

The Phuket Gazette

Volume 11 Issue 35

News Desk - Tel: 076-236555

August 28 - September 3, 2004

Daily news at www.phuketgazette.net

20 Baht

The Gazette is published
in association with

The Nation

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Ease rules for foreigners, Gov urges Bangkok

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn & Dhirarat Boonkongsan

PHUKET CITY: Phuket Governor Udomsak Usawarangkura has told Deputy Prime Minister Suwat Liptapanlop that Bangkok will need to make life easier for foreigners if Phuket is ever to develop into the "international city" envisioned by the government.

"Yesterday, I met with DPM Suwat to discuss preparations for the arrival of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra next week," he told the *Gazette* on August 20.

"I told him that if the government really wants Phuket to attract international investment, then it will have to make it easier for foreigners to get visas, work permits and extensions of stay."

The Governor, who recently returned from a trip to the US, said Immigration, the Labor Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should upgrade their procedures and services to international standard.

"The government departments that deal with foreigners are all still using the same old systems. When investors arrive, they first have to go to Immigration, then to another agency for a work permit. It's too complicated," he said.

Gov Udomsak said that DPM Suwat made no commitment, but said he would discuss the matter with the departments concerned.

Meanwhile, the Phuket Im-



Gov Udomsak: 'If the government really wants Phuket to attract international investment, then it will have to make it easier for foreigners to get visas, work permits and extensions of stay.'

migration Office has clarified the rules governing deposits foreigners must keep in bank accounts in order to qualify for permit-to-stay extensions on the basis of marriage or retirement status.

Specifically, foreigners do not need to maintain a minimum balance in their bank accounts, Pol Capt Krissarat Nuesen, Deputy Inspector of the Phuket Provincial Immigration Office, said.

"Foreigners applying for a

one-year permit to stay based on marriage or retirement do not have to freeze the money in their accounts," explained. "They just need to show us proof of their normal income and expenses and prove that they can support themselves in Thailand to a good standard of living."

"Some foreigners have misunderstood the minimum balance requirement as meaning they would no longer be able to

Continued on page 2

Briton held for murder of girlfriend



Murder victim Jantra Weangta.

By Siripansa Somboon

CHALONG: Briton Michael John Taylor, 40, has been arrested on a charge of murdering his girlfriend on August 17. He is being held in custody in Phuket Provincial Prison.

Police say they have statements from eight people confirming their belief that Taylor, known locally as "Mick the Pom", murdered 27-year-old Jantra Weangta at the home they shared in Chalong.

Pol Maj Jessada Sangsuee, an inspector at Chalong Police Station, told the *Gazette*, "We have eight statements that suggest Mr Taylor is the murderer. The court issued an arrest warrant, but he still denies the accusation."

Maj Jessada said that Taylor claims that, around the time K. Jantra is estimated to have been killed, he was drinking at the Moonlight Bar in Karon and then having sex on the beach with a *katoey*, 21-year-old Fonnoi Khonsau.

Taylor asserts that he found K. Jantra dead on the bed when he and K. Fonnoi went to the house.

K. Jantra died from a single stab wound to the heart. Nearby, police found a large Bowie knife and a pair of bloodstained trousers.

Immigration clarifies bank deposit regulations

From page 1

use their own money. In fact, Immigration does not require that funds be kept in the bank at all times. It does, however, require that foreigners be prepared to prove their financial status is sound at any time we decide to check on them.

"It's not that we won't let them take money out of their account to pay normal living expenses, but the required balance should be shown properly and for a sufficient period of time.

"There have been many cases in which bank accounts were almost empty just a few days after they showed the minimum required balance.

"We suspect [that in these cases] people were borrowing money from friends so that they could meet the requirement on the day when we checked, then returning the money as soon as that had been accomplished. That is wrong," he said.

To be granted a one-year extension of permit-to-stay, any male foreigner applying on the basis of being married to a Thai must show a minimum balance of 400,000 baht. (There is no such requirement for foreign women married to Thais.) Those with retired status must show double this amount.

Capt Krissarat added that proof of guaranteed monthly income paid into a Thai bank account in the applicant's name could also be used to prove that the applicant is financially sound. In this case the figures are 40,000 baht or 65,000 baht a month, respectively.

Editorial: page 20

Figures show property business is soaring

By Gategeo Phetsawang

PHUKET: Figures indicating how the property industry in Phuket is booming were presented this week by the Phuket Real Estate Club (PREC).

At a conference on the southern Thai economy, held at the Royal Phuket City Hotel on August 23, PREC Secretary Thanit Prateepnathalang said that between January and July this year, property companies applied for permission to build 43 new developments. Of these, 28 had so far been approved.

The investment in individual developments ranges from 250 million to 700 million baht, he said, noting that most are aimed at European or American buyers.

Last year, according to figures from the Phuket Provincial



Worrying about a bubble: Thanit Prateepnathalang.

Land Office (PPLO), 10 property companies were granted permission for developments.

"The government's decision [two years ago] to reduce taxes and fees on property investment to 0.01% has made the property business grow rapidly,

especially in Phuket," said K. Thanit. "About 40% of investment in Phuket is in real estate."

Another indicator of the property boom supplied by K. Thanit was the amount of tax collected by the PPLO. In 2003 the figure was about 100 million baht, he said, whereas in the first three months of this year alone, a massive 456 million baht in taxes was paid to the PPLO.

He said, "Land on Phuket is one-fifth the price of land in Singapore, but we expect it to increase to half the Singapore price. It currently sells for [as much as] 20 million baht per rai.

"The trend for real estate investment is still upward, but I worry that it may be growing too rapidly, and may result in another bubble crisis [like in 1997]," he added.

More top comedians for Phuket

KOH KAEW: Three top stand-up comedians from the London comedy circuit will be in Phuket on September 15 to entertain and embarrass punters at The Watermark bar and restaurant, at the Boat Lagoon. The show will start at 9 pm.

First on stage will be comedian and magician John Lenahan, whom the UK daily newspaper, the *Guardian*, hailed as "the mascot of a magical renaissance".

Mr Lenahan, an American from Philadelphia who now lives and works in the UK, has performed all over the world and with stars including Jack Dee, Victoria Wood, Lenny Henry and Michael Ball. He is currently starring in the new prime-time

BBC 1 show *Secrets of Magic*, and his BBC 2 series, *Stuff The White Rabbit*, has achieved record ratings for its time slot.

Also on stage will be Milton Jones, winner of the Perrier Best Newcomer award and the 1996 Edinburgh Festival comedy award for his first solo show. His first radio series, *The Very World of Milton Jones* for BBC Radio, aired in 1998-9. A follow-up series, *The House Of Milton Jones*, was nominated for British Com-

edy Awards and won a Sony Radio Award.

Newcastle comedian Mickey Hutton, known for roles in UK TV shows *Crocodile Shoes* and *Spender*, will wrap up the evening.

Tickets cost 1,700 baht apiece if booked before September 3, and 1,900 baht thereafter. A three-course dinner for 850 baht will also be available.

For more information, call 076-239730.

OrBorJor appeals for volunteer teachers

PHUKET: The Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) has launched a "brains trust" to tackle a shortage of teachers in the island's schools.

The schools are at least 304 teachers short, with no fewer than 46 schools lacking at least one teacher.

Now the *OrBorJor* is appealing to retired teachers to volunteer to join the "brains trust" and help to fill the gaps.

Already, 19 ex-teachers

have agreed to support the trust, but the *OrBorJor* hopes to increase that number to 70.

Announcing the creation of the trust, *OrBorJor* President Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr said, "We want to invite senior teachers to join the 'Phuket Brains Trust' project."

Altogether, 46 out of 50 schools which responded to a survey reported a shortage of teachers, in a total of eight subjects.

The *OrBorJor* says that 40

teachers are needed to teach mathematics, 30 for science, 50 for foreign languages and 34 for Thai language, 35 for health education, 23 for social studies, 47 for business and 45 for art.

— Siripansa Somboon

Makro opens for business

PHUKET CITY: Just four months after construction began, the island's latest superstore, Makro, was due to open on August 27.

The store, off Wichit Songkram Rd, is the cash-and-carry wholesale giant's 27th branch in Thailand.

Products for sale will include fresh and frozen food, beverages, snacks, electrical goods, stationery, office automation equipment and household products.

Makro's stated strategy is to sell good-quality low-price wholesale products to people with businesses, who must first sign up as "members".

The store will be open every day from 6 am to 10 pm.

Anchalee slams plan to extend of runway

PHUKET CITY: Plans by the Airports Authority of Thailand (AAT) to extend the 3,000-meter runway at Phuket International Airport by 700m came under fire from Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr, President of the Phuket Provincial Organization at a meeting on August 24 at The Metropole.

The extension is deemed necessary by the AAT to allow fully-laden Boeing 747-400 airliners – used extensively on routes to and from Europe – to take off.

However, K. Anchalee said that Phuket's expanding tourist markets are in Asia rather than in Europe. Short-to-medium haul aircraft, which require shorter runways, are generally used on these routes, she said, adding "For this reason, a 3,700-m runway is not necessary."

K. Anchalee said that the existing commercial air traffic is already disruptive for local communities, mostly Muslim, whose prayer times, she said, are often disturbed by the sound of jet engines overhead.

K. Anchalee suggest that a compromise 300-m extension could be built, up to the current boundary of the airport. If a 3,700-m runway proves vital, she said, then a further 400-m extension could be built out into the Andaman Sea. — Kamol Pirat

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June Bahts

Policeman beaten into coma, attacker kills self

By Kamol Pirat

PATONG: A police sergeant from Kathu ended up in a coma in Bangkok Phuket Hospital after a severe beating by two men, one of whom subsequently shot himself with the sergeant's gun.

The beating took place at 5:30 am on August 22 at a noodle shop in Nanai Rd. Reconstructing events, investigators found that Pol Sgt Pramual Thongaugorn, who was off-duty, went to the shop to eat.

Already in the shop were Wisanu Bumlungsak, 26, from Bangkok, and an-

other man from Nakhon Sri Thammarat, so far known only by his nickname, "Jorm". Both worked at the My Way Pub in Soi Paradise.

There was already bad blood between the two men and Sgt Pramual, said Pol Lt Col Chawalit Niemwadee of Kathu Police Station. "When Sgt Pramual came into the shop the two started shouting at him, making other diners in the shop nervous. Sgt Pramual told them to stop shouting and asked them to calm down."

Far from calming down, the two started beating the sergeant about the head

with a large Coca-Cola bottle and a piece of wood until he fell unconscious to the floor.

Wisanu grabbed Sgt Pramual's handgun and the two climbed on their motorcycles and fled.

Police received a tip that Wisanu was living in Kebsap Village on Sai Nam Yen Rd. As they approached the house they could see him packing, but when he spotted the approaching officers he ducked out of sight.

Ordered to surrender, he opened fire on the police with Sgt Pramual's gun, fir-

ing a fusillade of seven shots, all of which missed. Police blockaded the home for an hour before hearing Wisanu shout that he was going to kill himself. This was followed by a single shot.

Entering the house, police found Wisanu lying on the floor with a hole clean through his head. He is believed to have died instantly.

The other man, "Jorm", is believed to have fled from Phuket. Police are now trying to find and arrest him.

At the time of going to press Sgt Pramual was still in a coma.

No terrorists in Phuket, says Vice-Governor

PHUKET: Phuket is free of terrorists, Vice-Governor Pongpow Ketthong asserted at a recent anti-terrorism seminar at the Royal Phuket City Hotel.

V/Gov Pongpow told his audience of officials that the fact that the gathering was taking place did not mean there were terrorists in Phuket, but it was important to take steps to reduce the chances of terrorist activity occurring on the island.

He said, "I can confirm that Phuket does not have terrorists. But the government has asked all provinces to draw up an anti-terrorism plan and to practice emergency procedures."

A chain of command has been established among the various agencies involved, such as the police and provincial officials, said V/Gov Pongpow.

But he stressed that he did not believe Phuket was a terrorist target. "We want to be prepared, just in case there is an attack, and this plan could also be used in the event of a non-terrorist emergency such as a fire or a



V/Gov Pongpow: 'We want to be prepared.'

natural disaster that affects many people."

All the same, the police continue to work toward minimizing the threat from terrorists, by keeping a close eye on tourist hot-spots, said V/Gov Pongpow.

V/Gov Pongpow told the seminar he would like an anti-terrorism fund to be established, to raise money for "action" to reduce the chances of a terrorist attack. He did not say what this action should be. — **Kamol Pirat**

Wanted policeman surrenders

PHUKET: Pol Cpl Nanthawat Thongwanbua, the policeman alleged to have murdered his golf-caddy girlfriend, has surrendered to his colleagues at Tung Tong Police Station.

Pol Maj Ampholwathana Saengruang, inspector of Tung Tong Police Station, said Nanthawat surrendered on August 19

and was brought before the court on August 20.

Nanthawat is alleged to have shot his girlfriend, Supanee Yongtong, a caddy at the Loch Palm Golf Course, on the night of August 8.

Police had set a deadline of August 20 for him to turn himself in.

'Don't ruin your future' warning to Khao Lak

By Gategeo Phetsawang

PHUKET CITY: Tourists may turn their backs on Khao Lak if the rapid development there continues, the Deputy Director of the local Tourism Authority of Thailand office has warned, while oversupply of accommodation in Phuket is leaving nearly half the island's hotel rooms lying empty.

Napasorn Kakai told a conference on the southern economy at the Royal Phuket City Hotel on August 23 that European tourists were going to Khao Lak rather than Phuket because Phuket "isn't as peaceful as it was".

But, said K. Napasorn, "If Khao Lak becomes like Phuket, where will the tourists go? They will probably go to other countries instead."

She warned of an "oversup-

ply" of facilities in Khao Lak, where the tourist season is just four months long.

In Phuket, meanwhile, just 57% of the island's 31,000 rooms – in 500 hotels – are occupied at any one time, she said.

"This is the oversupply situation that is happening in Phuket," said K. Napasorn. As a result, she said, she expects investment in large hotels in Phuket to dwindle.

Despite her warning, K. Napasorn noted that Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi make an important contribution to the economy of Thailand, because of the money they attract through tourism.

Four million people visited the three Andaman provinces last year. Because of the proliferation of low-cost airlines in the region, and the rise in the number of

flights serving the island, an increasing number of these visitors are Asian tourists.

Asian tourists come to Phuket for an average of five days, she said, usually for shopping. Western tourists tend to stay longer and spend more money.

Between January and July this year 2.6 million passengers arrived at Phuket International Airport, according to K. Napasorn.

She said, "Three hundred flights from around the world land in Phuket every week. In the coming tourist season, from November to February, we will have more flights from Germany, Sweden and Russia, mostly charter flights."

"In addition, Korean Air is upgrading its service to Phuket from chartered flights to a scheduled service."

Phummisak set to turn off free water

PHUKET CITY: The era of free water supply will come to an end soon for Phuket City Municipality as the owner of tin mines from which the water comes begins charging for it.

In the past, much of the city's water was supplied free of charge from tin mines controlled by former mayor Phummisak Hongyok.

K. Phummisak, whose firm, Anuphas & Sons, is developing the 1,510-rai Chao Fah City

project, told the *Gazette* on August 24 that he is still supplying about two-thirds of municipal water from two tin mines, free of charge.

The two mines have a total storage capacities of 2 million and 3 million cubic meters respectively.

But water from the smaller mine will be needed for the Chao Fah City project, he said.

The larger mine will continue to supply the City, but

Anuphas & Sons will begin charging the city 2 baht a cubic meter for water around May next year.

"This will allow Phuket City to stand on its own," said the former mayor.

Asked about the ongoing government investigation into former tin mine land, K. Phummisak said he didn't know anything about it and that his tin mine land "doesn't have any problems".

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Property report

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Queer News

Less than diplomatic

BANGKOK: A former security guard at the Israeli Embassy in Bangkok was arrested on August 8 for impersonating a police officer and for illegal possession of a firearm, police said.

Following reports of gunfire at 5 am, two police officers from the Makkasan Police station went to the scene and found Theerapong Sawaiprekon, 30, in a police uniform.

The former security guard told police that he was an officer at Hua Mark Police Station, then leapt on his bike and sped off after a group of motorcycle racers, shooting his gun into the air.

Noting that this was not standard procedure, the officers took him to the station for questioning, where he explained that he dressed as a police officer as a way to avoid questions from his wife. He told her he had to go on duty, but then sneaked off to see his mistress.

Theerapong used to work as a security guard at the Israeli Embassy but resigned and had been unemployed ever since. He had also been a student at a police training school, but was expelled because he had a habit of firing his gun in the air.

The Makkasan area has a distinguished history of police impersonators. Back in November 1994, another man was arrested in the area for dressing like a cop.

Using a stolen uniform and other equipment stolen piece-by-piece from police boxes, he set up his own extortion point and spent two months posing as a traffic cop, extorting money from motorists. The motorists were none the wiser, and there were no reports of anything out of the usual. He was finally caught out when a senior officer passed him on an inspection tour and he saluted his "superior" – with his left hand. *Source: The Nation, Caderbooks.com*

Repellent behavior

CHERNG TALAY: A 17-year-old boy high on a cocktail of cola and crushed mosquito-repellent coils attacked a Buddhist nun with a meat cleaver in her quarters on the morning of August 19.

The nun received 205 stitches for 16 wounds to her head and upper body and was last reported to be in a "worrisome" condition at Wachira Phuket Hospital.

The attacker, a youth with Dutch and Thai parentage, was arrested at his home at 5:20 pm the same day for the attack at Bang Tao Temple. He confessed to the attempted murder of 62-year-old Cheun Sooksawat and told police that he had stayed up all night with friends the night before grinding up mosquito coils, mixing them with cola, and drinking the concoction in order to get high.

Unable to sleep, he headed off to the nearby temple, meat cleaver in hand. Finding himself thirsty, he entered the nun's quarters looking for water. Once inside, he saw an envelope filled with money, and picked it up. As he left, the nun confronted him, blocking his exit and pointing a broomstick at his face. The youth then slashed the nun until she fell to the ground, covered in blood.

Source: Siang Tai

PARADISE

Compared with living in a bustling metropolis, Phuket scores high. It remains a magnet for those seeking new opportunities in pleasant surroundings and with a friendly local population. Accommodation and other day-to-day expenses are relatively low for most foreigners. Utopia? Not for everyone.

"All I did was exchange one set of stresses for another," says "Michael" a 40-something former financier from London.

"I was working in London in the early '90s, and stress was all around me. There was plenty of money to be made, but I had a young family and wanted to spend time with them."

Michael says that he left his job and turned one of his interests, food, into a new career.

"I went into partnership in a catering business, which was fairly successful. But my marriage broke up. We sold the company and I then had the chance to travel. I worked in Europe and then Asia, before coming to Phuket a couple of years ago."

"The pace of life, new acquaintances and parties were all great to begin with, but the workload I and my colleagues had was immense. I was expected to work from 7 am or so until 10 pm or later most days and I ended up going in seven days a week."

"It was just too much. Perhaps I was naïve; I came to Phuket to both work and relax. But I couldn't relax. I'd been a social smoker and drinker, but I was soon smoking a packet of cigarettes a day, having a glass of wine with my lunch and

Although pitched as an island paradise, Phuket can be a stressful place to live for many residents, both Thai and foreign. **Andy Johnstone and Dhirarat Boonkongsan** report on the causes of stress and how some people deal with it.

drinking to excess as soon as I got home, whatever time of night.

"After a while, I realized that booze and cigarettes were my way of dealing with stress. I suppose I was 'medicating' myself. I tried going to a local hospital for help. Drinking and smoking were not the real problems, stress was."

But the doctor I saw wasn't really interested in helping me. Or not able to. He gave me a prescription for antidepressants and, because I was experiencing sexual problems, Viagra, even before I had finished describing how I felt.

"Phuket is a friendly place on the face of it, but relationships with people here tend to be superficial. There are few people you can actually talk to. I realized that I was going over the top and cut back on my drinking. I am moving back to England in a couple of months. At least there is a support network there."

Michael's story is not unique. Phuket may be booming, but beneath the apparent surface of amiability lurks intense competition.

Australian-born "Louise", 41, tells a similar story:

"I had been on holiday in Phuket quite a few times, including an extended break when I trained to become a dive instruc-

tor. I then began working the high seasons here in 1998 or so, and relocated here in 2001.

