

BAYON



pearnik

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China - America - Cambodia

September was a very dry month in Kampot. We got only 120 mm of rain when the average is about 270. I don't ever remember a similar September in my ten years here, of course, there's a lot of things I don't remember. Even last year when we got 170, it seemed more normal. The town's been really quiet in spite of the clement weather which fools you into thinking it should be more like high season. The owner of Kepler's books, Kampot's first bookstore – we now have two – says that September is always his slowest month. October has followed the September pattern except that it rained every day for a bit, but only in very small amounts... Now at deadline it's still been relatively very dry, as of the 21st we've had only 1/4th of average for October. Meanwhile almost every few days we see pictures of Phnom Penh under water. Cambodia is small but still there can be very big differences in climate. Even just within a few kilometers of central Kampot there can be big differences sometimes, at least in rainfall.

Rip-off. One local saga that came to a head in September, even though it began earlier, was the rip-off by a local travel agent of a lot of money that was paid for visa extensions. She also regularly took money and passports from another agent to add to her customers. At some point she snapped, saw all that cash moving through her hands, and just kept it. When people came for their passports, she kept saying there was a delay. By the time she was found out, the other agent was out the \$17,000 that it took to make good on all the passport and overstay fees. I don't know how much she took from her own customers, but it probably was equal.

So, what did this brilliant thief do with her ill gotten gains? Did she flee to another part of Cambodia to start a new life under an alias? Did she buy gold and jewelry and bury it so she could retrieve it when she got out of prison? No. She bought land in

Kampot!!! How could anyone with at least half a brain think they could get away with something like that? Unfortunately, that's not the worst of it. Before she had her own agency, she worked for another and it was her name that a number of people (I don't know the specifics) used on their land titles in the 51%-49% artifice used to allow foreigners to buy land here. She's currently on the lam with an arrest warrant out for her. What's going to happen if any of those landowners need to sell and she isn't found or not found for an extended period? I can barely imagine the effing hassle that's going to be.

Shut Down. Banyan Tree is a guesthouse/restaurant/bar on the west side of the river about a kilometer from the main highway. It's right on the river and a very pleasant place to be. Before it was Banyan Tree it was Bodhi Villa. Going back at least 10 years, there's been music on that site, both live and recorded every Friday night and all night. Some people have complained about it in the past but it was an institution that had rights.

But then somebody purchased land next door and put up \$60 per night bungalows... and complained to his VIP Khmer friend

and you know how it works here, so Chiet, the Khmer owner, turned the music down. But it was really down: it was okay on the dance floor, but you could barely hear it otherwise. This rankled so he turned it back up, but not to the point of being loud. My old tortured ears – from loud music and industrial noise – are extremely sensitive to excessive volume, and I guarantee you it wasn't loud. Still the uppity guy next door complained again. Once someone like that gets a bug up their ass there's no placating them.

This resulted in the police coming in at midnight and confiscating his big speakers. He turned it down again, but it wasn't enough to placate the whiner next door and the police came a second time two weeks later to confiscate another pair of speakers. Chiet showed the police a db meter which clearly indicated that it wasn't really loud, to no avail. Now they switch to a small speaker set at midnight which is just barely enough to inspire dancing. So it goes.

Meanwhile, the mister moneybags who shut down Madi bar be-



cause it was funky and had character, who nixed a bar that sported live and disco music every Thursday night for 5 or 6 years, who murdered some fine old trees that formed a beautiful green canopy over the entrance of the bar, has a new tenant. Did he look for something stylish, cool, trendy? No, he rented to another cheap-assed, butt-ugly, super-tacky, happy fucking pizza restaurant. I can hardly get over it. The cool thing about Madi's was that since it was owned by a local it attracted lots of Khmers as well as expats, as opposed to most of the places I go that're almost exclusively westerners.

Strange Street Construction. The city is rebuilding new bridge road again. Just a couple years ago they built a high quality asphalt surface, but it was nowhere near strong enough to handle the massively overloaded rock trucks (and some others) that use the street. Rocks are very heavy, when a truck's bed is loaded up to its design capacity it's already really rough on roads, but most rock truck owners here build up the sides and extend the bed to get a bigger payload which adds at least 50% to its weight and as you can guess plays havoc with the road surface.

So a new road surface is now in progress. It's built strong with reinforced concrete that's 20 cm – 8 inches – thick and should be able to handle those heavy trucks for a reasonable length of time. Unfortunately and crazily they decided to save money and not excavate the previous surface, but merely build on top of it, with the result that the road surface is basically the same level as the sidewalk, in some cases the road surface is above the level of the market. They are including a runoff channel between the road and sidewalk but I fear it'll be nowhere near enough to handle a real downpour, especially since the channels are bound to get and stay clogged up with debris. Many shops across from the market are now on street level and they will need a good supply of sandbags to prevent flooding.

Dust Up. Had a little fracas at one of the late night bars recently. Really strange. There's about 10 people at the bar, guy leaves to pee, comes back, his phone is gone. Well, nobody had come or gone in the short time he was away, so it had to be there. Okay so they turn off the music and someone else rings his number, phone rings, guy goes to answer it. He was traveling through, not a local. The aggrieved party said, That's my phone. Other guy, a bit drunk, insists it's his – in spite of the clear evidence that it wasn't his, I mean they had just called the number right in front of his eyes – and he wants to answer it.

