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Gov urges restraint in vegetarian festival

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn & Sam Wilkinson

PHUKET (*Gazette, Kom Chad Luek*): Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura has urged mediums at this year's Vegetarian Festival not to be too extreme during the street parades that are to take place from October 3-11. At the same time the Phuket office of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) believes the festival will attract more than 50,000 tourists.

Gov Udomsak said he ordered supervising officials not to

let the mediums' supernatural displays get out of hand and not to indulge in acts that might scare the public or harm the traditional element of Phuket's most famous festival.

"I have also asked all 14 [participating] shrines and the food vendors to ensure that there is proper food hygiene, and as a follow-up the Phuket Provincial Health Office will be inspecting food stalls," he added.

Meanwhile, Suwalai Pinpradub, Director of TAT Phuket office, said that the Vegetarian Festival this year will be more



This piercing by a devotee is very restrained, compared with some.

special than previous ones because of the presence of the *Mazhofu*, or "Ruby God", a statue of which was flown in from Fujian Province, in China.

"We expect more than 50,000 tourists from Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong and China, and estimate an income of more than 20 million baht. Many hotel rooms have been booked for the duration of the festival," K. Suwalai added.

Prasert Fukthongphol, Chairman of Phuket Shrines, said

all 14 participating shrines are set to co-operate fully with provincial authorities.

"The thing that worries me the most are the firecrackers thrown at the mediums as they pass during the parades around the town center. It's dangerous for the mediums and dangerous for people watching," he added.

"I would like to ask people to please only use normal red fire crackers as in the past some mediums have been injured and have needed hospital treatment."

Soi Dog Foundation 'closed' as warning

By Anongnat Sartpisut

PHUKET: The Phuket Provincial Livestock Office (PPLO) on September 16 ordered the Soi Dog Foundation (SDF) in Tambon Rassada to suspend operations on the grounds that it is not in compliance with Thai law because it is not registered under the name of a Thai veterinarian.

PPLO Chief Sunart Wongchawalit told the *Gazette* that Phuket has up to 17 animal rescue foundations. Under Thai law, each must employ a graduate in veterinary science from a Thai university and be registered with

the PPLO. Such permission is generally granted within a week, he said, provided the foundation meets all criteria. The SDF closure was only a warning, but he said the force of law could be applied if the clinic continues to operate without a proper license.

As for the real reason behind the closure, K. Sunart admitted it was because the SDF had failed to apologize on its website for comments it formerly posted there critical of the Mid Road Dog Shelter in Thalang, which is run by the PPLO.

"They were even warned by the Thai branch of the World

Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) to remove the comments on the website," he said. The SDF is one of many WSPA-affiliated groups.

"The information was all wrong," said K. Sunart. "They apologized to us on September 16, promising to remove that information from their website and apologize. They removed the information, but have yet to post an apology."

Animal rights advocate Margot Homburg-Park, head of the SDF, said she was shocked by the closure order. She said the clinic would stop operating until

it came into compliance, after re-applying under the name of a Thai vet already in their employ.

"I was told we could operate as a clinic until we had formal foundation status, then get the proper license," she said.

She said that the clinic was complying by not sterilizing any animals, but that it had a moral obligation to care for the many dogs that had been "dumped" there.

"We have now applied for the license. I hope we get it and can start operating again, because we are losing a lot of time - normally we sterilize 30 animals a day," she said.



Phi Phi was badly damaged by the tsunami, but is now planning full steam ahead for the future.

InterContinental Group plans Phi Phi resort

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

PHI PHI: A new luxury resort, built by InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG), is planned for Lanah Bay, Phi Phi Island, with another two resorts – one on Koh Samui and another in Pattaya – in the pipeline.

The properties, slated to open in 2007, will be the first IHG-branded resorts in Thailand, and will bring the total number of properties managed by IHG in the country to 10.

The Chief Executive of the Asia Pacific IHG area, A Patrick Imbardelli, said the resorts will be

an exciting addition to Thailand's luxury accommodation roster.

"I am delighted with the [plan for the] three new resorts, which continues our long-standing commitment to the Thai hotel and tourism industry," Mr Imbardelli said.

The resorts will be developed by Jumreon Chittarasnee, owner of the Holiday Inn on Phi Phi, which is managed by IHG.

The current IHG portfolio in Thailand includes InterContinental Bangkok and the Crowne Plaza Karon Beach Phuket.

Auction of number plates could raise eight million baht for road safety fund

By Athiga Jundee

PHUKET CITY: A total of 301 numbers will go on the block at Phuket's second two-day auction of car license plates, starting at 8:30 am on October 15 at The Metropole Hotel Phuket.

Theerayuth Prasertphol, Chief Technical Officer of the Phuket Provincial Transportation Office (PPTO), told the *Gazette* that there will be a variety of categories of numbers up for sale, all starting with the letters n ("gor-gai") a ("chor-ching") followed by digits.

IMAGE

The background image on the vanity license plate is the same as last year's – the view of Laem Phromthep.

Some of the categories are: single digits from 1 to 9; pairs (11, 22, etc); three-of-a-kind (111, 222, etc); four-of-a-kind (1111, 2222, etc); thousands (1000, 2000, etc); runs of three (such as 123), double pairs (1122, 5588, etc); palindromic numbers (1221, 3443, etc); and repeating pairs (1212, 5353, etc).

"In the first auction, in 2003,

the number that got the highest bid was 9999 at 1.2 million baht, followed by 111 at 800,000 baht. But because of Phuket's recent economic slump," K. Theerayuth said, "people are not expected to make very high bids this time."

The starting bid for repeating pairs is 500 baht and for double pairs and thousands it is 3,000 baht.

The auction will be open to all-comers, including those who want to replace the existing number on their cars – and even people who do not have a car at all. Bidders must bring along their ID card, passport or letter of proxy in the case of a representative bidder.

Income from the first auction of vehicle registration numbers was donated to the Road Safety Fund to help victims of road accidents and to support traffic safety education in schools. "The fund received about 8.5 million baht from the first auction. This year we hope for no less than 8 million," K. Theerayuth said.

For more information, call the PPTO at Tel: 076-214930, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday.

OBITUARY: JOHN GAVIN CLARKE

A big man with a big smile and an even bigger heart, Phuket housing developer John Gavin Clarke died on September 12 of melanoma.

Clarke, 37, was born in Welkom in the Orange Free State in South Africa, and graduated from Auckland University in New Zealand with a degree in Civil Engineering.

He was well known in Phuket and Kamala specifically, where he had lived on and off for the past 13 years.

In 2002, Clarke formed his own company, Clarkefreeman Co Ltd, with his wife, Gai Sritantrakul and his partner David Freeman. Together they developed two residential housing projects in Kamala; Kamala Hills, consisting of 46 lifestyle apartments, and Kamala Hills-Naka, a project commencing later this year and to comprise 38 condominium apartments and pool villas.

Clarke first arrived on Phuket in 1992, as Project Engineer with Thai Wah Group, to construct the luxury hotel Ban-

yan Tree Phuket. From 1995 to 1998 he worked on construction jobs in Bangkok as Site Manager for Siam Syntech before relocating to Singapore as Project Manager for Woh Hop Construction Co, building the Jurong Town Shopping Center.

Clarke returned to Thailand in 2000 to work for IPS Ltd on hotel projects in Bangladesh while based in Bangkok.

He is survived by his wife Khun Gai and their two children, son Zaquery Sean, 8, and daughter Kamin St Clair, 5.

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Teenagers to strut their stuff

PHUKET CITY: The Phuket Dance Sport Association will hold a student dance competition at Saphan Hin Sports Complex on October 9.

The aim of the contest is to determine the best three teenage couples, in their age brackets, from the provinces of Chumphon, Ranong, Krabi, Surat Thani, Nakhon Sri Thammarat, Phang Nga and Phuket.

Dancers will be competing in one of two categories: Latin or Standard. Latin comprises samba, cha cha, Cuban rumba, paso doble and jive; Standard includes waltz, tango, slow foxtrot,

Viennese waltz and fixed step.

They must also compete in one of five age categories: Class A (people born in 1987), Class B (1988-9), Class C (1990-1), Class D (1992-3) and Class E (1994).

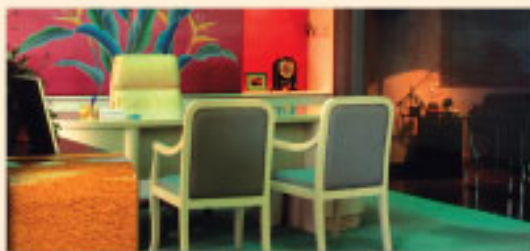
The top three in each age group will win a place to dance in the national finals in Lampang Province on February 3 next year.

Although entry to the event closed on September 30, all spectators are invited to watch free of charge.

For more information, call Tel: 01-5978477 or 01-6932628.

– Anongnat Sartpisut

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TAKE DOWN: The SWAT team from the Phuket Special Operations Unit apprehends 'terrorists' during an anti-terrorist drill at the Phuket Deep Sea Port at Ao Makham.

Too many phones for SMS warning system

PHUKET CITY: Ministers and high-ranking officials are able to receive a tsunami warning SMS from the National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC), but other mobile phone users are not yet able to receive messages because of delays.

Dr Smith Thammasaroj, appointed to establish the NDWC, made his comments at a recent seminar held at the Phuket Royal City Hotel.

Dr Smith told the *Gazette*, "The warning system is not totally ready. At the moment ministers and governors in the six provinces are able to receive messages from the NDWC. But for 'normal' mobile phone users the overall system is not ready."

Anti-terrorist drill 'a success'

AO MAKHAM: Despite some "communications problems", Phuket Provincial Administration Officer (Palad) Vichan Busapavanich hailed the September 24 anti-terrorist exercise at Phuket Deep Sea Port as "a success".

The hypothetical scenario involved a band of terrorists taking hostages at a building, where they detonate explosives. In the exercise, the building was stormed by special weapons and tactics (SWAT) officers.

The SWAT team from the Phuket Special Operations Unit, together with regular police officers, military personnel and emergency medical crews, converged from pre-arranged holding positions some five minutes after the "incident" began.

Despite the fact that the exercise was orchestrated for the media and a number of unidentified foreigners, K. Vichan said that the multi-agency team who took part would, nevertheless, arrive at any real terrorist incident anywhere in Phuket within five minutes "...because Phuket is a small island".

Inter-agency communication difficulties were cited by K. Vichan as the main problem. Not being able to garner enough information about the "terrorists" personal history – to aid negotiators – was another area needing further training, he said.

K. Vichan said, "All 76 provinces in Thailand are required to carry out anti-terrorism drills every year."

Samui property agent shot

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

KOH SAMUI: Samui property agent Gary Pearmain and his girlfriend, Sirinya Sansenao, 25, were shot and wounded by two gunmen at their house in Baan Thongkrud at about 8 pm on Thursday.

Pol Maj Sompong Krut-suwan, Inspector of Samui Police Station, told the *Gazette* that Mr Pearmain, a British national, was shot in the left hand and once in the chest, the bullet exiting after ricocheting off a rib. K. Sirinya was hit in the right leg and the left ankle. Both escaped serious injury.

"K. Sirinya said that two men approached her when she was in front of the house. They

said they were looking for the house of a friend called "Dum". She told them that she and Gary had just moved to the house, and she went back inside," Maj Sompong said.

"Gary came downstairs and asked K. Sirinya who the men were. She told him, and as they turned to go to the kitchen the men opened fire from outside. Four shell casings were found at the scene," he added.

"I don't think that the two gunmen really wanted to kill them, because after they had fallen to the floor, they could have made sure that they were dead."

Maj Sompong said police are following leads to determine if the attack was related to a business dispute.

Woman found murdered on Koh Sireh

KOH SIREH: The body of a Thai woman was discovered by locals on Pae Ong Beach, Koh Sireh on September 23.

Pol Lt Patrawut Onchuay, of Phuket City Police Station, told the *Gazette* that the victim, Ampai Yothapakdee, 46, had been killed no more than eight hours before she was discovered at 10 am.

Customers at the nearby Wangkung Restaurant told the police that the woman had been

seen talking to a male customer there and subsequently heading toward the beach with him in the early hours of that same day.

She was wearing a white T-shirt and blue jeans, which had been pulled down below her hips in what police believe to have been an attempted rape.

"It seems that she was struck with a heavy object, by her left ear, and dragged towards the sea," Lt Patrawut said.

Tentative steps toward ending airport taxi deadlock

PHUKET: The Phuket Vehicle Service Co-operative and Confederation (PVSCC) held its first meeting on September 22 to try to solve the impasse between airport limousine drivers and meter taxi operators.

The committee comprises members of the Airport Limousine and Business Service Co-operative, Phuket Taxi Service Co-operative (green license plate car ser-

vice), Phuket Small Four-wheel Co-operative (tuk-tuk service), and Patong Motor Taxi Service.

The dispute centers on the number of meter-taxi drivers allowed to operate in the airport area, and their presence in the arrivals terminal.

The Airport Limousine and Business Service Co-operative said its members will

improve the quality of their service and follow provincial policies encouraging good relations between the Airport Bus service and VIP limousines.

At a rowdy public hearing at Phuket Provincial Hall on August 5, it was decided that a committee should be formed to solve disputes between the airport limousine drivers and airport taxi operators.

There are 72 committee members on the PVSCC, which has Phuket Provincial Administration Officer (Palad) Vichan Busapavanich as President. It is charged with policy-making and problem-solving relating to the current impasse, and is required to submit realistic recommendations. It must report to Gov Udomsak within 30 days of its first meeting.

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One of the first things visitors to Patong notice is the stench from sewer grates along the main thoroughfares. "This wasn't in the travel brochure!" must spring to many minds.

As Patong's signature attraction is its beach, logic should dictate that protecting the shoreline from encroachment, pollution and other threats that might put off tourists would be the priority. Unfortunately, Patong municipality's performance in this regard has been disappointing. The extent of the failure was exposed in May last year, when bright green algae that grow by "fixing" nitrogen and phosphorus – two main components of human feces – began washing up on the shores of Patong Bay.

Stephen Fein and Ananya Hongsa-ngiam report.

Dirty, but it must be done

The dirty work of cleaning up Patong's wastewater falls to the municipality's sewage treatment plant on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd.

Uthorn Bureerak, acting Director of the Patong City Sanitation Office, told the *Gazette* that the facility can treat about 6,000 cubic meters per day (m³/day). With the decrease in tourism since the tsunami, the plant has only needed to treat about 5,000m³/day.

He added that a pumping station near the mouth of Klong Pakbang that pumps waste from beachfront hotels to the pumping station was knocked out by the tsunami, but has since been repaired.

"All parts of the system that were damaged by the tsunami have either been fixed or are being fixed now and should be back in operation soon," he said.

When asked what prevented surface water runoff in

drains from carrying wastewater into the bay via Klong Pakbang, he said there were floodgates downstream from the plant to prevent this.

These can also be used to prevent saltwater from coming up the klong during high tidal conditions, he said.

Future projects include a 7.2-billion baht (US\$175 million) pipe-installation project to link areas along Nanai Rd with the treatment plant. The budget for this has already been approved and the project is now entering the bidding phase.

When asked if the current impasse over Mayor Pian Keesin's budget proposal being turned down by the municipal council had any impact on the project, K. Uthorn said, "It doesn't make any difference, because that budget didn't have any money earmarked for wastewater treatment."

All in all K. Uthorn has an optimistic outlook about Patong's environment. "I believe the problem of the bad smell in Patong will improve soon," the engineer said.

Although responsibility for protecting beaches in Thailand falls to individual local authorities, it is the Pollution Control Department (PCD) of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment that sets standards, deals with compliance to environmental laws and is charged with not only preventing pollution, but also with investigating complaints and responding when environmental contamination is found.

To raise public awareness of the need to keep Thai beaches clean, the PCD's Marine Environment Division held a seminar at the Graceland Hotel in Patong in July to introduce Thai youngsters to pollution-control techniques, and also to explain the PCD's "Environmental Quality Index Assessment for Tourist Beaches" project – essentially a star-rating system for 13 of Thailand's top tourist beaches.

Dr Pornsook Chongprasith, who heads the PCD's Marine Environment Division, told the *Gazette* that the project is intended to get local organizations more involved in pollution control efforts by stressing that the local economy depends on them.

Despite its seaweed problem, Patong somehow managed to get a 3-star, or "fair" rating in 2004, the same rating it has received every year except 2003, when it received a 4-star "good" rating. Karon Beach, by comparison, has garnered four stars every year.

"The assessment results are classified into five levels, each indicated by the number of stars: five is excellent, four is good, three is fair, two is deteriorated,

Beach Ratings for 2004

***** = none

**** = Karon; Hua Hin;

Haad Sai Kaew (Rayong); Chawaeng (Samui); Haad Yao (Krabi)

*** = Patong; Cha-am

(Prachuap Khiri Khan);

Bangsaen, Pattaya,

Jomtien (Chon Buri); Lamai

(Samui); Lodalam, Tonsai (Krabi).

** = none

* = none

sand dunes); and beach encroachment.

Always skeptical about assigning numerical values to natural phenomena, especially when such a project is initiated at the behest of a government for tourism promotion purposes, the *Gazette* reviewed the 21-page PCD Thai-language handbook entitled *Environmental Quality Index Assessment Measuring for Tourist Beaches* – and found it surprisingly detailed and informative.

There was a list of all the parameters used, the units they are expressed in, descriptions of sampling methods, how each parameter is ranked to contribute to the overall score for each sampling round, and methods for ensuring the accuracy of the data. There was also a sample calculation from the 3-star Lodalan Beach in Krabi in 2002.

If the samples are truly random – and that is a big "if" – the results of the program should give meaningful results, making them more than just a publicity campaign.

That said, the criteria do have some elements of subjectivity: is that a sand dune or a pile of sand?

Does the presence of beach vendors constitute encroachment? Is a coconut husk litter? The list goes on.

Compared with the hotel star-rating system used by the Thai Hotel Association, which assigns numerical scores to such intangibles as "English-language proficiency" and "quality of the view", the PCD system seems about as objective as it can be under the circumstances.

one is extremely deteriorated," Dr Pornsook said.

Thus far, no beach has gained a 5-star rating; most get either three or four stars.

Only twice have beaches attained the 2-star "deteriorated" rating – Krabi's Tonsai Bay in 2002 and Chon Buri's Jomtien Beach in 2001.

To ensure accuracy, and that no single sampling round skews the data, the ratings are based on environmental quality parameters that are sampled six times each year by PCD staff, four times during the high season and twice during the low season. The annual rating is based on the average of all six data-collection rounds.

The assessment parameters comprise four main indices, Dr Pornsook said: coastal water quality (coliform bacteria counts, suspended solids, turbidity); left-over litter; beach nourishment (coral reefs, erosion, presence of

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the Patong pong



A pumping station near the mouth of the Klong Pakbang (above) pumps waste from beachfront hotels. Right: Dr Pornsook Chongprasith of the PCD.

Spreading the word about each beach's ranking is an important part of the project's success.

"Each year, beach index signs are installed at each beach to provide local coastal authorities with a tool to address and

solve problems. So far, 13 signs have been posted. The authorities will take action to restore and maintain good environmental conditions, improving beaches and trying to gain a better rating in the next year," Dr Pornsook said.

The rating system is being expanded, as well. By 2006, 28 beaches will have been assessed, including Surin and Nai Yang Beaches in Phuket.

"This is a way to enhance public awareness, which directly

involves local participation, and for the authorities to monitor their beaches, which in turn will be economically beneficial to local people," she said.

The star-ratings are not the only work the agency has done

in Phuket. Recognizing Phuket as a tourism-income generator, the PCD has also classified the island's west coast into specific zones according to use, each zone with associated water-quality targets.

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WE LOVE IT!

Virat Apinyan (left) collects his prize of a two-night stay in a deluxe double room at the Absolute Sea Pearl Beach Resort in Patong from Natthira "Anna" Susangrat, Manager – Web Services at the *Gazette*, for putting his We Love Phuket sticker on his motorbike.

Right: Dilaka Jaengiam collects her prize of a two-hour spa treatment course at the Mangosteen Resort & Spa presented to her by Rattanaporn "Porn" Thoonngan (right), of the *Gazette*'s Accounts Department, for displaying the sticker on her Honda City.



CHIANG RAI: Having a monkey on one's back might sound like the very definition of hardship, but for a dog in Mae Sai it is a labor of love.

Guests at the Kung Pao 38 Restaurant in Mae Sai are greeted by a rather unusual welcoming committee when they arrive: a four-year-old Labrador retriever and "Jockey", an orphaned baby monkey that clings constantly to the dog's back in the belief that she is its natural mother.

The animals' owner, 36-year-old restaurateur Anupas Patisaen, said that the cross-species adoption came about quite naturally. The bitch, named Nasa, was retired about two years ago from her work as a drug sniffer with the Mae Sai Police Station. The dog's former handler, Pol Sgt Maj Samphan Patisaen, asked K. Anupas if he wouldn't mind taking care of the animal. He accepted.

Queer News

Monkey on your back

Then, around the beginning of September, the policeman turned up with another animal that needed a good home – an orphaned baby monkey, species unknown and gender not reported. Maj Samphan said he thought the young monkey had somehow managed to escape the clutches of poachers who killed its parents, hoping to catch the baby to sell in Bangkok's black market for exotic pets.

As luck would have it, not only did the baby monkey escape, but it also arrived at Anupas' restaurant at just the right time; Nasa had just had a litter of eleven puppies, only one of which remained at the restaurant – the rest being snatched up by friends and rela-

tives. Nasa, who had plenty of extra teats for the baby monkey to suckle from, accepted the monkey as her own. Jockey also gets along well with the other pup, as yet unnamed.

At first, the baby primate tried to cling to the dog's stomach monkey-style, but soon found it an easier arrangement to ride on the dog's back, hence the moniker "Jockey".

So close are "mother and child" that piercing screams will instantly ensue if the dog walks even a few feet away from the monkey. This seldom happens, however, as Nasa is a very attentive mom. And even though monkeys tend to shy away from water, Jockey just holds on tight



when Nasa, being a Labrador, decides it is time for a swim.

Nasa benefits from having a monkey on her back, too. The

monkey's constant grooming ensures that her coat remains free of ticks and fleas.

Source: Kom Chad Luek

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



Foreigners 'could join Thai insurgency'

A veteran leader of Thailand's insurgency has issued a warning: militants from Indonesia and Arab nations might join the fight for a separate homeland if the Thai government continues a crackdown that's provoking a new generation of Muslim fighters.

In his first interview with an international news organization, The Associated Press, Lukman B Lima said the violence could spread from Thailand's southern provinces to the capital unless the government accepts an offer to negotiate an end to the conflict, now a regional crisis.

Although he suggested peace talks, Lukman criticized the Thaksin government, comparing the Prime Minister to Stalin and Hitler.

"If the government opts to kill without valid reason, fighters from Indonesia and Arab countries will help us because, according to Islam, real Muslims cannot just stand by when their brother Muslims are being slain," he said.

Media manipulation? Speaking at a seminar organized by the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand, Somkuan Kaviya of Thammasat University's Faculty of Journalism and Mass Communications,

said Thai society was entering a full-scale authoritarian era. Many forms of mass media, particularly television and radio, have already been interfered with, and are now controlled by the government and big business, he said.

"The case of the Matchon and Post Publishing groups is only the tip of the iceberg. There are many problems under the water that we cannot see," said K. Somkuan.

