

Phuket Gazette

Volume 13 Issue 32

News Desk - Tel: 076-236555

August 12 - 18, 2006

Daily news at www.phuketgazette.net

25 Baht

The Gazette is published
in association with

The **Nation**

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Tsunami still taking its toll

Mental problems persist, especially among kids

By Gazette Staff

PHUKET: Many people in tsunami-affected areas of Thailand suffered from depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) for at least nine months after the disaster, according to two new studies.

Both studies were conducted initially in February 2005, with follow-ups seven months later, focusing on people in Phang Nga, Krabi and Phuket, the three provinces worst hit by the tsunami.

The results of the surveys were published in the August 2 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

In one of the surveys, PTSD symptoms were found in February in 12% of those surveyed in Phang Nga who had lost their homes and suffered other losses, and 7% of those who had not lost their homes. The figure for Krabi and Phuket, where only people who had not been displaced were surveyed, was considerably lower, at 3%.

Anxiety symptoms were, similarly, more prevalent in Phang Nga, with 37% of displaced people and 30% of non-displaced people suffering anxiety, compared with 22% in Krabi and Phuket.

Similarly, 30% of displaced and 21% of non-displaced people in Phang Nga had symptoms of depression, compared with 10% in the two other provinces.

Aggravating the PTSD, anxiety and depression caused



Kids in temporary tent accommodation just after the tsunami: Did the smiles mask troubles in the future?

by the tsunami itself was the loss of the ability to make a living, the study found.

The follow-up survey in the study found a fall in all three mental problems, though the rates were still higher than normally found in the population at large.

The second study addressed depression and PTSD among children in the three provinces.

In February 2005, PTSD symptoms were noted in 13% of the children living in camps for the displaced, in 11% of children from tsunami-affected villages who had not lost their homes, and in 6% of children from villages not affected by the tsunami.

The survey found that the children most likely to be suffering from PTSD fell into three

broad groups: those who had spent some time in disaster zones before being evacuated; those who felt that their own life or those of family members had been in serious danger during the tsunami; and those who had experienced extreme panic or fear at the time of the tsunami.

Depression was found to be more prevalent among older children who felt that their own or a family member's life had been in danger.

Disturbingly, a follow-up survey in September 2005 found no significant fall in the percentage of children suffering from either PTSD or depression.

The report was compiled by Waranee Thienkrua of the Ministry of Public Health-US Center for Disease Control and Prevention. **Continued on page 2**

New dive industry rules 'to be enforced on Sept 1'

By Janyporn Morel

PHUKET CITY: As the Gazette went to press, Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura was on the verge of signing the new dive industry regulations into effect, Phuket Provincial Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) Nivit Aroonrat said.

Once brought into force, the new rules will give dive operators on the island 30 days from September 1 to register with the Phuket Marine Office.

"The provincial government will issue a public notice announcing that dive operators on the island have from September 1 to September 30 to register with the Phuket Marine Office," K. Nivit said.

The notice will be posted on the official notice board at Provincial Hall and announcements will also be made through the media, he added.

K. Nivit's secretary, Aekachai Soontorn, said that one major change was made to the draft regulations that had already been distributed to dive operators: they will now also have to report which dive sites they use.

He added that Thai Diving Association President Ronnachai Chindapol and Kanakorn Limkraidej, Managing Director of dive operator White and Blue Harmony Co Ltd, have been drafted onto the committee that will review applications, so that the private sector is represented.

The Phuket Marine Office is located near the Deep Sea Port at Cape Panwa, at 88/5 Sakdidee Rd, Moo 7, Tambon Wichit. Tel: 076-391174.



Your Piece of Paradise



Porsche Parade: Members of the Singapore Porsche Club rumble across Tao Thepkrasattri Bridge on their way to Le Royal Meridien Phuket Yacht Club on August 4. The 25 Porches in the convoy had set off from Singapore the previous day, spending the night in Haad Yai.



Princess opens food festival

The crowds came out to greet HRH Princess Ubol Ratana Rajakanya when she visited Phuket on August 1 to preside over the grand opening of the Phuket Sea Food and Good Products Festival at Saphan Hin.

Governor raps Immigration officer for barring Koreans

PHUKET: Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura this morning asked the head of Immigration at Phuket International Airport to transfer a subordinate who refused entry to two loud South Korean tourists on July 11.

But the immigration chief defended his officer's actions and said he would refer the matter to his superiors before taking any action.

The meeting, at the Governor's Office at Phuket Provincial Hall on August 8, followed an official complaint by the Republic of Korea Embassy to the Tourism Authority of Thailand, who were represented at the meeting by Suwalai Pinpradup, head of its Region 4 Office in Phuket.

At the meeting Gov Udomsak told Pol Col Surasak Adthapanyavanich, who heads the immigration unit at the airport, that he thought the officer in question, Pol Capt Chuchat Petngam, had gone too far in denying entry to

the two Koreans, who were forced to fly back to Korea.

"Even though he had the authority to do that, I think he displayed bad judgment and should be reassigned to a position outside Phuket," said the Governor.

But Col Surasak defended Capt Chuchat, saying that his actions were reasonable under the circumstances.

"He was acting within his authority. I think the two tourists involved have to accept that it was their own behavior that resulted in their being barred, because they refused to follow our procedures," he said.

"The two Koreans arrived at the passport control area speaking loudly, which caused them to miss some of the Immigration officer's instructions. After this they reacted with anger at the officer in charge," he said.

"I will refer this case to my commander and let him decide what action, if any, would be fair to take against Capt Chuchat."

Police colonel's gun was used in killing of editor

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

PHUKET: A police lieutenant-colonel has been arrested in connection with the murder of local newspaper editor Opas Noothong in April this year.

The arrest came after a gun belonging to Pol Lt Col Hattakarn Klinlokai, Inspector for Crime Suppression of Suksamran sub-district police station in Ranong, was found in the car of another suspect, Veenakorn Buyeun.

Forensic tests later confirmed that Col Hattakarn's .357 Smith & Wesson revolver was the gun used to shoot K. Opas.

Col Hattakarn has been charged with conspiracy to murder but has denied any involvement in the case.

He refused to give any ex-

planation of how his gun came to be used in the shooting, saying that he will make a statement only when he appears in court.

On August 5, the officer in charge of the case, Pol Maj Rassada Kluengwong, Inspector at Phuket City Police Station, told the *Gazette* that Col Hattakarn had now been transferred to hospital in Bangkok to receive treatment for a bone disease but that he would return shortly to face the charge in court.

Police believe K. Opas was shot to prevent him revealing details of an earlier crime, the attempted murder of Peerasak "Ko Yu" Aiewpanich, Veenakorn's ex-husband, who was shot in October last year.

K. Peerasak was left paralyzed by the attack.

Democrat wins by-election

PHUKET: Despite active campaigning by all three candidates, voter turnout for the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) District 1 by-election on August 5 was poor, with eventual winner Somkuan Tansakul of the Democrat party winning the vacant seat with just 839 votes.

Coming second was engineer Wongwara Sa-nguansak, with 575 votes, while writer Wisut "Ae Inside" Tangwittayaporn, who promised to bring greater transparency to the Democrat Party-led *OrBorJor*, trailed in third place with just 273 votes.

Of 7,717 eligible voters in the constituency, only 1,835, or 23.8%, turned out for the poll.

Tsunami's mental toll

From page 1

ters for Disease Control and Prevention Collaboration in Nonthaburi, and colleagues with the Thailand Post-Tsunami Mental Health Study Group.

They concluded, "Findings in our assessment may provide a better understanding of post-tsunami mental health problems and associated risk factors among children.

"Therapeutic approaches may be needed to help children understand and manage their feelings of fear, so that possible negative impacts on their development are minimized.

"Family counseling may be necessary to make sure that parents are able to recognize and address mental health problems, and schools may be another important venue for affected children to be identified and provided with services to reduce PTSD and depression.

"Teachers, in particular, may play a crucial role in the support and referral of affected children; hence, appropriate sensitivity training for mental health-related problems is recommended for school-based staff."

Scheduled blackouts in August

PHUKET: The Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority has announced its scheduled blackouts for August in order to continue its work on high-voltage power lines.

Blackouts will take place from 9 am to 4 pm in the following places:

August 17, **Phuket City-Kathu:** Wichit Songkhram Rd, from Soi Bang Yai to Tung Tong Ice Factory, including Soi Thida, Baan Ketho, Moo Baan Irawadee Ketho, Soi Chumchon Ketho, Soi Kathu 1, Moo Baan Anuphas Golf Ville, Baan Tung Tong, Soi Bangwad, Soi Sai Thong and Moo Baan Sunshine Nature Home.

August 24, **Rawai-Laem Phromthep:** Wiset Rd, from Saiyuan Rd to Laem Phromthep, including Soi Sarika, Happy Home Village, Rawai beachfront and Soi Yanui.

Note: This information is subject to change without notice. For more information or to check the latest status, call Tel: 076-211663.

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48 security cameras to cover tourist areas

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET: The provincial authorities are to install closed-circuit TV (CCTV) monitoring systems in parts of Patong, Karon and Phuket City in an effort to boost security in popular tourist areas.

At Phuket Provincial Police headquarters on August 7, Phuket Governor Udomsak Usawangkura presided over the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Phuket Provincial Police and CAT Telecom, which will install the equipment.

Phase I of the "Security Control and Command Center Project", funded under the CEO Governor's discretionary provincial development budget, will cost 16 million baht and take 180 days to complete.

Work will include installation of 48 TV cameras – 16 each in Patong, Karon and Phuket City – with command centers in the three police stations responsible for those areas: Kathu, Chalong and Phuket City, respectively.

Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pol Maj Gen Decha Budnampetch said the project will help police ensure the safety of tourists.

"We have only 1,015 police officers to take care of the whole province, which is not enough to control all areas. The CCTV security system will be very useful for us, as it can be used for sur-



Watched by Gov Udomsak, Police Chief Maj Gen Decha Budnampetch (right) and CAT Telecom Chief Marketing Officer Marut Buranasetkul shake hands after the signing.

veillance, traffic control and crime prevention," he said.

CAT Telecom Chief Marketing Officer Marut Buranasetkul said the project would be the first in Thailand to use CAT Telecom's "CAT IT Security" service, which is based on high-speed, wireless CDMA2000 1X EV-DO technology, compatible with most wireless devices.

The system will allow each command center to share security footage, which should aid cross-jurisdictional investigations and allow police to search for suspects who cross into other police precincts to evade arrest.

Work on a second phase is expected to follow.

When told about the project, one foreigner who runs a bar in Patong said, "I think it is a good thing as long as the police respect human rights when releasing footage to the media.

"I certainly hope they will target areas where touts harass tourists, and use the system to crack down on them.

"I wish the Tourism Authority of Thailand and the police understood just how much damage these touts are doing to Patong. The CCTV will let them see for themselves what these touts are like in action," he said.

Young chess masters heading for Bangkok



Two young competitors concentrate on their opening moves.

PHUKET: Twenty young people are headed for Bangkok after excelling in the provincial round of the Chessmaster Thai Chess Competition, held at Phuket Rajabhat University on August 3.

Porntip Suwankumnerd took first place in the under-25 category of the provincial stage of the competition, while Pasawit Khorwatthanakul won the under-18 class, Surawat Sripaoraya came first in the under-15s and the under-12 competition was won by Suppachok Urairat.

The top five players in each age group will compete in the finals, to be held at Kasetsart Uni-

versity in Bangkok from August 25 to 27.

The aim of the competition is to promote Thai chess and to develop regulations for international competition.

Of the modern varieties of chess, Thai chess, or *mahk ruk*, is widely considered to be the closest to the original game. Although it is similar to Western chess, there are a few key differences.

Thai chess is played on a board of 64 squares, as in Western chess, but the board is all one color. The starting layout is also slightly different, with queens placed on the right of the kings, not the left.

Pawns start on the third rank, not the second, and may move only one square on their first move.

When a pawn reaches the sixth rank it becomes a queen.

Bishops may move only one square diagonally or one step forward, while queens may move just one square diagonally. All other pieces have the same moves as in Western chess.

Baby boy found dead, dumped in trash

KATHU (*Gazette/Kom Chad Luek*): Police are unsure whether a newborn child found dead in a black plastic trash bag was still-born or was deliberately murdered.

Garbage collectors making their normal rounds made the gruesome discovery at about 4 am on August 7, as they were collecting trash opposite Phuket Country Club on Wichit Songkhram Rd.

Tung Tong Police and workers from the Kusoldharm Foundation recovered the body. The body, that of a male, was no more than three days old and still had the umbilical cord attached. The body was covered in blood and bruises, especially around the

neck where the child had apparently been strangled with a length of thin nylon cord.

Rescue workers noted that the dead child had black hair and a light complexion, and weighed about three kilograms – normally considered a healthy birth weight.

Tung Tong Police Inspector Pol Capt Parichat Jaturonphan said the baby appeared to have died at least 24 hours before his body was discovered.

The corpse was sent to Kathu Hospital for further examination to see whether the precise cause of death could be established, he said.

Capt Parichat told the *Gazette* the following day that initial

attempts to learn the identity of the child's mother had been unsuccessful.

He noted that the area where the body was discovered was a public area, near a community with a good deal of low-cost housing for students.

"We have to wait for the

autopsy results. We are not sure whether the child was born alive and then strangled with the nylon cord, or whether he was still-born and the mother tied the cord around his neck to dispose of the body without having to touch it, because she was afraid," he said.



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Searching for a monster under the Andaman Sea

The purpose of the Sunday morning cruise was to acquaint the German researchers with their Thai counterparts and also to let the German experts see for themselves whether *Chakratong Tongyai* was stable enough in rough, monsoon-season seas to be equipped with the state-of-the-art multi-beam echo-sounding technology and seafloor mapping equipment the Germans planned to fit it with in order to carry out their research mission.

Once underway, Dr Anond Snitvongs of the Southeast Asia START Regional Center dispelled this reporter's mistaken belief that the mission would involve taking the vessel over the subduction zone in the Andaman Basin, where the Indian Ocean Plate subducts – slides – under the Eurasian Plate.

DEVASTATING

Through a sketch [see inset] Dr Anond explained that the study area would be some 200 kilometers from the fault zone where the December 26, 2004, earthquake, registering 9.2 on the Richter Scale, caused the seabed in the area to rise abruptly several meters, displacing an estimated 30 cubic kilometers of seawater and triggering the devastating tsunami waves.

The focus of the group's study, he explained, will be the Continental Slope, where the seabed plunges steeply from the Mergui Terrace – 500 meters below the surface – to meet the Andaman Basin some 3,000 meters below.

Dr Anond, who is also a lecturer at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, explained that, like 95% of the Earth's open-ocean seafloor, the area in question has never been mapped – apart from the most basic soundings to ensure it is navigable.

The mapping mission will involve three cruises to the study area. The first two cruises, sched-

On a wet, blustery morning recently, *Gazette* Desk Editor Stephen Fein joined a team of Thai and German marine and coastal experts on a cruise aboard the Fishery Department's 38-meter research vessel MV *Chakratong Tongyai* for a two-hour trial cruise around Mai Thon Island.

Here is what he learned about the research team's upcoming seafloor mapping mission – and other tsunami-related matters.

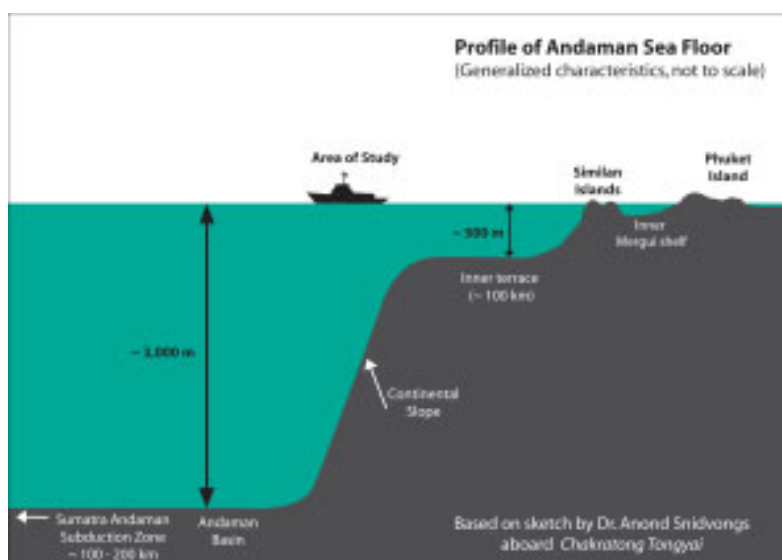
uled to leave from the Phuket Marine Biological Center at Cape Panwa in late-November and mid-January, respectively, will involve initial testing of the "multibeam echo-sounding" technology and then using it to generate three-dimensional maps of the seabed.

After this, the researchers will study the maps to look for features such as canyons and mounds, as well as areas where evidence suggests "sediment transport", such as slumps or landslides, may have occurred in the past.

On the third cruise, scheduled for March, the researchers will attempt the difficult task of taking layered samples of the seabed using German coring technology capable of extracting sediment samples at depths of as much as 2.8 kilometers.

If the cores can be retrieved, they will be chemically and stratigraphically analyzed, then compared in an effort to find direct evidence of past submarine slumps or landslides.

Such evidence, if it is found, might indicate that Thailand's Andaman coastline is vulnerable not only to tsunamis generated by sudden tectonic uplift events displacing large volumes of water –



The big drop: The scientists will be looking for evidence of past underwater landslides along the line of the continental slope

such as the December 26 tsunami – but also to a "secondary" class of tsunamis that involve little or no water displacement.

"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 Dr Anond and Dr Willie Weinrebe of the IFM Geomar Institute in Kiel, Germany said that there was a gen-

eral consensus among scientists that the tsunami waves that reached 15 meters in height and killed thousands along the north coast of Papua New Guinea in 1998 were produced in this way – and not by any uplift associated with a 7.0 magnitude earthquake with an epicenter about 75 kilometers offshore.

Evidence of even greater disasters related to submarine landslides also exists in the geological record, say the researchers.

Dr Weinrebe said that a series of giant submarine slides on the continental slope off the coast of western Norway, known as the Storegga slides, caused large tsunamis that left deposits along the east coast of Scotland thousands of years ago.

The three slides – the most recent was about 8,000 years ago – count among the largest landslides ever known. According to some estimates, an area the size

of Iceland slid, causing a huge tsunami in the North Atlantic Ocean.

Determining whether Thailand's Andaman Coast is susceptible to a similar catastrophe won't be easy, the researchers admit.

Seafloor mapping at the depths proposed is in itself a technical challenge, and even when it is done successfully, the data generated is less precise and reliable than dry-land maps, for which any number of alternative mapping strategies – such as satellite imagery – can be used to help verify the results.

In addition, calculating slope stability in marine environments is still a very young science.

Equally daunting will be extracting and interpreting the core samples. Involved in that effort will be German researcher Christian Hensen, also of IFM Geomar Institute. He said that fitting the multibeam echo-sounder to the *Chakratong Tongyai* should not prove too difficult, but that he expects the coring work to be more challenging.

Coring tubes weighing up to one tonne will have to be used in order to penetrate the muddy seafloor at the great depths likely to yield the relevant samples, he said.

PUZZLED

"The angle of the continental shelf in the study area is not a problem in getting samples," he explained.

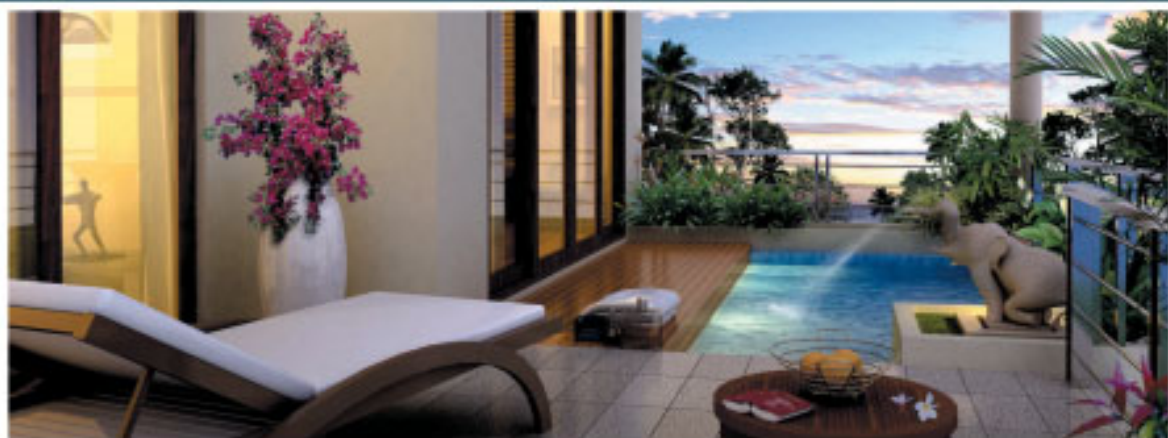
As the *Chakratong Tongyai* continued on its recent voyage, circling Mai Thon Island several times, a number of the researchers met up in the climate-controlled wheelhouse to look over charts of the waters around Phuket.

It was here that I had the chance to ask German wave researcher Dr Hocine Oumeraci of the Technical University of Brunswick some questions that had puzzled me ever since the tsunami:

If the tsunami waves were

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Marine biologist Somkiat Kohkiatiwong (red cap) and German wave researcher Hocine Oumeraci examine a chart of Phuket and the surrounding area during the scientists' recent initial cruise aboard the *Chakratong Tongyai*.

generated from an area near the earthquake epicenter off the coast of Sumatra, why were parts of Chalong and Rawai inundated before Patong and other parts of the island's west coast?

First, Dr Oumeraci pointed out that the graphics commonly used by the mass media tended to assume the tsunami wave propagated from a single "point source", much like the concentric ripples that result from a pebble being dropped into a pond.

