



THE COLUMBUS MAGAZINE

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MISS USA 2011

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IN OUR EXCLUSIVE FASHION SHOOT AND Q&A BEFORE
COMPETING FOR THE TITLE OF MISS USA 2011

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COVER STORY
PHOTOGRAPHY: ERIC WAGNER
INTERVIEW: KRISTEN FOLEY
INTRO: KRISTEN FOLEY



THIS MONTH'S FOOD ISSUE FEATURES MISS OHIO AND MISS MICHIGAN IN OUR 2ND ANNUAL BEAUTIFUL RIVALRY EXCLUSIVE. READ OUR EXCLUSIVE TO FIND OUT WHAT IT TAKES TO BE THE HOTTEST NAME IN EACH STATE, AND WHAT THEY EXPECT FROM THEIR SHOT AT MISS USA 2011.

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 TEN 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 2011!

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FROM THE EDITOR
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Jason Ohlson with Miss Ohio USA Ashley Caldwell

EAT THIS

As I've said before, my life would be drastically different if I hadn't served nearly a decade of active duty in the restaurant industry. And just as Columbus' dining culture helped define me as a person, it is one of the most defining elements of our fine city. We are what we eat, literally. We at C Magazine know this, and our mission is simple: offer the most informative "lunch dining guide" for all of Columbus to use and enjoy. After all, there really isn't a better litmus test for a restaurant's cuisine than their lunch menu; it's the first thing they serve to the public each day.

This is one of our favorite issues to work on because of its intimate connection to the city. Think to yourself: Is your job, your career, your identity and definition on the line every time you report to work? For a restaurateur, it is, and they make no excuses. They have only their word, their food and their joint to prove it is all worth it and that they understand the people's needs. Columbus is loaded with these proud and caring individuals. This issue of C is dedicated to each and every one of them, for they add color, care and cheer to the defining moments of our lives.

Our food features have always been hot and enticing. We know this because we've seen you read them and drool on the pictures. Fortunately for you, you're holding our 8th annual Food issue. Touch it. Pet it. Keep it handy, safe and sound. The time will come when you need it, and when you do, it will be there to provide the perfect destination for your punchy, no-bullshit power lunch, or your quixotic date with food cravings so sinful they have to be attended to alone or with other sinners in the wee hours of the night. From patacons to shrimp and grits, there isn't a cuisine unrepresented here.

Jason E. Ohlson

FOOD ISSUE 2011



UNIVERSAL APPEAL

11 | SUITLESS

We've selected three Columbus professionals who hail from the food and beverage industry. Read about local fiery food titan John Hard's incredible line of sauces, salsas and seasonings; meet Faye Muncie, local wine guru and co-owner of Haus Frau Haven wine shop in German Village; and get the skinny on Brian Giunta, senior vice president of Crema Nut Company, the oldest peanut butter company continuously operating in the country.

17 | TRAVEL & LEISURE

One visit to Pittsburgh and you'll see why "America's Most Livable City" is also called "Kidsburgh!" As the only city on earth that can claim to be Mister Rogers' real Neighborhood (*Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* was broadcast from Pittsburgh's local public TV station), Pittsburgh is uniquely qualified to make kids and parents feel right at home. Read this month's feature and plan your trip.

19 | 90 FOR \$9

Our Food issue pays homage to the restaurants that define Columbus and the great culture of cuisine that's evolved here. We expand the most utilitarian section of our magazine from nine restaurants to 90 restaurants with meals for \$9 or under. Don't let this issue out of your sight — it's called the Food Bible for good reason.

27 | ARTFUL VIEW

O.A.R. has firm rock roots right here in Columbus and claims the city as its second home. Of a Revolution gears up for its summer-tour kickoff and plans an appearance at the LC Pavilion May 20. Band members didn't want to be rushed with the release of their new album and say they see fall as the perfect time for that.

28 | COVER STORY

For the second year in a row, we had the privilege of interviewing both Miss Ohio USA and Miss Michigan USA. These lovely ladies express no rivalries, only admiration and respect for one another. Each discusses their tomboy youths and routes to the pageant world, all the while displaying their quirky and wild senses of humor. Read this month's exclusive and get the inside scoop on what each lady expects from the upcoming Miss USA 2011 in Vegas on June 11.

45 | RIDE 23

Denver Fowler's passion for motorcycles runs in his blood, for his family history is greatly marked by avid riders. His family ties have instilled in him a fervor for riding that has not escaped him to this day. Read about his quest to find that perfect ride, a visually bare-boned 1970 Triumph Tiger, only recently found. Fowlers gushes it's everything he's been looking for.

47 | BEYOND 270

After several years removed from the hard life of the road and stage, a revitalized Denver Jade and The Jaded blaze back onto the musical trail of success with new and lost material. The band reveals a 22-track retrospective, due out in August. And unlike their fast and furious beginnings, this CD is patient and cool.

48 | FINAL WORD

Dennison Griffith, president of Columbus College of Art and Design, gives this month's final words. While many are aware of his intellectual charm and creative approachability, few are as familiar with his inspirations, annoyances and weaknesses. Even fewer know of his secret fondness for Cadmium Red Medium.

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Setting the Bar

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Chuck Harris and his wife entered the wine business in 1978. Today, the Ravenhurst Champagne Cellars' vineyard is home to some of the best chardonnay, pinot noir, cabernet sauvignon and cabernet Franc in not only the United States, but the entire world!

Looking forward to the new millennium, wineries in 1999 all over the world put their best champagne out for the title of "Champagne of the Millennium." More than 256 champagnes were entered into 10 different categories. Up against 9 French growers, Ravenhurst's Grand Cuvee won second in its category.

Ravenhurst Champagne Cellars can be visited at 34477 Shertzer Road Mt. Victory, Ohio. (937) 354-5151

OHIO WINES



Ohio's cool climate is similar to many European, Australian and even California regions. The clean and crisp food-pairing wines produced in this environment have full fruit flavors, but carry a slightly higher acidity.



PERFECT TASTE FAYE MUNCIE

"To really learn about wine, you have to taste it." This sage advice comes courtesy of Faye Muncie, local wine guru and co-owner of Haus Frau Haven wine shop in German Village. And for anyone who's had the pleasure of her company, whether she's suggesting an appropriate wine pairing with dinner or sharing trivia about the pinot noir grape at a private tasting, it's clear she means it. "Sometimes people will read Wine Spectator and buy something that someone else says is good," says Muncie. "I say trust your own palate and your own instincts instead."

Muncie, who also owns Faze, a trendy women's boutique in Upper Arlington's Lane Avenue Shopping Center, was already a wine lover when she purchased Haus Frau Haven several years ago. Though wine was one of the many wares for the original ownership, it was far from their focus. Almost immediately, Muncie changed that focus and wine became their showpiece, with complementary products like greeting cards and candles rounding out their inventory.

For her private tastings, Muncie utilizes the shop's refurbished basement, which has comfortably dark surroundings complete with latticework ceiling, oversized bar and smooth jazz music playing over the sound system. And depending on whether she's hosting a corporate party, or something more casual like a birthday or get-together among friends, Muncie asks her clients whether they prefer an informal cocktail-style experience or the more common formal tasting where people come to learn. Depending on the desired atmosphere, arrangements can be made for bringing food or even having the event catered ... but more often than not, clients rely on Muncie's expertise and warm, approachable personality to make the evening a success.

As she says with a smile and a delicious 2005 Newton Napa Valley Claret in hand, "I'm very blessed to make a living doing something I love so much."

Michael Scott

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO ... ?



It takes 600 grapes to make one bottle of wine.

It takes 40 gallons of tree sap to make one gallon of syrup.

It takes 24 to 26 hours for a hen to produce an egg.

It takes a bushel of corn to sweeten 400 cans of soda.

It takes 25 tomatoes to make one bottle of ketchup.

It takes seven years for a lobster to grow one pound.

It takes five gallons of milk to make five pounds of cheese.

It takes 100 cherries to make one cherry pie.



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WORLD'S HOTTEST CHILE PEPPER

The Chile Pepper Institute has had many inquiries about the Naga Viper and other chile peppers that claim to be the world's hottest pepper. The Chile Pepper Institute is research-based, and we base all of our information on this principal. What we can state is that the only extremely hot, commercially available chile pepper is the Bhut Jolokia. The Naga Viper was a single plant, and is not commercially available, nor has it been tested in replicated trials. Currently, the Bhut Jolokia pepper remains the hottest pepper that is commercially available.



HISTORY

The Bhut Jolokia is an interspecific hybrid from the Assam region of north-eastern India and parts of neighboring Bangladesh. It grows in the Indian states of Assam, Nagaland and Manipur, and the Sylhet region of Bangladesh. It can also be found in rural Sri Lanka where it is known as Nai Mirris (cobra chile). There was initially some confusion and disagreement about whether the Bhut was a *Capsicum frutescens* or a *Capsicum chinense* pepper, but DNA tests showed it to be an interspecies hybrid, mostly *C. chinense* with some *C. frutescens* genes.

Information credit : wikipedia.org



THE HOT TIP JOHN HARD

Hot sauce has come a long way since the battlefield in Korea, where it was used primarily to disguise the horrid taste of rations. Today, hot food fanatics assemble in droves around the country, at world-class festivals and contests, in search of the perfect fiery food. Ironically enough, the leader of this movement resides in Columbus, where he has spent the last fifteen-plus years perfecting America's most awarded line of hot sauces and salsas.

Contrary to his last name, John Hard is one easy guy to get to know. He has every reason to be a hotheaded snob (Hard has won every major hot sauce, salsa and hot food contest in the country), but he chooses to keep his nose level and his laughter loud. Hard worked as a fire protection engineer for more than 30 years. It was the family business, and it has kept him busy since the age of ten. He now spends his days running his own company, CaJohns Fiery Foods, and the

freedom he has to study habanero alchemy is refreshing.

Currently, CaJohns offers over 120 different flavors of salsa, barbecue and hot sauces and has six in the works. "In '97, my sales were \$7,500," Hard reminisces. "Last year, we were more than \$1 million. Some chileheads just want to try stupid-hot heat; others go for the endorphin rush. I go for flavor with fire."

One taste of Hard's delicious products and you too will be moving right on up the heat scale. No matter your personal taste, fancy or craving, this fiery food icon literally has it all. And if it's Hard's craft your company may be after, CaJohns is more than willing and able to create custom sauces for outside retail and service.

