



BOGGY SHOE



The magazine of Brighton Hash House Harriers – Runs/trash#93 January 2005

<http://www.brightonhash.co.uk/>

All runs are on Mondays meet at 19.30 for 19.40 start

All directions/ timings start from Patcham roundabout A23/A27 junction (unless stated).

Date	#No.	On On	Area	Map ref	Hares	Tel. No. (hare)
3 rd January 2005	1385		Half Moon, Plumpton	364 133	Grahame & Pete	
Directions: A23 north, keep in left hand lane and filter on to A273 over Clayton Hill. 2nd right is B2112 into Ditchling. At mini-roundabout turn right on B2116. Take turning on left just past the pub for the car park. Est 20 mins.						

10 th January 2005	1386		Ship, Cuckfield	304 257	Louis	01444 410656
Directions: A23 north to A272. Loop back under A23 and carry on to Ansty. Left at next 2 roundabouts onto B2036. Go right up High Street and pub is on left just at junction with B2114 to Staplefield. Est. 20mins.						

17 th January 2005	1387		Lamb, Eastbourne	597 995	Sally	
Directions: A27 east to Polegate junction. Right on A22 2.5 miles, bear right at junction still on A22 then hard right after 2 miles on to High Street, Old Town. Pub on right $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. Est 30 mins.						

24 th January 2005	1388		Bridge, Copsale	171 249	Pete & Grahame	01273 887579
Directions: A23 north to A272. A272 west through Cowfold to West Grinstead traffic lights. Right on A24 then after 3/4 mile right across carriageway on to Bar Lane. Pub on left 1.5 miles. Est 25 mins. Burns night celebration so dinnae ferget yer kilts for the run or after. Also please register so we can gauge numbers for food - haggis, tatties, neeps, and roast veggies.						

31 st January 2005	1389	Chris/ Tony	01273 554148			
309 084	Long Man of Wilmington,	Patcham				
Directions: A23 south into town, first left Carden Avenue. Pub on right $\frac{3}{4}$ mile. Est. 5 mins.						

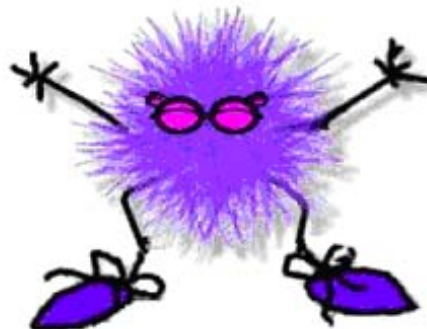
Receding Hareline:

7th February 2005 1390 Trevor & Malcolm at the Fountain, Ashurst - Trevors 100th run!

18th April 2005 - Run 1400

Advance warning May 13th - 15th :

Friday 13th H3 visit Brighton in May as part of the West London H3 1000th run celebrations - full details TBA but diary for an evening Hash around the sites of Brighton's gruesome past never to be forgotten, then join in the rest of the WLH3 anniversary celebrations over the weekend!



FRIENDSHIP PRAYER

May the fleas of a thousand camels infest the crotch of the person who screws up your day and may their arms be too short to scratch...

AMEN

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!

Hope you all enjoyed the Christmas do and Red Dress run and are already looking forward to our biannual Burns night hash on the 24th January, which is actually only one day early, but so what eh? Good to see that our entertainment at the do, Juliette has already completed her first hash! Thanks to Don for the run and drinks stop, Niel and Dave for the MC'ing, Brett for the raffle, Young Les for the whisky (got any more for the Burns do?), Theresa for the demonstration of Arabian dance, and the wife for letting me out! Apologies if I've missed anyone but it's a team effort and all input is very much appreciated.

It was a shame Phil Mutton couldn't join us but I understand his operation has proved successful so far although it will take a while before he's back to his old form. I'm sure everyone joins with me in wishing him a continued and rapid recovery.



Not sure what happened to Pete Thomas's quiz thing, or if anyone had a go at the GCSE article but at least I can offer up the answers to the quiz from the last issue of the trash which are C, D, B, B, D, C, C, C, D, A. So now you know! **BOUNCER**

Brighton Hash House Harriers 10th Anniversary Round Sussex Relay

This was held on Saturday, 15th May, 2004 and was once again done to raise funds for Lorna Elwick, to purchase equipment not provided by anyone else.

The previous Relay was held in the summer of 1994, on a 100 mile course through our beautiful Sussex countryside. The Hash generously put themselves to enormous effort to carry out the run, and to gain sponsors for it. As many of you know, Lorna was suddenly rendered profoundly disabled in June 1993, with Locked-in Syndrome, and the money raised was put towards a special Communication Aid. It enabled Lorna to work it as a computer and to communicate through writing and with a voice synthesizer, similar to the one used by Prof. Stephen Hawkins. In fact, besides that splendid machine, due to the fantastic generosity of everyone there was enough money over to buy an old ambulance so that Lorna could be taken to places such as the shops, the cinema, and to see her family and friends.

The 10th Anniversary came up this year (just gone!), and it was decided by the Hash to do it again (mad, soppy fools!). It was partly because they don't need much of an excuse to get out and enjoy themselves, and once again we did! Once again, there was a super effort made by the sponsors, and enough cash came in to get Lorna a TV/DVD system that she could operate and use to allow her to carry out a course of study from the O.U. And, once again, there was money over, so Lorna has put this towards a Passive Motion machine, like an exercise bike.

This is a letter Lorna wrote to all the sponsors, to thank them for their generosity:

LETTER TO THE HASH MEMBERS

At long last I now have various bits of equipment, paid for by the generosity of the Hash plus Riverstone Management. I have managed to get the new TV etc., which has been programmed so that I can use it. I am now learning how to do this, and do not have a child on hand to show me how it works so I am having to follow the various manuals! The rest of the money has been used to go towards something called a CPM exercise machine (ask Terry). I am quite addicted to this bike and enjoy being able to move, even if only passively.

I have not had much luck with my initial hopes to do various courses – I did one, just to test the water, and found that I could not keep up because my method of taking notes was just too slow. The O.U. do not, as yet, make allowances for very slow students. Still, there are other courses, which I am going to try.

So, thank you all once again.

Lorna.

DRINKING WHISKY

The bartender asks the guy sitting at the bar, "What'll you have?"

The guy answers, "A scotch, please."

The bartender hands him the drink, and says "That'll be £2.50,"

The guy replies, "What are you talking about? I don't owe you anything for this."

A lawyer, sitting nearby and overhearing the conversation, then says to the bartender, "You know, he's got you there. In the original offer, which constitutes a binding contract upon acceptance, there was no stipulation of remuneration."

The bartender was not impressed, but says to the guy, "Okay, you beat me for a drink. But don't ever let me catch you in here again."

The next day, same guy walks into the bar. Bartender says, "What the heck are you doing in here? I can't believe you've got the audacity to come back!"

The guy says, "What are you talking about? I've never been in this place in my life!"

The bartender replies, "I'm very sorry, but this is uncanny. You must have a double."

