



'Don't worry about the world coming to an end today. It's already tomorrow in Australia.'

— Charles Schulz



The cost of being sun-kissed

BY MACKENZIE CLEMENTS
STAFF WRITER

Experts say there's no such thing as a healthy tan.

Last year, an unlikely song became a hit.

"Everybody's Free (To Wear Sunscreen)" originated as a newspaper column, but ended up being set to a beat by Baz Luhrmann. The song began with a simple statement: "Ladies and gentlemen of the class of '99—Wear sunscreen. ... The long-term benefits of sunscreen have been proven by scientists, whereas the rest of my advice has no basis more reliable than my own meandering experience."

Mary Smich came up with the idea for her column when, around graduation time, she saw a woman sunbathing by Lake Michigan. "I hope she's wearing sunscreen," Smich thought, "because I didn't at that age."

Smich might have said the same thing after passing the sun-

bathers on USC's Horseshoe. Although spring break might be over for most college students, summer is approaching, and sunbathing at the beach, the pool or even in front of the business building is tempting for many students.

Tanning salons are another option for men and women seeking sun-kissed skin, despite the fact that no sun is involved.

Rather, tanning beds emit high doses of UVA waves.

Salon owners contend that there are benefits to using tanning beds instead of sunbathing. "It's faster, and you get a deeper, darker tan," said Melissa Mangum, owner of SunTan

Salon. "Also, you don't get hot sweating."

Relaxation, according to Mangum, is another benefit of tanning beds. Music, fans and neon lighting make each private tanning session a calming experience at her salon.

Privacy is assured. Mangum sets the tanning time at the front desk, and the customer gets comfortable in the tanning bed before hitting a convenient switch to start the tanning session. Customers can tan in whatever stage of dress, or undress, they choose. The benefits of that "are unsuitable for print," Mangum said.

All beds are sanitized before each customer. The salon provides customers with protective eye goggles, which are required to prevent UV damage to the eyes.

Mangum asserts that tanning beds have no more associated risks than tanning in natural sunlight. Too much sun can lead to premature aging of the skin, sunburn, and an increased risk of skin cancers. In addition, many medications, like birth control pills, can increase sensitivity to the sun.

Despite the risks associated with UV radiation, hundreds of people still flock to the tanning salons. "It's been a wild week," said Mangum. "We've had 200 to 220 people a day."

Before tanning, salons require customers to sign that they understand the risks and to detail any medications they are taking. Customers must initial the agreement every time they tan.

According to the Mayo Clinic, "A tan actually is the body's attempt to protect itself from the sun's damaging rays. There is no such thing as a 'healthy tan.'"

On the clinic's Web site, further information is given about preventing skin cancer and sun damage. Overall, the Mayo Clinic advises avoiding excessive exposure and always wearing a moderate sunscreen to prevent sun damage.

Therefore, "Everyone's Free (To Wear Sunscreen)" has a genuine point. The best way to fight sun damage is through prevention.

Frequent sunburn and sun exposure can lead to premature aging, freckling, discoloration and enlarged blood vessels; ladies and gentlemen of the class of '00, wear sunscreen.

A MESSAGE Preacher evangelizes outside Russell House



TRAVIS LYNN PHOTO EDITOR

Students gathered Thursday on Greene Street to listen to a preacher, who brought an easel to draw and help convey his message.

Small group in Columbia performs chamber music

BY CHRISSY TAYLOR
STAFF WRITER

The Carolina Chamber Players have been performing in Columbia for four years. They are a small group of musicians, not very well-known, that consists of a pianist, string players, woodwind players and a horn player. Not all 19 players perform at every show. A recent show featured The Miro String Quartet.

Anthony Marotta, a clarinet player, helped found the Chamber Players in May 1996 and had a select number of performers by that September. He said he was "thrilled and proud that the group took off so fast."

They were lucky to be sponsored by Columbia corporations such as Colonial Life and BellSouth, as well as by contributions from individuals. They also receive grants from the S.C. Arts Commission and the Cultural Council of Richland and Lexington Counties.

The group's first performance was in the S.C. State Museum's auditorium, which pianist Winifred Goodwin refers to as the Chamber Players' home. Goodwin is another of the founding members, which is why she has not moved on.

The group has had "many individuals to continue on to other orchestras, especially strings," Marotta said. Some have stayed in Columbia to join the orchestra, while others have moved on to the orchestras in Charleston or Greenville.

According to Holli Emore, chairwoman of the board of directors, "There has been a revival of chamber music lately, and that's why we are trying to get the word out and bring in more audience members."

Emore also said there has been a "detachment from a live orchestra performance, and the Miro Quartet has been prominent in a resurgent interest." The board of directors' primary responsibilities includes governing profits, promoting the Players and integrating them more with Columbia.

They hope to gain the interest of younger people and would like to see more in the audience.

Emore admits, "It takes a few times for some, but others fall in love with it [chamber music] the first time they see the group."

For information on performances, call 376-0071.

Drug allegations put celebrity under scrutiny

Bad publicity surrounds Whitney Houston as party approaches

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Does Houston — Whitney Houston — have a problem?

There was that allegation of marijuana possession in January, a much-discussed absence at last month's Oscars, and a disjointed magazine interview.

On Monday night, the superstar singer is scheduled to perform at Arista Records' 25th anniversary party. Given the tumult in her personal life in recent months, her appearance will be heavily scrutinized.

"WHERE WAS WHITNEY?" asked the *New York Post* after the diva's performance at the Academy Awards was canceled amid a report that she was "totally out of it" during a rehearsal with Burt Bacharach.

