

# BAYON



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# Safe and Sound

A while back a guy at the bar came out squarely against the concept of 'better safe than sorry'. He wanted experience, excitement, adventure, but I don't think that's what that adage really means. In no way does it preclude an active, interesting life. It's more like when you go rock climbing or mountaineering, for instance, you know what you're getting into and come prepared for survival, for difficulties. You can't cover every exigency but you study your turf and understand the possible challenges.

I'm the type of person who's always almost painfully aware of rules of safety and the dangers around us. That doesn't mean I always follow the better safe concept. For instance, I rarely wear seat belts, though the importance of doing that was impressed upon me long ago.

I met a woman while riding Amtrak across the US who had recently spent 2 months in the hospital from a serious road accident. She was coming home after a short highway trip. She stopped a few miles from her turnoff to pick something up. When she got back in the car she figured it was such a short distance it wasn't important to wear her seat belt, though previously she had always been religious about hooking it up and... Kaboom.

A good part of the reason why we live in Cambodia is the lackadaisical way rules are enforced here. Back in the western world everything is regimented and ordered: There are big consequences for getting caught trying to get around the rules, like in Oregon a hefty fine of about \$100 for not wearing a seat belt or having a child in a car seat. Still, even if I don't follow them, I can see the benefits. Yes, it's illegal to smoke in the bars, but as long as nobody complains, why make a big deal of it? If anybody's getting hurt, which in fact they are from second hand smoke, it's their choice to be there. The ban is good even if it isn't enforced because it constantly reminds smokers of the danger of what they're doing to themselves and others.

We may avoid doing the safe thing if it's a lot of hassle or costs very much, especially if we think the odds are remote. But regardless of low probability we could be making decisions that can severely impact others. Maybe we are lazy, disinterested or sometimes unaware. If our actions or inactions lead to someone getting seriously injured... well that's a karma nobody wants to take on.

Some years ago I was in a popular expat bar in Phnom Penh, hanging out, talking when I leaned back, I should say rocked back, in one of those cheap wicker bar stools (you know, one of the really uncomfortable kind) when I lost control; it tipped over backward and speedily sent me hurtling towards the concrete floor. In a flash of time - it probably took less than a second to go all the way down - I decided to turn my head rather than have the back of it hit the floor first and instead bounced off of the concrete with my nose. It was broken and it hurt for more than a week.

Looking at the stool closely, it was clearly unstable with the legs all tilted backwards, enough so it didn't take very much to go over. Not long later I was back at the bar and a friend tried to sit on it and, without any prompting from me, said, This stool is really unstable. It was an accident waiting to happen. Right after the event I wanted to take the stool outside and destroy it so it couldn't hurt anyone else. Instead the owner just moved it aside temporarily and later it found its way back to the bar. It's not hard to imagine someone else getting a serious concussion or

cracked skull or even dying from a fall like that. Did he really want to be responsible for a serious injury over a cheap lousy \$25 bar stool? Yes, I was drinking and a bit unstable myself, but drinking is what you do in a bar, so bar owners need to be aware of the risks involved and be doubly sure not to keep dangerous things around.

In this case there was a silver lining. My nose had been pointing left from a previous break. That latest break had it pointing in the right direction. It isn't straight, mind you, but a least it's pointing straight ahead.

More recently, a few years back there was an outdoor bar-restaurant here in Kampot, that was at times, very successful. The problem there was that the pathway to the toilet was very rough, with lots of places to stub a toe. In my case that meant diving head first into a concrete wall. Ouch, that sure hurt. It also drew lots of blood and evil looking scrapes. Fortunately I have a very hard head, so the damage was strictly on the surface, except for a raging headache. Yeah sure, I had drunk my quota and wasn't entirely focused on where my feet were going, but again, drinking is what you do in a bar and many people get sloppy while drinking. And further, no matter how loopy I might've been, I would've never crashed if the pathway was a smooth surface. Yes, I'd made it to that pisser many times previously, but still, it



was an accident waiting to happen.

In the first case the danger was very clear and easy to remediate, just get rid of the damn stool, the latter case was not so clear cut since it would've taken time and effort to make that path right so it's understandable why the owner might not see the safety improvement as critical and even if he did, try to avoid correcting it since that was going to be a hassle. All I can say is, Be aware, you don't want your negligence or indifference to be the cause of someone's injury.

Dangerous plants. Another of my pet kvetches is nasty plants, or say plants that are very unfriendly if you get too close. The most iffy one you see around a lot is a member of the euphorbia family with the popular name of crown of thorns. It's not a plant you want to have situated where people are moving close by, because if you get too close, or drunkenly fall into one, you'll feel like a pincushion. It's stems are covered with very sharp 2 cm long thorns. They are very popular in Kampot, you see them everywhere because they have two saving attributes: They are always

in flower and they are practically indestructible; leave it without water for months and it'll be stressed, but still alive and holding on.

One of the nicest plants around is bougainvillea. Mature plants can cover a whole building with beautiful flowers. The city of Kampot likes it so much they encourage property owners to plant lots of them. But, like the crown of thorns, it's not one you want to get too close to since it also is covered with sharp thorns, though they're not as treacherous as the euphorbia's. I've seen them in places where you had to duck to avoid them... they need to be kept trimmed.

Defensive driving. It's one of those musts for avoiding damage to oneself and others. I was driving my car in Phnom Penh some years ago when a car pulled in front of me, actually I don't remember the exact circumstances, but I was somehow offended and felt aggressive so I drove very close behind - I'll show him - and made a quick stop when he did... which caused a moto driver to almost hit me from behind. Now did I really want someone else to pay for my bad attitude? It wasn't the first time I let my ego cause danger to others.