Aggrieved party being a bit of a hot head lunged for him, flew as one eye-witness described, and mayhem pursued, almost everybody who was in the bar was taking part, mostly jostling out on the street. Finally the unwitting thief was subdued and told to look in his pocket. Sure enough his phone was in the other pocket. With all that ruckus I didn't hear of any blood being shed or major bruises suffered. It definitely could've been handled without the fracas, but when someone has your phone in his hand and insists it's his, well one can get quite exercised in that situation.

TVs and Bars. I have a near fanatic detestation of TV in general, so as you might expect I'm the opposite of drawn to bars with TVs. If it's a sports bar or you show movies or special events, then of course it fits, otherwise one of two things happen when there's a TV in a bar. One is that nobody is watching it, in which case it's a waste of energy and an unnecessary distraction. Even when I don't want to look at it, it's there flashing away in my peripheral vision. If people are watching it then it's hard to converse, they're looking up at the boob tube and not able to relate when you're trying to talk to them.

In terms of my patronage, that's one strike against the bar. If you understand the baseball analogy, if you miss the ball three times when you're at bat that's three strikes and you're out. If I like you and like the bar and like your clientele, I'll still come, just not be as enthusiastic.

I don't listen to music much at home, (except now when I'm preparing for my radio show... more on that later.) I only want quiet, so when I'm out at night, I'm ready for tunes. So if the sound quality is atrocious and you have a tendency to turn up the volume which then magnifies its horribleness, well that's another strike. Still, nobody's perfect and you still have another strike before you're out, so I'll still come by at times. If the stools are very comfortable, that'll definitely help.

Corruption. A while back a friend was having trouble with his Khmer ex-wife over custody of their daughter. The woman was

a disaster for the kid so his big challenge was to gain custody. At one point his father came by to help grease the wheels of justice. When I talked to the father he had been here for 2 months and had spent \$15,000 on grease.

I talked to the young fella after he was granted custody. He said it had cost \$10,000, I guess the earlier \$15,000 tranche was only for the preliminaries. Once the process was fully underway it had taken about 2 months to completion, without the extra dough he said it would've been 2 years. Three days after all the papers were signed and the deal done and dusted the judge called and said she'd change her mind unless they sent another \$3000. The nice thing about living here, if you can afford it, is that justice is fungible, malleable, adaptable. At the same time I feel sorry for the poor bastard who can't afford the proper grease.

Thieves. The big city has come to Kampot. There's been a spate of bag-snatchings lately. It's happening as early as 8 or 9 o'clock. There're lots of not-well-lit places in our town that're just off the beaten path. It sometimes happens while walking but mostly from motos. My only advice is to not carry around anything you



don't need for sure that night. You don't need to carry around your passport, credit cards, and lots of money just to have a few drinks.

Odds and Ends. There're lots of new bars opening or changing hands, I can't even keep track any more. However, being October, with a few exceptions, there aren't a lot of customers. I'd love to stop in and say hello at all of them, but then I'd be neglecting the ones I'm already most comfortable at. There're so many new venues, even the high season won't save all of them. It's the same old story. Lots of people come, want to stay and need some way to make money or just keep busy so they open another bar or restaurant or river bungalow resort. It makes them feel good and maybe they'll be one of the lucky ones.

One of the new venues is Kampot Equinox featuring a piano, Frank the owner is going to import pianists from around the US. It's a beautiful place and the food will be good so it should be successful. NOLA is now the Kampot Hilton (one of the owners' last name is Hilton). They've done a nice job at remodeling and have set up a music room in the back. Next door is Simple Things, a vegetarian restaurant with great food that always seems to be busy. Tortulia, a Portuguese restaurant previously located across the river is moving to town and has rented a fine old colo-

nial building in the center of town that was beautifully restored. It's a corner building and has the advantage of wide sidewalks on both streets making for lots of outdoor seating. As a testament to Kampot's changes, the building, which was restored about 8 or 9 years ago, has been sitting vacant all this time. The owner was asking \$1000 per month, which back then was a ridiculous amount, but today very reasonable for such a great building and location.

I can't finish this article without a mention of Indochine beer. They've got a wheat beer, which they call White, and an India Pale Ale. The White is very good, and interestingly it's flavored with coriander and orange peel. It's got a very nice fruity taste and it's especially good if you like coriander, which I do. The IPA is excellent, among the best I've tasted, and while I'm not the world's foremost beer critic I have spent a lot of time drinking beer and a lot of time in Portland, one of America's primo craft brew locations. The only things that keep me from drinking it all the time are that it costs twice as much as the common beers and is hard to justify on my meager social security allotment. It's also much stronger than your average

cheap beer. It's hard to tell exactly the alcohol content since they seem to be using the same label on both beers. The White is 5%

but IPAs generally run about 6.5% and they certainly don't include coriander in the brewing process. Right after I get paid I definitely indulge myself. The only problem with craft beers (aside from the extra cost) is they have a lot more calories. All that extra flavor comes from richer ingredients.

