GET OUT!

Your guide to summer

10 Q'S WITH PAM SAULSBY
Dwarves, shoes and chocolate!

ARTIST PROFILE
Learn more about Artspace's Paris Alexander

RALEIGH DOWNTOWNER READER REWARDS

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Nothing To Do This Summer? GET OUT!

By Elizabeth Shugg

The new downtown cabs run on pedals and Power Bars, greenways link public spaces to recreational trails, and sprouts of green mitigate steel summits and soften cityscape views. This is, after all, the City of Oaks.

It’s no wonder local businesses and downtown organizations plan a bundle of outdoor events for Raleigh downtowners all summer long. There’s plenty of outdoor recreation to keep everyone moving as well. So, we’re hooking you up with outdoor entertainment the way only Downtown Raleigh does it. Consider this your Get Out summer planner.

TUNING OUT
Live outdoor music flows generously through downtown Raleigh and surrounding areas during summer, taking the atmosphere’s festive ambience up a notch. Moore Square hosts the Bud Light Downtown Live Concert series every other Saturday through August 23 from 2 to 11 p.m., rain or shine. Billed as the Triangle’s premier free outdoor concert series, this year’s lineup includes Blind Melon and Carbon Leaf June 28, Alter Bridge and Tantric July 12, Old 97’s and The Connells July 26, Brian Howe of Bad Company August 9, and Puddle of Mudd, Eve 6 and Saving Abel August 23. Learn more at www.raleighdowntownlive.com.

A quick 5-mile drive southeast will take you to the Time Warner Cable Music Pavilion at Walnut Creek, where another headlining summer concert series is underway. This year’s lineup features the Dave Matthews Band July 2, Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers with special guest Steve Winwood July 12, Brad Paisley July 19, Rascal Flatts with Taylor Swift August 2, and Jack Johnson with special guests Rogue Wave and Neil Halstead August 12. For ticket information, visit the Ticketmaster website www.ticketmaster.com/venue/114763.

Just down Interstate 440 in Cary, the N.C. Symphony performs its popular Summer Concert Series under the stars at Koka Booth Amphitheater in Regency Park every Saturday night beginning at 7:30 p.m. The series runs through July 19 and features Independence Day fireworks July 4, a “Salute to the Greatest Generation” July 5, and “Take It to the Limit: The Music of the Eagles” July 19. Learn more at www.ncsymphony.org.

MOVIE-ING OUT
The nation’s first drive-in theater opened 75 years ago in New Jersey. Today, the Garden State claims only one. North Carolina boasts six, but the closest one to Raleigh—the Raleigh Road Outdoor Theater.
HIKE UP YOUR OPTIONS

No need to go far out for a good hike. The Capital Area Greenway system, created by the City of Raleigh in March 1974 as a response to rapid growth and urbanization, has developed into a 54-mile, 3,000-acre system that mingles public open spaces with tree-lined recreational trails. Download a Capital Area Greenway map at www.raleigh-nc.org to locate the access point nearest you (just type “Greenway Map” in the search field).

You can always venture outside the city limits for a more intense hike. William B. Umstead State Park between Interstate 40 and U.S. 70 encompasses 5,577 acres of lush trails, woods, streams and wildlife. The Crabtree Creek and Reedy Creek sections claim 20 miles of trails—from nature walks to wooded hikes. Learn more at www.ncparks.gov/Visit/parks/wium/main.php.

Four Miles of Trails at Blue Jay Point hook up to the Falls Lake Trail in Raleigh, which will eventually border the entire south shore of Falls Lake and is part of the state’s Mountain-to-Sea Trail system. Click on www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject//visit/fala/do.html for a map and more information.

RALEIGH DOWNTOWNER DOWNTOWN RALEIGH'S PREMIER MONTHLY MAGAZINE

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GET FIT FOR FUN—AND FUNDS

Interested in changing up your sports variety this summer? Try Broomball, a cross between ice hockey and street hockey. Or rediscover kickball, that age-old team sport from elementary school. Take sports in a totally different—and social—direction with the TRI SPORTS Social Club, an organization also known as MEETandCOMPETE.com that assembles Triangle professionals of all ages for basketball, beach volleyball, flag football, soccer, softball and of course, kickball and broomball.

“All sports are great—they’re all co-ed—and the emphasis is on fun and meeting people over cut-throat competition,” says organizer Danny Lefebvre. “We encourage full teams, groups of friends, and especially individuals to register for our leagues.”

Lefebvre says the TRI SPORTS Social Club has planned a large calendar of summer activities that are “open and welcoming to new faces,” including a tubing trip and camping weekend, a Broomball social, a Co-Ed Best Ball Golf Tourney, summer sports leagues and an August trip to Spain. The club takes its annual trip to the La Tomatina Tomato Fight in Bunyol, Spain, with stops in Barcelona and Ibiza. Learn more at www.trissc.com.

Experience the joy of serving a charitable cause while getting fit by participating in one of several outdoor fundraisers this summer. The 16th annual Firecracker 4th of July 100K and 50K Rides in Cary gives cyclists an opportunity to raise money for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Last year, more than 1,000 riders participated.

“The Firecracker Ride is the one event where it seems the entire cycling community comes out for the parade,” says Kevin Coggins, owner of The Spin Cycle in Cary and president of the Greater Raleigh

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Two bike rides are planned for July 4th: The Firecracker Ride in Cary and the First Annual Bike Paride (paride: a massed, recreational bicycle ride).

Continued from page 4

Merchant’s Association. “The post ride party is a blast. There are activities for kids and non-riders alike. The riders bring their families and everyone enjoys a great meal and live music from the Hibernian Restaurant and Pub.” Learn more at www.thespincycle.com and click on 4th of July Ride.

The First Annual Bike Paride (paride: a play on the words parade and ride) is scheduled for 3pm starting at the NCSU Belltower. The flyer states “This Fourth of July, come join your brothers and sisters of the pedal and spoke to declare your liberation from petroleum. Appropriate costumes are encouraged to fully express the independence that come from gasoline-free transportation.” The Paride (described as a massed, recreational bicycle ride) will wind through downtown Raleigh and terminate at the point of origin. The path will be determined by democracy.

The Magnificent Mile Race and Fun Run takes place September 14 at 2 p.m. in downtown Raleigh. Inspired by Sarah Roberts, Scott Corsmeier and Amy Petrucci, who all have motor neuron diseases, this event helps raise money to fund research grants awarded by the Spastic Paraplegia Foundation. Learn more at their website at www.ncroadrunners.org/magmile/index.html.

THE GRANDEST PARTY OF THE YEAR

It’s fair to say all of these outdoor summer events build excitement for what can only be described as Raleigh’s premier party of the year: the Raleigh Convention Center Grand Opening September 5 and 6. Uniting what the convention center’s management team calls “The Grandest Party of the Year” with the third annual Raleigh Wide Open is only logical and ensures an extravaganza of entertainment like never before for 100,000-plus guests per day. Moving Raleigh Wide Open from summer to early fall also means local college students, vacationers and other members of the Raleigh community absent in previous years will have the opportunity to experience the festivities.

During the celebration, the convention center’s 500,000-plus square feet of exhibition, celebration and meeting space at 500 Salisbury Street will burst with activity. Experience an international festival and preview of future convention center events, as well as booths from popular downtown restaurants, museums and other attractions.