In fact, the waves were generated by displacement over a large area running parallel to the fault zone – a rip that stretched from Sumatra to the Andaman Islands.

Dr Oumeraci, an expert in

wave modeling who works with the world's largest wave-generating research tank at the University at Brunswick, also noted that the models used by CNN and the BBC, for example, were based on the tsunami being a "solitary wave".

To explain, he gave me a brief history of "solitary waves", including their chance discovery in the 1834 by Scottish naval engineer Scott Russel in Edinburgh, who happened to be watching a team of horses pulling a barge along a canal.

The horses were called to a sudden halt but the wave the barge's displacement had produced did not stop. It continued virtually unchanged for miles down the canal, for as long as

Russel could follow it on horseback.

Such waves, whose characteristics were later described mathematically by a Frenchman named Boussinesq, are of a certain unique class wherein there is a delicate balance between "nonlinear" effects (which tend to "steepen" the wave) and "dispersive" effects (which tend to "flatten it out").

In a solitary wave produced by sudden displacement of water, such as by an asteroid impact or seismic uplift event, a certain balance is achieved between the two forces, producing a wave capable of travel over very great distances.

As an example, Dr Oumeraci said that, following the

1960 earthquake off Chile, associated tsunami waves traveling at 750 kilometers an hour hit Japan 12 hours later, causing extensive damage there.

"We must understand the physics of a solitary wave before we can understand why the computer models [such as the ones the media based their graphics on] are not completely right," he said.

The fact that Phuket got a tsunami "wave train" of some seven waves proved that considerable dispersion had already taken place, causing some of the solitary wave's basic components to "break out".

This was probably related to it having passed over areas of shallow water, because if a solitary wave is too big for the depth

of water, it tends to split into two – one big wave and one smaller one, he said.

Dr Oumeraci explained that researchers trying to model the propagation of the 2004 tsunami face other problems.

First, it is not known exactly what effect the vertical displacement along the fault zone had on the water above it.

Second, there were no detailed observations of how the tsunami waves propagated at the source – the best information being from satellite imagery released by NASA.

COMPLEX

Finally, modeling of such a complex phenomenon requires such massive computer resources that researchers often have to introduce assumptions that jeopardize accuracy.

In the end, Dr Oumeraci admitted he couldn't give a definitive answer as to why Chalong was inundated by the tsunami before areas that appeared to be closer to the source of the waves.

"I am regularly in touch with other people in the field, including Philip Liu, an MIT graduate now with Cornell University. Recently he admitted to me that even after studying tsunami wave modeling for more than 30 years he still finds it very tricky and difficult to understand," he said.

In the end, the morning was a success, with the high-tech *Chakratong Tongyai* performing admirably despite the 1.5-meter swells. In fact, she did better than many of the marine experts, several of whom were quite green by the time she finally returned to port.

For a more accurate graphic display of the 2004 tsunami wave propagation than those offered by the global media see www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asian_tsunami.



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Queer News

SNATCH GANG IN A STICKY SITUATION

CHALONG: Over the years there have been several demonstrations in Patong by bar owners opposed to early closing times.

Among the arguments most commonly proffered by the bar owners as to why they should be allowed to remain open later is that Patong is a lure to free-spending foreign tourists who want to revel late into the night. It is not a place where one finds the impressionable and delicate Thai youngsters the Thaksin government has tried so hard to protect with its social engineering campaigns – so goes the argument.

The recent arrest of three glue-sniffing, bag-snatching delinquents may weaken that argument, however.

At around 2 pm on July 31, Chalong Police led by Inspector for Crime Suppression Pol Maj Peernat Chat-Inkaew collared three youths at Kata Beach after they had snatched a bag belonging to Australian tourist Mick Sweetnam, 47, who was at the beach with his girlfriend.

Maj Peernat identified the three youths as “Arm”, 18; “Not”, 16; and “Joy”, 15 – not their real names as two of them are minors.

He said the three had rented a pink Suzuki Step motorbike from one of the many motorcycle rental agencies in Patong. Then, with Joy as the driver, Not sitting behind him and Arm at the back, the terrible trio rode around till they spotted Mr Sweetnam.

Arm got off the bike, grabbed Mr Sweetnam’s bag, and ran back to his two buddies, who were waiting for him

with the engine still running in order to make a quick getaway.

Police managed to collar the boys just 100 meters from the site of the theft, near the Club Med Resort. Recovered as evidence in the case was Mr Sweetnam’s bag, a pair of sunglasses and the rented motorbike.

The boys confessed to the theft, telling police they were part of a youth gang with about 20 members, the head of which was a 20-year-old identified as “Ton”.

The boys said they lived at a local temple by day, where they received free food and accommodation. As evening approached each day, they would huff glue then go begging or commit snatch-and-run crimes against foreign tourists, especially those enjoying a day at the beach.

When sufficiently cashed up, they would return to Patong, where they would buy the favors of beer bar hostesses and party until the money ran out.

Then they would return to the temple to get some rest until the next day, when they would wake up – and do the same thing all over again.

The temple in question, which was named in the initial report, subsequently issued a statement denying any knowledge of or involvement with the three delinquents.

The boys were fingerprinted and police are now investigating to see if they can be linked with any other of the spates of snatch-and-run crimes that periodically break out on the island.

Source: *Siang Tai*



PHUKET CITY: It may not yet rival Manila’s famed Smokey Mountain garbage dump, but this small trail behind the Rajabhat Market definitely shows promise.

The trail is reached from the road that runs from the market and leads out to Thepkasattri Rd between MM Wine and the BMW showroom.

TRASHING Phuket



The dumpsite, very close to Klong Bang Yai, comprises mostly building garbage, and it appears it is also a favorite site for burning flammable materials.



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Segway sidles in

By Jenjira Ruengjarus

It may have taken a few years for it to arrive, but the Segway – touted as “the invention of the century” during the media hype preceding its launch in 1999 – is now available on Phuket.

Bringing them to the island is Thanet Traiwut, Director of Segway Phuket Co Ltd, who now has a small stable of the personal transporters, including the smaller p133 model, the generic-use i180, the i180 Police version, the Golf Transporter (GT) and the Cross-Terrain XT model.

Launched in Phuket at the Architect & Engineering Exhibition at the Royal Phuket City Hotel last month, the Segway was initially designed for use only on sidewalks, pedestrian areas and bicycle lanes, but now certain models can also traverse sand and – within reason – other uneven terrain.

SIMPLE

Inventor Dean Kamen could barely have done a better job in making Segways easier to use. The rider simply steps onto the riding platform – the computer-controlled machine balances itself – then leans forward to go forward, back to go backward, and turns the handlebar to the right to turn right and left to turn left, with zero turning radius.

The maximum speed of each Segway is set by the 64-bit encrypted key inserted when starting the machine. The black “Beginner” key sets the lowest maximum speed for the machine, while the yellow “Intermediate” key allows faster speeds and the red “Advanced” key allows that particular Segway’s fastest maximum speed.

The smallest of the Segways on offer through K. Thanet is the p133, which is designed for use in smooth-surface pedestrian environments. Powered by two NiMH battery packs, it has a maximum speed of 16 kilometers an hour and a battery range of up to 16km. Although it weighs just 31.75 kilograms, the p133 can carry a rider weighing up to 91kg.

The larger i180 model is the one that K. Thanet expects to be the best-seller on Phuket. It is available in a range of colors, has an extended range and plenty of cargo capacity, he says. The i180 has a maximum speed of 20kph, a range of 39km and can carry a rider weighing up to 110kg. It also comes with a parking stand.

The optional factory-made color fenders – available in Mid-

night Blue, Midnight Blue/Solar Yellow and Midnight Blue/Sport Red – can add a customized look, and it shouldn’t take long for an islander to modify his or her Segway with Harley or Miss Kitty stickers, a custom paint job and leather saddle bags.

Also available is the i180 Police model, which is based on the i180 but has a higher clearance and automatically shuts down five seconds after the riders steps off it – or falls off it on a Saturday night.

The Segway Golf Transporter (GT) is also expected to sell well. It is, perhaps, the ultimate golf fashion accessory. The GT features low-pressure tires that are softer on coarse terrain than the tires on the other models. It has a scorecard holder and a beverage cooler, and a range of up to 22km on the course, or up to 35km off the course.

Although the GT is rigged to carry a fully-stocked golf bag, there is no room for the caddy, who’ll just have to break into a brisk shuffle to keep up.

Ready to take on the fossil-fuel-powered ATVs currently being used on some eco-tours is the Cross-Terrain XT. Although it has a shorter range than the other models, it has been specifically designed for off-road use. The XT features an increased-stability program and smaller, low-pressure tires for enhanced traction and a softer ride.

SIDEWALKS

K. Thanet says that a typical Phuket low-season downpour will pose no problems for the Segways, though he advises riders to avoid taking their Segways through puddles deep enough to submerge the engine or batteries. In short, avoid standard Phuket potholes in the rain.

K. Thanet also advises riders in Phuket to use sidewalks where possible, being careful to avoid colliding with pedestrians, and to use extreme caution when riding on Phuket’s roads.

K. Thanet says that if he does not have in stock the model or color required, he’ll simply place an order with the national distributor in Bangkok, who orders direct from the US.

Prices for Segways are 370,000 baht for the p133, 400,000 baht for the i180, and as much as 430,000 baht for the GT and XT models.

For more information about Segways call K. Thanet at Tel: 06-6823770 or visit <http://www.segway.com>



Thanet Traiwut demonstrates the i180 Segway, which has a range of 39 kilometers at speeds of up to 20kph.

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British gent killed then grilled

Three friends of a former bar girl admitted to killing the woman's estranged English husband, burning his body and scattering his charred remains around Kaeng Krachan National Park on the Thai-Burma border.

The victim, 41-year-old Toby Charnaud, sold his farm in England after falling in love with Pannada Charnaud (formerly Laoruang), whom he met in a Bangkok bar. The couple moved to Hua Hin, where they ran two bars.

After Charnaud took Pannada home to visit his parents in Britain, the marriage began to fall apart. Citing her gambling debts, Charnaud finally divorced Pannada and gave her a 777,000 baht settlement. They shared custody of their five-year-old son.

In April last year, Pannada, 35, reported Charnaud missing to police. But later in court she admitted that she had lied, testifying that on March 27, 2005, she helped five relatives and friends from her home province of Yasothorn dispose of Charnaud's body.

However she denied premeditated murder and being an accomplice to murder, saying that she had been at the market when the murder took place, and came back to find her ex-husband already dead.

Three suspects, Boontin

Puipong, Sattri Sripatum and Nipit Satabut, admitted murdering Charnaud, saying they were provoked because he interrupted them while they were drinking whisky.

On the day of the murder, Charnaud had arrived to visit his five-year-old son Daniel, Phetchaburi Provincial Court was told.

At first the relatives and friends of Pannada tried to kill him with a long-barreled hunting musket. But it misfired, so they clubbed him to death with an iron bar and wooden staves.

A private eye hired by Charnaud's family checked mobile-phone records and discovered that Charnaud had been at his ex-wife's house on the day he was reported to have disappeared.

When police raided the house, two of the defendants promptly confessed and led police to where the body parts had been dumped.

The case was adjourned for a judgment on September 6.

No laughing matter: The Night Safari Zoo in Chiang Mai denied an allegation by wildlife activist Nikom Putta of the Northern Wildlife Protection Foundation that two hyenas had escaped and that the zoo was offering a 20,000-baht reward for their safe return.

Supoj Methapiwat, Director



Miss Universe 2005, Natalie Glebova from Canada, signs a book of get-well wishes for HM The King, who is recovering from spine surgery. She wrote, 'Long live the King in good health and well-being.'

of the zoo's Animal Management Division, said the only animal to have escaped was a "harmless" grey wolf that fled about a month ago and has still not been found.

K. Nikom claimed that villagers found one hyena in a garbage pit while but that the other was still at large.

"This is not the first time flesh-eating animals have broken loose from the zoo. Previously, a tiger escaped. They are very dangerous to us," he said.

K. Supoj denied that any dangerous animals had ever broken out of the zoo. The animal captured by villagers was not a hyena but a wild fox, which had not escaped from the zoo, he said.

He also denied ever offering a 20,000-baht reward.

Trick or treat: A two-year-old girl was rushed to hospital with a lollipop lodged in her throat. Bits of wiring that could have come from an illuminated handle attached to the sweet were found in her stomach.

It was suspected by health officials that the lollipop, with a handle that lights up, was illegally imported from China.

Amnuay Boontin and his wife Waranya discovered the lollipop lodged in their daughter

Nathanont's throat when she started to have difficulty breathing. Doctors at Lang Suan Hospital in Chumphon were able to remove the lollipop, but, after taking X-rays of her stomach as a precaution, were stunned to find two pieces of metal – one resembling an electric light filament and another resembling a paper clip.

Health officials said a similar lollipop given to them by the parents was not registered with the Food and Drug Administration.

Nurses lack proper protection:

Healthcare workers are worse affected by disease and injuries related to their jobs than first thought, Dr Adul Bandhukul told the Department of Medical Services annual academic conference in Bangkok.

Among the most common health threats to nurses were needle-stick injuries, problems linked to sleep deprivation, and mental problems.

Health workers have long been concerned about needle-stick injuries, which can lead to them contracting diseases such as HIV and hepatitis, but there has never been a mechanism to report or log the statistics of this type of accident, he said.

Dr Adul, who heads Nopparatrachathani Hospital's Occupational and Environmental Medicine Center, said a study at the hospital found the number of needle-stick cases reported had risen dramatically in recent years.

"Four years ago there was only one case of needle-stick injury ever reported at the hospital, but after an education program to raise awareness of reporting, the number rose to 20 cases last year," he said.

Dairy blessings: Caretaker Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra told a seminar of 3,000 farmers at Kasetsart University's Kamphaengsaen Campus that the government would solve the problem of high production costs for cows' milk.

Thaksin told the group he would assign the Agriculture Ministry and Kasetsart University to find ways for them to produce more high-quality milk at a lower cost, possibly by establishing community milk powder factories, he said.

Many of the farmers said they could no longer sell their milk at the ceiling price of 12.50 baht per kilogram set by the government in 1998, because production costs had risen from about 9 baht a kilo at that time to 11.60 baht, according to a study published in January.

Thaksin said his government had been trying to help farmers stand on their own feet and improve their standard of living, but that its efforts had been distorted by critics who allege he spends public money to please farmers and poor people in order to win votes.

Sludgy solution: Siam Cement Plc (SCC) is banking on new technology to produce "coal water" to be sold to industrial plants as a cheap replacement for bunker oil.

The company has invested 50 million baht to build its production plant, which will use a new process to turn coal into coal water, a liquid fuel 50% cheaper than bunker oil.

SCC, which expects to begin commercial operations at the plant within a year, aims to start by supplying coal water to its own industrial plants, where boilers are currently fueled by bunker oil.

Under the project, 70% crushed coal will be mixed with 30% water together with an additive that turns the mixture into a sludge. The sludge can then be used to replace bunker oil, with which industrial plants fuel their boilers.

It is estimated that using the fuel will reduce energy costs by 30% compared with the use of bunker oil. In 2005, Thailand consumed 6 billion liters of bunker oil costing 80 billion baht.

"Coal is cheaper than bunker oil, the price of which has escalated in line with crude oil prices," said SCC President Kan Trakulhoon.

Around the Nation is taken from the columns of The Nation and Kom Chad Luek newspapers

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Will foreign-financed projects like this become a thing of the past?

Generous aid donors

I have returned from a round-the-world fund-raising trip for tsunami children and it certainly knocked me out physically. Sixteen presentations in nine cities in only three weeks is a heavy schedule for an old fart like me. I think next time I will slow the pace a bit.

People's reactions to the presentations of the long-term relief programs being run by the Sriphong Phukaoluan Foundation (see www.krabirelief.com) were very positive and they were generous with their wallets. Even after 18 months and numerous other disasters around the globe, people still showed compassion for those who lost so much to the tsunami.

Especially generous was the Kudos Film and Television Co, who recently wrapped up filming of their tsunami mini-series *Aftermath* here in Thailand. I visited them in London and, true to their word, they made a substantial donation to the foundation's programs here in Krabi. A big thank you to Kudos and all the other generous sponsors of the foundation.



ACROSS THE BAY

By Gus Reynolds

Landlocked: It seems the land-ownership laws for foreigners have been tightened while I was away. As most of people already know, foreigners may not hold freehold land titles in Thailand.

In the past, many an expat had land registered in his Thai wife's name. Those with less faith in their partners (or more common sense?), had the wife or girlfriend register the land in her name and then write a long-term lease to ensure that the lord could live in his manor.

But many foreigners, especially those buying high-end properties, wanted to feel that they really "owned" the property. They achieved this by forming a company with the shares being 51% Thai held and 49% foreign held.

The Thais were usually silent partners who invested no capital. In this way, the company could buy land as a Thai majority-owned firm. Many legitimate developers used this route to buy land and build property developments and wealthy foreigners formed shell companies to secure their million-dollar dream homes.

It seems the authorities in Bangkok have decided to put an end to this investment vehicle, and are now scrutinizing any purchases of land by companies with foreign shareholders.

The company can buy land only if the Thai partners can show that they are wealthy enough to have paid for their shares in the company.

In 12 years of living here, I haven't seen a single case in which Thai "partners" paid anything. So how will this affect local development?

Vichavin Wichaidit, Director of Krabi Consultants, the area's largest real estate broker, says, "For most foreigners buying a retirement home, or married to a Thai partner, there will be little impact. The bigger problem is for foreign developers; they will find it more difficult to protect any new investments they make."

And what will happen if the authorities decide to put 100% Thai-owned companies under the microscope? Can all those shareholders prove that they bought their shares when the company was formed? Probably not. Maybe before the authorities start investigating the small two-million-baht companies, they should start looking right at the top.

Chronic behavior: Well, we are in the depths of the low season, a time when business owners make repairs, take vacations and complain about staff who can't get motivated. It is also the time when many expats get bored and griping reaches fever pitch.

I asked a few local foreign residents what they are doing with their free time in this low season.

The answers were as follows:

- I don't know. (Nothing like planning.)
- Get ready for next high season. (There's a go-getter.)
- Read a few books. (an intellectual in our midst?)
- Travel. (Good idea to refresh one's perspective.)
- I don't have any free time. (I'd hate to see you in the high season.)
- Depends on my wife's mood. (I'm not touching that one.)
- Drink a lot. (An honest man.)

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A truck driver's traveling companion was killed after being hit in the head by a half-kilogram rock thrown through the windshield of the 10-wheel truck in which he was riding on the Asian Highway in Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

The tragedy occurred in the early hours of July 29 as the driver's mate, Suraphon Keowlamyai, 48, from Samut Songkhram Province, was sleeping in the passenger seat.

Truck driver Natawut Sawatmongkol, 45, also from Samut Songkhram, told police that as he was driving through Thung Song District in Nakhon Sri Thammarat, he saw a youth on a motorcycle driving towards them on the wrong side of the road.

The youth suddenly hurled a rock, which smashed through the truck's windshield, hitting K. Suraphon in the face.

Seeing his friend bleeding, K. Natawut rushed without stopping to Thung Song Hospital, where K. Suraphon was pronounced dead on arrival.

K. Natawut told reporters that he had been warned by other truck drivers that such attacks were common along the stretch of the Asian Highway where the attack took place, but that this was the first case in which a person had been killed. Police investigating the attack said they suspected that a member of a local youth gang was responsible.

Deadly detox: A recovering drug addict shot dead his mother, father and elder brother in his family's home in Yala's Betong District on July 30.

Moments before the shooting, the victims had been trying to encourage former *ya bah* (methamphetamine) addict, Monthon Chairat, 38, to stop drinking and get a job.

Rather than comply, Monthon flew into a wild rage. He rushed upstairs, grabbed a shot-

Man in truck killed by rock-throwing biker

gun and came back down, opening fire on his family.

When police arrived at the house, they found Monthon standing outside in a disturbed state, still clutching the shotgun. Police surrounded him, attempting to calm him down.

When Monthon came to his senses and realized what he had done, he rushed back into the house. There he found his father, Bunchoo Chairat, already dead. His mother Yuphin and brother Sukhet, both lying in pools of their own blood from shotgun wounds to the stomach. They were rushed to Betong Hospital, but doctors were unable to save them.

Monthon was arrested on multiple murder charges.

Neighbors of the family reported that Monthon had moved back into the family home to try and recover from his addiction to *ya bah*.

During his recovery, however, Monthon simply traded one addiction for another. He began drinking heavily and when drunk frequently argued with family members. On the day of the shootings, his family confronted him to try and work out a solution to his problems, but this only resulted in another violent argument – and their own deaths.

Cool for cats: A pair of extremely rare flat-headed cats have given birth at Songkhla Zoo, the first time in more than 20 years that any of the endangered cats have given birth in captivity.

The zoo's newest member, a male just over a month old, will be named by local students. Studies will be conducted on the cats to try and repeat the feat in the future.



A policeman points to where the rock smashed the truck's windshield, hitting and killing Suraphon Keowlamyai.

The parent cats were caught in Narathiwat's Sungai Padee District by villagers who were unsure if the felines were some kind of cat or tiger and therefore donated them to the zoo.

After identifying the animals, keepers at the zoo set up an enclosure to recreate the animals' natural habitat as closely as possible. Flat-headed cats are reportedly worth millions of baht on the black market.

Dengue danger: Authorities in Songkhla Town have launched a campaign to prevent dengue fe-

ver, also known as breakbone fever, after the incidence of the disease in the city was found to be increasing.

Together with officers from the Public Health Department, Songkhla Town Mayor Uthit Chuachay announced a campaign to fight the spread of the disease in the town's 32 communities.

The campaign came after 100 cases of the disease were reported so far this year, leading officials to fear that the number of cases will continue to rise throughout the year. The campaign will involve spraying insecticide in houses and public

places, such as schools and temples.

