

BAYON



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Festivals and such

Sitting at a bar recently I blurted out, I'm glad I'm a happy drunk, which brought out a few chuckles. Lots of times I'll say something on the spur of the moment, only to realize just a bit later that that wasn't really what I meant. Sometimes I get a chance to clarify, but usually the conversation rolls on and I leave a strange or puzzling impression.

What I meant was I'm glad I'm not the type of drinker who gets tedious, annoying, abrasive, violent, you know, shit like that.

All of us pub frequenters have come across inebriates who we wish would just go home, or at least back off and shut up. They may be fine when they're sober, you may like them as people, but you wish they would find somewhere else to display their pitying and embarrassing drunkenness.

But first, going back one step, I really don't consider myself a drunk. That, as far as I'm concerned, refers to people who drink so much they can barely see straight or stand up or find their way home without assistance. I'm fortunate in a sense that my capacity is limited so that long before

I'd otherwise get to the state of being in a blind drunken stupor I've barfed my guts out and vowed never to do that again. (I've also saved a ton of money in my life by not being able to down more than 6 drinks or so in an evening... but that's another story.)

There are actually quite a few categories of drinkers: before you even get to the drunks, on the top level you have the alcoholics, people who need to wake up with a beer or two just to start their day.

Some years ago in Portland I was in a convenience store at about 7am. Before me in the check out line was a guy buying an 18 pack of beer. After he left I commented to the clerk that it seemed a bit early for beer. He said the guy came in every morning for his 18 cans of beer. The guy, who was about 40 or 50, had a great smile,

he was radiant. Yes his face was red and splotchy, but he seemed relatively together and for sure he looked happy. I think we can all accept that he was slowly killing himself, but what if all that alcohol was the only way he could stand living? Who knows what kinds of demons and hang-ups he was carrying around with him? In the end it's probably a cop-out of some sort, but who am I to judge?

Our adopted country is very conducive to all types of drinking. It also stimulates a lot of people to complain about and rag on all the old (and not so old) geezers here who have nothing better to do than hang around drinking all day... but if they also are sporting big warm grins and being, or at least looking like they're happy, is there something wrong with that?

Okay, they're not being productive, but maybe they did lots of producing in the past. Anyway it's their lives, if they're happy, smiling, giving off warmth and good vibes and they have the money to pay for that alcohol what's the difference? Who cares? Sure, it's a loss to society in some fashion that the only productive thing they do is look happy and presumably spread their good vibes. It's also a failing of society that so many people are left to flounder, cast adrift in unfriendly seas, left without a purpose in life; though not knowing him, I can't really say if he's not producing. I knew a guy once who worked for an

NGO in China. He'd wake up at 3am, work his ass off until about 9am and then spend the rest of the day drinking himself into a stupor.

I believe everybody has a right to their own poison. For sure society should try to educate people on the damage they're doing to themselves. But the idea that society should tax alcohol so stiffly that only the middle and upper classes can afford to drink is totally unfair. It robs the poor of the ability to escape the grind of daily life or causes them to spend so much of their income on booze they're forced to neglect the other aspects of life. I also feel that way about cannabis and stuff; life is hard enough, why deny people that little bit of relief they might get from those psychic painkillers?

Most people who imbibe, like myself, are social drinkers rather than alcoholics or drunks, but we are all there for the same basic reason: there's something about it that loosens you up, overwhelms your inhibitions and just lets you relax and be yourself.



The ability to enjoy life through alcohol is greatly facilitated by Cambodia's relaxed attitude towards the stuff, including very low taxes, and the ease of starting businesses where alcohol is served. Beer is so cheap I can go out almost every night on my scanty income and drink to my physical limit, which is about 6 cans. That allows me to be on the town, hanging with friends, laughing, joking, sometimes being a little silly and sloppy but altogether having a great time.

Back in the states I'd be home alone drinking a couple or three lonely beers a night. Here in Cambo on the one or two nights a week that I force myself to stay home, or am forced to stay home because of the hangover from the night before, I generally don't drink at all, or at most one beer. Of course I'm bored silly but I don't need the alcohol to escape, only to enjoy.

But many people do use it to escape, though there's a fine line between drinking to be happy and doing same to escape. A young guy I know said he'd be hiding out at home being all morose and mopey if he wasn't drinking. So what's the difference if it makes you happy or simply allows you to survive as a social being? Just about everybody needs a prop, a crutch, a helping hand to negotiate our crazy world. You know what they say, If you're not crazy in our insane, topsy-turvy world, there must be something wrong with you.

Some people get their boost to carry through life from religion or causes or such like workaholism, but it's hard to say if they are more content than the typical happy drunk. They'll probably live longer, all things being equal, but even there there's a question, since studies have shown that people who drink moderately – 2 drinks a day – generally live longer than abstainers. That begs the question of whether the moderate drinker lives longer from some type of healthy aspect of the drink itself or merely from the relaxation and ease of tension that comes from drinking. In fact it's probably a bit of both.

The drunk, happy or not, will probably pop off early brought to their end with some type of liver disease, heart attack, stroke. If they're lucky their demise will come quickly, otherwise it could mean years of partial paralysis or debilitating illness. So even



while it's one of the elixirs of life, which I personally would find it hard to live without, it carries a serious warning and message; the need to be conscious of it's dangers and the importance of not sloughing that off as inconsequential.

This reminds me of my youth and people's warnings about tobacco. Many people are under the impression that tobacco's evils weren't known or understood until the seventies or later because of the massive effort of the tobacco companies to obfuscate and sow doubt, but we teens in the fifties called them coffin nails, there was no doubt in any of our minds. When warned about smoking back then I would haughtily proclaim that I wanted to enjoy life then and I didn't care if I died early as long as I lived to the year 2000, which would've made me 59. Well it's been almost 18 years since then and I'm still going strong and it was immature and stupid to think that way. It's most important not to fool ourselves, pretend it's no big deal. The effect it has on our bodies is not inconsequential. Sure, we can joke about hangovers and such, but every time we feel weak, washed out and headachy from drinking to excess it's like we're torturing our bodies.

