

QUIRIOUS CONSUMER



ROAD TEST

Our nominee for sandal of the summer

Going barefoot sounds like a good idea—until soles meet hellishly hot sand or streets that stain and maim.

Simulating the pleasures without the perils, Gurkee's unisex Neptune sandals also sport bohemian good looks that score points for man or woman—a rare feat.

Little more than woven polypropylene rope, they mold to the foot in a barely-there way. Yet the rope soles somehow endure dune-climbing along the Michigan shoreline and trudging through Chicago

street fairs without so much as springing a loose end or provoking a blister.

Best of all, they can be tossed in the washing machine and dryer after a brush with mustard at the Taste of Chicago or a dip in a mystery puddle. After three launderings, ours still look new.

The Neptune is \$32.50, including shipping, in assorted colors and men's, women's and children's sizes at www.gurkees.net (877-444-9474).

—Wendy Donahue