

BAYON



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ROYAUME DU CAMBODGE

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POSTES

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APSARA

New Year in Kampot

I was listening to bands at the Folk Arts Festival which came to town at the beginning of February with a whole lineup of music acts. They came on a tour of several cities with a mixture of local and expat acts. A tent was set up at KAMA bar/restaurant and somewhere between 100 and 150 people showed up. As usual a good time was had by all: young, old, of many nationalities. Gatherings are one of the major draws of living here; getting together to have fun and maybe drink a little alcohol.

When the lead of the second band took the mic for his intro his first word caused me to jump out of my seat, you could say I was catapulted actually, and seek refuge from the blast and I wasn't even that close. I didn't want to abandon the event so I walked a couple blocks to my car where I conveniently stash a couple of regulation ear plugs. After that I could actually enjoy the music, though of course the plugs made it doubly difficult to converse.

I've mostly given up on talking much anyway when the music's turned up. I can manage when you're speaking directly at me with some force, you know, not mumbling out of the side of your mouth, otherwise it's all gibberish. He's freeze trading toe sad release... It's frustrating to say the least... but for lack of an alternative I've gotten used to it. I'm like the typical Khmer who knows a bit of English and just smiles and nods when you start conversing with big words on complex themes. I might ask you to repeat if I don't get it the first time, but if I still can't figure it out, I won't ask a second time, it's the old smile and nod routine.

I'm confident that nearly all the people reading this will admit to torturing their ears as some point. Ear damage is very common, especially as we age, but we're incredibly casual and nonchalant about protecting ourselves. In addition to the loud music we've all enjoyed, in some ways subjected ourselves to, I beat up my ears with industrial sounds as part of the years I spent recycling. For instance, in order to sell our glass it had to be crushed, otherwise it would've taken up too much space. So I'd stand there with a steel pipe crushing bottles and jars in a large steel drum. It's almost kinda fun smashing up that glass, but it's also very loud and what's more it's that especially destructive high pitched loud. It was only after years of doing that that I realized, with the urging of a coworker, that I needed to be wearing plugs.

Once the damage is done, there's no going back. You can't heal your ear drums any more than you can grow new adult teeth. The only alternative to being half deaf is hearing aids. The last time I was back in the states about 5 years ago I came across a flyer advertising a free hearing exam: the real thing taken in a sound proof room. One of my goals being back there was improving my hearing.

It turns out it's the treble that generally goes first and that was true of my hearing. They've got aids that are programmable so they can increase the sound exactly where you need it in each ear. You don't want every range to be louder, that might be worse. It's only the vocal range that's important

It was great, but it turned out they weren't cheap, at least not then. The guy offered me a used pair for \$600 and they weren't

even the tiny ones which cost thousands... so I'm still half deaf after all these years. Today you can get them as low as \$30, but they're big, lunky and not programmable.

It's somewhat counterintuitive but the weaker your ears are the more sensitive they become. You'd think you can't hear well so loud sounds wouldn't make a difference, but it's just the opposite. It's mostly an unrestrained treble that gets to me, that loud distorted high range that made me jump out of my seat at the event. It feels like my ears are being chiseled out by a chain saw. Okay, it was nowhere near to that level at the event, but still enough to make it impossible to sit there without protection.

The first band at the event was loud, but tolerably so. Occasionally it could get borderline painful, but mostly I could handle it. The third band was too loud, enough for me to need my plugs, but not excruciatingly so. It was more pure intensity. I've also found that in a couple different dance venues in town where the intensity of sound was very difficult for me. In those cases even regulation plugs couldn't do the job. However, I do recognize that high volume can help you to get immersed in the sound, it becomes part of you, but still after a certain point all it does is damage your ears. While it may seem no big deal when you're young, you sure do regret it when the damage accumulates and at a ripe old age you are constantly saying, What'd you say?

It's possible for music to be not loud and still be moving and enjoyable. The example is a long time music bar in Portland, Oregon

the last place I lived any length of time in the US. They have music every night, but it's in a residential neighborhood, or at least has residences very close by, so the tunes are not loud because they were forced to tone it down, and yet people were dancing and singing along and having a great time.

It was a very big contrast to most bands around here who can't resist some eardrum bending in their music. And if anything Cambodians are worse than expats on that score. I'm seriously remiss if I forget to bring my earplugs to an event. At an expat friend's wedding out in the country I asked him to ask the band to tone it down; they felt insulted.

One time when I'd been here only a couple years a tent was set up on my narrow street with the loudspeaker turned up to full volume facing directly at my 3rd floor apartment. It was just a couple meters away and it was excruciating. My response was to put my boombox out on the porch facing the tent and put on a Hendrix CD at full distorted volume.

They got the message and turned the speaker away from my place. It was still

very loud, but I relented and turned off the box, figuring I shouldn't be totally antagonizing my neighbors. I was new to Cambodia then, I wouldn't do something like that now and to help matters, they now often have the volume turned down some. What a relief. I still need my plugs, but at least it doesn't feel like I'm being tortured.

One other aspect of sound I'd like to mention. I love those overhead ceiling fans; even at low speeds they move a lot more air, more gently and quietly than the smaller fans, but at top speed the sound is very disturbing, it's a low rumble that's very uncomfortable and makes it hard for me to hear.

