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Vol. 22 No. 12 • Friday, Dec. 12, 2008 • Bob Jones University • Greenville, SC

Students to showcase talents

AMANDA SAGER AND AMELIA PILLSBURY

A handful of students with a flair for the dramatic demonstrated their talents during auditions in November, hoping to be featured in the Student Body's very first talent show Wednesday.

Nearly 30 students participated in the auditions Nov. 13 and 15, displaying talents that ranged from body contortions to voice impressions to juggling flaming torches. Several students choreographed their individual talents to music.

Alyssa Gomez, the women's student body president, said the

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CAMPUS

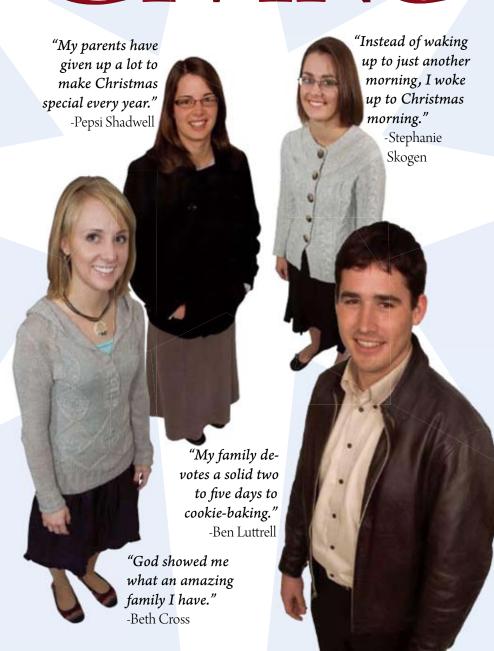
MIDYEAR ART COM-**PETITION**

The midyear student art competition is on display in the Exhibition Corridor of the Sargent Art Building. The exhibition will continue through Dec. 18, the last day of exams.

The exhibition showcases the finest work by university art majors, who were each required to create one piece of art for the show. The Art Faculty Committee selected roughly 75 pieces to display in the corridor.

LIBRARY BOOKS DUE

BJU undergraduate and graduate students with library materials checked out of the Mack Library should return them by Monday, Dec. 15. This due date does not apply to day students, faculty and staff, graduate assistants, town patrons and students staying in the residence halls during Christmas vacation.



this concept While mav seem like a lost art in modern Christmas seasons, many BJU students say sacrificial giving still impacts them both in light of Christ's sacrificial birth and by examples in their own families.

BY MOLLY JASINSKI

Beth Cross, a junior nursing major, said she was touched deeply by her family's willingness to sacrifice Christmas gift money to fly her home to Colorado in November to attend her sister's high school play.

Beth said her mom called her after the first weekend of the play and asked if she would be willing to donate \$70 of her Christmas gift money for a plane ticket. After Beth said yes, her mom told her that the five other members of her family were each going to donate \$100 to buy her a ticket.

"God showed me what an amazing family I have," Beth said. "My sister and brothers, who are 18, 12 and 9, were all willing to give up their money to fly me out. It was amazing."

Stephanie Skogen, a senior biology major, said that getting a Christmas morning last year when she didn't expect one was an unanticipated display of love from her parents. Stephanie said Christmas wasn't going to be a big deal at her house last year because her brother was in Guam and couldn't afford a plane ticket home. Stephanie and her parents had already agreed that her big gift was going

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Teachers prep for final exam week

JONATHAN BROWN

Exam permits alert students that final exam week is fast approaching. Student reactions to final exams vary from pessimistic resignation to inevitable failure, to valiant efforts to salvage borderline grades, to even confident excitement at the chance of improving or maintaining good grades. These are student reactions—but what is

exam week like from a teacher's perspective?

For many teachers, final exam week brings a welcome change of pace. "The most enjoyable thing is that you're not in your regular routine," Dr. John Matzko, a member of the history faculty, said.

