

Quite A Beard You Have There, Young Man

This facial hair is now starting to get to me. Maybe if it was not the first time I have grown a beard in 8 years, I would be more accustomed to it. Perhaps it is because I seem to need to grow it in the summer. (I always knew I was a bit odd, but...) But it has been the source of many comments... both complimentary and otherwise. Those who like it never cease to amaze me. "It makes you look very distinguished and dignified." (Not too distinguished, I hope. I would not want to spoil my sterling reputation ;)) "It really becomes you." (Ok) "Keep it. Dye it white and you would be an instant Santa." (There's a thought! At least it would be in season and would really be a conversation piece.)

The flip side has also been interesting. "You look like an old drunk!" (I'll remember that the next time someone is casting a bearded drunk). "I can't wait until you shave that thing!" (Which makes me only consider keeping it after October 18th). "Hey, Grizzly Adams!" All in good fun. Good for laughs.

However, last night, I got the ultimate compliment. Who remembers the tv series [Family Affair](#)? A lady I have known for ages told me that I resemble Sebastian Cabot who played the domestic Mr. French (was not aware that there were two) to Uncle Bill, Cissy, Buffy (who was played by one of the earliest child actor tragedies I remember... could be earlier ones), Jodie, and (of course) Mrs. Beasley. Mr. Cabot also played St. Nick in one of the remakes of *Miracle on 34th Street*. Never short on flattering me, my customer also gushed about having found my "niche in community theatre." Who am I to argue?

Perhaps I shall take a snapshot of the before and after

shaving and post them. Provided of course the naysayers do not continue voicing their disgust.