

= Whale tail =

Whale tail is the Y @-@ shaped waistband of a thong or G @-@ string when visible above the waistline of low @-@ rise jeans , shorts , or a skirt that resembles a whale 's tail . Intentionally or unintentionally , a whale tail is exposed above the trousers mostly when sitting or bending , or even while standing . The frequency or occasion depends on the style of trousers , the style of underwear , and the way they are worn . Displaying whale tails became popular in the early 2000s , together with the rise of low @-@ rise jeans and thong underwear . The trend , popularized by a number of female celebrities including WWE female wrestler Amy Dumas aka Lita , Christina Aguilera , Victoria Beckham , Mariah Carey , Melanie Blatt , Paris Hilton , Jordan , Anna Kournikova , and Britney Spears , waned within the decade .

Specially designed trousers like low @-@ rise jeans or hip @-@ huggers and higher cut thongs led to greater exposure of the whale tail . The trend was also associated with the trend of sporting lower back tattoos . The word was selected by the American Dialect Society in January 2006 as the " most creative word " of 2005 . The concepts of visible panty line , buttock cleavage , and sagging are closely related to the whale tail .

= = History = =

The rising popularity of low @-@ rise jeans led to increased exposure of thong tops in the early 2000s , which quickly became mainstream as a Gucci model revealed one on the catwalk , Melanie Blatt of All Saints was photographed showing her thong as she got out of a taxi , and Victoria Beckham suggested that her husband enjoyed her wearing her G @-@ strings around the home . Britney Spears has been portrayed as a major contributor to the whale tail 's popularity . Her whale tail display has been referred to in such creative literature books as Married to a Rock Star by Shemane Nugent , Thong on Fire by Noire , The Magical Breasts of Britney Spears by Ryan G. Van Cleave , and Off @-@ Color by Janet McDonald . The Oregonian , a Portland , Oregon , newspaper , wrote in 2004 that an abundance of whale tails had become a distraction on the campus . Social commentator Ann C. Hall identified this campus trend as an " apparent intersection between everyday campus fashion and soft porn " . The layered clothing trend of the early 2000s was partly led by the whale tail style that incorporates hip @-@ hugger jeans , crop tops and high riding thongs popularized by celebrities .

= = = Rise = = =

By the mid @-@ 2000s , whale tails became common to celebrities , providing opportunities to the paparazzi . Whale tail display spawned a new accessory ? clip @-@ on jewelry for the visible straps . Jess Cartner @-@ Morley of The Guardian claimed that following pop stars in the hipster trousers gave rise to the " low @-@ slung jeans , whale @-@ tail G @-@ string era " . On 17 September 2004 , a writer for the Chicago Sun @-@ Times stated , " Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera regularly were photographed with thong straps riding high above their low @-@ rise jeans . And even usually tasteful Halle Berry succumbed to the thong craze by attending an awards show with bejeweled thong straps peeking out from above her miniskirt . " Actresses Gillian Anderson , Natalie Portman , Sarah Jessica Parker , Kim Cattrall and Tara Reid , MTV 's Molly Sims , model Kate Moss , singers Beyoncé Knowles , Mariah Carey , Jennifer Lopez , Janet Jackson , LeAnn Rimes and Britney Spears have been associated as propagators of the trend by the American Broadcasting Company .

In France , clothing brands started creating the thong or le string in styles that encourage a projection above low @-@ hung jeans , such as designs that had little jewels or luminous stars sewn into the rear . In India , thongs peeked out of low @-@ rise jeans in page three parties and university bashes . Indian model Shefali Zariwala displayed a whale tail in the MTV Immies @-@ winning music video " Kaanta Lagaa " and shot to fame and public debate in 2003 . In Japan , clothing company Sanna 's brought forward an extreme low @-@ rise hip @-@ hugging jeans

design with built @-@ in thong whale tails . R & B artist Sisqó rhapsodized about whale tails in his " Thong Song " ? " I like it when the beat goes da na da na / Baby make your booty go da na da na / Girl I know you wanna show da na da na / That thong th thong thong thong . " Pornographic film director Mike Metropolis made three films based on whale tails ? Whale Tail ( 2005 ) , Whale Tail I ( 2005 ) and Whale Tail II ( 2006 ) ? with Mark Ashley in the lead . Another movie titled Whale Tail : Thong Dreams was released in 2005 featuring Sunny Lane and Kirsten Price . In 2003 , web content developer Gavin Hamilton created the site whale @-@ tail.com with content featuring whale tail display . Since then the domain has commanded a fair fetching price . The website has been quoted by ABC Radio , NY Times , FHM ( UK ) and Fuel Magazine ( Australia ) , and has been nominated as a Best Adult Web Site by Australian Adult Industry Awards in 2008 .

= = = Legal debates = = =

In 2004 , Louisiana , USA State Representative Derrick Shepherd proposed a bill ( HB1626 ) , also known as the Baggy Pants Bill to Louisiana House of Representatives . The bill proposed that " it shall be unlawful for any person to appear in public wearing his pants below his waist and thereby exposing his skin or intimate clothing " and that violators would be subjected to three eight @-@ hour days of community service and a fine of up to US \$ 175 . The measure died in the face of opposition from the American Civil Liberties Union . The bill was proposed again in 2008 and was rejected by a state Senate panel . In two Louisiana towns , Delcambre ( a maximum penalty of US \$ 615 fine or up to six months in prison ) and Opelousas ( a maximum penalty of US \$ 500 fine or up to six months in prison ) , wearing low slung pants that reveal buttock cleavage or undergarments is considered a misdemeanor . Garments that reveal underpants were banned in four other Louisiana towns including Alexandria and Shreveport , where violators face fines of US \$ 150 or 15 days in jail , as well as Hawkinsville , Georgia .