Dr. Brenda Ball, who teaches educational psychology, agreed. Instead of preparing lectures and teaching, she will give only two final exams. Dr. Ball and most teachers simply come to class to present and monitor the exam.

However, most work on exams is completed beforehand. First, teachers try to grade all past assignments and return them to students before the final. Dr. Alfredo Deambrosi stays on top of his grading so that he can quickly grade his exams and begin his vacation immediately. "I normally get grades turned in shortly after the very last chapel, and my Christmas vacation

begins then," he said.

Dr. Brent McNeely said the worst part for him is when he runs behind on past grading. "My problem is I have too much pity on students and move the deadline," he said.

In addition to grading past assignments, teachers must then prepare their exams. In his history classes, Dr. Matzko simply makes revisions to old exams. However, some teachers write completely new exams. Dr. McNeely makes revisions to old exams, as well as writes new

» Exams p. 3







Friday



chance of precip. 10%



chance of precip. 10%

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'Twas the night before production

'Twas the night before The Collegian went to the press, All night we drank coffee—boy, were we stressed! The staffers were drooling, asleep in their chairs, In hopes that the copy would be edited with care. Visions of doughnuts and java danced in their heads, While the whole campus was sleeping, all snug in their beds.

When suddenly came a tapping, a rapping at *The Collegian* door. It startled our senses, and we awoke with a snore. We listened intently—who would disturb?— Could it be Custodial, Public Safety, or, maybe . . . Dr. Berg? Our fears were relieved—'Twas no predator: As a matter of fact, it was Andrew our editor!

"Now, Ali! Now, Lynda! Now, Jeff and Jen! On, Hodnett! On, Sarah! On, Molly and Glenn! Boot up the Macs! Start the designing! Edit the errors! Privett, stop whining!"

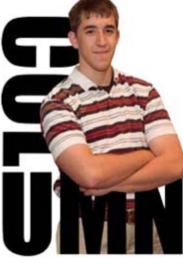
Still trying to rub the sleep out of his eyes, He yawned his infamous question, with little surprise: "Is fresh coffee brewing? I need some tonight!" We all grabbed our mugs—this sleep we must fight! We must keep on writing with all of our might; We must keep on writing all through the night!

But this is the last issue; Andrew says everything's done. It's time for a break, and it's time for some fun! As we shut down the Macs and turn off the lights, We shout: "Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good-night!"



JIMMY DIDN'T HAVE THIS IN MIND WHEN HE SAID HE'D HELP WITH THE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS.

We sanitized our bathtub, and we were gonna fill it up with water if something happened in Japan.



DAN GASS

It's been 143 years since Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox, and we Southerners are still losing battles to Northerners. No, it's not that we want the South to rise again, and it's not that we want to grow cotton again, either. What we want is to do away with the fallacies dispersed by Northerners—specifically that Christmas is only Christmas if it snows.

The brainwashing begins early. I spent each December of my childhood watching Christmas specials and movies. In every one of those pieces of propaganda, it snowed on Christmas Day. Every time. There was one special where Rudolph the Claymation Reindeer spent Christmas Day in Hawaii, and it still snowed for him. "It's a Christmas miracle, SAN-TUH!" he exclaimed, sounding like a deer that needs to take some Sudafed.

about "saving Christmas"—stuff like "Roland the Sea Slug Saves Christmas," where Santa's sleigh is stolen by aliens or the Abominable Snowman? They should make one where Scrooge and the Grinch join forces to steal all the snow from Christmas—not only would it be just as absurd as stealing Christmas, it would give me some

You know all the specials

Christmas-special villains I could actually cheer for.

According to USA Today, only 18 percent of Americans in the contiguous USA live in a region with a running shot at a white Christmas. How can we talk about democracy here when 18 percent of the population foists their ideas of Christmas on the other 82 percent? That, my friends, is not democracy—it's imperialism.

And yet, every December, we are inundated with songs celebrating the glories of a snowy Yuletide. "Sleigh Ride," "Jingle Bells," even Dr. Bob's favorite, "Baby, It's Cold Outside"—a veritable litany of snow-saturated propaganda.

