

# BAYON



*Pearnik*

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# China - America - Cambodia

I spent 2 ½ years in Kunming, China back in the mid-nineties. It's a great city with an equable climate and a fine place to ride a bicycle. We expats, though few in number, had a great time there. It was the only city in China at the time where foreigners were allowed to live anywhere in the city as opposed to being forced to live in foreigner enclaves and paying 5 or 10 times as much rent as locals would for the same accommodation.

A lot of its wonderful aspects were obliterated in just in the five years between 1992 when I first visited and January 1997 when I left. Many thousands of beautiful old street trees were cut down and streets were widened by demolishing whole rows of apartments. All that was to accommodate the ending of rules prohibiting private individuals from owning cars. China is a city planner's wet dream: It was no big deal to displace thousands of people to make wide boulevards. Sometimes people would object, but they had no power, and still have no power to take part in decision making.

While there I met and married a Chinese woman. One night we were sitting watching an English language news broadcast. International news was often informative, though nothing of course negative about China; local news exclusively showed important people greeting foreign dignitaries, important people giving speeches in front of large audiences and glowing reports on the party's latest accomplishments. As I understand it, that's

a lot like Cambodia's TV news, since all of the country's stations are aligned with the ruling party. Unfortunately for the government, more than half the people of Cambodia now get their news from social media. More on that later.

Getting back to the news that night, the headline story was a shipment of four

containers of garbage that was supposed to be recycled scrap paper. The presenter was furious, Why is America sending us its garbage? How dare they? As one who spent a long time working in the recycling field, I could imagine what happened. Scrap paper is is very low value and since it's mixed people sometimes mistake it for garbage so it's possible some garbage was mixed in with paper. It's also possible that an unscrupulous dealer sent garbage to avoid the disposal charges... the containers were from New York where disposal charges would be very high.

This was four containers out of the tens or even hundreds of thousands of containers of recycled paper shipped to China every year; a tiny amount.

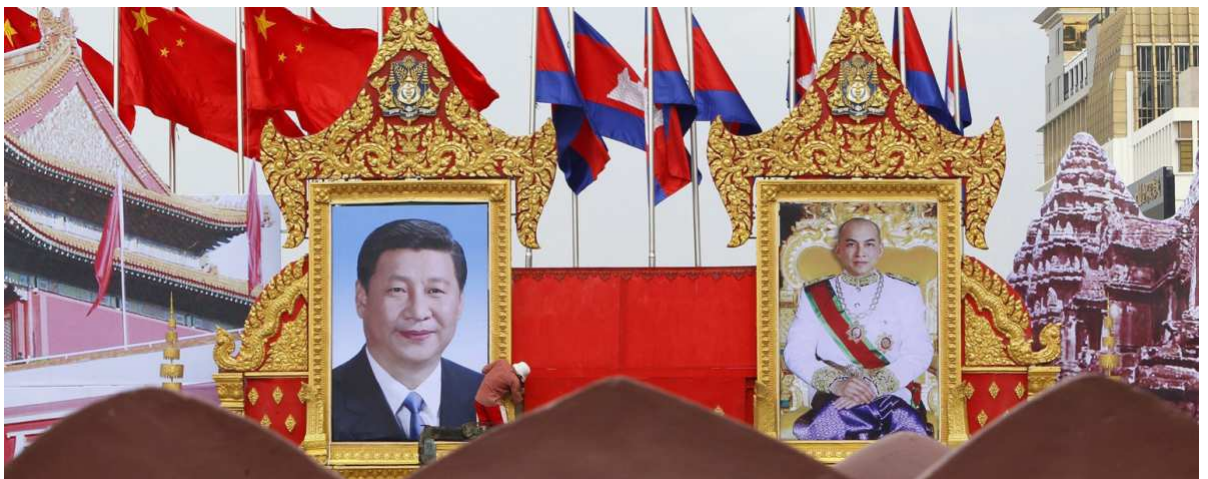
The other point to consider about this incident is that everything that happens in China is part of government policy, so when the presenter was asking why America was sending its garbage it was as if it was US government action rather than a private business. A similar thing happened when Liu Xiobao, a Chinese dissident, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize: China was angry at Norway and boycotted some of that country's products for a time. Norway tried to explain that the Nobel committee was an independent organization that they didn't have any control over,

but it was no less an affront to China. When he died in prison recently, most Chinese had no idea who he was because information is so tightly controlled there.

Chinese leaders must be intimately familiar with Orwell's 1984. In it the main character works for a future Ministry of Truth, changing history books to reflect current government priorities. China recently tried to do the same thing with Cambridge University. They demanded that the University erase every article they didn't like from their periodical China Quarterly to access in China going all the way back to 1961. Ever the bully, China said it would stop buying the Uni's textbooks, a very lucrative business, if they didn't comply. Cambridge initially buckled, but the outcry from academia was so fierce they had to backtrack.

China lives in its own bubble. Everywhere in the world outside of China the Dalai Lama is considered a wise and holy man. They consider him an enemy because he tries to stand up for Tibetan rights. They are trying to erase Tibetan Buddhism from China and he gets in the way. Officially atheist communist China has chosen their own malleable version of the next in line. He's not welcome in a lot of countries because of China's threats against them, and when he is allowed to visit they make sure he's not on a state visit, but only comes as a private citizen.

They are trying to create their own alternate reality and this I find dangerous considering their immense population and power and



absence of any role the general population plays in decision making. There's no feedback or pushback to government policy, such as to the widespread degradation of China's environment. People have no right to protest or demonstrate, though in fact it is happening more and more: we don't hear much about because of state control of media.

