

Around The Traps

By TT Hun

Phuket on the way back? It would seem so if the recent show of visitors to this island is any indication. Phuket appears to be experiencing a close to normal low season at the moment and many businesses are saying that barring any major new catastrophe they should make it through.

Holiday packages out of Australia and New Zealand have helped put new faces on the streets with five and ten day deals at five star hotels being less than the cost of a flight only air ticket. Phuket International has recently reported a 15% rise in arrivals and this should continue. But the airport has been quietly voicing concern because they know of many airlines starting to put back on extra flights and after doing the math, realise that if they all eventuate, the airport won't have the staff to cope. What a dilemma to be in; too many people.

Trying it on... When a local expat decided to do a U-turn recently in the narrow streets of Patong, he realised it wasn't going to work. He found a vacant lot a little further up the road and decided to turn around there.

It all went swimmingly until an irate man started banging on the window of his 4-wheel drive. He opened the window to find out what the man was going on about and was told he had just run over his pet cat and was demanding compensation.

Now our driver didn't remember running over anything and decided to check it out. Sure enough there was a dead cat lying where he had just turned around. The only problem was its four legs were stiff as a board and all facing skywards. He got back in his car, ignoring the protestations of the scammer and drove off.

He said later that if he had indeed run over the animal, it certainly would not have any detectable paws and they certainly wouldn't

be above ground level.

Fish tank sagas... Sitting in a bar the other day and talking to a musician who swears this is true.

At practice recently everyone was getting into the whole jammin' aspect of what they were doing, when the son of one of them came into the studio with tears in his eyes. The father enquired what the tears were for and was told that their pet octopus had died. Strange thought dad, it had looked very healthy that morning.

On inspection of the tank in the adjoining



Montes is on the corner of Phisit Karani Rd and Hasip Pee Rd. Never heard of either of those? Phisit Karani is the extension of Sai Nam Yen and heads around to the temple on Phra Barami Rd. and Hasip Pee Rd. goes up to the Hilltop and Tavern on the Hill. Easy!

room our jammers noticed a fish tank full of ink, but no octopus.

The only thing they could deduce from this was the vibrations of the music hit a wrong note with the occy's physiology and caused it to explode. Many people are now avoiding seafood before they go and see the band play.

A sign of the times perhaps? Seen scouring through the rubbish bin opposite another bar, two bar girls looked like they were feeling the pinch in the local economy.

As mentioned above, tourist numbers are right down and the ones that are here tend to know their way around. They look for a good night out, not a night where all they are there for is to build another house in Nakorn Bloody Nowhere.

The girls were starting to look a little sheepish as they noticed many eyes starting

to turn their way. After a minute or so the prize was in hand and they held it skyward for all to see. They hadn't been rummaging through the bin for a bit of sustenance, but to retrieve two music CDs that had been erroneously discarded by someone else.

The 2 Black Sheep Restaurant and Ba-a has now changed hands and new owner, Scott is confident that with a little bit of tweaking the place will be as successful as when being run by Bill and Oh. Scott tells us he has been involved in pubs for a long time so at least he is familiar with the mechanics of being a barkeep.

Soi Gonzo off Bangla Road is undergoing some changes also. The aptly named Hangover Bar (left hand side behind U2 Annex bar) has closed its doors (if they had any) and will become part of the Aussie Bar expansion. Aussie Bar will be taking over the U2 Annex bar as well and has plans that will make the place the largest on the Bangla strip, outside of the

Rio/Rock Hard combo at the other end of the road. Renovations have already started and they will be completed well before the high season.

We look forward to the extra room. Trying to watch some recent international sporting events proved to be nigh on impossible because you just couldn't get in the doors for the crowd. Not bad for low season.

Another bar in Soi Gonzo to change owners is the New World (second on the right). Former partners in the Aussie Bar, Brendan and Paul have taken over the bar and renovated it and have plans to change the name to the Stock Market (very apt we thought), so if the sign is not up by the time you read this, look for the New World.

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