



# MEDIA

## LOCAL REPORTERS

Bill Torpy and  
Mara Shalhoup

In the past year, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* has lost dozens of staffers to buyouts and resignations. Thankfully, one veteran who remains is Bill Torpy, a Chicago native and former boxer, who knows the best stories don't come from government hallways or carpeted boardrooms but from the corner tavern, from the assembly line, from the gutter. In recent months, he's written about Robert Sumbry, the disgraced city official who died homeless and alcoholic. Torpy also dug deep into the tragic Neal Street shooting, explaining how rogue cops killed an elderly woman in her own home (see the related story on page 68). Torpy reminds us of the scars beneath the surface. Why he's not a metro columnist is beyond us.

Sharing tenacity, if not an employer, is Mara Shalhoup, a senior writer at *Creative Loafing*. Last year, *CL* ran her three-part series on the Black Mafia Family, one of the most extensive organized crime networks Atlanta has seen in decades.

Exhaustively reported, the series beat the pants off the *AJC*. For her work, Shalhoup in May was named Journalist of the Year by the Atlanta Press Club, a recognition well deserved. Shalhoup is now expanding the series into a book.

## WEBZINE

[dryinkmag.com](http://dryinkmag.com)

*Dry Ink* runs, among its reviews and musings, Q&As with local musicians and other artists. Take, for example, the interview with Jared Swilley of the Black Lips, who regales his interlocutor with tales of being force-fed mushrooms while playing a gig at the Earl. You won't be reading *that* in local papers. One of *Dry Ink's* goals is to "investigate the character and motives of the artist." We wonder—where else will the digging lead?

## WEBSITE

[CNN.com](http://CNN.com)

Is it your homepage? It should be. In the past year, CNN.com has gone from just another news website to an interactive, customizable, user-friendly

platform. With a mix of hard news, video clips, and human interest features, the site is like a great buffet—substantive and satisfying, with something to please everyone. Most notable are the I-Reports, in which regular viewers can post video, audio, and text onto the site when they see news. Welcome to the brave new world of citizen journalism.

## ALTERNATIVE TO BOORTZ

Shelley Wynter  
WAOK 1380 AM

In a city where "black conservative" is a dirty term to some and simply inconceivable to others, this afternoon host (on air from 2 to 6 p.m. weekdays) debates callers on racial and political issues (like why Don Imus should not have been fired), then hangs up on those who disagree. Wynter defends Republican policies yet openly endorses Senator Barack Obama for president. He defends his iconoclastic viewpoint by saying blacks focus too much on smaller issues, like the Jena Six case, and not enough on

larger issues, like the presidential election. The mystery is how Wynter still manages to get political rivals, such as civil rights leader Reverend Joseph Lowery, to tape promos for his show.

## MORNING FLUFF

CBS 46's *Better Mornings*

Had enough murder and mayhem with your coffee and oatmeal? From 5 to 7 a.m. weekdays, this newcomer to the city's locally produced morning TV roster aims to start your day off in a more, well, *hopeful* way. Eschewing the fires and police chases that are staples on most local news programs, *Better Mornings* airs segments on aqua chi, fitness on a budget, and tips for making over your bathroom.

## CAUTIONARY EXAMPLE TO THE FCC

People TV's *V Power*

Let's just say the "V" ain't for victory on this risqué public access show. Alexyss Tylor looks more like a preacher's wife than a sex kitten as she emphatically warns female

## READERS' CHOICE

Weather Forecaster  
Glenn Burns, WSB-TV

Weekly Paper  
Creative Loafing

Television Anchor  
Monica Pearson, WSB-TV

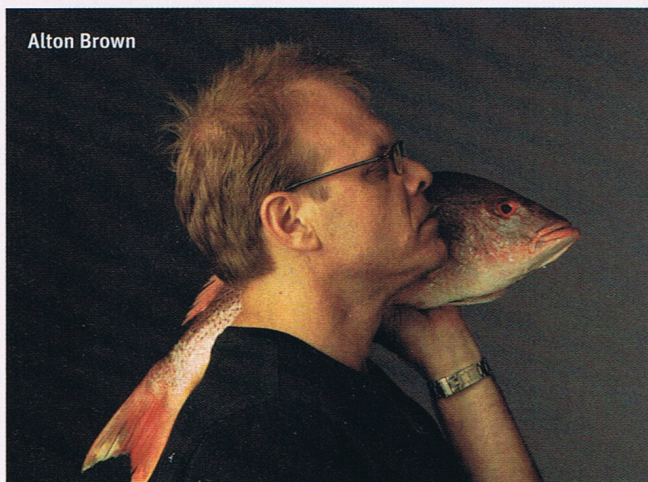
Morning-Drive Radio  
The Bert Show, Q100