And finally a note about kampo-radio.com. If you like radio with live DJs spinning the tunes, check it out. Since it's internet radio, it's available everywhere. I, being Kampot's official, unofficial weatherman, do a one minute weather report six days a week which plays at noon, 2pm and 4pm. Lately I also do a music show four nights a week from 7 to 8pm Kampot time. For people reading this elsewhere we are 7 hours ahead of GMT. Eastern Standard time is 12 hours behind us. I mostly play those good old tunes... I may like the new stuff, but I don't know hardly any of it. Cambostan



IN BAD TASTE

"Toilet Hamlet" opens in West End

It is the career "break" that stage actors have been dreaming about. Finally, a major theatrical production opened this week in London's West End featuring toilets on stage for the actors to use during the performance.

"Most plays are absolute hell," said famous actor Geoff Ham. "Sometimes you need to be on stage for three hours non-stop. The plebs in the audience can stop and take a shit whenever they want, but us thespians need to hold it in. I have heard some in the industry (not naming names but a certain Dame) use a nappy."

Hamlet will be performed for two months by the Lavatorial Shakespeare Company. Already the loos on stage are proving a hit.

During the premiere on Tuesday, many theatre-goers said they enjoyed it. Member of the public Joe Kerr said, "I liked when the ghost of Hamlet's father stopped mid-speech to take a piss. I've never seen a ghost pee before. It was fantastic."

Theatre critic Tarquin Van Itty raved about it. "It was splendid, during Act V when Hamlet sat down on the lav and began his 'Alas poor Yorick, I knew him well' speech with his trousers round his ankles. The realism! The dedication to the craft! I almost wet myself."

Isle of Wight News - IoW to secede from the UK

Councillor for Cowes, Mr David Pugh, has vowed that the Isle of Wight is to secede from the UK due to a row over the new Pound coin, however, he is keen to stress that this has nothing to do with Brexit.

Island residents prefer the coins from 1935 to the new ones.

"Our desire to secede from the United Kingdom has nothing to do with Brexit," the councillor said in a statement this morning. "I cannot stress this enough. We do not want to leave the UK and join the EU, as their coins are even worse than this new-fangled pound coin London is trying to foist off on us."

A recent estimate by Beryl in accounting has indicated that changing to the new pound coin would cost the island thirty-five billion pounds, money the island can ill afford.

"We need to change all the parking metres," said Pugh. "As many are aware, parking metres are the major source of income on the island, funding everything from social services to the audiobooks of Harry Potter in Ventnor library."

As well as parking metres, the ATMs on the island are the only ones in the UK that dispense pound coins, and these too would need major overhauls to allow the new shape to be stored. Pugh is hopeful that the banks themselves would pay for this refurbishment. However, IoW U, the island's largest bank, is adamant that this is not the case.

"In the banking crisis of 1934, the island government bought out

the bank," said bank CEO, Charles Money Penny, 66, told the IoW News. "It was expected that they would return the bank to private hands at some point, however the receipt was lost in the war, so it's remained in the Island's hands ever since."

Another major income stream, the vending machines, would all also need switching over to the new pound coins.

"The cost is too high for a small company like ours to contemplate," said Vinny Vendor of Ventnor Vending Machines, located in Ryde. "We will be seeking assistance from the Island council."

Many of the Island's more than a thousand residents are backing Pugh's approach to the new pound coins.

"We don't like change," said Phyllis Bathnight, 108, of Yarmouth. "Never have, never will."

Jacob Rees-Mogg's Adventures in the 21st Century

Salutations from your 18th century toff pal, Jacob Rees-Mogg. I have been living in the 21st Century for fifteen years now. I fell asleep in a glacier over two centuries ago and miraculously re-awoke to a world I barely recognise. I now live with my wife, seven children and a robot butler called Siri, but I still struggle with simple tasks like changing a nappy. This is my story.

I wish I could go back to my own time, but I can't so I have to do my best to fit in with this new modern life. I am a gay person, but I often feel sad. To cheer myself up I often watch the telly box. My favourite show is probably Game of Thrones, it has good moral values. I particularly like the incestuous couple and how they raise their inbred children instead of aborting them as many

would do.

I am a member of the Catholic Church. I always try to tell my wife that she dresses like a whore, and that she should wear a nun's habit whenever she leaves the house. That's not the same thing as what Muslims do, it's a completely different garment.

Apparently I am quite popular on the Face Book, which is only accessible through computers and where the apostles can talk back to you. Many people on there say they like me ironically, which I can

only imagine is a sign of how poor their education must be. I believe they mean to say that they like my iron will, or perhaps they wish to compare me to the Iron Lady. It is, of course, an insult, to compare a man to a woman, but then again I feel that Thatcher was an honorary male.

Well, tally-ho, chums! As part of my on-going rehabilitation programme after being frozen for so long, I am required to inject three pints of scout's blood every night. Time to prepare the jam-boree for a leeching!

Bicycle that broke Ed Sheeran's arm given award for services to music

The bicycle that broke Ed Sheeran's arm has been awarded an



MBE after it was revealed this week that the 26-year-old may not be able to perform again this year.

The bicycle, a mountain bike that would like to remain anonymous, was awarded the prestigious honour for 'services to musical taste' in a last-minute ceremony held earlier today.

The family of the bicycle expressed their immense pride at the news of the honour, which they claim was completely unexpected.

"It's such an honour to see our child recognised in this way," said R. Chopper, the bicycle's father.

"His cousin has always been the star in the bicycle family, after he threw Bono off a couple of years ago and dislocated his shoulder, forcing cancellations of so many U2 gigs.

