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Myths surrounding hot tubs dispelled

By ED CASSAVOY
Reporter

China beside Texas, next to Rome snuggled up to California. Any geographer would say impossible. But in the four bubbling hot tub rooms of the Oasis spa, utopias that go by these names are just a step away.

The modern hot tub's biggest enemy is bad public relations, says Jewel Hill, manager of the Oasis hot tub spa in the Woodstone Center.

"We've had people come in and ask us if they can rent girls with the rooms, or ask if we show movies," says Hill. "And, there is no red carpet or velvet wall paper."

Hill says she dispels the negative images about hot tubs simply by letting people see the benefits of hot tubbing. Most customers ask the same question: Will I catch a social disease?

Hill admits that there is a risk of catching diseases if the tubs are not kept clean, but adding chemicals to the tub water every three hours removes all bacteria from the water. Hill also has the four redwood tubs scrubbed twice a week to keep the wood healthy.

"A lot of people are now realizing how therapeutic hot tubs can be for muscle pains and sports injuries," Hill says. "When people go to a place like Nautilus the temperature is around 105 to 110 degrees Fahrenheit so you're basically going to sweat, then get out," Hill says.

Hot tubs average around 100 to 102 degrees, so a person can stay in for hours without discomfort, Hill says. A customer who becomes dehydrated can take a short shower to cool the body down. Each of the four rooms are equipped with a shower.

Contemplating life is easy in the light-speckled China room. If you get tired of musing about your favorite haiku poem, just dry off, pick up your glass of champagne, and walk next door to the Texas room.

Texas is a wild western hangout. First, hang up your towel on the horse-shaped coat hooks. Then, hunker down in the tub with a cold brew, and admire the longhorns hanging on the wall. Just below, the Lone Star beer sign.

In the Roman room you too



Ross Shepherd, a junior Environmental Design major from Karnack, spends some time Wednesday afternoon at The Oasis.

can live the life of Caesar, leisurely sipping a goblet of wine in the shadows of Roman columns. Think decadence.

Next door in California, sit in the healing waters of the hot tub with your favorite music rolling over you, and be mellow. Just don't smoke anything illegal.

Cranking up the volume of the rock music in the China room (there are Alpine speakers in every room), Hill says business peaks Friday and Saturday between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. It's not unusual to go

through 20 groups in this six-hour period, Hill says.

"We haven't had anyone die in there yet," says Hill — joking. "We have had a couple of people come here very drunk, so we would check on them (using an intercom system) every so often."

Hill says wine, beer, and champagne may be brought in by customers. Hard liquor is forbidden, because the hot tubs cause alcohol to enter the bloodstream more quickly, speeding up inebriation.

As for what goes on in the

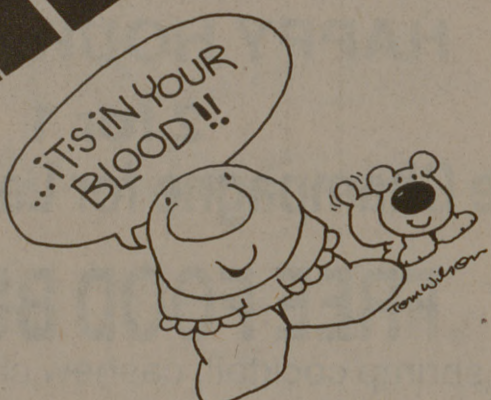
rooms, for groups up to 20 people, Hill says she does not know.

"We warn all customers about the rules and precautions then leave them alone," Hill says, "they can always call us the intercom if they need something." "There aren't any hidden cameras in the rooms."

Hill says the University provides a ready market for the month-old hot tub business. About 30 percent of her business is from repeat customers. Hill says, roughly another 10 percent is people over 40.

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Fatal dog disease spreading

United Press International AUSTIN — The Texas Veterinary Medical Association

said Wednesday its members are reporting an increasing number of cases of a potentially

fatal dog disease, canine distemper, imported from Vietnam and carried by ticks.

Early symptoms include blindness, fever, poor appetite and weight loss, Dr. Candace Klecka, chairman of the TVMA's public relations committee, said in an article in the current issue of the Texas Veterinary Medical Journal.

If not treated early, the disease may be fatal within 50 to 100 days after infection.

Klecka said the disease was diagnosed through a blood test and is treated with antibiotics and removal of ticks from the animal, and its living quarters. Texas is one of 26 states where the disease has been reported, she said.

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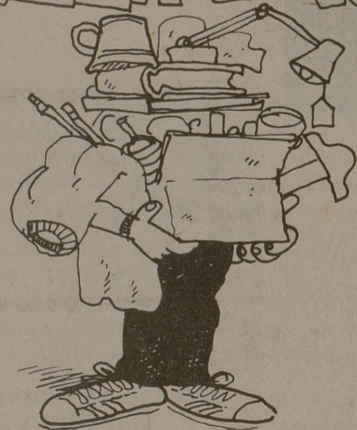
Mon. - Sun. 11 am - 2 pm Mon. - Sat. 5 pm - 10 pm

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Correction

In Wednesday's edition, the Battalion incorrectly identified the people who played the role of Romeo and Juliet in the theater art department's play. Randolph Allen played the part of Romeo and Annie Suite played the part of Juliet.

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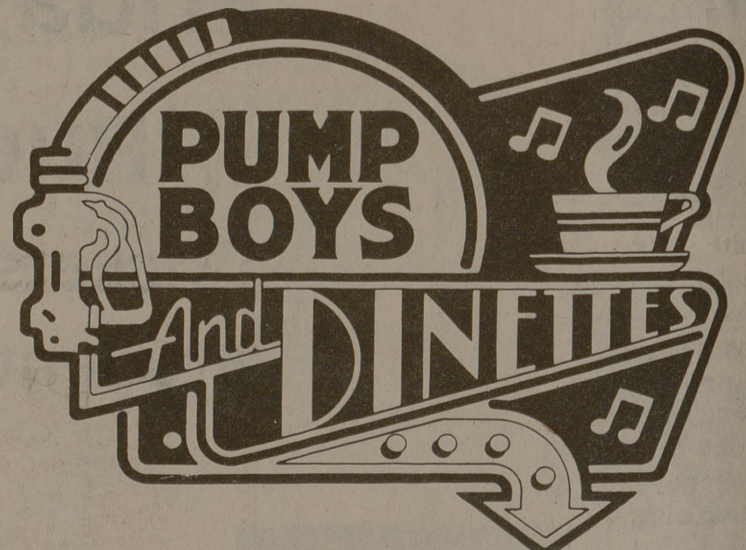
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