

## Expenses Scandal : Morley Cops It For Blatant Dishonesty

**DISGRACED** Elliot Morley yesterday became the first former minister to be jailed for cheating his expenses. The shady ex-MP abused his allowances by fleecing £30,428 in bogus mortgage payments.

As an environment minister in Tony Blair's government, he is the most high-profile politician to be jailed since the expenses scandal rocked Westminster. Sentencing Morley to 16 months' prison yesterday, Mr Justice Saunders accused him of "blatant dishonesty". He said: "I am satisfied from the nature of the mortgage transactions that the excessive claims were made deliberately. He has thrown away his good name and good character."

Countryside hater in jail !!

Finbarr Saunders speaks in double entendres !!!



Morley, 58, pleaded guilty last month to two false accounting charges relating to his home in Winterton, near Scunthorpe, North Lincs, between 2004 and 2007. He made 19 excessive mortgage claims worth £15,200 to which he was not entitled. And despite paying off the loan on his home in 2006, he continued to claim £800 a month – deviously raking in £16,800. Morley, who was MP for Scunthorpe since 1987 before stepping down at last year's election, showed no emotion as he was jailed at London's Southwark crown court. Matthew Sinclair, of the Tax Payers' Alliance, said: "This sentence sends a clear message that even a former minister is not above the law." Labour said Morley would now be excluded. The



## Human Balloon Tells Of Drama



A New Zealand truck driver who inflated "like a balloon" when he fell buttocks-first onto a compressed air nozzle was described as lucky to be alive Wednesday.

Steven McCormack was working on his truck at Opotiki on the North Island on Saturday when he slipped between the cab and the trailer, dislodging the compressed air hose that feeds the brakes, the Whakatane Beacon reported. It said the brass fitting that the hose had been attached to, pierced McCormack's left buttock in the fall, sending compressed air rushing into his body. The 48-year-old said he felt as if he was going to explode and began to scream as his neck, feet and hands swelled up.

"I was blowing up like a football... it felt like I had the bends, like in diving. I had no choice but just to lay there, blowing up like a balloon," he told the newspaper.

Workmates rushed to McCormack's aid, turning off the compressed air and packing ice around his swollen neck. Ambulance officers removed the brass nozzle from his buttock and rushed him to Whakatane Hospital, where a surgeon treated the injury and drained one of his lungs, which had filled with fluid during the ordeal. McCormack said doctors later told him that the air separated fat from muscle and they were surprised his skin did not burst.

Now recuperating in Whakatane Hospital, he told the Beacon his skin felt "like a pork roast", hard and crackly on the outside but soft underneath. A hospital spokeswoman confirmed details of the freak accident, which she said could have killed McCormack.

"It's fair to say he's lucky to be alive, it was a potentially life-threatening situation," she told AFP on

**Contortionist hid in a suitcase to steal from tourists:** “A contortionist has been arrested after he hid inside a suitcase and stole from tourists’ luggage while on a bus trip. Police found the flexible 1.78m thief curled up in the suitcase when investigating why items were regularly stolen on the bus route between Girona Airport and Barcelona, Spain. Tourists reported valuables such as laptops were going missing from the baggage compartment of the bus during the hour-long trip. Holiday-makers only realised items were missing when they arrived at their hotels and opened their bags. Police said the contortionist was loaded onto the bus by an accomplice. When the bus set off he would get out of the suitcase and look for valuables using a torch. When finally reaching its destination, the suitcase holding the contortionist was collected by the second man. A police spokesman joked: “I believe this is what the British call an open-and-shut case.”



## Simple Technology To The Rescue



“The images began arriving in Joshua Kaufman’s inbox. Who was this stranger sitting with Mr Kaufman’s stolen laptop? Mr Kaufman collected the images and took them to police, who did not help him. So he went online, publishing the pictures on Twitter and in a blog titled [thisguy-hasmymacbook.tumblr.com](http://thisguy-hasmymacbook.tumblr.com) “People who followed me on Twitter retweeted it. It got picked up by social media and the press. It went super viral,” he said. On the same day that he posted his website on Twitter, police came calling. Police on Tuesday arrested a 27-year-old cab driver, Muthanna Aldebashi. Yesterday, Mr Kaufman picked up his laptop from the police. Mr Kaufman’s case is the latest example of people, not police, using technological tools to help find their own stolen property such as cars, cell phones and digital cameras. He had just moved to a new apartment in Oakland when a burglar broke in, taking the laptop, a bag, an electronic book reader, and a bottle of gin on March 21. He activated theft-tracking software he had installed, which began sending photos taken by the computer’s built-in camera of the unauthorised user three days later.”