“There is no better way to kick-off a tremendous future for this building than the international festival that will bring vendors, exhibitors and visitors from all over to our new home during the grand opening.

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KID-APPROVED OUTDOOR FUN

There are plenty of outdoor activities for the kids to enjoy this summer in downtown Raleigh and beyond. From music to movies to fresh blueberries, here are some ideas for keeping those blueberry-stained faces smiling all summer long.

• N.C. Symphony's Summer Concert Series: www.ncsymphony.org
• Moore Square Outdoor Movies: “Shrek the Third” on June 21, “Nims Island” on August 30 and “Transformers” September 6
• N.C. Museum of Art Outdoor Movies: “Horton Hears a Who” on August 16
• Moore Square Farmers Market: www.godowntownraleigh.com/farmersmarket
• N.C. State Farmers Market: www.agr.state.nc.us/markets/facilities/markets/raleigh
• The Magnificent Mile Race and Fun Run: www.ncroadrunners.org/magmile/index.html
• The 16th annual Firecracker 4th of July 100K and 50K Post-Ride Party: www.thespincycle.com/events.asp?level1=4thRide%20Info
• Hiking: visit www.triangletracks.com and click on “Outdoors” for a complete list of hiking trails in Raleigh and throughout the Triangle
• Raleigh Rickshaw Rides: www.raleighrickshaw.com
• The North Carolina Museum of Natural Science’s “BugFest” on September 20 (all floors plus the plaza and Capitol grounds will be teeming with bugs, bug lovers and bug experts): www.naturalsciences.org
weekend,” says Doug Grissom, assistant director of the Raleigh Convention Center. “This event represents the perfect intersection of commerce, education and entertainment that we know will be a permanent attraction of the convention center.”

In tandem, Raleigh Wide Open’s street entertainment, live music, food booths and fireworks will keep the party rocking on Fayetteville Street and throughout other downtown districts. “With Raleigh Wide Open III outside, all of downtown will be having their open house that weekend,” Grissom says. “We want all of the restaurants and bars to be full.”

A number of other events have been planned for the grand opening, including a ribbon-cutting ceremony and black tie gala featuring the N.C. Symphony. Read all about it at www.raleighconvention.com.

TOUR BY RICKSHAW OR SEGWAY
Complete your outdoor experience this summer by hailing a Raleigh Rickshaw following a Moore Square movie or viewing of Ira David Wood III in “Peter Pan” July 12-20. This safe and environmentally-friendly method of transportation fuses old-fashioned flavor into downtown Raleigh’s festive ambience.

“We’ve grown from 5 to 17 rickshaws since we started in May 2007, and we try to be out on the street seven days a week and available for every downtown event,” says Raleigh Rickshaw owner Donald Mertrud.

Drivers ensure customer comfort by providing them with blankets during winter, and some play music through iPods connected to mobile speakers. All Raleigh Rickshaw drivers recently took a training class through the Raleigh City Museum to learn more about the city’s history so they can share it with customers as they ride through town. Learn more about Raleigh Rickshaws, their drivers and how to reserve one for your next outing at www.raleighrickshaw.com.

You can also take a very different tour of downtown Raleigh via segway. Triangle Segway offers energy-efficient, self-balancing personal transporters that will glide you around town. These are so much fun you may end up wanting one of your own. No problem. Triangle Segway is the only authorized segway dealer and segway tour operator in the Triangle. Learn more at www.trianglesegway.com.

Elizabeth Shugg is a local freelance writer and editor. Learn more at www.elizabethshugg.com
Brooklyn Heights

By Melissa Santos

Business partners Jason Howard and Jay Wellons originally planned on opening a restaurant, but when they saw the house at 605 Glenwood Avenue—previously the shoe and apparel store Firefly, and once the home of Mayor Avery C. Upchurch—they thought it would be the perfect location for a bar. When Howard and Wellons met at Mura in North Hills where Howard was General Manager, it spurned the birth of B&V Hospitality. They wanted to create something different from the other bars currently lining Glenwood South: an upscale yet casual neighborhood bar with “spirits & everybody,” Brooklyn Heights’ tagline.

Unlike many of the modern and contemporary bars in the district, Brooklyn Heights’ façade consists of a welcoming front porch and large patio, reminiscent of long-gone Glenwood days when neighbors entertained al fresco with conversation and cocktails. While the talking and drinking still continues outside, the old-fashioned past immediately dissolves once inside. The interior woodwork, from the luxe curving bar and matching tables to the wine racks, was all handmade. Using raw bloodwood and purple heartwood, general contractor Joe Rimbey and his brother Tom, along with Andy Brown and Durham Taylor, planed and bent the once lifeless wood into masterful works of functional art. The bar itself is the true centerpiece of Brooklyn Heights, visually stunning in color and design, yet practical and resilient.

With additional help from architect Bret Page, interior designer Clark Hipolito and Adam Carrington, Howard and Wellons have created a bar that’s like a “jewelry box,” its contents ooh-and-ah worthy: the deeply-colored walls painted by Jason Johns (who also DJs on occasion at Brooklyn Heights), the slick artwork—literally slick, thanks to an aqueous epoxy—created by Adam Peele and Dawn Capron (all of which is for sale), and even the women’s restroom, which features soothing elegant colors, a full-length mirror and table-sized dress form.

Howard believes he was able to create a neighborhood bar that is still sophisticated because of the collaboration involved. The age gap between the two owners was a benefit, Howard says, because it allowed them to create a place where they were both comfortable. And he credits the ideas of all parties involved with the bar turning out so well: “We didn’t have a plan; we just winged the whole thing and relied on everyone’s input.”

The only consistent idea throughout the design process was to make it a bar for everyone. And B&V Hospitality has done just that. There’s no bar menu and there are no specials, just experienced bartenders and affordable prices. Since Brooklyn Heights opens at 5pm and features tapas from Tasca Brava next door, along with free wi-fi, customers can stop by for an after-work aperitif and still get in a little work. And after dark, the bar attracts an eclectic crowd—from “skaters to suits.”

Brooklyn Heights is Howard’s first bar, and the time and work he and others put into the design made it an emotional project. This passion, coupled with the bar’s focus on customer service, will no doubt make Brooklyn Heights a popular destination in Glenwood South.

Brooklyn Heights
919.239.4926
605 Glenwood Avenue
Open Seven Days 5pm-2am
(Tasca Brava tapas: 5-9pm)
www.brooklynheightsbar.com
When did you first decide you wanted to work in broadcasting?

SAULSBY: It was when my first career choice as a speech pathologist went completely south. I had a class where I got to shadow what speech pathologists actually do on a day-to-day basis. I knew then and there that I had the compassion but not the extraordinary patience needed to work with people with speech impediments or people recovering from strokes. It was at that moment that I began to search for another career. After taking an aptitude test, I landed on television broadcasting. It was perfect; it was the right choice. I hit the ground running, and it’s all I’ve ever done since.

2 Is there anything that you don’t like about being a news anchor?

SAULSBY: Having to be ‘on’ all the time, regardless of whether I’m having a good or bad day. When you’re in the public, people associate you with that image and that person they see on television. The only time I allow myself to not have on any make-up or lipstick is when I go to the gym. If I’m at the grocery store, buying a purse, whatever, my face is made-up and I’m ‘on.’

3 Do you have a favorite news anchor from another station?

SAULSBY: I would say Miriam Thomas back when she was on ABC. I just loved her when I first moved here. I thought she was the quintessential anchorwoman.