Afternoon-Drive Radio  
Cindy & Ray, Star 94

Newspaper Columnist  
Cynthia Tucker



Alton Brown



science, kitchen instruction, and oddball sketch comedy for years, the brilliance of which was recognized with a Peabody Award presented this spring. Beyond *Good Eats* (produced at Brown's westside Be Square studios), he's increased his foodie fan base with the motorcycle saga/road-food documentary *Feasting on Asphalt* and his hosting gig on *Iron Chef America*.

## MUSIC MAG YOU CAN LISTEN TO

**Paste Magazine**

*Paste* magazine, circulated nationally from its Decatur offices, has defied the odds of the magazine world by not only surviving, but thriving. Its coverage of music, film, and books is lively, knowledgeable, and full of attitude. And you can't beat the compilation CD that comes with each issue.

## JAZZ STATION

**WCLK 91.9 FM**

This public radio station on the campus of Clark Atlanta University may not have the big budget or ad dollars that commercial jazz stations enjoy, but it manages to stay true to its mis-

sion of providing the pure "jazz of the city."

## ANSWER TO LIFE'S QUESTIONS

**howstuffworks.com**

This site provides answers to your big queries—how love works—and those that are more arcane—how quantum cryptography works, for instance. A \$250 million buyout by the Discovery Channel brings an infusion of resources for the 160 Atlanta-based geniuses who staff this addictively informative site.

## LITERARY CONVERSATION

**Valerie Jackson,**  
***Between the Lines*, 90.1 FM**

For close to a decade, Jackson has conducted engaging interviews with local and national authors. The combination of probing questions and Jackson's warm personality and even warmer alto voice add up to a thought-provoking hour of radio. If you can catch a live taping—such as Jackson's talk with Krista Tippett of *Speaking of Faith* this spring at the Carter Center—you'll see an interviewer at the top of her game. ■



## Best of Sandy Springs



GUATEMALAN "WORRY DOLLS,"  
\$4, Ten Thousand Villages, City Walk

### PLACE TO CHILL

#### BLUE GROTTO TAPAS BISTRO

Soothing music and dim lighting set the lounge scene for small plates of fried green tomatoes, mini crab cakes, and chorizo empanadas. Snag a couch, order a glass of wine, and prepare to share a feast. For dinner, don't miss the grilled pork tenderloin with potatoes and onions in a honey bourbon sauce. 220 Sandy Springs Circle, 678-705-6688, [bluegrottotapas.com](http://bluegrottotapas.com)

### ANTIQUE MALL

#### ANTIQUES & INTERIORS OF SANDY SPRINGS

This 33,000-square-foot facility holds the wares of some sixty dealers, many held over from its former life as the Lakewood Antiques Market. Carve out plenty of time for a trip here—the staff actually hands you a map at the front door so you can make notes and find your way back. Browse booths of books, crystal chandeliers, oil paintings, embroidered pillows, and more in a range of styles from Asian to American country. 6336 Roswell Road, 404-250-1057, [aiss-online.com](http://aiss-online.com)

### COMEDY CLUB

#### THE PUNCHLINE

The walls are lined with signed head shots of comedians such as Eddie Murphy, Jay Leno, and Jerry Seinfeld. In its twenty-five years, more than 3,000 performers have had audiences rolling with laughter. The longest-running comedy club in town is a great place for a first date. 280 Hilderbrand Drive, 404-252-LAFF, [punchline.com](http://punchline.com)

