



RALEIGH DOWNTOWNER

MAGAZINE

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 10 ENTERTAINMENT, ARTS & CULTURE, BUSINESS, DINING, EVENTS, MUSIC, AND MORE FREE

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at the Lincoln
Theatre
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The Downtowner is a local monthly print magazine dedicated to coverage of downtown Raleigh. Our online publication encompasses downtown and the surrounding area. The current print issue, ad rates/media kit, rack locations and archived issues are available at

www.RaleighDowntowner.com

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Local band The Design perform live at the Lincoln Theatre
 Cover and inside cover photos courtesy: J.D. Whitmire, photographer and location scout, 919.833.7883

DISTRIBUTION LOCATIONS

These are just a few of the places where the Downtowner is available each month. With our 98%+ pickup rate, many locations run out after just a few weeks. If you can't find a copy, visit our website and read the current PDF available online. You can catch up on past issues too.

If you have suggestions for another location where you'd like to see the Downtowner, email us at delivery@raleighdowntowner.com. We love hearing from our readers!

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- 510 Glenwood
- Park Devereux
- The Cotton Mill
- The Paramount

Palladium Plaza
 The Hudson
 West at North
 RBC Plaza

DOWNTOWN

- In all Raleigh Rickshaws
- Wake County Courthouse
- Raleigh City Council Building
- Raleigh Chamber of Commerce
- Office of the Secretary of State
- North Carolina Theatre office
- Broadway Series South box office
- Raleigh Urban Design Center
- Empire Properties
- Raleigh City Museum
- Downtown Raleigh Alliance
- Raleigh Times Bar
- Sitti
- Gravy
- Morning Times

French | West | Vaughn
 Landmark Tavern
 Sheraton Hotel info desk
 Progress Energy building lobby
 Cooper's BBQ
 Capital City Club lounge
 Progress Energy Building commissary
 Fins
 Crema
 Raleigh Visitors Center

HILLSBOROUGH ST./NCSU

- Second Empire Restaurant
- WRAL-TV5 lobby
- Porter's Restaurant (sidewalk)
- Irregardless Café
- Char-Grill (sidewalk)
- Goodnight's Comedy Club
- Clarion Hotel
- YMCA Hillsborough Street

Theatre in the Park
 Beansprout Restaurant

CAMERON VILLAGE

- Harris Teeter/Suntrust Bank
- BB&T
- Capital Bank
- Cameron Village Library
- Village Draft House
- York Companies
- Village Deli
- Great Outdoor Provision Company
- Foster's

GLENWOOD SOUTH

- Sullivan's Steakhouse
- 510 Glenwood business foyer
- 510 Glenwood (sidewalk)
- Mellow Mushroom
- Hibernian
- Pourch/Bassment

Catch 22
 Sushi Blues / Zely & Ritz (sidewalk)
 Helios Café (sidewalk)
 Salon 21
 The Cupcake Bakery Shoppe
 Primp SalonBar
 Fly Salon
 Lee Hansley Gallery
 Bliss Salon
 Revolver Boutique

HISTORIC DISTRICT

- Legislative Building cafe
- Peace Street Pharmacy
- NC Museum of History
- NC Dept. of Labor
- NC Dept. of Agriculture

FIVE POINTS/HAYES BARTON

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- Hayes Barton Cafe and Dessertery

Nofo @ the Pig
 Rialto
 Third Place Coffee
 Lilly's Pizza
 J. Edwin's Salon
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- Seaboard Fitness
- Seaboard Wine
- 18 Seaboard (sidewalk)
- Ace Hardware
- Galatea

MOORE SQUARE

- Artspace
- Duck and Dumpling
- Tir Na Nog Irish Pub
- Moore Square, by Big Ed's

POWERHOUSE DISTRICT

- Napper Tandy's
- 42nd Street

WAREHOUSE DISTRICT

- Flying Saucer Bar
- The Pit Restaurant
- Jibarra Restaurant
- Deep South—The Bar

MIDTOWN/N. RALEIGH

- Barnes & Noble (Crabtree)
- Borders Bookstore (Creekside)
- Carolina Ballet office
- Capstrat Advertising
- Suntrust Bank (Creedmoor)
- Q Shack (North Hills)

Live Music

in Downtown Raleigh

BY PETER EICHENBERGER, DAN STROBEL AND CRASH GREGG

You wouldn't be blamed if you had been away for a couple of decades, managed to be released in downtown Raleigh and didn't recognize it, so different are things now. The desolate ghost-town quality of the downtown streets of the last few decades has been swept away in a storm of enthusiasm and big intentions.

No category displays Raleigh-all-grown-up better than the state of downtown public performances and venues for a night out. While North Carolina's major cities haven't historically been rich beds for the development of local talent, this isn't to say NC has been and is bereft of unique talent; quite the contrary. One need look no further than Tar Heels from Doc Watson to

John Coltrane and Tift Merritt, from Ryan Adams to Billy Strayhorn to see that the gentle air and waters of this state have nurtured musicianship

as good as one can find. The sticking point has always been where to actually go and hear the talent. While some cities—Austin, Texas springs to mind—have created great tourist draws from their music scenes, a relative paucity of places to hear musicians has frequently dogged North Carolina population centers. Charlotte had the Double Door and Raleigh had the Brewery—and that was about it.

Left to our own devices, we were obliged to come up with all sorts of ploys to create a scene that refused confinement. Occasionally we did mark successes but owing to a general trend of official apathy, Raleigh has had a raft of deflections to other places, a sort of Tarheelian brain drain. Before if one wanted to hear live music, one was limited to the occasional “coffee houses” which came and went, neighborhood festivals and the occasional big show at large venues like Memorial Auditorium or the Dorton Arena. Not exactly the music experience most of us are looking for.

Then came the Hillsborough Street scene and the Cameron Village Subway. For a while

it seemed like our little town was destined to be on the musical map. Between the Frog and Nightgown, Peter Ingram's classic Jazz Club, The Old Pier, Monday's, Sadlack's parking lot parties, Ed's Grocery, and as always, the P.C. Goodtimes/Brewery matrix, you could see a legend about nearly every week, everyone from Woody Herman to the Ramones.

Then came a dry spell. Changes in land use, coupled with some knucklehead clobbering an RPD officer with a thrown beer bottle, soured relations with the authorities and soon the musical aficionados were down to the Brewery with the old Fallout shelter holding down the other end. The house parties, as always, were the most enticing with local stars like Stillborn Christians, Oral Fixation and Corrosion of Conformity and the real possibility of spontaneous, extreme punk-rock era makeovers conducted with sledge hammers, chainsaws and the like.

Then all was quiet. The Brewery chugged along but the rest was like wind through the trees. Then, slowly at first, then with more force and vigor, downtown began to climb out as if from a slumber. Slim's was first, known then as Lakeside Lounge, part of a paired business enterprise shared with the original Lakeside in the lower east side of Manhattan.