To which the guy replies, "Thank you. Make it a scotch."

Chopper walks into a pub and orders a 12-year-old scotch. The barman, believing that he will not be able to tell the difference, pours him a shot of the cheap 3-year-old scotch that has been poured into an empty bottle of the good stuff.

Chopper takes a sip and spits the scotch out on the bar and screams at the bartender. "This is the cheapest 3-year-old scotch you can buy. I'm not paying for it. Now, give me a good 12-year-old scotch."

The barman, now feeling a bit of a challenge, pours him a scotch of much better quality, 6-year-old scotch. Chopper takes a sip and spits it out on the bar. "This is only 6-year-old scotch. I won't pay for this, and I insist on, a good, 12-year-old scotch."

The barman finally relents and serves Chopper his best quality, 12-year-old scotch. An old drunk from the end of the bar, who has witnessed the entire episode, walks down and sets a glass down in front of him and asks, "What do you think of this?"

Chopper takes a sip, and in disgust, violently spits out the liquid yelling "Why, this tastes like piss,"

The old drunk replies, "That's right, now tell me how old I am."

This guy staggers into a bar and shouts, "A double whisky please barman, and a drink for everyone here... and while you're at it, have one yourself."

"Well thank you sir," says the barman and proceeds to pour everyone their drinks.

Moments later the guy shouts, "Another whisky for me, and the same again for everyone else."

The bartender looks a little worried now and says, "Excuse me sir, but don't you think you should pay me for that last round first?"

The guy slurs, "I can't. I don't have any money." With this the bartender flies into a rage and literally throws the guy out. About twenty minutes later though the guy staggers back in and shouts out, "A double whisky for me, and a drink for all my friends."

"I suppose you'll be offering me a drink too?" the barman asks, marvelling at the guy's nerve.

"Not likely," slurs the guy, "you get nasty when you've had a drink!"



This bloke walks into a bar and orders a double scotch. After the bartender hands him the drink, he pours it down in one gulp and says, "Give me another." The bartender says, "Hey mate, what are you celebrating?" and the guy says, "My first headjob." "All right!" says the bartender. "Have this one on the house." The guy says, "Keep 'em coming, I've just got to get this taste out of my mouth!"

A guy walks into a bar with his dog and says, "I'll have a Scotch and water and my dog would like a whiskey sour." The bartender says, "Sorry, we don't allow animals in here." The dog replies, "Hey, I'm tired of being discriminated against. Just give me a drink."

The bartender says, "Oh, no, not another ventriloquist with the old talking dog trick. Both of you, get out of here!" "No, no, no, this isn't a trick, I promise you," says the man, "I tell you what, I'll go for a walk around the block and you talk to Rover here." The man leaves and the bartender sees him turn the corner.

"Now, can I have my drink," says the dog.

The bartender is amazed. "Sure you can and it's on the house! Listen, can you do me a favour? My wife works next door at the cafe. It'll make her day if you go in and order a cup of coffee. Here's ten bucks and you can keep the change afterwards."

"Okay," says the dog and he takes the ten dollars and leaves. Ten minutes go by and the dog doesn't come back. The owner returns and asks where is the dog. So both of them go off to see what happened to the dog. As they approach the cafe, they see Rover going at it hot and heavy with a French poodle in the alley between the bar and cafe. The owner shouts, "Rover! What are you doing! You've never done this before!"

The dog shrugged. "Hell, I've never had any money before."

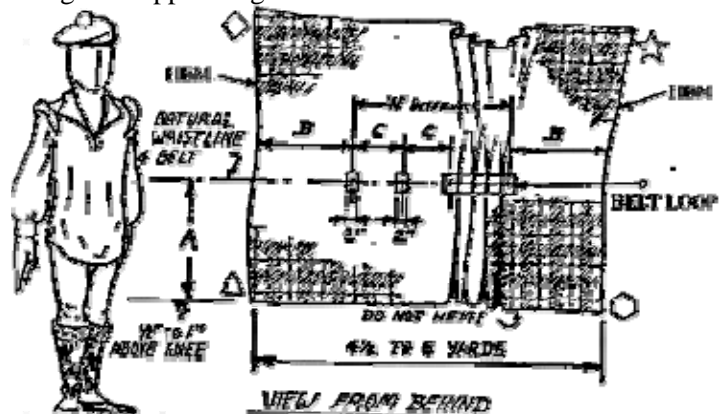
HOW TO MAKE A KILT...by Lord William Blackfox, CSM

"Nae for the faint o hert, weirin o the kilt on a geyan wundy day could be shawn the warld mair o yersel thon ye nicht hae planned ..."

If you are svelte, about 4 1/2 to 5 yards, if you are heavier, use 5 to 6 yards of material. Cut a strip from one end about 4 1/2 inches wide for making belt loops. Hem the ends neatly, but **DO NOT HEM THE LONG SIDES UNLESS THEY HAVE AN UNWANTED FRINGE!** You may wish to fringe the upper long side after the kilt has been made.

Measure yourself from a point about 1 inch above the top of your knee to your natural waistline. Call this measurement 'A'. Now measure across your lap from front to front of the pelvis. This may be from 13 inches on small men to no more than 16 inches on heavier men. This is measurement 'B', and will be the width of the unpleated 'aprons' which will overlap in front.

Lay your material out with the hems at the ends turned **UNDER**. Choose one long side to be the hem of the kilt.

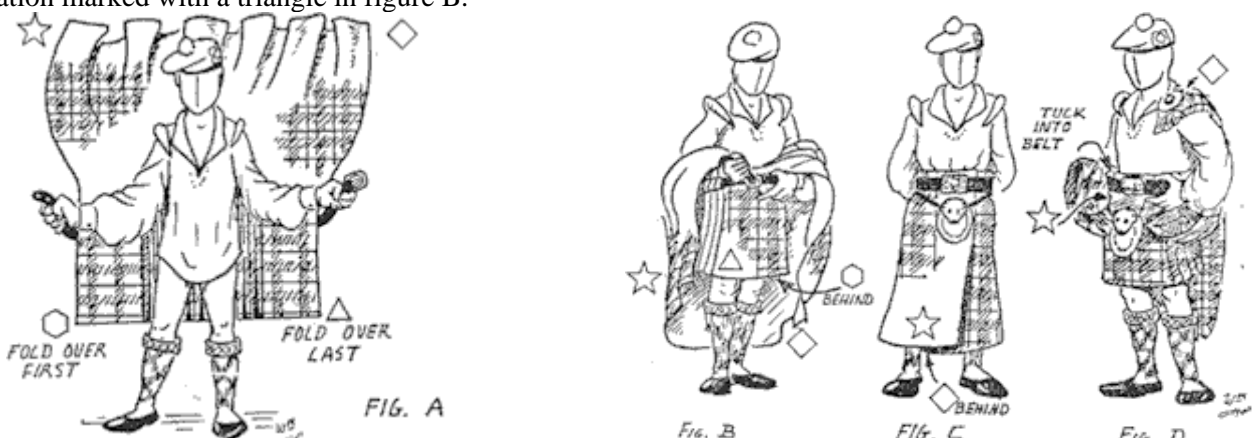


In the illustration above, note that the corners of the kilt material have been labelled with various geometrical symbols. These corners will be referenced by that symbol later in the article. Make marks on the material 'A' inches up from the hem and 'B' inches in from the ends. Measure your waistline loosely; subtract measurement 'B' from it; divide the difference by 2 and round off to the nearest whole number. This is the number 'N' which will be the number of intervals between the first two marks at which belt loops will be sewn across the back of the kilt.

