

Letters From An Angry Were-badgerdog

March 28th, 2007

**To: Martin Macdonald, CEO
The Shaving Arts, Inc.
379 Hudson Street,
New York, New York
10014 USA**

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to you as a representative of the Bake-Tanuki people (were-badger-dogs, i.e.: were-badgderdogs, werebadgers, were-racoon dogs etc), an indigenous tribe of the island country popularly known as Japan, in protest of the havoc your firm is wreaking on our delicate ecosphere and way of life. I am, of course, referring to your flamboyant and excessive marketing and production of “genuine badger” shaving brushes, as part of your “Shaving Arts” product line.

For many decades, my people and our distantly related cousins have enjoyed freedom from ruthless hunters seeking badger pelts for brushes and garments. We have been freed for many years from humans enslaving and killing our people in order to make a quick fistful of yen (or dollars) with the skin and fur off our backs. In the past few decades, shaving foam, shaving cream and shaving gels, along with the advent of the electric shaver (invented by one of our own, in human form) had all but completely destroyed the need or demand for badger-hair shaving brushes, used to whip shaving lotion into a easily spread and frothy foam.

That is—until you came along. In the last three years, as the badger population in the United States has taken a drastic hit due to the demand for your products, the price of badger pelts has skyrocketed. In this age of international trade, the repercussions have even been felt in Japan, our little island country. Once again our people are being stalked and hunted like idiot minks.

I know of at least three cases in the last year of fellow were-badgerdogs meeting an untimely death at the hands of badger pelt hunters—the attacks came so swiftly that they failed to transmogrify themselves into human form and escape. Not to mention hundreds of deaths of our related but less talented badger brethren.

You have no idea how many wives have been widowed, how many cubs have been left as orphans due to your marketing of these brushes. It’s an appalling tragedy and I, nay, We, hold you personally responsible.

Personally, I fail to see how a badger brush is any better for creating a frothy shaving foam than say, three toothbrushes strung together with a rubber band, an eggbeater or a Sonic Ultra-Vibrating waterpik. Even fingers would do the trick, I imagine. You humans have opposable thumbs; you should be able to amazing things with just a comb, or a paintbrush, or a basting brush. There is no need to sacrifice innocent badgers for the sake of “a cleaner, closer shave.”

What perplexes me, and I’m getting off topic here, please excuse me, is what is this obsession with being “clean-shaven” in the first place? If displaying patches of clean,

hairless skin on your heads is such a mark of pride for you humans, then why do the balding males of your species all wear baseball caps? It seems like a contradiction to me. Nor do I see any of your products designed for men to shave their armpit hairs or their pubis. However, judging by these magazines I picked up at the Dulles airport, (we don't have magazines things like this in Japan), you demand your women have every single part of their body be completely shaved: the armpits, the vaginal regions, the anal cleft, the toes, the ears, even the thighs. Everything. Everything except the hair on top of their heads. Uncanny.

Well, I will admit the magazines at the Paris airport gave a different picture. Many hairy women and actually quite attractive for a homo sapiens. A lot less cellulite, too. I doubt you sell many badger brushes in France.

Maybe the whole hairless obsession, maybe it's an American thing. Perhaps, I should not generalize. It might be wrong to extrapolate the whole from the part; the part being you idiotic Americans. In any case, it just seems to us that you humans don't even know what you want clean-shaven.

It doesn't make any sense to us. If I were a human, I would be ashamed to have a clean-shaven face. It simply shows how far you have fallen out of harmony with nature. Mammals, of which you humans are one type, are warm-blooded creatures and generally quite hairy. We take a lush coat of fur as a sign of virility and health. However, you actively strive to distance yourself from this hairiness, to become like an unattractive, scaly, hairless and slimy reptile—which is cold-blooded. Perhaps, your fascination with hairlessness stems from your innate desire to become a hairless, cold-blooded reptile. Perhaps, you wish to be able to brutally slaughter my people without an ounce of guilt in your cold-blooded reptilian-like hearts. It's not my place to say nor could I venture an accurate guess. I can only take on the appearance of a human; I am not one.

