

# Hair today, gone tomorrow?

See my beard; ain't it weird  
Don't be skeered; it's just a beard

—George Carlin

It might have been the tropical island heat, the fact the NHL playoffs are on or just plain laziness, but for some reason I've allowed my face to get fuzzy. I've grown a beard.

Correction: I'm in the process of growing a beard. It's been about a month since a razor last made contact with my face and, while I won't be mistaken for Fidel Castro, there is a distinct hairiness to my mug.

Frankly, I never intended it to get this far. While on holidays late last month I didn't bother to shave for a few days and was all set to rid my face of the fur the day before flying home. That's when wifey announced she was going to have her hair braided, ala Bo Derek, just to get a reaction from her mother.

I said I'd do the same with my face fuzz.

Wifey protested, but realized that if her hair was wound up tight with little beads dangling from it, my stubble wouldn't look any less ridiculous.

When her parents picked us up at the airport the first words out of her mother's mouth were, "I like it."

She was referring to my face, not wifey's hair. Wifey, who detests facial hair, was not amused at her mother's honesty. She was even less impressed the next day when her sister, our nieces and her sister-in-law all gave my new look the thumbs up.

The reaction at work, for the most part, was positive. Ted, our bearded photographer, mocked my fur, but he'd like you to believe he had a beard when he left the womb.

THIS  
'N  
THAT



John McGhie

To be honest, I've never liked beards. There's just something untrustworthy and sinister about a beard. It's always hiding something—like a face.

In movies, it's always the bad guy with a beard, although Santa Claus is an exception.

Despite my reservations, I've grown accustomed to my furry face. Although I do find myself looking in the mirror way too much wondering if it's coming in properly, if there's a bare spot, if there's too much grey...

But, it's also been fun seeing people's reaction. My regular bank teller stared at my chin the whole time I talked to her the other day which had me wondering if I left a Cheerio in my beard from breakfast.

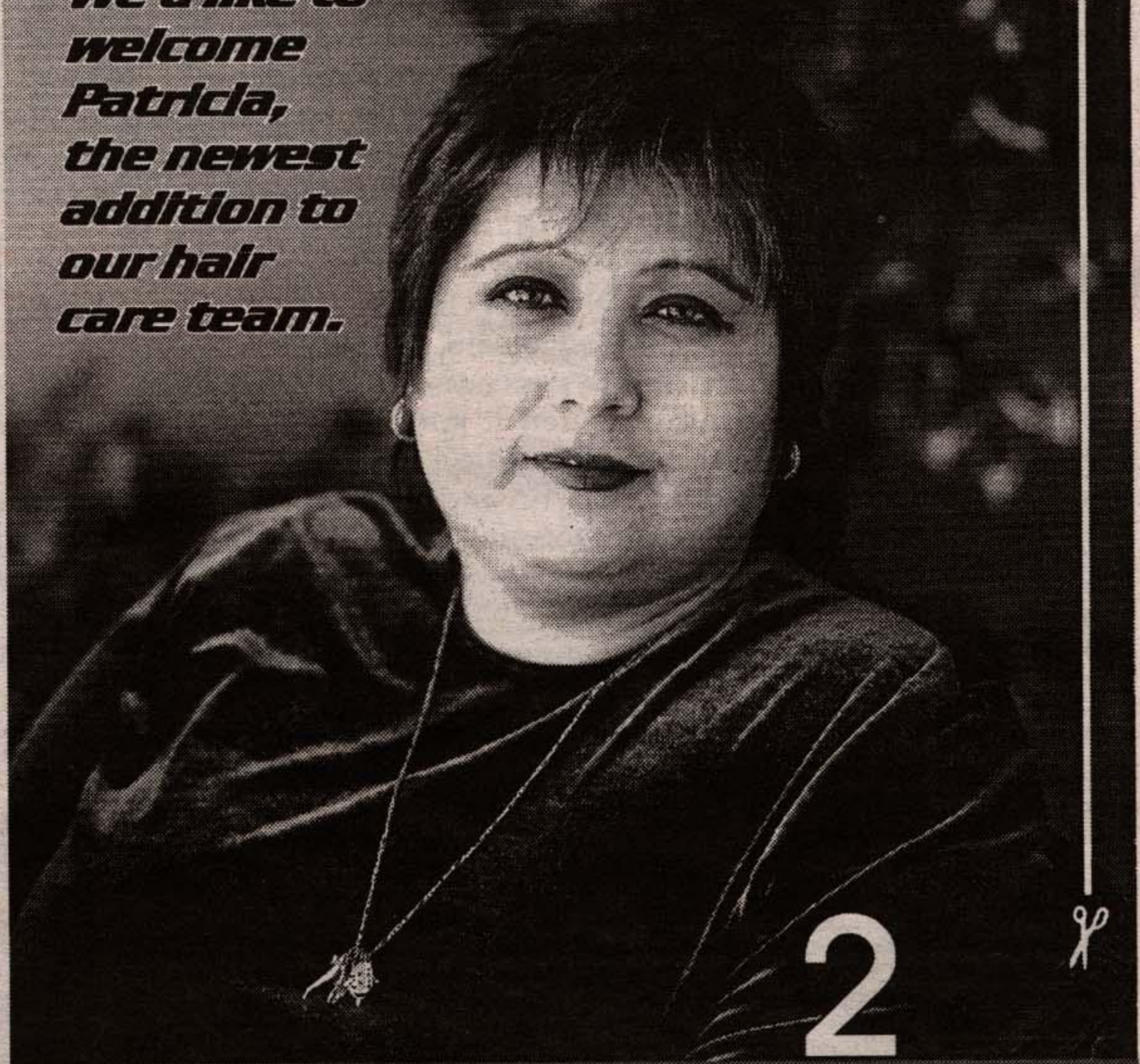
Wifey has kept silent on the beard issue although I know she's dying to take shears to me while I sleep. She did, however, say that it wasn't as "hideous" as she thought it would be. That was a major concession.

At this point, I'm not sure if I want to keep the beard. It looks okay and I don't miss spending five minutes shaving every morning.

But I never considered one thing when I started growing it: How exactly does one take it off without it hurting?

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