4 What’s your most embarrassing on-air moment?

SAULSBY: Oh, there are so many (she says with a big smile). Let’s see. Well, there was that one time we were doing a story about a dwarf-tossing contest, which back in the day was apparently a popular thing to do in pubs. I guess you just picked them up, threw them and measured who went the farthest? Anyway, while I was reading the teleprompter, I kept thinking to myself, ‘don’t look at the video, don’t look at the video’ because I knew that if I saw the video I would start laughing, and there’s going to be some people who won’t find that amusing. But the weatherman near me was watching the video and saying, ‘I can’t believe it! They’re really tossing dwarves!’ And that was it; it was all over—I lost it. And the thing with me is that once I lose it, there’s no coming back. I was gone and had to pass the story to my co-anchor. There’s another moment involving the word cockpit, but we won’t go into that....

5 You’ve sung professionally at several local events recently. How long have you been singing?

SAULSBY: I started four years ago. I always knew that I could do it, but before I just sang in the shower or to my daughter when she was a baby. I loved it so much, and people are always saying to follow your passion and do the thing you love, so I hired a voice coach and from then on there were opportunities to sing in public. From the beginning, I knew that this was so true and so right because I never get scared or nervous, like I sometimes do when I have to speak in public. (Yes, I know, it’s ironic since I’m always speaking on air.)

RD: So is this something you’d pursue as a career?

SAULSBY: I haven’t figured that out yet. I just want to be able to continue doing it in some fashion and be open to where it goes.

6 Who are your favorite singers, or some who have influenced you?

SAULSBY: Gosh. I like a lot of old singers like Billie Holiday, Angie Stone, Carly Simon, Linda Ronstadt, a lot of the jazz artists. Honestly, I don’t have any favorite current singers. I mean, I buy their albums and like them, but I don’t really love them.

7 You’re an active participant in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure and have been running the race for years. How did you get involved with that?

SAULSBY: It goes back to working as the health reporter at the NBC-affiliate in Miami. I did a lot of programs and forums for survivors of breast cancer and for the issue itself. I think it was looking into those women’s lives and seeing their strength in going through that ordeal, seeing them come out on the other side and getting back to full, healthy lives.... When I see that, it just lights me up, and I like having that feeling.

8 Do you have a fashion weakness?

SAULSBY: Oh, you know what it is—shoes! I know there are other women out there like me: ‘Hello, my name is Pam, and I’m shoe-opholic.’

9 Are there any guilty indulgences you have a hard time fighting?

SAULSBY: Oh! Chocolate! But the bad thing with me is that I don’t have an off switch. I see people who can have just a few bites of something and then stop, but I just can’t do that. I mean, I will have what’s there until it’s not there anymore.

10 You certainly have a busy schedule. How do you relax?

SAULSBY: Yoga, I definitely relax with yoga. And naps! I love naps. I can take a short nap or a long nap; I don’t care. I think society is really missing out on the benefits of napping.
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The Downtowner is proud to continue yet another issue of Reader Rewards. Each month, we give away gifts and services to our loyal readers, with this month’s Rewards worth over $450.

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

THIS MONTH’S READER REWARDS

• Four $25 gift certificates to Amra’s, located on Glenwood near Hillsborough Street. Great drinks, music and service. www.amrasraleigh.com

• Four $25 gift certificates from Blue Martini, located in the Powerhouse District. Daily specials, live music, food, and never a cover charge. www.bluemartiniraleigh.com

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

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Below are just a few of the places where the Downtowner is delivered each month. With our 98% pickup rate, most locations run out after just a few weeks. If you can’t find any copies left, visit our website and read the interactive PDF where you can turn pages, click on live website and ad links, search for words, forward stories to friends, and read old editions. www.raleighdowntowner.com

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!

DOWNTOWNER DISTRIBUTION LOCATIONS

PREMIER DOWNTOWN CONDOS

The Dawson
510 Glenwood
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The Cotton Mill
The Paramount
The Hudson

DOWNTOWN

Wake County Courthouse
Raleigh City Council Building
Raleigh Chamber of Commerce
North Carolina Theatre office
Broadway Series South office
Raleigh Urban Design Center
Raleigh City Museum
Downtown Raleigh Alliance
Empire Properties
Raleigh Times Bar
Morning Times
French I West I Vaughn lobby
Landmark Tavern
Riviera Restaurant and Lounge
Berkeley Café
Sheraton Hotel info desk
Progress Energy building lobby
Capital City Club commissary
Crema
Raleigh Visitors Center
York Simpson Underwood

HILLSBOROUGH ST / NCSU

Second Empire
WRAL-TV5 lobby
Porter’s Restaurant
Irregardless Cafe
Goodnight’s Comedy Club
Clarion Hotel
YMCA Hillsborough Street

CAMERON VILLAGE

Suntrust Bank
BB&T
Capital Bank
Cameron Village Library
York Properties
York Companies
Village Deli
Great Outdoor Provision Company
Foster’s
10,000 Villages

GLENWOOD AREA

Sullivan’s Steakhouse
510 Glenwood business foyer
510 Glenwood (sidewalk rack)
Mellow Mushroom (sidewalk rack)
Hibernian
Catch 22
Crazy Combs Salon
Sushi Blues / Zely & Ritz (sidewalk rack)
Helios Coffee Shop
Salon 21
The Cupcake Bakery Shoppe
Primp SalonBar
Fly Salon
Bliss Salon

FIVE POINTS / HAYES BARTON

Hayes Barton Pharmacy
Hayes Barton Cafe and Dessertery
Nofo
The Rialto
Five Points Post Office
Third Place Coffee
Lily’s Pizza
Revolver Boutique
J. Edwin’s Salon
Hayes Barton Salon
RE/MAX Capital Realty

HISTORIC DISTRICT

Capitol building
Legislative building cafe
Peace Street Pharmacy
Conti’s Italian Market

POWERHOUSE DISTRICT

Blue Martini
Napper Tandy’s
42nd Street
Prime Only

SEABOARD STATION

Capital City Grocery
Seaboard Imports / Red Pin
Seaboard Wines
Galatea

MOORE SQUARE

Artspace
Duck and Dumpling
Tir Na Nog Irish Pub
Moore Square, by Big Ed’s (sidewalk rack)

WAREHOUSE DISTRICT

Flying Saucer Bar
The Pit Restaurant
Deep South – The Bar

MID/NORTH RALEIGH/OTHER

O-Shack
Barnes & Noble (Crabtree)
Borders Bookstore (Creekside)
Carolina Ballet offices
Crabtree Valley Mall info desk
Capstrat Advertising
Littleton & Associates
Big Boss Brewing Company
Cary Chamber of Commerce
Suntrust Bank (Creedmoor)
Over the last several months downtown Raleigh has seen a great deal of construction projects stretching into the skyline. It’s not the first time Raleigh has watched in anticipation as tall buildings have reached upward. This series of pictures, taken nearly a hundred years ago, shows the Commercial National Bank Building going up in roughly the same location as the current RBC Plaza building that is nearing completion on the corner of Martin and Fayetteville Streets. Note the construction workers posing atop the building in November 1912.