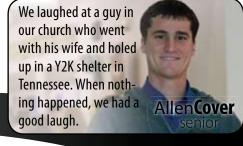
Think of the children. Not having a white Christmas breaks a lot of little hearts down here, where snow on Christmas Day is as likely as a sandstorm in Oshkosh.

I was a frustrated child growing up in Greenville. Never a white Christmas. Never. Plenty of nice 70-degree Christmases, though. Want a Waikiki Christmas? We've had plenty of them here. Too bad as a child I never wanted one.

Whenever I heard Bing Crosby crooning "White Christmas" on the radio, I thought, "Maybe this year. Maybe this year we'll have a white Christmas." Now, after 20 years of disappointment, when I hear Bing Crosby, I throw bricks at the radio. "Take that!" I cackle. "Take that for the white Christmases I never knew!"

So this Christmas season, as we drink our peppermint lattes, let us all embrace the theme of goodwill toward men, spurn the propaganda we have been fed all our lives, and remember that a white Christmas is not the only Christmas.

At least, I don't think it was snowing in Bethlehem.





Holiday memories: New Year's Eve

How did your family react to Y2K?





PHOTOS BY ROB WHEELER

« Student Body p. 1

auditioning students amazed members of the Student Body Council with their many talents. "We are so excited to showcase the people that put so much time into this for us," she said.

For Wednesday's final Student Body meeting of the semester, the Student Body Council will incorporate a DVD presentation of the talent show auditions. Several students will also perform their talents live on stage. Jared Pittman, the student body chaplain, will give a challenge to conclude the program.

« Giving p. 1

to be a plane ticket to California to work at Camp Ironwood in the summer.

"Christmas Eve came and we still hadn't even put up a tree," Stephanie said. "But Christmas morning came and I woke up to my dad shaking me, saying, 'Santa came, Santa came! There's presents and a tree and everything!' and I was like, 'Go away, there's no such thing as Santa; I'm going back to

sleep."

After further coaxing from her father and dog, Stephanie decided to get out of bed and found a two-foot Christmas tree with a few gifts underneath, and a Christmas breakfast that her mom had prepared.

"It was really special because they didn't have to bother and they didn't have to go through all that work for me," Stephanie said. "Instead of waking up to just another morning, I woke up to Christmas morning."

Ben Luttrell, a sophomore aircraft maintenance major, said his family enjoys spending time together by baking cookies for family, friends and neighbors. "My family devotes a solid two to five days to cookie-baking, and we do it all together," Ben said.

Ben said not only does his family get to spend quality time together, but they also love giving people a little taste of home.

"Sometimes we get calls from people, and they say the cookies made them so happy because it reminded them of home," Ben said. "I think it's really cool."

Freshman culinary arts major

Pepsi Shadwell said she appreciates her parents sacrificing every Christmas to make it a special time for her and the foster children her family hosts.

Pepsi said her mom enjoys making scrapbooks for each of the foster kids, who often don't have many, if any, pictures from their childhood. By making the scrapbooks, Pepsi said her mom is able to give them a bit of normalcy and it can be something they can look back on when they get older.

"My parents have given up a lot to make Christmas special every year," Pepsi said. "They don't just do it for me—they want the foster kids that we have to enjoy a real Christmas at home."

Giving without any thoughts of repayment or personal benefit can help bring the focus back to the true meaning of Christmas, which people say is often lost in the busyness of the season.

Justine Julian, a freshman piano pedagogy major, said the greatest gift was God's gift of His Son. "That's why it's so great to sacrificially give at Christmas time, because we're trying to give like He gave."



Miss Betty Solomon and Dr. Brenda Ball contrast their exam week work loads.

« Exams p. 1

ones. "You have to make sure you mix it up," he said. Teachers must then either copy their exams themselves or have them copied 48 hours in advance at Bellis Copy Center.

