

Phuket Gazette

Volume 13 Issue 26

News Desk - Tel: 076-236555

July 1 - 7, 2006

Daily news at www.phuketgazette.net

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Tsunami orphanage under investigation

PHUKET (Gazette, Expressen): A special committee set up by the province is investigating allegations of fraud against the former director of a foundation set up in March last year to care for children left orphaned by the tsunami.

The panel was formed about six weeks ago, following complaints to Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura. The provincial Ombudsman's office was ordered to investigate the activities of Narin Dangtakote and his Swedish wife Maria Florén. Their Thai-Sweden Children's Foundation has actively solicited millions of baht in donations from Swedes, then allegedly used the funds for other purposes.

The orphanage, which received foundation status on March 18, 2005 with initial funding of about 550,000 baht, is located on land donated by Wat Muang Mai in Tambon Mai Khao, Thalang.

News of the alleged fraud has been front-page news in Swedish newspapers including *Expressen*, which has been actively following case. Earlier this month, Bangkok-based *Expressen* reporter Michael Töpffer interviewed Phuket Deputy Governor (Palad) Nivit Aroonrat, who chairs the investigation panel.

Mr Töpffer told the *Gazette* that Palad Nivit had confirmed that the foundation was under investigation and that, because of the controversy, Palad Nivit had advised against a visit to the orphanage by Swedish royals HM King Carl XVI Gustaf and HM Queen Silvia during their recent visit to Phuket.



At least 20 million baht – possibly twice that amount – has been donated to the orphanage; the correct figure is not yet clear.

K. Narin and his wife moved to Phuket several years ago and began building a property development aimed at Swedish buyers. When the tsunami struck, work on the development was almost complete. The couple offered temporary housing to Swedish victims of the disaster and were portrayed as heroes by the Swedish press, *Expressen* reported.

In January 2005, the couple declared their intention to open an orphanage, asking the Swedish public for donations. According to the foundation's financial report, more than 20 million baht was collected.

Some Swedes who made donations to the orphanage and then visited the home asked *Expressen* to investigate rumors of financial impropriety and claims that the children at the orphanage were not, in fact, tsunami victims.

However, Yaline Saisikol, who has been working as an administrator with the foundation for two months, said that initially the orphanage had many tsunami-affected children, but that the number had dwindled as the economy began to improve and relatives came to claim them.

"We spend about 20,000 baht a week providing three meals a day for students, paying for their school fees, transport and covering expenses of our staff and volunteers. Sometimes there are additional costs, such as when we take the children out for a day at the beach," she said.

The provincial investigation is focusing on the foundation's finances. Last week, the committee sent one of its members, the head of the Provincial Public Works Office, to inspect buildings at the site to see if construction costs had been inflated.

Nikorn Torhirunyapreuk,

Chief of the Phuket Provincial Defense Office and also a member of the investigation committee, told the *Gazette* that although the panel is still in the process of gathering information, it intends to try and have the orphanage's foundation status revoked.

If sufficient evidence can be gathered, any wrongdoer will be prosecuted, he said.

"We know the foundation has only two children there who were affected by the tsunami. Another 10 children were brought in from Isarn, which is different from the stated objectives for setting up the foundation.

"As they have only two children there [full-time], why did they need to buy so many pick-up trucks? We are checking on this now," he said.

"From our initial investigations and two rounds of questioning with K. Narin, we believe there has been some dishonesty. We asked him for information regarding the construction of a sala which should have cost 500,000 baht to build, not 2 million baht.

"K. Narin told me that it is still unfinished. But if that is the case, why did he pay the contractor in full six months ago? According to government regulations, payment for construction should not have been made until the work was completed.

"We have to investigate this further, however, including questioning the contractor and looking into tax records," he said.

Central to the investigation are allegations that donations were transferred to six different

Continued on page 2



Your Piece of Paradise

Backlash staves off doubling of park fees

THAILAND: The National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department (DNP) has decided to rethink its plans to double the entrance fees to National Parks after coming under fire from tourism businesses.

The DNP had planned to double park entry fees so that foreign children would pay 200 baht, foreign adults 400 baht, Thai children 20 baht and Thai adults 40 baht.

Phuket Tourist Association President Pattanapong Aekwanich, told the *Gazette* that he disagreed with the proposed increase, despite of the DNP's claims that it is short of money.

Indeed, he thought that in some cases entry fees should be decreased. He cited Sirinath National Park as an example. That park's facilities were not good, he said, and there was nothing for tourists to see or do.

K. Pattanapong's sentiments were echoed across the bay in Krabi, where Ittirit Kinglek, Chief of the Krabi Tourism Business Association, said, "The government wants to promote tourism, but the DNP wants to increase its fees, which is the opposite of what tourism businesses in the Andaman region need."

"We have asked the DNP to rethink the idea. Tourism is still feeling the effects of the tsunami, the World Cup is now on and it is the low season. It is not a good time to raise prices."

Kridwikrome Kleawkla, Chief Assistant at Sirinath National Park, said, "If head office think prices should be raised, then they must have their reasons."

But, he admitted, "At Sirinath National Park I have to explain to tourists before they decide to enter that the facilities have not been fully restored to the standard they were before the tsunami. — *Jenjira Ruengjarus*

Mixed emotions over tsunami mini-series

By Gazette Staff

PHUKET CITY: Mixed reactions greeted the filming of scenes for the TV mini-series *Aftermath* at the Bangkok Hospital Phuket this week.

While some people said they saw the movie as potentially good for promoting Phuket, others — particularly victims — felt disturbed.

Kudos, the company making the movie for the BBC and HBO, recently came under fire in the British press for insensitivity, causing the BBC to issue a defensive press release. Another critical story by the Associated Press was published widely in the US and elsewhere. Kudos itself has made no public comments.

Some have also questioned the effect that the mini-series, due to be screened in the autumn, will have on tourism in Phuket and neighboring provinces.

But Panu Maswongsa, Vice-President of Marketing of the Phuket Tourist Association, told the *Gazette* that he did not believe the drama, which covers the day of the December 26, 2004 tsunami and the following few days, will damage Phuket's tourism.

"I am sure that the authorities have been involved and read the script before allowing shooting to start. If they have approved it, there should be no negative effect. We should trust the [judgment of the] government officials."

"Tourism is sensitive, but everyone knows that the tsunami is history. Also, everyone knows that we have a warning system on the beaches to protect lives," he added.

The production came under particular criticism in foreign media after the crew recreated scenes of devastation, complete

with "corpses", alongside the main road into Khao Lak in Phang Nga.

One tsunami victim in Phuket, who asked not to be named, told the *Gazette* that she had come across some of the extras, still in bandages and fake blood, and that the sight had immediately taken her mind back to the day of the tsunami.

"It has taken me and my husband more than a year to stop having nightmares. We have been trying to forget it," she said, adding that they both found even small things such as TV commercials with images of flooding — like a current ad for Ford pickup trucks — disturbing.

"I still have terrible memories about the horrible waves that

took away so many thousands of lives in moments. It was a real nightmare for me and I don't want to be reminded of it again."

Piyanooch Ananpakdee, Senior Marketing Communications Manager of the Bangkok Hospital Phuket, explained that the hospital felt obliged to cooperate with the makers of the mini-series because of a formal request from the Office of Tourism Development in Bangkok.

"We read the script. The plot is good, and emphasizes the kindness of Thai people after the tsunami. I think it will help to promote the country," she said.

Asked about the effect on people who come across post-tsunami scenes being re-enacted in the hospital, she said, "I don't

think that the filming will have a psychological effect except in the case of people who experienced the tsunami — they might start thinking about it again."

"But the number of tsunami victims coming into the hospital during the three days of filming is likely to be very low."

"Yesterday some children came in with their parents and we explained to them that it was not real. Even though the actors were covered with blood or something, they were always smiling and did nothing to scare anyone during breaks in shooting." "We have a sign informing people about the production and we have been handing fliers to anyone coming to the hospital, apologizing for any inconvenience."

Orphanage under investigation

From page 1

bank accounts, but the foundation listed only two in its registration.

The committee is also inspecting the foundation's other expenses, including its 1,500-baht-a-day expenditure to provide meals to children.

K. Nikorn said that while the two foundation accounts show about 20 million baht in donations, the actual amount might be much higher.

"It would be good if we could gather together all the receipts issued to donors, so that we can learn how many bank accounts K. Narin used and how much was collected," he said.

The Swedish media had played a key role in publicizing the story and helping his agency collect evidence, he added.

When the *Gazette* tried to call K. Narin on June 26, a man identifying himself as K. Narin's cousin answered the phone, saying that K. Narin had gone abroad "to relax". The *Gazette* tried contacting K. Narin by email but, at the time of going to press, had received no reply.

On July 26 staff at the orphanage told the *Gazette* that K.

Narin resigned as director in April, but continued to direct the foundation in a caretaker capacity.

Staff said the orphanage is currently home to 21 children, four or five of whom were affected by the tsunami. The others were children of construction workers whose parents had no time to care for them, they said.

While the foundation's registration documents list six objectives, only the first two mention the tsunami. Others listed include the teaching of Buddhism and providing scholarships to good students with limited means. However, the foundation achieved high-profile status in Sweden by

promoting its work with tsunami orphans.

The orphanage has three buildings housing an office, 10 bedrooms for three children each, additional housing for children whose parents work there, a canteen and a playground.

K. Yalineee commented, "We know that government officers are scrutinizing our foundation, but I think all of this is the result of an attempt to smear us."

She added, "It may be the result of a personal problem involving a member of the foundation's committee, which is being blamed on the foundation in general," she added.

Inaugural Suvarnabhumi flight will land in Phuket

PHUKET CITY: The very first commercial flight out of Bangkok's new Suvarnabhumi Airport will be a Thai Airways International [THAI] flight to Phuket.

THAI's Executive Vice-President Vasing Kittikul announced in a press release that

Airports of Thailand (AOT) will allow Suvarnabhumi Airport to handle some domestic flights from July 29.

First among these will be flight TG1881, departing at 9 am for Phuket using a Boeing 747-400 aircraft.

Seats on these and other inaugural flights are on offer at 999 baht to promote the new airport, which will have capacity to handle 76 flights an hour and 45 million passengers a year.

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Applications for UK visas may now be made locally

PHUKET: Freight forwarding and courier company Phuket Universal Services Co Ltd (Pusco), near the Mercedes-Benz showroom on Thepkasattri Rd, is now accepting applications for visas to enter Britain.

The new service follows an announcement by the British Embassy in Bangkok that it has entered into a partnership with VFS (Thailand) Ltd to improve its visa-issuing service. VFS now receives and returns applications for all types of UK visa.

VFS has appointed Pusco as its agent in Phuket, and staff at Pusco will check that each visa application includes all the required documents before forwarding it to the VFS Visa Application Center in Bangkok, which in turn will pass applications to the embassy.

The service fee for a visa application made in Phuket is 1,075 baht. This does not include the embassy's fee for the visa itself, which varies depending on the type of visa applied for.

Payment in full must be made at the time of application, in the form of a demand draft payable to "VFS Thailand Ltd".

Applicants may, if they wish, submit visa applications by hand to the Visa Application Centre in Bangkok or send them by mail or courier service to: The UK Visa Application Centre, 2nd Floor, Regent House, 183 Rajdamri Rd, Lumpini, Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330. Payment in full must accompany each application.

For more information contact Pusco at 24/158 Moo 2, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket, Tel: 076-238824-6, or call K. Pornthip at Tel: 07-373843 or K. Kanjana at Tel: 09-8714186. Alternatively, visit www.britishembassy.gov.uk or www.ukvac-th.com

Ao Phuket project needs more study – Suwat

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET CITY: A proposal by Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura that Phuket City Municipality should lead the proposed 63-billion-baht Ao Phuket project failed on June 24 to gain the support of caretaker Deputy Prime Minister Suwat Liptapanlop.

The project, which was first mooted in 1989, would see 3,200 rai reclaimed from the sea in Phuket Bay and turned into a huge complex, possibly including housing, entertainment facilities, shops, offices, a marina and an international-standard conference and exhibition center.

On June 22, Governor Udomsak proposed that the Municipality should play the leading role in the project, but with investment from the private sector.

However, CDPM Suwat, at a meeting on June 24, said that he felt the project needed more consideration. While he did not reject the committee's recommendation, neither did he approve it.

"The National Economic & Social Development Board (NESDB) has been assigned to explore scenarios including where the investment will come from, who should lead the project, how much the private sector should be involved, and over what period," he said.

The NESDB has been given three weeks to respond, he added. "After that we will have a conclusion to hand to the Cabinet which will consider whether the project should move forward or not."

"We have to work out the most effective way to drive this project forward and we

also need to know more precisely what kind of economic returns we can expect, including the benefits to people in Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi. In three weeks we will have the information we need," he said.

He added that there are many points to consider. "For example, the Governor said that a marina is important now because we don't have enough marinas for yachts. Also, the shoreline near the proposed reclamation area needs to be beautified."

"Some people are concerned about the garbage [the completed project will generate] and the water supply [it will need]. The NESDB will study all of this and then we will present our recommendations to the Cabinet."

"If the Cabinet says yes, the project will have taken its first real step," he added.

Brits scotch attempt to salvage Chariots

By Gazette Staff

PHUKET: The British government has scotched, at least for the time being, a planned attempt by local salvage company East Marine SBS Co to raise two British World War II Chariots from the waters off Phuket.

On June 21 the Military Attaché from the British Embassy in Thailand, Col Mark Rayner, delivered to Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura a letter from the British Royal Navy requesting that the Chariots be left on the sea floor.

The Chariots were mini-submarines used in underwater attacks on enemy ships. Each was crewed by two divers wearing rebreather apparatus.

The letter from the British Navy read, in part, "Both in UK and International law, wrecked military aircraft and vessels remain the property of the state (in this case of the British Crown), regardless of location or condition. Ownership is not lost with the passage of time."



'A minor hiccup': Chris Parton

"Moreover, the provisions of the International Convention on Salvage 1989 do not apply to warships; consequently, in international waters and the territorial waters of other states, the wrecks of British military aircraft and warships cannot lawfully be the subject of salvage."

"[The British government's] permission is needed to recover them and this we are not prepared to grant. We consider the Chariots to be heritage assets and as such they should remain and be studied in situ."

The Governor said after the meeting, "I told East Marine SBS that if they received approval from the British Admiralty, I would allow the salvage project. But today I received a letter [from the British government] stating that it regards them as assets of Britain and pointing out that it is British military tradition to leave in place any vessels lost during war."

"They will not be salvaged. Instead, we can mark them as a place for divers to visit."

However, the salvage company's Managing Director, New Zealander Capt Chris Parton, told the *Gazette* that he is not planning to give up his quest to raise the Chariots.

"It's just a minor hiccup as far as I'm concerned," he said. "I'm a Kiwi and an ex-Special Forces member. I never give up. Never. So long as you don't cap me with a 9mm in the head."

"It's going to happen. I'm a hunter. It may take a year. It may take 10 years, but I'll get them up."

Ranong Rd market to be replaced

PHUKET CITY: Work will begin next January on a 260-million-baht market complex to replace the squalid public market on Ranong Rd.

Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwannasuppana said the new municipal market would be a four-story building, with two floors of public parking above two floors of market stalls, as well as 27 shophouse units.

The new complex will bring an improvement in terms of cleanliness, hygiene and the quality of meat and produce sold, she said.

Work will begin with the complete demolition of the current market, which opened 49 years ago.

While work is underway, vendors will be relocated to a temporary market opposite Suan Luang Park on Wirat Hongyok Rd.

The city will spend 215 million baht on the market, another 15 million baht for the temporary market, and a further 28.4 million baht in interest on loans to finance the project.

American teacher drowns

KARON: An American teacher drowned in heavy seas off Karon Beach on June 25, after she and three friends apparently ignored red flags and warnings by beach guards not to swim.

Chalong Police Inspector Pol Lt Col Jessada Saengsuree named the victim as Elena Baldwin, 20. He told the *Gazette* that she had been teaching English language as a volunteer at a school in Tambon Bangtoey, Phang Nga.

A large wave reportedly swept all four swimmers out to sea. The other three were rescued but Ms Baldwin's body was eventually found about 3km away.

The letter from the British Navy read, in part, "Both in UK and International law, wrecked military aircraft and vessels remain the property of the state (in this case of the British Crown), regardless of location or condition. Ownership is not lost with the passage of time."



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Peter is 15, and has been living outside of his native Canada for more than half his life. His father had a change of heart about his career – he was an advertising executive – in his late-30s, and turned his passion for cooking into a profitable business, later moving to Thailand.

“It was just before my seventh birthday when we left Montreal, which I still think of as ‘home’,” said Peter. “I guess I was too young for my parents to really ask me what I felt about moving from there to here.

“I didn’t want to leave Canada; all my friends were there and I’d been at school only a short time. I hadn’t traveled outside of Canada much, only across into the States a few times,” he continued.

Not surprisingly, the first thing Peter noticed about Phuket was the climate. “It was just so much hotter and more humid than I had experienced before and I just felt tired all the time to begin with.

“The culture here, too, made me feel a little uncomfortable, but not because I didn’t like Asian people – Montreal has quite a big Asian community – but I just felt so out of place, so different.

“I had never really known what it was like to be a stranger anywhere, to be surrounded by unfamiliar things and not to be able to get through to people because of the different languages we spoke.

“I guess that little by little, especially when I started going to school, I began to feel a little more ‘at home’ here.

“I met quite a few other foreigners, from Europe, Australia, England and the US as well as other Asian countries apart from Thailand. I could use my French – my mother is French-Canadian and I have been speaking the language since I was a young kid – and English and get by quite happily with other children.”

“But I didn’t do well at

school to begin with.” Peter continued, explaining that feelings of homesickness got the better of him for a few years.

“I don’t know if it is the same for other kids, but people, parents, anyway, always think that children can adapt to any new situation just because we are young.

“That just isn’t the way it is; if anything, we – well, I, anyway – find it more difficult than adults because we’re just taken along like a piece of furniture. I really didn’t want to be here in Phuket for about five years, and my behavior showed that, I guess.”

Recent years, however, have seen him improve his academic record and assimilate himself into Thailand.

“I got used to being here, although in some ways I know that it’s [because] my family isn’t moving from here, so I have had to get used to being in Phuket. I’ve made some really good friends at school – Thais, Asians and other nationalities...

“Thinking about it, I don’t know if I even really notice what country they come from anymore – I love going to school and just enjoy it over here.

“But Phuket isn’t ‘home’ to me; Canada will always be home, even though I know that I have a better life over here than I would have had there.

“I guess you only really ever have one home,” he said.

Nanase, 17, was born in Japan in 1989 and has been at school in Phuket for five years. Before that, she lived and went to school in Bangkok, having moved to Thailand when she was two years old. She lives here with her mother while her father continues to work in the capital.

“I don’t have any memories of living in Japan,” she said. “I was too young to have any when I moved, apart from the stories my parents tell me and the old photographs I still look at. So, in

IN A LAND

A generation ago, relatively few children – even those from “developed” countries – had the opportunity to travel to and live in foreign countries. Quite often, the parents of those who did move were in the armed forces, the diplomatic corps or multinational companies and were on short-term postings.

Fast-forward to 2006 and Phuket sees increasing numbers of people relocating to the island to invest or for “lifestyle” reasons.

What, however, of their children, particularly the non-Thais, born in foreign countries and now growing up in Thailand? The *Gazette’s* Andy Johnstone canvassed the opinions of a few of the island’s junior expats on what it is really like to grow up on a tropical island. The identities of some of the children have been masked at the request of their parents.

many ways, Thailand is my home. How could it be any other way?”

Nanase visits her family in Japan during school holidays, and said that she feels something is missing when she returns.

“It’s quite simple; I left Japan when I was too young and feel that I have lost part of my identity, my nationality, my heritage, I guess.

“I go back to Japan and I don’t feel Japanese; I feel like a stranger in the country I was born in, even though my parents do try to keep Japan ‘alive’ for me,” said Nanase.

“As much as possible, we talk in Japanese and have decorated and furnished our house here in Japanese style. We generally eat Japanese food, I listen to Japanese pop music – and other styles too, of course – I keep up with Japanese news on the NHK channel and over the Internet, but I’m detached from my country and I sometimes resent being in Phuket because of that,” she said.

Although Nanase stressed that it is not dissatisfaction with Thailand or Thai people that causes her resentment, she ad-

mitted that she is often subject to unwelcome interest by her Thai peers.

“Many of the Thai girls I know get their fashion ideas from Japan, and although it may seem flattering to some people, I get really tired of being asked for the latest trends from Japan.

“I’m not really that bothered one way or another about fashion; I make my own style, so why can’t they?

“What really annoys me is how obsessed some of them are with the color of my skin. I’m quite pale-skinned, which is what many of them aspire to be, but they just don’t seem to believe me when I explain, time after time, that it’s natural. They are convinced that I must use whitening cream on my face and body, which I don’t.

“As if that weren’t bad enough, the way other people, Thais, look at me because of my paleness, which I feel is with envy, is even worse.”

Nanase explained that despite living in Thailand for most of her life, she does not feel that she has “connected” with the country or the people.

“I suppose it has to do with how you live, the friends you keep and where you go to school or work, but I don’t think that my life here – and I would include the lives of almost all of my friends in this, too – is really living in Thailand.

“We could be living anywhere, and don’t get to see the ‘real’ Thailand or meet many Thais, except for some of the teachers and people who work in cafés or shops.

“Most of my friends don’t even think about how lucky they are, and those who do don’t seem to care, which is sad because the difference between the richest and the poorest here is huge.

“I suppose I feel a little

guilty about it, which in some ways is a maybe a good thing. We have so much more than most of them do. I read in your paper a few weeks ago about a woman who goes through trash cans to find garbage she can sell. I told some of my friends about it and they laughed.

“I think it is better to have some sort of understanding, even if it is guilt, rather than be ignorant.”

Tash, 11, was born in England but moved to Hong Kong when she was a baby. She lived there until she was four years old, when she moved to Phuket.

“I went to school – kindergarten – in Hong Kong, but it’s quite hard to remember much about school there because I was so small at the time. I do have quite a few, lots really, of memories about Hong Kong.”

Tash explained that the differences between Phuket and Hong Kong were immediately noticeable to her.

“First, the weather is very different. Hong Kong has typhoons and gets quite cold sometimes, but Phuket has monsoons and is really hot. Hong Kong is much busier than Phuket, much more of a city than here.

“I think that Hong Kong has a lot more [for children] to do than Phuket, like lots of theme parks and other fun things; Phuket doesn’t really have as many.

“But still, Phuket has lots of fun things to do, too. I like to go shopping in Central and to go to my friends’ houses for sleepovers, but you could do that anywhere. I do have lots of friends here, lots more than in Hong Kong, but that’s just because I left there when I was so young,” said Tash.

Despite her multicultural upbringing, Tash said, “I always think of myself as English, even though I never really lived there, although I do go back to visit my family. I definitely feel English, well, I notice I’m different, usually when I go to somewhere like Central, because there are so many Thai people there.

“Both of my parents are English, so I’m influenced by that, and by some of the films I watch and by the school I go to here,

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Tristan and Tash agree that although they have spent very little time in their countries of birth, they feel that is where they truly belong.

which is quite English, well, British or I suppose international, really," she said.

"I get to travel a lot, especially to Hong Kong because my dad lives there most of the time. I probably travel more than most of my friends, apart from one whose dad also lives in Hong Kong but whose mum lives here.

"It's quite an adventure for me, having my parents live in different countries, because I usually travel on my own. I really like traveling; that's one of the reasons I want to be an air hostess.

"I like going on aeroplanes and seeing and learning about new things and places. I've been to about 15 or 20 countries alto-

gether, including Greece and Italy, and I'm going to France for the first time this year and America next year."

The advantages she has are not lost on her.

"I know that I have chances to do lots of things that many British children of my age don't have. I also know that I'm quite lucky compared with most children in Thailand.

"I feel quite grown up here, grown up compared with Thai children, who go to other schools. I think that it's maybe because the schools they go to aren't as good as mine. It's not their fault."

However, the "Land of Smiles" does not smile all of the time, even for children.

"But children don't need to be rude. Sometimes when I ride my bike down my soi, Thai children come up to me swearing and saying rude things to me in Thai and it's probably because I'm *farang*.

"I don't really like it, but there aren't many *farang* where I live, so maybe they're just interested in me because I'm different from them.

"Sometimes I think it's because they are a bit envious of me, because I have a nicer bike and nicer clothes than they have; other times, yeah, I think it's just because I am *farang*.

"But I think it might also be because they are really bored and the only thing they can do to en-

tertain themselves is to make fun of *farang*," Tash explained.

"I just ignore them when they make fun of me.

"I sort of feel sorry for them, because most of the time they don't have as much as foreigners do, but whether you're rich or poor, *farang* or Thai, you shouldn't go around making fun of other people. We have done nothing to them."

Going to an international school, said Tash, has brought many benefits, and she has not stuck solely to friends with the same background as hers.

"I have only one friend who is English. My other friends are from lots of different nationalities – one is half-American and half-Mexican; another is half-Filipino and half-German; another is half-Irish and half-Filipino. I also have a Dutch friend who was brought up here from birth and speaks Thai really well.

"Although I am learning Thai – if you live in a foreign country, I think you should learn the language – her being able to speak it makes it much easier when we go out together, because otherwise, communicating here can be a problem."

Overall, said Tash, the experience of living and growing up in a foreign country is a good one.