For a long time people complaining about pollution were considered enemies of the state. On the other hand, when China does want to do right by the environment, as their recent announcement that they were going to totally ban the manufacture and sale of combustion engines at some point, they have the power to make it happen that a democratically elected government like the US doesn't. There are no lobbyists to ply legislators with favors, nor car or oil companies to object since they are all either owned by government or on a short lease.

Getting back to the intro to this piece, when my Chinese wife got to America and discovered almost everything she was buying was made in China she was very surprised, she had no idea. So even while the US was a big part in enabling China's rising prosperity, they were badmouthing America at every turn. I'm sure it's exactly the same today. I'm sure the people there have no idea their country is running a 350 billion dollar a year trade sur-

plus with America.

With Trump shelving trade deals, one of the few things he's gotten right, China has been forthright in pushing free trade. Well of course, if you're running a trade surplus from almost the entire world, it makes sense to sound the trade hero. Part of their trade prowess comes from know-how and smarts, but they're also smart about making it difficult for other countries to sell to them, putting up all kinds of non-tariff barriers and other roadblocks.

America has been boosting the world economy for decades by running large trade deficits, but it's also uniquely able to do so by having the world's reserve currency. That allows it to print money with abandon. The US dollars we see floating around the world, and 80% of all dollars are outside the US, have been purchased for that purpose. It's essentially a no interest loan to the US. The other ways America has to cover the deficit is to sell treasury bonds and (literally) sell the farm; that is, letting foreigners buy property and businesses. Other countries including China are seeking to end America's hegemony over use of the dollar for world trade, but it's unlikely to ever be totally superseded. Who could trust China's Yuan for international payments when they can devalue it at their whim? It has been rising lately, but that can change whenever it suits them. A case in point: When China's stock market crash happened a couple years back they immediately devalued the currency.

Well, one of the types of businesses they seek to buy are in the information/entertainment field. Information is tightly controlled in China, there's no facebook, ebay or amazon. If a Chinese firm buys a theater chain or a production company, you can be sure no film depicting China in a negative light will ever be shown. Not long ago I read that China produces about 60 films a year centered on WWII that depict Japanese as evil. Certainly no contemporary or controversial subjects are ever covered. Even if the Chinese company is privately held, they will do exactly what the party tells them in that regard because it is all powerful.

I wouldn't be the least bit surprised to learn that every Chinese branded computer sold around the world has a back door that can be hacked by Chinese authorities. The same is true for cars made in China. It would be very easy for China, in a conflict situation with the US, to have all Chinese made cars stop in their tracks or veer wildly off course at a signal from Beijing. I know it sounds like a wacky conspiracy theory.. but...

Capitalism is different, at least how it's practiced in the US, because in America profits take precedence over any loyalty to country. The way it works in the US, any corporation that tried to act in the interest of workers, society, the environment that impacted on profits, would likely be sued by its stockholders. And they're all too happy to manufacture in China because of the enforced docility of its workers: no unions or strikes allowed. It matters not to American capitalists that the monster they've created may eventually devour them, short-term profits is the only consideration.

China exploits its workers even more than western capitalists. The immense wealth they've accumulated has come at the expense of their environment and workers. A few years back Beijing demanded that the US embassy there stop reporting pm 2.5 pollution levels: pm 2.5 refers to particulate matter of less than



2.5 microns. It's a very dangerous pollutant and Beijing's air was 10 or 20 times acceptable levels according to the World Health Organization. The US refused, saying their embassy was sovereign territory and they wanted their employees to know what kind of air they were breathing. Similar situations happen in America where the use of toxic chemicals is hidden from the public, except it generally isn't a crime to research and report on those things.

They also mercilessly exploit their workers. Chinese have the right to live anywhere, but the only place they can send their kids to school or enjoy any other social benefits is where they were born. Since there are few jobs in the countryside, they're forced to leave their children with relatives and migrate to the cities to work. They often live in migrant enclaves and are looked down upon and discriminated against. The cities like it that way since they get workers for their factories, but don't have the expense of educating their children.

The upshot of China becoming wealthy is that they're throwing their weight around and buying friendship, or shall we say, greasing the wheels of friendship. China currently has ongoing territorial conflicts with eight of its neighbors. The most prominent dispute involves the South China Sea: they are claiming waters practically within sight of other countries that are as much as 1000 miles from their territory. One of the countries bordering

the South China Sea is the Philippines. That country's previous president took the dispute to the International Court of Justice, which ruled against the Chinese claim, saying it had no validity whatever. China, needless to say, totally ignored the ruling and continued construction on disputed islands. The Philippines' current president decided China was too big to fight and maybe if they didn't press their claim, they could beg some money out of the big bully.

Cambodia is the perfect example of benefiting financially from political backing. Asean is a case in point. No motion critical of China will come out of that body because Cambodia will deny the necessary consensus for passing it. In exchange, China's investments in Cambodia are the largest of any nation. They also make lots of donations like city buses and military equipment and have provided \$2b of infrastructure loans. It isn't all China, however: when the PM wanted to borrow \$800m dollars to build a light rail line to the airport he went to Japan for the loan.

Other countries have found Chinese investment to be a mixed blessing. Sri Lanka in particular is regretting China's help. There's a \$2b Chinese funded airport that stands empty that the country can't make the loan payments on. There's an \$8b port that's going broke because the country's plans were too grandi-

ose. China offered to forgive the debt on the port in exchange for a 99 year lease on it and about 10,000 hectares of land surrounding it to use for an industrial park. The deal isn't sitting well with the people.

