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Murder suspect awaits trial date

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

PATONG: Paul Chetwynd-Talbot, accused of murdering Briton Debra O'Hanlon, 31, will remain in a Kathu Police Station cell until a preliminary hearing at Phuket Provincial Court on August 20, when a date is expected to be set for his trial to start.

It is expected that the 32-year-old Briton will then be remanded in custody at Phuket Provincial Prison until the trial begins.

Ms O'Hanlon's remains were taken to Bangkok on August 4 for autopsy, although at the time of going to press the *Gazette* was told that the procedure had not been completed.

Pol Col Teeraphol Thipjaroen, Superintendent of Kathu Police Station, told the *Gazette* on August 2 that an initial examination of the body suggested that Ms O'Hanlon had been struck hard in the face with a blunt object and that her neck had been broken.

Chetwynd-Talbot surrendered to police in the evening of August 3, two days after the body of Ms O'Hanlon was discovered at the Eric Guesthouse on Nanai Rd in Patong. It is believed that she died in the early hours of Sunday, July 31.

Col Teeraphol told the *Gazette* that Talbot had come to the front of Kathu Police Station at about 8 pm on August 3 and had sat there doing nothing until a police officer asked him if he wanted to report something to the police. Chetwynd-Talbot replied that he did, that he was the one who had killed Ms O'Hanlon, Col Teeraphol said.

The accused had apparently attempted to take his own



Happier days: Paul Chetwynd-Talbot with Debra O'Hanlon, in a photograph believed to have been taken about a month before her death.

life by making a number of cuts to his forearms, resulting in substantial loss of blood.

"This explains why we found so much blood at the scene of the murder. There were deep wounds in his wrists, the tendons were slashed and he had lost a lot of blood. He looked a wreck; no one could recognize him," Col Teeraphol added.

After being charged with Ms O'Hanlon's death, Chetwynd-Talbot was taken to Wachira Phuket Hospital for treatment before being returned to the cells at Kathu Police Station on August 6.

Chetwynd-Talbot and Ms O'Hanlon had owned the Red Or Dead bar in Patong, but are believed to have sold it after the December 26 tsunami wiped out the business financially.

Pol Lt Padungpong Duksu-

kaew, Duty Officer at Kathu Police Station, told the *Gazette* on August 2 that Ms O'Hanlon and Talbot flew back to England after the bar was sold. Talbot is thought to have returned to Phuket in May.

Lt Padungpong said that Ms O'Hanlon had traveled to Thailand in the last week of July to try to persuade Chetwynd-Talbot to return to England.

Friends of the couple, speaking to the *Gazette* before the accused man surrendered, said that they believed he had debts in Phuket of around 100,000 baht.

However, a friend of the couple, also speaking before the arrest, said, "The idea that [the murder] was in any way for financial gain is just out of the question."

Exclusive interview: page 4

Airport limo problem gets committee treatment

By Athiga Jundee

PHUKET CITY: The problem of transportation at Phuket International Airport has been dumped into the laps of at least 10 ad-hoc committees, who have been given the vaguest of briefs – to discuss solutions to the problem – and no deadline to report back with their conclusions.

The decision to set up the committees was made at a public meeting at Phuket City's Community Center Hall on Friday. Standing by to keep the peace were some 100 police officers, special police and police volunteers.

Having their say were representatives from meter taxi companies, tuk-tuk drivers, limousine cooperatives, "black" (unlicensed) taxi drivers, the Phuket Tourism Association, the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Region 4, the Phuket Transportation Office, Phuket International Airport, members of the Phuket Provincial Council, other government officials and representatives of travel industry businesses.

Others outside watched the proceedings via closed-circuit TV.

At the hearing, Utai Suk-sirisompan, a consultant to the Airport Limousine and Business Service Cooperative Ltd, said that the governor should look at the cause of the problem and try to find the best solution.

Pattanapong Aikwanich, President of the Phuket Tourism Association, was rather more precise. He said although many tourists might enjoy the feeling of riding in a private car, there have been numerous complaints that limousine fares were too high.

"We have to consider whether or not the airport has

Continued on page 2

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No thanks: Gov Udomsak grins as he declines to accept a bouquet from some limousine drivers.

Committee treatment for limos

From page 1

enough taxis. If so, then we should not increase the number of meter taxis.

"I don't think we should increase the number of metered taxis, but instead allow the limousine and [black] taxi drivers to switch to driving metered taxis. Customers can decide for themselves which transport service they want to use," K. Pattanapong added.

In any case, the Governor's original plan to have hundreds of meter taxis plying Phuket's roads may take some time to realize.

The representative of the Provincial Transportation Office told the meeting that only four people had registered meter taxi companies, providing a total of 20 vehicles between them. Another 21 meter taxis are registered to individuals, making a total of only 41 registered meter taxis on the entire island.

Suwalai Pinradab, Director of the TAT office in Phuket noted that the TAT had received many letters of complaint, both in Thai and in English, about transportation services on Phuket.

The current common com-

plaint is about minibus drivers taking their passengers from the airport to a tour company on the bypass road where staff try to pressure them into buying a tour package that includes transportation direct to their hotel.

The public hearing concluded with the setting-up of committees to consider the problem. Committee members include Phuket Senator Paiboon Upatising, representatives from 10 limousine cooperatives in Phuket, officials from the Phuket International Airport, police from all three districts, provincial officials, the TAT, the Phuket Tourism Association, members of the Provincial Council, and others.

The decision to bury the problem in numerous committees follows a tense meeting on July 29 when the Governor was besieged by angry limousine drivers who blocked his car, preventing him from leaving Provincial Hall to go to lunch.

This time, in sharp contrast, some of the limousine drivers tried to hand Gov Udomsak bouquets of flowers. "What are these for?" he asked, before declining the gift.

Yes! We love Phuket!

Wutthisak Cheewamaitreewong collects his prize of a free one-month membership at Club Asia Fitness, part of the ongoing 'We Love Phuket' campaign.

Presenting his prize is Jaratsri 'Jena' Surat, from the Gazette's Advertising Sales Department.



Teen queen delivers the bear necessities

By Anongnat Sartpisut

PHUKET CITY: Miss Teen Canada International 2005, 18-year-old Amanda Klyn, donated some 2,000 teddy bears to children affected by the tsunami during her visit to Phuket and Phang Nga from August 7 to 9.

Miss Klyn was invited to visit Thailand by Sananchart Thephasadin, the Thai Ambassador to Canada, after winning her title in January.

The teddy bears were donated by children she met while traveling across Canada, as well as by some 40 children in Asia, for her to give to tsunami-affected children.

"I went to a tsunami-affected area yesterday and to a school [in Kamala] this morning

that has a lot of children who were orphaned by the tsunami, and we handed out teddy bears," Miss Klyn said on August 8.

She added that she thought Phuket had made long strides in its recovery. "I think it has recovered very well. It's very difficult to tell that something happened here," she said.

"The people have been welcoming and open to tourists, and everyone has been just wonderful in helping us in getting the teddy bears here. The government has been wonderful in facilitating it."

Miss Klyn also encouraged Canadians to visit Phuket. "I think that Thailand is a beautiful country. Canadians

should ... come here because the Thai people are extremely welcoming and it is truly a beautiful place," she said.



'Canadians should come here,' says Amanda Klyn, Miss Teen Canada International 2005.

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Gold stars for Royal Phuket Marina

KOH KAEW: Even before being completed, the Royal Phuket Marina has received the Yacht Harbour Association's "Five Gold Anchors" award, it was announced on August 5.

The Five Gold Anchors award is the highest rating a marina can earn in The Gold Anchor Award Scheme, established by the Yacht Harbour Association, a group established by the British Marine Federation to look after the interests of yacht owners.

The only other marina in Asia to have received a similar award is the Raffles Marina in Singapore.

The Royal Phuket Marina's official opening is scheduled for the end of this year.

Queer News

Runaway groom

TAK: Many are the tales of the foreign man who comes to Thailand, falls in love with a Thai woman and ends up destitute.

But according to an August 4 report, an elderly American has turned the tables by sweet-talking his way into the lives of at least two Thai women with talk of riches and marriage – then ripping them off and disappearing.

A businesswoman in Mae Sod District identified only as Miss Gay (not her real name), 38, said she met an American soldier named William, 58, around five months ago as he was passing through the border town on his way to get a new visa in Burma.

She said the man asked her to help him find a place to stay near hers. She did, and not long after he was appearing at her door every day with flowers and taking her out for meals.

"After three months he asked me to marry him," she said.

"He said he wanted to settle down with me in Mae Sod. Money would be no problem, he told me, once he had sold his 600-million-baht home in America.

"He told me he wouldn't let me work after we were married, so I began selling off all the merchandise in my shop. Then he moved into my place. We had the wedding all planned for August 14. The invitations were already printed up and my family told the whole village," she added.

"On the morning of August 1, I was taking a shower. William was still in the bedroom sleeping – or so I thought. But when I tried to open the bedroom door I found it was locked from the inside. I peered through a window and could see that all his bags were gone. I forced open the door to find he had been through my clothes and my five bahtweight gold necklace was gone," she said.

K. Gay said she reported the incident to the police and the media as a way of warning other Thai women about falling for this particular flim-flam man.

The elusive William left behind one clue: the business card of another foreigner living in far-away Nakhon Phanom. When called, he told her that a man matching William's description had fleeced a 44-year-old woman there, using the same ploy.

When contacted by a reporter, that woman said it was her own fault for having allowed herself to be taken in.

"I admit I was careless and overly interested in his money, because I thought all foreigners were rich. I just hope this serves as a warning to other women who might otherwise be cheated by foreign men," she said.

Source: Kom Chad Luek

Jungceylon 'still on target for opening in November'

By Gazette Staff

PATONG: Jungceylon, the new entertainment complex in Patong, is still on target to open in November, the project's developers and other involved have told the *Gazette*, refuting rumors that the project is in trouble.

Jungceylon occupies 55 rai of land off Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd in Patong. The complex will have two hotels – Burasari and Four Points by Sheraton – a seven-screen SF Cinema, a bowling alley, game zones, a Carrefour supermarket and "Little Phuket" – an "entertainment zone" of bars and restaurants.

Umnauy Kanjanopas, Vice-President of main contractor Powerline Engineering, explained that since last year's tsunami disaster, construction of the project had been suspended due to a shortage of labor during the recovery period, as well as the decision to postpone the opening date until November 1.



Jungceylon was set back by the tsunami, but is still forging ahead, say its developers.

However, after discussion with the Jungceylon board in May, it was agreed that construction should resume. He confirmed that the complex will be ready to open on November 1.

Rena Udomkunnatum of management company Phuket

Square Co said that, apart from Powerline Engineering, Jungceylon has requested other contractors to complete their work as soon as possible to ensure that the complex will open in November.

Since the opening date of Jungceylon will coincide with the

start of the high season in Phuket and the annual Patong Beach festival, she said, the management of Jungceylon is confident that the complex will help attract tourists and investors both from Thailand and from around the world to come and witness the opening ceremony.

Eventually, Jungceylon will benefit the whole tourism industry in Phuket, she added.

A source close to the board of directors, who asked not to be named, said that Jungceylon had run into some difficulties in April and the company had applied for help from the Bankruptcy Court in Bangkok in restructuring its relationships with creditors.

The court has the power to act as guarantor, if necessary, between debtors and creditors, and has successfully resolved a number of difficult financial situations, including, recently, that of the Blue Canyon Country Club.

Because of the tsunami, the source said, the opening of the entertainment and shopping complex was postponed from the beginning to the end of the year. The resultant loss of income and lack of liquidity had led to conflict between management on one side, and shareholders and creditors on the other.

A bank subsequently sued the complex for defaulting on a loan, the source continued, and the management is obliged to present its marketing plan to the Bankruptcy Court in October.

The *Gazette* contacted Jungceylon shareholders who declined to comment in detail on the financial situation. However, they too confirmed that Jungceylon will open on November 1.

Alleged killer cop turns himself in

PHUKET CITY: Police narcotics agent Pol Sen S/Maj Manot Juerju, accused of shooting two people at point-blank range on August 3, killing one of them and seriously injuring the other, turned himself in the following morning at Phuket City Police Station.

The dead man was named as Seksit Kulra-uk and the injured man was off-duty police sergeant Panya Borirak of Kathu Police Station.

Pol Lt Col Sien Kaewthong, of Phuket City Police Station, told the *Gazette* that the shootings took place at the Anajak Isan restaurant on Soi Pattanatongtin at 11:45 pm on August 3.

He explained that Sgt Panya, 34, went to Anajak Isan after finishing work in order to visit the owner. He was not in uniform nor was he carrying a firearm.

Soon afterwards, Manot, also out of uniform, entered with Seksit. Col Sien said witnesses said both appeared to be drunk when they sat down.

Soon after, Manot called for a bill although he had not ordered

anything, Col Sien said. At the same time, Seksit slumped to the floor. As a waitress tried to help him back into his seat, he touched her breast. She immediately told the restaurant owner.

Sgt Panya heard the waitress's account and approached the two men. Manot demanded to know who he was, so Panya produced his police ID card.

Abruptly, Manot pulled out a 9mm pistol and Seksit pulled Sgt Panya's arms behind his back. The pair then frogmarched the sergeant outside.

There, Manot – bizarrely – held his gun beneath Seksit's chin and fired, killing him instantly. He then turned his gun on Sgt Panya, shooting him once through the right side of his body and once in the throat. Sgt Panya was discharged from Wachira Phuket Hospital on August 6.

Manot was charged with murder and attempted murder. Col Sien said that he neither admitted nor denied the charges. The investigation continues.

– Anongnat Sartpisut

Patong Méridien to reopen August 15

KARON: Le Méridien Phuket Beach Resort, south of Patong, one of the hotels worst hit by the tsunami, will re-open August 15.

Philippe Seigle, Regional General Manager of Le Méridien Thailand Resorts, and General Manager of Le Méridien Phuket Beach Resort, told the *Gazette*, "The refurbishment involved every department. All of us are very excited about the new look."

The hotel, he said, expects 65% occupancy during the next high season.

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The other side of Paul Chetwynd-Talbot

Paul Chetwynd-Talbot's step-grandfather Michael Chetwynd-Talbot has described him as a "thief and chancer" who cashed in on the family name, Britain's South West News Service reports.

The 32-year-old was born Paul Rowlands but took on the double-barrelled name when his grandmother Kaye married Michael, now 75.

Michael, a retired engineer, believes Paul used the family name to milk its prestigious connection to the Earl of Shrewsbury.

He says Paul used it to gain favor with banks – and once used it to regain his driving license after being banned for speeding.

Michael severed ties with Paul over a decade ago after his step-grandson began stealing from him and fraudulently using his credit cards, he said.

Speaking from his home in Tweektown, near Cheddar, Somerset, Michael said, "Paul never had any right to use the family name Chetwynd-Talbot. He was born a Rowlands and was always a Rowlands."

"I had hoped that the Chetwynd-Talbots had heard the last of him but once again, he has been using our family name, which he has no right to."

"I'm not surprised he's found himself in trouble once more. He was never violent toward me when I knew him, but I can see that if anything got in the way of his beautiful plan of easy money and a good life he would do anything to keep it."

Paul was born Paul Row-

lands in 1973, the son of Sandra August and Robert Reginald Rowlands. His father disappeared 28 years ago, leaving a trail of debt.

Paul lived with Michael Chetwynd-Talbot from the age of five. At the age of 15 he was thrown out of private school for stealing and left without any qualifications.

From the age of 18, Paul worked in several bars around Somerset and in London and stole thousands of pounds, which his grandmother was forced to pay back, Michael said.

"He blew the money on wine, women and song. He didn't care that we had to foot the bill."

"Kaye never let the police get involved and we had to use loan sharks to pay the money back."

To pay Paul's debts his grandmother Kaye was forced to carry on working as a nursing assistant at Nuffield Private Hospital in Bristol until she died of heart failure at the age of 67.

But Paul's constant womanizing and drinking did not stop after his grandmother's death.

Michael also talked about his step-grandson's change of name. He said: "When he learned of the family's connection to the Earl of Shrewsbury, he adopted the name."

"One time which sticks in my memory was when Paul lost his driving license because he was caught speeding, so he applied to take the

test again under the name Paul Chetwynd-Talbot.

"He was a terrible thief, always stealing money from my wallet and his grandmother's purse."

"On numerous occasions he would take my credit card and run up hundreds of pounds of debt."

"On one occasion I was contacted by a petrol station telling me my card was being used to buy petrol on a daily basis."

"When Paul lived in this country [the UK] he would do casual bar work but inevitably would start stealing, get fired and then move on to another pub where he would start all over again."

"My late wife doted on him. In her eyes he could do no wrong and while he was in England he lived with us while he looked for work."

In 1993, with Kaye now dead, Michael threw Paul out of the family home following yet another one of his spending sprees.

"He had taken my credit card again, going to Wales to stock up on food and booze."

"Kaye was no longer around to stop me throwing him out. I confronted him face-to-face and said, 'Get out of my life and stay out of it.'"

"I gave him £50 so he could get to London and told him I never wanted to see him again."

Even so, Michael was so concerned Paul would return that he moved from his home in Langford, Somerset, and when he met his new wife Muriel, he registered everything in her name.

He said: "It was extreme, but after knowing and living with Paul, I know what he is capable of."

'I had hoped that the Chetwynd-Talbots had heard the last of him but once again, he has been using our family name.'

'He was a terrible thief, always stealing money from my wallet and his grandmother's purse.'

END

On August 6, nearly a week after the violent death of his girlfriend, Debra O'Hanlon, the man who admits to causing her death, Paul Chetwynd-Talbot, was transferred from Wachira Phuket Hospital – where he was treated for an apparent suicide attempt – to the cells in Kathu Police Station in Patong. There, he granted an interview, through the bars of his cell, with the *Gazette's* Sangkhae Leelanaporn.

Gazette: Why did you try to commit suicide? Was it because you were worried about going to jail?

Paul Chetwynd-Talbot: I don't care about jail. I don't care about anything else. [Debra] was the most important thing in my life. I certainly did not mean to kill her. We had an argument. I threw her across the room and I think her neck broke. I tried to revive her. She didn't wake up and I didn't want to live any more so I tried to kill myself.

Gazette: I read in other accounts that you said she slapped you and you just wanted to stop her.

PC-T: We had a silly row over nothing. That night we were celebrating because she had bought my plane ticket to go home. She had come back to Thailand to take me home.

My business here had not gone well at all, so she came to Thailand. I had no money. She paid for my ticket home, she paid for my visa extension, she paid for all of that.

We were out with friends celebrating at a bar called the Dog's Bollocks. We got home. We had a silly argument over the last drink we had.

She came out from the loo. I said something – I can't remember what – it was silly, we were both very drunk. She slapped me

and I threw her across the bed.

I was drunk. I threw her harder than I meant to throw her and her head hit the [head]board. I think as her head hit the [head]board, her neck snapped.

After that I shook her and shook her and tried to wake her up. There was nothing. Her eyes were open but just nothing there.

I was in a frenzy, panicking. I didn't know what to do. I shook her and shook her and shook her for four or five minutes. She was not going to wake up.

So I decided I didn't want to live. I broke open my razor and slashed my arms, I slashed my elbows because I wanted to die. There was blood everywhere and then I passed out.

Gazette: So she wasn't breathing?

PC-T: She was already dead. When she hit the thing she broke her neck. Her eyes were open but no sound, no breathing, nothing.

Gazette: There were some reports that she was stabbed in the neck.

PC-T: It's not true. When the autopsy comes out [the finding will be that] there's no mark on Debra. Maybe her jaw, her neck is broken where her head hit.

Gazette: It was just that one time that you hit her?

'Of course I didn't want to kill her. I was going home with her in two days' time. I had no intention at all of killing her.'

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OF THE LINE



Paul Chetwynd-Talbot remains in a cell in Patong Police Station. He admits killing his girlfriend, Debra O'Hanlon, but claims it was not intentional.

PC-T: One time. [Demonstrates] I threw her over here. Here is, like, wood. I threw her over here and her head hit ... so no blood from Debra. In the room there is blood everywhere. All that blood is [from] me.

Gazette: So you didn't really want to kill her?

PC-T: Of course I didn't want to kill her. I was going home with her in two days' time. I had no intention at all of killing her.

Gazette: The people in the guesthouse said that you had been arguing for two nights before. Is that true?

PC-T: We were always having little petty arguments. We'd been together a long time and we'd disagree over things. We'd have real arguments. But nothing major.

Gazette: That was on Sunday night?

PC-T: Yes.

Gazette: And you had planned to go back with her to England on August 2?

PC-T: Yes

Gazette: There have been reports that you also had a Thai girlfriend. Is that true?

PC-T: No. It's not true. There was no other girl.

Gazette: How long had you known Ms O'Hanlon?

PC-T: Three years.

Gazette: After you realized that your suicide attempt was unsuccessful, what did you do?

PC-T: I passed out and I woke up the following morning, or afternoon. Of course there's blood everywhere. I'm very weak because lots of blood has come out of me.

I didn't know what to do. I panicked. I wanted to throw myself off a cliff or something.

So I put some tissue over the wounds that I'd made, cut some socks in half and pulled them over [the wounds] so there wasn't blood anymore, put a jumper on, put my jeans on, and walked to the top of the hill – I could hardly make it because I was so exhausted.

Then I drove to the beach and just drove around and I ended up just sitting on the beach staring at the sea, just going over and over in my head what I had done.

Gazette: Finally you decided to turn yourself in to the police?

PC-T: Yes. No one found me. No one said anything to me. I felt I had to do the right thing. So I drove to the police station, walked in and asked to speak to someone. I told them very briefly what had happened and they took me to hospital.

My life is over. She was the only thing in my life.

Gazette: You planned to marry her?

last June, and we were out here for seven months. We bought a bar together, and it was just about becoming successful, and then the tsunami came.

We decided it would cost us more – that we would just be putting more and more money into [the business] for nothing so we went home and we lived with her parents.

I hated it – don't get me wrong, her parents are beautiful people, but it was very hard for us to live with her parents because [Debra's] house was rented out while we were away and was still rented.

I could not cope with living with her parents all the time so I came back to Thailand.

In essence, when I came back to Thailand we broke up. But after two months of telephone conversations, we sorted things out and she came back out to Thailand for a week.

We reinstated our love for each other and then she went home again, because she had a job.

The plan was that she

would work in England and I would work here for a while and see how that went.

Then she came out this time. My job, my business, hadn't gone well at all and I had nothing here, and I was going back home with her.

Gazette: After Ms O'Hanlon died, you disappeared. Were you aware that the police were looking for you?

PC-T: No. I didn't think about it. Obviously, they must have been, but they can't have looked very hard because I didn't go very far. I didn't try to hide. I just wasn't thinking. My head was a mess.

Gazette: You say your life is over now?

PC-T: I think my life has a long, long way to go [before it is right again]. What do I want to do in my life now? First I have to find out what happens. I'm in Thailand, I can't speak Thai, I don't know the law completely.

I know I didn't murder Debbie. What happened was an accident. If I was in England and the same thing happened, it would be [a charge of] manslaughter, which is very serious, yes, but is a lot less serious than murder.

I [want to] send my deepest condolences to Pat and Malcolm, her mum and dad. This was never meant to happen. I should have seen them by now because, as I say, we were going back to rebuild and make things right.

I'll spend my life trying to make things right.

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Kids get their brains into gears

By Anongnat Sartpisut

Tessaban Muang Phuket won second place in a preliminary round of the World Robot Olympiad (WRO) 2005, held recently at Tessaban Muang Phuket School.

