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Dive industry rules revealed

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET: Provincial authorities have distributed to dive operators in Phuket a draft of the new regulations governing the licensing of dive businesses.

At a meeting on July 26, Phuket Governor Udomsak Usarangkura gave the parties concerned a week to reply with comments or suggestions about the regulations.

The draft regulations, in Thai language, are divided into three parts. The final version of the regulations will come into effect in about one month and businesses will then have a further 60 days to comply with the regulations.

One part covers environmental concerns and protection of coral, and applies to boat race organizers as well as dive businesses. {Editorial: page 26}

The second part gives instructions on how to register as a dive operator, while the final part sets out plans for the formation of three committees.

The first committee will receive applications for permission to operate a diving business or organize boat races; the second will examine applications before presentation to the governor and the third will inspect licensed businesses and deal with illegal operators.

The draft covering registration dictates that dive operators must register their business with the Phuket Marine Office and must present the company's registration documents and tax information, the work permits of foreign staff, all boat registration documents including the names of captain and crew, records of



WHEELIE: Traffic was delayed for a couple of hours while the problem was sorted out. – Photo by Sylvie Yaffe.

Rearing to go

KATA: The infamously steep stretch of Patak Rd climbing out of Kata toward Chalong claimed another victim on July 31 – a truck laden with concrete slabs.

No one was hurt when the load slipped off the end of the truck, but it was a couple of hours before a crane, brought in to offload the cargo, cleared it all to the side of the road, allowing traffic to flow freely again.

salaries and wages, and details of any related website, the company payment system, diving courses and students.

The dive businesses that are granted permission to operate from the province will also have to submit monthly reports giving details of income, current staff and dive trips. Businesses that fail

to submit reports or that are deemed to have submitted inadequate reports will risk having their permission to operate withdrawn.

The moves were announced on July 26 at a meeting chaired by Governor Udomsak at Phuket Provincial Hall. Rep-
Continued on page 2

Jetstar sets out fares and schedules for Phuket flights

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

PHUKET: Australian budget airline Jetstar has unveiled its fares and flight schedules for long-haul international operations that will include a service between Sydney and Phuket starting in November this year.

Subject to regulatory approval, the airline, a subsidiary of Australian flag carrier Qantas, will launch its Thai operations on November 23 with a direct Melbourne-Bangkok service.

The following day, Jetstar will launch its first scheduled Sydney-Phuket service. Both services will initially be three times a week, using Airbus A330-200 aircraft with 303 seats in two classes – economy and StarClass, Jetstar's premium cabin.

Jetstar General Manager of Pricing and Offline Channels, David Koczkar, speaking in Bangkok, said, "We lead the low fare market in Australia, a positioning we hope to now lead with our flights to Thailand, encouraging more people to travel more often."

"Bangkok and Phuket are two of the most popular tourism destinations in Asia for Australians, and with Jetstar's high brand recognition in Australia and a genuine national appetite for low fares, we believe we will encourage thousands of regular and new tourists to [fly to] these destinations."

The economy fares are strictly no-frills; Jetstar passengers who want to eat en-route will be able to buy meals and snacks either when they buy a ticket or on board. They will also have to pay for pillows, blankets and inflight entertainment.

The airline's website at
Continued on page 2



Your Piece of Paradise

Dive industry rules unveiled

From page 1

representatives from the diving and tourism industries, local government and tourism authorities also attended.

The Governor explained to the assembly that the draft regulations were not designed to make people's lives more complicated, but were to be put in place to protect the environment and to ensure operators were acting within the law.

He also said that any ideas raised in the meeting could be incorporated into the regulations before they came into effect.

Measures suggested in the meeting, but not yet included in the new regulations, included setting safety and insurance standards and encouraging the training of Thais as dive masters.

After the meeting the Governor told reporters, "We are trying to establish a system that will be acceptable to all, and help to

ensure tourism in the long term by protecting the environment for future generations.

"We will wait for comments from everyone concerned before enacting the regulations so that we do not have to change them later. I believe that other provinces will follow our lead."

Palad Nivit said that no dive operators had opposed the registration process.

Some, however, had stated their concern about the possibility of rules mandating the training of Thais as dive masters or instructors.

They pointed out that this was an expensive process and, in their experience, the Thais, after training, would often quit to seek work elsewhere in the industry.

Gov Udomsak was abroad at the time of going to press. He was expected to bring the new rules into force soon after his return on August 3.

Jetstar set to launch Phuket service

From page 1

www.jetstar.com, through which flights may be booked and paid for, shows both the Sydney-Phuket and Melbourne-Bangkok fares set at A\$199 (about 4,400 baht), subject to availability.

The Jetstar service to Phuket will leave Sydney on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 3:20 pm.

The return flights will take off from Phuket on the same days at 10:20 pm.

The service from Melbourne to Bangkok will take off on Mondays, Thursdays and Sundays at 2:10 pm, with the return flights taking off on the same days at 9 pm.

• Meanwhile, Malaysia Airlines has resumed its pre-tsunami schedule between Phuket and Kuala Lumpur, reverting to two flights a day.

Starting August 1, flights have been taking off from Kuala Lumpur at 9:30 am and 6:10 pm every day, with return flights at 10:25 am and 7:20 pm.

An introductory fare of 2,222 baht return is being offered for flights taken before or on August 14. Bookings must be made by August 11.

Up until September 15, the airline is also offering return flights for 2,599 baht if booked at least 14 days in advance, or 3,099 baht if booked at least three days in advance.

Police seized 7,568 ya bah pills in July

PHUKET: Police seized 7,568 *ya bah* (methamphetamine) pills in Phuket and arrested 117 people in connection with drug offenses, statistics for the July 1 to 25 period show.

Of the 117 arrested, 56 were held for possession of *ya bah*, 22 for sniffing glue or paint thinners, 29 for possession of

marijuana; nine for possession of *krathom*, an indigenous plant that has a stimulant effect, and one for possession of cocaine.

In addition, 192 people were arrested on gambling charges, of whom 12 were held for involvement in the underground lottery.

Two murders were reported, with no arrests so far.

Teens targeted in HIV awareness drive

PHUKET: The growing number of young adults testing positive for HIV/Aids in the province has prompted the launch of an awareness drive aimed at teenagers and those in their early 20s.

At Phuket Provincial Hall on July 25, former Senator for Khon Kaen and women's rights activist Rabiabrat Pongpanich, currently President of the Society for Promoting Happy Families, chaired a meeting of the heads of the three Chalermprakiet Centers in Phuket.

Based at major government hospitals throughout the country, the centers provide support for HIV/Aids patients.

During the meeting, private organizations pledged 420,000 baht to the centers to help launch the campaign.

K. Rabiabrat said, "I worry more about teenagers contracting HIV than adults, because teenagers are less likely to practice safe sex... Teenagers often want to engage in premarital sex and they tend to trust their partners more than their parents. For this reason, parents need to talk



Women's rights activist Rabiabrat Pongpanich, left, with Vice-Governor Worapot Rattasima and Governor's wife Maneephan Uswarangkura.

to their children more about relationships and teach them about life, because teenagers are easily influenced – especially the girls.

"Most teenagers have unprotected sex and do not know enough about sexual relation-

ships. They do not know the true meaning of love and often lack the ability to differentiate between love and sex. They should love themselves, their parents, their self-respect and their families first," she explained.

Tsunami worry sparks deep seabed survey

By Stephen Fein

CAPE PANWA: The *Jakra-thong Tongyai*, a 38-meter Department of Fisheries research vessel operating out of the Phuket Marine Biological Center, will be fitted out with cutting-edge German technology to map sections

of the continental shelf edge in the Andaman Sea, some 300 kilometers from shore.

The purpose of the mapping is to determine whether or not the steeply-sloping shelf edge, which has never been mapped, is stable.

There is concern that, if the shelf edge is not stable, another big earthquake in the region could trigger a submarine landslide, causing a tsunami.

The research, to be carried out during three separate voyages at the end of this year and the beginning of next, is part of a joint effort between Thai researchers from the Southeast Asia START Regional Center, based at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok and led by Dr Anond Snidvongs, and a team of German experts led by Dr Willi Weinrebe of the IFM Geomar Research Institute in Kiel, Germany.

Information gathered will be analyzed in an effort to find evidence of past submarine slumps or landslides in the area.

If found, such evidence might indicate that Thailand's

Andaman coastline is vulnerable not only to tsunamis generated by sudden tectonic uplift events displacing large volumes of water – such as was the case with the December 26, 2004, tsunami – but also to a "secondary" class of tsunamis that originate when there is little or no water displacement, as is the case with an underwater slide.

"Even though there is no water displacement, the sheer volume of such a submarine landslide, which can be in the order of thousands of cubic kilometers of material, can also create a tsunami," explained Dr Anond.

Both he and Dr Weinrebe cited the case of the tsunami waves, up to 15 meters in height, that killed thousands of people along the northern coast of Papua New Guinea in 1998.

They said that most scientists agree that the waves were produced by an underwater slide, and not by any uplift associated with the 7.0-Richter-magnitude earthquake that is thought to have triggered the slide.

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Guest of honor, Privy Councillor Gen Suryuth Chulanonda, releases birds as part of the opening ceremonies on July 29 of this year's Halal Food, Hilal Town festival.

Phuket tourism leaders tour Suvarnabhumi

PHUKET, BANGKOK: Following the inaugural flight from Phuket International Airport to Thailand's new Suvarnabhumi Airport on July 29, key representatives of Phuket tourism businesses and the Provincial Government called on the central government to expand the country's major domestic airports.

With some 20 VIPs and members of the media from Phuket on board, Thai Airways International (THAI) flight TG 1882 landed at Suvarnabhumi at 12:59 pm.

After disembarking, the group was given a three-hour tour of the 155-billion-baht airport, which is scheduled to open for regular flights on September 28.

Phuket Vice-Governor Niran Kanlayanamit said, "This is good for tourism, especially when we promote on our road shows that Thailand has an airport with the latest technology, and Suvarnabhumi is big enough to support the airlines that plan to come here."

Pattanapong Aikvanich, former President of the Phuket Tourism Association and still an

adviser to the organization, was clearly impressed.

"I'm very happy that Thailand has a very big – and very beautiful – airport. It can serve up to 45 million passengers a year and within the next two years it will be expanded to cater to double that number."

However, he added, "I think the central government should improve the other airports in Thailand, too, because flights should connect and not just create air traffic to [Bangkok]. Main cities in each region should have a big airport such as this."

As an aside, K. Pattana-pong noted, "It's a pity that the Sky Train will not be picking up passengers from the airport for the next two years. That service should start when the airport opens in September."

Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwannasupana was proud of the image Suvarnabhumi airport gives tourists arriving in Thailand. "I've been to many countries and I think this is the only airport that has a clear identity. The decoration truly shows Thailand's culture," she said.

– Sangkhae Leelanaporn

Gov unhappy at deal for airport meter taxi desk

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET: Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura has expressed displeasure with new arrangements announced by the Airports Organization of Thailand (AOT), granting exclusive rights to organize meter taxis at the airport to a firm that owns no cars.

At a meeting held on July 26, the AOT announced that it had awarded a concession to open a meter-taxi counter in the airport to the Phuket Taxi Meter Co (PTMC).

The governor expressed his surprise, however, that PTMC does not operate any cars of its own and will act merely as an agent for other companies, at a charge of 40 baht per trip.

PTMC will pay the AOT around 30,000 baht a month for the privilege of running the counter. In return, all meter taxis wanting to pick up passengers at the airport will have to use PTMC's services.

The no-taxi "taxi" company stands to make good money; the airport is, it seems, about to get a lot more taxis. This is because of another decision by the AOT to

enforce the definition of "limousines" as cars with engine capacities of two liters or more.

The limousine operators' organization, Phuket Limousine and Business Service Cooperative (PBC), in order to extend its concession to run services at the airport, was forced to agree to this stipulation. In return, the concession fee was halved.

According to the deal, all cars with engines smaller than 2,000cc will have to downgrade to become meter taxis or cease operating at the airport.

Manod Choosak, the PBC President, said that the PBC has about 65 "limousines" with engines smaller than 2,000cc. He said he did not know how many of these would become meter taxis. Only 30 of the PBC's members' saloons have engines that comply with the two-liter rule.

Charn Jaimjaroen, Assistant Director of Phuket International Airport, said, "Under the terms of the contract we cannot allow any companies to operate meter taxis at the airport without going through PTMC. If the PBC wants to have meter taxis then it will have to pay PTMC."

In other words, PBC members who decide to take the meter-taxi route, yet remain PBC members, will pay twice – once as their share of the PBC concession and again through PTMC at a rate of 40 baht a trip.

K. Charn said that the AOT signed a contract with PTMC last year, authorizing it to organize the meter taxi services at the airport. He added that the AOT is "following provincial policy on offering more transport options for customers".

Gov Udomsak, however, was not impressed. He said, "The AOT have assured me that they cannot cancel the contract with PTMC now, even though the company does not have cars itself."

"Therefore I will allow the AAT to give PTMC a three-month trial period to see how the service works. If PTMC deviates from any points in the contract then [the contract] will have to be canceled," he said.

The Governor added that he had envisaged the meter taxi desk being run by a collective of meter taxi drivers. He wanted the drivers to be able to make a living without having to pay fees to third parties, he explained.

PTMC was last in the news in 2003 when it still had taxis and announced that it was increasing its fare to the airport from elsewhere in Phuket to 250 baht because the limousine concession barred non-limousine operators collecting passengers from the airport.

At the time of going to press, the company's principal, Patipol Prakobtan, was not available for comment.

American fugitive arrested

PHUKET (*Gazette, Nation*): An alleged pedophile wanted in the United States was arrested in Phuket on July 28 after laying low in Thailand for five years.

Police apprehended fugitive Charles Todd Stokes, 45, in a hotel room in Cherng Talay, Phuket Tourist Police Inspector Pol Maj Bundit Khaosutham said.

Stokes, who used to work as a teacher in Florida, had been

charged with molesting children before he escaped to Thailand five years ago. According to police he later opened an English-language school in Bangkok.

The arrest followed a raid by officers on an apartment stokes maintained in Pattaya. There they allegedly found around 100 photographs of boys aged nine to 11, both in school uniform and naked.

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Up until the attack that changed her life forever, K. Tassaya lived with her maternal grandmother in Patong. Her job as a waitress at the Seagull Home Hotel in Patong helped support her parents, both rubber tappers living on Soi Yodsane in Chalong, where she grew up with them and her two older brothers, now 23 and 26.

Before the attack, K. Tassaya's three-year-old daughter Napasorn "Ice" Iat-talod was taken by her father to live in Nakhon Sri Thammarat, where the child was being raised by her paternal grandmother. K. Boonwiwat, an employee of HomePro in Phuket, returned to Phuket to work, but after the attack fled to his home province, where Kathu Police say he remains at large.

K. Tassaya's case became national news after she contacted the Paveena Hongsakul Foundation for Women and Children in Bangkok, and photos of her injuries were shown in national Thai-language daily newspaper *Kom Chad Leuk*.

RAGE

She told K. Paveena that the abuse started three years ago, when Boonwiwat nearly strangled her to death with the electrical cord of an iron and forced her to beg for her life. She finally left him after he followed her to work in a jealous rage one day and sliced her ear with a knife, she said.

"On April 6 this year he came to try and make up, but I refused and asked to end the relationship. When I turned to walk away, he splashed acid on my head, face and body. My aunt then rushed me to Vachira Phuket Hospital," she said.

The caustic acid was the kind commonly used in the processing of liquid latex into rubber mats.

Now, some four months after the assault, she is staying with relatives in Nakhon Pathom Province and undergoing a series of skin grafts at Yanhee Hospital in Bangkok. The third procedure is scheduled for August 19.

The Paveena Hongsakul



On April 6, 2006, 20-year-old waitress Tassaya 'Ae' Wanich fell victim to a brutal acid attack perpetrated by her jealous and enraged boyfriend, 23-year-old Boonwiwat Iat-talod (above). Courageously speaking out for the first time since the tragedy that left her face, arms and back in need of multiple skin grafts, here K. Tassaya tells the *Gazette's* Sompratch Saowakhon of the pain she has endured – and her plans for the future.

This man threw acid all over his lover. Yet still she loves him

Foundation is paying all of the medical costs.

Remarkably, despite the abuse she has endured at the hands of K. Boonwiwat, she told the *Gazette* in a telephone interview that she had already forgiven him.

"Now I am 20 years old. I fell in love for the first time in my life four years ago. Maybe it was the last love of my life too, because I am not sure if anyone will want to love a girl who looks the way I do now," she said.

Fortunately, since the attack K. Tassaya has received a tremendous outpouring of support from friends and family.

Saying that she thought other women might learn a lesson from what happened to her, she said, "After I fell in love with him four years ago, it made me feel good when he got very jealous. I felt like it showed that he loved me as much as I loved him. I never thought his jealousy would end up making me the way I am today," she said. "Now I know love can have a dark side, too."

"But I still don't understand why he did this to me. He started to abuse me when he thought I had a new lover, but in fact I never did. I have only ever had one lover – him. I thought that our having a child together was an

expression of that love and a real commitment between us."

"Even though I loved him, I was afraid of him – but I never thought he would do something like this. But I don't want to talk or think about him any more, because it brings up so many bad feelings and memories," she said, sobbing.

"We loved each other most of the time we were together. I loved him and I know he loved me, too. So I am ready for him to come back and love me again, because I have already forgiven him for everything," she added.

She said that the warmth and kindness of her aunt's family

in Nakhon Pathom has allowed her to slowly recover both physically and mentally, but that she still fears the reaction people will have to her scars when she goes out in public.

K. Tassaya admitted that after the attack such feelings had caused her to fall into such a deep depression that she had contemplated suicide as a way of ending them. It has only been with all the love and support of her parents and other family members that she has been able to get through it, she said.

"I love my daughter, but now she lives with her paternal grandmother in Nakhon Sri



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K. Tassaya (far left) with a friend before the attack; with K. Paveena of the Paveena Hongsakul Foundation for Women and Children in Bangkok; and as she was after the attack – scarred for life.



'We loved each other most of the time we were together... I loved him and I know he loved me, too. So I am ready for him to come back and love me again, because I have already forgiven him.'

Thammarat, so I haven't had a chance to see her since my husband did this to me," she said.

She still refers to K. Boonwiwat as her husband, even though the couple were never legally married.

"Our families haven't really talked since this crime, except when his mother called mine offering us 50,000 baht if we would drop the charges against their son," she said.

K. Tassaya's mother had refused the offer, saying no amount of money could make up for the damage he had caused.

Knowing that she might never see her daughter again only adds to the misery she has had to endure.

She hopes to return to Phuket, but is not sure when that will happen as she first wants her appearance to improve. The skin grafts she needs involve remov-

ing skin from the back of her legs and transplanting it to parts of her head, back and neck.

"The doctor lets me go to recover at my aunt's home between procedures. That helps, not only because I would get bored staying in the hospital all the time, but also because everyone there understands me and I don't feel like I need to cover up my scars in front of them, as I do when I go out in public," she said.

In Nakhon Pathom, K. Tassaya continues to wait for word from the police about her spouse. She confided to the *Gazette* that she wants him to be arrested, if only so she could have the chance to sit down with him, look him in the eyes and ask "Why?"

In the long term, she wants to return to Phuket because it is her home and where all of her family and friends are, she said.

"But I still can't come back yet. I don't want to go back to Phuket looking like this, so I have to wait until the appearance of my face and body improves first," she said.

When the *Gazette* contacted Kathu Police for an update into the investigation, an officer said K. Boonwiwat was known to have fled to Nakhon Sri Thammarat and police there had been notified.



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Queer News

Major embarrassment for a Sergeant-Major

A Senior Sergeant Major from the Border Patrol Police received a lesson in how victims of crime feel after an encounter with three attractive young women in Thung Song, Nakhon Sri Thammarat province.

Officers from Thung Song Police Station were called to the JS Hotel. There, waiting for them wearing full dress uniform and a sorrowful expression, was Sgt Maj Somneuk (name changed for reasons that will become apparent).

He related a tale of woe to his colleagues from the thin brown line. He had been shopping in the local market, he said, when three pretty women aged between 25 and 30 drove by in a yellow Toyota.

He then saw them pull up a little way in front. He walked over and applied all the charm that police worldwide are renowned for. It worked; the three women agreed to go for lunch with him.

Sgt Maj Somneuk couldn't believe his luck when, after they had chatted for an hour or so, one of the women suggested they should all meet at the nearby JS Hotel and continue the conversation in more intimate style.

On the other hand, the 45-year-old Senior Sergeant Major reasoned, what women could resist the fine figure of a Border Patrol Policeman in full uniform?

When the beaming cop

walked up to the hotel he was a little disappointed to find that two of the women had somehow disappeared. But reasoning that a bird in the hotel room is still better than three around a lunch table, he went upstairs with the remaining beauty.

At this point, all training and experience he had gained from his work in the elite Border Patrol unit must have abandoned him. He allowed himself to fall for one of the oldest tricks in the book.

His temptress companion insisted that he have a shower before they took their conversation to more carnal levels, so he eagerly ripped off his uniform, along with his gold chain and Buddha image and a gold ring, and dived into the bathroom.

Emerging a few minutes later fresh and clean, he found the woman had disappeared and, perhaps not surprisingly, so had his jewelry.

He dressed rapidly and rushed down to reception, where he was told that his temporary beloved had been picked up by her friends in the Toyota only a couple of minutes earlier.

After reporting the incident to his brother officers at the scene Sgt Maj Somneuk – apparently unable to face the embarrassment of going to the police station – decided that he would rather not take matters further, and drove off. *Source: Kom Chad Leuk*



A Phuket Gazette reader sent in this photo of a dump site next to the newly rehabilitated Nai Harn lake.

"What appeared to be debris from a construction site had actually overflowed onto the roadway of Route 4233," he wrote, "until someone came along with a bulldozer and plowed it into the foliage."

"The site is on a road used daily by visitors on their way from Nai Harn to Laem Promthep. It is also

TRASHING Phuket



immediately adjacent to the recently renovated promenade of the Nai Harn lake, where many visitors and residents alike enjoy casual strolls and other activities."

The sign at the right of the picture says "Garbage dumping forbidden. Offenders

will be prosecuted. Site for new Tambon Administration Organization offices."

But, the reader added, "During a short period of time I noticed several different people stop and add their household garbage to the growing pile."



Special flower stamp to honor the Queen

A new five-baht stamp is to be issued on August 12 as part of celebrations to mark HM Queen Sirikit's sixth-cycle birthday.

The stamp, which is 31 millimeters square, depicts a flower called *Mahaprom Rachini*, which was named by Her Majesty. The flower grows on a new variety of a shrub from the same family as the custard apple, or *noi na* in Thai.

First day covers will be available from all post offices, priced at 12 baht. A million copies of the stamp are being printed.

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



A three-time winner of the Chumphon provincial "Mother of the Year" award was forced to come to the aid of her son when he was detained in Cambodia after running up gambling debts.

On July 23, Bunnak Pan-nak, 61, traveled to the border town of Aranya Pratet in Sa Kaeo Province, where she requested help from 2nd Lt Prathuan Kaset of the Thai Rangers.

She reported that on July 19 she received a call from her son, Thawee Uchuphap, 21, a second-year law student at Ramkhamhaeng University, saying that he had been gambling in a casino in the Cambodian border town of Poipet.

He was 50,000 baht in debt to a loan shark who would not let him return to Thailand until the debt was settled, she said.

After transferring the 50,000 baht into the account of the loan shark, K. Bunnak continued, her son was still not released. Instead, the loan shark demanded a further 11,000 baht in interest and threatened to send K. Thawee to be detained in Phnom Penh if the money was not forthcoming.

Scared that paying the 11,000 would still fail to secure her son's release she decided to go to the border herself.

After listening to her report, 2nd Lt Prathuan took K. Bunnak

A MOTHER'S LOVE



WATER GUNS: Soldiers recover weapons abandoned in a pool by insurgents after an attack on a police position in Saiburi District, Pattani.

to Pol Maj Phakphong Saiubol, an inspector at the Aranya Prathet immigration check point. After checking immigration records Maj Phakphong confirmed that K. Thawee had left Thailand on July 6 and had not returned.

Maj Phakphong ordered officers from the checkpoint to go the Grand Diamond City Casino, where K. Thawee was being held, to assess the situation.

There they found the money lender holding K. Thawee and learned that K. Thawee had pawned his passport and ID card for 50,000 baht.

The officers were then able to arrange a swap whereby the money lender would come to the border and exchange K. Thawee for the 11,000 baht interest payment still owed.

On seeing her son return

safely, K. Bunnak broke down in tears of happiness.

Maj Phakphong, however, could not restrain himself from scolding the youth for causing so much trouble to his parents.

K. Thawee then gave his word that he would stop gambling for good and concentrate on his studies.

Maj Phakphong warned Thais not to cross the border to

gamble, saying that they could not assist Thai nationals if they got into trouble abroad and adding that, in the end, it is the gamblers' families that really suffer.

Death in the line of duty: A bank employee was gunned down in front of shocked diners at a noodle stand in Trang on July 25. Police believe the motive for the killing might be related to the victim's work as a debt collector for Thanachart Bank.

Hemarat Thongreut, 38, was shot twice in the head with a .38-caliber pistol as he was parking his motorcycle. His two assailants made their escape on a motorcycle.

Police said that they thought the gunmen probably knew their victim well and followed him until they had a chance to get a close-range shot.

As for the motive, police said they were investigating two possibilities: a personal dispute or a bank customer angry at K. Hemarat, whose job included seizing people's property in lieu of unpaid debts, and which could well have made enemies for him.

Around the South news round-up is sourced from the pages of Kom Chad Luek newspaper.

