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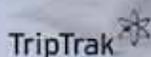
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from *C Magazine*



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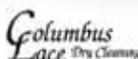
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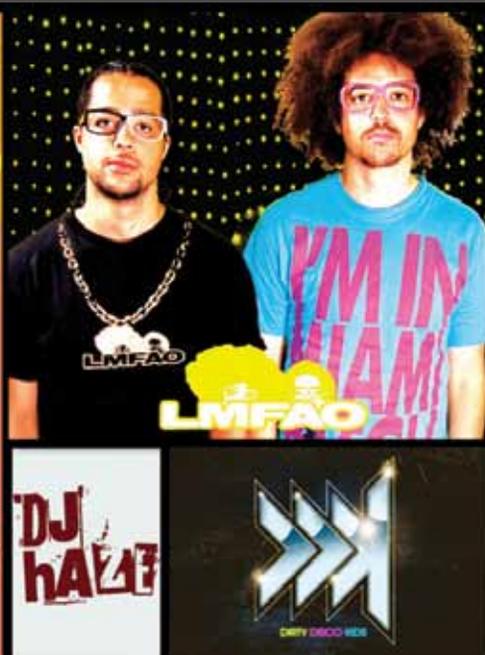
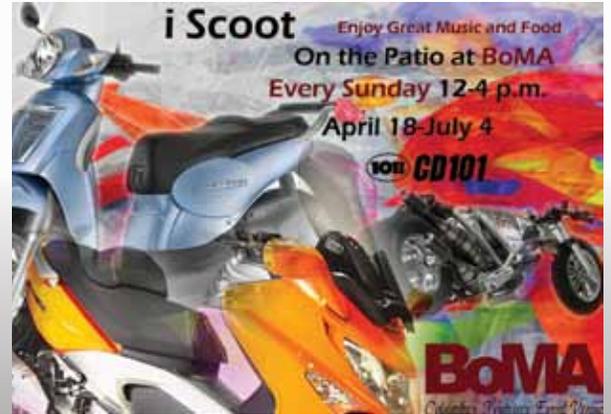
~Cat Bauman, Business First

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



THIS MONTH'S RELAX ISSUE IS CHAMPIONED BY PROFESSIONAL GOLFER AND OHIO NATIVE, BEN CURTIS. HIS HUMBLE BEGINNINGS AND FAMILY VALUES ARE THE FOUNDATION FOR HIS UNFORGETTABLE SUCCESS. READ ON TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS INSPIRING TALENT.

special thanks:
C MAGAZINE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF OUR SPONSORS, ADVERTISERS AND SUPPORTERS FOR THEIR MUCH APPRECIATED TIME AND ATTENTION OVER THE LAST NINE YEARS. AS ALWAYS, WE WILL CONTINUE TO BRING YOU THE INFORMATION YOU NEED TO ENJOY COLUMBUS IN FULL AND THE EXCLUSIVE FEATURES WE'RE CERTAIN YOU WON'T FIND ANYWHERE ELSE. LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL IN 2010!

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FROM THE EDITOR

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Jason Ohlson with professional golfer Ben Curtis.

SUMMER TRAGEDY

The first days of summer have fully raised the blinds of winter, revealing a resurrection of the fallen from two seasons past. Katelynn, my dog, screams across the lawn, shedding that which made her tired through the cold, dark winter, for a ball she knows won't be lost.

Like a bullet she darts, low to the ground, exploding dozens of dandelion parachutes into the cool, comfortable breeze. The rich guy in the sky casts infinite diamonds about the dappled face of the river, and the trees no longer look afraid; their dendrite-like arms reach out, offering their budded babies to the day.

Nature truly has no parallel in elegance; the ducks swim their weight in feathers, delivering a magical performance of grace. There is no truth out here today, only life: Artless actions that keep the world spinning with purpose and beauty.

I sit and hope that I, too, will act my part this summer in the play whose lines I know by heart. Tragic ball in mouth. Katelynn returns, stopping to roll on a dead animal on her way back from winter. Right then, I am reminded to stop, breathe and smile.

As this issue suggests, be sure to relax this summer. Enjoy the many moments that define your days and court your dreams. Save a brushstroke for every day to mark your name, simple reminders that you've remembered to live, despite the chaos of preoccupation.

Take a note from this month's cover star, Ben Curtis. He's living proof that the best moments come suddenly, but linger a lifetime. Availability is key.

Jason E. Ohlson

RELAX 2010



COVER STORY

26 | BEN CURTIS

Hometown golfer Ben Curtis catapulted to professional success after winning the 2003 British Open. Here, he reveals his humble beginnings, how he steers clear of the limelight and manages a work-life balance by following one simple piece of advice given to him by a Kent State coach.

15 | SUITLESS

This month we found three guys who, in the pursuit of their passions, have found true happiness in life. B.J. Doss brings his silk-screen printing company to the Midwest; Dan Frey searches the world over for hard-to-find wines; and Adam Eldridge traded in his corporate suit to build bicycles.

21 | TRAVEL

Hocking Hills provides more than just a day-trip destination. This magical landscape rooted in the Appalachian Highlands is speckled with untold inns, spas, fine dining and extraordinary outdoor experiences. Here, Travel expert Debbie Sproul takes a closer look at what this area has to offer.

22 | 9 FOR \$9

Breakfast for lunch, phat wraps and sandwiches galore will tame the heartiest of appetites at these inexpensive lunchtime spots. Diners, grills, taverns and more plate up delectable dishes lickety-split, and all for under \$9. Check out www.ColumbusMag.com for more than 400 lunchtime favorites.

34 | THE FARE

Sage American Bistro in Clintonville serves upscale American on an ever-evolving menu. One visit to Sage will not be a clone of your next dining experience as chef and owner William Glover revamps his modestly sized menu every 60 days to incorporate seasonal ingredients.

45 | RIDE 23

Austin Germain writes about the first time he restored a car — a 1969 Camaro RS when he was 16 years old. The project was restorative for both the car and Germain, who was recovering from a broken back. When the new 2010 Camaro came out with its throwback design, he knew he had to have one.

47 | BEYOND 270

For Amy and Meagan Alwood, the record player was a constant factor growing up, and their mother's music collection was their playground. The two formed their musical group The Alwood Sisters with two brothers, Jovan and Milan Karcic. Take a listen to their tunes, and you can hear the influences of their childhood.

48 | FINAL WORD

New Albany's major, Nancy Ferguson, gives the Final Word this month. This public figure has a deep interest in architecture, and her aspirations for New Albany include cultivating a great arts organization in the village. Read about her thoughts on being mayor of one of the fastest growing Columbus suburbs.



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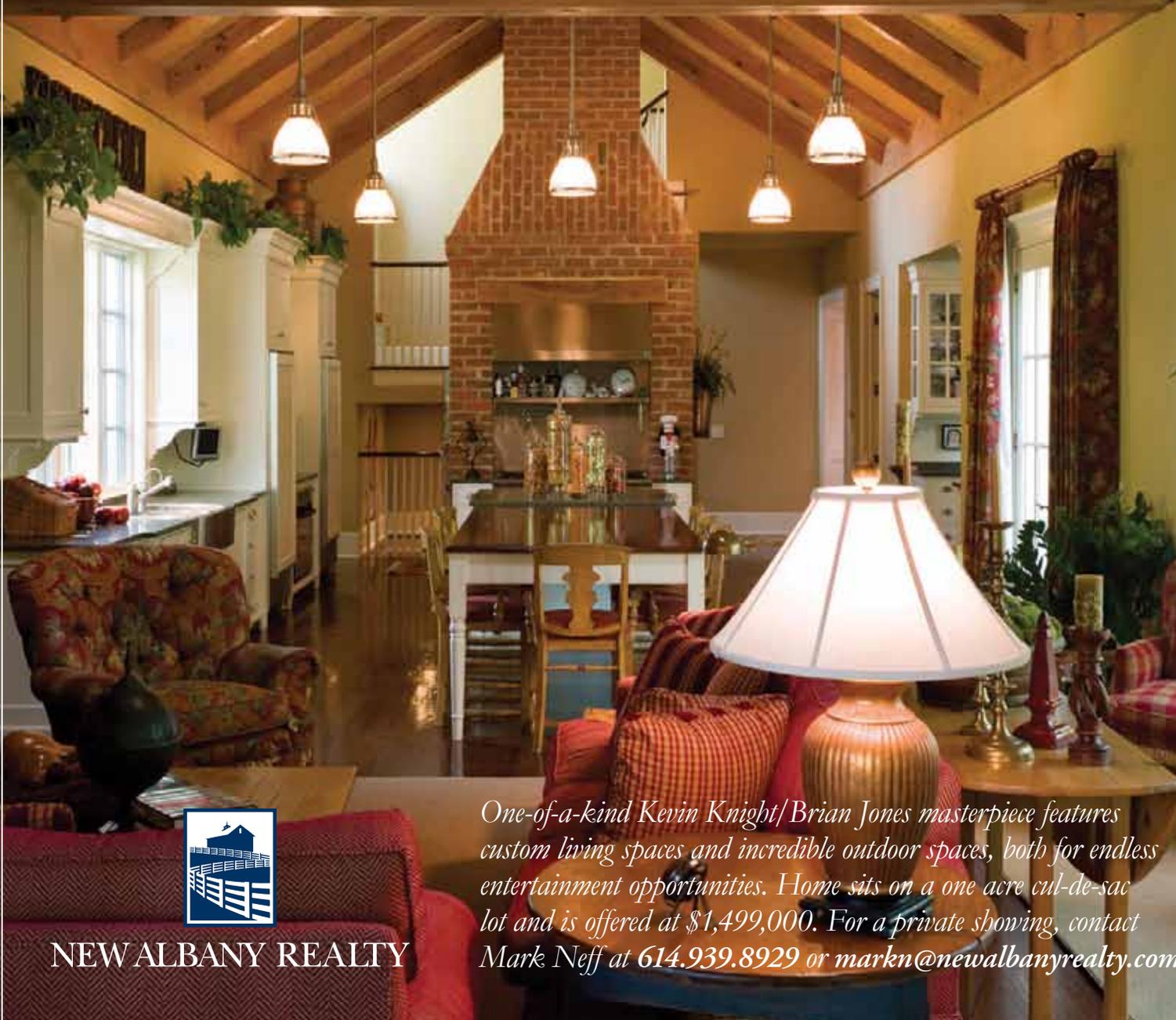
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NEW ENGLAND HOMES

