The 'thwack' of summer sandals

or years, my office has been dominated by females, with a distinct minority of male co-workers.

And although there has been a significant shift in the gender demographics in the past year, it's still a fact that males are woefully outnumbered in this office.

I don't find it a problem. In fact, I quite enjoy watching the differences between and the male and female species— and my colleagues give me lots to watch.

But recently, I've noted there is a newlydiscovered aspect that I previously missed.

It's their footwear.

With summer weather, most women are wearing the skimpiest shoes they own.

Sandals, sling backs, flip-flops, (I don't dare call them 'thongs' anymore— apparently that's another type of apparel) and all sorts of minimal summertime footwear fashions are quite vogue in the office.

On the other hand, the guys wear pretty much the same shoes year-round.

One reason— I doubt men in the office would be allowed to wear sandals to work, and secondly, I'm not sure they'd want to.

So the women wear their sandals, and, quite honestly, the look of women's bare feet in fashionable sandals (especially with a nice pedicure) look quite striking—sexy even.

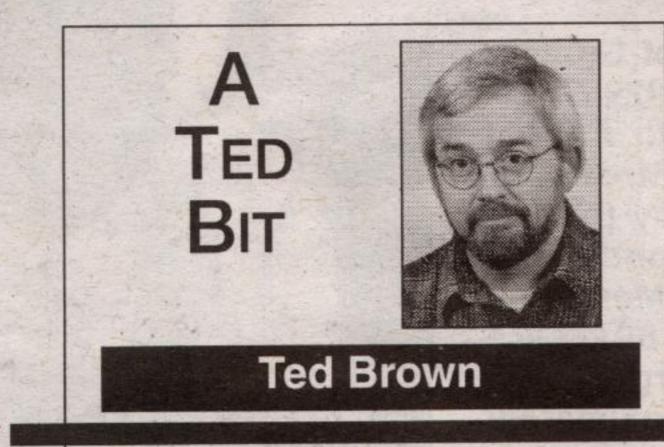
But with these women's shoes comes another aspect.

It's the sound of them walking by.

When they walk, their heel lifts off the shoe and then comes back down again, making a sound. I call it a 'thwack'.

Now it's not a bad thing, more of a uniqueness to the whole fashion statement.

I can actually sit in my cubicle and hear my female co-workers approaching, with the sound of their sandals 'thwacking' against their heels.



"Thwack, thwack, thwack," the sound becomes louder the closer they get, unaware that they are actually signaling their approach.

It's almost like a little early detection radar system for me.

Lately, I've been making it into a personal competition, trying to guess which woman is approaching, by the sound, speed and intensity of her 'thwack'.

Some have relatively soft and quiet 'thwacks' while others are quite loud and abrupt, bordering on a spanking smack.

Hmm, that really sounds bad, doesn't it? The thwack speed is also a giveaway.

The younger kids tend to motor by much faster than their 'less-young' counterparts.

Personally, I think if I wore shoes that slapped my heel with every step, I'd go nuts in time. But women (both in the office and outside) tend to not even notice it.

But it's a seasonal thing, and I know, before long, the sandals will be replaced with high heels, pumps and other such shoes, that certainly don't go 'thwack' with every step.

Instead, they seem to make more of a 'tick tock' sound as their heels peck out their distinct signature sounds on the hard floor.

It's just too bad we have carpet in the office— I won't be able to hear them coming.



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