"I enjoy living in this country – on and off. It can get so hot here and it's easy to get dehydrated. I was playing football in school tournament once – it was the third day – and I had a really bad headache. I started vomiting everywhere.

"But apart from the heat, the beaches and other things here are great. Even the problems with Thai kids teasing me is nothing really.

"There's always something to do, even if it's raining. For example, I love going to Central with my family and friends to shop and to watch a good film.

"I love to travel, especially to see my family, but I miss

Phuket when I'm not here. It's a shame more kids don't have the chance to do what I do," said Tash.

Tristan was born in 1997 in California. He moved to Phuket when he was around four years old, after living in Nepal for two years.

"I go back to the States quite often and always think of myself as American. My heart is based in America, so I don't forget it at all," said Tristan.

"I really enjoy American sports, like baseball – I like the Boston Red Sox – and [American] football and try to follow it from the newspapers and on the Internet. Here, I like to ride my bike and play with my friends or on a computer. I play the drums really well, too.

"I feel really good when I go back to America because I love my country and because it's colder than here, and I get to see my cousins, friends and family. I feel way more at home there," he said, adding, "America has the nature, the animals and trees that I like and know about."

Tristan's interactions with Thais are, because of his young years, more likely to be with native children at school or in the company of his family.

"I only speak *nit noy* Thai and it's difficult for me to get Thai people to understand me, so I have to point or try to use sign language.

"Sometimes, I think people gang up on me and make fun of me because I'm foreign, but it doesn't upset me really.

"I enjoy living in this country – sometimes. I like being a little hot. America is cold and I like that better, but still, it's pretty good to be hot. I guess the only thing I don't like about my school is that two of my friends are leaving and I am going to miss them.

"Even though I do enjoy it here, I want to live in America when I grow up."

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Queer News

A SHAGGING DOG STORY IN PHATTALUNG

PHATTALUNG: Wat Na Tom, hitherto a landmark of the faithful in Phattalung's Muang District, last week spawned one of those scandals which, after hitting newsstands, has elicited sighs and perhaps uncharitable tittering.

In this case, possibility of the latter is high: some 70 full-color photos support allegations by unidentified local people that the abbot of Wat Na Tom not only engaged regularly in fornication, but had as lovers two dogs and three women.

Senior monks from the provincial Buddhist Governing Board, its Muang District counterpart, and Phattalung's Office of Buddhism, after examining the photos, announced they were real and enjoined the press to "beware of publishing them and casting Buddhism in a bad light," which is a criminal offense under Thai law.

The chief of Thailand's Mental Health Department also warned against publication of the photos, saying they were evidence of mental illness and could have evil effects on children incapable of interpreting them properly. The admonitions came too late, however, as two of the pictures had already been published in a mass-circulation daily.

The whereabouts of Wat Na Tom's abbot were not reported; senior clergy urged him to resign immediately from the

monkhood. The erring abbot was apparently caught completely unawares by villagers who climbed up to the roof to spy on him and photograph his lurid activities.

The story surfaced on the morning of June 21, when unidentified local persons contacted reporters with photos showing one of the province's best known and most respected monks in *flagrante delicto*.

"People living around the temple have been aware of his activities for months," reporters learned, "but they lacked evidence with which to eliminate his poisonous influence ... Two or three women were sneaking in at night to sleep with him, prompting local people to climb up and spy through a crack.

"They discovered that on nights when no women came to sleep with him, he had sex with the dogs."

"Were the pictures unclear or concocted, evidence would be insufficient for an arrest," Deputy Provincial Chief Abbot Phra Khru Methi Ratanakorn was quoted as saying. "But here they are unmistakable."

"It is certainly him," said provincial Buddhist Office Director Koonapoongs Taharn-Thai. "He is quite well-known; villagers in the area have always accorded him a high degree of respect. We've long had dealings on a regular basis; but I never

could have guessed such evil might affect a Phattalung monk!"

Provincial Deputy Police Commander Pol Col Torsak Chukam ordered detectives to track down and arrest the abbot, identified as Phra Khru Sopit Tamapimol (*phra khru* denotes a senior teaching monk; the rest of the name means "Beautiful Enlightenment comes unde-filed").

The suspect is described as aged about 61 years, having joined the monkhood in 1957. He became abbot in 1994, and was commissioned *phra khru* in 2005; until fleeing he also operated a school teaching Buddhism on Sundays.

One "fluffy-haired" white dog, and one black dog, both females, were found locked in his residence. Investigators said they matched those in the pictures.

In response to publication of the incriminating photos, Mental Health Department chief ML Somchai Jakrapant admonished the press to "beware of perverted sex pictures, especially those with animals, or of monks with women. People who have sex with animals are disturbed, because of drugs, perhaps, or because something is irregular in their brains.

"If children see such photos they may interpret them wrongly, and think what they see is correct behavior."

Source: Siang Tai



TRASHING Phuket



PICK-UP DROP-OFF: Attaching the photograph above, a reader wrote an email to the *Gazette* recently, "Like all residents who love living in Phuket, I get very angry when I see people treating the place like a rubbish dump.

"I know your newspaper thinks the same way.

"Here's a picture I took on June 21 outside The Plantation apartments at Kamala. The guy was unloading building waste from bags over the side of the road and down the cliff adjacent to the sea.

"As I took the photograph a police car from Kamala Police Station drove past and didn't even slow down, let alone stop and arrest this vandal.

"If the *Phuket Gazette* can use the photograph in its campaign against littering Phuket, please do."

We can. Here it is. Sadly, for legal reasons, we have had to amend the photograph to expunge the offender's identity.

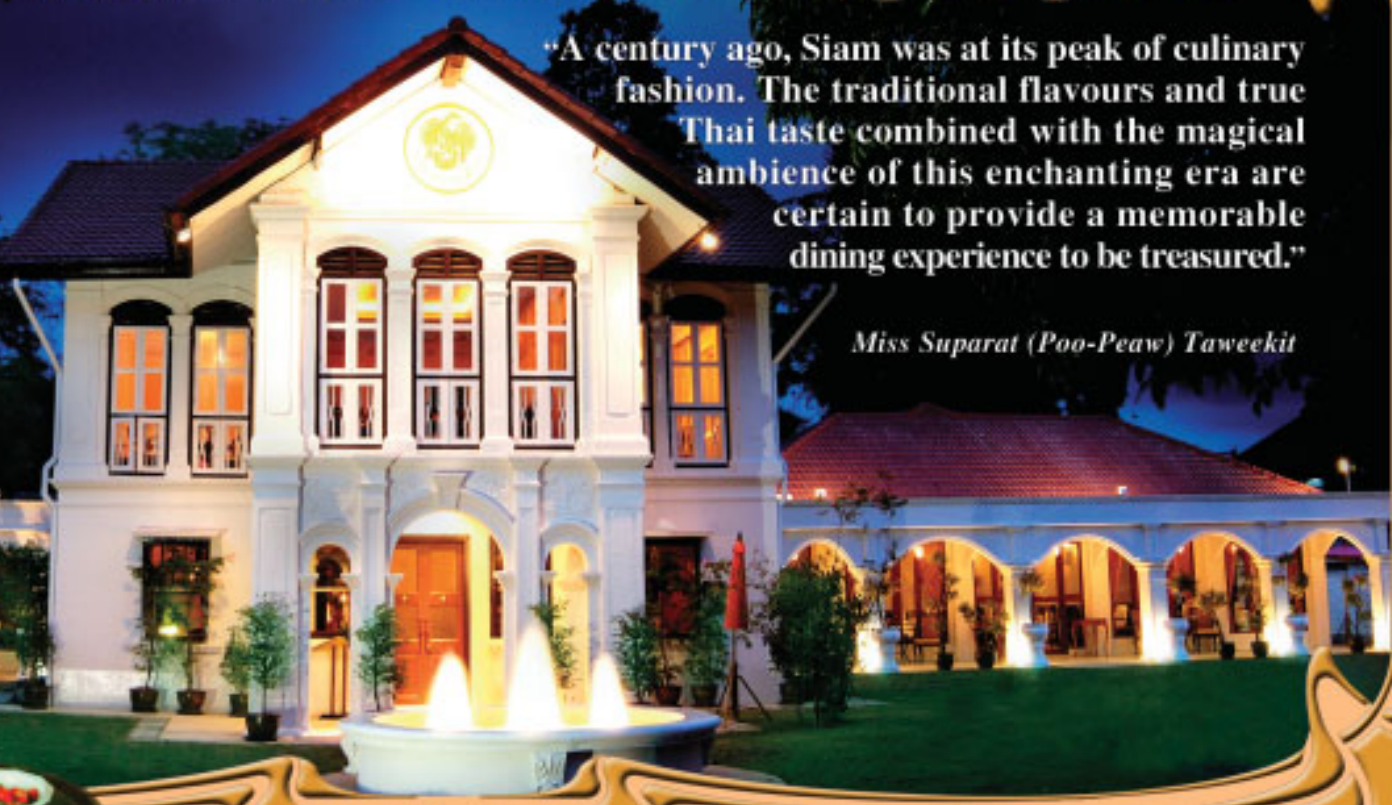
Other examples of nasty behavior of this sort may be emailed to dump@phuketgazette.net




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Southern militants 'number 3,000'

There are as many as 3,000 militants involved in the continuing violence in the Deep South, Police Region 9 Commander Pol Lt Gen Adul Saengsingkeow said.

The militant organization is divided into 500 groups of five or six members each, all spread throughout some 500 villages in Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat.

According to Gen Adul's reports, the unnamed organization is made up of five divisions: the Ulama, Political, Economic, Runda Kampulan Kecil (RKK) and Permuda units.

The Ulama unit's function is to indoctrinate and recruit youngsters. The Political unit conducts psychological warfare and launches propaganda against the government. The Economic unit builds financial support. The RKK, the armed wing of the group, have undertaken training courses, such as the Runda Kampulan Kecil course in Indonesia, in order to launch guerrilla warfare tactics. The Permuda is the youth wing of the group.

Authorities have evidence that at least 549 people, mostly youngsters, are members of the organization. Many have been arrested, while others have died in clashes with government forces over the past few years, Gen Adul said.

Secret survey: Under pressure from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Assumption University [Abac] retracted the results of a survey on the relative popularity of visiting royals just hours after they were released.

Anxious that a popularity poll of the world's monarchs might damage Thailand's reputation, Foreign Ministry Permanent Secretary Krit Ganjana-gunchorn called on Abac to keep the survey results to itself, an informed source said.

Poll director Nopadol Kanika said the agency had retracted the survey's results because he did not want Thailand's international relations affected.

The poll, which listed Bhutan's Crown Prince Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuk on top in the popularity stakes, surveyed what Thais thought of the monarchs who visited recently to celebrate His Majesty the King's Diamond Jubilee.

Freedom bid fails: Former Police Sergeant Somchai Wiset-



Hong Kong Express Airways launches its twice-weekly direct flights from Hong Kong to Chiang Mai. The carrier, owned by Macau casino tycoon Dr Stanley Ho, will also begin direct flights to Phuket in August.

singh, who was found guilty of gunning down British backpacker Adam Lloyd and then "executed" his girlfriend Vanessa Arscott, failed in his bid for freedom at an Appeals Court hearing.

Somchai, several times an "Outstanding Policeman of the Year" in Kanchanaburi, did not make an appearance in court, fueling rumors that he had secretly been freed.

Graham Arscott, the father of Vanessa, who was 23 when she was run over and shot in the face, neck and chest by Somchai, said he was pleased the sentence of life imprisonment had been confirmed by the court.

"The one thing I wanted to see was Somchai in court. To that extent I am disappointed. I will be seeking assurances through lawyers on a regular basis to ensure he is serving his sentence," said Mr Arscott.

Non-random numbers: The Appeals Court upheld guilty verdicts against a mafia-style figure in Nonthaburi Province and his three accomplices for illegal manipulation of a lottery draw in 2001.

Narong Ounphaet (also known as 'Klom Bangkruay') and his accomplices were sentenced to six years in jail for fixing a draw in 2001.

According to evidence, the defendants colluded to fix the lottery by recruiting people to attend

the public draw and influence the results, which are meant to be random.

During the draw, Thongsuk Chanakaree was hired by the gang to spit some liquid on to the ball numbered "1" as he presented himself to examine the balls. Accomplice Kittichat Kulpradit later passed himself off as another spectator chosen randomly to pick the balls. Video clips showed Kittichat staring into the bowl and then picking up the marked ball repeatedly, making the winning first prize number 113311. Thongsuk later became a state witness and testified against the defendants.

Self-help for victims: In a bid to improve the quality of life of patients with serious diseases, the National Health Security Office has launched a new peer-to-peer program to get patients and their relatives to help each other.

The program involves 14 large medical institutions that will form a patients' club in their clinics for people suffering from serious illnesses. These include Siriraj, Ramathibodi and Lersin Hospitals, plus the National Cancer Institute.

"This is a prototype for mak-

ing a center for information exchange and psychological support among patients and their caretakers, to help each other cope with difficulties in the face of serious diseases," said Prof Piyasakol Sakolsatayadorn, Dean of Siriraj Hospital.

stophumantrafficking.com: The Thai government will soon launch an anti-human-trafficking website providing global resource information. The website's contents will include news and information on events and activities gathered from all over the world.

Veerasak Kowsurat, head of the development team, said the site will be open for access by members, offering them public information and taking tip-offs on suspicious activities, he said.

It will be particularly useful for consular and embassy officers, anti-human-trafficking networks worldwide, social workers, police, detectives and lawyers.

Confidentiality will be ensured by encoding victims' identification and allowing only authorized users to gain limited access to classified information, he said.

The project will be forwarded to the Cabinet for approval before the online library is opened by the National Committee on the Suppression of Human Trafficking, he added.

Vocational school killer: The South Bangkok Criminal Court sentenced a man to 33 years in jail for killing a student from a rival school in 2004.

Supakij Insawang, 23, was found guilty of attacking 21-year-old Chaiyaporn Jaroopak on a public bus, stabbing him with a 20.5 centimeter-long knife before throwing him out of the moving bus.

K. Chaiyaporn died of a knife wound to his heart and head injuries caused by the fall. The brutal attack took place in the heart of Bangkok.

Supakij was at the time a student at Rajamangala University of Technology's Uthen Tawai campus, while K. Chaiyaporn was studying at the Pathumwan Institute of Technology. Over the years, students from these two Bangkok schools have frequently engaged in brawls.

Because Supakij provided some useful information during the trial, his original sentence of life imprisonment was commuted to 33 years in jail.

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

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ANDAMAN COASTING

By Franky Gun

The low season blues in Khao Lak continued in June with heavy rainfall and only occasional sunny patches. No wonder the few remaining tourists have vanished.

While hundreds of tsunami aid volunteers were still around during Khao Lak's rainy season last year, keeping local bars, restaurants and supermarkets busy, there are very few of them left nowadays.

Local hospitality businesses have to rely on the remaining Khao Lak residents and the few adventurous scuba divers who find their way to Khao Lak despite the ongoing "Don't go to Khao Lak, it's dangerous up there" misinformation reportedly still being disseminated by Phuket-based – mainly Phuket Airport-based – tour agents.

This is very interesting though, especially as it seems that

the tsunami is already fading into the past in most Thai people's minds.

During a recent trip to Bangkok, I realized that the taxi drivers there didn't immediately start talking about the tsunami after hearing that I live in Khao Lak.

Just reward? A recent issue has made some Khao Lak residents very angry, even though the topic itself is positive for Thailand.

Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura announced on May 9 that his province had won the Arabian Travel Market 2006 (ATM) "New Frontiers Award" for being the tourism destination that recovered fastest from a natural disaster, praising Phuket for its outstanding recovery and positive contribution to tourism development after the tsunami.

To many Khao Lak residents, including myself, the award is a slap in the face for Khao Lak and the Phi Phi Islands, where people were mainly left to their own devices despite being in the



Students in the ACE program can set their own pace.

areas that suffered the severest damage in Thailand.

Phuket, on the other hand – when compared with Phi Phi and Khao Lak – suffered relatively minor damage and was left with most of its infrastructure intact.

It was no miracle that Phuket recovered very quickly.

If anyone deserves an award, it is the people of Phi Phi and Khao Lak who, through sheer determination, fought against "eyes wide shut" officials and managed to get back on their feet after having been almost completely wiped of the map.

It sickened many people in Khao Lak to read about Phuket being praised for something that was just a logical outcome of the circumstances, while the true heroes of the recovery race were left to struggle on by themselves.

Imagine two men who are involved in a road accident. Mr A suffers a broken spine, a cracked skull, a collapsed lung, 12 broken ribs, a punctured eye and multiple fractures in both legs and knees, plus some pretty severe infections causing blood poisoning; Mr B suffers a broken finger.

Who would give an award to Mr B for recovering faster than Mr A? And, more importantly, why?

Out of bounds. The Royal Thai Navy's 18-hole golf course at Tab Lamu has been fully operational since Christmas, about a year after the tsunami.

But just as this golf course was becoming very attractive to golfers from Phuket as an alternative to the crowded island fairways, the management made the fatal decision

They raised the annual membership fee from a very fair 10,000 baht to 25,000 baht – simply too much to make it worthwhile for a Phuket golfer to pay for a Tab Lamu membership on top of his or her Phuket golf club membership fees.

Taking into account skyrocketing gasoline prices and the 80-odd-kilometer drive from Phuket City to Tab Lamu, it appears that the 150% membership price hike destroyed much of the

course's potential to attract Phuket golfers.

Highway horror. A Thai motorcyclist was killed and another heavily badly in a head-on collision opposite the Similan Resort on Petchkasem Rd on June 14.

Witnesses reported that a man riding a motorbike with a sidecar was overtaking when he and an oncoming motorcyclist collided. The motorbike with sidecar skidded off the road and fell into a three-meter deep ditch, where the driver died on impact.

Neither driver was wearing a helmet.

An Ace education. The OEL Learning Center Co Ltd, under the sponsorship of the Baan Obun Foundation that originated in Tak province, recently bought land at Tai Muang, about 22 kilometers south of Khao Lak, to build an international school that will use an American learning system known as Ace (Accelerated Christian Education), allowing students to study at their own pace.

Construction of the school is to start next month.

Using the Ace system, each student has a work station and may learn online and/or use books. Students choose the topics they want to study each day, then the supervising teacher, using quizzes and exams, assesses whether the daily learning goals have been met.

Teachers in the Ace learning system are – in contrast to traditional school class teachers – more like coaches, personal advisers and examiners.

Their goal is to keep the children on track without pressuring them through deadlines, yelling at them or (as is still the case in some local schools) punishing the students physically.

Most of the teachers are professional educators from the Philippines who have been specially trained in using Ace in Singapore. The language to be spoken at new school is English.

The ACE system was initially developed some 30 years ago by Christian missionaries as a way to offer high-quality education to poor children in remote areas. Mixed-age classes are possible, making the school attractive to a wider group.

The school fees are believed to be affordable and students of any race and religion may enroll. The only restriction is for students to behave in a civilized manner and to refrain from smoking, using alcohol or drugs, or indulging in lewd conduct.

As the school is part of a tsunami relief program, part-sponsored by a German foundation, some Thai students will be eligible for grants.

Students who apply for grants will undergo a thorough background check. Those found to have a criminal records, pending lawsuits or a history of violence will be rejected.

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Break time at Club Med

By Kruesit Upatising

Some 120 students got a break from the grueling rigors of the Thai government school system on June 21, taking part in the sixth annual Worldwide Children's Party at Club Med Phuket.

Around the world, some 8,000 children representing 30 nationalities were treated to a day of exciting shows, special games, and arts and crafts projects as part of the festivities.

The event was coordinated from the Club Med headquarters in Paris, with 5,000 *gentils organisateurs* (GOs) in 52 Club Med resorts entertaining the children.

Alessandro Cordogli, the fun-loving Chef de Village (General Manager) of Club Med Phuket, told the *Gazette* that the Phuket resort has staff from 22 different countries, including 175 Thais.

This year's lucky kids were from the Baan Kata School, Baan Kalim School, Wat Suwanna-Kirikaet School in Karon and Kata Kindergarten. Although the day turned out rainy, the events of the

Worldwide Children's Party unfolded smoothly. The children arrived at about 1:30 pm and were first treated to an acrobatics show.

After much applause and cheering, the children proceeded to take part in activities that required them to use their artistic skills.

In one, the children wrote their names with special marker pens on round, white stones and then placed these around the bases of trees in the Club Med grounds. In another, they dipped their hands into buckets of paint, leaving hand prints on a large, white canvas. They then painted their names next to their own colorful hand prints.

"I like the hand-printing activity the most," declared 12-year-old Kanokporn Suangkaew, a student from the Wat Suwanna-Kirikaet School.

At 3 pm, the children engaged in more physically demanding activities: the Flying Trapeze and the Bouncy Bounce. After these, the exhausted children were given snacks and time to recover before photos were taken and goodbyes were said.

The hand printing proved very popular.



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CAPITAL Letter

By Stiffy Rectangle

Unlike most Westerners, Thais do not like to be away from their homeland, especially for long periods of time. They share a charmingly modest patriotism and genuine love for their country.

I don't ever recall hearing Thailand being "slagged off" by its own – that is the job of the cynical *farang* who is never quite happy wherever he finds himself and will always find something to moan about.

At times I have been guilty of this, most recently here in Hangzhou, China, where I am currently residing – which is why it is so refreshingly humbling to find myself on neutral ground with Thai people in a land that is alien to us both.

Three months ago there were a total of 200 Thais here, setting up a huge arena, museum and merchandise shop, all in the name of Asia's most famous superhero – Ultraman.

Ultraman is the generic name for a series of live action Japanese TV shows produced between 1966 and 1998. The Ultraman characters come to Earth to battle with various big bad monsters using superhuman *kung fu*-type combat techniques.

Each ultra-hero had special powers and could grow to over 200 feet tall, useful I suppose if you are scrapping with Godzilla.

Godzilla, incidentally, shares the same special effects creator as Ultraman: Eiji Tsuburaya, who started Tsuburaya Productions, which made the Ultraman series.

Four decades later, Chaiyaporn Productions, based in Bangkok's Rama 9 area, is producing today's Ultraman TV series, now that the Ultraman license has been sold around the world.



Ultraman's Thailand-China-Japan link

With studios in Ayudhya and a touring live show, currently in Hangzhou, China – Ultraman is redefining the old adage that life begins at 40.

Having built the huge arena from shipping containers, the Thai

team is now down to 30, and while the poor guys in red and silver rubber suits fight monsters on stage, I share a break and some pork *look jeen* with a computer technician, Supachai Khongkamkha, known informally as Em, and some of his colleagues, one of whom informs me that the meat balls don't taste as good as they do back home.

So what is it like being a Thai from Bangkok, working in China with characters created in Japan?

Well, of course, they miss Thailand, they and I both. "Bangkok is our life," Em tells me, and I can't help but sympathize with

the guy, whose work with Project Ultraman has taken him to Mongolia, Tibet, Beijing (where we met), Tibet and now Hangzhou, where the company has teamed up with UK-based World Carnival.

This is the world's largest touring funfair, with staff from 27 countries, a few of whom are Thai and are equally homesick.

The reason for this shared homesickness is the simple fact that Thais have a strong connection with family and friends, more so than most of their Western counterparts.

This is no revelation – we all know this – but the question I

pose to you in this column is: Why don't we? I am not saying we who live away from home don't care for or keep in touch on a regular basis with our families and extended families, but the Thai bond seems significantly greater and less detached than ours.

Then there is China or, to be more specific, working with the Chinese. Friendly as they may be, they can seem rude and abrupt to those not used to their culture, and as Em pointed out, they lack the smile that comes so naturally to Thais, the one that has endeared Thailand to all foreigners who have set foot in the aptly nicknamed Land Of Smiles.

Having saved the day, the Ultraman characters prepare to leave the arena and pose for photo shoots with Chinese kids who will go home happy, possibly stopping at the arena gate to urinate through the slit in their dungarees which is commonplace in infant clothing here.

Some of the Thais here in China have had the luxury of going home for a holiday, and no Thai holiday is greater than a reunion with friends and family.

But for Em and the rest of the crew it will be October before he is re-united with his wife, his friends and Chang beer.

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TALES OF A TRAVELER

By Ed Peters

Its image may be as familiar as Easter Island's statues or the Pyramids outside Cairo, but no amount of accessories can prepare you sufficiently for Borobudur, hovering above the fertile plain of Kedu in central Java.

It is at once a Buddhist primer and encyclopedia in stone, a work of art that defies mundane classification, a coffee table book of everyday life a thousand years ago, a detective story with the first and final chapters missing (how was it built and why was it abandoned?) and an Atlantis that was swallowed not by the waves but by the earth and miraculously survived the worst of the recent earthquake.

