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Relax 2009



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THEN & NOW EXCLUSIVE TWO-PART INTERVIEW

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RYAN VESLER PAYS
HOMAGE



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INSIDE OUT
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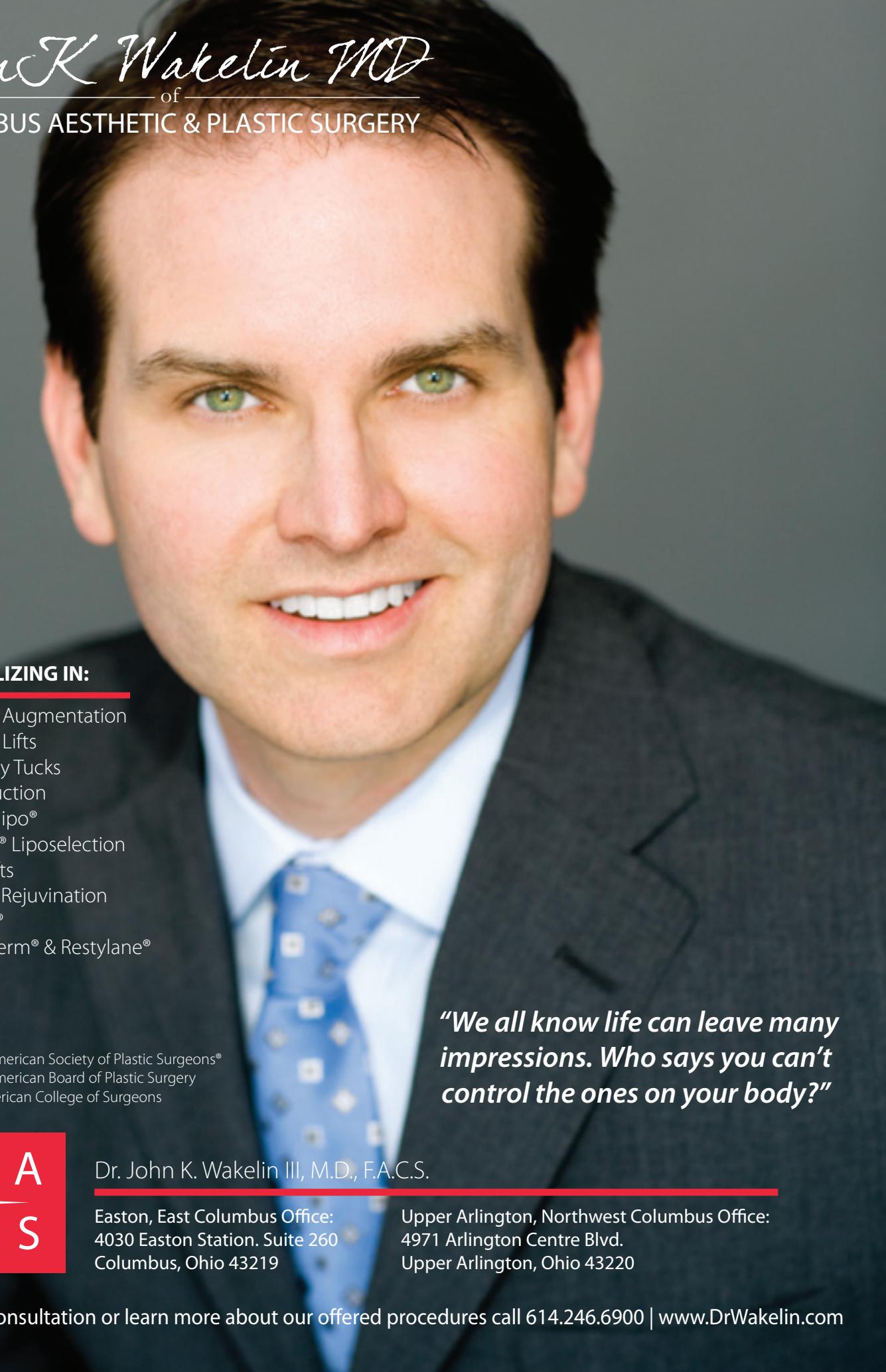
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BEYOND 270
CARY SMITH, ERIC WAGNER

FINAL WORD
JASON E. OHLSON, ERIC WAGNER

DROP POINT
ERIC WAGNER, BRIAN HENDRICKSON

COVER STORY

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PHOTOGRAPHY: ERIC WAGNER
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CLOTHING: WWW.TOPORANCH.COM



ON THE COVER:

JERRY DEPIZZO, THE ROCKIN' SAXAPHONIST OF THE FAMOUS OSU JAM BAND O.A.R., SITS DOWN WITH C MAGAZINE FOR AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW AIMED AT EXPLORING THE BAND'S CURRENT FAME THROUGH A LOCAL LENS.

special thanks

CAMILLE'S SIDEWALK CAFÉ, O.A.R., EVAN ANDREWS, STEVE HALPIN, SCHMIDT'S SAUSAGE HAUS, FUNNY BONE, TIM FLAHERTY OF POST HOUSE, AND DEBRA PENZONE

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Jason Ohlson at Schmidt's for baby shower #2

from the editor
editor@columbusmag.com

PATERNAL MUSINGS

Considering this month's paternal significance, I offer my own poetic words of wisdom to all fathers. Cheers to you and yours as you take inventory of all your natural blessings.

GONE FISHIN'

Hand in hand they walked along
A gray rock-candy gravel path
To the lake that held the boy's heart.
The old man was gone,
Yet the fish remained in their sea.
With casts that seemed to stretch for miles,
He looked to his father for praise.
That day not a single fish was won,
And the smiles seemed to be strained.
Leaving earlier than imagined,
The boy turned to the man,
Whose back looked too familiar,
And continued to fish in vain.

Cool evening rain found the boy
With his pole still in the water.
His sea was now dappled about
By the dancing of the rain,
And he wondered for the whereabouts
Of his hopes just washed away.
He wanted not to grow old,
Forgetting why he held his hand
To the shore of their beginning, so
He tied his pole to the cypress tree
And ran home to become a man.

If you look, to this day, there remains
A line for the old man to see,
And a boy who can't move
Till the older hand replaces the tree.

Jason E. Ohlson

RELAX 2009



COVER STORY

23 | O.A.R.

It was almost five years ago when C narrowed its reach to Columbus, about the same time O.A.R. started breaking out. This month, we decided to run a unique side-by-side feature entitled "Then & Now." We used our original 2004 O.A.R. feature to navigate through a recent chat with Youngstown native Jerry DePizzo, the band's seductive saxophonist and eternal Buckeye.

15 | SUITLESS

Your holding our *Relax* issue. This means we're bringing you three Columbus figures who not only know the secrets of running a successful business, but who also know how to relax. Mike Bruno is equipping us for our coffee breaks, Ryan Vesler is trading our button-downs for comfy tees, and Bob Dorfman is bringing the comfort food we all crave.

34 | THE FARE

The Montgomery Inn's come incredibly far from their humble Cincinnati roots to now holding the title "Home of the World's Greatest Ribs." And while MI's ribs are fantastic, it's their commitment to community that earns them the most praise. Now that they can call Dublin their newly added home away from home, Columbus is sure to get an old-fashioned ribbing.