But teachers do not enjoy every minute of final exam week. "You're never quite sure what's going to happen," Dr. Matzko said. "There are people who are not getting things in; there are people who are absent from the final exam, so you have to track them down." He said it is quite a task getting everyone to complete assignments. In addition, he pointed out that final exam week exposes those students

who have been irresponsible throughout the year.

After all final exams are in, the process of grading begins. Teachers must have all grades submitted by 3 p.m. the Monday after exams. Dr. Ball, who has to grade only two Scantron exams this year, plans to finish grading her exams on the afternoon exams end. However, some teachers who have essay tests or final projects grade through the weekend.

For the most part, teachers enjoy final exam week. "The best part about finals week is that it's right before Christmas," Dr. Ball said. Teachers—as well as students—look forward to the Christmas break.



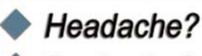
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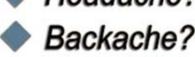
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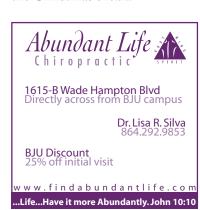
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NEWS

Students deck the residence halls for Christmas

CRISTIE FOX

Walkin' in a winter wonderland...in the residence halls at BJU? That's right. With Christmas just days away, some students are turning their ordinary rooms into a cozier, more festive atmosphere.

Most students look forward to returning to their homes over break and seeing traditional decorations in their homes. However, Ruth Larsen, a sophomore art education major, feels it's helpful for students to decorate their rooms while they are staying on campus as well. "These dorm rooms are where you're going to spend most of your time, and you need something to pep you up," she said. "Christmas decorations definitely lift the mood."

Last year, Ruth and her roommates went all out, cutting out snowflakes and hanging them from the ceiling. Colored lights, tinsel, wrapping paper and an artificial small tree were also used to spruce up their room.

Interior design major Angela Jackson, who won the Creel Christmas decorating contest last year, gave some advice on ways students can deck out their rooms this holiday season. Last year, Angela and her roommates bought stockings, decorated them and hung them about the room. Cards and other goodies were stuffed inside. Lighting and flowers are also a good way to change the look and feel of a room, Angela said.

"Decorating your room is a great way to get together with your roommates, and you never know what your roommates are going to pull on you," Angela said. "Decorating really gives energy and a new take on your room. It makes you think of the goal of going home for Christmas, and gets you talking about past Christmas memories."

Angela and her roommates last year won the Christmas decorating contest by adorning their door with pictures of their RA as Santa Claus. Quotes from the song "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town" went along with the theme. Since RA's are known for keeping watch over students, quotes such as, "he sees you when you're sleeping, he knows when you're awake, he knows if you've been bad or good ..." fit the theme.

Mitch Miller, a Bible evangelism major, likes to get into the Christmas spirit as well. Last year, Mitch hung lights from the ceiling in his room. Other decorations such as rocks, a fountain and fish could also be found in Mitch's room. "It was sweet, the fish were in Christmas spirit, too," said Mitch.

The Johnson residence hall went all out this year, with a large Christmas tree in the lobby and plenty of Christmas lights to illuminate the residence hall.

Sophomore Cortney Slayton was able to have the best of both

worlds; her family sent her their traditional Christmas decorations from home. "It's nice to look at the same decorations I've had since childhood and feel at home in my room," Cortney said. "With finals coming, and with

everyone stressed, it's also nice to have a cheery room to come back to." Cortney said everyone who comes into their room compliments them and enjoys looking at the lights, garland and miniature Christmas tree.



Angela Jackson and her roommates add some Christmas sparkle to Creel 314.





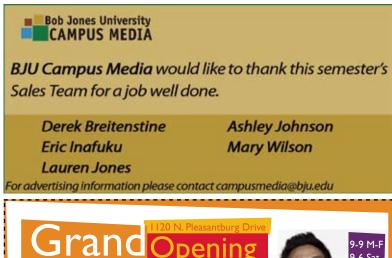




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Cardinals take basketball title from Classics 66-61

MELISSA AFABLE

The Beta Epsilon Chi Cardinals overcame the Pi Delta Chi Classics with a phenomenal 66-61 victory during the women's championship basketball game Saturday night. The Classics held last year's titles in both basketball and volleyball, an honor that the Cardinals now claim.