### NEW ART GALLERY

#### LIVING BY DESIGN

Thanks to Sandy Springs' influx of urban-style lofts and a growing appreciation for contemporary art, artist Scott Weiss has found a demand for large canvases and abstract themes. Inspired by natural phenomena like thunderstorms and novas, he creates mesmerizing pieces using bold colors, textures, and mixed media. In Atlanta, his works hang in Ligne Roset and the design center for the new St. Regis Hotel and Residences. 227 Sandy Springs Place, Suite 434, 404-303-8633, [livingbydesignart.com](http://livingbydesignart.com)

### BAKERY

#### LITTLE EUROPEAN BAKERY

Where carbs are celebrated, not vilified. Drool over case after case of temptations from freshly baked breads and cookies to tortes and pastries. Splurge on a couple of petits fours and a white chocolate mousse cake. There's also a delicatessen serving sandwiches and party platters, plus gifts and imported European goodies. 334 Sandy Springs Circle, 404-255-8200, [littleeuropeanbakery.com](http://littleeuropeanbakery.com)

### SHOPPING DISTRICT

#### CITYWALK

With tried-and-true clothing boutiques such as Potpourri, Sandpiper, Chelsea Parkes, and Fab'rik, plus specialty stores such as Belle Choses, Paper Affair, and Ten Thousand Villages, at least this one little stretch of Sandy Springs is eminently walkable. 227 Sandy Springs Place





# NIGHT-LIFE

## REASON TO GO BACK UNDERGROUND

**Sugarhill**

Underground Atlanta has never quite regained its seventies status as party central, but this ultra-casual nightspot makes a trip down under worthwhile. The state-of-the-art sound system will inspire you to party till 4 a.m., but live music is the real draw, with Jill Scott, Erykah Badu, and Dwele known to pop in for impromptu performances. *50 Upper Alabama Street, 404-658-0068, [sugarhillatl.com](http://sugarhillatl.com)*

## PLACE TO CHILL

**Noir**

This sophisticated Castleberry retreat offers light fare and lots of cocktails. On weekends a DJ enlivens the laid-back atmosphere with an eclectic mix at a decibel level that encourages conversation, especially on the airy patio. *264 Peters Street, 404-223-2999, [noiratlanta.com](http://noiratlanta.com)*

## NIGHTCLUB

**Compound**

This stunning club is massive—divided into sections with

their own vibes and names: MB1, Tenshi, Bamboo Room, and Rail. If you make it through the weekend lines, you'll be impressed by the DJs spinning music almost as diverse as the beautiful people who flock here. *1008 Brady Avenue, 404-872-4621, [compoundatl.com](http://compoundatl.com)*

## DANCE PARTY

**Decatur Social Club**

Like Clark Kent in a phone booth, mellow Raging Burrito and Azul transform every Friday into Decatur Social Club, a raucous dance night where the gregarious crowd swills PBR, mingles on the patio, and crowds the sweaty dance floor to hear Atlanta's preeminent DJs along with big-name guest spinners from NYC, L.A., Europe, and Australia. *141 Sycamore Street, Decatur, 404-377-3311*

## NIGHTCLUB ALTERNATIVE

**300 Atlanta**

A trendier intown alley charges \$80 per hour for lanes, but we prefer this suburban destination—"just like your favorite nightclub—but with rental

shoes." Its Xtreme Bowling includes glow-in-the-dark pins, flashing disco lights, and large screens playing music videos. Even if you don't bowl, you can play pool or people-watch as you dance along the sidelines. *2175 Savoy Drive, 770-451-8605, [300atlanta.com](http://300atlanta.com)*

## REINCARNATION

**Velvet Room**

The demise of Vision nightclub left a vacuum in Atlanta's club scene that was soon filled by this incarnation of the *other* legendary superclub that previously reigned in Midtown. The new, barely ITP Velvet Room location has all the gaudy glamour that the see-and-be-seen crowd adores, with a considerably less restrictive closing time of 4 a.m. *3358 Chamblee Tucker Road, Chamblee, 404-874-4460, [velvetatl.com](http://velvetatl.com)*

