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Immigration launches hospital visa service

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

PHUKET: The Phuket Provincial Immigration Office (PPIO) has launched a new free visa extension service for foreigners in hospital.

Pol Capt Krissarat Nusen of the PPIO told the *Gazette* that the new service, launched a few days ago, covers only genuine inpatients, who must get the hospital to contact the PPIO at least one day in advance of the expiry of their current visa.

"We will check first with the hospital that the patient really cannot visit the PPIO. If that is the case, then the next day officers will go to the hospital.

"We are offering this service because, in the past, when sick people authorized someone else to organize an extension on their behalf, documents or signatures were often missing. If we go to the hospital it will make it easier to complete the procedure," Capt Krissarat said.

"But I want to stress that this is for people who are seriously ill, or who cannot move, for example, after having an operation.



KING'S CUP DRAWS 85 YACHTS

ON A CHARGE: The crew of *Switchblade* prepare to round a mark during race 1 of the first day of the Phuket King's Cup Regatta, on December 5.

– Photo courtesy of www.shufen.net

"We served the first such person last week when Mission Hospital Phuket contacted us about a patient who had a bacterial infection and could not walk," he added.

He also issued a reminder

to those staying in Phuket on visa extensions that they must report to Immigration every 90 days, and added a warning that all information on foreigners living in Phuket is now being computerized.

"The new system will be complete by February, after which we will be able to access all details on every foreign resident, to see whether they are following the immigration rules or not."

Patong cracks down on street touts

PATONG: Municipal officials will patrol the streets of Patong day and night this high season in a crackdown on touts and street vendors harassing tourists, Patong Deputy Mayor Chairat Sukkabal has announced.

"We need to ensure that [touts] do not distribute leaflets or grab tourists' hands to try to persuade them to buy from their shops. We will arrest them for being a public nuisance, which carries a maximum fine of 2,000 baht," K. Chairat said.

"We have received many complaints

from tourists who had been harassed by touts," he added.

The latest move to curb street touts' intrusive methods has already upset some shop owners. Patong tailor Nippon Narula explained to the *Gazette* that municipality officers arrested one of his shop staff for "just standing" in front of his shop on Thaweewong Rd.

"We weren't handing out leaflets ... If we annoyed tourists, we would be in the wrong, but he was just standing in front of

our shop. How could they have arrested him?" he said.

K. Nippon said that November 22 was the fourth time his staff member had been arrested. The first time incurred a 500 baht fine, and a 1,000-baht fine followed for each of the two subsequent times.

K. Chairat said, "If [touts] are just standing [in front of the shop], we will not arrest them. But we will be more strict in ensuring that tourists have a good holiday in Phuket."

– Editorial, page 26

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Governor cool to idea of twinning with Denpasar

By Anongnat Sartpisut

PHUKET: Governor Udomsak Usarangkura was noncommittal about a proposal by the Indonesian Ambassador to Thailand that Phuket City and the Balinese capital of Denpasar become "sister cities", saying he would first have to solicit opinions on the idea with local tourism industry associations.

The idea of twinning the two cities was proposed by Indonesian Ambassador Ibrahim Yusuf during a December 2 courtesy call on the Governor at Phuket Provincial Hall.

Amb Yusuf was in Phuket as part of a four-day tour of Southern Thailand.

Although a letter issued by the Indonesian Consulate in Songkhla specifically states that the proposed twinning would be between the two cities (as opposed to the islands on which they are located) the Thai side was represented by Gov Udomsak, to whom the Indonesian letter was

addressed, rather than Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwannasuppana – who was notably absent from the meeting.

During the meeting, the possibility of educational and cultural exchanges between Bali and Phuket was raised.

Also discussed was the idea of establishing direct air links between Phuket and points in Indonesia including Jakarta and Medan as well as Bali.

No firm agreements were reached on these issues, however.

In reference to security concerns following terrorist bombings in Bali in October 2002, and again in October this year, Gov Udomsak said that the issue of twinning the two cities at this time remained "sensitive".

Phuket Province and Phuket City are already involved in "sister" relationships Hainan Island in China, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Nice in France and Las Vegas, gambling capital of the US.

Gambling tops crime stats again

PHUKET: Figures released by Phuket Provincial Police show that in November gambling once again topped the list of crimes, with 217 people arrested. Forty-two cases involved the sale of underground lottery tickets.

Eighty four people were arrested for illegal possession or use of controlled substances, with precisely 2,189½ *ya bah* (methamphetamine) tablets seized. Fifteen people were arrested for other types of substance abuse.

One murder was recorded and the police reported the case as "solved". Also reported were six cases of attempted murder and 23 cases of bodily harm.

There were 68 reports of theft.

Five cases of rape were reported, with three cases solved. Fifteen people were charged with illegal possession of guns.

Twenty-two people were arrested for prostitution-related offenses.



Ricky back for Blues Festival

KARON: Ricky Zen Lazenko, a regular entertainer at parties and events around Phuket in the past few years, and famed for his Elvis impressions, is back in Phuket to emcee the Phuket Blues Festival on December 16 and 17.

Ricky dropped out of sight after the tsunami, but told the *Gazette* that he has spent most of

the past year raising funds for victims of the wave and, subsequently, of Hurricane Katrina, an effort he continues to pursue.

The Blues Festival starts at 6:30 pm on December 16, hosted by the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa. It is presented by HotelTravel.Com and the *Phuket Gazette*.

Reality show takes pledge during triathlon

PHUKET: Eighteen of the contestants in this year's Laguna Phuket Triathlon were once far from fit.

Their progress fitness is being documented in a 13-part reality TV show called *The Pledge*.

Each of these people, from different walks of life and different nationalities, but all currently living in Singapore, had to over-

come major obstacles to become fit enough to take part in the event.

Some were accident victims who had been told by doctors that they would never run again. Others were just plain fat.

But all rose to the challenge of radically improving their lifestyles.

Eighteen "Pledgers" and three Pledge relay teams, made up of contestants who chose to

Mystery death of Yasothorn woman

RASSADA: Police are investigating the violent death of a woman from Yasothorn Province who was found with her throat slashed on the morning of December 4.

Police identified the victim as Nittaya Weruwanarak, 30, from Tambon Phai, Saimoon District, Yasothorn. Her body was found at about 7:30 am at an unnumbered shack about 500 meters from Soi Kingkaew Uthit 1, in Rassada Village 3.

Her neck had been slashed, and there were also six stab wounds in her chest. A bloody knife with a blade about 38 centimeters long was found next to her body.

K. Nittaya's death was reported by her husband, construction worker Somchai Sae-er.

Police said that K. Nittaya had gone to sleep at the home of a friend, 26-year-old Yupaporn Pohsri, at about 2 am that morning, after an argument with her husband.

K. Yupaporn told police that on the morning of the murder she went to find K. Somchai, who lived about 100 meters away in the couple's small home. She wanted him to take his wife home, she said.

Returning with him less than 10 minutes later, she discovered the body of K. Nittaya lying in a pool of blood on the floor inside the shack.

The police say they are still investigating and have yet to reach a conclusion in the case.

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Triathlon report: page 33

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World Vision denies 'aid for souls' reports

By Anongnat Sartpisut

PHUKET: Tim Costello, Chief Executive Officer of Christian aid group World Vision Australia, has denied a rumor that the group has used tsunami donations and aid in an attempt to entice Thais to convert to Christianity.

World Vision has helped more than 50,000 tsunami-affected people, through food distribution and providing much-needed items including 300 boats, fishing gear for 2,449 families, and 4,848 school uniforms, among other things, he said.

"It has been a very successful emergency response," he added.

He said that the organization also worked toward filling social needs such as rebuilding

houses and helping people to find work.

Mr Costello said he had "absolutely never heard" rumors that people from Baan Nam Khem and Koh Sireh could get a 30,000-baht loan from the organization provided that they attended church on Sunday.

"I don't believe that's true," he said. "If it were true it would be completely against our fundamental principle."

"We believe in absolute non-discrimination [as regards] age and religion. Buddhist, Muslim or whatever – we treat everyone exactly the same."

Mr Costello noted that there are Christian organizations that go to great efforts to gather souls, but added, "World Vision never tries to convert people."



The *Phayoon 3* started taking on water in heavy swells.

Luxury yacht grounded in rough seas

PHUKET: The luxury charter yacht *Phayoon 3* was deliberately grounded off the southern coast of Phuket early on December 1 after the vessel began taking on water in heavy seas.

The 130-foot motor yacht, which is operated by Kingfisher Marine, was on the way to pick up passengers from Myanmar.

Kingfisher Marine Director Shoon Giat "Kit" Chotithamaporn told the *Gazette* on December 6, "There were pretty rough seas coming up from the stern. Some hatches at the back of the boat got sucked off by the waves and she started to take on water. The crew decided, 'We have a prob-

lem,' and started to turn the boat around and head for shelter in Chalong."

On the way, it became clear that there was too much water on board, and a decision was made to run the boat aground in shallow water near Rawai, rather than risk having her go down.

"It was a good decision," said K. Kit. "At least now the boat is still here. The damage is not that severe. Structurally, the boat is not in bad shape."

"The credit has to go to the crew. They've been working almost [round the clock] since it happened. They have done an amazing job. At the moment we're trying to refloat her. We are making progress, but not enough, so we are sourcing more pumps to try to float her again."

The engines have sustained damage from the water, K. Kit acknowledged, and will require a major rebuild.

– Alasdair Forbes

Arcadia-Hilton split denied

KARON: A representative of the owners of the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort and Spa has denied rumors that the Hilton brand will be dumped next year.

Hilton International took over management of the Phuket Arcadia Beach Resort on October 1 last year, and the property was rebranded.

The rumors posited that the Arcadia owners were unsatisfied with Hilton's performance, and planned to take over management themselves. However, Maitree Narukatpichai, Owners' Representative, told the *Gazette* that the rumor was not true.

"We have had no thought of canceling Hilton's management contract. Last night many people asked me about the rumors, and I denied them. If they were true, then you would hear so from my mouth," K. Maitree added.

Asked about plans to build another Arcadia resort on 180 rai of beachfront land in Khao Lak, he said that construction work is currently suspended.

"We started to build the resort before the tsunami and, luckily, the damage was light. We decided to stop construction and see how the situation develops."

"I have heard that about 80% of businesses there will be open again next year in time for the [2006-2007] high season. I would like to wait and see."

Property in the spotlight

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

PHUKET: The Phuket Provincial Land Office and the Phuket Real Estate Club (PREC) will jointly stage a Phuket International Property Forum on December 17 as part of tsunami anniversary activities – and to assure potential buyers that the property market remains as buoyant as ever.

PREC President Phummisak Hongsyok, who will serve as the seminar's moderator, told the *Gazette*, which is media partner for the forum, that the event was organized in response to an order by Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura, who instructed all government offices to organize numerous special activities involving the private sector during the period.

K. Phummisak said that Phuket's emergence as the most popular tourism destination in the region over the past three years has been behind solid growth in the property market.

This strength is reflected by the numerous high-quality developments that have been built on the island, and an average growth in property prices of about 33% a year over the same period, he said.

"This seminar will be good for people with an interest in the Phuket property business, for home owners and for potential buyers," he said.

Some speeches will be in Thai, others in English, with summary translations provided after each address, he added.

Matters to be discussed include questions of such enduring popularity as:

- How can foreigners buy land in Thailand?
- Where can one secure loans and find other financial services?
- What does the future hold for the Phuket property market?

Scheduled speakers include: Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura; Martin Phillips, Managing Director of Engel &

Völkers (Thailand); Olaf Duenning, Associate of law firm McEvily & Collins; Laddawan Thanathanit, Executive Vice-President of Bangkok Bank Plc; Prof Manop Bongsadatt, Honorary Chairman of the Thai Real Estate Business School; and Pongsak Chewcharat, Director of the Real Estate Information Center.

The seminar will start at 2 pm at the Royal Phuket City Hotel.

Tickets, at 400 baht each, will be available in the hotel meeting room on the day of the event.

The tickets will give holders the chance to win one of the many prizes in a lucky draw, including the grand prize of a 250,000-baht pool from seminar sponsors JD Pools.

For more information contact the Phuket Real Estate Club at 076-213388 or visit the website www.phuket-realestateclub.com

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In the aftermath of last year's tsunami there were persistent rumors of children who had survived the disaster being preyed upon by pedophiles. None was verified but, in emergency situations, when the most immediate effort is focused on rescue attempts and providing relief to the population, children were at increased risk of abuse.

To ensure that measures are put in place both to protect children from further harm and abuse, and to ensure that trauma is minimized, a seminar was arranged recently at the Novotel Phuket Resort in Patong by the End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT) network.



Carmen Madrinan.



Gazette Desk Editor **Sam Wilkinson** asked Carmen Madrinan, ECPAT's Executive Director, to explain the network's local and regional role and what it hopes to achieve in tsunami-hit areas.



We must children become

The seminar that's going on here [in Phuket] is looking at child protection in emergency situations, focusing on small local organizations and on how to respond to child protection issues.

We have representatives from Indonesia, Sri Lanka and, of course, Thailand. We're looking at sexual exploitation in general but also at how this gets compounded in emergency situations.

We're using the tsunami experience to see how it differs


from other emergencies, and what similarities there are.

Some of the organizations here do have specific proved cases (of abuse). I feel that it's important, even at the best of times – when all of the law and order situations are operative – to document and prosecute cases of sexual exploitation.


But [even in normal conditions] it's extremely difficult and very few cases lead to prosecution. So, in an emergency when everything else is falling apart, the



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ensure do not victims



Sea Gypsy children pictured after the tsunami as they waited for their home to be rebuilt. These girls were fortunate, as their families lost only material possessions. Others lost their parents, and automatically became vulnerable because of the lack of an existing support system for children who are orphaned by a natural disaster.

likelihood is small that you would have that kind of documentation and the ability to look at a case in a systematic way.

I'm not surprised that there was confusion as to what actually happened and that there was misreporting and false accusations [after the tsunami in Thailand].

One of the common denominators that has run through the countries affected by the tsunami is the absolute lack of focus on child protection within structured or emergency tsunami responses.

As yet, emergency responses don't look specifically at what happens to children in those situations; the tendency is to look at the traditional ways of responding to the emergency – taking care of physical needs and logistical requirements.

What we have seen is that, because there are no systems in place to look directly at the experience of children, there is a tendency to expect the family and community to take care [of them]. Yet we know that even in a regular, non-emergency, situation those systems can fail.

We would recommend... very specific legal frameworks [be devised] to deal specifically with emergency situations. These would require certain structures to be in place to protect children in general.

The planning of the response would look very specifically at [two questions]: "What are you going to do in relation to children?" and "Who is going to be responsible?"

We would recommend this to all of the agencies that have emergency programs, to governments of course, but also to local organizations because what is clear is that, although you may have an emergency response unit and you may have international relief agencies that come in, usually they're not on the ground when [disasters] happen.

The people who are in a position to be able to tell you [about the children] in the community are the ones who are closest to the initial impact, but [they are also] the least prepared and are untrained.

Is it a case of taking too much for granted? I think so. When it comes to children, one of the things we take for granted is that their adult care-givers are the ones who are going to be there for the child.

But if you have a situation like the tsunami where many of the adult care-givers disappeared, then you don't have a designated

back-up to take care of the children.

Local communities have great abilities to respond but they would benefit from heightened awareness and from training and methodology, so that they would know what to do.

I feel people would respond well [to training] because in their everyday lives they know that child rape exists, that child abduction exists, that abuse and neglect exist – so we're not saying anything that they don't already know.

REALITIES

We know that these are realities in everyday life; we're just pointing out that in an emergency situation the same tendencies in human nature [exist] as in non-emergency situations.

We learned from a lot of the organizations here that family members and extended family members picked up children when they saw that the parents were lost and that the child hadn't been claimed.

They'd been waiting to see what had happened to the parents, with the idea of "adopting"

the child. This was true in the case of Indonesia. It was done with all the goodwill that one would like to assume exists, but the problem was that there was no registration of these "adoptions", so there was no real way of knowing what progress had been made.

These families have come under great economic strain; they have suffered a lot of loss because they were also in the same area so, although they may have the goodwill initially, they may not be able to sustain taking on another family member.

The fact that the "adoption" has not been registered means that the authorities cannot follow up, and do not know where the child went. So, it's not necessarily that the original intent is evil but rather that the [social and bureaucratic] structures are weak and don't provide enough protection for children.

We want to support the family unit, not replace it. [Often],

the response [to the potential of abuse] has been to take children to orphanages, to remove them from their community and from their extended family.

What we're saying is that, if you have systems in place, if the families are willing to take in children, that's wonderful – but, unless you have a system to record how that is happening, you can have cases where that child simply becomes the domestic worker for that family.

It's not specifically sexual, but it's any kind of abuse. Our concern, however, is sexual abuse because we know there is quite a lot of it – but obviously, it's not only that. Children are vulnerable in many different ways.

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BANGKOK SAMUI PHUKET PATTAYA SINGAPORE

Map showing locations in Phuket and surrounding areas.

Police warn of threat of 'missed call' explosions

A spokesman for the Southern Border Provinces' Peace-building Command (SBPPC) warned residents in the Deep South not to return missed calls from unknown callers – because their mobile phones could be used to trigger devices for bombs planted by insurgents.

The SBPPC's Col Somkhuan Saengprathanet said that after the government tightened control over mobile-phone use by requiring the registration of all prepaid SIM cards, militants were reluctant to use their own phones for triggering bombs because they could be traced.

Phone operators suspended services to unregistered prepaid cell phones in the region on November 15.

A new tactic militants may adopt is to call a number at random and hang up, thereby leaving a missed call message on someone's phone. A returned call would set off the bomb, he explained.

"So please don't rush to return calls immediately after a missed call. If the person who has called you really wants to talk to you, they will call back," Col Somkhuan said.

He did not say if officials believe such a ruse had been employed before to detonate explosives.

Water conservation: The Public Health Ministry is encouraging the public to pay more attention to personal hygiene, after a study it conducted showed that about half of all Thais admit to not washing their hands before touching or eating food.



Farewell to alms?

Braving a down-pour, an elderly monk in Pattani collects his morning alms round, protected by an armed soldier.

Although the figure is lower than last year, when it hit 65%, it is still too high, said Public Health Minister Pinij Charusombat.

The ministry did not provide exact details of who was polled or where they lived. A press release announcing the results said only that respondents were aged from six years up.

The survey also revealed that four in 10 people admitted that they did not wash their hands after using the toilet.

Office space: The new Thai Rak Thai (TRT) party headquarters on Petchaburi Rd in Bangkok has been described as having the opulence of a luxury hotel.

The headquarters comprise two buildings, both belonging to PM Thaksin Shinawatra's wife, Pojaman, who spent 800 million

baht to buy the property. Building 1 has eight floors, with offices for the Prime Minister and other executives on the top floor.

Facilities include a library and exhibition room, a press room, a multi-purpose room that can accommodate more than 1,000 people, and offices for all TRT MPs.

The most interesting floor is the seventh, which has a fully-equipped gym, basketball court, ping-pong area and a Thai massage and karaoke lounge.

Back to reality: The number of foreign tourist arrivals next year has been revised down from 15.1 million to 13.2 million, Tourism and Sports Minister Pracha Maleenont announced.

"The Tourism Authority of Thailand had set an ambitious tar-

get of 15 million, which is likely to be higher than reality. I want to make it more reasonable," he said.

International tourism is forecast to generate a total of 500 billion baht next year. The projected revenue remains unchanged, as the TAT expects average tourist spending – per head per day – to increase from 3,700 baht this year to more than 4,000 baht next year.

K. Pracha said that tourist arrivals in 2005 were expected to come in lower than projections, at 12 million, due to the effect of last year's tsunami, continuing southern unrest, global economic conditions and outbreaks of bird 'flu.

No head start: Nearly two-thirds of Thai children display

below-standard intellectual development levels, largely due to their parents' failure to provide them with proper care at a young age, the Social Development and Human Security Minister Watana Muangsook said.

Commenting on the results of a survey, he said, "Many parents just don't know how to raise their children, while others just don't have the time. So children are left at nurseries, where the number of children far outweighs the number of care-givers and there are no proper toys or activities to stimulate the children's brains."

Bad beetlejuice: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warned of the potentially fatal side-effects of "Spanish Fly", a so-called aphrodisiac made from ground up beetle's wings that is reportedly being used by Chiang Mai youngsters to increase their sexual potency.

FDA Deputy Secretary Manit Arunakul said Spanish Fly was a derivative of the chemical compound cantharides, a drug the FDA is monitoring because no studies guarantee its safety.

"It takes hours for cantharides to become active. It makes the genitals swell and numb when users urinate, thus creating the myth that it stimulates sexual desire."

"It has potentially fatal side-effects such as a swollen urinary tract, convulsions, coma and heart failure," he warned.

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

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Queer News

When R&R can also stand for Russian Roulette

SONGKHLA: A 23-year-old Marine private on leave from a posting in Narathiwat apparently misunderstood the meaning of "R&R", by shooting himself in the head during a drunken game of Russian Roulette.

On the evening of November 22, Pte Juthipon Singmanee, posted to the Chulabhorn Army Camp in strife-torn Narathiwat Province, was home during his leave of duty, socializing with four or five friends.

At an unnumbered house in Village 8 of Tambon Khao Roop-chang in Songkhla's Muang District, the friends formed a *wong lao* (drinking circle) as a way of bidding farewell to Pte Juthipon, who was returning to active duty the next day.

One of the friends happened to have a partly loaded .38 re-

volver, which Pte Juthipon thought would be fun to use in a game of Russian Roulette. Removing all of the bullets but one, he put the pistol to his right temple and pulled the trigger.

Unfortunately for the young serviceman, the chamber holding the bullet happened to be the one set to discharge. With a deafening bang, the .38 slug ripped into his skull. He spun, and fell face-up with a thud into the center of the drinking circle.

Pol Maj Jamlong Suwaluck of Songkhla's Muang District Police, who questioned Juthipon's friends, said that the death was not a suicide relating to the stress of having to serve in the Deep South.

"He was only doing it for fun," the friends told him.

Source: *Kom Chad Luek*

We Love Phuket!



Metharat 'Ying' Tapaniyanan, Director of Phuket Pool Tables, collected her prize of a two-hour Scent of Siam treatment at the Thai Privilege Spa from Nikorn 'Mung' Onchuenjit, *Gazette* IT Officer, for having a 'We Love Phuket' sticker on her car.



Janjira Sitthisak collected her prize of a dinner for two at Noon Japanese Restaurant at Surin Beach from the restaurant's Manager, Jaroon Boonchu.



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Bangkok balks at flood clean-up bill

The recent floods on Koh Samui caused damage estimated at more than 300 million baht. Houses were washed into rivers, roads subsided, and sand filled the roadside rainwater drains, causing floodwaters more than two meters deep in some areas.

Poor urban planning was cited as the major cause of the flooding, with roads and uncontrolled deforestation causing excessive run-off from hillsides.

The press announced that the Minister of the Interior had pledged large sums to improve the island's infrastructure, but according to Samui Mayor Waragorn Ratanarak, no figure was set during the minister's visit. Instead, the minister ordered a new town plan to be drawn up for the island, with a provisional budget of one billion baht.

Meanwhile, officials were told that the island should deal with infrastructural problems out of the existing municipal budgets.

It will take at least a month to see what funds will be made available to Samui for repairs, said the Mayor. The Surat Thani provincial authority receives all its special budgets from Bangkok,



There was major damage to the main thoroughfares.

where it is decided how much will reach Koh Samui. Until then, the local authorities must cope using the limited budgets they have.

The authorities on Koh Samui have long complained that the island's annual budget does not reflect its importance as a tourist destination. Now, with major damage to the main thoroughfares and with public services in disarray, officials are concerned that if public money is not injected swiftly, tourist levels may drop in the coming high season.

Bangkok University found that an alternative location in Donsak would better suit the construction of a major new public pier.

K. Punplisa has recommended to the provincial government that Harbor Department reports be shelved in favor of the university study, and that Donsak become the new location for the pier based on its protected location and solid infrastructure.

Tax offensive: The Surat Thani Revenue Office recently announced that it intends to increase tax revenue by more than 11% this governmental budget year.