Now take that 4 1/2 inch wide piece of material, lay a piece of string along its full length and fold it in half lengthwise. Carefully sew a hem along its length 2" from the fold and sew one end of the tube shut with the end of the string sewn into the hem. Now pull the string through and pull the tube inside-out, then press the tube with the seam in the middle of one side. You should have a flat, double-thickness strip 2" wide. Cut pieces from this strip 2" long for belt loops.

Measure the distance between the two marks on the kilt and divide by 'N'. This value gives the variable measurement 'C'. Using the dressmaker's marker, measure and mark the kilt every 'C' inches between the first two marks. Now take the belt loops and sew them in place at each of the marks along the back of the kilt. There should be 'N' plus one belt loops and they should all be centered 'A' inches from the hem. When a belt is strung through the belt loops, the loops butt against each other and automatically form the pleats in the back of the kilt. Neat, huh?

Putting on the Great Kilt - Lay the prepared kilt out on the floor or on a bed with the belt loops up. Thread a regular belt through the belt loops, then turn the whole thing over with the belt and belt loops underneath. Now lay down upon the pleated part of the kilt with the hemline at the top of the knee. Fold the right apron flap (hexagon) in front of you, then fold the left apron flap (triangle) over the right and fasten the belt snugly. Stand up and adjust the aprons so that one is directly over the other as in figure B. Let the extra material hang down over the belt. Now put on a wide dress belt and sporran as shown in figure C. Take a flap of extra material hanging down in front (star), fold it over itself and tuck it into the top of your belt on the right side. Take the other flap (diamond), raise the corner to the left shoulder and pin it with a large brooch as shown in figure D. For a finishing touch, pin a large blanket pin on the front apron at the location marked with a triangle in figure B.



This new configuration should not only be stylish, but also very stable with little problem of material shifting about.

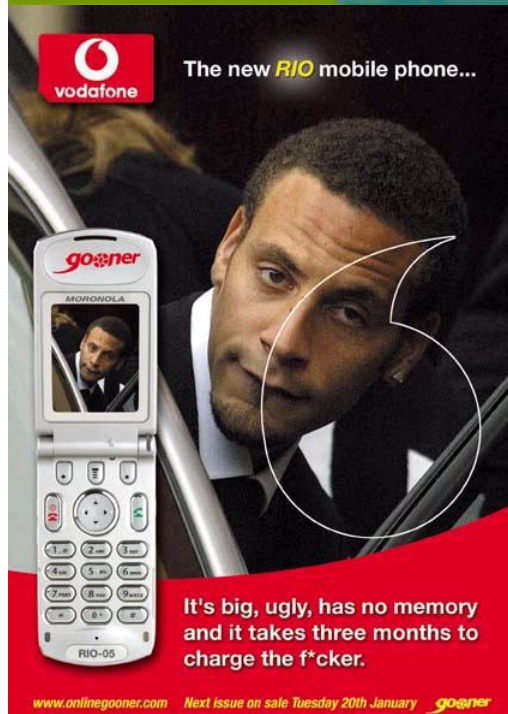
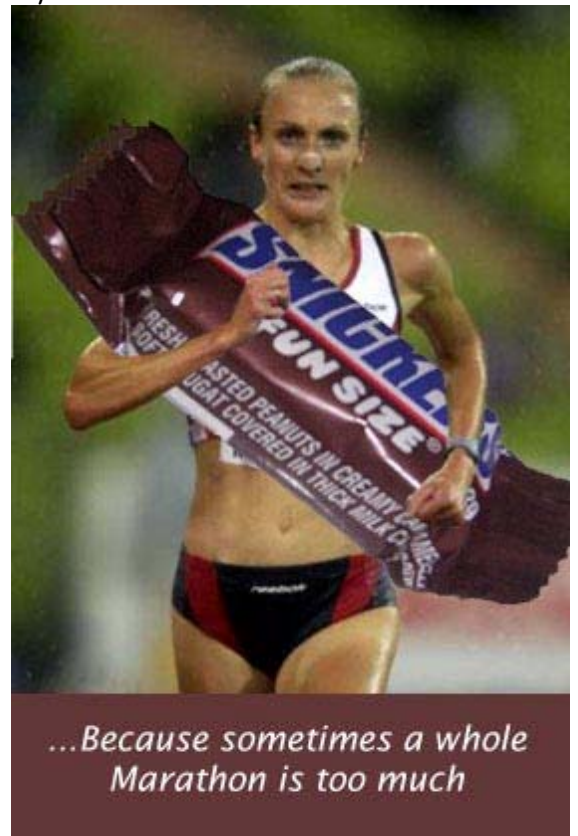
2004 CAPTION COMPETITION - Picture taken in Shoreham on 17th May 2003 at the end of the annual relay.



