

SCANDAL-LISTS



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“Comedy equals tragedy plus timing”
- *Anon.*

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CHAPTER ONE

CHOICE CUTS



GOAT'S TESTICLES TO GO: 10 NATIONAL DELICACIES



1. Cena Molida (contains roasted mashed cockroaches) - Belize
2. Fried, roasted or boiled guinea pig - Ecuador
3. Rat meat sausages - Philippines
4. Crispy Fried Rat with Lemon / Boiled Bamboo Rat / Dessicated petrified deer's penis /dog's penis - China
5. Boodog (goat broiled inside a bag made from the carefully cut and tied goatskin: the goat is either barbecued over an open fire or cooked with a blow torch) - Mongolia.
6. Monkey toes - Indonesia
7. Larks tongues - England (16th century)/ Pickled Puffin - North Wales (19th century)
8. Salted horsemeat sandwiches - Netherlands
9. Durian fruit - South-East Asia (has a fragrance identical to that of a rotting corpse)
10. Khachapuri, the traditional cheese pie of the former Soviet republic of Georgia. In 1995 authorities closed down a bakery whose specialty was khachapuri when it emerged that the pies were being baked in the Tbilisi morgue.

10 FAMOUS FOODIES



1. Emperor Elagabalus; famed for 12-hour long banquets, eating as Romans often did, reclining and demanding sex between courses. He also liked to surprise his guests by the rarity of the dishes he provided, a typical menu featuring flamingo brains, camel brains, parrot heads and sows udders. Occasionally he would amuse himself by serving his guests exact replicas of the food he was eating, except made out of wood, ivory, pottery or stone. The guests were not allowed to spoil his joke and were expected to continue eating. A couple of dinner guests once complimented him on the flower arrangement which adorned the imperial table and carelessly conjectured how pleasant it would be to be smothered in the scent of roses. The Emperor obliged: the next time they sat at his table he had them suffocated to death under several tons of petals.
2. John Montagu, 4th Earl of Sandwich: the British First Lord of the Admiralty during the American revolution gave his name to the world's favourite convenience food in 1762 when he stuck a slice of salt beef between two pieces of bread so he could spend more time at the gaming table. It was not for his eponymous snack however that he was the talk of the taverns. When he wasn't gambling or inventing fast food Montagu spent his evenings in his "garden of lust" featuring shrubbery pruned to resemble a woman's private parts.
3. King George IV: had a king-sized appetites for sex, drinking and eating and was happiest when enjoying all three at once. George regularly hosted 100-course feasts and for his coronation banquet offered his 1,600 guests 7,442 lbs of beef, 7,133 lbs of veal, 2,474 lbs of mutton, plus masses of lamb and poultry, an orgy of conspicuous consumption drawing so much criticism that it marked the end of coronation banquets. By middle age George had eaten himself up to 20 stone and it took three hours to squeeze his 50-inch waist into the royal corset and a pulley-system and winch to get into a saddle. Even as he lay dying of respiratory problems, aged 67 he ordered two pigeons, three steaks, a bottle of wine, a glass of champagne, two glasses

of port and a glass of brandy.

4. King Louis XVIII: all of the French kings from Louis XIV onwards were insatiable gluttons, identifiable by their 'Bourbon Waddle'. Louis XVI had such a phenomenal appetite that it was thought he was inhabited by a giant tapeworm his courtiers generally knew him as 'the fat pig'. His younger brother King Louis XVIII, the biggest of all the Bourbons, was also swollen with gout and made desperate attempts to deflect attention from his size by overdressing in diamond studded clothes. In spite of his bulk Louis XVIII suffered from a variety of illnesses which transformed him in old age to a living skeleton. He was in such a state of physical decay by 1823, that when his valets were removing the king's sock one evening, they discovered a loose toe.
5. William Buckland: British 19th century geologist, the first man to scientifically describe a dinosaur fossil in 1824 when he published Notice on the Megalosaurus or Great Fossil Lizard of Stonesfield. Buckland also dedicated a lifetime to perverse gastronomic experiences, dining on crocodile, hedgehog, mole, roast joint of bear and puppy. He boasted that he was prepared to eat anything that moved, but admitted that he wouldn't be tempted to revisit stewed mole or bluebottle. Buckland's most unusual claim was to have eaten the heart of King Louis XIV, which had been plundered from his grave during the French revolution and had found its way into the possession of Buckland's friend the Archbishop of York. Buckland noted that the heart tasted better with gravy made from the blood of a marmoset monkey.
6. 'Diamond Jim' Brady: the turn-of-the-century millionaire railway tycoon tried to eat his way through an estimated 12 million dollar fortune, most of it public at fashionable New York City hotels. Starting the day with a breakfast of hominy grits, eggs, cornbread, muffins, pancakes, lamb chops, fried potatoes, beefsteak, and a gallon of orange juice, a mid-morning snack of two or three dozen oysters was followed by lunch of clams, oysters, boiled lobsters, devilled crabs, a joint of beef and various pies. Afternoon tea comprised a large plate of seafood washed down with several quarts of lemonade. Diamond Jim's appetite reached a peak at dinner when he consumed two or three dozen oysters, six crabs, several bowls of green turtle soup, six or

seven lobsters, two ducks, a double serving of turtle meat, a sirloin steak, vegetables and orange juice, followed by several plates of cakes and pies and a two-pound box of candy. The owner of his favourite restaurant, Charles Rector's, an exclusive establishment on Broadway, described Diamond Jim as his "best 25 customers."

7. Gioacchino Rossini: by the age of 37 the Italian composer had produced 39 operas and was the most acclaimed musician of his time, but then went into early 'retirement', spending the next 40 years of his life throwing dinner parties at his home in Paris. He wrote music for these events, including a collection of piano pieces devoted to hors d'oeuvres, fruit desserts and a small German cake. He once wept when his picnic lunch, a turkey stuffed with truffles, fell overboard during a boating trip. Rossini is now as well known now for the steak named after him, created at the Café Anglais in Paris. He insisted upon the meal being prepared at his table and when the chef objected to his constant interference, the maestro replied 'Well, turn your back.'
8. Charles Darwin: had a taste for natural history. As a student at Cambridge he presided over the Glutton Club, which met weekly in order to seek out and eat 'strange flesh'. They dined on hawk and bittern but after eating a particularly stringy old brown owl gave up and elected to get drunk on port instead. When he set sail on the Beagle Darwin was happy to tuck into armadillos, which 'taste and look like duck' and an unnamed, 20lb chocolate-coloured rodent which, he said was 'the best meat I ever tasted'. One Christmas when he realised that the fowl he was eating was an extremely rare 'petise' he jumped up in the middle of the meal and tried to scrape together the remaining wing, head and neck for experiments.
9. Sylvester Graham: the US inventor of the Graham Cracker believed that all health problems could be traced to sex or diet and spent a lifetime crusading against masturbation and poor eating habits. Graham was mainly concerned with the carnal passions provoked by meat-eating theorising that the stomach, as the major organ of the body, was also the seat of all illness and that hunger and sexual desire were a drain on the immune system. Graham's cure-all regime was very simple: exercise to help prevent 'nocturnal emissions', a proper diet to facilitate regular bowel move-

ments and 'sexual moderation' (once a month for married couples was enough.) His Lecture to Young Men written in 1834 was the first of a whole genre of medical tracts on the perils of masturbation, which could lead to a variety of health problems including "a body full of disease" and "a mind in ruins." His theories influenced a generation of diet experts, including John Harvey Kellogg, inventor of the cereal flake.

10. Dame Nellie Melba: the famous Australian diva reigned over the opera scene for 37 years, but is remembered as much for the food she inspired as for her extraordinary voice and her constant battle to lose weight. It led to the creation of Melba toast when Auguste Escoffier, the legendary cook at the Savoy Hotel in London, created a light snack of crisp, dried bread to feed the singer when she fell ill in 1897. He also created Melba sauce, a sweet purée of raspberries and redcurrant, and Peach Melba and Melba Garniture - chicken, truffles and mushrooms stuffed into tomatoes with velouté. Dame Nellie died in 1931 at the age of 69.

CEREAL KILLERS:

10 FOOD RELATED DEATHS



1. 54 AD: Roman Emperor Claudius chokes on a feather he used to tickle his gullet to induce vomiting at a banquet.
2. 1190: Ghengis Khan kills his brother in an argument over a fish.
3. 1593: Christopher 'Kit' Marlowe, the second most gifted Elizabethan playwright after Shakespeare, stabbed to death in a tavern during an argument over the bill.
4. 1616: Francis Bacon, English scientist and statesman, dies inventing frozen food. While travelling in a coach one winter's day it suddenly occurs to him that food might be preserved by freezing; while stuffing a dead chicken with snow he catches a fatal chill.
5. 1580: Czar Ivan 'The Terrible' enjoys tipping red hot soup over the head of his court jester. When the jester screams in pain, Ivan runs a sword through him.
6. 1818: Abraham Lincoln's mother Nancy dies after drinking milk supplied by the family dairy cow, which had recently dined on poisonous mushrooms.
7. 1941: Sherwood Anderson, US writer, dies after accidentally swallowing a toothpick while enjoying nibbles at a cocktail party on an ocean liner bound for Brazil.
8. 1975: the last ever sighting of union leader Jimmy Hoffa, in a Michigan restaurant, on July 30th.
9. 1978: Frenchman Noël Carriou admits killing both of his wives because they are

poor cooks. 54-year old Carriou is sentenced to eight years in jail in after killing the second, for cooking him an overdone roast. Seventeen years earlier he broke his first wife's neck after she served him an undercooked meal. In passing sentence the judge sympathises with Carriou: good cooking, he agrees, is an important part of married life.

10. 1994: Peter Weiller, a German filmgoer, is beaten to death by ushers in a Bonn cinema because he brought his own popcorn.

YOUR EATIN' HEART: 10 CANNIBALS



1. In 2004 Armin Meiwes, a 42-year-old computer expert from Germany, was sentenced to just eight and half years for killing and eating a man he met over the internet when his lawyer successfully argued that the victim had been a consenting dinner date. Meiwes, who fried and ate his victim's penis, said he planned to list his 'recipes' in his forthcoming autobiography and was looking forward to seeing his story made into a film starring Hugh Grant and Brad Pitt. Meanwhile German filmmaker Rosa von Praunheim began work on his movie based on the convicted cannibal with the working title *Your Heart in My Brain*. It begins with Meiwes being confronted in prison by his victim's head.
2. In 1846 Lewis Keseberg was one of eighty-seven men, women and children who set out on a two thousand mile trek west looking for a new life in California in a wagon train led by Illinois farmer George Donner and his family. The expedition was badly planned and ill-prepared with insufficient provisions to survive the harsh winter. Of the original party, only forty-seven made it to the end of the trail, having survived by eating their dead companions. Some of the survivors struck a less than penitent attitude about their terrible dilemma. Keseberg cheerfully confessed to a preference for human liver, lungs and brain soup. In an emotional tribute to George Donner's wife Tamsen, he noted, "she was the healthiest woman I ever ate". Years later Keseberg became wealthy by opening a steakhouse.

3. American grandfather Albert Fish went to the electric chair at Sing Sing prison in 1936 after killing and eating at least 15 children. Fish wrote to the mother of his final victim, a 10-year old girl, six years after she had vanished: "Grace sat on my lap and kissed me. I made up my mind to eat her".
4. The Milwaukee cannibal Jeffrey Dahmer admitted at his trial in February 1992 to killing and eating 17 young men and boys. Police raiding his apartment found severed heads in the fridge, skulls in his filing cabinet and body parts in a kettle, but were puzzled by the discovery of human heart in the deep freezer. Dahmer explained, "I was saving it for later". Two years later he was beaten to death with a broomstick by a fellow inmate at the Columbia Correctional Institute.
5. In 1989 American John Weber was convicted for the murder of a 17 year old Wisconsin schoolgirl. During his trial Weber confessed that he made a paté from the girl's leg.
6. The Sioux Chief 'Rain In The Face' admitted that after the Battle of Little Big Horn in 1877 he had cut out General Custer's heart and eaten it. He said he didn't much like the taste of human flesh, he just wanted revenge.
7. In 1977 US government officials staged a grand opening ceremony of their brand new Department of Agriculture staff canteen, attended by Robert Bergland, US Agriculture Secretary. Mr. Bergland unveiled a brass plaque naming it the 'Alfred Packer Memorial Dining Facility', after one of America's most famous 19th century frontiersmen. A few months later the plaque was removed when someone remembered what

the late Mr. Packer had been chiefly famous for - killing and eating five Colorado gold prospectors in the 1870's.

8. During the third crusade, England's King Richard I dined on curried head of Saracen.
9. In 1984 Argentinian police found a set of bones belonging to a missing 19 year old, Carlos Sanchez, beneath a Buenos Aires building which was used by devil worshippers. The occupants explained that they had phoned an order for pizzas, but after an interminable delay had decided to eat the delivery boy instead.
10. Fritz Haarmann, a meat dealer in post World War 1 Germany, was Europe's most prolific homicidal cannibal. In the 1920's the 'Vampire of Hanover' picked up young male refugees at the local railway station, and lured them back to his Jewish ghetto apartment where he sexually assaulted them and killed them by biting their throats. He then sold their flesh as horse meat in an open market in Hanover, eating what he couldn't sell. He was apprehended in 1924 after some young boys fishing in the river discovered several human skulls. Haarmann was only ever convicted with the murders of 27 young men aged between 13 and 20, although police estimated that he probably killed as many as 600 in a single year. He was beheaded in Hanover prison on 15th April 1925.

NO SECONDS: 10 LAST MEALS OF CONDEMNED MURDERERS



1. Ham, eggs, toast and coffee - Gee Jon, Chinese murderer, the first man ever to be executed in the US by lethal gas, at Carson City State Prison in 1924.
2. Hot fudge sundae - Barbara Graham, convicted murderess, executed by lethal gas at San Quintin, California in 1955.
3. Steak and chips followed by peach cobbler desert - murderer Charlie Brooks, executed by lethal injection at Huntsville, Texas in 1982.
4. Cheez Doodles and Coca Cola - mass poisoner Margaret Velma Barfield, a 52 year old grandmother and the first woman ever to die by lethal injection, at central prison, North Carolina in 1962.
5. Hamburger, eggs and potatoes - British killer Gary Gilmore, the first man to be executed in the US for a decade when he was shot dead by firing squad at Utah in 1977.
6. Candy - Chauncey Millard, the youngest person ever executed in the state of Utah, killed by firing squad in 1869. The 18 year old was still eating his candy bar as he was being shot.
7. A large steak salad, potato pancakes and two helpings of jelly and ice cream - Isadore Zimmerman, a 26 year old convicted of murder, at Sing Sing in 1939. Zimmerman continued to protest his innocence to the last mouthful.
8. A US one dollar bill sandwich - Joshua Jones, hanged at Pennsylvania in 1839 for the murder of his wife. While Jones was awaiting execution he sold his body to the

prison doctors for ten dollars. He spent nine dollars on delicacies to vary his prison diet. Upon realising that he still had a dollar bill in his pocket just minutes before his execution, he requested two slices of bread.

9. Two hamburgers and Coca Cola - Leslie B. Gireth, executed at San Quintin in 1943 for the murder of his girlfriend. Gireth had lost his nerve half way through a suicide pact with her. His last meal was an exact replica of what she had eaten just before he shot her.
10. Garlic bread, shrimp, french fries, ice cream, strawberries and whipped cream - the heroic last order of Perry Smith and Richard Eugene Hickock, before their double hanging at Kansas in 1965. They lost their appetites however at the last minute and the meal was untouched.

12 FADDISH DIETS



1. Benito Mussolini lived mostly on milk, drinking up to three litres a day to subdue his dreadful stomach-ache. When he met Hitler however he was careful to eat alone so as not to reveal his strange diet because he thought it was a bit 'unfascist'.
2. Henry Ford took to eating weed sandwiches every day when he heard that the American scientist George Washington Grover did the same.
3. In 1644 the Danish author Theodore Reinking wrote a book entitled *Dania ad exterios de perfidia Suecorum* which lamented the diminished fortunes of the Danes after their defeat by their neighbours Sweden in the 30 Years War. It offended the Swedes so much that he was imprisoned for life. After several years in gaol however he was given a straight choice: eat your book or lose your head; he chose to eat his own words.
4. In exile the Ugandan dictator Idi Amin was known as 'Dr Jaffa', an affectionate title deriving from his excessive consumption of oranges, the former cannibal having turned fruitarian in his twilight years. Amin had however been a reluctant cannibal - he said he found human flesh 'too salty'.
5. Hitler became a vegetarian in 1931 when his doctors put him on a meatless diet to cure him of flatulence and a chronic stomach disorder, but he often lapsed; according to his cook, he was partial to sausages and stuffed pigeon.
6. The ancient sailors of Spain and Portugal regularly ate ratmeat on long voyages. The crew on board Magellan's ship during his ill-fated attempt to circumnavigate the world sold rats to each other for one ducat each.
7. An 11th century order of monks, the Cathars, frowned on all form of procreation,

whilst simultaneously practicing frequent and savage flagellation and sodomy, neither of which they considered sinful because neither activity involved risk of pregnancy. The Cathars were also vegetarians on the grounds that animals were produced by sexual intercourse and that their flesh was therefore sinful. They did however eat plenty of fish in the mistaken belief that fish do not copulate.

8. A craze for swallowing live goldfish began at Harvard College, Boston in 1939 when a student, Lothrop Withington Junior, enjoyed a fishy snack to win a \$10 bet. His friends told the college newspaper about it and the main Boston newspapers picked up on the story. Throughout the Spring of 1939 the U.S. goldfish population nose-dived as students all over the country vied to outdo each other in the consumption of finny comestibles. An unofficial record for goldfish swallowing was established - 43 in one sitting - although the teenager who accomplished this was kicked out of his school for “conducting unbecoming a student”.
9. Ernest Hemingway wrote most of his works on a diet of peanut butter sandwiches.
10. In 1994 fisherman Renato Arganza was rescued after spending several days at sea clinging to a buoy after his boat capsized off the Philippines. He said later he had survived by eating his underpants.
11. Sir Atholl Oakeley (1900 - 1987) was Britain's first professional wrestling baronet. Sir Atholl, known for his distinctive cauliflower ear received in a bout in America when “Bill Bartoch got me in a scissors grip between his knees”, was the veteran of 2,000 contests and European heavyweight wrestling champion in 1932. Sir Atholl was short for a wrestler at 5' 9", but very stout, having built up his body by religiously drinking 11 pints of milk a day for three years. This dedicated diet was adopted on the advice of his idol, a giant wrestler called Hackenschmidt, who later confessed to Sir Atholl that the quantity of milk had in fact been a misprint.
12. Scornful of reports that his people didn't have enough to eat, the dictator Nicolae Ceausescu complained that Romanians ate too much and introduced the revolutionary Ceausescu Diet, a 'scientific' regimen mysteriously free of the protein-rich staples

Romanians missed most, especially meat and dairy products. To show that production targets were actually being met he also staged visits to the countryside where he was filmed inspecting displays of meat and fruit. The film crews alone knew that the food was mostly made from wood and polystyrene.

HISTORY'S 10 LEAST APPEALING DINNER DATES



1. Mary Mallon: also known as 'Typhoid Mary', the world's most notorious disease carrier. In her capacity as a New York cook before World War 1 she was personally responsible for 53 separate outbreaks of typhoid involving 1,300 people, resulting in at least three deaths, regularly changing her name to confuse health officials. She spent the last 23 years of her life detained in quarantine in a state hospital protesting her innocence to the end.
2. Anne Boleyn: the second wife of King Henry VIII had a distressing habit, first observed during her coronation banquet, of vomiting between courses. She employed a lady-in-waiting whose job it was to hold up a sheet and catch the royal spew whenever the Queen looked likely to throw up.
3. Emperor Shih Hu of China (AD 334-349); banquets in the Imperial court of the were a trial for his guests but particularly bad news for the ladies in his harem. The Emperor would select a concubine, have her beheaded then serve her cooked torso to his visitors. Keen to impress, Shih Hu also insisted upon passing the uncooked head around his guests on a platter for inspection he could prove that he hadn't sacrificed his ugliest mistress.
4. Czar Peter the Great : said to have the table manners of a baptised bear. The Czar liked to trample across banquet tables, treading on dishes and cutlery as he went, with his unwashed feet. Russia's first ever book of mealtime etiquette wasn't published until several years after his death in 1718 by the Romanov Empress Anne, who had revolutionary ideas about good manners and wanted to keep up with European standards of refined taste. Entitled The Honest Mirror of Youth, the slim volume advised discerning Russians how to use a knife and fork, when not to spit on the table, not to jab their elbows into their seating partners during formal dinners

nor place their feet in guests' dishes while standing on the dining table.

5. Dr. Samuel Johnson: the literary giant had a voracious appetite coupled with appalling table manners and - always guaranteed to break the ice at dinner parties - Tourette's Syndrome. Johnson's favourite dish was a vast pudding containing beef-steaks, kidneys, oysters, larks and mushrooms. According to his biographer James Boswell, he swilled, gorged and stuffed himself until sweat ran down his cheeks and the veins stood out his forehead.
6. Mrs. Beeton: her famous Book of Cookery and Household Management, regarded as the housewife's cookery bible since it was first published in 1861, contained several potentially lethal recipes including one for mayonnaise containing raw eggs. Mrs. Beeton went to her grave aged 28, knowing nothing of salmonella.
7. King Louis XIV of France: Although the best known portraits of Louis XIV portray him as a dapper little man, in old age he became morbidly obese and his appetite was so astonishing that it even fuelled a rumour that the king was inhabited by a giant tapeworm. In his later years he struggled to eat because his doctors, while removing several of the king's bad teeth, had accidentally broken his upper jaw and smashed his palate; from then on Louis always had difficulty chewing and bits of food often came down his nose.
8. Juan Peron: by the time the Argentinian dictator's wife Eva died of cancer in 1952 an eminent pathologist had been on stand-by for a fortnight to embalm her. With Eva barely dead he quickly filled her veins with alcohol, then glycerine, which kept her organs intact and made her skin appear almost translucent. Juan planned to have her housed in a giant new mausoleum, but he was forced to suddenly flee the country, and the body went missing for several years. In 1971 however Juan and Eva were touchingly re-united and from that day on, Eva's corpse was ever-present at the Peron family dinner table.

9. Jean-Bédél Bokassa: the cannibal former president of the Central African Republic once served political opponents up to unwitting visiting dignitaries as 'roast beef'.
10. Idi and Sarah Amin: in 1999 London restaurateur Sarah Amin, the ex-wife of former Ugandan dictator Idi, was convicted for running a kitchen found to have "heavy and active" cockroach and mouse infestation. She was at least a better fellow dining prospect than her husband. Guests at the home of Uganda's president were treated to some unscheduled entertainment by their host one evening in August 1972, when between courses Amin suddenly vanished into the kitchen and returned with the frozen head of his former commander-in-chief, Brigadier Hussein. Amin screamed abuse and threw cutlery at the head, before asking his guests to leave.

10 HISTORICAL DRUNKS



1. Noah: according to the Old Testament, the first ever person to get drunk.
2. Socrates (469 - 399BC.) Had a legendary ability to hold his liquor and would continue to philosophise when everyone else at the symposium had long since passed out or gone home.
3. Alexander the Great (356 - 323BC). The Macedonian king who ruled an empire stretching from Greece to India, was in his lifetime as famous for his marathon drinking sessions as for his military conquests. During one of Alexander's drinking contests 35 men died; during another he killed one of his best friends with a spear. His close friend Hephaestion expired after drinking half a gallon of wine for breakfast; Alexander dropped dead after a drinking contest at the age of 32.
4. Pope Benedict XII (r1334 - 42). Such a hardened boozier that the expression "drunk as a pope" became popular in his lifetime.
5. Selim II, Sultan of the Ottomans (r 1566 - 74). Also known as 'Selim the Sor', he could drink a bottle of Cyprus wine without drawing breath. When he ran out his favourite tippie someone suggested he captured Cyprus to replenish his stocks. Selim agreed and massacred 30,000 Cypriot Christians in the process.
6. Empress Catherine I, Czarina of Russia (r1725 - 27). While shuffling through her two year reign in a drunken haze, she once survived an assassination attempt, too drunk to realise that anything had happened. She was reviewing a Guards regiment when a bullet flew past her and struck an innocent bystander dead: the Empress moved on without flinching.
7. Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 -1827). Died of hepatic cirrhosis of the liver as a result

of alcoholism at the age of 57. Before he expired he cheerily announced, “wine is both necessary and good for me”.

8. William Pitt the Younger, Britain's youngest ever Prime Minister (1783-1801, 1804-6). Was advised as a young man to drink a bottle of port a day for his health; he took it to heart and at his peak was downing six bottles of port, two bottles of madeira and one and a half bottles of claret daily. He often made speeches in the House of Commons when drunk and before making important interventions in debates was seen to duck behind the Speaker's Chair to throw up. Drank himself to death aged 46.
9. President Andrew Johnson, US President (1865-1869). Drunk when he was sworn in as Vice-President to Lincoln, his rambling acceptance speech was largely incoherent. When the US chief of justice was sent to inform him that Lincoln was dead and that he was now president they found him trying to shake off a terrible hangover. Johnson took the oath of office as required but then fell asleep and had to be dressed and taken to the White House, where he was bathed and shaved before visitors were allowed to see him.
10. Sir Winston Churchill (1874-1965). Britain's great wartime leader began each day with a glass of hock with his breakfast then kept himself topped up with whisky until the early hours of the following day. A doctor attending him after he was knocked down by a car in New York in 1931 actually issued a medical note that Churchill's convalescence "necessitates the use of alcoholic spirits especially at meal-times," specifying 250 cc per day as the minimum. Although it wrecked his health, he liked to brag “I have taken more out of alcohol than alcohol has taken out of me”. He once tried to persuade Saudi Arabia's strict Moslem King Ibn Saud that he drank alcohol because it was part of his religion.

10 EXCLUSIVE BEVERAGES



1. China produces a Three Penis Wine, made from one part seal penis, one part dog penis and four parts deer penis. It is allegedly an effective cure for anaemia, shingles and memory loss and is described as 'robust and nutritious'.
2. The world's most exclusive coffee, Kopi Luwak, is made from a bean which has already passed through the colon of a cat. The excretions of the Palm Civet wildcat, indigenous to the coffee plantations of Indonesia, are sold in Japan at about £15 a cup. In 2004 the journal Food Research International explained how the taste is affected by the beans' journey through the civet. First, the civet instinctively chooses only the ripest beans. Then, digestive biochemicals penetrate the outer layer of the bean as it passes through the GI tract. Internal fermentation by digestive enzymes adds a unique flavor and proteins are leached out during digestion, thus removing a source of coffee's bitterness.
3. The Yukon Territory in Canada is home of the Sour Toe Cocktail, which has just two ingredients, an amputated human toe and the spirit of your choice. The only rule which has to be observed is "you can drink it fast, you can drink it slow, but the lips have got to touch the toe". The original artefact, discovered in a disused log cabin by a Mountie in 1973, was used in the drink more than seven hundred times before it was accidentally swallowed by a miner.
4. The Tomb of Mausolus, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, destroyed by earthquake, was built in 353 BC in Turkey by Queen Artemisia on the death of her husband King Mausolus. The king's body was to have been placed in the tomb but there was a last minute change of plan. His wife had him cremated, then she poured his ashes into a goblet of wine and drank the lot.
5. Cow urine is used in India as a sedative; Gandhi however drank his own urine

every morning.

6. In 1885 the US army captain and part time naturalist John Bourke published a detailed description of the Urine Dance of the Zuni Indians of New Mexico. Bourke related how he had been privileged to witness this unique ritual, which involved a dozen Zuni Indians dancing around a fire while drinking several gallons of fresh urine. When the Zuni invited their guests to participate in a similar ceremony, this time involving human excrement, Bourke made his excuses and left.
7. After the Great Fire of London in 1666 the remains of the deceased former Dean of St. Paul's, John Colet, were rescued from the cathedral where they had lain since 1509. Although protected by a lead-lined coffin, it was noted by two gentlemen called Wyld and Greatorax that the Dean's remains had become cooked in his preserving fluids and had dissolved into a soupy substance like 'boiled brawne'. They tasted the 'soup' and declared that it tasted 'only of iron'.
8. When Britain's greatest naval hero Admiral Horatio Nelson died his corpse was placed in a keg of brandy to preserve it on the long journey home. Although Nelson's body had been bubbling away in it for days, it didn't prevent his crew from drinking the spirits later.
9. The Cocoma tribe of Peru drank the ground-up bones of a deceased relative in a fermented brew. They believed that it was much better for the dead to be inside a warm friend than outside in the cold earth.
10. Adolf Hitler once attempted to cure his chronic flatulence by drinking machine gun oil.

10 ALTERNATIVE USES FOR COKE



1. As a spermicide (India)*
2. As a pesticide (India)
3. As a toilet bowl cleaner.
4. As a windscreen wipe.
5. As a rust spot remover.
6. As a blood stain remover.
7. As a grease stain remover.
8. As a sink cleaner.
9. As a meat tenderiser.
10. As a wallpaper paste remover

* Controlled tests at Harvard Medical School show that although regular Coca Cola has a 91% success rate as spermicide, Diet Coke is 100% effective.

WAITING FOR A GRILL LIKE YOU: 10 HUMAN RECIPÉES



1. Adolph Luetgert, a Chicago master butcher in the 1870's, was fired by a driving ambition to make his sausages famous all over America. Luetgert's dream came true when he was arrested and tried for the murder of his wife Louisa after disposing of her corpse by melting it down in one of his giant vats and incorporating her into his sausage production line. For two years after Luetgert's conviction, sausage sales in Illinois and neighbouring Michigan hit an all time low.
2. The British explorer Captain James Cook often wrote in his journals about the cannibalistic habits of some of the natives he encountered on his trips to the South Seas. Ironically, he ended his days as a Hawaiian buffet. All the Cook's men could find of him after he had been killed and dismembered at a heiau ceremony at Keala Keku were a few bones and some salted flesh.
3. In 1991 Wang Guang, owner of the White Temple restaurant in China, built up a huge following for his heavily spiced Sichuan-style dumplings. Over a four year period the exotic fillings were supplied by Guang's brother, who worked as an assistant in the local crematorium. The secret ingredient of White Temple Restaurant's menu - human flesh - was exposed after police were tipped off by the parents of a young girl who had died in a road accident. When they came to cremate her body they discovered that parts of it were missing.
4. Canib is the origin of the word cannibal, so it follows that the Carib Indians of the West Indies, first discovered by Columbus, were the world connoisseurs of human haute cuisine. Caribs bred children expressly for edible purposes: the children were castrated because it improved the flavour. 12. According to Caribs, the best bits on a human being are the palms of the hands, the fingers and toes. Columbus noted that the Caribs considered the French to be the very tastiest people.

5. Marco Polo noted in 1275 that the people of south east Asia ate the feet of their captives, believing them to be 'the most savoury food in the world'.
6. When the Chinese famine of 206 BC killed half the population, human flesh became the staple diet. The taste for people however lingered on long after famine conditions had gone. During the T'ang dynasty in the late 9th and 10th centuries cannibalism was permitted by law and human flesh was sold publicly in street markets.
7. The Tartar hordes who swept over Europe in 1242 were particularly fond of girls. Appetising young maidens were issued as rations to army officers, while common soldiers chewed on the tough flesh of older women. Breast meat was regarded as the finest titbit, and was reserved for the prince's table.
8. Fijian cannibals acquired a taste for hanks of salted human flesh - a variation on European or American chewing tobacco.
9. During World War II the British Minister of Food Lord Woolton carefully considered but finally rejected a plan, proposed by his government scientists, to feed the country on black pudding made from surplus human blood bank donations.
10. In August 1983 The Times reported that a man living in West Germany had found a human finger in his bread finger roll.

GLUTTONS FOR PUNISHMENT: 20 WORLD EATING RECORDS



50 hot dogs in 12 minutes

57 cow brains (18lbs) in 10 minutes

3.5lb of cooked dog in 18 mins. 10 secs.

100 yards of spaghetti in 28 seconds

12 slugs in 2 mins.

28 cockroaches in 4 minutes

60 earthworms in 3 mins. 6 secs.

100 live maggots in 5 mins. 29 secs.

2lbs of eels in 32 secs.

144 snails in 11 mins. 30 secs.

12 bananas (including skins) in 4 mins. 14 secs.

13 raw eggs in 1.4 secs.

65 hard boiled eggs in 6 minutes, 40 seconds

7 quarter-pound sticks of salted butter in 5 minutes

5.75 lbs. of asparagus spears in 10 minutes

6 lbs 9 of cabbage in 9 minutes

1 gallon 9 oz. of vanilla ice cream in 12 minutes

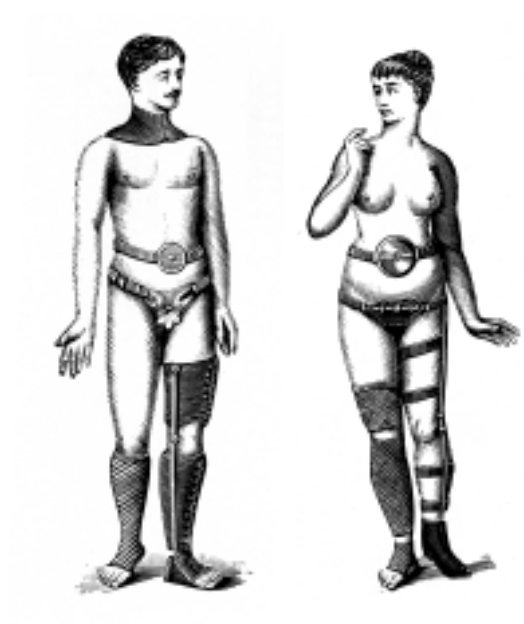
6lbs of tinned Spam in 12 minutes

3 onions in 1 minute

4 x 32-ounce bowls of mayonnaise in 8 minutes

CHAPTER TWO

LOVE HURTS



GLAD TO BE 'A': 12 FAMOUS CELIBATES



1. King Edward “the Confessor”: had no sexual relations at all with his wife Edith, a curious state of affairs known in theological terms as a ‘chaste marriage’ by which Edith came to be known as a ‘virgin queen’. There was some confusion whether Edward abstained for religious reasons or from his aversion to his wife, but tradition has it that it was the former, and Edward was duly made a saint in 1161. Some of the long-suffering Edith's contemporaries were less sure of her virginity.
2. Sir Isaac Newton: a lifelong singleton and rigidly puritanical. It was said that he laughed just once in his life, when someone asked him what use he saw in Euclid. He severed all relations with a friend who once told him an off-colour joke about a nun.
3. Nikola Tesla: the Serbian scientist, inventor of AC power transmission, avoided all romantic entanglements, believing that sex was a drain on creativity. When asked by a news reporter why he never married, Tesla replied: "I do not think you can name many great inventions that have been made by married men."
4. Hans Christian Andersen: made highly publicised declarations of love for prominent, unattainable women, including the ‘Swedish nightingale’ Jenny Lind. He also visited prostitutes, but paid them just to sit and chat with him. He died unmarried and a virgin, so terrified of being buried alive that he left a written request that one of his main arteries be severed before he was placed in his coffin.
5. J. M. Barrie: the creator of Peter Pan, the little boy who refused to grow up was barely five feet tall and always blamed his short stature for his lack of success with women. In 1894 however, while seriously ill Barrie made a dramatic ‘deathbed’ marriage proposal to Mary Ansell, a beautiful actress who had starred in one of his plays. She accepted, but on their honeymoon it became apparent that the recuperating

Barrie had little interest in normal marital relations. The union was never consummated.

6. Lewis Carroll: amateur photographer and author of some of the great classics of children's literature, including *Alice's Adventures In Wonderland*, had no relationships at all with women, although at one point there was talk of an affair with leading actress of the day, Ellen Terry. She was dismissive of the story; when asked to comment about her reported liaison with the author she replied "He was as fond of me as he could be of anyone over the age of ten".
7. Edgar Degas: the French impressionist painter and sculptor spent long hours gazing at nude women getting in and out bathtubs, but was probably impotent. One day a wealthy hostess asked him; "Why do you paint women so ugly, Monsieur Degas?" He replied, "Because, madam, women in general are ugly."
8. George Frederic Handel: The unmarried German-born English musician gave away few clues about his private life His royal patron King George II was one of many contemporaries who were also kept guessing; when the king asked him why there was no Mrs. Handel, the great composer replied "I have no time for anything but music". Handel however had a stormy relationship with his close 'friend' the young German composer and singer Johann Mattheson. One day at the opera he and Mattheson had a tiff over who should play the harpsichord. Handel refused to budge and a fist fight broke out in the orchestra pit.
9. Soren Kierkegaard: the po-faced Danish philosopher considered sexual relations an abomination; "my depression", he said in one of his lighter moments, "is the most faithful mistress I have known". When he was 24 however he fell in love with a 14-year-old schoolgirl Regine Olsen and they were briefly engaged before he broke it off. Kierkegaarde never really got over Regine and over the years tried to woo her back by bombarding her with his books of gloomy reflections. Although she never wrote back, he named her his sole beneficiary.

10. Edward Lear: the Victorian polymath and 'nonsense poet' lived alone with his cat, penning limericks about men with long, unmistakably phallic noses. Lear's illustration for his limerick *The Old Man With A Nose*, for example, shows a man poking his very long nose at three frightened children- possibly a reference to some sexually abusive childhood experience of his own. Throughout his adult life he suffered from what he called 'the Demon' epilepsy or 'the Morbids', a state of mind which he personally attributed to excessive masturbation.
11. Henry Morton Stanley: the journalist and explorer became a household name when the New York Herald commissioned him to "find Livingstone" in Africa, which he did, with the famous introduction "Dr. Livingstone, I presume." Stanley emerged from the nether regions of darkest Africa to marry, at the age of 49, the high-society portrait painter Dorothy Tennant in a lavish wedding ceremony at Westminster Abbey, but on his wedding night informed his wife he considered sex "fit only for beasts." The marriage was never consummated.
12. Mohandas 'Mahatma' Gandhi: in his thirties and long since married with children, surprised Mrs. Gandhi by taking a vow of celibacy, explaining that total control over his 'vital fluids' would enhance his spiritual powers give him strength during his long fasts. His wife was even more surprised when in his seventies he employed a string of young women to massage him and sleep nude with him to "test" his celibacy. Not everyone understood and he abandoned his nocturnal 'experiments' when several of his followers resigned in disgust.

