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Michael Jackson arrested, latest event in a bizarre life of king of pop

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Kimberly Patrick crowned Miss Gospel World USA

By Janell J. Lewis
ARGUS NEWS EDITOR

Kimberly Patrick was shocked when her name was announced as the regional winner of the Miss Gospel World USA pageant last month.

The pageant was held in Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium and featured 12 contestants ranging in age from 18 to 30-plus years old. Five of the participants were WSSU students and the other contestants traveled from surrounding areas in North Carolina.

To enter the pageant, it was mandatory that all contestants have an audition with Dr. Fulton, who was one of the directors, and to have a sponsorship of \$250. Patrick's church in Kingston, River of Life Christian Center, provided her with the funds.

The pageant included a talent,

traditional church wear, gown wear, and an interview portion. Patrick sang an original song that she wrote and was accompanied by Kerwin Graham on piano. In her traditional church wear segment, she wore a lime green suit with a black hat, purse and shoes. Her gown was red featuring diamonds on the front and back.

With the regional title of Miss Gospel World USA, Patrick will enjoy the luxuries of a new vehicle, a \$2,000 shopping spree in New York, a day at the spa, a record deal, appearances on television talk shows such as Opah and Mary Povich, and radio appearances among other opportunities. Patrick must also attend numerous churches in the country to represent the regional Miss Gospel World USA.

Winston-Salem State University students seem to have taken control of

the pageant as the first and second runner-ups were also WSSU natives. Charie Neal came in second place, and Shameia Gardin came in third.

Once all the regional winners are selected, the National Miss Gospel USA competition will take place around Easter. Atlanta is the tentative location for the event.

A banquet will be held Dec. 13 in honor of Patrick, where she will receive a calendar outlining her radio and church appearance dates.

Although Patrick and her family were very shocked and worried about her even placing in the pageant, now that she has won, Patrick said, "I'm very excited about what I have to look forward to and what's new. I want to take it to the next level."



Argus photo by Janell J. Lewis
Kimberly Patrick won first place and a new car in the regional Miss Gospel World USA pageant held recently.

International Week



Argus photo by Keith Caesar
Caribbean author Dr. Earl Loveless spoke at the opening of International Week, which was held on the campus during the week of Nov. 16-21. His book, "Salt," is about slavery in the Caribbean.

Sidestep the shopping frenzy by giving alternative gifts

BE CREATIVE

By Andrea Coombes
CBS MARKETWATCH, (KRT)

SAN FRANCISCO

The fever pitch of the holiday shopping season is fast approaching: Consider immunizing yourself now.

While many of us enjoy the search for the perfect present — and who wouldn't enjoy giving it? — shopping expeditions these days often result in a post-holiday hangover, complete with swollen credit card accounts and memory loss as you strain to recall where all those vacation days went.

"People end up feeling really depleted a lot of times rather than reconnected," said Betsy Taylor, president of the Center for a New American Dream <http://www.newdream.org/>, which seeks to help Americans consume more responsibly. The Center's motto is, "More Fun, Less Stuff!"

"The holidays have become so commercial and the bar has been set so high in terms of the ultimate event — you have to decorate just right,

you have to put on the perfect meal, you have to buy gifts for everybody," Taylor said.

No, you don't.

From taking a trip together, creating a video for an older relative or buying clean drinking water for a Tanzanian family in honor of a friend, there are as many ways to sidestep the mall as there are ornaments to decorate with.

Still, it can be hard to overcome that consuming urge. Not only is consumerism laced with patriotism, it's a powerful habit that's hard to kick.

"These habits are ingrained, they're powerful, they're unconscious," said Dr. Kathleen Gurney, a psychologist and chief executive of Financial Psychology Corp. <http://www.financialpsychology.com/> in Sarasota, Fla., provider of money-management tools to individuals and professionals.

At this time of year "we look at catalogs more, we go to stores more, we succumb to the habit," she said.

Plus, our assumptions about others' expectations hold us back: We worry that alternative gifts will make us look cheap, Gurney said.

Despite your fears, try jumping in. "People are afraid that 'I'm going to stand out, my family and friends don't do this,'" Gurney said. "So what? There's a risk involved, but there's a tremendous payoff," she said. "The holidays would be so much more enjoyable if we would actually spend time with loved ones."

Consider starting slowly, giving an alternative gift to one or two friends who might be receptive, before approaching recalcitrant family members.

Then, talk with your family about a downscaled holiday. Remember: Other family members likely feel the same way. "It just takes a few people to say, 'How about if we exchange names this year and everybody gets one gift,'" Taylor said. "You'd be surprised at how often someone will say 'I'm so glad you brought this up.'"

Junior Candace Brown has big dreams

By Robyn Floyd
ARGUS REPORTER

Candace Brown, a junior accounting major, hopes to one day open a credit union geared toward college students. And she's not waiting until she graduates to get started on achieving her goal. Instead, Brown is taking steps now to prime herself for the future, and one of the key ways is through an internship with Southern Community Banking and Trust.

Brown is an intern in the corporate office of accounting and finance at Southern Community Bank. Among other things, she is learning to depreciate fixed assets, and balance and reconcile accounts. After graduation from Winston-Salem State University, Brown said she intends to enter graduate school and earn both a master's degree and Ph.D. in accounting.

Ultimately, she would like to become a certified public accountant and start a credit union. "Students need to be managed financially from the age of 18-25 in order to prevent bad debt," she said.

The internship at Southern Community Banking and Trust is one in a long series of steps Brown will take on the road to fulfilling her dream. She said, "It is a great experience to take along with me to graduate school."

Earlier this year, Brown was featured in the leadership lecture series at the School of Business and Economics. Scott Bauer, chief executive officer of Southern Community Bank and Trust, complimented Brown on her involvement in the series. He added that "she did a wonderful job, and she is a great speaker."