A 2009 People's Choice Award Winner, this Dutch colonial design has a stunning bridal staircase, extensive landscape package with reflection pool and rear patio entertainment area, first floor guest suite plus master suite with spa bath and two additional bedrooms on the second floor. Over 4,400 square feet. Offered at \$869,000



KEVIN KNIGHT & COMPANY

This incredible home features a first floor master retreat, wide open grand chef's kitchen and great room, party barn/garage, incredible lower level with rec room, bar, wine cellar and full bath and a majestic outdoor living space with covered loggia, built-in pizza oven and outdoor fireplace. Over 5,500 square feet of space. Offered at \$950,000



SOLD

ZEPPERNICK CUSTOM HOMES

Along with its exceptional location, this home features a lodge room with custom bar, 20' stone fireplace and a vaulted pine ceiling in the great room, a kitchen and breakfast bar designed for entertaining, four bedrooms, three full and one half bath and a second floor master suite with private terrace off of the master bath. 4,400 square feet.



DANI HOMES, LTD.

The early American farmhouse exterior of this home is blended with sharp urban interior features including state-of-the-art technology and extensive home entertainment package. First floor master suite plus four huge bedroom suites and two study and gaming lofts, two-story great room and amazing chef's kitchen. Over 5,100 square feet. Offered at \$850,000



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Growing up in the real estate and construction industry, Mark Neff has worked in the real estate business for more than 25 years. He has been with New Albany Realty since its opening in 1992 and has since had an active role in the planning, development, design, and construction of hundreds of land and home sales in the New Albany, Ohio area. A skilled sales agent, Mark is knowledgeable in all aspects of the home sales process. He continues to build his business on ethical practices, trust, and compassion and is proud to be part of this year's 2010 BIA Parade of Homes.

Mark B. Neff ✪ New Albany Realty

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CHANGING GEARS ADAM ELDRIDGE

Adam Eldridge traded in his suits, BMW and corporate marketing job for cycling tights, a handcrafted bicycle and his own business. He’s the owner and only employee of his start-up custom bike shop, Stanridge Speed. Creating his own business came after discovering that being employed for a corporation left him unsatisfied and didn’t provide an outlet for his deep love of building things.

“When you get out of college, you think, ‘I’m going to be a millionaire and make all this money,’ and then you really start to realize what’s important and what’s not important,” Eldridge says. “So here I am, going from driving a 7 Series BMW to riding the COTA bus – but I’m much happier now.”

He oversees the bike-building process from beginning to finish, starting with taking the measurements of a customer before handcrafting a custom frame. Eldridge estimates the process takes 80 hours from start to finish – 80 hours that he squeezes in between shifts as a manager at Roll bike shop at Easton, where he rides his bike every day from German Village. In fact, he estimates he hasn’t driven a car in two to three months.

His love for tinkering and creating was deeply influenced by his two grandfathers. “They were always building and creating, and they were both self-made. So they weren’t reliant on anyone else.” As a child, he spent summers living with one grandfather who lived in Kentucky, and the other in Tennessee. It’s from these two influential figures, George Stanton and J.M. Eldridge, that the name Stanridge Speed is derived.

Eldridge’s custom frames start at \$1,750. When quality, labor and the assurance that the bike is not coming from a faceless factory are taken in account, the cost is wholly justified.

“I worked for corporations and at jobs that didn’t really have meaning behind them. You start to wonder, ‘Is what I’m doing really making a difference in the grand scheme of things?’ Whereas when I start off with this, I know that I’m going to make this, somebody is going to ride it. I have a direct effect on each individual that I build a bike for.”

■ Annie Beecham

SCENT OF A PRINCESS



Princess Grace on her wedding day

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Enjoy a real-life storybook romance with Fleurissimo, the classic floral fragrance commissioned by Prince Rainier of Monaco for his bride, Grace Kelly, for their wedding day. Fleurissimo was made to complement the bouquet of white flowers Princess Grace carried as she walked down the aisle. In 2006, CREED celebrated the 50th anniversary of the royal wedding and Fleurissimo.

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- Use it to dress down an outfit.



CASUAL COOL B.J. "ELVIS" DOSS

B.J. "Elvis" Doss, a West Coast enthusiast who adopted the nickname "Elvis" from his high school friends, never dreamt his business would be what it is today. The eminent silk-screen printing company originated in San Diego, nearly 20 years ago, when a spontaneous idea quickly turned into a four-press operation in his small, dinky garage. "I always wanted to do my own thing," Doss says. "I knew if the opportunity came about and the idea was good, I would run with it."

With hopes of becoming more centrally established and pursuing other personal goals, Doss decided to venture back to his roots – to the great Buckeye state, bringing his family and beloved work with him. On account of his entertaining personality and strong desire to take the fun, familiar name of "Hollywood" back to the Midwest, he firmly declared "Hollywood Imprints" the captivating name of his business.

"I like it because it already has name recognition and it's fun," Doss says. "I wanted this all to be Hollywood-theme

based." With an independent, brawny mentality and an eagerness shining through, his company has gracefully evolved, earning contracts with companies like Reebok, Victoria's Secret and The American Cancer Society. Aside from doing a substantial amount of work with these large corporations, he's also printed for the past three Super Bowls as well as the Buckeye playoffs. The company is making the statement in ink — and it shows.

"The most rewarding thing is seeing the finished product out on the shelves," Doss says. The eccentricity and creative thinking behind the imprint team uplifts their image, setting them apart from all other competitors. Hollywood Imprints makes a big impact on numbers and quick turnaround times, which is also another big reason behind the company's success. "Our speed and quality really can't be met," Doss says. "That's definitely our specialty."

■ Erica Zurmehly

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LETTING IT BREATHE DAN FREY

Dan Frey hunts for the little-known vineyards of the world. He searches for the ones that have been run by the same family for hundreds of years and have produced a wine made with an intimacy that can't be found at a big winery — where equipment that rivals the industrial gall of an oil refinery is the norm.

Frey looks off the beaten path to find wines that might have never left the country and brings them back with him to the restaurants of Ohio. "Literally every winery that I found, I seemed to be lost at the time," Frey says. "It just worked out that it was exactly what I was looking for."

Frey runs Solera Imports, a wine wholesaler in Dublin, Ohio. His interest in all-things-wine was piqued through wine classes at college, while pursuing a degree in economics. He learned everything about wine, from the grape to the bottle, and it became a passionate hobby that eventually parlayed into a career.

He's traveled the globe, from New Zealand to South America, going to wineries and looking for the highest-quality wines. "I'm really interested in the culture and the people of wine," Frey says. "I like to find out as much as I can about the people around the production of the wine."

His idea with Solera Imports was to fill a niche in stores and restaurants with affordable and high-quality wines that you just can't find anywhere. Amazingly, the smaller wineries that Frey sought out sold their wine at a more favorable cost than some of the bigger more-established places. Also, he was introducing the diamonds in the rough that he had discovered to the world.