Eighty-six teams, each of no more than four members, took part in the Phuket round, a preliminary to the second annual WRO, which will take place in Bangkok from November 4 to 6.

The teams were divided into three age groups – under-13s, 13 to 15-year-olds and 16 to 18-year-olds. Teams pitted their robots head-to-head in sprints, tug o' war, and hockey games.

Tessaban Muang Phuket have a strong reputation, with students having previously won the "Development of Robot" championship in the Lego Team Challenge organized by the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization in 2003 and represented Thailand in "WRO 2004" in Singapore, achieving fifth place among some 70 teams from 13 countries.

Bangkok's Assumption College Thonburi took first place in

all three categories of this year's Phuket round.

Tessaban Muang Phuket School won second and third place in the under 13s, while St Crabial took second place in the 13- to 15-year-old category, and third place was a tie between St Crabial and Assumption College.

Phuket Wittayalai School won second place in the 16- to 18-year-old group; Juraporn Ratchawittayalai of Trang came in third.

Sopon Prateep Na Talang, Coach of Tessaban Muang Phuket said, "This was a successful bout for the Tessaban Muang

Phuket team, even though we achieved only second and third place. We had just three months to prepare for the competition, training our students to build and operate the robots.

"Whether you are male or female doesn't matter. Anyone interested can build a robot and take part in the competition," K. Sopon added. Assumption College Thonburi had an all-male team in the under-13s, whereas the team from Tessaban Muang Phuket was all-female.

There are seven rounds in the pre-WRO competition, with the next one to be held at Burapha University.



Some 344 students came to compete in the preliminary round of the World Robot Olympiad held in Phuket. ABOVE: Building the perfect beast. LEFT: This is serious, mum. BELOW: Look at it go!



WARNING: SELLING ALCOHOL TO PERSONS UNDER 18 YEARS OLD IS ILLEGAL

*When the taste is perfect,
it can be the start of a friendship.*



Porn star gets slap on the wrist

Well-known actress and model Kesarin "Nong Nat" Chaichalermphol was given a suspended jail sentence and ordered to pay a fine of 4,000 baht after confessing to having appeared in a top-selling black-market porn movie.

Accompanied by a woman she described as her lover, Kesarin reported to a Bangkok police station to face charges relating to her appearance in the film, which co-starred a male Japanese actor.

After taking her statement, police granted her 20,000 baht bail pending the court hearing. The Dusit Municipal Court handed down its verdict after the actress entered her guilty plea.

"I thank reporters for foregoing their sleep on Friday in order to cover my case. As it is now over, I hope everyone will leave me alone as I just want to stay at home with my girlfriend," she said.

Seeds of discontent: Some 100 rural villagers transplanted rice seedlings onto a road in Roi Et's Nong Phok District in sarcastic protest against their local Tambon Administration Organization's neglect of the road for almost a decade.

Some 5,000 villagers in seven villages in Tambon Khok Sawang find it inconvenient wading through mud during the rainy season along the five kilometer road, which serves as their only access to the nearest commercial center at Nong Phok.

It takes all sorts: Suan Dusit Rajabhat University said it would continue to hold its annual "Miss Lady Lady" beauty contest for transvestites despite growing complaints that such a pageant is inappropriate.

The university recently held its fifth such pageant, during which 28 cross-dressers paraded in evening gowns – some of them see-through – as part of the university's initiation activities.

"We will hold the pageant again next year because we want to emphasize the fact that all individuals are equal, regardless of their sexual orientation," said the university's Assistant Dean, Sukhum Chaloeisap.

Eat noodles, lose weight: Starting in October, buyers of Mama brand instant noodles will get the chance to win a "near



GOING NOWHERE: Mahieddine Daikh, 35, a British citizen of Algerian origin, sits at a police press conference behind 452 forged Belgian, French, Portuguese and Spanish passports that investigators said were found in his possession. Daikh was arrested at Don Muang Airport in Bangkok as he was about to board a flight for Scotland via Amsterdam. Police said they were investigating possible terrorist links.

space" flight, designed to recreate the weightless conditions of zero gravity, as part of a novel publicity campaign.

The promotion is the result of a collaboration between leading Thai noodle maker Sahapatanapibul and Synergise Company, the Thai representative of Space Adventures Ltd, a Washington DC-based company that specializes in space travel adventures.

"Today's consumers are seeking more sophisticated campaigns where the prizes exceed their expectations," said Synergise President Tom Kruesopon, adding that the first Thai in space might get there through one of his firm's promotions.

Troubling times: Local officials in the Deep South have told the National Reconciliation Commission (NRC) of a sharp increase in the number of homeless youths and abandoned children in the region.

The reports, from military, police and administration officers, suggest many of the youths had a poor education and were spending their time wandering about aimlessly, leaving them wide open to "bad influences".

They said drug problems had also become more prevalent in the three southernmost provinces.

The reports came at a two-day meeting between the NRC, local officers, private sector representatives and public groups to brainstorm ideas related to the 14 proposals put by the commission to the government last month to help restore peace to the troubled region.

All but one of the proposals were accepted.

Listless protest: The Stock Exchange of Thailand's (SET) board of directors unanimously postponed consideration of Thai Beverage Co's plan to list on the stock exchange while the Securities and Exchange Commission spends a month revising the criteria necessary for listing.

The SET issued a statement saying the board unanimously agreed to block the listing of businesses that render low or zero benefits to the economy or society, such as those involved in tobacco, gambling or the arms trade.

The move marks a significant victory for more than 10,000 protesters, including Buddhist monks, who blocked Rama VI Road in Bangkok to protest the proposed listing of the company,

which brews Thailand's top-selling Chang Beer.

E-queuing: Some 1,500 people crowded the Consular Affairs Department in Bangkok hoping to be among the first to obtain electronic passports, which include the holder's biometric data and meet International Civil Aviation Organization standards.

Despite 46 booths to cope with the crowds, the department had to call for more manpower from the private company responsible for developing and issuing the e-passports, said Deputy Director-General Jesada Chavarnbark.

A source said the office was closed at 3 pm after serving applicant No 600, leaving most ap-

plicants without passports. Afterwards, officials held an urgent meeting, hoping to improve service the following day.

Dam blocked: About 300 local residents, led by the Mayor of Rayong, rallied against a government plan to build a dam across the mouth of the Rayong River to trap water for use by factories in the industrial Eastern Seaboard.

The government also plans to channel water from Prasae Reservoir, in Rayong's Muang District, to feed industrial needs. A group of Muang Rayong residents said people in the Prasae basin would not allow the water from the reservoir to be taken for industrial use.

After an audience with HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej, Royal Irrigation Department chief Samart Chokkanapitark said his department would strive to ensure that agriculture received priority access to natural water supplies ahead of industry.

Land search: The search for a site for the new Parliament building is far from over.

Deputy Prime Minister Wisanu Krea-ngam said the government would let Parliament decide the issue on its own, after the lower house rejected a government proposal to use land formerly owned by Thai Melon Group in Pathum Thani on the grounds that the purchase price of more than 3 billion baht was too high.

Parliament favors a 400-rai land plot in Samut Prakan that would be donated without conditions.

Around the Nation news roundup is sourced from the pages of The Nation and Kom Chad Luek newspapers.

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New developments on the way

While the tourism industry in Krabi is experiencing a deep and sustained slump, the real estate sector of the economy seems to be holding up better.

This is despite the fact that the Krabi area has always lagged behind Phuket and more developed tourist destinations in its offerings of residential real estate.

Previously, single-family homes built to Western standards were rare, with most construction here being of the connected townhouse variety.

This ubiquitous design can be seen throughout Thailand: shophouse downstairs with living quarters upstairs. Even with many different facades and colors, builders cannot disguise this most unimaginative design.

Variety in residential homes here is limited, and planned, gated communities, popular elsewhere in Thailand, just don't exist in Krabi at this time.

However, Krabi's residential real estate landscape is soon to undergo some changes with the arrival of several new projects aimed at the higher-end market, with an eye towards buyers from Singapore and Hong Kong.

The feeling is that Krabi is now far enough along the developmental path to be able to attract wealthy potential homeowners.

It was with this in mind that the latest project on the drawing boards, The Cove at Krabi, was born. The 170-rai development in Haad Yao, or Long Beach, is about 20 kilometers south of Krabi



Ready to come off the drawing boards are The Cove (above), a 170-rai development at Haad Yao, about 20 kilometers south of Krabi Town, and three-bedroom homes (right) that will comprise the Na Thai Estates development in Ao Nang.



Town. With 259 units and an apartment complex, it is sure to be one of the biggest real estate projects in Krabi Province.

Peter Margetts, CEO of Asian Tropical Homes Ltd, the developer, cites several positive factors that should help this project as well as others in Krabi Province.

First is the easing of restrictions on foreigners obtaining mortgage financing in Thailand. Previously, this restriction on borrowing made it difficult to market more expensive projects, and Margetts feels the removal of this obstacle will open the doors to customers for projects such as his.

Second is the expansion of

the Krabi Airport in order to take direct international flights, which he feels can only spur investment in real estate in this area, especially from Asian sources.

Direct flights from Hong Kong and Singapore to Krabi would make investing in vacation homes here quite attractive, he feels.

With real estate prices sky-high in most of Europe, Hong Kong and Singapore, the price range of 6 million to 8 million baht for a luxury two-bedroom villa and 14 to 17 million for a three-bedroom villa seems reasonable.

Margetts says sales have been good, with 23 confirmed sales in the first week alone. Construction will begin in December, with Phase I being completed in 18 months.

The same optimism convinced Andrew Cunningham and John Woods at Hong Kong-based Consolidated Lease Management to invest in a luxury residential project in Klong Muang.

Until the Sheraton Krabi

Resort was built on Klong Muang, this area, 14 kilometers north of Ao Nang, was a quiet backwater village. Since the Sheraton moved in, other luxury resorts have followed, including the Nakamanda and the Sofitel.

It was this site, high on a hilltop, that Cunningham and his associates selected for Phulay Heights. Touted as "Krabi's first luxury villa resort", this 18-rai lot will house 39 luxury villas and 12 link villas, all with commanding views of Koh Yao and the many surrounding islands.

Mr Woods, Director of Sales and Marketing for Consolidated Lease, says, "Our buyers believe that Krabi is an emerging version of Phuket." Accordingly, he says, they expect land prices to continue to escalate and sales have been going quite well, mostly to Hong Kong expatriates.

Prices for the development's contemporary Balinese-style villas with swimming pools range between 10.5 and 16.6 million baht.

While these two large developments are the highlights of the area, there are several other smaller projects in the works.

Na Thai Estates, in the Na Thai section of Ao Nang, is currently under development and will offer two-bedroom and three-bedroom homes of Western quality ranging in price from 4 million to 7 million baht.

"There is a void in the market for contemporary Thai-style homes built to Western standards in this price range," explains Vichavin Wichaidit, Director of the project. "We plan to fill this void, and see enough additional demand to warrant another project," he adds.

Krabi residents hope that the influx of wealthier property owners will spur additional investment in needed infrastructure and improved healthcare facilities, education and shopping.

With these improvements, Krabi will become even more attractive to the higher-end investor and home buyer.



ACROSS THE BAY

By Gus Reynolds

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This week



CAN DO KENDO: In support of the eight Phuket youngsters who were to represent Thailand at the 40th Kendo Junior World Championships, in Tokyo on August 6-10, are (back row, from left) Thai national kendo team trainer Jitrapanu Ilongthum, Phuket Sports Association (PSA) President Eam Thavornvongwongse, Phuket Vice-Governor Niran Kalayanamit, PSA Vice-President Jirawit Pitikulsathit and Phuket office of the Sports Authority of Thailand chief Songsak Kitakarnkul.



HAND DELIVERY: Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura and his wife, K. Maneephan, hand a bag of IQ-stimulating items to Sommai Kaewpitak, one of seven mothers who gave birth at Wachira Phuket Hospital on July 28. The presentation was part of the government's drive to improve the country's supposed decline average IQ levels.



SHUTTERBUGS: Emily Gerrard (left) and Stuart Bird (center), General Manager of the Watermark bar and restaurant, join John Marmon at his *Here and There* photography exhibition, which is on display at the Watermark until August 31.



SILKY SMOOTH: Male Thai actor and singer Rattaphum "Film" Tohkongsup helps out as one of the judges in the Southern Regional final of the Sunsilk Super Soft Touching is Believing contest – to find the softest hair in Thailand – at the Tesco-Lotus supercenter on July 30. The 10 finalists with him were due to compete in the grand final in Bangkok on August 6.



A JUNIOR HIGH: Ruengsit Netnualyai (right), Secretary-General of the Phuket Junior Chamber of Thailand and Ajarn Sunee Sinthudeja (2nd from left), in celebration of the 16th anniversary of the Phuket Junior Chamber of Thailand at The Metropole hotel on July 24.



CROWNE AFFAIR: Eric Smutny (3rd from right), Marketing Communications Manager of the Crowne Plaza resort at Karon Beach, celebrates the official opening of the resort on July 31 with guests, including Neil and Sii Cumming from Asia Web Direct Co (right and 4th from right), Sue Armstrong-Ulmann of Baan Rim Pa (2nd from right) and Thomas Berlin, Regional Manager Phuket of LTU Asia Tours (left).

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PHUKET DIARY

Until August 31. Here & There: John Marmon Photography at Watermark. From the simple to the sublime ... "Here & There" is a stimulating collection of color-intensive, high-impact graphic images by accomplished photographer John Marmon.

Images shot in China, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Italy, Jordan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and the US Virgin Islands form this amusing, whimsical, imaginative and original portfolio of contemporary photographic art.

Mr Marmon's images represent his personal vision of things he has seen while traveling and living around the world.

Preferring to eschew the typical travel photograph, he draws attention to the insignificant and ephemeral that might otherwise go unnoticed.

For more information, call John Marmon at Tel: 09-0571976 or Stuart Bird at Tel: 01-7376184, or Email: info@watermarkphuket.com

August 14. 1st International 80-80 Rugby Tournament. Teams representing Thailand, Australia, Japan and Auckland will compete for top honors in the first international 80-80 rugby tournament at Surakul Stadium. The third-place playoff will kick off at 2:30 pm, and the final will get underway at 4:30 pm.

August 19 and 20. Blackrose MC 2nd Birthday. All are welcome to celebrate the Blackrose Motorcycle Club's second "birthday" with a free barbecue and buffet and live band at the Fat Boy Saloon in Soi Seadragon, Patong, from 8 pm to midnight. Parking for big bikes will be available.

Celebrations will continue from 7 pm to 3 am at the Kangaroo Bar, Blue Note Bar and Dragon Club on August 20.

For more information about the event contact Maria at Tel: 01-0873048 or Email: maria@blackrosemc.com

August 29 to September 11. Group B round of the pre-SEA Games Asian Football Confederation Under-23 Youth Championship 2005 qualifying matches. Soccer teams representing Indonesia, Singapore, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia and Laos will compete at Surakul Stadium for entry into the final rounds of the Southeast Asian Games soccer tourney. Entry for spectators is free. For more information call the Sports Authority of Thailand (Phuket Office) at Tel: 076-250110

September 3. Pop-jazz night with Nantida at Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa. Nantida, the Thai singer famous for songs such as *Bork noi dai mai* ("Can you tell me?") will perform a special concert in Phuket.

Tickets are priced at 2,000 baht, 1,500 baht and 1,000 baht. All tickets include entrance to a cocktail reception. Those buying the 2,000-baht tickets will also receive an after-concert cocktail.

Ticket holders can also win prizes offered by the Hilton group.

Tickets are available from: Hilton Phuket, Central Festival (B2S and 1st floor info counter), Tesco-Lotus at the I-tree shop (opposite Home Pro), Baan Rim Pa restaurant, The Green Man Pub and the *Phuket Gazette* offices.

A MESSENGER

Gazette: Tell us about your early years and your education.

Vijay Amritraj: I was born on December 14, 1953 in Chennai – at the time it was called Madras. There I attended local schools before graduating from the Loyala College in Madras, where I majored in commerce and economics.

My parents still live in Chennai. Actually, both of them used to play tennis, but now, at almost 80 years old, they don't play anymore. But [my brother Anand and I] grew up playing tennis because of them; they are the ones who were really instrumental in getting us to play tennis, especially my mother.

When I was very young, I wanted to be a doctor. I started my tennis career because I wasn't very well growing up and the doctors said I should play an outdoor game for the sake of my health – and then I played tennis because of my parents.

I started playing when I was about 10 or 11 years old. All of a sudden I started to get better, and by the time I was 18 years old I was the No 1 tennis player in Asia. By 19, I was in the world's top 10.

Tennis, for us in India, was always Wimbledon. When I started playing tennis, my dream was to play at Wimbledon. Wimbledon was always the greatest highlight of any Indian's tennis career.

Gazette: When you're hosting the Star Sports TV tennis programs, sometimes during the tournaments there are rain delays. Do you ever find it difficult to find things to talk about to fill the time?

VA: When I'm doing Star Sports, it is very enjoyable for me because I'm able to give the viewers something more than just watching a match. I try to give them a little bit more insight as to what is going on. So, I am able to fill in the time. Yes, sometimes it becomes a bit difficult, but most often not.

Gazette: The Thai government moved a FedCup match and four ITF circuit tournaments to Phuket after the tsunami to try and boost tourism, but hardly anyone turned up to watch. It seems that Thai people are interested in tennis only when Paradorn Sriachaphan is playing. Did you get a lot of pressure to perform? How do Indian fans react to your success?

VA: There is always pressure to perform, especially when you are an athlete from a country like India or Thailand, because there are so few great athletes [representing those countries].

I think it is a great opportunity to be able to put your country on the world map. And that is what Paradorn has done with

Vijay Amritraj, the top tennis player in Asia for 14 years running, competed at Wimbledon for 17 years, and led India to the Davis Cup finals in 1974 and 1987. He beat some of the world's best players, including Bjorn Borg, John McEnroe, Jimmy Connors and Ivan Lendl.

He has become a tennis commentator for Fox Sports in the US and Star TV in Asia.

In February 2001 United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan appointed him a UN Messenger of Peace – one of only nine selected since 1997.

On his recent mission to report on Phuket's recovery from the tsunami, Mr Amritraj took some time out to speak with the *Gazette* about his life and his role as a Messenger of Peace.

Thailand. He has given Thailand great stature on the tennis map, as we did with India.

Yes, people want to come out and see their own nationality's [player] winning the tournament. So, when Paradorn plays in Thailand, sure, that's when people will come out and watch.

When I played in India, thousands and thousands of people came and watched the game. I played before before [the media was] televising the matches, so we got even more people coming out. Sometimes for Davis Cup matches we had 15,000 or 20,000 people coming to the match.

Gazette: Being a sports celebrity, is there anywhere you can go and not be recognized?

VA: First of all, I am very fortunate to be in the position I'm in. Also, people who come to talk to me, the people who want to talk with [sports stars] are generally very, very nice – they always say nice things; they are not rude to you.

I think it's very positive to be able to share with them some of my experiences, and, hopefully, it will help, especially with the children.

Sometimes, when you're having dinner, or sitting with friends in the corner, people want to come over and sometimes bother you. But that's part of it, you know and I don't mind that at all, because people are, as I said, generally very nice.

Gazette: How did you become a UN Messenger of Peace? Were you surprised to be appointed?

VA: I was invited by Kofi Annan in February 2001 to be appointed to the role. It has been a very special honor and a great opportunity to be able to make a difference in the world.

I didn't look at it as a surprise; I looked at it as a great honor to be appointed by the UN Secretary-General. And, no, in case you were wondering, I don't get paid for it.

Gazette: "Messenger of Peace" has quite an angelic ring to it. Do you ever feel you have to live to a higher standard because of such a lofty title?


VA: I don't think I have changed much over the years, except probably gaining more knowledge from meeting different people.

I think you learn a lot from travel. You learn a lot from meeting people, especially children because they can ask anything. Adults always think before they speak; children can ask anything.

You have to live by certain standards and [they're] your own standards. I think you have to teach by example, which means if you want children to do something, then you have to set the example for them to do it.


So, is it a high standard? Well, it depends. It is your own standard – what standard you set and I think the important thing is if I have been able to touch the lives of one or five or 10 or 15 kids, then I am very pleased.

Gazette: Some people feel the UN is the ultimate bureaucracy. How has your opinion



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OF PEACE



'What Thailand has done with the recovery program here – what the government and Phuket province have done – is quite outstanding. It is an example of how disaster relief and rehabilitation needs to be done after a [natural] disaster.'

– Vijay Amritraj,
UN Messenger of Peace.

of the organization changed since you started working with them?

VA: Obviously, there are lots of governments and there are lots of companies that have great bureaucracy in them and unless you're in them, you don't really know what exactly is going on. It's easy to make a comment from the outside, but once you are in you know what exactly they are doing.

For me, particularly, I always admired the UN before I was with them. Now I see their incredible work – what they actually do – especially when a [natural] disaster hits a particular place.

I've visited several disaster areas in the past four or five years and it's amazing what the various UN agencies do – like UNICEF. All of these organizations hit the ground running and there are very, very few people who can do that.

Gazette: How much time do you spend doing this work?

VA: I spend quite a bit of time. Every year, I get a list of events that are taking place and I try to be at many of them.

But I also make special visits, as I'm doing here in Phuket, to see if there is a need that we ought to focus on – in this particular case, to keep up awareness of what happened last December 26, so that we can keep it fresh in the mind of the public.

Gazette: What were you doing when you first heard about the tsunami?

I was in Southern India, in Tamil Nadu State, when the tsunami hit. I was with my family, going along the same coastal road that was washed away about 30 minutes ahead of us. So we turned around and headed back.

Gazette: What are you plans? Is your UN position a lifetime role?

VA: I want to see my two sons achieve what they want to achieve – my future is their future. Whatever they want to do, I would like to help them do it, if they want my help.