Meanwhile the little kiddies, some as young as six, are out in full force roaming the streets of Kampot in their little motorbikes weaving around traffic like pros, cutting you off and forcing quick stops and just generally treating driving around town as if it was a carnival ride. I was going through a narrow spot with room enough for only my Tico and there's a ten-year-old driving right at me forcing me to brake, he then does a deft fancy maneuver around me. In the first place, cars have the right-of-way over motorbikes in Cambodia, he should've let me pass. He can't have had much experience at his age, yet he acts like he owns the road. Well, one time he'll be a little too challenging, be a little too sure of himself, get a little too close and the other person might not have the time to respond before that young child becomes toast.

Kids should be on bicycles, it's much healthier. Everybody should for short trips, it's not only healthier but it's quieter and doesn't use fossil fuels or create pollution. Sure you can also get hurt on a bicycle, but they don't go very fast and generally are less dangerous.

Rule by the rich. Last fall in the middle of a full remodel Madi bar was shut down by the owner of the building who bought out the lease. Madi had been an institution for at least 5 years with live music every Thursday drawing crowds. It was a fun, relaxed place and since it was owned by a Cambodian, it drew a mixed crew. It was a perfect place for music: few people lived on the block so there were few people to complain about it being loud. Even now, a year later most of the block is curiously vacant. But for the rich guy it was too funky. No matter how cool they may look, or friendly they may act, they like their upscale-ness. They want a clean, trendy middle class look. He couldn't even deal with beautiful mature Areca palms, codeiums and other very large venerable plants that nearly formed a green canopy over the entrance: it was too messy, all had to go.

I sorely miss the bar. It was great to have a place to dance in old town, now the only dance venues are outside of town on the river. The worst was seeing that greenery go, it was sad, dispiriting and as far as I'm concerned, totally unnecessary.

Part of Kampot's cache, its allure is in its funkiness. To me lack of perfection is perfection. While I can appreciate hip, beautiful, trendy design, I much prefer the realism of laidbackness, you know, the essence of Cambodia, the reason why we live here. Do we really want the middle class look to take over our town? So I recently see him in a bar in another building he owns, enjoying the scene while, rumor has it, he's plotting the bar's removal and upgrading for a better clientele. Good vibes are evi-

dently not enough. It's also an institution and has been around for six years. In that case the owner of the bar won't have a problem finding a new place. It probably won't have the benefit of being on the riverside as his present place is, but his customers will certainly follow him wherever he goes. Not same for the former Madi bar's owner since it's very difficult to site a live music bar in old town, he's been trying to no avail. Money rules.

I know I've beat the dead horse of lousy bar design repeatedly, but reasons to comment keep on battering me. Kampot has a new roof top bar: nice spot, good vibes, well attended, atrociously designed bar. It has no overhang, standard issue bar stools with the upper cross member too high for comfort - your knees are up around your chin (exaggerating slightly) - and the lower one unreachable unless you're very tall. And there's no rail or foot rest to compensate so your legs (my legs) start to go numb after a beer or two of hanging with no place to put them, after that I get antsy and want to move on. I may suffer and put up with it if I'm having a good time, but my back and legs will be complaining big time. If you're young you can deal with being uncomfortable for a long time, but I no longer have that gift.



Another element of poor design is bars that are too tall which nonetheless have standard size stools. There are two recently built venues with that problem. Being relatively short, I feel like a little kid who can barely see over the bar top... again exaggerating... but still. If you're building a bar, it's design shouldn't come off the top of your head, it should be based on real criteria and logic.

Finally, a word about crappers. I was at a friend's new bar-restaurant, took a piss and tried to flush the toilet; didn't work though it was only a month old. Three points to make on this. One; I assume almost all toilets sold in Cambodia are made in China, which doesn't always mean poor quality, but often does. Still, to crap out after only one month? Most of course will work for quite a while before they start giving you shit. If you install one in your house and flush it maybe ten times a day, it could work fine for years, but if it's in a bar and gets used 10 times an hour it won't be long before it gives you hassles and headaches. Two; in Cambodia, with rare exceptions, men are going to make up 60% to 90% of a bar's customer base. Three; if you also install a urinal, which needs far less maintenance, your flusher will work a lot longer before it starts giving you shit. It's obviously best to have the urinal in its own space, but even if you don't have the room and have to place it in the same room as the toilet, you're still going to be far better off.

Cambostan

# Bits from the Beach

We are thinking of changing the title from Bits from the Beach to Chinatown Chronicles. The Chinese invasion of Sihanoukville continues unabated and as usual of late provides most of the new in this edition of the bits.

So restaurant on Serendipity beach road has closed down and is becoming a supermarket. A much loved place amongst Expats for excellent quality reasonably priced food is gone. The supermarket is going to be the retail arm of Khmer Wholesale.

In fact the number of restaurants is dwindling very fast. Many of those along beach road including the popular Khmer Restaurant Nyam have been sold to Chinese interests and will open as Chinese restaurants aimed at the ever increasing numbers of tourists and Chinese workers in town.

Apparently there are plans to build a new Chinese only mini suburb of around either 5,000 housing units or to accommodate 5,000 people (things do get lost in translation) in an area not far away from Ochheateal beach area. Given how fast they build entire cities in China it is not unbelievable that this project may be finished by this time next year.

An indication of the speed of the construction techniques can be seen in the old King Pharaoh KTV, with 2 to 3 stories closed in within a few weeks. Similarly, just down the road, construction on a new casino on the land beside the OC hotel is progressing at a very fast pace.

