



EnviroBriefs



Rooster Shades

I am the Egg Man. Farmers in Chengdu, China have fitted their belligerent roosters with John Lennon-style sunglasses to keep the peace in the barnyard. They came up with the idea to keep fights from breaking out between rival roosters at the free range farm. Roosters are aggressive by nature and the constant fighting results in bleeding and other injuries. The plastic sunglasses keep the roosters from seeing each other clearly and so they are much quieter and more peaceful. The farmers also remarked that harmony among the roosters had improved dramatically after *Yoko* (a hen) became the main course at a recent harvest dinner celebration.

Nuclear Tourists. The Ukrainian government has announced that the Chernobyl nuclear disaster site will soon become a world-class tourist destination. Back on April 26, 1986, reactor number 4 of the local

nuclear power plant exploded resulting in the greatest nuclear power disaster in history and an area within a 30 mile radius being closed to the public. Although tourists have been visiting Chernobyl unofficially for years, the area around the plant remains dangerous. However to reassure travelers, the Ukrainian Ministry of Emergency will be in charge of operating tours and insuring the safety of tourists (tour guides insist that only two cases of visitor contamination occur each year). The government is also negotiating with Euro Disney to open a Chernobyl version of its famous theme park. Planned attractions include: Mickey Mouse Meltdown, Country Bear Fallout Jamboree and Snow White's Nuclear Winter Wonderland.

Green Support. To help save the planet, lingerie maker *Intimissimi* is collecting bras at its stores in Italy that will

be recycled into insulated and soundproof panels used for construction. And *Triumph International Japan* has designed several bras to raise environmental awareness, including one that comes with reusable wooden chopsticks.

Green Screen. In England, the world's smallest solar-powered mobile movie theater has shown over 400 films since its debut in 2010. The 8-seat theater uses an LED projector powered by solar energy to show a variety of films, many of them environmentally-friendly. Since these types of films are currently in short supply, the theater has taken to showing other *green* films, including *Fried Green Tomatoes*, *Soylent Green* and *Monster From Green Hell*.



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Did you Know?

- Hannibal, the Carthaginian general, had two types of wigs: one to improve his appearance and one to disguise himself in battle.
- Riots erupted in Caen, France, in 1715, because flour for bread was instead being used by aristocrats for powdering their wigs.

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OGI EnviroNews

Nursery Rhymes Exposed

Three Blind Mice are three English noblemen convicted of plotting against Queen Mary I "Bloody Mary" of England (reigning as queen from 1553 to 1558). The good news is that Bloody Mary does not "cut off their tails with a carving knife." Unfortunately, the bad news is that Bloody Mary does have

the three noblemen burned at the stake.

Pop Goes the Weasel derives from Cockney rhyming slang which originates in 19th Century London. "Pop" is the slang word for "pawn" and "weasel" derives from "weasel and stoat" meaning coat. It is traditional for even poor

people to own a suit coat, which they wear as their *Sunday Best*. When times are hard, they pawn their suit coat on Monday and claim it back before Sunday.

Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe is King George II of England who begins the disturbing men's fashion trend of wearing

white powdered wigs and is therefore referred to as "the Old Woman." Wigs worn by women during this period are overly ornate (some contain birds in bird-cages) and many are so large and unhygienic that it becomes necessary to include mouse-traps as part of their construction.

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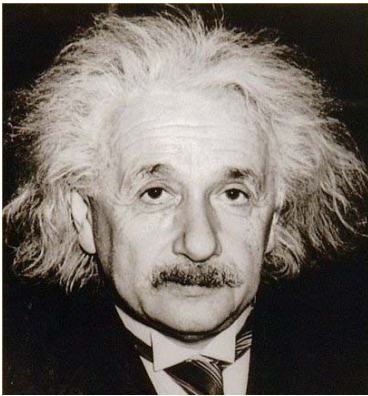
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Only Great Ideas



Albert Einstein (see No. 3→)

Top 10 Tax Quotes

10. "I'm proud to be paying taxes in the United States. The only thing is - I could be just as proud for half the money."
Arthur Godfrey (television personality)
9. "I love America, but I can't spend the whole year here. I can't afford the taxes." - *Mick Jagger (singer)*
8. "It's income tax time again, Americans: time to gather up those receipts, get out those tax forms, sharpen up that pencil, and stab yourself in the aorta." - *Dave Barry (author)*
7. "The only difference between a taxman and a taxidermist is that the taxidermist leaves the skin." - *Mark Twain (humorist)*
6. "Income tax returns are the most imaginative fiction being written today." *Herman Wouk (novelist)*
5. "America is a land of taxation that was founded to avoid taxation." - *Dr. Laurence J. Peter (educator)*
4. "There is no such thing as a good tax."
Winston Churchill (politician)
3. "The hardest thing in the world to understand is the income tax."
Albert Einstein (physicist) - see photo at left
2. "Be wary of strong drink. It can make you shoot at tax collectors...and miss." - *Robert A. Heinlein (author)*
1. "The difference between death and taxes is that death doesn't get worse every time Congress meets." - *Will Rogers (humorist)*

TURN UP THE VOLUME

Years ago, when you wanted to let people know your Schwinn bicycle was coming, a baseball card in the spokes did the trick. Now people are concerned that the new hybrid and electric cars are too quiet. The first hybrid electric *Chevrolet Volt* and all-electric *Nissan Leaf* were delivered to their owners last month.

However, blind pedestrians say that the quietness of hybrids and fully electric cars can pose substantial risks for them, children and cyclists because at low speeds, these cars are virtually silent.



Advocates for the blind have pushed federal lawmakers for protection because the blind use sound cues in order to travel safely. Car makers have begun to develop artificial sounds that will be produced by electric cars and hybrid vehicles when travelling at less than 20 miles per hour. Vehicles travelling over 20 miles an hour generally can be heard because of sufficient tire friction with the road.

Statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration show that pedestrians and cyclists are twice as likely to be hit by a hybrid electric vehicle

running silently at low speed than by a car with an internal combustion engine. Researchers are now investigating sounds that are safe, have a minimal effect on the environment and still allow for some creativity among manufacturers. For a car with a traditional engine, the sounds of the vehicle idling, accelerating or braking are clearly distinguishable and therefore the sounds emitted by an electric or hybrid should also convey the same information.

With some creativity, car makers will surely rise to the challenge and make some noises that will get our attention.

