



RALEIGH DOWNTOWNER™

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 12

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

FREE

INTERVIEWS WITH MITCH SILVER, DAVID DIAZ, SMEDES & GEORGE YORK, GREG HATEM, AND ANN-CABELL BAUM ANDERSEN ON...



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The Future of Downtown Raleigh

There's no denying that downtown Raleigh is heading in a bold, new direction. With the re-opening of Fayetteville Street to vehicular traffic, the recent boom in residential development, and the movement of more businesses toward the city's governmental heart, downtown is poised on the brink of a city-altering transformation. With this growth comes questions. Are we heading in the right direction? How do we handle traffic? What about retail and residential issues? We wondered if there would be a difference in opinion on downtown Raleigh's future from some of the people involved in this boom, including city officials, developers, and real estate sales professionals.

To find out, we sat down with six prominent local figures and asked their opinions on the future of downtown Raleigh. The overall response was positive and upbeat and the consensus was that Raleigh is poised on the verge of greatness.

There were, of course, several other people we would like to have interviewed, however we chose our list based on recommendations from other interviewees, our business relationships, and unfortunately space limitations. We'd like to hear from our readers if there are other public or private figures you would be interested to read more about in a future issue and we'll make it happen. Simply email us your suggestions to ideas@raleighdowntowner.com.



Whether you're a supporter of Mayor Charles Meeker or not, you have to give kudos to the strides that have been made while he and his staff have been in office. When we talked to the Mayor about our story idea on the future of downtown, he told us, "2008 really should be THE year for downtown. In addition to the Convention Center and Marriott opening, the southern end of Fayetteville Street and the Plaza should also open in 2008. Keep an eye on the area around Hargett Street, on both sides of Fayetteville Street where there

are a number of new restaurants coming. Renovations are being completed and leased, most of which are projects of Empire Properties. And of course the Blount Street Commons project near the Governor's mansion will be in full swing next year with construction underway, houses being renewed and all kinds of activities in that area. So this is going to be a big, big year for downtown, and I'm looking forward to it."

First a bit of background on each member of our "downtown Raleigh panel" and interview on their outlook for the future of downtown.



MITCH SILVER

Director of the Department of City Planning and Urban Design Center

Mitch has an educational background in architecture and urban planning, and over 22 years of planning experience. Before coming to Raleigh in 2005, Mitch worked as policy and planning director in New York City, a principal of a New York City-based planning firm, a town manager in New Jersey and deputy planning director in Washington, DC. Known by his colleagues as a creative thinker and problem-solver, Mitch has been at the center of many cutting edge trends, innovative solutions and visionary plans, and is the force behind the Comprehensive Plan for the revitalization of downtown Raleigh. The Downtowner staff enjoyed interviewing Mitch and found his candor and common sense approach to planning to be a positive attribute for Raleigh.

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■ The Raleigh Downtowner Vol. 3, Issue 12 The Future of Downtown Raleigh



ON THE COVER AND PICTURED LEFT: Construction abounds as downtown development picks up speed

UPCOMING ISSUES

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- Volume 4, Issue 2:** First Friday: Downtown Art & Galleries



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“Our immediate short-term action for downtown is updating our Comprehensive Plan. We front-loaded the downtown planning update because we felt we didn’t want to wait for the Comprehensive Plan to be completed before we could get a sense of direction about where downtown is headed. What that will do is allow us to re-evaluate where we believe higher density should occur. At that point we will see if we can either require retail on the ground floor or provide incentives through zoning on the ground floor. Beyond the first five years, I have always presented these three talking points that I say again and again: Great Streets, Great Spaces, Great Places. And that is really our focus: to create a downtown experience. We’re very focused on what we call “the experience” because when people go to a destination, it’s that experience which defines their desire to go again, and if they’ll want to live or work there.

Retail is of course a primary component when activating the ground level. Having a lot of glass and light near the street (in the retail building spaces); glass during the day, and light at night which illuminates the sidewalk in a way that makes it very attractive. Another part of Great Streets is what we call our public ground, or as we call it, Great Spaces. The city plaza is a good example. We want to make sure that people enjoy the sidewalk, the public ground, not only what happens on the street, but also what happens behind the wall. We have proposals to widen sidewalks, which is now required for residential buildings, and the council just adopted that about a month ago. They’re now looking to expand that for commercial buildings as well. So any new building that comes in has to add something to the public ground and not just build to the property line. We have a great public ground on Fayetteville Street – but if you go to other streets, we have some of the most undersized sidewalks that I’ve seen in any major city. Our desire here again is to focus on the experience. We’ll want to do those small things that I think send very loud messages.

We have a wayfinding system in the works that will help people navigate our downtown and also show what’s being offered here. This should begin sometime in 2008 and it is a huge step for us. It will not only help people while they’re downtown, but also help those visiting find their way back home. A lot of people come from the far reaches of the county, like North Raleigh. These people that have expressed concerns now have a way of finding their way back to I-40, Glenwood Avenue, or Highway 70, etc. A lot of times even though our downtown streets are on a grid, they can’t find their way and so they tend not to come downtown. It’s a wayfinding system for both people in cars and on foot. You have a hierarchy for driving signage that has less information, and street level signage that has a lot more information. They call it trailblazing, and there’s a whole new technology surrounding it.

We’re also looking at connecting all of our main districts to each other. The study focuses on how we connect downtown to Glenwood South, and to City Market, etc. and how these districts come together. We also need to embrace Hillsborough Street as well. Another thing we’re looking at is how to extend the downtown core because we know over time it will become very compact and dense and so looking at the possibility of streetcars or another internal circulation system as well as providing a wonderful walking experience.

The second element is Great Spaces, the public realm between buildings: sidewalks and streets, but also including the walls. Views are very important. People have fallen in love with the classic view of having the state capital and Progress Energy on both sides of Fayetteville Street, but when you look down Market Plaza you’re looking at a parking deck. We’re going to pay attention to the little details about making places more vibrant and placing emphasis on public art. We’re focusing on the types of architecture that help define public space. Unfortunately classic architecture was not a big theme in Raleigh’s past like it was in DC or Chicago, San Francisco. So there’s a desire to really elevate architecture as a way of mitigating density, and also adding to the public ground.

The last element is Great Places. That’s mainly our arts and culture; we want to expand on what is already here. We believe downtown Raleigh really represents a special place in the Triangle. I think it’s fine that you have different cities that offer different things because people love to come to a region where they have choices. We want to make sure we offer those entertainment choices. We have a very good captured market with the Progress Energy Center attractions drawing over 750,000 visitors per year. We would love to see more cultural and arts venues and destinations in and around downtown. I think that’s another big focus over the next coming years is how do we start to attract more of those arts and culture offerings. The museums down here having amazing numbers already and they’ll only get better. Our biggest push is probably going to be retail. Without a doubt we know that is important for residents, people who want to work here, and for vis-

itors downtown. They shouldn’t have to get in a car and drive. This is particularly important to those in town for the Convention Center. They’ll have two hours with nothing to do and they can either sit in their room, eat until they fall over, or they can shop. Our desire of course is for them to shop and enjoy the entertainment in the evening. Our staff put out a study about the untapped market potential that’s not being captured which is right now today at \$32 million and when the convention center opens \$125 million but that’s not reflected if you look at our ground floor space. So our big goal is to work with the Downtown Raleigh Alliance on how can we get some of the retail back that thrived here back in the heyday of Fayetteville Street.

The only thing I would add is that transit is something we’re advocating for heavily downtown. Not just streetcars, but looking at all sorts of transportation, so that Raleigh can be connected to the outlying region. The residential part is something we’re excited about, West at North, a very dense project, which will start to connect downtown to Glenwood South. We don’t know if other developments will be rentals, or sales, because of what’s happening in the lending industry but we still see projects moving forward. And we’re very excited to hit that magic number of 10,000 households within about a mile of downtown within the next three years. That will be a huge turning point for the city and I hope that the retail will start to accelerate at that point. 2008 is going to be a magic year: RBC, the Plaza, the Marriott hotel will open, Bloomsbury should be completed and that will build more confidence in downtown.

What I try to communicate is that the experience of a thriving downtown is the best way of keeping residential property taxes low. So if you support lower taxes, you should support investment into downtown. It’s hard for people to think about, but it’s been proven for every city. Having a lot of density downtown is the best way to make a downtown vibrant.

It’s all very exciting to watch. One of the things that attracted me to this job is the Urban Design Center. I had been thinking about how much I would love to create one and found out Raleigh already had a center. So it’s been a very good relationship. Dan is an incredible guy, which I’m sure you know [Dan Douglas is the Director of Raleigh’s Urban Design Center]. I see things only getting better. It’s certainly exciting. I took this job because I knew Raleigh is a city on the move and downtown’s best days are ahead.”



DAVID DIAZ

President and CEO, the Downtown Raleigh Alliance

Born in Puerto Rico and raised in Philadelphia, David studied City and Regional planning at Cornell, and was hired as a City Planner for Roanoke in 2000. Working his way up through the planning department, he left for active duty in Iraq,

returning to his position a year later in Roanoke. He was hired in 2007 as the President and CEO of the Downtown Raleigh Alliance, an organization whose mission is to address issues facing Downtown Raleigh. Comprised of only 7 1/2 full-time employees, the Alliance is approached to solve problems from an ever-widening array of disciplines, including business recruitment and retention, urban planning, municipal regulatory reform, homelessness, and marketing. The Downtowner has enjoyed working with David over the past year and has observed in him a dedicated, investigative personality, who truly cares about his new home city. His wife Emily works in the Wake County Public School System, and is a valuable asset to David.

“One of the major roles of the Downtown Raleigh Alliance is being an advocate for downtown and recognizing the people and projects that are making a difference. On April 1st, our annual event will be at the Sheraton where we will review what happened in 2007 and report what is to come in for the balance of ’08, ’09 and beyond. We would like to become the historians for downtown and paint a vision for what we want to see long term.

With the opening of the convention center coming in September, we have been talking with many downtown merchants in preparation for the celebration. We will be launching our restaurant week on September 10th, which will coincide with the opening of the Convention Center. Each day there will be something different happening such as a trade expo, a possible international festival, a nighttime gala

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event and fireworks. Since we already know we will have a captive audience in place we want to energize the downtown merchants and let them be part of it all. We need to make sure that as folks are leaving the convention center we introduce them to the rest of what downtown has to offer.

