top of sushi, even the pickiest eater is sure to be pleased.

Our dinner at Sono began with several hot and cold appetizers as well as sushi. The Hamachi (Yellowtail Amberjack flown in from Japan) with Jalapenos (\$9) was thinly sliced and served cold with a wasabi spiked ponzu (a slightly sour citrus based Japanese condiment) sauce. It was a well-balanced delight with sweet, spicy, tart, and salty elements. We followed that with a hot plate of Hand Made Pork Gyoza (\$7). The crunchy, pan-seared Oriental dumplings, also known as potstickers, were sensibly sweet and salty. The Gyoza were served with two sauces, saffron konbu (Japanese kelp) and honey miso (fermented soy). Next up was the playful Braised Pork Belly (\$8), which showcases Sono’s flair for fusion. The pork was rubbed with Japanese Seven Spice

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(traditionally Sichuan pepper, dried orange peel, chili powder, black sesame seeds, poppy seeds, garlic, and nori) and braised. It was served over wasabi grits, a nod to Southern cooking. The pork melts in your mouth and the grits are expertly-prepared.

Because of Sono's vast variety of sushi, we decided to order the Chef's Choice combo (\$25). It consisted of two each of four different sashimi nigiri (sliced, raw fish each served on top of an oval patty of rice) and one special roll (Maki). For the sashimi, the chef chose Kihada (Yellowfin Tuna), Salmon, Kampachi (Yellowtail fish flown in from Hawaii), and Kelp-marinated North Carolina Flounder. It's perfect for sharing because it allows everyone to sample a variety of fish. The Maki we received was the enormous Sono Roll filled with tuna, snapper, salmon, crab, and mango then wrapped in nori (seaweed paper) and daikon, a mildly flavored Japanese root vegetable. The quality and freshness of the fish was immediately apparent. Michael Lee's knowledge of global fisheries as well as his adeptness with fish allows him to not only procure superior seafood but also bring out its best. We also tried the Screaming "O" Roll (\$12.95), which lives up to its name. It's filled with spicy tuna and tempura shrimp then wrapped in tuna, seared and drizzled with a creamy "O" sauce; it's absolutely scrumptious. If I could eat only one Maki for the rest of my life, it would be the Screaming "O".



For our entrees, we decided on the Chilean Sea Bass (\$23), Seafood Udon Noodle Soup (\$18) and Rib Eye Sukiyaki Hot Pot (\$24). The Sea Bass, Crash's favorite, was marinated in miso and beautifully seared and served with a mustard seed vinaigrette, asparagus spears and curried barley risotto.

The Seafood Udon Soup was a lighter, Japanese version of fisherman's stew. It consisted of monkfish, clams, fish cakes, and Udon (wheat flour) noodles cooked in a light, soy flavored broth and garnished with two huge tempura shrimp. Our final dish, Rib Eye Sukiyaki, was served in the large cast iron pot in which it was cooked. The beef was slowly simmered with huge, earthy King Oyster mushrooms, root vegetables, and shirataki (yam) noodles. This was an enchanting, upscale one pot wonder capable of soothing your soul on a chilly night.

Artful presentations, skillfully prepared food, healthy portions, and a distinguished atmosphere all make Sono worthy of a visit. And once you do, you, too, will be hooked. 



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OF THE

MORDECAI MANOR

BY CHRIS MOUTOS



Ever been to Raleigh's "REAL" haunted house? Yep, we have one (it's even been on national TV) and it's located in downtown Raleigh in Mordecai. Aside from its beautiful architecture and its rich NC history, the house is presumed haunted based on several personal accounts and various paranormal investigations. To understand the ghosts, you need to know the family tree. Located in the Historic Mordecai district, Mordecai Manor was built in the mid-1780's by Joel Lane for his son Henry. Henry had four daughters named Margaret, Harriet, Temperance, and Ann. Margaret married Moses Mordecai in 1817 and they had three children who were named Henry, Ellen and Jacob. Moses and Margaret were married until she died in 1824. The Lane women must have been amazing because Moses married his sister-in-law Ann. Henry, the son of Moses and Margaret, married Martha Hinton and they had three daughters named Margaret, Mary Willis and Patti. These three siblings are the center of the paranormal events. Several generations of Moses Mordecai lived on the property until it was given to the city of Raleigh.