If it hadn't been for vision and determination, we would have gone through a longer dry spell. Thanks to Van Alston (Slim's) and others, a dam seemed to break halfway through the 90s. Soon the venues became to come—and go, but mostly come. The Grove was supplanted by the Pour House, Gillies (now the Lincoln), began to host live shows and soon Raleigh developed its own bustling downtown music scene. Today, any given weekend and it is like Raleigh has taken correspondence courses in *How to become a real downtown*. Raleigh has her concert series in Moore Square and the curious and bold can go from joint to joint and hear a wide diversity of different sorts of music as varied as have become the range of people in this town these days. Yeah, we have a ways to go before the music scene can be characterized as a tourist draw. Once the city leaders accept and capitalize on this town's innate talent and resident's desire for entertainment, we

will perhaps begin to see what Raleigh is really made of.

Following is a list of the five true live music venues in downtown (in alphabetical order), and a partial list of other great places to listen to bands in the city's center. If you haven't seen live music in while, we encourage you to catch a show and support the Raleigh music scene.



Berkeley Café

OK, maybe it's not as bright, big and flashy as some of the others, but the Berkeley Cafe has that certain panache that emerges from sheer persistence and longevity. There have been places that have come and gone but the Berkeley has been around for decades, dispensing a singular musical style somewhere and everywhere in the world of blues and rock.

But there's more than just music. The Berkeley is a home-town sort of joint that fits Raleigh well, located across from one of Raleigh's downtown park squares (Nash) and city hall. The Berkeley is really a café, offering up a lunch menu and food for the late night types. They have an outdoor patio area for a quiet place to talk and have a drink. A full range of draft and bottle beers as well as liquor are available at the bar. Parking is available on-street and a few close surface lots after dark.

A great, low pressure night to absorb the true Berkeley flavor is Wednesday Jam night, when the music ranges between seasoned professionals

>>>



to high school kids and everyone in between, a smorgasbord of styles and skills. As one listener put it, “Sometimes the open mic performers will surprise you, sometimes they will horrify, but it’s always worth watching over a few beers—whether it’s entertaining for all the right reasons or all of the wrong ones.”

The Berkeley Café
217 W Martin Street | 919.821.0777
www.berkeleycafe.net

The Brewery

You would be hard pressed to find a music venue in Raleigh with a richer history than The Brewery, located next to NC State’s campus on Hillsborough Street. Since 1983, The Brewery has hosted some of the biggest names in the music business including Hootie and The Blowfish, Sheryl Crowe, Jane’s Addiction, and Black Flag, along with a slew of great local and regional bands on the rise.

The venue seemed to lose much of its steam in the early part of the early 00’s, but the recent owner is trying to restore the space to its past glory. Tom Taylor, owner since 2004, is fully aware of the quality acts his establishment has attracted in the past and considers it his responsibility to carry on that tradition. “The Brewery



is really a place to see bands who are on their way up,” he said. “We try very hard to stay on the cutting edge of what is hot and up and coming in the music scene.”

Once inside the non-descript building, one will find a classic music space that people

envision when they think of live music: small and dark with the stage close and intimate to the crowd, and a large wooden bar along one side. The staff and bartenders have a good reputation, the door cover is easy on the pockets and there’s a good beer selection at reasonable prices. Surprisingly, even with the close proximity to State the crowd is usually a good mix of ages and backgrounds.

The Brewery has full ABC permits and parking is available in the rear lot and other nearby lots.

The Brewery
3009 Hillsborough Street | 919.838.6788
www.brewerync.com

Lincoln Theatre

Built in 1939 in the southern part of downtown, the original Lincoln Theatre was a segregated movie theatre, showing films in the golden age of cinema. It remained empty and unused for years until 1991, when Pat Dickenson and partners brought it back to life assuming the original name, creating the largest dedicated live music



venue in downtown. With an original capacity of around 600, renovations in 2005 put the number closer to 900.

With its movie theatre acoustics and stage setup, sound absorption panels in the walls, and state of the art sound system, the present day Lincoln has been described by bands that have performed there as one of the best sounding venues in the state.

There is certainly no particular genre of bands that play at the Lincoln. Acts ranging from Everclear, Snoop Dogg, Chris Daughtry, Queensryche, and local favorite Breakfast Club have all appeared on stage. Almost all shows are all-ages, with only a few being 21 and over.

When asked how he’s seen the live music scene change over the years, Dickerson told us, “Raleigh has come a long way for live music. A number of years ago, one of the few places here in downtown was the Fallout Shelter. After that, Kings made a great effort while they were around. I think for them it was more about the love of music and hanging out with friends than it was about the money.”

“We’re glad to see the Raleigh Downtowner writing positive articles about live music,” he continued. “Too many other publications write

negative articles just because the author doesn’t like a particular band. There’s just no point in it.”

The Lincoln currently serves only beer and wine, but is adding liquor to their menu in a few weeks when they become a member-only club. Recent changes in NC law eliminate the mandatory three-day waiting period when applying for membership (i.e., patrons can apply for and pick up their membership at the same time). Parking is available next door in the honor parking lot, street parking and a nearby parking deck.

Lincoln Theatre
126 E. Cabarrus Street | 919.821.4111
www.lincolnthatre.com

The Pour House Music Hall

Opened on a whim by Eric Mullen and two friends (who have since been bought out), the Pour House was originally the first tap room to open in Raleigh with music merely playing as background noise. One night, a local band suggested moving some furniture and setting up their gear near the front. Soon it became a regular occasion offering live music seven days a week, 363 days a year. The venue is two-level, offering a range of viewing locations, with room for about 500 or 600, of that 95% is standing room only. Cover is most always less than \$10, with many early weekday shows being free.

Chris Malarkey is the band development manager and as Eric, a former civil engineer from NC State, says “Chris takes care of the bands and keeps us on the map and I take care of the business end.”

Being open seven days a week, closing only for Christmas and Thanksgiving Day, music genres are all over the map to attract a wide variety of patrons—jam and cover bands, bluegrass, hip-hop, rock, folk, and a cappella are just a few.

The Pour House has all ABC permits and is best known for their 30 taps featuring local and national drafts. They try to keep their drink prices fair for their customers. Some of their bartenders have been slinging drinks for eight or more years, so a regular face will usually be behind the bar on any given night. The dress is



always very casual however the average crowd age varies according to the band performing. Street parking is available with several parking decks within a short walking distance.

The bands you'll find at the Pour House are usually those on their way up the music ladder. Says both Eric and Chris, "We really enjoy working with groups on the rise who are still hungry and have a passion for music. They're the bands who still participate in grassroots marketing and try harder at making a great show for their fans. We're glad to provide a space that's not too big or too small where they can showcase their talent, and our customers get a great night of music because of it."

The Pour House Music Hall
224 S. Blount Street | 919.821.1120
www.the-pour-house.com

Slim's Downtown Distillery

Nestled inconspicuously between The Busy Bee Café and Moore Square Station on Wilmington Street is arguably Raleigh's premier rock 'n roll bar and venue in the downtown area, Slim's Downtown.