Dr Sanphong Reutiraksa of the Songkhla Provincial Public Health Office said that there had been 343 reported cases of dengue fever in the province so far this year. Haad Yai District had the most reported cases, 117.

Public health officers in all districts have been instructed to initiate projects to eradicate mosquito larvae, and hospitals have been ordered to be on the alert for the disease, he added.

Headhunters: A former *Phu Yai Baan* (village headman) in Sadao District, Songkhla, was murdered by a gang of men as his wife looked on.

Just after midnight on July 30, Prawit Phetyot, 67, and his wife Lah Khlainoo were pulling into their driveway. As the couple got out of the car, they were set upon by a group of four men who had been hiding in a dark corner.

Grabbing K. Lah, the men beat her husband senseless. They then tied the hands and feet of their victims before blindfolding K. Prawit and throwing him, still alive, into the pond in front of the house, where he drowned.

The gang then tied K. Lah to a pillar inside the couple's home before driving off in their victim's pickup truck, taking with them a shotgun that belonged to K. Prawit. The pickup was later discovered abandoned in a rubber plantation.

Pol Col Ekapop Prasittiwat-anachai, Superintendent of Sadao District Police Station, said that from investigations and forensic evidence collected at the scene, police have a good idea of the identities of the four men.

Police are now working on gathering enough evidence to apply for arrest warrants, he said.

The motive for the killing was a personal dispute and the perpetrators had taken K. Prawit's truck to make the killing look like a robbery, he added.

Recovering *ya bah* (methamphetamine) addict Monthon Chairat is dragged away from the scene after shooting his mother, father and elder brother.



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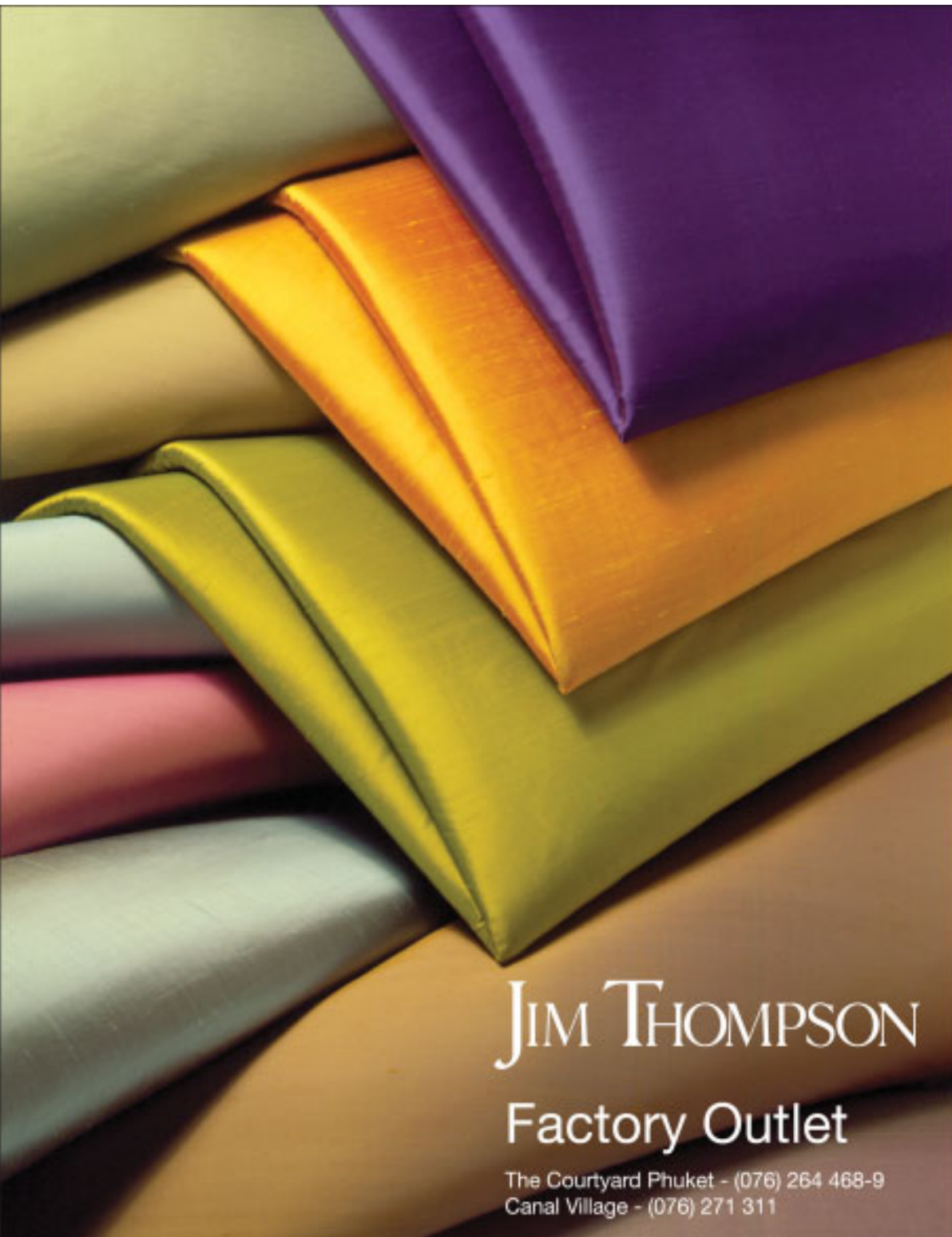
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AFRICAN ACCENT

By Dominic Earnshaw

Tucked just off the beach road in Patong, the Port Restaurant, part of the Ban Thai Resort, is far enough from the beach road to avoid the traffic noise and squads of tailors' touts, while still giving views of the beach.

At night the open-air restaurant takes on a bar atmosphere with a dance floor and house bands, and diners comprising a varied group of hotel guests and people who have been attracted off the street by the music. Many nationalities are represented; various European languages can be heard as well as Korean, Japanese and Arabic.

Part of the attraction for guests is one of the Ban Thai's two resident bands, Jambo Survivors from Tanzania – an unusual choice for Thailand, perhaps, as African music has yet to make inroads into the South-east Asian market.

First up, though, is the long-standing house band Manila Machine, ripping into note-perfect covers of classic Western rock and modern pop songs. The bands perform alternating sets until 1:30 am.

After half an hour or so, enough time for some cocktails and beers to be sunk, a few brave souls take to the dance floor.

The few are joined by a few more as the band launches into an enthusiastic version of Bryan Adams' *Summer of '69*, and a group of slightly-worse-for-beer Russian youths can't resist dragging each other onto the floor for a jig.

During the performance, the revolving-platform stage swivels to give the crowd a good view of the band. This is a little disconcerting at first and encourages a closer examination of that first Long Island Iced Tea.

After Manila Machine departs for a break and the dance floor clears, four-piece band Jambo Survivors step up. Surprisingly, instead of opening their set with African beats, they opt for ABBA's *I Have A Dream*, albeit with boosted bongos.

Jambo Survivors' male and



Jambo Survivors' lead vocalist Amina Stambuli greets a young admirer at the Port Restaurant.

female vocalists give the band the versatility to cover a range of numbers, including the lively Latin tunes that follow, one of the band's specialties.

Next is some reggae, starting with a rather ambitious reworking of The Bangles' 1989 hit *Eternal Flame*. They continue in this vein, mixing reggae with Latin and the odd resort classic such as *Quanta La Mera*, and a couple of Lionel Ritchie numbers.

Popular with the children present is a rendition of Bobby McFerrin's *Don't Worry, Be Happy*, complete with wide smiles for the length of the song.

Unfortunately, by the time the band moves on to classic

reggae tracks by the likes of Bob Marley and Third World, although many people are nodding their heads to the music, no one can summon up the courage or energy to go for a "skank" on the dance floor.

Even the previously-enthusiastic Russians look as if they have spent all their energy on Bryan Adams.

The Jambo Survivors continue with their repertoire. Few songs, however, are immediately

recognizable as African, apart from a couple of hits from the *Lion King* soundtrack.

Lead vocalist Burman Adinan Hemed assures me that they try to mix a more African vibe into their music, and this they do in the last set.

He explains that the band is trying to bring something different to the resort music scene, and Jambo Survivors are certainly a refreshing change from the generic *Hotel California* rock and

pop that is standard in most large hotels.

He adds that he would be very keen to hear from any Thai musicians interested in collaborating with the band.

The Port Restaurant serves Western and Asian food and also has an extensive drinks list. It is open daily from 11 am to 1:30 am. For more information call Tel: 076-340850 or visit www.banthaiphuket.com

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In praise of mothers

To mark this year's Mother's Day, celebrated in Thailand on HM Queen Sirikit's birthday – August 12, the *Gazette* asked the children of some well-known Phuket moms to tell us about their mothers.



Urairat Atiset with daughters Chanadda (left) and Nantida, and son Ongard.

Mother: Urairat Atiset, 56, Assistant President, Kata Thani Hotel

Daughter: Chanadda "Ann" Atiset, 27, Chief Financial Officer of Kata Thani Hotel.

As far back as I can remember, mama has never had time to think about herself. My sister, brother and I were always her first priority.

We know that everything she does is for us. Ever since we were young, she has always

taken care of us – and she continues to do so now. She is always happy when we are successful, and never complains if we fail – always encouraging us to move on and try to improve ourselves.

Because of her support, we feel we can always move ahead because, no matter what happens, she is always there for us.

There aren't enough words in the world to describe the love my mama gives to us. We are very blessed to have her as our mama. Love you."



Wipa and Sophana Tanmanatragul.

Mother: Wipa Tanmanatragul, 55, Manager of the upmarket Phuket Rising Sun housing estate.

Daughter: Sophana Tanmanatragul, 20, student at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok.

Why is my mom a good mom? There are so many good reasons that I could go on for days. But I won't do that.

Apart from all the things she has done for me, she also gives me moral support at times when something is bothering me. She always encourages me to take part in activities that will benefit me, but never pushes me to a point that would make me feel uncomfortable.

She raised me to be who I am today – happy and independent. I am so grateful and proud to have her as my mother and I hope that she is happy and proud to have me too. I love you mommy, Happy Mother's Day!

Mother: Khunying Kanchana Na-Ranong, 84, former "Mother of the Year" in Phuket.

Daughter: Wipapun Kusuwan, 58, President of the Professional Businesswomen's Association of Phuket, Deputy Chairwoman of the Thai Red Cross Society, Phuket Branch



She is a great mom and a wonderful role model for her children, especially the way she encourages us to give back to society. She always taught us that, living in society, we must have respect for each other and help one another sincerely.

When I follow my mom's teaching and the example she sets for us, I find life is good and everything turns out successfully.

On the occasion of this Mother's Day I want to hug her and tell her, "I love you so much, mom." I wish for the Buddha to bring her good health always, and cool, shady paths to walk along.

Mother: Ajarn Pranee Sakulpipatana, 59, Assistant Professor, Phuket Rajabhat University.

Daughter: Dr Piyanat Sakulpipatana, 33, doctor at Vachira Phuket Hospital, who also has a private acupuncture clinic.



Pranee Sakulpipatana and daughter Piyanat.

My mom has been a very busy woman ever since I was young, working as an English teacher and as the owner of a boutique. My mom can remember lots of my friends, my brother's friends and our teachers. She also knows some of their parents. I don't know how, but she seems to know almost all Phuket's local people. Thanks to all those spies, I have no doubt that she usually knows what we are up to when we are out of her sight!

My mom always praises others and inspires them to be successful. She has taught me to be a positive person. She is a great mom.

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Cindy and Claire Ratcliffe.

Mother: Cynthia (Cindy) Ratcliffe, MBE, 60, President of the Phuket International Women's Club (PIWC).

Daughter: Claire Ratcliffe, 32, Marketing Manager of Coral Seekers, which runs snorkeling trips and speedboat charters.

Why is my mum such a great mum? My mum, the unassuming rocket scientist, knows absolutely everything, from the smallest things – like how to get a stain out of clothing – to the more unusual questions, like ‘what was a piano called before it was called a piano?’ She knows these things. Any questions I have, I can always count on my mum to know the answer.

She is always doing something, whether it's teaching a fitness class (even in her 60s!), going to schools to give out scholarships, meetings with the PIWC, working on a bit of business, voluntarily teaching English or cooking a great meal. It's great to be around such a vibrant person.

She is also a brilliant grandmother to my son, Jack. He loves visiting her. I think I am lucky to have my son grow up with such a special person and I am sure that they will both enjoy a close relationship.

Mother: Suwalai Pinpradab, Director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand Region 4 Office in Phuket

Son: Boriwat Pinpradab, 25. Employee of the Boston Consulting Group

My mom is the heart and soul of the family. As far back as I can remember, she has always been there for us, despite her hectic work life. She is a dedicated and passionate worker and also the kindest and most loving of parents.

I sincerely believe that there is no job more important than parenting and my mom filled that role splendidly and gracefully. Without her intellectual insights and guidance, I would not be where I am today.

She believed in providing my brother and I with the best education possible, including sending us to a private school.

My mother's love and devotion to Phuket is almost impossible to describe. She goes out seven days a week with one simple goal: to improve Phuket.

I look up to my mother as my role model; a dedicated mother with a very warm heart. I am proud and fortunate to have her as my mother.



Suwalai Pinpradab with sons Boriwat (left) and Siwat.

Mother: Dawn DelVecchio, 41, Associate Editor, *Asia-Pacific Tropical Homes Magazine*, ArtAsia Press.

Son: Zac DelVecchio, 22, Quality Controller, Richmond Group.

Mom has always been there for me, even when I didn't want her there. That's quite alright though, as I am learning as I get older. As a kid I was trouble – same as most – and didn't appreciate what was being done for me at the time.

But now my mom really is a great support to me. She helps me with my problems and I reciprocate. It's getting to the point that we are now more like brother and sister than mother and son. I like that.

My mom is a really cool woman who has loved me unconditionally and taken care of me in any way she could for as long as I can remember.

Though I haven't always appreciated it, I do now and it really makes me happy that I have someone I know will always be there for me. Love ya, Mom!



Dawn and Zac DelVecchio.

Facts about dental implants

On August 30th, Promjai Dental Clinic is organizing a two-hour special public information session and multi-media presentation on three aspects of modern dentistry.

To be held at the Royal Phuket City Hotel starting at 1 pm, the session will be moderated by Promjai Dental Clinic's Managing Director, Dr. Achara Pandaeng, DDS (Chulalongkorn University, 1985).

The session will be divided into three main topics: dental implants; the revolutionary BriteSmile® teeth whitening system; and cosmetic dentistry.

Each of the sessions will include a multimedia presentation of 15-20 minutes, followed by a panel discussion led by visiting specialists from Promjai Clinic's headquarters in Bangkok.

The first topic, dental implants, will be presented by team of foreign-trained specialists, including a leading Thai oral maxillofacial surgeon and a prosthodontist, with board accreditation from such countries as the Germany and the US.

In short, dental implants are immovable posts that are placed, or “implanted” in the jawbone to create a solid

foundation to which replacement teeth or bridgework can be affixed – just like the function of our natural tooth roots.

Dental implants may be the answer if you are looking for an attractive, comfortable – and permanent – replacement for missing teeth. The team will explain – in laymen's terms – the basics of dental implants and who can benefit from them.

The will also outline the great advances in implant technology in recent years, such as the use of titanium screws and the ability, in some cases, to replace a root immediately after an extraction.

The doctor will also explain how implants can help stabilize the jawbone and prevent further damage from resorption, much in the same way that the roots of healthy trees help to stabilize soil in the forest.

Other commonly asked questions the doctor will answer in detail and using a series of before, during and after photos include:

- IS THERE DISCOMFORT INVOLVED?
- HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?
- IS THERE A CHANCE OF REJECTION?
- WHO IS A CANDIDATE FOR IMPLANTS?
- WHAT WILL HAPPEN WITHOUT TREATMENT?

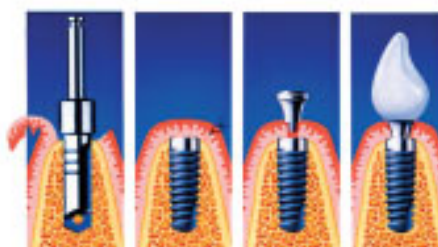
Following the session there will be a cocktail reception in an adjacent room, with models of some common implant procedures on public display.

The session is open to all those wishing to attend, but Promjai Dental Clinic asks that those interested reserve a seat in advance by contacting Khun Ladawan at Tel: 076-345341-2 or 01-6372669.

Website: www.promjaidental.com

4 steps of Implantation

Missing teeth can be replaced with dental implants. If any of your teeth are missing, dental implants using the latest technology may be the best option for you.



This week



MALAY PARLEZ: (From left) Abdul Halim Saruji, Tourism Malaysia's Regional Director – Asean II; Parichat Utintu, Editor of the *Phuket Gazette*; and Datin Dalilah, Tourism Malaysia's Deputy Director – General II; and members of the Thai press enjoy a recent familiarization trip to Kuala Lumpur.



TRANSIT LOUNGE: Kata Group Managing Director Pamuke Atchariyachai (left), Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwannasupana (2nd from left), Phuket Vice-Governor Niran Kanlayanamit (center) and Kata Thani Resort & Spa owner Sombat Atiset (right) take time out during a tour of the soon-to-open Suvarnabhumi International Airport in Bangkok after the inaugural flight from Phuket on July 29.



MANY HAPPY RETURNS: Australian Richard Wilson and his wife (left), who have vacationed at Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort every year since 1989, enjoy a cocktail party on July 28 with other Meridien guests aboard *Margaret Lee*, a 65-foot wooden cruiser built 74 years ago as a British Royal Air Force rescue vessel. The *Margaret Lee* was in Phuket after being invited by Tom Howard to join the celebrations marking his boat *Seraph* turning 100 years old.



BEAUTY IN-CAR-NATE: (from left) Naput lamdelert, winner of the Honda City ZX Contest beauty pageant, second runner-up Saranya Ritthi and runner-up Apeesada Pattharapakon pose for a photo during the Honda car show at the Honda Phuket Showroom on Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City, on July 29.



TRUE BLUE DO: At an "Aussie Taste Treat" dinner to celebrate the first anniversary of the opening of Chandara Resort & Spa at Ao Por are Managing Director Prasert Isvaraphonchai (seated) and his wife K. Sunathee, with (rear, from left) Chef Robert Lambert, General Manager John Gill and shareholders Prateep Worakunthada and Dennis Choo.



CARE TO SHARE: Life Home Project (LHP) Director Jose Gay (seated, in red shirt) on July 25 staged a video exhibition of works by renowned photographers Elisabeth Opalink and John Paul Caponigro at the House of the Beautiful Images in Soi Rommanee, Phuket City. Enjoying the display with him are local photographer Lee Beeley (seated, in blue shirt), LHP volunteer Toni Alzamora (standing, in white shirt), and friends.



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TALES OF A TRAVELER

By Ed Peters

Here – in a few brief words – is the recent history of Vietnam's premier beach resort, Nha Trang. Cue opening shots of plump French colonials disporting themselves in the waves, to be replaced by Vietnamese officials, who give way to Communist *apparatchiks*, who in turn are shouldered aside by Russian advisers.

Basically, anybody with a finger on the handle of power in the country has been coming to Nha Trang for the past 80 years or so, for reasons that should rapidly become obvious.

Apart from two stellar hotels, of which more in a moment, Nha Trang has changed little in recent decades.

North of the Xom Bong bridge, the Po Nagar Cham Towers, built a millennium back on what had been a Hindu site of worship, still draw their daily quota of Buddhist worshippers. Catholics flock to mass at the Gothic cathedral just behind the railway station.

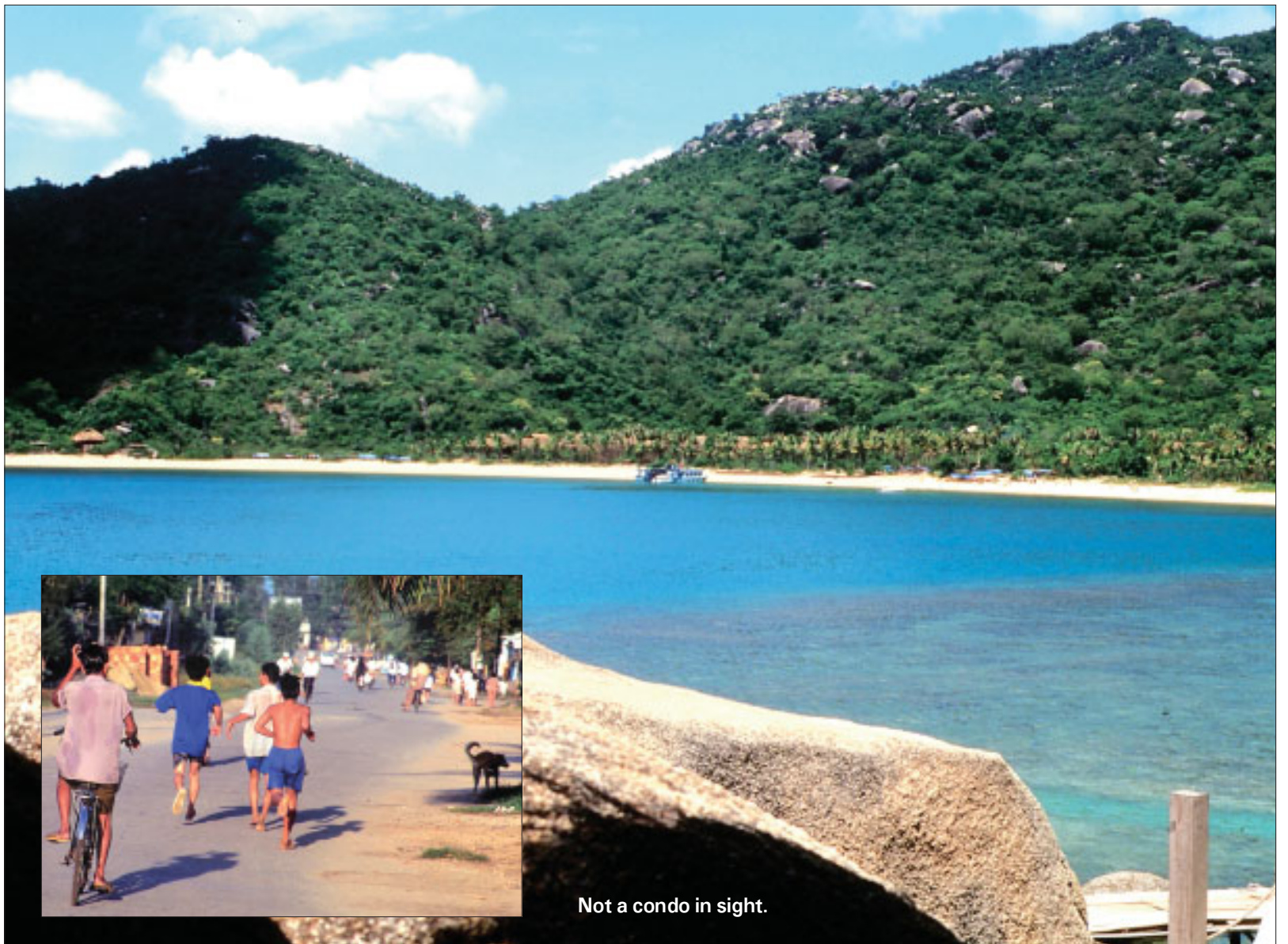
But one place that just about everybody visits, regardless of their religious adherence, is Nha Trang's six-kilometer-long beach.