It is said that the ghost of Mary Willis Mordecai Turk still watch over her belongings and the grounds. Apparitions of a female dressed in 19th century clothing have been reported as have the sounds of the piano playing in the main level drawing room. People have also reported seeing an apparition of a female, presumed to be Mary Willis, walking the



halls of the manor. Several other incidents have also been reported over the years.

The house has been featured on the Sci-Fi Channel's *Ghost Hunters*. Currently, the property is being investigated by the National Society of Paranormal Investigation and Research (INSPIR) in a two-year project. As with past organizations and paranormal investigators, INSPIR is on the premises twice a year wherein they spend nights and investigate phenomenon.

Halloween is the perfect time to visit the property and house. Several events take place and it is suggested that tickets for the Haunted Mordecai Lantern Tours and Haunted Trolley Tours are purchased in advance as they sell out.

Visit <http://bit.ly/2Tivdi> for more information on the Haunted Mordecai events on October 23 and 24. They include the Haunted Trolley Tour, Haunted Mordecai Lantern Tour and Haunted Mordecai Free Festival. Visit <http://bit.ly/2CpFNt> for more information on the regular Mordecai house tours, or call 857-4364 for more information.

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I-85 in Gaston County: Belmont and Beyond

BY ALAN HODGE

When the traffic is hot, heavy, and hurried, sometimes it seems as if Interstate 85 resembles a race track more than a transportation artery. However, for motorists making their way through Gaston County there are several restful and interesting stops just moments off the main I-85 drag where a visit can yield everything from a good meal to a stroll through an orchid conservatory's lush environment.



The town of Belmont makes a good place to take a break from the I-85 macadam madness. Incorporated in 1895, Belmont was once the heart of Gaston County's textile industry with at least a half dozen mills running full tilt within its boundaries. Today, Belmont has morphed into a modern municipality that has managed to hold tight to its small town charm.

To get to Belmont, take Exit 26 and follow the signs less than half a mile onto North Main Street. Situated along N. Main are several stately homes serving as reminders of the wealth that textiles once engendered.

The commercial district of Belmont kicks off with Piccolo Antique and Consignment Mall at 134 N. Main. Featuring over 20,000 square feet of space filled with an astonishing variety of home furnishings and vintage goodies, Piccolo is easy spotted thanks to a large reproduction of the Statue of Liberty out front.

Food is plentiful and pleasing in downtown Belmont. One block off N. Main at 101 Kenwood Street, Belmont Food and Beverage serves everything from burgers to smoked salmon salad. BF&B, as the locals call, it also offers a wide variety of beer and wine.

New to Belmont is the String Bean Fresh Market and Deli which opened this past summer at 106 N.

Main and not only sells a variety of delicious sandwiches, salads, burgers and appetizers such as stuffed Portabella mushrooms, but also operates a full bakery out of the same location. In addition, the String Bean boasts 400 wine and 150 beer selections.

One of the neatest businesses on N. Main St. is the Belmont General Store. Housed in the circa 1905 Stowe Mercantile Building at 6 N. Main, Belmont General Store is a trip back in time offering loads of nostalgia in the form of Radio Flyer wagons, old time candy in bins to mix and match, soda pops in a vintage drink box, and a large model train set-up.

Located behind Belmont General Store at 40 Catawba Street, the Belmont Historical Society's museum in the circa 1899 R.L. Stowe home has a variety of exhibits tracing the town's past. Out back, the Yates Abernethy Mill House is a restored example of the dwellings that once housed hundreds of mill worker families. Plantings of the type often found in the yards of mill village homes also grace the grounds.

From downtown Belmont, a few miles of driving will bring a reward in the form of the Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden. To get there, just continue a mile or so down S. Main to New Hope Road, turn

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left and go a couple of miles to the DSBG entrance. Certainly one of the most spectacular facilities of its type in the nation, DSBG offers a spectacular 13,500 square foot visitor pavilion with an early 20th century stained glass dome, a dozen beautiful fountains, eight major garden areas, and a woodland trail. New to the garden is an orchid conservatory with live butterflies and lush tropical plants.