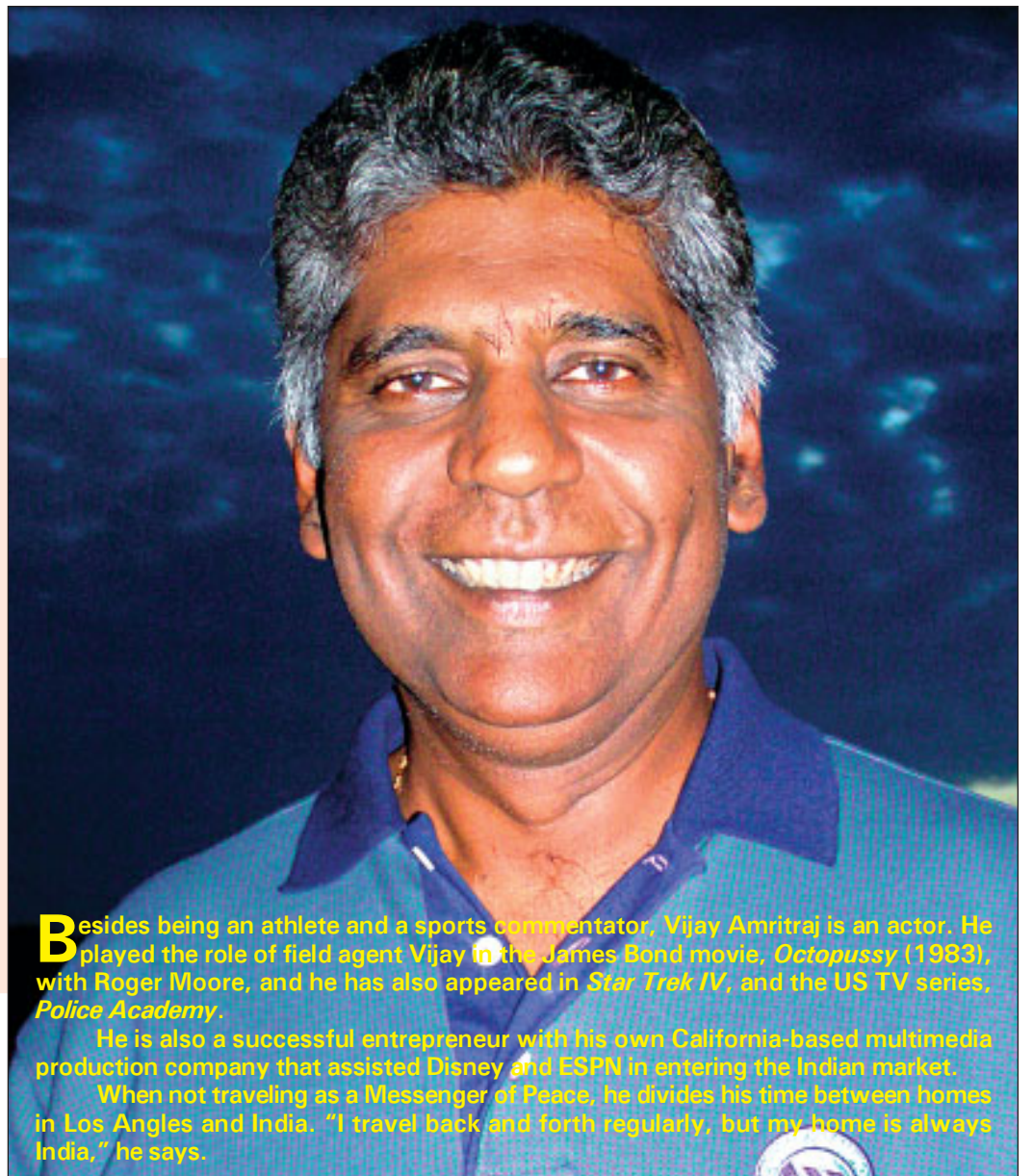
Will I be a Messenger of Peace forever? I don't know. It depends on the Secretary-General; it depends on the UN and it depends on whether I can continue to make a difference in people's lives across the world.

Gazette: What's your opinion of Phuket?

VA: This is my first visit to Phuket. I am very excited to be here and I plan to come back here purely for a holiday.

I think what Thailand has done with the recovery program here – what the government and Phuket province have done – is quite outstanding. It is an example of how disaster relief and rehabilitation needs to be done after a [natural] disaster. It is quite unique.


People around the world [should] know that Phuket has recovered completely, that the doors are wide open again for tourists. And tourists are welcomed with open arms and the perfect Thai hospitality that we are used to.



Besides being an athlete and a sports commentator, Vijay Amritraj is an actor. He played the role of field agent Vijay in the James Bond movie, *Octopussy* (1983), with Roger Moore, and he has also appeared in *Star Trek IV*, and the US TV series, *Police Academy*.


He is also a successful entrepreneur with his own California-based multimedia production company that assisted Disney and ESPN in entering the Indian market.

When not traveling as a Messenger of Peace, he divides his time between homes in Los Angeles and India. "I travel back and forth regularly, but my home is always India," he says.


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Catch up with a saucy facial

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

It sounds unbelievable but it's true: a simple mix of tomato and milk makes for a highly effective moisturizer that'll make your face feel soft and fresh.

Feeling a little rough in the morning? Don't like what you see in the mirror? Quick, grab some milk and tomatoes – but make sure you choose the right type of tomatoes.

The best tomatoes to use are the *tor* or *rachinee*, commonly known as cherry tomatoes.

The *tor* is large and mild-tasting and should be used by people susceptible to allergies while the cherry, being much smaller, is richer in taste and its flesh more concentrated.

Method:

1. First, purée two *Tor* or eight to 10 cherry tomatoes.
2. Pour the liquid in a bowl containing one cup of milk. Mix and leave for five minutes.

3. Cover your face with a warm, damp towel for a minute to open your pores.

4. Apply the tomato and milk solution and leave it for 15 minutes before rinsing off with warm water followed by a refreshing splash of cold water.

This beauty treatment will make your skin feel fresh because of the fruit acid and softened by the milk.

Tip: Even though this is an external beauty treatment, always make sure that the tomatoes used are thoroughly cleaned to get rid of pesticides or other toxins.

Milk and tomatoes: all you need for a born-again face.



RIGHT: The larger *tor* and cherry – or *rachinee* – tomatoes. These little beauties can make your skin soft and fresh. Just add milk.



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Getting a fix

By Andy Johnstone

Where would we be without GPS – the Global Positioning System? GPS is one of the more user-friendly devices to come out of the military-industrial complex and, once one has bought a GPS receiver, it is free to use, despite the fact that the system you tap into costs around US\$450 million a year to maintain.

A pat on the back for the US Department of Defense, which runs it, unless, in times of trouble with the natives, it switches the system to “selective availability”, which means that non-military users of GPS are denied the most accurate readings for security reasons.

GPS was first put into operation in 1978 and now has 27 Rockwell NAVSTAR satellites orbiting the Earth twice each day at an altitude of around 20,200 kilometers. Of the 27 satellites orbiting, only 24 are used; the other three are spares.

The system works by the GPS receiver decoding time signals received from the constellation of satellites to calculate one's

position by trilateration, which is the navigational equivalent of Teflon; one does not need to know precisely how it works to appreciate it. The explanation would also take up too much space.

As little as five years ago GPS receivers were thought to be an extremely good but prohibitively expensive item for all but the most well-heeled mariners or other adventurers, explains Julian Hill, Director of Phuketsail group.

“The prices have dropped massively while the technology in even the most basic of models is getting better all the time, and these are two of our bestsellers,” he says.

He pulls out a bright yellow GPS receiver, a Garmin Geko 101, which is about the size and weight of a small mobile phone.

As well as being popular with longtail boatmen, the Geko 101 is also perfect for novice navigators, either on sea or land.

“A lot of kids seem to like having the 101 because of its funky color, as well as the games it contains,” says Julian. “The point of them is serious, though.

“Parents usually buy them for their children. You can store

up to 250 waypoint and route destinations on the 101, and if you're going off trekking then you can backtrack to where you started.”

Julian agrees that these pocket devices – retailing for around 5,000 baht – are also ideal for anyone going on a pub crawl.

Described by Julian as a “much more serious piece of kit” is the Raymarine RC400.

“It's bigger, but in addition to being a GPS receiver, it is a chartplotter, using Navionics Gold cartography charts.”

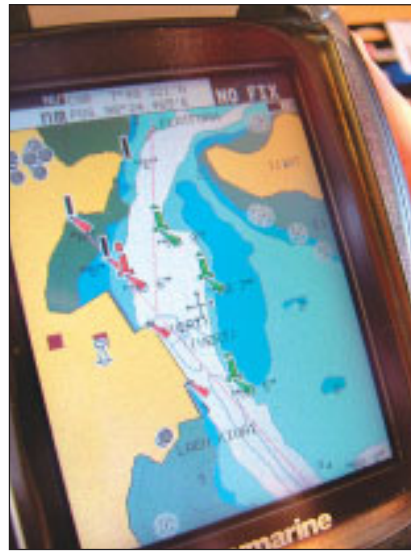
The RC400 is submersible, has a 256-color, 3.5-inch screen which is viewable in bright sunlight, and comes complete with NiMH rechargeable batteries, although it can take standard AA-size batteries, or be run from a 12-volt/NMEA cable or from a cigarette-lighter adapter.

The built-in memory can store up to 500 waypoints, but, adds Julian, “The number of waypoints and routes that can be stored – if you use flashcards – is unlimited.

“You can plot your way around the world.”

He sounds a note of caution on all receivers, though. “People should never become too

RIGHT: Not TIE fighters about to attack, but a representation of some of the 27 GPS satellites circling the Earth as the Garmin Geko 101 gets a fix.



LEFT: One of the most popular hand-held GPS receivers around, the Raymarine RC400 boasts a large color screen clearly readable in even bright sunlight. It is also submersible and can be mounted.

reliant on the GPS. Like all devices powered by electricity, power can fail.

“GPS is a great democratizer and has allowed so many more people to be able to put to sea and to navigate to a degree

of accuracy more or less unthought of before.

“However, you must still know how to use a map and compass; there is no excuse for not being able to do things the old-fashioned way.”

For more information, contact Phuketsail, 3/3-4, Moo 5, Koh Kaew, Phuket, Tel: 076-377542 or visit www.phuketsail.com



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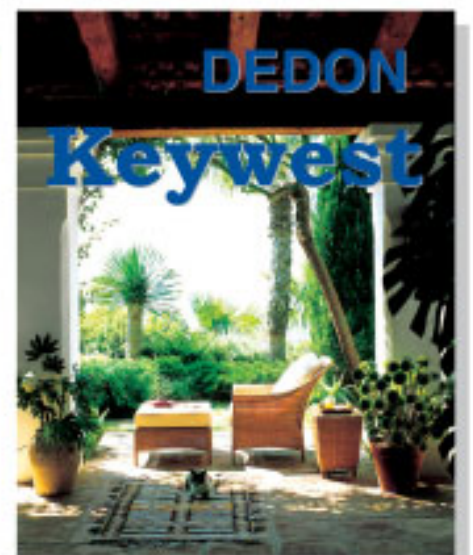
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The Leading Supplier of Outdoor Furniture

By Andy Johnstone

The Sea Ray 275 Sundancer, an updated model for 2005, has just been delivered to the Royal Phuket Marina. Fresh out of her protective wrapping, she is, to use the vernacular, a stunner.

There is something of the E-Type Jaguar about her, inasmuch as almost all of her lines are graceful curves. This gives the impression that, in designing her, CAD and rules were eschewed in favor of old-fashioned sketching and the employment of a good eye.

That said, there is nothing old hat or retro about her; the gunwales descend surprisingly steeply toward the stern, while the transom, which is raked forward aggressively, counterpoints this perfectly.

This Sundancer is 27 feet, 6 inches (8.38 meters) in length and has a beam of 8ft 6in (2.59m) and is a member of a family of boats ranging from a 17-footer sports boat up to a 70-foot-long Sun Sport yacht.

The fluid, organic lines and, importantly, a sense of proportion are maintained throughout the series.

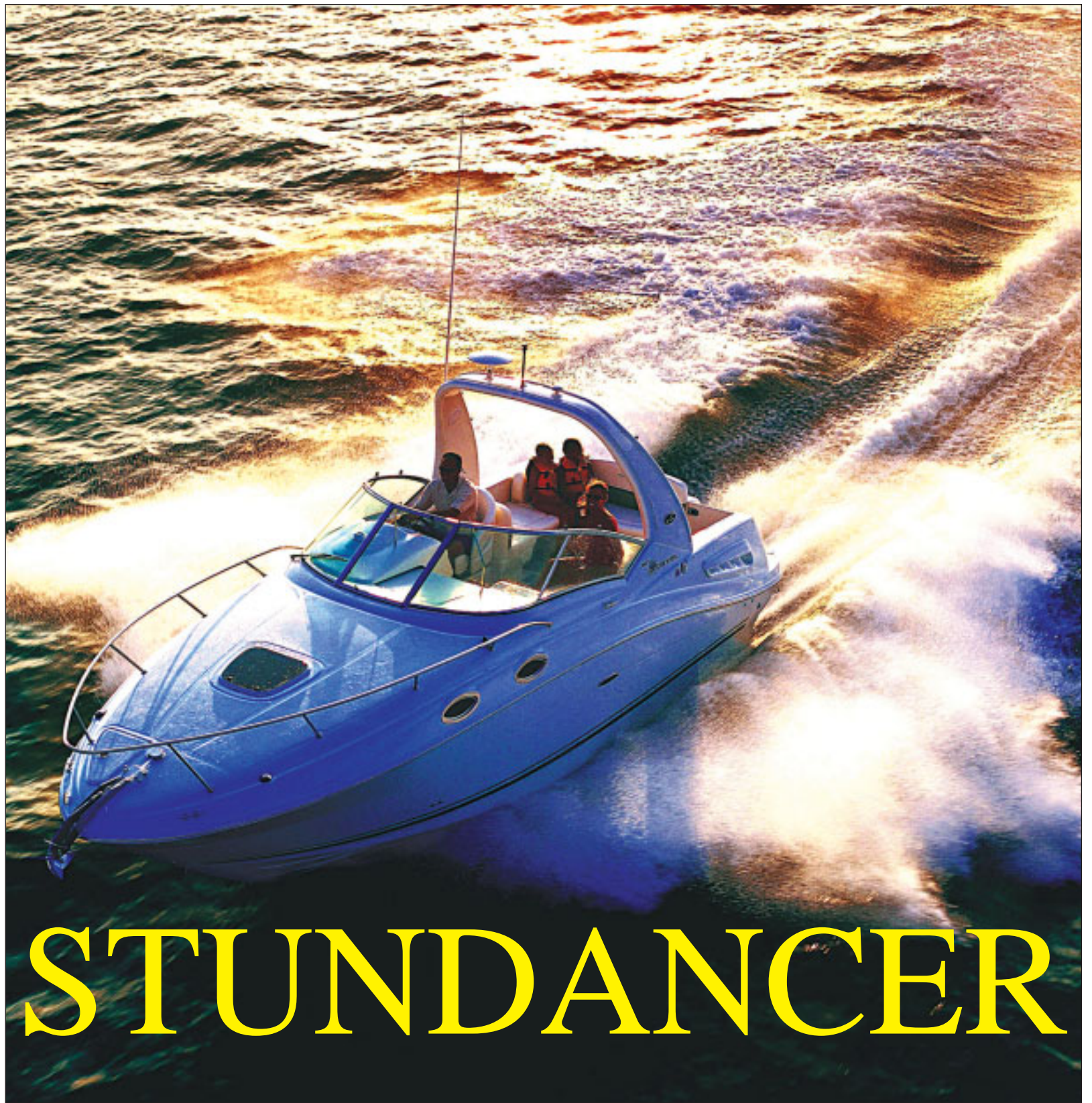
This is ably demonstrated by the spacious 275, and she possesses more presence than seems possible for a boat of this size.

Starting from the stern, she has a deep swim platform – one of the largest in her class – and a sturdy four-step stainless-steel ladder.

Not surprisingly, she also has a ski-tow eye, and although this was not made use of during the inspection, one can imagine that the 350 Magnum stern drive, which pushes out 300hp, would make waterskiing an absolute hoot.

The cockpit is as well equipped as one would expect of a Sea Ray vessel. All items, from the 12 beverage holders to the cooler and the cockpit wetbar, are intelligent designs which add subtle comfort to the experience of being on board.

Another novel feature in the cockpit is the aft-facing seat,



which can be slid back to form a sun pad. For those who prefer to be shielded from the elements, there is a Bimini top.

The helm in the 2005 model has been totally redesigned. Gone is the single rubberized control pad to activate such functions as navigation lights: it has been replaced with high-end toggle

switches that light up when activated.

Into the cabin, and comfort, relaxation and safety are paramount. Sea Ray have included a carbon-monoxide monitor below decks, a full stereo system as well as a microwave oven, fridge and a single burner.

This model has more cockpit seating space than the model it replaces, slotting in additional filler cushions between two benches to create a U-shaped

lounge (a feature that previously was found only in the larger models of the Sundancer range).

This is a welcome upgrade, and the addition of more cherry-wood to the interior brings an added touch of class.

The double-berth stateroom – located amidships across the beam – is surprisingly generous and more than adequate for an overnight stay.

The 2005 Sundancer 275 manages to be better than the

model it replaces, with stylistic touches that do not detract from her practicality.

Royal Phuket Marina expects a great deal of interest in this vessel, and with good reason.

Sea Ray Sundancer 275. US\$132,000 (about 5.43 million baht). For more information, contact Craig Murphy, Royal Phuket Marina at Tel: 076-239755 or email craigm@royalphuketmarina.com



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TALES OF A TRAVELER

By Ed Peters

Guanyin, the goddess of mercy, floated into Putuo Shan on a water lily after hearing the world cry out in anguish from the threshold of heaven. Or so the story goes.

Water lilies being in short supply nowadays, and less seaworthy than they were in such far-off mythical times, the quickest way to get to the island of Putuo Shan is by ferry from Ningbo.

One of four Chinese mountains sacred to Buddhism, Putuo is undergoing a resurgence of popularity, especially as making a pilgrimage there is supposed to increase fecundity and the chances of producing a male heir. And visitors are more than welcome.

This has not always been the case. A Dutch fleet in the 17th century pillaged the temples and maltreated the monks. At one stage there were 4,000 resident monks on Putuo, but by 1949 there were fewer than half that; in the heady days of the Cultural Revolution their number shrank to 29, and Red Guards vandalized anything that smacked of antiquity.

But now the Guards have long departed, several hundred monks are back in situ, and some of the monasteries they are not occupying have been converted into charming little hotels.

The island is seven miles square, with no private cars and only minibuses plying the rough roads between the port and town and main sights of interest. There are three major temples, all in extremely good condition and more than pretty to look at with their yellowish ochre walls contrasting happily with the stately banyan and camphor trees that sprout from their courtyards.

The oldest temple, Puji Si, dates from 1080, and stands in the center of the island, entered via a humped bridge lined with statues and featuring an elegant, tall pagoda which houses an enormous iron bell.

Just to the south, the five-storied Duobao Pagoda is covered with Buddhist inscriptions on all four sides. And Huiji Si, the



Above, magnificent temples define the skyline on Putuo Shan, while, right, traditional food and drink is served with gusto.



Rebirth of a sacred mountain

youngest of the trio at around 100 years old, sits near the top of Foding Shan surrounded by tea plantations while the flashing colors of its multi-hued tiles sparkle magnificently in the sunshine.

All of the temples attract worshippers and supplicants, but none more so than Puji Si. Ancients sit outside the walls playing chess, more or less oblivious to the pilgrims heading purposefully inside. The place echoes to the rhythmic chanting of monks in the inner sanctums, accompanied by the cacophonous banging and clashing of drums and cymbals.

Amid eddies of drifting smoke, pilgrims spoon lucky souvenirs of ash into little red packets, ghost money is fed to the flames, and women sway to and fro with joss sticks held up to their foreheads.

It's a scene that must have gone on like this – with the occasional interruption – for the past 1,000 years, with Guanyin benevolently overseeing the entire

operation in the flickering candlelight.

A pre-war Shanghai guidebook derided "Pootoo" for its lack of accommodation and non-existent restaurants, recommending that visitors buy their eggs and chickens from the local hospital, whose staff automatically assumed that visitors were in need of nourishment.

Thankfully, with a bevy of

hotels and restaurants specializing in seafood – the local delicacy – such extreme measures are no longer required.

Putuo is at its most colorful and lively during the three Guanyin anniversaries (birth, enlightenment and death), which fall on the 19th day of the second, sixth and ninth lunar months, although accommodation is in very short supply at these times.



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FRESH EYES ON THE ISLAND

It was 2:40 am. At this ungodly hour we were the last to filter through the almost deserted Bangkok International Terminal. Our children's voices bounced off high ceilings and cool, tiled floors.

After the 13-hour flight from New Zealand they were glad to be freed from the confines of the pressurized cabin. We divided our luggage and our four children between three trolleys and pushed our way through the double doors and into the night.

Thailand was to be our home for the next six months and we had no idea what to expect, but we were sure our adventure would begin here, living with and learning from people whose culture and language differed from our own.

We hoped we would become closer as a family and the children, Jack and Max (aged 9), Joe (7) and Fabienne (4) would, through their own experiences, see and appreciate those differences.

We had left Holland on our one-year sabbatical in December 2004. Our initial 10-week family Christmas stopover in New Zealand had stretched into almost six months, launching the children into the English language, giving

Those who have lived in Phuket for a while may have forgotten what it was like when they first arrived here – the noises, the smells, the food, the cultural quirks that made the place so different from anything experienced before. **Anneliese Storm** is a recent arrival on the island, with a humorous eye for detail. Her tale of the first few weeks here will take readers back to those fascinating early days before they became jaded about all things Phuket.

them the benefit of being able to talk to people from all over the world.

After spending two days touring Bangkok we arrived in Phuket on May 17. It was here we'd decided to settle, as our guide in Bangkok had said that the island was quiet and in need of financial support.

As a result it didn't take long to find a semi-furnished house and a rental car. The children were enrolled in the Bilingual (Thai/English) Program at Darasamut School and were to start the following Monday.

Within two weeks we had established ourselves in a small community within Phuket Town, engagingly called Villa California.

I was pleased with our new home. The interior is tiled white,

open plan and has three bedrooms, only one of which has air-conditioning: ours. It isn't unusual for the six of us to congregate in the evenings in our bedroom, to chill and watch a DVD. (Television as such, is forbidden on this trip).

Nor is it unusual during the day for someone to dive into our room for a few minutes' respite from the sticky heat. Obviously not completely adjusted to the climate I've stepped out of my bedroom a couple of times and almost bellowed, "Who's left the heating on?"

In each bathroom there stands a large, plastic barrel filled with water, and a bowl. For the life of me I couldn't work out what they were for. There's no bath but I couldn't imagine any-

one standing in the barrel to bathe.

The toilet flushed so it's not as if we have to throw a bucket in afterwards. Finally I asked a Thai acquaintance. She explained that Thai people don't like to shower. First they soap themselves up, then rinse themselves off. Effective, especially taking into consideration the (world-wide) shortage of fresh water.

And the cold water tap doesn't faze me. In fact, all we have is a cold water tap. If we want warm water we boil the jug. The alternative is to install a heating element onto each tap but cold showers are basically the order of the day. Whether you're a jump-in-quick or a one-toe-at-a-time kind of person the result is just the same – a pleasant, invigorating, ready-to-face-the-world feeling.

Our hotels in Bangkok and Phuket both boasted king-sized beds. I was thrilled when I saw the king-size bed in the master bedroom of our house. My first thought had been "luxury". I now think "necessity".

For the first time in my life my feet aren't heat-seeking missiles that lodge themselves under my husband's nether regions. Cuddling has become claustrophobic. I need my space. Retiring to separate sides of the large bed we lie spread-eagled until morning.

So here we are. We have our house, car, school. Not having a gas cooker yet, we tend to eat out at the open-air food market around the corner. It's easy, convenient, cheap – an average of US\$2 per person – and I don't have to tidy up or do the dishes.

I've familiarised myself with the three main supermarkets but not with all of their products. Every week I try something new, though I have drawn the line at buying pig intestines from the pre-packed deli department.

Dried squid, seeds, fruits and jellies seem to have replaced snack foods as we know them. Fish 'n' chips are a thing of the past, although we do make a trip to McDonalds from time to time. It's comfortable to slip on that old shoe and, hand in hand with nostalgia, walk into the big M.

Wherever we go, heads turn. I had the feeling I was walking around with my skirt stuck in the back of my knickers before it struck me what an oddity we

were. I mean, how many white, round-eyed faces do people get to see around this predominantly Thai suburb?

Of course we're the odd ones out, especially when all six of us are out together. We're greeted with a cheery wave and "Good morning," whether it be day or night. Neighbors stop for a chat, although most conversation is limited to one-word sentences and long exclamations.