43 | RIDE 23

James Shackelford loved 1960s automobiles, but went through his teen years listening to his father lecture on about their unreliability. But fatherly love trumped fatherly wisdom when he bought this treasure for his son. Shackelford's 1966 Plymouth Sports Fury is almost at factory condition and looks just as beautiful as the day it rolled off the production line.

45 | BEYOND 270

Ease the Medic may make music look easy, but when it comes to making music, they don't take it easy. Each of the four band members were the go-getters in their previous bands. Put them together, and they make things happen, and very quickly. Learn how Ease the Medic's unconventional music will unfailingly ease the listener into fandom.

48 | FINAL WORD

Despite being busy with the several ventures in the Penzone Family, Debra Penzone, President of the Charles Penzone Family of Salons, also devotes much of her time and effort to projects that benefit both Columbus and various women's causes. We shared a cup of tea with this inspiring community leader and discussed business, family and true inner beauty.

Of course it tastes better than other beers. We've had over 600 years to get the recipe right. Our esteemed brewery has been producing beer in Leuven since 1366. Which means we've been around a bit longer

than most. Mind you, over the years our beer has witnessed the odd change or two. For instance, our customers no longer drink it to ward off the Plague, as they used to in medieval times. However, one thing has stayed



Perfection has its price.

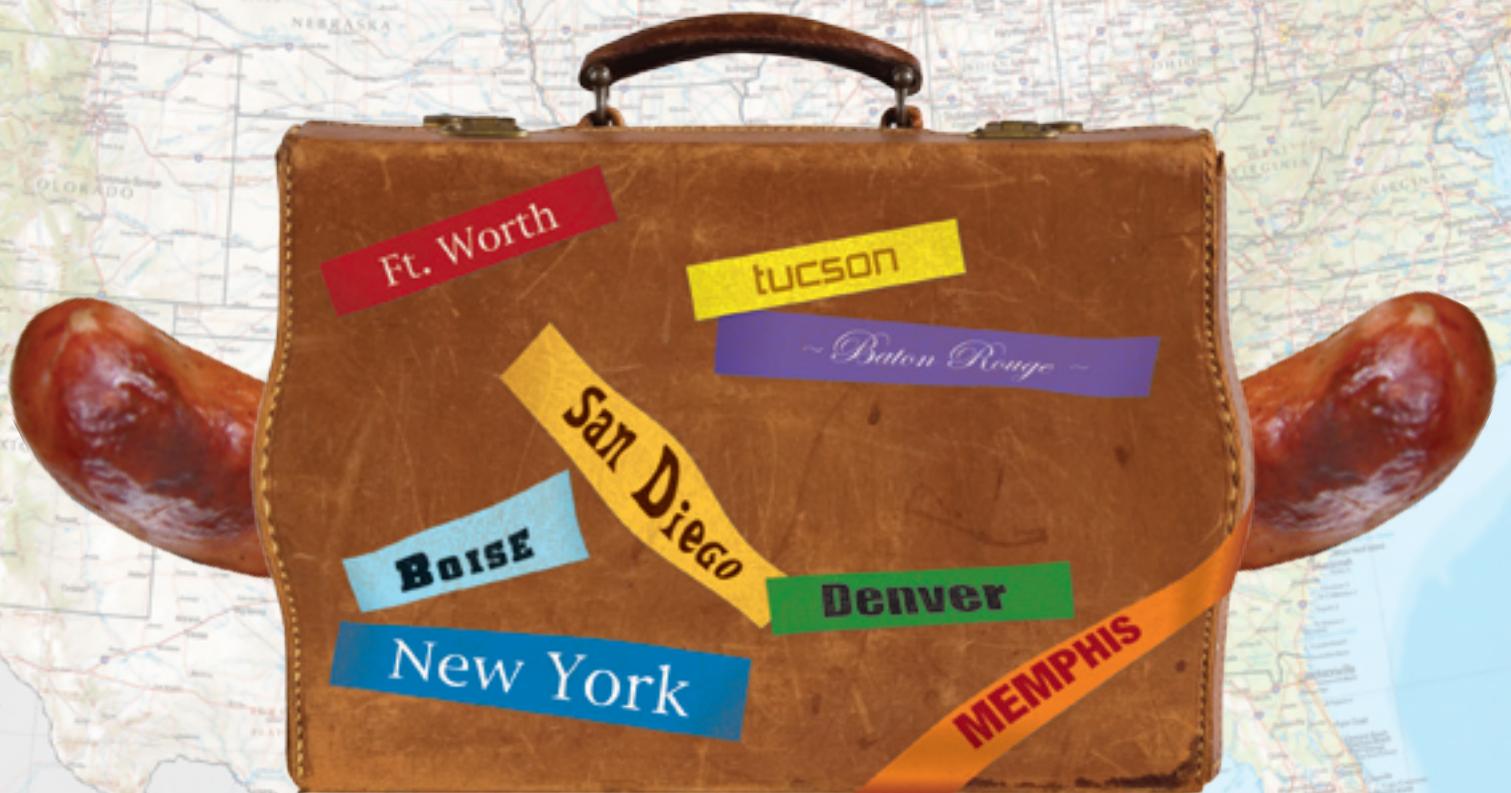


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EASE INTO YOGA

Yoga is a great way to relax and has countless benefits for the body. These two poses are perfect for beginners and can be done anywhere and at any time.

► ACCOMPLISHED POSE

A comfortable pose for meditation. Lengthens spine and promotes inner calm.



Sitting on the floor, cross your legs placing both heels almost center. Rest your hands on your knees with palms facing either up or down. Concentrate on relaxing your face and stomach. Breath deeply through your nose into your belly; hold as long as comfortable.

► CRESCENT MOON

Stretches and energizes the entire body while improving core body strength, balance and concentration.



Interlace your fingers, pointing the index fingers out, and raise your arms up over your head while inhaling and relaxing your shoulders down and back. As you exhale, push your hips out to the right while arching your upper body to the left. Keep your feet grounded. Hold for 2-6 deep breaths and repeat, arching to the right.

YOGA PHOTOS | WWW.YOGABASICS.COM

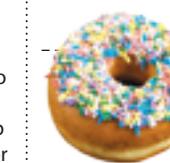


ROUND HERE Mike Bruno

In the epicenter of downtown Columbus at Broad and High sits an influx of activity. Beneath the streaming marquees, innovative advertising and liquid crystal billboards sits Dunkin' Donuts, the newest downtown addition in all its orange and pink-walled glory. Inside, people eat a quick breakfast and sip on hot coffee on their way to work. It's the very scene that Mike Bruno envisioned when he decided to bring the national chain to downtown a short while ago.

"We were really excited when the opportunity came to open this store," says Bruno. "It's kind of the ground zero for our expansion in the Columbus area."

