



Cathy Lyons of Farmington Hills relaxes under and on the bright tanning lights of Lo Tannago in Southfield.

MINDY BAUNDERS/staff photographer

# Sun worshippers soak up rays indoors

By Sharon Dargay  
staff writer

The pasty-faced are trading in beach blankets for tanning booths.

"In Europe, if you don't have one in your home, you're not with it. In Montreal, they're all over — like hair salons," said Leo Foster, owner of Lo Tannago in Southfield.

"Let's face it, even a turkey looks good bronzed."

Sophisticated tanning equipment and reduced costs are driving people indoors. Instead of slathering on suntan lotion, sunbathers are coating themselves with a barrage of ultraviolet rays found naturally in sunlight.

Salon operators say the method is faster, less abrasive and more consistent than Mother Nature.

The seasonal business attracts a cross-section of clients: frequent travelers who prime their skin before heading south, those who can't afford a sunny vacation but want to look like they can, the fashion-conscious, sunbathers who don't have time for the real thing, business persons who equate

tans with money and power, and status-seekers.

**PRICES VARY**, depending on the equipment, length of exposure and number of visits. One salon charges \$2.50 for a 45-minute "facial" and \$35 for 10 booth sessions. Another offers a year-long package for \$100 or \$9 per 30-minute stint in a lounge. At one, the cost ranges from \$8.50 for one visit to \$259 for 100.

Although sun lamps for home use are decades old, public tanning salons opened their doors about seven years ago in the United States, said Elaine Kormorny, owner of Ultra Tan in Southfield.

"I've seen 30 or 40 come and go in the five years I've been in business," she said. "It's a very fickle business. I wouldn't start a tanning salon now. It's competitive, like grocery stores and gas stations."

"We're like all lodge bosses, except that we have to deal with people year-round."

On a busy day in the spring, her salon handles 150 customers. During slack

periods through summer and fall the number may drop to between 30 and 60.

Foster, who opened his salon two months ago, claims the market can support a year-round business because some customers maintain their tans regardless of the season.

However, owners admit that public perceptions must change for indoor tanning to become more than a passing fad.

"THE BIG THING is that a lot of people have the concept that they can't afford it," he explained. "But we're starting to get people who never would have thought about it before."

Fran Dupoir, manager of Slim 'N Tan in Troy, said young persons are more apt to worry about health haz-

ards and may think twice before stepping into a booth.

"They worry about burning, but everyone starts out at a low exposure time," she added.

Kormorny said the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) places stringent requirements on equipment, but doesn't regulate use or require training for salon owners. Neither does the state health department, according to an agency spokesperson.

"I cringe when I think about some of the salon owners that aren't educated," Kormorny said. "When they come to us from other salons, some of them (customers) don't know what they've been in for or how long."

"I've seen some timers on booths that were five to 10 minutes, set for what should have been 1 1/2 minutes. It used to appall me."

She screens customers, assessing skin type and exposure time, before placing them in one of several units that produce ultraviolet "B" or "A" rays.

"B" rays penetrate the top layer of skin, stimulating the production of melanin, which is designed to protect inner layers and develop a bronze color.

BUT "B" RAYS also cause sunburn.

"A" rays produce tans, but take longer. Foster swears by tanning lounges that produce "A" rays and a slight amount of "B" rays which are needed to trigger melanin production because they "won't burn you and don't make the skin dry out."

Maximum tanning time in a lounge is 30 minutes.

Kormorny offers "B" booths, lounges that produce "A" rays and a slight amount of "B" rays hexagon-shaped booth. Slim 'N Tan has "B" booths.

But physicians warn that no matter what combination, both the sun and indoor facilities may inflict ultraviolet damage to skin if they are improperly used.

Dr. Robert Schoenfeld, a Birmingham physician and chief of dermatology at William Beaumont Hospital, said accumulated sunlight can cause premature aging of skin and cancer in some persons. Ultraviolet light is used as therapy for psoriasis, acne and other skin conditions.

"We don't know about tanning lights. That's the problem," he said. "I'd warn people to be rather careful and get as much information about them as possible and then use common sense."

SOME CUSTOMERS, like Cathy Lyons of Farmington Hills, view the procedure as preventative medicine for sunburn.

A nurse at Providence Hospital, Lyons made nine trips to Foster's tanning lounge before heading to Mexico on vacation. She maintains her coloring with three visits weekly.

Another customer, Phyllis Maso of Southfield, doesn't worry about the accumulative effect of tanning rays. "I have teen-age skin and I'm 48," she said. "I try to pre-sun before going to the islands."