Thanomsi Lawangun from the Surat Thani tax office said that with businesses expanding in many sectors, his department is keen to make sure that both companies and individuals pay an appropriate share to the province.

Last year, provincial tax revenue increased by some 300 million baht to 27 billion baht, thanks mainly to the widespread collection of VAT on goods and services. This year's target is 30 billion baht.

Call for vigilance: The low tourist season is now in full swing on Samui and the recent floods have added further to the sense of desolation. Police are warning people to be extra-vigilant as during this period criminal gangs from the mainland tend to target empty properties around the island.

FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND



By Barry Singleton

The criminals mainly target foreign residences, and sometimes watch houses for days to check there is nobody at home.

One such gang was apprehended recently when they set off a burglar alarm in an upmarket villa. This alerted the local village security squad, who caught the thieves as they fled the scene in panic. The culprits were later handed over to the police.

With the police overstretched as crime increases, the new village-based security groups have been particularly active in recent weeks. Although they are an effective deterrent, some residents feel the security teams use excessive force, and some members have been accused of being over-zealous in their reaction to the presence of strangers.



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เป็นเวลากว่า 40 ปีที่นายฌอง เดโซโย ประสบความสำเร็จในการดำเนินธุรกิจทั้งในประเทศฝรั่งเศสและในอีกกว่า 80 ประเทศทั่วโลก ด้วยวิสัยทัศน์อันยาวไกลของท่าน เราจึงสามารถเปิดตลาดในหลายประเทศในภูมิภาคเอเชีย รวมถึงประเทศไทยตั้งแต่ปี 1992 นับจากเดือนกรกฎาคม 2547 เนื่องด้วยเหตุผลทางการค้า (หรือทางธุรกิจ) บางประการเราจึงมีความจำเป็นต้องยกเลิกตัวแทนจำหน่ายเดิมของเดโซโยในประเทศไทยจากการเป็นผู้จัดจำหน่ายผลิตภัณฑ์ของเดโซโย ด้วยประการนี้ทางเดโซโย ปิซีน (ฝรั่งเศส) จึงจำเป็นต้องหาผู้แทนจำหน่ายรายใหม่

เหล่าสมาชิกครอบครัวเดโซโยตระหนักว่าพวกเขาควรต้องเป็นผู้รับผิดชอบลูกค้าจำนวนมากในประเทศไทย ดังนั้นครอบครัวเดโซโยจึงเข้าร่วมเป็นส่วนหนึ่งกับผู้จัดจำหน่ายรายใหม่ในประเทศไทย ด้วยความมุ่งมั่นที่จะลบภาพลักษณ์เก่าที่ลูกค้าคุ้นเคย ด้วยภาพลักษณ์ใหม่ที่พัฒนาขึ้นพร้อมกับทีมงานใหม่

กลุ่มบริษัท เดโซโยในประเทศไทยประกอบด้วยบริษัทผู้นำเข้าตรงซึ่งตั้งอยู่ที่กรุงเทพ, สมุย, หาดใหญ่, ภูเก็ตและกระบี่ ดำเนินงานโดยทีมงานทั้งชาวไทยและครอบครัวเดโซโย

ดังนั้นลูกค้าจึงมั่นใจได้ว่าจะได้ซื้อสินค้าที่มีมาตรฐานจากบริษัทของคนไทย

ลูกค้าของเดโซโยทุกท่านจะได้รับประโยชน์จากผลิตภัณฑ์คุณภาพเยี่ยม และเป็นที่รู้จักแพร่หลายทั่วโลกที่เรา, กลุ่มบริษัทเดโซโย, นำเสนอแก่ท่าน รวมไปถึงบริการก่อนและหลังการขายที่มีคุณภาพตามมาตรฐานสากลด้วยรอยยิ้มที่เป็นกันเอง ความสะอาด มารยาทที่สุภาพและตรงต่อเวลา เหล่านี้คือจุดมุ่งหมายของกลุ่มบริษัทเดโซโยในประเทศไทย

ณ วันนี้ เราจึงมีความยินดีที่จะขอขอบคุณลูกค้าของเดโซโยทุกท่าน ที่ได้ให้ความไว้วางและความเชื่อมั่นในชื่อเสียงและการให้บริการของทีมงานชาวไทย

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Tying the knot the Sa-mer way

By Shiona Mackenzie

It will come as little surprise that in Japan, the country that invented karaoke and pachinko, weddings can have a specially Japanese flavor, featuring laser shows and smoke machines.

But for some Japanese the price is too high – the cost averages 4 million yen, or about 1.3 million baht – and, in any case, they are looking for something more romantic, less techno-disco.

Which is where Sa-mer scores. Sa-mer, launched five years ago, was the first Phuket-based wedding and travel service catering for the Japanese. The Managing Director is Fumiko Nakayama, who moved here from Yokohama in 1999.

Fumiko started up Sa-Mer – Thai for “forever” – well aware of the exorbitant cost of a wedding ceremony in Japan. She also knew that many Japanese are eager to travel to exotic locations for reasonably priced, intimate, non-religious weddings.

“I started from scratch, with an idea inspired by the beauty of the island, one computer and a website in a small office. I saw the potential, but with no means of doing any marketing in Japan, I registered Sa-Mer with Yahoo and Google and then relied on the Internet to develop a customer base,” Fumiko says.

“Inquiries began to trickle in and, since 2001, despite the outbreaks of avian flu and Sars in the region, I successfully organized, on average, 65 weddings a year.

That was until December 26, 2004. “Due to the tsunami, interest from Japan plunged to zero for 10 months, and all my staff left.”

But business has returned. Now, Fumiko has a staff of eight and inquiries are flowing steadily again. Sa-Mer already has six Thai-style weddings booked between now and March, and 10 Western-style weddings confirmed between January and March.

Cost is definitely a factor. Watabe Wedding Co, a long-established Japan-based wedding business with 17 overseas branches, including a new one in Bali, noted in its 2004 annual report statistics that the average cost of a domestic wedding is 4 million yen.

Sa-Mer’s full wedding services package, by contrast, averages a mere 150,000 baht. This includes any or all of the following: consulting on and arranging the wedding ceremony and venue; food; venue rental; rental and/or purchase of wedding gowns and tuxedos; photography, video and DVD services; hair and make-up; accommodation, flights and transport in Phuket.

“Hawaii is still the most popular overseas wedding destination for Japanese people,” Fumiko admits. “However, the number of Japanese going there for weddings is dropping. On the other hand, the number choosing Bali has risen. In 2004, nearly 2,000 Japanese couples were married in Bali.

“Phuket could quickly become just as popular as Bali, if not more so.”

Despite the advantage of Bali’s five private wedding chapels and four churches, Fumiko believes that the threat of terrorist outrages is likely to put people off going there. Indeed, the Malaysian national news agency, Bernama, reported on November 30 that travel warnings issued by the Japanese government have caused a significant reduction in the number of its citizens visiting Indonesia.

“I run my business in co-operation with various dress shops in Phuket City, with a Japanese photographer who has 30 years’ experience in taking wedding pictures and videos, with Thai beauticians whom I train especially to meet my Japanese clients’ standards and suit their tastes, with travel agencies, and with local hotels and beachfront restaurants,” Fumiko says.

“Outdoor weddings right on the beach or simply under a canopy are not all that popular among Japanese people because of the weather factor, but the theatrical extravaganzas the Japanese once went for are now considered passé.”

Fumiko says that the couples who come to Phuket are looking for something they cannot find in Japan. Usually they have done their research and have a very good idea of what they want and where. Sa-Mer also serves couples from countries other than Japan, through collaboration with another wedding organizer – South Pacific Bridal.

“The most important part of my job is to deliver the high quality that an international clientele expects,” Fumiko says.

“Typically, they bring a small party of family and close friends – about 10 people – for a simple, but very romantic, tropical beachfront or viewpoint wedding.

“About 95% want a Western-style, non-religious ceremony in a chapel, but my clients who selected a Thai-style ceremony have always been thrilled with their colorful and memorable wedding day.”

The Thai-style wedding ceremony involves nine Buddhist monks, a parade of musicians playing traditional Thai music, dancers and an elephant.

The legal aspect of marriage, though, is generally handled in Japan beforehand.

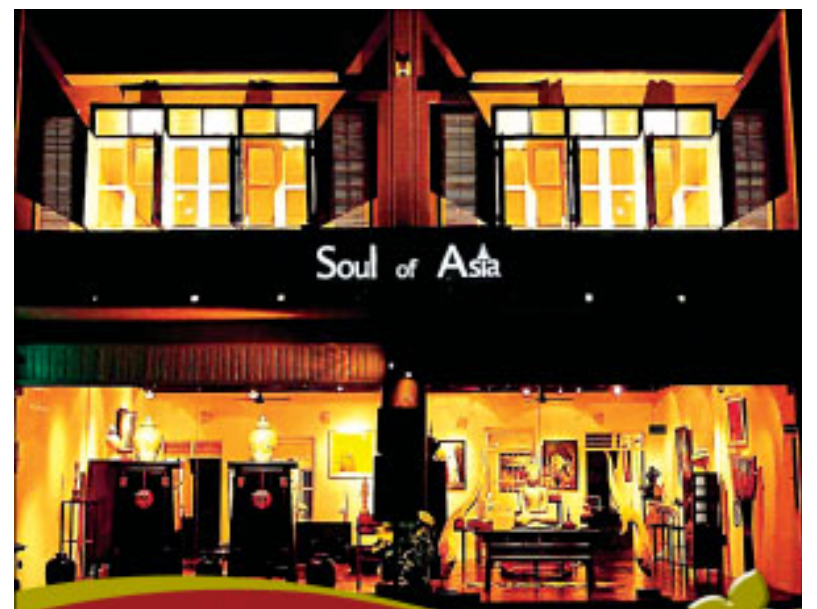
“Couples usually register their marriage in Japan first, though we are willing to assist couples with legal documentation here, if need be. They have to do some paperwork at the embassy in Bangkok in order to legalize a marriage in Thailand.”

Fumiko looks forward to business expanding. “Phuket’s prospects are good and I feel optimistic about the future. Next year, we’ll be hiring professional marketing staff and revamping our website and logo,” she says.

Sa-mer, 367/62 Phuket Pride Village, Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang, Phuket 83000. Tel: 076-236650; Fax: 076-236651; website: <http://www.sa-mer.com>; Email: fumiko@sa-mer.com



Fumiko predicts that Phuket will become a trendy wedding destination for the Japanese.



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Happily Ever After



ABOVE, Atchariya Wattanawongsri and Phuttarik Suwanpruek were married at the Royal Phuket City Hotel on November 9.

ABOVE RIGHT, Sirirat Yookong and Manit Phaipet were married at the Royal Phuket City Hotel on November 8.

RIGHT, Mathurod Phakdeechart and Pongsit Siri-ngarm were married at the Thavorn Grand Plaza Hotel, Phuket City, on November 11.



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There's a snake in your bathroom. Who you gonna call? Snakeman, of course. Nakhon Sri Thammarat-born Sayan Tammapunt spoke with the *Gazette's* Natcha Yuttaworawit about his unique vocation – rescuing us from the cold-blooded legless reptile we love to hate.

Sayan Tammapunt, 37, arrived on Phuket in 1981 planning to make good in the shrimp farming business. It didn't work out.

Then, in 1994 he and his brother, who had experience in the field, joined forces to set up the Phuket Ruam Jai Rescue Foundation to help get injured people in remote areas to hospital. Licensed in 1996, the foundation focuses on Tambon Chalong, but serves other areas when called upon.

They are asked to catch snakes about once a month, more often during the dry season and the problem snakes are usually found in houses in heavily wooded locations.

"Most of the foundation's 30 members are volunteers who have willingly sacrificed their free time for this good cause for more than a decade," he says.

"We also help pets that are in trouble. In one case, we freed a dog caught in a narrow passageway between two walls. We help animals to safety once we are certain we are not putting any people, including ourselves, in danger by doing so.

"What usually happens is that people call the police and then the police contact the foun-

ation for assistance. A rescue mission normally is dangerous and snakes are among the most common threats we face on Phuket.

"Depending on the situation, up to four people may be dispatched to deal with one snake. In 1999, we caught our first python. We didn't have any special skills then, but people's expectations of us were – and still are – high; we never like to disappoint anyone. Sometimes we are frightened, but in our line of duty, and as men, we try not to show it.

"When people see a snake in their home, their first impulse is to open the doors and windows so it can leave. So by the time we arrive, the snake will have slithered somewhere out of sight and there is no way for us to be sure it is still in the house, or what kind of snake it is.

"The next hurdle is having to search every nook and cranny in every single room. People worry that in the process we will help ourselves to their belongings," he says. "So I let them follow us, observe our actions and check their belongings afterwards."

Once a snake is cornered,



'I wrap one hand in thick cloth and reach out toward the snake. Once the snake bites into the cloth, I drag it out.'

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THE SNAKEMAN



'If you find yourself confronting some dangerous wildlife on the island, call me' – Sayan Tammapunt.

it will bite anything that approaches and won't let go. Based on this awareness of snake behavior, K. Sayan has devised a simple technique using some cloth, a wooden pole with a hook on one end and a sack.

"I wrap one hand in thick cloth and reach out toward the snake. Once the snake bites into the cloth, I drag it out. With my other hand, I grab it just behind its head and quickly toss it into the sack. Sometimes I use the pole rather than my hand.

Thus far, some 35 snakes have been caught, cobras and pythons being the ones K. Sayan has most commonly encountered on Phuket.

Usually the snakes are not harmed, and are released at Toh Sae Hill in Phuket

City. However, Malayan pit vipers – even more deadly than cobras – are immediately dispatched.

"The hardest to catch is the King Cobra – the largest venomous snake.

"The King Cobra is longer and wider than a regular cobra and strikes higher.

"Not one of us has ever been bitten by a snake while on a mission because we take every precaution and monitor snake behavior extremely closely.

Snakes show predictable signs when they are ready to strike," he adds.

"Although King Cobras are worth about one or two thousand baht each and sometimes snake farms try to buy them from us, we don't sell them because we want them to continue living wild and free.

"Another dangerous animal we deal with is monkeys, which bite people from time to time. Monkeys move really fast; a staff member was bitten once and had to go to hospital for treatment. Other than that we have been very fortunate."

K. Sayan, otherwise known as "Snakeman" loves what he does and plans to continue helping people and animals "forever".

"If you find yourself confronting some dangerous wildlife on the island, call me," he says.

For more information or for help, contact the Phuket Ruam Jai Rescue Foundation at Tel: 076-283346 or 076-355175.

Promjai Dental Clinic Dental service for children



Many parents put off dental care for young children, thinking that the time to start to care for their kid's teeth is after the milk teeth have fallen out and the set of 32 adult teeth gradually replaces them.

In fact, dental care can and should begin soon after birth and the Promjai Dental Clinic is now open to ensure the protection of young teeth and guard against other conditions that could cause your child to suffer from dental problems later on in life such as having to wear braces.

Dr. Sirinporn Piyapinyo, a graduate in Pediatric Dentistry with a master's degree from prestigious Tufts University in Massachusetts, USA, is one of Promjai Dental Clinic's team of experienced professional dentists.

She said that ensuring fast, trouble-free dental care for children requires high-quality equipment suited especially for children and a team of trained, child-friendly dental assistants to ensure that the experience is both painless and yes even fun.

"Dental care for children is not easy, because it's natural for children to become afraid when they feel confined. That's why we do our very best to ensure that their first encounter with a dentist is a positive one. It can help them develop confidence in themselves and put them on the path to a lifetime of good dental health if they overcome this fear in childhood and learn how to take care of their own teeth as they get older" she said.

Parents should take their children for a dental check-up at one year old to make sure there are no nascent oral hygiene or dental problems, she said.

One problem that occurs very early in life is known as "occlusion", which is another name for the way your teeth meet when your jaws bite together. "If not detected and corrected early, this can cause a number of problems later in life, such as grinding teeth, swollen gums and even migraine headaches" she said, adding that the longer the wait, the more likely it will be that the child will need braces to correct the problem.

"Today, we have interceptive orthodontic treatment for the children and teenagers that identify problems as soon as possible and take steps to correct any malformations, thus minimizing the effects later in life, she said, adding that the treatment works well on growing children who have still have naturally high levels of growth hormone.

She encourages parents to be on the lookout for signs of potential trouble that are often overlooked.

"Sometimes parents don't know that why their children aren't chewing their meals. It may be because their teeth and gums are infected and inflamed. These conditions need immediate treatment, even if the child still has his or her primary teeth, because the infection could spread into the roots and stay there. This can threaten the health of the permanent teeth later in life"

she said, adding that it's important for parents to take their kids for check-ups at least twice a year starting from one year of age.

Dr. Achara Pandaeng, DDS and Managing Director of Promjai Dental Clinic, said dental care should begin in the home soon after birth, with parents making sure to rinse out their child's mouth with fresh water after a bottle or breast feeding in order to clear the mouth of any bacteria that may accumulate there.

She also recommends gently wiping a baby's teeth and gums with a clean, wet cloth as soon as the teeth begin to appear, usually at around six to seven months.

Don't let the baby fall asleep with a milk bottle in his or her mouth, as this can cause tooth decay.

Communication, so important between doctor and patient, is vital for children on their first visit to the dentist.

Our dentists are graduates from overseas dental schools, so we have no problems communicating with most foreign children" she said.

"Our pediatric dentist also has high capability of using laser technology in children with certificate from UCSF.

Parents will also be glad to know that even with the overseas training of its staff, prices are very reasonable at Promjai Dental Clinic.

Promjai Dental Clinic also has the most up-to-date dental technology available, offering a full range of cosmetic and restorative dentistry treatments, such as laser tooth whitening using OpusWhite™ diode laser and restorative treatments by CEREC-3D CAD/CAM software, which restores damaged teeth quickly using a durable ceramic material that matches the natural color of other teeth in your mouth.

Other treatments available using the latest in dental technology include crown and bridge work, metal-free restoration, dental implants, root canal treatment, gum treatment, laser-assisted gum treatment, operative dentistry, sterilization by autoclave, digital X-ray imaging and microscopy, and more.

For your convenience, Promjai Dental Clinic now has two branches in Phuket: one on the 2nd Floor of the All 4 Diving Building on Sawatdirak Rd in Patong; and on Chalermprakiat Rd 9 (the bypass road), just north of the Tesco-Lotus Intersection, on the left heading towards the airport, near Fagor and Wood Pecker in Tambon Rassada.

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Yule be sorry if you forget someone

By Gazette Staff

Their task – and some of them chose to accept it – was to come up with last-minute Christmas gift ideas. This was not Mission Impossible, it was Mission Maybe. Some claimed they were too busy, actually doing a spot of work for a change.

Members of the *Gazette* editorial team were dispatched far and wide, their only brief being to come back with the goods (in a photographic sense only).

They were also told that the maximum price for a gift, either something craved for oneself or as a special present for “that special friend”, should cost no more than 10,000 baht.

We are mentioning no names here, although regular readers may be able to connect some of our writers to a few of the items pictured on these pages. For example, the cufflinks, each link containing a miniature compass, could really only be matched up against one person. (Clue: his byline *doesn't* appear this week.)

Will our reporting and editing team receive their dream gifts this Christmas? No doubt they will get what they deserve. Enough said.



It's bean a long time coming

This Sony MP3 “Bean” Walkman is a musical wonder. The “jumping bean” has a one-Gigabyte memory, which gives up to 50 hours’ continuous play. It also has FM radio and high-speed recharge – with a mere three-minute charge delivering up to three hours’ use. It can also store data, pictures and video clips. It costs 7,590 baht at the Sony store, Ground floor, Central Festival Phuket.

Adopt a puppy or even an older dog

The Soi Dog Foundation has dozens of adorable cats and dogs, like this young Thai ridgeback, available for adoption. It will cost you just whatever gas it takes to collect, and the package includes full vaccinations. Alternatively, you can sponsor one of the hundreds of animals from just 150 baht a month. See www.soidog.org for details.



A present perfect for a princess

These 18K yellow gold bracelet clasps (6 grams) cost 9,900 baht – bracelet not included – from DD Jewel Design, 242/2 Yao-warat Rd, Phuket City. Tel: 076-217288. Email: info@ddjeweldesign.com



Santa Claus? Heel be here soon

These Privilege brand two-inch stiletto sandals in silver-colored satin with diamante details are designed exclusively for Central. Regularly priced at 1,580 baht, they're now on sale for 399 baht. That leaves 9,401 baht still to spend!



Here's one for clock-watchers

Choose from a range of watches, including the DKNY NY3602 square-faced design at 5,600 baht or the Fossil BG1004 “rob-watch” at 3,200 baht from Nam Silp Optical, 8-10 Phuket Rd, Phuket City. The shop is open Monday-Saturday, 8 am-8 pm, and on Sunday from 9 am-2 pm. Tel: 076-211460, 212776, 223785. Email: namsilp_optic@yahoo.com



Losing your sense of direction?

Available from Central Department Store, this set of cuff links and keyring, all containing miniature compasses, are ideal for the man-about-town, country, *veldt* or urban jungle. Good value at 525 baht.

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CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS



Phone someone, or shoot them

Walk, talk, shoot and jive with this Nokia 6101 phone. It features a 128x160-pixel color screen and VGA camera, has FM Stereo radio, and can also record and play video clips. It supports Thai language characters. Available at the OA shop, Ground floor, Big C supercenter, it costs 8,590 baht.



If you relish Patum Peperium

Ask not why this food of the Gods is unavailable in Paradise, for if you do, then you must also ask why Marmite, Branston Pickle, Heinz Baked Beans, Daddies Brown Sauce and PG Tips are not easily available either. Visit www.britstore.co.uk, where Patum Peperium sells for around 150 baht per 42.5g pot.



Fancy yourself as a snapper?

Become a happy snapper with this Sony Cyber-shot DSC-L1 4.1-megapixel digital camera, with 3x Carl Zeiss optical zoom, 10x digital zoom and 1.5-inch LCD screen. It has seven programmed scene presets. Available at the Sony store, Ground floor, Central Festival Phuket, it costs 8,990 baht.

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This week



IT'S A GAS: Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura (right) joins Phummsak Hongsyok (3rd from right), owner of the Anuphas and Sons petrol station on Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City, and Tirapot Vajrabhaya, Chairman of Shell Thailand and Cluster General Manager, at the November 23 launch of gasohol at the petrol station.



GALS' GALA: Yowvares Shinawatra (3rd from left), President of the National Council of Women of Thailand, joins (from left) Dr Sriyada Shinawatra, Dr Pongsak Kerdwongbandit and Benchawan Tumpanuwat, at the Chinese-Thai Women's Culture Exchange Gala Dinner held in the The Metropole Hotel's Prapitak Grand Ballroom on November 26.



EDUCATION FOR EVA: (From left) Takuapa District Chief Administrative Officer Chalorsak Vanichjareon, Phang Nga Governor Vinai Buapradit and Evason Phuket Resort & Six Senses Spa General Manager Alasdair Junor recently opened the Evason Self Learning Centre at Baan Bang Muang School, in Takuapa, Phang Nga Province.



BEAR NECESSITIES: Mr Bear surprises Finn Stephens and his dad at the Phuket for Kids family day held recently at the Green Man Pub & Restaurant in Rawai.



OPEN DOOR POLICY: Celebrating the grand opening of Sino House hotel on November 26 were (from left) General Manager Vipada Suthisirikul, Managing Director Weerachart Suthisirikul, Kata Thani Hotel Managing Director Sombat Atiset and Mook Khao Kaew pearl shop Managing Director Krongthong Thepsiriamnuai.



READY FOR TAKEOFF: (From left) Helicopter tour company Heli Thai Directors Andr  Salti, Thidej Maithai and Nigel Watson, with Marketing Manager Frederique Salti, celebrate the arrival of their "Squirrel" Eurocopter chopper, which will soon be used for aerial tours of Phuket, Phang Nga and the Phi Phi Islands.

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Phuket Gazette

Motoring down to the south of island, I arrive at Nai Harn Beach. Nai Harn is known to be one of Phuket's quieter beaches and a major expat magnet, mostly because of its laid-back atmosphere. It's also the location of the Sabana Resort, with its Nhamaya Health Spa Center.

