AWOL

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What's happening, and might be happening, in Hua Hin and elsewhere

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3 October 08

FREE

TRIPLE WHAMMY!

Town's tourist trade troubled by prospects for crucial high season

HUA HIN, THAILAND:-

Three devastating events are threatening the futures of thousands of businesses across Thailand that rely on tourism, with Hua Hin traders fearing the worst. Hotels, guesthouses, bars, restaurants, tailors, spas and massage shops are amongst those that could go under, as the coming high season looks likely to be one of the worst in memory.

The three events that are fuelling these fears began with the political turmoil that has been enveloping Thailand ever since ex-Prime Minister Thaksin was ousted in a military coup in 2006, and this has been magnified this year with street demonstrations and the occupation of government property by the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD). Meanwhile the courts have forced the existing PM Mr Samak to step down over his continued paid appearance on a Thai cooking show, which broke the law concerning politicians having jobs outside of politics. The situation does not look likely to improve, as Mr Thaksin's brother in law, 61-year-old Somchai Wongsawat, has been elected to be the new Prime Minister, which is bound to annoy the PAD, a movement formed to put pressure on a government they claim is being operated from behind the scenes by Thaksin, and the appointment of Somchai makes it hard to argue with their contention.

Thaksin: Bad for tourism?

The second blow being dealt to the tourist industry has been the rise in oil prices, which has had two effects that particularly harm tourism; firstly, air fares have risen dramatically in the last few months, and secondly, amongst general price rises, food and drink have gone up noticeably, forcing restaurants, bars and hotels to make the difficult choice between raising their prices or cutting their margins.

The final blow has been the global financial meltdown, sparked by the 'credit crunch', which began in the USA but spread quickly to Europe and the rest of the world. Banks have already gone under, with several others teetering on the precipice, and still more financial institutions being bailed out by their governments. In times like these most people tighten their belts and stay close to home, and expensive flights and holidays in Thailand or other exotic places are one of the first things to be jettisoned. In July, Prakit Chinamourphong, president of the Thai Hotels Association (THA), said the number of long-haul tourists, particularly from Europe, has declined by 10% since the start of the year as higher oil prices have increased travel costs by over 30% from last year. Another indication that the situation is bad (and possibly worse than the above indicates) is that the Thai tourist agency, TAT, has stopped monthly publication of the statistics of international arrivals, with the most recent data available from them being from December 2007. While it is understandable that TAT doesn't want to 'talk down' the market, it

Continued on page 2

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TRIPLE WHAMMY! *from page 1*

is plainly obvious that the numbers are down, just by observation and talking to businesses that rely on tourists. On September 12th and 14th TAT issued 'tourism updates' regarding the situation with the protests in Bangkok, and are rightly playing down how the protest is affecting tourists in the country; "All other areas in Bangkok remain unaffected by the rally. There has been no significant disruption to life and business in the capital beyond added traffic congestion in a few areas. The vast majority of the city, including all the major tourist spots (including The Grand Palace, Wat Pho, Wat Arun-Temple of Dawn, and Sanam Luang - The Royal Ground), shopping centres and riverside attractions, as well as all roads and public/private transport systems are functioning normally. Bangkok's city taxi and rail services are unaffected. All hotels and resorts in Bangkok and throughout Thailand are open for business as usual." TAT also clarifies the situation with transport to, and within the country, "Suvarnabhumi Airport (Bangkok's international airport) and all regional airports around Thailand are operating normally. Rail services in provincial areas of the north and northeastern regions are operating normally. Service has also resumed on most of the rail services to destinations in the south. (Call Centre: 1690). Major surface routes between Bangkok and other parts of Thailand are unaffected. Travel to key destinations around Thailand, such as Pattaya, Chiang Mai, Phuket, Northeastern Thailand (Isan) and other parts of the country remains unaffected."

Despite the statements from TAT, numbers are sure to be down for 2008, and to make matters worse, the UK and US tourists have seen their currencies drop dramatically against the Thai Baht, and people have been left scratching their heads as to how the Baht can be so strong amidst the political carnage. (Keep updated as to how your currency is doing against the Baht with our extensive weekly exchange rates guide on page 4 of every issue of AWOL.) For the business owners in Hua Hin and the rest of Thailand they just have to hope and pray that all of these factors ease in time for them to keep their heads above water; however it is an ill wind that blows nobody any good, and the tourists that do venture here will be able to enjoy beautiful, uncrowded beaches, international standard golf courses where you can just turn up and play and all the other things that normally bring so many people here, while the expats may even be able to park their cars in the centre of town again!

HUA CHA HASH PEDALERS

The Hua Cha Hash Pedalers are biking enthusiasts who get together monthly for a group bike ride in the Hua Hin or Cha Am areas. A pre-determined trail is mapped out for the bikers to follow until coming to the finish at a place for food and cold drinks. Everyone with a mountain bike and a desire to join the fun is invited.

For more info, call or e-mail Don at 058-088 7181, donaltetley@yahoo.com, or Chris at 087-170 0268, chrisnumber_1@yahoo.com

Also see www.huahin-hhh.com

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BRA RESEARCH MUST GO ON, VOWS SCIENTIST

■ THE RESEARCHER developing an intelligent bra says there is 'no way' it is finished and that he may have to carry on studying women's breasts for decades.

Dr Tom Logan, head of breasts at the Tits Institute, said reports his bra research was complete were 'irresponsible', and could stop women volunteering to help with his work.

He said: "I would love to say that my intelligent bra was now a reality, I really would, but I think I will probably end up working on this project for the rest of my life."

Dr Logan has devoted his life to developing a super-bra that will stop women's breasts bouncing around during exercise, but with very limited success so far.

Unlike rival researchers who use sophisticated laser measuring techniques to gauge levels of bounce Dr Logan personally observes his volunteers using his bras as they jog before him on a treadmill.

A prototype of the intelligent bra

He said: "I only got into this line of work by accident after my university rejected my initial proposal to look into intelligent panties. But it has proved hugely rewarding."

Most of the research takes place in Dr Logan's office, which is equipped with a treadmill, video camera, heavy curtains and tissues.

All joggers are asked to wear blindfolds to prevent anything they see interfering with the experiments, while Dr Logan always removes his trousers in case they affect the results.

He added: "People often ask me what possible scientific benefit can arise from spending hours in a darkened room watching a woman with large breasts jog on the spot on front of you in a not very supportive bra. Imagine if they had said that to Einstein? He would never have invented the atom bomb."