Many ask if all the children are ours and laugh with glee when we say they are. My husband is constantly getting the thumbs-up for making four babies!

I'm learning the language and have noticed in shops where I'm beginning to be recognized as a regular, they will speak to me in Thai, will tell me how much an item is in Thai and will insist very gently, very politely, that I repeat it after them ... until I get it right.

Half the fun and frustration has been setting up a family life in a different, non-English-speaking environment.

How do you programme your new DVD player using only a Thai instruction manual? Where do the neighbors buy their 20-liter bottles of drinking

water at a fraction of the supermarket price? Where is the local supermarket? What day is the garbage collected?

It may sound mundane but when your garbage bags are mounting up and you're kept awake at night by a noisy, ill-mannered cockroach, such questions become quite pressing.

I'm enjoying finding out the answers. My Thai will have to improve for it's only when you can communicate with people that you get to know them.

My children, although sometimes weary of all the attention, are also soaking up the experience. They're not afraid to make contact with someone because he doesn't speak the same language. They'll try to find an alternative way to making themselves understood.

They realize they're lucky to be able to go to school. That they have parents. That they get driven to school in a car and don't have to get drenched sitting on the back of a scooter with their other siblings. And the list goes on and on.

We were right. This is the adventure we'd been hoping for, and it's only just begun.

Many ask if all the children are ours and laugh with glee when we say they are. My husband is constantly getting the thumbs-up for making four babies!

Rak Mak! Awards

This week's lucky numbers:

วบ 910 กรุงเทพฯ Yellow Mazda	ฉข 759 ภูเก็ต Blond Toyota	กจ 6672 ภูเก็ต Red Toyota Corolla
ลว 6415 ภูเก็ต Silver Mitsubishi	กก 4656 ภูเก็ต White Toyota Corolla	กจ 3867 ภูเก็ต Blond Honda Civic

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KIDS

THE FUN PAGE

FOR ALL

THE FAMILY

Hidden Words

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F	E	S	E	L	E	K	I	O	A	A	E	P	V	P
J	L	I	L	Z	O	D	D	V	N	D	N	Z	B	M
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F	M	F	D	F	P	V	L	E	H	N	M	N	J	N
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Brain Buster!!

Answer the following question with a simple “yes” or “no”:

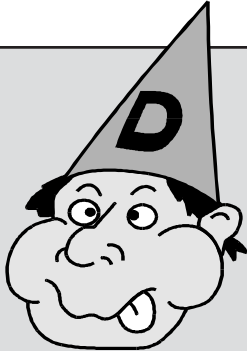
If the day before the day after the day before today was hotter than the day after the day before today, was the day before today hotter than today?

A: Yes

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S MONSTER QUIZ

1.Cirque; 2. The first atom bomb to be used in anger; 3. Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark; 4. Maj Gherman Titov of the USSR; 5. 390,000; 6. *The Drumroll Symphony*; 7. Erich Maria Remarque; 8. Slavic; 9. Ford Mustang GT390; 10. Lalo Schiffrin; 11. Putting his finger in Christ’s wound; 12. The Dalai Lama; 13. Submission; 14. The nave of the church; 15. The three wise monkeys (in order, See no evil, Hear no evil, Speak no evil). 16. *Frankenstein*; 17. *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*; 18. *The Hitch-Hiker’s Guide to the Galaxy*; 19. Claude Debussy; 20. Ringo Starr.

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



Kids! Get Mum and Dad to help you find the answers to these questions. They’re not easy, but if you do some research you should be able to find the answers to all of them.

1. Who plays Mace Windu in the movie *Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith*?

2. In which country was Pilsner beer originally brewed?

3. One of Jack London’s books was published in Mexico under the name *La Llamada de la Selva*. Which book?

4. Leaving aside any Saturday Night Live appearances, what is the professional connection between these four: Nicole Kidman, Bill Murray, Steve Martin and Chevy Chase?

5. Samuel Beckett beat Alexandra Solzhenitsyn by 12 months in doing what?
6. What is the largest city of the Yukon Territories?

7. What is the shortest sentence in the English language?

8. Who sang “I’m coming out. I want the world to know. Got to let it show.”

9. In what year did Siam become Thailand?

10. Construction of what major European project began on August 13, 1961?

11. What are the two official languages of Norway?

12. Which band released the albums *The Trinity Sessions* and *The Caution Horses*?

13. What are paneer, bryndza and stinking bishop?
14. Who asked, “How can you govern a country that has 246 varieties of cheese?”

15. What is the *Voenno-Vozdushnye Sily*?

16. Which West African republic was formerly known as Dahomey?

17. The annual Ditmar Awards celebrate what?

18. A reporter named Jade is the heroine of which 2003 video game?

19. Which filmmaker directed *Det Sjunde Inseplet*, *Smultronstället* and *Karins Ansikte*?

20. Ringo Starr joined The Beatles as a replacement for whom?
- Answers next week

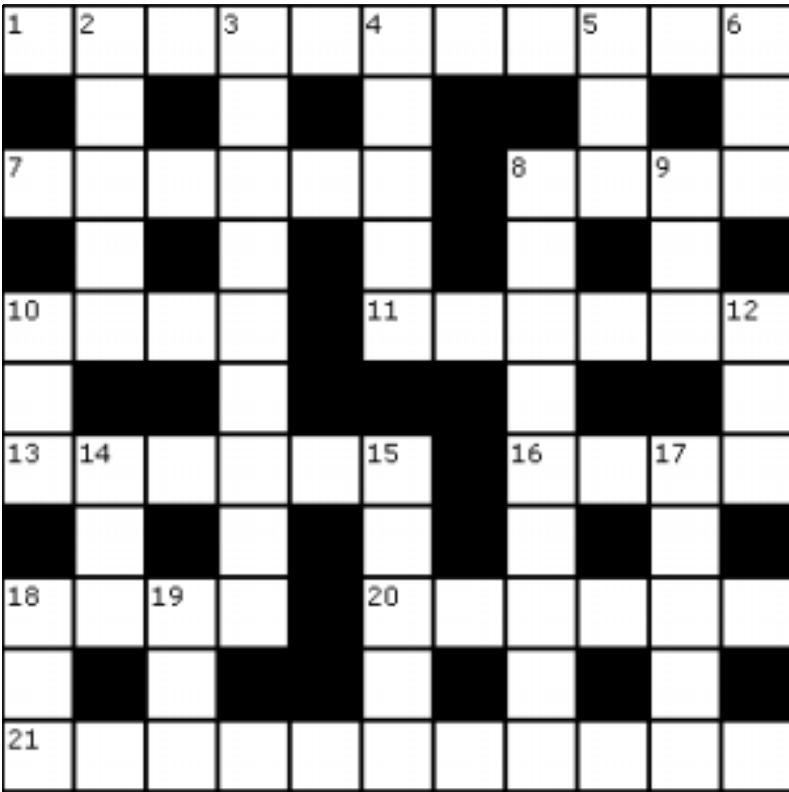
Never a Cross Word!

ACROSS

1. Sleeping through the winter.
7. Continent south of Europe.
8. Youngster between 12 and 20.
10. Volcano output.
11. Hubble-bubble.
13. Over-par scores.
16. Sharp argument.
18. Perch or piranha, for example.
20. Foot ailment.
21. Not needed.

DOWN

2. Opposite of ultra.
3. Queen of England in Shakespeare’s time.
4. Below, poetically.
5. What needs to be broken to make new friends.
6. Firearm.
8. Tens of tens of tens.
9. Historical period.
10. Throw slowly.



SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD



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Give Your Child a Good Start!

Solution next week

A cute name or a genital infection?

There are all sorts of questions in life that will never be answered. Typical examples are, "What is the point to life?", "Is there a God?" or "If you tie buttered toast to a cat's back and drop it from a great height, which side will it land on?"

Humans, being insatiably curious, have been discussing such questions for eons – in fact, there are probably scientists in some parts of the world who find great amusement in dropping cats from varying heights.

However, there is one question that has not had the attention it deserves: "Why, oh, why do parents curse their children with such terrible names?"

Whether it's names such as De-Vodka (whose education must have been sponsored by Absolut), or Espn (who no doubt steals all his father's attention away from his mother), you'll find them all, as I discovered when I dove into the perilous depths of *caconomenology*, as it has been dubbed on the Internet: the study of terrible names.

Not having a baby myself, I may not be the best suited to pass judgment on what you should name a child, but I think that a child's name should be chosen using the same standards as a company or product name: it should be appealing, distinctive, pronounceable, and memorable – and, of course, the child should be able to spell it before the age of 15.

Such "kr8tiv cpellyngz" are the bane of first-grade teachers everywhere, particularly when they have a class full of students named Karryline, Kenadeigh, Elyzabythe, and Ginapher.

There are also parents who seem to have a deathly fear of vowels and name their babies things like "Kryztl".

Another popular trend seems to involve naming your children after certain virtues, and now there are hundreds of girls

called "Unique" roaming the US. When this is coupled with the "cpellyng krayze", you get atrocities such as "Uneek", "Uneque" or "Unequee". I can just imagine the poor child telling confused strangers, "No, my parents weren't dyslexic, they just wanted me to be Youneek."

But is naming your child after a virtue a self-fulfilling prophecy? Or is it simply wishful thinking? We live in an age of obsessive, competitive parenting, where crazed parents even bribe kindergartens to accept their child, and embezzle money from their companies to do it.

Now there are hundreds of kids called "Harvard", "Doctor", "Lawyer" or "Genius" but, as with the name "Beauty", it can never be assured that your child will turn out the way you want it to.

A classic example of this was in New York, in 1958, where Robert Lane named one of his many children "Winner" and was confident that you couldn't lose with a name like that.

He named his last son "Loser", perhaps for the sake of neatly book-ending the family.

As it turned out, Loser went on to

become a sergeant at the New York Police Department, while Winner's greatest success was the length of his criminal record.

Of course, there are always parents with higher aspirations, who go all out and name their kid "God". There are worse namesakes though – I shudder to think of how many poor German boys were named Adolf Hitler in the 1930s and '40s.

Parents often try to avoid overly common names such as John, Alex, Amy or Sarah, by naming their babies after obscure literary characters, or digging out archaic and perhaps better forgotten names, such as Horatio and Ebenezer, or names from other languages, of which the parents hardly know the definition.

One example of this is a girl named "Latrina", which means toilet in Italian. Then there are the more imaginative parents who come up with names such as "Arissandra Nyghtflower-In-The-Sunlight" or "Melody Charisma", which sound more like characters from badly written fiction.

Then there are the more adventurous parents, who name their children after the reason they were conceived, lead-

ing to a spate of Tequilas and Whiskeys and even Absinthes.

The place the baby was conceived in is also a popular choice. Now everyone knows kids find the idea of their parents having sex disgusting, so why remind them of it every single time someone calls their name? Is there some poor child out there called "Backseat" or "Airplane Toilet"?

Just plain tasteless names include "Chlamydia" and "Gonorrhea" – those kids will go through hell in high school.

There are more girls named things like "Uterus" and "Ovary" ... I'm guessing there's a "Breast" out there somewhere as well. There are also rumours of a couple from Kent in the '80s, naming their son Depressed Cupboard Cheese-cake. They say anything is possible in this world. In that case, there might also be a Tanktop Jamjar running around somewhere.

Celebrities have always been famous for outlandish names. Bono named his son Elijah Bob Patricus Guggi Q and Gwyneth Paltrow started the fruit name trend, with her daughter Apple. Frank Zappa's children are called Dweezil, Moon Unit, Diva Muffin, and Ahmet. Need I say more?

Being blessed with the relatively normal name of Ella, and having scraped my way through kindergarten and primary school with nothing worse than the nickname Ella Nutella, here's a message to all you parents-to-be: think hard, and possibly get a second, third, or tenth *sane* opinion. If all else fails, reconsider having a child at all. To all those who are already parents: there's nothing I can do to dissuade you now.

Perhaps in the future, someone will start the trend of numbering children instead of naming them. I already pity all those children who will be called 69.



Youth 'n ASIA
By Ella Micheler

At last, some relief on the links

There are people about. People from other parts. Visitors, tourists, people I haven't seen before.

I like to get out and play nine holes of golf at about 4 pm, usually at Laguna Phuket because it's near my office. I can play nine holes fairly quickly because I rarely count the score, and if I miss the long putt from just off the green, I don't worry about fin-

ishing it off, I just walk off to the next tee and let the caddie collect the ball and run after me.

It's mostly the walking bit that motivates me to do this golf thing, rather than hitting the ball. Which is fortunate for me, as my walking skills are considerably superior to my ball-hitting skills.

However, this week there are people on the golf course. I haven't seen any people for months, on or off the golf course. But the last week or two, they're back – families with kids who probably haven't hit a golf ball before in their life.

They also have no idea about asking faster players to play through. On one golf course a family from some Asian country – maybe this one – had sat down on the tee and were having a small picnic of drinks and candy bars.

I'm not complaining; they're here. Asian visitors as well. Maybe the golfing type of Asian visitor is not concerned with ghost

matters. Possibly ghosts are primarily concerned with haunting the "tour group" type of Asian tourists, the "floppy hat and baggy pants" variety.

No matter; there are people around. Not just tourists, but potential home buyers and investors. This is the first time that we have really seen people here since the tsunami. Is business

finally coming back? Will we be able to see people working again by the end of the year?

This is the time when the property industry goes out to the overseas markets. Five years ago, when I started going to Hong Kong with the odd project, we realized how expensive it was, so with the help of a few people, including this newspaper, we got together and started the Phuket & Samui Property Exhibition in Hong Kong.

Now Phuket developers are heading off to all sorts of shows and exhibitions. There are actually two exhibitions in London on

the same weekend in September and Phuket developers are going to both of them. Should be interesting, if a bit bizarre.

The UK has certainly proved to be a strong market, but I wonder how many times a buyer from the UK who has not had some previous connection to Asia, has bought property here. Not very often, I think.

We were discussing it the other day with a group of developers, and although many had made sales to UK buyers, there was not one buyer who did not have a connection to Hong Kong or Southeast Asia of some kind or another. They had either worked in Asia or had friends or relatives who had invested in Phuket.

Anyway, we're off to Hong Kong again November 1 for the

annual Phuket & Samui Property Exhibition. There are events in Singapore, Bangkok, Shanghai and other places but somehow there's a strange feeling that we have already done it before.

Of course, we did do it all before, last year, went to the market, showed them our wares, only this time they did not come to see us, as they usually do in the New Year – for obvious reasons. Last year, too, Hong Kong was down; people were not doing so well. So we're doing it again.

High season, buying season – 2006. Hong Kong is up and people are doing well. But, as I said, it's a bit of a strange feeling, some sort of time warp. If you happened to see the movie *Ground Hog Day* with Bill Murray, you'll know what I'm talking about.

Maybe the golfing type of Asian visitor is not concerned with ghost matters. Possibly ghosts are primarily concerned with haunting the "tour group" type of Asian tourists.

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Jamaicans adrift in London

Andrea Levy won the 2004 Orange Prize for her fourth novel *Small Island* (Review, London, 2004, 440pp). The what prize? I didn't know either, so I did a Google search and found out that the 10-year-old Orange Prize is Britain's largest cash award for female novelists.

The book also won the Whitbread Book of the Year award (which you will have heard of, surely), so this is plainly a volume that the prize committees liked.

The story is about England's first generation of Jamaican immigrants who arrived with the military during the war and stayed on to make their fortunes in spite of an often hostile environment.

The novel opens with Queenie Buxton, a blonde, blue-eyed butcher's daughter, who sees her first black man in a London exhibition hall shortly after World War I. The narrative voice then switches to Hortense Roberts, the illegitimate daughter of a prominent Jamaican statesman, who moves from the countryside to Kingston to study at a snooty teacher's college run by Englishwomen.

While working as a teacher, she meets Gilbert Joseph, a returning RAF veteran who cuts a dashing figure but is a hopeless fool about money. In return for a loan to get him back to London, she makes him promise to marry her and send for her once he is settled.

The failure to consummate the marriage forms a very comic scene.

This part of the novel is told in Hortense's voice, so arch and convoluted, you suspect that it's just bad writing. But when the story is taken over by Gilbert Joseph, the tone changes completely to raucous comedy. Hortense may not think much of him but Joseph has his own wry take on things. Here he is on English cuisine:

"This was war. This was hardship I was prepared for – bullet, bomb and casual death – but not for the torture of missing cow-foot stew, not for the persecution of living without curried shrimp or pepper pot soup. I was not ready, I was not trained to eat food that was prepared in a pan of boiling water, the sole purpose of which was to rid it of taste and texture. How the En-

glish built empires when their armies marched on nothing but mush should be one of the wonders of the world."

In wartime England, Joseph meets with a great deal of racial prejudice, especially from American servicemen, prejudice he meets with dignity, humor and flashes of rage. He is afraid of no one.

The story then returns to Queenie, who has moved to London to help her aunt run a pastry shop. When the aunt dies and Queenie is faced with returning to the family butchery, she decides instead to marry her lackluster boyfriend, Bernard, a skinny geek who works as a bank clerk.

Once he is away with the RAF in India, she has a fleeting romance

with a Jamaican RAF sergeant named Michael Roberts (Hortense's half-brother, a plot turn that strains coincidence) who gives Queenie her first taste of sexual satisfaction. She also develops a genuine friendship with Gilbert Joseph.

And suddenly a new character is telling the story: Bernard Bligh, whose wartime experiences in India and Burma only reinforce his racial prejudices against coolies, darkies, niggers and wogs.

His style is terse and staccato, as when describing the aftermath of a street riot in Calcutta: "[The corpses] lay down every road we travelled. Some might have been taken for bundles of rags. Or discarded rubbish. Others were unmistakable. Caught in a silly pose. An arm up, a leg raised ... Feral dogs worry at the bloody clothing of the dead. Mouths smeared with blood like a baby's with chocolate."

Queenie, meanwhile, has opened Bernard's house to boarders, including Joseph and his newly-arrived wife, Hortense. Bernard returns suddenly and there is hell to pay. The scenes speed up to a rousing conclusion, told by alternating narrators in a giddy mix of slapstick and pathos. One couple is redeemed, the other damned.

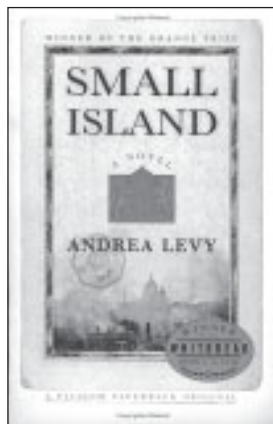
I'll let you find out for yourself which is which. This is one of the warmest, funniest novels I've read in ages.

Andrea Levy, by the way, is the daughter of Jamaican immigrants, born in 1948, the year in which the novel is set.



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt



In The Stars

by Isla Star

Discover your tomorrow today!

LEO (July 24-August 22): Something just doesn't add up this weekend. But before you start getting hot under the collar and laying the blame at another's door you should check your calculations. If this problem relates to finances, there's every chance that you have made a mistake recently. A more abstract dilemma will require you to put your best diplomatic foot forward. Leos celebrating a birthday this week are bound to have a ball.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): You should be coasting along pretty calmly this week. If you are on the verge of finalizing a financial transaction, you are advised to make relevant appointments for Wednesday. Feel free to indulge in a few luxuries this weekend, and surprise your partner with a special gift. A dream that you have mid-week will come true by the end of this month. The number one brings luck on Tuesday.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): You can be forgiven for thinking that they are overdue for some good luck. Rest assured that this is coming, but it will be toward the end of August. In the meantime, you will still have to deal with difficult circumstances, particularly relating to work. Keeping lines of communication open is important. On a brighter note, Scorpio comes calling with some good news on Sunday.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): If you haven't put much away for a rainy day since the beginning of this year, you are about to receive a wake-up call. Finances will be subject to high pressure until your birthday, so don't play with fire by maxing out credit cards. Temptation to spend will be especially strong on Saturday: resist splashing out on a date, no matter how much you want to impress. Spiritual matters occupy your mind this Sunday.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Your confidence receives an astral boost this week. If you were thinking that you have bitten off more sugar cane than you can chew, you will now be ready to show the world what you are really made of. Make as much hay as you can while the sun shines and you will reap a fruitful harvest for some time to come. On Thursday don't feel guilty about refusing to do a friend a favor.

CAPRICORN (December 22-

January 20): The atmosphere gradually becomes mellow. Once you confront a daunting task, the way ahead will clear as if by magic. As long as you stick to routine at work, results will be good: going off at a tangent will reduce productivity, no matter how much of a bright idea it seems at the time. You can believe everything that Aries has to say on Monday.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): You are at risk from a double-edged sword this week; what appears to be a perfect solution for a problem has a hidden catch. Personal relationships are about to be put to the test, and this could happen due to an enforced absence. If you're single, Virgo is following your footsteps in the sand with interest. Wear the color lotus pink to encourage a calmer outlook on life.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): August continues to provide a benevolent backdrop. You continue to feel optimistic about business possibilities and your faith will start to pay off. On Monday, avoid getting into a disagreement – simply agree with someone whose opinion is clearly misguided. Romance is set to sparkle. If a relationship has recently finished, get ready to have some fun. Gemini holds you in high regard.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): This week, you will find it hard to make your feelings clear. Memorize the following mantra and repeat it when you falter: Say what you mean and do what you say. Keep an open mind when you hear of a sure-fire scheme mid-

week. There could be some gain involved, but you're not in a position to take any gambles where business is concerned. The number 9 looks promising on Tuesday.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): A well-deserved break is just over the horizon for Taureans, and you should use this time to reflect on why you need this time-out so badly. People rely on you because of your dependable reputation, but you still need to practice the art of relaxation more often. This will mean learning to make it clear that you have limits, just like others. The color lavender will encourage tranquil contemplation.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Finances occupy your mind for most of the week. You are advised to take a realistic look at climbing expenditure and put the brakes on spontaneous spending for the rest of this month. If others are dependent on you, start putting limits on their outgoings, too. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, keep dreaming about Leo. On a positive note, Sagittarius will be true to his or her word.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Dig your pincers in firmly when someone tries to make an unfair deal this weekend. Your quiet and unassuming nature can sometimes give the impression that you're an easy target. It's high time for you to start standing up for your rights, and the astral atmosphere gives you the necessary support to do so for the remainder of August. A new work colleague gives you food for thought on Tuesday.

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Now the island has a sporting chance

A good deal of credit is due to the Ministry of Tourism & Sports, Phuket Sports Association, the Phuket Chamber of Commerce and others who helped organize the highly-entertaining World Boxing Organization (WBO) title fight between Ratanachai Sor Vorapin and Panamanian challenger Mauricio Martinez on August 5 and the 80-80 rugby at Surakul Stadium this week (see Sports pages).

Thanks to financial support from numerous sponsors, the free-of-charge boxing match allowed spectators to catch a ringside view of world-class action. If it had taken place somewhere like Las Vegas, a ringside seat would cost hundreds of dollars.

The WBO fight, broadcast throughout the country on Thai TV Channel 7, gave a needed boost to the local tourism industry during this post-tsunami low season and showed the rest of the country that most of Phuket is back to business as usual.

Similarly, this week's 80-80 rugby – also free for spectators – is a feast of high-quality sport which, anywhere else, would cost a good deal of money to watch.

Indeed, the players in the rugby tournament have paid to come here mostly out of their own pockets. Some 120 people are staying here for 10 days – that's 1,200 room nights, at zero cost to Thailand.

While the importance of domestic tourism tends to be overlooked, the fact remains that it is not only abroad that misperceptions persist about the extent of tsunami damage sustained here in Phuket.

