...nuts

Why the f*** do we swear?

ne history of earing, damnit

by Sean Ewington
The Ontarion

lived in a different world, Limp wouldn't have said, "Stick it up Yeah!" The Jerry Springer show be without reoccurring beeps and w Dice Clay would be known as me comedian. Alas, we live in a that bears with it, the art of ing.

roughout history, people have found essary to have swear words — taboo s that they aren't supposed use. ple mostly swear to express strong tions like anger, surprise, [and] ration," says Professor Alain Thomas e University of Guelph's Department anguages and Literatures.

the heat of anger, we seem to need xpress ourselves in an inappropriate just to show the world how pissed we are with it. People also swear to ck others, or because they can't come with anything original.

oday, if someone swears opropriately in a public situation, they ght lose some respect from those und them. According to Thomas, this uld have occurred to Prime Minister rre Trudeau when, "one day at the mmons, when he was particularly gry, Trudeau told an M.P. to 'fuck off.' hen asked to repeat what he had said, reduced that to 'fuddle duddle.'"

However, in the fourteenth century, earing in public could result in severe ysical punishment. During that time riod, swearing revolved around religion d taking the Lord's name in vain was a rious crime. Swearing was blasphemy, d people were punished for it.

"After a fine for a first offence, repeat fenders could be subjected to various rms of corporal punishment, iron collar, ocks, tongue or lip piercing, and often death at the stake, plus quartering of the body for good measure in extreme cases," says Thomas. It is perversely comforting to know that people have always been so foolhardy — punish a crime by death, and people do it anyway.

In addition to the discipline dealt out by local authorities, there was also the matter of fearing retribution from God. Priests told villagers that their swearing was the cause of the deaths that occurred in the village.

To avoid retribution, from God or otherwise, people created euphemisms like "gosh" and "darn."

"Euphemisms are used to soften the blow and to be on the safe side, just in case God is listening," says Thomas. Euphemisms are often nonsense words. Essentially, they exist only to replace real swear words. The solution euphemisms provide makes sense. However, it's unfortunate that they exist at all, because they replace words that were created only to be forbidden to use.

Once the church began to lose power during the last century, using God's name in vain didn't matter as much anymore. Over the course of the last century, we have moved towards using words related to the body and sex rather than religion as swear words. As society became more egalitarian, we became more free to express ourselves.

With its increased use in radio, television, movies, magazines, and the newspaper, certain swear words become more acceptable as they become more common. But once a swear word becomes cliché, it needs to be combined with something else surprising in order to retain its severity.

For example, combining a swear word with incest (mother-f-er) suddenly creates a delightful, new swear word. However, even with increased use, these words still retain some sense of taboo. "As long as there are doors on toilets, and as long as sex is essentially a private matter, there will be taboo words surrounding these things," says Thomas. Removing doors from toilets is likely some time away.



"Language in general reflects the evolution of society," says Thomas. If society becomes a place where there are no doors on toilets, and sex is no longer a private matter, swearing will be based on something else, something that is still taboo.

Who knows? Perhaps one day our society will be so advanced, that no one will ever get angry, and need to mindlessly discharge words that were created in hopes that they would never be used.

Interesting Tidbits on Four Letter Words:

*F****

(you figure it out)

Potentially an acronym for:

a) "fornication under consent of the king" – supposedly tacked on doors of government-approved brothels in early England

b) "for unlawful carnal knowledge" – supposedly stamped on condoms

Crap

The word comes from the name of Thomas Crapper, the XIXth-century British inventor of flush toilets ("Crapper's Valveless Water Waste Preventor").

Oxford Dictionary re-releasing old words

"Poppycock," says public

LONDON (AP) At the risk of sounding like blatherskites, the compilers of the New Oxford Dictionary of English are striking a blow for florid and fanciful language.

The dictionary's lexicographers have compiled hundreds of obsolete but colorful terms - including blatherskite, a person who talks nonsense - in the hope of bringing them back into use.

More than 400 words - from snollygoster, a shrewd or unprincipled person, to doryphore, an annoying and pedantic critic - are collected in the Oxford Dictionary of Weird and Wonderful Words, published Thursday. They also will be printed at the beginning of the New Oxford Dictionary.

"We know that people love unusual words and so do we," said Angus Stevenson, Oxford's project editor for English dictionaries.

Some of the words collected go back centuries, including the Old English terms welkin, meaning sky or heaven, and weasand, the gullet. Others feel more modern. A deipnosophist is one skilled in the art of dinner-table conversation, while a winebibber is just what it suggests - someone who drinks a lot of alcohol.

"If any are going to make a comeback then I think it should be emacity, which means a fondness for buying things," said Stevenson. "Its time has come"

Man charged with burning "evil" teddy bear

Child cries for mercy

STAMFORD, Conn. (AP) A city man has been charged with reckless burning after police say he set fire to a teddy bear he claims was "possessed."

Police said Lucson Aladin, 32, a teddy bear in his back yard Sunday as part of a voodoo ritual because he believed it was possessed and he was trying to rid it of evil spirits.

Aladin was charged with reckless burning.

Firefighters had responded to a report of a brush fire at the Aladin's home Sunday night and found the teddy bear burning in the back yard.

"He said he was burning this bear because it was possessed," said police Sgt. Kevin Goettel, head of the East Side district. "He was performing a voodoo ritual to rid it of this evil spirit."

Toilet museum in South Korea looks back

History of poop well-documented



LSAN, South Korea (AP) Decades ago, trip to the toilet could be an adventure. clutching candles, Koreans stumbled to uthouses in the gloom. Kids fretted about rly spirits said to dwell in their fetid onfines.

Now tall apartment buildings with flush oilets and other modern amenities sprout cross South Korea. Pell-mell urbanization as banished the privies of old, which nger in rural areas.