The academic was referring to the unsuccessful takeover bid of the two major publishing firms by GMM Media Plc, run by Paiboon Damrongchaitham, a friend of the Prime Minister. At his weekly news conference, PM Thaksin vigorously denied any involvement.

Pedal power: A 50-strong delegation from the Thailand Cycling Club pedaled to Government House in Bangkok to mark Thailand's annual "Car-Free Day" to lobby for more bike paths along roads in the capital. The cyclists proposed one bicycle lane for each two- and three-lane road as a way to encourage motorists to ride bicycles and save energy.

"The Prime Minister said if a lot of people used bicycles, he would put in bike lanes, and



Laithongrian Meephan, owner of Ayudhaya Elephant Farm, poses with a young pachyderm in front of his elephants-for-sale advertisement at the Ayudhaya Trade Fair. The calf is on the market with an asking price of two million baht.

people say if there were bike lanes, they would ride a bike, so someone has to start," said club President Jarukanya Rassiri.

K. Jarukanya said the club had hundreds of members who used bicycles in their daily routines, including riding them to

work. She noted that the BTS system allowed bicycles aboard its carriages, but the subway only permitted folding bikes.

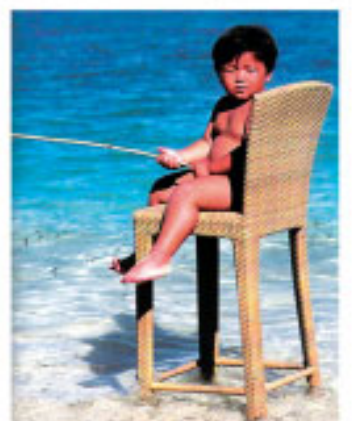
Inspectors ready to roll: Tobacco-control officials are now checking shops and convenience stores across the country to ensure that they are abiding by the Public Health Ministry's ban on cigarette displays at points of purchase.

Disease Control Department Deputy Director-General Dr Narong Methapat said officials would be giving only written warnings if shops or stores continue to display cigarette packets when the inspectors visit the first time. Any shop or store that is found ignoring the ban in subsequent inspections would face legal action. If convicted, store owners could face fines of up to 200,000 baht.

The Public Health Ministry initiated the ban after a survey indicated that displays at points of purchase were largely to blame for around 60% of children aged below 18 years wanting to buy cigarettes.

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

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Statistics for HIV infection in Surat Thani Province showed a fall so far this year, with a total of 3,613 reported cases comprising 2,655 men and 958 women.

The highest rate of infection was among young adults aged between 25 and 29, who made up 27% of cases, while people in the 30-34 age group also featured highly in the statistics, amounting to 25% of the total number of infections.

Seven hundred and four people have died from AIDS-related illnesses.

Unprotected sex remains the number-1 cause of infection, accounting for 84% of cases, while sharing needles for drug use caused just 8% of infections.

Prostitutes were actually found to be at less risk than women who had casual sex with several partners because sex workers tend to insist that their clients use condoms.

The infection rate was also higher among laborers and casual workers than it was among administrative and professional workers.

Studies of sexual activity, carried out in schools and colleges throughout the province, showed that by Grade 5 of secondary school 30.9% of boys have had sex, as have 12.9% of girls.

This figure rises to 37% among male students of college age.

Adults in their late 20s still the most likely to be infected by HIV

For female students, however, the figure jumps to 22% once they reach their late teens. The average age of virginity loss for both sexes was found to be from 15 to 16 years old, and most young people said that they used a condom during their first sexual encounter.

New Nathon harbor: In March this year, the Department of Commercial Transport began constructing a new pier in Nathon. The existing pier is damaged and dilapidated, and the daily demands on the structure make it very difficult to carry out maintenance operations.

The project received a budget of 210 million baht, which included money for maintenance until 2007.

The new pier is scheduled for completion in September 2006, and will provide mooring space for two car ferries simultaneously, as well as 10 mooring bays for smaller boats.

The PAM Company was contracted to build the new pier and Panuk Pasakdi is the engineer in charge of construction. K. Panuk said that the new structure will extend 190 meters out to sea, and there will also be a 230-meter bridge connecting the pier to the island.

The actual mooring zone will measure 70 by 65 meters, and there will also be a 2,170-square-meter queuing area for cars, as well as a 2,150sqm car park.

The water to the right of the existing pier is shallow, so the company will have to dredge the area to enable large vessels to use the new pier.

The plan is to dredge in two separate areas, one to four meters in depth, the other to two meters for smaller craft.

The mooring fees and ticket prices on ferries using the pier will be decided by a committee comprising both local and provincial representatives.

Once the new pier is operational, a budget will be sought to carry out repairs on the old structure, providing opportunities for even greater sea access to Samui as the island expands and develops.

Destination Samui: With shopping possibilities still fairly limited on Koh Samui, retailers are eager to find solutions.

One large-scale project is a new mall, to be known simply as Destination, which is planned for Bophut on the island's ring road. Construction will take a year, and the opening is planned for December 2006 in time for the tourist high season.

According to Martello Realty, the sole agent, the mall will

FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND



By Commander Sammy Swan

include small boutiques as well as major retailers from Bangkok. There will also be a department store, and shoppers can look forward to brand-name clothing, shoes, books and Samui's first cinema.

The plot covers an area of 74,000sqm, and approximately 2,000 people will be employed in building the project.

There will also be covered parking space for more than 800 vehicles.

Sure thing in the sky: One of Thailand's very few seaplanes will soon be flying out of Koh Samui, following CoCo International's recent acquisition of a Cessna Caravan.

The Caravan is a real load-carrier, and is the largest single-engine float plane in the world. It can seat up to 14 passengers, but the plane has been configured for just 11 people.

Capable of landing on water or land, the aircraft will be ideal for the Samui archipelago, and will be the quickest way to island hop.

With flight times of between 15 and 20 minutes to Koh Tao, nobody can have any doubts that the plane will be warmly received.

It will be used for scenic flights at first, although this versatile aircraft could also be put to many other uses, including to medevac sick or injured people and assisting with air-sea rescue missions.

Cdr Swan is a writer with Koh Samui's community magazine.

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By Athiga Jundee

UN envoy inspects tsunami recovery

While rebuilding villages and communities along the Andaman coast has been the focus of great effort by many people since the tsunami hit last year, Mother Nature has also been busy rejuvenating Phuket's primary tourist attraction – the area's natural beauty.

In Phuket and Phang Nga recently to inspect how well the environment is recovering was popular Japanese singer Tokiko Kato, who is also a Special Envoy for the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP).

Ms Kato, who took up the post of UNEP Special Envoy in October, 2000, is charged with inspecting, encouraging the use of and publicizing environmental protection and conservation activities at the grassroots level throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

DIVE SITES

"This is my second visit to Thailand," she said. "My objective is to observe the condition of the environment in tsunami-affected areas."

During her visit, Ms Kato visited coastal villages and protected marine areas, including dive sites off Koh Hei and Koh Lone.

"I want to tell the world that Phuket is a beautiful place and that it is quickly recovering from the tsunami. I also want to show people that nature can restore itself," Ms Kato said.

"Phuket is a popular place where many Japanese have their holidays, and when I return to Japan I'll publicize that Phuket is back again," she added.

Ms Kato, now 62, has a long history of eco-awareness, a love she shared with her husband since they first met in the 1960s. He set up and ran an organic food farm outside Tokyo long before the fad became popular in the



The UNEP's Tokiko Kato during her visit, including (left) after diving off Koh Hei to see the signs of recovery for herself.

West, and she promoted environmental themes in her music.

Although her husband died in 2002, Ms Kato continues to spread the message, their two daughters as her inspiration. "I want my daughters to grow up in a good environment. There was a lot of pollution in Japan when I was younger, and that made me more interested in preserving the environment. One good way of taking care of our children is by taking good care of the environment," she said.

"I want the younger generation be more concerned about the environment, rather than being interested in technology or industry. I want to tell them what I have learned about the environment from my own experiences."

"Phuket has valuable natural resources and many big ho-

tels to accommodate the tourists from around the world who come here to see it.

"I want everybody – both visitors and those who live on Phuket – to take better care with

their garbage. They should treat wastewater before piping it into the rivers or the sea, and hotels should recycle their garbage.

"The Thai government and Phuket's local community should

also make tourists more aware of environmental issues through the hotels and at tourist attractions by making regular announcements, such as asking them to save water," she added.

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Phuket

Winai Buapradit

It is not easy for a government official to deal with a fast-growing tourist province that is also coping with a full-on recovery plan from last year's tsunami.

Adjacent to each other, Phuket and Phang Nga provinces were the most affected areas in Thailand, and both need strong hands to keep them on the road to recovery. Appointed in 2001, Phuket Vice Governor Winai Buapradit, 49, has had a hands-on approach, and earned a reputation for being straightforward and frank. On September 6 the Ministry of the Interior announced his appointment as Governor of Phang Nga Province from the beginning of this month. He spoke with the *Gazette's* Anongnat Sarpisut about his tenure in Phuket, and about what he hopes to do in Phang Nga.



Gazette: How did you climb the ladder to become Phuket Vice Governor?

I was part of the first generation to graduate from the faculty of Political Science at Ramkhamhaeng University in 1975. In those times, most graduates moved directly into the business and banking sectors, and it certainly held an allure as they had all the trappings of success that I was attracted to. However, I failed a key exam so I took another to become a government officer in 1976. The result was that I landed a position in the Analysis and Planning Authority of Kamphaeng Phet Province.

My life changed and I felt happy to work in this position. I could help, talk to and meet people. After that I worked in many provinces, Ayudhaya, Bangkok, Suphan Buri, Ang Thong. I was Governor of Ranong in 2000, before coming to the island in 2001 to be Phuket Vice Governor.

Gazette: Government officials have a lot of paperwork that can make life complicated. How do you deal with this?

That's the old-fashioned way. As for myself, people can contact me directly. Documents and paperwork are secondary. Right now, a Governor has the power to decide or to do anything to solve problems. We don't need to wait for a decision from central government, as in the past.

Present-day government officers need to get out and about to see what the situation is like for themselves, and not stay sitting at the office.

They need to go and see the facts at first hand so they can

gauge the province's conditions and problems.

Gazette: But government work doesn't pay much, does it?

I don't look too much at the money side of things. I feel happy to work, and I'm proud to work as a government official.

Gazette: Can you describe your responsibilities as a government official?

When I was at the Office of the Permanent Secretary for the Interior, I worked in strategy planning, so I feel comfortable in solving problems with the information provided to us. We don't decide anything by feelings alone. We have to think and plan ahead to make a better life for people.

When I was Ranong Governor, I saw that the province had tourism potential so I promoted the province with the "Open Ranong, Tour Andaman" project. The people loved it, and it has now become an annual event.

Later, I exhibited the Rattana Rangsana Throne, used by HM King Chulalongkorn. We developed this project, and now it's a tourist attraction.

"Even if at first it looked like utter confusion after the tsunami, I believe that in the end we did a good job."

In Phuket, even if I am at home or working, I feel that people can rely on us. They can call and explain what they need, what's wrong, and how we can help them.

Gazette: What have you done in Phuket to solve our problems?

Phuket is different from other provinces. This is an international tourist destination, and it has a strong infrastructure as well as being developed, so it follows that Phuket's problems are not the same as in other regions.

In other provinces, governors generally concentrate on improvements and the development of the area, such as by building roads. People are satisfied and appreciate that.

However, in Phuket it has already been developed but [still] lacks good planning. The main problems lie in tourism. We need to look at how to organize things better and how to plan for the future. And we shouldn't make tourists feel that they have been taken advantage of, otherwise they won't come back. Our job as government officers directly



"I feel lucky to have been made Governor of Phang Nga, because its economy and tourist industry are similar to Phuket's. I have also had many dealings with the province as it's so close by, and I know a lot of background information on the area. After I found out about the appointment I studied up on the history of the province, and learned a lot that will be useful. It will make my life easier."

"The most urgent need for the province is recovery of the tsunami-hit area, to rebuild and to replace damaged infrastructure. I also need to deal with tsunami anniversary events. We need to lay the Tsunami Memorial foundation stone on December 26 and arrange the religious ceremonies."

"We also aim to follow government policies of eradicating poverty, fighting drug use and continuing development policies."

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to Phang Nga

on the role of a province's Governor

affects business people, and if we don't do a good job they won't appreciate what we do.

However, we don't cut corners in order to solve problems. Basically, we talk and ask for people's co-operation first; if we have none, then we enforce the law in order that everyone can live together in harmony.

Gazette: How were you involved with the tsunami?

I was in Phuket when the tsunami hit. People called me to say that Patong had been flooded. At first I wondered how this could be, since there hadn't been any rain. I wanted to go over to see what was happening, but my staff said the roads were blocked. Then I learned from the news just how serious it was.

Then, Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura and all of us worked really hard to help the victims. We could not do it alone, so we set up many departments responsible for differing needs, such as helping the injured, finding accommodation and more. Even if at first it looked like utter confusion, I believe that in the end we did a good job. During the crisis, at least, we showed the world how kindly Thais are and how quickly we could recover. That impressed a lot of people.

Gazette: What's the main role of a government official?

Everyone has his own style.

Mine is to work toward reaching a set target. People use different ways to attain their goals. Personally, I think that successful problem solving needs co-operation from other people, everyone working as a team, and if co-operation doesn't work then law enforcement will.

Gazette: How do you balance work and family responsibilities?

My family lives in Bangkok. Right now, we are deciding whether my wife, Ratree – also a government official – stays at her workplace or quits to join me. When I begin work as Governor of Phang Nga I understand that she will need to be with me in social situations, so we'll have to make a decision soon.

My son Wipu is in his fourth year at the faculty of Communication Arts at Bangkok University, and my daughter Panchanok is at high school in Australia. However, I don't expect them to be government officials like their parents. They can be what they want to be. Our only expectations of them is that they turn out to be "good" people in society.

Gazette: What does your future hold?

To be a Governor is the most important position for government officials at this level. I will still continue to do my job properly and work as a government official should.



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Band member and creator of *Tank Girl*, Jamie Hewlett, created the Gorillaz look, which has become darker with this second studio album. Hewlett also contributes to British sci-fi comic *2000AD*.

Black-dark, razor-edgy, and quite possibly unique, it's The Gorillaz' latest offering, *Demon Days*.

Blur frontman, Damon Albarn, spearheads this animated supergroup, with the help of cartoonist Hewlett and DJ Danger Mouse, whose Bastard Pop (yes, that is a recognized music genre) *Grey Album* – a reworking of the The Beatles *White Album* and DJ Jay-Z's *Black Album* – was an underground and controversial sensation in 2004.

He has successfully created a unique blend of hip-hop, electronica and True Brit-rock sound.

Damon's lazy, hushed tones, blended with the moody bass, are taken to a new level with the brooding, dark lyrics.

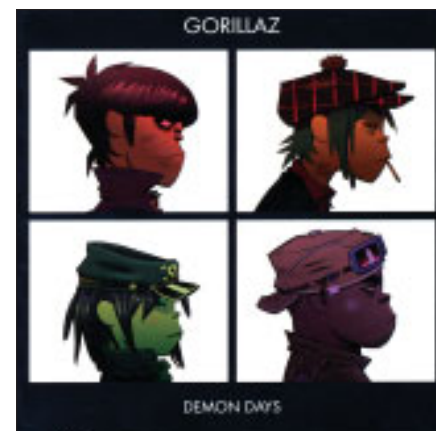
Interspersed with pitch-black humor, observation and allegory, his lyrics are riddled – literally and metaphorically – with post-modern existential angst.

Lines like "...so hard for a good soul to survive/ You can't even trust the air you breathe/ Because Mother Earth wants us all to leave/ When lies become reality/ You numb yourself with drugs and TV", critique the decadent culture that is the zeitgeist, much like the 1999 Blur hit *Coffee and TV*.

EAR CANDY



with
Andy Johnstone



The ominous feeling lurking behind the otherwise bouncy dance tune *Dare* is very Gorillaz

Chart of Darkness

The album feels laden with maleficence from the start, with the sinister *Intro*, the sing-along – but by no means jolly – *Last Living Souls* and the allegorical *Fire Coming Out Of The Monkey's Head*.

Presented in an amiably chatty manner by Dennis Hopper – yes, the Dennis Hopper – *Fire Coming Out Of The Monkey's Head* tells the tale of The Happy Folk who live high above the clouds, in harmony with

the spirit of the mountain called "Monkey".

Into their demi-paradise come the "Strangefolk" who start to "...mine the mountain, its rich seam fueling the chaos of their own world". This awakens the sleeping soul of the "Monkey" which leads to a catastrophe "so immense it could be heard far away in space".

The track ends with the lines "O little town in USA/ Your time has come to see/ There's noth-

ing you believe you want/ But where were you when it all came down on me?"

This strain continues with the next track, *Don't Get Lost In Heaven*, which makes use of the same choral sound – this time provided by the London Community Gospel Choir – which featured on the Blur track *Tender*.

O Green World is a silky smooth mix of bass slaps, while the catchy guitar riffs are courtesy of Simon Tong, formerly of The Verve. *Every Planet We Reach Is Dead* possesses a bluesy refrain reminiscent of *Bad To The Bone*.

Techno-heavy *White Light* shines brightly, while *Dare*, the most recent single, is the album's standout track.

The ominous feeling lurking behind this otherwise bouncy dance tune is very Gorillaz. By turns disturbing but superb, the

guest turn by Happy Mondays lead vocalist Shaun Ryder – the video to the song features his head, blown up to massive proportions (he looks rather bloated these days anyway) – connects the song directly to the halcyon days of late 1980s "Madchester" and the post-punk Indie scene, which led directly to the city's earlier near-dominance of dance music culture.

There is an eternal feel to *Dare* that will guarantee its popularity long after it has left the charts. The sound of Mr Ryder – allegedly a walking, talking "polypharmacy" – repeating the refrain "Never did no harm/ Never did no harm" will take a long time to clear from the mind.

Demon Days Gorillaz Parlophone 0946311688 2 6. Playing time: 50 minutes, 46 seconds.

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The eyes have it: freedom of choice when it comes to a different look

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn & Sam Wilkinson

Bored with having the same old face? Do you feel you want a radical change but have no idea what to do? Maybe colored contact lenses are just what you are looking for.

Colored lenses are a blinking good idea not only for those who need to wear glasses or contacts, but also for people with normal eyesight who just fancy a change.

You can choose from several hues, including blue, brown, gray, purple and green.

But then there are the various zany looks that are available, such as cat's eyes, smiley eyes, "fire", "star" and "football". You can even play at being Old Nick with a pair of devil eyes.

Those who just want to lark around can buy a temporary set; for the more serious, though, there are monthly lenses and then there's the full-blooded schizo versions that would make you a complete spectacle for a year.

Nongluck Mekaruckul, Managing Director of Washington Optic 1-2, says that color lenses are easy to put in, and that the shop has facilities for people interested in trying out a few different looks before making a decision.

"Those who have never tried contact lenses should first test the curve venture of their eyes, to make sure their vision is not impaired by the lenses. You have to make sure you're comfortable with them, too," she says.

"Colored contact lenses are for extroverts; people who like to dress up and don't care, because

they can change your whole character and the way people perceive you."

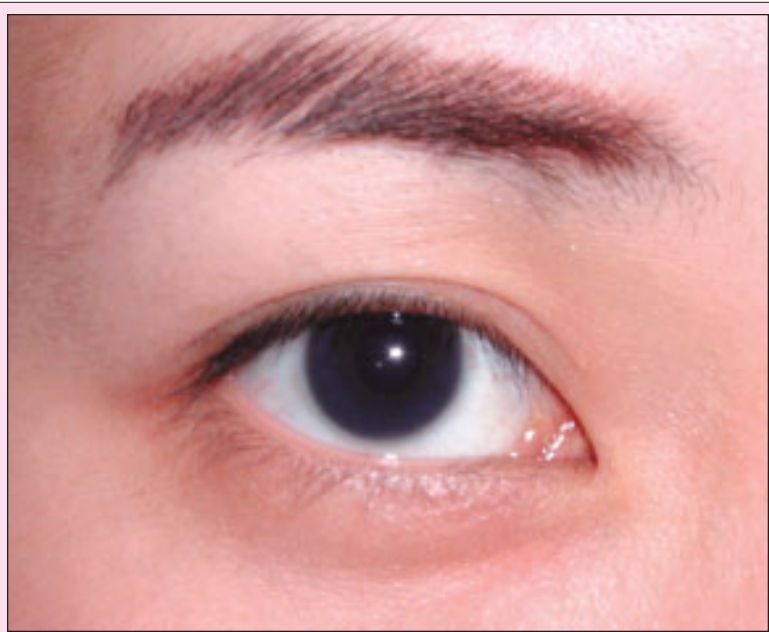
She says the most popular colors at the moment are honey-brown and blue, and that there is a new range coming out soon.

K. Nongluck adds that the shop does not stock the wackier options, but would-be Lucifers can consult a brochure and the lenses will be delivered within a week.

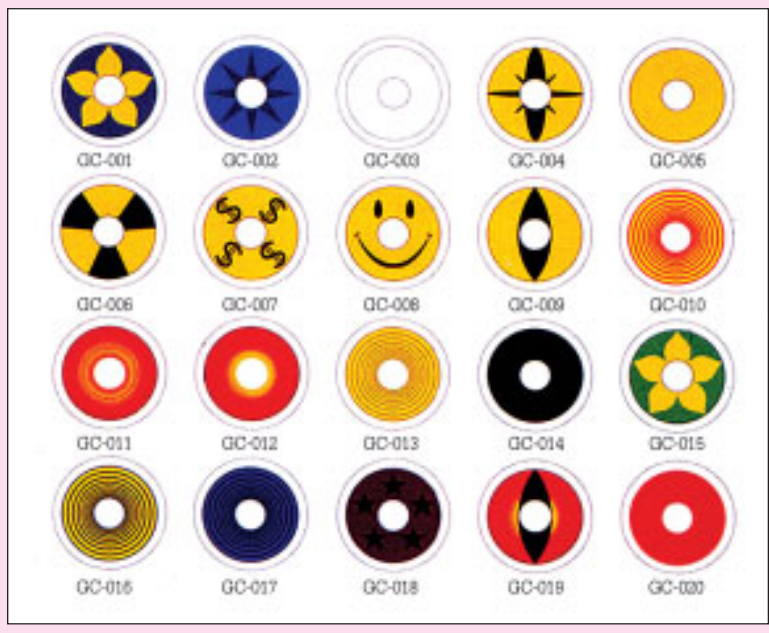
Color contact lenses start from 500 baht and range in price up to 6,000 baht. Maintenance is identical to normal contact lens care.

Washington Optic 1-2 is open Monday to Saturday from 8:30 am to 8 pm, and 9 am to 2 pm on Sunday. Tel: 076-225905 or 076-211814.

Email: washingtonoptic@yahoo.com



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This week



HELLO SAILOR: The Andaman Islands-based Indian Navy Corvette *INS Kulish* paid a courtesy call to Phuket and held a reception on board. Pictured from left are: Lt Gen Aditya Singh, Commander in Chief of the armed forces on the Andamans; Cdr Ajay V Bhawe, Captain of the *Kulish*; Commodore Arun Kumar Julka, Naval Officer in charge of the Andamans; R/Adm Amrnochot Surijat of the Royal Thai Navy Third Fleet; and Lt Col Antoine Goursolas, Defence Attaché with the French Embassy in Bangkok.