"I guess that I had begun to see the place change a little from those early years; more tourists, sure, but also more dive companies competing for the customers."

Diving is – or was – one of my passions, so to begin with I thought, 'Hey, this is great. I can dive all I want and get paid for it.' It was work, but I enjoyed it. But soon the company began to be less profitable; we weren't getting as many customers as before.

"We had to go out every day just to keep profits up, and the after-diving parties – like the diving – became less of a pleasure and more of a necessity. Drinking and smoking – both cigarettes and joints – became something I started doing every night."

"Our 'free time' was spent worrying about the other dive operators and how their business was. It just got crazy."

I'm not a weak person – I trained as an emergency room nurse, so I'm used to stress. But I couldn't sleep and I knew that I was treating both my mind and body very badly. The owners didn't care how we felt. Why would they?

"I knew that the responsibility lay with me to sort out my problems. Who is going to recognize stress in you, or say that you're getting drunk or stoned too often, when they are doing exactly the same thing?"

"So I quit at the end of 2003 and began teaching English. It's fine, I enjoy it, but I feel a little disillusioned about Phuket. It's great if you're on holiday, but it can be a bitch to work here."

"The pressure put on workers here has made it lose a lot of its charm."

Stress is hardly limited to Phuket's foreign community.

Dr Wanchai Sattayawutthipong, Chief of the Phuket Public Health Office (PPHO) says, "Phuket has a more competitive pace of life than other provinces. It is therefore not surprising that the incidence of stress-related conditions [among Thais] is high here."

"The Public Health Ministry's Department of Mental Health has said that leading government hospitals in each province should have a center for emergency mental health cases. In Phuket the center is at Phuket Wachira Hospital."

'I get headaches. I cry for no reason. I snap at people. The slightest bit of stupid driving makes me want to explode. I have even driven after people if they have been unfortunate enough to annoy me on a bad day. I'm not like this normally; it is down to stress.'

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PRESSURE COOKER

Dr Wanchai explains that the center provides support and advice to people for whom stress becomes too much and suicide a temptation.

"Wachira Hospital is the only place in the Phuket, Krabi, Phang Nga and Ranong that has psychiatric support services. The shortage of mental health staff in Thailand is a problem. Phuket has one psychiatrist working in the [government] health system. In theory, the number should reflect the number of cases.

"The number of patients overwhelms the department's resources. The most recent survey suggests that 16% of [Thai] people in Phuket are 'stressed', approximately three times the Ministry of Health's expected figure.

Dr Wanchai advocates a more proactive approach when symptoms of stress arise. He also believes there should be public awareness campaigns encouraging people to take part in stress-reducing activities such as the "Yellow Shirt Power" group aerobics project.

But this idea draws scorn from "Ta", a 29-year-old public relations executive from Bangkok. "Doing group aerobics is not the solution to stress," she says.

"Part of the problem – particularly for my generation of Thais, the more urbanized, Westernized ones – is that it isn't 'the done thing' to show that you feel stressed.

"Everyone is so concerned with 'face' and remaining *jai yen* (cool-headed) at all times that Thais are sitting on more build-up of stress than people from other nationalities.

'We had to go out every day just to keep profits up, and the after-diving parties – like the diving – became less of a pleasure and more of a necessity. Drinking and smoking – both cigarettes and joints – became something I started doing every night.'



"There is always plenty of alcohol at the kind of parties I go to. It's just part of the routine. And if you get drunk, well, people just assume that you are having a good time when all you really want to do sometimes is to scream. But what is the alternative?"

Dr Wanchai admits, "For [many] stressed people, joining exercise clubs is not for them, but it remains a socially-acceptable way to release tension. People tend to avoid hospitals because they do not wish to be labeled as 'a person with a problem'.

Recognizing this reluctance, sports activities are encouraged to offer stressed people some form of release."

Others, too, are addressing the problem – not through stress management, but by confronting the root causes of stress head-on.

P a n o m w a n Wongwattanakij, a health promotion nurse

at Mission Hospital, recently attended a conference in Bangkok where the Public Health Ministry announced a new policy to train monks to counsel people in ways to deal with stress.

K. Panomwan says, "These spiritual leaders are part of their communities and are considered far more approachable and 'in touch' than hospital staff.

"What the Ministry is trying to do is to focus more on health promotion, on prevention rather than curing people after they get sick. We were also told that hospitals should host relaxation programs in cooperation with local businesses, to deal with stress in the workplace."

But stress in Phuket is hardly limited to its working population, said K. Panomwan,

quoting a recent survey that showed students were also under considerable stress to succeed.

Rhonda Ann Clarke, who runs the Movement Center in Chalong, sees symptoms of stress in many of her clients.

"The rosy image of Phuket is – some of the time – just that; an image. It's really hard to work on this island, or Thailand in general. Let's face it, all the bureaucracy that foreigners have to put up with just to get by and live here is frustrating in itself," she says.

Ms Clarke adds that support networks in Phuket tend to be restricted to one's immediate circle of friends and a few centers like hers, where people can exercise to stay fit physically, mentally and spiritually.

"A lot of foreigners come to Phuket after a divorce, or when they retire or after some other major life change. Others relocate with their employer. In some cases they are cut off from their families before they come here," she says.

"People, predominantly foreign men, can find it quite easy to go through a string of relationships here.

"While these relationships

can be very fulfilling on some levels, on others they are empty – a limited conversation, major cultural differences, often with little interest from either side to do much about it.

"Together with the usual, day-to-day stresses, this can lead to a lot of alienation and disillusionment among expats."

Ms Clarke says that many people visit her Movement Center to relax and learn coping techniques, such as breathing and relaxation.

"Some people are deciding that they don't want to rely on alcohol, cigarettes, coffee or other drugs, legal or otherwise, just to get through the day," she says.

The last word goes to Michael. "To anyone reading this ahead of moving to Phuket, or anyone who has recently moved here, I suggest that they keep their feet firmly on the ground and be realistic about the place.

"Most of us have to work damned hard to get by, even harder to be successful. It might not be an easy thing for a man – or anyone, foreign, Thai, male, female – to do.

"But don't keep too much bottled-up. If you try to keep too much in, the pressure can build up and it can half-kill you."

'The doctor I saw wasn't really interested in helping me. Or not able to. He gave me a prescription for antidepressants and, because I was experiencing sexual problems, Viagra, even before I had finished describing how I felt.'

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By Dhirarat
Boonkong sean

When the Central Festival complex opens on September 1, Phuket film buffs will be able to enjoy the latest films in seven state-of-the-art movie theaters which, the cinema owners promise, will be unlike anything the island has seen before.

The SFX Coliseum Cinema complex is a 200-million-baht joint venture between Bangkok-based SF Cinema City and local theater chain Coliseum, which operates the Coliseum Paradise Cineplex above Robinson's Ocean Mall and other movie theaters throughout the South.

SF Cinema City Marketing Director Supat Ngamwongpaiboon told a recent press conference at the Boat Lagoon's Watermark restaurant that the cinemas are being built to "world-class standard" and will feature film openings concurrently with the company's cinemas in Bangkok.

With the opening of SFX Coliseum, not only will Phuket cease to be a movie backwater – it will leapfrog to include the latest innovations and will also host southern Thailand's first film festival.

The three-day Asian Film Festival @ Phuket, starting December 10, will feature screenings of 25 films from Asia and across the globe, culminating in a gala awards ceremony on December 12.

Asian film stars and directors are expected to attend, along

with Hollywood studio executives who will be coming down from Bangkok after attending the CineAsia Production Industry Confab that runs from December 7 to 9. And for those too lazy to pull themselves off the beach to take in a screening, there will even be free "On The Beach" screenings, the event organizers say.

Those who do make it to the cinema will enjoy plush, com-

fortable chairs with plenty of legroom and not a single bad seat in the house. Seats will cost 100 baht for screening Monday to Thursday, and 120 baht Friday to Sunday.

The six standard cinemas will offer special VIP seating in the back row. But for true hedonists, there will also be one VIP cinema, where all seats will be 500 baht.

Food will be served, and

those who tire of the celluloid offering can simply recline their chairs all the way back to horizontal and fall asleep – as long as they are not too sensitive to noise, because the cinemas will also be equipped with a state-of-the-art "surround sound" system that will ensure that moviegoers will not only hear the soundtrack, they will feel it as well.

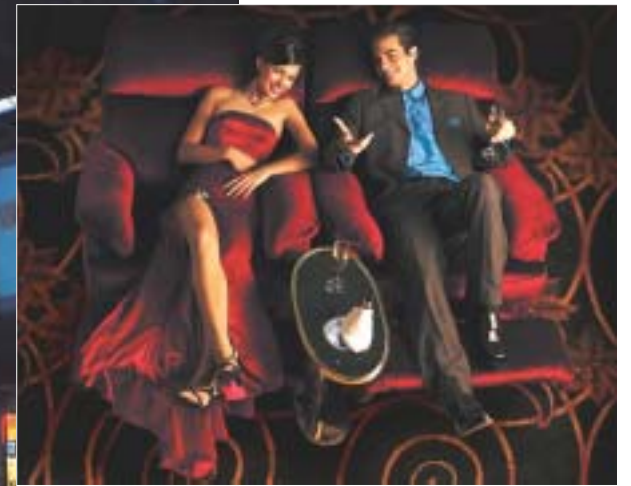
Given Phuket's emerging status as an international city, the

cinema owners also promise that a good percentage of the movies shown will be in original language soundtrack, with Thai subtitles.

This will be a real bonus for cinemagoers who find it distracting to hear the likes of Tom Cruise and Arnold Schwarzenegger speaking in perfect Bangkok Thai.

"D-Day" for opening is September 1, and the opening titles have already been announced: *The Village*, *The Bourne Supremacy*, *Fahrenheit 9/11* and the Thai film *X-Man*.

Tickets may be bought (but not reserved) on-line by credit card through the website www.sfcinemacity.com or at the box office.



The lobby of the new cineplex has been designed along the same impressive lines as SF complexes elsewhere (left), and one theater will be equipped entirely with VIP seats (above).

The best seats in the house: all of them

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Time to pay for our sins, says minister

The Excise Department will draw up measures to tax heavy fuel users and increase "sin" taxes, said Finance Minister Somkid Jatusripitak.

K. Somkid suggested fuel taxes increase progressively, according to the amount of fuel consumed, but he gave no specifics on how surcharges would be collected.

He said the department should also review taxes for all "unnecessary" goods, such as cigarettes, liquor and even the services offered by bathing massage parlors.

"People who cannot bathe themselves must pay heavier taxes. Even by the name you know those places are beyond necessity," he said.

Greed at the gate: Private travel agents have urged Deputy Prime Minister Suwat Liptapanlop to order Airports of Thailand (AOT) to cancel its planned hike in landing fees.

At the heart of their argument is that the planned 20% increase will make Thailand the most expensive destinations in Asia for aircraft.

"That could reduce the number of in-bound tourists, which would definitely hurt the tourism industry," said Chidchai Sakornbadee of the Association of Thai Travel Agents.

AOT, which operates Bangkok International Airport, plans to raise the landing fee by 20% in October and by a further 15% in 2005.

K. Chidchai said the increase would make Thailand's fee, at 87,565 baht per landing, higher than is charged by Singapore, Hong Kong or Malaysia.

Monk-key business: Phichit Provincial Court found the abbot of Bang Klan Temple in Pho Thale district guilty of libel, sentencing him to a three-month prison term suspended for one year and imposing an immediate fine of 10,000 baht.

Sukit Porntadawit, formerly *kamnan* of Tambon Bang Klan, filed a libel suit against Abbot Phra Kru Wisilaporn after the latter sent a letter to Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra last year.



BUDDHA MOBILE: Hoping to enlighten fellow residents of Nakhon Pathom on the merits of committing good deeds, Suchart Mahasittilarp has decorated his Toyota as a mobile shrine.

The self-professed medium for holy spirits said he was compelled to put his sedan through its colorful metamorphosis at the instruction of Quan Yin, the Buddhist Goddess of Compassion and Mercy.

The abbot accused Sukit of interfering in temple affairs and entrusting a key to the temple's safe to a close friend of his – shortly before 400,000 baht in cash was stolen from it.

Sukit told the court the letter ruined his reputation, while the abbot argued that he simply wanted to restore peace to the temple after putting up with Sukit's interference for two years.

Alien illness: Acute diarrhea was the number one cause of illness among foreigners in the country in the first seven months of this year, said Disease Control Department epidemiologist Pensri Chitnamsap.

K. Pensri said 5,133 of 12,456 foreign patients had suffered from acute diarrhea. Other common illnesses among foreigners were malaria, fever, pneumonia and food poisoning.

Most foreign patients were working immigrants and their families. Only 1,060 of the total foreign patients were tourists or those coming to seek medical services in Thailand.

K. Pensri said only 19 of 12,456 foreign patients died from an illness while in the country.

High-tension link: Chiang Rai Governor Narin Panitchakit wants to build a cable car connecting Thailand, Burma, Laos and China.

Built with private investment of about 180 million baht, the cable car would run through the Golden Triangle from Baan Sob Ruak in Thailand to the Paradise Hotel in Burma before spanning 1,400 meters across the Mekhong River to Laos via a midstream pylon on Chinese territory to maintain line tension.

Burma has already agreed to the project, but it still needs the green light from Laos and China. Gov Narin said the cable car, along with a four-nation Buddha statue that the province is building, would boost tourism.

The projects have already been approved by Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, and the budget is expected to be appropriated within five years.

A man, a plan: Natural Resources and Environment Minister Suwit Khunkitti has asked the Anti-Money Laundering Office (AMLO) to investigate 24 influential businessmen and government officials over suspicions they have been involved in forest encroachments.

Suwit said AMLO would investigate the incomes of the 24 suspects and check whether their income-tax payments were up to date.

He said their assets would be seized if the suspects were found to have encroached on national forest.

A total of 792 people were arrested in 2,517 cases of forest encroachment nationwide between March and July. Several were arrested in connection with more than one case, he said.

Suwit said 5,955 cubic meters of logs were seized and 26,159 rai of forest had been encroached on in the 2,517 cases.

Around the Nation news round-up is sourced from the pages of The Nation and Kom Chad Leuk newspapers.

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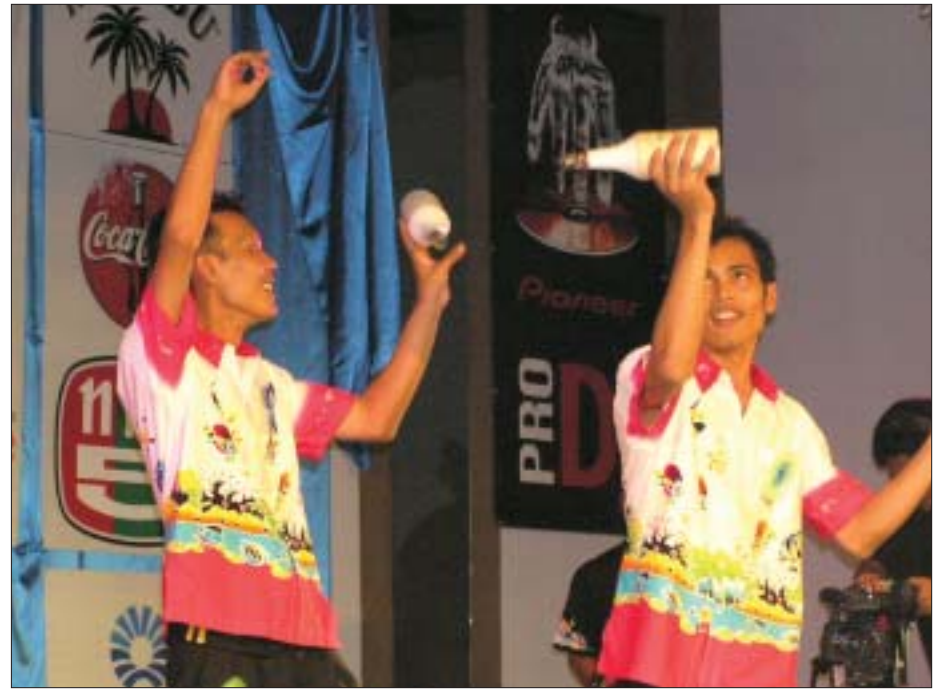
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This week



ASEAN ASSEMBLY: At the recent Asean Jaycee Senate Association meeting at the Pearl Hotel, in Phuket City, are, from left, Chanchai Chotikitsomboon, President of the Phuket Junior Chamber of Thailand; Asean Jaycee Senate Association (AJSA) Vice-President Tiradetch Petkul; AJSA President Victor Tay; and Jaycee Malaysia Senate Association President Prof Dr Wong Eng Kong.



SHAKEN, NOT STIRRED: Sawarach Boonma and Pongsak Komkam perform in the professional duo section of the Malibu Flair Bartending Contest at the recent Hotelex Exhibition F&B Show 2004 at the Royal Phuket City Hotel.



SWINGING TOUR: Suraphan Ngamjitsuksri (2nd from right), owner of Mission Hills Golf Resort & Spa, welcomes three visiting golfers from Dubai (from left) Andrew Barker, Brion Gopigian and Darren Cherry.



LOAD OF ABALONE: Sitthisak Muangsinsin (5th from left), Managing Director of Phuket Abalone Farm, with National Competitiveness Committee Director Wilai-porn Liwgasemsan (6th from left), and members of the press pose at his recent promotion of his farm at Koh Sireh.



TOP FLIGHT: Kasco Corporation President Toshihiko Kamada (center), Kasco Golf Thailand General Manager Ino Yuji (left) and Blue Canyon Country Club Chairman Sia Leng Yuen (3rd from right) congratulate winners of Flight A of the recent Kasco Golf Invitation Open 2004 at Blue Canyon.



FULL CIRCLE: Veerarat Pruksakit (red top), President of the Rotary Club of Phuket South, and other Rotary members pose at the Royal Phuket City Hotel, where they recently held a charity concert to raise money for the club's projects.



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A NEW LIFE COMES

Gazette: When did you come to Thailand?

Mr Robbins: I first came to Thailand in 1999 for a few weeks' holiday with my German girlfriend, Rita. We planned to do some island hopping.

At that time, I did not dive. I was a construction worker, and we had no intention of living in Thailand, or even of staying here for long.

We wanted to travel through the whole of Southeast Asia, but somehow we became involved in diving off Koh Tao, where I did my Open Water course. Still, it never crossed my mind that I would become a professional diver, let alone an underwater videographer.

Gazette: So how did your interest in diving develop, and how did you find your way to Khao Lak?

Mr Robbins: I did all the courses up to divemaster off Koh Tao, and the more I saw and learned about the underwater world, the more I wanted to become a professional diver. What could be better than combining a hobby and a job?

In 2000, we became a bit bored of Koh Tao and started to travel again. We wanted to dive the Similan islands and due to Khao Lak's proximity to the Similans, we came here.

I immediately got a job offer from a dive shop named Similan Divers, where I worked for a season. Joe, the shop man-

Ian Robbins arrived in Thailand four years ago, while traveling throughout Southeast Asia. At the time he was a construction worker from Guisborough, England. Little did he know that he would settle down in the sleepy hollow-cum-boom town of Khao Lak, where he now works as an underwater videographer.

Here, he tells the *Gazette's* Franky Gun how he came to work in a profession he never dreamed of, yet has come to love.

ager, proposed that I should become a scuba diving instructor. So I did my Instructor Development Course in Phuket in 2001.

Gazette: But a scuba diving instructor is not necessarily an underwater videographer. How and why did you switch to this specialist area?

Mr Robbins: While doing all the courses up to divemaster, I always felt that I wanted to bring something back to the surface, something that would help me explain to friends and family back home in England how I felt about diving.

Also, I liked the idea of promoting the underwater world to increase people's awareness of nature in general, so I started taking underwater photos.

Later, I realized that still images could not really satisfy me, so I switched to video. I was

still working as an instructor and a divemaster, so I could take the equipment along only from time to time and I did not have the freedom to shoot as much and for as long as I wanted.