In February 2005 , the Senate Courts of Justice Committee of Virginia voted unanimously in a hastily convened meeting against a bill proposed by Delegate Algie T. Howell Jr . ( Norfolk , Virginia ) to impose a US \$ 50 fine on any person who publicly and intentionally " wears and displays his below @-@ waist undergarments , intended to cover a person 's intimate parts , in a lewd or indecent manner " in a public place . The bill ( HB1981 ) , also known as the Droopy Drawers Bill , was earlier passed by Virginia House of Delegates by a 60 ? 34 vote . Atlanta , Georgia , Dallas , Texas , Baltimore , Maryland , Charlotte , North Carolina , Yonkers , New York , Duncan , Oklahoma , Natchitoches , Louisiana , Stratford , Connecticut , Pine Bluff , Arkansas , and Trenton and Pleasantville of New Jersey , as well as three other Georgia towns including Rome Brunswick and Plains have seen attempts to ban underwear peeking over the pants . School dress codes sometimes also banned some low @-@ rising pants or visible underwear .

= = = Decline = = =

By the end of the decade whale tails suffered a bit of a backlash . Trinny Woodall , presenter of BBC1 's What Not to Wear , described women who wore thongs showing above their trousers as " disgusting " . Jessica Kaminsky wrote in I Hate the Gym , a lifestyle commentary , " I hate when girls let their ' whale tails ' creep out of their pants . " In 2007 , religious writer Tamie Bixler Lung wrote , " There is something wrong when Christian guys and girls want to run around with their underwear hanging out the top of their pants , or their thong strap sticking out the back of their low @-@ rise jeans . " In 2008 , model and reality TV star Jodie Marsh said , " Showing your thong is a bit old now . "

The trend of wearing whale tail @-@ revealing jeans started to dissipate somewhat in the mid 2000s when American clothing designers started shifting focus from low @-@ slung jeans and exposed midriffs to high @-@ waisted trousers and cardigans . Jess Cartner @-@ Morley , fashion writer of The Guardian , claimed that the whale tail and the muffin top ( the bulge of flesh hanging over the top of low @-@ rider jeans ) , " twin crimes of modern fashion " , had led to the decline in the popularity of hipster jeans . She quoted Louise Hunn , editor of the British edition of InStyle , as

saying ? " When a look goes too mainstream , people start wearing it badly . And then the really fashionable people run a mile " . While the thong still represented 24 % of the US \$ 2 @. @ 5 billion annual market in women 's underwear , it stopped growing by end of 2004 . By 2007 , thongs were overtaken by boyshorts and accounted for only 12 % of the panties market . Some vendors , including Victoria 's Secret and DKNY , started selling thongs that do not result in whale tails . Adam Lippes , founder of the lingerie line ADAM , said , " Women got tired of it . And they got sick and tired of seeing string hanging out of the top of every celebrity 's jeans . "

= = Socio @-@ cultural analysis = =

Attributing whale tails to mainstreaming of the sexualization of young women , The Press Democrat termed the trend as " stripper chic " . Post @-@ modern thinker Yasmin Jiواني and co @-@ writers described the trend in *Girlhood : Redefining the Limits* as an attempt to redefine girlhood while acknowledging the debate around it . The book termed the trend as the " slut " look popularized by Britney Spears . Some experts even dubbed visible whale tails as " thong feminism " for young girls . Other experts accused marketers of " outrageous selling of sex to children " .

One conjecture assumes that the style of exposed thong may have " bubbled @-@ up " from the street level to the high streets , like the jeans and t @-@ shirt look of James Dean . Another assumes the fad was initiated by glamor model Jordan in England and singers Mariah Carey and Spears in the United States . The phenomenon has been compared to the phenomenon of visible bra straps . Saying that " just as Madonna made bras a public garment in the 1980s , Ms. Lewinsky , Paris Hilton and Britney Spears transformed women 's panties into a provocative garment intended for public display " , the New York Times claimed that the thong , with straps worn high over the hips and exposed by fashionable low @-@ rise jeans and " Juicy Couture " sweat pants , had become a public icon .

= = Word of the year = =

" Whale tail " was selected in January 2006 as the " most creative word " of 2005 by the American Dialect Society , a group of linguists , editors , and academics . It received 44 votes to " muffin top 's " 25 , " flee @-@ ancée 's " ( a reference to runaway bride Jennifer Wilbanks ) 15 , and " pinosaur 's " ( a very old Wollemi pine tree near Australia 's Blue Mountains ) 6 .

While discussing these new coinages , Sali Tagliamonte , associate professor of linguistics at the University of Toronto , observed that young women in North America were ahead of young men as influencers . The use of the word to indicate an underwear phenomenon has shown up in serious mainstream news media , sometimes in reference to the pop stars who made the fashion trend popular . Wayne Glowka , member of the Georgia College and State University faculty and head of the New Word Committee of the Dialect Society , said about the happening , " Language is just going on its merry way , creating many new words . It 's time for men to win something . "

Though the word is not included in major formal dictionaries , web @-@ based user @-@ generated dictionaries like the Urban Dictionary ( which provides " pull me thong " as an alternative term for whale tail ) , the Double @-@ Tongued Dictionary and the Wiktionary , have entries for the word . The book compilation of Urban Dictionary describes the whale tail as " the shape formed when a G @-@ string rides up high over a woman 's pants or skirt " . The Dialect Society mentioned " longhorn " as an alternate term for the whale tail . A related term ? sagging ? implies the practice of wearing pants or shorts below the waist so as to reveal some or all of the wearer 's underwear . Another related term ? buttock cleavage ? implies a minor exposure of the buttocks and the gluteal cleft between them not covered by an underwear . A third related term ? Visible Panty Line ( VPL ) ? implies underwear becoming visible through clothes .