The downtown skyline will be further enhanced before the end of 2008 with the inclusion of the RBC tower and the 400 room Marriott hotel. Also, the City Plaza, slated to be completed by end of '08, is generating excitement and anticipation. With luxurious pavilions and water fountains, the vision is that one day people will say "Let's go to the Plaza" and everyone will know what that means. The Alliance is going to manage the space which will be exciting for us. Essentially we will be looking at events and outdoor activities that would work well in that space and generate interest for our area residents, as well as, for our visitors. One such idea is the potential for an ice skating rink which would be a fun way to bring people together at the Plaza.

The population demographic is important to consider when planning for downtown. Our city certainly has a young, hip, urban crowd along with a more settled crowd peppering the mix. We aim to have something for people of every walk of life to enjoy while maintaining our familiar Raleigh charm.

Retail is vital to a prospering downtown and we've been doing research to determine, in comparison to other big cities, what we need to add or maintain in order to keep our city dwellers content. Our downtown retail area has its own unique setting based among the different districts. The Warehouse District is blossoming and Glenwood South has been steadily steamrolling. Moore Square is very organized and is doing well. Branding the areas as districts will give our city a tagline and deepen our capacity to influence the economy of downtown thus keeping us in forward motion. John Kelly, a branding expert who is on the Alliance Board and kindly offered to do some of the work pro-bono, is assisting us in determining the essence of downtown. We are also working on ideas to engage more businesses and merchants in doing things that could help bring more people to their doors. Marketing will further our economic development which is expected to get a lot more robust this year.



Director, is leading the Comprehensive Plan, which will provide a vision of how Raleigh should grow over the next 20 years. We have a committee that will be involved with this vision and will contribute to the downtown part of the plan. Raleigh's own citizens will also be encouraged to participate in the future vision of their city. Actually the current development cycle is taking off so quickly and evolving through the Comprehensive Plan that priorities need to be set as to what we want over the next 5 and 10 years and then redefine after that. Everyone who is involved in downtown is asking "What's the next plan for downtown?," "What is the next vision?" Definitely all the planning that the city's doing is setting us up so that we know where we want to be for the next 10 to 20 years.

I believe that next year will be pivotal for downtown Raleigh. We will be seeing a critical mass of new ideas developing and new people who will make it feel much more cosmopolitan. Developers, such as Greg Hatem, are working to retain our small town charm with the types of local businesses being recruited, while at the same time, bringing in all of these new venues. The theme we chose for our annual meeting is "Downtown, Elevating to New Heights." The reason behind this particular theme was to incorporate the growing skyline with the presence of RBC coming in 2008. RBC's top CEO, Gordon Nixon, will be our keynote speaker at the

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**Saturday
Feb
9th** **6:30pm**

A Celebration of Art

NCSU's Alumni Association and College of Education in association with Fred A. Olds PTA
This event will benefit the fine arts and other programs at Fred A. Olds Elementary
Held at the NCSU McKimmon Center - Ballroom 1

Featuring world class original oils, watercolors, acrylics, pastels, lithographs, serigraphs, giclees, and limited edition reproductions, this black-tie optional evening out will also include original art by local artists.

ADMISSION: \$25/person includes complimentary hors d'oeuvres and alcoholic/non-alcoholic refreshment. Social hour/art preview: 6:30-7:30pm; Auction: 7:30-10:00pm.
(919) 610-3544 or fao_celebration@yahoo.com

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event. With RBC moving downtown, Nixon coming to speak seemed like a natural for our theme for next year. We're excited about the changes we're headed for over the next year and the next few decades and we look forward to doing all we can to help make those changes positive and the right ones for downtown Raleigh."



SMEDES YORK

Chairman of the Board of York Companies (York Properties, York Simpson Underwood and McDonald-York construction). He also serves on the Board of SCANA.

Third generation Raleigh native Smedes York has significantly contributed to making his hometown the dynamic place it is today. Born in 1941, Smedes knew at an early age

that he wanted to follow in the footsteps of his legendary father, J. "Willie" York, and work in the construction business. Smedes received a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from North Carolina State University and played on the Wolfpack basketball team under Everett Case. He served as First Lieutenant in the United States Army Corps of Engineers and returned home to continue his studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, receiving a Master's Degree in Business Administration. Smedes served on the Raleigh City Council in the late seventies, followed by two terms as the city's mayor from 1979 until 1983. He has served in a leadership capacity in many organizations, including past president of the Boys and Girls Club, past chairman of the North Carolina Citizens for Business and Industry, and the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce. A tireless advocate for Raleigh, Smedes was recently inducted into the Raleigh Hall of Fame for his work in business, real estate, non-profit organizations, sports, government, and education.

"The resurgence of downtown is the most exciting real estate trend I've seen since I've been in the business – which has been really since the 50s. While I was Mayor and on the City Council we worked a lot on downtown and we made a little bit of headway but it felt kind of like we were swimming upstream. It took a lot of effort but it was more or less a kind of "hold your own." People would talk about how no one goes downtown at night, and the fact that we needed people living downtown. So we had a lot of planning and a lot of effort, but what's happening now is market-driven.

During the 50s and earlier, downtown was THE retail center for the whole community. Along Fayetteville Street there were a lot of fashion stores. Hudson Belk was there, S & W cafeteria, six theatres, making it a big hub of activity. Then after the 2nd World War we had a lot of movement to the suburbs and away from downtown. Cameron Village, which my dad developed and we are still very much involved with, opened its first store in '49. The Village is again enjoying a shopping success heyday as it did in the 50s. At that time a lot of the downtown merchants moved to Cameron Village and later North Hills in the mid 60s and then out to the suburbs.

The trend started to reverse itself about 10 or 15 years ago where many cities had so much suburban growth but a lot of the jobs were still close to downtown. With the long commutes and traffic, people started looking at downtown as a place to live. I say downtown but by that I mean "central city." A lot of the neighborhoods in the central city got rejuvenated. Oakwood was certainly one that had gone down and came back, Boylan Heights is coming back strong, Hayes Barton never really went down but it became the premier neighborhood, you might say. The surrounding subdivisions had a historic aspect to them but we still didn't have much in the way of new residential.

I have to credit the Cotton Mill that Roland Gammon developed back in '96 where he took an older building and made loft units and condominiums. They sold out really quickly and that got a lot of people's attention. That paved the way for more high-density residential with a lot more on the way today. We have a lot of restaurant choices, particularly when you throw in the Glenwood card but downtown as well with Fin's, Yancy's and more coming. You have entertainment, restaurants, residential, a strong office component, and certainly a cultural center, financial and governmental. Some of it is similar to what it was 50 years ago but in many respects, the mix is different. It's very exciting to see people in high-density living. Looking at the RBC project, which is 130+ residential units, and they're sold out. When I was on the city council in the early 80s we were making these efforts toward downtown and RBC wouldn't have been successful, it wouldn't have

worked. To see what's happening now is very exciting from a lot of aspects and it's going to continue.

If you look at Charlotte today, I think that's what we'll be like in 10 years. Lots of residential – prime residential – and if you go to Charlotte downtown you've got major restaurants within a block of each other. You've got main hotels – that's something we'll have more of soon. It's going to be different though. In other words I don't think you're going to have the fashion presence in downtown that you had 50 years ago, but 50 years ago you didn't have the residential part so its going to be a different mix. It'll be equally successful though and that's the fun part about it. I don't hear people say "Nobody goes downtown" any longer. They're embarrassed to say it because they know if they do, they're just talking about themselves because they know a lot of people DO go downtown now. You have Café Luna, Duck & Dumpling and a lot of other great restaurants. You've got a lot of people going downtown, especially young professionals. That's a real strong market niche.



When redeveloping downtown, you can keep the old, put the new inside it and mix the two. And that's what people like. I don't think there's any doubt that the urban living is going to continue. We've got Campbell law school coming, which is very important. You're going have 350 law students who are, generally, mid to late 20s I'd say, so they'll definitely add to the urban scene. You've got major law firms that have moved back to the downtown, and a strong office presence. I think one of the really great things about downtown Raleigh is that uses a street grid system. The streets are parallel and perpendicular so it's a perfect grid that makes it so much easier. Fortunately we're doing away with many of the one-way streets and so now we have mostly two-way streets downtown. You still have the thoroughways of Dawson, McDowell, Wilmington and Person but the other streets are no longer one-way. That's very important for traffic. The transportation people used to think the whole idea was to move people through but now the new idea is to slow 'em down and to let them see what's there.

If you look at Fayetteville Street, which was the prime retail corridor where all the fashion stores were, a lot of it will have to be redone. If you walk down the Street and look at how many potential retail locations are there, it's just not that many. When you travel down to the block towards the Performing Arts Center where they're going to build the Plaza, there are good retail opportunities there. The first three blocks, there's not much you can do. If you built an office building there today, you would put retail on the first floor. A lot of the current buildings can't accommodate that. For example, take a look at what was the First Union tower and now the Wachovia building tower. It's has Carolina Café on the ground floor, but you don't hear "I'm going to go in this building" unless you already have business nearby since there's nothing else there. So it's going to be hard. We've been involved with the City Market for most of the first 15+ years and we've had a few fashion stores but essentially what worked were restaurants and entertainment. On Davie Street, the Progress Energy building that we did the leasing for is a great example of first floor retail that we need more of downtown. It has Fins, a day spa, coffee shop, a small Japanese restaurant, and others. The only sector you still don't see is fashion. It's very similar to what you see in Charlotte.

I do think the city has done a good job of leadership in downtown and should be the master developer for projects downtown. They're the ones who put the plans together for downtown and are the only ones who can implement certain portions of the plan such as parking, the convention center, and the street system. At the same time they can encourage and work with the private developers that come in to participate with something that fits into the plan. The Mayor's done a good job in leading this, and that's been an important factor.

We're creating growth with our performing arts, the new Convention Center, and residential developments, so it's no longer a matter of convincing people that

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downtown is a good place to be. I see a big change, and that's coming from someone who's been here a long time."



GEORGE YORK

Executive Vice President, York Companies

George gained 12 years of experience in retail property management and leasing before joining the executive team in 2006. He holds his North Carolina Real Estate License and is a full member of the Urban Land Institute. George is also involved with the International Council of Shopping

Centers and serves on the Triangle Commercial Association of Realtors Board of Directors. He received his BA from Wake Forest University in 1993 and his MBA from Kenan-Flagler School of Business at UNC-Chapel Hill in 2006. George is a member of the Board of Directors at Southlight, Inc. and the Raleigh Little Theatre, as well as serving on the Board of Directors at McDonald-York Construction. George is married to his wife Parker and has two children, Smedes, 4, and Bowen, 1.