Founded in 1999 under the name Lakeside Lounge, Slim's was originally a sister club of another Lakeside Lounge in New York City. Eventually, the North Carolina owners took over both clubs and changed the name of the Raleigh location to avoid confusion.



For over 10 years Slim's has hosted local and national bands, big and small. "We've had The Bottle Rockets, Whiskeytown, Ryan Adams, The Yayhoos, Alejandro Escovedo, and every hardworking local band that has gone onto bigger venues," says Van Alston, Slim's manager. "We also occasionally have a big name act pop in to play a song or two."

Though live music is a given almost every night of the week, Slim's is more than a concert venue. A full bar, jukebox, pool table, and patio provide a break from the bands, if needed, and although they don't serve food, patrons are able to grab a bite to eat at a nearby restaurant such as Mecca or The Busy Bee Cafe. Patrons must be 21 or older to attend shows. Slim's has a full bar and parking is available for free on the street and in the parking deck next door after 10pm and on weekends.

With the closing of the often-missed King's Barcade last year, Slim's role in the fostering and availability of local music is even more essential. Alston does acknowledge that other venues in Raleigh have stepped up to fill the role. "When we first opened, we were basically the only venue available for local bands downtown," he



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"Sitti is by far the most ambitious Middle Eastern restaurant ever to open in the Triangle" - Greg Cox, The News and Observer

authentic Lebanese

137 S. Wilmington Street, Downtown Raleigh, P 919.239.4070, www.sitti-raleigh.com

said. "With Kings, The Pour House and the various incarnations of Martin Street Music Hall, it looked like there was an opportunity to create a downtown scene. Now, though, Tir Na Nog Irish pub seems to be booking some good stuff through their cooperative effort with WKNC 88.1, NC State's college radio station."

Though similar establishments have seen their demise recently, Alston has an optimistic view of the future for Slim's and the Raleigh music scene in general. "Slim's will continue to what we do best—break local bands and provide the opportunity for touring acts to play with our up-and-coming locals," he said.

Slim's Downtown Distillery
227 South Wilmington Street | 919.833.6557
www.myspace.com/slimsdowntownraleigh

Volume 11 Tavern

Located on the outskirts of southern downtown near the State Farmer's Market is Volume 11 Tavern, a large but almost hidden

live music venue. Predominantly showcasing metal and rock, they also feature acoustic, electronica, indie, folk and other music genres as well as cover bands. Local, regional, and national music and events are typical and the venue has the capacity inside for 600. A large



stage and high ceilings offer a good viewing area from most locations and as any female guest will tell you (without being prompted) that the bathrooms are as clean as what you'd expect to find at any hotel (complete with hair products and plenty of soap). Volume 11 has a full liquor license and parking is available in their lot as well as on-street.

A Broughton High School alum, owner Keith Fairweather acted an absence he saw in venues for metal bands when opening Volume 11 in early 2007. Maintaining a quality, casual setting for fans to enjoy music was high on Keith's list and he's done a good job in hiring friendly staff and effective security, and taking a personal interest in how everything is run. As one attendee put it, "Good music, good service, great atmosphere, clean bathrooms, nice people. It's like Cheers with metal, where everybody knows your name."

Volume 11 Tavern
658 Maywood Avenue | 919. 839.0079
www.volume11tavern.com

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Below are other bars, restaurants, pubs and taverns in downtown that have live music on a regular or fairly regular basis:

42nd Street Oyster Bar
508 West Jones St
919.831.2811
www.42ndstoysterbar.com

Amra's
106 Glenwood Avenue
919.828.8488
www.amrasraleigh.com

The Big Easy
222 Fayetteville Street
919.832.6082
www.thebigeasyinc.com

Black Flower
517 W Peace Street
919.900.8147
www.black-flower.com

Bogart's American Grill
510 Glenwood Avenue
919.832.1122
www.bogartsamericangrill.com

Brooklyn Heights Bar
605 Glenwood Avenue
919.239.4926
www.brooklynheightsbar.com

Buckhead Saloon
411 W Morgan Street
919.829.7254
www.buckheadraleigh.com

Busy Bee
225 S Wilmington Street
919.424.7817
www.busybeeraleigh.com

Café Helios
413 Glenwood Avenue
919.838.5177
www.cafehelios.com

**The Capital Corral
(CC Nightclub)**
313 W Hargett Street | 919.755.9599
www.cc-raleigh.com

Cashmere
410 Glenwood Avenue
919.836.7637
www.cashmereraleigh.com

City Limits Saloon
901 Tryon Hill Drive
919.829.3939
www.hellyeahraleigh.com

Deep South the Bar
430 S Dawson Street
919.833.1255
www.deepsouththebar.com

The Dive Bar
3 Glenwood Avenue
919.832.9363
www.divebarraleigh.com

**Flying Saucer Draught
Emporium**
328 W Morgan Street | 919.821.7468
www.beerknurd.com

**Hibernian Restaurant
& Irish Pub**
311 Glenwood Avenue | 919.833.2258
www.hibernianpub.com

Irregardless Café
901 W Morgan Street
919.833.8898
www.irregardless.com

The Mint Restaurant
219 Fayetteville Street
919.821.0011
www.themintrestaurant.com

Napper Tandy's Irish Pub
126 N West Street | 919.833.5535
www.nappertandysirishpub.com
comraleigh/raleigh.html

Oxford Gastropub
319 Fayetteville Street
919.832.6622
www.oxfordraleigh.com

Rum Runners
208 E Martin Street
919.755.6436
www.rumrunnersusa.com

Sadlack's Heroes
2116 Hillsborough Street
919.828.9190
www.myspace.comsadlacksheroes

Tir Na nOg
218 S Blount Street
919.833.7795
www.tnnirishpub.com

Woody's at City Market
205 Wolfe Street
919.833.3000
www.woodyscitymarket.com

Zydeco Downtown
208 Wolfe Street
919.834.7987
www.zydecodowntown.com

Visit our website at www.raleigh2.com and search for "live music in downtown Raleigh" and read comments from local bands *The Bower Birds* and *A Rooster* for the *Masses* on the live music scene in downtown Raleigh.

Email any venue suggestions to music@raleighdowntowner.com for downtown live music that we might have missed and we'll add 'em to our list.

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Spize Cafe BY BRIAN ADORNETTO, Food Writer



While our favorite foodie, Fred Benton, takes some time off from his Food Editor position at the Downtowner, Brian Adornetto will be filling in. Brian is a culinary instructor, food writer, and personal chef. His business, Love at First Bite, specializes in private cooking classes and intimate dinners. For more information, please visit Brian at www.loveatfirstbite.net and his blog www.chefbrianadornetto.blogspot.com.

Like many of us, Meechai and Jacqueline Kowae visited Raleigh, fell in love with it, and relocated here. Before moving to the area, the husband and wife team worked in and owned several restaurants in San Francisco, combining their experiences and way of live from the Bay area, culminating in the recently-opened Spize Café. The café specializes in fresh, seasonal Pan Asian food and also tries to raise the level of consciousness when it comes to recycling and supporting local businesses. The couple insists on using only 100% biodegradable and compostable napkins, utensils, cups, and service ware (even the

tables are made out of recycled marble salvaged from the old Archives Building) and chooses local vendors to serve the ingredient needs of Spize.