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By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

With the seemingly unstoppable onslaught of modern values and culture, many people are worried about the loss of more traditional aspects of life.

That is why Supachock Nisapakulchai, 36, Director of the Junior Good Will Ambassadors in Phuket, is trying to preserve traditional Thai dance in the only way possible; by passing knowledge on to the next generation.

Although he is a native of Bangkok, K. Supachock has been teaching Thai dance in Phuket as part of the Junior Good Will Ambassadors program for the past four years.

"I have a lot of experience in Thai dance. My family shares my love of Thai traditional culture, particularly dance, and has always supported me in my efforts. I graduated in Thai dancing from the Fine Arts Institute. Now I encourage my daughters to learn Thai dancing as well. I'm very lucky that they have all taken to it and enjoy it," he added.

"My first daughter, Nattida, was chosen as a Junior Good Will Ambassador for Thailand and was presented with a trophy by HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. She got the chance to show her Thai dance skills in many countries around the world.

"Later, my second daughter, Phankleo, was also selected as a Junior Good Will Ambassador.

"My third daughter, Katawan, was at first not as keen on dancing as her older sisters. However, with our encouragement she came to love it as much as the rest of us. All three of my daughters have now been to display Thai dancing abroad as Junior Ambassadors in countries such as China, Mongolia, South Korea, Australia and Japan. They have benefited greatly from it," he added.

K. Supachock, however, wants to spread his knowledge



Three of the Junior Good Will Ambassadors in the stunning costumes that make Thai dance so attractive – and so well known worldwide.

THE DANCING AMBASSADORS

and success beyond his family, which is why he has put so much effort into the Thai dance classes in Phuket.

"Thai dance it not easy to learn; it takes concentration and

perseverance. It can be divided into four main categories: Northern, Isarn, Central and Southern, though within each category there are many different styles, so students never get bored.

"Here we emphasize Thai-Chinese and Southern dance styles to reflect the make-up of the population," he explained.

K. Supachock often invites experts from the Fine Arts Department to come and join with the program.

"We are proud that the Thai Culture Council recognized the work we do and chose us to be part of the Junior Good Will Ambassadors program.

"I would like to see more places to learn Thai dance in Phuket. After all, it is one of the most recognizable symbols of our country.

"We have about 20 children studying with us now. They do not study everyday, though we do increase the number of practice hours before shows.

"The students don't practice just dancing. They also have to learn how to act, and how to hold a smile throughout a show. This is important – the smile is another symbol of Thailand," he added.

The fee is a modest 1,500 baht for a 30-hour course. "At first we didn't charge anything but eventually our costs became too high.

"We have to pay for make-up, clothes and accessories for the shows as well as everyday expenses, such as fuel and water," he explained.

Thai dancing has benefits beyond the course, he believes, helping children concentrate on

their school work, and to work as part of a team. It also makes them smile more.

Praerawee "Pae" Songnam, 13, a pupil of K. Supachock, agrees. She has been dancing with the Junior Good Will Ambassadors in Phuket for six months and said, "I love acting and music. Studying here has also helped me to concentrate, before I started dancing my concentration span was very short.

"Thai dancing is very difficult but I still love it. The classes have improved my self confidence as well – before I would never have dared perform in public," she said enthusiastically.

The children are often invited to perform at events in Phuket, and select from a variety of themes to suit the occasion.

"Sometimes we perform at wedding parties – we can even do shows portraying the bride and groom when they were beginning to fall in love with each other. These really entertain the guests," K. Supachock said.

Junior Good Will Ambassadors in Phuket is on 45 Kra Rd, Phuket City. The class is open to all children aged between 5 and 17. For more information call Tel: 01-7911049 or 01-5359543.

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Criminal biker gang probed on Koh Samui

By Barry Singleton

On July 18 a team of more than 100 officers from the Department of Special Investigations (DSI), the Tourist Police and the Drugs Prevention and Suppression Department arrested members of an alleged criminal organization known as the Bandidos, a motorcycle gang founded in the US in the 1960s with a history of violence and drug-dealing.

The DSI had been investigating the gang – which allegedly has a Bangkok chapter – for several months before receiving a tip-off that some members were hiding on Koh Samui, including one of the leaders, Kim Lingard Nielsen, 36, a Danish national.

Other suspected members included another Danish citizen, two Britons and several Thai nationals thought to be involved in illegal activities including money laundering and blackmail.

Police divided into teams and set out to arrest the gang. One team arrested and charged Peter Watkin-Jones, 40, at his house in Bophut, but the other teams searching for foreigners found that their suspects had already fled the island.

Two of them, Nielson and his associate Crispin Paton-Smith, were later arrested in Pattaya. It later transpired that Peter Buch Rosenberg, the fourth foreigner sought by police, had already left the country for a meeting in his native Denmark.

Of the three Thai suspects, only Pramual Somwongse, a surveyor at the Samui Land Office, was apprehended. Two other suspects, named as Samroeng Buanak, a well-known local property agent, and Pratheep Muangkaew, who runs an accounting firm on Koh Samui, escaped arrest.

However Pratheep, a prosecutor attached to the Labour Court in Bangkok, later turned himself in to the police. Buanak is believed to have escaped to Singapore before the raid.

Initial reports suggested that the gang members had formed partnerships with local criminals in order to invest 3 billion baht in overseas drug money by buying

illegally obtained land plots on the island.

The DSI claimed the men bribed local officers into issuing illegal title deeds for parcels of public land and also forced some local businesses to sell to them at below the market price.

However, doubts have since been cast on these allegations, as the prosecution's case against the gang seemed much weaker than originally suggested to the media at the time of their arrest.

The men were kept in custody pending a police investigation into "illegal assembly" charges and two cases involving former business partners who accuse the gang of threatening them out of their share of a business.

Dodgy titles: Sathorn Luangpatipat, the President of the Surat Thani Consumer Protection Association (CPA), recently warned that people considering buying property on Koh Samui risked receiving illegal land titles.

According to the CPA, information from the Samui Land Office suggests that just 10% of the developers operating and advertising in magazines and on websites are licensed.

K. Sathorn also said that these unauthorized developers often take advantage of their customers; he thus recommended that potential buyers make extensive inquiries and check the background details of both the developer and the property before contemplating signing a contract.

Once they have signed a contract, owners are obliged to accept the status of the property they have bought, even if the title is not legitimate, K. Sathorn said.

One example of a suspect deed is for land that has been illegally reclaimed. Samui residents recently petitioned the Forestry Department (FD) to inspect two cases of encroachment on mangrove forests on the island.

Sunthorn Wacharakuldilok, the Director of the Forestry Department's Forest Protection and Suppression Division, said the first plot had already proved to be illegal, while the second case was still under examination.



Italian striker Luka Toni relaxes on the beach on Koh Samui.

Land authorities and local administration officials have recently been urged to take stronger action against all illegal developers. Charoen Chanparn, a Koh Samui land officer, said that his office is already scrutinizing various development projects on the island, which may be deemed illegal and repossessed.

Italian hero on Samui: Luka Toni, the celebrated Italian striker

who helped his national team lift this year's soccer World Cup, arrived on Samui recently with his wife and younger brother.

After the grueling tournament, Luka and his wife took advantage of the Samui sunshine to relax and recover, staying at the brand new Barisa Resort and Spa in Chawaeng.

On the beach in front of resort, Luka attracted plenty of interest from fans and also ques-

tions about his team mate Materazzi's clash with French superstar Zinedine Zidane.

He politely avoided any controversy, however, preferring to enjoy the island, while pleasing his fans with greetings and the occasional autograph.

Checking out: On July 19, Ubonrat Suwanrat, 37, the owner of small money exchange and travel office in Bophut, reported receiving suspect travelers' checks from Morgan West Karrick, 30, from Norway.

Karrick exchanged four checks, each worth US\$100, taking away 14,000 baht in cash. Later that day, when K. Ubonrat presented the checks at a bank, she was informed that they were fakes and that she would not therefore be remunerated.

Samui police checked the island's hotel lists, eventually discovering that Karrick was staying in Chawaeng.

They visited him in his room where they found 10 books of forged traveler's checks plus the 14,000 baht he had received from K. Ubonrat.

Karrick later confessed that he had bought the checks on Khao San Rd in Bangkok, but could not provide any details about the supplier.

He was remanded in custody.


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Separatists 'masquerading as security force members'

The Southern Border Provinces Peace-Building Command (SBPPBC) launched a public-relations campaign warning southern communities to keep watch for insurgents pretending to be security officials.

To get the message out, 10 military vehicles equipped with loudspeakers were dispatched throughout the restive region, following a gunfight between insurgents and authorities at the SBPPBC's strategic headquarters in Pattani's Sai Buri District. Five people died in the shootout, three of them security officials.

Insurgents were able to carry out the assault because they were dressed like officials. Two of the insurgents, Hassan Wamae, 24, and Yudeen Baka, 30, were shot dead by an army ranger unit.

SBPPBC commanders told a press conference that authorities had managed to retrieve at least 10 weapons captured by the militants during the attack. These include one .38 handgun, four M16 assault rifles, four machine-guns and 180 rounds of ammunition.

Authorities arrested three suspects in connection with the attack.

School's out for poor families: A new study by the Educational Network for Children found that, in spite of guarantees of state-funded schooling for a minimum of 12 years, poor children cannot afford even basic



DEATH PIT: Reporters and officials look into a pit with 2,500 chickens culled from 12 villages in Phitsanuloke's Noen Maprang District. Mass deaths of fowl reported in Tambon Bannoi Sumkheek of that district immediately raised fears of a new avian 'flu outbreak.

Seven provinces including Phitsanuloke have been labeled as bird-flu "red zones" where surveillance for the disease is being increased. The others are: Phichit, Sukhothai, Kamphaeng Phet, Uttaradit, Nakhon Sawan and Nakhon Pathom.

education because they are forced to pay mounting "special expenses" not covered by the government.

The study discovered that the government covered just one baht out of every 10 baht of actual primary-education costs.

The network said the government paid 1,100 baht per pupil per year for primary education, but parents had to find an additional 7,137 baht a year to cover the cost of "special expenses" demanded by schools.

These typically include fees for Internet access and special "activities", such as boy scouts and girl guides activities.

About 6.5% of families removed children from school because they could not afford special expenses, the study found.

Toy story: Most toys in Thai households emphasize children's physical development rather than the improvement of brain function, Sukhothai Thammathirat

Open University Professor Jittinant Dechakupt said at a seminar on child development.

"Thai families' lack of interest in providing 'brain-education' toys to their young children could be a contributing factor in [the children's] inability to solve problems effectively when they grow up," she said.

Brain-education toys are those that teach children to solve problems, such as assembly kits, jigsaw puzzles, mathematical games or find-the-missing-part kits.

Toys for children from one to six years of age mainly focused on increasing physical strength, improving hand-eye coordination and enhancing dexterity, Jittinant said, citing a study conducted by the National Health Foundation among 1,580 households across the country.

Brain-education toys made up only 35% of toys provided for children from one to three, and 36% for children from three to six, she said.

Duangjai Khoosriwinij, the head of the Association of Thai Toy Industries, called on the government to push forward a project to build at least one "toy library" in every district in Thailand.

Capital crime: A man who shot four people dead, wounded three others and damaged seven ve-

hicles after an argument with his ex-wife last year has been handed a death sentence.

The Saraburi Court found Anuchai Noithai, 41, guilty as charged, after witness testimony and evidence showed he had prepared a shotgun, gasoline and a letter for his parents in case he died.

Anuchai's defense of mental illness was deemed weak because medical reports indicated that he suffered from depression and stress, not clinical mental illness.

Although Anuchai pleaded guilty to 15 counts, the court viewed pleas as resulting from his failure to overcome damning evidence. They therefore declined to reduce his punishment as is normal with guilty pleas.

In court was Anuchai's ex-wife Somneuk Morya, who survived the rampage. She said she was pleased with the decision, as justice was served.

On the night of April 27, 2005, after failing to make up with K. Somneuk, Anuchai shot her and seven other people. Among the four who died were Somneuk's daughter Parichart, her 70-year-old mother Khanthong and her 28-year-old brother Pradit.

Cancer statistics: Of the more than 50,000 deaths from cancer recorded in Thailand in 2004, Isarn accounted for more than any other region, caretaker Health Minister Pinij Charusombat told a seminar to mark the 54th birthday of HRH Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn.

The region accounted for 19,221 of the 50,818 fatal cancer cases, followed by the Central region (10,690), the North (10,174), Bangkok (6,648) and the South (4,085).

K. Pinij said the Ministry of Public Health needed to be "more proactive" in tackling cancer by encouraging the public to undergo examinations more regularly; more than 80% of the fatalities occurred because the patients sought help too late.

Liver cancer accounted for most of the deaths, followed by cancers of the lung, cervix, breast, colon and mouth.

The most frequent causes of cancer were food contamination by aflatoxins generated by fungi, overdone cooking from grilling and deep frying, unsuitable food preservatives, use of banned food coloring and certain chronic viral diseases, he said.

Free screenings for cancer were provided at the seminar venue, a cancer center in Udon Thani Province.

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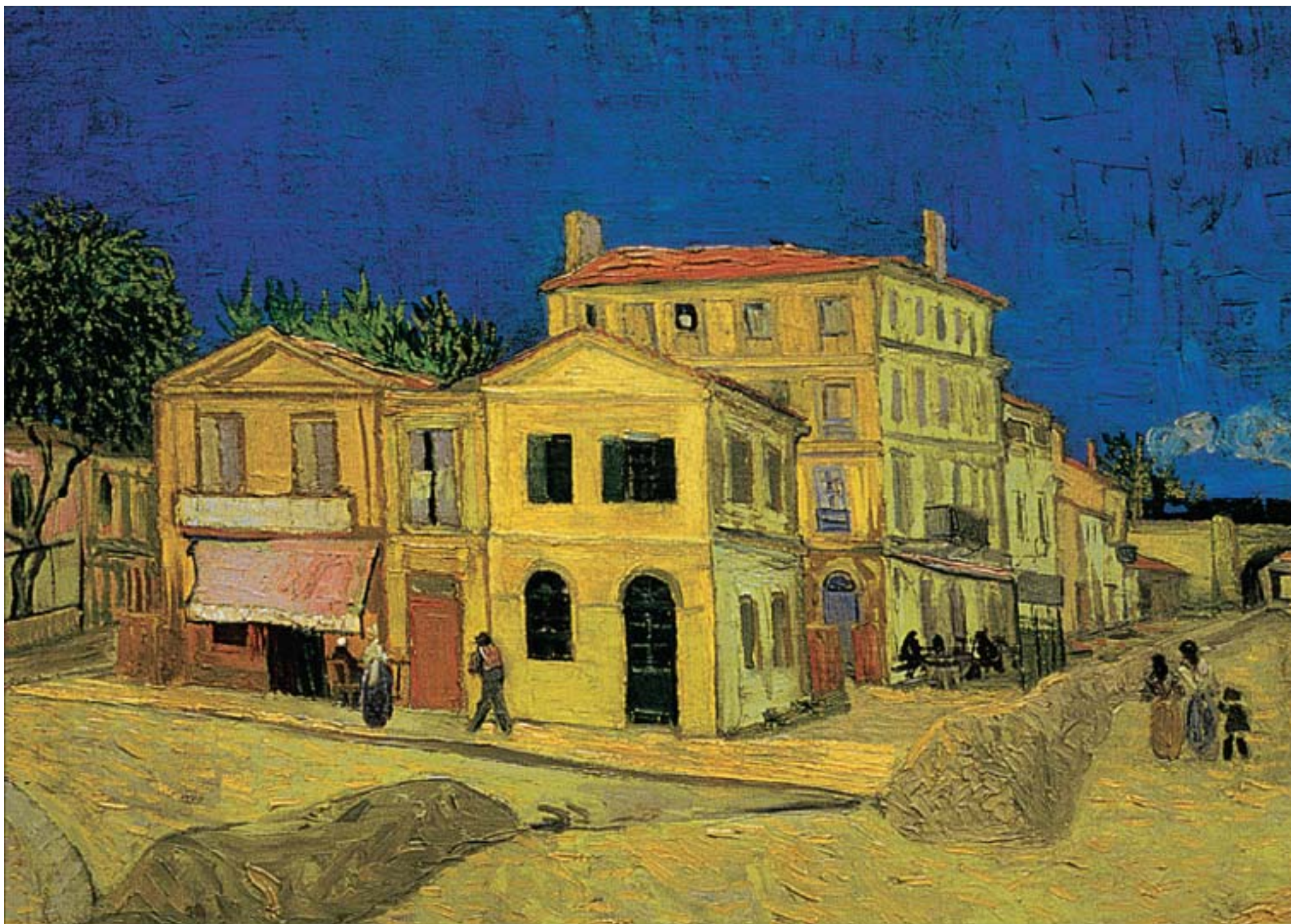
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Some 248 years ago, the all-round clever chap Samuel Johnson wrote, "It is commonly observed, that when two Englishmen meet, their first talk is of the weather; they are in haste to tell each other what each must already know, that it is hot or cold, bright or cloudy, windy or calm."

Well, some of you are not Englishmen, so I have, almost by Divine Right, *carte blanche* to talk about the weather until the cows – or buffaloes – come home.

"Let me tell you about winds," as my very patient English friend once began. "There is a whirlwind from southern Morocco, the *aajej*, against which the *fellahin* defend themselves with knives. And there is the *ghibli*, from Tunis..."

Some years later, this conversation came to mind when what was merely a gentle zephyr caressing the island on the drive to Patong's Sala Bua restaurant – part of the Impiana Phuket Cabana – had gone through the stages of being a moderate breeze to just about as close as Phuket gets to strong wind by the time we set down at the car park.

Continuing the meteorological theme, a stern English look freezes the security guard to the spot before he has the chance to say, "Can *not* park," or for, that matter, "Hail, Andy," to which I would have replied, "No, it looks like rain..."

The Sala Bua staff gently direct our party of three into the heart of the restaurant, just after the sun has dipped below the horizon and the remaining vestiges of pink and orange alter to violet and finally dusky dark blue.

The color scheme inside is an appealing mix of earth tones and dark woods, which are easy on the eye and guaranteed to relax the diner, well, these diners anyway.

We meet Ronnie Macuja, the Exec Chef and a bit of a legend as far as Phuket's dining goes. His warmly generous na-

I doubt weather it gets better than this



A delectably thick salmon steak for Dining Companion 1...

ture and enthusiasm for food bowls us over.

Nothing appears to be too much trouble for this multi-award-winning chef; he is soon tempting us with a host of delights from the menu, though not before inviting us to sample a cocktail or two.

The younger of my two companions decides not to try a virgin cocktail, but goes for a swift Coke. We older diners sample Margaritas – one is the scrummy "traditional" version, a real pearl of a drink – while the other is a "golden", which bestows the mouth with the extra warmth of an aged tequila.

Downed in a sec. We order another brace.

Our waiters and waitresses for the evening – under the guidance of Chef Ronnie – suggest a plate of three starters for us. This is a splendid idea, an idea that is surpassed by the reality, the holy trinity that arrives a few minutes later.

It's a bit of a struggle to know where to start. Dip into the roasted pumpkin and prawn risotto first? The Caesar salad served with Canadian bacon and goat's cheese? Or the scallops served with green-lipped mussels?

The decision is made for me when, inveterate gentleman that I usually am, allow the ladies to go ahead of me.

Scallops it is, and I smile inwardly, sure that this must be the best of the three.

But then ... a few mouthfuls of the slightly-sweet risotto and I muse that, actually, that's the best. And the same happens with the Caesar salad. My indecisiveness returns with a pleasant vengeance.

Sensation overload is already approaching – and we've only just started. The satisfied sighs of epicurean enjoyment around the table galvanize my thoughts into words into understatement. "This is rather good, isn't it?"

The band strikes up in the corner, thankfully not sounding as if it is merely tuning up. A string of hits – and no misses – performed at a discreet volume round out the comfortable silences as we eat.

The choice of our main course is left entirely up to us. "Duck," says the elder of my two companions to which I reply,

On the menu



WITH
Andy Johnstone

Sala Bua

I am not one to put style ahead of content, although the regular reader may disagree. But in this case I have to remark that the presentation of our dishes is spot on. Just look at the photos.

The colors are combined to perfection and each arrangement has the look of an almost haphazard masterpiece on the plate. And the taste? Well, sadly for you, dear reader, the *Gazette* does not have scratch-and-sniff yet. You'll just have to try it for yourself.

Wine? Of course. Embracing the 21st Century and throwing off, for the time being, the orthodoxy of years gone by, we choose a Chilean Salamanca Cabernet. Yes, dammit, a red, to complement our fish.

Chef Ronnie deserves each and every one of his awards, but he, by extension, recognizes that his entire crew are intrinsic to his and Sala Bua's success.

The cost of a meal for three plus wine comes to around 3,500 baht, which represents astoundingly good value for money for one of the best beach-side restaurants in Phuket.

Sala Bua, Impiana Phuket Cabana, Patong Beach. Tel: 076-340148 or email: exchefipc@impiana.com for more information or to make a reservation.



Scallops served with green-lipped mussels.

"Why?" just before the bread roll thrown by a child at a neighboring table connects with the back of my head.

Momentarily stunned by this unwarranted assault, I catch sight of the lights of the fishing boats bobbing up and down – they'd hardly bob side to side, I suppose – on the sea. "Fish" springs, fairly leaps, to mind.

Sea bass steamed in Maldon salt is for me, a delectably thick salmon steak for Companion 1 and a feather-tender minute – as in 60 seconds, not size – steak for Companion 2 are our choices, presented, naturally, with seasonal turned veggies.

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Happily Ever After

Recent weddings in Phuket



Left: Tasha Armatmuangbang and Warren Purdom were married at The Chedi hotel on July 15.

Below: Prapaporn Chotipradit and Philip J. Cope were married at Baan Chin Pracha, the Tantiwit family home in Phuket City, on July 5.



BACK ON DRY LAND

Battling winds and salt spray for most of the day can make a person thirsty, which is why all regattas require copious amounts of fluid at the end of the day for competitors.

The 3rd Evason Phuket Race Week was no exception to this rule, with most of the rehydrating taking place at The Evason Phuket & Six Senses Spa.

— Photos by Dan Miles.



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PHUKET DIARY of coming events

Until October 29: Sound Waves Sunday Sessions.

The island's two best party venues have teamed up for the summer. Laem Singh's Sound Waves Crew have moved to Watermark for the season.

Kicking phat tunes, progressive, funky & happy house with a feel-good vibe. Undoubtedly the best DJs around. A must for those in search of good dance music.

Sound Waves will be on the last Sunday of each month: Jun 25, Jul 30, Aug 27, Sep 24 & Oct 29. A la carte brunch every Sunday from 11 am to 6 pm, amazing promos on Moët & Chandon Champagne: 2,995 baht. So come early for brunch. Decks off at 10 pm.

August 12: HM Queen Sirikit's Birthday.

HM The Queen's Birthday is a public holiday and is also marked in Thailand as Mother's Day.

August 12: Cherng Talay mini-marathon.

The Cherng Talay Municipality will hold a 3.5-kilometer fun run and a 13-km mini-marathon.

Runners in the 13-km race, which will get underway at 6 am, will compete in 11 age groups: Boys and girls up to 16 years old; Men's and women's open; Men 30-34 years; 35-39 years; 40-44 years; 45-49 years; 50-54 years; 55-59 years; and men over 60 years; Women 30-39 years, and women over 40 years.

The 3.5-km fun run is aimed at children, with runners competing in one of four categories: children 10 to 13; children 13 to 15; an open category; or a team category for parents with children. No child under 10 years old may compete.

Both races will start and finish at Cherng Talay Municipality Offices.

Entry to the 13-km run costs 100 baht, while entry to the 3.5-km fun run is free. All runners will receive a souvenir T-shirt.

For more information call Tel: 076-324440 ext 207 during government office hours.

August 13: Rassada Race Day.

Tambon Rassada will organize a day of foot races on August 13.

There will be a half-marathon, a 10.5-kilometer race and a

4-km fun run, with entrants competing in male and female categories.

Entry fees are 250 baht for the half-marathon, 200 baht for the mini-marathon and 150 baht for the fun run.

All races will start and finish at Rassada Tambon Administration Organization offices on Rassadanusorn Rd.

The opening ceremony will be at 5:30 am and the races will start at 6 am. Competitors should arrive early in order to allow time for signing-in.

For more information, call Tel: 076-213151, extension 137.

August 20: Annual Rotary bowling tournament.

The Rotary Club of Andaman will hold its fifth annual Andaman Bowl tournament at CS Bowl, at the Big C supercenter, on August 20, to raise money for community projects.

Entry costs 3,000 baht per team of three. Play will start at 10 am sharp.

For more information, contact Andaman Rotary Club Vice-President Prasit Wiponchai at Tel: 01-6063263 or the club direct at Tel: 076-281058.

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This week



GENERALLY ACCEPTED: Lars Backstrom, Finnish Ambassador to Thailand (2nd from left) officially appointed Pamuke Atchariyachai (2nd from right) as Finland's Honorary Consul-General in Phuket. Also pictured, from left, are the ambassador's wife, Brigitta Backstrom, Vice-Governor Niran Kanlayanamit and K. Pamuke's wife and Phuket Senator-elect Thanyarat Atchariyachai



HAPPY DAY: Wolfgang Meusburger, General Manager of the Holiday Inn Phuket Resort & Spa, presents a drawing to World Vision Foundation Executive Director Chusak Wuthiwaropas (white shirt). The drawing represents the Happy Home refuge for street children, paid for by donations collected by the Holiday Inn.