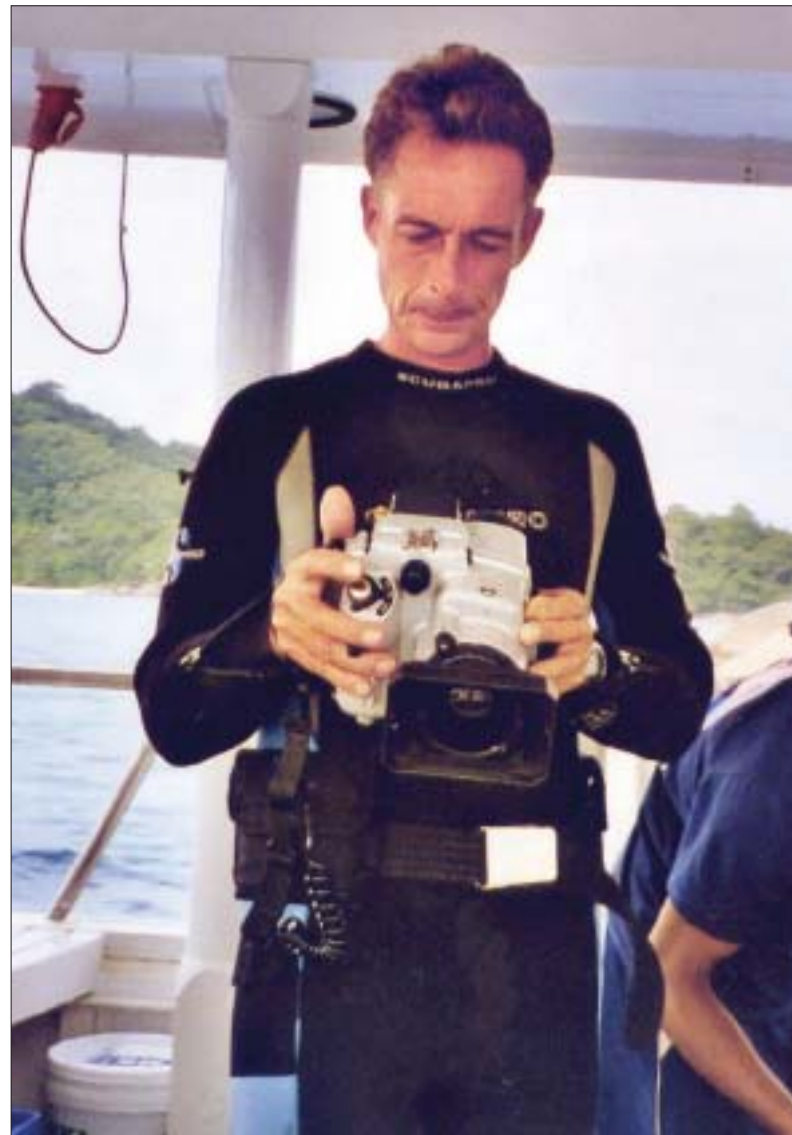
The decision to specialize in video – and to stop teaching and guiding – came later.

Gazette: How did you manage to make money with videos then? Besides all the fun of the hobby, it has to put food on the table, right?

Mr Robbins: I agree. The best way to make money with underwater videos is to be on a boat with guests and film them while they dive. I would offer them a DVD or video CD of their underwater adventure, an edited version with music and everything, as a souvenir and reminder of their scuba diving holiday.

I started to work as a professional videographer for the iQ-DIVE center in Khao Lak in 2003. Here, I can do videos for their guests on a daily basis and thus earn decent money.

Before, I worked freelance. You won't get rich as an under-



DAILY CHALLENGE: Ian Robbins inspects his camera, before plunging again into the water.

water videographer, but money is not everything to me. I need to have fun while I'm working, too.

Gazette: What kind of video equipment did you start with and what do you use today?

Mr Robbins: My first video camera was a Sony PC 110 with housing and lights. It was pretty

good, but it had a few disadvantages that bother you only if you wanted to use it professionally every day.

In 2002 I decided to go for it and shoot only underwater videos. I now have a secondhand Canon MV1 camera with an Amphibico Explorer housing. The MV1 is easy to handle and delivers high-quality footage.

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OUT OF THE BLUE

Gazette: Have you experienced any dangerous situations while working underwater?

Mr Robbins: Yes, but not dangerous sharks or anything that Hollywood would feed you. I suffered a mild dose of decompression sickness (DCS) in February, which was rather scary.

I had to be treated in a hyperbaric chamber in Phuket. However, as the discomfort eased very slowly, even today it's not clear whether it really was DCS.

The hyperbaric chamber has no Doppler Ultrasound Detector – an instrument needed to detect nitrogen bubbles in the bloodstream. So, whatever the medical staff do will always be guesswork, based on the diving profile the patient gives them.

I should say, though, that the risk of DCS while diving under the safety standards taught during diving classes is next to zero, and that diving with Nitrox, an oxygen-enriched air mixture, can reduce the risk even more.

Gazette: You said that you wanted to travel more, but you are still staying in Khao Lak. What is it about Khao Lak that keeps you here?

Mr Robbins: Khao Lak is a small community, not a huge city, and I am a country lad, thus it really suits me. The area is very interesting and I like the nature here very much.

But what really turns me on is the Similan Islands, and Khao Lak is closest to the underwater jewels there.

Yet I do realize that Khao Lak might grow too fast and become too big.

I don't like the endless rows of shophouses along the main road, so perhaps I will be traveling again soon. At the very least, I want to see and video the reefs of Indonesia and Malaysia.

My retirement plans, however, include Phang Nga as my ultimate retirement destination, definitely not England. Thai people are polite and friendly and the beauty and culture of Thailand in general continue to surprise me every day.

Gazette: You described the Similans as "underwater jewels". Are they really as good as promoted worldwide?

Mr Robbins: I expected much before I finally dove the Similans in 2000, and my expectations were met.

But the more experience a diver has, the more demanding he will be. Today, I would say that the Similans are great and I like them very much; dive sites such as Elephant Head and East of Eden are fantastic.

However, it would be a mistake to vote the Similans one of the world's top 10 dive destinations because of the overfishing in the surrounding areas and the officials doing next to nothing to stop it.

Gazette: What do you like most about your job as a videographer?

Mr Robbins: Many things. For one, there is the diversity. There is something new and new people to meet every day, and, from time to time, new dive sites are discovered.

Some days I get nice footage of big fish like manta rays or sharks, which I like the most. It is an exciting and yet demanding job, as I have to film the clients underwater and swim from group to group.

In addition, I have to master problems and learn new things, such as working with a computer, and so on.

The best moments of the job are when I get emails from clients who send me thanks and praise. Most of them are back home before they realize what a great souvenir they have.

The sentences I hear the most are, "We are so happy that we did this video thing with you," and, "Back home, we watch it over and over again – we want to come back." So, finally, I have a profession where I have fun working in a natural habitat and can make a living, the clients have fun and are happy over and over again. Everybody wins and that makes me feel very good about this job.



RAY OF HOPE: Large manta rays, like the one pictured above, are among Ian Robbins' favorite forms of marine life, which he hopes to catch on film in the depths off the Similan Islands.

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The grass is always greener

While Khao Lak remains in a state of deep hibernation when it comes to long-haul foreign tourist arrivals, the area is now being blessed by a new kind of domestic weekend tourism – expats visiting from Phuket in an attempt to have, as they put it, “a weekend away from the hustle and bustle and bad traffic on the fast-paced island of Phuket.”

Almost every weekend I meet old friends from my earlier days in Phuket. Many couples, mostly married with kids, come here to enjoy Khao Lak's natural treasures – which seem to go unappreciated by all but a small minority of the expats who live here.

While local expats never seem to tire of complaining about how boring Khao Lak can be, expats visiting from Phuket at weekends never tire of talking about what a wonderful and relaxed place Khao Lak really is.

Well, the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence, isn't it?

However, let's be honest. There are two sides to every coin, and as soon as a new tourist destination develops in Thailand it seems inevitable that greed and the elbow-your-way-in mentality will inevitably rear their ugly heads.

Phuket offers a wide range of options when it comes to accommodation, nightlife, shopping, dining and business.

Khao Lak, on the other

hand, is blessed with a 12-km-long stretch of unspoiled beach, a national park area with a protected rainforest, breathtaking views and five waterfalls with pools, all within easy reach. Khao Lak is also close to the famous Similan Islands.

Today, Khao Lak and Phuket offer completely different sets of advantages. But let's keep in mind that Phuket once was called “The Pearl of the Andaman Sea”.

At that time, long before Phuket was deemed to be “getting ugly” by the people at the *National Geographic Traveler* magazine, the island was a pristine and beautiful destination too.

But the stress has to be on the word *was*.

Today, many Phuket expats are fleeing the scene of the crime for a weekend or two each month to relax in Khao Lak. Meanwhile, the majority of Khao

Lak's business community continue to push with frightening speed towards providing ever more accommodation, nightlife, shopping, dining and other businesses.

Does this sound familiar? It will be obvious to anyone driving along Highway 4 with open eyes that Khao Lak nowadays is walking a dangerous development tightrope – with a blindfold on.

Only time will tell if businessmen, developers and the people of Khao Lak will manage to reach the other side of the canyon without destroying the many advantages this area has over



Bored? Just 10 minutes from Khao Lak center is the beautiful Sai Rung (Rainbow) Waterfall, one of five waterfalls within easy reach of Khao Lak center. It has a pool where bathers can take a cool splash after trekking up to enjoy the view.

competing tourist destinations in Thailand, including Phuket.

For better or worse, several new resorts will open their doors in the upcoming high season. Several medium-size resorts are being built on Khao Lak beach, at the foothills near the southern entrance of the Khao Lak National Park.

Many small- to medium-sized resorts and two dive resorts

are also under construction around Nang Thong and Bangniang, on the northern side of the park.

Fortunately, all of these developments seem to be keeping the buildings within the regulation height – no higher than the height of the tallest palm tree in the area. It seems a reasonable rule – provided nobody cuts down all the palm trees.

Fantasy island: Deputy Transport Minister Wichet Kasemthongsri, has backed a proposal to upgrade a disused World War II airfield on the island Koh Kho Khao into a new airport to serve Phang Nga Province, at a projected cost of 900 million baht.

Phang Nga Chief Administrative Officer Surapan Saipan explained that the idea is to boost tourism in the Phang Nga region and to give tourists more options if they can't get a flight to Phuket or want to fly to Phang Nga direct.

Koh Kho Khao has until today received only minor interest from visiting tourists and tour operators.

While the plan to build an airport there has been applauded by many officials involved, it is in fact a rather senseless investment because there is no plan to build a bridge connecting Koh Kho Khao with the mainland. Doh!

Visitors arriving at Koh Kho Khao airport, located at the very northern end of the island, would have to be transported to a ferry station and then board the 300-baht vessel to reach the mainland.

From there, they would have to arrange for a bus, taxi or minivan to get them to their final destination. Welcome to Phang Nga, *ka-ching!*

The total estimated traveling time from the proposed Koh Kho Khao airport to Khao Lak would be at least one hour.

Well, traveling time by minibus from Phuket airport to Khao Lak is approximately 65 minutes. Hello! Is anybody home??

Perhaps it would be better to spend that money on developing Phang Nga infrastructure in such areas as electric power supply, water, sewage, building schools, a proper hospital – anything that would really help the region.



ANDAMAN COASTING

By Franky Gun



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In The Stars

by Isla Star

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): This weekend those born under the sign of Virgo should refuse to take no for an answer. It probably feels as if your friends are suffering from low-season lethargy at the moment, but your get-up-and-go spirit will be more than enough to cheer everyone up once you have tipped them out of their hammocks. If your birthday falls this week, use that as the ideal excuse to go out and party.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Feelings of insecurity threaten to put a damper on your week. This is a time to remain in the company of trusted friends and close family. Librans who are worried about what tomorrow may bring are quite correct to ask some pointed questions. Perhaps you've been keeping an open mind for too long. Wear the color emerald green to demonstrate the courage of your convictions.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Spiritual matters are likely to occupy your thoughts this week. Answers to burning questions are available, but consider the source carefully. A relationship drama comes to a satisfactory conclusion mid-week, but you should reflect on a lesson learned. Where work is concerned, September will bring some surprises and at least one of them will be pleasant. On Wednesday, the number 7 holds promise.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): If the atmosphere has been somewhat stale lately, don't despair. This weekend, a starburst of activity begins and you will soon be in

the enviable position of being able to choose which new direction to go in. Those Sagittarians who are averse to change could have problems deciding, but this week you will receive advice that is worth its weight in gold. Leo has some revealing news.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Certain people care about you much more than you believe. Lonesome Capricorns just need to be honest about their dreams, desires and who they really are. If you're tired of the company of strangers, now is the time to strengthen family bonds and re-establish contact with long-lost friends. Astrological influences during September will encourage more secure finances and the travel agent is always just a few steps away.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): If you are suspicious that all is not what it seems this weekend, rest assured it's not the normal island-gray-area syndrome. A veritable spider's web of intrigue is being woven, but the outcome will be favorable for Aquarians. Answers will not be clear until later in September, so no matter how deep you dig it will be to no avail until then. Conserve energy and

remain patient.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Pisceans should be flapping their fins with happiness as August gives way to September. Many things are starting to get easier as recent cloudy conditions pass. However, you are advised not to give in to the temptation of complacency where business issues are concerned. There is still one pressing matter that requires diplomatic handling. Monday is your best day for conducting important meetings. The color silver will encourage clarity in all matters.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): This week, Arians will start to see how September is going to unfold. Some rare opportunities are about to come your way during the coming few weeks – a few will definitely be too golden to miss. However, there will be quite a lot of hard work to do, and you are advised to think of ways to increase stamina. The color scarlet should help to boost your energy.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Timid Taureans are about to start emerging from their shells. A new, fresher mood overcomes you this weekend; you will probably find it hard to recognize yourself. Others around will also wonder what is going on. The reason for your increased confidence and frivolous attitude is an improvement in your personal security. With that matter taken care of, the time is

ripe to pay attention to your deepest emotional needs.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): After spending much of last week floating in the clouds, those born under the sign of Gemini will feel their feet fixed more firmly on the ground. By mid-week, a more familiar sense of reality will have arrived and your partner will not be the only one to appreciate the calmer vibes. An important person connected with your working life is about to make an offer.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Cancerians who are feeling under the weather will think about an alternative approach to healing. Before making any radical changes to your lifestyle, consult friends with relevant experience; this is not a good time to risk being different. It could also be that your tendency toward hypochondria is getting the better of you. The color light amethyst will encourage positive thoughts.

LEO (July 24-August 22): The romantic side of your nature is uppermost this week, but you will have to make a real effort to pin your partner down in order to enjoy some seriously sensual moments. The best day for any kind of business risk is Tuesday, whereas Thursday will bring perfect conditions for sealing a personal deal. Leos who have been missing family overseas will hear of an overdue visit.

What do the **HEAVENS** hold in store for **YOU** in the coming week?



The Xplore G88 palm organizer and

Moving on your

Gizmos & Gadgets

Mobile phones used to be about nothing more than Pots – plain old telephone service – whereby two people could talk to one another while on the move.

These days, however, manufacturers are adding increasingly sophisticated options to attract new users.

A good example of this trend is the Nokia 7610's special feature, "movie director", which allows users to edit video recorded on the phone into a 10-minute-long video clip.

Users can cut clips and add effects such as slow motion, or change pictures into black and white to create the effect of an old film. They can plan their movie on a storyboard, then join segments together using the transition effects feature, and add audio, too.

Kanokkan Jiasakul, sales assistant at Amorn Sue Sarn shop on Phang Nga Rd, said of the phone, "There is a built-in memory of 8MB, while multimedia card are available to add up to 256MB.

"The digital camera is one million pixels, and there is an Adobe Photoshop album starter edition that allows users to edit their digital photos on a PC. The phone screen has 65,536 colors."

The 7610 also supports Bluetooth/GPRS and Java applications, and costs 21,500 baht.

Another new-generation phone is the Motorola A768 Linux mobile, which has an LCD screen and a 200 MHz central processor. It runs on a Linux operating system with Java J2ME, and has 96 MB of dynamic memory; it can store five minutes of video clips.

The phone supports MIDI, WAV and MP3 files and its data transfer systems include IrDA,

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phone easily fits in a pocket.

moments mobile

by Gategaeo



The Nokia 7610 can store 10 minutes of movie, thanks to its million-pixel camera

Bluetooth and SyncPC, and it has a USB port. It costs 21,900 baht.

The Xplore G88 is both a palm organizer and a mobile phone.

Smaller than most palms, it fits easily into a pocket, according to Chatchai Umro, sales assistant at TG Fone shop.

He said, "The Xplore G88 has a touch screen that can display 260,000 colors. Its digital camera can store more than 1,000 pictures of 320x240 pixels.

"The phone supports more than 13,000 software programs and can transfer data immediately through the Internet. It has a Thai-English dictionary and an organizer function."

He added, "It is suitable for business people who often communicate via a wireless system."

The Xplore Limited, with an operating system upgrade, will be available around the end of this year. It costs 19,800 baht and is available from the TG Fone shop at the Big C supercenter.

Amorn Sue Sarn shop can be contacted at Tel, 076-232070, 076-232302 and 076-232301 and TG Fone shop at Tel, 076-249280.

Beauty comes from within, or so the old saying goes, and that is partly why detoxification has become an integral part of some women's beauty routines.

Advocates of detoxification claim that one of the most visible effects of a cleansed body is a clear skin, as it is the toxins inside the body – the result of poor nutrition, stress, chemical overload and other factors – that make the skin look tired and dull.

One aid to detoxification is a massage that encourages lymphatic drainage. The theory goes as follows: lymph is the substance which enables toxins to be passed into the blood stream – from where they can be excreted – so the better the lymphatic system works, the more de-toxed the body will be.

Arttapon Wesaphan, Manager of Baray Spa at Sawasdee Village in Kata, has had thorough training in both spa treatments and Thai massage and has been in the beauty business for many years. She is a proponent of the benefits of detoxification.

She said, "Skin detoxifying focuses on lymphatic drainage. Our skin is damaged by many factors around us, both external – chemicals, pollution, strong sunlight, and so on – and internal, such as the food we eat.

"I believe in the expression, 'You are what you eat'. The chemicals generally found in present-day food combine with the free radicals produced naturally by the body. This causes dull skin.

"The lymphatic system is the part of the body responsible for cleansing the soft tissue found just under the skin. It's a network of vessels throughout the body."

The lymph network transports toxins, bacteria and dead

The gland tour

Skin Deep

By Dhirarat Boonkongsan



cells to the lymph nodes, where they are filtered. Most then pass into the blood stream, eventually being excreted along with other waste products.

Unlike blood, lymph has no heart to pump it round the body, and this is why lymphatic massage is said to be so useful: it gives the lymph a "helping hand" in its progress around the body.

K. Arttapon continued, "If

the lymphatic system has to work too hard, it can affect the skin, making it look bad. That's why we have to make the lymph flow well and drain regularly.

"Lymphatic drainage is not so necessary if we make sure we have chemical-free food, and we also have protein, fat, carbohydrate, vitamins and water, and proper exercise."

Therapists recommend that,

to be truly effective, lymphatic massage should be carried out once a month.

K. Arttapon said, "Massage generally improves blood flow, and that will also improve the lymph flow.

"The proper way of massaging is to massage towards the heart, and that applies for lymphatic drainage, too."

The massage is more effective if the therapist prepares the skin first, by "polishing" the body with a loofah, or the face with a soft brush.

Said K. Arttapon, "In a spa, we can also use water jets to massage the skin, using water at different speeds and temperatures, switching between warm and cold water."

She added that lymphatic massage is especially beneficial for people with dry skin.

K. Arttapon recommends combining lymphatic massage with herbal treatments. She said, "Thailand has many kinds of herbs for doing this, but the one we use most for lymphatic drainage is curcuma or Zingiberaceae [a type of ginger].

"Other parts of the world have something similar: Israel has mineral mud, while in France they use a kind of seaweed. Every part of the world has its own product."

Baray Spa is at Sawasdee Village, 65 Katekwan Rd, Kata, Tel: 076-330979, website: www.phuketsawasdee.com

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After DARK

by Sam Vimes

This week's review should actually be called "During Dark", as it's about Phuket's ultimate sundowner place, Diver's Legends Bar in Surin.