Heading back towards I-85 and Exit 26 from DSBG and downtown, folks can't help but be in awe at the sight of Belmont Abbey. Not only is it a highly regarded four-year Catholic college founded in 1876, Belmont Abbey is also home to an order of Benedictine monks and the site of the 1892 Abbey Basilica of Mary Help of Christians. The entire campus is listed as a Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places and the school offers a walking tour of the buildings and grounds.

Back on I-85 South, pull off at the next exit (Exit 23) and turn right into the village of McAdenville whose quaint little downtown stretch consists of restored brick mill house and an operating textile mill. With a population of just 600, McAdenville transforms itself into Christmastown, USA, each Yuletide season by illuminating its environs with around 500,000 holiday lights laced across 400 trees. Local residents get in on the action and go all-out decorating their homes. The spectacle draws tens of thousands of visitors from far and wide to see the displays.

Motorcycle fans might want to break off I-85 at Cox Road Exit 21 heading south a block to Franklin Boulevard, turning left and venturing a few hundred yards down the road. There visitors will find the Carolina Harley-Davidson Museum, an exhibit inside the Carolina Harley-Davidson dealership, featuring several vintage bikes and a wide variety of bike memorabilia.

Last stop on an I-85 tour of Gaston County is Crowders Mountain State Park. To access the park, take Exit 13 at Edgewood Road, turn back again to Franklin Blvd. (US 74), turn right and go three miles, then turn left on Sparrow Springs Road. Follow the signs to the park. Crowders Mountain State Park features a network of trails ranging from 0.2 to 6.2 miles. The 1.7 mile Pinnacle Trail is rugged but offers those who make it a spectacular view from Kings

Pinnacle that on a clear day lets hikers see as far away as Charlotte. Other amenities at Crowders Mountain State Park include picnic areas, canoe rental, fishing, camping, and a nice visitor center.

Besides the places mentioned, Gaston County also offers a Magnolia Tour that includes places of interest both near and far from I-85. For more information, stop by the Gaston County Visitor Center at Exit 26 (620 N. Main St., Belmont), call 704-825-4044, or contact www.gaston.tourism.com.

Alan Hodge is an award-winning freelance writer who has written for Our State Magazine and other publications. He can be reached for comment at alan.hodge@raleighdowntowner.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!*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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!*

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: What is your favorite restaurant in Raleigh? Please send your vote to betterlivingnc@yahoo.com.

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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.



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 producer of the Bud Light Downtown Live summer concert series, featuring national recording artists. Their latest addition to downtown Raleigh is Deep South—The Bar.



River City Ransom

Album: *The Red and Black EP*
Genre: Rock/Concrete/Indie

www.myspace.com/rivercityransomband

River City Ransom is a five-piece rock band from Raleigh who play aggressive indie rock with loud post-punk choruses. According to the group, there "are probably seven or eight more sub-genres you could tag onto this band."

Over the past year, River City Ransom has been steadily building their fan base at rock clubs and festivals all over North Carolina and Virginia. In the summer of 2009, RCR went to Grammy award-winning producer Ian Schreier (who has worked with the Annuals, Archers of Loaf and The Never) of Osceola Studios to record *The Red and Black EP*. Their first EP is a small taste of what is getting them so much attention throughout the Triangle music scene and beyond.

Catch them October 24 when they play Raleigh Wide Open.



Jive Mother Mary

Album: *All Fall Down*
Genre: Blues/Rock

www.myspace.com/jivemothermary

Jive Mother Mary formed in 2006 in Alamance County, NC and from day one, they knew their sound was going to be rooted in the past, yet also incorporate a dose of fresh songwriting and sound. Unlike your typical young teens, they found that their tastes came from rock and blues legends decades before them like Zeppelin, Jimi Hendrix, The Rolling Stones, Aerosmith, Eric Clapton, and Lynard Skynyrd. From day one, they knew be rooted in, yet also incorporate

All Fall Down was recorded and produced in Raleigh by John Custer, who first met and recorded the band's first self-titled EP at the end of 2007. A great relationship spawned and continued to develop, as did the band, with a more seasoned sound and a new batch of great songs from singer/songwriter Mason Keck (guitar/lead vocals). This album is a testament to what can happen when great talent and energy line up in a powerful way.