"I think the trend of moving back toward downtown is going to continue. I believe the condominium growth that we've seen taper off recently is going to pick back up. I'm certainly not an economic forecaster but it appears that the mortgage industry is going to continue to cut rates — and when the money's cheap the housing market usually gets better. I'm hopeful that will help put a spark behind the residential sales and retail will follow. I'm more of a retail guy even though I have done several leasing assignments downtown. The retail that we've seen in the resurgence so far has been primarily restaurants and entertainment so I believe that's going to continue. In ten years or so there will be a need for more services sooner rather than later caused by the all new people living downtown. I would look at Charlotte as sort of a model of where our downtown is going: more corporate presence and people choosing to locate downtown as opposed to the surrounding areas or RTP. The downtown area will have a lot to offer them. So hopefully that's where we'll be going. That's about the only thing I want that's similar to Charlotte.



Rents are moving higher and there are a lot of the smaller landlords that you won't find in a bigger power center or a mall or somewhere outside of the downtown area. That hurts in terms of the tenant allowances to entice new businesses. If the City of Raleigh could help promote and incentivize people to open downtown, that might offset the fact that many of the landlords

downtown have small pockets without the capacity to put money in to broker a deal. It's hard for the smaller landlords to lure more retail, especially the good restaurants and bars, who are used to getting large tenant improvement allowances included into the deal. There are very few places downtown now that can afford these incentives without help.

I'm still pretty excited about the way things are growing downtown. Personally, I consider the development around Blount Street and Seaboard Station as a big part of changes downtown. Those will add a lot of activity, not only residential but more interesting shops, dining options and hopefully more services like Capital City Grocery. I'd love to see them hang in there until they catch on. The city center, the core, is going to need some better shopping options. There's a wide gap in the services we offer downtown that other big cities. At some point someone's going have to commit to go down there even though it's still a little bit early. But I think whoever's in there first is going to have some staying power and will be able to take advantage of it and hopefully become an institution down there.

I'd love to see Conti's Italian Market downtown somewhere either on Fayetteville

Street or Wilmington Street or somewhere that's within walking distance. That's the thing, you get three or four of these type stores downtown and you start to develop an identity. I think you see that when you go to big cities, like New York or Chicago or someplace that has had a long well-established downtown, that's what you'll find. It's not always a Food Lion or Lowes or Harris Teeter plopped down in the middle of it, but usually lots of little places that add to the quality of life and the services that are down there. You start to meet and know the owners and operators too and that's kind of fun. You can start to piece together buying goods on foot instead of having to climb in your car and driving to Cameron Village (which of course we certainly don't discourage) but local foot traffic is the best option for downtown right now.

Downtown Raleigh will continue to grow and change and develop its own identity over time and that'll be interesting to watch unfold."



GREG HATEM

Managing Partner, Empire Properties

Greg Hatem, a North Carolina native, is the inspirational vision behind Empire Properties. His more than 20 years in real estate development, finance and international business culminated in the founding of the company in order to preserve and enhance the character of downtown Raleigh.

Greg is a recognized leader in the efforts to renew downtown through adaptive reuse of existing buildings and new construction in historic neighborhoods, as well as extending positive development into other urban areas. Greg is a graduate of North Carolina State University with a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering. He also holds a diploma in Chinese studies from Beijing Politics College. When working with Greg, his passion for downtown Raleigh is always immediately apparent and his vision for what he wants is clear. Interviewing Greg is always a pleasure for the Downtowner.

"For downtown Raleigh, in the next few years I see a continuation and finally the realization of a lot of the projects that have been started. These include some of the residential developments, finally finishing up the convention center, and all of the activity that will come from that. I think one of the things that we don't remember is what it was like to have a civic center, and the activity that it brought downtown. It really did create a bit of a void when we tore that down, and the new one will be so much better. I think we'll be surprised with the positives that come from that because we've had nothing down here. I'm excited about the event space, and think it's going to be a big boost in a lot of ways. Then there are all the hotels that are coming. We're working on the Lafayette and I think there's probably four or five more, which is great because I think downtown is re-establishing itself as the place to stay when you come to Raleigh.

For some big picture things over the next five years I think that the connectivity between NC State and downtown Raleigh will be established. People don't realize how far the influence of other downtowns spread. We have a small downtown. Our true downtown is only 10 blocks by 10 blocks. Other downtowns are 50 blocks by 50 blocks. And if you start using that as a yardstick for the spear of influence of the downtown, it encompasses Peace, it encompasses NC State, Centennial Campus and Shaw and a lot of southeast Raleigh. That's the perception that people will begin to understand, that downtown is connected to more things than we think. There are so many great things at Centennial campus, and at NC State. There are a lot of students that come to downtown from the College of Design with the Urban Design studio and I believe that trend will continue both in the undergrad and graduate level. The proximity to NC State will create a lot more spin-off businesses that want to locate in downtown and we're starting to see that from a lot of different disciplines: architecture, engineering and design. Over the next five years we're finally going to put together a master plan, if you will, for transit which is really important because we have to make downtown accessible to the airport, RTP, Durham and the rest of Raleigh. We have to have Raleigh accessible to those places and those places accessible to Raleigh. There's also a great opportunity for development in the Warehouse district spurred by the potential for TIA. I think easily within the next five years that'll happen. The Raleigh that we see right now is absolutely in its infancy. When you look at other markets you see there's so much potential here. Other people coming to Raleigh see it. Developers certainly see it, and that's why there are a lot of outside developers that want to be here. But

people in general that come in and want to figure out if they want to move here, come into Raleigh and sense that energy and that ability to be a part of something that's really about to take off. As much as we've accomplished in the last 15 years, we're really just getting started. There's so much opportunity for density. The word that comes up time and time again for me is *opportunity*. There's great opportunity for people to still live in downtown, and to have businesses and to either work downtown or have your own business or even just enjoy the amenities downtown. We really are starting to become this culinary center, certainly for Raleigh, and quite honestly in the Triangle.



– made it too significant of a building to lose. I had the desire to turn it into this restaurant that could tell the history of Raleigh. And we're not telling it somewhere else, we're telling it where the history actually happened. A newspaper is the first edition of history, and so a lot of history happened within that building. So what it did is it really solidified a location to kind of tell the story of Raleigh. It went from a project that would never make money, to a project so personal to me that I chose to live upstairs from the Times Bar, which is arguably one of the best bars in all of North Carolina. It does well and it pays rent so therefore the project's profitable now. But it was done originally out of the love of the history for the building and then by listening to the history of the building it created a business that could be successful. So that's where you really have to listen and think out of the box a little. I think that's what makes it probably my favorite project because it's so Raleigh-specific. And it tells that story.

This is why I think the heart of downtown is the historic districts. That's why we (Empire Properties) started there. It's about protecting the character that defines Raleigh. Once you do that and once you activate that, then you spur larger development and you can bring on the density that we all really want. But it has to be well-defined and well-designed and that's where we are now. We've created a sense of place for downtown Raleigh and it's the sense of place that other communities have lost. Charlotte has lost it because they just tore everything down and built anew. Charleston has kind of boxed itself in to where it can't have the real density that we can have. We're somewhere in the middle which is great because we can still have the character and charm of a Charleston and we can still have the density of Charlotte. I think blending those two things together is how you bring more people working downtown, more businesses and more people living downtown. We believe that could be Hargett Street; it's this great street that connects some of our best neighborhoods and you walk past two of our 1792 parks or squares and there's almost 20 restaurants there now. Hargett Street and downtown Raleigh are really a great place to be."



ANN-CABELL BAUM ANDERSEN

President, The Glenwood Agency

Ann-Cabell opened The Glenwood Agency, a new boutique-style real estate firm specializing in 'niche' properties located inside Raleigh's beltline in September 2005. The Glenwood Agency serves unique clientele that are focused on residential and commercial locations inside Raleigh's core area and Downtown. This progressive firm works with both individual buyers and developers. The firm emphasizes its detailed experience with project/development implementation, marketing, and sales through product delivery. Ann-Cabell is a big proponent of downtown Raleigh and has initiated several projects to assist in marketing and creating public interest specifically in downtown. The Raleigh Downtowner staff enjoys working with Ann-Cabell and her staff on related projects.

"I've been working on or near Glenwood Avenue since around 1989, before it was Glenwood South. Then the area wasn't like it is now. But once you're here, you fall in love with downtown and you see its potential. It's a cool and funky place and people seem to gravitate toward it because it's not cookie-cutter. If you enjoy the character because you're walking down a tree-lined street, that's something that was built in the 20s or the 40s and someone's been here first and we're just carrying on a tradition.



This year, we're going to see the RBC building topped out, West is already topped out, 222 will be complete, and hopefully Bloomsbury Estates will also be complete. As far as residential what you see now is all that's going happen any time soon. I don't think Hue's supposed to be finished until 2009 as well as 111 Seaboard. Blount St. Commons is coming right along too, and they've already

cleared everything. With West, 222 and RBC finishing we'll basically have 500 new people who will call downtown home; this will be their neighborhood. So on a Tuesday night you're you're going to see a whole lot more people on the street than you would this year on the same Tuesday night. On a Sunday morning walk to brunch or to get a coffee or a paper or whatever, you're going to slowly start seeing more people on the sidewalks and on the street. That's part of Raleigh's charm, we have city services, we're open 24 hours a day or you can get somebody 24 hours a day but it still has the look and feel a lifestyle of a smaller Southern town. And because of that people are attracted to living here. Where else can you find a 17-story building right in the middle of a residential neighborhood? That's Raleigh's city core right now, which is kind of neat.

What we need next is shopping, and more feet on the street at night and during the day. This is similar to the question of the chicken and the egg. You know, which comes first? And I think with any dynamic downtown you get the cutting-edge restaurants and the young entrepreneurs who are willing to go out on a limb and they're going to where its least expensive to open because they don't have the capital to go open at the mall. I guess when 2008 comes into being, what's on track is not necessarily more shopping. Nothing spectacular is going to happen retail-wise. In the best of all worlds, we'll have maybe two or three little boutique stores open, kind of funky stuff that you can't find anywhere else in town and they become destinations so people drive to them. At the rate we're growing, we're building a city, not just jumping into one. If we just continue what we're doing over the next five or so years we will look very different from what we have today, but we will still have that small-town Raleigh heart and soul which I think is important. If you look at Augusta, you feel the heart and soul of a town that has grown into a larger city. People go to cities like those and visit/vacation there because of their warm flavor. Its similar to a Columbia or Charleston, and it would be wonderful to have the number of tourists that go to Charleston choosing Raleigh as their destination.