"I literally had this woman in Italy cry when she found out I was going to buy almost all of her production," Frey says. "She was amazed at the prospect of her wine being sold as far way as America."

■ Cary Smith

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Retreat & Revive: Local Escapes



Traveling the world is exciting, interesting and fun. But, we often overlook the treasures that lie in our own backyard. With the summer driving season upon us, I would like to dedicate the next few columns to adventures right here in the Buckeye State.

The first destination we will explore is Hocking Hills. This area is near and dear to my heart because my husband and I spent many a day with our two sons cavorting through this magical landscape. Hocking Hills is part of the Appalachian Highlands – a heavily wooded area with deep gorges, waterfalls and rock formations. Some of the most interesting areas include Old Man’s Cave, a deep and narrow gorge with beautiful waterfalls; Rockhouse, with many cliffs and a rock shelter; Cantwell Cliffs, a gorge at the head of a hollow with a stone stairway; and two large rock shelters with waterfalls known as Ash Cave and Cedar Falls.

Like many others, I thought of Hocking Hills as a day trip, until I recently discovered its plethora of inns, spas, fine dining and extraordinary outdoor experiences. Last May I made the trip with some of AAA’s travel professionals to take a closer look. We were astonished to find some of the most outstanding lodging establishments we had ever seen right here in our backyard. We were so convinced that our members would also love the area, we developed getaway packages with three premier properties.

The Inn and Spa at Cedar Falls offers rooms at the original inn, comfy cabins deep in the woods and cozy cottages perfect for a romantic getaway. Be sure to dine here for an award-winning meal from Chef Anthony Schulz, a graduate of the French Culinary Institute of New York City, who uses seasonal, fresh local products. Don’t forget to book a spa treatment during your stay.

Cherry Ridge Retreat is a unique property situated on 140 acres of private forested land. You will have a whole new perspective on the word “cabin” after visiting this peaceful, totally secluded retreat. The cabins are beautifully appointed and include many sought-after amenities like hot tubs, gourmet kitchens and 28” TVs with satellite channels.

Glenlaurel is a Scottish country inn with wooded cottages and crofts located on a 140- acre estate. The accommodations are cozy and comfortable and you will feel like you have stepped back in time in this storybook setting. Dining is a true culinary experience with gourmet cuisine with a Scottish flair.

Call, click or come on in for much more information on this fascinating area. Be sure to ask for one of our Dream Getaways guides, complete with travel ideas for Ohio and beyond.

■ Debbie Sproul, Executive Vice President
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Triple Decker Grilled Cheese (\$7.95)

Cap City

1299 Olentangy River Road Columbus, OH (614) 291-3663 - Upper Arlington

Do you remember what your grandma's kitchen looked like? Well picture that, now only imagine it got a facelift. The result might look something like Cap City Diner. The walls and décor are bright with hues of red and yellow. The only thing it seems the retro style is missing is Audrey Hepburn and James Dean. The diner serves everything from mussels and meatloaf, to four-egg omelets. We had the privilege of devouring the **Triple Decker Grilled Cheese** (\$7.95). Fried eggs, scallions, tomato and dijonnaise are presented on country white toast. Now, how's that for inventive?

Phat Wraps

10 East 12th Ave. Columbus, OH (614)-754-1711 - Campus

This totally green and groovy place boasts a healthy alternative to "fast food." The spot is devoid of processed food, committed to being environmentally friendly, and uses biodegradable takeout boxes, napkins and utensils made out of potatoes. Phat Wraps serves up only the freshest local ingredients and offers energy drinks, vitamin water and bottled water made from plant products! Sample the simply delicious **Grilled Vegan Soy** (\$6.00). It starts with a thin grilled flatbread filled with grilled vegan soy, Monterey Jack cheese, fresh vegetables and homemade dressing.



Grilled Vegan Soy (\$6.00)

Michael O'Toole's

263 E. Whittier St. Columbus, OH (614) 443-3699 - German Village

The vaulted ceilings, spacious layout and wide-open windows are just a few of the notable features of this newly opened restaurant. If your appetite simply can't be fulfilled with anything other than great American food, comfortable surroundings and a jovial staff, then you've found yourself a new home. While you're in, try the **Half Sandwich with Soup or Salad** (\$8.99), comprised of turkey, ham, smoked bacon, Swiss and cheddar cheeses, lettuce, tomato and mayonnaise, paired with your choice of a fresh salad or homemade soup.



Half Sandwich with Soup or Salad (\$8.99)

Si Señor

6 East Long St. Columbus, OH (614) 227-0070 - Downtown

Treating yourself to a freshly prepared, made-to-order Latin flavored dish sounds amazing, right? Si, señor! That's what we thought, too. Traditional American fare is served here but jazzed up with detailed flavors like jalapenos, chipotle sauce and avocado mayo. The upbeat music adds a special flair that nicely complements the bright décor and smiling faces. Taste the **Chipotle Chicken** (\$6.25), a tender, juicy breast layered with chipotle barbeque, cheddar cheese, lettuce, tomato and mayo. We just hope you can concentrate on work once you've endured this meal.



Chipotle Chicken (\$6.25)

Bernard's Tavern

630 N. High St. Columbus, OH (614)223-9601 - Short North

Bernard's Tavern is the new, hip neighborhood spot to visit in the Short North. It has an assortment of food like the "Not Your Mom's Grilled Cheese Sandwich" that incorporates not one, not two, but three different kinds of cheeses. The definite crowd pleaser, though, is the baked Mac 'n' Cheese. Our favorite was the **Chicken Salad Sandwich** (\$7.95). Chicken salad gets gussied with cranberries, grapes and apples and comes served on a pretzel roll with the secret house dressing, lettuce, tomato and red onion on the side.



Chicken Salad Sandwich (\$7.95)



Migas Plate (\$5.99)

Eggfast

24 East 12th Ave. Columbus, OH (614) 299-3447 - Campus

Fast, hot, tasty and wholesome – four words that completely illustrate this breakfast bistro. Stop in and devour the signature Blueberry Buttermilk Pancakes or the Thick-Cut French Toast. What's especially great is the ability to enjoy this tasty menu at all hours of the day the bistro is open 24/7. Our favorite is the **Migas Plate** (\$5.99). Your plate comes covered with a base layer of scrambled eggs, tangy Pico de Gallo and crisp corn chips, then gets topped with cheese, verde sauce or homemade chipotle sauce. You pick out the accompanying breakfast meat.



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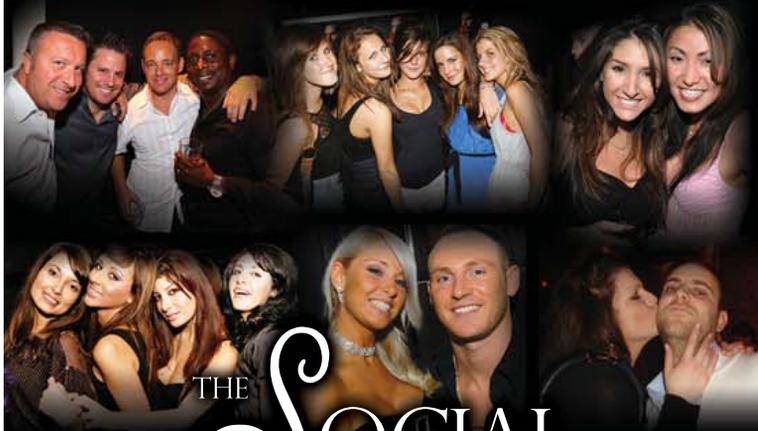
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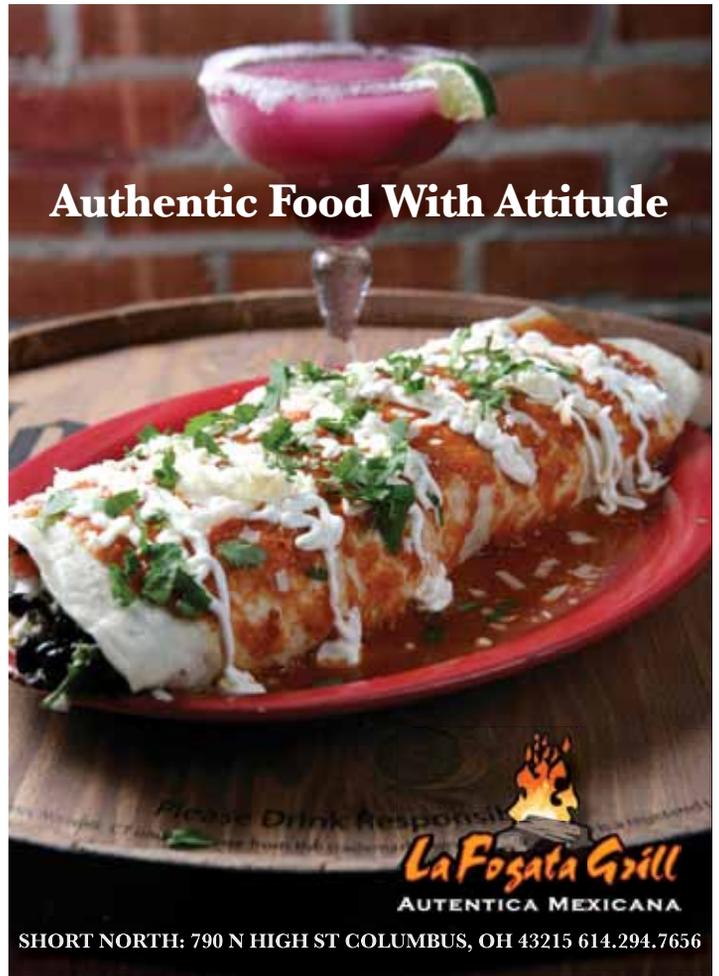


