

### Issue 48

## Air Conditioning

After World War II, engineers developed techniques for cooling large volumes of air below its dew point to condense and remove its water vapor inexpensively. Mechanical air conditioning was born, and it revolutionized life in the South.

In the 1960s, for the first time since the Civil War, the South experienced a net in-migration and the prosperity associated with the Sun Belt began. Along with prosperity came isolation and a loss of regional flavor. It can be argued that, along with other manufacturers of air conditioners, General Electric Company has had a more unsettling effect on the South than General Sherman did during the Civil War.

In what ways is an electric fan better than an air conditioner? How do people elsewhere in hot, humid climates manage to stay comfortably cool?

Would the widespread use of air conditioners be a sensible response to an impending greenhouse effect? Why? (Consider how an air conditioner works. It uses CFCs. As it cools indoor air, it heats outdoor air.)

***Think about this . . . Should scientists be forbidden to do research on some subjects, such as nuclear explosions, powerful insect poisons, methods of altering human genetic material, and the means of warfare?***

### Issue

## Cryo

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