10 APHRODISIACS



1. Sheep's eyelid marinated in hot tea; Chinese emperors were required keep 121 wives, a precise number thought to have magical properties, ten of whom the emperor was expected to make love to every night. A Taoist manual advised that this could be made possible by applying the mixture to the imperial penis.
2. Menstrual blood as a food or drink additive - Germany, 18th century.
3. Toad excrement - France, 18th century. This method had the royal seal of approval; it was the one successfully employed by King Louis XIV's mistress Madame de Montespan.
4. Live monkey brains - Malaysia. The live monkey is forced into a tight container with a bowl is fitted to its head, the scalp is cut open and peeled back to reveal the exposed brain, which is then scooped out with a spoon or sucked through a straw.
5. Lion testicles or arsenic - Regency London.
6. Chilli and hot spices - banned from prison food in some south and central American countries as they are feared likely to arouse passions "unseemly in a single sex environment".
7. Penis and scrotum of a vanquished enemy warrior - Brazilian Cubeo tribe, 19th century.
8. Dolphin's testicles - Japan; chicken testicles are preferred in Taiwan.

9. Pigeon dung and snail excrement - mediaeval England.
10. Animal hormone; to maintain Adolf Hitler's impaired virility, his personal physician Dr. Theodore Morell injected the Führer with a compound containing hormones from crushed animal genitalia.

GREAT BALLS OF FIRE: 40 SYPHILITICS*



* SYPHILIS was long thought to have originated in the Americas and to have begun its spread around the world after Columbus's voyage in 1492. It may have been in Europe before Columbus but became commonplace after the arrival of new strains from the New World. The first European epidemic broke out in 1494, spread in part by retreating French troops after the siege of Naples. Whatever its origins the disease swept through the European population in the 16th century. At its peak in the 19th century syphilis affected as many as 15 per cent of the adult population of Europe and North America, but has largely died out since the development of penicillin in the 1940s. While it is impossible to retrospectively diagnose with complete accuracy, there is evidence that syphilis afflicted the following people.

Pope Alexander VI

Thomas Aquinas

Charles Baudelaire

Johann Sebastian Bach

Al Capone

Randolph Churchill

Emperor Commodus

Captain James Cook

Hernan Cortez

Frederick Delius

Albrecht Dürer

Desiderius Erasmus

King Francis 1 of France

King Frederick II 'the Great' of Prussia

Paul Gauguin

King George 1
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
Francisco Goya
Heinrich Heine
King Henry VIII
King Herod of Judaea
Adolf Hitler
Czar Ivan 'the Terrible'
Julius Caesar
John Keats
Pope Leo X
Ferdinand Magellan
Guy de Maupassant
John Milton
Edouard Monet
Benito Mussolini
Freidrich Nietzsche
Czar Paul 1
Franz Schubert
Arthur Schopenhauer
Jonathan Swift
Emperor Tiberius
Henri Toulouse-Lautrec
Voltaire
Oscar Wilde

10 RANDY SENIOR CITIZENS



1. King Louis XIV of France: the tiny ‘Sun King’ was renowned for his phenomenal sexual appetite: his second wife Mme de Montespan complained to her priest that she found the effort of making love to her 70 year old husband twice a day very tiring.
2. Victor Hugo: the author of *The Three Musketeers*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* and *Les Misérables* needed only four hours sleep a night; bad news for his wife, who was required to accommodate him nine times on her wedding night alone. He had a 22 year old girlfriend when he was 70 and was still sexually active when he died aged 83. His family tried to keep the frisky old poet from escaping into the streets in search of prostitutes but they were not entirely successful: his diary records that he had sex four times in the final four months of his life.
3. Empress Catherine ‘the Great’ of Russia: she was both insomniac and nymphomaniac, which was desperately bad news for the dozens of handsome young soldiers she continued to bed well into her late sixties. She had 21 ‘official’ lovers, of whom the last, Platon Zubov, was 22 years old when they met: she was 64. Catherine’s senile frolics were eventually terminated when she fell off her toilet seat with a massive stroke in the 67th year.
4. Thomas Hardy: English poet and novelist, author of *Far From The Madding Crowd*, *Tess of the D’Urbervilles* and *Jude the Obscure*, at the age of 73 married his 35 year old secretary Florence Dugdale. Hardy boasted to a friend that he was still capable of “full sexual intercourse” at the age of eighty-four.
5. W. B. Yeats: success came to the poet late in his life when he suddenly found himself surrounded by adoring young women, but was also plagued with impotence and writer’s block. In an effort to revive both his flagging creative inspiration and his sex

drive he experimented with a number of quack impotence cures including a vasectomy - procedure known as 'Steinaching' - performed by the Viennese doctor Eugene Steinach: six months later Yeats got lucky with a beautiful young actress Margot Ruddock, twenty-seven to his sixty-nine. The Dublin newspapers dubbed Yeats "the gland old man of poetry"

6. King Ludwig 1 of Bavaria: the grandfather of 'Mad' King Ludwig II of Bavaria achieved international notoriety at age of 61 by stepping out with the notorious courtesan, 28 year old Lola Montez: she introduced herself to the elderly monarch by ripping open her bodice and revealing her breasts. Ludwig pledged his undying love to Lola in reams of outstandingly bad verse, but was eventually forced by pressure from the mob and his ministers to banish her from the country: some suggested she went willingly to escape another burst of the king's poetry.
7. Lord Palmerston: in spite of his ill-fitting false teeth, women found Britain's Crimean War-time prime minister irresistible. 'Old Pam' or 'Lord Cupid' as he was known on the back benches fathered seven illegitimate children and once tried to rape one of Queen Victoria's ladies-in-waiting while he was visiting Windsor Castle (he later claimed he was drunk and had entered the wrong bedroom.). In 1862, aged 79, he was cited as corespondant in a divorce case. The story considerably enhanced his popularity; it was rumoured that Palmerston even encouraged the gossip because he was hoping to call a general election.
8. H. G. Wells: the author of *The Time Machine*, *The Invisible Man* and *War of the Worlds*. Wells was an unlikely lothario, being a short, fat, balding diabetic with an overly-large head and a high-pitched squeaky voice, but according to one lover his body "smelled of honey", which may have helped him have affairs into his seventies with women up to forty years younger than him. He was still at it until his death, a month before his eightieth birthday.
9. Mao Zedong: the Communist leader believed that he could achieve longevity by increasing his number of sexual partners and well into his seventies he was still shedding his drab military uniform to bed several young women at a time. Temporary

bouts of impotence were treated with injections of ground deer antlers and a secret formula called H3.

10. Bertrand Russell: Nobel prize winner and one of the greatest philosophers of the twentieth century, he had a string of high profile affairs with married women in his seventies and enjoyed his fourth honeymoon at the age of eighty - and all this in spite of a childhood accident which damaged his penis when he fell out of a moving carriage. On a lecture tour of America, the elderly philosopher was asked by the principal of a respectable girls' college: "Why did you give up philosophy?" Russell replied: 'Because I discovered fucking.'

10 HISTORIC MILESTONES IN CONTRACEPTION



1. 1300BC: Egyptian women use pessaries made from crocodile dung.
2. 900BC: Chinese birth control experts advise sixteen tadpoles fried in quicksilver, to be swallowed quickly by the female immediately after intercourse.
3. 1100: Dominican Church advises women to spit three times in the mouth of a frog, or eat bees immediately after intercourse .
4. 200BC: Arabians eat mashed pomegranate mixed with rock salt and alum.
5. 1400: Italians avoid pregnancy by drinking raw onion juice
6. 1600: the French swaer by cabbage, orally after intercourse.
7. 1650: German women smear their private parts with tobacco juice.
8. 1700: Islamic women advised to jump backwards seven or nine times immediately after sex.
9. 1750: Europeans wear condoms made from animal offal. The original condoms are made from sausage skins by slaughterhouse workers. Casanova, who hates using condoms, places his faith in three gold balls, purchased from a Genoese goldsmith for about £50 and placed inside his partner. He claims that this this method had served him well for 15 years. A more likely explanation for his run of luck is that is was infertile.

10. 1843: Mr. Goodyear vulcanises rubber. The Japanese however, continue to wear sheaths made from leather or tortoiseshell.

10 PRESIDENTIAL PECCADILLOES



1. George Washington (1789 - 1797): the original ‘philander-in-chief’. Among the women with whom Washington was known or suspected to have had adulterous relationships were Kitty Greene, Lucy Flucker Knox, Elizabeth Gates, Theodosia Prevost Burr, Kitty Duer, Phoebe Fraunces, Eliza Powell, Mrs. William Bingham and Mrs. Perez Morton. Washington died of a chill which he caught, according to the official version, riding his horse in the snow. According to a more likely interpretation he caught his death jumping out of a window trouserless after an assignation with an employee’s wife at Mount Vernon.
2. Thomas Jefferson (1801-1809): lectured his fellow man on the dangers of associating with women and “the depravation of morals and ambiguity of issue”, the effect slightly undermined by the fact that he slept with slave girls. Jefferson had a twenty-year sexual relationship with a slave called Sally Hemmings who was thirty years his junior. She bore him six children who were also kept as slaves. Jefferson also had adulterous affairs not involving slave girls - one with Elizabeth Walker while her husband General John Walker was away fighting in one of the Indian Wars, another with Maria Cosway, wife of the famous English painter of miniatures Richard Cosway.
3. James Garfield (1881): said his marriage to wife Lucretia was “a great mistake” and vowed to spend as much of his time far away from her on business trips as he possibly could. In 1862 he was caught in an affair with an eighteen year old reporter from the New York Times, Lucia Calhoun. Mrs. Garfield made him choose between staying married or getting a divorce and damaging his career. Garfield chose the former, but during the 1880 election the press reported his frequent visits to a New Orleans brothel.
4. Grover Cleveland (1885-1889, 1893-1897): one of the very few Presidents to enter the White House a bachelor. In 1884, just as his first presidential campaign was get-

ting under way he was exposed as the father of an illegitimate son by a 33- year old widow, Mrs. Maria Crofts Halpin. His campaign team urged him to “lie like a gentleman”, but Cleveland ignored their advice and owned up. His supporters, taunted throughout the campaign by the republican chant “Ma, Ma, Where's My Pa”, now responded with “Gone to the White House, ha ha ha!” In the 1893 election Cleveland’s political enemies circulated a leaflet accusing him of bestiality, wife-beating and “habitual immoralities with women”. He was re-elected with a healthy majority.

5. Warren G. Harding (1921-23): ruggedly handsome and immensely popular, Harding won the presidency by the biggest popular vote margin ever then spent his time in office in random adulterous affairs including a fifteen year relationship with the wife of a friend, Mrs Carrie Phillips. He began an affair with a 17 year old, Nan Britton, when he was 53, passing her off in public as his niece. When she gave birth to his illegitimate daughter, Harding tried to buy her silence by paying her \$20,000 plus a monthly allowance. It didn’t stop her from cashing in with a best-selling kiss-and-tell, published in 1927, detailing clandestine trysts in seedy hotels, in the Senate Office building and once, memorably, in an Oval Office cupboard. He died suddenly aged fifty-seven on a speaking tour of Alaska; his last words were, “how do the bull seals control their extensive harems?” The news of the outwardly robustly healthy Harding’s death was a shock and a rumour attributed his death to a sexually transmittable disease. It was also claimed that he had been poisoned by his wife, Florence, possibly her revenge for twenty years of dedicated infidelity. The poisoning theory could be neither proven nor refuted, as Mrs. Harding pointedly refused to permit a postmortem examination. It may have shed some light on another, unconnected medical mystery; a White House doctor during the Harding administration once told a reporter the President had three testicles.
6. Franklin D. Roosevelt (1943 - 1945): Roosevelt lost the use of his legs after being paralysed by polio in 1921. He lost the use of his wife’s legs three years earlier when she found a pile of love letters linking him with Eleanor Roosevelt’s twenty-two year old secretary Lucy Page Mercer. Roosevelt promised to break off the relationship but with his marriage effectively over lived more or less openly with his personal secretary

Marguerite Missy' LeHand at his retreats in Florida and in Warm Springs, Alaska. In 1945 the world was informed that the 63 year old president had died of a brain haemorrhage while having his portrait painted by the artist Elizabeth Shoumatoff, a friend of Lucy Page Mercer, with whom Roosevelt has renewed his affair and was spending the weekend. According to unconfirmed reports, he actually died of a heart attack during oral sex.

7. Dwight D. Eisenhower (1953 - 61): 'Ike' had an affair with 24 year old Kay Summersby, assigned as his driver during the war and later becoming his personal secretary. Eisenhower told his young mistress he would divorce his wife and marry her as soon as the war was over, but he never followed his promise through and after the war the two lovers never saw each other again.
8. John F. Kennedy (1961 - 1963): famously quoted as saying, "Ich bin ein Berliner", less famously, "I'm never through with a girl until I've had her three ways". 'Shafty' as he was known in his navy days enlisted White House staff to help organise the unending procession of women who participated in 'entertainments' including regular nude swimming parties in the presidential pool. Kennedy attributed his confident and relaxed famous first live televised debate with Richard Nixon to the fact that he prepared by taking horizontal refreshment in a nearby hotel room with a prostitute minutes before the cameras began to roll: JFK was so pleased with the result that he decided to repeat the trick before all of his TV debates. His technique was however not the stuff of legend and he was by repute a quick and selfish lover, his efforts undermined by stress and recurring ill health; actress Angie Dickinson said her fling with the president "was the best twenty seconds of my life".
9. Lyndon B. Johnson (1963 - 1969): the thirty-sixth US President, by reputation a distant second in the White House adultery stakes behind the man he replaced, was said to have 'the instincts of a Turkish Sultan'. LBJ was genuinely aggrieved + that John F Kennedy's reputation as a stud was somewhat greater than his and complained to friends, 'I've had more women by accident than he has had on purpose'. The Philippine president Ferdinand Marcos was once informed by his wife Imelda that she was being groped by LBJ on the White House dance floor. Marcos replied;

‘Ignore it, Meldy. It’s in a good cause.’

10. William J. Clinton (1993 - 2001): in 1992 a cabinet singer from Little Rock, Gennifer Jones, became the first of many former lovers to kiss and tell when she revealed intimate details in Penthouse about her twelve year affair with Clinton. Subsequent allegations of sexual misconduct included affairs with the wife of a judge, a sales clerk from a Little Rock department store cosmetics counter, a prostitute Bobbie Ann Williams, who claimed that Clinton fathered her child and a former Miss Arkansas who alleged her affair with Clinton which ended with the offer of a \$40,000 a year job if she kept quiet and the offer of broken legs if she didn’t. In 1994 Clinton’s private parts went public when a typist from Arkansas claimed that the President had dropped his trousers and indecently exposed himself to her at a Democrat conference . According to Paula Jones, the First Phallus had a “distinguishing characteristic”. In 1998 Clinton became the second U.S. president to be impeached, accused of instructing a 24-year old White House intern Monica Lewinsky to lie under oath. He was tried in the Senate and found not guilty of the charges brought against him, apologised to the nation and continued to have unprecedented popular approval ratings.

THE STUFF OF FAIRY TALES:

10 ROYAL MARRIAGES



1. 1547: Russian Czar Ivan 'the Terrible' marries his first wife Anastasia, winner of the first ever 'Miss Russia' contest. Ivan was consistently unlucky in love. The first three of his eight wives died young, the second just a fortnight after the wedding day; the death of his third wife Martha, according to one account, brought on by Ivan's excessively enthusiastic foreplay. The fourth wife, Anna, was married to him by proxy, but "almost died of fright" at the prospect of meeting him and had to be sent to a convent. When he found out that his seventh wife Maria had lied to him about her virginity when he married her, he had her drowned the following day. His eighth and final wife Maria survived him: he died playing chess.
2. 1708: King Frederick 1 of Prussia marries his mad third wife Sophia. The House of Hohenzollern, the royal family of Prussia and later of Germany, believed in a family ghost; according to legend a 'white lady' would appear before the head of the household when it was time for him to die. One evening the king's young wife charges head first through the glass door to his bedroom and appears before him in her white nightgown splattered in blood. Frederick took her for the family ghost, had a heart attack and died a few days later.
3. 1733: King Frederick II 'the Great' of Prussia marries Princess Elizabeth Christine of Brünswick-Beyern. The wedding was arranged by his psychopathic father, King Frederick William I, who suspects that his son is gay. Young Frederick, horrified by the prospect of marriage, threatens to commit suicide but his father sends him a terse note to the effect that suicide wouldn't be necessary, because if he doesn't do as he is told he will be executed anyway. The couple go their separate ways immediately after the wedding night.
4. 1745: Czar Peter III of Russia marries the German princess Catherine, (later

Empress Catherine 'the Great'). Peter finds his collection of toy soldiers a much bigger attraction than his new bride and plays with his wooden soldiers, miniature cannons and toy fortresses under the bedclothes, taking up the whole bed with war games while his virgin wife lies undisturbed beside him: Catherine draws the line when he starts to rear hunting dogs in his bedroom and found herself sharing their bed with ten spaniels. History records that she opted for strangulation instead of marriage guidance.

5. 1765: Emperor Joseph II of Austria marries his second wife, Josepha. The Empress suffered from a skin complaint which made her so physically repulsive to the Emperor that he had the balcony connecting his room to hers sealed off. "If I could put the tip of my finger on the tiniest point of her body that is not covered with boils" he noted, "I would try to have children". There were no children, nor was the wedding ever consummated.
6. 1768: King Ferdinand I of Naples is married to Queen Caroline. When Ferdinand is asked on the morning after his wedding night how he likes his new bride, he replies: "she sleeps like the dead and sweats like a pig".
7. 1795: George, Prince of Wales (later King George IV) almost faints when he first claps eyes on his wife-to-be Princess Caroline of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel the day before they are due to be married. On their wedding night he gets himself blind drunk in order to tolerate her 'personal nastiness' long enough to sleep with her once only, after which the couple went their own separate ways, never once attempting to disguise their mutual loathing. When Napoleon Bonaparte died in 1821, a messenger rushed to inform the king, "your Majesty, your greatest enemy is dead". George replied, "Is she, by God?"
8. 1831: Emperor Ferdinand I of Austria marries the 17 year old Princess Maria Anna of Sardinia. Thanks to centuries of Habsburg royal inbreeding Ferdinand is severely physically and mentally handicapped and is both epileptic and encephalitic (his only recorded coherent remark on any subject was "I am the Emperor, and I want

dumplings”). During the wedding night alone he had five epileptic attacks: there were no children.

9. 1846: Queen Isabel II of Spain is pressured into marrying her first cousin Francis, the dwarfish homosexual Duke of Cadiz, although Isabel makes it clear that she finds her new husband repulsive and on the day of the wedding gets blind drunk before she can face the ceremony. At the moment when they were pronounced man and wife, it is noted that they burst into tears simultaneously. (When Isabel was asked years later about her wedding night, she replied “what can I say about a man who wore even more lace than I did?”)
10. 1853: Leopold II, King of the Belgians, marries Queen Marie Henrietta, a teenage Habsburg Duchess. Leopold was too ill attend his own wedding and sends his brother-in-law, Archduke Charles, to stand in for him. Unfortunately for the sexually naive Marie Henrietta, who had gone to her wedding bed armed only with instructions to submit to her husband’s wishes, Leopold was sufficiently recovered to attend the honeymoon. “If God hears my prayers” she tells a friend after her wedding night, “I shall not go on living much longer”.

HISTORY'S 10 LEAST ROMANTIC HONEYMOONS



1. Attila the Hun (406 -453), King of the Huns, or 'the Scourge of God' to his friends, was short, squat and ugly; a Gothic historian described him as having "a large head, a swarthy complexion, small, deep-seated eyes, a flat nose, a few hairs in the place of a beard". He was also a regular ladies man and had a dozen beautiful wives. He burst an artery and died on his wedding night with his twelfth, Ildico.
2. Eva Braun, married to boyfriend Adolf Hitler on 29 April 1945, celebrated by swallowing poison the following day; the Führer took his own life two minutes later. On Hitler's orders, both bodies were cremated with petrol in the Reich Chancellery garden.
3. The wedding night of Cesare Borgia, son of the 16th century Pope Alexander, was wrecked when a practical joker switched his regular medication for a bottle of laxative pills.
4. At the age of 28, the famous Victorian author and art critic John Ruskin was married his cousin Effie Gray but on his wedding night found the sight of his bride's pubic hair so distressing that they never shared a bed again. They spent a sexless honeymoon in Venice where Ruskin painted, took notes on the local architecture and mused on such higher matters the decline of the Venetian empire. He later relented and promised to sleep with Effie again in three years time, but failed to keep his promise and the marriage was annulled.
5. George Albert Crossman and Ellen Sampson were married in January 1903, but on their wedding night had a marital tiff which resulted in the groom killing his bride by smashing her skull with a hammer. He hid the body in a tin box in an upstairs room at their home in Kensal Rise, London, where it remained for the next 15

months, until a lodger complained about the smells seeping into his digs. When the police closed in, Crossman slit his own throat with a razor.

6. John Harvey Kellogg, inventor of the cereal flake, spent his wedding night with Ella Eaton writing *Plain Facts for Old and Young*, a 644 page treatise on the evils of sexual intercourse. This included a 97 page essay, *Secret Vice (Solitary Vice or Self-Abuse) Its Symptoms And Result*, listing 39 tell-tale signs indicating that someone was masturbating: (No. 7. Sleeplessness, No.11. Love of solitude, No. 12. No. 13. Unnatural boldness, No. 14 Confusion of ideas: No. 28. Use of tobacco, and No. 30. Acne.) The marriage was never consummated.
7. In August 1994 Minnesota newly-wed Gregory McCloud broke his back while carrying his 20 stone bride Helen over the threshold to their home. Doctors described the 10-stone groom's injuries as being consistent with those of someone who had been crushed by a car.
8. German bride Amy Weltz went to her wedding in Brisbane in September 1993 ignorant of the Australian tradition of smearing wedding cake in the face of one's spouse. When her new husband Chas rubbed a slice of wedding cake in her face during the reception she responded by smashing a bottle over his head, killing him almost instantly.
9. Japanese couple Sachi and Tomio Hidaki, married in 1978, did not get around to having sex for some time. The excitement of enjoying normal marital relations for the first time 14 years later was too much for them and they both suffered fatal heart attacks.
10. According to Princess Diana's biographer Andrew Morton, as a special honeymoon treat, Prince Charles read her passages from the works of Carl Jung and Laurens van der Post.

IN DELICATO FLAGRANTO MORTO:

5 FAMOUS PEOPLE WHO DIED HAVING SEX



1. Felix Fauré (1841 - 1899,) sixth President of the French Third Republic, recipient of Emile Zola's open letter *J'Accuse*. In 1999 in the middle of the infamous Dreyfus crisis, Fauré expired in his Presidential residence the Elysee palace while entertaining a high class prostitute. Fauré's aides heard the woman scream and broke down the door to find him seated on a sofa with his mistress kneeling in front of him in a state of trauma-induced lockjaw - according to the unauthorised report, his member had to be removed surgically. A major street of Paris and a Metro station were later named in Faurés honour.
2. Lord Palmerston, British Prime Minister (1855-8, 1859-65): 'Old Pam', Britain's randiest ever prime minister, died in his eighty-second year, officially from pneumonia having caught a chill riding in his carriage; it was rumoured however that he had in fact died of a heart attack while engaged in a sex act with a young parlour maid on his billiard table.
3. Cardinal Jean Danielou, (1915 - 1974) senior French Jesuit churchman, one of the world's leading Catholic theologians, head of the theological faculty at Paris University, author of fourteen books on sexual morality and church discipline. The French call orgasm *Le petite mort* - 'the little death'; the seventy year old Cardinal experienced *Le grande mort* in embarrassing circumstances in a brothel in Clichy, the red-light district of Paris, dead in the arms of a prostitute. The French police explained later that he was merely comforting the twenty-four year old blonde "as her father confessor".
4. Nelson Aldrich Rockefeller, (1908-1979): multi-millionaire grandson of oil magnate John D. Rockefeller, forty-first vice president to Gerald Ford and governor of

New York. Rockefeller expired from cardiac arrest, aged seventy-one, while working on a 'project' with his twenty-five year old female research assistant. The unlucky researcher was apparently trapped under the hefty septugenarian's naked body for several minutes until he could be moved. The New York Times reported that Rockefeller "died the way he'd lived, with an enthusiasm for life in all its public and private passions."

5. Pope John XII (r955 - 64) known as John 'the Bad' He was bludgeoned to death with a hammer by an irate husband after His Holiness had been caught in bed with the man's wife. When news of his death reached Rome it was noted that he was lucky to have died in bed, even if it wasn't his own.

10 RANDY ROYALS

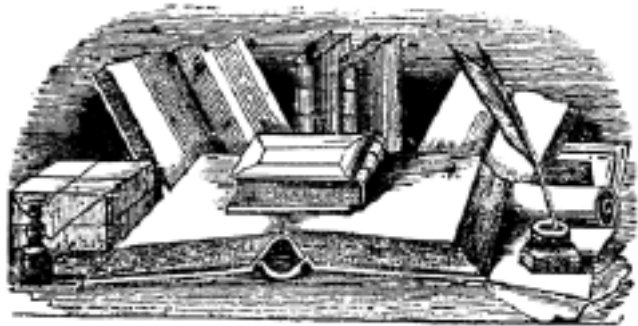


1. King Augustus II of Poland; 18th century Saxon-born monarch known as Augustus 'the Strong' for his exceptional physical size and strength, and for his unquestionable virility. Over a period of fifty years he fathered three hundred and sixty five bastards and one legitimate heir. He found it so difficult to keep track of his bastards that he 'accidentally' had at least one incestuous relationship with a daughter.
2. Czar Peter the Great of Russia: the Czar was unapologetic about his countless bastards and considered it his patriotic duty to 'screw for Russia'. He regularly visited prostitutes as well, by way of justification claiming that he spent less money on his mistresses than any other monarch in Europe.
3. King Ibn-Saud of Saudi Arabia. The first Saudi king allegedly slept with three different women every night from the age of 11 until his death in 1953 aged 72.
4. King Louis XV of France: the Bourbons were known for their tireless sex lives but that of Louis XV was the most astonishing of all, leading to rumours that he had to bathe daily in children's blood to renew his exhausted body. His personal brothel, the Parc du Cerfs was the grandest ever to service the needs of one man, stocked with constant supply of healthy girls as young as 14: he was paranoid about catching syphilis and believed that very young girls statistically reduced his chances of becoming infected.
5. King John V of Portugal. The inappropriately self-styled 'Most Faithful King' successfully combined his twin passions for Catholicism and sex by sleeping with nuns. The king enjoyed open sexual relations with members of the Odivelas Convent which resulted in the birth of at least three illegitimate sons, known as 'the children of Palhava' after the palace in Lisbon where they grew up.

6. King Philip IV of Spain. Although evidently insane for most of his reign, fathered about thirty bastards.
7. King Frederick William II of Prussia: unlike the other main figures in his dynasty who were known for military rather than sexual prowess King Frederick William 'the Fat', nephew of Frederick 'the Great' sired hordes of bastards by countless mistresses, assisted by an Italian drug called Diavolini which was taken to stimulate the libido. The king also had bigamous marriages with two mistresses Julia von Voss and Sophia Dönhoff.
8. King Henry I; the third Norman king of England was blessed with allegedly phenomenal sexual stamina and set an undefeated record for an English king by fathering at least twenty-one illegitimate children.
8. King Charles II: known as Old Rowley after a great old racehorse that had gone on to become a famous stud stallion. The king was allegedly the first royal personage ever to use a condom, although there are many dukes, earls and barons today who can trace their lineage directly back to the king's failure to wear one. He had at least thirteen mistresses, of whom Nell Gwynne, the Covent Garden orange seller and actress, was the best known.
9. King William IV: Queen Victoria's uncle, the 'sailor King' or 'Pineapple head' as he was also known thanks to his oddly-shaped dome fathered ten illegitimate children, five sons and five daughters, by the Irish actress Dorothea Jordan. His bastards were known as the little Fitzclarences.
10. King Edward VII: Queen Elizabeth II's great-grandfather Edward 'the Caresser' slept with about three different women a week for nearly half a century. Although considered a demon for 'proper form', when it came to females neither rank nor social status mattered to him as was equally happy in the arms of princesses or prostitutes. At his coronation in 1902 a special area set aside at Westminster Abbey for his various mistresses was nicknamed 'the king's loose box'.

CHAPTER THREE

COURTING THE MUSE



LAST CURTAIN CALLS: 10 SHOWBIZ EXITS



1. 1673: overwhelmed by an unscripted coughing fit, the French playwright and actor Moliere collapses during the fourth performance of his newly penned *Le Malade Imaginaire* and is carried to his home in the Rue de Richelieu, Paris, where he dies. The play was about a hypochondriac.
2. 1870: the travelling James Robinson & Co. Circus and Animal Show spice up their advance publicity for the inhabitants of Middletown, Missouri, by having their band perform on the roof of a cage full of performing Numidian lions as the circus paraded through the streets. Ignoring repeated safety warnings that the cage roof was insecure and the trick was highly dangerous and ordered, the show's management order their the band to sit on it anyway. Sure enough, the roof gives way and the musicians are thrown into the pit of hungry lions below. Crowds look on as the lions tore legs and arms from sockets and half devoured, dismembered parts of the band are strewn across the cage floor. Of the ten band members, three are killed outright and four more are fatally mutilated.
3. 1882: US stage actress Annie von Behren stars in the Coliseum Theatre, Cincinnati in the drama *Si Slocum* in which her real life fiancé Frank Frayne is required to shoot an apple à la William Tell from her head with his back to her by pointing the rifle over his shoulder. A 2,300 strong audience watch as the bullet hits her neatly in the forehead. She dies fifteen minutes later as the audience were still filing out of the theatre.
4. 1937: publicity-seeking Norfolk vicar Reverend Harold 'Jumbo' Davidson appears at Skegness Zoo, reading the Bible from a cage he shares with a large but normally docile lion called Freddie. The dramatic stunt goes awry when the lion turns on the vicar and mauls him. The audience, thinking it is a comic interlude, roars with

laughter. As Davidson lies fatally wounded in hospital, the show promoter erects banners inviting people to witness “The lion that injured the Rector.”

5. 1943: during a regular live radio debate with four others, Alexander Woolcott suffers a fatal heart attack. Unaware that anything is amiss, hundreds of listeners complain that Woolcott, usually known for his lacerating wit, has much less to say than usual.
6. 1951: Ronald Reagan’s finest moments on the silver screen to date, *Bedtime For Bonzo*, is marred by the accidental death of his co-star chimpanzee the day before the film’s premier.
7. 1980: Indian religious mystic Khadeshwari Baba demonstrates his powers of meditation by remaining buried alive in a ten foot deep pit for ten days. In a carnival-like atmosphere a crowd of over 1,000 people including several local officials from the town of Gorakhpur watch as Baba is ceremoniously lowered into the pit and the hole filled in behind him. Ten days later the pit is re-opened. From the accompanying stench it was estimated that Mr. Baba has been dead for at least a week.
8. 1996: Richard Versalle, a tenor performing at the New York Metropolitan Opera House, suffers a heart attack and falls ten feet from a ladder to the stage after singing the line “You can only live so long” from the opening scene of *The Makropulos Case*. It is a Czech opera about an elixir that confers eternal youth.
9. 1994: Mexican entertainer Ramon Barrero, player of “the world’s smallest harmonica” in mid-performance inhales and accidentally choked to death on his mouth organ.
10. 1994: Copenhagen Zoo blames the sudden death of their prized okapi on music from a Wagnerian opera which was being played very loudly at a nearby outdoor concert. Officials decide to make the most of their loss by saving the carcass of the extremely rare antelope for dissection. The scientific endeavour is however thwarted by zoology students, who steal and barbecue the okapi to celebrate the end of term.

15 ARTISTIC ECCENTRICITIES



1. Friedrich von Schiller, 18th century German poet and dramatist, worked with his feet on a block of ice while inhaling the fumes of rotting apples.
2. The French poet Gérard de Nerval kept a pet lobster, which he took for walks around Paris on the end of a length of ribbon. He said the lobster was "quiet and serious, knew the secrets of the sea and did not bark".
3. Jonathan Swift, after completing Gulliver's Travels, wrote a treatise on excrement in 1733 titled Human Ordure under the pen-name Dr. Shit.
4. The Belgian-French pulp-fiction novelist Georges Simenon, creator of the pipe-smoking detective Inspector Maigret, was the world's hardest working author. Typing at a rate of eighty pages each day Simenon wrote well over four hundred novels. He said he found the strain of writing so extreme that it caused him frequent vomiting and made it essential for him to sleep with one or more women as soon as the book was done. Alfred Hitchcock phoned one day, to be told by Simenon's secretary that he couldn't be disturbed because he had just begun a new novel. Hitchcock, knowing that Simenon was capable of writing three novels a month, replied, "That's all right, I'll wait."
5. James Whistler, American-born painter and graphic artist, once dyed a rice pudding green so that it wouldn't clash with the walls of his dining room.
6. The operatic composer Giacomo Mayerbeer, who lived with a constant fear of premature burial, arranged to have bells tied to his extremities so that any movement in his coffin would make a noise. To date however Mayerbeer has continued to decompose quietly without any outward sign of life.

7. Robert Louis Stevenson, Scottish author of classic adventure yarns including *Treasure Island* and *Kidnapped*, spent his early years reading extracts from the Bible aloud to sheep.
8. The German composer Robert Schumann had two imaginary friends called Florestan and Eusebius who gave him ideas for his scores. Schumann died in an insane asylum.
9. In 1863 the author Louisa May Alcott fell ill and described in her journal how she suffered from terrible hallucinations, in which she was repeatedly molested by a big Spaniard with soft hands. She recovered and went on to write *Little Women*.
10. The prolific 19th century French writer Honoré de Balzac believed that sex was a drain on his creativity. After several months of abstinence he was once tempted into a Paris brothel; he lamented afterwards, "I lost a novel this morning".
11. Samuel Johnson wrote *Rasselas* in seven days flat to pay for his mother's funeral.
12. Arnold Bennett's novels were renowned for stunning attention to detail. He was complimented on his description of the death of Darius Clayhanger in the *Clayhanger* series, a death scene acclaimed as the most realistic of its kind in the history of English literature. Bennett explained his secret: while his father was dying he was at the bedside busy taking notes.
13. The eighteenth century artist Benjamin West had an executed criminal exhumed and crucified to see how he hung.
14. Gustav Mahler, famous for his funeral marches, suffered from depression, piles and a morbid fixation about death: he wrote his first funeral march when he was six. Mahler noticed that many other great composers, including Beethoven and Schubert, only composed nine symphonies and thought it was unlucky to write any more. He thought he could cheat death by calling his ninth great symphonic work a "Song Cycle" rather than a symphony. As soon as Mahler had sketched out the first draft

however he died suddenly of a streptococcal throat infection.

15. W. B. Yeats was in the habit of trying to hypnotise hens.

KILLING ME SOFTLY: 10 MUSICAL MOMENTS



1. 1975: during Christmas celebrations, the president of Equatorial Guinea, Macias Nguema, orders his army to shoot 150 political opponents in the Malabo football stadium as loudspeakers played Mary Hopkins' *Those Were The Days*.
2. 1978: pop producer Phil Spector, a perfectionist in the recording studio, holds a gun to the head of Leonard Cohen to achieve the precise vocal performance he is looking for.
3. 1992: five prison guards at the Boise, Idaho, Maximum Security Institution are accused of taunting death row inmates by playing the Neil Young song *The Needle and the Damage Done* during an execution by lethal injection.
4. 1993: a Christian radio station in Vevay, Indiana is burgled and set ablaze. Police said their prime suspect was a caller who had become irate when a DJ refused to play *Don't Take the Girl* by Tim McGraw.
5. 1994: in England, Dudley and District Hospital Radio ban the Frank Sinatra standard *My Way* from their airwaves because the lines *Now the end is near / And so I face the final curtain* are considered too discouraging for terminally ill patients. Other records suggested for the hospital danger list include Tony Bennett's *I Left My Heart In San Francisco* (insensitive to coronary patients) and Andy Fairweather-Low's *Wide Eyed and Legless* (unsuitable for amputees).
6. 1994: a Beatles tribute band lose their 'George Harrison' in a tragic motorway accident. The 'quiet Beatle', aka. 27 year old Duncan Bloomfield, fell out of the back of their transit van on the M40 while the band was travelling home from a performance in London. The rest of the band had driven for 25 miles before they realised that he

was missing.

7. 1995: in Wanganui, New Zealand, a 21-year-old man claims he has a bomb and takes over the local STAR FM radio station, demanding to hear the song Rainbow Connection by Kermit the Frog.
8. 1996: mourners at a funeral service at All Saints, Gravesend are startled when the church PA system inadvertently relays Rod Stewart's hit Do Ya Think I'm Sexy, including the line. If you want my body....
9. 1996: an academic report called The Effect of Country Music on Suicide by two American sociologists, Steven Stack and Jim Gundlach proves a link between country music and losing the will to live. The study concludes that wherever country music is played, the white suicide rate is higher than average, "independent of divorce, southernness, poverty, and gun availability".
10. 2003: uncooperative Iraqi prisoners are exposed for prolonged periods to tracks by rock group Metallica to make them talk. Sergeant Mark Hadsell of the US's Psychological Operations Company explains, "They can't take it. If you play it for 24 hours, your brain and body functions start to slide, your train of thought slows down and your will is broken. That's when we come in and talk to them."

