

WHAT TO EAT

WHERE

WHO'S WHO IN COLUMBUS

HOLIDAY 2009



THE COLUMBUS MAGAZINE



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2010 TRAVEL
RESOLUTIONS



PETER O'CONNOR
FROM IRELAND
WITH LOVE

DANIEL OGBONNA
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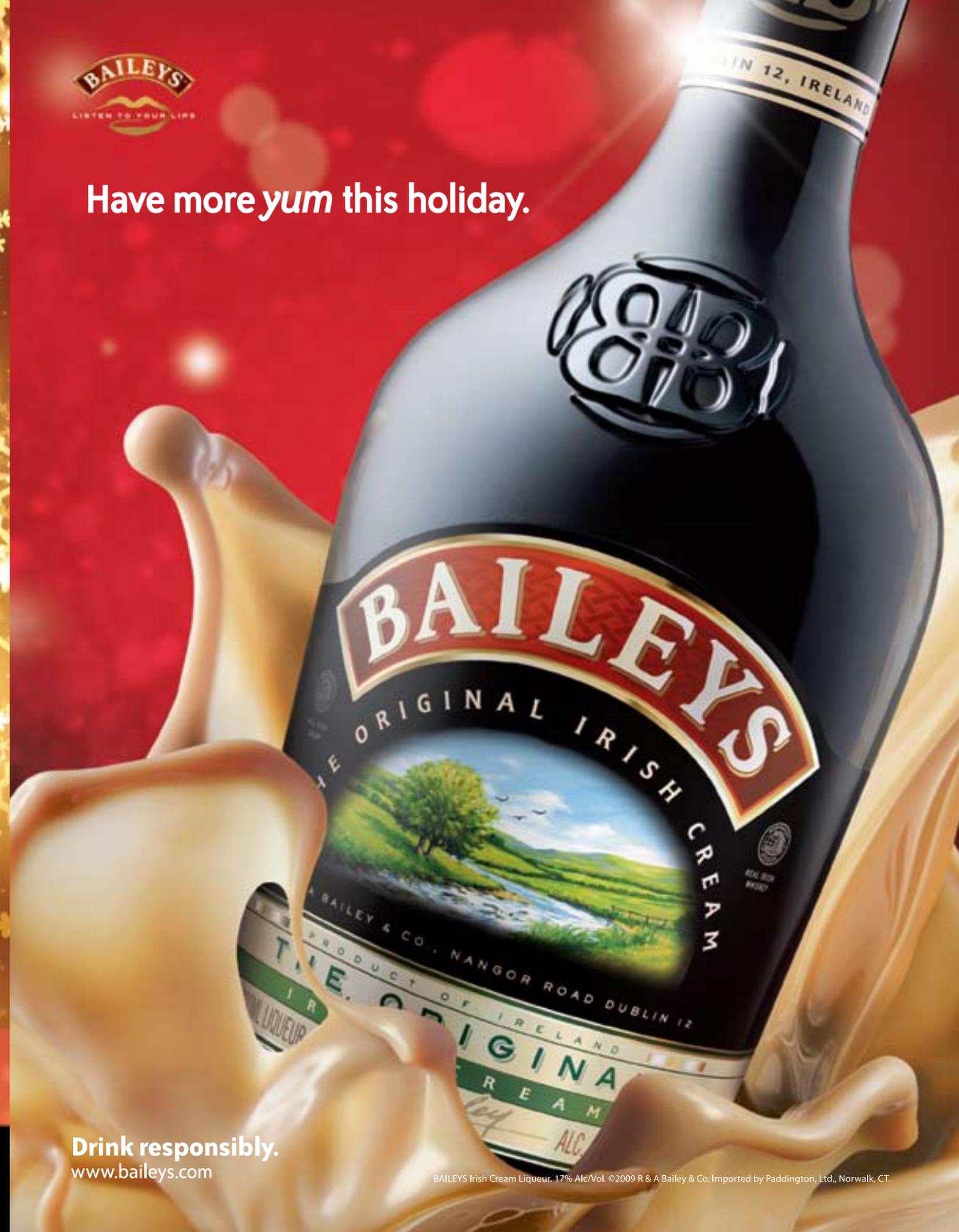
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CARY SMITH, ERIC WAGNER

FINAL WORD
JASON E. OHLSON, ERIC WAGNER

DROP POINT
ERIC WAGNER, BRIAN HENDRICKSON, JACOB BREWER

COVER STORY
INTERVIEW: JASON E. OHLSON
INTRO: ANNIE BEECHAM
PHOTOGRAPHY: ERIC WAGNER



ON THE COVER:
SHAQUILLE O'NEAL, SUPERSTAR OF THE CLEVELAND CAVALIERS, CHATS WITH C MAGAZINE ABOUT THE CITY HE'S COME TO SAVE AND THE CHIPS HE BRINGS TO THE PLAYING TABLE

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FROM THE EDITOR
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JASON OHLSON WITH LEBRON AT THE SHAQ COVER SHOOT

YOU GOT IT

Having had the unique pleasure of watching my 4 and 2-year-olds frolic through the toy store, I am now absolved of any feelings of guilt for not buying everyone I know everything on their holiday wish list this year. Finger crayons and a pair of plastic drum sticks were enough to fill my kids' fancy, and I would have never guessed it.

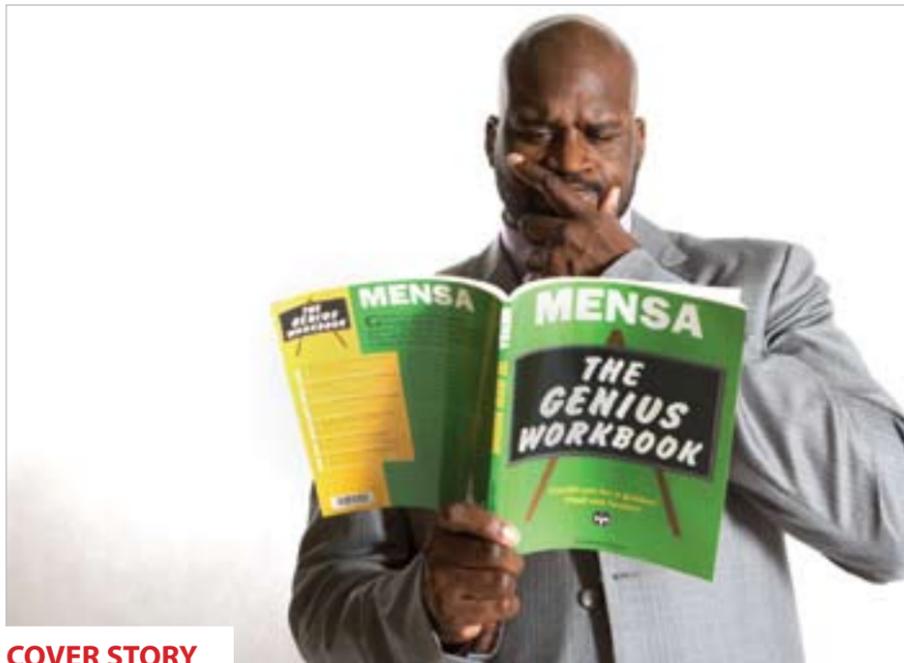
If I had shopped for my kids like I normally feel compelled to shop for friends and family, I would have spent the equivalent of a third world country's GNP on items they neither cared for nor really wanted. Instead, I waited patiently while each child found their favorite gift. When they did, and they gave me their approval, it was an honest exchange. They didn't pretend to love everything; they truly searched for their perfect possession. I was also honest and didn't force my interests, likes and wishes upon them. I simply listened and learned.

That moment was beautiful, for it illuminated the "shunned" side of gift giving—receiving. The disproportionate amount of attention we give to gift giving must be attributed to our self-absorbed tradition of asking for too much. We ask for more than what is reasonable just to get a return on what we really want. For example: "I want a C63 Benz. No? Okay. I'll settle for a 50-in."

The truth, and everyone knows it, is that receiving should be as much fun as giving. This year, I suggest not beating around the gift-giving bush and getting right to the point—which is getting people exactly what they want. Consider this *Holiday* issue of *C Mag* our gift to you. Happy Holidays.

Jason E. Ohlson
 Jason E. Ohlson

HOLIDAY 2009



COVER STORY

28 | SHAQUILLE O'NEAL

With Shaquille O'Neal's addition to the Cavs' roster, Clevelanders have reason to hope for a fairy tale finish to the '09-'10 season. As Shaq and LeBron, the NBA's newest dynamic duo, began their first season as teammates, we stole some time with the wiser half—the self-touted "Big Aristotle." In our Q&A with Shaq, all pressure is off as we get to know this gentle giant.

15 | SUITLESS

These business professionals are making lives easier this holiday season. The two gals who run Portfolio Creative are giving the gift of employment, connecting job-seeking creatives with employers; Daniel Ogbonna is making travel less stressful with his all-in-one toiletries; and Russ Hodge is helping firms to meet their philanthropic goals.

21 | LEISURE & TRAVEL

AAA's Debbie Sproul is back, and she's pumped about all the amazing deals 2010 has in store. The holidays offer the perfect opportunity for family and friends to get together and plan trips and travels in the near future. This month, check out Debbie's travel preparation tips, amazing deals on holiday shopping for AAA members, and a special offer just for *C Magazine* readers!