Aussie Ian "Diver" Dick has been in Phuket for about 16 years, and his bar in Surin is surely one of the island's best-known expat watering holes.

It was here that I had my first drink with expatriates; I was taken there by my Thai business partner, who was worried I might be missing *farang* company. On that first visit I met some people who are still friends today, seven years later.

Diver's has always boasted the widest cross-section of people on the island, and it is nothing to have multi-millionaires and beach bums all in the same legendary "sundown round".

The bar has not changed much in the years since I first went there, though recently Diver finally bought a TV, an event so significant it was mentioned elsewhere in this very paper.

The decor is perhaps a reflection of the setting, which is so stunning that the addition of anything else would be a distraction.

Surin Bay is a proper bay, horseshoe-shaped as proper bays should be, framing the most perfect sunset on the island.

Even on a cloudy day, the sight can be nothing short of spectacular; in some ways, the clouds add to the drama.

The main attraction of Diver's is that most underestimated of activities, conversation, and Diver can always be guaranteed to keep it flowing; in fact, he is a master of the art.



Who's a millionaire? Who's a bum? Who's both?



Nature provides a prime attraction of Diver's Legends Bar.

WHAT A DIVE

Anything from "footy" to comedy to the state of the world is explored, considered, expounded – and quickly forgotten, when it is time for another round. It is a brilliantly informal spot.

Almost as legendary as Diver himself are his introductions as you arrive at the bar.

After you have visited Diver's once, he will know pretty much all he needs to know about you, and as you arrive at the bar on your next visit, he is guaranteed to give you one of the best build-ups of your life.

I myself did not realize exactly how important I was until I received one of these intros. Of course, this is all tongue-in-cheek stuff, but it is a real pick-me-up, guaranteed to turn the end of a bad day into the beginning of a great evening.

There are regulars, but it has never been a cliquey kind of place; everyone who hangs out



Ian 'Diver' Dick (right) with pals at his hyper-relaxed bar.

there frequently does so largely because of the diversity of people who turn up.

Peak time at Diver's is from 3 pm onwards, and it is typically a proper session until about 9 pm. To call in for just one drink is not possible; I have tried for years to achieve this and have never managed it. Diver carries a decent

stock of all the essential drinks, but don't ask for anything esoteric; Diver's is not aimed at The Posh.

Every year there are several set piece events, at which you will find a full complement of all the island's tribes. These events are: Diver's birthday on August 12; Australia Day - always a

marathon – and the bar's anniversary in early September.

Each event is punctuated by (what else?) a BBQ and Sausage Sizzle. Such a gathering is usually followed by Rodney Rude or Kevin Bloody Wilson on the hi-fi, or even one of Diver's legendary forays into Patong.

Having been the recipient of a visit from such a raiding party in the days of Chicago's Fun Pub, I can safely vouch for the fact that he is a welcome sight in any of Toon Town's hostelries.

Daily, Diver's offers a menu of simple food and great sausages, but Diver has no objection to you ordering food from other vendors nearby. I recommend the garlic chicken from the bar on the right of the steps leading down to Surin beach.

As well as providing a much needed lifeguard service on Surin Beach – dozens of rescues since the bar opened – Diver and his place are true institutions on the island.

Sure, you may end up getting into a round you had not planned on ("I only called in for a quick one..."), but you will not spend a bad moment in the bar or in his company.

As the sun slips below the horizon and another beer arrives, I can't think of a better place to start – or even finish – the ebony hours.



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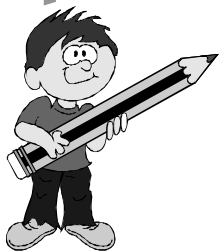
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KIDS

THE FUN PAGE

FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Spot the Difference



Can you find the seven differences between the two cartoons below? And can you find them faster than the rest of the family?



Brain Buster!!

A bylaw was recently enacted in the town of Stubbleton requiring that all men must be clean-shaven but stipulating that no man might shave himself; the only person allowed to shave others was the licensed town barber (who was 50 and unmarried).

Since the barber was bound by the same law, who shaved the barber?

No one. The barber was a woman.

Solution to last week's Crossword

P	E	R	F	O	R	M	A	N	C	E
R	H	A	Y	S						
O	M	I	T	A	N	K	L	E	S	
N	N	T	E	O	A					
G	R	E	T	E	L	A	N	D	Y	
I	N	A								
C	O	R	E		A	C	C	E	N	T
O	O	D	E		A					
B	O	M	B	A		A	T	O	M	
R	E	E	N							
A	D	O	L	E	S	C	E	N	T	S

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



1. What ability does the Blarney Stone confer?
2. What must one do to get the ability?
3. Tamara Press represented the Soviet Union in which sport?
4. How many world heavyweight titles did Muhammed Ali fight under the name Cassius Clay?
5. How many people dance in a quadrille?
6. Who made the first phone call to the moon?
7. In 1929 Donald F. Duncan launched a toy based on a weapon used by 16th-century Filipino hunters. What is the toy called?
8. In which year was Nato formed?
9. The Vinson Massif is the highest mountain range of which continent?
10. What is the capital of Morocco?
11. What is the correct term for a female lobster?
12. In which organ of the body is the pineal gland?
13. What is the "perfect score" in a game of ten-pin bowling?
14. By what name is actress Ilyena Lydia Mironoff better known?
15. The song *Ain't Misbehavin'* was written by which jazz musician?
16. In which year was the Charles Bronson movie *Death Wish* released?
17. The elephant is the heaviest land animal. Which animal comes second?
18. How many syllables are there in a *haiku*?
19. Thanatology is the study of what?
20. In which year was dynamite invented?

Answers next week.

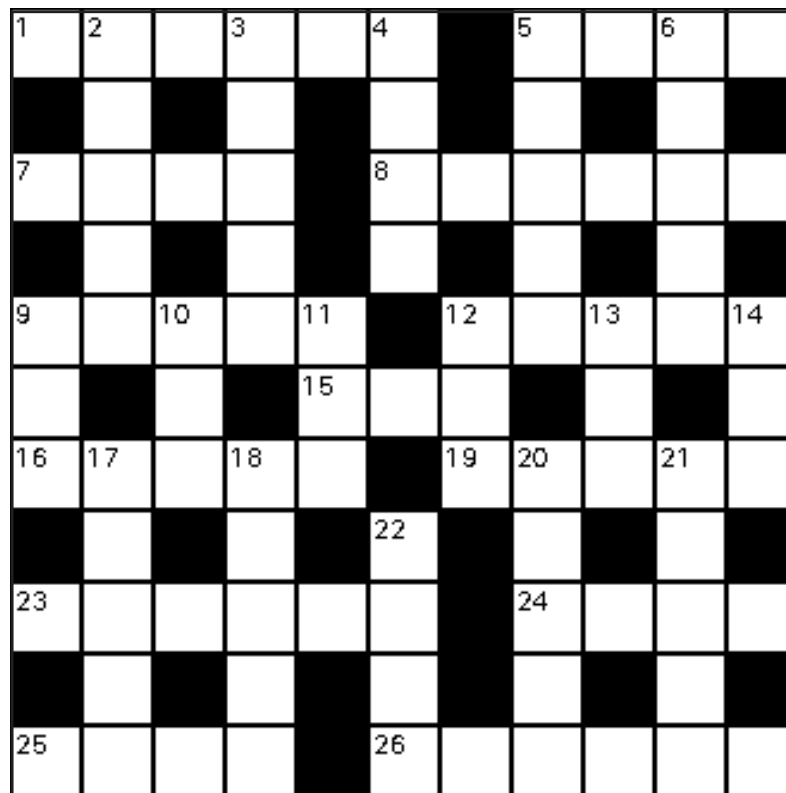
Never a Cross Word!

Across

1. Fine linen.
5. Lager or bitter, for example.
7. Dead as a *****.
8. Phang Nga Bay transport?
9. Radio detecting and ranging.
12. Wordsworth and Keats, for example.
15. Me! Me! Me!
16. Finish your meal! (3, 2)
19. Restaurant food lists.
23. Eighth month.
24. Cut design into metal.
25. Internet language.
26. Old Faithful, for example.

Down

2. Hawaiian greeting.
3. Pleasant smell.



4. Put the boot in.
5. Guitar relative.
6. Throw out.
9. Fish eggs.
10. Used with a dash by Mr Morse.
11. Sales agent, in short.
12. What an Aussie may call a Brit.
13. A long, long time.
14. Help!
17. Grown-up.
18. Normal.
20. By no means a friend.
21. Mum's brother.
22. Doe's partner.

Solution next week.

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S MONSTER QUIZ

1. Richard Burton; 2. David Cornwell; 3. Mukhdahan; 4. Occidental; 5. Edvard Grieg; 6. Richard Rodgers; 7. The Yardbirds; 8. France; 9. Michigan; 10. Bird cages; 11. Quarrel; 12. Luis Firpo; 13. In jail in Genoa; 14. Tina Turner; 15. Stealing horses; 16. The Bank of England; 17. Sagittarius; 18. The rich; 19. £500; 20. Greek goddess of victory.

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HEARD & scene

The *Gazette's* **Siripansa Somboon** went out and about recently and asked, "If you could transform any person into a fruit, who would you transform into what, and why?"



Esa Kakvonen
Age: 27
From: England
Occupation: Programmer

If I could transform a person into a fruit, I would transform my girlfriend into a longan because longans are sweet. I would like my girlfriend to be sweet to me all the time. Whenever we were apart and I missed her, I could just buy a longan because they are always available in the market.



Nittaya Thongkeo
Age: 24
From: Songkhla
Occupation: Operations and finance officer

I would transform myself into a pineapple, because pineapples are sweet and sour and are covered with eyes. Having so many eyes would let me do a lot of snooping. My snooping would make me a more talkative person, though most of it would be gossip.



Kirkvich Sintusakk
Age: 28
From: Bangkok
Occupation: Securities trader

I would transform my girlfriend into a strawberry because strawberries are both sweet and sour and contain vitamin C. If my girlfriend had both qualities, she would have nice pink cheeks and be very healthy. I would feel happy kissing her cheek, but I'm not sure if her cheeks would be sour or not.



Jittiporn Poonsinpoksab
Age: 24
From: Chanthaburi
Occupation: Marketing officer

I would transform my father into a green apple because I like to eat green apples. But if he were a green apple, I wouldn't eat him. Rather, I would put him in the freezer when he gets angry with me. That would really chill him out. I want him to calm down because I love him.



Jani Holland
Age: 28
From: Finland
Occupation: Finnair employee

If I could transform a person into a fruit, I would transform US President George W Bush into a banana, even though I think he is a fruitcake already. Maybe I would feel happy when I ate him as a fruitcake. If I put chocolate on him, he would be the tastiest fruitcake in the world.

Dogellos: a canine controversy

According to a newspaper report, some time ago the city council of Berlin, Germany, rejected an application to open the world's first brothel for dogs.

"Dog sex," the council huffed, "is for the purpose of reproduction only. There is no evidence of a problem with sexual frustration among the city's dogs."

Well, now, that's the arrogance of a dominant species for you. How does the city council



know that the dogs of Berlin aren't sexually frustrated? They're not dogs.

If a dog is sexually frustrated, he's not going to write letters to the newspapers about it. He's not going to organize his fellow dogs into staging mass demonstrations in which thousands of frustrated canines march on City Hall waving placards and barking in unison, "More sex for dogs!"

No, if he's a stalwart, manly dog, he'll hide his hurt and keep his frustrations to himself. Of course, if an august city councilman is strolling along the Bundestrasse and a mongrel comes up to him and starts humping his leg, it would take an obtuse observer indeed not to realize that there is some *angst* going on here. Especially if the councilman is not even cute in a doggy sort of way.

Then there is the grandiose

claim that dog sex is for the purpose of reproduction only. How does the council know? Is there a Planned Parenthood Association for dogs to go to for counseling whenever they're thinking of siring a litter of pups? Judging from the behavior I see in my soi, dogs have sex any time they feel like it.

In fact, the sexual behavior of male dogs is remarkably like that of male humans in the Nana Entertainment Plaza, except that dogs don't have to pay a bar like it.

But there is one peculiarity of canine behavior that makes a compelling case for establishing brothels for dogs.

Every now and then, a pair of dogs will consummate their relationship in my soi and be unable to disengage. You could call them conjoined canines. The embarrassed look on the face of the female and the hangdog look (forgive the pun) on the face of the male are studies in extreme pathos.

This is not only harmful to the self-esteem of the dogs; it also sets a bad example for our children. When youngsters observe conjoined canines limping in tandem down the soi, they might get the socially harmful idea that it would be cool to be stuck together like that.

Indeed, they might view it as a new kind of togetherness, a

morally exemplary way of bonding between the sexes.

So I think we have a responsibility, as the dominant species on this planet, to get conjoined canines out of the sois and into respectable, government-supervised brothels. We could call them dogellos, meaning bordellos for dogs. That has a fine Italian ring to it that sounds very dashing.

There would, of course, be problems. In most countries, prostitution is illegal. The same blue-nosed puritans who ban bordellos would ban dogellos as well. Certainly the religious authorities would disapprove.

The pope would issue a papal bull condemning dogellos (probably titled *Contra Dogellonis*), and the ayatollahs would erupt in a flurry of death-dealing *fatwas*.

The Rev Franklin Graham, Louis Farrakhan, and the Chief Rabbi of Jerusalem might disagree on many things, but it's for sure that they would be united in their opposition to dogellos.

Then there is the problem of staffing. Will dogellos recruit

their personnel from the female dogs of the impoverished lower canine classes? And, if so, would that not constitute yet another sad example of how the rich exploit the poor?

Will stray female dogs be rounded up and put in dogellos?

If so, would that not constitute forced prostitution?

Finally, how will the male dogs pay for the services they enjoy? With bones?

So this entire concept of bordellos for dogs requires careful thought before we rush to implement it.

In general, though, the principle of the equality of all species

requires that dogs be granted the same rights as humans; and if human males enjoy the benefits of bordellos to which they may retire to restore their hormonal equilibrium, male dogs ought to enjoy the same privilege.

There is also the possibility of catellos...

S. Tsow can be flamed at stsow@yahoo.com, except when he is rendering assistance to conjoined canines in his soi.

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Mixed messages hidden in a dinosaur

Ian Caldwell and Dustin Thomason's *The Rule of Four* (The Dial Press, New York, 2004, 372pp) has finally pushed *The Da Vinci Code* off its perch at the top of the *New York Times* bestseller list.

The new novel bears similarities to Dan Brown's clunky clockwork thriller, in that most of the action takes place over a 24-hour period and the plot centres on the clues offered in anagrams, riddles and secret codes – this time embedded in an 500-year-old Italian manuscript known as the *Hypnerotomachia*.

The big difference between the two novels is that *The Rule of Four* has a warm beating heart at its center: this is a novel of young love, friendship, loss and obsession. The setting is Princeton University in 1999 and there are lyrical passages that rival those of its old alumnus, F Scott Fitzgerald.

The title's Rule of Four is a mathematical principle at the heart of the decoding process, but it also refers to four close friends who are rooming together

in their senior year. The narrator, Tom Sullivan, is majoring in literature, Charlie Freeman in medicine, Gil Rankin in business, and Paul Harris in Italian Renaissance history, specifically a curious 500-year-old document.

The authors explain, "The *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili*, which in Latin means "Poliphilo's Struggle for Love in a Dream", was published around 1499 by a Venetian man named Aldus Manutius. The *Hypnerotomachia* is an encyclopedia masquerading as a novel, a dissertation on everything from architecture to zoology, written in a style that even a tortoise would find slow. It is the world's longest book about a man having a dream, and it makes Marcel Proust, who wrote the world's longest book about a man

eating a piece of cake, look like Ernest Hemingway. I would venture to guess that Renaissance readers felt the same way. The *Hypnerotomachia* was a dinosaur in its own time."

So what's it really all about? Written in a half dozen languages, the book is

susceptible to many interpretations. The author's name, in fact, emerges from an acrostic in Latin of the first letters of each chapter.

Brother Francesco Colonna was at first thought to be a rather shady Venetian monk, but Tom's father unearths a Genovese portmaster's diary that reveals him to be a highly-cultured Roman aristocrat – and murderer. This sets off a firestorm within the small world of *Hypnerotomachia* scholars.

At Princeton, Tom meets freshman classmate Paul, who is an avid follower of his father's scholarship. Paul plunges into a four-year study of the mysterious text. As he finds intriguing riddles and coded messages embedded in the text and addressed to an enlightened reader, he entices Tom into the chase. There is a sort of Holy Grail involved, a mysterious "tomb".

A parallel plot is Tom's romance with sophomore Katie Marchand. This story is told with much high emotion and even mawkishness but this is a college romance and the young authors are entitled to a bit of licence here, especially as

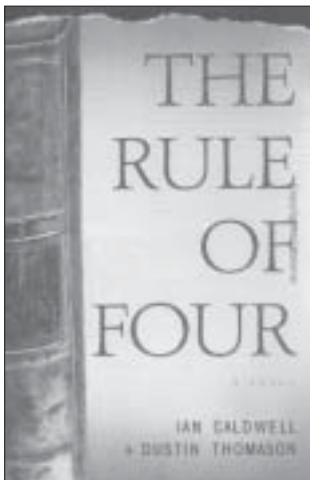
they began writing the novel right after graduation in 1998. They convey a strong sense of place for Princeton: the eating clubs, pranks, libraries and balls.

As his obsession with the *Hypnerotomachia* descends into near psychosis, Tom abandons Katie and only forces himself to return to love and sanity by abandoning the chase instead. But on the night before his thesis is due, Paul cracks the last message and Tom rallies to his side as events swiftly spiral out of control.

By the end of the following day, three senior *Hypnerotomachia* scholars are dead and three of the four roommates are in the hospital.

After graduation, the roommates split and go their separate ways. Tom winds up as a software analyst in Texas, Katie as a curator in a New York art gallery.

As *The Rule of Four* is a commercial novel, the plot strands are tied up neatly in a bow at the end. But the sincerity of the characters and flights of Fitzgeraldian romance elevate it far above its predecessor on the bestseller list.



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

A patch in time, a hole lot of fixing

Q What is the simplest way to create the euro currency sign? I need to use it often, but it is quicker for me to type the word out in full rather than open the Windows Character Map, copy it from there then paste it into the document I'm working on.

But having "euro" repeated throughout a document or a spreadsheet looks ugly. Is there a handy shortcut I can use?

A There are many ways to include the euro currency symbol – € – in a document, including copy-and-paste from the character map.

If you have a fairly new PC from the UK, you should have the € symbol on your keyboard, at the bottom right of the 4 key. If so, simply press Alt+Ctrl+4 and that should insert the € symbol.

Alternatively, you may have an Alt Gr key to the right of the space bar. If you do, and have a € symbol on the 4 key, simply hold down the Alt Gr key and press 4. That should do the trick equally well.

If you use a recent version of Word, pressing Alt+Ctrl+E will produce the € symbol.

But the simplest shortcut to use – and to remember – is to hold down the Alt key and punch in 0128 on the numeric keypad (with numlock switched on, of course). This should work with most of the popular fonts and with most programs.

Q I am getting confused between the software patches that I read about seemingly every day, and the upcoming Ser-



Instead of copying and pasting the euro symbol (€) from the Character Map (left) and pasting it into the document you're working on, hold down the Alt key and enter 0128 on the numeric keypad.

there. Patches and service packs have completely different scopes, and if you understand the differences between them, you can use each most effectively.

The article goes on. Ah well. Perhaps Microsoft's brass should read and learn, eh? I'll repeat what I said a few months ago: Hasn't Microsoft made enough money on Windows XP to offer its customers a uniform set of reliable updates, free and quickly, as a simple courtesy?

Woody Leonhard has written a number of books in the "...for Dummies" series on computing. Readers can contact him at: woody@khunwoody.com

COMPUTER Q&A

By Woody Leonhard

vice Pack 2 that I will apparently need to update my copy of Windows. If I have installed all the patches for Windows, do I still need to install the service pack? If so, what's the point of installing the patches? If not, why bother installing the service pack? Please re-educate me.