There is no denying the spa's genuine tropical feel, with coconut trees and plants aplenty. I feel as if I really should have worn my grass skirt. The spa has three treatment rooms and features two Thai massage beds, four beds for oil massage and two chairs for foot massage, as well as a Jacuzzi.

I get a warm welcome from Manager Sunanta "Jum" Malee, and she helps me choose the "Secrets of Nhamaya" package, then guides me to reception which doubles as a foot-massage room. There, I'm immediately spoiled rotten with an aromatherapy foot bath with floating hibiscus flowers. Later, I tiptoe on newly resurfaced tootsies to the oil-massage room next door for a Thai Herbal Body Scrub.

K. Jum tells me that the treatment uses turmeric, honey, wet tamarind, powdered milk and oats – all mixed together. "This helps to nourish your body," she explains. A sort of exterior muesli without the yogurt, if you will.

The body scrub is enthusiastically applied, from my shoul-

**Spa
MAGIC**

By Anongnat
Sartpisut

Sabana



FACING UP TO BEAUTY



ders right down to my feet in a grand rolling style. After a bath it's time for a Traditional Thai Massage.

This, I really like. My masseuse, K. Prang, is extremely skillful at what she does, and explains that she uses different pressures depending on her guests' weight and size.

K. Jum adds that the most important factor in Thai-style massage is to focus on muscle

areas, where people feel stress and fatigue. K. Prang first does my spine, then shoulders and back and then stretches me a little before turning me over to concentrate on my legs and hands. She then uses pressure techniques.

Afterwards, it is time for the facial treatment using a natural mix of products featuring... you guessed it, yogurt, to cleanse my pores. Later, a mixture of lemon juice, honey, powdered

oak, powdered milk and clay rich in alumina is applied for five minutes. Then, tomato slices are pressed to my face.

Whatever next? Worcester Sauce? No matter, it's explained to me that this helps fill any skin cavities in the most natural way possible.

Finally, after a dessert of cucumbers and a layer of smoothing vitamin E cream, my face feels fantastic.

To top it all off I have a five-minute back and neck massage followed by a roselle juice.

The "Secrets of Nhamaya" treatment lasts for 120 minutes and costs 2,200 baht. Nhamaya Health Spa Center, 14/53 Moo 1, Rawai. Open daily from 9 am to 7 pm. Tel: 076-289333, Fax: 076-289322, email: info@sabana-resort.com, website: www.sabana-resort.com

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Staying healthy when putting your back into wine

Rubin was a former employee of mine. His hobby was weightlifting and he was a massive guy, twice my weight. One day I was fixing a broken barrel and I asked him to pick up a hammer that was out of my reach from the floor. As he picked it up his back snapped and he collapsed in agony. It was two months before he could walk again.

Back injuries have plagued humans since our ancestors first stood upright, and these are the leading occupational hazards in most countries. Wine lovers and those who work with wine often injure themselves when lifting or carrying wine because they ignore

the principles of physics and common sense.

Physics is the science that gives us the understanding needed to guide rockets to Mars, to build tall buildings, and to comprehend why we should not bend over to lift heavy boxes of wine. Remember torque and Newton's Second Condition of Equilibrium from high school physics? They can predict the force acting on the disks that separate the vertebrae in our spine when lifting heavy objects.

A 50-pound box of wine, for example, creates a force of almost 300 pounds on the base of the spine. That's a lot of weight for a few tiny disks to support. To safely lift we must avoid creating torque. We can do this by

WINE



By Steven Roberto

keeping the back straight and never twisting or turning while lifting heavy objects.

Bottles of wine are not only heavy, they are also expensive.

Remember, torque affects everything, not just your back, so don't stack wine boxes too high or they may fall. You certainly don't want to be under their weight if they do.

Here is a list of basic rules for carrying and storing wine:

- Never lift with your back; always lift with your legs, keeping your back straight and upright. Let your legs do the work.
- Never twist your spine or reach with your arms while lifting. Use your legs to turn your body.
- Never lift above the shoulders.
- Don't stack wine more than four boxes high. Alternate the direction of each layer of boxes for added stability.
- Don't allow children or unauthorized persons access to wine-storage areas.

- Be sure you are fit enough and stretch before lifting.
- Don't attempt to lift more than you are capable of.
- Ensure employees have been taught safe lifting principles, and that they obey them.

Take good care of your back; it is the only one you have and nothing is more painful and debilitating than a back injury. It is ironic when something as enjoyable and healthful as wine puts one under.

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

December 10: 19th Phuket King's Cup Regatta. The last day of the week-long 2005 Phuket King's Cup Regatta at Kata Beach Resort. More information can be found at the website: www.kingscup.com

December 8-11: The Phuket International Marine Expo (PIMEX) 2005 is being held at Phuket Boat Lagoon. Around 100 marine, property and lifestyle companies are exhibiting.

This year's highlights include 30 in-water displays from many top marine companies.

For more information, see www.phuketboatshow.com

December 12: Constitution Day. December 12 is a substitution for Constitution Day, which falls on December 10. It is a public holiday, therefore expect most government offices to be closed.

Dec 16-17: Phuket International Blues Festival. Hosted

PHUKET DIARY of coming events



Blues guitarist Rich Harper.

by the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort, the headliners are the Rich Harper Blues Band (US), and Victor and Kyla Brox (UK). They will be supported by five Thailand-based bands, including Soi Dogs, Cannonball and The Blues Machine.

Tickets are 1,000 baht for one day; 1,600 baht for both days; and 3,000 baht for a two-day VIP pass.

The festival is presented by the *Phuket Gazette* and Hotel Travel.com

Go to the website www.phuketbluesfestival.com for further details.

December 19-20: Phuket Invitational Superyacht Rendezvous. The Phuket Invitational is an exclusive superyacht rendezvous held every December. Regular features of the rendezvous are a fun sailing event, afternoon cocktail parties on board the participating vessels, and a gala dinner party, complete with superb buffet and live entertainment.

For more information contact Tim Rice or Duncan McGregor on Tel: 076-340406 or 076-340932, or visit the website www.phuket-invitational.com

December 20-January 10, 2006: 1,000 Faces of Phuket Photo Exhibition. An exhibition of images taken by 12 photographers from the Phuket Photo Club, held at the Holiday Inn Phuket.

The exhibition, described by the organizers as "...the multiple visions of reality of those who see

the island through a lens", will also offer selected works for sale, with proceeds going towards Ban Nana, a home for street-children in Mae Sai, Chiang Rai.

For more information, contact Ten Achiravit at Tel: 01-9862547 or email: churmung@yahoo.com, K. Danai at Tel: 01-8953709 or K. Asnee at the Holiday Inn at Tel: 09-4504512.

December 26: Tsunami Memorial events. Many ceremonies will be held in Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi Provinces, to mark one year since the disaster. Details will be published closer to the time.

December 30-January 1: Greenspirit New Year Festival 2005. See 2006 in with a three-day psytrance festival at Na Thai in Krabi.

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For more information, contact Tel: 01-8940208, email info@greenspiritkrabi.com, or visit www.greenspiritkrabi.com

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After DARK

by Chris Husted

Good news for hip-hopsters and rappers was the grand opening of Q spot in Phuket City, the latest project of Da Jam owners Michael Jenselius and Frank Baganz, this time teaming up with experienced manager Anek "Koong" Grainara, of Jammin' fame.

Q spot, where H₂O and Tokyo House once stood, kicked open its doors on December 2 with local rappers South Players taking the stage in front of a crowd of hundreds – some of them true hip hop fans, others just curious.

On the menu was bass loud enough to make a mockery of the 15,000 baht you spent on your fancy car alarm for your low-rider – there's no chance of hearing it once you're in Q Spot.

True to form, Michael had Thai rap star Da Jim lined up as the main act, but four-strong South Players snuck in as the warm up. "They called in the afternoon and arrived from Khao Lak about 7:30 pm. After a five-minute sound check they were ready," said Michael.

Fine timing is one of Michael's strong points; at 6 pm on the night he was still adding some finishing touches to the

Q HITS THE SPOT



Local boys South Players are Q Spot's regular crew.

venue – and he isn't finished yet. "The lighting in the main section needs to be more lively. We'll be getting some more lighting from either Singapore or Bangkok," he said.

South Players are Q spot's regular crew, taking the mikes from 9:30 pm to 11 pm, which is another step forward in the youngsters' careers to add to the two CDs they have already re-

corded, with a third on its way.

The second set, from midnight on, is the house band, formerly of Up To You Pub, featuring some faces familiar to those who have haunted Phuket City's live music venues over the past couple of years. The band moves the sound away from full-on rap with a range of Western and Thai hits, but maintains a fresh vocal output.

Although Q spot launched with hip hop as its main theme, Michael plans to expand its appeal with other styles of music.



The Q crew: Michael Jenselius, Anek Grainara and Frank Baganz.

"We're looking at introducing theme nights to cater to a wider crowd, say blues on Monday and jazz on Tuesdays and so on," he said.

He is also working on getting big names down from the capital to perform. "We're looking to include regular special acts about once a month," he said.

Michael is working on Joey Boy to appear around the end of this month, but is making no promises.

Meanwhile, across town near the Robinson Department Store, regular punters will have noticed that Da Jam, Michael's other venue, is currently closed. "We've closed it for a refit; it

should be open again in a few weeks. We're making it into more of a relaxed lounge. We haven't decided on a name yet," Michael said.

Those who are wondering what Da Jam's star barkeep, Carlos, is up to, will be happy to know he's serving beers and standard spirits plus mixer at Q spot for 100 baht each.

Q Spot, 34 Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City. Open daily 7 pm 'til late. Tel: 076-256588. Email: info@qphuket.com Website: www.qphuket.com. For information in English, call Michael at Tel: 01-8926251, or in Thai, call Moo at Tel: 01-9580815.



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The other day, for the first time, I ordered a plate of *khao pat Amerikan* – American fried rice – in a Thai restaurant.

As an American, I was curious to see what it would look like. Americans don't usually eat rice, so I assumed that Thais had invented this dish to represent the kind of rice they thought we might eat.

I wondered if it would be mixed with hamburger, which is practically our national dish. It might be garnished with peanut butter, which is another national dish.

Maybe it would be decorated with a tiny plastic American flag waving proudly from the ricetop – or a miniature replica of the Statue of Liberty.

Strikeout on all fronts. There was no hamburger, no peanut butter, no flag and no Statue of Liberty. But there was a sachet of ketchup, reflecting keen insight into the American penchant for pouring ketchup on our food.

American fried rice was a letdown. It was nothing but a mound of fried rice garnished with a fried egg, four large raisins and a couple of mini-hotdogs. It was the worst plate of fried rice I've ever eaten.



I wondered what evil spirit had inspired the inventor of this dish to make it so tasteless. I wondered what demon had caused him to imagine that Americans would eat raisins with their rice. And I wondered what fiend had made him slit the ends of the hotdogs.

Yes! The mini-hotdogs had slices cut into each end in an attempt to simulate flower petals. They looked like little stumpy hands with chopped-off fingers.

As I brooded on these mysteries, the answer slowly dawned. Some malicious, anti-American Thai had created American fried rice as an insult to my people. The tastelessness said, "You Americans are bland, insipid and totally blah – not hot and spicy, as you should be." The raisins said, "You Americans are so weird, you

even eat raisins with your rice."

And the hotdogs? Ah, they conveyed a damning indictment indeed. "These mini-hotdogs have been slashed and mutilated to symbolize the atrocities you Americans inflict upon the world, such as your unprovoked invasion of Iraq and the barbarities at Abu Ghraib."

That's what that plate of American fried rice said to me, and it made my patriotic American blood boil.

This dish was an insult to Americans everywhere. It was undoubtedly the first phase of an insidious plot to sap our morale and bring down our mighty nation in a welter of fire and blood.

American fried rice was a Trojan horse, the culinary equivalent of 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina.

I stalked out of that restaurant in a fury. I vowed to write a letter to the Foreign Ministry demanding that they redress this outrage.

I wanted them to close down that restaurant and banish American fried rice forever from Thailand's sunny shores.

I would inform Fox News, so that they could expose to public outcry this blatant denigration of America and all it stands for. And I would demand financial reparations from the Thai government for the mental anguish I had suffered.

I estimated that 20 million baht might soothe my pain.

But before taking any action, I always consult my personal guru, Master Chang Shou, a Taoist shaman who lives deep in the Tien Shan mountains of western China.

An email to him elicited a swift reply: "Relax, kiddo! It's just a plate of rice. Don't get paranoid about it."

"You want symbolism? The tastelessness means Americans are basically okay – you don't need any chilies to spice you up. The fried egg symbolizes your

affluence. But the mini-hotdogs mean you're getting porky, and the slices are a warning to cut back on the cholesterol."

"The only bad news is the raisins."

"They stand for four flaws which your people are prone to, and which have been highlighted by the actions of your current government: ignorance, arrogance, aggressiveness, and an unwarranted belief in your own superiority."

Thus mollified, I decided not to seek revenge after all.

But I still think those financial reparations would be a good idea.

S. Tsow can be flamed at stsow@yahoo.com, except when he's trying to figure out how to get the raisins out of the rice. A new collection of his ravings, Thai Lite 2, is now available at indiscriminating bookstores. Get your copy before it's banned.

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Rak Mak! Awards

This week's lucky numbers:

กง 1385 เชียงราย Silver Toyota	กฉ 74 ภูเก็ต Gold Toyota Vios	นข 868 ภูเก็ต White Isuzu Van
กค 3161 ภูเก็ต Dark Blue Toyota	กค 8612 ภูเก็ต Gold Honda City	บธ 2900 ระนอง Gold Nissan NV

The first three of these vehicles' owners to contact us can choose from the following three prizes: an Evolve Spa gift voucher for two people and one day free use of the gym & pool at Treetops Arasia; or one year's free home delivery of the *Phuket Gazette*; or souvenirs from Desjoyaux Co Ltd.

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If we spot it, you could win a dinner for two (Thai BBQ Buffet and Cabaret Show) on a Saturday night only, at Baan Yin Dee Boutique Resort Phuket; or a laser tooth-whitening treatment at Promjai Dental Clinic at either their Patong Beach or bypass road clinic; or a facial treatment with Majestic Cosmetics at the Jungceylon Clinic.

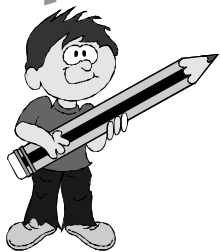
Baan Yin Dee
Boutique Resort Phuket

PROMJAI DENTAL CLINIC
แปรรูปทันตกรรม

JUNGCEYLON
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PUZZLES

Spot the Difference



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



su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

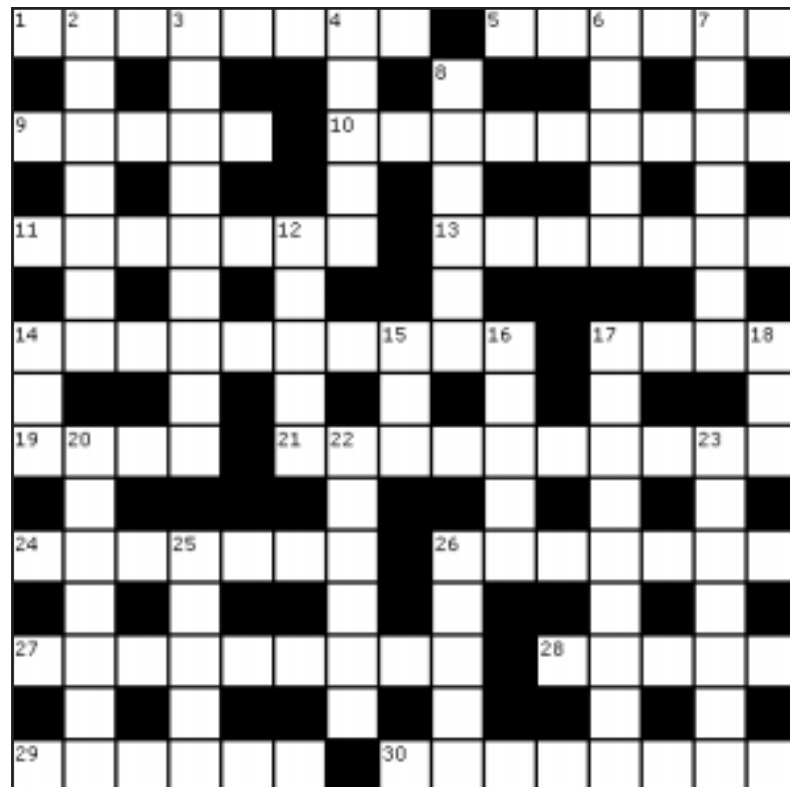
4	8	7		
			3	8
7	9	1		4
		6		
5	3			
		4	9	8
5			7	3

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. Beware: there is only one solution to this puzzle, which is on the next page.

The Cryptic Crossword

ACROSS

1. Mysterious Eric has toes tangled. (8)
5. Bend again – a natural reaction. (6)
9. Sardine sat around public relations. (5)
10. In lethargy, I dip to try mixture. (9)
11. Maneuvers a diplomatic approach to those in charge. (7)
13. Roy, after sin, becomes royal representative. (7)
14. Forest intertwined with lace in part of ship. (10)
17. Ocular ailment to contract in porker's home? (4)
19. Added to quiet learner with us. (4)
21. Spice with herb for cooling taste. (10)



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2005

EZ TRIVIA

1. What rapper's hit debut album was called *Get Rich or Die Tryin'*?
2. Who is the main character of the fable *The Sky is Falling*?
3. What is the mineral form of iron oxide, named after the Greek word for blood?
4. Who is the Governor of California?
5. How many players are there on a cricket team?
6. What is the capital of Uruguay?
7. Who recorded the album *Sexy Naughty Bitchy*?
8. What nickname was given to the Hughes H-4 Hercules, which had the longest wingspan of any aircraft ever built?
9. What compound of boron is sometimes used illegally as a food additive in Thailand?
10. What company makes the PlayStation game console?

Answers on page 22

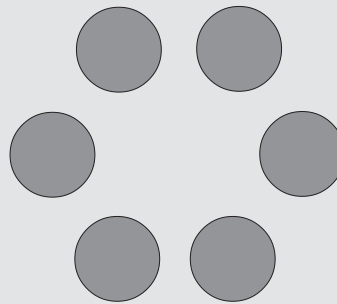
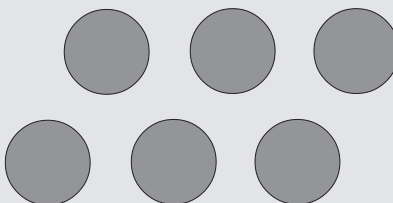
24. Plato and Ed stirred wee frog. (7)
26. Little pill for small newspaper. (7)
27. Harp may harm headless girl. (9)
28. Restless, it precedes church to junction. (5)
29. Airliner missile ends up as beach junk. (6)
30. Section of army for children? (8)
7. Deterioration of work in doorway. (7)
8. Chauffeur beginner? Nonsense! (6)
12. Noisily chew winner. (5)
14. Almost fail dandy. (3)
15. Little Patricia returns to strike lightly. (3)
16. Bruise made with a tone. (5)
17. Easy town for a not very bright person? (9)
18. Munch notes at intersection. (3)
20. Vegetable era outflow. (7)
22. Watch top of protective membrane. (6)
23. Tangled net hire – not one or the other. (7)
25. Questions shoes. (5)
26. Teach bride's follower. (5)

Solution on page 22

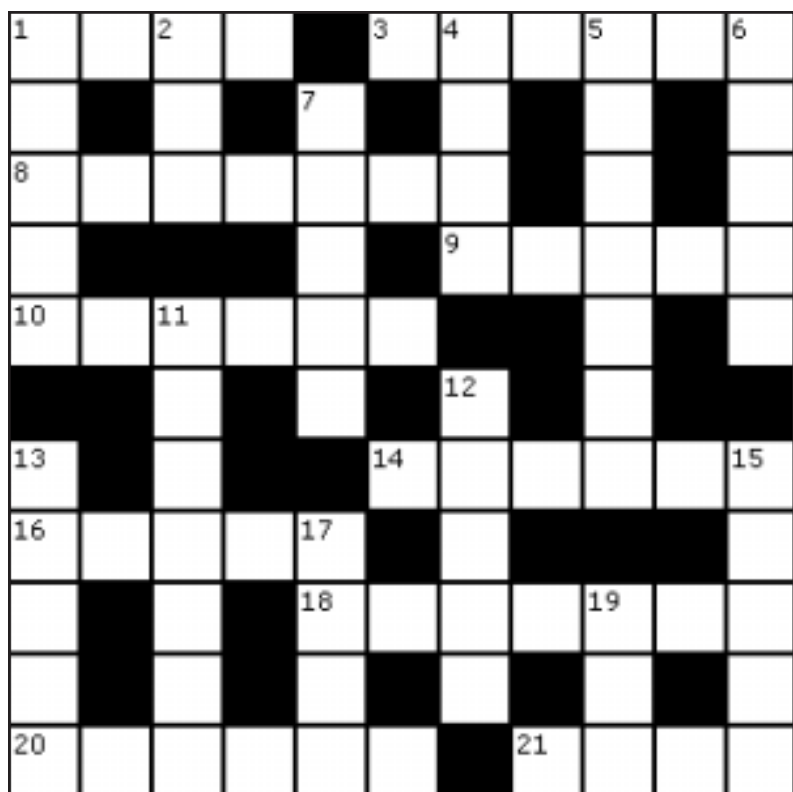
Scribble Space

Brain Buster!!

Place six coins in two lines, as shown below, left. Now move just two of the coins to make a circle (below, right).



Solution on page 22



Quick Crossword

ACROSS

1. Horse or car competition.
3. African desert.
8. Fail to take care of.
9. Japanese city.
10. Make longer.
14. Playground equipment.
16. Love god.
18. Chernobyl country.
20. Tied up the boat.
21. Not strong.

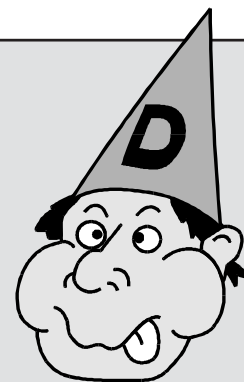
DOWN

1. Wash off soap.

2. Gear wheel.
4. Between tenor and soprano.
5. Spanish fleets.
6. Jordanian capital.
7. 13-19.
11. Underwater weapon.
12. Striped horse cousin.
13. Go away!
15. Shellfish.
17. A blue-blood.
19. Anger.

Solution below, right

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



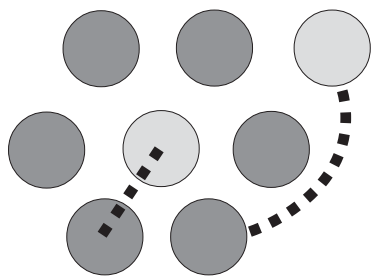
Kids! Ask Mum and Dad to help you find the answers to these questions. They're not easy but, if you do some research, you should be able to find the answers to all of them.

1. What is the term for the technique of growing plants in liquid nutrients rather than soil?
2. Who installed the first Archbishop of Canterbury?
3. What is the first name of the Japanese princess who recently married a commoner?
4. How was the world's largest diamond sent to England in 1905?
5. What pseudonym did Alex Hughes use on his six hit records – all banned by the BBC?
6. Where can you buy a kite with a kyat and a pie with a pya?
7. How many pairs of chromosomes does a normal human have?
8. Who was European footballer of the year in 1968?
9. What do peahens mate with?
10. What is the name more commonly given to the Collegiate Church of Saint Peter?
11. What color bottles do fine Rhine wines come in?
12. How is Supergirl related to Superman?
13. What is triskaideka-phobia?
14. What is the collective noun for crows?
15. Who was world heavy-weight boxing champion from 1937 to 1949?
16. How many laps are there in the Indianapolis 500?
17. What's the only country in the world that starts with the letter "O"?
18. At what Caribbean island did the Ra II end its 32,000-mile ocean crossing?
19. What Hebrew word means "So be it"?
20. What is the very last word in the Bible?