The Classics dominated the game in the first half with a strong 3-2 zone defense. Offensive rebounds came easily for Classic forward Jamie Jeffcott, who was the Classics' leading scorer with 24 total points.

"[Jamie Jeffcott] was key in getting rebounds and making the down-low shot," Classic coach Kelsie Heusinger said.

The Cardinals ran into foul trouble early in the

half, giving the Classics opportunities to score. But Cardinals Bobbi Frank and Rebecca Estrella kept the Classics on their toes with steals and fast breaks.

Midway through the first half, the Cardinals resorted to a full-court press. The added pressure flustered the Classics into fouling. Cardinal Caitlan Reid was sent to the line three times and made all her foul shots. Caitlan carried her team in the first half, scoring 13 of the Cardinals' 23 points.

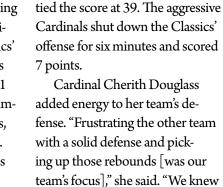
Despite foul trouble and the Cardinal press, the Classics held the lead at halftime, 34-23.

The second half began with Beta Epsilon showing no distress over the 11-point difference. The Cardinals changed their defense, throwing off the Classics' momentum. Foul trouble hit the Classics early this half, sending the Cardinals to the free throw line 11

> times. The Cardinals scored an impressive 15 out of 20 free throws, bringing them back in the game.

"We really wanted to win this game, and we started to believe we could win it," Cardinal Molly Kaminski said.

Smart post playing by Cardinal forwards Molly Kaminski and Caitlan Reid narrowed the score to a 2-point difference. With 14 min-



utes left, Molly's two free throws

and wait for the best shot." Classic Jamie Jeffcott closed the gap with two layups. Jamie's energy spread to her teammates, and the Classics continued to score. With one minute remaining, Classic Laura Osborne tied the game with a layup. Seconds later the Cardinals regained the lead with two baskets by Molly Kaminski. Maria Estrella sunk a free throw, sealing the game at

we needed to clean up our passes

Cardinal coach Rebecca Estrella said that teamwork made

the difference between the two halves. "I think our team did great in pulling it together and

66-61.

really playing our game at our tempo for the second half," she

The Cardinals celebrate their comeback championship victory over the Classics.

Classic coach Kelsie Heusinger said that early foul trouble and the Cardinals' speed were her team's toughest challenges. "We allowed the Cardinals to play their fastpace[d] game which allowed them to catch up and take the lead," she

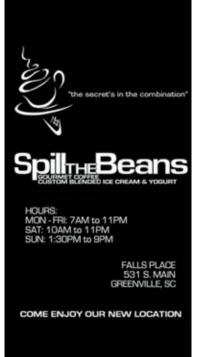
Classic Jamie Jeffcott said that fouls affected her team's offense. "We had two key players in foul trouble early in the second half," she said. "While they were on the bench, the rest of us couldn't step up and fill their spots."

The role reversal with the Cardinals winning this year's basketball and volleyball championships has left Cardinal Rebecca Estrella hopeful for a complete sports sweep this school year.

"We had a blast with the volleyball and basketball seasons, and we are definitely looking forward

> to having just as much fun with the next sports coming up," Rebecca said.

"Have We Met Yet?"













EXPERT

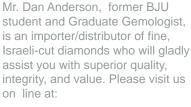
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BASKETBALL PREVIEW

Last year's top four teams guarantee competition for 2009 school championship game

ANDREW HARROD AND KENNETH JOHNSON

Pi Kappa

Coach - Jon Hess

Pi Kappa returns this year having lost only one starting senior, Dan Ertel. Finishing third place two years in a row over Omega, the Cobras have a strong lineup with some of the best overall players in school. James Wallace and Jon Hess will begin their third season together as teammates. Junior James Wallace has proven that his shots from the perimeter demand respect, and Jon Hess can and will run fast break layups all game.