A I recently harassed Microsoft to issue a free update CD for Windows XP. They can call it Windows XP Service Pack 2. They can call it a "cumulative security patch". They can call it "canned slop on a recyclable coaster". I don't care. We need an update CD. We need it now.

I bumped into a webpage on Microsoft's TechNet site that explains why a service pack is better than a patch. Permit me to quote Microsoft itself:

WHEN MOST PEOPLE think about keeping their systems se-

cure, they think about security patches rather than service packs. In fact, one of the most frequent mistakes people make when performing security maintenance is to over-rely on patches and under-rely on service packs.

You may be surprised to know that there are significant differences between the two, and that service packs, rather than patches, should be used for the heavy lifting. Here, we'll discuss the differences between patches and service packs, and the most effective strategy for using them...

A **service pack** is a periodic update that corrects problems in one version of a product. For instance, there have been six service packs for Windows NT 4.0. Some Microsoft products use the term "service release" rather than service pack, but the term means the same thing.

A **patch** is an update that occurs between service packs. A patch is sometimes also referred to as a "hotfix". Most patches are built to correct security vulnerabilities, but we also build patches to correct critical stability or performance issues.

Here, though, we'll only discuss security patches.

You can see that service packs and security patches are closely related. Both are vehicles by which Microsoft corrects bugs in its products.

But the similarities end

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Not all "international cities" are created equal

In a boldly optimistic statement last December, Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak predicted that Thailand would have "10 Singapores" among its provinces in the next three to five years.

Phuket, slated for development as Thailand's "international province", IT hub, shopping paradise, etc, is clearly expected to lead the way in this ambitious push to raise Thailand's development level to that of Singapore and Taiwan.

Recent pronouncements by the Tourism Authority of Thailand are no less grandiose, with the agency planning to add 10 more overseas offices to its existing 22 in an effort to attract 20 million tourists a year by 2008, almost doubling current figures.

Again, Phuket is expected to play a crucial role.

Phuket is often compared with Singapore, yet recent events suggest that comparison with Las Vegas might be more appropriate. (A little-known fact: the "anything goes" Mafia-established city in the desert is officially "twinning" with Phuket City.)

While gambling in most forms remains illegal in Thailand, the full-bore race to total "development" being embarked upon by the government nevertheless resembles a Vegas-style all-or-nothing crap shoot, simply because of what is at stake: the island's already degraded natural beauty and unique culture.

These are the very factors that made the island attractive to foreigners – and their investment money – in the first place.

In recent years there has been a slew of suicides, murders and other desperate acts involving foreigners who, attracted by a dream, tried to make a go of it on the island.

And for every such tragedy there are countless more stories of heartbreak and despair (see Inside Story, page 4-5). Does this sound like Singapore? Or is it more like Vegas?

Phuket can never again be the sleepy paradise that it once was, and any success it will have in emulating Singapore will depend on its ability to attract foreigners who can make a positive contribution.

As Phuket Governor Udomsak Usawarangura (see News) noted, this effort will involve a vast improvement in the performances of the Immigration Police, the Labor Department and the Foreign Ministry, which issues visas.

Without more efficient, transparent service in granting visas, permits to stay and work permits to those who deserve them – and denying them to those who don't – the dream of an international city may still come true, but it will look more like Las Vegas than Singapore.

– The Editor

The Phuket Gazette

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The views expressed in the Phuket Gazette are those of the writers and contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher, the editor, the shareholders, or the directors of The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd.

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Letters

The *Gazette* is pleased to receive mail from readers. Please write to us at 367/2 Yaowarat Rd, Amphur Muang, Phuket 83000, fax to 076-213971 or send an email to editor@phuketgazette.net

with your views for publication in our next issue. We reserve the right to edit all letters. Pseudonyms are acceptable only if your full name and address are supplied.

Unfair for Rawai

After much wrangling, the food stalls along Rawai Beach were cleared, a move many of the longer-term residents regretted; the stalls did at least provide some indication that we were in Thailand, and offered some wonderful seafood.

But Rawai now seems to be faced with the prospect of an amusement park (Toon Town, *Gazette* issue of August 14). Just what Phuket needs; a noisy imitation of a British fairground. More than this, someone intends to bring "the world's largest collection" of karaoke CDs to Phuket.

Are the occupants of nearby villas now to be subjected to the worst possible aspects of fairground culture? Imagine their delight at having karaoke music immediately in front of their dream houses.

I wonder who even authorized this nadir of taste. The fact that such a development can be considered makes me gasp in despair at the future for Phuket.

I suggest that a petition be organized to fight this proposed blight on Phuket's landscape, and hopefully dash the project forever. If not, what next? A tropical version of a Butlin's holiday camp?

Tom Ultmann
General Manager
Katamanda Estate

No more tea, please

I was pleasantly surprised to see that Konrad Stalin managed to produce an interesting article in the last issue. Well done, and keep up the better work. I found it not only interesting but also informative for a change.

It was much better than George Bentick's *Downsider* debacle on George Bush in a previous issue, (*Gazette*, issue of August 7). What's that bloke on?

It was just such a pity that Konrad had to drag it down by insisting on mentioning tea bags and biscuits again. Try to get over them, will you, man!

Try to keep up the good work.

John Lock
Rawai

Baiting Bentick

I've just finished reading George Bentick's column [*Gazette*, issue of August 7], in which he says that Phuket's sex industry was launched by American soldiers who returned from Vietnam to bases in Thailand by flying over Phuket.

Don't you guys have a map in your office? Since when has Phuket been en route from Vietnam to Korat?

The *Gazette* has done a worthy job of debunking the myth that the Thai sex industry resulted from the Vietnam War. You've also told us how it was hippies in the '70s, not soldiers in the '60s, who put Phuket on the tourism map.

But you've let Mr Bentick take two giant steps backward on the bulls**t trail just so he could snipe at the US. This isn't savvy political commentary, or even folksy joshing. It's just dumb.

Steve Rosse
Iowa

The embattled George Bentick replies robustly: During the Vietnam War, elements of the US Air Force – including B-52 bombers – were based at Udorn Thani, Trat, Don Muang, Pattaya, Khon Kaen,

Sattathip, Takhli, Korat, Nakhon Phanom, Lop Buri, and U-tapao.

The scale of the bombing raids against North Vietnamese forces meant that there were too many bombers airborne at any one time for them all to land. The B-52s went into a "holding pattern" which meant that they loitered for hours making circuits hundreds of miles in diameter – including over Phuket and Southern Thailand – awaiting clearance to land.

The "farang" sex scene began in 1964 when the US established the first seven military bases in Thailand. In 1967, Thailand agreed to provide R&R facilities to American servicemen, which the soldiers themselves called "I&I" (intercourse and intoxication).

Some Thai entrepreneurs transformed their coffee shops and bars into "anything goes" establishments. Phuket was a later discovery but one made by servicemen fed up with GI-infested Pattaya and Bangkok.

Thailand's new-found reputation spread after the Vietnam War ended, and the "slack" was quickly taken up by sex tourists.

Mr Rosse may believe that it was hippies who put Thailand and Phuket on the tourist map, but it was Uncle Sam who placed it between the sheets.

Georgian saga ends

I was here during the Vietnam War and although the beaches of Phuket were deserted, the bars in Phuket Town were quite popular with GIs on R&R.

I should know: I was one of them, and we weren't here for the noodles.

Brian F.
Kamala

Letters conveying views and suggestions are published here. Those seeking comment from government officials and/or business owners are published in *Issues & Answers* on the facing page.

Why Patong needs fun 24 hours a day

FIRST PERSON

I have visited many places overseas, such as Spain or America, where they have special areas zoned for entertainment. In places like these, income is directly proportional to the hours entertainment venues are allowed to operate. The longer they remain open, the more income they generate.

Twenty-four hour zoning doesn't necessarily mean that every venue should cater to guests around the clock. Rather, it means that the premises are allowed to be open for other purposes as well, such as for service staff to clean them.

Don't forget, if we have longer operating hours, the employment situation in Patong will improve and the Municipality will benefit in every area.

About 90% of Patong's tourists are foreigners – only about 10% are Thai – and the number of Thais who come to Patong from Phuket City for the nightlife is very small [so the idea that later operating hours here would somehow lead to a wide-scale corruption of local youth doesn't stand up to scrutiny].

I don't think designating Patong as a 24-hour entertainment zone would conflict with [the government's goal] of attracting "quality tourists" either, because I don't think there is any way to prove exactly what constitutes a "quality tourist".

There are tourists who stay at the five-star hotels in Phuket, and spend many thousands of baht a night for accommodation. Yet 80% of these still visit Patong. We cannot judge the "quality" of tourists – they are all human beings. Many of them come to Patong because it is popular and represents a once-in-a-lifetime experience for them.

I also believe the tourists who come to Phuket spend much more money on entertainment than accommodation.



Chairat Sukbal has been involved in the Phuket nightlife industry for more than two decades, and has operated the Safari Pub & Restaurant in Patong for nine years.

For a long time Safari was *the* after-hours spot in Patong. But now, with the advent of the government's "Social Order Policy" and stricter enforcement of the 2 am closing time, Safari's business – like that of most Patong's discos and pubs – has suffered.

If and when Pian Keesin's election as Patong Mayor is confirmed, K. Chairat will take up one of the three Deputy Mayor positions, with responsibility for public works.

Like the majority of nightclub owners in Patong, K. Chairat feels that the 2 am closing time is bad for business and that Patong should be designated a 24-hour Entertainment Zone. But to K. Chairat this means more than just letting nightclubs stay open as long as they want.

I plan to make these points clear when I present Patong's case to a central government committee. I don't think they will be stupid, because the committee is experienced and even comprises members with PhD qualifications.

The 24-hour entertainment that I envision includes restaurants, pubs, discotheques and activities such as climbing. It doesn't necessarily mean that discos and bars will be open 24 hours. Daytime activities, such as sports competitions, would also be provided in the daytime. Perhaps we could hold beach soccer, volleyball or jet-ski competitions, or live concerts.

I think the 24-hour entertainment zone [if instituted] should cover the whole of Patong Municipality. I have discussed this matter with other Patong business people and there is complete agreement. All we seem to lack is the [political] power to make it a reality.

After the Central Election Committee announces the results of the municipal election [and I am appointed Deputy Mayor], I plan to discuss this issue with the committee in Bangkok. After that, they will have to research the idea in detail. But I will continue to push this project for Patong.

The government need not provide any [financial support] for this plan. Just give us the time and the chance and we will increase Government tax income through the additional revenue that will be generated. One mustn't forget that Patong businesses are the single greatest source of income for the provincial Government.

Many foreign tourists complain that it is a very stupid idea that entertainment venues in Patong are forced to close at 2 am. Some of them have already changed their destinations and are going to other countries instead.

Nursing care for Alzheimer's sufferers

I will be moving to Phuket soon, but I take care of my 85-year-old mother, who has Alzheimer's disease. Is there a nursing home on Phuket that has experience in caring for people with dementia where she could stay?

Carol Greenhouse
Santa Fe, New Mexico, US

Peter Davison, Manager, International Services, Phuket International Hospital, replies:

There are no "Western-style" nursing homes in Phuket. Generally, foreigners with Alzheimer's disease and their families make private arrangements for the care of loved ones.

This may include employing nursing staff to take care of family in their own homes or at their hotel. Arrangements can also be made with the private hospitals for extended or short periods.

If you require more detailed advice, contact me at Tel. 076-249400 ext 1333 or 1321. Email: peter@phuket-inter-hospital.co.th

Arunee Korphanlert, a registered nurse at Wachira Phuket Hospital, replies:

We don't offer the same level of service as at the Phuket Old People's Home, but if your mother is admitted to the hospital by one of our doctors, then she can stay here.

You can contact Wachira Hospital at Tel. 076-211114.

Tony Nilawan, Manager of the International Office at Bangkok Phuket Hospital, replies:

Bangkok Phuket Hospital has many nurses who can speak English and can take care of your mother.

A private room with air conditioning and a TV costs 3,400 baht a day plus 800 baht per eight hours for a trained nurse to attend to her and/or 500 baht per eight hours for an assistant nurse to care for her.

For more information, contact me at the hospital at Tel: 076-254421, on my mobile phone at Tel: 09-9217233, or by email to: info@phukethospital.com

Jiranan Teamjarean, a social worker at the Phuket Old People's Home, replies:

We have many old people here but we currently have only four staff; that's one staff member per 20 old people. So, unfortunately, we cannot offer the care that your mother needs.

Currently we are admitting only homeless old people or those who have no relatives to care for them.

Who's responsible for blocked fire exits?

Whenever a good movie is shown in town, the cinema is packed, but the fire exits at the cinema are often blocked with spare chairs. Who would be responsible for people not being able to exit the cinema during an emergency because chairs are blocking the exits?

Roland Mueller
Phuket

Wisut Romin, Deputy Secretary, Phuket Provincial Administration Office, replies:

Issues & ANSWERS

Want to know how to get something done? Can't understand some of the dafter things that seem to go on in Phuket? Want to pitch an idea to Phuket's authorities or institutions? Then this is the forum for you.

Submit your queries or suggestions to us and we'll ask the appropriate people to respond to them.

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If the cinema caught fire and people died or were injured, the incident would be investigated by the police. If the police believed that the owner and the management of the cinema were irresponsible in their duty of care for public safety, they would be charged and prosecuted accordingly.

Tawee Homhuan, Engineer, Phuket Public Works and Town and Country Planning Office, replies:

Our office conducts annual safety checks on all public buildings, including theaters, so that the premises are safe.

If there is a place you believe needs immediate inspection, you can report it at the Damrongtham Center [at Phuket Provincial Hall in Phuket City, Fax: 076-211102]. The center can investigate immediately.

When filing your complaint, mark it for the attention of the center's Director, Witsawa Sathitsamith.

I recently came back from an inspection tour looking at marine tourism in the US, including aquariums and marinas. I went to SeaWorld in San Diego. It's a huge investment and has so many exhibits you can spend all day there; it contains complete marine eco-systems. It's in a very good location because it's close to the beach.

I also went to the Aquarium of the Pacific at Long Beach, Los Angeles. It too has many things for tourists to look at. I think something like this would be appropriate for Phuket because going around it takes about half a day.

Phuket is a seaside province, but we have little in the way of daytime activities. I would like to see more facilities that allow people to learn about nature. We have some places like this, such as the Butterfly Garden and Phuket Zoo, but not enough.

We have an aquarium under construction at Cape Panwa but that belongs to the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC). Unfortunately, it will be a small place and not very exciting.

I'd like to see Phuket have a facility like the Long Beach aquarium, which would become a landmark day or night, much like Phuket FantaSea.

Maybe we could use the site of the PMBC, along with the expertise of the PMBC staff, but have the private sector provide the investment. It would be good for everyone involved because once the investors make a profit they could support research there.

We are planning to draw up an agree-

Overseas ideas offer Phuket opportunities

ment for joint state-private sector use the PMBC site and the beach next to it, to create an underwater world, but first we must do an environmental impact study.

Already people in the Thai private sector who have access to American technical expertise have shown interest in investing in this business.

The plan calls for investment of 500 million to 1 billion baht for the first phase.

Promoting Phuket: While I was in America I had the chance to promote tourism in Phuket by appearing on the Thai-language Nat TV satellite channel, which reaches the US and Canada and about 15 other countries.

I talked about Phuket's ambitions as an IT city and I invited movie studios and production houses to invest in Phuket to do movie business in connection with IT.

We have already started our first course on digital animation and cartoon-



THE GOVERNOR'S
LETTER

making but there are no buyers for the output of the people who complete the course. They could supply material for movies and for documentaries such as on Discovery Channel.

We can supply Hollywood via high-speed Internet; we already have a gateway through which we can connect direct to Los Angeles.

This is a concept that should attract people from there to move here to work, or to invest in business here.

Property: We still have many investors going into the real estate business, both as developers and as real estate agents.

The Phuket Real Estate Club and I are trying to lay down standards for the real estate industry in order to stop people cheating or lying to customers.

Foreigners are very concerned about problems, such as people selling them land that has problems or belongs to the state. This creates a bad image for the Phuket

real estate industry. I really want to see this business running smoothly.

Gasoline hike: In the current climate of rising gasoline prices, Phuket must follow government policy over closing hours for department stores, minimarts and gas stations.

I see many gas stations are already closing before midnight. Initially this may have an effect on the lifestyle of Thai people who like everything comfortable but in the longer term I believe people will adapt and manage their time better so that they fill up their cars earlier or go shopping before the stores close.

I have seen many place overseas – Singapore and Australia are examples – which long ago took similar steps to save energy, and people manage perfectly well. Everyone can adjust to this.

Governor Udomsak
Usawarangkura

Nia is a holistic healing technique that starts with fitness and ends with comprehensive healing of the body, mind, emotions and spirit. It has many different components that help many different problems; it is movement as medicine.

Founded by Debbie and Carlos Rosas in Portland, Oregon, Nia is a worldwide fitness movement with 20 years of progress.

Nia is exceptional in that it advocates doing things the easy way, and is adaptable to every level of fitness.

To get the most out of Nia, start easy. Build intensity gradually. Let your body slowly acclimatize to Nia movements. Allow yourself the freedom to enjoy being a beginner.

Don't force a motion, don't

Holistic health with a 'Hai!'

strain. Strive for a balance between control and relaxation as you listen to your body's signals. Move in a smooth, lightly-relaxed way that doesn't make you breathless or fatigued.

Get in as much non-stop movement as possible: listen to music and find a rhythmic, easy pace, working slower and longer rather than faster and harder.

Nia is the most advanced form of "fusion fitness" – the combining of classic movement forms. It encompasses the martial arts (Tai Chi, Tae Kwon Do and Aikido), the healing arts (Yoga, Feldenkrais and the Alexander technique) and dance (Duncan, modern and jazz).

This combination creates a synergy that no isolated technique can match.

The key to using the Nia technique is to make the movements an expression of you. Ex-

press your unique rhythm and body language. Your emotional body will help to fine-tune your physical body, and vice versa.

For example, use your arms to express your feelings, emotions and moods. To maintain comfort, work in a range of motion that allows you to feel balanced and in control.

If you feel tension starting to build in your shoulders, shake

your arms and hands to release it.

Add your arms back into the movement when you feel ready. Be jazzy, be luscious, lyrical, snappy or sensually smooth. But most of all, passionately be yourself and have fun.

Another Nia technique is to move the way you walk – by using your whole body. Lead with your heel when stepping forward or to the side, gently rolling on to the ball of your foot and then pushing off to change directions, just as in Tai Chi.

Step back on to the ball of the foot, as in the Duncan Dance technique, keeping your knees loose and your heel high as you lower your body weight to a point of comfort in the muscle and joint. Avoid stepping back with a locked and rigid leg.

To protect your knees on

sinking motions, periodically lift your toes to keep your knees safely aligned over your feet and to keep your calves engaged. As you lower your body weight, feel your buttocks naturally move back behind you to avoid pressing your knees to the front.

Also, keep your spine lengthened. Stay upright, from the crown of your head down to your tail bone. Imagine a tiny weight at the end of your tail bone and a ray of light streaming upward through the crown of your head. Always let your spine remain soft and flexible.

When doing Tae Kwon Do kicks, draw your knee up toward your chest before kicking out. Always kick at a level where you can lengthen your spine and maintain control, comfort and balance. Feel along the back of the leg as you kick.

Another exercise is belly breathing. When you inhale, feel your belly expand, then your ribs laterally expand and then your chest and clavicle rise. Exhale to contract your abdominals and to round the spine.

Let go freely with a hearty "Hai" exhalation to tone your abdominals and protect your back during kicks and punches.

Breathing is one of the most effective ways to strengthen and relax your body, mind and spirit, so don't hold back.



ALTERNATIVE
HEALTH
By Rhonda Ann Clarke

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6 months of growth for Phuket economy

By Gategeo Phetsawang

PHUKET CITY: Phuket's economy is growing well, according to the latest economic report from the Phuket Provincial Commercial Office.

More new businesses were registered and there was more investment during the first half of 2004 than during the same period last year.

A total of 138 businesses were registered in June. Of the 335 million baht invested in those businesses, 181 million baht was from Thai investors and 154 million baht from foreigners.

Most of the businesses registered – 114 of the 138, were limited companies. The 301 million baht invested in them was

a leap of 77.3% from the figure for May this year.

