

Viewpoint

Tanning booths are harmful to health

Spring Break is approaching and most people will be heading down to Florida or other tropical-like places. Along with the fun, also comes the sun; natural or unnatural.

Many sun-worshippers try to prepare themselves for first-time sun exposure by attending sessions at tanning salons. It's quick, it's cheap and it's dangerous.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission said tanning booths have caused an estimated 1500 to 1800 injuries a year since 1987. Two-thirds of them were among people 15 to 24 years of age.

The peak period to bronze the bod is January - June. According to the *Atlanta Georgia Journal*, tanning booths are the tan of choice for an estimated one million Americans a day - despite warnings...

- wrinkling
- dryness
- premature aging of skin
- skin cancer
- damage to immune system
- cataracts for unprotected eyes

The American Academy of Dermatology, National Institute of Health and the FDA, all warn against the use of indoor tanning devices. People may argue that the sun itself is as dangerous if not more than the tanning salons. The sun has ultraviolet-A (UVA) and ultraviolet-B (UVB) radiation, UVB being a shorter and more dangerous ray as far as causing cancer. Both rays do penetrate the skin.

Indoor tanning facilities produce mostly UVA light and are thought to be safer because the potential to burn is reduced. But the U.S. Surgeon General's office reports that the "safer than sunlight" claim is not accurate.

In 1985, President Reagan had a sun-induced skin cancer removed from his nose. Reagan was told he was not to expose himself to sun anymore, according to the *Dallas Texas Morning News*. Reagan said he urged other Americans "to give up their dreams of a good tan."

This is not possible. Most Americans live for the sun and the ultimate tan. Some say they feel healthier when they have a tan. Well, looking healthy isn't the same as being healthy. Before stepping into a tanning booth, think, "Is it worth the risk?" At least the sun is natural exposure. Why rush the process? The tan will come in time.

The Pendulum

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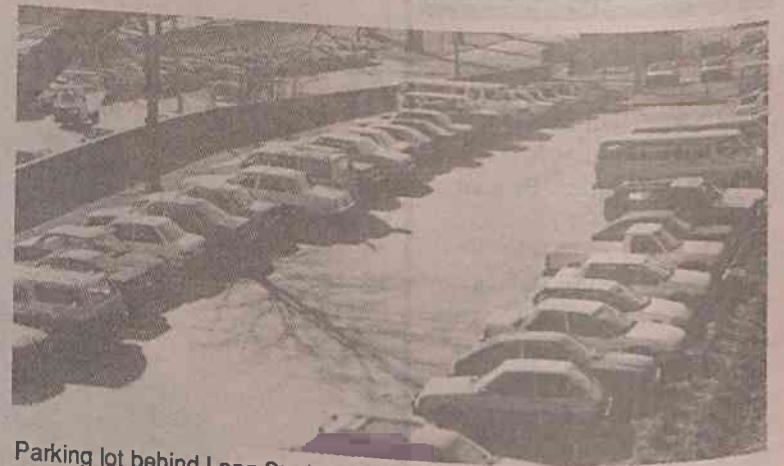
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Students with cars on campus need to review parking rules

To the Editor:

Many times students comment that "I have paid tuition, etc. Why can't I park where ever I desire?" Well, we're talking about two different situations here. It is your choice to bring, or not bring, a motor vehicle to the campus. So, if you choose to bring one, then you need to review the following statements:

1. Any student who wishes to park on property owned by the college must purchase a parking permit.
2. Letters on your parking permit indicate your designated parking areas. any student-owned vehicle parking in any other space is in violation of campus parking regulations.
3. Parking regulations are in effect 24 hours a day.
4. Any vehicle parked in any traveled portion of a street or parking lot, the visitor's lot, in a fire lane, handicapped space, grassed area, or at a fire hydrant may be towed away, without notification, at the owner's expense.
5. Disabled vehicles must be reported to the office of safety and security either in person or by phone (notes are not acceptable).
6. Lack of convenient space is not a valid excuse for violation of the College's parking policy.
7. To legally park in a space reserved for the handicapped, vehicle must display one of the following:
 - A handicapped license plate.
 - A disabled veteran license plate.
8. All North Carolina State laws apply to the campus.
9. The College may, at any time, tow a vehicle found in violation of campus parking regulations at the owner's expense.



Parking lot behind Long Student Center

■ A placard issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

■ A stamped parking permit issued by the College.

8. All North Carolina State laws apply to the campus.

9. The College may, at any time, tow a vehicle found in violation of campus parking regulations at the owner's expense.

Please place bicycles in bicycle racks only!

J.L. DeBerry
 Traffic Coordinator

911, not a reliable emergency source; takes too long to respond to calls

I am very disturbed with our 911 emergency system, and I feel it necessary to let you know about it.

I was working at TCBY, Saturday, Feb. 23, when an auto accident occurred outside. A man came in and requested an ambulance. I proceeded to call 911 and asked for a paramedic. When I told the operator no one was hurt, he connected me with the police.

Approximately 10 minutes later a woman came in and again requested that a paramedic be called to the scene. I called again and asked the same operator to send a paramedic.

The operator asked me if the police had arrived. Since I had been working, I didn't know if the police had arrived yet. I then

Heather Whitehouse



"What ever happened to responding to an emergency call as quickly as possible?"

explained one more time to the operator that the people in the accident requested the ambulance. Finally the operator said he would get some one out there.

Isn't it standard policy to send an ambulance to every accident, whether there are major injuries or not? It should be if it isn't already!

I am not qualified to look at someone and tell if they are injured in any way except the obvious, are you?

It took 30 minutes from the

time I first called 911 before an ambulance arrived. This is a bit ridiculous. Somebody, if seriously hurt, could have died in that 30 minutes.

What ever happened to responding to an emergency call as quickly as possible? What does the police being at the scene have to do with whether an ambulance is called?

If this is an example of how emergency calls are handled, I hope I am never in a situation where I need that kind of help.