

OUR★TOWN

EDITED BY JENNIFER SENATOR

ATLANTA BAROMETER

What's Rising,
What's Falling

AMY RAY'S SOLO ALBUM

The growly-voiced **Indigo Girl** releases her second solo LP, *Prom*, on April 12.



ADULT SWIM

Hometown Cartoon Network delivers a slew of new releases this month, including *Harvey Birdman* and *Space Ghost Volume 3* on DVD, and new episodes of *Tom Goes to the Mayor*.

USS JIMMY CARTER

The Navy's new nuclear-powered attack ship—the most heavily armed submarine ever built—is named after the 2002 Nobel Peace Prize Winner.

ELTON JOHN ON AIRTRAN PLANES

The new face of budget travel?



ATLANTA HAWKS

Gunning for the worst record in the league—will they ever make the playoffs again?

AMY RAY: CHRIS VERENE

HOT RIGHT NOW

EVA THE DIVA

From college junior to **MODEL** stardom.

By Chandra R. Thomas

EVA PIGFORD WAS TRYING to slink discreetly into her African-American Studies lecture last fall when one of her classmates blurted, "Omigod, I just saw you on a bus!" Bewildered, she shot back, "What are you talking about, man? I don't ride the bus." "No," he gushed, "I saw your picture on the side of a MARTA bus. You're on that modeling show."

Reactions like that were common for the 19-year-old Clark Atlanta University student when the third season of *America's Next Top Model* began airing on UPN last fall. Things only heated up when she was crowned the winner.

Fans of the show already know that at 118 pounds and 5-foot-7-inches tall, Eva was the shortest of all the contestants, and clearly self-conscious about it. Before her height and weight became public knowledge, Eva was a

junior speech communications/theater arts major. She headed the debate and forensics team and starred in a low-budget film with CAU alum and MTV's *Real World* star Teck Holmes before a chance audition catapulted her into reality TV stardom.

"They had an audition at Lenox Square and when I got there it was packed," she says. She tried her luck at another audition in Memphis, nailed it and two weeks later was forced to ditch her final exams to tape the show. Since then, she's been busy with photo shoots for *Essence* and *Elle* and a guest appearance on *Kevin Hill*.

That's quite a change from her former gig: selling men's suits at Dillard's at Stonecrest mall. Now, instead of convincing fellas to cough up extra cash for a tie, she's pushing lip gloss for Cover-Girl. Her winnings on the show include a \$100,000 modeling contract with the cosmetics giant.