SOFT LANDING: Austrian Airlines launched its non-stop direct flights between Phuket and Vienna at a soft opening in Patong. From left to right, Phuket Customs Chief Ruthai Lertkietdamron, Phuket Provincial Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) Vichan Busapavanich and Austrian Airlines Country Manager Buranut Limjitti.



COOL CATS: Merlin Beach Resort was the venue for a joint celebration of the boards of directors for the Lions Club of Phuket Andaman Sea, Lions Club of Phuket Pearl, the Lions Club of Phuket and the Leo Club of Phuket. From left to right, Leo Uraiwan Chindapol, Lion Pichai Wattanapayongkul, Lion Dr Supalak Kanchanamethakul, Lion Sommart Onwong, Lion Olinto "Lupo" Barletta.



FEELING CROSS, SEEING RED: The Phuket Red Cross, in conjunction with Wachira Phuket Hospital, recently organized a blood donation day at JW Marriott Phuket Resort and Spa. More than 70 donors participated in the event, part of the Marriott's international "Spirit to Serve Our Communities" program.



WELL DESERVED: Phuket Tourism Association Chairman Pattanapong Aikvanich (2nd from right) and Ginette Forgues, Senior Specialist in Local Strategies for Decent Work in the International Labor Organization hand out certificates to two of the 32 serving staff who completed an intensive three-day course in how to serve at state occasions at Baan Klang Jinda.



HIGH DEGREE OF SUCCESS: Angkana "Koy" Kaewpradit (2nd row, 3rd from left), Sales Rep - Website Products at the *Phuket Gazette*, and reporter Athiga "Joy" Jundee (2nd row, 4th from left) attending their graduation ceremony from Prince of Songkla University, Phuket Campus, Faculty of Service Industries. Congratulations, ladies.

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I am a coward. A melting marshmallow in the flames of life. A scaredy-cat, a milquetoast, a lily-liver, or what have you. And what's worse, I really don't mind being labeled these base monikers as long as I'm kept away from the two things in life that transform me into a poodle-hearted poltroon – the dentist's drill and a Thai massage.

So it follows that, for me, a trip to a spa is somewhat akin to facing a firing squad – not that I am in the habit, mind. Nerves get the better of me and the prospect of being 90% naked with a total stranger for three hours tends to render me as wobbly as an invertebrate.

It was with some trepidation, therefore, that I arrived at Morradok Spa on Patong's Soi Kebsup. Nestled next to Horizon Beach Resort, the spa has all the trademarks of a top-of-the-range health resort: tasteful pastel decor, mellow music, friendly, well-presented and attractive staff and one very satisfied looking client emerging from his treatment room.

"I'll certainly be back!" he announces to one-and-all as he steps out into the courtyard. This relaxes me and I begin to feel somewhat more human – even more so when I'm settled in and have made it clear that I'd like a Swedish massage, not a bone-bending, cartilage-ripping, spine-cracking Thai military massage.



Getting naked with a stranger

And Swedish Aromatic is what I get. My therapist, Khun Noi from Isarn, has blessed fingers. Although she's petite she's strong, she's in command, possesses a wide knowledge of massage techniques and speaks reasonable English.

Thirty minutes later I'm beginning to appreciate the finer side of life. Cares melt away, worries cease, and the concern that I've still yet to fit a spare tire

on my pickup truck seems oddly out of place, given the sumptuous surroundings. Alfred E. Neuman I am not, but it'd be *Mad* to worry in such a situation. Flute music pipes through the sound system, K. Noi works away and I, like Lord Tut, am soaking it all up.

After an hour of lavender oil massage – the gentlest I have ever had – K. Noi turns her attention to my phiz for a Men's

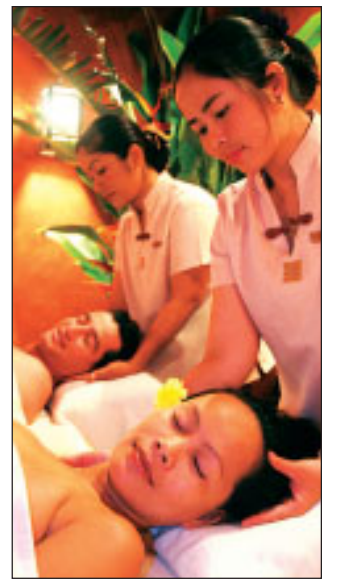
Pampering Facial. She does this first by hydrating and deep-cleansing, then by applying a paste, a gentle scrub, oil and a mask.

I have no idea what I look like, but I wouldn't want any of the lads from down the pub to see me in this state.

Still, it all feels so sensually scrumptious that I could die and go to heaven, except for the logical conclusion that if it all feels

so good then it must be a sin. That's what a Catholic education can do for you.

So, conclusions? Simple really; Morradok Spa delivered the best Swedish massage I've had in years. I stepped out, feeling like a million dollars (or at least 40 million baht) and, walking to my spare tire-less truck, smiled at a lady sitting by a shop front. She grinned back and said, "Wanna massage?"



Morradok Spa at Horizon Beach Resort, 64/39 Thaweewong Rd, Patong. The Swedish Aromatic massage costs 1,300 baht, and the Men's Pampering Facial 1,560 baht. Tel: 076-344940; Email horizonspa@asianwind.biz

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Location



Bring me a butt or bottle of your best Bolivian

Except, probably, for Saudi Arabia, just about every country in the world produces wine, and discovering nations that contribute to the astounding variety competing for consumers' attention is something of a hobby of mine.

I once asked a former professor of viticulture, Dr Harold Olmo, which overlooked country he thought possessed the greatest potential.

Without hesitation, he replied, "Bolivia."

At the time I remember thinking, "Sure, Harold," but, having recently returned from Bolivia, I can tell you he was probably correct.

Few people are aware that Bolivia, overshadowed by its famous neighbors, Chile and Argentina, has been producing

wine for more than 400 years. Spanish colonizers recognized the similarity of southern Bolivia to the Andalucia region of their native Spain, and sent for grapes to be planted in the mountain valleys of La Concepción and Tarija near the Argentine border.

The traditional method of growing grapes was to train the vines up fruit and nut trees, and you can see grapevines there that are more than 100 years old and are still producing grapes in this manner.

The earliest methods of viticulture have given way to modern science, and today vineyards are laid out in neat rows delineated by lasers and irrigated by computerized drip systems.

More than a few vineyards are managed by viticulturists with advanced degrees from major universities, and many of the win-

WINE



By Steven Roberto

eries use state-of-the-art equipment.

Several Bolivian wineries have ceded land to peasant farmers who grow grapes for them. Essentially giving the land away, the wineries are in turn supported by families that grow grapes in

accordance with the winery's advice.

This mutually beneficial business arrangement is quite rare. It is something to be commended and admired, as it has greatly improved the living standards of local people and created a thriving industry based around wine.

Another unique and important attribute of Bolivian wines is that many of them are made from grapes grown at an altitude of more than 3,000 meters. The sunlight at such an altitude is intense, giving the wine powerful tannins and flavor concentration.

Bolivia is also the home of Singani, a white grape spirit similar to young cognac, that is found nowhere else in the world. A protected trade name, like Champagne, Singani is rich, aromatic, smooth and possesses a magi-

cally long finish. It is truly one of the world's great spirits, but, like Bolivia's wines, is almost unknown outside its country of origin.

The people of Bolivia are among the most gracious and friendly in the world, and they are justifiably proud of their wine culture. Stumbling across pockets of greatness in overlooked faraway places is both pleasurable and exciting for the wine lover. Who knows what else is out there waiting to be discovered?

Steven Roberto is a wine-maker and restaurant consultant from California. He is the Managing Director of enVision Phuket, a Phuket-based wine importer and consultant. Email: steven@envision-phuket.co.th

Until October 2: The "OTOP Phuket Fair 2005". The fair, at Central Festival Phuket, from 9 am to 6 pm, features 150 booths showcasing One Tambon One Product (OTOP) items, including batik clothes and products made from shells.

Every weekend until November 6: "Seven Weeks of Cultural Roads". Thalang Rd, Krabi Rd and Dibuk Rd, the hub of Phuket City's Old Town, are the center of attention for a melange of arts, crafts, performances and food. Set amid glorious Sino-Portuguese architecture, the festival begins at 7 pm and ends at 11 pm every Friday, Saturday and Sunday. China, Sri Lanka, Indonesia,

PHUKET DIARY

Iran, Portugal, the Netherlands and Britain are all represented, as is the culture of Phuket itself.

October 2-11: The "Phuket Vegetarian Festival 2005". The festival will begin with lantern-pole raising ceremonies at 13 shrines around the island and is expected to feature more than 1,000 mediums – 30 from Taiwan – possessed by the spirits of nine Chinese deities. A copy of a *Mazhoufu* (Ruby Goddess) statue is already on public display at Nava-mindra Memorial Square. The Festival also features acts of

self-mutilation, bladed-ladder climbing and firewalking. For information, contact the Tourist Authority of Thailand's Region 4 Office at Tel: 076-212213 or 076-211036.

October 16: The Soi Dog Foundation's "Puppy Day". The venue is the SDF Clinic in Phuket City, from 11 am to 6 pm. Fun for all the family – including pets. There will be a puppy show, a demonstration by the Phuket International Dog School, as well as refreshments.

Visit www.soidog.org for more information, or Email: dalleyg@csloxinfo.com

October 23: The "Phuket International Mountain Beach Marathon". This will comprise a



The annual Phuket Vegetarian Festival starts on October 3.

full 42-kilometer marathon, as well as 21-km and 10.5-km mini-marathons, and a 5-km fun run/walk. All participants will receive a T-shirt, a souvenir medal, free food and drinks, and the chance to enter lucky draws to win air

tickets, hotel-stay vouchers, restaurant and bar vouchers, running gear and more. The run starts in the early morning, 4 am, from the Karon Circle Pond (Nong Harn) and goes along the beach road right up to Kata Noi Beach and Kata Viewpoint. For further information, contact K. Jeerasak or K. Jaspal at Tel: 076-333362; Email: info@katakaron.com or check the website at www.katakaron.com

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Guest chef

By Jenna Wise

British-born chef, Nick Reade, has recently joined JW Marriott in Phuket, bringing a wealth of culinary expertise and creativity. Nick worked for famed chef Albert Roux in London for 13 years before his career with Marriott began in 1998 when he took the position of Executive Chef at the Amsterdam Marriott Hotel in the Netherlands.

"This is my first position in Southeast Asia," Nick says. "I'm very impressed with the other chefs here, particularly Tammasak Chootong who has practically been running the kitchens since February of this year."

Cassoulet Toulousain For 8-10 people

Ingredients:

1kg dried white haricot beans;
1kg duck breast;
750g pork shoulder, left in one piece;
500ml duck fat;
300g pork belly (bacon);
200g pork rinds;
750g dried garlic sausage (Toulouse is best);
2 garlic bulbs;
2 carrots, chopped into bite-size pieces;
4 onions, roughly chopped;
1kg tomatoes, roughly chopped;
300g leeks, roughly chopped;
1 bunch thyme;
5 liters chicken stock;
100g tomato puree;
1 bouquet garni;
Freshly ground pepper.

Method:

Soak the haricot beans for 24 hours. Drain and place them in a large pot. Cover with water and add one chopped clove of garlic, bouquet garni and 2 roughly chopped onions. Bring to a boil and simmer for a few minutes before removing from the heat, draining and adding fresh water. Boil again and simmer for 5 minutes. Cut the dried sausage into slices about ½ cm thick.

Fry these in the duck fat in a large skillet. Remove the sau-



Nick Reade with Tammasak Chootong.

Cassoulet Toulousain (main picture) and the mouth-watering Tarte Tatin.



READE, RIGHT?

Tarte Tatin

To serve 8 people

Ingredients:

6-8 Granny Smith apples;
250g butter, cut into ½ inch cubes;
150g white sugar.

For the pastry:

250g plain flour;
75g caster sugar;
A pinch of salt;
125g butter, cut into ½ inch cubes;
1 egg.

Method:

To prepare the pastry, put the flour, sugar and salt in a food processor and blend well. Add the butter and continue mixing until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Add the egg and

mix until the dough has pulled together. Place the dough onto a floured surface and knead until it is pliable.

Press into a ball, wrap with cling film and refrigerate for 30 minutes before rolling it out into a 30cm circle.

Core the apples, then peel and quarter them. Melt the butter in a 25cm iron skillet over a medium heat. Remove from the heat and sprinkle the sugar evenly over the butter.

Tightly pack the apple pieces, upright, around the skillet. Cook on a high heat until the butter and sugar have caramelized to a rich brown color. This will take about 15 minutes.

Remove from the heat and turn the apple pieces over. Put

back on the heat and cook for another 5-8 minutes.

Remove the pan from the heat again, and then drape the pastry disc over the apples, tucking the overhang between the apple pieces and the inside of the skillet.

Bake in an oven preheated to 180° centigrade for 20-30 minutes until the pastry is golden. Allow to cool slightly before serving.

To serve, loosen the pastry edges with a knife and invert quickly but carefully onto a platter.

With thanks to JW Marriott Phuket Resort and Spa, Mai Khao, Thalang. Tel: 076-338000.



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Thailand TRAVELER

By Bill Owen

Trang Province is one of the oldest in Southern Thailand. More than 2,000 years ago it was the location for one of the most important ports of the south, where goods were landed by merchants from India and Arabia, and then transported across the narrow peninsula to Surat Thani and Nakhon Sri Thammarat to be exchanged for silks and treasures from China. This trade supported a whole range of maritime empires.

More recently, in the late 19th century the Governor of Trang paved the way for future economic growth in the whole region by introducing rubber trees from Malaysia. Trang had the first rubber plantation in Thailand.

Today, the economy of the province is still very much based upon agriculture and rubber production, but tourism is slowly developing, especially along the coastline and on outlying islands.

Along the coast there are more than 40 islands to explore and discover, all within comparatively easy access of the many small fishing villages. Surrounded by shallow seas, they offer some of the best snorkeling around.

The dramatic limestone scenery of Krabi and Phang Nga to the north also stretches south through this area and offers some stunning sights.

Koh Kradan is one of the most beautiful islands in the region, with fine sandy beaches and crystal-clear waters offering some of the best coral beds in the south.

One of its bays, with some excellent waves, especially in the monsoon season, is now beginning to attract the surfing crowd.



The beach at Koh Kradan, one of the most beautiful islands in the region.

Koh Muk, with its rugged cliffs, is the second largest island in the Hat Chao Mai National Park, and is especially famous for its one special feature, which is a *must* to visit – the Morakot (Emerald) Cave. Its entrance is on the west coast, low in the water and often hidden from view.

At low tide it is possible to swim through the 80-meter long and extremely dark tunnel and to emerge suddenly, what seems a long time later, in a spectacular inland lagoon, its white powder beach surrounded by towering cliffs and verdant jungle. I certainly do not recommend this for anyone suffering from claustrophobia, but those looking for a real adventure should strap on their life jackets and give it a try.

Koh Sukon, known locally as Koh Moo (Pig Island), is a remote and very tranquil place. Lovely beaches and excellent, untouched coral beds lie on its eastern coast, offering some of the best snorkeling and diving in

the area. Locals tell me that during March and April some of the most succulent watermelons in the whole of southern Thailand are grown here.

Trang's largest island, Koh Libong, is an ideal place for nature lovers. From November to January, migratory birds from Siberia can be seen on Juhoy Cape and Toob Beach.

The island is also home to green turtles, dolphins and dugongs. Local estimates report almost 30 of these endangered mammals living off the Cape. The interior also offers great walks and climbs – well worth the effort for the stunning views.

All of the islands mentioned here are easily accessible from the main fishing village and jetty at Pak Meng Beach. One word of warning, however: the seas during monsoon season can get quite rough and stormy, so it is advisable to check locally beforehand from May through October.

Many of Trang's islands have basic bungalows that can be

rented. On this particular trip, I stayed at Changlang Beach and did a few one-day island-hopping tours from the Amari Trang Resort.

This deluxe resort offers some of the most relaxing stays in the south. Located in its own casuarina tree-lined gardens, with a huge swimming pool and delightful lounges and bars, it is a real chill-out place.

Try their Beach House with its unique longtail boat sofa, excellent range of wines and a great library.

For intrepid sailors, the hotel offers some excellent Hobie Cats, and for those on a higher budget the hotel also has several speedboats and larger vessels for hire.

Trang is still quiet and, with the improvement in the roads, only a three-and-a-half-hour drive from Phuket. It is certainly a worthwhile weekend getaway.



HOW TO GET THERE

By car: An easy 3.5-hour drive from Phuket, via the main highway south to Phang Nga and Krabi. Follow the main E4 to Trang. About 20km north of Trang, take the road right to Pak Meng Beach. Also watch out for the signs for Amari Trang Resort, and for the jetty.

By bus: Buses depart on the hour from Phuket City to Trang Town. Cost: 100 baht. From Trang Town, take a local *songtaew* for the 28-km ride to Pak Meng Beach (approximately 80 baht).

Access to the islands: Local longtails and larger boats can be hired at Pak Meng Jetty from 1,500 baht per trip, depending on which island you visit. Local tours can also be booked via Trang Travel in town – Tel: 075-219598-9 or Fax: 075-211290. The World Travel Service Counter at the Amari Resort also offers pre-booked day and overnight trips.

Where to stay: Amari Trang Resort is offering a special promotional rate of 2,400 baht net per night, for a room only (single/twin). Check with Amari Hotels about their special pre-paid voucher deals. Tel: 075-205888 or Fax: 075-205899. Email: trangbeach@amari.com Website: www.amari.com

Bill Owen, who has lived in Phuket and worked in the island's travel industry for more than 17 years, is General Manager of Oriental Leisure Co Ltd, a leading event management company in Phuket. He may be contacted by email at: bill@oriental-events.com, or see the website at www.oriental-events.com

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Brain Buster!!

Five white mice – Amorn, Boon, Chai, Damrong and Eed – are learning to go through a maze. Each time one of them successfully negotiates the maze it gets a little snack as a reward.

So far, Amorn has had four more snacks than Boon; Boon has had seven fewer snacks than Chai; Chai has had five more snacks than Damrong; and Damrong has had three more snacks than Eed. Boon and Damrong, between them, have had 10 snacks.

Assuming that each mouse has gone through the maze more than once, how many times has each gone through the maze so far?

Answer on next page

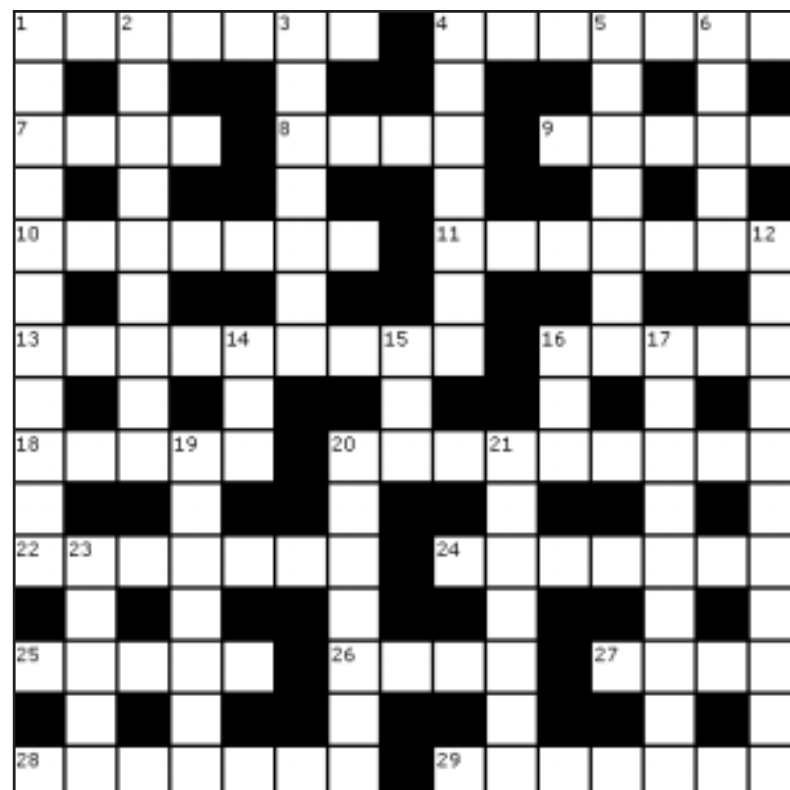
The Cryptic Crossword

ACROSS

1. Eats in-jokes, so they say. (7)
4. Combined, Amos and ewe are impressive. (7)
7. Great Scandinavian. (4)
8. The correct ceremonial, perhaps. (4)
9. Ties for speed. (5)
10. Predicted golf warning? (7)
11. Sounds like fifth letters are rotten? Relax! (4,3)
13. Bewitches doorways. (9)
16. A Terpsichore or an Erato, for example, may cause a smile. (5)
18. Bird regrets no extremes. (5)
20. Tightwad keeps peel and stone. (9)
22. Tour for each vacationer. (7)
24. The Lord and I make half a college. (7)
25. Pinch metal? (5)
26. Hold onto movie crew member. (4)
27. Channel Island is south to Noah's boat. (4)
28. Thy logs are weird – spooky! (7)
29. Transportation for movie preview. (7)

DOWN

1. If ref is back in notch, doesn't care. (11)



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2005

2. Mr Kelly, rat or electricity maker. (9)
3. Country at junction – hesitation followed by precipitation. (7)
4. Unchanging gal sees changes. (7)
5. Ray's a star on a girder. (7)
6. Repeated detail – of Tim, oddly. (5)
12. Heretic is at large with Rodin statue. (11)
14. Little apartment is appropriate. (3)
15. Animal is the Spanish Kelvin. (3)
16. Internet initials as a note. (3)
17. Nun's all it takes to get rid of program. (9)
19. Fast train, say. (7)
20. Scruffy point, and rocky. (7)
21. Poor, poor hen – has no chance. (2-5)
23. It's pointless for wretch to heave. (5)

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

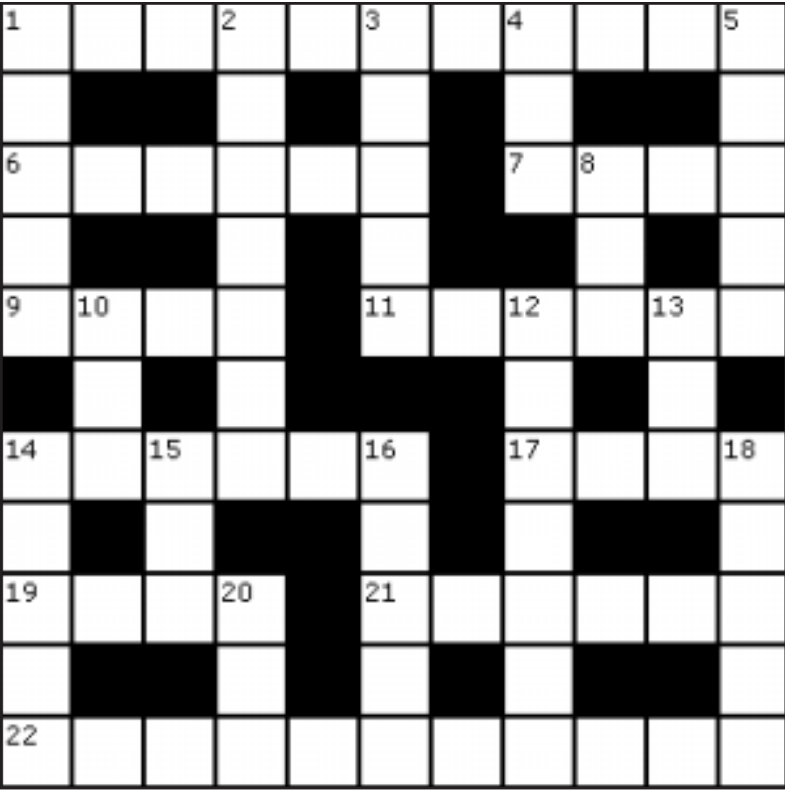
Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

				2	9		4	6
2				5		3		
	3	6	8					9
7		8			5	1		
3		1				8		2
		9	6			7		3
1					4	9	2	
		2		8				5
9	4		1	7				

The principle of Sudoku is very simple: each row, each column and each "box" of nine squares within the puzzle must contain all the numbers from 1 to 9 with, naturally, no repetitions. Guess if you will, but each Sudoku puzzle can be solved using logic alone. Beware: there is only one solution to this puzzle, which is on the next page.