A total of 34 million baht – 13.4% up on May's figure – was invested in the 24 limited partnerships registered in June.

Five limited companies and nine limited partnerships were deregistered.

The new registrations brought the total number of registered limited companies in Phuket to 6,167 and the number of limited partnerships to 2,681.

The main focus of business investment during the first half of the year was real estate, with shopping and entertainment centers, marinas and medical equipment manufacture following close behind.

The largest amount of foreign investment came from Britain, followed by the

United States, Switzerland and Australia respectively.

One new company registered this year was supported by the Board of Investment (BOI) – Radi Medical System Co Ltd. The company, which produces medical equipment, has 89 Thai employees and was established with an investment of 220 million baht from Sweden.

It is the first high-tech factory established on the island since the Pulse electronics factory closed in May 2001.

The province's trade balance looks good, with Customs recording exports of goods worth 4.969 billion baht between January and June this year (an increase of 3.31% on the first half of last year) com-

pared with imports of 855 million baht (up 1.03%).

The leading exports were rubber, gasoline and tin. Prices for rubber from Phuket have increased and are likely to continue increasing, says the report, thanks to rising demand.

One major product that has suffered over the past year in terms of exports is giant tiger prawns farmed in Phuket, because demand overseas has been switching to white prawns.

The top imports in the first half of the year were yachts and marine equipment, and tin ore.

From January to July this year, the Phuket Treasury Office collected 3.38 billion baht in taxes, the report notes.

ON THE MOVE

Meg Evans from the US is the new Director of Marketing, Thailand, for JW



Marriott Hotels & Resorts. Before moving to Thailand, she was Area Director of Sales and Marketing, Europe, based in the Marriott

International regional office in Eschborn, Germany, where she was responsible for costing, sales and marketing for 36 hotels in 18 countries. Previously she was also in the Czech Republic as Cluster Director of Sales and Marketing for Marriott's Prague properties, and then in Nazareth, Israel.

Ratchaneekorn Preechawai

from Bangkok, has been appointed Human Resources Manager of The Aspasia Phuket in Kata. She studied at Chiang Mai Teacher's College, and began work in the human resources department of the Hyatt Orchid, Chiang Mai in 1981. Before joining The Aspasia, K. Ratchaneekorn was Human Resources Manager at Tropical Garden Resort in Kata, and Group Human Resources Manager at the South Sea Pakarang Resort in Khao Lak.



Nattapong Suwan-in, from Bangkok, has joined McEvily & Collins Law Offices, Phuket. A



business law graduate of Assumption University (ABAC), he was formerly in-house counsel with Baker McKenzie, at

Unithai Line. He is also an adjunct Professor of Law at ABAC. K. Nattapong specializes in corporate law, commercial transactions, real estate and intellectual property law.

Been promoted? Made a career change? Know someone who has? Let us know by email to onthemove@phuketgazette.net.

All-weather entry to Australia

Expatriates who wish to invest in Australia are not exactly overburdened with choices, especially if they wish to enter via an offshore base.

There is now a fund that offers an offshore base, the Cayman Islands, combined with management in Melbourne and regulation by the Australian Securities and Investment Commission.

The Fund is the new Absolute Asset Management Aus\$ Fund. It is a low/medium risk absolute return fund that has a goal of capital appreciation under all market conditions.

The fund will invest in a number of underlying funds that will be primarily denominated in Australian dollars and, as the name implies, the accounting currency of the fund is the Australian dollar.

Before someone launches a fund of this type, considerable research is undertaken. The managers at Absolute Asset Management point out that, had the fund been launched three years ago with the same portfolio, it would have returned, after expenses, 15.64% in 2001, 13.03% in 2002 and 11.16% in 2003.

Current asset allocation is as follows: Australian Equities 45%, Currencies 15%, Australia/Asian Fixed Interest 15%, Global Resources 15%, Property Income 10%. (Note that the fund is not exposed to price movements in the underlying property investments; it is invested simply in order to collect rental income.)

We live in a time of significant economic volatility, when the traditional investment model of simply buying equities and bonds is not producing reasonable returns; in fact, this approach has led to substantial losses in many cases. For example, there is hardly a pension fund in the world that has not suffered over the past few years.

This has helped to create an investment culture where alternatives have been sought.

Absolute Asset Management's Operation Director, Matthew Dabbs, said recently that after a very substantial boom in the residential property market, some of Melbourne's new dockland property prices had fallen by more than 30%.

I don't know what property investors call this, but in stock-market terms a fall of 30% is called a crash.

Unfortunately, there is no formula for making money out of falling residential property prices. However, it is possible to profit from falling financial markets.

This realization started to grow long before the end of the last "bull" market in 2000. The hedge fund industry has grown from virtually zero in 1990 to about US\$1 trillion in 2004.

The term "hedge fund", however, is merely a name given to a huge range of types of investments that seek to profit from rising and falling markets.

Too many hedge fund managers are merely fund managers who gained their experience in going "long", trying to profit



MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

from falling markets. Going "short" requires a completely different set of skills.

The fund manager of Absolute Asset Management's Aus\$ Fund is Andrew McKay, who has considerable experience in financial markets in both Australia and London.

Working for a Shearson Lehman Hutton subsidiary, he progressed to the position of Senior Dealer in futures and options, responsible for implementing hedging strategies and trading futures, foreign exchange and options.

Returning to Australia in 1990, he formed what is now Absolute Asset Management. He is currently the manager of eight institutional-based funds and a number of private client portfolios as well as managing AAM's Trading Fund 1.

The Aus\$ Fund targets returns for investors of 10-13% per

annum. There is no entry charge and the minimum investment is A\$25,000. The website address is www.absolute-am.com

When told that his new fund would be profiled in the *Gazette*, Mr McKay gave a brief additional summary:

"The Australian economy has been strong but it is likely to deteriorate from here.

"Equities have been driven by the [the strength of the economy] but will not diverge from the rest of the world for long.

"The property market has clearly peaked and any further pick-up will force the central bank, the Reserve Bank of Australia, to increase [interest] rates, so risks are all to the downside.

"Bond yields, at 5.5%, are barely better than cash in the bank but carry more risk."

The Aus\$ Fund will be launched on October 1.

Richard Watson runs Global Portfolios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based personal financial planning service. He can be reached at Tel and Fax: 076-381997, Mobile: 01-0814611. Email: imm@loxinfo.co.th.

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Thousands of people receive their certification to dive in Thailand every year, and many of these become more environmentally aware as a result. However, not many divers know how to actively contribute to environmental protection efforts such as the protection of endangered marine animals, which include many species of shark.

Whether from fear or fascination, sharks generate a lot of attention. They have long been a staple of wildlife documentaries and have also been unfairly demonized as "devils of the deep" in Hollywood films such as *Jaws*.

Few people are aware that the overwhelming majority of the approximately 350 known species of shark pose little or no threat to man. In fact, more people in Phuket are likely to die from having a coconut fall on their head as they are from a shark attack.

The sad truth is that it is we humans who pose a grave risk to sharks, killing off as many as 100 million sharks a year of certain species – just to serve the Asian market for shark's-fin soup.

The *Gazette* recently spoke with one dive instructor who is involved in the effort to preserve these predators of the deep.

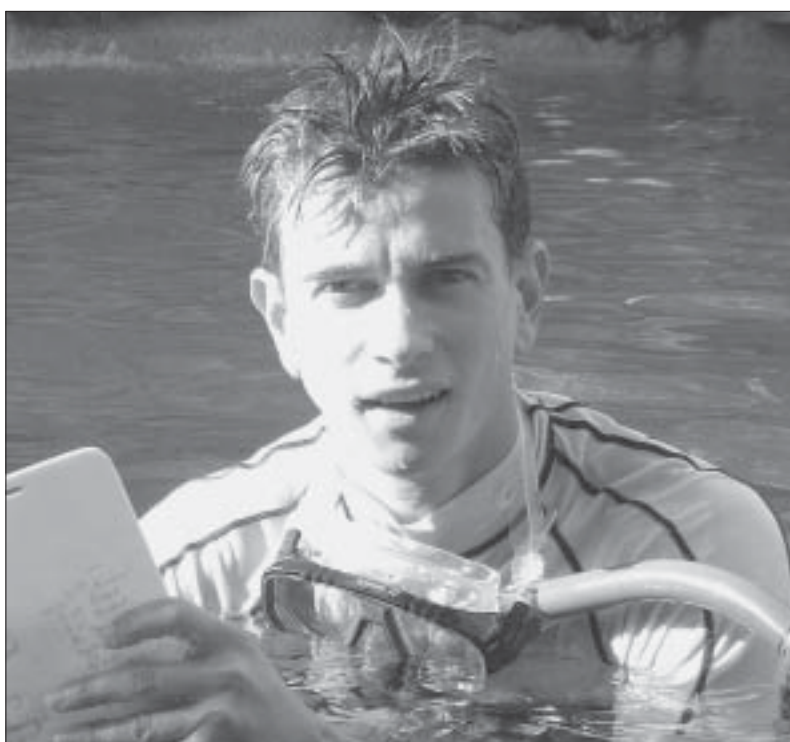
Conservationist Paul Foley, recently the keynote speaker at a conference in Rangoon has dedicated himself to shark conservation.

The Rangoon conference was organized by a number of Phuket-based dive operators who operate in Burmese waters, and one of the topics was shark fishing and, more specifically, whether or not it should be banned in Burmese waters.

Mr Foley told the *Gazette*, "These [environmental] problems might seem hopeless at first but there is always a way to make a change for the better."

"Tourism and diving depend on a healthy environment with natural attractions such as sharks and pristine reefs teeming with fish. These have enormous long-term economic benefits for the nation and local communities."

"With proper management,



Paul Foley: 'There are a lot of good people in Thailand working very hard for their country.'

Time to take shark meat off the menu

we can ensure that everyone can enjoy eating fish in the future, and that the fishing industry will continue to provide a bountiful and sustainable livelihood for fishermen too."

At the top of the food chain in most marine ecosystems lies the shark.

"Sharks are very important, not just because of the threat they are under, but also because they symbolize what is happening to our seas generally because of over-fishing."

"Sharks are particularly vulnerable to over-fishing because of their reproductive strategies – producing few young and reaching sexual maturity late. The basic problem with sharks-fin soup is that the demand far outstrips the potential supply."

Many people may know that Hong Kong is the single largest market in the trader of sharks' fins, but far fewer are aware that

Europe, where shark fishing is still legal, is a major supplier.

"According to 2001 Hong Kong trade data, Spain is their largest supplier of shark fins," said Mr Foley, who is currently in Thailand to liaise with Thai academics, NGOs and the dive community to help raise awareness and petition the government for the protection of more marine species at the upcoming Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites), which will be hosted by Thailand next October.

A total of 166 countries are party to Cites, which provides protection to endangered species by regulating or completely banning trade in 30,000 listed plant and animal species.

Two species now being considered for Cites listing are the great white shark and the bumphead parrot fish. Mr Foley

hopes that Thailand will support the classification of these two species, and points to the listing of whale sharks as having helped the Thai dive industry. As the host nation, Thailand's support would carry great weight, he says.

For people who are interested in making difference to protect sharks, Mr Foley recommends the following:

- Do not eat shark's-fin soup or patronize restaurants that serve shark meat. Let the owners of such businesses know the reason they are losing your business;
- Avoid using shark products, including shark cartilage;
- Encourage PADI and other dive organizations to take more action on shark conservation issues;

• Support any of the many organizations dedicated to the protection of sharks. These include such groups as Wild Aid, The Shark Trust, Bite Back and WhaleSharkThai.

• Support the forthcoming petitions to the Thai government regarding Cites.

When asked about the environmental situation here in Thailand, Mr Foley said that while overfishing has resulted in a great deal of damage, there is also a positive side to the situation in Thailand.

"There are a lot of good people in Thailand working very hard for their country; in the universities, the marine biological centers, the national parks, and in non-profit agencies, such as WhaleSharkThai," he said.

Sylvie Yaffe is a semi-retired dive instructor. She can be reached by email to: prodocs_pkt@yahoo.com



Anongnat Sartpisut

KATHU: OrBorTor Wichit B's 4-2 win over OrBorTor Rawai C at Baan Kathu School on August 18 took them to the top of the Muang District division in the Thai Cup 2004 soccer tourney, cementing a place for them in the provincial finals.

Wichit B opened the game with good attacking runs, missing their first opportunity at goal in the 3rd minute.

Rawai C replied two minutes later, with a shot at goal by Chalernsuk Sunpawut, but it was blocked by Wichit B goalkeeper Archanot Saengrat.

In the 10th minute, Wichit's Thanongrit Somboon found his way past Rawai's defense to go one-on-one with Rawai goalie Aekasit Sa-nguannam, who managed to end the solo run just outside the penalty box with a clearing kick.

Beneath the SURFACE

By Sylvie Yaffe

Cinders wins ACYC round as weather plays a hand

AO CHALONG: Gray skies, heavy rain and chilling gusts failed to damp the spirits of the yachting stalwarts who turned out for Race 10 of the Ao Chal-long Yacht Club (ACYC) Keel-boat and Multihull Race Series on August 22.

Scott Duncan's *Somtarn Express* took the lead at the start, and stayed there for the rest of the race.

Jim Poulsen and the crew on *Vino*, and *Ruby Tuesday* skippered by John Vause gave chase throughout the afternoon, which was marked with heavy down-pours and strong gusts of wind.

Vino came within a couple of boat lengths of *Somtarn* by the top marker after an inspiring performance on the first downwind leg, and *Ruby Tuesday*'s sterling effort upwind to the southern marker brought the three race leaders together before rounding the final marker.

During the final leg, however, the race changed into one against the weather, as a huge black cloud stretched from Chal-long to Nai Harn. *Ruby Tuesday* was caught with her spinnaker up

when the strong wind preceding the black mass came, tipping the boat awkwardly. Her crew soon made amends, and chased *Vino* all the way to the finish line.

Top honors in the Racing class, however, went to Stuart Crowe and his crew on *Cinders*, who rounded the course on a corrected time of 2:25:02, with *Ruby Tuesday* picking up second with a time of 2:30:40.

Vino's efforts won them third with a corrected time of 2:31:04, while *Somtarn Express* was placed fourth with a time of 2:33:58.

Al Boone on *Blue Moon* finished the course with a corrected time of 2:05:16 to win the Cruising class, with John Fenn on *The Four Winds* coming second in 2:28:16.

Although *Cyrene* and *Char-ro* were seen out on the bay, *Cerberus* was the only multihull racing, completing the course in 1:48:58, with Mark Horwood at the helm.

The next ACYC race day will be on September 5. For more information call Scott Duncan-son at Tel: 01-8924992.

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Above, OrBorTor Wichit B celebrate after topping the Muang District division in the Thai Cup with a 4-2 win over OrBorTor Rawai C.

4-2 victory gives Wichit berth in provincial final of Thai Cup 2004

Wichit continued their first-half attack through Thanongrit, who in the 12th minute blasted the ball from about 15 meters out only for it to strike the crossbar and go out of play.

In the 20th minute, Rawai's Wirun Nawin counter-attacked with a lobbed pass from the right sideline over two Wichit defenders to teammate Somporn Sam-sungwan, who squandered his unimpeded shot, blasting it wide of the goal.

Wichit finally broke the 0-0 deadlock in the 31st minute when Namchok Matong passed the ball to teammate Sampan Boonrat, whose unchallenged shot passed the goalkeeper, slotting into the goal.

Rawai missed an opportunity to level the score three minutes later when Hasan Boontam fired at goal. The shot was blocked and the ball returned to him for another attempt. This happened several times, but none of his strikes made it into the net.

Namchok scored his first goal for Wichit in the 37th minute, capitalizing on Rawai goalie Aekasit's mistake of coming out too far from goal by simply lobbing the ball over Aekasit's head to score.

In the second half, Rawai stepped up their attack, but each run was met with committed defense by Wichit's defenders, cutting each probing run short with sliding tackles.

In the 62nd minute, Rawai's mounting pressure on the Wichit defenders resulted in a corner kick by Wichai Ponrob. His cross was met by teammate Krissada Kanjanachai, who headed the

ball into Wichit's goal to put Rawai on the score sheet.

A minute later, while Wichit were recovering from the shock of conceding a goal, Rawai's Krissada scored again with a strike just five yards out.

Wichit replied by stepping up their defense, shutting down Rawai's attacking runs in mid-field with impressive tackles.

In the 76th minute, Wichit turned the run of play and Namchok beat an offside trap to receive a long pass unchallenged and score his second goal from just outside the penalty area.

With the final minutes ticking away, Rawai were forced to push men forward, leaving Aekasit alone to defend the goal. Wichit's Sutthisak Onksomwang, with two minutes of play left, beat the Rawai defense to make a solo run from midfield and score.

Rawai maintained possession for the remaining minutes and managed a few shots at goal, but none found the back of Wichit's net. Final score: Wichit 4, Rawai 2.

Also in the provincial finals are Patong City Municipality and Kathu City Municipality from the Kathu District division. The final matches of the Thalang District division were scheduled to be played between August 24 and September 1.

The winner of the provincial finals will go on to play in the regional finals for the chance to enter the national finals in Bangkok later this year. The national champions will receive 300,000 baht and, of course, the trophy.

Champions out of Aerothai volleyball

PHUKET CITY: Teamwork reaped dividends for members of Tessabaan Wat Kajornrangsun School's under-13s boys' volleyball team, as they overcame Tessabaan Plookpanya School 2-1 in the final of the "Aerothai Volleyball 2004" tournament at Saphan Hin on August 21.

Altogether, 14 teams of boys and girls competed in the tournament.

In the under-13s boys' final, former national champions Plookpanya were under pressure from the start. Wat Kajornrangsun's Chatchai Kobkit went on the attack, smashing the ball from right and left of the net columns, over the net and into the Plookpanya half. Wat Kajornrangsun took the first set 25-21.

Plookpanya did better in the second set, taking a 15-8 lead over Wat Kajornrangsun. Most of these points came from Wat Kajornrangsun players faulting as they served, or hitting the ball into the net, but Nakared Na Ranong and Puritad Supab worked together particularly

well for Plookpanya, and their cooperation was one of the reasons their team won the second set 25-10.

The third set went to just 15 points. Play was tremendously exciting, with the teams level on 8, 10 and 11 points. Plookpanya were by this time blocking Chatchai's attacks from the sides of the net, so he went to the back of the court and spiked from there.

The cheers of the fans gave Wat Kajornrangsun the power to pull ahead, and the team won the set 15-12, and the match by two sets to one. It was the first time the team had won the Phuket round of the Aerothai tournament.

In the under-13 girls' final, Tessabaan Plookpanya School beat Tessabaan Baan Samkong School 2-1 to take first place.

The winning boys' and girls' teams go through to the next round of the competition, against teams from Phang Nga, Krabi, Ranong and Satun. The matches will be played in Phuket on a date to be fixed.

— Anongnat Sartpisut

Patong Darts League

PATONG: Results of August 17 matches in the Patong Darts League were: Amigos 5 Happy Days* 4; Champs* 1 Piccadilly 8; Didi's* 5 Fat Boy Saloon 4; Off Shore 5 In-Between* 4; Valhalla 3 Two Black Sheep* 6; Dog's Bollocks vs Shakers postponed. (*Winners of beer leg).

August 31 fixtures will be: Amigos v Piccadilly; Champs v In-Between; Didi's v 2 Black Sheep; Dogs Bollocks v Fat Boy Saloon; Off Shore v Happy Days; Valhalla v Shakers.



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Jagged with an

The market for station wagons in Europe now exceeds those for coupés and convertibles combined, so it's no wonder that Jaguar has climbed on the bandwagon previously dominated by sister luxury company Volvo and some other "volume" manufacturers.

The new X-Type Estate – Jaguar's first ever production station wagon – will take the company into a completely new market, and should strengthen the British manufacturer's return to profitability, sorely needed in recent years by parent company Ford.

The X-Type has been with us for around three years and although sales were initially sluggish, the introduction of a front-wheel drive (as opposed to all-wheel drive) version, and more recently a diesel, have boosted sales to a more satisfactory level. Now the addition of a station wagon will further expand the appeal of the X-Type.

