

BAYON



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Kampot - Cambodia - Climate Change

The debate over climate change rages among the commoners but within the near-consensus of the scientific community the question has long been settled. 97% of climate scientists are in agreement on the matter, most of the remaining 3% are in the employ of the extractive fossil industry. In the eyes of the deniersphere, that hot bed of alternative facts, the 97% have created a hoax to further their own careers. These people, who've spent eight years in rigorous study to earn their doctorates, who've immersed their lives in science and the scientific method somehow all decided independently (or maybe they have a secret network) to essentially go back on all the principles they studied so hard to learn and just lie, make things up to create cushy jobs for themselves. Baloney, absurd, ridiculous, doesn't pass the smell test, a non sequiter. Meanwhile, they have no problem trusting the tiny part of the scientific community that's being paid to spread industry propaganda.

In the above regard the ultimate crime is owned by Exxon, as they knew back in the late 1970s that, according to their own researchers, build up of CO2 in the atmosphere was going to be a problem. The bosses didn't take kindly to that information as acting on it would eliminate their profit base so they spent some \$30 million in the next couple of decades funding climate denial. The company is now being sued by some 14 attorneys general because of the damage that misinformation has done.

What does a warming climate mean for Cambodia? The super El Nino of last year is an indicator of some of the changes we can expect. The El Nino phenomenon is caused by a warming of tropical Pacific waters and that brings us drought; super refers to ocean temps that were much warmer than typical El Nino warm. Last year brought water shortages in many places, a delay in planting crops and the highest temp ever recorded in Cambodia, 41.7C or 107F. Subsequent to El Nino we had a neutral or very mild La Nina that brought us ample rain, but it's very weak and we may be headed right back into another difficult El Nino. The oceans are warming, which might have cancelled out the preferred, otherwise more likely La Nina conditions.

Being near the sea Kampot will never get as warm as the interior, though still plenty hot enough, but we also have other climate change problems to deal with. Rising seas being the number 1. There's been a lot of glacial melt feeding the oceans and water expands as it warms and we sit very close to sea level. Sea level rise is already happening: In the Mekong delta salt water has intruded up to 100 kms inland, rendering rice cultivation impossible in those areas. It'll probably be a long time before the sea rises to permanently flood our town, but regular flooding events might not be uncommon and require sea walls and other defenses to save our little burg.

Climate Change doesn't preclude extremes of cold. Every time it's cold somewhere, deniers will say, Global warming my ass, it was really cold here yesterday. Almost every day of the year there'll be some places that are exceptionally cold as well as hot, but what we are seeing now is about 10 record highs for every record low.

In the process of debating the issue, I've done quite a bit of research.

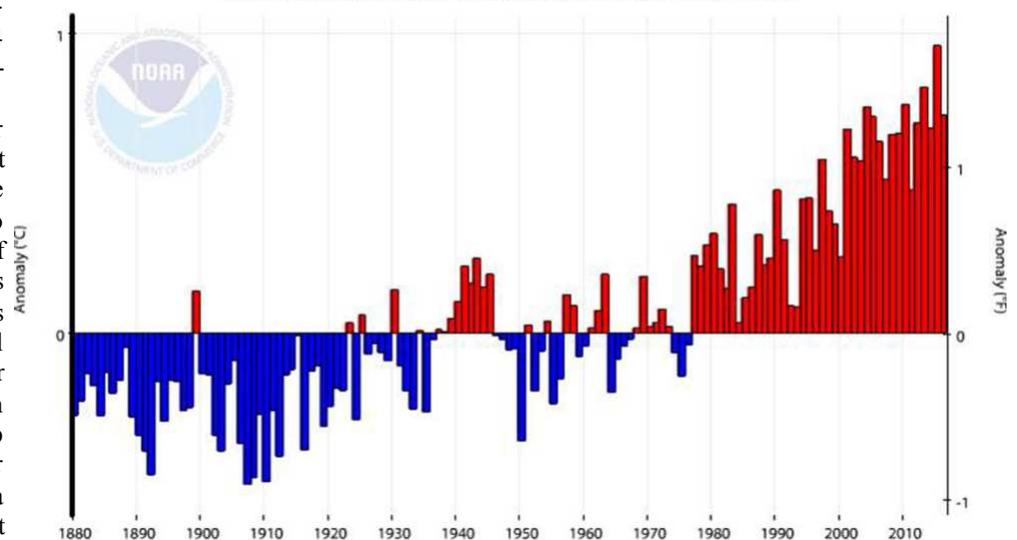
The first graph shows rise in global temps from 1880 to the present.

This chart is from the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. It's for November, not the whole year. I didn't realize that at first, but now that the Trump administration has scrubbed the site of any mention of climate change, the annual one is no longer available. The annual one would be very similar, except it would be more evened out. The last 40 years would be the same, showing a relentless climb, but notice the highest high is much further from the average than the lowest low. If you separated out the first 100 years you'd see a normal up and down pattern.

This next graph shows global temperatures and CO2 on the top two lines.

As you can see they track very closely. When one is up, the other is up and vice versa. It doesn't matter in this context which came first, they go together. It also is of no import what triggered those changes, though I'd certainly be interested to know. When the earth is in a deep ice age the CO2 ranges around 180 to 200. There's a lot less vegetation, so less CO2. I was quite surprised to see that most of the last 400,000 years have been much colder

Global Land and Ocean Temperature Anomalies, November



than we're used to. If we hadn't pumped so much CO2 in the atmosphere, based on looking at the past, we might well have been slated for much colder times. I expect we'll skip the next ice age until the earth regains its balance. Just speculation, I'm not a scientist.

It's not changes in the sun's intensity that have caused global warming. Solar intensity has been declining of late even as temperatures have been rising.