**This is a ‘must-have’ accessory !!**

## Donny Dog Gets Chop After Photo Session

*“The mother, a mascot of Doncaster Rovers Football Club, has been sacked after she ‘disgraced the team’ by posing in her lingerie in a newspaper photoshoot. Mother-of-three Tracy Chandler said she received an email from the Championship team telling her that her services were no longer required. The hairdresser has said she is going to fight to get her job as Donny Dog back despite being pictured in provocative underwear. Over the last three years she has appeared as a mascot at the club’s Keepmoat Stadium and believes she is the only female in the top four divisions of English football to have such a job. The 40-year-old stressed that it was ‘tastefully done’ and all the proceeds were donated to the NSPCC. She said that she was disgusted by what has happened to her. ‘I’ve raised a lot of money for charity. I’ve brought Donny Dog out of hiding,’ she added. ‘I’m the one who pushed him into the charities.’”*



“A retired Royal Navy officer used a tiny piece of sweetcorn as bait on a fishing trip – and landed an absolute monster weighing more than 260lbs. David Kent, 54, was on holiday in Thailand with his wife Isabel when he decided to try his luck in a nearby lake. He didn’t have a single nibble all day and was about to pack up – when suddenly he had the bite of his life. After almost an hour battling the monster from the deep, Mr Kent landed a Giant Mekhong Catfish more than 7ft long. It was weighed in a giant sling and tipped the scales at 260lbs – a new World record.”





## Ominous End For A Boat named Titanic II



Most people would think twice before buying a boat named Titanic II. And sure enough, when Briton Mark Wilkinson took the 4.8-metre cabin cruiser out for its maiden voyage, it promptly sank. “If it wasn’t for the harbourmaster I would have gone down with the Titanic,” Wil-



kinson, who had to be fished out of the sea at West Bay harbour in Dorset, southern England, told local media. “It’s all a bit embarrassing and I got pretty fed up with people asking me if I had hit an iceberg.” After a successful fishing trip, things started to go wrong when he entered the harbour and the boat began taking on water. One eyewitness said: “It wasn’t a very big boat – I think an ice cube could have sunk it!

## Don’t Make Mine A Large One !!!

*Although Royal Wedding celebrations are over, patriotism is set to resume as The Queen marks sixty years on the throne with her Diamond Jubilee next year. Having a tippie or two might be the perfect way to rejoice but at £100,000, the John Walker & Sons limited edition bottle of whisky could tip the bank balance. The company, which holds a Royal Warrant, has announced it will be producing 60 crystal decanters of ‘Diamond Jubilee Blended Scotch Whisky’. Each bottle will feature a silver collar, hand set with a half carat diamond and an individually numbered silver seal. These will be offered by invitation only, for private sale at £100,000 each with a guaranteed profit of at least £1 million going to the Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust, the charitable arm of the Royal Warrant Holders Association. In keeping with the occasion the recipe has been created from a blend of whiskies distilled in 1952 and finished in an oak cask from The Queen’s Sandringham Estate.”*



Johnnie Walker’s Diamond Jubilee Blended Scotch Whisky

## Spot Of Camping Anyone ???

Hanging precariously in tents off a jaw-dropping 1200m vertical cliff face wouldn’t be most people’s idea of the perfect camping trip. But for these daredevil explorers, scaling cliffs and pitching tents at a height equivalent to more than 300 double decker buses is just a normal day at the office. Chasing the longest and hardest – and probably most dangerous – wall climb ever attempted, is a challenge they rise to every day. And as these stunning pictures taken by adventure photographer Gordon Wiltsie show, because the climbs can last for weeks they must set up tents on the edge of monster-sized cliff faces for much needed rest.





### **BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU**

Nanny has managed to turn us into a nation of snoopers and spies, if the story about Pauline Palmer is anything to go by.

Mrs Palmer, a Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator, for reasons best known to her decided to keep a close watch on her neighbour

Brian Collins for the last 3 years.

By the phrase "close watch", I really mean "close watch". Mrs Palmer kept a diary of Mr Collins's activities details included:

- his garden hot tub sessions with women
- when he had sex in his bedroom
- Mr Collins telling two lady friends to "get your tits out"
- details of women who stayed overnight
- the fact that male visitors wore baseball caps
- registration numbers of visitors' vehicles
- listening to conversations and noting them down etc.

The result of her actions?

She managed to persuade Colchester Council, her local council, to serve a noise abatement order on Mr Collins, even though his other neighbour said she had never heard any noise.

Mr Collins was fined £100 for breaching the noise abatement order, and faces a further bill of £365 in legal costs after failing in an appeal.

Most of us would conclude that Mrs Palmer was "taking things a bit far". Essex Police, on the other hand, think that she is great and awarded her "Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator of the Year" in January.

Welcome to Nanny Britain, where neighbours are encouraged by the police and state to spy on each other.

Ghastly!