10 BANNED AUTHORS



1. William Shakespeare; *King Lear* banned in Britain from 1788 to 1820, considered 'inappropriate' in the light of King George III's apparent mental illness.
2. Casanova; His *Memoires* were banned by the Pope (1834) and by Mussolini (1935).
3. Thomas Hardy; *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* (1891) and *Jude the Obscure* (1896) thought to be 'pornographic' and banned from all British and US libraries.
4. Rudyard Kipling; in 1898 *A Fleet In Being* is banned by the British government on grounds of national security.
5. Charles Darwin; from 1926 - 1937 *On the Origin of Species* is banned in the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Greece and by the US state of Tennessee.
6. Arthur Conan Doyle; in 1929 the Soviet Union bans *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* for 'occultism'.
7. James Joyce; upset the Catholic church with graphics accounts of sex and defecation. The full version of *Ulysses* was banned in Britain and the US for nearly twenty years. When the 'obscene' *Dubliners* was published in 1922 it was burned on the streets of Dublin.
8. Adolf Hitler; *Mein Kampf* banned in Czechoslovakia (1932) and Palestine (1937).
9. Ernest Hemingway; in 1939 *A Farewell to Arms* was banned in Ireland for being "immoral and irreligious."

10. D. H. Lawrence; *The Rainbow* and *Lady Chatterley's Lover* were both banned in Britain. During the *Lady Chatterley* trial, prosecution council Mervyn Griffith-Jones asks the jury: "Is it a book that you would even wish your wife or your servants to read?" He also takes the trouble to keep a detailed tally of the novel's profanities, informing the jury that the word 'cunt' occurred fourteen times.

SHOCK OF THE NEW: 10 GREAT MOMENTS IN ART



1. 1951: an abstract painting called Autumn Landscape by Scottish artist William Gear wins a prize at the Festival of Britain, later denounced by the Daily Mail as a “jam pot thrown at canvas”. In the House of Commons, Conservative MP Alan Gomme-Duncan announces the end of civilisation as we know it.
2. 1961: Piero Manzoni a leading light of the art movement arte povera, exhibits a series of 30 gram cans containing his own excrement, titled Artist’s Shit. In June 2002, the Tate Gallery in London announced it had purchased a tin of Manzoni’s faeces for about \$38,000.
3. 1966: Hermann Nitsch, Austrian ‘action artist’ guts a dead lamb in London while showing a film about male genitalia. The Times calls the event a “brothel of the intellect”. The organisers are prosecuted and fined.
4. 1971: American artist Newton Harrison stages an exhibition at the Hayward Gallery, London called Portable Fish Farm at which he plans to electrocute sixty live catfish. The show is cancelled when comedian Spike Milligan makes his feelings known by lobbing a brick through the Hayward Gallery window.
5. 1989: French/American sculptor Louise Bourgeois, whose work mostly features severed penises and huge testicles hanging singly or in pairs or in bunches, exhibits a piece called No Exit - a stairway with two huge testicles restricting egress at the bottom - and Untitled (with Foot) in which a baby is crushed by a large testicle.
6. 1989: Canadian sculptor Richard Gibson is tried at the Old Bailey in London and found guilty of 'outraging public decency' by creating earrings from freeze-dried human fetuses. They formed part of Human Earrings, a mannequin head with wig.

Gibson is fined £500, but the case costs £200,000 to prosecute.

7. 1994: Christian Lemmerz, Danish artist, puts six dead pigs in a glass case so that visitors to the Ezbjerg gallery could watch them change colour from a piggy-pink to black, via various shades of blue and grey. The artist declared it a triumph for people who value reality in art. The gallery owners declare it a triumph over their old ventilation system, which was unable to cope with the stench.
8. 1995: Gilbert and George, British artists, display 16 large glossy photos of themselves surrounded by a series of 'defecation motifs', including turd circles and turd sculptures, which they called Naked Shit Pictures, at the South London Art Gallery. A critic described the work as "almost biblical".
9. 1998: Californian Zhang Huan takes off his clothes, smears himself with puréed hot dog and flour then allows himself to be sniffed by eight dogs at San Francisco's Asian art museum. Zhang said his aim was to "explore the physical and psychological effects of human violence in modern society". The exploration ceased when one of the dogs bit him on the bottom.
10. Argentinian artist Nicola Constantino exhibits sculptures made out of her own fat which was taken out during liposuction. Two kilos of the fat were transformed in two sculptures of the female naked body and were offered for \$460 each.

ENTERTAINMENT AND THE 'F' WORD: 10 GREAT MOMENTS



1. 1965; drama critic Kenneth Tynan asks in the course of a live TV debate what exactly is wrong with the word 'fuck', thus becoming the first man to say 'fuck' on British television. In the House of Commons 133 members tabled four motions condemning him and a Conservative MP suggests Tynan should be hanged.
2. 1967; Director Joseph Strick releases the first film adaptation of James Joyce's profanity-studded novel *Ulysses*, the first ever film featuring the F-word to be granted a certificate by the British Board of Film Classification. In New Zealand it can only be shown in front of single-sex audiences and is banned in Ireland, Joyce's homeland, until 2000.
3. 1967: Michael Winner's *I'll Never Forget What's His Name*, features Marianne Faithfull saying the line "Get out of here, you fucking bastard".
4. 1970: Robert Altman's *M*A*S*H* becomes the first Hollywood release to feature the F-word, although it wasn't in the original script.
5. 1976: The Sex Pistols and a gang of suitably safety-pinned chums are invited onto the UK's *Tonight* show. Presenter Bill Grundy, determined to liven up an hitherto dull interview, goads them on, quipping, "You've got another ten seconds, say something outrageous." Guitarist Steve Jones rises to the bait, calling Grundy a 'dirty bastard', a 'dirty fucker' and a 'fucking rotter'. A nation is scandalised and Grundy loses his job. Punk rock had arrived.
6. 1983: Brian De Palma's film *Scarface* uses 'fuck' 206 times; Al Pacino's girlfriend asks him, "Can't you stop saying fuck all the time?".

7. 1985: Bob Geldof, the only person to receive a knighthood for saying fuck on television, tells millions of viewers during the broadcast of Live Aid in July 1985, tells million of viewers, "just give us your fucking money".
8. 1993: during the live televised Wimbledon tennis championships, 'nice' Pete Sampras, the world's top male tennis player, is heard by photographers to tell the centre court crowd, "Take that, you mother-fuckers!"
9. 1995: Martin Scorsese's film Casino uses 'fuck' 442 times, a new world record.
10. 2004: Elton John says 'fuck' during a live appearance on the Chris Moyles breakfast show on Radio 1. As Moyles apologises to his listeners the veteran rock star enquires if it is permissible to say the words "wank", "tits", "bugger" and "bollocks".

DECOMPOSING COMPOSERS: 10 CAUSES OF DEATH



1. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) - a stroke, after undergoing an unsuccessful operation on his eye.
2. George Frederic Handel (1685 - 1759) - septicemia as a consequence of unsterile instruments employed to remove his cataracts.
3. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) - Bright's Disease.
4. Franz Schubert (1797-1821) - typhoid.
5. Franz Liszt (1811-1886) - pneumonia.
6. Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893) - cholera.
7. Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) - cancer of the liver.
8. Claude Debussy (1862-1920) - cancer of the rectum.
9. Alban Berg (1885-1935) - blood poisoning from an infected insect bite.
10. Sergei Rachmaninov (1873-1943) - malignant melanoma.

10 ROCK & ROLL SUICIDES



1. Sister Luc-Gabrielle - née Jean Deckers, a.k.a. 'The Singing Nun'. The Belgian nun with an acoustic guitar provided the unexpected smash hit of 1963 Dominique. She left her convent to discover the swinging sixties, but her new career flopped and facing bankruptcy she took her own life by carbon monoxide poisoning in a double suicide pact with her lesbian lover.
2. Joe Meek, 60's record producer of the Tornados. Meek was unhealthily fixated on his idol, Buddy Holly. On the eighth anniversary of Holly's death, Meek shot his elderly landlady then turned the gun on himself.
3. Del Shannon, US "doo-wop" idol, recorded Hat's Off To Larry before blowing his own hat off with a .22 calibre rifle.
4. Ian Curtis. 23 year old singer with Manchester band Joy Division, hanged himself in his kitchen on the eve of their first big US tour.
5. John Ritchie a.k.a. Sid Vicious. The Sex Pistols bassist failed in two suicide bids while in police custody for allegedly stabbing to death his girlfriend Nancy Spungen, but successfully overdosed on heroin as soon as he was released on bail in February 1979.
6. Paul Williams, singer with the Temptations, shot himself a short walk away from the Tamla Motown offices.
7. Richard Manuel, member of The Band, casts a cloud over their important 1986 reunion tour by hanging himself in a motel room.

8. Bobby Bloom, American one-hit wonder whose cultural contribution Montego Bay made No. 3 in the British charts in 1970, shot himself aged 28.
9. Kurt Cobain. In April 1994 the 27 year old singer who wrote a song called I Hate Myself And I Want To Die escaped from a detoxification centre in Los Angeles, then shot his own face off. At the funeral service his wife Courtney Love, read extracts from his suicide note. Days later a 16 year old girl in Turkey also shot herself in a 'tribute' to Kurt.
10. Jeff Buckley, rock musician, drowns himself in 1997 in the Wolf River, near Memphis, Tennessee. Buckley, who is said to have a Led Zeppelin fixation, was heard singing Whole Lotta Love as he swam into the river.

10 CREATIVE DRUNKS



1. Ernest Hemingway: the Nobel-prize winning writer and adventurer had an epic appetite for alcohol and women. As a war correspondent during the Second World War, Hemingway acquired a special alcohol ration and positioned himself on a bar stool in the Paris Ritz, conducting his affairs between Bloody Marys. He kept drinking despite a severe liver problem but it was a self-inflicted gunshot wound that finished him off at his Idaho retreat at the age of 59.
2. Raymond Chandler: in the words of his hard-drinking fictional detective Philip Marlowe: "Alcohol is like love. The first kiss is magic, the second is intimate, the third is routine. After that you take the girl's clothes off". Unlike Marlowe, Chandler was a troublesome drunk who suffered blackouts, fell over, threatened suicide and generally irritated his friends. Chandler's devotion to his ill wife Cissy kept him on the wagon for a while, but when she died in 1954 he hit the bottle and stuck to it, his health deteriorating rapidly. He died of pneumonia five years later.
3. James Boswell: Samuel Johnson, his mentor and source of fame, advised him that 'not to drink wine is a great deduction from life'. Boswell took the advice to heart, partly to relieve frequent bouts of depression and partly to stimulate his appetite for prostitutes, a 'whoring rage' that resulted in nineteen venereal infections. After one of several drunken falls Boswell remarked in his diary; 'no man is more easily hurt with wine than I am'. He finally finished *The Life of Samuel Johnson* in 1791, in between bouts of heavy drinking, and died four years later. of kidney failure, aged 55.
4. Dorothy Parker: born into the Rothschild family whom she referred to as 'silly stock', her natural talent and great wit afforded her a good living and a residency around the famous hard drinking 'round table' at New York's Algonquin hotel. At first she hated alcohol, but in such company soon developed a thirst. She was childless; a friend once remarked she wouldn't 'have anything in common with children

because they don't drink'. Her liver gave way the age of 74.

5. Scott Fitzgerald: he and his wife Zelda lived a riotous lifestyle through the jazz age, their drinking supplemented by his occasional bouts of writing, most notably *The Great Gatsby*. Unlike his accomplished drinking companion Hemingway, Fitzgerald was an incompetent drunk with a habit of humiliating himself in restaurants by swearing and throwing ashtrays before passing out. Zelda went mad and perished in a hospital fire; Fitzgerald went into terminal decline, knocking out unsuccessful Hollywood scripts, and died of a heart attack in 1940 aged 44.
6. Edgar Allan Poe: the self-destructive poet and short story writer was an alcoholic and laudanum addict, but it didn't stop him joining the local Temperance Society and giving lectures on the evils of drink. Poe once attended the West Point Military Academy but was expelled for 'gross neglect of duty' after appearing on parade naked except for a white belt and gloves. In 1849 he left home to visit friends and relatives in New York; he never made it to his destination. He disappeared for a mysterious five days and was found dying in a Baltimore gutter with delirium tremens.
7. Jackson Pollock: although he once pronounced this with his art "there is no accident", to his critics his famous enamel paint splatterings over a floor-bound canvas suggested otherwise. Pollock was almost permanently inebriated from the age of 15 which got him into fights and caused a lot of pissing in public; he once set fire to his mattress and saved his life by urinating on it. Pollock went on the wagon for three years from 1948 to 1951 when he created his best known abstract expressionist works, but sudden stardom caused him to lapse and he hit the bottle again. In 1956 his wife Lee Krasner left him and a month later Pollock was killed after driving his car into a tree, killing one other passenger.
8. Dylan Thomas: his wife Caitlin was his regular supping partner, as she attested later: 'Ours was not a love story, it was a drink story.' When he was inebriated Thomas was either a great wit or a pain in the arse, depending on your point of view. One evening he was in mid-flow when he suddenly stopped and observed: "Somebody's boring me. I think it's me." He died suddenly at the age of 39 while

taking advantage of the long drinking hours in New York before starting a lecture tour. On 9 November 1953 he staggered out of a bar and fell into a fatal coma: his last words were “seventeen whiskies, a record I think”.

9. Brendan Behan: raised on whisky by his maternal grandmother because it was “good for the worms”, the legendary imbibor described himself as “a drinker with a writing problem”. Behan distinguished himself with a series of notoriously drunken public appearances, including a memorable live TV interview throughout which he was incapable of speaking a single comprehensible word. The greatest Irish playwright of his era was once hired to write an advertising slogan for Guinness, with half a dozen kegs of their drink. After a month the company asked him what he had come up with. Behan proposed: “Guinness makes you drunk”. He collapsed in the Harbour Lights Bar in March 1964 and died a few days later.
10. George Jones: said to have the finest voice in the history of recorded country music. His stormy, liquor-fuelled third marriage to fellow country legend Tammy Wynette was well documented in their duets, from *We Can Make It* in 1971 through to *We're Gonna Hold On* in 1974. In an attempt to wean him off the booze Wynette emptied their home of drink and took away his car keys, making Jones a virtual house prisoner. Desperate for a drink, he set off for Nashville in the only vehicle with keys, his sit-down lawnmower. He was stopped on the freeway close to town. Jones was later twice convicted of drink-driving, once following a televised police chase through the streets of Nashville in 1983, then again after wrapping his car around a bridge in Nashville in March 1999.

THE GRIM RAPPER: 10 PREMATURE DEATHS AS THE SUBJECT OF A POP RECORD



1. Seasons In The Sun - Terry Jacks: 1974 / Westlife 2002
2. Tell Laura I Love Her - Ricky Valance: 1960
3. Terry - Twinkle: 1964
4. Old Shep - Elvis Presley: 1960
5. Leader of the Pack - Shangri-Las: 1965
6. Teen Angel - Mark Dinning: 1960
7. Ode to Billie Joe - Bobby Gentry: 1967
8. Patches - Clarence Carter: 1970
9. Endless Sleep - Mary Wilde: 1958
10. Camouflage - Stan Ridgway: 1986

10 DEPRESSED ARTISTS



1. Vincent van Gogh, Dutch expressionist; while a voluntary inmate in an asylum at St. Rémy, he absconded and shot himself at the scene of his last painting *Cornfields with Flight of Birds*, aged 37.
2. Mark Rothko, Russian-American abstract expressionist painter; slashed his wrists in his studio, aged 67.
3. Arshile Gorky, American abstract expressionist painter: hanged himself in his studio, aged 44
4. Jackson Pollock, American abstract expressionist painter, after several attempts to drown himself, drove his car into a tree, aged 44.
5. Virginia Woolf, British writer: filled her pockets with rocks and drowned herself in the river Ouse, aged 59.
6. Sylvia Plath, American poet: gassed herself in her kitchen oven, aged 30.
7. Ernest Hemingway, American novelist, blasted himself in the head with a shotgun, aged 61
8. John Gould Fletcher, American poet and author, drowned himself in a pond, aged 64.
9. Gerard de Nerval, French writer, hanged himself from a sewer grate. aged 47.
10. Hart Crane, American author: travelling from Mexico to the US, jumped from the

deck of the SS Orizaba, somewhere off the Florida coast, aged 33.

10 HARD ACTS TO FOLLOW



1. Ozzy Osbourne, no stranger to shock tactics, surpassed himself on January 20, 1982, when during a gig in Des Moines, a fan threw a bat onstage and Ozzy picked it up and bit its head off, believing it to be a rubber toy. It wasn't, and Ozzy underwent a course of rabies injections. In May 1981, bored at a record company press conference in Los Angeles, he repeated the trick by biting the head off a live white dove.
2. Tommy Minnock, a variety artiste who plied his trade in Trenton, New Jersey in the 1890s allowed himself to be literally crucified onstage. As the nails were being driven into his hands and feet, Minnock sang *After The Ball Is Over*.
3. The US American entertainer Orville Stamm, by way of man encore, lay on his back with a piano on his chest, while a pianist bounced up and down on his thighs, belting out the tune to *Ireland Must Be Heaven Because Mother Comes From There*.
4. The original cast of the US sitcom *Friends* had a seventh regular member, Marcel the monkey. He was fired because of his habit of vomiting live worms on the set.
5. In 1996 Dora Oberling, a stripper from Tampa, Florida, cheated death when a dissatisfied member of the audience tried to shoot her. The bullet bounced off one of her silicone breast implants.
6. Matthew Buchinger, a German living in the late 17th century, was the first ever all-round entertainer. He mastered a dozen musical instruments, was a fine dancer and a brilliant magician. He was also an excellent marksman, a superb bowler and an accomplished calligrapher. His chief claim to fame however he was that he was 2' 4" tall, and possessed neither arms nor legs.

7. In September 1994 a glass eye worn by Armando Botelli shattered when a soprano hit a high note during an opera in Milan.
8. Frenchman Joseph Pujol, the virtuoso of the anal accordion, earned fame and fortune at the turn of the nineteenth century as Le Pétomane. While lying in the bath Pujol made the remarkable discovery that he could modulate sound with completely odourless farting. Pujol took his 'act' to Paris where he became an overnight sensation, outselling even France's favourite actress Sarah Bernhardt. His performances included a series of imitations including the sound of calico being torn, a cannon, an eight day old pup, a creaking door, an owl hooting, a duck, a swarm of bees, a bullfrog, and a pig. He could intone, by placing a small flute in his rectum, *By The Light Of The Moon* and could anally extinguish a candle at a distance of one foot. For an encore Pujol inserted a yard of rubber hosing with a cigarette in one end into his rectum, then draw on the cigarette and exhale smoke. The highlight of Pujol's spectacular career was a continental tour which drew many of the crowned heads of Europe, although King Leopold II of Belgium felt obliged to see his show in disguise. When Pujol died in 1945 aged 88 he was succeeded by several imitators, including a female 'pétomane' called La Mere Alexandre, who could imitate the farts of the famous and perform a series of entertaining 'occupational farts' including nuns and freemasons: her magnum opus however was her impression of the bombardment of Port Arthur. In the 1980's an American 'pétomane' known as Honeysuckle Divine could extinguish a candle flame at two paces and could fart *Jingle Bells*.
9. At an Organization of African Unity summit meeting in 1975, Ugandan leader Idi Amin entertained his fellow African presidents by demonstrating how to suffocate people with a handkerchief.
10. The actor Lorne Greene had one of his nipples bitten off by an alligator while filming Lorne Greene's *Wild Kingdom*.

10 MUSICAL BANS



1. 4th Century BC: Plato calls for a ban on contemporary music from the Greek republic because pop music leads to low morals.
2. 1936: Adolf Hitler bans the playing of Mendellson because the composer is Jewish.
3. 1958: Jerry Lee Lewis steps off a plane in London arm-in-arm with his wife Myra, who he reveals is also his cousin and 'about 13'. A nation is aghast when it turns out that the rocker was a serial bigamist who first married at the age of 14. His tour is cancelled and he is banned from playing in Britain.
4. 1962: Speedy Gonzales, novelty single by the US crooner Pat Boone, is removed from playlists because it is considered offensive to Mexicans.
5. 1963: Dominique by The Singing Nun is banned in Springfield, Massachussetts by station WHYN because it was 'degrading to Catholics'.
6. 1966: The Beatles A Day In The Life widely banned because of perceived drug references. Meanwhile the Fab Four accidentally snub Imelda Marcos by failing to take up her invitation to tea in Manila and all Beatles recordings are banned in the Phillipines.
7. 1968: Communist party leader Chairman Mao Tse-Tung bans The Sound Of Music in China because it is a blatant example of capitalist pornography.
8. 1969: Je T'Aime ... Moi Non Plus by Jane Birkin and Serge Gainsburgh is banned by US and European radio stations for content of an explicit sexual nature.

9. 1970: The Rolling Stones release their new single Cocksucker Blues, a ploy to get them out of a contractual obligation. It works.
10. 1971: The Malawian dictator Dr Hastings Banda bans the song Delilah made famous by the Welsh singer Tom Jones, in deference to a favourite mistress of the same name.

10 WRITERS WHO DIED OF TUBERCULOSIS



1. John Keats (1795 - 1821)
2. Emily Bronte (1818 - 1848)
3. Anne Bronte (1820 - 1849)
4. Charlotte Bronte (1816 - 1855)
5. Robert Louis Stevenson (1850 - 1894)
6. Anton Chekhov (1860 - 1904)
7. Franz Kafka (1883 - 1924)
8. D. H. Lawrence (1885 - 1930)
9. George Orwell (1903 - 1950)
10. William Somerset Maugham (1874 - 1965)

ESSENTIAL ELVIS TRIVIA: THE TOP 10



1. Before he discovered Elvis, Colonel Tom Parker's most notable success was 'Colonel Parker's Dancing Chickens', an act which involved persuading chickens to perform by sticking them on an electric hotplate.
2. There are an estimated 85,000 Elvis impersonators worldwide. In the Islamic state of Mogadishu in Somalia alone it is illegal to impersonate Elvis without a beard.
3. He once ate nothing but meat loaf, mashed potatoes, and tomatoes for a period of two years.
4. Elvis became addicted to Freenamint chewing gum whilst attempting to overcome severe constipation
5. Dr. Jukka Ammondt, A Finnish professor, is the only Elvis impersonator known to sing his songs in Latin, including Nunc Hic Aut Numquam (It's Now Or Never).
6. Next to sex and gluttony his favourite nocturnal pastime was visiting the Memphis morgue to look at the corpses. He also liked to watch lesbian sex through a two-way in his bedroom while nibbling on a bucket of giblets.
7. Elvis was once injected with the urine of a pregnant woman as part of a fad diet.
8. In July 1993 retired Texan US Air Force Major Bill Smith filed a lawsuit in Fort Worth against the estate of Elvis Presley. Major Smith charged that Presley's estate had been perpetrated a fraud by keeping up the pretence that the King had died in 1977. The Major complained that this had interfered with his attempts to sell his

new book on Elvis's current whereabouts.

9. His last meal was four scoops of ice cream and 6 chocolate chip cookies.
10. Death was his best ever career move: had he lived he would have almost certainly been bankrupt within six months.

10 ODD LITERARY DEATHS



1. 1156: Pietro Aretino, Italian satirist, poet and critic, laughs so hard at a scene in a play involving one of his sisters that he falls off his chair, fatally striking his head on the floor.
2. 1824: Lord George Byron catches a virulent form of malaria brought on by rowing an open boat across a lagoon in a thunderstorm.
3. 1850: Honoré de Balzac dies of caffeine poisoning after regularly drinking about fifty cups of black coffee per day.
4. 1867: Charles Baudelaire dies insane, paralysed and speechless at the age of 46 from the combined effects of syphilis and addiction to alcohol, hashish and opium.
5. 1870: Charles Dickens has a fatal stroke while writing *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*.
6. 1900: Oscar Wilde dies in France under the assumed name of Sebastian Melmoth from an abscess on the brain, which had spread from an infected middle ear, despite an operation by an ear specialist. When Wilde was informed how much the failed operation had cost he replied "Oh well then, I suppose I shall have to die beyond my means." (According to an even wittier but apocryphal version of Wilde's last words were "either that wallpaper goes or I do".)
7. 1915: Rupert Brooke, he wrote "If I should die, think this only of me: / that there's some corner of a foreign field / That is for ever England", expires in a French hospital ship from blood poisoning, the result of an infected mosquito bite aggravated by sunstroke.

8. 1931: Arnold Bennett is taken by typhoid, after cheerfully drinking a glass of tap water in a Paris hotel to demonstrate how completely safe it was.
9. 1950: George Bernard Shaw falls out of an apple tree at the age of ninety-four.
10. 1983: Tennessee Williams chokes to death on a bottle cap that accidentally dropped into his mouth while he was using a nasal spray.

10 WORST PUBLISHED POETS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE



1. Julia A. Moore (1847 - 1920)

Lord Byron was an Englishman

A poet I believe

His first works in old England

Was poorly received

Perhaps it was Lord Byron's fault

And perhaps it was not.

- Byron: A Critical Survey

Widely acknowledged as the worst ever American poet, Julia A. Moore was born in Plainfield, Michigan, the eldest of four children. Her mother was an invalid and she had to raise the family herself but still found time to write verse, which she described with some degree of understatement as “sentimental.” Her inspiration came from the deaths of neighbours, stories she read in newspapers, anecdotes about heroic Civil War deeds or her own childhood memories. Her favourite subject matter, tragic and untimely death, caused critics to note that she rattled off poems “like a Gatling Gun’.

In Little Libbie, for example:

While eating dinner, this dear little child

Was choked on a piece of beef.

Doctors came, tried their skill awhile,

But none could give relief.

A reviewer advised, “to meet such steady and unremitting demands on the tear ducts a person should instead be equipped with a water main.” Her magnum opus was her collection of poems, *The Sweet Singer of Michigan Salutes The Public*, published in 1876. The critics ironically praised the work as a masterpiece. Mark Twain later claimed it had kept him laughing for the best part of twenty years; she had “the touch that makes an intentionally humorous episode pathetic” Twain noted,” and an intentionally pathetic one funny”. She published no more poetry after her second

book *A Few Words to the Public* in 1878. Mark Twain later satirised her in *Huckleberry Finn* as Emmeline Grangerford.

2. **William McGonagall (1825 - 1902)**

Oh! It was a most gorgeous sight to be seen
Numerous foreign magnates were there for to see the Queen
And to the vast multitude there of women and men
Her Majesty for two hours showed herself to them.

- The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebration

The legendary Scot McGonagall had a brief and spectacularly unsuccessful career as an actor until he discovered his muse in 1877 when, in his own words, a "divine inspiration" told him to "Write! Write!" His choice of subject matter was eclectic and like Julia A. Moore was often inspired by contemporary news events; a good example of his deftness of touch is shown in these lines from his *Calamity in London; Family of Ten Burned To Death*.

Oh, Heaven! it was a frightful and pitiful sight to see
Seven bodies charred of the Jarvis family;
And Mrs. Jarvis was found with her child, and both carbonised,
And as the searchers gazed thereon they were surprised.
And these were lying beside the fragments of the bed,
And in a chair the tenth victim was sitting dead;
Oh Horrible! Oh Horrible! What a sight to behold
The charred and burnt bodies of young and old.

Many of McGonagall's works were dedicated to Queen Victoria and whenever the queen visited Scotland he went to Balmoral in vain hope of giving his sovereign a recitation of his latest work. Although he never got beyond the palace gates, his persistence paid off when he received a polite note from the Queen's private secretary, Lord Biddulph, suggesting he go home and not trouble Her Majesty again. This near-brush with royalty went to McGonagall's head and he had a new calling card printed, restyling himself 'William McGonagall - Poet To Her Majesty'. Serenely unaffected by the laughter that generally greeted his work, he became a cult figure in Dundee, where his performances drew large audiences. McGonagall only once managed to

sell a copy of his poems, to a policeman on the gates of Balmoral for twopence, but was also once commissioned to write, for the sum of two guineas, a rhyme to promote Sunlight Soap;

You can use it with great pleasure and ease
Without wasting any elbow grease
And when washing the most dirty clothes
The sweat won't be dripping from your nose.

His subsequent attempts to sell more poems, including one attempt to crack the American market, were fruitless.

3. **J. Gordon Coogler (1865 - 1901)**

On her beautiful face there are smiles of grace
That linger in beauty serene
And there are no pimples, encircling her dimples,
As ever, as yet, I have seen.

- A Pretty Girl

Born in South Carolina during the Civil War, Coogler began writing romantic poetry when he was a schoolboy: his first effort was for a girl called Minnie who apparently went to Galveston and died in a hurricane. Encouraged in his poetic efforts by cruel local citizens, he later opened a print shop and put a sign in the window; 'Poems Written While You Wait.' Coogler occasionally prefaced his works with selections of the critical comments he encountered even though they were always less than flattering. His career was cut short when he died suddenly aged 36. "An excellent young man" noted the obituary writer of the Charleston News and Courier "who unfortunately thought he was a poet". He posthumously acquired a number of fan clubs across America and his name lives on in the J. Gordon Coogler Award for outstandingly bad journalism.

4. **Alfred Austin (1835-1913).**

Along the wires the electric message came
He is no better, he is much the same

- Ode to the dying Alfred, Lord Tennyson.

The royal post of Poet Laureate has been held by three greats (Dryden, Wordsworth and Tennyson) several minor talents and a few truly bad poets; of the latter category, Alfred Austin was the most outstanding. His appointment was blatantly political, awarded the laureateship by the British Prime Minister Lord Salisbury, who saw no reason why a failed politician with no track record as a poet shouldn't make a success of the job provided he supported the right party. Although very small, Austin had a towering ego and took his appointment as proof that he was now officially England's greatest wordsmith. His poems, mostly overblown epics expressing his own insensitive right wing politics, were universally panned by the critics who followed his career with mounting disbelief, but Austin struck a pose of lofty indifference, continuing to churn out rubbish while lambasting his critics. When it was pointed out to him that his poems were riddled with basic grammatical errors, Austin replied, "I dare not alter these things. They come to me from above".

5. Joseph Gwyer (1835 - 1890)

I wish you Alfred now a good night;
 You gives your mother great delight;
 Don't you wake and ask for baa
 Or you'll offend your dad-dad-a.

- Lines to his son, Alfred Gwyer

Queen Victoria had the misfortune of being pursued by not one but two talentless but patriotic poets. Joseph Gwyer, the 'McGonagall of Penge', followed his two great obsessions, poetry and potato growing, with roughly equal enthusiasm, often combining the two with effortless and devastating effect, as evidenced by his 1875 volume *Sketches Of The Life of Joseph Gwyer (Potato Salesman) With His Poems (Commended By Royalty)*. It should be pointed out that at no time in his career was any of his work ever commended by anyone, least of all royalty. A good example of his work was *Love and Matrimony* in which he points out that the most important thing a man should look for in his choice of bride is an ability to cook and roast POTATOES: (in Gwyer's work, the word 'potatoes' was always underlined or written in capitals). The importance of Gwyer's potato theme in contemporary literature often baffled his public but was not lost on all of his critics. The satirical magazine *Punch* noted of his work *The Alexandra Palace, Muswell Hill, Destroyed By Fire*,

“We consider this work no small potatoes”.

6. **Amanda McKittrick Ros (1860 - 1939)**

Dear Lord, the day of Eggs is here

- Ode To Easter

Apart from two collections of verse *Poems of Puncture* (1932) and *Fumes of Formation* (1933) the inimitable Irish poetess was chiefly famous for a series of unfathomable romantic novels in which most of the characters had alliterative names. In her first and best known book *Irene Iddesleigh* (1897) one of the main characters was Osbert Otwell; another of her novels was called *Delina Delaney* and a third was *Helen Huddleston*. In the latter, all her characters were named after fruit, including Lily Lentil and the Duke of Greengage. Parts of *Helen Huddleston* were made more inaccessible by being written in an obscure dialect known only to the author. a unique writing style she openly attributed to never having read any books herself. Her career was marked by lengthy and vitriolic feuds with critics. From her home in remote County Antrim she issued a torrent of mostly abusive verse on her pet subjects, namely lawyers, fashion, the Kaiser, the abandonment of moral standards, clerics and critics. She never quite recovered from what she took to be the massive snub of failing to secure a nomination for the Nobel Prize for Literature. By way of consolation her works became much sought after by connoisseurs of kitsch and she had her very own appreciation society, established at Oxford in 1907.

7. **The Reverend Cornelius Whur (1782-1853)**

Thou pretty little jumping thing

What e'er may be thine age

Thou hast a most amusing swing

While turning in thy cage

- On A Domesticated Squirrel.

Following in a tradition of 19th century clergymen with too much time on their hands, Whur was an English Wesleyan minister from East Anglia who put to verse his homespun pontifications, mostly on the state of the Victorian poor. Whur's fame rests upon two epic collections, *Village Musings on Moral and Religious Subjects* (1837) and *Gratitude's Offering - Being Original Productions On A Variety of*

Subjects (1845). Nicholas T. Parsons, author of *The Joy of Bad Verse* says of this literary phenomenon; “The Reverend Whur possesses the most pedestrian mind in English Literature ... he makes compulsive reading”.

8. **Henry James Pye (1745 - 1813)**

Of Pig-economy exalt the praise
Oh flatter Sheep and Bullocks in thy lays

Pye, was a bookish and eccentric English country squire who specialised in rambling dirges on largely agricultural themes, including his extraordinary treatise *The Effect Of Music On Animals*. Unfortunately he was also Poet Laureate, a job handed to him by Prime Minister William Pitt, evidently as compensation for losing his parliamentary seat. Pye's position, blessed as he was with a chronically dull prose style and a complete lack of imagination, was made even more difficult by the fact that his patron, George III, had gone completely and irretrievably mad during his laureateship. Pye did his best to avoid or to manfully circumnavigate the subject, a tricky business at the best of times but especially when it came to the obligatory annual King's Birthday Ode.

9. **Rev Samuel Wesley (1662 - 1735)**

Dear Miss, not with a Lie to cheat ye,
I love you so that I could eat ye.

- To my Gingerbread Mistress.

Father of John Wesley, the 'father of Methodism'. The Reverend Samuel Wesley, rector of Epworth, near Hull helped support his wife and huge family by writing reams of mostly inaccessible poetry, tackling obscure and ambitious subjects matters. His challenging and largely inaccessible works include *On a Supper of a Stinking Ducks, Three Skips of a Louse, On The Bear-Fac'd Lady, and A Dialogue Between a Frying-Pan and a Chamber-Pot*. His major work *Maggots: Or, Poems On Several Subjects, Never Before Handled*, published in 1685 was illustrated with a picture of the author with a maggot on his head. Most of his work was destroyed in a fire; one that was not, *Behold the Savior of Mankind* has been preserved in Methodist hymn-books. When his famous son John, the fifteenth of nineteen children, was banned

from preaching within Anglican churches he famously preached on his father's grave.

10. **James McIntyre (1827-1906)**

The quality is often vile
Of cheese that is made in April
Therefore we think for that reason
You should make it later in the season

- Dairy Ode

James McIntyre, known as the Cheese Poet, left Scotland to live in Ontario, Canada in 1841. Although he wrote poems on many subjects, it was through his promotion of the local dairy industry that he found his muse and what would bring him his fame, writing cheese-themed poetry. His poetic celebrations of dairy produce include 'Lines read at a Dairymaids' Social, 1887', 'Fertile Lands and Mammoth Cheese, Lines Read at a Dairymen's Supper, Father Ranney, the Cheese Pioneer and Hints to Cheese Makers. Many of his poems reached a wide audience when they were printed in the *Toronto Globe* thanks to his political connection to the paper's editor, a fellow Liberal supporter. Considered McIntyre's greatest work was written circa 1878 to celebrate the manufacture of a mammoth cheesy comestible made by James Harris and exhibited at the Toronto Industrial Exposition.

We have seen the Queen of cheese,
Laying quietly at your ease,
Gently fanned by evening breeze
Thy fair form no flies dare seize.
All gaily dressed soon you'll go
To the great Provincial Show,
To be admired by many a beau
In the city of Toronto.

- Ode on the Mammoth Cheese Weighing over 7,000 Pounds,

10 PEOPLE WHO WERE UNIMPRESSED BY SHAKESPEARE



1. Voltaire:

- "This enormous dunghill".

2. Leo Tolstoy:

- "Crude, immoral, vulgar and senseless".

3. J.R.R. Tolkien

" I went to King Edward's School and spent most of my time learning Latin and Greek; but I also learned English literature - except Shakespeare, which I disliked cordially...."

4. George Bernard Shaw:

- "With the single exception of Homer, there is no eminent writer, not even Sir Walter Scott, whom I despise so entirely as I despise Shakespeare when I measure my mind against his. It would be positively a relief to me to dig him up and throw stones at him".

5. Walter Savage Landor, British poet:

- "The sonnets are hot and pothery, there is much condensation, little delicacy, like raspberry jam without cream, without crust, without bread".

6. Dr. Samuel Johnson;

- "Shakespeare never had six lines together without a fault. Perhaps you may find seven, but this does not refute my general assertion".

7. Robert Greene, English playwright:
 - “An upstart now beautified with our feathers”.
8. Charles Darwin
 - “I have tried lately to read Shakespeare and found it so intolerably dull that it nauseated me”.
9. Samuel Pepys:
 - 29th September 1662; - “and then to the King’s Theatre, where we saw Midsummer Night’s Dream, which I had never seen before, nor shall ever again, for it is the most insipid ridiculous play that ever I saw in my life”.
 - 6th January 1663 - “after dinner to the Duke’s house, and there saw Twelfth Night acted well, though it is a silly play and not related at all to the name or day”.
10. King George III:
 - “Is this not sad stuff what what?”