There are actually two topics I'm covering in this piece, the other



being banning of tents on Phnom Penh's streets combined with prohibition of car parking on Kampot's riverside park and sidewalks in general. Sidewalks have always been one of my favorite topics owing partly to the fact that I did almost all of my movement on foot during the six years I lived in the capital. And that was owing in part to not liking riding on motorbikes and having to hassle over the fare with motodops – motorbike taxi drivers. Having studied urban planning I'm also keenly aware of how cities could and should be designed.

The ban on event tents in Phnom Penh will be very welcome if it's carried out and enforced. but it will come as a hardship to many. First a little background. Traditional Khmer weddings are often two day events and funerals can be multiday events. Thus it's important for participants that they be held at a residence rather than an event hall. For a wedding they'll start at 6am or before on the first day. In fact, they'll start blasting out their wedding music sometimes as early as 4.30am. If you are around very early, you'll see just a few family members in attendance as meanwhile possibly hundreds of neighbors find themselves rudely awakened. They'll have a small luncheon and then a big dinner followed by dancing till about 11pm. During that time the music goes on almost continuously. They then wake up really early again next morning and go on till about 11am. The city is suggesting event halls or pagodas, but family members sleep over so it's not easy to do outside the home.

They'll often block half a busy street or the whole street if it's a lightly used side street. That might have been tolerable when the city was a lot smaller and traffic was light but absurd now to allow those events to cause traffic jams. The city is now so dense, even blocking residential streets can cause a lot of frustration to people who have to make long detours.

They are also improving some sidewalks and saying they want to clear all of them for pedestrians. It's a great idea except many sidewalks are now practically unusable for walking even if there were no encumbrances on them like vehicle parking, vendors and restaurant tables.

Back in the sixties before Cambodia's troubles, no encumbrances were allowed, all sidewalks were kept clear and that can be seen in any streetside picture from that era. When Vietnam kicked out Pol Pot in 1979 and occupied the country for 14 years a free-for-all ensued. When I was in Vietnam's big cities in 1994, the sidewalks were completely taken over for private use. It's thus easy to infer that it was that country's lax attitude towards sidewalk use that led to the current situation. That problem was further compounded by the lack of any building codes regarding sidewalks. In the past they were all at the same level and flat, once again obvious from photos from that era. Today property owners treat sidewalks as private decoration for their property rather than an essential mode of transportation and they have free reign to do what they like.

As a result you now have some places where sidewalks are steeply slanted making walking very uncomfortable and others where each property owner has a piece of sidewalk that doesn't match their neighbors; i.e., one will be higher than the others - there are places where one sidewalk will be a foot, 30cm different from adjacent ones – and another will be steeply slanted when the others surrounding it are flat.

In other words, in many places they are currently so ill set up and uncomfortable for walking that clearing them of blockages will make no difference for pedestrians, they will still be walking on the street. Sidewalks have to be convenient for wheeled devices; i.e., flat and all on the same level. Call it the baby stroller or hand truck rule.

They are now such a jumbly hodgepodge that nothing in the short run will fix the problem. At this point planners need to establish the proper height for each street and require all new construction

or repair of sidewalks to conform to the new code so that eventually they can get back to some rationality and usability.

There's another problem with design of sidewalks that needs to be addressed to conform to the stroller rule. It has to do with the confusion over the difference between curb cuts and driveways. Curb cuts need to be restricted to actual streets. Driveways are for accessing properties in between streets, thus they have a steep slant at the curb which takes them to sidewalk level, whereas curb cuts force the stroller to go up and down. You find midblock curb cuts at public buildings and large private buildings. They enable the vehicle to go fast and easy into the property, whereas you want a driveway with it's steeply slanted entryway precisely because it slows down traffic across the sidewalk making it safer for pedestrians.

It's important to note that having people walking in the street is not just dangerous and uncomfortable for them but nerve-wracking for drivers as well.

A similar situation has risen in Kampot. I was very surprised, nearly shocked a while back to see the riverside park nearly clear for pedestrian use. It had been regularly usurped for vehicle parking to the extent that it was very difficult in places to get through. Looking closer I saw no parking signs in both English and Khmer.



I was impressed. For sure there were a few scofflaws, but generally it was very nice. That didn't last long since authorities regularly make rules and then retreat and ignore enforcement. In fact, right next to the new police post on the riverside you'll see the same car parked every night, obviously a cop's private car. Having the riverside promenade restricted or blocked from walking isn't the only problem with letting drivers park there. Those vehicles, including sometimes big hunky SUVs, are harmful to the tree roots and tear up the paving tiles since the pavement isn't up to handling heavy vehicles.

They are catching on: in one block on the river, probably the busiest, they've forced restaurants to keep a meter and a half clear for walking. Before, one restaurant, which had more than ample space for their tables, had a big sign practically blocking pedestrians. Still, some owners insist on letting people park their motorbikes in that restricted space so it isn't a complete win for the people. One aspect they haven't been consistent at is keeping the sidewalk around the old market clear. Some vendors have moved their tables and such back, but many haven't. Of all places important for keeping clear that one should be a no brainer. The streets around the market get very busy so it's not good having people walking on them, besides there are always some cowboys racing down the streets just to show off making for a dangerous situation.

As in Phnom Penh, a sidewalk code needs to be established so that all new construction and reconstruction conforms to a standard which can be universally applied later. Cambostan

IN BAD TASTE

Pope Admits Catholic Church Is Now Like Something Out Of A Marquis de Sade Novel

Pope Francis has admitted that there have been "grave errors" in the administration of affairs within the Catholic church down the years, and that, at times, things have resembled erotic scenarios and events such as the public might have read about in a Marquis de Sade novel.

