

THE COLUMBUS MAGAZINE

9 GO-TO LUNCHES



**NO LOOKING BACK
CASEY PUTSCH**

**MUSIC FROM
THE CASTROS**

**YOUR AVERAGE JOE
PAUL ROCKWELL**

**TIME TRANSPORTATION
DELOREAN**

**STELLAR FARE
POLARIS GRILL**

COMPLIMENTARY
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September 1-2, 2012

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH RED-HOT ACTOR TALON REID

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DROP POINT
ALLYSON McCARLEY
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INTRODUCTION: ANNIE BEECHAM
PHOTOGRAPHY: ANDREW NICHOLSON



TALON REID OWNS THIS MONTH'S COVER. THIS BUCKEYE FANATIC AND REYNOLDSBURG NATIVE IS LIVING LIFE IN THE FAST LANE IN LA. KEEP AN EYE ON THIS CHARISMATIC ACTOR'S RISE TO THE TOP, AS IT WILL BE FAST AND FURIOUS.

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 ELEVEN 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.

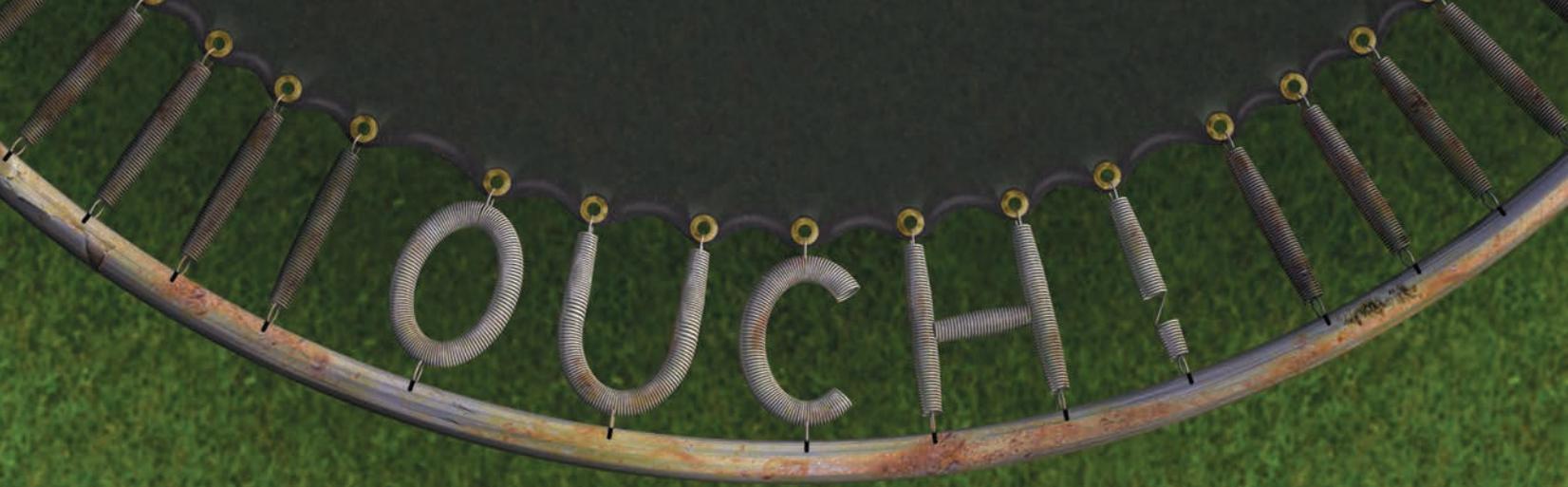
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Trampoline Benefits

- NASA concludes that benefits of trampolines are 68% more efficient than jogging. Plus it helps little astronauts imagine what it would be like on the moon.
- Jumping strengthens every muscle, organ and cell in your body.
- Bouncing enhances coordination, strength, flexibility, timing, spatial awareness, reaction speed, agility and balance.
- Just 10 minutes of bouncing on trampolines is equal to 30 minutes of jogging without the stress on your body. This is good for the kids as well as mom and dad!
- Rebounding heals and promotes weight loss. Bouncing on trampoline accelerates metabolism to burn calories for weight control.
- Jumping strengthens muscles, tendons and ligaments around the joint, improves movement and reduces risk for developing arthritis.
- Rebounding strengthens your heart, stabilizes the nervous systems while exercising, and helps maintain equilibrium after stepping off.
- U.S. Surgeon Generals # 1 goal is physical activity. Trampolines are a great way to exercise while having fun.
- It is great for athletic conditioning and more effective for fitness and weight loss than cycling, running or jogging.
- Bouncing greatly stimulates your lymphatic system, a major component of your immune system. Rebounding gives your immune system a boost and improves your overall health.

FROM THE EDITOR
editor@columbusmag.com



Jason Ohlson with Talon Reid at Mojoe Lounge Easton

CHILL OUT

It's summertime. When we were young, something Pavlovian was engrained into the schematic puzzle in all of our minds, making us crave freedom and fun at exactly this time every year. It's our right, our allowance of joy for weathering the preceding season, which regularly requires us to repress our spontaneous urges to abandon our work for hibernation.

Unfortunately, the truth is that as we grow older, time often becomes the hobgoblin of our patience and energy, and that whispering reminder to frolic and play is bluntly smothered under the weight of our work. More now than ever before we see our years broken into seasons, months, days and hours, until the actual tempo of our lives is so episodic that it's impossible to channel any fun-filled energy.

If you aren't sure what you like these days, spend a little time dabbling in activities and events that require a bit of exploration. Outdoor dining hotspots like Basi Italia's veranda and Lindsey's terrace are begging your company, as are the numerous lakes, rivers, creeks and reservoirs that are perfect for picnicking, drowning a worm, kayaking and canoeing. The Crew also offers one of the finest stadiums in the country to continue our soccer excitement now that the Olympics have kicked into full gear. Galleries are hoppin', the skies are boomin' and our parks provide as much natural cleansing as any of Emerson's essays.

Do not let the weight of your personal and professional duties compress your life to the point of madness. This letter serves as a simple reminder to deprogram your daily routines. Money can be made, spent and replaced. Time can only be spent. When it is spent unwisely, it is sure to bankrupt the self. When it is spent wisely, however, every second returns a fortune.

Jason E. Ohlson

HOT 2012



TALON REID

9 | SUITLESS: BUSINESS

These gentlemen enjoy the finer things in life and want everyone to do the same. Jeff Bardus would love to get to know you to find you a suitable cigar. Craig Reed wants to fix and restore your exotic sports car. And Paul Rockwell will always have his doors open for you at Average Joe's Pub.