While alcohol brings out the best in some people, it evokes the worst in others. Happy drunks inhabit a serene space that kinda hovers in another dimension. There's never a nasty word or challenging and testy confrontation. They're just there beaming away in their own seventh heaven.

On the other hand belligerence, violence, tediousness come from alcohol unleashing those inner demons we keep in check when we are sober and fully conscious. The thing about it is, when inebriates get in that mode, that mood, they often can't give it up. They keep pushing and needling and are incapable of taking a hint. They can't be reasoned with but continually repeat

what you were not very interested in in the first time. One local character when he can barely see or stand up keeps saying he needs to go home, but can't bring himself to make the move. They are too far gone to be able to communicate, let alone take a hint. You can't get through to them that it's time to call it a night, that they'd save themselves from being an embarrassment and all around nuisance, not to mention danger to themselves.

When you do try to hold a conversation, they'll repeat their favorite inanities until you're frustratingly blue in the face. They're incapable of intelligent conversation. Of course it doesn't take a drunk or even a drinker to be an obnoxious interrupter, but it does make it decidedly worse when their interruptions are inane or incoherent or repetitive. Sometimes they're stuck on their theme and not only can't give it up but actually derive pleasure from seeing how freaked out and unglued you become.

A lot of people look on conversation as a competition. They won't let you get three words out before they have to put their two cents in. My responses to being cut off correspond to the situation and how upset I am. One thing I'll do after I've been interrupted a few times is to clam up. If they're so intent on holding a conversation with themselves I just let them talk. After a while I may just ignore them. Sometimes I'll just continue talking right over their heads, especially if it's more than a two way conversation. My voice is pretty strong so I'll just get louder and keep at it and pretend they don't exist. Eventually many will get the message and shut up for a bit. If they don't I may lose it and start yelling and tell them to stop interrupting and let someone else speak. I'm not especially proud of that since getting angry always indicates your own inadequacies and problems to solve

and I often have to apologize. It's better to end the sorta conversation than get all bent out of shape.

Without Kampot's bar scene my life would be ho-hum, hum-drum, average to a fault. Sure Kampot's a beautiful, peaceful, easy place to live with lots of healthy, happy things to do around town and countryside, but the bars make life into a joy. It does get a bit boring at times going out almost every night, but that's far outweighed by the great and fun times the drinking scene offers. Unfortunately I'm beginning to realize that at my age I can no longer safely, sanely do my 6 beers, because combined with the ever improving weed that I partake of, I'm starting to lose my equilibrium, even staggering sometimes. That's even with diluting my beer with ice... I drink at the same pace whether it's straight or watered down and one dollar beers aren't any great shakes anyway. Watering down my beer means I have to wake up almost every hour at night to pee, but that's the breaks. I'm going to have to start substituting non-alcoholics because I want to keep up this life as long as I can, it's the perfect coda to a long, and oftentimes in the past, difficult life.

Moto Mayhem III.

The third annual Daelim and other small bike drag races were held on Saturday December 16. It was supposed to be held in November at Kampot's Olympic stadium but the authorities kept dragging their feet with the permit. Steve spent \$70 in \$10 dollar each paperwork fees only to be continually put off. Sure it's okay, they'd say, we just have to wait on the Bong Tum – big man. This was probably because there were renovations happening on the grandstand.

As an alternative, they were offered Kampot's other Olympic stadium, which neither I nor anyone I know had ever heard of before... and I've been here ten years. (Why do they have to la-

bel every large sports facility Olympic? As if, huh?) It was passable as a venue, but nowhere near as good as the one in town. In the first place it's 5.5 kilometers from town which limited the spectators to half the previous year. And then the track was grass, not preferred for racing, and so participants were also reduced by half. Nonetheless, it was great fun for those who attended, and is sure to be an annual event. As a friend pointed out, winning time was about equal to Usain Bolt's record for the 100 meter.

Finally, another untimely death has occurred here in Kampot. Patrick, our Belgian baker died suddenly in his sleep... and only 58-years-old. He was liked by all, though a little



tiresome as a drinker – see above. I saw him in the bar just a few hours earlier looking fit and strong so it's a mystery why he popped off. You can never know, can you?

In a final note, it's high season and the town is hopping. Lots of new venues which I'll try to cover next time and lots of tourists and returning snow birds are keeping a lot of places busy.

But it's damn cold as I write this, 20C – 68F – and I'm wearing two shirts, wishing I had a wool cap and almost ready to wear socks! I prefer to sweat, but a few cool days is a small price to pay for an almost endless summer.

Cambostan

SPROUTS. NATURES LITTLE GAS BOMBS!

The Brussels Sprout (Brassica Oleracea)

@HOPELESSSURFER

1



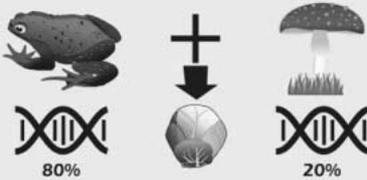
The Brussels Sprout is a wind borne parasite that attaches itself to plants. Once it lands on a suitable target the sprout quickly multiplies to cover its host.

Every December 2nd, farmers celebrate SproutenTöten which marks the start of the sprout killing season.

@HOPELESSSURFER

2

After sequencing sprout DNA scientists in Finland determined that it is the result of interbreeding between a depressed toad and a bad tempered mushroom.



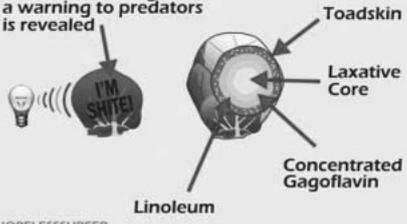
80% 20%

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3

Sprout Layers

Under infrared light a warning to predators is revealed



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4



Professor Stephen Hawking has wagered £1 that the core of a sprout is rich in Higgs Boson particles. Unfortunately no one has been able to get into the centre of a sprout to verify his claim.