Asleep on the job

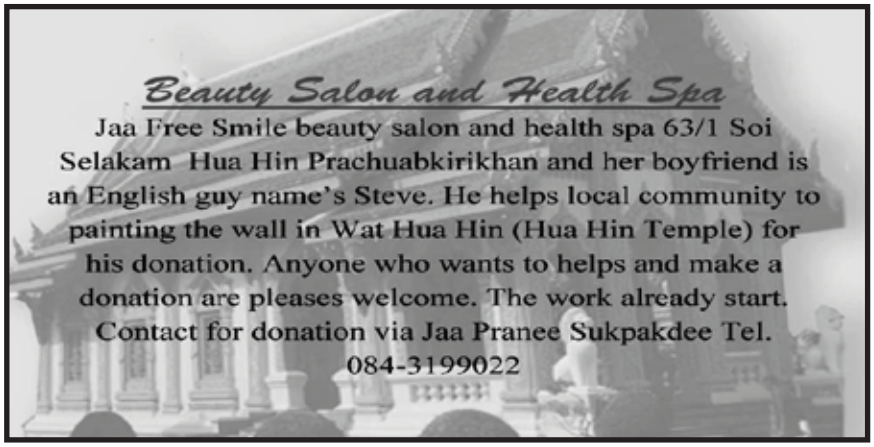
Bangkok - Thai police have arrested a hospital security guard who allegedly killed at least seven and seriously injured another 10 fellow-members of his profession for sleeping on the job, media reports said Sunday.

When Wittaya Jaikhan, 30, was arrested, it ended a five-month- long police manhunt for the serial killer of security guards in Bangkok and neighbouring provinces.

Wittaya, who confessed to the killing spree, attributed his rampage to professional outrage. 'I hate guards who fall asleep on the job and don't perform their duty,' he told Thai Rath, a mass circular.

But the murders were not entirely motivated by piqued professional pride. Wittaya, a security guard at Samitivej Sirnakarintara Hospital, also confessed to stealing his victims' 'money, chocolates and mobile phones,' after bashing them over the head for nodding off on the job.

'His actions were apparently aimed at robbery,' opined Taweesin Visanuyothin, a spokesman for the Department of Mental Health, ruling out an insanity plea for the obsessed serial killer.



Local Weather

Hua Hin weather forecast next 7 days

Day	Conditions	Temp °C Low	High
Sat	Mostly cloudy and very humid	24	33
Sun	Mostly cloudy and humid	25	33
Mon	Rather cloudy and humid	25	33
Tues	Humid with clouds and sun	25	33
Wed	Humid with some sun	25	33
Thur	Mostly cloudy and humid	25	32
Fri	Mostly cloudy and humid	25	32

World Weather

Forecast for Friday 3rd October 2008

City	Min °C	Max	Conditions
Amsterdam	4	13	Rain
Athens	17	28	Cloudy
Auckland	12	19	Cloudy
Beijing	14	20	Cloudy
Berlin	7	14	Cloudy
Buenos Aires	10	20	Cloudy
Chicago	7	16	Cloudy
Copenhagen	8	13	Showers
Dubai	26	36	Clear
Dublin	6	10	Showers
Helsinki	7	11	Rain
Ho Chi Minh	23	32	Thunderstorms
Hong Kong	24	30	Mostly Cloudy
Islamabad	20	36	Haze
Jakarta	25	33	Rain
Jerusalem	20	27	Fine
Johannesburg	13	31	Thunderstorms
Kuala Lumpur	24	33	Thunderstorms
London	5	13	Showers
Madrid	10	18	Fine
Manila	24	33	Thunderstorms
Mexico City	5	26	Cloudy
Moscow	9	16	Rain
New Delhi	24	34	Fine
New York	11	21	Cloudy
Oslo	8	10	Mostly Cloudy
Paris	7	12	Thunderstorms
Perth	6	19	Scattered Clouds
Phnom-Penh	25	32	Thunderstorms
Rio De Janeiro	14	23	Showers
Riyadh	22	35	Clear
Rome	13	22	Thunderstorms
San Francisco	14	21	Rain
Singapore	24	30	Thunderstorms
Stockholm	8	11	Cloudy
Sydney	21	32	Fine
Tokyo	17	23	Fine
Vientiane	25	33	Cloudy
Yangon	21	29	Overcast
Zurich	5	9	Showers

Currency Exchange Rates

At 3rd October 2008 (mid-market rates)

Code	Currency	Value (Baht)
USD	United States Dollar	33.9466
GBP	Pound Sterling	59.7979
EUR	Euro	47.1965
JPY	Japanese Yen	0.32086
MYR	Malaysian Ringgit	9.67689
SGD	Singapore Dollar	23.5971
BND	Brunei Dollar	23.5971
CNY	Chinese Yuan	4.86469
IDR	Indonesian Rupiah	0.00353689
INR	Indian Rupee	0.717481
KRW	Korean Won	0.0284982
AUD	Australian Dollar	26.8456
NZD	New Zealand Dollar	22.843
CHF	Swiss Franc	29.9859
DKK	Danish Krone	6.32663
NOK	Norwegian Krone	5.69246
SEK	Swedish Krona	4.82544
CAD	Canadian Dollar	31.5229
AED	U.A.E Dirham	9.2436
BHD	Bahrain Dinar	90.2853
KWD	Kuwaiti Dinar	127.47
OMR	Omani Rial	88.2924
QAR	Qatar Riyal	9.3261

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Emergency & Useful Numbers

Emergency Calls

Police 191
Crime 195
Fire 199
Traffic Control Centre 197
Highway Police 1193
Tourist Police 1699
Tourist Service Centre 1155
Missing Persons Bureau 02 282 1815
Police Station at Hua Hin District 032 511 027
Cha-Am Police Station 032 471 321
Hua Hin Hospital 032 511 743
San Paulo Hospital 032 532 576 to 585
Hua Hin Red Cross 032 512 567

Useful numbers

Hua Hin Tessabahn : 032 511 047
Hua Hin Immigration Office 032 513 574
Hua Hin Bus Terminal (non air-con) 032 511 230
(air-con) 032 511 651, 512 543
Hua Hin Railway Station 032 511 073
Tourist Information Centre 032 512 120
Hua Hin Electricity 032 512 215
Hua Hin Water 032 511 677
TOT 032 519 000/001
TT&T 032 532 018

EVIL MAN WITH BEARD CONFESSES TO EVERYTHING

■ An evil man with a beard last night admitted he was responsible for all the bad things in the world, including the outbreak of World War One and Graham Norton's latest chat show on BBC2.

Khalid Sheik Mohammed freely confessed to arranging the 1914 assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand, which led to the First World War during a convivial chat over dinner, according to the CIA with whom he has been staying as a houseguest for the last four years.

However, it took three and half years of solitary confinement and regular beatings on the soles of his feet with rubber truncheons before he coughed to his involvement as script consultant on the Norton show, the agency added.