Name	Caption 1	
Brett Hughes	Getting pist!	You put your left leg In, Your left leg Out, In Out In Out and shake it all about!
Prof. P. A. Thomas,	A bemused Steve Hanna thinks: "Whose testicle's are they about to crush?"	The hash celebrate after another successful raid on the poppy fields.
Elaine xx	Just take the damn picture, we can't stay like this much longer!	
Elaine xx	Hashers do it standing up on one leg	Ready for circular dominos?
Nicola	Got one! Who do they think they're kidding! (Not a Black Stocking among them)	
Ivan	Only Hashers find the 'oakey coakey' easier with a drink in hand!	
Ed Griffiths	'At least some people had both foot on the ground'	'Hey diddle, diddle The bag's in the middle!'
Ed Griffiths	'One flew under the Hashers' Rest'	'Legless again'
Ed Griffiths	'Legs up - Bottoms in'	'CanCan't'
PETE BEARD	"THIS IS, OF COURSE, THE ANNUAL HASH SÉANCE WHEREBY THE ANCIENT HASH MYSTICS (HASHTICS) AIM TO RAISE A PLASTIC BAG FULL OF SHIGGY A FULL ONE METRE OFF THE GROUND BY MEANS OF MYSTICAL POWERS EMANATING FROM THEIR FEET. MAGIC POTION IS FIRST IMBIBED AND WEIRD RUMBLING NOISES ACCOMPANY THE TRANSFER OF POWERFUL FORCES DOWN EACH OF THE RAISED LEGS IN THE DIRECTION OF THE SAID PLASTIC BAG. ON REACHING THE HEIGHT OF 1 METRE THE BAG EXPLODES AND ALL ARE COVERED IN SHIGGY TO WHICH THERE IS A LOUD HAIL OF OH HASH! OH HASH! I AM VERILY COVERED IN IT! ALL THEN RETIRE TO THE HARVEY'S CAULDRON FOR RESUSITATION."	
George Vargha	* If you can - fine! If you can't any more - do can-can!	* What's wrong with the Hashers? They have clean shoes, They drink pink drinks, Instead of "on-on" it's "can-can"... What the hell is in the bag?
LESLEY !!	Whoa-oo the Okey Cokey. you put your right glassin	YOU MUST BE HAVING FUN READING THESE... LESLEY!!
ROSEMARY NOAKES	POST HASH "DOGGY DOO" CHECK .	
David Evans	The cat's out of the bag	
Bouncer	The impromptu display of Greek dancing to the tune of "ring-a-ring of roses" by the hash a moment before disaster struck when Spreadsheet sneezed and they all fell down.	On FA cup final day 2003 the hash demonstrate how their mixed squad would defeat the Arsenal team whilst holding a glass of champagne by all pretending to have the ball at the same time thus spreading confusion throughout their opponents squad.
Bouncer	In the Brighton Hash spot the ball competition Martin inadvertently gives the game away with his excessive concentration.	Simple Simon says raise you're RIGHT leg - Martin, Wiggy and Mike demonstrate why they got lost yet again on the run!
Bouncer	Steve 'Queen Bea' Hanna shows support for Michael Jackson in his troubled times by snorting his bubbles.	
Bouncer	You put your left boot in, your right boot in, in out in then you shake it all about, You drink some cheery beery then go hash about, a loud call of on on is what you shout	Outside the Church where Bouncer and Angel have their nuptials blessed the hash offer advice to Gabrielle on how to place her foot in his nuptials to keep John in line.
Pete & Chris	John couldn't wait to get his leg over	
Sasha	The Hash group 3 legged representatives prepare for their debut race	
LONE RANGER	THE WINNING ANSWER HAS TO INVOLVE FLATULENCE.	

Huge thanks to all those who took part and thanks also to Young Les Plumb for the donation of the whisky miniatures which were awarded as prizes to the entries in capitals, if memory serves correctly! If not my apologies but the decision on the day was final!

2004 THE YEAR IN PICTURES - *Sure you can match the stories up!*



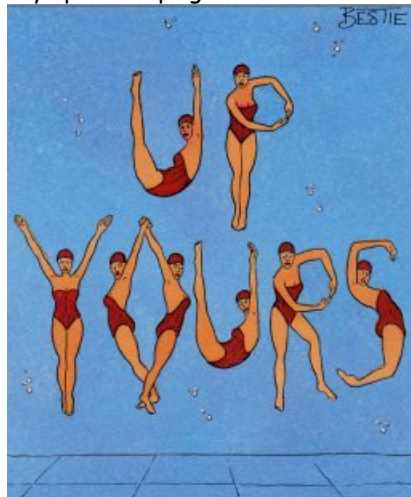
Oops, sorry about this one ...



STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN

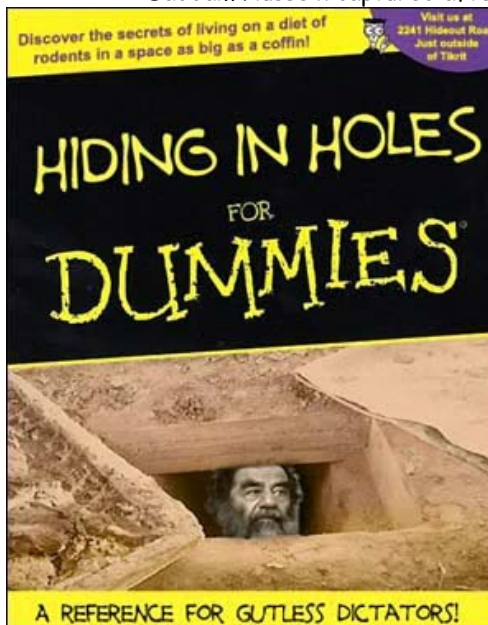


2004 - THE YEAR IN PICTURES ...
Britain has a highly successful
Olympics campaign:



THE BRITISH SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING TEAM
WEREN'T HAPPY WITH THE JUDGES MARKS.

Saddam Hussein captured after being found hiding in a hole:



Someone appears to have spotted the
hash market potential with this special
edition commemorative bog roll.



America take this as a sign of the great leadership being
shown by George W. and promptly re-elect him. He aptly
demonstrates that he is the right idiot for the job.

Label Instructions



This is a clothing label from a small American company
that sells their product in France.

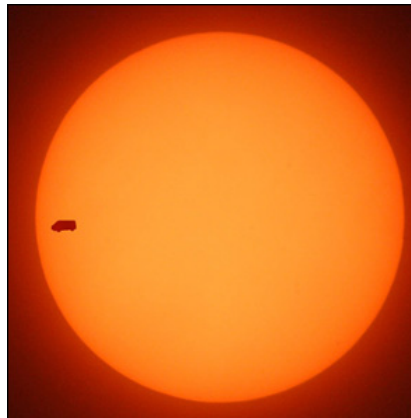
Here's the translation of the French part of the label.

- Wash with warm water.
- Use mild soap.
- Dry flat.
- Do not use bleach.
- Do not dry in the dryer.
- Do not iron.
- We are sorry that Our President is an idiot.
- We did not vote for him.



"There are two computers and five gyroscopes inside the Segway that 'watches' you to see if you're falling forward or backward. It then calculates how much power to apply on its four motors to keep you on the platform. It repeats this process about 100 times per second. **In fact, that's really the Segway's sole mission in life - it wants to keep you balanced on top of it.**"

Below left: Transit across the Sun.



Where to file Europe's
new constitution



What Tree Did You Fall From???



What tree did you fall from? Find your birthday, find your tree and then scroll down... This is really cool and somewhat accurate, also in line with Celtic astrology.

Jan 01 to Jan 11 - Fir Tree	Jul 05 to Jul 14 - Fir Tree
Jan 12 to Jan 24 - Elm Tree	Jul 15 to Jul 25 - Elm Tree
Jan 25 to Feb 03 - Cypress Tree	Jul 26 to Aug 04 - Cypress Tree
Feb 04 to Feb 08 - Poplar Tree	Aug 05 to Aug 13 - Poplar Tree
Feb 09 to Feb 18 - Cedar Tree	Aug 14 to Aug 23 - Cedar Tree
Feb 19 to Feb 28 - Pine Tree	Aug 24 to Sep 02 - Pine Tree
Mar 01 to Mar 10 - Weeping Willow Tree	Sep 03 to Sep 12 - Weeping Willow Tree
Mar 11 to Mar 20 - Lime Tree	Sep 13 to Sep 22 - Lime Tree
Mar 21 - Oak Tree	Sep 23 - Olive Tree
Mar 22 to Mar 31 - Hazelnut Tree	Sep 24 to Oct 03 - Hazelnut Tree
Apr 01 to Apr 10 - Rowan Tree	Oct 04 to Oct 13 - Rowan Tree
Apr 11 to Apr 20 - Maple Tree	Oct 14 to Oct 23 - Maple Tree
Apr 21 to Apr 30 - Walnut Tree	Oct 24 to Nov 11 - Walnut Tree
May 01 to May 14 - Poplar Tree	Nov 12 to Nov 21 - Chestnut Tree
May 15 to May 24 - Chestnut Tree	Nov 22 to Dec 01 - Ash Tree
May 25 to Jun 03 - Ash Tree	Dec 02 to Dec 11 - Hornbeam Tree
Jun 04 to Jun 13 - Hornbeam Tree	Dec 12 to Dec 21 - Fig Tree
Jun 14 to Jun 23 - Fig Tree	Dec 22 - Beech Tree
Jun 24 - Birch Tree	Dec 23 to Dec 31 - Apple Tree
Jun 25 to Jul 04 - Apple Tree	