I have already made an exploratory trip to the United States to assess the direness of our situation. If I have to, I will personally visit you to demand that you cease the production of genuine badger brushes at once and issue a general letter of apology to all badgers and their families within Japan. I do not speak for the were-badgerdog community in the United States, if one exists, although there are probably a number of second and third generation were-badgerdogs that are afraid or unable to speak up for themselves.

I realize that you probably derive a major source of your revenue from the selling of "genuine badger" brushes and that the decision to stop marketing such products may affect you adversely. Since money seems to be the primary motivating factor your kind, I am well aware that you would be reluctant to do anything that would lessen your ability to obtain it. May I make some suggestions?

You could simply lie, which is the habit of your species, and market fake badger brushes as genuine badger brushes. You would save money and make money at the same time.

You could also design a synthetic brush or use other animal hair fibers, or a combination of both.

Or you could make up for lost revenue by introducing new products. I suggest you design a shaving foam and razor specifically for women who wish to appear completely hairless like a prepubescent cub. I don't understand why the males of your species would be attracted to women who clearly do not look like they are of breeding age, nor why women would want to take on the appearance of infertile, underage whelps, but clearly there seems to be a demand for such an appearance. Perhaps, you could create new

revenue by encouraging men to shave both their testicles and their armpits. Maybe the females of your species would feel an attraction to pre-pubescent males who do not appear to be capable of producing sperm nor meaningful copulation. I think that a crescent shaped razor would be ideal for the hairy sacks human males have on both sides of the penis. (Are these the same things as testicles? I'm not sure.)

I hope you understand my position. Generally speaking, we Tanuki try and stay out of human affairs but your actions have forced my hand. I eagerly await your capitulation on this issue. I expect no reimbursement for my expert advice. I assume that you are not aware of how your company has affected our people and now having an understanding of the greater issues at hand, will take recourse in the appropriate badgeristic actions. We will not take this problem lying down, nor will we pretend to be dead to the issue.

Sincerely

Taro Tanuki, Grand Were-badgerdog
The Stick House By The Rusty Billboard
For Video Yasuuri-o (The King of Cheap Videos)
Tama River, Tokyo
Japan

April 4th, 2007
Letter From Shaving Arts, Inc.
Consumer Credit Division
379 Hudson Street,
New York, New York
10014 USA

Dear Mr. Danuki,

Thank you very much for your interest in A Shaving Arts, Inc. Visa Platinum Credit Card. Thank you for selecting the credit card that helps you shave money off your purchases of Shaving Arts, Inc. products, such as the Genuine Badger Brush, while cutting down your credit card debt to a manageable and attractive sum.

Shaving Arts points are earned on every purchase you make—whether for shaving cream or the Home Brazilian Defoliation Kit for your girlfriend. We have enclosed the brochure that explains the benefits of your card as well as any other additional information that will prove useful to you as you use your new line of credit. We are confident you will find this card perfect for all your personal hygiene and grooming needs. Call 1-800-CLEAN-CUT today to activate your card and start s(h)aving well! You'll be glad you did.

Our latest catalog is also enclosed.

Sincerely,

Martin MacDonald
CEO, The Shaving Arts Inc.

April 10th, 2007

Letter from Taro Tanuki

Return Address Illegible

Dear Mr. MacDonald,

Although the last letter I received from you was signed with your name, I do not believe you read my letter. In fact, there is such an incongruity between what I have written and your reply that I feel my letter was never properly read in the first place. I am quite disappointed. I am doing my best to be civil about this issue and you seem not only disinterested but appear to be mocking me.

I realize that Shaving Arts, Inc. is a large company and perhaps my letter was merely directed to the wrong department. I have enclosed my original letter and a copy of your reply. I hope for a tangible response before the end of the month. I am not anxious to make the trip to the United States again. The flight is long and it taxes my transmogrification abilities. I will say that the airline food is not as unpleasant as anticipated. It has the pleasant texture of old wood and is comforting to gnaw on. Perhaps, you humans and we are not as far apart as I had thought.