All pictures courtesy of the Raleigh City Museum. The Raleigh City Museum is committed to preserving all aspects of Raleigh’s past for the future. The museum is located in the historic Briggs Hardware Building on 220 Fayetteville Street and is open Tuesday – Friday from 10am – 4pm and on Saturday from 1-4pm. The museum is free and open to the public. If you have a group interested in learning more about the history of the city of Raleigh please call and book one of our free tours or educational programs. You can contact the museum by calling 919-832-3775.

BUY LOCAL AND SUPPORT THESE RALEIGH-OWNED BUSINESSES!
Located on the southwest portion of downtown Raleigh, the Warehouse district is a mix of eclectic and growing neighborhoods interspersed with restaurants, galleries, bars and museums.

Inside the districts’ characteristic brick warehouses, you’ll find Litmus Gallery & Studios, which showcases media ranging from paintings to mosaics, all by Triangle artists. Designbox also brings together local talent, but in a different and innovative way. Aside from being a gallery, designbox unites people from creative professions—graphic designers, architects, interior designers, filmmakers, etc.—to serve as a problem-solving group. Another gallery that houses more than just art is Vintage 21—part church, part gallery, part entertainment venue. The Warehouse district is also the future home of the Contemporary Art Museum, which is scheduled to open in 2009 or 2010. CAM, whose vision is to combine contemporary art and design with everyday life, will be the only non-profit gallery in the Triangle dedicated to exhibiting national and international contemporary art.

There are plenty of shops to explore in the Warehouse District for non-traditional and one-of-a-kind gifts. White Rabbit Books & Things offers everything from travel guides, jewelry, cards, T-shirts and CDs. You’ll also find antique shops and home furnishing stores like William-Cozart Inc. and Dovetail Fine Woodworking and Fine Art.

While there are not as many restaurants as in other downtown districts, the available options are varied and sure to satisfy. Humble Pie—which features downtown Raleigh’s largest patio—offers drinks, small plates and brunch on Sundays. For something more down-home, stroll over to Empire Eats’ The Pit, which is open for both lunch and dinner, featuring Pitmaster Ed Mitchell’s slow-cooked NC hormone-free barbecue. For more than 20 years, long-standing fixture Joe’s Place (featuring Joe’s Mom’s food) has served up southern family-style cuisine and is home to more neon signs than you’ve ever seen in one place.

After dinner, the Warehouse district comes alive with a myriad of nightlife choices. Through an unmarked entry on Commerce Place is the trendy bar Mosquito, which features a modern interior, tiled walls and a crowded dance floor on weekends. For a more rock-and-roll casual atmosphere, try Deep South the Bar, which is just around the corner from White Collar Crime, a bar popular with a younger crowd. And for those with alternative lifestyles, Legends and CC (Capital Corral) have been providing entertainment for their clientele for decades.

With its many day and night attractions, the Warehouse district is a growing segment of downtown Raleigh where visitors can explore a wide variety of destinations.
back in the 70s, I cut my culinary teeth at what I considered the best restaurant in Raleigh at the time—Piccolo Mondo. Chef and owner Paul DeMartino delighted me with many treats, most memorably a strange new dish called spinach pasta, which is served in a cream reduction with Parmesan cheese. I fell in love with the stuff! Back then, of course, I had no clue that Paul’s two sons, Richard and R.D., would grow up to be such consummate restaurateurs as well.

With the help of their father, this dynamic duo has made Café Tiramisu in Northridge Shopping Center an oasis for any devotee of Northern Italian cuisine. In my Best of the Best list, I cite Tiramisu’s stuffed pork chop as the best pork dish in the area! Beside Café Tiramisu, the DeMartino son’s eatery, North Ridge Pub.

The newest gem to the DeMartino’s chest of culinary jewels is Cameron Bar and Grill in Cameron Village Shopping Center. (Look for the black awning!) This place opened just about two months ago and quickly became a standing room only destination. At lunch there the other week, I was interested to read the people: they didn’t seem to be of the starched-suit-and-tie set. At the bar sat two blue-collar workers sipping a beer and eating sandwiches; at a banquette in the bar were huddled a cute couple. The whole place was filled with a lively crowd of mixed ages and appearances turning lunch from a heavy snack into a real meal.

And for my table, it was a feast! We started out with Bacon-wrapped Scallops ($7.50) tossed in a teriyaki soy ginger sauce—a favorite of my tablemates—and a half-pound of Steamed Shrimp ($9.50) served with cocktail sauce, drawn butter and lemon. I liked the fact that the shrimp were peeled with tail shell left on; this made it an appetizer to enjoy, not fuss over. We also sampled the scrumptious Filet of Beef Medallions (4 ounces $14 or 8 ounces $19) topped with bleu cheese butter and served with house mashed potatoes and seasoned veggies, Hamburger, one-half pound on Kaiser roll ($7) and a really good plate of Fish & Chips ($11) prepared with...
Cameron’s special batter, which makes the fish extra-crispy yet still moist inside.

Less to my liking were two of the Italian specialties: Chicken Parmesan ($11) and Lasagna ($11). I found the flavors and texture more cloying than clean. But for dessert you can’t miss the Tiramisu, none better anywhere, and the tres-leches (three-milk) cake, sweetness to die for!

Cameron is divided into two parts: the first or main area offers a light and airy comfort, while the bar—my favorite—offers a dark wood coziness that belies its generous space. But wherever one sits in Cameron Bar and Grill, it will no doubt be an ideal spot to “Eat. Drink. Relax.”

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BETTER LIVING

BEST OF THE BEST!! 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 products and service. This list is based entirely on the recommendations of Fred and betterlivingnc productions, and is a companion information guide that Benton presents on WCKB radio, heard throughout southeastern NC.

Angus Barn - Glenwood Avenue, close to RDU, International Airport, 787-5508. The BEST steaks!

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


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

Lilly’s Pizza - Five Points, Raleigh, 823-0226. lillyspizza.com BEST pizza! BEST house side salad! BEST beer selection!

Abbey Road Grill - Located corner W. Chatham and Old Apex roads, 2 miles from downtown Cary, 481-4434. abbeyroadgrill.com BEST burger, BEST onion rings!

Dakota Grill - 9549 Chapel Hill Road (Hwy. 54), intersection with Cary Parkway, 463-6026. BEST barbeque (double bacon burger), and BEST chili for pepperheads

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

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

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

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

Cafe Tiramisu - North Ridge Shpg Ctr, near Ace Hardware, Falls of Neuse Road, 981-0505. BEST stuffed pork chop! BEST fried cheese souffle!

Simpson’s Beef & Seafood - at Creedmoor and Millbrook roads, 785-8818. BEST prime rib! BEST coconut shrimp!

Jibarn - 7420 Six Forks Road, corner SawMill and Six Forks, 844-6230. Hit the Tequila Lounge here for the BEST house Margarita!

The Duck & Dumpling - 222 S. Blount Street, 838-0885. theduckanddumpling.com The BEST Peking Duck!

London Fish & Chips - Wellington Park Shop Ctr, corner of Tryon and Cary Pkwy, 828-4599. BEST authentic Fish & Chips (Haddock)!

Joaquin’s Ristorante - 801 Leadmine Road, Harvest Plaza, 941-1221. BEST NY-style Italian!