Other construction in place is the old Shanghai KTV near the WM Casino. Also the Golden Star mart at the bottom of the Beach Road hill, near the dive shop has been gutted. The first couple of floors of the new white apartment building next door have also been gutted for your guessed it, yet another Chinese owned casino.

It is hard to keep pace with the number of new casinos in town. The Jai Bai cassino next to the Kampong Som City Casino is set to open at the start of this month. There is a new Casino in the heart of town on 7 Makara Street opposite the old, now closed, Snookies and it looks like another is under construction a couple of doors down from the Queenco hotel and Casino at the foot of Victory Hill.

Not all is roses in the relationship between the new Chinese expats and the locals it seems. Some of them are getting drunk and driving with reckless abandon as if they own the place. Recently one young man, with a few too many drinks under his belt crashed his car into the middle of a dwelling, luckily no one was hurt. The same cannot be said for one poor Khmer motorcyclist who was killed in an accident with a newish Asian expat.

Then there was the big fight. Apparently a couple of Chinese men propositioned a lady of the night and wanted her to go with both of them. She refused and they got annoyed and a little bit physically aggressive with her. A Barang stepped in to defend the poor lass and was attacked by the Chinese guys friends. Then the Khmers grouped and stepped in en-masse to point out the error of their way. Before long one group was chasing the other up the hill, armed with metal bars and wood from building sites. In the end the group of nearly 3 dozen Chinese were surrounded at the Golden Lions by a mob of blood thirsty Khmers. Luckily the police came along at the right time and managed to

arrest all of the Chinese (who looked pretty thankful for this event) and this diffused the situation. More will likely follow as many of the Khmers seem to be resenting the fast and furious takeover economic power shift that is occurring.

Many western expats appear to be of a similar opinion and have moved or are talking of moving elsewhere, with Kampot mentioned as a popular destination. Mind you this may be because there is a looming shortage of long stay accommodation. Recently the new huge Grey building, known as 333 apartments, located near the Star Crown Sports complex, has been leased to the Chinese and the residents need to find new accommodation. It is rumoured that Cozy resort (long term accommodation) is also being taken over, although there are conflicting reports on this one. Another large apartment building on the road to the old prison (street 121) has also been leased out and many long term Barang tenants with leases in place have been given just a couple of weeks' notice to move out. Rental prices appear to be rising in town as a result of shrinking supply and increasing demand. However the number of new high rise apartment buildings under construction is increasing rapidly, but the rental levels are unlikely to reflect the budget of many of the Western expats in town. Locals report that land prices are currently rising very quickly as well.

One local Rolls Royce of a place has had a bit of poor publicity of late, especially on an expat forum. Apparently one of the partners in this place was recently bought out at a less than desirable price by the other partners and retreated back to the States. Unfortunately for the remaining partners the recently departed partner must have felt aggrieved and had control of the website for this place. He re-did the front page of the website pointing out in no uncertain terms that the business is apparently run by scammers and comment. The disgruntled one has named and shamed two of his ex-partners as said scammers and conmen. He was much nicer with the manager, whom he dammed with faint praise.

This was picked up on by the forum and a few other new posters pointed out other supposed investment scams run by one or more of the alleged conmen and scammers. We would like to point out that these allegations are as yet unproven and related to investment structure and not to the way the places are run.

In rare non-Chinese related news, Relax massage has closed down. After being advertised for sale for a very substantial price the owner of this apparently profitable place just closed the doors and sold the lease to a local for close to the deposit in place. The a popular expat business manager Dave, formerly known as Chivas Dave, Tranquility Dave, Excat Dave is now known as Coral Dave and is managing the Coral Resort (by Reef Resort) on Koh Rong on Long Set Beach. Another resort owned by the same group is being run by Lindsey, the popular former manager at Snookies. Toy's bar run by a popular Khmer has moved from the Beach road to the beach access road apparently ahead of a possible sale of the land to guess which nationality?

# IN BAD TASTE

US Threatens North Korea With Official Trump Visit  
America has responded strongly to North Korean military aggression, threatening to launch a full scale visit by President Donald Trump if the Asian nation doesn't stop its weapons testing.

The threat appears to have worked, with North Korea scaling back its nuclear program overnight. A spokesperson said they didn't want to inflict such a high level of pain on its people. "There's enough crazy here already. Having Mr Trump on our soil might just tip the scales," he said. The United Nations said it was an unnecessarily and unusually cruel threat, and that the North Korean people had suffered enough.

Man who can't stop talking shite clearly ideal for important negotiations

BORIS Johnson's incessant flow of unfunny xenophobic remarks is perfect for Brexit negotiations, it has been claimed.

The government is sure Johnson will not only entertain everyone during long meetings, but also help secure a good deal by reminding foreigners the British are superior.

Brexit minister David Davis said: "Boris livens up meetings by saying hilarious yet tactful stuff like 'No need for Gestapo tactics, Angela!'"

"Cowardly Italians, sexy Scandinavians, oversexed Frenchmen – the zingers just keep coming. Also he really knows his history so he can effortlessly throw in a joke about Agincourt or Waterloo.

"Once he ran around for 12 minutes pretending to be a Lancaster bomber attacking Dresden.

"The war jokes will remind them Britain always wins so they may as well give in. There's no way they'll just get pissed off and stick massive tariffs on everything."

Johnson said: "I'm looking forward to hammering out a deal with the EU with lots of jibes about 'collaborating' and 'blitzing it', plus some other remarks about things like 'soggy biscuit' that only make sense if you attended a British public school.

"It definitely doesn't make me look like some insufferable sixth-form twat who thinks he's being desperately edgy."

