

ADELINE DALEY

# Meatball in Your Lap? Keep Calm

It isn't that I don't appreciate the efforts of Emily Post, Amy Vanderbilt and others of their caliber, whom I feel do a good job of providing the right kind of advice on just about every problem of social behavior.

But what I'm curious about is whether they've actually encountered every situation for which they seem to have a ready solution. That's why I for one, am a little leary about accepting their recommendation that "when food or beverages are spilled at the dinner table, other guests should continue talking as if nothing had happened."

So you have a meatball and

bowl of spaghetti sauce in your lap, so you sit there and say nothing? I don't think you should make a federal case of it, but I DO think you should mention it to someone.

What I have noticed, too, is that Emily and Amy seldom touch on the type of social dilemmas which plague families with numerous small children, such as ours. And you can hardly blame them because it isn't easy trying to decide what social graces should be employed when one of your kids insists on inviting visitors to stay for "pot luck" dinner. If they accept your weak offer which follows, it is wise to have a razor on hand to order to slice enough meat to go around.

Do you a) Reassure the "gray" but the result of a guest that she does not resemble a grandmother but out such glamorous grandmothers as Marlene Dietrich? or b) Point out that the hair is not covering that the hair is not

## Recreation Department Sets Film

Shakespeare's "Richard III," a color film starring Sir Lawrence Olivier, will be shown at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 22, at the Torrance Recreation Center, 3341 Torrance Blvd.

There is no charge for the film, which is presented by the Recreation Department in cooperation with the Los Angeles County Museum Documentary Film Circuit.

The film, produced and directed by Olivier, is based on Shakespeare's play about life and pageantry in medieval England and the career in crime which put Richard III on the English throne for little more than two years.

Further information about the film may be obtained by calling the Joslyn Recreation Center, 328-8362.

Scout-O-Rama/66  
Sat., May 21

Fortunately, we have outgrown some of the awkward moments, such as having to beat a fast retreat to the bathroom before a guest tests the facilities. Your only hope is that they too, have once had babies in diapers, and thus are acquainted with the problem.

I am also relieved that our children are old enough to be more diplomatic when they want visitors to leave. I can cope with their whispers, but believe me, it's pretty difficult to talk above shouts of, "When are they going home?"

And what about the little tykes who express their opinion of a guest by a swift kick to the shins? About the best answer I can offer is to use the excuse, "Gwendolyn kicks everybody in the shins whom she likes. It's her way of showing affection."

Then there's the little tot who insists on strewing the contents of a guest's purse all over the house. Is it best for the lossee to be philosophical and announce, "So I'm missing \$5, my driver's license and three credit cards."

And how do you handle the delicate situation when your toddler starts to call a 35-year-old visitor "Grandma," just because her hair happens to be gray?

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