"But we never thought our boy would ever achieve anything like this, not with him just being a push bike and everything.

"But to see him make such a positive contribution to the world around him gives such a huge sense of pride for me and his mum."

Musical experts said that the bicycle was only awarded an MBE because technically Ed Sheeran can still sing.

"If the bike had managed to damage his vocal chords, or somehow rendered him mute, then we're in 'Knighthood' territory," explained Simon Williams, an expert in the Commonwealth honours system.

Fans of the singer have been reassured following news of the star's recent injury with the announcement that a 97-hour recording of Sheeran undergoing physical therapy would automatically be available to download on iTunes by Friday.

Donald Trump to release classified JFK files as soon as staff finish writing 'Obama did it' on every page

Donald Trump has agreed to release classified files related to the JFK assassination, just as soon as his team have finished editing them.

Despite the files being scheduled for release in 2017 since early 1992, Trump is taking credit for their release, but not before they're brought bang up to date with his unique interpretation of the truth.

Trump told our White House source, "Sure, when I was just a TV personality, no-one believed my lies about Obama, but now that I'm the President I can create any evidence I want. Unimpeachable evidence, right at my fingertips.

"If the JFK documents, when I release them, show that Obama did it, then everyone will finally believe me that Obama is a sad, sad, loser, and stop liking him way more than me."

West Wing officials revealed that they had placed a bulk order of Sharpies, and that staff have been working late getting through boxes and boxes of files for the last week.

One office administrator from inside the White House told us, "It's exhausting work, but incredibly rewarding. Being part of the Trump White House is something I will look back on with pride when I eventually retire, definitely.

"Well, retire or leave because he fires me, which I'm probably due for, having worked here for three weeks now."

Conspiracy theorists have also welcomed the release of the JFK documents, insisting that releasing documents that were due for release anyway means Trump is definitely not part of the deep state controlled by George Soros.

Dwayne Williams told us, "Trump is nothing like that Obama cuck – you watch, it wouldn't surprise me if it turns out he did it!"

Phnom Penh Pub Page

I have had to once again beg the forgiveness of the Evil Publisher who has once again been incredibly magnanimous – not only was I paid this month, but I was permitted the opportunity to keep my Job and only given one instruction for this week – of course despite my commitment to the Evil Publisher and to my readers I did not hit any bars on 174 St this week – sorry Boss. Sorry

I did actually go to a bunch of bars and even had Shrek along for the ride on one excursion of hostess bars that we had never been to yet – is it me or are there more of them EVERY month – crazy, eh? – of course that is what keeps me getting paid I guess. Unfortunately, he got waylaid on the way home and took a few days to recover. Bad luck as I had wanted to head back to the Mao Whisky Bar with him before we this month's edition had to be submitted.

My big news for the month is probably old news by now – Skarkys has been sold. Another icon has been moved along. I have not met the new owners, but between their public announcements and chats with people who have heard it from them, the bar will have closed by the time this has been published. I have heard everything from 3 weeks to 2

months of renovations and then to use the language from their FB post "A NEW UPGRADE TO THE BAR THE LIKES THAT PHNOM PENH HAS BEEN WAITING FOR BAR/CLUB/RESTAURANT WITH THE FEEL OF SHARKYS AND A TOUCH OF CLASS". Bit scared about getting a Sharky feel, but looking forward. Congratulations to Paco and the team that has kept Sharky's going (and IMHO built it back up) since Big Mike went to the CBGB's in the sky.

Other big news which will also be stale by the time this is published – no one seems to know what is happening at Golden Sorya Mall. Like a lot of miscreants, I have been dreading the end of this month when I had been informed by semi-reliable sources that GSM would close. I had heard it would close for about 2 to 3 months, but since I had heard the same about big Sorya mall I had my doubts. I have now heard 2 completely different stories that both are reliably sourced from bar owners there: 1) the place is closing at the end of November for 5 months OR 2) it is going to stay open for another 5 months. Maybe by next month the situation will be clearer and I will know where I am going to be hanging out.

Not so big – lots of closures – the one I was surprised at was Tiger Bar on 136 but it looks like it might be a reno/expansion. I don't know the owners so don't want to guess.

Ok bars that Shrek and I hit in no particular order:

Splash Bar on 130 St - another new member of the "BLOCK" –

I wish there was soundtrack here as I get ominous theme music in my head every time I write the BLOCK.... This used to be a movie house and they don't seem to have done a lot with the place, but it was quiet and relaxing. Staff was friendly, and it had the standard assortment of BLOCK specials – Sunday basic spirits USD 2.5, Monday red wine USD 2.5 Tuesday win a pool game

against the staff and win! beer (limited of course to once per week) Wednesday free draft with 1st lady drink bought, and Thursday draft is USD 1 (usually USD 1.5). Overall a nice joint and would go back. I still hate the nickname for their group of bars – would the "GROUP" be better??? But these guys do know how to open and run a decent establishment.

104 Bar on 104 St – wow – LOUD – loaded with very friendly staff – can see why it is popular although a very tight squeeze for those of us who are far north of Svelte.

Smile Girl on 104 St – BEYOND LOUD. Actually this was quite insane. It was so loud the staff could not understand our orders and Shrek asked the girl sitting next to him 3 times if she wanted a drink and she could not hear him. It was very red and very spacious, but I don't think I would go back without ear plugs and a chalk board to use for communications. I know my ears are old and

battered but when the staff can't take a drink order – you are doing something wrong.