What China doesn't do is buy Cambodia's exports. The US buys 22%, Europe 40%, China 4%. The PM has been on an anti-American vendetta lately. Some of his angry rhetoric against the US goes back to Nixon's secret bombing campaign and America's support for Pol Pot in the UN long after he was driven from power (but let's not mention that China also backed Pol Pot in the UN). I believe his complaints are justified, except that's 20, 30, 40 years ago and not really relevant for today. Lately it's been because US funded media outlets VOA and Radio Free Asia often broadcast news unfavorable to the ruling party. Holding the powerful to account is one of the primary functions of a free press, so of course it's often going to come up negative in a place where corruption and impunity are so widespread.

Anti-American anti-western tirades could well backfire. If the US and EU stopped buying Cambo exports because of the country's backsliding on democratic values and half a million garment workers were out of work as a result, there'd certainly be

grave anger and unrest to deal with. The West will probably not do that for concern of driving Cambodia even closer to China.

And further, a recent study showed the Cambodian people have a more favorable opinion of America than China. Embracing China at the expense of the west is a dangerous path though at this point the people's opinions aren't going to account for much since it currently seems like there'll be no opposition party to contest the next election. With Rainsy exiled and Sokha facing 30 years in prison on treason charges no other opposition figure will step up to lead the party, it'd be like a death wish. At this point it seems like he's determined to remain in power no matter what. He can eliminate the opposition party, but not opposition. Nowadays a majority of Cambodians get their news from social media and it would be very difficult to put that cat back in the box now that they have gotten used to the internet.

There might well be dark times ahead and the big question for us Cambo expats is whether turmoil or unrest will affect our lives. Finally, let me say 2500 words is nowhere near enough to cover this topic, but it'll have to do for now.

Cambostan



# IN BAD TASTE

## Britain's homeless welcome the iPhone X

At a modest £1,149, the iPhone X is this year's must have accessory for the destitute; alongside a dog, a copy of the Big Issue and the smell of wee. The new device comes with inbuilt GPS to remind you where you used to live and a 'poo emoji' to tell you how shit your life has become.

Despite a 60% rise in homelessness, of which over 120,000 are children, those living in temporary accommodation will be able to use the ample 5.8 inch display as an umbrella or a rudimentary lean-to. While the homelessness problem costs the UK economy over £1bn a year, it is still cheaper than the average iPhone contract.

Face recognition may be challenging as the homeless are prone to growing beards and losing teeth. One tramp noted: 'As a discerning hobo, I'm naturally attracted to the fact it has more custom features than Samsung. I'll certainly be switching mobile contracts, the moment I can liquidate my share portfolio'.

A Government spokesman commented on the 134% increase in rough sleepers: 'There are many benefits to being homeless – except of course, actual house benefits. For instance, the chances of being burned to death in a tower block is virtually nil. And if you sleep in an Apple shop doorway – you'll be first in line for the sales'

## UK responds thoughtfully to German election with Hitler jokes

BRITONS have responded to the worrying rise of the far-right in Germany with thoughtful, well-considered Hitler jokes, it has emerged.

After Alternative für Deutschland won a large share of the vote, the intelligent and measured British reaction was to joke about the Nazis and extremely well-worn Germanic stereotypes.

Office worker Martin Bishop said: 'I'm surprised the AfD did so well because I assumed they'd be driving around in their panzers trying to pinch all the sun loungers!

"Personally a revival of the German far-right doesn't worry me, because as Corporal Jones said, 'They don't like it up 'em!'. Ha ha."

Bishop then amused colleagues by singing the wartime song about Hitler having one testicle, although the relevance to the 2017 Bundestag election was unclear.

Teacher Tom Logan said: "History has taught us we have to take the far-right in Germany very seriously.

"Sorry, I just got distracted thinking about the Fallen Madonna with ze Big Boobies.

## Brexit Battle Bus loses its licence to operate

Transport for London (TfL) have taken the surprising measure to



ban the Vote Leave Bus from picking up drunk and confused voters on the streets of the capital. Alongside Uber, the battle bus has been accused of 'taking people for a ride', while being driven by crooks.

Ironically an online petition suggests that the public are not upset about unmarked taxi cabs, but they are aggrieved about a bus with £350m lie plastered on it. Likewise there may be 40,000 drivers using the Uber app, but there are at least four Cabinet ministers all trying to drive the same bus – and all from the back seat.

Theresa May tried to reassure TfL that she would be taking charge of the vehicle – just as soon as she could put it in reverse. While Jacob Rees Mogg insisted that the UK should never have abandoned the scythed chariot. However, this does still leave Londoners with one alternative mode of transport, the 'Boris Brexit Bike' – a 19th century idea, that still provides a consistent pain in the rump.

Without the bus, some will be deprived of a convenient, affordable and delusional form of Brexit; but others would prefer to avoid the inevitable car crash. Uber admitted that like the Bus they had misleadingly offered a risk free journey at a suspiciously low price – but at least knew their destination.

## Ryanair Offers Discount for Passengers Who Can Fly Planes

Holiday-makers who know how to fly Boeing 737-800s could be in for a windfall as Ryanair is prepared to offer up to 50%



**SAD MAN GIVES SPEECH HE DIDN'T WRITE  
ON ISSUES HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND  
TO ORGANIZATION HE DOESN'T LIKE  
FOR REASONS HE CAN'T EXPLAIN**

 @NGrossman81

off if they fly the plane to their destination as well. With most of its pilots on holiday themselves Ryanair need passengers to step up to the plate, and it's hoped that on most flights there will be someone prepared to give it a go.