Trump unveils new law of physics allowing him to cross previously undiscovered lines

DONALD Trump has employed theoretical physicists to create infinite lines of taste and decency he can eventually cross.

Presenting the findings as if they were all his own work, Trump said 'wormholes' would allow him to cross multiple lines in multiple places, simultaneously.

He added: "I could be in Washington saying something about some bitch TV reporter while at the same time I'm at a rally in

Michigan calling Matt Damon a Communist faggot. Win!

"The implications are truly staggering and could mean that by this time next year I may be saying something heinous about disabled people every .002 seconds. So great."

Meanwhile, Trump has ordered NASA to build an inter-dimensional spaceship so he can visit alternate universes to play



golf and swap horrible, disgusting notes with the other Trumps.

NASA engineer Tom Holland said: "We'll have to utilise the force of his ego to break through the fabric between realities, as well as building a seat strong enough to accommodate his enormous ass.

"Have you seen it? It looks like a sleeping bag full of sausages."

Morning-after pill not as cheap as keeping your legs shut, insists Boots

The morning-after delayed contraceptive pill is more expensive than keeping your legs together you filthy scrubber, it has emerged.

Boots, a high-street sort-of-pharmacy that sells pills as well as dishing out moral advice, insists there are much cheaper alternatives available for girls like you.

Boots said it had no plans to cut the price of its leading Levonelle brand, which is designed to be taken the morning after you've had some man or other around.

Boots spokesman, Simon Williams, said, "We are guided by market forces and any attempt to reduce the price would merely incentivise harlotry.

"By making these drugs affordable, there is a very real danger that we encourage young ladies to play into the hands of Satan.

"Women on a budget are advised to get to know a man first before letting him go all the way on a first date."

Boots says it was alarmed by reports that the morning-after pill is being used for recreational purposes, such as hangover cures or to



take the edge off an ecstasy come-down.

Williams added, "On a first date you shouldn't be going any further than tops and fingers."

Pest controllers removing parasites in Parliament buildings finally corner Michael Gove

Pest controllers contracted to remove parasites from the Houses of Parliament say they have Michael Gove cornered in a back office.

The exterminators were hired this week after workers in the building reporting an infestation of parasites destroying anything they touch.

Pest controller Simon Williams is leading the on-site effort and told us, "I'll be honest, it's pretty bad here.

"Sometimes there is a symbiotic relationship with these parasites, where they perform some sort of beneficial function for the host – but that's simply not the case here.

"They're doing nothing but harm, and obviously the people working here want rid of them.

"Some of them are huge, and right now we've got one cornered in a meeting room on the second floor – he's at least the size of a former Education minister, seriously.

"He scurried in there when confronted by someone in the team and asked to prove he wasn't doing irreparable harm to Parliament."

Williams went on to say there was nothing to worry about as he instructed his team to enter the room armed with nothing but a

net and several claw hammers.

Phones Work With Speakerphone Off, Wankers Told

Mobile telephone devices come with a built-in speaker that you can hear when placed to your ear, it has been revealed.

The startling discovery could revolutionise the way dickheads use their phones in public, with experts saying it is as simple as pressing a button and having an ounce of human decency.

"By placing your phone to your ear you can hear what the person on the end of the line is saying, without the need for the speakerphone feature," a spokesperson revealed, stunning annoying people around the world.

While many public transport users will miss hearing their fellow passengers' conversations with their electricity provider and Centrelink case manager, some strangely said they had absolutely no interest in these in the first place.

It is believed the speakerphone-off feature has been available forever. Mobile telephone devices come with a built-in speaker that you can hear when placed to your ear, it has been revealed.

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# Phnom Penh Pub Page

Amazingly, I actually made it to bars this month. Of course, the Evil Publisher heard and, oddly enough, expected me to deliver the Pub Page on time. Not sure why he would leap to that conclusion as it has been ages since I acted like an actual professional writer who met his deadlines. Regardless, since the Evil Publisher has been amazingly generous lately, I felt obligated to churn something out on a timely basis.

Have been hitting a lot of hostess bars lately, but none of them will make it to this Pub Page. Overall, I have been very disappointed in my hostess travels over the past month. There are a number of exceptions and I will probably go back to hostess reviews next month as there have been a number of new openings lately (and Shrek is going to get a night out soon). Not sure if my issues in the bars lately is a result of my drinking less (really, I am drinking way less than usual lately), some change in my attitude (maybe I am finally getting tired of the whole thing) or the bars themselves; however, I am going with the later.

So, let's go with some non-hostess bars for a change of pace.

Amey's Fire Lounge on 118 St almost did not make this month as I was originally told it was going to be a hostess bar.

From what I understand, the place is in a bit of flux as the owners are trying to decide what happens next. I really liked the look of the place, it seemed really relaxing – I am guessing the owners spent a fair amount and it shows. It felt spacious with a bit of a modernist speakeasy vibe. Sound system seemed good and, more importantly, volumes were very reasonable. There is a patio although there is not much to see on this street. The bar is open from 6 pm to 3 am, but I understand the hours are subject to change as the bar finds its way. Overall the bar had a very relaxing vibe and service was good. Angkor draft was USD 2 and Tiger draft was USD 3. Local cans were USD 2 and most other beers were USD 3.5-4. Most spirits were USD 3.5 to 5 but this is one of those bars that charges extra for mixer (my only knock on the place while I was there).

