

Humor Me

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“The Bald and the Beautiful”

One day after I turned thirty, I was in the bathroom studying the dense growth of hair on the back of my neck. I find there are few things more repulsive than a mangy neck. And mine needed a trim to keep the “ground cover” from going down my back.

Then my eyes drifted upwards and I saw, for the first time, a bald spot on my head the size of a Denny’s silver dollar pancake. Based on the circumference, I determined it had been there for at least a year.

Old family photographs confirmed my worst fear. Both of my grandfathers, who died before I was born, were totally bald and one of my grandmother’s curls looked a little thin. Since the gene skips a generation, I knew it was only a matter of time before the Denny’s bald spot merged with my forehead to create a skin peninsula which would eventually work its way down to my ears.

I cut a lock of hair from my head and placed it in the safe deposit box figuring if Walt Disney could be unfrozen, maybe my hair could be telegenetically reborn at some later date. Then I decided to face the problem head on and proclaimed to my wife that balding was natural and I was going to accept the head that God gave me.

“Would you at least consider using Rogaine?” she responded.

Wait a minute. I thought. That’s not the right answer. I’m looking for “I’ll love you no matter how you look” or even “I think bald-headed men are sexy.” I was not expecting, “For God’s sake do what you can to stop the balding!”

Doubt filled my mind.

Did my head look that bad? Did she secretly want to marry Fabio? Was she freaked out by my bald head the same way I’m freaked out by clowns?

Whatever the reason, it was clear that she did not want to be Mrs. Kojak.

So, I considered my options.

I *could* try Rogaine. It was easy to use and had few side effects. However, the label did warn that if my head turned red and peeled, I should stop using it. Duh.

Propecia was also an option. This was a drug that when given to men with swollen prostates, grew hair. That's odd. A medicine for an organ on the opposite end of your body grows hair on your head. The thought of being called Prostate Head reminded me too much of high school

I thought about using Miracle Grow. It had done wonders for our azaleas while keeping the aphids away, but it was not yet FDA approved as far as I knew. Too bad.

Then there was a hair transplant. This was a procedure where "plugs" of hair from one part of your head are relocated to drilled holes in the balding area. That reminded me of a friend who bought a Christmas tree that was bare on one side. He drilled holes in the trunk and then transplanted severed limbs from the fuller side of the tree. I remember thinking; *something is just not right with that tree.*

Finally, I could have gotten a hairpiece. Then I could have joined the host of proud men who walked around thinking that no one else knew they were wearing a toupee while everyone thought, *Boy is that a bad toupee.*

You'll be happy to know that I chose a double cocktail of Rogaine and Propecia. For several years, I used it religiously and while it did not grow any new hair, it did stop the hair loss process. Every once in a while, I thought my hair looked fuller but my wife quickly suggested that "It was just the light." Dang it.

Five months ago, I decided to stop the hair drugs altogether realizing that I was only delaying the inevitable. Since then, I've lost half of the hair I had. I'm convinced it was God's way of punishing me for interfering with the process in the first place. My wife is slowly adjusting and now, I can't see much hair in any light.

I recently heard a motivational speaker say that we should not try to change what God gave us but instead we should rejoice in who we are and what we have. So I'm slowly trying to accept the fact that God made a few perfect heads.....and on the others, he put hair.

Until next time, just humor me.

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Ron Culberson, MSW, CSP, CPAE is a speaker, humorist, and author of four books including Do it Well. Make it Fun. The Key to Success in Life, Death, and Almost Everything in Between. His mission is to change the workplace culture so that organizations are more productive and staff are more content. He shows people how to have more FUN while preserving the integrity of the work they do and the lives they lead. For more information, visit www.RonCulberson.com.