For more information, visit www.cajohns.com

■ Jason E. Ohlson



CALIGULA'S ORDER

If an affordable burger isn't your style, may we suggest a foie gras and black truffle-stuffed Kobe burger served on a brioche truffle bun and garnished with the chef's special truffle sauce? Just hop on your private jet and head over to Fleur de Lys at Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas. This \$5,000 dish is accompanied by a complimentary thirteen-year-old bottle of wine.

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PHOTO: ERIC WAGNER

NUTTIN' TO IT BRIAN GIUNTA

At just 29, Brian Giunta is the senior vice president of Crema Nut Company, the oldest peanut butter company continuously operating in the United States and a unique part of Columbus' history since 1898.

Giunta's father purchased Crema in 1992 and after graduating from the University of Dayton with a degree in Business Management, Brian returned home to work in the family business. "I've worked in nearly every job at Crema," Giunta proudly confirms.

Giunta's Internet savvy also placed Crema among the first Columbus businesses with national reach via the web. Yet, even with national clientele and a plethora of buy-out offers from large competitors, Crema continues as one of Columbus' best-kept secrets and Giunta affirms that Crema will continue as the "mom-and -pop shop" its customers love. "Generations of customers have come to

Krema their whole lives," says Giunta. "These customers are my inspiration, they are the reason I come to work every day and try to create the highest quality products on the market."

Although the giant cashews are Giunta's favorite, Crema is best known for its all-natural peanut butter. "Our nuts are roasted by hand," says Giunta. "We believe that our old-fashioned values are what keep our customers coming back."

A new treat for customers of Crema is their super tasty lunch menu that offers an incredible selection of premium PB&J's and hand-dipped shakes that'll turn any adult into a happy child, and any child into, well ... just plain happy.

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■ Tara Koehler



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PHOTO CREDIT: PITTSBURGH ZOO & PPG AQUARIUM

PITTSBURGH IS KIDSBURGH

One visit to Pittsburgh and you'll see why "America's Most Livable City" is also called "Kidsburgh!" As the only city on earth that can claim to be Mister Rogers' real Neighborhood (*Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* was broadcast from Pittsburgh's local public TV station), Pittsburgh is uniquely qualified to make kids -- and parents -- feel right at home.

Vacating families have one common goal: find the fun! Pittsburgh boasts a long list of choices for visitors seeking family fun. It's so long, in fact, you'll just have to come back again and again!

The Carnegie Museums of Art and Natural History bill themselves as two museums for the price of one. Walk among the dinosaurs in the *Dinosaurs in Their Time* exhibit, then head upstairs to see how art was made before digital animation. The Carnegie Science Center is home to *roboworld™* – an interactive robot Hall of Fame – and Highmark *SportsWorks®*, here a hands-on approach to science and sports is required.

Named one of the Top 10 children's museums in the country by *Parents* magazine, the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh invites visitors to sing along with King Friday or catch words that fall from the sky. And speaking of sky, the restored cable cars of the Duquesne Incline take you high atop a mountain for a panoramic view of the city (children under 5 ride free!). After gazing

down at Pittsburgh's Three Rivers, set sail on them on the Gateway Clipper Fleet.

Kennywood Amusement Park has been entertaining families for more than a century. Don't miss the chance to ride the Jack Rabbit, designated as an "ACE Roller Coaster Landmark" by American Coaster Enthusiasts. There's fun here for kids of all ages!

At the National Aviary, the nation's premier bird zoo, enjoy FliteZone, a year-round bird theater, and Penguin Point, which offers 360-degree views of African Penguins in their natural habitat. It's all about habitat (and soil and climate) at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens. Learn the basics of gardening, enjoy story time and dig right in to 17 distinct botanical experiences, all in one location.

Go wild at the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium! From ogling otters at the Water's Edge to eyeballing elephants in the African Savanna, animal lovers get their fill at one of the country's top zoos. The Senator John Heinz History Center packs 250 years of Pittsburgh history into one six-story building. Find everything from sports memorabilia to antique weaponry in your exploration of southwestern Pennsylvania history!

So pack up the family and head to "Kidsburgh," where a good time is just a drive away.

■ Meryl Helling




Can we invent any more reasons to see the new Ben Franklin exhibition? Now through July 31, experience the many sides of Ben in this fun, interactive and immersive exhibit at the Heinz History Center.



Adults feel like kids and kids go wild with newborn tiger cubs and painted dog puppies at the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium. See polar bears and sand tiger sharks swimming overhead while you walk through tunnels. Don't miss the sea lion, bear and deep water diver shows!



90 for \$9

8th Annual Lunch Dining

Bible

C Magazine's 90 for \$9 spread is your dependable source for tasty, yet thrifty Columbus dining for eight years and counting. Here it is again, your one-and-only lunch menu bible. So now when you're at work and your stomach starts churning and your mouth begins to water at the thought of something delectable, you can turn to us for advice on the hottest spots in town.

In each issue of *C Magazine*, we feature 9 lunch destinations where you can get something delicious to eat for \$9 or less. We have collected the past 90 Nine for \$9 features from the past year to create the very dining guide you're about to devour. Each of these restaurants have menus worth exploring, but think of us as your experienced guide. Relish this opportunity, friends. Give a few copies to your family, friends or co-workers. Who wouldn't appreciate the gift of good taste? From burgers to burritos, pastas to seafood, you'll be amazed at what nine bucks will get you.



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COLUMBUS



Band music outside a French farmhouse overlooking runway 10/28 at Columbus International Airport where diners can revel in one of the most unique restaurant experiences in the city. Inside the cozy restaurant, diners are transported to the World War eras through aviation relics and military memorabilia hung from stone fireplaces and beamed ceilings. Fresh from the farmhouse pantry, perfect zest and crispy freshness makes the **Buffalo Blue Cheese Salad (\$8.99)** a refreshing lunch on the fly.

Banana Bean Café

340 Greenlawn Ave.
(614) 443-2262
COLUMBUS



If you're in need of a southern-style vacation, but can't quite escape Ohio, enjoy Banana Bean Café and its "Floribbean Cuisine." The building portrays inviting images of Caribbean blues and Florida pastels to lure you in, while the inside takes you on a Key West journey. You'll feel like you've stepped into another world when you bite into a **Calle Ocho (\$9)**. It's a Cuban-style roast pork tenderloin sandwich comes served with Latin olive, caper and pepper salad Manchego cheese and pressed on Pan Cubano bread.

Berry Blendz

1585 N. High St.
(614) 299-4682
SHORT NORTH



This place has something for everyone, like tons of fruit and veggie smoothies from which to choose, and dairy-free options. Berry Blendz uses only juice, real fruit, and low fat sherbert or fat-free frozen yogurt. If you're looking for a healthy meal, try the **Acai Brazilian Bowl (\$5.99)** with a **Shot of Wheat Grass Juice (\$1.99)**. The bowl includes acai, apple and banana blended together and topped with granola and sliced bananas. Chase it with the wheat grass juice to get tons of nutrients.

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GROVE CITY



They're not sure if it's a good or bad thing, but the owners recently discovered they spent more on the four high definition projection-screens and 13 flat-screen high definition TVs than they did on their combined college degrees. We vote 'good thing' because, aside from great views from every seat, there are great spectacles in every bowl of **Original Wings (\$7.99)**, best when served with a basket of curly-Q Potato Rings. The café in Parkway Center North, stakes its claim in having 'the best burgers in town.

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(614) 392-2267
WESTERVILLE



Cardone's Restaurant and Bar is the perfect place for lunch. It has an endless selection of old-world Italian cuisine ranging from pizza to gnocchi. We opted for the **Cardone's Salad (\$8)**, with field greens and tossed with raspberries, blueberries, candied walnuts, Gorgonzola cheese and a balsamic vinaigrette. This beauty is offered year-round with fruits and fresh greens. Can't decide what to get? Pair a smaller portion (\$5) with your favorite pasta.

Aladdin's Eatery

1423 GrandView Ave.
(614) 488-5565
GRANDVIEW



Feel guiltless as you turn to this Mediterranean influenced restaurant for variety, selection and taste. Start with a glass of fresh carrot juice and add the **Chargrilled Tuna Salad (\$7.95)**, filled with mixed greens, cucumbers, and sliced tomatoes, topped with a tuna steak. This combo stands out every way you look at it. Grilled to perfection, this healthy dish will leave you so satisfied you will definitely be back for more.

Barrel 44 Whiskey Bar

1120 N. High St.
(614) 294-2277
SHORT NORTH



Mark Twain once said, "Too much of anything is bad, but too much of good whiskey is barely enough." Barrel 44's managing owner Shawn Korn couldn't agree more. Barrel 44 celebrated its one-year anniversary last year and has gradually upgraded its whiskey list as the establishment has grown. Listening to the regulars, we tried the **Beef and Pork Satays (\$7.00)** chargrilled skewered pork tenderloin and flatiron steak marinated in a spicy peanut sauce. We suggest you do the same.

Black Olive

731 N. High St.
(614) 298-8750
SHORT NORTH



You've no doubt eyed the cushy, mod orange seating through the window, or heard of swanky martinis served in stemless glassware nestled inside fishbowls. The next reasons to look here for lunch are found in a Grilled Cheese sandwich, which has already earned itself a devoted following. Duck that's stir-fried to perfection and **Gulf Shrimp and Parmesan Grits (\$9)**. Be sure to polish off your meal with a chicly-presented Charlemagne Chocolate Mousse Cake.

Café Bella

2593 N. High St.
(614) 267-1998
CLINTONVILLE



Expect the unexpected when you come to Café Bella. From the lifestyle cautious kitchen to the greenhouse out back, you'll be charmed. Don't try to order off of the menu— there isn't one. This allows the owners to buy fresh and make whatever they can with it. But, you can always expect soups, subs, pastas, and salads. Whatever you're feeling, rest assured it will come how you order it. We were lucky to be there for the savory **Sausage and Peppers with Pasta (\$7)**.

Caribbean Jerks

1262 E. Powell Rd.
(614) 844-6501
POWELL



Have you ever wanted to take your standard lunch fare and immerse it in the beauty of the tropics? Well, the good people over at Caribbean Jerks are doing it for you. Their unusual deliciousness may be the last thing you were expecting to find this close to the North Pole. The sweet and spicy in everything blends with that island flavor we've yet to invent a name for, especially on the **Beachside Nachos (\$7.99)**, which could make you swear off corporate chains forever.

Ange's Pizza

1018 N. Hamilton Rd.
(614) 855-9500
GAHANNA



You know how the pepperoni on Columbus-style pizza curl up into flavor-catching cups and the edges get all crispy and brown? Well, Ange's keeps their pies in the oven just long enough to get the perfect ratio of crunchiness and spicy salted-meatiness. Each nook is filled with melted or crispy cheese, again a perfect ratio, this time of tangy to stringy. Because this parlor ran out of perfect ratios on a pizza, Ange's created one on the **Italian Sub (\$4.85)**, made of Capicola and homemade creamy Italian dressing.

