



Associated Press photo

Monday night. The model wears a full-colored striped gown with an embroidered top.

historical and cultural concept that only husbands or close family should be permitted to see a woman's hair uncovered or falling loosely down her back. Such restrictions imply that women with hair in disarray or loosened from binding (recall the old saying "let down her hair") are more sexually available than other women.

As one example, in Oriental art women depicted with mussed hairdos

type of sexual fetish and, as with other fetishes, no one is yet certain how such sexual feelings are acquired.

Send questions to Dr. Reinisch in care of The Kinsey Report, P.O. Box 48, Bloomington, Ind. 47402. Volume of mail prohibits personal replies, but questions of general interest may be discussed in future columns.

Skeptics

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skeptical about magic and witchcraft, faith healers, holistic medicine, astrology, and accounts of out-of-body experiences.

Cavanaugh, who mentioned he's a regular churchgoer, says he has no quarrel with belief that is assumed to be an act of faith.

"Many of our members are also church members," added Smith, an engineer.

What rankles PRISM is the forwarding of beliefs in which advocates imply that there is hard scientific data to support their claims.

"I have a good friend who believes that the world is too scientific. I don't believe it's scientific enough," Cavanaugh said.

PRISM member N. Stephan Kinsella, an LSU electrical engineering student who plans to get a law degree, has gotten worked up about Mississippi inventor Joseph Newman's hawking of a device that allegedly makes more energy than it takes in.

"The National Bureau of Standards has issued a report which shows that Newman's energy machine is nothing more than a very inefficient DC motor," Kinsella wrote in an article prepared for his group.

PRISM chairman Henry Murry occasionally takes pen in hand to chide the media for promoting what he sees as unproven hucksterism.

In a recent letter to the editor, Murry took issue with recent articles on a piece of Mars that looks like a face. Some have said the formation could mean the existence of an ancient civilization on the planet. Murry thinks there's not enough evidence to entertain such a notion, and that journalists have fallen

prey to a sham.

"Much self-praise has been emitted, extolling the virtues of newspapers in the education of schoolchildren. Little wonder that education is in a shambles," Murry wrote.

PRISM members apparently agree with the late humorist H.L. Mencken that the best way to dispel blind assertions is with a horselaugh.

In a tongue-in-cheek list of predictions for the upcoming year, the group forecast that "Shirley Maclaine will be allowed on commercial airline flights only when accompanied by her body." PRISM also opined that "snake oil will continue to be a major commercial commodity with electronic salvation as one of its chief major products."

Though Kinsella and Smith both have backgrounds in engineering, Cavanaugh pointed out that not all PRISM members are technically versed. PRISM members are "mostly but not exclusively well-educated," he said.

Cavanaugh said that PRISM plans to issue more challenges to local believers in paranormal phenomena.

PRISM wants advocates of such things to subject their claims to objective scientific tests, Cavanaugh said.

"We need to find ways of making our case that are both dramatic and serious," said Cavanaugh.

Cavanaugh said while believing in things like Bigfoot and levitation might seem harmless enough, an unquestioned belief in ideas for which there is no proof can distract a person from more worthwhile pursuits.

"It's like Plato said, the life which is unexamined is not worth living."

ip in bathroom?

picking her over my own mother, and it would be goodbye.

I thought she would forgive me, as all mothers do and should. But when I came home from my honeymoon, my mom's phone number had been changed to an unlisted one. She did exactly as she said. When she went to the hospital for a kidney operation, she did not want me there. She is going again and still doesn't want me. She said that after what I put her through, she doesn't want me to cry over her when she dies.

I miss her and would like to know what to do to correct this. I want her to love me and be my mother again, not an ex-mother.

GENTLE READER — Miss Manners is heartbroken to recognize that what you have here is a full-fledged family feud, and a nasty one at that. Etiquette has strict rules about the civilized way to conduct a feud (curtly observing the formalities to the extent of elaborately pretending not to see the opposition, rather than committing an offensive move that would necessarily involve others in the fray), but only one tool for ending them, and that doesn't always work.

That tool is the apology. Never mind now that you didn't think the issue important at the time, or take seriously your mother's warnings. Just keep writing her that you are sorry, and that you love her and miss her.

Feeling incorrect? Address your etiquette questions (in black or blue-black ink on white writing paper) to

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EDITH
ARTIN

All too often she g isolated, while themselves with he deserted ones seen at less than

tiquette can also indly intentions, le to burst in on to visit the sick, or an invitation, wait for such an

ds of your next recuperating for e to see you when bably be about ou give me a call er?"

I is a charming or, easygoing in saying firmly: Adele will be so flowers, and eing you, but she eiving visitors she is."



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