



EnviroBriefs



High Tide Heels

Pool Pumps. Australian designer Lisa Carney has found the perfect way for female swimmers to make a fashion statement at poolside or on the beach without having to compromise on function. The unique design of *High Tide Heels* makes them equally suitable for fend-off sharks or the unwelcome advances of beach Romeos. And if higher sea levels become the norm because of global warming, there's no need to replace your entire shoe collection.

power accounts for about half of the country's electricity. It was later learned that city officials were given the choice of accepting either the nuclear waste dump or 100 free tickets to an upcoming Britney Spears concert. They unanimously chose the nuclear waste dump.

Robo-Fish. In Gijon, Spain, a school of robot fish will be released into port waters to measure water quality. Developed in England, they will each cost about \$29,000. Lifelike in appearance and swimming behavior so as not to alarm real fish, they resemble *carp* and are 5 feet long, can swim at a maximum speed of 4 feet per second and run on rechargeable batteries. A spokesman said, "This efficiency is something we need to ensure that our pollution detection sensors can navigate in the underwater environment for hours on end." Whenever the robo-fish find pollutants, they will

relay the information on a real time basis to the head robot - Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Wallaby Acres. Native to Australia, wallabies are being sent to England at an increasing rate as landowners seek new ways of keeping their lawns trim. Those with expansive lawns have traditionally brought in sheep to graze, but the miniature marsupial is a cuter, friendlier and more exotic alternative. Anyone looking to adopt a wallaby should have enough land for them to roam (about half an acre) and fences at least 5 feet high to keep them from jumping for freedom. As an added advantage over sheep, the marvelous marsupials can be trained to carry small garden tools in their pouches.



Some Prize. Osthrammar, Sweden recently won a competition over rival town Oskarshamn to be the designated site for a nuclear waste repository. The proposed storage facility will cost \$3.1 billion and will store spent nuclear waste from Swedish reactors for 100,000 years. "We are really happy about this decision," said Jacob Sangenberg, head of the Osthrammar municipal council. Nuclear

Environmental Moments in History

1590: Queen Elizabeth is "greatly grieved and annoyed" by coal smoke in Westminster Palace.

1690: Paris is first European city to build an extensive sewer system.

1829: Sylvester Graham, a New Jersey minister, temperance crusader and vegetarian, invents

the *graham cracker* as a cure for carnal urges.

1845: Legendary (and real) Johnny Appleseed dies after planting apple trees across Ohio and Indiana for 50 years.

1875: President Ulysses Grant vetoes a bill protecting buffalo and other wildlife.

1895: US Attorney General Judson Harmon tells Mexico that the US will "do whatever it pleases" with water from the Rio Grande.

1900: Wild buffalo population in the US drops to fewer than 40 animals from an estimated 30 million a century earlier.

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Phase II Contaminant Investigations

Site Cleanup and Remediation Services

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Did you Know?

- The American Buffalo (or bison) is the largest land mammal in North America. A bull stands 6 feet tall, weighs a ton, can scramble over 7 foot fences and swim rivers a mile wide.
- Adult buffalo have few natural predators. Horns, strong hooves and speed (35 mph) are effective deterrents against wolf packs and bears.
- Railroads once allowed tourists to shoot buffalo from passing trains.
- No longer an endangered species, there are now more than 400,000 buffalo in North America.

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Only Great Ideas



English Cab (see No. 3) →

Top 10 British Laws Still on the Books

10. It is permissible to shoot a Scotsman with a crossbow, except on Sunday. However, any Scotsman caught drunk or with a weapon may be shot on a Sunday, but not with a bow and arrow.
9. Members of Parliament may not enter Parliament wearing a full suit of armor.
8. Whales washed ashore dead are the legal property of the King and Queen. The head belongs to the King and the tail belongs to the Queen.
7. Allowing your pet to mate with a pet of the royal house without permission is an executable offense.
6. Dying within the Houses of Parliament is not allowed.
5. Tarot card readings and fortune telling are not permitted since they are forms of witchcraft.
4. All males over the age of 14 are to carry out approximately two hours of longbow practice per week under the strict supervision of the local clergy.
3. Cab drivers may not transport rabid dogs or corpses and must ask all passengers if they have small pox or the plague (see photo at left).
2. A license is required to keep or house a lunatic or to have a television set.
1. Suicide is a capital crime punishable by death.

RABBIT STEW(L)

In eastern Washington state, radioactive rabbit droppings from the Cold War era are being cleaned up as part of the Federal Government's economic stimulus program to the tune of \$300,000 and giving new meaning to the term *nuclear waste dump*. For the initial effort, contractors are using helicopters with radiation detectors and GPS units to pinpoint



the radioactive poop. The impact zone is concentrated in a 14-square mile area adjacent to the Hanford site, a 1950's plutonium production complex. Although most humans find nuclear waste unappetizing, eastern Washington's rabbits, badgers and other critters found the radioactive salts cesium and strontium irresistible. "They loved it," said a project manager for the cleanup contractor. During the 1950's, the rabbits would burrow into the nuclear waste trenches, lick up the salty waste and carry it away in their digestive tracts.

In other cottontail news, Spanish customs officials have confiscated more than \$2 million worth of counterfeit cigarettes that were filled with rabbit droppings instead of tobacco. The fake cigarettes,

which were labeled as well-known brands, were discovered after British tourists in the Canary Islands noticed that the cigarettes that they were smoking tasted like crap. One customs official said "They stunk. They smelled just as you'd imagine burning poo to smell." Police and customs agents arrested 12 smugglers in an undercover operation to intercept the cigarettes as they landed on a boat from China.

