

Trendy resses

Eugene hair stylists have noticed hairstyles changing with the seasons

BY NATASHA CHILINGERIAN
SENIOR PULSE REPORTER

With the sun shining a little more often than some are used to this winter, people are looking to update their looks, particularly their hair. Eugene hosts a variety of beauty salons, and stylists are always ready to give their clients looks that are trendy yet catered to the individual.

Just Hair, a salon at 50 W. 13th Ave., is a casual spot where patrons can kick back while they get pampered. The salon offers body waxing, manicures and pedicures along with cuts and color.

"People can come in wearing sweats and be comfortable," Just Hair stylist Emily Combs said. "You don't have to dress up to get your hair done."

For a fancier atmosphere, head to Chikara Salon and Spa in the Oakway Center on Coburg Road, an upscale, full-service salon that specializes in treatments and flaunts decor inspired from salons in New York City. At Chikara, you can experience innovative pampering moves such as a moisturizing body masque or a soothing stones massage. Also across the Willamette River, yet still accessible to the campus area, is Majesty Salon and Day Spa at 4730 Village Loop. Majesty is a trendy salon that stays current by closely following Hollywood styles and color.

While stylists see a wide range of hair style and color preferences in their clients, a few stylists said a



DANIELLE HICKEY | PHOTO EDITOR

Stylist Summer Richardson cuts David Clark's hair Wednesday afternoon at Just Hair, at 50 W. 13th Ave.

major trend for females is a movement away from stick-straight hair toward waves, curls and flipping.

"Hair is getting bigger again," Majesty cosmetologist Debbie Haas said. "People used to ask for straight, sleek styles, but now it's getting fluffier and has more curl. People are realizing that the flat iron damages hair, and they would rather have a little curl than ravaged hair."

She added that one popular cut for women is a longer version of the pixie with a flip. Combs said she has been seeing the long, side-swept bang, which will continue its popularity through the spring and summer. Both Combs and Haas said a current color preference is light color on top and a darker hue underneath. Chikara stylist Christa Tollefson said the shattered bob cut is in.

Stylists said that for men, the main trend is their increased gravitation to getting pampered at a salon and their aversion to getting quick, basic cuts at a barber shop. Haas said the metrosexual movement is evident in the amount of men who have been coming to her salon.

"Guys are more comfortable now going to a salon, using products and getting color," she said. "Nowadays

they are tanning, getting manicures and whitening their teeth, and they didn't do that five years ago."

Tollefson said men are playing with edgier, less conservative styles and more length and texture. Combs said she has been seeing blond tipping and the shaggy 1970s look on males.

The unusually sunny winter weather Eugene has been experiencing has caused people to revamp their hair earlier this year, which often means shorter cuts and brighter, lighter colors, Combs said. Tollefson agreed that the sun has boosted business, but she added that a new hairstyle during dull, gray weather can boost one's spirit as well. Haas said it varies from person to person, but that spring is a popular time to go for a new look.

"Hair is seasonal and mood-related," Haas said. "Some people have their cuts and color done on a schedule, but spring and fall are the two peak times for people to come in. In the spring, people want to go lighter, and in the fall, they want to pull their looks together because they are getting back to business."

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Game review

Battle scenes supply much of the action in 'Mercenaries' game

BY MATT SLAGLE
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

For days now, I've been playing the Russian Mafia for fools, helping the Chinese and upsetting the delicate balance of power in the Korean peninsula.

Now that the mob's wise to my dealings, I'm cut off from its snazzy Merchant of Menace Web site. Now that was a handy place to buy guns, health and ammo.

Such is life in the alternative reality of "Mercenaries," a new video game for the PlayStation 2 and Xbox where choosing sides and blowing stuff up — lots of stuff — is exceptionally entertaining.

It's a free-form, action-filled jaunt that will take a long time to fully explore — and destroy. The subtitle is "Playground of Destruction," but "Grand Theft Rambo" seems just as appropriate.

The setting is the Korean peninsula, but not the one we hear about in the news.

In "Mercenaries," peace-seeking political leaders on both sides of the DMZ have been killed by dictator-in-training Choi Song, plunging the region into chaos. Worse, Song's got nukes and intends to lob them across the globe if anyone gets in his way.

Five factions are trying to impose their will. The Allied Nations Task Force is a feel-good U.N.-style group that wants nothing more than to oust Song.

The Chinese are part of the Task Force, but have sent in their own army just in case. The aforementioned Russian mob is in it for the

money, while the South Korean Union is a CIA-run military that wants to impose a Western-style democracy once Korean reunification is complete. And let's not forget the North Koreans.

You parachute into this volatile setting to earn cash and ultimately to accomplish what all of these seemingly powerful groups can't — kill Song and the rest of his minions in the Deck of 52 most wanted list. The bounty on Song alone is \$100 million.


Fighting between the lines, you can jump from side to side to gain favor and access to special equipment such as tanks, helicopters and anti-air missiles.

The political maneuvering is certainly fun, but the action takes center stage. Battles here are white-knuckle and calling in airstrikes to destroy a bunker is truly a satisfying accomplishment.

Soldiers generally have good artificial intelligence, but it's not always up to snuff. Crash through an enemy road block, for example, and the soldiers don't give chase. Instead, they camp out at the crossing, casually firing a few shots in your general direction as you blow by.

When schlepping from one war zone to another, I often found that hijacking metro buses or delivery trucks was better than using military trucks. That way, I appeared to other factions to be a civilian and not an enemy combatant.

This \$50 single player game includes several characters to choose from.



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