Basil Thai

1124 N. High St.
(614) 421-2275
SHORT NORTH



With quite possibly one of the best lunch specials in town—**Soup, a Choice of Appetizer and a Noodle or Rice Dish (\$7.50)**—Basil Thai is a hit. The interior showcases recycled local furniture and décor, creating a uniquely simple design flush with history. Choose the Crispy Roll as an appetizer: ground chicken, vermicelli, egg and bean sprouts in a rice wrapper. And try the Kee Mow, wide noodles that are fried and combined with onions, tomatoes, bean sprouts and Thai basil, for your main course.

Boston's Pizza

199 W. Nationwide Blvd.
(614) 229-4275
DOWNTOWN



Boston is an all-American hotbed for baseball, the ivy league and cream pie, so it's no debate to employ the city as inspiration for this crowdpleasing concept. The Arena District location is personalized with Blue Jackets regalia and generously stationed flat screens. Every taste and appetite is satisfied when you have a menu that spans from the robust Jambalaya Fettuccine to individual 8-inch pizza to intriguing bites like Cactus cuts. Great anytime for sharing or as a meal is the **Tostada Nachos (\$8.49)**.

Cantina Laredo

8791 Lyra Dr.
(614) 781-1139
POLARIS



Gourmet Mexican food is something of an anomaly to Polaris diners, but Cantina Laredo has created a new upscale market. Ask for a table on the warm, enclosed patio and consider the fine Mexican offerings while your server prepares a fresh bowl of guacamole tableside. For lunch, try the **Chicken Flautas (\$7.99)**, three fried flour tortillas wrapped around chicken, Monterey jack cheese and peppers. Enjoy your meal with a cerveza, and take in the freshly chic atmosphere of this restaurant.

Chef O'Nette

2090 Tremont
43221 (614) 488-8444
UPPER ARLINGTON



Open since 1955, Chef O'Nette stands as a staple for many in the area and is a stop on the way through town for those not from here. With authentic diner cuisine, its menu has options for all types of eaters. Eat in or carry out, the choice is yours. We had to try the **Hangover Plate (\$6.55)** with hamburger, ham, cheese, tomato, lettuce and onion all on a bun served with fries. We've added it to our list of Upper Arlington must haves.

Average Joe's Pub and Grill

4949 E. Dublin-Granville Rd.
(614) 476-5637
NEW ALBANY



Average Joe's offers New Albany a friendly neighborhood restaurant with a fully stocked bar and daily happy hour that lasts nearly all day (11 a.m. - 7 p.m.). Though the atmosphere is laid-back, the wide selection of all-American favorites certainly doesn't fail to satisfy. Think you have what it takes to take on Average Joe's weekly challenge to eat as many **Joe's Mini Slammers (\$7.29)** as you possibly can in less than ten minutes? These little guys are grilled to perfection and served with a side of fries.

Bernard's Tavern

630 N. High St.
(614) 223-9601
SHORT NORTH



Bernard's Tavern is the 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 three different kinds of cheeses. The definite crowd pleaser, though, is the baked Mac 'n' Cheese. Our favorite was the **Chicken Salad Sandwich (\$8.95)**. 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.

Brazenhead

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



Brazenhead's walls and mantles are filled with more Irish and pub references than a St. Patty's Day parade. Its large dining room and patio accommodate the hungry and thirsty masses. 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 (\$8.95)** topped with crispy onions, cheddar cheese and horseradish sauce.

Cap City

1299 Olentangy River Rd.
(614) 291-3663
UPPER ARLINGTON



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

Chi Thai

5777 N. Hamilton Rd.
(614) 471-8988
NEW ALBANY



Though honest, un-Americanized ethnic food is difficult to find throughout most of Columbus, one location not only cooks it perfectly, but does so in a comfortably modern and polished way. Chi Thai's name around New Albany is solid. With this eatery's following, one would expect it to have a bold entrance. Not so. The service and food do the talking here. When we pulled through, we dove into a bowl of **Pataya Shrimp (\$8.95)**: jumbo shrimp, baby carrots, snow peas and spicy tomato sauce.

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The Claremont

684 South High St.
(614) 443-1125
COLUMBUS



Pulling up to this 62-year-old historic restaurant is like a blast from the past. Open since 1947, The Claremont sure knows what it's doing. Famous for the prime rib, when we saw it on the lunch menu we said "yes, please." **The Prime Rib French Dip (\$8.99)**, served under melted provolone cheese on a French baguette, is perfect dipped in au jus and paired with chips. Just be careful not to drip on your suit.

Danny's Deli

37 W. Broad St.
(614) 469-7040
DOWNTOWN



If you are one of those people who feel compelled to surmount your lunch, Danny's could present a bit of a snag for you. Well, not everything at Danny's, but certainly the Jawbreaker sandwich. It's the definition of insurmountable, with what appears to be an entire steer's worth of corned beef on one sandwich. It is some of the finest corned beef your tongue will ever find. Or get a regular sized **Chicken Salad Club with Bacon (\$5.50)**. All's good either way.

Due Amici

67 East Gay St.
(614) 224-9373
DOWNTOWN



Nestled on the front of Gay Street, Due Amici serves up a divine menu full of quality, eclectic Italian cuisine including Mascarpone Meatballs, Gnocchi Bolognese and Penne Carbonara. It brags a modern, rustic feel from the exposed brick walls to the comfy seating and chic bar area. Indulge in the simple yet delightful **Prime Beef Carpaccio (\$9)**. Roasted garlic aioli with arugula, shaved Parmesan and crispy capers accompany prime beef.

El Arepazo

47 N. Pearl St.
(614) 228-4830
DOWNTOWN



Whether it's by adding a fully sheltered patio, or enhancing the menu, El Arepazo gets progressively better and better each year. You can often find owner Carlos Gutierrez at the restaurant charming the customers and overseeing the overall operation. The authenticity is evident in every bite of their **Patacon (\$9)**, a whole plantain, flattened and deep fried, topped with lettuce, cheese, banana peppers and avocado, with your choice of chicken, beef, pork or tilapia.

Gallo's Tap Room

5019 Olentangy River Rd.
(614) 457-2394
UPPER ARLINGTON



They are making no bones about it: Gallo's Tap Room serves bar food. You know: nachos, cheese fries, chicken tenders, burgers and sandwiches. What sets Gallo's apart from your garden-variety tap room, however is the quality of the food. It's all homemade, from the apple coleslaw to the teriyaki citrus wasabi wing sauce. This room's New Orleans' classic muffaletta, which they call **The Big Easy (\$8.49)**, contains the most delicious olive salad in all of the Eastern and most of the Central time zones.

Coaches Bar & Grill

3296 N. High St.
(614) 267-3354
CLINTONVILLE



It's baseball season and you're craving a delicious meal. There's just one problem, you're stuck at work. Well, we're here to solve your lunchtime dilemma. Coaches has more than a dozen flat-screen TVs with about every sport possible. The grill also has an outdoor patio and serves up the finest food choices to compliment these features. The **Italian Sub (\$8.95)** is an oven-baked delight, stuffed with Capicola ham, salami and provolone cheese topped with lettuce, tomato, banana peppers and Italian dressing.

DeepWood

511 N. High St.
(614) 221-5602
DOWNTOWN



At DeepWood, you know what everything is, but you just can't figure out how they came up with it or made it taste so damn good. Take for example their Slow Braised Ribs. Even the slaw it comes with is so good it demands recognition and pause. The **Warm Spinach Salad (\$7)** with warmed bacon vinaigrette and one perfectly placed sunny-side-up quail egg on brioche arrests your attention just the same. The only things potentially better than these are their impressive beer and scotch selections.

Eastern Bay

2055 Riverside Dr.
(614) 487-1198
GRANDVIEW



Chinese dining used to be an event. So, it's refreshing to have a place like Eastern Bay in this era of all-you-can-eat Chinese food. Their dishes are authentic, old-school Chinese-American, prepared fresh and served family-style. The waiters wear bow-ties and refills the hot tea and iced water as fast as you can drink it. This may just seem like a minor detail, but, if you get the **Hot and Spicy Szechwan Beef (\$7.95)** with fresh jalapenos, you'll be drinking it pretty fast.

Elevator Brewery

161 N. High St.
(614) 228-0500
DOWNTOWN



When you walk into Elevator Brewery and Draught Haus, you are impressed immediately with the historic integrity of the architecture. The owners restored the building's original 1910 décor and made it the coolest restaurant to eat and drink in Columbus. The menu is soon to change, but the classics always stay. Making the cut will be the **De Novo Pizza (\$9)**—a fresh-baked pesto pizza, with Roma tomatoes, smoked Gouda and dressed spinach. A cold beer must accompany.

German Village Coffee Shop

193 Thurman Ave.
(614) 443-8900
GERMAN VILLAGE



Some chicken clubs don't even have crispy chicken on them. That's just silly. Crispy chicken is better. Don't just take our word for it, though. Get over to German Village Coffee Shop and try the **Chicken Club (\$4.95)**. Not only is the chicken crispy, it's also moist, flavorful and smothered in melted cheese. While you're in a cheese smothering mood, try the Western Omelet. If you prefer less cheese in your smothering, get a short stack. Smother them in delicious syrup.

Cornerstone Deli & Café

3296 N. High St.
(614) 267-3354
CLINTONVILLE



Whether it's a bagel and coffee, deli sandwich, fresh salad, Chinese or even a sushi roll that you're craving for lunch, Cornerstone is the one-stop shop. It's quite possible to frequent this place three times in one day and have a different type of cuisine at each visit. For lunch, dig into the **Asiago Beef Sandwich (\$6.79)**. An Asiago bagel overflows with roast beef, cheddar cheese, lettuce, tomato, onion and horseradish sauce. With so many options, deciding what you want will be your only problem here.

Dewey's Pizza

1327 W. 5th Ave.
(614) 487-8282
GRANDVIEW



Dewey's is a full service family restaurant that's gaining a reputation for serving high-quality custom pizza, eclectic salads, crafted beer and boutique wines. Their slogan is "Taking pizza to the next level." Our palette was taken to new heights when we bit into their **Socrates' Revenge (\$13.95; serves 3)**. This 11-inch pie is busting out of its seams with off-the-charts cheese and roasted veggies. The 11-inch pizza and salad combination is an ideal meal to share between a few hungry souls on a budget.