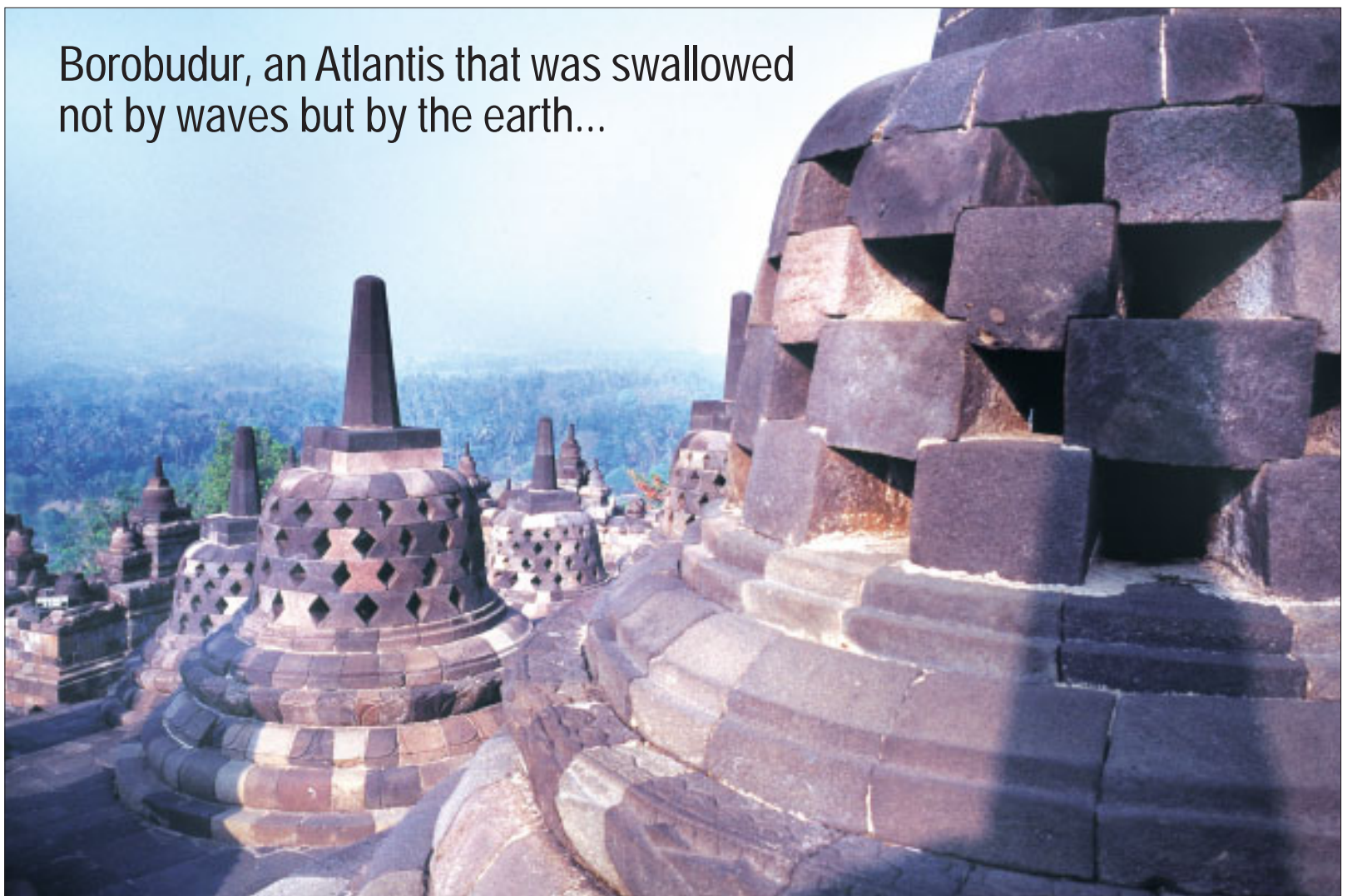
Brought to light by the Victorian pioneer Stamford Raffles, Borobudur has since been restored and nowadays is immediately apparent as a massive symmetrical stupa, wrapped around a natural hill.

NIRVANA

From its 200-meter-square base, six square terraces rise to meet three circular ones, with four staircases leading up through delicate gateways.

Put simply, it's the Buddhist universe carved out plainly for all to see, starting in the everyday world and soaring up to the eternal nothingness known as Nirvana.

Even the most committed agnostic becomes a pilgrim here, walking clockwise around the five kilometers of galleries progressing from the eastern gateway past some 1,500 richly decorated relief panels that embrace both the religious and the secular.



Borobudur, an Atlantis that was swallowed not by waves but by the earth...

The universe in stone

As well as portraying Buddhist doctrines, the sculptors also drew on the scenes around them. Ships, elephants, warriors, dancing girls and musicians are all included. And, in a touch that would have pleased Alfred Hitchcock, more than one of the faces is supposed to belong to the architect Gunadharma.

Along the way, reaching in through the stupas to touch the fingers or foot of the Buddha inside is supposed to endow good luck, while the huge enclosed central stupa which crowns this

acme of temples is symbolically empty, representing the pinnacle of Nirvana.

It's exceptional to find a time when Borobudur is not inundated with crowds of tourists, Pied Piper'd by guides gargling factoids and beset by swarms of hawkers who might with a modicum of imagination be rats.

After a long afternoon's harried exploration, in search of a final few moments of solace, I marched determinedly to the remotest corner of the temple that I could find.

As I settled against a lump of masonry, with the setting sun on the horizon and a mild breeze stirring the remains of a humid day, my view was interrupted by a boy of about 10.

The uncrowned heir of Borobudur and descendant of the Javanese depicted in the frescoes, his angelic grin was accentuated by the layer of grime on his face.

The conversation that ensued was short and to the point.

"Beautiful temple," I enunciated carefully, sweeping my

arm to take in the surrounding statuary and bas-reliefs.

He grimaced as if I had uttered a solecism, then produced a red-and-white can from his pocket with the air of a practiced conjurer.

"Boss drink Coca-Cola?"

It was tepid, exorbitantly priced, and the ring snapped mid-pull.

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Foiling the bliss blockers

Fencing foils are not widely known as instruments of self-revelation, but maybe they have a future in self-awareness.

Question: "Can the art of European foil fencing be useful in psychotherapy and the search for inner peace?"

Answer: "Good fencing should come from relinquishing individual control and allowing the spirit of the universe to flow through you."

The reply is from Phuket's own psychotherapy guru Swami Anand Nito, otherwise styled simply Patrick M Legrain.

"That's the principle of aikido saber fencing."

Aikido, as it happens, means "unified spirit... It's a no-mind thing," says Nito, as he is familiarly called. "The one who thinks is dead."

The remarkably agile, 55-year-old Nito began an informal fencing salon at his spacious Chalong home some months ago, instructing the uninitiated and providing—or provoking—keen competition for veterans. "So you don't see any conflict, then, between fencing, say, and..."

"I don't see any conflict anywhere in the universe," answered Nito, citing the Taoist concept of Yin and Yang: "No two things can be in conflict."

"Common sense is built into allowing spontaneity to control you," he says, replying to an objection that relinquishing self-control mightn't be a practical fighting method.

"Fencing is about Being Here Now, and seeing what your body does," he says, referring to the famous tome by Baba Ram Dass (aka Richard Alpert, the '60s LSD pioneer, and later exponent of Hindu-derived teachings).

"If you're afraid, then you're not in a state of no-mind."

No-mindedness, or absence of preconceived notions—that is, spontaneity—is crucial to Nito's system of Transcendence Therapy.

He may well have a point, too. God knows, Nito's had experience aplenty in capitalizing on spontaneity and, as a result, what a long, strange road he's been down...

"When he gave me the name," says Nito, referring to the

then and still controversial Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, "he said some people try to be virtuous by trying to adhere to society's standards. But Bhagwan said don't focus on that, focus on being blissful, because virtue is a by-product of bliss and nothing else."

The name "Anand Nito" means "Blissful Virtue" in Sanskrit. Nito was doing a six-month course in psycho-spiritual therapy at the Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh International Meditation University in Poona, Maharashtra state, India, at the time, which was early 1981.

He took two more six-month courses from Bhagwan's top therapists, one in London and one at Bury St Edmunds in England, before setting up his own treatment centers in France. "I basically tried to help [workshop participants] get rid of everything that didn't allow their bliss to manifest," he explained, an approach that has not fundamentally changed.

By the time Nito reached Poona, he already had a deal of experience in ridding himself of things that inhibited his blissfulness. Born in Paris into a wealthy Jewish family with roots in Romania, Russia, Austria, Mongolia and elsewhere, he was brought up in Barcelona till aged 17.

"School, and particularly, math classes, have been a powerful factor in Nito's resolve to get free from the Wheel of Becoming, and never come back in a body to second degree equations and logarithms," he wrote

Seeker after adventure, wanderer in deserts, follower of the controversial guru Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, founder of his own meditation center and exponent of the sword as a way to access the spirit of the universe, Patrick Legrain—or Swami Anand Nito as he prefers to be called—has lived anything but a normal life. Dab Komkrib delves into the man and his 'no-mind' metaphysics.

of himself in his 2004 book, *Naked and Empty-Handed*.

"He understood that he was a prisoner of his own conditioning, and that the process of de-conditioning couldn't be carried out by sitting on his butt..." So, aged 19, Nito bought a cheap little Citroën Deux Chevaux car in Paris and set out for Darkest Africa.

"I wanted to put myself in trouble, to escape the safe but mind-numbing circumstances of my life," Nito recalls, "and, par-

have no water in the radiator to drink when there's nothing else." After the Citroën broke down, he sold it to the truck driver and bought a camel. But camels, too, can be problematic.

Nito had followed the river Niger south. "Every night I tied the camel's front legs, so he could hop around and eat but not run away. One day I couldn't undo the knots.

"My first impulse was to get help; but there wasn't any help to be had. No way could I carry the provisions myself on foot. In the end, my fingertips were bleeding but the camel was operational again. Now I know how to tie the knots right."

It was an important lesson in self-reliance for the pampered son of luxury. "My father was a comfort addict," he wrote, "and, as my mother would put it, would go nowhere he could not reach without his chauffeur-driven Cadillac

or fly to first class; and he wouldn't stay anywhere if the toilet was not lined with gold!"

Nito chose a different sort of accommodations. "I lived in a hut near the sea, in the jungle, away from any villages, when I got to Ivory Coast," he says. "I trapped mud-crabs to eat and traded charms to the fishermen for fish.

"The charms worked. The guy I gave them to said, 'No one else caught fish; only I did.'"

The year he lived in his hut, Nito recalls, "was like a socio-cultural striptease. I lived in a loin-cloth and shed the layers around my core."

Further travels and studies led him to visit Australia, Mexico, India, Nepal—where he was ordained a monk under the supervision of the 16th Karmapa, the spiritual head of Tibetan Tantric Buddhism—and Sri Lanka, among other countries, before settling on Koh Pha-ngan in Thailand 22 years ago.

Nito speaks English, Catalan, Italian, Portuguese, Thai, French, Romanian and Spanish fluently, along with some Russian, German and Arabic.

"What attracted me to the Bhagwan was his iconoclastic sense of humor," says Nito.

'Focus on being blissful, because virtue is a by-product of bliss and nothing else'

ticularly, to eat new food!"

Was meditation helpful in that regard? "Once a Bedouin tribe hosted a party in a tent, and I had to eat boiled lamb's eye. I had to savor its texture and consistency—yeah, it helped then.

"Another time my car broke down in the desert. I was picked up by a truck, and all they had to eat was camel's meat, crawling with maggots. It was that or no food," Nito ate it.

"Deux Chevaux are good in the desert because the engine is air-cooled," he says of his chariot.

"The drawback is that you

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'Fencing is about Being Here Now, and seeing what your body does,' says Swami Anand Nito.

"Also, he never told anyone what to do. His only commandment was never to follow any commandment that doesn't come from yourself."

"He said, if God didn't want you to have sex, he wouldn't have made you with sex organs."

At his treatment centers in Europe, Nito began specializing in intensive Friday-to-Sunday workshops, which he calls "pressure cookers", with groups of 25 to 30 attending.

During these, he explains, one's "darkest secrets are blown out." Participants are encouraged "to get out of control," but in a safe environment. "Everything is padded. It's a don't-try-this-at-home kind of thing."

People conditioned as children "not to dangle their feet or put their elbows on the table" will reach "new dimensions in spontaneity. The common belief is that if you don't control yourself, you're out of control. My question is, who controls the controller?"

Real control, he says, lies in the Tao, which is the middle way through Chaos.

"You can't get into the next gear till you let go of first gear – and to do that you have to pass through neutral."

Finding France uncongenial, Nito set up an open-air therapy center above the beach on Koh Pha-ngan. "We opened on December 31. Colonies of monkeys would watch from a safe distance while participants spilled their guts out."

Called the Leela Rajneesh Celebration Meditation Center, it featured a handsome portrait of Bhagwan in the large sala where Nito conducted his workshops.

"We told the Thais we were practising Dhamma – just not the way they do it – and they didn't bother us," said Nito, noting that Koh Pha-ngan then "had only motorbike tracks, four sets of bungalows and no electric power other than generators."

As mind-altering substances were then the area's chief

tourism draw, Nito perhaps raised a few eyebrows by forbidding drug or alcohol use to participants for at least 24 hours before work-

If God didn't want you to have sex, he wouldn't have made you with sex organs.

shops began, and insisting they remain clean throughout the course. "I told them, 'I want to deal with you, not your chemical self.'"

Sessions typically started with about 10 minutes "of loud dance music" as a means of encouraging people to "stop mind-[fornicating] and use their bodies."

Conducting a group session, Nito asks participants to sit in a circle, introduce themselves and explain why "they're there instead of anywhere else."

"That allows me to weed out wrong people – people who say they want to learn psychotherapy techniques, or what it's about."

STRUCTURES

He tells such misguided seekers "they're wasting their time, trying to get intellectual knowledge and not to find themselves – whereas this is an entirely practical and experiential happening. We don't talk about water; we drink!"

The first "structure" or exercise to prompt group interaction often involves individuals standing face to face. "They look at each other. They can hug each other or make faces, but no talking."

Do they often make faces at each other? "Most people are pretty stressed out so, no, they don't make faces."

Action after that usually heats up quickly. "I create situations whereby people press each other's buttons. It's inevitable when you're together three days and three nights; if you have a button it will be pressed. People are invited to show parts of themselves they are not comfortable

with, simply to expand their comfort zones."

A short example from *Naked and Empty-Handed* illustrates a typical incident: A man is upset with his girlfriend, who is bored with him, "and was complaining about her, complaining in a low, dragging and lagging-behind voice. It made me feel drowsy. No wonder his volcanic girlfriend was bored!"

So Nito started mimicking his voice: "Wowowo wowowo booboo! Moomoomoo!" Well, he got the point. Five minutes and a little teasing later, he was allowing his volcanic self out in the open, no longer afraid of confrontation, showing [his girlfriend] what Energy meant!"

Despite the atmosphere of intense pressure and confrontation, "99% of the time they end with hugging and people saying 'thank you for helping me find myself.' The object is catharsis, 'about finding the no-mind,' says Nito, who relates the process to Zen Buddhism.

By 1995, "a rave joint opened just next to Leela," featuring "36-hour rave marathons" with "bass that would pop the contact lenses out of your eyes". So Nito, with his beautiful wife Wassana and their four remarkably acute daughters, moved on to Australia before returning to Thailand and establishing themselves in Phuket two years ago.

Today, the children attend private school, the wife expresses her materialistic urges not in therapy but at Central, and Nito has replaced the sharp exchanges typical of his workshops with the cut and thrust of foil and saber.

Less exciting, maybe, but in the end it may be a safer career – fencing foils are rubber-tipped.

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This week



PERFECT PITCH: Harvard University's female *a cappella* group The Radcliffe Pitches recently performed at the Sheraton Krabi Beach Resort during their 2006 world tour. They regularly visit Thailand, along with Bermuda, Malaysia and Japan.



ROYAL SIGN: HRH Crown Prince Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck of Bhutan (center, in yellow shirt) displays the sign language indication for "I love you" with deaf students from Phuket Special School during his visit to Phuket.



FUN AFLOAT: Some of the 50 children from Bang Rong and Kuku who were taken for a day out at the Phuket Yacht Club enjoy splashing about at Ao Yon. The outing, on June 18, was organized by Deborah Williamson, Nadine Oliver and Pen Forbes.



GLORY DAYS: British Curriculum International School Phuket class of 2006 graduates pose for a photo before heading for different corners of the globe to continue their education. This year's graduates have been accepted by universities and colleges in the UK, Canada, Australia, the US, Singapore, China, Germany and, naturally, Thailand.



TURTLE POWER: (From left) Mai Khao Village Chief Manod Sai-Thong and John Webb, General Manager of the JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa, present a check for 349,000 baht to Kanjana Adulyanukosol of the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) for the PMBC's Rescue Stranded Endangered Species Project. The money was raised through a Mai Khao beach cleanup on June 17.



CLEAN START: Phuket Provincial Administration Organization President Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr (center, in pink jacket) cheers with students at a class on separating trash, held at the Saphan Hin Youth Center on June 20. As part of solving the problems of Phuket's increasing volume of trash and the overloaded Saphan Hin incinerator, recycle banks have been installed 30 schools around Phuket.

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Evidence of crime uncovered

From the Phuket Gazette, issue of July 1996

PHUKET: Phuket Police last month received a report from a British tourist that he was pick-pocketed and robbed of 5,000 baht by a Thai *katoey* (transsexual).

The police then asked the 34-year-old victim, Mr Anthony Witherington, to identify the suspect from an album of police photos. Witherington was able to recognize a Mr/Ms Chaweepong Doodsuway, a 30-year-old *katoey* who resided near Phuket Prison.

So police raided the suspect's residence, arrested the *katoey*, and took him/her down to the police station for questioning.

He/she had to confess to the crime in the end, even though the *katoey* initially denied the charge, as Mr Witherington insisted he could verify the man/woman by his/her features.

There must have been sufficient evidence bared, as he/she was subsequently charged with stealing.

Residents kick up a stink about a stink

From the Phuket Gazette, issue of July, 1996

PHUKET TOWN: A group representing residents of the Phuket National Housing Community told reporters about their complaints over the Phuket Municipal Council's neglect in not collecting garbage for over a week.

This had given rise to an appalling stink and conditions likely to promote disease, they said.

The Housing Community residents could not stand the irresponsibility of the officials supposedly in charge of infrastruc-

ture management, which includes rubbish collection. The housing compound had initially sought co-

operation from the Phuket Municipality to collect garbage from its more than 1,000 units. However, the municipality later faced internal labor shortages, forcing it to stop the service. Some of the residents also blamed their committee members who, they said, had suddenly become invisible during the stinking crisis.

Municipal Councillor Tophon Ausawadamrongdech, who is in charge of Environmental

Health, told reporters that the incident was caused by labor shortages. The office only has 47 garbage collectors left, out of an initial staff of 80. Those who resigned had turned to other, less malodorous types of work.

The residents also complained about the committee's appointments, which they claim they had no say in, and that when the compound faced problems the committee members did nothing. The residents called for the responsible government agency to pay more attention to their problems, saying that they had bought their homes in the National Housing Community since they trusted the agency which administers it.

The Manager of the Phuket Housing Community, Paiboon Haadsompoocha, said the problem occurred because the municipal rubbish collector responsible for the Housing Community resigned. He also noted that the residents' committee had been set up two years ago without any fixed period of service. Since a serious complaint had now been launched, a proper committee was expected to be formed within one or two years.

PHUKET DIARY of coming events

July 9: Phuket Yacht Club 'Get Sailing Day'

The Phuket Yacht Club (PYC) at Ao Yon is holding a second "Get Sailing Day" on July 9.

All ages from eight years to seniors are invited to join, either learning to handle sailboats or going on a leisurely two-hour cruise on a 43-foot yacht.

"Experienced club members will show you how to sail. There will be a barbecue, and soft drinks and beer," Robert Warnes of the PYC explains.

"We have Lasers, Bytes and a 59er for adults to learn on as well as Optimists and Concepts for children. Sail in Asia is allowing us to use their 13-meter Class 1 racing yacht so people can try yachting."

Activities will run from 11 am to 4 pm. It will cost 100 baht per person to join in for a day, or 900 baht to sail on the large yacht.

For more information call Mr Warnes at Tel: 01-5399560 or visit the website at www.phuketyachtclub.info

Until July 9: 3rd Annual Prison Products Exhibition.

Products made by inmates of the 25 prisons in the South will be on sale at Saphan Hin, with

profits being split between prisoners and their instructors.

Phuket Prison will be presenting wood and rattan furniture made by inmates who have studied under skilled professional teachers.

The exhibition will be open from 9 am to 10 pm daily. There will also be 80 food stalls and, after 6 pm, entertainment.

For more information contact Phuket Provincial Prison at Tel: 076-212104.

July 15: Wine tasting at Wine Connection, Chalong.

Welcome the winemaker from Nekeas Winery, Spain, from 7 pm to 10 pm with a Spanish-theme party and wines from Nekeas. A 300-baht entrance fee will get you six wine tastings, finger foods and a live band. It will be an extraordinarily enjoyable evening. For more details call 076-282411.

July 28 to August 28: Free judo course.

Phuket City Municipality is offering a free judo course taught by Prawat Chanasen, who represented Thailand at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens.

For details call Tel: 076-216866 or 076-250163.



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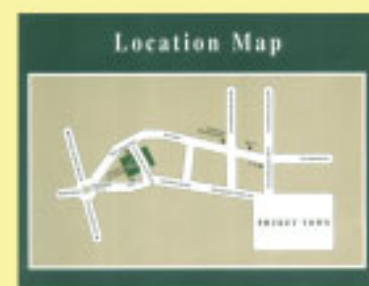
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A plastic-coated grate from Supercheap is one way to keep Sanda (and her mom) from falling down the stairs.

Keeping baby safe

Before becoming a parent, I had never really considered the lyrics to the well-known lullaby:

*Rock a bye baby on the tree top,
When the wind blows the cradle will rock.
When the bough breaks the cradle will fall,
Down will come baby, cradle and all.*

A hunt around the Internet provides a variety of interesting theories about the origins of this disturbing rhyme, which starts out sweetly enough but ends in disaster.

According to an English website, it harks back to a family of charcoal producers living in Derbyshire in the 1700s, who were forced by their chosen trade to live in a treehouse out in the woods.

According to American tradition, however, the rhyme comes from observations of a young pilgrim boy who saw mothers in the Wampanoag tribe of Indians sus-

Gazette Desk Editor **Stephen Fein** recently became a father. With this change in status came new levels in terror as he imagined all the dreadful things that might happen to his darling daughter Sanda. Galvanized by this, he set out on a quest to make things safer for her. Here's the result.

pend a cradle from the branches of a tree, thus enabling the wind to rock the cradle. I like this one because it puts the rhyme's origin in my own place of birth, Plymouth County, Massachusetts.

But other theorists say this is wrong too, that *Rock a bye baby* can actually be traced back to the depredations of a long-forgotten serial killer.

Whatever the truth, *Rock a bye baby* serves as a pretty good hint as to the considerable stress most parents have to endure watching their baby grow up. After all, accidents are the No 1 cause of death among infants and very young children.

There are a myriad ways a baby can come into harm's way; falling from a cradle in a tree is just one of them. There is also

tumbling down a flight of stairs, being stung to death by swarm of angry wasps, getting hit by a meteorite ... the list is limited only by one's imagination.

As if all those weren't enough, there is always the dreaded Sids – Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. Now my dictionary defines "syndrome" as "a set of conditions occurring together and characterizing a specific disease or condition".

Can that be right? Since when is Death "a set of conditions"? It's *one* condition, and a most unpalatable one at that, if you ask me. But we'll have to leave semantics aside for a moment, there is baby protection to attend to.

While Phuket is a great place to raise a child, it's not ex-

Happily Ever After



Thipvaree Koeysiripong and Chokechai Liatchawanasevee were married at the Phuket Merlin Hotel on May 8.

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You needn't raise your child as a gypsy to benefit from silver anklets with bells. At about 400 baht a pair, they let you know when your baby is on the move.

actly the safest place – just look at the brisk sales of those little wicker motorbike seats that sell for about 250 baht.

The Honda Wave is classified by its manufacturer as a “family” motorcycle, and here in Thailand that means the dog goes in the front basket, baby in the wicker seat and mom and any other children pile up pillion behind dad, who talks on his mobile while steering and changing gears.

You won't catch my family doing that. The truth is, I have always been a rather cautious type – and where my nine-month-old daughter Sanda is concerned, I try to minimize risk wherever and whenever possible.

Now that she is a fast, enthusiastic crawler, I set out re-

cently to find one of those baby gates to keep her from falling down the steep staircase of our townhouse. A search of several large department stores turned up nothing, but finally I located two shops that do carry them.

Baby Care, on Chao Fa East Rd near the entrance to Phuket Villa 3, carries the US-made Super-gate 3, which can fit doorways anywhere from 66 to 106 centimeters wide. Made of heavy-duty plastic, the bonus of this product is that it can be set up without drilling any holes into the door jamb. The downside is the price: 2,900 baht.

Baby Care, established 20 years ago, also carries other baby safety products, such as Pureen wall-socket plugs at 32 baht for a pack of eight. Proprietor Kitti Koysupin also showed me his line of car baby sets and cribs, including the top-of-the-line wooden bassinets at 9,800 baht, made by Kitso in Bangkok.

Fortunately, using the *Gazette* classifieds I had earlier been able to get a huge crib, a nice baby chair, a car seat, a spring cradle and a stack of baby toys – all for 3,000 baht from a couple who were moving to England with their two-year-old. Pre-drooled-upon, yes – but bought new, that lot would have totaled well over



At 1 year, 2 months old, Suwala 'Geo' Chantharamarapas no longer needs this 2,300-baht plastic walker, but was happy to demonstrate its proper use at Nong May Baby Center.

20,000 baht – out of my price range.

Nong May Baby Center, located on Phuket Rd right across

from Lan Nawamin Park, was my next stop. Here they carry American-made “Easy Fit” security gates for 2,100 baht.

Although heartened to learn

that my native country still manufactures something for export other than military hardware, I still found the price-tag too high.

But I did pick up a useful item there: plastic fittings that slip over a standard-thickness door and prevent it from slamming shut onto little fingers: two for 75 baht.

