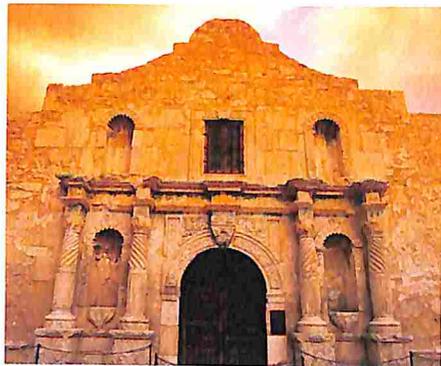


"TO GET A SENSE of the BBC, you would have to imagine combining PBS, NPR, Voice of America and NBC, then add a dash of Time Warner and simmer for about 80 years."

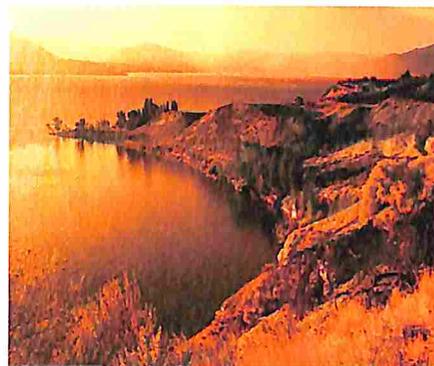
—"BATTLE OF THE 'BEEB,'" PAGE 74



**64** What really happened at the Alamo? Where does mythology end and history begin?



**104** Georgians' protests in 2003 would sweep a pro-U.S. leader into power.



**84** Vancouver's epicurean boom draws on wines from the nearby Okanagan region (above).

### 52 SAVING THE MUSIC TREE

As Brazil's pernambuco tree grows scarce, the makers of bows for stringed instruments orchestrate a global effort to rescue it . . . and their profession

BY RUSS RYMER

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A new movie attempts to dispel the countless myths that have grown up around the bloody 1836 battle between Texas settlers and Mexican troops

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Damaged by a report chiding it for inaccurate reporting, the British Broadcasting Corporation faces its gravest crisis in eight decades

BY RICHARD CONNIFF

### 82 AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT

Zany, sly and always outrageous, Monty Python marked a new era for the BBC

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### 84 VAUNTED VANCOUVER

Beautiful scenery, world-class dining and a laid-back reputation lure tourists, immigrants and filmmakers to the vibrant British Columbia city by the sea

BY JONATHAN KANDELL

### 94 PHOTOS FOR ALL TIME

From catalogs of specimens to tintypes and art images, a new book celebrates the diversity and range of the Smithsonian's vast photographic holdings

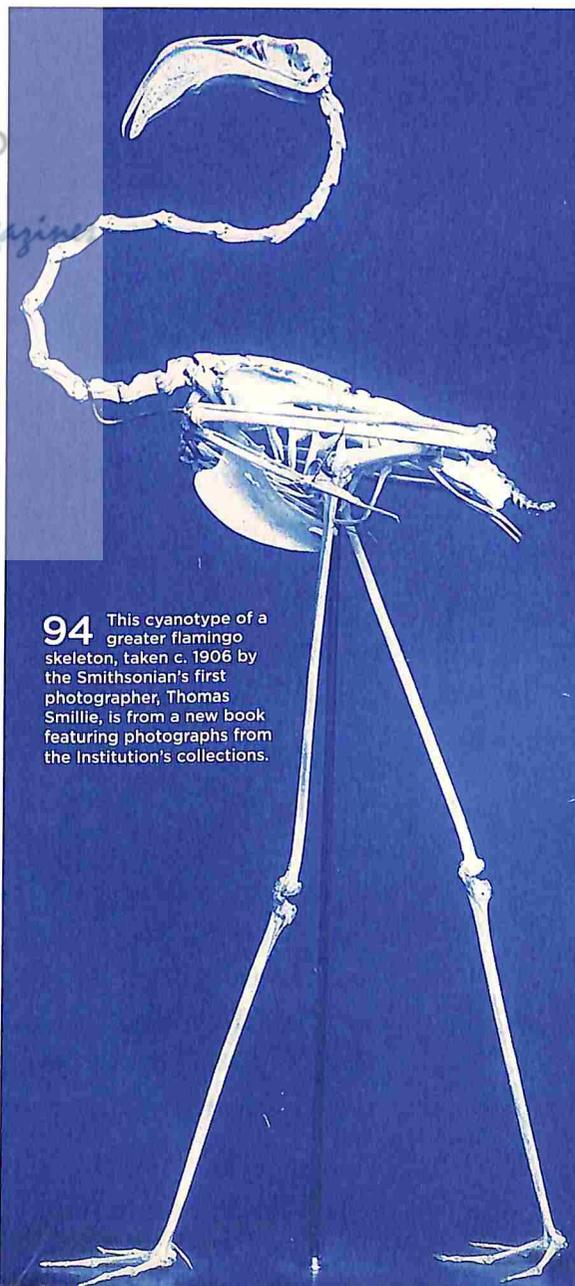
BY MERRY A. FORESTA

### 104 GEORGIA AT A CROSSROADS

With President Eduard Shevardnadze driven from office this past November, Mikhail Saakashvili, an American-trained lawyer, is trying to steer the Caucasus nation away from neighboring Russia and toward the West

BY JEFFREY TAYLER

**ON THE COVER** Brazil's imperiled pernambuco tree is the only known source of high quality, performance-level bows for violins, violas, cellos and basses. PHOTOGRAPH BY ERICA FREUDENSTEIN



**94** This cyanotype of a greater flamingo skeleton, taken c. 1906 by the Smithsonian's first photographer, Thomas Smilie, is from a new book featuring photographs from the Institution's collections.

# Smithsonian

APRIL 2004

## SONG OF THE PERNAMBUCO

Found only in the Brazilian forest, this tree has been vital to the sound of violins and other stringed instruments since the time of Mozart. Once plentiful, it is now scarce, and artists worry that great music is imperiled too. Can the pernambuco be saved?

PLUS: **Remember the Alamo? Think Again**  
**America's Greatest Photo Album · O Vancouver!**