Stiletto on 104 St – honestly, we did not even bother – it was empty, quiet and had one very lonely and bored looking staff on duty. Since there were two of us, we decided it was not be a fair fight and moved on.

Silver Fern Pub on 104 St – someone misses the old Cavern Bar – a non-hostess bar on 104 st where people can have a relaxing break from the scene – I think it is a great idea but it was almost completely empty on 3 passes by – will get a drink and some idea of prices for next month.

Frog Skin on 5 St – really enjoying the place despite not being a frequent customer – very nice looking IMHO – friendly but not annoying staff – good tunes at a reasonable level – highly recommended.

Pony Tail on 130 St – one of my favourites of the night – good tunes, spacious, relaxing. Staff kept us entertained without pushing or being annoying.

Air Force on 104 St – becoming one of favourites – consistent place – a bit load – since the expansion it is quite roomy and comfortable – definitely a high light on 104 St.

That is it for this month – I was told I need to go back to non-hostess bars so will have some other odds and ends for next month – assuming Shrek comes back to play,





Touchy Touchy

The new Kingsman film was banned in Cambodia as it depicted an un named temple as the headquarters of an international drug lord.

Authorities say the movie uses "Cambodian land as the place where the terrorists stay and make trouble for the world".

Westec Media, which purchased the local distribution rights of the movie, said the decision was "childish or immature".

"Every movie cannot be depicting Cambodia as heaven. You need to face the reality that all

countries have criminals," he said.

Not far wrong there is he!!

What's up?

4 Non blonds. Describes Sharky bar at the moment.

As of the 25th going to print nobody is sure what exactly is happening. The bar is closing on the 28th for about seven weeks for large expansion and renovation works. As for the Joker Draw all we can glean is that it will continue as normal when the bar reopens.

But that may all change!

Visa changes

The latest rule change is for

retirement visas. You now need an official letter from your embassy to apply for a new ER visa whatever your age. This will cost you a few bob but there is a cheaper option. Further details at The Pub on St 174!

Bag Snatcher clampdown

Tuk tuks were told by police to speed after thieves, knock them off their motorbikes and bring them to police headquarters to gather a reward of \$100. Any damage to the vigilantes' vehicles would be paid for by officials.

You can imagine the ensuing carnage with a tuk tuk flat out chasing \$100!

Yuan takes off!

No we don't mean a Viet hooker! The Chinese currency. In 2016 alone cross-border settlements in yuan amounted to 2.5 billion (\$377 million), or approximately 7 percent of the two countries' total trade and investment.

In 2016 alone, the value of Chinese imports amounted to



\$4.5 billion

This is probably due to them buying up most of Cambodia's coastline and most of Sihanoukville!

Then everything they build comes in containers from China! China accounts for Cambodia's largest foreign tourist base, with 830,000 visitors entering the Kingdom in 2016.

30% VOIP scammers, 30% construction workers!!! lol

FAUX NEWS

Trump Lifetime Membership

The International Union of Clowns, after having their convention that they all rode to in one tiny car, announced that they would be awarding President Donald Trump a lifetime membership in the prestigious clown union.

"We feel that no one has helped make people as aware of clowns as Donald Trump. Whatever he says and does, you swear he can't be serious but he is!! And who promotes funny hair better than Trump?" said the Clown Union President.

"Donald Trump looks funny, and talks crazy. We are proud to call him a fellow clown for life!" said a statement read at the Clown Convention.

Giant US toy retailer buys up Chinese sex toy stock to avoid bankruptcy!

It seems the retail toy world is in turmoil after a giant toy retailer announced it was bankrupt in the US and Canada and cannot compete with internet rivals that swim up the Amazon and Target other Wally Martyrs!

So, after hearing that China has closed a factory producing sex toys for tossing Chinese males, they have decided to buy the stock, lock, stock and barrel for Christmas 2017!

Originally, the Chinese factory wanted to sell their complete stock to North Korea (as mentioned in a sensational, previous Jaggedone scoop spoof), but Kim Jong Un is such a huge tosser

he thought having an army filled with brainwashed, jackbooted tossers, could harm his charm offensive towards Trump Towers, and nukes are his favourite toys anyway!

The first Chinese sextoys have arrived in the US and shocked mamas and papas (no relation) taking their kiddies in for an early Christmas shop have been buying eye blinds to put over their nippers eyes, especially in the Mormon state of Utah, just in case they start getting horny seeing near-naked Chinese girls sitting in the shelves; dads are loving it BTW!

The store is now happy and Chinese sex dolls are really going to be massive this year, especially in Dad's fishnet, Christmas stockings that tired mums refuse to wear! As for the kids, give em a smartphone and shut them up!

It seems the Chinese sextoys are going to save the store from bankruptcy and President Trump has waived his order to thwart Chinese imports for the time being believing business is business. He also has ordered a Chinese sextoy for his son to play with instead of looking at pornos because he might be shocked at who he discovers on the internet!

Nicola Sturgeon, mistaken for a laboratory hamster, was kept in a cage for 2 weeks until dramatically rescued by snatch squad led by Alex Salmond

News is emerging from a Reuters source that Nicola Sturgeon was mistaken by American health care professionals for a Scottish hamster and was held in a cage for a fortnight until rescued by a crack team of SNP agents.