For example, 'Justine'.

Or in 'Venus In Furs' by Leopold von Sacher-Masoch.

Or 'Delta In Venus' by Anaïs Nin

You get the idea.

"Indeed," said the Pope, "we might also add to that list of filth, the Solomon Northup novel, 'Twelve Years A Slave', when discussing how the church has treated its nuns."

His pathetic papalness spoke of the obscene acts of degradation visited upon members of its ranks down the centuries, cloistered away from the eyes of a hungry public who would have loved the opportunity to have joined in.

He winked, and said:

"We're working on it."

Liam Neeson To Star In "Men In Black...Bastards..." Spin-Off

LIAM NEESON is back on familiar ground in the first trailer for "Men in Black...Bastards..." the upcoming film about a Tourettes-suffering Irish actor working in Hollywood but unable to pull off a convincing American accent while auditioning for a role in a movie about aliens.

Anyone who has seen a Men in Black movie knows the drill by now: black suits, shades, cool weaponry, and some rather bad acting.

Chris Hemsworth and Tessa Thompson are taking on the central roles as the actors who are cast as suit-wearing alien protectors, who have to deal with Neeson's poor acting and horrific affliction.

But it's Neeson who is the big draw.

Much of the action appears to take place during rehearsals; where Neeson's co-star's struggle with not only his Tourettes-fuelled outbursts, but also his insistence that his character (who is from Texas) speaks with a West Belfast accent.

Theresa May to retreat to burrow to slough off winter skin

With snowdrops appearing on the ground and a pleasant warmth in the air, it can only mean that Spring has arrived and the time has come for Theresa May to retreat to her burrow and slough off her winter skin.

The Prime Minister develops a thicker, more resilient hide during November time to provide protection during the winter months. In summer, she will have a thinner, cooler, more translucent skin.

"We expect the PM to return to her burrow following parliamentary business on Friday," confirmed a number 10 spokesperson.

"The sloughing process will take about a day, and then there will be a day to develop her summer skin.

"We expect her back to work as normal on Monday."

Although her family burrow is in the village of Sonning near Maidenhead, she uses a specially constructed burrow in the grounds of Downing Street for personal biological renewal during times of national crisis.

"The Prime Minister is a peculiar creature," confirmed biologist Simon Williams.

"We don't know exactly how or when it would have developed the process of sloughing off skin for summer, we just know that, whatever creature Theresa May is, at some point during its evolution, it took a different path to that of humans and became more adaptable."

The Number 10 burrow has been surprisingly well-used of late, with David Cameron using it to groom himself and his wife, and

Tony Blair using it to mate.

James Bond to face consequences of years of sleeping around in upcoming film 'ItchyCock'

The working title of the twenty-fifth film in the Bond franchise has been revealed, and it says a lot about the titular character's ongoing sex life.

'ItchyCock' will be released next year, and will be the last film to feature Daniel Craig as the famous spy and lothario.

Senior producer Cubby Williams told reporters, "Yes, we are a bit disappointed that the title of Bond 25 has been leaked, but it shouldn't really be much of a surprise to anyone."

"The famously condom-free James Bond has been having unprotected intercourse with multiple women all over the world for decades now, so it is no wonder that venereal disease was going to strike him down at some point."

He continued, "The film will contain all the action and suspense sequences of the other movies, interspersed with James popping along to see his GP to pick up some steroid cream for his pus-riddled groin area."

Bond fan Christopher James

responded, "Well it is a bit of an unusual title, but it's a lot better than Quantum of Solace."

"I've still no clue what that even means."

The 10 Commandments As Rewritten by ISIS.

What might be surprising to many, is that the Muslim religion actually considers the Bible to be a Holy book and a source of prophecy. However, the more extreme elements of Mohammedanism have rewritten certain famous aspects of the Old Testament to better reflect their version of Islam. For instance, take a look at how they commandeered the 10 Commandments-

The Ten Commandment as originally written in the Bible:

I am the Lord thy god.



- 1.- Ye shall have no other gods before me.
- 2.- Ye shall have no other graven images or likenesses.
- 3.- Ye shall not take the Lord's name in vain.
- 4.- Remember the Sabbath Day.
- 5.- Honor thy father and thy mother.
- 6.-Thou shalt not kill.
- 7.- Thou shalt not commit adultery.
- 8.- Thou shalt not steal.
- 9.- Thou shalt not bear false witness (lie).
10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbors belongings.

The Ten Commandments as re-written by ISIS:
We are the Lords over you whether you like it or not.

- 1.- No other gods- we will slay them and you.
- 2.- No graven images or likenesses- we need to loot these to sell to collectors.
- 3- Do not take the Lord's name in vain, or ours for that matter. Unless you like having your tongue cut out, of course.
- 4.-Remember the Sabbath day- We won't be working that day but you have to since you are now our slaves.
- 5.- Honor thy father and thy mother- even if we did execute them.
- 6.- Thou shalt not kill us. But we can kill whoever we damn well please because we are holy men.
- 7.- You cannot commit adultery, but we will rape your sister in the name of Allah.
- 8.- Thou shalt not steal, but we need to finance our terrorism so for us it is OK.
- 9.-Thou shalt not bear false witness (lie), but the only lie we do is believing we are doing the will of God.
- 10.- Thou shalt not covet whatever you want but it is OK for us to steal because we are the chosen Ones and all else are infidels, even the Muslims who fight against us. Therefore it is OK for us to take anything we want.