Proponents of Intelligent design have cited the sprout as an example of something that could never occur naturally in nature.

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5



Because of its incredible resistance to heat NASA uses a layer of sprouts as a heat shield on spacecraft. On reentry a few sprouts are lost into space, and these form a spectacular meteor shower every August.

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6



In medieval Europe, sprouts were known as the Devils Haemorrhoids. Witches who could not afford to keep a cat used them as familiars. Anyone caught with a sprout was burnt at the stake. The sprout always survived the burning, which confirmed that the person in question was indeed a witch.

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IN BAD TASTE

Which drugs should I buy my family this Christmas?

WITH Christmas fast approaching, it can be hard to know which drugs to get your loved ones. But worry no more, thanks to our exclusive controlled substance gift guide.

For mum

Christmas is a stressful time for mum, so why not help her relax with some Xanax? All her worries will dissolve under her tongue, and it will get her off to sleep better than the Archers omnibus.

For dad

Don't go the traditional route of socks or a tie: what dads really want for Christmas is ayahuasca. Brew the hallucinogenic plant up in a nice cuppa, and his consciousness will expand even further than his waistline.

For your partner

It's Christmas, so that means snow! Get your loved one some prime South American cocaine. If you still enjoy spending time with them when they are massively coked up, it must be love.

For your brother/sister

You have barely spent any time together since you were toddlers, but you can build bridges by rolling up a marijuana cigarette to share. Remember, when it comes to family, you can never go wrong with a good old-fashioned bifer.

For nan

Help nan relive the glory years with a big bag of MDMA. She'll soon forget her rheumatoid arthritis when she's raving around the living room to Wartime Hits Volume 14. Watch out for the comedown though, nans can be moody even without severe serotonin depletion.

Trump visit could actually be the thing that stops us all hating each other, agrees Britain

BRITONS have agreed that a visit from American's evil president next year could actually be the thing that reunites their divided nation.

Surrey farmer Bill McKay said: "Brexit or Remain, Momentum or Moggmentum, we can all agree on one thing: Trump is a dick-head.

"Whether you're a trawlerman collecting rotten fish-heads, a farmer setting a tank of pig shit aside or an intern at a tech start-up practising flying your drone with clippers attached, we've got a welcome lined up he'll never forget.

"I can't wait to see his face when he calls himself Mr Britain and we all let fly with our eggs at once. It'll be beautiful."

The Queen said: "I've tried and tried, but I can't imagine a wedding present Meghan would want more than, you know, the head. Served on a tray."

Oscar sexually assaults other Oscar

The 2018 Oscar ceremonies look in doubt after allegations emerged that the Oscar for best Supporting Actor sexually assaulted the Oscar for Best Screenplay in a cupboard in Hollywood. The Oscar for best Supporting Actor said the accused Oscar was 'just fooling around', while other Oscars in the cupboard gave 'confused' testimony to the Motion Picture Academy. One Oscar said 'I'm pretty sure something went on. But frankly, when I was asked to describe the accused Oscar there wasn't

much I could say. About 13 inches tall, 8 pounds, gold plated bronze kinda human figure. But frankly and I know this sounds like prejudice, they all look alike including myself. It was dark too, so I couldn't swear it was Best Supporting Actor doing the assaulting. All I know is it wasn't me. You have to believe that.'

With the Oscar ceremony not due till March 2018, it's thought there is plenty of time to resolve the accusations. If convicted of the assault, the disgraced Oscar could be presented to Dustin Hoffman in a new category of Lifetime Achievement for Bothering Young Women. One member said it could be exported to Europe and 'rammed up Roman Polanski's arse'

Boris Johnson talks Iran into executing all jailed Britons

The Foreign Secretary hailed as a success his diplomatic efforts to ensure that every Briton visiting Iran will be instantly jailed, covered in hot chilli sauce and fired from a canon. Meanwhile Iran has offered to stop its nuclear programme, provided Mr Johnson never phones again.

Mr. Johnson and his Iranian counterpart spoke 'frankly', which rarely ends well. In fact, in just a two hour phone conversation, the Foreign Secretary managed to cede Tehran to Iraq and call Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's mother 'a munter'.

Mr. Johnson's unique brand of statecraft is said to have made his Iranian counterpart look back at the Crusades with fondness. Likewise, having erroneously claimed UK citizen Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe was spreading sedition, Mr. Johnson helpfully clarified her innocence – insisting that she was 'probably just a witch'.

Emboldened by his triumph, the Foreign Secretary offered to heal the Middle East and other Tolkien lands. Although a UN spokeswoman replied: 'We're really looking for someone to stop the flames of conflict in Jerusalem'. To which, Mr. Johnson said he hoped to rise to the challenge – as he headed to the nearest kerosene shop.

Dog poo bags hung in trees become new festive decoration

In a bid to bring some seasonal cheer to outdoor areas in the festive season, Natural England announced 'Christmas bauble' style dog shit bags were to go on sale this week.

A spokesman for Natural England, the governing body behind all of England's areas of outstanding national beauty, said 'We have been bothered for many years by the practice of dog walkers leaving plastic bags of shite hung up in trees and shrubs in our parks. A recent campaign to try and dissuade the habit was not at all successful so we have taken the alternative approach of embracing and improving the display instead. When these festive bags are hung up in the trees, their festive appearance will bring a real 'christmas tree' feel to our parks and woodlands.'

At one popular New forest location we asked local dog walker, Arthur Harris what he thought of the idea. 'I think it's great. The place has a lovely feel to it now' he said. After Arthur's Great Dane, Sam, had parked it's breakfast on a grass verge next to a childrens play area we asked Arthur why he wasn't using the bags himself. 'Yeah, well, it's not on a path is it? And I mean they let the horses shit everywhere don't they so why should I?' Luckily an RSPB warden was on hand to sprinkle some red and silver glitter on the "yule log" and adorn it with a two-leaved

sprig of holly.

