

FASHION

BY CESAR PADILLA

High Tease

The Vanishing Hitchhiker, a history of American urban folklore, documents the moral tale we've all heard of the girl who ratted her hair so high and used so much hairspray that she couldn't bear to comb out her hair in order to wash it. Until one day a black widow fell into her 'do and it became a spider's nest — with fatal results. A legend generated by conservative parties to instill in youth a fear of big hair? But while the beehive and bouffant were subsequently branded

unclean and deviant — and the pendulum swung toward Woodstock and Marcia Brady, the Afro remaining the singular symbol of big-hair rebellion — in no time at all the styles of punk and glam once again made rigorous hair hygiene impractical, and young rebels resumed the destruction of the ozone layer in true nihilistic fashion. Though threatened momentarily by legislation banning fluorocarbons, big hair is back and more popular than ever. In Hairspray John Waters celebrated its legacy — the decade

during which Aqua Net went retail and subsequently became the nation's top-grossing cosmetic product, while schools banned the beehive and hairstyles taller than two inches. These days teen magazines could (should) publish statistics on which teen icons have the biggest hair (Robert Smith? Poison? Vixen?) as heavy metal bands take the art form to Himalayan heights. The B-52's (their moniker derived from a local nickname for the beehive) are back with a new record, inspiring big-hair contests across the land, and even Pepsi has staged a "Battle of the Beehive" to promote their product among teenagers.



Amra Brooks' 1990s beehive by Ed Sanchez, Doyle-Wilson Salon.



Pollyanne. Deathly rocking glamour by Craig Scdoris, On Mars Salon.



El Vez's pompadour by Roz Music, No Bones Salon.



Tralala, the most voluminous hair in Hollywood (known to wear up to three wigs at a time).