Answers below, left

Puzzle Solutions

Brain Buster Solution



Monster Quiz Answers

1. Hydroponics; 2. The Pope;
3. Sayako; 4. By mail; 5. Judge Dread; 6. Myamnar; 7. 23; 8. George Best; 9. Peacocks; 10. Westminster Abbey; 11. Brown; 12. She's his cousin; 13. The fear of number 13; 14. A murder; 15. Joe Louis; 16. 200; 17. Oman; 18. Barbados; 19. Amen; 20. Amen.

Solution to Cartoon Puzzle



EZ Trivia Answers

1. 50 Cent; 2. Chicken Little; 3. Hematite; 4. Arnold Schwarzenegger; 5. Eleven; 6. Montevideo; 7. Amita "Tata" Young; 8. The Spruce Goose; 9. Borax; 10. Sony.

Solution to this week's Cryptic Crossword



Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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

On the wagon again

OUTSIDE

IN

By Lis Kinswoman

Hello dearies. This week we shall address the problem of readers complaining that there is far too much drink and sex in Lis's weekly column on Phuket.

There. Consider it done. This week we also have drinks tips, Girl Pride, fruity massages and that old chestnut, driving in Thailand. So let's gear up for the silly season and get on the wagon with Lis!

I honestly didn't wanna get into even more trouble banging into someone. And its not a must for a motorist to wear a helmet, so, most of the motorist are helmet-less and some of them are not even old enough to ride a bike, but still they're riding around like nobodies business. But the interesting part is, with all that no 3rd brake lights and no helmet shit, the accident rate in Thailand is wayyyy less than the accident rate in Malaysia. Amazing eh?" (4)

Don't look now: "My most exciting news from today was that I got hit by a car. So if you only have time to read this one paragraph, you can safely carry on with your day without having to read anything else, knowing that you're not missing anything important. The problem is that I'm used to looking in a certain direction for cars when I cross the street. Since they drive on the left hand side of the street here, my habit

is potentially fatal. Anyway, that's what happened here. I looked right when I should have looked left, and promptly ran into/got hit by a car, which then nearly ran over my foot. Fortunately, this was at the entrance to a parking lot, and the car was moving slowly, so nothing was damaged except my pride. The rule of thumb is to look in the direction traffic comes from. Painfully obvious. But there's a caveat in Thailand. Motorcycles and tuk tuks often drive on the wrong side of the road to save some time. So, the second rule of thumb is to always look both ways." (5)

Yeah, sure: "As it was hot, we ended up being very thirsty yesterday. We went into a restaurant and had 7 orange fruit juices! The waitresses seemed very impressed! We had something to eat and on the way out, the waitresses said to me, 'Pom Pui' over and over and all had a go at rubbing my tummy! Apparently, it's a word that means 'big guy, but not really that big' and is supposed to be a complement!" (6)

Ooh, oh so naughty: "Ok, so there must have been a bloke a few sections down from me, strange thing was every few minutes i heard what sounded like him farting, although i wasn't sure wheter it was the leather bed or not, so i was wondering that about him, where as a few moments later, he'd be wondering what was going on in my booth, turns out, Bom, My massuse, who didn't speak much english, was trying to explain that i'm quite a tall chap and my feet were hanging off the end of the bed which made here job all the more difficult, except from behind closed curtains in a darkend room it came out as 'You very long... (giggle)' which made me laugh initailly, then say 'Don't worry about it Bom, you're doing just fine' which I hope will give the other bloke a good story to tell his mates about the mas-

sage he had in Thailand." (7)

Safe sex: "I tell you what though those lady-men are unbelievable! I think we left just before the 'extra special show' and on the way out I gave my favourite draqueen a wink, and then sprinted until I was sure I was not being followed." (8)

You have been warned: "Thai transport is good, but it's good in the same way that Indonesian transport is good: there are lots of buses, but they're not that flash. However, the Thais are even more flexible than the Indonesians in their definition of 'truth', so when you get on a bus and the conductor says it's going to Surat Thani (the ferry terminal for Ko Samui) and charges you accordingly, you might be entitled to think that the bus will actually go to Surat Thani. Think again, sucker: we ended up in Krabi, miles from Surat Thani, where the conductor said we could change here for Surat... except the last Surat bus for the day had already left. Connection? I don't think so." (9)

1. http://thingsivewritten.blogspot.com/2005_08_01_thingsivewritten_archive.html
2. <http://www.contactmusic.com/new/xmlfeed.nsf/mndwebpages/tsunami%20prompts%20nemkova%20to%20quit%20laxatives>
3. <http://www.girlprideasia.com/ef3.html>
4. http://www.tickle-me.net/archives/2005_05.html
5. <http://journal.kevinthom.com/?m=200502&paged=2>
6. http://www.gwyncole.com/blogs/personal/archives/2004_03.html
7. <http://netpacker.farrell.me.uk/shownews.php?npid=35&newsid=109>
8. <http://daniel.larsen.net.nz/daniel/default3t.htm>
9. http://www.moxon.net/thailand/hat_yai_to_phuket.html

More on booze and sex: "Drink the local beer, the two main ones of which are Chang and Singha. They're both nice, but Singha probably has the edge. Chang is cheaper though, and stronger too. Don't drink two long necks at 2 in the afternoon. Drink three... Drink lots of cocktails, you ain't gonna find them for \$3 in Melbourne, that's for damn sure. Don't be afraid to go to dodgy looking places, that's where the fun is. There are a couple of things you should never do when hungover - one of them is going through customs at Bangkok airport. You've been warned. Hookers are people too, so treat them with respect. Buy them a drink, compliment them on their fine thigh rubbing technique, laugh at their jokes, feel them up with two hands instead of one - and tip generously. Oh, and say hi from me." (1)

Sh*t happens: "TSUNAMI PROMPTS NEMKOVA TO QUIT LAXATIVES. The Asian tsunami disaster last Christmas (04) helped supermodel PETRA NEMKOVA beat her addiction to laxatives... after spending eight hours clinging to the top of a palm tree... Nemkova admits she made a pact with herself to stop taking the drugs for good." (2)

Orgasmically good: "Over three tropical days from 4-6 November 2005 in Phuket, Thailand, Girl Pride Asia - a celebration of lesbian pride - will host a series of events designed by girls for girls like you. Girls on the go. Girls on a mission. Girls who make a difference. Girls who dare! Girls who care! Girls who are bi, curious, L, bent, pretty, femme, butch, andro, ah well, sistah, whatever your label, it doesn't matter. Yes... am coming..." (3)

Braking the rules: "Oh yeah, a couple of things I've realised about Thailand. Most of the vehicles do NOT have 3rd brake light. Damn dangerous wei. It's like you have depend on their 2 back lights to see whether they're actually breaking or not. Gawd. I was already driving around Phuket without my freaking driving license,

The making of America's Mayor

There are those who say that Bangkok is ungovernable, including the last governor who basically threw up his hands and said that the bureaucrats held the power, not him, and there was nothing he could do. People said the same thing about New York City until Rudy Giuliani came along.

The Prince of the City (Encounter Books, San Francisco, 2005, 386pp) by Fred Siegel is the story of how Giuliani transformed New York in eight years, balancing the budget, slashing crime, reforming education, taking people off welfare and putting them back to work, sparking a business revival, and making public places clean and safe again. Formerly depressed neighborhoods in Harlem and Brooklyn became vibrant centers of renovated brownstones and new shops and restaurants.

"The prince" refers to *The Prince* by Nicolo Machiavelli and the tough-minded Florentine's many lessons which Giuliani applied to fight a host of foes opposed to his reforms. While the subtitle is somewhat gushing - "Giuliani, New York and the Genius of American Life" - this book is not a hagiography. It's not even a biography. The focus is on the practical measures the

wily and forceful Giuliani used to get New York City back on its feet.

When Giuliani became mayor in 1993, crime was skyrocketing, police morale was low, the welfare rolls bulged (one welfare recipient for every seven workers), the mad and the homeless wandered the streets, and the education system was a shambles: for every 1.7 teachers there was an administrator. Supporting this system was a partnership of lame white liberals ("the compassion industry" in Giuliani's trenchant phrase) and "race racketeers" like the Reverend Al Sharpton. "In New York," one observer noted, "race isn't part of politics. It is politics."

Squeegee hustlers, aggressive panhandlers, loud drunks, homeless people infesting parks, graffiti gangs, kids packing deafening ghetto blasters - all were vigorously defended by the liberal lawyers of the New York branch of the American Civil Liberties Union in the name of "free

speech". A symbolic act very early in the Giuliani administration showed that there was a new broom in town:

"Bella Abzug, the colorful and lively left-wing former congresswoman and senatorial candidate from Manhattan, was standing on the long wide steps of City Hall announcing her resignation from her unpaid position of chair of the Mayoral Committee on the Status of Women (not to be confused with the Mayor's Commission on Women). Her action, she said, was to protest the new administration's rude and "shocking treatment of her staff." When Giuliani began ascending the steps, she tried to hand her resignation to the new mayor who, barely taking notice of her, replied, 'Why don't you send it in?' A few steps on he added, 'I have a feeling when I get it I'll accept it.' Watching the *pas de deux*, a bystander quipped, 'in one era and out the other.'"

One of the new mayor's major talents was to recruit and

retain a highly capable staff, many of them black and Latino. At his regular 8 am meetings, he presided over a committed overhaul of the city's creaking bureaucracy. Police morale soared as crime plummeted. There were noisy protests outside City Hall every day led by outraged liberals, the successors of the old Tammany Hall power brokers.

"The new Tammany was wrapped in a cloth of sanctimony," Siegel writes. "It professed to represent the interests of the poor. Protected in part by civil service and union power, it was immune to elections, and rather than being subject to scrutiny by the press it was mostly treated as a sacred cow."

As American statesman Daniel Patrick Moynihan observed, "Liberalism faltered when it turned out it could not cope with the truth."

Giuliani won his next election by a landslide.

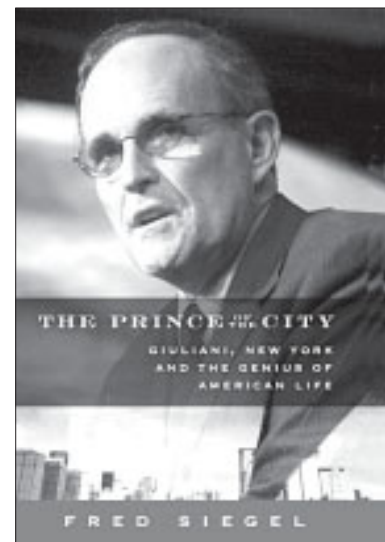
And his results were passed down to his Republican successor Michael Bloomberg, who has presided over a further reduction in the crime rate, concrete gains in education and a soaring economy, helped along by 850,000 industrious new immigrants.

The new order is here to stay, as evidenced by the latest



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt



mayoral election. Backed by Reverend Al Sharpton, Fernando Ferrar campaigned on a classic liberal race-conscious platform. Bloomberg crushed him with 58% of the vote. He currently enjoys a 75% approval rate.

Let your body do the talking



Youth 'n
ASIA

By Ella Micheler

Erin McKean, an American editor of dictionaries, once said, "English is messy, uninhibited, sprawling and sloppy." One instance of such sloppiness is that a surprising number of English speakers don't know the difference between "ravish" and "ravage".

An example: if Ken kidnaps Barbie and takes her away from her evil step-family, then has passionate sex with her (against her will or not), he's ravishing her. If he takes her into the woods and messily mutilates her body, he's ravaging her. Both have an element of violence, but another crucial difference is that Ken can ravage a tree, but not ravish it (or he can try to – if he's slightly insane).

There are so many nuances in the English language, so many different meanings, it's no wonder that people misunderstand each other constantly. A word as simple as "set" has 196 separate definitions.

No worries, though – the words we speak only account for 3% of our actual communication. 70% of our communication is through body language, while the rest is through verbal intonation, our facial expressions and written communication. However, it's not simply the spoken language that has infinite possibilities for creating misunderstandings – sometimes our body language can be just as confusing.

Take one of the most basic types of body language as an example: shaking your head from side to side means "no", and

nodding your head up and down means "yes". Or does it?

In Bulgaria, most people do the opposite, which must lead to some grave misunderstandings in cross-cultural dating. Eskimos wink instead of shaking their head for no, and the Dyaks of Borneo raise their eyebrows for a yes, but contract them slightly and squint their eyes for a no.

The Turks shake their head for yes, and say no by tossing their heads back and clucking. Charles Darwin found that English babies shook their heads when refusing their food, but inclined their heads forward for food in a nodding gesture. Did this mean that humans are born with basic body language, or that the babies learned these signs by observing their parents? Darwin wasn't sure.

Another type of body language that causes cross-cultural confusion is a simple thumbs up, which means OK almost everywhere... except in Iran, Iraq, Sardinia and Greece, where it means "screw you". And wouldn't you know it, American troops have interpreted Iraqi thumbs up gestures as symbols of support – but are the ostensibly cheering Iraqis showing their displeasure or have they learned the American meaning of thumbs up? In any case, foreign hitchhikers in these countries must have some pretty lively roadside experiences.

In Western culture, pointing a leg or knee towards a person is a sign that you're interested in them or that you accept them

– on the other hand, pointing your feet at someone is unspeakably rude in Thailand, and crossing your foot over your leg in front of an Arab symbolizes a threatening weapon.

Of course, your body sends out messages even when you're not aware of it, especially when you don't want it to. For example, common signs that someone is lying to you include a lack of eye contact, fidgeting, breaking out in a sweat, and a stiffness of their body and facial expression. However, in Asian and African culture it's seen as a sign of respect to avoid making eye contact with a superior.

When it comes to the fine art of flirting, body language is much more effective than cheesy pick-up lines such as, "Was your father a baker? You've got a great set of buns!" However, body language, if not tuned finely enough, can be just as clumsy. One website simply says, "Stand up straight and stick out your assets. That's the kind of body language no man can resist!"

But how do we know if someone is flirting with us? Fortunately, flirting has developed over the centuries and blinking furiously because there's a bit of sand in your eye isn't misconstrued as, "Come hither, I want to ravish you," any more.

Yet the eyes are still incredibly important (but please, no pick-up lines about jewel thieves putting gems in women's eyes.) A dead giveaway is if someone is staring at your lips or breasts, but a subtler

hint is that when a person likes what they see, their pupils dilate.

One problem is that people are very quick to judge others, and on dates we're particularly paranoid creatures. Just relax – if your date has crossed arms, don't automatically assume it is an offensive gesture – he or she might simply feel cold (in which case, offer your jacket!).

Some 55% of the first impressions we gain from people originate in body language, and that's not including the bone-crushing handshake that businessmen like to use. The knowledge that I'm being judged by my posture, the way I fidget, the way my feet are arranged, my gestures, and the set of my shoulders in the first 10 or 20 seconds that I've met someone... is all enough to induce a stress-related tic in my eye. (Of course I'm then perceived as slightly unhinged by the other person, which continues the vicious cycle of insecurity and insane body language.)

Cosmopolitan magazine suggests that to attract someone, you should slowly lick your lips, then dip your little finger in your dessert and slowly suck it off. But I suggest that you simply smile warmly and genuinely – after all, a smile makes you more attractive, more approachable, and makes you feel better as well. It's one of the few forms of body language that is truly universal – so don't hesitate to smile wherever you are.

After all, we are in the Land of Smiles, aren't we?

Dear Momma Duck,

Recently my wife and I had a baby daughter. Knowing this, my neighbors gave me a bag of plant matter which they called *dok anjun*, telling me I should rub it into my daughter's eyebrows. I asked my wife about it, as she is somewhat of an expert on Thai

potions, lucky charms and the like, but she said she had never heard of it. Is this some sort of Phuket tradition? What benefits would my daughter stand to derive from following my neighbor's advice? If you recommend applying it, how do we do so safely, how often, and for how long?

Thanks, Stephen

Dear Stephen,

Dok anjun or "Butterfly Pea" is a creeping type of plant that people love to grow in the garden as a decoration, as well as for herbal purposes. It has a beautiful crimson color. The juice is used for making desserts such as *Khaow Niew Heep*, a typical Phuket *khanom* (sweet). My

Northeastern Thai friend even showed me how to eat it raw with *nam prik* (spicy fish sauce) and it tasted very good.

It is now widely used in making shampoo and hair conditioner because we believe that it is good for our hair. Many Thais rub this flower on children's eyebrows and this is a Thai tradition which I'm told is widely practiced throughout the country.

We believe that by doing this, it will help to thicken our eyebrows (only when young, though). After she showers just rub the petals on your daughter's eyebrows. Don't worry about the purple color because it will quickly fade away. Just do it a few times and don't be serious about it.

I did this to my sons when they were young. For the youngest, I even rubbed it on his bald head. They both have very thick eyebrows and thick hair, although this is probably as a result of their father's genes, in addition to the help of *Dok anjun*. If you follow your neighbor's advice, we believe that your daughter will benefit by having thicker eyebrows so she will not have to use an eyebrow pencil when she's older.

Dear Momma Duck,

I have a friend who had a bad experience in love and he can't forget it, even though it was more than two years ago. He doesn't want to have a new love again. How can I help him?

Miss Lee

Dear Miss Lee,

This is an example of the English proverb, "Once bitten, twice shy". Your friend must have extended a lot of trust and love to his girlfriend and the subsequent hurt was severe. That is why he can't forget his bad experience with love. I think that time will eventually heal his wounds and he'll get over it and be able to love and trust another woman. There are many of us who have gone through this and we learned to live with it. Love can grow but it also can fade away, depending on how well you take care and pay attention to it.

A wise person once said that, "Every relationship ends in hurt (through breakup or death or whatever) but life is not worth living without relationships."

Another approach is to give three-quarters of your love to your soul mate or partner. You've



**Momma
DUCK**

By Wanida Hongyok
momma@phuketgazette.net

then got a quarter of your love or your heart available to begin with again if you end up disappointed or heartbroken.

There is nothing in life that doesn't change as time goes by. Now your friend has time to find out about what type of girlfriend he would like to have. He has time to heal his wounds. It is also wise not to jump into a new relationship too soon after a disappointment. Tell him not to worry, and the right time and person will come.

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In The Stars

by Isla Star

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): If you have been waiting for a chance to score a point in the world of business, expect an opportunity to do so midweek. Romance is looking rock-solid; if you feel the time is right to make a proposal, Cupid will back you up. It's not too late to make plans for a Christmas getaway – family overseas would love a surprise visit. Number 4 is lucky on Thursday.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Others who believed Capricorns had taken leave of their senses last month will finally realize the wisdom of your ideas. You may need to modify details, but there's every chance of a new business started this month taking off. Plan important meetings for after Wednesday. In affairs of the heart, keep a low profile for the time being.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): You're not usually someone to back down when you are convinced that the truth is on your side. However, swallow some pride this week if you want to see tangible progress at work. An argument is brewing and trying to clear the air won't achieve anything. Allow opponents to believe they've won this time; there will be a way to prove your point later in the month.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): It will be important to have the right tools for the job this week. Pisceans who are tempted to cut corners cannot expect to see satisfying results. A new romance appears promising, but you need to lay ghosts from the past to rest before true bliss can be achieved. Refuse to listen to investment invitations if this means getting into debt, as a new financial commitment is hovering on the horizon.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): It's vital to pace yourself this week. Leaving too much to the last minute will certainly result in overload. A previously abandoned business project can be easily reactivated if you feel the time is ripe. Don't invite anyone with a shaky track record to get on board; a reliable investment offer is just around the corner. The color rose pink will encourage peace to prevail on the domestic front.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Timid Taureans can expect a welcome boost to their self-confidence this week. This will make a world of difference to how others perceive you and should encourage romance to flourish. Saturday is your best night to investigate a new social scene; indulge in a spa treatment during the day to feel relaxed and beautiful before going out on the town. The number 3 holds promise on Thursday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): A particular parting will be sweet sorrow this week. Someone who has come to mean more to you is about to head off into the sunset; you shouldn't be shy about making your feelings clear before he or she does so. Finances are beginning to look a lot healthier, with a rare opportunity to boost your bank balance appearing later in the week.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Cancerians who are tired of sitting on the shelf while everyone else has romantic success will receive some irresistible attention from an attractive stranger. It's high time that you were kinder to yourself; make pampering a priority this week. Problems at work will dissolve of their own accord, no matter what a colleague says. The number 6 looks lucky on Wednesday.

LEO (July 24-August 22): High season high jinks are forecast for this week. You have been happy to stay at home in your lair lately, but this is about to change. Be careful not to burn the candle at both ends as the holiday season later this month will definitely involve a busy social schedule. Next Tuesday Pisces has some clever ideas regarding business expansion. Wear turquoise to encourage creativity.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): With work occupying your thoughts most of the time this week, it will be easy to ignore warning signs that all is not sweetness and light at home. Personal relationships are under some stress until the end of December, and Virgoans should endeavor to pamper their partners before trouble comes to the boil. Even the smallest attention will be appreciated. On Tuesday, Libra rides to the rescue during a minor crisis.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): The secrets of your success shouldn't be easily divulged. Someone has the ability to charm the birds out of the trees early next week and Librans could be an easy target. The writing is on the wall as far as a floundering relationship is concerned; there's no point in prolonging the misery, and a broken heart will be easily healed when a new love interest comes onto the scene later this month.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Fame and fortune are yours for the asking this week. Just when it seemed that you were getting nowhere fast agreements are smoothly made. Sensible Scorpios will make the most of having the golden touch and go where others fear to tread. An on-off relationship will reach a definite conclusion this weekend when the person concerned makes an honest confession.

Property awards declare Phuket a big winner

LARGER THAN LIFE

By Graham Doven

I probably shouldn't write anything else about Paul Moorhouse, due to the fact that I've already written more about him, his colleagues and projects than anybody else on the island.

But I have been stuck with writing property stories every week, which has become increasingly difficult.

It had also become increasingly tempting to "forget" to file every so often – so if someone kept coming up with good projects, I would and will write about them.

These days my scope is a bit broader. In addition to property, there are subjects like life on the island, loudspeakers, concrete pigs, GOMs (grumpy old men) and other matters of monumental importance to tackle.

This article is, however, related to property and is about Paul Moorhouse and his latest development, Layan Gardens and more besides.

The international award won by Layan Gardens last month is good news for Phuket and draws attention to the quality of property available here.

PRESTIGIOUS

The Bentley International Property Awards are held in London every year. Co-sponsored by *International Homes* magazine, reputedly the world's largest international property magazine, and the *Daily Mail* newspaper which supports many of the UK's major property exhibitions and events, the Bentley Awards are considered to be the most prestigious awards in the UK for international property.

The Bentley Awards – and that's Bentley as in the marque of car – offer several categories in any country, including: Best Townhome development; Best Villa Development; Best Apartment Development; Best Golf Course; and Best Marina Development.

The award ceremony was held at the Marriott Grosvenor Square on November 4.

The judging committee comprised such luminaries of the property industry as the CEO of the Association of Real Estate Agents, The Chairman of the Spanish Tourism Authority and the UK's Shadow Secretary of State for Local Government, Eric Pickles, MP.

The awards were presented by Rick Wakeman, a popular keyboard player, and Mr Pickles.

This year, 450 people attended, representing 27 countries



Paul and Nor Moorhouse with the Bentley awards for Layan Gardens.

in the Caribbean, Europe, Asia, Africa and Australasia.

Chosen from among some 20 entries, Layan Gardens won the "Best Apartment Development in Thailand" and "Overall Best Development Thailand" awards.

These were, perhaps unsurprisingly, the only awards won by a Thai company.

Projects are judged on a number of criteria, including interior and exterior design and layout; space utilisation; construction and finishing materials; location and views; facilities; environmental issues; safety and innovation; site density; value for money; and marketing presentation.

How did *International Homes* find out about Layan Gardens?

"They searched the websites and asked if we would like to enter," says Paul. "We said 'yes', but when we found out how much work was involved we nearly gave it a miss."

"A detailed A3 document was required, including drawings and plans, photographs, and so on. Eventually, we decided to give it a go, and got a good result for our efforts."

Thanks to Layan Garden's success in the Bentley Awards, *International Homes* has asked for a special feature on Phuket which will take the form of a color insert to be distributed with about 35,000 copies of the magazine. The insert will include pages of editorial, photographs and advertising on Phuket.

It can only be good.