Bruno, a Cleveland native and graduate of Ohio State University, wanted to bring the Dunkin' Donuts brand with him back to Columbus, a market that has seen very few incarnations of the national donut chain. After a long career in marketing with major brands such as FOX and NASCAR, Bruno spent some time working at Dunkin' Donuts'



DONUTS
A Brief History

Ever wonder why donuts are called donuts? They trace back to Dutch cakes which would have nuts in their centers. The Dutch-American settlers started calling these cakes donuts, and it caught on.

But what about the hole in the middle? Credit for that goes to Hanson Gregory, who, in 1847, told his mother to put a hole in the middle of her "fried cakes" so that the dough would be fully cooked throughout.

Donut holes, contrary to their name, are not the cut-out center of the donut. When making donuts, bakers simply fry a ring of dough. "Holes" are simply addictive, easy-to-eat balls of dough.

Suitless

PHOTO: ERIC WAGNER

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Not just a name...
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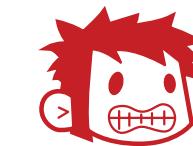
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Stressed?

Lottery winners excluded, we all experience unbearable stress from time to time. Well, regaining your cool is as easy as 1-2-3.

1

→ DEEP BREATHS

While you work, practice taking deep breaths in and out. You'll get extra boost of oxygen flowing through you and the slow rhythm of breathing will help you relax.

2

→ WALK IT OFF

Exercise is a natural stress reliever. Step outside for a small walk and the endorphins your body releases will help calm you down. Plus fresh air is always good for the body and mind.

3

→ REFRAME

Without knowing it, you could be sabotaging yourself. The way we look at a situation can often determine its ability to stress us out. Step back and put things in a workable order.



DOWN TO A TEE Ryan Vesler

There is always a kid that walks the halls of grade school sporting the T-shirt and shorts combo that would make other kids green with envy. You know the type – the guy who was wearing the Hyper-color T-shirt with the Air Jordan shorts and sometimes rocked a slap bracelet or a Swatch. A bigger, slightly older version of that kid named Ryan Vesler is still walking around, and he is willing to share his secrets and sell you the T-shirt that you always wanted.

"I was always the kid with the fly T-shirt," says Vesler. "Seriously, you should see some pictures of me from middle school dances."

In 2007, equipped with a degree in Spanish, Vesler saw an opportunity to start a business when he saw how every college bookstore was still selling the same terrible vinyl-lettered shirts. He knew that he could do better and decided to start his own clothing line, Homage Clothing, to rectify the wrongs of all bad shirts everywhere.

"I combed through old yearbooks and thrift stores for inspiration," says Vesler. "I love the old school, and I love reminding people of it with the clothes that I design."

Homage Clothing pays tribute to figures in sports and popular culture with designs that range from a reincarnation of a Kris Kross tour shirt to a shirt touting Bernie Kosar to be the next president. Vesler was able to obtain a license from the Ohio State University to apply his style of T-shirt to multiple OSU designs. Homage has grown since its inception to boutiques across the United States and Japan. Vesler knows what he's good at, and he plans to continue.

"I may not be able to paint a picture," says Vesler, "but I know how to turn a blank shirt into a canvas."

For more information on Homage Clothing, go to www.homageclothing.com

■ Cary Smith



GIG POSTERS VOLUME I *Rock Show Art of the 21st Century* - By Clay Hayes of Gigposters.com

You see them everywhere, stapled to phone poles, taped to storefront windows and tacked to the community board at your cafe, but this book collects those posters that make one stop and say, "Woah!" From his massive online database of 100,000 posters by 8,000 different designers, Hayes packs over 200 pages of colorful pleasure. You'll find posters promoting shows for Radiohead, Kanye West, Wilco, The Decemberists, The Shins, Beastie Boys, Arcade Fire and more. To snag a copy of this book, and to burn a few (hundred) hours, go to www.GigPosters.com

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It's getting harder and harder each day for the average person to dish out the dough required for a vacation. That's why we've brought you three vacation alternatives that only require a short drive.

✗ LAS VEGAS
✓ OHIO RIVER

A small taste of Vegas gaming is available just off the Ohio River. Hop into one of the Casino resorts and you could forget you're not lost on the real strip. The joints along the river also offer the fun, food and relaxation available in Vegas.

✗ SMOKY MOUNTAINS
✓ HOCKING HILLS

If your ideal getaway is a cabin in the woods, hiking through nature and just enjoying the great outdoors, you don't have to go far. Hocking Hills offers anything from yurts to resorts. You can cook breakfast over a wood fire or have breakfast in bed.

✗ HILTON HEAD
✓ MARBLE HEAD

It may not have the sandy beaches, but Marble Head has that same small-town seaside feel. If boating around is your thing, this is just the place. And if you need a little more excitement, Cedar Point is just around the bay.



PERFECT TASTE Bob Dorfman

When you walk into Five Guys Burgers and Fries at Polaris, there isn't a whole lot of mystery or confusion about where you stand. There are bags of fresh potatoes dotting the dining room, and there's steam coming up from the grills in the back. Every menu board is short and sweet, listing burgers, fries and dogs. Everything is laid out in red and white, straightforward and certain, just like the personality of owner Bob Dorfman.

"We work on the mentality that if you can't do anything to perfection, then don't do it," says Dorfman. "We get people asking us to add items all the time, but we only do what we know we can deliver on."

Dorfman, a franchiser with Five Guys, spent decades in the food and beverage industry zipping back and forth across the country with Host International. The Maryland native worked his way into the industry from the ground level at a grocery store taking opportunities when they were presented. It was a path that he hadn't really planned on

"We're going to open around 20 stores in the area," says Dorfman. "We're going to be in Grove City, Easton and the South Campus Gateway by the end of this month."

For more information of Five Guys go to www.fiveguys.com

■ Cary Smith



CALIGULA'S ORDER

The guys at Five Guys serve up the best straight-forward burger that anyone can enjoy. But if an affordable burger isn't your style, may we suggest a foie gras and black truffle-stuffed Kobe burger served on a brioche truffle bun and garnished with the Chef's special truffle sauce? Just hop on your private jet and head over to Fleur de Lys at Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas. This \$5,000 dish is accompanied by a complimentary thirteen-year-old bottle of wine.

Nine for \$9



Mussels and Sausage (\$8.00)

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185 N. High St. Columbus, OH (614) 220-9141 - DOWNTOWN

The guy who brought you Due Amici now brings you a creation grounded in contemporary American culture with the essence of Latin American and Spanish fare. Barrio offers the same SoHo accents and clean design you'd expect to see at Due Amici, but with a totally new and unique experience. To really get a taste of what Barrio can bring to the table, try their **Mussels and Sausage (\$8.00)** with potato and saffron aioli, or the Ancho Chili Shrimp stylishly laid upon a bed of chayote squash slaw. Be sure to try their Sangria. It makes a great case for itself as the finest in the city.

Cook Shack

20 E. Long St. Columbus, OH (614) 586-1700 - DOWNTOWN

We're not talking about a McRib sandwich here. Right in the heart of downtown is an authentic, smack-the-smile-off-your-mama's-face, seriously tasty BBQ joint. What else could make that reliably annoying dry cleaning bill a little less painful than a couple of well-earned lunchtime rib drippings. Get in the game and be sure to try the **Beef Brisket Sandwich (\$5.99)**, which is slow-smoked in hickory and oak for over 12 hours! The result is a full half-pound of juicy beef piled high on a sandwich bun.



