

2/27/07

“Spring and the Feminine Gender”

by  
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Per usual, the recent bout with cold weather didn't last too long and our normal mid to high 70s is back... at least for little while. Do you realize that spring, I mean the official Spring, is only 22 days away? Unbelievable... where has the time gone? For the first time in a while I had shorts on to go play golf and wasn't chilled the entire round. It's nice, isn't it... to be able to wake up and walk outside to get the paper with just your PJs on and not freeze your tootsies off?

Speaking of spring guys, it's time do one more ritual to get you in proper shape for the more consistent warmer weather. It's time to re-check those nose and ear hairs and not wait for your wife to remind you of it. I know you've allowed them to grow longer than normal to keep you warm during the cold spells but it's time to get right... “Follicle-ly” speaking, but seriously guys, some of you go a little overboard with your “let it all hang out” philosophy. You've got to know there's a problem when your wife starts complaining about your nose and ear hairs keeping her awake at night by slapping her in the face every time you roll over. Remember fellows, it's hair-away, or the highway... you choose.

The coming of spring also means spring break at most schools in the country and that means an invasion of grandkids coming to show Granny and Papaw just how much they've grown. To those who don't have grandkids visiting, be sure to watch for all those younglings coming at you in Papaw's golf cart. Let vigilance and patience be your watch words over the next month or two.

Judy and I will be fortunate to have two of my sons and families coming in April so we can once again show them just how much we've learned about maximizing our retirement years and spending their inheritance. I'll be writing more about them as the time draws nearer.

I want to speak briefly about a subject I have never seen anything written about anywhere... and I can't understand why? I've never really heard anyone talk about this obvious social injustice to the feminine gender and I keep watching and expecting to see some report that women everywhere have finally gotten tired of being dissed by architects and builders all over the globe, and risen up in protest to get the situation rectified immediately. I'm even more surprised that it still occurs with all the women who have entered the architectural field as a career.

This terrible injustice was brought to my attention today as myself and 125 other individuals, male and female, were attending a function and when we were given a break it was Katy bar the door rushing to the facilities to relieve that all too familiar pressure on our kidneys. The guys rushed in and out fairly quickly with very few of us lined up at any given time. Not so for the ladies

however... it was painful to watch the agony on their faces and the squirming as they stood in line waiting their turn to visit the few cubicles provided them. I would say 4 to 6 men were in and out in the time it took one lady to do her necessities. (*How delicately can I say these things?*)

How many of you have ever been to a big league ballpark, football or baseball, or a college or NBA basketball arena? Haven't you noticed the same phenomenon occurring at the restrooms there as well? Watching one's wife go into one of those restrooms reminds me of that famous cockroach commercial that said... "*they go in but never come out!*" Guys, on the other hand, are in and out in a flash. Remember the great golf-cart challenge to the Guinness World's Record and how we sat in the middle of a buffalo pasture while waiting our turn to get in line, or the Vince Gill, Amy Grant concert held at the Polo Field that over 7,000 attended? Did you notice, at both events, that there were the same number of ladies' facilities as there were men's? There were so many women in line that I and another gentleman stationed ourselves outside two men's facilities and stood watch as our wives and other ladies in line could use them.

I feel your pain ladies, but my question is this... if the problem is so obvious to some semi-illiterati like me, why haven't the country's... nay, the world's architectural geniuses taken notice and addressed the problem? Why didn't the great, much fawned over, Frank Lloyd Wright snip this situation in the bud in the 50s and lead the charge to correct such a slap in the face to our weaker vessels?

Everyone... I mean everyone... knows and understands that women are somewhat anatomically different than us guys and that it's physically impossible for them to do what must be done when nature calls as quickly as we can. For me the solution would be simple... every municipality's decision making body throughout this great nation should take it upon themselves to examine their restroom facilities in all public buildings and immediately build at least one additional ladies' room. If it is a new building being designed, the proper minimum ratio should be two ladies restrooms for every one for men. Problem solved, simple as that.

Ladies, in the past you've marched, protested, cried, ranted and raved over so many other inequities your gender has suffered at the hands of we insensitive males... this issue should be raised to the powers that be whomever and wherever they are until they do something to correct it. And whatever you do, please don't take this sitting down.