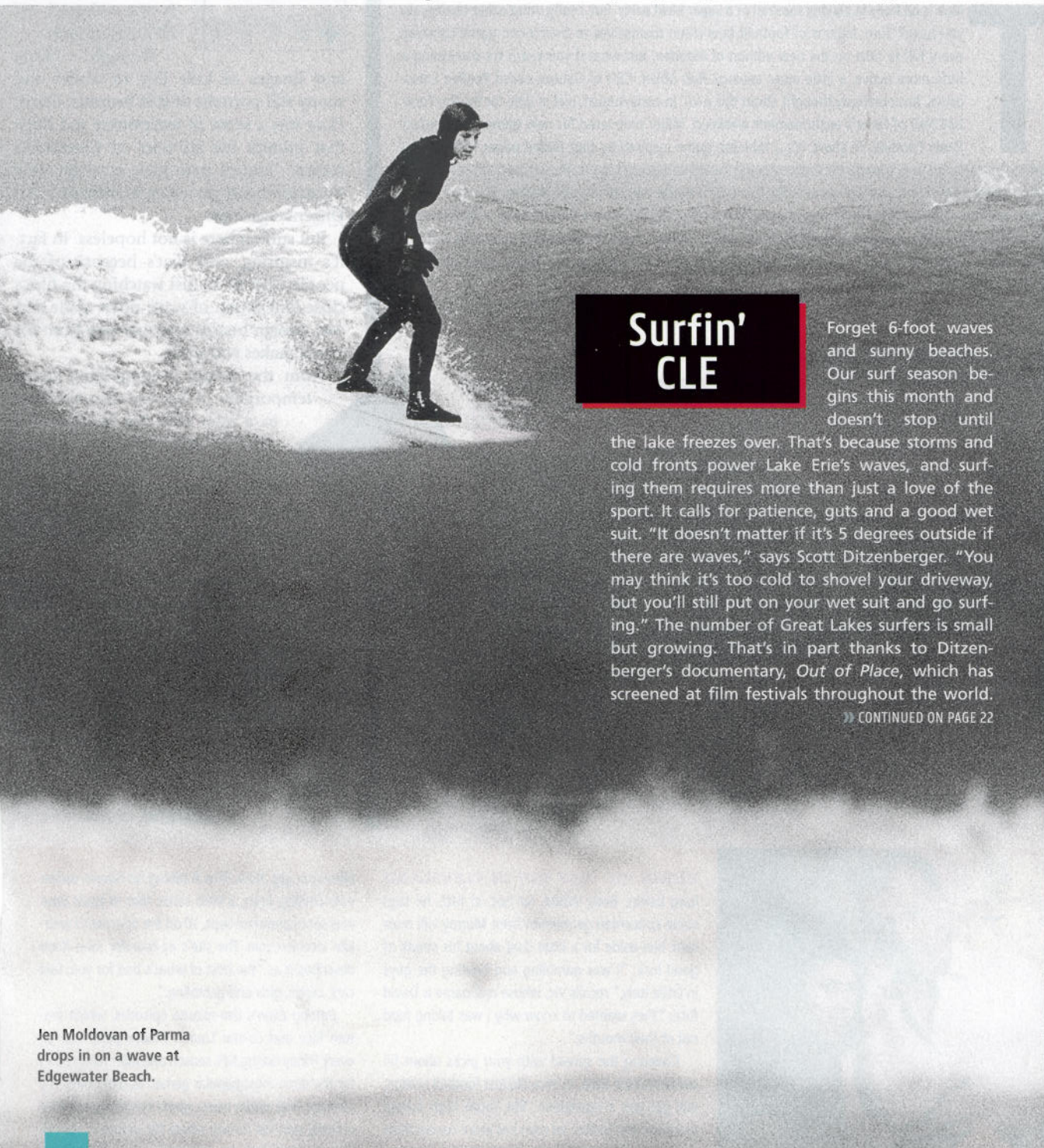


this month's forecast on the people, places and things we love



Jen Moldovan of Parma drops in on a wave at Edgewater Beach.

Surfin' CLE

Forget 6-foot waves and sunny beaches. Our surf season begins this month and doesn't stop until the lake freezes over. That's because storms and cold fronts power Lake Erie's waves, and surfing them requires more than just a love of the sport. It calls for patience, guts and a good wet suit. "It doesn't matter if it's 5 degrees outside if there are waves," says Scott Ditzenberger. "You may think it's too cold to shovel your driveway, but you'll still put on your wet suit and go surfing." The number of Great Lakes surfers is small but growing. That's in part thanks to Ditzenberger's documentary, *Out of Place*, which has screened at film festivals throughout the world.