APPLE TREE (Love) - of slight build, lots of charm, appeal, and attraction, pleasant aura, flirtatious, adventurous, sensitive, always in love, wants to love and be loved, faithful and tender partner, very generous, scientific talents, lives for today, a carefree philosopher with imagination.

ASH TREE (Ambition) - uncommonly attractive, vivacious, impulsive, demanding, does not care for criticism, ambitious, intelligent, talented, likes to play with fate, can be egotistic, very reliable and trustworthy, faithful and prudent lover, sometimes brains rule over the heart, but takes partnership very seriously.

BEECH TREE (Creative) - has good taste, concerned about its looks, materialistic, good organization of life and career, economical, good leader, takes no unnecessary risks, reasonable, splendid lifetime companion, keen on keeping fit (diets, sports, etc.)

BIRCH TREE (Inspiration) - vivacious, attractive, elegant, friendly, pretentious, modest, does not like anything in excess, abhors the vulgar, loves life in nature and in calm, not very passionate, full of imagination, little ambition, creates a calm and content atmosphere.

CEDAR TREE (Confidence) - of rare beauty, knows how to adapt, likes luxury, of good health, not in the least shy, tends to look down on others, self-confident, determined, impatient, likes to impress others, many talents, industrious, healthy optimism, waiting for the one true love, able to make quick decisions.

CHESTNUT TREE (Honesty) - of unusual beauty, does not want to impress, well-developed sense of justice, vivacious, interested, a born diplomat, but irritates easily and sensitive in company, often due to a lack of self confidence, acts sometimes superior, feels not understood, loves only once, has difficulties in finding a partner.

CYPRESS TREE (Faithfulness) - strong, muscular, adaptable, takes what life has to give, content, optimistic, craves money and acknowledgment, hates loneliness, passionate lover which cannot be satisfied, faithful, quick-tempered, unruly, pedantic, and careless.

ELM TREE (Noble-Minded) - pleasant shape, tasteful clothes, loudest demands, tends not to forgive mistakes, cheerful, likes to lead but not to obey, honest and faithful partner, likes making decisions for others, noble-minded, generous, good sense of humor, practical.

FIG TREE (Sensibility) - very strong, a bit self-willed, independent, does not allow contradiction or arguments, loves life, its family, children and animals, a bit of a social butterfly, good sense of humor, likes idleness and laziness, of practical talent and intelligence.

FIR TREE (Mysterious) - extraordinary taste, dignity, sophisticated, loves anything beautiful, moody, stubborn, tends to egoism but cares for those close to them, rather modest, very ambitious, talented, industrious, uncontested lover, many friends, many foes, very reliable.

HAZELNUT TREE (Extraordinary) - charming, undemanding, very understanding, knows how to make an impression, active fighter for social cause, popular, moody, and capricious lover, honest, and tolerant partner, precise sense of judgment.

HORNBEAM TREE (Good Taste) - of cool beauty, cares for its looks and condition, good taste, is not egotistic, makes life as comfortable as possible, leads a reasonable and disciplined life, looks for kindness and acknowledgment in an emotional partner, dreams of unusual lovers, is seldom happy with its feelings, mistrusts most people, is never sure of its decisions, very conscientious.

LIME TREE (Doubt) - accepts what life dishes out in a composed way, hates fighting, stress, and labor, dislikes laziness and idleness, soft and relenting, makes sacrifices for friends, many talents but not tenacious enough to make them blossom, often wailing and complaining, very jealous but loyal.

MAPLE TREE (Independent) - no ordinary person, full of imagination and originality, shy and reserved, ambitious, proud, self-confident, hungers for new experiences, sometimes nervous, has many complexities, good memory, learns easily, complicated love life, wants to impress.

OAK TREE (Brave) - robust nature, courageous, strong, unrelenting, independent, sensible, does not like change, keeps its feet on the ground, person of action.

OLIVE TREE (Wisdom) - loves sun, warmth and kind feelings, reasonable, balanced, avoids aggression and violence, tolerant, cheerful, calm, well-developed sense of justice, sensitive, empathetic, free of jealousy, loves to read and the company of sophisticated people.

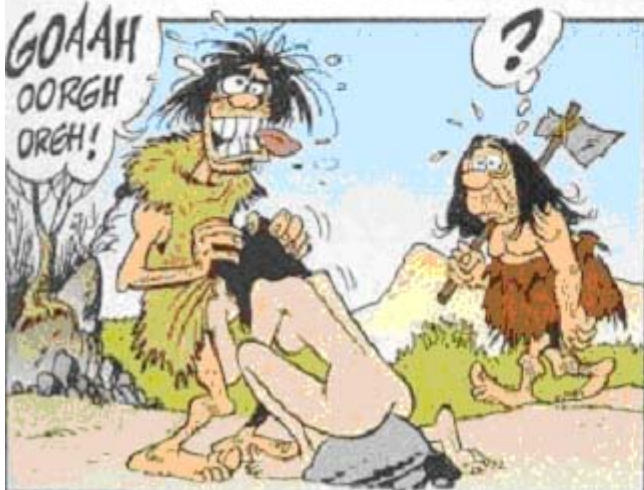
PINE TREE (Particular) - loves agreeable company, very robust, knows how to make life comfortable, very active, natural, good companion, but seldom friendly, falls easily in love but its passion burns out quickly, gives up easily, everything disappointments until it finds its ideal, trustworthy, practical.

POPLAR TREE (Uncertainty) - looks very decorative, not very self-confident, only courageous if necessary, needs goodwill and pleasant surroundings, very choosy, often lonely, great animosity, artistic nature, good organizer, tends to lean toward philosophy, reliable in any situation, takes partnership seriously.

ROWAN TREE (Sensitivity) - full of charm, cheerful, gifted without egoism, likes to draw attention, loves life, motion, unrest, and even complications, is both dependent and independent, good taste, artistic, passionate, emotional, good company, does not forgive.

WALNUT TREE (Passion) - unrelenting, strange and full of contrasts, often egotistic, aggressive, noble, broad horizon, unexpected reactions, spontaneous, unlimited ambition, no flexibility, difficult and uncommon partner, not always liked but often admired, ingenious strategist, very jealous and passionate, no compromise.