I think we're on the right track, going in the right direction. We need input from residents, from businesses, the City. We can all work together to form a plan, and a city that we can all love to live in."

■ RD

The Basics (Apples & Grapes)

By Nancy Sturz Agasi

Yesterday afternoon I went to Whole Foods and walked down the fruit section, looking at all the kinds of apples. There were Red Delicious apples, Granny Smith, Macintosh, Macoun (my favorite), and Stayman (and at least another 10 varieties, all with names). Then, I went over to the grapes. There were just two kinds: red grapes and green grapes. Neither variety had a name. Well, it turns out that actually there are even more varieties of grapes in the world



than there are varieties of apples, and they all have names. The problem is that we in Raleigh don't know any of them or what they taste like. Some grapes have red skin and some have green skin. Some grapes are tart like the Granny Smith apple and some are sweet like the Red Delicious.

You can imagine that if you squeezed all the juice out of a Granny Smith apple it would be very tart and puckery. Also, imagine now that you squeezed all the juice out of a Red Delicious apple. Do you think that it would taste the same as the juice from the Granny Smith apple? Do you think that the juice from a Granny Smith



apple grown in France would taste the same as the one grown in Washington state or New Zealand?

Wine is, in its most simple terms, a beverage made by squeezing the juice from grapes and then letting that juice ferment over time with the help of yeast. The type of grape, the place that it was grown and the way that the juice is fermented determines how the wine will taste. Let me talk about the value of place and agriculture. Where were those grapes grown? Were they grown on the top of a mountain? Were they grown in a valley, along a river? Were they grown facing south to get the afternoon sun? Were they sprayed with insecticide? Were they mass-produced or were they carefully tended and pruned so that only the very best clusters of grapes were permitted to flourish? Was the soil full of minerals or was

it depleted of nutrients? Did it rain often during the year or was there drought? Was there a hard frost just after the flowers blossomed? All of these factors, often jumbled together with the French term *terroir*, greatly impact the taste and quality of a wine. All wine begins in the vineyard where the grapes are grown. If you have good grapes, it is easier to make good wine.

In France, certain grape varieties were known to grow better in certain places than in others. For example, the grape called chardonnay grew very well in the little Burgundian town of Chardonnay, and the name of the town was attached to the grape variety that grew there. Everyone in France knew that if you were going to get a white wine while in the town of Chardonnay, it would be made from the chardonnay grape. The sauvignon blanc grape grew

well in the town of Sancerre, the chenin blanc grape grew in the town of Vouvray and the riesling grape grew in the Alsatian town of Colmar. Each of those wines had very distinct characteristics that were associated with both the grape variety itself and the terroir in which it was grown.

Apples like the Fuji, which originated in Japan, or Granny Smith, which originated in New Zealand, are now grown in many places around the world. The same is true for grapes. Chardonnay grapes, which started out in the town of Chardonnay, have traveled across the world and are now grown in California and Australia. But do they taste the same? There is only one way to find out. Open up a few bottles of the same variety, each from a different place and taste the difference. And have fun doing it!

A Wine Spectator award winner, Nancy is the co-owner of and wine expert at Zely & Ritz, where their focus is all about fresh, organic, locally grown dishes served in tapas style small plates. The food is intensely flavorful, beautifully presented and simply delicious. She can be contacted at nancy@zelyandritz.com.

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301 Glenwood Avenue
Suite 100
919-828-0018
www.zelyandritz.com

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THIS MONTH'S READER REWARDS

- Two tickets from **Broadway Series South** to their productions of both *Cats* and *The Drowsy Chaperone*.
www.broadwayseriessouth.com

- Two tickets from the **North Carolina Theatre** to the upcoming production of *Dreamgirls*.
www.nctheatre.com

- Four \$25 gift certificates to **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

- Four \$25 gift certificates to the **Blue Martini**, located in the Powerhouse District. Lots of daily specials, great music, and never a cover charge.
www.bluemartiniraleigh.com

- Four \$25 gift certificates to **Amra's**, located in Glenwood South. Jazz, cigars and spirits in a 1930s-style lounge atmosphere.
www.amrasraleigh.com

- Four \$25 gift certificates to **The Globe Restaurant**, tucked away in the 510 Glenwood building. World cuisine, a late night menu, great drinks, and exciting nights make the Globe the new destination for Glenwood South.

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Raleigh City Museum Celebrates 15th Year Anniversary

By James Sutton, Director of Education & Outreach

For over 200 years, Raleigh, North Carolina's capital city had no repository for its historical artifacts, no place to preserve its past, and no institution to educate its citizens and visitors about the city's rich heritage. That all changed in 1993 when the Raleigh City Museum opened its first exhibit.

Now celebrating its 15th anniversary, the museum was mostly the brainchild of local historian Beth Crabtree. However, it was the vision and perseverance of Mary Cates that brought together a group of advocates that began moving the idea toward reality in the early 1990s. Eventually, their efforts gave birth to the museum's first opening in the Borden Building at Fred Fletcher Park. They would remain in the Borden Building for five years. At that time, one of the city's oldest and most architecturally interesting downtown buildings became available.

In 1994, the Briggs family announced their intentions of moving their hardware store from the Briggs Building on Fayetteville Street to a new location on Atlantic Avenue. The building, built in 1874 and the oldest existing building on Fayetteville Street, was considered a city treasure. Those concerned with historical preservation immediately began the debate as to what should be done with the building. The A.J. Fletcher Foundation and Preservation North Carolina jointly acquired the building, and in 1997 they began renovation. Soon after, the Raleigh City Museum began a capital campaign, purchased an interest in the building, and began converting the first floor into a museum to display the city's history. In 1998, the museum re-opened on Fayetteville Street with a new series of exhibits. The museum's 15th anniversary also marks the 10th year it has operated in the Briggs Building.

As a non-profit museum with the purpose of preserving our city's past for the future, the museum has never charged admission. The educational programs the museum offers are free and the staff is always working with educators to find new and better ways to work local history into local school curriculums. Citizens of Raleigh are also encouraged to use the museum as a repository for their historical artifacts and memories. To date the museum has collected and preserved over 10,000 artifacts that periodically go on display in its many exhibits.

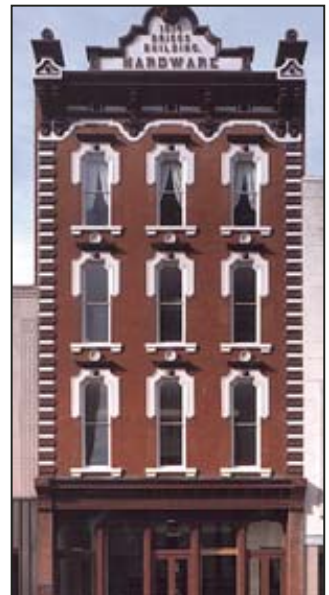
This year the Raleigh City Museum plans to celebrate its 15th anniversary with a number of exciting programs and events. To kick off the celebration of this important milestone the museum plans to open a new exhibit on January 26 celebrating Higher Education in Raleigh. This exhibit will explore the foundations of Raleigh's many schools of higher education and many contributions to our community. Take advantage of this new exhibit to familiarize yourself with our city's museum and discover all it has to offer.

The Raleigh City Museum is located at 220 Fayetteville Street and is open Tuesday through Friday from 10am - 4pm and Saturday from 1pm - 4pm. The museum's website <www.raleighcitymuseum.org> includes a listing of upcoming exhibits, special educational programs, and events. Please call 919-832-3775 with any questions.

Photos courtesy the Raleigh City Museum



Raleigh City Museum Staff: (left to right) Dianne Davidian, Ainsley Powell, James Sutton, Ladye Jane Vickers, and Donna Martin-Devine



Historic Briggs Hardware Building following restoration in 1998

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A Valentine's Day Getaway



By Jack Glasure
Photos courtesy The Ferrington House

If you've not yet planned a Valentine's Day getaway for that special someone, you may want to pay close attention to this article, the second installment of our One Tank Trips. In search of a romantic rendezvous within a gas tank's drive to and from downtown Raleigh, we offer you the Ferrington House Country Inn, situated on an 18th century dairy farm in Pittsboro, a mere 44 miles away. The Inn offers perhaps the finest Southern hospitality a discriminating weekend traveler can experience in this region. It's a very romantic and impressive destination, and would be a wonderful Valentine's surprise.

I made reservations at this unique community for a recent weekend to experience the accommodations firsthand. To make our date even more exceptional, I called ahead and had the room prepared with a bottle of chilled champagne, chocolate-covered strawberries, and a bouquet of fresh cut flowers. I also scheduled a relaxing and therapeutic in-room massage for two. I hoped these special touches would help take the edge off a long workweek and add to the magic of our Friday evening arrival.



Our room had that warm feeling you long for when staying away from home with someone you care about. Each of the 32 guest rooms at the Inn is unique, surrounded by stunning vistas of trellised gardens, water sculptures, and manicured English gardens. Rich fabrics, marble vanities, and heated towel racks all cater to the guest's personal comfort. Distinctive touches include ecclesiastical doors used as headboards, canopied beds, and pine flooring from an old workhouse that sat along the River Thames. The rooms also include luxurious amenities such as plush feather beds, micro-fiber robes, and spa-quality bath products.

The Inn's dining rooms feature views of the Ferrington gardens, and each is furnished with European antiques and accented with original artwork that creates an understated elegance. On Saturday the food was bountiful, starting with a fantastic gourmet breakfast that included seasonal fresh-cut fruit, homemade granola, and eggs Benedict. After a picnic lunch on the grounds, we were served a traditional mid-afternoon English tea with finger sandwiches, delicate pastries, and fresh-baked scones with clotted cream and strawberry jam. Saturday evening dinner was over the top. We took our time and worked our way through all five courses with decadent pleasure. The Ferrington wine list features over 700 selections and the Inn has been awarded the "Best of Award of Excellence" from The Wine Spectator every year since 2004. This extensive wine list was created to complement a regional cuisine, and in our case, it was a main course of North Carolina red drum served with black trumpet mushrooms and shrimp tortellini, resting in a blanket of saffron and vanilla sauce.



Ferrington House Country Inn is just 44 miles from downtown Raleigh

There was plenty to do between meals, so we elected to stroll the expansive grounds, browse unique village shops, exercise, and relax on front porch rockers complete with a serene pasture setting of cattle and goats. Ferrington Village has over 30 Belted Galloways grazing along the rolling pastures. These black and white "Oreo" cows are actually a rare breed of Scottish beef cattle introduced to the United States back in the 1950s.

