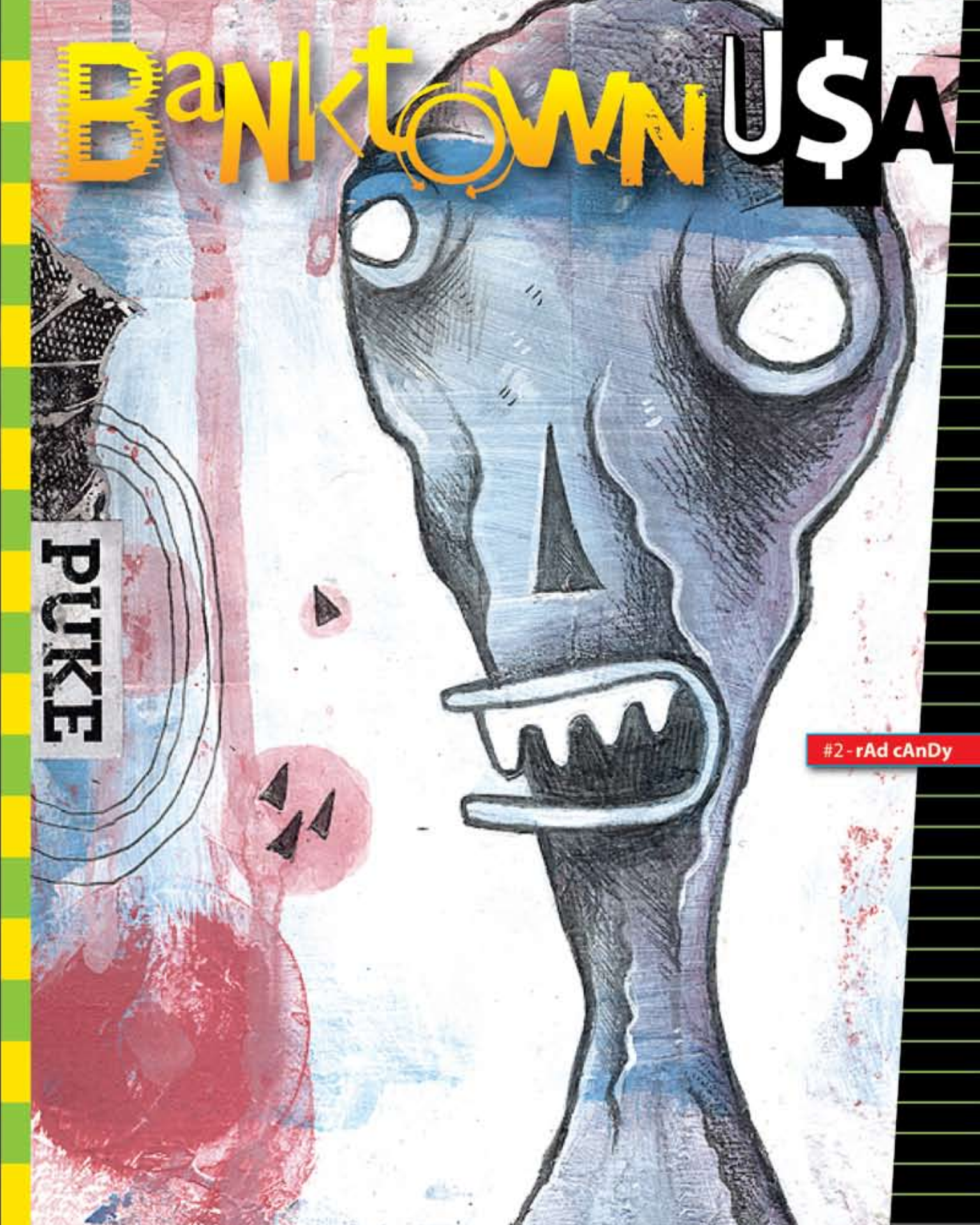


# Banktown USA

PUKE

#2-rAd cAnDy



# showoff



## Love it? Hate it? Wanna spank Lee-Lee with it?

Tell Scott what you think of this rag:  
[info@banktownusa.com](mailto:info@banktownusa.com)  
Send snapshots from around town and  
other content submissions to Little Shiva:  
[shivita@mac.com](mailto:shivita@mac.com)

1. foto by Scott Lindsley  
[flickr.com/photos/banktownusa](https://www.flickr.com/photos/banktownusa)
2. foto by Ginger Wagner,  
[flickr.com/photos/msbelle](https://www.flickr.com/photos/msbelle)
3. foto by Ryan Miller  
[flickr.com/photos/slubbyshots](https://www.flickr.com/photos/slubbyshots)
4. foto by Eric Robinson,  
[flickr.com/photos/hondaboy](https://www.flickr.com/photos/hondaboy)
5. foto by Joey Emmanuel,  
[flickr.com/photos/joeyemmanuel](https://www.flickr.com/photos/joeyemmanuel)
6. foto by James Sack,  
[flickr.com/photos/three15bowery](https://www.flickr.com/photos/three15bowery)
7. foto by Little Shiva  
[flickr.com/photos/littleshiva](https://www.flickr.com/photos/littleshiva)



**Issue #2.** It seems a little easier than the first one: I think the positive response we've received is the main reason. It seems there are quite a few of you out there who either see things like we do in Charlotte, or want

to discover more about the Queen City. Just a Banktown we're not, and it isn't as hard to show as I suspected.

I'd like to make a call out to you now: let us know about parts of Charlotte that others might be interested in. Let us know about galleries, parties, drum circles, venues, restaurants, shops or anything else that's outside the white-collar norm.

We're starting a new feature of reader-submitted photos called "showoff" that'll run alongside my letter in each issue. Send in your candid snapshots of real, spicy life in Charlotte. Even good cell phone pics might work. I recently stumbled upon a hot New Orleans style jazz group jam working on Tryon Street at midnight – no camera, stupid me, but things like that. If you think it's fun, cool, inspiring, or something worth sharing, share it!

If you want Banktown U\$A displayed in your place of business, write to [info@banktownusa.com](mailto:info@banktownusa.com). If you'd like to have Banktown U\$A mailed to you, please send \$10 to us at 516 W.10th Street, Charlotte, NC 28202. That'll get you a year's supply of news and info packed in one sizzling arts and entertainment magazine. What more could you ask for? Adios and cheers!

◆ Scott Lindsley, publisher



**In the middle of the Cherry neighborhood,** a brick building once housed an eyesore of a convenience store. That was then. Today, bright banners hang across beautiful glass windows, proclaiming "heat with corn" and "rain barrels". Shiny futuristic Segway scooters are lined up along the bricked front patio, and Adirondack chairs invite you to sit in the shade. A flag flutters overhead, on which an ear of corn shares space with the logo of the Queen City's only 100% environmental retail outlet, Charlotte Energy Solutions.