Another place that I mentioned last month is Chaplin's on 108 St. As expected, there is an actual theme at work between the décor and even the outfits of the staff. It is a bit out of the way from my usual haunts, although I am told that the Hard Rock will be opening soon so they are expected more traffic. For now, this is really a destination bar as opposed to somewhere that you will find on your trails. First the positive - Place looks really good. Very comfortable ground floor with a big screen TV and two VIP rooms upstairs. Patio seemed really relaxing and I can imagine it being a very comfortable place to chill and watch the world go by. Neutral – drink prices were reasonable. Draft beer is USD 1.5, bottled beer was USD 2-4 and local cans were 1.5 or 1.75. Spirits started at USD 2.5. Happy hour is currently 3-7 pm with draft at USD 1 and house spirits at USD 1.5. And now the negative – despite have a very experienced

man under the bowler hat who had informed me that the staff was all hand picked, I was very unimpressed with my experience. When I arrived two staff were sitting with two different sets of customers who had bought them drinks, two seemed occupied behind the bar (one of whom got me a drink and then faded away) and two were busy chatting with one who had a drink. Since the

place is not a hostess bar, I was not particularly concerned with the lack of attention and being left to my own devices. Of course, happiness is a relative experience and I quickly learned that there were different levels of customer service and I was getting the short end of the stick. Two guys who looked like young flashpackers came into the bar. Next thing I saw was 5 staff lined up in front of them flashing big smiles and making sure they felt welcome - all of a sudden, the place seemed a lot less enjoyable and I was off.

Next on the non-hostess bar cycle was Raqia Republic. I have not been there since the place moved from near Sorya Mall to 102 St. The place is open from 7 am until 2 am. The place holds lots of special events and runs a FB page to keep people current. Amazingly the place looks like some

upgraded 70's disco – there were even tigers painted on the doors. I was stunned because it actually seemed to work and the place seemed really chill. Music was good. Place is beyond glam but was pretty comfortable. For some reason, they put the menus on tablets – not sure why they bothered as it just seems like photos that you have to scroll through and then place your order with a real-life person. I have heard good things about the food and it was pushed a bit by the staff but I was just there for drinks this trip. Most cocktails were USD 4.5-6, local beer bottles were USD 2.5-2.75 and major imports were USD 3-3.5. For those who want more top shelf – there were much higher end spirits available and fancy Belgian beers that range from USD 6-9.5. Overall, I really liked the place and will be back.

Finally, there was my favourite new place this month – All Sport Bar on 172 st basically just a bit down from Pontoon. It has not formally opened yet but is running 24 hours a day while there is still some construction and working out the kinks. Place is huge with VIP rooms upstairs. I saw some electronic dart games and was told that pool and ping pong are on the way. Tons of screens set up. The menu is clearly a work in progress but as of my visits – basic cocktails were USD 3.5 and special cocktails were USD 4. I was told they have not settled on happy hours yet but they were selling 2 for 1 drafts. Food was good. Space was good and despite the lack of air con in the main room it was very comfortable. There were a few service hiccups but expect them to be worked out. A good place for a quiet drink if you need a break from Pontoon and my new favourite spot to watch UFC.

Ok – hostess bars and Wall next month - promise... !!!





### Local politics

A new Rangerover blocks your house all day and despite looking no driver is apparent. Finally you kick the bumper to check for a car alarm but alas no. Ten minutes later the car has moved 20 meters up the street.

Two days later you are approached by an English speaking woman as you walk home. "Why you kick my car?" Pointing at it. Explanation. "Public road I park where I want." Argument ensues with flip flop thrown at you walking off. Flip flop lobbed into neighbouring

villa, "Go fetch bitch!"

Two days later local cop appears as they have filed a complaint. Explain to cop who admits he would be very angry in the same situation. No damage as you only wear soft sandals but they want \$50 compensation.

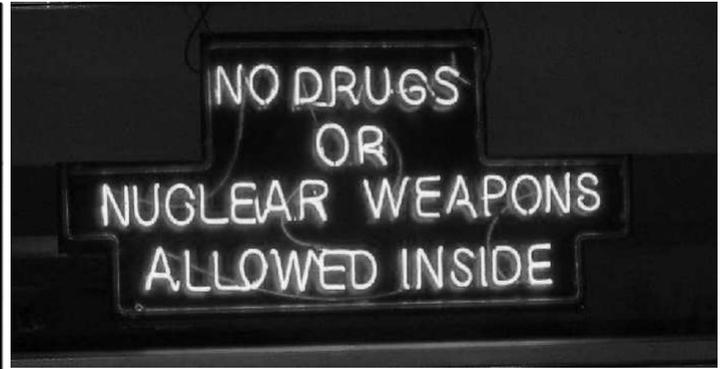
"Well tell them to f#@k off and take me to court."

It is then pointed out the car has no licence plate and no tax so it shouldn't be on the road.

The glares of death at 30 meters still continue on the street! LOL

### Remote canning

A new milestone in bar man-



agement was reached when a well known bar after three weeks. His misbehaviour was observed on CCTV by the owner who was on the other side of the world.

### Dysfunctional lights

With new traffic lights popping up all over town there is a problem.

Not just the sheer numbers of them but their timing. They are supposed to be synched but much of the time they are way out. Causing large traffic backups. Others just let you sit there with nothing crossing from the other direction, The

retraining of whoever it is pushing the buttons in the traffic control headquarters should be undertaken immediately. The buttons are for a traffic control system not a bloody Whackamole game!

### Sinville numbers

1.2 million visitors went to the Chinese casino town that is by a beach in the first 3 months of this year. That's nearly 7000 a day! Chinese VOIP scammers and construction workers were attributed to the increased numbers. Seriously do they pin numbers to a dartboard or have a tombola to come up with the number?

# FAUX NEWS

our independence from Britain in 1776. Why can't those pushy Brits take a hint and sod off for good?"

