

VICK! How the Falcons' superstar QB
can save the NFL



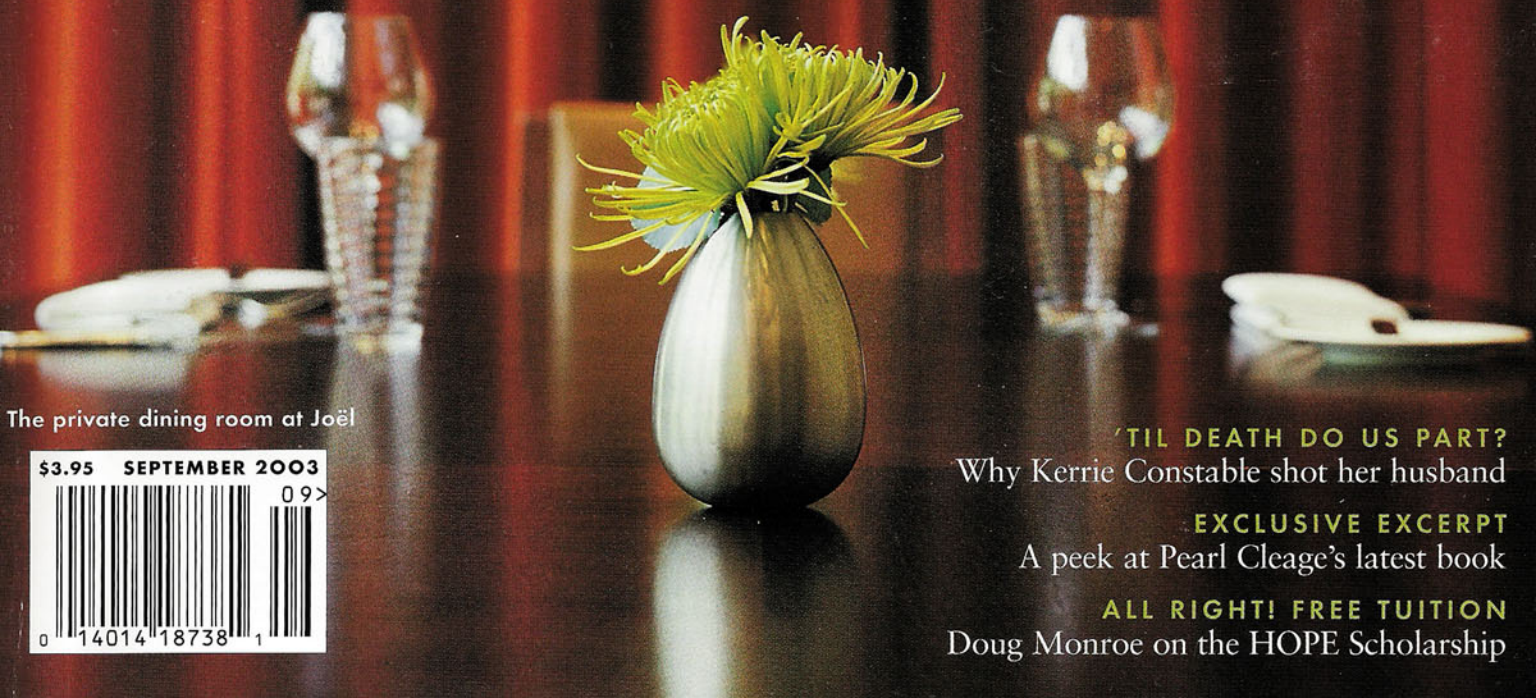
Atlanta



100

BEST RESTAURANTS

a culinary tour of the city



The private dining room at Joël

\$3.95 SEPTEMBER 2003



'TIL DEATH DO US PART?
Why Kerrie Constable shot her husband

EXCLUSIVE EXCERPT
A peek at Pearl Cleage's latest book

ALL RIGHT! FREE TUITION
Doug Monroe on the HOPE Scholarship

MODERN MANNERS

GENTLEMEN'S CLUB

EYEBROW WAXES,

manicures, hair cuts, Bud and *Sports Illustrated*—everything a guy could want.