14 | 9 FOR \$9: LUNCH EATS

What's for lunch today? Here's a hefty helping of lunchtime spots, new and old. Who cares what kind of fare? There are always interesting eateries popping up and we sample them all for you. The best part about them - they're all less than \$9.

20 | COVER: EXCLUSIVE

Talon Reid has got what it takes to make it in Hollywood, and part of his charm is that he's not afraid to admit it. He's worked hard for years to get where he is, and though a true Buckeye, he's a Hollywood star - on his way to becoming a superstar. It's all a numbers game, the heartthrob explains in our exclusive sit-down interview.

28 | THE FARE: DINING

The Polaris Grill sits anchored on the bustling Polaris Parkway thoroughfare. What makes this place stand out from other spots in this locale? It's independently owned and stands committed to making consistently delicious food, like its famous Aztec Chowder and sizzling Shrimp & Scallops New Orleans.

32 | DROP POINT: EVENTS

Here's looking at you Columbus. Each month, *C Magazine* hits the streets to get all up in your business. Wherever you may be, we're keeping our eyes open for you, so you better be on your best behavior.

43 | RIDE 23: AUTOMOTIVE

A child of the '80s, it was "Back to the Future" that introduced this car enthusiast to the DeLorean. Immediately an obsession ensued, and after many years of dreaming and research, this guy purchased a run-down 1981 model and made it new. His passion for this car has even earned him a spot as president of the DeLorean Club of Ohio.

45 | BEYOND 270: MUSIC

Songstress Sara and Costa Rican Marco bring together two different worlds of sound with their acoustic guitars - from heavy metal to salsa. Married musically and literally, this duo takes its sound and reaches out to increasingly larger venues with their self-described indie-pop folk.

46 | FINAL WORD: WHO'S WHO

This month's final word is with speed seeker Casey Putsch, owner of Putsch Racing. He is an achiever in every way. You will be hard pressed to find a better polo playing, racecar driving, performance car building self-made man in town. He's young, daring and poised for success.



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5 WAYS TO USE BLUEBERRIES

July was National Blueberry Month,

which makes it a great time to be reminded of the myriad reasons for making them a regular part of one's diet.

Blueberries are one of the fruits with the highest amount of antioxidants, which are important in helping to fight aging, cancer and heart disease. They are also high in dietary fiber, as well as Vitamins A and C.

Here are five ways that you can incorporate getting more blueberries into your diet:

1. Baked goods.

Blueberries are great in pancakes, muffins and pies, whether for breakfast or dessert.

2. Sauces.

Create your own sauce for pancakes and waffles, or use them in a savory sauce for your meat dishes.

3. Add-ons.

Top a salad with blueberries or add them to grains, such as couscous or quinoa.

4. Dried.

Blueberries that have been dried make a great addition to trail mix.

5. Smoothies.

Drinking blueberries is also a tasty way to get their benefits. Add them to smoothies and fresh juices.



YOUR AVERAGE JOE PAUL ROCKWELL

It's nearing the fourth of July and a storm has just rolled through Columbus, taking century-old trees, massive electric poles and almost everyone's power in the city for almost a week. But around the corner, the Average Joe's Pub lights are on and letting everyone know that the beer is flowing and the air-conditioning is churning for all without power. This oasis makes it easy to see why part owner Paul Rockwell is beloved by the regulars.

"As soon as I knew it was out, I did whatever I could to find a generator," says Rockwell. "All these people, my customers, they are out there with no power and I'm giving them a place where they can come in and relax for a bit and get out of the heat."

Rockwell got out of the engineering business when his friends approached him with the idea of opening a bar with a great concept that could work in Columbus, and he jumped at it. The first location opened at Polaris with the Average Joe's moniker attached to it. Rockwell had the vision of being a neighborhood bar that everyone could come to, one that would also give back to the community.

"We know that it's important to be a part of the community," says Rockwell. "We've raised thousands of dollars with the help of our customers for a lot of great causes; it just seems like the right thing to do."

Since the initial Polaris opening, Rockwell has opened up locations in New Albany and Hilliard; the Joe's Original in Dublin is no longer affiliated with Average Joe's. The recipe of their events, dedication to customers and a menu featuring wings that recently won the best hot wing at Budweiser's 2012 Wing Zing competition. Rockwell has been sharing a larger version of his own personal man cave with neighborhoods across the city, with plans on reaching out even farther.

"We have plans to expand into any neighborhood that our bar can work in," says Rockwell. "We'd expand outside the city or outside the state; the sky's the limit to what we can do in the future."

For more information on Rockwell and Average Joe's go to www.averagejoespub.com

■ Cary Smith

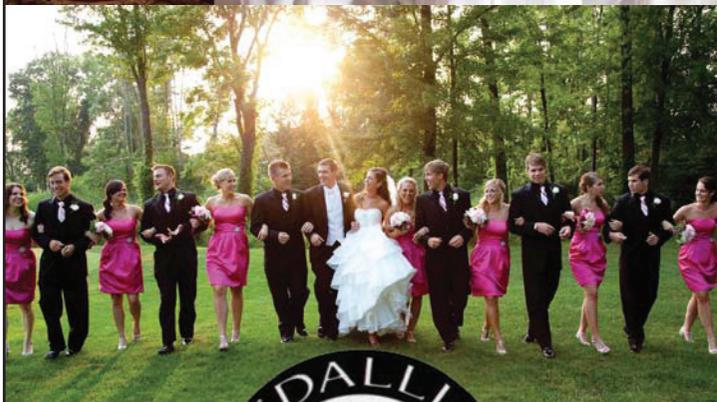


C Magazine Featured App: Urbanspoon

It can be hard to find a restaurant in a new territory that suits your tastes and needs, especially when you're in a large group and no one can decide. The Urbanspoon iPhone app is up for the challenge and helps you find something you need on the fly. A quick shake and Urbanspoon gives you options based on your GPS location and popularity. FREE! Visit urbanspoon.com for more information.



PHOTOS BY KAY CUBBERLY PHOTOGRAPHY



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Top Five Amusement Parks in the U.S.

With summer coming to an end, if you are looking for one last amusement park trip, consider the top 5 theme parks in the U.S.



1. Cedar Point Sandusky, Ohio

This theme park is considered the "King" as they showcase the most rollercoaster rides in any theme park. Top Thrill Dragster, Millennium Force, Maverick, Raptor and Magnum are some of the biggest and fastest rollercoaster rides in the world.



2. Disney World Orlando, Florida

Where dreams come true, and where magic is alive. This is where every kid wants to go.