## Thatcher statue to be buried in coal mine

A planned statue of Margaret Thatcher will now be buried at the bottom of a mine in Sunderland, after it was deemed "too frightening" to be displayed in public.

The lifelike work - in iron, obviously - was originally intended to be installed as a permanent feature in Thatcher's home town of Grantham. However superstitious locals believed the metal woman would come alive and eat them, so they plotted to burn her.

The artist, Geoffetta Rodding, was said to be disappointed with the outcome, saying that her work was one of her best. Famously she won the 2011 Turps Prize with a 100m high model of a cucumber, entitled "Crikey! That's a big one." She has reluctantly agreed to have her latest work buried forever.

The statue has one unusual feature which may have helped scare people - it rotates constantly. The lady is for turning after all, and will now turn forever while lying down in its coal lined grave like a kebab shop spit.

## Romelu Lukaku's agent hospitalised after wanking himself into a coma

Romelu Lukaku's agent Mino Raiola has been admitted to hospital after masturbating himself into a coma following the striker's £75m move to Man Utd.

According to sources, Raiola wanked himself unconscious shortly after the record-breaking transfer was confirmed.

"He started getting an erection when the rumours appeared at the end of the season," said unnamed source Simon Williams.

"By the time Lukaku arrived at Old Trafford for a medical, he was ejaculating dust."

A statement from the hospital treating Raiola, said: "We can confirm that we are currently treating a man who is in a coma brought on by ferocious masturbation."

## Brexit negotiations to be held in Disneyland

With politics and fairy tales converging ever faster, it was announced today that Brexit negotiations with the EU are to be held in Disneyland. Meetings will be chaired by the Mad Hatter, with the Seven Dwarfs taking minutes in rotation. Dopey will be first to jot down progress between representatives of the European Union and the British government.

Talks may become complex, in which case ombudsmen or citizen advocates will be introduced to the round, in the form of Winnie the Pooh, or alternatively, Donald Duck.

Theresa May, still licking her shoes and wounds after her election disaster welcomed the plans. "I think this is a clear sign of strong and stable irony. I look forward to animated discussions and am sure our EU colleagues will be more than willing to submit their wishes to the bent of the surreal."

Angela Merkel, German Chancellor, was not amused, surrealism being anathema to German politics, and bemoaned the absence of Brother Grimm's Little Red Riding Hood from scheduled sessions.

"Rapunzel or Cinderella would have been far better hosts", she claimed.

Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission, confirmed that fairy tales were, and always had been, part of the plan to ensure swift agreement with the British. "It's the only language they understand," he stammered, before slipping into a Peter Pan suit. Participants at the Brexit talks have been requested to come as their favourite fairy tale figure.

"No", stated Mrs. May, "I will not be disguised as the Wicked Witch of the West...but yes, Boris and Nigel will be coming as Boris and Nigel...".

## Official Retirement Age Upped to 95 in the US

It happened shortly after Prince Philip announced his impending retirement.

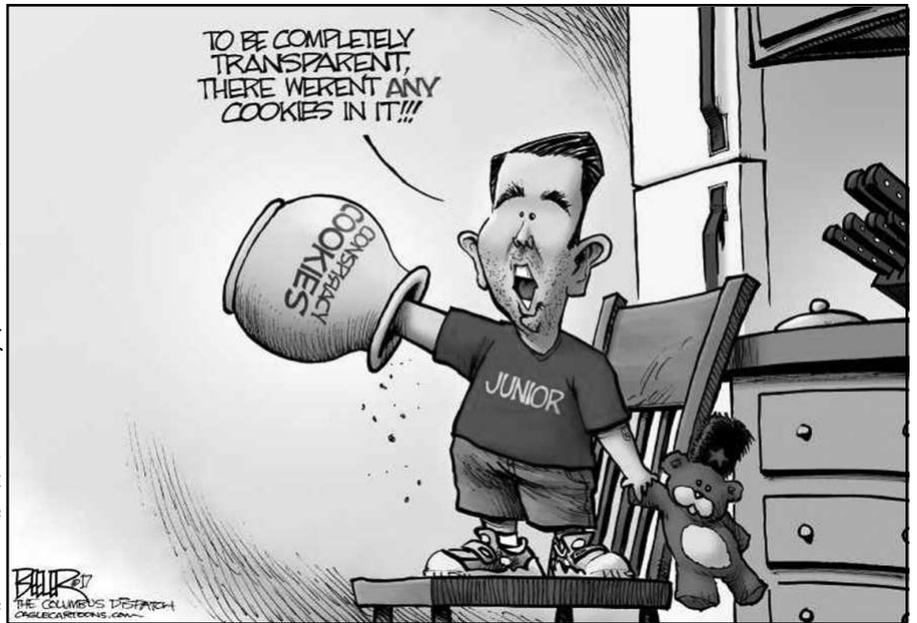
Members of the U.S. Congress, eager to extend their own gravy train and justify that extension as totally normal, were eager to vote this into law. "I'm all for it," said Senator B. Oldie, 80. "I'm sick of seeing the young grabbing up everything for themselves. A pox on their house, if they can save enough to buy one."

Nasty Nora, Director of Human Resources for a major NY company, is against the change in retirement age. She feels it means that she won't be getting a promotion anytime soon. "There will be too many old geezers above me, blocking my way," she whined.

Geritol manufacturers, on the other hand, are rejoicing, as they figure they will be selling a lot more of their products, trying to keep up the energy levels of the older population.