Huge windows overlooking Fayetteville Street, art deco benches and chairs, a sky blue ceiling with silver fans, and dark brown tones play off each other to make Spize an eye catching and energetic space. The current all-day menu is displayed on corkboards above the cashier's counter as well as on printed menus. The Café offers a wide array of salads and sandwiches ("baguettes") as well as homemade soups and spring rolls. However, regardless of the combinations on the menu, the staff at Spize will gladly personalize any dish to your specific taste and can substitute meat, tofu or vegetable on any item. A full dinner menu is in the works, as is a beer and wine list. Both are expected to be available in the next few weeks.

We started our meal with a bowl of the Spicy Pumpkin Soupe du Jour (\$7.95). It had a silky texture from coconut milk, spicy zing from Thai red

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curry and a sweet flavor from fresh pumpkin. The soup also had generous amounts of squash, chicken, and came with a side of white rice. This deliciously well-balanced soup was a huge hit at our table. We then sampled the Tuna and Arugula Salad, Cumin Chicken Salad, Pork and Crispy Shrimp Wonton Salad, Lemon Grass Pork, and Noodle Salad (each \$7.95), and the Green Papaya Salad (\$8.95). The Tuna salad was light and creamy thanks to the chili and lime mayonnaise with a surprising crunch, courtesy of julienned jicama (a crisp, sweet, South American root vegetable) and water chestnuts. The Cumin Chicken Salad, Spize's most popular salad, was balanced with spicy, creamy, nutty, and sweet elements. It also featured chips of crisp taro (a starchy Polynesian tuber vegetable with a slightly nutty flavor), five-spice rubbed tofu, green beans,



and egg. The thinly sliced grilled pork was the highlight of the Pork and Wonton Salad—garlicky, sweet and salty—pairing well with the homemade shrimp wontons. Another of our favorites was the delightfully aromatic lemongrass pork that topped the rice vermicelli in the Noodle Salad. It was abundant with vegetables and wonderfully seasoned with Spize's salty and sour Anchovy and Orange Dressing. The sweet and tart Green Papaya Salad was enhanced with sun-dried shrimp and brought together nicely with a dressing made with chili, lime, and palm sugar (extracted from the sap of palm trees).

Following the salads, we shared a Spize Café favorite, the Grilled Hot Bean Steak Baguette (\$7.95). It consisted of tender and savory sliced beef, lettuce, pickled daikon (a large mildly flavored white Asian radish), and carrots piled on a fresh, crunchy baguette (a long loaf of French bread characterized by a crisp crust and soft interior) and spread with Spize's signature chili-lime mayonnaise. We washed it all down with the Café's all-natural and extremely refreshing Limeade, a sweet and tart delight.

Bold flavors featuring true ethnic zest are the hallmark of Spize Café. Instead of being just another restaurant serving American fusion cuisine, Spize combines the essentials of Thai, Korean, and Vietnamese cooking to offer something unique in downtown Raleigh. Treat yourself to something out of the ordinary by experiencing the exotic flavors and aromas at downtown's Spize Café. 🍷



Spize Cafe

121 Fayetteville Street
919.828.5000
www.spizecafe.com

Hours:

11am–6pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
11am–9pm Wednesday

Meals: Currently lunch with dinner coming soon

Cuisine: Pan Asian

Dining Style: Casual

Menu Type: Gourmet sandwiches and salads

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RALEIGH DOWNTOWNER MAGAZINE

Meets the Ghosts of THE RALEIGH TIMES



Raleigh Downtowner Magazine office, 2009

Relocating brings new life and a familiar feel to a historic location BY PETER EICHENBERGER

Moving day is often one accompanied by a great gnashing of teeth and curses. If there is any solace at the end of that day it would be the reward of a pending collection of memories created by a new location and what the future brings. And so it is at the Raleigh Downtowner Magazine. When a need for more space and a desire to be in the downtown core necessitated a move from our old location on West Jones street to 12 1/2 East Hargett, probably no one could have dreamed that the name of this magazine could take on such a literal turn. This is about as “downtown” as one can become, due in large part and with many thanks to the vision and generosity of Greg Hatem and Empire Properties, who thought that having a publication in the old Raleigh Times Newspaper space fitting and “time” ly.

Wow. Talk about a vibe. From 1906 until 1955, when the *Times* was acquired by *The News and Observer*, this modest, two-story brick building bore witness to history as it spilled from the presses located on the first floor, what is now the Raleigh Times bar. The walls are steeped in the notable benchmarks of the 20th century: the elections, sports triumphs, moon shots,

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and assassinations. There is a palpable connection, a presence of those who worked and labored to bring the news of the world to what was then a small, provincial, southern city.

The curious and attentive can see history visible in the building, certainly when Empire Properties commenced the renovation of the building midway through this decade. The detritus of ordinary lives from generations ago became uncovered and visible—the bottles of beer drunk by thirsty pressmen and reporters, hand scrawled penciled messages concealed behind wall coverings. In short, the small change of ordinary people's lives brought close to our eyes. Some things have not changed.

OK, the name on the front door might be different, but some things we share with the old *Raleigh Times*. The old *Times* was a local publication, one that was focused largely on Raleigh events and personalities. All through the decades, future notables, from the *New York Times*' Arthur Sulzberger to future U.S. Senator Jesse Helms, cut their public eyeteeth at the *Raleigh Times*. While we at the Downtowner have a somewhat different mission than that of a daily city paper, our commitment to providing factual, interesting and positive information about downtown is not. We aim to continue keeping you informed in matters of entertainment and public events, fashion and the arts, music, and as time progresses, a whole lot more. Our staff may be smaller than that of the *Times*, but our spirit is as large as you will find anywhere.

We're your magazine. As Raleigh enters its third century and as we enter our sixth year in business, the Downtowner will continue to keep you informed as to what is out there for you to enjoy. We will be here to enhance and facilitate that sense of community that is so important to a city. There are plenty of publications that keep you up to date on the news of the larger world, but our focus is where you live, downtown. That's who, what and where we are, and where we plan to stay. 📰



Raleigh Times building, 1915

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Hillsborough Street Needs You!

BY MELISSA SANTOS

Since 1792, Hillsborough Street has been the liaison between the State Capitol and the city for which it was named, connecting residents to everything from the two local colleges and fairgrounds to the



city's first skyboxes at the RBC Center. But this May, construction started on a 15-month project that will modernize the design of the street to introduce more businesses and residential neighborhoods while preserving its history and purpose.

What has been basically the same design for centuries (217 years!) will be converted into a median-

divided two-lane road with on-street parking and two roundabouts by September 2010. This new design will be safer for motorists and pedestrians alike, as the roundabouts will have cars traveling between 15-25mph, instead of the 35 limit currently in place. Not only will this lower the number of traffic accidents on the street but it will also decrease the severity, since the new roundabouts will more likely yield fender benders and sideswipes, not head-on and side impact ones that are common at regular intersections.

