

RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES

A peculiar characteristic of the size of the Triangle is that you can't exactly see it at one time. When you glimpse Charlotte's skyline, it creates a permanent image you can carry around in your mind's eye that says: "This is a big city." To get a feel for the dynamism of the Triangle—soon to be larger than the Charlotte region—you have to incorporate the two skylines of Raleigh and Durham, visit the three major university campuses, seek out the acres of residential development and office parks, and give up when you realize you can't actually see the Research Triangle Park, the gigantic engine that makes it all happen.

This time each year we present our annual High Tech 100. Senior Editor Rick Smith discovers that the heart of high tech and biotech is still beating and starting to sound healthy again after five years on a respirator. As the Research Triangle is ranked fifth worldwide as a significant high tech community, our annual report (as well as Rick's regular after.com column) reminds us of our status as a global center in cutting edge technology.

Espionage and intelligence issues are now on the top of the news menu and the best experts on the subject are coming to Raleigh as our guests August 27-29 at the North Carolina Museum of History. The

member of Parliament who has emerged as the top expert on Venona (the recently declassified program that decrypted Soviet cables to US agents); and Hayden Peake, the Curator of the CIA's Historic Intelligence Collection, all wanted to come, creating an unprecedented gathering of great minds right here in our capital city. Your mission is to attend after decoding the eight-page Raleigh International Spy Conference program guide in this issue. To register, go to www.raleighspyconference.com or call Vincent Cavallari at the Museum of History: 919-733-3076, ext. 291.

It's August and it's hot, but that has not deterred our regular contributors. Gourmet team member Maudy Benz lights the way to fine cuisine with a visit to Chapel Hill's Lantern restaurant; Carroll Leggett offers a pew-side commentary on saintliness; Fashion Editor Molly Fulghum Heintz knows what's in for back-to-school; Louis St. Lewis invades the Wilmington art scene; PvV checks in with singer Claire Holley; George Leef reviews the book that explodes the myths of globalization; fiction editor Art Taylor once again amazes in New & Noteworthy books—including the latest dispatches from our remarkable literary scene—and Frances Smith discovers there is plenty to do under the sultry skies of late summer in MetroPreview.

To kick off the fall "season" in these parts, our September issue will uncover the amazing number of North Carolinians who have made big names for themselves in the Big Apple. Written by Raleigh native Cade Metz, a senior writer with *PC Magazine* in New York City, and photographed by Raleigh-born Blanche Williamson, who spent 16 years with *People Magazine* in Manhattan, Metro's photo essay on the New York connection will dazzle and delight. Be sure your subscription is current or risk missing our coolest issue ever.

See you in September.

—Bernie Reeves, *Editor & Publisher*

That's about to change in the Raleigh sector. Very soon two significant real estate events are going to add visual drama, announcing that the capital city is heading for the next level. Crabtree Promenade will replace Kidds Hill Plaza with a state-of-the-art mixed use retail and residential facility you'd expect to see in world capitals. And already underway is the new North Hills, a retail, mixed use re-development on the site of the recently demolished mall built there in 1965. Exciting stuff indeed and Design Editor Diane Lea is right there to put you in the picture.

question is "Why are they coming to Raleigh?" And the answer is because I am fortunate enough to be friends with Cambridge don Chris Andrew, the world's leading intelligence scholar. I invited Chris to return to our area and things just started happening. CIA officer Brian Kelley, the "wrong man" in the Robert Hanssen investigation; Keith Melton, the spycraft technology guru (who will bring to Raleigh spy equipment from his vast personal collection); KGB Major General Oleg Kalugin, who ran operations against the US for 20 years; Britain's Nigel West, the former