By Justin Heckert

THERE IS A NEW ME.

He does not know the old me, this new me; or more precisely, refuses to claim he ever existed, with eyebrows merging, dotted-stubble face and hair falling as leaves fall in the yard, everywhere.

Look at him. He sits in the waiting room of Jonpaul's in Duluth, sipping a glass of red wine on a burgundy leather couch beneath a faintly glowing chandelier, sandy brown hair dusted light gold, eyebrows waxed of straying hair, face as smooth from a straight-razor shave as paper pulled out of cellophane wrapping.

I've only been this way for a half-hour, the new me still basking in his own light, when co-owner Jonpaul Leskie, a stylish man with a salt-and-pepper goatee and spiked hair, walks up.

"So . . . how do you *feel*?"

A pause. On the one hand, I feel utterly fantastic—reborn as a completely different per-

son. On the other, as my head twists in the mirror, looking, I feel strange and awkward, my skin still burning and slightly red.

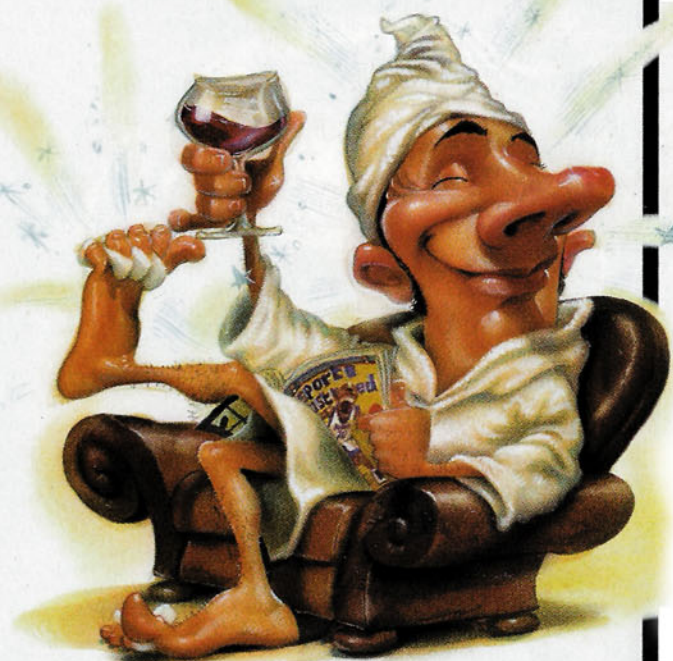
Jonpaul and his wife, Cathy Leskie, have come to expect the mixed response. They are used to men ogling in the mirror, taken aback at their own reflections. The couple is in the business of transforming people, specifically men. Their male-only salon, opened last December, prides itself in

the meticulousness of its services: haircuts, facials, manicures, pedicures, massages, etc. A shave alone involves 25 steps (including hot towels wrapped

around the face) that take about 45 minutes to complete.

"Here, a man can go and be treated like a distinguished gentleman," Jonpaul says.

His business, which won the 2003 Salon of the Year award from *Salon Today* magazine, has the quiescent feel of an old-time English



GREG GORMAN

THE EX-FILES

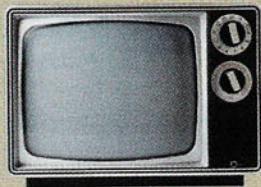
THE OTHER ROBERTS

Eric Roberts (AS IN BROTHER of Julia and Lisa) is doing all right.

The ABC sitcom in which he stars, *Less Than Perfect*, was picked up for another season. He currently appears in the feature, *Spun* (Atlanta native Brittany Murphy co-stars). He just did a small part in Disney's *Providence* with Toni Collette. And he has another feature, *Sex and Violence*, in the can (release date undetermined).