From the moment the sun's rays spread over the South China Sea, the strand comes alive with a mini-Olympics.

Loudspeakers warble happy-wanderer-style tunes while what seems to be the entire population sets to games of volleyball, badminton, soccer, catch and tag.

Tai Chi practitioners perform their own graceful ballet, while nearby a small group is dancing, joggers sweat past, swimmers cast themselves into the waves, and there's a squad desperately doing push-ups, sit-ups and pull-ups by a raggle-taggle outdoor gym.

Best of all, everyone – grannies and toddlers, families and couples, packs of kids and gangs of teenagers – seems to



Not a condo in sight.

The power of Nha Trang

be loving every minute of it, and at this time of day there's barely a tourist in sight.

By 8 am or so, perhaps the mayor waves a magic wand, and the whole lot disappear at a stroke, and the beach is left to foreign visitors who indulge in the quaint custom of sunbathing, with only occasional disturbance from itinerant salesmen.

Out to sea, fishermen bob in coracles, and an occasional cargo boat crosses the horizon.

There are not more than a couple of beach bars in Nha Trang, very little in the way of retail therapy, and the grisly icons of international fast food chains have yet to raise their ugly logos.

Nha Trang is Nha Trang, genuinely Vietnamese with hardly a shred of outside influence.

Nha Trang is immensely popular with Vietnamese from other parts of the country, who view it rather as the English do Bournemouth or the Americans

Coney Island. They're accommodated in strangely archaic blocks, with a lot of plate glass at ground level and faucets that work intermittently in the upper stories.

Anyone with any sense, and a modicum of cash, heads for either the Ana Mandara on the main beach, or the Evason Hideaway at Ninh Van Bay (both cousins of the Evason in Rawai).

These are the sole representatives of the international hotel

scene and both are blissfully serene and luxurious.

In time, perhaps other hotels are going to be built here, and Nha Trang might try and imitate Patong.

But for the moment the resort remains utterly authentic, and nobody who has witnessed its citizenry's early morning seaside highjinks can ever recall Nha Trang without experiencing at least a momentary twinge of affection.

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By Janyaporn Morel

Making the body more healthy by tackling toxins

Deborah Williamson, originally from the UK, has been in Phuket for eight months and has moved fast to establish Puriti, providing products and programs for those who want to take greater control of their lives by cleaning out their internal organs and changing their lifestyle.

"We have been working with an 85-year-old Chinese herbalist in Phuket City, studying the Thai herbs that boost health.

"The company uses all organic herbs and coconut oil, which we get from a farm near Bangkok," Deborah added.

Puriti runs month-long purification programs aimed at giving the inside of the body, especially the digestive system, a thorough clean-out.

"The products themselves are just a small part of the program because the program involves a special diet that we call 'eco-diet', comprising raw food and shakes," Deborah explained.

ABSORPTION

"We use a lot of vegetable juices because, when you are in a low state of health, they are easier for the body to assimilate than everyday food."

She added that many people's digestive tracts are too narrow, so they cannot absorb nutrients effectively.

"If you have juices and vegetables, it allows the body to take in more vitamins and minerals. Papaya is very good for the digestive system and cucumber is good as it is very cooling for the system. *Somtam* is also beneficial, though you should not have shrimp or fish sauce with it.

"Most important is fresh coconut juice. We recommend that people doing the program drink the juice of at least three coconuts every day. The coconut juice puts electrolytes back into the body. When you are dehydrated

or stressed or exhausted, the body craves electrolytes," she said.

There are four programs available and Puriti has a "vitality assessment" to indicate which program is suitable for each particular person. Each program has four separate stages, each taking up to a week.

"The first week, we recommend that people on our course eat only raw food. It's challenging, but most people stick to it because they care about their health and want to make a difference," she said.

"The second week we gently ease them into a solid-free diet, because this gives their body time to start healing.

"As soon as you eat, everything rushes towards your stomach and your body has to work to digest the food. This saps all your energy; that's why sometimes after a big meal you feel tired. So participants ingest only

juice for the second week.

Now comes the rather more pro-active part of the treatment.

"For the third week we combine a complete fast with colonic hydrotherapy.

"[For the colonic hydrotherapy] we put a pipe up your bottom. The first colonic will be

Nowadays it is not uncommon to hear people complaining about how the demands of work or home life or both are getting them down and making them feel worn out all the time.

A traditional remedy to this would perhaps involve going on holiday, eating a balanced diet, taking more exercise and cutting back on the drink and smokes. Puriti, a new company on Phuket, takes a different, more radical approach, however, basing its work on the theory that toxin build-ups in the body are responsible for making us feel under the weather, and also, in the long run, causing premature aging and chronic diseases.

To combat this, the company's founders, Deborah Williamson and Nadine Oliver, have devised a number of "Puriti Programs" which, as the website puts it, "...are designed to assist and maintain your body in its purification, rejuvenation, metabolism and longevity."


pure water for washing out. Then we use garlic, because garlic is an antibacterial and also kills parasites.

"We also use coconut oil and coconut juice, they are both excellent for colonics because they have the same pH as our body fluids and have the same chemi-

cal make-up as mothers' milk," Deborah claimed.

"The fourth week is about reintroducing food. In that week there are a few trials and errors. You may have a bowl of rice and not feel good afterward. That's because the carbohydrates are not necessarily good for your

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The radical approach: Nadine Oliver (left) and Deborah Williamson of Puriti.



body. Then you work out a regime that's good for you. The final week is about how to maintain a healthy lifestyle," she continued.

She said that after she had introduced the program to many of her close friends, she was surprised by how many men were interested in it.

"We thought it would be mainly women, because we [women] care a little bit more about our weight and how we look. My husband is the one who talks to men about the program."

Unfortunately not everyone can come to Thailand for a month, so Puriti has also devised a program that fits into a week.

"It's a condensed version of the one-month program. Customers should have only raw food for the three days before they arrive for the course."

"They then have two more days of raw food, then juices, then on the final two days they enter the fast period when they are allowed only coconut products and basil seed to add bulk," Deborah said.

The course can be undertaken at any of a number of hotels around the island. The Puriti products needed for the one-week program come in a box set and are to be sold in those hotels.

"During the seven days, participants will have a structured program. They will have to exercise and do yoga in the hotel facilities."

"Each morning they will have burdock and wheatgrass. These cleanse the bloodstream and make you go to the toilet a lot. They also have to drink 12 to 18 bottles of water a day to flush the toxins out," she added.

Getting healthy doesn't come easily, however.

"During the first four days of the course, participants feel unwell. It's a difficult time; they can feel very emotional, very sad, they have a lot of dreams from their past, because our emotions are held on a cellular level; as soon as you start moving things about the body, all these emotions start welling up."

"Once you start having the colonic, it all changes. The body feels light. Most people of a certain age have 25 years' worth of waste in the guts. There are a lot of parasites as well," Deborah explained. "We believe in preventive medicine; you shouldn't go to the doctor only when you're ill – that's too late. People can do a one-week program and educate themselves on exercise and what to eat. We will show them how to prepare raw food and dressings that go well with the food and we will show them how to make smoothies."

"We give them information on what each food actually does

to the body. For example eating an apple a day: it's so powerful, it's unbelievable. If you do everything right then the body will remain healthy."

"The program will be available for purchase over the Internet from October. In hotels, it may take a little bit longer to set up because there are a lot of legal matters that need to be dealt with."

"We also have to train the nurses and provide the machines and the products. It's a detailed program and we want everything to be perfect. We will work with hotels because they have full services such as spa therapy. We will also work with hospitals, too," Deborah said.

"If we are clean and healthy on the inside, then we will be ready to control ourselves and our temper," she concluded.

For more information contact Deborah Williamson at Tel: 05-7829019 or Nadine Oliver at Tel: 04-8375297, or visit the website at www.puriti.org

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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: 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: Mother's Day at The Mangosteen.

Option 1: Enjoy a romantic dinner at The Mangosteen Restaurant for only 1,200 baht per person, and 600 baht for children.

Option 2: Don't like to drive home? Stay at the resort overnight for only 3,600 baht extra (Mother's Day dinner for 2 plus Jacuzzi villa for only 6,000 baht).

Option 3: Don't wake up early? Sleep as long as you like and enjoy our sumptuous Sunday Brunch. Includes Options 1 and 2 for two people for only 7,500 baht.

For reservations call Tel: 076-289399 or email reservation @mangosteen-phuket.com

August 12: Cherng Talay mini-marathon.

The Cherng Talay Municipi-

ality will hold a 3.5-kilometer fun run and a 13-km mini-marathon.

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 25: Belgium's top chef at The Mangosteen.

A very special culinary Friday evening at The Mangosteen Restaurant with Eddie van Maele, Belgium's best chef. A highlight for true gourmets in Phuket.

Only 24 seats available, so book early. Contact The Mangosteen for more information or to reserve your table now.

Contact Christophe Lopez at Tel: 076-289399 or by email to: info@mangosteen-phuket.com

September 16: The 7th Phuket International Beer Festival at The Watermark.

This year The Phuket International Beer Fest will take place on the opening day of Munich Oktoberfest.

The venue? Where else but Watermark Bar Restaurant at the Phuket Boat Lagoon Marina.

It is a festival designed for drinking copious quantities of the amber nectar; but to avoid it seeming like a mere slosh-up, it is loosely disguised as a competition – a competition of beer hyping, heckling, drinking and sloppy judging.

Entry fee: 800 baht covers 12 beers. To register for the competition (or just for the drinking) contact Stuart Bird at Tel: 01-7376184.

The restaurant that redefined Thai cuisine in Bangkok is now in town!

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Chef Basanti Bolanat with waitresses Sona Kisan (left) and Sunita Timsena (right).

Mixed blessings

Authentic Indian cuisine with an international heritage

Coming from a Sikh family but brought up in Hong Kong, Billy Chima was an ideal candidate to learn about different Asian cuisines. Before opening Khanasutra restaurant in Phuket City, he had run two restaurants in Hong Kong, offering combined cuisines – mainly Indian and Thai.

“In Phuket, the menu is only Indian food because there are enough restaurants offering other choices,” Billy explains.

“Our guests are happy with the modestly-sized menu, which hasn’t changed at all in the three years we’ve been open, though

Guest chef

By Jenna Wise

a few alterations will be made later this year; one will be a cocktail menu with drinks appropriately named.”

The authentic Indian meals served at Khanasutra go down so well with Indian food fans that a bar on Koh Phi Phi Don has arranged for a regular delivery of cooked food from the restaurant. Curries are cooked at Billy’s restaurant and frozen before being sent to Phi Phi by boat.

Khanasutra restaurant, 18-20 Takuapa Rd, Phuket City, Muang, Phuket 83000. Tel: 076-256192. Website: www.phuketindex.com/khanasutra. Open daily for dinner from 6:30 pm to 11 pm. Open for lunch six days a week (closed Sundays) from 11 am to 2:30 pm.



Chicken Tikka

CHICKEN TIKKA

Serves 2 people

Ingredients:

3 single chicken breasts, cut into 2-inch pieces;

For the masala marinade:

2 tablespoons plain yogurt;
1 teaspoon cumin seeds;
1 tablespoon aniseed seeds;
2 teaspoons garam masala powder;
1 tablespoon minced garlic and ½ tablespoon finely

chopped onion, mixed together;
1½ tablespoons ground coriander seeds;
1 tablespoon red food coloring;
2 tablespoons fresh lemon or lime juice.

Method:

Put all the ingredients for the marinade into a large bowl and mix well. Add the chicken pieces and leave overnight.

Thread the chicken pieces onto skewers and grill on a barbecue until the chicken is cooked. Serve with basmati rice and a green salad for an easy, low-fat, healthy dinner.

MOUTHWATERING RECIPES



Fish curry

FISH CURRY

To serve 2 people

Ingredients:

3 fillets of ling (a flat fish available from Makro);
½ cup finely chopped onions;
½ cup finely chopped tomatoes;
1 tablespoon minced garlic and ½ tablespoon finely chopped onion, mixed together;
1 teaspoon cumin seeds;
2 teaspoons garam masala powder;
1½ tablespoons ground coriander seeds;

A pinch of saffron;
1 teaspoon chili powder;
Salt to taste;
Fresh coriander to garnish.

Method:

Cut the fish into bite-sized pieces. Heat some vegetable oil in a wok and add the ingredients apart from the fish and coriander, and fry together. After a few minutes, stir in ½ cup of water. Add the fish pieces and cook the curry until the fish is ready. Decorate with fresh coriander before serving with basmati rice or nan bread.

DHAL

To serve 2 people

Ingredients:

1 cup peeled yellow mung beans;
1 teaspoon ground cumin seeds;
½ teaspoon haldi (a mix of saffron and spices available at the Indian food suppliers in Patong);
1½ finely chopped tomatoes;
2 large garlic cloves, crushed;
1 finely chopped medium-sized onion;
Salt to taste;
Fresh coriander to garnish.

Method:

Boil the mung beans in twice their volume of water and add a teaspoon of vegetable oil. When the beans have absorbed all the water, they are ready. Heat some vegetable oil in a wok and add all the other ingredients, except the coriander. Fry for a few minutes, stirring well. Add a little water – more if you prefer a more watery dhal. Mix in the cooked beans and serve with freshly chopped coriander on top.



Dhal



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The Hollywood film star and self-confessed sex addict Michael Douglas was once ambushed by a naughty prankster with a microphone who boldly asked whether his sex life was like his bank account. The star of movies such as *Fatal Attraction* looked confused, deciding not to commit himself and waiting instead for the inevitable punchline.

"I mean," smirked the interviewer, "do you lose interest the moment you withdraw?"

Cue gales of laughter from prankster and a red-faced exit by any man who happened to be watching.

Sex throws up many conundrums for men, the question of what to say afterwards being one of the prickliest of all.

According to the *Kama Sutra*, sexual union is not complete until the couple have talked lovingly and at length, eaten sweet food and hung out together looking at the sky. Then you learn that the erotic text was thought to have been written by a fourth century priest, who died a virgin.

There may actually be men out there who, after making the mattress springs twang through the early hours, have enough energy left to leap out of bed and rustle up a raspberry soufflé be-

Let's *not* talk about it

fore dragging their beloved off to Rawai beach to discuss the constellations. But ask most women and they will definitely moan that this is not the case in their relationships.

Generally women are very fond of a spot of pillow talk and take a dim view of the roll-over-and-conk-out school of post-coital behavior.

Back in my university days in London, a flatmate told me a story about a guy from Tooting she had a fling with. The guy was gorgeous, I seem to remember. Anyway, she came home the morning after the night "it" happened, looking very disappointed. Apparently, after a frantic lust-filled session he stumbled off into the bedroom and immediately fell fast asleep.

She left him a note pinned to the headboard, "If I'd wanted sex with someone who loses the power of speech immediately afterwards, I'd have it off with Marcel Marceau. PS: You ought to know that loud snoring is not considered satisfactory post-coital conversation."

I don't think we should gen-

eralize, however, because some men do talk after sex. Mostly in the early stages of a relationship, though.

They talk out of sheer gratitude to the woman in question for being allowed to do all those wonderful dirty things. In fact, at this point they will talk pretty much about anything we want – work, football, dialectical materialism – probably because they can't bring themselves to utter what's really on their minds, namely "Thanks, darling." Or, more likely, "Thank you, God."

Once involved in a happy, successful union, most men no longer feel the need to offer up a prayer of gratitude. By this stage they are just happy to mumble a few words of loving reassurance before curling up like spoons.

A close – male – friend enlightened me once on good reasons for keeping conversation short immediately after sex. Chief among these was that in a post-coital state men are both smugly fulfilled and childishly vulnerable. In short, they are so full of the milk of human kindness that words cannot express.

In his own experience, in this dazed and euphoric state, he happily agreed to marriage, divorce and a multi-thousand-dollar holiday in Australia that left him without even a pot to pee in for the following 18 months – his words, not mine.

The most important thing, it would seem, is to avoid any conversational line that might lead to, shall we say, awkwardness. That, I suppose, should go for both us and them.

It's probably not a good idea to turn to the person you have just... well, you know, "pleasured" as it were, and ask questions that are loaded enough to prompt unwelcome replies.

I mean, any man who picks up a women's magazine will have come across a dozen articles on how women expect to be treated in bed, and the word "orgasm" is forever popping up on the front covers of many female fashion bibles.

My point? Well, one conversation I would advise any guy to avoid after sex is stuff like, "Why do you never tell me when you have an orgasm?" He may



end up getting a reply like, "Because you're never around when I have one."

This post-coital conversation business can be very dicey. It's fraught with all kinds of lurking perils.

Men say the right thing and they feel like they have been given the moon on a stick. They say the wrong thing and we make them feel as popular as a piranha in a bidet. It must be so hard being a man.

Ambrosia Sakkadas, a London-born Greek Cypriot and graduate of Central St Martin's College of Art & Design in London, is an artist, designer and newspaper columnist.

Recently I was driving around Phuket looking for funerals, a bit like those people who drive around in the middle of the United States chasing tornadoes.

Normally, I avoid funerals as much as possible, except when family obligations are involved.

My former girlfriend has a huge family in Phuket, extending to Krabi, Surat Thani and Nakhon Sri Thammarat with, as a result, an almost constant stream of elderly relatives departing this life. So in the end, I had to set some conditions – for example, limiting visits to the temple to one night per funeral – and then only when the dear departed was someone I had actually met.

So driving around looking for funerals is not something that I normally do. However, in order to illustrate this column I felt I had to get a picture of a particular kind of funeral: not the type that takes place in a wat, but the type that is held in a tent or marquee erected in front of the family home, often taking up half the

Driving round looking for funerals

**LARGER
THAN
LIFE**

By Graham Doven

road – often a busy road at that. In fact, sometimes they take up the whole road, with the chairs being moved aside during the day to allow vehicles to drive through the tent.

I tried to get out to the main road from my house last week and found that both the adjoining sois had funerals totally blocking the roads. I had to reverse back to the corner and drive out the back way.

Also last week, a huge funeral tent was erected on the main highway at Sapam, taking up two lanes. I didn't have my camera in the car at the time, which is why I have been driving around looking for a tent for a photograph for this story. Sod's law applies, of course. If you're

not looking for a funeral there seems to be one on every corner. But when you need one, nobody has died, at least not anyone from the tent-in-the-street section of society. That's why this week's column has no picture.

I have always thought this kind of funeral to be fairly hazardous, especially on busy, narrow roads. It would only take one truck out of control and a tent full of mourners to create an instant boom in demand for many more funeral tents.

Why is it that some funerals are held in tents? My secretary, who comes from Phuket, said she thought it was mostly for Chinese people who believe that the spirit of the deceased stays with the house until the body is taken to the temple for burning.

Another local chap said that it is for gambling. He explained that many people, sometimes including professional gamblers, come and play cards at the fu-

neral, then give a percentage of the winnings to the family of the deceased and that the police "approve of this". Naturally he said, you would not gamble in the temple.

This explanation was, however, news to one of the local policeman I asked, although he did say that at many funerals there is probably gambling among the relatives and friends of the deceased.

The only attention that the police pay to a funeral, he said, is to give permission for the tent to be erected on the road, provide some warning signs and, sometimes, direct traffic.

The most logical explanation for this custom, according to a friend, is simply that a family does not have any space in the grounds around the house to erect the tent, so it goes out in the road.

Maybe it is an old custom here. Some 25 years ago, it was mostly a case of motorcyles and

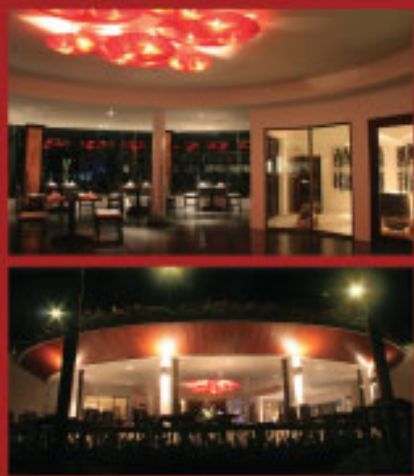
dirt roads, so it didn't really matter.