“Don't you f*cking dare” Hillary Clinton told

Hillary Clinton has been told not to announce a new Presidential run in 2020 by absolutely everybody.

Following the announcement that Bernie Sanders is going to have another stab at the Presidency, several prominent Democrats immediately knocked on Hillary's door to scream “NO” into her face.

“NO”, confirmed prominent Democrat, Chuck Williams.

“She's very good, very capable, very qualified, but just no. She lost to DONALD TRUMP, for God's sake. Anybody else with a modicum more likability would have won that election easily. But no, the ship has sailed. Write another book, if you like. That's fine, but enough of the President stuff. Stop it. Don't go near that podium in your garden.”

A spokesperson for the Clintons said, “Hillary is obviously disappointed to have been tied to a chair with a sock stuffed in her mouth to prevent her from announcing her candidacy.

“Bill pretended to be just as upset, but was in the car and off to shag someone else's wife within about ten minutes. But that's just lovable old Bill.”

Black And White Minstrel Show To Make Comeback!

The Black and White Minstrel Show, the popular 'blackface' song and dance extravaganza broadcast on BBC television for 20 years, is to astound viewers once more, by making a comeback to the small screen this spring.



The show, which was axed in 1978 due to changing attitudes to racial stereotyping, initially continued to tour at theatres until 1989, but, since then, all memories of it had been buried at the bottom of a mineshaft in a place far blacker than anything make-up artists could muster for the male performers.

Now, however, with the pendulum of public opinion having swung back towards toleration of 'all kinds of thinking', the broadcaster has decided to 'dust-off' its archive film, and to give re-runs to the shows that had audiences chuckling aplenty in the 50s, 60s, and 70s.

A new series is also in production.

Lenny Henry, the Black Country comedian who got his 'big break' into showbusiness by appearing in the show in 1975, now regrets having done so. It didn't do his bank balance any harm, though.

The white person's guide to pretending you're a victim of racism

ARE you a right-wing bellend who thinks racism against white people is a genuine problem? Here's how to enjoy a pleasing sense of victimhood.

Claim your culture is under threat

Vehemently claim 'your culture' is under threat, then when pressed for examples only manage to come up with random things

like cricket, tea and the royal family that are about as threatened as Tyson Fury in a fight with Jacob Rees-Mogg.

Use an incredibly strange definition of racism

Basically: 'people disagreeing with you', even though you constantly spout bonkers patriotic nonsense any sane person would balk at, especially when you seem to think it's still 1941.

On a practical level, what you call 'racism' is usually someone arguing with you on the internet. This is good, because real racism like job discrimination and people shouting abuse would take all the fun out of being a victim.

Don't forget Brexit

Criticising Brexit is racial prejudice against white Britons because they all support it, except they don't, and the EU hates Britain, except that's clearly bollocks. Apart from those minor points the

logic is fine.

Feel aggrieved by extremely hypothetical situations

For example, convince yourself you could never be a BBC news-reader because you're not an ethnic minority. Ignore the fact that you're in no way qualified, have never shown any interest in a career in journalism and think the BBC should be blown up anyway.

Make up your own reality

Is the roughly 82% 'white British' population of Britain likely to die out? Yes. Are the 'thought police' likely to boot in your door at 3am? Yes. With a bit of imagination you can enjoy being the victim of racism every day!

THE PUB PAGE

Before I begin, I want to thank the Evil Publisher for once again kindly granted me a short extension – but he must have been concerned about losing his title as he expressly noted the forthcoming torture and worse if I did not produce an article today.

One more note – I have lived here a long time and seen quite a bit – but I think the dumb ass foreigner award now goes to the turdhead backpackers I saw longboarding in the middle of the night against traffic on 51 St. despite repeatedly falling off the board into oncoming cars and motos. I found myself feeling sorry for the poor Khmers who might have their bike wrecked or get injured trying not to Darwin these rejects from the special bus. Lesson – don't hit the pubs hard unless you are a seasoned investigative journalist or at least start with some active braincells – and if you are this kind of stupid, perhaps you should reconsider leaving your house, let alone exporting your idiocy to other countries. BTW I checked – they were not filming a new episode of Jackass

I actually made it to Bassac Lane – but to be honest, I did not do the pub crawl I have been contemplating – I went for a meal as I heard I could get some Eastern European comfort food at a place called Jungle Cat – food was great, but they made the Pub Page because the booze was pretty good too. The shots were USD 2-2.5, beers were \$1 for a draft and \$1.25 for a can. The highlight for me was the moonshine (which I can't pronounce in Ukrainian, but that is what it says on the English menu). It is \$1.5 a shot straight or with

one of horseradish, honey or herbs – tasted like Vodka to me and I liked it. They also sell it by the liter.

GSM update: more bars along 51 St. – and I finally dropped by J Spot – across the street from GSM between Howie's and Heart. Nice little place – has a pool table and most of the seating is outside so you can watch the circus of the damned that is GSM. J Spot is open from 3 pm to 3 am with a \$.75 a draft happy hour special that goes from opening until 10 pm - ignore the menu that says happy hour does not start until 6 pm. Cambodia, Angkor and Beer Lao bottles are USD 2, Cambodia, Angkor and Anchor cans are \$1 and Heineken cans are \$1.5. Spirits are \$2-3 and cocktails are \$3-4. Overall, another good alternative in the GSM area and frequently busy at night so they are doing something right.