Inside, the formerly drab building has been transformed into a warm and welcoming space where green products are ready to be purchased, taken home and used to make the planet a better place. Next to compact fluorescent bulbs and electric lawnmowers are baskets of colorful, metallic 3-D objects, all angles and shapes and corners. These same shapes hang in larger embodiments from the punched tin ceiling, catching the eye and holding it. A nearby sign identifies them: they're called David's Doodads.

The shapes and the store have more in common than appears at first blush. They represent a friendship and now a business relationship between two of Charlotte's most interesting characters. Storeowner Mark Englander is the man behind the transformed space. A former cabinetmaker who spent a decade working at a TV station where he designed and built on-air news sets, Englander is a whiz at rehabbing.

The man behind the doodads is heating and air conditioning duct man turned artist, Thomas David Fesperman. David told his friends. The doodads are his works of art. They're geometry brought to tactile form. They're also environmentally rooted: each doodad was once a used aluminum beverage can. David takes recycling one step beyond the norm, transforming a material set for the recycle bin into one of a kind, unique works of mathematical art.

The recycled nature makes them perfect for Englander's green store. Fesperman keeps his overhead down and only uses the tools of his trade: patterns, scissors, needle nosed pliers, a sharp ice pick and an exacto knife. "Aren't they cool?" Englander says as he holds up his own personal choice, which hangs next to his computer screen.

One of Mark's favorite pieces is a stellar octagular, according to David, who is a geometry master but not a math whiz. While growing up, he always preferred literature to numbers until he sat in geometry and it all came together. "Geometry is verbal math," he explains.



Despite the myriad of different shapes and colors, each doodad is actually based on five different geometric shapes. "It's the Platonic Solids," the artist explains, not a hint of superior knowledge or condescension to this soft voice. When Fesperman talks about his geometric foundations, his eyes sparkle and his speech picks up a notch with excitement. The five solids were proven by Euclid but written about by Plato, who ended up giving his name to the group. Further, Plato also assigned each of the five different shapes an element: fire for the tetrahedron, earth with the cube, water with the icosahedron, air with the octahedron and the stars and constellations with the dodecahedron.

Englander has urged Fesperman to give classes at the store, but the artist isn't sure it would be a good idea. "Each one takes me about an hour to do," he explains. "None of them are as easy as they look."

What Fesperman would like to see is the five Platonic solids hanging in every math class and library in town. "If kids would see them hanging there, it would interest them and they'd wonder what they were. By the end of the school year, they'd have learned about Plato and Pythagoras and the basics of geometry. Geometry is a portal."

"I was drawn to the shapes and the way they mix together," confesses Englander, whose eye for the unique was honed as a builder and hasn't stopped with the completion of the two major rehabs. David's works caught his attention during the Earth Day celebration at Ray's Splash Planet this year, where Englander promoted his ecologically positive products by riding a Segway around the entire celebration.

A few days after the event, Mark picked up the phone and called the metal artist because he wanted to buy a piece for himself. When David showed up at CES with a glorious assortment of shapes, colors and sizes, Englander knew in a flash they'd be a welcome addition to the shop.

Energy Solutions draws not only environmental purchasers and artists, but also political activists. The shop serves as a community gathering point, with Englander serving as host when documentary films are shown weekly. "We have everything here," Mark smiles from behind his news-like desk. "From green art to getting rid of Bush to making the planet better like Al Gore says."

[www.charlotteenergysolutions.com](http://www.charlotteenergysolutions.com)

✦ text by Kate Bacon, fotos by Carol Marley

## drive-by shooting with **Manoj P. Kesavan**



👉 *Talkin' nerdy with the founder of Charlotte's lively and scholarly Point8 Forum.*

**Little Shiva:** Point8 Forum is my kind of entertainment, like a good university lecture followed by a lively discussion. Ok, I feel you cringing at the word "entertainment," but really, why would people come out to something like this if it wasn't fun?

**Manoj P. Kesavan:** How did that happen? We usually try our best to squeeze out every bit of fun from our "lectures". Evidently, there were still some traces left there – hmmm...

No, entertainment is good. What I'm cringing at is the "university lecture" part. Yes, we're not afraid of having very intellectual discussions, often at a very theoretical level. However, we see it as very distant from what usually goes on at universities, where one person imparts knowledge/understanding, mostly limited to a single discipline, to a group who, by definition, knows less about it. Point8 is a multi-disciplinary peer group – we discuss topics and issues with others equally knowledgeable. We find the common ground between creative people from very different media. So we have painters, musicians, designers and even bankers – yeah, funny things have happened at the forum – discussing what they're passionate about. It's an exchange of ideas and critique among peers.

I guess the fun and excitement comes from being able to connect to something new at a very deep

level. Also, the idea that these things could be fun seems to be a revelation to many people.

**Little Shiva:** Ah, good distinction between a peer group and a university lecture. To me, Point8 is interesting because it's a call to critique (architectural, urban, cultural), a call to get over the cheerleading and look at the city with a critical eye, a call to action. Is it just talk, or has the vision been made manifest?

**Manoj P. Kesavan:** That's a great description of our approach – thanks! "Just talk", when done the right way, could have an impact in a town where there's "no talk". We can't over-emphasize the need for a healthy dialogue for the growth and well-being of the arts and other creative endeavors. Having an open venue where one can be critical in an objective way could be a big first step, especially with the established media getting more and more indifferent about these things.

**Little Shiva:** The group attracts an interesting cross-section of people, intellectual but not necessarily stuffy, and your new online magazine has that same tone. Joie Lassiter's recent piece on art and architecture in Spain is a good read, and although she does make reference to Charlotte, it's not all about comparing Charlotte to another city. Charlotte's Charlotte, now watcha gonna do?

**Manoj P. Kesavan:** True! :- ) ... I think Miss LonelyArts' comments complement it very well too.

**Little Shiva:** What's surprised you in the evolution of Point8 Forum? Pleased you? Made you want to stab yourself?

**Manoj P. Kesavan:** You know, Point8 just kind of happened – it's not the result of any grand plan by any of us. It started off as a small lunch-time discussion group inside an office, and kept growing and evolving. In the process it brought together a diverse group of great people, including (in alphabetical order) Barbara Schreiber, Chuck Barger, Ecem Ecevit, Faron Franks, Matt Stover and Scott Vonnegut, who have since become mainstays of the group.

None of us were expecting our sessions to draw fifty to seventy people each time (that's the turnout these days), or for our mailing list to grow so large in just a couple of years. I think our survival and growth (it still feels presumptuous to use the word "success") happened because we inadvertently filled a need that many people in the community were feeling.