A recount would still show that those girls were underage, Roy Moore told

After narrowly losing the Alabama Senate seat to Doug Jones amid a wave of controversy and sex allegations, Roy Moore has been told that a recount would be a waste of time as the girls involved would still be considered underage.

The Republican candidate's campaign has been controversial due to his views on homosexuality coupled with allegations that he molested two teenage girls; a fact that naturally didn't stop the President genital-grabber himself giving him his full endorsement.

"I just can't understand it," moaned Moore following the announcement that he had been beaten by one of those morally repugnant liberal-minded Democrats.

"All I did was say that homosexuality should be illegal, that I believe evolution is a lie, and then try to deny accusations that I'd messed around with a couple of underage girls. How could the good people of Alabama not want me to represent them in the Senate after that?"

"That's why I'm demanding a recount of all the votes cast. It must have been fixed. Not by Putin, obviously – he's a great guy and wouldn't consider doing such a thing. We're talking about the bad type of election fixing here.

Political commentator Chuck Williams responded, "Firstly, a recount of the ages of the girls would still show they were underage at the time he was involved with them, end of story.

"And secondly, being endorsed by a man who has bragged about sexually assaulting women himself may go some way in explaining why you lost, so maybe you should consider getting over it?"

Phnom Penh Pub Page

Before I start on the mea culpas – once again the Pub Page has been neither to SKIRTS nor the Wall since the last printing. I am counting on the Evil Publisher being in a festive mood as he gets ready for his annual Aagooah fund raising Xmas dinner. Since this will go in print after the big event I will predict that it will again be a success and, in advance, thank the donors (including the Evil Publisher and his faithful henchmen (and women) who donate the grub and work hard to prepare and host the event and those who came to support a worthy cause – free school for needy kids, get a great feed and, of course, to see Bad Santa redux (someone has to keep the Hunchback's torch aloft).

I did get an update from Howie (the infamous man not the famous bar) as I have actually walked by the Wall a few times this week trying in vain to do the right thing and have a few tasty beverages on Sabay Sabay St (known to the rest of the world as 174 St., but given that someone has gone through all the trouble of hanging big ass signs across the street (and blocking the street for the last few days with a BIG crane

while he builds up Valentino's Cabaret where Saint Tropez used to be)). More on the Wall later.

My big plan this month was to spend most of the Pub Page talking about Sharky Bar's grand re-opening on 130 St. I was out of town, but it re-opened on 15 December for 3 days and shifted the Joker to Sunday (although this was meant to be a one off). I got mixed reviews about the opening – mainly that it was premature as the place was more construction zone than club and only one of the floors was open. But I was excited so as soon as I got back to drop by and see the new space for myself. Unfortunately, by the time I came back, reality must have slapped the new owners up the head. Sharky's was closed the next two times I dropped by, but a friend had been told that the owners had wisely realized they needed some more time and were going to close for the week to focus on the renovations and re-open in much better shape for the Joker draw on 22 December. Unfortunately, the new Sharky Czar must not have fully appreciated the trials and tribulations of Cambodian construction projects or to give things a more benign perspective, decided that it was more important to open well with a more complete customer experience than to sell booze in a construction site. Mere hours before the anticipated opening, there was a post on the Sharky page:

“SORRY!! Sharky's staying close another week. Many things to finish off here still. Joker Draw be back when we reopen. Have a happy Christmas!!!”

So, I guess no review of the new Sharky this month – of course now I am thinking of the amazing Sharky new year's parties of old. Best of all, I get to waste more space on Sharky next

month.

More news from Golden Sorya Mall – I have been somewhat excited to see things progress on the renovations – the fact that they are actually doing SOMETHING was impressive enough. Unfortunately, I am somewhat worried about what the final product will be. On the outside of the construction site are photos of the projected P.P. Pub Street. From the drawings, it looks like a lot of small bars with limited seating area. Not sure how this will impact the central courtyard that I have been planted in for years. In terms of the main courtyard establishments, Home Food is not as dominant as it was when it had the prime position in the courtyard, but still has a loyal following. Swiss Food is now open, but has not yet picked up its clientele by the time this was written. A lot of people seem to be hanging at Chez Dim and Cobra seems to have picked up some of the slack.

Don't tell the boss, I did drop by one bar on 174 St – just not Skirts – I slunk into Ming's a couple of time. It is in the old Rehab space and I was really impressed. The place looked good and felt comfortable. It is closed on Sundays and open from 2 pm until midnight the rest of the week. There is food – have heard good reviews but not tasted it. From 2-8 pm, draft beer is USD 1 instead of the usual USD 1.5. Bottled beer ranges from USD 2.25-3 most of the time.

I was there after happy hour, but I was told that happy hour also features, house wine at USD 2 and cocktails are USD 3. Normally, most spirits are USD 3-4 and are generally available by the bottle with a few cans of mixer thrown in. What I liked the most was the whiskey collection – not up to Mao level but very decent indeed. The page will return

Another non-hostess establishment this month, I re-visited Chaplin's Bar on 108 St. a few days ago – quite busy with a good crowd of what seemed to be an expat crowd. Tunes were great while I was there – mostly old U.K. ska and punk. Since I had a better idea what to expect, service was fine and no drama. Happy Hours are 3-7 pm with draft at USD 1 and house spirits with mix at USD 1.5.

Almost forgot the news from the Wall. According to Howie, there will be another Joker draw starting up. There is the original from the Walkabout – which went to Blue Tongue and now resides at Red Fox 2. There is the spiritual sequel which started up at the presently shut for renovations Sharky and now there will be Joker at the Wall. It will start early in January, which provides a good incentive to report on the Wall next month. As it is the most geographically true to the original, the Page is wishing it a good run. But if Howie keeps winning like he used to at Walkabout, I will be calling foul.