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Out with loutish touts

High season is here again, and already the complaints about tailors' touts are rolling in. Patong recently had a crackdown on them, hauling a bunch off the streets and fining them under Section 397 of the Penal Code, which appropriately sanctions anyone who "...in a public place... does, by any means whatever to annoy or bully the other person..." That sounds about right.

A reader in Kata recounted the tale of an acquaintance who was stopped in the street by a tout. "I'm sorry, I don't have enough money to buy a suit," the visiting innocent said, thinking this would be a polite way to wriggle out of the situation without being confrontational. "Then f**k off back to your own country," barked the disgusted tout.

On the other side of the coin, the *Gazette* also received a complaint from a merchant in Patong who complained that his "boy" had been hauled off by officials who later poured hot tea over his head.

The "boy", who had already been arrested and fined on a couple of previous occasions, apparently gave the officials a mouthful, at which one of them lost his patience. That case was settled with no legal action on either side.

The owner of one tailor shop, quoted in our news story this week, comments, "If we annoyed tourists, we would be in the wrong." Correct. Perhaps that particular tailor's tout is the model of restrained politeness, but one has to wonder. Certainly, his counterpart in Kata is not.

The trouble with the whole touting system is that it is based on pushing people to the point where they give in, where they bow to pressure. After all, it would not be very effective to employ as a tout someone who gave up as soon as a prospective buyer said, "No thanks."

Irritation, confrontation, harassment and bullying – anything to get attention – are what touts do. If they cannot, they are not touts, and there is no point in hiring them.

One of the great mysteries is why so many of them are employed by tailors. One can understand shady businesses, such as some of the timeshare companies and sex show operators, using touts. They don't want or cannot have a real shop window, so they employ people to hit the streets and drag in customers by whatever means possible. But why tailors?

Whatever the reason, the *Gazette* applauds the crackdown and hopes that it will continue until the aggressive touts and their masters get the point, which is this: nobody likes you and nobody wants you. So go away.

– The Editor

The Phuket Gazette

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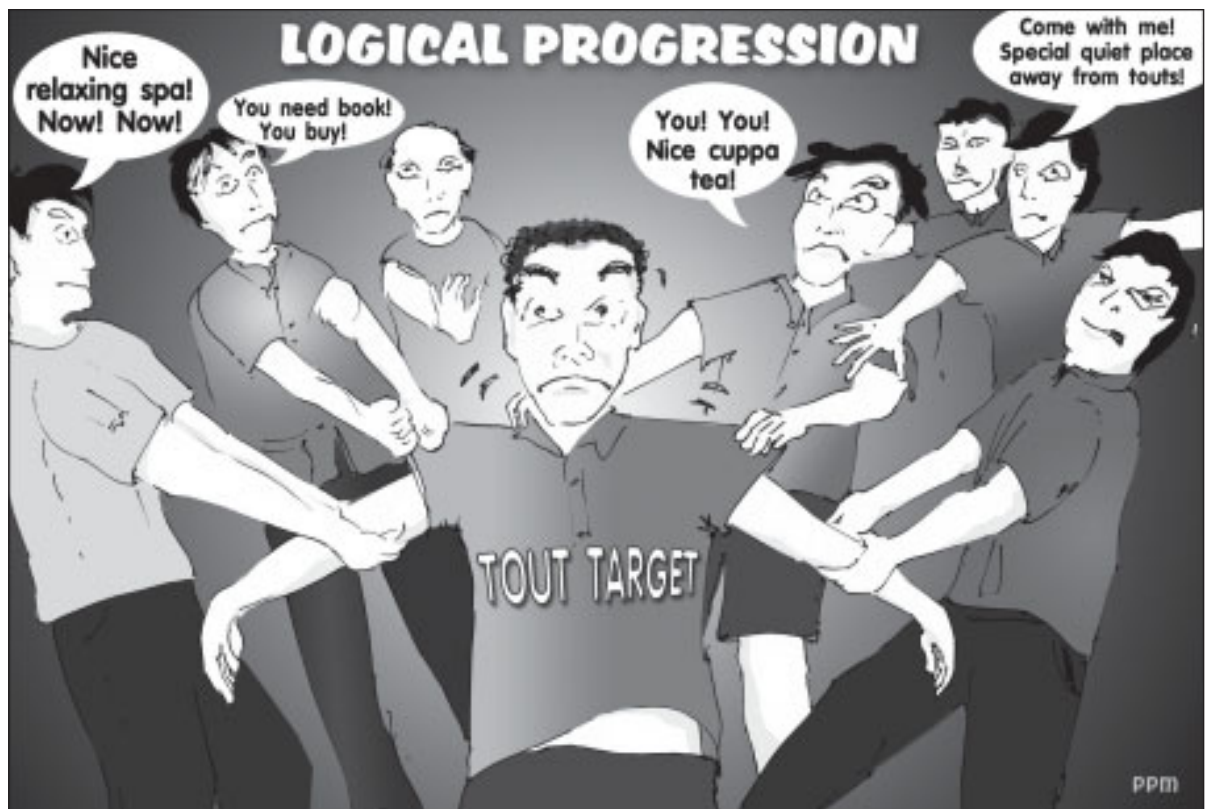
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Letters

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.

Monorail proposal is a great idea

I read with interest about the proposal to construct a monorail train line between the airport and Patong.

I think, if the funds can be allocated, this would be an excellent idea. It should be extended all the way to Kata Beach, and should access Bang Tao and Kamala beaches on the way.

It would be a great success with tourists who are now at the mercy of tuk-tuk and airport limousine drivers. Also, tourists could use the monorail just to travel along the coast to take in the spectacular views.

I would, too, even though I am a resident; it would become one of the island's major tourist attractions.

Property prices in Patong need not be a problem. A monorail, by its nature, is constructed off the ground and does not require much lateral space. It could be constructed along and above Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd in Patong much the same way as the Bangkok Skytrain has been built, and there would be better views that way for sightseeing tourists too. Let's go ahead soon, before land prices go up further, and before the authorities get cold feet.

Guenter Bellach
Ban Lipon

Wirral be coming back to Phuket

My name is Lorraine and I'm from the Wirral, near Liverpool in the UK. I just wanted to say how much I enjoy reading the *Phuket Gazette* online.

I have visited Phuket five times and am returning next sum-

mer. Everyone is very friendly and I have made a lot of friends there who I meet up with when I'm in Phuket.

I hope you don't mind me sending this message, as I just wanted to say "keep up the good work".

Lorraine
The Wirral, UK

Blue about leaving

I am on vacation in Phuket and I saw a poster about the Rich Harper Blues Band playing [in the Phuket Blues Festival, December 16 and 17].

I saw Rich Harper at the festival in Sweden last year. If this is same band, you will have a big show! I wish I could stay, but my vacation is over.

Goran
Sweden

Where is the airport bus service?

I waited for more than an hour at Big C for the highly touted new airport bus but no bus showed up. So, running out of time to get to the airport, I had to use a 300-baht motorcycle taxi. The "mo-cy" driver told me that he has been getting a lot of passengers to the airport because people wait for the bus at Big C, where no timetable is posted and there's nowhere to sit.

When the bus fails to show up, people are forced to endure an expensive, bone-jarring and hazardous bike ride to the airport. Some, like me, are elderly and have luggage – which makes the ride even more dangerous.

It would be nice to receive an apology, a bus schedule and a refund of my 300 baht. But, like

the bus, this will probably never come.

Don Aleman
Patong

Vichet Radomkij, Manager of Phuket Public Co Ltd, which manages the bus route, replies:

On November 1, the airport bus schedule changed in order to accommodate the number of flights landing at Phuket International Airport during the high season. There are still 13 daily roundtrip buses to the airport.

The first bus leaves the bus terminal in Phuket City for the airport at 5 am and the last bus leaves for the airport at 6:30 pm. People should not have to wait for an overdue bus more than one hour.

Unfortunately, the new schedule, which is valid until further notice, was not well-advertised. However, we will try to publicize the airport bus schedule more effectively from now on. For more information, please contact Phuket Public Co Ltd at Tel: 076-241463.

Lak of perception?

Has CS (Letters, issue of November 26) ever been to Khao Lak? There have been very few tourists staying for long periods there, and if it were not for the long-staying volunteers the local economy would have had very little income.

These volunteers have returned to Khao Lak to help when help is certainly needed. They are spending their savings and losing income at home during their lengthy stays helping the local people.

Gyllyan Anderson
Melbourne, Australia

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

Letters

Groups are good

I was amazed at your editorial (issue of December 3) regarding package tourists. I have been sending tour groups to Phuket for at least 25 years. Quite frankly, 25 years ago Thailand was not the most sought-after destination, even by tour groups.

Why? Because it was considered smelly and dirty. Most well-heeled tourists did not want to spend their days stuck in a five-star enclave. They have the whole world to choose from and don't appreciate smelly streets, bad sidewalks and dog poo, back alleys and girlie bars and touts and overhead power cables and telephone lines and the constant racket of tuk-tuks and motorcycles.

Package tourism is the backbone of the Thai tourist industry. The tour groups take day trips in buses and those trips pay the bus driver, the guide, the shop clerks, the petrol pump attendants, the boats and their crew. They also contribute to the many food stalls along the way, they eat out at night, they frequent the pubs and some of them the more notorious entertainment venues that Thailand is so well known for. Their tour money pays thousands of hotel staff, travel agents, restaurant staff, airline staff and crews.

So, Mr Editor, please assist in attracting more tourists, assist in making Phuket cleaner, and try and do something about all those mangy dogs. Help keep all those wonderful people employed.

Good luck to all the hotel managers and staff and the tour operators and guides and the little shops and restaurants that the wealthy and pompous don't frequent and never will, and a big "thank you" to all of them for looking after our tour groups. I wish them all a bumper season.

Yvonne Marais
Tour Operator

Patong Deputy Mayor Chairat sounds off

FIRST PERSON

When Deputy Prime Minister Suwat Liptapanlop came to Patong recently, some members of his entourage ordered a test of the tsunami warning system here – but without any advance warning to the municipality. For this reason, we were unable to provide adequate warning to the public that it was only a test.

The reason for the delay was that the NDWC official they called was not personally authorized to activate the alarm [on a trial basis] because his office had never received a written request for such a testing of the alarm system in Patong. Some of his advisers had requested a test of the new warning siren at Saphan Hin on that day, but not at Patong.

His people decided to switch to Patong because it was more convenient; that day DPM Suwat was to be at the nearby Graceland Resort & Spa for a meeting.

At first, they asked the municipality to activate the alarm using our leased line, but we didn't comply because we didn't want to frighten the public into thinking a real tsunami was imminent. After that, they decided to call the NDWC themselves and order a test sounding.

It is important to understand that it was never really a test of the tsunami evacuation system, but rather a demonstration for DPM Suwat.

In the event of a real test or evacuation drill, Phuket Municipality will send out official notices warning tourists, hotels, businesses, TV and radio stations.

Had we been given advance notice by the NDWC or

During a visit to Phuket on November 25 to inspect the progress of preparations for the tsunami memorial activities later this month, members of Deputy Prime Minister Suwat Liptapanlop's entourage ordered an impromptu demonstration of the three tsunami warning towers at Patong Beach. The DPM expressed displeasure when a call placed to the Nonthaburi-based National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC) resulted in a 10-minute delay before the sirens sounded. The DPM then called for better co-ordination between the



NDWC and local authorities. Here Patong Deputy Mayor **Chairat Sukkaban** explains why he thinks criticism of the delay was unjustified, and why off-the-cuff tests are a bad idea.

DPM Suwat's group, we could have done this.

But Patong Municipality was given no advance warning whatsoever, and members of the DPM's entourage bypassed us when they ordered the NDWC to activate the siren.

I strongly disagree with what they did. The button to activate the tsunami warning siren is not a toy that anybody can just

come up and press whenever they want. In fact, testing of the system is a very sensitive issue that impacts not only on our image among tourists, but also on our preparedness to carry out an actual tsunami evacuation, should one become necessary.

People will stop paying attention to the siren if it is sounded too often with no advance warning.

If the government wants to test the system, we are happy to take part. But the testing should be done at regular intervals, say every three to six months, and then only with advance written notice so that we can prepare the public for it.

The real problem on November 25 stemmed from members of the DPM's entourage switching from Saphan Hin to Patong at the last minute, without informing anyone at the NDWC about the change.

I really don't understand why they went they went to all the trouble of filing a written request for a test of the Saphan Hin warning tower and then canceled the plan without even going to have a look at the warning tower there.

I think it's very important that when high-ranking government officers come to inspect the tsunami warning system that they send a letter in advance so that the time and date will be known and we can co-ordinate the effort efficiently, using teamwork.

On November 22, Suranand Vejjajiva [Minister Attached to the Prime Minister's Office] announced the scheduled testing on December 16 of all the NDWC warning towers in all five Andaman Coast provinces. [But] Phuket Municipality has still not received any official letter informing us of this upcoming test.

We should be the first ones to be informed since it is our responsibility to warn the public in advance so that they won't be confused or afraid.

– *Compiled by Ananya Hongsa-ngiam*

Buying land from abroad

My Thai wife is thinking of buying a home in Thailand. Does she have to go to the Land Office in person to register ownership of the land or can this be done by mail, through a lawyer?

Also, are there any other requirements for registering land or property, and can these be handled by mail or through a lawyer?

With both of us thousands of miles away in the UK it is very difficult to schedule trips around Land Office or government requirements and travel costs are expensive.

Please can you tell me what paperwork needs to be done in person when one is buying land in Thailand?

Andrew Rhodes
UK

Friedrich "Sam" Fauma, Senior Partner of the International Law Office, replies:

To effect a transfer of property at the Land Department neither the buyer nor the seller need appear in person so long as their representatives have been provided with a correctly drawn-up power of attorney, signed by the absent parties.

The power of attorney should be accompanied by signed copies of house registration, ID card or passport.

One situation in which a personal appearance is required, however, is when a Thai citizen married to a foreigner would like to buy land.

In this case the foreign spouse must appear in person at the Land Department.

There, he or she must sign a declaration stating that the funds used for the purchase of the land belong to the Thai spouse from before the marriage.

This is to ensure that the land is not part of any settlement should the couple subsequently divorce.

Why don't tuk-tuks display fares list?

Before the tsunami, nearly all tuk-tuks in Patong had a list of fares displayed in the vehicle for passengers to see.

Having visited Patong again I noticed that the lists are no longer there and that the price of a journey outside of Patong varies from tuk-tuk to tuk-tuk, sometimes by as much as 150 baht.

Surely the fare should be

the same regardless of which tuk-tuk you use?

Shaun Rice
UK

Theerayuth Prasertphol, Chief Technical Officer of the Phuket Provincial Transportation Office, replies:

All tuk-tuks must display a list of fares for passengers to see.

Issues & ANSWERS

**Want to know how to get something done?
Want to pitch an idea to Phuket's authorities?
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**

I always check when walking along the streets, and if I find a tuk-tuk that does not have a list of fares on display, the driver is arrested.

If you find a driver who does not display the fares or who 'traps' you into paying a higher fare, you can call me at 01-8914335 or call 1584, and we will arrest him.

ON THE MOVE



Wanchock Chomchang, 28, from Nong Bua Lumpu, is the new General Manager of Phuja Nirvana restaurant at Central Festival Phuket. He has a higher diploma in hotel management from University College, Suffolk, in England. Previously he was Assistant Outlet Manager of Le Meridien Khao Lak and Outlet Manager of Le Royal Meridien Baan Taling Ngam on Koh Samui.



Vipada Suthisirikul, 42, from Nakhon Sri Thammarat, is the new General Manager of Sino House on Montri Rd, Phuket City. A business management graduate from the Thai Chamber of Commerce University in Bangkok, she was previously Chief Accountant at the Karonna Resort and Spa in Phuket, and Assistant Production Planner Manager at Delta Electronic Co in Bangkok.



Stephan Bouwman, 33, from Germany, has been appointed Director of Culinary Operations and Executive Chef of the Aspasia hotel in Kata. He has worked in various top restaurants, including the two-Michelin-star Landhaus Scherrer in Hamburg. Before moving to Phuket, he worked as Executive Chef at the five-star Sullberg Hotel & Restaurant and Rive Bistro in Hamburg.

Q: It seems as though everybody is recommending that we download the new Windows Anti-spyware program (www.tinyurl.com/8e77h).

When I download it, I am asked for a Windows Genuine Advantage (WGA) Software number, which I do not have. I used the online software and it told me that I didn't have a valid copy of Windows.

I purchased my computer system privately. There doesn't appear to be any way to get past the WGA block. I can subscribe to WGA at a cost of 5,885 baht in order to get Windows Anti-spyware, but is it worth the cost?

— FP, Muang Phuket

A: You're running a pirate copy of Windows. If you bought the computer thinking that you had the real thing, you got ripped off. If you didn't have that expectation, this is one of the consequences.

WGA examines your computer to see if your copy of Windows is valid, and blocks access to downloads if your copy isn't up to snuff. I don't know of any way to hack Windows Genuine Advantage, but I'm sure a Google search will come up with something.

As for Windows Antispyware, no, it definitely isn't worth 5,885 baht. You're much better off buying an antispyware package like Sunbelt Software's CounterSpy (www.sunbelt-software.com/CounterSpy.cfm), which costs about 800 baht.

KHUN WOODY'S COMPUTER

That said, you might want to consider buying a legitimate copy of Windows anyway, if only to get all the patches and other downloads that are blocked by WGA. Microsoft is slowly tightening the screws, requiring WGA validation before allowing you to download all sorts of things. Keep in mind that you can buy Windows anywhere – if the prices in Thailand give you a nosebleed, a copy of Windows purchased in the US or Europe, Hong Kong or Singapore works just as well.

Q: I have Outlook Express and unfortunately it seems to be a bugger to back up. I tried a file search for Outlook *.x files, and a myriad of entries came up, but nothing indicating a file large enough to hold all my mail. How do I back up my Outlook Express mail?

— DB, Laguna

A: Here's some news from the Cold, Hard Facts Department: people who are serious about email use Outlook or, rarely, Eudora, or one of the many Outlook competitors. If you rely on email, Outlook Express will drive you nuts. (In spite of the similarity in names, Outlook and Outlook Express have absolutely nothing in common.)

Microsoft hasn't updated Outlook Express in six or seven years. There's no money in it. Microsoft sells Outlook as part of the Office package or as the user-side program in Exchange Server. Microsoft gives away Outlook Express for free. Given

Pirate copies of Windows



Only a Microsoft marketer could come up with a name like 'Windows Genuine Advantage' to describe a program that checks your computer to see if it has a pirate copy of Windows

Microsoft's hell-bent focus on profits, I bet you can guess why Outlook Express has long claimed the title of the most frequently used orphan in the PC business.

Rumor has it that the new Outlook Express in the next version of Windows (or, more accurately, the next version of Internet

Explorer) may be marginally better than the current version. But I, for one, won't hold my breath.

First, even if Microsoft decides to give away the farm, the next version of Windows and/or IE is many, many months away.

Second, I've never seen Microsoft make a free program that's worth anything unless they're trying to strangle a major competitor. Lately, likely targets include Google and Firefox. In previous years, the victims have included Netware, Netscape and

Adobe (remember Type 1 fonts?). There are no big, free alternatives to Outlook. Not yet, anyway.

As for backing up Outlook Express files and settings, it's an unholy mess.

Microsoft has a Knowledge Base article on the subject at support.microsoft.com/kb/270670. But Microsoft glosses over the tough parts: if you scan Google for "Outlook Express Backup", you'll find dozens of products offered. That's a fairly plain sign that the job is much more difficult than Microsoft makes it out to be.

When faced with a thorny situation like this one, I usually go to Tucows (www.tucows.com/search) and see if anybody has put together a shareware program that solves the problem.

In this case, if you search on "Outlook Express Backup" and follow the cows closely, you should come up with a viable backup program.

Speaking of cows, Madison, Wisconsin has joined the list of cities with fast, free, city-wide Wi-Max wireless Internet access. Twenty-six companies (including Google) are currently competing to provide fast, free, city-wide Wi-Max wireless access to all of San Francisco.

Intel announced that it was sponsoring several Wi-Max demonstration projects in provinces around Thailand, but Phuket wasn't on the list.

Meanwhile, Shin Corp has announced that it will invest tens of billions of baht in 3G wireless telephone service over the next few years. 3G offers advanced telephone capabilities as well as fast wireless Internet.

So 3G competes directly with Wi-Max, but at a price set by the 3G company. Are these developments related? What is the effect on our IT Paradise? Write to me!

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Phuket Blues Festival 2005

For full details see page 8

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Leading brand names are not untouchable

This year has been interesting from the perspective of global economics and financial markets.

Sharp rises in oil prices were of great concern to countries dependent on imported oil. Many commodity prices also rose steeply, with fears of inflationary pressures everywhere.

However, the world of 2005 is vastly different to, say, 1975 or even 1990. Globalization has changed the ground rules dramatically, as has the global decline in the influence of trade unions. Competition has never been more intense – and this brings great benefits. China and other truly emerging markets are producing products that actually have a deflationary impact on the developed world. This helped to counter, to a great degree, other inflationary pressures.

Politicians and local manufacturers in developed countries continually complain about cheaper imports. The reality is that consumers want the best value for money available, and we live in an increasingly democratic world. Consumers are merely citizens who are exercising their rights to choose what they want to buy and the price they are prepared to pay.

Brand names are still of great importance and of inestimable value if managed correctly. Brands are susceptible to rises and falls, just as national empires have moved through the same cycle for thousands of years.

General Motors (GM) and Ford are two perfect examples of leading brand names in serious trouble. General Motors is a company that is denying reality. It may be closing manufacturing plants in the US and cutting staff levels, but the credit rating agencies are not impressed. Fitch Ratings has publicly stated that GM's plans are unworkable – they are not going to solve its problems. It is simply the old



MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

story of moving the deck chairs on the *Titanic* (my words).

GM's share price has fallen by more than 40% this year alone. Its market capitalization is now a mere US\$14 billion. Predators are circling, with only one aim in mind: if they take control it will be to asset-strip the company. Asset

stripping is simply selling off parts of a company to realize a greater figure than the purchase price of the whole entity.

At a glance, GM is sitting on a mountain of cash, US\$19 billion to be exact. However, it is US\$31 billion in debt, and loses money with every car it sells. Quarterly losses now exceed US\$1 billion.

Asset strippers can see only one part of the company with a decent market price, and that is GMAC – General Motors Acceptance Corporation – the finance arm of the business. In GM's core market, the US, the problem is, who would want to buy GM's manufacturing plants?

Japanese manufacturers, especially Toyota, Honda and Nissan, are gaining market share at the expense of GM and Ford. Traditionally, Japanese car manufacturers have declined to buy other companies' plants for several reasons.

First, they are highly sensitive about giving the impression that they are benefiting from the woes of traditional US manufacturers. Second, they do not want to inherit GM's corporate culture, let alone its obsolete and expensive union contracts.

The Economist Intelligence Unit echoed these sentiments on CNBC Europe, and added that Ford is in even greater denial. Pointing out that Ford seems to be operating a revolving door policy with its Chief Executive Officers. Ford shares have fallen even more than GM this year – 43.3% at the time of writing.

The core issue is the consumer. Manufacturers, such as



Japanese manufacturers, especially Toyota, Honda and Nissan, are gaining market share at the expense of GM and Ford

Toyota and Honda, score highly on domestic independent research in the US for reliability. GM and Ford have recently improved, but image is everything. Politicians can say what they want, but American consumers are voting with their wallets.

Some may feel that this is a tragedy for America. In reality, it is the free market working as it should. The losers are the shareholders and employees of failing companies, but the harsh facts of life are that you cannot make an omelet without breaking eggs.

Many situations can develop in our lives that change the outcomes of events we thought we could predict. New technology is a perfect example. The business rivalry between Toyota and GM is a possible case. Both companies realize that there has to be a better way to provide en-

ergy for motor vehicles. Fuel cell technology is one of the most exciting alternatives, as not only is it comparatively simple, it is also pollution-free. To this extent several years ago Toyota and GM created a joint venture with significant funding to develop this technology. The venture is already producing working prototypes.