In a lengthy transcript of Sheik Mohammed's confession published at the weekend by the Pentagon the alleged Al Qaeda mastermind also revealed that:

■ He rode a tank and held a General's rank as the blitzkrieg raged and the bodies stank.

■ He stuck around St Petersburg when he saw it was time for a change.

■ He killed the Tsar and his ministers while Anastasia screamed in vain.

■ He shouted out "who killed the Kennedys" when, after all, it was you and me.

A CIA source said: "We knew this guy was behind the 9/11 attack on the Twin Towers, mainly because we worked with him on that one as everyone knows, but the extent of his evil doing still took us by surprise.

"We strongly suspect he was also involved in Davina McCall's talk show on BBC1 last year but no amount of torture will get him to confess to that."

Another evil man with a beard

NZ man claims 'rape by Aussie wombat'

■A New Zealand man has been sentenced to 75 hours' community service for telling police he was being raped by a wombat.

Arthur Ross Cradock of Motueka rang police to ask for help, The Nelson Mail reported. In a later call to police, Cradock retracted the wombat rape complaint, but said the incident had left him with an Australian accent. "Apart from speaking Australian now, I'm pretty all right you know," Mr Cradock told an emergency operator.

In court, Cradock pleaded guilty to 'using a phone for fictitious purpose', the newspaper said. Police prosecutor Sergeant Chris Stringer told the court alcohol played a part in Cradock's life, but the defendant's lawyer denied it was a problem on the day of the phone calls.

In sentencing, Judge Richard Russell said he was not sure what motivated Cradock to make such statements and warned him not to do it again.

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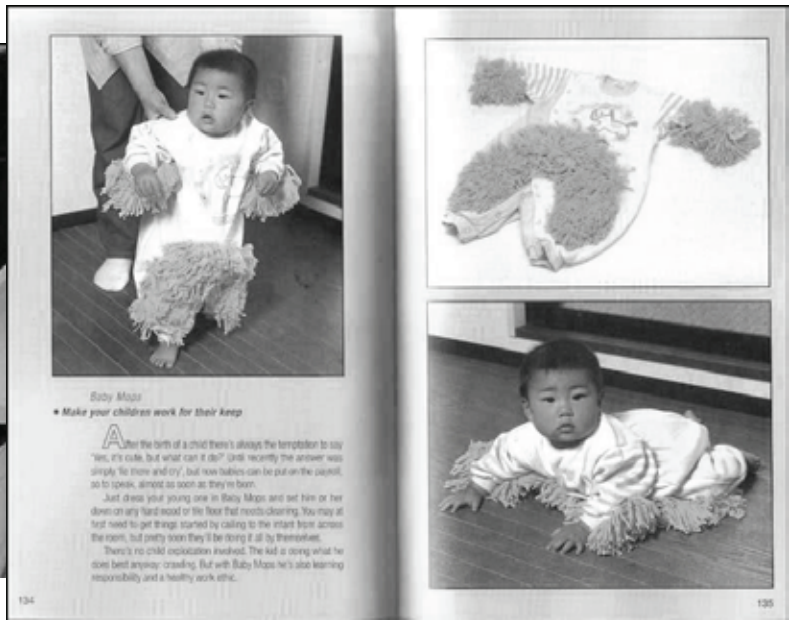

Area 555

A lady goes to her priest one day and tells him, "Father, I have a problem. I have two female parrots, but they only know how to say one thing."
"What do they say?" the priest inquired.
They say, "Hi, we're hookers! Do you want to have some fun?"
That's obscene!" the priest exclaimed, then he thought for a moment.
"You know," he said, "I may have a solution to your problem. I have two male talking parrots, which I have taught to pray and read the Bible. Bring your two parrots over to my house, and we'll put them in the cage with Francis and Peter. My parrots can teach your parrots to praise and worship, and your parrots are sure to stop saying . . . that phrase . . in no time."
Thank you," the woman responded, "this may very well be the solution."
The next day, she brought her female parrots to the priest's house. As he ushered her in, she saw that his two male parrots were inside their cage holding rosary beads and praying.
Impressed, she walked over and placed her parrots in with them.
After a few minutes, the female parrots cried out in unison: Hi, we're hookers! Do you want to have some fun?"
There was stunned silence. Shocked, one male parrot looked over at the other male parrot and exclaimed, "Put the beads away, Frank. Our prayers have been answered!"

■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■

Last night, my wife and I were sitting in the living room and I said to her, "I never want to live in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine and fluids from a bottle. If that ever happens, just pull the plug."
She got up, unplugged the TV and then threw out my beer.

■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■

TWO MEN walk into bookshop, one holding a fifty pence coin. Suddenly, the man starts choking and goes blue in the face. His mate realises that he has swallowed the coin and starts to panic, shouting for help.
A well-dressed, attractive and serious-looking woman in a blue business suit is sitting at a coffee bar nearby reading a newspaper and sipping a cup of coffee. At the sound of the commotion, she looks up, carefully puts her coffee cup down, neatly folds the newspaper and places it on the counter. She then arises from her seat and makes her unhurried way across to the bookshop.
Reaching the choking man, the woman carefully unzips and then drops his trousers, takes hold of his genitals and starts to squeeze and twist, gently at first and then ever more firmly. After a few seconds the man coughs up the coin, which the woman deftly catches in her free hand. She then hands the coin to the struggling man's mate and walks back to her seat in the coffee bar without saying a word.
As soon as he is sure that his friend has suffered no ill effects, the man rushes over to the woman and starts thanking her, saying, "I've never seen anybody do anything like that before; it was fantastic. Are you a doctor?"
"No, replies the women. "I'm a divorce lawyer."

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Iran signs 4-year deal with Disney

■ IRAN has abandoned theocracy and signed a four-year deal with Disney after two hours of talks with the US Government yesterday.

In a goodwill gesture designed to cement relations with the entertainment giant, Iran's President has agreed to change his name to Mahmood Ahmedisneyjad.

Hassem Kazami, Iran's chief negotiator, said: "We had some anger issues about the West and ourselves that we needed to deal with before we could grow as people and a nation.

"We were always flying into rages about silly little things and repressing each other. That was just so not the place where we needed to be right now in our lives."

He added: "The Americans explained that their version of secular democracy meant slightly less flag burning, stoning and firing guns in the air, which, to be honest, does get a bit samey.

"It's a small world after all," said Ahmedisneyjad

"Then they told us about TK Maxx, Ben and Jerry's, Grey's Anatomy and someone called Kirsten Dunst. Nice. Where do we sign?"

