



*Too much McKinney

I love this magazine, but I don't understand why you would give any space to Cynthia McKinney [April, "A New Leaf," by Candice Dyer]. She is old news and just eats up any publicity she can get. Green Party? Give me a break.

R. L. TURNER
Atlanta

Heroes Have Heroes, Too

I APPRECIATE THE WARM words found within "Crash Course" by Chandra Thomas [March]. However, I would like to clarify the events of the morning of the Bluffton bus wreck and point out the true heroes. The mass casualty incident was an almost seamless "hand in glove" operation between the public safety agencies of Grady EMS, the Atlanta Fire Department, and the Atlanta Police Department. The dedicated members of our Atlanta Fire Department conducted the actual physical rescue of the entrapped students while other firefighters delivered on-site medical care to assist the critically injured students. Without their selfless actions, many other students would have died that morning. As a paramedic, I often find that these "quiet heroes" go unnoticed while they scurry about to assist EMS in delivering medical assistance to the injured survivors of almost every motor vehicle collision within the city.

My coworkers at Grady EMS deserve the highest praise possible for their professional actions.

Brian Shepler, my partner, had the almost impossible task of coordinating on-site medical care for the critically injured patients ejected during the wreck. His level of knowledge and experience served to save many of the students. When I look at my coworkers, peers, and friends at Grady EMS, I see the people who are my heroes on a daily basis. The public never gets to fully appreciate that 911 never stops. You never see the logistics and supervisory staff as they rush to re-supply the vehicles and EMS teams to send them back out to handle the next emergency. You never see the medics who choose to sacrifice time with their families because the city of Atlanta needs their services and compassion. You never hear the dispatcher who coordinates activities to assure that the right EMS resources are delivered to the right incident at the right moment. These unseen medics, clerks, and dispatchers are the true heroes.

TONY TRIMBLE, RN EMT-P
Jackson, Georgia

"This is a slap in the face"

I WAS RECENTLY READING "Head of the Class" [April, "Everything you need to know about . . . local public schools," by Mary Jo DiLonardo]. The section about [the] Rockdale school system states at the end of the section on challenges: "Rockdale's population of African American students, for example, has grown from 8 percent in 1990 to more than 53 percent today." This says, to me, that once the population of African Americans increased, SAT scores decreased. Is that the message the writer was trying to send? As an African American, this is a slap in the face. Maybe that was the intent of the author. I feel that that portion of the article could have been left out. It is a racist statement.

LORAIN GARY
Clayton County

Pittypat's Pride

MY WIFE, DEB, AND I would like to thank you for such an insightful and delightful article honoring our restaurant ["The Restaurant that Time Forgot," by Lee Walburn, February]. Your point of view was so very unique and creative on a topic that is not often covered openly regarding race relations in Atlanta; the photography was stunning and poignant; and the subtle praise for the unique product and service that we provide was much appreciated.

At Pittypat's we have always strived to provide good Southern fare with pleasant and efficient service in a warm and comfortable themed atmosphere reminiscent of the old South in the *Gone with the Wind* era. We never pretend to be any more than that! As a matter of fact, as we now celebrate our fortieth year in continuous business at the same location, we are toying with the idea of publicizing this milestone with such tag lines as "Everything is new in Atlanta . . . except us!" or "Still rock-in' after all these years." We are very comfortable with our place in the Atlanta restaurant scene and know that our customer base comes mostly from out-of-towners who want to experience the atmosphere and cuisine of the old South and not those who are looking for the new, hip restaurants that Atlanta has become such a haven for in recent years.