WEeping WILLOW (Melancholy) - beautiful but full of melancholy, attractive, very empathetic, loves anything beautiful and tasteful, loves to travel, dreamer, restless, capricious, honest, can be influenced but is not easy to live with, demanding, good intuition, suffers in love but finds sometimes an anchoring partner



A letter from the United Kingdom Home Office to the people of America November 3 2004

To the citizens of the United States of America: In the light of your failure to elect a suitable President of the USA and thus to govern yourselves, we hereby give notice of the revocation of your independence, effective today. Her Sovereign Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will resume monarchical duties over all states, commonwealths and other territories. Except Utah, which she does not fancy. Your new prime minister (The Right Honourable Tony Blair, MP, for the 97.85% of you who have until now been unaware that there is a world outside your borders) will appoint a minister for America without the need for further elections. Congress and the Senate will be disbanded. A questionnaire will be circulated next year to determine whether any of you noticed.

To aid in the transition to a British Crown Dependency, the following rules are introduced with immediate effect:

1. You should look up "revocation" in the Oxford English Dictionary. Then look up "aluminium". Check the pronunciation guide. You will be amazed at just how wrongly you have been pronouncing it. The letter 'U' will be reinstated in words such as 'favour' and 'neighbour'. Skipping the letter 'U' is nothing more than laziness on your part. Likewise, you will learn to spell 'doughnut' without skipping half the letters. You will end your love affair with the letter 'Z' (pronounced 'zed' not 'zee') and the suffix "ize" will be replaced by the suffix "ise". You will learn that the suffix 'burgh' is pronounced 'burra' e.g. Edinburgh. You are welcome to respell Pittsburgh as 'Pittsberg' if you can't cope with correct pronunciation. Generally, you should raise your vocabulary to acceptable levels. Look up "vocabulary". Using the same twenty seven words interspersed with filler noises such as "like" and "you know" is an unacceptable and inefficient form of communication. Look up "interspersed". There will be no more 'bleeps' in the Jerry Springer show. If you're not old enough to cope with bad language then you shouldn't have chat shows. When you learn to develop your vocabulary then you won't have to use bad language as often.
2. There is no such thing as "US English". We will let Microsoft know on your behalf. The Microsoft spell-checker will be adjusted to take account of the reinstated letter 'u' and the elimination of "-ize".
3. You should learn to distinguish the English and Australian accents. It really isn't that hard. English accents are not limited to Cockney, upper-class twit or Mancunian (Daphne in Frasier). You will also have to learn how to understand regional accents - Scottish dramas such as "Taggart" will no longer be broadcast with subtitles. While we're talking about regions, you must learn that there is no such place as Devonshire in England. The name of the county is "Devon". If you persist in calling it Devonshire, all American States will become "shires" e.g. Texasshire, Floridashire, Louisianashire.
4. Hollywood will be required occasionally to cast English actors as the good guys. Hollywood will be required to cast English actors to play English characters. British sit-coms such as "Men Behaving Badly" or "Red Dwarf" will not be re-cast and watered down for a wishy-washy American audience who can't cope with the humour of occasional political incorrectness.
5. You should relearn your original national anthem, "God Save The Queen", but only after fully carrying out task 1. We would not want you to get confused and give up half way through.
6. You should stop playing American "football". There is only one kind of football. What you refer to as American "football" is not a very good game. The 2.15% of you who are aware that there is a world outside your borders may have noticed that no one else plays "American" football. You will no longer be allowed to play it, and should instead play proper football. Initially, it would be best if you played with the girls. It is a difficult game. Those of you brave enough will, in time, be allowed to play rugby (which is similar to American "football", but does not involve stopping for a rest every twenty seconds or wearing full kevlar body armour like nancies). We are hoping to get together at least a US rugby sevens side by 2005. You should stop playing baseball. It is not reasonable to host an event called the 'World Series' for a game which is not played outside America. Since only 2.15% of you are aware that there is a world beyond your borders, your error is understandable. Instead of baseball, you will be allowed to play a girls' game called "rounders" which is baseball without fancy team strip, oversized gloves, collector cards or hotdogs.
7. You should declare war on Quebec and France, using nuclear weapons if they give you any merde. The 97.85% of you who were not aware that there is a world outside your borders should count yourselves lucky. The Russians have never been the bad guys. "Merde" is French for "shit". You will no longer be allowed to own or carry guns. You will no longer be allowed to own or carry anything more dangerous in public than a vegetable peeler. Because we don't believe you are sensible enough to handle potentially dangerous items, you will require a permit if you wish to carry a vegetable peeler in public.
8. July 4th is no longer a public holiday. November 2nd will be a new national holiday, but only in England. It will be called "Indecisive Day".
9. All American cars are hereby banned. They are crap and it is for your own good. When we show you German cars, you will understand what we mean. All road intersections will be replaced with roundabouts. You will start driving on the left with immediate effect. At the same time, you will go metric with immediate effect and without the benefit of conversion tables. Roundabouts and metrication will help you understand the British sense of humour.
10. You will learn to make real chips. Those things you call French fries are not real chips. Fries aren't even French, they are Belgian though 97.85% of you (including the guy who discovered fries while in Europe) are not aware of a country called Belgium. Those things you insist on calling potato chips are properly called "crisps". Real chips are thick cut and fried in animal fat. The traditional accompaniment to chips is beer which should be served warm and flat. Waitresses will be trained to be more aggressive with customers.
11. As a sign of penance, 5 grams of sea salt per cup will be added to all tea made within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, this quantity to be doubled for tea made within the city of Boston itself.
12. The cold tasteless stuff you insist on calling beer is not actually beer at all, it is lager. From November 1st only proper British Bitter will be referred to as "beer", and European brews of known and accepted provenance will be referred to as "Lager". The substances formerly known as "American Beer" will henceforth be referred to as "Near-Frozen Knat's Urine", with the exception of the product of the American Budweiser company whose product will be referred to as "Weak Near-Frozen Knat's Urine". This will allow true Budweiser (as manufactured for the last 1000 years in Pilsen, Czech Republic) to be sold without risk of confusion.
13. From December 1st the UK will harmonise petrol (or "Gasoline" as you will be permitted to keep calling it until April 1st 2005) prices with the former USA. The UK will harmonise its prices to those of the former USA and the Former USA will, in return, adopt UK

