

# Bad Education

**BANGKOK** (News-Leader) Southeast Asian nations with autocratic tendencies hate drugs. So as part of Thailand's "social order" campaign, dozens of police officers raided a trendy late-night bar to randomly sample its patrons for drug use. To this end, the officers passed out 400 plastic cups to ensure none of the customers had time to cheat. No one involved was particularly phased by the raid. Said the bar's manager, "[It's] pretty much an annual event. It's a little bit like Christmas." Well, Christmas at my house at any rate.

**SLOVAKIA** (Ananova) Alcohol has made many a man do things he regrets—witness the Beta brother's perennial plight of waking up next to the townie who had looked so good under cover of night and Dubra. But sometimes alcohol is a lifesaver—literally. Slovakian Richard Kral, trapped in his car in the Tatra Mountains by the huge blizzards that recently blanketed Europe, drank and urinated his way out of his predicament. Since his vehicle was luckily stocked with 60 half-litre bottles of beer, the Slovak was able to perform a guzzle-and-pee routine to melt the snow surrounding his car. Rescue teams found Kral, unsurprisingly, drunk and staggering along the road.

**LONDON** (Sun) Taking a cruise is always an adventure. Sometimes tragedy strikes—armed Palestinian militants hijack and murder passengers. Other times, good ol' Norwalk Virus does the trick. But occasionally, marvelous joy ensues—in the form of all the liquor you can drink. The liner *Aurora*, dead in the water because of engine trouble, floated off the coast of Southampton for twelve days, and to make it up to the passengers all food and drink were on the house. The thirsty passengers quaffed 12,626 bottles of wine and Champagne, 12,843 beers, 1,246 bottles of spirits, and around 9,800 cocktails. "It made you ashamed to be British," one woman despairingly concluded—although a certain *Yale Record* Chairman might disagree with that assessment.



**MILWAUKEE** (AP) American youth are notoriously poorly educated, frequently falling to other industrialized nations in international competitions. And now, some Americans are turning to the courts to keep their children stupid: A Wisconsin man and his seventeen-year-old son filed suit in Milwaukee County Circuit Court seeking to end summer homework in the Badger State forever. Peer Larson, now a high school junior, claimed that his summer pre-calculus homework distracted him from his job as a camp counselor and gave him "a lot of undue stress." Larson and his son set out to test their novel theory that grossly uneducated people can go succeed in life by representing themselves in court. Though experts universally predict the suit will be dismissed on grounds of frivolity, what do they know? All those years of education probably warped their minds. God bless America.

**LOS ANGELES** (LA Times) Bigotry can take many forms, but rarely has it been located in a woman's bikini top. In a movement that may for the first and last time unite strident feminists and red-blooded American males, a Ventura County public defender, Liana Johnsson, is crusading for California's repeal of the indecent exposure law. "At some point, men's breasts became liberated and women's didn't," Johnsson argued, showing a humorous compilation of bare-bosomed obese men to prove her point. The governor has not proclaimed where he stands on the issue (though his fondness for female breasts is well known), but it is certainly only a matter of time until women shake off the shackles of oppression and clothing. "I have a dream that topless women and men will stand together on the red hills of Georgia..." ☹

**STUTTGART** (Deutsche Welle) While on this side of the ocean Americans have stuck to demanding sugary beverages and salty snacks from their vending machines, Europeans are elevating vended products to whole new levels. Ulrike Brucher, a German businesswoman, recently unveiled the "Thong-o-mat," a machine placed in ladies' rooms at Stuttgart nightspots that dispenses sexy black underwear in sizes small, medium, and large. The machines have reportedly surged in popularity as their reputation grows—which begs the question of why the women frequenting these bars don't just wear thongs in the first place.

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