

# The Nature of Beauty: Esthetician perfects skin and body through relaxation

BY KATHERINE KOVACICH  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Ever had someone massage your face for half an hour?

Not many people would know how to do such a soothing thing correctly, but this is Sherry Okamura's cup of tea. Like a genie in a 1960s sitcom, she rubs her hands together and grants a wish common among modern stressful times—to relax and forget about all worries for a couple of hours.

The only licensed esthetician at Sun Seekers Skin Care in Milwaukie, Okamura spends her days making women and men feel like they've walked through the fountain of youth with gentle massage and aromatherapy.

"When I was a little girl what I wanted to be more than anything was a cake decorator or a hair dresser," Okamura said. Even after she went through the scholastics of college, she said, she still wanted to be one of those two things.

Okamura is given full reign by the owners of Sun Seekers to choose the brands, products and treatments that are most suitable for its clients, including cosmetics, oils, lotions and scrubs.

"It's a business within a business," she said.

Okamura chose Sun Seekers as her employer because "they are extremely generous with the hands on and business training. They're really supportive because they're working with people who aren't usually business people."

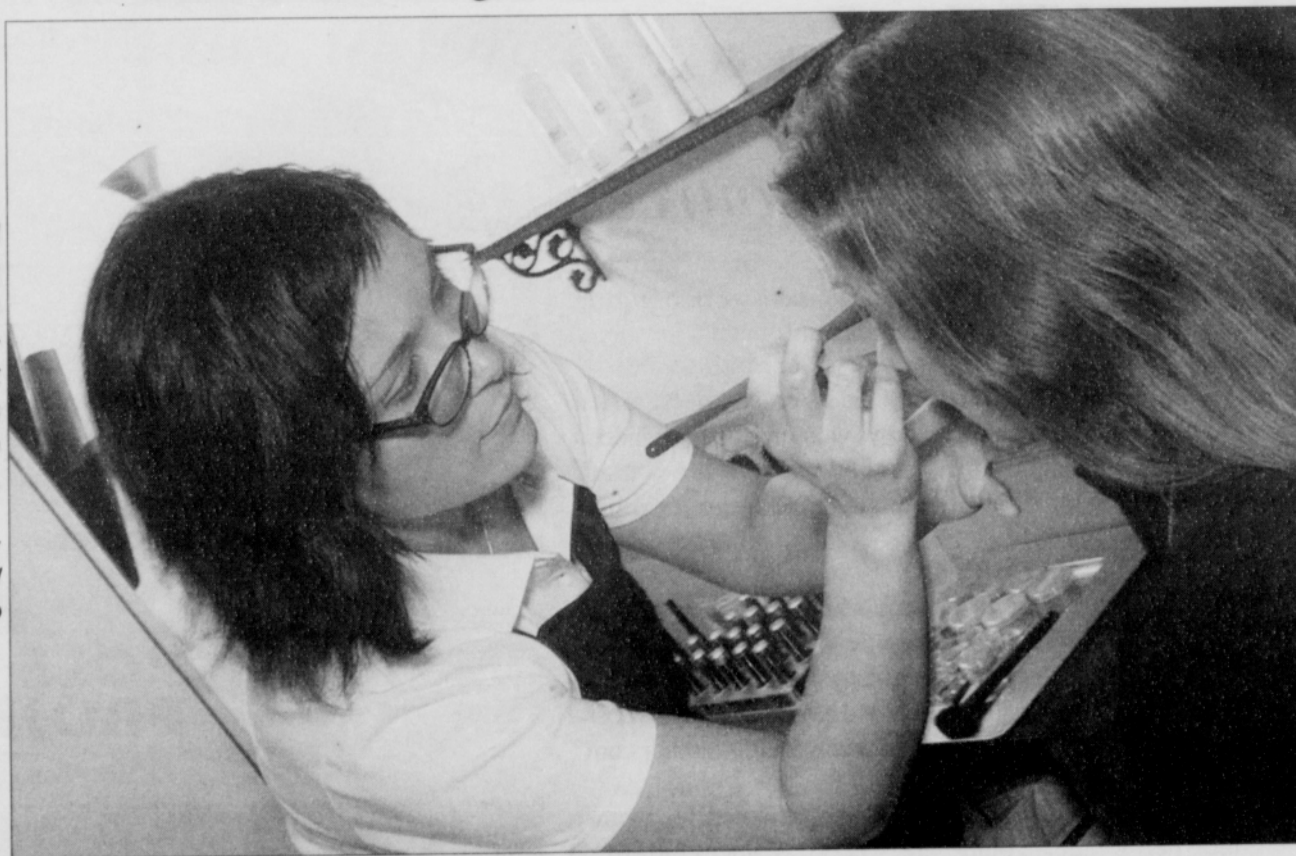
With this knowledge, she hopes to eventually open her own spa.

"I'm currently seeking out massage therapy talents and assembling my crew now. If down the road it looks like something needs to change, I'll make the adjustments I need to make. I'm having so much fun," she said.

Luckily for Okamura, breaking into the beautification industry wasn't difficult as a woman because "it is a primarily woman-centric business," she said. "Thank god for women's lib movement to pave the way for me. I figure I deserve what I want regardless of my sex."

Licensed esthetician Sherry Okamura applies cosmetics to a client at Sun Seekers Skin Care in Milwaukie.

PHOTO BY  
PAUL MILLER/  
ARGOPHOTO



*I like to make things pretty. But there's also something about working one and one with women to make them feel better about themselves.*

— Sherry Okamura

Although it usually takes about five years to build up a steady clientele, Okamura's doing well after two months through knowledge of marketing and advertisement that she gained working in local theatre.

Most of the clients she's had so

continued ▼ on page C8

Love your future...in just months become a

## Health Care Professional

Health Care Careers are among the "fastest growing occupations"\* in the U.S.!

\*BLS, Monthly Labor Review, Feb 2004.

Concorde offers training in these great career fields:

- Medical Assistant
- Insurance Coding & Billing Specialist

Call today 888-844-6753

CONCORDE  
CAREER INSTITUTE

Concorde Career Institute is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools & Colleges of Technology (ACCSC).



We've moved—Our new Portland area campus is ready for you. Visit our new home for your career training options.  
1425 NE IRVING STREET • PORTLAND, OR 97232