Walking around over the last month or so, I have noticed that the king of 172 St. seems to be Big Easy. It is often busy by mid aft and is usually busy until the wee hours. Nice airy place with a range of seating options I have been enjoying sitting al fresco. Stellas are USD 3 and Strongbows are \$2.5 or 3 for \$6. They have a split happy hour from 5-8 p.m., draft beers are .75 and jugs are \$2.5 with house spirits and wine at \$1.5. From 8-10 p.m., cocktails are two for one. Normally, drafts are \$1 a glass, \$3.5 a jug and \$12 a tower (with some kind of odd free clothing). Local bottles are \$1.5 and imports are \$2.75-3.5. House whiskey is \$1.5 a glass or \$4 a bucket and other house spirits are

\$2 a glass and \$6 a bucket; the good stuff is \$3 a glass. Based on my limited experience there, it seems like most of the customers (or at least the loudest) are just passing through, but if you are in the area, it is a good spot for some reasonably priced lubrication.

Of course, I dropped by Sharkys a few times, not a lot to report but they did move one of the pool tables to the front. Not sure I am a fan but in exchange they added a spin wheel for anyone who spends

at least USD 10 on a round to get a chance for a free drink. I was actually really impressed that they posted the Joker rules on their website – saves me from having to try to remember what each card wins. I don't think I mentioned their Monday night blues last time – special drink is USD 2.5 for a Jim Bean and Coke.

Quick hostess round up - 69 Bar on 136 St. has been a bit mixed in terms of customers when I drop by lately – volume remains too loud regardless of the number of customers – staff is usually friendly – and the larger tables in the back are a nice option compared to many hostess bars – I am told the crowd picks up after I leave (no real surprise there I guess).

Honey Pot on 130 St. – still one of my favourites on this stretch of road, good friendly service, music usually good (often a more eclectic mix than most of the bars). They seemed really happy to have Carlsberg draft on tap for USD 1.75 – funny I would never think that customers come running into hostess bars for 7000 KHR glasses of beer – but what do I know.

Also dropped by Sensations on 130

St. for the first time in a while – really glad I did as they had some kind of qipao themed night – I thought they were trying to be geishas at first but was quickly corrected. Music was good. I sometimes forget about the pool table in the back – a lot more room to play than many of the bars. Daily specials: Sunday – free draft with a lady drink; Saturday – USD 1 for tequila; Friday – USD 2 for Cambodia bottles; Thursday – USD 2.75 for Craft beers; Wednesday – USD 1 off each whiskey shot; and Monday – buy 2 get 1 for free on beers, spirits and wine. I forgot to ask but I guess Tuesday is not very special here

Wandered into a newly named Avi bar across from Sensations as well – small fairly dark space – but felt open regardless. Staff was friendly. Angkor draft was USD 1.5 a glass or 7 a jug; Cambodia, Anchor and Angkor cans are \$2 and Klang cans are \$1.5 Most of their bottle beers are \$4. Most spirits are \$3 with a few ranging up from there – it is a mixer plus bar unfortunately. They have Parkers whiskey shots at \$3.5 buy 2 get 1 free every night and on Mondays any whiskey shot is buy 2, get one free.

Hit Mao's on Sisowath a few times for the first time in way too long. I really like this place, but I just don't seem to make it upstairs as much as I should. Still the best whiskey selection that I know of in PP. A great range of tastes and prices. A number are only available by the bottle which makes it a bit difficult for me since I don't drop by enough, but I am sure some of you more hardcore imbibers can make it work.



The CAMBODIA DREARY

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This is a work of fiction and satire any semblance to persons living or dead is purely coincidental



Tent ban not yet enforced but some green traffic lights led to a wedding party crasher. Details are sketchy but the driver is not believed to be a drunk chinaman!

No Park- ing on pavement

BY SAL UT
THE CAMBODIA DREARY

In another drive to free up Phnom Penh's streets, the municipality has issued an order to remove any cars parked on the pavement along Norodom Blvd.

This will then spread towards the riverfront. Motorbikes will also be removed. Local wags wonder where they have an impound lot large enough.

It seems the authorities have thought as far ahead as their own noses (as usual).

Where will everyone in that area park their vehicles?

Roads are already packed with vehicles and some civil unrest could be possible as the dweebs in uniform en-

Illegal drugs rock!

BY CHOY MAI
THE CAMBODIA DREARY

In a very high profile raid, cops knocked on the Rock Nightclubs door and arrested over three hundred people. Over fifty kilos of

drugs were found and one firearm.

The club apparently belongs to to Oknha Kith Thieng, brother of tycoon Kith Meng of the Royal Group.

Over two hundred people were released a day later with fifty four being detained.

The Rock has a long history of drugs and shootings. Unfortunately a fire the other year didn't burn the place to the ground.

No word on any important suspects being held but local rumours abound.