"It's probably the most diverse, most local and international street that we have."

While this will help an area that has generally been overlooked in the "downtown Raleigh renaissance" in the long run, the short-term effects aren't all so beneficial. The difficulty in getting onto and off of Hillsborough Street, coupled with the confusion over parking, has meant a painful decline in revenue for many of the local restaurant and shop owners, in an economy when business is already lower than normal times.

But Nina Szlosberg, founder of the Hillsborough Street Partnership, a community-based organization formed to create a new vision for the street, is

urging people to make the effort because the area is unlike any other in the city. Prior to construction, she walked the street looking for vendors interested in joining a coupon-initiative that would help attract customers and was surprised by what she found. A clothing store selling the latest trends, a local Korean restaurant, a convenient store with an Indian restaurant inside, a Turkish restaurant with homemade hummus—all within a two-block radius.

"Every place I went in was just an amazing find. [There are] all these little jewels, this string of retail

pearls, all the way down Hillsborough Street," Nina says. "It's probably the most diverse, most local and international street that we have."

"If people knew what was on the other side of a door, they would come," she continues.

The Downtowner thinks so, too. So in several upcoming issues, we will be profiling various businesses along Hillsborough Street that are worth battling construction to check out, as well as providing a map with parking locations, safe walking routes and direct public transportation alternatives for visiting Hillsborough Street.

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- Four \$25 gift certificates to **The Mint Restaurant** located on Fayetteville Street, in the heart of downtown. www.themintrestaurant.com
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The Raleigh Downtowner Magazine is searching for contributing writers and photographers for both our print and web editions. If you're passionate about any of the topics below, or have a new idea you'd like to pitch, send us an email to writers@raleighdowntowner.com.

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RALEIGH DOWNTOWNER MAGAZINE



Mayor Meeker and City Council at the new City Plaza Grand Opening

John Hackett from Solas with lovely fiancée Nekita



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Rachel Starr of the American Heart Assn. and April Young from BB&T at the Cardinal Club

The Connell's drop by the new Raleigh Downtowner Magazine office



AROUNDTOWNAROUNDTOWNAROUNDTOWN



Photos at Catch 22's Anniversary party

G (Oxford/Sono/Mura) & James Park



Jack Glasure & Rick French of FWV, Stephen Peters of VisionQuest Wealth, and Brian Wellman, president of the Raleigh Railhawks



Jessica Coscia, presenter at the 2009 Diamante Latin Awards, with Matty Lazo Chaddretno, Director for Hispanic Affairs for Sen. Marc Basnight





AROUNDTOWNAROUNDTOWNAROUNDTOWN



Kristin and friends celebrating her birthday downtown

Bottega Hair-ettes volunteering at the Tom's Shoes "Style Your Sole" benefit



Rob and Sir Walter Kabob at the grand opening of Shish Kabob



Keith spinning tracks at Mosaic

Birthday girls at Mosaic



Jillian and Paul celebrating the two year anniversary of The Pouch & Bassment



Porter's City Tavern BY BRIAN ADORNETTO, Chef, Food Writer

Don't be fooled by its name or its location. Despite the close vicinity to NC State, Porter's City Tavern is not a college tavern but a stylish, metropolitan restaurant that serves fresh, well-planned food, seasonally changing beer and wine, and imaginative cocktails. In fact, the only characteristic Porter's has in common with a tavern (aside from serving alcohol) is a comfortable atmosphere that instantly makes all guests feel welcome. From manager Eric Cross to the newest staff member Crystal, everyone has one goal—to make Porter's a neighborhood place for every occasion.

The sunken dining room features plush booths, dark wood tables, romantic lighting, and a wall of French doors that open up to outside patio seating during pleasant weather. To the left is the bar area that has a comfortable banquette, tables and chairs, a large semi circular

candlelit bar, and walls adorned with specially-commissioned paintings by local artist Keith Norval. Aside from the dining room and bar, Porter's offers a private dining area for up to 50 people. This room has been the scene for corporate lunches, rehearsal dinners, surprise parties, and reunions. Additionally, to

coincide with the reopening of Hillsborough Street in late 2010, Porter's will be unveiling a rooftop bar and dining area.

At Porter's, the focus is on the food and beverage selection as well as its service. Chef Jeremy Sabo's menu is driven by local, seasonal products: the bulk of his produce comes from Blue Sky Farms in Wendell, his meat from Cliff's in Chapel Hill and the seafood from Simply Fresh in Durham. His focus and insistence on not taking any shortcuts, coupled with his culinary skills, have elevated the Urban Food Group's Executive Chef to one of the most respected chefs in the Triangle.

We began our meal with Fish Tacos (\$8.95), Fried Calamari (\$7.75) and an appetizer portion of Lobster Macaroni and Cheese (\$11.95). The soft shell tacos, served with a side of Pico de Gallo, were boosted by grilled Mahi Mahi, housemade avocado



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salsa, and spicy mayonnaise. These gourmet Fish Tacos were bright, and the kitchen's attention to detail was obvious. The calamari was flash fried, served with an Asian barbecue sauce and garnished with scallions as well as black and white sesame seeds. This signature dish was tender and flavorful and a welcome change from the versions you usually find elsewhere—a definite must-try. The Lobster Macaroni and Cheese was creamy yet light, due to a homemade lobster stock and mascarpone cheese, and there were plenty of lobster chunks throughout.



For our entrees, we had the Crispy Chicken (\$14.75), Grilled Rib Eye (\$19.95) and Porter's Hamburger (\$8.50). The chicken was well-seasoned and juicy. The French-cut breast and boneless thigh were aromatic from fresh thyme and had a crunchy, golden brown skin. The accompanying sides were buttery and fluffy Yukon Gold mash potatoes and perfectly tender al dente green beans. The rib eye was expertly grilled and topped with Roasted Garlic and Bacon Butter. Butter may make it better, but butter with roasted garlic and house-cured bacon makes it killer. The steak came



The tempting homemade after-dinner treats are enthusiastically received by diners who are wise enough to save room. During our visit, we sampled a new creation, the S'mores Cheesecake. This great-looking (and tasting) concoction began with a hearty graham cracker crust filled with airy cheesecake that was studded with Hershey's chocolate and topped with a bruléed marshmallow cream and was a sweet way to end our evening.

Porter's City Tavern is a great place to unwind or celebrate and is as close to a sure thing as you can get. Whether you order the Southwestern Tavern Chips at the bar, the Pan Roasted Salmon for your date or anything else on Porter's menu, rest assured that you'll get a meal made with care, inspiration and service that's friendly and professional. ☑

with the perfect side: huge, wonderfully thick and crisp onion rings. Porter's hamburger, a popular menu item, was juicy and overflowing with real flavor. They grind their sirloin and rib eye daily, forming it into patties for the burgers. Ours was grilled to perfection and served on a toasted bun.

Then there are the desserts.