If you would like to propose your enterprise as a better living business to be included on this list please email Fred at betterlivingnc@yahoo.com or call 782-5276.
Whitney trying to embarrass Tom Fuls, co-owner of Blue Martini

Stacia Simpson (center) and adoption staff from the Raleigh SPCA

A large crowd of friends and luminaries from the Raleigh political and social scene were present to celebrate with the new couple at their reception

The newly restored All Saints Chapel

The girls of Deep South Entertainment at Downtown Live

Andy Martin and VIP guest at a recent Downtown Live event

Wait staff from the new Cameron Bar & Grill

County Commissioners Tony Gurley, Joe Bryan, and Betty Lou Ward at a recent Wake County meeting

Samantha Smith and Greg Hatem at their recent wedding in downtown

The wedding cake was shaped in the likeness of Greg’s Empire Properties building (naturally)
The photos below were taken at a fashion show held at Adam Cave Fine Art, co-hosted by the Contemporary Art Museum.

Some of the event organizers Pam Dannelly, Carrie Knowles, and Jeff Leiter.

Mary, with her silent auction prize Free Spirit, a painting by Carrie Knowles.

Hallot Parson, owner of Escazú chocolates (located on Glenwood South).

David Hemmerly of USB Financial, Kristina Sanders-Executive Director of the Community Music School, and Tricia and Steve Votino.

Photographer and Rebus Works owner Shonna Greenwell.
By C. Gregg

Anyone who has been Artspace has no doubt noticed Paris Alexander’s studio and his work: ancient stone monoliths, clay anatomical hands, smooth abstract statuettes. There is a certain feel to his work that exudes the feeling that Alexander was born to be a sculptor. His most famous work is arguably the Rubicon, a two-and-a-half ton sculpture of crystalline marble, which now resides in Oakwood Cemetery.

Since his childhood in New York City, Alexander had the inclination and yearnings of becoming a sculptor. His first foray into stone carving at around age 11 or 12, was an attempt at sculpting a sphinx head from soapstone. It was to be the centerpiece of a mock museum he had created at home. He would fill his museum with other Egyptian sculptures he copied from New York exhibits, along with drawings put up on the house walls.

Alexander’s life would take an alternate route after college for several years, from New York to Durham to pursue a career as a research specialist in the cancer center at Duke University. All the while, his passion for art continued on a low burner as he kept a carving studio in Durham, occasionally participating in shows here and there.

Ten years later, he reached a glass ceiling where in order to advance further in his field, he would have to obtain a Master’s Degree. His life would need to change dramatically in order to move forward. This made him start to think about what he really wanted to do. It didn’t take much thought for him to realize that what he really wanted was to sculpt full time.

Alexander began looking for a studio and one day while in Raleigh visiting friends, he happened upon Artspace. He liked the atmosphere, applied for a studio, and was accepted. He went back to Duke, quit his job and began his career as a sculptor.

Continued on page 17
“I certainly thought for a while that I had gone completely crazy because I was making a fair amount of money at Duke and it suddenly hit me, ‘oh man, this is serious.’ I know it sounds like a cliché, but at one point, all I had was a motorcycle, a backpack and a long-term lease on this carving studio. It was exciting, just going for broke and diving right into it.”

Going through savings that he thought would last for a few years rather than just months, Alexander worked odd jobs to keep it going. He made custom stone carved mantles and other pieces for high-end houses and took commissions when he could find them. As his reputation grew, he was afforded the ability to produce pieces of his own choice, with collectors finding him rather than the other way around. Now a mainstay at Artspace, more and more people are becoming familiar with his work, as his style is easily recognizable.

He mentions that he is most influenced and enamored with artists like Leonard Baskin and Noguchi, who have already walked the path that he is on of interpreting the art around him and recreating it in his own way. Alexander enjoys participating in outreach programs through Artspace and the NC Museum of Art, working with children, residents at homeless shelters, and a program with one county that didn’t have any public art whatsoever.

Says Alexander, “The NCMA chose well for their public outreach program. Some of the schools had absolutely no art curriculum; they didn’t even have anywhere for the kids to just go and draw. Working with these kids really made a big difference. I remember some parents dropping their kids off again and again throughout the day. They would take the kids to lunch and then bring them right back because the kids were that excited about art. It was the same with adults too. Madison County had no public artwork, so I came up with the idea for the community to create a stone piece for the new library that was being built. We invited everyone in town to come take a shot at carving on it. The response was incredible—literally hundreds and hundreds of people showed up. It really created a sense of pride for the whole community.”

Offering insight to aspiring artists, he advises they ignore heeds that there’s no way to make a living as an artist. “You have to think like a business person because what you’re doing is indeed running a small business, and you need to keep rolling your money back into it like you would a traditional business. You can’t expect to make money in the beginning, but you can expect to put in a lot of hours. You’re not going to get discovered overnight and you may not even get discovered at all. But you do it anyway because you love it, and personally I can’t imagine doing anything else. I finally feel as though I’ve hit a certain amount of success in that this is what I now do for a living. I love the idea that one day my four-year-old daughter will be able to take a tour around the state and see works I have on display all over North Carolina.”
LANDSHARK

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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.

**Artist: The T's**  **Album: Capital T**  **Genre: Rock**  [www.myspace.com/thetttt](http://www.myspace.com/thetttt)

According to The Village Idiot Online, “Rock is happening in Raleigh, and The T’s have risen to the top as contenders as some of the best ball-to-the-wall, straight-forward rock Raleigh has to offer.”

This comes as no surprise, as T’s guitarist Stephen Gardner and Andy Kerr, bass player Lutie Cain and drummer Gary Poole have been pumping their music throughout the city over the past few years. And for a group that sounds this good, their success is bound to extend beyond the Triangle.

In a larger sense, it already has. Capital T, the band’s debut album produced by Dave Bartholomew (Tres Chicas and The Cartridge Family), has led The T’s to a deal with Burnside Distribution, who was set to begin selling their debut album nationwide this past March.

Gardner and Kerr were veterans of local band G.L. Jesus, and Cain’s band, The Semantics, had just broken up. Luckily for the three, lifelong music fanatic and band veteran Poole came along at just the right time. Drawing from a variety of influences, including The Cult and Cheap Trick, the T’s Capital T delivers rock that you’ll actually feel compelled to rock out to. Needless to say, they’ve certainly come a long way since their first show at Slim’s in July 2006. You can see for yourself when they play with Alter Bridge and Tantric at Raleigh Downtown Live on July 12.

**Artist: Griznawls**  **Album: Life of a Griznawl**  **Genre: Acoustic/Soul/Afro-beat**  [www.myspace.com/griznawls](http://www.myspace.com/griznawls)

With a name like Griznawls, it’s fairly difficult to determine what kind of statement these guys are trying to make—a little hardcore, perhaps slightly intense? The mystery of their name alone was enough to make us listen to their album. As it turns out, neither of the above is exactly correct. In fact, Griz is just the name of guitarist Thomas Roach’s chocolate lab. When he was trying to come up with names for his group, Griz was the first that came to Roach’s mind. Don’t ask us where the “-nawls” came from.

Roach and drummer Jimmy Tsasa have been playing together since middle school. After putting together a few tracks, the two began recording at their man-made studio in Roach’s house, equipped with an Apple computer and a top-of-the-line shower to achieve the most excellent acoustics. As they started recording, the two vocalists picked up lead guitarist Grier Godwin and bass guitarist Lenwood Edwards and became a quartet. The foursome produced Life of a Griznawl earlier this year, an album that highlights their varying musical influences: the Beatles, Led Zeppelin, 2 Pac, Ben Harper and Bob Marley. According to Griznawls’ highly praised MySpace page, the song “All Alone” is a fan favorite. While their recordings don’t disappoint, it’s Griznawls’ live shows that are a must-see. After they performed at Berkstock, an event host-ed in honor of Woodstock, Director of Operations Jeff Thomas called the guys “an inspiring group of musicians.” “The cunning writing skills of the lead vocalists had the entire crowd singing along,” Thomas added. “Their enthusiasm, musicianship and the love that generated through the audience was truly a riveting experience.”