Beef Brisket Sandwich (\$5.99)

Buca di Beppo

343 N. Front St. Columbus, OH (614) 621-3287 - DOWNTOWN

Eating from a communal plate encourages trust and a more intimate connection. At Buca, we can get huge, family-sized portions of all our Italian favorites and share them with whomever we choose. But, did you know that at lunch we can get individual-sized items like Eggplant Parmigiana, Caprese Sandwiches and combos that feature a number of different dishes? Split the **Quattro al Forno (\$16.99 plenty for two)**, featuring four stuffed, smothered and profusely cheeved pastas, any one of which would make for a beltunfasteningly delicious lunch with a friend, and wash it down with a stemless glass of Italian wine.



Quattro al Forno (\$16.99: plenty for two, \$8.50 split)

Indochine

885 S. Hamilton Rd. Whitehall, OH (614) 231-7357

Respectable cuisine governs; however, genuine hospitality steps the extra yard. Case in point: Indochine, one of Columbus' finest restaurants specializing in Vietnamese and Laotian cuisine. Their savory favorites, like their tasty specialty Sub Sandwiches, Laotian style Beef and **Bun Cha Gio (\$7.00)**, which consists of rice vermicelli noodles mixed with select vegetables, herbs, tender grilled pork and a spicy fish sauce, is equaled only by the house's kind and caring service. There is no doubt someone or some dish at Indochine will make you smile.



Bun Cha Gio (\$7.00)

Zuppa

180 E. Broad St. Columbus, OH (614) 225-9220 - DOWNTOWN

If you're looking for a low bill, no frills, extra-chill cafeteria joint, then Zuppa is your place. At the Upper Arlington three-level locale, you can get wired with their full coffee shop menu, unwired with their free wi-fi, play a little foosball, or just relax by the fireplace on their comfy couches. The menu of soups, salads, sandwiches and pastas are served quick and made to order. The Veggie Philly (\$6.25) is a perfectly fiery garden delight served on freshly leavened ciabatta and sprinkled with mozzarella, Parmesan, provolone and Italian salsa. Be sure to save room for their to-die-for desserts.



Veggie Philly (\$6.25)

Graffiti Burger

7561 Sawmill Rd. Dublin, OH (614) 734-1008 - DUBLIN

Imagine what you'd get if you took the intelligent, tasteful food of Aladdin's and combined it with the comfortable soul food of a Cameron Mitchell's restaurant. That's exactly what Graffiti Burger is. What the owner of Aladdin's and ex-chef for Cameron Mitchell's have put together is the Archie's of modern day dining. The **Graffiti Burger Combo Upgrade (\$8.99)** is the perfect equation: a two-handed Graffiti Burger with coleslaw and pickles, fresh-cut fries and a handmade shake. You'll love their look, too.

THE NORTH MARKET

An advertisement for The North Market featuring a chili logo and text for John's Chili, Gourmet Chili, and Dogs. It also includes a "New Menu" sign and information for CaJohn's Flavor & Fire.

An advertisement for Buffalo Wings & Rings featuring a logo with a bull head and text for food and drink specials.

An advertisement for Camille's sidewalk cafe featuring a logo with a umbrella and text for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and BOGO offers.



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The tempting presentations and savory flavors are what make Latitude 41 one of the best hotel restaurants that's not a hotel restaurant. On the first floor of the downtown Renaissance, a sophisticated menu of natural, local and organic ingredients is brought to you by chefs who specialize in modern American cuisine. The Brisket BLT Sliders (\$8.00), with fried organic tomato, one-of-a-kind lettuce "slaw" and smoked, tender brisket served with Parmesan, parsley and truffle-oiled fries, is just the long way of saying "yum."



Dunkin' Donuts

2 E. Broad St. Columbus, OH (614) 586-1998 - DUBLIN

For those of us who've had Dunkin' Donuts before, we were overjoyed to see the Columbus locations open up. It's not just the coffee that is perpetually competing to be the world's best (although that is a big part of it), or the gluttony satisfying rings of fried dough (also a big part of it) that will make you fall in love. It's Dunkin's other delicious (and more lunch-time appropriate) offerings like the toasty Egg White Veggie Flatbread Sandwich Meal (\$4.95), that make us visit morning, noon and night.



DON'T SEE YOUR FAVORITE PLACE?

If it's less than nine bucks for a lunch, e-mail us at editor@columbusmag.com

ART WHERES

More to C » p.47



gallery where you can admire and shop for paintings, sculpture, woodwork, pottery and more.

Think you've got a little creativity to share? Throw clay pots, blow glass, or create a journal for a patient at a local hospital. All of that and more can be done in the Hands-on Art Activities area for adults. Children can also get in on the fun and leave with a little work of art for themselves.

FESTIVE ART

The finest artists and crafts people from around the country will merge into an artistic circle in the Discovery District for the Columbus Arts Festival, June 5th – 7th.

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OH MAMMA

One of the most vibrant and fun-filled musicals returns to Columbus June 7th – 12th. Audiences everywhere have fallen in love with *Mamma Mia*'s sweet, love-filled story line of a young girl's wedding- eve quest to discover the identity of her father. Chaos ensues to the tunes of ABBA as three men from her mother's past return to the Greek island they last visited. Go to www.broadwayacrossamerica.com for tickets.

BRING YOUR HOE

Summer has returned, and it's time for the German Village *Haus und Garten Tour*. You don't need to be fluent in German to enjoy this tour, just have an appreciation for the care and restoration of these historic homes and gardens. On June 28th, guests can explore the area at their own pace as well as enjoy gardening demonstrations and shop in the Marketplatz. Advance tickets are \$15 at www.germanvillage.com.

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then & now

It's 2004 and O.A.R. has moved up to Lava Records, an Atlantic Records company. Things are really looking good. They're opening for bands like the Dave Matthews Band and starring as the musical guests on late night shows. Their record *In Between Now and Then* is getting radio play and doing pretty well. Here in Columbus, *C Magazine* narrowed its focus from the three C's (Cincinnati, Columbus and Cleveland), to just featuring the city of Columbus in hopes of delivering a more intimate magazine. *C Magazine* sat down to chat with O.A.R., whose broadening fan base aligned perfectly like an eclipse with *C Magazine*'s precise focus on central Ohio, to talk to the guys about what they were up to and where they were going.

Skip ahead to 2009. After 13 years together, the members of O.A.R. are still rocking (and touring) while consistently evolving their style. While only one member still calls Columbus his home, the band considers Columbus one of their favorite spots to stop for a show (or three). Their latest release, *All Sides*, showcases not just one facet of their talents, but pulls together the entire collective vision of the band in a way previous studio releases could not, and its single "Shattered" is all over the airwaves. Their tour is taking them from Iowa to Jamaica and back, sometimes even on a jet plane.

C Magazine, also running stronger after five years, just had to revisit the band for a catch-up interview before they rocket into superstar oblivion. Youngstown native Jerry DePizzo was more than willing to sit down and shoot the breeze on everything from the way their sound has evolved through the years to how their family lives impact their musical lives.