Nanny has yet again shown her true colours with regard to her petty mindedness and jobsworth attitude towards her subjects. Ian Norfolk made the mistake of trying to park his car in Hull some 14 months ago, that was the start of a very sorry tale indeed.

When Mr Norfolk parked his car (perfectly legally) he bought a parking ticket, and went to visit his mum. On his return imagine his surprise to see that, despite the fact the parking ticket had one hour left to run, a traffic warden was in the process of issuing him a ticket.

What the ..... ??????

Mr Norfolk explained to the warden that he still had an hour left, the warden agreed and admitted that she had made a mistake.

Problem sorted?

Erm...no, not quite!

In Nanny's world nothing is ever so simple; because the warden had officially issued the ticket, the warden told Mr Norfolk he would have to appeal.

Some 14 months on, having taken on Hull City Council and endured threats from bailiffs (who extorted £434.36 from Mr Norfolk and pushed him into mortgage arrears), he has finally managed to get the council to admit that they were wrong and have offered to pay a refund.

Councils have become the enemy of the people!



A drunk woman, stark naked, jumped into a taxi. The Indian driver opened his eyes wide and stared at the woman. He made no attempt to start the Cab. "What's wrong with you Luv, haven't you ever seen a naked woman before?" "I'll not be staring at you lady, I am telling you, that would not be proper, where I am coming from". "Well if you're not bloody staring at me Luvvie, what are you doing then?" "Well, I am looking and looking, and I am thinking to myself, where is this lady keeping the money to be paying me with."



## **A Case Of Overkill**

Football, as Septic Bladder and various superinjunction wielding players know, can be ruinous with regard to one's personal reputation. Sadly, Tom Clarke (15) recently found this out as well.



Tom was recently having a kickabout with his cousin in his garden in Chalgrove. Can you guess what happened next? Yes, that's right, the ball went through a neighbour's greenhouse. Being a teenager, Tom legged it. Now at this stage, were people behaving in a reasonably "human" way, one would have assumed that at some stage an angry neighbour would have appeared at the front door demanding an apology and restitution etc.

This of course is Nanny Britain and therefore, for reasons that are not clear (it could be that there is ongoing friction between the neighbours), the neighbour reported the incident to the police. One therefore might assume that a friendly copper would have turned up and "had a word", thus defusing the situation.

Erm...no, not quite!  
Can you guess what happened next?

Yes, that's right, a police patrol car, two officers and the Thames Valley police helicopter (complete with thermal imaging cameras) were dispatched. Unsurprisingly, with all these resources, officers did manage to track Tom down.

What did they then do?

Tick him off, have a word with his dad?  
No, they told Tom that the incident had been recorded as criminal damage and could be revealed to future employers carrying out record checks.

## 

### Take the Challenge

*Every month we will have a new challenge!*

*1 Person has 30 min to finish the challenge. If you can finish you get it FREE if not pay the full price 595 Baht.*



*The Tower of Terror a huge 4 patty cheese burger with all the trimmings and a mountain of fries*

*Finish and get your photo on the "wall of fame" on our website.*

*Do you have the courage to take the challenge?*



Erm...am I being terribly soft here, is this not an overreaction to a simple accident?  
It never happened like this when Dennis The Menace trashed his neighbour's greenhouse!

## Brave Cops Tackle Ornamental Crocodile

They don't get many alligators in the suburbs of land-locked Kansas City, but if and when they do the local police like to think they can handle it. Officers responding to a rare sighting in the suburb of Independence, Missouri, left nothing to chance. Seeing the alligator's head lurking menacingly in the weeds leading down to a pond they fired off one shot with perfect precision. Noting that the beast hadn't moved, they fired again. When they saw the bullet bounce off the gator's head they realised that they were tackling a concrete lawn ornament. A Independence police spokesman said, in defence of the officers, it was growing dark when the incident occurred."



## Excessive Cleavage Ban



### Ooh Err Missus!

I am amused to read that, in this age of cut backs in the health service, Nanny's chums in East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust have focused in on a very important matter and have issued an edict wrt uniforms.

Doctors and nurses now face disciplinary action if they wear clothes that expose their

"midriff" or "excessive cleavage".

It seems that some patients have been complaining about cleavages and the like. The Trust will carry out "audits" of uniforms being worn in its region.

Oh, and as an amusing aside, staff are also advised to "*consider the lingering effects*" of cigarette smoke on their breath and clothing.

**Hahahahaha!!!!**

I thought health staff would know better than to smoke, considering how Nanny and her health staff are always telling us that it is so dangerous.

## Scene Around Pattaya



Friday lunch for The League of Old Drunks at Canterbury Tales Café



Walking Street -- where else !!!!