In the last 10,000 years or so, the time we know of as civilization, CO2 has ranged between 260 and 280 ppm and temperatures have been in that Cinderella range of not too hot or too cold. Sure, during that period there were very cold times, mini ice ages, if you will, and droughts and very hot times, but temps did not stray very far from average.

Since the industrial revolution CO2 has risen to 400ppm, way above the top line in the graph. There's no possible, plausible natural way for that to have happened in such a short time frame absent the burning of fossil fuel producing greenhouse gases.

The last time CO2 was that high was at least 800,000 years ago, some sources say up to 20m years, and at that time the temperature was 3C higher. Most of the recent extra greenhouse-caused heat has gone into the oceans. They act as a giant heat sink ab-

sorbing vast amounts of CO₂ so it should take quite a long time to reach that 3C threshold. So far temps have risen only less than 1 degree and already climate extremes are playing havoc with the earth's natural systems. Even the relatively small amount of rising water temps has had devastating effects. A very large portion of the northern part of the Great Barrier Reef off the coast of Australia has bleached and died from rising temperatures and that's being replicated in many reefs around the world. We are still pumping billions of tons of carbon into the atmosphere and there seems no end to how high CO₂ levels will go. Countries are giving themselves decades to clean up their acts when we've already hit the danger zone.

Rising sea temperatures intensify tropical storms. Last year a tropical storm in very warm waters off the coast of Mexico intensified from a category 1 storm with 125kph winds to a super-storm of 360kph winds in just 24 hours, breaking all records for wind speed and speed of intensification. It was a small storm and luckily hit off a remote, sparsely inhabited coast so damage was minimal.

If temps in every part of the planet rose proportionally, GW would be relatively easy to handle, but what it really does is accentuate the extremes of droughts and floods. As temps rise air holds increasing amounts of water so when it does rain we can expect more intense rain events. Higher temps also means increasing evaporation so the land dries out faster.

What I don't get is why anyone would think burning lots of coal is a good idea even if CO₂ were not problem. What is it about pollution and land degradation that makes them so giddy? A friend said, We've got 500 years of coal and cheap electricity, why bother with renewables?

Do they get a rush when they see pics of smog in Beijing? That smog is one reason why coal is cheap, since a large part of the cost of burning coal is externalized; for instance, the cost of treating people with respiratory problems caused by pollution from coal burning is not included in the cost of the coal; everybody else – governments, individuals - pays it, so in the end result, it's not actually cheap.

Even if burning coal did not create a greenhouse gas, there are lots of other reasons why it's a terrible idea. For one, the oceans absorb a lot of CO₂, turning the water more acidic, which then plays havoc with shellfish who are having difficulty making their shells in that acidic water. Are we willing to give up shellfish for the sake of cheap energy from fossil fuels?

Every stage of the use of coal to generate electricity is an environmental challenge.

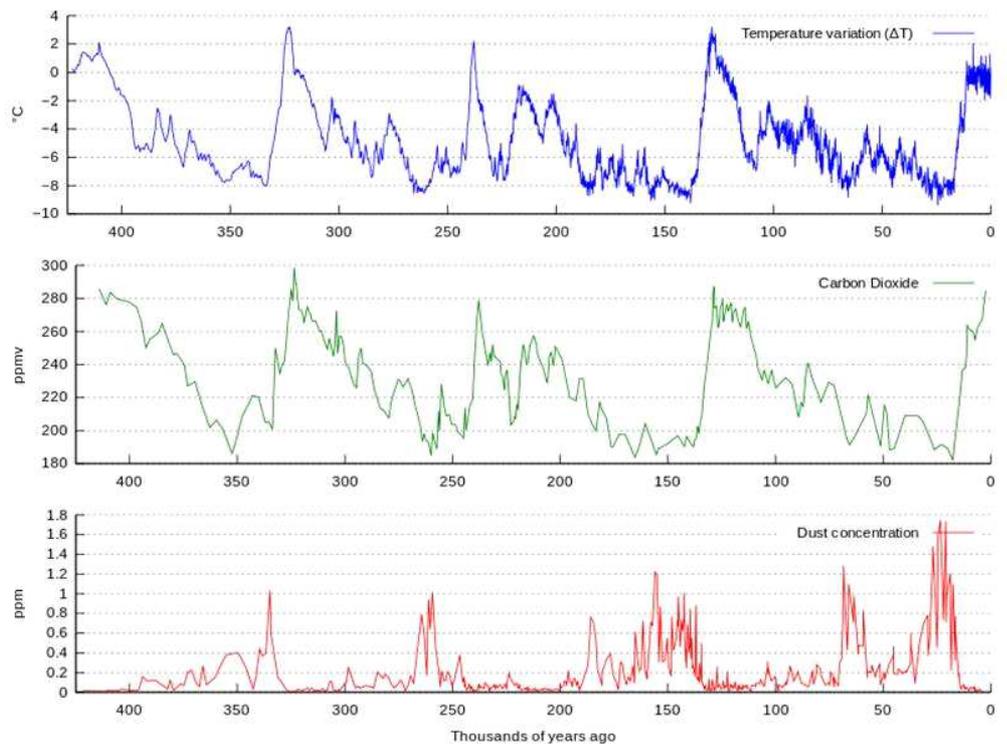
And now with the widespread use of fracking to extract gas and oil, they're not much better than the coal alternative since large amounts of methane is released in the process. Methane is 80 times more potent as a greenhouse gas than CO₂ on a twenty year timetable. It's not as prevalent as CO₂, and it doesn't last as long, but the warming of the arctic where temps have risen much faster than in temperate and tropical regions has the potential to create a methane bomb since very large amounts are locked up in permafrost and ice. Also very often fracking pollutes ground water: it's being permanently destroyed (at least for thousands of years) for the sake of profits today, is that a

worthy, intelligent trade-off?