Although the holidaying pilots have been forced to at least fly themselves to their holidays, most pilots are taking more than a half hour vacation, so Ryanair desperately someone to bring their planes back home. Passengers prepared to fly the planes will enjoy half-price fares, free drinks, 5 scratch-cards and will also get the thrill of sounding the 'on-time arrival' recording when they land.

It is thought most of the new have-a-go pilots will come from the ranks of stag and hen dos as the levels of intoxication should easily give some the levels of confidence needed to pilot a passenger jet through crowded European airspace.

One man who has already volunteered for the new scheme is Pete Carlyle from Liverpool. 'It's a great offer,' said Pete. 'With the discount my airfare is down to £7.99 and all my mates think I'm the man. And I'll be well sauced, so just like me pool game, talking to women, and driving me car I'll probably be way better at flying a plane than usual.'

### **Aung San Suu Kyi: Good guy, bad guy or Burmese rhyming slang?**

Confused by Aung San flitting between winning a Nobel Prize and killing everyone? Torn between admiration for her previous fights against military rule, and condemnation for her current refusal to condemn army attacks? Never fear. As always News-biscuit has provided the definitive facts to clear up this quagmire of truth.

- 1) Contrary to popular opinion she is not a 'guy'. She is not Burt Kwouk.
- 2) She spent 21 years under House Arrest but has so far refused to go on Celebrity Big Brother.
- 3) Aung San Suu Kyi are coincidentally the individual names of Burma's Teletubbies.
- 4) Despite fears of ethnic cleansing, Aung San is still a more popular Nobel winner than Bob Dylan – who is a real pr\*ck.
- 5) In 2007 she won the Congressional Gold Medal for beating Newt Gingrich over the 110m hurdles.
- 6) She hates the new Great British Bakeoff and has not enjoyed anything Noel Fielding has done since 'The Mighty Boosh'.
- 7) How bad does sh\*t have to get for you to flee to Bangladesh? It's like holidaying in Skegness.
- 8) Suu Kyi controversially took the kettle off, despite Polly and the UN telling her not to.
- 9) £10 says you did not know who the Rohingya were before the start of the month. £20 says you won't care by next month.
- 10) She is the only world leader to have lost the roof of her house to a cyclone called Nargis in 2008. Evidently your thoughts and prayers weren't intense enough that time. That's pretty callous of you, since she wasn't even allowed out of the house at the time. You b\*stards.
- 11) Her favourite Beatle was George, for aught anyone knows.
- 12) Human rights groups are calling for displaced Rohingya Muslims to be allowed to settle in the US, just to see the look on Trump's face.
- 13) Boris Johnson has revealed that he doesn't like Aung San Suu Kyi, he's more of an Earl Grey man.
- 14) And that isn't a flower behind her ear, it's just a really crap hearing aid.

# Phnom Penh Pub Page

Another odd month at the bars and another generous gesture from the Evil Publisher – I may have to think of another pseudonym for him as a) his secret identity is too well known and b) lately he has not really been manically evil enough to justify the name. Will think on that.

Anyway, as usual, I waited until the last minute to start doing actual research – not that I was not going out throughout the month, but I was not keeping notes nor trying to hit new or press worthy establishments. Just before my submission deadline, I started on my appointed rounds only to be reminded that Pchum Ben is not exactly a great time to be hitting bars in PP. Most of the bars I had meant to try were either closed or coming off as a saloon in a ghost town. I managed a couple of places, but not enough to complete the page. My sobbing and whining must have touched the heart of the Evil Publisher as he graciously permitted me to include a discussion of foreign establishments that I have been diligently visiting over the last few days.

A few thoughts first – the Wall – I have been promising to go and I actually dropped by to conduct a thorough investigation for this month's Page. Unfortunately, I decided to go in the late afternoon over the holiday and either it was shut for the holiday or Howie was having a snooze as the bar was locked up. I really did try – well clearly not too hard, but sufficient to demonstrate good intent – and will try again for next month.

Did a bit of a Riverside crawl recently. Just wandering up and down having an occasional beverage and watching the world go by. Perhaps I am showing my age, but I was shocked that the happy hour specials along the river were .75 for a draft. I just kept thinking 1) I remember when the regular price was .50 a draft and 2) there are still tons of bars around where the standard price is .75 which makes the riverside happy hours seem a lot less special.

A few months ago, I reviewed a new bar that was part of the 130 St. conglomerate known as the "BLOCK" called Beehive. For any that actually read and bother recalling what I wrote (admittedly, I don't so I was forced to go back and read it), I was not that impressed with the place and could not understand the intended appeal of the concept. I was clearly not alone on this as the Beehive is no more and in its place has arisen After Dark. They have made it into a separate establishment and cut the Honey Pot umbilical. It now has its own bar and entrance. Yay!! It was a typical BLOCK experience. I may dislike the nickname that they are trying to push, but they do know how to run a decent hostess bar. Music was good. Staff was friendly. A bit odd with the sort of stadium seating raised levels in the front third of the place, but otherwise good if standard fare. Prices seem on par with the other bars in the group and drafts were 1.5 per (or for those who are even worse than I with math – twice the happy hour riverside specials but with potentially friendlier staff and not so much foot traffic). I could not really

figure out the happy hour special as it promised a free beer but none was offered to me.