ROOM FOR FUN: Graham Bibby (left), Owner of the Red Room restaurant and bar in Cherng Talay enjoys the venue's After Work Party on July 20 with, from left, General Manager Marc-Antoine Audibert, Mr Bibby's wife Nan and DJ Eddy Frampton, resident DJ from the Bed Supper Club in Bangkok, who provided music for the evening.



GOING WITH THE FLOW: Phil St Hill (right) Sathorn Sonsaklserm (red shirt) respectively Director and Managing Director of the Lava nightclub at the Royal Phuket City Hotel, celebrate the opening of the venue on July 21 with friends.



WELL COVERED: Cutting the ribbon to mark the official opening of the new Allianz CP General Insurance office in Phuket were Allianz President & CEO Pakit Iamopas (in blue) and Phuket Chief Administrative Officer Nivit Aroonrat (in yellow). Also pictured, in the rear, is the branch's Manager, Nathanon Koysomboon.



GRIN AND EAT IT: Payao Province Senator Suradeth Yasawasdi (right), who is also Chairman of the Senate Committee on Tourism, was clearly delighted as he toured the AHRA Food & Beverage Show & Hotelex Exhibition 2006 at the Royal Phuket City Hotel after opening the expo on July 13.

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A sports car quite often overlooked here in Thailand is the excellent Nissan 350Z. True, this is no supercar in the Ferrari/Porsche/Lamborghini mold. But, priced below 5 million baht, it is surprisingly good value.

Nissan's principal market for the 350Z is, not surprisingly, the US, where the Datsun 240Z, its pioneering forerunner, became such a big hit.

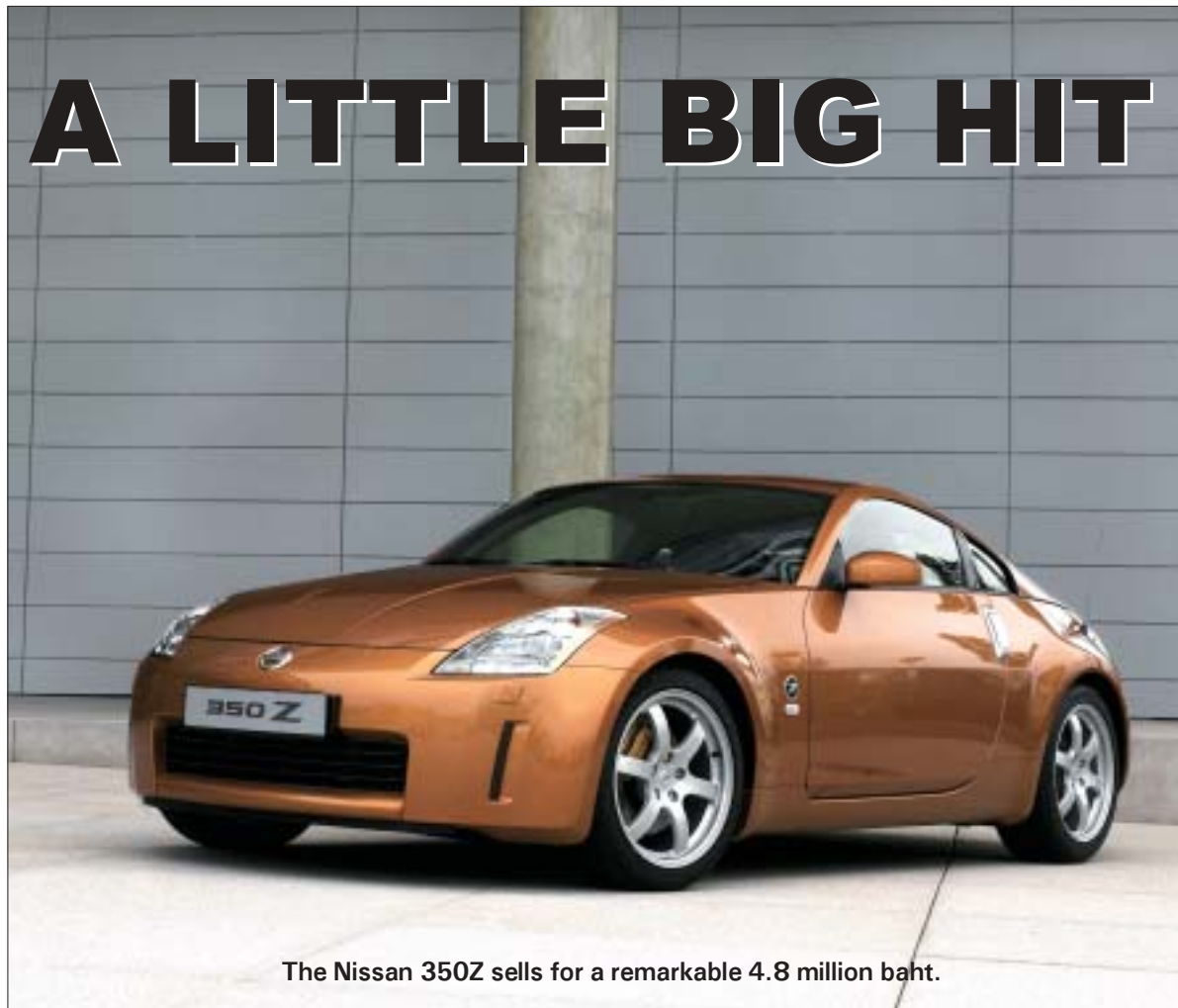
The original 350Z was launched four years ago in the States and made its debut in Europe two years later. In 2005, a 350Z Roadster was added to the range.

A combined total of around 160,000 of these cars have been sold worldwide.

The Nissan is powered by the award-winning 3.5-liter V6 engine producing, in the latest version, a healthy 295bhp (218 kW), up from the initial 276bhp of the earlier model.

Voted one of the best engines in the world for a record 11 years in a row by the influential *Ward's Auto World* magazine, the motor is acclaimed for its smooth power delivery. An all-alloy, 24-valve twin-cam, the engine will rev to a screaming 7,000rpm, with peak power arriving at 6,400rpm.

All this equates to a 0-100kmh time of 5.8 seconds (6.3 seconds for the Roadster) and an electronically-limited maximum speed of 250kmh.



The Nissan 350Z sells for a remarkable 4.8 million baht.

To rein in the abundant power, the 350Z is equipped with lightweight Brembo ventilated disc brakes – four-pot at the front, two-pot at the rear – and speed-sensitive power steering. Drive is through either a five-speed automatic transmission or a six-speed manual gearbox.

The auto model also offers Tiptronic manual control.

Electronic brake-force distribution (EBD) is standard, as is Brake Assist, the system that detects emergency braking and increases line pressure in conjunction with the ABS. The interior is not large, but adequate for

what is essentially a two-seater sports car. Leather abounds and there is a sophisticated sound system. For safety, six air bags are fitted.

As with the original 240Z, the three center-mounted ancillary dials are angled toward the driver, just to remind the owner



By Jeff Heselwood

of the 350's heritage. Aluminum surrounds for the air-conditioning controls add a touch of class and there is a host of oddments bins around the cockpit, including fully-trimmed door pockets incorporating bottle-holders. There is also a lidded compartment behind the seats that is large enough to hold a briefcase.

In Japan the 350Z is raced in the Super GT series, with drivers Richard Lyons, the 2004 champion, and Germany's Michael Krumm in the lead car, and Satoshi Motoyama and Tsugio Matsuda in the other.

Lyons, who himself has tried to break into the major leagues of motor racing, in both the States and his native Britain, replaces Sakon Yamamoto who is leaving to join the fledgling Super Aguri Formula One team.

In Thailand, the Nissan 350Z is distributed by Siam Nissan Automobile Co, and sells for a remarkable 4.8 million baht.

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



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Pruerklawan	100	8,220,000	100,000	4,110,000	43,600

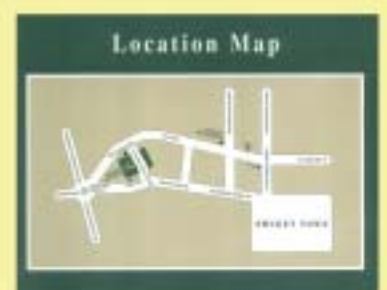
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Cool cocktails from the Man on Chumphon Rd

A few months ago, Thanarat Kityakarn, better known as Powerman, a DJ on local radio station, 89 Power Zone, opened an outdoor restaurant on Chumphon Rd opposite the police station.

Korn Non, or "Before Bed-time" as it translates, offers a selection of food as well as coffee, fruit juices and beers in a quiet atmosphere with music chosen by Powerman himself.

Of all the items on the menu, Powerman – or Man for short – is most enthusiastic about his selection of frozen cocktail shakes.

He has more than 10 varieties all made from a mixture of fruit juices and the North brand of vodka, which is distilled from rice.

He experimented with gin and brandy before finally settling on vodka, ordered specially from Bangkok, which he says give the cocktails a mellow flavor to suit the style of his bar.

All the fruits used in the cocktails are freshly squeezed.

K. Man recommends Cha-Ba Baan (hibiscus in bloom) and Phuket Ever Green.

Cha-Ba Baan is a distinctive cocktail, the sweet taste of the strawberry mixing well with the tang of the lime juice and the vodka gives it a slightly bitter edge, making the tongue tingle.

Ingredients, for one serving:

North vodka	1oz
Strawberry juice	2oz
Fresh lime juice	1tsp
Syrup	½oz
Ice	1 glass

Method:

Blend and filter the strawberries. Use only the juice. Add the remaining ingredients and shake well before pouring into a whisky tumbler.

The next cocktail, the Phuket Ever Green, is a bright, almost fluorescent, green color.

"We called it Ever Green

The Man's cocktails:
Right, Cha-Ba Baan.
Below, Phuket Ever Green.



because, well, it's green", K. Man says.

This apple-based cocktail is very sweet, more like a candy bar than an alcoholic drink. The vodka is barely noticeable behind the strong apple flavor.

Definitely one for those who like their cocktails mild.

Ingredients, for one serving:

The ingredients are similar to Cha-Ba Baan, but using apples in place of strawberries:

North vodka	1 oz
Apple juice	2 oz

Fresh-squeezed lime juice	2 tsp
Fructose syrup	½ oz
Ice	1 glass

Method:

Core, peel and blend the apples. Use only the juice. Add the remaining ingredients and shake well before pouring into a whisky tumbler.

All cocktails are priced at only 50 baht a glass. Korn Norn is opposite the police station on Chumphon Rd and is open from 6 pm to around midnight. For more information call Tel: 01-5842529.

– Jenjira Ruengjarus

WHEN WHITE IS RIGHT

Advertising for skin whiteners is at fever pitch on Thai TV. Envious teens with a slight tint in their skin quiz snowy-white TV friends on how they got so white. At the supermarket, checkout staff zap a paper-white customer; it turns out that there are now high-tech gizmos for measuring skin whiteness – and you can never be too white.

It's not just your face that must be white if you're to be a trendy young miss these days. Armpits, too, should reflect light the way the Alps do. If the ads are to be believed, the effect of revealing a sparkling armpit is apparently so stunning that gobsmacked young men will pour ketchup accidentally into each other's laps.

The cosmetics companies have also recognized that, in targeting women, they are missing half the potential buyers. So now products such as Men's Bioré are



By Natcha Yuttaworawit

targeting the chaps. Gotta have a white face, lads, if you don't want to be regarded as a total hick. And, if the Bioré ad is to be believed, having a whiter face means you play basketball better, too.

White skin may boost one's self esteem – no one wants to look like a peasant who spends her days toiling in the fields – but are all these creams and other treatments good for you?

Dr Saksit Kritalukkul, skin specialist at Phuket International Hospital explains that there are two basic types of skin whitener: those that alter skin cell structure and are available only from medical practitioners such as himself, and over-the-counter lotions available from any beauty shop, pharmacy or supermarket.

The prescription treatments include topical creams and laser therapy.

Some of the creams block the synthesis of melanin, the substance that gives color to skin. Others go further, by also augmenting the body's natural ability to get rid of excess melanin.

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Lasers may be used in many ways, Dr Saksit said – “that would be another book entirely” – but one use is to break up the melanin deep beneath the skin.

But, he warns, “These medicines are a double-edged sword – they have advantages and disadvantages. Some have side-effects, mostly allergic reactions. The severity of the reaction will depend on the therapy used and the susceptibility of the user to allergies.”

The over-the-counter creams, he says, are mostly bleaching agents, descendants of remedies used by the ancient Greeks. They are, he believes, generally safe. The only real danger lies in overusing a product, which may cause skin irritation.

The other thing to bear in mind is that people with naturally light skins are more likely to get skin cancer from exposure to the sun – melanin, which gives a person a darker skin, forms a natural barrier to harmful solar rays.

It stands to reason that those who whiten their skins, whether through the use of the over-the-counter preparations or by having a specialist apply medical treatments, also heighten their own risk of contracting skin cancer.


That said, few of those who hanker after a white skin are likely to go lie in the sun.

The phrase “bleaching agent” may conjure up image of a chemical used for cleaning toilets, but Praew Jitapunkul, Senior Product Manager in Bangkok of French shampoo and cosmetics company Garnier, says, “Our product is made from lemon essence.


“We look for the best natu-

ral ingredients and undertake considerable research to make sure that our cream is gentle on the skin and will not irritate it. The formula we sell here is made specifically for Asian women.

“The products are tested by our own dermatologists to make sure of this. In addition, Garnier Light has a sun protection factor of SPF 15 to protect the skin from sunshine.”



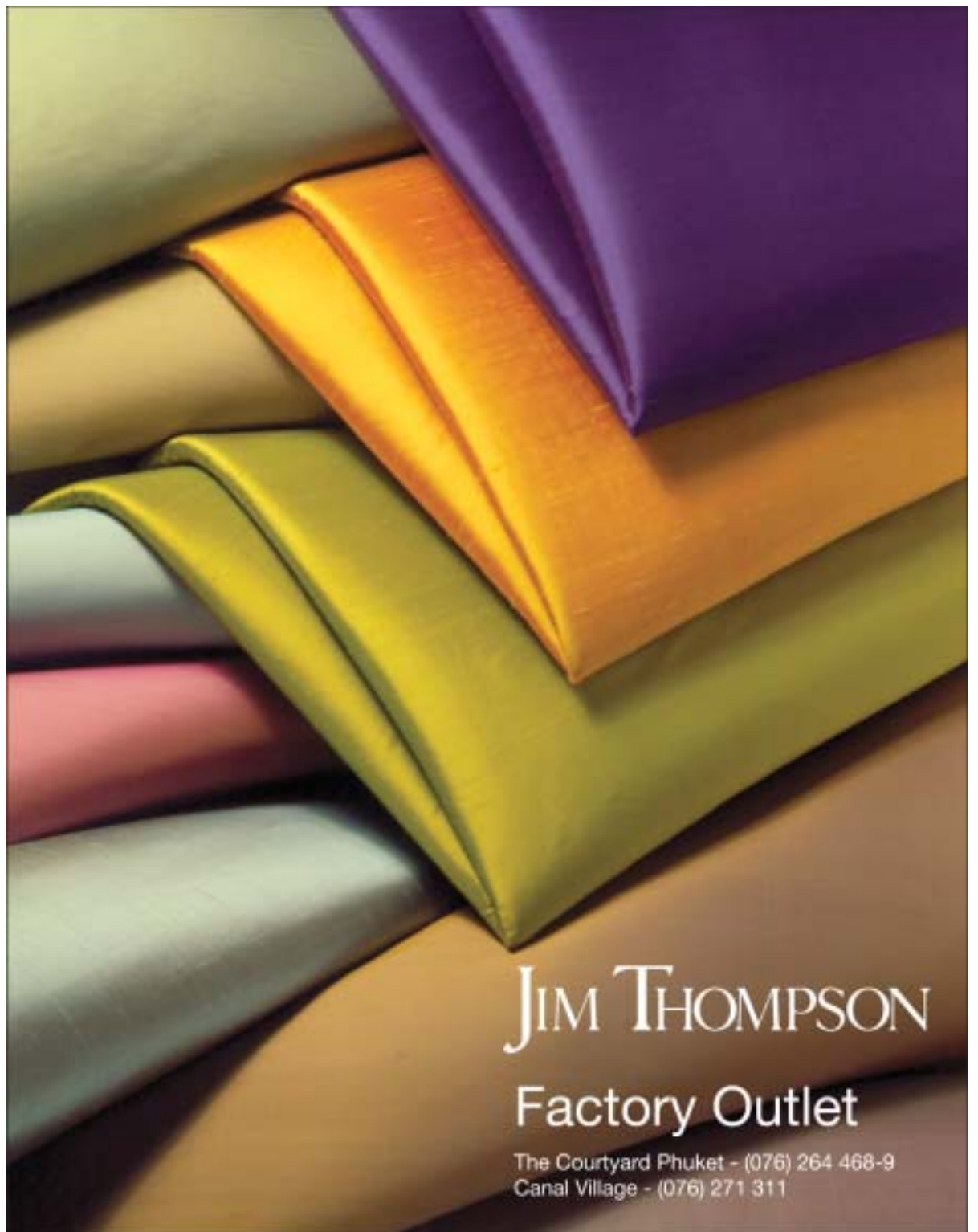
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Spa MAGIC



By Sangkhae
Leelanapaporn

Centara at Central Kata Resort

The spa at the Central Kata Resort is the newest branch of the nationwide Centara Spa chain. Treatments are designed as antidotes to the stress of modern life, combining ancient Eastern healing and relaxation techniques with Western rejuvenation practices.

Entering the spa, I was greeted by the gentle scent of aromatic oil burners, assuring me that I had come to a true place of relaxation.

Spa Manager Monchanok Sung welcomed me. She has more than 10 years' experience in spas and has been working at this spa for two years, beginning when it was known as the Chiwit-Chiwah Spa at the Jiva Resort. The resort was taken over by Central Hotels & Resorts in May this year.

K. Monchanok took me on a tour of the facilities. Centara Spa has four massage rooms – three single rooms and one for couples. For those wanting to splash out, there is also a private suite that includes a sauna, jacuzzi and shower. Outside, looking over the pool and gardens, is a corner with foot-massage sofas.



Tranquil treatment from Central

The rooms are sparsely furnished with just a treatment bed, to minimize distractions. The rooms are decorated differently, but each has wooden paneling and soft lighting, giving off a calm earthy feel. Paintings, ornaments and flowers grace the walls.

Including K. Monchanok, there are four therapists at the spa. The same styles of massage are offered in all nine branches of Centara Spa.

K. Monchanok recommended the popular "Tranquility Massage" that, according to Centara Spa's pamphlets, will, "reconnect mind, body, and soul using slow flowing movements to

gently lull the body and senses into a greater state of relaxation." It sounds almost like a religious experience.

The massage comes with a choice of essential oils.

I opted for "Tropical Retreat", a mixture of sage, rosemary and mint, as it is claimed to help lower mental stress and strengthen the memory, which is never a bad thing.

Three other oils are also available: Thai Romance, a concoction of ylang ylang and lavender designed to uplift the spirits; Siamese Bliss, consisting of lavender, sweet orange and lemongrass, which purportedly re-



lieves fatigue and clears the head; and Floral Sanctuary, a jasmine oil that "relaxes and renews".

K. Monchanok explained that the therapist would press on and massage the lymphatic system and blood vessels, thereby improving circulation.

The massage would also makes my skin appear younger and healthier, she said.

She suggests that people should go for a massage about three times a week to improve the circulation, but not more often than that – the effectiveness of the massages decreases if practiced more frequently.

She also advises that people should not sunbathe immediately after massage as the oils combined with sunlight could lead to burning.

My therapist was to be K. Monchanok herself. The style of massage is different from that of other spas, focusing on the lymph nodes and spine.

K. Monchanok spent about 30 minutes massaging my back before moving to my legs. I felt warm, as if I could feel the blood being moved around my body.

Her experience shone through in the massage. It felt as if her hands were transferring energy to my body as they softly but surely manipulated my back.

It seemed as though she was totally focused on my relaxation.

Unfortunately, as the saying goes, time flies when you're having fun and the 90 minutes of the massage were over all too soon. At only 1,100 baht, this is among the least costly hotel spa treatments available on the island.

The Tranquility Massage is one of the most popular treatments on offer at the spa. Other treatments available include foot massages, manicures, mud wraps and facials.

Centara Spa also has couples' packages including the "Romantic Interlude" which lasts three hours, costs 5,200 baht and includes a Tranquility Massage, a body wrap and an organic Jurlique facial.

The spa uses only Jurlique products in its treatments.

Central Hotels & Resorts currently have a special Mother's Day offer of a free 60-minute massage with every room booked by August 7 for a stay between August 10 and 16.

Central Kata Resort is on Ked-Kwab Rd, Kata. Centara Spa is open daily from 8 am to 10 pm. Bookings should be made in advance by calling Tel: 076-370300 or through the Centara website: www.centaraspa.com

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Head for the hills and a bowl of hot noodles

What views, what service, so exclusive. We realized that this was certainly *the* place to eat.

Our bamboo *sala* had just two small tables, surrounded by four chairs and a scattering of Thai cushions on the floor – and offered some of the most stunning views of North Thailand's rugged landscape that we had ever seen.

We had just traveled some 35 kilometers to reach this restaurant – it really is amazing just how far people are prepared to travel to eat sometimes.

Located high in the Doi Chang hills, the quaint village of Ju Jee faces north, overlooking the Mae Kok River valley below and vast, seemingly endless hills beyond.

Our journey started earlier that morning in Chiang Rai. From there we headed northwest along the river bank, eventually passing the large Karen hill tribe village of Ruamit on its northern banks.

There we stopped and watched as a train of elephants slowly wound its way over the

Thailand TRAVELER

By Bill Owen

hills, so far off in the distance they looked more like ants than the enormous creatures they were.

Then we went on to Pong Nam Ron Hot Springs, where we managed a late breakfast on the river bank. Chai, the owner of an excellent food-vending stall, boiled eggs for us in the steaming, sulphury spring water.

The eggs were very hot – and pungent – but not really to be recommended, despite K. Chai's insistence that they impart mystical powers to those who dine on them.

"Also encourages great potency," he chuckled, mentioning in passing that he had six children.

From there we shifted our rented vehicle into four-wheel-drive mode; the now unpaved road wound its way through the forest, still following the fascinating river that flows from the village of Thaton down to Chiang



Where the heat for those noodles comes from...

Rai, beyond which it eventually spills into the Mekong for its journey south to the sea.

A fleet of bamboo rafts passed us, heading toward Chiang Rai.

Loaded with both tourists and supplies, these rafts were on one of several overnight trips offered by tour operators in Thaton, which have an overnight stop in one of the hill tribe villages en route. Although a little commercialized these days, it is still well worth the trip – if only for the river journey itself.

After a short stop for drinks and a rest at the My Dream Guesthouse on the river bank, we drove across a suspension bridge and began our ascent into the hills – and what a climb it was.

No maps here – and certainly no road signs – just off-road tracks snaking ever higher into the hills. These tracks – it is probably too generous to call them roads – connect the many hill tribe villages still high above us.

The only way to navigate or get one's bearings here is to stop the occasional passing motorbike and ask the rider for the way.

Fortunately, most people were able to direct us to the next *baan* or village – where we

stopped and asked for more directions. However, in these parts, distances, times and road conditions seem to take on a slightly different meaning. Nothing ever seems definite and the phrase "the blind leading the blind" best describes the feeling one starts to get.

It was with some relief that we eventually found our way to our first major hill tribe village, a Lahu settlement nestled into the hillside. Local children, pigs, dogs and chickens all mingled around as we asked which track to take next.

All the villagers pointed high into the mountains beyond – and told us to keep going. One chuckled a bit and shrugged his shoulders when we asked how long it would take.

On we climbed. At 1,400 meters, we broke out of the forest. Here the road began to climb even more steeply, with deep ravines at either side.

We carefully edged our 4WD along the narrow ridge until suddenly, there in the distance,

we could see our destination: Ju Jee – a Lahu village perhaps 30 small houses, all built of bamboo and perched tenuously atop a small peak. There is no electricity here, apart from that generated by some newly-installed solar panels, which were proudly displayed in all the gardens we passed as we made our approach.

We had finally reached our lunch spot – the exclusive restaurant with the spectacular view. Needless to say, half the village came out to greet us, looking at us as we ate and even sitting with us – but I guess that's half the fun.

Oh, yes. The meal was delicious – by far the most delectable bowl of "Mama" instant noodles that I had ever tasted. Happy travels.

Note: Thanks go to my good old friend and co-driver Alex, Managing Director of Contact Travel in Chiang Mai, who is always game and as crazy as I am to explore exciting new locations.

How to get there

Fly from Phuket to Chiang Rai, connections for which are available from several domestic carriers. For my trip, I flew Phuket-Bangkok-Chiang Rai on One-Two-Go by Orient Thai, at a one-way cost of 3,400 baht, excluding airport tax. With good connections and reasonable service, this seem to be the best deal available right now.

Renting a vehicle

There are several good rental agencies in Chiang Rai. Make sure you rent a good 4WD vehicle for such a trip – and consider hiring a driver if you are not as intrepid as us. My favorite rental firm is North Wheels, Chiang Rai branch (Tel: 053-740585; Fax: 053-740588; Website: www.northwheels.com).

Note: It is essential that you speak a little Thai – enough to ask for directions en route. Don't get discouraged; many hilltribe people only speak their own language, but most villages will have at least one Thai speaker.

Where to stay

There are many options in Chiang Rai. The Golden Triangle Inn, in the center of town, offers excellent value with rooms starting at 650 baht per night. They also have a good tour company, Golden Triangle Tours, that offers excellent overnight trips to such areas (Tel: 053-711339, 053-713963).