At the same time, we're sadly aware of the fact that the forum's continued existence is based on the efforts of the few of us, and if a couple of us leave town, whatever we built up over the years will immediately fall apart.

**Little Shiva:** Well, you never know about that 'til you try it... You've said you don't ever plan further than two weeks ahead, but what's one of your dreams, urban or otherwise?

**Manoj P. Kesavan:** I don't have any big dreams really. Fantasies? Maybe, but I wouldn't put them down here! ;- ) We see so many possibilities

which a group like Point8 can work on, or develop into. For example, wouldn't it be cool if there were a real full-time venue where creative people could hang out, exchange and discuss ideas, and collaborate on community projects? Kind of a creative hub for the city and the region? We already have all the people that could make it work, so maybe that'll happen some day. Until then we'll keep meeting once every couple months, having these discussions, and develop our website into a parallel *virtual* venue.

We're also currently working on bringing together the various grassroots groups focused on different media so that all of us can have a common forum, with a wider audience and a larger presence in the community. Come to think of it, Charlotte is a great blank canvas. If you can get past the initial depression over its emptiness, you can envisage a lot of really cool things happening here.

**Little Shiva:** Ok now, give us the geeky shit... what exactly is "point eight"?

**Manoj P. Kesavan:** Go to the website and click on "about P8" then read the part about the name.

[www.point8.org](http://www.point8.org)

banktown by Linda Vista



They say the scent of oranges  
makes for good dreams.

I needed a good dream.

## Nourish

The room smelled like tangelos  
and the air caressed so *deep* and *plush*  
I gasped, and fainted a little.  
They whispered, "Just listen to us."  
I roused to a room bathed in glimmer,  
and there they were, a gorgeous  
collection of halcyon creatures nestled  
in a sea of ebony, black lacquer, crystal  
and cutlery. Stems raised and eyes  
piercing through me, no one spoke.  
They just glistened. All I could do was  
breathe... and sweat.  
Having decided that devouring me  
would be a waste of their time, they  
eyed me with a haute magnificence  
befitting the grandeur of their names ~  
Depression Absoluta, Succulent Gravitax,  
Rapacious Apathy, Rage Incessant...  
Ah, they wanted something deeper  
from me. They wanted my *attention*.  
So this was it, me, sitting at a  
resplendent table with All of My Shit  
staring back at me.  
Things turned ugly very quickly.  
Confusion was already slithering across  
the white linen and The Victim Martyr  
had opened an old wound staining the  
edges of everything with a desolation  
I wanted no part of. "This illusion is not  
cuuuute for meeee", I quipped. "This was  
supposed to be a good dream and thus  
far you've served up nothing but a plate  
full of muthafuckin' Chaos. I don't need  
this shit and I certainly don't need to  
be feasting and fucking around with

*you crazy ass muthafuckas!* I'm  
heading back to unconsciousness."  
All juicy lipped and annoyed,  
Impassioned Impatience purred in my  
face, "Ohhh but this is a damn good  
dream baby boy. And you fuck with us  
simply because you must. We are the  
fiercest teachers Existence has to offer.  
We are the ones who love you enough  
to strip, sand, buff, and spit shine the  
bullshit out of your thinking; the ones  
who'll crush a dream expressly for the  
purpose of inspiring you to dream  
again and again and again just to defy  
your own Despair. When Anxiety last  
flooded your psyche she was actually  
encouraging you to delve deeper into  
the waters of your calm. Ironic, we  
know, but that's how we do what we  
do *for you*, boo. So stop trippin', be still,  
shut the fuck up, and *listen*. That's your  
damn entrée for today. **Listen. Absorb.**  
**Digest. Do.** Ah, and here's a little  
soupçon of perspective about  
that Chaos that keeps showing up  
on your plate...  
*If you don't like the way your Shit looks,*  
*then change the way you're looking*  
*at your Shit... Bon appétit."*  
That morning I woke up with a message  
inked inside my bottom lip, dear ones:  
**~ be quiet and eat ~**

