

"I COULDN'T BE LESS IMPRESSED WITH ALL THE 'BLING' AND GLAMOUR ATLANTA IMPOSES AND WHO IS SEEN WHERE AND WITH WHOM."

The Money Issue

WHEN I MOVED TO THIS CITY MORE than eight years ago from a snobby, pretentious, rather large city in Ohio, my first impression of this town and its people was: very warm, welcoming, genuine, helpful, and friendly. I also immediately became a subscriber to *Atlanta Magazine*, just as I enjoyed being a subscriber to the city magazine in my hometown. I do have to say, however, that it is evident over recent years that every time I receive my latest edition of *Atlanta Magazine*, it mirrors the new image and attitude of this city. More specifically I feel this town has developed a very large ego and the people have become snobby, pretentious, and selfish.

I couldn't be less impressed with all the "bling" and glamour Atlanta imposes and who is seen where and with whom. I am not the only transplant here who seems to feel this way. The reason I moved here was to get away from that type of ego and attitude—and now it has seemed to follow me. I am about to begin a search for a new city

with less of an attitude and smaller ego, if such a place exists in 2006.

I would also like to express my disappointment with page 38 of the October "Money Issue." In the *Our Town* story on "Status Symbols," you stereotype the Roswell/Alpharetta area by saying a sought-after home renovation/addition is "horse stables." Just how much time has writer Jennifer Senator spent in that area? Stables may have been a home addition in the area 30 years ago, but that is hardly the reality today.

DENNIS JAMES
Alpharetta

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Your criticism as well as your praise makes us a better magazine. Tell us what you think. We'll print your letters in a future issue. We reserve the right to edit for space and clarity. Write to:

Comments, *Atlanta Magazine*,
260 Peachtree Street, Suite 300
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atlantamagletters@atlantamag.emmis.com

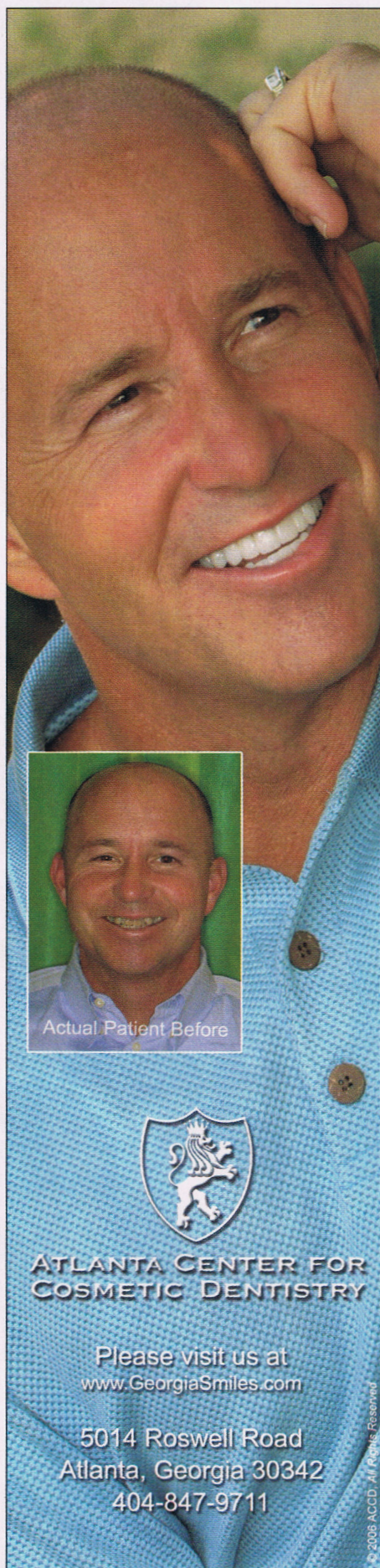
IN YOUR OCTOBER ARTICLE ON THE richest Atlantans, you left out one of Anne Cox Chambers' biggest contributions to the Democratic Party. She publishes the *AJC*.

LARRY GOLDFINGER
Stone Mountain

Social Studies

I THINK IT IS RATHER UNFORTUNATE that your magazine would waste dozens of trees with an issue dedicated to all that is shallow and superficial about Atlanta, but then again Atlanta IS the superficial capital of the South. With that said, I do have to commend *Atlanta Magazine* and writer Chandra Thomas in particular for having the guts and desire to expose another one of Atlanta's dirty little secrets with the essay about the city's segregated social scene ("Equal but Separate," October).