Went back to the Sports Bar on 172 St. a few times this month (including during the crucial research period when I remembered to pay attention to my surroundings). Some substantial changes

recently as new management has come over – it is a long and windy trail from Shanghai to Chaplin and finally back to 172 St. but this intrepid adventurer is glad to have a certain manager back in the hood. Menu is being revamped and it is still an excellent place to watch the games and get away from the Mall/Pontoon craziness for a bit as it is 24 hours. For those who might appreciate it, aside from the 24-hour bit, another key differentiator to my other favourite break from the action place – White Cobra – is that is a bit further away from the craziness so you are less likely to get spotted and swarmed here. There are specials on every day and happy hour is 3-7 pm with USD 1 drafts and USD 1.5 house spirits with mixer.

Also hit Larry's for a few late night beverages this month. Am really happy to see this place doing well. Some of my favourite grub in PP – solid staff – comfortable and, of course, Larry.

Amazingly – that is it for the month. No invites to new bars. No memorable experiences that are worthy of note or are of a nature that are suitable for public dissemination. This is where the kindness of the Evil Publisher comes in because I am going to waste some ink and fill out the Page on Pattaya. Yes, the Pub Page is on holiday and work has tagged along. I have been diligently investigating establishments here over the past couple of nights (if memory serves, I hit 15 bars just on Walking Street so far) and was really pleased to find out that it was retroactively made productive with the permission to write about it. If I was to be completely honest, I would admit that I was just out on the piss but now it is all business expenses and hardship duty.

Scene was amazingly quiet – most bars I went to were less than half full. Speaking to staff, the bars have generally been dead for a bit with a few exceptions (Happy, Baccara (downstairs), Shark and Sapphire were the key ones). I was invited to attend the opening of the new upstairs VIP lounge at Dollhouse – very nice place that will be rented out for private parties (details are being worked out although it has already hosted a pre-opening bachelor party). Have been amazed at the number of expats I have run into in 2 days that are over from PP. Mostly people just transiting through on their way back home but also a few Pchum Ben refugees. Have one bar story worth telling – turns out that I left some things behind at Sapphire bar last night (perhaps the fact that it was my last stop and I had a couple to tide me over for the long baht bus trip home helped). I was amazed when I got an email today from someone I did not know stating that they had tried to track me down and my things were at the bar. Amazing customer service. They will be a regular stop for me going forward. Anyway – it turns out I don't need to give detailed reviews as I seem to have written enough to get paid this month.





**Confusion visas**

Well after a period of back and forth with various role changes and lots of confusion the requirements seems to have settled down.

One year business visas no longer require a work permit but do require a letter from the company you work for.

Retirement visas require no paperwork if you are over 55.

If you are under that age a letter from your embassy of proof of retirement from your home country is needed.

New EB visas for those looking for work are now available

for three or six months.

These requirements may change in the near future and be aware requirements can vary between agents due to their "connections."

Immigration officials have been visiting foreigners homes around Phnom Penh recently checking on valid visas as part of the ongoing tightening of rules before the election.

Will there be an election? To hold a democratic election you need two viable parties to campaign. So at the moment it doesn't seem to qualify!

The powers that be seem em-

boldened by Chinese backing and have realized the US is too busy with kneeling problems to deal with world problems unless it's tweeting threats to lunatics of sportsmen!

**Too noisy**

The cops were handed a real earner when it was announced that "noisy" motorcycles will be impounded.

Whilst they are a problem "everyone has some idiot rattling windows on their street at ungodly hours thrash-

ing their bike for no apparent reason."

Harley owners some dirt bikes and retro hipster bikes seem the main target.

As the cops don't have sound meters a formula of loudness and the bikes value seems to be at play.

With the bikes value and therefore the owners ability to cough up cash seemingly coming to the fore! Owners had plenty or warning



so little sympathy for those caught.

**Holidays**

Not too bad this month. Monday Oct 23rd Paris Peace Agreement

Sunday Oct 29th Kings Coronation Day.

So Monday will be a holiday in lieu



# FAUX NEWS

## Trump and Kim Jong-Un Compare Dick Sizes

In a contest guaranteed to have no winners, Trump challenged North Korea with fire and fury, which North Korea's Kim Jong-Un followed up with references as to how close North Korea is to Guam.

Guam has been put on Red Alert, while Trump's consultants and 5th grade Geography teacher explain to Trump where Guam is, that it's a "territory" of the U.S., and what a "territory is."

Trump was said to ask a lot of questions about Guam, including, "Is there any oil on it?" and "How long has the U.S. owned it and how much we could 'get for it?'" and "Are there any hotels on it?"

## Trump's 'Plumbers' Seek Source of White House Leak

WEEKEND WHITE HOUSE, BEDMINSTER, N.J. In what appears to be a throwback to the days of Watergate, President Donald Trump has reportedly organized a band of so-called plumbers to investigate serious leaks at the White House. Anonymous confidential informants, all members of the White House staff, reported that the president is so disturbed by incessant leaks that he has ordered attorney general Sessions to head the search. Sessions has told other cabinet members that the leaks cannot continue, and that drastic action will be taken to curtail them. He has threatened to subpoena reporters who may have learned of the leaks from the White House staff.

The New York Times, in an editorial today that refused to identify sources, revealed that the current leakage is unrelated to the leak revealed in May. At that time, as reported in a Spoof exclusive, the problem was not technically a leak but was a backup and toilet overflow caused by an ancient, unpumped White House cesspool. The Times' informants say the present issue is multiple leaks somewhere in an as yet undetermined pipe in the president's bathroom.

Sean Spicer, filling in for the new press secretary as Spicer prepares to leave the White House staff, said that if Sessions is in fact seeking the source of the leak, he would indeed need plumbers but that neither the president nor the attorney general feel that term is acceptable today. Spicer suggested if the plumbers do exist, they be called pipe fitters.