Nonetheless, coal is still the worst. Formerly coal was produced in deep mines – still is in places like China. They were terrible for the worker's health, but at least they didn't impact the surface. Today all new mines in the western world are either open pit or mountain top removal. If you're in the Australian outback where the land is desert scrub and nobody cares much about it and it's far from any place where people live, then as ugly as the mine may be and as destructive as it is to the landscape, not much fuss is made about it and nobody has to witness the scars upon it.

That's how it's done in the American west, but in Appalachia in the east coal is extracted via mountain top removal. What they do is take a mountain covered with trees, strip it bare then use dynamite to blow off its top. They then push the remaining debris into the nearby streambed polluting the stream with heavy metals and destroying it for at least hundreds of generations. What's left after the coal has been removed is a moonscape. Sure, if the miners took the time to save the topsoil so it could be replaced after they finished their extraction and kept the rocky debris out of the streambed it could regenerate in a few generations, but of course they don't since that would cost a lot of money and the coal would no longer be cheap.

Then there's transporting the fossil fuel. Oil and gas go in pipelines, notorious for leaking. In addition, oil pipelines in cold areas need to be heated to keep the oil flowing. Coal is usually moved in huge coal trains or shipped around the world. All



movement of fossil fuels requires lots of energy.

Then the burning of fossil fuels, but especially coal, produces other pollutants besides CO₂. And finally, after you burn coal you still have mountains of toxic coal ash to deal with.

Fortunately, in an amazingly short time wind and solar have become competitive in cost and in the US they make up the majority of new energy sources. Unfortunately, the forces of regression in the US are trying to make solar more expensive: in Nevada, for instance, the Republican state legislature wants to penalize people who install solar (Wanna guess who's financing their campaigns?). Still, the movement's unstoppable. Economically, in many parts of the world, it no longer makes sense to build new fossil fuel facilities.

Deniers complain about the cost: Converting is too expensive, it's not worth it, they say. We can't afford it. Not worth spending

the money to have a clean environment? It definitely wouldn't be cheap. One trillion dollars a year for a decade would still leave much of the US dependent on fossil fuels, but the country would be a long way towards a clean environment and provide millions of jobs that can't be outsourced. One trillion dollars is only about 7% of GDP.

Cambodia is trying to get most of its electricity from hydro-power, which is good in theory except when the dams reduce fish populations. Cambodians get 80% of their protein from fish. A government spokesman once said, The people will be happy to have cheap electricity, but I'd bet they'd rather have fish to catch and eat. The other major problem with depending on hydro is drought. In the hottest months, when electricity is needed most, there's insufficient water to generate much power. It's the Chinese who are financing and building coal power plants here. It's really not the thing to do in today's world, but they come 'free'. In quotes because the Chinese drive hard bar-

gains. Most such contracts to build and operate power plants (and not just the Chinese) include clauses that guarantee the builder a certain minimum profit, whether the plant is used or not. We'll have to pay for that power even if we don't want it.

The people in government love coal, but Cambodia has great potential for solar and hopefully someone will step up to produce large-scale solar power here. We do have a company in Cambodia – Star8 – that produces solar buses and tuk-tuks. For not much more cost than a motorbike and trailer, you can get a tuk-tuk that'll go thirty kms on a day's sunshine, 80 kms when the batteries are fully charged. They are very quiet compared to combustion engines and very simply designed. The only complexity being the electronic controls.

The new Coca-Cola plant in Phnom Penh gets 1/3 of its energy from the sun.

The future is in renewables. Cambostan

KHMER FOLK STORIES

The Two Neighbors

Once there were two neighbors. One day they planned to set traps to catch animals. As the sun was setting behind the mountain, they left together for the forest. In the forest, one said " I will set my trap near the foot of the tree, because this tree has many fruits, and at night, many animals come to eat the fruits. " The other one said " I want to set my trap here too, but now if you set it near the foot of the tree, I will set mine on the top of the tree and we shall see tomorrow whose trap will catch the animals. " After discussion, one set his trap near the foot of the tree, and the other set his trap on the top of the tree, then they came back home.

But the man who set the trap on the top of the tree, after reaching home, that night, discussed this with his wife. He said " Of all our ancestors, did you ever hear if any one who set a trap on the top of the tree caught four-footed animals who walk on the earth? But right now if I have set my trap on the top of the tree, how will it catch an animal? Thus I will have to wake up very early, and if I see my neighbor's trap on the ground catching an animal, I shall take it off and put it in my trap at the top of the tree, and then I will again go with him to see the trap. Then I have to give a share of the animal to judge Sek. If my neighbor does not agree with me, he will go to judge Sek, too, and Mr. Sek will let me win.

The husband and wife, after discussion, went to bed, but the man woke up very early. He smoked and left his home to see his trap. He saw his friend's trap holding a deer and then he took off the deer and put it in his own trap. After that, he returned home. At dawn, the man who set the trap on the ground asked the other man to come and see their traps, but the other man said " Do not be in a hurry, my trap will not catch any animal because it is at the top of the tree. May be your trap is holding some animal, if your trap is holding some animal, you had better give me some meat to eat. "

He spoke proudly because he already knew what was there. The two men left their home together to see their traps. Unfortunately, the trap on the top of the tree was holding an animal. The man who had the trap in the tree said " Hi! Look! You did not believe me, I told you " Do not set the trap on the ground, set it on the tree " Now look! whose trap is holding the animal? " He climbed up the tree and took down the deer. The two neighbors came home together.

The man whose trap was on the tree went to see judge Sek and

told him " I and my neighbor set trap. My friend set it on the ground, and I set it on the top of the tree. I took the deer caught in his trap. If the case comes to you, you have to cover over my fault and give the punishment to my friend.

