

# No time for loving

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women don't like dealing with men who don't have a so-called job because he's unstable," Kitchen said. "A lot of women I meet don't understand that I do a variety of things. They ask, 'why don't you have a real job?'"

However, Kitchen hasn't ruled out finding the right one and setting down. She'll just have to understand that they're going to have to make the best of the time they'd have together.

"Sometimes it's not when you see the person but what you do in the time you see the

person," he said.

Men aren't the only ones who don't have time for romance and relationships. Wendy Covington, who works in public relations in Raleigh, said working 52 hours a week, hobbies and working in the church doesn't give her the time or energy to look for love.

"By the time the weekend rolls around, I want to do things around the house, wash the car and relax," she said.

Covington isn't alone in choosing career over relationships. According to a 2003 study by the Beverly LaHaye

Institute, a center for women's studies, women today are either postponing marriage, taking advantage of career opportunities or shying away from marriage all together. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the percentage of unmarried women was 49 percent, the highest level ever.

"I'm so focused on what I am right now that (marriage) doesn't even seem necessary," Covington said.

# Get kids into exercising

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — At Ford Elementary School outside Atlanta, the kids keep going around in circles. That's just how the teachers and the parents want it.

Before class each morning, about 200 children walk laps in the gym, earning prizes for the amount of distance they cover. Intended to keep early arriving students from sitting around in the hallways, the program also takes aim at

today's weight problem among children.

The fitness campaign at the Acworth, Ga., school has become so popular that kids have taken to walking and running during free time with their parents. Lisa Jacobi, whose daughter Olivia takes part in the school's walking program, said parents should take even more steps.

"I'm just amazed at the size of kids now," said Jacobi, who

oversees the "Mileage Club" for the school. "The kids who are considered typical today — when I was growing up, they would have been the heavier kids I guess it just bothers me that it is accepted so much. We need to be doing something about it."

Health officials say she's right.

"Our nation's young people are, in large measure, inactive, unfit and increasingly

Please see PHYSICALLY/4B

# Katrina blows away social networks, too

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW ORLEANS—Ray Heisser misses the surprise visits.

The doorbell on Camberley Drive would chime and there'd be an old friend on Heisser's porch mopping the humidity off his forehead, stopping by for no good reason. "What y'all gettin' into? Come on, take a drive with me."

They had teamed up for grade-school baseball games, cradled one another's newborns and raised beer bottles to celebrate retirements. Before Katrina scattered them to Las Vegas and Houston, they lived a half-mile from one another in a quiet, mostly black neighborhood dotted with palm trees and ponds.

"We've been knowing each other since we were this big," says the 66-year-old Heisser, lowering a weathered, big-knuckled hand down to his knee. "What I miss most is my way of life. The unity."

Austin J. Badon Sr. notes:

"It's a friendship, but it's also a family."

Most people they know want to rebuild, eventually. But no one can quite imagine the day when their houses will be livable again and now the glue of their lives is gone—their neighbors, local businesses, social clubs. Just about every black institution in town is struggling or has disappeared.

What is any school or church or company without its people?

"The culture is all about the people," Heisser says. "That's a big part of New Orleans."

Even if everyone came back tomorrow, the scars would last a long time.

But let's face it—not everyone's coming back. Barely 200,000 are now living in the city. Before Katrina, there were 465,000 residents, seven in 10 of them black. Experts including the Rand Corp., a nonprofit think tank, agree it'll stay smaller than it was

Please see BLACK/3B

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sunday  
april 16, 2006  
8:00 AM & 11:00 AM

New Birth-Charlotte at University Place  
(next to Sam's Club)  
604 Doug Mayes Place Charlotte, NC 28262

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From Harris Blvd turn right onto  
JW Clay Blvd  
From JW Clay Blvd turn left onto  
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