## GLENWOOD PARK HANGOUT

**Vino Libro**

At this wine bar/lounge, dramatic decor, delicious fare (including signature tasting plates), and live music on week-

ends are big draws, but what's really great are the more than forty wines—from big reds to rich ports—available by the glass. You also can grab vino to go from the retail store. *933 Garrett Street, 404-624-3643, [vinolibro.com](http://vinolibro.com)*

## SECRET ESCAPE

**Patio at Two Urban Licks**

While this restaurant is known for its soaring indoor space and classy nighttime scene, many have come and gone without taking a turn on the back patio, where old train tracks drop off into a neat little bocce ball court and a carefully tended garden of herbs, vegetables, and flowers. Sip a potent cocktail and hurl the pallino across the pit against a glittering Midtown skyline. *820 Ralph McGill Boulevard, 404-522-4622, [twourbanlicks.com](http://twourbanlicks.com)*

## RENOVATION

**Opera**

When Midtown's Eleven50 closed its doors earlier this year for much-needed repairs, the aging building—a former opera house built in the 1920s—proved a source of inspiration. The \$2.5

**READERS' CHOICE**

**Happy Hour**  
The Tavern at Phipps

**Gay Bar**  
Blake's on the Park

**Nightclub**  
Opera

**Sports Bar**  
Taco Mac

**Late-Night Dining**  
Waffle House

**Locally Brewed Beer**  
Sweetwater Brewing Company



**BEST MAKEOVER****Wish**

447 Moreland Ave., 404-880-0402,  
wishatl.com

It took two-and-a-half years of planning, nine months of construction, and two New York designers to redo the former library that houses Wish—and it was worth the wait. This destination for hipsters carries edgy clothing and an underground lair of sneakers from hard-to-find and limited-edition lines such as MadFoot and Alife.

**BEST EXTRA BAGGAGE****Kaleidoscope Boutique  
featuring 4Bags**

252 West Ponce de Leon Ave., Decatur,  
404-378-1214, kscopeboutique.com

Joining forces with 4Bags—purveyor of the arm candy a woman cares about, fab handbags—Kaleidoscope proved that growth does wonders. A fun attitude reigns as do labels such as House of Dereon (the line by Beyoncé and Tina Knowles) and a slew of designer denim.

**BEST CASUAL CLASSICS****Theory**

Phipps Plaza, 404-869-8791, theory.com

Cream. Khaki. Gray. Sound boring? In theory, yes. But in Theory, not in the least. This new Phipps boutique adds pop to classics with fresh details such as a shrugged collar on a blouse or three-quarter sleeves on a cropped velvet coat.

**BEST DRESSY CLASSICS****Neiman Marcus**

Lenox Square, 404-266-8200,  
neimanmarcus.com

When an occasion calls for a timeless piece that can be counted upon for years to come, Neiman Marcus delivers. The department store's expansion (to be completed in fall of 2007) stands to add 51,000 square feet of extra space for styles from designers who never disappoint a woman looking for a classic.

**BEST HOT MAMA HAVEN****Tory Burch**

Phipps Plaza, 404-816-3261,  
toryburch.com

A mother of six, Tory Burch understands a multitasker's needs, and her bold patterned designs go from the playground to a client meeting to a dinner date with ease.

**BEST MEN'S CONTEMPORARY CLOTHING****BOSS Hugo Boss**

Phipps Plaza, 404-846-6066,  
hugoboss.com

The precisely folded polos, meticulously aligned ties, and wall of bright button-downs will make shoppers feel like kids in a couture candy shop. The tailored suits, bold accessories, and cool casuals let any man see the fun in fashion.

**BEST DATE-NIGHT OUTFITS****Intermix**

Phipps Plaza, 404-846-8446,  
intermixonline.com

Like your best friends before a big night out, the staff at Intermix

## Best of Lithonia

**BEST DATE-NIGHT RESTAURANT  
ARIZONA'S STEAKS, CHOPS  
& SEAFOOD**

2940 Stonecrest Circle,  
678-526-7775

With an extensive menu that includes fall-off-the-bone, knife-and-fork baby back ribs and a Granny Smith apple salad with made-from-scratch port wine dressing; a fully stocked bar that offers more than 100 wines and an eclectic mix of martinis; upscale Southwestern decor that features both a cascading waterfall and a cozy fireplace; and live jazz performances most nights, showcasing heavy-hitters such as violinist Ken Ford, it's no wonder this Stonecrest-area restaurant is a local favorite.

