



**MISS
BEHAVE**

■ Do you fret about manners in modern society? Direct your burning questions to Wendy Lee at wendy@chap-one.com.

Walk the talk, get it right

WHEN is the appropriate time to throw air kisses? What do you do when your love rival is similar to the bitchy character in *Gossip Girl*?

Starting this month, our Miss Behave columnist, Wendy Lee, will address issues – big or small – concerning etiquette in modern society.

Lee, a professional image consultant, will answer all queries with a refreshing perspective and a witty sense of humour.

In case you're wondering who Lee is, here's a brief introduction: she founded Chapter One – Colour, Style and Image Consultancy in 2003 to help men and women define and refine their image through wardrobe, communication and protocol skills.

Under the mentorship of Ann Reinten of The Australian Image Company and Pat Vincent Scott of The Colourflair Studios (UK), Lee subsequently became one of the few internationally trained and qualified image consultants in Malaysia.

Through her affiliation with The Association of Image Consultants (AICI), The Federation of Image Consultants (TFIC) and The Association of Colourflair Consultants (MACC), Lee has also successfully completed her Train-The-Trainer Certification.

In 2004, Wendy was awarded the Asian Image Consultant of the Year by The Australian Image Company.

Lee has an extensive list of corporate clients and is much sought after as a professional speaker. She has also been appointed style advisor for Astro's AEC programme *Evening Edition*. She is a regular columnist with *CloveTwo*, the online portal for women as well as an external tutor at Carven Ong's Fashion Academy.

When more is less

AN aunt of mine has turned into a cougar, dating a much younger man. While I am accepting of this, being a young open-minded woman, my mom and other relatives cringe at this notion. I am trying to defend my aunt's love life but the one thing I cannot agree upon is her dressing. To match her lover's appearance, she has started wearing clothes more appropriate for a woman half her age i.e. mini skirts, leggings and revealing tops. If she looks like Demi Moore, I can live with it. But unfortunately, she looks more like Susan Boyle. The advice I am asking is: How should a cougar (in Malaysia) dress? Shouldn't she be wearing clothes appropriate for her age?

Alexandra

Hmm ... it looks like your aunt has the "mutton dressed as lamb" syndrome. Yet, if she were to wear clothes appropriate for her age, then it's very tiring to keep explaining every time someone remarks "What a handsome son you have".

The cub has chosen your aunt, which means he is attracted to her other attributes – her self-confidence, her maturity, her experience, her passion for living, etc.

The challenge now is to make your aunt one classy cougar – strutting down the red carpet with her young "conquest", looking stunningly sexy and stylish!

** Aim to look 10 years younger. If you are 50, look at what 40-year-olds would wear.*



How do you turn an aunt who looks like Susan Boyle (left) into Demi Moore? Get handy advice from Miss Behave.



Leggings, miniskirts and see through blouses only look good on women between the ages of 20 and 30. Besides, no one can flirt confidently with aging knees and sagging breasts hanging out.

** One focal point at a time: Cleavage, bare-back, smooth thighs – flaunt one asset at a time. Too much skin decreases your value, and even more if aging spots and wrinkled skin are visible. Besides, men are not known to multi-*

task. So, let them concentrate only one thing at a time.

** Blue eyeshadow and red lipstick are passé. Keep your makeup as natural as possible. Anything cakey will crack eventually.*

** Avoid neon colours: Happy colours equal giddy headed. You get the point.*

** For cougars, everything has to be in moderation and in good taste. Dress to impress and I'm sure your aunt will make heads turn!*

Getting cheeky

HOW do you do the "muah-muah" air-kiss or cheek-kiss a woman to greet her?

Jane Doe

This act of cheek-kissing – air kissing as it sometimes called as we more often than not never touch lip to cheek, but only pretend to be kissing.

As a rule, you should not be cheek-kissing women you barely know or have just been introduced to, unless of course the woman initiates this.

You do not lean in to plant a cheek-kiss unless the lady initiates this. And even then, you should use discretion and caution.

Now, on to the actual act. It is not really a kiss, hence the air-kiss moniker. It is more like a brushing of the cheek.

NEVER plant your lips on her cheek or make any noticeable sound (the "muah-muah" sound is unbearable).

Cheek kissing should start on the right cheek, and then the left. I usually give a little whispered "so good to see you" or "how are you" in these circumstances in order to eradicate the awkwardness.

Then again, if you are not a 'muah-muah' person, just stick out your hand for a hand shake or nod in the direction of the person upon greeting. They will get the idea.

Makeover for my man

MY husband doesn't like to dress up even though he has to accompany me to work-related dinners sometimes. Once, it was a black tie event and he showed up in a t-shirt and khaki pants. I felt so embarrassed! How can I get him to spruce up on his wardrobe and adhere to event dress codes? I don't want to bruise his male ego, but at the same time, I don't want to cringe every time we go for events together.

Wife in distress

Put it across to him that by dressing up on occasions and events, he is doing something very important for you. He is part of your accessories,

your extended image!

Let him know you need his support and assistance, as your subordinates, colleagues and bosses will be judging you based on his image as well.

But don't stop there. Put an extra effort and get him some new clothes for your next event. Rent a tux if it's a Black Tie, or get him a blazer for an elegant night out.

If you want to play cheat (for the good of all mankind), get some close friends to pay him some compliments.

This would give him a great ego boost and make him realise people do notice when you are impeccably and handsomely dressed!

Catfight at the prom

MY friend BW did a most hateful thing, something like out of an episode of *Gossip Girls*. She is like Blair Waldorf, the evil one. I confessed to BW recently that I like a boy in our college, and BW promised to help me to get to know him better. Instead she sneaked behind my back and asked my crush to accompany her to our prom! I hate her now and have stopped talking to her. Should I not go to this prom? I don't think I can stand the sight of them together. Or should I be the bigger person and go anyway, to show BW that she hasn't won? **Not a Gossip Girl**

Which would you rather do? Sulk alone at home and let BW have all the fun and gloat the next day? Or show up with another hunk and stand up for yourself? The latter seems to be a wiser choice.

Picture this: You in your best dress, with a partner closely resembling Brad Pitt, walking up to BW and your crush. And with one breath (and I really mean one breath, before you die of cardiac arrest), casually ask, "Oh, is this your technique of helping me get to know him better?"

Then you turn to her date and say, "Did you know what my best friend has done? I told her I had this major crush on you, and after promising to help me hook up with you, she went behind my back and snag you instead. I just thought you should know what kind of a person you are dating." Remember, you have only a few seconds before anyone



If your friend behaves like Blair Waldorf (Leighton Meester, left) of *Gossip Girl*, she needs to be stopped.

of them regain their composure and retaliate. So, don't wait. Smile, turn and walk away. Your date will be at awe with your confidence, your crush will at first be shocked at your confession, but then you would have gained his attention and his mind would be wondering who you are the whole night. And as for BW, she will learn you are not some weakling that can be taken advantage of. And of course, it will be a prom night she will never forget.

Whichever way you look at it, you still win.