

Big feet are no longer a barrier to classy women's shoes

Continued from page 1B
doing a shoe store," Richardson-Williams said. "But I would still be at the mercy of the manufacturers to make the styles."

Taceri is a designer line dedicated exclusively to women who wear sizes 10-14 medium. The shoes are crafted in Brazil and made of quality leathers and fine fabrics. They retail from \$90 to \$185 and have been available since

April. Richardson-Williams gave up a law career on Wall Street working for Bank of America, to push the Taceri full time.

And Richardson-Williams is selling more than shoes. She's selling esteem in a box.

"I got an e-mail from a young girl who said she missed her prom and other events because she couldn't find any shoes to wear," she said. "And those are the people that I'm

making shoes for." She was once in those same ugly shoes. She said that at one time she was embarrassed by her shoe size and would hide her feet so she wouldn't get asked the dreaded question-what size shoe do you wear?

Now, she proudly tells anyone that she's a size 12.

"I think that it's a normal thing (for women to have larger feet). And society

makes women feel abnormal," she said.

Sean Washington, owner of Monet Shoes, located at 440 E. McCollough Drive in the University area, said carrying Taceri was a no-brainer.

"There is a shortage of places where women can go to get designer shoes in a larger size," he said. Although his store usually carries shoes up to size 12, the Taceri line will increase his customer base.

At a trunk show held at the store, Washington said 25 pairs of shoes were sold in less than six hours.

"You can look good and have a larger foot," Washington said.

On the net:

www.taceri.com

Residents of historic area tell their story

Continued from page 1B

Harris' long-closed Lincoln Cafe served beer, barbecue and chitterling sandwiches. When she opened the shop in 1960, police warned her the streets right behind it were so dangerous they were known as Vietnam.

"I told them, 'I'll take my chances,'" Harris said.

Harris said she maintained order by calling every man who came in the door "Mister."

For 25 years, she ran the

business by day and got assistance from her husband at night. She had worked for years in Cameron Village restaurants before running her own.

"Everyone is a repository of history," said Michael Taft, head of the Archive of Folk Culture at the Library of Congress' American Folklife Center.

Taft said history books tend to include dates, facts, figures and information about the effects of past events. Oral histories offer perspective,

what it was like for one woman or man to experience change, Taft said.

The Folklife Center is a repository for more than 3 million items, including about 100,000 recordings dating to 1890.

For Charmaine Brown, 22, the oral history interviews sent the St. Aug's senior into the community for the first time in her four years on campus.

She was leery about venturing into a place that looks nothing like the suburban

neighborhood where she grew up in Kings Mountain.

Brown interviewed McGill and learned that independent women are not a 21st-century innovation.

"Really, Mrs. McGill is something," Brown said.

"She's smart, she's strong, she did a lot on her own. I think that's the way I want to be."

Miss. border town forgotten in Hurricane Katrina recovery

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PEARLINGTON, Miss. — It's been 21 days since Katrina annihilated this tiny rural hamlet on the Louisiana border, but it might as well have been yesterday.

Homes are heaps of debris, shoved far from their foundations. Trees, nail-studded boards and utility lines still litter the roads. The mud has long since turned to dust, but it's deep and ready to revert to its former state with the first good rain.

And people—maybe 600 of the town's 1,700 souls—are still living in tents and under tarps.

Folks here say Pearlington is an old and generally overlooked town, a place where blacks live in one section and whites in another. It's a place without a mayor or a town government—in other words, without an advocate.

"This little town, we've always been the stepkids among the communities in Hancock County," says Tracy Bennett, 34, who's living in a sort of tent city with her immediate and extended family.

A generator allows her to get water from the well, but her 20-month-old son Tyler ambles around barefoot in the dirt, his fair skin hot and red despite constant slathering of sunscreen and three cold baths a day.

"Nobody knows we're here. Nobody knows we exist," Bennett says. "But we're used to it."

For more than a week, Pearlington survived largely on its own.

Then, 10 days after the storm, Jeff McVay and five other members of an emergency response team from Walton County, Fla. arrived.

McVay, who's been through many hurricanes, was stunned by what he found—a town that had nothing but a place to get water, ice and military-issued meals. There was no Red Cross. There was no shelter. He called home and asked for six more men.

McVay took charge, and four workers from the Federal Emergency Management Agency power-washed rooms in the Charles B. Murphy Elementary School to create a shelter. But the Red Cross rejected it, concerned about

electrical outlets that had been below the water line. The second time, McVay says, it was lack of a dehumidifier that kept the shelter from opening.

"I asked the Red Cross three things: Do you want a shelter? Who's in charge? ... Is it more important to you to have a dehumidifier inside a building with concrete walls and security and portalets than for people to sleep under tents, under tarps and in vehicles?"

Dissatisfied with the response, McVay says he escorted the Red Cross to the gate.

"They've got their rules, and they can't deviate from them, but it's life over limb," McVay says.

McVay asked another group—City Team of San Jose, Calif.—to set up the shelter, and work began two hours later. It opened Friday night, Day 17 after Katrina.