The confusing reports suggest that the US scientists and doctors unwittingly placed the Scottish First Minister in a 24 inch by 12 inch wire cage and watched her run on a hamster wheel for sev-

North Korea to dominate Buffoon Clown Axis of Evil deploying secret weapon - Big Hats

After the recent Axis of Evil BratSpat tantrums over who is the biggest Honky Cat in the Pack, North Korea has unveiled its ultra secret weapon that its scientists have been developing for decades.

The array of big hats being worn by the generals seen in the picture are the latest WMD (Weapons of Mass Deception) developed in such secrecy that all the workers on the project have been executed to protect the construction secrets.

Kim John said he got the idea from his musical idol, the original Rocket Man and his big glasses. He loved that Elton was always outrageous and everything was always big. So in tribute to him he has designed the Big Hats™ to echo the 80's thing where everything was big, big, big. He is sure this will give him the edge on Dotard Buffoon Clown.

However there is also a secret military agenda being played out. Everyone knows that generals all gauge who is the biggest dog in the room by the size of their accoutrements. So they plan to attack the US generals with an entire entourage of Big Hats™ at the next meeting. Kim Jong is sure this will tip the balance of power in the Pacific and he can get back to his nuke program, but more importantly keep up his miming practice for his Honky Cat Roadshow with Elton John.

North Korea also have taken an international patent on Big Hats™ and after market place proofing intends to franchise it other world wide hate groups.

Trump holds press briefing, no questions from silent press corps!

In a bizarre press briefing today, the White House press corps remained totally silent after President Donald Trump finished a ten minute dialogue on the accomplishments and successes of his administration.

The Associated Pres is reporting that after Trump finished his "infomercial" he looked up with a confidant smile and nodded to the assembled journalists. He stood with a frozen grimace and waited...and waited...for the first question. In what CNN is describing as a "bizarre" and eerily silent scene reporters were in lounge chairs, sitting on the ground playing chess and various board games as well as well as:

1. clipping toe nails
2. sitting back in lounge chairs...mouths open and loudly snoring
3. texting
4. flossing teeth
5. cleaning ear with Q-tip
6. eating big long sub
7. playing solitaire
8. One older reporter with a walker was reading the opening chapter of War and Peace. There were Starbucks cups everywhere.

When President Donald Trump, 45th president of the United States, realized what was happening, he glared, then frowned...and then to the amazement of those assembled, his mouth started to quiver and slump shouldered he slowly walked from the podium.

As he left and in unison, the journalists shouted: "HAVE A GOOD TIME!"

International Union of Clowns Awards Donald



eral days, feeding her little pieces of cheese and taking her temperature using a small pet thermometer.

When she was discovered to be missing, senior members of the Scottish National Party sprang into action, called a meeting of the SNP's RODENT committee (similar to the UK Government's COBRA committee but hairier). They "replaced" her at First Ministers Question Time with a four-foot mop whilst playing YouTube MP3 files of her talking about "bold and courageous initiatives" and "indy referendum 2". Opposition MSPs did not notice she was gone.

Alex Salmond, the former leader of the party and former First Minister, assembled a hand-picked SNP "snatch" squad to recover the asset, selecting party loyalists such as Mhairi Black and Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh, well-known for their uncompromising Scottishness.

The black ops team tracked Sturgeon to a US laboratory in New York, using tiny GPS transmitters implanted into all members of the Scottish government, travelling in two Scottish military helicopters, where they descended using the SAS-style Fast Rope Insertion Extraction System ("FRIES"), burst down the door, tossed a cabre into the room, stunning everyone and rescued the bewildered First Minister, whom they stuffed into a side pocket before fleeing. There were reportedly no casualties, though one security guard suffered a crushed big toe.

Sturgeon is now undergoing debriefing as well as aversion therapy to wean her off seeds and nuts.

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TECHNOLOGY PAGE

How to build the best free PC security software suite

If you have a PC, you're a target. You need security software.

That's as true today as it was a decade ago, despite significant security improvements to Windows over the years. But you have a choice: You can continue paying a security software vendor an annual fee for protection or take matters into your own hands. If you choose the latter you'll need to put together a custom security suite using various free products.

The pros and cons of free AV

Going free can save you some cash, but it isn't a perfect solution for everyone. When you buy a paid antivirus product you usually get some form of customer support with it. Free products, on the other hand, often mean you're on your own for solving problems. Going free also means stitching together a combination of utilities. That takes a little trial and error to find the best tools for your needs. Premium suites, by comparison, offer seamless, relatively pain-free security solutions.

Another downside is that free products can include browser toolbars, extensions, or other desktop programs that you might not want. Freebies can also have ads that help their makers pay the bills. Be mindful while you're installing free programs to avoid also installing bloatware you don't want, which is often flagged for installation by default.

Best free AV software: Our picks

Antivirus software is the key component of any security suite, and for good reason—it's going to be your primary defense against malware. Windows offers its own built-in anti-virus program called Windows Defender for Windows 8.1 and up—Windows 7 users can download and install Security Essentials. Windows' solution offers fairly good basic security, but most third-party testing firms find that it falls short of third-party security suites. The upshot is: If you're a security-aware user who's willing to occasionally run a scan with Malwarebytes (see below) then Defender may be enough.