For a truly romantic One Tank Trip, the Ferrington House Country Inn is high on our list. We found "farm life" to be quite intriguing, therapeutically relaxing, and worth the short drive. If you prefer to stay within the confines of downtown Raleigh (not technically a One Tank Trip, but great for spending a weekend "away from home"), you might consider one of the local inns listed at the end of this article.

Happy Valentine's Day planning from the Downtowner and One Tank Trips!

Our One Tank Trip destination information:
2000 Ferrington Village Center
Pittsboro, NC 27312
919.542.2121
www.ferrington.com

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www.cameronparkinn.com

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One Tank Trips is a monthly 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 we shouldn't miss to onetanktrips@raleighdowntowner.com.

About the writer: Jack Glasure is Chief Marketing Officer at French/West/Vaughan and can be contacted at jglasure@fwv-us.com.

■RD

Hurricane's Casino Night February 24th

Tickets for the third annual Carolina Hurricanes Casino Night are on sale now. This year's Casino Night will take place Sunday, February 24th, and will once again feature our entire Hurricanes team and coaching staff in what has become the signature fundraising event for the Kids 'N Community Foundation. The night will again feature exclusive live and silent auction items, great casino activities and wine tasting.

Tickets are available at the Time Warner Cable Box Office at the RBC Center, and on-line via Ticketmaster and Caniac Account Manager (CAM only available to season ticket holders). Tickets are \$200 with proceeds benefiting the Carolina Hurricanes Kids 'N Community Foundation

The Kids 'N Community Foundation donated \$407,000 to 25 local children's charities during the 2006-07 season. This year, the Kids 'N Community Foundation has already donated over \$357,000 to 17 local organizations and is on pace to set a new donation record of over \$500,000. This year, some



organizations that received grants include the Boys and Girls Club, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Wake County Literacy Council and REX Hospital's pediatric unit.

When/Where/What Time?

The 3rd Annual Casino Night and Wine Tasting will be on Sunday, February 24 2008 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the RBC Center.

How much is it to attend and how much of the ticket is tax deductible?

The Casino Night is \$200 per person and \$115 per ticket is tax deductible.

What is included in a ticket to Casino Night?

You will receive \$1000 in play money to participate in many casino games such as black jack, poker, roulette, craps, and many more. Food and drink are also included in the ticket.

Will the Hurricanes Players and Coaches be attending?

Yes; all of the players and coaches will be broken into two groups and half will deal while the other half mingle. The groups will switch place half way through the night.

What other activities will be at the Casino Night?

The Casino Night also features a silent and live auction full of one of a kind memorabilia, unique items, team experiences and gift packages.

■RD

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Apinot noir with a hint of berry, a cabernet sauvignon with an oak finish, or a classic chardonnay... No matter your preference, the annual Triangle Wine Experience is the event that every wine enthusiast must attend. Each one of the three days — February 7th, 8th, and 9th — offers a different experience. All the monies raised go to a great cause, The Frankie Lemmon Foundation, which has been serving special needs children in Wake County for almost five decades.

EVENT DETAILS

Thursday, February 7th, 7:00 pm

Winemaker Dinners: Hosted by winemakers and winery owners from across the globe, this evening pairs some of the Triangle's hottest restaurants with the world's finest wines. This year, attendees choose from 27 amazing pairings of the finest wines with cuisines specifically designed to complement the wines' flavors. Make reservations on the Foundation website. Cost: \$125.



Friday, February 8th, 5:00 – 6:30 pm

Sip, Shop & Sign: Winemakers will be pouring fine wines at local wine shops throughout the Triangle.

Participating stores include: Seaboard Wine, Wine'n Things, Total Wine & More, The Wine Merchant (Raleigh and Cary locations), Carolina Wine Co., Great Grapes, Taylor's, Anytime Wine and Hillsborough Wine Co. A

portion of the sales will be donated to The Frankie Lemmon Foundation. Check the foundation's website to find out which winemakers will be available at the wine shops to sign bottles and answer questions.

Saturday, February 9th, 5:30 pm

Grand Gala and Auction: Two spirited auctions, live and silent, provide the opportunity for all guests to bid on

spectacular wines (many of them unavailable commercially), exotic trips, unique dining experiences, fine art, and tastings specifically created for the Triangle Wine Experience. The auction is followed by a grand gala with dancing, world-class wine sampling, and epicurean delights. This black-tie event is at the Kerr Scott Building at the NC State Fairgrounds. Make reservations on the foundation's website (below). Cost: \$150.

For more information and to make reservations, go to www.twenc.org.

The Frankie Lemmon Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, was established for the sole purpose of supporting The Frankie Lemmon School and Developmental Center. The money raised makes the preschool tuition-free.

In 2007, Triangle Wine Experience raised \$800,000 for the Frankie Lemmon School and Developmental Center.

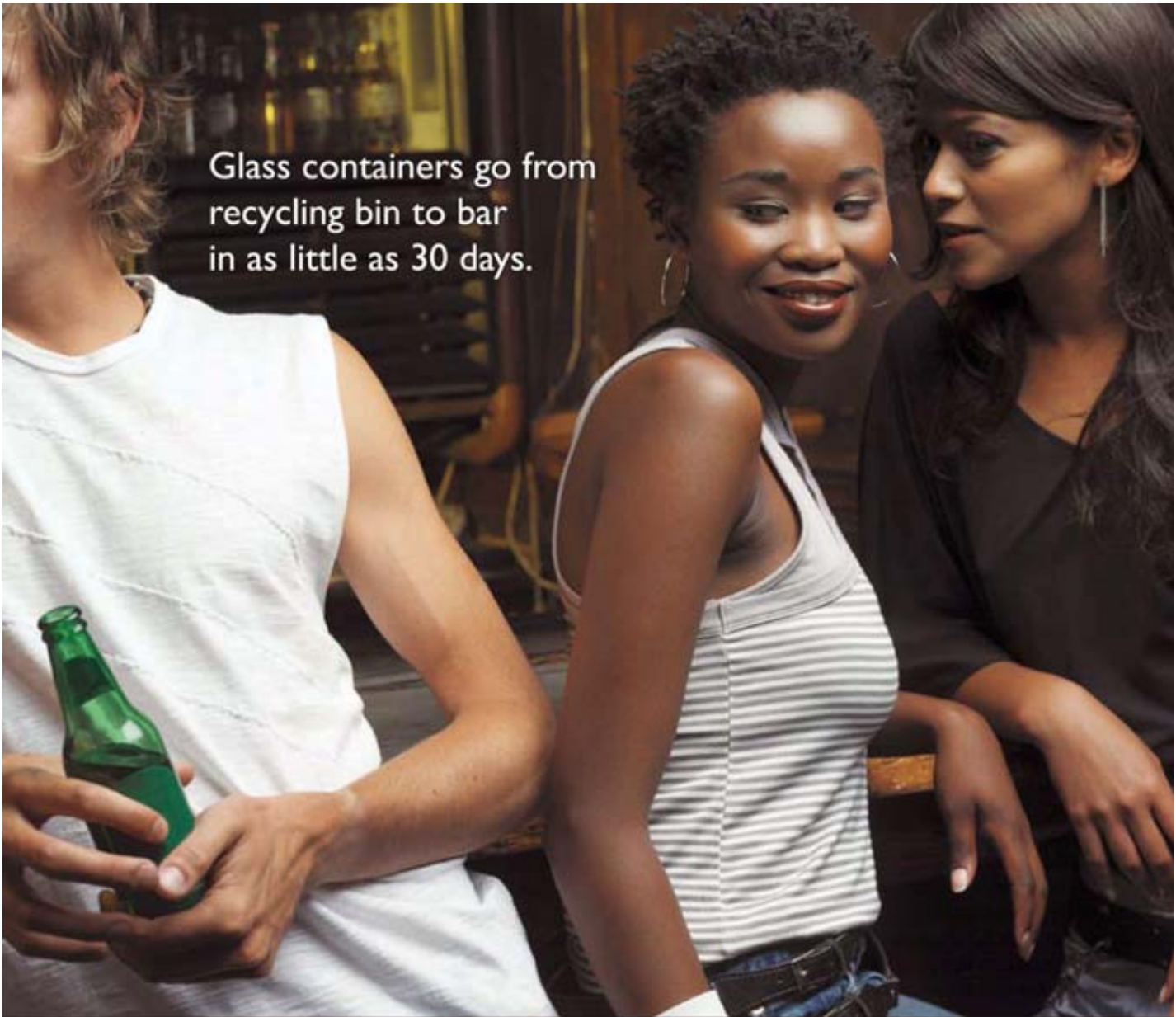
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Out at Deep South Bar: Antoine and Julie from DowntownRaleigh.com



Tom Fuls, JT Gannon and Gerald Owens at a benefit event at Blue Martini

Enjoying dinner at the newly-opened Mint: Amanda Metcalf, Rick French (President/CEO of French / West / Vaughn), Leslie Newnam



Doug Miskew, Account Director at Capstrat and wife Tracy



Craig Spitzer of Empire Properties and wife Rona at a recent Artspace event



Raleigh Downtowner sales associate Sarah Leinhaas, and Molly

AROUNDTOWNAROUNDTOWNAROUNDTOWNAROUND

The pictures below were taken at the New Years Eve First Night Artspllosure Board of Directors reception

Revelers packed Fayetteville Street for the First Night festivities, including the Acorn Drop at midnight



Artspllosure board members Julie Wood, Crystal Sadler, Lany McDonald, and Barbara Stephens



First Night headline performer Tift Merritt and Downtowner publisher Crash Gregg



First Night honorary chairs Smedes and Rosemary York



Sig Hutchinson (Triangle Transit Authority chair) and wife Nancy, Stephanie Bass, and Bill Holman (Director, Clean Water TFM)



Alex and Brian Amra celebrate New Year's their Dad and cousin at Amra's



Tommy Crowder and wife enjoying the First Night festivities



Greg Hatem of Empire Properties and Grady Jackson at a recent benefit downtown



At Blue Martini: Former X-Games Freestyle skier Matt Reardon. Regi Swicegood and Crash Gregg

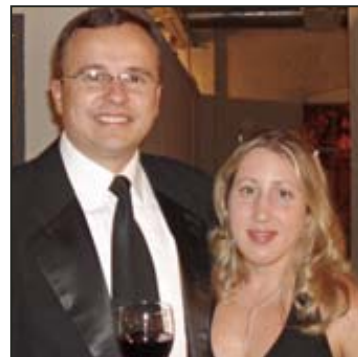
Walter and Glenn at their 2nd anniversary party for Stuff Consignment



Almost done! The Burning Coal Theatre in the old Murphey School building is nearing completion thanks to: Greg Paul, General Contractor, Marty Garman, Jody Simmons, Bill and Scott Martin, Russell Winneberger and Ed Simmons, James Whitman, Dennis Salz, and lots of helpers

TOWNAROUNDTOWNAROUNDTOWNAROUNDTOWN

The pictures below were taken in December at the Downtown Santa Benefit Party sponsored by the Raleigh Downtowner and Integra Mortgage. The Benefit collected toys and clothes for local families as well as pet supplies for the local SPCA.



