

# AGGIELIFE

FASHION

THE BATTALION

Page 3A • Thursday, April 15, 2004

**I**t was my long-awaited eighth grade trip to Washington, D.C., and I had to have a pair of Oakley sunglasses. Although I had saved enough money to buy a pair of this ultra-cool optical specimen at full cost, I heard it through the grapevine that there were these nice men working on the streets who would give me a special deal.

I don't remember what the Lincoln Memorial looked like, but I do remember my radiant silver, oval-shaped sunglasses. Looking back at my pictures, I must say that I looked like a bug with awkward bangs. Oakleys were not cool then, so to try to pull them off in the 21st century is not going to happen.

I think I almost cried when I found out from the Sunglass Hut that it sells more Oakleys at its College Station store than anywhere else. It is not like people buy them because they are cheap, as many other places like TJ Maxx, Academy or Marshall's carry them.

Now that you know what not to wear, there are many other options to explore that will look better and cost less. There are plenty of eyewear snobs out there who will pay \$1,100 for the Christian Dior Punk Strass. Most of us neither look like Paris Hilton nor have her bank account for that matter, so this is definitely more than just a bit excessive.

Of all the discount stores, Steinmart reigns. It carries designer brands such as Nine West, Calvin Klein and Oscar De La Renta. I have a hard time vocalizing my affection for Steinmart because I feel like I am letting out a well-kept secret.

Nothing goes better with a hot pair of sunglasses than the perfect swimsuit for your body type. Most swimsuits today start at around \$70 to \$80, but Target has a great collection of swimsuits and sunglasses. But, swimsuits are such a personal thing that only the owner will know when he sees the right one for him. It will be like destiny when you lock eyes with that perfect color combination or pattern.

There are a few brave people out there who stroll out to the beach in only the swimsuit on their bodies, but some sort of cover-up is a better idea. While avoiding an oversize, old T-shirt, girls should try a white mini-skirt or white capri pants with a magenta, turquoise or citrus-colored top. Boys should try a lightweight buttonup shirt over their patterned or solid-colored board shorts.

Regardless of where you are this summer, wear sunscreen because you don't want to look like a leather handbag when you are older. Make your poolside attire your own, but whatever you do, give your Oakleys to Goodwill.

Longer days and the sun's rays have students longing for

# SHADES of SUMMER

By Lauren Smith  
THE BATTALION

with the Mediterranean and its seaside, vacation style, especially when it comes to poolside attire.

**P**resident Kennedy was assassinated the year before and the Vietnam War reached its peak the year after, but 1964 also marked an interesting year for the swimsuit fashion world as designer Rudi Gernreich introduced his new invention: the monokini, a topless swimsuit. We also have Gernreich to thank for the ever-controversial thong.

Thankfully, the monokini never really took off as was intended. This spring/summer season marks a new period for swimsuits as the designs are getting more elaborate and the styles more diverse.

"This season there are so many design elements," said Laura McDowell, fashion spokesman for T.J. Maxx in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. "From a resurgence of 1980s new halter to retro looks, Hawaiian themes and the influence of multi-culture, there are wearable options for every woman."

Prints, which are everywhere this season from beaches to offices, are appearing with different twists such as mixing different patterns and putting solid colors, such as brown with a loud neon or citrus color.

"Prints can keep the eye moving without allowing people to focus on unwanted bumps and bulges. Vertical stripes or color blocking can elongate and slim trouble spots," said Lisa Pikul, swimwear designer for Liz Claiborne, as reported in The Sun-Sentinel. "Dark colors can help distract from figure flaws, but if you wouldn't wear a lime green sportswear top, don't choose it for your swimsuit either."

With the array of colors and patterns, every designer seems to be fascinated

"Sunny citrus colors are all over sporty miniskirts, short-shorts, clam diggers and capri pants. Resort wear also rules with seaside-striped tops over sailor white trousers and yacht-loads of nautical cover-ups and cabana-patterned sundresses," reports Rod Hagwood, fashion columnist for The Sun-Sentinel.

Shorts are also making a revival, but in varying lengths. Capri pants are also still in fashion as a perfect cover-up for beach days.

Judy Gordon, style editor for NBC's Today, names capri pants as one of the five fashion must-haves for spring.

"The slim, cropped pant is numero uno this season," Gordon said. "If you're looking for a wardrobe workhouse that goes with practically everything in your closet, then choose a solid-colored capri in candy brights or white."

While the skimpier the better will probably be the rule of thumb for swimsuits forever, poolside accessories such as sunglasses and jewelry are larger than ever.

"Size is everything this season: big bracelets, oversized sunglasses, floral pins as big as sunflowers and scarves that can double as tablecloths are hot haute," Hagwood said.