Easy Street Cafe

197 Thurman Ave.
(614) 444-3279
GERMAN VILLAGE



Easy Street Cafe is stimulating enough as is with all of the sports and celebrity memorabilia gracing its walls. However, even the sharp memorabilia takes a backseat to their menu when it's time to stimulate your taste buds. We initially split their Herculean sized Greek Veggie Pizza, but the star of the show proved to be the full **Greek Salad topped with Gyro meat (\$8.75)**. This classic salad includes fresh mixed lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers, pepperoncinis, red onions, Kalamata olives and feta cheese.

Fabian's

691 N. High St.
(614) 221-8240
SHORT NORTH



Fabian's pays homage to the Windy City by boasting Chi-Town's notorious deep-dish pizza and other Chicago-inspired fare. You can order large pizzas to share, but our experience tells us that you'll probably want to hoard a Fabian's pie to yourself. Order the **Personal Pizza (\$7, \$0.50 for each additional topping)**. Don't let the short diameter fool your stomach—this little guy is dense, and it's more than enough for a party of one.

Giuseppe's Ritrovo

2268 E. Main St.
(614) 235-4300
BEXLEY



For more than a decade, sweet strains of a romantic language have floated from the kitchen as owner and executive chef Giuseppe Mangano lovingly prepares the **Insalata Rossé (\$8.50)**. 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. Be sure to plan a lunch hour that extends until 2:30 p.m.

Cotter's Restaurant

200 West Nationwide Blvd.
(614) 221-9060
DOWNTOWN



Located in the heart of the Arena District, Cotter's Restaurant offers it all. From an outstanding wait staff to an unbelievably fresh menu, we were blown away by the high-class atmosphere. With daily lunch specials, we opted for the **Shrimp Salad (\$8.99)**, with mixed greens tossed in a mango salsa with chick peas, cucumbers, strawberries, tomatoes and pine nuts. Great for lunch in between meetings, you'll head back to work feeling excited to finish the day fit and full.

Digger and Finch

6720 Riverside Dr.
(614) 889-8585
DUBLIN



If you're lucky enough to find a good Guinness Stout and a delicious, aged cheddar soup, you might consider walking barefoot over broken glass and rattlesnakes to get to it. Or since you're in Columbus, with easy access to Digger & Finch, you might take it easy on your feet and simply make a short car trip. Plus, after the soup, you can get a huge plate of Bangers and Mash, some Shepherd's Pie or **Scottish Beef on Weck (\$8.95)**.

Egg Fast

24 East 12th Ave.
(614) 299-3447
CAMPUS



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

Five Guys Burgers & Fries

2134 Polaris Pkwy.
(614) 436-5550
POLARIS



As the name suggests, Five Guys Burgers and Fries serves up two things: burgers and fries (well OK, they have dogs, too). Their focus on burgers and fries means you won't find anything less than perfect here, and when we bit into our massive **Bacon Cheeseburger (\$8.98 with fries and FREE toppings)**, we knew we were tasting perfection. Our burger came with two huge, juicy patties. You'll have to order a Little Burger to get just one patty, but where's the fun in that?

Gooneyz

1554 North High St.
(614) 824-1731
CAMPUS



Gooneyz is a locally owned grilled-cheese joint located at the South Campus Gateway. The spot claims its gourmet grilled cheeses are better than your mom's (but don't tell her). Owned by Ohio State alums, the restaurant has inexpensive food, live music, a full bar and stays open late. We tried the **O'ahue Gooneyz Hawaiianz and fresh-cut fries (\$7.98)**. With ham, grilled pineapple, mozzarella, and pizza sauce, this grilled cheese beats any we have ever tasted. Sorry moms!

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Graffiti Burger

7561 Sowmill Road
(614) 734-1008
DUBLIN



Imagine what you'd get if you took the intelligent, tasteful food of Aladdin's and combined it with the comfortable soul food of a Cameron Mitchell's restaurant. That's exactly what Graffiti Burger is. What the owner of Aladdin's and ex-chef for Cameron Mitchell's have put together is the Archie's of modern-day dining. We made our delicious combo, (\$5.49) **The Original Graffiti burger**, fresh coleslaw, pickles and a homemade shake. You'll love their look, too.

HoneyBaked Ham

1085 Polaris Parkway
(614) 880-9900
POLARIS



Yeah, these cats have cornered the market with their insanely good ham – correction: bone-in, spiral-sliced and honey-spice glazed ham. It's ready at a moment's notice, just like the **Supreme Box Lunches (\$7.29)**, all of which feature signature homemade sandwiches (including the bread) that are loaded with an incredible serving of top-shelf meat that's pulled from the standby American lunch dining lexicon and served with a homemade cookie, a side and a drink.

J. Liu Restaurant

6880 N. High St.
(614) 488-1818
WORTHINGTON



J. Liu Restaurant and Bar has such a diverse menu that you don't have to settle for just one dish. Head to J. Liu for the perfect blend of uniquely flavored food, paired adequately with a modernized, stylish atmosphere that will be sure to please you and your co-workers. Our favorite item on the menu: **Balsamic Grilled Chicken (\$8.99)** marinated in fresh herbs and balsamic vinaigrette and topped with house-made oven-dried tomatoes, fresh Mozzarella and basil aioli.

King Gyros

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



Since 1991, the customer has been considered king at this family-owned and operated restaurant in Whitehall. There are more than 60 selections that are under \$9 and pair family recipes with traditional Greek spices, like the **Falafel Greek Salad (\$7.50)**, 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.

Loops

1629 Northwest Blvd
(614) 670-8808
GRANDVIEW



From the black-and-white décor to the Greek-tinged pita sandwiches, Loops has worked hard to live up to its namesake, the famous Chicago "Loop." This local establishment pays tribute to the windy city by reintroducing Columbus to the world of the Chicago-style Hot Dog, Italian Beef, and Gyro. All of the ingredients in the **Chopped Salad with Gyro (\$6.95)** are fresh and straight from Chi-town, a perfect meal when paired with the delightful, lightly-seasoned **Loop's Fries (\$1.85)**.

Hangover Easy

1646 Neil Ave.
(614) 586-0070
CAMPUS



If every push on your keyboard is causing an intense headache, we suggest getting to Hangover Easy. Even their location proves they are masters of curing hangovers. Don't underestimate the curing power of their food. Order the #3 (**Fat Joe's Breakfast \$7.99**) and you will be in heaven dining on the 2 eggs, 2 pancakes, 2 meats, hoe fries and toast. And in the end, you will have only spent the cost of what you spent on one drink last night!

Impero Coffee Roaster

849 N. High St.
(614) 294-2489
SHORT NORTH



Impero Coffee Roaster is a modernized, intimate coffee shop that gives coffee a whole new meaning. Stop in and order a signature latte, complimented with unique coffee art, and become educated on their one-of-a-kind brewing system. Review the lunch menu with delectable items ranging from the Tabouleh Salad to the Shawarma Sandwich. Especially great is the **The Falafel Sandwich (\$4.95)**, a pita lined with hummus, lettuce, cucumber, tomatoes and special tahini sauce.

Jason's Deli

225 West Bridge St.
(614) 336-3853
DUBLIN



I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream. The free, unlimited soft serve ice cream isn't the only thing setting Jason's Deli apart from a typical deli. Whether your lunch cravings involve pizza, pasta or a salad from the fresh, organic salad bar, this deli has it all. Our favorite is the **Chicken Pasta Primo (\$7.49)**, made with tender chicken, Jason's original tomato basil sauce, chopped basil, garlic and ripe tomatoes. You'll also be pleasantly surprised by the spacious layout.

Kobe Japanese Steakhouse

3884 Morse Rd.
(614) 428-8880
EASTON



Kobe debuts a new lunch menu this month, much to the delight of Asian food lovers everywhere. We were impressed with nearly everything we tried, like the Vegetable Soba Noodles and Udon Noodle Soup, which is a delicious combination of thick rice noodles in miso yaki broth and topped with tempura flakes, seaweed and mini fish cakes. With so many great entrée selections, don't be tempted by the fantastic selection of appetizers, like **Shrimp Tempura, Edamame and Steak Kabobs (\$8)**.

Los Jalapenos

1566 Stringtown Rd.
(614) 875-8071
GROVE CITY



All fiendish fans of guacamole out there will be happy to know Los Jalapenos brings a mortar and pestle table-side to make the ultimate dip to their specifications. Pico de gallo and salsa can also be made to order for dipping. A stone mortar also acts as the trestle for steak, chicken, pork chop, chorizo and shrimp on the impressive Moclajete entree. For a more sensible appetite, though, we loved the perfectly seasoned chicken of the **Fajitas al Gusto (\$7.49)**.

Hickory House

7051 E. Main St.
(614) 861-5962
GAHANNA



As one experience here will clearly prove, this restaurant is overflowing with taste, the kind that permeates from old-fashioned ribs, steaks and pulled pork. Don't wait for your next family pow-wow to dine here. This house features an eclectic lunchtime menu with offerings ranging from **8oz. New York Boneless Strip Steaks (\$7.95)** served with onion rings and steak fries, to gigantic signature salads served with homemade dressings (the Blue Cheese is delicious), to items like Crab Stuffed Shrimp.

Indochine

885 S. Hamilton Rd.
(614) 231-7357
WHITEHALL



Respectable cuisine governs; however, genuine hospitality steps the extra yard. Case in point: Indochine, one of Columbus' finest restaurants specializing in Vietnamese and Laotian cuisine. Savory favorites, like tasty specialty Sub Sandwiches, Laotian-style Beef and **Bun Cha Gio (\$6.00)**, which consists of rice vermicelli noodles mixed with select vegetables, herbs, tender grilled pork and a spicy fish sauce, are equaled only by the house's attentive care.

Juergen's Bakery and Café

525 S. 4th St.
(614) 224-6858
GERMAN VILLAGE



Looking for a place that will satisfy your sweet tooth and fill your stomach in one stop? If so, Juergens Baeckerei und Konditorei, as they would call it in Germany, is the place to be! The spot is known for its to-die-for deserts including pastries, tortes and pretzels and also for serving the first quiche in Columbus more than 40 years ago! We went for the pan-fried **Traditional Schnitzel (\$8.95)**, and didn't forget to stop at the euro import store before we walked out!

Krema Nut Co.

1000 W. Goodale Blvd.
(614) 299-4131
GRANDVIEW



Every once in a while, you find something so good, so pure that it makes your soul smile. One such treasure is a truly homemade **Vanilla Milkshake (\$3.50)** and **PB&J Sandwich (\$4.25)**, and it can be found at the Krema Nut Company. For more than 100 years, Krema's been in-house roasting the finest nuts money can buy, which are brilliantly used to make several versions of gourmet butter. A sandwich here belongs in a Rockwell painting.