Then judge Sek got a share of the deer and said " You have to bring a lot of betels and arecas very early for tomorrow when your friend comes to see me, I will ask him to bring the same thing. As he is very poor, he can not bring anything, so you will win the case. Go ahead to find the betel and arecas. " The man who had set the trap on the ground was disappointed and did not agree with his friend about the catch. So he went to the judge Sek and told him the same way as his friend had told him. Mr. Sek said to him the same as he said to his friend. In the morning the man who had set the trap on the tree brought a lot of things very early to Mr. Sek. But the poor man who had set the the trap on the ground could not bring anything to Mr. Sek. He was afraid of losing the case and of being in prison. He ran from village to village to find the betels and arecas. He went and met another judge, Mr. Rabbit. Mr. Rabbit asked him " What is the matter that you are running about like this? Stop! " He said " Please help me because I and my friend went to set the trap together, but I put it on the ground and my friend's trap was on the tree. Unfortunately, my friend's trap, on the top of the tree, caught an animal. I did not believe this, so went to see the judge. The judge ordered me to bring the betels and arecas very early. The one who could not bring them to him will be punished. This is why I am very afraid. "

Judge Rabbit said " Do not be afraid, this afternoon we shall go together. " In the afternoon they went together to judge Sek's house. He said " Why are you so late? You lost your case. " Mr. Rabbit answered " We are very late because we went to see fish flying and eating the leaves at the top of of the tree. " Mr. Sek said " Who ever heard that, from the time of our ancestors? I have never heard that the fish fly and eat the top leaves of the tree. "

Mr. Rabbit answered " From the time of our ancestors, I have never heard that he who set the trap on the tree can catch an animal who is a quadruped. Do you hear it? Everyone of you, people? "

Mr. Sek was quiet. Mr. Rabbit convinced the court that the man who had the trap on the tree should go to the prison. Mr. Sek was ashamed before the people because of his ambition. He sat quietly and looked towards the wall.

" Ambition is put to shame before law."

Bits from the Beach

Well the month started off with a bang in a couple of places after a very busy Chinese new year in town that saw all places full and some interesting price rises for rooms.

At Chivas, the upstairs bar manager was called in on his day off by the pompous general manager who wanted to discuss a staff issue. The bar manager was a little incensed that the issue could not wait until the next day and some strong language was used. The pompous one was incensed and push came to shove and in the end the bar manager was fired by the general manager who hit the bar manager whilst staff held his arms pinned. The formerly relatively busy upper bar is now a bit quieter and the Saturday Pool competition is over a lot quicker. Also it seems the German chef has moved on from Chivas and he has bought the Sky bar just behind Ochheateal beach.

Meanwhile at the Aqua the new lessees were having a hard time of dealing with a troublesome guest and getting used to Khmer staff. It all became a bit much on one night at the end of the month when the difficult female customer took a dislike to one of the staff members and tried to hit her and her husband the cook.

A little bit later the rebellious new lessee with a few drinks under his belt apparently tried to hit one of the bar staff who had displeased him. The next day he had a second heart attack and decided to hand the place back, forcing the owner to cut his trip to Australia short and fly back. We are happy to report that everything is now under control and John is back in charge and it is business as usual at this popular place.

The police have been busy as usual at the Lions roundabout, mostly harassing tourists. It was reported that one hapless tourist forked over \$500 to the police under threat of arrest as he could not produce a licence to show the police, naturally no receipt was forthcoming. This is despite the fact that the law clearly states that a person does not need a licence to ride a moto under 125cc. The police often claim that this only applies to Khmers but that is just not true. If your establishment hires out bikes or has guests staying it is a good idea to brief the guests not to hand over exorbitant amounts to the police and bargain them down to a couple of dollars, otherwise demand a receipt.

Meanwhile tourists that get things stolen also appear to be having trouble finding police to actually take an incident report for an insurance claim. In this case we have found that in the user pays system that is the Cambodian Police System (the best police money can buy) a small donation (about \$20-40) to cover the cost of the stationary helps, however even these police can get greedy at times.

The Government recently announced a crackdown on Casinos admitting Khmers into their dens of gambling. It is illegal for Khmers to enter casinos, a law which like most is honoured more

in the breach than the observance. Expect the status quo to remain, but it might be used as a way to get some more tea money for the overworked police. Anyhow this has not stopped the proliferation of casinos and another two new casinos have opened up near Ochheateal. WM casino near Fortuna Casino and the Chinese built and run Yaduoli, near the Golden Sands Hotel and Casino. It appears the most reviled person in the poker scene has moved his poker operations here from the far away Queenco Casino and he is now actually running games.

The real big news in town somehow did not make the papers for a while. It was the disappearance of approximately 50 passports. People usually use travel agents to obtain visa extensions and other visas. What it now appears is the case is that most of the agents (including a large volume one in downtown) send them down to VLK travel who consolidate them and then send them up to Phnom Penh. Rather than use a courier service it appears that they cut corners and use a bus service (Virak) which is renowned for having passengers items go missing. In this case there is cc TV footage of a man walking up and taking the un-

watched box with the passports away reportedly under the nose of a security guard, who was naturally sleeping. There was much arguing over the liability and compensation with considerable buck passing, which is to be expected in a country where no one is to blame and paying for your mistakes is not considered the done thing. After a couple of days the police managed to recover the passports. Apparently Ana travel was not affected in any way as they take responsibility seriously and send their passports to Phnom Penh in a more secure man-



Serendipity road before the ban.

ner.

The government just announced the construction of a new 135 megawatt coal fired power station to be built nearby, which should be completed by 2020. Meanwhile another power station under construction will be coming online next year. Hopefully it will mean an end to the insidious blackouts that have plagued us this season, which may get worse when hot season arrives and airconditioners are cranked up. Hopefully it will lead to a reduction in power rates, in line with the recent announcement by the Electricity regulator who said they were expecting to drop rates in 2020, but it is likely that the power will be sold elsewhere. Meanwhile it has been unseasonably cool here down by the beach, with many locals spotted wearing jackets.