38 | THE FARE

Three restaurant experts with nearly 75 years of experience between them opened Mia Cucina this year in New Albany, and it's already creating a following in and out of the neighborhood. This upscale casual Italian restaurant is a breath of fresh air in the burbs. But be sure not to write off Mia's food as typical Italian; each dish delivers a reliably tasteful experience.

43 | KNOW YOUR DRINK

Peter O'Connor, born and raised in Ireland, explains what characteristics make Baileys Irish Whiskey popular—so popular that 2,500 glasses of the stuff are poured every minute of every day. A staple of the holidays, O'Connor suggests Baileys is best served as is—nothing added. After all, it's already a perfect cocktail in the bottle.

53 | RIDE 23

John Hard, owner of CaJohn's Fiery Foods, fires up his Dodge Hemi Magnum for us this month. Hard's red Magnum—an appropriate color choice for the owner of an illustrious hot sauce business—is equipped with a custom license plate "Bhut Jolokia,"—the name of the hottest chili on Earth.

55 | BEYOND 270

Russell Boiarsky's story follows the same script as many aspiring musicians: graduate college, move to L.A. and pursue a music career. But bad timing equated to little work, yet plenty of time for him to work on writing original songs. After moving back to Columbus, his career has taken off. He recently released his first album, *Turn*, and has enjoyed the success of its arrival.

56 | FINAL WORD

Franklin Court of Common Pleas Judge Tim Horton gives this month's Final Word. Judge Horton, a graduate of the OSU Moritz College of Law, expounds on reality TV, love, superstitions and misconceptions about the court system, among other topics. Check out our Q&A for his closing remarks.

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 the same after all these years. Stella Artois is still painstakingly brewed in a time-honored tradition with the choicest ingredients. Which is why our customers have kept coming back for more, even after 600 years.



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WHAT IS HERO?

HERO USA had been developing in the minds of its four founders for many years, finally becoming a reality in 2009. HERO USA (Health Education and Recreation Organization) supports common passions for recreational sports, an active lifestyle and cultivating relationships. HERO encourages active lifestyles through various sponsored sporting events.

WHAT DOES HERO DO?

HERO USA encourages its members to embrace their passions and be proactive in their individual sport within the fabric of the HERO organization. The following are some examples, but this list just scratches the surface:

- Swimming
- Running
- Fishing
- Skiing/Snowboarding
- Water sports (skiing, wakeboarding)
- Golf
- Soccer
- Weightlifting
- Dancing
- Cycling/Mountain biking
- Rollerblading
- Volleyball
- Softball
- Hiking/backpacking
- Canoeing/kayaking
- Yoga
- Basketball

HOW DO YOU JOIN HERO?

Go to HEROUSA.org to learn more about HERO USA, become a member, view upcoming HERO USA sponsored events or even make a donation to support HERO USA.

THE GIFT OF GIVING

This holiday season, consider presenting a family member or friend with a donation in their name instead of a physical gift. Many local organizations like Habitat for Humanity Ohio, Red Cross and CCAD offer the ability to make an honorary contribution. They will mail the person being honored a note explaining the contribution you made in their name. Contact your favorite charity organization and ask if they do honorary donations. If not, write a small letter or card telling about the donation you made in their honor.

ORGANIZATIONS TO CONSIDER

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Suitless



PHOTO: ERIC WAGNER

MANY HANDS Russell Hodge

Russell Hodge is at his happiest when he is wearing a hard hat and has his eyes on the skeletal outline of steel and concrete which will become a performing arts center, library or another building of equal importance to the community. With his assistance in fund-raising, the dreams found in blueprints and boardrooms across the country become a reality for those in need.

“The architecture of the buildings isn’t something that I play a part in, but I really enjoy seeing everything come together,” Hodge says. “I’m a fan of great architecture, and it’s nice seeing the dream become a reality.”

From their offices in Dublin, the Hodge Group has helped raise funds to create buildings, fight disease, help the less fortunate and almost anything else that could use a push in fund-raising. With roots in political fund-raising, Hodge’s experience spans over two decades; his passion for philanthropy was initially ignited working with the late Wendy’s owner, Dave Thomas.

“He really set an example of what could be done with the power of philanthropy,” Hodge says. “I really felt like I had a responsibility to make a difference in the community.”

According to Hodge, 80 percent of American philanthropic donations comes from individual donors, which makes it important to get the message out for any kind of campaign to the public as a whole. Even in today’s economic climate, people continue to give, but want to send a message more than ever through their giving.

“As we are getting close to December, the time when most people give the most, it’s really important that they give more than ever this year as the charities and causes need it more than ever,” Hodge reaffirms.

For more information go to www.hodge-group.com

■ Cary Smith



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FRANCE

On Christmas Eve, children leave their shoes by the fireplace to be filled with gifts from Pere Noel. In the morning, they also find that sweets, fruit, nuts and small toys have been hung on the tree.

ISRAEL

During the eight nights of Hanukkah, with a menorah in almost every window, Jerusalem really twinkles. To mark the start of Hanukkah, a torch is lighted and carried by runners from the ancient village of Modiin, where the Maccabean revolt began, to Jerusalem.

AUSTRALIA

Christmas in Australia is often very hot. Whereas the northern hemisphere is in the middle of winter, Australians are baking in summer heat. It is not unusual to have a Christmas Day with temperatures nearing 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

THE NETHERLANDS

In the Netherlands, St. Nicholas is known as Sinterklaas. Dutch children are told that he sails from Spain on his feast day, December 5. They fill their shoes with hay and sugar for his horse and awake to find them filled with gifts such as nuts and candy.

THE BAHAMAS

Junkanoo in The Bahamas is a fantastic masquerade, parade and street festival. It is traditionally performed throughout the streets towards the end of December, coinciding with the winter solstice.



PHOTO: ERIC WAGNER

DYNAMIC DUO Portfolio Creative

Kristen Harris and Catherine Lang-Kline are modest about their success. What they've managed to do, namely leave their day jobs behind and start their own company (one recently named the 326th fastest growing in the nation by Inc. magazine), is impressive and gutsy, especially in this lackluster economy.

The duo's company, Portfolio Creative, links designers, photographers, writers and others in the creative industry with firms who are searching for temporary or permanent hires to work on projects.

"Kristen approached me with this idea: 'What if there were a service in town that found creative people for you?' She spent a lot of her time doing that, and I thought it was a great idea because I knew Columbus did not have it," Lang-Kline says.

The two women set up shop in Clintonville in 2005. Between 2005 and 2008 they experienced growth of 741 percent. "There were places like this in other larger cities, but here we've sort of created an industry that wasn't there

and invented something that didn't exist before—and clearly people needed," Harris says.

The co-founders first met while working in the creative department at Bath and Body Works, and later at Express, where Harris was the art director. Harris is a numbers person, while Lang-Kline likes communicating with new people. During their former careers, they've worked on both sides of the business: Harris as a client looking for creative talent, and Lang-Kline as a freelancer, looking for creative work. This insight compliments the founders, and also assures their clients that they know who will work best.

Years of industry experience and business savviness have gotten them far, but it is successful matches and a quality service that are attracting new clients.

"We make an effort to do a really great job and to understand what our clients are looking for and what our associates are looking for," Harris says.

■ Annie Beecham

YOUR LEFT BRAIN INFLUENCES YOU TO:

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→ **Heroin Filled Candy Bars**

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→ **Fully Gassed Chainsaw**

One man tried to get through security with a chainsaw fully gassed and with the chain in place.

→ **Dead Relatives**

A Chilean family once tried to wheel a dead relative through security in a wheelchair at JFK to avoid paying the fee for transporting a body.



→ **Cocaine In Bedsheets**

Officers at Newark airport seized two passengers from Costa Rica who attempted to enter the U.S. with cocaine disguised as bed sheets.

NYDailyNews.com
Photos: U.S. Customs and Border Protection

FILLING THE NEED Daniel Ogbonna

Daniel Ogbonna, Nigerian born and raised in the U.K., had ended up rooted in Columbus through a combination of opportunity and convenience. Ogbonna, still in his 30s, has a resume that includes master's degree from the University of Michigan and the Harvard Business School, investment banking on Wall Street, owning a media company in the Czech Republic, and holding a position as the Director of Strategy of Bath and Body Works—during which he was first introduced to Columbus.

But most recently, he's added founder and CEO of mysmartpac inc. to that already remarkable list. Mysmartpac is a simple concept: his and her prepackaged toiletries designed for carry-on, meant to last six days, and are TSA compliant. They're sold online, in airports and at other retailers around the country. Ogbonna, a frequent traveler, came up with the concept through personal experience.

"I was coming back from a one-day meeting, and I had all my personal care products taken away from me because they were more than the required amount," he says. "I

thought, 'you know, there's got to be a better way—there's got to be a better solution.' When I looked at the complete universe of personal care products out there, I didn't see a complete solution that would have everything you want in a single pack."

So, out of necessity, mysmartpac was born. It has since gained attention from national and international media outlets. Soon, users will be able to personalize their kits to their individual needs.