Should this produce a commercially viable solution, the gas station as we know it today could well become a fuel-cell exchange center. Vehicle manufacturers, perhaps in co-operation, could well become direct competitors to existing oil companies. Certainly, it will dramatically change the situation as we know it today. Oil prices will enter a new bear market, but oil companies are not complacent. Even BP's slogan, "Beyond Petroleum", recognizes the reality of change.

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Watch this space

Like Apollo13 losing contact during its slingshot orbit around the dark side of the moon, the Patong Darts League continues to rest in a state of expectant limbo.

After the final week of play, four teams were bunched up at the top with just three points separating them. Who the eventual winners will be depends on the outcome of the 14 unplayed make-up games that were allowed to accumulate over the course of the 22-week season.

League organizer Bez of Amigos said that a meeting would be held soon to figure out what to do. It's likely this will involve playing only those make-up games involving teams that have not yet been statistically eliminated from winning it all. These are listed, unofficially, below.

Standings: 1. Nag's Head (41pts); 2. Shakers (40); 3. Amigos (39); 4. Queen Mary, OffShore (38); 6. Valhalla (34); 7. Piccadilly (31); 8. Dog's Bollocks (26); 9. African Café (19); 10. Two Black Sheep (18); 11. Didi's (16); 12. Coyote Bar (14).

Unplayed make-up games: Offshore v Nag's Head (July 5); Dog's Bollocks vs Shakers; Offshore v Didi's (Aug 2); Offshore v Queen Mary (Aug 16); Didi's vs Nag's Head (Aug 23); Queen Mary v Valhalla (Sept 6); Didi's v Shakers (Sept 13). (Date = originally scheduled match date)

GOLF TIPS

The point of impact in the golf swing (*Pic 1*) is the golfer's moment of truth.

The *thwock*, the report of a club striking a golf ball – and striking it well – is the sound of the sublime. It is a golfer's money shot, quite literally in some cases.

Although all top players have uniquely idiosyncratic backswings, their styles at the golden point of impact are almost identical.

With the lower body leading the downswing, the pull of the hips will – ultimately – force the shoulders to rotate through the impact with a great release of power.

By allowing the body to unwind fully from its "coil", the momentum, which continues with the arms stretching (*Pic 2*), will help to carry the player through the impact to a tall finish (*Pic 3*).



Achieving the sound of the sublime

The classic mistake – more often than not made by men with a surfeit of testosterone – is when the player goes at the ball like an express train and hits it from the top.

The hands then lead the way, overtaking the release of the

coiled body and so producing a weak slice shot to the right.

Next time you play, try to resist that temptation to hit from the top, and instead let the body unwind naturally and smoothly.

For more information on begin-

ners' and improvers' lessons at Laguna Phuket Golf Club, contact British PGA Professionals Bruce Whitehead or Andy Combe at Tel: 076-324250, send email to golfteaching@lagunaphuket.com or visit: www.lagunaphuketgolf.com

HOUPE WINS THE BMW GOLF CUP INTERNATIONAL BY THREE POINTS

By Chris Husted

PHUKET: Michael Houpe of the US scored 116 points over three rounds to win the World Final 2005 of the BMW Golf Cup International, at Blue Canyon Country Club, from November 30 to December 2.

Houpe got off to a good start

on day one, scoring 38 points off a handicap of 10 to equal first place with Canadian Patrice Paré, who played with a 7 handicap. But it was on the following two overcast days of play that Houpe showed his class, pulling away to finish the 54-hole Stableford tourney three points clear of Paré.

Cédric Anciaux of Belgium (9 handicap) scored a net total of 111 to finish third. But it was South Korean Kang Jun Seo (16) who enthralled onlookers in the Men's Category 2, completing the series with 124 points.

Seo easily won the category, beating second-placed Alejandro Jose Revilla from the Philippines, who scored 116, and Yeh-Ping Wang of Taiwan and Percy Masinga of South Africa, who finished equal third on 115.

Seo's performance inspired national teammates to win the national ranking for the tourney with a tally of 119 points.

Teammate Tae Jin Kim scored 102 to finish equal third with Farah Imperial of the Philippines in the Ladies' competition, while fellow South Korean Hyuk Ahn (10) finished equal 11th

on 98 points in Men's Category 1.

Australia and China came equal second in the national rankings with 109 points, and the US came third with 107 points.

In the Ladies' competition, Romanian Silja Johansson and American Sue Bartley provided the highlight of the tourney with a play-off on the 18th hole of the Canyon Course to determine the winner.

Both finished on 103 points, but Bartley emerged victorious after winning the deciding hole with a bogey.

A delight for spectators was a "walk-through" nine holes by six-times Major winner and tournament "ambassador" Nick Faldo, who also held a golf workshop at the Blue Canyon Course on the final day.

Phuket Blues Festival 2006

When? Fri + Sat, December 16 + 17 @ 6 pm-midnight

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Cricket: rain stops play

The first match in the new Island Furniture Cricket League, due to take place on December 4 between BCIS CC and Island CC at the British Curriculum International School, had to be postponed because the pitch was waterlogged.

The game will be rescheduled.

Meanwhile, another match, between Patong CC and Island CC, also at the school, is scheduled to take place on December 11, starting at 9 am – weather permitting.

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Aussies take top three in Laguna Triathlon

By Sangkhae Leelanaporn

LAGUNA: Aussies swept the top three places in the 12th annual Thai Airways International Laguna Phuket Triathlon at the Laguna Phuket on December 4.

Winner Greg Bennett overtook compatriot and two-time winner Craig Alexander at the 6-kilometer marker on the run course and never looked back, winning in 2:31:40 and earning US\$3,000 in prize money.

Less than a minute behind, Alexander claimed second place with a total time of 2:32:37, and Richie Cunningham (2:35:58) came third, as he did in 2004, completing the Aussie sweep.

In the women's pro division Canadian Samantha McGlone finished strongly to win in a total time of 2:44:16. Three minutes later, a victorious Greg Bennett greeted his American wife Laura as she crossed the finish line to take second place ahead of Australian Belinda Granger.

ANNIVERSARY

It was an outstanding weekend for the Bennetts, who were also celebrating their first wedding anniversary.

A record-breaking field of 700 athletes competed in the triathlon, which also included an unprecedented 42 three-person relay teams.

The grueling race, which started at 8 am at Sheraton Grande Laguna, consisted of a 1.8-km swim followed by a 55-km bike ride and a 12-km run to the finish.

The first overall amateur finisher was Craig Johns from New Zealand, with a total time of 2:52:15. The fastest Thai finisher was Bunluesak Doungdun with a very respectable time of 2:55:24.

The first Thai female to finish was remarkable 14-year-old athlete Phuttrajit Sangkhaphan, also the youngest participant, with a time of 3:35:40.

RESULTS

Men's Pro Division: 1. Greg Bennett (AUST) 2:31:40; 2.



Greg Bennett crossing the finish line.



Women's winner Samantha McGlone (centre), Laura Bennett (left), who placed second, and Belinda Granger (right), who took third place.

Craig Alexander (AUST) 2:32:37; 3. Richie Cunningham (AUST) 2:35:58; 4. Massimo Cigana (ITA) 2:39:06; 5. Alejandro Santamaria (SPAIN) 2:41:12.

Women's Pro Division: 1. Samantha McGlone (CAN) 2:44:16; 2. Laura Bennett (USA) 2:47:26; 3. Belinda Granger (AUST) 2:52:57; 4. Carol Montgomery (CAN) 2:53:49; 5. Jocelyn Pollock (UK) 2:54:33.

Thai Men's Division: 1. Bunluesak Doungdun (Chon Buri) 3:02:09; 2. Chadarak Chai-kamjorn (Nakhon Sri Thammarat) 3:02:54; 3. Wuttipat Bunjang (Chon Buri) 3:12:32; 4. Kiattisak Premarnant (Pathum Thani) 3:19:53.

Thai Women's Division: 1. Phuttrajit Sankhaphan (Suphan Buri) 3:35:40; 2. Nuansiree Romphet (Suphan Buri) 3:35:38;

3. Nampetch Porntharukchan (BKK) 4:10:30; 4. Laddawan Arpapradit (BKK) 4:15:29; 5. Supada Boonsupa (BKK) 4:17:37.

Open Category Relay: 1. Hash House Harriers (THA) 3:01:13; 2. Banyan Tree Phuket (THA) 3:03:03; 3. Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket (THA) 3:12:44.

Masters Category Relay: 1. Three Amigos (HK) 2:58:35; 2. The Three Coconuts (THA) 3:12:44; 3. Just Kidding (THA) 3:12:54.

Clydesdales (men over 200 lbs): 1. Bevan Colless (AUS) 3:26:57; 2. John Zanetos (USA) 3:29:00; 3. Karl Siegling (AUS) 3:31:16; 4. Eric Saylor (USA) 3:33:10; 5. Mike Bolsover (GBR) 3:41:26.

Complete results available at <http://www.lagunaphuket.com/triathlon/results.html>

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The view of islands in Phang Nga Bay from the project.



The groundbreaking ceremony for Evason Hideaway & Six Senses Spa on Koh Yao Noi was performed by management and partners, including Jean-Michel Germing, Representative Owner – Pakoh Hotel Co Ltd; Anuwat Kosol, Managing Director – Pakoh Hotel Co Ltd; Christian Buchli, Corporate Project Director – Six Senses Resorts & Spas; and Chinawais Sarasas, Representative Owner – Pakoh Hotel Co Ltd.

Coming soon: the Evason Hideaway on Koh Yao Noi

Pakoh Hotel Co Ltd and Six Senses Resorts & Spas recently celebrated the groundbreaking of their newest project – Evason Hideaway on Koh Yao Noi in Phang Nga province – scheduled to open by the end of 2006.

The 60-rai Hideaway will comprise 54 pool villas in three styles, ranging from 151 square meters to 200sqm, plus a large, three-bedroom, hill-top villa and a two-bedroom beach villa.

Several of the villas will feature their own private, outdoor spa suite salas, and the Hideaway will face a white-sand beach opening to a stunning view of islands in Phang Nga Bay. The Evason

Hideaway can be reached by speedboat from Phuket in about 40 minutes and from Krabi in about 25 minutes.

The innovative contemporary design and selection of materials for the project stem from a commitment to the environment and attention to detail. In addition to planned restaurants, bars and a wine cellar, planned recreation facilities include a water sport center, a gym and a specially designed Six Senses Spa village.

For more information, contact Tel: 02-6319746. Fax: 02-631-9799. Email: ben@sixsenses.com or visit the website: www.sixsenses.com



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Home of the Week

Loch Palm



New villas overlooking the golf course

Each on a one-rai plot, these two high-quality villas with large living areas of 370 square meters are ideally situated in a quiet location at the heart of the island.

Overlooking Loch Palm Golf Course and Crystal Lake – one of the island's largest fresh water lakes – these marvelous three- to four-bedroom villas include a private guest level below, and also additional rooms for such uses as recreation or office work.

One villa is finished and the other is nearing completion. Well-lit at night, the properties are approached up a concrete driveway with a guard house and CCTV security cameras. Behind the villas is a parking area for up to 15 cars, unusual for a hillside location 72 meters above sea level.

The entrance to each villa is from the side into an open-plan living, dining and Western-style kitchen area, which commands great views across the valley. The ceilings are high, keeping the interior very cool; although there are air-conditioning units throughout, they hardly ever need to be used.

The floors are tiled in part and expensive marble is used on the landing level access to the three bedrooms – two with en-suite bathrooms.

The master bedroom has a walk-in closet and dressing area and a large bathroom, lavishly finished in marble.

The shower and huge bath tub enjoy views overlooking the valley.

The kitchen, with modern high-quality appliances, also has delightful views.

There is an office which could be an extra bedroom at the front, again with views. All ceilings have fans and recessed lighting.

The floor below contains the guest quarters or apartments which are open plan with separate bathrooms.

There is also a maid's room on the lower level, along with a toilet, shower and laundry room.

The approach has a wide, wheelchair-friendly ramp and there is a drop-off area.

To the side and between the properties is a large 67sqm infinity swimming pool with a waterfall and hillside garden.

There is also a steam sauna, shower and outdoor toilet.

As the common area stretches down to the main road, there can be no possible further building below or above.

Amenities and utilities include private generator; a 160 KVA transformer with three-phase electricity and five separate meters.

An artesian well supplies constant fresh water, and there is also a reverse osmosis filtration system; street lighting; and eight phone lines with broadband.

The location is within a 10-minute drive of two main hospitals, three golf courses and shopping malls, as well as only five minutes to the British Curriculum International School; it is 25 minutes to the airport.

This is a rare opportunity to own one of two special villas in the Loch Palm area at a sensible price – 20 million baht.

For more information, contact Richard Lusted of Siam Real Estate at Tel: 076-288908, email: info@siamrealestate.com or visit the website: www.siamrealestate.com

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Phuket Blues Festival 2005

For full details see page 8

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Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

Easy pea sea. It's bean a shore thing

Am I the only person in the world who thinks that most witticisms containing a pun aren't particularly amusing? Daft stuff like a chocolate shop called "Cocoa-nuts" or the sign above a psychiatrist's couch that says, "I shrink, therefore I am". That kind of thing. It's just not punny.

How about the story of the skeptical anthropologist who was cataloging South American folk remedies with the assistance of a tribal witch doctor, who indicated that the leaves of a particular fern were a sure cure for constipation? When the anthropologist voiced his doubts, the witch doctor looked him in the eye and said, "Let me tell you, with fronds like these, who needs enemas?" All right, I'll admit to a slight snigger there.

I have to be honest – the headlines that appear at the top of this very column are often not my own. Do you really think I could be responsible for the headline "Bauhinian Rhapsody" about the bauhinia or "Cannary Worf" appearing above a story about the canna? No, sorry. Not me.

I just don't have the imagination, I suppose. I leave that to the experts in the field.

A pun is defined by Webster as "the humorous use of a word, or words which are formed or sounded alike but have different meanings, in such a way as to play on two or more of the possible applications; a play on words." Certainly not in the least bit amusing when put that way.

No doubt you will be impressed, therefore, that this week's story isn't headlined "a beach of a life" or something similar, as we're having a look at something that seems to thrive on Phuket's beaches. This is a plant that knows the best spots on the island – the sea bean, or *pak bung talay* in Thai.

It does an exceptional job of quietly binding the sand together on most of the island's beaches. More correctly known as *canavalia maritima*, this sturdy, ecologically aware little plant is also known as the beach bean, bay bean, or MacKenzie bean. Whatever its name, it's a member of the pea family, so garden peas and those little purple-flow-



Small groups of pink to purple flowers appear among bright green leaves throughout the year.

ered plants growing up your fence are both distant cousins.

It's normally a "ground vine", but given half a chance, it will climb up small trees or anything else it can grip. The problem is that the areas in which it thrives tend not to have any trees around, as it loves the sun and does best in wide, exposed areas. The ground cover is usually above around 15 cm in height.

The oval, evergreen leaves are 5cm- to 10cm-long leaflets, rounded at the ends. Small groups of pink to purple flowers appear among these bright green leaves throughout the year. The distinctive flowers are followed by sturdy little woody pods, which give away the plant's pea parentage.

Another use for this versatile plant is on top of a wall. If a number of them are put together, they'll happily cascade and trail down the side of the wall, covering an otherwise bland patch of brick or concrete.

While it's not a particularly showy plant, it requires absolutely no effort to grow. Once planted, it will just sit there and look after

itself. It's very accepting of near-drought conditions, doesn't attract any pests to speak of, and grows especially well in sandy soil. All it requires is sunlight. The more the better.

Nobody knows where the sea bean originated. Its seeds are carried well by ocean currents, which is probably how it arrived here in Phuket in the first place. It is now widely distributed on tropical ocean beaches and seaside dunes all over this and many other regions.

The sea bean is actually cultivated as a green manure crop or as a forage crop for cattle in some areas. Its tendency to trail and expand along the ground, along with its soil-binding roots, make it very popular for ocean beach stabilization and seaside dune restoration projects in many parts of the world, though not here.

The seeds are keen to germinate if the seed coat is punctured or nicked to allow water absorption and gas exchange. Seedling growth is fairly quick, producing vines a meter and a half long in two or three weeks.

The seeds of the sea bean can be gathered from parent plants at almost any time of year.

Apparently, young pods of this bean species are eaten cooked. In certain areas of south-east Asia, young seeds reportedly are used to make *aroi maak* – pease porridge – or so I'm told. The downside is that fresh immature seeds contain toxic substances and should not be eaten raw.

In Thailand, its crushed leaves are well-known to relieve the pain of jellyfish stings, while in Malaysia, the flowers are used as a flavoring. Yummy...

Given my desperation to avoid anything that could be construed as a play on words, I've managed to avoid describing the sea bean as a "beachin" plant, or suggesting that it has "bean there, done that". Oops.

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about a plant
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Size matters, of course, and different dimensions will mean different prices.

If you want the entrance to your abode to feature Thai literary characters, the bill for your doors will be around 50,000 baht for a double version.

By contrast, if your tastes swing towards to more modern designs, look no further than Häfele, in the Courtyard on Chao Fa West Rd.

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This front door from Sak Thong House costs 17,000 baht.

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Property Gazette

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NEW HOUSES IN PATONG

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Property Gazette

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A 12-rai, hill-view plot with power, access road and a gentle slope. No agents. Tel: 01-0895924.

BIG & SMALL LOTS

We have 1-rai, 1/2-rai and 1/4-rai lots for sale in Rawai and Chalong at great prices. Please contact for more information, Tel: 07-2747470 or Email: nsupin@yahoo.com

1 RAI - CHALONG

I have 3 lots in Chalong area, a super nice savannah-type area - nice trees, quiet, stream. 2.9 million baht per rai. Please contact for more information. Tel: 07-274-7470. Email: nsupin@yahoo.com

CHALONG SEA VIEW

7 rai, most stunning view, ideal for a development project; with water and electricity. Asking 2.9 million baht per rai. Tel: 01-5376866.

LAND IN RAWAI

A 1-rai plot, 80 square wah, near Rawai Beach. Asking 3.5 million baht. Tel: 01-693-9571.

PRIME AO CHALONG BEACHFRONT



Famous lighthouse up for sale again. Development potential on spare land. Only interested parties, please. No brokers. Contact via email: maipenrai@hushmail.com

SINGLE HOUSES

Last three houses of 204sqm each for sale, located on Chao Fa East Rd. Each has 3 bedrooms, 2 restrooms, 1 kitchen, 1 living room. Asking 2.05 million baht per house. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-597-3398. For further details, please see our website at: www.phuket-kthome.com

3 PLOTS FOR SALE

1 rai each, Chanote, located in Palai, Chalong, 5 minutes walk to the beach. Price: 3.6 million baht/rai. Please call for more info. Tel: 09-7298365.

BUILDING FOR SALE

3.5 floors in a good location for doing business in Phuket City. Asking 5 million baht for 2 buildings. Please call for more details. Tel: 09-873-1019.

LAND FOR SALE

on the bypass road, 27 rai, 180 meters wide. Tel: 07-2670488.

TOWNHOUSE

located at Boat Lagoon Marina. 200sqm. Asking 9.5 million baht. Please contact for more details. Tel: 01-273-4000. Email: charly@bonello.de

FOR SALE & RENT

Townhome/office, 3 stories, 2 mins to Central, 4 bedrooms, 3 toilets. 3.5 million baht. Please call for full details. Tel: 07-0403780.

2 RAI IN RAWAI

Asking 2.2 million baht per rai. Need to sell quick: 2 rai in Rawai beside klong (canal). Please contact for more details. Tel: 07-2747470. Email: nsupin@yahoo.com

5 RAI - CHALONG

Prices start at 1.9 million baht per rai. Road and electricity complete; ready for the start of a project. Please call for more info. Tel: 01-5376866.

BAR/RESTAURANT

6 bungalows and house for sale 3 + 3-year contract, Patong. Tel: 01-0809802.

POOL VILLAS NEAR LAGUNA



2- to 4-bedroom villas each with swimming pool, modern kitchen, air conditioning, landscaping. 5-star quality. Prices start at 8.9 million baht. Tel: 076-261999, 06-6825156. Fax: 076-261-994. Email: info@twovillas.com For further details, please see our website at: www.twovillas.com

KAMALA HOUSE & LAND

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms; a 350sqm plot: 950,000 baht; and 1,000sqm plot: 2.5 million baht. Tel: 076-2925960, 06-2678477. Email: tourniechristian@hotmail.com

Properties For Rent

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: 09-2909567. For more info, see our website at: www.brommathaihouse.com

KATHU HOUSE FOR RENT

Furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, living room, and 2 air conditioners. Asking 8,000 baht a month for long-term rent. Tel: 09-2909567. For details, please see our website at: www.brommathaihouse.com

450SQM HOME

This large house on a 3-rai plot is located on a quiet soi, 5 minutes from the beach. Facilities include: an enclosed pool, 2 phone lines, a garage and guest house. 45,000 baht per month, including pool and gardening fees. Please call for info. Tel: 01-8942733 (Eng), or 01-7371078 (Thai). Email: jasminconsulting@gmx.net

STUNNING SEA VIEW



A villa with 3 bedrooms and bathrooms, plus a maid's room. Location: Cape Yamu, elevated, east coast, providing some of prettiest views on Phuket. Furnished, with a pool and gardens in a very quiet, exclusive estate, 15 minutes to BCIS/Laguna. Asking only 80,000 baht per month. Please call for more info. Tel: 06-2796283.

RAWAI RESIDENCE

A fully furnished studio for rent, 400m from the beach. Asking 5,000 baht per month. Please call for more info. Tel: 09-4740227.

PATONG SHOP

for rent in Soi Patong Beach Hotel, near the beach road - a popular area. Selling at a good price. Please call for more details. Tel: 01-539-3078.

CHALONG HOUSE

3 bedrooms, furnished from mid-January. Asking 15,000 baht per month. Please call for more details. Tel: 076-283211, 04-8484344.

PATONG RESIDENCE

A fully furnished studio for rent, 400m from the beach. Asking 9,000 baht per month. Please call for more information. Tel: 09-474-0227.

HOUSE FOR RENT

Unfurnished 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom house with kitchen, curtains and garden for 6,500 baht per month. Please contact for details. Tel: 01-442-5042. Email: phuket_may_04@yahoo.com

GREAT LOCATION

Great location in Kata for a bar or shop, 5 meters x 15 meters. Rent of 300,000 baht a year over a 5-year contract, not paid monthly. Please call for further information. Tel: 076-333140, 06-9081270.

RAWAI, 2-STORY

Brand-new house for long-term rent. 2 bedrooms, fully furnished, 400m from beach. Asking 12,000 baht a month. Please call for more details. Tel: 01-4763623.

KAMALA SHOPHOUSE

Located only 200m from the beach. Asking price 15,000 baht per month; no key money. For details, please contact K. Thomas. Tel: 01-5385285. Email: bbq@loxinfo.co.th

STUNNING SEA VIEW

New house overlooking a narrow beach, in a quiet location. Furnished, UBC, big pool, nice garden-terrace. Living room: 24sqm; bedroom 24sqm; with air conditioning and a big bathroom. Long-term rent 18,000 baht per month. In German, English or French, call Tel: 07-9344247. In Thai, call Tel: 07-8100150.

NEW HOUSE AT THALANG

Located in Vongchalerm Villa, near the airport. With 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and 1 kitchen. Tel: 09-8718327.

FOR RENT OR SALE

at Kamala Beach: 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, walled-in. Has air conditioner, UBC, telephone, garage, garden with swimming pool and a hill view. For 6-month rental at 35,000 baht a month, or for sale at 5.8 million baht. Please contact Staffan for more information. Tel: 05-7816005. Email: bjorn@omnitrips.com

HOUSE TO SHARE

Brand-new, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, pool, in Patong. Minimum 6-month rental: 14,000 baht/month. Please call Paul at Tel: 09-8171060.

SPACIOUS HOUSE

Furnished, 3 bedrooms, detached, Chalong area. 140 sqm house + 260sqm garden. 18,000 baht a month. Tel: 076-285211, 04-848-4344.

PLAZA DEL MAR UNIT

Ground-floor unit. 40sqm, aircon, two phone lines, fire and security systems, and a safe. Minimum rental: 12 months at 21,500 baht a month. Includes service and maintenance. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-281327, 01-8954480. Email: guardian@loxinfo.co.th

LONG-TERM LEASE

New, fully-furnished house in Palai Green, with 2 air-conditioned bedrooms, hot shower, kitchen, living room, garage and beautiful garden. Located in a quiet area near Chalong Bay. Please call for more details. Tel: 01-892-4311.