Sincerely,

Taro Tanuki

April 17th, 2007

Letter From The Shaving Arts Inc.

Bill Cheney, Vice President of Human Resources

379 Hudson Street,

New York, New York

10014 USA

Mr. Ranuki,

Thank you very much for applying for an executive position with The Shaving Arts, Inc. Japan YK. As you know, we will be setting up operations within Japan in May or June of this year in a joint venture with Shiseido, and a person of your background would be a valuable asset. Your English is almost flawless and we appreciate your quirky sense of humor. You obviously have your finger on the pulse of the industry for we have not yet officially announced these business plans.

Japan represents a unique challenge to us, since, well, please don't take offense, the Japanese people tend to be less body and facial hair-challenged when compared to the typical European. We will need somebody like you on board to help surmount this obstacle. From what I understand, Japanese women traditionally do not shave their nether regions, and this represents a huge untapped market. We have done research in the area and understand that the Japanese love of female pubic hair is well entrenched in the culture, both in magazines and in such quaint customs as the drinking of wakame-zake.

Marketing to the female population may take considerable effort and time.

I am sure that you can help us clip these social walls enough to more effectively market our products within your beautiful country. On the bright side, we see that more and more Japanese men are visiting beauty salons to have their facial, chest and underarm hair removed and that Japanese women seem to demand this. I believe the Japanese male population is the perfect audience for our line of elegant, close-shaving products. Not to mention, Japanese badger-dog hair has the perfect combination of brittleness and softness for use in the making of our Genuine Badger Hair shaving brushes.

Please enclose your resume and contact information in the next letter. I think you will find the starting salary we are offering to be quite attractive, and we provide all local hires with exclusive housing in Roppongi Hills. You couldn't find a better employer.

Sincerely,

William Cheney,
Human Resources V.P.

April 28th, 2007
Letter to Martin Macdonald, CEO
Shaving Arts, Inc.
379 Hudson Street,
New York, New York
10014 USA

Mr. Macdonald,

I am horrified that you are opening an office in Japan. Can't you leave the hairless Japanese people alone? Do you have to expand your business at the cost of our people? I am fast losing my patience. I do not think you have any idea of whom you are dealing with. Tanuki, when pressed, can be very dangerous animals. We have the ability to assume the form and mannerisms of any organic and some inorganic entities, enabling us to penetrate even the tightest layers of corporate security.

The last time I was forced to directly delve into human affairs was 1945, when I had to temporarily assume the role of the Emperor and issue an announcement of surrender over the radio to the Japanese people. It was a detrimental war and extremely harmful to our habitat. In the process of doing that, of impersonating the Emperor, I was forced to do unspeakable things. I would not like to repeat the experience.

We are, by nature, omnivores. Do not make me accentuate my carnivorous aspects. Since you seem incapable of responding to a fairly addressed letter, I am now forced to take human-like deceptive actions. You have been warned. I am on my way to the United States. We will discuss this face to face.

(No signature, only what appears to be muddy pawprint)

The Shaving Arts Inc.

Internal Memo: May 2nd

From: Raymond Carver, personal secretary to Martin Macdonald

To: Bill Cheney, VP, Human Resources

The weirdest thing happened today. Martin dropped by the office really early this morning and couldn't remember the personal security code for his office. Then, he asked me for his personal corporate mailbox number and his own home address. Like he can't remember it? He looked pretty stressed out and he hadn't shaved either. I gave it to him, of course, and then he took off.

Well, thirty minutes later, maybe around ten am, he shows up again, clean-shaven and in a completely different suit. I mentioned the mailbox thing and he gave me this look like I was crazy and then went ballistic on me. Who's the crazy one?

Is the deal with Shiseido driving him bonkers or something? You're his pal—you should talk to the guy. Something was very weird about him this morning. He smelled terrible, too. Like wet dog. Does he even have a dog? I thought he hated pets?

A little worried,

Ray

The Shaving Arts, Inc.

