



## A Good Friend Is Hard to Find

Flannery O'Connor's long-scaled letters to a special someone in Atlanta are finally open to interpretation at Emory.

By Candice Dyer

There's a title like "A Good Man Is Hard to Find."

Flannery O'Connor did not write "Good Is."

Her many friends were for their own, but that

was not the only reason for her letters. She had a

special someone in Atlanta, and she wrote to

him often. She wrote to him in Atlanta, and she

wrote to him in Georgia. She wrote to him in

Florida. She wrote to him in Alabama. She

wrote to him in Mississippi. She wrote to him

in Louisiana. She wrote to him in Arkansas.

She wrote to him in Tennessee. She wrote to

him in Kentucky. She wrote to him in West

Virginia. She wrote to him in North Carolina.

She wrote to him in South Carolina. She

wrote to him in Georgia. She wrote to him

in Florida. She wrote to him in Alabama.

She wrote to him in Mississippi. She wrote

to him in Louisiana. She wrote to him in

Arkansas. She wrote to him in Tennessee.

She wrote to him in Kentucky. She wrote to

him in West Virginia. She wrote to him in

North Carolina. She wrote to him in South

Carolina. She wrote to him in Georgia.

She wrote to him in Florida. She wrote to

him in Alabama. She wrote to him in

Mississippi. She wrote to him in Louisiana.

She wrote to him in Arkansas. She wrote to

him in Tennessee. She wrote to him in

Kentucky. She wrote to him in West

Virginia. She wrote to him in North

Carolina. She wrote to him in South

Carolina. She wrote to him in Georgia.

She wrote to him in Florida. She wrote to

him in Alabama. She wrote to him in

Mississippi. She wrote to him in Louisiana.

She wrote to him in Arkansas. She wrote to

him in Tennessee. She wrote to him in

Kentucky. She wrote to him in West

Virginia. She wrote to him in North

Carolina. She wrote to him in South

Carolina. She wrote to him in Georgia.

She wrote to him in Florida. She wrote to

him in Alabama. She wrote to him in

Mississippi. She wrote to him in Louisiana.

She wrote to him in Arkansas. She wrote to

him in Tennessee. She wrote to him in

Kentucky. She wrote to him in West

Virginia. She wrote to him in North

Carolina. She wrote to him in South

Carolina. She wrote to him in Georgia.

She wrote to him in Florida. She wrote to

him in Alabama. She wrote to him in

Mississippi. She wrote to him in Louisiana.

She wrote to him in Arkansas. She wrote to

him in Tennessee. She wrote to him in

Kentucky. She wrote to him in West

Virginia. She wrote to him in North

Carolina. She wrote to him in South

Carolina. She wrote to him in Georgia.

She wrote to him in Florida. She wrote to

him in Alabama. She wrote to him in

Mississippi. She wrote to him in Louisiana.

She wrote to him in Arkansas. She wrote to

him in Tennessee. She wrote to him in

Kentucky. She wrote to him in West

Virginia. She wrote to him in North

Carolina. She wrote to him in South

Carolina. She wrote to him in Georgia.

She wrote to him in Florida. She wrote to

him in Alabama. She wrote to him in

Mississippi. She wrote to him in Louisiana.

She wrote to him in Arkansas. She wrote to

him in Tennessee. She wrote to him in

Kentucky. She wrote to him in West

Virginia. She wrote to him in North

Carolina. She wrote to him in South

Carolina. She wrote to him in Georgia.

She wrote to him in Florida. She wrote to

him in Alabama. She wrote to him in

Mississippi. She wrote to him in Louisiana.

She wrote to him in Arkansas. She wrote to

him in Tennessee. She wrote to him in

Kentucky. She wrote to him in West

Virginia. She wrote to him in North

Carolina. She wrote to him in South

Carolina. She wrote to him in Georgia.

She wrote to him in Florida. She wrote to

him in Alabama. She wrote to him in

Mississippi. She wrote to him in Louisiana.

She wrote to him in Arkansas. She wrote to

him in Tennessee. She wrote to him in

Kentucky. She wrote to him in West

Virginia. She wrote to him in North

Carolina. She wrote to him in South

Carolina. She wrote to him in Georgia.

She wrote to him in Florida. She wrote to

him in Alabama. She wrote to him in

Mississippi. She wrote to him in Louisiana.

She wrote to him in Arkansas. She wrote to

Takeover," June), and the perplexingly near-universal praise for what remains, in my opinion, mediocre fare are hardly worth the nuisance involved.

ROBERT W. POPE  
Atlanta

## Tax Talk

THE FULTON COUNTY TAXPAYERS Foundation does not agree with Representative Jan Jones (R-Alpharetta), who told your reporter that "Fulton County is a broken government that cannot be fixed" ("Should Milton County

be Revived?" by Chandra R. Thomas, June). In just a few years, Fulton County has transformed failing departments into model operations. The taxpayers—in North as well as South Fulton—must recognize this transformation. Here are some examples:

In September 2005, the Fulton County Board of Assessors was faced with 14 findings of mismanagement by an independent auditing firm. The newly appointed Board of Assessors, chaired by Bill Huff Jr., appointed a highly professional chief appraiser and a truly outstanding deputy chief appraiser, both of whom have begun to turn around this department.