10 HOLLYWOOD SUICIDE SHOOTINGS



1. Bobby Harron: 27-year old silent movie star, allegedly depressed after being overlooked for the lead in *Way Down East* in 1920.
2. Karl Dane: silent movie star, overlooked when 'talkies' arrived and no-one could understand his heavy Danish accent, went home and shot himself in 1932.
3. Herman Bing: comic actor, six years after providing the voice over for the Ringmaster in *Dumbo*, despondent over his fading career, shot himself in 1948
4. George Reeves: the original TV Superman, typecast and depressed over his inability to land another role, shot himself in the head in the upstairs bedroom of his Beverly Hills home while a party was in progress in the living room below, in 1959. It was widely rumoured that he believed he had acquired super powers and accidentally killed himself by trying to fly.
5. Pedro Armendariz, shot himself two weeks after working on *From Russia With Love* in 1963.
6. Gig Young; two years after receiving an Oscar for his supporting role in *They Shoot Horses Don't They*, shot himself and his wife in a suicide pact three weeks after their wedding day in 1971.
7. Freddie Prinze, comedian and star of *Chico and the Man*, shot himself in front of his manager after a messy divorce in 1977. Verdict of suicide later altered to reflect an "accidental shooting due to influence of Qualudes," despite his suicide note: "I must end it. There's no hope left. I'll be at peace. No one had anything to do with this. My decision totally."

8. Donald 'Red' Barry, B-Western cowboy star, despite a role Little House On The Prairie, shot himself because his fans had deserted him in 1980
9. Jon Erik Hexum, accidental suicide as he shot himself with a blank-loaded pistol on the set of TV spy show Cover Up, noting "lets see if this will do it." The concussion forced a chunk of his skull into his brain; he died six days later, in 1984
10. Hervé Villechaize, diminutive Fantasy Island star, brought his short life to an end by shooting himself through the stomach in 1993. He muffled the gun under two pillows so as not to disturb his sleeping girlfriend.

10 LITERARY DRUG ABUSERS



1. Charles Baudelaire; hashish and opium addict.
2. W. B. Yeats; addicted to mescaline, an hallucinogenic derived from Mexican cactus.
3. Samuel Coleridge; opium addict.
4. Thomas de Quincy - opium and laudanum addict. The author of Confessions of an Opium Eater quaffed up to 8,000 drops of opium and six or seven glasses of laudanum a day. He began taking drugs for a toothache he suffered while at Oxford. The remedy worked: eventually all his teeth fell out and he had to live on liquids.
5. Arthur Conan Doyle - cocaine user. He also had his most famous character Sherlock Holmes use it in The Sign Of Four.
6. Robert Louis Stevenson; cocaine addict. Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde was entirely cocaine-induced and helped him write and twice revise the 60,000 word manuscript inside six days.
7. Charles Dickens - opium user.
8. Vincent van Gogh - cut his ear off under the influence of absinthe, “the green muse”.
9. Arthur Rimbaud - absinthe addiction
10. Dante Gabriel Rossetti - morphine addiction and alcoholism.

CHAPTER FOUR

HEALTH & BEAUTY



15 PRESIDENTIAL ILLNESSES



1. George Washington; during his first year in office developed a huge, pus-filled carbuncle that made him seriously ill. Shortly afterwards he caught a cold in Boston, the start of a minor epidemic of what his enemies called "Washington Influenza." In May 1790 he almost died from pneumonia, causing him to reflect that one more serious illness would surely "put me to sleep with my fathers." Despite his pessimism death did not come until 1799, two years after his retirement from the presidency. He rode around his plantation in the rain, complained of a sore throat and by the following evening had suffocated to death, his airway blocked by a massively swollen epiglottis. Washington, who had a morbid fear of premature burial, had left instructions that he was to be layed out for three days just to be on the safe side.
2. James Madison: a lifelong hypochondriac, convinced that he was harbouring a terrible disease. When he finally did develop a life-threatening case of malaria in June 1813, the pro-Madison press didn't report it for three weeks until the illness was mentioned on the floor of Congress, although the exact nature of the president's problem was kept a secret. Opposition newspapers, who had been building a reputation for Madison as a small, weak man far too timid to fight a war, reported that the president was "certain to die" and openly debated his replacement. He lived on into his eighties, when he was found dead sitting in front of his untouched breakfast.
3. William Henry Harrison: caught a severe cold while giving his two hour inaugural speech on a wet day in 1841 and within days of taking office was seriously ill with pneumonia and "congestion of the liver", finally expiring four weeks later. Most people blamed it on poor White House heating, however Globe editor Francis Preston Blair, not allowing the death of a president to interrupt his assault on the administration, blamed it on the Whigs, who had never before held the presidency.
4. James K. Polk: survived, before the advent of anaesthetics and antiseptic practices, a urinary stone operation at the of age 17, but it left him sterile. Polk also suffered

repetitive strain injury from constant hand-shaking, developed a technique allowing him to "shake hands during the whole day without suffering any bad effects from it".

5. Zachary Taylor: fell ill while attending Independence Day ceremonies in sweltering heat at the Washington Monument on July 4 and died suddenly a few days later. The cause of death was disputed. Officially listed as gastroenteritis - inflammation of the stomach and intestines - it is generally believed that Taylor was the victim of iced cherries, tainted with typhoid. Conspiracy theorists however maintained that the president had been assassinated, probably by arsenic poisoning. This was disproved 141 years after his death when his remains were exhumed and samples of hair and fingernail tissue showed no trace of arsenic.
6. Abraham Lincoln: probably suffered from Marfan's syndrome, which could account for his extremely lanky appearance, especially his disproportionately long limbs. He also suffered from regular bouts of serious depression, variously ascribed to an hereditary disposition (his mother and sister both suffered from 'melancholia'), a bang on the head after falling from a horse, or syphilis. Shortly after delivering the Gettysburg Address Lincoln fell ill and was covered with red blotches. His doctor diagnosed a mild form of smallpox and informed Lincoln that the disease was highly contagious. Lincoln replied: "Now I have something I can give everybody".
7. Chester A. Arthur: remembered for his nickname "Elegant Arthur" as proud owner of 80 pairs of trousers, succumbed to Bright's disease, a fatal kidney condition, after serving about one year in office. He kept the condition secret, but died a year after leaving the presidency in 1886.
8. Grover Cleveland: a heavy smoker, had a large cancerous growth on his upper palate - his "cigar-chewing side" - a condition kept so secret that even his Vice-President didn't know about it. In 1893 Cleveland underwent a risky operation aboard his yacht, kept secret from the public, the press and the Cabinet. The evident problem with the president's mouth was later explained as 'severe toothache'.
9. William Howard Taft: a morbidly obese 320lbs when he came to office, Taft's one

dietary concession was to give up bacon because it gave him heartburn. He owned a special bathtub big enough for four average-sized men but got stuck in it on his Inauguration Day and had to be prised out. Taft visited King George V of England in 1922 and was pleased when the King let him sit down. Angina-ridden and breathless, he died from heart disease, after lingering in a coma, aged 71.

10. Woodrow Wilson: in the middle of a lecture tour in 1919 he suffered a major stroke, resulting in brain damage and paralysis, turning his trademark radiant smile into a frightening leer. The White House affected a massive cover-up as Wilson lay seriously ill and incapacitated for seven months, during which time twenty eight bills were passed without the President's signature. Wilson's illness was kept a secret from the Cabinet and even the Vice-President and from the American public, who only learned about it years after his death.
11. Warren G. Harding: had several nervous breakdowns and from 1889-1901 paid five visits to the J.P. Kellogg sanitarium in Battle Creek, Michigan to recover from "fatigue, overstrain and nervous illnesses." Throughout Harding's presidency he relied on his hand-picked physician, an old family friend and homeopathic practitioner from Ohio. Although Harding had a long and obvious history of heart problems, his death in office from a fatal heart attack was diagnosed by his faithful doctor as crab meat poisoning.
12. Franklin D. Roosevelt: suffered a severe attack of poliomyelitis when he was 39 years old, resulting in total paralysis of both legs to the hips. His condition led to the biggest public deception in the history of presidential illnesses, pulled off with the full co-operation of the press. Newsreels never showed him being wheeled or carried and of the 35,000 photographs of Roosevelt in the Presidential Library, only two show him in a wheelchair. While campaigning for his fourth term in August 1944 he gave a speech standing up with the aid of leg braces, to dispel rumors of failing health. The effort involved made him ill and he complained of pains in the back of his head. FDR died unexpectedly on April 12, 1945, less than six months after being elected to a fourth term in office.

13. Dwight D. Eisenhower: had a major heart attack which required emergency treatment just eighteen months into his Presidency in 1955, but broke with precedent by releasing information about his illness to the public, although most of what the public learned was carefully vetted. Nine months later a serious bowel obstruction caused him to have another tricky operation - a procedure his surgeons were reluctant to perform given his recent heart problems. In November 1957, with three years of his second term in office remaining, he suffered another stroke which seriously affected his speech, but returned to work after just three days.
14. John F. Kennedy: winning a presidential campaign based almost entirely on his alleged youthful vigour, he suffered from a variety of afflictions, including Addison's Disease, a deficiency of the adrenal glands treated with a type of steroid associated with psychiatric side-effects ranging from depression, mania, confusion and disorientation and back problems so severe that he could not pick up his son, requiring highly suspect injections from Max "Dr. Feelgood" Jacobson. Nine years after Kennedy's death Jacobson was struck off after being found guilty on 48 counts of professional misconduct, mostly involving the illegal proscription of amphetamines to patients.
15. Lyndon Baines Johnson: underwent a major operation to remove his gall bladder and a stone from his ureter. Unknown to the public and the press, Johnson had a history of heart trouble, and had developed a dangerously accelerated heartbeat while undergoing anaesthesia. To allay suspicions, the White House press secretary bluffed his way through the president's convalescence by putting out film of 'Lady Bird' Johnson planting a tree outside the hospital room window and the president himself viewing "Hello, Dolly!" on television. The recovering Johnson was keen to discuss the heroic job his doctors had done. While holding a press conference in the Bethesda Naval Hospital grounds, he suddenly whipped up his pyjama top revealing a twelve-inch scar under his right rib cage, noting, "Those fellows had to go through 34 feet of intestine." It wasn't the first time Johnson had chosen this method to illustrate a medical point; he once dropped his trousers at a White House reception to show off a hernia repair.

FOUL PLAY:

10 GREAT SPORTING CHEATS



1. Emperor Nero: Roman chariot racers doped themselves and their horses with mysterious herbal infusions, including a solution of dried boar's dung to promote muscle growth, in the search for speed. Nero was the most notorious of the ancient cheats, once bribing judges to declare him chariot champion despite the fact that he had fallen out and failed to finish the race.
2. Fred Lorz: in 1900 it was widely suspected that local boy Michel Theato had used his local knowledge as a baker's boy to take short-cuts through Paris to win the Olympic marathon. Four years later at the St. Louis Olympics, of the 32 starters in the marathon, held over a hilly course in the middle of a hot afternoon, only 14 of the 32 starters made it to the finish. First home with a time of three hours 13 minutes, was New Yorker Fred Lorz, who was immediately proclaimed the winner and photographed with Alice Roosevelt, the daughter of the President of the United States. Lorz was about to be awarded his gold medal when it became clear that he had covered eleven miles as the passenger in a car. Lorz claimed it was all a practical joke, but received a lifetime ban, which was later lifted. Thomas Hicks, an English-born American, was awarded the gold, but might have been disqualified himself if the organisers had known that his coach had plied him strychnine and brandy to keep him going.
3. Chicago White Sox; the so-called Black Sox scandal erupted when eight members of the Chicago baseball team were charged with accepting \$100,000 from gamblers to throw the 1919 World Series against the Cincinnati Reds. The following year a Chicago grand jury convened to investigate the case and several of the accused including 'Shoeless' Joe Jackson confessed. A young boy is said to have called out to Jackson as he left the hearing, 'Say it ain't so, Joe.': the phrase became one of the most famous in American sporting history, although Jackson later claimed the inci-

dent never happened. In June 1921 just before the jury trial was due to begin the players' testimony mysteriously disappeared and they were acquitted due to lack of evidence. Despite the acquittal eight players, Jackson, Eddie Cicotte, Claude "Lefty" Williams, Buck Weaver, Arnold "Chick" Gandil, Fred McMullin, Charles "Swede" Risberg Oscar "Happy" Felsch were banned from professional baseball for life.

4. Olympic gender-benders: in 1936, Hermann Ratjen, a German high-jumper, entered the Berlin Olympics as 'Dora,' bound his genitals and took home fourth place. Four years earlier Polish-American runner Stella Walsh sprinted her way to the gold in the 100-meter dash. In 1975, after being inducted into the U.S. Track and Field Hall of Fame, she was killed by a stray bullet in a Cleveland robbery and her autopsy shocked the world by revealing that she had "primary male characteristics" including male genitals. Ironically, when 'Stella the fella' lost her title in Berlin in 1936 a fellow Pole wrongly accused the new champion, Helen Stephens, of being a man. The Ukrainian sisters, Tamara and Irina Press, won five golds between them in 1960 and 1964 amid whispers that they had been injected with male hormones, or, as some insisted, did not need them as they were male to start with. Compulsory sex-testing was introduced in 1965, when the International Athletics Association required women athletes to prove they were female by parading naked before a panel of five gynaecologists; the Press sisters went into immediate retirement.
5. In January 1990 jockey Sylvester Carmouche surprised punters at Louisiana's Delta Downs Racetrack when he emerged from thick fog to finishing first on 23-1 long-shot Landing Officer. In fact Carmouche had dropped out of the mile-long race while lost from view and then rejoined the field as they came round again before galloping to a massive 24 length victory, coming within 1.2sec of the course record. The win inevitably raised suspicions and stewards disqualified him even though he protested his innocence. Later he received a 10-year ban after the other race jockeys testified that Carmouche had not passed them. He was reinstated after serving eight years of his suspension.
6. Boris Onischenko: the KGB colonel from Ukraine was a highly respected modern

pentathlete - a five-discipline event that includes fencing - having won a silver medal in the 1972 Olympics in Munich and was a favourite for the gold four years later at Montreal. The British team were the first to suspect that Onischenko's épée was not all that it seemed when he won his bout against Adrian Parker with suspicious ease. When Jim Fox, Onischenko's next opponent, realised that his opponent was somehow managing to score without even hitting him, officials took away the Soviet athlete's sword. He continued with a replacement weapon, but soon afterwards news came through that he had wired his sword so that he could trigger the electronic scoring system with his hand and register a hit at will without actually having to land a touch on an opponent. He exited the Games in disgrace, with banner headlines around the world denouncing him as 'Disonischenko' and 'Boris the Cheat'. Boris has not been seen since, but rumours that he was banished to a Siberian salt mine were unconfirmed.

7. Michel Pollentier: in 1978 the Belgian Tour de France cyclist hurtled up the precipitous Alpe d'Huez to win and take the race leader's yellow jersey. Officials conducting the post-stage urine test became suspicious however when Pollentier began "pumping his elbow in and out as if playing a set of bagpipes". When ordered to lift his jersey, the Belgian did so to reveal an elaborate plumbing system running from a rubber, urine-filled bulb under his arm to the test tube. Pollentier served a two-month suspension. The practice of substituting uncontaminated urine was believed to be widespread at the time.
8. Diego Maradona: when England's soccer team goalkeeper Peter Shilton rose to intercept a cross intended for the Argentine captain Diego Maradona deep into second half of their quarter-final at the 1986 World Cup finals, the outcome seemed inevitable. Maradona was, after all, a mere 5ft 4in, eight inches shorter than Shilton, who reached out with his right arm to punch the ball clear. Miraculously, the leaping Maradona managed to guide the ball into the England net. Tunisian referee Ali Bennaceur, although ideally placed to see any infringement, ignored the vehement protests of England's defenders that Maradona had handled the ball, nor did he bother to consult his Bulgarian linesman. The slow-motion replay confirmed what everyone else in the stadium knew, that Maradona's left hand had deftly deflected

the ball home. "It was partly the hand of Maradona,' the Argentine grinned the next day, 'and partly the hand of God.' Argentina won the game 2-1 and went on to win the World Cup.

9. Tonya Harding: the US champion figure skater was the first American and the second woman ever to perform a triple axel jump in competition. On the way to Detroit for the 1994 U.S. Figure Skating Championship, Harding told the press, "Let me tell you, I'm going to go there and kick some butt." She was as good as her word. During a practice session, her arch-rival Nancy Kerrigan was clubbed in the knee and injured by a mysterious assailant who fled without being identified and Harding went on to win. Harding later admitted that she and her ex-husband Jeff Gillooly had hired a hit-man to disable Kerrigan. She was stripped of her national championship and banned from competitive figure skating for life.
10. Ben Johnson: the Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson trimmed an incredible four-hundredths of a second off the world record to finish first in the 100 metres at the Seoul Olympics in 1988, claiming later that his world record "will last 50 years, maybe 100." Within hours of this boast the Doping Control Centre, less than half a mile from where Johnson had received his gold medal, found that his urine sample contained stanozolol, a dangerous anabolic steroid, confirming the suspicions of at least one American trainer, who had noted before the race that the Canadian's eyes were yellow, a side-effect of 'his liver working overtime processing steroids'. Carl Lewis, Linford Christie and Calvin Smith were each promoted one place to fill the final medal positions as the disgraced Johnson, stripped of his gold, flew out of Seoul, protesting his innocence. Johnson ran at the next Olympics after serving a two-year suspension, but was banned for life in 1993 after he tested positive again.

10 TUDOR REMEDIES



1. Asthma; swallow young frogs or live spiders coated in butter.
2. Gout: boil a red-haired dog in oil then add worms and the marrow from a pig bones; apply the mixture.
3. Headache: rub the forehead with a rope used to hang a criminal.
4. Rheumatism; wear the skin of a donkey.
5. Jaundice; drink a pint of ale containing nine drowned head-lice every morning for a week.
6. Bubonic plague: hold a live chicken against the sores until the bird dies.
7. Whooping cough: find a ferret, feed it with milk then give the leftover milk to the sick child.
8. Warts: lay half a mouse on the wart for half an hour and then bury it in the ground. As the mouse rots, the wart will vanish.
9. Baldness: rub dog or horse urine into the scalp.
10. Deafness: take the gallstone of a hare and the grease of a fox, warm the mixture and place in the ear.

READ EM AND WIPE: 12 MAGIC MOMENTS IN TOILET PAPER HISTORY



1. 1400: the first toilet paper is made for the Chinese Emperor in 2ft x 3ft sheets.
2. 1509: King Henry VIII appoints a Groom Of The Stool, whose job it is to clean the royal posterior with his hand - a highly respected and coveted position.
3. 1667: King Louis XIV of France wipes his own, using wool or lace for added comfort.
4. 1750: Mussel shells and corncobs are still widely used for cleaning purposes, unless you live on the Hawaiian islands where you are more likely to use coconut husks.
5. 1880: The Old Farmer's Almanac is sold with a hole punched in the corner so it can be hung on a nail in the outhouse.
6. 1890: the Scott Paper Company produce the first perforated toilet roll, but are too embarrassed to put their name on the product. An unmentionable item, it is referred to by the US advertising profession only as "curl papers for hairdressing".
7. 1930: customers complain when the Sears catalogue, a popular outhouse choice, is printed on a glossy, non-absorbent paper.
8. 1942: Britain's first soft two-ply toilet paper, advertised as "splinter-free", is available only from Harrods. Meanwhile the country's best selling novelty toilet paper is single-ply printed with images of Adolf Hitler.

9. 1967: During the recording sessions for Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, Beatle George Harrison complained to EMI about the studio's hard, scratchy toilet paper. An executive decision was taken at boardroom level to replace it with the softer variety.
10. 1984: a Christian group, the World Reformed Alliance, send 20,000 free Bibles to Romania where dictator Nicolae Ceausescu has promised to distribute them. The Bibles arrive but Ceausescu confiscates the lot and has them pulped to ease a national toilet paper shortage. The quality of Romanian pulping was so poor however that words such as 'God' and 'Jeremiah' were still clearly visible.
11. 1994: a severe national toilet paper shortage in Cuba leads to the ransacking of a library, where rare books were stolen and torn apart. An official explains that most Cubans have long since used up their telephone books.
12. 1999: Japanese inventors unveil the paperless toilet, a device that washes, rinses and blow-dries the user's bottom with a heating element.

HISTORY'S 10 GREATEST FASHION MISTAKES



1. See through clothes: all the rage in Imperial Rome during the reign of Nero. The garments exposed both the breasts and the genitals. There was a downside, noted the Roman philosopher Seneca: “our women have nothing left to reveal their lovers in the bedroom that they have not already shown on the street”.
2. The codpiece: essential fashion accessory for Renaissance man, designed to fit around the male member like the finger of a glove. Contemporary fashion critic Michel de Montaigne wondered, “what is the purpose of that monstrosity that we to this day have fixed to our trousers, and often which is worse, it is beyond its natural size, through falseness and imposture?”.
3. Flea cravats: actually flea collars for humans, worn for about 200 years from the 14th century onwards by English ladies. The fur accessory was designed to attract fleas, thus luring them away from the rest of their clothing.
4. False eyebrows: in the 18th century both men and women wore sets of mouseskin eyebrows stuck on with fish glue.
5. Bound feet: the Chinese fashion for foot-binding dates from the 13th century with the Empress Tz'u. Born with a club foot, her courtiers took to binding their own feet in cloth to imitate her. Before long tightly bound, deformed feet became highly desirable in Chinese women even though it was commonplace for bound toes to develop gangrene due to lack of circulation and fall off. Husbands encouraged feet binding because their crippled wives were less likely to run away. The practice was abolished by People's Republic of China in 1949.
6. Erection restrainers: Queen Victoria's consort gave his name to the Prince Albert, a

form of body of piercing, fashionable amongst Victorian gentlemen, whereby erections could be restrained by a small wight attached to a ring.

7. Exposed genitals: until King Edward VI passed a law in 1548 banning any man below the rank of lord from exposing 'his privy member and buttockes', fashion in mediaeval England dictated that all should expose their naked genitals below short-fitting tunics. If the genitals weren't big enough a chap could wear padded flesh-coloured falsies, or braquettes.
8. Soliman's Water: the top brand name beauty lotion of the 16th century, applied to the skin to eliminate spots, freckles and warts. It was a highly efficient, although applying a blowtorch to your face would have had similar consequences. The chief ingredient of this lotion was mercury, which burned away the outer layers of skin and corroded the flesh underneath. One side effect was that it made teeth fall out even more quickly than was usual at this time.
9. Radiation beauty treatments: one of the most popular items in North American beauty parlours in the 1920's were X-ray machines, designed to remove unwanted facial and body hair. Radiation was also touted as a cure-all for every imaginable disease: products available included radioactive toothpaste for whiter teeth and better digestion, radioactive face creams to lighten the skin, and radium-laced chocolate bars. A brisk trade in radioactive patent medicines thrived well into the 1930's. One of the most popular preparations, radium water, promoted in the US as a general tonic and known as 'liquid sunshine', was responsible for the deaths of several thousand people. As recently as 1953 a company in Denver was promoting a radium-based contraceptive jelly.
10. Coloured teeth: in 16th century Italy the most fashionable women coloured their teeth: Russian women always dyed them black.

15 PHOBIAS



1. Aeronausiphobia- fear of vomiting secondary to airsickness.
2. Apotemnophobia- fear of amputees.
3. Bolshephobia- fear of Bolsheviks.
4. Bromidrosiphobia (or bromidrophobia) - fear of body odour
5. Defecaloesiophobia- fear of painful bowels movements.
6. Eurotophobia- fear of female genitalia.
7. Geniophobia- fear of chins.
8. Ichthyophobia- fear of fish.
9. Medomalacuphobia- fear of losing an erection.
10. Papaphobia- fear of the Pope.
11. Peladophobia- fear of bald people.
12. Taeniophobia- fear of tapeworms.
13. Venustraphobia- fear of beautiful women.

14. Walloonphobia- fear of the Walloons.

15. Zemmiphobia- fear of the great mole rat.

10 PHOBIAS OF THE FAMOUS



1. Augustus Caesar, King Henry III of France, Napoleon Bonaparte, Benito Mussolini, Adolf Hitler - aliurophobia (fear of cats).
2. Harriet Martineau, Edmund Yates, Wilkie Collins and Giacomo Mayerbeer - taphophobia (fear of premature burial) . The writer Harriet Martineau left her doctor £10 with instructions that he should make sure she was well and truly deceased before her burial by cutting her head off. Novelist Edmund Yates similarly left a fee for any surgeon kind enough to slit his jugular vein before internment. The novelist Wilkie Collins always carried a letter with him, imploring anyone finding him 'dead' to contact the nearest doctor for a second opinion. The operatic composer Mayerbeer arranged to have bells tied to his extremities so that any movement in his coffin would attract attention.
3. Brad Pitt - ichthyophobia, (fear of sharks,even on dry land)
4. Nicolae Ceaucescu, Benito Mussolini, Marlene Dietrich - bacillophobia (fear of germs). The Rumanian dictator Ceaucescu and his wife Elena went on staged 'walkabouts' which required them to shake a few hands and kiss small children. The secret police selected a few volunteers beforehand, had them locked up for weeks and regularly disinfected in readiness for the big day. Mussolini adopted the Roman-style straight arm fascist salute because he couldn't bear the idea of shaking hands with people. Marlene Dietrich's obsession with germs led her to be known by Hollywood insiders as 'the Queen of Ajax'.
5. Alfred Hitchcock - ovophobia (fear of eggs)
6. Frederick the Great, Natalie Wood - hydrophobia (fear of water). The king of Prussia was so terrified of water that he could not wash himself and his servants had to rub

him down with dry towels. Natalie Wood fell off a yacht and drowned in 1981.

7. George Bernard Shaw - coitophobia (fear of sex) Shaw lost his virginity to an elderly widow at the age of 29. He was so shocked by the experience that he didn't bother to try it again for another 15 years.
8. Maximilian Robespierre - haematophobia (fear of blood). The French revolutionary kept the guillotine in the Place de la Revolution in Paris in almost continuous use. Robespierre himself however was extremely squeamish and couldn't bring himself to even look at the blood stains on the street cobbles.
9. Robert Schumann, German composer - metallophobia (fear of metal). He especially disliked keys.
10. Queen Christina of Sweden - entomophobia (fear of fleas). The mentally unbalanced 17th century monarch had a miniature 4" cannon built in perfect working order so that she could spend most of her time firing tiny cannonballs at the fleas in her bedroom.

THE WONDER OF YOU: 10 FACTS ABOUT THE HUMAN CONDITION



1. The human body comprises enough fat to make seven bars of soap, enough iron to make a medium sized nail, enough potassium to explode a toy cannon, enough lime to whitewash a small chicken house, enough sugar to fill a jam jar and enough sulphur to rid a dog of fleas.
2. A complete skeleton is worth between £2,500 - £4,000 to a medical student: your skull alone would fetch only £250.
3. Your mouth produces about one litre of saliva per day.
4. Demodex folliculorum has eight stumpy legs and a tail, is about a third of millimetre long and loves nothing more than to recline in the warm, oily pits of your hair follicles. Most adults have this mite, usually on the head and especially in eyelashes, and often in nipples.
5. You have approximately 4,000 wax glands in each ear.
6. The average adult stool weighs about 4 ounces. About half of the bulk of your faeces comprise the dead bodies of bacteria which live inside your gut.
7. The average male foot exudes half a pint of sweat each every.
8. If it wasn't for the slimy mucous which clings to and lines the walls of your gut, your stomach would readily digest itself.
9. The average person will pass about 1100 gallons of urine in a lifetime.

10. A man weighing 150lbs (68kg) would provide enough meat to provide a meal for 75 cannibals in one sitting.

12 HISTORIC OPERATIONS



1. 1658: Thomas Hollier, a London surgeon specialising in lithotomy, removes a bladder stone “as big as a tennis ball” from the young Samuel Pepys. The diarist recovers, but complains afterwards that he often passes ‘gravel’ in his urine, which he tries to cure by drinking neat turpentine.
2. 1667: a pioneer attempt at blood transfusion is made as members of the Royal Society, unaware that blood type compatibility is important, gathered to witness the transfusion of twelve ounces of sheep’s blood into the unfortunate Reverend Arthur Coga. Samuel Pepys, still sore from his encounter with Thomas Hollier (see above) records in his diary: “The patient speaks well, saying that he finds himself much better, as a new man but he is cracked a little in his head.” The Rev. Coga dies soon afterwards.
3. 1686: King Louis XIV of France endures an operation for anal fistulas. Twice he was sliced open without any form of anaesthetic, but the word from the palace of Versailles is that he endured the operation heroically. A group of French nuns at the cloister of Saint-Cyr hear of his recovery and celebrated by writing a song Dieu Sauvez le Roi. A travelling Englishman heard the tune, copied it down, and when he got it home translated it into God Save the King:
4. 1745: proving that the only two qualifications for a good surgeon that mattered were fast hands and an iron stomach, royal surgeon William Cheselden arms his assistant with a watch and removes a bladder stone in under sixty seconds, but throws up after the operation.
5. 1797: Admiral Horatio Nelson his right arm amputated, without anaesthetics, on board the Theseus on 25 July. Nelson is so upset by the feel of the cold scalpel against his flesh that he orders that all amputations performed on ships under his

command should be done with warm knives. After the arm had been removed he was alone left to recover with an opium pill and a shot of rum, the start of a lifelong opium addiction.

6. 1805: Napoleon's head surgeon Dominique Larrey sets new record by amputating a leg in under 15 seconds.
7. 1842: Scottish surgeon and part-time bodysnatcher Robert Lister, described as 'the finest surgeon in Europe', sets a personal best for a leg amputation at 28 seconds, although while achieving this record accidentally cuts two of his assistant's fingers off and the patient's left testicle.
8. 1846: the first amputation carried out under anaesthetic is performed in Massachusetts General Hospital, when a 21-year old Alice Mohan is parted from her right leg. The operation is carried out by Dr. George Haywood, assisted by Andrew Morton and his new invention, the ether inhaler. When the girl regains consciousness Haywood, understandably pleased with his efforts, plucks the leg from the sawdust where it lay and waves it triumphantly under her nose, saying "It's all done, Alice". There is no record of her reply.
9. 1846: famous English engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel accidentally swallows a gold half-sovereign which lodges in his windpipe. After vomit-inducing drugs fail to dislodge it, surgeons also fail to remove the coin via a tracheotomy. The coin is finally expelled by a more basic method: the engineer has himself strapped to a hinged table, tilted to a 45° angle, then thumped hard in the back: much to Brunel's relief the coin shoots forward and hits his teeth.
10. 1821: King George IV has a sebaceous cyst removed from his head, entirely without the aid of anaesthetics, and casually enquires of the surgeon Astley Cooper, "so, what do you call these tumours". As mark of the patient's gratitude, plain Astley became Sir Astley.

11. 1881: President James Garfield, shot by the assassin Charles Guiteau, is attended by the first of sixteen doctors, Willard Bliss, who jabs a finger into the wound then inserts a non-sterile probe in to find the bullet. Bliss fails to find the slug, but makes so much damage with his probe that it misleads everyone into concluding that the missile had penetrated the president's liver and therefore surgery would be useless. An army surgeon general sticks his unwashed finger into the wound, followed by the navy surgeon general who probes with his finger so deeply that he punctures the president's liver. Alexander Graham Bell is called in with a metal detector to locate the offending missile and after several passes, Bell announced that he has located the bullet. Doctors decide to cut him open to remove it. What Bell's equipment had actually located however was the metal spring under the mattress and the bullet remains undetected. The deep and by now fatally infected wound causes Garfield to have a massive and fatal heart attack. The president's autopsy confirms that the bullet had lodged itself some way from the spine and that Garfield would have survived if the doctors had only left well alone.
- 12: 1887: Queen Victoria has a particularly nasty axillary abscess drained at the age of 51. When she comes round from the chloroform she opens her eyes and remarks, "a most unpleasant task, Professor Lister, most pleasantly performed", once again proving that royal patients are not only a lot braver than the rest of us when they have to go under the surgeon's scalpel, but their breeding also makes them rather more courteous.

10 HEALTH PROBLEMS THAT HELPED NAPOLEON MEET HIS WATERLOO



1. Nausea
2. Pituitary dysplasia
3. Prolapsed piles
4. Constipation
5. Syphilis
6. Chronic fatigue
7. Peptic ulcer
8. Dysuria
9. Abdominal cramps
10. Anorexia

10 GREAT UNWASHED



1. St. Francis of Assisi: listed personal filthiness among the insignia of piety, in line with the early teachings of the Christian church which held that dirtiness was next to Godliness and that bathing was an evil ungodly vanity punishable by an eternity in hell. A 4th century Christian pilgrim boasted that she hadn't washed her face for 18 years. St. Anthony never washed his feet, St. Abraham never washed his hands or feet for 50 years, and St. Sylvia never washed any part of her body except her fingertips.
2. Ludwig van Beethoven: the German composer had such a disregard for personal cleanliness that his friends had to take away his dirty clothes and wash them while he slept.
3. Chairman Mao; the Chinese communist leader never took a bath or brushed his teeth - the latter on the grounds that tigers never brushed their teeth either. He achieved an epic personal hygiene problem which grew steadily worse as the years went by; the septuagenarian preferred to have several young concubines rub his body down with hot towels.
4. Ramasubba Sitharanjan: the Bombay religious mystic eschewed personal hygiene as proof of his faith to his followers and claimed to have not once bathed, shaved or brushed his teeth in 65 years.
5. Czar Peter the Great: renowned throughout Europe for his occasional personal hygiene, he was incredibly smelly even by 18th century standards and blissfully unaware of rudimentary table manners or even basic potty training. When the Czar and his courtiers visited London, onlookers noted that they intermittently dripped pearls and lice as they walked.
6. King Frederick the Great: his clothes remained unchanged for years and he shuffled

in rags around his palace, ankle-deep in places in excrement provided by his pack of beloved Italian greyhounds. When he died the shirt on his back was so rotten with sweat that his valet had to dress him in one of his own shirts for the burial.

7. King Louis XIV: an enthusiastic lover but his advances were a trying time for his mistresses. When his doctor persuaded him to bathe for medical reasons the French king tried to get out of it by feigning a terrible headache and vowed never to repeat the experience again. He took only three baths in his lifetime, each of them under protest.
8. Genghis Khan: his Mongol warriors were a superstitious bunch who believed that washing was a sacrilege. There was also a more practical reason for the lax approach to their ablutions - the thick crust of dirt which covered their bodies throughout their lives helped them withstand temperatures as low as -43°F. Khan's men used their lack of hygiene as a weapon of psychological warfare: their enemies could smell the festering mongol hordes long before they could see them and were often paralysed with fear by the time they arrived.
9. 11th Duke of Norfolk: renowned as one of the richest and the smelliest men in England. In his entire life the 'Dirty Duke' never once voluntarily bathed: when his servants found it impossible to occupy the same room as him they used to get him blind drunk and quickly bathe him before he regained consciousness.
10. King Henri IV: the French king was known, unusually for the time, for being a stickler for changing his shirts regularly, but still went around his court "smelling like carrion". When his fiancée Marie de Médicis met him for the first time the stench almost made her faint.

10 DANGEROUS DOCTORS



1. Galen: the third century Greek anatomist, personal physician to the Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius, killed more people than any other man in medical history. For more than 1,000 years Galen was acknowledged by the Church to be the world's only official authority on human anatomy. The Church was not in the least concerned that Galen had never actually seen the inside of the human body, or that his one hundred or so medical text books were wild guesswork based on his observations of dead pigs and dogs. Thanks to Galen, generations of medical students learned that the brain was a large clot of phlegm, that the heart had two chambers, that the best way to cure a headache was to cut holes in the skull, that the quickest way to cure a cough was to amputate the uvula at the back of the patient's palate and that post-operative wounds should be dressed with pigeon's blood.
2. Guy Fagon: the 18th century resident French court physician at Versailles, was known as 'the killer of princes'. Within a fortnight in 1715 he wiped out almost the entire French royal family by treating a measles epidemic with a tough regime of purges, emetics and prolonged bleedings: the infant Louis XV only survived because his nurse refused to hand him over to Fagon and hid him. Fagon once advised King Louis XIV to drink nothing but Burgundy for his health.
3. The 'production line lobotomy', performed with an ice pick and a hammer under local anaesthetic, was the tour de force of Dr. Walter Freeman, Professor of Neurology at the George Washington University. His first live patient was a 63-year old woman from Kansas, who had second thoughts upon learning that her headful of blonde curls would have to be completely shaved off. Freeman reassured her that she could keep her curls, confident that after the operation she would no longer care. In the 1940's and 1950's the Freeman lobotomy was performed on more than 20,000 patients as he toured across the US in his specially equipped camper van, his 'Lobotomobile'. His most famous patient was the rebellious Hollywood starlet Frances Farmer, who was subjected to the Freeman lobotomy at the age of just 34;

he even had a photo taken of himself performing the lobotomy.

4. John Richard Brinkley, a small town doctor working in Milford, Kansas, in the early 1900's believed that he could renew the male sex drive by transplanting the sexual glands of a goat into the male scrotum. In spite of his limited experience as a surgeon he persuaded a local farmer to allow him test his theory and a year after his transplant the farmer's wife gave birth to a baby boy named "Billy." For a mere \$750, Brinkley offered his services to anyone else willing to undergo his surgery and found plenty of eager subjects. The first few transplants, using transplanted gonads from the odourless breed of Toggenberg goats, were performed without any major hitch. The next two recipients however were fitted with testicles from the Angora breed, and according to the doctor they left the operating theatre smelling like "a steamy barn in midsummer". His goat gland therapy came to the attention of Harry Chandler, owner of the Los Angeles Times, who also underwent Brinkley's surgery and publicised the technique in his newspaper. The publicity made Brinkley famous, but with it also came the unwanted attentions of the California state medical authorities who quickly revoked his license to practice and began criminal proceedings. Brinkley fled back to Kansas where he found his surgery in ever increasing demand, thanks to his radio station KFKB, an eccentric mixture of medical lectures and country and western music. In the 1930's Brinkley hit upon a new radio scam, "Doctor Brinkley's Medical Question Box." Listeners were invited to write to him with their health problems and he would prescribe his own treatments on air. These cures invariably involved his own product line of patent medicines, which for the most part were coloured water. Pursued by the US government, he evaded trial by dying in San Antonio, Texas.
5. Minutes before going into surgery to have his gangrenous right foot amputated in February 1995, 51 year old diabetic William King joked with staff at the University Community Hospital in Tampa, Florida, "make sure you don't take the wrong one". King awoke to discover that surgeon Rolando Sanchez had inadvertently removed his left foot, leaving the gangrenous foot intact. He subsequently had both legs amputated below the knee and settled with the surgeon for \$250,000. Later the hospital revealed that it had implemented a new system to ensure the ghastly accident could

never be repeated: in future the word “no” would be written in marker pen on all limbs that were not to be amputated.