The carnival-like atmosphere at the fight will go a long way to showing those in other parts of Thailand that the name Phuket need no longer be synonymous with tragedy and sadness. Broadcasts of the rugby, too, will show that Phuket is ready to receive visitors.

If Phuket is to gain a reputation as more than just a good place to work on a tan, sports tourism will necessarily be an important part of the equation. In order to pull this off, new sports facilities will be needed and existing ones improved. The massive upgrade to Surakul Stadium was a step in the right direction.

One can only hope that the Ministry of Tourism & Sports proposal to build a world-class sports training complex somewhere on the island moves forward soon and that the project does not continue to be bogged down by politics over where to site the facility.

A re-think is needed over the original proposed site near Mai Khao Beach. The area is environmentally fragile and is simply too distant from the island's main population centers to serve as a recreational asset for most residents.

– The Editor

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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.

The Governor is right

As far as I know, everywhere airport in the world has meter taxis, but it seems that it is very difficult to operate a meter taxi out of Phuket International Airport.

Why is this? Meter taxis cannot cheat *farang* who come here for the first time.

These unsuspecting *farang* know nothing about the price they should be charged, which is why they are charged too much.

A taxi from Bangkok's Sukhumvit to Don Muang Airport will cost around 250 baht, but here, from the airport to Phuket City, it costs about 400-500 baht, although a friend of mine was recently charged 650 baht from the airport to Patong.

I think that Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura is absolutely right when he says he wants to have more meter taxis in the airport.

Jungle Jim
Phuket

Monumental insanity

Regarding your article about the planned tsunami museum at the national park.

I was shocked by the size of the proposed budget. Approximately 1.5 billion baht converts to some US\$ 36 million.

Considering the fact that there are still huge tasks ahead – many of which have yet to even be addressed – in the many areas affected by the tsunami, this is a slap in the face for those who are still waiting for government help to get back on their feet.

Whenever there is something to do, Thai politicians blame everybody but themselves for

delays. "There is no money," "Things have not decided yet, budgets must be granted first," "It's the TAT, oh no, sorry, it's the *OrBorTor*." Well one thing's for sure; it's an outrageous shame.

In the meantime, it appears all too obvious that some people in key positions have taken their cut, whether from donated money stolen in front of security cameras, or money just sunk into the swamps of bureaucracy.

If there is to be a \$36-million museum, there will be people who will make a lot of money out of such a project, one way or the other.

And that is exactly the reason why this project will go on its way, probably even before the last real victims have roofs over their heads.

This is embarrassing.

Please make sure it doesn't hit the news outside Thailand because a lot of people who have made donations are already asking where their money has gone.

Very Embarrassed
By Email

Cutting losses

The letter by "Uneasy Rider" [*Gazette*, issue of July 30] reminded me of a recent occasion when I was pulled up right outside the Cherng Talay police station.

I was wrongly accused of driving without a seatbelt. After taking my driving license the officer walked into a lane opposite the police station and invited me to follow him. I deferred, preferring to drive on minus my driving license but with my cash flow intact.

Name and address supplied

Rehab center for dogs?

The Making Tracks article published recently in the *Gazette* [issue of July 30] demonstrated that the extensive [canine] sterilization program is showing tangible results.

However, because of heavy demand on resources, most stray dogs must be returned to the streets or temples less than 24 hours after their operation.

We would like to create a center for such animals to be temporarily housed in and we are therefore looking for a piece of land – to buy or to rent – suitable for our purpose. If any *Gazette* reader can help, please write to Email: franwood2002@yahoo.com

Frances Wood
Nai Harn

Expensive hot air or a cool breeze?

I recently took part in the Phuket Race Week, but, good racing aside, I am upset about the cost of entry and the party tickets. It was nothing short of a rip off.

As a member of ACYC [Ao Chalong Yacht Club], who I believe put their name to the event, I want to ask for the accounts to be made public. I would also like to ask whether any of the proceeds were passed on to the club. By my calculations 174,000 baht was raised from race entry fees, at a conservative guess, 435,000 baht came from party tickets, and another 240,000 baht from sponsors. This makes a total of 849,000 baht. What happened to all that money? The party tickets cost 3,000 baht.

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.

Letters

That is 600 baht each night and we got a meal on only two nights out of the five. There were a few snacks but nothing that resembled food on the other three nights.

This means that the beers, in effect, cost 150 baht each.

We don't need the pretentious frills and exorbitant expense of a major resort at this cost.

I would like to recommend that the ACYC runs this event in the future. Why let someone else make all the profit when it could be invested back into better facilities for our sport?

Name and address withheld.

Grenville Fordham replies for the organizers of Evason Phuket Raceweek:

Good race management and organization of five days of racing and social events with 2-300 people requires competent manpower, equipment and advance planning.

Entry fees for Evason Phuket Raceweek were 6,000 baht per entry and 3,000 baht per crew ticket

Here, for comparison, are the costs of entry for other regattas in Thailand:

Phang Nga Bay Regatta: 4,000/2,000 baht; Koh Samui Regatta: 10,000/2,000 baht; Top of The Gulf Regatta: 8,000/1,200 baht; Phuket King's Cup Regatta: 17,000/4,200 baht

As for publishing the accounts, Evason Phuket Raceweek is organized by a private company. It is held under the auspices of the ACYC, but the ACYC does not contribute to the organization and does not underwrite the event.

The organizers are happy to show the accounts to the Commodore and Treasurer of ACYC and to answer any questions they may have.

As for the food, the party format was three cocktail parties and two full buffet parties. One of the latter was sponsored by Evason Phuket, all others were paid for by the organizers out of funds received.

With reference to the profits, event organization entails a host of costs that the reader may not have considered. Having underwritten the inaugural raceweek in 2004 to the tune of 500,000 baht, we are looking (provisionally) to break even for the 2005 event. There is no profit.

Pretentious frills? The Evason venue is a significant factor in attracting participants from outside Phuket, as well as many local sailors. However, the single-venue concept means we do not have the option of looking for sponsored parties elsewhere.

Finally, participation in this kind of event is a matter of choice. The ACYC already runs low-key club racing throughout the year at very low cost, but does not have the manpower or the finances to stage an event such as the Evason Phuket Raceweek. Of course, any organization or individual is free to stage any event.

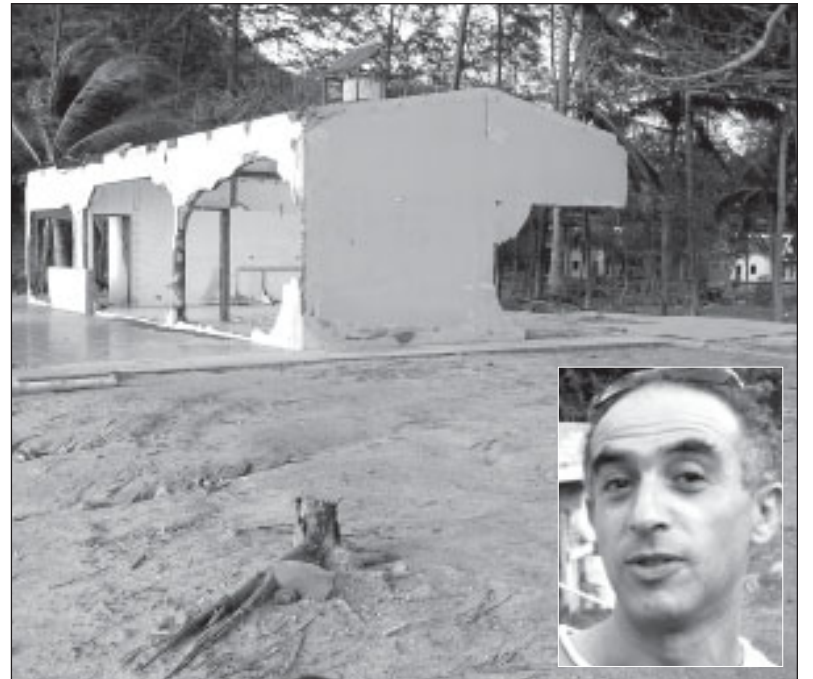
Why Ya Nui is a mess

FIRST PERSON

Anyone passing by the small southern Phuket beach of Ya Nui, nestled between Laem Phromthep and Nai Harn Beach, could be forgiven for thinking that the area has just been hit by a bomb, or another tsunami.

The fact is, apart from the most perfunctory of cleanup work, the location has remained untouched and neglected by authorities and tourists alike since the tsunami, and remains a blight on the landscape.

The problem goes back long before the tsunami. Here, long-time local resident **Mel Lasougue** explains how this mess has grown out of another mess, created by land encroachment, bureaucratic inefficiency and sometimes corruption, resulting in an impenetrable tangle over who is responsible for cleaning up what.



Wrecked buildings still mar Ya Nui Beach. Inset, Mel Lasougue.

Three months ago I went down to Ya Nui Beach and there were people eating and drinking in the rubble because they felt sorry for the place, but they don't know the facts.

The issue is one of correct papers. Many of the buildings in the area did not possess land titles.

The Ya Nui Beach restaurant, for example, was not legal. Sure, certain people were paid to turn a blind eye, but basically it was illegal and nobody said anything about it.

However, after the tsunami struck, the authorities had to file a report, just as in every tsunami-affected area, so the restaurant was unable to reopen.

It is the responsibility of the *OrBorTor* (Tambon Administration Organization) to clean this mess up. Normally, it would be

the responsibility of the owner of the restaurant, but he must keep quiet now for his own good.

There are many problems to do with land papers at Ya Nui. If you consider the soi itself, on one side of the road, a lot of the properties have no papers though some people, Ya Nui Resort, for instance, did make an effort to obtain the correct documents.

The *OrBorTor* acted much too late [in trying to get the land registered] as many people had already built their houses on the land. This all happened a long time ago, but it compounds the problem today.

If the people using the land all those years go had paid their taxes – an insignificant amount, only about 400 or 500 baht a year – their buildings would be legal now.

There have been many rumors concerning land titles, not

only in Rawai but all over Phuket, and the authorities say that they cannot kick people out of their homes.

They allow people to build houses and then they accept money from them but even legally registered homeowners get the same problems from them. They make up stories about "papers" and "construction" and "authorization" to get money from owners.

One civil servant tried to "make a story" with many people. He was transferred. This is not a big surprise, of course. It is common knowledge that this sort of thing goes on.

So, although nobody wants to accept responsibility for cleaning up Ya Nui, without a doubt the *OrBorTor* is responsible.

They should repair it – as should the guy who had his business there – but there are so many complicating factors. The

restaurant owner made a fortune out of the beach but doesn't want to be seen to have anything to do with it now.

The *OrBorTor* should go to the land registration office in Phuket City and get this sorted out. They could clean the place up and it wouldn't be too much work. A bulldozer could probably do the job in one day.

As for the future, it will be difficult to open a business at Ya Nui Beach because nobody can legally build a hotel or resort there without the proper papers, though I think that somebody will eventually clean the place up.

The tsunami opened up a can of worms and Ya Nui Beach can never again go back to being a place where people set up illegal operations at the water's edge. The authorities are now mindful of what was going on there.

What are the costs of transferring property?

Can someone tell me the cost of transferring property in Thailand? I have heard it is a percentage of the house fee. Is this correct?

SM2005
Malaysia

Phuket Provincial Land Office (PPLO) Chief Suphot Suwannachote replies:

The fee is 2% of the value of the property, as assessed by the PPLO. You will also have to pay tax, which varies depending

on how long the land has been held by the seller.

If the land is changing hands less than five years since the last time it did so, then you must pay tax of 3.3% of the actual sale price.

If the period is more than five years, however, you must pay a revenue stamp fee of 0.5% of the assessed value or the actual sale price, whichever is higher.

For more details, contact the PPLO at Tel: 076-213646.

Where are the auctions of leisure craft seized for tax evasion?

Please tell me when and where there are government boat auctions in Phuket.

Alan Garfield
Koh Samui

Khaisang Boonsin, an officer

at the Phuket Provincial Customs Office, replies:

I am afraid that we have no longer have any boats to auction off because Thailand dropped the import taxes and duties applicable to speedboats,

sailboats and inflatables in February last year.

Before that, any yachts, speedboats and so on that were confiscated for non-payment of import taxes were auctioned off, but, due to the change in the law,

we no longer have to impound boats on which taxes were not paid.

Please feel free to contact the Phuket Provincial Customs Office for further details. Tel: 076-211105-6.

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.

Write to: The Phuket Gazette, 367/2 Yaowarat Rd, Muang, Phuket 83000. Fax 076-213971, or submit your issue at www.phuketgazette.net

IT ISSUES

By John Seebach

In a previous article, I reviewed some of the basics of smart home technology and how they can be applied in your everyday life.

These include intelligent lights that come on to pre-set dimming levels creating certain moods throughout your home.

Another favorite is central audio systems that enable you to control the volume level in various zones and even select different music for different parts of your home.

I also covered the smart refrigerator that scans its contents and reorders groceries over the Internet when supplies are running low.

A number of readers found this quite interesting and wanted to know more about how to prepare their homes for these new technologies.

The answer to that question depends on what stage of completion your home is at.

You can imagine that a completed home would require a bit of chopping into ceilings and walls, while a home still on the architect's drawing board is like a blank canvas on which you can create just about anything your heart desires.

Either way, the systems and cabling that support smart home technology are pretty much the same; it is just a matter of how much bang for your construction buck you can achieve.

In this article, I shall review Central Audio technology and how to make good use of your design and construction efforts. In future articles, I will go into smart lighting and then on to security systems.

There are many options these days so take your time and ask questions. A good place to begin is www.smarthomeUSA.com. Here you can browse just about any smart home device and

Preparing your home for smart systems



The website at www.smarthomeUSA.com is a good place to start if you know next to nothing about smart home technology.

get insider reviews of various technologies.

Smart audio system design: Starting off can be a bit of a daunting task – you probably have more questions than answers and you most likely do not even know which questions to ask.

If you are building a new home, get hold of your architect who will in turn get hold of your M&E (mechanical and electrical) designer. If there is enough experience between the two of

them, you should be able to get to where you want to go as far as design requirements go.

However, it has been my experience and the experience of many of my clients that most architects and M&E firms, though very competent in their fields, have not had a lot of exposure to smart technology.

In either case, I recommend that you bring in a specialist to take part in the initial design process and to help select from the many available technologies. This is especially true if you are retrofitting an existing home.

Remember, the right consultant can save you a bundle and design a well-functioning system; a not-so-good consultant can make a real mess of your home.

The best thing to do is check out their references and if you can, visit the sites they have worked on. This way, you actually touch and try the technology before you make any decisions.

Speakers and controls: Some important preliminaries are to decide where you want the sound controls and speakers in your home.

Thinking about where you want the sound coming from. Options include ceiling and wall-mounted, landscape speakers and even underwater speakers (this one always gives me a grin).

A good rule of thumb is the KISS principal (keep it simple, stupid). Try to place speakers far

enough away from the listeners so that the sound is not intrusive and remains in the background.

This will not, of course, be the case if you are designing a home theater. Here you want the option to crank up the volume and have Darth Vader breathing in your face.

Some people shy away from ceiling-mounted speakers, but for a pleasant music sound I think they are a pretty good option.

First, they mount flush with your ceiling so you can barely see them and the newer systems come complete with sub-woofers for base and tweeters for high-pitched sounds. These combine to deliver true hi-fidelity sound at a very reasonable price.

In both cases, you will also want to consider where to place the control devices. For example, a home theater control unit should be located on the coffee table in front of the couch. A music jukebox selection device, however, should be well-placed on the wall of one or more rooms throughout your home.

Wireless control devices, although a bit pricier, give you freedom of movement – just don't forget where you last left the remote.

Next, you should place the jukebox and amplifiers in a clean, dry, cool place. Many designers like to put them in the pool pump room or next to the electrical MDB (main distribution board).

Forget the pump room because it is usually very humid and if there is a leak, your system is toast.

I am not a great supporter of the electrical MDB room, ei-

ther. For one thing, there is a good chance that you will pick up electrical noise into your sound system and two, this room is usually not very pleasant to be in and definitely not air-conditioned.

Go for an attractive wall cabinet in the TV room or a dry closet in the front entrance. Remember, this is custom technology so you and/or your systems integrator will be in there tweaking things from time to time.

Cables and conduits: This is every bit as important as selecting the right system. You can save a bundle here or you can really chop up an existing home or make a mess out of a new home design.

A good practice is to design the system with as little floor and wall cabling as possible. This is true whether you are working on an existing home or a new one because floor and wall cabling is pretty tough to maintain if things go wrong.

If you can afford the wireless control systems then all you have to do is place radio receivers up in the corner of the room. This in turn gets wired using CAT5 cable back to that central equipment room we discussed earlier.

If you are a bit more budget-conscious, you will be pulling the cable down a wall to a control panel, probably mounted next to a light switch. Be sure to run all speaker, power and control cables in PVC conduits because moisture, geckos and mice can destroy them.

If you take one piece of advice from this article, this should be it: *never* run control or speaker cables in the same conduit as electric cables. Everything will buzz and you will have to start all over again.

You can create loops of conduits that share both CAT5 control and speaker cables. That way you will save on costs and it is much easier to service this sort of design.

Keep in mind that the diameter of the conduit must be big enough to carry the cables you need. A good rule of thumb is two speaker cables and one control cable for every half-inch of PVC conduit diameter.

One final comment on cabling: I suggest using CATe FTP for control cabling because it reduces noise picked up from nearby electrical equipment.

Use Star Quad 4S6 for speaker cable; it is a bit pricier but you will thank yourself in about five years.

In future articles, I shall cover smart lighting and security systems. As always, feel free to contact me if you need any help.

John Seebach has 25 years consulting experience in Information Systems and Business Process Re-engineering. His company, Island Technology offers IT, Communications & Broadband solutions throughout Southeast Asia. Contact john@islandtechnology.com for more information.

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 12:05AM. Arrival Hadyai International Airport
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 Sadao-Changloen (SIC)*
 13:10PM. Immigration process
 14:10PM. Transfer back Hadyai
 International Airport
 15:10PM. Hadyai International Airport,
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 wait for the flight
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End of Program

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CHILD(2-12YRS)	1,550
INFANT	

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ON THE MOVE



Songkhla native **Prachaya Suksawang**, 45, has been appointed Food and Beverage Manager at the Royal Phuket City Hotel. K. Prachaya has more than 10 years' hotel management experience, having formerly held positions at the Thavorn Bay Resort in Phuket, the Clarion MP Resort Hotel in Trang, the Twin Lotus Hotel in Nakhon Sri Thammarat and the BP Samila Beach Resort in Songkhla.



Thananthorn Maneedam has been appointed Assistant Sales Manager of the Phuket Graceland Resort & Spa in Patong. The 34-year-old Buri Ram native has more than 15 years' experience in the tourism industry, having worked with a cruise line and having also run her own travel agency. She also spent one year with Phuket Submarine as Reservations Manager.



Phuket native **Chutima Naksalab**, 31, has been appointed Senior Manager of Black Canyon Coffee's three branches in Phuket. The holder of a degree in marketing management from Ramkhamhaeng University in Bangkok, K. Chutima, 31, was Assistant Manager at the McDonald's branch at Robinson Ocean before moving to Black Canyon.

Hot and cold is just about right

The US economy is frequently being referred to as the "Goldilocks" economy. In the children's story, Goldilocks' favorite porridge was neither too hot nor too cold. The US economy, in similar fashion, is growing neither too fast nor too slowly.

The US economy grew at an annualized rate, when measured by Gross Domestic Product (GDP), of 3.4% in the second quarter compared with 3.7% in the first quarter. Second-quarter figures are still reflecting a "flash" estimate and will be subject to further revisions in the coming months.

There was a touch of disappointment at the figures: many observers would have been happier to see second-quarter figures closer to 4%.

However, many economists are pointing out that US inventories were lower, and that the underlying picture is extremely encouraging, with many forecasting GDP growth for the third quarter of 4.5% to 5%.

Certainly, compared with all other major economies, the US is performing well. Inflation is low – much lower than most analysts had predicted, especially with current oil prices being factored into the equation. Unemployment has been slowly falling and is currently at 5%.

Many articles have appeared over the past two years describing America as experiencing a jobless recovery. In reality, the US created jobs in that two-year period. Unemployment has fallen from around 6.5% to present levels, and there are no signs to suggest any halt in this process.

When looking at corporate profits and using the Standard & Poors 500 index (S&P 500) as a yardstick, the news is also upbeat. In round terms, two thirds of companies "beat the street" (exceeded Wall Street analysts' expectations), one sixth of companies met expectations, and only around one sixth failed to reach expectations.

This is extremely good news, for it shows that the US has had nine consecutive quarters of GDP growth above 3%, but that corporate profits have also

continued to measure growth in double digits.

In a recent article I was somewhat critical of US Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan's almost indifferent attitude to the longer-term effects of the US housing boom.

This attitude has also drawn the ire of many economists and analysts, who feel that he is not voicing sufficient concern about an area that could have a substantial impact on the US economy in the future.

A retired US Federal Reserve governor was queried about this situation in an interview on Bloomberg in late July.

Her answer was that the Federal Reserve was aware of the dangers of the bubble bursting on the US housing boom, but that there was nothing they can do about it without damaging many other areas of the economy.

Short-term interest rates in the US will almost certainly continue to rise. They are currently at 3.25%, and many believe they will reach around 4% at the end of this year.

German surprise: Many observers may wonder why stockmarkets such as Germany's are racing ahead (up more than 30% in the past year) while America's major stockmarket indices are almost stalled.

There is no simple answer to this, but there are a number of possibilities: The German stockmarket lost around two thirds of its value in the early 2000s compared with a much more positive situation in the US – excluding NASDAQ; Germany was trading at a much lower price/earning multiple (P/E) than the US; German companies have been restructuring aggressively, and the rise in corporate profits has been impressive.

This is remarkable when one observes the moribund state of the domestic German economy. In addition, elections are due to be held in Germany next month with a far more pro-business political leadership looking likely to win.

Last, the US Federal Re-



MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

serve is still increasing interest rates while the European Central Bank has had interest rates on hold since 2003.

Stockmarkets are forward-thinking, and they hope that the future holds better news for Europe.

Small and swift: One sector of investment, small companies, receives very little attention almost without fail. This is a great pity, for as a sector they should be of interest to any investor interested in stockmarkets.

To use the US as an example, the public are constantly bombarded with the

daily (and often minute-by-minute) progress of the Dow Jones Industrials, Standard & Poors (S&P) 500 and the NASDAQ. The first two indices have still to make considerable gains to reach their previous highs of early 2000.

The NASDAQ would have to gain around 130% to reach these same levels.

Not all stockmarket indices in the US are in the same position, however. Some of them are at record highs. For example, the Russell 2000 covers 2,000 small companies with an average market capitalization of between \$1 billion and \$3 billion.

The *Phuket Gazette* published a "Money Talks" article on May 25, 2002 headlined "Small is Beautiful". At that time the track record of the Russell 2000 compared with the S&P 500 was substantially superior. Growth for the previous three years was

50.33% for the Russell 2000 compared with 4.91% for the S&P 500.

The Russell 2000 has continued to lead the way substantially and reach record highs since the index was established in the 1980s.

In a nutshell, well-managed small companies are more flexible and have less bureaucracy. It is similar to comparing a large ship and a small speedboat. The latter is so much more maneuverable. Not only in the US have small companies outperformed their larger brethren: the same also holds true in Japan, the UK, continental Europe and many other countries.