# Love Lash

MUSINGS

MEDITATIONS

LASHINGS

AND OTHER

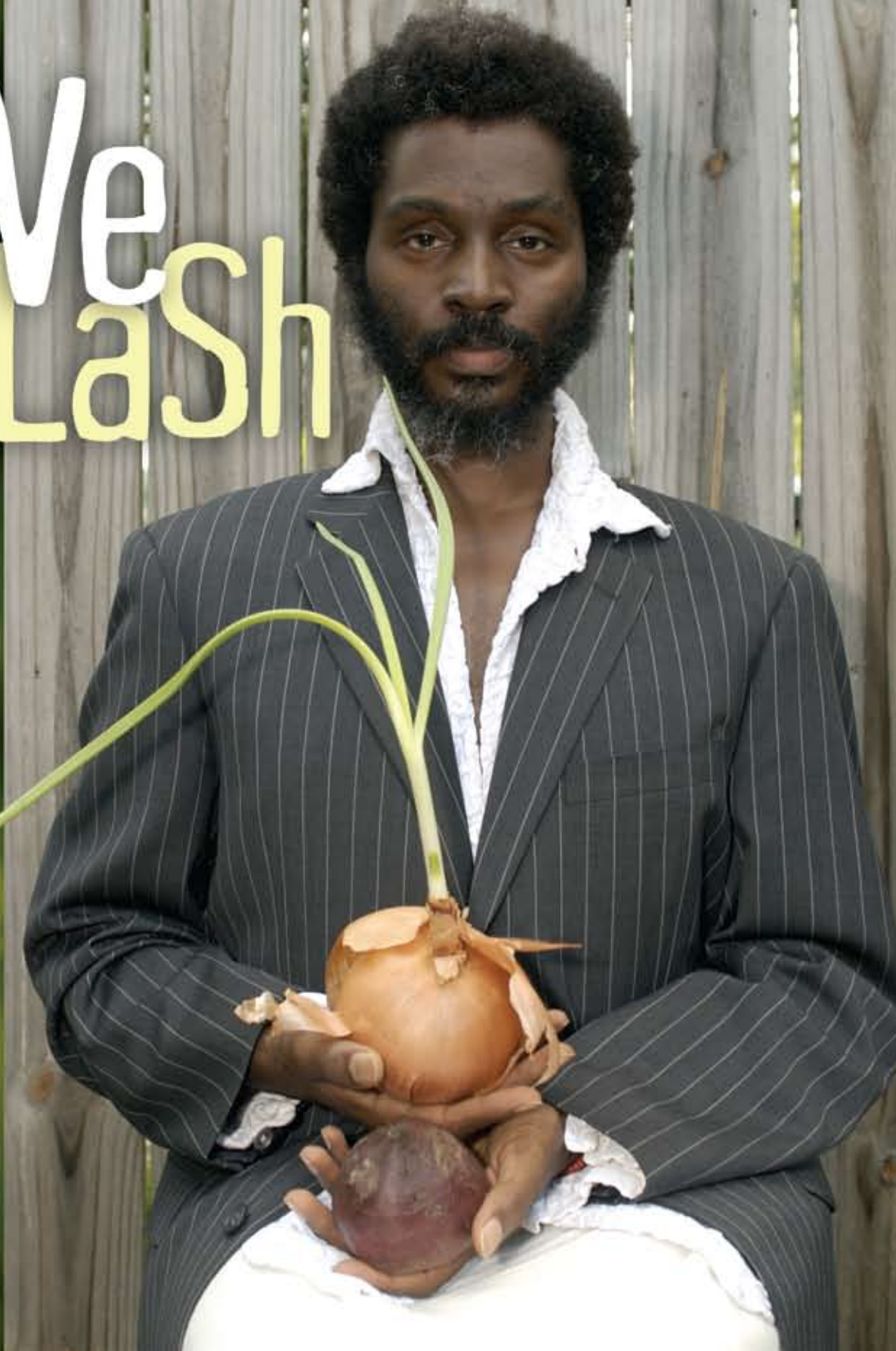
ANTICS BY

JOHN W. LOVE, JR.

WITH

FOTOS BY

PIPER WARLICK



explosion of condominiums, the orange cone covered asphalt, and stretch marks on the state of our health care should be proof enough: we're growing – and fast. Once the sun dies down, the traffic digests and the collars are loosened, people want to

Charlotte has a rich history (24K), a growth-focused present and a promising future. Many a number-crunching import now calls Charlotte home. The

If you're into **rock-n-roll, punk, or metal** (bless you), go here: [www.amossouthend.com](http://www.amossouthend.com), [www.tremontmusichall.com](http://www.tremontmusichall.com) (tip Gabe), [www.themilestoneclub.com](http://www.themilestoneclub.com), and [www.myspace.com/SnugHarbor](http://www.myspace.com/SnugHarbor). Occasionally and seasonally you can count on the amphitheatre (Verizon at the University) for big acts.

## primary checking: the SCENE

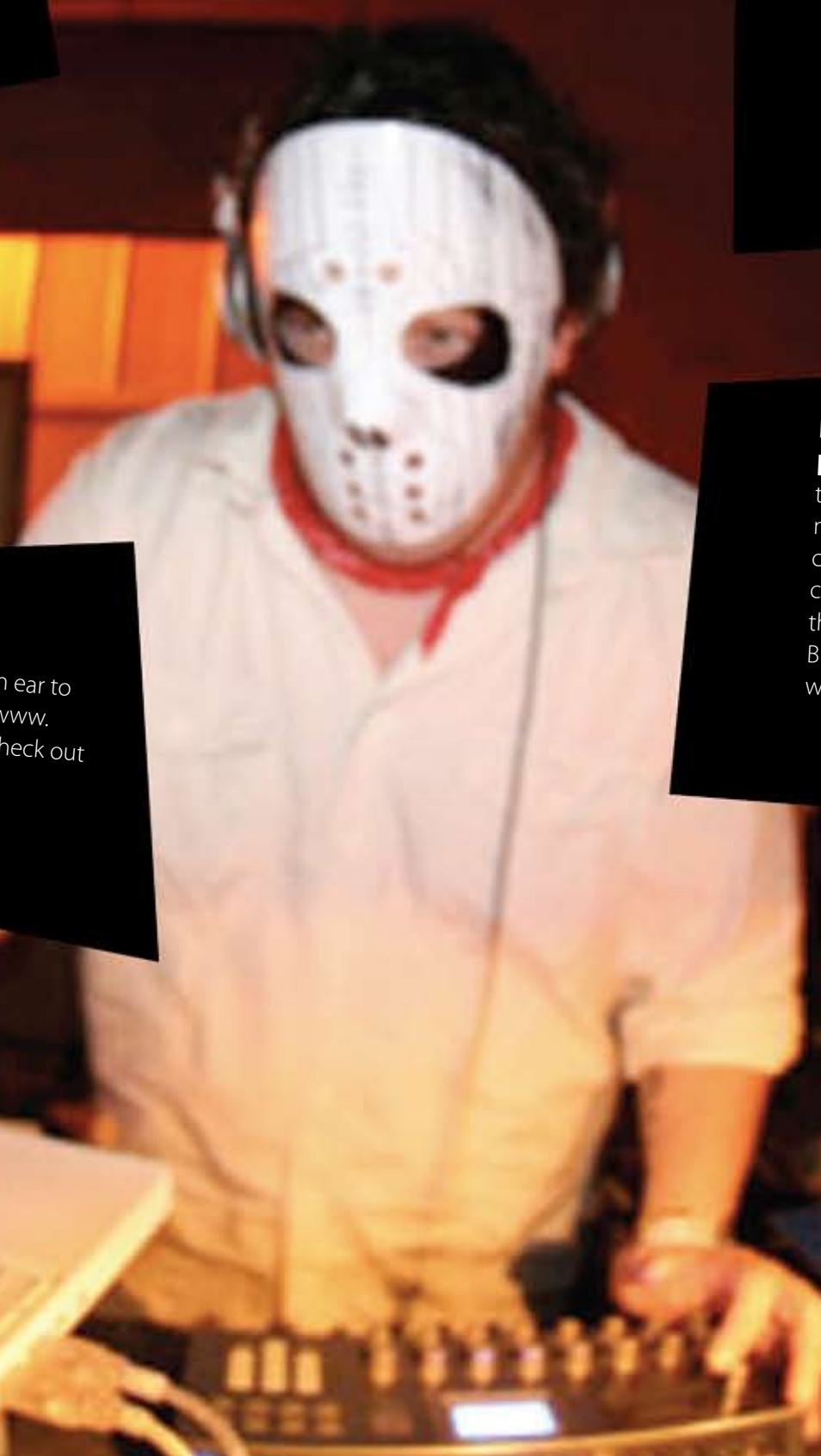
If you're strictly **roots and reggae**, lend an ear to Jon Cook and Carolyn Barber Cook, owners of [www.reggaecentral.net](http://www.reggaecentral.net). They know the scoop. Also check out local reggae / dancehall celebrity DJ Ceez..