6. Dr. Theodor Morell was Adolf Hitler’s personal doctor from the mid 1930’s onwards. Hitler was prone to temper tantrums that became worse as the war went on, prompting his subordinates to nickname him ‘carpet biter’. These mood swings were exacerbated by a variety of minor ailments, including stomach cramps and chronic insomnia, which Morell treated with a regimen of twenty-eight separate medications, including some mercury–lead compounds known to cause mental deterioration and Dr Köster’s anti-gas pills, a mysterious mixture of strychnine and belladonna. Morell also prescribed ‘golden’ tablets containing huge amounts of caffeine and the highly addictive amphetamine pervitin, large doses of which are known to cause disorientation, hallucinations, convulsions and coma. In September 1940 Hitler threatened to bomb England with a million kilograms of explosives. He later amended the figure to 400,000 kilograms because the original quantity, arrived at under the influence of Morell’s pills, on reflection struck him as rather excessive. The physician who replaced Morell, Dr Geising, found that Hitler had been cumulatively poisoned over a period of many years by a variety of drugs in a ‘truly horrifying concentration’. Geising however was not himself entirely blameless: in 1944 he treated Hitler’s cold with a 10 per cent cocaine solution and in his last days gave him large quantities of cocaine drops for an eye complaint.
7. Sir William Arbuthnot Lane, a surgeon of Guy’s Hospital, London, was responsible for possibly the most painfully misguided medical fad of the 20th century, surgical removal of the human colon. Lane’s life was dominated by two great passions, part-time ballroom dancing and the condition of the human bowel. The later, he believed, was the seat of all known medical problems. Lane advised his patients to oil their colons daily with a pint of cream and to sleep flat on their stomachs, and made the remarkable discovery that red-haired women were naturally immune to constipation. In 1903 he made the breakthrough ‘discovery’ that the human colon was surplus to requirements, merely a useless tube of tissue and muscle full of nasty smells. Lane set about testing his hypothesis by ridding the world of colons. Patients who came to see him for minor ailments would have their colons removed and tossed into the

incinerator as a matter of routine. Before long his theory became fashionable and surgeons all over the world agreed that the humble colon was responsible for a whole range of diseases including cancer and tuberculosis. The fad lasted for about ten years before Lane's work was widely discredited.

8. Queen Victoria spent much of her reign in the hands of the mysteriously incompetent court physician Sir James Clarke, a man once described as "not fit to attend a sick cat". Clarke was involved in a court scandal when one of the Queen's young unmarried ladies-in-waiting fell ill with a swollen stomach, convincing several people, including the Queen herself, that she was pregnant. To prove her innocence, Miss Hastings agreed to a humiliating internal examination by the Queen's doctor. Clarke reported that although he could not find evidence of pregnancy, he could see no other good reason for her swollen stomach, then produced a bizarre medical statement which concluded that although the lady in waiting was still a virgin it didn't necessarily mean that she was not pregnant: he had come across a few cases in his time, he explained to the Queen, of pregnant virgins. The truth became evident a few months later when the girl died in agony from a tumour on her liver. Clarke's career should have been terminated, but the Queen retained his services, and when her husband Prince Albert fell ill in November 1861, Dr. Clarke was on hand again to assure both the Prime Minister Lord Palmerston and the Queen that the Prince Consort was suffering from no more than a nasty cold and that there was absolutely no need for concern. Within six weeks Prince Albert was dead.
9. In 1999, 56 year old Edward Bodkin of Huntingdon, Indiana was arrested and charged with performing unlicensed surgery, after removing the testicles of at least five men. He was about to castrate a sixth when the patient panicked and handed over to police a videotape Bodkin had loaned him of some of the operations. Most of the testicles were recovered from several small jars in Bodkin's apartment, each labelled with the dates of the procedures, the subjects' initials and either an L or an R. Bodkin admitted castrating his clients for free in exchange for the right to videotape the operation, selling the films for \$75 each. His discount gelding service improved with practice; at first, he was using an art knife, manicure scissors, a curved needle and rusty needle-nosed pliers, but by the last castration, was using

surgical equipment purchased from a veterinary supply company and anaesthetic. When asked to comment on the patients motives, state prosecutor John Branham said, "I can't sit here as a reasonable human being and give you an intelligent answer to that."

10. In 2000 Dr. Harold Shipman, a GP from Hyde, near Manchester, England, was sentenced to 15 life sentences for the murder of 14 female patients and one male by diamorphine injection. An inquest later concluded that Shipman was probably responsible for up to 297 suspicious deaths during the 24 years he practiced in Hyde, including eight patients in one street alone. His victims were mostly elderly, single females, giving Shipman the privacy he needed to administer lethal injections during home visits. No motive was ever offered for the murders, but psychiatric reports suggest that Shipman simply enjoyed watching people die. He was found hanged in his prison cell four years into his sentence.

I HAVE A LITTLE LIST:

10 DEFORMITIES



1. Moses: a reluctant public speaker who described himself as 'heavy of mouth'. He had a major speech impediment and probably suffered from a cleft lip and palate. In Exodus 6:12:30 Moses describes himself as having 'uncircumcised lips.'
2. Anne Boleyn: six fingernails on her left hand and three nipples. If King Henry VIII's divorce petition had failed he planned to use the extra finger and supernumerary nipple as evidence that she was a witch.
3. Marshall Charles Maurice de Talleyrand, French revolutionary and statesman: a deformed leg, the result of being dropped by his nurse.
4. King Richard III; according to one of the more colorful stories he was born with a full set of teeth and with hair down to his waist. His famous hunchback was probably invented by his enemies; no portrait, suit of armour or contemporary description attest to it.
5. Lord Byron: born a club foot, which he later attributed to his mother's tight corsets.
6. Napoleon: hemicryptorchidism, or one undescended testicle.
7. Kaiser 'Bill' Wilhelm II: a stunted and withered left arm, the result of a complicated breach birth.
8. Josef Stalin: his left foot had webbed toes and his left arm was shorter than his right.
9. Josef Goebbels; born with a left leg eight centimetres longer than his right.

According to the official version however it was the result of a childhood illness, as the possibility that one of the architects of Nazi movement had a genetic defect didn't sit too well with the prevailing ideology.

10. Adolf Hitler: according to Soviet medical reports, did indeed have only one ball. According to Eva Braun, Hitler's testicular damage was the result of a boyhood mishap with a wild alpine goat.

10 BAD HAIR DAYS



1. Mary Queen of Scots was bald, a secret she hid even from her closest acquaintances with a thick auburn wig. The first hint that many of her friends got that Mary was follically challenged was when it became horribly obvious on the day of her execution. The executioner picked her decapitated head up by the hair to show it to the crowd and it came away in his hand.
2. In 1993 a 22-year-old Dutchman went on a rampage causing £30,000 damage to a barber shop in Hengelo. He was upset because the barber had overdone his request for “a slight trim”
3. In 1994 hundreds of Uruguayans sued a local shampoo manufacturer after using the patent dandruff treatment Dander-Ban. None of the victims, male or female, could argue with the company’s advertising claim that Dander-Ban was guaranteed to get rid of their dandruff: within hours of using the shampoo they all became completely bald.
4. In March 1983 Danish hair-fetishist Luigi Longhi was jailed for life after he was found guilty of kidnapping, then murdering a female German hitch-hiker. Longhi admitted he’d washed her hair four times before strangling her.
5. In 1966 Michael Potkul won a \$400,000 malpractice award against surgeon Dominic Brandy in Pittsburgh after Brandy promised Potkul a new head of hair. He achieved this by grabbing the hairy scalp at the back of Potkul’s head and stretching it over the bald bit on top. Potkul became depressed after six unsuccessful operations and attempted suicide.
6. The composer Gioacchino Rossini suffered from alopecia in his later years, which made him completely bald and he took to wearing a wig. In exceptionally cold

weather however he wore two or three wigs simultaneously.

7. In 1994 Ernestine and John Kujan sued the New York dog grooming salon Pet Pavilion after watching their cocker spaniel Sandy accidentally bake to death in an automatic blow dryer.
8. In 1996 a Californian hairdresser Joseph Middleton was sentenced to 60 days' community service. Middleton had masturbated with his free hand while doing his female customer's hair: at his trial the court heard that had in fact been able to finish both jobs because the customer was too frightened to object.
9. The Albanian dictator Enver Hoxha banned beards and long hair, even on visiting foreigners. Albanian border barbers were employed to snip excess hair from all foreigners entering the country; the degree of hairiness was then noted in police files.
10. Henry Ford 1 always washed his hair in water containing rusty razor blades in the belief that rusty water was a hair restorer. Norwegian farmers meanwhile still favour a traditional cure for baldness, available since the 19th century - coat the head with cow dung for 20 minutes twice weekly.

12 MILESTONES IN ORAL HYGIENE



1. 350 BC: Hippocrates, the 'father of medicine', recommends a toothpaste made of three mice and the head of a hare.
2. 50 BC: Romans relieve toothache by tying toads to their jaws and made toothpastes and mouthwashes from urine; apparently the very best piss was Portuguese.
3. 50 AD: Greek scholar Pliny advises that toothache can be avoided by eating two mice a month and recommends 'pervasive green frogs, burnt heel of ox, toads and worms' as a cure for halitosis.
4. 1590: Elizabethans relieve toothache by applying sweat from the anus of a cat which had been chased across a ploughed field. Queen Elizabeth I loses the last of her teeth and fills the holes in her mouth with cloth to improve her appearance in public, but somehow remains a virgin.
5. 1768: a novel method of tooth extraction is perfected by Dr. Messenger Monsey, Resident Physician to the Chelsea Royal Hospital, London. He takes a strong piece of catgut, winds one end around his tooth, threads the other end through a specially prepared bullet with a hole drilled through it; the bullet was loaded into his revolver and fired. Monsey complains that he finds it difficult to persuade his friends and patients to follow his example.
6. 1770: London dentist Martin Van Butchell promises "gums, sockets and palate formed, fitted, finished and fixed without drawing stumps or causing pain", a bold claim given that he is working in the pre-anaesthetic age and his technique amounts to hitting a prospective patient over the head with a large stick, or blowing a trumpet in his unsuspecting ear seconds before a tooth was to be pulled.

7. 1780: while spending time in a debtor's prison in London an Englishman William Addis carves a handle out of a cow's thighbone, bored holes into it and attached bristles of cow hair, creating an exciting new dental accessory, the toothbrush.
8. 1865: tons of teeth from the dead of the American Civil War are shipped to England to be worn by the rich and the fashionable. This leads to a brief craze for human teeth transplants - teeth removed from one set of gums and surgically implanted into someone else's. Although highly dangerous and encourages poor people to sell their own perfectly good teeth, the practice continues until shortly before World War 1.
9. 1880: cheap celluloid dentures are invented by an English dentist who disliked handling the teeth of dead men. They are briefly popular but never really catch on as they are highly inflammable and likely to spontaneously combust if you smoked.
10. 1884: the first use of anaesthesia by nitrous oxide - 'laughing gas' - is made by Horace Wells, a young dentist living in Connecticut. Wells didn't live long enough to enjoy the full rewards of his marvellous discovery. The medical profession laughed and Wells, haunted by ridicule, began sniffing chloroform. One day, in a chloroform-induced delirium, he ran into the street and doused two passing prostitutes with acid. Wells killed himself before his case came to trial; he smuggled a can of chloroform into his cell, opened a main artery and bled painlessly to death.
11. 1938: Chinese boar hairs, the favoured material for tooth brush bristles, are replaced by nylon as a more hygienic substitute. Boar hair bristles, although prone to bacterial growth, still account for 10 percent of toothbrush sales worldwide.
12. 1995: following the death of one of his patients, Stephen Cobble, a dentist from Tennessee, is charged with professional incompetence. Former patients complain that he had given them check-ups by having his assistant rub their backs, stomachs, and arms; sedated patients by administering injections to their groins and navels; transferred C-section scar tissue to treat a jaw disorder, made a patient stand with one foot on a stack of magazines and prescribed a diet of beef, salt, and eggs and a quarter pound of butter daily.

10 GREAT SPORTING MOMENTS



1. 165 AD: Greek athlete Peregrinus set himself on fire during the Olympic games to prove his faith in reincarnation. He hasn't reappeared at any subsequent Olympic meetings, although he did enjoy a small cult and his staff came to be regarded as a religious relic.
2. 850 AD: the size of a regulation football used in soccer, roughly the same size as a man's head, is arrived at by design: England soldiers enjoy a kick-about with the head of a dead Danish brigand.
3. 1649: the first ever public grandstands are built around Tyburn Tree in London so crowds of up to 100,000 can watch public hangings.
4. 1862: during interludes in the American Civil War, both armies pass the time by staging lice races.
5. 1925: Frank Hayes becomes the first deceased person to win a steeplechase. Hayes rides a 20-1 outsider Sweet Kiss to victory at Belmont Park, but when the horse's owner and trainer go to congratulate him find him still firmly attached to the saddle but slumped forward. Doctors confirm that a fatal heart-attack had made him an ex-jockey before he crossed the finishing line.
6. 1956: Chairman Mao's Physical Culture and Sports Commission recognized a new track and field event, the hand-grenade throw.
7. 1976: at the Montreal Olympics, Princess Anne, a member of Great Britain's equestrian team, becomes the only female competitor allowed to forego a routine sex test.

8. 1978: US sports presenter Phil Rizzuto, mid-commentary during a live baseball game, is informed of the sudden death of Pope Paul VI. "Well now", Rizzuto tells millions of baseball fans, "that kind of puts the damper on even a Yankee win".
9. 1994: Colombian soccer player Andres Escobar is gunned down by an irate wine waiter after scoring the own goal which helped eliminate his country from the World Cup finals.
10. 1996: at Thailand's national pre-Olympic trials the men's volleyball gold medal is won by a team of transsexuals from Northern Lampang province. They were disappointed when none of the players, who had breasts but had yet to undergo genital surgery, are selected for the Olympic team.

‘ROID RAGE: 10 HAEMORRHOID SUFFERERS



Socrates

Emperor Nero

Alexander the Great

Martin Luther

Lewis Carroll

Charles Dickens

Edgar Allen Poe

Percy Byshe Shelley

Queen Victoria

Marilyn Monroe

12 EPONYMOUS ILLNESSES



1. James Parkinson (Parkinson's disease - 1817)
2. William Stokes and Robert Adams (Stokes-Adams attack - 1826)
3. Sir Charles Bell (Bell's palsy - 1828)
4. Thomas Hodgkin (Hodgkin's disease - 1832)
5. Sir Dominic Corrigan (Corrigan's pulse - 1832)
6. Prosper Menière (Menière's disease - 1850)
7. Guillaume Dupuytren (Dupuytren's contraction - 1851)
8. Thomas Addison (Addison's disease - 1855)
9. John Hughlings Jackson (Jacksonian epilepsy - 1875)
10. Sergei Korsakoff (Korsakoff's syndrome - 1887)
11. Max Wilms (Wilms' tumour - 1899)
12. Alois Alzheimer (Alzheimer's disease - 1907)

10 CURES NO LONGER RECOMMENDED BY THE MEDICAL PROFESSION



1. The Roman physician Pliny the Elder taught that human urine was an excellent remedy for dandruff, running sores, venereal disease and mad dog and snake bites.
2. In the Middle Ages it was fashionable to eat and rub into the body bits of ancient Egyptian mummy for medicinal purposes. The body parts of decomposing Egyptians were widely touted as a cure for abscesses, fractures, contusions, paralysis, migraine, epilepsy, sore throats, nausea, disorders of the liver and spleen and internal ulcers. Mummy trafficking became a lucrative and highly organised business, starting in Egyptian tombs and following a well planned route to Europe. The bottom finally fell out of the mummy market in the late 17th century people found out that dealers were selling 'fake' mummy made from recently murdered slaves.
3. The most popular cure for leprosy in the Middle Ages was to bathe in the blood of a dog. If a dog wasn't available, a two year old infant would do.
4. In the 16th century most learned people were convinced of the magical medical properties of Bezoar stones - hard secretions often formed in cows' stomachs or goats' gall bladders. The ground-breaking French barber-surgeon Ambroise Paré offended many people especially the French King Charles IX, who was also a big bezoar fan, when he suggested that the stones were completely useless. Paré decided to set up an experiment to prove his point. A cook, convicted of theft and sentenced to public strangulation, was offered a choice between receiving his sentence, or swallowing a lethal poison along with a bezoar stone, thought to be the perfect antidote. He chose the latter and died. King Charles concluded from this experiment that the bezoar stone was obviously a fake.

5. The 17th century crack German surgeon Wilhelm Hilden advised the use of post-operative balm made from powdered mummy, earthworms, iron oxide, pig brains and moss from the skull of a man who had been hanged under the sign of Venus. The truly innovative part of Hilden's prescription was that this mixture was to be applied not to the wound, but to the weapon that caused it.
6. Early suggested cures for syphilis included intercourse with a virgin, rubbing dung into the male organ, and bathing in horse urine. The only regular precaution taken to avoid venereal disease in Elizabethan times was the washing of genitals in vinegar. 18th century cures for venereal disease included a sound thrashing, or having the penis wrapped in the warm parts of a freshly dismembered fowl.
7. Until the 16th century French surgeon Ambroise Paré proved it unnecessary, the standard cure for male hernias was castration.
8. When radiation was first discovered in the 19th century it was immediately pronounced to be as harmless and beneficial as sunshine, the start of a medical craze for radiation treatment of the most trivial ailments. For the best part of 40 years large numbers of people were needlessly exposed to lethal doses of radiation for such minor problems as ringworm and acne. Women were treated for post-natal depression by having their ovaries irradiated.
9. Britain's first Prime Minister Sir Robert Walpole ate about 180lbs of soap over a period of several years in an attempt to get rid of a stone in his bladder.
10. The wealthy 19th century politician and country squire Jack Mytton of Halston, Shropshire died aged 38 after injuries sustained while setting fire to his own night-shirt in an attempt to cure his hiccups. Before the horribly burned Mytton expired he remarked "Well, the hiccups is gone, by God".

10 CELEBRITY FASHION AND BEAUTY TIPS



1. Chairman Mao's regulation grey military-style 'Mao suit', previously known as the Sun Yet Sen suit and later worn by millions, made its first appearance in 1949. His chief of protocol Yu Yinqing suggested in future he stick to the more conventional dark suit when he was receiving foreign dignitaries. Yu's fashion tip went unheeded; he was fired and later committed suicide.
2. On the day of his execution, King Charles 1 wore two vests.
3. When the wardrobe of Empress Josephine, first wife of Napoleon Bonaparte was inventoried in 1809, she was found to own 666 winter dresses and 230 summer dresses but only two pairs of knickers.
4. Few in the diplomatic corps have served with as much distinction as Queen Anne's cousin, Lord Cornbury, the third Earl of Clarendon, appointed governor-general of New York and New Jersey from 1701 to 1708. The veteran British parliamentarian, a burly transvestite in his spare time, opened the New York Assembly wearing a blue silk ball gown studded with diamonds, satin shoes and a fancy headdress. When Queen Anne's American subjects complained about their governor's dress code Cornbury dismissed the locals as 'stupid'. It was perfectly obvious, he said, that as a representative of his Her Majesty he had a duty to represent her as accurately as he could. Queen Anne had him recalled.
5. In an attempt to make himself more attractive to his girlfriend Gala, Salvador Dali shaved his armpits until they bled and wore a perfume made of fish glue and cow dung.
6. When syphilis robbed the great 16th century Danish astronomer Tycho Brahe of his

nose he had an attractive artificial gold and silver nose made.

7. The famous French racing driver Jean Behra wore a plastic right ear after losing one in a racing crash in 1955, and always carried a spare in his pocket just in case.
8. George Washington had at least four sets of false teeth which he soaked in port overnight to make them taste better. By the time he became President he had only one tooth left and a set of dentures fashioned from cow's teeth. Washington later contacted a leading dentist in Philadelphia, who produced a state-of-the-art set carved, not from wood, but from hippopotamus tusk. The new dentures were thoughtfully drilled with a hole to fit over his one remaining tooth: unfortunately they were a very bad fit and were the cause of constant pain, which the President tried to ease by taking laudanum. Washington is noted for not smiling very much for his portraits. US President Ulysses Grant once refused to address crowds during a round-the-world cruise because his dentures were swept overboard while he was sun-bathing.
9. The Soviet leader Josef Stalin was never seen without his high, heavy black riding boots, even in the most inappropriate occasions and uncomfortable conditions. He once had one of his bodyguards sent to the salt mines for not wearing boots. It turned out that the bodyguard had taken to wearing slippers so as not to wake Stalin when he was sleeping. Stalin had him arrested for plotting to assassinate him. A guest once asked Stalin why he never took his boots off even on a stiflingly hot day. The Russian leader replied, "because you can kick someone in the head with them so hard he'll never find all his teeth".
10. Mae West wore ten inch heels and false nipples.

CHAPTER FIVE

CRIME & PUNISHMENT



HARD AXE TO FOLLOW: 10 FAMOUS EXECUTIONERS



1. The chief executioners of Constantinople during the reign of the Ottomans excelled in diverse methods of despatching their victims including drowning by slow degrees and forcing the victim to imbibe ground glass. The most prolific of them all, Souflikar, executioner during the reign of Mahomet IV, preferred simple strangulation. He personally throttled about 5000 people over a period of five years.
2. The Duke of Alva, chief executioner to King Philip of Spain, was hired for his efficiency in wiping out heretics during the Holy Inquisition. His chosen method of execution was to seal the mouth of the victim with an iron gag which allowed only the tongue to protrude, the tongue branded with a hot iron so that it became swollen and could not be withdrawn. The victim was then burned alive. At Antwerp, The Duke executed 8,000 people in one session. King Philip passed the most ambitious death sentence of all time in 1568 when he declared that entire population of the Netherlands - approximately 3 million - were heretics and therefore should be executed. It was a tough nut to crack even for the Duke of Alva, although he did manage to kill 800 people during Holy Week.
3. Richard Brandon, son of the chief executioner Gregory Brandon, was destined to become England's most famous executioner. Known in the trade as 'young Gregory', as a youngster he put in hours of practice on his axe technique by decapitating cats and dogs and boasted that he only ever needed one blow of the axe to remove a victim's head. The climax of his distinguished career was the removal of King Charles 1's head on January 30 1649, although on the day Brandon was a reluctant executioner - he and his assistant insisted upon wearing masks and false beards to avoid any possible future repercussions.
4. The innovative 19th century English executioner William Marwood invented the

'modern' method of hanging. Until Marwood's day hanging usually meant a very short drop and slow strangulation at the end of a rope; the executioner often had to speed up the process by wrapping himself around the victim's legs and recoveries from hangings were commonplace. In 1871 Marwood perfected the long drop, a system which caused the victim to fall from six to ten feet through a trapdoor. The drop caused fracture dislocation of the neck's vertebrae, severing the spinal cord and medulla and so causing instant death and reducing the suffering endured by those hanged. Marwood didn't always get it right; the long drop often resulted in accidental decapitation.

5. London's 18th century chief executioner John Thrift was considered the most incompetent man ever to have held that position. Thrift, a convicted murderer who was set free on condition that he did the government's dirty work as an axeman, was unsuited to the job: he was highly strung, unsure with the axe and liable to burst into tears at inappropriate moments. His biggest problem was that he couldn't stand the sight of blood. When he was called upon to execute the Jacobite rebel Lord Balmerino at the Tower of London in 1745, he fainted then lay on the ground sobbing while onlookers tried to persuade him to get on with it. When Thrift finally took up his axe he took five blows to sever Balmerino's head. Thrift never quite got the hang of it, yet he somehow managed to blunder and hack his way through a 17 year career. He was hated by the public for his clumsiness and when he died in 1752 a mob pelted his coffin and his pall-bearers with stones and dead cats.
6. The best known executioner of the French Revolution was Charles Henri-Sanson, the most prolific member of an extraordinary Sanson family who served the nation with six generations of public executioners from 1635 to 1889. Sanson became so adept at his job, thanks to endless practice on the necks of French aristocrats, that he was able to despatch 12 victims in 13 minutes. At the height of the reign of terror he removed the heads of 300 men and women in three days. His guillotine in the Place de la Revolution was so busy that residents in a nearby street complained that the stench of blood from the street stones was a health hazard and lowered the value of their houses. On 16th October 1793 200,000 people turned out to watch Marie Antoinette lose her head. They were all kept waiting while Sanson untied her hands

so she could empty her bowels in a corner behind a wall.

7. Italy's most celebrated executioner, Mastro Titta, plied his trade on behalf of the Pope, carrying out 516 public executions from 1796 to 1864. Known for his casual scaffold manner, Titta would occasionally offer the condemned a pinch of snuff just before removing his or her head. His work clothes, still stained with the blood of his last job carried out at the age of 85, are on display at the Rome Museum of Criminology.
8. Australian hangmen bore the official title Executioner and Flagellator, as they were also required to carry out whippings. Elijah Upjohn was the country's most famous, for it was he who hanged Ned Kelly. Like most Australian hangmen Upjohn was also convicted a felon, originally arrested for such crimes as drunkenness, indecent exposure, defecating in a main street and unnatural practices with a chicken. Fortunately for Kelly, his hanging was one of the few that Upjohn got right because he was usually drunk. It was still a very unpopular execution and afterwards Upjohn, harassed by the public, lost his nerve and was sacked by the government.
9. Grover Cleveland, the only American president to serve two non-consecutive terms, personally carried out the execution of two criminals. As sheriff in Buffalo, New York, in 1872 he hanged 28-year old Patrick Morrissey, who had been convicted of stabbing his mother to death while drunk. Six months later he hanged 29-year old murderer Jack Gaffney. When Cleveland ran for the presidency in 1884 his rivals called him the 'Buffalo Hangman' but it didn't harm his political ambitions.
10. Edwin T. Davis was the world's first official state electrocutioner. An electrician by trade, Davis supplemented his income by sending 240 people to their deaths from 1890 to 1914, serving the states of New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts, traveling from prison to prison in his trademark black felt hat. He was the designer of the original electric chair and helped make many refinements to the system during his career and held patents on some of the equipment. Before every execution he tested the apparatus on chunks of beef; he attached sponge pads to the meat, inserted the wires and switched on the current - as soon as the beef began to roast he knew the chair was in full working order.

10 CAPITAL ODDITIES



1. America executed its last witch in 1692. Poland was still excuting witches until over a hundred years later, in 1793.
2. The rules for extracting confessions during the Holy Inquisition were spelt out in The Book of Death, which was on display in the Casa Santa in Rome until the 19th century. There is no record of a single Holy Inquisition acquittal. The accused were rarely told, nor were they ever allowed to ask, what they had been charged with, nor were they permitted a defence council or allowed to call defence witnesses.
3. The authorised method of execution during the reign of the Roman Emperor Tiberius was strangulation. There was a law which forbade the strangling of virgins, but the resourceful Tiberius found a loop-hole: he ordered that virgins should first be defiled by the executioner.
4. Although common criminals were hanged in England in the 16th century, heretics were burned at the stake so that the flames could cleanse their souls. If the victim was lucky he would be allowed to have a small bag of gunpowder hung around his neck to speed up his death.
5. In the Indian state of Baroda in the 19th century, the Maharajah had criminals executed by standing elephants on their heads.
6. On 9 October 1789, during a meeting of the French Legislative Assembly, Joseph Ignace Guillotin, a former professor of anatomy in the medical faculty of Paris, proposed that the death penalty should be the same for all social classes and that in all cases some sort of beheading machine should be used. Dr. Guillotin made no further contribution to the development that bore his name. The guillotine in it's finished form was the invention of Dr. Antoine Louis, the Secretary of the Academy of

Surgery in France. Initially the device was to be called the 'louison' or the 'lousiette' after Dr. Louis, but the name never quite stuck. Nor was the guillotine entirely original; a large wooden structure known as the Halifax Gibbet had been removing heads in England, most Saturday afternoons, since the thirteenth century, only one of a hundred similar devices.

7. The longest anyone has survived on death row is 34 years. The Kentuckian Henry Anderson was convicted for murder in 1958 and sentenced to death in 1960. Although the state death penalty law was repealed in 1972, Anderson refused to have his sentence commuted because he said it would be an admission of guilt. He died of cancer at the Kentucky State Reformatory. in April 1994, aged 79.
8. Germany retained decapitation by axe as a method of state execution until 1938. One of the last famous executions by axe were those of the Baroness Benita von Falkenhayn and Renate von Natzner, who were accused of spying and lost their heads at the Berlin Plötzensee Prison on 18th February 1935.
9. The electric chair was first used as the 'modern' and 'humane' alternative to hanging after a 40 year old murderess, Roxalana Druse in took 15 minutes to strangle to death in 1887. Three years later William Kemmler, convicted of the murder of his lover Tillie Ziegler and became the first man to die by the new method. After eight minutes, Kemmler started smoking and a second burst of power was required to finish him off. The New York Times reported, "Kemmler was literally roasted to death". The electric chair is still unpredictable. During the execution of Pedro Medina in Florida's 'Old Sparky' on 27 March 1997, witnesses saw a foot long blue and orange flame shoot from Medina's head.
10. Thomas Edison, inventor of the light bulb and the phonograph, pioneered his own version of the electric chair. In 1890, desperate to convince people that the alternating current advocated by his rival George Westinghouse was 'unsafe', Edison toured America using AC power to electrocute cats, dogs, horses and elephants, a process Edison called 'Westinghousing'.

10 MOST OPTIMISTIC LEGAL DEFENCES IN A CRIMINAL LAW COURT



1. In 1993 Diana Smith from Kinsey, Alabama, was found guilty of tampering with a man's grave. The court heard that the 37-year old woman had been charged with causing the death in 1990, of the man whose grave she was interfering with. She said she was only digging up the casket in order to prove that he was faking it.
2. In 2004 Thubten Dargyel, a 53-year old Tibetan working in a Wisconsin medical center, was charged with first degree sexual assault on a woman. He explained that his semen could be found on her clothing because he ejaculated every time he sneezed. Dargyel said that he was only surprised only that his semen doesn't show up on many other patients.
3. In 1964 Mexican sisters Delfina and Maria Gonzalez were arrested and charged with murder when police found the remains of at least 80 girls on the premises of their brothel. When asked for an explanation for the deaths, one of the sisters volunteered; "the food didn't agree with them".
4. In 1994 a court in Virginia dropped charges of rape and sodomy against a 45-year-old schizophrenic after accepting evidence that one of the victim's multiple personalities had consented to have sex with one of the rapist's multiple personalities. The prosecution heard that the two had previously met in group therapy and that many of their 'different selves' had fallen in love and even talked of marriage.
5. In 2004 a Canadian, Angel Jones, 27, was convicted of aggravated assault against his girlfriend when he bit off most of her nose during a row. Jones admitted the nose was in his mouth but claimed that his his girlfriend' was an a special weight-loss programme, which had caused her nose to become brittle and that it just fallen off.

6. 30-year old Frederick Treesh was one of three men detained for terrorising the Great Lakes area in north America with a series of spree killings during the summer of 1994. Treesh explained later, "other than the two we killed, the two we wounded, the woman we pistol-whipped, and the light bulbs we stuck in people's mouths, we didn't really hurt anybody."
7. Lawyers acting for a Seattle death row inmate Mitchell Rupe appealed against his hanging because it would constitute 'cruel and unusual punishment'. They argued that 19stone 3lb Rupe would be instantly decapitated by the pressure of his weight on the rope. The appeal failed and Rupe swung on 11 July 1994.
8. In 1996 in Providence, US, Anthony St. Laurent admitted taking part in organised crime. Upon receiving a 10-month prison sentence, he informed the court that he was in point of fact innocent; he had only entered a guilty plea only because an illness requiring 40-50 enemas a day would have made it difficult for him to sit through a very long trial.
9. In 1996 the U.S. Supreme Court rejected the appeal of a convicted Arizona drug user who claimed he did not receive a fair trial because there were no fat people on the jury.
10. In 2004 Joshua Baldwin, 24, was found guilty of sixteen incidents of indecent exposure to women in shopping malls in downtown Bay City, Michigan. Baldwin told the judge, "I was only hoping to get lucky, but I went about it the wrong way."

10 BUNGLED EXECUTIONS



1. The most badly botched execution by electric chair was that of William Taylor, condemned to death in 1893 for killing a fellow inmate in Auburn Prison. As the first electric charge surged through his body his legs went into spasm and tore the chair apart by his ankle strappings. The charge was switched off while running repairs were made. The switch was thrown again, but this time there was no current because the generator had burned out. Taylor was removed from the chair and given morphine in an attempt to deaden any pain he may have felt. By the time the power had been restored however, Taylor was already dead. Nevertheless the law still required an electrocution, so the dead man was strapped back into the chair and the current was passed through him for another 30 seconds.
2. The most badly executed beheading in history was that endured in 1626 by the French Count Henri de Chalais, condemned to death for his part in a royal assassination plot. When it was time for Chalais to be publicly beheaded with a sword, the regular executioner could not be found and an inexperienced replacement was drafted in at the last minute. The Count's head was hacked off by the stand-in on the 29th stroke: he was still breathing at the 20th.
3. In 1740 a 17-year old rapist, William Duel, was hanged, but emerged from a deep coma to find that his body had already been donated to science and that a surgeon's knife was already slicing into his stomach. Duel survived and his death sentence was subsequently commuted to transportation for life.
4. The execution of the failed French regicide Robert-Francois Damiens in was the most prolonged in history. On 2 March 1757 Damiens was stripped and chained down on a wooden scaffold, where his right hand was to be burned off. A fire was lit, but it kept going out, so one of the executioners improvised by gouging out lumps of flesh from various parts of Damiens' body with red-hot pincers while boiling oil and melted wax, resin and lead were poured into the wounds. Between his

screams Damiens was heard to cry out 'My God, take pity on me' and 'Jesus, help me!'. The executioners then took long leather straps and wound them up the length of his arms and his legs. Each strap was attached to a rope, which in turn was affixed to four horses, which were then whipped, each pulling in a different direction. Damiens was a very muscular man and the horses selected to tear him limb from limb were not quite up the task. For more than an hour the horses were urged on while Damiens screamed in agony. As dusk fell, an attending surgeon suggested that they might want to speed things up by cutting Damiens' sinews, and the executioners began hacking at his joints with knives. The horses were again whipped and after several pulls, ripped one arm and a leg from Damiens' body. As the second arm was pulled out, Damiens lower jaw was seen to move, as though to speak. He died at 10.30pm, five and half hours after the execution started.

5. James Scott, the Duke of Monmouth and first-born illegitimate son of Charles II, was victim of Tower Hill's messiest execution on 15th July 1685. The handsome and popular Duke was heard to complain loudly that the axeman's blade appeared to be blunt, but no-one paid heed. In the event it was the fifth blow which finally severed his head from his shoulders just before he a chance to say "I told you so". The watching crowd were horrified by the axeman's incompetence and he narrowly escaped a lynching. It was belatedly discovered that the Duke, although a person of great historical importance, had never actually had his portrait painted for posterity. His head was duly sewn back on, the joins covered up, and his portrait taken. He now hangs in the National Portrait Gallery.
6. Two men have survived three hangings apiece. The murderer Joseph Samuels was reprieved in 1803 after the rope broke twice on the first and second attempts and the trapdoor failed to open on the third. A trapdoor mechanism also saved the life of convicted murderer John Lee in 1884. Even though it worked every time it was tested, it failed to open three times in the space of seven minutes. Lee was let off with life imprisonment.
7. In 1903 a young American, Frederick van Wormer, was sent to the electric chair for the murder of his uncle. Van Wormer was duly electrocuted and pronounced dead.

In the autopsy room, as he was about to go under the scalpel, his eye was seen to flicker and he moved a hand. The prison doctor confirmed that two full charges of current had failed to kill the prisoner. Van Wormer was carried back to the chair and several more currents were passed through him until his death was beyond dispute.

8. The American cannibal and child killer Albert Fish went to the electric chair at Sing Sing in 1936. The first electric charge failed, allegedly short-circuited by dozens of needles the old man had inserted in his own body. Doctors discovered a total of 29 needles in his genitals.
9. The electrocution of John Evans in Alabama state prison in 1983 required three surges of 1,900 volts of electricity each over a period of 14 minutes to finish him off. Eye-witnesses saw Evans struggling for breath as smoke began to pour from the electrodes on his head and one of his legs. The autopsy revealed that he had endured fourth and second degree burns while he still alive.
10. In 1992 34-year old American rubbish van driver Billy White was executed by lethal injection in Huntsville prison. It took the medical attendants 40 minutes to locate a vein and another nine minutes for him to die.

15 ORIGINAL OBSERVATIONS MADE BY CONDEMNED MEN



1. "At least I'll get some high class education"
 - US murderer John W. Deering, facing the firing squad, after willing his body to the University of Utah.
2. "Pretty soon you're going to see a baked Appel"
 - George Appel murderer of puns and a New York policeman, as he was strapped into the electric chair in 1928.
3. "Will that gas bother my asthma?"
 - Luis José Monge, awaiting death by gassing for the murders of his wife and three children, at Colorado State Prison in 1967
4. "Warden, I'd like a little bicarb because I'm afraid I'm going to get gas in my stomach right now"
 - Charles de la Roi, sentenced to death by lethal gas in 1946 in California for the murder of a fellow prison inmate, bidding for the George Appel Worst Death Chamber Pun Award of 1946.
5. "How about this for a headline for tomorrow's paper? French fries!"
 - James French electrocuted in Oklahoma in 1966 (see above)
6. "Hurry it up, you Hoosier bastard". I could hang a dozen men while you're fooling around".
 - Mass murderer Carl Panzram, awaiting the gallows at Leavenworth prison in 1930.
7. "Just our luck we haven't even got a decent day for it"

- Frank Negrin to his fellow murderer Alex Carrion as they awaited execution at Sing Sing in 1933.