The days of the super cheap fast ferry speed boats appears to have ended. The price is now a whole \$20 per person round trip. This is in line with the price set by the government a couple of months ago. It appears that they are now collecting the \$3 per passenger charge. Hopefully that considerable sum of money that will be collected will be spent on better facilities, but do not hold

your breath. It is rumoured that the number of Range Rovers on the road will just increase. Maybe that is why they have been resealing many of the roads!

The money could be used to clean up the beaches but that is not likely to happen. A group of expats banded together to try to clean up Otres River, which is now so polluted in places the water is black. On Ochheateal beach the first red box has opened for business. It is selling lottery tickets, in a country where lotteries and gambling are officially banned.

The Immigration police have been doing the rounds of apartments and guesthouses checking on the visa status of residents. However they have not been able to easily find the two suspects in a murder in Pattaya, who apparently crossed into Cambodia and are in hiding in Sihanoukville. The authorities know who they are as they hired a moto in their real names to do the hit and were caught on cc TV. Perhaps the Thais need to incentivise Sihanoukville's finest.

City governor has announced to stop every vehicles from parking at the bottom of Serendipity road where the ferry pier is from now on. Businesses owners, tuk tuk or taxi can only drop and pick up guests and goods as usual but no more permanent parking.

About 6 to 8 bars are trying to organise a weekly 8 ball pool competition. This has been tried several times in the past but always failed as the reliability and commitment of the expats in town has been questionable. Ask around if you are keen to get involved. Also there is a 6 aside football game/competition held every Tuesday from 7 to 9 at Jame Sport Club near Build Bright University, for the more energetic sports person.



Serendipity road after the ban on parking.

Phnom Penh Pub Page

Wow – I thought last month was slow. It was pretty scary empty at a lot of the bars in which I did the rounds this month. Amazingly despite this, there are new hostess bars opening regularly and a few more in the pipeline.

This month we start at a new hostess bar - Dragonfly on st 130. It is between Loco and Honey Pot and is part of the Honey Pot/ Angry Bird family of establishments – yes that means some of your favourite staff members may be wondering down the street when you come by to visit. Actually, really liked the place – tunes were quite reasonable, it was not all red, not a huge space but quite comfortable. It has been open only a week and the grand opening is 3 March. I was most impressed because the Pub Page was finally invited to a bar opening, but unfortunately can't make it as I am already booked to be in another establishment that night (my drinking nights are sometimes booked way in advance). Most beer cans are about USD 2 with a glass of draft at USD 1.75 and a jug at USD 5. Spirits mostly varied between USD 3.5-5. And now a segue into lady drinks. I was a bit confused when I read the menu provisions on lady drinks – one line said they were from USD 3.5 and then there was an explanatory paragraph that suggested lady drinks might not have any alcohol. The latter is something I agree with so long as it is the staff member's choice about whether she wants booze or not – there is something insidious or at least actionably misleading about bars that automatically give the staff non-alcoholic drinks and demand extra cash if you want your drinking companion to imbibe a fermented beverage. So, Kudos on the warning that some 40 Kg staff member may not want to go shot for shot with a customer 2 or more times heavier and end up with her face in the throne for a few days. However, am not so pleased with the lady drinks from 3.50 bit. After a few tries, I did get it explained and it is quite reasonable – bottom shelf lady drinks are 3.5, top shelf drinks are more. However, I suspect the average customer will be surprised when they get charged more than 3.5 for the lady drinks ordered. Consider yourself forewarned. Overall, will definitely be back despite the lack of happy hour and scheduling an opening when the Pub Page is already booked.

Since, other than a very minor menu detail, I was so happy with the new establishment, I was even more chuffed to learn that members of the same group are opening ANOTHER new bar a bit farther along the street. It is expected to open in mid March and will be called Sensations. I was a bit confused – even though I was completely sober when I was listening to this (well mostly completely sober – I had only had a few drinks to this point); however, it is expected to be open 20 hours a day, have a kitchen operating, be a café and at night transform into a hostess bar. I think. I will have to drop even if just to figure out what is going on.

Next on the haunt is Monstah bar on Sisowath beside Cadillac. A nice not-that-new-anymore alternative for the street watching crowd on river front with a bit of street side patio so that you can have a frosty cold one while watching traffic creep by. The inside was quite nice – split level with enough large screens so that you can watch all the games and CNN at the same time. Cocktails were USD 4, Spirits ranged from USD 3-5, draft was USD 1 for a glass or USD 4 for a jug. Service was good and

prompt and the food also looked pretty tasty – saw a few bits come out but was not hungry when I dropped by. Specials change and are listed on the board outside but when I was there happy hour was 3-9 every day with .75 draft beers and USD 1 off mixed drinks.

Before leaving the neighbourhood, Corner bar on st. 136 seems to be winning the 24-hour bar wars based on my quick customer count. It seems regularly busy in the afternoons when I wonder by with people doing their best to drink away the setting sun. For those who are interested, Happy Hour is 7 am – 7 pm and a draft beer is USD .5, Whiskey, Gin and Rum are USD 2.5 and cocktails are USD 3. And now for something completely different. This month I was dragged kicking and screaming to the Russian Market where I was told that I needed to experience bars where I would not get the Norm from Cheers welcome. Given that my friend did have a literal gun to my head, I acquiesced with due grace and found myself at Alchemy Gastropub on St 123. It was not busy when we were there which was good because I suspect I would not enjoy the place as much when crowded. It was a really nice space – with a large



front patio area and a back courtyard. There is a second floor that is supposed to open soon but the main floor was quite comfortable and did not feel cramped as the place started filling up a bit. Service was great. Food was pretty sweet – had not had decent perogies out here for a long time and REALLY miss them. Not a cheap place to drink beer as the large imported beer selection ranged from USD 5-13 but the craft draft beers (including some from our neighbours to the east and west) ranged from USD 2-5. Some of them looked pretty tasty, but they are for the next visit. The bar also had three pages of spirits to offer – most with some hipster gastropub twist – my friend was in love with an old fashioned that came in a bottle filled with smoke. I have to admit a few of these entries looked very worthy of a taste test but I was on a strict schedule so not enough time to properly experiment - guess I will have to fly south again soon and try some more.