EZ TRIVIA

1. Where is the geyser Old Faithful located?
2. What does Mitsubishi mean in Japanese?
3. What is the capital of Croatia?
4. What does BBC stand for?
5. What is the name of Barney and Betty Rubble's son in The Flintstones?
6. What dinosaur is easily recognized from the double row of kite-shaped plates along its back and spikes on its tail?
7. In The Bible, what was the source of Samson's strength?
8. Who always helps cartoon monkey Curious George out of trouble?
9. What stimulant is in coffee?
10. Japan is divided into 47 areas. What are the areas called in English?



Quick Crossword

- ACROSS
1. Disease prevention.

6. Got close to.

7. A long way away.

9. Not long now!

11. Say no.

14. To do with teeth.

17. One on a list.

19. Lower limbs.

21. Ass.

22. Cheap.
2. Small crown.

3. Opposite of zenith.

4. Afternoon drink?

5. Hospital employee.

8. Common virus.

10. Source of metal.

12. Pals.

13. Use one's eyes.

14. Indian capital.

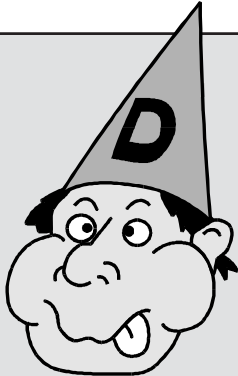
15. Old horse.

16. Large serving spoon.

18. Perhaps.

20. A third of a third of 54.
- DOWN
1. Bright planet.

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



Kids! Ask 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. *The English Language* was published in 1919. Who wrote it?

2. In which city would one find Trajan's Column?

3. Which regime instituted its first "Five-Year Plan" on October 1, 1928?

4. *Lakmé* is an opera by which composer?

5. Would one dance, eat or hunt a *lebkuchen*?

6. In which year was the motto "In God We Trust" added to US banknotes?

7. Leonardo Vinci achieved fame as what?
8. What might feature a party per fess, a party per bend sinister or a party per pall?

9. Which US indie-rock band had a 1989 hit with *Monkey Gone To Heaven*?

10. I walk south-east along Avenida Libertador. I turn south onto Avenida 9 de Julio. I am in which city?

11. The Mardi Gras festival in New Orleans occurs in which month each year?

12. In which country does Nokia, the mobile phone company, originate?

13. What was the latin name for Lyon, in France?
14. What side of the road to people drive on in Japan?

15. Which airport has the IATA code AMS?

16. Who was the first Pope?

17. Ergophobia is the fear of what?

18. How long was the 100 years war?

19. Who was the Greek god of war?

20. Which country's flag consists of just the color green?

Answers below

Puzzle Solutions

Monster Quiz Answers

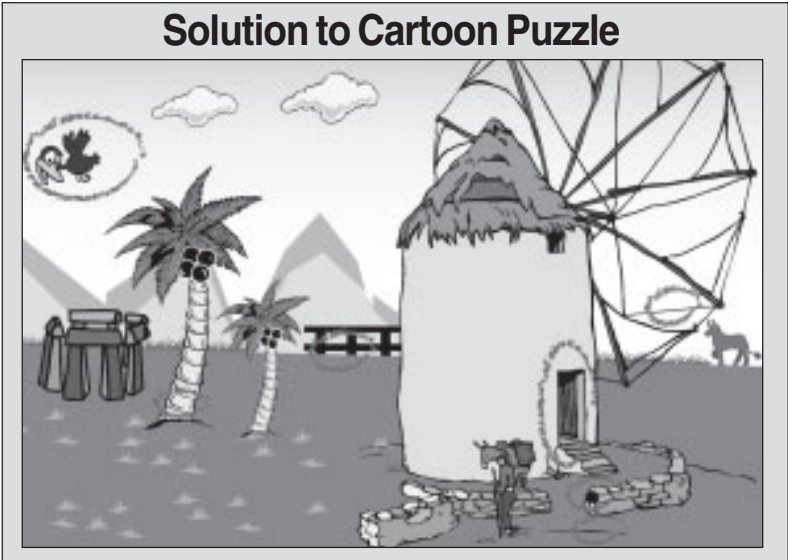
1. Henry Louis (HL) Mencken; 2. Rome; 3. The Soviet Union; 4. Léo Delibes; 5. Eat. It is a type of biscuit; 6. 1957; 7. A composer (1690-1730). Leonardo da Vinci was the artist/inventor; 8. A heraldic shield; 9. The Pixies; 10. Buenos Aires. 11. February; 12. Finland; 13. Lugdunum; 14. The left; 15. Schiphol; 16. Peter; 17. Fear of work; 18. 116 years (1337-1453); 19. Aries; 20. Libya.

EZ Triva Answers

1. Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, USA; 2. Three stones, as in the company logo; 3. Zagreb; 4. British Broadcasting Corporation; 5. Bam-Bam; 6. Stegosaurus; 7. His hair; 8. The Man In The Yellow Hat; 9. Caffeine; 10. Prefectures.

Brain Buster

Amorn has gone through 8 times, Boon 4 times, Chai 11 times, Damrong 6 times and Eed 3 times. Note: the key is that Boon and Damrong have had 10 snacks between them.



Solution to this week's Cryptic Crossword

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

Solution to this week's Quick Crossword

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

Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

8	1	7	3	2	9	5	4	6
2	9	4	7	5	6	3	8	1
5	3	6	8	4	1	2	7	9
7	6	8	2	3	5	1	9	4
3	5	1	4	9	7	8	6	2
4	2	9	6	1	8	7	5	3
1	8	3	5	6	4	9	2	7
6	7	2	9	8	3	4	1	5
9	4	5	1	7	2	6	3	8

I'm sorry, can you say that again?

Learning to type does not necessarily guarantee lucid ideas will flow. Among the many who tap out comments and observations about the Peril – sorry, Pearl of the Andaman, there are those who unwittingly say exactly what they do not wish to. Here are just a few examples of Net inanity.

“Scheduled flights then began shipping in tourists by the busload, and Phuket’s building frenzy, and consequent over-development followed.” bbc.co.uk/dna/h2g2/A695414

“Takraw: National sport [in] which players handle a rattan ball with their feet, heads, knees and elbows.” thai-blogs.com/index.php?p=738

“U dont get too many spanish speaking people in Patong. U do get many people from a latin background e.g. Italian & Greek.” phuket-info.com/forums/printthread.php?t=8869

“I knew I wasn’t a boy right from a baby’ Ice told me. Then she added; ‘I hope that when they make me a woman, I shall be happy, perhaps not and then I try something else’ Ice said thoughtfully.” britishexpats.com/articles/000086.html Hmm, exactly what?

“Resorts like Patpong, Kata, and Karon attract hordes of north European package tourists, but it’s easy to escape them.” escapeartist.com/efam/59/Thailand_Adventures.html

“Thailand is definitely an interesting country with an even more interesting culture. Almost everywhere you looked, there seemed to be a bar or a massage parlor only a few meters away.” seandonovan.ca/thailand.htm

Of course, the opposite applies and many people would not want it any other way: “One of the things I really liked about Thailand is their weird signs and English translations. A favourite of mine is this shirt, which says ‘Celebrate with full of energy.’”

**OUTSIDE
IN**

By Lis Kinswoman

Every week, Lis Kinswoman (no relation) haunts the highways and byways of the Internet in a perilous search for telling comments on our own “Emerald Isle”. Step aside, knaves and harlots – here she comes...

Man, I wish I had bought that! Every time I looked at a menu there would be something to snicker at. Seriously, I think the country needs some English editors.” perpetualkarma.com/archives/001699.html

Base comments: “Why do bar operators set out their stall to attract farangs, as they call us, then pay good money to surround their bar with the ‘100 kg filter’ type of seating? You know the ones, they are bar stools, but they have a semi-circular back support framework with a padded backrest that only small Thai bums could possibly be comfortable in. The average farang can just about squeeze on to the seat, but is pushed into an uncomfortable perching position, almost slipping off the front. The bigger of us can only perch on the first 3 inches of the seat base, like resting against a ledge that is not deep enough to sit on. Yet still, new bars keep on buying these things, even though a simple stool, with no backrest, must be cheaper, as it has no extra metalwork, padding, etc. Please note bar owners, it is much more comfortable also. If you hear reports of a ‘phantom hack-sawer’ going

It would take how many monkeys how many years?

around Patong at night cutting the backs off these torture instruments, I hold up my hands now, ‘It is me.’”

stickmanbangkok.com/Weekly/weekly205.htm

Poetic license to rename? Among the many reports of a change in holiday destinations for Arab tourists and a shift from holidaying in the West to a marked preference for the East comes this sparkler. “Since May this year there have been 84 weekly flights from the Middle East to Thailand, including 66 from Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Doha and Bahrain... Shady Kamel, a front-office supervisor staying at the Bangkok Marriott hotel, says the recent terror attacks in an Egyptian resort town have led to increased safety concerns among Middle Eastern tourists so many have switched their choice of destinations.” phuket-info.com/forums/showthread.php?p=94917 [quoting The Nation]

“Shady Kamel”? Surely shome mishtake? Or did the writer simply forget the front office supervisor’s name and invent his own?

The ecstasy and the agony: “We had our first nibble of Thai hospitality 24,000ft high. Just after midnight and above a black Arabian Sea, we ate a surprisingly delicate dish of chicken over rice, with juliennes of vegetables, followed by a mousse of cream and lemon. Airline food is generally avoidable, but there couldn’t possibly be bad Thai food. Whether in the Airbus, the bylanes of Patong at four in the morning or the fantastic hotels of Krabi, Thai cuisine is so good you can’t ruin it.” pinaki.info/thai.htm

“There couldn’t possibly be bad Thai food”? It certainly contains a lot of iron if the following is to be believed.

“A Thai construction worker who was hospitalised with a severe stomach ache, vomited up two nails, a screw and a piece of rope, media reports said on Sunday. The unusual case prompted doctors at Patong Hospital in Phuket to X-ray the stomach of Samorn Ngarmphosi, 18, who had been admitted on Friday night complaining of a bellyache.” news24.com/News24/World/News/0,,2-10-1462_1675639,00.html

This is a terrible novel about a terrible time

Writing a book review about an incompetent novelist is like clubbing a baby seal. A J West, author of *Dead Men’s Bones* (Zone Press, Asquith, Australia, 2004, 304pp) is an Australian journalist based in Asia. He is perfectly capable of writing an intelligent sentence, but he shows himself woefully inept at plot, dialog, character development, pacing, humor and descriptive prose – all the tricks of a novelist’s trade.

This is a shame, because the important story he tells – *A Story of Kokoda*, as the subtitle has it – has never, to my knowledge, been given fictional treatment. The Kokoda Trail over the Owen Stanley mountain range in New Guinea was the scene of savage fighting between the Australians and the Japanese in the early days of World War II.

The Battle of the Coral Sea had foiled a seaborne invasion of Port Moresby, so the Japanese simply decided to climb over the mountainous spine of New Guinea and attack the capital from behind. This is some of the cruelest terrain in the world, and to cross steep, muddy, triple-tiered jungle while burdened with heavy packs and weapons boggles the mind. Then at the end of



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

The whole book is written in clumsy prose

their ordeal, the two armies settled down to kill each other, with no quarter asked or given.

The young hero of *Dead Men’s Bones* is Norm who, in the depths of the Great Depression, has left his home on the outskirts of Sydney to find work for a couple years on sheep and cattle stations in Queensland. The novel opens with his return. Here is the mother and child reunion:

“The sudden appearance of her son is a shock and she sucks in the air around her before exhaling herself at him with a lunge and a big hug – bursting into tears. ‘Norm! My Norm home at last!’ The weight of her body nearly knocks him off his feet and is only held up by the thick arms that wrap around his back, nearly suffocating him with her unreserved

love. After a long time of gushing she releases him, hanging onto him at arm’s length, taking in his distorted features through the watery lenses of her eyes.”

Now this is very clumsy prose, and the whole book is written like this. Someone once asked Norman Mailer how you become a novelist, and he replied that it is like learning how to play the piano – it takes a lot of practice. Reading *Dead Men’s Bones* is like being trapped in a room with a very bad piano player for the length of time it takes to read 304 pages.

The author also has the annoying habit of changing the second person pronoun to “you”. Why? This needless neologism just grates on the reader. What’s wrong with “you”?

Norm goes off to work in a slaughterhouse with Ben and Dave, the brothers who live next door. There is much celebration of traditional Australian values like mateship, beer drinking and “blues” (fist fighting). At a dance, Norm falls in love with Flo, the brothers’ sister and, in keeping with the custom of the time, this romance proceeds only as far as a chaste kiss.

As the Japanese advance across the Pacific, threatening Australia, the three mates enlist in the militia, the Choco-soldiers, the six-bob-a-day murderers. They’re shipped to Port Moresby for six months of trench digging, Japanese air raids, military drudgery and beerless boredom. At last, they head up the Kokoda Trail to confront the advancing Japanese army.

And here the novel collapses completely. At the climactic battle scene, the author commits the cardinal error of telling, not showing.

He blandly tells us that Norm is machine-gunning an advancing wave of Japanese infantry. But he doesn’t show us. There is no description of the Japanese troops, no sounds, no smells, no emotions – just lame reportage. A novel, by its nature, has to go deeper.

Instead, the author saves his narrative energy for the conclusion: a preposterous four-page burst of bathos in which a wounded Norm appears to visit heaven. But at least the reader’s agony is near an end.

The Kokoda Trail battles were an epic in human endurance. The Australians and the Japanese deserve a better teller than A J West.

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Coming to you, live

I am in London for two large property exhibitions, so my column comes from this most celebrated and historic city, considered by many to be the birthplace of modern civilization.

The news in London has been riveting. A famous international supermodel who often stays in Phuket has got herself into extremely hot water after being caught by a photographer while she was allegedly taking drugs – the sort of drugs that many people in the high levels of society are reported to take regularly. Major international companies have canceled her contracts.

Matters relating to the London bombers and the war in Iraq have also been fairly high up in the news. Sporting matters, of course, take high priority, with football news and the recent Ashes cricket series still a subject of much discussion – where the team from the heart of the mighty British Empire managed to wrest the coveted trophy from the lowly Australian colonials after 16 years of pitifully unfruitful attempts.

One fascinating newspaper column caught my eye. The Gambia has apparently become a major destination for British ladies. They are trooping off in large numbers to enjoy the delights of this tiny African nation on the Atlantic coast. It seems that middle-aged ladies who have found themselves alone in the world because of the breakdown

LARGER THAN LIFE

By Graham Doven

of previous relationships, or because they may just be short of interesting company, have found new excitement with young men from this country.

I quote: "Just a few tables away is Carol, a 64-year-old retired lady who has spent three thousand pounds on flights to visit her 28-year-old lover".

More quoting: "The barman tells me of one 51-year-old woman who married a 30-year-old Gambian waiter two years ago and took him back with her to England after securing for him a visa and a job. Just two months after their arrival in England, he vanished. Other similar stories abound – the woman who divorced her English husband and arrived back in Gambia – along with a heavy pot of savings – only to find that the lover she had met on holiday earlier was already married to a local girl and had two small children. Her decision to 'surprise' him and arrive a month early had caught him out."

There is something familiar about such tales – familiar to those of us who live in Thailand, a country often frowned upon by middle-aged English ladies.

However, to counteract all this excitement, I am fortunate to

be staying at a friend's house just outside London in the county of Surrey, in a delightful town by the name of Woking. It seems to have become a fairly trendy place, with excellent restaurants, good shopping centers and friendly pubs. The train from London only takes about 20 minutes, so clearly many take the train from their offices in central London and stop for refreshment in Woking before heading home.

My friend's house is on a nice road with very nice houses. One of these houses, not far away, is on the market for £850,000 sterling, or about 60 million baht.

My friend works in London in the banking industry and has already invested in property in Phuket. He is not selling his house, but he knows he can buy a lot in Phuket with that kind of money. Another friend has just put his small, two-bedroom flat in a fairly down-market area on the market for £250,000. That's 18 million baht, and that buys a lot in Phuket as well.

It should be interesting, at the property shows here in London, to find out what people think about Phuket. Of course, I will be busy explaining to them that, in spite of some reportage by their honorable television media, Phuket was not wiped out by the tsunami. Perhaps people from Phuket actually being there in person might help a little towards that end.

Seven electrocuted after excavator cuts power

From the Phuket Gazette, issue of October 1-14, 2000

PHUKET TOWN: Seven laborers working in a canal next to the bypass road were rushed unconscious to the Wachira Phuket Hospital on September 20 after being electrocuted.

The men – six Cambodians and a Thai – were working in the canal when an excavator working alongside them tangled with a power line, breaking the cable, which dropped into the canal and

electrocuted the seven workers. As soon as the power was cut by the Provincial Electricity Authority, staff of the Kusornlatham Foundation, who had already arrived on the scene, pulled the unconscious men out of the canal and rushed them to hospital. All have since recovered.

The excavator operator, Pia Paandam, 30, escaped injury. He was arrested.

THE TIME machine

News from the past

Storm Winds Devastate 3,000 Rai In Phang-Nga

From the Phuket Gazette, issue of October, 1995

Strong winds wiped out 3,000 rai of fruit orchards early last month in neighboring Phang-Nga province.

The area was also affected by severe flooding.

Many roads and bridges were out of service. Especially hard hit were Kapong and Takuapa, 120 kilometers north of Phuket, where emergency supplies had to be distributed.

In The Stars

by Isla Star

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): You are advised to remember that talk can be cheap. This week, expect to hear some news that can be taken with a pinch of salt. Focus on the way toward realizing a cherished goal and don't allow others to put stumbling blocks in your way. Cancer can be trusted to give solid advice, but don't listen to wacky words from Pisces.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Love is in the air, and it will be difficult to accomplish much work this week. You may have to put romance on the back burner when a work responsibility calls for unplanned travel. This is not an auspicious time to take a new partner along. Monday is the best day for tackling an awkward financial issue; if this involves asking for a loan, don't aim for the moon.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Disagreements within the realm of romance should be quickly dissolved. If you're not absolutely certain that they've got the facts right, then you should not make accusations. Words spoken in the heat of the moment will not be forgotten. At work, channel your energy into the project most certain of success, even if it is not the money-spinner of the year.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Take action in areas of your life that have been ignored: in financial issues, if you don't act now, there will be a price to pay before the end of the month. Personal relationships could also use some effort on your part; your partner has been trying to tell you about a grievance for a while. The color turquoise will encourage a burst of energy.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Your self-esteem picks up as October kicks into gear. If you've been wondering if they've taken on too much responsibility will suddenly realize that they can take on the world. Surprise your partner with a sunset dinner on Friday to start the weekend with a rosy glow. Overseas obligations are highlighted on Tuesday and Wednesday; check paperwork before making important phone calls.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): If you have been pining for a lost love, you'll finally see the foolishness of your dreams. The first week of October sees you swimming into new waters that will affect several areas of your life. Positive news concerning money is heading your way, and, if you're seeking new employment, expect more than one offer. A change of location by year's end cannot be ruled out.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): As October starts, your finances will look more comfortable. However, there's still room for improvement and unexpected bills later in the month cannot be ruled out. Ask advice from practical Capricorn about investments. Spiritual matters occupy your attention later in the week; even the staunchest skeptics will have reason to become curious. Wear white to encourage purity of thought. Number 3 looks promising on Saturday.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): You will enjoy tangible results of any fitness campaigns recently started. Compliments come from unexpected sources, and you should be basking in the sunlight of admiration this weekend. Next week, remove your head from the clouds temporarily when a work-related matter requires immediate attention. Otherwise, just allow yourself to feel good. The number 1 can bring good luck this Saturday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Domestic situations are about to benefit from more positive conditions. If you feel you've been between a rock and a hard place recently, you will feel more relaxed. In business, even though you think events are at a standstill, a golden opportunity is around the corner. This is not an auspicious time to think about taking trips off the island. Wear emerald green to encourage long-lasting wealth.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): This is a good month to declutter your life, both physically and mentally. You will be able to approach high season with a more positive attitude if you do so. A new goal will become apparent this week and this is one that is truly worthwhile, no matter what certain friends try to tell you. If you're considering redecorating, incorporate the color azure to encourage financial luck.

LEO (July 24-August 22): If you have been finding it difficult to achieve a harmonious balance within the family, you must accept that a particular person is not going to turn over a new leaf. This will be the month when your true talents are appreciated, maybe leading to more fruitful business activities. You should spend time working on an action plan. Negotiate tricky contracts on Tuesday.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Your spending power will be stronger this month, but don't share this secret with everyone. If you have been taken for a ride lately, then you'll receive a wake-up call this weekend. On Wednesday, you get to let off some steam regarding a work situation that has been simmering for some time. It's important to remember that you are in charge of your own destiny. The number 4 is lucky on Monday.



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Recently, the police established 71 “safety zones” in Bangkok. These are to receive special protection by security guards, surveillance cameras and police patrols.

Bangkok has always been fond of zones. At one time we had weapons-free zones. Bars in certain districts had posters on their doors featuring a picture of a handgun in a circle with a line drawn through it.

I always felt secure in those bars. I felt less secure when I realized there was no place in the vicinity where thirsty gunmen could deposit their firearms. I would have felt much more secure if there had been a gun-check girl at the door who would relieve them of their weaponry before they entered the bar.

And there were other zones. A former interior minister once floated the idea of paradise zones, where the government would operate businesses devoted to the pleasures of the flesh.

DEVIANTS

The ladies employed at such venues would thus become a new class of civil servant, supervised by trained monitors who would be alert to prevent kinky activities.

It sounded like an ideal system, except for the question of who would monitor the monitors.