In this special cover story exclusive, we're bringing you the "then" and the "now" by running our story on O.A.R. from 2004 side-by-side with our recent chat with Jerry. You'll be able to see what has changed and what will always stay the same with the OSU crew Columbus adores.

Interview: Jason E. Ohlson | **Story:** Steve Albanese | **Intro:** Erin Woltja | **Photography:** Eric Wagner | **Hair & Make-up:** Rob Hensley | **Clothing:** Topo Ranch

then & now: O.A.R.

THEN

When (not if) the Columbus bred O.A.R. hits the mainstream, it will undoubtedly seem like an overnight success. Five guys in their mid-twenties with a major label deal and a sound as clean as three-day old stubble may come across to some as another product of a music industry looking for

"...there seems to be a wall with how much exposure you get being on an independent label."

the next big thing. We know better. We've been listening.

After forming in high school and gelling at Ohio State--born in Maryland and bred in Ohio, as they like to say--the band rode the initial Napster craze to recognition throughout the country and established a fan-base that would make any guerilla marketer stand up and applaud. Having signed with Lava Records last year, the band is reaping the rewards of major label cache: increased radio play, appearing on *Late Night with Conan* and opening six dates for the Dave Matthews Band this summer. Getting back in the studio this winter, O.A.R. finally seems ready to get off the bus and get in the fast lane.

"You're sleeping basically in a coffin," says guitar player Richard On during a recent gig in North Carolina. The crypts of which he speaks are the mini bunks lined four to an aisle in the tour busses that have increasingly been the band's home over the years, causing a bit of a Groundhog Day feel after groggily waking up in city after city. Much like Matthews and other devotees of the road,

O.A.R. made their name with live performances that wander in and out of set lists and leave fans rushing for their wallets and their iPods.

"We've been together for so long that we really try to make it a family atmosphere when we're out there," says bassist Benj Gershman. "We've basically had the same crew for five or six years now and it'd be much more

difficult to do this if that wasn't the case."

"It's gotten rougher going out though," adds lead singer Marc Roberge. "Now that we're starting to have families and other responsibilities like that, it makes it that much tougher to leave for weeks at a time. This four-week tour is actually a perfect length because usually at about six you start to really get worn down."

The increased exposure and shorter tour routes are in large part due to the contract the band signed with Lava, the Atlantic Records-distributed label that's also home to Kid Rock and Uncle Kracker, among others.

"We were aware that no matter how good your music is or how much of a following you have, there seems to be a wall with how much exposure you get being on an independent label," notes Roberge. While still tied to Everfine, the label they've been with from the beginning, the band wanted to bypass that wall and

continued on page 28

NOW

The Internet, particularly Napster, was credited for the rise in O.A.R.'s fame. Do you feel the Internet (iTunes, file sharing, etc.) still plays the main role in getting your music out there? Yeah, it certainly does. I think if you broke down all our sales of records and singles, you'd still see that people use iTunes and online stores and sites like that to get the music. Our audience has grown but is rooted in that high school and college age demographic—they're hip to technology. We just launched liveOAR.com last month, which houses and will soon have archives of a very vast catalogue. We've just hit the tip of the iceberg on that.

How much of that do you guys manage, and how much do you trust to the developmental hands of someone else? One thing that's held true for us is

"You go into the studio not playing the songs, but performing the songs"

that no one is going to do it for you; you've gotta do it for yourself. We have a wonderful management team in Red Light Management, and we have a good relationship with Atlantic Records, but it's still done in-house at our management office. What separates us from a lot of other bands is there's a lot of hands-on activity from the band itself in all aspects of our online community, whether it's web design, blogs, twittering or liveOAR.com.

You once described your tour bus as a coffin. Do you tour on the same bus as back then? We

were hitting it so hard back then that we hardly ever came home. The atmosphere is certainly the same today. For some tours, we get really amazing busses, and for others tours, we scale back a little bit.

Is your focus still on doing live shows, or more towards recording now? The live shows are always the bread and butter. It will always be our staple. It's the type of band we are. You can never take that out of us. We've certainly gotten better at studio recording, and we've brought that aspect of what we do up to the level of the live show. That's been an arduous task and it's taken a while. With this last record, we've really found who we are in the studio and how we work best. It was an exciting record to make. I used to fear making records; it was a daunting task, it really was. It was hard work, and not that the work was easier this time around, but it was just a much more pleasant atmosphere all around.

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then & now: O.A.R. (continued)

begin reaping the rewards of their work. "Our earlier stuff is selling great, and our Lava release has done well, so we're excited with how things have worked out."

Despite the hands-off approach from their new label, one gets the feeling something just wasn't right with their initial release.

"It's important that people realize we're still growing in the studio," On points out. "This was basically the third time we were in the studio and we still have a lot to learn about the whole process. We're still growing and trying to find that comfort level and hopefully through experience we can finally

band and we need to take that to the studio and be that band."

At no venue have they been "that band" more than at the Newport. As a Buckeye, you don't have to think long or hard to know how crazy a show can go there, while still blowing the roof off the place. Bands like O.A.R. will always be able to relax and take their shows in stride, because everyone there aspires--if even just in thought or prayer--to be just like them. G Love is greeted with similar lenience. When Benj and Richard were tossed the idea of either playing one Ohio Stadium gig or fifty Newport jobs, the old haunt won out.

"As a Buckeye, you don't have to think long or hard to know how crazy a show can go..."

put out a record that we're completely happy with and feel like it represents the band and what we're about." Adds Roberge, "We really feel like we made the best record we could at the time, but we know already that we've moved so far beyond it that when we go in the studio this winter, we're ready to do it our way."

The Lava release, *In Between Now & Then*, produced "Hey Girl," which proved to be a moderate success on the radio, but failed to catch on in a big way. That may be due to the fact the band still battles with the task of capturing their live performances in the relatively sterile atmosphere of a studio. "Our shows may not be as polished, but one thing we realized is that we're not a polished band," says Roberge. "You come see us live and we're missin' shit, fuckin' up and havin' a great time, but that's our

"Ah, man. Not fifty; maybe like three or four," says Benj. "That'd just be the tour: the Newport tour," Richard joked. "Now that would be Groundhog Day."

Nipping that in the bud, Roberge reiterated the importance of staying true to their roots, but looking to finally use those coffins a bit less frequently. "I don't want to be on road 300 nights a year for the rest of my life. I want to get a song on the radio and get it played on the radio every day. "Hey girl" was on quite a bit, but for whatever reason it didn't hit and I'm glad, because that wasn't a song that I wanted to hear all the time and only be known for. Now, on this record, that will hopefully be the case and it will be something we can be proud of when it does."

As always, we'll be watching for the fireworks.

with. Emotionally, there is more baggage and it's more difficult, but travel itself is far easier.

