

From pallid to pizzazz... tanning gives meaning to life

By **MONA Z. KOPPELMAN**

I was a teen-age corpse. My pale complexion could best be described as pallid.

Every summer, I tried all the hints for Deep-And-Easy Tans promised by



Craig Andresen/Daily Nebraskan
Koppelman...before tan.

Vogue, *Cosmopolitan* and *Seventeen* magazines.

I baby-oiled, watered, creamed and ice tea'd my skin. I tried the 15-minute paste 'n' baste, the five-minute no-sweat scheme, the three-week Jungle Tan Plan. Nothing going.

I Coppertoned, QT'd, Tropical Blended, even Bain de Soleiled, to no avail.

The only guys who deigned to be seen with me in public were Ghost of Winter Past or lifeguards who took me to pool parties as a standard of comparison.

"Oh, Johnny," the pool groupies would coo. "Your skin is so dark... you're like...like Tarzan."

Researching this story gave me the chance of a lifetime, I thought. Controlled time, concentrated rays, privacy — I was sure I'd emerge from the tanning salon as Mona Derek.

Bo Koppelman.

Tan, anyway.

So when one of the local salons offered me a free trial session, I jumped at the chance. The manager explained how the tanning bed worked, what the bed could and couldn't do, and so on. I waited rather impatiently for the manager to finish her explanation and fairly pushed her out the door.

I immediately stripped to the buff. No pansy-ass tan for me. I gave the bed a good once-over. This bed was the coffin-model. Stately, gold-colored,

with a clamp-down lid.

Inside, the top and bottom surfaces were glass. Twelve ray tubes glinted ominously from behind each glass pane.

Then I saw the goggles — yellow, devo-ish contraptions that had bugged-out lenses and dark blue slits. They were lying there on the tanning bed, staring at me, beneath a sign screaming, "Goggles must be worn during tanning!"

It was too late to turn back. I was naked. I put my tokens in the Tan-O-Meter and the bed flashed to life.

Quickly, I took a last gasp of air and threw myself onto the bed. I clamped the goggles firmly on my nose and lowered the lid.

I closed my eyes and tried to rest comfortably. I listened to a couple of Beach Boys tunes on the radio. Then my mind began to wander.

Were there evil little rays getting around my goggles?

Were the bottoms of my feet getting tan?

Could people suffocate in these beds?

Will my underarms tan?

Somewhere along the line, I dropped off to sleep. The machine shut off automatically. I woke up and dressed.

My skin was a healthy pinkish color. Rigor mortis was gone. Maybe even a



Craig Andresen/Daily Nebraskan
Koppelman...after tan.

little tan — well, off-tan.

As I walked through the Lincoln streets, I glanced haughtily at those poor white folks cowering in the alleys as I sauntered by, a vision of health and self-confidence.

I don't want to say that tanning changed my life, but...see for yourself.

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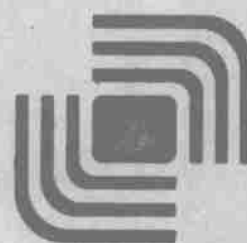
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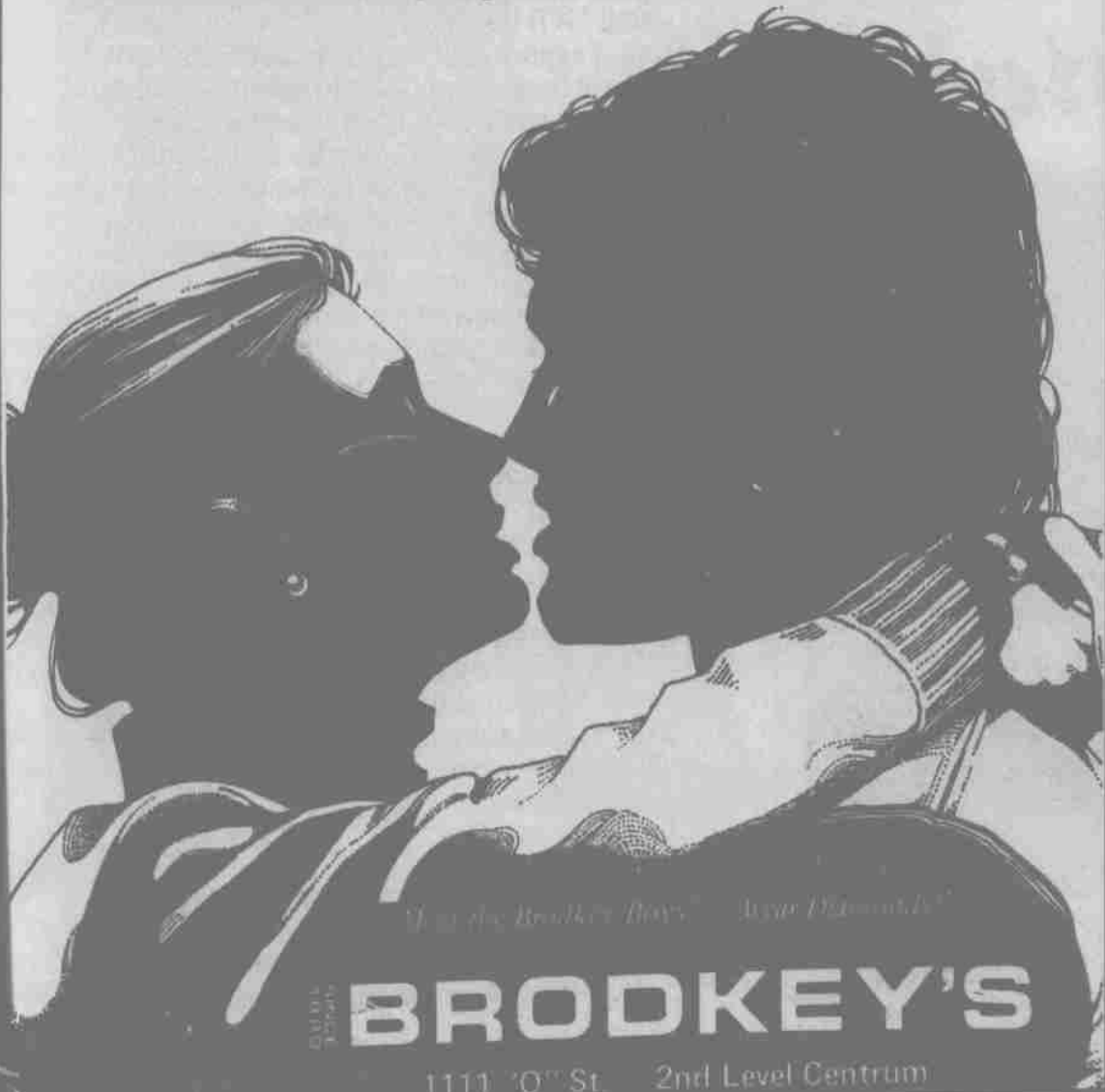
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