And that is about it for this month. Next month, I may finally get to the late-night Ramen at Skirts. Seems a ton of new hostess bars have opened in the last few months, so I may have to force myself to do a research tour.





Immigrant clampdown
 The Vietnamese immigrant clampdown has started in Phnom Penh now. Some have ID cards and Khmer passports but as the basis for this is their family book powers that be are finding most family books were issued illegally thus rendering all other documents invalid.
 The government seems to be trying to attract opposition supporters with this move.
Wonky website
 Who redesigned the P.P.Posts website?
 Please choose different easily

legible fonts. The old format was much easier to navigate and a lots easier on eye strain!
Racists
 No not Khmers but the Chinese in Sinoukville.
 Westerners are refused entry to their hotels and restaurants. Now the same rules apply to Khmers unless they speak Chinese. Someone should really give them a hard time over this practice.
 There are hardly any western places to stay down there at the moment and a couple of them are slated to close in the near future.



Google explorer!
 Go jump off a cliff Google. This has to be one of their worst features. Look at it once and then the content disappears!
 Why does it have to be tested in Cambodia?
 People come back from Thailand relieved that over there the feed is normal so you can see everything you want all the time.
Wanted
 Social media posts recently

revealed high profile investors here having allegedly dubious backgrounds and dubious practices that fund their businesses here.
 Nothing new there. Just go to the French embassy for Bastille day! Plenty of guests that are wanted in their home country!

FAUX NEWS

Nigel Farage has confirmed that he is the only person left who is not defying the will of the people: 'I convinced a slight majority of the voting public to demand something that required several diametrically opposed actions to run concurrently...and everyone's thwarted their intentions', he lamented. 'What part of 'leave' didn't they understand?'

The David Davis guide to being cunning like a fox

I AM David Davis MP, world-class negotiator and hero of Brexit, and these are my infallible strategies for outwitting any opponent.

At the start of negotiations it's normal for both sides to make unrealistic demands. The EU asked for £39 billion so I demanded a five-foot prawn mayo baguette. There's still some left in the fridge so I feel I won that round.

Negotiations are like a game of poker. You've got to show other people your cards, look really unhappy if you've got rubbish ones and shout 'Snap!' if you've got two the same colour.

Become a master of bluff. At the Brexit negotiations I told Barnier the UK was going to join a different European Union, to which he replied "Oh for fuck's sake!" and snapped a pencil. I knew then that I had him.

If you're negotiating with foreigners you can tell them one thing then say something totally different back in England. It's not like there's some magical device for sending words to different countries.

NEVER let other negotiators know what you're thinking via subtle visual or verbal cues. Put a plastic bucket on your head and keep shouting "Bollocks! Bollocks! Bollocks!". Only this way will you win their respect.

Here's an old trick from my Territorial SAS days: if events are not going in your favour, run off and hide in a ditch for several days sucking the fluid out of frogs to survive. That had the EU confused when we were meant to be discussing border controls!

Apocalypse watchers complain Trump 'dragging his feet'

Fundamentalist Christians in the US are becoming increasingly frustrated with President Trump's lukewarm commitment to bringing about the End Times. A White House spokesman is urging the faithful to be patient, explaining that the President has to concentrate on things such as dismantling Obamacare first. 'After all', a spokeswoman said, 'we don't want to leave liberals and sodomites with access to medical treatment for the effects of nuclear attack'.

But fans of the Rapture refuse to be fobbed off. 'He's coming very close to missing the deadline set in the Book of Revelations', says the Reverend Huntley Carson, of the United Baptist Church of Kansas. 'To be honest, the last sixty years have been a series of missed opportunities. That traitor Reagan kept teasing us by stepping up to the brink and then stopping just short of incinerating the planet. The rot started with Kennedy failing to turn the Cuban Missile Crisis into a world war. But at least he had an excuse - he was a Democrat'.

The increasingly restless fundamentalists say they are 'shocked' that anyone might think they elected the 45th President for any reason other than nuclear annihilation. 'Let's face it', says one of them, 'if we had long term survival in mind, we'd have elected a real president, not this buffoon. This is the day when the righteous are snatched up to heaven while fornicators and people who read Charles Darwin remain earthbound to be vaporised in a nuclear holocaust. At least we have this in common with liberals - none of us can stand the thought of four years of Donald Trump'

'Everyone is the enemy of the people, except me' says Farage

'Cameron, May, Ireland, the DUP and the rest, they all did exactly what everyone expected them to do. No-one acted irrationally against their own best interests, and, well, that's the very definition of blocking Brexit. And, what of the Eurocrats, having never done a proper job in their lives because instead they'd become experts on negotiating EU exit deals and actually planning ahead. It's a denial of my democratic vote!'

'We may not have won, but let me make a couple of things perfectly clear: firstly, I will not accept an iota of blame; and, secondly, I refuse, point blank, to get over it.'

'Days Since the President Did Something Stupid' sign still stuck on zero

With a weary sigh, Albert Cox - custodian to the White House - yesterday again pressed the reset button on the 'Days since the President Did Something Stupid' Sign that adorns the lawn on Pennsylvania Avenue.

The latest action, promising to move the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, has caused massive instability in the middle-east and led to a promise of four days of rage from the Palestinians.

For Cox, chief caretaker for six Presidents, changing the display has become an almost daily ritual in the last eleven months. 'I



almost forgot we had the sign at all.' He said to our White House correspondent. 'I hadn't had to push it in almost 15 years. All the way back to midway through [George W] Bush's first term when he choked on that pretzel.'

The sign, largely forgotten about and hidden by an overgrown hedge after years of administration ranging from "moderately competent" to "well-handled", has now been thoroughly cleaned and refurbished, with the privet now nearly trimmed back and the bulbs replaced on the first digit. It was installed by President Ford after his trip down the airport steps in 1975 and had only been reset a handful of times since this year.

