

Bakin' Bits

Spring-Break fever prompts students to hit the tanning beds

BY APRIL TOWERY
Staff writer

As Spring Break approaches with summer not far behind, students are taking their bikinis and swim trunks out of the attic. These students are heading for local tanning beds in high hopes of transforming from Casper crisper.

Annette Smith, owner of Aggie Land Tan, said this week is the beginning of the peak tanning season. And tanning is not just for girls anymore. "I'd say we have about one guy for every five girls who tans here," Smith said.

Another crowd that will be visiting the tanning beds this month is the high schoolers wanting to use their swimsuit tan lines in order to look their best in a prom dress.

One of these girls is Bryan High senior Rebecca Petty, who said she went to a tanning bed six or seven times before prom last year.

"There's a few girls that go year round, but almost everyone goes at the end of the year right before prom," Petty said.

But, in the past few years, tanning has caught America's attention. Many health hazards, misconceptions and myths have become the topic of discussion in tanning beds across the country.

Smith read from an issue of California Tan magazine that pointed out some of the misconceptions of tanning.

"One girl went to a tanning bed for a week and smelled a burnt smell, and her doctor said her sides were burned," Smith said. "This is a

myth. UV rays don't penetrate to the third layer of skin. Wavelengths of tanning rays cannot impact internal organs."

Allison Shepherd, a senior environmental design major, said she goes to a tanning bed at least twice a week, year round.

"At first, my mom was concerned that it was unhealthy and that I would fry my ovaries," she said. "When Christmastime rolled around and everyone looked like they had the flu, my mother had a change of heart. Before we go to Padre for Spring Break this year, Mom's going to the tanning bed with me."

Smith said she prefers indoor tanning because the amount of time exposed to the rays can be regulated, whereas the day-to-day variation of intensity of actual sunlight cannot.

The maximum time allowed in most beds is 20 minutes. Smith said the time frames assigned depend on the clients' skin types.

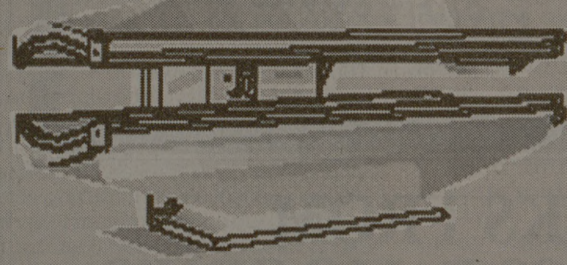
"You have to start very conservative, or you'll burn," she said. "And once you burn, you have to start all over again."

Shepherd said she tans to add color to her body and enhance her self-confidence.

"When I'm not tan, I look so washed out," she said. "I don't recommend it for everyone, but I know it's best for me to have a tan all the time, even in winter."

Smith said that people who have experienced a bad sunburn before the age of 18 can increase the chances of developing skin cancer by 50 percent.

Shepherd said she has never experienced skin



problems. Smith said this is not a surprise considering the lack of statistics supporting a link between tanning beds and skin cancer.

"There's no evidence which substantiates that tanning causes melanoma," Smith said. "One clinical study of more than 2,000 melanoma patients showed no link between sun exposure and melanoma."

Shepherd said people who tan just need to take the proper precautions.

"Don't stay in the bed too long, and don't go too often," she said. "When tanning is abused, it causes your skin to look orange or leathery. But if you do it right, it can have a very positive effect on the way you look and the way you feel about yourself."

Petty said tanning is not always the safest or most attractive option.

"I think it is OK to do it to get some color, but I don't think it makes you look very good if you do it all the time," she said.

People in the News

Verse group of actors awn to biography film

NEW YORK (AP) — In the right to play of his comedy idols, Carrey had to do something rarely asked practitioners with his box-office debut: audition.



Carrey

With actors such as in Spacey, Edward Norton, John Cusack and Nicolas Cage in the of being to play the late comedian Andy Kaufman in the upcoming bi-

ography *Man on the Moon*, director Milos Forman asked for audition tapes.

Sources close to the casting said in the March 13 issue of Entertainment Weekly that Carrey sealed the deal with a stand-up routine that featured some of Kaufman's best-known characters.

They included Foreign Man — which evolved into his role on "Taxi," the professional wrestler and a Las Vegas lounge lizard named Tony Clifton.

Kaufman died of lung cancer in 1984 at age 35.

Before deciding on Carrey, Forman also screened *The Truman Show*, the comedian's upcoming movie, *Man on the Moon*, which will co-star Kaufman's friend Danny DeVito, is scheduled to begin shooting in July.

Lead singer of Hole receives court fees

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)

— Courtney Love will get only a fraction of the legal fees she wanted from a central Florida County where she was charged with battery.

Love, lead singer of the band Hole and widow of Nirvana's Kurt Cobain, was accused of slugging two fans during a 1995 show in Orlando.



Love

The charges were thrown out after a judge ruled that the two teen-age fans were not exposed to any more violence than could have been expected at a rock concert.

An appeals court ruled that Orange County must pay Love for some of her expenses.

Love, also an actress who appeared in *The People vs. Larry Flynt*, had asked the county to reimburse her \$27,543 she paid for a private investigator, expert witnesses and other expenses.

The county agreed to pay 7 percent of the request.

"We offered \$1,900, and she took it," said George Dorsett, assistant county attorney. The county was notified last week.

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The Road To Stability:

Africa in the Next Millennium

President Clinton will be traveling to Africa in late March to discuss trade, human rights issues, and improved U.S.-African ties.

Meanwhile, former South African President F.W. de Klerk will be traveling here to discuss the same issues. Don't leave the country, stay here to see:

- F. W. de Klerk
Former President of South Africa
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- Alan Gelb
Chief Economist/Africa for the World Bank
- Muna Ndulo
Former Zambian Prosecutor
- Gen. Charles G. Boyd
Retired Deputy Commander-in-Chief, U.S. European Command
- Barrie Dunsmore
Former Foreign Affairs Correspondent, ABC

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