Internal Memo: May 4th

From: Raymond Carver, personal secretary to Martin Macdonald

To: Bill Cheney, VP, Human Resources

Bill,

Got a really weird piece of mail in the box this morning. There was no name on the return address but it was sent from room 105 of the Sheraton Times Square Hotel. It was addressed to Martin, with some weird scrawling next to his name. Chinese?

Anyway, in block letters on the front someone had written: PHOTOS OF MARTIN AND HAIRLESS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS ORGY. A sick joke? I know that Martin likes them clean and young but still...pretty creepy. I didn't know what to do with the damn thing. I just put it on Martin's desk unopened. This could be real trouble.

The envelope looked like it was crammed with copies of previously sent letters. At least it looked that way when I held it up to the light. There were pawprints or some crap like that on the envelope as well.

I don't want to know what was inside. What do I do if we get another one? Please advise.

Ray

**Letter Sent From Martin Macdonald to Taro Tanuki,
Room 105, Sheraton Times Square New York, New York**

Postmarked May 5th, 2007

Taro,

Well fuck-face, your little ruse worked. Your mail ended up on my desk, unopened, left there by my quivering personal assistant who was such a fucking chickenshit that he didn't have the hairy balls to open it.

Thank you for wasting my fucking time. I don't know whether you are trying to be cute with this were-badger shit but it ain't working. I can picture you writing the letter sitting in some arty café playing Rufus Wainwright on the stereo, scribbling on a yellow legal pad with a cheap ballpoint Bic pen, ink smudged all over your greasy fingers. You probably have a long ZZ Top beard, hair growing out of your nostrils and ears and stink of patchouli, if you even bother to cover up your animal smell.

In answer to your "plea": fuck you. As a matter of fact, you've pissed me off so much I think I'll double the amount of badger hair brushes we make from Japanese badger-dog. I'm working on the new promo now. "*Geniune Japanese Badger Brushes—Made In Japan From The Rare Japanese Tanuki—The Finest Shaving Brush A Fistful of Yen Can Buy.*" I'll double the price for those; I think they'll sell like hotcakes. Thanks for the input, asshole.

Write me again and I'll have your ass jailed for extortion.

PS. Hey, Taro! I've been to Japan. I used to teach English there and I studied Kendo. I know all about Japan. I deliberately didn't add a mister or san to your name—I'm double dissing you, you crazy badger loving freak.

Sincerely,

Martin Macdonald

NEW YORK POST

May 10^h, Early Edition

***TOO CLOSE A SHAVE?* SHAVING ARTS CEO FOUND DEAD WITH THROAT SLIT IN BATHROOM OF LUXURY CONDO**

NYPD says, "Suicide"

Byline Nicholas Peta

Lola Fabrizzia, nineteen-year-old fashion model, and girlfriend of Martin Macdonald, CEO of The Shaving Arts, Inc. had a hair-razing shock at nine PM yesterday, when she arrived at the home of her paramour to find a pool of blood oozing out from under his locked bathroom door. Mr. Macdonald owned a five million dollar condominium in the new Chelsea Heights building.

A distraught Ms. Farbrizzia immediately called the Fire Department who arrived within ten minutes and broke open the bathroom door.

There they found Macdonald sitting on the solid Grecian marble toilet, wearing nothing more than a half-opened blue silk bathrobe, already dead, with a gash in his throat so big

that his head was close to falling off, according to first responders. On the white marble floor of the bathroom was a single razor, languidly floating in a pool of still wet blood.

The New York Police Department, who arrived later at the scene, is officially investigating the case from both angles: as a homicide or an accident. That's the official line.

However, the reality is that in an ironic turn of events, Mr. Macdonald, apparently managed to slit his own throat with a Shaving Arts Aqua-Lite Safety Razor. Although, no memo, no will or last testament was found at the crime scene, our sources within the NYPD believe that the case is a probable suicide. The bathroom door was locked from the inside and the only entry was a small window in the bathroom wall facing outside, sufficient only to let in a small dog or cat. Mr. Macdonald had been exhibiting strange behavior in the days before the apparent suicide, showing up to work unshaven and confused. Recently, he had also been spotted rummaging through the garbage bins outside of corporate headquarters, gnawing on discarded French pastry.