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#10 or Tom (\$9)

Lac Viet

1506 Bethel Road Columbus, OH (614) 221-0777 - Worthington

If you're a beginner looking to get acquainted with real, great Vietnamese food, this is the place to go. Even if you're an expert on the food, take your co-workers here to experience what your taste buds have been craving, and show off your impressive knowledge about the cuisine. You'll be refreshed by the cleanliness and quality customer service this restaurant reveals. The flavors of each dish are fresh and delightful. We especially loved the #10 or Tom (\$9). It's a bowl full of grilled shrimp with rice, Vermicelli, lettuce, tomato, bean sprouts and cilantro.

Coaches Bar & Grill

1480 Bethel Road Columbus, OH (614) 457-3353 - Worthington

It's baseball season, spring weather is full-fledged and you're craving a nice, delicious meal. There's just one minor problem, you're stuck at work. Well, don't worry, that's what we're here for - to solve your lunchtime dilemmas. Coaches is filled with more than a dozen flat-screen TVs showcasing about every sport possible. The grill also has an awesome outdoor patio and serves up the finest food choices to compliment these features. **The Italian Sub (\$6)** is our favorite. This oven-baked delight is filled with Capicola ham, salami and provolone cheese topped with lettuce, tomato, banana peppers and Italian dressing.



The Italian Sub (\$6)

Starliner Diner

5240 Cemetery Road Hilliard, OH (614) 529-1198 - Hilliard

There might be some confusion as to what exactly all of the funky, fun décor is that's plastered all over every inch of the restaurant, but there's one thing for certain - no wall space is wasted here! The murals depict a whimsical, fantasy-like world, and the dishes are filled with Latin-infused flavors. Order the **Chiliquiles Southwestern Scram (\$8.00)**. Eggs scrambled with peppers, onions, corn, and zucchini are tossed with a smoked Chile cream sauce, Monterey Jack cheese and cilantro. Served with a side of black beans.



Chiliquiles Southwestern Scram (\$8.00)



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

ART WHERE'S



POPPIN' LIKE IT'S HOT

This year's Nationwide Insurance Picnic with the Pops runs June 19th through July 31st, and will feature Grammy Award-winning singer/songwriter Peter Cetera, Kansas, The Ohio State University Marching Band and Wicked Divas (two of Broadway's Elphabas from *WICKED*, Julia Murney and Stephanie J. Block, together for the first time). The 2010 Nationwide Insurance Popcorn Pops runs June 25th through July 23rd, and will feature three special family concerts

recommended for children ages 3-12. The 4th of July program, Patriotic Pops, will, of course, conclude with fireworks.

Most of the regular season and several of the Popcorn Pops are led by Albert-George Schram, a man who should really have a cartoon modeled after himself. His talent and personality highlight each evening spent with the Pops.

As always, you can enjoy the evening "picnic style" on the lawn with your own gourmet fare or purchase reserved seating for one of the center stage tables and have your evening catered by Vito's. Either way, rain or shine, the Pops will go on. Tickets can be purchased at www.picnicwiththepops.com for \$12 or are available at Giant Eagle locations for a discounted price of \$11. See you there!



CRAZY LOVE

Grammy Award-winner and heartfelt-crooner Michael Bublé returns to the Buckeye state on June 30 at Nationwide Arena. The tour, which is in support of his new album *Crazy Love* is noted as a tour that will be "bombastic, cinematic and at the same time a very intimate experience." That's quite a list to deliver on, Mr. Bublé, but we think you can do it. Tickets are still available at www.ticketmaster.com.

THE RETURN OF DAVE

Back in the days of the Polaris Amphitheater, the Dave Matthews Band provided the soundtrack to the kickoff of summer in Columbus. But when Polaris (and Germain, too) left, we didn't see Dave and the guys for quite some time. Shed no more tears though, because they are back to play Huntington Park on June 22. If you thought they rocked out in the suburbs, just wait until they play in the heart of downtown. Visit www.ticketmaster.com for tickets and more info.



More to C » p.47

BEN CURTIS IN THE MOMENT

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

Ben Curtis is a 33-year-old whose life trajectory seems not that much different than other 30-somethings. He grew up in Ostrander, Ohio, graduated from Kent State University with a degree in Recreation Management and married a wonderful woman, whom he met in college. The couple has two young children and two dogs. He works full time to provide his family with luxuries like their homes in Florida and Stow, Ohio, and he loves spending time with his wife and children. His life might even resemble yours, except for a few details: Curtis' workweek doesn't usually start until Thursday, and when he does finally go to work, it's on a world-class golf course somewhere in the world.





BEN CURTIS » IN THE MOMENT

Curtis is a professional golfer. He was a star on Buckeye Valley High School and Kent State's teams before going pro in 2000. His big break came when he, as the 300:1 underdog, won the prestigious 2003 British Open. During the same year, he won PGA Tour Rookie of the Year. Though his professional earnings are close to the \$10 million mark, Curtis is unlike most other pro athletes. He steers clear of the limelight, living by a simple piece of advice given to him by his coach at Kent State, Herb Page: "Just be Ben Curtis. Don't try to be anybody else." And he's found that it's when he follows that straightforward suggestion that he performs his best. In our exclusive Q&A and photo shoot with this homegrown golf pro, Curtis explains his unique work-life balance.

Q & A:

WHERE EXACTLY IS OSTRANDER, OHIO?

It's almost dead smack in the middle between Delaware and Marysville, off of 36. If you blink you'll miss it. Seriously, there are no lights, there's just one little stop sign on the main corner there, but you can easily miss it, that's for sure.

WHERE DID YOU GO TO HIGH SCHOOL?

Buckeye Valley.

WHAT IS YOUR FONDEST KENT STATE GOLF MEMORY?

We had a lot of good memories the four years that I played. The fondest memory was at NCAA finals my senior year. We finished ninth. We had a really good player, he was a freshman. He got in some trouble, and he was dismissed from the team. So we

had two new guys that came in and stepped up and played really good for the last two tournaments of the year without this other kid. And just how we all bonded and have friendships to this day and how it brought the whole team closer with the coaches and players. I knew it was my last event at Kent State. It was just unique, because you'd look at the five of us and probably think we would never get along.

WHAT IS YOUR FONDEST NON-GOLF MEMORY?

I met my wife Candace there, obviously that was huge. I was a junior, she was two years behind. She was a freshman. She actually then walked onto the golf team the next year and played a little bit. I met her at a party and then actually we didn't date until after I left



school. She was dating a good friend of mine, and they broke it off, and we were good friends — and the next thing you know, two kids [laughs].

YOU TURNED PRO IN 2000. REFLECT BACK ON YOUR FIRST PRO START.

Well my first pro start was actually a tour event, which was Callaway Gardens in Georgia, which was out in the middle of nowhere. It was really odd because you think of the tour, you think of L.A., you think of Chicago, you think of New York, you think of Atlanta, you

think of the big cities — then we're out in the middle of nowhere. I remember playing, I was so nervous. I had just signed with IMG two weeks before, and that was one of their things — signing with them they would get me in that event and go down there and struggle. I just remember being really nervous, a little bit uncomfortable. The first event, you might want to play in a two-day event somewhere, Hooter's or a nationwide event, but you start out in the PGA Tour. A lot of pressure because you know if you play well, you

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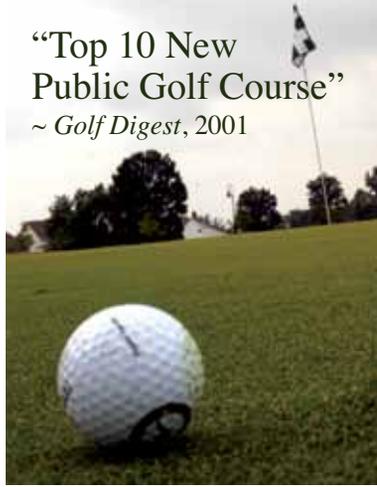


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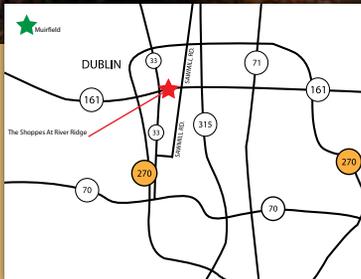
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BEN CURTIS » IN THE MOMENT

can get your tour card in one week and set yourself up forever almost. Even though I didn't play well, it didn't distract me from keeping confidence. It was a learning experience.