Jackson P. Emmit, Disney's Vice-President for Iran, said early projects would include a "Pirates of the Straits of Hormuz" theme park and Blindfold This! a musical comedy based on the 1979 hostage crisis, starring Queen Latifa and Matthew Broderick.

US envoy Ryan Croker said: "As usual, we tested our arguments with the elders of the Free Church of Scotland. Obviously we got nowhere with them but of course the Iranians are much less extreme."

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ON ON

Hua Hin Hash House Harriers

The H2H3 is a group of international fools who get a lot of enjoyment out of running or walking around in jungles, mountains, beaches and sometimes highways in search of the end of the run and some cold beer and camaraderie. Boys and girls, eight to eighty are welcome to join in on the fun.

To learn more about the Hash House Harriers go to **www.gthhh.com** or **www.huahin-hhh.com**. For information about the next run, e-mail Slackbladder (**partt@hotmail.com, 087-852 2565**) or Ballbanger, **donaltetley@yahoo.com or 085-088 7181**. In Cha Am, get the scoop at the Chicken Coop from Noi. Get a cold beer and the hot hash gossip from Dave at the California Mining Cantina near the Sofitel.

If you have half a mind the join the hash, that's all you need.

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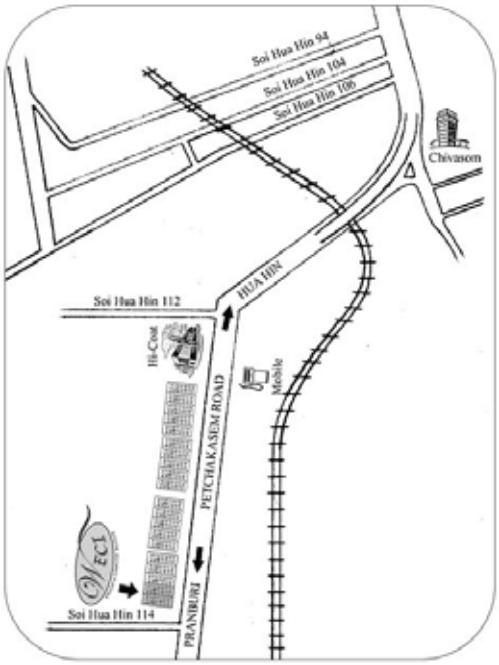

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Your STARS with Destiny Dan

Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19
A game of touch football will have lasting repercussions this week. Your version of the game will later be renamed 'slap football' and one day is set to become as popular as the Ultimate Fighting Championship. An alarm clock that has been trusted for years will start to become inaccurate around the 5th. A rare celestial conjugation between Mercury and Uranus (technically known as a Myanus) will add two hours to your alarm clock wakey-time and the sleep timer could double in duration for each press. Luckily your boss is the same star sign as you and your tardiness will go unnoticed.

Aquarius Jan 20 - Feb 17
You will be drawn to a Hollywood Great from the 1920's this week, even though, at the moment, you have never heard of her. Rene Garawayde was the originator of the shocked hand-over-the-eyes look used extensively in the silent era to signify 'walking into wind'. This unexpected infatuation will have you question your sexuality on more than one occasion, however the questions will not lead to any interesting answers, although it may reawaken a love of wearing bushy dresses with a gym slip underneath. Your life depends on you avoiding a tongue twister involving the letter P after the 4th.

Pisces Feb 18 - Mar 19
On watching the news on the 7th you will be surprised to see a painting of your grandfather in a museum in St Petersburg, Russia. Make all the necessary calls to find out whom this person actually is. A spam e-mail you receive around 3rd will advise you on the virtues of a liquid that stops people going bald. If bald headedness bothers you, shave all of your hair off immediately, get it over with and enjoy life with renewed vigour. (By the way, if you have already bought this product, it is also being sold as a method of increasing the size of your penis. You might as well try it; the worst-case scenario is that you get a really hairy willy.)

Aries Mar 20 - Apr 19
After a poor start to the year, you will enjoy a period of superbly executed plans. The belly dancers you book for a party will prove highly popular except with a group of girl guides who wanted to use the changing rooms at the time. Your car was spotted deftly weaving in between cones on the highway in February. A recording of this brilliant moment in driving history may now come back to haunt you in an unexpected way.

Taurus Apr 20 - May 19
Your attempts to take up extreme sports will receive another boost this week when, whilst walking out to your car, you will (unbelievably) catch in your arms a large TV set thrown from an upstairs window. The adrenaline rush you get from the success of this catch will feature heavily in your after-dinner talk circuit later in your catching career. Yes, this week you will stumble over the next big thing - catching stuff. Prepare a detailed business plan and present this to your local bank - they will give you a very preferential loan - luckily for you, your bank manager is a skydiver under the influence of Venus.

Gemini May 20 - Jun 20
The Sun is expected to add spice into your life around the 4th when an unlikely career development presents itself in the form of a small furry animal. Accept this development with glee, but do not part with any of your savings until you possess at least three of the pictures of your boss in the promised, incriminating, position. Ironically, your tongue is set for a poor week. Avoid licking stamps after the 7th and ice cream should be eaten with a spoon, not erotically, after the 5th. In China they are about to name a new disease after you, following an extensive search on the internet for a new name. Just think: One day you could be as famous as AIDS. Employ a media management agency to investigate possible revenue streams.

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Cancer Jun 21 - Jul 21
Bonsai is well starred for the first half of the month, but you will be unable to buy the small, dinky, cutting tools required. You will attempt to use standard sized scissors and be happy with the initial results, however a strange feng shui type thing is going on in the background which will lead to a higher than average breakage of drinking vessels and vases for the next 6 weeks. Your nipples will benefit from the application of a soft toffee balm between 5th-7th as Uranus starts to inflate.

Leo Jul 22 - Aug 22
A well-loved aunt, wanted by Interpol for anti-globalization protests, will make a welcome call this week. Avoid taking her to any McDonald's or Starbuck's from which she has a global ban. If the old coot absentmindedly follows you in, she will be noisily arrested with surprising speed. Avoid getting into any security camera shots with her, and wear large hats throughout the week. Practice an untraceable foreign accent for emergencies. Sailing and diving are, once again, under the direct influence of Jupiter for most of the week (the planet is a keen water sports fan). However, from the 4th a negative conjunction with Saturn suggests problems with your knees; ensure enough ointment is on hand.

Virgo Aug 23 - Sept 21
People the size of dwarfs are always ill starred for Virgonians, but this week more so. A moment of well-meaning extreme flippancy will lead to temporary, but painful, consequences for a circus dwarf with a feather in his hat. The dead-leg you inadvertently give him will subside before sunset if you keep him fed with tea and cookies. However, best not to make friends with him after the cock crows, as he harbours a resentment that only small people can truly pull off. A planetary alignment could spell doom for any nighttime driving in the forest. Beware moose, buffalo, and deer, depending on where you are. Be especially alert for hunters looking for adventure in middle age.

