

# State and Local

## Tanning salons offer variation on 'catching a few rays' theme

By Stacey Babin  
Reporter

With Spring Break just a test or two away, many tanning salons in College Station are finding their tanning beds full, but there is disagreement as to whether or not the beds are safe.

"A suntan is a sign of strength and youth," says Linda Rosas, owner of The Other Eclips.

However, since it's February and the sun can't quite satisfy the need for a good tan, tanning salons try to meet that need.

Most salons have special rates on their sessions now, but for single visits the price usually is between \$6 and \$7.

Membership prices are about \$85 a month, or \$140 a semester

with unlimited use of the beds.

James Barrett, owner of TAN U, says tanning salons start new customers at about 10 to 20 minutes in the beds. The customers then can build their duration up to 30 minutes — the maximum time the Food and Drug Administration allows people to lie in a tanning bed per visit, Barrett says.

"Thirty minutes is equal to about three to five hours in the sun," he says.

Barrett says the Solaire tanning beds he owns can be safer than the sun. They emit only 2 percent of the Beta ray, which triggers the tanning process, and 70 percent of the Alpha ray, which actually tans the skin, he says.

The Beta ray is the ray that causes skin cancer, he says.

But Dr. Terry Jones, a College Station dermatologist, opposes the use of the tanning beds.

The beds use a different, more intense wavelength than the sun, Jones says.

The long-range effects, such as early aging or skin cancer, are too great a risk to get a tan, he says.

"You don't sit six inches away from the sun," he says.

Although the FDA regulates the time spent on the beds, Jones says it doesn't regulate how many sessions people can attend.

Barrett says before he allows his customers to lie in the beds, he asks if they are taking any sun-

sensitive medication that can trigger a reaction. Skin tone also is a factor when deciding how long a customer should be in the bed, he says.

Barrett says his customers also are asked to wear goggles to protect their eyes when they are in the beds.

Tava Johnson, an employee at Perfect Tan, says if a customer does burn, it is not like a sunburn. "The skin becomes red and itchy, more like a rash," Johnson says.

Rosas says although the tanning beds are good for people who desire some skin tone, it's best to consult a physician before tanning and to use the bed in the right manner.

## Longer warranties offer improvement in U.S. car quality

By Tami Tate  
Reporter

The "war of warranties" offers consumers the security of believing the quality of American-made cars is improving, a Texas A&M marketing professor says.

Longer warranties are a technique to convince consumers that U.S. cars are built better than they previously have been, Dr. James McNeal says.

McNeal and Dr. Richard Hise, also a marketing professor at A&M, examined the absence of warranties on inexpensive supermarket goods.

They concluded that although consumers may rely on warranties for assurance of quality when they purchase expensive items, they do not when purchasing inexpensive items.

McNeal cites car purchases as an example of this.

"Longer warranties symbolize quality in a car to consumers," he says. "A warranty is an assurance made by a seller with respect to the quality of the goods he offers."

In 1981, the Chrysler Corp. established longer warranties with a five-year, 50,000-mile warranty on its new cars.

Two weeks ago, General Motors Corp. countered Chrysler's warranty with a six-year, 60,000-mile warranty on its new cars.

Mike Knight, auto dealer for Bossier Chrysler Dodge and Isuzu of Bryan, says, "General Motors tried to revolutionize the market by topping Chrysler's warranty. Chrysler, in turn, answered GM's warranty with a seven-year, 70,000-mile warranty."

This warranty is valid for all 1987 Chrysler automobiles bought on or after Jan. 31.

"The warranties are competitive," Knight says. "The whole point to having longer warranties is being in competition."

Steve Isgitt, general manager of Bluebonnet Motor Co., of Navasota,

says competition with Chrysler is one reason GM upgraded its car warranty.

"The main reason for increasing our warranty is to instill a sense of confidence in the buying public," he says. "Warranties give the impression that the manufacturer believes it has a good product. GM is trying to say it has confidence in its cars."

A GM dealer with Quality Pontiac-Buick-GMC Trucks Inc. agrees with Isgitt. "General Motors has better built autos than they used to," he says. "That's the reason we are backing our cars with the new warranty."

Chrysler will probably have to increase the price of its cars to compensate for its new seven-year 70,000 mile warranty.

McNeal says the longer six- and seven-year warranties hurt the liability of a car company.

"There are two reasons to guarantee a product: to encourage consumer purchase of the product and to limit the seller's legal liability to his consumers," he says.

Chrysler took the risk of offering longer warranties, thus increasing their liability obligations, to encourage consumer purchase, McNeal says. Now, GM is competing with Chrysler.

"GM's longer warranty is a competitive marketing effort to deal with imported cars and Chrysler," he says.

"The new warranties are publicly bragging about the manufacturer's product," McNeal says. "This will benefit the consuming public because quality of the automobiles will increase."

Consumers will appreciate the longer warranties because they help protect the buying public, he says.

"Most consumers are willing to pay extra for a product with a warranty," McNeal says.

## Prosecution unlikely for drug-dealing guards

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Texas prison guards who deal drugs to inmates are being fired, but lack of evidence means the officers rarely face criminal charges, authorities say.

Ten prison employees have been fired in the past year for trying to bring drugs into prisons, but only one has been indicted, the *Houston*

*Chronicle* reported Monday.

"They had enough evidence to administratively fire someone but not enough to prosecute them," said David Weeks, special prosecutor for prison crimes.

Department disciplinary records since 1984 show drug smuggling is widespread and helps the growth of

prison gangs and inmate violence.

"Drugs are an insidious problem in the institutions," Weeks said. "We've come to realize that drugs in the institutions are tied to a lot of bad things, including the gangs."