A coalition of celebrities who are 90 years old or more (people like Dick Van Dyke, Carl Reiner, Mel Brooks, and Betty White) love the new law, but their critics argue back: "Sure, it's okay for them, all they have to do is play the candy man and collect a check. Meanwhile, the rest of us are slaving away to earn a few bucks just to survive."

The general consensus of average workers seems to be that Prince Philip can do whatever he pleases, but the US didn't have to follow suit. After all, as one worker pointed out, "We declared



"There is little we can do about the fixed grin, and despite being heavily sedated he has been mumbling 'twenty percent, twenty percent' over and over again since his arrival.

"Surgeons have successfully removed his hand from his penis, but we are preparing his wife for the possibility that the erection will be permanent."

Raiola's PA told reporters that the warning signs started to manifest as soon as word of the initial bid reached the agent's office.

She said, "His hands went straight down his trousers as soon as Man United made an approach.

"When the deal was completed, well, he was pretty much a blur

from that point on.”

### **Warning that Donald Trump may become fully sentient by 2018**

There is concern within the scientific world that Donald Trump may achieve full sentience at some point in the next year.

Currently, the US President is just a bizarrely coloured slab of meat driven by a combination of hominess and petty rivalry, however, there are signs that Mr Trump is moving towards sentience.

“Right now, the US President isn’t really self-aware in any real, meaningful sense of the word,” said Simon Williams, Professor of the appalling and terrifying at Oxford University.

“He is able to see and hear and he can smell his own farts and giggle, but he has no real understanding of the world around him and his place within it. He’s like a small baby or a quite stupid beetle in that respect.

“But you can see in his eyes, he’s starting to be curious about the world around him.”

The concern is what might happen should the President actually achieve full sentience.

“Well, yes. On the surface, it might seem that if he understood the connection between his actions and consequence, this might be a good thing, but I’m not sure.

“Right now, if a media outlet does something the President doesn’t like, he just releases a childishly constructed video of himself punching the media outlet. If he actually becomes fully sentient then he could end up actually bombing CNN.”

It is understood that the theoretical day that Donald Trump becomes fully sentient has been nicknamed ‘Judgement Day’ and that a resistance movement in the future is currently planning to send back a robot Hillary Clinton to defeat him in last year’s election before such an eventuality comes to pass.

### **Doctor Who fans watch sport for the first time ever**

Legions of Doctor Who fans caught several minutes of televised sport, many for the first time, the other week.

In their haste to learn who the new Doctor will be, tens of thousands of fans were confused by the spectacle of a man running when he wasn’t being chased by an Ice Warrior.

The BBC was inundated with complaints from viewers who saw David Tennant in the Wimbledon crowd and believed it to be some sort of spoiler, or who thought that shots of someone chasing a ball were footage of some kind of ground level Quidditch match and started cheering before they realised their error.

“The people dressed in white chasing about weren’t even the robots from Krikket, which was an unused Douglas Adams script,” avid Whovian Simon Williams told us.

“The last time I saw any televised sport was when I turned on to watch ‘The Horns of Nimon’ a few minutes early in 1979 and caught the closing minutes of Grandstand.

“Ooooh, it was awful. Never again,” he added with a shudder.

“If you want to get me interested in sport, put the Olympic hundred metres final in a cardboard corridor that wobbles when you nudge it. I’d be sold on that idea.”

### **Civilisation survives tumultuous first night of having a female Dr Who**

There was widespread relief the other week as it appeared that civilisation may actually survive in the wake of the announcement that Doctor Who will be played by actress Jodie Whittaker. Many had assumed a fictional space being with two hearts who travels through time and space in a phone box being made a woman was too much for humankind to take and that civilisation would fall apart.

“It’s literally the worst thing that’s ever happened,” said 34-year-old virg in Simon Williams after the announcement yesterday.

“It’s worse than Nazis, cancer and that Star Trek film where Captain Kirk meets God.”

Mr Williams wasn’t the only Dr Who fan to express his anger, outrage, and unreconstructed sexism that is an embarrassment to men everywhere.

Within hours of the announcement, authorities around the world were preparing for protests to sweep across the globe as right-thinking people came together as one to halt the relentless tide of political correctness that culminated in what swiftly became known as the Whovian catastrophe.

It was widely thought that the protests would quickly escalate into violent riots in the major cities around the globe and civilisation collapsing before the night was over.

Happily, the sort of people who think a female Doctor Who is a bad idea were told to stay in their bedroom by their Mums and stop causing a rumpus, and so civilisation survives.



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# TECHNOLOGY PAGE

## Best Windows backup software 2017

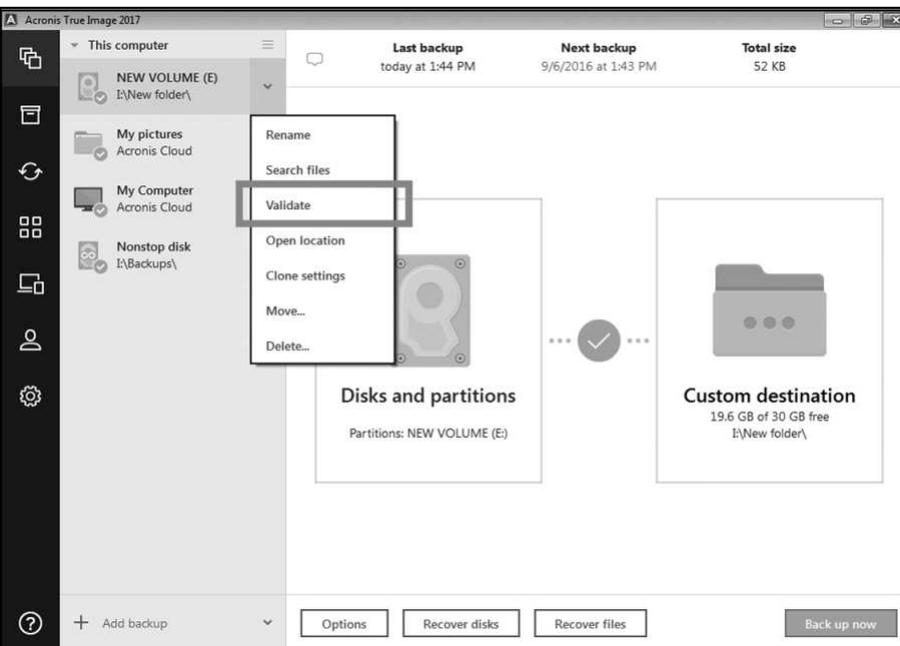
We need backup software because we don't live in a perfect world. If only Microsoft provided Windows users with something like Apple's Time Machine: an effective, set-it-and-forget-it, total system recovery and backup solution that requires little interaction or thought on the part of the user.