3. King's Island | Mason, Ohio

With new rides such as the Diamondback and Firehawk, King's Island continues to be one of the top theme parks in the U.S.

4. Disney Land | Anaheim, California

Disney Land has been one of the top destinations for years, as they have a good mixture of both entertainment and rides for all ages. The theme park is Hollywood driven, as they have the Superman rollercoaster ride, along with other attractions.

5. Universal Studios | Orlando, Florida

Universal Studios is fun for the whole family, and most importantly, the kids will love it. This theme park may not boast the best rollercoaster rides, but fame wise, they are known around the world for their movie themed attractions.



THE EXOTIC WORKSHOP CRAIG REED

When you walk through the doors of Studio 47 in New Albany, it's abundantly clear that this is not your standard run-of-the-mill auto shop. Like the exotic cars that are taken care of in the back, special attention is paid to every aesthetic detail. The walls are lined with iconic car movie posters, a Ferrari engine sets off to the side like the piece of art that it is and a mural of a day at a racetrack makes you feel like a spectator at a race somewhere in Europe. Owner Craig Reed knew that the cars he worked on were more a piece of art than anything, so after 30 years of experience working on them, he knew his shop couldn't just be a shop.

"I couldn't just call it an auto shop. It's not like there are rags and oil all over the place back there," says Reed. "It's like we're restoring fine pieces of art for our customers, so we had to call it a studio."

Reed, who says he was lucky to fall into a situation out of high school working with someone who exposed him to Ferraris and other exotics, has always been interested in anything mechanical. Growing up in a rural area, he

remembers having a motorcycle and having to fix it on his own or not ride at all. So when he was exposed to the high-end Italian sports cars, he was intrigued by what he saw under the hood.

"They were doing things that we hadn't done at that point in the states," says Reed. "The amount of care that they would put in some little part to make it look cool was amazing. It showed me how much care and time they put into it; they could have just made that part completely plain, but they put the time in."

Studio 47 has been open for nearly two years and has steadily been fixing and restoring Ferraris, Maseratis and Lamborghinis from all over the country. As evident by the number of cars in his garage, business is good, but Reed is always looking toward the future, possibly getting more involved in the racing side of things.

For more information, go to www.thestudio47.com

■ Cary Smith

For more information go to <http://voices.yahoo.com/top-5-theme-parks-us-7787806.html?cat=16>

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STICKIN' TO THE BASICS JEFF BARDUS

A haze of flavorful smoke wisps through the air and into the nostrils to let everyone know that upon walking through the small German Village storefront, they are wandering into a setting that time might have forgotten long ago. A group of men, from different backgrounds and worlds, sit around the small storefront each with histories and lives as unique and colorful as the blends of tobacco burning in each cigar poking out from their mouths. These are the regulars, their time here at Burning Leaf Cigars is an escape for them as much as it is for owner and regular group participant Jeff Bardus.

"It takes a couple of times and a little bit of talking to a person before I can really help figure out what kind of cigar is going to suit them," says Bardus. "I know from when I went and got a cigar my first time that it's something that requires a little guidance. That's what I'm here for."

Bardus, who before falling into a job at Burning Leaf in 1998 and then eventually taking it over after a couple years, spent time in a previous life selling Kirby vacuums door-to-door and managing a Big Boy restaurant. He prides himself on his ability to make sure every customer walks away with a smile. He knows that in any business, service is everything, and especially in his business, where someone might walk into

his humidor filled with intimidation.

"I've been to shops where people have a high-and-mighty snooty attitude about taking time to answer questions about cigars, or they won't bend over backwards to please a customer," says Bardus, "That is completely the opposite of what I'm about. If there is something that the customer specifically wants, I'll make sure I get it for them."

In just more than ten years as the owner at Burning Leaf, Bardus swears that this is the time to get into cigars because it's the golden age for quality and taste. That's because the leaves and blends are reaching their full potential in the American soil. If you ever thought about taking in a cigar and relaxing like the distinguished and curly mustachioed individual that you would imagine would do the same, now might be the time.

"How bad could something be for you that lets you take a break and relax a little bit," says Bardus. "People are in such a hurry to get everywhere and there's so much road rage out there. People need to slow down a little bit every now and then and just relax."

For more information go to www.burningleaf.com

■ Cary Smith



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CowTown Pizza

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

Cowtown Pizza makes a personal promise to deliver quality Italian cuisine to its patrons, even going as far as to comparing its pizza and stromboli to an art form. Although this pizza joint has limited seating and a delivery-style storefront, there is nothing limited about the variety of menu choices that will please both meat and vegetarian lovers. It wasn't easy, but we chose the **Personal Size Everything Stromboli (\$6.97)** as our favorite because the mix of pepperoni, Italian sausage, fresh mushrooms, and provolone cheese all rolled up in a garlic butter and herb crust was incomparable.



Personal Size Everything Stromboli (\$6.97)

Chef O'Nette

2090 Tremont Center Columbus, OH 43221 (614) 488-8444

Open since 1955, Chef O'Nette is a staple for many in the area and becomes a stop on the way through town for others not from around 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 and will be adding it to our list of Upper Arlington must haves.



Hangover Plate (\$6.55)

Johnny Oak's

Neil & 11th Columbus, OH (614) 348-9447 - CAMPUS

Many North Campus residents keep Johnny Oak's Po Boy & Shrimp Shack a secret, but we stumbled upon this eatery, and we're outing them! This joint will recover any bad week with punchy flavors that are far more powerful than what Ohio can claim on the regular. Get to Johnny Oaks and try their all-so-delicious **Caribbean Shrimp Po Boy (\$8.50)**, served with mango, lime and your choice of hot or not-so-hot spices, before they're flooded with more business than the shack can handle on their post-up corner of Neil and 11th.



Caribbean Shrimp Po-boy (\$8.95)

Mac's Cafe

693 N. High St. (Short North) (614) 221-6227

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



Meatloaf (\$8.95)



Sea Scallops (\$6.95)

Edamame

3946 Morse Crossing Columbus, OH (614) 471-0007 - EASTON

When we stopped into Edamame Sushi + Grill at Easton, we were lavished with three amazing dishes. First was the Cold Soba Box, a shrimp tempura dish that's served with delicious noodles and soy dipping sauce. Then we were treated to the Tonkatsu Box, a fair portion of sliced chicken breast on a bed of rice and accompanied by a side salad. However, the dish that stood out the furthest was the **Sea Scallops (\$7.95)**. Two perfectly pan-seared sea scallops crown a sturdy sheet of mango chutney.