I was next taken to Long After Dark on st. 450. Quite difficult for us to find – very low key and laid back – really liked the look of the place – had the feel of a Texarkana hole in the wall for the outside patio and a very nice but quite small and cozy bar once you walked in. Service was good but seemed a bit overwhelmed as the place got packed. To my uneducated palate, it gave off an upscale hipster vibe – probably in part due to the massive Whiskey Bible that came leather bound and was organized by country and region (for Scotland) with explanations of each including comments on nose, palate and aftertaste. Despite the apparently pejorative hipster comment, I will be back – really nice place, good selection of drinks – I tried a blend (yes, I will drink non-single malts – I have preferences but am not that big of a whiskey snob) called Monkey Shoulder (with a name like that how could I refuse) that I had never heard of before that I really enjoyed. Draft beers were USD 1.85 -3.5/glass or USD 3-5.5/pint. I thought the whiskey sampler flights (4 selections) for USD 12 were a great idea. Mixed drinks ranged (ok to be honest I can't figure out what my notes said about the mixed drinks so am just going to assume they were not cheap but not outrageous based on the parts of the menu I can remember). Overall, can see this being a very popular local.



New Bar rules

District by district in Phnom Penh bars and restaurants are receiving letters from the Ministry of Tourism inviting them to a meeting.

The Ministry explains that everyone will need a new license from them and at least one member of staff will need to attend a four day training course in customer service.

No fixed prices yet but they probably ain't going to be cheap.

Judging previous performances you may be able to pay the trainer in bananas!

Your illegal

An Interior Ministry report said that 45 political parties had registered with the government for the 2018 elections, but 12 did not fulfill the requirements stipulated by the ministry – which include submitting annual activity reports as well as financial documents – and were being sued by the ministry for it.

Meanwhile.

The Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia (Comfrel) report yesterday found the assembly to be ineffective after the ruling CPP, in

their opinion, violated the group which was recognized parliamentary immunity of before the law,” the 35-page report says. “There were also the roles of opposition politicians and abolished the positions of majority and minority leaders. The NGO report said the CPP’s actions paved the way for the authorities to indiscriminately detain and charge opposition lawmakers such as acting CNRP president Kem Sokha and outspoken CNRP lawmaker Um Sam An.

“The ruling party has passed a law and amended the National Assembly’s internal regulations to abolish the minority

promotions of members of the armed forces and bodyguards who used violence against opposition lawmakers.”

The CPP on last Monday unilaterally passed highly contentious amendments to the Law on Political Parties which allows for parties to be dissolved if their leaders have been convicted of a crime.

Let the games begin!

Note the word “convicted” without it most of them would have to be dissolved!



FAUX NEWS

State visit of King of Timbuktu difficult for Queen!

British PM, Theresa May and her dope Foreign Minister, BOJO Johnson have asked the Queen to accept a visit from the king of Timbuktu this year. However, the Queen whilst sitting on her private throne and reading *The Daily Star* (Which others wipe their rear ends with) thought the visit could cause complications with her relationship with another prestigious royal family, the Kardashians, who she loves!

Theresa and BOJO announced the royal visit in The House of Commons and Labour promptly rejected the idea saying, "What the hell do we want with an unknown king here when we can invite other nutter celebs causing a multi-media revolution? We need publicity, good or bad (That's what Benetton said too after displaying bloody pigs heads on his advertising boards!) and new trade agreements with our cousins after Brexit and not spending millions on polishing the Royal Carriage for the King of Timbuktu (Who?!)"

BOJO, a renowned bungler of anything he does responded, "I told you Theresa darling it was a mistake and now after agreeing with you I agree with the Queen (He tends to be that way, swaying like a flag in the winds of change)."

So instead of the King of Timbuktu, Humpty Trumpty has been invited because as usual, all the queens men could not put Humpty Trumpty together again after falling off his wall, so it's better to invite him now before he falls and cracks completely!

Church of England gay vote in chaos after members use the wrong passageway

A hugely important gay marriage vote has been thrown into disarray after bishops went up the wrong alleyway.

Two voting chambers "For" and "Against" were erected for members of the General Synod, one at the front entrance of Canterbury Cathedral and one at the rear.

However, in the event, many holy men found themselves confused about which one they really wanted.

Meanwhile a bus sent to transport clergy to the chambers arrived empty after it turned out a large number of them were actually on the other bus.

Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said, "It seems that at the time of voting, those who intended to use the front entrance actually found themselves crammed into the rear.

"So many members in one entrance.

"I myself initially chose the correct entrance and then moments later went up the wrong 'un."

Choir boy, Simon Williams, said, "Force of habit."

Gun Opponents Suddenly Find Themselves Up In Arms

Gun sales, which fell by double digits following Donald Trump's election, are shooting back up again with help from some unlikely customers. Former gun control activists, life long liberals and terrified middle class white people are purchasing weapons at a record clip and sales are expected to rise even further.

Mark Dunham, the owner of 'Shots Fired' a gun shop in Oakland, California, noticed an uptick in purchases by first time buyers from San Francisco and Marin County since Trump was elected. Dunham, who is also a police officer currently on disability, had seen a drop in business as many of his long time clients didn't rush in as they had following past elections.

"Obama was great for business. It didn't matter how many guns my customers already had, any time some Democrat got elected

they thought they had to buy more before the government came to take them away. This year, after Trump and the Republicans won, my sales were the lowest they'd been in eight years."

Now they're back up and many of the people who walk in to his shop don't fit the stereotypical gun owner. Gary, an orthodontist who would only give his first name, had never thought of purchasing a gun before but was buying one today.