The X-Type Estate is itself offered with a number of options, including manual or automatic transmission, gasoline or diesel engines and front- or all-wheel drive.

In addition, there are three levels of specification and a number of other comfort or performance choices.

When the X-Type was launched in 2001, all models had four-wheel drive, in an effort to distance the vehicle from its humble Ford Mondeo origins.



MOVING INTO THE ESTATE: Jaguar's X-Type Estate, the British automaker's first ever station wagon, is expected to take the company into a completely new market, and strengthen Jaguar's return to profitability.

The Mondeo is front-wheel drive, but this was seen as heresy for a brand as distinguished as Jaguar.

So a longitudinal propshaft and rear differential were added to give the X-Type rather more distinction.

This baby Jaguar is still built on a Mondeo platform and uses Ford's familiar Duratec

transverse-mounted V6 engine. But marketing sense eventually prevailed and a front-wheel drive version was introduced last year with a two-liter, four-cylinder engine.

More recently, a two-liter diesel, developed in conjunction with Peugeot/Citroën in France,

has been added to the range, again with just front-wheel drive.

A manual gearbox is standard on the diesel and it is this model that is expected to make up the bulk of the X-Type Estate's sales, certainly in Europe. Massive torque – 330 Nm at 1,800 rpm – makes the car an ideal towing vehicle, as well as coping adequately with any heavy loads that may be carried occasionally.

Performance is modest but still adequate for this class of vehicle, with a top speed of a shade under 200 kmh and the 0-100 kmh sprint taking 10 seconds.

Jaguar makes some

pretty impressive claims for its load-carrying capabilities: its maximum usable load volume with the rear seats folded is greater than BMW's 3-series Touring or the Mercedes-Benz C-Class station wagon, and 20% bigger than the Audi A4 Avant. To add a touch of class to the vehicle, the load area is fully carpeted and trimmed, and there are four spring-loaded chrome D-rings with which to secure luggage.

There is a host of intelligent interior features unique to the X-Type Estate, including an underfloor secure storage area in the rear. This incorporates a power socket, enabling a laptop to be recharged while discreetly concealed under the floor. Ease of loading is helped by a split

tailgate, with the option of opening either the entire tailgate or just the window.

Jaguar's demographics indicate that the target market is relatively young – 32 to 35 years old – predominantly male, with a comfortable income and an active lifestyle. Buyers apparently want the extra space of a station wagon, but do not want to sacrifice performance or style. There is also growing resistance to large SUVs on ecological grounds, as well as worries about roll-over safety.

An economical station wagon such as the diesel X-Type is definitely attractive to this group of potential buyers.

Jeff Heselwood may be contacted by email at jhc@netvigator.com.

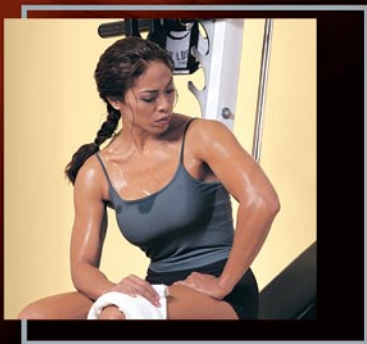


By Jeff Heselwood



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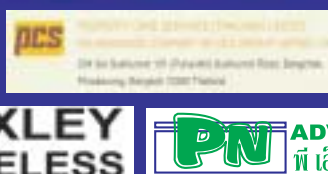
Salvatore Cossu and Somboon Jangkard. The owners of Salvatore's Ristorante :

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A pleasant westerly wind has blown away the rainclouds in time for our Sunday brunch appointment at Rockfish.

I say brunch, but we were late. After three years in Thailand I have switched to TST (Thai Standard Time). However, the circuitous drive north, then west and finally south to the Kamala Beach Estate in the welcome sunshine, whets the appetite for just about anything.

Phuket inhabitants may recall an earlier incarnation of Rockfish as The Balcony Restaurant and Bar, but new management team Nick Anthony (of Indigo Real Estate) and his brother Richard have stripped the place bare and started from scratch.

Nick admits to me that Rockfish still needs a few finishing touches – the process was held up by having to employ three separate contractors to finish the job, but the results speak volumes.

Rockfish is on three levels, wending its way down a short cliff face from the road to beach. Earthy tones are used throughout and complement, I later realize, the natural flavor of the cuisine. Of the raw Thai silk used for the upholstery, Richard says, “We commissioned a local company to produce it, as we’d rather have money circulating through the Phuket economy than Bangkok or elsewhere.”

Pieces of art – from bold blue triptychs to small panels, all locally created – shout out from the walls. Together with large fiery-red glass vases, they make a statement of style. Difficult to miss, hard to dislike.

There is also the magnificent view across Kamala Bay. Although seemingly exposed to the elements, the dining area of Rockfish is on the lee side of the hill, so the occasional light rains experienced in Phuket blow straight over the top, like water off a ... rockfish’s back.

My dining companion’s first impression is that it would make an ideal location for a private function; cocktails in the ground-floor terraced bar area, followed by dining downstairs. Nick plans to complete a deck area at beach level before the high season. “Dining and jazz on on the beach,” he hints.

Chef Ukrit, formerly with The Banyan Tree, goes by the nickname “Dan” but looks any-



At the Rockfish, Chef Ukrit (right) creates a range of delights, including beef tenderloin with red wine jus and zucchini chutney (above).



Going down on Kamala Beach

On the menu
with
Andy Johnstone
Rockfish

thing but desperate decked out in his er... blacks (chef’s whites seem a little passé these days).

He presents us with our first dish: chicken yakitori with char-grilled vegetables. It’s tender, infused with the scent of a lemon-grass skewer, and sets the scene for the dishes to follow.

Next comes a Australian warm goat’s cheese salad with walnuts and a blackberry vinaigrette, followed by a set of *dim sum* spiced with apple and cinnamon, combining excitingly different textures and tastes.

A tower of layered pink papaya and crab, and a salmon fillet with saffron and orange sauce served with potato purée causes gasps of gastronomic delight.

Meaty steamed kingfish,

wrapped in spinach, follows. The accompanying coconut rice is served in what Nick says looks like a mini teepee although I suggest a Harry Potter-style witch’s hat. Whatever, with a light curry sauce, it brings the taste of *hor mok* whizz-bang up-to-date.

Just as we are getting full, a rare-but-not-too-rare beef tenderloin with red wine jus and zucchini chutney graces the table. Roast beef on Sunday with a few glasses of white wine. Oh yes.

Rockfish restaurant is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, and also provides room service for residents of Kamala Beach Estate. Our dishes were a mix of lunch and dinner items. It’s also family-oriented; children from a nearby table were enjoying themselves as much as the adults.

Island life is all about relaxing after the stresses and strains of the week. Rockfish, with its intimate but relaxed atmosphere, is the perfect antidote to the week, whichever day you visit.

Rockfish is open every day from 7:30 am till late. Tel: 076-279732.

Sipping into the comfort zone

Comfort food reminds us of those who nurtured us when we were young, and creates a sense of security and love. For a Korean, Comfort Food might mean *kimchi*. For an American, meatloaf and mashed potatoes. And for a Thai, a steaming bowl of *gaeng som*.

It is difficult for us to imagine today – surrounded as we are by wealth and modern technology – what a traumatic time the Great Depression of the 1930s was for our grandparents. When meat and good food that had been so scarce were once again available and affordable, they were a source of comfort and reassurance, a notion that still survives today.

Today, Comfort Food has been elevated to a high and exacting form of contemporary cuisine. From San Francisco to Sydney, it appears to have overshadowed tired and overly-intellectual French cuisine to take its place at the head of the table.

Chef Robert Falls, of The Red Room, Cherrig Talay, is one of Phuket’s masters of Comfort Food. He says that simplicity combined with the freshest-possible ingredients define Comfort Food. It is, he says, “food made by your mom; some of your first great meals that made you feel like an adult: foods like steaks grilled over a wood fire, roasted potatoes dusted with fresh rosemary, or chocolate cake.”

I recommend the following wines to accompany Comfort Food: Napa Valley Cabernet and Chardonnay, Australia Shiraz or Northern Rhone Valley Syrah, New Zealand Sauvignon blanc, Oregon Pinot Noir, Argentina Malbec, Rioja, the Barbera d’Alba and Chianti Classico.

Some of my favorites at the moment include Oliver’s Taranga Shiraz from McLaren Vale, Montes Alpha Cabernet from Chile, Saint Clair Reserve Pinot Noir from New Zealand, Matanzas Creek Chardonnay from Sonoma, Odyssey Chardonnay from New Zealand and Zind



By Steven Roberto

Humbrecht Pinot Gris from Alsace. Bold wines like these are perfect for Comfort Food; they contain higher levels of tannin and acidity, which steady the food’s richness and refresh the palate.

Choose assertive wines like these, which boast a connection to their origins and accompany decadent Comfort Foods like smoky grilled meats, tangy barbeque, hearty stews, herb-crusted chops and salmon steaks from the Pacific Ocean.

By the way, forget about wine with Comfort desserts. Chocolate cake, key lime pie and blackberry cobbler don’t need wine to unlock the memories they hold for us.

Steven Roberto is a winemaker and restaurant consultant from California. He is the Wine and Beverage Director for the award-winning Baan Rim Pa restaurant in Patong. Email: stevenroberto@lycos.com

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A different flavor of development

One of Phuket's more interesting new projects is Villa Santi, a resort-style project overlooking Patong Bay. It is a development of luxurious villas and apartments with all the facilities of a luxury resort, lush tropical landscaping that includes waterfalls and natural-form swimming pools, and brilliant views.

The residences have 570 square meters of outdoor space each, and boast two master bedrooms, two guest rooms and a private swimming pool. Pretty impressive.

The project is being developed by a consortium headed up by two long-term Phuket residents, Patrick Blaauw and Bart Duykers.

I've known Bart Duykers for a few years. We used to play golf together sometimes when the clubhouse at the Banyan Tree Golf Club was a bamboo shack with a thatched roof, and the drinks were served in large plas-



Tamed blue yonder: On top of everything else, Villa Santi has stunning views.

tic cups. As a matter of fact I think I liked the bamboo...

The course was new, there were no buildings around, and a large variety of snakes lived happily around the course, sunning themselves on the fairways and

not disturbing anyone except the odd silly Englishman on holidays, who expects every snake to engage him in mortal combat.

Unfortunately, there's not much wildlife left. The snakes and lizards, especially, have been

driven from their natural habitats, as in most parts of Phuket, by another much more dangerous and unpredictable species of animal – us.

However, getting back to Bart Duykers; Bart was General Manager of The Boathouse hotel at Kata Beach. Bart was instrumental in developing one of Thailand's finest restaurants and wine cellars, which attracted regular high-caliber visitors such as the late Sir Peter Ustinov.

Bart left Phuket for a while, leaving the "best" and the "finest" restaurants on the island to fight among themselves for a larger slice of the action. Bart went to Chiang Mai to help in setting set up an exclusive Thai college aimed at producing future Thai leaders, and then went to China for a spell as a hotel GM.

Now Bart is back in Phuket and, as part of the luxury residen-

tial project, has another interesting restaurant on the way.

At Villa Santi, there is definitely something in the wind. As the brochure says, "At the resort's private entrance a neat courtyard embraces the culinary heart of Villa Santi, where the aroma of freshly baked bread and pastries from the deli fill the air."

Bart describes the restaurant as being "a building with glass walls – like a diamond stuck in the ground." The menu, he says, will be "global food including Thai cuisine, not as a separate menu, but incorporated into the other dishes."

Given its location and facilities, Villa Santi should be a popular spot, and would probably make a good investment. It is worth having at least a look, and will definitely be worth visiting for a feed when the restaurant opens.

PROPERTY & HOMEZONE
By Graham Doven

Construction Update

by Anongnat Sartpisut

CHALONG: Ananda Garden Hills is an 80-million-baht, 62-home development on 6.2 rai of land in Chalong.

Builders went on site in April this year and Jirachara Jankaew, project assistant of developers Dachanan Garage Limited Partnership Co, says construction should be completed by the middle of next year.

The estate is on Chao Fa West Rd, about 400 meters north of Chalong Circle. A row of eight shophouses lies between the road and the other properties.

The three-floor shophouses each offer a total living area of at least 96 square meters. Each floor has a bathroom, but the rest is open space, allowing buyers to

Choice of three styles of living

put walls where they choose.

K. Jirachara said, "The door and window frames are made of aluminium and the windows and doors are of mirrored glass, giving a luxury appearance."

Prices start at 3.88 million baht a unit.

Behind the shophouses, 24 single-story semi-detached homes each have at least 140sqm of interior space. Each has two bedrooms, two bathrooms, living room and kitchen, along with a garden, terrace and car-parking space.



Computer-generated impression of Ananda Garden townhouses.

Said K. Jirachara, "The emphasis here is on comfort and convenience. The interior is European in style, with closets and worktops in the kitchen and furniture in the bedrooms." Prices start at 1.66 million baht.

There are also 30 two-story townhouses, each with two bedrooms, two bathrooms, living room and kitchen, along with a terrace and small garden, and one car-parking space. Each house is six meters wide, and has a minimum interior space of 84sqm.

"We have tried to give buyers a large, versatile space, with a luxurious interior and a beautiful exterior," says K. Jirachara.

Prices for these units start at 1.68 million baht.

K. Jirachara says, "We have used quality materials throughout. For example, we are using aluminium from the Thai Aust Aluminium Co Ltd, which guarantees its aluminum for five years, and sanitaryware from American Standard."

"We are aiming first at foreigners, who want materials they can trust, and don't want to have to bother about maintenance. Our second target group is government employees and middle-to-higher income Thais."

She continued, "Our first project in Chalong exceeded our expectations, and our other development here, Ananda Village 3, is already sold out, even though we have only just started building. We expect Ananda Garden Hills to be equally successful."

For more information contact the developers at 9/30 Moo 8, Chao Fa West Rd, Tambon Chalong, Muang, Phuket 83000, Tel: 076-280439 email, anadagardenhills@yahoo.com

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Home of the Week

Wichit



Stylish family home in a pleasant country garden

For sale in Baan Prangthong on Kwang Rd in Tambon Wichit is a large house so spacious that residents hardly feel they have neighbors.

The Sino-Portuguese-style house with two floors and three bedrooms is set among the estate's manicured lawns and tropical plants, with lots of space between each property. The estate also has 24-hour security, which gives peace of mind to the occupants.

The house has lawns on two sides with tropical trees and plants.

The front of the house has a carport, which leads to the main entrance up a small paved driveway.

The exterior of the house looks new and the property is in excellent condition throughout. The tiled roof has guttering and drain pipes, which is unusual in this price range.

There is no pool, but there is enough room to install a reasonable-size one. The total land area is 320 square meters. The garden covers 160sqm but looks much bigger thanks to the clever house design.

Inside the house, just to the left of the entrance, there is a delightfully-decorated living room. To the right is a dining room and, off that, a Western kitchen. There is also a full bathroom on this floor.

The dining room has a magnificent display cabinet of glass and teak, and plenty of closet space.

The living area has a large panoramic window looking out onto the garden, which gives the room plenty of light and an attractive ambience. This room, too, has built-in teak wall units for TV and book storage.

The floors throughout are granite and the ceiling surrounds are made of teak, so they blend in with the other teak units.

There is a feel of quality to all the fittings, but the kitchen is probably the showpiece, with a marble floor, splashbacks and work tops, and teak storage cupboards above and below. There is also a breakfast bar.

The appliances include an electric oven, hob, extractor hood, large fridge and microwave, all of European quality.

A teak staircase leads to the upper floor, where there are three

bedrooms, two with ensuite bathrooms, and a study room.

The master bedroom has a dressing area, built-in closets and a balcony.

The bathrooms are lavishly finished, with attractive marble walls, bath and basins, and floors of black slate.

The floor on the upper level is all teak. Windows and doors throughout the house are hardwood.

Utilities include air conditioning, ceiling fans, UBC cable television, a telephone line, mains water, a water-filtration system, three-phase electricity, and both septic tank and mains drainage.

The land title is Chanote and the property is partly furnished with a lot of built-in quality furniture.

The price is 8 million baht. The owners will also consider long term rental at 45,000 baht per month, with a minimum rental period of one year.

For more information, contact Richard Lusted at Siam Real Estate, Tel, 076-280805, website, www.siamrealestate.com, email, info@siamrealestate.com

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Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

We are in Thailand. We all know that. As Basil Fawlty might say in a Mastermind-style tone, "Bloomin' Bert. Specialized subject: the bleedin' obvious". One of the symbols of Thailand is the elephant; it's so important here, it used to be on the national flag.

How often have you seen an elephant creep? They're not known for their stealth or subtlety, and they are hardly likely to walk up behind you on tiptoe and shout "boo!".

In fact, to have elephants and creepers in the same sentence seems pretty bizarre.

At last we get to the point of my ramblings: a unique plant known as the elephant creeper. Some people refer to it as the silver morning glory or woolly morning glory. If you are Thai you call it a *pak la baht*.

This native of India and Burma is incredible for one big reason – I've never seen anything grow as quickly. Ever. It could well be just my imagination, but when I first brought one of these back to Chez Bert, I'm sure it extended itself by an inch or two a day.

This was perhaps surprising in view of what it was like when

The plant that says 'Boo!'

it first arrived. I had bought it from a local garden center, and I carried it home on my motorcycle Thai-style, gripped precariously under one arm.

By the time we arrived, it looked less than magnificent. Quite pathetic, in fact, rather like a snake whose backbone has spontaneously turned to jelly.

Shift of location? Wind? I had no idea. It certainly wasn't particularly content. This sorry state didn't last, though.

By the following morning, I had learned that this plant is merciless to all in its path. Tendrils shoot out continuously from the main stem like Jurassic pythons, coiling around whatever is in their reach. That jelly backbone had been transformed into something very different.

It really is best to try to guide the creeper away from anything you don't want it to throttle to death, as it will strangle and smother anything that gets in its way.

Mine decided that the nearby fence should become its

If you're not careful, the fast-growing Elephant Creeper may stomp all over your garden.



domain, and the fence didn't get the chance to argue.

The flowers, though, are a lovely surprise; they are big, dramatic, bluey-mauve trumpets and

they appear without warning. Once the plant is mature, they bloom repeatedly.

The large leaves, unsurprisingly, are shaped a little like elephant ears. They're green on top, with silvery white hairs below, which grow profusely from low down on the stem. The underside of the leaves feels rather like the velvet in your grandmother's jewelry box.

The elephant creeper can be grown from a pot or from the ground, in rocky, sandy soil. The tendrils can grow up to 10 meters or so. It doesn't need much space, just something to attach itself to.

Like the elephant, it's hardy and is quite content in either direct sun or shade. It needs plenty of watering, though it isn't happy if it stands in water.

In India, both the seeds and the roots of the Elephant Creeper are used for their medicinal properties. It's used in some types of medicine to support the nervous system, as a geriatric tonic and a mild aphrodisiac.

All parts of the plant are supposed to have purifying, anti-septic properties. People with arthritis take it to help maintain healthy joints.

If you crush the leaves and mix them into a paste with water, you have a perfect treatment for skin wounds. Apparently.

There are supposed to be psychoactive ingredients in both the seeds and roots that some claim have aphrodisiac qualities. I can't say I've tested this theory myself, but if anyone wants to put it to the test, well, answers on a postcard please...


This vine really is outrageous, and deserves a place in any garden – or even balcony – if for no other reason than for its entertainment value.


It's great for covering roofs, walls and posts or shooting skywards up a tree. It may need a little pointing in the right direction every now and then, but it's easily trained.


I'm not sure you need to worry too much about creeping elephants, but if one ever creeps up behind you and says, "Boo!", please let me know. The plant will probably get there first, though.

Want to know more about a plant in your garden?