Cool Winter Coats



By AnneMarie Woodard

In the northern hemisphere, winter is said to begin on a day in December known as the winter solstice. The solstice is an actual occurrence in nature, happening within a split second, sometime between December 21st and 23rd.. We're not aware of when it actually happens; all we know is — baby, it's cold outside!

In our attempt to stay warm, some of us will wear the same look year after year, with the primary concern being purely functional, while others of us will embrace the opportunity to flex our seasonal savvy and set out to find the hottest looks and trends. Fortunately, we can find our fair share of both style and warmth at many of our fabulous downtown Raleigh shops.

For the fashion conscious men and women about town, stop by Catch 22 on Glenwood Avenue and Fab'rik at



A very feminine Nanette Lepore peacoat in minted Green at Uniquities

Cameron Village for some of the most current styles. Heather Long, of Catch 22, states what people are looking for this season are coats with “original design detail and interesting textures”. Military styling seems to be the trend of the moment and brands like Roar and RG 512 incorporate this look well in their men’s lines. Paige Garner, owner of Fab’rik, agrees with the mili-

tary fashion movement but states “men are also concerned with fit” and prefer to wear a coat off the rack without the need for tailoring. Fab’rik carries Projek Raw, a men’s brand that will satisfy the desire for both fit and fashion.*

Uniquities and Soho in Cameron Village have always been known to carry the most updated styles for

women. Jamie, manager of Uniquities, showed me a very feminine Nanette Lepore peacoat in minted green, and an amazing Parisian designed shearling trench. These are the coats women wish they could wear all year long just to be drenched in their beauty. Soho, as always, lives up to the implication of the name. New York fashion is always of the here and now and Martha, owner of Soho, keeps her shop stocked with the most current designs. Coats by Miss Sixty, Lilith, and Ischiko are sure to please a cosmopolitan girl looking for both style and warmth.



Projek Raw line of coats available at Fab'rik

If your desire is more for warmth, comfort and functionality, then head in to

Continued on page 15

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Great Outdoor Provision Company in Cameron Village. There you will find an incredible selection of men's, women's and children's coats from quality winter wear makers such as Columbia, North Face, and Marmot. These coats are made from the finest materials to protect you from nature's harsh elements. Gortex, fleece and goose down are used in both tri-climate and lightweight versions which also come in many different colors and styles. Whether your intentions are to hit the slopes, embark on an outdoor adventure or just look good while



Comfort and warmth describe the jackets at Great Outdoor Provision Company in Cameron Village

keeping warm outside, this is the store to explore and satisfy your cold weather needs.

If you are more in to a vintage look or coats that have been gently pre-owned, you will be delighted to sift through the overflowing racks of Father and Son, Stuff, and Revolver. Father and Son, located at 107 W. Hargett Street, has an upstairs brimming with vintage coats of all eras. From old, authentic military coats to 1960s funk-a-delic to the more recent, you will take a walk back in time just by walking through. Prices for most coats range from \$20 to \$85 and are in very good condition.

Stuff, located at 307 West Martin Street, will give you an eyeful of more recent wares. This is the place to look for "vintage or designer coats in perfect condition and at good prices", as stated by shop co-owners, Glenn and Walter. To support this statement, I spotted a women's Giorgio Armani coat from Bergdorf Goodman with the original store tag still intact. Stuff's asking price? One fourth of the original cost - now that's a great find! You'll discover many more fabulous bargains for men and women within this unique consignment shop, so go check it out for yourself.

Revolver is another notable consignment



Giorgio Armani coat from Bergdorf Goodman with the original tag at Stuff Consignment

ment boutique in downtown Raleigh. The racks are filled wall-to-wall in this vintage home turned vintage shop at 2011 Fairview Road. This shop boasts a fine selection for both genders, although the abundance is greater on the women's side. Ladies, if you are looking for top name brands in excellent condition you must stop in and peruse a while, you will be quite satisfied with Revolver's quality and selection.

On a final note, what to do with all those coats from seasons past? Well, pass them on, of course! Donate your

gently used coats, hats and gloves to those in need by contributing to the WRAL Coats for the Children program (they collect coats for adults too). Drop off sites around Raleigh include Jiffy Lube locations, Capital Bank branches, and of course, WRAL. These needed items will be taken to the local Salvation Army and distributed to our less fortunate citizens. For more information, visit their website at www.wral.com/wral-tv/story/2027427

■RD

*NOTE: Since this article was first-written, the owner of Fab'rik informed us that she will no longer carry men's clothing after January 31st.

You'll find the latest in military style trends for men's coats at Catch 22



before

After

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MUSIC CALENDAR ♦

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The Wedding Singer...Mar 25 - 30

Girls Night, the Musical...April 1 - 6

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Riverdance...April 29 - May 4

Avenue Q...May 6 - 11

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Rollin', Rollin', Rollin'



By Peter Eichenberger

Old houses trundling through Raleigh deliver me to my youth and the auto-fueled stampede from downtown, when kids actually played outside. The draining city core presented a wonderland of places to explore and wile away afternoons, weekends and summers.

Labyrinthine warrens of storm drains provided cool cover in summers where we'd call fling insults to baffled pedestrians from inside curb drains. We slouched casually, above ground, biting our lips as sulfurous clouds issued from the nether regions. A homemade smoke bomb fused with a cigarette provided a fine show of public excitement verging on panic.

I carry to this day a fine Swingline stapler, a hefty device that could easily serve as a hammer, filched from a vacant receptionist's desk in the Archives and History building.

But the best were the old houses: history lessons for the bold. In dusty, little Raleigh, large, stately, deserted houses dotted the town, casualties of urbaphobia: the Federal-era Tucker House, the B.M. Moore house, others whose name we never knew; Second Empire, Italianate, reconstruction-era, well... mansions. During our forays, we found all sorts of stuff, WWI newspapers, books printed before the Civil War, antiques, unfired ammunition. One incendiary August day, I had not the time to remove the moth-eaten, fifty year old raccoon coat as we fled Colonel Ashe's long-vacant crib on the street of the same name. I cart-wheeled as much as ran through a Kudzu patch of oceanic proportions. Two cops on the sagging porch stood glancing at each other and shaking their heads, their stance telegraphing "You going in there? I'm not going in there."

The burgeoning U.S. car-culture put demands on every square foot of earth. One by one, the majority of our houses were reduced to rubbish amid the bellow of diesels, the crunch of century-old timbers and clouds of plaster dust, the footprints replaced by parking lots and -ugh - new stuff. The site where the Ashe house proudly



Some of Raleigh's finest historic homes in the Blount Street Historic District are being relocated, including the Hawkins-Hartness House, used as offices of the Lieutenant Governor.

towered on a bluff, over the railroad tracks, now boasts a row of crummy apartments. Much of the Raleigh where I grew up lives mostly now in memory and photographs.

The intractable Petrosaur finally met some actual resistance, a militia of sorts. The little old ladies of Oakwood, some who still dressed in black in memory of their Confederate fathers, rose up and crushed a planned north south expressway that would have cut a swath right through the neighborhood. In the process, these heroines birthed and nurtured the preservation movement and forced a change from pine-scented piles of wreckage — to a "mobile home", moving the historic buildings instead of treating them down. "It's better than tearing them down," said one local architect, quoting anonymously as he also happens to be a former "house accomplice."

The first one I saw was the tiny Andrew Johnson birthplace, wobbling along Hillsborough. Then more, larger and larger, until buildings inching through town became commonplace. The big kahuna was the old Seaboard building, several hundred tons of brick, rolled back to make way for a

parking deck.

Leaving old John West Auto Service one evening, I became engrossed in a lovely Eastlake cottage that ended up across town as I wrenched. I gawked right through a red light until I was jarred out of my reverie by screaming tires and a crunch from the RPD cruiser that T-boned me. A Fury it was.

At the height of the demolition craze, a visionary at state government saw what was being lost on Blount Street and saved some of what was left. North Carolina bought lots and houses along Blount, renovated and adapted the structures, converting them to office space. For decades, houses that had fallen into ragged tenancy, tattered remnants of a formerly fashionable neighborhood, enjoyed a sort of refuge for obsolete domiciles — until recently.

Drawn perhaps by the lure of rising land prices and budget shortfalls, North Carolina sold the land and the houses upon them to Florida-based LNR corporation, leaders in the condo-craze spreading from the go-go markets like Miami to li'l ole Raleigh.

So began the "Blount Street Revitalization." Two Blount street houses, now with Person Street addresses, were in the way of LNR's planned carriage apartments and townhouses — the how and why of how they came to be run off of their original lots.

It is a positive that Raleigh has saved what it has, but there are still losses. Old building ghettos, Vis the Mordecai Park, are weak sops for irrevocable damage to history. A building that has been moved loses some intangible qualities, the power of context, historic continuity. Then there are the ghosts, as Godfrey Cheshire alluded to in his film, "Moving Midway." The haunts in the house stayed where it had been, confirmed by employees of the new Target.

In the next issue of the Downtowner, we'll learn more about the first phase of the 21-acre project, Blount Street Commons, how it will be integrated in with the current neighborhoods, and some of the planning that went into its design.

EVENTS CALENDAR

ON STAGE CALENDAR

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January 12-20

North Carolina Theatre presents
Dream Girls



NC Theatre kicks off its 25th anniversary season with the spirit of Motown in

"Dreamgirls," the latest stage-to-screen phenomenon that swept the Academy Awards and the Golden Globes in 2007. The Dreamettes, a hopeful singing trio from Detroit, hope to break into show business and quickly realize that with big dreams come the realities of heartache, triumphs, breakups and even love.

