

Letters: All Rocker did was voice perceptions of many in U.S.

The Atlanta Journal and Constitution

January 12, 2000, Wednesday,, Final Edition

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Section: Editorial; Pg. 15A

Length: 289 words

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Body

We are witnessing a story that involves much more than John **Rocker**, the Atlanta Braves relief pitcher. Some of the statements **Rocker** made in the Sports Illustrated interview obviously were insulting, but he also expressed some concerns shared by **many** who are silent now because it is thought to be "politically incorrect" to speak. JOURNAL

One thing he said was, "You can walk a whole block at Times Square and never hear anyone speaking English." It is notable that "English-only" debates are going on in various parts of the country and there are legitimate concerns on the part of **many** that immigration, particularly the illegal kind, is out of control.

There is a **perception** that when someone comes to America to enjoy all the benefits thereof, we who were born here are supposed to accommodate them and learn their customs, etc., instead of the other way around. There also is a **perception** that **many** illegal immigrants are supported by **U.S.** taxpayers and are recipients of all kinds of government help such as preferences for business loans, etc., and all because they are from somewhere else.

There is a **perception** that politicians, particularly liberal Democrats, use immigrants to further their own causes and to increase the numbers of voters who are most likely to support them. This concern is fed by such acts as the swearing-in of a large number of new citizens just before the 1996 elections and revelations of campaign donations from citizens of other countries.

No one knows whether these **perceptions** are correct. But it is for certain that our precious freedom of speech applies to all Americans, not just those who say "the right things."

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Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Subject: IMMIGRATION (90%); BASEBALL (78%); INTERVIEWS (77%); LIBERALISM (77%); CITIZENSHIP (76%); WRITERS (73%); POLITICAL PARTIES (72%); ELECTIONS (72%); POLITICAL CORRECTNESS (72%); ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (69%); CAMPAIGN FINANCE (66%)

Company: ATLANTA BRAVES (84%); ATLANTA BRAVES (84%); ATLANTA BRAVES (84%); ATLANTA BRAVES (84%)

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Organization: ATLANTA BRAVES (84%); ATLANTA BRAVES (84%)

Industry: WRITERS (73%)

Geographic: ATLANTA, GA, USA (79%); **UNITED STATES** (93%)

Load-Date: January 12, 2000

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