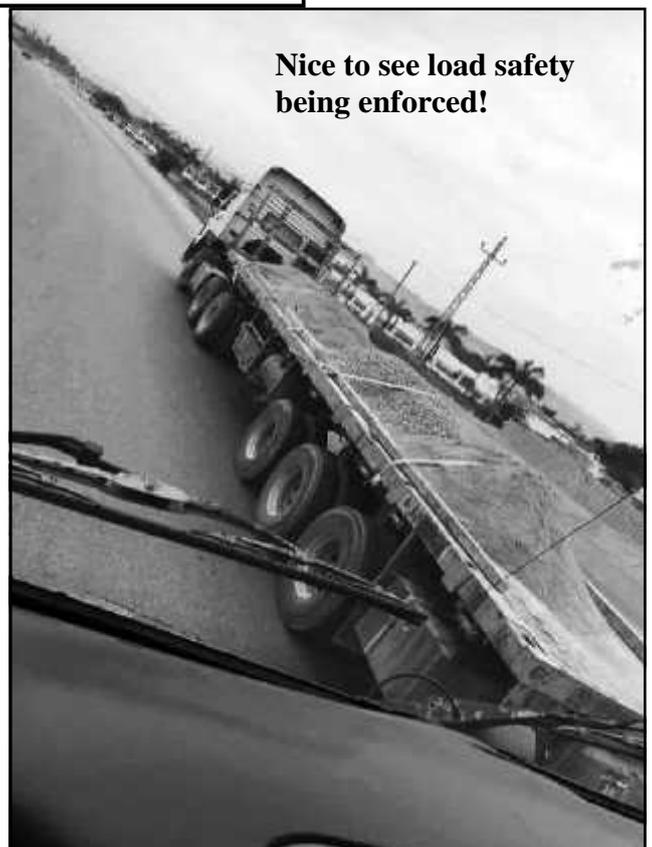
One has a large amount being ex-

changed so the backdoor exit could be used.

Another has it a certain drug boss or group didn't pay their monthly tea money so the raid was arranged as a lesson. The truth is probably weirder than those two theories.

Judging by the amount of drugs seized and the appearance of several twenty five litre containers in the photos. This was a well organized operation.

People always walk into a KTV with 25litre containers but the managers didn't



**Nice to see load safety
being enforced!**

About Cambodia

Report: Phnom Penh to grind to a halt for ten days due to Khmer New Year"

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When reading this Khmers will be dressed for deep winter

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Irish loony arrested for smashing up his own guesthouse.

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Work permit fees skyrocket as the service goes to private sector

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FAUX NEWS

Climbing Equipment Shops Now Opening On Mexican Border

Several shops selling climbing equipment have opened in close proximity to the US/Mexico border.

The shops are small units, but are well-stocked with a variety of professional climbing attire and tools. Amongst other items, the outlets offer specialist ropes, grappling hooks, climbing clips, lightweight harnesses, padded waist belts, leg loops, helmets, shoes, and gloves. Camping equipment, such as tents, pegs, waterproof sheeting and gas stoves are also available.

Some shops are also selling sturdy extendable ladders. One shop even has a portable trampoline for hire.

Other dealers in the region are offering digging equipment for sale, such as shovels and spades.

A report from the El Paso area claims that a giant catapult has been sited 50 meters from the border on the Mexico side, but this is, as yet, unconfirmed.

Jussie Smollett No Longer A Newsworthy Item

Jussie Smollett, who was once a high-salary earner whilst acting in TV show 'Empire' before his career took a nosedive due to his color-blindness, is no longer a newsworthy item, and will be dropped from public perception forthwith.

Smollett was involved in a hoax hate crime incident recently, but, his having been exposed, that's all over now, and the African-American and his reputation have been dispatched on a one-way trip to Oblivion.

The news that Smollett has become inconsequential and obscure

reached us earlier this evening, and a perfectly good made-up tale involving Smollett and the Ku Klux Klan had to be scrapped, due to a distinct lack of public interest.

Mr. Smollett is now as much in the minds of average Americans

as is the late murdered Saudi Arabian dissident journalist, Jamal Khashoggi, or, indeed, former 'Hawaii- Five-O' police chief, Detective Steve McGarrett, played by Jack Lord. Or, indeed, Chemical Ali. It's that bad.

The only interesting fact not yet reported about Jussie Smollett is that the letters of his name can be rearranged anagrammatically into Mollest Justise.

So much for trying to create a bit of publicity for yourself.

Don't Worry About Missing Sex Files, Pope Is Told, Bob Mueller Has A Copy

Rome, Italy - (Reuters): "Phew, Your Eminence," the Pontifical Attorney for the Holy Spanish Inquisition said today as a Vatican conference on sex abuse 'laughed itself silly' on hearing the Pope's predecessors had systematically destroyed abuse archives

featuring two thousand years of pervy stuff.

All in the name of the Holy Mutha Church.

Held in the Vatican's iconic Hellfire Temple Mausoleum, the week-long seminar examined how millions of catlick predators had been unleashed on the world in a deal brokered by the Illuminati following the 1952 death of Hitler's Pope.

"Documents examined by our own Orifice for the Verification of Online Miracles confirm the dastardly calumny," the Spoof's Special ProNuncio commented about the cover-up.

STANLEY TRUBBINE
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No one ever expected there could be so much crap.

Vice-President Mike Pence's Office Denies He is Comic's Missing Ventriloquist's Dummy

A former convict just returning to society and ready to resume his regular job as a ventriloquist, made an astonishing discovery. It seems the special ventriloquist dummy he had was stolen from his storage locker!