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LOCAL HISTORY

From Storefronts to Shopping Malls

The Evolution of Business in Raleigh

BY JENNY LITZELMAN, RALEIGH CITY MUSEUM

Raleigh's earliest businesses can be traced back to the mid-1700s with inns and ordinaries owned by citizens such as Joel Lane and Isaac Hunter. Though Raleigh had less than 700 residents prior to 1800, the fledgling city acted as a major thoroughfare for travelers. After the city's official founding in 1792, small businesses such as brickyards, dry good stores, and more taverns and inns began to emerge.

Fayetteville Street began as a residential sector, but soon its homes transformed into storefronts, becoming the hub of local business. The Civil War disrupted local commerce, but Raleigh fared better than most southern areas because



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Even during the tumultuous Reconstruction era, businesses such as Briggs Hardware and Royster's Candy emerged and became widely successful.

In the early 20th century, Fayetteville Street continued to be the heart of downtown business. The early 1900s also marked the age of Jim Crow, which physically divided the city. Subsequently, Hargett Street became the center of African American business with establishments such as the Lightner Arcade and Hamlin Drugs. These two streets continued to dominate Raleigh commerce through the post World War II era. After World War II, the nature of business changed dramatically in Raleigh. With the dawn of baby boomers also came the age of suburbia. More people owned cars, and as they naturally migrated away from the immediate downtown area into suburbs, businesses followed.

Cameron Village is considered the city's first shopping mall, built in 1949. Following Cameron Village came North Hills, Crabtree Valley Mall, and other shopping destinations located in Raleigh's suburbs. While the second half of the 20th century saw businesses migrate to the suburbs, the 21st century has witnessed a

resurgence of interest downtown. Downtown Raleigh is now known for its vibrant atmosphere including restaurants, bars, shopping, and museums. Fayetteville Street in particular has experienced a major revitalization since its reopening to vehicular traffic in 2005.

The history of local business in Raleigh is as nuanced as the stores themselves. The Raleigh City Museum is paying homage to these operations with a new exhibit titled *The Art of Business*, featuring signage from historic Raleigh businesses. If you have items such as signage, packaging or any print collateral from old businesses that you think would be great to display in this exhibit, please call Ladye Jane Vickers at 919-832-3775, or email ljvickers@raleighcitymuseum.org.

IMAGES COURTESY OF THE RALEIGH CITY MUSEUM



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*The Raleigh City Museum is located at 220 Fayetteville Street in downtown Raleigh and is open from 10a.m.-4p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 1-4p.m. on Saturdays. Check out our newest exhibit, **Abstractations: Capital City Inspirations and Observations** open through December 2009. If you have any questions, please call 919-832-3775 or check out our website at www.raleighcitymuseum.org.*



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Downtown Fashion: Blush Apparel

BY RACHEL KINCAID AND STEPHEN LIN OF QUIXOTIC STUDIOS

Blush Apparel marketing manager Sharon Chin wants shoppers to spend less time in chain stores and more time in Raleigh's independent boutiques. There is often a trade off between corporate chains and unique stores competing for our attention, however. What we often give up in personal attention, we gain in affordability. We often buy garments that hundreds of others already have, but at least know that what we're wearing is trendy, which seems to be important—especially with the younger crowd. Shopping with Blush Apparel on Hillsborough Street is refreshingly different though, as it answers our most pressing questions: Will I be comfortable with the price points? Will I find looks that are on trend? Will I be able to shop for myself, but find help when I need it?

Independent clothing stores, especially in our frugal climate must gain their clients' trust by answering these questions and more within the first few minutes of contact. Blush Apparel sets itself apart with managers like Chin, who knows all about

establishing rapport, getting to know her clients, respecting customers' boundaries, and urging them to try new styles. "Some women really like to play it safe when building their wardrobe," comments Chin. "I like to help them find those go-to pieces that they love while encouraging them to step out of the box a little bit." For instance, for professionals looking for a conservative pencil skirt, Chin will often point to a higher-waisted piece that has been embraced in larger cities.

Personal Attention The funky boutique offers Raleigh women concerned with innovation, personal style and affordability plenty of conservative and daring options in cut and color of office wear, jeans, night-life apparel, and casual looks. In fact, when buying for their two locations, Blush owners often shop with specific clients in mind. The gal who loves black patent leather, for example, is kept in mind at the Los Angeles trade shows and is often brought back individual pieces to which no one else in the area will have




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access. This personalized shopping and willingness to take purchasing risks are part of what have kept Blush customers coming back again and again with family and friends. With price points competitive to those of teen chain Forever 21, this type of personalized attention is almost nonexistent, but Chin sees this service as the cornerstone of a successful retailer.

"We base our service on relationships," she explains. "We have customers that always come back to us because we know their style. We're like that friend who will give you an honest opinion. Of course we will tell you what's trendy, but also what's flattering to your figure rather than sell you everything we have."

Limited Editions When Blush introduces a style to the area such as the "liquid leggings" debuting this fall, very limited quantities are bought to ensure a unique look for customers. This philosophy, though in direct opposition to that of the corporate fashion marts, gives women peace of mind to know that their style isn't being worn all over the city.

Blush Apparel's downtown location may be across from NC State, but high school students, young professionals and mothers alike can find affordable



pieces that they can mix and match all season long. This season, try their pocketed sateen pleated skirts, lightweight jersey perfect for layering, hard-to-find liquid leggings, bomber jackets, skinny stretch jeans in bright colors, and candy-colored patent leather loafers.

Four Style Tips from Sharon Chin, marketing manager, Blush Apparel

RD: Are there any trends you'd recommend avoiding this season?

Blush: Truthfully, just because it's 'in' doesn't mean it's going to look good on you! Making your own unique style is the best bet. People look at magazines and think, 'that's what I want to look like,' but you may not have the skin tone or figure of the model. There are always ways to capture a trend and make it your own by going with a longer jacket, for example, rather than a cropped style."

RD: What element of fall fashion do you most look forward to?

Blush: I love boots! I think they dress up any outfit; they are always sexy and

are very slimming. With black or brown boots, you can do a lot of fun things with stockings and little pops of color to have fun while staying conservative.

RD: How do you approach color?

Blush: For me, color is important in that it sets the tone for the day. Sometimes I'll wake up and not feel at my best, so I'll wear a bright color. I think this fall there will be lots of browns and blacks as usual, but you should always have that one color that will lift your spirits. Color is how you want to approach your day.

RD: What is a versatile piece that can easily go from day to night?

Blush: I love a high-waisted pencil skirt. It's conservative but still sexy because it's form-fitting without showing too much skin. You can pair it with a ruffled blouse for the office and at night you can wear it with a sexy off-the-shoulder top.



BLUSH APPAREL

2302 Hillsborough Street

919.828.1615 | www.BlushApparel.com

Models: Raquel Williams, Dominique Haden and Christine Williams. Raquel Williams' hair and makeup by Page Berse.