Ogbonna's success is a result of the skills he has gathered from a background in engineering and business, a long interest in media—and persistence.

"I think you always have to have a dream and never give up. Entrepreneurship is completely different than working nine-to-five for a company because you wear several different hats. You have to be a hard worker and have that mental drive to keep going when things get difficult."

■ Annie Beecham

HOTTEST GIFTS OF 2009



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Leisure & Travel



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WELL-TRAVELED Expert New Year Tips



As you prepare for the holidays and begin thinking about your New Year's resolutions, I have one for your list: become well-traveled. This will be even easier to accomplish in 2010, which is shaping up to bring you even better deals and discounts than those offered in 2009. Each month, we'll bring great offers that you'll want to check out. Information and research are two key ingredients to help with your New Year's resolution and allow you to travel well.

Every year between Christmas and the New Year, we see a spike in travel inquiries and bookings. When families gather, they tend to talk about experiences they would like to share together. Stop by one of our stores, give us a call or visit our website to get a jump-start on your information gathering—you will be the most popular one at the holiday dinner table.

Once you talk about dates and ideas, hit the second annual AAA Great Vacations Expo, January 22 -24, at Veteran's Memorial. Here you can talk to over 100 exhibitors who offer fun-filled vacations around Ohio, the U.S. and the world! Come ready with your calendar and credit card, and take advantage of great show-only deals. Bring the whole family for awesome entertainment and one-on-one time with travel industry experts. Kid's Day is Saturday, when Nickelodeon's Dora the Explorer will be roaming the floor, and Jack Hanna will take center stage. Be in the audience on Sunday if you are

ready for a challenge from Adam Richman of *Man vs Food*. Check out my column next month for a special admission offer for *C Magazine* readers, and visit www.AAAGreatVacations.com for more details.

So, what is the forecast for travel deals in 2010? Great offers on cruises to virtually any destination in the world, many international vacations with free airfare, and if sun and fun is your thing, you will find outstanding deals throughout the Caribbean and Mexico. Domestically, the top twenty travel destinations continue to offer additional nights at no extra cost. And who could forget the mouse down South? January is Disney Month at AAA, so be on the lookout for amazing 2010 deals. If you are headed to central Florida and find that lodging is breaking the budget, I have a deal for you! I recently visited central Florida, and for the first time in my travels I stayed at an extended stay property. The Lake Buena Vista Resort and Spa, located just minutes from Disney, offers beautiful and spacious units that include two, three, or four bedrooms with a large living room, dining room, balcony and a fully-equipped kitchen. Two bedroom suites start at just \$121 per night when you book with AAA, considerably less than a one-room, on-site Disney property.

As the economy continues to recover, our partners will be closely watching their inventory, so book as early as possible, and get in touch with AAA to be in the know.

Debbie Sproul, Executive Vice President
 AAA Ohio Auto Club

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Bruschetta Assortita (\$8)

Giorgio

2941 N. High St. Columbus, OH (614) 265-9020 - CLINTONVILLE

If you believe authentic Italian restaurants add value to small neighborhoods, then you can say Clintonville's stock increased when Giorgio opened on North High a little over a year ago. Walking into Giorgio, there's no mistaking what type of restaurant you are in. The décor is intended to place you in an aging Italian Villa, like one you would see in the Tuscan Valley. I know Clintonville is not Tuscany and Columbus is not Rome, but the food is classic Italian-American fare with its own unique flare mixed in. The **Bruschetta Assortita (\$8.00)**, teaming over with artichoke, roasted red pepper and olive and eggplant tapenades, promises to be molto bene!

King Gyros

400 S. Hamilton Rd. Columbus, OH (614) 866-9008 - WHITEHALL

Since 1991, the customer has been considered king at this family-owned and operated restaurant in Whitehall. There are over 60 selections that are under \$9 and pair family recipes with traditional Greek spices, like the **Falafel Greek Salad (\$6.95)**, where a trio of fried falafel balls crest a mountainous Greek salad, crowned with feta cheese and kalamata olives. And, if you want to share, King Gyros has a full catering menu and drive-thru service available.



Falafel Greek Salad (\$6.95)

Mezzo Italian Kitchen

130 Creekside Plaza Gahanna, OH (614) 476-9900

The Creekside Plaza is a beautiful, newly-built commercial and residential development that creates a dining and leisure experience rivaling any other commercial development in all of Columbus. Mezzo is a hip and sophisticated Italian restaurant, nuzzled right in the middle of Creekside Plaza overlooking its fountain centerpiece. Aesthetics play a big part in Mezzo's menu. Each dish, including the **Braised Veal Meatballs (\$9.00)**, are as photogenic as they are delicious. The atmosphere is amazing and the food is first class. Come try it for yourself.



Braised Veal Meatballs (\$9)

Brazenhead

1027 W. Fifth Ave. Columbus, OH (614) 737-3738 - GRANDVIEW

Brazenhead is inspired by the oldest pub in Ireland, but it specializes in satisfying the modern needs of its Columbus customers. Its large dining room and patio accommodate the hungry and thirsty masses. The walls and mantles are filled with more Irish and pub references than a St. Patty's Day parade. It's definitely a festive place to eat and drink with friends. The menu is diverse and all is handled well; however, their burgers are a thing unto themselves. We wager you won't be disappointed with the **Schlow Burger (\$8.50)** topped with crispy onions, cheddar cheese and horseradish sauce.



Schlow Burger (\$8.50)

Wildflower Cafe

3420 Indianola Ave. Columbus, OH (614) 262-2233 - CLINTONVILLE

A warm and cozy diner-like atmosphere is the feel you get when you enter Wildflower Café in Clintonville. Owners Patrick and K.C. McCarthy are brothers and lifelong residents of Clintonville. The charm of their place alone can turn you into a regular. If you're a tough sell, and the charm isn't enough, you'll definitely succumb to the food. One hearty meal that's perfect for Fall is the **Athens County Chicken and Egg Noodles (\$8.29)**. It's sure to fill your belly and warm your soul.



Athens County Chicken and Egg Noodles (\$8.29)

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Hibachi Steak (\$8.95)

The Japanese Steakhouse

479 N. High St. Columbus, OH (614) 228-3030 - SHORT NORTH

There's nothing better than having a spatula-wielding, flame-throwing chef feed and entertain you for an hour. Good eats and entertainment are what you get when you dine at The Japanese Steakhouse in the Short North. The Japanese Steakhouse is ideal for family dinners, birthday parties and dates, but you may not know that they boast one of the best lunch values in town. A three-course meal that comes with a salad, green tea and white rice, their **Hibachi Steak (\$8.95)** is sure to cure your midday hunger pains.

Giuseppe's Ritrovo

2268 E. Main St. Bexley OH (614) 235-4300

This cozy Italian restaurant has a long-standing relationship with the residents of Bexley. For over 10 years, sweet strains of a romance language have floated from the kitchen as owner and executive chef Giuseppe Mangano lovingly prepares the **Insalata Rossé (\$8.00)**. Red beets, fennel, and mesclun flirt with a pistachio sauce and a balsamic reduction, coupled with shaved parmesan cheese. Feeding the flames of desire is the Fettucine Furiose, with roasted eggplant, fresh mozzarella, tomatoes and basil dancing in a light red sauce. The atmosphere is truly Italian, with a relaxed lunch hour that extends until 2:30 p.m.



Insalata Rossé (\$8)

Rusty Bucket

2158 E. Main St. Bexley, OH (614) 236-2426

Though Rusty Bucket is indeed a corporation, it focuses on being a neighborhood pub and restaurant. They make their mission work by offering some of the best pub/comfort food you'll ever taste. Stop into The Rusty Bucket in Bexley for their extensive list of imported beers, including brews from Australia, Germany and Belgium. You can boast that you've tasted the world's best beer just before biting into their **Buffalo Chicken Sandwich (\$8.95)**, by far the menu's heavyweight champion.



Buffalo Chicken Sandwich (\$8.95)



DON'T SEE YOUR FAVORITE PLACE?

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

ART WHERE'S

More to C » p.55



ONE STEP AT A TIME

There is nothing better than starting the new year with a little mayhem and murder, right? Well, maybe not in real life, but for sure as part of the CAPA and Broadway Across America Series featuring Alfred Hitchcock's *The 39 Steps*.

Seeking a frivolous night out at the theatre, Richard Hannay is lured into a world of intrigue by a mysterious woman claiming to be a spy. When she winds up dead in his flat, he flees London with the police hot on his trail. This is a classic portrayal of one man's flight from wrong accusation through a series of misadventures and old fashioned romance.

The two-time Tony Award winning play features a cast of just four who reenact over 150 characters from Hitchcock's 1935 thriller with just a few props and some seriously stunning theatrics.

Alfred Hitchcock's *The 39 Steps* comes to the Palace Theatre (34 W. Broad St.) January 19-24. Tickets are \$55, \$50, \$25, and \$20 at the Ohio Theatre Ticket Office (39 E. State St.), all Ticketmaster outlets and www.ticketmaster.com



HOLIDAY TRADITION

Think that you can only visit the Franklin Park Conservatory in the summer? Not so. From now until January 3, you can pile the family into the car and experience the tradition of Holidays at the Conservatory. Check out the 15-foot poinsettia tree, the gingerbread house competition, candlelit nights and fun holiday performances for all ages. Plus, *Chihuly Reimagined* is still on view! Visit www.fpconservatory.org.



