Michael Jackson was a legend in the music industry but he will forever be remembered for his addiction to plastic surgery. The picture above shows Michael Jackson before and after plastic surgery. On the left is how he should have looked if he didn't alter his face with plastic surgery. On the right is Jackson after the countless surgeries he had. Michael Jackson began his strive for perfection when he was only twenty six. In his first surgery, he got his nose slightly narrowed and his eyebrows shaped. He continued to have surgeries until his face looked completely different or in his eyes perfect. He even went as far as to bleach his skin to become lighter skinned, and he even tried to fix his nose so much that he didn’t even have one left. Jackson went from being a normal looking guy to a ridiculous looking person all because of plastic surgery.

Reconstructive surgery is another form of plastic surgery. Reconstructive surgery is corrective surgery to repair the body due to birth defects, disease or trauma. The picture above shows a baby that was born with a birth defect. He has a cleft lip. A cleft lip is a deep split in the upper lip that extends into one or both sides of the nose. It is approximated that one in every one-thousand babies are born with a cleft lip/palate. Some things that researchers think cause a cleft lip/palate are maternal diseases, chemotherapy, radiation, alcohol or genetic factors. Surgery is always needed in order to fix a cleft lip/palate and it is mostly done when the baby is three to six months old. After surgery to correct a cleft lip, the baby may need to wear a head bonnet across the upper lip and taped to the cheeks, face, and head. The bonnet is made of a strap bandage reinforced with wire. This device helps prevent the lip from stretching and protects the stiches from breaking or separating.

The story of Charla Nash is known among many people. She is the attack victim of a two-hundred pound chimpanzee that ripped off her nose, lips, eyelids and hands. The attack left her blind. This sad incident happened February of 2009. The chimp had let himself out of the house and that’s when he saw Charla Nash. The chimp charged at her and grievously mauled her. The owner of the chimp tried to stop her chimp but she couldn’t. she later called for police. They quickly came and shot the chimpanzee, but by that time it was too late for Charla Nash. The damage done would have been irreversible if it wasn’t for reconstructive surgery.

This is what she looks like today after her face transplant.

This chart shows that plastic surgery is on the rise in our society. It illustrates that millions of plastic surgery operations were performed just in the year 2003. People are paying thousands of dollars a surgery just to look “perfect”.

BY JOSEPH NACCARELLI
LC 11 ENG 101 & ART 111
Professors Pat Licklider & Frank Gimpaya