Are tougher times ahead for faddists?

By JIM WINDELL

Suntan parlors, a fairly recent in-novation in the United States, are the subject of warnings from der-matologists on both the local and national level. Both Dr. Alva Rutsh, a Birming-ham and Clarkston dermatologist, and Dr. Alex Morales, a spokesman or the Michigan Dermatology Soci-ety, lodicate that such parlors are controversial and that extreme cau-tion should be exercised by the con-sumer.

tion should be exercised by the consumer.

Dr. Ray Claxton, executive secretary of the American Academy of Dermatology in Chicago, said numerous requests for information are received by the academy, and while the academy has not officially as not officially as most officially mittees and, many members and committees had.

At a recent press conference, a group of photolologists, dermatologists, who study the problems related to sunlight and the skin, ware that cosmetic tanning may be dangerous to health and may lead to skin cancer.

skin cancer.

"TANNING IS medically harmful, not useful," Dr. Frederick Urbach, professor of dermatology at Temple University in Philadelphia, said. "We," he said, referring to a H-member committee of photobiologists, "don't think a tan is good for you. It is a status symbol. If you hve to look pretty and tanned, you must do nipury to the skin."

Dr. Urbch pointed out th tanning, Dr. Urbch pointed out that tanning, Dr. Urbch pointed out that than and leathery.

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Nevertheless, commercial suntanning pariors have spread across the country in the past couple of years. The Food and Drug administration. The Food and Drug administration of the part of the Food and Drug administration.

Bill Rados, public information officer of the FDA in Rockville, Md., stated that the FDA has attempted to inform most of the suntanning salons about sunlamp regulations and the obligations such businesses have to the public.

"We have," Fados said in a telephone interview, "a regulation going into effect on May 7 which pertains to all types of sunlamps. It calls for use of googles, timers with a maximum time interval of 10 minutes and warning stops to the public of the public of the public of the properties of the word o

THE FDA HAS also, Rados said, THE FDA HAS also, Rados said, asked the suntan establishments to voluntarily take extra precautions. "We would like them to provide shield and screens in front of the bulbs to prevent accidental cuts and handrails so people can keep their balance in the booths." Further warnings came from Dr. John A. Epstein, a clinical professor of dermatology at the University of California, San Francisco. "Tanning for cosmetle purposes is not a safe or innocous procedure." He went on to say that the sunburn energy from cosmetic tanning lamps damages the skin in the same manner as rays from the sun. Such damage he points out leads to a dry, leathery appearance of the skin, iscs of support by the skin's connective tissue of blood vessels causing purple blotches and scarring and the development of skin cancer.

There are, according to Dr. Urbach, 400,000 new cases of skin cancer every year in this country. Many of them are avoidable with the proper precautions, he added. The principal thing to avoid, he said, is expo-

of them are avoidable with the proper precautions, he added. The principal thing to avoid, he said, is exposure to the sun.

"There is nothing one can do," Rados explained, "to protect oneself from the increased risk of skin cancer and wrinking if there is exposure to ultraviolet radiation." He emphasized that moisturizers are ineffective in preventing damage to the skin.

the skin.

Kenneth Priestap, a reginal engineer for General Electric; said that ultraviolet light is the invisible energy from the sun that reddens and burns the skin. All sunlamps and tanning lamps emit ultraviolet light radiation, he explained.

A MAJOR CONCERN OF the American Academy of Dermatology is that most suntaining parlors do not have a physician on staff to give physical examinations to potential customers. Because of this, the dermatologists claim, people who have chronically damaged skin may be allowed to participate in the tanning program. They also say that many individuals have skin diseases which curut when there is exposure to eierupt when there is exposure to ther natural or artificial sunlight.

An additional danger, according to dermatologists, are medications which people take which cause skin reactions with sunlight.

"Many commonly prescribed drugs," Rados stated, "include pho-tosensitizing agents which cause al-lergic reactions with exposure to ul-traviolet light."

These, he said include some birth control pills, diuretics and antibiotics. "If a person," he cautioned, "is taking any kind of medication, he should check with his doctor before going into a tanning booth."

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Dr. Urbach adds a final warning aimed at blue-eyed, blond people.

"Unfortunately, these are the people who want to tan the most and are the same people who can not tan.

"They should not try to get a tan and they should avoid sun as well as sunlamps," he concluded.

Sidewalk fair date announced

The ninth annual Berk-ley Sidewalk Art Display and Fair will begin at 10 a.m. and run until dusk June 14. It is co-ordinated by the Berkley Beautifi-cation Committee and the City of Berkley. Displays of paintings, sketches, crafts, pottery and jewel-ry will be for sale by art-ists from all over the

In addition to the paintings and craft items, en-tertainment will be pro-vided by strolling musi-cians. Tentative arrange-ments are also being made for a sidewalk cafe where food and bever-ages will be served.

A well known artist and teacher will judge the exhibits and present

The exhibit will be set up along Coolidge between Catalpa and 12 Mile Road. Application forms are available at Berkley City Hall, 2338 Coolidge For more information, call Pat Guarino at 545-1171.

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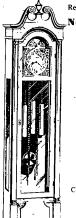
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