Budding Taste: A Spring Assortment

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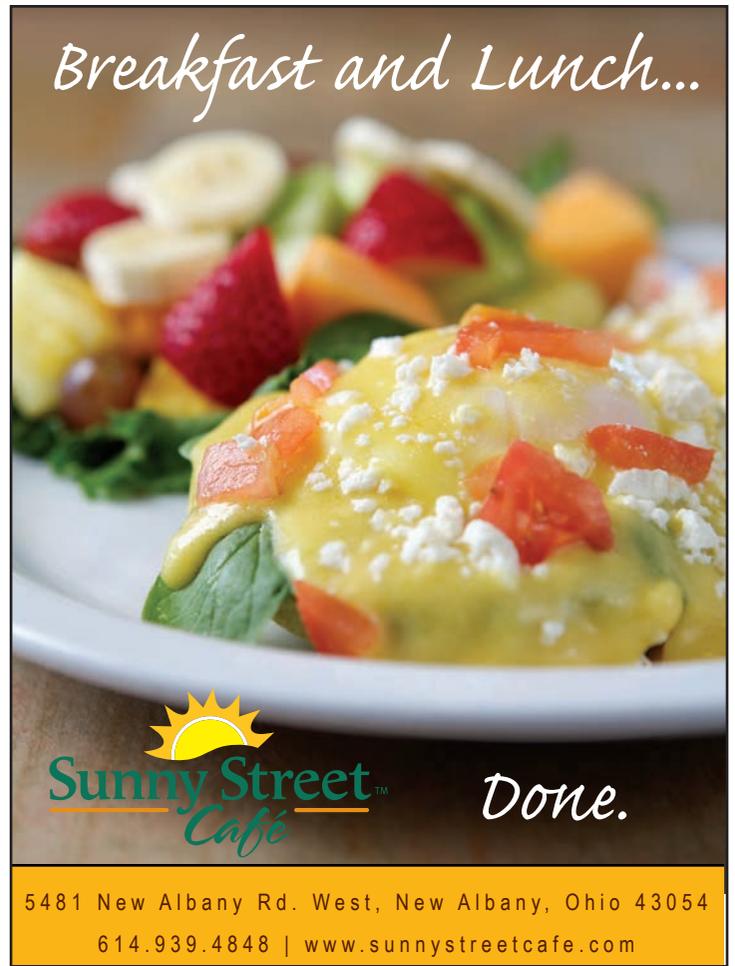
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Jambalaya (\$5.00)

J Gumbo's Cajun Joint

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

Nestled in a corridor that contains 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. Being new to the menu, we asked the J Gumbo staff to hit us with their best one-two combo. They set us up with a **Jambalaya (\$5.95)** right jab, then laid us out with the Gumbo left 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, is sure to take your taste buds twelve rounds. Night or day, there are some things that are always in demand, and this place is one of them.

Skully's Music Diner

1151 N. High St. Columbus, Ohio 43201. (614) 291-8856

Walking into Skully's gives you the feeling that you're walking into a diner from another era. With local artists cluttering the walls and cartoons playing on the flat screen, it's hard not to feel welcome. Voted the best place to rock and roll, music is always playing and dancing is a must. Grab the **Chicken Quesadilla (\$6)**, filled with cheddar and Monterey Jack cheeses, red, banana and jalapeno peppers and pair it with an order of their **Famous Seasoned Fries (\$2)** that taste just like they're made at the fair. Bring your buddies back for a happy hour that extends until nine.



Chicken Quesadilla (\$6) and Famous Seasoned Fries (\$2)

Third & Hollywood

1433 W. Third Ave. Columbus, OH (614) 488-0303 - GRANDVIEW

The Northstar is known for its tasty food and environmentally friendly approach. Good news for all is that they also own Third and Hollywood. You won't see Tom Cruise portraits all over the place; Third and Hollywood is just a reference to their Grandview address. And just like The Northstar, Third and Hollywood's image is complemented by its menu. It's sophisticated, but not pretentious. For instance, their **Cheddar Herb Biscuits (\$4)** are prepared with the care of a multi-starred French restaurant, yet they eat like an old-fashioned American dish and slay with the Chicken and Black Bean Chili.



Cheddar Herb Biscuits (\$6.00)



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EVENT INFORMATION

WHERE: Church of the Resurrection
6300 East Dublin Granville Road
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DATE: August 18, 2012 | 11am-4pm

CHECK-IN: 9-11am

The event is open to the public for \$5 on event day (children get in for free with a paying adult)

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Hot Topic



Talon Reid



INTERVIEW | JASON OHLSON INTRODUCTION | ANNIE BEECHAM
PHOTOGRAPHY | ANDREW NICHOLSON

Talon Reid has good genes – and we’re not just talking the rugged all-American good looks he owes to his model mother and pro-motocross father. His parents also gave him an entrepreneurial spirit, magnetic personality and a sincere self-confidence that makes it seem anything is possible. It seems for someone with the perfect storm of star qualities, a rise to stardom would be without much effort, but actor Talon Reid has been working, and working hard since he was barely a teenager, building a foundation that would allow him to make it in Hollywood.

Talon lived in L.A. until he was 6 years old when he and his dad moved to Reynoldsburg, Ohio, so that his dad could take a job at a car dealership. Always influenced by music, Talon started a hard-core metal band at age 13. By 17, he was touring with the band, called Burning Graceland. After taking a few theatre classes at The Ohio State University and becoming interested in the acting industry, Talon decided it was time to make things happen, and he drove his '92 Honda Accord 2,200 miles to L.A.



His career didn't take off right away, but he maintained the loyal and level-headed attitude that is true to most Midwesterners, and eventually stumbled upon a live audition on Santa Monica Blvd., for Jay-Z's Video "On To The Next One" and landed one of the principle parts. With the recognition he needed, he was signed by a talent agency, and he's since played roles in Clint Eastwood's "J. Edgar," will co-star with Tom Berenger in "Just Kill" and just got signed on for National Lampoon's new sketch comedy series. Already living the plot of a success story, we can't wait to see what Talon Reid conquers next. Check out our exclusive Q&A with the hard-core metal frontman turned Hollywood heartthrob and find out what it's like to work with Lil' Wayne, The Muppets and Clint Eastwood, all in one year.



Hot Topic

Talon Reid

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You were a stunt actor in “J. Edgar.” Any injuries during training or filming?

No, it was really random being brought into that. Literally, all of the training I did was on the day. Clint Eastwood only does one take, and that’s what he’s known for. He’ll never do two takes, he never calls rolling on set. He’s very old school, which is why he gets \$120 million to shoot a film. He’s quick, easy, in and out. But no injuries, everything was smooth. Another great experience.