**BEST COMFORT-FOOD FIX  
GLADYS KNIGHT & RON WINAN'S  
CHICKEN & WAFFLES**

7301 Stonecrest Concourse,  
Suite 123, 770-482-6766,  
gladysandron.com

No need to endure the ridiculous wait at the original Peachtree Street destination when you can come here to enjoy the same flaky fried chicken, piping-hot made-to-order waffles, signature "Uptown" (a mix of sweet tea and lemonade), and authentic Southern sides like collard greens, mac 'n' cheese, and yams.

**BEST PAMPERING  
DE'AMAR SALON & SPA**

7300 Stonecrest Concourse,  
Suite 106, 770-482-1200,  
deamarsalonandspa.com

One whiff of the intoxicating rosemary-peppermint scent



wafting through this full-service spa, which includes an Aveda retail store and hair salon, and you'll understand why its name means "of love."

**BEST DRESSED  
PHOEBE'S BOUTIQUE**

8120 Mall Parkway, Suite 440,  
770-484-3737

Whether you're looking for that perfect cocktail party dress or the right ensemble for your niece's wedding, this high-end women's boutique, now located near Stonecrest after moving from Wesley Chapel, provides stylish options with a great purse and earrings to match!

**BEST NATURE HIKE  
DAVIDSON-ARABIA NATURE  
PRESERVE**

3787 Klondike Road, 770-484-3060, arabiaalliance.org

Sprawling farmland, breathtaking wildflowers, and lush greenery surround the 15-mile trail that winds through 2,000 acres of protected land in South DeKalb—the largest expanse of county parkland in metro Atlanta—and will make you forget you're hiking, skating, or biking your way to better health. The final portion, completed last summer, features long boardwalks over lowland marshes, a covered bridge over Stephenson Creek, wildlife overlooks, and a rocky outcrop.

**BEST SINGLES SCENE  
C'EST BON**

2853 Panola Road, 770-323-4242, cestbononline.com

The New Orleans mantra "laissez les bon temps roulez" lives on at this Big Easy-themed eatery. Frozen drinks, such as the Dauphine Daiquiri, and live music at the bar make this a hot spot for area singles.

**BEST CONCERT VENUE  
STEWART AMPHITHEATER**

251 Park Drive, 770-484-2515

Who needs Chastain?

This 2,500-seat amphitheater, located in the heart of historic downtown Lithonia, offers an intimate environment where you can buy or bring your own candlelight dinner.

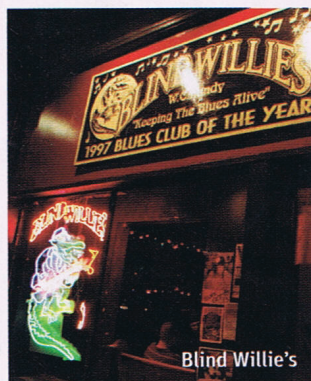




## BLUES FIX

**Blind Willie's**

Besides the revolving roster of entertainers who take the stage, nothing much changes at this smoky Virginia-Highland joint, but that's what makes it great. Always expect spirited, often interactive live blues performances guaranteed to leave you anything but blue! 828 North Highland Avenue, 404-873-2583, [blindwilliesblues.com](http://blindwilliesblues.com)



## HAPPY HOUR WITH A VIEW

**Fridays at Sun Dial**

Revolving restaurants may have a certain seventies cheese, but rooftop bars still can't compete with the 360-degree view from the seventy-third floor of a swanky hotel. Unwind after a long workweek, taking in the sights to the soothing sounds of a live jazz band. 210 Peachtree Street, 404-589-7506, [sundialrestaurant.com](http://sundialrestaurant.com)

## ACOUSTIC MUSIC VENUE

**Eddie's Attic**

More than one performer at Eddie's Attic has told the audi-

ence, "You don't know what a great music venue you have." Actually, we do. The many fans of Decatur's cozy "listening room," which celebrated its fifteenth anniversary this year, may point to its superior sound system, its engaging atmosphere, or the enormous talent on stage on any given day, but they'll all agree that once you've heard live music at the Attic, it's hard to listen to it anywhere else. 515-B North McDonough Street, Decatur, 404-377-4976, [eddiesattic.com](http://eddiesattic.com)

