

“Anti-rascal” socks let you walk all over your “darned” enemies 一吐悶氣 踩小人襪正夯

In this poor economic climate, employees are suffering even more annoyances than usual at work. Night markets and Web sites have caught the mood by offering “tread-on-the-rascal” socks with a human shape and the word “rascal” printed on the soles. Now you can trample on whomever or whatever is ticking you off. You can let off steam and have fun while you’re doing it. A lot of office workers are making group purchases of several dozen pairs in one go, and some people say they would like socks with pictures of their boss or ex-boy- or girlfriend on the bottom.

With summer approaching, these short socks are now hot sellers. Whoever it is that’s got you riled, you can picture that person and get your own back by treading on them as you walk down the street. It’s a clever idea and you can’t help smiling.

A vendor peddling socks in Taipei’s Shida Road night market says sock sellers owe thanks to actor-singer Show Lo, also known as “Piglet.” Not long ago, Lo was accused of buying his way up the charts. Many fans spoke out in his support and someone sent him some “tread-on-the-rascal” socks to change his luck and get

rid of his pesky accusers. Lo wore the socks in public and thanked his fans for their support, boosting sales of the anti-rogue socks. On-line enquiries shot up and night-market sales took off.

A certain Ms. Shen of Taipei has been having a rough time at work recently. She has the feeling her boss is always trying to make trouble for her, so she bought a pair of the socks to get rid of her rotten luck. “I don’t know if they really work, but at least it helps me let off steam,” she says. A Ms. Lin, who made a group purchase of anti-rascal socks with some friends, says “It’s fun – that’s the main point, even if there’s no one in particular annoying you.”

Some suppliers have turned their minds to politics and had the idea of printing politicians onto the soles of the socks so you can trample the ones you don’t like — maybe former president Chen Shui-bian, for example, or the incumbent, Ma Ying-jeou. We also spoke to “Jane,” who recently split up with her boyfriend. She says she wants her ex’s name embroidered on the soles of her socks so she can give the two-timing cheat a good treading underfoot.

(LIBERTY TIMES, TRANSLATED BY JULIAN CLEGG)



景氣不佳，工作「鳥氣」特別多，各大夜市與網站上流行一款「踩小人襪」，襪底印有「小人」字樣的人型，把不滿全踩在腳底，出氣之餘也充滿趣味，不少上班族一次團購好幾打，還有人希望訂做老闆與前男女朋友的圖案。

夏天到，今年這款短襪反常熱賣，看誰不爽，心裡想著那個人，走路多踩幾下發洩，創意令人莞爾。

台北市師大路販售襪子的小販說，拜藝人「小豬」羅志祥之賜，他先前曾被人暗指買榜，歌迷聲援力挺，並送上「踩小人襪」改運，驅趕小人，羅志祥公開穿上感謝歌迷愛護，因而讓「踩小人襪」水漲船高，網路上詢問度暴增，夜市也賣到嚇嚇叫。

台北市沈小姐最近工作不順心，覺得老闆常找麻煩，買「踩小人襪」去霉運；她說：「不知道有沒有用，起碼可以發洩情緒。」參加團購「踩小人襪」的林小姐說：「好玩的成分居多，未必真的有小人在旁邊。」

有業者腦筋動到政治人物上，想將政治人物的圖像放在襪底，取「踩扁」、「踩馬」之意，剛與前男友分手的小貞則希望在襪底繡上前男友的名字，用力大踩負心漢。（自由時報記者邱紹雯）

Top: A Taipei office worker shows off his socks with human figures and the word “rascal” printed on the soles on June 8.

PHOTO: CHIU SHAO-WEN, TAIPEI TIMES

Left: Pop idol Show Lo puts his hand on his heart at a concert on Jan. 22 as he swears he did not pay for placement in record charts.

PHOTO: HU SHUN-HSIANG, TAIPEI TIMES

最上圖：六月八日，台北一名上班族展示腳上穿的「踩小人襪」。

照片：自由時報記者邱紹雯

左圖：一月二十二日，流行偶像羅志祥在一場演唱會上把手按在胸前，發誓絕對沒買榜。

照片：自由時報記者胡舜翔