Tell us about the tattoo chest piece?

I got the tattoo chest piece before my first U.S. tour with my hard-core metal band. I actually got the image from some good guys in a band called Haze the Day they made for their album called Pressure the Hinges. We were actually endorsed by a tattoo parlor called Adorn Arts here in Columbus, and they drew it up and laid it on. Eight-hour job, one session, brutal. It’s Stained Skin now. That’s where I got my Phoenix done; Toby did it. Toby’s done most of my stuff. He’s been touching my stuff up, and we did my first tat when I was 17.

Hot Topic

Talon Reid

Hot Topic

Talon Reid

What's your dream car?

Aston Martin, for sure. I see them every day in Hollywood. I got a picture of one on my desk, and within the next five years, I will have an Aston Martin, that's a guarantee. And I'm excited about it because in the next 15 years I want to be the next James Bond.

Describe Ohio State in three words.

Passion, loyalty and commitment. I bleed scarlet and gray. I've got the tattoo of the block O on my arm. When I moved to L.A., I wanted everyone to know where I'm from.

How did you survive during those first few months in LA? Did you eat your dinner out of a can?

The first few months I was in L.A., I didn't struggle as hard as I had planned. I planned for the worst. What I did is I needed to find a way to come up with a few grand to live off of for awhile, so I got with Steve Boyer from PromoWest, and I started my own music festival called Talonialator-Fest in The Basement. I called record label reps in the music industry to scout out at my festival, and in return the bands would play for free for the scouting opportunity. I had two stages, 15 bands, big show, and I took the profits. So that was enough to get me by for a few months until I could find a job.

Did you ask for or get any advice from the stars of your movies?

I always take advice from everybody. Always. I never stop learning.

When you go home to Reynoldsburg, what's the first thing you do?

I always go to Outback Steakhouse. I worked there growing up for six years, and my family is there – everyone I worked with is still there, and I love it. I did everything there – I busbed, I barbacked, I served, I painted all the walls in the back, I've pulled a cot and stayed there overnight drinking Red Bulls just painting the back of the house. Paul Roberts is the owner of the one in Reynoldsburg, and when I was still an up-and-comer in acting, I would fly back here to visit family for Christmas, and he would still give me my job back so I could work while I was here for two or three weeks.

Is Hollywood a matter of chance or design?

It's both, but I think it's more design. In Hollywood, you get as much as you put out. Where you place yourself is on you, ultimately. And where you get discovered, is how many places you're placed.

What is your biggest pet peeve?

I don't like flaky people.

Besides modeling and acting, what other profession do you think you would do well at?

Psychology.

Women are the best at _____?

Being dramatic. For sure.

What films inspired you to become an actor?

"Fight Club," first, for sure. "Snatch." "Scarface."

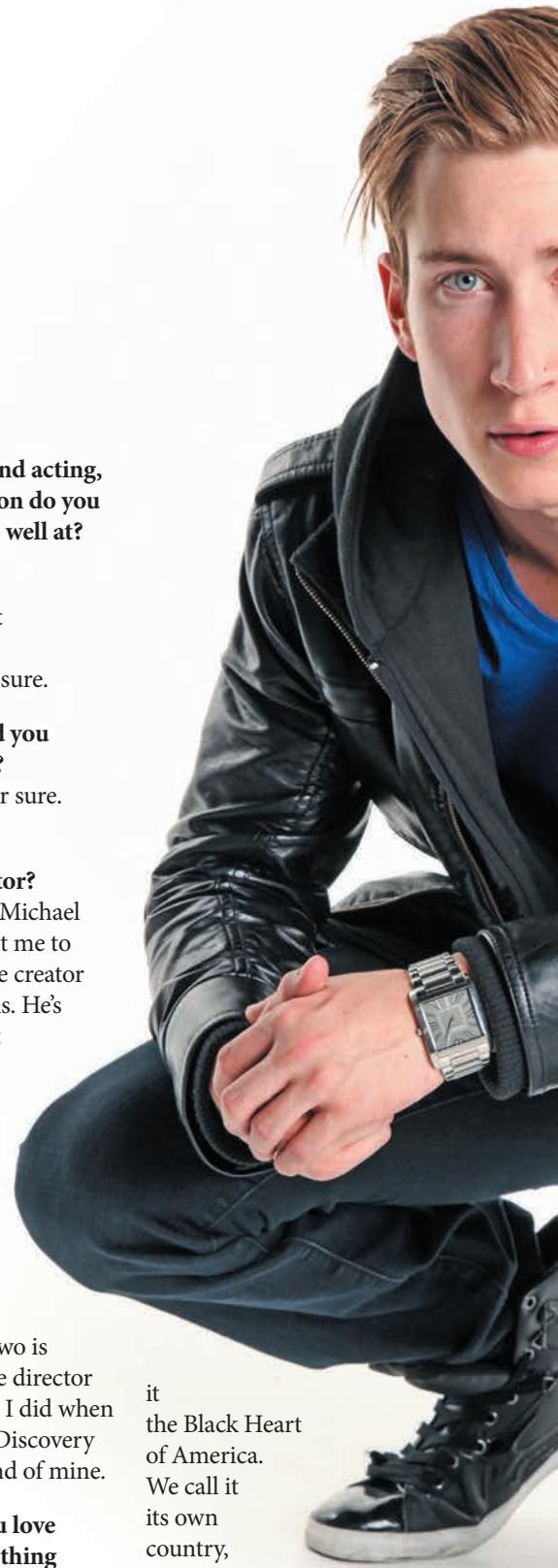
Do you have a mentor?