The first was seven days into the Trump Presidency, after the signing of the Executive Order banning travel from specific foreign countries that outraged many and was widely derided as highly xenophobic.

Following this, barely a week has gone by without Cox making the journey to the circuit breaker room to adjust the sign and re-zero the counter. He remembers the day well, 'When he signed the order, someone mentioned the sign and it took some thinking to recall where the reset was. The button was thick with dust, now it looks brand new from all the pushing in the last year.'

Standing beside the sign, Cox looks wistfully at the previous record of 5492 days. 'I just wonder if we'll get to double figures again in the next three years.' He says, tending to the grass beside the posts. Suddenly, his cell-phone beeps. With a roll of his eyes, he takes it out and reads the message. 'If you'll excuse me gents, I have to go reset the sign, our president has just tweeted again. I should just link the reset to his account, it would save me going up and down those stairs.'

Baffled DNC Plant Roy Moore Not Sure What Else He Could Have Done To Defame Republican Party

HUNTSVILLE, AL—Scanning his mind for any minority groups he could have demonized more forcefully, Alabama Senate candidate and secret Democratic operative Roy Moore admitted Tuesday that he wasn't sure what else he could have done to destroy the Republican Party's reputation. "When Nancy [Pelosi] sent me here, I was convinced that revealing myself as a pedophile would be more than enough, but now I'm just at a loss," said Moore, who admitted he thought DNC chair Tom Perez was going over the top by suggesting he say gay marriage had made the U.S. the source of all evil, but that didn't even budge the polls. "I mean, I stood on a stage and wistfully recalled the era in which slavery existed in this country. What else am I supposed to do? I've been really digging deep to vilify the GOP and make myself unelectable, but I still might win." At press time, Moore was kicking himself for not sabotaging himself more egregiously by claiming he supported a ban on assault weapons.

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TECHNOLOGY PAGE

How to Fix Your Wi-Fi Network

Wi-Fi is everywhere and built into everything. It's like oxygen for internet access, media streaming, gaming, and all types of networking. And it should just work all the time—right? If you've had an average experience with Wi-Fi on mobile devices, laptops, game systems, and more, you know that while Wi-Fi connections and consistency work correctly nearly all the time, it's the occasions when it doesn't that can leave you tearing your hair out.

802.11: the name of the IEEE engineering trade group's working group for wireless local area networks (WLANs). WLANs began in earnest with 802.11b in 1999 (802.11a came out at the same time, but had less traction), and the group is all the way up to 802.11ac and 802.11ad today. We expect to see 802.11ax gear announced at CES. These specifications define how data is encoded into radio transmissions and exchanged among devices.

Wi-Fi: a trademarked name used to cover network adapters that have passed a certification test to work with each other using various 802.11 specifications.

Frequency bands: Wi-Fi networks use two unlicensed frequency bands: 2.4 gigahertz (GHz) and 5GHz. Many Wi-Fi routers and most modern mobile and desktop devices can create networks or connect over either band—these are “dual-band” base stations or adapters. 802.11b and g exclusively use the 2.4GHz band. 802.11a and ac exclusively use 5GHz. 802.11n works over either band.

Can't see a network you know is available

You know a network should be reachable from where you're at, but it doesn't show up in your list of available networks to which you can connect. Try these possibilities:

This is a good time to check whether you disabled Wi-Fi without realizing it. Some Windows laptops and other devices have hardware Wi-Fi switches or buttons that you can press by accident. In Windows 10, the network icon will show a red X through the Wi-Fi in the taskbar. In macOS, the Wi-Fi “fan” in the system menu bar will be an empty outline. Michael Brown / IDG

Some computers have buttons that can turn the onboard Wi-Fi adapter on and off.

Cycle your Wi-Fi adapter. On many devices, you can choose a software setting to disable the Wi-Fi radio temporarily. Airplane Mode is the simplest way in operating systems that offer it, though using it disrupts cellular and Bluetooth connections on your device as well.

Out of range. Wi-Fi doesn't have a hard cutoff as to when it will work and when it won't. Sometimes you can get perfect reception in one place and then later not. That's because the radio signals bounce off surfaces, pass through walls, and can be absorbed by people and materials. Move around and see if the network shows up.

Check your band. While many user devices can connect using either frequency band, you can still find modern hardware that can only connect via 2.4GHz. If you happen to be in a place where the only available signal that reaches is a 5GHz network, all your dual-band hardware will connect just fine, but single-band 2.4GHz gear won't. Because of the different characteristics of the band, it's possible to be in a room in a house, office, or

public space where a 2.4GHz signal doesn't reach, but the same base station's 5GHz signal is crisp and clear.

It's a closed network. While it's never been a truly valid way of improving security, some networks are set up so that they don't broadcast their name. In that case, if you don't have a connection profile stored, you must use the method in the operating system to join a network manually, often listed as “Other” in a menu. You'll need to enter the name precisely and, if it's using encryption, choose its security method and enter the password.

The network is down. Check from multiple devices or ask other people using the network. A router may need to be rebooted—or replaced.

Connected, but no internet access

Wi-Fi is just a radio technology, which means you can have a perfectly strong signal and a valid connection, but still lack network access.

Start by checking your network address and see if it's in the “self-assigned” range. If there's something wrong with the way the local network assigns out addresses to devices as they attach, your computer or mobile device will create a self-assigned address, which can't route data elsewhere. In some cases, small networks can run out of addresses to assign!

Microsoft

Check the IP address assigned to your device to ensure that it has an address assigned by your router.

Some operating systems provide a clue that there's a problem, like the Wi-Fi signal adapter showing an exclamation point in it.

In others, you'll need to drill into network status or settings.

In Android: Settings > About Phone > Status.

In iOS: Settings > Wi-Fi and tap the “i” info button.

In Windows: Settings > Network & Internet and then choose the Wi-Fi adapter.

In macOS: Open the Network system preference pane, select the Wi-Fi adapter, click Advanced, and click the TCP/IP tab.