BETTER LIVING

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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RALEIGH ROUNDUP GALA

TO BENEFIT THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

Let out your western wear, or as some call it, “cowboy casual”—because it’s time again for the Red Sword Guild’s Raleigh Roundup. One of the Triangle’s favorite fundraising galas, the Raleigh



Roundup raises awareness and funds for cancer research, education, patient advocacy and service. All proceeds directly benefit the American Cancer Society. With past galas, the Red Sword Guild has been able to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars per year—

more than 2.3 million dollars since its inception in 1996—the majority of which helps families right here in the Triangle.

This year’s Raleigh Roundup will take place Friday, November 13, at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds’ Kerr Scott Building, from 6:30 pm until midnight. The event will feature music by popular country blues band Jason Boland & the Stragglers, followed by dance band Crush. But come early, because the first portion of the

evening includes signature dishes prepared by North Carolina’s most talented chefs.

The event is co-chaired this year by Maria Gruskin and Sharon Cummings. “The evening’s mission is to bring attention to the fact that cancer touches almost every one of us, somehow, in some way,” said Sharon. “It can be a daunting diagnosis... but it can also be one filled with real hope. And today, thanks to many motivated people, extraordinary advances in technology, and organizations such as the American Cancer Society, there’s more hope than ever. People are living with—and moving past—cancer every day.”

Allison Sheehan, President of the Red Sword Guild’s Board of Directors, adds, “The Raleigh Roundup is not only a worthy cause, but it’s also an action-packed event. Mixing North Carolina’s top chefs with great live music, casino-style gambling, unbelievable auctions and chance drawings, and a mechanical bull makes this night a “can’t miss” event. And thanks to the almost 1000 people who attend each year, our generous corporate and individual supporters and a dedicated, tireless group of volunteers, we are able to

make a significant contribution to the American Cancer Society.”

The Red Sword Guild’s primary purpose is to raise funds for the American Cancer Society and to further its goals in the South Atlantic Division. For 2009, the Guild’s fundraising target is to earn \$300,000 through their annual Raleigh Roundup to directly benefit ACS. The Red Sword Guild is celebrating its thirteenth anniversary of volunteer service and fundraising, and includes more than 100 volunteers who work year-round to achieve its goals in assisting ACS.



Tickets are \$150 per person and can be purchased online at www.RaleighRoundup.com.

The American Cancer Society is the nationwide community-based voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives and diminishing suffering from cancer through research, education, advocacy and service. For information about cancer, call 1.800.ACS.2345, 24 hours a day, seven days a week or log onto www.cancer.org.

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Downtowners are Seeing RED

Ambassador program changes its colors, not its tune

They smile, wave, escort, and clean. Donning cheery purple shirts, jackets and safety packs, the Downtown Ambassadors assist in any way they can. While their motto and mission remain the same, starting October 24 as part of Raleigh Wide Open and the City Plaza Grand Opening, they will shed their purple and khaki uniforms for snazzy red and black ones.

As part of the Downtown Raleigh Alliance, a city and member funded organization that supplements city services in the downtown district, the Ambassadors are entrusted with cleanliness and safety of the city.

"We're the right arm of the city working with downtown," program manager Robert Rutten said. "We're the concierge of the streets."

Rutten explained that the change in uniforms is part of the YouRHere campaign of the Alliance and is an attempt to unify the Ambassadors with all the changes the Alliance is bringing to the downtown area.



The Ambassadors comprise of 22 hourly-paid positions that work shifts between the hours of 6am to 12am daily. They walk and bike the streets and parking garages of the downtown area picking up excess trash, escorting people from their offices to their cars and making sure the areas are free from loiters and troublemakers.

Brenda Carter, a one-year Ambassador veteran and currently the only female on the staff, says she "loves" being an Ambassador.

Carter recalls, "One time, a woman left her car parked in Moore Square while she went to the courthouse, leaving her window down. I could see her valuables

right there so while I was writing her a note, she came running back up. She wrote an email to my boss thanking me for watching out for her."

Beyond their everyday duties of cleanliness and safety, the Ambassador program provides a sense of downtown improvement that businesses, Wake county residents and tourists can see. They also offer directions, food recommendations and the occasional car jump.

"If we can handle it, we will," Rutten said. "If we can't fix it, we will call the right channel."

Lamont Cobb, who has been an

Ambassador for more than a year, says the weather elements are difficult at times.

"It's so hot in the summer and in the winter it's extremely cold," Cobb said. "But I like going home after a day of making people smile and hearing them say 'thank you'. It's nice to know you've helped someone."

Wake county resident and downtown employee Ozie Stallworth believes the Ambassadors are a great asset to the area.

"[The Ambassadors] do an outstanding job representing Raleigh," Stallworth said. "I thank [them] for their efforts."

Rutten insists the list of Ambassador assistance is endless. From graffiti and weed removal to calls for assistance with illegal panhandlers, the Ambassadors help make downtown a safer and cleaner place to work, live and play.

For more information on the Ambassadors or the Alliance, visit www.YouRHere.com. To reach the Ambassadors for an escort, assistance or just to say hello or thanks, give them a call at 919.368.7962.

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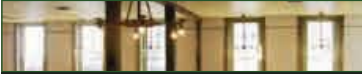
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Downtown Lessons from Down South

BY BILLY WARDEN



From Liza Minnelli's next marriage to Animal Collective's next album, I stick to the credo laid down by Chuck D—don't believe the hype.

For years, I'd heard that the nation's most dynamic downtown redevelopment was underway somewhere south of Charlotte. I dismissed it.

Finally, family business took us to the heart of the hype—a Saturday night in Greenville. The one in South Carolina.

I prepared myself to be bored. We hit Main Street. What was a four lane drag had been narrowed to two with free parking along the curb—angled parking. Classy. Trees drenched the sidewalks in shade. Lurking under that shade was ... the rarest of urban beasts ... retail! And not just souvenirs—O.P. Taylor's toy store, for example, stocked with the kind of ol' fashioned cap guns they don't carry in suburban malls anymore.

We swung into our hotel, a restored, four-diamond gem called The Poinsett. A wedding had the joint jamming. Apparently, the weddings never end here. The New South cuisine at upscale Soby's—once host to scene-maker George Clooney—was fine, but not as impressive as the restaurant's soaring warehouse space. Reincarnated mills, churches and schools strut their second act stuff throughout Greenville.

My resistance eroding, a short walk down Main revealed the one thing that can never be over-hyped. WATER.

The Reedy River had been a Cherokee thoroughfare before pollution nearly choked it lifeless. Years of clean

up later, the Reedy thrives as Falls Park. It's amazing how water brings people and places (to say nothing of plants) to rousing life. Even more amazing what a 355-foot pedestrian span can do. Liberty Bridge leaps across the Reedy gorge with a winning Modernist wink.

We watched a network of falls cascade down ancient rocks, kids bounce on the surprisingly spring-y bridge and a teenager tumble into a basin, muddying her short shorts. And what a diverse hoard: students from the area's many colleges, grown-ups spending healthy salaries courtesy of the nearby BMW plant, kids from the country.