In the end, my quest for a baby gate ended where so many shopping expeditions of the chronically *kee nieow* do: at **Supercheap** on Thepkasattri Rd.

If I were Supercheap's advertising manager I would initiate a radio ad campaign using a song whose lyrics are a little less cryptic than those of *Rock a bye baby*. That song is straightforward funk classic *Superfreak* by Rick James, the lyrics of which I would change to: *It's Supercheap... Supercheap... it's Supercheapppppppyyy*.

But back to the point. Supercheap sells what can only be described as plastic-coated wire grates. These come in a wide variety of sizes, with prices ranging from about 50 to 200 baht. I hate drilling holes into the walls of my rented home. But I'll do it for my daughter's sake.

Nong May Baby Center, Tel: 076-215989; Baby Care, Tel 076-244002.

Recent weddings in Phuket



Grace Moran from the Philippines and Laurence Billington from England, who both live and work in Hong Kong, were married at The Mangosteen Resort and Spa on June 3.

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On the menu



WITH
Andy Johnstone
BCCC

We golfers are a funny breed. We talk about our handicaps (mine is a natural immaturity) and the memorable birdies – including eagles and albatrosses – and bogies, bananas and bent grass, as naturally as we breathe, with scant regard as to whether anyone else knows what the blazes we are whittering on about.

However, the game is not just about how one swings, strokes, chokes, chops, dubs and flubs or even how one employs a ball washer, but far, far more.

Conviviality and camaraderie both on the fairway and off it are of enormous importance to the game, as are post-play drinks and a bite to eat at the 19th hole.

The multi award-winning Blue Canyon Country Club (BCCC) has two venues for the epicurean delight of golfers and non-golfers.

The Canyon Restaurant, serving seriously splendid fusion cuisine, will feature in this column another day; this week we're off – undertaking a gentle and sedate drive north – to The Golfers' Terrace for lunch.

The Terrace is open for breakfast (I suggest putting Texas Scramble eggs on the menu, only for eyes to be rolled heavenward and silence to descend). Lunch



Food to the fore at a sweet spot

Clockwise, from left:
Chicken Sesame Goujons, Goong Thod, Grob Prieu Waahn, Toong Tong and Yam Makhua Yaw Goong, Sod Kub Moo Sub.



and dinner, as well as drinks, are also served, and the venue exudes an altogether more casual atmosphere than the elegant Canyon Restaurant.

It is open-air and has what can only be described as commanding views of the demanding Canyon Course. Even today, with a milky sun barely breaking through the clouds, the verdancy of the panorama is matched only by the greenness of this golfer.

The menu on offer at The Golfers' Terrace – and I cannot fail to note and be impressed by the correct placing of the possessive apostrophe there – offers a choice of favorites.

Our dedicated hosts, Rein van Zandvoort, BCCC's Assistant Director of F&B, and Lin Tan, BCCC's PR whiz, give us free run of the menu and we need little encouragement to take full advantage of this.

Eating family-style, we begin with a delightful plate of *toong tong* (230 baht) – golden bags of minced and spiced sea-fresh prawns, deep fried and served on a bed of red cabbage with a plum sauce.

Heads turn as I put my mouth to the edge of the table and request that one of my dining companions – Lady Penelope, recently back from a working tour of the world's troubled regions – pick up a club, stand on the table and putt one of them into my mouth.

Although this would be almost as much fun as body surfing along a table in the Regimental Mess, everyone else eats their food in a more conventional manner; I feel that they are looking at me askance and with moderate embarrassment.

However eaten, the *toong tong* have a taste and texture – a slight crunch through the wafer-thin pastry before the plump prawns within – that can be savored.

The attentive staff glide silently to our table as we, perched precariously on high stools after a glass or two of wine, next tuck into simply divine chicken sesame *goujons* served with *aïoli* sauce. Now, haute cuisine chicken *goujons* may not be, but the ad-

dition of sesame to the strips of succulent breast and the gorgeously garlicky sauce – pronounced “eye-oli”, as if you didn't know – elevate them from the merely satisfactory to a delish dish.

And, at 230 baht for a generous serving, Rein has most definitely got his sums right.

Serious golfers (unlike me; I just happen to quite like the clothes, particularly the shoes) drift past. One, I fancy, looks not unlike Ted Ray, winner of the 1912 British Open, who captained the Brit team in the 1927 Ryder Cup.

The mustachioed Ray was famed for his skill in the rough with a niblick, his portliness and the pipe invariably clamped firmly between his teeth. The lookalike – I don't catch her name – is sans pipe and carries a 7-iron. I daren't ask how she is in the rough.

We take our time over the next stellar dish: grilled chicken breast wrapped in bacon served with a roasted red-pepper sauce and exceptionally good mashed potato. I am glad to see others joining my seditious campaign for proper, that is, quite solid mash, not the gloop served in certain quarters.

Gracefully colored, the sweet, almost nutty sauce works

wonders with the saltiness of the bacon. Again, the price – 250 baht – is spot on and belies the quality of the ingredients and the care lavished upon them.

We are blown away by the next item, *yam makhua yaw goong sod kub moo sub*, a spicy salad of aubergine, prawns and minced pork, which again is not a complicated dish, but fabulously tasty and well-presented.

In fact, all of the dishes at The Golfers' Terrace are similar in this respect; they are comfort foods, easy on the eye, easy on the palate and easy on the wallet.

We round off with coffee – double espressos – and a selection of the fab chocs BCCC offers. I want to ask if I can have a donut, simply so I can say, “At last, I have a hole in one” but I think better of it.

One does not have to be a golfer to enjoy a meal at The Golfers' Terrace, merely a lover of unpretentious yet delicious food, delightful views and warm hospitality.

It suits us down to a – groan – tee.

The Golfers' Terrace at Blue Canyon Country Club. Tel: 076-328088 or visit www.bluecanyonclub.com

Recently I was suffering from depression. Although I'm about to make light of it, this was not a comic depression, but three weeks of low self-esteem, constant listlessness, violent mood swings and a general feeling that everything was rubbish.

It showed no sign of ending – a bit like one of those TV soap operas.

I was at a loss as to what was wrong with me. Could it be Mid-Island Crisis – to do with the realization that you're no longer living in a proper country with real people who really don't care about your private life or what car you are driving?

No, it wasn't that. Was it Mid-Lunch Crisis? That moment in life when someone else is buying you lunch at an expensive restaurant, you're perfectly happy, and just when you're getting giggly on your second Chardonnay, you look at your watch, realize it's school pick-up time, and all illusions of being single again vanish, totally putting you off your food?

Or maybe it was Seasonal Affective Disorder, brought on by the endless sunshine? Well, I believe in the concept, but in practice there is no such thing as bad weather (for me the sun means bad), just inappropriate clothing.

Do I have status anxiety? Four years ago, I was fronting a successful business with a great turnover, and then I sold the company.

Semi-retirement at 37 is unusual, but the upsides are manifold. I can now watch *The Sopranos* on satellite whenever I want, have coffee with friends in the morning, fit my other work in between, and still have time to be a mum.

Maybe it was a sense of impending middle age. I've just bought a Prada twin-set that would look good on my granny,

BLAME IT ON THE SUNSHINE

and I have also developed an interest in gardening.

No, it was none of the above. There was a clue to my malaise, though. My son spotted it after I came home from the office. The highlight of my work is when I unpack next season's French Connection fashion collections from the boxes and hang them in my showroom.

One of the advantages of working in fashion is that you get to see next year's trends a year before anyone else. The

samples usually come in a model size 10, and if you are lucky, you get to try them on and keep the pick of the crop at the end of your sales meetings.

That is where it all started, I believe. "You're in a bad mood because you couldn't fit into the

Photo: EPA/Georgios Kefalas.



Uh oh. Will I ever be a Size 10 again?

samples, right?" my son said, flashing me an ironic little grin. "Mum, face it. You will never be a 'small' again."

He was right. I was suffer-

ing from Mid-Size Crisis. I was powerless over a metabolism that used to consume anything and everything, and never put on an ounce of weight. Instead of ac-

cepting this, I was letting it get me down.

My mood swings, underlying grief and sense of desperation all stemmed from the fact that I was no longer able to fit into that size-10 crochet pencil skirt.

There I was, always taking my body for granted, constantly slagging people off for going on stupid diets and messing up their metabolism, and now it has finally happened to me.

The scales read the same, but I had obviously spread somewhere.

I have now taken steps to ease the problem by rejoining a yoga class, where the atmosphere is too calm for me to walk around sulking. I have also hidden my Champagne truffles and put the Bolly at the back of the fridge.

Last week a wolf whistle from a building site beside my place of work put me back on Cloud 9 – depression banished, and a middle-aged woman's delusions of body beautiful neatly restored. Who needs Prozac?

Ambrosia Sakkadas, a London-born Greek Cypriot, is a graduate of Central St Martins College of Art & Design in London. She works as an artist, designer and newspaper columnist. Ambrosia@phuketgazette.net



Last week a wolf whistle from a building site beside my place of work put me back on Cloud 9 – depression banished...

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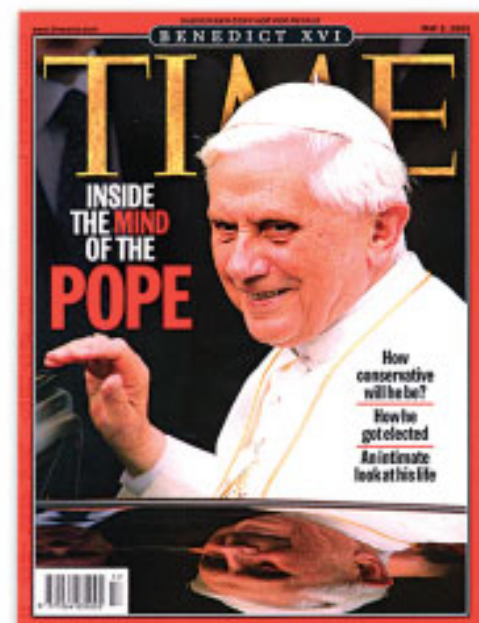
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in Chinese, too!



The Cryptic Crossword

Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid below are the names of at least 25 goal keepers playing in 2006 World Cup. The names may read vertically, horizontally or diagonally. They may also read right-to-left or down-to-up. Score: 15 or more, good; 20 or more, very good; 25 or more, excellent.

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

Solution on next page

su|do|ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

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.

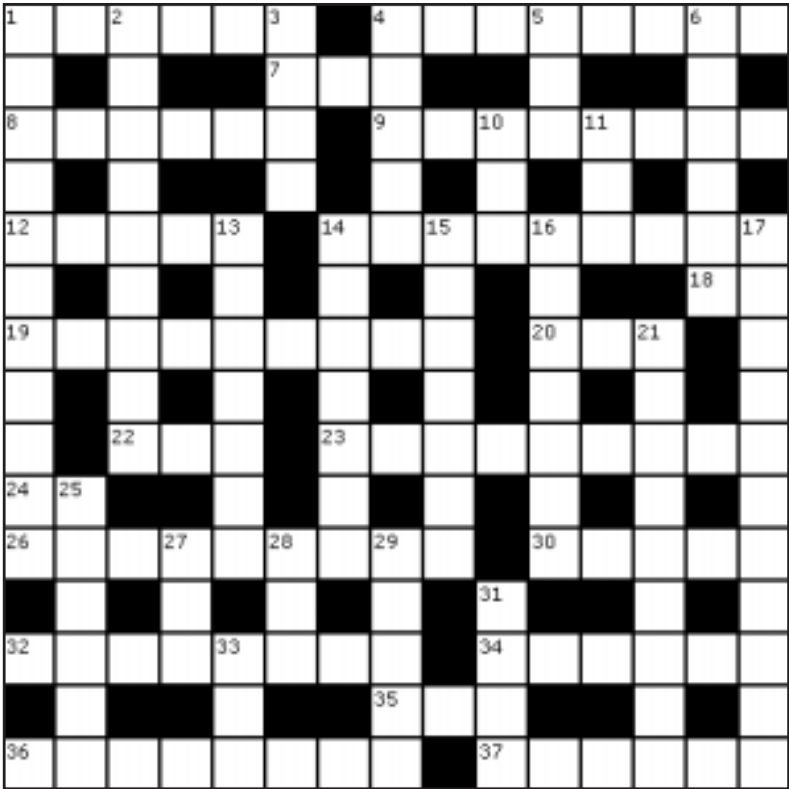
ACROSS

- With up, pays hacks. (6)
- USSR ripe for strange wonder. (8)
- A 50-to-one boxer. (3)
- Expose – a thousand ask after world body. (6)
- Away from the center, not in hospital rooms. (8)
- Number and French doctrine. (5)
- Disentangle from tangle of exit trace. (9)
- First of 17 has measure of feelings. (1,1)
- Think or mirror. (9)
- Get an officer. (3)
- Card game in toilet? (3)
- Accepts a texture and sleeps. (5,1,3)
- Belonging to no note. (2)
- Flimsily oddly lousy tune. (9)
- Take back lane, to the right, in area of kidneys. (5)
- Effect a split in arctic vision, it's said. (8)
- Ambiguous fluid. (6)
- Goop for hair and back limb. (3)
- Phuket, perhaps, is in parade. (8)
- Allowed van in eastern Mediterranean. (6)

EZ TRIVIA

- What is the lowest layer of the Earth's atmosphere called?
- What does FIFA stand for?
- On which tectonic plate is Thailand located?
- Who wrote *The Art of War*?
- What is the largest organ in the human body?
- In physics, what does the symbol "T" stand for?
- In what year did humans first land on the Moon?
- What colors are on the national flag of Laos?
- To which political party did Saddam Hussein belong?
- What is the longest side of a right-angle triangle called?

Answers on next page



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2006

Down

- Anti-stratagem stratagem for kitchen surface on land. (11)
- Inattentive, confuses nun with dim flu. (9)
- Drink benefit. (4)
- Tribe to take to court? (5)
- Father's foot. (3)
- Said "Ate slow." (3)
- Sailor's pipe residue. (3)
- Starting letters. (1,1,1)
- Lot more bad vibrato. (7)
- Point to, say, land. (7)
- Subvert crucial jailer. (7)
- Con Iris out of tooth. (7)
- Furnish no fifty – loaned equivalent. (11)
- Prominence Al returns to writer in south Uruguay initially. (9)
- Gave food to - or a hat! (6)
- Us with a country. (1,1,1)
- Gun is leaky, we hear. (3)
- French city's lord. (5)
- See 33dn.
- 33 & 31. Commie optimist makes drink. (3,4)

Solution on next page

Scribble Space



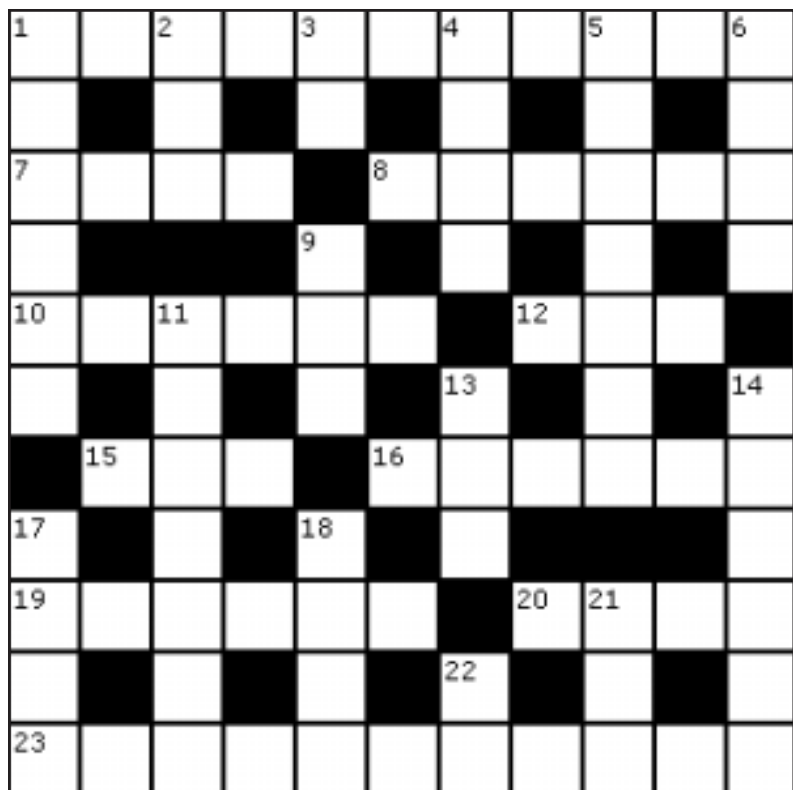
Brain Buster!!

In the following code, each symbol stands for two possible letters:

- + stands for I or A
- * stands for B or W
- = stands for C or T
- & stands for E or K
- ? stands for L or H

The five-letter code word * ? + = & can be translated into two English words, and each one means the opposite of the other. What are the two words?

Answer on next page

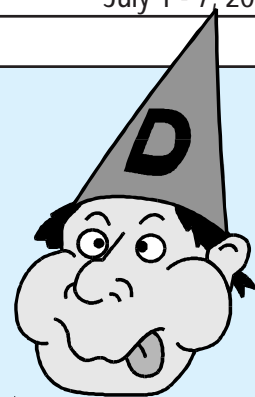


Quick Crossword

- ACROSS**
- Right now!
 - Small mountain.
 - Capital of Cuba.
 - Capital of the UK.
 - Pimple.
 - Digital picture format.
 - Gentle wind.
 - ***** and Hardy.
 - Informal talk.
 - Person who came before.
- DOWN**
- Breathe in.
 - *** Gibson, movie star.
 - Perform.
 - Partly open.
 - Look at closely.
 - 262,800 minutes.
 - Employment.
 - Roman god of the sea.
 - Sphere.
 - Joker.
 - Hit open-handed.
 - In this place.
 - Possesses.
 - You and I

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.

- The Bo Derek, the Rachel and the Dido Flip are exemplars of what?
- God is a DJ*, *Salva Mea* and *We Come 1* are hit singles by which band?
- Which organization was officially dissolved on July 1, 1991?
- Who was the first Englishwoman to marry the heir to the British throne since 1659?
- Which actress, famous for roles in *Armageddon*, and *Stealing Beauty*, was born July 1, 1977?
- Which painting was recently sold for US\$135 million, the highest price yet paid for a painting?
- The Battle of Chaldiran, in 1514, was contested by which two armies?
- Out of State Plates* is the most recent album by which US indie-rock band?
- Where was actor Yul Brynner, famous for roles in *The Magnificent Seven* and *Westworld*, born?
- Where would one find Bigwin Island?
- Who is the current US Attorney General?
- Who was the first woman to hold the post, and in which year was she appointed?
- The acronym NASDAQ – of the US electronic stock exchange – stands for what?
- In which year was it founded?
- Who wrote the novel *For Esmé with Love and Squalor*?
- The “fretful porpentine” is referred to in which play by Shakespeare?
- Which Canadian actor released albums entitled *The Transformed Man* and *Has Been*?
- The initial in the name of this actor's most famous role stands for what?
- The Voodoo Lady appears in which series of graphical point-and-click computer games?
- Where is the sculpture *Walking Madonna*, by Elisabeth Frink, to be found?

Answers below, left

Puzzle Solutions

Monster Quiz Answers

- Hairstyles; 2. Faithless; 3. The Warsaw Pact; 4. Lady Diana Frances Spencer; 5. Liv Tyler; 6. *Portrait of Adel Bloch-Bauer* by Gustav Klimt; 7. The Ottoman Empire and the Safavid Dynasty of Iran; 8. Fountains of Wayne; 9. Vladivostok; 10. In the Lake of Bays, Ontario, Canada; 11. Alberto Gonzales; 12. Janet Reno in 1993; 13. National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotations; 14. 1971; 15. JD Salinger; 16. Hamlet; 17. William Shatner; 18. Tiberius; 19. Monkey Island; 20. Salisbury Cathedral.

EZ Trivia Answers

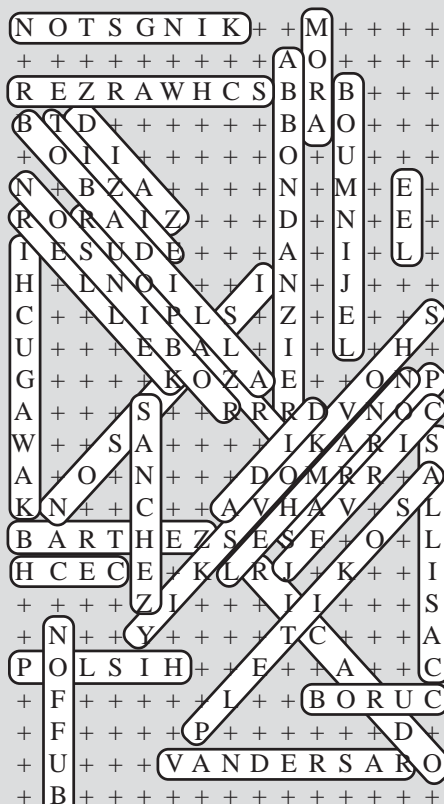
- Troposphere; 2. Fédération Internationale de Football Association; 3. Eurasian Plate; 4. Sun Tzu; 5. The skin; 6. Electrical current; 7. 1969; 8. Red, white and blue; 9. Iraqi Ba'ath Party; 10. The hypotenuse.

Brain Buster Answer

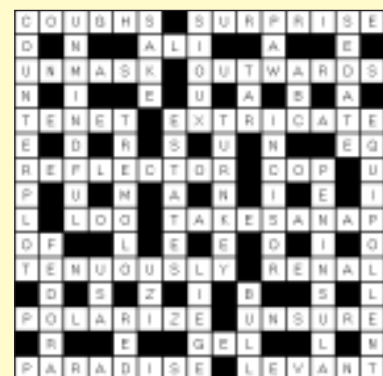
The two words are “black” and “white”.

Due to a printer's error in the issue of June 17, the solution to the cryptic crossword was printed in place of the grid. We apologise to readers who were disappointed.

Hidden Words SOLUTION



Solution to this week's Cryptic Crossword



Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle



Flatulating fun: Tour Agent: "This one good. 2000 baht (RM200) a night and comes with big fart."

Kenny: "Comes with what?"

Tour Agent: "Brick fart."

Kenny: "Oh you mean breakfast?"

Tour Agent: "Ya ya! Buffet brick fart!" (1)

More flatulating fun: Farting Iron Woman #1, Ruka Ichinomiya, sounds quite accomplished:

She is very beautiful Japanese girl, so nice. But her farts is very big sounds and very bad smell. her fartings amaze most of all persons. It's great. Perhaps she can be winner in farting contest.

Only if the farting contest excluded a car-load of fat middle-aged *farangs* returning from Pattaya after a heavy week-end of beer and junk food. Ruka Ichinomiya couldn't hold a candle to that level of flatulence - unless she's prepared to risk losing her eyebrows. (2)

Brooming 'ell!: Went to breakfast fairly early this morning down the street from the hotel towards Bangla. There was some crazed farang across the street beating the hell out of a parking barrier with a broom while madly yelling obscenities. He tried to come in the restaurant where we were eating but they ran him off. (3)

Twitching tuk-tuk terror: "Our driver was an absolute maniac switching between falling asleep one minute to resembling an ADD child. He was chugging down Red Bull, sniffing menthol, reading, massaging, talking on the phone, picking and twitching. He seemed like a speed addict coming down.

He stopped to buy a garland of flowers to hang from his rear view mirror as an offering to Buddha. He said a short

Gone with the wind

OUTSIDE IN

By Lis Kinswoman

Hello readers. You'll all be pleased to hear that Lis is a lot better now. This week we have more terrifying traffic, God-fearing massage and - perhaps because Lis's mind is still on her bowels - a fair level of flatulence.

prayer but we felt no more confident in our safety." (4)

Barefoot and fancy-free: "When i first went to this club [The Blue Club], its very dark inside because they have a blue light, i wasn't with my sandals, and been advice by a waitress to be careful for a peaces of glass, that is very nice of her.

I like this club and i just dancing all over places, and after awhile, i realised that i am the only person who are dancing at the place which i was standing, but i dont care, i like parties.

just dancin and get myself dizzy.. hehehe... i like this live band club cause they place house music and full of crowd." (5)

Massage from on high: So I asked the tuk-tuk driver, "Take me to the biggest and most popular massage place in Phuket." and he said "You want massage? I bring you go 'Christian Massage'."

Christian Massage? What kinda massage centre has a name called "Chris-

tian Massage"? Must be some kinda sick religious freaks they have in Thailand.

I'm imagining them reciting passages from The Bible while massaging my feet. "Cast ye away every man muscle aches, back pain and sore feet. Improve ye blood circulation!" (6)

1. <http://www.kennysia.com/archives/2006/04/phuket.php>
2. <http://www.mangosauce.com/internet/fartings.php>
3. <http://www.phuket-info.com/forums/board-members-tour/13827-1st-night-phuket-story-too-bizarre-make-up.html>
4. <http://realtravel.com/phuket-journals-j1304071.html>
5. http://www.virtualtourist.com/travel/Asia/Thailand/Southern_Thailand/Phuket-1444813/Nightlife-Phuket-Clubs_bars_go_go-BR-4
6. http://www.kennysia.com/archives/2006/04/sex_sleaze_and.php

In four illustrated books by Kay Thompson, Eloise was a six-year-old sprite who lived with her English nanny in New York's Plaza Hotel during the 1950s.

The main character of Gwendolyn Chabrier's novel *An Asian Destiny* (Orchid Press, Hong Kong, 2006, 268pp) is also a six-year-old girl living in New York in the 1950s.