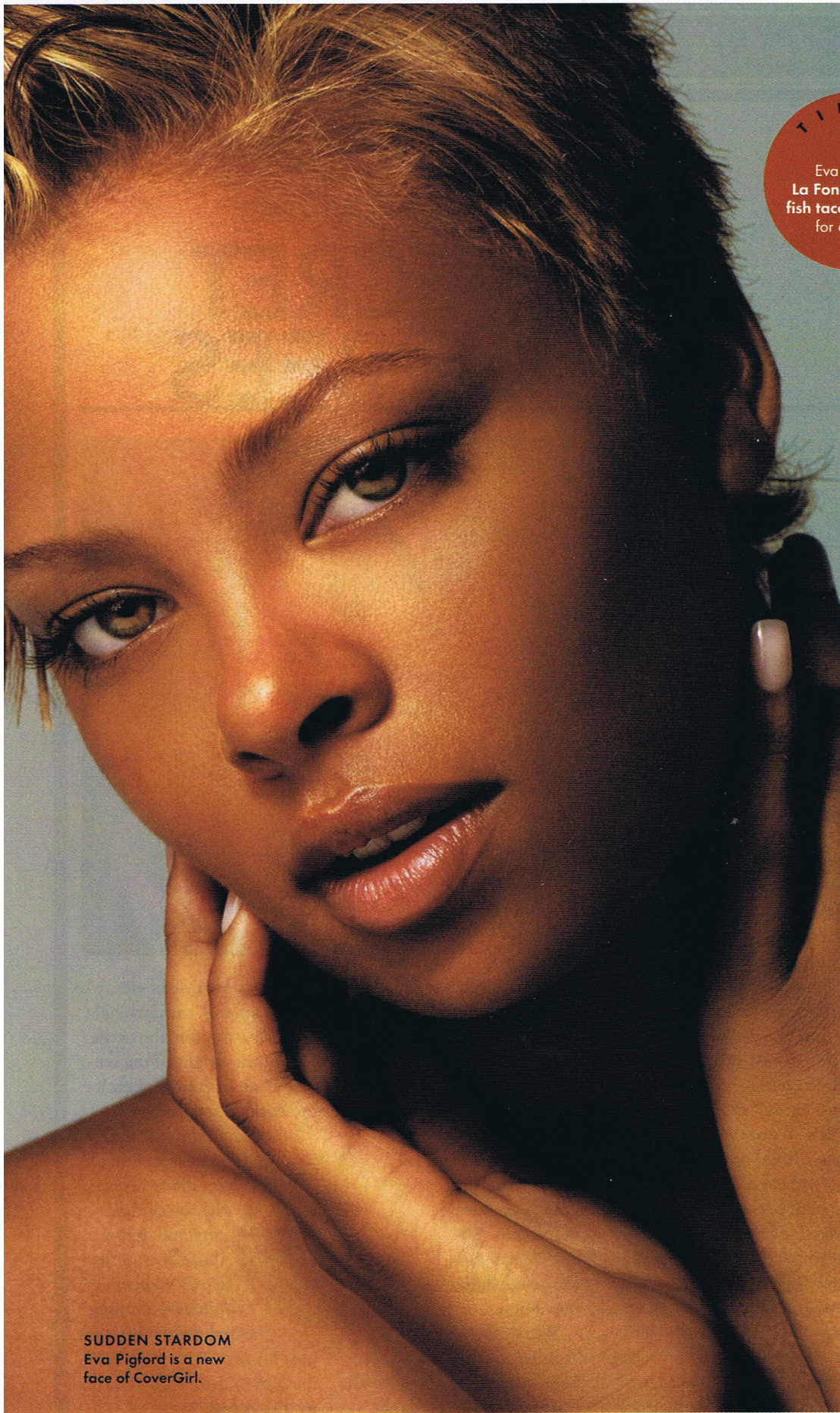
It seems all that suit-selling helped hone her skills to sell *herself* to the show's judges, a skill Eva mentions without an ounce of modesty.

"I can sell you shoelaces if you have on Velcro shoes," she quips. "Selling is natural to me. My experience at CAU really prepared me for this."

SOUND OFF

“OH HEY, LOOK. YOU'RE BACK.”

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH, UPON SEEING RESTORED U.S. REPRESENTATIVE CYNTHIA MCKINNEY AS HE WALKED TO THE PODIUM TO GIVE THE STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS. IT'S MCKINNEY'S CUSTOM TO ARRIVE IN THE HOUSE CHAMBERS HOURS BEFOREHAND, SO SHE CAN GET AN AISLE SEAT AND SHAKE THE PRESIDENT'S HAND.



SUDDEN STARDOM
Eva Pigford is a new
face of CoverGirl.

T I D B I T
Eva once ate
La Fonda Latina's
fish tacos every day
for a month.

Her win may sound like a Cinderella story—especially when you recall the show's finale, when she dedicated her win to all the former tomboys out there who, like her, were “never considered beautiful”—but the road to victory was rocky for Eva, whose childhood nickname, “Eva the Diva,” resurfaced during the show. Many of the contestants didn't take well to her brash personality, but Eva takes it all in stride, convinced that winning is the best response. Now she's enjoying riding the wave of her success, convinced that it's the beginning of something bigger. “I've always been a determined person,” she says. “It doesn't matter how high the mountain, I can climb it.” ✪

OUR PLACE IN
THE UNIVERSE

**CRUNCH
TIME**

The next time you're stuck in traffic on the way to the airport, don't panic—your flight is most likely delayed, too. In a study conducted among 31 U.S. airports, Hartsfield-Jackson had the third fewest on-time departures and arrivals last year. Here, the five most tardy airports:

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
1. CHICAGO O'HARE	CHICAGO O'HARE
2. PHILADELPHIA	NEWARK
3. ATLANTA	ATLANTA
4. CHICAGO MIDWAY	NEW YORK LAGUARDIA
5. LAS VEGAS	PHILADELPHIA

SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF TRANSPORTATION STATISTICS, JAN.-NOV. 2004