We didn't get to sleep until the wee hours because Main Street just wouldn't let us. Soon a parade of cars had both lanes clogged. A step dance erupted on a street corner.

This well-planned party cost tens of millions of dollars shoveled out over three decades. Raleigh's spending money, too, and seeing results. Retail looms large on everyone's checklist. City Plaza and the Moore Square redesign promise great venues to play and people-watch. But I can't wash away the notion that water is essential. Legend has it that a neighborhood near downtown Raleigh sits atop a spring. I'll start digging if you will. And I'll hype the Raleigh waterfront to high heaven. Greenville made me a believer.

Billy Warden is a founder of the downtown-based marketing agency, The Communications & Imagination Group (www.billywarden.com).

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EVENTS CALENDAR

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Saturday, October 31

NC Symphony presents **The Phantom of the Orchestra** - A ghostly musician enters the stage and plays Bach's Toccata and Fugue, thus calling forth... the "phantoms of the orchestra" and a visually stunning concert program that brings the story of the Sorcerer's Apprentice to life. Now the conductor and his nervous assistant must use the power of a silver baton to control the phantom orchestra and lead a concert. Trouble arises when the apprentice attempts to emulate the master. * Visit www.ncsymphony.org. Tickets available through www.ticketmaster.com.

Now-November 1

Carolina Ballet presents **Picasso** * Picasso definitely has his card punched in the pantheon of timeless painters. You may not be able to purchase an original Picasso, but you can see this original Robert Weiss production presented in collaboration with the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University's exhibit Picasso and the Allure of Language. Visit www.carolinaballet.com. Tickets available through www.ticketmaster.com.

Sunday, November 1

City of Oaks Marathon and Rex Healthcare Half Marathon * The City of Oaks Marathon and Rex Healthcare Half Marathon returns for the third year to Raleigh, North Carolina, drawing thousands of athletes to the capital city. Add this runner's favorite to your fall racing schedule! The course is revered for the diversity of the landscape, showcasing the Triangle's natural areas and the capital's rich, Southern history. Come discover what runners around the country are raving about. Visit www.cityofoaksmarathon.com.

Friday, November 13

The Red Sword Guild hosts the **Raleigh Roundup** * The Raleigh Roundup is a special fundraising event to benefit the American Cancer Society's Raleigh Community Office. The money also helps to provide college scholarships for students at colleges throughout North Carolina. This event, of which the Raleigh Downtowner is a sponsor, will be held at the Kerr Scott Building at the State Fairgrounds. For event details and to purchase tickets, visit www.raleighroundup.com.

Saturday, November 21

Raleigh Christmas Parade * Location: Hillsborough and St. Mary's Streets. Time: 9:30am * For more information or to sponsor a float, visit www.grma.org/christmas-parade.

November 25-29

Carolina Ballet presents **Messiah** * This Robert Weiss masterpiece, hailed by the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung as "Choreography Europe Needs to See," returns in all its glory. It is a celebration of live music, theatre and dance to Handel's magnificent score for families to enjoy together during the Thanksgiving holiday. * Visit www.carolinaballet.com. Tickets available through www.ticketmaster.com.

November 27-28

NC Symphony presents **Holiday Pops** * Take a break from the holiday frenzy and enjoy great music with the North Carolina Symphony and special guests Rozlyn Sorrell and the Concert Singers of Cary. Sleigh bells ring, you sing along with us—all the best songs of the season to cheer your winter soul. We'll put you in a festive frame of mind and help you get your jingle on! * Visit www.ncsymphony.org. Tickets available through www.ticketmaster.com.

Saturday November 28

Designers Downtown Market * Location: Ornamentea parking lot * Time: 9am-3pm * You'll find amazing, unique and one-of-a-kind items including pottery, jewelry, clothing, gifts, mixed media art and prints, hand stamped paper goods, blown glass and lampwork beads, hand felted hats and scarves, embroidered items, handcrafted soaps, windchimes, photography and much, much more! Visit www.designersdowntownmarket.com.



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Williams Mullen Returns to Downtown

The great American poet Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, "Be an opener of doors for such as come after thee..." But it was not Emerson only who spoke of doors



as the passageway through which we all must walk, or of each person's responsibility to forge new pathways for following generations. Doors, by their very nature, have long been a metaphor of something more significant: of the shared experiences of every individual and the force that pushes us forward.

Almost 150 years ago, Civil War veteran Armistead Jones returned to Raleigh to begin the law firm that would eventually become known as Maupin Taylor. In 2007, that firm merged with another to become Williams Mullen. They are a part of something bigger now, but continue to hold fast to the principles for which Maupin Taylor has always been known. In truth, its union with Williams Mullen has proved successful because both firms are unyielding when it comes to

close working relationships with and tireless advocacy for their clients.

Twenty-eight years ago, the office in Raleigh commissioned a pair of Appalachian black walnut doors from Stephenson Millworks in Wilson, North Carolina. Since 1981, the firm has moved from downtown Raleigh to Glenwood Avenue to Highwoods Office Park in North Raleigh, always bringing their beloved doors along with them. They have served as the entrance point to the main conference room, library, and lobby. They have stood open to welcome new clients, employees, and friends; and they have closed to provide protection and confidentiality for those same individuals.

Williams Mullen recently returned to their roots in downtown Raleigh when they moved into the 33-story RBC Plaza and, once again, the doors came along. For the firm, the great doors, expertly fashioned from solid walnut, have always symbolized the quality that comes with them wherever they go. They also represent something constant and absolute: for all the changes in the legal profession, at Williams Mullen, what remains is an unwavering professionalism and a zealous advocacy for their clients.

PHOTO: M. Keith Kapp, Vice President, in front of the black walnut doors that have traveled with the firm since 1981

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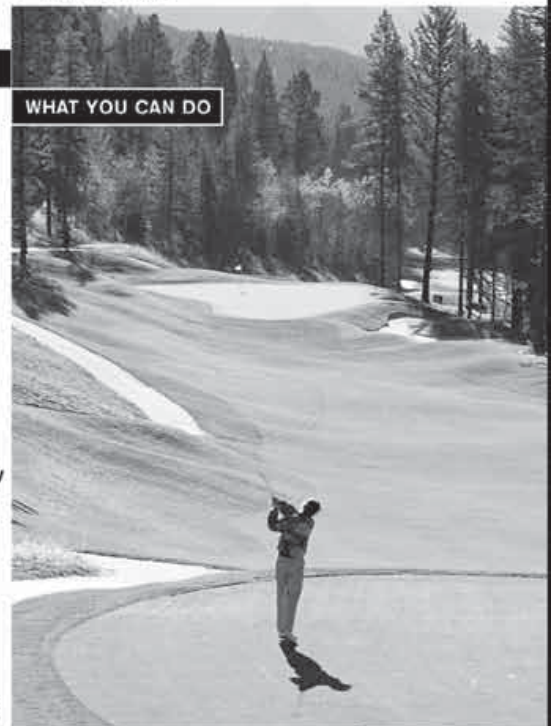


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