

BIG NIGHT OUT

BUCHANAN'S BLOWOUT

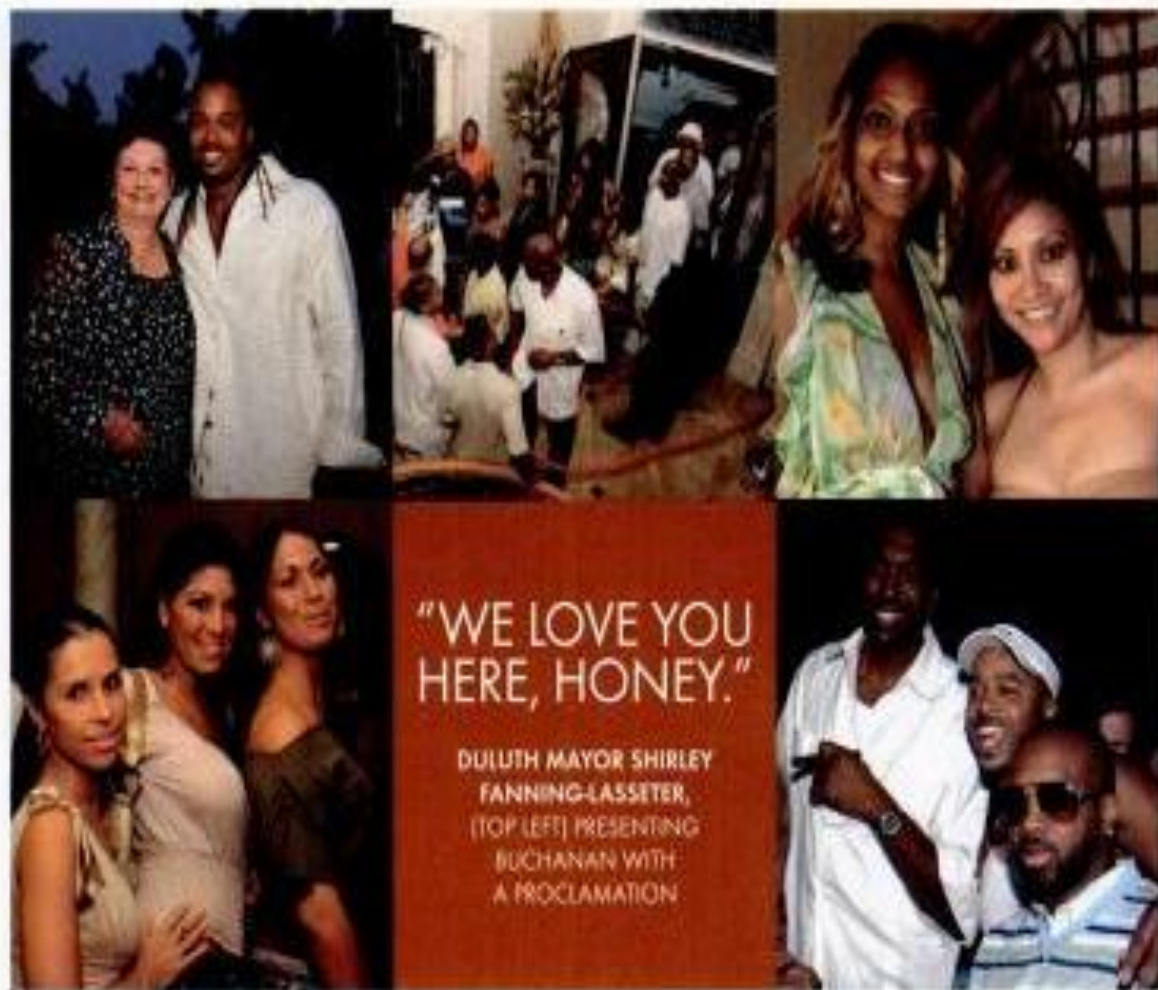
FANFARE

LOVE
IS IN THE AIR

THE SOFT LUMINESCENCE OF THE grand ballroom glistening on her rosy skin, she leaned in closer as the flick of the feather quill created an everlasting memory. Speechless, cheeks flushed and fingers shaking with each quick, nervous breath, her wrist grazed that of her muse as she grasped the manuscript born from graceful hands.

Okay, so maybe the lighting is a little bit brighter . . . and there might be a few hundred other people in the ballroom. But the Georgia Romance Writers would appreciate the embellishment.

At the group's first Readers' Luncheon on September 29 and 30, romance enthusiasts can meet and lunch with their favorite local authors at the Hilton Atlanta Northeast. The weekend includes a Friday night "Dessert With the Authors" reception and a luncheon the following day, both with limited guest lists. The weekend concludes with a book fair and signing, open to the public, on Saturday afternoon.



"WE LOVE YOU
HERE, HONEY."

DULUTH MAYOR SHIRLEY
FANNING-LASSETER,
(TOP LEFT) PRESENTING
BUCHANAN WITH
A PROCLAMATION

THE WILD WEST MET THE the Dirty South at an A-list house party, *et, mansion* party hosted by former Falcon Ray Buchanan. Guests included California rapper Snoop Dogg and A-town's own Usher. (NBA legend Michael Jordan was also rumored to have attended but reportedly hid from the media.) The soiree pulled double duty as both a fundraiser for Buchanan's Big Play Ray of Hope Foundation

and a fifth anniversary celebration for his publicist Cherry Bañez. Attendees were chauffeured via Hummer limo directly to the red carpet leading to the NFL star's Duluth mansion. Guests, including producer Jermaine

Dupri, NBA great John Salley, singer Bobby Valentino, former Falcon Chuck Smith and TLC's T-Boz lounged poolside, chowing down on barbecue catered by Justin's (Diddy's restaurant) and enjoying a surprise performance by singer Donnell Jones.

—CHANDRA R.
THOMAS