Did you go through manager after manager as you were coming up? Do you try to avoid managers who try to get in for the party? You know, our story is almost the opposite, because we were so fortunate to have Marc's [Roberge] brother David from virtually the beginning. He's our "sixth Beatle." For as talented as Marc is at writing lyrics, David is as talented in the music business. He's just done wonders for us. It's a family atmosphere, a tight knit group of people. If it wasn't for the hands-on attention we receive from him, I think we would have been lost in the shuffle. We wouldn't be nearly where we are today.

Has the move to a major record label brought you the exposure you hoped for? What are the pros and cons? At the end of the day, exposure-wise, it has. We've certainly gotten our money's worth out of the major label experience. We've been able to take part in some opportunities that are just amazing and fantastic. It's been great. Leave it to O.A.R. to have a really great record and single in the midst of the worst depression in 60 years. In some ways, we've gotten the sales we wanted, but at the end of the day, there is no marketing campaign that can eclipse one friend going to another friend, handing them a CD and saying, "Dude you've gotta listen to this." Fortunately, we've gotten a lot of that. That's really where we're still rooted. For some, it's a hard pill to swallow. They've seen us as "their band." It was a kind of underground thing.

Now, all the sudden, we're on a Ford commercial and playing at NASCAR events. At the same time, you can see this band really appreciates the audience and does a lot to make sure everyone still feels included.

What's more important: nailing every single note perfectly or performing a show the crowd loves, regardless of errors? It's all about communicating with the audience and entertaining. No matter what kind of music you perform, you're there for entertainment. If people feel great when they leave, your job's done. You are always your harshest critic. You go into the studio not playing the songs, but performing the songs. When you can do that, and when you can capture that, those are the most successful takes.

Regarding your recent album *All Sides*, what separates it from your previous work? It's the closest O.A.R. has been to being O.A.R. in the studio. From a guy on the inside looking out, it is the record that sounds most like us.

Are there any songs that are misunderstood as far as what they mean? "Conquering Fools" is one that is misunderstood. We're a band people put on at parties when they want to have a good time and when they want to take things in. That's one of the original songs people did that with. The funny thing is the song is all about not letting those kinds of things control you and overcoming your demons and fighting them.

What's your favorite venue in Ohio? Do you still favor the Newport? The Newport always holds something special. We cut our teeth there. It's really a great and memorable place. But Columbus is fortunate that it has a place like the LC that's so scalable and has such a utilitarian purpose. You can have a big outdoor show or an intimate indoor show. You can do almost anything with that damn place. It's a really great size. We're also returning to Nautica in Cleveland because we really dig it. We look for venue more than size.

continued on page 31





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then & now: O.A.R.



You are married with a child. How hard is the tour on your family life? My wife tolerates it. She's certainly used to it. I've been doing this almost the entire time I've known her. It's not something you just do—your whole family is invested in it. Everyone has to deal with it. It's the little things, like it's hard to cut my grass and take out the trash. It's the things that people do every day. Those are the kind of things that make me glad that I'm home.

What is the single thread that you can sew through all of your experiences as a band? We've done all this together, and it's been surprisingly democratic. It's amazing how democratic we still keep things and how that still works. We've had our ups and our downs with things, but the five of us are still friends and we want to go out on tour and make music together. To be doing it 13 years later, and to be able to say that... I can't even count on one hand the amount of bands we've toured with that have that same story to tell.

You guys have been together for many years, a long time for any band. What is the secret of keeping it together? Respect for everyone. It's a brotherhood. There are times when you want to kill someone, and other times when you just want to hug them and tell them you love them—fortunately, more of the latter. That mutual respect is certainly part of it. Space. Being able to step away and then come back in is certainly very therapeutic. Communication. Talking things out. It's like a marriage. I'm married to four dudes. It's that simple. It's all the things you do in your marriage, minus the physical ones.

Be sure to check out O.A.R. at the LC Pavilion on June 11th, and visit www.ColumbusMag.com to read the full interview with Jerry DePizzo.

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PHOTOS: ERIC WAGNER

DUBLIN ROYALTY The Montgomery Inn

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WHO: Evan Andrews has been scrutinizing every inch of Columbus for the perfect spot to plant a Central Ohio location of the in-laws' family business, The Montgomery Inn.

The Montgomery Inn is well known in Cincinnati for its community oriented restaurants and around the globe for its "World's Famous" Ribs and Barbecue Sauce. They go to great lengths to ensure that each location is firmly rooted in the community so it may branch out and give back, much like a great Oak. And like an old Oak

tree, The Montgomery Inn is stable, dependable, tasteful and timeless.

WHERE: Dublin proved to be the ideal spot for a Central Ohio Montgomery Inn. Its residency of 60,000 and its 2.4 million square feet of "Class A" office space is just the kind of soil Andrews was searching for, and the Shoppes at River Ridge provided the perfect opportunity to build.

WHEN: One glance around The Montgomery Inn's dining room proves that this place is for everyone. The Inn is the dining

spot suited for every occasion from birthday parties and business meetings to post little-league soccer game celebrations. Each guest is warmly welcomed, whether their dressed in Armani or Adidas.

WHAT: The Montgomery Inn has always been dedicated to community. That's been the rule from square one. Only local architects and tradesmen were called in to erect this edifice, and local craftsmen and framers decorated the Colonial Williamsburg Era interior. The U.S. grown meat and local produce are

prepared in the Inn's \$1.5 million, 12,000-square-foot kitchen, stocked with all the best 21st century appliances.

But it's not the building or the kitchen that make Montgomery Inn so memorable; it's the service. "People work hard for their money," says Andrews. "We've got to give them the full experience." From start to finish, their staff works hard to enable each guest to be 100% in control of their entire meal.

THE TEST: Evan and his crew were determined to prove that while

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Maryland Crab Cake: lump backfin crab meat, seasoned just right, seared to a golden crisp and served with chili mayonnaise and a light creamy dill sauce

Montgomery Inn has the best ribs, they do everything well. Our visit started with the Saratoga Chips and Onion Straws (where other places use this as a garnish, here they encourage you to grab them with your grubby hands and dunk them in the BBQ) accompanied by a delicious sampling of Greek Meatballs, Gulf Shrimp Cantonese, wings and a tormentingly small sampling of the famous ribs.

To make up for the rib teaser, a crisp Wedge of Lettuce smothered in blue cheese dressing with chunks of blue cheese and bacon hit the table, followed by the prerequisite steak knives required to go at this gargantuan boulder of delicious cheese-covered produce.

Before the main event, we were presented with the Inn's mind-boggling wine list. Amazement came not only from its wonderful

selections, but from the fact that all the wines were listed close to or dead on the state minimum.

With the wine poured, our stomachs prepped and new silverware in place, we readied ourselves for the moment we'd been waiting for. First up was the Grilled Wisconsin Duckling served with orange sherry sauce and, of course, MI's famous BBQ sauce. This half duckling was so tender it could be easily confused for pulled pork. Next up were the Grilled Pork Chops cut extra thick and grilled just right to maintain their moist and flavorful character. When pork tastes this good, it's hard to order anything else.

But that's when we heard the trumpeting fanfare and saw the banners and confetti stream across the vaulted ceiling. The Slabs of World Famous Barbecued Baby Back Ribs had arrived in style.

