

Around The Traps

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If you can't catch the "Andaman News" on Channel 11 in the morning they are now broadcasting it on Radio Thailand.

It's running at the same time as Channel 11 or Television of Thailand, Phuket, is broadcasting. The news is in English at 8.30-9.00 am every weekday on 96.75FM.

Another new weekly program "Along the Coast" at 8.00-8.30am, starting soon, will feature places to visit and products to try from around the Andaman coast region, so they're looking for recommendations from tourism operators, producers and viewers.

Talk about being busted by your own sub-conscious. When one such resident retired for the night, he slipped into a dream state where his fantasies could run wild. Halfway through the night, his good wife arose to answer the call of nature. When she returned he was obviously in that dream state, but unfortunately was also mouthing the experience. As she stood there she heard a little too clearly him say, still fast asleep mind you, "Ok I'll sleep with you, but don't tell my wife". When he awoke in the morning he couldn't understand why she was so mad at him. In fact he still hasn't figured it out, as she won't tell him. Dreaming, it seems here in Thailand is also considered as fact.

The local beer market has been blessed with a new entrant this past month - Tiger Beer. Thai Asia Pacific Brewery, the local maker and distributor of Heineken Beer has taken on the Singaporean drink to compete in between the premium and standard beer segments. The total beer market in Thailand is estimated to reach over 80 billion baht in sales, or 1,595 million litres in volume, this year. It is dominated by four brands, Chang made by Beer Thai, Leo and Singha from Boon Rawd Brewery, and Heineken.

At ten baht cheaper per bottle in the bars and around 25 baht per bottle in the shops, Tiger is

eating into Heineken's own market more than anything else.

Soon another beer is due to enter the fray, San Miguel from the Philippines, but brewed in Thailand, so it will be interesting to see what happens when that one starts.



Having said that, if you want to admit you are an alcoholic, the Patong Hospital has meetings for AA every evening except Thursday at 7 pm (Friday 8 pm). The meeting are in English. Mission Hospital in Phuket City holds meetings Wednesday and Sunday evenings at 7 pm and Phuket International Hospital on Friday at 7 pm. You can call 01 895 4763 if you want more details.

There's a story about the military pilot calling for a priority landing because his single-engine jet fighter was running "a bit peaked." Air Traffic Control told the fighter jock that he was number two, behind a B-52 that had one engine shut down. "Ah," the fighter pilot remarked, "The dreaded seven-engine approach." (FYI-B-52 has eight engines)

Top: Friends turned out for Darren of Heroes farewell this month. He said he will back in the UK for at least six months before returning to our shores again.

Above: Still art at the Black Rose MC anniversary bash.

Below: The band situated at the entrance of Soi Easy silenced the front bars for most of the night with some long sought after live music.



Motorcycle Helmets



Wearing a helmet when riding a motorbike is required by law in Thailand. As is an International license for the class of vehicle you are driving. If you are renting a motorbike and plan to carry a pillion passenger make sure you get two helmets. It is also a requirement to have the headlight on while riding.