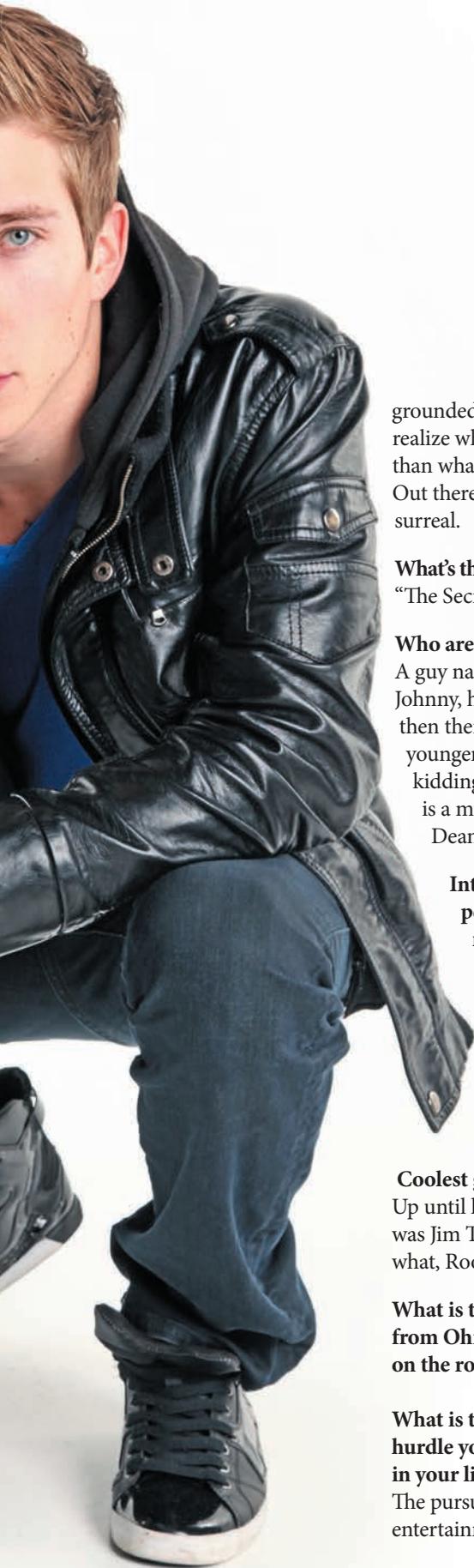
Yes I do. I have two. Michael Uslan. That's who got me to move to L.A. He's the creator of the "Batman" films. He's the one that brought "Batman" to the big screen in 1989. He's really helped me through a lot and I believe he's going to help me do that during the rest of the career – moving from star to superstar. Number two is Gabe Torres. He's the director of the first TV series I did when I moved to L.A. for Discovery Channel. Good friend of mine.

Name one thing you love about L.A. and one thing you despise.

One thing I love about L.A. is the weather. It's perfect every day, and that's really convenient and it's also motivation. I despise that it can be this warp hole – we call

it the Black Heart of America. We call it its own country, too. It's different, and you can really easily get sucked into the blackness of that city. It really changes your mindset on life and what people get away with. Coming home keeps me





grounded and it makes me realize what real life is rather than what screen life is, rather Out there everything is just surreal.

What's the last book you read?
"The Secret."

Who are your muses?
A guy named Jim, his brother Johnny, his cousin Jack and then their Mexican adopted younger brother, Jose. I'm just kidding, I don't know. Life is a muse to me, and James Dean is a muse to me.

Into what kind of person has Ohio made you?

Ohio has made me hardworking, honest, genuine, well mannered, loyal, and I don't take crap from anybody.

Coolest guy in Columbus is ?
Up until last year I thought it was Jim Tressel, but you know what, Roopan Dey, no doubt.

What is the food you crave from Ohio that you can't get on the road? Buckeyes.

What is the most difficult hurdle you have encountered in your life?
The pursuit of an entertainment career.

What is your favorite childhood tradition that you hope to pass on to your kids?
To go to a Spring Buckeye game.

What is the craziest thing you've ever done?
Loading everything in my car and driving 2,200 miles to Los Angeles. And peeing on a cop car while handcuffed.

What is your guilty pleasure?
There is nothing better in life than a post-sex feast with a nice freshly made mozzarella stick, just one, and a good little cup of marinara. Or Chipotle.

What is your favorite sport to watch on TV? In person?
On TV, college football. In person, college football.

What's the worst job you ever had?
Working at Fazoli's. One guy who can't squeegee a floor – you're talking to him. I can't squeegee a floor to save my life. For almost a year, this manager would be like, "What don't you get about this? Talon, there is still water everywhere."

Celebrity Crush?
Kate Beckinsale.

What is your most notable characteristic?
I'm very personable.

What animal would you be?
If I was a bird, I'd be a falcon because they can fly 240 miles per hour – the fastest living animal in the world. I actually trained falcons.

What one possession do you treasure the most?
I have a signed Troy Smith jersey of all the Buckeyes from that national championship year.

"Hangover" or "Airplane"?
Surely you can't be serious. "Airplane," for sure.

If you could sum up your philosophy of life in one sentence, what would it be?
My mom's boyfriend taught me that everything in life is a numbers game. You're going to beat the odds by how well you place yourself in the numbers. The more places I place myself as an actor, the higher the chances I will make it.

Tomorrow you get to hang with God. Make a wish?
I wish I could fly. I really want to fly.

Ocean or the mountains?
Mountains. I snowboard.

PHOTOS: ANDREW NICHOLSON



UNIVERSAL APPEAL POLARIS GRILL

1835 Polaris Parkway, Columbus, OH 43240, (614) 431-5598

WHAT:

The Polaris Grill took its moniker from days of old, when Polaris Parkway was burgeoning, bustling and still somewhat fresh. It marked itself as an original, a pioneer in the growing Polaris corridor. Now in 2012, one might overlook the spot as just another chain in the throng of urban expansion. But no, ownership reiterates that not only is their spot independently owned, the fact that it's been successful since 1997 is testament of its commitment to consistency and a friendly high-quality dining experience.

WHO:

Though opened in as the ninth restaurant of the 55 Restaurant Group, in 2000 the Polaris Grill was purchased by Columbus Restaurant Concepts, Inc., owned and operated by Darren Greene and Cliff Madden. Darren and Cliff met while working together in the mid-'90s. The main menu here has been adjusted, but some of the most popular dishes date back to the days of the 55 Restaurant Group, such as the 55 House Salad and Aztec Chowder, among others.

WHERE:

It's a snap to find this grill. Before you even exit onto Polaris Parkway you can see it flanking the southeast side. Hop onto the Polaris thoroughfare and quickly make a right on Pulsar Place. Amidst the multitude of fast-food joints and gas stations, you'll see signs guiding your drive all the way to the parking lot.

THE TEST:

As has become ritual, we found a

seat at the bar. The restaurant was remodeled last year, lending to a newly built home smell when we walked in. The bar rests in its own little enclave, ultra dim this night because of afternoon storms, with multiple booths and a roomy wood varnish-slickened bar with plenty of elbow room. We enjoyed a glass of Evolution White, a crisp and grassy Oregon blended wine, while waiting for out table. We witnessed an older crowd; it seemed like a corporate crowd, with one group nearby heartily laughing about a co-worker's use of the word "anal" instead of "annual."

Our dinner table rested near the new patio, flooded but a pretty backdrop to our upcoming dining treat. First up – salads. The 55 Salad comes assembled in a common fashion: mixed greens, bacon, tomatoes, red onion and blue cheese, but the quality of the ingredients stood out to us, and the greens were neatly tossed with sweet and tangy dressing. The Berry Salad, too, was given attention to detail brimming with lots of ripe berries and poppy-seed dressing. You'll get a basket of French bread at the outset here, herbed and warm with garlic-tinged butter.

