

the better-haircut quiz

▼ Do I prefer the Three Tenors, the Wallflowers, or the Grateful Dead? Do I relate more to Susan Lucci, Jennifer Aniston, or Janeane Garofalo? The answers to these questions are crucial, because I'll be facing my test results in the mirror for the next few months. In pursuit of complete customer satisfaction, New York City's Kim Lépine Salon has designed a Myers-Briggs test for hair, a personality quiz that seeks to match each of us with the perfect cut. I follow instructions to be "painfully



MY MEG RYAN "MINIMAL MAINTENANCE" MAKEOVER.



honest" when answering and confess to being a Deadhead with Garofalo tendencies. I also reveal myself to be a woman who prefers dinner and a movie to club-hopping. In the end, I score 57 out of 80 points and am classified as "minimal maintenance," a category shared, I'm told, by Meg Ryan, Demi Moore, and Courteney Cox. They all seem maximum-maintenance to me, but I'm very happy with my new

cut: chin-length and slightly layered, sophisticated but not fussy. Was all the soul-searching necessary? "The quiz is really mostly to help clients feel confident about making changes with their hair," says Kim Lépine. "It

helps them confirm what they think about their style, but don't want to express. People always fit in the right bracket when they take the test—it works every time."

—Nancy Wartik

SHOULD GAY COUPLES HAVE CHURCH WEDDINGS?

▶ **HOT DEBATE:** A lesbian couple, Ellie Charlton, 63, and Jeanne Barnett, 68, were joined in "holy union" last January by nearly 100 United Methodist pastors in an unprecedented mass defiance of their church's law against same-sex marriages. The ceremony, which could cost the ministers their jobs, took place in Sacramento, California, where voters will decide in March 2000 whether male-female marriages are the only ones that should be legal. "In this era," one minister told the crowd, "courage is to be who we are, rejoicing."

▶ **WEIGH IN:** Do you think same-sex marriages should be recognized by both church and state?

Or do you think that they are, as one antigay reverend put it, a "blasphemy in the eyes of God"?

FILL OUT OUR QUICKIE QUESTIONNAIRE.

1. Should U.S. law permit gay couples to wed?

Yes _____ No _____

2. Should mainstream religions allow their clergy to perform same-sex marriages?

Yes _____ No _____

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Additional comments welcome.

is your cervix hostile?

▶ Have you ever left the doctor's office feeling inadequate, as if your OB/GYN had kicked the tires, looked under the hood, and informed you that you're driving a lemon? Barbara McLean, Ph.D., an adjunct professor at the University of Guelph in Canada, believes that sexist medical language is the culprit behind those postexam blues. McLean, who has published extensively on the topic, argues that terms like

cervical hostility, *blighted ovum*, and *failed ovulation* are accusatory and seem to blame women for their medical conditions. More care is taken, she says, in designing terms to describe male disorders; *impotence*, for example, was recently upgraded to *erectile dysfunction*, which may sound cold but doesn't suggest that the condition is a man's own fault. Medical labels, McLean argues, can affect the way a woman

feels about her health. "It's a kind of victim blaming," says McLean. "A woman can end up with a sense of failure." McLean's suggestion: Why not say *missed ovulation* instead of *failed ovulation*, or *cervical fluctuation* in lieu of *cervical incompetence*. "All the doctors I interviewed agreed that there was a problem," she adds. "It's just a matter of doctors and patients being aware of it."

We feel better already.—Susan Redstone