

He said, She said

Some hairy situations lie below the belt

Columnists weigh the benefits, drawbacks of manscaping



HE SAID



Nik Wasik
Columnist

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To trim or not to trim, that is the question, isn't it gentlemen? It's the question of the ages (well, I guess not really until recently, but still). Is it right to do a little "manscaping" down there? Or is it acceptable to let it grow out like nature intended?

Gentlemen, let me tell you that even though it may seem like a lot of work (depending on the man), or it may seem dangerous (who's bright idea was it to let sharp metal mess around down there?), the reward outweighs the risk entirely.

I know there might be guys who think it doesn't matter, but not only does trimming down there give you a more civilized look, it also allows for a pleasant presentation for your partner.

I've never heard anybody, guy or girl, complain about lack of hair with their partners. I've also never heard anybody complain about the effort they put into keeping things tidy.

Guys, how much work you have to put into keeping it tidy down there is a matter of preference. Some people like "going Brazilian," and others enjoy having a little fuzz on their peaches.

Using a razor or a clipper is based on

preference, but each has its pros and cons.

Using a clipper allows for a more uniform, careful way to maintain yourself, where a razor will be able to get a closer, smoother shave.

A clipper, however, lowers the risk of cuts or other unpleasant shaving incidents that could normally happen on the face.

A razor, though, when used carefully and methodically, can leave a smooth, pleasant feeling that some people enjoy more than the prickly feeling of short stubble. Remember, friends, these machines were designed to be used on someone's face.

If you're going to use a razor, let's talk about some general practice tips. If you use a razor, for face or body, use one that has three to five blades. The less blades, the more risk of cutting yourself. The more amount of blades, the less amount of pressure you have to apply, though.

Always shave after a hot shower. The shower softens the skin and the hair to allow for a closer, easier shave. Never shave with a dull razor, especially if you're manscaping. Last I checked razor burn is not attractive.

Use the weight of the razor to do the shaving. Do not press. Shaving is a marathon, not a sprint. The more you press, the more of a chance you have to cut yourself.

Because manscaping is truly a solo affair: the method, the practice and the preference are all about you and how confident you feel doing it. There's no social standard to go by, so ... Go ahead.

Go and shave that lightning bolt in.

Do it.

I dare you.

SHE SAID



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she is focusing on.

At the same time, the notion of asking what someone would prefer or likes is a selfless concept. If you're willing to give up some level of comfort just to make someone else happy, whether that's manscaping or otherwise, that's a really good sign of your selflessness and how you value relationships. For me, I view it in a "golden rule" sort of manner, as long as people are comfortable with that. I'm not putting hot wax anywhere near my pants, so I don't expect you to. (Why would anyone ever think putting a hot substance in such important areas is OK? I just don't get it).

Also, if you want to talk about gender equality, where is the male version of vajazzling? Why isn't "Men's Health" or "Sports Illustrated" talking about "p-glitter" or some equally demeaning attempt to add sparkle or color to things that shouldn't. Speaking of color, did you know pubic hair dye is a thing? I don't get it, but maybe manscaping is more fun when what you're trimming is green.

I think whether you're into acoclitism or crazy dyes (because somebody has to like that for there to be a market) what matters most is that you're comfortable with how you feel. Then you're golden.

Letter to the Editor

Don't deceive others

Are you familiar with the story of the boy who cried wolf? If not, it's a story of a boy who, just for kicks, convinced everyone that there was a wolf attacking his sheep. There was no danger, and the townspeople were annoyed. Then he did it again. The townspeople were more annoyed. But then it really happened. A wolf came and attacked his flock. He ran screaming into the town to get help, but no one believed him, and his sheep were eaten.

It's a familiar tale with a simple message. If you lie, people will struggle to believe you. The same is true for half-truths.

A couple of weeks ago, rainbow-colored doors were put up around campus with hateful words on them, and many students believed the words were a recent addition, some even thought they happened that week.

