

Looking sharp can be painful experience

Summertime and the living is easy? I think not. For a person of the female gender who automatically qualifies for victim status in our blatantly patriarchal society, summer is one of the toughest challenges of all.

Take that last-minute invitation to a pool-side barbecue. This happens only when a) the hair on your legs would qualify you for the title role in King Kong b) the only razor on the premises is a rusty relic belonging to one of your fore-

mothers and c) you have 57 cents in your purse, \$128 in your bank account, a code blue on your credit card and the drug store clerk churlishly refuses to let you run up a tab. You therefore have two options. You can flay your legs

with the antique razor and appear in your swimsuit looking like an extra from a slasher movie, or you can tell people you're a militant feminist who thinks men are obsolete and dense thickets of body hair are indicators of female empower-



Kate's Corner

Kate Gilderdale

ment. My worst personal experience with a razor occurred when Mr. Wallethead and I went to Israel on a business trip. The razor in question was pristine, but I made the mistake of shaving my legs on the very day we went for a float in the Dead Sea. The saline content of this turgid body of water turned my trip into a painful learning experience, during which I discovered the origin of the phrase 'rubbing salt into sore wounds.'

Back to the party. If you're one of those hopeless women who, despite the agony involved, persists in wanting to appear attractive to representatives of the Neanderthal gender, the sisterhood has already written you off as a lost cause. In which case you can either borrow a non-lethal razor from a friend or call your hosts and plead PMS.

Summer is when men can be heard boasting that they do all the cooking. The lads' idea of making dinner generally consists of flipping burgers and T-bones whilst imbibing copious quantities of beer. Grill Guy conveniently overlooks the contribution of the little woman, who has spent the entire day making gourmet salads and dips to accompany that little bit of charcoal wedged 'twixt two halves of a burned bun.

Mr. Wallethead and a few good men of my acquaintance are exempt from the above diatribe. Not only does my significant other do a grand job with mad cow parts and propane, he is also a dab hand at cleaning up before and after the many rave-ups that occur at the chateau in balmy weather.

In fact, if I hadn't already been programmed to recognize men as my deadly enemy, I'd say he was a far better person than I am at just about any boring household task you care to name. It's why I married him. Why he married me, on the other hand, is a question that defies analysis.

I'd like to continue this intellectual monologue, but if I don't get organized, my nails won't be dry in time for this evening's barbecue. And by the way, it's a bring-your-own salad party.

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