For a shot at the championship, the Cobras will need to increase their presence under the basket. James Wallace says that the new players this season add a lot of depth to the team, which is just what it needs. With Zeta Chi in their league, the Cobras will need a deeper team to run the entire 40 minutes.

Epsilon Zeta Chi

Coach – Jeff Allen

The last time Zeta Chi won the championship was three seasons ago in 2006. Characterized by quick transitions and hustle on defense, the Tornadoes have been a top American League contender for the past decade. Nothing will change this season. Last season's rush yielded some strong players

such as Max Hahn, Ben St-Ulme and Robert Shumate. This season the Tornadoes' team chemistry on the court will only improve.

Senior Stephen Yates is looking forward to another basketball season with his team and has a high expectation for all of the guys. Zeta Chi will need to improve in its performance under pressure in order to win. With the lingering memory of last year's defeat by Beta Gamma, Z yearns for another chance to capture the title.

BETA GAMMA DELTA

Coach – Daniel Bost

Beta Gamma seeks its third consecutive basketball championship. The Patriots have to overcome the loss of last year's MVP Keith Rogers and big man Ben Fetterolf. Keith produced the majority of Beta's offense, and Ben rebounded well.

Despite the losses, Beta returns strong. Anthony Lehn, Beta's "Mr. Consistency," crippled opponents with key 3-point shots. Also returning is Dan Vazquez, a strong dribbler and energetic player.

The remaining Patriots will need to prove that Beta is still the team to beat. Freshman Kyle McVey should strengthen the roster, but how effective he will be remains to be seen.

Players like Micah Wright and Austin Reddington had limited playing time last season. But Micah will likely step into a starting role, and Austin will be crucial coming off the bench. Though speed, athleticism and skill make Beta the favorite to win the National League title, this year's full potential is still a mystery.

Alpha Omega Delta

Coach – Undecided

Omega fell short in last year's National League Championship, but the Lions will endeavor to overcome that last barrier and claim the championship trophy. Omega returns a similar team to last season's, but the Lions will miss the intensity and leadership of the Gray twins.

This year the scoring burden will largely rest on Omega's x-factor, Zech Britton. Zech played inconsistently last season, but when his shot was on, he lit up the scoreboard.

Power forward Zach Roschi was also vital to last season's success. His rebounding and scoring made him one of the best big men in the National League. Zach will need to bring last year's success into this season and stay out of foul trouble.

Omega will look to senior Eric Kittrell to score points and lead the team. Another key will be the play of Justin Almas. Justin, a strong and quick guard, has the ability to be a major offensive producer for the Lions. Again, Omega will depend on strong defense and trademark intensity. The Lions will attempt to reach the championship game this season.



HEATHER HELM

My extravagant, immense Thanksgiving meal left me completely and utterly discouraged. I had one horrifying problem: the encounter with my mother's bathroom scale. I wondered, having safely skirted the freshman 15 last year, would this be the beginning of my demise? Will I need to fast for a week to fit into my new jeans?

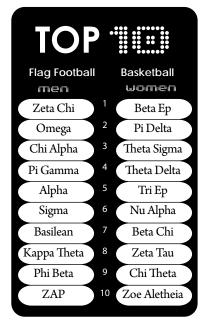
With Christmas rapidly approaching, visions of Christmas cookies, stuffing and Grandma's pecan pie waltz through my head. How can I possibly resist the temptation to gorge on that good ol' holiday cooking? How can I keep those unwanted pounds from accumulating like room job demerits? As college students we need methods that are fast, cheap and hassle-free. An easy solution is the two "sizes" that can keep your weight where you want it: portion size and exer "size".

First, consider limiting portion size. While Christmas is the time to be generous, be a Scrooge when it comes to how much food you pile on your plate. Oftentimes, our eyes are bigger than our stomachs.