■ Harold Crick

FIT FOR A KING

The perfect dinner combination: the Wedge of Lettuce topped with creamy bleu cheese dressing, tomatoes, smoked pepper bacon and blue cheese crumbles; followed by the Grilled Pork Chops served with onion straws and Montgomery Inn Barbecue Sauce; and the Strawberry Shortcake towering with a Graeter's ice cream core and a cloud of whipped cream on top.



Menus available online at
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THE KINGDOM'S BEGINNINGS

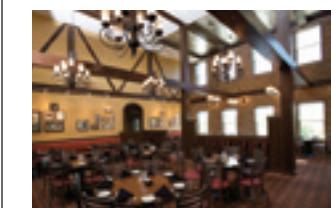


Ted "Ribs King" Gregory and his wife Matula purchased McCabe's Inn in Montgomery, Ohio in 1951. They rechristened it "The Montgomery Inn." Back then, they had no idea their little bar would soon be a world famous family restaurant company, lining people out the door every night. Their secret recipe BBQ sauce, and their not-so-secret level of service have always been the foundation of this royal kingdom.

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MARTINI PARK | Every Thursday at Martini Park is Disco Night. On April 30th, C Magazine joined in on the fun. The first 100 guests enjoyed a cherry martini compliments of C Magazine, but everyone got their hands on the appetizers. While all the staff was dressed to the nines in their best 1970s wears, they were not alone. Many people showed up in the clothes they've had in the back of their closets since high school.



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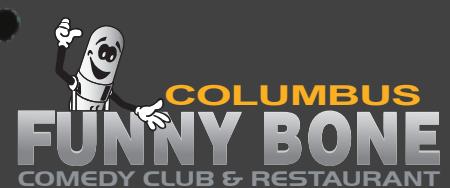
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Look who we got this month!

BRUCE BRUCE JUNE 5 - 7

Bruce Bruce is renowned for aiming spontaneous snaps and verbal jabs at unsuspecting audience members. As host of the Comic View on BET, Bruce is one of the most recognized comedians today.

JEFFREY ROSS JUNE 19 - 21

Jeff's blistering performances at celebrity roasts honoring mega-stars like Hugh Hefner and Pamela Anderson have crowned him, "The Meanest Man in Comedy."

LAVELL CRAWFORD JULY 3 - 5

From his numerous television appearances and on stage performances, audiences are becoming increasingly familiar with Lavell's giant sized talent. Lavell has built a very strong fan base playing theatres, comedy clubs and colleges across the nation.

Appearing also this month:

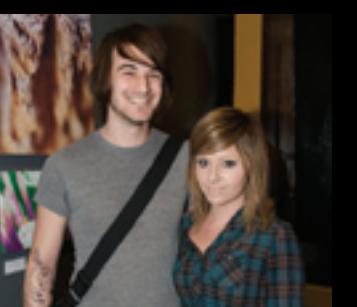
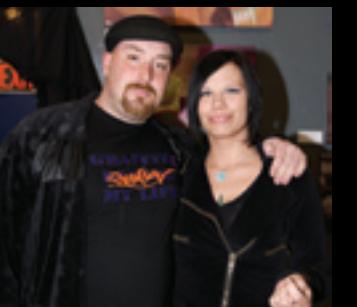
NICK GRIFFIN June 11-14

DAN CUMMINS & CHAD DANIELS June 25-28

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GRAND OPENING | Mayday Customs, Columbus' newest motorcycle service and sales company, held a grand re-opening party on May 2nd at their new location next to Iron Pony in Westerville. Bikers brought their bikes, a DJ brought the tunes and Schmidt's brought the deliciousness. Guests were able to chill, Bahama Mama in hand, and get a close look at Mayday's new home.



GALLERY HOP | Stained Skin prides itself not only in their tattoo work, but also in their artwork. During Gallery Hop on May 2nd, Schmidt's provided a hot and spicy culinary accompaniment to the Stained Skin Gallery. A DJ kept the music spinning, and the art kept those who wandered in from wandering back out. Join the Stained Skin crew during each Gallery Hop this year. Get there early cuz the Mamas go fast.

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CINCO DE MAYO | No one in Columbus celebrates Cinco de Mayo quite like La Fogata Grill in the Short North. Their celebration is so big that it has to span five days. The Pinata Kickoff Party on April 30th got things rolling. For five days, La Fogata offered drink specials, 55 different tequilas, live mariachi performances and a grand prize of \$5,000 to one lucky person.



TASTE 43215 | TASTE, an annual fund-raiser that benefits local charities, was held at the Sandbox in the Short North on May 14th. This year, Dress For Success joined in for the food, wine and atmosphere themed evening. Local restaurants served up their finest fares, while guests enjoyed the DJ and oxygen bar while participating in the silent auction.

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INDEPENDENT TASTES | On May 7th, the Smith Brothers Hardware building was home to Taste of the Independents, a celebration featuring food, wine and micro-brew tastings from over 40 locally owned and operated restaurants. Dine Originals Columbus partnered with the Buckeye Ranch to bring this event to Columbus diners. Their mission was to celebrate locally owned and operated independent restaurants in Central Ohio.



BIG WISH | The Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Greater Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana held its 25th Anniversary Celebration at the Ohio Stadium on May 9th. The night was hosted by NBC 4's Colleen Marshall, ESPN's Kirk Herbstreit and OSU's Coach Jim Tressel. More than 860 guests from the tri-state area bid on auction packages earning Make-A-Wish Foundation® over \$840,000 and enjoyed special musical performances by country star Phil Vassar and others..

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CRUISING



HYDROGEN POWER?

You may know about Ohio State's Center for Automotive Research (Appropriately acronymed: CAR): a division of the College of Engineering. What you probably don't know is that CAR is home to the only hydrogen filling station in the state of Ohio. When installed in 2006, hydrogen powered automobiles seemed a viable option. Since then, more affordable and efficient alternatives have taken over.



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You've filled the tank, plotted all the points on your GPS device, collected every kid DVD from the house, stuffed one week's extra luggage into the storage compartment, and the whole brood is comfortably planted in their respective seats. Time to hit the open road! What's that? You don't have an RV?

Think about renting one. There are several options for renting a recreational vehicle in central Ohio. Rental packages run comparably with the cost of flying and staying in a hotel. Plus, when your trip is over, you return the RV to the dealer, removing you from the pain of storing the road beast for the rest of the year.



1966 Plymouth Sports Fury

Meet the 1966 Plymouth Sports Fury with a 383 4bbl commando. A survivor car. Every classic car owner can tell you some unique story about their car and how it came to be. This one is no different.



James Shackelford,
Owner

Since my early teens, I always wanted a muscle car from the 60s. My father, who was always adamantly opposed to the idea, spotted this car in a yard. Now, he believed that 30-year-old cars were money pits: unreliable, costly to repair with hard-to-find parts and mechanics. For some reason, this one was different. He told me where the car was, helped me negotiate the price and made up the difference with what I couldn't afford.

This is basically how the car looked in 1995 when I bought it. Original interior and exterior from 1966. Engine has matching numbers. The fender skirts are off to show the only change from 1966, which are the "muscle car" rims. The custom solid oak trunk stereo system was installed without drilling or altering the Plymouth's original integrity.