"I come from a liberal middle class family that would never allow a gun in the house. We didn't even discuss it. I suppose that's because we believed that most Americans were basically level-headed people who cared about others. But after this election it seems that one out of every two voters in this country is nuts. And they already have guns."

Eleanor Harrison, a retired teacher, left the store carrying a box packed with a shotgun and a well-worn Whole Foods bag filled with buckshot. "I always warned my students that guns were the first step to the last one in their lives. Well, that's changed. If Mr. Trump thinks he's going to take Obamacare from me he'll have to pry it from my cold, dead hands."

Another patron, Donnie Porter was wearing a T-shirt with the slogan 'I'm Moving to the Grassy Knoll', a reference to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, while he stood in front of the counter waving a Glock.

"You know, I probably shouldn't be wearing this shirt and looking at guns but I don't care." said Porter, an unemployed social worker. "Two, maybe three years from now all those suckers who thought Trump was the answer are gonna realize they'd been had and they're gonna take to the streets. Class warfare ain't pretty and I wanna be ready."

"It really is an untapped market." Dunham said as he gently pushed the barrel of the gun Porter was holding away from him. "You figure they're thousands, maybe closer to fifty million people, who never thought they'd have a reason to own a firearm and now many of them can't wait to buy two or three."

But at 'Cock, Lock and Load' a gun store outside of Portland, Oregon, Frank Lynn the owner had mixed feelings about some of his new clients. "They kind of scare me, they're different. They're polite, have good credit, dress nice and got a bunch of happy bumper stickers on their electric cars but who knows what radical ideas they have.

"I gotta say I'm not all that comfortable selling to some of them but that never stopped me in the past. It does make you wonder, though, if some people shouldn't own guns."

A spokesperson for the NRA said that 'anyone who wants to arm themselves has that right thanks to the grace of God and the 2nd Amendment. And if the reason they're buying a gun is because they finally realized the world they thought they lived in doesn't exist, well, who can blame them."

2020 Olympics To Feature Wall Climb Competition

For the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo, teams will compete to climb a replica of the soon to be built wall on the US/Mexico border.

The Japanese and Hungarian teams are early favorites for the brand new sport that will have it's first competition years from now. But Carla Wells, captain of the Mexican team, says the competition is a matter of pride for her country.

"For Mexico we have to win the competition to conquer Trump's wall after all the badmouthing he did to our people. We've already got the best general training program in place for climbing forty to sixty foot walls, when the US releases more details on the wall we will tailor our training strategy more to their design."

This reporter asked Wells about talk that Mexico will boycott the Olympics because of the US president's comments on Mexicans and Mexican immigrants.

"I don't think Mexico will boycott the Olympics, look, just think if US athletes, the African Americans, had boycotted the 1936 Olympics, they wouldn't have had the chance to repudiate Hitler and his Master Race theories so publicly. So likewise, in 2020 we're going to show Trump and his supporters what Mexican athleticism, industriousness, and ingenuity can do."

Supreme court to hear "Move the N in Wednesday to before the D" argument

The seemingly interminable battle to have the letter N in Wednesday move to its more appropriate position before the D will now go to the Supreme Court. This has angered many in Britain's Parliament who have suggested sanctions against the United States if "they start boogering our words".

England has asked the U.N. to intercede on their behalf and the U.N. has sent 2 buss loads of men with sky blue helmets to Washington to set up a nice tent. England also threatens to withhold any future Andrew Lloyd Weber musicals from being produced on Broadway.

The argument, first heard in Bucks County Pa. was brought to trial by the complainant, B. Clarke Howser who argued that the incongruity of the word and its pronunciation is a loose end that the English left undone when transforming from the old English 'Odin' to the now accepted 'Wednesday'. Mr. Howser, a banker and father of two wanted to make the world a safer place for his children when he brought the case to court. At the time the honorable judge Horton Dalila decided in favor of Mr. Howser. "oh what the fuck, sounds fine with me, move the goddam N to in front of the D. case closed, gotta pee!"

That decision was eventually thrown out by state supreme court judge Arlene Berg citing "we cannot and will not entertain the frivolity of incongruous letter placement while the words Library and February still contain that useless, wasteful, and confusing r after the final consonant in the first syllable of each word".

Rumor has it that the Supreme Court will probably move the N and fix library and February to appease all sides except for the British who should have learned to speak the Navajo language on their arrival which would have avoided all this bickering.

UKIP calls for ban on Aslef for sounding a bit for-

eign

Train drivers union Aslef sounds like it was born in Bongo-Bongo Land, according to a UKIP spokesperson this afternoon. After members of the union had voted to reject the latest deal from Southern Rail, UKIP said it was a prime example of what happens when things with weird sounding names are allowed to integrate into our society.

UKIP Spokesperson Simon Williams told us, "We are shocked that yet again hard working British people will be forced out on strike because of Muslim extremists like Aslef.

"I bet it's because the trains aren't halal or something, maybe Southern wouldn't agree to force all female passengers into burkas.

It will be something disgusting written in the Koran that has made this happen, I guarantee it.

When it was pointed out that Aslef was an acronym for The Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, Williams said, "that's what they want you to think."

He concluded, "I tell you what, whoever heard of a union called 'Dave' or 'Gary' calling a strike, eh? You haven't, because it's only these bloody foreign trouble makers that do it.

"The sooner they all sod off home, the better."

Legally I can kill him, Queen confirms

THE QUEEN has confirmed that if President Trump makes a state visit, she can kill him with a sword and nobody can touch her.

Palace staff have assured the Queen that, according to English law, Trump is a subject of the Crown and can, if judged to be damaging the monarchy, be dispatched without repercussion.

She said: "I haven't made up my mind yet. I might.

"It's been an awful lot of years hefting the old sword without using it, and who better to christen it on? Just imagine the look on his satsuma face.