Starring Quiana Parler as Effie White.
More information: www.nctheatre.com

January 22-27

Broadway Series South presents
Cats



There's no better way to introduce your family to the wonders of live theater than with the magic, the mystery, the memory of "Cats." What began as a musical about cats after Andrew Lloyd Webber picked up a book of poems in an airport bookshop has become one of the longest running shows in Broadway's history. Winner of seven Tony Awards including Best Musical, Cats features 20 of Andrew Lloyd Webber's timeless melodies, including the hit song "Memory." More information: www.broadwayseriesouth.com

February 12-17

Broadway Series South presents
The Drowsy Chaperone



Get ready to be transported to a magical, wonderful world. A world where the critics are

in awe, the audiences are in heaven and the neighborhood is buzzing with excitement. Welcome to "The Drowsy Chaperone," the new musical comedy that is swooping into town with tons of laughs and the most 2006 Tony Awards of any musical on Broadway! It all begins when a die-hard musical fan plays his favorite cast album, a 1928 smash hit called The Drowsy Chaperone, and the show magically bursts to life. We are instantly immersed in the glamorous, hilarious tale of a celebrity bride and her uproarious wedding day, complete with thrills and surprises that take both the cast (literally) and the audience (metaphorically) soaring into the rafters.

More information:
www.broadwayseriesouth.com

February 23-March 2

North Carolina Theatre presents
Irving Berlin's Annie Get Your Gun



Annie Oakley is the best shot around and agrees to join Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show in just enough time to fall head over heels for the production's headliner, Frank

Butler. Business and romance pull the trigger for a duel in Irving Berlin's classic songs "Anything You Can Do" and "There's No Business Like Show Business." This sharpshooter hits the mark every time! Starring Larry Gatlin as Frank Butler.
More information: www.nctheatre.com

February 7-10

Carolina Ballet presents
Cabaret



Face the music...and dance! Treat your valentine to a romantic evening of song and dance. New York City cabaret singer Andrea Marcovicci entertains onstage as an integral part of the show as dancers present Lynne Taylor-Corbett's choreography, bringing back the elegance of nightclubs of the Fred and Ginger era. For more information, visit www.carolinaballet.com

Continued on page 21



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BLUE MARTINI MUSIC CALENDAR

<p>Wed. Jan 16 > Voodoo Flute (ladies nite!) Thu. Jan 17 > Ron Baxter's "R" Effect Fri. Jan 18 > Chop Shop Sat. Jan 19 > Soul Shakers Sun. Jan 20 > Rock-N-Blues Jam Mon. Jan 21 > Russ Thompson Tue. Jan 22 > Open Mic with Matt Kush Wed. Jan 23 > Voodoo Flute (ladies nite!) Thu. Jan 24 > Chop Shop Fri. Jan 25 > TBA (\$5 bomb specials) Sat. Jan 26 > The Heaters Sun. Jan 27 > Andy Coats Mon. Jan 28 > Russ Thompson</p>	<p>Tue. Jan 29 > Open Mic with Matt Kush Wed. Jan 30 > Voodoo Flute (ladies nite!) Thu. Jan 31 > Blue T Fri. Feb 1 > TBA (\$5 bomb specials) Sat. Feb 2 > Swamp Doctors Sun. Feb 3 > TBA (\$5 fruit martinis) Mon. Feb 4 > Russ Thompson Tue. Feb 5 > Open Mic with Matt Kush Wed. Feb 6 > Voodoo Flute (ladies nite!) Thu. Feb 7 > TBA (Champagne Thursdays) Fri. Feb 8 > TBA (\$5 bomb specials) Sat. Feb 9 > TBA (\$5.00 Bullfighters) Sun. Feb 10 > TBA (\$5 fruit martinis)</p>
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MULTIPLE DAY EVENTS

All February

North Carolina Museum of History

Celebrate Black History Month at the N.C. Museum of History in Raleigh. As part of February's programs, the museum offers African American History Tours featuring the new exhibit Bearing Witness: Civil Rights Photographs of Alexander Rivera and other exhibits. On Feb. 10, don't miss Raleigh's own Capital City Five, who will perform uplifting spiritual and gospel music. Youngsters and adults will enjoy a program by award-winning children's book authors Eleanora Tate and Carole Boston Weatherford. They will discuss how African American history, such as the Greensboro sit-ins in 1960, inspires their stories.

Take a cultural trip around the world during a Feb. 2 performance by Raleigh Little Theatre's Storytellers to Go! On Feb. 13, trace the literary trails of North Carolina's Mountain region with author Georgann Eubanks. Check out these happen-

ings and more at the N.C. Museum of History. All programs are free, and parking is free on weekends.

For more information about these events, call 919-807-7900 or access ncmuseumofhistory.org

DAILY EVENTS

21 Jan - Monday

The 27th Annual Martin Luther King Memorial March

The group will assemble on the Bicentennial Plaza beginning at 10 am. At 11 am the group will enter onto the 00 block of Edenton Street and proceed west on Edenton to Salisbury Street, south on Salisbury to Morgan Street, east on Morgan to Fayetteville Street, south on Fayetteville to Davie Street, east on Davie to Wilmington Street, south on Wilmington to the Progress Energy Center for Performing Arts where the parade will disassemble. www.king-raleigh.org

7 Feb - Thursday

Triangle Wine Experience 7pm

Wine Maker Dinners - Hosted by

winemakers and winery owners from across the globe, this evening pairs some of the Triangle's hottest restaurants with the world's finest wines. This year, attendees choose from 27 amazing pairings of the finest wines with cuisines specifically designed to compliment the wines' flavors. Make reservations on the Foundation website. Cost: \$125.

For more information and to make reservations, go to www.twenc.org.

8 Feb - Friday

Triangle Wine Experience

5:00 - 6:30 pm

Sip, Shop & Sign - Winemakers will be pouring fine wines at local wine shops throughout the Triangle.

Participating stores include: Seaboard Wine, Wine'n Things, Total Wine & More, The Wine Merchant (Raleigh and Cary locations), Carolina Wine Co., Great Grapes, Taylor's, Anytime Wine and Hillsborough Wine Co. A portion of the sales will be donated to The Frankie Lemmon Foundation. Check the Foundation website to find out which winemakers will be available at the wine shops to sign bottles and answer questions.

For more information and to make reservations, go to www.twenc.org.

9 Feb - Saturday

Triangle Wine Experience

5:30 pm

Grand Gala and Auction - Two spirited auctions, live and silent, provide the opportunity for all guests to bid on spectacular wines (many of them unavailable commercially), exotic trips, unique dining experiences, fine art, and tastings specifically created for The Triangle Wine Experience. The auction is followed by a grand gala with dancing, world class-wine sampling, and epicurean delights. This black tie event is at the Kerr Scott Building at the NC State Fairgrounds. Make reservations on the Foundation website. Cost: \$150. For more information and to make reservations, go to www.twenc.org.

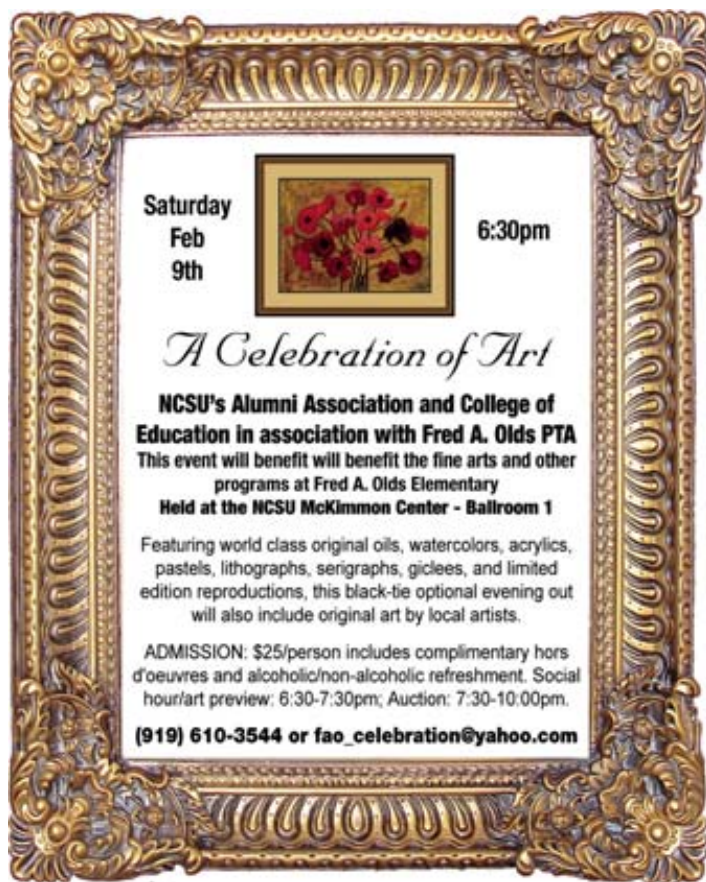
14 Feb - Thursday

2nd Annual Love Stinks Party

Amra's will host their 2nd Annual Love Stinks Party for those who celebrate being single. Call or visit their website for more details. www.amrasraleigh.com

Tobacco Road Sports Café

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Continued on page 23

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HUDSON, luxurious urban downtown condos, Jewell Parker, 919-582-1745

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MORDECAI MANOR, Six condos in artfully renovated, historic building from \$265K. Amanda Williams, 919-270-7680

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 Hussey, 919-227-7323

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By Dave Rose

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 the bands who are 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.

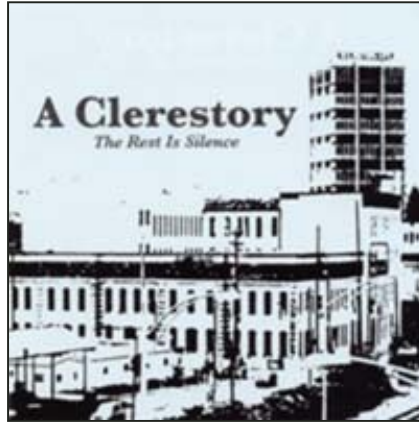


James Dunn
 "The Long Ride Home"
www.jamesdunnmusic.com

James Dunn performs "songs crafted in the true spirit of American rock," fused with alternative country. He was born in New Jersey and moved to North Carolina in his youth.

He learned to play on an old steel guitar his grandfather passed down to him, after receiving a copy of Bruce Springsteen's "Born to Run" while in college. His current CD, "The Long Ride Home" was recorded in Nashville, Tennessee. Dunn was named by CMT as one of America's top unsigned Americana artists.

Dunn will perform at his CD release party at the Pour House in Raleigh on Saturday, March 1, 2008. Stop in and hear him and you'll find out what I've known about James for years: in addition to being a great artist, he's an all-around nice guy as well. Those traits will take him far in this business.



Shiger Seattle
 self-titled CD
shigerseattle.com

Now here's something different: Shiger Seattle is a singer/songwriter who does not perform live in the traditional sense of smoky bars, sweating fans, and alcohol drenched floors. He does perform live for fans from all around the world, but instead in a virtual community called Second Life, online at secondlife.com.

