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## The Naked Truth About Corporate Pool Parties

Ah, summer—time to relax, enjoy the weather and parties on the patio. But what if that party is at your boss's house and the invitation says, "Bring your swimsuit?"

Should you? And could you relax, given these circumstances?

"Just remember this," says Christina Binkley in the Wall Street Journal. "Once you've stripped to the equivalent of skivvies in front of your colleagues, you'll never be fully dressed again in their minds."

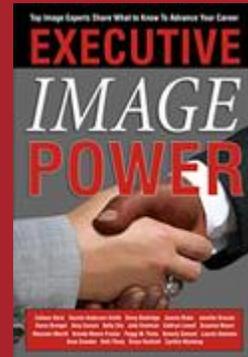
Christina is a wise woman. So what do you do?

Just because the invitation says, "bring your swimsuit," you don't have to swim and you certainly don't have to bring a swimsuit. Chances are very few people will, even those who enjoy swimming. But if you do decide to take the plunge, consider these modest recommendations:

- Whether you're working your way up the corporate ladder or already at the top, think before you bare too much—your professionalism is at risk.
- Wear a colourful cover-up or shirt over your suit, and take off only to swim.
- No matter how much you've been working out, leave the speedo or bikini at home. Conservative one-piece suits for women, swim trunks (mid-calf or just above the knee) for men.

If you decide sitting poolside is enough excitement, you can definitely look casual but professional.

- For women: capris, sleeveless summer sundresses, skinny jeans with a colourful top or Bermuda shorts (just above the knee). Full-length jersey dresses are a great look, especially paired with a straw hat. Add some fun jewellery, colourful sandals and you're all set.
- For men, Bermuda shorts or khakis pants with a golf shirt or short-sleeve linen shirt. While fun, Hawaiian shirts aren't always flattering. And no socks with the sandals, please.
- For men and women, think twice about wearing shorts if your legs are very white or apply a self-tanner (tested ahead of time).
- Make sure you're well groomed—you know what I mean.



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- Double check any outfit—front and back—for wardrobe malfunctions like loose straps, ripped seams, and signs of wear, especially the elastic on swimsuits. Light coloured clothing shows everything so watch what you wear (or don't wear) underneath and stay clear of mustard.
- Parties by the pool invariably mean someone gets dunked so bring an extra outfit (and leave your cell at home or in a bag). Consider clothing, shoes and jewellery that can survive a soaking. And if you're the dunkee, accept it with a smile—not a meltdown.
- A final tip—large dark sunglasses are a must for UV protection but they also make it possible to avoid looking directly at the person you're talking to if they are dressed (or undressed) in a way that makes you cringe.

While the party may only last a few hours, the memories last forever on the internet. Ouch!

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