

# Don't Knock Those Bare Knees, Man!

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Women have been tantalizing men for the last 40 years with hemlines that rise and fall like a barometer in spring, while men have sweated through more than 500 summers. Fashion has decreed all this time male legs remain modestly covered with long breeches or knickers and stockings.

But the 20th century — era of dramatic breakthroughs in all the sciences, of radical change in social institutions and concepts — has witnessed the dramatic, though quiet, liberation of the male knee. But the American male is a pride.

**BERMUDA SHORTS**, probably the biggest innovation since the abandonment of the tunic, has received a cool reception. And men have remained warm below the knees.

Except on the beach, a man is extremely reluctant to show even the smallest section of his lower limbs.

Bermuda shorts have walked onto the men's fashion scene at every level. They are now available for casual, business and even formal wear.

**SQUEAMISHNESS**, reactionary thinking and fear of appearing un-masculine have caused men to turn their backs on this entrance.

Squeamishness can be cured only through familiarization with the idea; reactionary thinking with education. The charge of unmasculinity is simply unfounded.

It was in knee-length tunics that the victorious Roman legions conquered North Africa, the near East, Greece, three parts of Gaul and the Britons.

**LONG BEFORE** that, Alexander placed his elbows on his bare knees, buried his face in his hands and wept when he and his short-skirted army ran out of peoples to conquer.

Try to count the Apache knees and calves you've seen as they engaged in very masculine, and usually very mortal, combat with American soldiers on the western plains and TV screens.

The skirts of the modern Greek army have had no dissifying effect on some of the world's fiercest fighters — the men who cleaned house from Macedonia to Attica, leaving it Communist-free.

**AMERICAN SOLDIERS** became familiar with the short-trousered look of the Australian soldier in the Pacific theater of World War II.

The kilt and sporran (a purse) have become almost synonymous with valour in battle.

The man who wears Bermuda shorts with knee-socks (often an aesthetic necessity) is in company with centuries of brave, rugged men.

And besides . . . ah . . . those cool breezes.

## Designers Drop Waistlines, Hems

Hints of lowered waistlines to come are seen in dresses with midriff detail—contrasting colors or fabrics, bias cuts, seaming—creating a long-torso effect.

Some designers drop skirt lengths an inch or two, to balance fashionable top width.



Organdy Trims

Coffee shanting was trimmed with organdy in shades ranging from beige to brown for this Abe Schrader dress modeled by Mrs. Roger Struck, of Eton, Birmingham.

# Men's New Topcoats Shorter and Lighter

Spring topcoats for 1960 are short in length, long on fashion, light in weight and heavy on pattern. These trends, impart a fresh new look to these handsome and practical garments which are designed to brave the chilly days before summer.

Shorter topcoats — the newest vary from 42½ inches to 41 inches in "regular" sizes—offer all the protection needed without that cumbersome extra length that has proved a source of annoyance to motorists as well as walkers.

In addition to the classic set-in sleeve models and the raglans, there will be an increasing number of the split-raglans that look like set-in sleeves at front and raglan sleeves at the back.

topcoating fabric in what are known as "sating weights."

"Some of these fabrics are sleek worsteds, such as sharkskins; others are tweeds, chevots and gabardines. All are in the weights customarily used in tailoring regular weight suits. Warm enough to take the chill out of nippy mornings, they are light enough to be no burden as the day grows warmer.

The first thing that men will notice about many of the new topcoats are the patterns. No longer confined to quiet shades and mod-chilly in the morning and quite warm during the middle of the day. In view of this, the stylists have created an entirely new type of

SPRING DAYS are apt to be confined to quiet shades and mod-chilly in the morning and quite warm during the middle of the day. In view of this, the stylists have created an entirely new type of

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