AROUND THE GLOBE

Featuring some of the most extraordinary athletes and entertainers on the planet, The Harlem Globetrotters are rolling into Columbus on December 27 for a rousing game of b-ball. The team roster may have changed over their past 84 consecutive seasons, but your family will love Big Easy Lofton, Flight Time Lang, Special K Daley and ball handling wizards: Handles Franklin and Ant Atkinson.

Key Witness

Interview: Jason E. Ohlson | Intro: Annie Beecham
Photography: Eric Wagner

There are some things that everybody knows about Shaq. For starters, he is a seven-foot-one-inch, 325-pound giant, a fact that has greatly contributed to him becoming one of the greatest basketball players of all time. He is funny, recognized as a notoriously quote-worthy celebrity and loves the limelight. He also likes winning—national championships mostly—and is therefore very confident. He speaks his mind unabashedly to anyone anywhere. And he reached the elevated status of being referred to by only the first four letters of his first name a long time ago. Yes, these things we know.

But his larger-than-life poise is a sharp dichotomy to the insecure city where he has now taken up home. It's no secret that Cleveland's economy is shaky, hinging on the success of its basketball team. More precisely, Cleveland's economic future is hinging on the security that an NBA championship would give to the likelihood of LeBron staying planted in the zip code after his contract expires next year. And with the Cavs' acquisition of its new celebrity player, the morale of Clevelanders and Cavs fans alike—and the elephant in the room: keeping the city's flailing economy afloat—are resting on the hulking shoulders of a confident Shaq. Hopes are that he'll gel with the team successfully, and they can achieve this season's one and only goal: Win the King a ring.



Key Witness: SHAQUILLE O'NEAL

But all pro-athlete pressures are momentarily cast aside during our Q&A with Shaq. We snagged some time with the big guy before the mania of basketball season hit full swing. We aimed to discover something about the legend that isn't quite mainstream knowledge. Anyone who lived through the 90s was enlightened by the products of Shaq's fledgling film and rapping careers, but "actor," "musician" and "pro-baller" are not where his professional resume ends. We found out Shaq has balanced his NBA and Hollywood pedigrees with an MBA from the University of Phoenix, and soon—after the obligatory paperwork and procedures are finalized—he will be a Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Deputy. Shaq might be this season's gift to LeBron, but it was a present for us to pick the brain of the self-monikered "Big Aristotle."

Q&A:

Promises are for _____.
Mailmen. Like me, they deliver.

If you had to drive cross-country, but you could only have one CD and the radio antenna was broken off, what CD would you want?

Notorious B.I.G.'s first CD [*Ready to Die*].

Are you and LeBron going to have a special handshake?
Yes.

What is your new nickname in Cleveland?
Witness Protection.

Do you still own and ride your custom Jesse James motorcycle?
No. Danny Ferry [Cavs GM] told me I couldn't.

At Robert G. Cole High School you had a 68-1 record. Who beat you, and how?
Liberty High School. We got beat by a bunch of white guys who shot nothing but threes.

You have a BA in General Studies from LSU. Was there a concentration?
Yes, I concentrated very well, every day and at every class.

What's the biggest celebrity phone number in your cell?
Can't tell you. I'd get in trouble.

You've been called many things, and you've named yourself

many things. What are the best and worst?

Worst, "Shaq-squash," and best, "Big Aristotle."

Before going to the Magic during your first season in the pros, you spent some one-on-one time with Magic Johnson. Why him, and what exactly did you learn?

He handles the ball well, people love him and he understands the business. I took away his smile.

Explain to our readers the physicality of the NBA. Equate a season of basketball to something else.

The physicality, for me, is nothing. I bring the physicality. It reminds me of MMA [Mixed martial arts].

You've done MMA for 10 years, how did you get into that?

My guy, Vitor Belfort, introduced it to me, and I dug it.

What was the most important resolution you ever made?
All of them.

At the end of the day, basketball is nothing more than _____.
A fun business—that I own.

If you could domesticate any wild animal, what would it be?
A white tiger, and I'd walk it around like a puppy.

What is the most "out there"

continued on page 32

Daily Planet

SPECIAL EDITION JUNE 25, 2009 FREE

MAN OF STEEL SAVES RUST-BELT CITY



Cleveland hasn't won a Championship since 1964. With the addition of Shaquille O'Neal to the Cavaliers roster, dreams may soon come true.

SHAQ TO AID LEBRON IN CHAMPIONSHIP

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thing you've ever eaten?
Bear bladder.

What did it taste like?
Shit.

What past experience would you like to relive if you could?
None.

What do you love to see the

goalkeeper?
No.

Can you cook anything? If so, what's your best dish?
No, I can't cook anything.

What part of your game do you feel most people overlook?
My passing.

I haven't made any.

Which designer owns the most real estate in your closet?
Just blue jeans.

What fires you up? Pisses you off? Makes you cry?
Nothing makes me cry. Nothing fires me up because I control my temper. And you piss me off when

Beckham denying your challenge to go against him on *Shaq Vs.*? Was he scared?
Yes, he was scared.

Is there anything you regret saying?
No, never.

You've played well over 1,000 professional basketball games. How do you still get pumped up on game day?
It is all about winning.

If you could be anything other than a basketball player, what would you be?
A sheriff. (*Shaq is currently in the process of applying to be a deputy sheriff in Cleveland.*)

What would your life be like if you were 5'10"?
The same as it is now.

What was the single most pivotal event of your life?
When I was a bully and I beat this guy up, and it wasn't going too well. So from that day on, I became a nice person.

You mean he was fighting you back, or you were romping him real good?
I mean I was beating him up and he had an epilepsy attack. I was like, "Enough of this."

You can have a drink with any person in history. With whom are you drinking, and what is your drink of choice?
I'm drinking with Redd Foxx, and I'm drinking water in a white zinfandel glass so that people will think I'm drinking white zinfandel.

Do you think there is any sort of social responsibility implicit in being a pro athlete?
Pro athletes should be themselves, *real models*.

What one thing would you like to forget in the course of your life?
Nothing. I love my life.

"PRO ATHLETES SHOULD BE THEMSELVES, REAL MODELS."

opposite sex wear?
Anything from Victoria's Secret.

What bill do you most detest?
Cable bill.

What is the worst piece of advice you've been given?
Rick Barry once told me to shoot underhand.

Did you try it?
Nope.

Who is the toughest competitor you've faced in the league so far?
Charles Oakley, Charles Barkley and Anthony Mason.

Who do you turn to for advice?
Me, myself and I.

Who is the funniest person on your team?
LeBron James.

2Pac or Biggie?
Both.

Eminem or 50 Cent?
Both.

Jay-Z or Nas?
Both.

When living in Germany as a boy, did you ever fill in as a

What is the best piece of advice you can give a college athlete?
Be a leader and not a follower.

Anderson Silva or Randy Couture, and why?
Randy Couture, because he's an old legend like me.

What is your fondest LSU memory?
Pistol Pete Maravich came over to say hello to me while I was downstairs practicing.

You earned an MBA from University of Phoenix. How long did it take, and what was the most challenging aspect?
Three years. The most challenging aspect was going to class every Thursday with the other 12 businessmen.

Name your greatest achievement.
Winning four titles.

Got a pet peeve?
No.

You get to choose the next law, what is it?
All hardcore criminals would have to go to Iraq and fight in the war.

What is the biggest mistake you ever made?

you disrespect me.

Fondest memory growing up?
Getting an autographed Dr. J [Julius Erving] basketball.

What talent would you most like to have?
To play the piano.

How do you relax?
Lounging at the crib watching TV. I am what you call a "channel flicker." I surf until I find something that tickles my fancy. I check it out for a while, and then move on.

