

I should know better...

By Curt Harler/Managing Editor

At my age, I should know better than to write this editorial. It'll get me in the dog house with about 15 percent of our readership, my editor, and my wife — all of whom are females.

But I'll never have as sizable and as intelligent a group to pose this question to, so here goes: Why is it okay for women to buy men saws, hammers, lawn mowers or shop vacuums for Christmas and birthdays, but it's not okay for men to buy women such items as irons, blenders or home vacuums at the same time?

I've known since I was about 10 years old that home appliances are off-limits as gifts for women. Yet I've received a pile of home appliances (all appreciated) as gifts. The typical explanation I've gotten in the past seems to run along these lines: A chain saw (hammer, shop vac) is such a nice, masculine gift. It's perfect for an outdoorsy, macho guy like you.

This holiday season, the makers of Armor All (those wonderful cleaning products for cars) have gone so far as to offer a gift pack of polishes, tire brighteners and

waxes — aimed at the female buyer looking for a gift for her mechanically-minded man. Can you imagine a guy offering a woman a gift pack of Cascade, Tide and Johnson's floor wax?

When I've tried to explain there is nothing more feminine and appreciated in the morning than a woman using her new toaster oven to make breakfast, all I get is glares. When I mention that a certain multi-function mixer represents the height of home economics and gourmet technology, I know I've lost more points than I've gained.

So, I take my hammer or chain saw, trudge out back, and set to work — looking so masculine, cute and defeated. Do you think the Supreme Court would be interested in hearing my case?

In any case, happy holidays to all our readers, and best of wishes to everyone — male and female — for a safe, profitable and prosperous 2002.



Curt Harler
Managing Editor

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