There is a long history behind those doors. The words were sprayed on years ago, and the Rainbow Union used to put them out every year as a reminder of the hateful words that were said.

The problem with them being displayed this year, after years of storage, is that their story is not included, so many students assume this just happened. I don't know if this was intentional, or just a drastic oversight on the part of the individuals who are responsible for the display, but the result is that people are believing a half-truth.

Yes, Drake can be better about being accepting of all people, but it's important to fight

for acceptance with integrity, because all it takes is one instance of deceiving people before you become less trustworthy. You can set back your entire cause by being caught in any untrue statement.

I cannot speak for the intent of those who set up the display, but people on campus need to be rational about what we are seeing.

Clearly, comments on Yik Yak have gotten out of hand, and we know from other comments that have been made on Yik Yak that some people just like to cause trouble on the app.

We also know that people have seen the doors knocked down. This is not necessarily a sign of hatred toward those in the LGBTQ community, but it is a sign of disrespect toward other students and the work they do.

Keep in mind that it is a college campus, and not all stupid decisions are made out of hate — many are just made out of stupidity.

Regardless of someone's views on sexuality, we need to be respectful of those around us, and if we are trying to make a point, our argument needs to be 100 percent clear and truthful, otherwise we are shooting ourselves in the foot when the truth comes out.

My challenge to you, Drake University, is to be classy about how we discuss controversial issues. We don't just want to be a Top-20 friendly school for LGBTQ individuals, we want to be a Top-20 friendly school for everyone.

Drew Foster

Nedflix

Movies offer chance for creative thinking

I find that movies are best when you are still thinking about them days, weeks and years later. Yes, strong direction, action, cinematography and all that junk are important, but I'd be willing to trade that in if I can have a worthwhile conversation about a film in a coffee shop with a few friends.

Obviously, these things aren't mutually exclusive. But something that profoundly moves me or gets me thinking is what I want from a picture.

This weekend, I watched a movie called "Snowpiercer" on Netflix. I loved it.

It reminded me of a Terry Gilliam film and a Korean action flick rolled into one.

The plot wasn't too complicated, but it was incredibly original. A train in the not too distant future holds the very last survivors of an apocalyptic environmental event that froze Earth.

The poor, lower class lives in the back of the train and the rich live in the front. I'm sure you can imagine the political themes involved. But regardless of subtlety, it was incredibly interesting, both visually and conceptually.

The ending twist really had a lot to say about society right now in a scary way.

My friends weren't as enthusiastic about "Snowpiercer" as I was. They thought it was silly and corny. I just thought it was intentionally surreal.

But we still talked about it for a good while. It was polarizing and fascinating. That's why I loved it

so much. There was a lot of meat on that bone and regardless of how well my friends liked it, we wanted to have a conversation about it. That's a sign of something special.

There are a lot of movies like this. In 2011, Terrence Malick released "The Tree of Life." It was



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the very definition of polarizing. I sat in the theater with my father that year, watching the amazing images the movie flashed at us.

There really wasn't much of a plot. Just a family in Texas juxtaposed against images of prehistoric Earth and the cosmos.

My dad wasn't incredibly amazed by it and called it pretentious. I found it incredibly beautiful.

But, still, to this day, in 2014, we talk about that movie. Not all the time, but it'll come up and we'll still chat about it. We'll discuss the visuals, the themes and the ending.

It's something that hasn't left me, and I've only seen it once.

The profound images are still burned in my head. That's what's so powerful about the medium of filmmaking.

So my message to you is don't be cynical about movies, or art for that matter.

Thinking is fun. Conversation is fun. Don't be afraid to challenge yourself. Leave your comfort zone. Then come find me.

Let's have a conversation.

Do you have an idea for a future Nedflix column?

If so, tweet Ned Leebrick-Stryker at @TheBrickStryker using #Nedflix to let him know!



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