

## On the History and Importance of Flossing

As you know it is important that every once in one's while you get thoroughly flossed. English ships for example used to have rickets and scurvy until the importance of flossing was discovered. To combat this dread disease large stockpiles of horses tails were kept on board with bitter fruits like limes used to make sure the hair didn't succumb to the fungus oceanus. This is why still today the English Navy is referred to as a bunch of horse's limeys (sometimes worse!). Then in 1803 Eli Whitney stumbled on a way to preserve the horse hair by encasing it in wax.

During this period, one advance followed another. Then it was discovered that by dipping the entire horse in wax and pulling gently, all of the horse's hair was available for flossing. Today, of course they dip the horse in white Clairol or bleach first, but the principle is much the same. And it is precisely because a special breed of horse was developed by the Austrians to withstand the rigors of this process that we have the famous white Lipizon horses of today. In fact the name, Lipizon (lip-is-on), refers to the state of a properly dipped horse. It is a little appreciated fact that the dipping process is what makes the Lipizon walk funny. Despite its value this highly prized special breed was almost wiped out by the Germans during W.W.II ( notably because the German people don't floss. This lone factor has been identified as the single main cause for losing World War Two. For example, in one account of a serious V2 rocket accident, a group of flossless peasants was killed because the rocket scientist in charge of steering the rocket was driven mad from a lack of flossing, this despite the presence of numerous Lipizons and Palominos (the splotchy result of improper dipping in hair dye ) in the field next to the launch site. N.B. Worse, some now believe the accident was fatally assured by the breath of a flossless technician who stood too close during steering and by the peasants' loss of attention span due to distracting dental hygiene. We can never be sure. No one could get close enough to any of them to transcribe the story!).

Meanwhile, inversion the of the process for producing floss has resulted in whole industries and has assured the success of capitalism throughout the world. One prime example: the hot wax process used today to remove the unwanted tumulus growth of young urbanites has spawned millions of jobs. Country folk, by contrast, seem to still appreciate 'natif fir'. What is not known is that in China human fibers from the hot wax process are often broken down and reassociated into a substitute Lipizon grade floss. As a result in some neighborhoods of the Gobi desert and China the price of the rare and often recycled wax has risen to \$80 per ounce. Unfortunately, to cut cost, the natives often substitute Rhino grease. This has resulted in some fatal allergic responses during flossing and has endangered the stocks of rare African flossing rhinos even further. In response, the FDA has issued numerous warnings against floss coming out of the Gobi desert area of China. The Guppies (young upwardly moving Gobies) and ruling Chinese simply refuse to follow international treaty. (as monitored by the low reflectivity of their horses and the lack of dip tanks as seen in satellite reconnaissance photos!)

During the late 1800's people still believed that green teeth were natural and were caused by "halitosis" or bad hair. It was during this period that the germ theory of flossing was formed when Louis Pasteur reasoned that sailors' teeth were green not from halitosis but from the chilblains of sharing the same horse hair. He reasoned, all by himself if we believe his 30 page disclaimer, that "tiny stinking seahorses" were somehow reproducing and were then being whimsically exchanged between sailors...If this were true it explained why so many Yarmouth and Portsmouth women all seemed to have similar looking children but different colored teeth. Indeed the Yarmouth women had "Yarmouth" and the Portsmouth women had "Portsmouth". But when Mendel, a friend of Pasteur, had a young sailor friend named "Bean" floss with equal samples of floss from both cities he got Yarmouth, Plymouth and Portsmouth in a 1:2:1 ratio. This explains where most of the Bostonians and Kennedys "hale" from. And assuming that similar events have been repeated globally, this also explains the source of some really bad breath and the source of many strained international relationships throughout the world.

To confirm these suspicions, Captain Cook set sail from England in the late 1800's in a boat (code named the Snoopy Beagle), and traveled from port to port snooping out biological samples.. It was during this trip that his cabin boy, Chuck Dorfswoain (posthumously changed to Darwin) wrote his famous failed comedy, "On the Origin of Trenchmouth Species" later shortened to just "Origin of Species" (renamed so that polite ladies wouldn't so much upchuck their crumpets at book signings). Dorfy, as he was known to his friends, slobbered a lot and after stowing hundreds of "samples" in the hold for his beloved captain, suggested, most tongue-in-cheek that from time immemorial, slobber speciation took place solely to repopulate 'unflossed teeth'. This absurd notion was soon recognized (unfortunately after Dorfy's last

book rewrite) as a powerful metaphor for the actual truth. Dorfy might have protested but being gay he was shunned overboard during a gay pride celebration to appease mighty Poseidon. Dorfy was so inept that his entire book was never viewed so much as humor but rather as meta-science. Another Beagle crew member, Charley Brown, suggested to Sir Walter Raleigh, a horse hair smoker and reputed drug dealer of some considerable style, that he pretend to be the Dorf and tour England taking credit for the "great scientific work". Even today there are some who refuse to face the truth.....Raleigh himself smoked something!! Are you one of them?? He was. So were many other intellectuals. Confused?? Flossed lately?? Thought so...

Today the importance of flossing as a saltatory activity is widely celebrated in fraternities and sororities throughout United States. The "Brown-Dorfsvain" hazing of the early 1920's was invented mainly as a way of emphasizing the importance of this brilliant and world saving biological breakthrough. Young neophytes are thoroughly flossed while being led around as slobbering cabin boys, then they are thrown overboard into some local body of water while singing invocations to Poseidon. To cleanse the spirit, after additional flossing, the only clothing allowed is woven of the finest Lipizon hair and the final ceremony consists of touring the campus, smoking horse hair cigars and yelling lamely humorous quotations from "The Origin of the Species". In recent times, however, complaints against hazing and the addicting qualities of horse hair have stifled this proud social exercise (also a few too many freshmen floated off downstream, either physically or mentally, recreating the fate of poor Chuck Dorfsvain all too profoundly.) Even our supposedly enlightened president claims never to have inhaled. Need we search that closed wing of the "White" House for your "white" Lipizon coat Mr. President?? (We won't go into why the British were called red coats but it wasn't pretty either and it spawned a really nasty war.)

This brings us however fitfully to the totally serious part of this essay. We need to promote the future of flossing for our sake and the future of our children and grandchildren. In short...."The flossing lobby needs you." You must send your dollars and contributions to me, care of this e-mail address: kimble@mail.fwi.com. It is a moral and spiritual imperative. And...you can't ever truly say that you have been out flossed until you do?? Once you have sent twenty dollars to me then put down nine more addresses and send out a spool of dental floss to each of the patriots on your list. Within a few months you should receive nine-quadrillion pounds of floss, and maybe enough money to start your own fraternity. And if you have done it right and no one brakes the chain, I will have enough money to tell the real truth about flossing to the entire world (not this made up tripe). The truth must be known. So send your money now. Mighty Poseidon knows when you've been bad or good so think of old Dorfy for goodness sake... P.S. The guy in the red coat is a fake ... &Note to the late Frank Zappa: great wisps of sun bleached horse hair hang from every sage brush west of the Rio Grande, left behind by the millions of Indian ponies in the last century. Millions and millions are waiting for you there, Centauri.....