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: 01-081-4611. Email: imm@loxinfo.co.th.

VITAL STATISTICS: COMPANY REGISTRATIONS

	July 03	July 04	July 05
Limited companies registered	60	92	125
Limited partnerships registered	20	29	34
Limited companies amended	191	206	196
Limited partnerships amended	32	27	39
Companies deregistered	25	17	13
Partnerships deregistered	15	9	1

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Fifa donates B16.5m for soccer fields in Phuket

RAWAI: The Fédération Internationale de Football Association (Fifa) has donated US\$400,000 (about 16.5 million baht) to the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) to construct two new soccer pitches and a clubhouse on 12 rai of land in Rawai.

Eam Thavornvongwongse, President of the Phuket Sports Association (PSA), told the *Gazette* that the PSA approached the AFC and asked for help to develop soccer pitches on the island.

The AFC took the request to Fifa and financial assistance was granted, he said.

Construction of the two pitches, which will be built on land donated for 30 years by a relative of K. Eam, is due to begin at the end of August, although no plans as to what the clubhouse will look like are as yet available. There will, however, be a dormitory for visiting players.

The pitches, on a rubber plantation near Vichit Bungalows on Wiset Rd, are expected to be ready by the middle of 2006.

K. Eam said, "The lack of football fields in Phuket is holding back the development of sports in Phuket. These fields will be a source of future sports development for teams in the area and from neighboring provinces."

— Anongnat Sartpisut

Ratanachai retains WBO title in hard-fought Patong match

By Stephen Fein

PATONG: Ratanachai Sor Vorapin successfully defended his 118-pound WBO bantamweight crown in a hard-fought 12-round decision on August 5 over first-ranked Panamanian challenger Mauricio Martinez.

In the entertaining fight, staged at the football field on the beach road, Ratanachai survived a first-round scare and a nasty cut over his left eye after a clash of heads in the eighth round.

The fight was Ratanachai's first mandatory title defense since winning the crown against Mexican Cruz Carbajal in Nakhon Ratchasima last May.

The win improved Ratanachai's career record to 64-8, with 42 stoppages.

Broadcast across Thailand on TV Channel 7, the encounter was staged by top Thai boxing promoter Kokiart Panichayaron and attracted a ringside crowd of some 5,000 people.

Those coming out to see the free-admission fight ranged from black-suited Thai Cabinet members and other dignitaries, including Minister of Labor Somsak Thepsuthin, to curious tourists and others attracted by the free admission and numerous promotional giveaways.

After an address by Phuket Sports Association President



WBO bantamweight champ Ratanachai Sor Vorapin slips a straight left delivered by challenger Mauricio Martinez during his first world title defense. Ratanachai won narrowly on points.

Eam Thavornvongwongse, who played a key role in bringing the fight to Phuket, Ratanachai and Martinez took to the canvas at about 4 pm.

Round 1 saw the two southpaws spend 60 seconds exchanging jabs and sizing each other up

before Martinez unleashed a straight right to the jaw that had Ratanachai in trouble against the ropes. First-round knockouts are a rarity in the 118-pound class, however, and much to the relief of the highly-partisan crowd the champ somehow managed to weather the storm. He even taunted Martinez with his trademark demonic grin as he slowly recovered his composure.

The second round saw Ratanachai regain his form against the Panamanian, who held the WBO belt from September 2000 to March 2002, when he lost the title to Cruz Carbajal in Mexico.

Ratanachai, 28, continued to gain momentum and win rounds as the fight moved into the mid-stages, the action picking up in the fifth round with Martinez landing several left jabs and Ratanachai responded with left jabs and one hard, straight right.

The Korat native seemed to be wearing down the steely-eyed Martinez until Round 8. An accidental clash of heads midway through the round caused blood to spurt from a cut opened over his right eye.

Stunned, Ratanachai turned his back on his opponent – the cardinal sin of boxing – and started walking back to his corner.

But the referee hadn't called an eight-count, and in a scene reminiscent of the legendary Round 3 knockout of "Marvelous" Marvin Hagler over Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns in 1985, the Panamanian rushed the champ from behind, transferring all his momentum into his left hand before slamming it into the side of Ratanachai's cranium, following

up with a flurry of lefts and rights.

Remarkably, Martinez was unable to finish off the hard-headed Ratanachai and good work by the champ's cut-man between rounds stopped the bleeding.

Despite targeting the wound throughout the next few rounds, Martinez was never able to reopen it.

After Round 10 the fight seemed to settle down; the muggy conditions took the sting out of both boxers' punches and a win by decision appeared imminent.

Following the two pugilists embracing at the end of round 12, American judge Ruben Garcia and Salvil Limkubay of the Philippines both scored it 116-112 for the champ, while Puerto Rican judge Jose Roberto saw the match even at 114-114.

After the fight, Ratanachai admitted that only being in top form allowed him to carry off the title defense against the dangerous Martinez. The defeated former champ questioned the decision, but seemed to accept it as part-and-parcel of boxing, and asked for a rematch.

At 30 years of age, however, Martinez may have squandered his last opportunity to win back the belt. Promoter K. Kokiart told reporters that he is already in negotiations with boxing-legend-turned-promoter Oscar De La Hoya about lining up Ratanachai's next title defense against second-ranked Mexican Johnny Gonzalez in Las Vegas in November.

K. Kokiart added that the handler of third-ranked Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista was interested in flying the Thai champ out to Cebu for a title defense in the Philippines.

As for Ratanachai's less-than-stellar performance, K. Kokiart added that his boxer had been weakened after suffering from the 'flu for about a week before the bout.

In other significant clashes on the seven-fight card, the opening bout saw 122-pound WBO first-ranked challenger Sod Looknongyantoy dispatch Indonesian Yosub Bodinin with a technical knockout in the third round.

In another entertaining match, immediately after Ratanachai's win, his brother Ratanaporn Sor Vorapin, former IBF minimumweight title holder, made his comeback to the ring after a five-year absence to win a six-round decision over Indonesia's Alexander Boki. The win upped Ratanaporn's record to 39-6-1.

In other bouts, Douangpetch Saengmoradok won a decision over Filipino Jonre Ayrano in a 113-pound bout and Neungpichit Sidyodrong outpointed Jon Naranjo, also from the Philippines.

Inter Chem team win Lawyers' Day golf

KATHU: A shotgun start at 11 am on August 6 at Phuket Country Club was the cue to tee off in the annual Vanrapee Golf Tournament, organized by the Phuket Golf Association to commemorate Thai Lawyer's Day.

Funds raised in the charity event are donated to the HRH Prince Rajaburi Direkrit Foundation, which supports law and law enforcement in the Kingdom.

The match, played in breezy but bright conditions at Phuket Country Club, featured a good turnout of 40 four-person teams as well as individual players.

Phuket Inter Chemical Co Ltd – comprising Suriya Akkasinthawangkul, Sumphun Saengsuwan, Nawee Tinsakoo and Nipol Summakul – took honors as team champions with a score of 206 points.

The second-placed team in the close-quarters contest was Pitak Pracha, with Sombat Tantawit, Pol Gen Chalit Thinthanee, Wichian Prayote and Uchu Trairat missing out by just five points to come in with a score of 211.

The overall low gross score was achieved by Surin Bum-

roongpol with a score of 71 (2), while Jomthong Thinthanee made overall low net score of 98 (36).

The winners of the four flights, and their scores were as follows:

Flight A: Anek Boonraksa, 73 (7); Flight B: Wassana Sharp, 80 (15); Flight C: Sumith Kebuth, 83 (20); Flight D: Chaipong Likit-Ithirak, 93 (28).

Patong Darts League

August 2 results: Amigos* 7 Coyote 2; Queen Mary* 4 African Café 5; Piccadilly 6 Two Black Sheep* 3; Valhalla 5 Nag's Head* 4; Dog's Bollocks vs Shakers postponed. (* = Winner of beer leg).

August 16 fixtures (Home teams first): Nag's Head vs Shakers; Amigos vs Dog's Bollocks; Piccadilly vs Valhalla; African Café vs Didi's; Coyote vs Two Black Sheep; OffShore vs Queen Mary.



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By Chris Husted

PHUKET CITY: The Auckland Rugby Union (ARU) and New South Wales Rugby Union (NSWRU) squads both put on excellent displays of rugby in their opening matches of the 1st International 80-80 Rugby Tournament at Surakul Stadium on August 6, winning by 86-0 and 70-0, respectively against Japan and Thailand.

80-80 rugby is a new format whereby players must weigh no more than 80 kilograms at the start of the season and no more than 85kg during the season.

Apart from the weight restriction, 80-80 rugby is played under the existing International Rugby Board laws for official under-19 matches – and it showed. This was full-on 15-a-side rugby of the highest order.

The weight restriction gives nations whose people are more slightly built a better chance of winning, and there are high hopes that the Thai side will do well in the round-robin tournament against the opposition from New Zealand and Australia – two of the world's top rugby-playing countries – and Japan, the top rugby-playing nation in Asia.

Auckland opened the scoring in their match against Japan with a converted try in the first few minutes. The Kiwis then upped the pace and simply outclassed the Japanese in all aspects of the game, winning line-outs and executing superb "scissors" maneuvers to cut through the Japanese defense time and again.

The second match, between New South Wales Rugby Union and Thailand, was another one-sided affair, though the hosts did well to contain several prolonged attacks by the Aussies, and when opportunity presented itself they returned the compliment with fine breaks of their own, at times stretching the Aussie defense.

Although outclassed, Thailand made the most of the kicking duels and marched upfield the easy way throughout the second half, though the Aussie backline recovered well each time and stopped the hosts from scoring.

Aussie fullback D Kehoe was active at both ends of the field, scoring four tries of his own and converting all 10 tries by the New South Wales squad.

At the event were NSW-RU Chairman Dilip Kumar, ARU

80-80 tourney shows rugby at its finest



Oof! The Japanese, in red, drive against Auckland, above, while below Auckland begin one of many runs for the try-line.



Chairman Ken Baguley, and legendary Australian coach Bob Dwyer, who coached the Australian national side to their first Rugby World Cup victory in 1991.

Baguley explained to the *Gazette* that 80-80 rugby is already popular in New Zealand, the birthplace of the sport, where some 200 clubs compete in the full 15-a-side game.

Dwyer said that, in Australia, 80-80 rugby is only just starting to gain popularity, but he expects the game to expand at a great rate.

"The expansion of rugby in Asia has been limited to a large degree by the fact that those countries don't have players big enough at top-level rugby. [80-80]

allows the smaller guys to play at the top level.

"It can certainly produce a quick form of play. The smaller guys ought to be a bit more nimble and a bit quicker [than larger players], making it an attractive game to play and to watch," he said.



Flying high: Thailand win a line-out against New South Wales.

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THE SAD SONG OF FRANK JR

Like celebrities, exceptional grape varieties occasionally find themselves overshadowed by more famous relatives.

Consider the case of Cabernet Franc, a variety that makes wonderfully perfumed wines of finesse and balance. It is a relative of Cabernet Sauvignon, the most famous of red grapes. If Cabernet Sauvignon were Frank Sinatra, Cabernet Franc would be Frank Sinatra, Jr.

Cabernet Franc can make exceptionally elegant red wine and features prominently in the blend used by Cheval-Blanc, one of the most famous Bordeaux estates.

Despite Cabernet Franc's brilliance it is nevertheless commonly used as a mere blending component; sacrificed to the gods of amalgamation so that Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot can share top bill.

This is a pity, for, like Frank Jr, Cabernet Franc is every bit as great as Cabernet Sauvignon. Some even whisper

that it is maybe a little better. It's difficult to know, because one does not run across a lot of Cabernet Franc varietal wine, while Cabernet Sauvignon is everywhere.

In France's Loire Valley Cabernet Franc makes a delicious light red wine called Chinon. One still finds a lot of it grown in Northeastern Italy, where it goes by the unremarkable stage name of Bordo.

California grows a fair amount of Cabernet Franc but, in a mimicry of Bordeaux, usually blends it with Cabernet Sauvignon.

Caymus, in Napa Valley, used to make an amazing varietal Cabernet Franc that you could only buy at the winery. But around 1996 they began blending it with Cabernet Sauvignon when they realized

WINE



By Steven Roberto

how much more money they could get if they double-billed junior with dad.

Today, Washington State is fast becoming Cabernet Franc's biggest fan in the New World because the variety is able to tolerate the long Pacific Northwest winter. One even finds it in the mountains of Idaho.

Good examples come from New Zealand but are nonetheless overshadowed by plantings of the more famous ... Cabernet Sauvignon.

As a varietal wine Cabernet Franc displays an intriguing and pronounced aroma that is reminiscent of dried flowers. Its flavor includes red current and cranberry and with age it takes on an herbal note that reminds me of rhubarb.

Cabernet Franc has softer tannins

and less weight than Cabernet Sauvignon and ages faster, which means you can enjoy it earlier.

As a wine, Cabernet Franc is perfect for al fresco meals and picnics. It adores Italian cuisine (must be the Sinatra bloodline) yet is serious enough to stand up to more robust foods.

I make it a point to seek out the under-appreciated single-varietal Cabernet Francs of the world and recommend you do, too.

Cabernet Franc wines are also usually less expensive than those of its famous parent and, if nothing else, knowing Cabernet Franc's character helps one understand better the nuances of blended wines like Bordeaux.

Steven Roberto is a winemaker and restaurant consultant from California. He is the Managing Director of enVision Phuket, a Phuket-based wine importer and consultant. Email: stevenroberto@lycos.com.

Just lie back and think of England

People wishing to have fun in Phuket should take a deep breath before going to cdnn.info/alert/w050102/w050102 where readers can check out the rather paranoid British government take on Thailand.

One of the first things single males do when arriving in Phuket is to hire a bike. Is it a good idea? Not according to the site. "Riding a motorcycle or scooter in Thailand can be dangerous. An average of five people an hour die in motorcycle accidents."

Yeah, but guys want to look good on a juicy great chopper, right? Impossible here. "The motorcycles or scooters available for hire in beach resorts are usually mopeds of less than 50cc."

OUTSIDE IN

By Lis Kinswoman

Lis Kinswoman conducts her weekly guide of the bizarre and stupid on the Internet, as they pertain to Phuket. Please note that Lis, that soul of honesty, quotes precisely, so the quirky English herein is not her responsibility.

Well what if I want to go sailing? No, no, no; you just don't understand. "There have been attacks against ships in and around Thailand's waters."

Okay, I'll stay close to the shore and have a nice swim then. "Strong riptides have resulted in a number of drownings in several areas including Phuket, Koh Chang, Hua Hin/Cha-am and Pattaya."

All right, all right. I'll paddle! "Jellyfish can swim close to the shore, particularly during the rainy season from May to October. Their sting can be fatal."

Cripes, is there anything I can do? What about helping the local economy and hiring a jumbo for an hour? "Elephant riding can be dangerous, and has been the

cause of several serious accidents and at least one recent death of a British citizen."

Grrr. Seeing that I can't ride a chopper, sail, swim, paddle or even pamper a pachyderm without seriously risking my precious British neck, I think I'll get a job and help locals learn English. Can I? Please, pretty please?

"You need a work permit, which is difficult to obtain, for legal employment in Thailand." Yes, yes, but surely there's a job going? "The process to obtain a work permit is long and bureaucratic." Oh hell, just forget it.

Male fantasy #3,021 and counting: We've already looked at the startling occurrence of male menopause on Phuket from

the outside in. Here's one from inside out.

"At the [Safari] bar I met somebody, I hadn't seen for years. Shanoo! Harry!

"That was quiet a surprise! The last time I had seen Shanoo was on a rooftop in Hanoi, clinging to his machine-gun only seconds before the house was coming down. We were taking heavy shelling by the Commies and it was all anarchy.

"When the roof finally crashed, I lost my conscience. Later I awoke in the middle of a rice paddy with a young woman bending over me, but that's another story ... I never expected to see Shanoo again ...

"Down at Rio Bravo it was Creedence Clearwater time, which suited us fine. This was the music we used to fire our adrenaline on, when we were young and did what young men had to do.

"Do you still drink Jack Daniels? Shanoo asked. I admitted that I did. So we ordered a bottle and when it was gone, we ordered another one. And another one. At one time we discussed whether each other still could make a hundred [push ups] and I recall Shanoo on the floor

with two girls sitting on his back, doing push-ups..." - trv.net/trv98/nightlife/moon2.htm

Bending the rules: Back to earth at the sometimes aloof but wry kiasia.org/download/competitiveness/PhuketCase site. "There may be something of a mutual standoff with respect to the environment - local officials claim that beach owners and users do not always follow the rules, while the latter in turn claim that the local government does not always enforce the rules..."

"The Kata-Karon Municipality seems the most promising in terms of ... sustainable environment. The mayor does not want the environment to deteriorate to the extent of Patong. The beach is cleaner and less crowded, and while there is still 'bar life' it does not seem to have the same 'rhythm' as Patong."

Inspired nuttiness: There are some people out there on the Net who are unfathomable. One such dude writes the following at killdevilhill.com/waldenpondchat/read.php?f=55&i in his diary on Phuket. Is it genius or madness?

"Butterflies never look unhappy. Butterfly is not a metaphor here, I mean literally butterflies... Thai pop-music is incredibly sad for the most part (while it could be said that Korean music is just self-pitying.)

"Thai videos always depict some poor princess crying her eyes out while standing in a down-pour of rain in the middle of a road in the middle of nowhere..."

"Never seen a wild scorpion in Thailand (seen many is S/W U.S and India), though there are no shortages of them on the food carts. Must be 'farm-raised'... Bars in Asia are always a lot more fun with actual Asians in them. Airport bars are never really 'fun', just necessary."

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UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

On the menu

with
Andy Johnstone

Noon

High Noon indeed, except that it is 1:15 pm when we arrive at this new-ish Japanese restaurant, and it's such a bright day that it seems as if the Sun is touching the Earth.

My companion for this lunchtime sortie into an island eatery is a veteran of some 10 years in Japan; her knowledge of Japanese cuisine knocks mine into a cocked hat, and I defer to her expertise during lunch.

In other words, I do most of the eating while she does the talking.

"Impressive," is her first word as we enter the restaurant, which is at the front of the Surin Beach Resort on, surprisingly, Surin Beach. "This is just like walking into a restaurant in Tokyo."

The "Noon" logo – it is, obviously, the Japanese character for midday – is everywhere in stark red on black. No frivolous adornments or attempts to homogenize the restaurant into an amalgam of Asia. And, almost best of all, authentic Japanese pop music ... of the 1960s.

The song playing as we walked in almost made us ignore our wonderfully pleasant host, restaurant manager Jaron Boonchu. It was a Japanese version of *Love is a Many-Splendored Thing*, itself a song from the movie set in Hong Kong at the outbreak of the Korean War. Actually, that is fairly pan-Asian.

Full marks to Noon for getting the style and atmosphere right, but can they deliver the goods elsewhere – especially the element that really gets bums on seats: the food?

First, a little more foreplay before the main event. It is lunchtime and decidedly warm so some booze is in order. Saké? Oh no, not yet, I am instructed. Beer first.

I am not sure if Asahi Dry is the only Japanese lager avail-

able in Thailand, but it is the only Japanese beer I have seen on a menu in Phuket.

Nowhere appears to stock Kirin or Sapporo, and while Asahi is a fine tippie it would be nice to have an alternative Japanese beer in a Japanese restaurant.

Down to the food, and first up is salmon. A rather large salmon head, to be precise, which has been boiled in soy sauce and mirin.

I am not as quick off the mark as my companion, who first distracts me by making appreciative noises about the quality and accuracy of the daily specials on the blackboards before setting her chopsticks alight with the speed with which she attacks the salmon's cheeks. It is where the

best flesh is, after all. I attack the head from the rear.

All the while, the two chefs are placidly – but with a look of intense concentration that would shame a samurai – preparing more courses for us. They don't even flinch as we – turning Japanese – snap away behind the counter as they work.

The food is flying fast and furious to us now, next to arrive being *gyoza*, small-pan-fried batter dumplings stuffed with minced pork and cabbage. Best eaten piping hot, the golden-brown egg batter has a texture so rich as to resemble a soufflé on the inside while delectably crisp outside.

Saké arrives now, and as is appropriate, it is warm. We save

the best and therefore chilled saké for the *sushi*.

An *obento*, literally a lunchbox, is brought out next, served in a lacquered case. A traditional *obento* consists of a mixture of fish and meat dishes with pickled and cooked veggies on the side and we are not disappointed.

It is often said that an essential skill of a Japanese housewife – a respected position, one should note – is to produce an appealing *obento*.

Japanese housewives had better look to their laurels, as the chaps at Noon know their stuff.

With scarcely a moment to congratulate the chefs – and K. Jaron – for spoiling us rotten and managing such a fine little restaurant, a tray of *sushi* is brought out.

Slivers of red snapper, salmon and chilled – not frozen – tuna sit atop miniature blocks of rice. Octopus, cockles, shrimp, barbecued eel, shrimp roe and salmon roe are similarly presented and I merrily launch into a piece of salmon.

My companion whispers that it is *de rigeur* to eat the fish according to color and therefore descending delicacy of flavor: snapper, then salmon and finally tuna.

Another golden rule broken, and not to be the last of the day, but I am forgiven for my ignorance – traditionally, one eats *sushi* with the fingers, not chopsticks. This tradition is still maintained in the intimate confines of the home.

Everything is as fresh as can be. There is not a hint of once-frozen fish anywhere.

K. Jaron explains that the salmon is flown in from Norway, and I notice that this isn't the average farmed stuff, either. The grain of the salmon is fairly wide with healthy streaks of fat running through it, the sign of a good fish. There were no dyes mixed in with this fellow's feed.

I eat the octopus, which is not my favorite creature, admittedly washed down with a slug of chilled saké.

Even this is divine and I sense an addiction to Japanese food coming on, helped in no small part by the *wasabi*.

K. Jaron brings us the Noon special *sushi*, an uncomplicated collection of small balls rather than blocks of rice with, again, delicate toppings of snapper and salmon. It almost looks like dim sum, but the taste is 100% Japanese.

Finally, and very full, we bid farewell to Noon with the promise to return. It appears that Noon has its fair share of returning diners, drawn from hotels in Phuket both near and far.

My companion even says that Noon will impress guests she expects to visit her from Japan. Praise indeed.

Noon Japanese restaurant. 106/27 Soi Surin, Surin Beach, Phuket. Tel: 09-7301863. Open 3 pm to 11 pm daily.



Left *obento*, and below, *sushi* how it should be: delectable. Right, succulent *gyoza* – pan-fried batter dumplings stuffed with minced pork and cabbage.



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The house has vaulted and stepped ceilings, ornate cornices, timber trims and designer window treatments, and has both ceiling fans and air conditioning.

The spacious entry has a two-car garage under the main roof and soaring glass walls adjoining an impressive front door.

The ground level includes the elegant living room with a double-height ceiling, a formal



dining room, and an enormous "country style" kitchen, with a center island featuring cook top, exhaust hood, and breakfast bar.

There is ample storage with overhead and under-counter cabinets in timber, glass and granite, a built-in microwave, TV, and two-door fridge-freezer.

Beside the kitchen is a laundry room and maid's quarters. Also on this level is a bedroom and bathroom with a private terrace leading into the garden and an office/study.

A splendid timber staircase



curves up to the second level and two bedrooms and sumptuous bathrooms, one with a large corner tub. The bedrooms have private balconies overlooking the gardens, and walk-through wardrobes of crisp white-painted timber adjoin the en-suite bathrooms.