Roberts, who was born in Mississippi, grew up in Atlanta, where his parents ran an acting workshop. Eleven years Julia's senior, Roberts says, "When I made good, I got my sisters out of Atlanta and tried to help them both get started. . . . I gave them their first jobs. They got their union cards, and then they both did it on their own, especially Julie, of course." (Eric still calls his famous sis "Julie.")

—JANE WOLLMAN RUSOFF



gentlemen's club. In the gleaming marble foyer sits a 1918 Koken shoe shine stand, an imported antique Italian coat rack and furnishings from London.

"Women have always had their own place to go, and the men don't," says Cathy, who has been in the salon business for 12 years. (Lately, men-only spas have popped up from New York to Des Moines).

The Leskies get a mostly executive clientele sent by women who don't want their men tagging along to their spas. And after the guys come once, they almost certainly return. "Men are creatures of habit," says Cathy. "Once they stick with something, they don't change."

And if she's right; if we're really *that* predictable—then what the hell. The new me isn't about to argue. *

OUR PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE

PAY DAY

WONDER HOW OUR SALARIES stack up to those in other cities? Here's how a job with a median national salary of \$60,000 pays across the country:

SAN FRANCISCO	\$70,980
NEW YORK	\$69,420
LOS ANGELES	\$66,420
CHICAGO	\$63,240
DETROIT	\$62,940
BOSTON	\$62,760
WASHINGTON, D.C.	\$62,460
SEATTLE	\$62,220
ATLANTA	\$61,620
DALLAS	\$60,840
MINNEAPOLIS	\$60,300
PHOENIX	\$58,560

—MARY JO DiLONARDO

OUR★TOWN



The Thomases in 1978, middle photo, flanked by some of his artwork.

P A S S I O N S

LOVE STORY

Sara Douglass Thomas mounted a very public display of affection for her late husband, artist **STEFFEN THOMAS**. She built a museum.

NOW WIDOWED AND 96 YEARS OLD, Sara Douglass Thomas keeps a self-portrait by her late husband, artist Steffen Thomas, propped on her nightstand. Over the bed is a charcoal drawing he sketched of her as a wistful young woman. The walls and floors of her small apartment brim with his paintings and sculptures, drawings and mosaics—the ones she has claimed for her private space. But just outside her door is the public gallery—the Steffen Thomas Museum, located in the rural community of Buckhead near Madison.

Probably best known for his public art like the "Trilon" fountain at 15th and Peachtree or the "Reclining Mother and Child" sculpture at the Roswell Library, Thomas trained as a sculptor and painter in his native Germany before making his way to the United States and ultimately to Atlanta. The dash-

ing artist turned the head of upper-crust Agnes Scott graduate and elementary school teacher Sara Douglass, 26, who lived with her parents around the corner from him in Midtown.

"If you ever saw him, he would catch your eye," says Sara. Dressed in a vibrant pink pantsuit, her silver hair held back neatly with bright pink combs, the diminutive nonagenarian's eyes sparkle when she describes her flamboyant husband. "He was so full of energy that

everybody liked him. He was kind of electric."

Electric enough that the two eloped after a whirlwind courtship of two months, raising eyebrows and making headlines.

"He telephoned me and said, 'Meet me downtown for lunch,' so I got on the streetcar and met him," she recalls. "He said, 'We're getting married. I've got the ring.' I had on a black dress. I didn't know anything about getting married!"

The sudden wedding of the well-known artist was front-page news in *The Atlanta Journal*. That's how Sara's parents discovered she had wed.

"She was incredibly courageous to marry this German artist," says her youngest daughter, Lisa Conner, museum director. "I've asked her many times why she did it and she says she just had no choice. She loved him so much. When he met my mother, my father met his muse."

When Steffen died in 1990, Sara opened the museum on some farmland owned by her eldest son. The warehouse-style building, which houses over 500 artworks and draws about 4,000 visitors annually, is surrounded by fields, dotted with sculptures, fountains and tinkling wind chimes.

Sara is usually there, in her back rooms or lovingly walking through the museum.

"He's always with me," she says simply.

—MARY JO DiLONARDO

