



## EnviroBriefs



**Booze Bus.** Swedish authorities yearly confiscate nearly 200,000 gallons of smuggled alcohol on its way to Sweden. Instead of pouring it down the drain, biogas is created from the alcohol and used to power a variety of vehicles including buses and trains.

**No Laughing Matter.** Various parties are joining forces to combat the threat of the “forgotten greenhouse gas” by taking part in an influential forum at the University of East Anglia. Better known as “laughing gas,” nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) accounts for 9% of all greenhouse gases, but is 300 times more potent than carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). Agriculture accounts for 70% of nitrous oxide emissions.

**Sunny Side Down.** In Sunnyvale California, Mark Vargas asked authorities to file charges against his neighbor, Richard Treanor, be-

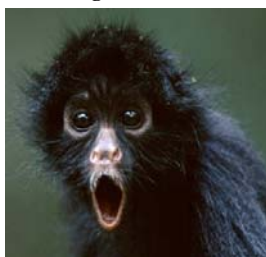
cause Treanor’s tall redwood trees were blocking sunlight to Vargas’ backyard solar panels. Although the trees were planted before the solar panels were installed, a judge ordered Treanor to cut down 2 of his 8 trees. California’s Solar Shade Control Act protects a homeowner’s right to sunlight. After six years of legal expenses, Treanor will not appeal the ruling.

**Greenhouse Gasp.** Students in a University of Michigan biology project will not be getting extra credit for their green thumbs. Eleven small plants believed to be marijuana were seized from a greenhouse in the school’s Matthaei Botanical Gardens.

**Beach Blanket Stingo.** Many Australian east coast beaches have turned as blue as the water because armadas of toxic bluebottle jellyfish are washing up and putting the sting on

beach season. More than 30,000 people were stung by the blue jellyfish last year and this year is shaping up to be worse. The jellyfish are apparently growing in numbers due to warming ocean waters.

**Simian Slacks.** Robert Cusack was caught smuggling at LAX after four colorful birds-of-paradise escaped from his suitcase while he was going through customs. Realizing that he was already busted, Cusack exclaimed to customs officials “I have monkeys in my pants!” Also at LAX, Jerome James was arrested when it was discovered that he had smuggled three endangered banded iguanas in his hollowed-out prosthetic leg.



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### Did you Know?

- In China, it is shameful for a man to wear a *green* hat in public and indicates that his wife or significant other has been unfaithful.
- Drinking *green* tea is reputed to be helpful with several medical conditions including: cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, high cholesterol, cardiovascular disease, infection and impaired immune function.

## Green Moments in History

**1940:** *Green* Lantern first appears in DC Comics. Although a worthy superhero, he is powerless against the color yellow. As a result, he is unable to peel a banana unless it’s well-ripened.

**1953:** The Jolly *Green* Giant appears in his first

TV commercial as a puppet stomping through the valley shouting “fum fo fi fe” (a take-off of Jack and the Beanstalk). He so frightens children that he is removed from the airwaves.

**1965:** Kiddie show host Soupy Sales is fired after

telling his young viewers to take *green* papers from Daddy’s wallet and mail them to him.

**1969:** *Green* Slime, one of the worst movies of all time is released. Made in Japan, it features an American cast with extras from the USAF.

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Camp mascot during happier times

## Top 10 Signs You're at a Bad Summer Camp

10. Camp's Indian name translates as "Land of the Rabid Rodents"
9. Odd-looking kid biting everyone turns out to be a giant mosquito
8. Everyone has to be back in their own cells by 9:00 PM
7. Happy Hour at the camp canteen features half-price malaria shots
6. You spend most of your craft time doing asbestos removal in the camp superintendent's office
5. Your teammates unanimously choose you for the "Javelin Catch" event at the camp Field Day
4. For the Family Day picnic, the camp mascot is roasted on a giant spit (see photo at left)
3. Camp lifeguard makes rescues by appointment only
2. A little too late, you realize that wasn't a mint on your pillow
1. Your new bunkmate: Michael Jackson

**Enviro-quote:** "It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change" - *Charles Darwin*

## Fish Story

Villagers from the Rostov region of Russia caught a strange sea creature after a strong storm in the Sea of Azov. The creature had the overall appearance of a shark and produced weird squeaky sounds. Fishermen believed that they had reeled in a genuine alien and they decided to film the "monster" with the help of a cell phone camera. The bizarre



catch weighed nearly 100 kilograms (220 pounds).

Scientists and UFO enthusiasts were greatly disappointed when they learned that the fishermen had chosen to eat the "alien." The fishermen claimed that they were not frightened of the beast and decided to have it for dinner. One said that it was the most delicious dish that he had ever eaten.

Andrei Gorodovoi, Chairman of the Service for Anomalous Phenomena in Russia, who reviewed the short video shot by the fishermen, stated that creature was an anomalous being but did not appear to be either an extraterrestrial or a (really ugly) mermaid. He said "There are many legends about mermaids living in the Sea



of Azov. Nevertheless, specialists of the Service for Anomalous Phenomena have never confirmed these fairytales. On the other hand, we do not deny the possibility of other forms of life in the Sea of Azov."