Imagine his surprise when, catching up on current events, he spots his missing dummy standing right behind the president of the United States during the State of the Union address!

The convict who spotted his dummy, who so far wishes to remain anonymous, has filed a restraining order against President Trump and his administration from further using his dummy until said time that he can retrieve it.

No-deal Brexit will mean only three flavours of crisps

A NO-DEAL Brexit will mean that Britain's only crisp flavours will be ready salted, salt 'n' vinegar and cheese 'n' onion, manufacturers have confirmed.

From March 29th, unless an agreement is passed by parliament,

fundamentally un-British crisp flavours like maple bacon, barbecue and jerk chicken will leave supermarket shelves permanently.



Brexit secretary Stephen Barclay said: “And good bloody riddance.

“We’re not against progress – plans are in place to introduce beef crisps within two years and prawn cocktail by 2025 – but there’s too much of this European filth clogging our newsagents.

“You know what I saw the other day? ‘Chilli’ crisps. Chilli. How can they be real? No wonder people are saying bad things about Churchill.

“And let me add that the salt ‘n’ vinegar crisps will once again be in a blue packet, and cheese ‘n’ onion restored to their rightful green. God save the Queen. As you were.”

Following the announcement Theresa May denied that Britain will be reduced to just vanilla, chocolate and strawberry ice-cream after a no-deal Brexit, because there will also be Neapolitan.

Tories regret joining party full of horrible bastards

THE bitter infighting over Europe has led Conservatives to question whether it was a good idea to join a party known for being horrible to people.

After decades of animosity, some have realised there is a downside to being in a party full of arrogant bastards who enjoy seeing others suffer.

Tory member Julian Cook said: “The last thing I expected was for Tories to be nasty to me because I’m not in one of our approved hate groups like ‘hopeless dole twat’ or ‘up-themselves doctor’.

“Unfortunately we’re split into Tories who hate foreigners and Tories who hate foreigners but realise we’ll lose our jobs if we totally screw the economy.

“Sometimes I think I should have joined the Labour party. When they fall out they just do this passive-aggressive thing where they make each other attend really boring committee meetings.”

Tory MP Donna Sheridan said: “Personal abuse is never acceptable unless it’s calling Corbyn a ‘stinky old tramp man’ or something clever and hilarious like that.

“Sometimes it’s hard to believe we’re the same party that produced lovely, warm people like Margaret Thatcher, Enoch Powell and all the ones who wanted to hang Nelson Mandela.”

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

BORIS Johnson’s incessant flow of bullshit is perfect for Brexit negotiations, it has been claimed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TECHNOLOGY PAGE

Four ways Samsung's Galaxy S10e blows away the iPhone XR (and four ways it doesn't)

Samsung's new low-cost phone is aimed at the XR, but how does it measure up?

Apple might be struggling to sell the iPhone XR, but that's not stopping Samsung from using a similar strategy with the launch of the new Galaxy S10 line. Alongside the usual regular and plus models, Samsung has also released the S10e, which takes—nay rips out—a page from Apple's playbook.

As with everything Apple and Samsung, the two phones are not created equal. They may both have the same \$750 price tag and premium sensibilities, but the S10e plays by a different set of rules, for better and worse.

4 ways the Galaxy S10e beats the iPhone XR

The S10e has an OLED screen

The biggest difference between the iPhone XR and XS is obviously the display. Where the XS has a brilliant HDR OLED display, the XR has a 179x828 LCD screen with a just-enough-to-be-Retina 326 ppi. The S10e, on the other hand, doesn't skimp nearly as much on the display. Like the S10, it also has an OLED display, though with fewer pixels: it's only full HD (1080) versus quad HD (1440) on the S10 and S10+. But it's still a whole lot better than the XR's, liquid retina and all.

The Samsung Galaxy S10e has a dual camera while the XR only has one.

Aside from the screen, Apple also downgraded the camera on the XR, opting for a single 12 megapixel wide-angle lens rather than the dual 12 megapixel wide-angle and telephoto array on the XS. Samsung, too, has put a lesser-quality camera in the S10e, but that's only because its larger phones have three cameras. The S10e pair a 16 megapixel ultrawide lens with a 12 megapixel wide-angle lens for true portraits, along with 4K selfies, super steady video, and super slo-mo.

You can use the S10e to charge another phone

One of the S10's premier features is called Wireless PowerShare, which lets you charge another phone using the back of the S10 as a

wireless charging pad. The XR has wireless charging too so it can borrow some juice from the S10e—but it can't return the favor.



You can turn your Galaxy S10e into a wireless charger with a tap.

The S10e's base configuration has twice as much storage

Apple thankfully stopped forcing us to make do with 16GB of space years ago, and the entry-level XR has a respectable 64GB of storage, with an extra \$50 getting you all the way up to 128GB of storage. Samsung offers 128GB in the cheapest S10e configuration, along with a slot for an SD card.

4 ways the the iPhone XR beats the Galaxy S10e

The S10e has a weird fingerprint sensor and no Face ID clone

The S10 and S10+ have a next-generation ultrasonic fingerprint sensor that uses sound to read the ridge patterns, but you won't find it on the S10e. Instead, Samsung's newest phone has a fingerprint sensor built into the side power button, a dubious innovation we thought was long gone. And none of Samsung's phones have a way to emulate Face ID,

which is built into the XR's notch.

The iPhone XR's notch is better than a hole in the screen.

