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Dermatologist says fair skin is what's in due to cancer risks

By Kelly Champman Reporter

Porcelain skin is in. That's the latest word in fashion from dermatologists. Increasing numbers of skin cancer cases have prompted dermatologists to work with agencies to bring porcelain skin into fashion, Dr. C.M. Caperton, a Bryan dermatologist, said.

"Dermatologists are working together and with modeling and advertising agencies to change America's love affair with the sun by developing a campaign called 'Paler is Better,'" Caperton said.

"One objective of this campaign is to make people recognize that the Victorian look of porcelain skin should be the 'in' look instead of bronze skin.

"Another objective is to educate people on which skin type is more susceptible to the sun and what they can do to avoid it," he said.

Caperton links the increase in skin cancer cases to modern lifestyles and attitudes.

"People's lifestyles are the main reason for the increase in skin cancers," he said.

For instance, within the past 30 years people have taken to the outdoors for recreation. The style of less clothing also has contributed to the increase in skin cancer cases because more skin is exposed to the sun, with the image of a suntan representing beauty also being a factor.

People considered at high risk for developing skin cancer have fair skin, blond or red hair, blue or gray eyes and burn easily.

However, people who have dark hair and skin also are at risk. While the risks are less than 1 in 1,000 for a black child born today, odds have increased for whites of all skin types to 1 in 100, he said.

Skin cancers make up 20 percent of all cancers and 90 percent of skin cancers occur on sun-exposed skin, Caperton said.

Many people already have received half the sun damage they will get for life by the time they are 20 years old.

But how much sun is too much sun?

The first sign of too much sun is a sunburn, Caperton said. The skin turns red because ultra violet light from the sun has penetrated through the skin and damaged the blood vessels.

Repeated exposure resulting in sunburns increases a person's chance for developing skin cancers. Another sign of too much sun is moles that appear on the skin after years of overexposure to the sun.

Skin cancers generally take three forms: melanoma, squamous-cell and basal-cell.

A sudden or continuous change in a mole is a sign that it could be cancerous.

Melanoma is the easiest of all skin cancers to detect, Caperton said. It begins in or near a mole or other dark spots in the skin. The edges are ragged or blurred and one half of the mole does not match the other half.

Shades of tan, brown and black also are present and the size of the mole suddenly increases.

Squamous-cell skin cancers often start as sun spots that are hard, crusted and warty type growths. If left alone, some of these may progress to a rapid growth of skin cancer, Caperton said.

Basal-cell skin cancers are clear, solid growths that bleed in the early stage of forming. They also appear as sun spots that are hard and crusted looking.

The best way to decrease the chance of developing skin cancers is to wear a sun screen with the sun protective factor from 15 to 29. Sun screens are most effective when applied 30 minutes to one hour before sun exposure and when reapplied after swimming or sweating, Caperton said.

Committee names lawyer in Wright case

AUSTIN (AP) — The House ethics committee on Tuesday named Chicago attorney Richard J. Phelan to investigate allegations against House Speaker Jim Wright, saying an outside counsel was needed to assure the public that the probe would be fair and objective.

Chairman Julian Dixon, D-Calif., said all six Democrats and six Republicans on the committee agreed on the choice of Phelan, an active Democratic fund-raiser.

Dixon said Phelan and his firm, Phelan, Pope & John, would be paid no more than \$300,000 for their work. He said it was impossible to estimate how long the investigation will last.

Phelan, who appeared briefly before television cameras outside the closed committee room, said "As I see our job, it's to conduct an independent, full review of all the facts that have been presented in the inquiry and report back to the committee."

But Dixon, in response to a question, said Phelan would not be authorized to go beyond the scope of the six-count resolution of inquiry unanimously adopted by the panel on June 9.

That drew a complaint from Rep. Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., Wright's chief accuser, who said no probe could be considered independent if it does not permit investigators to follow leads to their conclusions.

"The independent counsel has to be truly independent," Gingrich said. "He cannot be on a short leash held by the Democratic chairman of the committee."

Just a few hours before the announcement, the lobbying group Common Cause asked the committee to demonstrate publicly that any outside counsel will have authority and independence.

That could be done by giving the investigator full authority to investigate, review documents, issue subpoenas and present evidence to the panel; to hire whatever staff is needed to conduct the probe; and to recommend formal charges be brought before the committee if warranted, Common Cause, which describes itself as a citizen's lobbying group, said.

Wright is under formal investigation on charges of using his office to lobby federal officials on matters where he had a financial interest, and for alleged improprieties in the publication of a book by a campaign contractor on which Wright received unusually high royalties, among other charges.

Wright said today he does not know Phelan, but said, "Apparently, he's a reputable attorney."

Florida police chief accepts appointment to Dallas staff

DALLAS (AP) — Stressing communication as a way to ease racial tensions, the police chief of a small Florida gulf coast city Monday accepted appointment as chief of police in Dallas, the nation's seventh largest city.

Mack M. Vines, 49, chief of police in Cape Coral, Fla., was named to succeed Billy Prince, who resigned in April with police and community relations in disrepair.

Characterizing his new job, Vines said, "It's keeping lines of communication open and putting people in the right position."