Precocious, smart, outspoken, stubborn, her name is Sabrina and she has no friends except for her stuffed toys.

Her nanny is a faceless French woman named Mademoiselle who alternates platitudes with long historical disquisitions. Her mother is calculating and vain, her divorced father a drunk, her step-brother a monster.

Sabrina's mother marries an English marquis for his title. David or "Didi" does no work, but is nice to Sabrina. A nephew of Lord Louis Mountbatten, Didi had grown up in Burma. His brother lives there still, married to a Burmese.

Didi, Sabrina and Mademoiselle are soon off on a trip to Asia: Bangkok, Rangoon, Mandalay, Calcutta. This travelog is the most interesting part of the book, with appearances made by Jim Thompson and Aung San Suu Kyi.

The author has a excellent eye for description: the Oriental Hotel, the Shwedagon temple, the palaces of Mandalay are all rendered with loving care.



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

Unfortunately, she's also got a tin ear for dialog. People talk archly in long stilted paragraphs of exposition. An accomplished academic, the author also throws in huge chunks of Faulkner, Kipling, Maugham and Mark Twain. Footnotes, too.

What's missing are living, breathing characters who talk like real people.

Take this scene, for example. Didi restarts a romance with a Burmese woman and when Sabrina's mother arrives in Rangoon, she throws a cocktail glass at him.

"Alexandra, you're mad! You could have killed me with that glass. You have to stop drinking. You know you can't hold your alcohol."

"It's not that I've had too much to drink that I threw the glass at you, David. It's to show you what I think of you. You're a bastard! Not only are you cheating on me, but you've also set my daughter against me. We're going to break up, that way you'll

ELOISE IN ASIA

never see her again. Anyway, I'm not happy with you. I'm bored stiff when we're together."

After 150 pages, Sabrina is back in New York and it's all downhill from there.

Her life is rapidly summed up through school and into adulthood and a loveless marriage to a Frenchman named Didier Charpentier.

Again, this is exposition, not narration. The facts are tossed out with no attempt at dramatization. The Frenchman works for the CIA and is trapped in Phnom Penh when the Khmer Rouge march in.

He phones his wife:

"Sabrina, I went too far. I got caught in the game. I became a slave of espionage - to the romance, the danger, the adventure, all that was antithetical to my bourgeois roots from which I had always suffocated.

"My family was no longer a priority. Now I may have sacrificed all of us..."

"Didier, I'm so worried for you, for all of us. I'm frozen with fear. I can only ask your forgive-

ness that I was unable to love you or the children in the way you deserved."

The book ends with two more big chunks of exposition as Sabrina returns to Asia, one from Mademoiselle about modern Cambodian history and the evils of the Khmer Rouge, another from Didi's nephew, a monk in Burma, who gives another long lecture about the evils of SLORC [the State Law and Order Restoration Council].

Now, if you know nothing about Cambodia or Burma, these discourses may be fascinating. But if you do, it's just a lot of old news.

What we don't have here is a novel.

There's an interesting travelog about Asia in the 1950s - temple ceremonies, Hindu festivals, Buddhist ordination - told through the point of view of a six-year-old child, but the rest is devoid of the essentials of a novel: fully-fleshed characters, interesting plot, realistic dialog.

A little humor wouldn't hurt either.

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Another net of red tape

Few people would argue that regulation of commercial activities is unnecessary. A complete free-for-all in business would result in success only for the most cynical and brutal operators. There are, however, valid arguments about whether existing regulations are too much or too little.

Three years ago, the then-Governor of Phuket pushed for tougher regulations for work permits, partly on the grounds that the island was playing host to "...bad foreigners who engage in occupations that are unnecessary in Phuket."

Little attempt was made, it seemed, to identify and catch these "bad foreigners". Instead, life was simply made more difficult for all foreigners who wanted to work in Phuket. The resulting system, since dismantled, was such that it took up to four months for a work permit to be issued.

More recently, the Ministry of Interior issued an order to Land Department officials instructing them to put under the microscope all land transfers to or from companies in which foreigners hold shares. The reason for this, supposedly, was that some foreigners were using Thai nominees as shareholders in order to gain control of land.

Once again, there seems to have been no serious attempt to identify and prosecute those who are committing the offense. Instead, a net is being thrown over the entire property industry, the honest forced to suffer along with the dishonest.

During the past few weeks, the possibility has arisen of yet another crackdown, this time the net of red tape to be thrown over the recreational diving industry. This latest initiative stems from a perception that some dive companies are not paying their taxes in full, or are evading them altogether. Again, there seems to have been little effort made to identify the villains.

The financial figures used to justify this latest crackdown, however, appear to have been distorted.

Authorities estimate the Phuket dive industry has a turnover of 3 billion baht a year. Given that the average visitor who dives in Phuket pays between 3,000 and 5,000 baht a day for the privilege, this means that the island plays host to some 2,000 divers a day, every day of the year.

This is nowhere close to reality. Yet, because of this skewed perception, legitimate businesses that follow the rules and pay their taxes are threatened with being strangled in red tape.

The authorities should spend more time identifying those who do break the laws of Thailand – and the rogue officials who help them – and less time harassing legitimate businesses.

– The Editor



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.

TV times

Just wanted to let you know how much I enjoy your new PGTV on the website from here in Korea. It's like being home again when I watch it. Anchorwoman Able Wanamakok does a superb job, too. Keep up the great work.

Tim Lawson
Counselor for Information
Management Affairs
American Embassy, Seoul.

Street gangs between Kamala...

At the beginning of May my wife reported to the police an incident that happened in broad daylight on the road between Kamala and Kalim.

At around 1 pm she was driving towards Patong when a young man pulled alongside and grabbed her. Luckily, oncoming traffic forced him to speed off.

She immediately called the police and was connected to Phuket City Police Station, which referred her to [police in] Patong. Patong then referred her to [police in] Kamala.

When immediate help is needed, surely having to make three phone calls before you talk to the right police station will slow down the arrival of help considerably.

During her telephone conversation, she urged the officer to increase patrols on this particular stretch of road. We have still not noticed any increased police presence there.

There are two police booths between Kamala and Patong, but neither is manned.

As I write this, it is the middle of June, one-and-a-half months after my wife's report. It

had to come to serious attacks before the problem was taken seriously.

The street lights along this road are also often not working. It would be great if the authorities concerned could make sure that the lights are working every night and that police patrols are a frequent occurrence.

Even better would be to have the police booths operating again, ensuring the safety of our wives and daughters.

Name & address withheld

... and Patong a cause for concern

Thank you for your front page article on the Patong-Kamala bike gang (*Gazette*, issue of June 17). It is of course not a new issue; this stretch of road has been notorious for many years.

The two cases you mentioned are just the tip of the iceberg. Unfortunately the gang's methods are getting more aggressive. Now they are using rocks and even guns.

One of the regular hangouts of the bike gang is on the upper, unlit stretch of the old Kamala-Patong road. They also trespass with impunity on private properties along this road.

I have, within the last 12 months, counted over 20 break-ins, attempted break-ins and instances of trespass on my property alone. Many of the neighboring houses have also been hit.

I have lost four tenants who moved out after being burgled. The biker gang members would, in broad daylight, drive up and scan the comings and goings at my house.

The gang members are known to the local community and it is also known where they live

and where they assemble. As long as the local community is afraid to speak up and unwilling to get together to address this long-simmering issue, then the gang will continue to terrorize the neighborhood.

Your article quoted Col Teerapol from Kathu Police station saying that he has assigned officers to hunt down the gang members.

In the same issue of the *Gazette* we read that their police colleagues in Rawai are giving out a hotline number to call in case of burglaries. Good for Rawai.

The absence of any statements of affirmative action by the local Kamala Police Station is telling.

Fed Up
Kamala

Wails harpooned on Phuket Island

I wrote a letter on June 3 about unnecessary use of sirens by rescue vehicles and emailed it to you, with copies sent to Bangkok Hospital Phuket, Patong, Phuket International and Vachira Phuket Hospitals.

You published it on June 9 under the title "Stop the midnight wailing". Since then the midnight wailing has indeed stopped, and we have not been disturbed at night by sirens.

I am still disturbed by packs of uncontrolled local dogs, however. But that is another matter.

I very much thank the concerned drivers and their employers for their consideration and public-spiritedness and the *Phuket Gazette* for so effectively bringing the matter to the public notice.

W Brown
Patong

The Phuket Gazette

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

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

Teenager's terrifying tale points to dire trend

Nong Poo is a lovely girl. She is barely 15 years old and has bright, clever eyes. She wears her jeans low on her hips, like all teenagers do these days. And she dreams of becoming a writer – a writer of novels.

But her life and her dreams changed dramatically some months ago. Like too many other teenage girls, she became pregnant. And like too many other girls before her, she left school, thereby abandoning most of her dreams.

All this probably does not deserve much attention – not because it is not sad – but because it is all too common.

But Nong Poo's fate was much darker than she had realized. When she went to Vachira Phuket Hospital to give birth to her son, she was told that she was HIV positive.

Like many others before her, she could not believe it, would not talk about it, would not accept it. Aids is a dreadful word, but one that seems unreal for most teenagers in Thailand. Sadly, it is much more real than most of them want to believe.

For her family, Nong Poo's diagnosis was a shock, a terror that was hard to digest. So after a time of dour silences and bitter recriminations, Nong Poo ran away from home and went to live with her teenage friends.

Her one-month-old son, who is also HIV positive, lives with us at the Life Home Project.

What concerns me most is not her case – even if it is one of the saddest and most tragic situations I have seen the past few years.



FIRST PERSON

José Luis Gay Cano came to Phuket on a yacht and soon after his arrival plunged into helping children at the lower end of the social spectrum, initially by giving them sailing lessons.

He became increasingly aware of a serious problem in Thai society – the rising number of housewives and their children suffering from HIV and Aids, resulting in their rejection by society. To help them, he set up the Life Home Project, which now helps dozens of such people, giving them a home, new skills and new hope.

But recently, as he explains here, a new risk group has emerged – teenagers. This is a development that should strike terror into every parent's heart – and one that parents must address.

What really worries me is that this is the third such case I have seen this year.

Nong Ben died in February, just after her 16th birthday. I had promised her that I would take her out to eat *sukiyaki* at a local restaurant. She never made it.

As with Nong Poo, her family's rejection of her was more painful than all the suffering from her disease. HIV killed her body, but her family killed her heart and, with it, her will to live.

I could tell you, too, about Nong Pen, aged 18, who is now in Vachira Phuket Hospital. She has a son whom she misses terribly. She will not see him grow, because the combination of tu-

berculosis and HIV will kill her soon.

I am worried because what were isolated cases not so long ago are now becoming part of a terrifying trend.

The Phuket Provincial Health Office acknowledges that, in recent years, 70% of new HIV infections have occurred among housewives and teenagers.

The rising infection rate among housewives was not unexpected; due to cultural and social factors, it is quite difficult for a married woman – in Thailand or elsewhere – to negotiate with her husband the terms of a healthy, safe sexual relationship.

But what was surprising

was the increase in the number of infections among teenagers, feeding apparently on new social habits that are spreading fast among young people.

If we believe the official statistics, they are having sex for the first time when they are as young as 12 years old.

HIV has jumped the fence that separates "them" – the high-risk groups such as sex-workers, beach boys and so on – from "us", the "safe" population. Like oil on a mirror, it is spreading fast.

It is not "them" that are at risk; it is our daughters and sons, our friends and co-workers that the lethal virus is targeting.

What is being done about it?

I don't see much education in the schools or universities, nor do I see condom vending machines in places where teenagers gather. I don't see, either, the issue being aired on TV, which would be a powerful tool for education.

But, more importantly, what are we – educators, activists and most especially parents – doing to educate our teenagers?

Education is the key to resolving this deadly problem. I know it is slow, but is the best way, perhaps the only way, to save the lives of so many young people in Thailand and elsewhere in the world.

Education is not just a school issue; that is part of it, but, I would say, the least efficient part.

Parents, you bear the greatest responsibility for education and have the means and the motive to do it, because you love your children more than anyone else does, because you want your sons and daughters to live and to grow.

But if you wait until they are 16 or 17 years old to teach them about sex and HIV/Aids, then you are too late. Dangerously too late.

So, if you have children around 13 or 14 years old – girls or boys – then is time for you to go to a pharmacy, buy a packet of condoms, put it on the table in front of them, and explain it all to them, clearly.

With such an important issue there is no place for delicacy or procrastination, and no time to waste.

You may never know about it but, believe me, there is an increasing possibility that you will save their lives.

Why does SFX show violent previews before kids' movies?

Do the movie theaters in Phuket have any policy with regard to the showing of inappropriate advertisements and previews screened before their feature films?

On a number of occasions I have taken young children to SF Cinema City, to see films targeted at their age range (*Shark Tale*, *Ice Age* etc).

I have been disturbed at the level of violence shown in the previews and advertising.

On one occasion the movie preview included people being decapitated.

A current beer advertisement, which doubles as the sound check, consists of little more than machinegun fire in a bar.

This is not appropriate viewing for young children.

Sil Phuket City Malisa Sreehirandet, Manager on duty of SFX Cinema Coliseum at Central Festival Phuket, replies,

The head of the SFX Cinema Coliseum in Bangkok specifies any advertisements and previews shown before films.

The SFX theater in Phuket has no power to alter these decisions.

The Manager of SFX Cinema Coliseum in Bangkok replies,

We do not have a specific policy on which advertisements

or previews are shown before the main film.

The beer advertisement shows only a bottle. It does not show anyone drinking beer, and although a gun is fired [in the advertisement], no one dies in that scene.

All of [the previews and advertisements] are used for checking sound levels before the main films.

[The beer ad] is humorous and is not intended to be taken seriously.

All advertisements and previews have to be checked by the Censorship Department of the Royal Thai Police before they can be screened.

Issues & ANSWERS

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

Trademark registration

I have a good idea for the name of a product and I would like to know how I can protect it in Thailand. How do I go about registering a trademark? Who do I have to contact?

Juha Lothman Kathu

Bunya Chotisettapan, from the Phuket Commercial Affairs Office replies:

Foreigners who wish to register a trademark may do so at

any Commercial Affairs Office in Thailand. They must bring their passport with valid visa, their work permit and eight pictures of the trademark. The size of these should not exceed five inches by five.

We also advise that they bring a Thai person along with them to assist in processing their registration.

For more information call Phuket Commercial Affairs at Tel: 076-212017.

Adventures in gerontology

Recently there has been some discussion in this newspaper of a phenomenon called GOM, which stands for Grumpy Old Men. There are also JOMs (Jolly Old Men) and DOMs (Dirty Old Men). It's not generally known, but there is an entire sub-branch of gerontology, rich in acronyms, devoted to the study of this exciting topic.

As an old dude myself, I hasten to declare myself neither a JOM nor a GOM, but a DOM. When I was a mere stripling in my thirties, my sainted mother perceptively observed, "You're a dirty little old man and you aren't even old yet."

That was true. But I have since grown into that role – gracefully, I may add – and now recognize it as my divinely appointed calling.

Indeed, it is the ultimate calling of many a man. We all know callow adolescents who are tormented by identity crises. They raise their pimply faces to an unfeeling heaven and cry, "Who am I? What am I?"

Little do they know that, far beyond the void, a beneficent deity is murmuring, "Thou art a Dirty Old Man. But thou wilt have to wait a while to achieve thy destiny."

As a Dirty Old Man, I can evaluate my jolly and grumpy peers objectively – although it is an objectivity not unsullied by dirt. Hence the following scholarly analysis, which is sure to take its place among the classics of gerontology – and put you to sleep.

JOMs can often be seen on the squalid streets of Patong, usually with gorgeous young ladies in tow. Why are they jolly? Because of the gorgeous young la-



dies (GYLs). This gives them a significant advantage in status over their peers back in the dreary boondocks of Sheffield, Sheboygan or Wollongong, who have nothing more to look forward to on Saturday nights than going bowling and watching TV.

JOMs enjoy the further ad-

and most certainly his mobile phone. This phenomenon is widespread in the LOS (Land of Scams); it is known as GYLing, and the victim is said to have been beGYLed.

In such cases, the descent to GOMhood is dramatic, instantaneous, and irreversible. GOMs thus victimized are grumpy precisely because they have been so heartlessly bamboozled.

But GOMhood is a widespread phenomenon with a multiplicity of causes. Most GOMs are unhappy because they can no longer do the things they used to do (some of them quite obscene). In fact, moralists regard GOMhood as a civilizing influence on the human species. A GOM is like an old cobra with its teeth pulled.

I believe that GOMs would feel better about themselves and life in general if they would make the altogether felicitous transition to DOMhood. I make this judgment on the grounds that it is preferable to be dirty than grumpy. If you asked normal human beings (assuming you can find any) whether they would rather associate with grumpy or dirty old men, I would be willing to bet that at least half of them would vote dirty.

This depends, of course, on the amount of dirt we are talking about, and also the direction in which it is tending. Most DOMs are always cackling evilly over some foul joke. So long as they merely talk dirty and don't act out their fantasies, they are harmless – although you wouldn't want your kids hanging around them.

It has been proposed that clubs should be organized in which GOMs can share their experiences. Far more broadening for all concerned would be clubs in which GOMs, DOMs, and JOMs can intermingle, socialize and reap the benefits of intellectual cross-pollination.

JOMs can boast of their GYLs' voluptuous endowments, while GOMs can warn them of the doom that awaits them and DOMs engage in raffish banter about the benefits of prostate massage.

It would make a great TV series. You've heard of *Friends*? Call this one *Geezers*.

S. Tsow can be flamed at stsow@yahoo.com, unless he's working on a pilot script for Geezers.

In The Stars

by Isla Star

CANCER (June 22-July 23): You will be happy as a clam when you hear news out of the blue early next week. Where business is concerned, it's time to pull out the secret weapon you've been concealing for a while. Others will be taken aback by your daring, and will be content to take a back seat while you enjoy a rare moment of glory. If you're planning on making your amorous feelings known, this Saturday offers a golden opportunity.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Life's magical map will reveal one or two new directions to choose from. Leos who are ready for a challenge should jump at the opportunity. A personal dilemma can best be resolved by asking advice from someone who was once in the same boat – Capricorn would be the ideal candidate. Your chances of luck in love can be improved by making changes to your daily routine.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Prepare to spend hours slashing and burning during the month of July. You will receive a clear indication this week of how important it is to eliminate the negative elements of your life. If you do this, an amazing amount of progress will be made. You may be inclined to dismiss a rumor that's going around, but remember that there can be no smoke without fire.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): An unsettled week lies ahead. Just when you thought you'd found the perfect balance between work and pleasure, a new opportunity comes along. The signs are that this could be very lucrative, so you would be foolish to turn it down. The only answer is to streamline your social activities during the coming weeks. You will be able to compensate in August when the spotlight will be firmly on enjoyment.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Your bright ideas probably will not be as well received as you were hoping. Give people a chance to digest the information and the outlook will be rosy. Travel is highlighted this month; it looks as if you'll be heading for previously unexplored territory. Wednesday is the best day for approaching those in authority. Wear the color seaweed green to encourage harmony.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Your feisty mood this week is contagious. You will be spoilt for choice when it comes to social fun. Aries is drawn to you like a magnet and would be interested in developing a platonic relationship into something more. Avoid getting involved with Cancer as it could easily bring heartache. The impulse to buy something this weekend is likely; consult someone with relevant experience before giving in to temptation.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Your tendency to be backward at coming forward could allow someone else to make hay while the sun is shining. You need to buck up your ideas, or risk being left behind in the shadows. A distant family member gives cause for concern mid-week, but it's high time you let them take responsibility for their mistakes. The number 6 can bring some luck this Saturday.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): The missing vital ingredient for success in business becomes clear, but you will need to summon all your negotiating powers to obtain it. Another Aquarian can be of help if you're prepared to pay the price. You will need to make a serious decision about a personal relationship that has been drifting in no particular direction. People may expect you to be the master of multi-tasking next Monday.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Spreading your wings is recommended in July; you will not find what you are seeking close to home. This week, others discover you have hidden talents and suggest profitable ways to use them. If your partner's dragging feet are putting the brakes on romance, it's reasonable to suggest some sort of ultimatum. The color sky blue encourages you to set your sights higher.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Your tendency to rebel when under pressure is a force for others to reckon with this week. You resent having to conform but you will find that things go more smoothly if you can grin and bear it. If this is impossible to do, there's only one option and that is to cut the ties and break free. The number 3 could give you a lucky break this Saturday.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Your feet are not very firmly on the ground at the moment, but it will be necessary to come down, at least temporarily, from Cloud 9. July promises to be the busiest month of the year for most Taureans, with more work commitments than you really want to take on. However, it is wise to strike while the iron's hot, particularly if you're planning on taking a break in August.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Get ready for an action-packed month. If you are prepared to show what you're really made of you will have many opportunities to do so. Pisces will be particularly impressed; if this is a personal relationship, use your powers of persuasion to put it on a more intimate level; the stars are smiling on romance in the coming week. The scent of jasmine provides the perfect atmosphere for a special date on Saturday.



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Talking to the animals

Consumed by money and power, we sometimes forget we are nothing but overgrown monkeys sharing Mother Earth with our relatives. Our particular species of primate is so "intelligent" we now overpopulate and pollute our planet, spawning the greatest mass extinction in eons.

But when humans perceive animals as "people", we gain humility, vision, enhanced perceptions and the gift of talking with animals. All life becomes The Ultimate Miracle, and we hold even single-cell plankton in awe.

Accepting *Homo sapiens* as merely evolution's next step allows us to embrace the emotions, reason and rational thought of our animal brethren – spawning a huge increase in our perceptions.

There is a trade-off, albeit positive. We must truly release our egos, facades and aggressions if we expect to communicate eye-to-eye with animals in a spirit of tranquility and trust. It's a humbling yet gratifying mind-set, especially once we realize the animal understands our intentions better than we do.

Once we learn to bond, all life becomes precious. After all, our animal friends built the evolutionary ladder we enjoy as the apex species – at least for now. Without that mudskipper, frog or pig, we wouldn't be here.

Wildlife rehabilitation is a great way to "learn" animals – all creatures must be treated as equals if we expect quality communication.

Once we realize that animals often enjoy intelligence in ways humans cannot comprehend, we learn the obvious – that *Homo sapiens* is just a highly-evolved primate.

We all eat, sleep, defecate, procreate, have emotions and strategic thought.

I learned this in my first decade, and sat back like the designated driver seeing his drunken friends with a sober mind.

Now, after California and Honolulu, Phuket is my third "urban boom". Humanity rapidly forgets its mistakes, turning history into a broken record, but nature always gets even – just wait for the landslides.

We still develop without

considering our relatives. In Phuket, we love to cut down trees, which often house their own eco-systems. Most humans see "empty" fields and mountains as land ready for development – when they are really looking at a habitat under threat. Ground-nesting birds and their reptile predators are particularly vulnerable to development.

Despite the rhetoric, we can't be anti-development – as long as we make babies, humans will need houses. But when we do break ground, we can do it in a more neighborly way.

Let's realize that, in their realm, animals are often more capable than humans. When I'm jungle running, I accept my dogs know more than I do. They strategize, observe and behave in ways humans will never be able to imitate, smelling snakes and forest animals, sensing dangers and navigating better than any human.

Inertial navigation became reality for humans less than 50 years ago – it put man on the moon, but migratory birds have practiced navigation for eons.

The human inertial navigation system is a computer, while the animal form is a bird brain. Which is more "advanced"?

How about dead reckoning? After teaching Southern California hawks and eagles to hunt in the wild, I drove four hours over 2,000-meter mountains to release the raptors in jackrabbit country. The birds returned home faster than I did on the freeways.

We all talk with our dogs, but what about street dogs? Talking means understanding, so look *Ma Thanon* in the eye and feel their pain and loneliness, same as a human child.

Bring them into your family or rehabilitate them until you find a loving home as you would an orphaned human. Dogs love "eye talking". Lacking "language", dogs embrace eye contact more than humans, allowing us to see straight into their minds – if we want to.

The "higher" the animal, the greater the need for love and at-

THE GRAY AREA



By John 'Caveman' Gray

tention. Just as a doctor's bedside manner contributes to curing disease, a human spiritual fix re-energizes a distressed bird or mammal. They understand our energy; even predators understand the universal spiritual energy connecting all living things.

In our obsession for material wealth, we humans deny our animal essence. Somewhere along the way, we forgot that we aren't all that much more intelligent than other species. Rather

than separate ourselves, we should find our true place in the universal scheme. As the Buddha understood, we are all one.

The New Zealand kea parrot's problem-solving ability gives it the highest rated animal intelligence. Not far behind, my LA blue jay hoarded peanuts, constantly giving me innocent looks after hiding its stash. When a neighbor's wedding ring disappeared, he knew right away who stole it and I knew where to look.

As I approached the hiding spot, the bird went into hysterics, trying to confuse me into looking elsewhere. But when I pulled the diamond-studded trophy from the shrubbery, my Blue Jay gave me that "Who, me?" look. In southern Thailand, oriental pied hornbills have similar personalities.

The most intelligent animal I ever rehabbed was a raccoon. Sophie picked locks on cupboards and closets with her small nails while listening to the tumblers.

Raccoons never stop "looking". Sophie discovered places I

could never find in ways I could never invent – creating havoc throughout the house. Once she was capable of fending for herself, we drove her far into the mountains to allow her to find a family. With her intelligence, Sophie was a survivor.

Even when being rehabilitated, animals should not be restrained unless they are injured and cannot defend themselves.