Instead, Microsoft offers a mishmash of restore points, recovery discs, file backup, and even the un-retired System Backup (Windows 7), which was probably originally put out to pasture for its propensity to choke on dissimilar hardware.

Plenty of vendors have stepped in with alternatives. None are as slick as Time Machine (though occasionally it's mimicked), but some come dam close. Most are effective—and many are free. Read on for our top picks.

**Best overall backup program**

Acronis True Image 2017 \$49.99



Acronis True Image wins our pick for best backup software with its speed: It's the fastest overall backup program we've tested by a bunch. It also has just about every feature you could wish for, including affordable online storage.

The tradeoff is a whopping six processes running in the background by default, which you'll notice via lengthened our boot times. There's a lot of stuff in the system tray as well. If you have only simple backup needs, you're likely be better off with our best budget pick, Aomei Backupper Standard—but for those who need the extra muscle, True Image performs like a champ.

**Best budget backup program**

Aomei Backupper Standard 4 \$0.00

Among the free programs we tested, Backupper Standard wins primarily because it has the most features, including imaging, file backup, disk cloning, and plain file syncing, plus multiple

scheduling options. Sure, its bitmapped interface may be retro, but the layout and workflow are intuitive. And though it's on the slower side for backing up sets of files, it's the fastest software we've tested so far for backing up full disks and partitions. Its CPU usage during backup is also commendably light.

### What to look for in backup software

As with most things—don't over-buy. Features you don't need add complexity and may slow down your system. Additionally, if you intend to back up to a newly purchased external hard drive, check out the software that ships with it. Seagate, WD, and others provide backup utilities that are adequate for the average user.

**File backup:** If you want to back up only your data (operating systems and programs can be reinstalled, though it's mildly time- and effort-consuming), a program that backs up just the files you select is a major time-saver. Some programs automatically select the appropriate files if you use the Windows library folders (Documents, Photos, Videos, etc.).

**Image backup/Imaging:** Images are byte-for-byte snapshots of your entire hard drive (normally without the empty sectors) or partition, and can be used to restore both the operating system and data. Imaging is the most convenient to restore in case of a system crash, and also ensures you don't miss anything important.

**Boot media:** Should your system crash completely, you need an alternate way to boot and run the recovery software. Any backup program should be able to create a bootable optical disc or USB thumb drive. Some will also create a restore partition on your hard drive, which can be used instead if the hard drive is still operational.

**Scheduling:** If you're going to back up effectively, you need to do it on a regular basis. Any backup program worth its salt allows you to schedule backups.

**Versioning:** If you're overwriting previous files, that's not backup, it's one-way syncing or mirroring. Any backup program you use should



allow you to retain several previous backups, or with file backup, previous versions of the file. The better software will retain and cull older backups according to criteria you establish.

**Optical support:** Every backup program supports hard drives, but as obsolescent as they may seem, DVDs and Blu-Ray discs are great archive media. If you're worried about optical media's reliability, M-Disc claims its discs are reliable for a thousand years, claims that are backed up by Department of Defense testing.

**Online support:** An offsite copy of your data is a hedge against physical disasters such as flood, fire, and power surges. Online storage services are a great way to maintain an offsite copy of your data. Backup to Dropbox and the like is a nice feature to have.

**FTP and SMB/AFP:** Backing up to other computers or NAS boxes on your network or in remote locations (say, your parent's house) is another way of physically safeguarding your data with an offsite, or at least physically discrete copy. FTP can be used for offsite, while SMB (Windows and most OS's) and AFP (Apple) are good for other PCs or NAS on your local network.

**Real time:** Real-time backup means that files are backed up whenever they change, usually upon creation or save. It's also called mirroring and is handy for keeping an immediately available copy of rapidly changing data sets. For less volatile data sets, the payoff doesn't compensate for the drain on system resources. Instead, scheduling should be used.

**Continuous backup:** In this case, 'continuous' simply means backing up on a tight schedule, generally every 5 to 15 minutes, instead of every day or weekly. Use continuous backup for rapidly changing data sets where transfer rates are too slow, or computing power is too precious for real-time backup.

**Performance:** Most backups proceed in the background or during



dead time, so performance isn't a huge issue in the consumer space. However, if you're backing up multiple machines or to multiple destinations, or dealing with very large data sets, speed is a consideration.

**How we test**

We run each program through the various types of backups it's capable of. This is largely to test reliability and hardware compatibility, but we time two: an approximately 115GB system image (two partitions), and a roughly 50GB image created from a set of smaller files and folders. We then mount the images and test their integrity via the program's restore functions. We also test the USB boot drives created by the programs.