8. "Damned if I care what you read"

- Murderer Alan Adam, upon being informed by the sheriff of Northampton, Massachusetts in 1881 that he was going to read aloud the execution warrant.

9. "Are you sure this thing is safe?"

- the Rugeley poisoner Dr. William Palmer, as he was escorted to the gallows trap door in 1855, after killing 14 people.

10. "I'd like to thank my family for loving me and taking care of me. The rest of the world can kiss my ass".

- Robert Alton Harris, gassed on April 21 1992

11. "I think I'd rather be fishing"

- Jimmy Glass, electrocuted June 12 1987

12. "I'm still awake"

- Robyn Leroy Parks, after his lethal injection on 10 March 1992.

13. "I guess nobody is going to call"

- Edward Earl Johnson, gassed 20 May 1987

14. "You might make that a double."

- British murderer Neville Heath, gratefully accepting the offer of a last drink before being hanged in 1946

15. "I did not get my Spaghetti-O's, I got spaghetti. I want the press to know this."

- Thomas J. Grasso, unimpressed by room service before being was executed by lethal injection for his role in the murder of an elderly Tulsa woman in March 1995

10 UNIQUE MURDER MOTIVES



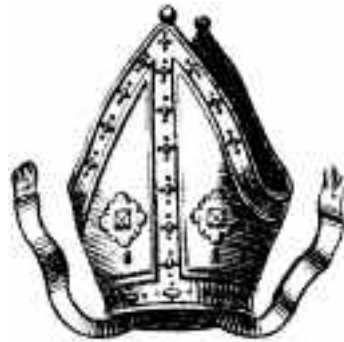
1. 1800: the sensitive Russian Czar Paul, who was both snub-nosed and bald, had a soldier scourged to death for referring to him as 'baldy'. The Czar later has the words 'sub-nosed' and 'bald' banned on pain of death.
2. 1968: frustrated rock musician Charles Manson finds hidden messages in The Beatles White Album, especially the tracks Helter Skelter, Piggies and Revolution 9 which convince him that the apocalypse is at hand. Irked when producer Terry Melcher fails to turn up to hear his songs, Manson and his 'family' decide to pay him a visit. Failing to find Melcher at his home, instead they brutally murder actress Sharon Tate and four others.
3. 1977: self-styled Emperor of the former Central African Republic Jean Bokassa has 200 schoolchildren beaten to death by his imperial guard. Their crime was failure to comply with school uniform regulations.
4. 1979: two Brazilians, Waldir de Souza and Maria de Conceicao confess to the murder of six children in Cantigulo, including a two year old boy. They said that the killings were ritual sacrifices to ensure success in their new cement business.
5. 1984: a 16 year old Malaysian boy is beheaded by a Chinese man in Kuala Lumpur, as a human sacrifice in an attempt to win the state lottery. The murder was in vain, as it was a roll-over week.
6. 1987: a Chinese pig farmer Chen Bohong of Liuzhou is about to slaughter a pig when he is rudely interrupted by a taxman, who presents himself with a bill. Irritated by the interruption, Chen kills the taxman, Sun Taichang, instead.
7. 1989: a Liberian General, Gray Allison, is sentenced to death for the murder of a

policeman. He explains that he needed the policeman's blood to perform a magic rite to overthrow Liberia's dictator Samuel Doe.

8. 1993: a 36-year old man from Peking, Ge Yunbao, admits beating a six year old schoolboy to death and then leaving the child's severed head on a bus. Yunbao explained that he was annoyed at being passed over for promotion.
9. 1995: during the world population conference held in Cairo, the Egyptian newspaper Al-Wajd reports that a delegate has stabbed his wife to death because she refused go to bed with him.
10. 1996: Francois Gueneron is shot dead by his wife because she could no longer tolerate his habitual flatulence. According to Mrs. Catherine Gueneron, her husband, a 44-year old French construction site manager, broke wind morning, noon and night for eight years. He took a pistol bullet in the chest from 35-year old Catherine after breaking wind in her face in bed. She told Marseilles Judge Gilbert St. Jacques."I just snapped".

CHAPTER SIX

THE JOY OF SECTS



10 HOLY RELICS



1. A one point Christ's foreskin was on display in fourteen churches in Italy alone. Pope Innocent III once declined to rule on which was the genuine artefact on the grounds that God alone knew which was the true Holy Foreskin.
2. The personal evacuations of the Grand Llama of Tibet were considered so holy that his followers wore samples of his excrement around their necks. His urine was also thought to be a powerful prophylactic against disease and his courtiers mixed it in their food.
3. King Henry VII was gifted St. George's left leg.
4. Sri Lanka has a temple dedicated to one of the Buddha's teeth.
5. In the 19th century there were three Holy navels of Christ on display in churches at Rome, at Lucques and at Chalones-sur-Marne.
6. For several decades the brain of St. Peter was housed above an altar in Geneva, until it turned out to be a pumice stone.
7. St. Peter's nail clippings have surfaced in a dozen churches in Europe.
8. The body of the Welsh saint, Teilo, was at one time miraculously housed in three different locations.
9. At least sixty churches claim to be the repository of the Virgin Mary's breast milk.
10. King Philip II of Spain owned over 7,000 holy relics, including various fragments of

the true cross, the crown of thorns, 144 heads, 306 arms and legs and 10 whole bodies. His personal favourites were the arm of St. Vincent and the knee of St. Sebastien.

10 CAUSES OF THE BLACK DEATH ACCORDING TO THE CHURCH



1. Jews poisoning the wells.
2. Going to the theatre.
3. Olive oil.
4. Lust for older women.
5. The use of dice.
6. Talk of sex.
7. Hanging out with witches.
8. Over-eating
8. Wearing winklepicker shoes.
10. The planets Mars and Saturn moving closer together 'turning the air bad.'

10 APPALING PONTIFFS



1. Pope Damasus I (366-384): left no detail to chance in his campaign to win election as pope by hiring a gang of hit-men to murder the nearest rival for the job and all of his supporters. Nicknamed “the matrons ear-tickler”, enjoyed a reputation as a ‘ladies man’ but also surrounded himself with an entourage of sexually ambiguous young men. He was tried, convicted and sentenced to death for adultery by a synod of forty-four bishops in 378 AD, but was pardoned by the Emperor.
2. Pope Stephen VI (896 - 897): not on the best of terms with his predecessor Pope Formosus, Pope Stephen had the corpse of the ex- Pope dug up and tried by the ‘Cadaver Synod’ for crimes against the Church. A few months later he was overthrown, imprisoned and strangled to death in his cell.
3. Pope John XII ‘the Bad’(955-63): held orgies at his home and, during one of the raunchier sessions, was accused of summoning the devil. He his friends also liked to molest female pilgrims inside the basilica of St. Peter: when a cardinal pointed out that this wasn’t theologically sound practice, the pope had him castrated. Found guilty in absentia by a tribunal with various crimes including incest, adultery and murder, Pope John was excommunicated and later bludgeoned to death with a hammer by an irate husband who found him in bed his wife.
4. Pope John XXI (1276-1277): the only doctor ever to become pope, originally appointed physician to the Vatican on the strength of a medical treatise in which he prescribed lettuce leaves for toothache, lettuce seed to reduce sex drive and pig dung to stop nosebleeds. While receiving his medical advise three popes, Gregory X (1271-76) Innocent V ((1276) and Adrian V (1276) died in quick succession. He was duly elected pontiff, possibly in the hope that his medical skills would enable him to live longer than the previous three. Twelve months after his election the roof of his new palace fell in, crushing him horribly and he died six days later.

5. Pope Boniface VIII (1294-1305): got rid of his predecessor Pope Celestine V by locking him up in Fumone castle and then left him to die of starvation. Boniface was an atheist who had numerous gay lovers and was eventually tried for heresy, rape, sodomy and eating meat during Lent. Boniface didn't attend his trial and escaped punishment, but went mad soon afterwards and committed suicide. Pope Clement V had Boniface's body exhumed and burned as a heretic.
6. Pope Leo X (1513-21): patron of both Michelangelo and Raphael. Leo was promiscuously gay; when he was elected he was suffering so much from anal ulcerations that he had to be carried into the conclave on a stretcher. It was Pope Leo who provoked Martin Luther to nail his 96 theses to the door of the church in Wittenburg denouncing Church corruption.
7. Pope John XXIII (1410-15): a former pirate who obtained the papacy through force of arms. In 1415 he was charged with 54 offences, including piracy, murder, rape, sodomy and incest. There were originally 70 charges but 16 said to have been 'of the most indescribable depravity' were dropped in the interest of public decency.
8. Pope Alexander VI (1431 - 1503): the only pontiff to travel in public with a retinue of scantily clad dancing girls and the first to introduce the concept of entertainments featuring naked women at Mass. Alexander secured the papal chair by bribery then used it for the personal gain of his growing family, the infamous Borgias. His ten illegitimate children included a favourite daughter Lucretia. At one point the Pope was enjoying non-fraternal relations with Lucretia while she in turn was sleeping with her own brother, Cesare. Alexander also threw the Vatican's most outrageous party, the Joust Of Whores, featuring a variety of entertainments including a prize for the guest who slept with the most prostitutes. While the Pope and his teenage mistress and various civic dignitaries looked on, fifty naked prostitutes recruited from the city slums slithered around on his marble floor picking up chestnuts with their labias.
9. Pope Sixtus IV (1471-84): builder of the Sistine Chapel. His less artistic achievements included six illegitimate sons, one of them the result of an incestuous relation-

ship with his sister, and a papal bull unleashing the Spanish Inquisition and the subsequent torture and burning of thousands of heretics.

10. Pope Paul III (1534-49): Rome's biggest ever pimp, Paul kept a roll of 45,000 prostitutes who paid him a monthly tribute. He also poisoned several relatives including his mother and his niece to gain control of his family inheritance and enjoyed an incestuous relationship with his daughter. He once killed a couple of cardinals and a Polish bishop to settle an argument over a theological point.

10 ROUTES TO SAINTHOOD



1. St. Denis is the patron saint of syphilis and of Paris. St. Denis was beheaded, but carried his head around with him. He is not be confused with St. Fiacre, the patron saint of non-specific venereal disease, a job he combines with looking after haemorrhoid sufferers (after an altercation with a non-believer, St. Fiacre sat down heavily on a rock, miraculously leaving the impression of his buttocks upon it. Christian haemorrhoid and acne sufferers later discovered that they could get relief by sitting where St. Fiacre had rested
2. Saint Agatha is patron Saint of Malta, bell-makers, diseases of the breast, earthquakes, fire and sterility. In the third century she defended her virginity against a high ranking Roman and was sent to prison where she had her breasts cut off: the boobies were later restored by divine intervention. She was then sent to work in a brothel, where her virginity miraculously remained intact, burned at the stake but failed to ignite, then finally beheaded. Sicilians honour her feast day every year by carrying an image of her breasts through the streets.
3. The feast day of St. Lawrence is 10th August. He was roasted alive on a spit, but faced death heroically, telling his torturers, “turn me over - I’m cooked on that side.” St. Lawrence is the patron saint of rotisseurs.
4. September 18th is the feast day of the 17th century “flying monk” St. Joseph of Copertino. During Mass he was seen to hover about twelve paces above the ground while “uttering his customary shrill cry”. Pope Urban VIII once saw him in flight and was full of admiration, but his feats of levitation didn’t go down well with everyone, especially his fellow monks regarded his flying as a nuisance.
5. December 19th is the feast day of the Blessed William of Fenoli, a monk who lived in the 13th century. One day, while accompanied by his mule, he was attacked by

robbers. William defended himself by ripping off the leg of his mule, clubbing his attackers with it then restoring the leg and continuing on his journey.

6. The feast day of Saints Eulampius and Eulampia, the brother and sister martyrs, is celebrated on November 10th. They couple survived being boiled in oil, moving 200 astonished onlookers to convert to Christianity on the spot. Sadly, all 200 converts were beheaded.
7. St. Nicholas is the patron saint of Russia, children, pawnbrokers, unmarried girls, perfumiers and sailors. He was a bishop in south-western Turkey during the fourth century and is purported to have restored to full health three decapitated children. St. Nicholas was said to have been such a pious baby that he abstained from his mother's milk on Wednesdays and Fridays.
8. The feast day of St. Swithun is July 2nd. Swithun is sometimes called "the drunken saint" (The Oxford Companion to the Year notes that this nickname is "probably a jocular reference to heavy rainfall"). St. Swithun's only recorded miracle is relatively modest. A poor woman on her way to market dropped her basket of eggs, breaking all of them. Swithun said a prayer for her, and when the woman looked into the basket again, the eggs had unscrambled themselves and returned to saleable condition. To test his awesome powers of self control, Swithun also liked to sleep chastely between two beautiful virgins.
9. The feast day of St. Simeon the Stylite is January 5th. The first and most famous of the 'pillar hermits', he was known for his thrift, and for living on top of a column for 30 years. He demonstrated his divinity by standing on one leg for a year and tying a rope around his waist so tightly that his lower body became putrefied and infested with maggots. He then ate the maggots, saying "eat what God has given you". He passed out, but was revived with a few lettuce leaves. St. Simeon bowed in prayer one day and fell of his pole to his death.
10. The feast day of St. Catherine of Siena is April 29th. She overcame her fear of bubonic plague victims by drinking a whole bowl of pus.

10 THINGS YOU ARE UNLIKELY TO LEARN IN SUNDAY SCHOOL



1. The book of Esther is the only book in the Bible which neglects to mention God.
2. Although the Church has always frowned on adultery, it didn't get around to banning sex with animals until the Council of Ankara in AD 314.
3. The modern day confessional box was invented in the Middle Ages to help prevent women from being sexually assaulted by priests.
4. The early Christian church held that the Virgin Mary was impregnated by her ear: fear of accidental aural penetration was so widespread that it led to the fashion for tight fitting wimples.
5. The Catholic church accepts cannibalism as a justifiable means of saving one's life.
6. Onan, the son of Judah, who 'spilled his seed' in the Old Testament (Genesis - 38:8.10) is the Bible's sole wanker. The passage was the basis for the Church's condemnation of masturbation and gave rise to the expression Onanism, a term for self abuse popular in Victoria times.
7. The Old Testament book Ecclesiasticus recommends clearing the stomach by throwing up before or during a big meal to make room for more food.
8. The Bible was so full of lepers because it was written at a time when any skin defect, even a bad case of acne, was likely to get you branded as one and consequently shunned by society. Most 'lepers' were probably sufferers of syphilis.

9. The Church adopted celibacy as a code for the priesthood in 1123. Three hundred and fifty years later Pope Innocent VIII became known as 'The Honest' because he admitted that he had fathered several bastards. He only owned up to disprove a rumour going around Rome at the time that he was a woman.
10. At one time you could be excommunicated for wearing a wig.

CHAPTER SEVEN

MAD, BAD & DANGEROUS TO KNOW



UNSTRUNG HEROES: 10 LESSER KNOWN SCIENTIFIC ENDEAVOURS



1. Sir Isaac Newton spent thirty of the most productive years of his life trying to change base metals into gold and searching for hidden codes in the Bible, which he believed contained God's secret laws for the universe. He said that the mathematical formulae in his *Philosophiae Naturalis Principia Mathematica*, which contained some of the cornerstones of modern science, was first revealed by God to a group of mystics at the dawn of civilisation, a tradition to which Newton was chosen as heir, and predicted that the world would end in 2060. The man who possessed perhaps the greatest scientific mind of all also cut two cat-flaps in his front door, one for his cat and a smaller one for the cat's kitten.
2. Charles Babbage, the 'father of computing', devoted much of his spare time to working out the statistical probability of the Biblical miracles. He calculated that the chances of a man rising from the dead were 1 in 1012. Babbage was also obsessed with fire and water. He once allowed himself to be baked in an oven at 265°F for "five or six minutes without any great discomfort" and almost drowned while testing a device for walking on water.
3. Charles Waterton, the eighteenth century British adventurer-naturalist became famous after the publication in 1826 of his book *Wandering in South America*, the result of many years spent alone in unexplored rain forest. The book combined accurate observations of wildlife, including the very first account of sloths, with idiosyncratic notes on politics, taxidermy and a vicious attack against the Hanoverian monarchy. Waterton took a hands-on approach to his field work, once spending six months sleeping with his foot dangling out of his hammock in the hope that he would be bitten by a vampire bat. He was "bitterly disappointed" when 'the brutes failed to take the bait.

4. Charles Darwin, having calculated the precise number of earthworms in his garden (an average of 53,767 per acre) piled thousands of them on to his billiard table and subjected them to a series of experiments, including a study what happened when he blew tobacco smoke at them, or when his son played a bassoon at them. After placing some worms close to the keys of a piano, which was played as loudly as possible, Darwin deduced: "Worms do not possess any sense of hearing." He later repeated the experiment by playing a bassoon to his plants and again deduced that his subjects were deaf to its entreaties.
5. Sir Francis Galton, a cousin of Charles Darwin, was said to have had an IQ of 200 (the highest ever recorded) invented identikit photos and fingerprinting, was a pioneer in the science of eugenics and the first to describe cyclonic and anti-cyclonic weather patterns. He also invented a pocket counting device used to clock the number of attractive women he passed in the street to help him compile a 'beauty map' of Great Britain: after many years of dedicated research Galton's determined that Britain's ugliest women lived in Aberdeen. His finest hour was in 1850 when he became the first European to explore Damaraland in south west Africa and, upon encountering the Hottentot people he turned his analytical mind to the measurement of black African ladies' bottoms.
6. Alexander Graham Bell, who kept his windows permanently covered to keep out the 'harmful rays' of the full moon, tried to teach his dog to talk and dissected the family cat in order to study its vocal chords. Bell also experimented with livestock; convinced that sheep with extra nipples would give birth to more lambs he spent 30 years counting sheep nipples. He abandoned his research when the US State Department officially announced they could find no link between multiple nipples and increased fertility.
7. The English scientist J.B.S. Haldane, a pioneer in genetics, subjected himself to various experiments and once drank a bottle of hydrochloric acid then cycled home to see what effect it would have then swallowed a near-fatal dose of calcium chloride, which resulted in violent diarrhoea followed by painful constipation. To test his lung capacity he swallowed one and a half ounces of bicarbonate of soda then ran up and

down a 150ft flight of stairs twenty times, causing himself to have a fit, crushing several of his vertebrae. JBS was also prepared to experiment on others without necessarily asking for permission. While lecturing a public meeting on the dangers of gas in trench warfare, his unwitting audience watched as JBS vapourised a spoonful of pepper over a spirit lamp, causing the hall to filled with pungent smoke. As people fled for the exits with their eyes streaming and gasping for air, he shouted after them “it that upsets you, how would you like a deluge of poison gas from an air fleet in real war?”.

8. The pioneer of the miner’s lamp, Sir Humphrey Davy, was a keen angler and thought he could baffle his quarry by disguising himself as a form of natural greenery by wearing a green coat, green trousers and a green hat. According to a fellow angler, “Davy flattered himself he resembled vegetable life as closely as it was possible to do”. When Davy went shooting however he did exactly the opposite. Not very trusting of the marksmanship of his fellow sportsmen, he made himself as conspicuous as possible to avoid being shot by mistake by wearing brightly coloured clothing and a huge wide-rimmed bright red hat.
9. Nikola Tesla, whose name ranks with that of Thomas Edison and Guglielmo Marconi as one of the greats in the history of electricity, h studied birds in the local woods jumped from the roof of the family barn, clutching an umbrella, convinced he could fly. This line of research was abandoned when he spent six weeks in traction.
10. The aviator Orville Wright numbered the eggs that his chickens produced so he could eat them in the precise order they were laid. He also had a morbid fear of public appearances. When President Franklin Roosevelt went to Wright’s home town, Dayton, to campaign for re-election, Orville reluctantly agreed to lunch with him. Later however when he found himself in the back of the President’s touring car being driven though cheering crowds, at the first opportunity he jumped out, thanked the President for lunch, then walked home.

SHOT IN THE FOOT: 10 MILITARY BLOOMERS



1. 532BC: Croesus, king of Lydia, asks the Delphic oracle if he should attack the Persians. She replies, "Cross the river Halys and attack and you will destroy a great nation". He did, and destroyed his own.
2. 1199: King Richard I 'the Lionheart' pauses to admire an arrow, fired directly at him at Chalus. As he lays dying he congratulates the bowman on his skill.
3. 1632: Gustavus Adolphus, king of Sweden, refuses to wear any steel body armour at the Battle of Lützen, saying, "The Lord God is my Armour!" He is killed.
4. 1836: Mexican General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna and his troops found themselves near a wood known to be full of Texan soldiers, but insist on taking their usual afternoon siesta. While Santa Anna and his men quietly snooze the Texans attack and rout the entire Mexican army in under twenty minutes.
5. 1849: At Chillianwalla, near-sighted Confederate General John Pope faces his cavalry in the wrong direction and leads them in a charge away from the battlefield.
6. 1864: Major General John Sedgwick, unimpressed by Confederate sniper fire at the battle of Spotsylvania, scoffs: "What! What! Men dodging this way from a single bullet! I am ashamed of you. They couldn't hit an elephant at this dist....".
7. 1862: US Confederate General 'Stonewall' Jackson, a strict Presbyterian who refuses to fight on Sundays, during the thick of the battle of Mechanicsville spends the day praying alone on a nearby hill, refusing to speak to anyone, while his troops take heavy casualties.

8. 1869: Francisco Lopez, President of Paraguay, wages a hopeless war on three fronts against his neighbouring enemies, Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay, outnumbered by their combined armies by ten to one. Lopez decides to make up the numbers by sending out a battalion of twelve year olds wearing false beards.
9. 1879: Lord Chelmsford invades Zululand but worries that the Zulus might not fight. At Isandlwana 1,300 British troops are slaughtered, 55 survive.
10. 1944: Erwin Rommel, Hitler's commander of the Channel defences in Normandy, decides that it is such a quiet day he might as well go home and celebrate his wife's birthday.

10 FORMER OCCUPATIONS OF DICTATORS



1. Josef Stalin, ruler of the Soviet Union 1929-53; trainee priest
2. Josip Broz (Marshal Tito), president of Yugoslavia 1945-1980; locksmith
3. Rafael Trujillo, president of the Dominican Republic 1930-61 and General Ne Win, president of Burma 1962- 1988; post office clerks
4. Benito Mussolini, ruler of Italy 1922-1943 and Mao Zedong, Chairman of the People's Republic of China 1931-76; trainee teachers
5. 'Papa Doc' Duvalier, ruler of Haiti 1957-71: family doctor
6. Enver Hoxha, ruler of Albania 1945 - 85: tobacconist
7. Ferdinand Marcos, president of the Philippines 1965 -1986: criminal lawyer
8. Nicolae Ceausescu, President of Romania 1965-89: shoemaker
9. Pol Pot, ruler of Cambodia 1975-79: - Buddhist monk
10. Idi Amin, president of Uganda 1971-79: doughnut vendor

10 HOUSEHOLD ACCESSORIES BELONGING TO SERIAL KILLER ED GEIN



1. Lampshades made from human skin.
2. A belt made from nipples.
3. Four noses and a heart.
4. A table with shin-bone legs.
5. A bowl made from the top of a human skull.
6. Salted female genitals in a shoe box.
7. A pair of lips on a string curtain pull.
8. A shirt of human skin complete with female breasts.
9. The faces of nine women, mounted on a wall.
10. A head with large nails hammered through each ear.

10 KLEPTOCRATS



1. Joseph Mobutu, president of Zaire; so rich, it was said, he could write a personal cheque to pay off his country's entire foreign debt. Although his country was one of the world's poorest he chartered a French Concorde to fly his family to Europe on monthly shopping trips, had pink champagne flown in from Paris and prostitutes delivered from Scandinavia. He sent a government jet to Venezuela thirty-two times to ferry back 5,000 long-haired sheep. so he could build himself a model farm in the Zaire jungle.
2. Jean-Bedel Bokassa, ruler of the Central African Republic; his country was officially rated the poorest in Africa, but spent \$18 million on a forty-eight hour coronation binge to celebrate his 'promotion' from President to Emperor in 1977. At the coronation ceremony, which required the purchase of a hundred limousines and 130 thoroughbred horses, guests drank 65,000 bottles of champagne served by an army of waiters imported from Paris and were entertained by a 120-piece orchestra.
3. Ferdinand Marcos, president of the Philippines; appropriated up to a third of all loans to the Philippines in the form of kickbacks and commissions and oversaw foreign investment in his country for a 'small fee'; a US nuclear power company once paid him tens of millions of dollars in bribes to allow them to build on Philippine land. As it turned out, it was money not well spent: the power station was never used, having been built over an earthquake zone. At one time his wife Imelda, apart from her influence as a world-class buyer of fashion footwear, was also said to be the world's single biggest buyer of jewellery.
4. Nicolae Ceausescu, president of Romania; bulldozed the centre of Bucharest to make way for a monumental avenue leading to the world's largest palace, an architectural eyesore incorporating the work of around 700 interior designers, second in size only to the Pentagon and featuring a marble-lined nuclear bunker. The construction of the new Palace of the People required the destruction of dozens of historic build-

ings, including twenty-six churches, and forced about 40,000 people to give up their homes in exchange for a small apartment in a grim concrete residential block. Romanian TV female news presenters were also forbidden to wear jewellery lest they appear more glamorous than their First Lady, Elena Ceasescu.

5. 'Papa Doc' Duvalier, president of Haiti: raised corruption to an art form, diverting millions of dollars in foreign aid money into his own bank account. Papa Doc also hit upon a way of literally bleeding his own people dry by rounding up thousands of Haitians and marching them to the nearest blood bank, where each was given \$1.80 – about a week's wages – in exchange for a litre of blood. The blood was then sold on to the United States where it was sold for transfusion at \$22 a litre. Telephone subscribers were also surprised to find that they too had been charged an extra levy to fund the building project, especially as Haiti's telephones had not worked for twenty years.
6. Jean-Claude 'Baby Doc' Duvalier, president of Haiti: when his father 'Papa Doc' died he became at nineteen the youngest president in the world. In 1981 the IMF gave \$22 million to the treasury of Haiti, only to discover two days later that \$20 million of it had been withdrawn by Baby Doc. Much of the money funded the extravagant lifestyle of his wife Michele, including \$50,000 a month to fly her flowers from Miami to Haiti. She always turned the air conditioning up to maximum so she could wear her fur coats indoors.
7. King Zog of Albania: in 1939 invasion by Mussolini forced Albania's despot and his wife to flee into exile, accompanied by the entire national treasury. The Zogs sat out the war years in the Ritz in London, where they thought it wise to sell their bright red Mercedes, a wedding present from Adolf Hitler and inconveniently identical to the one used by the Führer himself. Zog tried to spend some of his cash by buying The Times, but when he discovered it was not for sale settled for the slightly less influential Kensington and Chelsea Post.
8. Kim Jong-il, president of North Korea; the world's biggest single buyer of French cognac - the Dear Leader's annual spend on his favourite tippie, which costs \$1,300 a

bottle in Seoul – is nearly 800 times the income of the average North Korean citizen. Kim Jong-Il also maintains a harem of around 2,000 imported blondes and young Asian women, his 'Joy Brigade' comprising a 'satisfaction team' for sexual favours, a 'happiness team' for massages and a 'dancing team' for post-coital karaoke and dancing performances.

9. Joaquin Balaguer, president of the Dominican Republic; bankrupted his country by spending millions on a massive illuminated cross, intended to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the arrival of Christopher Columbus in the Americas. Slums were razed to make way for the project and escalating costs led to soaring food prices. Balaguer was forced to cancel the opening ceremony in 1990 when he was snubbed by his invited guests, the King of Spain and the Pope. When the illumination was finally switched on for the first time it caused a massive and disastrous drain on the national grid, unnoticed however by the 60 per cent of his people who still did not have electricity.
10. Sani Abacha, military dictator of Nigeria; stole more than \$4 billion during his five year reign. Abacha died of a heart attack in 1998, aged 54, during a Viagra-fuelled romp with three Indian prostitutes. A few weeks after his death police at Kano airport became suspicious when his widow, Maryam, tried to leave the country with thirty-eight pieces of luggage. Each was found to be stuffed with US dollars. Mrs Abachi explained she was not stealing the money, just 'putting away the funds in some foreign accounts for safe keeping'. To dispel any lingering suspicions that she may have had anything to hide she hired the services of O. J. Simpson's legal expert Johnny Cochran.

10 MONARCHS WHO WERE MADDER THAN KING GEORGE III



1. King Charles VI 'the Foolish' VI of France (r.1380 - 1422): early in his reign was struck down by a mystery illness which made his hair and nails fall out. He made a complete physical recovery but lived on in complete mental derangement for most of his 30 rule , often given to bouts of extreme violence. His physicians tried to cure him with shock treatment by arranging for seventeen men with blackened faces to hide in his room; when Charles entered, they all jumped out and shouted "boo". In one of his more lucid moments he found out that his wife had meanwhile taken a lover, the Count of Armagnac: Charles had him stangled and drowned in the River Seine.
2. Queen Juana 'The Mad' of Castile (1479-1555): driven to distraction by her faithless and mostly absent husband, when her beloved Philip died aged 28 she resolved to see more of him in future by having his body embalmed and, according to legend, kept it by her side at all times, even at mealtimes and in bed.
3. Sultan Murad IV (r.1623-40): set himself a target of taking ten lives a day, beheading anyone who annoyed him. He also enjoyed daily target-practice with his long barrelled gun on innocent passers-by who strayed too close to his bedroom window. Murad once came across a party of women who were enjoying a picnic and had them all drowned because they were making too much noise. He killed one of his own doctors by forcing to him to swallow an overdose of opium and murdered a musician for humming a Persian tune. Wherever he travelled his stopping off points were usually marked by spot executions of smokers - another of his pet hates. In the first five years of his reign he had about 25,000 men put to death, many of them by his own hand.
4. King Christian VII of Denmark (r.1766-1808): indulged in violent wrecking sprees

around his palace, often beating his head against walls until he drew blood. He spent his evenings stalking the streets of Copenhagen with a gang of friends, occasionally destroying brothels. For the last twenty years of his life he lived in seclusion and in complete mental derangement, dragged out to make the odd ceremonial appearance. Little was known of the king's mental condition outside royal circles; even when the full story broke years later, Danish history books taught that Christian had simply become a little odd because he had been sexually abused by pageboys when he was a child.

5. King Frederick William 1 of Prussia (r.1713-1740) : a near relative of King George III, the 'Soldier King' carried a rattan stick which he used to thrash anyone in sight, including members of his own household and at meal-times he threw plates and cutlery and attacked his servants, starved his children or spat in their food. He kept two pistols by his side loaded with salt; one valet had his eye shot out, another was crippled. His courtiers were so afraid of him that when one of them was summoned to the king's private quarters he dropped dead with fright. On his deathbed, the king was visited by a priest who read from the Book of Job: "Naked came I out of my mother's womb and naked shall I return thither." "Not quite naked," the king corrected him. "I shall have my uniform on."
6. King Ferdinand VI of Spain (r.1746-1759): the only son of the mentally disturbed King Philip V, his reign was marked by a series of increasingly desperate suicide attempts during which he alternately tried starving then eating himself to death, cutting his wrists with scissors, hanging himself with bedsheets and strangling himself with table napkins: when all else failed he begged his doctors to give him poison. He died of natural causes in his sleep aged forty-six.
7. Queen Maria I 'the Mad' of Portugal (r.1777 - 1816: in 1788 a smallpox epidemic carried away several members of Maria's immediate family, including her son José. According to legend, the combined shock of these deaths sent her mad and she took to wearing children's clothes and became violently unstable. The Portuguese government sent out to London for a specialist in the treatment of insanity and hired the Rev. Francis Willis, fresh from his inept but apparently successful treatment of King

George III. Although none of his advice worked, Willis returned home £10,000 richer.

8. King Ludwig II of Bavaria (r.1863 - 86): the most famous son of the House of Wittelsbach, a German royal family with a long tradition of mental instability. Ludwig's reign was dominated by two obsessions, his expensive patronage of the composer Richard Wagner and his even more expensive hobby of erecting fantastic mock mediaeval castles, Ludwig's "sick children". Ludwig tried to fund his building programme by sending begging letters to the crowned heads of Europe then planned a series of major bank robberies; neither attempts were successful, so in 1873 he tried to 'sell' Bavaria. With the treasury in a state of near bankruptcy the government pronounced the king incurably insane and placed him under house arrest. Ludwig eluded permanent internment by drowning himself in Lake Starn.
9. Sultan Murad V (r.1876): his reign was the briefest of all the Ottoman Sultans. Just three months after his accession Murad, who was obviously mentally unstable and alcoholic and incapable of performing any sort of official function, was quietly locked away after an Austrian doctor and a Turkish court physician jointly signed a document declaring that the Sultan was incurably insane.
10. King Otto I of Bavaria (1848 - 1916): became king when his elder brother Ludwig II (see above) was pronounced insane and removed from the throne. Ironically, Otto was even more mentally unstable than the king he just replaced, but while his elder brother earned notoriety by organising pan-European bank robberies and the undying gratitude of the German tourist industry by building fantastic castles, Otto's mental illness manifested itself in the less notable activities of barking like dog, shouting abuse and occasionally taking pot shots at people with a rifle through his bedroom window. Otto reigned in name only from his cell in Castle Fürstentried guarded by a few medical attendants for twenty seven years while his uncle Luitpold took charge of Bavaria as prince-Regent.

10 PARANOID RULERS



1. Emperor Qin Shi Huangdi (r246-210BC). China's first Emperor maintained his rule with a combination of enthusiastic wall-building to keep out his external enemies and by removing the tongues, hands, feet and genitalia of his enemies within. To ensure that no unfavourable comparisons were made between his and earlier regimes, he ordered the mass burning of all of China's history books and decapitated the region's top 160 academics. The Emperor took his paranoia with him to his grave; his giant mausoleum was guarded by 8,000 life size terracotta soldiers to ward off the ghosts of the thousands of people he had wronged in his lifetime.
2. Czar Paul I of Russia (1796-1801) Morbidly suspicious of democracy and of anything western European, Paul banned the import of books and censored correspondence with foreigners. He closed down private printing presses and deleted from the Russian dictionary the words citizen, club, society and revolution. In 1797 he made a law banning modern dress including round hats, top boots, straight pants or shoes with laces, then sent a couple of hundred armed troops onto the streets of St. Petersburg with orders to randomly attack anyone who didn't conform to his dress code. He was strangled in a palace coup.
3. King Henry Christophe of Haiti (1811-1818). Having insisted upon drawing attention to his country's chief export by having himself anointed with chocolate syrup, he became obsessed with his personal security and ordered his entire personal bodyguard to prove their loyalty to him by marching over the edge of a 200' cliff to certain death: those who disobeyed were tortured and executed.
4. Jose Gaspar Rodriguez de Francia (r.1818-40): the first of a long line of Paraguayan dictators was constantly haunted by the fear of assassination and created a vast network of spies. Whenever he went out no-one else was allowed on the streets and doors and windows of houses had to be shuttered: Anyone caught out on the street

when he passed had to prostrate themselves or risk being put to the sword by his escort of armed cavalry. He had every tree and shrub in Ascuncion removed in case they hid assassins. Eventually Francia became a total recluse, hiding in his palace attended by just four servants, employing his sister to unroll his cigars to see if they had been tampered with, communicating with the outside world only through his barber.

5. Sultan Abdul Hamid II (r.1876-1909). Although protected by a steel-lined fez and a personal bodyguard of several thousand tall Albanians, Abdul 'the Damned' considered that security at his palaces was far too lax and set about building a new impregnable palace from scratch, with every wall mirrored so that the Sultan could see the people around him from any angle, every door lined with steel and every room connected by a secret underground passage which only Abdul Hamid knew about. The Sultan always carried with him a pearl handled revolver and was a nervy, jumpy little man and a crack shot to boot - a lethal combination. When one of his gardeners made too sudden a bowing movement Abdul Aziz shot him in the head. The Sultan's greatest phobia was fear of poisoning - his was the only dairy herd in the world with a twenty-four hour bodyguard. Whenever news reached him of assassination attempts elsewhere in Europe he banned all mention of them in the press: when the king and queen of Serbia were butchered then tossed out of a bedroom window in 1903, the Turkish press solemnly reported that they had both died of indigestion.
6. Joseph Stalin (r.1924 -53) Ensured his survival by removing all political rivals - in a single day in December 1938 'Uncle Joe' signed 3,182 death warrants. He once became depressed and called on the famous Russian neurologist and psychiatrist Vladimir Bekhterev. The doctor diagnosed 'grave paranoia' and advised Stalin's immediate retirement. It was the last advice Bekhterev ever gave; arrangements for his funeral were made soon afterwards. Stalin was about to launch his biggest leadership purge yet when he was felled by a terminal stroke.
7. King Zog of Albania (1928 - 39). Having survived an estimated fifty-five assassination attempts, made a point of never appearing in public except on national holi-

days; as he was well over 6 feet tall with red hair, he made a conspicuous target in a country where most men were dark and under 5 foot 6. On the very rare occasions he ventured outside his mother acted as chaperone – according to the strict rules of the Albanian blood feud, no man can be harmed if accompanied in public by a woman. His nerves were so frayed that on his wedding day he banned photographers' flashbulbs and not once during the ten days' commanded public rejoicing did he or his bride, the Hungarian Countess Geraldine Apponyi, dare to appear at the palace window to acknowledge their subjects.

