

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Shakedown Street: A Great Local Hang Out

Laurel Norwod, Contributing Writer

Looking for a low-key place to eat with friends? Or maybe you want to find a new bar close to home with exciting, new local artists. Shakedown Street combines both of these aspects at one great location. Their slogan, "Food - Drink - Music - Good Vibes", is a true representation of their establishment.

Shakedown Street is also close to Meredith College. It is located at the site of the old Marrakesh Café at 2500 Hillsborough Street, just past Five O'Clock Sports Bar. Parking is available on the side of Hillsborough St. or you can take the bus or maybe even take one of Meredith's new Zipcars. Shakedown Street is open from 8pm to 12am Sunday through Wednesday; on Saturdays they extend their hours and are open until 2 am. These hours are just right for the college student who needs an early evening or late night break.

Shakedown Street offers a grill menu including pitas, burgers, and hot dogs. It offers great vegetarian options as well, such as veggie burgers and hummus and sprouts. My personal favorite is their 420 Special: they offer a quarter-pound burger or hot dog with chips and a drink for only \$4.20. Nothing on their menu is above \$6,

which makes eating out with friends easy and fun without breaking the bank.

One of Shakedown's best features is their ability to bring in great local artists. This combined with their comprehensive drink menu makes Shakedown a great place to go out with friends. Every Wednesday is Open Mike Night, when anyone can show off their talents. On Sundays, they have Sucker Free Sundays, when young rap artists come and battle it out on the stage. Every other day, they have artists such as Dirty Feat, Allies Emerge, and Wide Eyed Mischief perform, all new bands that are up-and-coming in the Raleigh music scene. The mood is always relaxing since an eclectic group of people come to listen to brand new music, move to the hip beats, and enjoy drinks for a reasonable price. Shakedown's drink menu is affordable and has something for everyone. Bottled beer, draft beer, wine, mixed drinks, malt beverages, water, and soda are all available, and draft beers can be purchased by the pitcher. Local beers are also offered, including Bad Penny and other Big Boss Brewing Company beers.

After a long day at school and work, relaxing at Shakedown Street is an enjoyable way to end the day. Come relax and enjoy the great music while supporting local businesses, bands, and beer.

## 30 Americans: Bridging the Generational Gap

Ashleigh Phillips, Staff Writer

The most recent traveling exhibition to stop through North Carolina Museum of Art is 30 Americans presented by the Rubell Family Collection of Miami. It arrived on March 19 and will no doubt draw visitors until it leaves on September 4. This popularity is because the collection features 31 contemporary African American artists that are working to usher in a new movement. The collection of seventy five works includes painting, drawing, photography, video, sculpture, and mixed media from established artists and the up-and-coming artists inspired by their predecessors work. 30 Americans is exciting because the influence of an older generation of artists on the current generation is clearly seen and validates the new movement.

When the up-and-coming artists were asked about artists they admired, Carrie Mae Weems and Jean Michel Basquiat were on many lists, so, while not contemporary, Weems and Basquiat were included in the exhibit. Weems's contribution of monochromatic color prints focuses on the effect of slavery on the African American identity. "Descending the Throne" presents the viewer with the stereotypes African American men and women faced before and after the Emancipation Proclamation. While race is clearly a theme in Weems's works, Basquiat's abstract paintings offer conflict in another way. "Bird On Money" pops with happy blue and

yellow, but a bombardment of squiggled peace signs and arrows suggest turmoil.

Modern artists such as Glenn Ligon, David Hammons, and Xaviera Simmons also offer up their interpretations of what it is to be African American. Ligon has ten pieces in the collection including a neon sign that shines "America" and two paintings that depict narratives of African Americans attempting to reconnect with their African roots. "Gold Nobody Knew Me #1" asserts the detachment African Americans have with Africa, and "Gold When Black Wasn't Beautiful #1" explores the misunderstanding in the older African American community for younger generations to strive for that attachment. Hammons takes a nontraditional approach to African American identity with his installation of "The Holy Bible, Old Testament" which is a black leather bound Bible. Xaviera Simmons uses the traditional medium of photography to capture evocative subjects in her six contributions to 30 Americans. In "One Day and Back Then (Seated)" and "One Day and Back Then (Standing)" Simmons juxtaposes the darkness of Black skin against light wheat fields, calling attention to the African American physical appearance.

In 30 Americans, all-American nationality is a matter of fact, but racial identity is a question. The multi-generational and diverse-media exhibition offers fresh perspectives on past and contemporary racial issues in the United States.



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### Crossword Answer Key:

#### Across

1. MASON
4. TALES
5. CRAZY
6. LAKES
8. RINGO
9. CURIE
11. FATALE
12. ALMA
15. TENNIS
17. PYRE

#### Down

2. FLAN
3. SAM
5. CRICKET
7. FRATERNAL
10. MECCA
13. PAX
14. SUSAN
16. TSETSE
17. POP