

Would you apply
this bird's
droppings
on your
face to
look
good?



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"Users believe that what shrinks haemorrhoids will



PICTURE: REUTERS

SHE WOULD

Stars go to extremes in pursuit of perfection

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THERE is nothing time won't heal – or ravage. But for those with fame and money, time is something they use to seek out extreme beauty "solutions".

Take B&B singer Beyoncé, 27, who reportedly lived on water, cayenne pepper and maple syrup and lost 10kg in a fortnight.

Now it seems the trappings of Timesdown have gone far deeper – and into the bowels.

Sometime-singer Victoria Beckham (above), 34, apparently indulges in "geisha facials", which use a paste made from nightingale faeces and Japanese white clay to combat a recurrent acne problem.

Traditional Japanese theatre actors and top-ranking geishas *revere* by this prized excretion, which contains guanine, an amino acid claimed to remove heavy make-up effectively while bleaching and exfoliating skin.

This skin-lightening stimulant is what purportedly causes the iridescence of fish scales and skins of amphibians and reptiles.

A 50-minute Geisha Facial at New York's Shinku day spa costs US\$180 (\$264) a pop.

*Cosmetics, who is thought to apply a pure gold face

mask before sleeping, may find that hard to beat.

Is Mrs Beckham stretching the pursuit of perfection too far?

She is not the only one who experiments with absurdity for beauty's sake.

It is said that actress Sandra Bullock, 44, reduces puffiness and wrinkles under her eyes with haemorrhoid cream.

Preparation H is one such product. That is the stuff used to treat piles.

Would any woman in Singapore take the cue and try such unconventional treatments?

Forever trader Candice Chan, 24, said she is game for anything that guarantees results: "As long as it is a topical treatment, I don't see why not."

Shipping sales executive Faith Lin, 26, agreed: "Ingestion is taking it to the extremes. But I'm fine with external application."

But do local beauty experts, who were quizzed based on their knowledge on the ingredients in question, recommend such "extreme" measures?

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