The gardens are lush, with foxtail palms, tropical plants, lawn and a fish/lotus pond, as well as a free-form 80sqm swimming pool and a pretty sala overlooking the lake beside the property.

Utilities include cable/UBC TV, three telephone connections, mains water supply and a water filtration system, solar water heater, three-phase electricity and a home security system. The property is fully fenced and has remote-control gates.

The central location of this home, just a short drive from the major shopping malls, Tesco, Big C and Central, two international standard hospitals, golf and country clubs, the British Curriculum International School and the airport, make it a property well worth considering.

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Construction Update

by Anongnat Sartpisut

The Chandara Resort and Spa is 95% complete and is on target to open in September. Resort General Manager John Gill says that he'd be happy with 50% occupancy by year's end.



Five-star Chandara set to open next month

PA KHLOK: Work on the 300-million baht Chandara Resort and Spa project on 26-rai along the shores of Ao Por is now 95% complete and is scheduled to open in September, say project developers Chandara Resort & Spa Company Ltd, a group of Bangkok-based Thai investors.

Resort General Manager John Gill told the *Gazette* that each unit is designed for privacy and to give guests a sense of "feeling at home", with private swimming pools and Jacuzzis, spacious terraces and kitchenettes.

Four types of units will be available: 22 studio units of 66 square meters each, seven duplex villas, 14 one-bedroom villas and eight two-bedroom pool villas.

Room rates, which include breakfast, will range from US \$350 (14,000 baht) a night for studio units to US\$1,050 (42,000 baht) a night for the two-bedroom villas.

Each villa will feature a large bathroom with dressing area, air conditioning and fans, a safe, tea- and coffee-making facilities and international direct-dial phone lines.

Hotel services and facilities will include The Beach Café, open all day and offering both Thai and international cuisine and with views overlooking Rhino Is-



One of the resort's already complete high-class Pool Villas.

land, and the Eclipse Restaurant, open for dinner and offering modern cuisine with Mediterranean and Pacific influences.

Other facilities will include a spa, beauty salon, swimming pool, room service, fitness center, meeting rooms, yacht and boat charter service, limousine and car hire desk, laundry and dry cleaning service. Wireless Internet access will be available in all rooms and public areas.

Mr Gill said the project is targeting long-stay guests from such European countries as Britain, Italy, Switzerland and Scandinavia.

Given the current state of tourism in Phuket, Mr. Gill said he would be "very satisfied" with a 50% occupancy rate for the new resort by year's end.

For more information please contact visit the resort at 99/1 Moo 6, Baan Ao Por, Pa Khlok, Thalung or contact Tel: 076-317800; Fax: 076-317850; Email: info@chandara-resort.com; Website: www.chandara-resort.com

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Decor

by Ananya Hongsa-ngiam

Material World

Let's face it, good bedding is one of life's essentials. Poor quality sheets and covers equal bad sleep, which in turn equals unhappy days. Where are the best bed covers to be found in Phuket? Here are some suggestions.

At the top end, and for those who like the soft touch of silk while they sleep, try Jim Thompson on the first floor of Central Festival Phuket for covers, sheets, pillow cases and cushion covers. Jim Thompson also has outlets at Canal Village, Laguna, and Kata Noi. Tel: 076-249615 at Central.

Bed & Bath Phuket deals in sheets, duvets and bed covers made from either 100% cotton or cotton-polyester mix, as well as sateen. Fabric weave ranges from 180 to 220 "thread count". Prices for sheets, depending on sizes and thread counts, range between 1,020 to 2,250 baht. For more information contact K. Eate at Bed & Bath 72/3 Srisoontorn Rd, Baan Manik, Thalang. Tel: 04-8436562.

Pasaya uses raw materials such as CEO Alpha and Sofin from Japan to make bed sheets for its "Amante Collection" which comes in two styles.

Fabrics are treated to guard against fungus and bacteria in order to ensure good health while sleeping. Pasaya's products cost between 3,400 and 9,000 baht a set, including sheets and covers. Pillow cases retail between 500 to 900 baht. Available at Home Pro and Index Living Mall.



Jim Thompson doesn't deal only in silk shirts and ties. Beautiful bed covers like this (above) are available at the Jim Thompson outlet at Central Festival Phuket.



Bed & Bath uses sateen to create the softest results (left).



Pasaya treats its fabrics (right) to ensure that you have a good and healthy night's sleep.

NOTE: Following the recent Decor article about wine glasses, the *Gazette* has been asked to point out that T-positif glasses are available not only in Bangkok but also may be seen and bought from Mom Tri's Boathouse and Villa Royale in Kata. Large orders may be placed through either of these places.

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Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd
(opp. 7-Eleven), Patong.

Chaofa (East) Rd (opp. Big-One
Supermarket), Phuket Town.

Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

Unsoiled record breakers

As a child of the '60s in Britain, I grew up with the best that the BBC had to offer in the way of children's TV programs.

After *Blue Peter*, my favorite program to come home to after school was probably *Record Breakers*. It was hosted by a polite, tap-dancing, trumpet-playing gentleman who is no longer with us, Roy Castle.

I suppose one of the reasons I remember the program so vividly is that they used to break records that were real; records that you could actually imagine your mum or dad being able to break.

Bubblegum blowing, the most people in a Mini car, the fastest, strongest, and so on. Stuff like that.

It's a little different from the American show on UBC, hosted by that berk in the blue jacket. I really can't imagine why that program could possibly be on the air.

What kind of records are these? They've found a bloke who has the enviable ability to shoot milk out of his eye, so he sets the "milk shooting out of eye" distance record of 54 inches or whatever. Whoopidoo.

Then you get people popping their eyeballs out as far as they can, followed by a 70-year-old Asian gentleman putting molten lead in his mouth for fun. It should probably be called *Guinness Book of World Freaks* or something a little more apt.

So how about a few gardening records?

The woman last week with the most baby spider plants got me thinking about them. There are hundreds of gardening records – some of them even relevant to us in Phuket.

Deepest Root: The greatest reported depth that roots have penetrated has been calculated at 120 meters, for a wild fig tree at Echo Caves, near Ohrigstad, Transvaal, South Africa.

The common fig is a member of the genus *figus*, which we had a look at a few weeks ago.

Other family members are the banyan tree and the strangling fig.

Fastest-Growing Plant: This is one we do have here. Some species of the 45 genera of bamboo have been found to grow at up to 91cm a day, or at a rate of 0.00003 kilometers an hour.

Bamboo grows one third faster than the fastest growing tree. Some species can grow up to one meter per day. If you were really bored, you could almost watch it grow. A couple of Heinekens first would probably help.

Greatest Tree Girth: A European chestnut (*castanea sativa*), known as "The Tree of a Hundred Horses", on Mount Etna in Sicily, had a circumference of 57.9 meters when measured in 1780. Unfortunately, the tree has now split into three separate parts, so it doesn't really count any more.

Largest Garden: The largest garden is arguably that created by Andre Le Nôtre at Versailles, France, in the late 17th century, for King Louis XIV. Created in what had been a muddy swamp, the garden covers more than 15,000 acres (37,500 rai). Puts my 20 square meters to shame a bit.

Largest Flower: The orange,

brown, and white parasite (*raflesia arnoldi*) has the largest flowers. These attach themselves to the cissus vines of the jungles of Southeast Asia. They measure up to 91cm across, weighing up to 11kg. The nearest they get to Phuket, as far as I'm aware, is Mount Kinabalu in East Malaysia, although there is a close relative to be found in Khao Sok National Park in Phang Nga.

Largest Seed: The largest seed in the world is that of the giant

fan palm (*lodoicea maldivica*), commonly known as the double coconut, or coco de mer, which we're bound to have here.

The single-seed fruit weighs up to 20 kilograms and can take 10 years to develop.

Smallest Seeds: This is one we have in abundance in Phuket – the smallest seeds in the world are those of epiphytic orchids. There are around 992.25 million separate seeds to the gram.

Orchids form the world's largest family of plants, and grow

on every continent except Antarctica.

Largest Undivided Leaf: One for us again! The largest undivided leaf is that of *alocasia macrorrhiza* (Elephant's Ear), originally from Sabah, Malaysia. A specimen found in 1966 was 3.02 meters long, 1.92 meters wide, and had a surface area of 3.17 square meters.

Largest Tree Canopy: The tree canopy of the great banyan (*Ficus benghalensis*), in the Indian Botanical Garden, Calcutta, covers an area of 1.2 hectares, or 7½ rai.

It has 1,775 prop or supporting roots, a circumference of 412 meters, and dates back to 1787. Now that's a tree.

Largest Fruit Collection: Brogdale, (www.brogdale.org) near Faversham, Kent, UK, has more than 4,500 fruit trees including 2,300 apple trees and 400 pear trees, making it the largest fruit collection in the world. I bet they don't have any durians though.

All right, some of these records may be a bit sad, but at least there's no bubblegum coming out of nostrils, or buckets of water hanging from nails through people's arms.

I think Roy Castle would have approved.



PARDON? It's big. It's green. It's the *alocasia macrorrhiza*, otherwise known as the elephant's ear, the largest undivided leaf in the world and there could be one near you!

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Property Gazette

Properties For Sale

4 + 2 BEDROOM HOUSE IN KAMALA



An excellent 6-bedroom house for sale near Phuket FantaSea entertainment center in Kamala, 1.5 km from the beach. The house is located in a quiet and safe area, near a lake. There are 4 spacious bedrooms on the 1st floor and 2 medium-sized bedrooms on the ground floor, all with en-suite bathroom, air conditioner and ceiling fan. European & Thai kitchen, fully equipped. Mature garden with outdoor Jacuzzi, own water supply, hot water supplied by solar heating system. The house comes fully furnished. For more details please contact Franz Brun in Kamala. Asking price: only 18 million baht, negotiable. Please call for more information. Tel: 076-279075, 01-476-1415. Email: fbrun@loxinfo.co.th

RAWAI CONDOS

with sea view. 27, 54 and 81sqm. Priced from 350,000 baht. Financing for 3 years available. Foreign freehold. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip_5@hotmail.com

2-STORY HOUSE

Selling 140sqm townhouse for 1.2 million baht. Price includes owning company and financing for 3 years. 400m from the beach. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip_5@hotmail.com

PHANG NGA LAND

A 3.2-rai seaview plot on Haad Tub Tawan Rd, north end of Bang Sak Beach; 120m to the beach road & power. 68m of driveway, front 75m; 18km south of Takuapa. 75km to Phuket International Airport. Tel: 01-8947644.

CHALONG LAND – FULL SEA VIEW



A beautiful plot of land with spectacular sea views over Chalong Bay. Hillside land containing 2 plots with a total of about 2,920sqm (1-rai, 3 ngan, 30 square wah). It is located at Soi Suksan 2, which is close to Chalong Circle. Land title: Nor Sor 3 Gor (2 pieces). Price: 16 million baht for the 2 plots. Please contact for info. Tel: 02-9490949, 01-8229605. Fax: 02-9490600. Email: thaican@asianet.co.th For details, see our website at: www.wysivvygthailand.com/Phuket_Land_for_Sale/home.html

LAND FOR SALE

on the bypass road. 27-rai, 180m wide. Please call for more information. Tel: 07-2670488.

GOLF COURSE LIVING

Fully-serviced, 1-rai lots in an exclusive, gated community. Please contact for information. Tel: 09-9725226. Email: bgbphuket@yahoo.com

LAND & HOUSES

I have many plots and houses (not new) for sale. If you are looking for land or a house, please contact me. I will give you a good price. Tel: 09-873-1019. Email: saovalakcat@yahoo.com

BANG TAO BEACH

124sqm & 240sqm furnished apartments, 1 minute from the beach. Asking 6.5 million baht and up. Tel: 06-2806624 or see our website at: www.bangtaobeachgardens.com

5-RAI IN CHALONG

Selling super project land ready to be built on, with water and electricity. Asking 2.1 million baht per rai. Be fast. Call Phuket Land Deals. Tel: 06-2670898.

LUXURY APARTMENTS



Bayview Palm Patong apartments, 180sqm each, with fantastic sea views, master bedrooms, en-suite bathrooms and whirlpool tubs. Guest bathroom, spacious lounge, American-style kitchen, large balcony, large shared gardens with swimming pool, car park. Only 5 left. Priced from 7.5 million baht. Please contact for information. Tel: 076-349-050, 09-2911112. Email: bayviewpalms@yahoo.com

NEW RAWAI VILLA

Land 400sqm, 2-bedroom, 144sqm house with 2 bathrooms, kitchen and living room. 400 meters from the beach. Asking 2.8 million baht. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip_5@hotmail.com

RAWAI LAND

1,030sqm plot, with fabulous mountain and jungle view, for sale. Asking 1.7 million baht. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-248626, 01-0808557. Email: admin@phuketdeafeagle.com

GOOD OPPORTUNITY

Fully furnished house, up to European standards, private and very safe, 340sqm, for sale at Land & Houses Park, Mantana Area. Asking 3.5 million baht. Negotiable. Contact K. Lec. Tel: 01-8950711.

BUNGALOW

New 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom bungalow for sale. Has hot & cold shower, 2 air-conditioning units, a lounge, dining room, kitchen, UBC, carport and land for a house or pool. Fantastic location, 5 minutes to Phuket City, 5 minutes to Chalong, 5 minutes to Cape Panwa, 2 minutes to the sea. Asking 3.4 million baht. For sale by owner. Contact K. Paul. Tel: 06-2833227.

NAI HARN LAND

3,000sqm for sale at 6.5 million baht. It has electricity, water and a wall around the land. Can be sold with a company title. No agent. Please call for information. Tel: 09-5944017.

DIRECT OWNER SALE

House + bungalow with Chanote title, Soi Nana Chart, Nai Harn. Asking 2.9 million baht. Please contact for more info. Tel: 04-844-8618. Email: pierotar@hotmail.com

PHUKET LAND DEALS

For the real deal, we cannot make land but we can close the best deal for you. More than 100 plots around the island. Call for information. Tel: 06-2670898.

FLAT 12-RAI PLOT

Start a new project in Nai Harn; asking 2.8 million baht per rai. Please call Phuket Land Deals. Tel: 06-2670898.

2-RAI SEAVIEW IN

Rawai. Asking 3.5 million baht per rai, with Chanote title. A great investment. Please call Phuket Land Deals. Tel: 06-2670898.

SEAVIEW CHALONG

2-rai with Chanote title; asking 3.8 million baht per rai. Please call Phuket Land Deals. Tel: 06-2670898.

1.5-RAI IN KATA NOI

Beachfront plot with Chanote title, last lot ever. Asking 7.3 million baht per rai. Please call Phuket Land Deals. Tel: 06-2670898.

HOUSE FOR SALE

New house in Baan Manee-kram (between Chalong and Phuket City) with 440sqm of land, 250sqm + + of living area. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, phone, UBC, Chanote title. Price: 4.9 million baht (negotiable). Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-8670040, 07-8946438. Email: simoncree@hotmail.com

TOWNHOUSE IN ANUPHAS

On the main road in the heart of the city and near Central, a 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom, house with kitchen, furniture and water heater, in good condition. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-4691813. Email: annanoi@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

with 2 bedrooms, kitchen, lounge, dining room, 2 toilets, a garden, a swimming pool, Jacuzzi and a parking space in a very good area of Kamala. Asking 6 million baht. Possible financing for the right person. Tel: 06-952-5071. Email: paul@ukthai.fsnet.co.uk

APARTMENT

for sale. Located at Surin/Bang Tao beach, 1 year old, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, fully furnished. Please contact for more info. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

KATA LAND

800m to the beach. Asking 1 million baht. Please call for more info. Tel: 01-0918908. Email: katabeachestate@hotmail.com

LAND FOR SALE

A 2-rai plot in Mission Hills. Please call for more details. Tel: 01-8946686.

1-RAI IN CHALONG

Relaxing, flat land with Chanote title for sale. Asking 2.4 million baht per rai. Call Phuket Land Deals. Tel: 06-2670898.

HOUSE FOR SALE

Phuket Pride house located on hillside, fully furnished, with air conditioner. Please call for more information. Tel: 09-4736886.

PATONG CONDOS

Condos with a sea view, 28 and 56sqm for sale. Priced from 650,000 baht. Near bank and post office. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip_5@hotmail.com

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This two bedroom townhouse condo is priced to sell at only 4.9 million baht. With 2 bathrooms and a kitchen that opens to the living room/dining room area, you will be very happy living at the Boat Lagoon, where you can dock your boat right at your door. Priced below market value, this will sell fast! Call now!

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Property Gazette

LAND FOR SALE

Land in the Thalung area; asking 1.5 million per rai. Land in Nai Yang, on the hill; asking 2.9 million per rai. Please contact Khun Pat. Tel: 06-6269899.

CHEAP LAND

near Laguna. 10-40 rai of lake-view land. 1.1 million baht per rai. Will sell the lot at 1 million baht per rai. Please contact for more info. Tel: 06-952-0772. Email: kamala@phuket.ksc.co.th

FOR QUICK SALE

A single-story house with 3 bedrooms and 1 bathroom for sale in Land & Houses Park area. Asking only 1.9 million baht. Tel: 09-7292313.

BARGAIN HOUSE

for sale in Kathu. Land and a house with 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, air conditioning and a garden, 5 minutes to Patong. Asking 2.9 million baht. Also available, a 2-rai plot in Phang Nga. Asking 1 million baht. For house and both plots, 3.7 million baht. Tel: 01-3074710. Email: tongdesigner@hotmail.com

BARGAIN

New house located in a small, private development, rural setting in Kathu. Convenient access to golf courses and supermarkets, 9 minutes to Patong. A 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom bungalow with a large living room, kitchen-dining room, off-road parking and verandahs. Land approximately 340sqm. Asking 3.5 million baht. Tel: 076-321-954, 04-8439579. Fax: 076-323421. Email: somsrjenner@lycos.com

SEA VIEW PLOTS

For sale: 4.5 rai with a sea view in Bang-Tao and 8 rai near the beach; asking 3.9 million baht per rai. In Layan, plots from 5 rai to 30 rai for sale; asking 2.9 million baht per rai. Tel: 01-7884488.

AO MAKAM 30 RAI

with 360-degree sea view. Asking 2.6 million baht per rai, with Chanote. Buy it and get rich. Tel: 09-6525664.

2- & 1-RAI PLOTS

A limited number of plots for sale from only 1.95 million baht per rai. Fully-serviced plots in Mission Heights development include underground electricity, located 10 minutes via highway to airport, 20 minutes from Central and Tesco. Please call for more info. Tel: 01-2712825.

DEVELOPMENT LAND

Beautiful 6-rai plot of land overlooking exclusive Mission Hills golf course available for only 11 million baht. An excellent investment and development opportunity. Chanote title. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-2712825.

CONDOMINIUM

for sale. 28.4sqm condominium at Muang Thong Thani close to IMPACT Arena Exhibition Center, Expressway entrance, 20 minutes to Don Muang (Bangkok International) Airport. Has swimming pool, tennis courts, etc. Asking 210,000 baht. Tel: 076-280-133, 01-3265872. Email: thaisproducts@hotmail.com

AO POR 12-RAI

Like living in a painting of a stunning sea view? Asking just 2.2 million baht per rai, with Chanote. Has electricity, road, water. Last plot selling at this price. Tel: 01-5376866.

Properties For Rent

BUNGALOW FOR RENT

Fully-furnished bungalow with three bedrooms, air conditioning and a phone line, in a prime location, in the Chalong area. Asking 22,000 baht a month. Please call for details. Tel: 01-6064279.

HOUSE FOR RENT

Kathu. 3-bedroom, furnished house for 20,000 baht per month. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-202585, 09-1968449.

NICE HOUSE IN NAI YANG

Furnished, 2 airconditioned bedrooms, 1 bathroom with hot water, UBC, phone line. 9,500 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-650-6221. Email: ek_phuket@hotmail.com

KATA HILL HOUSE FOR RENT

A three-bedroom, furnished house with phone line, ADSL and UBC is available to rent for 23,000 baht per month. Please call between 7 pm and 10 pm. Tel: 076-216036, 01-6062827. Email: nij017@hotmail.com

HAUS VILLA 3

Well-furnished 2-bedroom villa for rent, with an air conditioner, living room, built-in kitchen, 2 bathrooms, car park and a little garden. Tel: 01-8590483. Tel/Fax: 076-284158.

BEACHFRONT

condo. Kalim, Patong, fully furnished to high standard, with 2 bedrooms, fitted kitchen, pool, and many facilities. Please call for more details. Tel: 01-8920038.

SUVIMOIL

Apartments. New, furnished rooms with air conditioner, key card, refrigerator and maid service, for 4,000 baht per month. Also, a shophouse available for a very low price. Tel: 01-6072489.

PATONG STUDIO

apartment for rent, 350m to the beach. Asking 6,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-474-0227. Email: chotip_5@hotmail.com

LAND FOR LONG-term rent.

119 sqw plot for long-term rent, located at Kwang Rd, just 4km to Phuket City and 6km to Chalong Bay. Asking just 2,500 baht per month. Please call for further information. Tel: 05-883-3470.

HOUSES FOR RENT

2 fully-furnished houses for rent in a private area of Kamala. With 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Please call for more details. Tel: 01-476-1640.

SHOPHOUSES

Brand new, commercial shophouses for rent in Patong. 3-story or single-story available, right on the beach road. No key money. Please contact Khun Bee for further details. Tel: 076-282594, 01-538-9869. Fax: 076-280148. Email: busybublebee@yahoo.com

4 NEW, DETACHED

houses rent or for sale at Pa Khlok. Each has 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms; in a quiet area with clubhouse and 24-hour security. Asking 13,000 baht per month, or selling for 1.94 million baht. Please call for more details. Tel: 06-690-0626.

LONG-TERM LEASE

New, fully-furnished house in Palai Green, with 2 air-conditioned bedrooms, hot shower, kitchen, living room, garage and beautiful garden. Located in a quiet area near Chalong Bay. Please call for more details. Tel: 01-8924311.

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Our office is situated at: 38/56 Nanai Road, Patong.
Email: gardenisland@csloxinfo.com

Do you have adequate insurance? Because we have Phuket covered.

WILL PAY CASH FOR CONDO

Looking for 1 room, max: 950,000 baht in Patong. I pay in euros also. Contact K. William. Tel: 06-1262571.

WANT SMALL PLOT

between 50 and 200 square wah in size. It could be almost anywhere but must have road frontage of at least 15 to 20 meters. Will pay up to 2 million baht. Please contact for more details. Tel: 01-8918689. Email: villathani@hotmail.com

SHOPHOUSES

wanted in busy areas like Kata, Karon, Patong or Kamala. Prefer single-story houses only. To rent or buy. Tel: 06-2688061.

SHOP SPACE

I am looking for shop space to rent in Patong. It must be empty. Tel: 04-6304243. Email: jurgen.hugli@gmail.com

WANTED TO RENT

House or bungalow required, fully furnished, for a month during September/October. Must be in good condition and have at least one bedroom. Quiet location preferred. Air conditioned and fully serviced. Around 15,000-20,000 baht. Send photo(s) please. Email: fp004i6616@blueyonder.co.uk

RAWAI LAND

I am looking for land in Rawai or Nai Harn, preferably with a sea view or mountain view. Tel: 09-1954005.