You could have a soup supper with these saucy crocks: The Aztec Chowder comes as thick as we've seen any soup. We had to cut through the spicy cheese, so flavorfully chewy, with a texture that seemed like it was made with cornbread crumbles. The Corn Crab Chowder tasted delicious as well, yet in contrast, rich and silky smooth with hunks of crab and corn throughout.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Polaris Grill used to belong to the 55 Restaurant Group. And though there's lots of lore about that number 55, management says the number merely comes from the fact the group's first restaurant was located at 55 Nationwide Blvd.

Lunch/Brunch	Lunch served Mon.-Sat.: 11 a.m.; Sun: 10 a.m. Brunch on Saturdays and Sundays.
Private Dining	Yes, private banquet room accommodates up to 50 people. Catering is available as well.
Hours	Mon.-Sat.: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Sun.: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Happy Hour: Mon.-Friday 4 to 7 p.m.

4 SEASONS

The management team works together throughout the year to develop 4 seasonal menus: Taste of Mardi Gras, Floribbean, Napa Valley Harvest, and the one we experienced, Taste of the Eastern Shore, an offering of ocean delicacies.



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A couple of fun plates arrived next. The Pan de Grill was like puffed pizza crust, herb-flavored triangles served with roasted garlic fondue, gooey and yummy slathered on the bread. Louisiana Gulf Shrimp comes as another appetizer option, with robust shrimp, succulent mushrooms and sizzling sauce. The spice in this dish married well with the warm and sweet cheddar cheese grit it was set atop.

The restaurant in full swing by this time – we witnessed mostly an older crowd – we set our attention to entrees. The grit stands in again with the Hickory Smoked Pork Chops, basted with maple mustard glaze and served with applesauce and green tomato chutney, which when mixed together stands as the perfect accompaniment to every meaty bite. Salmon Oscar, a juicy filet topped with chunks of crab, and Filet Mignon, even juicier dressed with a smearing of blue cheese, get mashed potato treatment. This version looks like instant, but that's what made them remarkable. They even were lightly crusted diving into them. The climax for us, and we were told it is a staff favorite, was the Shrimp and Scallop New Orleans, a linguini bowl loaded with scorching tomatoey zest.

It doesn't stop there. We're always up for another round, and were served with a final taste of what Polaris Grill is all about. The dense Chocolate Mousse Cake might be a chocolate lover's dream: chocolate cheesecake, chocolate ganache, chocolate mousse, and chocolate crust, but the Pineapple Upside-Down Cake gets our nod. Such a cute presentation, pineapple rings stand as a base and a topper with warm juicy cherries in the center. We love being surprised by a restaurant's lineup, and this place had quite a few stars.

■ Jackie Dee

BAR BINGES

There's a fun bar menu here with lots of interesting draft beer choices. What's especially entertaining is reading the menu's labeling of each beer's alcohol content. You'll find pale ales, porters, and bourbon and scotch blends, with the latter being the strongest of course. Here's a flight of what we knocked back:

- **Victory Headwaters Pale Ale:** *Crisp and aromatic with herbal hop complexity.*
- **Founder's Dirty Bastard Scotch Ale:** *Hints of smoke and peat, hook of hop power.*
- **Great Lakes Edmund Fitzgerald Porter:** *Roasty with bittersweet chocolate and coffee taste.*



BRUNCH BINGES

Peruse the broad brunch menu, loaded with entrees like Green Eggs and Ham and Bananas Foster French Toast; omelettes, New Orleans style with spicy Cajun shrimp, or a low-fat fitness version with egg whites. There's also a benedict list with plates fashioned with filet mignon or crab cake. Wash down these delights with a creative cocktail on the brunch drink list.

- **The Red Snapper:** *Gin and house-made Bloody Mary mix.*
- **The Caesar:** *Vodka, clam juice and Bloody Mary mix in a salt-rimmed glass.*
- **The Bloody Hawaiian:** *Malibu rum, vodka and house-made Bloody Mary mix, garnished with pineapple.*
- **The Buckeye Redeye:** *Hoster's and house-made Bloody Mary mix*
- **Bellini:** *Sparkling wine, pureed peaches and grenadine*
- **Kir Royale:** *Sparkling wine and Chambord.*

Saucy, Sizzling, Sweet

If you try anything, have the Aztec Chowder. The bowl brimming with white beans chicken, chilies and cheese can easily stand in as a meal. Second pick would be the Shrimp and Scallop New Orleans for its sizzling sauce. And you can find cheesecake anywhere, but when is the last time you tried Pineapple Upside-Down Cake?





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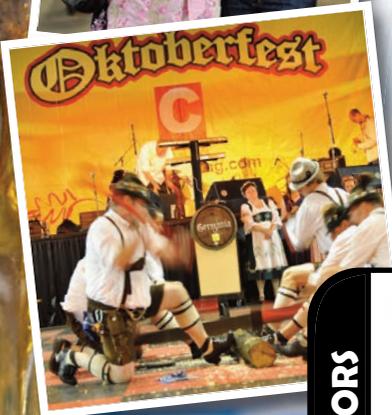
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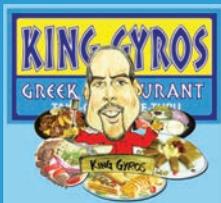
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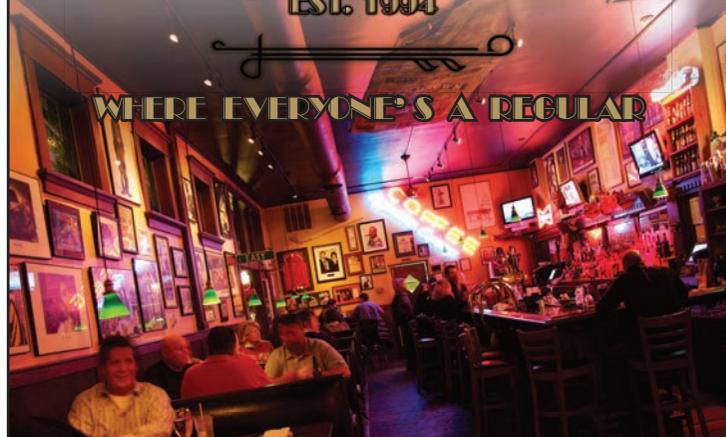
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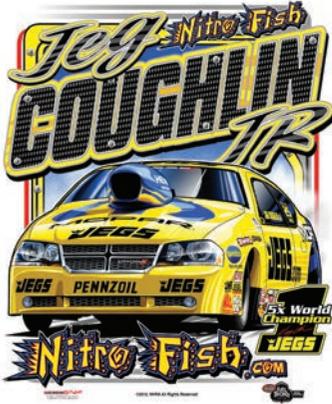
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Nitro Fish Gear owner Kenny Koretsky unveiled a major associate sponsorship agreement that will feature the Nitro Fish logo adorning the JEGS.com/ Mopar Dodge Avenger and it's decorated driver. Beginning in Sonoma, souvenir gear for fans of Coughlin and the Mopar brand will be able to load up at the Nitro Fish merchandise trailer at NHRA national events and online at JEGS.com.

