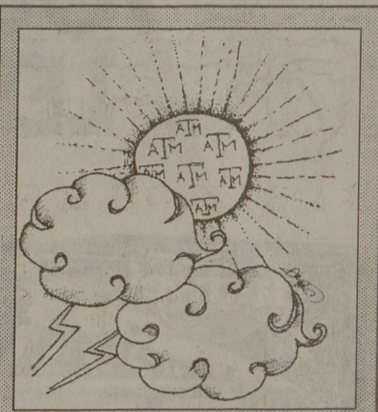


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WEATHER
Friday: Partly cloudy and breezy. The cold and bitter winds of doom blow in for finals - lows in the 30s.
Weekend: Getting progressively worse as finals drag on.

Tubularman



Fritch

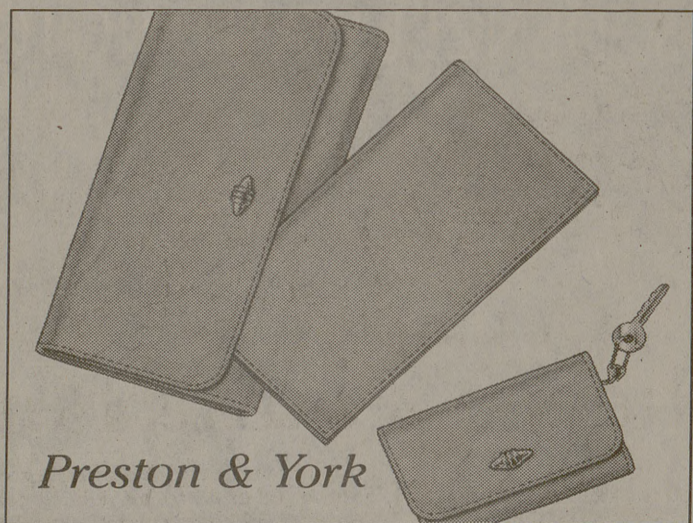
Well, this is it - my last cartoon, but before I say good-bye, I'd like to dispel some misconceptions about myself. First of all, I'd like to apologize to all of my female readers. I fully realize that women aren't stupid and that they aren't so simplistic as to date anyone for the petty and superficial reasons as indicated by my comic strip. Let me also apologize for my use of sexist and ludicrous terms such as "Dabs" and "chicks". Also, I'm sorry for some of the more distasteful strips I've done. Hey, I ran out of ideas sometimes. Finally, I'd like to just tell you a little about myself. Yes, I am somewhat strange. I'm also really pathetic at meeting women. Actually, I'm very shy when it comes to all of that stuff, and I only wish I had as much optimism and naive hope as that of the character I play. But oh well, that's life, I guess. I'm a liberal Aggie (Coxyman?) and a first year veterinary student (Hi! to all of my classmates: year o' 97). In the future, I hope to leave the US and practice conservation medicine on endangered species. And lastly, my name isn't Fritch.

Female condom helps sustain erections, study says

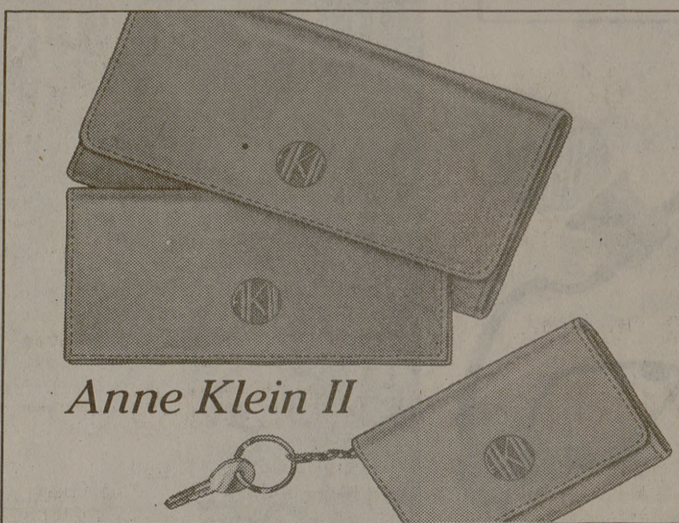
The Associated Press
NEW YORK - Researchers say the new female condom could be a powerful weapon in the fight against AIDS, and many women and men who have tried it say they prefer it to the male condom. The problem is: nobody wants to use it. Critics blame the Food and Drug Administration, which they say has frightened people away from the condom by concluding that it is not as effective as the male condom. The critics say they believe the female condom is as effective as the male condom - both at preventing pregnancy and blocking the spread of AIDS. The Food and Drug Administration said it approved the female condom quickly because of the concern about AIDS prevention. But the agency said it is being cautious because it can't be sure of the condom's effectiveness. While the debate continues, some women say they prefer it and are eager to start using it. "I don't like the male condom," said Donna, 33, a Harlem hospital worker who was asked to try the female condom. After only one trial, she said she and her husband would use it exclusively. "We both feel comfortable with this," said Donna, who, like others quoted in this story, asked that her last name not be used. "My husband found it much more comfortable than the male condom." "Men are very interested," said Erica Gollub of Columbia University, whose research concerns AIDS prevention. "We don't want to bash male condoms. We want to encourage use of male condoms - as well as say that there's another option." Gollub said the female condom gets around an often unspoken problem with the male condom: many men can't maintain erections while using it. "Men complain about it," she said. "There have been a number of men who report that the female condom feels better." The Reality female condom made by Wisconsin Pharmaceutical of Jackson, Wis., was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in May. It is available at some family planning clinics and AIDS treatment centers, mostly on the East and West coasts.