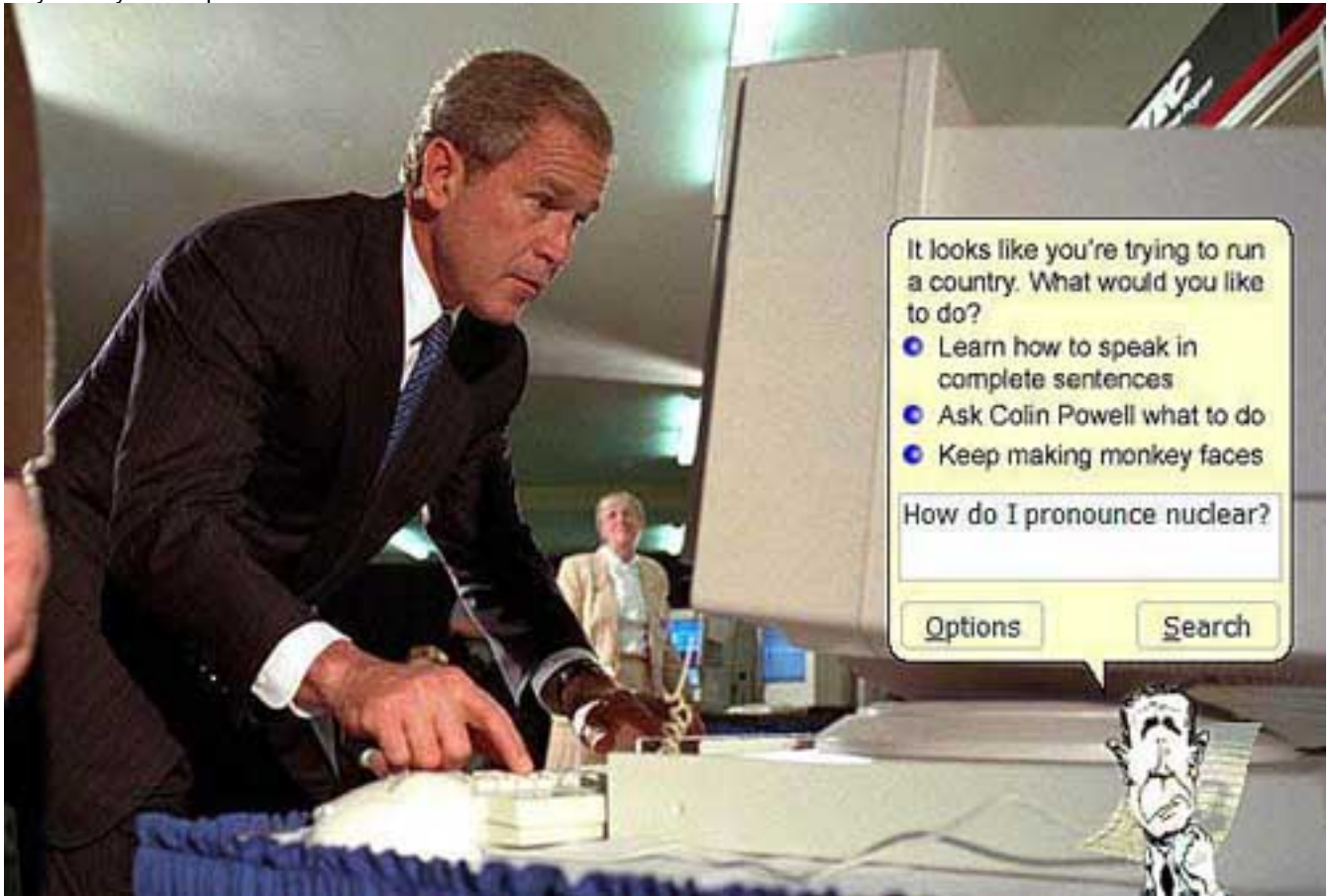
petrol prices (roughly \$6/US gallon - get used to it).

14. You will learn to resolve personal issues without using guns, lawyers or therapists. The fact that you need so many lawyers and therapists shows that you're not adult enough to be independent. Guns should only be handled by adults. If you're not adult enough to sort things out without suing someone or speaking to a therapist then you're not grown up enough to handle a gun.

15. Please tell us who killed JFK. It's been driving us crazy.

Tax collectors from Her Majesty's Government will be with you shortly to ensure the acquisition of all revenues due (backdated to 1776).

Thank you for your cooperation.



PRESSING QUESTIONS

A reporter cornered George W. Bush at a press conference:

"Many say the only reason why you would be elected for President is due to the enormous power and influence of your father."

"That notion is ridiculous!" mocked George Jr. "It doesn't matter how powerful the man is. He can only vote once!"

FRIENDLY FAVOR

George W. Bush is sitting in a hotel lobby, planning his speech to a group of businessmen, when a little man walks up to him. "Excuse me, Mr. Bush, but my name is Steve Case, and I'm here with an extremely important client tonight. We're going to see your speech tonight, and it would be a great help to me if, when we walk by, you could impress him by saying, 'Hello, Steve'."

Bush readily agrees, and fifteen minutes later, the little man walks by, deep in conversation with his client.

Bush came up and said, "Hello, Steve."

The little man says, "F**k off, Bush! I'm in a meeting," and keeps walking.

SOME TEXAN

Three cowboys were hanging out in a bar, discussing George W. Bush's visit to their ranch earlier that day.

"The funniest part," the first one said, "was when he kept trying to honk the cow's horns, complaining that they didn't work."

They laughed, and then the second cowboy said, "No, the best was when he asked if being a cowboy meant that I was half-cow."

They all laughed louder, and then the third cowboy said, "No, boys, the best was when he tried to milk that steer!"

THE BATTLE AT TRAFALGAR - 2004 STYLE

"Order the signal, Hardy." "Aye, aye Sir."

"Hold on, that's not what I dictated to the signal officer. What's the meaning of this?" "Sorry Sir?"

"England expects every person to do his duty, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, religious persuasion or disability. What gobbledygook is this?"

"Admiralty policy, I'm afraid, sir. We're an equal opportunities employer now. We had the devil of a job getting the word 'England' past the censors, lest it be considered racist."

"Gadzooks, Hardy. Hand me my pipe and tobacco."

"Sorry Sir. All naval vessels have been designated smoke-free working environments."

"In that case, break open the rum ration. Let us splice the mainbrace to steel the men before battle."

"The rum ration has been abolished Admiral. It's part of the Government's policy on binge drinking."

"Good heavens, Hardy. I suppose we'd better get on with it. Full speed ahead."

"I think you'll find that there's a 4 knot speed limit in this stretch of water"

"Damn it man! We are on the eve of the greatest sea battle in history. We must advance with all dispatch."

"Report from the crow's nest, please."

"That won't be possible Sir."

"What?"

"Health and safety have closed the crow's nest, sir. No harness. And they said that a rope ladder doesn't meet regulations. They won't let anyone up there until a proper scaffolding can be erected."

"Then get me the ship's carpenter without delay, Hardy."

"He's busy knocking up a wheelchair access to the fo'c'sle Admiral."

"Wheelchair access? I've never heard anything so absurd."

"Health and safety again Sir. We have to provide a barrier-free environment for the differently abled."

"Differently abled? I've only one arm and one eye and I refuse even to hear mention of the word. I didn't rise to the rank of Admiral by playing the disability card!"

"Actually, Sir, you did. The Royal Navy was under-represented in the areas of visual impairment and limb deficiency."

"Whatever next? Give me full sail. The salt spray beckons."

