

Dying is not so heavenly

You know you're getting old when:

• You walk into the drug store, pick up a sorry guy's feminine hygiene product and your friend, sounding seriously stunned, exclaims, "Are you still using those?"

• That fire-engine red T-shirt you borrowed from your daughter's closet does for your aging complexion what *The Postman* did for Kevin Costner's movie career.

• You visit a cool clothing store and the sales person doesn't even put down her nail file to ask if she can help you because, I mean, like, you're obviously in the wrong place and she's like, you know, so-oo-oo busy.

Getting old means having to spend more money to keep yourself in denial. My trip to the drug store was brought about by a hair emergency - the grey bits were becoming glaringly obvious, even to my failing eyes. Maybe, I thought, it was time I dabbled in a more permanent solution.

Perusing the shelves, I consulted the boxes for guidance although, as anyone who does this stuff knows, the boxes are the last place you should look. This is



Kate's Corner

Kate Gilderdale

because the colour on the model is nothing, like the colour on your head after you've used the product. If it says, for example, Light Ash Brown on the lid, you will most likely end up looking like Snow White's evil stepmother, minus the wart at the end of your nose.

This creates some horrible dilemmas, like having to turn down invitations to parties because the result resembles a helmet, as opposed to the "shimmering halo of soft curls in subtle tones of sunlit auburn" they hinted at in the blurb.

Then there's the little challenge of deciding what level of coverage you need. If you're a hardened user, the words "For people with up to 40 per cent grey" are meaningless, because you've been using the stuff for so long you haven't the faintest idea whether a single strand of your original, pre-grey hair remains on your head.

Your only other option is to go

to the hairdresser. This is okay if your hairdresser is a kind, gentle person who doesn't take one look at your head, throw up his hands in horror, and inquire, in a voice dripping with derision, "Who did this last time?" Or, worse, "Did you do this yourself?"

People who react thus are usually young enough to be your child and piqued at having to pander to an aging boomer when the salon is full of cute chicks. Despite the fact I am the customer and therefore always right, I am pathetically bad at asserting myself, particularly when the interrogation includes the dreaded question of whether you are personally responsible for your woefully butchered bangs.

There are days when I think it may have been better to grow old gracefully, but it's too late for that now. The dye is cast and going grey is not an option unless I want to look like a superannuated zebra or try out for the role of Sigmund Weaver's stunt woman in *Alien 4*.

In the real world, I am discovering that what I learned as a callow youth still holds true. There is no such thing as black and white - only shades of grey.

Glad Park daycare meeting Wednesday

TUESDAY, APRIL 21
Therapeutic Touch Group
Meeting the 3rd Tuesday of each month 7:30 to 9:30 at Stouffville Therapeutic Centre for Massage, Shiatsu and Reflexology. Call Marita 642-4237 or Pamela 640-3898.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22
Adult Craft Workshop
Buttons & Bows - Boxes & Beads, for adults, at Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum, 14732 Woodbine Ave., Vandorf 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Fee: \$15, includes all materials. To register

call 727-8954, also on Saturday, April 25.
Daycare Meeting
Daycare meeting at Glad Park P.S., 300 Glad Park Ave., Stouffville, 7 p.m. All welcome.
■ Please see page 12 ■



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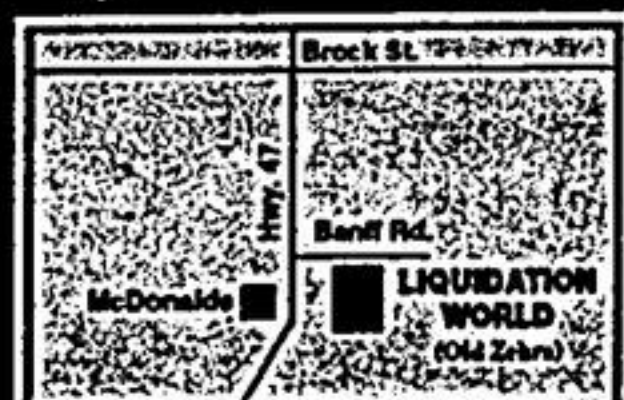
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