Libra Sept 22 - Oct 22
Pluto is beginning its once every 1000-year romp with Mercury standing by, watching, from the sidelines. This could have a devastating impact on any attempt to walk on stilts, and, indeed, any circus performance, which is ill, starred for the next 15 years. Never fear for your own life, however, it is only those in the front three rows in the audience who are in mortal danger. Woody Woodpecker, the popular cartoon bird from times past, is about to enter your life again in a mysterious circumstance. Buy too many nuts next time you are at a pet store. Avoid the number 18 in the lottery at all costs.

Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 21
Your chart, if joined by the age old method of dot-to-dot, forms a pointy-eared animal. This is a sign that you are about to start experimenting with horse breeding, or possibly something else entirely. If you decide on the breeding show extreme caution before you try it in the field. Bottled water is the best chance of survival this week when the local Al Qaeda affiliate chapter select your street as target practice on the exact day an anti-terrorism practice is to take place down it. Watch who you call between 3rd and 12th of the month and become cryptic in any conversations regarding your street to people you have known for less than 1 year... lest the blame could fall on your shoulders...

Sagittarius Nov 22 - Dec 21
A dispute between Mercury and Mars continues, dooming you to ever more exotic cookery. A local hoody will be impressed by your driving skills on 5th whilst you are speed-parking your car at the supermarket. Try to make a difference to this young punk's life, but don't let him valet park your car until the Yak yawns at the moon after the 21st. A spider's nest you find in your basement after 6th will be of interest to a documentary maker. If you cannot make contact with him by 27th of the month, however, destroy the nest using a broom and anti-spider powder with the letter S in its name.

Top tips

■ INTERNET porn fans. Avoid tedious interruptions to wipe the screen by first covering it with several layers of cling film which can be torn off like F1 drivers do with their visors.

IF you fall over backwards in the street, avoid embarrassment by pretending that you are re-creating Charlie George's 1971 FA Cup goal celebration for Arsenal against Liverpool.

FATTIES. Avoid your torso being surreptitiously filmed and used in a news report about the global obesity problem by always wearing a T-shirt with 'All Newsreaders are C**ts' written on it.

RECREATE the danger of a parachute jump in safety by visiting Google Earth and clicking the scroll bar until you reach the ground. Add realism to the exercise by putting a fan on blowing full in your face.

Climb onto your neighbour's roof and dangle a fish on a bit of string in front of his windows. He'll think his house is underwater.

Girls. Too old to go on an 18 to 30 holiday? Simply get pissed, lie in a pit in your garden and shag every bloke who looks at you over the fence.

Buy a television set exactly like your neighbours. Then annoy them by standing outside their window and changing their channel using your identical remote control.

MOTORISTS. Pressing your 'fog lights' switch a second time after the fog has cleared will actually turn your fog lights off.

Cheer loudly at 8.00pm each Saturday to fool the neighbours into thinking you have won the Lottery.

Girls. Next time you feel like throwing a ball overarm, don't, because you can't and it just looks silly. Just throw it girlie under-arm style, and no-one will laugh at you, or get hurt.

Hijackers. Avoid a long stressful siege and the risk of arrest, imprisonment or death by simply making sure you book a flight to your intended destination in the first place.

Deter goldfish from having sex by throwing a small bucket of air over any that you catch in the act.

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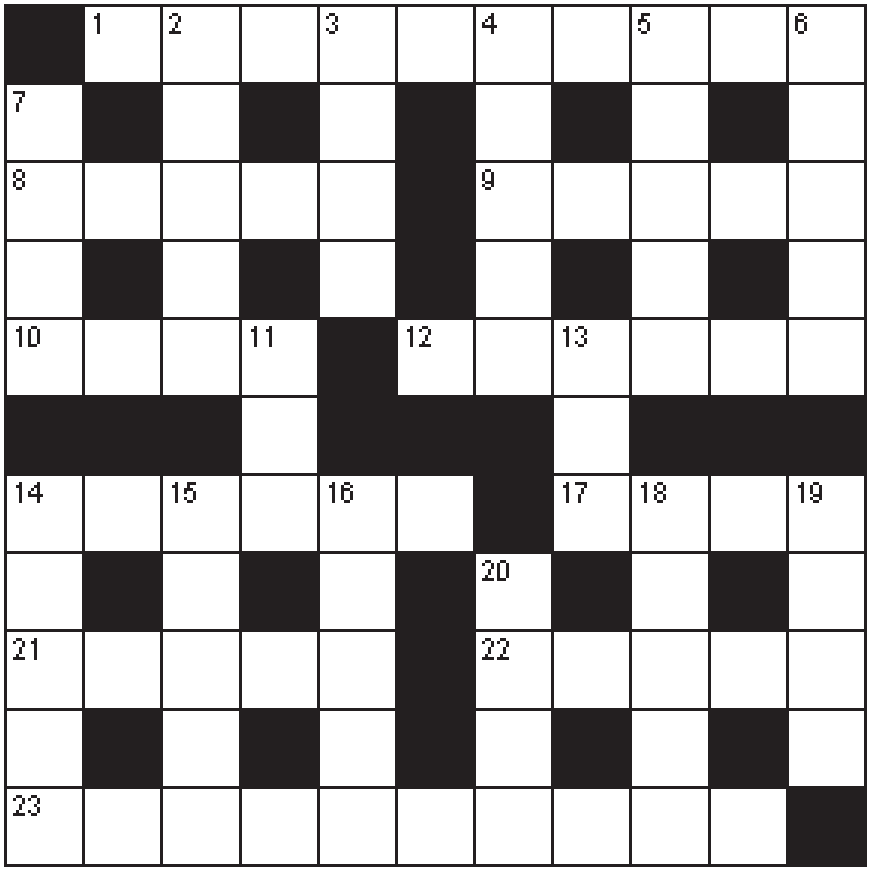
Quick XWord

Across
1. Eager involvement (10)
8. Stream of water (5)
9. Take as one's own (5)
10. Ball game (4)
12. Guard (6)
14. Language communication (6)
17. Fruit (4)
21. In addition (5)
22. Boundary (5)
23. Executives (10)

Solution in next week's AWOL

Down
2. Pertaining to warships (5)
3. Solid (4)
4. Apportion (5)
5. Concerning (5)
6. Friendly (5)
7. Boast (4)
11. Enemy (3)
13. Doze (3)
14. Water vapour (5)
15. Consumed (5)
16. Loud, resonant sound (5)
18. Yellowish citrus fruit (5)
19. Mongrel dog (4)
20. Shut with force (4)



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THAI BOXING

Look out for details of the regular fight nights held at the Thai Boxing Garden. These are not exhibition matches, but the real thing. Anyone interested in the art of Muay Thai should call into the Boxing Garden and talk to Khun Chop, Hua Hin's own champion. Positioned in Poolsuk Road, behind the temple, turn left beside Willi's. Tel: 032 515 269

EVERY SATURDAY & TUESDAY

Old Bill

This is Thailand Police Major Pugwa Shi W.S.T.P of the Cha-Hin Tourist Police.
I have been told make an address in this new national publication to the many farangs who live here and the many tourists following my fast posting from the Traffic Division which was caused by a misunderstanding.
I will tell you about me. I am not a younger man and have been with the Thai Police for nealy 20 years, most of which was a very profitable time with the Traffic Police as I got a lot of experience dealing with everythink.