## Big ag has cross bred chickens with Dolly Parton

Big Bend, TX - Scientists working with big agriculture have increased chicken breast size Texas style. The mutant chickens resulting from the work, according to local farmer Culo Gordo, are increasing profits by 126 percent.

According to our scientist source here, the chickens were created by grafting Dolly Parton's breast gene into the chicken genome. This resulted in chickens with enormous breasts so large that the birds cannot stand up.

The farmer pointed out that this provides a lot of white meat, but not enough dark meat. To get more dark meat the farmer suggested incorporating Kim Kardashian's butt gene.

Scientists are contacting Kim for a DNA sample now. They are also working on a milking machine for the chickens.

## May makes generous offer to remain in reality for further two years

THE prime minister has offered to abide by the laws of reality for a further two years while details of the wonderful fantasyland awaiting Britain are negotiated.

The move is a significant change to previous policy, which had Britain departing from the real world completely in 2019 for a fabulous imaginary realm of prosperity.

In a speech in Florence, May said: "The people of Britain have

chosen to live in a magical land where golden apples grow on every tree and it rains champagne, and live in that land we shall.

"But not all of our sugar-spun castles are quite completed yet and the ability to soar in the air free as a bird is still in beta-testing, so we have told reality if we remain part of it until 2021 we will continue to play by its rules.

"In return I have asked the real world to be creative and meet Britons halfway in their desire to turn anything they touch into gold, which they must be granted because they voted for it last year."

May reiterated that in the long-term Britain will still exit the physical world entirely to exist eternally in the faerie realms, while still taking anything it wants from reality whenever it wants it.

But voter Margaret Gerving said: "She promised no compromises. She's a bloody traitor.

## Piers Morgan: If we were truly a liberal country, we'd have more tolerance for a complete twat like me

IF IT'S true that you can judge a society by how it treats its elderly, then it's equally true that you can judge a liberal country by how it treats its total arseholes.

Arsesholes like me. And I can report that so-called 'liberal' Britain fails the test.

Anyone can tolerate the nice, the decent. David Attenborough. Brian Cox. My colleague, Susanna Reid. Even Stalin would have found it easy to tolerate Susanna Reid.

The real test comes in tolerating the vain, ubiquitous, toxic, narcissistic, bloviating, obnoxious members of humanity. Which is where I come in.

My role, a vital function for which I receive no thanks, is to expose hypocrisy.

Every time I come out with a thunderously excremental, self-aggrandising comment, every time I reveal myself to be a spade-faced, gassy, class A twat, am I thanked? Nobody says, 'Well done, Piers, for acting the prancing, poisonous tit and proving that there's room for all sorts in our democracy. You have proved our tolerance to be real.'

No, instead they call for me to be shot out of a cannon into a distant septic tank.

By hating me, Piers Morgan, you show yourself to be just as bad as the racists. In fact by hating the racists you show yourself to be even worse than the racists, and almost as bad as me.

But nothing like as bad as Gary Lineker

## Hillary Clinton's new book titled 'How I F\*\*ked Up'

HILLARY Clinton has written a new memoir explaining how she managed to deliver the world's greatest superpower into the hands of a drooling orangutan.

How I Fucked Up puts into words how an experienced career politician somehow bungled a presidential race so badly that it may end democracy in the United States forever.

Clinton said: "Here it is, the warts-and-all chronicle of how, armed only with a massive sense of entitlement and no policies whatsoever, I managed to lose the contest literally nobody thought I could.

"I take you through my experience of repeating easy soundbites and taking part in vapid viral challenges while throwing away an election and knocking women's rights back at least a generation.

"It's a fascinating read. You'll find it hard to believe a supposedly intelligent person could be so amazingly stupid."

## Boris unveils plan to become PM by murdering everyone

AN increasingly desperate Boris Johnson plans to become prime minister by murdering everyone else in Britain.

After a misguided attempt to undermine Theresa May, Johnson has now taken the more direct approach of slaying the entire population so that there is nobody else left to take charge.

The foreign secretary said: "I'm going to become prime minister even if it means slaughtering every human in this great nation of ours.

"All my political manoeuvring has failed to bear fruit, so the only option left is to wield my trusty cricket bat 'Gladstone' and become PM by force.

"Next I'll kill everyone in London and exterminate the rest of Britain county-by-county. Once everyone's dead I'll finally be able to assume my rightful role as leader of the nation.

"You probably think I've just gone completely mad, but that happened a long time ago when I adopted my 'Dennis the Latin-speaking Menace' persona."

Johnson then shouted "Cui bono carpe diem bona fide Caesar!" before running off and falling down a manhole.

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

# TECHNOLOGY PAGE

## iPhone 8 vs. Samsung Galaxy S8: Apple and Samsung Face Off

The 4.7-inch iPhone 8 hasn't changed much in design, but it's packing plenty of power under the hood. How does it compare with the Galaxy S8?

With iPhone X hogging the spotlight, iPhone 8 might feel a bit like Apple's unloved stepchild, but it shouldn't. With a comfortable 4.7-inch form factor and more affordable price, the iPhone 8 will be a palatable option for consumers who still want the latest and greatest hardware without breaking the bank. On the other hand, the Samsung Galaxy S8 costs nearly the same as iPhone 8 and packs plenty of premium features into its sleek body. Let's see how the two compare. Design and Physical Features

The iPhone 8 stays with a design that hasn't fundamentally changed since the iPhone 6. You still get the traditional home button with Touch ID, a sizable bezel on the top and bottom, and polished aluminum sides. Like the iPhone 7, the headphone jack is also absent. The only change is matching panes of glass on the front and back.

