

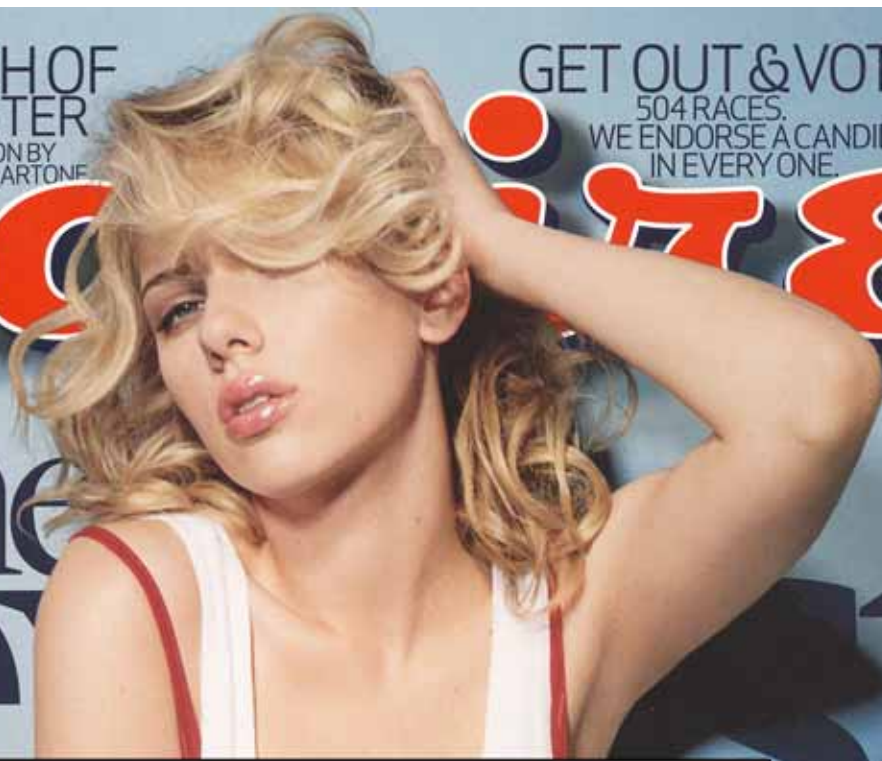
THE DEATH OF
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RADICAL FICTION BY
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NOVEMBER 2006



Best **NEW** Restaurants 2006

PROOF ON MAIN LOUISVILLE



Co-owned by the redoubtable Drew Nieporent (New York's Tribeca Grill, Nobu, Montrachet), Proof on Main is a distinct departure from the commendable but fairly staid Louisville restaurant scene.

The name Proof evokes the other two owners' (Steve Wilson and Laura Lee Brown) family control of the spirits titan Brown-Forman, and their personal interest in art collecting and downtown restoration buoys everything at the restaurant, which comprises four late-eighteenth-century brick buildings decorated with knitted rugs, linen upholstery, light boxes, and their own fine-art collection.

Chef Michael Paley serves food every bit as colorful and bold as the design, starting with country-ham fritters with a grain-mustard aioli. Kentucky striped bass comes with stewed artichokes and marinated tomatoes and is perfumed with basil. And you will not go hungry here, especially if you order the massive bone-in bison tenderloin treated to plenty of buttered leeks, roasted fingerling potatoes, rosemary oil, and smoked salt. End the meal with one of the scores of bourbons that Proof stocks, then walk the fifty feet to the room you should have booked—the restaurant is attached to the 21c Museum Hotel, so you can check out the art, have dinner, and happily stumble home. 702 West Main Street; 502-217-6360; proofonmain.com.

PROOF ON MAIN, Louisville

502-217-6360; proofonmain.com

Cuisine: American creative

Average entrée: \$19

Don't-miss dish: Crispy duck in a sweet-and-sour broth.

Regulars know: The tradition of rubbing the apple held by Randy the Satyr, a sculpture by Larry Shank, at the bar—followed by a shot of bourbon from the massive list.

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