When you think muscle cars from the 60s, The Plymouth Sport Fury does not usually come to mind. So over the years, I have attended many auctions and car swaps, bought and sold "true" muscle cars.

Fourteen years later, I still have this car.

■ James Shackelford



FROM WINTER TO SUMMER

So you've gotten out the lawn furniture, planted flowers and vegetables in your garden and turned on the AC in your home, but did you remember to also get your car ready for summer? Here are three important items to check off before summer is upon us and in full swing.

TIRES

Tire pressure increases one to two PSI for every 10 degree increase. Check your tires' pressure to ensure they are properly inflated. Tires are more likely to blow under heat and pressure.

WIPER BLADES

Snow, ice and cold can cause cracks and tears in the rubber of your windshield wipers. When spring and summer thunderstorms pour down, you'll need properly working wipers to be safe.

COOLANT SYSTEM

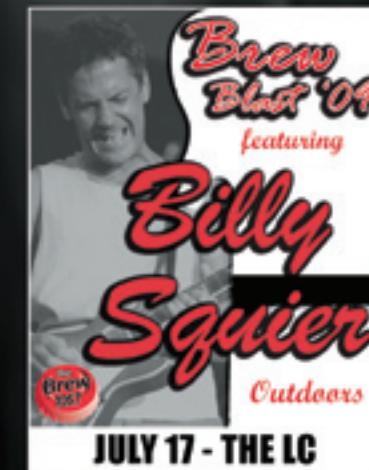
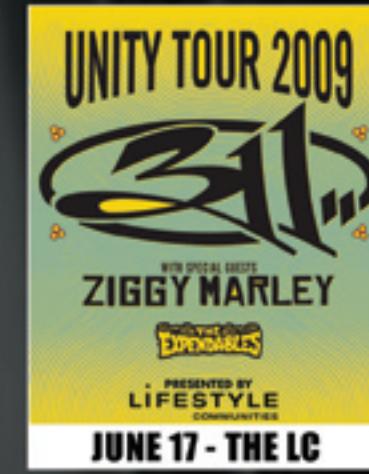
Make sure your car is running at proper temperatures. Also, check pumps, hoses, thermostats and fans for cracks or damage. During those hot summer days, its important your car can stay cool.

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PHOTO: ERIC WAGNER

ART WHERE'S

Continued from p.21



THIS SIDE UP

Hometown boys O.A.R. return to show their alumni pride (and play a few songs, too) on June 11th at The LC with special guests, The Wailers. The group, also known as Of A Revolution, is on the road in support of their 2008 release, *All Sides*. Eleven years after the group's first release, O.A.R. is still real people making real music and their fans are still wanting more. Get tickets to the show at www.ticketmaster.com.



FUN FLICKS

The CAPA Summer Movie Series, the longest-running classic film series in America, celebrates its 39th anniversary this year and runs July 17th – August 30th at the Ohio Theatre. It will feature something for everyone—action, suspense, romance, comedy, drama, sci-fi, musical, a Western, and even a little good-humored horror, including the series premiere of Clint Eastwood's *Dirty Harry*. Tickets are on sale now at the Ohio Theatre box office and at www.ticketmaster.com



OFF THE HOOK Ease the Medic

The pleasant uneasiness and surprise that is experienced while being tossed through the loud throwback chords of Ease the Medic does not come from your typical verse-chorus-verse band. Drawing much from post-hardcore bands from the late 90s, Ease the Medic creates tracks that border on math rock at times and include a scream or two for good measure.

"We aren't really big on hooks," says bass player Eric Payton. "I really think that the whole song should be good. You shouldn't always be waiting for the hooks to come around."

Formed in 2005 by the four like-minded members meeting through a local online music classifieds site, Ease the Medic quickly started touring and recorded a five-song EP after only three months of playing together. Drummer Mike Bryant and guitarist Adam Thorburgh met Bassist Eric Payton and then finally vocalist and guitarist Mike Finch to round out the very easygoing, yet focused, group.

"We've all come from bands where we were the guys who tried to get everyone going," says Finch. "I think it really allows us to be serious about things, but really still enjoy being in a band and playing music together."

After almost four years together and lots of touring through the region, the members of Ease the Medic all have full-time jobs and families, but still find time to write new songs and tour as much as they can. After a long writing process, the group is ready to record a new full-length record that is tentatively scheduled for an August 1st release. Unlike most bands that are always dreaming of the big break, Ease the Medic are somewhat content where they're at.

"Being in this band and touring is great," says Thorburgh. "It's almost like an affair that my wife allows me to have."

For more information on Ease the Medic go to www.myspace.com/easethemedic

■ Cary Smith

DINNER & SHOW CONTEST WINNERS FOR DINNER & TICKETS FOR TWO GIVEAWAY



On May 17th, Jill Hall took her good friend out for a time they won't soon forget. She entered C Magazine's contest for Dinner and Tickets for two. The two new moms had the chance to get out and have their own girl's night out. After enjoying a fabulous dinner at The Top Steakhouse, the gals headed over to Skully's Music Diner for the musical stylings of The Eulogies.



"AS A NEW MOTHER, IT WAS GREAT TO HAVE AN ADULT EVENING OUT WITH MY FRIEND, WHO IS ALSO A NEW MOM. IT'S NOT OFTEN THAT WE GET TO HAVE A NIGHT TO OURSELVES."

ColumbusMag.com RELAX C THE COLUMBUS MAGAZINE 47

Final Word

PHOTO: ERIC WAGNER



HAIR AND NOW Debra Penzone

Once a month, *C Magazine* sits down with prominent Columbus figures to understand their vibe at 5:01. This month, we pulled aside Debra Penzone, President of Charles Penzone Family of Salons, to have her take a little off the top.

In what section of the bookstore can you always be found? I
would be in the personal improvement or "self-help" section.

What is the craziest thing you have ever done with your hair?
While a model for a school called Hair Force, the stylist got halfway through a haircut and realized that the back of my hair grew straight

up. He had to get his clippers out and shave the back of my head.

What is the most important thing we need to teach our children? It's really important to motivate kids to get involved with the non-profit world. Giving back and volunteering are both so important. I don't just write a check for these things; I go down

there and really help out. It changes you and makes you feel better immediately when you care for other people.

What do you know now that you wish someone had told you during your school days? True beauty really does come from within. I went through a time when I didn't see that and I thought it was all about the outside.

How many cups of coffee do you go through a day? I usually have two cups in the morning and then green tea the rest of the day. I love the warmth from a hot drink.

What one non-religious figure has had the biggest impact on the world? Picasso. I love Picasso. He completely changed the way everyone perceived art at the time.

If you could wear one designer exclusively for the rest of your life, who would it be? Nannette Lepore. Sak's has it. Her suits fit me right off the rack.

What is the role of the artist in society? To identify the beauty in something and to bring that out for others to see. I have to bring that out of someone, to bring their beauty to life.

What board game brings out your most competitive side? Foosball. We would always play foosball when we were growing up with my brothers.

■ Jason E. Ohlson

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