Imagine if it were an old but still venerated custom in Bangkok. With the huge apartment blocks abounding in the capital, there would tents constantly erected from one end of Petchburi and Sukhumvit Rds to the other. Imagine the traffic then.

With no two people able to supply me with the same explanation as to the origin of Phuket funeral tents, I have had to conclude that it is simply an old Phuket custom – and leave it to rest in peace, so to speak.

There is one advantage to all of this, for those with long pockets and short arms: if you're feeling a bit peckish, you can pop in to almost any funeral tent, light an incense stick, pay your respects and you'll get a free feed.

Nobody ever seems to ask anything, but if they do, say you're a friend of Noi. There will be a Noi somewhere in the family...



Cream of Queensland pumpkin soup with bunderim ginger • Spicy essence of pacific prawns with Tasmanian salmon dumplings
Morton bay lobster and prawn cocktail • Hot eucalyptus smoked salmon with warm lemon aspen dressing • South Australian kangaroo with bush tomato chutney • Warm salad of crocodile with wild lime and mango salsa • Dressed seared bay scallops in shell • Sydney rock oysters topped with a salmon pearl cream • Macadamia nut crusted rack of Victorian lamb with garlic mash and native pepper mushrooms • Darling downs beef tenderloin with vegetables, potato fritters and hollandaise and jus fresh snapper • Cassoulete of Australian seafood with lobster dumpling, Tasmanian salmon, Sydney rock oyster, bay scallops and Queensland crab • Pan seared kangaroo fillet with honey glazed pumpkin, turned potato, Australian port wine sauce

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Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid below are the names of at least 20 domesticated animals. The words may read vertically, horizontally or diagonally. They may also read right-to-left or down-to-up. Score: 10 or more, good; 15 or more, very good; 20 or more, excellent. Solution on the next page.

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

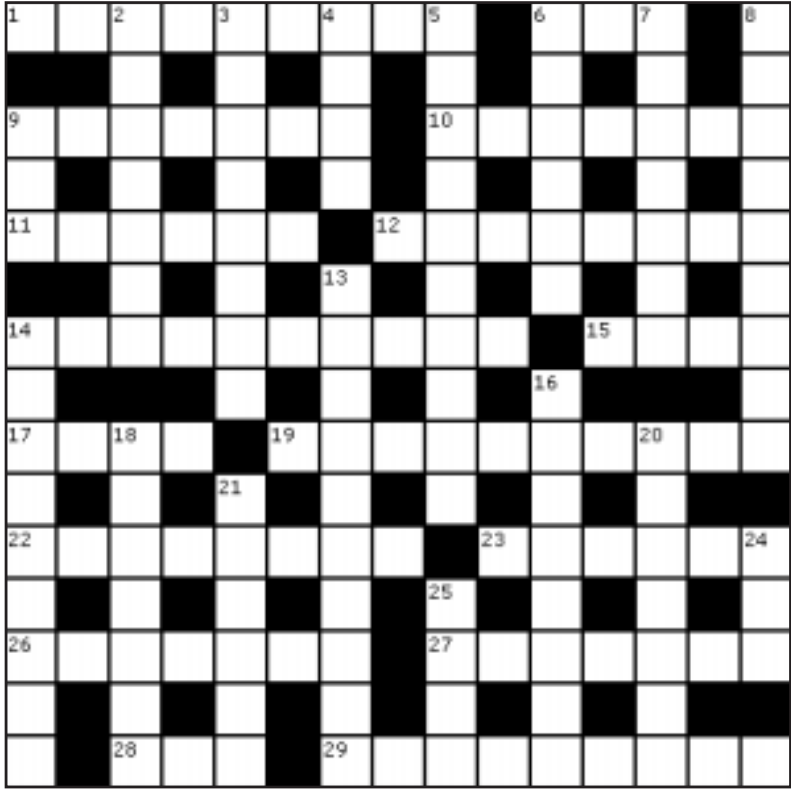
The Cryptic Crossword

ACROSS

1. Yearning for the past – it’s analog change. (9)
6. Western Australia with one Thai gesture. (3)
9. Hillock takes point with a show-off. (7)
10. Skin not in lair. (7)
11. Weight has, I note, student of hybrid cat. (6)
12. Cook not in – low power. (8)
14. Dim person I employed – and locked up. (10)
15. Regarding no place for split. (4)
17. Choose implement. (4)
19. Equipment for viewing big shows. (10)
22. Getting away is key to a sonar sound. (8)
23. Measuring system for art museum gets Rick, mostly. (6)
26. Charge! I’m a fruit! (7)
27. Mr Jones’s state. (7)
28. Peg half a giggle. (3)
29. Robin had rosy front. (9)

DOWN

2. Prevent space filler. (7)
3. Article atomic? Essential for doctors. (8)



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2006

4. Golden culpability, it’s said. (4)
5. Loathing regurgitated Anchor beer. (10)
6. Openings lose unspecified amount to dead men’s wives. (6)
7. East to Bolivian silver city to reverse element variation. (7)
8. Pleas for pet: it takes charged particles! (9)
9. Little Christopher’s equipment. (3)
13. Cringe about Judy’s husband, the cowboy. (10)
14. I’m exact? No. (9)
16. Nearly purple, Val goes back to finish queen. (8)
18. In fighting arena, prepare weapon seed. (7)
20. Port in Med, an’ a lark rectified. (7)
21. Drug work I consumed. (6)
24. In California, I set up agency. (1,1,1)
25. Pointlessly levied penalty on discovery. (4)

Solution on next page

Scribble Space



EZ TRIVIA QUIZ

1. What natural wonder is located on the border between Ontario and New York State?
2. Strictly speaking, how many legs does an insect have?
3. Who were the first two men known to have climbed Mount Everest?
4. What is the capital of Florida?
5. Which reclusive hermit is eventually revealed as a Jedi Knight in the original Star Wars?
6. What do we call a word or phrase that reads the same backward as it does forward?
7. Who was the first person to get a perfect score of 10 in Olympic gymnastics?
8. Which city has hosted every Australian Football International Cup tournament?
9. The sports teams of what US university go by the name Crimson Tide?
10. What is the official language of Barbados?

Answers on next page

Rhyme Time

The words described below all rhyme with ‘spade’. What are they?

1. Manufactured.
2. Neutered.
3. Assistant.
4. Sharp edge.
5. Raveled.
6. Green stone.
7. Leather.
8. Attack.
9. Open space in forest.
10. Lose color.

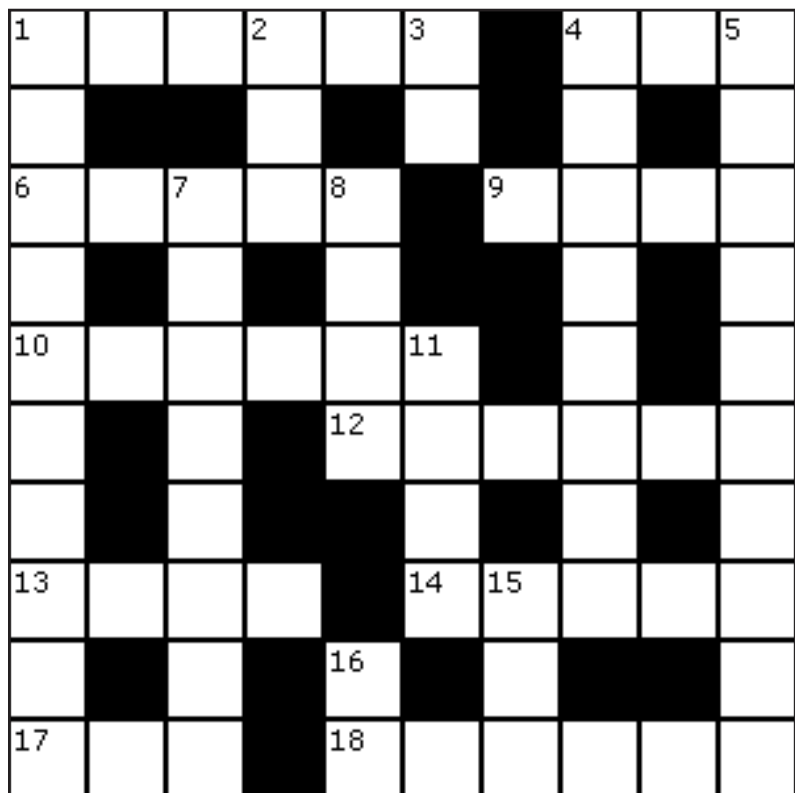
Answers on next page.

su|do|ku
© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

Sudoku is very simple: each row, each column and each “box” of nine squares within the puzzle must contain all the numbers from 1 to 9 with, naturally, no repetitions. Beware: there is only one solution to this puzzle, which is on the next page.



Quick Crossword

- ACROSS**

 - 1. Ten-year period.
 - 4. Be seated.
 - 6. In music, not flat.
 - 9. German gent.
 - 10. Put the car in a space.
 - 12. Shine.
 - 13. Cereal crop.
 - 14. Monarchs.
 - 17. Conclusion.
 - 18. What an active volcano does.
- DOWN**

 - 1. Be against something.
 - 2. What we breathe.
 - 3. Little Edward or editor.
 - 4. Assemblage of bones.
 - 5. Al Qaeda, for example.
 - 7. Held by police.
 - 8. Remove skin.
 - 11. Farmyard bird.
 - 15. Debtor's note.
 - 16. That is to say...

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. Name the Oscar II-class Russian submarine that was lost at sea August 12, 2000.
 - 2. Name the author of *The Diamond Smugglers* and *Thrilling Cities*, who died August 12, 1964.
 - 3. In which region of the world would you find the long-whiskered owlet?
 - 4. Toshio Egawa is the keyboard player of which Japanese progressive rock band?
 - 5. *Gris-Gris*, *Gumbo* and *Hollywood Be Thy Name* are albums by which artist?
 - 6. Which Imperial unit of mass is equivalent to 6.35029318 kilograms?
 - 7. The Major John Sacheve-
- rell A'Deane Coke Medal is awarded by which organization?
 - 8. The fictional characters Dick, Scott, Virgil, Alan, Gordon and John all share which surname?
 - 9. Nejme Square is in which Middle-Eastern city?
 - 10. The Bayreuth Festspielhaus is dedicated principally to the performance of operas by which composer?
 - 11. What sort of creature is a Pseudophyllid cestodes?
 - 12. What theory did Franz Josef Gall develop?
 - 13. What is the shortest distance between two adjacent stations on the London Underground network, and what are the stations?
- 14. Complete the lyric by The Kinks: "Everywhere the Carnabetian army marches on..."
 - 15. Little Turtle's War, from 1785 to 1795, is better known by what name?
 - 16. Who wrote the novella *Breakfast At Tiffany's*?
 - 17. Name two of the jurors in the play and film *12 Angry Men*.
 - 18. In which English market town are the Teddy Bear Museum and the Flora Twort Gallery?
 - 19. What is the motto of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police?
 - 20. By what name is the plant *Atropa belladonna* better known?

Answers below, left

Puzzle Solutions

Monster Quiz Answers

1. The *K141-Kursk*; 2. Ian Fleming; 3. The Andes Mountains; 4. Gerard; 5. Dr John; 6. The stone; 7. The Geological Society of London; 8. Tracy; 9. Beirut; 10. Richard Wagner; 11. A flatworm; 12. Phrenology; 13. 260 meters separate Covent Garden and Leicester Square stations; 14. "...Each one a dedicated follower of fashion."; 15. The Northwest Indian War; 16. Truman Capote; 17. Davis and McCardle (these are the only two named); 18. Petersfield, Hampshire; 19. Maintiens le droit ("Uphold the law"); 20. Deadly nightshade.

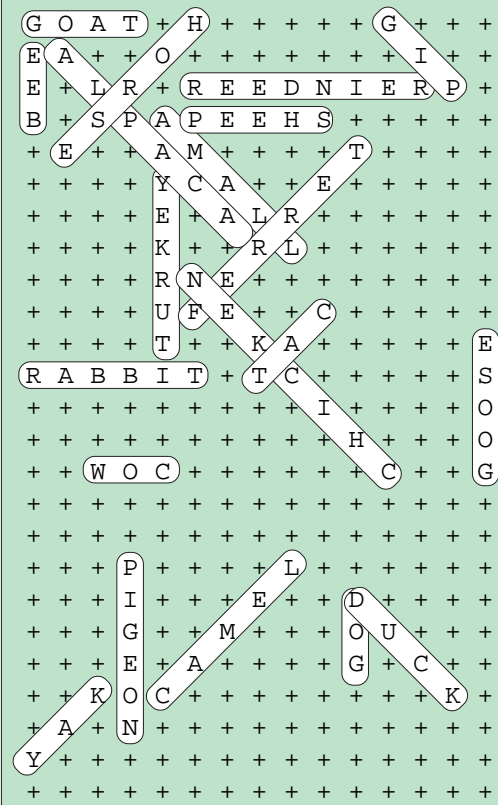
Rhyme Time Answers

1. Made; 2. Spayed; 3. Aide; 4. Blade; 5. Frayed; 6. Jade; 7. Suede; 8. Raid; 9. Glade; 10. Fade.

EZ Trivia Answers

1. Niagara Falls; 2. Six; 3. Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay; 4. Tallahassee; 5. Obi-Wan Kenobi; 6. A palindrome; 7. Nadia Comaneci of Romania; 8. Melbourne; 9. University of Alabama; 10. English.

Hidden Words SOLUTION



Solution to this week's Cryptic Crossword



Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle



Since mid-2000 yours truly has been wearing another (ridiculous) hat writing "Nightmarch", a regular night-life column, first for *Pattaya Mail*, briefly for *Pattaya Expat* and, since November 2002, for *Pattaya Today*.

Apart from detailing the openings, closings, coming and goings, prices and staffing of bars across Fun Town, I have also been privy to a host of wonderful tales, usually involving foreign male visitors doing silly things, most with the aim of winning the hearts of ladies of easy virtue.

I call these vignettes – all true, so my informants emphatically assure me – "Tales from the Crib". I'm sure the title needs no further explanation. Reproduced below are a few of the best of these stories; some will, I hope, serve as warnings to those who may see every smiling face as a future Mrs Gullible. Others were simply – from my warped point of view – funny.

I've already related a few of these in this column, and had amused feedback. So here are some more.

Capital Capers: German man meets girl in a bar on his first trip to Pattaya. He falls in love. Nothing unusual so far. His command of the English language is even



FROM THE STREETS OF PATTAYA

By Duncan Stearn

worse than hers; she speaks no German, he speaks no Thai. OK, still nothing terribly unusual.

He returns to the Land of Automotive Excellence and starts sending his true love 800 euros a month (about 40,000 baht) as well as paying for a visa and air ticket to Germany.

However, he's no dummy and he knows Pattaya is a fun place to party and that when he's away his *kleine kartoffel* may be tempted to stray from the path of virtue by some dastardly foreign holidaymaker.

So, in garbled English he demands she move forthwith to Bangkok because "zere are no bars."

The Remittance Girls: In the 19th century, a man living in a British colony, say Australia, who

Looking for Mrs Gullible

had money sent to him from England on condition that he never returned was known as a remittance man.

One wag has suggested that the "I love you long time" lasses of Fun Town, many of whom are in receipt of funding from love-struck foreigners who have returned from whence they came, should be referred to as remittance girls.

Fifty Percent Inflation: A well-known booze bar operator with a year or so left on his lease was approached by the owner of his building who explained he was having a few dramas with the bank and asked whether he, the bar operator, was interested in buying the property.

A sum of 4 million baht was the price. The bar operator told the owner he'd let him know in due course.

A short time later, confident he could raise the necessary funds, he rang the Thai owner and said, "OK, we've got the 4 million."

"Oh, no. Now price is 6 million," was the reply. Needless to say, no further correspondence has been entered into.

I might add that the bar operator later found new premises in another part of town and his business has prospered further.

At last report, the owner of the now vacant premises is still trying to find someone gullible enough to buy the property.

Do You Have Soup in a Basket? According to Deadly Derek, the operator of the long-running Clinic sports emporium on Soi Yamato, the following conversation took place in another boozier in the same soi:

Waitress: "What you like to drink?"

Customer: "Chang Beer please."

Waitress: "Bottle or draught?"

Customer: "Draught."

Waitress: "Do you want a glass?"

Customer: "No."

Take a compass: Mick, the former owner of the now defunct

Playpen ogling den in Soi Yamato, once indulged a little too heavily in the giggle sauce and found himself aboard his motorbike well off the beaten track and unable to locate Pattaya.

Now we all know that Fun Town is hardly small, so this gives some idea of just how far out of the city environs he managed to travel in his amber-fluid-induced state.

He could see bits of it in the distance but couldn't work out how to get back.

Assuming that, if he headed towards the twinkling lights, he would eventually bump into something he recognized, Mick rode a little too quickly into a corner and found himself becoming more closely acquainted with the texture of the road surface than his body would have liked.

He came to rest in a clump of bushes and, deciding this was as good a place as any to take a little nap, duly nodded off.

He was nudged awake by a member of a line of monks making their daily early-morning alms run.

The pain in his ribs made him realize he was still part of the human race, so, looking like an escaped convict on a bad hair day, he mounted his motorbike and rode unsteadily off in search of Pattaya.

I'm in love with Maureen Dowd. Next to Zadie Smith, she's the ultimate literary babe.

Now combine her great looks with the snazzy title *Are Men Necessary?* (G.P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 2005, 338pp) and a great cover – a 1930s hyper-realistic painting of a red-haired beauty in a red dress reading a book in a subway and being furtively ogled by men – and you have a certain bestseller, a worthy follow-up to Dowd's first book: *Bushworld: Enter at Your Own Risk*.

Maureen Dowd is the only female weekly columnist at *The New York Times* and by far the best of the lot: acerbic, insightful, cutting, sharp, funny.

She started the column in 1995 and four years later won the Pulitzer Prize for Commentary, mostly about the Clinton scandals. She is a very vigorous Bush-basher and her first book was about that bizarre and Byzantine administration.

The theme of her new book is in the subtitle: *When Sexes Collide*. She grew up the daughter of an Irish Catholic cop in Washington DC and had three brothers who expected to be waited upon.

Her first job out of Catholic University in 1974 was on the sports desk of the now-defunct *Washington Star*. So she's used to finding her way in a male-dominated world and her insights are not formed by feminist ideology but by hard-headed common sense – and a great sense of humor.

As you read the first couple of chapters you might think you can sum up her thinking as: "Men



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt



bad, women good". But as you get toward the end, she lambastes women too for their frivolity, greed and vanity.

She's also capable of laughing at herself:

"In 1998, President Clinton described me as a castrating word-that-rhymes-with-rich at the annual White House correspondents' dinner. He did it in a joking way, during his stand-up routine, but, as Freud noted, humor is simply hostility masquerading as wit.

"Clinton entertained the room by reading a list of mock headlines by or about real jour-

nalists ... 'Buddy Got What He Deserved' by Maureen Dowd'. (He was referring to his chocolate lab, Buddy, getting neutered).

"As the audience laughed, I ducked down, praying the C-SPAN cameras were still on Paula Jones.

"Now everyone will think I'm a castrating witch,' I complained to my male colleagues at the table.

"Now?" they replied in unison.

In her long first chapter, "How to Set Your Mantrap in the Mink Department of Bergdorfs", Dowd trolls through the whole cultural spectrum – books, magazines, movies, TV shows, pop music – to get a fix on past and present notions of the male-female relationship.

She went to college in the early 1970s during the heyday of feminism and admired the idealism of the time while scoffing at the idea of not wearing makeup. Six years into the new millennium she notes a different scene:

"Hillary Clinton, Condi Rice, Martha Stewart, Nancy Grace and Oprah continue to be steely go-getters.

"But many women are doing something that didn't show up in the feminist tarot cards: laying doggo, celebrating lady chic, in-

dulging in the old-fashioned dress and languid behavior that predated hard-charging feminism...

"[In the late 1990s] many twentysomethings were already losing interest in scampering up the corporate ladder. *Cosmopolitan* chronicled 'the New Housewife Wannabes' – girls who wanted to jump off the fast track and shimmy down the aisle."

Dowd herself has never been married but she has gone through a lot of boyfriends while carving out a huge name in journalism.

Her personal heroines are *Washington Post* publisher Katherine Graham and columnist Mary McGrory, fast friends for life.

In another chapter she entitled "Why the Well-Hung Y is Wilting. Even as the X in Exceling", Dowd delights in offering a tongue-in-cheek pseudo-scientific

analysis about the lamentable and doomed Y chromosome.

This is ultimately responsible for "the belching gene, the inability-to-remember-birthdays-and-anniversary gene, the fascination-with-spiders-and-reptiles gene, the selective-hearing-loss; 'Huh?' gene, the inability-to-express-affection-on-the-phone gene."

In the end, she speculates on the possibility of Hillary Clinton becoming president of the US:

"Will the 'I am woman, see me grow' senator ever be genuinely self-reliant from her husband?"

"Or are men necessary?"

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Mental health needs a boost

Not long after tsunami waves hit the Andaman coast, the *Gazette* received an approach from a Singapore-based psychiatrist who wanted to help. The mental wounds left by the disaster, he argued, were every bit as deep as the physical ones, and expert help would be needed to heal them properly.

His work undoubtedly helped people. These included not only those whose lives had been devastated by the tsunami itself but also some who were suffering mental difficulties after helping with the clean-up – particularly those who had helped collect corpses.

However, as the psychiatrist spoke no Thai, those he helped were all foreigners. The Thai population was left very much to its own devices, partly because there were so few Thai mental health workers and partly because of a glib assumption that Thais would take care of their mental trauma in traditional ways – by talking matters through within their families or by taking advice from the monks at the *wat*.

No one, it seemed, wondered what would happen to those who had lost most or all of their family members, nor just how effective the monks could be when swamped with hundreds of cases.

