

## Ass you like it

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As you get older, you get more philosophical about making an utter ass of yourself. Just the other day I had a heated argument with a nun over the way young girls dress today. When I realised later that through it all the zip on my jeans was undone, I just shrugged and figured it lent a certain poignancy to the argument. I've got rather a large collection of embarrassing moments weaseled out of friends.

At NDA, all the young cadets are soon devoid of embarrassment and the common showers have no doors. A young female visitor misunderstood the directions she had been given to the ladies loo. One wrong turn and she was suddenly in the middle of over a dozen fit young military men in the buff. Everyone froze. She turned to run and slipped and fell. The officers being gentlemen ran forward to help her up. The poor girl figured she was being assaulted and screamed at the top of her voice.

Another friend remembers with agony her big moment. It came in the middle of a Bible Quiz in an all boys school. She had starched her uniform very well - unfortunately when she sat, it folded up like an accordion. And when she leapt up with the answer to 'Who was the last disciple?' the hall got a most unbiblical view of her new underwear.

Another assistant director told of how she was on a shoot in the middle of Rajasthan. The male model was in a G String and the director decided that his bottom was far too hairy. It was left to her to find a barber. An old man in a large turban turned up and proudly told her how his forefathers had been barbers to the Kings. When she explained exactly what they required shaved right now the old man was outraged. And the model said every prayer he could while the barber grumbled and swore and scraped.

Friends of mine turned up in Goa and demanded to be taken to a nude beach. However, nary a bare chest was in sight at Ozra. They decided to go swimming and the dogs joined them. The dogs have this nasty habit of trying to scramble onto your shoulder in the water which is very detrimental to swim suits. They scrambled... and my friends were suddenly the only topless women on the beach. They didn't find it funny.

My favourite is of a friend who was the lead in one of those riotous sex comedies . In one scene a gay doctor suddenly puts a hand on his knee. All went fine until one show when the actor

who had to come on next fell asleep in the green room. Unfortunately, in search of verity, the man cast as the doctor was actually gay. He put a hand on the knee... an arm around the shoulder... a kiss on cheek... a caress around the waist... all this while the audience howled with laughter. His cries of 'Help somebody!' were taken as part of the script. The doctor had wrestled the shirt off him before the next actor dived through the wings and to the rescue.

It's a clear sign that you're over thirty when you begin recounting your embarrassing moments in a loud voice at parties, instead of wishing you were dead.