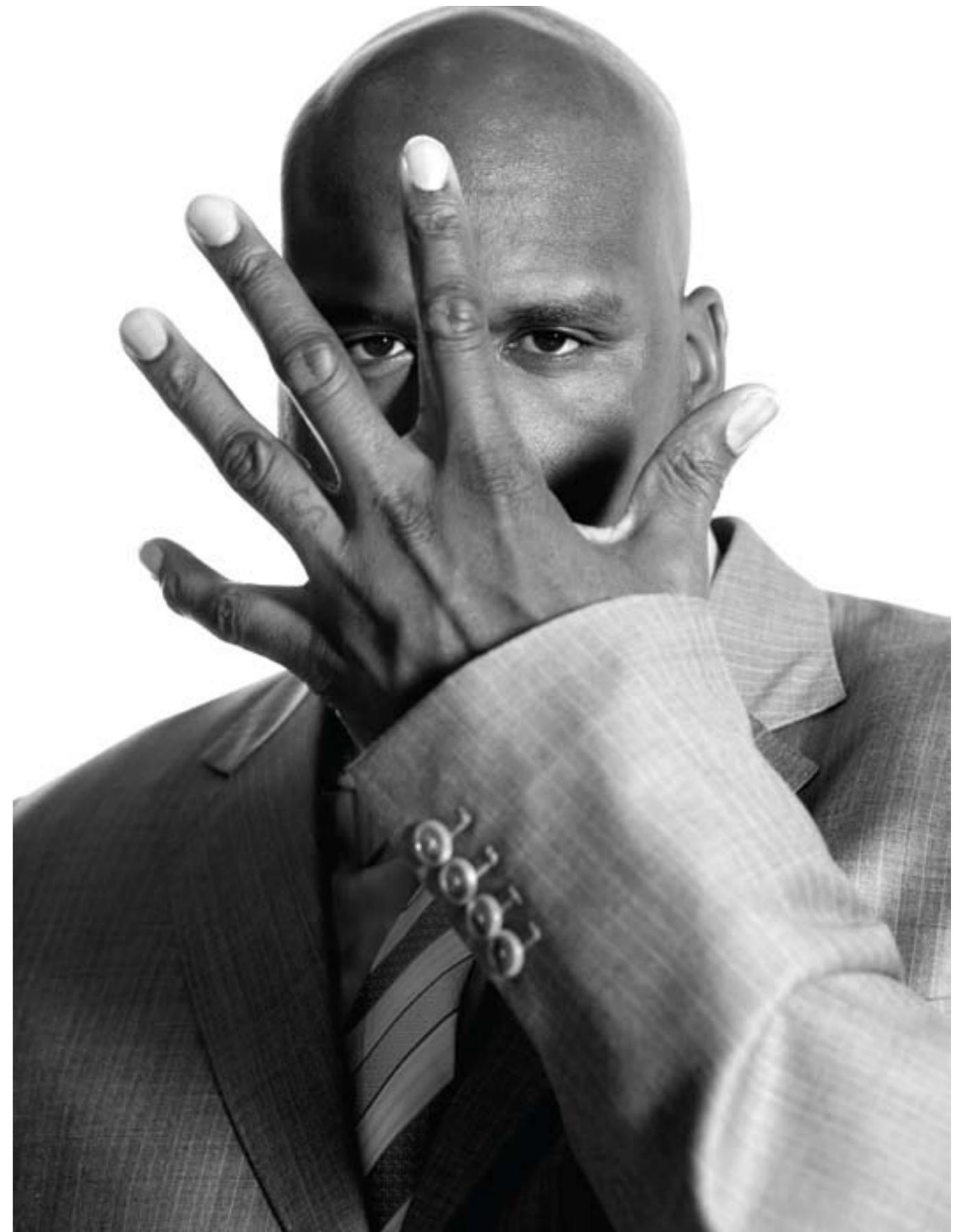
You're walking down death row. What was your last meal?
Number one: Big Mac.

It's been said that you play at your best when you have something to prove. What do you have to prove now?
Everything.

What were your first impressions of the city of Cleveland?
I love the city. The people are all very hospitable.

What was the deal with David

continued on page 35



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Key Witness: SHAQUILLE O'NEAL (continued)



Root beer or cream soda?
Neither. Sprite.

What is the craziest story from you college years?

I saw someone who was eating marshmallows and taking shots. He ate about 50 marshmallows and took like 20 shots and threw up in the middle of the club—and then laid in it.

What tradition would you like to pass down to your children?
Being consistent.

What was your favorite toy to play with growing up?

I didn't really get many toys when I was a kid.

What conversational topic do you avoid at all costs?
Nothing.

What do you wish you were in a better habit of doing?
Shooting better free throws.

What is the oldest piece of clothing you wear?
A fur.

What is your favorite word?
"Boi-boi."

Got a favorite Dr. Seuss book?
Cat in the Hat.

If you had to name your child after one of the 50 states, which would it be?
New Jersey.

What part of the day do you enjoy most, and why?
The evening or night because I can shut it all down. But before I go to bed, I get to create what my next day will be like in my mind.

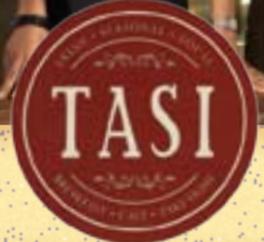
What do you wish other people were more mindful of?
Nothing.

Do you believe in aliens?
Yes.

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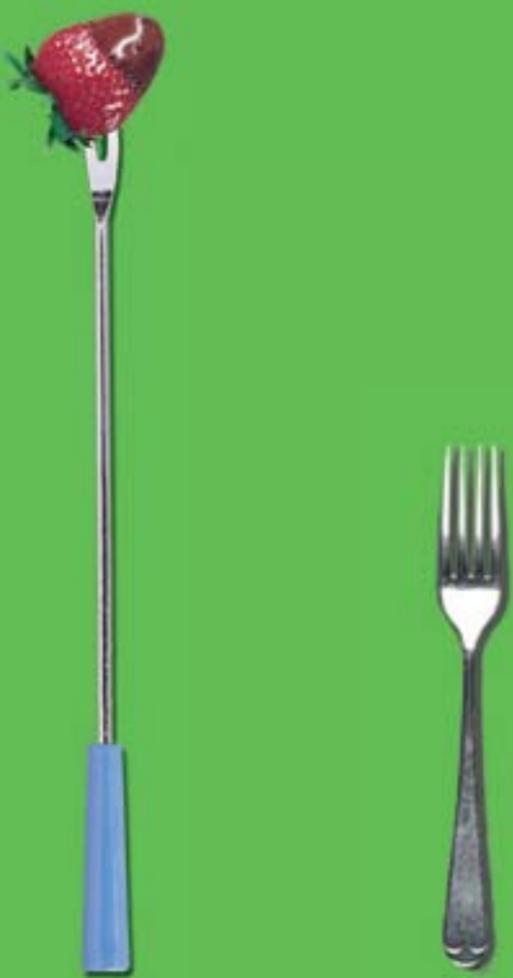


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PHOTOS: ERIC WAGNER



The Shrimp Scampi with sauteed shrimp, fresh garlic, tomatoes and green onions, served with angel hair pasta

KITCHEN'S OPEN Mia Cucina

5525 New Albany Rd. New Albany, OH 43054 (614) 775-0181

WHO

After accumulating six decades of experience in the restaurant industry between them, business partners and friends Vern Blazek, Jack Illig and Mike Unnone decided that it was time to open up their own venue. All three hail from established, successful Easton restaurants, but having reached a crossroads in their careers, they realized that they wanted to and were capable of founding and operating their own independent restaurant chain.

Mia Cucina, which translates to the very appropriate "my kitchen" in Italian, is a family affair for the

trio. Blazek and Illig's wives work at the restaurant, and executive chef Unnone's dishes are inspired by his Italian grandmother's recipes.

WHAT

Mia Cucina is what New Albany desperately needed: an upscale casual restaurant that is extremely family-friendly. It's convenient and quality, homey and classy. Two New Albany women, Julie Butler and Susie Puleri, undertook the interior design for free, a kind of J.Crew/Crate and Barrel hybrid, and it works. Dark browns, creams, yellows and hints of green abound. And the food—it's Italian, but lacks the kind of heaviness and density

that most associate with pasta and pizza. Chef Mike Unnone uses fresh, local ingredients and carefully calibrates each dish to perfection.

WHEN

The restaurant is open for lunch and dinner every day of the week except Sunday. Early on a Thursday night, when the restaurant had been open for only several weeks, the parking lot was already packed—a good indication that New Albany residents are fans of the new eatery. Don't be afraid to linger in the restaurant, they won't shoo you out. Mia stays open until the last customer leaves. And if your dinner does become drawn out, the

sauces hold up to the test of time. As our party became distracted by conversation, the plates of food in front of us looked just as fresh as when they had been served to us, an hour before.

WHERE

Mia Cucina is in the Giant Eagle Shopping Center off of New Albany Road. Oddly, it's one of only a handful of restaurants in New Albany. The three co-owners have expansion on the mind to other parts of Columbus soon, with a Dublin or Powell location on their radars. There's nothing else like it in the area, with Easton the closest locale for upscale-casual dining.

QUICK LOOK

Everything you need to know about Mia Cucina in a single glance, from menus to hours.