I don't mind being with the Tourist Police as I have found farangs very good and kind. When I visit the bars in Soi Disappointment to make sure that my friends who own the many bars are looking after you and that you are safe I find it to be very rewarding. Unlike my wife and mistress I am happy to see you. They are not happy as I no go home and when I do very drunk and not same money in Traffic Police. You farangs very observe and give me nice name. Some call me The Pig and I still don't know how they know my Chinese birth year. I also call Filth but I tink it is I know go home and shower so often. My best is Old Bill which I like as I am no young and never pay check bin to my bar friends.
So when you see me on soi or in bar make sure call out me 'Hey Pig!' or best 'Old Bill' and I let you buy me drink, OK?

Next time I tell you about drive in Thailand and how you can help poor police when accident and how can not have accident and still help poor police.
So now I leave you, and remember; We Serve To Prosper,
Your good friend, Old Bill.

CLASSIFIEDS

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PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM IN BLOCK CAPITALS (continue on separate sheet if necessary)

NAME:		TEL. NO.		WEEKS	START DATE
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
7.	8.	9.	**10.**	11.	12.
13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.
19.	**20.**	21.	22.	23.	24.
25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	**30.**
31.	32.	33.	34.	35.	36.
37.	38.	39.	**40.**	AWOL code only:	

Your Problems SOLVED

Relationship hanging by a thread? Money troubles? Can't get on with your neighbours? Ask Mary Ann Cotton, AWOL's very own agony aunt.

■ DEAR MARY,
I have been with my partner for four years now, and while we have spoken about marriage I am not sure about taking the plunge. I have discussed the situation with my other boyfriend, and a few f***-buddies, and they say it is just nerves ahead of the wedding in May. But I think we should probably just get the whole thing over with as soon as we can. The thing is my fiancée owns his house outright and has a lot of money in savings. I am worried that he might, say, have a terrible accident in his car with his brakes failing unexpectedly while we are on holiday at a mountain resort in Italy next week and I have just asked him to nip down to the village at the bottom of the hill for a jar of pesto. Imagine then how bad I will feel when I open up the cupboard door to get out his will, which I always keep with me, and discover a jar in there all along. If it should happen like that.
Hannah, Hua Hin

Mary says: Dear Hannah,
The very fact that you have referred to the, admittedly unlikely, prospect of your fiancée being killed in a completely unexpected car accident after being sent out by you on a totally pointless errand suggests to me that you have already gone beyond girlfriend status and are committed and ready to become a wife, which, you may be pleased to learn, would mean you would pay no inheritance tax. However, there are a few questions to be answered. While many husbands suffer unexpected car accidents on Italian mountain resorts because of freak brake failure some manage to save the situation through skilful use of the gears. Have you considered sending him for the pesto after a couple of bottles of red? If I were you I would also suggest he drive very fast through a tunnel while wearing sunglasses on the remote chance that he will come out the other end temporarily blinded by the light and smash unexpectedly into a huge motorised shovel that will then push him and his car over the edge. These things happen you know.

DEAR MARY,
I've been married for ten years and at first our sex life was great, but recently my husband appears totally disinterested. We have sex on maybe three or four occasions a week but most times I ask for it he claims to be busy driving us along the motorway to my mothers or something. I've asked him whether he would like to share a session with my boyfriend or watch me with my lesbian lover, in case he's finding it all a bit much on his own. I also phone him to offer him first dibs when I'm at the pub and looking for someone to shag me in the car park. Do you think he is having an affair?
Hurt, Hua Hin.

Mary says: Dear Hurt,
It's never easy to tell if someone's husband is a love rat from a letter, but there again show me one who isn't. The bastards. I can understand your husband not being interested in a threesome; they are a bit gay and very common. I hear the Duke of Edinburgh won't have anything to do with them anymore. You never know who's going to be going at the other end, he says. Probably a footballer. Nevertheless, if your husband can't even be bothered to hop in a cab when you call and ask him to pop down the pub and clean out your gutters on a weekday evening then I do fear something is seriously wrong. It's not like you are demanding anything weird like a cuddle on the sofa or a foot rub and a massage. You could try sitting down and talking the situation through, telling him calmly how hurt you feel by his rejection and listening carefully to his responses to work out a way forward on which you can both agree. Or you could smash him in the nadgers with a baseball bat and tell him to start pitching, or get off the plate.

English corner

Have you ever wondered where a certain phrase comes from, or what it really means? Every week we will expand your knowledge of English and its etymology with a different word or saying. This week it is...

Mind your P's and Q's

An expression with several origin stories, but its meaning is to pay attention to details. This expression has often been translated as "mind your manners" or "mind your pleases and thank yous." It is possible that the expression is an abbreviated term for minding one's manners as well, shortening pleases to p and thank yous to q, for the sake of a familiar expression.

The favoured origin story of "mind your Ps and Qs" comes from English pubs and taverns of the seventeenth century. Bartenders would keep a watch on the alcohol consumption of the patrons; keeping an eye on the pints and quarts that were consumed. As a reminder to the patrons, the bartender would recommend they "mind their Ps and Qs."

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Hua Hin Bridge Club

The Hua Hin Bridge Club has been running for several years and has been a great success.

New players have joined and the number of tables had to be increased, which is clearly a good sign as to the future of bridge in Hua Hin.

Expert and novice players of all nationalities are welcome to the club based in soi 94.

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Hua Hin Darts Leagues

Europe Far-East Agency Co. Ltd. are the new sponsors this season; and they are providing all teams with a new dart board. I am sure we would all like to thank Mack from Scandic Bar in Cha Am, whose company this is, for his interest in and generosity to our darts league.