A homicide detective working on the case, on conditions of anonymity, was able to shed some light on the events.

"You wouldn't think you could whack yourself with a safety razor, but f*ck, if a guy sets his mind to something, he can kill himself with f***cking Hello Kitty! Dildo, a bottle of aftershave, some sealing wax and a Zippo lighter. This guy, it looked like a f*cking dog had ripped out his throat, the wound was so big and so gaping. It must have f*cking hurt like a m*ther f*cker. Apparently, the vic had second thoughts about killing himself because afterwards he tried to plug the wound with one of them f*cking genuine badger brush things. The wound was full of badger hairs, had badger hair all over him."

Apparently, badger hair does not make an effective bandage.

June 17th, 2007

Press Release

The Shaving Arts Inc.

379 Hudson Street,

New York, New York

10014 USA

Contact Raymond Carver, PR, for details

Shaving Arts Inc., (Bill Cheney CEO), in response to repeated requests from environmental groups and out of a corporate policy of environmental harmony, has ceased to carry genuine badger brushes and will now be carrying a synthetic silk brush blended with genuine cashmere fibers. *The Tibetan Shaving Brush*, is now the top choice for those customers seeking the perfect shave—anywhere and everywhere.

Using a proprietary blend of ancient and modern technology, we have created an environmentally correct brush that is perfect for bringing unruly hair follicles to the surface while creating the perfect frothy and easily spread shaving foam for men seeking the ultimate clean shave.

The Tibetan Shaving Brush feels as smooth as silk wherever you use it, whether male or female, there's nothing better for lathering the areas you want clean-shaven. We

recommend its use with the newly patented No Inmo (ノ一陰毛) shaving kit series for men. The new shaving kit also includes our unique crescent shaped safety Halfmoon razor for those hard to reach places. No Inmo--for the ballsy guy who wants to show his woman that he has them.

Surveys have show that frequent use of the No Inmo shaving kit series make a man's penis appear to be up to 34% larger, 25% more tumescent and increases the probability of receiving fellatio (for males) on an average of 48%. Our thanks to Mr. Taro Danuki, the new head of our Japan operations, who has spent three years developing this product. Arigato, Mr. Danuki!

Now at last American men can also be as smooth shaven as their Japanese counterparts. No Inmo—a must for any man with a yen for Asia! Get one with *The Tibetan Shaving Brush*--today!

July 18th, 2007

Translated from The Maicho Shinbun, morning edition

JAPANESE BADGER DOG TERRORIZES ROPPONGI HILLS RESIDENCE

On June 17th, the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department Azabu Police Station received seven distressed calls from the residents of one of Tokyo's most exclusive and expensive rental condominiums, Roppongi Hills Residence B, in Minato-ward, Tokyo.

From six am until seven am that morning, the Azabu police were bombarded by calls from frightened residents who reported that Japanese Badger Dogs (Tanuki) had overturned their garbage, urinated on their balcony, and stole a rare fur coat. It is unusual for such wild animals to be found in the urban center of Tokyo and it has the residents, the police and animal experts baffled.

One of the residents, Mr. Taro Danuki, had this to say: "It's clear this area is going to the dogs. It may be the Tanuki mating season, which could explain this outrageous behavior but I think it's a sign to move on to a more luxurious location. I'm already sizing up a new condo in Tokyo Mid-town. This is what you get with a Mori building--rampaging raccoons, unruly monkeys and deadly revolving doors. I'm out of here."

Mr. Danuki is the CEO of The Shaving Arts, Inc Japan YK and also president of the Tanuki (Badgerdog) Preservation Society.

October 24th, 2007

Amazon.co.jp Japan sales rankings

Self-Help/Essay Section:

Ranking: 9, 3777 out of 23, 223

Why I Love French Women by Taro Danuki

Sexuality/Social Sciences

Ranking: 2,034 out of 42,575

Bestiality Reconsidered (Second Edition) by Taro Danuki