YOU WERE A 300:1 OUTSIDER WHEN YOU ENTERED THE 2003 BRITISH OPEN. YOU WENT ON TO BEAT BOTH VIJAY SINGH AND THOMAS BJORN ON THE FINAL DAY. WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT YOURSELF THAT DAY?

It's a funny story. We're going to bed, and I was two shots back, and Candace was like, "How are you feeling?" I was a bit quiet, we were just reading some books, and we had a tiny little place, it wasn't even big enough to put a bed in it. And she was like, "How do you feel about tomorrow?" and I'm like, "I'm gonna win." And she looked at me, didn't

don't just do that stuff. It kind of just fell apart from there. But, you know, I stayed pretty calm. I didn't let the bogeys bother me. At the beginning of the week, I would have thought just a cut would have been a victory, first major and all that. Second, playing good would have been above all expectations, but to win it? I never even thought about that until I got on that twelfth hole.

YOU'VE MADE JUST UNDER \$10 MILLION IN YOUR NINE YEARS AS A PRO. GROWING UP IN OHIO, WAS THERE EVER A TIME WHILE HITTING BALLS IN THE STICKS WHEN YOU THOUGHT YOU'D BE THIS SUCCESSFUL?

There were always dreams of it, but did I honestly think it would happen? I don't think so. As a kid, obviously you dream big, but no — not really.

"I don't play golf for publicity or money. I play golf because I love it and it's my job."

even say a word, closed her eyes. She said she didn't hardly sleep. I slept fine. It was just one of those feelings I got. I felt comfortable, like "Holy crap what's going on here?" Looking back on it, what was I thinking?

WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT THE GOLF FIELD AS A WHOLE?

Obviously, when I birdied at eleventh, I was five under for the day and I get up on the twelfth tee, and I'm like, "What am I doing out here? I'm leading the British Open." You

I remember just sitting around my grandmother's, "If you make it big on a tour, you're gonna buy me a red convertible."

DO YOU HAVE AN OPINION ON TIGER'S ORDEAL?

No. I think he's just got to get his priorities set and move on. He's not a bad guy, not a terrible guy. And she's a great person, two great kids, and I think that's what makes it all so tough, you got two kids involved.

EXPLAIN TO OUR READERS THE MENTAL FATIGUE YOUR

SPORT OFTEN CAUSES.

It definitely is fatiguing. Every Monday I do not want to move after an event. I just want my brain to shut off, go on the couch, watch some TV. It's just a lazy day, a shutdown day. It's amazing how you don't think about it — Sunday you'll feel great — you're in the tournament, you feel energized. And then Monday you'll wake up and you can hardly move, don't even want to move. I think it's more your brain shuts down. It's like, "OK. That week is over." All that energy leaves you.

EQUATE A SEASON OF GOLF TO SOMETHING.

A lot of people think I'm crazy, but imagine going to Disney World five days in a row with your kids. That would be how we would feel.

WHAT WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT RESOLUTION YOU EVER MADE?

I don't really make any, to be honest.

CAN YOU COOK ANYTHING? IF SO, WHAT'S YOUR BEST DISH?

I can cook a bit. I'm not the best chef, but pretty basic. I love to grill. Candace does all of the salads and all of the potatoes and all that. Not that I can't do it, but there would have to be written instructions on the package for me. We always like to eat in when we can.

WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST MISTAKE YOU EVER MADE?

I don't have too many regrets. I do believe everything happens for a reason, but there are things I could have done better. In '04-'05 I could

have been more focused on my career. I had to go through the hardship to learn from it. I think the biggest regret I ever had was pushing Candace and myself to believe that Florida was the right option, and it really wasn't. We had a place in Jupiter, and now Orlando. And Orlando is fine, and we love the community we live in, but just because it's great for my game and I can golf year-round, doesn't necessarily make me a better player or person.

FONDEST MEMORY GROWING UP?

Building that relationship with my grandfather through golf. It was funny because I had some older cousins that were pretty good at golf. They tried to make a career out of it, and it didn't happen. But for some reason my grandfather believed in me from day one. That happiest photo I've ever seen with him is when I got my tour card and I came home and we have a picture. I'm holding up the PGA tour card, and he's on his bed because he wasn't doing too well. Just building that relationship with him, someone other than your mom and dad.

WHAT TALENT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO HAVE?

To be more handy around the house. Candace's father is a homebuilder and he's building our house. Her brother can do a lot of that stuff. And Candace can do more around the house than I can. I think because I was at the golf course all the time. My dad's handy, my grandfather's handy, but me? I don't have the knack for it. I haven't done it enough.



BEN CURTIS » IN THE MOMENT

YOU'RE WALKING DOWN DEATH ROW. WHAT WAS YOUR LAST MEAL?

A big steak, definitely. A filet, American grown. Good sushi, a couple pieces. Definitely green beans and mashed potatoes. Coke. I'm not a big drinker. I'll have a beer every now and then. But with my meal, it's always water or Coke.

WHO IS THE MOST OVERPAID PERSON IN SPORTS?

Baseball players. A pitcher in baseball — I know how important they are to a team, but are they worth \$15 million a year? There's the opposite — there are guys like LeBron who you could probably never pay enough, just for what he's done for Cleveland, for Ohio, for the Cavs organization in general. They probably couldn't pay him enough. But overpaid athlete? Anyone wearing a Steelers jersey.

WHAT IS THE SINGLE MOST PIVOTAL EVENT OF YOUR LIFE?

I'd say there's a couple. The British Open every year — love going there because it's always different even if you go to the same place. There's no particular thing. Christmas is obviously important with the kids now.

DO YOU THINK THERE IS ANY SORT OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IMPLICIT IN BEING A PRO ATHLETE?

Yes and no. There are so many people who look up to us, you can't deny it. Also, in a sense, you can't force someone to be who they're not just because they're an athlete. It's a business. I think you always

have to be true to your fans, be who you are, because as soon as you're not, you're not. I don't play golf for publicity or money. I play golf because I love it and it's my job.

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO FORGET IN THE COURSE OF YOUR LIFE?

No, anything you've learned is good.

ROOT BEER OR CREAM SODA?

Root beer.

WHAT CONVERSATIONAL TOPIC DO YOU AVOID AT ALL COSTS?

Now, Tiger is the big one. I'm not a big religious guy, but I'm open to listen, but I'm not one to say this is right, this is wrong — people have their own beliefs. But I'm pretty even-going, anything is open, but I think politics and religion are the ones where you've got to be careful. Those are pretty private things for some.

WHAT'S YOUR WEAKNESS?

Chocolate. Anything sweet. I'll eat anything sweet. Cookies at Christmas time, and pies. Candace bakes. I wish I had more willpower, but I just don't. A lot of the guys on tour are so fit now, and they're good at watching what they do.

BEST HALLOWEEN COSTUME YOU EVER WORE?

My mom used to make them. Kermit the Frog was the best.

WORST PIECE OF ADVICE YOU EVER TOOK — WHAT WAS IT AND WHO GAVE IT?

Some teacher of some kind, or somebody said, "You need

to practice more like Vijay. Hit more balls." That's actually the worst thing for me. I need to play more than I hit. I don't know who it was, and I actually did it for a while — '04 and '05 are one of those times where I look back and I'm like, "What was I doing?" Playing, that's how you get better. You don't get better on the driving range.

WHAT ANIMAL WOULD YOU BE?

A dog, no question. He's got the best of both worlds.

VINCE VAUGHN OR WILL FERRELL?

Vince Vaughn.

EDDIE MURPHY OR RICHARD PRYOR?

Eddie Murphy.

Derek Anderson, for sure.

HOW MANY HOURS A DAY DO YOU STILL PRACTICE? DO YOU HAVE A ROUTINE THAT YOU FOLLOW WHEN YOU PRACTICE ON YOUR OWN?

