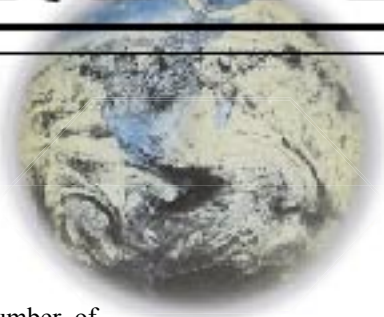


# BIZARRE PLANET

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LONDON (Reuters) – Three lucky people from the ranks of the crazy and paranoid will soon be able to rest easy in rural England. Realty agency J.H. Walter recently announced the sale of three decommissioned nuclear bunkers. Finally! The lovely homes – described appealingly as “little more than a damp cellar with a chemical toilet” offer beautiful country views and, in the event of a nuclear attack, a unique chance to check out the devastated wasteland that would remain. Salesman Rob Ward enticingly adds that the bunkers also come with a small patch of land. “On a nice sunny day you could sit out there on your deck chair,” he pointed out. The land would be perfect for growing flowers and vegetables. Until the nuclear attack, that is.

ROME (Reuters) – You probably thought the Tuscan town of Vinci is most noteworthy for former resident Leonardo, but, in fact, you are wrong. Mayor Giancarlo Faenzi, deciding to “recognize that young people love each other,” has authorized the building of the country’s first “Love Car Park.” Yes, that IS what you think it is: the park will feature soft lighting and special dusbins for condoms. (The town is still deciding whether to install a condom machine as well.) Car sex is not illegal in Italy, as long as the windows are covered up, and it’s apparently quite popular in a country where many citizens live with their parents well into their thirties. Incidentally, many Italians claim the existence of a so-called “Car-ma Sutra” that illustrates sexual positions best suited to specific car models.

MOSCOW (AFP) – Some twenty Russians – all of whom, according to the news service, were “young” – got naked for cell phones last month. In a promotion to mark the first day of spring, and notable for the fact that it has absolutely nothing, nothing whatsoever, to do with the first day of spring, chain store Euroset promised free Motorola phones for anyone who walked in naked between 9:50 and 10:15 am. With

the number of handsets restricted, only the first 20 people who bared themselves for the considerable crowd of onlookers won phones. It really warms the heart to know that in a once Communist country, people are willing to do absurd things for material gain.

PERTH, Australia (AFP) – There’s nothing funny about shark attacks. Seriously. That said, a dog saved its kennel mate and “best friend” from a shark attack off the coast of northern Australia recently. A man walking down the beach saw a shark, who was presumably evil, drag one of his dogs under water. Without a thought for his own safety, the man’s other dog immediately ran in and attacked the shark. (The man, you’ll notice, didn’t even TRY to attack the shark. That’s so like men.) Both dogs then emerged unscathed from the surf, perhaps to the sound of triumphant music.

LONDON (AFP) – Interactive Bizarre Planet! Log on to [www.pubs200.com](http://www.pubs200.com) and you can “adopt” an English country pub regular for about thirty dollars a year. As authentic village pubs throughout England and Wales close at an “alarming” rate, Englishman Jon Ellard started up the site to promote their continued survival. Proceeds from each adoption, he explained, will be split between groups that support the pubs and, of course, the adoptees themselves. To pay for their drinking. In return, sponsors get a certificate, a signed photo of their pub regular, a beer mat, and periodic updates on “how their drinker is faring.”

LONDON (Reuters) – Danny, the Pekingese who beat out 20,000 other contestants to be crowned Supreme Champion at the renowned Crufts dog show earlier this month, may be striped of his title.

(Short aside: “Supreme Champion”? Is that necessary?) Danny is facing down allegations that he had had a secret facelift (“facing” down the allegations – awesome). Cosmetic surgery is a big no-no under the show’s strict rules, which apparently were formulated in an attempt to keep total lunatics from entering their dogs in the competition. Danny’s owners firmly denied the charges, insisting that they are the work of “jealous rivals.” At least he didn’t appear in Penthouse.

NEW YORK (Reuters) – According to the Reuters news service, which admittedly might not be the most reliable source on modern culture, the “latest fad” to hit New York’s singles scene is Dinner in the Dark, organized by the event-coordinating company Cosmo Party. After paying \$89 apiece, diners are led into a pitch-black room to enjoy a four-course meal with champagne and fine wine. Cosmo Party promotes the dinners as a way to lose inhibitions and meet people, although reports of a recent dinner suggest that juvenile idiocy rules the day instead. “It was great. You got to grope strangers,” explained Jeff, a 36-year old business manager. Charming. Jeff also tossed pieces of bread at other diners under cover of darkness; other patrons shouted, defiantly lit cigarette lighters, broke glassware and plates, and cheered gleefully at each new development. Thirty-three year old attorney Sabreena enjoyed “copping feels under the table,” explaining that “I felt like I was in kindergarten!” (Where did she go to kindergarten, anyway?) Many patrons were sorely disappointed, complaining that “alcohol is the only thing you can trust” and demanding “more wine.” Clearly, however, the best way to attend Dinners in the Dark is as a waiter – they get to wear night-vision goggles.

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