

Never make a bet with a pretty girl over ANYTHING

Back when I was in my early twenties, a few friends and I were contemplating where we would be and what we would be doing when the millenium came around in the year 2000. We would be 45-years-old and well on our way to doing whatever was going to sustain us for the rest of our lives. The best we could come up with was a career, wife, 2-4 kids and a mortgage. Sod that!, I thought, that didn't sound too exciting. Well, the millenium came and went, along with wife number 2, the mortgage and whatever else wasn't nailed down. It was all a little different from what was expected.

But one thing I never expected to do was to end up in a club one night recently talking to a pretty young thing who managed to steer the conversation around to bungy jumping. Not only that, she was also putting the pressure on to do one, the very next day... and if I didn't it was going to cost 1000 baht. I turned it back on her and said if she also didn't jump, it was going to cost her the same. She agreed and we were due to meet at the World Bungy in Patong at 5pm the next evening.

Now having a day to think about doing a

bungy jump is not a good thing. A lot goes through the mind when

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t h e j u m p

the next afternoon to find the lass had already fled the scene.

I had won. Not so quick, a call was made and there she was ready to go. It then dawned on me that she was a good friend of the jumpmaster, it was all starting to fall

into place.

My legs were strapped up and Doy explained the finer points as we slowly ascended the 60 metres to the top of the crane. This is like jumping off an 18 story building, but I could see my house from up there. All of a sudden there was no higher to go and this was crunch time. Doy urged me to hop a bit closer to the exit and I suggested that the middle of the cage was just as good a

place to start.

They suggest you don't look down, but there is not a lot else you can do, after all that where you are going to be heading any second now.

Apparently about 10 percent of jumpers stop about here and just can't make their bodies take that leap of faith.

As I thought about doing the same I heard the hurry up call of 1, 2, 3, BUNGY... Wait a minute laddie, I just got here, don't be impatient. But it was now or never so over I went. What a rush, but remarkably smooth considering you are bouncing up and down for awhile. There is no jerk or cracked backbones but I did start taking an interest in my shins that were letting me know there was no blood left in my feet anymore.

The look on the girls face when I arrived back on the ground indicated that despite her friendship with the jumpmaster, she hadn't done one of these jumps herself. She handled it brilliantly and spent less time mucking around than I did.

It was a silly bet to make in the first place but one I'm glad I made because it was a lot more fun than a wife and a mortgage.

Events & Holidays

MAY 5th - Coronation Day
Commemorates the ascension to the throne of HM King Bhumipol Adulyadej on May 5th, 1950.

MAY 11th - Royal Ploughing Ceremony Day
This marks the beginning of the rice planting season.

MAY 12th - Visakha Bucha
Commemorates the birth, enlightenment and death of the lord Buddha.

JUNE 9th - World Football Cup 2006
Kicks off with the first game being between Germany and Costa Rica (Group A) at 11pm.

JULY 9th - World Football Cup 2006
Final with kickoff at 1am July 10th.

JULY 10th - Asarnha Bucha
Marks the anniversary of the Lord Buddha giving his first sermon more than 2,500 years ago.