George Brazil works the mac  
at Snug Harbor

Good local acts to catch: the Red and the Black, [www.myspace.com/MegoDirge](http://www.myspace.com/MegoDirge), Nitehawk, [www.myspace.com/Psycle](http://www.myspace.com/Psycle), [www.myspace.com/gogopilot](http://www.myspace.com/gogopilot), [www.thesmokingrocks.com](http://www.thesmokingrocks.com), [www.myspace.com/HotRodGreaseLightning](http://www.myspace.com/HotRodGreaseLightning), [www.myspace.com/babyshaker](http://www.myspace.com/babyshaker), [www.myspace.com/Bullship](http://www.myspace.com/Bullship), and [www.myspace.com/snagglepusslovesyou](http://www.myspace.com/snagglepusslovesyou). And then there's rockers doing hip hop: [www.myspace.com/McClintockGs](http://www.myspace.com/McClintockGs) and [www.myspace.com/BoutitBoyz](http://www.myspace.com/BoutitBoyz).

If you dig the **acoustic, the indie, the pop rock**, you might want to patronize [www.theeveningmuse.com](http://www.theeveningmuse.com), [www.visulite.com](http://www.visulite.com), [www.neighborhoodtheatre.com](http://www.neighborhoodtheatre.com) or [www.doubledoorinn.com](http://www.doubledoorinn.com). Local acts to check out? [www.myspace.com/secondhandstories](http://www.myspace.com/secondhandstories), [www.myspace.com/theNoises10](http://www.myspace.com/theNoises10), [www.myspace.com/GoGoPilot](http://www.myspace.com/GoGoPilot), Buschovski, [www.myspace.com/itslouford](http://www.myspace.com/itslouford), and [www.myspace.com/theHoustons](http://www.myspace.com/theHoustons).

sift through the "mucky muck" and find a scene. But the entertainment doesn't stop there . . .



... get to know local dance and theater companies, our symphony, our parks and courses, our museums and galleries. Attend a sporting event, take a

If you want to see **electronic DJs**, go to Tutto Mondo, the Breakfast Club or [www.loft1523.com](http://www.loft1523.com) and meet some folks. Good local DJs: Scott Weaver, Michael Tomlin, Jah-sun Rising, Smitty, Wiiz Kid, and eRIC E.

Wanna check out some **drag**? Good ol' Scorpio's would never let you down. Some of the girls who've graced this stage have gained national attention.

For a **smorgasboard of entertainment**, you need to stalk promoters Tracie Nasta and Shane Elks at [www.myspace.com/nastyshane](http://www.myspace.com/nastyshane). They throw the seasonal festival "Artoxication" that incorporates rock, dance, spoken word and live art of all sorts.

If you're 'bout to head out for **food and libations**, I can suggest a few spots: 300 East, Creation, Ru Sans, [www.penguindrivein.com](http://www.penguindrivein.com), [www.solespanishgrille.com](http://www.solespanishgrille.com), [www.cajunqueen.net](http://www.cajunqueen.net), [www.cabofishtaco.com](http://www.cabofishtaco.com), [www.cosmoscafe.com](http://www.cosmoscafe.com), [www.commonmarketct.com](http://www.commonmarketct.com), [www.namasteindia.cc](http://www.namasteindia.cc), [www.pewterose.com](http://www.pewterose.com), LuLu, and Mac's BBQ. And slated to open in the fall / winter of '07 is Soul, the brainchild of Cosmos' owner, Andy Kastanas, wherein tapas and DJs will merge to tantalize and impress.

Mark (bass) and Daylon (guitar) of Hot Rod Grease Lightning

# know your CITY

**Intelligent hip hop** is hard to find amongst the crunk, but promoters [www.myspace.com/theSolKitchen](http://www.myspace.com/theSolKitchen) and [www.lifestylemo.com](http://www.lifestylemo.com) take you straight to the source. They're the people who bring quality shows worth attending (Jazzy Jeff, Pete Rock). Locals to peep? [www.myspace.com/theOthers](http://www.myspace.com/theOthers), Supastition, and Ike Turnah.

Venues **close to Charlotte** to catch live acts: the Masquerade, [www.catscradle.com](http://www.catscradle.com), Ziggy's, [www.orangepeel.net](http://www.orangepeel.net), and the House of Blues.

walk through a historic neighborhood. Get to know the whereabouts of local farmer's markets and gardens. Enjoy what Charlotte has to offer, this banking town just past the beaches, over the mountains, 'cross the countryside and into the rat race.

text by LN Mental, fotos by Steve Munsell

STORY AND ART DIRECTION: TOM W. LOW '92  
CONCEPT AND DESIGN: LITTLE 9994

IT ALL STARTED INNOCENTLY ENOUGH. LETITIA WAS A SIMPLE GIRL... A SIMPLE GIRL WHO LIKED ALL THE THINGS THE OTHER GIRLS HER AGE LIKED...



WELCOME TO THE SAGAS OF

# LADY STRANGE FUNK

GIT'CHO NOSE UP IN IT!



F\*%@ THIS WHERE'S MY F\*%@##g HOT POCKET?

...A GOOD MEAL...



MY TITS ARE REAL, BITCH!

...A GOOD DRINK...



GIT'CHO NOSE UP IN IT!

...A GOOD MAN...



GIT'CHO NOSE UP IN IT!

MY TITS ARE REAL, BITCH!

...AND A GOOD TIME.



BUT WHAT HAPPENED AT 777 CELADON WAY WAS THE BEGINNING OF AN OBSESSION THAT WOULD TURN A SWEET MOUTHED KITTY-KITTEN INTO A VENOMOUS SPEW CHUCKING HELL CAT!

MY TITS ARE REAL, BITCH!



EVERYONE WOULD SOON LEARN THAT TO KEEP A PUSSY GOOD ONE MUST STROKE IT PROPERLY... HARD AND OFTEN.

PURRRRR!



AND WHO IS DR. TAP DAT ROOT AND WHERE DOES HE JUST LULUV TO STICK IT?

...TO BE CONTINUED...