ORGANIZER GIFTS

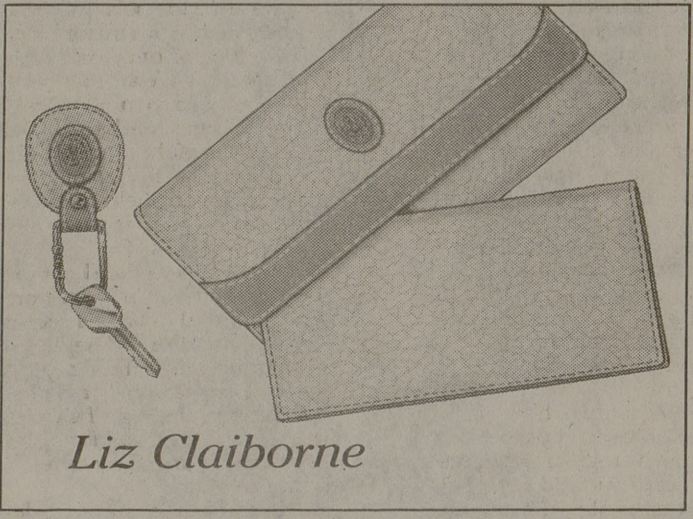
These versatile accessories keep her essentials at hand



Preston & York



Anne Klein II



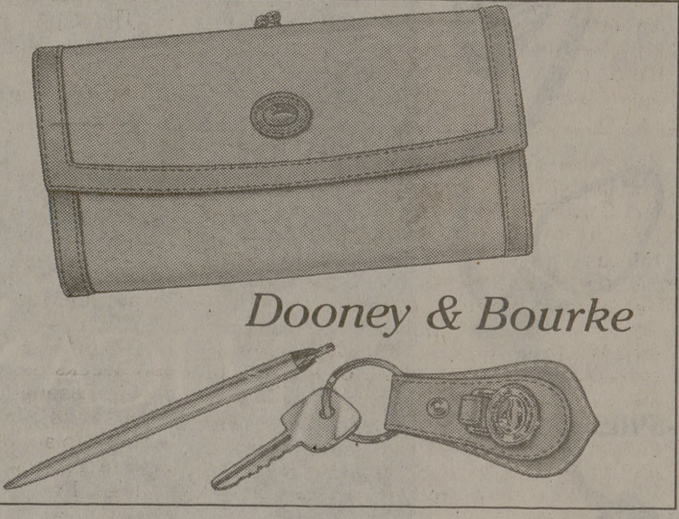
Liz Claiborne



Coach



Ralph Lauren



Dooney & Bourke

Preston & York multiple compartment clutch. Top grain leather in black, red and cognac, 35.00
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Anne Klein II checkbook secretary. Soft cowhide in black, brushed gold, navy and luggage, 42.00
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Trigger snap key fob, 21.00

Polo Ralph Lauren checkbook wallet in Black Watch plaid, 115.00
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Dooney & Bourke checkbook wallet in black, British tan, navy and fir, 145.00
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