I am a black man who decided some time ago to avoid Atlanta's overrated and overpriced club scene—mainly because I do not appreciate being forced to shell out anywhere between \$20 and \$40 extra to visit Twist or Shout



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YOUR COMMENTS

Is Atlanta diverse? Yes, but as Ms. Thomas writes, only on the surface of it. International? Maybe in the future. One can always hope, right?

LYA SORANO
Atlanta

AFTER READING THE ARTICLE TITLED "Equal but Separate," I have to say I agree with Chandra Thomas' observations on Atlanta's "not talked about" social segregation.

Atlanta's unspoken, but blatant, conscious support of segregation is exemplified, for example, through MARTA and the distribution of jobs. Most new jobs—and the majority of "good jobs"—are in North Atlanta and the northern suburbs and exurbs. Few jobs exist, and few new jobs open, in South Atlanta and the southern suburbs. For many without cars, MARTA doesn't reach into the suburbs or exurbs north or south.

However, what intrigues me most about Atlanta is the hypocrisy of "inter-racial harmony." I rarely interact with whites, and this is not deliberate on my part. I'm from Columbus, Ohio, and my living and working conditions there allowed for direct, rather than indirect, contact with whites. In contrast, I've found that my few interactions with whites in Atlanta tend to be at work or cultural events.

After living in Atlanta for three years, I've observed that there are separate black and white worlds. Thus I understand the dual appeal of "the black Mecca" and "Hotlanta." Yet, in both worlds, I see an explicit distinction between the haves and have-nots, in other words, classism and elitism.

MICHAEL HARRISON
Decatur

Touché

I HAVE SUBSCRIBED TO AND READ *Atlanta Magazine* for many years and find it always informative and useful and improving all the time. The touches provided by younger staff are refreshing.

However, before you decide to use foreign words and risk commitment of

a faux pas such as the one on page 48 of your October issue, please check for spelling and meaning of sound-alike words. It's a shame that while writing about Hermès, a world icon of style, you chose the word "caché," which means "hidden." In this context, the proper word would be "cachet," which is pronounced the same but actually means style, with implied exclusive standing.

Misuses of foreign words are a bit, well, déclassé.

MARA EGLITIS
Norcross

Colbert Nation

IN OUR OCTOBER ISSUE, WE MADE reference to Stephen Colbert's on-air questioning of Georgia's right to claim status as the "Peach State" and asked for your suggestions for alternate names. They keep coming in, and include:

The Cotton State
 HOLLY SMITH, *Dacula*

The Smog State
 TRACI TAYLOR, *Columbia, South Carolina*

The "I'm Only Here Because My Company Transferred Me" State
 ED THOMAS, *Decatur*

The Heavy Traffic State
 MISTY ELY, *Williston, South Carolina*

Guadalajara del Norte
 JOHN LEBLANC, *Lilburn*

The Pecan State
 MAJA HUSAR, *Atlanta* ★

SOUND OFF

THIS MONTH'S QUESTION:

Do you ever go to Underground Atlanta?
 (See page 60)

Answer at atlantamagazine.com

RESULTS OF OUR LAST POLL:

Atlanta's high commuting costs are due to:

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56% poor MARTA service

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YOUR COMMENTS

on "hip-hop" night, while my white brethren can "techno" till the sun rises without dealing with cover charges. For those blue-eyed naysayers who doubt Ms. Thomas' observation about the disparity in club cover charges for "black" and "white" nights: Put on your best Eminem-wannabe outfit and test her findings for yourself.

Furthermore, this dual nightlife not only results in higher prices for blacks to party but usually in poorer service, not only in white-owned/operated establishments but, sadly, in certain black-owned businesses as well. I'd be interested in a follow-up including responses from the owners of Twist, Compound, and other clubs. I'm also interested to see whether your magazine will continue to explore the dual society that exists here in Atlanta. But I won't hold my breath.

BRYAN TOUSSAINT
Atlanta

I'VE GOT NEWS FOR CHANDRA THOMAS: Atlanta not only hypes its diversity, it also hypes its international character.

Those of us who have come here from places far and wide—and who have lived in truly international cities—shake our heads in amazement when Atlanta is portrayed as "diverse" or "international."

Thomas told half the story—the social divide between black and white—and told it very well. On the international front, each international group occupies its own (small) territory and does not interact with any other.

Atlanta Women in Business recently held our first international businesswomen's conference, Crossing Bridges 2006, and guess who were among the absentees: the city of Atlanta, the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission, the Georgia Department of Economic Development, the Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, Georgia's "international" counties (DeKalb and Gwinnett), and the city's diplomats and trade representatives. We had a write-up in the Nuremberg newspaper and in *Die Welt* (Germany's equivalent to the *Wall Street Journal*), but the AJC was missing in action!