My Dream Guesthouse is located in the small Karen Village of Khaew Waaw Dam, approximately 25 kilometers outside Chiang Rai on the banks of the Mae Kok River. Rooms with riverside views start from just 400 baht per night. Great riverside restaurant/*sala*. Sometimes closed for short periods during the low season, so check availability in advance; (Tel: 053-609033; Website: www.mydreamguesthouse.com; Email nan@mydreamguesthouse.com).

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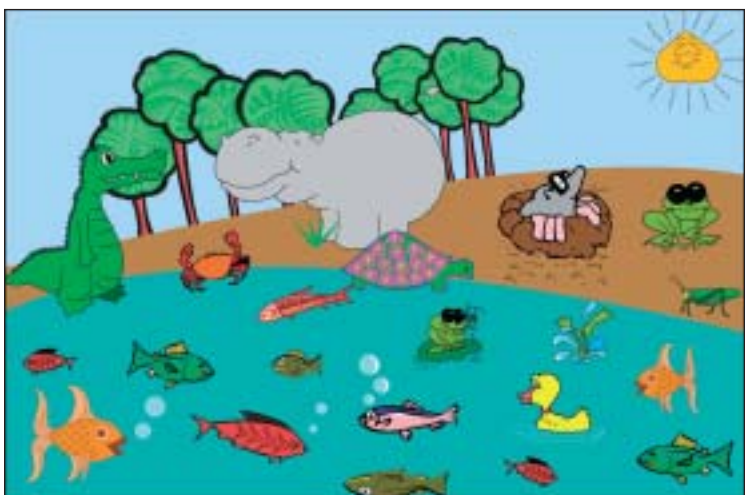
It's everywhere! Are You in it?

Puzzles

Spot the Difference



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



su | do | ku
© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

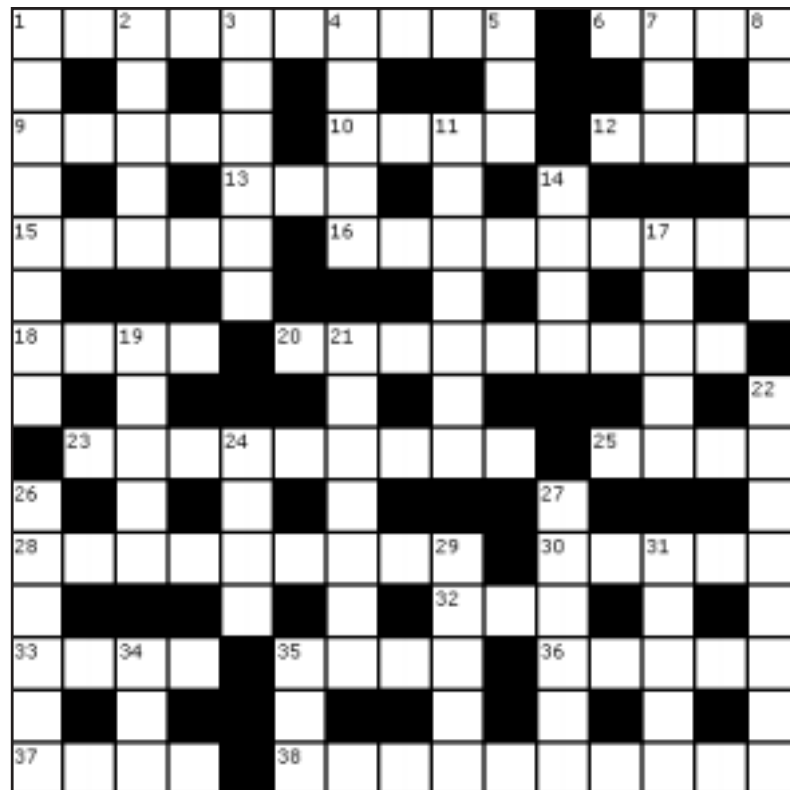
MEDIUM

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

The Cryptic Crossword

ACROSS

- Cheated, gangster closed an eye. (1)
- Eastern photo on a grand scale. (4)
- Ron is back in for violinist's requirement.
- Thanks for the company and the Mexican food. (4)
- Lower wall - for father, it's nothing. (4)
- Commander takes shirt and goes to bed. (3)
- Is Susan the topic of the discussion? (5)
- In outdoor area, glue is standard. (9)
- Eagle merit, they say. (4)
- Oddly, I told Rama, "Awkward." (9)
- Discussion group pledge to golf equipment. (9)
- Rodents back top actor. (4)
- Cowboy? No. Man at the wheel. (9)
- Shakes the Stones. (5)
- Resistance is nothing to His Majesty. (3)
- I'm given afterthought: Little devils! (4)
- Employ right drug-taker. (4)
- Excuse as Al and I say "Bye!"
- Pitcher: "Sheep, right?"
- Stirring tea in Gabon - that's self denial. (10)



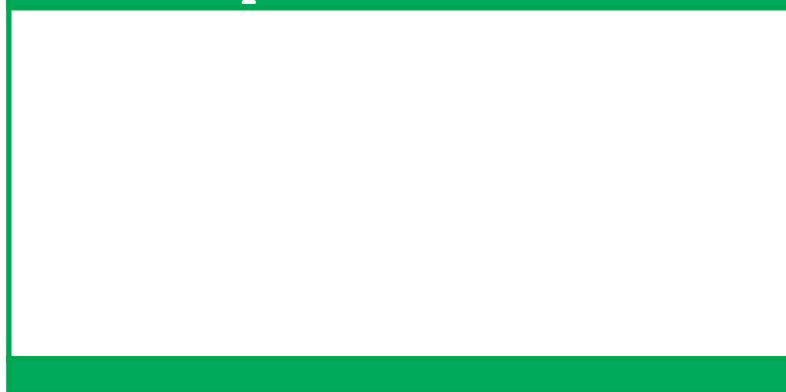
Compiled by Tortuus. © 2006

Down

- Island's statuesque pair. (8)
- Ejects and reveals cardinal inside. (5)
- Entertained, note, in "flinched". (6)
- Mr Cole and Mr Cobb. Smart! (5)
- Twosome do include turn. (3)
- Quiet for each vegetable seed. (3)
- Dies as frog sounds off. (6)
- Destruction of vehicle point era. (7)
- Mixed 25 up with the emperor. (4)
- Dostoyevsky's novel fool. (5)
- Deadly loop has nothing in nose. (5)
- Huntress's record label in arts. (7)
- Blue German. (8)
- Damages the planet. (4)
- Have ambition to get a church part. (6)
- The Spaniards are coming! Give Ada a gun! (6)
- Right in the nose for Scandinavian. (5)
- After church I get 51 - hot stuff! (5)
- Quiet, that is to say, filled pastry. (3)
- You and me with a country. (1,1,1)

Solution on next page

Scribble Space



EZ Trivia Quiz

- Who wears the number 8 shirt for Manchester United?
- In which fictional town do the Simpsons live?
- Who is the author of the *Harry Potter* novels?
- Who wrote *Mein Kampf*?
- What is longest bridge in Thailand?
- Who is the lead singer in the nu metal band Linkin Park?
- What is the most popular search engine on the web, with a 54% market share?
- Who was the first man to walk on the moon?
- Who was the youngest tennis player ever to win the Wimbledon men's singles final?
- What were the names of the three ships used on Christopher Columbus' first voyage to the Americas?

Answers on next page

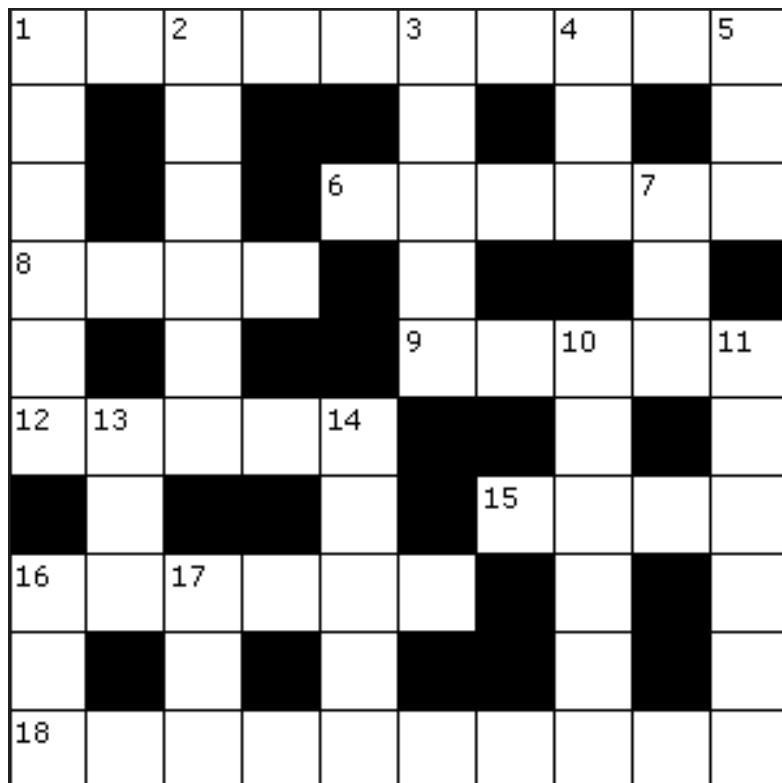
Rhyme Time

The words described below all rhyme with tight.

What are they?

- Insult
- Power
- Correct
- Munch
- Rope loop
- Quarrel
- Low-calorie
- Sir
- Difficulty
- A color

Answers on next page.



Quick Crossword

ACROSS

1. Where to find sunbathers? (2,3,5)
6. Eagle's claws.
8. Nascar track .
9. Egged on.
12. Arise (3,2)
15. Flower part.
16. Jog someone's memory.
18. Beach structure

DOWN

1. Square, but squashed.
2. Nasty leader.
3. Surfer's essential.
4. In the past.
5. Not hers.
7. Born.
10. Sharp reply.
11. Kick downstairs.
13. First lady?
14. Unreasoning fear.
16. Rosalind, for short.
17. Chaps.

Solution below, right

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



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

1. Which Parisian landmark was inaugurated on July 29, 1836?
2. What, in the UK, is an SSSI?
3. Myrmecology is the scientific study of what?
4. *Call and Answer* was a 1999 hit single from which Canadian band?
5. Scarborough Castle, in the UK, was bombarded by which two German battle cruisers during World War I?
6. Veselin Topalov, Gata Kamsky and Étienne Bacrot excel in which pastime?
7. Grandmaster Flash and Melle Mel enjoyed an early 1980s hit with which song?
8. Amalthea, Io, Ganymede, Calisto, Europa are moons of which planet?
9. Who composed *The Planets* suite?
10. *The Selfish Giant*, *The Happy Prince* and *The Nightingale and the Rose* are stories by which author?
11. What title was bestowed upon Oskar Schindler by Yad Vashem in 1963?
12. Carlos Gracida, Henry Brett and John-Paul Clarikin are notable exponents of which sport?
13. What nickname was the Reverend Geoffrey Anketell Studdert Kennedy given during World War I?
14. The Gormenghast fantasy novels were penned by which author?
15. What or who is a vespiary?
16. Marcus Griffin plays for which American college football team?
17. Briggs, Tank, the Spanish Spider and Proof are characters from which wrestling video game?
18. Who stars as V in the film *V for Vendetta*?
19. Transoxiana is the name given to the region between which two rivers in Central Asia?
20. "Every whisper/Of every waking hour I'm/Choosing my confessions" is a line from which song by R.E.M.?

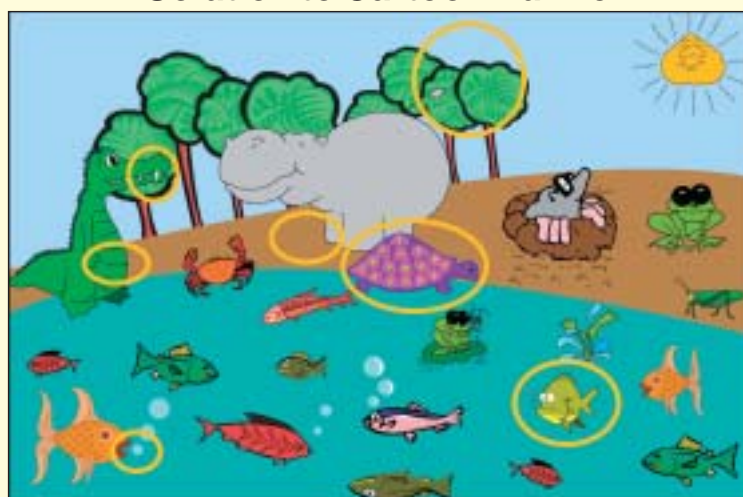
Answers below, left

Puzzle Solutions

Monster Quiz Answers

1. The Arc de Triomphe; 2. A site of special scientific interest; 3. Ants; 4. Barenaked Ladies; 5. The *SMS Derfflinger* and the *SMS Von der Tann*; 6. Chess; they are all Grandmasters; 7. *White Lines (Don't Don't Do It)*; 8. Jupiter; 9. Gustav Holst; 10. Oscar Wilde; 11. Righteous Among the Nations; 12. Polo; 13. Woodbine Willy; 14. Mervyn Peake; 15. A wasp's nest; 16. The Texas Longhorns; 17. Def Jam Vendetta; 18. Hugo Weaving; 19. The Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers; 20. *Losing My Religion*.

Solution to Cartoon Puzzle



EZ Trivia Answers:

1. Wayne Rooney; 2. Springfield; 3. JK Rowling; 4. Adolf Hitler; 5. Tinsulanonda Bridge in Songkhla; 6. Chester Charles Bennington; 7. Google; 8. Neil Armstrong; 9. Boris Becker, at age 17; 10. The *Niña*, the *Pinta* and the *Santa Maria*.

Rhyme Time Answers:

1. Slight; 2. Might; 3. Right; 4. Bite; 5. Bight; 6. Fight; 7. Light; 8. Knight; 9. Plight; 10. White.

Cryptic Crossword Solution



Quick Crossword Solution



Sudoku solution



By Quetta Locchi

One of the most charismatic characters of Phuket, Fabio Ferlini, has died at age 59 after a short, swift bout of cancer.

If you were in Phuket in the late '70s and early '80s, and dined at any of the rustic Karon Beach restaurants, chances are you will remember the long, tall Italian holding court each evening.

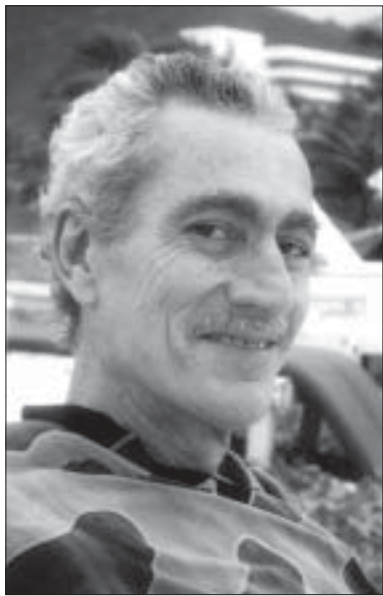
Fabio arrived in Phuket when he was in his early 30s, after spending much of his adult life up to then travelling the world.

He sought out beautiful spots in South America, Europe and Indonesia before landing on a stunning, undeveloped Karon Beach.

Long-time friend Sek Sung-Kaew was 9 years old when he first saw "the long European man walking on the beach". He remembers how Fabio immediately immersed himself in the daily life of the village, learning to speak Thai and taking part in local ceremonies and celebrations such as Loy Kratong and the Vegetarian Festival.

In later years, Fabio told K. Sek that when he had arrived on

A true lover of Phuket



Fabio Ferlini.

Karon Beach, gazed at the sunset and felt an incredible universal energy, he knew that this was "the end" – this was the "last place" for him.

It was evident that he felt this way because, unlike many of the expats who arrived during the

same period, Fabio never left his beloved island, except for short holidays. He may be one of the few people to have lived here continuously since the early '80s.

He built with his own hands traditional Thai wooden bungalows on the land of the Sung-Kaew family – not once, but twice.

The first time it sat where the Hilton Phuket Arcadia now is. When the land was sold for development, he dismantled the house and rebuilt it in its current location, surrounded by a lush garden – his pride and joy.

Plants, insects and nature in general were a focal point for much of his interests and he spent many hours looking after his garden.

Fabio Ferlini was born of a prominent family and raised in the center of Verona, Italy, in a house surrounded by vineyards. He was a hippy in the '60s, complete with long, curly hair, and mingled with the cinematic figures of the day,

including Federico Fellini. He even appeared in a Franco Zeffirelli film as a golden, god-like figure.

After leaving Verona, he spent time in Rome then Brazil, Denmark (where he married a Danish woman and had a son), Amsterdam, America and many other places.

One thing that allowed him to travel so freely was his gift for languages. Fabio spoke many languages well, including English, Thai, French, Portuguese and Spanish, and could also communicate adequately in others.

This gift was very useful in the aftermath of the tsunami, when he tirelessly translated for and comforted many survivors at Provincial Hall in Phuket City, the center of volunteer efforts in Phuket.

In recent years, Fabio indulged his long-time interest in holistic, Eastern-based forms of therapy and herbal remedies. He studied reflexology, massage,

Chinese medical theory, and colon cleansing regimens, among others.

He used his knowledge and expertise not only for his own health and well-being, but also to help and heal others. For years he offered free massage therapy and advice to ailing villagers.

Fabio was an enigmatic man of many contradictions. Even though he was a vegetarian, he never lost his love of all Italian food and at a party he could frequently be found next to the meat platter.

He was an extremely well-read intellectual, yet had the common touch and could chat up even itinerant workers.

He was known by many, but was also a deeply personal man who rarely shared his private thoughts.

Fabio always provoked a reaction in people and could never be ignored. As Sek Sung-Kaew said, "Everyone always noticed him."

Besides howling factual mistakes, Jake Needham's last thriller, *Killing Plato*, was marred by the puerile misanthropy typical of self-loathing expatriates.

He deftly side-steps this defect by making the hero of his fourth novel a native Singaporean. In *The Ambassador's Wife* (Prime Crime Press, Hong Kong, 2006, 349pp), Inspector Samuel Tay is a 48-year-old veteran of the Special Investigations Section of the CID (Criminal Investigation Department). Oddly enough, he is always complaining about the heat – "nasty, sweaty, stinking hot" – which is like an Eskimo complaining about the cold.

Nonetheless, Sam Tay immediately enlists the reader's sympathy because he is laboring under a horrible secret: he is terrified of blood and gore. And his job is to inspect murdered corpses. Why does he do it? He can't exactly say. He is wealthy, thanks to an inheritance from his Chinese-American father. He graduated as a top student at National University and then, inexplicably, chose police work.

"Looking back on the decision he had made as a young man, he could not for the life of him remember now exactly why he had made it; but regardless of the reason, he had stuck with it."

MORE CHEAP CYNICISM

His new case puts all his powers of endurance to the test.

The nude corpse of a woman is found in an unregistered room in the Marriot Hotel. She has been shot in the ear with a .22 pistol, her face mashed to a pulp, thighs spread obscenely and a flashlight jammed between them. The murder scene has been professionally wiped clean. No clothes, no clues, no nothing.

Then an FBI agent named Tony DeSouza, legal attaché at the American Embassy, turns up at Tay's house on a Sunday with the information that an Interpol fingerprint check identified the corpse as that of Elizabeth Munson, wife of the American Ambassador to Singapore, Arthur Elliot Munson III, who is on a return flight from Washington.

DeSouza assumes the murder is a terrorist attack. Tay, who does not, gets his first clue when he learns from a former high-society girlfriend that Elizabeth Munson was having an affair with another woman.

Tay is off on the chase.

Needham's strengths come to the fore here: crackling dialog and a keen eye for detail. There are several clever red herrings

in the plot and one colossal surprise that goes against all the conventions of thriller writing.

An identical murder in Bangkok brings Tay together with the Embassy's Regional Security Officer, the beautiful Cally Parks. First introduced as a blank-faced bureaucrat, she turns positively coquettish in Tay's presence. She drives Tay down to Pattaya to interview a retired spook named John August, owner of the Baby Girl Bar. August dismisses the terrorist angle and reveals that the Bangkok victim was also a lesbian.

The Thailand section is flawed by large doses of cheap cynicism:

"To tell the truth, Tay didn't like anywhere in Thailand very much. Beneath its veneer of exotic temples and saintly monks lay

the dark heart of a country that lived off greed and sex. No matter how you tried to dress the place up, Tay thought, Thailand would always have the soul of a whore."

Apropos of Bangkok:

"In the hard white light of the swampy coastal plain, the city lay before them like a spread-eagled tart on a rumpled bedspread."

The pace is also slowed down by a number of annoying and pointless side plots that add nothing to Tay's character except to make him lose credibility.

The same can be said for other improbabilities: that's he's only vaguely aware of Pattaya and utterly ignorant of Singapore's Orchard Towers (the "Four Floors of Whores") – which is like a policeman in the 1970s being



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

oblivious to Bugis Street. These flaws could be forgiven if the book ended in a slam-bam surprising climax. It doesn't. In the climatic scene back in Singapore, the prime suspect is indeed guilty and promptly confesses. In the final chapter, the obvious mastermind is exposed. Both are taken care down by the *deus ex machina* of August John.

It's a limp, lame end to what starts out as a rousing thriller.

Jake Needham had his readers hooked and then let them off the line.

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Maritime sports rules must be kept clear and simple

Not so long ago, the only major sporting event on the waters around Phuket was the annual King's Cup Regatta. The Ao Chalong Yacht Club had its regular weekend races, but they were mostly for local sailors and all the boats were locally-based.

The competitive scene grew with the start of the Phang Nga Bay Regatta and then, three years ago, Phuket Race Week, deliberately timed to take advantage of monsoon season weather when wind could be virtually guaranteed – solving a problem that dogged the other two events.

Now it seems that the rest of the boating world is discovering the delights of Phuket. The F1 circuit, which canceled a planned race when the tsunami threw everything into confusion, is coming after all, in 2008. Added to this are two more new events. The Rubson Raid Turquoise, a sort of seaborne Gumball Rally featuring high-powered inflatables, will arrive this December. There has also been an announcement by the organizers of the world championships for fast two-man Tasar dinghies, who have set their sights on Phuket as the venue for an event in July next year.

The Rubson Raid was going to be held around the Cape Verde archipelago, off the western coast of Africa, but, the organizers announced, "With the safety of the competitors and the event always uppermost in our minds, it was clear that a new choice needed to be made..." That choice was Thailand, specifically the Andaman coast.

All of this is good news for the island. For a start, such events bring to the island hundreds of people who fill hotel rooms, eat in restaurants – and possibly even buy OTOP goods.

Perhaps more important than the immediate economic benefits is the positive exposure Phuket receives from international TV, newspaper and magazine coverage.

Footage of the King's Cup is already distributed to more than a dozen TV channels from Australia to Europe to South America, projecting a glamorous image across the globe.

The F1 race and the Rubson event will likely receive even greater coverage, given that they feature fast and furious action, which makes great footage for the armchair sportsman and potential tourist alike. Some 50 print journalists and 20 TV crews are expected to converge in Phuket to cover the Rubson Raid alone.

As the provisions of the new dive business regulations will also apply to boat racing competitions held in the province, let us hope that officials involved will clearly understand the significance of these events – and make the red tape as easy to navigate as possible.

– The Editor

Phuket Gazette

In association with The Nation Multimedia Group PCL

Editor: Parichat Utintu

Managing Editor: Alasdair Forbes

Deputy Editor: Chris Husted

Chief Reporter: Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

Editorial Team: Stephen Fein, Andy Johnstone, Natcha Yuttaworawit,
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Contact us

Advertising Sales: adsales@phuketgazette.net

Classified Advertising: classads@phuketgazette.net

Website Services: koy@phuketgazette.net

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

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Letters

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

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

Leave Norwich alone

Your editorial "Dodgy claims" [*Gazette*, issue of July 22] commenting on the recent Norwich Union insurance company report on "Holiday Hazard Hotspots", in which Phuket is cast in an unfavorable light, is quite amazing.

Why not take a drive around the island's roads or read your own publication covering the horrendous murders and assassinations in Phuket. Ignore if you wish the house break-ins, the robberies, the rip-offs and the regular accidents such as the sinking of tour and ferry boats.

Most residents and tourists who understand the true situation in Phuket will agree that the Norwich Union figures can only be a true reflection of both the hazards and the crime situation in Phuket.

Why would Norwich Union lie? Their figures are just a reflection of their clients' experiences collected through their insurance claims. Is the *Gazette* really asking readers to believe it's all a conspiracy of some sort?

It's time for the *Gazette*, the Tourism Authority of Thailand and all the others with vested interests on the island to take their collective heads out of the sand and face up to the reality of what is really going on in Phuket.

Shooting the messenger is not going to help.

John Edkins
Ao Yon

'Overestimated' RoI will reflect badly

I am about to retire, and, after many pleasant holidays in Phuket, I have decided to buy a property there.

On a recent visit, I was

struck by the emphasis now being put by nearly all developers (aided and abetted by the real estate agents) on "Return on Investment" (RoI).

On examining the figures, it is clear that the rental use has, in most cases, been grossly overestimated to come up with the required RoI figure, with no evidence given in justification, no track record, and often no marketing organization in place to obtain the required rentals.

The problem with this approach is that it will attract people who buy mainly as an investment, and who have little intention of living there.

If and when such investors realize the returns promised do not materialize, then many will sell their "investment" and move their money to a better return. The effect on Phuket property prices will not be pleasant.

Some of the bigger, or more enlightened developers seem now to be including a hotel in their development or establishing links with a hotel.

This will improve the rental use, but many projects will not achieve the RoI advertised and this will reflect badly on the industry in a couple of years' time.