In comparison, the Galaxy S8 stands out. Its display curves along the sides but keeps a tiny bezel on the top and bottom to spare you the awkward "notch" cutout on the iPhone X. The S8 also sports glass front and back panels and metal sides, but there are two notable features you don't find on iPhone 8: a headphone jack on the bottom and a microSD card slot up top for more storage.

In terms of dimensions, the 4.7-inch iPhone 8 measures 5.45 by 2.65 by 0.29 and weighs 5.22 ounces, while the 5.8-inch S8 is only slightly bigger at 5.87 by 2.68 by 0.31 inches. Even more impressive, it weighs just 5.47 ounces. When it comes to maximizing screen-to-body ratio, the S8 can't be beat. That said, both phones are small enough to fit comfortably in your hand and their tall-and-narrow form factors make it easy to reach across for one-handed use.

Other shared features include wireless charging; iPhone 8 and S8 are both compatible with the Qi wireless charging standard. Samsung also supports PMA and a proprietary standard that lets you wirelessly charge faster with compatible charging pucks.

The iPhone 8 is IP67 water- and dust-resistant, letting it survive in 5 feet of water for half an hour, while the S8 can go a little deeper (6 feet) with its IP68 rating. Both also support Bluetooth 5.0, which improves range and lets you stream to two pairs of headphones simultaneously.

### Display

Display quality is where you'll notice the biggest distinction. The iPhone 8 sticks to a 4.7-inch 1,334-by-750 Retina HD display that hasn't increased in resolution or pixel density (326ppi) in several years. The only upgrade is a wider color gamut and True Tone, which give you better contrast and warmer colors. And of course, 3D Touch, a feature that dates back to iPhone 6s, lives on.

By contrast, the 5.8-inch Super AMOLED display on the Galaxy S8 has a much higher 2,960-by-1,440 resolution that packs in 570ppi. That higher pixel density will make images and text on the S8 appear sharper. You also get the advantages of an OLED display, like rich saturated colors, and dense, inky blacks. Features like Active Display help save battery life by giving you time, date, notifications, and media controls as necessary and only lighting the required pixels.

That being said, the iPhone 8 does have a good IPS panel in terms of color accuracy and viewing angles. Screen brightness is also great for both devices, and you shouldn't have a problem using either outdoors.

### Processor and Battery

This is where the iPhone 8 really shines. It's powered by the same A11 Bionic chipset found in iPhone 8 Plus and iPhone X. Without putting too fine a point on it, the A11 Bionic is the most powerful phone processor we've ever seen. According to leaked benchmarks on Geekbench, it boasts a single-core score of 4,061 and a multi-core score of 9,959, beating every Android device and all previous iPhones and iPads. The Snapdragon 835-powered S8 (1836/5960) looks like a midrange device next to it.

Of course, we'll reserve judgment until we can run our own benchmark tests, but if you're looking for the world's smallest, most powerful phone, it's very likely the iPhone 8 will earn that title.

Battery life will be fairly similar for both devices. According to Apple, iPhone 8 battery life is about the same as the iPhone 7's, which clocked 5 hours, 45 minutes in our battery rundown test (in which we stream full-screen video over LTE at maximum screen brightness). Oddly enough, the Galaxy S8 had an identical runtime of 5 hours, 45 minutes, likely due to its larger, hungrier display. If you change screen resolution from Quad HD to 1080p, runtime increases to 7 hours, 39 minutes.

### Camera

As always, camera quality requires a shootout, but we have a pretty good idea of the hardware in each phone. The iPhone 8 has a single, 12-megapixel rear camera with optical image stabilization and quad LED True Tone flash. Unlike its larger sibling, there's no secondary sensor, so you don't get features like telephoto zoom, portrait mode, portrait lighting, or the bokeh effect.

Overall, we expect to see performance that's similar to the iPhone 7, which we found to be a great camera during our testing, though not necessarily the best compared with other phones on the market. However, with Apple's ARKit, the iPhone 8 should work with AR apps without requiring any additional hardware. Currently, that's not something you're able to get on the Galaxy S8 until ARCore comes out.

The S8 on the other hand, is among the best camera phones we've tested, boasting a single, 12-megapixel rear camera that excels in capturing detail and shooting in low light. The S8 also has OIS and both phones have 4K video recording and slow-mo video. The S8 has the added advantage of manual controls, which let you tweak focus, shutter speed, white balance, and other elements to take better shots.

### Software and Features

The iPhone 8 \$699.99 at Verizon Wireless comes running iOS 11, Apple's latest operating system. It also rolls out to other iPhone owners starting Sept. 19, bringing new features like ARKit's augmented reality support, a file manager, and serious multitasking capabilities. When it comes to consistent updates, you won't do better than Apple.

The S8 by contrast, runs Android 7.1 Nougat with the TouchWiz skin. Though it should get an update to Android 8.0 Oreo, when you'll actually see it depends on your carrier. The S8 will support AR apps once Google's ARCore arrives.

Samsung has its own advantages, though. For example, Samsung Pay works with nearly all credit card readers and terminals, not just those that are compatible with Android Pay or Apple Pay.

A small ecosystem of S8 accessories also provides useful functionality. Samsung Dex lets you hook the S8 up to a monitor and keyboard, to mirror Android onto a bigger screen for productivity and games. The Samsung Gear VR headset and a touch controller lets you use the phone for fun gaming experiences.

### Price and Availability

The Samsung Galaxy S8 is available for sale unlocked and from carriers at a price that ranges between \$750 to \$800 depending on where you buy it.

