



gentlemen's quarterly

Why Johnny DEPP

ROCK & ROLL FASHION DRE (From OutKast)

Wears His Wildest

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Is it completely inappropriate to try to meet a woman at a nude beach? Hooking up is definitely not the reason I go natural, but there have been times when I couldn't help but notice my neighbor a towel or two over. Is approaching a stranger against nude-beach etiquette? And if not, any advice on how to go about it? Clothed? Nude? Wrapped in a towel?

Carolyn Hawkins of the American Association for Nude Recreation says you should conduct yourself at a nude beach the same way you would at any other. "There are no unwritten rules, although we do hand out a little sheet of beach etiquette at our resorts—maintain eye contact, always carry a towel, and bring some sunscreen," she says. Hawkins, a proud habitu e of nude sunbathing ("I love it! I tell ya, there's nothing worse than being at a beach and getting that sand in your suit!") says that it's not necessary to wrap yourself in a towel as you strike up a conversation. Just don't ogle, please.

Pretend you are wearing shorts when you make your way over to your clothing-optional conquest. Be respectful and neutrally friendly. Hawkins thinks that a gal on a nude beach should actually be more approachable. "When she sheds her clothes, she sheds all the stress," she says.

"She's there for the relaxed, free feeling of being nude in the sun and will take you at face value"—as opposed to worrying about what designer clothes you are or are not wearing. One caveat, though: If wood is forming, better head for that towel. It wouldn't be very considerate of you to let your equipment block her sun.

It seems as though every other person is shaving or trimming his pubic hair these days, which makes me wonder, why do we have pubic hair in the first place? Does it serve any purpose? And can one safely dye it in the same way as head hair?

There are two warring theories as to why we have pelts covering our privates—scent and warmth. Olivia Judson, Ph.D., evolutionary biologist and author of *Dr. Tatiana's Sex Advice to All Creation*, comes down firmly in the aroma camp. "We know that smell is important in mate choice," she says, "and that longer hairs grow on the human body in places where we are producing smells that are important in mate attraction. So the hypothesis that I believe in is that pubic hair is an odor trap, a way to help spread pheromones"—the aromatic, sexually stimulating chemicals we produce. It's not a glamorous theory, but it makes sense to us.

...wise people... because the bleach... if you splash it on the genital area."
...shy to go to a salon and you... for the love of Pete, be... careful. The words *burn* and *genital* will probably ensure that you pay attention.

There seem to be as many condoms to choose from as there are breakfast cereals. Different sizes and flavors make sense, but my question is, do ribbed condoms and condoms with pouches really make a difference, or is it just clever marketing that makes us think we're experiencing "extra pleasure"?

New York sex-toy emporium Toys in Babeland carries more than two dozen kinds of rubbers, so store cofounder Claire Cavanah is the perfect person to tackle your condom conundrum. She says there is no doubt in her mind that men, at least, appreciate pouched rubbers like Pleasure Plus and Inspirational. "The pouch prevents the condom from constricting the sensitive part underneath the head of the penis," she says, "and preserves the delightful friction that the penis would have if it were unsheathed inside a woman. Men loooooove it."

As for the whole "ribbed for her pleasure" hoo-ha, Cavanah says this falls somewhere between a marketing ploy and actual sexual enhancement. "Women really do feel the ribs," she says. "A regular lubricated condom can be almost too slick." Rubbers with ridges, bumps or—a new development—mesh (the pattern reminds Dr. Sooth of fishnet stockings) provide a little frisson of excitement, but Cavanah says that "unlike pouched condoms, which address the very thing men frequently complain about—diminished sensation—ribbed condoms have less of an impact on women. It's not like we walk around saying, 'God, I wish condoms were bumpier!'"

If you're curious about ribs and pouches (as well as vanilla- and strawberry-flavored condoms), go to www.babeland.com.

E-mail your questions about sex to drsooth@gq.com or send them to Dr. Sooth, GQ, 4 Times Square, New York, New York 10036.

"WHAT ARE THE THREE WORDS YOU NEVER WANT TO HEAR WHILE MAKING LOVE? HONEY, I'M HOME."—KEN HAMMOND