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FAIRLINE TARGA 52 (2003)



Twin 715 HP Volvo sports cruiser in as-new condition. Very well equipped. Must sell. Offers encouraged. US\$720,000. Please contact for more information. Malaysian Tel: +6012-297-1364, 06-267-4998. Email: simon.theseira@simpsonmarine.com For further details, please see our website at www.simpsonmarine.com

LIVEABOARD FOR SALE IN PHUKET

Liveaboard boat built in 2003. Length: 29.5m. Beam: 6.5m. Engines: 2x420hp. Speed: 12 knots. Nav: GPS & depth sounder. Dinghy: 4.75m + 40hp Yamaha engine. The upper deck features 6 double-bed cabins; the main deck has 10 double-bed cabins, 4 spacious toilets/showers. Compressors: 2 Bauer + cooler system. 43 dive tanks. Email: diveboatsale@yahoo.co.uk

DIVE SPEEDBOAT FOR SALE IN PHUKET

Speedboat, length 13m – custom made for diving – for sale in Phuket. Built in 2003. 2x200hp Yamaha engines. 30 dive tanks + 1 compressor. Takes 12 divers & 3 dive guides. Email: diveboatsale@yahoo.co.uk

SPEEDBOAT

for sale. Has fiberglass body, finished, 6 meters in length. Asking 140,000 baht, negotiable. Tel: 06-943174. Email: marco.moncini@email.it

LOAN OF BOAT

needed. I am a dedicated SOS volunteer working in Baan Nam Khem/Khao Lak (Phang Nga Province) for many months now. I specialize in finding and recovering tsunami dead, many of which have yet to be found. You may have read the article about me in the March 5, 2005 *Phuket Gazette* (page 12). For diving purposes I urgently need the loan of a small boat in reasonable condition. Please help; I can't operate without a boat. What I need is a lightweight boat, 12-14 feet, possibly neoprene (rubber with a V-hull type), or aluminum/fiberglass with flat bottom. I also need a small outboard engine about 10hp (not longtail). Tel: 01-4770206. Email: rwbandco@hotmail.com

ENGINE WANTED

Marine engine and gearbox wanted for 12-meter sloop. 40-80hp okay. Tel: 077-447-023, 01-0802178. Email: eastpier@samui.net

41-FOOT FIBERGLASS

cabin cruiser. 2x330hp Mercruisers (fully overhauled by manufacturer – 20 hours). All seats renewed. Sun deck, toilet, freshwater shower. Capacity: 22 + 3, ample for business or private use. Equipment for 10-12 divers (20-tank holder). Can be seen and tested at Koh Samui. Asking 3.5 million baht (70,000 euros/US\$84,000), negotiable. Contact Tel: 07-2836262. Email: jareden75@yahoo.fr

WANTED: HOBIE CAT

14-16ft or similar small Cat wanted, for less than 100,000 baht. Please contact with full details. Tel: 076-280088, 06-682-9705. Email: leighw7@hotmail.com

FISHING BOAT – USA

design with trailer, only one month old. Two secondhand 40hp Yamahas in perfect running condition. US design, suits 2 to 5 fishing comfortably with extendable Bimini when required. Price: 420,000 baht (negotiable). Tel: 09-9724805. Email: nervobe@hotmail.com

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Selected Brokerage Listings

Power	Sail
58 Ft 2003 DeFever Trawler, Perkins 2x225 Hp US\$799,000	92 Ft 1999 Ketch 2xMer Turbo 350 Hp US\$450,000
49 Ft 1991 Grand Banks, Cat 2x385 Hp US\$450,000	63 Ft 1993 Wooden Penisi Ketch, 1xIsuzu 115 Hp US\$65,000
48.5 1997 Warwick Cardinal 46 single x 51Hp US\$275,000	57 Ft 1996 Lagoon 57, Yanmar 2x45 Hp US\$950,000
46 Ft 67/98 Dutch Pilot, Def 2x140 Hp turbo US\$150,000	44 Ft 1976 Peterson 44, Yanmar 1x45 Hp US\$85,000
36 Ft 1994 Island Gypsy, Perkins 2x225 Hp US\$169,000	39 Ft 1996 Prout 39 Catamaran Volvo MD2030 US\$199,000

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NEW WOODEN BOAT

Takean Tong wooden boat in progress, to be finished October/November 2005. LOA: 24.5m. Beam: 5m. Twin 420hp Hinos. One gen set. 4.5 million baht without interior. Builder will build interior to your specs for additional cost. Please contact for more info. Tel: 01-0789397. Email: hpihemp@hotmail.com

JETBOAT

(Super toy) SeaRayder, Thai registration, built in 2000. New 135hp engine (no hours on it); can see the bill. 5 seats. In great condition and very fast – put it on your driveway and go to the water. A bargain at 430,000 baht, including trailer. Tel: 01-0823240, 01-5376866. Email: bigbhouda5@hotmail.com

WOODEN BOAT

Superbly-built, 4-year-old wooden boat with excellent stainless railings. Licensed for 150 pax – ideal for day trips or convert to liveaboard. 2 engines, 2 gen sets. First to see will buy. A bargain at 6 million baht. Please contact. Tel: 076-281526, 09-9720423. Fax: 076-281527. Email: dougi@divejohnsandy.com

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Island Job Mart



Molly Malones Irish Pub Patong Beach Phuket.

One of Phuket's busiest Pubs is now recruiting experienced & energetic people for the following positions.

- ☐ Pub Manager
- ☐ Chef
- ☐ Sous-Chef
- ☐ Chef De Partie
- ☐ Commis Chef
- ☐ Restaurant & Bar Supervisors
- ☐ Bartenders
- ☐ Waitress/Servers
- ☐ Accounting Staff
- ☐ Administration Staff
- ☐ Musicians/Bands

For all applications please contact
For Thai 076 292 590 For English 01 956 2640
or email mollymalones@loxinfo.co.th
or apply in person at Scruffy Murphy's
Irish Pub 5 Bangla Rd, Patong Beach
or mail to PO BOX 138 BOX No; 020 A.Muang Phuket 83000
All international & local applicants will be considered.



TRISARA

Phuket's leading 5-star international Resort and Spa & Residential Villa Development is currently searching for the following people our team for the expansion of our hotel and the coming season:

A 5-day working week and excellent benefits apply to all employees.

Spa & Salon

SPA DIRECTOR
Spa Supervisor/Trainer
Spa Therapists

Salon Beauticians
Spa Reception/Consultant
Spa Housekeeping Attendant

Trisara's Spa has set new standards in treatments and has quickly become renowned worldwide as one of the leading spas in Thailand. Previous experience is essential for all positions.

Front Office

Receptionist/
Guest Relations
Officer
Bell/Driver

Finance & Accounting

Restaurant Cashier Supervisor
Front Cashier Supervisor
Retail Shop Attendants

Housekeeping

Housekeeping Supervisor
Housekeeping Attendant
Houseman (driving license
is required)
Laundry Attendant

Food & Beverage

Western Chef
Cold Kitchen Chef
Demi Chef De Partie
F&B Attendant
Commis

Property Management

Mechanic
A/C Technician

Pool Attendant
Painter/Mason

Please send your resumé with a recent photo or apply in person to:

TRISARA

60/1 Moo 6 Srisoontorn Road, Cherg Talay, Thalang,
Phuket 83110, Tel: 076 310354 Fax: 076 310239 or via Email to: hr@trisara.com

HOUSEKEEPER – UK

Opportunity for a housekeeper to a bachelor (58 yrs) in the UK, on an initial 6-month contract. Duties include: domestic cleaning, cooking, washing and ironing, and driving. Hours are variable and must be flexible, but, in general, not over 35 hours per week. The ideal person will keep the home running smoothly and act as a host. Benefits: all travel between the UK and Thailand paid for. As the position is in a rural location, a car will be provided. An International Drivers' Licence is a must. This is an ideal opportunity for a person aged 30 to 40 to explore the UK and live in a country setting. Email me with your details and photograph. Interviews will be held in Bangkok in September. Salary, paid in UK Sterling, is open to discussion. Email: sandy2501@aol.com

HELP WANTED

Western male or female retiree wanted to do PR part time, afternoons and evenings. Must be honest, reliable and not an alcoholic. Please call for more information. Tel: 04-8479847.

THAI LADY WANTED

To form a duo for singing in a resort hotel. I am from England, ready to work; I play the keyboard, sing and have my own equipment. Please contact Tony for an audition. Karon. Tel: 01-4778744.

ADMIN SECRETARY POSITION

The core tasks are to coordinate the office paperwork and support the sales team. The key attribute is organization. Come work for a smart, reputable company. Please call for more information. Tel: 076-236 616, 01-8952206. Email: siamuk@loxinfo.co.th

CONCEPT ARTIST

wanted. Working with an interior designer to produce perspective/concept drawings and other sketches for an interior design company based on the bypass road. Salary: 20,000 baht + per month for the right person. Tel: 01-8937028. Fax: 076-254827. Email: andamanartifacts@hotmail.com

HUSBAND & WIFE

team. Husband and wife housekeeping team needed for a luxury house near Kok Kroi. The wife should have previous housekeeping experience, have a high standard of cleanliness and cooking, and speak good English. The husband should speak English, have a driving license, good knowledge of general house maintenance including pool and water systems and electrics, and good gardening sense. Live-in position and carries an excellent salary. Please call for more information. Tel: 06-6866166, 06-0999289.



DIVING ONLINE, a leading Internet provider of discount dive packages, is seeking qualified staff to join its team. Applications are being taken for **1 Japanese officer**. The position is based in Phuket and preferred candidates are expected to fill the following requirements:

- Male/Female
- Certified diver
- Working experience in Japanese diving industry
- Proficiency in written and spoken English
- Ability to translate from English into Japanese
- Good computer skills
- Service-minded and result-driven attitude
- Experience in e-commerce industry is a plus

Applications stating qualifications and experience, as well as expected remuneration and recent photo should be sent to:
info@save-money-diving.com

ACCOUNTANT

Fast-growing marine recreation company seeks a qualified accountant. Must have university accounting degree. Min 3 years' experience performing all accounting and administrative functions, including monthly VAT, withholding tax and social security reports, and general ledger entries. Duties will also include general administration and office management. Fax: 076-239559. Email: ftbrowsers@limestoneadventures.com

CREW WANTED

1 or 2 crew members needed on a 15-meter sloop. Depart in September to reach Cape Town for Xmas and visit points en route. Apply at: "Coconuts" 1/9 Ao Chalong Pier Rd. 8-10 pm daily. Please call. Tel: 09-2667514.

Looking for a job?

Still haven't found the perfect candidate?

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at www.phuketgazette.net/

Island Job Mart



President Solitaire
President Park



Grand President
Royal President

Executive Serviced Apartments

We are an established company operating deluxe 4- and 5-star executive serviced apartments in Bangkok. In our efforts to maintain our high standard of service to our clients and to adhere to the group's continuous growth, we are in urgent need of experienced and enthusiastic people who are looking for challenging positions in the hospitality industry.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Front Office

- Front office Manager
- Night Auditor
- Guest Service Agents
- Business Center Officer
- Telephone Operator

Administration

- Executive Assistant Manager
- Corporate Human Resources Manager
- Building Manager
- Assistant Purchasing Manager
- Secretary

Marketing

- Graphics Designer

Housekeeping

- Assistant Housekeeper
- Floor Supervisors
- Room Attendants

Food and Beverage

- Cost Controller
- Accountant
- Supervisor
- Restaurant Cashiers
- Hostess
- Waitress

Sales

- Sales Manager
- Assistant Sales Manager
- Assistant Manager, E-commerce
- Sales Executive/Sales Coordinator

Ananda Spa

- Director of Spa
- Manager of Spa
- Supervisor
- Sales Representative
- Massage Therapists

Engineering Department

- Chief Engineer
- Senior Technician
- Plumber
- Electrician/Mechanic



Applications for positions at the President Solitaire, Grand President, Royal President and President Park are to be sent to:
Human Resources Manager, Human Resources Department
7th Floor, Tower 2 Grand President Executive Serviced Apartments 14, 16 Sukhumvit Soi 11, Bangkok 10110
Tel : (662) 651-1200 ext. 3436, 3458 Fax : (662) 651-1261-2
E-mail: administration@presidentpark.com

Managed by CBRE

TaiLife

TaiLife is a new leisure company operating in Phuket. We now require staff for our new five-star fitness spa and restaurant opening in central Patong in November 2005.

F&B Manager

Duties

- Deputize for General Manager
- Set-up and ongoing management of restaurant and bar
- Recruitment/training/stock and cash controlling

Qualifications

- 28-40 years' old
- Minimum of 3 years' experience in a senior position
- Good computer skills
- Bachelor's degree plus excellent spoken and written English

Accountant

Duties

- Set-up accounts and administration systems
- Accounts/tax/reports/personnel records/ internal auditing/submissions to Tax Department

Qualifications

- 28-50 years' old
- Bachelor's degree in accounting
- Minimum of 3 years' experience in a senior position
- Hotel industry experience
- Good spoken and written English

Reception Sales

Duties

- Manager and 5 reception sales staff required
- Reception duties plus membership sales

Qualifications

- 23-35 years' old
- Minimum 1 year's experience in a high-class hotel or spa
- Bachelor's degree
- Excellent spoken English
- Energetic and enthusiastic personality
- Good appearance
- Good computer skills

Telephone K. Manida 07 049 0726
165 Rat-U-Thit 200 Pee Rd, Patong, Phuket, 83150.

COOK & DRIVER

Looking for 1 cook and 1 driver for location work in Rawaii. English-speaking skills required. Tel: 01-8933212. Email: scphuket@yahoo.com

SECRETARY & LAWYER

Looking for a legal secretary & lawyer, full-time or part-time in Phuket. Email: scphuket@yahoo.com



Office Manager

for long-term employment wanted!

Customer orientated, English & German language skills plus Office-PC experience required.

application to: holger@sea-bees.com

Sea Bees Diving, 1/3 Moo 9 Viset Road, Ao Chalong, Phuket

INTERNET CAFE

staff in Kamala. Thai female, 20-30 years old. English + computer skills. Live-in; salary according to skills. Tel: 076-279265, 09-4704478. Email: av58@phuket.ksc.co.th

URGENTLY REQUIRED

Live-in maid with previous experience of working with foreigners in a villa or in a hotel. Must be hard-working and reliable, able to communicate in English, and cook Western or Thai food. Call Khun Sim for more information. Tel: 076-316700.

ACCOUNTANT/AUDITOR NEEDED

Male or female, 25 years up - 3 years' experience in real estate or house management business

- Must know English
- Ready to start

Please send your CV, recent photo and expected salary by email to: violetapple@loxinfo.co.th or contact for details. Tel: 076-281273. Fax: 076-281273.

2 DATA ENTRY

staff. Work from home. Two full-time positions. Must have own computer and Internet connection. MS Word and Excel. 15,000 baht per month for fast workers. Please email to: opholdings@yahoo.com for more information.

BAKER AND DRIVER

wanted. Khun Woody's Bakery seeks two new associates. Thai nationals only, please.

(1) BAKER: Excellent cooking skills required. College degree helpful. We will teach you to bake extraordinary American-style goodies.

(2) DRIVER/DELIVERY person who can help with other jobs as needed. Must be a slow, safe, reliable driver with valid license. Tel: 076-340066, 09-7298665. Email: woody@khunwoody.com

RESTAURANT STAFF

English-speaking Thai staff needed to work in Nai Ham. Three positions available: Assistant Manager with experience; Chief Cook for Thai and Western food; Waiter/Waitress with or without experience. Please contact Khun Nan for more info. Tel: 01-6532122, 04-0585757. Email: proudly_nicha@yahoo.com

KATA INTERNET

Thai female wanted for reception duties at an Internet cafe. Must speak English. A 6-day work week. A good salary is offered. Tel: 076-284042, 04-0635773. Email: johnnymc21@hotmail.com

THAI ADMINISTRATOR for a school. Must have good English. Please contact for more information. Fax: 076-248976. Email: info@kajonkiet.com

TEACHERS

required. Math, Science, English- and German-language teachers needed. Please call for more information. Tel: 076-282232, 01-9794140.

SPA MANAGER

We are looking for a Spa Manager and female Receptionist. Nationality not important. Please call for more information. Tel: 04-8478352.

Island Job Mart



Sheraton Krabi Beach Resort is the only international hotel chain in Krabi, with 246 rooms, including 30 "Zen" rooms and 6 executive suites. The resort also offers 5 food & beverage outlets, a gym, a spa, water sports, two meeting rooms and space for outdoor activities to accommodate up to 1,000 people. We are inviting suitably-qualified, local candidates for the following positions:

Front Office Manager

Qualifications:

- Male or female
- Thai nationality
- Minimum 2 years' experience in the same position (in a 5-star hotel will be an advantage)
- Fluent English (writing, reading, speaking)
- Project-management skills, negotiation skills, organization & time-management skills
- Good computer skills
- Business acumen, guest focus
- Problem-solving skills with effective complaint handling

Guest Service Agent (GSA)

Qualifications:

- Male or female, not over 25 years old
- Bachelor's degree in hospitality preferred
- Fluent English
- Pleasant personality with good interpersonal skills
- Service oriented



Interested persons are invited to send a detailed resumé, qualifications and salary expectations to:

Sheraton Krabi Beach Resort
155 Moo 2 T. Nongthale, Muang, Krabi, 81000.
Telephone: 075-628000 ext. 1500 Fax: 075-628038
Email: witoon.pinpimai@sheraton.com



Administrative Officer

Ocean Estates International is looking for an active and experienced individual to expand our dynamic team. Applicants must possess the following qualifications:

- ▲ Good command of English and computer literate, (MS Office, etc.)
- ▲ Excellent interpersonal and multi-tasking skills
- ▲ Friendly, service-minded and capable of handling changing environment
- ▲ Familiar with basic accounting principles

Interested persons should send their CV by email, addressed to Sandra O' Neill, Area Manager Asia, Ocean Estates International (Phuket Office): 382/76 Moo 1, Cherrng Talay, Thalang, Phuket, 83110. Email: sandra.oneill@ocean-estates.com

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

Our client, Puravarna Resort, is looking for senior accountant/administrative assistant with at least 3 years' experience. Must be energetic and have a good attitude. Salary: 17-40,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-263737, 01-5354108. Fax: 076-224-113. Email: recruitment@bowentraining.com

BOAT CAPTAIN

Part/full-time shore boat captain needed for small fleet of excursion vessels (daytrip and/or live-aboard); to be responsible for scheduled maintenance, quick turnarounds. Mechanical or electrical background required. Pls contact. Tel: 01-8927847. Email: holiday@liveaboard-thailand.com

Employment Wanted

SALES AND MARKETING DIRECTOR

An International Sales and Marketing Director (40) is looking for a new challenge. Great experience in building and leading efficient teams with 'Must Win' attitudes and: - Working in developing countries - Building up new branches or subsidiaries - Implementing channel strategies - Introduction/establishment of new products - Working in start-up situations, and - Developing new markets. I am a team player with strong ability to motivate and develop people. I speak English and German, and have working experience in Asia and Europe. Email: muenchen1@gmx.net

KEYBOARD VOCALIST

Seeking work in a hotel or resort. English, likes to sing ballad music; ideal for a hotel restaurant. 44 Karon, Patong. Call Tony. Tel: 01-4778744.

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Articles for Sale

FAX MACHINES, ETC

For sale: 2 fax machines, one new; exercise bike and stepper; quality drapes; aquarium; luxury air-conditioning system and console for back of Toyota pickup. Tel: 01-8924804.

Business Opportunities

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BARS FOR LEASE

15 beer bars for lease near Simon Entertainment on Soi Bangla, next to Tiger Discotheque. 3 + 3-year contract. All new, opening November 15. Please call Mr Kees. Tel: 01-8267129.

BAR FOR SALE

in Patong. Very cheap! Own the best. Tel: 07-8817600. Website: www.homebarphuket.com

GUESTHOUSE

complete with kitchen and dining area. It has 6 rooms, a pool table, a bar and Internet. Asking 3 million baht for a 5-year lease. Rent 30,000 baht per month. May do part exchange; will negotiate. Possible financing for the right person. Tel: 06-9525071. Email: paul@ukthai.fsnet.co.uk

GOOD INVESTMENT

opportunity. Art decoration shop for sale. Main business is decoration for exclusive villas. There are different sizes and designs and materials of Buddha images made in Chiang Mai. All are excellent, handmade and high-end products. Investment of only 550,000 baht. Rental per year only 90,000 baht. The shop is located in the Nai Harn area, near Rawai Beach. Tel: 04-8374429.

INTERNET & TOUR

shop with motorbike rental for sale - a good income opportunity. Very well-frequented location in front of a good hotel in Kata. Rental per year 180,000 baht. And the business is selling for 360,000 baht. The package includes 4 new flat-screen computers with good Internet surfing programs, 6 new motorbikes, a Honda Wave 125, a tour counter and 2 phone lines, an air conditioner, a fan, a wooden counter with 6 chairs and light metal box-displays inside and outside. I'm going back to Europe. Tel: 04-837-4429.

PARTNER WANTED

for new visa service for Samui, using a tour bus (not minibus). Selling 12.5% of shares for 1 million baht. Tel: 04-7457024. Email: kingrw80@hotmail.com

PATONG.COM

The domain name "Patong.com" is for sale for 250,000 baht. Tel: 01-5383455. Email: brage@earthlink.net

BAR RESTAURANT

Located in Karon, an all-inclusive bar, with kitchen, 3 bedrooms and 3 toilets, for 990,000 baht key money, plus 10,000 baht per month for a 2½-year lease. Contact K. Tony. Tel: 01-4778744.

WORKING PARTNER

Guardian Alarms, Phuket's leading security company, is looking for a working partner to join our expanding company. We require someone with a good business background or electronics experience. We offer a good working package in a well established company. A 25% share investment is required. Tel: 076-281327, 01-8954480. Email: guardian@loxinfo.co.th

TAILOR SHOP

Thai-owned tailor shop for sale in Rawai. Good revenue. Includes bedroom, bathroom and kitchen. Asking 500,000 baht or best offer. Tel: 076-248626, 01-0808557. Fax: 076-248626. Email: admin@phuketdeafeagle.com

RESTAURANT

and guesthouse on Patong main road. 40-seat restaurant; 11-room guesthouse. Asking 170,000 baht/month. Tel: 076-248626, 01-0808557. Fax: 076-248626. Email: admin@phuketdeafeagle.com

DOUBLE-UNIT SHOP

for rent. Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong, opposite Paradise complex. An excellent location for any business. Tel: 076-341871, 06-9405187.

30-ROOM HOTEL FOR LEASE

in Patong, brand new. No key money, 9-year lease contract. Ref# DHKT070-512. Tel: 06-0043008. Fax: 076-383756. Email: info@ayudhya.net Website: www.ayudhya.net

RESTAURANT

and lot for sale at Kata. Great location, has 4 rooms, large kitchen. Please call Ranne for more information. Tel: 06-6833964.

BUNGALOWS

and restaurant for rent/sale. Tel: 01-8946686. Website: www.phuketnatureplace.com

Business Products & Services

DAY TRIP TO RANONG

New double-decker tour bus (not minibus), non-smoking and smoking areas, toilet, films/music, snacks and drinks, on-board buffet lunch. No extras to pay, all-inclusive. Only 1,500 baht. Every Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sunday. Tel: 04-7457024.

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Register your Thai limited company in just two hours through Thailand's largest legal service network, Siam International Legal Group. Business licenses, contracts and property transactions by legal professionals at reasonable fees. Call 24 hours. Tel: 076-345277, 04-0219800. Email: admin@siam-legal.com Website: www.siam-legal.com

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