Mac's Cafe

693 N. High St.
(614) 221-6227
SHORT NORTH



Mac's Scottish style Cafe is a pub's pub. Any day of the week, you'll find many local blue collars spending their well-earned money and downtime at Mac's. That's probably because of the casual environment and attentive service. The cafe is known for hard-to-find Scottish fare, as well as rib sticking comfort food. The comfort food of choice during lunch is the **Meatloaf Special (\$8.95)**, served with famous fried green beans, home style mashed potatoes and an all-too-important ladle of gravy.

Hoggy's

1416 W. 5th Ave.
(614) 485-4647
COLUMBUS



Soups, salads and sandwiches are foundations of lunchtime, but when Hoggy's does them, they build a towering monument of cheese-smothered deliciousness. For instance, they turn a salad of crisp cucumber, asparagus and tomatoes into a Prime Rib Salad by adding tender prime rib and crispy onion straws. Then there's the **Ben & Andy's sandwich (\$8.95)** with Cajun-seasoned chicken breast with sautéed onions, peppers and tomato salsa, tucked tight under a blanket of provolone cheese.

J Gumbo's Cajun Joint

31 E. Gay St.
(614) 469-9900
DOWNTOWN



Nestled in a corridor containing other thriving restaurants, thousands of office workers and a bustling two-day-a-week market, J Gumbo's is the kind of addition downtown needs. The joint's classic one-two punch is addictive: a **Jambalaya (\$5.87)** left jab, with a Gumbo right hook. A home-style soup with deep brown roux, onions and bell peppers, slow cooked for more than four hours and served with chicken and andouille sausage will take your taste buds twelve rounds.

Katzinger's Delicatessen

475 S. Third St.
(614) 228-3354
GERMAN VILLAGE



The small sandwiches at this place are huge! That's how they seem after you wander around the exotic cheeses, cured meats, oils and sauces for sale. If there isn't a taste of it already out, you can find someone who'll give you one. Samples of oil-soaked baguette, cheese and meats are a perfect precursor to a deli sandwich or kosher dog. **The Becker Belt 'Em (\$8.75)** claims to be the best egg salad sandwich in town. We have no evidence to the contrary.

La Fogata Grill

740 N. High St.
(614) 294-7656
SHORT NORTH



Boasting one of the few patios on High Street, La Fogata Grill is a regular hot spot for the Short North's busy crowds. If you desire good food and drink out on a street-view patio, La Fogata is your place. It's hard to resist their Blood Orange Margarita, but you can't drink on an empty stomach, so it should be accompanied by a hearty **Camarones a la Plancha Salad (\$6.99)**, teeming with grilled shrimp, onions and mushrooms, served on a bed of romaine lettuce, tomatoes, avocados and cheese.

Mad Mex

1542 N. High St.
(614) 586-4007
CAMPUS



The chicken fajitas are hot, right off the grill; the piles of rice and beans are vast and delicious; and the guacamole is prepared fresh, to perfection, ready to conquer that Spanish-infused part of your heart. So, head south of the border for Mad Mex. What'll really get your mouth going is their **Grilled Chicken Torta (\$9)**. Marinated chicken breast, Monterey Jack cheese, hummus, alfalfa sprouts, lettuce, tomato and onion are served on grilled flatbread with chipotle aioli dipping sauce on the side.

Really? Do you need a reason?

La Fogata Grill
AUTENTICA MEXICANA

SHORT NORTH: 790 N HIGH ST COLUMBUS, OH 43215 614.294.7656

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Marshall's

1105 W. First Ave.
(614) 294-1105
GRANDVIEW



Marshall's has huge, triple-decker Rubens, fantastic burgers and enormous salads. Plus, they guarantee you will leave the joint full. They can do that because they pile on the tasty vittles. **The Western Omelet (\$7.55)** is at least a pound and a half by itself. So when you add the home fries and toast, you're looking at close to two pounds of food. It kinda seems insurmountable, until you take that first bite and realize you're not stopping until the plate is clean.

Max & Erma's

739 S. 3rd St.
(614) 444-0917
GERMAN VILLAGE



This all-American stop has won the hearts of many throughout the years and continues to exceed the expectations of those who dine in and out. And just when you didn't think the menu couldn't be more genius, the "super secret" **3-Course Combo (\$8.99)** was created. Your plate is filled with a 6-ounce Erma Cheeseburger, seasoned fries, a cup of tortilla soup and is completed with a famous ooey-goey chocolate chip cookie. It's the sort of meal that makes lunch worth waiting for.

Mellow Mushroom

2170 Polaris Parkway
(614) 885-6355
POLARIS



There's just something about pizza that makes everyone excited. Whether it's the crisp and flaky crust, the fresh tomato sauce or the layers of multiple cheeses that feed the craze, we'll never know. But one thing we do know for sure is that Mellow Mushroom is no exception. Not only does the spot serve delicious large slices of pizza, but also offered is an array of soups, salads and hoagies. We found the **Meatball Appetizer (\$6.50)** especially pleasing.

Mezzo Italian Kitchen

130 Creekside Plaza
(614) 476-9900
GAHANNA



The Creekside Plaza is a beautiful, newly-built commercial and residential development that creates a dining and leisure experience rivaling any other in Columbus. Mezzo is a hip and sophisticated Italian restaurant, nuzzled right in the middle of Creekside Plaza. Aesthetics play a big part in Mezzo's menu. Each dish, including the **Braised Veal Meatballs (\$9)**, is as photogenic as it is delicious. The atmosphere is amazing and the food is first class. Come try it for yourself.

Mia Cucina

5525 New Albany Rd.
(614) 775-0181
NEW ALBANY



The atmosphere and food quality at Mia Cucina can be accurately described as upscale Italian, though the price points are varied enough to satisfy virtually any pocketbook. If you're in the mood for a classic Italian entrée, head straight for the Salmon Piccata. But if you want a hearty lunch, then try the **Chicken Pesto Pizza (\$10.30 feeds two)**: a delicious 12-inch pie comes with grilled chicken, sliced tomatoes, mozzarella and Provolone. The dough alone is magic.

Michael O'Toole's

263 E. Whittier St.
(614) 443-3699
GERMAN VILLAGE



The vaulted ceilings, spacious layout and wide windows are a few of the notable features of this restaurant. If your tastes simply can't be satisfied by anything other than great American food, comfortable surroundings and a jovial staff, then we've found you 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 soup.

MoJoe Lounge

600 N. High St.
(614) 225-1563
SHORT NORTH



MoJoe Lounge's world-class, locally roasted coffees have long been a Columbus craze, but it's the newly created dining menus that are generating a new buzz around town. Lunch now includes an all-inclusive sandwich, side and beverage for only \$8.95; Sunday brunch sports a made-to-order omelet bar; and both the Hummus Plate and the Pepper & Chicken Wrap are only \$5 during happy hours. One standout on the new lunch menu is the **Pulled-Pork Sliders (\$9)** served with sweet and spicy slaw.

Old Bag of Nails

663 N. High St.
(614) 436-5552
WORTHINGTON



Steeped in the culture and traditions from the beer-can collections, genuine wooden furniture and overall pub paraphernalia, it's the closest thing you'll get to sitting in Ireland's finest tavern. Enjoy the everyday half-off muscles and shrimp for happy hour. Order the **Fish Sandwich (\$8.99)**: fresh Atlantic fish is broiled, blackened or hand-battered and fried, then served on a hoagie with lettuce, tomato and onion. Pair it with a Guinness and you're set.

Oscar's

84 N. High St.
(614) 792-3424
DUBLIN



High Street in Dublin has become a sort of well-manicured restaurant row, with tasteful and ordinance-respecting signage. Up towards the end of that row is Oscar's. The patio is a fantastic place to relax, get a bite to eat and people watch. Try a huge, meaty chicken salad or the savory twist on the Jamaican culinary staple: **Jerk Beef Quesadillas (\$7.50)**. Get an umbrella drink and face away from High Street and you might convince yourself you're on the beach.

Pacific Eatery and Catering

4515 Kenney Road
(614) 451-1428
UPPER ARLINGTON



If you love fresh, made-to-order Chinese, Pacific Eatery is the place for you. "Straight from the wok" is the motto here, and the second you taste it, you'll understand. Try something different and go for **Crispy Walnut Shrimp (\$7.95)**, lightly fried jumbo shrimp covered with walnuts in a special mayonnaise sauce over a bed of pineapple. This steaming hot meal will make you look at it and think, wow, that's good!

Pattycake Vegan Bakery

3009 N. High St.
(614) 784-2253
CLINTONVILLE



Who says you can't have dessert for lunch and that you can't make a delicious baked good without using any animal products? Pattycake demolishes both of these myths with a supply of baked goods that tastes better than its butter-and-egg laced counterparts. The **Everything Oatmeal Cookie (\$2.30)**, the **Chocolate Peanut Butter Cupcake (\$3)** and the **Banana Walnut Muffin (\$2.75)** are packed with ingredients that will give you enough energy to get through an afternoon slump, be it mental or physical.

Pei Wei

2050 Polaris Prkwy
(614) 985-4852
POLARIS



Love P.F. Chang's but don't have the time for a sit-down meal? Pei Wei is a Chang's concept offering an entire menu under \$10, filled with all sorts of familiar pan-Asian delights. Everything is fresh and the menu is tweaked just enough to tout the restaurant's culinary class. During our visit, we had the **Lo Mein Noodles and Chicken Thai Dynamite (\$7.95)** in spicy Sriracha chili-sauce with soy, lime, scallions, red bell peppers, carrots and a touch of Thai basil.

Phat Wraps

10 East 12th Ave.
(614) 754-1711
CAMPUS



This totally green and groovy place boasts a healthy alternative to "fast food." The spot is void of processed food, committed to being environmentally friendly, using biodegradable takeout boxes, napkins and utensils. Phat Wraps serves up fresh ingredients and offers energy drinks, vitamin water and bottled water made from plant products. Try the delicious **Grilled Vegan Soy (\$7.00)**, grilled flatbread stuffed with vegan soy, Monterey Jack cheese, fresh vegetables and homemade dressing.

Piece of Cake

772 N. High St.
(614) 421-0399
SHORT NORTH



The warm, buttery scents hit you even before you walk in the door. Put your New Year's resolution on hold for a second and work off the calories later. Their custom made cakes and bakery items will send you to heaven. And it's not just their cakes, either. Their lunch menu offers a diverse display of food like the **Italian Panini Sandwich (\$6 full, \$3.50 half)** with smoked ham, salami, Provolone cheese, banana peppers, lettuce and tomato with a zesty Italian dressing.