The S10e has thicker bezels and a hole in the screen

The iPhone XR picked up a lot of criticism for its bezels, which are mere millimeters thicker than the iPhone XS and symmetrical all around, but the Galaxy S10e has thick side bezels and a giant forehead and chin, not to mention a giant hole in the screen for the camera. What was that Samsung fans were saying about the notch?

The value is greater with the iPhone XR

The S10e may be just a buck more expensive than the iPhone XR, but Apple and Samsung have different definitions of value. For example, the 6.4-inch S10+ with 128GB of storage starts costs a thousand bucks, \$100 less than the 6.5-inch XS Max with half the storage. Put it another way: The cheapest S10e actually costs \$30 more than the



cheapest S9 did when it launched. Granted, you get a dual camera here and twice as much storage, but customers might not notice all that. With the iPhone XR, Apple is offering a real savings over the XS, but



with the S10e, it's not so clear.

The Galaxy S10e isn't such a great value compared to the S10.

The S10e's battery life probably won't be great

The iPhone XR's best feature is its battery life, which can easily power through a day of streaming and surfing despite its relatively small 2,942 mAh battery. The S10e has a larger battery than the XR—3,100 mAh—but based on past Galaxy performance, that might not get you through a full day of heavy use. With the XR, Apple sacrificed screen quality for better battery life on the XR, but that might not be the case with the S10e.

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

Bits from the Beach

Well it appears this has been one of the most boring (or normal) periods down by the coast for quite a while. Not a lot has happened, especially in the Barang circles, the craziness of Wet season madness has disappeared. It is so quiet that it appears that one news source is repeating last year's story of the bull attack on Kho Rong as if it is current news.

In good old Kamot, there has not been too much happening. Sure you have the usual events of drunken Barangs crashing motos and hurting themselves (thankfully not too badly). Hopefully they are crashing the right moto as there seems to be a never ending stream of posts on facebook asking for people to return the correct moto (or the realisation that it has been stolen). Speaking of stolen there has been several reported incidents of bag snatching, especially from Western females, with the roundabouts being a prime location. If you think this is bad, get prepared for the period starting from late March in the lead up to Khmer New Year, which is known as robbery week but now starts a few weeks earlier.

In bar news, the former Walkabout Bar has been reopened as the Raging Bull Sports Bar, by a group from Sihanoukville including John from the Aqua. Daryl the manager has put up an impressive array of sports memorabilia including Ali – Frazer boxing gloves, a signed Pele Brazilian football jersey and quite a bit more. Raging Bull is air-conditioned and will be non-smoking inside. Friday night is killer pool night which is run and hosted by the very Gary Bellam, formerly the owner of the Shipwreck Bar in the now gone Golden Lions Plaza in Sihanoukville.

The poker game that was located downstairs at the Durian Sports Bar has moved upstairs at Raging Bull with a group of new owners of the game. Meanwhile the smaller stakes poker game that was located at the River lodge has wound up and the Durian Sports bar is urgently for sale.

Marco Polo restaurant in Sihanoukville town has closed down, the latest victim of Chinese development. They will soon be

followed by the closure of the first and foremost Dive operation in Cambodia, Scuba Nation, who, whilst not being bought out by the Chinese, have decided to close their dive business due to the rapid changes in town. The equipment servicing business will still be continuing.

In nautical related news, the poor health of Ronny from Sail Cambodia has made the news, with a Khmer Okna friend of his garnering publicity for helping Ronny out with some much needed medical treatment, it appears that the poor chap may have had a stroke and of course lacks medical insurance. This is a similar situation for one young hostel owner from Otres who is currently in a coma in hospital after a nasty bike accident with family and friends trying to raise funds through Go Fund Me, which seems to be the backstop for Millennials who cannot be bothered to get medical or travel insurance. Saving yourself a little bit costs your family and friends a lot later it seems.

The new overlords in Westport (Chinese name for Sihanoukville) continue to provide media fodder. Unfortunately it is pretty much the same, with fights and poor driving and hit and run accidents. Just beware of some of these people as the police are finding more and more are carrying illegal guns. Westport is developing into the 21st century Sino version of the old Wild West. Police recently carried out well publicised raids of Chinese Brothels, located in the new red light areas around the Missing Monkey, which somehow manages to survive.

On the infrastructure side, the creeks and small rivers continue to be filled with mountains of plastic and foam rubbish, which constantly needs to be dredged out by excavators. It appears that the new Sino overlords have even less regard for the environment than the locals, which is really saying something. In this regard the islands are sounding like they are becoming more and more like Westport every day. There is much concern that the new and first Casino to open on the islands, on Kho Rong-Sanleom, is spewing raw sewage into the bay. Whilst this concern is admirable we note that most of the other accommodations on the islands, including the much vaunted Eco accommodation, pretty much continue to do the same.

On the sewerage side of things the (in) Competent Authorities have announced that the hastily ordered and constructed new sewerage works are nearing completion and there will be several treatment facilities. They say this will stop 100% of sewerage entering the sea in dry season and 80% in wet season. Here is a hint, separate your sewerage system from your stormwater system. We have hopes that this will work, but those hopes are not very high.

On a less shitty note we note that one of our favourite points of amusement, the affable Dave-Ex, now appears to be helping out working part time at the new Raging Bull Sports bar in Kampot, so drop in and meet the person behind the growing legend!