**Artist: Port Huron Statement**  **Album: Man of the Match**  **Genre: Indie/Pop/Garage**  [www.porthuronstatement.com](http://www.porthuronstatement.com)

According to the guys of Port Huron Statement, their influences include love, beer and wine, sports, and rock music. Typical, right? But what about space travel, which perhaps spawned one of their songs about astronauts? Just as atypical are those tracks about Chinese restaurants, the Chamber of Commerce, strippers and the American Revolution. Sound intriguing? If you’re a fan of the Flaming Lips, Pink Floyd, the Beatles – or NASA – then these guys will fit your taste.

Chip Taylor (vocals, drums, sound machine and sampler programming) and Todd Henderson (guitar) crossed paths right around 9/11, and it wasn’t long after that the Boone-based duo recorded Tory. While the guys were appreciative of Boone’s support and praise, they were ready to make a move. Because let’s be honest here: Boone is… well, Boone. So the duo packed up and headed to Raleigh, where they met and joined forces with Matt Scialdone (drums, banjo, accordion and synthesizers) and Chris Williams (bass, organ, vocals).

Their show at The Pour House in April was bittersweet - the night’s celebration of the completion of their third album, Man of the Match, also marked PHS’s farewell show. Despite it being their last show, the guys gave a stellar performance, playing the album start-to-finish, even adding a piano, cello, banjo and horns to the ensemble.

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The Deep South Local Music Review is written by Dave Rose, who 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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**What Gen Y & Z are listening to…**

By Elizabeth Barrett (Deep South Entertainment)

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

**N.E.R.D. Seeing Sounds** (Alternative/Hip-Hop/Rock)  [www.n-e-r-d.com](http://www.n-e-r-d.com)

**Girl Talk Night Ripper** (DJ/Dance/Pop)  [http://girltalk.net](http://girltalk.net)

**Perpetual Groove Live Love Die** (Jamband/Rock/Indie)  [www.pgroove.com](http://www.pgroove.com)
A rousing, bawdy Southern fairy tale set in eighteenth century Mississippi, The Robber Bridegroom is the story of the courting of Rosamund, the only daughter of the richest planter in the country, by Jamie Lockhart, a rascally robber of the woods. The proceedings go awry, thanks to an unconventional case of double-mistaken identity. Throw in an evil stepmother intent on Rosamund’s demise, her pea-brained henchman and a hostile talking head-in-a-trunk, and you have the recipe for a rollicking country romp. It’s one of the only genuine bluegrass scores ever heard in a Broadway musical, giving this unusual tale of the Natchez Trace a distinctive sound all its own.

Call 919.828.3726 for more information or visit their website at www.hotsummernightsatthekennedy.org

**June 26 & 28**

**Theatre in the Park presents Dearly Beloved**

Directed by Ira David Wood III

Dearly Beloved is a story of a completely dysfunctional but loveable family in the throes of another series of life changing events. The Futterle Sisters are throwing a wedding that will not soon be forgotten in the small town of Fayro, Texas. Call 919.831.6936 for more information or visit their website at www.theatreinthepark.com

**June 27 & 29**

**Theatre in the Park presents Dearly Departed**

Directed by Ira David Wood III

This hilarious comedy, set somewhere south of the Mason-Dixon Line, tells the story of father Turpin’s funeral and its aftermath, not to mention the dizzying array of crazies who are attached to him. This husband and patriarch of the family, was not exactly God-fearing, or even perhaps likeable, and as a result, his extended family has a variety of responses to his passing.

**July 11-20**

**North Carolina Theatre presents Peter Pan**

Don’t miss James M. Barrie’s ageless theatrical fantasy! Get ready to be cast under Neverland’s timeless spell as Peter, Tinkerbell and the Darling children take a magical journey to visit the Lost Boys, pirates...and one giant Hook! This adventurous masterpiece will send you flying on a delightful trip to the fountain of youth. For tickets, call 919.831.6950 or visit their website at www.nctheatre.com

**July 23-August 3**

**Hot Summer Nights at the Kennedy presents Skylight**

Broadway and the West End applauded this intensely clear sighted and compassionate play about a love affair. Kyra is surprised to see the son of her former lover at her apartment in a London slum. He hopes she will reconcile with his distraught, now widowed, father. Tom, a restless, self-made restaurant and hotel tycoon, arrives later that evening, unaware of his son’s visit. Kyra, who was his invaluable business associate and a close family friend until his wife discovered their affair, has since found a vocation teaching underprivileged children. Is the gap between them unbridgeable, or can they resurrect their relationship? Originally produced at London’s Royal National Theatre, Skylight won the Guardian’s coveted Best New Play award.

Call 919.828.3726 for more information or visit their website at www.hotsummernightsatthekennedy.org
Moore Square Farmers Market
Raleigh's only downtown Farmers Market is located under the canopy of oak trees in Moore Square (at the intersection of Blount and Martin Streets) every Wednesday. Items for sale will include a huge variety of seasonal fruits, vegetables and plants from local growers, pasture raised meats from local farmers and a range of handmade items from local artisans, including breads, cheeses, and ice cream. The market will also feature local musicians, rotating crafters and the live chef series.

North Carolina Museum of Art 2008 Summer Series

Moore Square Movies in the Park
Bring your lawn chairs, picnic baskets, popcorn, and blankets (no alcohol please), and enjoy a movie in Moore Square. Movies start around dusk (~8:30pm) and are FREE.

Movie Schedule
Saturday, June 7 Alvin and the Chipmunks
Saturday, June 21 Shrek the Third
Saturday, July 5 Close Encounters
Saturday, July 19 Charlie Wilson’s War
Saturday, August 2 The Bourne Identity
Saturday, August 16 Bucket List
Saturday, August 30 Nim’s Island
Saturday, September 6 Transformers

Concerts
Wednesday, June 25 An Evening with Emmylou Harris
Saturday, July 12 BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet

Carolina Railhawks
The Carolina RailHawks are one of the eleven teams in the United Soccer Leagues-1 division, the highest level of professional soccer in the US, Canada and Caribbean. All home games are played at WakeMed Soccer Park, located at 101 Soccer Park Drive, Cary, NC 27511.

For ticket rates and more information, visit the RailHawks' website at www.carolinarailhawks.com.

Home Games
Friday, June 27 Vs. Portland Timbers
Thursday, July 3 Vs. Seattle Sounders
Friday, July 18 Vs. Puerto Rico Islanders
Sunday, July 20 Vs. Rayados de Monterrey

SINGLE DAY EVENTS:

Wednesday, July 2 History Corner: America’s Birthday
NC Museum of History
Celebrate America's independence while learning about North Carolina during the Revolution. Then listen to a short story and make a patriotic craft. The program is presented with Cameron Village Regional Library. 10 a.m., Ages 5-9 with adult. To register, call 919-807-7992.