BRIGHT BACHELOR

suites. Available for long-term rent on Soi Yodsane, Chalong. From 9,500 baht a month. Fully furnished, air-conditioned, with satellite TV, a fridge and a covered car park. Please contact for full details. Tel: 01-8938592, 06-282-6221. Email: sanerod@yahoo.com

HOUSE AT 'SANDS'

Close to Nai Harn Beach on Phuket's south coast, the house is one of only four attached to the Sands Resort with the benefit of all the resort facilities such as swimming pool, 24-hour security, covered car park, satellite TV and beautifully maintained garden. Email: jt@phukethouserental.co.uk For more information, please see our website at: www.phukethouserental.co.uk

NEW RAWAI HOUSES

Two brand-new villas in quiet area off Baan Saiyuan. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, hot water, large living area, entrance hall, kitchen, driveway and private walled garden. Only minutes from Rawai and Nai Harn Beaches, and close to local amenities. Looking for careful long-term tenants. 16,000 baht per month. Please call for more details. Tel: 076-388604, 01-894-3966. Email: info@thailand-sail.com

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Property Gazette

Property Wanted

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- Brokers welcome.

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ROOM/SUITE WITH POOL WANTED

An apartment, room or suite in Karon, Kata or Patong wanted for long-term let (6-12 months). Pool and good security required. Please email with details and photos. Email: kvrobo@hotmail.co.uk

3- TO 4-BEDROOM HOUSE WANTED

A rental house with 3 or 4 bedrooms wanted for expat family from December 27 2005, for at least 18 months. Preferred locations: Chuan Chuen Lagoon, Boat Lagoon or other nice and safe compound not too far from British Int'l School and Heroines' Monument. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-317308 or 01-8938265. Fax: 076-317-399. Email: sue.prapapan@radi.se

LOOKING FOR BAR

Looking to buy the lease rights on a bar or bar-restaurant in Patong. Location is important, also fair value for what is offered. Serious replies only by email. Looking forward to receiving your offer! Please contact for more details. Email: manuelbkk@gmail.com

Accommodation Available

PATONG STUDIO APARTMENT

Modern apartment off Nanai Rd - fully furnished including TV, large fridge, hot water, fan, aircon and kitchenette. From 6,500 baht per month. Tel: 076-344039, 07-2650652. Email: gisbert1@gmx.net

LONG-TERM LEASE

Guesthouse near Sheraton Krabi, with rooms, a mini-mart, a restaurant and tour desk. Tel: 04-1929812, 06-6823119.

PATONG SEAVIEW

house. A 2- or 3-bedroom house with 2 bathrooms, a pool, UBC, ADSL, 43-inch TV and a fantastic sea view. A must-see! Asking 75,000 baht per month for long-term rent. Please contact for more information. Tel: 07-882-1963. Email: benlee53@hotmail.com

KAMALA ROOM

for rent from December 1-28, at 650 baht per day. Includes cable TV and air conditioning. Please contact for further info. Tel: 06-2746511. Email: baancoconut@hotmail.com

PATONG LUXURY

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

ROOMS TO LET

Lakeview apartments in Kathu. Fully furnished, with air conditioner, fridge, cable TV, hot water, car park. 183 baht per day. Please contact for more info. Tel: 076-202585, 09-1968449. Email: ketmaneeclayton61@hotmail.com

PATONG BEACH

A 2-bedroom apartment about 80sqm, with air conditioning; living room with an open kitchen and dining area, and 2 toilets with showers. Within walking distance to the beach (500m) in a quiet area. Please contact for more details and photos. Tel: 06-2687901. Email: martintwn@yahoo.com

Accommodation Wanted

HOUSE TO RENT

Looking for a big house to rent from 24/12/05 until 18/1/06. Furniture and full kitchen required. South Phuket if possible. Let me know by email if you have something of interest please email to Email: bengt-ake.lundmalm@bredband.net

PHUKET APARTMENT

wanted. I'm looking to move to Phuket. I need reasonable accommodation for myself and my girlfriend. Furniture, TV and a good Internet connection would be a plus. My budget is 4,000 to 6,000 baht a month. Please contact me by email and put "PHUKET" in the subject line. Email: pes@planr.com

LONG-TERM RENTAL

Employed permanent resident seeks inexpensive long-term rental. Kalim, Kamala or Surin. Tel: 01-8421677.

URGENT

Looking for affordable accommodation not far from Phuket City. Maximum 3,000 baht a month. Tel: 07-2281528, 06-2670756. Email: jacqueswendy@csloxinfo.com

3-BEDROOM HOUSE

Fully furnished in Kathu with telephone line, aircon, required for long-term rental. Tel: 01-8934661. Email: valiant@loxinfo.co.th

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Fax: 076-271218
Email: info@thestonedoctor-asia.com

KOMATSU PC 30

Excavator 3.2, good condition, privately owned. 240,000 baht. Tel: 01-8946506, 01-3762920. Email: wbenze@gmx.net

Household Items

MOVING SALE

Moving to Bangkok: must sell small 14" TV, VCD/CD player, and surround-sound speakers. Paid 6,000 baht; asking 4,000 ono. Also have double burner and assorted kitchenware. Tel: 07-881-1765. Email: fogarceos4@hotmail.com

Household Services

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INEXPENSIVE LAUNDRY

Looking for an inexpensive laundry in the Patong area. Staying long-term and don't want to pay 50 baht/kilo. Email: philip.seiffert@web.de

Household Services Needed

CAREGIVER

Wanted: Kind, fit, strong person who can be trained to look after an 87-year-old lady with Alzheimer's/combative dementia. She must be able to assist daily with cooking, hygiene, walking, toileting, bathing and dressing. Experience with the elderly and some fluency in English would be helpful. Competitive Thai salary and possibly accommodations for the right person. Tel: 07-8894969. Email: rousseau72@hotmail.com or catmilan@aol.com

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Property Gazette



14 RAI

13 rai 3 ngan 98 talang wah (5.598 acres). Very quiet place, hill and sea views from second floor, just a few minutes' walk to the beach and 3 minutes' drive to the ferry for Phi Phi Islands and surrounding islands. Very cheap price for Phuket: 20 million baht. Tel: 09-871 5192.



2.6 RAI WITH SEA VIEW

The size of the plot is 2 rai 2 ngan and 53 talang wah – 4,212sqm – and all the land is under the 80-meter height restriction. This plot is very interesting for a small villa project. Great spot with many opportunities. Price: 30 million baht. Tel: 09-8715192.



1,500 SQM SEAVIEW PLOT IN PATONG

This great seaview plot is located in Kalim (north of Patong). It has road access, and water and electricity supply are available. The land is 3 ngan 75 talang wah (1,500sqm) with Chanote title. Price: 13.5 million baht. Tel: 09-871 5192.



3-BEDROOM THAI-STYLE VILLA

Besides the nice landscaped garden, you can enjoy a common pool. There is also space to park at least 3 cars. The living space is 440sqm and the land size 468sqm with Chanote title. Value for money. 6.7 million baht. Tel: 06-2726508.



3-BEDROOM VILLA WITH POOL

Villa comprises 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, guest toilet, kitchen, living and dining room, maid's room, outdoor shower, terrace around the house, pool and a garden.

Price: 14 million baht. Tel: 06-2726508.



6 RAI ON THE BEACH

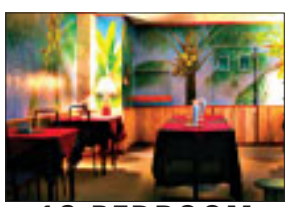
The plot is located on the east coast at Ao Por and has beautiful views of islands in Phang Nga Bay. The land is flat with a slope at the back. It has road access, and water and electricity supply are available.

Price: 40 million baht. Tel: 09-8715192.



6 RAI WITH SEA VIEW

Only 5 minutes from Mai Khao Beach, 10 minutes from the airport, 10 minutes from the Blue Canyon Country Club and 20 minutes from Phuket City and Lotus. It has electricity supply and access road. Price: 12 million baht. Tel: 09-8715192.



12-BEDROOM GUESTHOUSE

All rooms are fully furnished with en-suite bathroom, air conditioner, safety box, TV and mini bar. Built in 1999, 4 stories, all major maintenance work re-done last year. The land title is Chanote.

Price: 20 million baht. Tel: 06-2726508.



2-BEDROOM VILLA WITH POOL

The villa is located in the south of Patong with amazing hill and valley views. It comprises 2 bedrooms, 2 en-suite bathrooms, living-dining room, kitchen, guest toilet, and a pool with sala where you can enjoy great views. Price: 12 million baht. Tel: 06-2726508.



6 RAI

Includes 200 meters of unspoiled beachfront. This beautiful land is located on the east coast of Koh Naka Yai, all covered with tropical and coconut trees. You can reach the plot by boat from Ao Por in 20 minutes. Price: 20 million baht. Tel: 09-8715192.



VILLA

Has a nice sea view. Villa comprises 2 bedrooms, 2 en-suite bathrooms, balcony with sala, a kitchen, living room, dining room, laundry room, guest toilet, a car park for 2 cars; surrounded by a garden. All wood features throughout the house are made from teak. Price 9.5 million baht. Tel: 06-2726508.



3-BEDROOM VILLA

Has a sound system throughout the house, plasma TV in the living room with satellite TV. Around the house is a well-designed tropical garden with Buddha image features. Price: 14.9 million baht. Tel: 06-2726508.



2 RAI SEA VIEW

Chanote title, public road access, water and electricity. Only 2 minutes to Rawai Beach.

Price: 8 million baht. Tel: 09-8715192.



1 RAI

The land, with underground infrastructure, is ready to build on, and the area boasts some of the most expensive housing on the island. A very good investment; a beautiful area with nice, quiet beaches.

Price: 8 million baht. Tel: 09-8715192.



2 SHOPHOUSES

There are 4 floors with 6 rooms in each unit and the ground floor is ideal for entertainment. Very good location. Price 18 million baht. Tel: 06-2726508.



3-BEDROOM VILLA

Beautiful sea view. Located in the southern hills of Patong. Comprises 3 bedrooms, 2 en-suite bathrooms, 1 guest bathroom, Western kitchen, living room, dining room, a terrace where you can enjoy the sunset; storeroom and a carport. Price: 13.5 million baht. Tel: 06-2726508.



3-BEDROOM VILLA WITH SEA VIEW

The villa is surrounded by a tropical garden and has 24-hour security. Comprises 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, a Western kitchen, living-dining room and 2 terraces where you can relax and see the sunset. It is fully furnished. Price: 15 million baht. Tel: 06-2726508.



9 RAI WITH SEA VIEW

This 9-rai plot is located in Chalong and has a slight slope with a sea view. It is a nice square plot and has water and electricity supply. Ideal for a villa project.

Price: 36 million baht. Tel: 09-8715192.



3-BEDROOM THAI-STYLE VILLA

It comprises 3 bedrooms, 2 en-suite bathrooms, guest bathroom, Western-style kitchen and a spacious living-dining room. Besides the nice landscaped garden, you can enjoy a common pool.

Price: 6.7 million baht. Tel: 06-2726508.



9 RAI WITH SEA VIEW

This plot is located in Chalong and has a slight slope with a sea view. It is a nice square plot and has water and electricity supply. Ideal for a villa project.

Price: 36 million baht. Tel: 09-8715192.



7 RAI WITH SEA VIEW

A good piece of land in a quiet area with public road access, water and electricity supply.

Only 10 minutes to Rawai Beach. Price: 38.5 million baht. Tel: 09-8715192.



ISLANDS FOR SALE

We have many island properties on our books. Current: 2 complete islands and many land plots of different sizes on islands close to Phuket, such as: Koh Yao Yai, Koh Yao Noi and Koh Racha. Prices from 1 million baht. Tel: 09-8715192.



2-BEDROOM VILLA

With sea view. It comprises a master bedroom with en-suite bathroom and Jacuzzi, guest bedroom with en-suite bathroom, kitchen, living room, dining room, study, guest toilet, 2-car carport, nice garden, solar-heated hot-water system, UBC, phone with Internet. Price 7.5 million baht. Tel: 06-2726508.

16 x 2-BEDROOM APARTMENT

This 16-unit apartment building is located in a quiet area in Chalong, 5 minutes' drive to Big C and Central, 10 minutes to Phuket City and 15 minutes to Nai Harn, Karon and Kata Beaches. All apartments have 2 bedrooms, a bathroom, kitchen, living and dining room, and are fully furnished. It has an office, manicured gardens and the property is very well maintained. Price: 20 million baht. Tel: 06-2726508.

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and parasail. Wanted for export to the Middle East: secondhand or new 3-person banana (yes, to tow behind a boat) and parasail. Please provide all info and contacts by email. Email: daveonthenet@mac.com

FISHING BOAT FOR SALE



Fishing boat in good condition. Jim Young's "Vindex" design. Built under license in cedar strip/epoxy. Beam: 12ft; Length 36ft. 300hp Cummins 6BTA diesel engine. ZF hydraulic gear. Hydraulic steering from main cabin or flybridge, many extras. Sleeps 2 couples in forward cabin or convertible dining area. WC, shower, handbasin. Galley and bosun's locker. Fully taxed and registered in Thailand, including berth for nearly 1 year at Boat Lagoon. Price: 2.3 million baht. Call Peter at Tel: 01-8166940 or Email: peterhae@e-mail.in.th

24' SWISSCAT

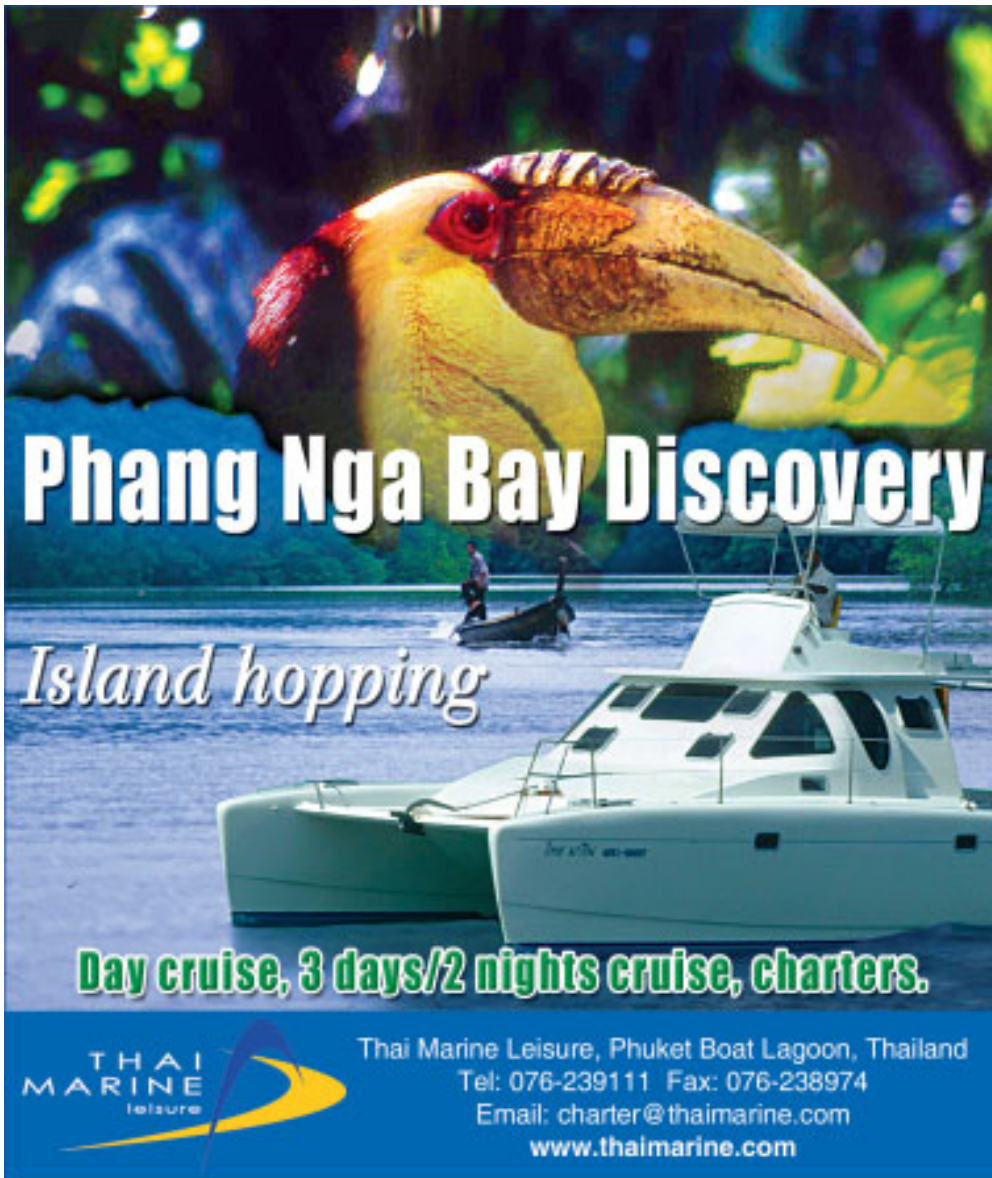


Has 2 Honda 4-stroke outboards, 50hp each; 24kts; 160 hours; SemiCat; Thai flag; built 2004; fully equipped at Boat Lagoon. Asking price just 1.24 million baht. Tel: 076-289250, 01-2734000. Email: grosseoetringhaus@web.de

SEADOO JETBOAT

Features 2 x 115hp Rotax engines, new Bimini; lots of fun for four people. Asking 550,000 baht. Located at Boat Lagoon Marina. Please contact for more details. Tel: 01-2734000. Email: charly@bonello.de

Boats & Marine



Phang Nga Bay Discovery

Island hopping

Day cruise, 3 days/2 nights cruise, charters.

THAI MARINE leisure

Thai Marine Leisure, Phuket Boat Lagoon, Thailand
Tel: 076-239111 Fax: 076-238974
Email: charter@thaimarine.com
www.thaimarine.com



Arrived Nov 28, 2005!

An excellent walk-around day cruiser with forward cabin berth, enclosed head and shower, galley equipped with sink and a cooler, as well as spacious foredeck with seat and ice box, large cockpit area with a built-in stainless-steel sink, fully upholstered GRS seat and storage lockers.

Go Boating (Thailand) Ltd.
14/1 Phuket Boat Lagoon, Mung, Phuket, Thailand 83200
Tel: +66 (0) 76 239986 Fax: +66 (0) 76 239987
E-mail: goboating_th@yahoo.com
www.goboatingthailand.com

LONGBOARD
wanted. Secondhand, any brand, around 8ft-9ft. Price around 7,000 baht. Tel: 01-0817163. Email: hiphopdec@gmail.com

YACHTIES AHoy!
Rum guzzling, beer swiggin' shore-shaggers needed to fill positions around my bar and lounge. Apply in person at Home Bar off Soi Bangla.

21FT BOSTON-WHALER STYLE

21ft fiberglass Boston Whaler-style boat: central console, twin four-stroke Honda 50hp engines. Trailer, Thai registration. As new, made in 2004. For sale in Pattaya at 420,000 baht only. Please contact Carlo. Tel: 01-8626954. Email: carlossecretgarden@yahoo.com

WANTED: LIVEABOARD
to lease. We are an established dive company operating on Phi Phi. We are interested in leasing a smallish liveaboard boat on monthly terms. Please contact me, should you have a boat for lease. Tel: 07-2661850. Email: goff_diving@hotmail.com

20FT SPEEDBOAT

Fiberglass over wood, center console, new hull 3 years ago for 150,000 baht. 60hp Evinrude with electric starter, power trim and tilt. Bracket for extra engine + old 3.5hp Mercury engine. New battery, 1,500 gpm bilge pump, new Quicksilver gas can, stainless-steel anchor, outriggers for trolling. Wood trailer. Boat is Thai-registered for private use. Boat is located in Ao Yon, Phuket. Everything functions very well. We are asking for 185,000 baht. Please contact for more details, Tel: 076-200950, 01-8208307. Fax: 076-200950. Email: arottes@frisurf.no

Island Job Mart



One of Thailand's most exclusive country clubs, Blue Canyon Country Club, voted "Best Golf & Spa Destination 2005", is seeking suitably trained, business-proven Thai professionals to join our team. We are taking applications for the positions of:

Asst. Financial Controller	Food & Beverage Staff
Front Office Manager	Guest Relations Officers
Food & Beverage Manager	Administrative Clerk
Food & Beverage Outlet Managers	Night Auditor
Training Manager	Accounts Payable Clerk
Public Relations Executives	Spa Receptionist
Sales Coordinator/Executive	Bellboy
Secretary to Director of Golf	Housekeeping Staff
Proshop Relations Officers	Bill Collector/Messenger/Driver

The positions are based in Phuket and require candidates who possess the following:

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 your resumé inclusive of at least three references and a recent photo by 31 December 2005 to:

Human Resources Manager
P.O. Box 18 Thalang Post Office, Phuket 83110
Email: hr@bluecanyonclub.com
Tel: 076-328 088 Fax: 076-328 087

ISUZU ANDAMAN SALES CO., LTD.

Urgently Required:

Accounting Manager – 1 Position

- ▶ Male/female, age 30-40 years old
- ▶ Bachelor's degree in Accounting
- ▶ 3-5 years' work experience
- ▶ Able to plan, organize and manage financial transactions, an accounting system, taxation and budgeting
- ▶ Good command of English and computer literate

Asst. Marketing Manager – Koh Kaew Branch (Phuket) 1 position

- ▶ Male/female, not over 35 years of age
- ▶ Bachelor's degree or higher in marketing or a related field
- ▶ Background in similar capacity or at least 3 years of related experience
- ▶ Strong organization and leadership skills
- ▶ Fluent in English
- ▶ Basic computer skills
- ▶ Be able to work up-country
- ▶ Be able to drive and have a driving license

HR Department:

99-99/1 Thepkasattri Road, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket
Tel: 076 355112 Fax: 076 355121-2
E-mail: phimpa@hotmail.com



Phukana
5-star place in Phuket Town
Need one
Experienced Grill Chef
Please contact K.Kwan
Tel: 01-892-4337

STAFF WANTED

New restaurant in Patong is looking for:
- 2 waitresses with basic English
- 1 Thai chef with international background
- 2 cook's helpers.

We offer interesting salaries. Please contact for details. Tel: 076-345545, 09-6476582. Fax: 076-345889. Email: gabriele_roscini@yahoo.it

LOOKING FOR MAID

We are looking for a full-time maid to stay with us. She should cook, clean, do laundry and be able to drive a motor-bike. Tel: 01-9795624. Email: tom@bootlegonline.com

Looking for a boat?
www.phuketgazette.net/

Island Job Mart

Dusit Laguna

RESORT
PHUKET • THAILAND

The Dusit Laguna Resort is a 5-star luxury resort in Phuket and is among the leading hotels of the world. We are looking for candidates who have developed attitudes and behaviors that reflect a commitment to excellence, to fill the following positions:

Public Relations Manager

- Thai female with a degree in a related field from a recognized university
- Excellent English communication skills, and computer literate
- Able to write press releases in both Thai and English
- Pleasant personality and attitude
- At least 2-3 years' of Public Relations experience

Sales Manager, Phuket office

- Thai male or female with a degree in a related field from a recognized university
- Excellent English communication skills, and computer literate
- Able to write short captions in English
- Pleasant personality and attitude
- At least 4-5 years' experience in 5-star hotel sales

IT Manager

- Thai male or female with a degree in a related field from a recognized university
- Excellent computer and English communication skills
- Pleasant personality & attitude
- At least 4-5 years of experience is an advantage
- IT knowledge (Fidelio, Oracle, etc)

Cost controller

- Thai male with Bachelor's degree in related field from recognized university
- Excellent Computer literate and English communication skills
- Pleasant personality & attitude
- At least 2-3 years in Food & Beverage cost controller experience

Human Resource Department
Dusit Laguna Resort Phuket
390 Srisoonthorn Rd, Talang, Phuket, 83110.
Tel: 076 324324 Fax: 076 324174
Email: dlphrsec@dusit.com

Urgently required

S.M. INTERIORS AND FURNITURE CO., LTD., PHUKET, AN INTERIOR FIT-OUT COMPANY, IS LOOKING FOR:

PURCHASING STAFF

QUALIFICATIONS:

- THAI FEMALE, AGE BETWEEN 22-30 YEARS OLD.
- MORE THAN 1 YEAR OF EXPERIENCE.
- DIPLOMA IN ANY FIELD.
- GOOD ENGLISH SKILLS.