"A couple of problems there too Sir. Health and safety won't let the crew up the rigging without crash helmets. And they don't want anyone breathing in too much salt - haven't you seen the adverts?"

"I've never heard such infamy. Break out the cannon and tell the men to stand by to engage the enemy."

"The men are a bit worried about shooting at anyone, Admiral."

"What? This is mutiny."

"It's not that, sir. It's just that they're afraid of being charged with murder if they actually kill anyone. There's a couple of legal aid lawyers on board watching everyone like hawks."

"Then how are we to sink the Frenchies and the Spanish?"

"Actually, Sir, we're not."

"We're not?"

"No Sir. The Frenchies and the Spanish are our European partners now. And according to the Common Fisheries Policy, we shouldn't even be in this stretch of water. We could get hit with a claim for compensation."

"But you must hate the French as much as I do."

"I wouldn't let the ship's diversity co-ordinator hear you saying that Sir. You'll be up on disciplinary."

"You must consider every man an enemy who speaks ill of your King."

"Not any more, Sir. We must be inclusive in this multicultural age. Now put on your Kevlar vest, it's the rules."

"Don't tell me - health and safety. Whatever happened to rum, sodomy and the lash?"

"As I explained Sir, rum is off the menu. And there's a total ban on corporal punishment."

"What about sodomy?" "I believe it's to be encouraged, Sir"

"In that case, kiss me, Hardy."



"JUST A KISS WILL DO HARDY!"

DARWIN AWARDS 2004

Hard to believe, but another year has passed. Once again, it's time for the Darwin Award Nominees. The Darwin's are awarded every year to the persons who died in the most stupid manner, thereby removing themselves from the gene pool. This year's nine nominees are:

Nominee No. 1: [San Jose Mercury News]: An unidentified man, using a shotgun like a club to break a former girlfriend's windshield, accidentally shot himself to death when the gun discharged, blowing a hole in his gut.

Nominee No. 2: [Kalamazoo Gazette]: James Burns, 34, (a mechanic) of Alamo, MI, was killed in March as he was trying to repair what police describe as a "farm-type truck." Burns got a friend to drive the truck on a highway while Burns hung underneath so that he could ascertain the source of a troubling noise. Burns' clothes caught on something, however, and the other man found Burns "wrapped in the drive shaft."

Nominee No. 3: [Hickory Daily Record]: Ken Charles Barger, 47, accidentally shot himself to death in December in Newton, NC. Awakening to the sound of a ringing telephone beside his bed, he reached for the phone but grabbed instead a Smith & Wesson 38 Special, which discharged when he drew it to his ear. (For whatever reason, residents of Southern states always seem to figure prominently among the Darwin nominees.)

Nominee No. 4: [UPI, Toronto]: Police said a lawyer demonstrating the safety of windows in a downtown Toronto skyscraper crashed through a pane with his shoulder and plunged 24 floors to his death. A police spokesman said Garry Hoy, 39, fell into the courtyard of the Toronto Dominion Bank Tower early Friday evening as he was explaining the strength of the building's windows to visiting law students.

Hoy previously has conducted demonstrations of window strength according to police reports. Peter Lawson, managing partner of the firm Holden Day, told the Toronto Sun newspaper that Hoy was "one of the best and brightest" members of the 200-man association. (Nice to see another Canadian province getting into the awards.... The Maritimes always have been heavily involved.)

Nominee No. 5: [Bloomberg News Service]: A terrible diet and a room with no ventilation are being blamed for the death of a man who was killed by his own gas emissions. There was no mark on his body, and an autopsy showed large amounts of methane gas in his system. His diet had consisted primarily of beans and cabbage (and a couple of other things). It was just the right combination of foods. It appears that the man died in his sleep from breathing the poisonous cloud that was hanging over his bed. Had he been outside or had his windows been opened, it wouldn't have been fatal. But the man was shut up in his nearly airtight bedroom. According to the article, "He was a big man with a huge capacity for creating "this deadly gas." Three of the rescuers got sick, and one was hospitalized.

Nominee No. 6: [The News of the Weird]: Michael Anderson Godwin made News of the Weird posthumously. He had spent several years awaiting South Carolina's electric chair on a murder conviction before having his sentence reduced to life in prison. While sitting on a metal toilet in his cell attempting to fix his small TV set, he bit into a wire and was electrocuted. (South Carolina entrants are always perennial favorites.)

Nominee No. 7: [The Indianapolis Star]: A cigarette lighter may have triggered a fatal explosion in Dunkirk, IN. A Jay County man, using a cigarette lighter to check the barrel of a muzzle loader, was killed Monday night when the weapon discharged in his face, sheriff's investigators said. Gregory David Pryor, 19, died in his parents' rural Dunkirk home at about 11:30 PM. Investigators said Pryor was cleaning a 54-caliber muzzleloader that had not been firing properly. He was using the lighter to look into the barrel when the gunpowder ignited.

Nominee No. 8: [Reuters, Mississauga, Ontario]: A man cleaning a bird feeder on the balcony of his condominium apartment in this Toronto suburb slipped and fell 23 stories to his death. Stefan Macko, 55, was standing on a wheeled chair when the accident occurred, said Inspector D'Arcy Honer of the Peel Regional Police. "It appears that the chair moved, and he went over the balcony," Honer said. (Another Ontario entry.... I wonder if people are moving there from the Maritime Provinces.)

Finally, THE WINNER!!!:

[Arkansas Democrat Gazette]: Two local men were injured when their pickup truck left the road and struck a tree near Cotton Patch on State Highway 38 early Monday. Woodruff County deputy Dovey Snyder reported the accident shortly after midnight Monday. Thurston Poole, 33, of Des Arc, and Billy Ray Wallis, 38, of Little Rock, were returning to Des Arc after a frog gigging trip on an overcast Sunday night when Poole's pickup truck headlights malfunctioned. The two men concluded that the headlight fuse on the older-model truck had burned out. As a replacement fuse was not available, Wallis noticed that the .22 caliber bullet from his pistol fit perfectly into the fuse box next to the steering-wheel column. Upon inserting the bullet the headlights again began to operate properly, and the two men proceeded on eastbound toward the White River Bridge. After traveling approximately 20 miles, and just before crossing the river, the bullet apparently overheated, discharged, and struck Poole in the testicles. The vehicle swerved sharply right, exiting the pavement, and striking a tree. Poole suffered only minor cuts and abrasions from the accident, but will require extensive surgery to repair the damage to his testicles, which will never operate as intended. Wallis sustained a broken clavicle and was treated and released.

"Thank God we weren't on that bridge when Thurston shot his balls off, or we might both be dead," stated Wallis.

"I've been a trooper for 10 years in this part of the world, but this is a first for me. I can't believe that those two would admit how this accident happened," said Snyder. Upon being notified of the wreck, Lavinia (Poole's wife) asked how many frogs the boys had caught and did anyone get them from the truck??? (Though Poole and Wallis did not die as a result of their misadventure as normally required by Darwin Award Official Rules, it can be argued that Poole DID, in fact, effectively remove himself from the gene pool.)