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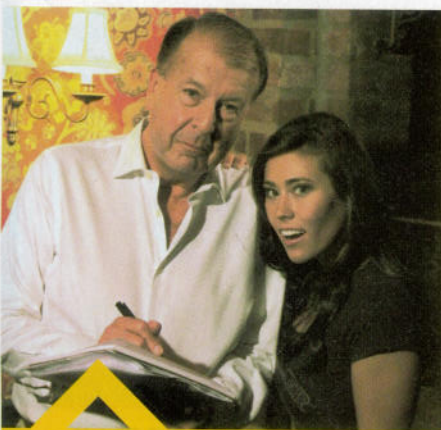
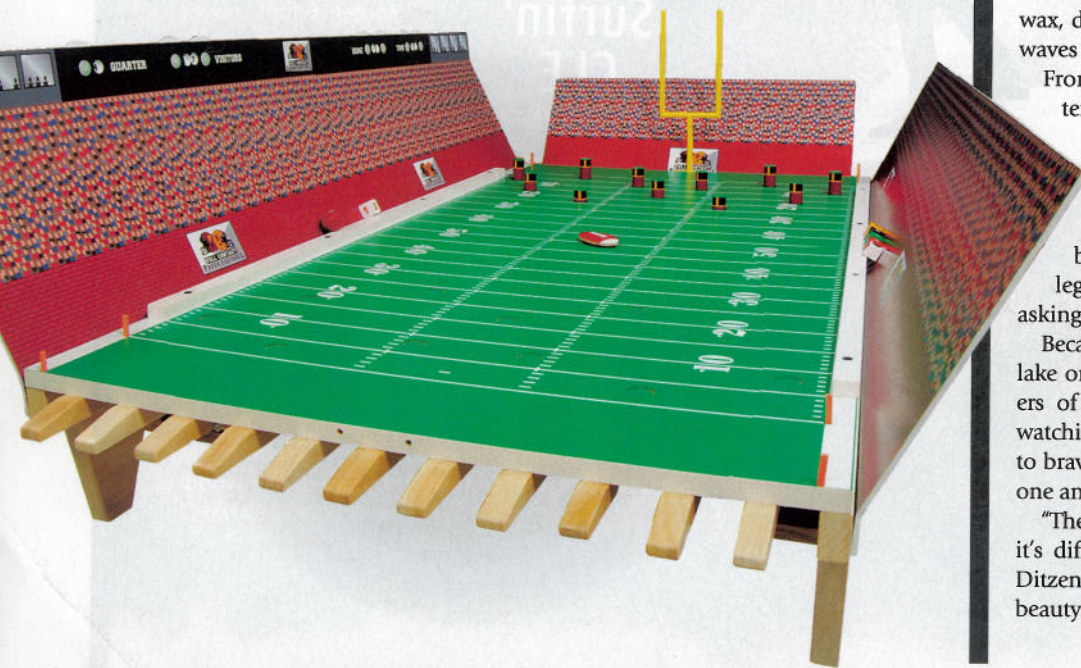
SHOP TALK

Jacquie Murley's Stamped
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Contact Sport

There is an irony in playing foosball at a Super Bowl party. But, really, what other choices do you have? Sure, legions of football fans chain themselves to their video game consoles every fall to take on the new edition of *Madden*, but what if you yearn for something a little more active, a little more analog? Rob Miller, CEO of Canton-based PeeBee Enterprises, has obviously thought about this a lot. In early August, just in time for the Pro Football Hall of Fame's enshrinement weekend, Miller premiered his new game, Full Contact Paper Football. In short, it's a tabletop game inspired by that folded paper triangle you used to flick through your friend's goal post-shaped hands at the lunch table. Players pop out of the field when activated by levers, and the game's flatball is made with NFL-grade leather. You can tackle, fumble and intercept just like the real game, and if your flicking skills are a little lacking, a dice component of the game offers a chance to help even the score. "When you're done playing, you really feel like you've either played in a game, coached a game or actually watched a game," Miller says. Take that, *Madden*. // **ASHLEY SEPAWSKI**

➔ MORE INFO fullcontactpaperfootball.com



MR. VICE GUY

VEGAS VIC WAS HOT IN CLEVELAND

long before Betty White. So hot, in fact, he says some concerned gentlemen from Murray Hill once took him aside for a little chat about his streak of good luck. "I was gambling and beating the guys in Little Italy," recalls Vic, whose real name is David Rice. "They wanted to know why I was taking food out of their mouths."

Covering the spread with your picks about 65 percent of the time, as Rice did last football season, will get you a reputation. The South High School graduate and former ad man has more connections than AT&T. His phone is constantly ringing, and text messages roll in hour after hour.

Rice gained fame as the mysterious Vegas Vic on the late Casey Coleman's WERE radio show in the '80s. Coleman later took him to WJW-TV8 for a



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Last year, it won the Viewer's Choice Award for Best Feature at the New York Surf Film Festival. It was released on DVD last month.

Through bleak, gray images of Lake Erie in winter and sunny still portraits of it in summer, *Out of Place* stirs a sense of restlessness and hope that mimics the attitudes of Cleveland's surfers. "Surfers here have a rough time because we just get waves so infrequently," Ditzenberger says.

But surfing here is not hopeless. In fact, it's inspiring, and that's because of the people who do it. Just watching the film's close-knit group of wave riders trade surf wax, design boards and tirelessly hunt for waves makes you smile.

From the young 20-something living temporarily in his car near the lake to a man who has been surfing Erie his entire life, their passion makes you want to meet these surfers in person. In fact, Ditzenberger says he receives e-mails from legendary surfers around the world asking to do just that.

Because most of us will never surf the lake or have to wedge ourselves into coolers of hot water afterward to warm up, watching *Out of Place* is the closest we'll get to braving Lake Erie's rough waters one on one and finding serenity under gray skies.

"The backdrop of surfing in Cleveland, it's different than surfing anywhere else," Ditzenberger says. "It's a different kind of beauty." // **LEAH WYNALEK**

➔ MORE INFO outofplacemovie.com

television gig. Now, Rice is taking his talents online with *Betting Even*, a Web series that at press time was set to premiere Sept. 10 on the new men's website vicemen.com. The site's co-founder John Koch describes it as "the best of what's bad for you: fast cars, cigars, girls and gambling."

Betting Even's five-minute episodes, which feature Rice and co-star Lauren Moore (left), will air every Friday during NFL season and offer Rice's picks for the three most popular games as determined by viewers. And, unlike many sports handicappers, Rice actually puts his money where his mouth is. He still likes to recall how he collected a cool \$25,000 on Super Bowl XV when the Raiders downed the Eagles.

But everybody loses eventually, right? "The last time I had a losing season," Rice says with a grin, "Moses was a baby." // **BARRY GOODRICH**