8. Enver Hoxha, president of Albania (1945-85). Lived in fear of joint invasion by 'Anglo-American Imperialists' and 'Russo-Bulgar revisionists'. In 1950 he ordered the construction of a prototype concrete bunker, complete with a sniper's gun slit with 360° visibility. When the small, mushroom-shaped edifice was complete he asked the chief engineer if he was confident that it could withstand a full assault from a tank. He replied in the affirmative. Hoxha then insisted that the engineer stand inside his creation while it was bombarded by a tank. After fifteen minutes the shell-shocked engineer emerged, shaken and deaf, but unscathed. Hoxha was impressed and immediately ordered mass construction of the bunkers. From 1950 until his death in 1985 he built around 800,000 of them, one for every four Albanians, covering the entire countryside and costing from one-third to one-half of his nation's pitifully small resources. No one invaded.
9. President Macis Nguema, ruler of Equatorial Guinea (1968 - 79). Wiped out real or imagined enemies, which turned out to be more than 10% of his country's 350,000 population, including ten of his original 12 cabinet members, averaging about one political killing per week. He ordered the assassination of the ambassador to the United Nations, had a priest frozen to death in a refrigeration truck and once amputated the fingers of his government statistician because "he couldn't count".
10. Nicolae Ceausescu, president of Romania (1965-89) operated the world's most pervasive surveillance system - every Romanian telephone manufactured during his dictatorship was issued with a bugging device as standard. After receiving an anonymous death threat through the post he ordered his secret police to secure handwriting sam-

ples from the entire Romanian population. In 1978 Ceausescu and his wife Elena stayed at Buckingham Palace: the Queen was baffled when her guests brought with them their own bedlinen plus a host of minders including a personal food-taster. She was also alarmed by Nicolae's habit of washing his hands every time he shook hands with anyone, a trick he repeated after shaking hands with the Queen herself.

10 VERTICALLY CHALLENGED LEADERS



1. King Pepin 'the Short' - 3' 6"
2. Pope Greogory VII - 4' 1"
3. King Charles III of Naples 4' 5"
4. Attila the Hun - 4' 6"
5. Queen Anne - 4' 9"
6. Queen Victoria - 4' 10"
7. King Emmanuel III of Italy 4' 11"
8. Napoleon Bonaparte - 5' 4"
9. Joseph Stalin - 5' 4"
10. General Franco - 5' 4"

10 SPECTACULAR SADISTS



1. Emperor Tiberius. Such a well respected torturer that many of his prisoners committed suicide as soon as they were accused rather than bother waiting for the trial. Bored with the array of techniques in fashion at the time, he invented a few of his own; one favourite was to force the victim to drink vast quantities of wine until the bladder was at maximum pressure, then tie up his genitalia with a lute string.
2. Emperor Domitian. Extracted confessions from his enemies by holding a blazing torch under their genitals. Courtiers guilty of even the mildest of criticism were crucified upside down. His inevitable assassination in 96 AD was almost a carbon-copy of Caligula's death - he was stabbed in the genitals.
3. Genghis Khan. His conquests were marked by acts of breathtaking cruelty: he once stormed a town called Termez and slaughtered all of the inhabitants; one old woman was about to be killed but she begged for mercy in return for a pearl, which she said she had swallowed for safekeeping. The old woman was promptly disembowelled and several pearls were discovered inside her. Khan heard about it and ordered that all of the dead should be opened up and their stomachs inspected. He was not however entirely without compassion: he once decided that a defeated foe, who turned out to be an old childhood friend, should be spared the expected bloody execution; he had him rolled in a carpet and kicked to death instead.
4. Tamurlane. A descendent of Genghis Khan, considered the most violent of all the Mongol leaders. He celebrated his conquest of Sabzawar in 1383 by having 2,000 prisoners buried alive and had 5,000 people beheaded at Zirih, using their heads to build a pyramid. In India he massacred about 100,000 prisoners and had thousands of Christians buried alive. Tamurlane was not known for his sense of humour: he had anyone who told a joke put to death.

5. Czar Ivan IV 'the Terrible'. Emerged from a serious illness when he was 23 years old given to bouts of random and spectacular brutality and tearing clumps of his hair out until his scalp bled. He also specialised in ingenious deaths for his enemies; when the archbishop of Novgorod was suspected of organising an uprising against him, Ivan had the entire population, about 50,000 people, massacred by tossing them in a freezing river, then had the archbishop sewn into bearskin and hunted to death by a pack of hounds. When he conquered Withenstein he had the defeated Finnish leader roasted alive on a spit. On his deathbed Ivan repented and became a monk.
6. Sultan Mahomet III. Murdered his 19 brothers, all of them aged under eleven, then almost clogged up the river Bosphorus with the bodies of his father's pregnant mistresses: in his spare time he enjoyed watching women's breasts being scorched off with hot irons.
7. Vlad 'The Impaler' Tepes. The historical Count Dracula who ruled over Walachia, now part of Rumania, had about 20,000 of his enemies impaled on wooden stakes and often drank the blood of his victims. He forced wives to eat the cooked flesh of their husbands, and parents to eat their own children. When a large troop of Tartars strayed into his territory he selected three of them, had them fried and force fed to the others. When Turkish envoys arrived at his palace to sue for peace, he had their hats and coats nailed to their bodies.
8. Faustin Soulouque. The nineteenth century Haitian dictator. the self-styled Emperor Faustin I, established a secret police force, known as the zinglins, to keep dissenters in line and took part in cannibalistic rites, drinking the blood of his late rivals and keeping their skulls to use as drinking cups on his desk. Faustin once had a suspected enemy called Similien arrested and shackled to a dungeon wall. Later a report came to Faustin that the man's legs were turning gangrenous from the pressure of his fetters. Faustin sent word back: "Tell him not to worry. When his legs drop off I'll chain him by the neck".
9. Rafael Trujillo. The Dominican Republic's longest serving president was a torturer

par excellence in whose name a variety of methods were employed, including slow-shocking electric chairs, an electrified rod known as 'the cane' - especially effective on genitals - nail extractors, whips, tanks of bloodsucking leaches and 'the octopus', a multi-armed electrical appliance strapped to the head. Trujillo's most respected torturer however was a dwarf known as 'Snowball' who specialised in biting off men's genitals.

10. Saddam Hussein. His chastisements followed a clearly defined scale of medieval barbarity. Deserters had an ear cut off; thieves had fingers or hands cut off, depending on the source and value of stolen goods. Liars had their backs broken; offenders were tied face-down on a wooden plank between two cement blocks and another block was dropped on the victim's spine. Informants who supplied the state police with tips that proved false had a piece of redhot iron placed on their tongue. Homosexuals were often bound then pushed off the roof of a building. Traitors, spies, smugglers and occasionally prostitutes paid the ultimate price, beheading with a 5ft broadsword known as al-Bashar. Saddam also executing underlings himself by shooting them on the spot, sometimes giving his gun to someone else and ordering them to shoot, thus making them his accomplices.

CHAPTER EIGHT

MISCELLANY



BARK AT THE MOON: 10 CANINE COSMONAUTS



1. Laika (Russian for "barker"); the first living creature to go into space was a mongrel stray plucked from obscurity on the streets of Moscow and rocketed to international fame aboard Sputnik 2, the space satellite launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan, on November 3 1957. There was never any intention of bringing her back safely down to earth. Laika died in a state of panic when the capsule overheated just a few hours after Sputnik 2 was launched.
2. Bars ('Panther'); killed on July 28 1960 on board the Soviet Vostok spacecraft, killed when the rocket booster exploded during launch.
3. Lisichka (Little Fox); perished in the same explosion as Bars (see above).
4. Belka ('Squirrel'); launched into space on board Sputnik 5 on August 19, 1960, accompanied by Strelka (see below), forty mice, two rats and a number of plants. All were safely recovered after spending a day in orbit.
5. Strelka ('Little Arrow'); accompanied Belka (above). President John F Kennedy demanded to know why the world's first pair of space dogs were called Strelka and Belka and not Rover and Fido. Soviet scientists took note: after their hounds returned to Earth, they bred puppies from Strelka and gave one to Kennedy. Ignoring warnings that the Russians may have hidden microphones inside the dog, the president ordered her life spared.
6. Pchelka (Little Bee); launched on board Sputnik 6 on December 1 1960 with Mushka (below). The launch went well and the dogs spent a day in orbit. There were problems with re-entry however and the rocket and its passengers, were incinerated.

7. Mushka (Little Fly); died with Pchelka (above)
8. Chernushka (Blackie); launched on March 9 1961, accompanied by a 'dummy cosmonaut', mice and a guinea pig. The flight was a success and Chernushka was recovered successfully.
9. Verterok (Breeze); launched on February 22 1966 on board Kosmos 110, with Ugolyok (see below), returning safely on March 16.
10. Ugolyok (little Piece of Coal); accompanied Verterok (above), after a 22 day flight, an all-time canine record for time in space, as yet unbroken.

10 HOBBIES OF DICTATORS



1. Josef Stalin, leader of the Soviet Union 1941–53: watching American movies. He saw his favourite, the 1938 Boys Town starring Spencer Tracy at least 25 times.
2. Adolf Hitler, Chancellor of Germany 1933-45: reading cheap cowboy western novels. His favourite author was Karl May.
3. Nicolae Ceausescu, President of Romania 1965- 1989: bear hunting
4. Idi Amin: president of Uganda 1971-79: watching cartoons. When police searched his home in 1979 they found a large case full of old film reels of Tom & Jerry.
5. Kim Jong-Il, leader of North Korea from 1997; watching videos. He owns more than 20,000: he is also believed to be Asia's biggest collector of pornography.
6. Joseph Mobutu, President of Zaire 1965 - 97: shopaholic. His garden had a runway big enough to take the Air France Concorde he regularly took to buy his groceries from Paris and Brussels.
7. Saparmurat Niyazov, President of Turkmenistan from 1991; poetry. Previous literary works include the epic White Wheat, dedicated to Turkmenistan's harvest and Mother, dedicated to his late mother, with whom he is said to be obsessed.
8. Benito Mussolini, creative writing. Mussolini published over 44 volumes in and out of office, including a bodice-ripper The Cardinal's Mistress and a critique of the Russian novel. In his final idle moments, before he was strung upside down by piano wire, Il Duce was translating Giosuè Carducci's Odi Barbare into German.

9. Muammar Gaddafi, president of Libya from 1969: surfing the internet.
10. Saddam Hussein, President of Iraq 1979 -2003: fishing. He had little time for the subtleties of angling, preferring to lob hand grenades into the water then have someone pick up the dead fish.

10 ITEMS YOU WON'T FIND ON EBAY



1. Adolf Hitler's toilet seat: in 1968 the lavatorial requisite allegedly belonging to the Führer was put up for auction in Los Angeles. The seller, former US fighter pilot Guy Harris, claimed he rescued it from Hitler's bunker in 1945, the only item he could find that had not already been scavenged by Russian troops.
2. Jeffrey Dahmer's fridge: in 1996 the fridge in which serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer, "the Milwaukee Cannibal" stored his victims skulls was to be auctioned to settle claims made by the families of some of his victims. The sale was called off after a civic group, fearing bad publicity for their fair city, pledged to pay \$407,225 for the famed cannibal's household appliance.
3. Toto: in 1996 the stuffed carcass of Toto, the dog who starred with Judy Garland in the 1939 film Wizard of Oz, fetched £2,300 at auction.
4. Lee Harvey Oswald's toe tag: in 1992 the blood-stained toe tag from the corpse of Oswald, together with a lock of his hair, were auctioned in New York. The items were removed from Oswald by the ambulance driver as he drove him to the Dallas morgue.
5. Bonnie and Clyde's hair: in May 1934 the legendary bank robbers were ambushed in their car by a posse of patrolmen and perforated by 77 bullets, spraying their brains all over the upholstery. The vehicle and its contents were quickly decimated by local people hunting for trophies, including locks of Bonnie Parker's hair. One man was apprehended by a coroner as he was attempting to saw off one of Clyde Barrow's ears.
6. Anatomical artefacts: the surgeon John Hunter, the unrivalled expert of 18th century

anatomy, was a tireless collector of embalmed fetuses, corpses and human and animal skeletons. Over a period of 30 years Hunter amassed about 65,000 items. His uncomplaining wife Anne is said to have only once registered a protest, and that was when he brought home a stuffed giraffe which was too tall to fit inside his house. Hunter shortened it by hacking the legs off below the knee and placed it in his hall. When he died he bequeathed his collection to the Company of Surgeons in London. In May 1941 the building in Lincoln's Inn also took a direct hit from a German bomber. Only 3,600 specimens were spared.

7. Bladder stones of the famous: the finest collection of bladder stones ever assembled by one man was the pride and joy of Sir Henry Thompson, urologist to the crowned heads of Europe. When Sir Henry died he bequeathed all 1,000 of his bladder stones, including a couple removed from Leopold I, King of the Belgians and the France's Napoleon III, to the Royal College of Surgeons in London.
8. Eva Peron's shroud: in 2004 the silk shroud covering the embalmed remains of Eva Peron, wife of the Argentine dictator Juan Peron, sold at auction for £84,000.
9. The last dying breath of Thomas Edison, captured by Henry Ford in a bottle in 1841.
10. The world's most expensive turd: the most collectible piece of human ordure in history is a nine-inch stool known as the Lloyds Bank Turd. The unique Viking stool, so called because it was found in an archeological dig under a Lloyds bank, in the UK, is insured for £20,000. It is so highly valued because of its near perfect condition, a rarity amongst 1,000 year old faeces.

10 UNSUNG SIBLINGS



1. Bleda the Hun, elder brother of Attila.
2. Paula Hitler, younger sister of Adolf.
3. Maria Ulyanova, younger sister of Lenin.
4. Caspar van Beethoven, unmusical brother of Ludwig.
5. Gebhard Himmler, elder brother of Heinrich
6. Henrietta Marx, younger sister of Karl.
7. Feodor the not remotely Terrible, younger brother of Ivan.
8. Pierre d’Arc, flameproof younger brother of Joan.
9. Mao Zemin, little brother of Mao Zedong
10. Omm Omar Hussein, little sister of Saddam

10 FIRSTS



1. Buzz Aldrin was the first man to defecate on the moon.
2. Before he became the first to lose his head, Louis XVI was the first French king to use a knife and fork or brush his teeth.
3. George Bush Snr. was the first U.S. President to be seen throwing up on live TV.
4. Josef Stalin was the first dictator to have a theme park dedicated to him - Stalin World, 90 miles southwest of Vilnius in Lithuania.
5. Fatty Arbuckle was the first alleged rapist to have had a chain of fast food restaurants named after him.
6. Henry Laurens, South Carolina statesman, was the first person to be formally cremated in the US, in 1792.
7. James Madison was the first US President to wear trousers.
8. Frenchman Louis Sebastian Lenormand was the first man to use a parachute in 1783. He tested it by dropping live domestic animals from the top of the tower of Montpelier Observatory.
9. The first frisbees were discovered by children on the Oregon Trail who flung discs of buffalo dung in a frisbee-like manner during play.
10. The first World Testicle Cooking Championship. was held in Serbia, in 2004.

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE: 10 GREAT GIFTS



1. During Christmas 1888 Vincent van Gogh called at a Paris brothel with a present for a girl called Rachel and told her “keep it and treasure it”: It was his ear.
2. The Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo signalled the imminent death of an inner circle advisor by awarding him the Christopher Columbus medal. It became a tradition after the first recipient of the Columbus medal died from tetanus when Trujillo inadvertently stuck him with the pin.
3. King Edward VII owned a golf bag made from an elephant’s penis, a gift from an admirer, an Indian Maharajah; it was a sly reference to ‘Dirty Bertie’s love of golf, hunting and sex, but not necessarily in that order.
4. In 1995 Lord Erskine of Rerrick bequeathed his testicles to the Bank of Scotland which had declared him bankrupt, because it had “no balls”.
5. Pills made from the toxic metal antimony were highly esteemed in mediaeval times as great bowel regulators. The pill irritated the intestinal tract, causing loose motions, and would pass through the body unharmed, enabling them to be handed down from father to son and from mother to daughter as precious family heirlooms.
6. Moulay Ismael, the Sultan of Morocco, gave samples of his bowel movements to ladies of the court as a mark of special favour.
7. Pope Pius IX gifted Queen Isabel of Spain, on the occasion of her birthday, the embalmed corpse of Saint Felix.

8. Warriors of the cannibal Brazilian Cubeo tribe gifted their wives the penis and scrotem of a defeated victim. The wife was expected to eat them to make her fertile.
9. The 1897 Sears, Roebuck & Co, mail order catalogue offered a selection of hyperdermic syringe kits for shooting up heroin.
10. During a drugs raid on a house party in Kansas in 1994 police officers found a mummified female head in a box marked ``Eight-Piece Party Cook Kit.” The head was wrapped in a white lab smock and had blond hair and eyebrows, but no brain. The owner, 51-year-old Donald Donohue, said it was a gift from a medical student.

10 LITIGIOUS PEOPLE



1. In 1997 the journal Biological Therapies in Psychiatry reported that a 35-year-old woman, was claiming damages after her regular anti-depressant was switched to bupropion. As a side-effect of the new drug, the journal reported, she experienced spontaneously and without physical stimulation a three-hour orgasm while shopping.
2. A 54-year-old truck driver filed a \$10 million lawsuit in Gallatin, Tennessee in April 1996 after he received a defective penile implant. The complainant said he suffered blisters, bruising, infection and embarrassment.; his attorney explained: “he could be just walking down the street, and it would erect on its own.”
3. In 1994 Bernadette French, a 36 year old manic depressive, successfully sued the Wilmington Hospital in Delaware, US, for \$1.1 million. A judge ruled that hospital staff had been totally negligent in allowing her to gouge her own eyes out.
4. In 1999 Donald Drusky from Pennsylvania received the final rebuff in his 30-year battle against his former employees for ‘ruining his life’ by firing him in 1968. Drusky sued "God the sovereign ruler of the universe" for “taking no corrective action" and demanded that the Almighty compensate him with professional guitar-playing skills and the resurrection of his late mother. A federal judge in New York rejected the lawsuit.
5. In 1994 Robert Jones from Berkshire, England filed an insurance claim for the loss of his parrot. The recently deceased Polly, killed by Jones’s dog, had been kept in the family freezer for posterity, but during a power cut had thawed and decomposed.
6. In 1994 a jilted Spaniard broke into his ex-girlfriend’s car in Barcelona and blew his brains out with a gun. Vehicle owner Maria Valdez sued his family for ruining the

interior of her car.

7. In 1993 Vicki Daily of Jackson, Wyoming filed a lawsuit against the widow of the man she had earlier run over and killed in her pick-up truck. Ms Daily expected compensation for the “grave and crippling psychological injuries” she suffered while watching the 56-year old man die.
8. In 1993 a New York appeals court rejected housewife Edna Hobbs’s lawsuit against a company who sold a time-saving kitchen device, The Clapper. The complainant said that in order to turn her appliances on, she clapped until her hands bled. The judge found that Mrs. Hobbs had merely failed to adjust the sensitivity controls.
9. Joel Ford filed a \$45 million lawsuit against the Oxford University Press, publishers of the principal edition of the Bible, on the grounds that it is ‘based on hearsay’ and ‘oppresses blacks and gays’. Ford dropped his action a few weeks later when he received death threats.
10. An Israeli woman in Haifa sued the popular television weatherman Danny Rup, seeking \$1,000 after he predicted sunshine for a day that turned out wet and windy. The woman claimed that because of Rup’s forecast she left home lightly dressed and as a result caught flu, causing her to miss four day’s work and spent \$38 on medication.

10 OCCUPATIONAL HAZARDS



1. King John of Bohemia (1296 - 1346) became completely blind at the age of 44. When a team of palace surgeons failed to restore his eyesight he had all of them drowned in the Danube.
2. In 1895 a dispute over trading rights resulted in an attack by more than a thousand angry tribesmen, led by King Koko, on the British-owned Niger Company in Akassa. The native chiefs later sent a letter to Britain addressed to the Prince of Wales, expressing their deep regrets for having taken the law into their own hands, and especially for having eaten his employees.
3. The Ottoman Sultan Mahomet IV (1648-87) appointed an historian called Abdi to write a running biography of his reign. One evening the Sultan asked Abdi if he had written about his reign that day. Abdi replied in the negative: nothing particularly noteworthy had happened worth writing about. Mahomet calmly picked up a hunting spear and impaled the scribe with it. "Now", he told Abdi, "thou has something to write about".
4. In 1994 the US author Gavin Whitsett was mugged and badly beaten in Evansville, Indiana. He is chiefly known for a surprise bestseller which urges his fellow Americans to indulge in random and spontaneous acts of kindness.
5. In May 1994 a French clown, Yves Abouchar, choked to death while receiving a custard pie in his face from a colleague.
6. In the court of Imperial China, human wet nurses were trained to suckle the royal Pekinese puppies.
7. The ancient Egyptian pharaohs employed human fly traps who were smeared with

asses milk and made to stand in a corner of the room.

8. The diamond company De Beers once employed security guards to undertake fingertip searches through the faeces of their fellow employees. It was to ensure they weren't taking their work home with them.
9. The ancient Egyptians were martyrs to their bowels: believing that all diseases were diet-related, they binged on laxatives and purged themselves for three days at a time. The court official who supplied the enema to the Pharaoh was given the title Shepherd to the Royal Anus.
10. The world's most difficult stand-up comic routine was performed by the eunuch dwarfs in the court of the Ottoman Sultans. The dwarfs were required to keep the royal womenfolk amused while they they gave birth.
11. In 1983 Mike Stewart, President of the Auto Convoy Company, Dallas, Texas, was standing on the back of a flat bed truck as it passed under a low level bridge, killing him instantly. At the time he was presenting a piece to camera for a TV item about the dangers of low level bridges.
12. The body mass attained by Japanese Sumo wrestlers - average weight around 320lbs - renders many incapable of wiping their own backsides, a task novice wrestlers are expected to perform for them. Six out of every ten novices run away from their workplace in the first year of apprenticeship.

10 ELECTION FIXES



1. 1868: Thaddeus Stevens, a popular Republican congressional candidate from Pennsylvania, dies aged 76. His party nominate him as a candidate for the House of Representatives anyway as a belated tribute to 'our most able and distinguished champion of justice'. The corpse is duly elected with a large majority over its Democrat rival eight weeks later.
2. 1928: the incumbent President of Liberia, Charles King, enjoys a landslide electoral victory, beating his rival Thomas Faulkner by 600,000 votes. The size of the victory is a surprise, as Liberia has only 15,000 registered voters.
3. 1955: South Vietnam is asked to choose between their former Emperor Bo Dai and Ngo Dinh Diem, who is backed by the US as the best man to keep South Vietnam from falling under the control of communism, contrary to the advice of France who point out that Diem was "not only incapable but mad". When the voters arrive at the polling station they are handed two ballot papers, red for Diem and green for Bo Dai; by Vietnamese tradition, red signified good luck, green indicated bad fortune. Diem's supporters were also at hand to advise voters to put the red papers in the ballot box and to throw the green ones into the wastebasket; the few who did not take their advice were savagely beaten. Six Buddhist monks, demonstrating against Diem's corrupt rule, commit suicide in public by pouring petrol over their heads and setting fire to themselves. Unmoved, Diem offered to supply all of his country's Buddhist monks with free petrol.
4. 1961: Haiti's President 'Papa Doc' Duvalier takes his countrymen to the polls but they found pre-printed at the top of each ballot sheet the words 'Docteur François Duvalier, President.' When the votes are counted it is announced that Papa Doc has been unanimously re-elected on the basis that his name appeared on every ballot paper. A few years later he uses a similar tactic to prolong his stay in office ad infinitum: when Haitian voters were asked, "do you want your President elected for life",

the answer was a convenient and resounding “yes”: there was no room on the ballot sheet to print a “no” box.

5. 1975: Philadelphian Frank O'Donnell is elected to serve on the city council despite dying of a heart attack a week before election day. A spokesman explains “it seemed appropriate to remove his name from the ballot but there just wasn't enough time”.
6. 1981: Saddam Hussein's war with Iran is going badly and with morale low, he calls a meeting of his cabinet ministers and offers his resignation. Most take the hint and vote that he stay on. His health minister alone takes him up on the offer and votes for Saddam to step down. Saddam takes him into the next room, shoots him in the head and sends the man's butchered remains home to his wife in a shopping bag.
7. 1982: Texan Democrat John Wilson is elected to the Senate with 66 per cent of the vote. Senator Wilson has been dead for two months but his name could not be removed from the ballot sheet for ‘technical reasons’.
8. 1990: Frank Ogden III enjoys a surprise landslide local election victory in Oklahoma over Josh Evans. The loser, Evans, is disconsolate, convinced his campaign slogan of being an “able lawyer and a living person” would give him the edge over Ogden, who had died three months before polling day.
9. 1991: Texan state legislator Larry Evans is discovered dead in his Austin apartment. His demise causes some confusion when it emerges that although he has been deceased for a week, according to House records, he voted on at least one measure that very day.
10. 1996: the former mayor of the cult-dominated US town of Rajneeshpuram, Oregon, confesses to organising several deterrents to keep the non-cult townspeople away from the ballot box during local elections. His methods include making them ill by tampering with the food at a local restaurant and by coating courthouse door-knobs with a chemical irritant as election day approached.

10 HEROIC PR CAMPAIGNS



1. In 1994 the world's media descended on Gloucester, England following the discovery of bodies in a 'garden of death' belonging to Britain's then-biggest serial killers, Frederick and Rosemary West. Gloucester city fathers, upset by the negative publicity generated by the murders, decide to launch an advertising campaign to improve Gloucester's image. The Touchpaper agency emerge with the winning slogan; "Gloucester - easy to get to, hard to leave."
2. The slogan used by US brewers Coors, "Turn it Loose," translated into Spanish as "Suffer From Diarrhoea."
3. The Ramses brand of condom in the US is named after the great pharoah Ramses II, a man who fathered over 160 children. In the late 19th century British condoms were illustrated with a portrait of Queen Victoria: she was a mother of nine.
4. Chicken magnate Frank Perdue's ad campaign was based around the slogan "It takes a tough man to make a tender chicken,". The Spanish translation came out as "It takes a sexually stimulated man to make a chicken affectionate".
5. When the President of Haiti 'Papa Doc' Duvalier discovered that tourism in his country was down by 70%, he found himself torn between his country's need for revenue and his natural and deep mistrust of foreigners. Papa Doc hit upon a compromise. He launched a publicity drive to tempt the visitors back, then had the corpse of a dissident flown into the capital Port-au-Prince where it was left to rot in public. It was strategically placed by an exit from the airport next to a sign, 'Welcome to Haiti'.
6. Israel's notoriously reckless drivers kill on average about 500 people a year. In 1994 a Tel Aviv advertising agency erected posters around the city chastising Israeli drivers

with the message: “Research proves: Drivers who get rowdy on the road have small penises.”

7. In 1994 Holland’s National Liver and Intestine Foundation, which supports research on digestive problems, launched a publicity campaign encouraging people to break wind fifteen times a day to ease intestinal discomfort.
8. When the US baby food manufacturer Gerber first started selling their products in Africa they used the same packaging that had been so successful at home, featuring a baby on the label. Gerber were perplexed when they failed to get anywhere near their projected sales figures, until someone pointed to them that it is common practice in Africa to put pictures of the contents on food package labels.
9. Coca Cola first launched their product in China in the 1920’s, unaware that their famous brand name translated literally as ‘bite the wax tadpole’. It was hurriedly changed to something which translated roughly as ‘happiness in the mouth’. When Pepsi Cola was first launched in China in the 1970’s the company’s marketing men opted to play safe with their award winning slogan “Come alive with Pepsi.” Predictably however it did not translate quite as intended, thus the product was introduced to a quarter of the world’s population with the line, “Pepsi brings your ancestors back from the grave”.
10. A men’s underwear advertisement on billboards in Tel Aviv featured a photo of the late Israeli prime minister Golda Meir with the slogan “eventually we remember those who had balls.”

TOP DOGS: THE WORLD'S 10 WEALTHIEST PETS



1. Gunther IV, German shepherd dog - \$328 million: German countess Karlotta Libenstein left \$109m to her dog Gunther III when she died in 1992, but clever trustees invested well and tripled the fortune for Gunther III's pup.
2. Kalu, chimpanzee - \$96million: owner Patricia O'Neill made a monkey of her husband, Australian swimmer Frank, by changing her will while he was away at the 2000 Sydney Olympics.
3. Toby Rimes, poodle: \$82million: a descendant of the original Toby, who inherited \$27million from New York eccentric Ella Wendel in 1931
4. Gigoo, hen - \$18 million: nest egg left by publisher Miles Blackwell after wife Briony pre-deceased him by a few weeks in 1999.
- 5, 6 & 7. Frankie, chihuahua, and Ani and Pepe Le Pew, cats - \$5.5million each: the three pampered pets live in an \$18million San Diego mansion while their carer, Lerissa Patrick, lives in a small adjoining flat.
- 8, 9. Hellcat and Brownie, cats - \$3.6million each: kittens of the original minted moggies Hellcat and Brownie, who inherited \$750,000 from San Diego owner Dr William Grier.
10. Moose, Jack Russell terrier - \$3.3million: better known as Eddie in US comedy Frasier where he pocketed \$11,000 an episode.

10 FRANCOPHOBES



1. “You must consider every man your enemy who speaks ill of your king; and you must hate a Frenchman as you hate the devil”
- Lord Horatio Nelson
2. GUILLOTINE, n. A machine which makes a Frenchman shrug his shoulders with good reason.
-Ambrose Bierce, Devil’s Dictionary
3. “The French; utter cowards who force their own children to drink wine, they gibber like baboons even when you try to speak to them in their own wimpy language ... racial characteristics; sawed-off cissies who eat snails and slugs and cheese that smell like people’s feet.”
- P. J. O’Rourke, National Lampoon 1976
4. “I remember being much amused last year, when landing at Calais, at the answer made by an old traveller to a novice who was making his first voyage. ‘What a dreadful smell’ said the uninitiated stranger, enveloping his nose in his pocket handkerchief. ‘It is the smell of the continent, sir, replied the man of experience. And so it was.’”
- Mrs Frances Trollope
5. “France is a dog-hole, and it no more merits the tread of a man's foot.”
- William Shakespeare (All’s Well That Ends Well).
6. “France is a country where the money falls apart in your hands and you can't tear the toilet paper.”
- Billy Wilder

7. "There's always something fishy about the French!
Whether Prince or Politician
We've a sinister suspicion
That behind their savoir-faire
They share
A common contempt
For every mother's son of us."
- Noel Coward, from *Conversation Piece*
8. "Having to go to war without France is sort of like having to go deer hunting without an accordion."
- Ross Perot
9. "There is no hell. There is only France."
- Frank Zappa
10. "Cheese-eating surrender monkeys"
- Bart Simpson

10 ROYAL SOBRIQUETS



1. Constantine the Copronymous, Byzantine Emperor; so named because at his christening in 718 the baby Constantine defecated in the baptismal font.
2. Loius the Stammerer, 9th century King of France.
3. Pepin the Hunchback. 9th century Frankish Prince.
4. Alfonso the Fat, 13th century King of Portugal.
5. Pedro the Cruel, 14th century King of Castile.
6. Stephen the Fop, 14th century Bavarian Duke.
7. Queen Juana the Mad, 16th century Castile.
8. Otto the Idle, 12th century Germanic king.
9. Henry the Impotent, 15th century King of Castile
10. Selim the Grim, 16th century Sultan of Turkey; so-called after his penchant for wholesale slaughter of sibling rivals to the throne.

10 RULES OF ETIQUETTE



1. According to British royal etiquette, men suffering from ringworm are not obliged to remove their hats in the presence of the monarch.
2. It is traditional for Russian cosmonauts to urinate on a tire of the bus that takes them to the launch pad, a custom initiated by Yuri Gagarin.
3. In Nepal, Narikot wives are obliged to wash their husband's feet then drink the dirty water as a token of their devotion.
4. The typical greeting of Masai tribesmen is to spit at each other.
5. In 16th century Europe it was customary for men to greet female guests by fondling their breasts, provided they were related.
6. The 16th century Danish astronomer Tycho Brahe died after attending a banquet hosted by a baron in Prague. Brahe drank heavily, but etiquette prevented him from leaving the table to relieve himself before the host left. His bladder burst and he died of a urinary infection eleven days later.
7. 19th century sailors in the British Royal Navy were forbidden to eat with forks because they were considered unmanly.
8. Fijian cannibals usually ate with their hands, but as a token of respect for the dead used a ritual wooden fork when consuming people.
9. In accordance with the ancient Indian laws of Manu, any citizen who broke wind in front of the monarch was liable to have his anus amputated.

10. The African dictator Idi Amin dispensed advice on protocol to his fellow world leaders, from President Richard Nixon to Mao Zedong. He once reminded the Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir to pack her knickers.

10 EPIC COMPENSATION CLAIMS



1. \$1 billion: the amount claimed in 1998 by Cairo lawyer Mustafa Raslan in Damanhur, Egypt, against President Clinton. Raslan alleged that Clinton's widely reported sexual peccadillos made it impossible for him to raise his own children with good moral standards.
2. \$9 million: paid by the New York Transport Authority in 1990 to a restaurant worker who fell in front of a train while drunk and lost an arm.
3. \$6.6 million: claimed in 1997 by a Californian, suing the owners of a house he had rented after he hurt himself diving into their swimming pool. They failed to warn him that it also had a shallow end.
4. \$3.6 million: claimed by Ursula Beckley of Long Island, US, in damages against a local supermarket in 1989 after the three-egg omelette she was making suddenly yielded an unexpected protein bonus in the form of a healthy, six-inch black snake. Her lawyers said that she had been so deeply traumatised that it was unlikely that she would be able to look at another egg ever again.
5. \$2.52 million: awarded to a convenience store worker in West Virginia in 1995 after she suffered emotional distress, having hurt her back while opening a pickle jar.
6. \$2 million: awarded to a convicted bankrobber on parole in Oakland, California, in 1987, when the wad of money he had recently stolen from the Savings and Loan Company exploded in his pocket, releasing tear gas and dye resulting in burns which required hospital treatment.
7. \$1 million; awarded against Robert Nelson, president of a US company which offered a cryogenics service, preserving in capsules of liquid nitrogen the bodies of

people prepared to pay out large sums of money in the hope that one day science will find a cure for death. In 1981 Nelson and an employee Joseph Klockgether were successfully sued for damages by relatives of their clients after admitting that they had allowed their freeze-dried loved ones to thaw out.

8. \$1 million: the amount claimed against Disneyland, California in 1997 by a woman who complained that her grandchildren were traumatised by seeing Mickey Mouse climb out of his costume.
9. \$100,000: received in damages in 1998 by Englishman Charles Cornell, in the High Court, London. The plaintiff's insurance businesses failed following his car accident. In the crash, Carnell received head injuries that his doctors testified left him with a gentler, more amiable personality that was unsuited for the insurance business.
10. \$50,000: received in a 1995 out-of-court settlement by a New Hampshire teenager, from the manufacturers of a basketball net. The complainant lost his two front teeth when they became entangled in the net while he was performing a 'slam dunk'.

10 UNLIKELY ORIGINS



1. 1560: Jean Nicot, a French ambassador in Portugal, gives his name to the remarkable new wonder drug nicotine, an antiseptic and universal cure-all which will put an end to ulcers, bites, headaches, colds and rheumatism. A distinguished English doctor hails Monsieur Nicot's discovery as "one of the best and surest remedies in the world" for apoplexy and giddiness.
2. 1585: Sir Walter Raleigh returns home with tobacco and potatoes from the New World. It was generally agreed that potatoes are a potential health hazard leading to scrofula, consumption, flatulence and unnatural carnal lust.
3. 1859: Vaseline is invented in Brooklyn, New York by a young English-born chemist Robert Chesebrough. Ideal for removing stains from furniture, polishing wood surfaces, restoring leather and preventing rust, it was also useful for dressing cuts and bruises. Chesebrough also recommended eating a spoonful every day for good health: he ate a spoonful every morning and died aged 96.
4. 1860: digestive biscuits are made as an aid to control flatulence
5. 1876: tomato ketchup is marketed in the US as a patent medicine.
6. 1880: Opium is recommended as a cure for cholera, dysentery, toothache, flatulence, the menopause and mental illness and is the basis for several patent baby-soothing remedies.
7. 1886: John Pemberton, an Atlanta pharmacist, stumbles across the original recipe for Coca Cola. At the time he was working on series of failed patent medicines and hair restorers, including Triplex Liver Pills, Indian Queen Hair Dye and Globe of Flower Cough Syrup.

8. 1894: Dr. Harvey Kellogg creates his first breakfast cereal product as an antidote to masturbation.
9. 1898: Bayer, the company famous for manufacturing aspirin, launch Heroin, the brand name for their new patent cough medicine. The new wonder drug, made from synthesised morphine, is also used to 'cure' morphine addiction, to send babies with colic to sleep and as a general pain-killer and was the subject of an intense advertising campaign at the turn of the century. Within twenty years New York has fewer hacking coughs, but an estimated 300,000 heroin addicts.
10. 1910: Salvarsan, the first ever effective treatment for syphilis, is invented by the admirably persistent Paul Ehrlich. Popularly known as "Treatment 606", it was Ehrlich's 606th attempt to find a cure.