Kim Rawlinson
England

Sleepless in Siam #1

With reference to the Online *Gazette* Issue & Answer about late-opening discos in Patong: Dear Mr Sleepless in Patong, how many hotels are there in the town? Move. Go somewhere less noisy. Better still, stop complaining and get a life.

Siam Sam
Perth, Western Australia

Sleepless in Siam #2

Surely there must be at least one late-night disco in Patong? In Europe most discos close between 5 and 6 am.

For people on holiday, there must be venues and possibilities for enjoyment at night.

Lars Persson
Sweden

The way forward for Immigration?

The last time I went to the Immigration Office for my 90-day reporting, an officer there saw what I wanted, delayed what he was doing for an instant as he indicated for me to pass him my passport. He stamped it and sent me on my way. Not a word was spoken, but a warm smile said it all.

If that was the initiative of the officer concerned, I am impressed. If it is the way things are now being done at the Immigration Office, even better.

Michael Way
Phuket

New TAT office is unnecessary

Your article about the opening of the new Tourism Authority of Thailand office states that the new 14-million-baht premises were necessary because the old offices on Phuket Rd were "too small" for the number of tourists who visited it each day.

If the TAT really wanted to help tourists, they would erect a booth at the airport warning arriving tourists of the numerous scams they can expect to be subjected to during their stay here.

Werner
Phuket

Letters conveying views and suggestions are published here. Those seeking comment from government officials or business owners are published as *Issues & Answers* in the *Phuket Gazette* Online.

The right to protest, but in the right way

FIRST PERSON

It's every provincial governor's worst nightmare. A call comes in that a road has been blocked by a group of angry protesters, who demand that he come to the protest site immediately to hear their grievances. Such protests put the Governor in an awkward spot.

He is not an elected official, but rather an appointee of the central government, serving as its highest-ranking representative in the province. Thus, his duties include maintaining law and order – even if it means mobilizing the police to forcibly disband demonstrators.

Here, Phuket Governor **Udomsak Uswarangkura** talks about his approach to dealing with such protesters in general and two recent protest cases in particular: the blockage of the Thepkrasattri Rd in Thalang by villagers of Baan Kor En and a sit-in protest by villagers on Pra Baramee Soi 8 in Patong who refused to vacate homes they had built on encroached-upon land.



I have to first listen carefully to what the villagers want so that I can understand the root cause of the problem. That is my rule.

Once I have done this, I try to find the best way to solve the problem. However, villagers should make sure they protest in the right way, not doing anything that violates the law.

The right to protest is enshrined in the Constitution, but that doesn't give protesters the right to break the law.

I simply don't agree that people have the right to do something "wrong" in order to achieve what they view as a "greater good". I will not allow them to do that, and if they break the law, then I will refuse to negotiate with them.

Both sides need to exchange opinions in a reasonable fashion, with a view to making the other side change their stance.

That wasn't the case in some recent protests, such as at the Phra Baramee Soi 8 protest and with the Baan Khor En mob, because their actions troubled not only the government, but also the public at large.

In the case of Phra Baramee Soi 8, people there constructed dwellings on a private individual's land without first seeking permission from the owner. Then they simply refused to leave, using their children's

welfare as a negotiating point.

They must have known from the beginning that the land they decided to build on belonged to someone else, but they decided to build homes and settle there anyway.

Then, when the land-owner wanted the land back so he could hand it over to the government for a public road project, they decided to protest.

I offered to list them as a priority group on the provincial registry of poor people, then I talked with the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization and Patong Municipality about finding them a temporary, low-cost housing alternative.

When the Baan Khor En villagers blocked Thepkrasattri Rd, I went there to see the problem at first hand. What they were

doing was not right; they closed off the road [by erecting a tent across it], blocking traffic and created a large traffic jam.

We tried to solve their problem, but we told them to understand that problems like these

cannot be rectified in a day or two.

They need to give us more time.

Many people have died from accidents [on dangerous bends] on the island. In other

cases, people approached the government through the normal channels and a solution was found without a mob protest having to take place.

We are willing to negotiate. In the case of Baan Khor En,

when we explained that we had already agreed in principal to buy the land needed [to re-engineer the road] and that the construction work was almost ready to go ahead, they folded up their tent and went home.



The scene of a recent protest at Baan Khor En.

Do custom car-warning lights break the law?

Many new cars seem to have different colored warning lights. Normally, the brake lights are red and the indicators orange. I have noticed that many cars now have clear brake lights and red indicators.

This can cause confusion for following vehicles.

Are there any regulations about this?

Punjaporn Patong

Pol Col Teeraphol Thipjaroen, Superintendent of Kathu Police Station replies:

Non-standard color brake lights and indicators are illegal.

Owners may not change the color of the back, front, brake or indicator lights, at least not legally.

We will stop vehicles that are in violation of the regulations. I would like to warn people not to change the color of the lights on their cars; it is dangerous.

Issues & ANSWERS

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

In The Stars

by Isla Star

LEO (July 24-August 22): Aim high and be prepared to accept a little less. The best offer you can hope for will be presented later next week; rejecting this in order to wait for something better will be reason for regret. You who are suffering from unrequited love will soon recover. Libra is poised to take your mind off this sorrowful scenario. Your diplomacy is needed on Sunday, when an insistent family member has a bee in the bonnet.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): You should be able to take a welcome break from work this week. Put your heart and soul into making romance work and you won't regret it. The outlook is sunny for those seeking new employment; another Virgo can pull strings on your behalf. On Monday, lack of bureaucratic understanding prevents progress. Try again on Wednesday for more positive results. The number 8 is lucky this weekend.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): You should have good reason to jump for joy this week. Expect to get glad tidings from overseas regarding a financial matter that has been decided in your favor. Romantically speaking, you see clearly the way to move into a more harmonious future. Sunday is the best day for clearing the air with the person concerned. Wear the color aubergine to give off the right vibrations.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Some of you will have a hard time getting your brain into gear this week. Your sluggish mood should give way to a more upbeat feeling by Wednesday, but this is an ideal time to look carefully at your fitness regime and diet. Even minor changes will be of benefit. Cancer would like to get to know you better, but is having trouble finding the right approach. Monday is a good day to discuss money.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Keeping your nose to the grindstone is difficult when there are so many diversions on offer. Let your fun-loving friends know that work takes priority this week. Aries, in particular, is in the mood to party and thinks that you need to join in. On Thursday, someone close needs immediate help and you may be the one who has to drop everything and rush to the rescue.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Unless you're prepared to work for peanuts, a new job offer will be disappointing. If you enjoy your current occupation, but are suffering from boredom, you should meditate on how you can improve the situation. Schedule any meetings with those in power for Tuesday or Wednesday as the stars will back you up. Leo has started to find you interesting and will make a subtle approach soon.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): You will be in a position to control the atmosphere this weekend. Keep your opinions to yourself and don't provoke disagreements. Keep the business ball rolling by making new contacts on Monday; you'll be surprised to find out how lucrative these will be. Romance with Pisces is well-starred, but Sagittarius could be a gold-digger in disguise. The number 9 is lucky on Wednesday.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): A lucky break in the middle of the week allows you to have another stab at applying for a desirable job. This should be a good incentive to spruce up your appearance. Money matters continue to improve, with the end of this month seeing your credit at an all-time high. Wear the color sunflower yellow to send a sincere romantic message to someone you'd like to know better.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): You will be frustrated by the stop-start motion of a business project's progress. There's little you can do about this situation, so it would be best to focus on other issues. Children are likely to be the cause of an unsettled atmosphere at home; you should act immediately before bad behavior gets out of hand, but be prepared to listen first. Wear amethyst to help you slow down.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): A mixed week lies ahead for you. A colleague's ineptitude last week could necessitate last minute rushing on Saturday, but you should be able to relax after that. Set quality time aside on Sunday to smell the roses. A cash bonus of some sort is forecast to boost your bank balance on Wednesday. Keep news of this bounty to yourself as Cancer is considering requesting a loan. The number 1 is lucky on Monday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): A wet weekend won't do much to dampen your spirits. The atmosphere takes a downturn on Monday, when bureaucracy threatens to spoil your day. Say what is necessary with a smile and be prepared to concede a point or two just to keep the peace. Love is in the air on Sunday; a fledgling relationship may become stronger. Wear the color amber to emit warm vibrations.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): For one reason or another you will thank your lucky stars this weekend. You could easily find a mislaid document that can settle an ongoing dispute in your favor. Romance occupies much of your attention as the month progresses; a proposal could be made soon. Make business appointments short and to the point to avoid wasting time on Tuesday. Scorpio is wondering how to ask a burning question.

K-Tech is one of the biggest and best-known construction companies in Thailand. Appropriately, it's founder, Bob Der Kevorkian was one of the biggest and best known characters in Thailand's property industry.

He was a friend of many of Thailand's most influential figures and a well known supporter of good causes and charities, so people in the construction industry and indeed in many other fields were saddened when the K-Tech chairman died last year.

Bob Der Kevorkian established K-Tech in 1997 after many years working with international construction company, Philip Holtzmann. It was hardly the best of timing as that was the year of the Asian financial crash.

K-Tech, however, pros-

pered and now has projects worth several billion baht spread around Bangkok, Pattaya, Hua Hin, Chiang Mai and Phuket. It also has a project worth a billion baht in Koh Khut, an island in the Gulf near Koh Chang, where it is building a high-end hotel.

The reins of the company have passed to Bob's son, Dominic, who is now heavily involved with the company's activities in Phuket.

"K-Tech is committed to Phuket's future," says Dominic. "In terms of size and volume of projects, it is probably our biggest operation outside Bangkok."

"We've been here now for six years and we believe that Phuket's got legs, quality projects and quality buyers. We are looking to expand more down here and move away from Bangkok, which

K-Tech looks to Phuket as alternative to Big Mango

is getting more and more difficult. Traffic, communications, trying to establish worker's camps; it's getting tough.

"As a result of working with the Central Group on Central Tower in Bangkok, we came here to build Phuket's biggest shopping centre, Central Festival."

"We also built extensions to the Evason Resort, Gracelands resort in Patong and the Royal Phuket Marina, as well as the new extension to the Indigo Pearl Village Resort [in Nai Yang]. We are also involved in community projects, including a health center in the south of the island."

"We are currently looking at



Royal Phuket Marina engineer H. Mete Izmen (left) and Dominic Der Kevorkian of K-Tech, which has done a bit of building at the marina.

four or five other projects, including what will be the biggest in Phuket – which I can't name yet. We plan to establish a base here with offices, staff quarters, a permanent camp for workers and a holding yard.

"We have to go where the private sector is going, not government projects. The market in

Phuket is growing, as indeed it is in surrounding areas such as Phang Nga and Krabi," he explained.

There are many indications that Phuket is being targeted by new investors, such as Australia. A recent article in the *Weekend Australian* stated, "more and more Australians are investing in property offshore."

"Phuket has been nominated as one of the top five global destinations for retirement according to a recent survey by a leading global travel organisation," the newspaper noted.

The rumours of all the usual problems encountered in buying in Thailand are still flying around, but continuing interest in the island – and K-Tech's growing order book – indicates that there is still plenty going on.

LARGER THAN LIFE

By Graham Doven

Phuket & Samui

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There are 74 species of mangrove tree in Thailand, providing both food and shelter for many living organisms. The soil in a mangrove forest is similar to that of a tropical rainforest.

The nutrients in the soil are very close to the surface and in both rain forests and mangrove forests, the trees have very shallow root systems.

The mud is an important part of the food chain, which depends on mangroves later down the line.

First of all, the mangrove trees break up waves. Once the disturbance caused by wave action has ceased, the fine particles in the water, combined with mangrove tree bark and leaves, form sediment, in which algae grow. This is the start of the food chain. The algae are food for snails.

Decomposed leaves are food for crabs and prawn. The decomposing leaves and bark are also eaten by bacteria and fungi.

The tide carries the nutrient-rich particles out of the mangrove forest into deeper water, for example, Phang Nga Bay. This becomes food for plankton, algae, and later for the mangrove trees themselves as well.

Mullet – a species of fish very common in Phang Nga Bay – also feed on the decomposing leaves. In fact, the amount of protein generated directly from the eating of decomposed mangrove leaves and bark is much higher in mangrove forests than in any other environment in the world.

ROOTS

The tangled roots of mangrove trees provide small fish with shelter from bigger fish; the little fish hide in the root system to keep from getting eaten. This allows them to survive to become bigger fish, at which point, they will try to catch smaller fish.

Mangrove forests are the breeding grounds for hundreds of species of fish. Many of these fish species are very important to commercial fishermen.

Birds, too, rely on the mangrove trees for food, in the form of insects and flowers found on the trees. Both terrestrial species and sea birds frequent the forests. The most common terrestrial bird species found in southern Thailand feeding on the mudflats and in the shallow water include Pacific reef egrets, Chinese pond herons, common sandpipers, little herons, common redshanks, rufous-necked stints, and a few other less common species.

Sitting in the mangrove trees watching for fish or prawns are a variety of kingfishers. The brown-winged kingfisher, black-capped kingfisher, common kingfisher and the collared kingfisher are the most common. At least 204 species of birds have been recorded in Thailand's mangrove forests.

Spiders live on the trees, too, hunting other insects, and bats can be found hanging out in the caves in mangrove areas. One of the most important species of bat to live in the mangrove forests is the fruit bat. Though

The stunning diversity of the mangrove forest



NATURE NOTES

By Dave Williams

Above, *Rhizophora* genus mangrove roots reflect in the water, creating art from nature.

Right, a Pacific reef egret, one of the creatures that benefits from the mangrove's bounty.



fruit bats can be found in other habitats, the mangrove is an important environment for them.

If you like durian, you should like fruit bats because they pollinate many kinds of durian. In fact, they are the sole pollinators of some species.

Soldier crabs can be seen by the hundred at low tide. Fiddler crabs and several other species share the mudflats with them.

Fifty-four species of crabs have been recorded in the mangrove forests of Thailand. Crab-eating macaques eat the crabs. So do birds and otters.

All of this eating on the ground is being watched from high above by birds such as brahmny kites and white-bellied sea eagles. They eat other smaller animals in addition to fish.

So, the next time you're lucky enough to be in a mangrove forest, take a minute to watch all the life that depends on this very special environment.

Dave Williams runs eco-expedition company *Paddle Asia*. For details, visit www.paddleasia.com

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Smart home solutions for homebuyers and developers

IT ISSUES

By John Seebach

Homebuyers looking for the latest in convenience and functionality, and developers wondering how to differentiate their properties should consider installing smart-home systems into new houses.

The general public is becoming more and more aware of smart homes through television programs and glossy magazines that highlight how families take advantage of home automation.

There is a range of things the developer needs to understand, including cost, functions and features, the amount of space taken up by the installation, and, after the sale of the property, how reliable the system is and how it can be upgraded or expanded.

Most of the smart-home equipment on the market today uses proprietary technology which tends to push costs higher.

However, there is a small but growing number of manufacturing companies in the home-automation market creating products and systems that use standard technologies and Open Source software. In the hands of a good integrator this allows equipment to be mixed and matched to create better smart home solutions than proprietary systems and at a much lower cost.

As with other markets, standardization will lower sys-

tems costs and a more competitive market will benefit us all. One of the best sites on the Internet for seeing how this works is www.homesee.com.

The website showcases the latest technologies and has informative articles and links to just about anything you could need to automate your home.

The cost of installing smart-home infrastructure into a new house is small compared to retrofitting it to an existing property. Wireless technology is becoming more and more reliable, but guaranteed connectivity is still the domain of real wires.

For most people a home represents the biggest investment they will make during their lifetimes. Builders and developers know this, and want to make sure the home behaves in a reliable manner through the normal use of switches, buttons and sensors.

If a smart-home system is installed and fails to behave as designed, then the disgruntled owners are likely to complain, spreading bad news around the community, and tarnishing reputations.

Builders, therefore, must be sure that the equipment is robust and reliable, that the smart-home system will be thoroughly tested and verified by the installer before it is handed over, and that there is a customer support package available to handle customer's problems when they crop up.

For home owners it is going to be "mission critical" that the home works properly. For example, when you want a hot

There is a range of things the developer needs to understand, including cost, functions and features.



Check out www.homesee.com to see what can be achieved these days in terms of smart homes.

If a smart-home system is installed and fails to behave as designed, then the disgruntled owners are likely to complain, spreading bad news around the community and tarnishing reputations.

shower, hot water must be available. The system has to fail only a couple of times before it starts to get a bad name.

The control system must be available 24/7. A secure, reliable and robust solution for the smart-home control system is a Linux computer platform running an open-source operating system. These have been shown to have continuous run times of years

without the problems commonly seen with other solutions where restarts are needed at regular intervals.

The new home buyer or builder may not want to install a smart-home system with all the equipment in a new house all at once, because this adds significantly to cost.

However, any new home should be fitted out with a well-

designed and structured wiring system to accommodate home automation in the future. It's usually best to install a small or modest smart-home system to begin with, thus allowing everyone to get used to it.

With systems that work successfully, sooner or later the occupants want to expand the system to include additional features or to control other parts of the house.

If the system has only proprietary interfaces and software, then the home owner has no choice but to use the original installer for the system upgrade or expansion. In addition, if the home was not fitted with structured wiring from the beginning, then these upgrades and expansions will require significant re-cabling which can be very costly.

So it is important to take time to ensure the infrastructure or structured wiring system is left flexible to accommodate standard interfaces and a range of competitive solutions available on the market.

DESIGN

Home buyers and developers can differentiate their homes by installing structured wiring systems during construction. It is also important to design the wiring infrastructure carefully to accommodate standard technology and present-day requirements but also possible future needs. Integrators and installers should install smart-home systems that use standard technology, so customers are better served in the long run.

Before paying the final bill, be sure that the system is well documented and works as intended, and that a suitable maintenance and support contract exists to deal with any problems in the future.

John Seebach has 25 years' consulting experience in information systems and business process e-engineering. His company, Island Technology, offers IT solutions and broadband services throughout SE Asia. Send email to john@islandtechnology.com for more information.

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ON THE MOVE

Max Huber from Switzerland has been appointed Executive Chef at Le Royal Meridien Phuket Yacht Club in Nai Harn. He has 20 years' experience in the kitchens of five-star hotels and moved to work in Thailand in 1997. Before joining the Yacht Club, he was Executive Chef at the Amari Atrium Hotel in Bangkok.



Surin Boontal, 37, from Chiang Mai, has been appointed Front Office Manager of the Club Andaman Beach Resort. K. Surin has more than 16 years' experience in the hotel and hospitality industry, including stints at the Lotus Pang Suankaew Hotel in Chiang Mai, the Novotel Chiang Mai and the Swissôtel Le Concord in Bangkok. Before moving to Phuket he worked as Front Office Manager at Ao Nang Villa in Krabi.



Nathanon Koysomboon, 28, a Phuket native, has been appointed Branch Manager of the new Allianz CP General Insurance Co office in Phuket. He holds a science degree from Ramkhamhaeng University. Before taking up his current post, he worked as an adviser with Consultant of Technology Co Ltd in Bangkok for four years and with QBE Insurance (Thailand) in Phuket for two years as Assistant Manager.



Bright colors of flower show mask low turnover

By Janyaporn Morel

The show of flowers at the 14th Annual Phuket Flower and Plant Show at Saphan Hin from July 17 to 26 was as spectacular as ever, but the bright colors masked tough times for the plant and garden business, which is suffering, sellers say, from the current poor economic situation and increasing competition.

After 10 days of the show, which featured displays by some 80 businesses of all sizes, few of the exhibitors were overjoyed by the money they had made.

Orawan Chanprasert, 26, owner of Thanapon Garden, which opened on the bypass road three years ago, has joined the fair every year since.

She told the *Gazette*, "My income from the show was about half what it was last time. I think it was because there were many more stalls this year, while the number of buyers was about the same."

"My average turnover was about 6,000 baht a day – a total of 60,000 baht over the period of the show – and my profit was half what it was last year. I even dropped my prices about 30% from what I charge at my garden center, but sales were still slow."

"The number of garden centers in Phuket has increased a lot; you can see them on every road on the island."

However, the news is not all bad, she said. "I came here to find more customers, and the stall fee was cheap; it was only 3,000 baht for whole fair."

"[At the garden center] my customers

in the past were generally hotels so the period before the high season was usually the best time for me."

"Now I'm beginning to get good business in the low season as well, thanks to the growing number of property developments," she added.

Pornpilart Raktae-ngan, 44, from Phuket Chermi-Kaset Phan (Phuket Chemical and Agriculture) on Thepkasattri Rd, agreed that the flower show was disappointing. "I heard from all the sellers that they were not making good profits. I think that is because of the poor shape of the economy and rising fuel prices, which have made people reluctant to buy [plants]."

DUMPING

"I didn't raise my prices – I cut them from last year – but I still couldn't match my show turnover last year, which was about 20,000 baht a day. This year my best day was only 5,000 baht."

Sawitt Niyomthong, 28, from Suan Sawitt Garden in Pa Khlok, who also has another garden center in Ratchaburi, complained about out-of-towners dumping at the show.

"Many gardens from Bangkok came and they set their prices so low that it ruined the market for anyone else selling orchids – or other plants, for that matter. We just could not compete on price. The other factors were the poor economy and rising fuel price. My daily turnover last year was about 8,000 baht, but this year it was half that amount."

K. Sawitt also complained about the high cost of doing business in Phuket. In Ratchaburi, his hometown, he said, it cost about 400,000 baht a rai to set up a garden center but in Phuket the cost is about 600,000 baht.

"Here everything is dearer – the transportation, the labor cost – and on top of that the price of plants is high as well," he added.

Wirat Kanankhao, 54, owner of Wirat Phan Mai on Phun Pol Rd, agreed that the number of stalls was a major factor in his poor sales this year.

"Last year I sold plants worth about 300,000 baht during the fair, but this year I sold about 100,000 baht," she said. "There were many sellers from the other provinces and they had a greater variety of plant than us."

But although her profit was disappointing, she still felt that coming to the show was worthwhile. "It's a good opportunity to meet new customers even though many people just came to look and then said that they didn't want to buy now because they feel plants are an unnecessary luxury."

Not everyone did badly at Saphan Hin. Suk Chuaysakul, 52, has traveled up from Songkhla to join the fair in Phuket every year since 1998.

"I got about the same amount as last year," she told the *Gazette*, "about 100,000 baht for the 10 days. The reason my sales were better than other people's, I think, was because in my garden I have many plants that are different from those that other people sell."

Variety, it appears, is the spice of commerce in the market-gardening field.

Central Hotels opens Phuket sales office



Sajeephan Maneesnongkhun.

PHUKET: Central Hotels & Resorts has opened a regional sales office in Phuket, headed by Assistant Sales Director Sajeephan Maneesnongkhun.

K. Sajeephan, formerly Sales Manager at The Chedi, is now responsible for sales for the Central Karon Village and the company's two recent acquisitions, the Central Karon Beach Resort, where the new office is situated, and the Central Kata Resort.

Chris Bailey, the group's Marketing Vice-President, said last week, "Central has three existing regional sales offices in Singapore, the UK and Germany."

"We intend to expand this coverage to include opportunities in East Asia and Australia. However, it was also important that we ensured our own backyard was professionally covered, and with our growing number of hotels and resorts in the South, Phuket was a natural choice."

"We are confident that K. Sajeephan and her team will bring professional sales-management service to the travel industry in Phuket and the South," he added.

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The hope and ultimate intention of every investor is simple: to make money. While the majority of investments in a healthy market will achieve this aim, the inevitable combination of volatility, adverse situations or poor returns often tests patience to the limit – causing some investors to opt for bank deposits as a safer and less stressful alternative.

Any individual who wants to learn more about investments can take the simple route of turning on one of the business channels on television, such as CNBC or Bloomberg. There, 24 hours a day, you can watch interviews with fund managers, who discuss their approach to investment.

Usually, if stock markets are going in a negative direction or the outlook is uncertain, fund managers will mention increasing investment in bonds – and sometimes in cash. The average interview usually consists of a mention of three asset classes: equities (investment in a corporation through the stock markets); bonds (with fixed interest returns) and cash (bank deposits).

For financial institutions with billions or even hundreds of billions of dollars or other currencies to invest, these three options – or a combination of them – represent the choices available.

ADVANTAGE

For the individual investor, the situation is actually much more attractive; it sometimes is an advantage to be small in relative terms because it certainly increases the range of choices available. Among my favorite investment instruments – one unavailable to institutional investors – are ground rents. Ground rents as an investment option are, briefly, investment in real estate assets in the United Kingdom.

Ground rents are thought to have come into being between four and five hundred years ago. During this period, the nobility and aristocracy owned most of the land in the country, including large tracts that are now large towns and cities. To finance expensive lifestyles, it was necessary for the upper classes to devise a solution so they could retain their land while generating income from it.

The solution? They offered long-term leases, typically for a minimum term of 99 years. A small number of leases were for 299 years and an even smaller number for as long as 499 years. In return, the leaseholder was able to build a house on the land – but he had to pay a ground rent for the duration of the lease. This payment had to be made, otherwise the entire property, including any buildings on it, would be legally repossessed.

The leaseholder could approach the owner to buy the lease; in some cases, terms were mutually agreed upon and freehold ownership resulted. In reality, however, a significant percentage of urban property in the

Well-grounded investments



MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

It sometimes is an advantage to be small in relative terms because it certainly increases the range of choices available.

UK today is still held on a leasehold basis.

The financial standing of the British nobility has in general spiraled sharply downward over the centuries. Even financially conservative members of the nobility faced difficulty when they found themselves targeted by socialist government policies that came into being after World War Two. At that time, the Labour Party government introduced “death duties”, now known as inheritance tax, at very high levels.