If the IP address on your device for IPv4 networking (a set of four numbers separated by periods) starts with 169.254, then it's a self-assigned address, which indicates your OS couldn't receive an assignment from the local network's DHCP (Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol) server. (Some work and academic networks might require entering a static set of values, but you should know if you're on one of those.)

Before assuming the network is at fault, however, check your firewall settings, if you have one installed or are using tools built into the OS. Some firewalls prevent connecting to new networks and routing traffic over them without an explicit entry. In most cases, you should receive a prompt that warns you about a new network and asks you approve it. But depending on your configuration, it's possible the network routing has been blocked silently.

Once you eliminate the firewall or other filters, you can be sure it's the network that's the trouble. If you're not the person who kicks routers when they misbehave, you'll need to find someone who is.

The IP address is valid, but nothing loads

If you're using a public hotspot at a café, airport, conference center, or elsewhere, you might have run afoul of a portal or login page without realizing it. Most operating systems' last several versions understand that you might encounter a portal and act accordingly. Until you answer the right questions or click the right buttons, internet access is locked away.

With a portal page, the hotspot effectively hijacks domain name service (DNS) lookups, so that everywhere you're trying to go redirects to the portal. Apple's macOS and iOS recognize this behavior, and pop up a modal dialog that displays the portal webpage. Once access successfully starts, the OS can tell that DNS is working properly and dismisses itself or shows a Done button that can be tapped or clicked.

Sometimes portals are wonky or, due to firewall or other filtering software, your system doesn't trust these redirections. This would prevent the portal page from appearing.

Open a browser and try to load any page, like cnn.com, and see what happens. If you see loading and redirection start—look at the Location field in your browser and see if the domain or IP addresses change—it's likely something on your system that's blocking completion.

If nothing ever loads in the browser, consult with the venue. You may need to obtain a password, pay, or use a special configuration.

Your network connections are inconsistent

There are four main culprits in inconsistent Wi-Fi performance and network access: an erratic broadband connection, distance from a base station, the wrong base station in a set selected, and a congested local networking environment.

Broadband. The first is hard to test unless you can plug an ethernet cable into the router and use a bandwidth tester, like one from Ookla, or a network monitor that shows you performance over time. If you can, however, eliminate that as a possibility before you move forward.

Distance. This seems like an easy one, too: move closer! But if you don't know where the Wi-Fi base stations are located or you're in rooms away from those in which they're placed, "closer" may be hard to figure out. Because of signal reflection and absorption, it's not always obvious where to move your own base stations for better coverage.

Wrong base station. A network of identically named Wi-Fi routers with the same security settings lets you roam, whether in a million-square-foot office tower or across rooms in your house. The device you're carrying, however, doesn't always make the right choice about the strongest signal. In my small house, we have three base stations due to thick walls. Laptops and mobiles routinely stay connected to a router in the basement when they're within feet of one upstairs. You can pick which base station to join when they're all named the same, but cycling your Wi-Fi adapter from on to off to on typically causes it to make a better choice.

Congested local network. If you're at home or in an office where you run the gear, you may be able to improve the Wi-Fi situation around you. Outside of mesh networking ecosystems, you can typically connect to a Wi-Fi router and switch from the default automatic channel assignment in each band to choosing a channel. A little secret about Wi-Fi is that while the signal levels have a single maximum for all channels in 2.4 GHz, the 5 GHz band is divided into three major pieces, and until 2014, each of them had a different maximum signal limit. The lowest channel range (36, 40, 44, and 48) could only operate at no more than five percent of the maximum of the highest channel range (149, 153, 157, and 161, typically). Setting your 5GHz band to channel 149 solves that if you have equipment that wasn't revised to reflect the new rules, which is the vast majority of base stations that are at least two years old. (You can use a tool like WiFi Explorer [\$20] to examine what's in use around you.)

One extra tip: Force 5GHz. Many base stations default to naming the separate 2.4GHz and 5GHz networks the same to ease roaming. Most of them, however, also let you choose a separate name for each. If you want to ensure the fastest connection with the highest signal strength, having separate 2.4GHz and 5GHz network names helps alleviate the inconsistency you might experi-

ence as a result of connecting to the crowded 2.4GHz brand. **Linksys**

It's always a good idea to use a complex password, but they can be difficult to communicate to others. Many modern routers, including the Linksys Velop router shown here, let you share them via text message.

Correct password, no connection

A network that requires either a password or a username and password will reject your device if you enter it improperly. But what if you're positive you're entering the password or username and password absolutely correctly?

Check whether you were given the password with correct capitalization, which counts in Wi-Fi passwords as in others. Spaces can be part of WPA2 passphrases, but spaces are hard to indicate when written down. Confirm you're not missing a space.

Make sure you've selected the correct network. In some places, you'll be contending with dozens or more separately named networks, and you may have selected one named similarly to the one you want. Some businesses and hotspots run guest networks named only slightly differently than their internal, private networks.

Overloaded networks and routers with firmware that's malfunctioning might reject a connection, even when you've entered the password properly. Consult with the network's operator—if that's you, reboot the router!

Your device repeatedly rejoins the wrong network

Most modern operating systems retain a list of every network to which you've connected ever. My Mac has entries that date back several years across several machine migrations. Some ecosystems sync access, too, so when you join the network on one device, all your other phones, tablets, and computers now can join without additional effort.

Microsoft

Windows 10's Manage Known Networks setting will show you every network your computer has ever joined (unless you've told it to forget some of them). If you know there are networks you'll never need to connect to again, click on each one and select Forget.

If you find a flaky network in a place you work or visit routinely that you've joined once, you might have tried to forget it, but it remains. I've seen this and heard from readers that deleting a network connection doesn't fully remove it, because a synced copy elsewhere gets copied back to your device! The trick is persistence: keep deleting it from every device you're using so the syncing finally syncs up.

