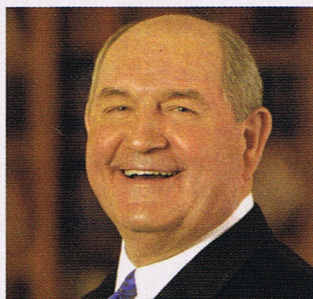


gangplank by myself," says Hardin, who helped distribute the groups' protest signs ("Historic District Means Losing Control"), which began popping up on the lawns of multimillion-dollar estates.

The neighborhood has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places for more than 20 years, points out longtime resident Edward Daugherty, a landscape architect and supporter of the zoning change. He believes that most homeowners will find submitting plans for exterior building projects to the UDC to be a minor inconvenience when weighed against the greater good—protection of the setbacks, side yards and scale that have defined the streets for decades. "For 90 years this has been a very desirable place to live," he says. ★



Ask Atlanta Magazine

Why does Gov. Perdue go by Sonny?

"HE WAS THIRD IN LINE WITH the name George Ervin," says Heather Hedrick, Perdue's press secretary. "His grandfather went by George, his father went by Ervin . . . so they called him Sonny." Rather than force his eldest son to be George IV, Sonny named him Jim; when Jim was 11, he changed his name to George Ervin Perdue IV. One of Sonny's granddaughters is named Sunni.



HOMEGROWN AND HOT

BIG-SCREEN BOUND

OutKast gets ready for the release of their **FIRST FEATURE FILM.**

PRINCE HAD *PURPLE RAIN*. It was *A Hard Day's Night* for The Beatles. Now OutKast heads to *Idlewild*.

As if three Grammys, four MTV Video Music Awards and an album certified diamond in the U.S. were not enough, Atlanta's favorite hip-hop duo is attempting to conquer another medium.

Andre "3000" Benjamin and Antwan "Big Boi" Patton take to the silver screen early this year for the release of their first feature film, a 1930s-era musical (yes, musical) called *Idlewild*, co-starring Ving Rhames, Terrence Howard, Faizon Love, Malinda Williams and Paula Jai Parker. Ben Vereen and Cicely Tyson also appear along with songstresses Macy Gray (who opens the film with a song written by Dre) and Patti LaBelle.

The \$15 million project, backed by HBO Films and Universal Pictures, also marks the film directorial debut of longtime OutKast video director and fellow Atlantan Bryan Barber, who penned the script in three weeks. Barber is best known as the force behind the genre-busting video for "Hey Ya!"

In the film, set in the Prohibition-era American South, Andre 3000 plays a club piano player named Percival and Big Boi is the club's lead per-

former and manager, Rooster. Together they take on gangsters who set their sights on the club.

The dance sequences are choreographed by three-time Tony Award winner Hinton Battle, but Dre and Big Boi promise to keep their fans moving long after the credits roll with a soundtrack that includes new tracks and previously unreleased OutKast songs and 1930s music. Think Cab Calloway and Duke Ellington with an ATL twist.

The movie was originally planned for HBO, but once filming got underway in Wilmington, North Carolina, studio execs knew it was meant for the big screen. Hollywood is a far cry from Southwest Atlanta's Tri-Cities High School—where Dre and Big Boi met some

15 years ago—but it seems a natural next step for the innovative group that America just can't seem to get enough of.

Although it's their first film collaboration, both members have already wet their sneaker-clad feet in the acting arena. Benjamin has appeared in *Four Brothers*, *Be Cool* and Guy Ritchie's upcoming film, *Revolver*, and Patton has had cameo appearances on television's *Martin* and *Chappelle's Show*. —CHANDRA R. THOMAS

TIDBIT
The *Idlewild* crew battled a hurricane while filming the movie in Wilmington, North Carolina.