My brother Tom talking with a crow in 1959.

Just as a human doctor aims to bring about a speedy recovery, the goal of wildlife rehabilitation is to get an animal well enough to be released as soon as possible.

Any bird deserves the right to stretch its wings to full span – any mammal has the right to run.

All animals deserve a mate. Solitary animals tell us that everybody needs love. (But don't capture a mate from nature and imprison two personalities!)

More monkeys eat nuts and fruit than each other, but a twist of evolution finds humans closely related to chimpanzees, perhaps the most violent, aggressive and hierarchal of all primates.

Are we intelligent enough to balance our competitive and aggressive genetics while learning from our more peaceful siblings?



Once we learn to bond with animals, all life becomes precious.

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KHUN WOODY'S COMPUTER

In my column two weeks ago, I wrote about an astounding phenomenon. All over Phuket, slowly but surely, Internet access is getting a little bit better.

Not a lot, mind you, but people are actually starting to make positive comments, about Internet access in general and ADSL service in particular. After more than five years of hearing little more than the wailing and gnashing of online teeth, it's a refreshing change.

My CAT line (more about this at the end of this column) continues to pump out 1,400Kbps or more in the morning, and stays at around 800 to 1,200Kbps during the day.

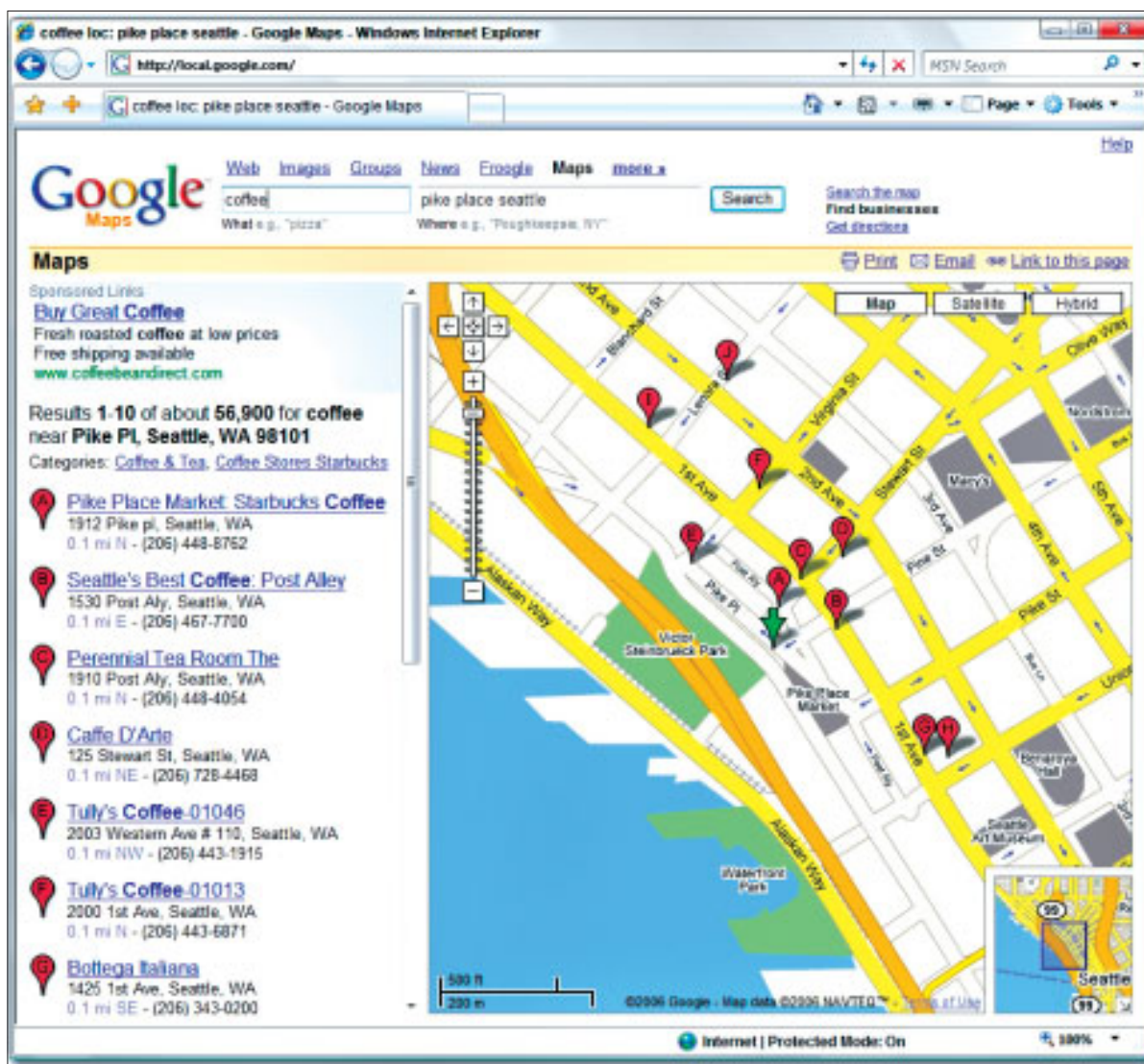
That isn't spectacular by international standards, but it's good enough to keep me productive – and it beats the living day-lights out of the 50 to 100Kbps that I had come to expect from my old TOT line.

I've heard from many readers (and hope to hear from many more!) about sustained, real Internet access speeds in the 300- to 500-Kbps range.

Recently, I had an opportunity to meet several of the people who had a hand in this significant success. Sipa, the Software Industry Promotion Association, doesn't exert direct control over Phuket's Internet infrastructure – that's left to the commercial sector, including TOT, TT&T and CAT. But Sipa holds a government-mandated bully pulpit, and its persistence has brought some success.

Dr Manoo Ordeedolchest, President of Sipa, gave a presentation at the Graceland Hotel in Patong about "Phuket and the Future of the ICT." You can see the slide show at www.sipaphuket.org/upload/File/ict.pdf.

Consider. In 2003, Thailand's software industry recorded sales of about 30 billion baht (roughly 600 million euros). This year the total should hit 70 billion. By 2010, Sipa expects software



Google Local is incredible – but it will be years before it covers Thailand. SIPA's web-based map will beat it to the punch.

Inching closer to that ICT City

industry sales will top 150 billion baht (3 billion euros). In the next few months, Thailand should have more than 2,500 software engineers internationally certified, in either Java or .NET applications. Those are impressive statistics by any measure.

Dr Manoo sees Thailand's software growth as taking place in four areas:

- Enterprise Software (accounting, personnel systems and the like) seems like a natural, especially for multi-lingual systems.

- Animation & Multimedia has long been an inviting software goal. Thailand is loaded with talented graphic artists and labor is inexpensive by global standards.

- Mobile Applications (think smart phones) represent a tough business to crack, in my opinion, particularly in light of Malaysia's investment in two high-tech parks (Cyberjaya and Putrajaya), the Multimedia Super Corridor project, and Motorola's long-term investment there.

- On the other hand, Embedded Software (programs for computers that control appliances and the like) looks like a very promising target, particularly in light of Thailand's expanding auto manufacturing industry.

Dr Manoo also demonstrated a fascinating application currently being built at the Sipa office in Chiang Mai. It's an interactive, Web-based map that works much like Google Local (local.google.com), except it's customized for Thailand. Imagine being able to zoom in and out of a satellite image map of Phuket, with landmarks, public buildings, tourist attractions, hotels, restaurants and all kinds of businesses displayed on the map.

Want to find a specific hotel? Type the name in the navigation box, hit Enter, and the map zooms to the precise point, showing you connecting roads, the hotel's telephone number, and all sorts of ancillary information.

The Sipa mapping project isn't ready yet, but I expect this to be a killer app, if it lives up to its advanced billing. (Google Local would be a killer app, too, but it will be many years before it makes it to Phuket.)

For anyone considering starting a software business, particularly in Phuket, Sipa offers assistance in many areas, including "expert" certification for visas and work permits. There's a list of software companies in Phuket at sipaphuket.org/ictdir/index_en.html.

Across Thailand, more than 200 software companies have used Sipa's help in acquiring Board of Investment (BoI) recognition, which can lead to lower taxes and reduced import duties. Contact Sipa through www.sipaphuket.org for details.

The organization has one more project coming soon that will be of interest to anyone in Phuket who uses Microsoft Office. I'll fill you in on the details as soon as they're finalized.

Sipa has been a very effective catalyst for bringing Phuket up to speed, literally and figuratively, on the Internet, which brings me back to that CAT ADSL line.

Many of you have written asking for details. I've had the line for a month now and it's been up, as far as I can tell, 24/7. This is remarkable, actually, considering the CAT office in Patong lost power for a few hours a couple of weeks ago; their backup generators must've kicked in.

COVERAGE

If you're thinking about paying 2,600 baht a month for a CAT ADSL line, there are things to keep in mind. The CAT line isn't a phone line in the normal sense of the term. You can't go through TOT or TT&T, or use an existing TOT or TT&T line. CAT itself strings the wire to your house – which is why not every area in Phuket gets coverage.

CAT can't offer you voice telephone service or a telephone number, except for international calls, which you probably won't need with Skype running. It's a regulatory restriction.

To sign up, you have to go to a CAT office – in Phuket City it's on Phang Nga Rd; in Patong, it's in Andaman Square, off Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, near Andaman Beach Suites and the Patong Language School.

Bring your passport and work permit (if you have one), or your company registration papers, if it's a business line. CAT doesn't cover every location on the island, and the amount of time it takes to install a line varies greatly. Your mileage may vary.

Woody Leonhard (woody@khunwoody.com, website www.askwoody.com) writes no-bull books about Windows and Office, including Windows XP All-In-One Desk Reference For Dummies, Windows XP Time-saving Techniques For Dummies, and Special Edition Using Microsoft Office.

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By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

Commercial property developer Shinawatra Home Co Ltd, headed by Yowvares Shinawatra, sister of caretaker Prime Minister Thaksin, broke ground at its 14-rai Dalaaburi site opposite Boat Lagoon earlier this month, marking the company's first venture in the Phuket property market.

The Shinawatra Thai Silk and Handicraft store that had been on the same site for more than 10 years has been demolished to make way for the 420-million-baht Dalaaburi project, which will comprise 11 three-story "home office" shophouses and 18 two-story detached homes.

K. Yowvares's daughter Chayika Wongnapachant, 27, who is Marketing & Sales Director for the project, explained that the Dalaaburi homes and shophouses will be in "contemporary Bali" style and will target three main types of buyers: retired foreigners wanting to live in Phuket; second-home buyers; and people wanting to open a business in Phuket.

"Our main selling point is the location," she told the *Gazette*, "because it is not far from town and not a densely-populated area, so it is good for investors who want to open a business and for those who want to live in Phuket."

"Another attraction will be the Lifestyle Complex to be built in front of the home offices, which will be an international-style recreational area."

"I think the property business in Phuket is very good, even for places hit by the tsunami – as long as they were rebuilt very quickly. The property sector is still growing and Phuket attracts an international range of people."

"We have been promoting the development at property exhibitions in Hong Kong and through agents overseas," she added.

Shinawatra family enters Phuket property market



K. Chayika said two show homes and a block of six home offices are expected to be complete and ready for display by March next year.

"We are installing the basic infrastructure, and then work will begin on building the Lifestyle Complex," she said.

"We expect the project will be sold out within 18 months of the display units being completed next year," K. Chayika added.

Prices for the home offices start at 11.5 million baht. Each will have 294 square meters of living space and feature two bedrooms and three bathrooms.

Prices for the homes – with 360sqm of living space, including three bedrooms, four bathrooms and a private swimming pool –

will start at 17.5 million baht.

Shinawatra Home Co Ltd shares its roots with the Shinawatra family in Chiang Mai, where in 1996 the company began a string of shophouse, warehouse and other commercial property development projects.

"I believe the Shinawatra name will attract buyers, and we have employed [a team consisting of] a professional contractor, architect, international law firm and management group."

Phuket is one of K. Yowvares's and K. Chayika's favorite provinces.

"K. Yowvares visits Phuket very often, and so do I. I can remember coming here since I was 11 years old. It is the province I visit more than any other, espe-

FAMILY BUSINESS: Right, Yowvares Shinawatra and her daughter Chayika Wongnapachant at the Bangkok launch of Dalaaburi.

Above, computer-generated impression of the shophouses that form part of the Dalaaburi development.



cially now that I have to come every week," K. Chayika said.

"We have about three other plots of land in Phuket, but they are not big plots. We bought them many years ago, and we are still looking for new pieces of land in

Phuket for future projects," she explained.

"We have land in other tourism provinces and in Bangkok, but we will watch market trends before deciding whether to launch another project."

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ON THE MOVE

It has been officially announced that **Michael Ayling**, from England, has been appointed Managing Director of Laguna Resorts & Hotels (LRH). An accountant by training and background, he joined LRH in September 2000 as Assistant Vice-President – Finance. Before joining the group, he worked for accountancy giant KPMG, with postings in England, Australia and Papua New Guinea before moving from Sydney to Phuket to join LRH.



Somchai Sroisakul, 34, from Chon Buri has been promoted to Assistant Rooms & Guest Services Manager at the Dusit Laguna Resort. K. Somchai has a degree in human resources management from Nonthaburi Rajabhat University. Before his promotion, K. Somchai was Night Manager at the resort for almost two years.



Bang-orn Sudmuang, 31, from Trang, has been promoted to Manager at the Rising Sun Residence (Baan Rub Tawan) in Chalong. K. Bang-orn has a diploma in marketing from Samsen Commercial School in Bangkok, and more than 11 years' experience in the hotel and hospitality industry. Before joining the Rising Sun Residence, she was a member of the pre-opening team and then Front Office Manager at the Tubkaak Boutique Resort in Krabi, where she worked for more than three years.



Spam that is food for thought

We all receive spam and irrelevant e-mails – they are one of the dubious joys of modern technology.

However, I recently received one that was of interest from Hugh Stevenson [Hugh@the-great-expat-financial-planning-ripoff.com], advertising his E-book on the subject.

In his email he highlights various chapters and points made in his book such as greedy, poorly trained Independent Financial Advisers, alongside “household name” insurance companies and “expensive, inefficient contractual savings and retirement programmes”.

I have not subscribed to or read his book; after 24 years in this business, although I am still on a learning curve and will be for the rest of my life, I have serious reservations about spending money on a publication of this nature.

However, some points Mr Stevenson makes are, sadly, all too true. In the world of offshore and onshore financial planning, as in every business and profession, there are good and bad. Sadly, in my “industry”, there are too many of the latter.

The first problem is training; if you do not receive proper training you are hardly likely to be able to deliver good financial advice to your clients.

The reality is that the major offshore financial planning groups typically offer new employees a two-week training course. The first week is dedicated to financial information and financial products and the second week is purely information on how to “get hold of one’s prey”.

One such technique for hunting down expats involves telling secretaries that the caller is representing a new expat publication and would like to speak to the boss to see if he would like a free copy. Predictably, once the “boss” is on the telephone he gets the full sales pitch about financial services.

This kind of sales training is totally inadequate and inappropriate. I have found, from experience, that even if one is training a person who is already a fully qualified and certified UK financial adviser, it takes a full-time training period of at least seven weeks.

This may appear excessive but it is not. Taking even qualified personnel from, say, the UK, into an offshore environment means that they have to be educated in the details of a whole new world of finance.

They are not used to clients thinking in different currencies and this is a whole subject unto itself. Usually, their knowledge of practical economics and markets is inadequate and their knowledge of the offshore world and financial planning in an offshore environment is non-existent.

Mr Stevenson’s email makes the point that well over US\$500 million (18 billion baht) a year is funneled into expensive, inefficient, contracted savings programs with “household name” offshore insurance companies.

Again, I totally agree and, in fact, wrote an article for the *Gazette* about four years ago on precisely this subject. I believe that these products are very expensive and if they are encashed in the early years, are almost ruinous to the investor. I have refused to sell them since 1991, when I realized their real consequences.

For the reader who wants to save money each month a more suitable alternative would be to invest in the Foreign And Colonial (F& C) Investment Trust. It was the world’s first collective investment scheme and was formed in 1868.

The minimum monthly investment is £100, there are no entry fees, there is no contract to continue payment and you can



MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

cash out at any stage. Around 60% is invested in the UK and the balance on a global basis.

I simply do not deal with savings or pension plans; the only exception to this is where a long-standing private pension is being encashed. For ex-

ample, UK private pensions need to be dealt with by qualified UK advisers who have to pass an extra examination in this field in order to be UK Financial Services Authority-compliant. I have links to a UK group that specializes in this area and can give the relevant legal options.

Mr Stevenson is not right about everything, however. He claims that insurance company quotations are “a work of fiction”. This is completely wrong. He is ill-informed. Countries such as the UK and South Africa – and

offshore jurisdictions by industry agreement at association level – compel insurance companies to issue quotations in all cases.

I deal only with lump-sum cases and quotations are a standard requirement.

An insurance company quotation is transparent and is issued by the company’s actuarial department. It is merely a statement showing all costs and projected future values assuming certain future rates of return.

In reality, the system is monitored by many governments and has to be approved by them. There is no small print; they are of great assistance to clients.

Insurance companies fulfill a vital role for offshore investors who have sufficient funds (about US\$50,000 – 1.8 million baht – upwards).

They allow their clients access to virtually every mutual fund, share or bond in the world, regardless of currency.

This allows total diversification and the client benefits from institutional discounts and, often,

access to “institution-only” investments.

This is all under one roof and it removes the problem of having money spread across a multitude of countries. Dealing is simple and valuations are now available on line on a daily basis.

Anti-money laundering paperwork is required only when the initial investment is placed – not every time a change from one investment to another is made.

This is akin to the advantages of shopping in a giant supermarket compared with tromping around a multitude of little shops to fill one’s requirements.

I shall not be buying Hugh Stevenson’s e-book – my apologies – but I do not have the time or inclination to teach him more about his total subject matter.

Richard Watson runs Global Portfolios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based personal financial planning service. He can be reached at Tel: and Fax: 076-381-997, Mobile: 01-0814611. Email: imm@loxinfo.co.th

I am still on a learning curve and will be for the rest of my life.



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Andaman Sea Rally revived

PHUKET: After a hiatus of more than two years, the Andaman Sea Rally – a race from Phuket to Port Blair in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and back – has been revived. The next race is scheduled to take place between January 13 and 27 next year.

“We are happy that 2007 will see the return of the Andaman Sea Rally,” said organizer Gareth Twist of Yacht Solutions. “We have continued discussions with the Andaman Islands throughout the [intervening] period and they are fully behind the 2007 rally.”

Mr Twist said that there has been much interest in reviving the rally, with regular enquiries since the 2004 event. “Interest in the rally remains strong. It is a unique event – an offshore race for sailing yachts and an ocean cruise for power boats – hence we expect a good turnout,” he said.

The rally will come after the Phuket King's Cup Regatta but before the Phang Nga Bay Regatta.

“The rally is timed for best sailing conditions and slots in between current regattas. It will resume its place on the Asian sailing calendar,” Mr Twist said.

He said proceeds from the



Andaman Sea Rally 2004 winner *Stormvogel* flies through the night during the return race from Port Blair to Phuket.

– Photo by travisphoto.com

rally would be donated to charity. “We are currently looking at a number of charities and have not yet finalized which one [will receive funds]. We want to give something back to both destinations [Phuket and Port Blair], which have been so good to the rally and to sailors in the region.”

The first Andaman Sea

Rally, in 2003, drew just nine boats. The following year, the number increased to 15, and more than 20 entries were received for the 2005 event, which was canceled after the tsunami hit.

For more information send email to Mike Bein at info@andamansearally.com or visit www.andamansearally.com



Current World and Olympic beach volleyball champions Kerri Walsh (left) and Misty May Treanor celebrate another victory. They are expected to compete in the Phuket tournament.

– Photo EPA/Peter Schneider

Top beach volley teams heading for Phuket

PHUKET: The island will play host to the Swatch-FIVB World Tour Women's Professional Beach Volleyball tournament, from November 1 to 5 at Kata Beach, it was announced on June 19.

Prize money of US\$200,000 (about 7 million baht) will be up for grabs for the winners. Some 60 two-player teams from countries including Germany, Brazil, the US, China and Japan, plus six teams from Thailand are entered.

Spectators will be admitted free of charge and large crowds are expected following the success of last year's Challenger

round of the tournament in Phuket.

The stars of the event are expected to be current World and Olympic beach volleyball champions, Kerri Walsh and Misty May Treanor from the US.

The finals will be televised live on Thai TV as well as on international sports channels.

Visit www.fivb.org and www.pentanglepromotions.com for more information.

The event is being organized by the Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB), the Thailand Volleyball Association and Pentangle Promotions Co.

PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

A night for giant killers Valhalla and Jungle Juice

PATONG: It was quite a surprising evening in the league with lots of unexpected results, especially Valhalla's narrow win over defending champs Didi's and Dog's Bollocks losing all three points to Jungle Juice.

The result is that Didi's maintain their narrow lead at the top. There is a five-way tie for second place with the teams trailing the leader by only a single point.

If anyone would like to report high closes, 180s, game-winning darts or any other results, send them by email to: darts@phuketgazette.net.

4 Footrot Flats 5; Dog's Bollocks 4 Jungle Juice* 5; Amigos* 6 TaiLife 3; Valhalla 5 Didi's* 4; Piccadilly* 6 Shakers 3; OffShore 3 Coyote* 6. (*=winner of beer leg)

Standings: 1. Didi's (7 pts); 2.= Queen Mary, Dog's Bollocks, Amigos, Valhalla, Jungle Juice (6); 7. Piccadilly (5); 8.= Coyote Bar, OffShore (4); 10.= Shakers, Footrot Flats (2); 12. TaiLife (0).

July 4 fixtures: Queen Mary v Jungle Juice; Dog's Bollocks vs Shakers; Amigos v Coyote Bar; Valhalla v TaiLife; Piccadilly v Footrot Flats; OffShore v Didi's. (home team first)

June 20 results: Queen Mary*



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Phuket kids grab gongs in Lion City karate meet

PHUKET: Nine youngsters representing Phuket Karate-Do Club and Thailand at the Karate-Do Goju-Kai Invitational Tournament 2006 in Singapore, punched and kicked their way to one gold, two silvers and three bronze medals.

After returning from the city-state on June 25, Phuket Karate-Do Club trainer and coach Jitrapanu Kongtham told the *Gazette* that Pannatat Ordul and his teammate Thanapan Jaiyen faced off against each other in the final of the 15-16 year old boys' *kumite*, or sparring event. Pannatat took the gold,

leaving Thanapan with the silver – a double for Phuket and Thailand.

Team Captain Patsuda Maitong and Kojnipha Chumpornpan took silver and bronze, respectively, in the girls' *kata* discipline, which involves a non-combative display of movements and fighting techniques.

Another Thai, Kanokwan Norasetkul of Bangkok, won the gold in the same category.

In girls' *kumite*, 18-year-old Pornthip Thong-Yu got two bronze medals, taking third in both the 53kg and womens' open categories.

Ao Ke ladies win hearts in aerobics competition

PHUKET CITY: The Bangkok Hospital Phuket team may have won the open category in the Phuket City Municipality's aerobics dance competition at Lan Nawamin Park, on Phuket Rd, on June 24, but it was the elder ladies of the Ao Ke team who won the hearts of the crowd of spectators.

The youngest in the Ao Ke aerobics squad is 50 years old.

At the other end of the age spectrum, students from Anuban Phuket won the primary school division, while Dowroong School won top honors in the junior and senior high school categories.

A total of 27 teams took part in the competition. Winners of each category received 10,000 baht, while second-place teams won 8,000 baht and third-place teams 6,000 baht. Each placing



Superfit at 50-plus: the Ao Ke aerobics team

team also received a trophy.

The event was held as part of the Municipality's activities to celebrate HM King Bhumibol

Adulyadej's Diamond Jubilee and aimed to encourage people living in Phuket City to exercise more and to stay away from drugs.

Dowroong School won both the high school category (yellow shirts) and the secondary school category.



RAWAI: Amporn Nookong and Jeff Whiteley (2nd and 3rd from left) display their trophies after winning the 4th Annual Phuket Invitational Volleyball Tournament held on June 24 and 25 in Rawai. Paul Clark (far left) and Dee Anduha (far right) took second place.

Eight teams took part in the event, which included players from Japan, California, Hawaii and Thailand. All the participants were from the sponsor companies: Wine Connection; Pun Pun Juice; Tai Life Leisure; Don's Foods; and Blue Sand Clothing.



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Shophouses with Sino-Portuguese flavor selling at a brisk pace

Samkong Place Ordinary Partnership has completed Phase 1 of its 60-million-baht Sam Kong Place project, on three rai of land between Hongsyok Uthit Rd and Yaowarat Rd in Samkong.

Phase 1, which began last

November, comprises 13 three-story shophouse units in two blocks. The first block of five units fronts onto Yaowarat Rd, while the eight-unit second block is at right angles to it.

Each unit is five meters wide and 13.5 meters deep, with

one bathroom on each floor. The first and second floors are left free of internal walls so that buyers can fit them out to meet their business needs. The third floor is divided into two separate rooms to serve as living space.

The street-facing units cover 99 square meters each. The other eight units cover 92 to 96sqm each.

Four of the five street-front units have already been sold at 6.5 million baht apiece, said project owner Chat Kulvanich, son of the owners of the Phuket United Commercial Honda motorcycle dealership on Phuket Rd.

There has also been a good deal of interest in the 4.6-million-

baht units inside the project, two of which have already been sold. A sales office will open at the project site soon, K. Chat said.