"I am really excited to be associated with a first-class organization like JEGS," Koretsky said. "I've known the Coughlin family for a long time and I am looking forward to racing with them. We are also working toward including Nitro Fish Gear in the JEGS Mail Order catalog."

Eddie Guarnaccia, Koretsky's longtime friend and crew chief, joined Coughlin's team in that capacity a month ago.

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Owned by: Josh Quellhorst

DELOREAN

As long as I can remember, I have always been a car enthusiast. And as a child of the '80s, a love for movie cars commenced, for it was "Back to the Future" that introduced me to the DeLorean. After I found out such a car actually existed, it became a quiet obsession. I began rolling through microfiche newspaper and magazine articles at the library to learn all that I could – until the Internet arrived. The stainless-steel panels over a fiberglass body, gullwing doors, sleek Giorgetto Giugiaro Italian wedge design, and the rear engine configuration drew me to it. The DeLorean was different from any other car I had known.

Fast-forward past my responsibility to complete my degree at The Ohio State University and my management career at Jegs High Performance. As I continued my quiet research, I typed "DeLorean" on Facebook, and a DeLorean-owner also named Josh appeared, who was a member of the DeLorean Club of Ohio (more than 60 members). And so the inquiry began. My wife, Nicole, and I were invited to a club event at the Arena Grand movie theatre downtown, not far from where all of the remaining DeLoreans and parts were stored after being purchased from bankruptcy by Consolidated/KAPAK. After that experience, I became a member. Less than a year later, I was introduced to the car I own today. It is a 1981 model with a 5-speed. It originally was purchased and parked in a field for many years, slated to become a parts car like many others sadly. The previous owner had purchased it and put a lot of work into it to save it, but then the Peugeot Renault Volvo aluminum V6 engine block had deteriorated from years of neglect. When I agreed to take on the challenge of ownership in February of 2011, I also took delivery of dozens of plastic bins filled with parts; the whole rear of the car had been gutted. Every available day off, I drove up to Bauerle Automotive in Delaware, OH where the owner, Dave (who works on DeLoreans), agreed to school me on how to put the car back together along with many updates and upgrades.

After more than 150 dedicated hours and 3 months, I had the car running, handling, and looking great. The car and I had a lot of catching up to do; I had waited more than 25 years and the car only had about 17,000 original miles. In just over a year, it now has more than 9,000 miles added to the odometer. It often achieves 28-30 mpg highway even with the performance camshafts and exhaust I installed, bringing the stock 130 horsepower to near 200. The car gets a lot of attention wherever I go; it's a camera phone magnet.

■ Josh Quellhorst



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ONE FINE COUPLET THE CASTROS

Picking up a guitar and splicing fragments of her life with sympathetic chords has always been something very personal for Sara Castro. Only the lucky few who were close enough to her got to hear her works in progress echoing off the drywall from her apartment and knew what she was really keeping from the world.

Married musically and literally, Marco and Sara met by chance through friends in Savannah, Georgia, and didn't realize their musical compatibility until Sarah blew Marco away with her hidden musical potential with an original song. Once her husband Marco had her songs taking up a permanent residence in his head, he couldn't help himself from joining in one day.

Sara, who called central Ohio her home, and Marco, who is originally from Costa Rica, were from two very different worlds musically and culturally. If you listen closely to their self-described indie-pop folk, you can hear elements of salsa music, heavy metal and classic rock. Not the average

recipe for music made by two acoustic guitars and minimal percussion, but they pushed each other in the right directions to create something that is different and familiar all at the same time.

"I was always on the outside of music looking in and involved in the background but wanted to be the guy playing. She could play but never really wanted to do it in front of people on a stage," says Marco. "She kind of pushed me to learn guitar and I kind of pushed her to play for people; we helped push each other."

That pushing paid off when their song, "Here in Columbus," placed high enough to be included on the Columbus 200 compilation. Next to a solid EP and another one on the way, their music is reaching out to people, and that's all they really want.

For more information, go to www.thecastromusic.com

■ Cary Smith

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FORWARD THINKING CASEY PUTSCH

Once a month, *C Magazine* interviews a prominent Columbus figure to discuss what makes them tick. This month, we caught up with Casey Putsch, owner of Putsch Racing. There is no doubt this local racer is going places, and fast.

Who gave you your first break?

My grandfather. He gave me a small loan to buy the first interesting car I restored. I wouldn't be where I am without that opportunity.

What was your first racecar?

A 1982 Volkswagon Scirocco.

What is the most dangerous thing you've ever done?

Car and motorcycle racing, as well as horse

polo, are a regular part of my life, but I once dated a red-headed girl.

The measure of a great driver is ... ?

The ability to control one's own emotions and full confidence in one's ability to overcome adversity.

Define success.

Having driven yourself to become greater than you once dreamed.

Power is ... ?

Influence over people.

What is something few people know about you?

I actually like the accordion and bagpipes.

What is the biggest mistake you've made?

I have no real regrets. My life has made me who I am and I wouldn't want to be someone else.

What is a memorable quote that had a real impact on you?

"Kites rise highest against the wind and

not with it." - Winston Churchill.

What is your daily ride of choice?

1997 Dodge Viper GTS.

Who is your hero?

I don't have just one. There are many people that I am fortunate to have in my life that I look up to.

What is more important — vision, heart or talent?

I'll take heart! It gives one the undying

spirit to see things through and rise to any challenge.

Reflect on your fondest memory growing up.

I loved going fishing or riding in a vintage car to Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course with my dad.

What's your biggest pet peeve?

Jealousy.

What is your Death Row dinner?

Schmidt's in German village with lots of

friends, beer, and, of course, polka music!

Got a favorite movie?

Lawrence of Arabia. Unparalleled character development, quality and depth of reflection. Truly epic.

What makes you get out of bed?

The desire to create.

Happiness is ... ?

Balance.

■ Jason Ohlson

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