The result was that very few members of the nobility were able to retain their castles and estates.

The very nature of property changed, with former estate lands ending up in leasehold agreements. These now exist over a multitude of property types, from apartment blocks and factories to office towers, department stores and even foreign embassies. All these leaseholders have one thing in common: they must pay the ground rent in order not to lose the property.

It was an American, a woman from Louisiana, who saw the opportunity that this situation presented. She had been a professional fund manager in Europe for 25 years before seizing the opportunity to turn ground rents into a vehicle for investment.

She tested the concept of ground rents for several years in the early 1990s by managing her own independent brokerage fund, attached to a pension fund. After confirming that the theory worked in practice, in February 1996 she created her own fund management group, Brandeaux, and launched the Brandeaux Ground Rent Income Fund.

Its success was instant. Very shortly after its launch, I was fortunate to have the whole concept explained to me in detail by a Regional Sales Manager



Stock markets can go up or down, sometimes in a big way. Ground rents, in contrast, are truly safe.

from UK insurance giant Royal & SunAlliance, which had acquired the distribution rights to the original fund. I realized that this was an investment opportunity unlike everything else available – anywhere. It was, and still is, unique, offering a net return of between 8% and 10% annually

– regardless of the vagaries of economic cycles, the state of the property market or any other factor.

The performance of the fund has been strong, meeting some very high levels of expectation with average annualized returns of 9.77%. The fund had

returned a profit of 165% between its launch and July, 2006. Since its inception, it has never experienced negative performance – and this is true of every fund that Brandeaux manages.

In the early years of the fund, Brandeaux focused only on the ground-rent situation. Recently, however, it has been revealing a more long-term strategy. It has been buying properties in the most expensive areas of London with a view to taking advantage of what it refers to as “significant reversionary interest”.

In other words, leases are approaching maturity in some cases, and the capital gain is going to be enormous.

Brandeaux recently gave an example of an expensive apartment block, where the total return was 35% annually. Of course not all such investments will have such robust returns, but the Brandeaux strategy is nevertheless a superb one.

This is an outstanding investment vehicle for retired people or for anyone wanting to hold a truly safe investment. The fund deals once a week. Although the entry cost is listed at 1.5%, one large financial institution has extended its offer of just 1% until the end of this year. Even better, the returns to investors are completely tax free, there are no exit charges, and investment can be in either Euros or US dollars.

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

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Bowling tournaments coming up

PHUKET CITY: Two bowling tournaments are coming up soon, one organized by the local Rotary Club of Andaman and the other by the Phuket Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber of Commerce tournament will be held at Pearl Bowl, near the Pearl Hotel on Montri Rd, on August 5.

Entry will be 3,000 baht per team of three, which includes the cost of lunch, hire of bowling shoes and T-shirts.

The winning team will receive a trophy donated by the Governor of Phuket and a 5,000-baht prize. Second place will merit a trophy and 3,000 baht prize from the Chief Justice of Phuket, and third place a trophy from the President of the Chamber of Commerce and 2,000 baht.

Entries may be registered at the Phuket Chamber of Commerce, 1/1 Montri Rd, Phuket City, anytime before the tournament.

For more information, contact the Phuket Chamber of Commerce at Tel: 076-217567-8 or Fax: 076-232038.

The Rotary Club of Andaman's fifth annual tournament will be held at CS Bowl, at the Big C supercenter, on August 20.

Entry will cost 3,000 baht per team of three, which includes the cost of lunch, hire of bowling shoes and T-shirts.

In both cases, players are advised to arrive on time as no late entries will be allowed and the entry fees are non-refundable. Play will start at 9 am for the Chamber tournament and at 10 am for the Rotary one.

In both cases, surplus proceeds will go to charity.

For more information, contact Andaman Rotary Club Vice-President Prasit Wiponchai at Tel: 01-6063263 or the club direct at Tel: 076-281058.



The new driving range is already attracting good numbers of players wanting to hone their skills.

Driving range opens on Kwang Rd

WICHIT: Phuket's emergence as a golf tourism destination got another shot in the arm recently with the opening of a two-tier, 50-bay golf driving range on Kwang Rd.

The facility, Mountain View Golf Centre, also has a short game practice area, PGA coaching studio, floodlights for night play and a restaurant with both Thai and international menus.

Director David Edward, a British PGA pro for 11 years, has had coaching experience in the US, Europe, Australia and the Maldives.

"With my 11 years of experience, I chose Phuket to run this business because I love the at-

mosphere and playing golf here," he said.

The goal of the center is to provide both serious golfers and new practice players with a friendly golf center with a relaxed environment. Standard prices for the driving range will be a bucket of 50 balls for 50 baht. Equipment may also be rented. Later this year, the center plans to add a par-3 course for day/night play, he added.

The center will offer programs from one-on-one coaching to ladies' classes and group lessons in the evening under floodlights.

A variety of promotional offers and discounts have been

available since the center's grand opening on July 21.

The Mountain View Golf Centre is open daily from 7 am to

10 pm. For more information, call the center at Tel: 076-223977 or contact David Edward (Tel: 09-2917078; Email: EdGolfer73@yahoo.com).

PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

Didi's go two points ahead

PATONG: Didi's and Dog's Bollocks finally played their make-up game held over from July 11, with Didi's eking out a 5-4 win before losing the beer leg.

That, coupled with a three-point win over Soi Saen Sabai neighbors TaiLife, put them two points clear of second-place Piccadilly, who took all three points against Dog's Bollocks at home earlier in the week.

Piccadilly's win came courtesy of some outstanding play by high-score winner Tony and a clutch team game finish by Jeff.

Dog's Bollock's Tony had to miss that match after a mishap right before the game which resulted in him needing eight stitches under one of his eyes.

The results of the Amigos v Queen Mary make-up game will be reported in the the next issue.

Send reports of 180s, high

closes, match-winning darts, etc to: darts@phuketgazette.net or by sms to: 09-8740061.

July 25 results: Dog's Bollocks 3 Piccadilly* 6; Valhalla 4 Offshore* 5; Footrot Flats 7 Jungle Juice* 2; Didi's* 8 TaiLife 1; Shakers* 3 Coyote Bar 6 (* = winner of beer leg).

Standings: 1. Didi's (20 points); 2. Piccadilly (18); 3.= Amigos**, Coyote (16); 5. Offshore (14); 6. Jungle Juice (12); 7. Valhalla (11); 8.= Queen Mary**, Dog's Bollocks (10); 10. Shakers (7); 11. Footrot Flats (4); 12. TaiLife (3) (** = 1 game in hand).

August 8 fixtures: Queen Mary v Valhalla; TaiLife v Coyote Bar; Footrot Flats v Didi's; Piccadilly v Amigos; Jungle Juice v Shakers; Offshore v Dog's Bollocks (home team first).

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Three provinces give green light to Rubson Raid

PHUKET: The governors of Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi have all agreed to allow the Rubson Raid Turquoise Thailand 2006 competition to take place in and around the three provinces.

Phuket Governor Udomsak Usawarangkura signed an agreement on behalf of all three after a video conference with his counterparts in Phang Nga and Krabi on July 26.

The Rubson Raid, an annual event, features teams of four competing in identical high-speed inflatable boats.

According to the event website, it will feature, "navigation contests and speed trials (of 50 nautical miles plus) ... even a water-ski relay event". It will also have "... land-trekking competitions, adventurous 'happenings' in the mangroves, walking and swimming races".

The three governors all agreed that the event would be good for tourism. Speaking after the video conference, Gov Udomsak noted that the organizers have already reserved 200 seats on flights to Thailand for the teams and he hoped that "a lot of tourists" would come to watch the event.

He also pointed out that the teams would have to buy fuel locally, putting money into the local economy.

The competitors themselves will not stay at hotels during the raid. Instead, they will be based aboard the clipper *Star Flyer*, which will ferry them from one event venue to another.

So far, 14 teams out of the 25 invited have confirmed their participation. The maximum number of teams that will compete will be 20.

Belgian Philippe Martin, who devised the Raid four years ago, is expected to come to Phuket in August for more discussions to cover details such as safety and fuel supplies.

Evason Race Week ends in crescendo of weather

By Chris Husted

AO CHALONG: Despite forecasts for light-to-moderate winds, squalls gusting over 30 knots, driving rain and large waves marred the start of the final race in the 3rd Evason Phuket Race Week regatta on July 30, after three days of the best yacht-racing weather Phuket has seen in years.

The near gale winds tore the wind speed meter off the top of *Switchblade's* mast, and the downpours restricted visibility to 50 meters as yachts approached the first mark.

The Classic class race was canceled and the light Firefly catamarans, *Moto Inzi* and the recently launched *Chi Machine*, stayed safely in port. However, yachts still in the running for top honors or for more points in their classes were willing to brave the adverse conditions.

David Lindhal's *La Samudra* managed to stave off several attempts at overtaking by John Vause's *Ruby Tuesday*, to secure another win, giving the Phuket-based yacht five wins from six races and victory in the IRC 1 class.

Craig Murphy and his crew on *Switchblade* sailed well to place third in the class.

In IRC 2, Mick Kealy's *Minx* secured a crucial victory on a shortened course over Stuart Crowe's *Cinders* to win the class on a count back. Despite George Foose and his crew on *Free Wind* putting in a fine performance to finish third in the final race, their efforts were not enough to snatch third place overall from Jim Kane on *Chetak*.

As the Sports Boat Racing class had completed six races before the final day, they were not required to sail in conditions that were decidedly dangerous for the smaller craft.

Former world junior sailing champion Scott Duncanson scored a perfect record of six wins from six races on *Somtarn Express* to win the class, with Jim Poulsen's *Lee Marine Vito*



HANG A LEFT HERE – *Lee Marine Vito* rounds a mark at speed, but not fast enough to catch *Somtarn Express*.
– Photo: www.guynowell.com

and Wade Lewis' *Team Simpson Marine* finishing second and third overall respectively.

Bob Brindley on *X Catrion* was the only entrant in the Multihull Racing class to sail the final race. However, his solo first place was still not enough to displace Marc Cudennec's first place overall on *Chi Machine*, Roger Kingdon in second place on *Moto Inzi* or John Stall in third place on *Charro*.

In the Multihull Performance Cruising class, Chris Runnegar on *Chameleon* was yet again too quick for Bob Mott on his recently-purchased *Kilo*, and

took the class with four wins. Jerome Perignon on *Aliocha* did not manage to finish the final race, but finished third overall in the class.

Gunther Nutt on *Kerida* won the Classic class, with Julian Hill's *Sanook* finishing second and Graham Chuck on *Amjuna* third.

Tom Howard, celebrating the 100th birthday of his yacht *Seraph*, finished fourth overall.

A trophy carved from the solid oak original rudder of *Seraph* was awarded to Nutt as a special prize.

In the Club class, Greg

Plunkett on *Princess Isabella* scored three wins in three races to win the class, with Kevin Ashby on *Lily* finishing second and Richard Bell on *Sun Flyer* finishing third overall.

This year's Phuket Race Week attracted 31 entries, and event organizers Image Asia, despite the extreme conditions on the final day, say they are confident that the number will grow as yacht owners in the region grow to appreciate the excellent – indeed, at times downright scary – sailing conditions at this time of year, which have contributed to the event's growing popularity.

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Offering expansive and never-to-be-built-out views of the Andaman Sea and Crab Island, off Kata Beach, this two-story home has been designed to take full advantage of its 800-square-meter plot.

The entry-level floor features a spacious living room with an adjoining dining area, both with floor-to-ceiling glass doors opening on to a full-length terrace.

The European-style kitchen, complete with high-quality fixtures and equipment, has its own terrace.

There is also a guest bathroom on this floor.

Stairs lead down to the large bedrooms and a maid's room. The master bedroom has a private en suite bathroom.

The two other bedrooms share a bathroom. All bedrooms open to the pool terrace and have expansive sea views. The 36sqm

pool has an infinity edge and there are two outdoor bathrooms on the terrace.

To the side of the property is a guest villa with a large bedroom and living room with marvelous views and a luxurious bathroom.

The materials used in this home are top quality and include slate and glazed ceramic tiles, imported granite, hardwood timbers in the doors and windows as well as timber cornices, skirtings and balustrades.

The color scheme of the home is – in keeping with the tropical environment – cool and crisp. It features pale gold, white and beige as well as plenty of timber trim and attractive panel walls. Utilities include UBC television, telephone, broadband Internet connection, well water, water filtration, a septic tank and a home security system. The property will be fully furnished and will include a carport and landscaped gardens.

The land title is Chanote and the price is 26 million baht.

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

Decor

by Natch Yuttaworawit

Desk-bound



Desks may be basic or unexpected; note the unusual yet elegant legs of this model at 25,000 baht.



At 27,000 baht, This simple yet classic design offers plenty of storage space for documents, writing instruments – and whatever else a businessman might want to keep hidden from view.



One of the few matching desk/chair combinations we found in the showroom, this single-drawer desk is just right for the kids at 6,500 baht.



At 16,500 baht, this durable hardwood desk will stand up to years of fist-pounding and other abuse.

The typical businessperson or clerical staff worker spends more waking hours in the office than anywhere else. For people running a business, the office is the nerve center and focal point – far more than just a place to make phone calls, issue directives and slave away at the computer.

The state and appearance of one's office also says a lot about its occupant – so it has to look good.

When it comes to furnishing an office, there really is only one place to start: the desk. Despite all the talk of the "paperless office", the desk has not changed much since man first began to put ink to paper.

But while the basic concept remains the same, the variations are endlessly evolving.

Fortunately, there is no lack of selection in Phuket when it comes to desks, especially as the bypass road has established itself as a regional hub for retail furniture sales.

For some business owners, the high durability and low maintenance of a steel desk make it the most practical option. But for those seeking the natural elegance and understated beauty of a handmade, wooden desk, options are more limited.

One good place to start the search for a stylish wooden desk

is Phuket Intercraft on Chao Fa West Rd in Tambon Wichit, which has been selling a wide range of desks for 18 years.

In the rather cramped five-story showroom building, Inter-craft has desks to match just about every budget and décor theme, from modern Western desks to those crafted in Thai, Chinese and other Asian styles.

Owner Vorapan Suwanchawalit explained that the company has two factories, both right across the street from the showroom, that employ more than 160 craftsmen, mostly from the North and Northeast – regions of Thailand he says are renowned for carpentry.

All prices are for the desk

alone, as they are not sold as part of matching desk-chair combinations. Fortunately, there are plenty of chairs to choose from at Phuket Intercraft, which is also happy to take orders for custom designed desks, chairs or both. A delivery service is also available.

If you are going to be chained to a desk all day, why not at least get yourself a nice one?

Phuket Intercraft is on the northbound lane of Chao Fa West Rd, at 91/5 Moo 2 Tambon Wichit, Amphur Muang. For more information contact K. Vorapan at Tel: 076-264348, 076-264037 or 01-4771002. Email phkintercraft@hotmail.com.

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Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

We all have a name. Some of us are prouder than others of the epithet with which we were saddled at birth. Thais have a great system in this regard, with babies being given nicknames that reflect their characters in the first few days of their lives. It's a system that makes sense.

As ever, the western world thinks it's far too advanced for that kind of simplistic logic, and is riddled with parents who insist on "demonstrating their child's individuality" (I almost want to do that double-fingers-in-the-air thing) by bestowing on the child the most ludicrously embarrassing moniker they can summon up.

These people are obviously totally oblivious to the fact that the hapless child will inevitably grow up, having to explain the weird name to people he or she meets at work and in the pub for years to come.

For originality you could always go with Heavenly Hiraani Tiger Lily (the daughter of Paula Yates and INXS singer Michael Hutchence) or maybe Peaches Honeyblossom, Pixie, or Fifi Trixibelle (the daughters of Yates and Bob Geldof). Or traditional favorites such as Frank Zappa's offspring: Moon Unit and Dweezil. These rock star types.

Demi Moore and Bruce Willis have three children running around: Rumer, Scout, and Talulah. Sylvester Stallone's innocent little angels are Sage Moonblood and Sistine Rose, and Ben Affleck's son is Indiana August. Jamie Oliver, a British celebrity chef who really should know better, has a daughter by the name



Big, bold, fragrant

of Daisy Boo. What are these people on?

And what about these ridiculous spellings that have started to crop up recently? If you want to name your child Christina then that's all well and good. But it's spelt C-H-R-I-S-T-I-N-A. Not a difficult concept, one would have thought.

Christina makes a phone call to her bank, they ask her name, she gives them what they want: "Christina Jones". And they write it down. Easy.

Actually, there's a slight problem. Her parents decided in their wisdom that it would be

much more "interesting" for her to be called "Krystyna". Try explaining that to millions of bank clerks without getting bored. "Well, actually it's... aaargh."

The plant world, sadly, has more than its fair share of dodgy names. Well not so much dodgy as mysterious, with nobody being able to pin down who originally came up with it the name, or why.

The frangipani is a case in point. Frangipani aficionados have been arguing for years over the source of the plant's most common name. Some say it was inspired by an ancient perfume from Italy. Others are insistent that it was named after the white sap that oozes from its cut stem.

There are even experts (quite what they're expert in I'm not sure) who claim it reminded early French visitors to the West Indies, the original home to the plant, of "frangipanier" – coagulated milk. Who knows? Come to that, who cares?

Something else that makes the frangipani stand out is the long list of alternative names: plumeria, temple flower, dead man's finger, egg flower and cayenne jasmine are just some of its alternative epithets.

In Thai, it's a *lanthom*. Or

it was. The trouble with *lanthom* is that it sounds like *rathom*, a sad word, and because of this it was shunned by most people, because of the possibility that having it in one's garden might bring sadness into one's home.

Over the past few years, HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn has managed to reverse this perception, by promoting the name *leelawadee* instead. Another name!

A few weeks ago, the dreaded durian was given honorable mention in this column. Frangipani is a little like durian. Not because it smells as if it's emerged from the depth of Satan's inner crevices (the opposite is true in fact), but because you can smell it before you see it.

In the world of fragrant plants, the frangipani reigns supreme. It emits an incredible smell, vaguely similar to a rather expensive perfume, but better. The frangipani's waxy flowers have a particularly tropical fragrance.

It's found in many Thai gardens these days as a decorative tree, although it has to be said that the tree itself is nothing to write home about and is a bit of an ugly duckling.

It looks gnarled and stunted,

as if it can't quite decide in which direction to grow. It's the flowers that make the tree so appealing. The dramatic flowers always appear on the ends of branches, sometimes giving the impression that the inner parts of the tree are just there by accident; a kind of afterthought.

In Phuket, the frangipani flowers almost non-stop year-round, appearing in an almost endless number of varieties and colors. The most fragrant variety of frangipani is probably the Singapore plumeria, with its brilliant white flowers, always with five petals, but with varying shapes.

Other varieties and colors include pink, red and yellow, and delicate mixtures of these on some hybrids.

Luckily, the frangipani is extremely easy to grow in any Phuket garden or pot. If you like the look of a friend's or next door neighbor's frangipani, all you need to do is cut off a branch and stick it into a well-drained pot full of rich soil.

SHOCK

It will look a bit miserable and mope for a while and most of the leaves will shed. Once it gets over the initial shock, however, it will liven up and grow rapidly. It might even bloom during the rooting process, though the bloom doesn't indicate that it's fully recovered yet; you might want to cut off the flower so the plant devotes more energy to root development. It is healthy leaves, rather than flowers, that indicate healthy roots.

The frangipani isn't particularly fussy about how much sun it gets in its initial stages, but it does need a fair amount of water early on. Once it gets going, it requires very little care, and because it's a sun-worshiper, it will be happiest in the sunniest position in the garden.

Worldwide, the frangipani is associated with a number of different religions and cultures. Many Southeast Asian Muslims plant it in their cemeteries, and Hindus use its flowers as temple offerings. In Hawaii, ceremonial *leis* (welcoming garlands of flowers put around the necks of guests) are made from the frangipani. It is also a feature of many Thai temple gardens, too, as you'll see all over the island.

Here in Phuket, most of us enjoy the frangipani for what it is – a natural air freshener that doesn't look half bad either. At least it's not called "Daisy Boo" or "Krystyna". That would just be silly.

Mr Oliver, I hope you're taking note.

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Construction Update

by Janyaporn Morel

Phuket Asialand Co Ltd builds on success

New luxury six-story apartment block for Surin Beach



Computer-generated image of the six-story Surin Apartment project, as it will look when complete.

Following the success of its first project, Surin Sabai, Phuket Asialand Co Ltd has launched new apartment and villa developments in Surin Beach and Cherng Talay.

A six-story, 35-apartment block, along with two villas, are being built next to the existing five-story, nine-apartment Surin Sabai project.

Construction of another development featuring 12 stand-alone villas in Cherng Talay – called Chernglay Villas – is due to start in September this year.

Michel Chiappetta, the Director of Phuket Asialand, said that the two apartment developments constitute the first phase of the company's projects.

The other two are Chernglay Villas and a third development – Mai Khao Asialand at Mai Khao Beach – which has yet to have a start date assigned.

Phase 1 is on 3.5 rai of land at the foot of a hill some 400 meters from Surin Beach.

Construction of the nine-unit block began in June last year and took 11 months to complete. The block is now occupied.

Mr Chiappetta said that the six-story block – which will comprise 17 studios apartments, four one-bedroom apartments, three 2-bedroom apartments, nine three-bedroom apartments and two penthouses, will be complete in December 2007.

Prices begin at 2.2 million baht for the studios, 5 million baht for the one-bedroom units and 7 million baht for the three-bedroom apartments.

"Prices vary according to the floor and the view the buyer has from the apartment," noted Mr Chiappetta, adding that one of the three-bedroom penthouses, which are priced between 19 mil-

lion and 20 million baht, has been sold.

The penthouses will have their own terraces and swimming pools, and occupiers of the other units will have access to a communal pool.

All residents will be able to use the fitness center and restaurant that are included in the design.

Phase 2 – Chernglay Villas – will be near Wat Cherng Talay on Pasak 4 Rd, about 2 kilometers from Bang Tao Beach.

This development of three-bedroom "Thai-style" villas will

be on seven rai of land. Each property will have its own swimming pool and parking space for two cars.

"We will start to build the two show houses in September this year, and we will have the sales office there.

"Prices will range from 18 million to 23 million baht each and although the villas share the same basic design, individual buyers can alter the specification.

"For example, they can ask for an extra bedroom," he said.

The villas will be on plots ranging from 709sqm to 1,100

sqm, and construction is expected to be complete in 2010.

"Our main idea is to sell good-quality residences because quality is easy to sell.

"We target Europeans and Americans, but welcome any nationality," added Mr Chiappetta.

For more information, contact Phuket Asialand Co at Tel: 076- 271 077. Alternatively, contact Michel Chiappetta at Tel: 04-8485273, K. Nan at Tel: 07-2677514 or visit www.phuketasialand.com

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Property Gazette

Properties For Sale

HOUSE IN NAI YANG FOR SALE



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HOME SWEET HOME
New, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, tastefully furnished, Chanote. Asking 3 million baht. Tel: 09-5926482.

KATA GAME ZONE
for sale. The famous mini-mart and game shop is now for sale. This is a very good opportunity: small investment with great profit. Requesting 600,000 baht. Tel: 076-330231, 01-9561028. Email: snoopythai@hotmail.com

RAWAI VILLA
for sale or rent. Detached house, 2 bathrooms, 2 bedrooms, 400sqm of land. 15,000 baht per month or for sale at 5 million baht. Near beach. Tel: 06-6865567. Email: chotip36@hotmail.com

PHUKET PANTEP
Condo Sale. 32sqm, freehold, brand-new, 450,000 baht. Tel: 06-6865567. Email: chotip36@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE



2-bedroom house, furnished, appliances, in gated community, pool, sauna. 2 minutes to Nai Yang Beach. USA standard. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-5878154. Email: loverofasia72@yahoo.com

TOWNHOUSE KATHU

2 years old, 2 bedrooms (one with aircon), 2 baths, living & dining area, and kitchen. Chanote title. No agents. Asking 1.6 million baht. Please call the owner, K. Chanittha at Tel: 09-7298018 for further details. Email: hugbou@yahoo.com

RAWAI CONDO SALE
or rent. Freehold studio 2,500 baht/month or will sell for 450,000 baht. 400 meters from the beach. Tel: 06-686-5567. Email: chotip36@hotmail.com

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FREEHOLD FLATS



Phuket Palace Condominium, fully furnished, 1 or 2 bedrooms, 1 or 2 bathrooms, with kitchen, living room. 120sqm. Asking 5.9 million baht. Tel: 09-871-9739.

VILLA FOR SALE



Thai villa located on Cape Panwa, overlooking beautiful Chalong Bay. This Thai-style residence has 3 bedrooms and bathrooms, a Western-style kitchen, great room and a large swimming pool. 19.5 million baht. Tel: 01-897-4180, 07-265-9977. Email: gay@islandtechnology.com or jimmys@loxinfo.co.th

APARTMENT

for sale. 2-bedroom apartment between Surin and Bang Tao Beaches. 4.5 million baht. Please contact for more information. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

RAWAI TOWNHOUSE

1.3 million. 2 bedrooms, Chanote, completely renovated incl aircon, hot water, Western kitchen with granite counters. Please contact for more details. Tel: 06-267-0157, 09-5903665. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

SURIN BEACH LAND

1,000sqm, private sale. Short walk to beach, quiet secluded area. Road, water, electric and bore. 4 million baht. Tel: 07-8836112. Email: costello@exeemail.com.au

RAWAI 2-BEDROOMS



2 bathrooms, 1 storage, kitchen, living room, quiet area, 400 sqm land, new. 4,300,000 baht. Tel: 06-2775110.