NOW, HOWEVER, THE QUESTION THAT LOOMED WAS WHY IS LEE-LEE JEPPELSON DISAPPEARING IN FRONT OF HER PARENTS EYES? AND WHAT HAS POSSESSED HER TO LEAN INTO EVERY REFLECTION OF HERSELF AND HISS "GOOD MORNING, LETITIA VON BITCH!"?



paper party dresses



dresses by  
Erika Rumbley  
and Barbie  
(via D.  
Arvanites)

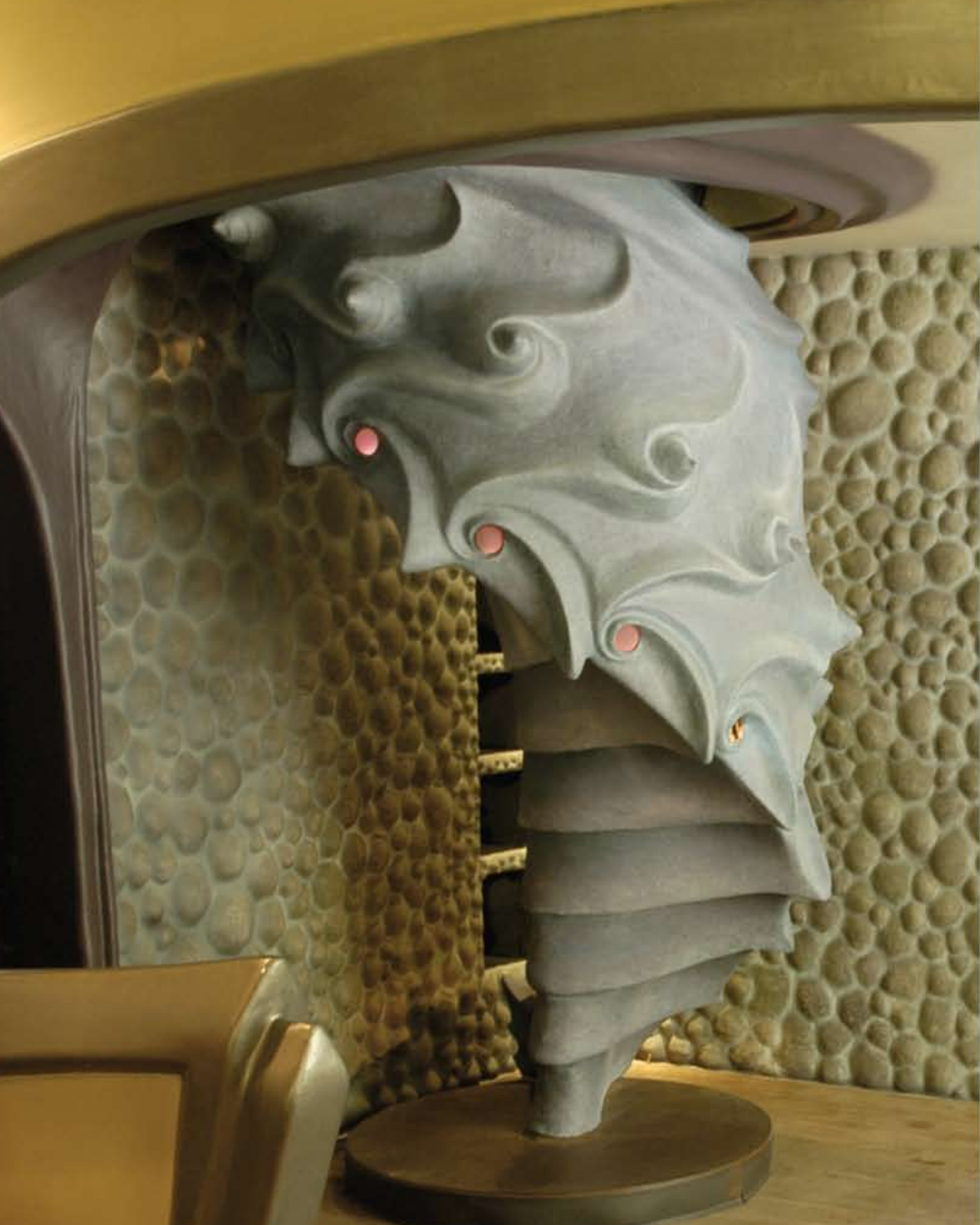
instead of writing, let's start reciting  
no need to deny that you and I have  
chemistry beyond  
the explanation to why  
so I'll let the mystery imply  
as we collaborate on a piece  
stimulate then release  
let the lyrics set us free  
as our pens meet  
our tongues speak  
... our skills reach...  
that allegorical climax  
in the realm of ... SERENITY  
why settle for written prose  
when we can do it orally  
our actions personify similes  
cuz what we do is poetry  
please believe, we'll publish  
history, with all the things we say  
no need to put it on paper  
it's been written...

VIVA VOCE by vivian jones



automorph by Jared Nicholson  
commissioned by Jim McGuire

SKRRAtch!



# Jared Nicholson

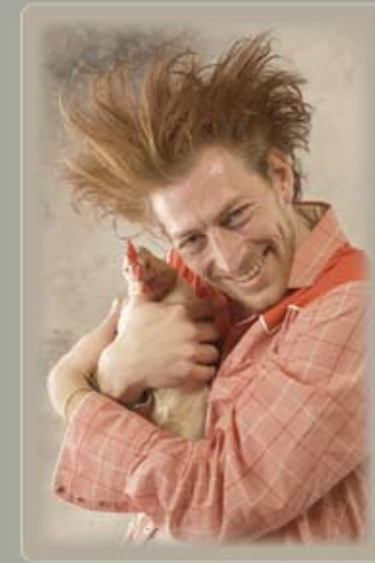
**eNergy**... creative energy. From the sparkling blue eyes that hold yours when he talks, to the pace of his words, to the scope of his interests, Nicholson radiates a lovely vigor. Even his hair is wildly energetic, standing away from his head in a "big hair" '80's way, yet totally post-modern. His drink of choice is known by the barista at Starbucks. It isn't decaf. As a working artist, Nicholson doesn't spend much time in coffee shops. His creation space is an organized yet comfortable NoDa garage-turned-studio just off North Davidson. Away from the day-to-day pedantics that fill most lives, he spends quality time in this space accompanied by the XM radio choice du jour.

The creative process gives him the same rush and comforts most get from taking a vacation. No need to rush off to the beach to feel good for this Renaissance man. "People who have to go on vacation are escaping. They're escaping from a life they're not happy with," Nicholson explains with enthusiasm. Unlike those who are punching a clock and watching the hours tick off before they can begin doing what they really want in retirement, the Salt Lake City native is pursuing his bliss in the Queen City.

An old Oldsmobile sits in the middle of his largest open space. Slowly but surely, Detroit's design is taking on an entirely new look. Nicholson is adding a coating to the vehicle, transforming the once-shiny metal of the car body. Multi-dimensional stars and swirls surround the headlights, the letters "Area 15" adorn the front panel, and across the driver's door are what could be fish scales. "It's an art car," he smiles. The car isn't balanced yet; the passenger side is just beginning to morph, leaving the vehicle listing to one side. It'll all balance when it's complete.