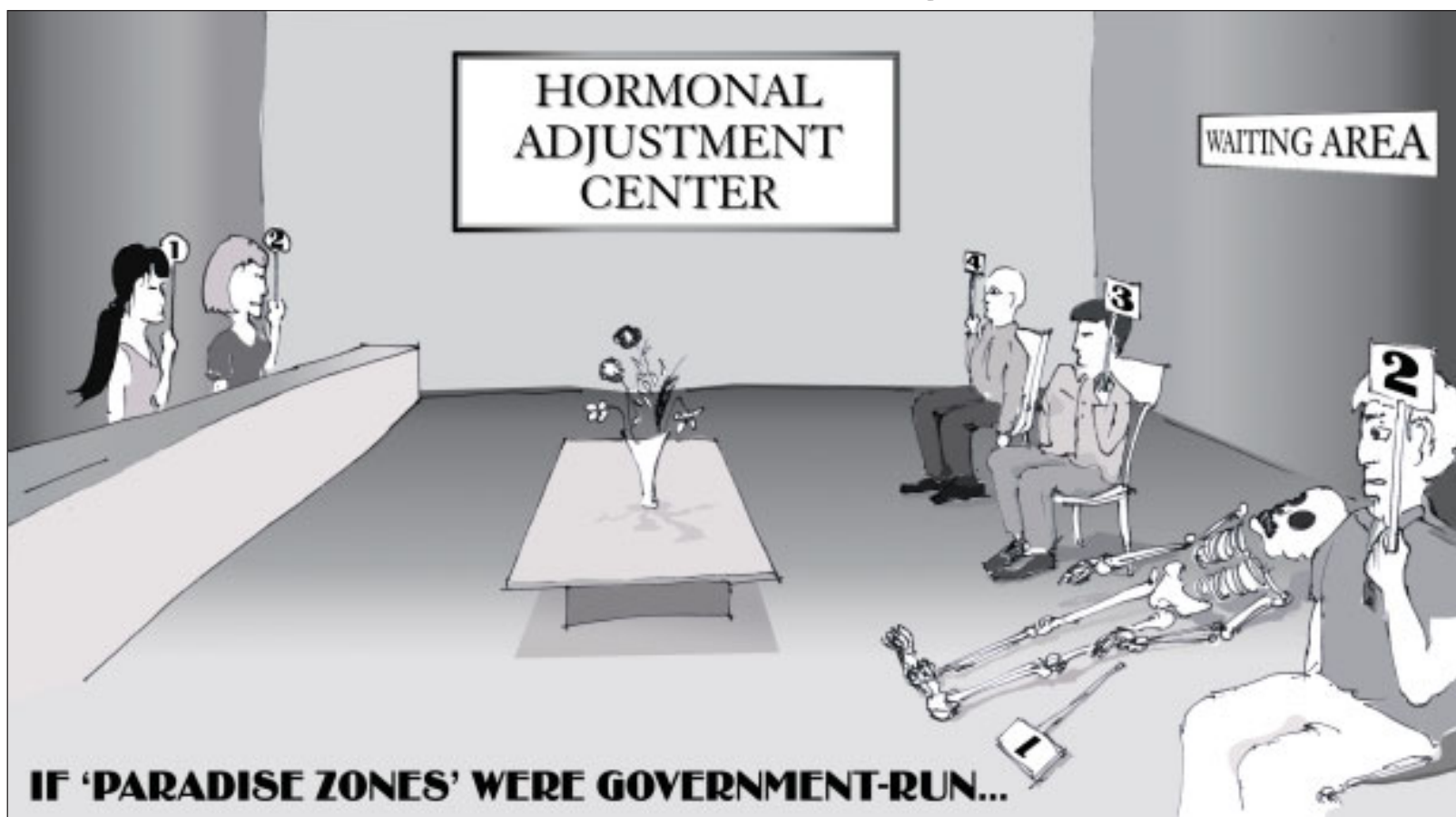
And there would have been other problems. The paradise zones would have become magnets for deviants eager for the thrill of bonking a civil servant. And, as with other government bureaucracies, patrons would have been required to take a number and wait their turn. They would have been served by whichever bureaucrat happened to be free at the time.

That would have compromised the romantic ambience considerably.

The weapons-free zones enjoyed some success for a while, but the paradise zones were hooted down by moralists and remained an unfulfilled dream in the fertile brain of the interior minister who conceived them.



Warning! This is a zany zone



I regretted that, because I've always been curious to know what a government-sponsored lady of the night would look like.

(Politically-correct digression: Please, people, let us hear no more of that ugly word “prostitute”. It is hurtful and demeaning to the people it designates – some of whom, I am told, are quite charming. We need a more uplifting term. Some possibilities: carnal therapist, penile gratification specialist, hormonal adjustment artiste.)

But I have allowed my
thoughts to wander.

My topic is safety zones; and the very concept proves that originality and imagination are alive and well within the byzantine convolutions of the bureaucratic brain.

I have no problems with safety zones. What I'm worried about are non-safety zones. Logic suggests that if citizens can consider themselves safe inside the safety zones, they can also consider themselves unsafe outside them.

May we not reasonably infer that as soon as people step outside a safety zone, they will immediately be subject to death or injury from falling objects, collapsing billboards, dangling power lines, sinkholes in the sidewalks and drunken drivers? Not to mention harassment by crazed *ya bah* addicts, aggressive katoeys, and underemployed carnal therapists.

A prudent government desirous of avoiding lawsuits will post signs at the exits of every

safety zone reading “Warning! You are now entering a non-safety zone. Proceed at your own risk.”

This will be bad for tourism. Tourists will have to be kept so deep inside the safety zones that they won't even suspect they're in one, unless they start wondering about the absence of penile gratification specialists.

To help implement the new system, the police have devised a sign which was displayed prominently in a photo in the newspapers. It read "Beware your wallet." That was admirably concise, but it could have warned people to beware of dangers far more threatening than their own wallets.

It could have emulated an elegant sign I once saw on the

grounds of an Indian temple that read “Take care of your shoes and money. Swindlers are about.”

But in this case we require more detail. The sign could have opted for both elegance and detail with something like “Beware! Lurking about the premises are thieves, pickpockets, cutpurses, miscreants, persons of questionable integrity and underemployed hormonal adjustment artists.” That would cover most bases.

What Bangkok really needs, of course, are scam-free zones, karaoke-free zones and cellphone-free zones. But those topics must await another day.

*S. Tsow can be flamed at
stsow@yahoo.com, except
when he's agitating for the re-
vival of paradise zones.*



Live music is still safe and well

tainment Plaza". The name may not be inspirational, but one thing that is interesting about the location is who is going in there.

Saxophone Pub has long been the best live music venue in the Big Durian; it is one of my favorite places in Thailand.

I have played there several times myself and always thoroughly enjoyed it.

They were going to open in Jungceylon but have apparently become so frustrated by the delays that they've jumped ship, and will open this year in the first unit of the High End Entertainment Plaza.

There are a few other units available around it, and smart people would do well to get in next to them, for they really rock!

Another new rock venue is due to open on the same bit of road, on the site of that beautiful former Japanese restaurant which never worked. So it looks as if live music is safe and well in Toon Town for a good while yet.

It's also good to see Nina and Manolo (former Molly's and Scruffy's band) back in town; they are looking for a gig and you can contact them via their website at www.mangolights.com

Another welcome return is the reopening of possibly the most gorgeous bar in Asia – Home on Soi Viking. It opened briefly last year and began to get busy with the VIP set on the island. It is a stunningly well-designed place. Although it closed post-tsunami, it reopens October 1.

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Patong Bay still being poisoned

In contrast to the terrible death toll and damage it wrought, the tsunami also had some environmentally beneficial effects.

There were reports of leatherback turtles returning to nesting sites on Mai Khao Beach, attracted there by the addition of clean, new sand. There was also an immediate decrease, to almost zero, in the levels of coliform bacteria in Patong Bay right after the tsunami (see Inside Story, pages 4-5).

For a brief period after the catastrophe, the tsunami seemed to have given us the chance to make a fresh beginning somehow. Sadly, with the high season for tourism fast approaching, it appears that the former status quo is returning.

Since Phuket's emergence as a major tourist resort island some 20 years ago, tourism industry figures and government officials have talked in almost parrot-like fashion about Phuket as a "paradise of sea, sand and sky".

The stark reality is that our beaches – the goose that lays the golden egg – continue to be slowly poisoned. Pollution-control measures, inadequate before the tsunami, have not figured largely enough in the the recovery effort.

Nowhere is the problem more evident than in Patong Bay, which last year experienced for the first time heaps of seaweed washing up on the beach.

This phenomenon was the direct result of the high input of untreated human waste into the bay at Klong Pak Bang. This canal discharges into the south end of the beach, where thousands of people swim every day during the high season.

Making matters worse, the greatest input of wastewater comes during the high season, when a lack of rainfall and calm seas reduce mixing.

To use a crude analogy, the cleansing effect of the tsunami on Patong Bay was like the flush of a toilet bowl. Barring another tsunami, the only option we have to keep Patong Bay clean now is to separate surface runoff from wastewater, treating the latter to the already high standards of the Pollution Control Department (PCD).

Public awareness is important too, and the PCD's scheme to give "star ratings" to beaches is a good publicity campaign. Its Marine Environment Division, however, needs to do a better job of pouncing on polluters, including those who use their on-site treatment facilities only during inspections.

If the volume of untreated wastewater discharged into Patong Bay were reduced to zero overnight, water conditions there would quickly begin to resemble those in Karon. Imagine what that would do for tourism.

– The Editor

The Phuket Gazette

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Editor: Rungtip Hongjakpet

Managing Editor: Alasdair Forbes

Deputy Editors: Chris Husted, Stephen Myles

Chief Reporter: Sangkhae Leelanaporn

Editorial Team: Stephen Fein, Andy Johnstone, Anongnat Sartpisut, Athiga Jundee, Sam Wilkinson, Ananya Hongsa-ngiam, Shiona Mackenzie

Managing Director: Rungtip Hongjakpet

Marketing Manager: Oranee Pienprasertkul

Website Services Manager: Natthira Susangrat

Distribution Manager: Passara Kaewbumroong

Publisher: The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

Contact us

Advertising Sales: adsales@phuketgazette.net

Classified Advertising: classads@phuketgazette.net

Website Services: anna@phuketgazette.net

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Telephone: 076-236555 (10 lines) **Fax:** 076-213971

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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.

Beach cleaning Aussie-style

When my husband and I spent our most recent holiday in Phuket, we were disappointed at the condition of the beaches.

They were littered with plastic bags, cigarette butts, wrappers, excrement and a mountain of other debris.

I found it so upsetting that I was unable to walk a beach without constantly picking up as much as I could, only to find it the same the very next day.

The mess is not just the result of the monsoon and floating garbage from the tsunami, but from the general disregard by everyone for the importance of the environment. Phuket is desperate for tourists, so why ruin the beaches with litter?

This problem could be overcome by the following strategies used in Australia:

1. The lifeguards drive a beach scooper over the sand early in the morning and late in the afternoon. Surely a small grader could be afforded by the local government for each main beach?
2. Fine people for littering. It is a great way to increase revenue.
3. Engage the unemployed to clean the beaches daily, all-year-round. I regularly gave a man 20 baht for his daily efforts to clean the beach. This made him feel appreciated and kept him motivated to continue doing this job.
4. Demand that the restaurants and the beach chair operators take responsibility for the stretch of beach that they occupy. To maintain their licenses, the beach has to be in pristine order or they pay a high penalty to the local government. This revenue could

finance resources to beautify the beach. Why should they be making profits while the rest of the beaches' occupants suffer?

5. Place more eco-friendly garbage cans near exit and entry areas to the beach and have regular garbage collection.

The tsunami cleaned the beach fronts to a level that Phuket had not experienced in a very long time.

So many people lost their livelihoods and their lives and now lack of pride and education is destroying the best of what Phuket has to offer – its beaches and marine life. Yet, this problem can be rectified.

Clean beaches are what people deserve and expect. Achieve that and tourists will be able to take back wonderful memories of their stay in Phuket and will tell their friends and families about it. This would go a long way to encouraging others from around the world to visit Phuket.

Debra Mierczak
Hong Kong

Dry observations

I cringe every time I hear about Phuket's so-called water problems.

I come from Australia, one of the driest continents on Earth, and before the rainy season a friend of mine tried to tell me that Phuket was experiencing a drought.

The word "drought" does not mean the absence of water in a dam or from the taps. In Australia there are many places that have had no rain for years. A few weeks without a down-pour is not a drought.

Sydney has a population of roughly 4-6 times that of Phuket,

and an annual rainfall of less than half the average of Phuket. Even taking into account the limited rainfall in Sydney, many people suggest that with proper management, distribution and recycling Sydney will be able to accommodate a growth in its population.

One thing that Sydney does have over Phuket is that there is considerably more space for collecting and storing water.

There need to be long-term solutions implemented. The environment and water issues should be a greater priority than cutting into mountains to build hotels.

Yes, the government needs to address the issue properly, but there are also things that individuals can do to save and recycle water.

Mimi Zilliacus
Kathu

Thorny issue and answer of sex toys

Regarding the policeman's reply to the online "Issues & Answers" question about the legality of sex toys in the Thailand, I find it hard to believe that, as a renowned sex tourism destination, the country does not allow sexual devices to augment one's sexual pleasure.

Often these can be used to complement a monogamous couple's sex life, or, of course, to satisfy an individual's sexual desires.

Sadly, Thailand appears to have not yet experienced the sexual revolution necessary to allow women and men to take sexual satisfaction into their own hands.

William Sparrow
Editor
Asian Sex Gazette

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

Booze tax will not make a drop of difference

Increasing the tax on alcoholic beverages in order to reduce the number of drinkers is like trying to crack a boulder with your bare hand – it makes no difference to the boulder.

Alcoholism is a social problem not unlike the problem of drug addiction – even if the police always catch and arrest addicts, the addicts will continue to try to take drugs. That is because the addicts have a problem that can be solved neither by fines nor by imprisonment.

A higher tax on alcoholic beverages may slow drinkers down, albeit temporarily. However, people who like to drink will continue to do so, even though it has become more expensive. Increasing the tax on alcohol does not reduce the number of drinkers.

There are many factors that can drive people to drink, such as the influence of family, friends and society at large. Some people drink because they are addicted to it. In the case of teenagers, however, many of them take up drinking to ease their anxiety in social situations.

Alcohol consumption that results in traffic accidents, crime and reduced productivity by the workforce, not to mention dis-

FIRST PERSON

Can raising the tax on alcohol be an effective way of reducing the number of alcoholics in Thailand? On September 6, the Excise Department increased the tax on distilled spirits, from 240 baht per liter of 100% alcohol content to 400 baht per liter. The per-bottle tax depends on the category of liquor and the actual proof per spirit. **Dr Jirasit Thawornbut, MD**, Diplomat of the Thai Board of Internal Medicine and Gastroenterologist at Bangkok Phuket Hospital, shares his thoughts on whether or not raising the tax will do anything positive to help tackle the problem of alcoholism.



ease, is of serious concern and cost to the government. If the government aims to curb alcohol consumption, then the root problem must be addressed – and any

solution must subsequently be supported appropriately and consistently. For instance, promoting sports and recreational activities as a way of socializing can help

to prevent youngsters from turning to alcohol.

The major negative consequences of drinking are accidents and diseases such as stomach

cancer, cirrhosis of the liver and hepatitis – any of which can kill you.

While most 15- to 25-year-olds in Thailand drink alcohol, and numbers of them have accidents while under the influence, many drinkers suffering from alcohol-related diseases here happen to be middle-aged foreigners. In Phuket, the foreigner to Thai ratio of alcoholics is about 70:30.

Yet only between 10% and 20% of alcoholics end up with a disease directly related to their drinking.

Volume of alcohol, period of time, genetic makeup and environmental factors all have an impact on the outcome of high alcohol consumption for an individual.

Certainly, more than 80 milliliters of alcohol per day makes people more prone to disease. For women, just 20ml of alcohol a day can bring about alcohol-related diseases.

People who drink alcohol are usually aware of the risks involved, and even that does not stop them.

Let me put the argument another way: because of the increase in the price of oil, it may cost more to fill up at the gas station – but people do not stop driving their cars.

Is this working?

Please can you explain the definition of working in Thailand in relation to the requirements for work permits.

I am employed and paid overseas, but spend lengthy periods of time on holiday in Thailand.

The company I work for has no representation in Thailand, nor does it conduct business in the country, but – occasionally – I do take the opportunity to visit our suppliers that are based in Thailand.

I also attend business meetings on behalf of my company and answer emails regarding the overseas company while I am in Thailand.

Does this really constitute working?

Intrigued

An officer of the Department of Employment (DoE) in Bangkok replies:

Foreigners who come to Thailand for meetings, seminars or to visit customers do not need a work permit as such, but they should report to the DoE in Bangkok or, in the case of an emer-

gency, the employment office in the province they are visiting.

The businessperson must complete the form *TorThor 11* within 15 days of reporting to the pertinent office.

After reporting at the DoE or the employment office, the businessperson will be presented with a certificate stating that they are complying with the rules.

The businessperson should bring their passport and a copy of it, and a letter from the company being visited.

If they cannot come in person, they can appoint a proxy to act on their behalf.

The proxy must hold a document authorizing them to act on the businessperson's behalf.

Foreigners that come to meetings in Thailand have to complete the *TorThor 11* form but if they come for more than two months they must apply for a work permit.

If an officer checks and finds that a visiting foreigner hasn't reported in and filled out the *TorThor 11*, the offender will be fined or jailed or both, depending on the case.

Issues & ANSWERS

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?

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

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

Why are the highways in such poor condition?

The main road out of Karon to Patong is in need of repair and has been this way for years. When will they ever fix it?

Also, near Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort, there is a hill that is being used as a garbage dump.

It looks extremely bad for those who live here and for the tourists who visit. When will this stop and when will it be cleaned up?

Tom Notaro
Phuket

Chetsarit Khamphan, Civil Works Chief of Karon Municipality, replies:

Patak Rd is the responsibility of the Provincial Highways

Department. However, Karon Municipality is responsible for an area just past the traffic circle. The Municipality is preparing to build a sidewalk by the canal running along the left side of the road before Nong Harn (the lake).

Karon Municipality is responsible for the sidewalk only, not the road.

Thanit Sakiya, a Phuket Highway District engineer, replies:

The project to improve the main road was due to start in August. However, we are still waiting for funding, 55% of which will come from the World Bank in cooperation with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and 45%

from our own funding, which is currently held up because of paperwork.

We have signed a contract with Noppawong Construction Co to work on the main road from Karon through to Kamala. Once it starts, the work should take about three months to complete.

Preecha Tawetong, Chief of the Public Health and Environment section of Karon Municipality, replies:

My office has contacted the owner of the land which is being used as a dump, and we have told him that he cannot leave garbage piled there. The owner has now removed the garbage.

ON THE MOVE



The new Phuket Customs chief is **Suwat Daungpan**, 49, from Samut Sakhon. The Thammasart University graduate was Chief Customs Inspector at Don Muang International Airport in Bangkok for a year before moving to Phuket. He also served as Deputy Customs Chief of Viboonmungsaharn District, Ubon Ratchathani Province.



Panjaporn Limpanavisit, 26, from Phuket, has been appointed Assistant Spa Manager of Cheraim Spa Village. She has a degree in English from Ramkhamhaeng University. Previous posts include Spa Manager at Royal Haven Spa and Senior Receptionist of Mandara Spa at JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa.



Buppha Jitkhong, 32, has been appointed the new Executive Secretary of Le Royal Meridien Phuket Yacht Club. She holds a degree from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences from Prince of Songkhla University, Patani Campus. K. Buppha worked as F&B Secretary at Banyan Tree Phuket for four years.

BACK UP OR CRACK UP

IT ISSUES

By John Seebach

Probably one of the least thought about – and most important – topics in computer information management is backing up your data.

I find it a bit like going to the dentist; I know I should do it, and eventually I'll have to, but there never seems to be a good time to do so. In comparison, losing your teeth may or may not be worse than losing your data.

I learned this lesson a long time ago when I was working for an oil company. As project manager of the offshore drilling division, I had years of documents, proposals, specifications and drawings all stored on my PC.

One day there was a power surge on the rig, and just about every item of electronic equipment got totally fried – including my PC's hard disk.

If this has ever happened to you, then you will be all too familiar with that initial hollow feeling in the gut, followed by a complete sense of helplessness, shock and disbelief.

Truly, it is a horrible event. So this week, I'll explore the basics of data backup, including

some of the various methods available, best practices and value for money.

Backup devices: There are several tools you can use to back up your data. Large companies tend to use tape drives. These are a bit like a cassette recorder that you can that you install like a CD or floppy drive. They are quite expensive, but they are the also the best solution because, unlike a floppy, the tape itself has no moving parts. It is only the tape drive mechanism that spins. A disk drive, by comparison, has a metal disk inside spinning at 7,000 revolutions per minute.

Another method is to backup to CD, but this can be cumbersome because of the sheer number of CDs required to back up the large drives common these days.

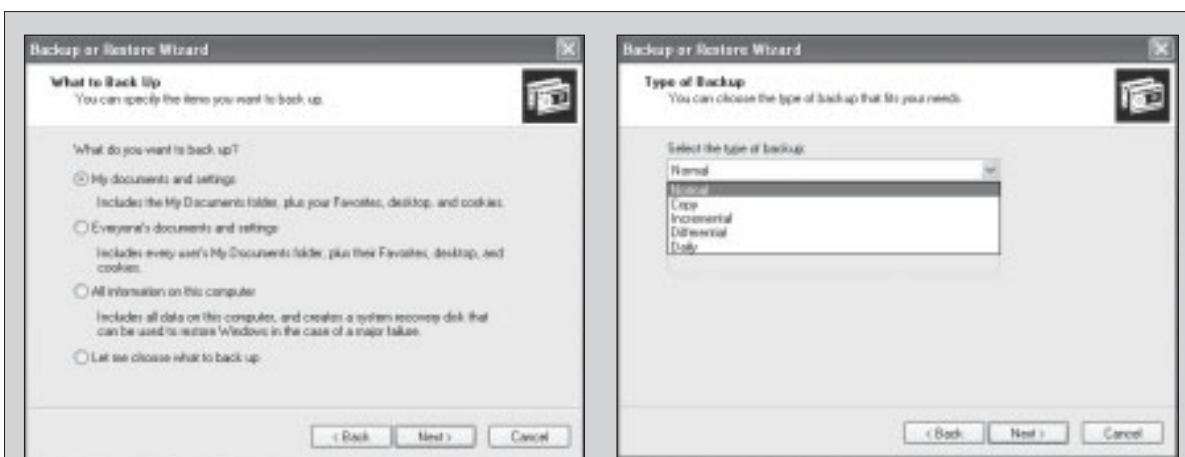
You can always go for a DVD burner, but again, there are often times when this option also requires multiple disks. And just imagine what happens if one disk in five goes belly up – the entire backup is lost.

The most common device used for backups is simply a second hard disk in your PC or on your network server. Although this is convenient, it is among the most failure-prone of all backup systems.

The hard disk could get infected with a virus, a power surge could damage it, the PC could be stolen, or, as in the case of our clients affected by the tsunami, it could simply float out to sea.

Having said that, if you are going to use a hard disk for backups, I recommend using a removable disk.

This way, you can rotate the disks and keep one off-site in case of a catastrophe.



It's a bit like having to go to the dentist: you know you ought to do it, but you just keep putting it off...

Backup software: The most popular backup software can be found right inside your Windows operating system, though you may have to install it.

It is not included in the default installation of Windows XP Home Edition, nor is it listed in that edition's Add or Remove Programs tool. The Backup utility is included on the Windows XP Home Edition CD-ROM, in the ValueAdd folder, and you can install it manually.

Once installed, you can find it by clicking on Programs > Accessories > Systems Tools.