Decorative embellishments are also everywhere this season in the form of Swarovski crystals and studs, especially in the lines of designers such as Versace, Chanel and Salvatore Ferragamo. Because most men are not interested in flair on their

**"Even Gernreich's pronouncement, 'Fashion will go out of fashion,' embodies the contradictions he loved."**

— Philadelphia City Paper

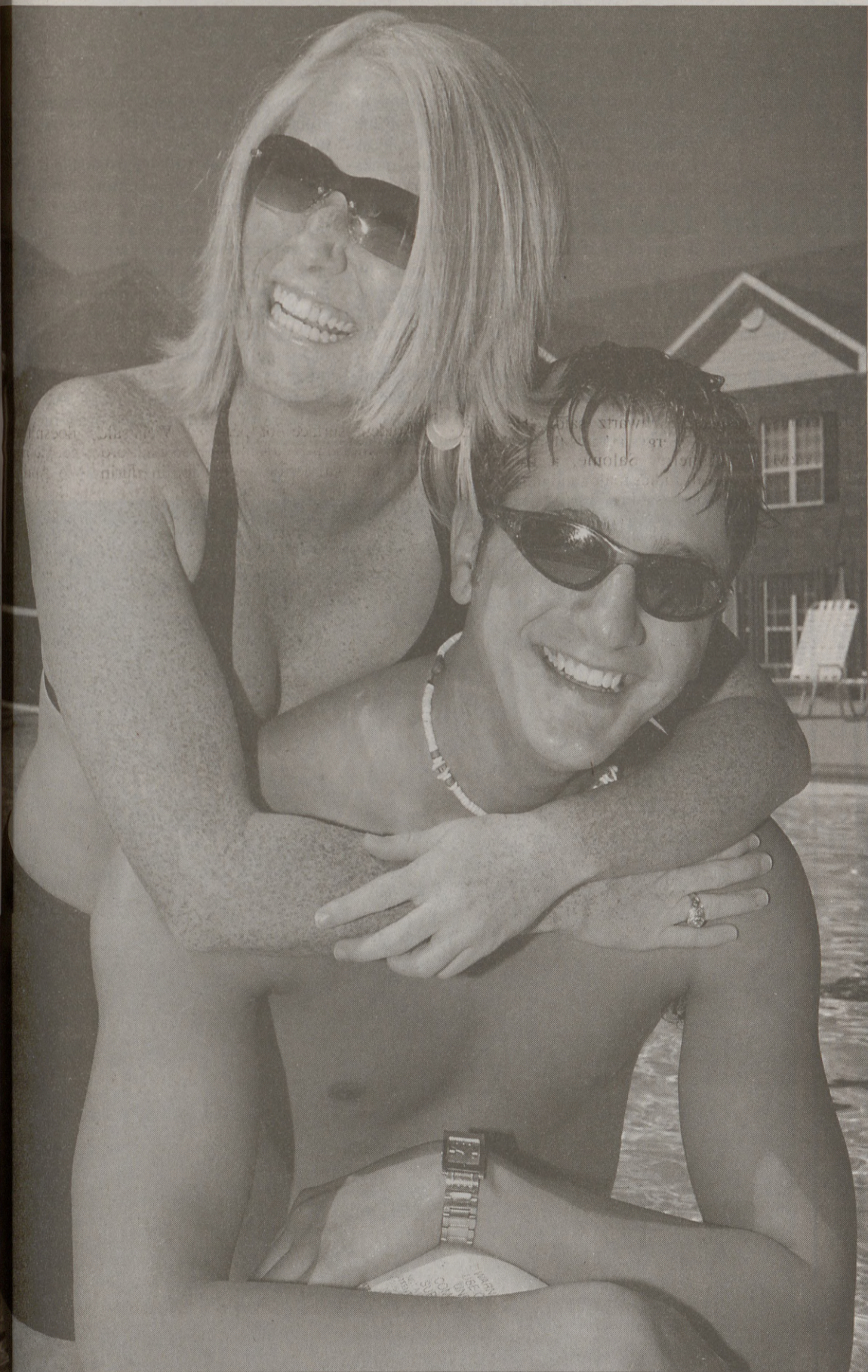
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CAMPUS

Couture



with Lauren Smith



RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION

Kelly Hicks, a senior sports management major, holds on for dear life to James Welden Polka, a senior agricultural systems major. Her black sarong goes perfectly with her swimsuit.



RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION

Bigger is better for sunglasses this season. Tracey Roark, a senior finance major, is chic in her Calvin Klein shades. Olga Bernal, a senior Spanish major, said her Ray Bans are what attracted the men to her over spring break.

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