A self-taught sculptor, painter and engineer, Jared began his artistic voyage creating set panels for plays in the Beehive state. The desire to take the flat artwork

to a different dimension led him to study then design objects in 3-D. His scrapbook of project pictures shows gorgeous stage prosceniums and architectural accents. His medium is as unique as are his visions. It's not plaster of Paris, or papier-maché, although the properties are very similar. "I'm getting the first patent ever on a maché, which is a cellulose product," he explains. "Then when it's all ready, I'm going to sell it and call it 'Skratch', so people can create anything they want from Skratch." The recipe is a secret. It contains a limestone base, which makes it nearly indestructible, yet lighter than pure rock itself. Nicholson studied nature in his quest to find such a material. "It's based on entomology. Hornets, wasps and mud daubers," he said.



"You can make furniture out of this, or art objects, or housing," he enthuses. The housing applications would enable whole communities to build ecologically positive homes in lieu of the affordable yet unsubstantial materials now available to large portions of the population. "I figured out a way to make sure the Skratch doesn't decompose," he told me. But housing is on the horizon. What's on today's page is the art car. "Once it's all done, then the paint goes on," he says, opening a cabinet full of colors that would dwarf a rainbow, most of

which were purchased at Wal-Mart. "Art doesn't have to drain your money," he comments. Paint adheres to the limestone-esque finish and then Nicholson seals the entire work. He didn't share how many coats of sealant were used, but it seems like it was more than one.

Before he put his art on wheels, Jared designed the interior of several Charlotte haunts, including SK Net Café on Elizabeth and the now-defunct Steeple Lounge. A staircase was turned into a conch shell at one locale. At another, a gigantic face emerges from a wall. A throne-sized chair sits in his studio, ready for the next step in turning it into one of Jared's visions.

"There's a space between believable and unbelievable. It might be a tiny one, but that's the place I want to be. I want to be there with my creative pieces," the artist states. "It's through imagination that ideas come about."

[www.skratchworks.com](http://www.skratchworks.com)

◆ text by Kate Bacon, fotos by Jim McGuire



Imagine being without shelter, having to carry everything you own with you at all times. Imagine cops harassing you because you don't look like you belong, or chasing you out of public spaces when you're just trying to rest. Imagine not having a space, any space, to call your own. Hard to imagine? This is some people's reality.

Linda Samuels, former architecture faculty at UNCC, has been working to shrink the gap between the roles of designer and citizen for years now. As a shaper of environments, she feels a strong responsibility to create space that's socially, environmentally and politically meaningful. It's a restlessness emerging from the struggle to act.

She approached Lawrence Cann with the idea to run a course at UNCC called Architecture as Activism. Lawrence, director and founder of Community Works 945, thought it was a great idea. Together they chose a location, then Linda set about making the project happen. Funding came in the form of a \$5000 grant from the Chancellor's Diversity fund, UNCC, as well as money from Dean Ken Lambla of the UNCC College of Architecture. Community Works 945 matched that money, \$1000.

Linda ran the course with support from Lawrence as well as Frances Hawthorne, another activist who's been heavily involved in Community Works 945. Five UNCC architecture students took the course as independent study, and 10 volunteers from the homeless population contributed on a regular basis. Throughout the project, 53 additional volunteers contributed to the rotating workforce, donating an hour or a day or a week at a time. What was once a nondescript back lot at Urban Ministry became known as ARTPARK, and it was truly a collaborative effort.

The main visual is the vibrant patchwork, a ground plane consisting of 34 unique personal expressions stained into the concrete as memorials, narratives, bonds, markers and celebrations. But other tangible aspects of the project are immensely important as well: the big fence to keep soccer balls from flying out over Tryon Street, the stage for performances, the free lockers, and benches where people can sit and rest.

It took devotion, energy and elbow grease, but ARTPARK is here to stay, with more presence along Tryon Street in the works. To visit, make a left at the north end of College Street, past the dead end sign then down the hill. You can't miss it.

[www.communityworks945.org](http://www.communityworks945.org)

✦ text and montage by Little Shiva using fotos by Carol Marley; foto left: Frances Hawthorne; group, left to right, standing: Daniel Martinez, Rob Cann, Elmer Nuñez, Lawrence Cann and Michael Blackwell; left to right in front: Reggie Jones, Osaman Mohommad; foto right: Linda Samuels

IF YOU WISH

TO GO QUICKLY,

GO ALONE;

IF YOU WISH

TO GO FAR,

GO TOGETHER.

AFRICAN PROVERB



Live Modern. Live Green. Live Well.



Celadon's 24 Modern "Eco-Chic" Townhomes, directly on the Wesley Heights Greenway, combine environmentally-aware modern design with nature, neighborhood and city. Priced from the mid-\$200's to the mid-\$400's.

- Modern minimalist design
- Sustainably built with proven green techniques & materials
- Fisher & Paykel appliances
- Italian-design kitchens
- Dedicated tree-save area
- Less than a mile to Uptown
- 900+ square feet to 2,000+ square feet



Learn more at [celadongreenway.com](http://celadongreenway.com)

Call Shane McDevitt at (704) 763-0063, John Geuss at (980) 322-5300 or Kevin Thompson at (704) 724-7466 for more information. Plans, prices & specifications subject to change without notice.

**ALL IN THE ROOTS**  
704 649 4769

INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR PLANT SPECIALIST  
DESIGN, INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE

**AMERICAN BEAUTY GARDEN CENTER**

~ ORGANICS ~

**FOX FARM**  
HYDROPONICS

**AeroGrow**  
INTERNATIONAL, INC.

**FUTURE-BRITE**  
ELECTRONIC H.L.D. LIGHTING

LAST SEEN AT:  
AMERICAN BEAUTY GARDEN CENTER  
1331 CENTRAL AVENUE  
CHARLOTTE, NC 28205  
704-334-8651

MON-SAT 10-8  
SUNDAY 12-6

[abgardencenter.com](http://abgardencenter.com)

**Relieves gas pains.**

*These days Vespa scooters make more sense than ever. Visit us to find out what Vespa can do for you.*

**Vespa Charlotte**  
128 West Worthington Avenue  
(704) 373-7400


©PIAGGIO GROUP AMERICAS, INC. 2007. VESPA® IS A U.S. AND WORLDWIDE REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF THE PIAGGIO GROUP OF COMPANIES. OBEY LOCAL TRAFFIC SAFETY LAWS AND ALWAYS WEAR A HELMET, APPROPRIATE EYEWEAR AND PROPER APPAREL.