In selecting Vines, City Manager Richard Knight rejected three Dallas police officers who were among nine finalists for the job.

"I felt that we were at a point in time in our history we needed a fresh perspective," Knight said.

Vines said his administration would bring "1988 policing" to Dallas.

"That's the 1988 into the 1990s concept today, it's getting the community involved," he said. "Crime is a community problem, it's not solely a police problem."

What's Up

- Wednesday
- GREEN EARTH SOCIETY:** Will meet at 7 p.m. at the Flying Tomato to discuss trip to the Guadalupe River and plans for the fall. For more information call Bert Gonzalez at 845-9093.
- NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS:** Will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 145 MSC. For more information call the Center for Drug Prevention and Education at 845-0280.
- CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION:** Will meet at St. Mary's Student Center. For time and more information call Rose Kinnebrew at 846-8765.
- Thursday
- TAMU INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS:** Will meet at 7:30 p.m. Plaza Fountain to teach beginning and intermediate dances at a special outdoor session. Singles and couples are welcome. For more information call Ellen at 846-2415.
- ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS:** Will meet at 6 p.m. in 146 MSC. For more information call the Center for Drug Prevention and Education.
- NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS:** Will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 146 MSC. For more information call the Center for Drug Prevention and Education at 845-0280.
- ATHEISTS, AGNOSTICS AND FREETHINKERS:** Will meet at 7 p.m. by the Sully statue in front of the Academic Bldg., to discuss "art and life."
- Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDowell, no later than three business days before the desired run date. We only need the name and phone number of the contact if you ask us to do so. What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee an entry will run. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3315.

Police Beat

- The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department from July 18 through Sunday:
- MISDEMEANOR THEFT:**
- Two bicycles were stolen from various locations around campus.
 - A speed limit sign, two parking lot signs and three "Do Not Enter" signs were stolen from campus.
 - A student reported that someone stole a blanket from her clothesline.
 - Someone stole a 6 volt battery from the Engineering Physics loading dock.
 - Thirty-six toner cartridges for a laser printer are missing from the inventory of the Computing Services Center.
 - A student reported that someone stole his wallet at the Bus Stop Snack Bar.
- BURGLARY:**
- A woman reported someone stole \$140 from her let, which was in a room Krueger Hall.
- A student reported someone stole his high school ring from his room in Dorm 1.
 - Another student reported that someone stole his passbook and \$200 from his room in Hobby Hall.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF:**
- Someone forced open a door frame at the Corps-area clinic care center. A cash register was damaged, but nothing appeared to be missing.
- DISORDERLY CONDUCT:**
- A student reported that male approached her near MSC Main Desk and made obscene gestures while talking her.

Execution-style slaying of man sparks narcotics investigation

AUSTIN (AP) — The execution-style slaying of John Frank Garcia, a former Texas school teacher wanted in the United States on kidnapping and drug trafficking charges, has sparked a major investigation into the narcotics underworld operating on the U.S.-Mexico border, authorities said Tuesday.

Hernan Guajardo, judicial police director in a northern Nuevo Leon state capital, said Garcia was "a person dedicated to narcotics trafficking on a grand scale."

Gilberto Sanchez, Guajardo's assistant, said Tuesday the investigation into the slaying and Garcia's involvement in the narcotics trade would extend to both sides of the border.

Capturing Garcia's killers, he said, would provide an important break in the war on drugs.

Garcia's body was found shortly after midnight Saturday in an abandoned car in Guadalupe, a suburb of Monterrey, about 140 miles southwest of the Texas border at Hidalgo.

His head had been covered with a gauze bandage and his hands were tied behind his back. He had been shot in the head four times at close range with a 9mm firearm, police said.

Garcia, also known as Juan Fran-

cisco Garcia, Miguel Garcia Olivares and various other names, had plastic surgery to change his appearance and his body was identified through fingerprints provided by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the FBI, authorities said.

Guajardo said police believe Garcia had been kidnapped in the border city of Reynosa or another city in the border state of Tamaulipas and driven to Monterrey where he was shot.

Guajardo would not elaborate, but he said the slaying was connected to Garcia's activities in the drug trade.

A spokesman for the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City confirmed the identification Tuesday and said Garcia is considered "an important narcotics trafficker" who had been sought by authorities on both sides of the border.

"He apparently was assassinated by another drug trafficking ring," U.S. Embassy spokesman William Graves said.

"We hope his death will lead Mexican authorities to other members of the gang that he was working with and will help reduce the flow of drugs into the United States," Graves said.

"About half the drugs imported into the United States cross the Mexico border."

He said Garcia was considered "class one violator" by authorities in Texas' Lower Rio Grande Valley, but was not considered a kingpin of the drug trade throughout the region.

But, Graves said, "The Lower Rio Grande Valley has become the center of drug transiting, specifically cocaine. It has become a center of struggle against narcotics trafficking along the border."

Garcia, 38, taught elementary school in the Donna Independent School District for two years. He taught migrant students in Edinburg, Texas, where he and his family lived in South Texas, according to files kept by the Edinburg Independent School District.

Garcia, who had one child, was wanted in Hidalgo County, Texas, on a 1984 kidnapping charge.