

Atlantic Monthly Fools San Franciscans (Into Reading Fascinating Article) By Putting City on its Cover

By Joe Eskenazi in [Local News](#), [Media](#)
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Hey, we're *all* winners (except the Rust Belt)...

Like many apparently self-centered San Franciscans, I was spurred into picking up a copy of this month's Atlantic Monthly off the newsstand when I saw its cover: An overhead shot of the city with the headline: "The Suburbs Lose, The Sun Belt Fades, San Francisco Wins: How the Crash Will Reshape America."

You can imagine my surprise when my copy of the Atlantic *finally* arrived yesterday -- and the cover photo and "winner" was replaced by New York City (and, to be honest, this story really is much more about New York City). It turned out that the Atlantic wasn't

just two-timing us -- it was *four-timing* us. Chicago and Toronto also got their own covers. Yet, like San Francisco, they are mentioned barely more than in passing in this lengthy cover story; New York graced the national edition of the magazine, we narcissistic folks in other so-called "winner" cities were baited into supposedly reading about our good fortune. ([Other folks have written about this before, by the way](#) -- I guess they [got their mail copies of the Atlantic](#) much sooner).

[The article, penned by urban theorist Richard Florida](#), is fascinating and far too complex to adequately sum up in one paragraph -- but we'll try. Cities in economic hubs and locales with an abundance of highly educated workers (that's us) may gain at the expense of one-time industrial cities (think Buffalo, Detroit). Cities with economies based on "real estate and construction" (e.g. Las Vegas and Phoenix) could be in trouble -- as are homeowners in blighted areas who, rooted, cannot up and leave like renters.

You can [read it here](#) -- but, remember, it's not all about us.