The traditional toilets reflect the poor, gricultural society that Korea once was, nd their absence tells how much the outhern half of the peninsula has evolved ince the 1950-53 Korean War. A new nuseum relates their lore and symbolism.

The Goyang Exhibition Hall for anitation explores the history of toilets, rom the stone receptacles of Roman imes to the chamber pots of the Middle Ages to Japan's high-tech waste disposal gadgets of today.

Korea was never a pioneer in bathroom nnovation, but its primitive models in the nuseum in Ilsan, just north of Seoul, elicit vivid anecdotes from older tourists.

"When I was young, I could never go to the toilet without my mum, and we always used to take a candle or matches because we couldn't see a thing," said Choi Won-hee, 64.

The museum, sponsored by the local government, displays a model of a wooden outhouse as well as a "ji-gae" _ a back frame for transporting goods that is shaped like the letter A. A Korean farmer would hoist buckets of waste on a ji-gae and dump them in the fields as fertilizer.

A film clip shows pigs on the resort island of Jeju and tells how farmers used to let them wallow in the muck beneath the outhouse hole and gulp excrement as it dropped.

Hundreds of years ago, during the Chosun dynasty, some people ingested children's urine or excrement to treat fevers and other ailments. The custom persisted well into the last century.

The museum also displays "yogangs," or chamber pots. Centuries ago, their color defined social rank: commoners' pots were dark brown, those of the nobility were pale grayish green.

Some yogangs were designed for women traveling long distances in a sedan chair. Cotton wool and paper in the bowl muffled awkward sounds.

Kim Soo-ah, a 24-year-old student, used a yogang when she visited her grandmother's house as a child. She didn't think anything of it at the time, but now she recoils.

"When I go on school trips to the countryside, it's so scary and uncomfortable to use the old toilets," Kim said.

Flush toilets first appeared in Korea during Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule, mostly in banks and hotels.

After the Korean War, the flush toilet proliferated partly because of the presence of a large U.S. military force. But it wasn't until 1962 that a flush toilet appeared in an ordinary South Korean home, the museum says.

The museum notes modern toilets do have drawbacks: the increased use of water and added pollution.

The $700,000 museum, which is below ground beside a park lake, opened in July and admission is free. Some students have visited on school outings, but it appears to have special meaning for the elderly.

A generation ago, the spiritual world held sway. If a child fell through an outhouse hole into the filth beneath, people put out rice cakes to appease traditional gods.

Ill-tempered ghosts were also believed to inhabit toilets, and some people cleared their throats before entering to give the spirits time to take flight.

Judge sentences two men to hour-long stroll in dresses

Stupid men humiliated

COSHOCTON, Ohio (AP) Two Coshocton men dented a car by throwing beer bottles. Now a judge is denting their egos.

Municipal Court Judge David Hostetler gave the pair a choice: 60 days in jail or an hour-long stroll down Main Street wearing dresses, wigs and makeup.

Jason Householder, 23, and John Stockum, 21, chose the dresses. They were to serve their sentences Friday afternoon.

The criminal damaging convictions for denting the car weren't what drew the unusual sentences for Householder and Stockum, though.

Hostetler said it was their behavior toward a woman in the car. One of them reportedly made a derogatory remark to the woman.

"It's not illegal to be obnoxious, it's just rude," Hostetler said Thursday. "Throwing the beer bottles put them across the line and into my clutches."

He also fined them $250 each when they appeared before him on Oct. 18.

Hostetler has a reputation for unusual sentences. He said the overcrowded Coshocton County jail, with 52 prisoners in a lockup built for 36, forces him to be creative.

Woman faces lewdness charges after mooning incident

LAMBERTVILLE, N.J. (AP) A Pennsylvania woman decided to moon passing motorists earlier this month because a relative said it would keep her out of debt, police said.

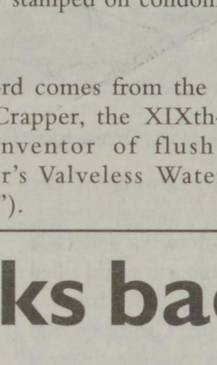
Theresa M. Masinos, 48, of Carversville, Pa., was charged with lewdness Oct. 2 after she allegedly bared her buttocks near Bridge Street in Lambertville.

Authorities said Masinos claimed her grandmother told her to "bare your posterior and yell 'fill 'er up' three times" if she wanted to avoid debts.

The alleged incident occurred after Masinos and a friend were seen cursing at drivers who would not stop and offer them a ride, police said.

When the officers told the women that hitchhiking was illegal, Masinos allegdly swore at them but then left with her friend. A short time later, police were called about the mooning incident.

Dr. T. Wayne Lenehan / Dr. M. Michele Leger
Optometrists 512 George St., Fredericton, NB



Eye Examinations
LASER Vision Evaluation
& Management
Contact Lens Fitting
Children & Designer
Frames Available

New Patients Welcome
Please call 458-8986

Office Hours: 8am - 5pm Monday-Friday, 8am - 8pm Thursday

SQUIRRELS
Stop being part of the problem.
Be part of the solution
UNB's only official sliding club hits the slopes in two weeks. Watch out.
Email sliding@unb.ca for more information

Imaging is Services
Holiday Special
2002 Personalized Calendars

Qty:	Price:
1-10	$19.95/ea.
11-50	$14.95/ea.
51-100	$11.95/ea.
over 100	$10.95/ea.

Drop off 13 of your favorite photos and we will create a full-colour calendar personalized just for you!
Orders can be placed at Imaging Services:
• 106 Marshall d'Avary Hall • 453-4843
• 109 Carleton Hall • 458-7907(drop off service)
• E10A Head Hall • 458-7908
please allow 2 weeks for delivery