If we eat slowly and enjoy the fellowship around us, we won't have to worry about devouring every last bite we so eagerly piled on our plate. In short, I recommend just saying "no" to the seconds.

To stay fit during the long winter months, try exercising at least 30 minutes a day. Whether you're trekking up that neverending sledding hill or rushing around on a Christmas shopping trip with Mom, it is easy to make exercise fun! You could even play with your hyper little siblings and cousins rather than collapsing on the couch to watch "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" for the 47th time. Perhaps you could park at the furthest spot in the mall parking lot to get a brisk walk. You and I both know you could take 30 minutes out of your Facebook time. There are plenty of opportunities to fit exercise into your schedule if you just make the effort.

Don't wait 'til after pigging out at your New Year's party to make another monumental resolution that might last only a few weeks. Why not get a head start now?





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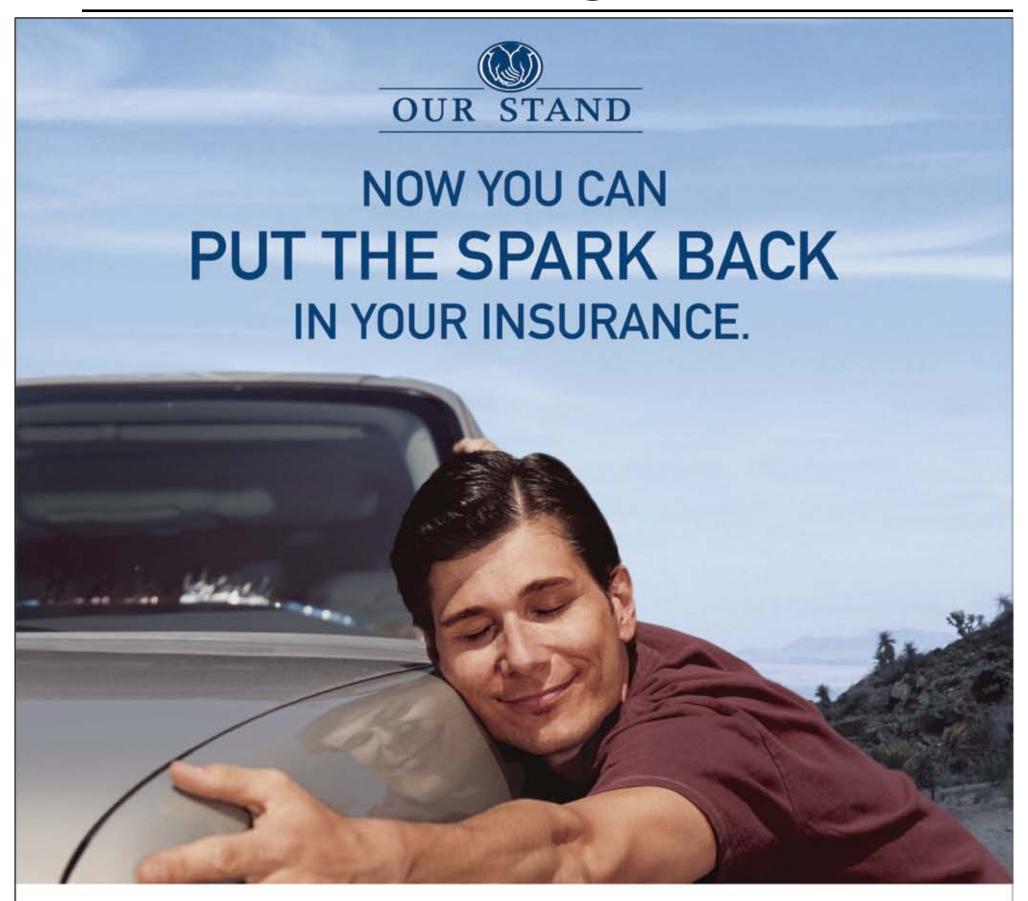
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