Pizza Rustica

1558 N. High Street
(614) 824-1909
CAMPUS



This Roman-style eatery offers authentic, mouth-watering toppings on slices of pizza so addictive they could be considered a full-fledged meal. We have to recommend the **Prosciutto & Mozzarella Panini Sandwich (\$6.95)**. Toasted on homemade Rustica bread, this sandwich is a blend of imported prosciutto de parma, crisp arugula, fresh diced tomatoes, and buffalo mozzarella cheese. If that isn't enough, try a slice of the **Buckeye Pizza (\$1.50)**, a dangerous combination of creamy chocolate hazelnut Nutella and melted peanut butter. Hungry yet?

Plank's Bier Garten

888 S High St
(614) 443-4570
GERMAN VILLAGE



This friendly, down-to-earth staff understands that the comforting power of a good Dagwood (**\$7.25** we recommend the **corned beef and swiss**) or a specialized pizza washed down with a healthy pint of brew will forever attract a regular dining crowd. The aforementioned Dagwood at Plank's is served with the coleslaw and fries on top of the sandwich. There is no excuse why anyone living in Columbus who enjoys great food and a cold pint of beer hasn't been to this sure-bet establishment.

Potbelly Sandwich Works

17 S. High St.
(614) 224-1976
DOWNTOWN



Everything at Potbelly is crazy cheap and really good. The freshly toasted sandwiches are overfull of thinly sliced meats, handmade tuna and chicken salads, and/or meatballs. Each sandwich is good for about a dozen napkins, 'cause the delicious dressings, hot pepper juice, mayo, mustard and whatnots are bound and determined to make it to the elbow. One of their sandwiches barely has room for sauce, with salami, roast beef, turkey, ham and Swiss taking up most of the room. It's **A Wreck (\$5.50)**.

Rigsby's Kitchen

698 N. High St.
(614) 461-7888
SHORT NORTH



Rigsby's is inarguably one of the classiest places in Central Ohio. So if you want lunch to be an impressive event, you really should consider Rigsby's. The **Grilled Hamburger with Aged Cheddar on Olive Oil Bun (\$9)** is quite possibly the classiest (and most delicious) burger in town. In fact, it's the kind of lunch item that goes as well with a beer as it does with a Bellini— y'know, if your boss, your client or whomever you are lunching with is cool with that sort of thing.

Si Senior

6 East Long St.
(614) 227-0070
DOWNTOWN



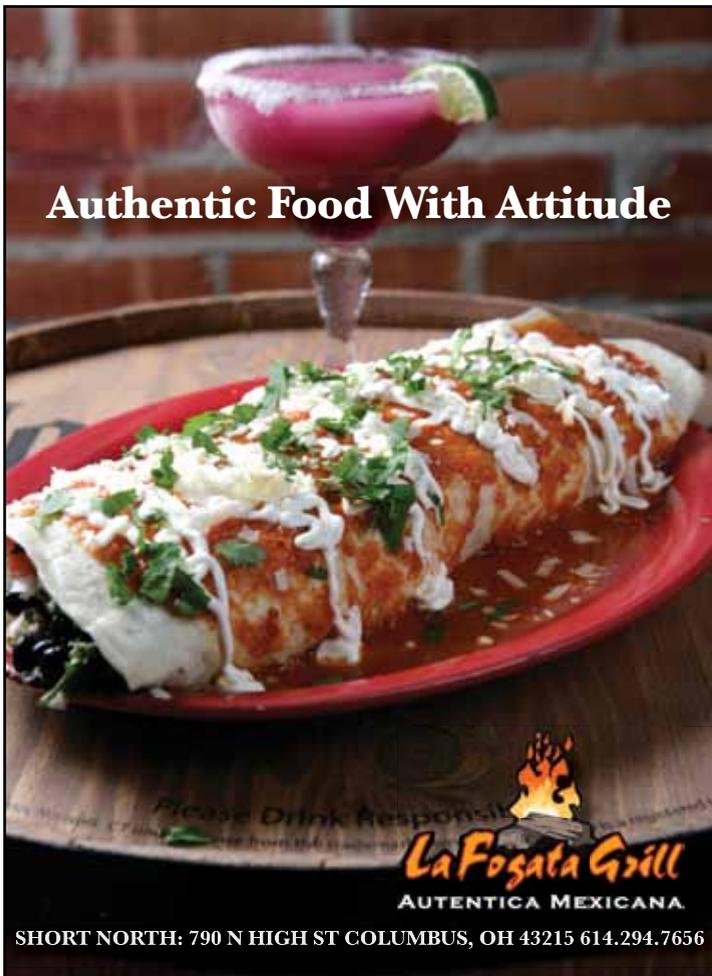
Treating yourself to a freshly prepared, made-to-order Latin flavored dish sounds amazing, right? Si, señor! That's what we thought, too. Traditional American fare is served here but jazzed up with flavors like jalapenos, chipotle sauce and avocado mayo. The upbeat music adds a special flair that complements 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 hope you can concentrate on work once you've finished.

Skully's Music Diner

1151 N. High St.
(614) 291-8856
SHORT NORTH



Walking into Skully's gives the feeling of traversing time. With local artists cluttering the walls and cartoons playing on the TV, it's hard not to feel welcome. **Grab the Chicken Quesadilla (\$6)**, packed with cheddar and Monterey Jack cheese, red, banana and jalapeno peppers is perfect with an order of **Famous Seasoned Fries (\$2)**, which taste like they're from the fair. Bring buddies for a happy hour extending until nine.



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Spinelli's Deli

767 Neil Ave.
(614) 280-1044
COLUMBUS



Spinelli's Deli, located in the Thurber Center, boasts one of the Short North's most loyal customer bases. While much of the activity in the Short North is located on High Street, many of its residents live off Neil Avenue, making Spinelli's a prime location for the hungry masses. The menu caters to an assortment of appetites. Our appetite enjoyed the **Philly Beefy Butties (\$6.29)**. This roast beef sandwich sports grilled onions, green pepper, banana peppers and provolone cheese on an asiago roll.

Starliner Diner

5240 Cemetery Road
(614) 529-1198
HILLIARD



There might be some confusion as to what exactly all of the funky, fun décor plastered all over the restaurant is, but there's one thing for certain – no wall space is wasted here! Murals depict a whimsical, fantasy-like world, and the dishes are filled with Latin infused flavors. Order the **Chiliquiles Southwestern Scram (\$9)**, 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.

Sunny St. Café

5481 New Albany Rd. West
(614) 939-4848
NEW ALBANY



Step into the sun and enjoy the bright atmosphere of Sunny Street Café. Open from 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Sunny Street caters to the breakfast and lunch lover during all hours of operation. With new lunch items guaranteed to make your mouth water, we tried the **Turkey Philly Sandwich (\$8.29)**, with shaved turkey and cream cheese piled on a hoagie with melted provolone and sautéed green peppers, onions and mushrooms. We left feeling refreshed and ready to finish the day.

Sushi Rock

570 North High St.
(614) 453-1585
SHORT NORTH



Located directly on the Short North Cap at High Street and Goodale, Sushi Rock is a great destination, with more than 15 sushi selections under \$7, and parking for \$1 during lunch. **The House Salad (\$6)** has field greens, fresh mozzarella and carrots paired with an Oriental Orange Ginger dressing. The Salmon Sake Sashimi without rice (\$6) also keeps the carbs low but the flavor explosive with shaved ginger and wasabi on the side. Both will leave the budget open for a martini!

Tasi

680 N. Pearl St.
(614) 222-0788
SHORT NORTH



Get to Tasi early. Nab the big, wooden table up front. As the place fills up, insist that other people join you. You have, after all, taken the largest table in the place. Get to know each other a little while you polish off **The Italian Stallion (\$9)**. The Italian Stallion is a most carefully assembled sandwich, consisting of preserved Italian meats, real fresh vegetables and some top-secret, industry-insider stuff that only comes from the Riggsbys.

Trattoria Roma

1447 Grandview Ave.
(614) 488-2104
GRANDVIEW



In Columbus there are few places to get a sandwich named after demons. There are even fewer that feature sandwiches named after fiends or succubi. Fewer still have sandwiches named after the Prince of Darkness himself. So, when you find such a thing, you expect it to be hellishly good. Your expectations will be met at Trattoria Roma. **The Capicolla Diavolo (\$9)** has the trinity of cured meats (capicolla, salami and pepperoni), some damned good Fontinella cheese and spicy aioli sauce.

Union Café

782 N. High St.
(614) 421-2233
SHORT NORTH



It's lunchtime, but you're not sure what will satisfy that lunchtime hunger. Problem solved: Union Café. You will find something to satisfy yourself, from a Goat Cheese, Pancetta and Leek Flatbread, to a Steak and Egg Sub, to a Lobster Roll Sandwich. We suggest the **Shrimp Tempura Sandwich (\$8.49)**. This jawbreaker is stacked high with tempura veggies, a creamy chili sauce and Asian slaw. Be sure to check out one of their amazing martini creations — just don't tell your boss!

Wholly Joe's

1182 E. Powell Rd.
(614) 430-9441
POLARIS



Wholly Joe's brings Chicago-style eats to Columbus. This is good because we don't have to brave the traffic and blistering winds to enjoy a **Chicago-style Polish Sausage (\$3.35)**, with all the toppings you'd like – onions, relish, mustard and jalapeno peppers, for starters. Wholly Joe's will take care of you like Chi-town's Prohibition era gangsters took care of their politicians. In a town like Columbus, where there are several of everything, know that Wholly Joe's stands alone.

Z Pizza

945 N. High St.
(614) 299-3289
SHORT NORTH



This recent addition to the Short North promotes its organic inspirations throughout the entire menu. Chefs here take your veggie burger to the next level with a smattering of crumbs on prize-winning Wisconsin low-fat mozzarella. Cuing from toppings like roasted yams, chicken cilantro sausage, and zucchini, indulge with the added perk that you're doing your body proud. We certainly did, with a **Rustica Mediterranean Pizza (\$8.95)** of artichoke hearts, Greek olives, and pili pili oil.

Zuppa

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

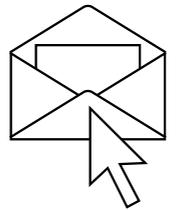


At the Upper Arlington three-level locale, you can get wired with a full coffee shop menu, unwired with free wi-fi, play a little foosball, or just relax by the fireplace on the comfy couches. The menu of soups, salads, sandwiches and pastas are served quick and made to order. The **Veggie Philly (\$6.75)** is a perfectly herby garden delight served on freshly leavened ciabatta and sprinkled with mozzarella, Parmesan, Provolone and Italian salsa. Be sure to save room for the to-die-for desserts.