Email Bloomin' Bert at: bloominbert@hotmail.com







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Great opportunity: mountain view, freehold title, 300m to beach, 1 bedroom, living room, 2 balconies, 1 toilet. Price: 1.05 million baht. Contact for more information. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip_5@hotmail.com

2 PLOTS RAWAI LAND

near Evason. 2 Rawai land plots - 36.4 and 36.6 sq wah - next to The Evason Phuket. 395,000 baht each. Pls contact for more details. Tel: 09-6094611. Email: latkrabang@hotmail.com

PATONG BEACH

condo. 1-room apartment in Patong for cash sale. 450,000 baht for freehold title. Pls contact for more info. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip_5@hotmail.com

BEACH CONDOS

Apartments in Patong - 300m from the beach and with fantastic views - for sale or rent. 92sqm or 120sqm. Price: 2.2 million baht. Contact for details. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip_5@hotmail.com

PATONG APARTMENT

for sale. 57-year lease. 1 bedroom, 126sqm. Fully furnished, 3 years old. Expat community. Email: beijingkirk@yahoo.com

CHERNG TALAY LAND

520sqm plot of land 2km from Laguna and with Chanote title and 2m wall. Call for details. Tel: 01-7879701.

30 RAI IN KHAO LAK

30 rai on main road in central Khao Lak, with Chanote title and electricity, is available at the asking price of 3 million baht per rai. Please call or email for more details. Tel: 09-0268481, 09-6482029. Email: bighouda5@hotmail.com

LAND FOR SALE

on Taiad Rd, in Chalong. 246 sq wah. If interested, please call Lucky at Tel: 09-729-8988.

BANGLA BAR

for sale. Soi Sea Dragon. Fully furnished, turnkey, good profit. 2 million baht. For more info, please email: buybarpatong@hotmail.com

LUXURY BEACH

condos. Large - 28sqm - seaview apartment comprising 1 bedroom, living room, bathroom and kitchen for sale for 1.5 million baht. Freehold title for 760,000 baht. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip_5@hotmail.com

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509 sq wah (2,036sqm) available in Soi Saliga, Rawai. Only 5.5 million baht. Call for details. Tel: 076-288422.

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Please contact:
Khun Amy, 076 396 777, 01 9708304 for further details.

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Property Gazette



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Property Gazette

Accommodation Wanted

RENTAL HOUSE

desired. Want to rent a house in the Bang Tao area on a month-to-month basis, from September 12. Up to 20,000 baht/month. Single Western male, no smoking, no drinking, vegetarian. Email: raf064@hotmail.com

HOUSE TO RENT

in Patong, Kata or Karon areas needed from October 1. Max rent: 15,000 baht/month. Need 2 bedrooms, aircon, phone line, and satellite TV. Tel: 09-5935086.

RENTAL WANTED

TEFL students seek a 2-3 bed house or apartment near Phuket City, preferably in the Chalong area, for monthly rental. Please send details to Sheri by email at: baysil@hotmail.com

APARTMENT

I need accommodation in Patong for six months from October. I am prepared to pay in advance. Double room, aircon, bath, shower, kitchen. I am in the UK at the moment. Willing to pay 5,000 to 6,000 baht a month. Please email: free26844spirit@yahoo.com

APARTMENT WANTED

Furnished condo/apartment wanted in a quiet location in Phuket from December 21, 2004 to January 4, 2005. Email: hugobaur@yahoo.com

FURNISHED HOUSE

Furnished 2-bedroom house wanted in the Kata, Karon or Rawai area. Must be in a quiet location. Required from October for long-term lease. Email: safesurfer@lycos.co.uk

ACCOMMODATION

I'm a Swedish man and looking for an apartment or house in Patong Beach. I will stay 1 month from December 23. Please email details to: bbempa@yahoo.com

HOUSE WANTED

Careful, older tenant requires house for long-term rental. Unfurnished, 2 bedrooms, 1-2 bathrooms. Prefer small garden. Tel: 01-1906177. Email: ozzydom@yahoo.com

ACCOMMODATION

near Mai Khao. Looking for long-term, low-cost accommodation near Mai Khao Beach (JW Marriott hotel area) from September 15 for at least 6 months. Will consider house share with Thai or farang people, or cheap, one-room studio apartment. I am 32, English, quiet and clean. Email: mysammy11@yahoo.com

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Co Ltd. Michael Swanton specializes in every type of building work, including tiling, electrical work, plumbing, painting and aircon units. Please call for more details. Tel: 076-323-620, 09-2877241.

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Gardens. Water feature construction (Koi ponds, waterfalls, etc.) Please call for more information. Tel: 07-8814984.

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Tel. 02-6736342

Q Mart, Grand Hotel, Sukhumvit Rd, Soi 11, Klongtoey

Tel. 02-6511200 ext. 3452

C Mart, Centre Point, Petchaburi Rd, Soi 15, Rajathewee

Tel. 02-6536690-8 ext. 4030

Duangkamol, Sukhumvit Rd, Klongtoey

Tel. 02-2526261

Would you like to keep up on what's happening in Phuket - the good, the bad and the bizarre? Let us share it with you - every week!

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Island Job Mart

TRISARA

Nai Thon Beach
Phuket Island

New 5-star luxury resort

Now Searching for Team Members

Scheduled to open in the 4th quarter of 2004, Trisara comprises 33 exceptional hotel pool villas, all with private pools and ocean views, 12 privately owned luxury residential villas, a spa, two restaurants and many other first class facilities.

Trisara will create a new standard of resort experience and we are now inviting capable candidates with suitable experience and excellent English communication skills to join our growing team in the following positions:

A&G Finance & Accounting

- Cost Controller
- Front Cashier
- Senior Accountant (AP)
- General Cashier (Pay Master)

Front Office

- Night Manager
- Bellboy/Driver

F&B Kitchen

- Commis : Thai Kitchen
- Commis: Bakery

Spa & Recreation

- Beauty Salon Supervisor
- Salon-Beauticians/Hair Dresser
- Spa Receptionist
- Spa Therapist

Please send your resumé with a recent photo or apply in person to:
Human Resources Department
Three Dolphins Resort Co, Ltd.

Trisara

60/1 Moo 6 Srisoonthorn Road,
Cherng Talay, Talang
Phuket, 83110 Thailand

Tel: 076-310354 Fax: 076-310300 or via email to: hr@trisara.com

We are looking for dedicated, responsible, and self-motivated personnel to crew Phuket's first and best luxury megayacht available for charter.

Positions available

Receptionist/Secretary
(Boat Lagoon Office)

1 Captain

1 Engineer

1 Chef

1 Assistant Chef

1 Steward/Dishhand

1 Housekeeper/cleaner

Requirements

Fluent English-speaking Thai national
Good computer skills. Knowledgeable in
Microsoft programs.

International certification license for up to
500 ton Motor Vessel.

Engineer certified for 1500hp engine.

Minimum Sous Chef for 4-5 star hotels.

Minimum 2 years kitchen experience for
4-5 star hotels.

Minimum 2 years experience on cruise liner
or private yacht.

Minimum 1 year's experience in housekeeping
with 4-5 star hotels.

It is desirable for the above personnel to speak English or other languages.
Please fax/ email in your resumé.

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23/128-11P Moo 2 Thaprasom Rd., 8th Km, Muang, Phuket 83000, Thailand
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Email: info@kingfishermarine.com

Secretary

For New Events & Technical Productions
Company in Phuket.

Qualification:

- Age 23 years plus, male or female
- Excellent command of written & spoken English
- Computer literate in MS Excel & Word
- Willing to take responsibility and work under pressure
- Pleasant with service minded personality

If interested please send your resume with recent photo to
38/2 Moo 2 Srisoonthorn Road, Cherngtalay, Talang,
Phuket 83110
E-mail : workstation71@hotmail.com

Foreign Insurance Agents

Thai Zurich Insurance Co Ltd. is well known for its professional insurance service and solid balance sheet internationally and domestically. We are seeking high-caliber applicants to help us expand our business in a dynamic and rapidly developing market for Foreign Resident and Small and Medium Enterprise (SMEs). Contact us if you:

- ☒ Are well established in the foreign resident, local and foreign business community
- ☒ Have a pleasant personality, good interpersonal skills and service-minded
- ☒ Knowledge of insurance would be an advantage but not required, training is provided.

Please send your resume or CV to

Mr. Daniel Wyss,
Manager of Foreign Resident &
SME Dept
Thai Zurich Insurance Co Ltd
126/2 Krung Thonburi Rd,
Klongsan, Bangkok 10600
Tel: 0-2860-8033
or email: daniel.wyss@zurich.com

INTERNET CAFE

Wanted: Thai female, able to speak and write English fairly well with basic computer skills and typing. Training will be provided. Contact to apply. Tel: 076-296617, 06-2810515. Fax: 076-296617. Email: kdbusser@hotmail.com

GENERAL MANAGER

Phuket Programmers, Thai accounting software specialists, urgently require a General Manager to take this young company forward. We are looking for an enthusiastic person to lead our team, responsible to the directors. Bachelor's/master's degree, excellent command of English, minimum 3 years' management expertise, good interpersonal and organizational skills, computer literate, Thai national 30+. Accounting, marketing and sales experience an advantage. Attractive remuneration package. Relocation package available. Resume', including current salary to: Phuket Programmers, 249/11 Thepkasattri Rd, Moo 8, Talang, Phuket 83110. Tel: 076-313137, 01-8912934. Fax: 076-313269. Email: mick@phuketprogrammers.com

RESERVATION STAFF REQUIRED

Phi Phi Island Village Beach Resort & Spa, a
4-star resort located on Phi Phi Island, is currently seeking Reservation Staff to work at our Phuket Office.

Qualifications:

1. Male or Female aged 26 yrs up
2. 2 years experience of reservation department in the hotel industry
3. Good communication skills in writing, reading and speaking English
4. Able to use computers and related software

Interested applicants may send their application with resumé stating qualifications, work experience, recent photo and expected salary before 15 September, 2004 to

Mr. Surawait Wongbiasaj
89 Satoon Road, Muang Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-222784 Fax: 076-214918
E-mail: marketing@ppisland.com
Please visit our website at www.ppisland.com

NURSERY TEACHER

QSI Phuket seeks a qualified nursery teacher. Start date: August 23, 2004. Please contact for details. Tel: 076-354077 Fax: 076-354076. Email: qsi@phuketinternet.co.th

SECRETARY/CLIENT

support. Property development company seeks an enthusiastic and hardworking person to run the administration office and to assist with sales/client support. Must have very good computer skills as well as good written and spoken English. Contact to apply. Tel: 076-271188. Email: tony@maan-tawan.com

EXTRA INCOME

Need extra cash? Work at home at your own pace. Large company looking for reps. Email for details. Email: phuketcash@hotmail.com

5 MASSEUSES

wanted. 1-year contract. Malaysian government certified. Very high salary. For full info, contact as above now! Tel: 01-3974291.

NEWS REPORTERS

and photographers. After several years, we are giving one of Phuket's oldest and best-known travelers' websites a relaunch. We need local online reporters and photographers to get fresh articles, information and recent pictures. We pay by article (min 1,000 words and 3-5 pictures). Photographers will be paid by picture series. Good command of written English is mandatory. Applicants should be familiar with every aspect of tourist and expat life on Phuket. Please email: juergen@trv.net or for further details, please see our website at: www.trv.net

LUXURY BOUTIQUE

Resort. Seeking Chef de Partie, Demi Chef and Commis chef. Experienced in Western food. Spoken English an advantage. Location Kata Beach. Please email resumé to: chef@aspasiaphuket.com or call the Executive Chef at Tel: 076-284430.

ADMIN/MARKETING

trainee. Two interesting trainee positions in Phuket City office for Thai nationals. Requirements: good spoken and written English, basic computer skills, bright personality. Salary 5,500-7000 baht per month. Contact for details. Tel: 076-232960. Fax: 076-232961. Email: rob@sailing-thailand.com

ADMIN/MARKETING

Permanent supervisory position for Thai national in Phuket City Office. Requirements - excellent English, good computer, organisational and communication skills, driving license and a bright, outgoing personality. Salary 15,000-18,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-232960. Fax: 076-232961. Email: rob@sailing-thailand.com

SECRETARY

Fluent in English, office organization background, pleasant and service-minded. Tel: 076-273321. Fax 076-238974. Email: suporn@thaimarine.com

Don't miss.....

The Home Show Asia

More information, see page 3.

Find more classified ads at
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Island Job Mart

Dusit Laguna

RESORT
PHUKET • THAILAND

Urgently Required

Dusit Laguna Resort is 5-star luxury resort in Phuket, Thailand, and a member of **The Leading Hotels of the World**. We are looking for candidates who have developed attitudes and behavior that reflect a commitment to excellence, to fill the following positions:

Director of Sales / Assistant Director of Sales

Qualifications:

- Thai male/female with Bachelor's Degree or higher in a related field, from a recognized university.
- At least 5 years' Hotel Sales & Marketing experience, with 3 years in a supervisory role.
- Strong leadership, interpersonal skills & good attitude.
- Excellent English communication skills and computer-literate

Public Relations Manager

Qualifications:

- Thai female with Bachelor's degree in a related field, from a recognized university.
- Excellent English communication skills and computer-literate.
- Able to write short captions in English.
- Pleasant personality and attitude.
- At least 2-3 years' Public Relations experience.

Applicants are invited to submit their resumés with recent picture and references to:

Human Resources Department

Dusit Laguna Resort Phuket
390 Srisoonthorn Road, Talang, Phuket 83110
Tel: 66 0 7632 4324 Fax: 66 0 7632 4174
Email: dlpcareer@dusit.com

Urgently required

Diamond Cottage Resort & Spa, a Boutique Resort, Thai in design and service, is currently looking for applicants to fill the following positions:

- Food & Beverage Manager (1 Position)
- Assistant Food & Beverage Manager (1 Position)
- Guest Relations Officer (1 Position)
- Technician (1 Position)

To apply: Please submit your full resumé & recent photo to:

Personnel Department, Diamond Cottage Resort & Spa
6 Karon Road, A.Muang, Phuket 83100 Phone: 076 286446-50 Fax: 076 286451
E-mail: info@diamondcottage.com www.diamondcottage.com

SECRETARY WANTED

for friendly Canvas shop in the Boat Lagoon. Reasonable English and computer skills a must. Can you deal with farangs okay? Come and join the team. Phone Muzz at Canvas Creations. Tel: 076-238946, 01-370-1600. Fax: 076-238946. Email: canvas@loxinfo.co.th

FASHION SHOP

staff needed for new fashion shop in Central Festival. Please contact for details. Tel: 076-385385, 06-276-1506. Email: nattakarn_aasa@yahoo.com

URGENTLY REQUIRED

Sales Representatives (two positions) with excellent spoken and written English. Also require Sales Rep who can speak English and Swedish (one position). Tel: 01-7191438.

BUDGETING-FINANCE

Manager. Must be fluent in English, have accounting background and knowledge of QuickBooks software and budget planning. Tel: 076-273321. Fax: 076-238974. Email: suporn@thaimarine.com

CHALLENGING

opportunity. A small boutique resort in Phuket is looking for a Hotel Manager/GM who will be able to commit himself for a long-term period (at least 2 years). Work experience in Thailand is a plus. The function entails management by objectives with bonuses as benefits. Previous education, preferably Hotel School, and Dutch nationality. Please submit a resumé and if possible a color passport photo. Email: doubledutch@yahoo.com

WAITRESSES & BAR

supervisor. Luxury small boutique resort in Kata requires attractive waitresses and a female bar supervisor. English speakers please. Contact K. Ratchaneekorn, HR Manager. Tel: 076-284430. Email: hr@aspasiaphuket.com



KATATHANI
PHUKET BEACH RESORTS

Katathani Phuket Beach Resorts is currently seeking highly-qualified professionals with relevant experience for the following positions:

1 Food & Beverage Manager

for our extensive Food & Beverage operation with 7 outlets and several bars

Qualifications:

- Thai national, male or female, minimum age 30
- Fluent in written and spoken English, other languages will be an advantage
- Minimum 5 years experience in a senior Food and Beverage position in a 4-5 star hotel with several outlets
- A natural, highly-motivated leader with great communication skills
- Good analytical and coordination skills
- Experience in ISO 9000 / ISO 14001 preferred
- Strong in administrative work
- Pleasant with service-minded personality and creative
- Pro-active management style

3 Call Center / Operators

Qualifications:

- Male or female
- Bachelor's Degree in tourism industry
- Excellent command of English
- Good interpersonal communications skills
- Pleasant personality & service-minded
- Knowledge of other languages would be an advantage

Please contact Personnel Department
14 Katanoi Road, Karon, Muang, Phuket 83100
Tel: 076-330124-6, E-Mail: personnel@katathani.com



Hilton

Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa

Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa will arrive in Phuket in October 2004. Following 6 months of exciting refurbishments and renovations, the Phuket Arcadia Beach Resort will be transformed into a luxurious world-famous Hilton resort. A great opportunity for people in the tourism industry awaits applicants who are interested in a rewarding hospitality career.

Public Relations Coordinator

Qualifications:

- Good command of the English language
- Experience in the hospitality industry
- Pleasant personality
- Computer skills required
- Opportunity for growth with the organization

Interested applicants can apply in person or send a resume with photo to the following address:

Human Resources Department
Phuket Arcadia Beach Resort
Operated by Hilton International
333 Patak Road, Karon Beach, Phuket 83100
Tel: 076 396 433 - 41 Fax: 076 396 - 136
E-mail: Supramarth.Pankamhang@hilton.com

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Island Job Mart



The recently rebranded Anantara Royal Coco Palm, Khao Lak is seeking an Expatriate English teacher to teach English for their associates.

Permanent employment with a competitive salary and a comprehensive benefits package will be offered to the successful candidate, including accommodation and duty meals.

The candidates must be native English speakers and must have adult teaching experience and teaching qualifications. A working knowledge of spoken Thai would be an advantage.

Please send your resumé by e-mail to

Anantara Royal Coco Palm, Khao Lak

cam@cocopalms.com or Fax No. 076 592110 or apply in person at the Resort.

URGENTLY REQUIRED

Nasara Shop ("Anything Shop"), specializing in Thai-herbal and spa products, will open a store at Central Festival Phuket. We require a person for the position of Shop Manager.

Qualifications:

- Male or Female
- At least 5 years' experience in a wholesale or retail shop
- Bachelor's degree in a related field
- Computer skills an advantage
- Able to communicate in English

Please send your resumé and recent photo to:
Khun Nassara Trisuwan (Nasara Shop)
89 Saloon Road, Muang District, Phuket 83000
E-mail: chabashop@ppisland.com
Tel: 076-222784, 258186 Fax: 076-214918

MARKETING

Manager wanted for advertising firm. Driving license required. Pls call between 8 am and 4 pm. Tel: 076-203011.

Employment Wanted

DANISH ENGINEER

Male engineer, 39, with 12 years' experience in steel/welding technology, computers, economics, seeks freelance or full-time work in the Phuket area. Also speaks English and German. Please contact with details. Tel: 01-0868044. Email: la@danlike.com

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Articles for Sale

HAMMER DRILL

New hammer drill – with accessories – for sale at 14,500 baht. Please call Tel: 09-4075281.

FURNITURE FOR SALE

20" Sanyo TVs, teak deck chairs, fridges, tables, desks, chairs, double & single beds, display units & many more items, in good condition. Reasonable prices. Must see at the Kata Plaza. Tel: 01-7192821.

Boats & Marine

QUICK SEAL BOAT

37-foot wooden speedboat for sale at 350,000 baht. Call for details. Tel: 01-6931425.

SIMPSON MARINE

Great Opportunity to own a New Yacht in ASIA Without waiting!

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New Upgrades-Teak Fly bridge / Flat Screen TV / New Bimini & Covers



- 2004 Model
- 2 x MTU 1150hp
- 2 x Kohler Genet
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- Owner upgrading

More Yachts Available For Early Delivery

Log onto to our website at: www.simpsonmarine.com

BENETEAU 57



Stunning new model Available October 2004

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- 50 guests for day sailing

Paul Schoten: at +6 012-6011706 Email: paul.schoten@simpsonmarine.com
Simon Thesiera: at +6 012-2971364 Email: simon.thesiera@simpsonmarine.com

LEE MARINE

MULTI HULL MADNESS THIS WEEK AT LEE MARINE



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Yacht Haven
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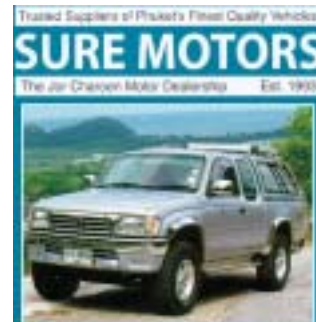
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