

creative loafing

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CONTACT: Chante LaGon
chante.lagon@creativeloafing.com
404-688-5623 x1123

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ANDISHEH NOURAE NAMED *CREATIVE LOAFING* SENIOR WRITER

ATLANTA — Well-known Atlanta freelance writer Andisheh Nourae has joined the staff of the Southeast's largest newsweekly, *Creative Loafing* (Atlanta) announced Thursday.

“Andy’s an exceptionally talented journalist, but when I first met him he was nothing,” said *CL* Editor Ken Edelstein. “We made him everything he is today, so I hope he’s grateful.”

Creative Loafing hired Nourae as a freelancer in late 2000 to write and photograph *Scene & Herd*, an about-town column that became known for Nourae’s irrelevant observations and rambling style. The following year, after 9/11, Nourae, who holds a degree in Middle Eastern studies, began to write *Don’t Panic*, the nation’s longest-running humor column on the War on Terror®. Contrary to the impression that letter writers got from a photo that once ran with *Don’t Panic*, Nourae is not a Muslim woman.

But he is one of *Creative Loafing*’s most popular columnists. In *CL*’s 2003, 2004 and 2005 Best of Atlanta issues, he was the Reader’s Pick for best columnist in Atlanta for both columns. In 2004, he won a Green Eyeshade Award from the Society of Professional Journalists for *Don’t Panic*.

Nourae had this to say about his new gig: “I’m pleased and excited and thrilled. It’s a win-win and a great opportunity. Have I left out any press release clichés?”

Since joining *CL*’s staff, Nourae has done basically nothing. Now that he’s employed, he figures he doesn’t have to hustle. Edelstein’s been begging him to write for Fresh Loaf, the newspaper’s news blog, which can be viewed at CLFreshLoaf.com. He’s also supposed to write cover stories and serve as an editor for the paper’s Fallout section.