All of the units not facing onto Yaowarat Rd will have wide parking spaces in front of them and underground power cables, he added.

The first phase of the project takes up about half of the project site; work on Phase 2, comprising 13 more units, is expected to begin later this month. These will be of the same shape, size and appearance as Phase 1 units, said the owner.

All will be in Sino-Portuguese style and those in Phase 1 have already been painted, the

exterior of the first two floors in pink and the top floor in a pastel shade of lime green, all with white trim.

K. Chat declined to say precisely how much Phase 2 units would sell for, but said he expects them to be about 200,000 to 300,000 baht more expensive than the Phase 1 units, due to the rising cost of construction materials. The project contractor is Lerttawan Co Ltd.

For more information contact Chat Kulvanich. (Tel: 01-081-9520; 01-1876509) or visit the Honda Showroom on Phuket Rd, opposite Phuket Garden Hotel.



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Look, don't float: model of the *Vasa*, from Pond & Fluke – the original *Vasa* sank on her maiden voyage.

SAILING DREAMS

So you have your dream home with an ocean view. Then what better accompaniment, than a beautiful handmade wooden model of a sailing ship to place in the window?

Pond & Fluke Gallery at the Tesco-Lotus shopping complex has some beautiful handmade sailing ship models made in Australia, including one of the 17th-century Swedish ship of the line, the *Vasa*, and another of an early paddle steamer from the days when such vessels were still equipped with sails – just in case.

Don't try putting these models in the water, however – especially the one of the *Vasa*. In 1628, the original sank in Stockholm harbor after capsizing less than a mile after embarking on her maiden voyage.

Apart from the 30 crew who died, her loss was a hefty blow to Sweden's finances, equivalent to about 5% of the country's gross national product at that time.

Prices of the models at Pong & Fluke range from 5,700 baht to 22,000 baht. The shop is open daily from 9:45 am to 8:45 pm. Tel: 076-255197.

For something more whimsical, visit Bamboo, located opposite Tsutaya on the lower level of the Big C supercenter. Bamboo specializes in wooden artifacts, including the little galleon pictured, which sells for just 2,500 baht.

Bamboo is open daily from 10 am to 9 pm or call K. Kade at Tel: 04-8512438.



Above: details of the paddle steamer available from Pond & Fluke. Below: Whimsical galleon from Bamboo.



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Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

The English language is rather confusing. No wonder people have problems learning to read or write in this ridiculous form of code – just look at the spelling. I mean, how is any word containing the letters “ough” supposed to be pronounced?

“Off” (cough), “uff” (rough), “oh” (dough), “oo” (through), “aw” (fought) and for Brits even “ow” as in “plough”. How about the even more non-sensical “hiccough” or “thor-ough”? None of this makes any sense – it’s almost as if the forefathers of English language were having a bit of a laugh and making it up as they went along, in a way that was guaranteed to cause maximum consternation among its future users.

George Bernard Shaw got it right when he penned his accurate *Hints on Pronunciation for Foreigners*:

*Beware of heard, a dreadful word
That looks like beard and sounds like bird,
And dead: it's said like bed, not bead –
For goodness sake don't call it deed!
Watch out for meat and great and threat
(They rhyme with suite and straight and debt)*

*A moth is not a moth in mother
Nor both in bother, broth in brother,
And here is not a match for there
Nor dear and fear for bear and pear,
Just look them up – and goose and choose,
And cork and work and card and ward,
And font and front and word and sword,
And do and go and thwart and cart –
Come, come, I've hardly made a start!
A dreadful language? Man alive.
I'd mastered it when I was five.*



BIG ON BIGNONIAS

This is getting scary now – is this the first time I have quoted poetry in this column? Perhaps, but I do sincerely pity the hapless individuals who are attempting to learn the language – I can only describe the “rules” of English as complete twaddle.

Even elementary speakers and readers of Thai language understand that Thai people don’t “spell” words as such – they just say them a bit more slowly to the person listening. Why? Far more often than not there is only one way it can possibly be spelled. Easy. What a shame that the high and mighty English language hasn’t cottoned on to such an eminently sensible idea. Much as I’m

loath to admit it, even the Germans have got it right in this regard – no ambiguities there.

Back to the plant world, which can often be as totally perplexing as the English language when it comes to spelling.

The first time I heard of the purple bignonia, I was convinced that the person providing the information was dyslexic or a total buffoon. Surely he meant begonia? Bignonia doesn’t even sound like a proper word. But it is.

The unlikely-sounding bignonia is actually named after a Frenchman by the name of Jean Paul Bignon who, I understand, was around in the 17th century. He was some kind of royal librar-

ian, apparently, and is responsible for one of the silliest and most unlikely plant names ever. In Thai, this daft-sounding plant sounds much more sensible – it is called the *baan buri*.

Bignonia is the common name for a medium-sized family of mostly tropical woody climbers, the most common of which in this part of the world is probably the purple bignonia, or *baan buri see muang*.

The showy flowers on the purple bignonia are, not surprisingly, remarkably purple. Some varieties have creamy-white throats (the tubular part in the middle) while others are a bright yellow further down.

It’s one of those plants you probably walk past every day, as its vivid colors blend into the colorful backdrop of plantlife in Phuket.

Here’s where things get a bit technical. The corolla (a rather

impressive word for group of petals) is fused together with five lobes, and is funnel-shaped in the middle, with two or four stamens attached to the inside surface.

The brightly-colored flowers have adapted to pollination by attracting a variety of flying animals, including insects, birds, and bats.

Bignonias are found mostly in the tropics and are ideally suited to Phuket. The greatest concentration of bignonia species is in South America, where they form dense climbing vines in the forests. Some of the tropical bignonia family members are big enough to be used as timber.

IDLE BEAST

It’s unlikely that you’ll find the bignonia growing on its own; although it grows vigorously and incredibly quickly, it does enjoy a bit of help. Being a climber, it much prefers to have something that it can clamber up for more than a little moral support. Its school report would probably have said, “Tries hard, but needs to work a little more independently.”

These things are perfect for covering trellises, fences and archways, and will even bound relentlessly up walls if you dangle a few lengths of wire between some masonry nails knocked in among the bricks. It gets a bit woody after a while, and bushiness is the inevitable result.

It’s happiest in full sun, and doesn’t need a huge amount of water to keep it content. Don’t get too worried if the flowers drop off on a regular basis – it produces so many of the things daily that your biggest problem is likely to be a mass of purple splodges on the ground.

Well, I think I’ve done rather well today. I’ve had a go at anyone who speaks English, along with the buffoons who invented the rules that come with it; some more deserving than others. The precise size of Jean-Paul’s “nonia” has never been confirmed, by the way.

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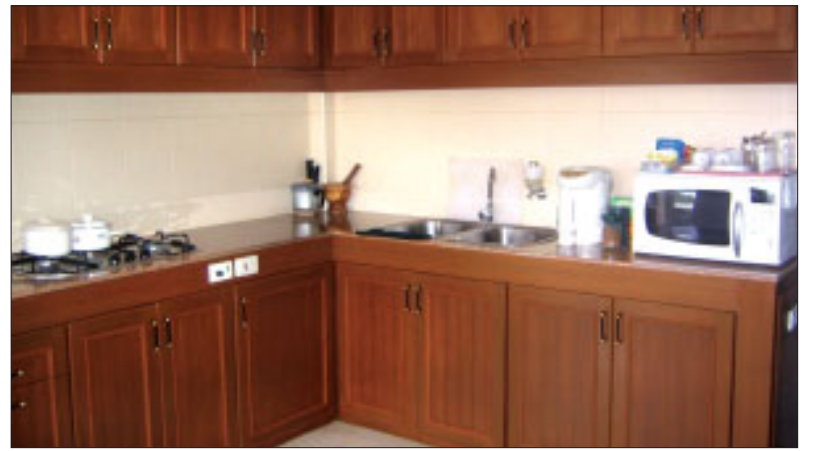


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Home of the Week

Nai Yang



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The living and dining rooms are large, bright and airy with excellent ventilation provided by plenty of attractive timber-framed windows and sliding doors.

The stepped ceilings with fans feature recessed lighting and there is a custom-designed timber wall unit in the living area. The Thai-style lounge and dining furniture is teak.

The home has window treatments, ceiling and wall lights, fans and air conditioning. There

is a maid's room and the carport at the rear of the home has direct access to the kitchen.

The kitchen is well designed with ample overhead cabinets, granite benchtops, double-bowl SS sink and gas cooktop.

Facilities include cable/UBC TV, telephone, well water, water filtration and hot-water system. There is a septic tank and three-phase electricity and a home security system.

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The land title is Chanote and the property is priced at 10 million baht.

For more details contact Richard Lusted at Siam Real Estate, Tel: 076-288908, Website: www.siamrealestate.com, Email: info@siamrealestate.com

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Property Gazette

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<p>Condo for sale Rawai. Sea view. 126sqm, common pool. 4 million baht</p>	<p>Villa for rent Nai Harn. 275sqm, 1,200sqm of land, 10m pool, 3 bedrooms, fully furnished. 70,000 baht per month.</p>
<p>Hotel for sale Naka Island. 200m beachfront, 80 villas; total: 120 rooms. Price on application.</p>	

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Lamsai Hill

Sea front 100 m from Ocean, stunning 180 degree view. Or 9.4 rai for 5.9 million baht per rai or 2 rai plot for 9.8 million baht per rai. 5% commission to selling broker.

Tel: 01-6936437
Email: joe_mooky@yahoo.com

ABSOLUTE BEACHFRONT FOR SALE



2.2 rai of absolute beachfront land with Chanote title at Khok Kloy. 25 mins from Phuket International Airport.

No agents please.

Please contact. Tel: 07-8891717.

Email: wayne_phuket@yahoo.com

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Property Gazette

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NEW HOUSES

in Patong. 3 new, connected, deluxe houses on Patong hillside, Soi Thamdee, for sale. Ground floor: garage and separate one-room apartment with toilet. Second floor: 2 bedrooms and bath, balcony. Third floor: living room with balcony, built-in kitchen and dining room, toilet. Fourth floor: big roof garden with Jacuzzi. Usable area: 200sqm; freehold land: 100sqm. Price: 6.2 million baht. (US\$155,000). Please contact K. Peter. Tel: 01-8928526. For details please see our website at: www.phuket-besthomes.com

FURNISHED HOUSE FOR SALE

Fully-furnished house in Kathu, 125 Talang Wah. With 3 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms, big living area, bar, kitchen, storage room, 4 air conditioners and big car park. Price: 6 million baht. Call K. Busaba. Tel: 04-0645908.

SHOPHOUSE

3-story shophouse on the bypass road, close to the Tesco-Lotus supercenter, for rent or sale. Please contact me for further information. Email: tony@diveh2osportz.com

117 RAI, SEA VIEW

at Ao Por. Chanote title, has panoramic views of Ao Kung and Ao Por, and good road access. 1.7 million baht per rai. Please contact K. Jimmy. Tel: 01-0875828 or see our website at: www.phuketparadiseproperties.com

LAND FOR SALE

Nai Harn. Ideal to build a house on. 54 talang wah (220sqm) close to Nai Harn Beach. Only 650,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-8921057, 01-6919679. Email: choice@loxinfo.co.th

SMALL BOUTIQUE

hotel. 6 guest rooms, 1 maid's quarters/office with bath, 1 owner's residence with rooftop terrace (sea view). Kitchen and bar with 2 refrigerators, 1 cool unit, washer/dryer. Only 2 minutes to the beach. 9.8 million baht. Please call K. Jimmy. for more information. Tel: 01-0875828 or visit www.phuketparadiseproperties.com/Listing #0120034

LAND FOR SALE

in Cherng Talay. 130 talang wah. Soi Pasak, nice view. Sale by owner. Please call K. Ann at Tel: 01-8933571.

4 HOMES FOR SALE

Held by a Thai company. 3 homes in Patong and 1 home with pool in Kathu. Monthly income of 120,000 baht guaranteed for 1 year. No property transfer taxes apply. The company and assets are free of debt or liens. 21 million baht ono. Tel: 076-296072, 01-7196088.

NEW HOUSE IN KARON

with sea view. 2 floors, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Owner has instructed us to sell quickly due to a change in circumstances, hence first offer above 3 million baht secures. Contact for details. Tel: 04-0639223 or 09-5916125. Email: info@katabeachproperty.com

39 RAI, SEAVIEW

land, Kamala. 39 rai of prime sea-view land at Kamala Beach. 2 minutes' walk from beach and restaurants. Land slopes gently to 42m above sea level. Access from government road with electricity, water and telephone lines. A unique opportunity for the serious developer. Asking price only 6.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 01-0797121. Email: nadda@malee-baan-thai.com www.malee-baan-thai.com

KAMALA THAI VILLA

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms all with granite, hardwood floor, pool, Jacuzzi, carport. On 1 rai, only 9.8 million baht. Tel: 01-0797121. Email: nadda@malee-baan-thai.com For more details, please visit: www.malee-baan-thai.com

NAI HARN VILLA

Garden, car port, gated, must see, many extras. Furnished. For sale at 5 million baht. Tel: 01-3709661.

PATONG TOWNHOUSE

for sale. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Large courtyard. Underground water tank, UBC, ADSL telephone line. 10 meters from large communal swimming pool. Beautifully decorated and fully furnished. 5.5 million baht. Offers invited. Tel: 076-296072, 01-7196088.

SEAVIEW HOME

sites. Eight 1-rai plots. Road and underground utilities. Ready to build. Quiet location with view of Phi Phi and more. 8 million baht. Plot #5 is 9.5 million baht, Plot #6 is 8.5 million baht. Contact Jimmy. Tel: 01-0875828. Or visit our website at: www.phuketparadiseproperties.com/Listing#0060029

APARTMENT IN PATONG

Rambutan Residence offers 20 luxury apartments (61 sqm) for sale or lease (60-year lease). Located in Soi Playboy just off Nanai Rd at Patong Beach, Rambutan Residence offers wonderful sea views from the 3 upper floors overlooking Patong Bay. All apartments are fully furnished with a built-in kitchen and bathroom. The bedrooms are equipped with high-quality hardwood floors. The apartments offer air conditioning, safety box, 24-hour security, high-speed Internet, telephone and cable TV connections. The common area includes: garage, elevator, corridors and garden. The construction will be completed by December 2006. Prices start at 2.6 million baht. Tel: 01-892-8526 or visit: www.phuket-besthomes.com

1 RAI, SEAVIEW

Chalong. 200 meters from beach. Great for living or development. Only 4.3 million baht. Tel: 06-2670898.

RAWAI, 13 RAI

Great area. Only high-end developments around. Be fast as it will be gone quickly. Price: 3.2 million baht. Tel: 06-267-0898.

RAWAI, 1 RAI

50-meter from beach, water, electric, road, Chanote title. Great for small apartment. Tel: 07-8938747.

RAWAI SHOPHOUSES



2 new, connected shophouses in Rawai, on Wiset Rd, are for sale. Ground floor: sales office, staff room, kitchen, dining room and toilet. Second floor: master bedroom with separate bath and 2 separate bedrooms with connecting bath. Third floor: living room and en-suite bedroom. Living area 200sqm, freehold land: 100sqm. Price 4.5 million baht. (US\$113,000). Please contact K. Peter for more information at Tel: 01-8928526 or visit our website at: www.phuket-besthomes.com

AFFORDABLE

luxury pool villas. 6.2 million baht. Four boutique pool villas. Luxury, affordability, simplicity, elegance and style. Each of these 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom villas are built in an elegant L-shape around an infinity-edge pool. Contact Jimmy. Tel: 01-0875828. Or visit our website at: www.phuketparadiseproperties.com/Listing#0330030

NEW 2-BEDROOM

house in Kamala. Free hold, good area, 5 minutes to the beach. 1.2 million baht for easy sale. Tel: 01-8928208.

NEW HOUSE IN PATONG



Brand-new, deluxe house, with a swimming pool, on a Patong hillside, on Soi Maneesri. 2 floors, modern Thai-style architecture, completely furnished, ready to live in. Ground floor: big living room, Western-style kitchen and dining room, guest toilet. Second floor: big master bedroom and bath with Jacuzzi, 2 bedrooms and a separate bathroom. Each room has an air conditioner and a balcony. Living area: 200sqm; freehold land 150sqm. Price: 8.5 million baht. (US\$210,000). Please contact K. Peter at Tel: 01-8928526 or visit our website at: www.phuket-besthomes.com

LAND FOR SALE

on Koh Sireh, ready for development. 3 minutes from seaport. 5 minutes from Phuket City. Chanote title. 1.5 rai, 5.1 million baht or nearest offer. Call K. Phnan or Steve. Tel: 07-214-7867, 07-6200689 for more information.

TOP VIEW KATA

3 rai, unbelievable seaview. Road, electricity, water. Great for project. 5.9 million baht. Tel: 09-6525664.

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Property Gazette

CHALONG NEW HOME

Perfect Western-style home. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon & telephone. Tel: 076-280466.

HOUSE & BIG GARDEN

Fully furnished, 2 aircon bedrooms. 11,000 baht per month. Located at Palai Green, Chalong Bay. Tel: 01-8924311.

PHUKET CITY

3-bedroom house within 15 minutes or so of the British curriculum International school. Near Lotus. Good for home office. Price: 38,000 baht per month. Tel: 01-691-1982.

NEW 2-BEDROOM

Unfurnished house with a big garage and located in a quiet area (Muangtong Soi 1). 3km to town, 2km to beach. 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 05-885-5415.

BEACHFRONT CONDO

Kalim Patong, high standard, fully furn, 2-bedroom, kitchen, pool, many facilities. Short term. Tel: 01-8920038.

FOR RENT: B18,000

3-bedroom house with aircon, fully furnished, small garden, security system. Chao Fa East Rd garden home. Tel: 01-8173776.

RAWAI

1-2 bedroom flat for rent, fully furnished, aircon, swimming pool. Tel: 01-6067410.

LAKE HOUSE

New, in Kamala, fully furnished. Has 2 bedrooms, UBC and air conditioning. Asking 17,000 per month. Tel: 01-8928208.

LAND & HOUSES PARK

New house, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully equipped, 2 air conditioners. 23,000 baht a month. Contact K. Tik at Tel: 09-7280999.

LAND FOR RENT

1 rai flat land near Phuket Golf course in Tung Tong, Kathu. Long-term rent, good for warehouse. Tel: 09-7279927.

2-BEDROOM HOUSE

Nice 2-bedroom house, furnished, 5 minutes to Phuket City. Quiet area, huge yard, perfect for kids and dogs. 8,000 baht a month. Tel: 01-0340651. Email: ajarnlogan@gmail.com

LUXURY 3-BEDROOM

house. Near Laguna, furnished, aircon, spa, pool, poolside bar. 1/2 rai landscaped land. Lease: 40,000 baht a month. Tel: 09-5944067.

PATONG APARTMENT

on hill. For rent, a large fully-furnished apartment in exclusive area on Blue Point hill above Patong near Hotel Ban Yin Dee. Double bedroom + bedroom/study, living room, kitchen, UBC & TV, big balcony in garden setting. Peaceful & quiet, yet 5 mins from Patong nightlife. Tel: 07-8909075. Email: gaz_dao@yahoo.com

FULLY-FURNISHED

apartment in Rawai. Aircon, swimming pool, kitchen, cable TV, Internet, daily maid service. Must be seen. Tel: 01-0804702. Email: colin1216@hotmail.com

FURNISHED & NEW

incl. kitchen + hot and cold bathroom. 5 mins walk to bus/beach. Farang comfort in local area. Tel: 01-9683546. Email: robin46@gmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

or Rent. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen rooms, 80 sqw. Big garden, Cable TV, Tel + ADSL, 25 minutes to Phuket town, 10 minutes to international school and boat lagoon, furnished and quiet place, 1km east of Heroines' Monument, 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-527020, 09-4740222. Email: mammos56@hotmail.com

3-BEDROOM HOME

Chao Fa Rd. 207 sq wah, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, nice living room, good kitchen, cool garden, parking for 3 cars. Fully furnished. For sale at 6.7 million baht or rent at 40,000 baht per month. Tel: 01-597-8315. Email: phuket8@hotmail.com

4-BEDROOM VILLA

in Chalong. Unique! Quiet and safe area on the hillside near Chalong Circle. Resort-style villa with aircon, UBC TV, ADSL, tropical garden, Jacuzzi, 4 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms. Long term only. 30,000 baht a month. Tel: 01-6079020, 01-8235410. Email: frank@bathline.info

HOUSE FOR RENT

Home & office, 1,500sqm, Phuket City area, Wichit Songkram Rd. Fully furnished, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Tel: 04-0629587.

FOR RENT IN KATHU

3-bedroom home near Loch Palm Golf Course and British international school. Swimming pool, telephone line with ADSL Internet access, fully furnished, UBC TV, garden and pool maintenance included. 45,000 baht per month. Tel: 09-6498703.

OLD BUILDING

On Dibuk Rd for rent at 20,000 baht a month, and room with cable TV at 2,500 baht. Tel: 01-6072489.

KAMALA

Luxury bungalow, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. En-suite, custom-built teak furnishings, swimming pool, UBC, phone, aircon etc. Gated estate. Long-term lease, only 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 01-811-1067.

PHUKET B.L.

apartment. New in Kathu. Big room, 1 bedroom, aircon, cable TV, Internet, hot shower, garden, car park. 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 01-692-3163.

KAMALA VILLA

Fully furnished to a high standard. Western kitchen. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Lounge and dining areas. Large balcony overlooking a swimming pool and landscaped gardens. Stunning sea views, only meters from the beach. Private gated parking with storage. UBC & ADSL. One month rental. 70,000 baht a month. Tel: 04-8436837. Email: info@phuket-island-homes.com For further details, please see our website: www.phuket-island-homes.com

LARGE NEW LUXURY

house for rent. Rawai-Nai Harn area, 5 bedrooms, large garden, swimming pool. 50,000 baht a month, min 1 year. 3-bedroom house with pool, 2 minutes from Nai Harn Beach. 30,000 baht a month. Please call for full details. Tel: 01-3971835.

APARTMENTS

Chalong. Titima Mansions; 2 bedrooms, furnished, aircon, hot shower, security and gardens. Please contact for full details. Tel: 01-8914964. Email: beachcomberwa@yahoo.com.au

BIG SHOPHOUSE

in Patong. Located in Soi Patong Resort, off Bangla Road, the commercial hub of Patong Beach. Approx 180 sqm on 2 open-space floors. Suitable for commercial purposes, unfurnished. Tel: 076-340290. Email: paciugo89@yahoo.com

NICE HOUSE

for rent. Long term. Beachfront house, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, with hot shower, 3 aircon, fully furnished, kitchen, fridge, washing machine, 2 phone lines, UBC, big fenced-in garden. 2 minutes from Chalong Circle, in a very nice area with security. Please call for more details. Tel: 01-8931121.

DETACHED HOUSES

4 new detached houses for rent at Pa Khlok, just 5km from an international school. Each has 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. Asking 13,000 baht per month. Please call Tel: 04-8516115. or contact via email for further details at: suksavat@hotmail.com

APARTMENT FOR RENT

Nai Harn area.
Swimming pool,
Hot water, balcony,
beautiful surroundings,
aircon, UBC,
furnished, kitchen.
Rent: 10,000 baht/month.
Please call
Tel: 06-5969601.

APARTMENTS

for rent. 2 mins from Nai Harn Beach, fully furnished, kitchen, aircon, cable TV, wireless Internet, swimming pool and daily maid service. Tel: 09-0491785. Email: eltonkirk@hotmail.com

TOWNHOUSE

for rent at Phuket Villa California. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 21 sq wah, unfurnished. Ready to move in. Rent: 6,500 baht a month. Tel: 076-283374, 01-8928165. Email: panjamar@hotmail.com

NICE HOUSE, CHALONG

2 bedrooms, big kitchen, cable TV, aircon. 8,500 baht, utilities extra. Tel: 076-344487, 06-2677245.

NAI HARN TOWNHOUSE

No garden, 3 large bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. 2.8 million baht. Furnished. Will rent 18,000 baht month on a yearly basis. Tel: 01-3709661.

RAWAI SALE/RENT

2-story house. 130sqm living space. 5,000 baht/month or will sell for 850,000 baht. 400 meters from beach. Please contact for more details. Tel: 06-6865567. Email: chotip_5@hotmail.com

NEW 3-BEDROOM

house in Thalang. 2 bathrooms. Gated community, 24-hour security, 10 minutes to international school and Boat Lagoon. 15,000 baht per month. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-8928208.

NICE HOUSE FOR RENT IN KATA

2 bedrooms. Some furniture. Soi Khoakthanod, big garden. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 09-0114069. Email: thommm@online.no

NEW VILLA

Nai Harn/Rawai. Off Baan Sai Yuan. 3 double bedrooms (1 aircon), 2 bathrooms, hot water, lounge, entrance hall, kitchen, driveway and walled garden. Only minutes from Rawai & Nai Harn Beaches, and close to local shops. Long-term rental at 16,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-388604, 01-8943966. Email: info@thailand-sail.com

RAWAI HOUSE

2 bedrooms, farang bath, driveway, garden, no yard. 5,500 baht per month. Tel: 076-288175. Email: dltudge@hotmail.com

SPECTACULAR

views. Yamu house, Cape Heights, Cape Yamu. An outstanding period property, set in delightful gardens with amazing sea views towards Phang Nga Bay. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 receptions, study, kitchen, maid's room, swimming pool, furnished. Close to BCIS. 70,000 baht per month. Tel: 06-2796283.

