

## Earthed *clean living*

**A**fter weeks of seemingly unending downpour, my bedraggled brain can only think of sunshine. Those ker-azee fools at lingerie maker Triumph appear to have been doing the same thing and, lo and behold, they bring us the Solar-Powered Bra. In case you are trying unsuccessfully to imagine what such a thing might look like, allow me to, ahem, put you abreast of the situation.

It's basically a corset with a slim, black solar panel strapped to the front. A male colleague pointed out that it's probably just another cynical bid to persuade ladies to get their underwear out in public. While impressed with his latent feminist streak, I'm wondering if such "technical" clothing could actually be a great plan.

I don't want to wear a solar-powered bra, but how about solar-powered cycle jackets that light up like dynamos in the dark, or solar-powered keys that glow in your handbag? Then again, maybe the UK is also the wrong country for solar, judging by the rain outside the window as I type.

**"The solar-powered bra? Let me put you abreast of the situation"**

Gordon Brown obviously thinks so, too: last week he called for a "renaissance" in nuclear power, signalling that nuclear is back on the agenda and that the rapid building of new nuclear power stations is the No 1 priority in the search for alternatives to oil. I've said it before, and I'll say it again: the problem with nuclear power is that it's not as clean as our politicians would like us to believe. In fact, it's about as grubby as you can get.

It's not possible to dispose of nuclear waste properly (where, exactly, do you put a radioactive substance with a half-life of 24,000 years?), while one of the by-products of civil nuclear power generation is weapons-grade plutonium, of which you need 8.2 kilos to create a bomb capable of bringing Nagasaki to its knees all over again.

It's looking likely that we'll get up to eight new nuclear plants in the next 17 years, presenting ideal targets for terror attacks. Do you want to live next door to one of these? Personally, I'd rather be forced to wear a solar-powered bra.

*Emma Rubach*

## If I Was Queen For A Day... *by Laura Midgley, Campaign Against Political Correctness*

**I**f I were Queen for the day, I would love to decree that political correctness was "out" and common sense, manners, tolerance and respect were "in".

I would proclaim that children should have competitive sports days in school as this helps them to learn to deal with the challenges that lie ahead in life; that Humpty Dumpty cannot be put back together again and we do not need to amend the age-old rhyme to end with: "Humpty Dumpty opened his eyes, falling off was such a surprise."

Proclamations would also say that the sheep in Baa Baa Black Sheep is black, not rainbow-coloured, green or white or any other colour for that matter; that if you are "brainstorming" something, you are brainstorming it, not having a "thought shower"; and being patriotic by flying the Union Flag is not racist or xenophobic.

I would announce that the term "ploughman's lunch" does not demonstrate a lack of equality awareness, and that it does not need to be changed to "ploughperson's lunch"; that a manhole is a perfectly acceptable word to use when describing an opening in the ground; that it is not offensive if a man politely offers a woman a seat on a bus or holds a door open; and that using the bingo jargon, "Two Fat Ladies", for the number 88 is fine.

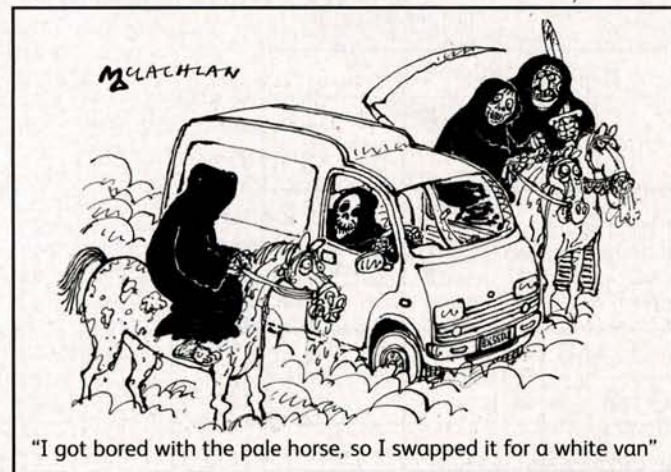
The words "pet", "love" and "dear" are not offensive words which should be frowned upon or banned; it is not ageist to send someone a birthday card saying "Happy 50th", etc; wearing Halloween costumes does not offend real witches and dressing up as Captain Hook for a pirate party does not offend disabled people.

I would declare that Christmas should not, under any circumstances, be banned or

toned down; that people should be able to look at Christmas lights not "winter lights", and have a Christmas tree, not a "seasonal tree"; that Christmas cards are not offensive to non-Christians; that Christmas should be a time of celebration for all, and not a reason for a small number of misguided scrooges to cause division and upset in communities.

Finally, I would end spurious compensation claims and ban ridiculous warning signs which insult our intelligence, such as "Remove child before folding" on a child's buggy, "This is not a ladder" on a 12-inch CD rack, "Not intended for motorway use" on a 13-inch wheelbarrow and "Wearing this garment does not enable you to fly" on a child's Superman costume!

*Laura Midgley is the co-founder of the Campaign Against Political Correctness. For more info, go to [www.capc.co.uk](http://www.capc.co.uk)*



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