SALE OR LEASE

2,500sqm Thai-style villa, built 1997, with panoramic sea view. Located Cape Panwa. For sale at US\$4.5 million or for lease at US\$39,000 a month. Call Mr Abdulloh at Tel: 01-569-7220. Agents welcome.

14 RAI SEAVIEW

land. at Khao Khat, Ao Makhm. 14 rai of flat land with stunning seaview, concrete road access and electricity. Nor Sor 3 Gor. Perfect for housing or hotel project. Price: 75 million baht. For details please contact via email. Email: info@baansuanvilla.de

LAND FOR SALE

- 12.5 rai (20,120sqm) near Heroine's Monument, in Thalang. Ideal for residential project. Price 13.4 million baht.
- 27 rai (43,200sqm) on Thepkasattri Rd, KM 34.6. Price 24.6 million baht. Tel: 01-4084991.

BEACH FRONT LAND



Chanote, 15 rai, 65 million baht. Located on Bangsak Beach, Takuapa. Tel: 01-1719705.

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Property Gazette

BEST VALUE

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RAI IN RAWAI

2.2 million baht. Electricity, road. Chanote title, quiet area. Tel: 09-6525664.

BEAUTIFUL LAND

Plots from 1 rai in luxury project between Rawai & Nai Harn with underground electric & water, nice road access. 3.8 million baht. Tel: 07-8938747.

KAMALA 3-BED

house 4.5 million baht. Near main road, with garden, 320sqm. Land 1,400sqm for 4.3 million baht. Tel: 076-292596, 06-2678477. Email: tourniechristian@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

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SEAVIEW LUXURY

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HOUSE IN KATHU

In sought-after small development. Private cul-de-sac, nearly completed. 9 mins Patong. Located near 2 golf courses. 3-bedroom house, 3 bathrooms, living room, kitchen/diner, laundry room, large enclosed veranda/patio. Walled plot approx. 340sqm. Sale price 4.5m baht. Principals only please. Tel: 04-8439579. Fax: 076-32 3-421. Email: somlerdee@yahoo.com

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556sqm, Chanote title. Road, electricity. 3.7 million baht. Tel: 01-5376866.

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PA KHLOK LAND

for sale. Developed & vacant 2 rai, 96sqw. 3 million baht. Tel: 01-6163704. Email: ptoplife@gmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

in Patong. 2 stories, 5 bedrooms, fully furnished. Please contact for more details. Tel: 01-9563061. Email: sohail_carpet@yahoo.com

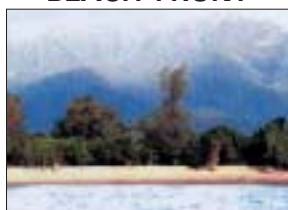
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68 RAI BEACH FRONT



in Kuraburi, Phang Nga. Price: 68 million baht. Tel: 01-1719705.

712-SQM, SEAVIEW



Ao Por, 3.2 million baht. Tel: 01-1719705.

5 RAI, CHALONG

Value! All utilities. 2.8 million baht per rai. Agents welcome. Call the owner at Tel: 06-6831964.

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NEW HOUSE

for sale. in Kathu, near BCIS. Call Lynn at Tel: 07-2799500. For more information please visit: www.baan-phuttharat-phuket.com

CHALONG, 1 RAI

Top spot: sea view, 200m from beach, great for boat owners, all facilities. Tel: 01-5376866.

300-METER BEACH

land for sale. Koh Yao. 18 rai or subdivide into 1-rai plots. 2.9 million a rai. Nor Sor 3 Gor, beautiful view, road, 24hr electricity, water, landscaped. Ready to build on, next to Teavson Bungalow. Call Mr Si at Tel: 01-956-7582, Charlie 07-2670714 for map and photo. Email: charlesaraines@hotmail.com

3 RAI, KATA SEAVIEW

Top spot, unbelievable view, Chanote, road, electricity, easy to build on - in "yellow" zone. 5.9 million baht per rai. Transfer no problem. Tel: 09-6525664.

HOTEL FOR SALE



Naka Island. 200m beach-front, 80 villas, total 120 rooms. Tel: 07-8896074. Email: info@sea-property-phuket.com

HOUSE IN PATONG

House 4.8 million baht. 23 sq wah, 1 km from Patong Beach, 3 bedrooms-aircon, bathroom-hot water, kitchen-ette, cooker hood, living room, 2 cable TV, 2 fridges, washing machine and more. Tel: 076-341724, 01-5690664. Fax: 076-344485.

SEAVIEW LAND

Gated community. Nearly 2 rai, Bang Tao, infrastructure complete, ready to build, 7.9 million baht. Tel: 06-267-0157. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

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in Chalong. Close to Land & Houses Park, in gated community, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, kitchen and living space on 240sqm plot. All bedrooms with aircon. Priced for quick sale at 3.4 million baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-9700134.

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Chalong. Electricity, water, road access. Price: 2.7 million baht per rai. Tel: 07-8896074. Email: info@sea-property-phuket.com

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Property Gazette

LAND FOR SALE

27 rai on Koh Lanta, Krabi, 2 million baht per rai. 40 minutes from airport. 13 rai on hill with panoramic sea view and 14 rai with beachfront of 245 meters length. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-5350060. Email: famar5@hotmail.com

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Koh Lanta, Klong Dao Beach. Wooden bungalow 50m from the beach. Quiet and shady, 32sqm, car park, cable TV. Tel: 01-9680571.

HOUSE FOR SALE

or rent. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, 80 sq wah. Big garden, cable TV, Tel + ADSL, 25 minutes to Phuket City, 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, 09-474-0222. Email: mammos56@hotmail.com

BIG HOUSE FOR SALE

5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 5 aircons, big garden, car park area about 1 rai. Asking 15 million baht. Tel: 01-569-8345. Email: julie_phuket@hotmail.com

NICE HOUSE

Nice house at Sai Yuan, on the way to Nai Harn Beach. Price: 15 million baht. Tel: 076-239444, 09-7276672. Email: utohom@hotmail.com

NICE & CHEAP: 1 RAI

Mai Khao. Access to Bangduk Hill, Chanote, flat land, quiet area, electricity supply. 1.1 rai for 1.8 million baht. Email: ek_phuket@hotmail.com

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For sale, 400sqm with 24 bungalows, beach bar, beach shop and restaurant. Going concern on the best beach on Koh Yao Yai. For more information, email to: han@yaoyairesort.com Website: www.yaoyairesort.com

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3-BEDROOM HOUSE IN KATHU

Detached 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom house in quiet village close to Patong and major shopping areas. Master bedroom has en-suite and hot water. ADSL phone line, own water well. UBC TV, fitted curtains, 3 aircons. 72 sq wah, Chanote title. Offers in region of 3.6 million baht. Please contact for full details. Tel: 076-203064, 01-0876702. Email: davestacey16@hotmail.com

LUXURY HOME

Chalong. 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 balconies, 485sqm, 412sqm plot. Nice, quiet area. 2 minutes to Wat Chalong, 5 minutes to Chalong Bay. 7.5 million baht. Please call the owner direct (24 hours) Tel: 04-1879896.

LAND FOR SALE

Point East project. Chanote title. 1 rai, 179 talang wah. 4km from Heroines' monument. Tel: 09-8718327, 01-8953649.

5-BEDROOM

seaview home for sale. Located in Baan Suan Kamnan, the most exclusive residential area in Phuket. Quiet, safe and offers easy access to the rest of the island and its beaches. Email: pococonnor@hotmail.com

KAMALA

townhouse for sale. 2.9 million baht. Tel: 04-6252989. Email: thaiclassicmac@hotmail.com

SMALL PLOT, 300M

from beach. Very quiet, very nice location in Rawai and only 2 minutes walk to Chalong Bay. 350sqm, Chanote, with plans already completed for a beautiful pool villa. Build your own villa and keep the developer's profit! (I can even supervise the building if required.) Includes Thai company which can be transferred to your name so you don't need to transfer the land or pay tax. 1.4 million baht. Tel: 06-684-5368. Email: bisop5@yahoo.co.uk

FOR SALE - PATONG

Studio-condo, 32sqm, sea view, 150m from beach & Soi Bangla. 2 aircons, fully furnished, swimming pool. Foreign freehold. Price: 1.5 million baht. Tel: 076-340792.

1 RAI IN RAWAI

Chanote title. 2.2 million baht. Good location, perfect for house. Be quick! Please call for more details. Tel: 01-5376866.

4.1 RAI, NAI THON

Chanote. 100m to the beach, gentle slope, partial sea view. 6.5 million baht per rai. Email: ek_phuket@hotmail.com

Properties For Rent

CHALONG NEW HOME

Perfect Western-style home for rent. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon and telephone. Tel: 09-6521473, 076-280-466.

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Hi, my name is Wellta, and I was born in Phuket. House rentals and houses for sale on my island. Tel: 01-9680309. Email: info@houseinphuket.com For further details please see our website at: www.houseinphuket.com

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space just 2 km from Lotus on the bypass road on the way to airport. New 2-story office building space of 240 sqm with 6 car park spaces for 30-year lease. 12 million baht or other options available. Tel: 076-238777, 01-7371678. Fax: 076-239739. Email: supotpac@phuket.ksc.co.th

HOUSE FOR RENT

Ao Chalong. 10 meters from beach, 1 living room with kitchen, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 garage, 1 terrace 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 05-0691611, 05-8848606. Email: phukethorst@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR RENT



In Palai, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, kitchen, living room. 27,000 baht per month. Tel: 01-8957731.

NERAMIT HILL

New house, long-term, 3-bedrooms, living room, kitchen, 5 minutes to Patong. Tel: 07-2674342. Email: agentsmith@ji-net.com

NEW BUNGALOW

at Pakhleng Talang Palm Garden 56/6. 15 minutes to British Curriculum Intern'l School. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen. 52.3 sq wah, unfurnished. 15,000 baht a month ono. Tel: 01-6063525.

BEAUTIFUL VILLA

2 bedrooms. European standard. Fully furnished, aircon, telephone, UBC TV, swimming pool, tropical garden. 2 minutes to Rawai and Nai Harn Beaches. Long-term let at 25,000 baht a month. Tel: 07-2810452.

HOUSE FOR RENT

Kathu. Large 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom house near golf course and international school. Fully furnished, European-style fitted kitchen, aircon, UBC and phone line. Located on private road with only 4 houses & 2 pools. Tel: 09-8752532, 06-9402227.

Would you like to keep up on what's happening in Phuket - the good, the bad and the bizarre? Let us share it with you - every week!

TO: The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd, 367/2 Yaowarat Road, Amphur Muang, Phuket 83000, Thailand.

YES, I want to receive the PHUKET GAZETTE for a full year - 52 issues!

I hereby authorize payment against my Visa ☐ / Mastercard ☐

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Surin Beach - Modern Seaview Apartments for sale

Within 100 metres of the beach. 80 sqm. of living space. One bedroom, living room, European-style kitchen, fully furnished, air conditioning, hot water system, home security system, internet connection, television and satellite TV.

Please contact Ann 66 1 868 7676 or email: ann@mms.ais.co.th

Property Gazette

KARON STUDIO APARTMENT



Large studio apartment for rent. 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, Western-style kitchen, pool, near Karon Beach. Free WiFi (ADSL), good price. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-398436-7, 06-9062220. Email: karonstudio@hotmail.com Or for more information please visit: www.karonstudio.com

RAWAI RENTAL HOUSE
160sqm, 2-story house central Rawai Beach for rent at 5,000 baht a month or lease for 10 years at 200,000 baht. Tel: 06-6865567. Email: chotip36@hotmail.com

BIG SHOPHOUSE
in Patong. Located in Soi Patong Resort, off Soi Bangla, the commercial hub of Patong Beach. Approx 180sqm on 2 open-space floors. Suitable for commercial purposes, unfurnished. Tel: 076-340290. Email: paciugo89@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR RENT
New 3-bedroom furnished house with cable TV and ADSL line. In the Heroines' Monument area. 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 06-2778461. Email: brunuiviv@hotmail.com

BEAUTIFUL 2-BED
apartment. 2 bedrooms, fully-furnished apartment with excellent views over Patong Beach. Brand-new furniture within. Western-style kitchen, open plan. Own steps to communal pool. Entertainment area including pool, DVDs, darts & bar. Call K. Amnuay for details. Tel: 05-7504475, 06-9031663. Email: simon@1st4homebusiness.ws

SEAVIEW PATONG



Nice apartments in the best neighborhood on the island. Baan Suan Kamnan, just outside Patong, overlooking the sea and Patong. Quiet and green residential area. Really SUPER. 1- and 2-bedroom apartments. Long-term only (3 months and more). Also one large free standing, 3-bedroom, house with breathtaking views. Apartments with comforts (furniture, aircon, safe, ADSL internet and UBC) Prices from 20,000 baht. Tel: 06-67866350. Email: buurmanb@hotmail.com

NICE PATONG
condo. Aircon, big bedroom, cable TV, fridge, microwave, parking and pool. 10,000 baht/month. Tel: 05-2453132. Email: tj_biggie@hotmail.com

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 VILLAS
beachfront. Fully furnished to a high standard. Western kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge and dining areas. Large balcony overlooking swimming pool and landscaped garden. Stunning sea views, only meters from the beach. Private gated parking with storage. UBC & ADSL. Including daily cleaning and washing, daily pool service and daily gardener. Monthly rental 55,000 baht. Tel: 04-843-6837. Email: info@phuket-island-homes.com. Please see our website: www.phuket-island-homes.com

FOR RENT BY DAY

or by year. Luxury apartments: 35-75 sqm, with pool, at Residence Edouard in Soi Veerakit in Patong. Tel: 076-296800. www.residence-edouard.com

VILLA FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, aircon, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, big-dish sat TV, many extras. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 01-8081804.

HOUSES

and apartments. For rent in Patong & Rawai beach. Price 5,000-15,000 baht per month. Contact for more info. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: property1998@hotmail.com

SHOP HOUSE

46/2 Ket Kwan Rd, Kata. 10,000 baht per month, 1-year lease. Contact for more details. Tel: 076-330-889. Fax: 076-333187. Email: drcracknell@gmail.com

APARTMENTS

in Patong. Near Wat Patong, Soi Khuanyang 256. Small kitchen, refrigerator, fully furnished, European style, aircon, cable TV, fan, hot water, bathroom. 8,300 baht per month. Tel: 04-8450541, 01-8914561.

KARON APARTMENT

Central Karon 50-meters from the beach. Newly furnished and renovated 2-room apartment with 2 balconies, Cable TV, wifi, aircon. 20,000 baht per month. Long term only. Tel: 06-2718254.

BEACHFRONT CONDO

Kalim, Patong. High-standard, fully-furnished 2 bedrooms, kitchen, pool, many facilities. Short term. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-892-0038.

LUXURY HOUSE

Three bedrooms, near Laguna, furnished, spa pool, pool side bar, garden, aircon. 1/2 rai. 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 09-5944067.

DISCOVERY

gardens near Laguna. 2-bedroom, newly-built fully-furnished houses with large communal pool. Available short/long term. Tel: 076-271544, 09-1956722. Fax: 076-271545. Email: info@phuketmarbella.com For further details, please see: www.phuketmarbella.com

VILLA WITH POOL

4-bedroom villa in Rawai available for long-term rent. Fully furnished with swimming pool. Tel: 06-0043008. Email: info@ayudhya.net For further details, please see our website: www.ayudhya.net

HOTEL NEAR BEACH

13 big rooms with fridge, hot water, 7 aircons, reception, bar, kitchen. 1.3 million baht per year. Please contact for more information. Tel: 07-898-0759, 075-637126. Email: www.harald_junker@yahoo.de

FANTASY VILLA

apartments. Sky TV, aircon, pool, Jacuzzi, fully furnished with kitchens. With 2 bedrooms: 40,000 baht a month. With 1 bedroom: 30,000 baht per month. One week free membership at Kamala Gym. Tel: 06-2733437. UK mobile: +4478-15937415. Email for photos and info to: darrha265@aol.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 a month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-5978315. Email: phuket8@hotmail.com

RAWAI NICE HOUSE

for rent. 900sqm house with garden. Un-furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, open kitchen, living/dining area. Quiet. 25,000 baht per month. Agent: PPH. Tel: 06-906-0166.

NEW 2-STORY

house near Tesco, Index, Dulwich. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 09-444-1124. Email: nacky2u@hotmail.com

LAKE HOUSE

New, in Kamala, fully furnished. Has 2 bedrooms, UBC and air conditioning. Asking 17,000 baht a month. Tel: 01-8928208.

BIG HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, living area, kitchen, etc, on Phisit Gorani Rd, Patong. Monthly rent: 15,000 baht. Available from August 10. Tel: 09-4717629. Email: maxgmunder@hotmail.com

APARTMENTS

Chalong. Titima Mansions; 2 bedrooms, furnished, aircon, hot shower, security and gardens. Tel: 01-8914964. Email: beachcomberwa@yahoo.com.au

HOUSE FOR RENT

Samkong area, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, living and dining areas, fully-fitted kitchen, one maid's room, UBC, ADSL. Rent: 42,000 baht a month. Tel: 09-7294084. Email: psirikaning@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

Home & office, 1,500sqm, Phuket City area, Wichit Songkram Rd. Fully furnished, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Please call for more details. Tel: 04-0629587.

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.

FURNISHED & NEW

Includes kitchen, hot-water shower. 5 mins walk to bus/beach. Farang comfort in local area. Tel: 01-9683546. Email: robin46@gmail.com

KAMALA, LONG LET

2-bedroom house, 3 aircons, furnished, UBC, phone line, parking. 11,000 baht a month. Tel: 07-1789273.

FOR RENT

3-bedroom house. Pool, walled garden, near Nai Harn Beach. 25,000 baht a month. Minimum 1 year, no agents. Tel: 01-3971835.

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

LOFT-STYLE FLATS

4 large, quiet central flats. 6,000-12,000 baht/month long term. Please contact for more information. Tel: 04-8502926. Email: hkmsn@yahoo.com

NICE HOUSE

Beachfront house for long-term rent. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, hot shower, 3 aircons, 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. Tel: 01-8931121.

Agents for Classified Advertising

PHUKET

K.L. Mart
Patak Rd, Chalong

Tel: 076-280400/3
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

41 Minimart
Srisoontorn Rd, Cherng Talay

Tel/Fax: 076-324312

Classified Advertisements

Please use this form to write your classified advertisement.
Then hand it to any of our agents.

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(heading)

Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 85 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad.

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

Deadline for Property Gazette page: Friday 3 pm.

Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.

Property Gazette

Property Wanted



Phuket's Premier Real Estate & Insurance Consultancy

We offer professional real estate and insurance advice to those looking for property or a business in Phuket. All enquiries, large or small, are welcome. Please contact: 076-296072, 01-7196088, 09-6498703

Our office is situated at: 38/56 Nanai Road, Patong, Kathu, Phuket

Email: info@gardenislandphuket.com
www.gardenislandphuket.com

Do you have adequate insurance? Because we have Phuket covered.

NEED SEAVIEW LAND

I am looking for prime seaview land at Patong Beach. It must be overlooking the bay and city. Tel: 07-0540120. Email: richard.market@gmail.com

GUESTHOUSE

and restaurant in Phuket City, Patong, Karon or Kata. Please email or phone me if you have or know of something appropriate. Email: chrillearnige@hotmail.com

WANTED: BEACHFRONT

Looking for a beachfront restaurant or business property to buy or to lease. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-0543505.

SEEKING HOUSE TO RENT

German family is looking for house to rent near international school. Min 1 year. Tel: 06-188922.

LAND WANTED

Seaview, beachfront land in Phuket, Phang Nga, Krabi. 10-100 rai. Tel: 01-6936437, 06-6841260.

BUNGALOW RESORT

or guesthouse. I am looking to rent a bungalow resort or guesthouse in the Rawai or Chalong areas. Email: tomdexter2001@yahoo.de

HOUSE WANTED

Looking to buy a 2- to 3-bedroom house in Phuket or Krabi. Maximum price: 4 million baht. Email: wanphenstephen@hotmail.com

AUDITION ROOM

I am looking for an audition room to rent. The room must be at least 7m 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 for more information. Tel: 06-6285292.

Accommodation Available

ROOMS AT PATONG

Aircon or fan, ground-floor rooms, hot shower, close to beach. Tel: 076-342280, 01-9781956. Email: palm@phuket.ksc.co.th

PATONG TOWER

Rental available for up to four months from 30 July to 30 November. All utilities paid for, two-person max @1,800 baht a night. Email: coasters@earthlink.net Please see our website at: www.patongtower-rentals.com

BUNGALOW/APARTMENT

available. Fully-furnished bungalows at Karon Beach and apartments in Kata-Karon still available at low-season prices. Tel: 076-333242, 09-6517818. Fax: 076-333243. Email: horstkaron@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at: www.capt-horst.com

APARTMENT FOR YOU

1-bedroom apartment in Soi Nanai 2. All-inclusive low-season rate 12,500 baht/month. Tel: 01-5362954. Email: petro@phuket-4you.com For further details, please see our website at: www.phuket-apartments-4you.com/patong/baan-arunsri.htm

PATONG 1 & 2 BED APARTMENTS

Nanai Rd area. Quality apartments, fully furnished, Western kitchen, aircon, cable TV, internet. Long term only. 12,000 - 20,000 baht/month. Tel: 01-2705374. Email: orcella@phuket.ksc.co.th For more information, please see our website at: www.orcella.com

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New guesthouse with everything. Facing the beach, only a 5-minute walk, without traffic, to beach. Please see: www.southernfriedrice.com Tel: 01-8948446.

HOTEL PROMOTION

Long stay, including ABF: 18,000 baht a month. Beachfront, pool and spa. Free Wi-Fi Internet. Tel: 01-8920038. Email: anthony_sharman2006@hotmail.com

2-BEDROOM FURNISHED CONDO

Euro kitchen & bathroom, washer, 3 aircons, 4 ceiling fans, attic fan, TV, communal pool. Must see. Short-term rate: 15,000 baht a month. Long-term rate: 10,000 baht a month for one-year rental. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-245871, 06-2734678. Fax: 076-245-871. Email: roy@kool-mix.com

3-BEDROOM HOUSE

Rawai. Nice house in Soi Tristar, off Sai Yuan Rd. Fully furnished. Aircon bedrooms, sala with garden. 37,000 baht a month. Tel: 763-289241, 01-693-7277. Email: bent@siamdivers.com

KAMALA BEACH

2 private beautifully-appointed, fully-furnished houses available for long or short term. ADSL, UBC available. Aircon throughout. Contact for details. Tel: 01-8931360. Email: noi@phuketproperties.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. Please contact for more information. Tel: 04-8519072. Email: goodtasteforgoodlife@yahoo.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. Contact for details. Tel: 05-0717134. Fax: 076-346158. Email: robinsonkevin@mac.com

ROOMS IN PHUKET CITY

Clean and quiet with Internet connection. Weekly and monthly terms. Tel: 076-243-118 or 09-1885300. Email: passakorn@taitancourt.com Please see our website at: www.taitancourt.com

PATONG LUXURY

1- and 2-bedroom apartments in central Patong. Email for information and photos: suites247@yahoo.com

Accommodation Wanted

HOUSE WANTED

to rent. Looking for a house in Patong area to rent for 6-12 months, from September 2006. Email: john_m_king@hotmail.com

LONG-TERM RENTAL

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 Aug 6 for at least a year. Please contact for more information. Email: pravin@iim.com.sg

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

HOUSE OR APT

I'm looking to rent a house for at least 1 year. I require aircon and ADSL or a phone line that can have ADSL quickly. I have 2 small parrots. ADSL is needed without exception. Please contact for more information. Email: howardbloom@pc-man.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

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Tel: 09 195 0610, 076 263 269

Household Items

ANTIQUE FURNITURE

for sale. Chinese furniture from Ching Dynasty. Serious buyers only. Pictures/prices on request. Tel: 07-2676024. Email: mwd@nmwvtl.com

ANTIQUE SOFA

American Empire, mid-1800s sofa with original frame and mahogany trim. Newly reupholstered with Jim Thompson fabric. Will send photo by email on request. 30,000 baht ono. Please contact for more information. Tel: 07-2658801. Email: ruckzuck98@hotmail.com

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24-hr security, individual storage units, well ventilated, discount rates. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-0825707.

Agents for Classified Advertising

PHUKET

K.L. Mart

Patak Rd, Chalong

Tel: 076-280400/3

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

41 Minimart

Srisoontorn Rd, Cherng Talay

Tel/Fax: 076-324312

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SAILING DINGHIES







Well-maintained sailboats with s.s. trolley. Single & 2-person boats. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-5399560, 01-3970905. For further details, please see our website at: www.skiffasia.com/boats4sale.html

SEADO GTI SCOOTER

Rated 30 meters, less than 1 year old, 12,000 baht. Scubapro R190 REG plus octopus and console 5,000 baht. Tel: 01-3977592.

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SAILING HOLIDAYS
BARE BOATS
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ASIA MARINE

Please contact our sales offices or web site :

Phuket Office:
c/o Phuket Boat Lagoon
Tel: +66(0)76 239 111, 273 320
Email: charter@asia-marine.net

Bangkok Office:
Tel: +66(0)2 651 95 83
Email: marketing@asia-marine.net
www.asia-marine.net

Agent for:
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YACHTS

19 FT FISHING BOAT

Fiberglass, steel trailer. New. 250,000 baht. Tel: 04-6535863. Email: gpboats@hotmail.com

SPEEDBOAT

6m long, 200hp Mercury engine. Needs attention. Exchange for longtail boat 15+ persons or best offer. Please call for more information. Tel: 05-7843043.