Results Week 6

Division 1

CAT v No Game
Lazy Daze v Pink Flamingo 5-5
Oasis v J.W. Black 1-9
J.W. Red v Scandic Bar 2-8
Dicks Office B v Paradise Bar 4-6

Division 2

Butterfly Rock v CAT B 2-8
Bamboo Grove v Dicks A 3-7
Love Bar v Good Friends 0-10
Mojo v Bentho Sport Bar 6-4
Jaew v Lucky Shot 7-3

Division 1

Team	P	W	D	L	PF-PA	Pts
Scandic	5	4	1	0	39-11	9
P'dise	5	4	0	1	32-18	8
CAT	4	3	1	0	25-15	7
JW Blk	4	3	0	1	27-13	6
Oasis	5	2	0	3	20-30	4
Lazy D	5	1	1	3	19-31	3
JW Red	4	1	0	3	15-25	2
Pink F	4	0	1	3	10-30	1
Dicks B	4	0	0	4	13-27	0

Division 2

Team	P	W	D	L	PF-PA	Pts
CAT B	5	5	0	0	40-10	10
B Rock	5	4	0	1	32-18	8
Dicks A	5	3	0	2	28-22	6
Mojo	5	3	0	2	27-23	6
L Shot	5	3	0	2	26-24	6
Jaew	5	3	0	2	26-24	6
B Grve	5	2	0	3	23-27	4
Good F	5	1	0	4	17-33	2
Love	5	1	0	4	16-34	2
Bentho	5	0	0	5	15-35	0

Top 16 standings:

Top 10 -Div 1

Name	Bar	Pts
Stuart	P	104
Golf	SB	76
Mark	O	69
Rune	SB	66
Martin	LD	51
Jason	CAT	50
Tao	JWB	46
Peter	JWB	44
Dicky	JWB	43
Peter	PF	42

Top 6 - Div 2

Name	Bar	Pts
Eero	BR	79
Tao	CAT	74
Muay	JB	59
Howard	M	46
Don	CAT	46
Mojo	M	44

Next Weeks Fixtures:

Week 7 - 07/10/2008

Division 1

No Game v Paradise Bar
Scandic Bar v Dicks Office B
JW Black v JW Red
Pink Flamingo v Oasis
CAT v Lazy Daze

Division 2

CAT B v Lucky Shot
Bentho Sport Bar v Jaew
Good Friends v Mojo
Dicks Office A v Love Bar
Butterfly Rock v Bamboo Grove

Hua Hin Pool Leagues

Hua Hin Social Pool league
Results Week 6
1st October 2008

Butterfly Rock v Jungle
Juice B 8-11
U Turn v Billys Babes 8-11
Limelight v JW Red 0-10
Headrock v Sabai 9-10
JW Black v Red Bar 11-8
Billys v PP 6-13
Jungle Juice A v Lazy Daze 12-7

Week 7 Fixtures:
Week 7 – 8th October 2008

Lazy Daze v Butterfly Rock
PP v PP
Red Bar v Billys
Sabai v JW Black
JW Red v Headrock
Billys Babes v Limelight
Jungle Juice B v U Turn

Current League Standings

Team	P	W	L	PF-PA	Pts
PP	6	6	0	69-45	12
Jungle Juice A	6	6	0	66-48	12
Billys Babes	6	5	1	64-50	10
Jungle Juice B	6	4	2	62-50	8
J.W. Black	6	4	2	61-53	8
Lazy Daze	6	3	3	58-54	6
Red Bar	6	3	3	58-52	6
Sabai	5	3	2	49-46	6
Billys	6	2	4	50-66	4
Headrock	6	1	5	49-65	2
U Turn	5	1	4	40-51	2
J.W. Red	4	1	3	26-38	2
Butterfly Rock	5	0	5	43-52	0
Limelight	5	0	5	30-56	0

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Hua Hin Golf Society

This week's results:
30th Sept: Kaeng Krachan (Stableford 18 Entrants)
1st Albert Quick 36pts 10 hcp. 2nd Sheila Bird 36pts 21 hcp.
3rd B. Crossan (g) 29pts 8 hcp. 4th Tom Tucker 29pts 15 hcp.
Nearest the Pin Hole 12 Valley Dickie Bird, Hole 25 Mountain Callum
26th September- Lake View (Stableford 25 Entrants)
1st Graeme Pearson 39pts 11 hcp. 2nd Hans Roupe 36pts 28 hcp. 3rd Doug Craig 35pts 12 hcp. 4th Nitha 34pts 15 hcp. 5th Wij 31pts 12 hcp. 6th Colin Devonshire 31pts 9 hcp.
Nearest the Pin Hole 8A Nitha, Hole 3C Wij
Next week's fixtures:
Tuesday 7th Black Mountain
Friday 10th Springfield

Butterfly Rock Golf

First of all, may we at Butterfly Rock Golf Club congratulate the Editor and staff who have launched this new paper. We wish it every success. Our results and weekly fixtures are set out below but there are some special comments to make arising from the past few weeks. The Landcorp Trophy sponsored by Brent O'Bell was the first in a Ryder Cup format with the Rest of the World team thrashing the English team by 19.5 to 7.5 points. Perhaps Nick Faldo should have studied our results before his Cup defeat? The Club also enjoyed another overnight trip to Dragon Hills which has become a most popular fixture.
This week's results:
24th September - Dragon Hills
1st Pak Heath 42pts, 2nd Duang Bach 40pts, 3rd Guy Bach 35pts
29th September - Lake View
1st Bryan McLeod 39pts, 2nd Bob Welsh 36pts, 3rd Jim Lynch 35 pts
1st October - Sawang 3 Person Scramble
1st Team of Peter Fitzpatrick, Derek Lindsay and Gay
2nd Team of Bryan McLeod, Klaus Kristensen and Deborah Rawlings.
Forthcoming Fixtures
Monday 6th October Lake View - Stableford
Wednesday 8th October Black Mountain - Medal
October 13th - 17th Away Trip to Kanchanaburi

Scoreboard

(EPL unless stated)
Saturday, 27 September 2008
Arsenal 1-2 Hull
Aston Villa 2-1 Sunderland
Everton 0-2 Liverpool
Fulham 1-2 West Ham
Man Utd 2-0 Bolton
Middlesbrough 0-1 West Brom
Newcastle 1-2 Blackburn
Stoke 0-2 Chelsea
Sunday, 28 September 2008
Portsmouth 2-0 Tottenham
Wigan 2-1 Man City
Tuesday, 30 September 2008
UEFA Champions League
AaB Aalborg 0-3 Man Utd
Arsenal 4-0 FC Porto
BATE Borisov 2-2 Juventus
Bayern Munich 1-1 Lyon
Fenerbahce 0-0 Dynamo Kiev
Fiorentina 0-0 Steaua Bucharest
Villarreal 1-0 Celtic
Zenit St P'burg 1-2 Real Madrid
Wednesday, 01 October 2008
UEFA Champions League
A. Famagusta 3-1 Panathinaikos
Atletico Madrid 2-1 Marseille
Bordeaux 1-3 Roma
CFR Cluj-Napoca 0-0 Chelsea
Inter Milan 1-1 Werder Bremen
Liverpool 3-1 PSV Eindhoven
Shakhtar Donetsk 1-2 Barcelona
Sporting Lisbon 2-0 Basle

Balloon Chasers Guide

Welcome to the most vital guide around! All the parties, celebrations and balloons you could want (along with some booze and food of course!) Tell AWOL about your event by the Thursday before and we will include it here...send us some photos afterwards and we will do our utmost to publish them; email anything to awol@observergroup.net or contact our representative Noi at Sabai Bar (Tel: 086-174+6165).