If you aren't willing to do that, however, then a third-party option is probably better, and when it comes to free antivirus apps you have some really good options.

Avira Antivirus Free Edition and Bitdefender Antivirus Free Edition are two free products worth your attention. According to recent benchmarks published by the German antivirus testing firm AV-Test, paid products for both Avira and Bitdefender won top marks on all three of the firm's major testing categories including protection, performance, and usability; both did a perfect or near-perfect job at stopping malware and other threats. Avira did score one false positive from AV-Test when it identified legitimate software as malware during a system scan.

If Avira and Bitdefender don't appeal there are other popular choices such as Avast Free and Panda Free Antivirus.

No matter which antivirus app you choose, make sure you pick one that does a good job at catching so-called "zero-day" attacks. Antivirus programs that can stop zero-day attacks are going to be more effective at stopping brand-new malware, which is very important given how quickly malware can evolve.

Use a secondary antivirus app

Even the best traditional antivirus software can have a hard time removing stubborn, deeply embedded malware. With that in mind, it's good to have a secondary antivirus app at your disposal.

Malwarebytes Anti-Malware Free can provide an extra layer of security against internet baddies. It is not for use as your primary antivirus since the free version doesn't offer real-time protection. You can use it alongside most other antivirus programs as a tool for infrequent, secondary manual scans, and it's earned its stellar reputation by offering above-average protection against cutting-edge zero-day attacks. In other words, it can sometimes catch infections that other antivirus software might miss.

Another utility worth downloading is Norton Power Eraser: This free tool targets so-called scareware—those annoying bits of malware that try to get you to buy phony antivirus programs—that traditional antivirus software may miss. Symantec warns that Norton Power Eraser is an aggressive scanner that may occasionally flag a legitimate program as malware, so you'll want to use it as a last resort, but it's a good weapon to have in your PC security arsenal.

Use a firewall

Windows comes with a built-in firewall that's turned on by default. It's a good basic option that sits quietly in the background until it detects a suspicious connection attempt, and it's as low-maintenance as low-maintenance can be.

Still, one additional piece of software worth installing is the firewall GlassWire. This program blocks outgoing connections if you explicitly mark them as disallowed (say you install a new program that you're a little leery of, preventing its ability to make outgoing connections could ease your concern). That's more than Windows Firewall does since Microsoft's basic solution doesn't block outgoing connections at all—though there's debate over whether that's truly necessary.

GlassWire's biggest advantage is that it's chock-full of information. By default, it will show an alert in the lower-right corner of your desktop every time an application initiates an internet connection. You'll also see an alert when a program is updated—useful if you're not expecting an automatic update. That sounds intru-

sive, but GlassWire doesn't use Action Center notifications and they appear less frequently than you'd think.

Open the application and you'll see even more information including a real-time graph of your PC's internet traffic, and a chart showing which apps are using the most bandwidth.

Bolster your browser's security

Even with the best security software in place, you can still be taken for a fool online.

McAfee SiteAdvisor will check links in search results and indicate, via a small icon next to a link, whether it's safe to visit. It also works on social networks like Twitter or Facebook, which tend to be security minefields thanks to the widespread use of URL shorteners as well as viral links of questionable origin.

If you're on Firefox, check out NoScript, an add-on that blocks all JavaScript from running unless you approve it. It's a bit of a power-user tool, and it can disable some features on websites you visit, but it does help protect you from all-too-common JavaScript attacks online, assuming you're okay with the added hassle.

Meanwhile, the HTTPS Everywhere extension from the Electronic Frontier Foundation can automatically encrypt your connection to most websites. That's useful if you want to prevent others on your network from potentially eavesdropping on your web browsing. HTTPS Everywhere can't hide which websites you visit, but it does protect information sent between you and the website as well as obscure the specific pages you visit.

In this day and age, no browser is complete without an ad blocker. That's not only to avoid annoying advertising. Every now and then a popular site ends up delivering malware via one of its advertising providers. An ad blocker can help mitigate these threats. Two popular options are Adblock Plus and uBlock Origin (available for Firefox too).

In addition, the EFF's Privacy Badger is a popular option to stop tracking cookies and other forms of online surveillance.

Keep the kiddies from seeing stuff they can't unsee

No matter how responsible your kids are online, there's always a chance they'll inadvertently venture into parts unknown.

Luckily, recent versions of Windows come with a comprehensive suite of parental controls, so you don't need to download anything. On Windows 10, open the Start menu and click Settings, then go to Accounts > Family & other users to get started. Note that the Family feature on Windows 10 requires you to sign in with your Microsoft account.

Beyond that, OpenDNS FamilyShield is worth a look. FamilyShield isn't an app; instead, it's a service offered by OpenDNS that automatically blocks adult websites. You can set it up on individual computers at home, or you can set it up on your router so that every device on your home is protected. Of course, FamilyShield won't provide you with the full suite of parental controls, such as app restrictions and time limits, but you can use it in conjunction with other parental controls tools for added online safety.

Keep your software up to date, automatically

Oftentimes, malware creators don't target Windows itself—instead, they'll target security holes in popular PC software such as Adobe Reader. To reduce this risk, you'll want to keep all your software up to date. Doing this manually can be a pain, so an update checker can save you lots of time.