LARGE NEW LUXURY

house for rent. Rawai-Nai Harn area, 5 bedrooms, large garden, swimming pool. 50,000 baht a month, min 1 year. 3-bedroom house with pool, 2 minutes from Nai Harn Beach. 30,000 baht a month. Please call for further details. Tel: 01-3971835.

EXOTIC KATA

seafront. Aspasia: luxury 2-bedroom, 3-bathroom apartment. Spa, pools, gym, ADSL, quiet area. June to December. 50,000 baht/month. Tel: 09-9726017. Email: asiasail@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at: www.koumbele.com/kata2

HOUSE FOR RENT IN VILLA 5



Phuket Villa 5, 90sqm, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a large living area and kitchen, 3 air conditioners, built-in wardrobe, 5-piece rattan lounge suite and a phone line. Only 5 minutes to Central Festival Phuket and only 15 minutes to Rawai. For rent at 15,000 baht a month. Tel: 07-2709093. Email: s_oranut@hotmail.com

UNCLE CHAI

Phuket Private Home, a special style for the discriminating renter. One bedroom. Long lease preferred. Average 15,000 baht a month. In Chalong area. Please call Tel: 01-4926883 or visit: www.unclechaihome.com

KARON APARTMENT

Central Karon, 50m from beach, 2 rooms, 2 balcony, cable TV, WiFi, aircon. Long term only. 17,500 baht per month. Tel: 06-2718254.

FOR RENT IN RAWAI SOI SUKSAN 2

Beautiful villas of 220sqm in a quiet resort. Asking only 32,000 baht per month, electricity not included. For a long-term rent, minimum 1 month, maximum 6 months. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, TV, UBC, ADSL, aircon, swimming pool. Please call Tel: 07-2678389. For further details, please see at www.christianesblue.com

Agents for Classified Advertising

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Fax: 076-280403

Earth Language School

Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City

Tel: 076-232398/9

Fax: 076-232398

Sin & Lee

Thalang Rd, Phuket City

Tel: 076-258369

Fax: 076-211230

Taurus Travel

Aroonsom Plaza Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong

Tel: 076-344521/2

Fax: 076-344523

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Srisoontorn Rd, Cherng Talay

Tel/Fax: 076-324312

Property Gazette

Property Wanted



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Email: info@gardenislandphuket.com

www.gardenislandphuket.com

Do you have adequate insurance? Because we have Phuket covered.

PROPERTY EXCHANGE

I am looking for a villa-style property with a minimum of 4 beds on at least 1 rai of land. Just the land alone is an option. If possible, I would like to exchange for a UK property in Scarborough on the UK's east coast. The property is 4 stories and is licensed as a guesthouse. Its value is around UK£250,000, so cash adjustments can be made either way. Email: mrpaulharland@hotmail.com

LONG-TERM RENTAL

wanted. Expat family looking for a long-term rental in Phuket, as follows: Near BCIS (maximum 20 mins), minimum of 4 bedrooms + maid's room, unfurnished, large pool, garden. Lease to begin August 6 for a minimum of 12 months. Email: pravin@iim.com.sg

BUNGALOW RESORT

or guesthouse. I am looking to rent a bungalow resort or guesthouse in the Rawai/Chalong area. Please email: tomDEXTER2001@yahoo.de

GUESTHOUSE

and restaurant in Phuket City, Patong, Karon or Kata. Please contact me by email or phone if you have or know of something available. Tel: 00-467-074321. Email: chrillearning@hotmail.com

HOUSE WANTED

Looking for a 2- to 3-bedroom house to buy in Phuket or Krabi. Maximum price: 4 million baht. Please contact. Email: wanphenstephen@hotmail.com

AUDITION ROOM

I am looking for an audition room to rent. The room must be at least 7 meters long and 4m wide, with white walls (for background). One of the short walls should be without windows (background). Would be great with aircon. Please contact with full details. Tel: 06-6285292. Email: w_sopon@hotmail.com

LAND AND CONDO

wanted. Looking for a 1-1 rai of seaview land in the Kamala area. Also interested in a seaview freehold condo on east or west coast. Private offers; no brokers, please. Email: cfmcap@phuket.ksc.co.th

2-3 BEDROOMS

Looking for an unfurnished house in good condition in the Chalong or Nai Harn areas. 2-3 bedrooms, parking space, long-term lease. Tel: 01-8628267. Email: chriso@loxinfo.co.th

Accommodation Available

PATONG LUXURY APARTMENTS

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

HOTEL PROMOTION

Long stay inc. ABF 18,000 baht monthly. Beachfront, pool and spa, free WiFi Internet. Tel: 01-8920038. Email: anthony_sharman2006@hotmail.com

TO LET OR FOR SALE

2 x 2 bed apartments on Patong hillside. Each is 110 sqm. One is let long term, the other vacant. Full aircon, European kitchens, ADSL/phone, cable. Fantastic views. Long-term let or purchase options. Tel: 01-0854514. Email: jwizard345@aol.com

PATONG ROOMS AT 6,000 BAHT

Thai Oriental Inn rooms for long-term rent. Prices from 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 06-0207467. Fax: 076-278103. Email: info@thaiorientalinn.com

KAMALA BEACH

2 private beautifully-appointed f/f houses available long or short term. ADSL, UBC available. A/C throughout. Tel: 01-8931360. Email: noi@phuketproperties.com

BEACH HOUSE

Long-term rent. Beach bungalow in a new 5-house private resort on mainland, with views to Samui, for long-term rent. Total privacy and quiet. For non-smokers. Tel: 01-8914260. Email: tigerseyes@bycall24.de Please see our website at: www.home.arcor.de/bhouse

APARTMENT

near Loch Palm. Apartment 58sqm. Bedroom, living room, kitchen, bathroom terrace, swimming pool, aircon, fan, cable TV, telephone line, hot water, fully furnished. 12,000 baht per month. Long or short term 600 baht per day. Tel: 076-202725, 01-8916632. Email: golfandview@gmx.de

2-BEDROOM APT

Patong hillside luxury 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom apartment available for rent now. Fully furnished, pool, aircon, satellite TV, etc. Clean apartment in desirable area. 25,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 05-0717134. Fax: 076-346158. Email: robinsonkevin@mac.com

ROOM FOR RENT

in the city. Tai - Tan court: Unlimited Internet access. Fully furnished, including fridge, cable TV, aircon, hot water, car park and shared kitchen. 6,000 baht/month (including water). Visits by appointment only. Tel: 076-243118, 09-1885300. Email: passakornhongsyok@yahoo.com For details please see our website at: www.taitancourt.com

PATONG CONDOS

Studio room and one-bedroom apartment for rent. 28sqm and 56 sqm. 8,000 baht and 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 09-8726895. Email: jostein.pedersen@eunet.no

2 NICE HOMES

in Kamala. 2 beautifully-appointed, fully-furnished homes 250m from beach. See 02/R and 03/R listings at www.phuketproperties.com/houses.htm. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-8931360. Email: noi@phuketinvestments.com

NEW APARTMENT

Fully furnished, big apartment for rent at Nai Harn Beach. Max 4 persons. 500 baht per day, 9,000 baht per month. Tel: 04-8519072. Email: goodtasteforgoodlife@yahoo.de

Accommodation Wanted

APARTMENT/CONDO

Nice location in Patong wanted from Nov 2, 2006 until Jan 31, 2007. Must have 1-2 bedrooms, kitchen, balcony (prefer with sea view), TV/UBC and a possibility of maid service. Good references from retired Swedish flight captain. Email: anders@orvemo.com

URGENTLY REQUIRED

Urgently need to find accommodation in Phuket City. Fully furnished with small kitchen, UBC TV and preferably a washing machine. Close proximity to town and Bangkok Hospital Phuket with easy access to shopping and public transportation, taxi, etc. Will be staying one month to six weeks, due to give birth in next 10 days! Please contact by phone asap. Tel: 06-742-7714.

HOUSE TO RENT

3 bedrooms with ADSL in Kamala or Kamala area. Please contact for more details. Email: claes.during@tele2.se

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A Swedish doctor would like to rent a studio or 1-bed apt in central Patong from August 17/30 to October 30 (8-10 weeks). Must have Internet. Email: baahl@hotmail.com

CHRISTMAS

accommodation for 2 people. I am looking for an apartment in the Kata area from Dec 26, 2006 to Jan 16, 2007. Must have aircon and shower. Email: cockersbar@hotmail.com

LOOKING FOR VILLA

to rent. We are looking for a big, furnished house (good standard) with pool and 4-5 bedrooms to rent for the period 15 November 2006 till 15 January 2007. Prefer areas of Nai Harn, Chalong and Rawai - but other areas possible. Please contact for further details. Tel: 06-167-4607. Email: krzysioc@phuket.ksc.co.th

HOUSE WANTED

to rent. Looking for a house in Patong area to rent from September 2006, for 6-12 months. Please let me know what you have. Email: john_m_king@hotmail.com

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- Wardrobe

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65 Ft	1993	Indonesia Penisi	US\$	125,000
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52 Ft	1996	Super maramu	US\$	495,000
47 Ft	1974	S&S, Alu Sloop	US\$	160,000
47 Ft	1997	Beneteau Oceanis 461	US\$	198,000
47 Ft	1994	Lagoon 47	Euro	249,000
43 Ft	1994	Beneteau Oceanis 430	THB	4,500,000
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42 Ft	1987	Westall 42	Euro	60,000
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367/2 Yaowarat Rd., T. Taladyai, A. Muang, Phuket 83000

Fax: 076-213971 Email: fon@phuketgazette.net

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Human Resources Department
Evason Phuket Resort & Six Senses Spa
100 Viset Road, Rawai Beach Phuket 83100
Fax: 076-381024 email: hr@evasonphuket.com
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aonammahomeschool.com

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Horizons Learning Center requires qualified, experienced teachers for these positions from Aug 2006: nursery; music/drama; Mandarin. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-238756, 01-894-2560. Fax: 076-325403. Email: pamelah@horizons-phuket.com

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Xerox Ricoh reconditioned desktop copiers with service by farang 25,000 baht/each. Call George for more information. Tel: 06-972-4805.

HOT TUB CLOSE OUT

1 USA hot tub-hot spring spa. Strong massage jets. 30-40% discount. Only 3 tubs remaining. 3 x 6 seats. Spa design. Please call for more information. Tel: 09-1950610.

COMPUTER TABLE

Computer table with keyboard drawer, size 60x80cm, oak color, 2 years old, 80% condition. Asking only 900 baht. Please contact for more information. Email: eng_ls@yahoo.com

NEW SINGLE BEDS

with mattresses, 10 units sealed all together. 10,000 baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 07-8817600.

FRIDGE/FREEZER

Mirage single-door fridge, 6 months old: 12,000 baht. Sanyo freezer: 6,000 baht. Stainless-steel table with deep sink: 13,000 baht. Sanyo cash register 3,000 baht, brand-new. Please contact for more information. Tel: 04-6267220. Email: kthdmnds@yahoo.com.au

ELECTRIC KETTLE

Contains approx 3 liters. Good condition: 500 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-2950814. Email: kaya.ijv@gmail.com

NEW FURNITURE

- Timber king-size bed + mattress: 9,000 baht
- Charcoal gray and beige upholstered 6-8 seat lounge suite: 18,000 baht
- TV cabinet & matching wall unit: 3,000 baht & 4,000 baht
- Tempered glass dining table w/ timber frame (seats 6-8): 10,000 baht
All furniture brand-new and dark oak in color.

Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-383059, 06-2817605. Email: nigelnpixie@yahoo.com.au

TV STAND

Big TV stand with many storage slots. In very good condition: 1,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-2950814. Email: kaya.ijv@gmail.com

OFFICE FURNITURE

Logica desks, board table, chairs, cabinets, computer, all about 1 year old. Catalog available. Please contact for more info. Tel: 01-8957727. Email: info@axiominvestments.com

Bulletins

Alcoholics Anonymous

is holding meetings in English at the following places:

Phuket City

Mission Hospital
on Wed and Sun at 7 pm

Bangkok Phuket Hospital
on Fri at 7 pm

Patong

Patong Hospital
on Mon, Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun
at 7 pm and on Fri at 8 pm

For more info, please call
012732053 (Scandinavian),
019564031 or 018912895

Business Opportunities

BEAUTIFUL SCHOOL

franchise! Beautiful TEXT-AND-TALK Academy franchise, including world famous TEFL Course, now available in Patong, Phuket. Fully staffed with principal, marketing managers and TEFL Course instructor. Very easy terms. Building purchase optional. Please contact James on 01-847 7248. (This offer won't last long!), 02-5613443, 02-561-4381. Email: parmelee@langserv.com

BAR

accommodation. Kamala large bar, beer garden, 5 letting rooms, sale: 1.2 million baht. Email: thomaspatong@gmx.de

BEACHFRONT BUSINESS

Looking for a beachfront restaurant or business property to buy or to lease. Please call Tel: 09-0543505 with full details.

FOR SALE

German carwash technology from importer. Wash 100 cars or more a day. Selling, installation, service, training, investment. Email: carwash_phuket@hotmail.com

O'MALLEYS IRISH PUB

Small business, big opportunity! Recently refurbished pub & restaurant, located in Phuket City. Package includes all paperwork, visas, 2 work permits and all licenses for a smooth takeover. 400sqm, live-music stage, sound and light system, UBC TV, 3 new pool tables (incl pool room), 15 tables, 40 bar stools, 5 fridges and freezers, kitchen equipment and over 300 taxi-bikes with O'Malleys vests driving around the city! Offers considered. Available as leasehold or freehold. Tel: 09-7292846. Email: scottshaw77@lycos.co.uk

RAWAI RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Restaurant opportunity in Rawai. Tel: 09-8605007. Email: meccar@msn.com

BOUTIQUE HOTEL LEASE/SALE



This 3-story boutique hotel has a good Patong Beach location. It features 10 lovely rooms, a stylish restaurant and a cozy mini spa. For sale or long-term lease. Ref #DHKT120515. Please contact. Tel: 06-0043008. Fax: 076-341 372. Email: info@ayudhya.net For further details, please see our website at www.ayudhya.net

BEST FOR OFFICE

Ownership for sale: 2.3 million baht. 4-story unit next to Joe Mansion, before Lan Nawamin Park, near Pearl Hotel. Important places within walking distance. All recently renovated. Fax: +81-92-606-4133. Email: hiro-phuket@nifty.com

RESTAURANT

for sale. 50 seats with new equipment. Long lease and good rent. Perfect location. Company and work permit can be included. 1.3 million baht. Tel: 076-319032, 09-7291113. Email: richard_melen@hotmail.com

SHOP/OFFICE

50sqm in Sky Inn, Patong Condotel Complex for rent. Ground floor unit No 47/17. 6,000 baht/month. Tel: 06-6865567.

2-STORY SHOP FOR RENT

On Phuket Rd. Good location next to a dentist. 5m x 30m. 240,000 baht a year. Tel: 01-8924311.

OFFICE-SHOWROOM

for rent. At Laguna Plaza Del Mar. Ground floor, 2 telephone lines, aircon, security system. Ready to move in. Please call. Tel: 01-9586805. For further details, please see our website at www.kris.dervedvwegth.g4s.com

PARTNER FOR BUSY BAR WANTED

50-seat bar on the beach road in Patong seeks partner. Current farang owner 7 years. Good all-year-round business. No monthly rent. 50% share for 1.75 million or sell outright with 3-year lease for 4.5 million baht. Tel: 01-2715311. Email: mentor@phuket.ksc.co.th

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@gmail.com for more information

BUSINESS FOR SALE

- Restaurant
- Internet cafe
- Beauty salon
- Thai massage parlor

All separate and fully equipped in the best spot in Chalong. Comes with 5 x 2-room apartments. 1.75 million baht. Lease 45,000 baht per month. 3 x 3 years. Tel: 09-5934193. Email: tonydudley@eznet.co.nz

FOR SALE/RENT

Restaurant, Koh-Lanta, Klong-Dao beach. 28 seats inside, 12 outside. Lease until 31-March 2009. Rent 200,000 per year, asking price 900,000 baht. Includes rent for 2006-2007. Everything newly renovated. Contact Conny for more details and photos. Tel: 09-9858309. Email: crockstrom@hotmail.com

BAR/RESTAURANT

Restaurant on Rat-U-Thit Rd. Apartment above. Must sell 1.4 m baht. Bar/rest, Nanai Rd. Price now 900,000 baht. Inspect today, call Brian. Tel: 07-0673360. Email: batone86@hotmail.com

PHI PHI ISLAND

Business for sale, 7 million baht. 2 locks, 3 rooms, aircon, 2 bathrooms. Best location. 10+ 10-year lease possible. Tel: 01-8948415, 01-170-8937.

BAR FOR SALE

Popular and successful amigos bar in Soi Seadragon for sale. Pool table, darts, own sound system, 5-year lease. 5.2 million baht. Serious offers considered. Tel: 07-8838721.

PATONG BEACHFRONT

Business location for sale. Everything installed: phone, ADSL, aircon. 4m x 12m with similarly-sized front patio area. Tel: 04-625534. Email: reidkerr_4@yahoo.com

RESTAURANT FOR LEASE

Best location at Chalong Circle. Aircon, phone, fully equipped, UBC TV, pool table. Includes 2 x 2-room upstairs apartments. Rent 36,000 baht per month. Tel: 09-5934193. Email: tonydudley@eznet.co.nz

KATOYS 'R' US

partner. After 6 years, Patong's famous Cabaret bar is for sale or may consider share/partner as Nick is retiring. Personal calls only to Nick at 076-292746, 01-8922824 or Ning-Ning at 01-8955242. No email info.

BUNGY JUMP

Pattaya. Due to other business commitments our Pattaya site is now for sale. Tel: 09-2891703. Email: kiwitezz@hotmail.com

INVESTMENT

Min investment of 10,000 euros for 1 year = 10% interest net, payable after 4 weeks. Legal contract. Email: adventuraintern@hotmail.com

FOR RENT

Shophouse at Chalong Circle. Good location. Would suit dive shop or similar. Aircon and phone. Rent: 14,000 baht per month. Tel: 09-5934193. Email: tonydudley@eznet.co.nz

NICE SHOP

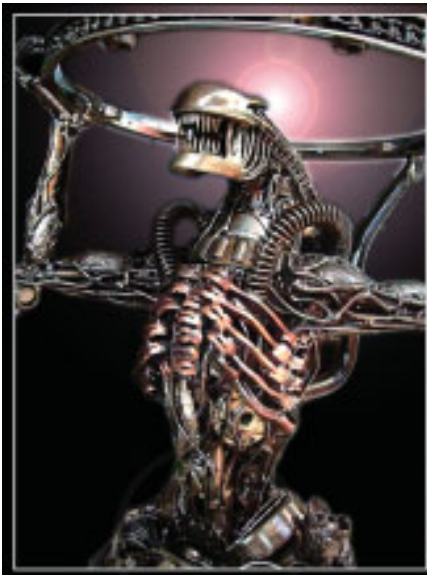
Kata Center. 300m from Karon and Kata Beaches, near zoning bars. Everything included. Only 400,000 baht. Clothes delivered from Singapore, trained staff, will act as consultant for new owner. Tel: 076-333140, 04-1853295.

BAR FOR SALE

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Miscellaneous for Sale

SPORT FISHERMAN

Arguably the finest quality center console in Thailand. In Commercial Survey! Tel: 076-292746, 01-892-2824. Email: junaworn@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at: www.kohjoy.com/makocraft

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Ex-professional and British cycling champion would like to offer advice on nutrition and personal training. Tel: 07-1466622.

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available. Native English speaker with years of experience with children available. Will babysit too. Email: lboyee01@yahoo.com

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- Gain muscle
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HOME TEACHER

Teach Math, Science, Physics, Chemistry. Grade 1-12 (Teacher graduated Computer Science). Tel: 01-8970535. Email: kan_thm@hotmail.com

Personals

BACKGAMMON

Retired businessman looking for backgammon players on Phuket Island. Please call. Tel: 076-386113, 01-5778443.

YOUR FUTURE FORETOLD

Richard de Meath, internationally renowned clairvoyant and Tarot Grandmaster, will reveal the secrets of your future. Please contact. Tel: 44-(0)12028. Email: richarddemeath@tiscali.co.uk

Pets

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Hello, my name is Pablo. I'm 10 years old (father an International Champion and mother a French Champion) and looking for a beautiful, big female. Napolitan Mastiff female is preferable, but any other big size is ok - Rotweiler, Labrador, Doberman, etc. Please email my owner. Email: poloyaux@yahoo.fr

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Wheels & Motors

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An 8-year-old Caribbean jeep for sale. Green. Good condition. Asking 145,000 baht. Tel: 01-2715291. Email: bertrandroggo@hotmail.com

SUZUKI JEEP

30,000km. Had 65,000 baht put into it which includes a new engine. Will sell for 140,000 baht. Tel: 07-8903254 (K. Plern), 09-0625772 (K. Jez). Email: dreamnicedream@yahoo.com

FORD RANGER 4X4

Hurricane model, Sept 2004. Only 17,000 km. 4-door, manual, dark blue. 580,000 baht. Tel: 01-8919461.

WILLYS FOR SALE

Willys 1942 Ma2 jeep. 100% original, 4-speed 4WD submersible. Tel: 06-2766626.

4WD TOYOTA

Tiger. Year 2000 Extra Cab 3.0 Diesel SR5. One of the meanest cars on Phuket! Please contact for more info. Tel: 04-6535863. Email: irishinvestor@hotmail.com

ISUZU D-MAX 3L

Turbo SLX Jan 2004, 2WD, 4-door, manual, gold color, full service history, expat owned, Canvas Creations tonneau cover, load bay liner. No accidents. Excellent condition. 25,000km. Selling at 550,000 baht. Tel: 076-238231.

NISSAN TURBO

4x4 pickup. Nissan Frontier 2500cc turbo diesel. 110,000km. July 2001. Good condition and maintenance. 320,000 baht ono. Tel: 076-282170, 01-4761271. Email: leduec@csloxinfo.com

Motorbikes

BRAND NEW 200cc (ATV)



2 JRDs, 2 years old. Jeep. All must be seen and driven. No serious offer refused. Call any time. Tel: 07-1466622.

YAMAHA VIRAGO

Not used much over the past 4 years. Not a Phuket motorcycle. Asking 60,000 baht, open to offers. Call anytime at. Tel: 01-270-0203. or contact via Email: stevennakon@hotmail.com

YAMAHA MIO

2 years old, blue, disc brake. Washed and waxed weekly. Never rented. Expat owned. Will sell to highest offer above 25,000 baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 04-844-5422.

HARLEY-DAVIDSON

1. Fat Boy EVO 1991, red, 95% with book. Price: 465,000 baht. 2. Dyna, wide grid 1,340cc, year 1994, with book. 480,000 baht. Please contact K. Sumon at West Coast Motorbikes on the bypass road. Tel: 01-6919346. Email: sumon@ridethailand.com

HARLEY 2002 CUSTOM



This bike started out as a 2002 Heritage Classic. Below is a list of what I have added to make the bike what it is today: 1550 upgrade kit with Branch heads (Andrews Cam), duel Mukni carburetors, top-of-the-range ignition module (this bike goes fast), Performance Machine (PM) Phatail (240 kit), PM wheels, PM 6 piston front brake with PM rotor, PM 4 piston (drive side) rear brake with PM Rotor, PM Contour forward controls, PM Contour switches and handle bar accessories, PM Mirrors, corbin Seat (ostrich leather), Harley Oil Cooler, temp gauge and oil pressure gauge, Paul Yaffe X Pipes and completely chromed. Bike can be seen at Nicky's Handlebar in Patong. Price: 1.8 million baht ono. Tel: 076-240042, 01-9792264. or email to: stroker106@csloxinfo.com for more information.

VINTAGE HONDA BIKE

In good running order with book and papers. Unrestored. First to see will buy. 48,000 baht. Tel: 09-5934193.

YAMAHA NOUVO

Blue, 30,000 baht. I also have a yellow Honda Wave 125R for sale at 28,000 baht. Please contact for full details at: Tel 076-344332, 09-724-8791. Fax: 076-292140. Email: tatummansion@hotmail.com

VESPA FOR SALE

Classic Vespa in good-to-great condition, ridden daily. Please contact for more information. Tel: 047-625534. Email: reidkerr_4@yahoo.com

HONDA CBR 400

Gray, in good condition, not a rental bike. Farang-owned, green book. Price: 60,000 baht. Contact me for more details. Email: mazen_kinj@hotmail.com

HONDA PHANTOM

or bigger bike wanted. Also have Honda Wave 125 for sale. 20,000 baht. Call Tom at Tel: 07-1789273.

HONDA 110 S

for sale. Old timer, 40 years old. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-6620804.

Rentals

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HONDA JAZZ

for rent. Black, aircon, central locking, CD player. Great car for touring Phuket. Very good rates. Please contact for more details. Tel: 07-628-1634, 01-4154043. Email: neil_skeldon@hotmail.com

Van

VW VAN

For lovers of old VW buses. Tel: 076-280205, 01-787-0811, 01-5376965. Email: heikeygarcon@email.com

Wanted

"MONKEY BIKE"

Honda 4-stroke. Must be in good condition with low mileage. Tel: 06-0406866. Email: adrian.j.simpson@gmail.com

HONDA WAVE 125

wanted. Require disc brakes and electric starter, about 2-3 years old, prefer red, blue or black. No more than 25,000 km. Please contact Matt with full details. Tel: 01-2712684. Fax: 076-214676.

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