

DAILY NEWS

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NEW YORK'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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THURSDAY

Beefing

Breasts bulged in the '80s and legs were lipoed in the '90s. But the 21st Century is all about the backside. With apologies to Sir Mix-A-Lot, "Theresa" cannot lie. She likes a big butt — on herself, that is.

"If you never had it, you might not want it, but I did have it at one time," says the 58-year-old Jersey City resident, who asked that her real name not be used.

For Theresa, a puny posterior seemingly appeared overnight. "I woke up one morning about three years ago and didn't have a butt," she declares. "It was gone, flat like the wall. I went to put on some slacks, and the slacks just fell."

Theresa, who works in education, started wearing padded underwear, and long jackets or sweaters even in the summer to conceal her dearth of a derriere.

Finally, she stumbled across the Web site for Dr. George Lefkovits, a Manhattan plastic surgeon specializing in a buttocks augmentation.

It wasn't a brand

DAILY NEWS

Thursday, February 9, 2006

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FRANK KOESTER

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MUST HAVE Love your man from head to toe? Show it with new red kicks with pink and white accents from New Balance. The classic suede-and-mesh sneakers come with red laces or, naturally, white-and-red heart laces, cute enough to make even a single gal skip (a beat). \$60 at Lady Foot Locker (www.ladyfootlocker.com for locations).



MUST DO Despite common perception, soft drink Tab (which debuted in the 1960s) has never gone out of production. And last week it received a jolt when Tab Energy was introduced. The saccharin has been replaced with sucralose and the cola flavor with a pink candy-like sweetness. \$1.99 where Coca-Cola beverages are sold.

up the buttocks

More and more women are going under the knife to add some plump to their rump

BY JULIAN KESNER

new procedure, but **Dr. Lefkovits** was clever enough to trademark the term "Brazilian Butt Fill" to describe it.

Theresa met **Lefkovits** and decided he was the just the man for the job. Shelling out over \$11,000, Theresa had one procedure in November 2004 and a subsequent operation in April 2005.

"If I had more fat now, I'd do it again," she raves. "It's just so wonderful. My self-esteem is so high, it's unreal. I swish around my house just looking at my butt!"

There are a growing number of hindquarters-happy patients these days. The American Society of Plastic Surgeons says more than 4,000 buttock lifts were done in 2004, a 158% increase from 2000.

It would appear that much of the blame can be placed on the bootylicious behind of a certain diva. "Jennifer Lopez has definitely been a catalyst," says **Lefkovits**. "There are certain ethnic groups that have a desire for this, and that would be the Latinos and the African-Americans. They want curvature."

Lefkovits' Brazilian Butt Fill operation is essentially the same procedure that other plastic surgeons call a Brazilian Butt Lift. The surgery involves grafting fat from other parts of the body — generally the abdomen or love handles, sometimes arms or thighs — and inserting it into both cheeks of the buttocks.

RECYCLING FAT INSTEAD OF USING SILICONE

Lefkovits started practicing this technique about six years ago after disappointing results using silicone implants, which can be infection-prone and simply don't feel very natural. Instead, one's own fat "is your own material — it feels soft, it's what it should be," he says.

The doctor estimates that approximately 30%-35% of his patients require a secondary augmentation, as often some of the initial fat is absorbed. This is the main reason that other plastic surgeons shy away from the procedure.

"One-hundred percent of patients require repeat fat grafting," scoffs one hospital-affiliated New York plastic surgeon, who asked to remain anonymous because of possible professional repercussions. The surgeon specializes in body sculpting and has performed over a dozen such fat-grafting buttocks augmentations. "Require" is a funny word. That means they have to have it, but who has to? That's a subjective criteria."

"Seventy to 80% of fat is absorbed in six months, and it can get lumpy," continues the surgeon. "For example, you inject 500 cubic centimeters of fat to the left buttock, and 500 cc to the right. Six months later, you might have 250 in the right and 50 in the left, so you get asymmetry and lumps. People have tried multiple needles and multiple injections and other tricks, but it gives you very inconsistent results."

Lefkovits firmly disagrees with these assertions. "The absorption rate is symmetrical — it doesn't happen where one has less and one has more," he says.

THE BEST BUTTS IN THE BUSINESS

Beauties got back and they sure know how to flaunt it. Women today are proud of their assets and work hard getting their buns of steel, especially with \$200 jeans to buy. Some of Hollywood's heaviest hitters have the tightest tushes around, whether from surfing (Cameron Diaz), shaking that thang (Beyoncé) or strutting their stuff on the catwalk (Gisele). Even with swimsuit season a little ways off, let these fabulous fannies inspire you.

Jennifer Lopez The most famous backside of them all. High, tight and a perfect size 6.

Fergie The sassy singer shimmy on stage all night long and scored a fine fanny in the process, not to mention honey Josh Duhamel.



GETTY

Cameron Diaz Diaz and sweetie Justin Timberlake love the sand and surf. Two things perfect for toning tushies.

Shakira With better moves than any belly dancer, Shakira shook her way to a bounce-free bum.

Halle Berry She rolled around with James Bond and diamonds in "Die Another Day" but eyes were really drawn to her heavenly haunches.

Beyoncé No wonder Jay-Z loves her: There's no jiggle in Beyoncé's behind.

Gisele If walking around in underwear was your job, wouldn't your derriere be delightful? Gisele's rear is ravishing, not a ripple to be found.

Naomi Campbell A 20-year career as a model/diva hasn't put the sag in Naomi's seat. She's as perky as ever and won't let you forget it.

Felissa Benjamin



WIREIMAGE.COM

"That's absolutely not the way it happens.

"Second, we generally know in four or five weeks if a patient will need a second buttock implantation, not six months. I have never, ever had to regraft a patient after a year, two years or five years." **Lefkovits** charges around \$10,000 for the first augmentation, but only a "nominal" fee for any followup fat-fillings.

Disagreements aside, more and more women are resorting to boosting their buns the fast way (only 10% of **Lefkovits'** buttocks patients are male). Melissa, a 24-year-old Brooklyn resident who requested not having her last name used, went for the fanny-fattening surgery after being fed up with exercises that weren't helping.

"My upper body is bigger than my lower body, and

it's not proportioned well," she says. "I have a curvy figure, but I have nothing in that area, so I wanted to find something I could do to have it."

Melissa had **Lefkovits'** Brazilian Butt Fill done in September, and four months later she's pleased as punch with her posterior.

"I have more confidence," she says. "I can wear my size and be comfortable. I don't have to find clothes to hide my body in."

Theresa only told her sister of her secret tush, and no one else; as for Melissa, she's still weighing whether or not to ever tell her boyfriend.

"He just thinks I did a lot of exercising," she says, adding wryly, "I might tell him, but I like to keep him guessing."