Keck, along with band mates Nathan Coe (bass/vocals) and Seth "Fluff" Aldridge (drums) will be playing at the Widespread Panic/Allman Brothers after-party at Deep South-The Bar on Sunday, Oct. 11.



Flight Patterns

Album: *The Runaway*
Genre: Indie/Pock/Rock

www.myspace.com/flightpatternsma

When people hear the name Mike Sweet, they think of the lead singer from Stryper. But that may change after Stryper's 25th Anniversary Tour. Flight Patterns, the opening band on the tour, is also fronted by a Michael Sweet: Mike Sweet Jr., actually, son of the front man.

Mike Jr. started off playing the drums and only picked up the guitar a few years ago. And it wasn't until February of last year that this rocker offspring put together Flight Patterns.

According to the group, their sound is "very, very poppy, kinda like pop punk." Departing a bit from his father's genre, Sweet adds that they are "technically not a Christian band. There are a couple members in the band that are Christians, but we feel that we could reach a wider range of fans pursuing this as a secular band."

Catch them at LifeFest on October 17 at Koka Booth Amphitheatre in Cary, where they will open the show (along with 15 other acts) for Stryper.

10 QUESTIONS

with Campbell Law Dean Melissa Essary

BY CRASH GREGG

Founded in 1976, the Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law at Campbell University has been recognized by the American Bar Association (ABA) as having the nation's top Professionalism Program and by the American Academy of Trial Lawyers for having the nation's best Trial Advocacy Program. Campbell Law boasts more than 3,200 alumni, including 2,200 who reside and work in North Carolina. For 21 years, Campbell Law's record of success on the North Carolina Bar Exam has been unsurpassed by any other North Carolina law school. In September 2009, Campbell Law relocated to a new state-of-the-art building in downtown Raleigh at 225 Hillsborough Street. For more information, visit <http://law.campbell.edu>.



1 What was the biggest factor in relocating Campbell Law from Buies Creek to downtown Raleigh? As our state capital, Raleigh is truly a living legal laboratory, where our students will have the opportunity to learn in a city where laws are made, interpreted and applied. These opportunities are literally within walking distance. Prior to our move to 225 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh was by far the largest state capital without a law school. We are looking forward to being part of the fabric of this great city.

2 Tell us what a "normal" business day includes for you. When you are in the process of moving the location of an entire school, there isn't much that's "normal." Some days involve building external relationships and helping raise money for the school. On other days, I focus more on the internal administration of the law school. To be sure, I'm never bored. I've juggled a lot of tasks over the last three years in preparing for the move, and perhaps I'll be able to define "normal" by Christmas.

3 Please tell us about your family life. My husband Larry and I have two beautiful daughters, Amber, who is 18, and Rachel, who is 12. Amber's taking a gap year before college and is working at a local PR firm. Rachel is in year-round school at Leesville Middle School, where she just made the volleyball team. We're looking forward to watching her first game this week. Our family loves sports, and we feel like we are in hockey and

basketball heaven here. We also just attended our first Durham Bulls game and had a great time.

4 Tell us about your history prior to and including your time at Campbell Law. I grew up in a small cotton-farming community near Lubbock, Texas. I attended the University of Texas for my undergraduate degree and received my law degree from Baylor Law School. I was a trial attorney for five years in Texas before joining the Baylor Law School faculty in 1990. I taught law at Baylor for 16 years focusing on employment law. In 2006, I became the fourth dean of Campbell Law School. Since arriving at Campbell, I have focused on getting the law school moved, while working to hire great staff members. All of our faculty who taught in Buies Creek are continuing to teach in Raleigh—100% of them! We are thrilled in our new downtown home.

5 Have you moved to the Raleigh area or do you commute to work? We moved to northwest Raleigh in early July and are really enjoying the city. I learn more shortcuts every day. So far, Raleigh is living up to its hype as a great place to live.

6 What is the best characteristic of Raleigh that you've found so far? I absolutely love

the people. In that sense, it's a lot like my native Texas. People here have embraced the law school wholeheartedly. I'm humbled at the support we've received from the legal and business communities. I know a great deal of that support stems from the quality work that Campbell lawyers have done throughout the region over the years. Our alumni paved the road to Raleigh and its warm reception for our school.