DIDN'T SEE YOUR FAVORITE LUNCH DESTINATION ON OUR LIST?

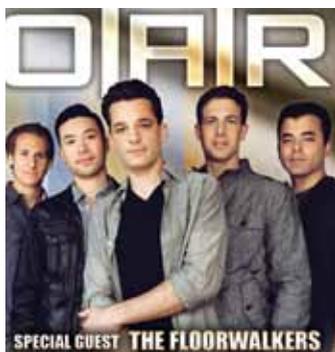
It may be we don't know about it yet. If it's less than nine bucks for a lunch, e-mail us at editor@columbusmag.com. If we feature your selection, we'll buy you lunch!

Check out www.ColumbusMag.com to find hundreds more 9 for \$9 lunch features and browse through menus online.



ART WHERE'S

More to C » p.47



HOMETOWN HEROES

If you're a die-hard O.A.R. fan, you don't need us to run through the history of how some of the guys met in grade school and that the band became what it is today while "studying" at The Ohio State University. But we will tell you that the band returns to their second home to rock

The LC Pavilion on May 20. Get ready to enjoy the tunes of Marc Roberge (vocals, guitar), Chris Culos (drums, percussion), Richard On (guitar, backing vocals), Benj Gershman (bass guitar) and Jerry DePizzo (saxophone, guitar, backing vocals).

According to Everfine Records, O.A.R.'s new album was set to be released sometime in 2011 before the summer tour kicked off; however, according to frontman Marc Roberge, they decided to push it to around September. Roberge stated earlier this year on the band's website, "It's always been rushed, and we just realized, what's the point of that?" The band now plans to release their album sometime after the summer tour and before the early fall tour. But that doesn't mean you won't get to hear the new stuff on May 20.

For tickets, go to www.ticketmaster.com



CATCH SOME ZZZZZS

The Rebels & Bandoleros Tour, starring Lynyrd Skynyrd and ZZ Top, brings together two of the most iconic bands in the history of American rock as they perform at Columbus' Schottenstein Center on May 24. The two bands first joined forces in 1974 when Houston-based ZZ Top invited Lynyrd Skynyrd, then an emerging new band from Jacksonville, to become part of The Outlaw Tour. Get tickets at ticketmaster.com.



ROCK ON!

Rock on the Range at Crew Stadium returns for its 5th year on May 21 and 22. The show will feature a spectacular lineup of rock heavyweights, including A Perfect Circle, Avenged Sevenfold, Disturbed, Korn, Stone Sour and Staind. Juliya of Fuse TV will return as the mistress of ceremonies. Two-day weekend festival passes start at just \$99.50, but single-day tickets are still available. For tickets, go to www.ticketmaster.com.

REPRESENTIN'

MISS OHIO USA
ASHLEY CALDWELL

MISS MICHIGAN USA
CHANNING PIERCE

Interview & Intro: Kristen Foley
Photography: Eric Wagner
Makeup: Katrina Rutherford
Styling: Holly Smith
Hair: Stile Salon at Easton
Product Support: The Buckle at Easton

Since 2004, *C Magazine* has had the opportunity to not only feature Miss Ohio USA in some amazing photo spreads, but also learn a little bit more about the girl behind the crown. After completing these interviews over the years, it's become less and less about the behind-the-scenes stories of cattiness and slashed dresses, "butt glue" and "Vaseline on the teeth" and more about the real girls who decide to compete because of the experience of trying something new and have the ultimate goal of helping others during their reign.

For the second year in a row, we sat down with the newly crowned Miss Ohio USA Ashley Caldwell and her counterpart from the state up north, Miss Michigan USA Channing Pierce. There was no rivalry here, but each admitted during the interview they were a little nervous about meeting each other, mostly because of those well-told stories of cattiness we mentioned earlier. Neither knew what to expect of the other when they arrived at the photo shoot, but soon found they had more in common than they thought.

Both are relatively new to the pageant world, as this was Channing's first and Ashley's second. Both were tomboys growing up and each is admittedly quirky with a wild sense of humor to match. Perhaps the biggest thing they have in common is that neither ever expected to actually win their respective titles. They are fun, personable, and as expected, beautiful; however, we were lucky enough to learn that there is more than meets the eye when it comes to "beauty" queens. Get an inside view of each contestant before they go on to compete for Miss USA 2011 on June 19 in Las Vegas.





REPRESENTIN' » MISS OHIO & MISS MICHIGAN

Q & A » » » » » » »

WHERE DID YOU GROW UP?

Miss Michigan: I'm kind of from everywhere. I was born in Mission Viejo, California. I lived there for maybe two years, and then I moved to Alabama and lived there from age two through kindergarten. Then I moved to Michigan for 1st grade through 9th grade and then Nashville, Tennessee for high school. Then back to Michigan.

Miss Ohio: I'm from Gallipolis, Ohio. It's a very, very small town. Everyone knows everyone. It's one of those towns where you don't even have to use a turn signal; you know where that person is going. I grew up on my grandpa's farm. I've been around livestock and animals all my life. The first thing I learned how to drive was a tractor. This is a completely different atmosphere than what I grew up in.

TODAY WAS THE FIRST TIME YOU BOTH MET. SO NOW YOU'LL HAVE A BUDDY GOING INTO COMPETITION, RIGHT?

Miss Michigan: I was scared she was going to be different.

Miss Ohio: (laughs) I guess I'm normal now, though.

Miss Michigan: Going into it, we were both nervous that the other was going to be a "pageant girl." Not that pageant girls are bad...

Miss Ohio: We both have the same experience. We're real.

SINCE YOU ARE NOT "PAGEANT GIRLS," WHAT MADE YOU DO IT IN THE FIRST PLACE?

Miss Michigan: I wanted to experience something new. You gain something from everything you do. I wasn't

sure what to expect going into it. I kind of imagined the most beautiful babes who would be older than me and I didn't know of them yet because they were in the pageant world and I am in acting stuff. After orientation, I thought, "This won't be bad." But, going into it, I was the worst dancer, and to people who have done pageants before, everything was easy. I was just learning everything. I was like, "Whatever, I won't win." Some of these girls have been doing this their whole lives and they know all the tricks. They know about butt spray. They know about everything. I was the palest girl there. I didn't get highlights before I went. I just was me. Winning wasn't #1. I thought maybe I'll get a job out of it and get some new friends. I was just excited to congratulate the winner. I never thought it would actually be me.

Miss Ohio: When I was younger, I was such a tomboy, and when I was 16, I won a festival pageant. There were a few girls who ran for the same pageant and always told me I should do something like this. One night, I decided I was going to try out for Miss Ohio USA. I did it for the first time last year and was in the Top 15, and I thought I will do it one more time and be me, not what the pageant world wants. The first year, I listened to what everyone else told me to do, and this year, I was just Ashley. I think that's what made me shine and I'm really, really glad I stuck with it and did it.

SO NEITHER OF YOU WENT INTO IT AND PULLED OUT ALL THE STOPS TO COMPETE?

Miss Michigan: I knew how to walk from my modeling work. People told me to work on my walk and do this different and that different. I just wanted to



Miss Michigan in Rock Revival Pattie Straight Jean
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Miss Ohio in Daytrip Dip Dye Plaid Woven BKE Faux Fur Vest; BKE Nadine Boot; BKE Woven Belt; Miss Me Skinny Jeans



do my own thing and be natural, because if I don't, I won't look like me. I am the quirky one who was trying to make everyone have a good time.

HOW ARE YOU PREPARING FOR THE JUNE MISS USA PAGEANT IN VEGAS?

Miss Ohio: Mentally. Physically. Got to get your body in shape and look healthy. Tight, toned and then get your head where it needs to be and be yourself.

Miss Michigan: Interviews are my #1 weakness and what I'm working on most — even just things where I announce at the auto show and speaking to people. I've been working with Gas Station TV; that's not a plug (laughs). I have a script and have to talk into a camera and I use my hands a lot so I'm working on that all the time.

WHAT WAS THE WORST OR FUNNIEST ANSWER TO A QUESTION YOU WERE ASKED DURING THE PAGEANT?

Miss Michigan: I completely bombed my question. It was the easiest question and all the girls were probably mad because I got such an easy question. I was so nervous and I picked up the next question. It was "What is your favorite sports team in Detroit?" I don't watch sports and I could not think of anything. I said, "I don't watch sports that much." And they were still waiting on an answer. The judge who asked me this was the Dance Team coach for the Pistons, so, I probably should have said the Pistons. I also go to Redwings games all the time with my family and we're huge hockey fans. If I had to choose, hockey is the most fun to watch, but, I couldn't think of anything. I cocktail waitress in

Detroit during the weekends and during games, so, I was just like, "Think of anything! Any team! Say something!" And then all I saw was blue and I said the Detroit Lions! Everyone in the crowd was like, "WHAT?" The Lions haven't won a game in how long and are not that awesome. I think they did win the day after the pageant or something. I might have given them a little luck.

Miss Ohio: What about something stupid I did on stage on complete accident? Can I say that because it really did happen to me? The top 5 were backstage and you can't hear anything. You can't hear what the emcee is saying; you are just going when they tell you to go. They are announcing "Most Photogenic" and the girl in front of me was going out to pick up her award. In my mind, I think we are going back on stage to announce the winner. So, I'm on

stage when I'm not supposed to so it looks like I'm out there trying to take the award from her. I looked at the crowd and my eyes got really big and I ran backstage so fast. They said it's never happened at the Miss Ohio USA pageant. Thank goodness they had already picked the winner before that! It happens, I guess.

Miss Michigan: Some of the girls were saying, "You did bomb your question, so, it wasn't really fair that you won. Those five questions are not judged, it's more for the audience. The interviews are in the morning. I guess they had to justify why they didn't win. I wouldn't do that. I would have been happy for whoever won.

WHAT'S YOUR BIGGEST VICE?

Miss Ohio: Cheesecake. Sweets.

Miss Michigan: Red Bull. I'm

REPRESENTIN' » MISS OHIO & MISS MICHIGAN



Miss Ohio in Sinful Dahlia Thermal; BKE Quincy Heel; Miss Me Pyramid Pocket Jean; Daytrip Sequin Vest; BKE Moto Jacket; BKE Glitz Belt; BKE Bead Necklace

addicted to it. I wonder if Red Bull would sponsor my life.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB?