PAINTER

QUALIFICATIONS:

- THAI MALE.
- MORE THAN 1 YEAR OF EXPERIENCE RELATED TO FURNITURE AND INTERIORS.

DRIVER FOR 6-WHEEL TRUCK

QUALIFICATIONS:

- THAI MALE NOT OVER 45 YEARS OLD.
- HAVE DRIVING LICENSE FOR 6-WHEEL TRUCK.
- KNOW BANGKOK AREA.

PLEASE CONTACT:

S.M. INTERIORS AND FURNITURE
35 MOO 3, THEPKASATTI RD, T. THEPKASATTI, A. THALANG,
PHUKET, 83110. TEL: 076-275278, 076-311146, 01-9279328
FAX: 076-275-279

S.M. Interiors &
Furniture Co.Ltd.
Phuket

SECRETARY WANTED

Marine electronics company based in the Boat Lagoon needs a Thai lady to run the office. Must have good English and be good with computers. Good salary package offered. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-239112, 01-892-0534. Fax: 076-239058. Email: damian@electrical-marine.com For further details, please see our website at www.electrical-marine.com

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

wanted. Female, with an excellent command of English, both spoken and written. A positive attitude, excellent interpersonal skills and strong organization skills. Proficiency in Microsoft Office. Email a short letter of application, your CV and a recent photograph to: astec99@yahoo.com

DREAM POSITIONS FOR PROFESSIONALS

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Royal Developments International - "Asia's Premier Developer" - is looking to recruit the following:

International Sales Manager

Requirements | Must have great leadership skills with proven sales management experience. | Real Estate or Timeshare management may be an advantage. | We are looking for a professional sales manager who is able to train, motivate and lead by example | The position will involve a lot of traveling to exhibitions in Singapore, Hongkong, Bangkok, Sydney, etc, plus managing our sales teams on site at our luxury development. | Fantastic & Exciting role for the right person.

Sales Persons

Requirements | Must be very presentable with great communication skills. | Previous experience in sales is a must with a proven track record. | Travel to various exhibition in exciting, vibrant Asian cities and sell Luxury Villas in Paradise.

For both positions: relocation package - flights and accommodation provided

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Or Call: +62 81238 75118

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www.kamareorts.com

Professional Property Management Solutions

PIPS

Phuket's premier property management company is looking for suitable, qualified candidates for the following positions:

Assistant Operations Manager

Assistant Reservations Manager

Receptionists

- Experience in hotel or property management, good computer skills an advantage
- Good command of written and spoken English essential

Please send your application with a recent photo to Khun Sarote [Human Resources Dept.] Phuket Island Property Services
293/16 Moo 1, Srisoonthorn Road, Cherm Talay, Talang, Phuket 83110. Tel: 076-270750 Fax: 076-270751
Email: hr@pipsphuket.com

Sea Bees Diving

Office

Manager/Assistant

wanted for long-term employment!

Customer orientated, German language skills absolutely essential and Office-PC experience required.

Applications in German: holger@sea-bees.com

Sea Bees Diving, 1/3 Moo 9, Viset Road, Ao Chalong, Phuket

RESTAURANT STAFF

required. Tutto Pepe Italian Restaurant is seeking qualified persons to fill the following positions:

Chef (1): a Thai national, 26 to 40 years of age, with a minimum of 2 years' experience and basic English.

Waiter (2): Thai national, female preferred, 20 to 30 years old, with basic English. Tel: 04-0561553. Email: gomikki@yahoo.it

THE HARRY KAY BAND

Requires the following:

- 1 keyboard player
- 1 Drummer
- 2 Guitarists

Please apply by telephone to: Tel: 07-8984526

PHUKET LAW FIRM

seeks law student as legal secretary. Full-time or part-time. Email: scphuket@yahoo.com

CONSTRUCTION TECH STAFF

Leading development company urgently requires the following technical staff for a prestigious condominium project located in the Laguna area, Phuket.

Project Architect

(1 position)

Male or female, age not over 35 years. Degree or higher in Architecture. Class 1 or Class 2 License. 3-5 years' experience in the design of residential and resort developments. Experience in interior design and landscaping would be an advantage.

Construction engineer/ Architect (1 position)

Male, age not over 30 years. Degree or higher in Construction Engineering or Architecture. 3-5 years' work experience in construction of residential projects.

Electrical/Mechanical Engineer (1 position)

Male, age not over 30 years. Degree or higher in Electrical/Mechanical Engineering. 3-5 years' work experience in construction of residential projects.

All positions require a fair level of written & spoken English, good computer literacy and good communication skills. Only Thai nationals need apply. Tel: 076-318-111, 01-6949850. Please submit your application letter, resum , transcript and a recent photo to: Email: projectmanager@layangardens.com or Fax: 076-318113. For more information, see our website at: www.layangardens.com

Still looking for the perfect employee?
Check out www.phuketgazette.net/classifieds

Island Job Mart

OFFICE CLEANER

and Messenger wanted to work in the Chalong area. Basic English required and own motorbike. Tel: 01-9872821.

TUTOR NEEDED

to supervise homework and teach a 12 year-old boy. Mon-Thurs, 19:00 to 21:00 during international school terms. Tel: 076-342143, 01-9581055. Fax: 076-340300. Email: pauljames@expathotel.com

SAILING CAPTAIN

Qualified Thai sailing captain needed for operation on Koh Lanta, Krabi. Please call for info. Tel: 04-8418270.

INTERNET CAFE

We're looking for Thai women, age 18-24, to work as cyber cafe receptionists: 1 full-time, 1 night-time. Possibility of lodging. The applicant has to speak English. Patong and Phuket. Contact K. Yupha. Tel: 076-341255. Email: reservation@liontchai.com

Employment Wanted

ENGLISH TEACHER AVAILABLE

Private tuition for children & adults. Contact by email or phone. Tel: 06-2833945. Email: bridainecw@venustas.freeseve.co.uk

FRENCH CHEF

Professional, based in Phuket, with 20 years of cooking experience. Seeking chef position! Please contact K. Raphael. Tel: 04-7450801. Email: kirikan@hotmail.com

MARKETER &

general manager. General Manager of 500 staff in Phuket for a property services company, my main background is as a fully qualified Marketer with 8 years experience. I am now looking for new opportunities. Tel: 06-1755881. Email: stephen260175@hotmail.com

INTERNET MARKETING

I have my own web server, over 9 years' experience with software for e-commerce, tourism-related sites, online education and eBay. I would like to hear from business-minded people who would need my knowledge in their business. Email: mkewer@coastlineweb.net

Articles For Sale

MOVING SALE

6ft mattress, fridge, aircon, beauty salon equip. Tel: 04-8516160.

Bulletins

PHUKET CHESS CLUB

Open every day, at Southern Fried Rice guesthouse in Kata. Tournaments on Wednesdays at 7 pm and Saturdays at 2 pm. Tel: 01-8948446.

Business Opportunities

PERSONAL TRAINING CENTER

Rare opportunity to acquire a successful and prestigious fitness and health center in Chalong - the only dedicated personal training center in Phuket. It has established a reputation for quality and professionalism. Superbly equipped, used exclusively by premier expatriate clients. Genuine reason for sale. Tel: 01-0880422. Email: alun@vitagroup.net

BUSINESSES

for sale. Restaurant, Internet Cafe, Beauty Salon. Price: 2.5 million baht. Located at 2/6 - 10, Moo 5, Viset Rd, Rawai, A. Maung, Phuket, 83000 Tel: 076-281078, 01-0074479. Fax: 076-383674.

SCANDINAVIAN

restaurant. Big lifestyle opportunity! Well-established Scandinavian restaurant located in Karon Beach, Soi Aroona Karon. Close to major hotels and shopping areas, and only 80 meters from the beach. Package includes all paperwork, registered limited company, work permit and all licenses for a smooth takeover. Price: 4.4 million baht. Tel: 07-8855101. Email: swedenthai@yahoo.com

SHOP/RESTAURANT

for rent. 40 seats, 3 rooms, close to Patong Beach, ready to work. 1.5 million baht + rent. Tel: 04-8448381. Email: garyone1@hotmail.com

26-ROOM HOTEL

for lease. Brand-new hotel, 26 rooms, located in Patong. No key money, 9-year lease contract. Rental fee: 170,000 baht per month. Ready to run. Tel: 06-0043008. For further details, please see our website at: www.ayudhya.net

BUNGALOWS

& restaurant for rent. Please call Tel: 01-8946686 or visit: www.phuketnatureplace.com

Office/Showroom Space for Rent The Plaza Del Mar - Entrance to Laguna, Phuket.

Last two superb, 40-square-metre, first-floor office/showrooms in the recently completed Plaza Del Mar.



Fully fitted with concealed air-con, security system, kitchenette, floors, 2 telephone lines with broadband capability, etc.

Please email Khun Nong at plazadelmar@csloxinfo.com for more information

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Stunning west-coast Layan-view property. Looking for 1 more partner/investor. An excellent opportunity to pick up a free home. Tel: 01-9683221.

VERY LUCRATIVE BUSINESS

A very lucrative business for quick sale. Registered limited company, with one work permit. Price: 6 million baht. Genuine reason for sale. Genuine inquiries only will be appreciated. Email: phuketbusinessforsale@yahoo.com

LOW PREMIUM

Two sources of income. Licensed language school together with preschool, 6-year lease, for sale as on-going business. Asking 1.1 million baht. Please call for more details. Tel: 076-282232, 01-9794140 (after 9 pm.)

RESTAURANT

and guesthouse. Available on 6-year lease in Karon. European-style kitchen, 36-seat air-conditioned restaurant, two TVs, UBC & sound system. Five air-conditioned guest rooms with hot water, TV and full UBC satellite TV system. Small staff room and office. Thai-registered company included, ready to start as your business now. Tel: 09-5914044, 01-893-6072. Email: kanhathayom@hotmail.com

O'MALLEYS IRISH PUB

Small business, big opportunity! Recently refurbished pub & restaurant, located in Phuket City. Close to major hotels, shopping area and tourist attractions. Package includes all paperwork, visas, 2 work permits and all licenses for a smooth takeover. 400sqm, live music stage, sound and light system, projector UBC TV, 3 new pool tables (including pool room), 15 tables, 40 bar stools, 5 fridges and freezers, new kitchen equipment, 2 phone lines and over 300 taxi bikes with O'Malleys vests driving around the city! Tel: 076-220170, 09-7292846. Email: scottshaw77@lycos.co.uk

PATONG

shophouse. A 60sqm shophouse for rent in Patong. Asking 7,000 baht per month. Tel: 09-4740227.

RESTAURANT/BAR

with sea view of Kamala Beach. Prime location! Fully equipped, 32 seats, Now running as a bar. Apartment upstairs. Rent: 20,000 baht a month. Price: 900,000 baht + prepaid rent. 3 + 3 year lease. Tel: 06-9529520. Email: uldan_falun@hotmail.com

BAR IN KATA

for sale. Bar with 2 bedrooms and 1 toilet upstairs. No key money. 12,000 baht per month, best contract in Kata. 1.3 million baht. Tel: 09-902-4402. Email: benny66@telia.com

FISH 'N' CHIPS

Phuket's best-known shop. Complete package: income, accommodation, vehicle, staff training, a long lease, low rent and no key money. Location: 9/38 Chao Fa Rd, Chalong.

INTERNET BUSINESS

30,000 baht/month. PT/FT. Free info. Positions limited. For more details see: www.hop.clickbank.net/?ukthai/1free

RESTAURANT

for sale. Pizza restaurant at Patong. OTOP with all kitchen equipment, etc. 10 tables, 40 seats and steady revenue. Will sell for 300,000 baht. Tel: 09-5910244. Email: nongomam@gmail.com

LEASE OR RENT

hotel. I would like to lease or rent a hotel or resort in Patong. 35 rooms or more. Tel: 03-6247 7709, 04-1988 1660. Email: diggerresort@hotmail.com

OFFICE EQUIPMENT

Nanai Rd, fully equipped, with a 3-year lease. For more details, Tel: 07-8893838.

BUSINESSES

for sale. Great businesses in one of the best locations in Patong are for sale, including:

- a 15-room guesthouse
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- a 60-seat restaurant
- a rental business
- an Internet shop

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Help your lady learn English quickly with professional teachers at Text-And-Talk Academy, Patong. Also learn Thai quickly in fun courses. Contact K. Amado. Location: Junction of Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd joins Prachanukroh Rd, opposite Coconut Hotel and next to Phuket Directory. Become a professional English teacher through our world-famous TEFL course and learn survival Thai for free. Contact Paul or James, for the TEFL course only, at Tel: 06-9520088, Email: paul@langserv.com

VISA & LEGAL SERVICES



Company Registration 2,229 baht; One Year Visa 4,999 baht; Retirement Visa 4,999 baht; Work Permit 4,999 baht; UK & US Visa 16,999 baht. No more visa runs - get a one-year visa for only 4,999 baht. Establish your Thai company today to buy land or start your business for only 2,229 baht! Property title search, sales contract and land registration. Thailand's LARGEST legal service network. Always your low price by our licensed Thai lawyers. Tel: 076-345277 (24 hours). Email: info@siam-legal.com For further details, please see our website at: www.siam-legal.com

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Oriental hand-knotted carpet, rug and kilim dealer (specializing in washing and repair). Free pick-up and delivery. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-9563061. Email: sohail_carpet@yahoo.com

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Secure storage for your furniture, car, bike, etc. Please contact us for more information at Tel: 076-281283, 01-1251873, or see our website at: www.safewayphuket.com

Cameras & Equipment

UNDERWATER VDO

Birchley Products housing and Sony DCR-TRV11E Mini-DV plus accessories. Tel: 09-8755698.

NIKON F90X + AF

28-70. Nikon F90x with AF 28-70 lens (F3.5-4.5D). 15,000 baht. Tel: 09-7283281. Email: neophuket@gmail.com

Club Memberships Available

Join the British Business Association - Phuket (BBA-P)

One of Phuket's longest established English-speaking social and business networks, the BBA-P offers a full social calendar of monthly dinners and pub nights, plus family days, sporting events and local community activities.

For further information, please visit our website: www.bbap.org or email: Honsec@bbap.org BBA-P is a member of the British Chamber of Commerce, Thailand

Club Memberships Wanted

LAGUNA GOLF

membership. I would like to buy a golf membership at the Laguna Phuket Golf Club (formerly the Banyan Tree Phuket Golf Club) Tel: 01-3707893. Email: norbert.nuetzel@gmx.de

Computers

ADVANCED HOSTING SERVICES

We provide reliable, affordable web hosting services. Professional 24/7 technical support. Free set-up. All web hosting plans are feature-packed, including an easy to use control panel. Please contact for details. Tel: 076-296443, 06-9505140. Fax: 076-296427. Email: office@gasservweb.com Website: www.gasservweb.com

Miscellaneous for Sale

INTERNATIONAL DRIVERS LICENSE

< 5,000 baht, valid up to 10 years
< 6,000 baht, valid up to 20 years
< 100% legal
< Sole agent in Thailand
Internationally recognized & accredited.

Address: Baan Suam Place, 38/3 Moo 5, Soi Bang Yai, Phuket. Tel: 04-0068736 or 04-6906612. Email: iaa@intllicense.com www.intllicense.com

Miscellaneous Wanted

ELECTRIC GOLF CART

Running or not. Call K. Clint. Tel: 07-2793577.

Personal Services

LEARN THAI

at home. Charming Thai lady teacher gives Thai lessons at your home. Full course with conversation practise and home study material. Beginners or more advanced. Tel: 01-7971497. Email: churee77@hotmail.com

Personal Services Wanted

SINGING TEACHER

Required to give private lessons. Please call K. Bow or K. Mira, Monday to Friday from 9 am to 5 pm at Tel: 076-317-017-8, or Email: paul@maitlandsmith.com

Personals

BACKGAMMON

Retired businessman looking for backgammon players on Phuket Island. Please call if interested. Tel: 076-386113, 01-5778443.

CARING CAUCASIAN

Are you a sophisticated, affectionate and good looking local lady who prefers the same qualities in a man? If so, I'd be glad to hear more from you. Email: nuvvus@yahoo.com

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FORD TIERRA 1.6 (A) FOR SALE

May 2003; 35,000km; 1 expat owner; full options and service history. Installment payments possible. Best offer around 450,000 baht secures sale. Please call Goran for additional information. Tel: 09-4744156. Email: goran.crnla@gmail.com

HONDA CRV 2002

A Honda CRV 2002 in excellent condition is for sale. 50,000km; fully serviced. Price: 735,000 baht. Please contact for further information. Tel: 06-2672462. Email: shall@loxinfo.co.th

TOYOTA

Toyota Soluna for sale. Year 2001, automatic, gold color. Price: 280,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 04-851-6115. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

1987 NISSAN SUNNY

Nissan Sunny 1.5L, Only 35,000 baht. Please contact for more details. Tel: 06-267-0756. Email: two4trinity@yahoo.co.uk

Pickups

ISUZU D-MAX 2004



Isuzu D-Max Highlander, 3.0 diesel, 25,000km, July 2004. Has side steps, alloy wheels, a Pioneer CD-player, custom grill; high-end insurance paid in August. For sale at 575,000 baht. Please call for more info. Tel: 06-2775298.

NISSAN 4WD PICKUP

Big MF 2001, 4 doors, diesel, 2.5 turbo, multi options, 1 owner, 75,000km only; in excellent condition. Asking 390,000 baht. Please call for more details. Tel: 07-814-6448.

URGENT SALE PICKUP

4WD. Urgent sale of a Ford Ranger 2001. 560,000 km. Please call or email for more details. Tel: 09-8669406. Email: danex01@gmail.com

FORD RANGER PICKUP

58,000km, open cab, metallic color, in perfect condition. 350,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Email: mariogrimaldi69@hotmail.com

ISUZU D-MAX 3.0DI

Isuzu D-Max, June 2003, 39,000km, 4 doors, diesel, automatic, 4x2, roll bar, bull bar, runners, alloy wheels, Pioneer stereo. Well maintained. 585,000 baht. Contact for more details. Tel: 06-593-6705. Email: pui_khamphan@hotmail.com

CHEROKEE LIMITED

2000 new model: 72,000 km; automatic, green. Asking 450,000 baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-080-8831.

4 x 4s



TOYOTA D4D 3000

In best condition, Nov 2003; 41,000km; has a Carryboy with air conditioner. Original guarantee Nov 2006 or 100,000km. Includes an airbag, adjustable steering wheel, automatic, and soft leather seats. Selling for 595,000 baht.

Tel: 04-8374429.

FORD RANGER

4WD Ford Ranger 2.5 XLT Hurricane, registered September 2001. Low mileage (56,000km), double airbag, CD player, remote key/alarm, roll bar, 1st-class insurance. The car drives very well and is for sale at only 420,000 baht. Tel: 09-8669406. Email: danex01@gmail.com

Van

1994 MINIBUS

Nissan Urvan for sale. Gray, 11 seats, CD player, in good condition. Price: 240,000 baht. Tel: 04-8516115. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

Rentals

A1 CAR RENTAL



Cars, trucks, jeeps - fully insured for rental. Best prices for long-term rental: 12,000-20,000 baht per month. Please call. Tel: 076-200900, 09-8314703.

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Low price for long-term rent. Many types of new cars, with CD player and insurance, and well maintained. Please contact for info. Tel: 01-607-8567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

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Suzuki Caribians with full insurance: 10,000 baht per month. Good daily rates. Tel: 09-4727304.

Motorbikes

HARLEY 2002 CUSTOM



Originally a Softail Heritage but completely transformed into this beautiful bike using only the best performance machine parts on the market. This bike is in mint condition; it is ridden every day and cleaned every day. If you want to stand out from the crowd, then this is the bike for you. Tel: 076-240042, 01-8911635. Email: stroker106@csloxinfo.com

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for sale. 400cc, rebuilt, very special engine; 11 months warranty. Please call for more information. Tel: 09-9087825.

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Phuket Blues Festival 2005

For full details see page 8




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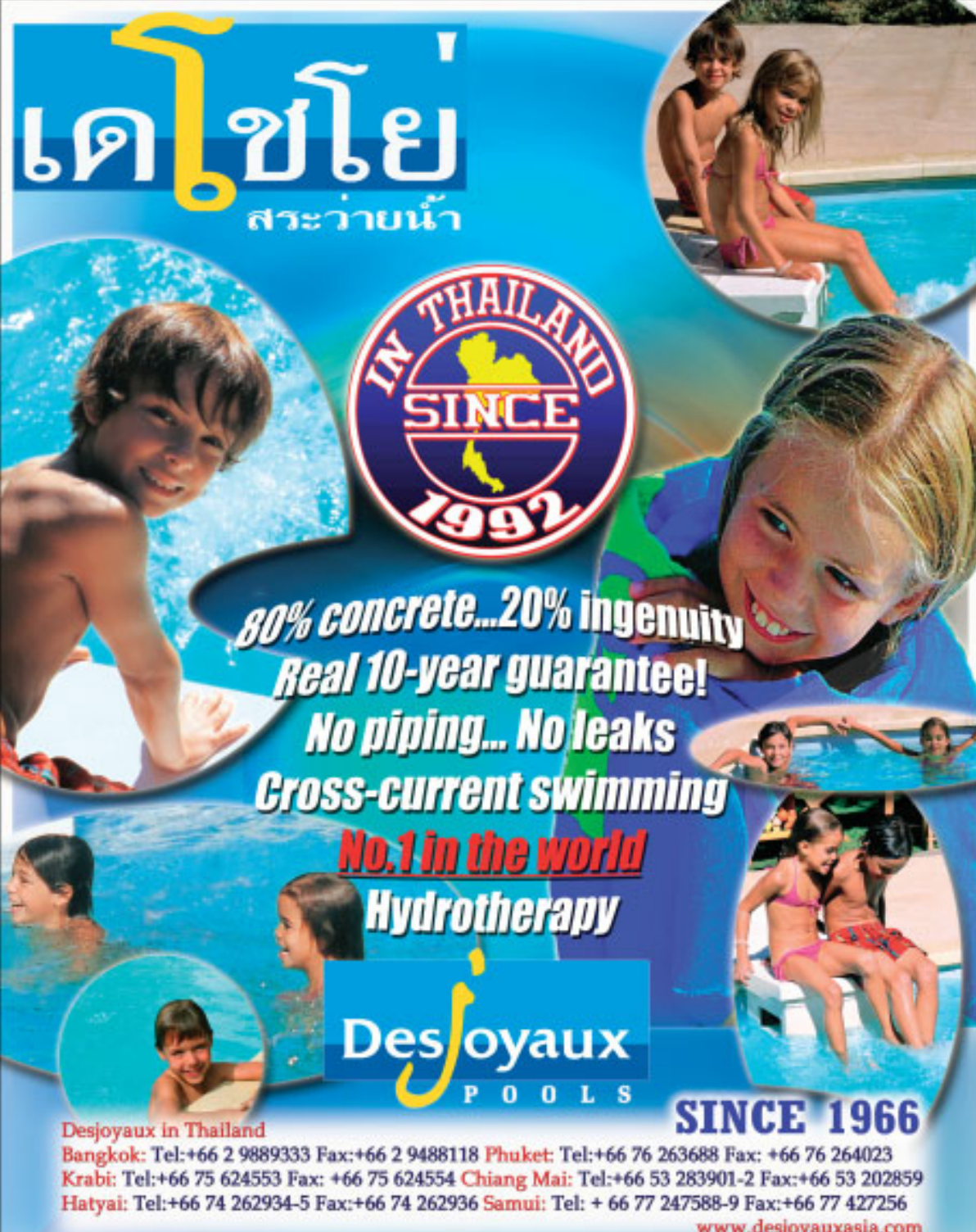
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