# NEON

## Glitterati

second anniversary

OCTOBER 5, 2007  
DOORS OPEN 9PM  
VISUALITE THEATER  
CHARLOTTE, NC  
\$5 COVER\*\*

presented by  featuring **DJ WIIZ KID** and **the Studio Dancers**

special performance by **the Bachelors (Dance and Jingles)**

**dress**  
Express yourself with color and style. Bringing the Neon is encouraged but not required.

\*\*BRING THIS FLYER AND GET IN FOR FREE

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE TAKEOVER FRIDAY CREW

# BankTOWN USA

buy your ad from  
Ellen Gurley,  
account executive  
704 575 6611  
LNMENTAL@aol.com




Mañana, mon frère



available now  
[www.myspace.com/gogopilot](http://www.myspace.com/gogopilot)

gogoPilot



## DAVEDE VARNER

CERTIFIED NEUROMUSCULAR  
MASSAGE THERAPIST

Discover this unique massage experience  
creating better focus and balance  
in your life

Conveniently located in Dilworth  
**704.345.7184**  
1207 East Boulevard • Charlotte, NC 28203  
Call for your appointment today.

# HOPE

## Bohemia + Natasha

1214 THOMAS AVE CHARLOTTE NC 28205  
704 375 0079



704-376-4556

# FU'S


CUSTOM TATTOO

N. C. Charlotte

Appointments & Consultations  
Required

[www.justattoos.com](http://www.justattoos.com)

CM THE COMMON MARKET



URBAN PROVISIONS \* BEER \* WINE

# DELI

[WWW.COMMONMARKETCLT.COM](http://WWW.COMMONMARKETCLT.COM)  
2007 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE \* 704 334 6209

**01. Angus Lamond**  
fotos – Lady Strange Funk  
www.anguslamond.com

**02. Beverly Iman Johnson**  
Lee-Lee – Lady Strange Funk  
beveriman96@yahoo.com

**03. Carmen Banks**  
Girl LaLa – Lady Strange Funk  
www.myspace.com/fashion\_god

**04. Carol Marley**  
fotos – Fesperman/Englander  
piece and Urban Ministry Art Park  
alemehtaraka@yahoo.com

**05. Charlotte Damone**  
Mizz Lou-Lou – Lady Strange Funk  
charlottedamone@yahoo.com

**06. David Frers**  
Hans Von Schtoopenhauser –  
Lady Strange Funk

**07. Diane Arvanites**  
Barbie dresses  
d.arvanites@att.net

**08. Ellen Gurley**  
account executive  
text – primary checking: the scene  
LNMENTAL@aol.com

**09. Emory P. Starr**  
Darla Ashley – Lady Strange Funk  
www.myspace.com/justinstarr

**10. Erika Rumbley**  
paper party dress  
erika.rumbley@gmail.com

**11. James Johnson**  
Big Daddy J – Lady Strange Funk  
beveriman96@yahoo.com

**12. Jim McGuire**  
fotos – Skratch!  
www.jimmcguire.com

**13. John W. Love, Jr.**  
The Love mojo is in yummy effect!  
Scriptwriter, Queen wrangler and  
art director of Lady Strange Funk;  
author and art director of Love Lash  
lovedadazu@yahoo.com

**14. Joy Randall**  
Sweet Mama J – Lady Strange Funk  
www.myspace.com/joy360degrees

**15. Kate Bacon**  
text – Fesperman/Englander  
piece and Skratch!  
katebacon@yahoo.com

**16. Kent Smith**  
foto – back cover  
www.kentsmithphoto.com

**17. Linda Vista**  
Banktown by...  
lvista@carolina.rr.com

**18. Little Shiva**  
Beyond Queen of Everything,  
she's the editor, designer and  
ringleader of the three ring  
circus that is Banktown USA  
www.littleshiva.com

**19. Patrick Marsh** (no pic)  
make-up & styling –  
Lady Strange Funk  
nationalitiesbeautyfirm.com/  
make-up

**20. Piper Warlick**  
fotos – Love Lash  
www.piperwarlick  
photography.com

**21. Rik Catlow**  
painting – front cover  
www.rikcat.com

**22. Scott Lindsley**  
publi\$her –  
yes, baby, he pays the bills  
info@banktownusa.com

**23. Steve Munsell**  
fotos – primary checking: the scene  
thefathead@mac.com

**24. Stuart Williams, DDS**  
Dr. Tap Dat Root –  
Lady Strange Funk  
jstuw@aol.com

**25. Tammi Gilbert**  
Kalika Khunt – Lady Strange Funk  
kittymambo@aol.com

**26. Vivian Jones**  
poem – viva voce  
follourhart@yahoo.com



contribute  
to this magazine

art  
fotos  
wordz

send to shivita@mac.com



# ELEMENT GALLERY

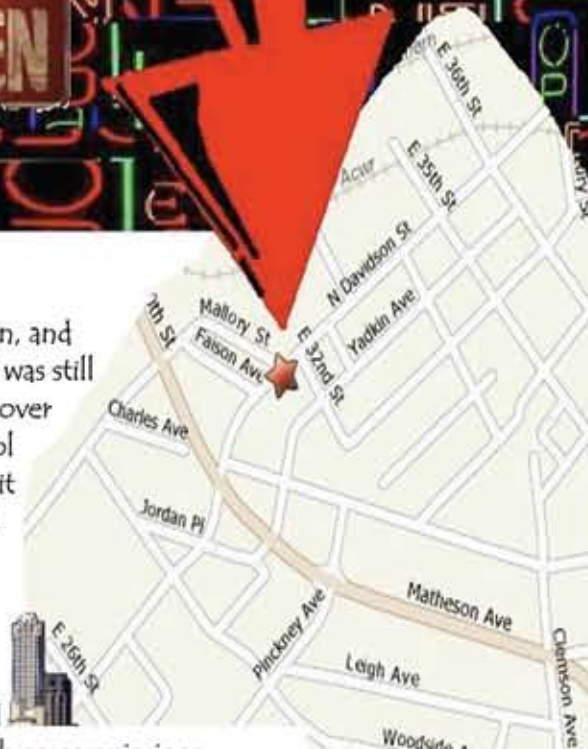


Come in WE'RE  
**OPEN**

A few of the agents at Urban Realty got tired of Business as usual.....

So they moved on up to the NoDa side Of town, and opened up a gallery called Element. They decided it was still kind of boring So they invited their friends from all over North Carolina to come and play live music, Do cool and wacky performance art. Not only does it rock, it allows artists a chance to display their wares without Having to share the dollar bills .

Come by and see the space—it's cool, it's new, and there's usually attractive people and good wine . Experience it.



**urban realty**

2818 North Davidson St  
Charlotte NC 28205  
(704)375-2010  
Www.urbanrealtync.coM  
Www.eg-at-ur.coM

- A Gallery with no commissions
- A real estate agency involved in the Community
- A new way of doing things
- Indoor/Outdoor space available

**HEY! YOU NEVER KNOW  
WHAT YOU'LL FIND HERE**

**OPEN GALLERY**  
**ROUND**





Banktown U\$A is seeking advertisers;  
Space is limited. Send inquiries to [LNMENTAL@aol.com](mailto:LNMENTAL@aol.com)