You can manage networks in each OS after navigating to these locations:

Android: Settings > Wi-Fi, tap the Customize button and choose Saved Network.

iOS: In Settings > Wi-Fi, you can only forget the currently connected network.

Windows: Click the Network icon, choose Manage Wi-Fi Settings, and then choose Manage Known Networks.

macOS: Open the Network system preference pane, click the Wi-Fi adapter in the list at left, click Advanced, and then click the Wi-Fi tab.

Your adapter could just be dead

Wi-Fi adapters can just die, no matter what kind of device they're embedded in. Before giving up, reinstalling the OS can be a final ditch way to see if it's a corrupted driver rather than broken hardware.

With a computer, you can purchase a cheap USB nub that plugs in and offers compatible service. With mobile phones and tablets, they may be unrepairable. As I was writing this article, a friend had just returned from the Apple Store with a phone that had its Wi-Fi access go flaky and then fail: the store said it couldn't be fixed, only replaced.

Bits from the Beach

As the year draws to a close, the more things change, the more they seem to remain the same. Well in regard to the continual advances in Sinoukville as the Chinese continue their rampant push. In the latest news, all the vendors on KohPuos Beach (Treasure Island Restaurant) around to Hawaii beach are being force out as the Chinese have acquired the land for development of apartments and casinos. The Khmer occupants, many whom have been there for over two decades are naturally perturbed and have been told by the competent authorities that it is public land and they have no right to be there; however the Chinese apparently do.

Apparently a large hotel and Casino is to be erected opposite Hun Sen Beach, which for those who do not know it, is a nice shallow sandy, pine tree lined beach, out past the port on the way to the refinery. Not far from the nearby port of SteungHau (just turn right at the refinery, go past the power station and you find SteungHau), which the Chinese are proposing to increase in size. Let us hope it will be more successful than the three Chinese who kidnaped one of their countrymen living in Sinoukville and ransomed him for a reported \$800,000, before being caught by the local cops. Apparently they had planned 6 such kidnappings of wealthy investors.

The Cambodia Resort, next to Golden Lion Plaza/Pub Street appears to be being turned into yet another casino, the leases being the owners of the Yadouli Casino. Nearby the former Papygayo Hotel has been taken over by the Chinese and appears to be being converted into yet another casino. In the street over, the water park next to the White Sands hotel has finally been dismantled. It looks like yet another large new Hotel and Casino will be built on that site, we guess a bit quicker than the few years it took to build the White Sands.

The rapid change in Sinoukville has begun to gather media attention with several articles appearing in newspapers, including by Reuters and apparently Associated Press wants to film about it. Focus is on the many new casinos, the lack of affordable accommodation for residents and the change in the style of shops. One very visible sign of the times is the change in signs, most used to be in English and Khmer, now many are in Khmer and English. It should be noted that by law all business signs must have Khmer script larger than the foreign script.

The Khmers themselves are becoming a bit leery of all this development. Apparently social media is awash with comments from Phnom Penh based Khmers as to how much the place has changed, how much it is overrun with Chinese and how they may not come down again. There are also reports that the Chinese are not letting Khmers into their hotels. It should be bedlam in town in regards to accommodation at Chinese new year, which is 15 February in 2018 and in now apparently an official public holiday.

The new waste management company has been getting a lot a bad publicity, for not doing what it is paid to do, collect trash. Some of the main thoroughfares are serviced fine but the back streets have been looking like small stand-alone rubbish tips. Prices for collections from houses are supposed to be falling and

increasing from businesses, however no one wants to pay for a non-existent service.

The revived 8 Bars of Christmas pub crawl was on in early December and was a resounding success. About 75 people started at the Rebels handlebar and about 50 hardy souls made it to The Glory Hole at the Square as the last bar where many drank the night away to the pleasant tunes that come from the music videos. The Glory Hole was also one of the bars hosting the Santa Pageant. This is a variation on the old fashioned beauty contest but with a Christmas theme. Some attractive ladies in an array of costumes competed for the prizes. President Trump, who has long been a judge at beauty contests was invited as a judge, but apparently did not respond. The Cambodian government has been informed and this snub, is being treated as a serious incident and is further proof of the deterioration of the relationship between the two countries. The organisers expect the Chinese government to respond better when they are invited next year.

Meanwhile it appears that the ferry operators to the islands have not been passing on the \$3 tax that the Competent Authorities announced they must charge for "Marine Conservation". Apparently they made the announcement without thinking through an on payment or audit system, displaying their never ending normal competency. The threat is to close the operators down and many of the Khmer operators are incensed that they actually have to pay the fee on to the competent authorities.



Dave Ex has finally re-emerged as the manager of The Cove on Serendipity Beach, just past Above Us only Sky. He is doing much of his great menu from his brief sojourn as an ex manager over on Kho Rong including his famous Espresso Martini's. He has also started a round robin, two life, pool competition, just as he did as ex-manager of Chivas, although this is now on a Sunday and is gaining good traction already. Speaking of ex people moving on, Patrick, the popular personable former owner of Kangaroo Kitchen, who moved his Tuesday night quiz to Charlie Harpers, has now moved his quiz to the Ochheateal Guesthouse. If you want a fun night in a place with good food and cold drinks at a reasonable price drop on into Ochheateal Guesthouse.

In Kampot, popular Belgian Baker Patrick De Saer, died at the end of November, the competent authorities announced the cause of death as because of the winds, whatever that is. Patrick will be sorely missed. There have been some single vehicle accidents happening in Kampot of late with drunk westerners without helmets crashing, one leading to the death of a young Frenchman and the injury of his friend. Not to be discouraged by these events, a group of hardy Kampot residents conducted Moto mayhem, and organised Moto race event, for small motos, such as citi's and daelims. It was held well of the street and catered, this well attended event was a day of fun and included a moto vs Bicycle race.

We wait to see how bad the mass closures on Ochheateal beach will be as there are confusing rumours flying around!