

# GQ MEN OF THE YEAR

\* COLIN FARRELL  
AND 30 OTHER  
LEGENDS,  
ROGUES AND  
HEROES

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+

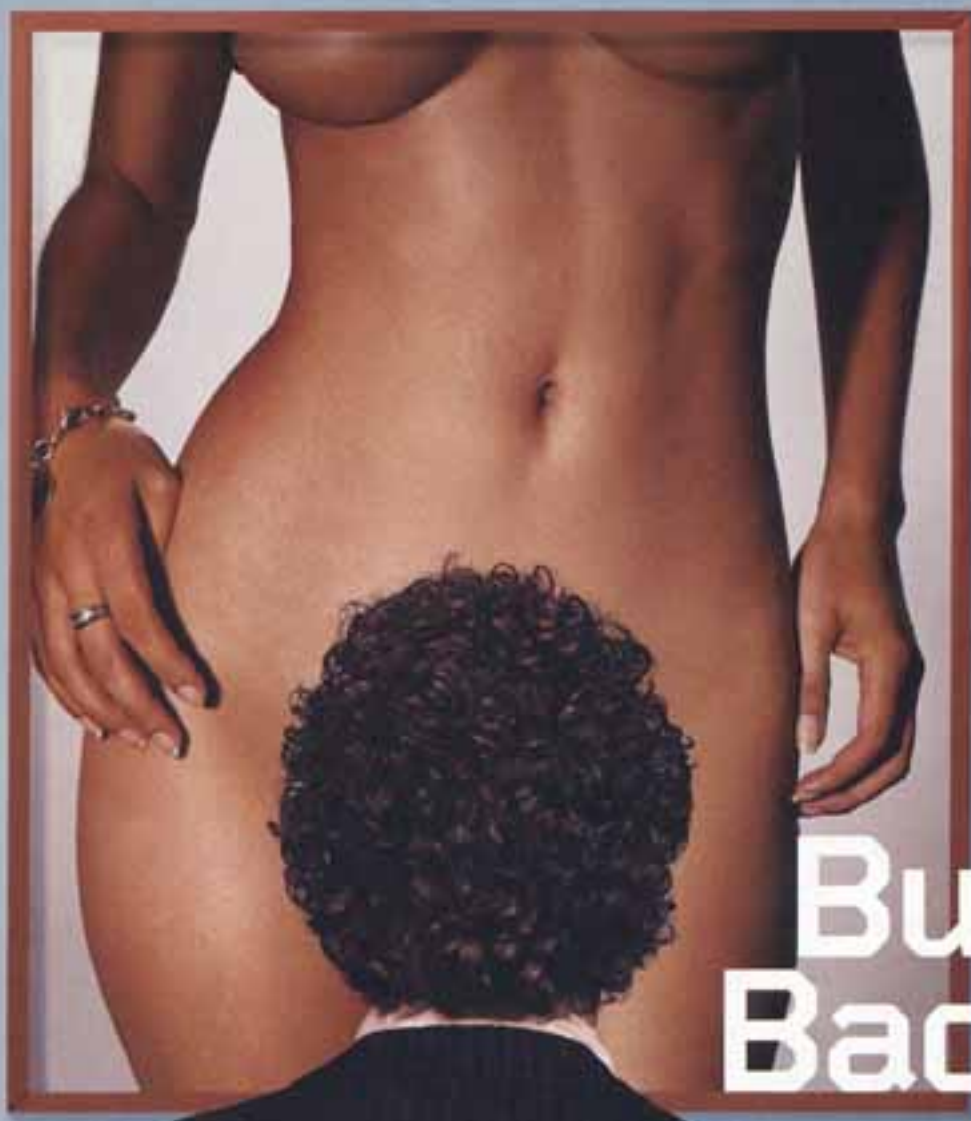
ANGELINA  
JOLIE  
EVA  
HERZIGOVA  
AND THE  
WOMEN OF  
THE YEAR

NOVEMBER 2003  
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# THE VERDICT

Like the Brazilian rain forest in the '80s, the bush started disappearing about five years ago. Magazine articles heralded the age of the Brazilian wax. *Sex and the City* dedicated an episode to the characters' female topiary. Even Gwyneth Paltrow revealed that she liked a li'l landscaping. >> Soon regular girls, girls we met in bars and at office functions, ▶



## Is Bush Back?

were going at their panty lines as if they were bonsai trees. Bushes everywhere were reduced to landing strips or tortilla chips or Hitler mustaches. One salon would even adorn women's jewels with...jewels. And still they shrank. It wasn't uncommon for a woman to go completely bare.

Bush seemed dead. And we weren't complaining. Suddenly, our girlfriends of five years looked like porn stars. It felt pretty good, too—no scratching or tugging or itching when unmentionables met unmentionables.

But I felt a sense of mourning. I'd loved an old-school nether region ever since I was a kid in the '70s, when my pals and I discovered a stack of old *Playboys* and I met Rita Lee. She was a centerfold, 24 years old, from Frederic, Wisconsin. She had great boobs and all, but what entranced me was her southern coiffure. It was serious, heavy-duty, dirty blond. It could have been a guest star on *Starsky and Hutch*. It was mesmerizing.

I've missed Rita Lee these past few years. Especially recently, when the once hot Brazilian totally lost its allure. It was everywhere. What used to be a thrill became predictable. "You get tired of having a girl look like she's 12," a bartender told me. "Everyone I've dated for the past five or six years has been very bare."

"I like a full bush," said another guy at the bar. "Not a little shrub. I want to be able to weave it."

I felt I'd discovered a silent majority. Men were supposed to be primary beneficiaries of the wax. But now men were quietly confessing they'd become tired of the wax. They yearned for fuller growth, a return to nature. So my spirits lifted when I began hearing that women are getting sick of the wax—the ingrown hairs, the expense, the constant trips to the salon. I am happy to report that bush is starting to grow again. Kim Cattrall

even grew hers back on *Sex and the City*.

"I do think bush is back," says Amy Sohn, a sex columnist. "I wouldn't say back to '70s level, but I've seen more sprout going on down there."

Sohn says she was never a big advocate of the wax. "It felt really uncreative and homogenous," she says. "You were seeing total homogeneity in the locker room. There was no artistry to the upper area. It looked very silly. Pussies didn't look like pussies anymore."

Now Sohn says she and her husband, artist Charles Miller, are fans of what she calls the "faux '70s" look—bushy on top and bare on just the naughty bits.

"The '70s on top and '90s down below!" she says. "You look essentially unaltered, except you have the sexual pleasure that the Brazilian affords you."

"It's all the trend," confirms Brenna Collins, the director at New York's Haven spa. "It's now very popular to leave a triangle or heart shape just in the front, the top area. If you look at her front-on, you would think that she'd had nothing done. It's like a surprise once she spreads her legs."

So it's true, after all. It just goes to show that all trends come to an end. And who knows how far the pendulum will swing in the other direction. I just read that in South Korea, women are paying thousands to have hair transplanted onto their public regions. It's a sign of fertility, women there explained. (*God, South Korea rules.*)

And wouldn't you know it, a few days later I was in an old-magazine shop in the East Village, thumbing through some aging *Playboys*, when I found her—Rita Lee. I opened the magazine, and there she was. *My oh my*, I thought. Enough with the waxing. Let it grow. Give me bush.

—GEORGE GURLEY

**"You get tired of having a girl  
look like she's 12."**