7 What makes the admission numbers at Campbell Law consistently high while numbers at other schools have dropped off in recent years? Our applications increased 25% this year, and we again led the state on the overall July bar exam passage rate. I can't speak for any other schools. We do what we do, and we work hard to do it well. Our eye is always on our student's future clients. With that in mind, we expect a lot from our students, and they respond to those demands. We produce great lawyers, no question, and I'm so proud of each one of them.

8 What is your favorite comfort food? I'd rather cook for comfort than eat for comfort. Mashing together ingredients and making a mess in the kitchen is cathartic. I think I'll make some fudge when I get home.

9 Phone, email or text messaging for work and friends? If I can have a conversation in-person, that's always my preference. Next best is the phone. For routine communications, email. I'm working on better managing my email. Too many of us use email too much because it's easy. It's unfortunately supplanting hard mail, phone calls, and face-to-face conversations. While it's wonderfully efficient for some purposes, for other purposes it's a truly lousy channel of communication. There's no substitute for looking someone in the eyes or hearing their voice on the phone.

10 What is your favorite movie and/or television show. Movie: The Sound of Music or the latest high-octane action movie sans gratuitous violence.

Television Show: The Mentalist or Lost. Should I admit that I also watch American Idol!?

Rapid Fitness

The abrupt closing of Peak Fitness on Glenwood Avenue left more than a few residents wondering about the future of the gym space on 509 N West Street in Glenwood South. After a run of several failed health clubs including Capital Fitness, Spa Health Club and Peak, a new organization with a completely different outlook and customer service mantra has moved into the space and plans to open October 1st.

Rapid Fitness, headquartered in Raleigh, has invested over \$2,000,000 in renovations and equipment, gutting the space and redoing everything from the ground up. The club will be open 24 hours a day and include amenities such as luxury locker rooms with free concierge service (each with its own sauna), kids club with cinema and homework computer station/kids aerobics, members-only drop-off child service, free wi-fi



work lounge, stand up and lay down tanning, chiropractic center, nutrition consultant, smoothie and coffee bar, a large better-lit and ventilated fitness area, yoga center, women's only cardio and workout area, and an impressive MMA (Mixed Martial Arts) and boxing

center. The typical services such as free weights, cardio area, aerobics, free motion, pilates, and cycling will also be available. Much to the delight of many previous gym attendees, Rapid Fitness will offer free valet parking between 4 and 8pm to alleviate the parking issues that have always been a problem for the space in the past.

To ensure a high level of customer satisfaction, management at the new gym is implementing a 24-hour customer service policy for its members. Any suggestions, concerns or problems requested by a member will be answered within 24 hours.

Rapid Fitness has already planned several events in partnership with other local businesses and has developed a green initiative with the condos at 222 Glenwood, creating a community garden in the available space behind the gym.

For more information about Rapid Fitness, visit their website at www.rapidfitness.com or call their front desk at 919.232.7069.



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NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

The Art of Abstraction

BY JENNY LITZELMAN, RALEIGH CITY MUSEUM

The Raleigh City Museum unveiled a new exhibit on October 2, *Abstractations: Capital City Inspirations and Observations*. For this exhibit, the museum called upon local artists to abstractly interpret the city of Raleigh. The exhibit includes several abstract pieces, but it also includes self-interpretive photography and music. While the exhibit hosts works by current Raleigh artists, Raleigh has been home to its own abstract movement over the course of the twentieth century. Two artists that worked with different styles over their careers, including abstract, were George Bireline and Joe Cox. These former professors at NCSU's College of Design, Bireline and Cox left a distinctive mark on local art history.



Abstract art is largely a 20th century phenomenon, though its origins can be traced to a century earlier in Europe. Art historian Jane Turner defines abstract art as, "western art that rejects representation and has no starting or finishing point in nature."

George Bireline was born in Illinois

in 1923 and served during World War II. Thanks to the G.I. Bill, Bireline attended college and received his Masters in Fine Arts from UNC Chapel Hill. Bireline began teaching at NCSU's College of Design in 1955 and continued to teach there until his retirement in 1986.