Breakfast/Lunch	Lunch
Private Dining	Yes
Outdoor Seating	Yes
Hours	M-Th:11-10, F&Sa:11-11, Su:11-9

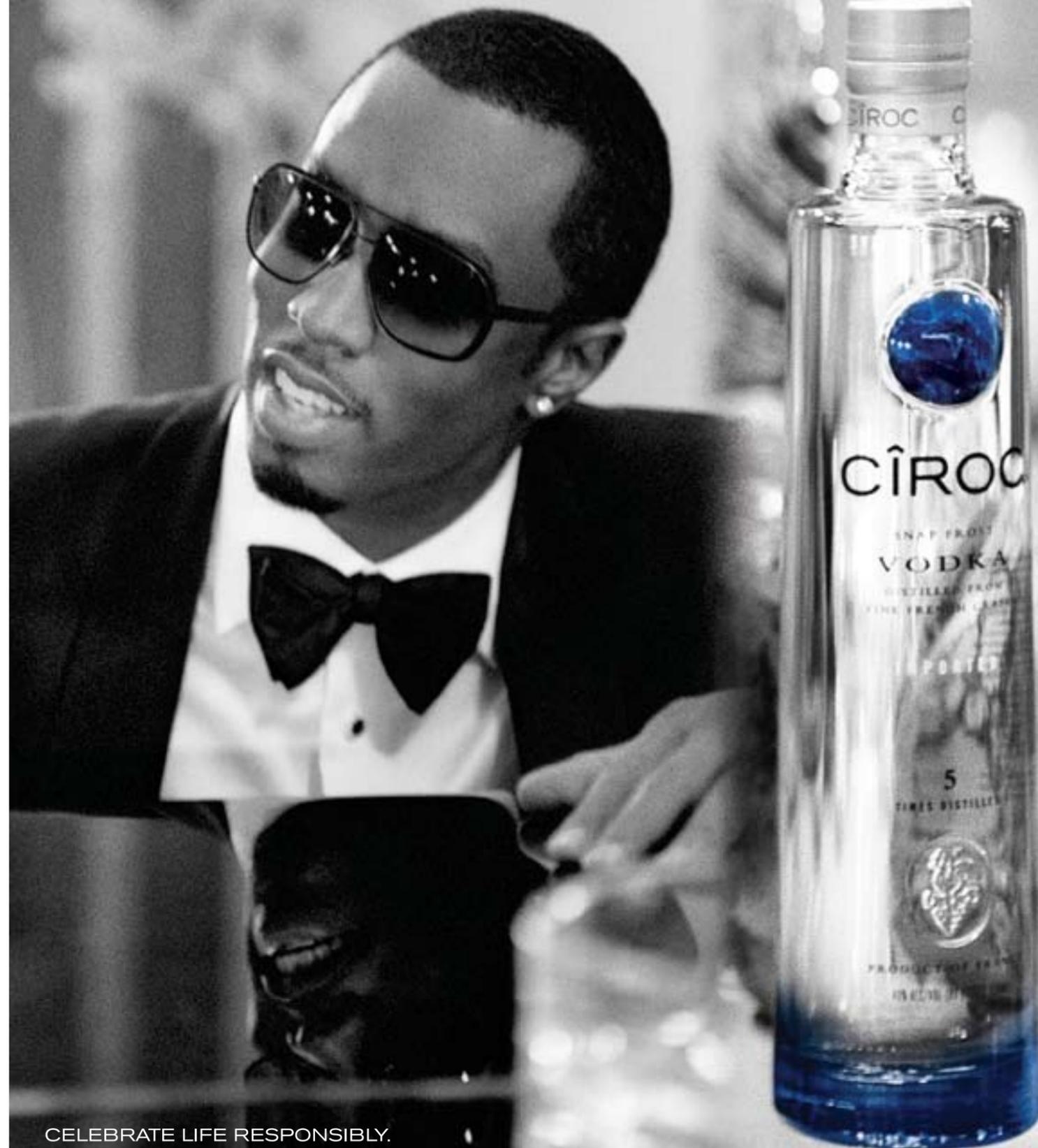
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The Anatomy of Taste

let us explain our lasagna bolognese
five yummy layers of meats and cheeses that will make you beg for more



cheese

a trifecta melt of mozzarella, provolone & Muenster

pasta

five layers of homemade pasta made fresh daily

sauce

chef Mike's century-old family recipe passed down from Great Grammy

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The interior design is the result of the minds of two New Albany women, Julie Butler and Susie Puleri.

THE TEST

The meal began with a liquid starter course via the Sycamore Lane Merlot. It should be noted that the wine at Mia Cucina is hardly above the state minimum pricing. This, in itself, is one good reason to keep to the suburbs for dinner instead of dishing out the price of a bottle for just one glass of wine downtown.

For a more solid appetizer, we went with the Crab Cakes and Italian Green Beans. The Crab Cakes are, well, to-die-for. They're not exactly what you'd expect from an Italian place, but we're not complaining. The cakes are served with a spicy aioli sauce that might have you reaching for a slice of Mia's sourdough country bread from the basket in front of you. The Italian Green Beans are covered in a light tempura and just cooked through. They come with a pepper corn dipping sauce and marinara.

We couldn't go Italian without pasta, but even after trying four pasta entrees, we didn't feel like gluttons—Mia's pasta isn't heavy. We started with the Tortellini Carbonara, tri-colored cheese tortellini with pancetta, onions and an asiago cream sauce. Just a taste wouldn't suffice—we couldn't keep our hands off of this one.

Next, we tested out a classic that one rarely orders when they go out: lasagna. The Lasagna Bolognese is not a lot of things: it's not 10 layers thick, it's not runny and it's not generic. It comes from the chef's grandma's recipe, and it's a reminder that good lasagna does exist. The Pasta Diablo came next: penne pasta with a spicy tomato cream sauce and grilled chicken. The "devil pasta" had a kick, but it was heavenly. And the pasta conquest ended with another classic-done-right: the Shrimp Scampi. In an

attempt to balance the carb-loading, we nibbled on the Mia Chopped Salad between forks of pasta—it's 100% better than the salad served at another notorious Italian chain.

And to veer from all-things-pasta, we dove into the Pan Seared Sea Scallops. The half-dollar diver scallops are hard to forget, and the bed of orzo rice that they're served with is delicious. Also, Mia Cucina's pizzas are unlike any you'll find in Columbus. Unnone tested 16 different doughs before he settled on the one that is just right. It's yeasty and thick, and the sauce is a result of Unnone's quest for perfection. We tried the Mia Cucina Specialty Pizza with pepperoni, homemade meatballs, sausage, banana peppers and mushrooms. The cost is below what you'd find at a pizza chain, but the flavor of these pies are not even in the same league.

■ Annie Beecham

BUON APPETITO

Get your blood flowing with this three-course dinner that turns up the heat. The Crab Cakes, drizzled with a spicy aioli sauce, have a kick. Keep the spice factor constant by digging into the Pasta Diablo; penne pasta tossed with a spicy tomato cream sauce and sautéed with chicken. Soothe the heat with one of Mia's delicious Italian desert tarts.



Menus available online at
>> ColumbusMag.com



MAKE SOME ITALIAN MAGIC AT HOME

Chef Unnone's Roasted Elephant Garlic

■ Douse one head of elephant garlic generously with olive oil, sprinkle with salt and wrap in tin foil. Bake for 20 minutes in the oven at 400 degrees. Squeeze the garlic out of the skin and use the paste in dips and sauces to add that perfect roasted garlic taste.



KIDS CAN DINE WELL

■ Mia Cucina offers a standard kids' menu, but will also prepare any entrée in a kid-sized portion. Kids can dine like kings at Mia, where parents can order a four ounce fillet—for only six bucks—for their little one.

facebook

FOR THE TECH SAVY

■ Mia's Facebook fan page provides status updates with news and specials, has photos capturing the building's renovation and grand opening, and acts as a forum for fans to express their approval of the new restaurant.

EXPERIENCED

■ The owners and chef collectively have over 60 years of experience in the industry. Vern came from Brio and Jack from P.F. Chang's.



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Know Your Drink



DEEP HISTORY

→ **1971** A committee of senior managers in Gilbeys of Ireland had the idea for a uniquely Irish drink reflecting Ireland's heritage.

→ **1974** Baileys was launched.

→ **1980s** Consumers start to drink Baileys over ice, thus creating more drinking occasions for Baileys to be enjoyed.

→ **1990s** Baileys became the single most successful new spirit to be introduced in the world in the last thirty years.

→ **2006** Launch two new Baileys products; Baileys with a hint of Mint Chocolate and Baileys with a hint of Caramel

→ **2008** Launch of Baileys with a hint of Coffee

ONLY NATURAL INGREDIENTS

Five simple ingredients make up Baileys unique flavor: cream, chocolate, sugar, a neutral spirit and Irish whiskey



PHOTO: BAILEYS

TRADITIONAL POUR Peter O'Connor

Peter O'Connor has been with R & A BAILEY & Co. for over 28 years, and is currently the Public Relations & External Affairs Director. We got Peter to chat about what makes Baileys Liqueur so magical. Visit www.Baileys.com for more.

Currently, Baileys sits at #7 on the list of Top 10 brands in the world. Is this due to the drink's utility, or eccentric make-up and taste? The reason for Baileys' success really comes down to its phenomenal taste. It's a very simple recipe, but it's a highly complex product. Baileys brings together two of Ireland's great traditions—dairying and distilling. Ireland's mild climate creates fantastic grass. Our cows graze on that grass for ten months of the year and produce the premier grand crew cream, the most expensive ingredient that goes into Baileys. We can only make Baileys in Ireland because of the quality of the cream. On the other side of that, we have a very fertile soil and phenomenal crops of grain, which led to the distilling industry. The whiskey that goes into Baileys is produced by Bushmills, the oldest licensed distillery in the world. So those two great traditions come together to give the brand its authenticity.

In the 1980s, consumers started to drink Baileys over ice. Was this a national or global trend, and what is the preferred pour in Ireland? The interesting thing is that in the United States, Baileys was always consumed over ice. But in most other parts of the world, including Ireland, the UK and much of Europe, ice was almost a rarity in the 70s and 80s. Ice does a few things to Baileys. You get a stronger blast of the flavor, then you get the whiskey effect, and finally the cream effect. When you put ice in Baileys, it cools the cream, which then takes a little bit longer to melt on your tongue, so you get a stronger taste of the flavors, depending on how cold the drink is. I recommend adding nothing to Baileys. It's already a perfect cocktail.