The backup program should be the first one listed on the drop-down menu. It allows you to select which files and folders you wish to back up, and even schedule it to run automatically, for example overnight.

If you are more into high-end computing systems, take a look at Backup Exec by Symantec, which advertises itself as the "gold standard" backup software. You can download it on a trial basis, free of charge, at www.backupexec.com or at www.veritas.com

This tool has far more features and can back up multiple computers and even operate a tape library, which is much like a CD-changer for tape backups.

popular methods of backing up your data is to run a full backup first, by making copies of all files and folders you have chosen to back up.

Then, each day you simply run an incremental backup. This handy feature looks at every file on the full backup, only adding new ones and those that have been updated since the last backup. This takes about a tenth of the time of a full backup and even less storage media space.

Remember always that it is best to keep at least one full backup off-site. Should a crisis occur, you can always go back to the last one.

The method most used by corporations is called Grandfather, Father, Son. It sounds slightly odd, but it really does work.

Consider the following tape (or disk) rotation scheme, which uses just four separate media. On the 1st of any given month, make a full backup and move it off-site.

Then, for the next 30 days, simply run incremental backups as follows: Monday, backup onto Tape 1, Tuesday, onto Tape 2, and put Tape 1 in your safe. On Wednesday, save an incremental backup onto Tape 3 and move Tape 1 off-site, putting Tape 2 in the safe.

Follow this scheme for the full month and then do another full backup on the 1st of the next

month.

This may sound like overkill, but you won't regret if you ever lose all your precious data.

One final note about files; keep in mind that My Documents is not the only place your files are stored. Outlook and Outlook Express store files a bit deeper in the system folders.

You should always remember to back up these files too, and the best way to find them is to go to Start > Find > Files and Folders.

Then type Outlook*. into the space where it asks you what you want to find. Don't forget to click the box marked: Search Hidden Files and Folders.

Once you find them, write down the location so you can select them when you set up your backups.

And one more thing: beware that if another user logs onto your Windows XP, then you'll have more than just one My Documents to back up.

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

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Water charges flow uphill

By Anongnat Sarpisut
& Stephen Fein

On his recent inspection tour of the island, Deputy Interior Minister Somchai Sunthornvat commented that "the days of free water are over". For many island residents, especially those not connected to the provincial or Phuket City distribution networks, those days are already here.

Apart from sinking their own wells, the last resort for many homes and businesses is to call one of the many companies that truck water to homes from tin mining ponds. Prices for the water, which is generally untreated and only suitable for washing and bathing, depend on a number of factors: shipment volume, delivery destination and time of year among them. Prices tend to rise with the tourism high season, which starts around the beginning of November.

MARGINS

The *Gazette* contacted several private water delivery firms about current prices. Beng Water Service, with offices near the Ketho Temple in Kathu, trucks water in its 1,500-liter modified pickup at prices ranging from 170-250 baht per shipment.

Larger 6,500-liter deliveries, made by the company's tanker truck, start at 600 baht. The service covers Phuket City and Kathu.

Don Water Service delivers to customers in Phuket City and environs at 600-700 baht for a 12,000-liter shipment. Sawasdee Water Services, which delivers to most of the southern end of the island with its 14,000-liter tanker, charges 700-900 baht per truck truck.

None of the three firms mentioned above was willing to divulge further details about their businesses, such as how much water they truck each month, pricing trends, profit margins or how they thought the government's recent talk about piping in 200,000 cubic meters (m³) a day from Chiao Lan Reservoir in Surat Thani would affect their businesses.

As 800 baht for 14,000 liters is the equivalent of about 57 baht/m³, what the companies charge is not competitive with



Beng Water Service. Tanker deliveries (foreground) start at 600 baht, with pickup (background) deliveries costing around 200 baht.

rates charged by municipal systems.

REQ Water Services Company, which has been contracted by Chalong Tambon Administration Organization to provide water to Chalong residents on the PPWS supply, charges 6 baht/m³, for example.

REQ company is negotiating with the government to build the desalination plant in Karon, with a proposed cost to the PWA of 40 baht/m³ based on a 5-6 year contract.

Charges for Phuket City water range from 4-13 baht/m³, but are expected to rise, according to department Director Sawong Sri-In.

Phuket Provincial Water Supply Chief Sayan Wareearoonroj recently commented that even under optimum conditions, trucks can only service about 10 homes per hour, and therefore could not be considered as anything other than an emergency solution.

But for some consumers in areas with chronic supply problems, such as Kata, trucks are the only option.

Some large-scale water consumers there have chosen to cut out the middlemen and have bought their own tankers.

Pamuke Archariyachai, CEO of the Kata Group of Hotels, said his company had to buy

a second water truck at a cost of about one million baht to deal with ongoing water supply problems.

The water is sourced from a tin mine pond at Chao Fa Thani village in Chalong.

"When we had to rely on companies we had problems because they always took care of their regular customers first," he said. Even with the second truck, the hotel group still had supply problems, he added.

In the past, Kata Group has needed five to six trucks a day to meet full-occupancy, high-season demand, paying from 600-1,200 baht per truck.

K. Pamuke said Kata Group would continue to rely on trucked water until the proposed desalination plant in Karon comes on line.

"We know it's dangerous to be trucking water on steep roads, but we have to do it because we don't have any other option," he said.

Panu Maswongsa, Vice-President of Marketing of the Phuket Tourism Association, said that there is a provincial policy in effect that limits the time water trucks can operate during daylight from 10 am to 3 pm. This is done in order to ease traffic congestion during rush hours.

"The trucks don't affect tourism that much," he added.

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HEADS UP FOR THE 2006 QBE PHANG NGA BAY REGATTA

PHUKET: The organizing committee for the 2006 QBE Phang Nga Regatta, due to take place from January 27 to 31, has announced that its registration book is now open for competitors.

The previous eight regattas have grown in popularity among local yachtsmen while entries from outside Thailand have also significantly increased in recent years, with the 2005 event attracting a total of 27 entries in five classes.

Committee President, Andrew Craig, said that he hopes to encourage more international yachtsmen to join the event, the reputation of which has grown with each passing year.

He said that the event also has a social calendar rivaling the

best found elsewhere, making for a unique experience.

The regatta will take place over the Chinese New Year with the registration and the opening party on Friday, January 27 followed by racing around Phang Nga Bay over the next four days, and ending in Phuket on the Tuesday.

The racing will take the fleet to Koh Yao, Krabi and back to Phi Phi before the final dash to Phuket.

Race and party notices will soon be on the organization's website, www.bayregatta.com. Those wishing to enter should follow the registration link on the website or email: info@bayregatta.com.

Register early: the fleet will be a maximum of 40 yachts.



Great sailing, great scenery: a flotilla in the 2005 event

Photo: ArtAsia Press

Phi Phi rises again like the Phoenix

As the ferry draws close to Koh Phi Phi, you can still see the vast swathe of destruction carved out by the tsunami.

Most of the buildings close to the main pier facing Tongsai Bay have been demolished by nature's unpredictable force.

Yet, after getting off the boat, visitors are now welcomed by touts plying their trade, while farther down the main alley come invitations from locals trying to make a living. Boutiques, restaurants and massage parlors are once more competing for your attention. At night the bars are alive and kicking. Climbing schools are all geared to help you take your first vertical steps.

Passing by dive shops that stay open until 9 pm, passers-by are transfixed by a showcase of



By Chris Cruz

the area's underwater life on strategically positioned video screens. Vacationers are now returning in droves. Like the proverbial Phoenix rising from the ashes, Koh Phi Phi is coming alive again.

Not that many people thought Phi Phi's comeback would be so quick. Volunteer organizations moved in with clean-up efforts directly after the tragedy. Spearheading the movement were professionals and dive shop owners who co-ordinated efforts to remove beach and underwater debris.

Now people are looking ahead. Life has to go on, even as those who died will always be remembered with love and respect.

Before the tsunami there were 20 dive shops operating on the island. Now 10 are back in

business, and another is about to open.

Toine Kokke, the burly Dutch manager of Moskito Diving, comments, "We have lost an estimated 50% of our assets, yet we were lucky to have saved two of our boats. It is now time to let go of the past and to look forward. This, we believe, is what Heinz [Moskito Diving's owner, who died in the tsunami] would want us to do."

PADI, the largest dive-certifying agency in the world, has given its full support to Phi Phi's diving industry comeback. During a recent visit to the island, Richard Evans, PADI Legal & Risk Management Officer, said, "We were here immediately after the tsunami and we saw how the place was devastated. But now it's time to show how everything is changing."

"Through the *Undersea Journal*, the PADI magazine, we can help Thailand by writing

about the recovery of the diving industry and show tourists that everything is up and running. You can come and dive, the infrastructure is there, it is safe, and it is a beautiful place to have your holidays. Our problem now is to get the tourists back."

The area's dive sites were miraculously spared by the tsunami. Somsak Chatchakorn, the National Association of Underwater Instructors Course Director and owner of Aquanauts, pointed out, "The island has been blessed by nature and the dive sites have not been affected by the tsunami."


The manager of one diving center, who wished to be referred to only as Marcus, said, "I wanted to leave the island before the disaster, but when I saw the loss and devastation, I decided to stay. Let's help the economy get back on its feet again. We have to tell the world that Koh Phi Phi is alive. There is bad publicity going around the world through travel agencies. They all think that Koh Phi Phi has turned into a rubbish pile. So I can't wait to send photos to my friends in Canada to show them how wrong this is."

John Heike, manager of Phi Phi Scuba Diving Center, has been on the island for the past 13 years. He said, "I believe that the resurrection of the diving industry on Koh Phi Phi was not un-

expected at all. When I first came here more than 10 years ago, the tourist industry was driven almost exclusively by divers. They heard about the place so backpackers came to enjoy diving in the area. Now, in the same manner, when the tourists hear about the rehabilitation of the area, surely they'll come back to investigate."


Accommodation is another concern. "I think the accommodation capacity of the island is 20% less than what it was last season," John said. "Camping grounds can be set up provided we can come up with environmentally sustainable toilet and shower systems. Security is also a concern - there should be a place where people can leave their belongings. We hope to be able to address this issue as time goes by and more people come back."

"Most of the island's residents have lost someone, somebody or something of value. We have all discussed this with our friends. There is something very therapeutic about doing that. But at some point we will have to get on with our lives. We have to learn to look forward as opposed to going back. There is something refreshing about watching tourists coming back to the island carrying their luggage, with young children in tow. Now is the time to invite friends and families back to the island."



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Local players compete for national team places

PHUKET: Eight soft tennis players from Phuket will be in the capital to compete in the October 1-2 final "selection" round for the right to represent Thailand at the 23rd SEA Games, to be held in the Philippines from November 27 to December 2.

Phuket Soft Tennis coach Nipon Jiang-iam told said the eight hopefuls are (men) Pakorn Niyomadul, Sakan Tansirirot, Permyot Tansakul and Peernat Phromrak; (women) Tanyapat Kongkaew, Nattha Kongkaew, Paoleena Ratsameesangjan and Worarak Lekchaikan.

Coach Nipon said that Sakan, Pakorn and Tanyaporn stand a good chance of making the 12-member squad, as all three played for Thailand in the last SEA Games.



India wins international basketball

PHUKET CITY: India won the Phuket International Women's Basketball Invitational tournament, organized by the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization, held at Saphan Hin from September 22-25.

The national teams of Indonesia, Singapore, India and Thailand met in an event aimed at promoting Phuket.

Thailand won the opening match against Singapore with a convincing victory of 83-49, but their first encounter against India saw the

home side win by just 8 points. Both India and Thailand had won three matches by the end of the round-robin tournament, forcing the two squads to play-off a deciding final.

India's Geethu Anna Jose was the top scorer of the tourney, posting 66 points of her own on the scoreboard.

The visitors proved too skilful in the final, however, and scored 79 points against Thailand's hard-earned 58 points. Singapore beat Indonesia in the third-place playoff.

WICHIT WIN

PHUKET: After a series between 15 teams that began on August 13, *OrBorTor* Wichit triumphed in the Phuket *OrBorTor* (Provincial Administration Organization) Soccer League final, played September 25.

Wichit beat *OrBorTor* Thepkasattri at Surakul Stadium 1-0, winning the series in the process.

Vice-President of the *OrBorTor*, Suthin Uthathumrong, presented the prizes – 82,000 baht for *OrBorTor* Wichit, 62,000 baht for *OrBorTor* Thepkasattri in second place, and 47,000 for Thepkasattri Municipality in third place – as well as medals and trophies.

BOWLED OVER

PHUKET: The Phuket Reporters' Club is asking for entrants for its 4th Bowling Tournament, to be held at CS Bowling in the Big C shopping center from 9 am to 4 pm on October 29. The tourney is limited to 30 three-man teams, and registration costs 3,000 baht per team.

To apply please contact the Reporters' Club at Phuket Provincial Hall. Tel: 076-240925 or 01-8945256.

Large turn-out expected for Mountain Beach Marathon

KARON: More than 1,000 athletes are expected to take part in Phuket's inaugural Mountain Beach Marathon on the long weekend of October 23.

It is being organized by the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), Kata Karon Municipality, and the Kata Karon Hotels' Business Association.

The Associate Manager of the Hotels' Business Association, Jirasak Tanakittitham, said that the event has already attracted some 300 entrants, and that at least 1,000 runners from 10 countries are expected to be there, including the Thai national team.

"This is one of the most difficult and challenging mountain sea view runs," he said.

The event will be divided into four races:

The 42.195-kilometer run to Phromthep Cape starts at 3:30 am. Men's open and age-bracketed into 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59 and 60 years and up; Women's open, and 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54 and 55 years and up;

The 21.10-km run to Kata Noi Viewpoint starts at 5 am. The run is for 18 years and under, open, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59 and 60 years up for women, 60-69, and 70 years up for men;

The 10.55-km run to Kata Noi starts at 6 am. Men's categories are: open, 12 years and under, 13-17, open, 30-39, 40-49 and 50 years up; women's are 12 years and under, 13-17, open, 30-39 and 40 years up;

The 5-km run to Karon Stadium also starts at 6 am. This run

has three sub categories: family run, VIP men and women, and men and women's open.

Runners will start at Karon Circle then proceed along the Karon and Kata Beach Road, past the Club Med, up to Kata Noi Viewpoint, and down through Nai Harn Village with the race finish at Phromthep Cape.

Registration is 450 (race 1), 350 (race 2) and 250 baht (races 3 and 4) respectively.

Cash prizes and trophies will go to the winners of each category.

For more information contact K. Jirasak at Tel: 01-8912663 or 076-333362-3; Fax: 076-333364; email: info@katakaron.com, or visit the website at www.katakaron.com

Shakers rocks, Coyote howls; Didi's back in action!

Shakers was surprisingly *un-shakey* in a first-place showdown with Amigos, taking all 3 points against Bez and the boys and moving into the lead in the process.

Meanwhile, Offshore picked up two more points in narrowly beating Nag's Head, but continues to lurk mid-table with a large number of games in hand.

The surprise result of the week was an 8-1 thrashing of Queen Mary by Coyote, though Queen Mary pulled out the beer leg to salvage a point.

Patong Darts League

More good news from Soi Saen Sabai: Didi's, thought by many to have retired from the league, were back in action after over a month of postponed matches with an exciting 2-1 loss against Piccadilly in their newly-refurbished bar.

African Sports Bar is now closed and Jerome is looking for a new bar to play out of.

Isn't it time someone at Sukhumvit Road put up a dart board?

Sept 20 results: Coyote 8 Queen Mary* 1; Shakers* 6 Amigos 3; Nag's Head* 4 Offshore 5; Two Black Sheep 6 Dog's Bollocks* 3; Didi's* 4 Piccadilly 5; African Sports vs Valhalla postponed. (* = Winners of beer leg)

October 4 matchups: Nag's Head v Amigos; Two Black Sheep v Queen Mary; Shakers v Piccadilly; African Sports v Dogs Bollocks; Didi's v Valhalla; Coyote v Offshore. (Home teams first)

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Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

There are many boring people in this world. Most of them live in Milton Keynes, an unremarkable little town in the south of England, created for no other purpose than to house, employ and entertain boring people.

I say "entertain", but Milton Keynes is not exactly renowned for its similarities with Patong. I suppose that there may be excitement somewhere in Milton Keynes, but holding the British all-comers paint-drying championship in the town doesn't really do it for me.

Most of the blokes living there are called Derek or Clive, but the problem is that very few of them are as interesting as their early '70s namesakes. No "getting the horn" or questionable references to Lord Longford for the average Milton Keynes resident. They are far too busy working in their office or bank, or planning a satisfying night in front of the telly with the Missus – except on Thursdays, when they go to the Bingo. What mullarky.

BORING

So what about plants then? Let's face it – grass really isn't the Mr Excitement of the plant world either. It doesn't actually do that much – it sits there, grows and just, well, looks green.

Its human equivalent would be one of those Milton Keynes bank clerks, whose most interesting act would be counting the contents of his stamp collection or his weekly trip to the accountant.

Grass really is that boring.

It probably exists in the average garden because most gardeners are just too bone idle to come up with a viable, interesting alternative. If you want to play tennis or fire up a barbecue on your patch of grass, then it's probably the best option, as it performs the task extremely well. If not, it purely acts like a coat of tedious white emulsion on an otherwise spartan concrete wall. There are alternatives to grass, however.

Two weeks ago, we looked at Jacob's Coat, which is one of

Pain in the grass



Cuphea, or false heather, is used as a bedding plant all over Phuket and elsewhere in this part of the world.

the easiest options to grass available. Unlike grass, it certainly grows more than a few inches tall, but doesn't usually get much over about a foot in height. If all you want is ground cover for areas in your garden that you can't think what else to do with, then this is just the job. A sea of purple or pink is surely preferable to the predictable expanse of dull, grassy green.

Jacob's Coat is also perfect for the bases of trees. Rather than have a tree sprouting out of your lawn, why not ring the base with a few of these? It's much more interesting than Clive, and it also hides that dodgy bit where the grass meets the tree that you're not quite sure what to do with.

Another option to cover garden corners and edges is the namesake of a plant that is very

much native to my roots in northern England. Sometimes I find myself even missing the moors (and the inevitable rain), and the heather that blankets the landscape in a sea of purple. That is partly addressed with a local "variety", although in reality, the only thing it has in common is the name.

Cuphea, or false heather, is used as a bedding plant all over Phuket and elsewhere in this part of the world. It shares the tiny purple flowers of its Yorkshire moors' namesake, and has small, closely set leaves.

The flowers grow continuously, and it grows well with little assistance.

It is happy here, as it is from the similar climes of Central America, although I'm not sure that it would be quite as enthusi-

astic in the average English weather.

Pandanus, on the other hand, has no connection with Yorkshire whatsoever. The best-known variety is a large plant with large, strong leaves, which are traditionally used for basket weaving and even building homes in many parts of the world.

But it does have a little brother – the dwarf pandanus. This variety, unlike its tree-sized big brother, only grows to about a couple of feet tall, and is incredibly good at spreading sideways, rather than upwards, which could be exactly what you want in some parts of your garden.

The dwarf pandanus will cover any non-grassy area quickly and effectively. All it needs in return is lots of sunlight, and not a great deal else. It will survive in less sun, but the leaves will all turn a washed-out green color.

It looks fabulous, with its long narrow leaves with yellow and green stripes that run down the length of them, but don't even think about putting this near a path or any area where you are likely to walk, or in a spot that's a favorite with the kids. The attractive leaves contain a rather prickly shock – sharp barbs that are somewhat brutal. Look but don't touch.

It doesn't always have to be grass. Honestly. Do you really want your garden to live its life like Clive in Milton Keynes? Watch that dwarf pandanus, though. It's a serious pain in the grass.

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Construction

by Anongnat Sartpisut



Work on the new spa is expected to be complete by October 13.

A herbal treat at the Cheraim Spa Village

PHUKET CITY: "Cheraim" is the Thai word for licorice root – among the most well-known of ancient herbal tonics and, therefore, an apt name for this new spa development in the heart of Phuket.

Panjaporn Limpanavisit, Assistant Spa Manager of Cheraim Spa Village, explained to the *Gazette* that the developer, Thainaan Plc, has planned a variety of meal-plus-treatment packages.

"After eating at the Thai Naan restaurant, clients can relax in the spa, which offers at-home privacy," she said.

Conveniently located just across from Central Festival Phuket and easily accessible from anywhere on the island, Cheraim will be able to accommodate 152 guests per day, with 106 beds available for groups and 46 beds for walk-in clients.

Focusing on Asian tourists – from China, Japan and Korea – Cheraim's expected occupancy rate is 50% this year and 80% to 90% next year.

Services and facilities include 44 Thai massage beds, 20 foot massage chairs, 14 treatment rooms for male individuals, 24 treatment rooms for female individuals, 22 couples' treatment rooms, two singles' treatment suites, two couples' treatment suites, a beauty salon, souvenir shop, herb garden, meditation room and 50 parking spaces in addition to the parking at the restaurant.

"Private treatment suites for couples enjoy the view of a small waterfall and the treatment beds overlook a tranquil pond," K. Panjaporn said.

Teak is used expansively, both in Cheraim's construction and in its contemporary Thai

décor. Polished stone and glass embellishes exterior walls, while interior walls are of fashionable green and pink-textured concrete. The floors are brown glazed tiles for a natural look.

The architect is the internationally acclaimed Bent Severin & Associates, known for interior, architectural and industrial design. The company's portfolio includes Hotel Sofitel in Khon Kaen and Siam City Hotel in Bangkok, among others.

Construction of Cheraim Spa Village, a 200-million-baht investment on 10 rai, is expected to be complete by October 13.

For more information, contact Cheraim Spa Village at: 16 Wichit Songkhram Road, Wichit, Muang, Phuket 83000. Tel: 076-24 9670 -5; Fax: 076-249676; or visit the website at: www.cheraimspavillage.com

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Home of the Week

Laguna

This immaculate, four-bedroom, two-story Laguna residence, looking over the Laguna 7th hole tee box, is for sale.

The most striking feature about this residence is its massive 1,861 square meter land area, which makes it ideal for children and pets – or for practicing that difficult chipping shot.

Everything about this villa is especially large; the 12 meter x 4 meter pool is designed to allow the owners the freedom to step straight from the main living room to cool off. Not that the villa is ever hot – cool breezes constantly flow from the golf course, and the entire villa is on split-system air conditioning.

The outsized 4 meter x 4 meter private sala is positioned for maximum enjoyment of the breezes and watching golfers teeing off the 7th hole or coming off the 6th green.

A large sun deck area between the pool and sala gets plenty of daylight, while after dark it is also ideal for a poolside bar-becue.

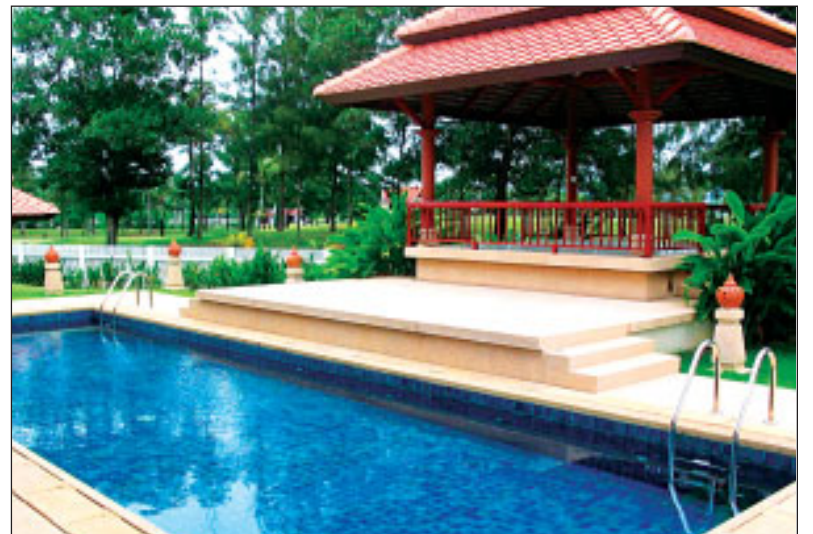
JACUZZI

A purpose-built outdoor Jacuzzi has been installed by the present owners, a perfect way to unwind after a day on the course. The sala can also be converted into a massage area.