Three years ago, the chief librarian and the chairman of the library board of trustees were convicted of reverse discrimination. A constitutional amendment—making the chief librarian accountable to the county manager—was proposed and passed. Under the new powers granted by law, county manager Tom Andrews appointed a brilliant young director, John F. Szabo, who is doing an outstanding job in turning around the Public Library System.

## 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  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
atlantamagletters@atlantamag.emmis.com

## Dyer on O'Connor

WHILE PERUSING YOUR FINE MAY "Escape" issue, I came upon the article by Candice Dyer on Flannery O'Connor's mystery letters. Intriguing though it was, I thought of passing over the story because *American Idol* was about to start. I'm glad I continued reading, however, because not even the acerbic Brit Simon Cowell could have conjured up lines like "a drawling deep-fried Sappho," or "acid-tongued Southern Gothic curmudgeon," that had me laughing out loud. A good writer is hard to find and Ms. Dyer is definitely a keeper.

STEVE WHITMIRE  
Charleston

## Taqueria del Sol

DESPITE CHRISTIANE LAUTERBACH'S pleas, I remain annoyed with many things at Taqueria del Sol, including but not limited to the ungodly lines at all hours of the day (not everyone has two-plus hours for lunch). The "system," as it was put by Lauterbach ("Taco



"I BELIEVE PRESIDENT CARTER IS NEITHER PRO-PALESTINIAN NOR PRO-ISRAELI. HE IS A MAN WHO HAS ALWAYS BELIEVED IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL."

Four years ago, the Department of Public Health was in disarray. Two years ago, the county manager appointed a dynamic director, Stephen Kitkowsky, M.D., to head the department. In this brief time, Dr. Kitkowsky has turned around the Fulton County Department of Health by closing underused branch clinics and merging others with nearby Grady Neighborhood Clinics.

The Fulton County Justice System accounts for one-third of the entire general fund budget. Under recently appointed Chief Judge Doris Downs, a "Drug Court" was established to monitor drug offenders on a weekly basis. The Drug Court has a cost per offender of \$5,000 per case compared with \$38,000 for housing an inmate.

With the turnaround of the Fulton County Board of Assessors, the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System, the Fulton County Department of Health, and the Justice System, the Fulton County Taxpayers Foundation urges—in the best interests of the taxpayers—the following additional steps: Regionalize Grady

and MARTA, make the Fulton County Sheriff accountable to the county manager, and adopt performance standards for county employees.

JOHN S. SHERMAN  
President  
Fulton County Taxpayers Foundation  
Atlanta

### Carter Controversy

I AM SHOCKED AND DISMAYED BY THE disloyalty of some of the American Jewish community members regarding President Jimmy Carter's book *Palestine Peace Not Apartheid* ("Collateral Damage," by Rachel Pomerance, May).

President Carter has always tried to bring peace between the Palestinians and Israelis. President Carter is absolutely correct in explaining the suffering of the Palestinian people and Israel as contributing to the longest occupation in current world history.

My mother came from a prominent Palestinian Christian family and lost everything during the creation of Israel

## Bragging a Little

The magazine awards season for 2006 has wrapped up, and we're proud to note some of the work for which *Atlanta Magazine* was recognized.

"How to Raise \$500,000 in One Night," a profile written by senior editor **Jennifer Senator**, won the gold award for feature writing in the annual contest sponsored by the Magazine Association of the Southeast (MAGS). *Atlanta Magazine* and its ancillary publications and custom publishing division took home 14 awards in the regional competition, including silver for best website and best single issue (November 2006). **Julie Jamerson**, **Sheri Wilson**, and **Lynne King** won gold awards for custom publishing design and covers.

Associate art director **Eric Capossela** was a Merit Winner in the 2006 Society of Publication Designers (SPD) awards for his November 2006 layout "Atlanta According to André 3000." More than 7,000 entries were submitted in the 2006 SPD awards, representing publications from across the country and around the world.

Design director **Hector Sanchez** won the bronze award in the Designer of the Year category in the City and Regional Magazine Association (CRMA) national awards, which drew more than 950 entries from 80 publications nationwide. This award represents a body of work produced over the course of a year.

Staff writer **Chandra R. Thomas** was named the Condace Pressley Journalist of the Year at the Chuck Stone Salute to Excellence awards by the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ). This award recognizes Thomas' 2006 body of work, including her report on the Genarlow Wilson case (the first major article on the story) and her piece on Hurricane Katrina evacuees in Atlanta. The same body of work earned Thomas a "Journalist of the Year" award presented by the Atlanta Press Club.

**Susan Bogle**, art director of *Atlanta Magazine's* HOME and previous design director of *Atlanta Magazine*, was named Artist of the Year in the 2007 awards presented by the Atlanta Chapter of the National League of Pen Women. This award recognizes a body of work produced over several years.