Bireline painted in a variety of mediums over the course of his career, one of the major styles being abstract impressionism. In the 1970s, Bireline often used an assortment of items such as crushed cans and clothes hangers to portray flat objects in space. While Bireline often stated that his earlier works contained no overt ideas, he admitted that his later works dealt with more personal issues and "beauty's hidden horrors, the 'yes and no' of modern existence." Today, his works can be found at the Hirshorn Museum, the Mint Museum, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, the NC Museum of Art, the Ackland Museum of Art, and the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art.

Another famous Raleigh artist is Joe Cox. Originally from Indiana, Joe Cox made Raleigh his home when he became a professor at NCSU's College of Design in 1954. During his tenure, Cox was known statewide for his murals and paintings, and he is most famous for his depictions of urban landscapes. Aside from being a beloved professor, Cox received numerous awards such as the First Annual Raleigh Artsposure Artist Achievement Award in 1985.

Cox retired from teaching in 1980 but continued to paint for eight hours a day, six to seven days a week. Many people viewed Cox's works as "restrained, placid and calm", much like the man himself. Despite suffering from Parkinson's disease, Cox continued to paint until late in life. He learned to paint in a seated position and worked in



short durations, as it was hard to control his brush strokes. Cox eventually moved to Springmoor Retirement Home where he continued to sketch. He died in 1997. Joe Cox's works can be seen throughout the country including the Mint Museum, the Chrysler Museum, the High Museum, and the NC Museum of Art.

There has been a resurgence of interest in Cox recently in Raleigh. In 1972, Cox created a light installation known as the Color Wall in the D.H. Hill Library at NCSU. Unfortunately, the Color Wall has suffered its share of technical difficulties over the years, and the mechanical switching system is now irreparable. In an effort to reignite Cox's brilliant work local community members have organized www.thecolorwall.org, a website raising money to install a modern computerized system that will bring the Color Wall back to life. 📺

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. Check out our newest exhibit, *Abstractations: Capital City Inspirations and Observations*, which opened October 2, 2009. If you have any questions, please call 919-832-3775 or check out our website at www.raleighcitymuseum.org.



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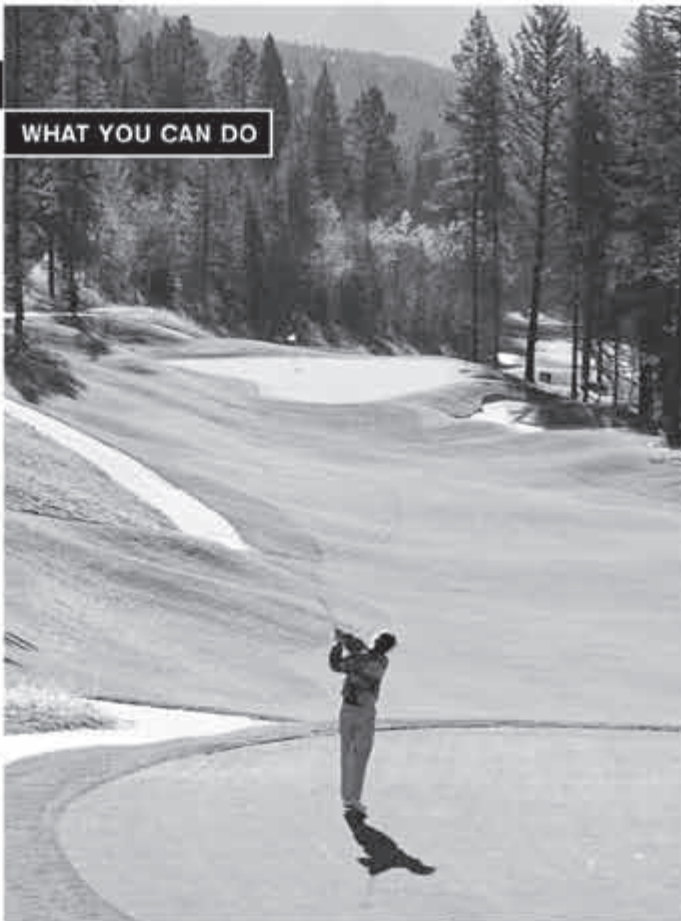
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