In one 1985 incident, corrections department internal investigations showed 17 guards at the Ellis II Unit

participating in a yearlong drug and alcohol ring. But most of the employees were allowed to quit and no criminal charges were filed, the newspaper said.

In another incident, charges were dropped against a guard who allegedly tried to set up a marijuana and gambling ring with ties to Las Vegas.

A Wynne Unit guard was fired but not prosecuted for allegedly selling an ounce of marijuana to an inmate for \$150, the newspaper said.

Officers usually are not caught with the drugs, thus leaving authorities without enough evidence to prosecute, Weeks said.

Joe S. Fernald, interim chief of internal affairs for the corrections department, said prosecution takes a back seat to stopping smuggling.

"We're not seeing an organized conspiracy of officers involved in drugs," he said. "If anything, the inmates are organizing and manipulating the guards."

## Agents seize drugs hidden under melons

MALLEN (AP) — Law officers seized more than a ton of marijuana the Rio Grande Valley, including 100 pounds hidden beneath a load of watermelons, authorities said Monday.

Acting on a tip, U.S. Customs officers found marijuana in a tractor-trailer rig Saturday night on a highway outside Edinburg. The driver of the truck was arrested pending a hearing before a magistrate Tuesday, authorities said.

The drug was found underneath

a load of watermelons, officials said.

In 11 separate cases, Border Patrol agents across South Texas seized 1,462 pounds of marijuana between Friday and Sunday, said Juan Garcia, assistant chief of the McAllen sector.

"It was a normal weekend," Garcia said. "We do this daily, really. It used to be 800 pounds or 200 pounds would really be something big. Now we have five, six, eight cases a day. That's nothing abnormal for us."

Agents arrested three people and confiscated 846 pounds of marijuana Sunday night as several people were carrying it across the Rio Grande upriver from McAllen, Garcia said.

"That's a small load for us now," he said.


Agents also seized 288 pounds of marijuana being carried across the Rio Grande near McAllen early Saturday morning, Garcia said. Six people carrying the drug fled back into Mexico, he said.




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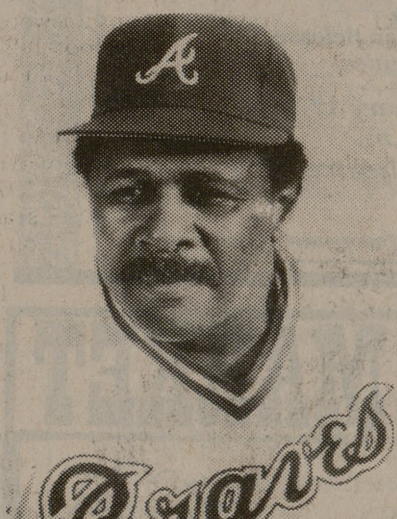
| Pepperoni Rolls |                     | STROMBOLI       |                  | Entrees  |                    |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------------|--|--------------------|
| 1 Dozen         | \$10. <sup>00</sup> | Large Stromboli | 16 inches \$7.75 | Chicken Cacciatore   | \$4. <sup>25</sup> |
| Half Dozen      | \$5. <sup>50</sup>  | Small Stromboli | 12 inches \$5.00 | Chicken Arrosto  | \$4. <sup>25</sup> |
|                 |                     |                 |                  | Veal Pepper  | \$4. <sup>50</sup> |
|                 |                     |                 |                  | Veal Mushroom  | \$4. <sup>50</sup> |
|                 |                     |                 |                  | Veal Cotolet Parmigiana                                      | \$4. <sup>50</sup> |
|                 |                     |                 |                  | Veal Cotolet Marinara  | \$4. <sup>25</sup> |
|                 |                     |                 |                  | Egg Plant Parmigiana   | \$4. <sup>25</sup> |
|                 |                     |                 |                  | <b>Pasta Dinners</b>   |                    |
|                 |                     |                 |                  | Spaghetti  | \$4. <sup>00</sup> |
|                 |                     |                 |                  | (Meat Ball, Hot Sausage PESTO)                               |                    |
|                 |                     |                 |                  | Meat Sauce, Tomato Sauce, Carbonara, Fettucine Alfredo Maria |                    |
|                 |                     |                 |                  | Pasta Special  | \$4. <sup>00</sup> |
|                 |                     |                 |                  | Lasagna  | \$4. <sup>00</sup> |
|                 |                     |                 |                  | Antipasta  | \$4. <sup>00</sup> |
|                 |                     |                 |                  | Manicotti  | \$4. <sup>00</sup> |
|                 |                     |                 |                  | Connellani   | \$4. <sup>00</sup> |
|                 |                     |                 |                  | Tortelloni   | \$4. <sup>00</sup> |
|                 |                     |                 |                  | Ravioli  | \$4. <sup>00</sup> |



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## Baseball, "Lincoln Portrait" and the Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra.




Imagine (if you can) a baseball hero as comfortable with a symphony as with a baseball bat. Atlanta Braves hero, Willie Stargell will perform in concert with the Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra, Thursday, February 19 in Rudder Auditorium at 8 p.m.

The MSC Opera and Performing Arts Society presents Willie Stargell narrating "Lincoln Portrait" with the Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra. Franz Anton Krager, Music Director and Conductor.

Stargell will narrate Aaron Copland's "Lincoln Portrait", a collection of Abraham Lincoln's papers and speeches designed to show a more personal side of man who changed American history. He will also perform "Peter and the Wolf" by Sergei Prokofiev, a delightful piece which even your children will enjoy.

Stargell has performed with such noted orchestras as the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington D.C., the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra with Leonard Slatkin, the Baltimore Symphony, and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra with Andre Previn.

Fill your nights with the music of our own BVSO and Willie Stargell. Order your tickets for the February 19 performance at the MSC Box Office.



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