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ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

EPL Fixtures Preview

(All times Thailand)

Saturday, 4 October 2008

Blackburn v Man Utd, 23:30

It has been a mixed bag from these teams so far this season, but both are coming into this off the back of unconvincing wins against teams they would expect to beat. Blackburn have been poor at home though, so expect a scrappy away win.

Sunderland v Arsenal, 21:00

Arsenal have already lost two games they would have pencilled in as wins, while Sunderland have been patchy. Wenger will have given his team a rocket after their home loss to Hull, while Keane will have been paying close attention; expect the Gunners to be back to their best though, and an away win.

West Brom v Fulham, 21:00

Fulham have been struggling away from home despite playing well, and the same could be said of West Brom at home. This could be a surprisingly entertaining game, as both will feel that a win is up for grabs, so we're predicting a high scoring draw.

Wigan v Middlesbrough, 21:00

An excellent result and performance by Wigan last weekend will give them confidence to do the same to Soutgates charges, who have a woeful away record. 'Boro are likely to try and keep it tight and play only one up front, but we think Wigan will edge this.

Sunday, 5 October 2008

Chelsea v Aston Villa, 21:00

Villa have started well but this is their first big test away from home. Chelsea have been getting results without really playing at their best, and will be a little concerned about their home form. This match has draw written all over it.

Everton v Newcastle, 22:00

Everton have a 100% home record - all lost - while Newcastle look a shambles at present. We expect Everton to break their duck and pile on the misery.

Barclays Premier League Table

			Home					Away						
	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Chelsea	6	1	2	0	6	2	3	0	0	6	1	9	14
2	Liverpool	6	2	1	0	4	2	2	1	0	3	0	5	14
3	Aston Villa	6	2	1	0	6	3	2	0	1	6	5	4	13
4	Arsenal	6	2	0	1	5	2	2	0	1	7	2	8	12
5	West Ham	6	3	0	0	9	3	1	0	2	4	7	3	12
6	Hull	6	1	1	1	4	8	2	1	0	5	3	-2	11
7	Blackburn	6	1	1	1	2	5	2	0	1	6	7	-4	10
8	Man City	6	2	0	1	10	3	1	0	2	6	6	7	9
9	Portsmouth	6	2	0	1	4	2	1	0	2	3	10	-5	9
10	Wigan	6	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	6	2	4	8
11	Man Utd	5	1	1	0	3	1	1	1	1	3	3	2	8
12	West Brom	6	1	0	2	5	6	1	1	1	1	1	-1	7
13	Sunderland	6	1	0	2	2	4	1	1	1	4	4	-2	7
14	Everton	6	0	0	3	2	8	2	1	0	7	5	-4	7
15	Fulham	5	2	0	1	4	3	0	0	2	1	3	-1	6
16	M'brough	6	2	0	1	4	3	0	0	3	2	6	-3	6
17	Bolton	6	1	1	1	4	4	0	0	3	1	5	-4	4
18	Stoke	6	1	0	2	5	7	0	1	2	2	5	-5	4
19	Newcastle	6	1	0	2	3	4	0	1	2	2	7	-6	4
20	Tottenham	6	0	1	2	2	4	0	1	2	2	5	-5	2

Man City v Liverpool, 21:00

Along with the Chelsea game this is the match of the weekend, and should be highly entertaining. We think Liverpool will edge it if Benitez doesn't tinker.

Portsmouth v Stoke, 21:00

Stoke's early hopes have been swiftly dashed, and they are now in for a long hard struggle. Pompey have been having problems scoring, but we think it will click into place here with a convincing win.

Tottenham v Hull, 21:00

Ramos must be dreading this match after Hull's heroics at the Emirates - it's a real no win situation. Not surprisingly, scoring goals is their problem, and this could be a North London double for the Tigers.

West Ham v Bolton, 19:30

On paper this should be a Hammers win - 100% home record with a 9 - 3 goals tally against a 0% away record with a 1 - 5 goals column, but Bolton have always been West Ham's bogey team. Can Zola change that? We think he can, so a home win despite the off field distractions.

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HOPPING MAD!

■ The International Olympics Committee (IOC) has incurred the wrath of Heather Mills, former wife of Sir Paul McCartney, after their refusal to consider Hopscotch as an Olympic event. Mills, recently awarded £24.3 million in her divorce settlement from McCartney, is the head of the Hopscotch Olympic Participation group (HOP), and has been campaigning since 1993 for the addition of the sport to the Olympic roster, when she lost her left leg in a traffic accident. She is now regarded as one of the finest exponents of 'scotching' and had hoped that Hopscotch would have at least be included as a demonstration sport at the Beijing games this summer.

Mills (above) in training

PLAYGROUND GAME

Jacques Rogge, President of the IOC, said, "We understand Ms. Mills passion for this sport, but really her campaign doesn't have a leg to stand on. Hopscotch is a children's playground game and really does not satisfy our regulations to be included as an Olympic sport."

Rogge tells Mills to hoppit

HOP's campaign has been based on the historic origins of the game, which Roman soldiers used to play to improve their footwork while dressed in full armour, as well as the fact that other playground games, such as rounders (baseball for our American readers), have been added to the Olympics. Mills has been quoted as saying, "If the IOC can include rounders, BMX biking and synchronised swimming I find it very insulting that they won't even consider Hopscotch, which is just as much a test of fitness, endurance and balance as any of those." Mills has a history of pursuing gold, and when AWOL approached Sir Paul McCartney to ask if he was supporting his ex-wife, he responded with a short statement; "F*** off and leave me alone!"

It was reported that Mills was seen at the recent Paralympics trying to persuade the Olympic officials there to incorporate Hopscotch for the next games to be held in London in 2012, but sources within HOP quickly scotched that rumour.

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