



EnviroBriefs



Vegan shoe

Woody World. Actor and environmental activist Woody Harrelson played in a charity poker fundraiser in Cannes, France last year and tied for the \$1 million charity prize. Woody, who is an ardent *vegan* and will not wear leather, arrived in Cannes minus his favorite *vegan* shoes and belt. After failing to find suitable replacements in Cannes, Woody had his *vegan* accessories flown in on a private jet from California, creating a massive and gratuitous carbon footprint. And on a sadder note - Woody's shoes developed a bad case of crabgrass during his stay and had to be plowed under.

I'm So Tired. The Earl of Iveagh (pronounced "eye-va"), the senior member of the Guinness brewing family, is facing a \$600,000 bill for cleaning up tires that were illegally dumped on his 23,000 acre East Anglia estate 10 years ago. Close to a million tires were disposed of on

his land, located on the eastern coast of England, by Tim Phillips, a crooked waste management entrepreneur, who was later jailed. Though the Earl remains responsible for the cleanup and has made a valiant attempt to remediate "tire mountain," he has a long way to go. In related news, Guinness is debuting *Old Tire Ale*, its first new brew in years. Guinness confidently guarantees that *Old Tire Ale* will never go flat.

Paper or Plastic. According to the EPA, paper bags are not better for the environment than plastic bags. Plastic bags require less energy and greenhouse gas emissions to make, ship and recycle. They generate less air and water pollution and take up less landfill space.

Blowin' in the Wind. Prolific 67-year-old singer-songwriter Bob Dylan has annoyed some of his neighbors with what the wind blows in

from an outdoor chemical toilet on his Malibu CA estate. Neighbors Cindy and David Emminger report that fumes from the toilet are making their family ill. Mr. Emminger said "*Mr. Civil Rights* is violating our civil rights." Unhelpful Malibu Mayor Andy Stern declared "I really have not involved myself in Bob Dylan's toilet, and by the way I haven't involved myself in anyone else's toilet in Malibu." The reclusive Dylan, who could not be reached for comment, is working on his latest album *Outhouse Blues*. It will feature new versions of his most famous songs including: All Along the Wash Towel, Like a Rolling Throne, Tangled Up in Loo and Mr. Tambourine Can.



Environmental Moments in History

500 BC: A lack of wood for fuel leads ancient Greeks to orient houses and cities to use passive solar energy. Greek playwright Aeschylus says that only barbarians "lacked knowledge of houses turned to face the winter sun, dwelling beneath the ground like swarming ants in sunless caves."

1851: "Mother of the Forest," a 321-foot tall giant sequoia which took root in 668 BC, is cut down in Calaveras County CA by George Gale. When he tours to display "Mother of the Forest," outrage over the felling of such an ancient tree ignites a call for the formation of a national park system.

1948: Atmospheric inversion in Donora PA traps a gas cloud from the Donora Zinc Works. Twenty die and public outcry forces the government to begin dealing with air pollution.

1969: Oil and chemicals in the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland OH catch fire. Flames top five stories.

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Did you Know?

- Research by archaeologists and geologists in southern Greece suggests that protection of the environment was not a priority during the *Golden Age of Greece* and that the ancient Greeks were poor guardians of their ecosystem. Destructive eco-unfriendly activities included deforestation and catastrophic soil erosion caused by expanding agricultural practices and growing human populations.

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Common Sense Consulting



Geezer fashion statement (see No. 4) →

Top 10 Benefits of Being a Geezer

10. On a sinking ship, you get to be first in line for the lifeboats, once you slip past the women and children.
9. You can still sink your teeth into a steak, although they usually stay there.
8. You continue to “get lucky” at least once a week, but for you that means not having to call Security to find your Oldsmobile in the supermarket parking lot.
7. Your secrets are safe with friends because they can't remember them either.
6. You keep fit and get plenty of fresh air by being a pallbearer for your buddies who exercise.
5. Your digestive system is still as regular as clockwork, producing solid results every morning at 6:00 AM. Unfortunately, you ordinarily stay in bed until 7:00 AM.
4. You get to wear your pants as high as you want and nobody seems to mind (see photo at left).
3. On Halloween, your sack is always loaded higher than those of the other trick-or-treaters, but yours is mostly filled with restraining orders.
2. Your supply of brain cells is finally down to a decent size.
1. People don't disturb you when you're napping, mainly because they assume that you're dead.

Avian Angst

The US Congress passed the Endangered Species Act in 1973 to protect and recover endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend. The U.S. Department of the Interior recently issued a report - *The U.S. State of the Birds*, which reveals that one-third of the nation's endangered birds are in Hawaii and 31 Hawaiian bird species are listed as endangered, more than anywhere else in the US. Since humans arrived in Ha-



Hawaiian
Goose

waii, 71 bird species have become extinct. Hawaii's native birds and habitats are under attack from invasive plant species, disease, pollution and non-native

animals such as pigs, goats and sheep. Disease-carrying mosquitoes are especially devastating.

The Hawaiian Goose or *Nene*, the State Bird of Hawaii, was close to extinction in the 1950's with only 25 left. With the help of captive breeding and protection from predators, there is now has an estimated population of 1,700 birds. The Hawaiian Crow has not been so lucky and is extinct in the wild with only 60 birds in captivity.



Hawaiian
Hawk

The Hawaiian Hawk or *'lo*, found only on the Big Island of Hawaii, has stabilized and

may soon be up-graded to threatened. The Palila, a yellow-crowned songbird, is also only found on the Big Island in the Mamane Forest above 7,500 feet. It is acutely susceptible to diseases carried by mosquitoes and its numbers have declined precipitously from 6,600 in 2002 to 2,200 last year.



Palila

A major obstacle cited in the report is lack of funding for habitat restoration. With sufficient spending, it is believed that most, if not all, of the endangered species could be recovered. *The U.S. State of the Birds* report was requested in 2007 by President George W. Bush.