No routine. A typical off week would be nothing until at least Thursday or Friday. A typical practice depends on the time of year. Say it's May; I only need about three or four hours a day if I'm out. During an event, it's more playing than practicing.

WHAT IS THE MOST EXCITING TWO MINUTES IN SPORTS?

The final two minutes of a hockey game are intense because there's no stoppage. If a team is one behind or tied, especially in the playoffs, it's intense.

Happy Gilmore or Tin Cup? "I'd rather watch *Caddyshack*."

WHAT KINDS OF PETS DO YOU HAVE?

Two dogs. One is a Yorkie, Miles. They say he's a normal Yorkie, but he's only 5 pounds. Then we have a Yorkie-poodle. Miles doesn't like loud noises, he's real timid.

OATMEAL AND A BANANA OR STEAK AND EGGS?

Oatmeal and a banana.

HOW DO YOU WANT TO BE REMEMBERED?

As a good golfer and a great person.

WHO'S THE BEST GOLFER YOU KNOW WHO'S NOT A PRO-GOLFER?

WHY IS ESPN MORE IMPORTANT THAN CNN TO A LARGE SEGMENT OF THE U.S. POPULATION?

One, I think it's good news. You turn on CNN — it's terrorists, it's politics. Sports — it's entertainment, it's live and it speaks for itself. You don't have to go out and make up stories, you don't have to fabricate.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO ACHIEVE TO CONSIDER YOUR CAREER A SUCCESS?

Nothing more.

PHOTOS: ERIC WAGNER



Pan-Seared Salmon with a truffle-cauliflower puree, mache salad with goat cheese, roasted red peppers and an herb vinaigrette.

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WHAT

Sage serves upscale American cuisine on an ever-evolving menu. One visit to Sage will not be a clone of your next dining experience as chef and owner William Glover revamps his modestly sized menu every 60 days to incorporate seasonal ingredients. On every visit to Sage you'll indulge in only the freshest of ingredients, carefully selected to pair flavors and presentation. And if you find yourself falling in love with one particular dish, don't fret that it will be absent from the menu on your next din-in: All menu items pull from the same influences and are unique in a way that it becomes apparent the

head chef has contemplated each flavor, every ingredient, and it seems nothing will disappoint. Sage also has a full-service bar that serves specialty cocktails and martinis. The cocktails match the main courses in terms of creativity and presentation. Try the Blueberry-Basil Lemonade; it's the perfect refreshment on a hot day.

WHO

After stints at Jefferson Country Club, New Albany Country Club and the OSU Faculty Club, Glover is now front and center at Sage. His interest in food has been lifelong, the result of a pedigree in which both sides of his mother and father's family have been

integral. His mother's side is Italian; their dishes usually stand as the highlight of family gatherings, and on his father's side, he grew up tromping around his grandmother's restaurant. It would seem a safe bet that he would eventually end up in the culinary world. Glover's restaurant is for those who appreciate an imaginative chef with a menu that is devoid of textbook-predictable entrees that you've seen on every menu in every city. You'll find combinations that you have never dreamed of – blackberry ketchup? Yes, please.

WHEN

The bistro is open for dinner Tuesday

through Saturday and brunch on Sunday. We suggest you make reservations, as the restaurant fills up quickly during peak dinner hours. You'll want to valet your car since parking is scarce and inconvenient in this part of town. Though we sampled the dinner menu, the Sunday brunch has been touted as one of the best in Columbus. After our dining experience, we can imagine why.

WHERE

Though Sage is located in a rather unimpressive portion of North High Street in Clintonville, you'll pay no attention to the surroundings once you enter the dimly lit, earth-toned

HOT TIP

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

Lunch	Daily
Private Dining	Yes
Brunch	Sun: 10am-2pm
Hours	Tue-Sat: 5-10pm Sun: 10am-2pm

TAKE NOTE: ~Sage's small menu changes every 60-days



~Happy Hour: 5-7 p.m., \$5 martinis

WHO PUT THE SIZZLE IN RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE?

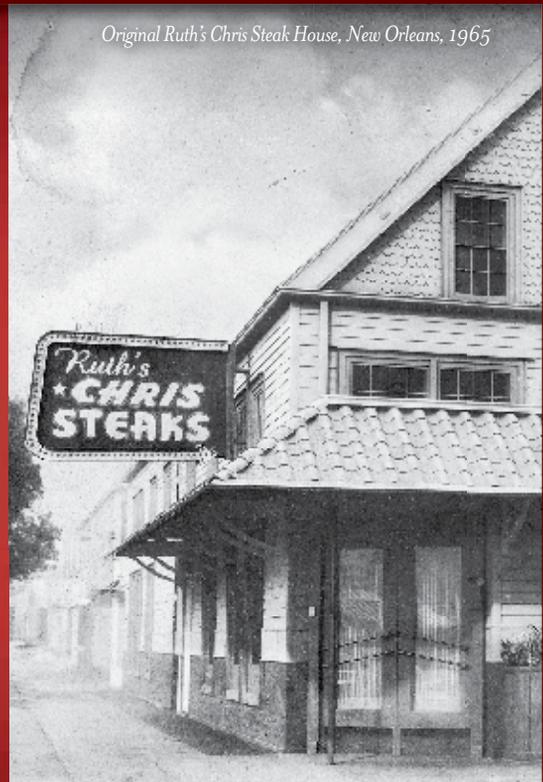
RUTH FERTEL. The woman who mortgaged her home on a hunch and bought a neighborhood steak house, which eventually grew into a family of local steak houses. Using an 1800° broiler and 500° plates, steaks are still cooked and presented just the way Ruth would insist: sizzling.



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Sage's clean, casual and comfortable dining room provides the perfect backdrop for an intimate dinner with family or friends.

interior of the restaurant. Blank, colorful square canvasses adorn exposed brick walls on one side, and artwork hangs on the opposite wall. The atmosphere is relaxing and comfortable, conducive to good conversation. You won't feel pressed to barrel through your meal. Linger, consider the flavors and appreciate the care that Glover took in designing each dish.

THE TEST

Before you delve into the carefully planned dinner menu, order a specialty cocktail or martini. The flavor pairings in these drinks are simple, but dead on. And if you become truly attached to a certain drink, as we did to the Blueberry-Basil Lemonade, you can rest assured that it will be on the menu on your next visit, as the specialty cocktails are staples. Enjoy a piece of bread, buttered with smoked sea-salt butter.

We sampled several items from Glover's spring menu, all of which represented his unique style. For a starter course, we indulged in pheasant sausage perched atop a layer of white bean hummus on a

toasted baguette. Though we're not sure of the socially acceptable method of eating this teetering sausage tower (one bite, two bites?), it was a delicious first treat. Next, we tried the Cauliflower Soup. The mild flavors of feta and cauliflower were paired with hints of bacon and chives.

We moved on to three samplings of seafood dishes, which began with the Seared Scallop. A rich, half-dollar scallop arrived topped with the incredible blackberry ketchup and served with crispy potatoes. The scallop was predictably wonderful, but we select the ketchup as the hidden star of this dish. We tried the Grilled Trout served with Laughing Bird shrimp, haricot verts and a saffron vinaigrette that kept our cravings on high. Paired with the J. Hofstatter Pinot Grigio, our meal could have stopped there and it we would have left impressed. But, it continued, and next we tried the Pan-Seared Salmon with a truffle-cauliflower puree, mache salad with goat cheese, roasted red peppers and an herb vinaigrette.

Not yet disappointed, we were

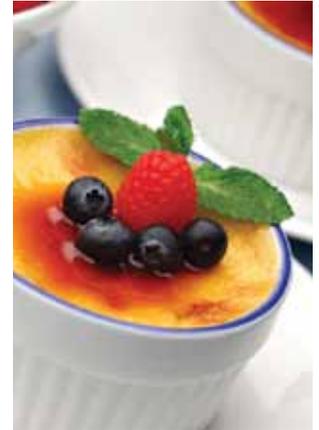
astounded as a substantial portion of Seared Foie Gras was placed in front of us. With braised onions and fennel marmalade and a dish of olive oil crackers to serve with, this item is one you won't find on the menus of many other local restaurants. It was rich, delicious and wholly unexpected. The last entree was one of which variations have become well-known and popular at Sage: the Braised Pork Belly. Though comfortably full, we had to try it, but if we had to judge by looks alone, it would have passed the test. Topped with another imaginative ketchup variation – jalapeno ketchup – and creamed corn, we quickly understood why this dish is crowd favorite.

For dessert, we nibbled on the Apple-Date Fritters. Though we imagine they weren't, they felt like a lighter end to a hearty meal. The dessert is comprised of three fritters, caramel sauce, lemon curd, candied ginger and a dab of whipped cream. It was a futile effort to determine our favorite course of the evening, but one thing we were sure of is that we would be back.

