

"HOW MANY OF THESE THINGS DID YOU TAKE ANYWAY?"

By Cathy Saathoff

By Cathy Statton Battalion Staff The new "tanning tablets" on the market promise a rich gol-den tan just by popping a few pills, but recent evidence indicates that all they deliver is an orange tint and possible liver

damage. The basic ingredients in the pills, according to an article in People magazine, are beta carotene, which comes from carrots and other vegetables, and canthaxanthin, a food additive used to color pizza, orange juice, barbecue sauce and pet foods.

The two chemicals, while approved as a coloring agents for foods and drugs, have not been approved for use in tan-ning tablets, pending FDA

approval. The People article told of one woman who developed drug-related hepatitis, although it is not certain it was caused by the pills.

The pills promise a tropical tan within two weeks. A gorgeous thought to many sun gods and goddesses, but that tan covers the palms and soles of the feet as well as the traditional tanning areas. Ann Burns, owner of Calico

Natural Foods in Bryan, said her store sells tablets made by Vita-Plus. She said they are not advertised as "tanning tablets," but the fine print on the jar warns that taking an excessive amount of the tablets will cause discoloration of the skin or stools

"We have been selling quite a few of them," Burns said

The tablets sell for \$21.95 for a bottle of 60. They have sold ab-

out three cases of 12 bottles each. "We haven't seen anybody come in with a tan, though," she said.

Burns said the instructions say to start out taking four a day for the first week, then three for one week, then two, then down to one a day to maintain the color.

The tablets contain, in addi-tion to carotene and canthaxanthin, P.A.B.A. and zinc. P.A.B.A. is vitamin B-5, Burns said, and zinc is a common mineral.

"There's nothing in them that's going to be detrimental," she said, but added that sitting in the sun or doing without a tan is probably more beneficial to a norsen's bealth erson's health. There has been a demand for

the pills, she said, so Calico stocks them, but Burns said she thinks they are "just some-body's hare-brained promotional scheme, and that's all.'

"I really don't approve of this," Burns said. "It's some-thing that I think is just ludicrous

She said she has received no official notice about the pills being harmful.

Tanning tablets are legal in Canada, and many are imported from there.

According to the People article, the Cosmetest Division of Cosmetic Sciences, Inc., in East Rutherford, N.J., produces the pills in the United States.

Save-Way Beauty & Barber Supply, a retail store with outin and around Dallas, relets cently had a sale on a bottle of 60 Vita-Plus tablets for \$8.88.

Aggie learns while working with Mickey

Donna Boswell, a junior at Texas A&M University, is spending her summer learning while she works at Walt Disney World in Buena Vista, Fla.

Boswell is one of 240 students participating in the Magic King-dom College Program, a new combination of work and study sponsored by the Disney organization.

Students from 43 colleges and universities were selected during interviews on campus because of their interest in a career in the leisure and hospitality industry. Most major in retail management, hotel/restaurant management or recreation and

Cartoonist

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parks management. Boswell is spending the sum-mer working in the Magic King-

dom and attending special classes. The program includes a minimum of 30 hours of work per week in either merchandising, operations, custodial or food services and at least two hours weekly in the classroom. Participants receive competi-

tive hourly wages and are living in specially-arranged housing near the Walt Disney World Resort complex. The 12 weekly classes

attended by the students deal with every aspect of the Walt Disney World operating proce-dures and philosophies, from

entertainment to food administration.

Program director Kent Phillips says it is the first time the Disney organization has conducted such a program, but already he is planning an expansion. Beginning in January, 1982, college students will spend a whole quarter or semester as a member of the Walt Disney World cast.

"The program provides a meaningful work experience for the students — one in which they can apply the theories learned in college courses to ev-eryday situations," Phillips



Donna Boswell, right, poses for a photo on Main Street U.S.A. at Walt Disney World with Lori Jones of Penn State University. Boswell is a junior at Texas A&M University. The women are two of 240 students participating in the Magic Kingdom College Program.

Focus will accept any items submitted for publication, although the decision to publish lies solely with the editor. Deadline is 5 p.m. the Thursday before Editor Cathy Saathoff publication. Scott McCulla

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