## INSIDE ANGLES

Know someone doing something notable? Let us know. Write: Inside Angles, Farmington Observer, 23352 Farmington Road, Farmington 48024.

**THE CAMPGROUND DIRECTORY**, published by the Michigan Association of Recreational Vehicles and Campgrounds (MARVAC), lists more than 60 of Michigan's finest private campgrounds. Facilities and amenities such as swimming, boating, laundry and playgrounds are listed. A map is provided to assist campers in finding each location. To obtain a free copy of MARVAC's 1984 Campground Directory, send a stamped self-addressed, business-size envelope to: Campground Directory, MARVAC, 19045 Farmington Road, Livonia 48152.

**OAKLAND COUNTY YOUTH:** Do you want a summer job? If you wait until the summer, you may not find one. If you're 14-21 years old and meet low income guidelines, a summer job may be yours this spring. For further details, contact Southfield Community Placement at 354-9167.

**CHARLOTTE RICHARDSON** of Farmington Hills has been promoted to Scheduling Center Coordinator by The Health Care Professionals Ltd. of Southfield.

**KAY BRIGGS**, chairman of the Farmington Hills Historical Commission, will preside at the Conference on Residential Preservation and Restoration to be held Saturday, May 5 at the Avon Township Historical Museum, 1005 Van Hoesen, Rochester. The all-day conference will feature Janet Kruger of the Michigan Department of State Historic Preservation, John Cameron of Oakland University and Malcolm Collins, architect. There is no charge for the seminar but advance registration is necessary. It is sponsored by the Oakland County Historical Commission. For more information, call 474-6113.

**FARMINGTON HILLS PARKS** and Recreation Senior Adult Program is taking reservations for a trip to New Hampshire and Maine, Sept. 9-15. The seven-day, six-night trip includes round-trip bus transportation between Detroit and New Hampshire, four nights accommodations at the Eastern Slope Inn in North Conway, N.H., six breakfasts, four dinners, three lunches, two night accommodations en route, and all baggage handling, taxes and gratuities on items included in the package. Double occupancy rate per person is \$429. Insurance is available. For more information or reservations, call 474-8118.

**THE KENBROOK RAINBOW** Carnival, sponsored by Kenbrook PTA, will be from noon

to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 6 on the school grounds, 32150 Bonnet Hill, south of 13 Mile between Farmington and Orchard Lake Roads.

**THE 16th ANNUAL STRAWBERRY Festival** will be from noon to 9 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, May 5 and 6 on the grounds of St. Florian Parish, on the corner of Poland and Brombach in Hamtramck, east of I-75 and north of I-94. Strawberry pies will be featured along with a multitude of strawberry delicacies. Catch strawberry spring fever at St. Florian once again.

**STEPHANIE CRANE**, daughter of Jerry and Mary Ellen Crane and a 1982 graduate of Mercy High School, received her Degree of the Light in Michigan Phi Beta Alpha Chapter at Eastern Michigan University. Stephanie, a sophomore, and Health Administration major was named to the National Dean's List and Eastern Michigan University's honor roll. She is a 7th Cup purple belt in Tang Soo Do from Kims Karate in Detroit at the Eastern Campus.

**PAUL M. KOPP** of Farmington has entered the U.S. Air Force's Delayed Enlistment Program. Paul's entry into the DEP allows the Air Force to schedule an opening for him to attend basic training and be assigned to a job or skill area. He will enter the Air Force on Nov. 23. Following graduation from six-week basic training course at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, he will receive technical training in the electronics aptitude area and be assigned to an Air Force duty station.

**DETROIT STORY LEAGUERS** are doing duty in the Detroit Institute of Arts these days in connection with the institute's exhibit of European Arms and Armor. From 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, through June 17, the romance of chivalry is kept alive by the storytellers who tell tales of knights and their ladies to guests.

**KEVIN COLLINS** of Farmington Hills, a 1981 North Farmington graduate, was recently elected to the College Life Advisory Board at Lake Forest College, Ill. The College Life Advisory Board considers and recommends policies and programs on health, food housing, counseling services, career planning, campus activities, athletic programs and recreational facilities.

**PATRICK LA FAVE**, a member of St. Alexander Parish, Farmington Hills, has just returned from Rome where he participated in Youth Jubilee with a group of young adults from the Archdiocese of Detroit. More than 60,000 young people from 100 countries participated in the jubilee which was called by Pope John Paul II as part of the Holy Year celebration. Activities included meetings with the Pope and Mother Teresa of Calcutta. The Detroit group also visited Florence and Assisi.

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