Saturday, July 5 Brussels Chamber Orchestra
U.S. Premier Performance
AJ Fletcher Auditorium, 8pm
The Brussels Chamber Orchestra is made up of eleven virtuoso musicians from six different countries. Tickets are $15. They will also play July 6th at the Gardens of the Page Walker History and Arts Center in the Town of Cary (free) and will hold an open rehearsal (free and open to the public) on July 3rd at the Burning Coal Theatre’s Meymandi Theatre at the Murphy School in Raleigh from 10am until 2pm. For reservations for the concerts and the open rehearsal, 821-3478 or cjknowles@earthlink.net
REAL ESTATE

MORDECAI
A condo cure – A double lot with a classic 2 story home c.1930. Large elegant formal spaces plus extraordinary open kitchen, breakfast room, screen porch. 3 or 4 bedrooms, 3 baths. 1210 Mordecai Ave. $665,000. Peter at Prudential. 919-971-4118. Pictures, plan and maps at www.peterRumsey.com

BELVEDERE PARK
Not your grandmother’s 1948 floor plan. Remodeled and enlarged in 1996-97, the plan is stunning yet practical with a pergola-covered front porch and large screened porch in back. 3 bedrooms. 2 baths. 115 Dennis Ave. $265,000. Peter at Prudential. 919-971-4118. Pictures, plan and maps at www.peterRumsey.com

MORE UNIQUE HOMES
Fresh ideas. Proven success. Peter at Prudential. 919-971-4118. Pictures, plans and historic district maps at www.peterRumsey.com

UNIVERSITY PARK
Claustrophobes will celebrate the openness of this restored bungalow c.1940 located in a historic district near Cameron Village & NCSU. 3 bedrooms. 2 baths. 2708 Vanderbilt Ave. $365,000. Peter at Prudential. 919-971-4118. Pictures, plan and maps at www.peterRumsey.com

FOR RENT: HILLSBOROUGH ST.
Great 2BR/2BA condo across from St. Mary’s School! Amazing downtown location - walk everywhere! Spacious floorplan with extra office area and lots of closet space! Gas log fireplace in living room, hardwoods, tile baths, Kenmore kitchen appliances, beautiful paint colors! Security System. Juliet balcony over Hillsborough St. Amazing!! $1350/mo. Call Ashton at The Glenwood Agency 919.828.0077

COTTON MILL
Gorgeous warehouse-style unit at the Cotton Mill. Two bedroom, two bath unit with tall ceilings and oversized windows bringing in lots of natural light. Tile countertops and backsplash in kitchen. Hardwood floors in kitchen, dining and living rooms. Luxurious master bathroom with double vanity, tile shower with frameless glass door and hardwood floors. A must see unit! $339,000 The Glenwood Agency 919.828.0077

HISTORIC OAKWOOD
Completely renovated 4,000sf century home at 521 N. East St. 4bd (2 suites), 4.5bth, eat-in kitchen, screened porch, media rm., wine cellar. $749,900. Call 821-7934 for appt.

PARAMOUNT
Gorgeous condo at The Paramount with spectacular view of Downtown Raleigh

Continued on page 23
from HUGE balcony! Large foyer with coat closet. Bamboo floors, exposed concrete column and lots of natural light in living room. Large master suite w/ custom closet, Japanese soaking tub & Keuco vanity. Highlighted in New Homes & Ideas magazine for style and design! European look and feel... $429,000 Call Ann-Cabell at TGA 919.828.0077

CAMERON PARK HOME
Stately 1920's home overlooking Cameron Park. Enjoy the space of a single family home while still being walking distance to Glenwood South! Lovely 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home with separate cottage. $779,900 www.hilarystokes.com.

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The “Other” White Wines

By Joel Morgan

ost of us are familiar with the “Four Horsemen” of white wines: Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Grigio and Riesling. And while these four wines maintain stability along the wine aisles, it may be time to step out of our comfort zone of familiarity for the sake of discovery. Read on to discover some other white wine varietals that may pique your interest, as well as your palate.

To be honest, I’m more of a red wine fan, but I can also appreciate and enjoy white wines. My favorite whites include Viognier, Chenin Blanc, Semillon and Gewurztraminer. All four have flavors that stand out and are wonderful solo or paired with food. They tend to be found in that mysterious and murky section of wine lists entitled “Other Whites.” Certainly don’t let that sway you away, but instead, draw you in to try something exciting and different.

Viognier (pronounced vee-oh-NYAY) is an ancient grape with a rather complex history. Its exact point of origin is unknown, but most likely is somewhere in or around the Mediterranean. The Rhone regions of France were once the primary soil for this widely popular grape believed to have been brought there by the ancient Romans. The vines are considered a rarity due to their limited acreage around the world, and the grapes themselves are finicky and prone to mildew, making the species difficult to grow. The age of the vines also determine the quality of wine produced. These wines are meant to be enjoyed relatively young since they begin to lose their powerful floral and fruit aromas with time. Viognier has wonderful flavors reminiscent of spiced orange, cardamom, vanilla, oak and honey. It pairs well with light food such as seafood, chicken, duck, pork and veal. Viognier also blends well with other grapes, like Syrah, by adding a softer quality and enhanced aroma. I would recommend tasting Townshend Cellar Viognier from Washington State, as well as Hanover Park from here in North Carolina.

Chenin Blanc, another French varietal, is a white that often drinks like a red. The full-bodied richness of this grape, combined with proper oaking, results in a white wine that pairs deliciously with the same lighter meats as the Viognier, or even a flavorful paella. This grape has a naturally high acidity but when properly grown under plenty of sun, the fruit flavors shine through. Chenin Blanc is a versatile grape which can be used to make wonderful sparkling wines, dry demi-sec and sweet still wines. I would recommend trying the Townshend Cellars Chenin Blanc, which is oaked for six months in small barrels.

Semillon (pronounced say-mee-YOHN) yet another grape of French origin, boasts flavors including candied peel, lemon, beeswax, honey, toast, and lanolin. One of my favorites is a Late Harvest Semillon from the Viu Manent Winery in the Colchagua Valley of Chile. Semillon grapes are also used in the Bordeaux region to produce decadently rich Sauternes dessert wines. What gives this grape the ability to create some of the world’s finest dessert wines is its thin skin which makes it very susceptible to the Botrytis cinerea mold, also known as “noble rot.” Interestingly, the contaminant actually allows for the perfect starting point in the making of these sweet after-dinner wines by pulling out the water content thus leaving behind the concentrated sugars.

Gewurztraminer (pronounced guh-VURTS-trah-nee-ner) has a German-sounding name though this 1,000+-year-old grape has origins tracing back to a small village in Italy named Tramin. This is combined with the German word gewurz, meaning spiced. The whole name is quite intimidating to pronounce, but get it down because this is a wine you need to try. When you do, take note by nose of the highly floral fragrance, while your palate tastes its sweet spiciness in flavors of apricot, peach, nectarine, cinnamon, clove, jasmine, and honey. The overall taste experience can be quite intense, evoking a “love it” or “hate it” response. Due to its rich flavors and spices, it can be consumed in cool weather or in the heat of the summer and paired with such foods as curried chicken, BBQ pork, spicy shrimp or Thai food. Try a Gewurztraminer from either the Maryhill Winery in Washington State or Barth Rene from the Alsace region of France.

Hopefully, I have appealed your interest enough to try these “other” white wines. I believe you will be pleased to discover the broad range of flavors that these whites have to offer over what you may have experienced before. Try them with different foods, share them with your friends, expand your palates, but most of all – enjoy!

