Coeds Agree 'New Style' Topless Suit In Bad Taste

Some A&M summer coeds deplore the "new style" of swimming attire introduced this month.

If the coeds interviewed are any indication of the coed group at A&M, male Aggies will not be able to see the topless bathing suits at the P. L. Downs Natatorium.

Irene Worthington, graduate student in Earth Science, from Zanesville, Ohio, said she thought the topless swim suit was "very gross;" and in very poor taste. She added that she thought that quite a few will be sold but mostly for a joke, never to be worn.

Martha Cox, of Baton Rouge, La., said that "anyone should be ashamed to be seen in the suit."

Sally Keller, a North Little Rock, Arkansas, student in Oceanography Research said that the suit is "a little too bare." She said she thought the suit was terrible.

Jo Grennan, graduate student in physics from Nebraska, said she wouldn't be seen dead in one. She also said she did not believe that there would be many sales made on the suits.

The coeds were in general agreement that the new swim suits were in poor taste.

The Cops Didn't Even Peek

A topless bathing suit caused little stir on the Santa Monica, Calif., beach although it was worn by well formed, 23-year-old dancer Miss Lucki Winn. However, Miss Winn kept an anxious eye on the police car parked at the beach edge. Miss Winn stayed only long enough for photographers to take her picture. No arrests were made because no one complained. (AP Wirephoto)

Physics Researchers Study Control Of Plasma Energy

Mention plasma to the layman and he usually thinks of blood plasma.

To physicists and engineers, plasma is an exciting potential source of energy, with ionized gases so hot they can "burn" through any container.

Research underway at A&M University is expected to provide a buildup of knowledge leading to the control and use of plasma for such things as power for rocketships and electricity.

A&M's Department of Physics recently received a $80,000 grant from the Texas Atomic Energy Foundation to sponsor basic studies involving plasma characteristics.

Dr. Melvin Eisner, a physics professor who heads a six-man research team, describes plasma as a collection of atomic particles created when gases are heated to extremely high temperatures.

Although the term plasma is more than 30 years old, the practical importance of plasma only has been realized during the post H-bomb days in a race with the Russians on controlled thermonuclear research.

What to do with the hot plasma mixture is a perplexing problem not only for A&M research specialists but others. Generally speaking, the threshold to the plasma world is crossed at 7,000 to 10,000 degrees F.

One of the more perplexing problems involves the confinement of plasma, which is not simply a "hot gas" but a mixture of charged particles.

One promising technique, Eisner said, in keeping the plasma from escaping is by means of mirror machines which use a magnetic field to divert the escaping gases back into the mixture.

Eisner, who has worked for three years in the plasma physics field, said the department's major project involves bouncing a laser beam off a plasma to learn more about the physical properties of the mixture.

Why a laser?

"Because it produces a tremendously compacted beam of light that provides us a profile once it comes in contact with the plasma," Eisner commented. "Other beams of light would not permit an accurate picture."

Since the entire operation is over in less than a second, the physicists use high speed photograyphic equipment to record the experiment.

Electrons that hit the plasma produce a profile of the plasma collections, thus enabling the physicists to get a closer look at the new energy's composition.

Other goals involve the creation of plasmas with various gases, and another objective is to pinpoint volume distribution and temperatures. Another step involves the collective behavior of plasma.

There are several schemes for producing plasma, Eisner explained.

One method used by the A&M staff is to create a vacuum in a steel box with a glass window. They inject gas into the box and ionize it with a spark. The plasma is formed and is dissipated within one one-hundred thousandth of a second.

What does plasma look like?

Its glow resembles that of a fluorescent light, which is, in effect, a low-energy plasma.

Chemists expect that plasma may help produce new materials that cannot be produced at lower temperatures.

Dr. Toby Eubank of A&M's Department of Chemical Engineering is interested in transferring the heat generated by plasma, once it can be controlled.

Eubank, in his laboratory that includes homemade equipment, has produced plasmas ranging from 10,000 to 20,000 degrees. Six gallons of water per minute flow through the outer portion of the foot-long pipe to keep it from melting, once the plasma has been generated.

A&M's Department of Aerospace Engineering is interested in the new energy as a possible fuel for rockets as well as the plasma that forms on the nose of missiles blasting through space. No formal studies are underway at present, however.

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