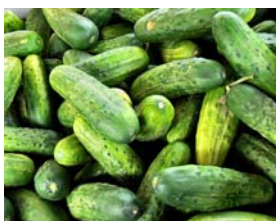


Toxic...



Food Additives. During the 19th century, it was common for “secret ingredients” to be added to food to enhance its appearance. Most “green” vegetables were actually made green with copper. According to an English chemist in 1820, “a young lady amused herself by eating a pickle impregnated with copper. She soon complained of a pain in the stomach. In 9 days after eating the pickle, death relieved her of her suffering.” Candy was almost always contaminated with mercury, copper, lead, chromium or arsenic and was primarily consumed by children. “Cod liver oil” consisted mostly of train oil and iodine. Yellow-tinged milk colored with lead and chromium was so common that people refused to drink white milk (thinking that it had been doctored).



Town. Residents of Cheshire, Ohio had long complained of raspy

throats, burning eyes, sore lips, mouth blisters and grime caused by the local electric utility. Rather than face the cost and publicity of lawsuits, the company bought the town for \$20 million. In exchange, the soon-to-be-displaced residents had to agree never to sue the power company.

Day Care. Kiddie Kollege day care center opened in a former mercury thermometer factory in Gloucester County, New Jersey although federal, state and local officials knew for 20 years that the building was too contaminated for human occupancy. Even after Kiddie Kollege opened, government officials did nothing for 3 months as children as young as 8-months-old continued to play where mercury vapors were present at levels more than 27 times above acceptable limits.

Jelly. A pile of “flabby red, orange and green” jelly left by a

road near Halle, Germany caused a minor crisis after it was reported as toxic waste. Investigators probed the substance for two hours before concluding it was jelly. The jelly spill was traced to a wedding party. The sleeping groom, when awakened, did not have an explanation but did promise to clean up the mess.

Frogs. Some frogs can fend off their enemies with a natural chemical coating that shields them from being eaten by predators. One tiny drop of toxin is all it takes to paralyze and/or kill an adversary (including a curious person). The photo below shows the Green-banded Poison Frog.



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Did you Know?

- Toxic is derived from the Greek word for bow or weapon.
- The Skull and Cross-Bones is the universal symbol for toxicity and originated with the Knights Templar at the time of the Crusades. They believed that only the skull and two bones had to be buried to gain entry to Heaven. Many of the Knights later turned to piracy and carried this symbol with them.

Env-irony

Philippines: Greenpeace was fined \$7000 for damaging a coral reef in the Sulu Sea when the Rainbow Warrior II ran aground.

London: Prince Charles was criticized for increasing air emissions by jetting to Boston to re-

ceive the Global Environmental Citizen Award from Harvard. In an attempt at atonement, he later cancelled his ski trip to Switzerland.

Chicago: The EPA is forcing the Blommer Chocolate Co. to clean up its chocolate scented

emissions originating from brownie baking.

Quebec: Global warming has come to northern Canada. Known for building igloos while hunting on the polar ice, the Inuit in Kuujuaq have installed air conditioners to keep cool.

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Having a bad summer vacation at the beach

Top 10 Signs You're Having a Bad Summer Vacation

- 10 Your hotel room boasts a breathtaking view of downtown Baghdad
- 9 It's a time share, and you have it during the 1st week in December
- 8 Room service waiter challenges you to guess which dish he sneezed on
- 7 You have to share a Jacuzzi with a maid rinsing out diapers
- 6 A hotel security guard offers to sell you photos he took of your wife sleeping
- 5 The hotel chef has grill marks on his chin
- 4 You toss a penny in the hotel fountain and it hits a corpse
- 3 Casino enforces a strict No Gambling policy
- 2 The water level in the hotel pool rises whenever someone flushes the toilet
- 1 No "Rat Pack", but there are several packs of rats

Toxic Tanker

In August 2006, the *Probo Koala* tanker ship unloaded 500 tons of toxic waste in Abidjan, Ivory Coast (Africa). Tanker trucks loaded with a mixture of cleaning chemicals, gasoline and crude oil residue from the ship dumped the material at 14 locations around the city including vegetable fields, fisheries, water reservoirs



and lagoons. The waste allegedly exuded many poisonous chemicals including hydrogen sulfide gas and the caustic fumes caused vomiting, nosebleeds, headache, rashes and death.

Many neighborhoods adjoining the dump sites became deserted as thousands packed their belongings on donkey carts and buses and left the area. Official figures listed 7 dead and 9,000 ill. The Ivory Coast transportation minister, who had resigned over the incident, was seriously beaten in broad daylight.

The *Probo Koala's* odyssey began in July 2006 at the port of Amsterdam where it was offloading a

cargo of "waste water" used to clean gasoline tankers. The sharp stench carried to nearby residential neighborhoods was so bad that residents called the police. Samples taken from the "waste water" revealed that it contained highly toxic components of crude oil along with caustic chemicals.

The captain of the *Probo Koala* refused to pay the additional \$500,000 that treatment of the "waste water" would have cost and set sail for Estonia. Officials in Estonia were notified that a "suspicious cargo" was headed their way and refused to offload the toxic payload. The captain though took on a shipment of gasoline and headed for Africa, where he unloaded the gasoline in Nigeria and the toxic slop in Ivory Coast.