



DULY NOTED

FRONT DESK

Teens rejoice: The days of tagging along with Mom and Dad are over, at least if you're staying at the Four Seasons, which employs Atlanta's first "teen concierge," 17-year-old Grady High student Ashley Tannehill, who peppers guests with questions before pointing them in the direction of, say, Atlantic Station, the Aquarium or the Varsity. "If they want to shop, I'll tell them about Lenox and Phipps," says Ashley, who admits she had to look "concierge" up in the dictionary after she learned that a teacher had nominated her for the job. She fits in concierge duties with her obligations as Miss Grady and senior class president. The prospect of meeting a celebrity on the job is a big motivator. Frequent guest Gwyneth Paltrow might just stop by looking for advice for little Apple. Says Ashley, "That would be *real cool*." —C. THOMAS

INFO
The Four Seasons is currently taking applications for its teen concierge program. For more information, visit fourseasons.com.

BY THE NUMBERS

353%

Population increase in Gwinnett County from 1980 to 2000

OUR TOWN

H O M E G R O W N & H O T

SKATING WITH CELEBRITIES

Dallas Austin's

ROLLER RINK FILM

highlights the ATL.

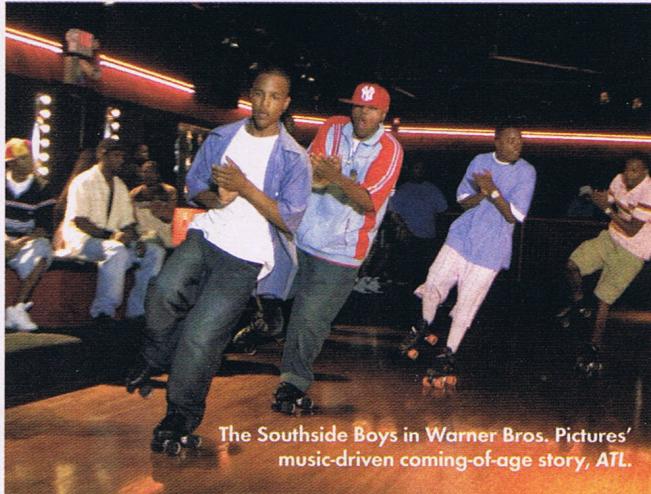
By Chandra R. Thomas

LEARNING TO ROLLER SKATE can be a challenging experience for anyone. But imagine trying to pick it up with the pressure of skating on the big screen hanging over your head.

Such was the case for the cast of the upcoming Atlanta-based Warner Bros. film *ATL*, which heads to theaters this month. None of the lead actors, including rapper Tip "T.I." Harris, knew how to skate a lick before they were cast in the film—

a coming-of-age story about Atlanta teens growing up with challenges on and off the skating rink, all set to a booming hip-hop soundtrack. Choreographer Vaughn Newton was called in to hold skating school a few weeks before filming began. Having stunt doubles, of course, helped a lot.

Breaking new ground and overcoming challenges, in many ways, seems to be an underlying theme for several aspects of the \$19.5 million



The Southside Boys in Warner Bros. Pictures' music-driven coming-of-age story, *ATL*.

film shot last summer, mostly at Southwest Atlanta's popular Cascade Family Skating Rink.

For one, it has taken executive producers, Grammy-nominated hit maker Dallas Austin and TLC's Tionne "T-Boz" Watkins more than a decade to get the backing needed for the film, which is based loosely on their experiences growing up in Atlanta and hanging out at Jellybeans, a now-closed skating rink that was located near Greenbriar Mall.

ATL also marks the acting debut of "T.I.," who sheds his bling-laden gangsta image to portray Rashad, a talented artist struggling to keep his family together.

Vinings resident Jason Weaver (the voice of young

Simba in *The Lion King*, who also appeared in Austin's debut film, *Drumline*) gets far more than 15 minutes of fame in his portrayal of Rashad's buddy Teddy, and there are plenty of newcomers to look out for in the flick, including Lauren London, the beautiful New-New and Albert Daniels, who plays a cocky member of Rashad's skating crew. The film also features dozens of locals who religiously pack Cascade's rink every Sunday night for intense skating showdowns that could only be likened to a modern-day *Saturday Night Fever*.

Central to the main story are the DoLos, a group of five young women who skate around in perfect unison with white towels that resemble

GUY DALEMA