In the 1990s, Baileys became the single most successful new spirit to be introduced anywhere in the world in the

last 30 years. To what do you attribute this success? The Irish people are very fun loving and enjoy life. It comes from a great place, it's well known across the world, and there are millions of people of Irish blood all over the world. That's part of the authenticity of it. There are two and a half thousand glasses of Baileys consumed every minute of every day somewhere in the world, so it's a big brand coming from a great place. It's the original. It's the first cream liqueur on the marketplace, ever. And while times are tough for everyone across the globe, Baileys remains a very manageable and cost-effective little bit of indulgence to get you through the tough times.

Baileys has a two-year shelf life—opened or unopened. Explain the unique production process that binds the whiskey and the milk with no preservatives or additives. If you mix whiskey and cream, the whiskey will make the cream go sour. But Baileys has managed to give it a shelf life of 30 months. Basically, when we make Baileys, we separate the cream from the milk, and we're left with dairy protein and water. We add some of the protein back into the cream, which actually makes the cream have a positive charge on the outside of each molecule. Then we add in the alcohol. The alcohol has a negative charge and is attracted to the cream, and it coats the outside of each molecule. That keeps the cream fresh—that's the preservative. Nothing else. The normal preservative for other liqueurs is sugar in some form. Most of the cream liqueurs use a huge amount of sugar or some form of sugar syrup as part of the preserving process. That leaves an aftertaste in your mouth when you drink it. There's no aftertaste with Baileys.

■ Jason E. Ohlson



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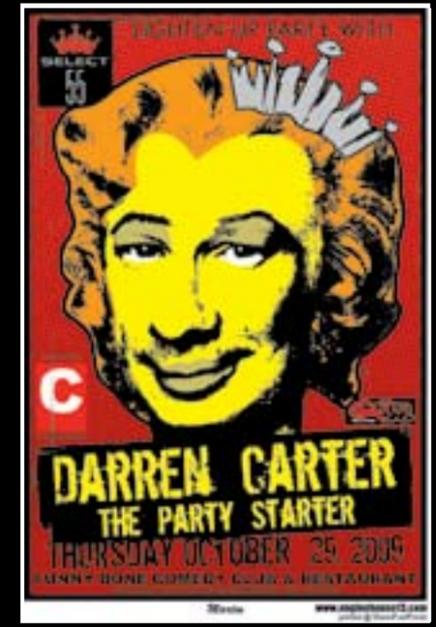
- 2 ice cubes each into a blender
- Add 50ml of Baileys per person
- Blend until completely smooth
- Pour into tall glasses

Remember to blend until completely smooth, leaving no big chunks





FUNNY BONE COMEDY CLUB & RESTAURANT



THE COLUMBUS MAGAZINE

ColumbusMag.com

LIGHTEN UP PARTY

| C Magazine's Lighten Up Party featured Select 55 – The Lightest Beer in the World – paired with a complimentary buffet at The Funny Bone Comedy Club on October 29. Cupcakes from Bakery Gingham and custom rock art from Mike Martin's Enginehouse 13 secured the smiles for the evening.

"THE PARTY STARTER"

| Darren Carter "The Party Starter" lived up to his name, bringing down the house with laughter. All the while, guests had no worries about ordering more appetizers or grabbing an extra cupcake on account of Select 55 having so few calories.

DEEPWOOD

DW: *an american tavern*



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DEAD CELEBRITY RUN | Halloween night at the High-Beck Tavern featured the annual Dead Celebrity Run, hosted by M3S Sports. Several Farrah's, Captain Lou's, two Michaels, and at least four Billies haunted three miles of German Village to congregate at the finish and potentially win a *C Magazine* "Night Out on the Town." Big smiles, great spirits, shared pitchers and hot pizzas were enjoyed by all.



RED BALL | On the night of October 29, the Social Club hosted the Red Ball *C Magazine* Halloween Party. Guys and ghouls came out to show off their hauntingly delightful costumes at one of Columbus' most exclusive up and coming clubs. All guests received gift bags full of great swag, but only the best dressed got to take home the grand prize "Night Out on the Town."



CAPITAL CITY MASQUERADE | Sharp-dressed Columbus professionals sought the winning hand during the Capital Club Monte Carlo Masquerade on November 6. This Casino Night with a mysterious twist featured attractive silent auction items and the opportunity to become a high-roller. Proceeds were to benefit Huckleberry House and the Young Executive Board Foundation.

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CRIME STOPPERS BREAKFAST | Dateline NBC's Chris Hansen was the Keynote Speaker at the Crime Stoppers Annual Breakfast on October 29. Mayor Michael Coleman made an appearance, introduced by distinguished emcees Dimitrious Stanley and Angela An. To some, the most inspiring was seeing Bosco the Police Dog take the stage to receive his personalized set of dog tags. Bosco and his handler, Officer Mike Schiele, were both shot while on duty.



DINING BY DESIGN | Dining by Design returned to the Columbus Veterans Memorial on October 16-17. The event featured design luminaries and culinary giants in a feast for the eyes and palate. Guests sipped cocktails and enjoyed great dishes from some of Columbus' top restaurants during this event to benefit two local area non-profit organizations.

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CREW AWARDS | The brightest stars from the Columbus Crew were plucked from the pitch and presented to the LC Pavilion podium on October 26. Noted recipients of the Budweiser Golden Boot Award, Most Valuable Player, and the Fan's Choice award mingled with the high rollers attending the Crew Casino. Plenty of luck and lovely ladies brought a hint of Vegas to downtown Columbus.



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MISS OHIO & MICHIGAN | We at *C Magazine* were honored to spend a day with Miss Ohio USA, Amanda Tempel, and Miss Michigan USA, Rima Fakhri, on October 24. The girls got dolled up for their exclusive photo shoot, sat down with *C Magazine* for a conversational Q&A and got some R&R at the Westin Hotel in downtown Columbus. The Westin's High Street Grill rounded out the day with a meal worthy of praise.

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RESURRECTED or REINVENTED?
The name "Magnum" originally belonged to a muscle car created in 1978. The original Dodge Magnum sold horribly and was taken off the market after only one year. The Magnum name was laid to rest until 2004 when Dodge revived the name and gifted it to their fierce new station wagon.



TURNING ON THE LIGHTS
Each year, the Licking County Court house gets decked out in holiday cheer. Surprisingly, one of the biggest contributors to this illuminated spectacle is an auto show. Each year, the "Lite the Night Car Show" is held in downtown Newark. Proceeds from this event go to local charities, as well as lighting the Licking County Court House at Christmas time.



DODGE HEMI MAGNUM

I have been a "motorhead" much longer than a "chilehead," so you might say my passion for hot cars blossomed into hot foods. I have been a Mopar fan since my early teens. I dreamed of owning a 426 Hemi powered muscle car, but life just didn't allow that to happen. My first ride was a '63 Plymouth powered with the old reliable 225 c.i. slant six. The next one was a '71 Dodge Challenger, but it was driven by a 318 small block V8, still lacking the heat I was dreaming about. The powers that be decided for many reasons to do away with the muscle car genre, and I was left to sate my desire with a series of custom vans (you know, those old hippy wagons!) Then family happened.



John Hard, Owner

When Chrysler thought it was time to bring back the big blocks, I was ecstatic. Though I was driving a custom PT at the time, I swore my next one would be the SRT 8. I selected the Magnum because most of the work had already been done. It looks chopped, channeled and is extremely well finished. It is powered by a 6.1 liter V-8 (6,059 cc) engine with 103.0 mm bore, 90.9 mm stroke, 10.3 compression ratio, overhead valves with two valves per cylinder. It produces 318 kW of power, 425 HP SAE @ 6,000 rpm, 420 ft lb of torque and 569 Nm @ 4,800 rpm. All of this from the factory!

Of course, "TorRed" was the color of choice, and to this point I have chosen to leave it stock. One word about the plate, Bhut Jolokia is the world's hottest chile. This may not be the world's hottest ride, but it is plenty hot for me! I'll watch for you in the mirror!

John Hard

COLUMBUS FUNNY BONE COMEDY CLUB & RESTAURANT

Look who we got!

JOSH SNEED DEC 9 - 13
Josh Sneed is quickly making his mark as one of the top young comics in the business. He finished 2nd out of 100 of Comedy Central's top comedians in the Annual Stand-up Showdown, earning him a deal to record a new album on Comedy Central Records.

PAUL MECURIO DEC 16 - 20
A writer for The Daily Show with Jon Stewart, Paul won an Emmy for Outstanding Individual Achievement for Writing. He's been a guest on Fox News Channel and makes regular appearances on CNN and MSNBC as a political satirist. He also has his own "Comedy Central Presents" special.

PHIL PALISOUL DEC 26 - 30
When you hear about comedian Phil Palisoul, one word often comes to mind - Who? Well, he's probably the funniest guy you haven't heard of yet. Paul's made appearance on NBC's Last Comic Standing and Comedy Central's Premium Blend.