A mental health center was set up in Phang Nga, along with the first branch of the Samaritans – an organization that gives the depressed someone to talk to when there is no one else. But these efforts, worthy though they are, have been too little.

The recent report in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* concerning two surveys conducted in Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi shows clearly that there are still serious mental health problems in the tsunami-hit areas (see news pages).

Nine months after the tsunami hit, according to the surveys, there were still seriously elevated rates of depression, anxiety and the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, particularly – as might be expected – in Phang Nga, the area worst hit.

Saddest of all is the fact that the number of children suffering from one or all three of these conditions has hardly dropped since. The authors of the survey recommended therapy for the children, family counseling and educating teachers to play “a crucial role in the support and referral of affected children”.

So far there is little sign that any of this is happening, which probably reflects the severe shortage in Thailand of mental health workers.

Clearly, the old assumptions no longer apply. Thai society is changing and, along with it, the needs of individuals – not only in disaster-hit areas but in the population at large. Mental health must be given a far higher priority than it is at present.

– The Editor

The Phuket Gazette

In association with The Nation Multimedia Group PCL

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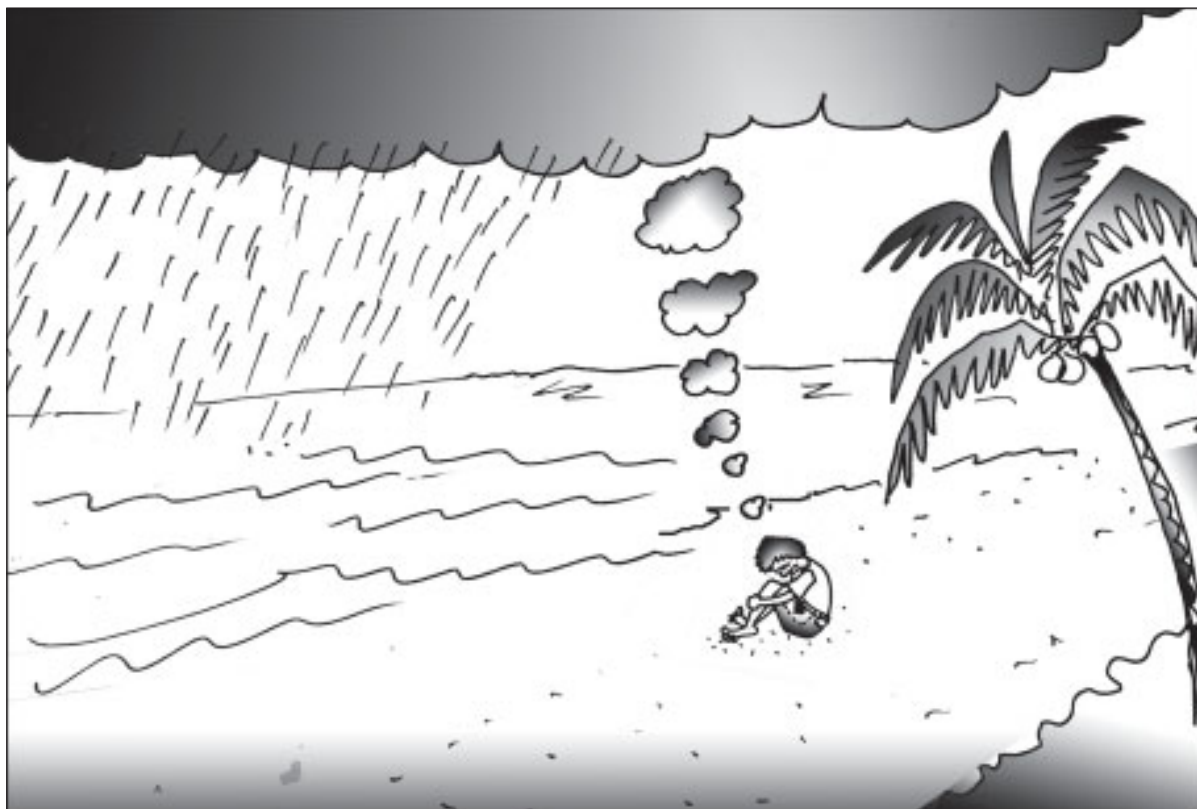
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Letters

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

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

Boom time at the local gas station

As an Assistant Manager at a gas station in the US, I was required to attend safety courses.

In one such course we watched a video that showed gasoline fumes rising from a car's gas tank as it was being filled.

These vapors rose between 50 and 60 centimeters into the air before falling toward the ground – hence the requirement that no mobile phones be used in close proximity, for safety reasons.

I was therefore shocked recently in Phuket to witness my pump attendant standing next to the “No Mobile Phones” sign at the gas station, filling my car while talking into his hands-free mobile. The phone itself, I observed, was hidden inside his shirt.

I didn't know whether I should point out to him the “No Mobile Phones” sign, or sought out the manager.

In the end, I closed my eyes and stood well away from my car.

Michael G Finn
Phuket

Tuk tuk trauma has put me off Phuket

I am writing to advise you of a very disturbing occurrence during my recent trip to Phuket.

I am the owner of a wholesale travel company specializing in fishing trips, and have been bringing groups of fishermen to Phuket for the past eight years. I also have a retail travel agency that sends many people to the island each month.

On July 13, I and a number

of my clients found ourselves in a very uncomfortable situation. To put it bluntly, we were physically abused and then scammed out of 4,000 baht.

We hired a tuk-tuk to drive us to our accommodation on Nanai Rd in Patong. When we arrived there, the driver accused one of my party of having damaged the inside of the tuk-tuk, although no damage whatsoever was done by any of us.

The driver demanded 10,000 baht, which we refused to pay. He then manhandled us and threw punches at us. When he realized that we were too strong for him, he threw a sheet of tin at me, which seriously injuring my arm.

After this assault, he rang the police. They took no notice of our story, even though we had several witnesses, including Thai people and a Thai security guard. The police left only after we had paid the driver 4,000 baht, which he said was for damage to the vehicle's plastic window – which was damaged before we got in the tuk-tuk – and for the headphones he was wearing.

We saw the same driver the next day and he was still wearing the headphones, which were obviously not damaged at all.

To say that I am extremely disappointed is an understatement. I donated many thousands of baht to tsunami charities and so have most of my clients.

The result is that we will not return to Thailand. Further, I am also considering having these events published in an Australian tourism magazine, as well as making an Australian current affairs TV program aware of what happens in Phuket.

Staff in my travel agencies

and elsewhere in my business will also be warned about what occurs in Patong.

Gone Fishing
Australia

Continuing carnage on roads is shocking

I fully agree with the letter that appeared recently [Carnage on roads needs addressing – issue of July 29], addressing the terrible lack of safety on Phuket's roads.

I'm shocked that this problem has not improved in the least – indeed, has maybe even got slightly worse – in the four years that I have been in Phuket.

In the past five or six months I have witnessed countless accidents and behavior by drivers of cars, motorcycles and trucks that simply defies common sense.

I have asked Thai friends about it and they say that I shouldn't worry, as “this is karma”.

I have no intention of trying to change a nation's view of a particular topic, especially as I am a guest in this country.

That leaves me with (at the very least) the responsibility of pursuing road safety for the sake of tourists and resident foreigners – and sparing a prayer for the Thais who, it seems, will not easily be swayed to our point of view.

I also doubt that any one person or group of individuals will be able to effect much change.

That said, if such action saved just one life it would be worth the effort.

I know, let's set up a road block.

Slow driver
Phuket

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

In 1992, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (MSTE) introduced an environmental law to protect natural resources in tourism areas. The law prohibited the catching or collection of 110 categories of fish, including clown fish, in Phuket, Pattaya and some areas in Krabi province, including the Phi Phi Islands.

The following year, the MSTE toughened the law to forbid the possession of protected species. This was enacted to make the law easier to enforce; previously, offenders had to be caught in the act of catching protected species in order to be arrested. The changes also meant that shop owners selling protected species in the designated areas could be prosecuted.

In April this year, the re-named Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) expanded the law further to prohibit the catching of the 110 protected categories in all Andaman coast provinces. The ban in other provinces, however, does not extend to possession as it does in Phuket.

In my experience, fishermen charged with illegally possessing clown fish have said that there was a high demand for the fish from the aquarium trade.

Most clown fish live in the tropical coral reefs of the Pacific and Indian Oceans, but they are kept in aquariums all over the world. The main center for trading clown fish is Singapore, even though clown fish are not found in local waters there. The fish are shipped to dealers in Singapore before being sent on to other countries.

There is a lot of money to be made in the exotic fish business at the moment. The price of clown fish, bought from poachers at five baht, rises to many thousands of baht by the time they are sold retail.

There used to be a lot of clown fish in the waters around Phuket. Before the laws were enacted, many foreigners were employing fishermen to catch clown fish for export. The export of live fish has since been ban-

Saving Nemo will require new laws



FIRST PERSON

The seizure of more than 100 bags containing one or more clown fish, about 100 corals, 13 bags of sea anemones and two seahorses by police in Rawai last month has prompted complaints that the law is not effective in protecting the island's marine life.

Though catching and possessing clown fish is illegal in Phuket, enforcement is complicated by the fact that once any illegally-caught clown fish have left the island they can be freely traded with no risk of prosecution. At Bangkok's Chatuchak weekend market, for example, tubs full of rare marine life are openly displayed for sale.

Ukkrit Satapoomin, a researcher at Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) who has been working with marine life for more than 16 years, explains how he thinks the trade in marine life could be stopped.

ned, which should greatly reduce this kind of business in Thailand.

We have difficulty prosecuting many dealers and aquarium shops as they have licenses to breed some protected species of marine fish. We know that they are ordering wild fish from fishermen, but it is very difficult to prove whether a fish has been bred in captivity or caught from the wild.

The aquarium business can be divided into two categories: education and display. Keeping marine life in aquariums for education has benefits, as it can teach people about the ocean and encourage them to protect and care for it.

I disagree, however, with

people having aquariums for display in their businesses or homes. Seeing marine life in a little tank is nothing like seeing it in the wild. Also, marine fish are very delicate and tend to have a much shorter lifespan when kept in captivity.

I think the law should be expanded to outlaw the catching and possession of clown fish in every province in Thailand. If this were to happen, the list of protected species would have to be amended as some of species of clown fish can be bred in captivity and some are also caught for food.

Some people have already set up clown fish breeding projects. If the law were enacted

over the whole country they would be barred from selling their fish. Issues like this need to be cleared up before the law can be expanded.

If we do not enact the law, however, clown fish could disappear from Thailand altogether. This could have a serious effect on the marine eco-system.

Fisherman caught poaching clown fish are usually not very forthcoming with information. They refuse to say where the fish were caught or who ordered them to catch them.

The fishermen do not see the danger; they think there is an endless supply of fish and, however many are caught, there will always be more.

This is not the case though; divers report that they are seeing fewer and fewer fish around the reefs.

There are a number of species that we used to encounter a lot in seizures of illegally-caught fish. Now we find them much less often, which indicates that the populations of those species are decreasing and that they are becoming harder to catch.

The easiest, but also the most destructive, method used for catching clown fish is by using cyanide. This stuns the fish so they can be easily collected, but it also does a great deal of harm to the marine environment. Most of the captured fish will recover when placed in a tank with clean seawater.

Another destructive method used to catch clown fish is hitting the coral with a steel pole to scare the fish out into open water. This obviously is very bad for the coral.

I want to ask people not to keep these animals in captivity. An aquarium full of marine fish may look beautiful in your home or restaurant, but you are just encouraging the trade in illegally-caught wildlife and contributing to the impoverishment of the seas around Phuket and the rest of the world. These fish should be left in the ocean.

In the wild, clown fish have a very specific diet that is very difficult to replicate in captivity. Clown fish in aquariums will almost always be unhealthy and live stunted lives.

If you love clown fish, or any kind of marine life, you should learn to dive or snorkel so you can see it in its true home, the ocean.

3G and WiFi in Phuket

After being away from Phuket for a few years, I am coming back soon for three weeks. While I am in Phuket I will need near-constant access to the Internet via my BlackBerry PDA phone and my laptop with 3G [third-generation] data card.

Do any networks over there support 3G, or is there a reliable wireless network in Phuket that is unfiltered and supports VPN (Virtual Private Network)?

I am a network administrator for a firm of architects, and we are starting design work for the 2012 Olympic Games in London. I will need to connect to our servers via Remote Desktop to monitor and do preventative maintenance very often.

Guy Wells
London, UK

Gazette computer guru Woody Leonhard replies,

Phuket is way behind the times with 3G telephone systems. As you probably already know, 3G is advanced mobile-phone technology at eye-popping high speed.

A 3G mobile phone can download songs in seconds. A 3G PDA can surf websites at ADSL speeds. Plug a 3G card, also called an "Air Card", into your computer and you have very fast wireless ADSL that's accessible anywhere within 3G phone coverage.

Shin Corporation was slated to spend 40 billion baht on upgrading its mobile phone system to 3G over three years. Or at least that was the plan until Shin was acquired by Temasek Holdings, a

company wholly owned by the Singaporean government.

Just a few weeks ago, Thailand's National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) put new operating licenses "on hold" until it could sort out the mess surrounding Temasek Holdings, its affiliate Kularb Kaew, ownership percentages, and the like. The issue is whether foreigners – who can't own a square centimeter of land in this country – can own Thailand's largest telecommunication backbone.

In Phuket, CAT is experimenting with a specific kind of 3G known colloquially as CDMA2000 1XEV-DO – commonly called "dee-oh" (see en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evolution-Data_Optimized for technical details).

Issues & ANSWERS

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CAT had one tower in Kata running DO for a while. I haven't heard any more, so it's likely that CAT is mired in the same NTC bog as everybody else.

CAT had plans to install 35 DO towers on Phuket, effectively covering about 90% of the island's population. The original plan called for unlimited 2.4 Mbps service at 990 baht a month.

If that plan ever comes true, the entire nature of Internet access on Phuket will change overnight.

There are reliable WiFi hotspots all over Phuket. Some

of them, including the one in my Sandwich Shoppe in Patong, are both fast and free.

Although every Internet Service Provider in Thailand is required to block certain sites, I haven't heard of any problems establishing VPN connections. There may be some filtering with the major commercial WiFi providers, but the free WiFi hotspots shouldn't have any problems at all.

In short, welcome back to Phuket and remember – a slow line here is still better than a fast line anywhere else.

In The Stars

by Isla Star

LEO (July 24-August 22): If you are celebrating a birthday this week you can look forward to a more introspective time ahead – you will soon start to think more deeply about where you want to go in life. Coasting along is fine, but it appears that you have conveniently forgotten the aims that you once had. Libra tells an intriguing story on Sunday; the conclusion will have something to do with you.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Refuse to accept any potential sources of stress this week. You could find you have to make some compromises in order to have an easier life, but the choice is yours. You will realize that Aquarius is trying to manipulate you regarding a work situation and will find a subtle way of dealing with this. The best day for romance is Sunday; surprise your sweetheart in some way. The number 7 is lucky on Tuesday.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): It will be difficult to resist meddling in something that doesn't really concern you. You may have too much time on your hands at the moment. If work is thin on the ground, find other practical outlets for your energy. Tuesday is the most auspicious day for unearthing a financial discrepancy. Continue working at a personal relationship, as the outcome will be positive. The color clay red will enable you to see the truth.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): After the muggy mood of last week, you can expect to have finely-tuned senses until the end of this month. You will be as sharp as a needle on Tuesday, so schedule business appointments for this day if possible. A dramatic turn of events in a romantic relationship puts things on a surer footing; it is now safe to plan an intimate getaway.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Misinformation causes temporary chaos midweek. If you don't know which way to turn due to this situation, you are strongly advised to stand still and wait for the atmosphere to settle. Avoid throwing good money after bad when Capricorn does their best to talk you into joining in a business project; you should have already learned a lesson from past negative dealings with this person. The number 4 can open the door to luck on Saturday.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Security in the future is uppermost in your mind this week. If your partner wants you to take a financial risk but your instincts say no, there's only one route to take. Even if domestic harmony is disrupted by this decision you should not back down. If you are single you will begin to see Aquarius in a new light; do some background checking before making advances, as there may be someone else in the picture.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): You have been patient for too long. As long as others think you are prepared to wait until the buffaloes come home, they will delay doing the hard work necessary to make a project work. The stars will guarantee that you have the right energy to put pressure on. This approach will work wonders from now until the end of this month. Wear scarlet to encourage sharp thinking.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): A pleasant period begins this week. You will enjoy success on many levels until the end of the month. Business goes smoothly; a related trip yields more than you could have hoped for. On the personal front, Cancer is ready to take the bait you've been offering for some time. This could turn out to be something of a match made in heaven. The number 5 brings luck on Wednesday.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Information leaks out that could lead to trouble at work. If you are astute you will sniff out who is responsible for this indiscretion and act accordingly. Taurus does not want to play the romantic game that you had in mind, so there's no point in continuing this chase. Look out for Libra on the scene later next week and you will find the person of your dreams. A dream on Sunday is worth remembering.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): The week begins up on Cloud 9. If you want to remain buoyant, avoid Sagittarius, who is likely to be on the warpath. It won't help to point out that they are making mountains out of molehills. Sunday provides the ideal setting for a hot date and it looks as though someone is starting to get serious ideas about their relationship with you. Tread carefully if you're not ready to make a commitment.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Money will be the cause of domestic tension this week, so put the brakes on spending for the time being. You would do well to remember that bills tend to arrive at the end of the month. Creative projects are well-starred – a Piscean has an innovative idea that you should listen to on Wednesday. If you are single, you can look forward to meeting an interesting Leo.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Direct your energy with purpose this week. You will be subject to distracted moods; work colleagues will come to you with every story under the sun, but none of this should require much attention. At home, your partner needs some extra loving care this weekend, so find a thoughtful way to spoil them. On Monday, honesty is really not the best policy when dealing with Scorpio. The number 9 can bring luck on Sunday.

The opening of the new Siam Paralysis shopping mall marks a major milestone in the "mallification" of Bangkok. I call it the Siam Paralysis because paralysis is what you get when you check the prices.

The government has just created a Ministry of Malls to supervise this effort. The newly appointed Minister of Malls, a dynamic lady named Ngermwa-dee "Shop" Seukhong, kindly granted me an interview, which went like this.

Tsow: *K. Shop, is it true that the government plans to turn Bangkok into one giant mall?*

K. Shop: Yes. It will extend from Nonthaburi to Samut Prakan, and will all be under one roof. Existing shopping malls will be integrated as nodes within the unimall, as we call it.



By S. TSOW

The Skytrain, renamed the Malltrain, will speed customers from one node to another.

In fact, we're thinking of changing the name of Bangkok to Bangmall. The Thai name will be Krung Mahamall, and our citizens will be called mallizens.

Tsow: *That's marvelous. Now Bangkok shopping addicts won't even have to step outdoors to go shopping. They'll all be living in one big shopping mall.*

K. Shop: That's right. Instead of bringing the people to the mall, we're bringing the mall to the people.

Tsow: *What do you say to those*

mean-spirited critics who complain that this will make people even more materialistic and consumption-crazy than they are now?

K. Shop: That is a narrow view that ignores a fundamental truth. Our economy is based on buying and selling. If people don't buy, the economy collapses. If the economy collapses, everybody will be poor. Therefore, it benefits the nation if people buy things.

Shopping is a patriotic duty. Non-shoppers, in a very real sense, can be considered traitors to the nation.

Tsow: *In that case, shouldn't the government reward super-shoppers? If I, for example, were to exceed a certain shopping quota at the Siam Paralysis mall, wouldn't it be smart for the government to give me a medal or a title? That would motivate people to shop more.*

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SERIOUSLY MALLED

K. Shop: Yes, every year we will honor the person who has spent the most money shopping during that year. He – or, more likely, she – will receive a trophy and a cash prize at a ceremony that will be televised worldwide.

She will be crowned Supreme Shopper and will wear her crown till the following year. She'll appear at charitable functions, on talk shows and will even put in a guest appearance on *Academy Fantasia*.

Tsow: *Sort of like Miss Thailand or Miss Thailand World?*

K. Shop: Yes, but let me backtrack a bit. You just made a cruel and malicious pun ridiculing the name of Siam Paragon. The Ministry of Malls won't tolerate that.

We're going to pass a law that will punish anyone who mocks, satirizes, criticizes or in any way denigrates shopping or anything associated with it.

Shopping is sacred. It is not to be slandered. So you'd better watch your mouth, boy.

Tsow: *OK. Sorry. Do you also plan to enact laws to institution-*

alize the glitz-and-shalowness norms that are becoming widespread among a large segment of the shopping population?

K. Shop: That won't be necessary. Those norms are already functioning on an informal level. We do, however, plan to establish a minimum quota for reluctant shoppers.

That is to say, if a mallizen doesn't spend a certain amount of money annually at shopping malls, he – or, less likely, she – loses his citizenship and is expelled from the country.

If you're not a compulsive consumer, we intend to make you one. Shopping is a patriotic duty, after all.

Tsow: *Are you working with the TAT [Tourism Authority of Thailand] to attract international shoppers?*

K. Shop: Oh, yes. The TAT has devised a new tourism promotion campaign with the slogan "Shop Thailand". Entire plane-loads of foreign shoppers will be flown in on shopping sprees.

They won't get to see any temples, beaches, elephants or classical Thai dancing, but they will get to shop.

TV commercials will feature happy foreign shoppers pushing shopping carts piled high with pricey purchases.

Tsow: *I guess all of this will bring us one step closer to the perfect society.*

S. Tsow can be flamed at stsow@yahoo.com, but not when he's out shopping.

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BEHIND THE WHEEL

By Jeff Heselwood

In recent months we have looked at the Mazda BT-50 and its sister model, the Ford Ranger, both built at Auto Alliance's facility in Rayong. One of the slightly older one-tonne pickup trucks, but one that has received regular updates, is Toyota's Hilux Vigo.