"And the colonies would be so grateful they'd have me straight back as their reigning monarch, which solves this Brexit thing literally at a stroke.

"I should do one useful thing before I abdicate, really. And imagine how furious it'd make the May woman."

Her Majesty added: "I genuinely can't think of a reason not to. Anyone?"

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"We accept anybody's ravings—we often print them!"

TECHNOLOGY PAGE

How to set up your new Chromebook the right way

Setting up a new Chromebook is much easier than setting up a PC. Chromebooks don't require major updates or antivirus software. You start simply by signing in with your Google Account (or creating that account, if you don't already have one).

That said, Chromebooks have some unique quirks—such as limited offline capabilities, and a wonky method for connecting a printer. Here's everything you need to know to set up your new Chromebook up the right way—starting with the tools that let you replace the Windows software that just won't work on a Googley laptop.

Gather your apps

The app ecosystem for Chromebooks is evolving. Yes, Chromebooks are primarily conduits to the web. But aside from very specific computing demands, such as high-end gaming or video and image editing, the gap between what a Chromebook can or can't do is quickly closing. There are a slew of superb, powerful web apps available that can already replace most people's basic desktop software.



You can still work in Google Docs, Sheets, and Slides offline by enabling this feature in the settings.

Name brands are making their way to Chrome. Microsoft is bringing Skype to the web (and native webRTC-based voice and video chats are already here). The absolutely free Office Online works with traditional Office docs and offers enough features for mainstream users. There's even hope for web-based gaming.

We were hopeful about Photoshop—Adobe is working on a version that can be used with Chromebooks. As of this writing, alas



the product remains in beta, and the beta program is closed to newcomers.

Pressing *Crtl-Alt-?* simultaneously can reveal all the secret Chromebook keyboard shortcuts.

The other typical knock on Chromebooks is that they're not as useful offline. While that's still true to some degree, Google and numerous third-party developers have been working hard to enable offline capabilities in their web apps. The Chrome Web Store (which is the digital storefront for Chrome apps) even features a section dedicated to offline apps.

Still, the Chrome App ecosystem is small potatoes next to Android's. Google's fixing that by putting Android apps on Chromebooks.

Preparing your Chromebook for offline use

Beyond offline Chrome Apps, numerous native Chromebook apps and features can be configured for use away from the web.

For example, Google's Gmail Offline lets you—you guessed it—work with Gmail while offline. Download the app from the Chrome Web Store, then fire it up from the Chrome OS app launcher. You'll then be asked if you want to save your messages offline. (If you're signed in to multiple Google accounts, toggle the email address at the bottom to select where to save your email data.) Once enabled, Gmail Offline lets you reply and compose new messages, which are cached and then fired off to the recipi-



ent once you're back online.

Install the Gmail Offline app to access your mail when you're not online.

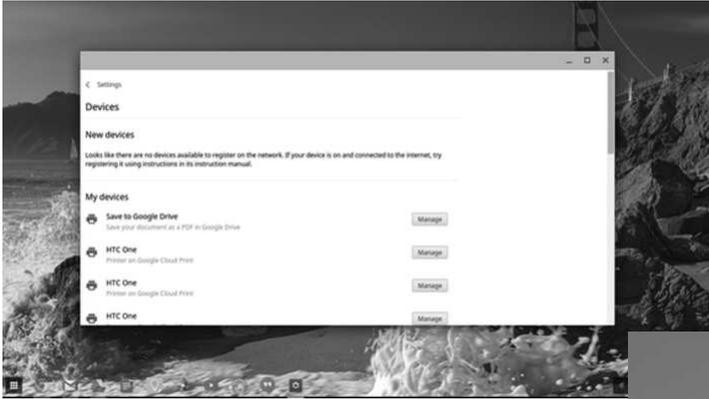
Heavy Google Drive users should head to the settings page (click the wrench icon at the top right) inside Drive to enable offline storage. It will sync all your docs, sheets, slides, and drawings to your Chromebook. Just like Gmail, it syncs your changes to the Drive server once you're reconnected. Be mindful of the limited storage space found in most Chromebooks, however—the files stashed in your Google Drive could easily exceed your Chromebook's capacity. PCWorld's guide to everything Chromebooks can do offline has even more nitty-gritty details.

Set up your Chromebook for printing

Printing from a Chromebook is the most complicated process you'll encounter. You're in luck if your printer is Google Cloud print ready (Google has an official list). If so, all you have to do is enable Cloud Print on your Chromebook.

To see whether your Chromebook recognizes your printer, simply open the Chrome Settings menu (the icon that looks like three horizontal bars, or a "hamburger") at the top right corner of the browser window, select Settings, click Show Advanced Settings, and then scroll down to Google Cloud Print. Under New Devices

you should see the name of your printer, assuming it's properly connected to your network.



Google Cloud Print connects your Chromebook to a compatible printer.

If your printer doesn't show up in the list, it may not be Google-Cloud-Print ready, or it could just be having some other connection issue (remember: Printers are evil). You may have to dig out that instruction manual or head to the printer's specific help page. Google also has a support site that may point you in the right direction.

If your printer isn't Cloud-Print-enabled, the only way to print stuff from your Chromebook is to connect your printer to a Mac or Windows PC, install Cloud Print on that as well as your Chromebook, and then tie it all your Google account. Whew! Here are Google's specific directions on how to do that.

The kludgy workaround works well enough, but if you plan to print a lot from your Chromebook, you'll want to

spring for a Cloud-Print-enabled printer. Another advantage of Google Cloud Print is that once it's configured, you can print from any device that can sign into your Google Account. Chromebook power!

With those basics under your belt, you're ready to rock and roll. For more advanced tricks—such as setting up multi-monitor support, advanced mouse settings, or VPNs.

The beauty of Chromebooks is that after the initial setup, most people will never need to worry about those beefier settings and options—or any other kind of maintenance or management, for that matter. Happy web surfing!