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Runs on Candy This little guy looks like it rolled off the set of a children's educational program, and this ball of fun even comes with its own little robot friend. www.nissan-global.com/EN/PIVO2/

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**ART
WHERE'S**

Continued from p.27



ROCK THE HOUSE

Trans-Siberian Orchestra's hailed winter tour stops at Columbus' Nationwide Arena on January 3. Formed in 1996, Trans-Siberian Orchestra consists of three hugely talented songwriters—Paul O'Neill, Robert Kinkel and Jon Oliva—and an incredibly diverse collection of musicians, ranging from rock guitarists to R&B singers to classically trained instrumentalists. Don't miss this once-a-year event. Visit www.ticketmaster.com to purchase tickets.



TENOR TRIBUTE

Opera Columbus welcomes you to relive the artistry of Mario Lanza for one night only on December 12 at the Palace Theatre. This special tribute concert will be performed by renowned tenors Eduardo Villa, Randolph Locke and Gerard Powers. Audience members will also have a chance to view rare performance video of the legendary tenor. Visit www.operacolumbus.com to find more information.



PHOTO: ERIC WAGNER

DOUBLE SIDED Russell Boiarsky

Like most people interested in working in the music industry after graduating college, Russell Boiarsky took his chances and moved to Los Angeles after graduating college. Even though he'd been banging on a piano since he was a five-year-old, penning songs and playing music in bands around Houston for years, he took a chance to get into the business side of things. His time in L.A. and the difficulty of breaking into the industry due mostly to bad timing, inspired an array of songs centered on the same ideas.

"I started thinking about how you could turn things and look at them from a different perspective," says Boiarsky. "It was just a time in my life that I had a lot to think about."

Now, living in Columbus and married, Boiarsky has finally given those songs a proper treatment. Through a long and arduous mixing and recording process, his newest effort, *Turn*, was finished. His acoustic roots are inspired by the likes of 90s artists such as Toad and the Wet Sprocket. David Gray and Duncan Sheik are also evident, but there is an indie Death Cab for Cutie influence twisting around his

music that keeps the songs from becoming predictable.

"I like to start with something really simple and take it to a completely different place in my songs," says Boiarsky. "Like, one song I take a sun roof and expand it to imagining myself somewhere sunny and vibrant, but in reality, I'm just daydreaming in my car while stuck in traffic."

As Boiarsky got older, his songs became more in depth and focused on one idea. They aren't as broad and indirect, but still bring with them his dedication to melody and attempt at making the most of the time he has his listener's ear.

"It's really kind of hard to pack everything you want in that four to five minutes," Boiarsky says.

Boiarsky had a CD release party for *Turn* on November 7 at the Basement. For more information on Russell Boiarsky go to www.myspace.com/russellboiarsky

■ Cary Smith

HOLIDAY CONCERTS Three events to add a little music cheer to your holidays.

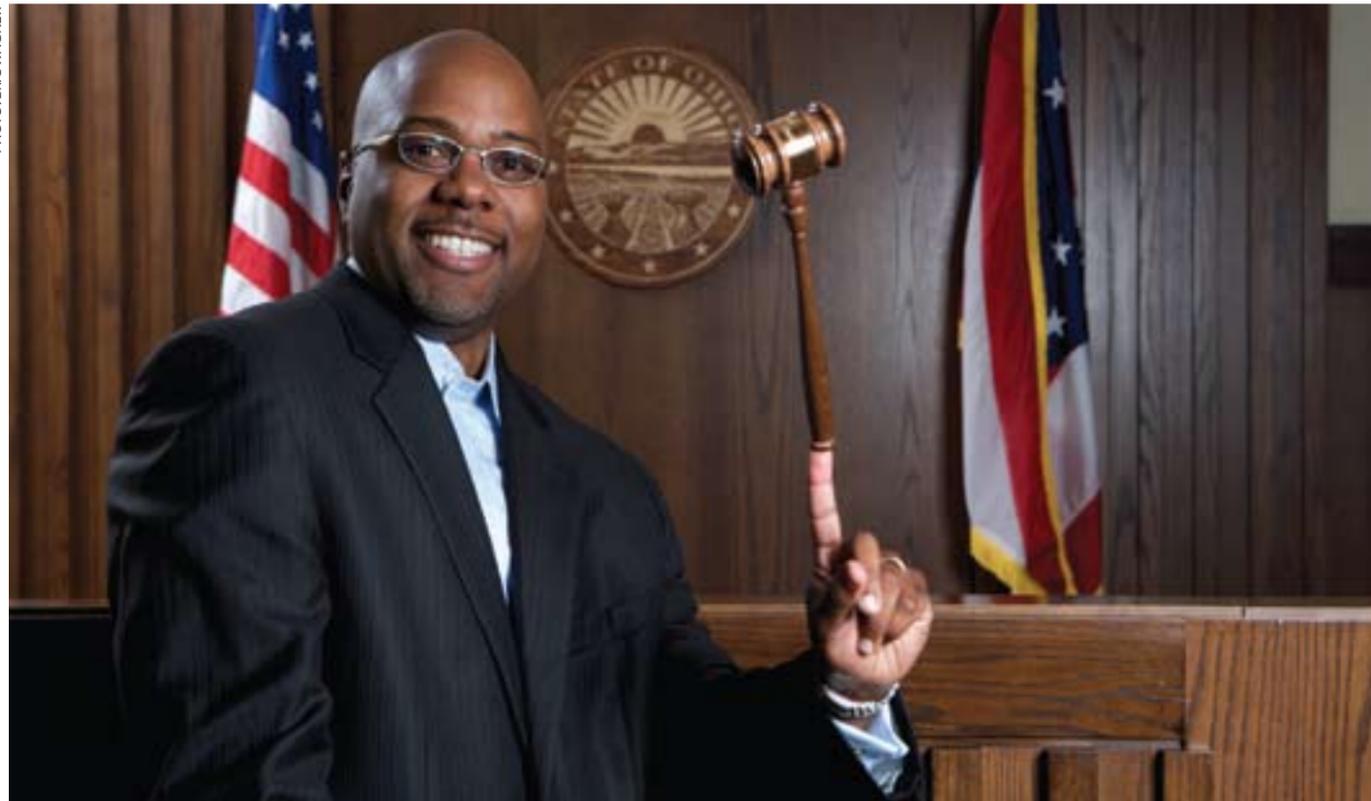


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PHOTO: ERIC WAGNER



ALL IN FAVOR Tim Horton

Franklin Court of Common Pleas Judge Tim Horton gives this month's Final Word. Judge Horton, a graduate of the OSU Moritz College of Law, expounds on reality TV, love, superstitions and misconceptions about the court system, among other topics. Check out our Q&A to read his closing remarks.

- What type of animal would you compare yourself to?** A lion. There's a mentality of those who want to be the best, to conquer and protect—and they rule.
- Coffee or tea?** Coffee.
- Is Starbucks overrated?** It's a chain—of course.
- Cats or dogs?** Dogs.
- Wheel of Fortune or Jeopardy?** *Wheel of Fortune.*
- What is your pet peeve?** Slow drivers.
- What would you do if you were told you only had two months to live?** I would spend every breath making sure that I lived life to the fullest by honoring all those who came before me, by trying to establish a legacy for those coming after me—my kids—and by inspiring my family and my community. I love giving the gift of inspiration. Everyone has their different beliefs and faiths—I would like to be able to wake up and have God pleased with my work.
- Would you ever be a part of a reality show?** Sure. It depends on the show, though. I just received a text from a friend that is interested in some legal type of show. If there's a show that wouldn't compromise integrity and totally exploit our judicial system, then I would love to do it. It must be something where you can educate the world about our system—the best system in the world.
- What's one thing you do on a daily basis?** When I wake up in the morning, before I leave for work, my family and I always get together and say a short prayer. Then I kiss my kids goodbye. I love them to death.
- If you could live anywhere in the entire world, where would it be, and why?** Probably one of the Carolinas. I need to have that natural warm weather and a tropical climate, followed by a brief brush of winter. Then I would continue to enjoy all the freedoms and privileges of the United States. I wouldn't trade that for anything.
- Was it love or lust at first sight?** When I first saw my wife, I knew she was special. I love my wife to death. It wasn't something where it was just lust—it was love. If it is the right view, you'll probably see both.
- Are you superstitious?** Only a little bit, but it depends. I appreciate routines. If things work, I keep going with it. Some may say that's superstition. If so, well, there you go.
- What type of songs do you have on your iPod?** I'm embarrassed to say I don't have an iPod.
- Do you believe in ghosts?** I don't believe in ghosts, but I believe in spirits. There's a subtle distinction in my mind. Ghosts seem more lost and haunted. A spirit has a purpose.
- What's the most difficult issue facing the court system today?** The disconnect between the judicial system and our communities. We don't understand it. If we had more dialogue and more exposure about the system, that would lead to better trust. Certain communities just don't trust the judicial system. If there was any area that I would try to improve, it would be more transparency with the judicial system and the community.
- What sinful food can you not resist?** Donuts.
- Favorite phrase?** Just do it.
- Jason E. Ohlson

Tom James

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