The same question applied after Houston failed to appear at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame dinner three weeks earlier. Houston was scheduled to help induct Clive Davis, the music impresario who signed her to Arista in the early '80s.

"Whitney is in good spirits and looking forward to Monday's event," says her publicist, Nancy Seltzer, who had earlier blamed a sore throat for the Oscar incident and "voice problems" for the Hall of Fame flameout.

The bad news continues. The upcoming *People* magazine features a cover story about "Whitney's Troubled Times." Citing anonymous sources, it suggests a drug problem — an allegation Houston has denied in the past.

"If a performer gets a reputation for being unreliable or canceling at the last minute, that's a problem," says Richard Johnson, a veteran Houston watcher at the *Post*. "It seems that's been happening with Whitney Houston."

Houston's husband of seven years, singer Bobby Brown, has his own litany of woes: a 1995 Betty Ford Clinic visit for alcohol abuse, a 1997 report that he punched Houston in a Honolulu parking lot, and a 1998 five-day jail term for drunken driving.

The bad publicity is a relatively new experience for the gospel singer's daughter, the

all-American girl whose 1991 version of "The Star Spangled Banner" improbably turned Francis Scott Key into a best-selling songwriter.

The recent rash of incidents began in January, when airport security officers in Hawaii said they found a half-ounce of marijuana in Houston's bag.

Rather than wait for police to arrive, the 36-year-old Houston boarded her flight and left the islands.

Adding to Whitney's woes was a cover story in the May issue of *Jane* magazine. The piece described an "extremely unfocused" Houston showing up four hours late for a photo shoot.

Once there, the singer responsible for 11 No. 1 singles had "trouble keeping her eyes open" and intermittently played an imaginary piano, according to the story.

Whitney's explanation: She had just arrived from a visit to the dentist to repair a cracked tooth.

During an interview for *Jane*, Houston tossed around four-letter words, compared meeting the president to hanging out with a

junkie ("They're just men, you dig?"), and denied having a "lesbo" affair with her executive assistant.

Seltzer, spinning as fast as she could, said the article was not "a fair portrait of Whitney Houston as I know her."

Wrong, says Daily News gossip guru Mitchell Fink.

"Look at her behavior over the last few years," Fink says. "If you did a timeline over the last few years, you'd see that this particular pattern of behavior is not at all shocking."

The problems and tabloid rumblings have had little effect on her recording career. Houston's 1998 album "My Love is Your Love" was a platinum seller and spawned several hit singles: the title track, "Heartbreak Hotel," "When You Believe," "It's Not Right But It's OK."

In May, she will release a greatest-hits album that is expected to top the charts.

Humanity spring project today

Habitat for Humanity will continue to work on the house in Arthurtown at 1:45 p.m. today. Participants will meet at the Tree of Knowledge. For more information, call Ginny Watson at 544-2576.

Anchor Splash to benefit the blind

The Epsilon Chi Chapter of Delta Gamma will be host to its annual Anchor Splash Swimming Meet from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday at the Blatt P.E. Center. The meet will feature both traditional and unique swimming events. A \$2 donation at the door will benefit the blind and sight convention. For more information, call Tiffany Shaw at 544-0477.

Showcase to focus on psych research

Psychology undergraduate student research will be highlighted at the Research Showcase this afternoon in the lobby of Barnwell.

CP recruits more commissioners

Carolina Productions is accepting applications for Carolina Productions' Ideas and Issues Commission, which helped bring presidential candidates John McCain and Alan Keyes, along with the Last Lecture and Personal Success series, to USC. The deadline for applications is 5 p.m. today in the CP office, RH 235.

World War II video will be shown

Hillel, B'nai B'rith and other organizations will sponsor a video on the exploits of the Jewish brigade in the British Army, fighting in Italy and after World War II. The showing, which will be open to the public, will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the auditorium in Gambrell Hall.

Trustus will present award-winning play

Trustus Theatre and Ted and Joan Halkyard will present "Wit" from April 21 through May 6. "Wit" won the 1999 Pulitzer Prize for drama. For more information, call 254-9732.

Earth Day program to last one week

The School of the Environment and Students Allied for a Greener Earth will sponsor this year's Earth Day celebration at USC. The focus will be April 19, but there is a week-long program honoring the 30th anniversary of this worldwide event. SAGE is still looking for people or student organizations who are interested in participating. For more information, call the SAGE headquarters at 799-2408.

Meeting to focus on homecoming

Homecoming 2000 will hold a meeting to distribute homecoming applications to student organizations. Any organization wishing to participate in Homecoming 2000 must send a representative to this meeting to pick up the official application. If you have questions or want more information, call Carolina Productions at 777-7130.

Film society to show 'Midnight Cowboy'

The Creative Music and Film Society will present its first film of the year, "Midnight Cowboy," on DVD at 6 p.m. Sunday in Gambrell 153. The movie is free.

Public lecture on philosophy to be held

Manfred Frank will speak about the formative years of German romanticism in "Infinite Approximation: Philosophical Origins of Early German Romanticism." The lectures will be from 4 to 6 p.m. Monday in the Preston College Seminar Room and from 3 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in Gambrell 428. For more information, call Alfred Nordmann at 777-3739, or e-mail him at ANordmann@sc.edu.

CORRECTIONS

The *Gamecock* strives to report the facts correctly and responsibly. If you come across any inaccuracies in our reportage, please let us know.

Letters for Ask etCetera can be submitted to RH 333 or e-mailed to gckfeatures@yahoo.com