Gentleman's Advertising Carriage



Miss Hard Rock 2011 - Pattaya

Call us: 086 5754 966 (Mobile)  
038 720 946 (Land line)

[www.canterburytalescafe.com](http://www.canterburytalescafe.com)

CANTERBURYTALES  
CAFE



## Ramblings From Pattaya And The Kingdom

It is quite amazing how time flies. My last Travelogue was posted in March and it is June already. Following Dean and Deb's excellent wedding in late Feb, that part of Thailand suffered catastrophic floods with many deaths and mudslides. Suratthani and Krabi were most affected. We missed the disaster by a couple of weeks !!

During March we had four days in Bkk while Eat took exams at Ramkhamhaeng Uni. Subjects: Political Science and Mass Communication. Tough stuff but the girl is up to it !! We had a superb lunch at Aubergine which is located at Saladaeng 1/1. Highly recommended for any visitors to the Silom side of Bangkok. As usual, the boutique hotel Silom Serene were as efficient as usual and the Ormthong restaurant serves good Thai food.



Rob Hall appeared in Pattaya at the end of March for a few days, and we agreed for him to come up to Chiang Mai by car with us on April 1st. Time for the annual Sixes again ! We changed hotel this year having secured a very attractive deal at the Royal Princess on Chang Klan road (Night Bazaar). As always the cricket went well and the weather good. The Gymkhana Club provided its usual high standard cuisine and old friends got together for the umpteenth time, including another excellent Wombat AGM at the Italian, Arcoba Leno. The winners this year were the young, talented Aussie side Redlands Tigers. They obviously need to spend more time in the nightclubs!! Our Hotel was excellent and I would stay there again in years to come.



Returning to Pattaya a day before Songkhran started, the weather changed and heavy rain fell around the Kingdom. Had a disaster at home when I tripped over the rebar rail the gate runs along. Clumsy indeed and was very lucky not break an arm. Pictures are posted on Facebook showing my arm and shiner !! Nine weeks later and all is back to normal.



For all its mediocre press, Pattaya does have some excellent restaurants. One of the best is the News Café owned and run by Per Andersson. The menu is varied and their steaks are first class. Generally quiet with tables inside and out, the Sunday Buffet is always popular. David Pearce ( and wife Sue) treated us to lunch after his return from Blighty. David is the owner and founder of Easy Panel - a factory involved in the production of low cost concrete panels for buildings. Despite the machinery being Chinese made and some communications problems, it looks a good bet with all the weather, earthquakes and tsunamis around the world at present.

Over time, we have started a Gentlemen's Lunch Club. The venue is Canterbury Tales on Soi Chaiyapoon at the Soi Buakhao end. We meet on Fridays around 01.30pm and talk endless rubbish for a few hours. Our genial host is ex-gamekeeper Dave Collier. His menu is basic fodder with huge portions (ideal for the location !!). His staff operate about 18 rooms at very reasonable prices. Check out his website at: [www.canterburytalescafe.com](http://www.canterburytalescafe.com) As he only has a café licence, it is advisable to bring anything stronger than beer. Recent visitors have included Mick Whitrod, Dave Gill, Peter Dornan and mates, Mark Crosthwaite-Eyres, and regulars JB, Dave Marriott and Richard 'Bicycle' Wyatt. Being a second-hand bookshop, there is always plenty to talk about !!



Pattaya Auction House called me to say they were looking to move a Honda Foreman 500cc quad bike. Having negotiated a very good price, the beast is now residing at Ponthep 3/1. Ideal to get around the area, the law about driving on the main road is very slack and no number plates or registration is required.



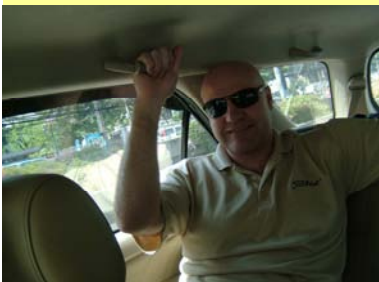
It is treated like a golf buggy which is considered transport for invalids !!! Amazing !! Now with mirrors and indicator lights, it is much safer than before. Tenpin bowling has been shelved temporarily and handgun shooting has taken over. Whether it is due to the spate of burglaries in the area or that the shooting school is just around the corner, I'm not sure.



Anyway, she is very good at it and the instructors were rightly impressed. Starting with a Beretta .22 LR, she is hoping to move onto a 9 mm or .357 calibre.

Silverlake is an area given over to wine growing on the road to Sattahip. The restaurant is predominantly Italian with a wide menu selection. Although not cheap, it is a pleasant location with very good views. I had a bottle of Granmonté Sakuna Rosé which was delicious. The Granmonte winery is from the Korat area and has been established for many years. Silverlake still

have a long way to go before their wines become accepted.



Some Recent Photos In Various Locations