Flexera Personal Software Inspector—formerly Secunia PSI—is a free tool that does just that: It scans your PC for insecure older versions of popular programs and can even automatically install the latest security patches for them.

Lock down your laptop

Laptops get lost or stolen all the time. There are things you can do to reduce the risk, such as using a notebook lock or simply not using your notebook in public, but nothing can mitigate the risk of theft entirely. You can keep your data from falling into the wrong hands, though.

The Prey service lets you lock down your laptop in case it's been stolen. It consists of a piece of software that runs in the background and tracks your laptop's location whenever it goes online.

If your laptop ever goes missing, you can use Prey to find its whereabouts, snap a photo of the alleged thief, and lock down the device if necessary. For \$5 per month, you can also remotely wipe your machine, or retrieve files from a wayward laptop. It may seem weird to suggest paying for something in an article about free security products, but in this case it's money well spent.

Windows 10 offers a find-my-device feature that lets you locate a lost or stolen laptop or tablet; however, Microsoft's built-in version doesn't offer all the features of Prey, including the critical remote wipe.

Another critical part of locking down a laptop—or any PC, really—is to use encryption. If you have a PC running Windows 8.1 or later that supports Microsoft's device encryption, you can encrypt your data simply by pairing it with your Microsoft account. But be warned: This feature typically stores your encryption key on your OneDrive, as Ars Technica notes, which could be an issue if the entity trying to break your encryption is a government agency that could legally compel Microsoft to hand over the key.

Bits from the Beach

It has been a bit of a quiet month down on the coast recently. Yes, plenty of rain and then even more rain and a bit of lightning and thunder thrown in. The wet season seem to run longer and later each year.

The big news is the disappearance of KFC (Kentucky Fried Chicken, - King Fried Chicken is still there, for the moment) and Lucky Ocean Supermarket and El Dorado, which all occupied the same building. They disappeared seemingly overnight and the building has been torn down, probably to make way for yet another Chinese run Casino. Meanwhile people continue to get Chinesed with ever more accommodation being taken over.

The lack of hotel accommodation should prove a boon for the remaining hotel operators who have not been taken over for a Casino or a dormitory. Many of the rooms in hotels that have been taken over for casinos or newly built are apparently being used for live online gaming streaming direct into China so not many of the rooms are available for accommodation. Speaking of taken over accommodation, it appears that the Chinese who took over the Aqua have covered over the pool and have built rooms over it. This was the side that provided natural light and with a large roof, the place will likely be in perpetual darkness for the residents.

The Reef Resort has also been gutted after the Chinese took over the lease and the guys that had the Reef that now are concentrating on their businesses on Kho Rong Sanleom lost two of their western managers in one day. Letting one go and the other, quit in sympathy. When describing or naming a person, you often use their first name and then an identifier, such as where they are from or what business they have or work in; so Dave, Ex-Excat, Ex-Tranquility, Ex-Chivas and now Ex-Coral Resort should now just be known as Dave Ex, to save confusion. Lindsay, (ex-Snookys) the other manager let go, has wound up at the Ream Yacht Club with Roy ex-Snookys. You can find this tranquil riverside place by going through Ream and turning left (headed in the direction to Phnom Penh) on the dirt road just after the bridge.



The new container night market has opened with a mixture of shops and bars and gives people an alternative place to go in the evening and even more bars to choose from. The now infamous Glory Hole bar at The Square has introduced a killer pool game on a Wednesday night, which is run the same as the popular killer pool which is run at the Shipwreck at Golden Lion Plaza on a Friday night. The Glory Hole had some staffing issues during the month with a couple of girls working behind the bar quitting. Apparently it was not because they found out what the name meant, so we have been told.

Khmer Wholesale should be opening its door for the retail supermarket on Serendipity beach road. If rumours that Samudera has been sold to Chinese interests come true it could be a welcome relief, but do not hold your breath for that rumour to come true. The owner of Khmer Wholesale was recently bitten by a centipede and ran like a screaming little girl to the doctor, only to be told what everyone else told him, not dangerous, just a bit of pain. But as we know, a lot of little girls do not listen to the advice of tough men.

It was sad to note the recent passing of Jim Gibbons, a well known British expat with a young child. He fell down some stairs heavily and passed away a couple of days later, presumably from internal injuries. Seek medical advice if something like that happens to you.

Not much has been happening in Kampot this month. It is a near milestone that for a month no passports have gone missing with agents getting visa extensions. One reliable agent, Meta Lai has moved but is still in operation. Dean at the Razor Back, just over the old bridge beside the river, has finally gotten his smoker going and is doing some tasty smoked/BBQ'd Chicken and Ribs and Beef and looks to be extending his menu. This popular relatively new place is becoming a bit of an expat hangout and is a great place to have a chilled out evening drink and

watch the world go by. At another popular expat hangout, The Doghouse, Kristian (ex-rusty Keyhole) continues to turn out tasty and reasonably priced specials. Unfortunately they recently lost a staff member in a vehicle accident. Recently there have been reports of bag snatching from westerners. Kampot may be a sleepy little hollow, but it is still Cambodia and what happens elsewhere also happens there.

Oh did we forget the huge piles of rubbish everywhere due to crappy collection services. Should be interesting when the big wigs hit town for the water festival.