He has been performing live virtual concerts in Second Life for two years and was selected to perform at the Second Life Community Convention in Chicago in August 2007.

Shiger also released his debut CD this past August. The CD, a collection of acoustic-based songs, blends rock, alternative and blues-influenced music.

The CD was recorded with Dick Hodgkin and Ian Schreier at Osceola Studios in Raleigh.



A Clerestory
 "The Rest is Silence"
myspace.com/aclerestory

A Clerestory (Pronounced "A Clear Story") is a Durham based band and their sound is a melody-driven pop-rock, with echoes of Interpol and Coldplay. It's refreshing to find a band that not only writes great pop songs, but also apparently has a mighty talented hair stylist as well (A Clerestory looks and sounds the part). The vocalist also plays piano, bass and organ, and the guitarist plays organ as well.

You can catch A Clearstory in February at The Local 506.



Dave Rose 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.

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By Fred Benton,
City Style Editor

I'm proud of my history with eastern NC BBQ. My dad was an insurance company representative and had to call on insurance agencies all over eastern NC. On days off from school it was a great treat for me to ride shotgun with my dad in his company Ford Fairlane swigging a cold Pepsi Cola laced with salted peanuts. Dad was an avid BBQ-lover, so with him I've visited most every BBQ joint in our part of the state. I formed definite impressions of the proper BBQ joint: typically a white cinderblock building located a mile or so outside of town; tables dressed with red-and-white gingham oilcloth; waitresses with hairnets, handkerchief corsages, and duty shoes laughing with their customers, hauling pitchers of iced tea and taking orders with practiced precision.

It's with sadness that I think over the



Clyde Cooper's has provided Raleigh with good Southern-style Barbeque for 70 years

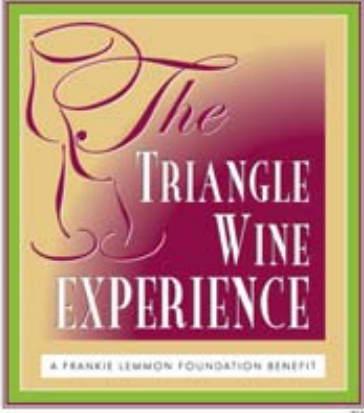
BBQ situation, as it exists locally. So many joints have closed. Remember Sauls BBQ on South Saunders Street? I loved this place because they served candied yams with their 'que: a combination that broke the mold in my eyes. Even Don Murray's BBQ on Capital Boulevard is closed. I recall when that eatery first opened. A friend of my parent's opened it, so we were there frequently. Now, the one BBQ joint that has stood the test of time is Clyde

Cooper's Barbeque at 109 East Davie Street in downtown Raleigh, right across the street from the much newer and swankier Fins. Since 1938, when Clyde Cooper opened his eatery, this place has gathered a legion of fans. When it first opened, Clyde cooked pigs in a garage behind his home along with 'que chef "Boss" Faison. Now the meat is slow-cooked upstairs, atop the dining area. Clyde is long gone from the scene but his legacy is

going strong thanks to owner Tony Moore, who purchased the restaurant from Cooper twenty-some years ago with the proviso that the name and the recipes remain the same. Crash Gregg and I met two friends there for lunch on a recent Saturday. Cooper's was packed. No tables or booths were available so we sat at the counter. I'm not a counter person but somehow at Cooper's you just pack in with the rest of the gang hungry for what they feel Cooper's does best: pork barbecue, ribs, and fried chicken. The main contention with Cooper's is that parking, analogous to how the original BBQ came to be, is the pits. Be warned! But that doesn't seem to stop many folks at all.

One reviewer I read online praised the BBQ here as the best eastern NC BBQ. To me the BBQ here is about as basic as BBQ gets: the meat is slow-cooked to fork tenderness, all the while basted with a simple sauce of cider vinegar and red pepper flakes. To be honest, my favorite style of BBQ is prepared differently than Cooper's.

Continued on page 27



If you enjoy fine wine then you will not want to miss a single Triangle Wine Experience event. The Triangle Wine Experience, a Frankie Lemmon Foundation benefit, brings some of the world's top winemakers to the Triangle to pour wines for you to sample and purchase. Upcoming events include wine tastings, winemaker dinners at top area restaurants and the Grand Gala and Auction. Please visit our website for more details on specific events and to make your reservations today.

Thursday, February 7, 2008
Winemaker Dinners




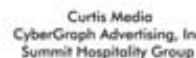
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Fred Benton *knows* the Triangle! Benton, former syndicated columnist, long-time food editor of SPECTATOR Magazine, reviewer for Citysearch.com and a food writer for METRO Magazine, is pleased to recommend to our readers the following as "better living" businesses of particularly high standards and quality.

York Simpson Underwood Realty - Our roots in the Triangle community run deep. To learn more about the residential real estate company voted "Best In The Triangle" visit www.yshomes.com.

Angus Barn - Glenwood Avenue, close to RDU International Airport, 787-3505. The premier steak house in North Carolina: the legend of the fine cuisine here continues every evening. Award-winning wine cellar. Reservations recommended.

Bistro 607 - 607 Glenwood Avenue, 828-0840. Chef-owner Heath Holloman is, in my opinion, one of the most talented chefs in the area! Pay special attention here to foie gras preparations and farm-raised salmon dishes. Open for lunch and dinner. Reservations strongly recommended. Bistro607.com

42nd Street Oyster Bar - 508 West Jones Street, Raleigh, 831-2811. Best fried oysters ya ever smacked lips over! 42ndstoysterbar.com

EVOO - 2519 Fairview Road (at corner of Oberlin Road), 782-EVOO. This neighborhood-feel eatery serves up exceptional Mediterranean cuisine under the watchful eye of well-respected and loved chef Jean Paul Fontaine. Open for lunch and dinner. 782evoos.com

larrysbeans.com - Your web site for premium "fair trade" coffees: can't live without their El Salvador Dali coffee blend or this time of year, the holiday blend. Larry's Beans purveys to only the finest coffee houses. 828-1234

The Point at Glenwood - 1626 Glenwood Avenue at Five Points, Raleigh. Neighborhood ambience. New menu! 755-1007

Waraji Japanese Restaurant - Duraleigh Road, 783-1883. "If you knew sushi like I know sushi" then you'd KNOW Waraji! Warajirestaurant.com. Lunch and Dinner.

NoFo - 2014 Fairview Road, Five Points, Raleigh. The café for breakfast, brunch, lunch & dinner. And the retail for provisioning the luxurious larder and cooking accoutrements to turn functional kitchens into art spaces. nofo.com. 821-1240

Seaboard Wine & Tasting Bar - Seaboard Station, Raleigh, 831-0850. Uptown ambience with focus on exceptional European wines with knowledgeable staff. Complimentary wine tasting, Saturdays, noon to 4 p.m. seaboardwine.com

Sev Fine II Draperies and Interiors - Sutton Square Shpg Ctr, 5850 Fayetteville Rd, Durham, 806-3638. A Hunter-Douglas Centurion member. Free at-home consultations. Visit sewfine2.com

Vacuum Cleaner Hospital - 300 S. Elliott Road, Chapel Hill, 919.968.0711 or 800.755.9057. The Triangle's specialists for CENTRAL VAC systems! Free estimates! Visit www.vacuumbospital.com

Glenwood Grill - Glenwood Village Shopping Center, 782-3102. Upscale casual, very neighborhood with memorable food prepared by chef John Wright. Menu changes every 2 weeks. One of my favorite hang-outs. Glenwoodgrill.com

Cafe Tiramisu - North Ridge Shpg Ctr, near Ace Hardware, Falls of Neuse Road, 981-0305. Best pork dish around: Stuffed Pork Loin Chop. But all is noteworthy at this family-owned Italian eatery!

Seaboard Imports - Seaboard Station, Raleigh, 838-8244. My favorite store! Fun and funky to chic sophistication home and personal decorating. Fashion statement jewelry.

Nina's Ristorante - 8801 Leadmine Road, Harvest Plaza, 845-1122. Owned and operated by "mom and pop" Chris and Nina Piarro. Nina, to me, is the Goddess of Italian cooking. Nina's Ristorante is critically acclaimed as the best Italian restaurant in the area!

If you would like to propose your enterprise as a better living business to be included on this list please write fred@raleighdowntowner.com or call 782-5276.



For me, the vinegar was a bit strong. However, this is how old-time Southern cooks prepare their BBQ and judging by the crowd at lunch, it must hit home with a lot of folks. My lunchmates certainly had no complaints as their food disappeared quickly. I will say that Coopers is one of the few BBQ joints—and yes, Coopers is a joint—that serves sliced

BBQ (you can also get it coarse or finely chopped). Plus you can fill your belly with 'que for a pittance: the most expensive plate is \$5.75, and barbecued or fried chicken is just \$6.50. The tax is included in the menu prices.

I really liked the slaw, with its forthright flavor of cabbage and mild flavor note of mustard. I'm weary of over-

sweet concoctions that can either pass for dessert or a veggie side dish. The slaw here is first-rate. But there's another food here that can't be beat anywhere! And that's the pork rinds. Served up in the basket with hushpuppies, these rinds are thin, crispy and fresh-tasting. And all portions were in neat rectangles. While I was munching on them I kept thinking what a nice cracker substitute these pork rinds would be and at my next party wouldn't these go great with a green chili salsa blended with sour cream. Yum!

As a food writer I've covered the Triangle restaurant scene for nearly thirty years. I know well how difficult and fickle a business food service can be. Any restaurant that has managed to survive those initial first five years to go on and achieve 70 years in business is doing a lot right. I have great respect for Coopers Barbecue, a landmark business in downtown Raleigh. I'm glad it's still with us. ■RD

QUICK BYTES: CLYDE COOPER'S BBQ

Clyde Coopers Barbecue
109 East Davie Street • 919. 832. 7614
10am to 6pm, Monday-Saturday

- Reservations:** No
- Average Lunch Check:** \$9
- Take Out:** Yes
- Off-Premise Catering Available:** Yes
- Noise Level:** Fairly high
- Low Carb Menu Choices:** Yes
- Vegetarian Choices:** Yes (vegetable plate)
- Smoking Area:** Yes
- Outdoor Dining:** No
- Web Site:** No
- Parking:** Street (loading zone out front for take-out orders)

Manager Barbara (left) keeps Cooper's front in order, while long time employees Florence (35 years) and James (25 years) help keep things running in back. In the photo above: Some of the friendly staff at Cooper's Barbeque Michael, Johnsie, Henry and Nathan



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