The Hilux is one of the world's most successful vehicles with more than 12 million sold in around 164 countries.

Worldwide, it is Toyota's second-best-selling model – after the Corolla – and it is produced in nine countries, including Thailand.

European models are made at a plant in South Africa, while other Toyota plants produce the Hilux in countries as far apart as Indonesia and Argentina.

Launched in Thailand in August 2004, the Hilux is offered in a variety of guises, from the basic single-cab model, which starts at less than 400,000 baht, to a top-of-the-range double-cab version (pictured) that comes in at more than 860,000 baht.

The most popular one in the Kingdom, though, is the 631,000 baht X-Tra Cab model. The single-cab model has a class-leading payload capacity of a hefty 1,255 kilograms, the larger models marginally less.

The latest Hilux is powered by a common-rail diesel engine developing 102bhp (75kW) at 3,600rpm.

Torque, as you would expect, is massive: 260Nm on the



The Toyota Hilux Vigo.

Vigo vere ve vant

4x4 models, 200Nm on the 4x2 versions. Performance is modest, with a maximum of 150 kmh and a leisurely 17 seconds or so, depending on the model, for the benchmark 0-100kmh time.

Transmissions are a five-speed manual or a four-speed automatic, while there is also a

choice of two- or four-wheel drive on the base models. Unusual in this segment is the rack-and-pinion steering, which is light and very direct.

All models feature dual front airbags, front seatbelt pre-tensioners and belt-force limiters. In addition, both the steering column and the brake pedal have been designed to minimize injury to the driver in the event of a frontal collision.

The brakes are ventilated discs at the front and drums at the back on all models. All but the entry-level single cab gets ABS as standard; on the base model it is an option.

The Hilux is built on a traditional ladder-frame chassis, which although offering a great deal of rigidity, does subject the attached body to a few rattles and squeaks over rough terrain. That, however, is assuming you are going off-road, which few owners do.

Toyota claims a 45% higher torsional stiffness for the 2006 Hilux over existing models, also claiming it contributes to less cabin noise.

While the interior is a little Spartan, it is certainly functional, with hard-wearing cloth seats and easy-clean plastic surfaces.

The styling is much the same as all the other pickup trucks on the market – how far can you deviate from the basic premise? – yet Toyota claims it is a “powerful design which creates an immediate visual impact”.

Executive Chief Engineer, Kaoru Hosokawa is quoted as saying, “It is the best balance be-

tween a tough, muscular image and passenger car style.”

He goes on, “Under the key words ‘Global Best’ we developed a new Hilux with the intention to move from strictly work use to multi-purpose use, reflecting recent trends.”

“The new Hilux answers the needs of world markets with enhanced performance, and, at the same time, offers a body one size larger.”

The Hilux Vigo range of pickups may be a couple of years older than its rivals, the Ford and the Mazda, but the basic vehicle has been successfully updated and still remains the one to beat worldwide.

For more information, go to www.toyota.co.th

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



The Hilux is one of the world's most successful vehicles with more than 12 million sold.

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KHUN WOODY'S COMPUTER

Four months ago in this column I wrote about the way the Thai Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) blocks certain websites. It appears that the MICT primarily targets porn sites but, as I noted in that column, some completely innocuous sites got the ax, too.

For example, four months ago, trying to surf to the baby-naming site www.kalabrians.com from any computer in Thailand brought up the MICT "Site is not appropriate" message.

That specific site has been removed from the government's blacklist – so you can now safely look for baby's names – but many others remain blocked. I bumped into one of them recently: www.anonymizer.com, a site I need to write about in one of my Windows books.

I have no idea why the government of Thailand blocks websites.

Sure, people all over the world want to prevent kids from seeing porn on the Web. I understand that. But the task is completely intractable.

A year ago, one company that's in the business of creating porn blacklists (emeraldwebshield.com) claimed that it was adding 10,000 new sites to its blacklist every week. How many full-time censors would MICT have to employ to keep up with that heady pace? Hundreds? And that was a year ago.

Last November, not-yet-caretaker Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, in his weekly radio broadcast, announced that Thai Internet Service Providers would block more than 800,000 sites deemed by government officials to contain pornography or violence.

"I will warn the ISPs to do that first and if they don't follow the order, their licenses will be canceled," he warned.

Blocking offensive sites may be good politics, but consider the huge size of the task. If it took a government official one minute to surf to each of the 800,000 sites, one minute to confirm that each site contains pornographic or violent material (would, oh, playboy.com count? cnn.com?), and one minute to place the site on the blacklist, the act of reviewing and



The MICT blocks anonymizer sites such as anonymizer.com, but there are hundreds more out there.

Bustin' loose: Internet censorship in Thailand

blocking 800,000 sites would take roughly five years.

No doubt the government official's clicking finger would fall off in the interim.

Censorship's a slippery slope, and the Internet provides unlimited grease. Early this year the Thai anti-corruption site www.corruptionwatch.net went dark, but it's up and working now, and the reasons for the temporary outage aren't at all clear.

At this moment, the governments of Iran, Myanmar, Tunisia, Uzbekistan, Syria, Vietnam and the People's Republic of China are on the OpenNet Initiative's "pervasive" list for Internet censorship. Thailand is on the watchlist (www.opennet.net/map/index2.html).

Repressive governments aren't the only problem. Big companies are also getting in on the censorship act. In a particularly alarming move, some businesses (especially in the US) are banning websites at the company's firewall.

Many employees find that

they can no longer use Hotmail during the day, or contact their bank or broker, as company bigwigs have determined that such surfing negatively affects employee productivity, and they've instructed corporate Network Admins to seal the, uh, gates.

Fortunately, the situation isn't nearly as locked-down as you might think. Where there's a will there's a way, and the Internet sparkles with smart people and their sometimes devious ways.

If you wish to get around blocked sites you must first figure out the address of the site you want to visit.

Unless you're trying to find information in China, where the government controls the search engines and, in effect, allows its citizens to know only about Web pages that have been pre-approved by the People's Republic's lackeys – only China has the bald audacity to muck with search engines, finding the addresses of banned websites is very easy: just use Google or any other search engine.

Once you have the address, getting to the blocked website takes a little bit of cunning. You need to go through a special kind of website called an anonymizer (also called a *proxy server* or *public proxy server*).

To a first approximation, the interaction goes like this: you log on to the anonymizer site. You tell the anonymizer site which Web page you want to visit. The anonymizer goes out to the Website, retrieves the page, and sends it back to you.

That way, your only inter-

action is with the anonymizer site: you don't actually go to the "forbidden" site; the anonymizer does it for you.

Anonymizer sites are popular, but not because they bypass the censors in a small handful of countries. Anonymizers ensure that the website you're visiting

Where there's a will
there's a way, and the
Internet sparkles
with smart people
and their sometimes
devious ways.

can't identify you.

Every time you surf to a website, you leave behind your IP address – a number that uniquely identifies your computer on the Internet. Those of you with dial-up lines get new IP addresses each time you log on, but if you have an ADSL connection, your IP address identifies you just as surely as your phone number.

If you don't particularly want to leave a trail behind when you surf to certain sites, you need to disguise your IP address. When you use an anonymizer, you leave your IP address at the anonymizer site, and the anonymizer leaves its IP address at the "forbidden" site.

Corporate whistleblowers might find that protection valuable, too, especially considering that certain dissidents in China discovered, too late, that their IP addresses could be tracked.

In Thailand, MICT knows about the anonymizer shtick, and therefore blocks access to the best-known anonymizer site, www.anonymizer.com, as well as the lesser-known www.idzap.com and anonymization.net.

There are, however, hundreds of anonymizer sites on the Web. I'll refrain from listing any specific ones – no sense in publishing an easily censored list – but simply refer you to a Google search of "anonymous browser free". Unfortunately, most of those sites are painfully slow.

A few days ago, while wrangling with Windows Vista over a latte, I met a Phuket resident who pointed me to a project undertaken by the Technical University of Dresden and the University of Regensburg.

The Java Anonymous Proxy project (JAP Anon – http://anon.inf.tu-dresden.de/index_en.html) is a long-standing open source effort to bring anonymity and privacy protection to the masses.

The project uses a technique called "server mixes" that MICT could never block. While the current stable version of JAP Anon crawls along at a snail's pace, the new AN.ON servers make JAP quite sprightly.

Follow the instructions at http://anon.inf.tu-dresden.de/PaymentTest_en.html to download the free "developer version" of JAP Anon to get onto the AN.ON network.

If the MICT blocks the JAP Anon site, you can still download the software from hundreds of different locations. Google is your best friend.

Another major research project, called Tor, uses "onion routing" to implement anonymous routing along its entire network – you're not only anonymous at the beginning and end of the network, but there's effectively no way to track your requests through the Internet.

Tor Network started as a US Naval Research Laboratory project, but in late 2004 the Electronic Frontier Foundation picked it up.

While MICT blocks access to the Tor main page, tor.eff.org, you can get a great deal of information about the network at wiki.noreply.org/noreply/TheOnionRouter, including instructions for installing Tor on a USB drive, so you can run it from any computer with a USB port.

While the MICT won't let you get to the official Tor download page, you might want to Google "download tor" and see what you find.

Currently, Woody Leonhard (woody@khunwoody.com, www.askwoody.com) spends all of his waking hours slaving away on two new Windows books, *Windows Vista All-In-One Desk Reference For Dummies*, and *Windows Vista Timesaving Techniques For Dummies*. They should be available worldwide in January.

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ON THE MOVE

Chatayodom Martmuang, 30, from Nakhon Phanom, has been appointed Spa Manager of Cheraim Spa Village next to Thainaan restaurant. K. Chatayodom has a degree in information management from Rangsit University in Bangkok. Before taking up his current position he was Spa Manager at Saban Nga Spa for three years.



Belgian **Eric Dekegel** has been appointed Executive Chef at the Dusit Laguna Resort. He graduated in hotel business from the Coovi-Pivit Hotel School in Brussels and trained at Bruneau, a Michelin-star restaurant in Brussels. Mr Dekegel has 19 years of catering experience, including preparing dishes for officials from the Belgian government, the European Union, NATO and *MS Verdi*, the largest passenger boat in Antwerp.



Phurida Intrachai, from Chiang Mai, has been appointed Area Human Resources Director at the Evason Phuket & Six Senses Spa. K. Phurida has extensive experience in human resources and training, having previously worked for a number of luxury five-star properties, including most recently Le Meridien Khao Lak.



By Janyaporn Morel

Despite threats to the local economy from the ongoing political instability in Thailand and the consistently high fuel prices, the economic situation in Phuket still seems rosy.

At least, this is what Kasikorn Bank believes, and it is putting its money where its belief is, with a highly visible expansion on the island.

Kasikorn Bank (KBank), as it is called following a re-branding a couple of years ago from Thai Farmers Bank, has opened three new branches in Phuket: in Cherg Talay, in Samkong and at Chalong Circle.

Krisada Lamsam, Executive Vice-President and Division Head, Retail Business Division, of KBank, explained, "The economy of Thailand is very buoyant now compared with eight or nine years ago, so KBank is planning to open new branches throughout the country."

PRIORITY

"In 2004, the bank had four branches and one currency exchange booth in Phuket. Now we have opened three new branches, bringing the total to seven branches, and we have also opened seven more currency exchange booths, so there are now eight in total."

K. Krisada said that KBank is giving priority in its expansion to provinces that have high economic potential and that there are plans for further expansion in Phuket, depending on the state of the economy and the needs of customers.

"Phuket has high growth potential in terms of tourism and the economy in general. It also has a low unemployment rate, as it is a tourism province and the

KasikornBank bets on island's bright future



KBank's branches are easy to spot, especially at night when the bright green corporate color – an echo of the bank's former incarnation as the Thai Farmers Bank – glows in the dark.

tourism growth rate is more than 8% a year," K. Krisada told the *Gazette*.

To facilitate its expansion in

Phuket, KBank has trained 30 new staff, bringing the total on the island to 105. K. Krisada explained that the expansion of K-

Bank's branch network is aimed at supplying financial services more conveniently. Therefore, the new branches are located in com-

munity areas, shopping centers and tourist spots so that customers do not have to go out of their way.

"For this reason the new branches will not be large. They will, however, be able to offer a full range of services," he explained.

"In Phuket, the income of the bank comes from interest revenue, transactional services [service fees] and currency exchange.



Krisada Lamsam: no major increases in interest rates likely this year.

so we not only plan to expand the number of branches but also to add ways to access our services such as through ATMs and KLobbys [self-service banking machines] to serve our customers and make their banking more convenient and more easily accessed," he added.

K. Krisada explained that within the Kasikorn Bank group there are five wholly-owned subsidiaries: KAsset, KLeasing, KSecurities, KFactoring and KResearch.

The group offers savings, investment and credit services as well as risk management and insurance. Customers can access all products offered by KBank group companies through any KBank branch.

"The expansion of credit services by the commercial banks in Thailand is still at risk from economic slowdown, even though the political situation is improving. We believe that the large commercial banks will increase interest rates for savings and loans by no more than a quarter of a point this year," he concluded.

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MONEY TALKS



By Richard Watson

Two major economies, two different scenarios: The United States and China. In the US a combination of higher interest rates with higher energy and commodity prices has seen economic growth fall dramatically.

In the first quarter of 2006 the US recorded GDP (Gross Domestic Product) racing ahead by 5.6%, annualized.

The second quarter's figures, issued at the end of July, saw a much more sober annualized rate of 2.5%.

In China, the situation is different.

There, first-quarter growth was at a rate of around 10% annualized and second quarter growth soared to an astonishing 11.3% annualized.

To a casual observer it might seem that the Chinese economy is incredibly successful compared with that of the US.

In fact, in the real world of economics, nothing is ever that simple.

One Chinese economist gave a very accurate description of what is happening in China. He compared the economy there to a boy entering his teens.

Continual rapid growth is the norm, he said, but he wished the "boy" would grow up.

It should be noted that China's leaders are not throwing a party to celebrate this growth. They are seriously worried, and with good reason.

The country's current growth falls definitely within the definition of a boom.

But the pace is ultimately unsustainable and if it is not brought under control, it will eventually lead to an economic bust.

The Chinese authorities are trying a multitude of measures to slow the economy but simultaneously they are deeply concerned about how effective their measures are going to be.

In the banking sector the government has raised capital reserve requirements for Chinese banks twice in consecutive months (June and July) in an effort to slow bank lending and also to prepare the banks for rising bad debt.

The banking sector has some disturbing features. China's



George Bush – when you are young you grow real fast. That goes for economies too.

– Photo: EPA/Ken Cedeno/Pool

For the US economy, Dubya's no bad deal

banks are far from sophisticated and loans are made without sufficient regard to credit quality. Indeed, loans are frequently given because local government figures push for favored companies to be given credit, regardless of merit.

The powers in Beijing are not happy with this scenario but usually find themselves powerless to intervene effectively in

ment, increased interest rates and capital gains taxes.

A recent interview with 33 of the richest people in China revealed some interesting points. They may be happy to have made lots of money but they also feel very insecure.

They worry about the lack of security provided by the legal system and are scared by the reality that hundreds of millions of their fellow-citizens are jealous of them.

This is a realistic fear; China's rural population is feeling very neglected. The huge rise in national wealth is simply not being shared with them. They are not the beneficiaries so naturally they are disillusioned and resentful.

The Chinese government would like to see the economy grow at around 7% or 8%, not the current double-digit figures that will lead ultimately to an economic crisis.

China has never had to face such a situation in the past – under the old Communist economic model the

biggest problem was managing to make any progress at all. Now the Chinese authorities are not too confident they have the tools to slow down the economy in an orderly manner.

The US does have the tools, though even there, getting the perfect result is not easy. The government and the Federal Reserve (the "Fed") appear to have engineered an economic slowdown, though infla-

a lot smarter than his critics and opponents.

He steadfastly stuck to a policy of not increasing taxation. In fact, he even made tax cuts.

His reasoning was that money in the hands of the general public and the private sector would be far more efficiently handled than if it were in the hands of the government.

In private hands it would produce wealth which, eventually, would lead to higher revenue receipts for the government, thereby returning the deficit to reasonable levels.

The budget deficit was, in any event, caused in the early Bush years when the economy was in recession, and tax receipts were down because business and personal incomes were down.

In February this year the Bush administration announced that the expected budget deficit for fiscal 2006, which ends on September 30, was US\$423 billion. The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office and Wall Street economists were predicting US\$370 billion.

However, since then, the money has been pouring in and current predictions are that the deficit will be US\$296 billion.

This is 2.3% of GDP. These figures may seem high – US\$296 billion is a lot of money – but then America's is a very large economy. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has always preached that countries should keep their budget deficits below 3% of GDP. This, the IMF feels, is the maximum sustainable level. Well, the US is now well inside that figure.

I may not take down the picture of my all-time favorite politician, Margaret Thatcher, and replace it with one of George W Bush – apart from anything else, I oppose his policies on stem cell research – but, overall, George is certainly not on my "bad guy" list.

Richard Watson runs Global Portfolios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based personal financial planning service. He can be reached at Tel: and Fax: 076-381997, Mobile: 01-0814611. Email: imm@loxinfo.co.th

According to his opponents, the US budget deficit could have been solved by increasing taxation. But Bush, in this area, was a lot smarter than his critics and opponents.

local situations. Indeed, frequently they are completely unaware of what is happening.

Another major concern is property. Real estate prices in many cities are skyrocketing, and the government is acutely aware of what may happen when the law of gravity starts to exert its power.

Recent measures introduced to cool the real estate boom include curbs on foreign invest-

tion is still higher than the Fed would like.

This is a Goldilocks scenario – what is required is not too hot, not too cold, but just perfect. As in China, this is not an easy outcome to achieve.

The cost of energy has raised the inflation rate above the Fed's target of a maximum of 2% a year.

Incomes after adjustment for productivity gains are very moderate, so corporate America cannot easily increase prices.

The Fed is trying to achieve a "soft landing" for the economy but monetary policy is not an exact science because movements in short-term interest rates take up to 18 months to be felt fully throughout an economy.

The Fed has been raising interest rates steadily for the past 2½ years and the impact of the most recent of these increases on the economy has yet to be felt.

President Bush comes in for a lot of criticism; it seems that the world at large views him as Public Enemy No 1.

According to his opponents, the US budget deficit could have been solved by increasing taxation. But Bush, in this area, was

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Infrared battle league launched

KATHU: Simulated Battlefield Systems (SBS) in Kathu is launching a team combat league. The league, starting in early September, will use infrared "rifles" and sensors to simulate gun battles without using projectiles.

Battles will last around 20 minutes and matches will be decided on a best-of-three basis. Apart from recorded "kills", points will also be given for achieving mission objectives such as capturing the enemy team's flag.

Battles will be held around the island and extra points will be awarded for winning away matches. Teams should ideally have around 10 people, though there is no maximum or minimum number set.

The infrared system, commonly known as Laser Tag, was pioneered in the 1980s and has a keen following throughout the world.

A version of the system is used by various armed forces for close-combat training. As no projectiles are used, the game is much less injury-prone than paint-ball.

Full battledress will be provided. SBS advise that combatants should wear trainers, not flip-flops or sandals.



There's nothing to stop the girls taking a shot at glory in the Infrared Battle League.

An inaugural exhibition match will take place on Saturday, August 26. League matches will start the following Saturday.

For more information or to register a team, please contact SBS at info@sbsthailand.com or call Tel: 09-5884050.

J League coaches hold school workshops

THALANG: Coaching staff from top J League team Urawa Red Diamonds held football workshops at two local schools on August 5. They were accompanied by a group of budding Japanese footballers aged six to 13.

In the workshops, held at Veerasatree Anusorn and Thalang Phra Nangsaeng schools, the Japanese coaches taught tricks and tactics to the children and also arranged friendly matches with Thai and Japanese children playing together. Around 60 Thai children attended the workshops.

It was the second year in a row that representatives from the Saitama-based club, commonly known as the Urawa Reds, have come to visit and they promised to return again next year.

The Reds are currently in second place in the J League, trailing leaders Kawasaki Frontale by just one point.



OrBorTor win bowling

PHUKET CITY: Srisoonthorn Tambon Administration Organization (OrBorTor) won the annual Phuket Chamber of Commerce Bowling competition on August 5 with a total of 1,941 points.

Thirty teams registered for the competition, but only 20 turned up on the day. Ten played in the morning and the other 10 in the afternoon.

In second place were the team from Phuket Center Tour with 1,888 points, while Phuket

International Hospital came third with 1,857.

The winners received a trophy donated by Phuket Governor Udomsak Usvarangkura and a 5,000-baht prize. Second place merited a trophy and a 3,000-baht prize from the Chief Justice of Phuket, while third place received a trophy from the President of the Chamber of Commerce and 2,000 baht.

Surplus proceeds from the event will go to charity.

PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

Didi's, Piccadilly extend leads

PATONG: Didi's 5-4 win over Coyote Bar on August 1 kept them one point ahead of Piccadilly, who in the same round beat Queen Mary 8-1 to extend their lead to five points ahead of OffShore and Coyote, who are tied for third place.

However, in the outstanding make-up match the following day, Queen Mary beat Amigos 6-3 and won the beer leg to secure a mid-season tally of 16 points, ensuring they didn't down the standings. They are now tied for fifth place with Amigos.

August 1 results: Dogs Bollocks* 6 Valhalla 3; Amigos 4 OffShore* 5; Shakers 5 Footrot Flats* 4; Piccadilly* 8 Queen

Mary 1; Jungle Juice 4 TaiLife* 5; Coyote Bar* 4 Didi's 5. Make-up of postponed match: Queen Mary* 6 Amigos 3 (* = winner of beer leg).