■ Annie Beecham

ALL IN THE NAME

Sage is named for chef William Glover's daughter, Sage. The name is both an inspiration and motivation to create the best dining experience possible.



SUNDAY BRUNCH

The restaurant provides a special brunch and mimosa menu on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with the full-service bar opening at 11 a.m. Brunch specialties include such items as the Crème Brûlée French Toast and the Pheasant Sausage Scramble.



SPECIALTY COCKTAILS

Our favorite drink was a marriage of several iconic summer flavors: the Blueberry-Basil Lemonade. Made with Stolli Blueberi vodka, fresh basil and blueberries and topped with lemonade and soda water, it's the perfect hot-weather refreshment.

TRIPLE THREAT

If you were to close your eyes and blindly place your finger on any three menu items, you wouldn't be disappointed. But if you want our advice, order the Tuna BLT for a starter, the Pork Porterhouse for the main course and the Apple-Date Fritters for dessert. This triple threat has the food pyramid covered from top to bottom.





CINCO DE MAYO | La Fogata Grill knows how to celebrate Cinco De Mayo – with an entire week. The margaritas and Coronas started flowing on Friday, April 30. The patio was the place to be with great service, a live mariachi band, and giveaways from Corona. Attendees were able to sign up for subscriptions to C Magazine and pick up the latest issues to stay current on where to be, what to eat, and who's who in Columbus..



PARK ST. CANTINA | C Magazine and the new venture from the CGS Group paired up on May 7 for cocktails at the new Park St. Cantina. With one of the best outdoor patios and smiling staff, this is the destination to frequent. Stop by to pull up a bar-side swing, and let those gringo worries disappear.



TASTE OF WONDERLAND | Wonderland was the setting for TASTE on May 6 to benefit Dress For Success Columbus, which promotes the economic independence of disadvantaged women by providing professional attire and career development classes. A great selection of wines from Bon Terra was paired with plates from Hyde Park, Tony's Italian Ristorante, Due Amici, Barrio, Jeni's Ice Cream and Pure Imagination Chocolatier. Oxygen aromatherapy was provided by O24U. Silent auction items and DJ Jimmy Sexton contributed the music for the day.



O-GEE | The last Saturday of every month, the quietly romantic and classy Due Amici Italian Restaurant transforms into a pumping dance party called O-GEE. On April 24, the focus was feel-good, old-school '80s and '90s hip-hop. With multiple rooms to mingle and an attentive staff, lines form early. Make your reservations now, come for dinner, and stay for the show. Check availability online at www.due-amici.com.



OHIO WARRIORS FUNDRAISER | James "Buster" Douglas knows how to fight long odds for a good cause. His stunning 42- to-1 upset over Mike Tyson secured his place in history as an undisputed world heavyweight boxing champion. An appearance at Villa Milano on April 28 displayed his support to his hometown Columbus for the Fight For Families – a charity to help support children who have lost a parent in the war on terror. All proceeds from this event go to the Ohio Warriors Scholarship Fund, maintained by the Columbus Foundation.

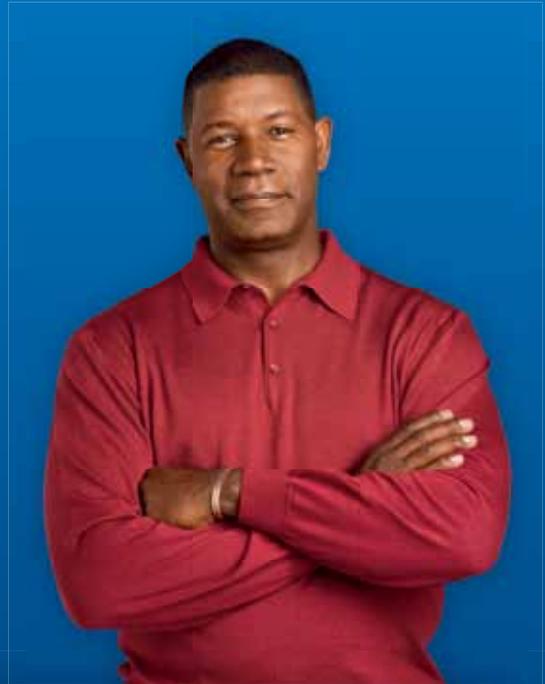
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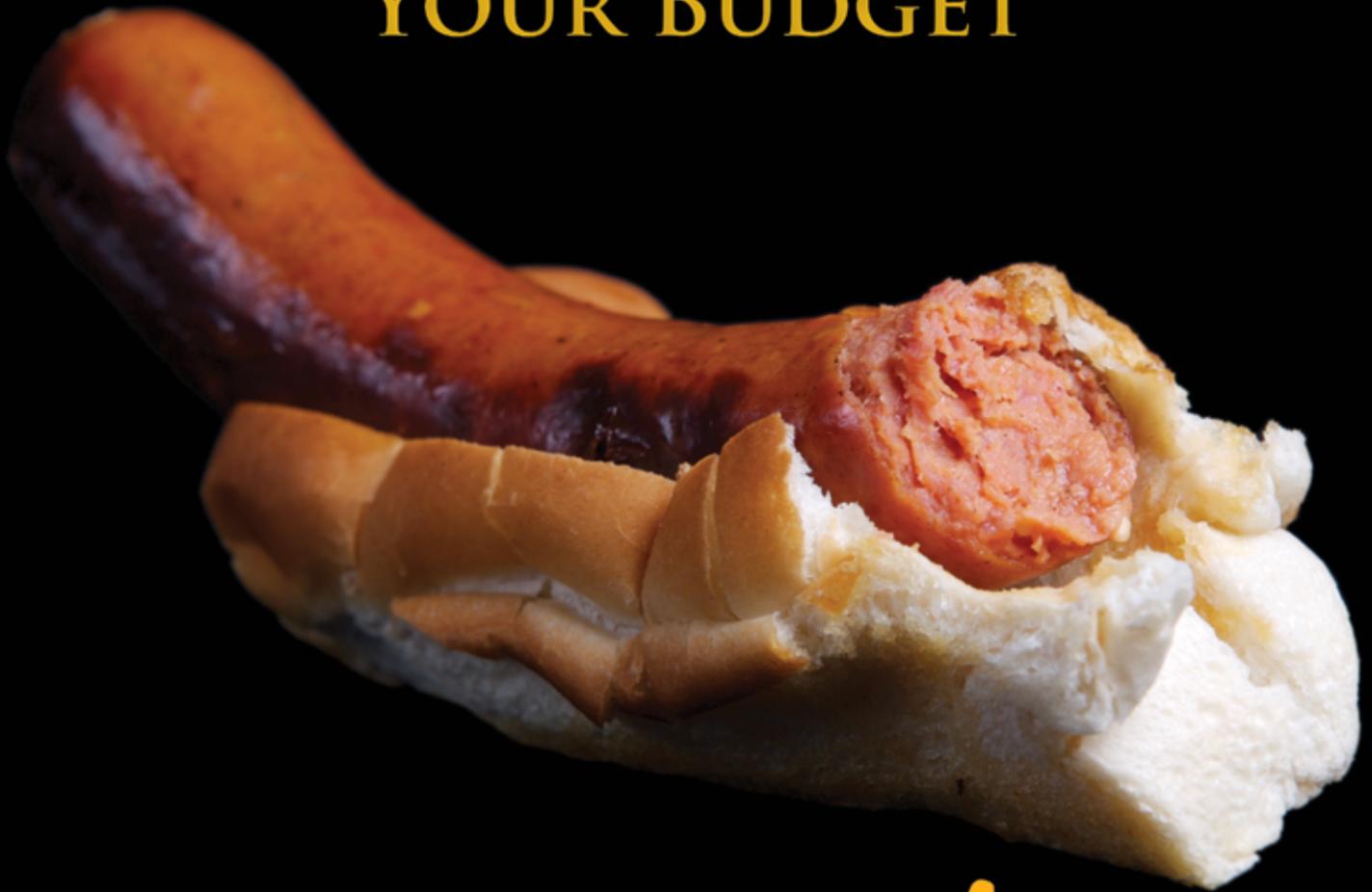


CAPITAL CITY HALF MARATHON | Devoted marathoners braved the rain May 1 for the Capital City Half Marathon, illustrating that the Commitment to Be Fit knows no weather. VIP finishers were able to relax and re-fuel at Cotter's Restaurant at Nationwide Arena. The rain could not dampen the spirits of all the finishers, where smiles were the best umbrellas for the day.



BUDDY-UP 5K | Franklin Park hosted a scenic 5K Buddy-Up Run on May 1 to benefit The Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio (DSACO), which serves more than 1,200 families in a 15-county area. Participants were able to enjoy a course that wound through the scenic botanical gardens and foster new friendships during this charitable event.

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TASTE OF DINE ORIGINALS | In order to benefit Dine Originals Columbus and The Buckeye Ranch, the Smith Hardware Building opened its doors May 13 to nearly 50 independent restaurants for exquisite featured entrée and dessert selections during The Taste of Dine Originals event. Silent auction items and media presentations from CD101 rounded out the evening with hostess Lesley James.

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AN AMERICAN CLASSIC

The Chevrolet Camaro is an automobile manufactured by General Motors under the Chevrolet brand, classified as a pony car and some versions also as a muscle car. It went on sale on September 29, 1966, for the 1967 model year and was designed as a competing model to the Ford Mustang. The car shared its platform and major components with the Pontiac Firebird, also introduced for 1967.



1969 Chevrolet Camaro RS

The character Bumblebee in the 2007 film, *Transformers*, is first appears as a 1976 model Camaro and later a fifth-generation concept variant. A modified fifth-generation Camaro reprises the role of Bumblebee in the sequel, *Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen*.



BODY STYLES OVER THE YEARS

Four distinct generations of the car were developed before production ended in 2002. The nameplate was revived again on a concept vehicle that evolved into the fifth-generation Camaro, production started on March 16, 2009.



2010 CAMARO 2SS RS

It was my freshman year of high school. I was 16, and life couldn't have been any better. That was until one day when my world got turned upside down. I had broken my back and all I could ask myself was, "Why me?" But what I thought was a curse turned out to be a blessing in disguise.



Austin Germain
Owner

I began to restore a 1969 Camaro RS as a way to take my mind off of things. It gave me a sense of pride and purpose, healing me in a way that medicine couldn't. My dream was to drive it to my senior graduation. Finally, after three years of hard work, I finished the restoration exactly one day before I would walk on that stage.

The car itself has three coats of black with five coats of clear, which was wet-sanded to perfection. The engine is a ZZ 350 GM crate motor, disk breaks, and power steering. The wheels are custom-built, two-piece, 17-inch Boyd Coddingtons. That, combined with air conditioning, a custom sound system and an even louder exhaust, made sure my mom knew if I was late for curfew from about a mile away.

So naturally, when the new Camaro came out with its design rooted in the '69 styling, I fell in love with it. Unfortunately, it was released when GM closed our Chevrolet dealership. I figured well, it just wasn't meant to be — that was until I came home for winter break. My dad told me he would help me get the things from my car. I didn't have anything, but he told me to go outside anyway. I thought, "Uh oh, this can't be good. I mean my grades aren't out just yet, are they?" We went to the driveway, and the garage doors opened. Sitting next to my '69 was a new 2010 Camaro 2SS RS. I was so confused at why it was there. Dad tossed me the keys and told me it was mine. Ironically, we had never owned a car in my family. So for this one to be mine made it even more special.

To this day, I still can't believe it, and as they say with every door in life that closes, another one opens. After everything, I certainly have not forgotten where I came from or what happened along the way. But the most important lesson I learned was how very fortunate I am to have parents as wonderful as mine, who taught me that with hard work and determination, anything in life is possible.

■ Austin Germain



GENERATION 1:
1967 – 1969



GENERATION 2:
1970 – 1981



GENERATION 3:
1982 – 1992



GENERATION 4:
1993 – 2002



GENERATION 5:
2006 Concept
2009 – Present

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WIKIPEDIA.ORG

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**ART
WHERE'S**

Continued from p.25



**ESSENTIALLY
WEIRD**

While many may just think of “Weird Al” Yankovic as the man behind such pop-culture parodies as “Eat It,” (which earned him a #12 spot on the Billboard Hot 100) and “White and Nerdy” (his highest chart topper at #9), Weird Al (aka Alfred Matthew Yankovic) has spent his life as much more. He’s noted as a singer-songwriter, music producer, actor, comedian, satirist and of course, parodist. And now he’s coming to The LC on July 10 in support of his latest release *The Essential “Weird Al” Yankovic*. Check out www.promowestlive.com for more info and ticket information.



**NOT IN KANSAS
ANYMORE**

Long before the tornado hit Kansas and Dorothy took a ride in Auntie Em’s house, there was a story of two other girls — one born with emerald green skin and a fiery attitude, and the other with blond hair, a beautiful face and ambition to match. *Wicked* tells the story of how the Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda the Good went from friends to enemies to something much more. *Wicked* returns to Columbus July 28-August 29 at The Ohio Theatre. Don’t miss this hit.



LET IT GROW ALWOOD SISTERS

The room housing the record player was always the center of the universe for the Alwood family growing up. Digging deep into their mother’s extensive music collection and listening to whatever fit the mood was as regular as flipping on the lights. It wasn’t uncommon for the two Alwood sisters to be dancing and laughing in front of the mirror as their favorite choruses and chords from all the greats poured out of the record player’s speakers and into their inspiration.

“It’s funny when we listen back to what we’ve recorded now and see so many of those influences,” Meagan Alwood says. “You can hear The Beatles in little parts, or Fleetwood Mac, but it really wasn’t intentional, it just kind of came out sounding that way.”

Amy and Meagan Alwood have been playing music since they were little and surrounded by it in their household. Many family members, including their father, who was in Columbus bands like the Gears in the ’70s, and their mother and uncle, played music in some form, and it was inescapable for them not to do the same. After playing in band after band, they finally formed the Alwood Sisters together.

“Meagan was living in New York for awhile and she recorded these amazing songs on her own,” Amy says. “Those are really what became a lot of the songs that make up the new record.”

With Meagan back in Columbus with Amy, the two sisters commissioned their two brothers, Jovan and Milan Karcic, to make up the band that is now the Alwood Sisters. They went to work putting the finishing touches on the indie classic rock that would define their debut album, *The Black Falcon and the Forest Spirit*, after a long recording process. Filled with catchy classic rock hooks, accompanied with sometimes haunting vocals, piano and spacey guitar, it should hit shelves very shortly.

“People look at a band with girls in it, and they won’t say they rock unless they are Joan Jett or something,” Amy says. “I think we have slower moments, but there are definitely moments of rock in there, too.”

For more information on the Alwood go to www.alwoodsisters.com

■ Cary Smith

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Bob Dylan

PHOTO: ERIC WAGNER



CONNECTING THE DOTS NANCY FERGUSON

Mayors have a tough gig. They are never “off the clock” and are the mediating variables between thousands of people and the progress of their communities. So for our *Relax* issue this month, we slowed down Nancy Ferguson, the celebrated mayor of New Albany, to shed some light on what makes her suburb so special.

What pisses you off?
 Not having enough time and resources [laughs], especially the resources to implement all the great ideas that people come to me to get done.

How great a role does a grade-school system play in a suburban community? It’s crucial to any community that wants to elevate itself to one of the best communities in the country. You can’t be one of the best communities in the country with a mediocre school district. Because

people value their families, people want to invest in their children, invest in other people’s children. They know that is what’s going to make their community excellent in the next generation.

Create an analogy to explain your position and role in a suburban mecca like New Albany? The mayor’s job is much like a travel agent, helping to plan a trip to a high quality lifestyle and financial sustainability.

How do you envision the housing market in 5 and 10 years?

Five years, I think it will be close to being back to what it was like in 2007. And in 10 years, I think it will be even better than what it was in 2007.

What miracle have you witnessed?
 Recently, I was asked to throw out the first pitch when our new Little League baseball field was dedicated. It was a strike!

What is your fondest memory growing up? One of those would be sitting with my grandfather who was in his 80s when I was in elementary

school, sitting with him in the yard listening to him tell me that I should think about becoming a lawyer. As an elementary student, that was the farthest thing from my mind. I guess the fact that I had these great relatives who believed in me even as a 12-year-old, not because I had that much to offer at the time, just because they knew that they needed to inspire me.

What do you think about a downtown casino for Columbus? I think it’s in the right spot on the West side.

I think it’s better there, and it’s going to please more of the residents.

Do you have any quirky routines or habits? Making lists. I’m a notorious list maker. It drives my husband crazy because there will be these long lists of things on the counters in our kitchen.

Favorite movie?
Notting Hill.

What’s the best way to spend a lunch break?
 Sitting under a tree at the Wexner Community Park with two friends.

What’s the most

dangerous thing you’ve ever done?
 White water rafting in West Virginia seemed dangerous.

If you could share a conversation with anyone, alive or dead, with whom would you be speaking?
 Thomas Jefferson. I’ve read maybe six or eight books about him, and I think he had that same interest in architecture and planning that I have and others around here have.

■ Jason E. Ohlson



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