Joel Morgan is a wine distributor for Epicure Wines, committee member for Triangle Wine Experience, former President of the NC chapter of Wine Brats, and an avid wine geek.
By Peter Eichenberger

Being the twentieth-century type, I am comfortable with gears, springs and levers. Through the years I had acquired a brace of typewriters, coaxing all to operate, the only reason being that I could. The eighties reduced these manual data recorders to objects d’art to be tut-tutted over by guests in my home, but I still dragged them from state to state, convinced that there was a way I could hold onto the past and still avail myself of the numero uno advantage of a computer: not having to totally re-type documents. I can’t say the writing suffered.

I’ll admit, by a cheap scanner and Optical Character Recognition software. In the end, the silicone revolution prevailed, each former generation ware). In the end, the silicone revolution prevailed, each former generation

The plan was to cannibalize a computer keyboard and adhere the keys to a computer CPU, like some prop from the Terry Gilliam film, Brazil (a plan abandoned, I’ll admit, by a cheap scanner and Optical Character Recognition software). In the end, the silicone revolution prevailed, each former generation

The analog-mechanical realm came back to me in the form of an early fifties Royal, a two dollar relic which soldered through the years for me: an old Nikon FM model which fell from a motorcycle, skittering to a stop along I-75 like a hockey-puck, scuffed but none the worse for the wear, or a Nikkormat which survived and captured the demonic conditions at Burning Man in Nevada – seventy-mile-an-hour blasts of alkaline gypsum dust the consistency of cake flour. Away, in the moist, fecund climes of Oregon, interior inspection revealed little more than before the Playa.

My fictional rejection of the modern depicted a remote midwestern village much as the Amish or Shakers, only instead of machinery, the break-point was solid-state digital circuitry. A 1964 Dodge Dart? Fine. A vacuum-tube radio? In like Flynn. Anything beholden the sorts of advanced technology now common as gum ball machines and one ran afool of the precepts of the society.

Last month, in this brave new Millennium, fiction has become fact: a futzed-up “smart” photo chip wrecked the operating system of my Dell notebook which, after being brought back, repayed the effort by swallowing ten days of work; a digital voice recorder that failed at the wrong time, and lastly, my Olympic’s photo chips were found to be no longer available, perhaps spurring some otha suckah consumah to buy a new camera – but not me. I bailed, bought some 35mm film, dusted of my microcassette Dictaphone, and began hunting for a real typewriter to replace the others I abandoned in a fit of cleansing dispossession.

The final return was the discovery of my collection of the moldering discs of vinyl, music permanently etched within, along with a fine pair of 1955 KLH Model Twenty Henry Kloss original bookshelf speakers rescued from the company crated and dropped one oil. I used to joke about such machines, dropping one from a window, not knowing until recently that in an advertising ploy back in the day, the company crated and dropped one from an airplane with no damage to the machine.

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I had a similar war going on with photography – the meaty “fuh-lack” sound of my old 33mm versus a mousy squeak made by my digital camera. Until a friend forced last year’s digital, an Olympus, into my hands, gratis, I maintained a life-long adherence with cameras, film cameras, thank you very much. Its legendary durability has solided through the years for me: an old Nikon FM model which fell from a motorcycle, skittering to a stop along I-75 like a hockey-puck, scuffed but none the worse for the wear, or a Nikkormat which survived and captured the demonic conditions at Burning Man in Nevada – seventy-mile-an-hour blasts of alkaline gypsum dust the consistency of cake flour.

Away, in the moist, fecund climes of Oregon, interior inspection revealed little more than before the Playa.

My fictional rejection of the modern depicted a remote midwestern village much as the Amish or Shakers, only instead of machinery, the break-point was solid-state digital circuitry. A 1964 Dodge Dart? Fine. A vacuum-tube radio? In like Flynn. Anything beholden the sorts of advanced technology now common as gum ball machines and one ran afool of the precepts of the society.

Last month, in this brave new Millennium, fiction has become fact: a futzed-up “smart” photo chip wrecked the operating system of my Dell notebook which, after being brought back, repayed the effort by swallowing ten days of work; a digital voice recorder that failed at the wrong time, and lastly, my Olympic’s photo chips were found to be no longer available, perhaps spurring some otha suckah consumah to buy a new camera – but not me. I bailed, bought some 35mm film, dusted of my microcassette Dictaphone, and began hunting for a real typewriter to replace the others I abandoned in a fit of cleansing dispossession.

The analog-mechanical realm came back to me in the form of an early fifties Royal, a two dollar relic which needed only dusting and light machine oil. I used to joke about such machines, dropping one from a window, not knowing until recently that in an advertising ploy back in the day, the company crated and dropped one from an airplane with no damage to the machine.

The final return was the discovery of my collection of the moldering discs of vinyl, music permanently etched within, along with a fine pair of 1955 KLH Model Twenty Henry Kloss original bookshelf speakers rescued from the company crated and dropped one from an airplane with no damage to the machine.
News & Observer’s Recent Layoffs
Meanwhile Newspaper Executive Stays in Luxury Hotel During Visit

From the Raleigh Chronicle

According to Editor and Publisher magazine, the recent layoff of 70 employees at the Raleigh branch of the News & Observer was part of the recent round of 1,400 workers across all of the McClatchy Empire, which spreads from California to Florida. The newspaper chain is shedding part of its workforce to help pare down its $2.5 billion in debt amid declining advertising revenues. The N&O reports that layoffs will include 16 newsroom employees, which will leave the newspaper with around 200 newsroom employees overall.

Many smaller locally-owned general interest print newspapers and websites such as the Raleigh Downtowner, Raleigh Chronicle, Raleigh Ledger, the Durham Flyer are some examples that have in aggregate chipped away at the News & Observer’s advertising base, while providing local coverage.

Some members of the N&O staff have been upset at how the layoffs have been handled, accusing McClatchy management of being insensitive during troubled times as employees lose their jobs. N&O staff cites executive vice-president Howard Weaver’s stay at the ultra-luxurious Umstead Hotel during his April visit as a prime example of management’s inconsideration. Former N&O journalist G.D. Gearino noted the irony of belt-tightening measures being implemented at McClatchy newspapers while their executives travel in style in his Gearino.com blog: “Expenses are getting squeezed, staffers are being pushed to do more, whole sections of its papers are being eliminated, morale is miserable, etc…” writes Gearino. “All that is the background information to help put the following fact in its proper context: When Weaver visited Raleigh last week, he stayed in the most sumptuous hotel in the Triangle....”

Weaver acknowledged the incident in his own personal blog, where he explained his response to the newspaper staff: “I told Joe I’d paid $210 a night, and in a follow-up email, I also mentioned that I had checked prices before coming to Raleigh, and the downtown Sheraton where I usually stay quoted us $179. Since I spent most of the day at McClatchy Interactive, which has offices closer to the Umstead, I’d have spent more than the difference on cab fare traveling back and forth from downtown.”

Despite Weaver’s explanation, the prevailing sentiment among readers seemed to be that the dollar amount was not the issue; the appearance of a double standard in company policy towards saving money was.

To his credit, Weaver acknowledged his flaw in judgment in a later post, saying, “We’re a public service journalism company, and we must do everything we can to ensure that the mission survives and prospers,” he added. “Nobody does more for that mission than the people in the Raleigh newsroom. I am proud to work with them, and hope I can make them proud to work with me.”
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