## BEER SELECTION

**The Brick Store Pub**

One of the best beer bars in the nation—some say the world—is in our very own Decatur. This homey, ten-year-old tavern boasts seventeen draft and sixty-five-plus bottled beers on the ground floor (no major domestics), plus a separate Belgian beer bar upstairs with eight on tap and more than 120 bottled. The selection rotates, so you're bound to find something you've never tried. Not a connoisseur? The servers will be more than happy to pint—ahem, point—you in the right direction. 125 East Court Square, Decatur, 404-687-0990, [brickstorepub.com](http://brickstorepub.com)

## LIVE MUSIC EXPERIENCE

**Variety Playhouse**

Now in its seventeenth year, the Variety Playhouse in Little Five Points is still the place to see lesser-known musicians on the rise, big-name bands playing intimate shows, and just about anyone in between. 1099 Euclid Avenue, 404-524-7354, [varietyplayhouse.com](http://varietyplayhouse.com) ■

## Best of Norcross



COUNTRY COTTAGES TEAPOT, \$45, Taste of Britain

### BABY FURNITURE

**GEORGIA BABY & KIDS**

Crawling with pink bunnies and yellow puppies, this 15,000-square-foot showroom along Furniture Row has everything for decorating a baby's room, including soft gliding rockers and cribs that convert to double beds. We love the fanciful nursery chandeliers. 6410 Dawson Boulevard, Suite 110, 770-448-2455, [georgiababy.com](http://georgiababy.com)

### STORE FOR ANGLOPHILES

**TASTE OF BRITAIN**

A surprising find in historic Norcross, this specialty shop sells groceries and gifts from England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland. The English owner makes frequent buying trips across the pond for candies, spreads, and other goodies. There's also a large selection of teapots and cozies. 73 South Peachtree Street, 770-242-8585, [tasteofbritain.com](http://tasteofbritain.com)

### NEW CANDY STORE

**PETERBROOKE CHOCOLATIER**

Based out of Jacksonville, Florida, this sweets shop opened Georgia's first locale in August—boldly next to Harry & David! Try the dark chocolate-covered potato chips for a salty-sweet treat. *The Forum*, 5161 Peachtree Parkway, Suite 620, 770-734-0050, [peterbrooke.com](http://peterbrooke.com)

### HOME ACCENTS

**GOOD THINGS—HOME AND GARDEN**

From the front, this sweet boutique in historic downtown looks small, but it actually flows back into two more rooms. Owner Randy Hamilton fills every nook and cranny

with whimsical accessories, from stuffed bears to ceramic Belaverra dishware and picnic baskets. The second room contains bath products, while the back one is a veritable garden of statues, chimes, and birdfeeders. 73-B South Peachtree Street, 770-263-8885

### COFFEE SHOP

**NORTHERN STAR COFFEEHOUSE**

Last summer, Norcross residents banded together to save their beloved community hub from closing. This rustic sanctuary, with its brick walls and wood floors, smells of heavenly beans and fresh pastries. There's local art on display, live music on weekends. Local charities benefit from the shop's regular service projects. 45 South Peachtree Street, 770-409-4009, [northernstarcoffeehouse.com](http://northernstarcoffeehouse.com)

### NEW LUNCH SPOT

**MITTIE'S TEA ROOM CAFE**

The third location of this twenty-year-old treasure is a hit with the Red Hat Society and little girls celebrating birthdays with teddy-bear teas. First-timers should start with Ms. Emily's chicken salad and finish with a giant slice of homemade cake. 35 South Peachtree Street, 770-441-2599, [mitties.com](http://mitties.com)

### GIFT SHOP

**LIMETREE**

This locally owned boutique has a great selection of holiday knickknacks, bridesmaids gifts, and anything else you can slap a monogram on. *The Forum*, 5185 Peachtree Parkway, 770-622-LIME, [limetreegifts.com](http://limetreegifts.com)