THE ART OF SHAVING

Presented by Sun Tzu Thomas Hazelton for the Undistinguished Lecture Series

UBC Department of Computer Science
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Motivation

• Razor burn SUCKS!
• Ingrown hairs SUCK!
• Nicks and cuts SUCK!

• Wouldn’t it be great if you didn’t have to worry about those things ever again?

• Wouldn’t it be awesome if every morning shave felt like a trip to the barber?

• Wouldn’t it be outstanding if shaving could become a treasured ritual, rather than a dreaded task??
A Brief History of Shaving

• People have hated facial hair so much throughout history, they have used:
  ▫ Stone!
  ▫ Flint!
  ▫ Clam shells!!
  to pluck out unwanted hair.

• Around 500 B.C., Egyptians and Greeks began shaving their entire heads as a defensive measure in wars

• Origin of the word BARBARIAN!

Exhibit A. A clean-shaven Alexander the Great pictured in the Alexander Mosaic, 2xx BC
A Brief History of Shaving (20th Century)
Modern Methods of Shaving

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wet Shaving</th>
<th>Dry Shaving</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Performed with a manual razor, a lubricant and hot water</td>
<td>• Performed with an electric razor</td>
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<td>• Generally considered to give a “closer” shave than dry shavers</td>
<td>• Generally not as close as a wet shave</td>
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<td>• Convenient for “on-the-go” shavers</td>
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<td>• Some guys prefer this and can get a close shave</td>
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<td>• Can cause razor burn</td>
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Can we do better?

Introducing…

The ART of WET SHAVING!!
Common Myths

1. More blades = Better shave!

2. More pressure = Closer shave!

3. Shaving more often will cause hair to grow back faster and thicker!

4. If it’s newer, it must be better!

5. Shaving with/against the grain is good/bad!
The Shaver’s Toolkit

- Safety Razor
- J.M. Fraser’s Shaving Cream
- Aftershave Balm
- Exfoliant Bio-Peeling
- Flowery Aftershave Balm
Pre-Shave

• Prepare the “shaving mix” with an appropriate ratio of water:cream

• We want *free-standing peaks* in our mix!!

• This can take a few minutes – be patient

• Thoroughly wet your face with the hottest water you can stand – towel optional

• Shaving after a shower ensures pores are open
Pre-Shave

- Pinch the base of the bristles with your fingers and apply the cream to your face in a swirling motion.

- After full coverage, hold the brush by the handle and “paint” the cream evenly around your face.
The Shave: Proper Technique

• Shaving with a single-bladed razor requires multiple passes

• The purpose of each pass is to gradually reduce the beard, not eliminate it

• A quick rinse with hot water and re-lathering is required between each pass

• The direction of the beard grain does not matter if the mix is properly generated, and shaving strokes are not too aggressive
Form 1: Straight down
Form 2: Towards centre line
Form 3: Towards centre line, 90° angle from Form 2
Form 4: Freeform; catch rough spots

Note that it is not required to rinse between Forms.
Post-Shave

• Apply a styptic pencil to any nicks or cuts; rinse residue in about 10 minutes

• Apply a mild balm to your face; alcohol-based aftershaves can dry the skin and inflame irritation
Advanced Shaving Techniques

• WARNING !!
  ▫ These techniques are FRIGGING serious!
  ▫ Get some practice with the basic form before attempting these
  ▫ SERIOUS cuts can occur if you do these improperly

• Patience, young grasshopper…shaving requires the discipline of martial arts.

• All advanced techniques borrowed from “Advanced Shaving Techniques” YouTube video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQco5PWc2JU
The J-Hook

- Start with the head of the razor parallel to the floor

- Slide the razor in an arc on your face, *very lightly*, so that the head of the razor ends up perpendicular to the floor

- Great for removing the “little bits”
The Gillette Slide

- Simultaneously move the blade **down** and **forward**

- If you move the blade more forward than down, you will get a paper-cut like lesion on your face — ouch!
Blade Buffing

• The most *controversial* advanced technique!

• *Cartridge razors:* Keep the blade on the face, and lightly rub back and forth

• *Single-blade razors:* Lift the blade off the face between each pass
Recommended Reading

- [http://www.badgerandblade.com/](http://www.badgerandblade.com/)
  - These guys need another hobby… but you can get about as much information about shaving as you can handle here. VERY detailed instructions and tips.

- [http://www.youtube.com/user/mantic59](http://www.youtube.com/user/mantic59)
  - This guy has released a series of instructional shaving videos with very detailed information and demonstrations. Entertaining, and worth a watch if you’re just starting.
Questions? Comments?