Standings: 1. Didi's (22 points); 2. Piccadilly (21); 3.= OffShore, Coyote Bar (17); 5. Amigos (16); 6.= Queen Mary, Dog's Bollocks (13); 8. Jungle Juice (12); 9. Valhalla (11); 10. Shakers (9); 11. TaiLife (6); 12. Footrot Flats (5) (Note = all matches played).

August 15 fixtures: TaiLife v Footrot Flats; Dog's Bollocks v Queen Mary; Valhalla v Amigos; Didi's v Shakers; Coyote v Jungle Juice; Offshore v Piccadilly (home teams listed first).



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Locals dominate Kalim surfing competition

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

KALIM: Mana "Yim" Narak made the most of the small surf at his regular spot off Kalim on August 5 and 6 to win the Kalim Phuket Surfing Contest 2006, defeating fellow local surfer Chalong Thongsuk, from Patong.

All 48 surfers in the contest, including local Thais as well as surfers from Japan, Australia and the US, competed in the Open category – the sole category – but it was the locals who dominated the contest, occupying the top five places.

Ekkarat "Lim" Sriden from Kamala finished third, while Preeda "Bao" Niamkong from Patong, and Chaisit "Ple" Sittichoke from Kamala finished fourth and fifth, respectively.

The top foreigner in the tourney was Tatsuya Nabeshima from Japan, who finished sixth.

Chanin "Joob" Aiyarak, President of the Phuket Boardriders Club, which organized the tournament, said that the dominance of local Thai surfers was a good result, adding that six of the judges were foreigners.

"I am proud to see a Thai finally win the final," he said.

Last year, Australian Andrew "Oggi" Fallon, then living in Patong, won the contest.

Despite good-sized surf the day before, the finals on August 6 were marred by small waves that closed out early, restricting the entrants to gaining points only with cutbacks and length of ride on the wave.

PBC member Jumlong Sittichock said that the conditions made it difficult for competition surfing. "Whether professional or local amateur surfers, when surf-



Clobbered: Mana "Yim" Narak (left) makes sure that second-place Chalong Thongsuk understands who won. Below: with low surf, scoring in the tourney was limited to cutbacks and length of ride.



ing in small swell in Phuket, that's difficult surfing."

K. Joob agreed. "At the

best, in a heat lasting 25 to 30 minutes, a surfer has only two to three shots at scoring points."

New date for Nike Golf Team Challenge

THALANG: Due to popular request, the Nike Golf Canyon Team Challenge has moved to a new starting date of August 29, and will run for six matches over a period of three months.

Rounds in the corporate team competition will be played every two weeks, with each being based on a different format.

Points will be awarded based on a team's finishing position each week. At the end of the six matches, the team with the most points will be crowned "Nike Golf Canyon Team Challenge Champions".

The dates and formats of matches are as follows: August 29, Scramble; September 12, Stableford; September 26, Best Ball; October 10, Flag Day; October 24, Scramble; November 7, Stroke Play.

The entry fee for each

match will be 900 baht for Blue Canyon Country Club members and 1,750 for guests. The fee will cover caddy fees, finger food and a jug of beer for each team.

Registration each week will be at the Canyon Shop at 11:30 am, with tee-off at 12:30 pm.

In addition to the overall team competition, there will be weekly awards for the winning team, nearest-to-the-pin and longest drive.

The competition is open only to company or business teams. The tournament will be limited to 10 teams, with places allocated on a first-come-first-served basis. Entries will close on Friday, August 25.

For inquiries, contact Jamie or Tim at the BCCC at Tel: 076-328088, ext 186, or email: jamie@bluecanyonclub.com

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Body Charger PRO ENERGY

Construction Update

by Sangkhae Leelanapaporn



Dusit Laguna enters Phuket property market

CHERNG TALAY: Laguna Resorts & Hotels Plc (LRH) has begun construction of 28 Dusit Laguna Villas, making Dusit Laguna Resort Phuket (DLR) the first Dusit hotel to offer private pool villas.

Piling began this month, and the development is expected to be complete within two years.

The three-story, two-bedroom villas, designed and being built by Architrave Design and

Planning, LRH's architectural arm, are set within the gardens of the DLR, though situated in a way that ensures privacy.

Unusually, the living and dining areas are on the middle floor of each villa, and open onto a terrace, while the bedrooms and ensuite bathrooms are located on the lower floor, each with access to a private garden.

The top floor is designed as a relaxation area, featuring a 6 x

3 x 1.3-meter-deep plunge pool. Together, all three floors offer a total living space of about 290 square meters.

Tamsin Edenbrow, Director of Sales at Laguna Property, explained that the Dusit villas were inspired by the success of the Banyan Tree Villas project, and in response to an increase in demand for a high-end product at the Dusit. "These offer a brand-new product for the Dusit: private

villas within a five-star resort environment, stunning ocean and lagoon views, and only one minute from the beach.

"The property market is buoyant. We have sold more than 70 properties this year and are receiving increasing interest in the higher end of the market.

"We feel that this is the right time to launch the Dusit Laguna Villas into the marketplace," she added.

Ms Edenbrow explained that the target group for the villas are guests of the DLR and the other Laguna hotels.

"These villas are ideal for clients looking for an investment and lifestyle property," she said, adding that DLR will manage the villas.

"Owners will be treated exactly like hotel guests, and full hotel services will be provided by Dusit," she said.

Each villa owner will also receive membership of the Laguna Phuket Golf Club and be issued a Laguna Residents' Privileges card, entitling him or her to discounts at Laguna Phuket's res-

taurants and spas, and access to the facilities at all five Laguna Phuket hotels.

The villas are for sale fully furnished at 32 million baht each with leasehold titles for the land and freehold titles for the building.

Owners can receive a return on their investment through DLR's rental program, Ms Edenbrow explained, while retaining 60 days a year for their own usage.

RENTAL

"We are guaranteeing a fixed rental return of 6% over six years (subject to withholding tax). If owners choose this option, then there will be some restrictions regarding their villa usage, such as during the Christmas and New Year period," she added.

For more information about Dusit Laguna Villas, contact Tamsin Edenbrow, Director of Sales at Laguna's property division, at Tel: 076-270945 or 076-324066, or by Email to: tamsine@lagunaphuket.com

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Decor

By Natcha Yuttaworawit



STUCK ON HUE

Pornchai Sup-Aramdee, owner of MC Home Design, says, "I don't know why wallpaper is not a more popular choice in Phuket." He notes that wallpaper is mainly used by hotels – not just to obscure uneven walls but also to add a touch of class.

K. Pornchai opened MC Home Design on Wichit Songkram Rd six years ago, serving customers not only from Phuket, but also from Phang Nga and Krabi Provinces – and even as far afield as Koh Samui.

His store stocks an extensive range of colors and patterns, many with woven fabric forming the wall covering, and many styles imported from countries including Italy, Australia, South Korea, China and Japan.

The most expensive wallpaper in the shop is made from water hyacinth. It costs 580 baht a square meter and is available from a "standard roll" 10 meters long and 53 centimeters wide.

Other eye-catching designs, at 1,100 baht a roll, have durable vinyl woven through them to give them a look like silk.

K. Pornchai also has designs that cost as little as 180 baht a square meter.

In addition, MC Home Design stocks "wallpaper" for ceilings, at 850 baht a roll, which is perfect for making painted plasterboard look more attractive.

When it comes to applying wallpaper, K. Pornchai recommends hiring experts; this is more a job for experts than for the uninitiated, he says. Any person who

has tried pasting wallpaper as a do-it-yourself project would probably agree.

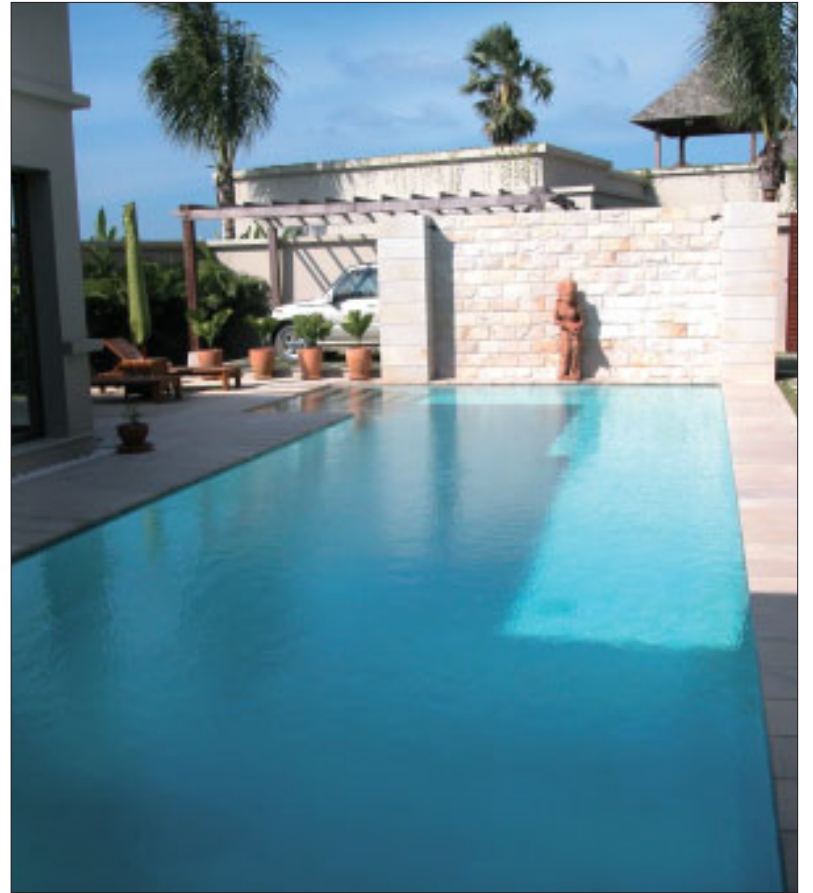
For more information, visit MC Home Design, located a few doors from Richy Bakery on Wichit Songkram Rd in Phuket City. Open Monday to Saturday, 8 am to 7 pm. Tel: 076-234892. Website: www.mchomedesign.com. Free delivery within Phuket.

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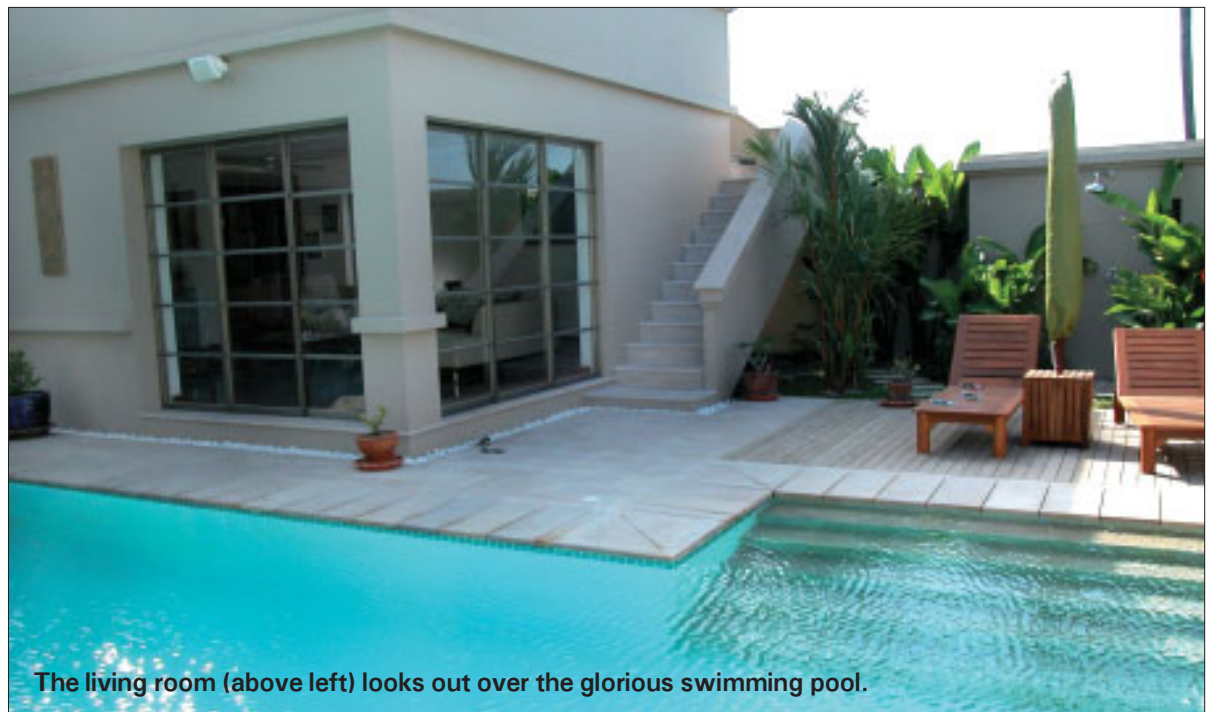
islandcurtains@yahoo.com', 'John 07-2760529 Kantana 07-2849301', 'Vince 01-9035622 Yaya 06-2712566', 'GRAND OPENING 30% OFF', '1,000 colors of silk available', 'PHOTO ILLUSTRATION ONLY'."/>

Home of the Week

Cherng Talay



A stylish villa with taste and privacy



The living room (above left) looks out over the glorious swimming pool.

This stylish three-bedroom villa in Cherng Talay is just minutes from Phuket's northern beaches, golf courses, and west-coast entertainment and shopping areas.

The large outside terrace fronted by the 50-square-meter private swimming pool has been designed to complement the home's contemporary style and is bordered at one end by the property boundary and by tropi-

cal gardens along the remaining sides.

Two sliding glass doors lead into the large living room with its floor-to-ceiling windows giving extensive views of the pool area. Floored with quality hardwood and fitted with the latest in mood lighting and security systems, this room offers an ambiance in which to relax in safety and comfort.

For entertaining guests or simply enjoying Phuket's fine weather there is a roof-top sala,

which has a kitchenette and barbecue area. Indoors, the master bedroom is an impressive mix of natural wood finishes and quality construction, including an en-suite bathroom with black granite bench tops and indoor and outdoor showers.

Though smaller, the second bedroom is of the same quality, as is the study/third bedroom.

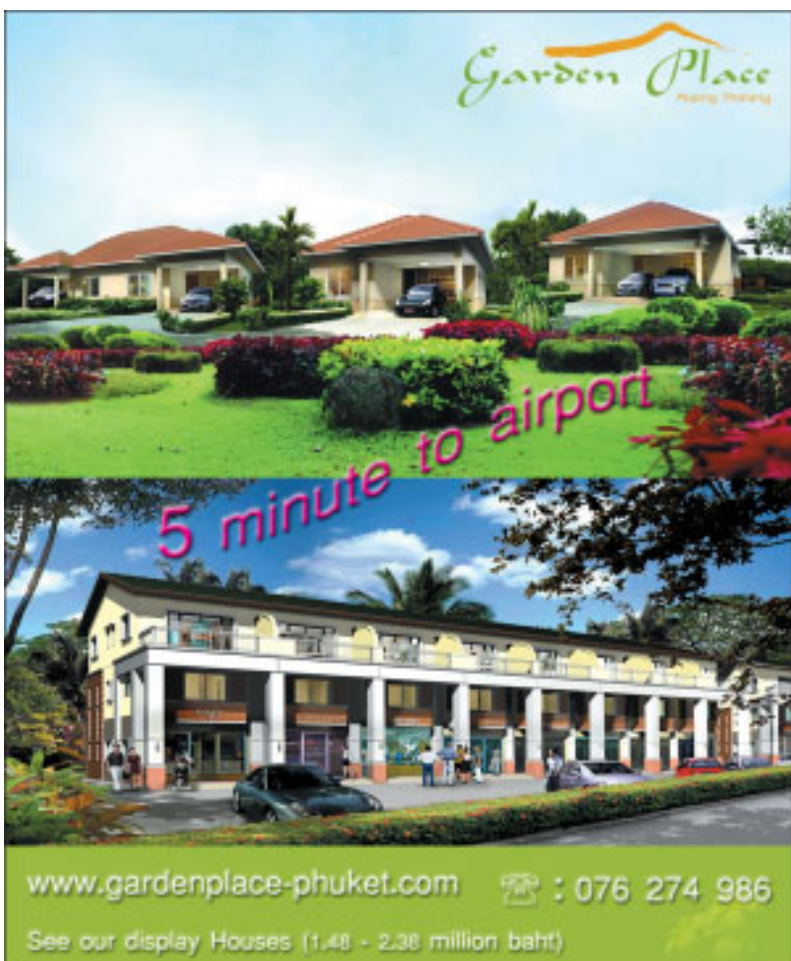
All rooms have fans and are air-conditioned, and all fittings and fixtures throughout the property are of the highest standard. The modern Western-style kitchen, fitted with a bench-top cooker and granite worktops, features teak and *maka* wood.

An added benefit for the new owner is that the villa may be professionally managed and serviced to provide the owners with a return on their investment while not compromising their enjoyment and use of the property.

The land has Chanote title and is for sale at 19.9 million baht.



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Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

Whingers annoy me. I should probably start with a bit of an explanation here, for the benefit of transatlantic types who speak their own unique form of the English language, and may well be setting there muttering to themselves, "Gee, what in Sam Hill is this Bert guy talkin' about?"

Well my dictionary says that a whinger is someone who grumbles peevishly, or complains annoyingly or continuously about something that really doesn't matter.

Thailand, as it happens, has more than its fair share of them – every single one of them a *farang*, either on holiday here, or living on the island permanently.

For some unfathomable reason, they come here with their Western views and complain because things aren't the way they are at home. The worst whinge? "It's too hot – I can't stand this heat."

I'm obviously far too polite and restrained to tell these people "Of course it's hot, you total buffoon. You're in Thailand – a country a few degrees north of the equator. What the hell do you expect?"

I've usually walked away from them by then anyway.

I'll admit that the driving here is certainly unique, but there's little point in complaining about it. Put up or shut up. Or preferably, go home. I'm sure that the driving whingers would be much happier with 20-mile tailbacks and road rage. Then they would have something they could really whine about, after their two-hour 10-mile journey to the office.

Thailand whingers have nothing on their UK counterparts, who are even more irritating. We Brits have become so famous for this particular trait that Australians have their own special term for us – 'whinging Poms'.

They've got a point. British winters aren't exactly pleasant most of the time, so the average Brit walks around sullenly emitting a barrage of complaints about how he wishes it were summer, so he could enjoy some heat for a change rather than that nasty winter feeling.

Nature duly complies with this request, and temperatures rise predictably for the summer months when the sun comes out. What do these same individuals do? Whine about the heat. Now it's too hot for them.

World-class, classic British whinging at its best. We'd beat the rest of the planet hands-down if ever there was a World Cup for whinging.

Brits even manage to complain that they're skint (sorry, Americans – that means "broke"). For some, their expectation is that everything should simply be handed to them on a plate.



There are many who dream of (some even demand) a pot of gold handed to them, but have absolutely no inclination to go out and look for it themselves.

We all have our pot of gold waiting somewhere – we just need to work to find it, and get off our fat behinds and look. Rant over. Sorry about that.

Now this is going to go down as the all-time low in the history of tenuous links. This brings us neatly (I use the word very loosely) to the Cup of Gold plant. Otherwise known as the chalice vine, or more properly, the *solandra grandiflora*, this plant proudly displays one of the most magnificent flowers around.

Known as *tuay thong* (gold cup) in Thai, this creeping climber is a spectacular addition to a garden. It covers itself with large, cup-like flowers, which become fragrant in the evening.

If I actually knew what I was talking about, I'd be able to explain in scientific terms why the odor levels rise later in the day, but frankly, I haven't a clue.

Flowers make their appearance several times a year, and they do so in style, with the whole plant festooned with these bright yellow cups, lined with vivid purple veiny lines running up the insides.

The leaves are elliptical, which in more normal language means that they're oval-shaped. They also have a little pointed end to the leaves, and are glossy on the top surface.

Like so many other plants with shiny leaves, the cup of gold is poisonous, so it isn't exactly the ideal addition to a salad. This doesn't come as a great surprise, as it belongs to the same family as the deadly nightshade. Having said that, so do the potato, the tomato and the chili. Now I'm confused.

The best spot to put this plant is in full sun. Now, you may think that this term is fairly self-ex-

planatory, but according to the people that make up the rules for this kind of thing, "full sun" is defined as exposure to more than six hours of continuous, direct sun a day. I bet these people are a real barrel of laughs at parties. Moist, well-drained soil is ideal. The Cup of Gold likes to be watered regularly in the dry season;

at this time of the year you probably won't need to bother. Adding a bit of compost to the soil will help to improve its texture and its water-holding capacity and its draining characteristics.

There have been cases of particularly dumb dogs eating parts of this plant with unfortunate consequences, so if your

canine companion is a little "special", to use that unfortunate PC term, than it is probably not a good idea to plant the Cup of Gold in your garden.

The plant grows like crazy when it gets into full flow, so as it's a climber that can't really be bothered to stand up for itself, it will need something to hang on to.

Trellises or pergolas are probably the best homes the Cup of Gold can have – they provide this climber with the support it needs for its growth tendencies.

Common materials for these structures include wood, metal and plastic. You should choose what you want according to the style of your garden and the amount of upkeep required.

Painted, wooden structures will be higher maintenance, whereas a rust-proof metal structure will require less maintenance and last longer.

Given that I'd be far more content sitting back with a beer in my garden rather than maintaining something in it, I know which option I'd go for.

I'm sure that there will be people who, when reading this, will decide to have a whinge about it. Whinge away. I'm off for a beer.

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Property Gazette

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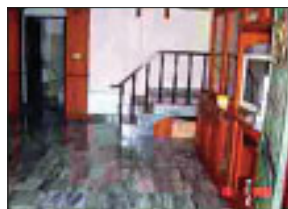
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Property Gazette

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Baan Maneekram, Kwang Rd. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, large garden, car park. