

EDGE: 'Tis the season to think outside the box

gotta love it ♥♥♥ LOOK WHAT WE FOUND TO SPICE UP YOUR WEEK

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► SALLY O'BRIEN'S

Sally O'Brien's Bar in Union Square, Somerville, is developing into such a special scene that some of the regulars want to keep it a neighborhood secret. There's free admission, some of the finest roots bands in New England, a varied menu, elements of an Irish and sports bar atmosphere, and enough room to listen in comfort and dance with abandon. Tonight, the Mercy Brothers wail. Every Sunday night, the White Owls, with Dennis Brennan, bring the blues home. But the Saturday early show, from 5 to 8 p.m., may be the bar's best bet. A baby-boomer paradise, many Saturdays, including tomorrow, feature emotive country-roots singer Patsy Hamel and her sensational band. With former L.A. session dazzler Bob Metzger on guitar and steel, and Steve Sadler, Gerry Bellegarde and Kathy Taylor aboard, this local juke-joint gem is as good as it gets. 335 Somerville Ave., Somerville, 617-666-3589.

► CULTURAL SURVIVAL BAZAAR

We refuse to spend the weekend battling the Christmas shopping crowd at the mall. We're heading to the Cultural Survival Bazaar instead, where the chances of finding some very special and very beautiful holiday gifts from South America, Africa and Asia are high. As are the chances of enjoying some ethnic foods and music. Let's just call the fact that any purchases made from Cultural Survival will benefit the organization's efforts to insure the health and survival of indigenous peoples around the world a bonus — but a very fine bonus, indeed. And, yes, admission is free. Tomorrow and Sunday at the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, 1730 Cambridge St., Cambridge, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Also Dec. 9-10 at Hynes Convention Center, 900 Boylston St., from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.



the edge

BOSTON
Herald

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2006 • 50 CENTS • 275 CENTS IN AREAS OUTSIDE BOSTON