

Contributors



*Martin Luther King Jr.

It isn't every day we get the opportunity to include the **Reverend Martin Luther King Jr.** on our Contributors page, but this month's issue belongs to him as much as to all Atlantans. His inimitable voice resounds throughout our commemorative package ["KING," page 94], perhaps most powerfully in an excerpted transcript of "Beyond Vietnam" ["War Story," page 112]. The speech, delivered forty-one years ago, remains eerily relevant in these tensile days leading up to the presidential election, at a time when so much is at stake. "If we are to get on the right side of the world revolution, we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values," he said.

Beyond Vietnam, indeed.

Cyrus Highsmith

In the world of type design, **Cyrus Highsmith** ["KING," page 94; "War Story," page 112] is a star. Since graduating from the Rhode Island School of Design eleven years ago, he has created an enviable library of original typefaces. He's been featured in *Print* magazine's *New Visual Artist Review*, and his typefaces Prensa and Relay have won at Bukva:Raz!, the international type design competition. Highsmith's work has appeared in *Martha Stewart Living*, *The Source*, *Men's Health*, *Rolling Stone*, *Brides*, *Premiere*, and Spanish *Playboy*, and in 2002 he produced a new headline series for the *Wall Street Journal*. "The most important thing is not to try to put too many different ideas in one typeface," he said last year in an American Institute of Graphic Arts interview. "A good typeface usually has just one simple idea that drives the design." Highsmith is *Atlanta* magazine's featured artist this month on atlantamagazine.com, where you can see a portfolio of his work and link to the AIGA interview, "Rebel Without a Caslon."



Chandra Thomas

When staff writer **Chandra Thomas** approached the venerable Reverend Joseph Lowery [page 102] about profiling him for the King package, Lowery responded with slightly bizarre instruction. "Fax me, fax me," he said as an assistant ushered him away. Thomas complied, and her appeal was answered by a voicemail so distinctive she transcribed it on her call log: "My name is Joseph Lowery. I have your kind fax and I am at your disposal." That message, Thomas says, seems to capture the essence of the eighty-six-year-old civil rights leader who continues to fight spiritedly against what he considers the ills of the world.

"Everyone I talked to about him emphasized his sincerity and expressed surprise at his accessibility," says Thomas, who later learned that Lowery does in fact use e-mail—and an iPhone—but insists that he reads faxes "faster." Thomas, who also interviewed Ludacris for this issue ["Atlanta According to," page 244], is completing research for a Rosalynn Carter Mental Health Journalism Fellowship.

Zach Wolfe

Zach Wolfe photographed Joseph Lowery [page 102] and also shot rap superstar Ludacris ["Atlanta According to," page 244] and says each icon impressed him equally. Ludacris gave Wolfe two hours, a near lifetime in the limited-access celebrity world. "He brings an intense energy to the set," Wolfe said of Luda, "which is a perfect scenario for any photographer because it brings out the spontaneity in the photos." Wolfe moved to Atlanta seven years ago from Denver to pursue hip-hop photography. After a couple of years assisting entertainment photographers from New York and Los Angeles, he broke out on his own, shooting for music magazines including *XXL*, *Vibe*, *URB*, and *Spin*. Wolfe, it should be noted, was the first photographer to shoot Ludacris with the new haircut.