An outside 3 x 3 solid and secure storeroom is an added feature, similar to the traditional Aussie-style backyard shed, allowing owners to store items like gardening gear and pool-cleaning equipment, tools, and golf clubs. It could even make an ideal “play house” for children.

The 302sqm internal area of the property features a European-style kitchen that opens onto the lounge and dining area. A guest bedroom downstairs can easily be converted into an office, and

A villa with a view



a shower and toilet is provided for guests or to accompany the bedroom option.

There are also maid's quarters, along with internal storage under the stairs – perfect for a wine cellar.

Upstairs, the master bedroom has perhaps one of the most impressive views overlooking the 6th and 7th fairways. Even the walk-in ensuite with bath, glass partitioned shower and his/hers

washbasins has an impressive fairway view.

The other bedrooms each share a shower and bathroom and have their own walk-in wardrobe. Privacy is one of the notable features of this villa, which is positioned in such a way that golfers cannot see directly into the outdoor areas or into the villa itself.

The double car park is located directly opposite the 24-

hour security entrance, manned by an international security firm.

This property is less than two years old, has never been lived in, and has been perfectly maintained.

While the plants and shrubs are still in their infancy, the villa grounds will in time burst into color, their shade and character matching the mature trees that line the 7th fairway directly opposite.

With Phuket International Airport less than 20 minutes away, the beaches just five minutes to the north, and all the hotel facilities and restaurants on its doorstep, this villa will appeal to investors, retirees or those seeking a quality lifestyle.

Knight Frank Phuket anticipates that the villa could command as much as 150,000 baht a month in rental income.

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3. 12' x 6' x 21'	21	10,600
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by Ananya Hongsa-ngiam

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A coiled Kohler hand-held showerhead, that rises up the wall to its mount like a cobra ready to strike, costs about 8,000 baht, but an American Standard showerhead firmly fixed to the wall can cost as little as just over 2,000 baht.

Lathering before a stubby nozzle or a loving it under a long, slender stem – whatever your preference, the perfect shower is yours for the taking. No more excuses! Strip off, step in, soap up and soak up the stream of benefits.

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Left to right: An American Standard "surfboard" shower set costing about 7,000 baht; this Grohe-brand fixed unit retails at approximately 7,000 baht; this Kohler model costs 12,182 baht.



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Property Gazette

Properties For Sale

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Next to Evason Resort,
Rawai.

PATONG CONDOS

Condos with a sea view, 28 and 56sqm, for sale. Priced from 650,000 baht. Near bank and post office. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip_5@hotmail.com

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

HILL-VIEW PLOT

1 rai for sale: 25m frontage x 68m deep. A corner plot with Chanote title on Soi Baan Krang, in Chalong. Asking 4 million baht, negotiable. Tel: 076-216260, 07-8945321. Email: rporter56@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

10 minutes to Patong. New, single-story house near completion, with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and hot water. Asking 3.45 million baht. Please call K. Yupa. for further information. Tel: 01-7356684.

PATONG SEA VIEW

3 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms on 500sqm of land for sale. Asking 8.5 million baht. Tel: 01-4775006. For more info see our website at: www.findthailandproperty.com

KATA LAND PLOTS

900m to the beach, for sale from 1 million baht or 7,500 baht per sqm, including utilities. Please contact for more info. Tel: 01-0918908. Email: katabeachestate@hotmail.com

BRAND-NEW HOUSE



on 315.2sqm plot very near Heroines' Monument (1km away), with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, etc. Asking 3.8 million baht. Please call for info. Tel: 01-7370038, 01-7474082.

LAND FOR SALE

On the bypass road, 27 rai, 180 meters wide. Please call for more information. Tel: 07-2670488

DON'T MISS THIS SALE

A 346sqm house in the main area of safe and quiet Land & Houses Park, Chalong. It has 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, all air conditioned, plus a built-in kitchen. Owner wants to go. Asking 3 million baht. Tel: 01-5979049.

2-STORY HOUSE

in Rawai, 140sqm, selling for 1.4 million baht, including owning company and financing for 3 years. 400m from the beach. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip_5@hotmail.com

BANG TAO BEACH

124sqm and 240sqm furnished apartments, 1 min from the beach. Price: 7.5 million baht and up. For details please see our website at: www.bangtaobeachgardens.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

Home in Land & Houses Park for sale, with furniture, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, air-conditioned living room and a European kitchen. Asking 2.7 million baht. Please call for info. Tel: 01-8341313.

CONDOMINIUM

for sale. Modern, newly-refurbished, fully-furnished 2-bedroom condo in secure complex with pool, recreational area and bar. Tel: 076-385801, 07-2650118. Email: kat_stockleclark@yahoo.co.uk

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TOWNHOUSE FOR SALE



Fully furnished, 190sqm, aircon, UBC, tennis, pool, 6 rooms, 2 minutes from Lotus. Tel: 09-6465392. For further details, please see our website at: www.ilyaka.com/house-for-sale/

RAWAI

5 mins to the beach. A beautiful house with Chanote title is for sale, in a wonderful resort with security, a big swimming pool and Jacuzzi in a tropical garden, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, a private lounge and a Western kitchen, 5 air conditioners, a terrace and private garden, phone, satellite and ADSL. Asking 7 million baht or 140,000 euros. Come to see! 11/28 Soi Suksan 2, Rawai. Please call K. Alexis. Tel: 07-8929145.

LAND FOR SALE

2 rai with Chanote title in the Laguna area opposite Thai Bali Villa. Asking 5 million baht per rai. Please call for more info. Tel: 09-9724158.

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LAND FOR SALE

Seaview property in Nai Harn (one of the last). A 65-rai plot of quality land stretching from Nai Harn to Chalong. Perfect for a resort or land-and-housing project. Only serious buyers, please. Please call for more info. Tel: 01-6939571.

FOR URGENT SALE

Sea view land near the British Curriculum International School (formerly Dulwich). A great offer of 2 plots of 19 rai and 17 rai, respectively, with Nor Sor 3 Gor. Asking only 1.8 million baht per rai. For urgent sale and a limited time only. Please call for more details. Tel: 076-388156.

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VILLA FOR SALE

Beachfront 1.5-rai property with Chanote Title and villa with quality, Western architecture, antique furniture and Desjoyaux swimming pool. Asking only 30 million baht. Located at Laguna Beach. Tel: 06-2761831.

LAND IN RAWAI

Excellent, suited for a profitable investment. A 4.5-rai plot of even, flat land with Chanote title in the center of a "House for sale" project. Cheap, but quality land for 2.9 million baht per rai. Tel: 076-288199, 06-9514419.

BEACH APARTMENT

124sqm and 240sqm apartments, a 2-minute walk to the beach. Priced from 7.5 million baht. Tel: 06-2806624. Please see our website at: www.bangtaobeachgardens.com

BEAUTIFUL LAND

in "dreamland" Soi Naya. Build your own house in Nai Harn's finest location. A 2-rai plot selling for 4.7 million baht per rai and a 1-rai plot for 4.7 million baht per rai. Tel: 01-6939571.

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This 175sqm, 2-bedroom home has 3 bathrooms, a full Western kitchen, and a huge living room and dining room. Located on a quiet street, it backs onto a beautiful pond and has a shared swimming pool. At only 8 million baht, this is a great home to buy!



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6-BEDROOM HOUSE FOR RENT



An excellent, top quality, 6-bedroom house is for rent in Kamala, near Phuket Fanta-Sea. The house is fully furnished, with 4 large bedrooms on the 1st floor and 2 smaller bedrooms on the ground floor, all with en-suite bathrooms. Large living/dining room, pantry with bar. It has a Thai kitchen and a large garden with outdoor Jacuzzi, car park, electric gate, 2 phone lines and UBC. Available from December 1. Rent: 100,000 baht per month for a minimum of 6 months. This property is also suitable for business purposes (not a restaurant). For details, please contact Franz Brun in Kamala at Tel: 01-4761415, 076-279075. Or via email: fbrun@loxinfo.co.th

PATONG CONDOTE

A cheap room, fully furnished, with a sea view, is available for long-term rent at 5,000 baht per month. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip_5@hotmail.com

STUNNING SEA VIEW

on Cape Yamu, on the central east coast of Phuket. The elevated villa is stunning, with 4 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms. Just one minute away from the beach, it has magnificent sea views, its own private gardens and pool and is set in an exclusive development. Asking 80,000 baht per month for long-term rent only. Call Tel: 06-2796283 for details.

PATONG SHOPHOUSE

60sqm shophouse for rent in Patong Condo area. 84,000 baht in advance for 1-year lease. Tel: 09-4740227.

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. Tel: 01-8924311.

RAWAI CONDO

27sqm room for rent at 4,000 baht a month. Tel: 06-686-5567. Email: bargainproperty@hotmail.com

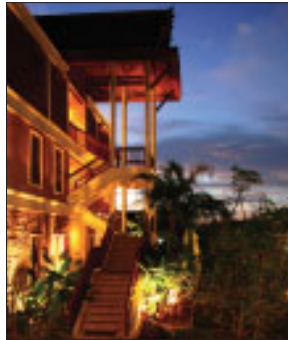
HOUSE FOR RENT

in Khao Kad. 400sqm, fully furnished, with 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, only 15 minutes to Lotus. A house for rent in Land & Houses Park, with 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. A 4-bedroom, 4-bathroom house in Liporn, Thalang, only 15 minutes to Lotus and 20 minutes to the Airport. Tel: 09-9724158.

HOUSE FOR RENT,

Kathu. Furnished, with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a kitchen, living room, and 2 airconditioners. Asking 10,000 baht per month for long-term rent. Tel: 09-290-9567. Please see our website at: www.brommathaihouse.com

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COTTAGE-STYLE

house. Furnished, with air conditioner and private garden. Rental: 120,000 baht per year. No agents. Please call for info. Tel: 01-3971835.

PATONG APARTMENT

For long-term rent. 1 bedroom, 1 TV room, cable TV, aircon, plus same but with good sea view. 7,000-20,000 baht per month. Tel: 09-290-9567. Please see our website at: www.brommathaihouse.com

3-BEDROOM

apartment. A quiet, fully furnished apartment with 3 bedrooms, 1 living room, 1 kitchen, 1 bathroom, a terrace, a swimming pool, 2 air conditioners, a fan, and a telephone line, near Loch Palm Golf Club is available for long-term rent at 15,000 baht per month. Contact K. Manfred. Tel: 076-202725, 01-891-6632. Email: golfandview@gmx.de

TOWNHOUSE FOR RENT

Long-term. Best location: Baan Benjamas, in Soi San-sabai, Patong. Living room, Western kitchen/dining room, WC, storage room, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, cable TV, 3 aircons, telephone, 24-hour security, 50m to the swimming pool, 3 mins to the beach. Please call for more info. Tel: 04-8450541, 01-8914561.

2-STORY PRIVATE

villa on the beach at Kamala, for long-term rent only. Fully furnished, it has 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a European-style kitchen and a large living room. A sala at the beach and an upper deck for dining and entertainment is included. Asking 55,000 baht plus services. Please contact for info. Tel: 01-8943839. Email: donandange@csloxinfo.com

HOUSE NEAR CENTRAL

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, furnished, good garden and terrace. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 09-5891124. Email: tcreber@loxinfo.co.th

HOUSES IN KARON,

Ao Makhm. Live cheap in paradise! Tel: 06-9488139. Email: sianglert@hotmail.com

APARTMENTS IN PATONG

Fully furnished, for long-term rent, near Wat Patong, 2/56 Soi Khuanyang. Each has a small kitchen, refrigerator, European-style balcony, air conditioner, cable TV, fan, hot water and bathroom. Asking 8,300 baht per month. Tel: 04-845-0541, 01-8914561.

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WANTED

2-bedroom furnished house needed for rent in Chalong, Rawai or Karon. Required by family. Prefer rent of around 10,000 baht a month. Please contact with details. Tel: 06-2670157. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

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PATONG ROOM

A large room with a great view and a big pool is available for 500 baht per night. Tel: 07-2760141.

KATA BEACH

Brand-new guesthouse in the Kata Night Bazaar. Rooms from 360 baht. Name our place and get 1 night free in a luxury room for two with breakfast from October to November. Promotion all rooms: aircon, TV, fridge, wireless ADSL access. We also provide Thai lessons in an air-conditioned room. Southern Fried Rice restaurant and Phuket's first Chess club. 100/14-15 Kata Road. Tel: 01-8948446, 01-5972213. Email: sfrkata@hotmail.com Website online in October.

STUNNING SEA VIEW HOUSE



Beautiful, furnished 3-bedroom house, 400 square metres living space, 1,000 sqm of land. High walls, alarmed, separate maid's area. Built to very high standards. Stunning views of Chalong Bay. Minimum rental: 9 months. Fixed price at 80,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-810-6200. Email: daniel_bo@thequalitygroup.net

KATA LUXURY VILLA RENTAL

3-bedroom villa on western tip of southern headland of Kata Beach. Villa has built-up area of 3,400 square feet, is sited 15 meters above the sea and has spectacular Andaman Sea views. A 6 meter x 15 meter infinity pool is sited on edge of rocks overlooking the sea. Villa is surrounded by dense foliage; has spacious balconies; outdoor showers in natural settings; and is very private. Japanese, Thai, and Balinese design influences and artifacts. Excellent live-in cook and live-in maid provided. Tel: 65-96210254. Fax: 65-62828991. Email: seavest@singnet.com.sg For further details, please see our website for details at: www.housephuket.com

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PATONG LUXURY APARTMENTS

Central Patong 1- and 2-bedroom apartments. Please email for more information and photos. Email: suites247@yahoo.com

WONDERFUL RESORT

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items. A range of infant items for sale: child bike seats, door gates, bedrails, toys, baby back carriers, bouncers, etc. Also household items such as TV. Call for a list and photos to be emailed. Open Day sale at 23/49 Boat Lagoon on October 1, before midday. Tel: 06-1200752, 01-8941530. Email: awatea@loxinfo.co.th

SOFA WANTED

2- or 3-piece suite wanted. High quality, comfortable, neutral color. Sofa bed would be better, European style or imported. Will pay good price for upmarket items. Photo would be nice. Will be back in Phuket on October 5. Tel: 01-2734212. Email: coasters@earthlink.net

DINING TABLE BASE

Rattan 4-leg base suitable for glass top. 500 baht, all of which will be donated to the Soi Dog Foundation. Tel: 09-1562746. Email: robin@dorber.net

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Bargain! Samsung 43" TV. New model. Quick sale at 18,000 baht. (Cost for new one is 119,000.) Tel: 06-2835197. Email: eric_s@hotmail.com

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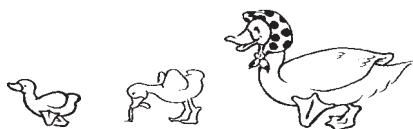
Household Services Needed

PART-TIME NANNY/HOUSEKEEPER

Part-time nanny/housekeeper required 3 afternoons a week from 2-8pm, with the possibility of becoming full-time from December 2005. Main duties include helping with 14-month-old baby, cleaning and occasionally cooking evening meals. Salary: 4,600 baht per month. Prefer someone who speaks some English and can drive a car or motorbike. Tel: 04-8492367. Email: mui.tsun@raincatcher.co.uk

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Property Gazette

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**Knight
Frank**



"New Laguna Pool Villa"
available freehold

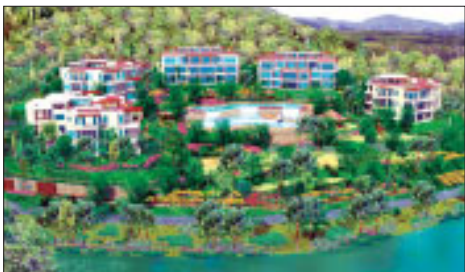
- 3 bedroom, single story golf villa
- enormous land plot, 4m x 12m pool
- purchase includes all of the Laguna benefits and privileges
- tropical landscaping, villa has been professionally maintained by Knight Frank
- immediate purchase for only 27.8 million baht



- "Allamanda Condominiums"**
freehold title from Phuket's leading developer
- latest release of Allamanda studio, 1 and 2 bedroom apartments
 - starting price from 4.5 million baht
 - guaranteed return, backed by public listed developer
 - deferred payment terms, hotel management
 - purchase includes Laguna Phuket golf membership



- "3 Bedroom Laguna Pool Villa"**
impeccable property, minutes from the tee
- unfurnished, private residences in the heart of Laguna
 - pool, outdoor dining area, perfect for client or private entertainment
 - 20 minutes from the airport, 4 minutes to the beach, restaurants, wine bars and clubs nearby



- "Layan Gardens"**
elegant apartments in desired location
- just 40 luxurious apartments, most with sea views
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 - 60% sold out
 - great lifestyle investment



- "Villa Santi"**
uninterrupted 270° sea views
- studio, 1, 2 and 4 bedroom apartments with panoramic sea views of Patong Bay
 - fully integrated resort with professional on-site management and rental services
 - great on-site facilities including international restaurant, deli, wine bar and spa



- "Kata Gardens"**
spectacular sea view apartments
- 33 apartments of 1, 2 and 3 bedrooms
 - only one apartment per floor
 - penthouse apartments include private terrace and plunge pool
 - public listed developer with excellent track record



- "L'Orchidee Residence"**
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- every villa has never to be built out sea views and a private pool
 - walking distance to the beach
 - ideal holiday villa with short-term rentals and management by Knight Frank
 - exclusive development with breathtaking views



- "Sri Panwa"**
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 - 2 bedroom villas from 320-365sqm starting from 18 million baht
 - exceptional quality building by experienced and respected luxury resort developer



- "Thai Bali"**
cool elegance
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- "Surin Heights Triplex Apartments"**
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- "East Coast Ocean Villas"**
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- "Sai Taan" pool villas for rent**
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\$138,669

Boston Whalers		Savage	
130 Sport	\$13,801.25	SL 500	
160 Dountless	\$33,749.21	Scorpion	
170 Montauk	\$28,264.75	Runabout	
220 Dountless	\$76,667.27	w/Trailer	\$21,293.00

Royal Phuket Marina Yacht Co., Ltd.
68/1 Moo 2 Thepkasatthi Road, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket, 83200, Thailand.
Tel: +66 (0) 1 958 1458 Fax: +66 (0) 76 239 756
yachts@royalphuketmarina.com
www.royalphuketmarina-yachts.com

LEE MARINE

International Marine Brokerage

Thailand's premier yacht sales company



Hallberh Rassy 46 (1997)
€280,000 Euro

- Volvo TMD 31 diesel
- Gori folding prop
- Northern Lights generator
- Teak interior and decks
- Autohelm electronics
- 2 x ST 7000 Autopilots
- Trimble Inmarsat Comms
- Victron inverter
- Technicomar watermaker



Hallberh Rassy 38 (1981)
\$139,000 USD



Duncanson Sports 8 (2004)
\$27,500 USD



Searay 21 (1999)
1,200,000 THB



Island Gypsy 36 (1994)
\$169,000 USD

www.leemarine.com

Dealership Office
The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
Contact: Martin Holmes
tel: 076 238 803
fax: 076 273 319
Email: info@leemarine.com

Brokerage Office
The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
Contact: Andrew de Bruin
Mobile: 01 894 1530
tel/fax: 076 239 729
Email: brokerage@leemarine.com

Yacht Haven Marina Office
The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket
Contact: Jim Poulsen
Mobile: 01 891 3237
tel/fax: 076 206 260
Email: yachtaven@leemarine.com

THAI MARINE

leisure

www.thaimarine.com

A Marine Industry Leader in Thailand since 1990



Bayliner 4788
Asking price USD 345,000
Very well maintained. Well equipped for game fishing. Large saloon & flybridge. 2 X HINO 310HP 3 Cabins + 2 Bathrooms To be seen!



Tortuga 35
Asking price USD 110,000
Perfect condition 1 Master cabin + convertible double bed in saloon. Large flybridge/alfresco dinner for 8 2 X Cummins 150HP Perfect weekend!



JimJam
THB 8,600,000
Hatteras 63' - 1977 Major refit 2001, 4 double cabins, 2 X Cummins 280 HP, Cruising speed 12 knots



Meditation
US\$4,000,000 /ONO
Top luxury interior, 5 stars "floating hotel" in Andaman Sea To be viewed.

Selected Brokerage Listings

Power	Sail
68ft 1989 Italian Steel Motor Launch Cat, 2x375Hp	43ft 1994 Beneteau Oceanis 430 Perkins 50Hp
36ft 1994 Island Gypsy Europa Perkins, 2x225Hp	42ft 1980 Swanson Ketch Volvo 75Hp
29ft 2003 ProVier Motor Cat Honda 4 stroke, 2x50Hp	37ft 1997 Hunter 376, 3 cabins Yanmar, 36Hp
46ft 6758 Dutch Pilot Boat Dair, 2x140Hp Turbo	30ft 1975 JonMari 30' cutter sloop Yanmar 3GM30F
36ft 1994 Island Gypsy Europa Perkins, 2x225Hp	26ft 1975 Marlowholm 26 Johnson, 6Hp
US\$825,000	Euro125,000
US\$169,000	Aus\$160,000
THB4,500,000	US\$115,000
US\$150,000	US\$35,000
US\$169,000	THB1,650,000

Please contact Tel: 076-239111 Email: broker@thaimarine.com

WE ARE THE OBE AGENT FOR MARINE INSURANCE IN PHUKET
FOR A FREE-OF-CHARGE INSURANCE QUOTE FOR YOUR BOAT, COMMERCIAL OR PLEASURE
Tel: 076-239111 Fax: 076-238974 Email: insurance@thaimarine.com

C&C MARINE

Marine Engineering Specialist
"SERVICING ALL YOUR MARINE ENGINEERING NEEDS"

Dealers For:

BOAT SALES
BARRACUDA COMMERCIAL BOAT RANGE

DIVE/SNORKELING BOAT	10.6m (Only 1,750,000)
PARASAIL BOAT	10.6m (Only 1,975,000)
FERRY INTER-ISLAND TRANSFER BOAT	10.6m (Only 1,700,000)
CENTER CONSOLE FISHING BOATS	8.8m (Only 1,550,000)

BRO'S

- COMMERCIAL DIESEL ENGINES.
- 50% BETTER FUEL ECONOMY AGAINST STANDARD OUTBOARDS.
- CRUISING SPEEDS OF 27+ KNOTS
- REBUILDS ONLY EVERY 3,000 HRS.
- COMPLETE SERVICE BACK-UP PLAN
- FINANCE AVAILABLE THROUGH CORRESPONDING BANKS.

