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Xi-feng, China

I was in Yantai Park recently and finally found a free bench to sit down on. Suddenly I heard a very strange sound and felt spikes shooting into my pants. I jumped off the bench and looked down in horror at rows of metal spikes. It turns out that the bench was originally designed as an art exhibit by a German sculptor, but the park authorities in Yantai adapted the idea for its benches! I now know that **I should have put money in a meter** to operate the bench. When your money runs out, an alarm sounds and the spikes return. They're harmless but very uncomfortable to sit on. The authorities introduced the idea because the park suffers from severe overcrowding on weekends when everyone escapes the busy cities. This idea helps share facilities more fairly and prevents people grabbing a bench and staying there all day. This is the most bizarre way I've ever heard of for controlling behavior! Has anyone out there heard of anything similar?

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Joo-eun, Seoul

Here in South Korea—and in Japan, too—it's a legal requirement that every cell phone make a distinctive noise when taking a picture. The noise is a warning to prevent people from being photographed in inappropriate situations. I was in New York last year when the wind blew my skirt up. A complete stranger took a photo with his phone, and it probably ended up on the Internet! **He couldn't have done this in South Korea.** I think more countries should adopt this law.

comment #1 posted 20:49

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Charles, Senegal

I'm taking a language course in the UK, and I came across this sign at a train station. The idea is to prevent long, romantic farewells in front of the station because apparently they cause traffic jams and delays. If couples want to kiss goodbye, they have to go to the designated "Kissing Zone" in the short-term parking area, where they can stay for up to 20 minutes! Some people think **they shouldn't have put the sign up**, but I think it's romantic and kind of fun.

comment #2 posted 20:53

Elvira, Moscow

If there's one place you're likely to be stopped by the police, it's behind the wheel of a car. Here in Moscow, this is even more likely now that it's illegal to drive a dirty car! Unfortunately, there are no clear specifications to explain how dirty is "dirty." Recently I was stopped by the police. I hadn't washed my car for three months, but they just gave me a warning. **They could have fined me up to \$100!** This law is completely insane! So watch out for muddy puddles if you're driving in Moscow.

comment #3 posted 21:04



Where was this photo taken?

What rules do people have to follow?



Where was this photo taken?

What rules do people have to follow?



Where was this photo taken?

What rules do people have to follow?

Match the people to questions 1–5: Xi-feng (X), Joo-eun (J), Charles (C) or Elvira (E). More than one answer may be correct.

Who...

- 1 approves of the rule/law?
- 2 doesn't approve of the rule/law?
- 3 had a lucky escape?
- 4 was alerted to a problem by a noise?
- 5 had a problem because there wasn't a noise?