The iPhone 8 is available for pre-order now (Verizon, AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile, Apple Store), and will begin shipping Sept. 22. Prices start at \$699 for the 64GB model and \$849 for 256GB. That's less than the \$1,000+ iPhone X, but it's about the same as what you'll spend for the S8.

Generally, if you're tied to Apple's ecosystem, like a more compact phone, and want to take advantage of the powerful new A11 Bionic processor, the iPhone 8 looks to be a great choice. On the other hand, if you want a futuristic-looking phone with a gorgeous display, premium features, and excellent camera performance, you won't do better than the Galaxy S8.

# Bits from the Beach

The front part of the beach at Ochheateal, that is supposed to be free of chairs, is now crowded so no one can sit or lie on the sand by the water. Also Serendipity beach road, which is supposed to be free of parked cars is now a major traffic jam with cars parked on either side of the road and the bottom of the hill is jam packed. It seems the usual situation in monitoring regulations by the competent Authorities, regulations are enforced for a short while then when enforcement resembles work the new regulations are not enforced.

Cintri has lost the rubbish collection contract, more correctly, they did not bid for it again as they were not making much money. It appears that they were having trouble collection rubbish collection fees from individuals and road to the land fill site was poorly maintained and too far away. Typical of the lack of infrastructure in Sihanoukville. Meanwhile rubbish piled up on the streets and this has finally been taken away. It must have been a decent sized Job. Speaking of infrastructure, the roads in town are a potholed mess with all the rain and the large amount of traffic including heavy construction trucks. The Competent Authorities have filled some of these with gravel and some tar, but these patches will probably not last too long, after all why do a job right?

Getting into competition with well-connected Khmers can be dangerous to your freedom. The operator of the Party Boat, who also has accommodation on Kho Rong Sanleom. Invested in yet another high speed ferry operation. The end result was an arrest and it appears that there is now a claim for his resort by a local, who without paperwork to back his claim up, may just get a free resort.

There is a new container night market under construction in the large parking area behind the beach bars near Mueslis bar. Stacked two high the containers are becoming shops. It should be an interesting area once completed. There are quite a few structures made out of old containers going up around town, with another one being located besides the Star Crown sports complex.

The newest bar at the Square opened at the start of September. Despite much conjecture about the name of the place The Glory Hole had a well-publicised and attended opening party. There was free beer and lots of good food. It appears that the only bar without girls is doing well so far, many expats are enjoying the music videos, which caters to a more mature taste and enjoy decent conversation without being pressured for lady drinks. The group that owns this bar are doing a good job of playing on the name. They have 476ml cans of Moosehead Lager, imported from Canada, for sale for just one dollar each, and the slogan on the flyer is, "Get Blown Away"!

Speaking of the square, there appears to be a shortage of girls working there at the moment. This may be explained by several Chinese establishments opening up and recruiting girls. Hiring practices seem to be to go to a bar, buy girls a drink and then offer them a job at higher pay and guarantee them that the clients in their bar will pay double the going rate for the girls services if she wants to sell them later. Also Victory Hill is becoming a ghost town at night as the demographics rapidly change. There is yet another new casino that has opened up opposite the Square in the former KTV building that was rapidly rebuilt. None of the

casinos seem to have adequate parking and the cars are spilling onto the road blocking traffic. The casino count is currently put at 27, but this figure appears to change monthly. It is believed that the Competent Authorities have raised the cost of a casino licence quite significantly due to the demand which appears to have no end in sight.

One of the big and unsubstantiated rumours going around is that the Cambodian Government is going to allow 2 million Chinese citizens to get Cambodian Citizenship. We do not think that there is any substance in this rumour, but if true, it will put a substantial amount of money in the pockets of some people. One would guess that the cost of this would come down from the current \$50,000 figure that gets bandied around.

Yes the Chinese continue to flood in. It is rumoured that another 1,000 or so are to descend within the next month and it would be safe to say that there are now more Chinese Expats in Sihanoukville than Western Expats. Accommodation places are still being rented by them at a rapid rate. Many of the Western Expats have been "Chinesed", which is a new phrase going around for losing your accommodation to Chinese interests, twice in the past six months. Many are now moving into houses, although with the lack of new hotels, guest houses and apartment complexes available they are moving on to renting houses. This is creating an accommodation shortage and leading to rental price hikes all over town. The exodus to Kampot is continuing and it is having a similar effect there, drying up available stock and rising rents loom.

Land prices are shooting up dramatically. The Rebels headquarters, incorporating the Handlebar has been bought by the Chinese for a whopping \$280,000 after they offered to buy the place. This block of land is not very large and according to one commentator would represent a price of over \$500 per square metre. Despite having a couple of years left on the lease, they have been Chinesed and the Rebels boys are apparently moving out towards the Don Bosco school area. The Annual Rebels Poker run was held last month. The turnout was down significantly on recent years, which has been put down to exodus of Western Expats

The already large Special Economic Zone, just outside of town is set to grow even larger with increased investment from China. One local said they counted over 200 mini vans packed with workers from the SEZ heading from there to Veal Rinh to take the workers home in one day. Let's hope they build accommodation for the workers there.

Meanwhile in Kampot, there has been another passport visa fiasco. The lady/agent who was doing the visas for the other agent in town (mentioned in last month's Bayon Pearnik) was also doing visas for her own clients, who found out the hard way that she had also not paid for their visas. Her office was locked up and she was nowhere to be found. The effected expats banded together and got the police to break into her offices, where some passports were found. Others were apparently at the ministry and the visa fees had not been paid. Almost all the passports have been recovered, but some poor people now face some stiff visa overstay fines.