Miss Ohio: Working at Ponderosa. Yuck. I used to say Pondergrossa. Not the chain, but our store that we worked in was gross. It eventually got shut down.

Miss Michigan: I was a janitor at Alpine Valley Sky Lodge in White Lake, Michigan. I had to take out the garbage. All the boys were snowboarders and they were there and I got free lift tickets. It was cool.

WHAT WERE YOU LIKE WHEN YOU WERE 13 YEARS OLD?

Miss Ohio: Bushy eyebrows. Hair pulled back. Basketball shorts. Playing basketball at lunch with the boys, that was me.

Miss Michigan: I was more of a tomboy. That was when the skater boys were cool.

Miss Ohio: That's the age when you were trying to transition but you didn't know how.

Miss Michigan: I just remember that friends were my life. I stopped running track so I could hang out with my friends more.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST NOTABLE CHARACTERISTIC?

Miss Ohio: I get a lot of compliments on my smile. I like to smile. I'm in dental hygiene school, so thank goodness I have clean teeth and a good smile. Also my quirky, goofy attitude. My laugh is extremely loud. You either love it or you hate it. I get a lot of compliments on my legs, too.

Miss Michigan: I think I am the best friend anyone could have. I would go out of my way for anyone and everyone in my life. It's something I am proud of and who I am. I know that my friends appreciate me.

WHAT ONE POSSESSION DO YOU TREASURE THE MOST?

Miss Ohio: I don't have a whole lot of sentimental possessions. But one thing that I do have is my grandmother's scarf. It's the only thing that she's given me. One day, she may pass and I will have that to remember her by.

Miss Michigan: I have this ring on. I've had it on since January of 2009. It's part of my grandma's wedding ring that my grandfather gave her. It's my grandmother's old setting. She passed away when I was in 5th grade and my grandfather passed away two years ago. I like it because in some of the pageant pictures you can see it, so it's like they are here with me.

WHAT MAKES YOU ANGRY?

Miss Ohio: People not brushing their teeth. I'm just a fanatic. What makes me angry? In Ohio, riding the left lane. You are going 55 in a 70 or when two 18-wheelers are trying to pass each other and are taking a half an hour to do it.

Miss Michigan: When guys are rude to women. Hitting on them in bars. Just being a cocktail waitress you see people drinking and interacting, but when they are rude, it makes me angry. I usually stick up for the girl.

WHAT IS YOUR FOCUS DURING YOUR REIGN?

Miss Ohio: I am an ambassador for the Pink Ribbon Girls, which is for breast cancer. I want to also mention that my boyfriend is a diabetic, so, I want to get involved with the American Diabetes Association, too.

Miss Michigan: I want to work with young girls to try to show them to be confident in who they are — not feeling like you have to be anyone else and be proud to be different. I didn't have the confidence I have today. I realized that everything that makes you different makes you cool and I'm proud of it. I would just like to help younger girls with getting confidence earlier in life than I did.



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YEAR OF YOUR LIFE BAR NEXT DOOR | The C Magazine "Year of Your Life: Another Year" series kicked off a new year of events at The Bar Next Door in New Albany on St. Patty's Day. Sponsored by Bud Light and Ketel One, this series is not to be missed. Special guest, Nike jumper Chris Bryant, the "Jumping Being," joined us once again to jump over cars provided by Byers Imports. Meanwhile, another lucky winner secured his spot for the chance to win the year of his life. Go to www.ColumbusMag.com for a full listing of events.

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MAYOR COLEMAN | Guests gathered at Marshalls in Grandview on April 13 for a fundraiser for Mayor Coleman that was sponsored by area businessman. Guests enjoyed delicious food and drinks while learning about to the mayor's agenda. The upscale casual crowd wasted no time getting to the center of things and making a difference.



WILD CRUSH | Nearly 300 wine connoisseurs and wannabes gathered at the Walter Commons at St. Charles in Bexley on April 1 to celebrate spring during the 8th annual "Wild Crush" event to benefit the Central Ohio Chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Reps from 20 wineries poured samples of domestic and international vintages, while some of Columbus' finest restaurants provided culinary delights. Live jazz music set just the right mood for a fun-filled evening. A silent auction, which included a weekend stay and private tour of a Sonoma winery, helped raise over \$55,000 for research.



AMERICAN HERITAGE | Artists Ben Riffe and Naryan Claudy hosted an art show on April 2 at Stained Skin that celebrated American traditional tattoo styles. All of the paintings were done with watercolor on board and will be on show until May 6 at Stained Skin Tattoos.



FLEUR OPENING | Guests of Fleur, Columbus' newest downtown lounge, celebrated their grand opening on March 11. Specializing in vodka, champagne and dessert, Fleur offers a classy yet comfortable environment to kick off or wind down a night.



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Owned by Denver Fowler

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My interest in motorcycles began at an early age. I remember hearing stories from my grandma (Helen Moran) about my grandpa (the late Fritz Moran) racing his motorcycles on dirt tracks and doing endurance runs in the early 1900s. My grandma always said she never dated a guy back then unless he had a motorcycle. She met my grandpa, and the rest is history. My grandpa was a member of both the Ohioans Motorcycle Club and the America Motorcycle Association for many years. The motorcycle he rode was an early 1900s Indian Scout. He also worked at an Indian Motorcycle shop on the west side of Columbus before being deployed for World War II where he was a tank commander in the Army. He fought in two major campaigns, The Battle of the Bulge and Normandy. He was sent home after he suffered an injury when a tank in his platoon exploded nearby and shrapnel hit him in the back of his head. He was awarded the Purple Heart. When he came home, he never rode a motorcycle again.



I was also influenced by my uncles who rode with and befriended several motorcycle clubs including the infamous Hells Angels, Mescaleros, B.O.A.R., Brothers of the Wheel, and the Outlaws, throughout Ohio as well as in Southern California. Their stories about the motorcycle clubs they rode with and all the different bikes they owned and built was always fascinating to me. They each still own a Harley today and ride often.

I have never had any interest in buying a newer bike; they just do not have the same feel or look. I have intently been looking to buy a motorcycle since I was 18 years old, but it was not until this past year that I found the bike I have been looking for. This bike has everything I have ever wanted in a motorcycle. The bike was built and designed from the ground up by Chris Kay. It is very stripped down and I like it that way aesthetically. Below are the highlighted design specs and modifications. You can also view more images of the bike at: christopherkay.com

■ Denver Fowler

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**ART
WHERE'S**

Continued from p.27



EVERYBODY'S GUY

You might know that Guy Fieri was the winner of the second season of *The Next Food Network Star* back in 2006 and was later awarded not one, but two shows on the network. You may even know that his show *Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives* is one of the most watched shows on the network, but what you probably don't know is that Guy was born in Columbus. You may also not be aware that he's returning to showcase his zest for life and unique culinary skills at The Capitol Theatre on May 23. Visit www.capa.com for more info and tickets.



CATCH SOME RAYS

Usher Raymond IV aka Usher, takes the Value City Arena stage on May 18 in support of his sixth studio album *Raymond v. Raymond*. This is his third consecutive album to debut at number one on the U.S. Billboard 200 chart. It has also already been certified platinum and contains his ninth number one hit, "OMG". For tickets go to www.ticketmaster.com



PHOTO: ERIC WAGNER

THE JADED SECOND CUT

Like most bands, the Jaded could trace their roots to a couple of friends with no real musical training, picking up guitars and deciding to try to make some music for the sake of just seeing if they could. Unlike most groups, it led them to the stages of venues like Hollywood's Viper Room, recording with Grammy-winning producers and creating their own record label and management group. Ultimately, the group too quickly went from playing Bernie's Distillery to a long nationwide tour and called it quits in 2005.

"I think we were too successful, too fast," says lead singer Denver Fowler (aka Denver Jade). "I think we got a little too cocky too fast and kind of took things for granted."

The Jaded came into their own during a time where Myspace was the place record labels were looking for their next big signing, which the Jaded took full advantage of. They could post some tracks up to stream and a couple of tour dates, and after a couple shows and some buzz, could pack a venue like the Basement. A lot of the groups that opened for them

when they were at their peak are still going strong today.

For the Jaded though, it seemed being in a band became more of a job than a passion and sometimes playing multiple shows a day on a 43-date tour wore everyone down. Five years removed from the road life and the stage, the Jaded have settled back into their lives. Fowler has dug up some material that never got a proper release and coupled it with some new solo acoustic songs. Working with former band members, Fowler was able to finally finish up production of *1.618 Sunset Blvd.*, a 22-track retrospective with a release planned for Aug. 2 through iTunes and the Jaded website.

"Some of these tracks that we found were scrapped immediately when we were recording, but I think they are better than some of the stuff we used," says Fowler. "I think we kind of owe it to fans to get this stuff out, and I'm excited to finally release it after all these years working on it."

For more information go to www.thejadednation.com

■ Cary Smith

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DENNISON GRIFFITH SOLID APPEAL

Once a month, *C Magazine* sits down with a prominent Columbus figure to discuss how they spend their time out of the office. This month, we sat down with CCAD president Dennison Griffith. Since 1998, he has regularly engaged some of the most dynamic young minds of tomorrow.

Define success.

The ability to bring your own kind of individual skills to the table in a way that amplifies the work of the people around you.

Do you still cut your own lawn?

No. That's one of the privileges of old age and executive status, I guess. But I do everything else.

Which of your weaknesses could

be considered a strength?

I tend to be too trusting of people. I'm seen by some to be too nice. But that's just how I am.

If you could meet anyone (dead or alive), whom would you pick and why?

Mark Twain. Picasso would be way up there too, but Twain has some wonderful things to say about being alive.

You're swept up by an F4 tornado and dropped on a yellow brick road. For what do you ask the wizard?

Cadmium Red Medium.

What's one thing few people might know about you?

I sometimes have an almost pathological desire to please other people. Getting to a point in your life where you have

enough experience and enough wisdom — not to be cocky, but to just trust your gut — is a great position to be in.

What is the biggest mistake someone can make during the creative process?

Having too many voices inside your head telling you what and what not to do.

What was the most important resolution

you ever made?

To try and be true to myself. I've made it multiple times under multiple circumstances.

What was the last album you purchased?

Miles Davis — *Birth of the Cool*.

What pisses you off?

Uncharitable or mean people.

What complimentary

element is Columbus in need of most?

Self-esteem.

What does Columbus lack more than it is prepared to admit?

Actually, I'd say the same answer.

Led Zeppelin or Bee Gees?

Bee Gees.

Andy Warhol or Roy Lichtenstein?

Warhol.

■ Jason E. Ohlson

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