SPECIAL: Newly arrived 8.8m centre console 170hp Mer-Cummins Diesel Engine, complete with Navman 8800 GPS/Fishtrack Nav system, VHF Radio, Vacuum flush Head, Bimini, with Thai registration. Price includes 10 months' berthing in the Boat Lagoon. "Complete Package" 1,850,000.

C&C MARINE
Contact: Craig Holmes +66 (0) 76 273247
Thai Marine Center, 16/2 Moo 4, Soi Nana, Thepkasatthi Rd, Koh Kaew, Phuket 83200, Thailand
Email: holmes@candc-marine.com Website: www.candc-marine.com

PEGASUS MARINE LAUNCHES NEW MODEL - PEGASUS 8.2!

26ft long, 7ft 4in wide, draught 18in. Based on a proven commercial design. Hand-built fiberglass sea-going powerboat combines fun, performance and economy. 7-year structural hull warranty. Positive buoyancy flotation, self-bailing cockpit. Easily trailed. Special introductory offer: new Pegasus 8.2, plus new Yamaha 85hp outboard, plus new trailer. 595,000 baht, plus VAT. Please contact for more info. Tel: 076-239-800. For further details, please see our website at: www.pegasusmarine.com

SWITLICK 6-MAN LIFE RAFT

Aries vane, 18' parachute anchor with 600" 1" nylon, avon dinghy, radar reflector, radar mount, band-it kit. Tel: 076-200477. Email: balboa@procom.in.th

DIVE/CRUISE BOAT

A one-time only opportunity to buy a 53ft boat licensed for 40 passengers. It has twin Hino 265hp diesel engines. Pay 2.25 million baht in cash and 2.25 million Bartercard trade baht, with trade baht interest-free, to be repaid from charter income. Tel: 07-067-3360.

MAST WANTED

for Westsail 42. Used, 14-meter aluminium mast for a Westsail 42 boat wanted. Tel: 06-2672161, 01-676-1325. Email: tlodden@yahoo. no Please see our website at www.thaimarine.com

TANKER VESSEL

Thai-registered tanker vessel for sale:
- Capacity: 50,000 liters
- Length: 22 meters
- Beam: 4.9 meters
- Engine: 1 Hino diesel
- Price: 2.1 million baht.
Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-244-820, 01-8912333. Fax: 076-244823. Email: tailor@loxinfo.co.th

HOVERCRAFT OPERATION

Thai business partner/investor wanted for a hovercraft business in Phuket/Phang Nga. The flying craft can be used as a rescue vehicle as well as a tour boat, moving over all terrain (beach, water, swamp, rivers, etc). Only serious offers will be considered. Tel: 01-078-7795. Email: a.bolle@siam-interact.com

FISHING BOAT

19ft fiberglass, with trailer. Has center console with permanent shade cover and plenty of rod holders. Has a very clever shade extension too. As new for 250,000 baht. Does not include motors as I am selling the hull and trailer only. Best value for money in Phuket. Please contact for more info. Tel: 06-9724805. Email: nervobe@hotmail.com

BOAT 'VISA' TRIP

to Langkawi. Taking my boat overnight to Langkawi in the next 3 weeks to "re-new" the boat's papers. Will cruise at 30+ knots, depending on weather. Any other boats making the same trip in order that we might travel together? Tel: 971-5055938. Email: stuart@sahmnet.ae

SURFACE-SUPPLIED

air diving. Hookah diving systems from USA Clear (transparent) Sea Canoes. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-4694844. Email: bstrahle@aol.com Or for more information, please see our website at: www.krabidaycruise.com

TRAVELING

surfboard. Carl Pope Travel Board (comes in half), 10' long, 22" wide, 3 1/2 inches thick. Labor design, excellent nose rider. Has its own traveling bag and registration papers. I paid US\$1,100 from Pope's factory 2 years ago. Yours for US\$500. Excellent condition. Surfed Phuket many times, and Vietnam. Airlines usually let it go like a set of golf clubs. Tel: 02-6829652, 06-171-2972. Email: kukui@lava.net

CATAMARAN WANTED

I am looking to buy a catamaran, either secondhand or to build a new one. Make an offer. Email: daniel_lienhardt@hotmail.fr

Island Job Mart

PHUKET CBRE
CB RICHARD ELLIS

CB Richard Ellis (Thailand) Co., Ltd is looking for enthusiastic, highly motivated and ambitious Thai Nationals to fill the following positions at Royal Phuket Marina, a luxury residential resort community on the east side of Phuket Island.

- 1. Senior Accountant**
 - Female, 28-35 years of age with Bachelor's accounting degree;
 - Computer literate-Excel, Word, PowerPoint, Quick Books software;
 - Should have good knowledge of condominium accounting laws & (non-vat registered businesses);
 - Experience in properties accounting and taxation;
 - Pleasant personality, service-minded.
- 2. Secretary**
 - Good command of English;
 - Computer literate-Excellent in Word, Excel and PowerPoint;
 - Good organizational skills;
 - 2-4 years in similar position minimum.
- 3. Office Clerk**
 - Female, 22-26 years of age;
 - Higher Vocational Certificate in accounting or related field;
 - Minimum 2 years' working experience;
 - Fair command of English;
 - Good organization skills and service minded;
 - Computer literate.
- 4. Security Supervisor**
 - Male, 30-40 years of age;
 - Minimum 5 years' working experience in the Security Industry;
 - Leadership skills;
 - Good command of English;
 - Service-minded and able to work as a team.

Your opportunity to join the largest international property consultancy firm and build up your career in the property industry with CB Richard Ellis.

Please apply in person or send your CV to:

CBRE CB RICHARD ELLIS
CB Richard Ellis (Thailand) Co., Ltd.
12/9 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd., T. Kohkaew, Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-239967 Fax: 076-239970
Email: wanpen.duangjit@cbre.com

Blue Canyon Country Club

One of Thailand's most exclusive country clubs, Blue Canyon Country Club, voted "Best Championship Course in Asia", is seeking suitably trained, business-proven Thai professionals to join our team. We are taking applications for the following positions:

Front Office Manager
Food & Beverage Manager
Food & Beverage Outlet Manager
Asst. Financial Controller
Public Relations Executive
Sales Executive
Night Auditor
Guest Relations Executive
Spa Receptionist
Spa Therapist
Food & Beverage Service
Housekeeping Service

The positions are based in Phuket and require candidates who possess the following:

- Minimum experience in related field
- Experience in the hospitality industry is a plus
- BA degree or higher
- Proficiency in written and spoken English
- Service and results driven attitude
- Computer skills required

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Please send in your resume with at least three references and a recent photo by 30 October 2005 to:

Human Resources Manager
P.O. Box 18, Thalung Post Office, Phuket, 83110.
Email: hr@bluecanyonclub.com
Tel: 076-328088 Fax: 076-328087

TaiLife
LEISURE COMPANY LIMITED

Tai Life is a new leisure spa and restaurant opening soon near Patong Beach. We urgently require the following staff and we are offering very good salaries for all positions.

Accountant
Responsible for accounts and admin systems set-up and application. Degree in accounting with minimum 5 years' senior experience. Good spoken English.

Executive Chef
To head kitchen operation and assist manager with menu design. Minimum 5 years' experience as executive chef in high-class hotel.

Restaurant Manager
Responsible for set-up, launch and management of poolside/indoor restaurants. Minimum 5 years' experience in high-class hotel. Good spoken and written English.

Reception/Membership Sales
Reception duties plus membership sales. No sales experience required. Good spoken English, personality and appearance required.
Call K. Manida - 07-0490726

British Curriculum International School, Phuket

VACANCY FOR PART-TIME PRIMARY ESL TEACHER

The British Curriculum International School invites applications from motivated and skilled teachers, to work closely with a well-established team in the Primary ESL Department. The successful candidate will be required to teach small groups of highly motivated pupils in the upper primary age range.

Applicants should have previous experience of ESL teaching, preferably in the primary age range, an internationally recognized ESL/TESOL qualification and a Bachelor's Degree.

Candidates should email a short letter of application, CV, recent photograph, and email, fax and telephone contacts of referees to:
E-mail: kanitthas@bcis.ac.th
Website: <http://www.bcis.ac.th>
59 Moo 2, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200.
Tel: (076) 238711-20, ext. 1121.

The closing date for applications is 8 October 2005

MASSAGE THERAPIST WANTED

Professionally trained massage therapist wanted for a privately owned villa, from November through February. Must be on call. Generous salary offered to the qualified candidate. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-895-9144. Email: ptack@loxinfo.co.th

PROPERTY SCOUT

Thai person with good written and spoken English to follow up listings for houses and land. Must have transport, pleasant personality and enjoy traveling around the island. Good basic salary plus commission. Tel: 076-288908. Email: nice@siamrealestate.com For further details, please see our website at: www.siamrealestate.com

STAFF WANTED

An international company wants office staff, part-time staff and promotion staff (Thai only). Tel: 076-296295, 09-4499022. Fax: 076-296295. Email: premiumbsp1@yahoo.com

WEB GRAPHIC

designer wanted part-time. Each job will be paid in advance. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip_5@hotmail.com

ADMIN OFFICER

We are looking for a female who has fair English and admin skills, and 1 year of experience. Salary: 8-12,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-263737, 01-5354108. Fax: 076-224-113. Email: recruitment@bowentraining.com

WRITER WANTED

We are an Internet business group in Phuket and we are looking for an English writer specialized in housing and real estate projects for a medium-size Internet community. Please contact for more information. Email: berndstaks@hotmail.com

2 ADMIN OFFICERS

We are looking for females with fair English and admin skills. At least 1 year of experience required. Salary: 8-12,000 baht. Please contact for details. Tel: 076-263737, 01-5354108. Fax: 076-224113. Email: recruitment@bowentraining.com

RACHAKIRI RESORT

and Spa. This 4-star resort is looking for a hotel manager and F&B manager with 5 years' experience in a related field. Please submit your resume and photo by email or contact for more information. Tel: 02-8611861, 01-8750842. Fax: 02-8611862. Email: sales@rachakiri.com

Editorial Coordinator Wanted

Dynamic, expanding publishing company with good, though slightly bizarre, track record seeks a dynamic non-expanding addition to its editorial team to work on its premier regional publication. Some experience preferred though personality and drive is equally valuable. Email CV to: editor@trophomes.com

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

Qualifications:

- * Male/female, age 30-40 years old
- * Bachelor's degree in accounting or higher
- * Min 5 years' working experience in accounting
- * Good command of spoken and written English
- * Closing accounts, financial statements, reports, taxation
- * Thai national

Please send CV by email or contact Tel: 076-292201, Fax: 076-292203 or Email: info@warmwaterdivers.com

SECRETARY

age 20-25, with basic computer skills. English, spoken and written, is required. Full-time contract in charge of our sales office. Initial salary: 8,000 baht. To apply, or for further information, please contact us. Tel: 06-6895837.

MARKETING STAFF

New company in Patong seeks self-motivated Thai nationals to join our Marketing Division as "Surveyors". Please contact Khun Boom. Tel: 04-8443439.

Island Job Mart



Lifestyle & Leisure (Thailand) Ltd.

A Property Developer located in
Phuket seeks:

Senior Project Manager (Construction)

Qualifications:

- Minimum 15 years' experience.
- Asian experience a must.
- Ability to manage site and office responsibilities.
- Contract management and construction management a must.

Attractive Package: Starting salary 250K + management benefits

Financial Manager (Real Estate)

Put together investment proposals, Negotiate with banks, Feasibilities, Investor relations, Supervise project finance

Qualifications:

- Finance and accounting degree (preferably MBA)
- Min. 10 years' experience
- Experience in real-estate finance field
- Knowledge of how to put investment deals together

Site Supervisor/Design Coordinator (Construction)

Responsibilities include: Site Supervisor with emphasis on architectural finishes, coordinating design issues between consultants and contractors.

Qualifications:

- Qualified Architect/Engineer.
- Good written and spoken English.
- Minimum 5 years' experience.
- Computer skills including AutoCAD.
- Must have own transportation.

Please submit resumé to hr@lifestyleandleisure.com



PATONG BEACH ROAD

Phuket's absolute latest **live music** entertainment venue is now recruiting experienced and energetic people for the following positions:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| ★ Bartenders | ★ Cold Kitchen Chef |
| ★ Waitress/Servers | ★ Chef/Sous-Chef |
| ★ Administration Staff | ★ Chef De Partie |
| ★ Musicians/Bands | ★ Commis Chef |

Please send your applications

by e-mail to: job@rockcity.cc

For information contact

Mr. Fredrik Klingvall

06-68 64 170



Paradise Designs Ltd. an Architecture • Interior Design company located at The Plaza Surin, Phuket, is seeking for qualified and energetic persons to fill the following positions:

ARCHITECT

- ▶ Bachelor's or Master's Degree in Architecture or a related field
- ▶ Minimum 3 years' experience in Architectural Design
- ▶ Good Command of Auto CAD and Photoshop
- ▶ Good Command of Freehand Sketch Presentation
- ▶ Good Command of spoken and written English
- ▶ Experience on construction sites is a plus
- ▶ Able to work in Phuket

CAD OPERATOR

- ▶ Diploma or Bachelor's Degree in Architecture or related field
- ▶ Minimum 3 years' experience in CAD operating
- ▶ Good command of spoken and written English; is a plus
- ▶ Able to work in Phuket

Qualified candidates are invited to send their CV to Rungnapa Sakdiwong, Admin. Manager by email, fax, post to The Plaza Surin 5/50 Moo 3, Chermthalay, Thalang, Phuket 83110 f: 66 (76) 271242 e: onn@paradisep Phuket.com Or contact Pongsatorn Prechanuwat, Senior Architect m: 66 (9) 4824668



BANYAN TREE
— SPA —

Banyan Tree Resorts and Spas (Thailand) Co., Ltd. is a leading spa operators. To meet our rapid growth and expansion, we invite suitable and qualified candidates to join our team.

Finance Supervisor 1 position (based in Phuket)

Qualifications:

- ▶ At least 1 year of basic accounting principle experience
- ▶ Knowledge of Front Office statistics and income audit
- ▶ Excellent in Excel and Power Point
- ▶ Good command of English

Applicants should provide a full detailed English resume, expected salary and a recent photo to:

Human Resources Department
Fax: (076) 324 391
spa-hr@banyantree.com

DIVE INSTRUCTOR

couple. We are looking for 2 PADI instructors (couple) for our busy 5-star dive center on Phi Phi Island. Salary plus commission, food and accommodation for the right couple. Email: tony@diveh2osportz.com

WANTED

We are looking for a skipper and a hostess who have worked on boats. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-8663738, 06-9404316.

ASS'T SPA MANAGER AT KATA BEACH

Assistant Spa Manager & Cleaning Attendants. All experienced, reliable and English speaking. Only Phuket residents need apply. Please send resumé, photo and expected salary or contact for more info. Tel: 076-330914, 06-5413629. Fax: 076-333233. Email: terapi@post.tele.dk For further details, please see our website at: www.phuket-massage.com

PARADISE COMPLEX

Patong TORSO, a new café-guesthouse-restaurant at 125/13-14 Soi Paradise Complex (next to "My Way") seeks:

- 6 Waiters
- 2 Cooks
- 2 Busboys
- 1 Maid

Please call K. Nee at Tel: 06-2827779 or K. Kim at Tel: 06-0140220. Email: kim.blokbob@gmail.com

LES ANGES BAKERY

Royal Phuket Marina requires the following staff: a pastry chef, baker, pantry chef, kitchen staff; and service and shop staff. Tel: 076-239755. Email: acecourtchef@yahoo.co.uk

THE VILLAGE COCONUT ISLAND

This exciting new project of luxurious villas in their own unique village on Koh Maphrao (Coconut Island, 15 minutes from Laem Hin Pier), is looking for highly motivated, experienced and professional personnel to join our team.

The following positions are now available:

1. General Manager (1 – Thai or foreign)
2. Project Manager (1 – Thai only)
3. Sales and Marketing Executives (2 – Thai only)
4. Accountant (1 – Thai only)

All positions require excellent English and computer skills with a minimum of 3 years' experience in a similar field. If you are interested in these exciting positions, you are invited to apply with full resume, stating present and expected salary and enclosing a recent photo to: Coconut Island Holdings Co., Ltd. 23/10 Moo2 Boat Lagoon Phuket, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200 Thailand. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-891-2926. Fax: 076-273393. Email: coconut@thevillagecoconutisland.com

KARON PROPERTY

staff. The following positions are now open for Thai nationals at our new office in Karon: office staff and a property scout. Please send resumé, current salary and photograph by email to: phil.collier@karonproperty.com

LOOKING FOR MAID

We are looking for an in-house maid to stay with us full time. The maid will need to cook, wash and clean, and must be able to drive a motorbike. Please contact for more info. Tel: 01-9795624. Email: tom@bootlegonline.com

Island Job Mart



Tamarind Group is now looking for competent individuals and active professionals to join our team at Surin Beach Resort & Kamala Bay Garden Resort in the following positions:

Administration

- Administration Secretary

Accounting

- Assistant Chief Accountant
- Receiving/Storekeeper
- Front Cashier/Restaurant Cashier

Front Office

- Duty Manager
- Receptionist Supervisor
- Bell Boy
- Guest Service Agent

Housekeeping

- Public Area Supervisor
- Linen/Seamstress Attendant
- Room Attendant
- House Man
- Public Area Attendant
- Floor Supervisor

Maintenance

- Electrician
- Air-Con. Technician
- Mechanic

Sales & Marketing

- Sales Manager (Based in Bangkok)
- E-Commerce Supervisor

Food & Beverage

- Restaurant Manager
- Restaurant Captain
- Waiter/Waitress/Hostess
- Bartender/Bar Boy

Kitchen

- Sous Chef
- Chef de Partie
- Chief Steward
- Commis I
- Commis II
- Commis III
- Steward
- Steward Supervisor

Duty Manager and Restaurant Manager must be: able to train and develop staff at both supervisory and entry levels; self-motivated and have a minimum of 3 years' experience in a related field. A high degree of proficiency in English is necessary.

All other applicants should have a good personality, be fluent in spoken English with a minimum of 1 year's experience in the related field. Candidates with the above qualifications should submit a resumé with a recent photograph to:

**Group Human Resources Manager
TAMARIND GROUP**

106/27, Moo. 3, Cherngtalay, Talang, Phuket 83110

Tel: 66 (0) 7632 5860-6

Fax: 66 (0) 7632 5476

Email: hr@surinbeachresort.com or annop@kamalabaygarden.com



The Racha is Thailand's premier deluxe island hideaway, where people can balance body, mind and spirit in an environmentally friendly space. We are now looking for enthusiastic and passionate individuals to join the team for our deluxe 70-villa resort The Racha to re-open within the coming months.

Chief Engineer	(Thai, min. B 50,000 up)
Sales & Marketing Manager	(Thai or Expatriate)
Chief Accountant	(Thai, min. B 25,000 up)
Asst. Executive Housekeeper	(Thai, min. B 20,000 up)
Restaurant Manager	(Thai, min. B 20,000 up)
Chief Gardener	(Thai, min. B 20,000 up)
Pastry Chef	(Thai, min. B 25,000 up)
Junior Sous Chef	(Thai, min. B 15,000 up)

You must be able to live and work on Racha Island, which is around 40 minutes away from Phuket by our own speedboat. You must have previous experience in an international deluxe or first-class hotel or resort, good command of English and computer skills in Word, Excel and the Internet. Racha Island is a challenging work environment without much infrastructure but with one of the most beautiful beaches in Thailand.

Our team is young, open-minded, flexible and creative, and we all share the same passion for true hospitality.

The Racha aims to be one of the premier resorts in Southeast Asia and we provide a competitive remuneration package and benefits.

Please submit your letter of application together with your CV and a recent photograph to:

The Racha
General Manager
gm@theracha.com

42/12-13 Moo 5, Rawai, Muang,
Phuket 83130
Phone 0 76 355 455 Fax 0 76 355 637

www.theracha.com

The Phuket Gazette

Join the team that brings Phuket the real news.

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

REPORTER

The successful candidate will be a Thai national with initiative, an outgoing personality and plenty of curiosity about the world and how it works, and a keen interest in sports.

Also essential are the ability to communicate in English, both spoken and written, and a car driver's license.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Passara Kaewbumroong, Human Resources, by email, fax or post to:

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

367/2 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Fax: 076 213971 Email: mem@phuketgazette.net

LAWYER NEEDED

Knightsbridge Law is extending its Bangkok Offices to include an office in Phuket. We are currently seeking staff for that office. Please submit your resumé and photo by email or contact for more info. Tel: 09-0845704. Email: skheffe@knightsbridgecredit.com

COOK/WAITRESS

urgently needed for small restaurant in Karon. Please submit your resumé and photo by email or contact for more information. Tel: 01-8914019. Email: tkoschig2000@hotmail.com

SALESPERSON/

housekeeper. Island Living requires a Thai person with transport, good English and a good personality, who is used to dealing with foreigners and has marketing experience. Internet and Microsoft Office knowledge a plus. We are also looking for a housekeeper. Please submit your resumé and photo by email or contact for more information. Tel: 076-223025, 07-2792785. Fax: 076-223018. Email: info@islandlivingcompany.com For further details, please see our website at: www.islandlivingcompany.com

SCHOOL STAFF NEEDED URGENTLY

Three staff needed: Thai nationals only, please. One language school principal and two experienced English plus Thai language teachers. Must have degrees. Prior language school experience preferred. An excellent salary and happy working conditions will be offered to qualified persons. Email your application letter and CV now to: director.school@gmail.com

URGENTLY NEEDED

Five-star spa company is looking to recruit high-performance staff to join our team:

1. Spa Supervisors, 3 positions, based in Bangkok, Karon and Phuket City;
2. Spa Receptionists, 3 positions, based in Karon and Patong;
3. Senior/Chief Accountant
4. Spa Therapists, 5 positions, based in Karon and Patong;
5. Administration Assistant.

All candidates may apply in person at 3rd Floor, Royal Phuket City Hotel, or contact for more information. Tel: 076-354027. Fax: 076-212-901. Email: info@asianwind.biz

TRAVEL AGENCY

needs Thai staff who are able to speak English and have good computer skills, to work in head office and our tour information center. Please call or send resumé. Tel: 076-282906. Email: info@phuket-excursions.com

WAITRESSES

wanted. Women, 20-26 years old, with English skills wanted for Patong beachfront restaurant. Good salary offered. Tel: 01-8173190.

GUTTER FITTER

Man with experience in installing gutters needed. Good salary offered. Please call for more information. Tel: 076-264025, 01-7372973.

URGENTLY REQUIRED

A small boutique resort with a warm family environment is looking for qualified candidates to fill the following positions:

- Cost controller (1)
- Personal Assistant to Chief Accountant (1)
- Assistant FO Manager (1)
- Guest Relations Officer (2)
- Cook – European and Thai food (3)

Please submit your resumé and photo by email or contact for more information. Tel: 076-345345. Fax: 076-345099. Email: agm@clubbamboo.com

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Articles for Sale

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MASSAGE TABLES

Leather and aluminium with stand and headrest, in different styles, from 7,200 baht to 15,000 baht. Call Tony at Tel: 01-2739598 or Dang at Tel: 06-2716377.

WHIRLPOOL

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DIGITAL

camcorder for sale. A never-used Samsung VPD 305i, 3 months old. Asking only 15,500 baht. Please call. Tel: 01-7373958.

MEGA SALE!

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