"Our favorite saying here is if you can't ask for it and get it, you backdoor it," McVay says. "We've backdoored everything we have here. Sometimes, rules are made to be broken, and I don't mind breaking them in the best interest of the public."

A Red Cross volunteer who "spoke out of their area of expertise and experience" caused the problems that delayed opening the shelter, said Mary Ferguson, a regional Red Cross spokeswoman. The worker has been relieved and the Red Cross is now providing supplies to the facility.

While widely praised, the Red Cross also has been criticized by Katrina survivors along Mississippi's Gulf Coast for delays in distributing financial assistance and trouble getting through on the agency's toll-free number.

"We receive over 25,000 phone calls an hour requesting financial assistance, and we are asking people to be patient just because of the sheer volumes of people calling," said Shari Crandall, a spokeswoman at Red Cross headquarters in Washington.

The shelter can house at least 100 people, but McVay doesn't expect a rush until the rain comes. Too many people are afraid to leave what's left of their belongings.

That includes Earl Bennett, cousin of Tracy, who is living

in a borrowed RV parked near his green, tin-roofed home. A wall of filthy water shoved the house 20 feet from where it once stood, its guts now jumbled, soaked and broken. He's picked some of his marble collection from the mud, but nearly everything else is gone.

Bennett, his wife and four children saw a sheriff's deputy shortly after the storm. They weren't offered help, but Bennett says he understands.

"Everybody was just kind of

Please see MISSISSIPPI/3B

MAHOAGANY BRIDAL SHOW

October 2nd
Adams Mark Charlotte
4pm - 6pm

Fashion Forward Runway
Groom's Corner
Mac Cosmetics Beauty Pavilion

Pre-Register for \$5 admission at
www.plwp.net/mahoganybride
or
Call (704) 493-3567

Produced by:
Platinum Images
Wedding Professionals

design by MindfulMedia.com 704.598.1321

Get The Lead Out!

Of the houses in the United States built before 1978, 85% have lead hazard reduction needs. One in five children in the United States is at risk for lead poisoning. Its effects can include brain damage, kidney disease, heart disease, stroke and death.

LeadSafe Charlotte is leading the way in protecting children from the dangers of lead. As part of our commitment of creating safe, lead-free environments for families, we provide a wide range of services, including:

- Information and education on the hazards of lead exposure
- Free lead inspections at your home
- Free testing of children
- Free clean up, painting, repair and rehabilitating your home or rental property.

LeadSafe Charlotte offers all of these services at no charge to families who qualify.

LeadSafe Charlotte. Keeping our children lead safe. CHARLOTTE NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Be Lead Safe!

LeadSafe Charlotte Hotline | Spanish 704.336.3500 | English 704.336.2114

HOUSE OF PEPSI

YOU COULD WIN
\$100,000
FOR YOUR HOME

Enter for your chance to win \$100,000 from House Of Pepsi or other cash prizes from Chase Home Finance.

HOUSE OF PEPSI SWEEPSTAKES
OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Name _____
Address _____
Age _____
City _____
State _____
Zip Code _____
Daytime phone number () _____
Email (if available) _____

*To enter visit [HOUSE OF PEPSI Sweepstakes](http://HOUSEOFPEPSI.com), P.O. Box 3143, Grand Rapids, MI 55745-3143. All entries must be postmarked no later than November 1, 2005, and received no later than November 4, 2005.

save \$250 when you choose CHASE HOME FINANCE.

- Get a \$250 rebate applied automatically to your closing costs.
- Mortgage products to fit your needs.
- Free pre-approval for purchase or refinance.*
- Easy to apply - visit any branch, call 1-800-796-0698 or visit www.chase.com/pepsi

*Credit only pre-approval. This closing cost rebate will be applied automatically at closing. You borrower is responsible for all other closing costs. This offer may not be combined with any other promotions offer or rebate. This offer is valid for applications received by Chase by 11/1/05. All loans are subject to credit and property approval. Program terms and conditions are subject to change without notice. Not all products are available in all states or for all loan amounts. Other restrictions and limitations apply. © 2005 Pepsico Inc. All Rights Reserved. Promotion Code: 4174

CHASE

Cardiovascular research saves lives

Continued from page 1B

ing the lives of more than 100,000 annually, according to the American Heart Association.

"It's a blessing that they are including me in the development of this research study. I am very excited," said Banks.

For official rules, visit www.pepsi.com.

CHASE PEPSI

No Purchase Necessary. Sweepstakes ends November 1, 2005. You must be 18 years of age to enter or 19 if 192005. Sweepstakes ends only when the U.S. residing in one of the 48 contiguous United States throughout the sweepstakes period. To enter without purchase, hand over your name, complete address, age and daytime phone number on an official entry form or a piece of 3x5 inch paper. Mail completed entry to: House of Pepsi, P.O. Box 3143, Grand Rapids, MI 55745-3143. All entries must be postmarked no later than November 1, 2005, and received no later than November 4, 2005. Subject to Official Rules of House of Pepsi. Sweepstakes ends November 1, 2005. © 2005 Pepsico Inc. All Rights Reserved. Promotion Code: 4174