TANKER VESSEL FOR SALE



Thai registered, 150,000 liters, width 6 m, length 23 m, ready to move. 1.6 million baht. Tel: 01-8912333. Email: surin123@csloxinfo.com

DIVE BOAT FOR SALE OR CHARTER



Length: 17.5m. Width: 4m, 320hp diesel engine, 20kw generator, 2 Bauer compressors, 30 person capacity. 1.2 million baht. Please call Tel: 01-9680571 for details.

LEE MARINE
International Marine Brokerage

Dean 440 Espace (2004)

- Twin Volvo 42HP diesel
- Icom VHF
- Mastervolt 8kva generator
- Electric Heads
- Fully airconditioned
- Yamaha / Sony entertainment system
- Raytheon electronics
- Tender and Yamaha 15HP

\$448,000 USD

Warwick 46 (1994) **\$250,000 USD**

Mon 391 (1997) **\$98,000 USD**

Sea Ray 335 (2005) **\$200,000 USD**

Hi Tech 50 (1990) **\$259,000 USD**

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Fax: 076 273 319
Email: info@leemarine.com

Brokerage Office
The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
Contact: Andrew de Bruin / Marcus Overman
Mobile: 01 894 1530 / 01 968 1437
Fax: 076 239 729
Email: brokerage@leemarine.com

Yacht Haven Marina Office
The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket
Contact: Jim Poulsen
Mobile: 01 894 3237
Fax: 076 206 280
Email: yachthaven@leemarine.com

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FERRY FOR SALE



Jet cruise 1. 244 passenger capacity. Length: 30.73m. Gross: 322 tons. 2 x 1,540KW MTU engines. Docked at Rattanaichai slipway. Phuket price at 12.2 million baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-4084991.

SPORT FISHING

charter boat. Luxury 40ft twin-engine sport fisher with aircon and electric toilet. Licensed for 10 passengers. Offered for 4.8 million baht ex-boat yard re-fit and inclusive of website. UK Tel: 44-1279-656066. Email: cruise Phuket@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at: www.cruise Phuket.com

SILVERTON



Hoft family boat, 2 twin bedrooms, 2 bathrooms + shower saloon, dinette, galley kitchen. 2 years old but with complete interior refurbishment within 12 months. Twin Volvo Penta engines + turbo, dinghy. New mercury outboard used regularly, very reliable. Sale due to owner upgrade viewing at ocean Marina Pattaya. Price: 5 million baht. Tel: 01-8335750.

16' HOBIE CAT

1987, 16' catamaran. Still good for a lot of fun! Situated at Ao Makham. Please contact for more info. Tel: 06-5413629. Email: terapi@post.tele.dk

Island Job Mart

British International School, Phuket are now seeking:

Registered Nurse 2 Positions

- Bachelor degree or higher in Nursing with active license
- Over 2 years experience in Nursing
- Computer literacy is essential.
- Good spoken and written English skills
- Service minded
- Interpersonal and problem solving skills
- Challenge job-oriented
- Team player
- Loves to work with children and people

Junior Secretary at office of the Headmaster 1 Position

- Female, Thai national
- Bachelor Degree in related field
- Excellent English, Computer literacy and good people skills
- Able to coordinate with other departments in academic functions

Please send a short letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, recent photograph and e-mail/fax and telephone contacts of referees to: British International School, Phuket



British International School, Phuket (BCIS)
59 Moo 2, Thepkasatri Rd, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200 Thailand
Tel: 076 238 711-20 Fax: 076 238 750 Bangkok Tel: 02 636 8991-2 Fax: 02 636 8992



www.lagunaphuket.com

The largest hotel and resort group in Phuket, and a listed company on the Stock Exchange of Thailand, is currently seeking qualified candidates to fill the below position based in Phuket:

EVENTS MANAGER

1 POSITION

Candidates should possess the following attributes:

- * Age over 30 years
 - * Bachelor degree or higher, a minimum of 3 - 5 years experience in related field
 - * Significant experience in event marketing and event management, including sponsorship sales and proposals, preferably in relation to sporting events
 - * Fluent in spoken and written English, and computer literate
 - * European and/or Asian languages an advantage
 - * Love of sports and knowledge of triathlon an advantage
 - * Able to multi-task and work well under pressure
 - * Self-motivated, enthusiastic professional, capable of working independently
 - * Highly organized and detail oriented individual
- Send application, resumé and recent photo to:

Group Director of Human Resources
LAGUNA RESORTS & HOTELS PUBLIC CO., LTD.
390/1 Moo 1, Srisoontorn Rd, Chernglalay, Thalang, Phuket 83110
Tel: (66-76) 324444 ext. 16, 17 & 72 Fax: (66-76) 271718 Email: grouphr@lagunaphuket.com

SUNWING RESORT & SPA

Sunwing Resort & Spa, Phuket
M.5 T. Cherng Talay, Thalang,
Phuket 83110
www.sunwingphuket.com

Fully contained family resort with its own restaurants, entertainment programs and a host of activities for all ages is looking for highly-motivated and service-minded individuals committed to grow within the expanding Ocean Resort Group in the following positions:

▪ Chef, Cook ▪ Restaurant Service Manager

- Degree from cook, restaurant school or similar
- Managerial experience in a Western & Thai a la carte kitchen
- Hotel knowledge and/or experience
- Leadership and (kitchen) organizational skills
- Fluent in English

APPLICANTS FOR ALL OTHER POSITIONS ALSO WELCOME

Candidates should send a detailed resumé stating current and expected salary and telephone number together with a recent photograph to:

Personnel Department

Ocean Resort Group: 562 Patak Rd, Karon Beach, Muang, Phuket 83100, Thailand
Tel: +66 (0) 76 396599-601 Fax: +66 (0) 76 396470, +66 (0) 76 396177
Email: wisaroot@oceanresortgroup.com



PEERAPAT BUSINESS CENTER

Situated near Wat Chalong, we are looking to fill the position of Showroom Sales Executive. Preference will be given to a bilingual (Thai-English) young woman with excellent presentation skills and a customer service-minded attitude. Attractive remuneration package for the right candidate. Please call K. Oy Tel: 076-281588 for an appointment or email resumé to: chitrada-phuket@peerapatholding.com

WORK CS @HOLYCLOTHING.COM

Customer Service Agents needed for an expanding Internet fashion retailer. Are you CS experienced, hard working, a team player, computer savvy w/ fluent English? Superior salary + bonus. Thai or foreigner. Tel: 05-7899249. Email: took@holyclothing.com Visit our website at www.holyclothing.com

WORK IN INTERNET

shop. We're looking for Thai nationals, women, to work as cyber café receptionists. 1 full time, 1 nighttime (6 pm to midnight). Possibility of lodging. The applicant must speak English. Patong and Phuket City area. Please contact K. Yupa by email or by phone. Tel: 076-341255. Email: leco@liontchai.com

NANNY/MAID

Seeking honest, reliable nanny to look after two farang children, ages 6 and 4. Some English required. Please call K. Boo at Tel: 04-6903884 or Email: bengale@cairns.net.au

WEBMASTER

needed. Good knowledge of MYSQL/PHP and English. Good salary for the right person. Tel: 01-0775698. Email: rbyouth@hotmail.com

ENGLISH-THAI

translation. Required by travel company for one day only on October 17, 2006. Kata Beach area only. Would suit hotel reception person. Start time 9:30 am, finish 5 pm. Must be presentable, speak good English and excellent Thai. Payment will be 10,000 baht. Yes, 10,000 baht for one day. Drinks & lunch included. Email: p.howarth0@talk21.com

BAR MANAGER

Needed for upscale hotel. Layan Beach area. Please email resumé, photo, expected salary. Email: metta@phuketpavilions.com

SILK RESTAURANT & BAR

Thai fine-cuisine bar/restaurant in Surin beach urgently requires

DJ (part-time or full time)

* Male or female, Thai or foreign

* Creative and a good entertainer

Contact K. Angkana. Tel: 076-271241. Email: silk@silkphuket.com For further details, please see our website at: www.silkphuket.com

FITNESS MANAGER

For new big fitness center. Foreigners accepted. Must have work experience, computer skills, perfect English and motivation. No dreamers, only professionals. Good salary and career opportunities. Please send CV. Email: bigbhouda5@hotmail.com

TOUR DESK STAFF

To work for diving company selling scuba diving and boating tours. Experience preferred, will train suitable applicants. English-speaking essential. Email: jkgk24@hotmail.com

SALES EXECUTIVE

Required by wine importer & distributor for the hospitality industry. A hard worker with a strong track record in sales & marketing. Good salary & commission. Email: info@mbsthai.com

SECRETARY

wanted. Self-motivated female 25-32 years old. Fluent English, computer skills: Word, Excel. University graduate. Property/tourism the preferred background. Please email resumé, photo, expected salary and telephone number. Email: thailand@scandinavianlaguna.com

The Phuket Gazette

Join Phuket's only Multimedia NEWS organization.

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following positions:

► TV REPORTERS

- Male or female, 22-35 years old
- Thai nationals only
- Good communication skills
- Must be reasonably fluent in English
- Self-motivated, imaginative, well-organized

An attractive salary and benefits package is offered for the right candidates. Applicants are invited to send a full, detailed resumé with recent photo to:

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

367/2 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Fax: 076 213971 Email: fon@phuketgazette.net

SWISS PALM BEACH RESORT PATONG

Urgently required:

- 1 Cabinetmaker/joiner
- 1 Gardener
- 1 Chief technician

Must be able to manage a small team and have knowledge of English. Good working conditions.

Please call for more information. Tel: 076-342099, 01-8365413.

DAILY MAID

French couple looking for maid who speaks and understands basic English. Should be able to cook Thai food well. Some working experience with foreigners/hotels desirable. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-316708, 05-9522498. Email: jbblest@yahoo.com

Island Job Mart



RAYAVADEE, A MEMBER OF "THE LEADING HOTELS OF THE WORLD" AND ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS RESORTS SITUATED IN THE PRIME LOCATION OF KRABI, NOW HAS EXCITING VACANCIES FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS

- SECRETARY TO F&B ADMIN
- EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
- AIRPORT REPRESENTATIVE
- EXCURSION GUIDES (MUST HAVE VALID LICENSE)
- WAITERS AND WAITRESSES
- BARTENDERS

CANDIDATES FOR THE ABOVE POSITION MUST POSSESS THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS AND ATTRIBUTES:

- * AGED BETWEEN 18-40 PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN A SIMILAR POSITION WILL BE A BENEFIT
- * BE DISCIPLINED, A TEAM PLAYER WITH GOOD ORGANISATION SKILLS AND THE ABILITY TO LEARN
- * PLEASANT PERSONALITY, BE SERVICE MINDED AND HAVE EXCELLENT COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- * AT LEAST CONVERSATIONAL ENGLISH
- * WILLINGNESS TO BE BASED IN KRABI

WE OFFER FANTASTIC WORKING CONDITIONS/ENVIRONMENT AND A VERY GOOD REMUNERATION PACKAGE. INTERESTED APPLICANTS ARE WELCOME TO APPLY IN PERSON OR SEND YOUR APPLICATION WITH COMPLETE RESUMÉ AND RECENT PHOTO TO:

RAYAVADEE KRABI, THAILAND
HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
214 MOO 2, TAMBON AO-NANG, AMPHUR MUANG, KRABI 81000
CONTACT: KHUN SUKAN PUKAO
E-MAIL: PN@RAYAVADEE.COM
TEL (075) 620-740-3 FAX (075) 620-630



Senior Accountant/Finance Manager

Sai Taan is a fast-growing property developer based in Phuket. Due to continued expansion, we are looking for an ambitious, hard-working senior accountant/finance manager.

Key Responsibilities

- Responsible for the financial operations of the company
- Work with management team to develop tax planning
- Develop and monitor cashflow plans
- Develop and monitor overall company budgets
- Provide weekly and monthly financial reports
- Manage current bookkeeping staff.

Key Qualifications

- Degree from recognised, leading university
- Excellent spoken & written English is a must
- At least 7 years' experience
- Willing and able to learn necessary accounting regulations related to property business
- Hard working & ambitious
- Able to take initiative and work independently
- Able to work under pressure.

We are looking for someone capable and ambitious to join our small team. This is an opportunity to join a small team and make a real contribution, while learning the details of the property development business. Competitive salary for the right candidate.

Please email to info@sai-taan-phuket.com enclosing a resumé, recent photo and details of your current salary.

SATREE PHUKET

English program. Openings for science, math, drama and English teachers. Call EP Dept for more info. Tel: 01-367-5870. Email: a_pupatanun@hotmail.com

BAR MANAGER

and hostesses needed. Nai Harn. Who can help? Email: mjbruggink@yahoo.com

IT TEACHER

Urgently needed for English woman. Phuket City. Please call for more information. Tel: 05-1249406.

URGENTLY

required staff.

* HR Manager

* Senior Accountant

Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-582290, 01-8454667. Fax: 076-582292. Email: netr7466@hotmail.com

IT JOBS

Blue D.Zine Software Company is recruiting for the following positions as part of business expansion.

- 2 Junior Programmers
- 1 Web Designer
- 1 Sales Assistance

Please send CV or contact for more information. Tel: 076-248305, 09-4740065. Fax: 076-248754. Email: career@bluedzine.com

IT STAFF

Full-time position, IT staff to install, setup, and manage company server and network. Network is both LAN and wireless. Required proficiency in network management, Microsoft server configuration, backup office database, IP webcam security and secure network system. Please contact for more information. Email: pat@destinationair.com

Employment Wanted

HANDYMAN FOR HIRE

Thai man, 30, with 5 years' experience in construction control and home-care jobs. Very responsible, honest. 15,000 baht/month. Tel: 01-8953185, 09-591-3996. Email: malaisiam@hotmail.com

PART-TIME

Housekeeper. Available for foreign clients only. Fair spoken English. Please call for more info. Tel: 06-9469997.

PROJECT MANAGER/QS

With 25 years EXP offers professional service at a reasonable fee. Call anytime. Tel: 07-9752326.

The Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following positions:

I. REPORTER

The successful candidate will be a Thai national, with initiative, an outgoing personality, and plenty of experience about the world and how it works. Also essential are the ability to communicate in English, both spoken and written, and a car.

Good salary for the right candidate.

II. ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

The successful candidate will be a Thai national with an outgoing personality. Also essential are experience in sales and/or administration, a good command of written and spoken English, good management and organizational skills, and knowledge of PageMaker and Office software.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Wipa Putkeaw, Human Resources, by email, fax or post to:

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd
367/2 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Fax: 076-213971 Email: fon@phuketgazette.net

ADMIN MANAGER

Experienced English-speaking Thai, male or female, wanted to manage Andaman Lighting System's general office admin. Good salary for the right skills. Tel: 076-254826, 01-8937027. Fax: 076-254827. Email: ianpotter@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at: www.andamanlighting.com

EXECUTIVE ASST.

wanted! Good English, computer + Internet skills. If you enjoy traveling, meeting people, sales and marketing, admin and secretarial work plus entertaining and being active in a highly-paid, secure job with huge commission benefits in a big corporation, then get in touch! Please contact. Tel: 01-9799911. Email: moo_yongs@hotmail.com

LAGUNA RESORTS & HOTELS
www.lagunaphuket.com

The largest hotel and resort group in Phuket, and a listed company on the Stock Exchange of Thailand, is currently seeking qualified candidates to fill the below position:

AIRPORT HOSPITALITY CENTER OFFICER 1 POSITION

Applicants should meet the following criteria:

- * Female, Thai nationality
- * Bachelor degree or higher
- * A minimum of 1 years' experience in hotel business or service industry or related field
- * Pleasant personality, self motivated and accountable
- * Good command of spoken & written English and computer literate
- * Able to work shifts and during holidays
- * Able to relocate to Phuket

We offer an attractive remuneration package and the opportunity for career growth. Applicants are invited to apply in person at Laguna Service Co., Ltd. or send your full resumé, detailed qualifications and experience with a recent photo to:

Group Director of Human Resources
LAGUNA RESORTS & HOTELS PUBLIC CO., LTD.
390/1 Moo 1, Srisoonlorn Rd, Chermglalay, Thalang, Phuket 83110
Tel: (66-76) 324444 ext. 16, 17 Fax: (66-76) 271718
Email: grouphr@lagunaphuket.com

ASST MANAGER

English-speaking Thai lady, 25-35. Outgoing with experience to run and market 2 juice shops in Phuket. 12,000 baht up a month + commission. Please contact. Tel: 01-823-9448. Email: cjp@punpun.biz

PA/SECRETARY

to manager (Thai) to assist foreign manager. English, accounting and computer skills, good presentation and pleasant personality required. Email: robor@loxinfo.co.th

BRANCH MANAGER

Required for existing shop in Karon must speak fluent English and Swedish. Email: info@liveaboard-thailand.com

HORIZONS NEEDS

teachers! Horizons Learning Center requires qualified, experienced teachers for these positions from Aug 2006: nursery; music/drama; Mandarin. Email: pamela@horizons-phuket.com

INTERNET/RECEPTION

Thai female wanted for Internet/reception duties. Must speak English. Tel: 076-330484. Email: johnnymc21@hotmail.com

REAL ESTATE

Admin/secretary for real estate company. Strong English skills, computer literate, knowledge of the island, car license. Email: rotapi@hotmail.com

SALES SUPPORT LADIES REQUIRED

Campbell Kane (Thailand) Ltd is the developer of Cape Yamu, The Yamu Hotel and The Bay project. Cape Yamu and The Bay are exclusive luxury residential property developments on Phuket East Coast. We are looking for young, good-looking Thai ladies with competent English skills, both written and spoken, to welcome visitors to our Pavilion. They must be have "guest-relations" character, be informative and take care of our clients. Appropriate candidates should submit their resumé to Human Resources Department 28/7 Moo 2, Thepkasattri Rd., Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83000. Tel: 076-204008-9. Fax: 076-239837. Email: annie@campbellkane.com See www.capeyamu.com Urgently required: a site inspector.

HERMAN'S

Restaurant is looking to fill the following positions:

Restaurant Manager

- Male, with a good command of English

Waiter & Waitress

- Good command of English

Housemaid

- For the house of the owner of Herman's Restaurant. English required
- Work 3-4 hours a day

Bartender

Tel: 01-8943740.

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Articles for Sale

NEAR-NEW TV & AMP FOR SALE

Samsung 29" HD TV: 11,000 baht. Philips 25" FSTV: 5,500 baht. Musical fidelity X80 stereo AMP: 14,000 baht. Items 1 year old or less. Tel: 01-397-7598.

LAWN MOWER

Honda GXV120, 5,000 baht. New electric BBQ, 2,500 baht. Children's car seat, 500 baht. Bike, 300 baht. Tel: 09-5944067.

TEAK TABLE

Seats 3, incl chairs. Excellent condition, only 5 months old. Paid 22,000 baht will accept 13,000 baht. Email for photo or call Tel: 076-292708. Email: m_saundersuk@hotmail.com

2 PHOTOCOPIERS

Xerox, Ricoh reconditioned desktop copiers with service by farang. 25,000 baht each. Call George. Tel: 06-9724805.

TEAK CABINETS

2 new, dark teakwood cabinets. 6 doors. Size: 2.7m x 1m x 70cm. Price: 25,000 baht each. Email: manuelbkk@gmail.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

GENERAL MEETING

Notice is given to all Directors and Share holders of Thaipinga Co Ltd of a general meeting held at 111 Rath U Thit Rd Patong, Phuket. 15/08/06 at 12 noon. Nature of business to be transacted will be. Removal of Director, removal of Director from residing on company premises, appointment of managing Director and return of directors work permit belonging to Thaipinga Co Ltd. Tel: 076-344799, 09-5912506. Email: johnanddebra@hotmail.com

Business Opportunities

BAR FOR SALE

Nice bar with beach view for sale. Located at Sunset Plaza, Patong Beach, close to Sea Pearl Hotel. Asking price: 490,000 baht. Monthly rent: 25,000 baht. Tel: 07-0713695. Email: gson1@home.se

7% NET INTEREST

Invest in shophouses and earn a nice income. 1.4 million baht per unit. Email: yvanito@yahoo.com

SALE/RENT

Restaurant /bar/guesthouse on Nanai Rd. Fully furnished. Big kitchen, 7 rooms with aircon. Tel: 01-6480736. Email: thaipaul@gmx.de

PHI PHI ISLAND

Interesting and cheap business on the beach. 3-story building with sea view. Tel: 06-7396031. Email: fepigada@yahoo.it

SHOP GALLERY

Decorated, fully furnished. Need to sell. 80sqm. Please contact for more information. Call K. Vichit at Tel: 09-724-3878.

PATONG GUESTHOUSE

for lease. 13 rooms, bar, restaurant, owners unit, reception, fully equipped and operating. Opened in year 2001. 5 years. 3.6 million baht, no key money. Please contact. Tel: 076-344707, 01-6916147. Email: info@baansuanvilla.de

COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR LEASE

Soi Yodsane 1, Chalong. On the ground floor of a new 12-unit apartment building. 50sqm, plus a large terrace area in front. Two aircon units. Prefer shop/cafe but will consider for office use. 7,500 baht/month. Call/email for details. Tel: 01-8938592, 06-2826221. Email: saneroad@yahoo.com

PATONG INTERNET

café. Close to the beach. 60 sqm. Computers & all equipment. For sale at 650,000 baht. Rent: 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 04-1831199.

BUSINESS CENTER

for sale. Patong Beach, prime location. Includes 15-room guesthouse, 64-seat restaurant, 5 motorbikes, 1 jeep, Internet café and established travel agency. No brokers. Tel: 01-0820039 llan or 01-091-1662 Niki. Email: patong05@gmail.com For more information, please see our website at: phuketdir.com/coaststar/index.htm

RESTAURANT

Koh Lanta. Must be seen. 28 seats inside, 16 outside. Rent until March 31, 2009. Rent 200,000 baht per year. Asking price: 650,000 baht. Rent for 2006-2007 is included in the price. 50,000-baht discount if I can sell during August. Please contact Conny. Tel: 09-9858309. Email: crockstrom@hotmail.com

THE PROPHET OF PROFITS

For all your offshore money needs. Investigate, then invest. Please contact. Tel: 00-35799 933627. Email: investormorse@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at: www.investormorse.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

RETIRE ON ROCKET

science. On-line option trader offers private tuition. Learn to trade the financial markets safely and profitably from home, with a small account. You will be amazed that it's not rocket science. Zero experience required. Have an income in the tropics regardless of other people. 100% serious. Limited places. Tel: 01-7373958. Email: otrader123@hotmail.com

BISTRO/BUSINESS

for rent. A newly built bistro/cafe in a great location in Phuket Boat Lagoon is available for rent. If you are interested, or have a related business or any other idea and are looking for an ideal spot, then please get in touch. Tel: 01-9799911. Email: moo_yongs@hotmail.com

DISCOTHEQUE

in central Patong, 550sqm, with implicit advantages and attractive hotel, seeks serious financial partners. Initial start-up 9.3 million baht according to business plan. Please contact for full details. Tel: 01-9684541. Email: j_vparkers@hotmail.com

KATA BAR FOR SALE

4 bedrooms + kitchen. Fully stocked, 3 TVs, pool table, 3-year lease. Must be sold this week; best offer over 1 million baht. Tel 04-8478139.

BAR IN PATONG

For sale or lease: 200,000 baht. Fully furnished, good location. Tel: 07-2835083.

KAMALA RESTAURANT & BAR

Famous for pizza + Texmex. 40 seats, air conditioning, equipment, stock and furniture. For sale at 500,000 baht + rent 6,000 baht per month. Please call for more information. Tel: 03-1753996, 06-945-1642 (Thai).

RESTAURANT

Urgent sale, Mango Tree, Nanai Rd. Inspect and make offer. Please call Brian for more information. Tel: 07-067-3360.

INVESTMENT

needed. We are a dynamic new company looking for a silent partner in a new business venture. If you wish to quadruple your investment in just 4 months, then contact us. Email: investphuket@yahoo.com

BAR WANTED

Farang wants to buy a bar in Soi Bangla. Tel: 09-4755752. Email: kaapoxxx@msn.com

BIG LAUNDRY FOR SALE

Low-season bargain. Big industrial laundry in Patong for sale. More than 20 hotels, restaurants and live-aboard boats as customers. Selling as laundry needs expansion so big opportunity as many hotels want to join. For more information Tel: 09-4758914. Email: sell_laundry@yahoo.co.uk

GERMAN CARWASH

technology for sale from importer. Wash 100 cars or more a day. Selling, installation, service, training, investment. Please contact for more information. Email: carwash_phuket@hotmail.com

NICE BISTRO/CAFE

bar. Patong Nanai apartments. Top restaurant equipment included. Email: thomaspatong@gmx.de


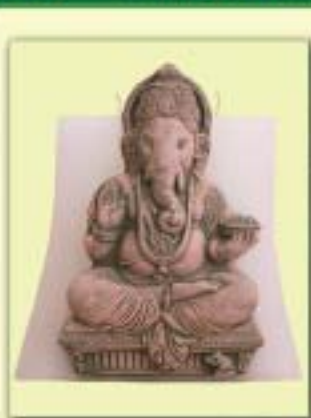
RESTAURANT

for sale/lease. Be part of a new entertainment complex. Uniquely-designed venue. Stands out. Very attractive terms. Please contact for more information. Tel: 05-1274273. Email: mjbругgink@yahoo.com

BEST FOR OFFICE

Ownership for sale: 2.3 million baht. 4-story unit next to Joe Mansion, before Lan Nawa-min Park, near Pearl Hotel. Important places within walking distance. All recently renovated. Fax: +81-92-606-4133. Email: hiro-phuket@nifty.com

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www.siam-legal.com

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phuketjumpingcastles.com

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