10 ZEALOUS OFFICIALS



1. When the city of Kirtipor in Ceylon fell to the King of Ghorka in 1770, the victor ordered an accurate census of the population. His officials obliged by amputating, then counting, the noses of the entire population.
2. In 1994 the regulatory authority for funeral parlours in Massachussetts suspended the licence of undertaker Robert Miller for two years. They were acting upon complaints that he had dug up the remains of two cremated bodies because relatives of the deceased failed to pay their funeral bills promptly.
3. In 1994 in Riga, Latvia, five local bus inspectors company beat a 33-year-old man to death for failing to produce a valid bus ticket.
4. In 1994 Los Angeles city officials ordered a strip club owner to remove his stage upon which nude dancers performed. The authorities ruled that the stage was not wheelchair-accessible for disabled nude dancers, although they admitted that no such dancers had yet come forward.
5. In preparation for the first death-row hanging in 50 years for convicted murderer William Bailey in 1996, officials at the Delaware Correctional Centre fixed non-skid safety strips to each of the 23 steps leading to their outdoor gallows.
6. In 1994 the Philadelphian state Weights and Measures officials served notice of a violation on topless dancer Crystal Storm. They had ascertained that Miss Storm's bust measurement was only 50 inches, not her advertised measurement of '127', which Miss Storm later claimed was in centimetres.
7. In 1992 the South Carolina Social Services Department sent a letter to a recently deceased man, informing him: "Your food stamps will be stopped effective March

1992 because we received notice that you passed away. May God bless you. You may re-apply if there is a change in your circumstances.”

8. In 1996 an American coroner complained that ambulance drivers were delivering obviously dead people to hospital so they could bill the county for the fare. Supporting his claim, he cited a recent shotgun suicide victim who was rushed to hospital even though the blast was so effective that it blew both eyeballs out of their sockets.
9. In the 19th century, Indian tax collectors persuaded defaulters to pay up by forcing them to drink buffalo milk laced with salt until the victim was half-dead with diarrhoea.
10. In 1988 Cynthia Hess, who worked under her stage name ‘Chesty Love’ in the US state of Indiana, claimed a \$2,088 tax deduction against depreciation on surgical breast implants, weighing about 10lbs each, boosting her bust to size 56FF. Tax officials allowed her claim: Ms Hess’s breasts, they agreed, were so unfeasibly large that she couldn’t possibly derive any personal benefit from them and were therefore wholly for business use only.

CHAPTER NINE

END NOTES



TO DIE FOR: 10 LAST SUPPERS



1. Buddha: died at the age of 80 in 483 BC from an intestinal haemorrhage after eating a very hot curry.
2. King John: fell dead after gorging on peaches and cider, one year after signing Magna Carta
3. Robert Greene, 16th century English dramatist; expires after consuming too much Rhenish wine and pickled herring at an authors gala luncheon.
4. Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow: enjoyed bacon and tomato sandwiches, in their car, before dying of multiple gunshot wounds.
5. Adolf Hitler: vegetarian ravioli, washed down with arsenic.
6. James Dean: crashed on a glass of milk and an apple
7. Ernest Hemingway: cleaned his palate by applying a shotgun to his head after dining on New York strip steak, baked potato, Caesar salad and Bordeaux wine.
8. Jimi Hendrix: choked to death after enjoying a tuna fish sandwich
9. Diana, Princess of Wales: asparagus and mushroom omelet, Dover sole with vegetable tempura and champagne.
10. *First Course:* Hors D'Oeuvres / Oysters. *Second Course:* Consommé Olga / Cream of Barley. *Third Course:* Poached Salmon with Mousseline Sauce, Cucumbers. *Fourth Course:* Filet Mignons Lili / Saute of Chicken, Lyonnaise / Vegetable Marrow Farci.

Fifth Course: Lamb, Mint Sauce / Roast Duckling, Apple Sauce / Sirloin of Beef,
Chateau Potatoes, Green Peas, Creamed Carrots, Boiled Rice, Parmentier & Boiled
New Potatoes. *Sixth Course:* Punch Romaine. *Seventh Course:* Roast Squab & Cress.
Eighth Course: Cold Asparagus Vinaigrette. *Ninth Course:* Pate de Foie Gras / Celery.
Tenth Course: Waldorf Pudding / Peaches in Chartreuse Jelly / Chocolate & Vanilla
Eclairs / French Ice Cream

- First class menu, R.M.S. Titanic, April 14, 1912

10 DEATHS WITHOUT DIGNITY



1. 456BC. Aeschylus, the father of Greek tragedy, dies when an eagle drops a tortoise on his head.
2. 1649: Sir Arthur Aston (c1590 -1649), Royalist commander during the English Civil War, is beaten to death with his own wooden leg by Cromwell's men during the siege of Drogheda.
3. 1687: Jean-Baptiste Lully, French composer, accidentally stabs himself in the foot with his baton and dies of gangrene.
4. 1737: Queen Caroline, wife of King George II, shows remarkable composure when at the receiving end of a badly bungled attempt to cure her neglected strangulated hernia, but as she lies in bed surrounded by courtiers, her bowels burst, showering a torrent of excrement over the bed and the floor. Upon her death soon afterwards, the poet Alexander Pope is moved to write:

'Here lies wrapt in forty thousand towels
The only proof that Caroline had bowels.'
5. 1845: US President Andrew Jackson's pet parrot, Poll, is removed from his funeral when it swears repeatedly.
6. 1927: Isadora Duncan, American dancer, having just taken delivery of her brand new Bugatti racing car steps into it for the first time, waves gaily to her friends and speeds away. As she does so her long red scarf becomes entangled in the spokes of her rear nearside wheel, snapping her neck, killing her instantly.
7. 1975: Claude François, 'the French Elvis Presley' and co-writer of one of most successful songs of all time, My Way, dies attempting to change a lightbulb while stand-

ing in a water-filled bath, aged 39.

8. 1984: Jim Fixx, author of the best selling Complete Book of Running which began the jogging craze of the 1970s, dies of a massive coronary while out jogging.
9. 1995: an Italian stripper, Gina Lalapola, is found dead inside a cake she was supposed to leap out of at a bachelor party in Cosenza. She had lain suffocated inside the sealed wooden cake for more than an hour before her death was discovered.
10. 1998: the family of the late Russell U. Shell file a wrongful-death lawsuit against The Other Side nightclub in Fitchburg, Massachussetts, after he chokes to death on a miniature plastic penis in his cocktail.

12 CELEBRITY BODY PARTS



1. Santa Anna's leg: the hero of the Alamo had a leg torn off in a skirmish with the French, but recovered it and when he eventually became president of Mexico, gave the limb a full state funeral. At public events he rode on horseback, waving his new cork leg over his head as a symbol of his sacrifices for his country. In 1847, facing the United States at the Battle of Cerro Gordo in Mexico, Santa Anna was enjoying a quiet roast chicken lunch when his appetite was ruined by an uninvited regiment of Illinoisans, who stole the cork prosthetic. Santa Anna hobbled away to fight another day but the iconic limb remained in American hands, despite many requests from the Mexican government to return it. In the 1850s army veterans charged a nickel or a dime for curiosity-seekers to handle the leg in hotel bars. Santa Anna's trophy of war now resides in the Guard's museum, Camp Lincoln in Springfield.
2. Albert Einstein's eyes: although officially was cremated and his ashes scattered in the Delaware river, Einstein's death led to an unseemly scramble for his body parts. Removed by his ophthalmologist Dr. Henry Abrams during the autopsy in 1955 the peepers were stored in a safety deposit box in a New Jersey bank.
3. Napoleon Bonaparte's penis: removed at autopsy by a team of French and Belgian doctors has been put up for auction twice, first in 1972 at Christie's in London when the member was observed to be approximately one inch long and listed as "a small dried-up object". It failed to measure up to the reserve price and was withdrawn, but was bought five years later by an American urologist for \$3,800.
4. Adolf Hitler's teeth: discovered by Soviet soldiers in a shallow grave outside his Berlin bunker in 1945 and used to positively identify his charred remains. They have remained locked away in an archive in Moscow ever since.
5. Elvis Presley's wart: the ultimate in Elvis memorabilia, removed from his right wrist

in 1958 and currently owned by Joni Mabe of Athens, Georgia.

6. Joseph Haydn's head: the great composer was buried headless when two of his best friends bribed the gravedigger to let them have it as a keepsake. For nearly 60 years it was stored in a cupboard in the Museum of the Vienna Academy of Music.
7. Sir Walter Raleigh's head: after his execution in 1618 it became a Raleigh family heirloom. His widow Elizabeth kept it for 29 years before willing it to their son Carew, who looked after it until 1666. when it went with him to his grave.
8. King Charles XI of Sweden's skull: now on permanent public display in Stockholm complete with the large hole bullet hole which made the exhibition possible in 1718.
9. Bob Marley's hair: in May 2003 a 10in lock of hair from the reggae legend sold at auction for £2,585. It was sold by a fan who had asked the singer for a souvenir dreadlock backstage in 1980.
10. King Charles I's fourth cervical vertebra: novelist Sir Walter Scott broke the ice at parties by introducing dinner guests to his novelty salt cellar, made from a relic stolen by a surgeon during an autopsy on the royal corpse when Charles's long lost coffin was rediscovered at Windsor Castle in 1813. Scott kept it on his dining table for 30 years until Queen Victoria got it hear about it. She was quite unamused and ordered that it be returned to St. George's chapel.
11. Charles Babbage's brain: the 19th century mathematician known as the 'Father of Computing' died in 1871, mostly forgotten and unloved, his ground-breaking work on computers gathering dust in the Museum of King's College. In 1908, after being preserved for 37 years in alcohol, Babbage's brain was dissected by Sir Victor Horsley of the Royal Society. Horsley was obliged to remind his colleagues that Charles Babbage had once been a "very profound thinker".
12. Cancerous tissue from the jaw of US President Grover Cleveland: this resides in the

Mutter Museum of Philadelphia, which specialises in bizarre medical curiosities, in the company of the B.C. Hirot Pelvis Collection, the Sappey Collection of mercury-filled lymphaticus, the Chevalier Johnson collection of foreign bodies removed from lungs, and the joined liver of Chang and Eng, the original Siamese Twins.

10 GREAT GRAVE ROBBERIES



1. Benito Mussolini's body was stolen from its supposedly secret, unmarked grave in a municipal cemetery by Fascists intent on a publicity stunt and nostalgic for his regime. A message left in the grave read: "Finally, O Duce, you are with us. We will cover you with roses, but the smell of your virtue will overpower those roses". Four months later what remained of Il Duce was found in a small trunk just outside Milan and two Franciscan monks were charged with hiding his body. In the intervening months the corpse had been kept on the move, variously hidden in a villa, a monastery and a convent. Il Duce was buried a second time in an undisclosed location, only to be dug up yet again eleven years later and returned to his widow Rachele, who buried him again in Predappio in 1957.
2. The tomb of King Richard I at Westminster Abbey once had a hole in it, through which visitors could actually touch his skull. In 1776 a schoolboy stole the king's jawbone; it was kept as a family heirloom until it was finally returned to the Abbey in 1906.
3. When King Henry VIII was interred in the royal vault at Windsor, a workman removed one of his finger-bones and used it to make a knife handle.
4. Oliver Cromwell's skull has changed hands many times since the Lord Protector lost exclusive use of it in 1658. After the restoration of the monarchy Cromwell's corpse was exhumed from Westminster Abbey and hanged at Tyburn. He was then taken down from the scaffold, decapitated and his body was thrown into a pit beneath the gallows, the head set on a spike above Westminster Hall. The head remained there for 43 years until it was dislodged in a violent storm and was found lying on the floor by a sentry. He took it home and kept it hidden in his chimney and on his death left it to his daughter. In 1710 the head re-appeared, this time in a freak show. By 1775 it had been sold to an actor named Russell, who in turn sold it in 1787 to James Fox, an antique dealer. Fox sold it for £230 to three men who put it on display in Old

Bond Street, London, and charged half a crown per viewing. By 1865 it had passed into the possession of a Mr. Williamson of Beckenham. His family donated it to Sydney Sussex College in the 1960's. At one time there were even two authentic Cromwell skulls on sale in London simultaneously. The owner of the second, smaller skull explained that his version was obviously that of Cromwell when he was a boy.

5. Galileo's corpse was moved to its final resting place in a mausoleum in Santa Croce, Florence, in 1737. As it was being transferred the antiquary Anton Francesco Gori stole the middle finger of his right hand. The digit is now displayed in the Museum of the History of Science in Florence in a glass egg on top of a plinth inscribed by Tommaso Perelli, Professor of Astronomy at the University of Pisa. The inscription states that the digit "nunquam visos mortalibus orbes / Monstravit" ("pointed out bodies never seen by mortals before").
6. In 1790 the remains of the poet John Milton were raided by souvenir hunters at St. Giles Cripplegate. A woman gravedigger Elizabeth Grant was later found to be charging visitors sixpence a time for a viewing of Milton's teeth and part of his leg.
7. In 1876 an American gang were apprehended while attempting to steal the remains of Abraham Lincoln. They were going to hold it for ransom in return for the release of a convicted forger, Ben Boyd. To deter any more raids, Lincoln's coffin was embedded in steel and concrete.
8. In 1895 General Kitchener was sent to avenge the death of Britain's Sudanese war hero General 'Chinese' Gordon, killed at Khartoum by the Mahdi's troops. As the Mahdi was already dead however Kitchener had to content himself with gratuitous desecration by blowing up the Mahdi's tomb at Omdurman and throwing his bones into the River Nile. Kitchener also planned to keep the Mahdi's skull as an inkwell; Queen Victoria got to hear about Kitchener's trophy and ordered him to return it immediately.
9. The hands of the Argentinian President General Juan Peron were amputated in 1987 and were subject to a £5 million ransom demand. Fortunately Peron had no further

use for them as he had already been dead for 13 years.

10. In March 1978 the body of Charlie Chaplin was stolen from its grave in Vevey, Switzerland and held for a 600,000 franc ransom by a Pole, Roman Wardas and a Bulgarian Gantcho Ganev. The bodysnatchers were finally arrested and Chaplin's remains were retrieved from a cornfield a few miles away. They said they needed the money to start a garage business.

10 FAILED SUICIDES



1. 63BC: King Mithradates VI who rules in Asia Minor deliberately takes small doses of poison in the hope that he will build up enough resistance to survive a possible assassination by poisoning. He finally gets an opportunity to see if his regime had worked when, in an attempt to take his own life rather than fall into the hands of invading Romans he tries to poison himself. His body was so full of toxins however that the poison had no effect at all and the King had to order a slave to finish him off with his sword: hence the term 'mithridate', meaning antidote.
2. 1744: Robert, Lord Clive 'of India' (1725-1774) twice fails to shoot himself. After the second attempt he declares, "it appears I am destined for something. I will live."
3. 1826: while in the care of his guardian uncle Ludwig, the depressed Karl van Beethoven pulls out a gun and fires two shots at his own head. One shot misses completely, the other grazes his temple.
4. 1848: Edgar Allan Poe attempts suicide by taking an ounce of opium which is rejected by his stomach.
5. 1854: Robert Schumann leaves a house full of visitors in his nightgown and throws himself into the River Rhine. His wife Clara places him in an insane asylum.
6. 1877: two weeks after his wedding, Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky stands in the River Neva up to his armpits hoping to catch a fatal bout of pneumonia. but is rescued by his brother, who takes him home suffering from a slight chill.
7. 1878: Joseph Conrad, plagued by financial problems, tries to shoot himself in the chest but misses all vital organs.

8. 1898: Paul Gauguin, plagued by syphilis and living in poverty, attempts suicide after completing his painting *We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going?* by taking arsenic, but swallows too much and immediately vomits the lot back up.
9. 1932: while living at the Algonquin Hotel, Dorothy Parker, distraught over the breakup with her young boyfriend and suffering from writer's block, attempts suicide by swallowing barbiturates.
10. 1982: Salvador Dali, distraught at the loss of his wife Gala, attempts suicide by deliberately dehydrating himself; he fails, although it does help speed up his subsequent cremation.

10 INSTANT DISMISSALS



1. The 15th century German Emperor Wenceslas had his cook roasted on a spit when his normally exemplary meals fell below standard. On another occasion Wenceslas was out hunting when he came across a passing monk and shot him dead: the Emperor explained that monks had better things to do than wander about in woods.
2. Henry VIII invented a new method of execution for Richard Rosse, cook to the Bishop of Rochester, who had poisoned the soup at a formal banquet and killed 17 people over dinner. The king had him boiled to death in one of his own stockpots.
3. King Gustavus 1 of Sweden hacked to death his royal goldsmith because he took a day off without permission.
4. King George II suffered dreadfully from piles and an anal fistula but was very vain and notoriously touchy about his ailments, which were supposed to be a secret from everyone. When one of his Lords of the Bedchamber tactlessly enquired after the king's health, George sacked him on the spot.
5. In 1994, a 26-year old stripper, Lisa Evans, claimed unfair dismissal against the owners of a nightclub where she had worked in a nude peep show booth in Edmonton, Alberta. Management said customers had complained that the 19 stone 4lbs stripper was difficult to fantasise over.
6. In 1996 a Madras train announcer Rajiv Kamir was fired for breaking wind over PS system to the opening of Beethoven's Fifth. A railway spokesman noted, "it was a disgusting deviation from the timetable".
7. In 1996 the county coroner in Tacoma, Washington was removed from his post fol-

lowing complaints that he had encouraged his employees to make sexually explicit jokes about corpses and that he allowed them to circulate photographs of the private parts of deceased prominent local personages.

8. In 1994 the U.S. neurosurgeon Dr. Raymond Sattle was removed from his post after he left a patient alone on the operating table with his brain exposed for half an hour while he went out for his lunch break in the middle of aneurysm surgery. The North Carolina Board of Medical Examiners heard that Dr. Sattle also frequently forgot the names of his surgical equipment during operations, allowed an untrained nurse to drill holes in a patient's head and had intravenous fluids pumped into his own veins while he was operating to help him stay on his feet.
9. 41-year old Milton Ross was fired from his desk job in St. Joseph, Montana in 1994 after a video camera recorded him urinating into the office coffee pot. The video trap was set after his colleagues noted that their morning coffee seemed 'off'.
10. In 1993 Susan Franano, general manager of the Kansas City Symphony Orchestra, sacked oboist Ken Lawrence after he made a "facetious response" to a complaint about him. During a rehearsal for *Nutcracker*, Lawrence had passed gas in a loud manner, "creating an overpowering smell."

12 EX-HYPOCHONDRIACS



1. Aristides (117-180 AD): Greek orator and bed-ridden disciple of the healing god Asclepius. Died of natural causes aged 63.
2. Molière (1622-73): the “French Shakespeare” was the most famous hypochondriac in Paris. He took the lead role in his classic farce *The Imaginary Invalid* that of a man who complains of a million imaginary ills and about his astronomical medical bills; if he marries his daughter to a doctor, he reasons, he will have free medical care. In a final irony, Moliere became convulsed with a terrible coughing during the play's fourth performance and died three hours later.
3. Dr. Samuel Johnson (1709-84): often begged his wife to lock him in his room and shackle his legs, convinced he was going mad. Died of natural causes, aged 75.
4. James Boswell (1740-95): author of *The Life of Samuel Johnson* also wrote a series of seventy essays in *The London Magazine*, admitting he is a hypochondriac and that he intends his contributions to provide both himself and his fellow sufferers ways of “distracting” themselves from their morbid preoccupation. A heavy drinker and regular VD sufferer, he dies of a fever aged 55.
5. Queen Victoria (1819-1901): summoned her court physician up to six times a day. He was surprised to receive a telegram from the Queen while he was away on his honeymoon informing him; ‘the bowels are acting fully’. Died in her sleep aged 82.
6. Florence Nightingale (1820-1910): after her return home at the end of the Crimean war she took to her bed, where she more or less remained for the rest of her life. Died of natural causes aged 90.
7. Immanuel Kant (1724-1804): German philosopher who spent a lifetime on a strict

personal regimen (Diätetik) combating his "natural" hypochondriacal disposition. Dies after prolonged illness aged 80.

8. Robert Burns (1759-96): suffered ill health all his adult life. Died of bacterial endocarditis secondary to chronic rheumatic heart disease aged 37.
9. Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881): Victorian author and the Sage of Chelsea. A lifelong dyspepsia sufferer, he died aged 86.
10. Charles Darwin (1809-82): took to his bed for months at a time with an awe-inspiring list of ailments, including gastrointestinal pain, nausea, vomiting, sleeplessness, headaches and giddiness. Dies of heart disease aged 73.
11. Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809-92): Queen Victoria's favourite poet, succeeded Wordsworth as poet laureate in 1850. Plagued by imagined illness, Tennyson doesn't write a line of poetry for ten years but seeks a cure through hydropathy, a method of "treatment" where the patient is doused with cold water. Dies of natural causes aged 83.
12. Leo Tolstoy (1828-1910): Sexually active into his eighties, dies of a chill in the act of leaving his wife at the age of 83.

WHERE THERE'S A WILL: 10 LAST TESTAMENTS



1. The most generous last will and testaments of all were left by Ecuadoran Indian endo-cannibals - i.e. cannibals who eat and are eaten by members of their own family. Their wills gave express details of which body parts were to be eaten by which lucky relative. As soon as the will was read, the funeral became a banquet as the corpse was roasted, cut into pieces and consumed by grieving relatives. The head was generally kept until it was ripe with maggots, then the brains were eaten with spices.
2. William Shakespeare left his wife Anne Hathaway his “second-best bed”.
3. Ernest Digweed, a teacher from Portsmouth, England died in 1976, leaving his entire assets of £26,000 (about \$43,000) to Jesus Christ in the event of his Second Coming. If, by 2056, Christ has not appeared to claim his bequest, the whole amount will revert to the state.
4. One of the strangest act of philanthropy ever was the last will and testament of the London miser John Camden Neild who left his fortune of almost half a million pounds (about \$50million in today's value) to Queen Victoria, who was already one of the richest woman in the country. She kept every penny while continuing to harass the government for a bigger Civil List. Her relatively poverty-stricken uncle King Leopold of Belgium wrote to congratulate her on her windfall, “Such things only still happen in England”.
5. In 1862 Henry Budd left £200,000 in trust for his two sons on the condition that neither grow a moustache.
6. In 1975 the late Mrs. Martin van Butchell, the wife of a London dentist, repaid her husband for years of marital misery with a spiteful will which decreed that her for-

tune pass to a distant relative “the moment I am dead and buried”. The resourceful dentist however believed he had found a loophole in the will by simply keeping her body well above ground. Van Butchell persuaded a skilled embalmer to fit her out with a new pair of glass eyes and filled her veins with oil of turpentine and camphorated spirit of wine. She was then dressed, propped up in the drawing room and put on public display from 9am to 1pm, from Monday to Saturday. The rush to see the corpse was so great that van Butchell was forced to restrict viewings to private appointments only. He remarried

and, not surprisingly, his second wife Elizabeth took an instant dislike to the ex-Mrs. van Butchell and ordered her out of the house. Reluctantly the dentist gave the mummy to a museum. By about a century later, it had disintegrated into a “repulsive looking object”. It was only in 1941 - 166 years after her death - that she was finally laid to rest when the museum took a direct hit by a German incendiary bomb.

7. When the mistress of the 19th century French novelist Eugene Sue died, she willed him her skin with instructions that he should bind a book with it. He did.
8. The philosopher and reformer Jeremy Bentham thought that burying the dead was a wasteful business and suggested that everyone should be embalmed and preserved as their own commemorative bust or statue: he called them ‘auto-icons’. The possibilities, Bentham posited, were endless: portraits of ancestors could be replaced by actual heads,”many generations being deposited on a few shelves or in a modest sized cupboard.” When Bentham died he put his money where his mouth was by leaving instructions that his own body be dissected for the benefit of medical science, then embalmed, dressed in his own clothes, and placed in a glass case. His head however had to be replaced by a wax version because he had taken on an unfortunately grim expression during the embalming process. Bentham’s physician Dr. Southwood Smith kept the body until his own death in 1850, when it was presented to University College, London.
9. When D.H. Lawrence died, in accordance with his last wishes his lover Frieda had his ashes tipped into a concrete mixer and incorporated into her new mantelpiece.

10. In 1910 a Swede, Olav Olavson, in exchange for a lump sum, willed all rights to his body to the Karolinska Institute for medical research after his death. The following year Olavson had an unexpected and massive windfall and tried to buy himself back. The Institute refused to sell and went to court to verify their claim. The court upheld their claim; as Olav had since had two teeth pulled without seeking their permission, the Institute was also awarded damages.

10 ROYAL DEATHS



1. King Henry I of England; died from eating 'a surfeit of lampreys'.
2. King James II of Scotland; while inspecting one of his own cannons, it exploded and a piece of shrapnel sliced the top of his head off.
3. Emperor Menelik II of Ethiopia; convinced that he could cure illness by eating pages from the Bible, in 1913 had a stroke and died while attempting to eat the entire Book of Kings.
4. Charles VIII of France. Fatally cracked his head on a low wooden beam while entering a tennis court.
5. Frederick, the Prince of Wales, heir to George II: caught a slight chill and died suddenly a few weeks later aged forty four, his death was said to have been aggravated by an old cricketing injury
6. King Alexander I of Greece; died of blood poisoning after being bitten by his pet monkey.
7. Czar Peter III: while under house arrest following a palace coup was strangled, however according to the official announcement died from "an acute attack of colic during one of his frequent bouts of haemorrhoids"
8. Emperor Maximilian I of Mexico: shot by a local firing squad of Mexican revolutionaries. Maximilian begged his executioners to shoot him cleanly so that he could die with dignity but they were poor shots and their bullets blew most of his face off. Parts of his body were allegedly auctioned off to souvenir hunters.

9. Empress Elizabeth of Austria: stabbed to death in Geneva by an Italian anarchist, Luigi Lenchini. The killer later confessed that he had nothing at all against the Empress and had actually set out to kill King Umberto 1 of Italy (see below) but hadn't been able to afford the extra 50 lire he needed to travel to Rome.
10. King Alexander and Queen Draga of Serbia: overthrown by a Serbian army coup. Finding the king and queen hiding in a palace bedroom wardrobe, soldiers sprayed them with bullets, hacked them to pieces with swords, bashed their skulls in with rifle butts then tossed the corpses out of the window into the gardens below. A few of the queen's relatives who got in the way were also slaughtered for good measure.

IT'S YOUR FUNERAL: 10 REASONS WHY YOU MAY WISH YOU HAD DIED IN IGNORANCE



1. The five most reliable methods of diagnosing death are:
 - (a) pouring freezing water in your ear (should provoke an eye-movement in the living);
 - (b) poking something in your eye ("testing the corneal reflex");
 - (c) poking something down your throat ("testing the gag reflex");
 - (d) grinding knuckles into your sternum ("testing the pain reflex");
 - (e) squeezing your testicles (see (d)).If none of these techniques elicit a response, you are probably deceased.
2. A corpse left above ground in warm weather will be reduced to a skeleton in about nine days. The rate of decay varies, because fat people decompose more quickly than thin people: the extra flab retains body heat which speeds up the bacterial process which breaks down body tissue.
3. As your corpse dissolves, your skin colour may change from green, to purple, to black. Rigor mortis starts in your feet then travels upwards.
4. Embalmers use superglue to prevent your mouth from falling open. A coating of softened wax is also applied to both the upper and lower lip to prevent cracking and flaking.
5. The cremated remains of most adults will weigh between 2.5 - 8lbs. The difference is to do with your bone size, not your live weight.
6. To avoid any possibility of insects entering your body via your nose, your nostrils are

deep packed with cotton wool saturated with a liquid insecticide.

7. The putrefaction process releases gases which can make the body swell to two or three times its normal size in twelve to eighteen hours, and the pressure of accumulating methane can cause internal organs to be forced out of the lower orifices. Embalmers always check your abdominal and thoracic regions for any signs of distention or bloating caused by gaseous build up, then relieve pressure by opening an anal vent.
8. Fingernails and hair do not continue to grow after death. This myth arose from the illusion created by skin retracting around the hair and nails, which makes them stand up and stick out more prominently.
9. Until the 1950's, coffins were hardly ever made to measure. If your body didn't fit your coffin the undertaker would normally break your ankles and bend your feet back.
10. Because of the high water content of the average human adult, cremation is tricky even with modern day furnaces. Modern crematoria are equipped with electrically operated crushing machines designed to pulverise unburnt bones. In some third world countries however bodies are first wrapped in layers of animal fat to aid combustion. In India many families can't afford enough fuel to do the job properly, and half-burned bodies are often thrown into the river.

10 POST-MORTEM ADVENTURES



1. Mark Gruenwald, the Marvel Comics editor who helped create Captain America, requested that his ashes were to mixed with ink and printed into a comic book after his death. His remains were accordingly printed into a special edition poster of Squadron Supreme in 1996.
2. In 1999 the cremated remains of Star Trek creator Gene Roddenberry and LSD advocate Timothy Leary were launched into space on a Spanish research satellite.
3. Ed Headrick, the man who invented the Frisbee, requested that his ashes be cast into a series of limited edition discs.
4. Elizabeth, the wife of the poet and painter Dante Gabriel Rossetti, died in 1862, accidentally overdosing on the laudanum she was taking for neuralgia. Rossetti was grief stricken and as a token of his love had a pile of his unpublished manuscripts wrapped in her long, golden hair and buried with her in her coffin. Seven years later however he had a change of heart and decided he wanted them back. Up came Elizabeth, and the poems were dusted off and published to great critical acclaim.
5. The guillotine held a morbid fascination for the French medical profession, who marvelled at the speed of execution and speculated whether or not the brain would continue to function after decapitation. Some thought that the razor-sharp blade struck the victim so cleanly that they lost their heads before they knew anything about it, a theory fuelled by dozens of stories about victims who continued to protest after they had lost their heads. Eye witnesses recorded that when the head of Jean Paul Marat's assassin Charlotte Corday was help up and slapped by the executioner, it showed unmistakable signs of anger. French doctors were allowed carry out various experiments on severed heads, including pinching the cheeks, sticking things up the nostrils, holding lighted candles near to the eyeballs and even shouting the

victim's name very loudly in the ear of the severed head. In 1880 the murderer Menesclou had the blood of a living dog pumped into his head. It was recorded that the head responded with a look of "shocked amazement".

6. A 19th century German missionary Reverend Schwartz was revived by the sound of his favourite hymn being played at his funeral. Mourners were said to be 'surprised' when the prematurely buried priest from joining in the singing from within his coffin.
7. When Thomas Hardy died it was the author's wish that his final resting place should be his birthplace, Stinsford. The authorities however decreed that he was far too important for such a humble internment. A compromise was reached: it was decided that most of his remains should be sent to Westminster Abbey, but Hardy's heart could be buried at Stinsford. On the morning of the ceremony however his sister inadvertently left the open casket on the kitchen table and the contents were consumed by the Hardy family cat.
8. Lenin has been a poor conversationalist since 1924 but Russia's most loved embalmée has still managed to get through several dozen new suits. Under his blue acrylic tailored three-piece, the father of communism also wears a rubber wetsuit into which is poured the solution which keeps him from falling apart. Twice a week the parts that show - his hands and face - are painted with fresh embalming fluid and every 18 months the whole body is lifted out and given a thoroughly good soaking. Every four years a bit of Lenin is scraped off, placed under a microscope and examined for signs of deterioration. About 60% of his body is now made of wax, including his ears: the original pickling wasn't done properly and bits of him have gone 'off' since. He also sports a growth of fungus around his neck and the back of his head which definitely wasn't there when he led the Bolsheviks to power in 1917. When communism was still popular Lenin had to be refrigerated with equipment from a German fish freezing plant to stop his body parts melting from the body heat of visiting tourists.
9. Because of a fault in the embalming process, the body of Chairman Mao is apparent-

ly shrinking at a steady rate of about 5% a year. The official line given by the mausoleum director is that this is merely an optical illusion caused by the curious lighting effects in the hall which contains his corpse.

10. When Eva Peron, second wife of the former Argentinian President Juan Peron, died of cancer in 1952 at the age of thirty-three her embalmed body was confiscated by the Argentinian military who feared that it would become a rallying point for Peronists. For several years the corpse was moved from place to place and copies were made out of wax, vinyl and fibreglass to throw Eva's followers off the trail. Her kidnapper Colonel Moori Koenig was known to display the body to his friends and to handle it; Eva's sister later hinted at more sinister goings on, saying only, 'there are some things that should not be spoken of'. In 1971 however Juan and Eva were touchingly reunited, although by now her nose was broken, a fingertip and one of her ears were missing and her feet were mysteriously coated in tar. The corpse was ever-present in an open casket at the Peron family dinner table, alongside his new wife Isabel, who apparently liked to comb Eva's hair.

FALLEN BETWEEN STOOLS:

10 LAVATORIAL DEATHS



1. Roman Emperor Elagabalus (218 -222AD); hacked to death by the praetorian guard as he sat on the privy and his body thrown down a Roman sewer.
2. King Edmund II 'Ironside': in 1016 murdered by a Dane armed with a longsword, hiding in a cesspit beneath the wooden royal commode.
3. King Henry III of France; stabbed to death as he sat on the toilet by a Dominican friar Jacques Clément, egged on by the Pope who had excommunicated the French king, calling him "an assassin a heretic and an infidel".
4. Russian Empress Catherine 'the Great': died of heart failure while straining to overcome constipation.
5. King George II; according to his German valet de chambre, one evening a roar emanated from the palace privy which he judged to be "louder than the usual royal wind" and found the king slumped dead on the floor. George had fallen off the toilet, smashing his head on a cabinet as he fell.
6. Lupe Velez; in 1934 36-year old Hollywood screen actress known as the 'Mexican Spitfire' attempted suicide by overdosing on sleeping pills but miscalculated the required dosage and merely felt violently sick. As she made a dash for the bathroom she slipped on the tiled floor and was flung head first into her toilet bowl. Her maid found her the next day with her head jammed down the toilet bowl, drowned.
7. King Haakon VII of Norway; in 1957 slipped on soap in his marble bathroom and smashed his head on some taps, fatally fracturing his skull.

8. Judy Garland: on June 21 1969 found by he fifth husband, Mickey Devinko, sitting on her toilet. Official cause of death, accidental barbiturate poisoning.
9. Elvis Aaron Presley; the King died of heart failure on August 17 1977 while straining to overcome constipation on his Gracelands throne.
10. Michael Anderson Godwin: in March 1989, having spent years awaiting South Carolina's electric chair for murder before having his sentence reduced to life, while sitting on a metal toilet in his cell and attempting to fix his TV set, bit into a wire and was electrocuted.

NO NEARER MY GOD THAN THEE: 20 DEAD ATHEISTS



1. David Hulme, Scottish philosopher (1711-1776).
“When I hear a man is religious, I conclude that he is a rascal”.
2. Napoleon Bonaparte, French emperor (1769-1821).
“Religion is excellent stuff for keeping common people quiet.”
3. Thomas Jefferson, American president (1743-1826).
“Religions are all alike - founded upon fables and mythologies ... the day will come when the mystical generation of Jesus, by the Supreme Being as His father, in the womb of a virgin, will be classed with the fable of the generation of Minerva in the brain of Jupiter.”
4. Percy Bysshe Shelley, English poet (1792-1822).
“If God has spoken, why is the world not convinced?”
5. Karl Marx, German political philosopher (1818-1883).
“Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, and the soul of soulless conditions. It is the opium of the people.”
6. Oscar Wilde, Irish author (1854-1900).
“When I think of all the harm the Bible has done, I despair of ever writing anything to equal it.”
7. Mark Twain, American author (1835-1910).
“Faith is believing something you know ain’t true.” ... “It ain’t the parts of the Bible that I can’t understand that bother me, it is the parts that I do understand.” ... “If

there is a God, he is a malign thug.”

8. Thomas Hardy, English author (1840-1928).

“After two thousand years of mass, we’ve got as far as poison gas”

(Poem, Christmas 1924)

9. Friedrich Nietzsche, German philosopher (1844-1900).

“God is dead.”

10. Thomas Edison, American inventor (1847-1931)

“Religion is all bunk.”

11. Sigmund Freud, pioneer psychoanalyst (1856-1939).

“In the long run, nothing can withstand reason and experience, and the contradiction religion offers to both is palpable.”

12. George Bernard Shaw, Irish playwright (1856-1950).

“The fact that a believer is happier than a skeptic is no more to the point than the fact that a drunken man is happier than a sober one.”

13. Bertrand Russell, British philosopher (1872-1970).

“Religion is based . . . mainly on fear . . . fear of the mysterious, fear of defeat, fear of death. Fear is the parent of cruelty, and therefore it is no wonder if cruelty and religion have gone hand in hand.”

14. Albert Einstein, scientist (1879-1955).

“I do not believe in a personal God and I have never denied this but have expressed it clearly. If something is in me which can be called religious then it is the unbounded admiration for the structure of the world so far as our science can reveal it.”

15. Robert Burns, Scottish poet (1759-1796)

“Of all nonsense, religious nonsense is the most nonsensical.”

16. Victor Hugo, French author and dramatist (1802-1885)

“There is in every village a torch - the schoolmaster, and an extinguisher - the parson.

17. Ernest Hemingway, author (1899-1961)

“All thinking men are atheists”

18. W.C.Fields, actor (1880- 1946)

“Prayers never bring anything. They may bring solace to the sap, the bigot, the ignorant, the aboriginal, and the lazy, but to the enlightened it is the same as asking Santa Claus to bring you something for Xmas”.

19. Gene Roddenberry, Creator of Star Trek (1921-1991).

“Religion is nothing more than a substitute for a malfunctioning brain.”

20. Samuel Beckett, Irish-born writer (1906-1989)

“The bastard! He doesn't exist!”

(Endgame)

DYING OPTIMISTS: 10 LAST WORDS



1. "I think I could eat one of Bellamy's veal pies" - William Pitt the Younger, British Prime Minister, 1801
2. "Write . . . pencil . . . paper." - Heinrich Heine, poet, 1856
3. "It's nothing" - Franz Ferdinand, Austrian Archduke, 1914
4. "I'm getting better" D H Lawrence, author, 1930
5. "Get my swan costume ready." - Anna Pavlova, ballerina, 1931
6. "I think I'm going to make it." - Richard A. Loeb, playboy and convicted murderer, 1936
7. "I've never felt better." - Douglas Fairbanks, Sr., actor, 1939
8. "Die? I should say not, dear fellow. No Barrymore would allow such a conventional thing to happen to him." - John Barrymore, actor, 1942
9. "Go away. I'm all right" - H.G. Wells, author 1946
10. "Do you know where I can get any shit?" - Lenny Bruce, comedian, 1966

FURTHER READING



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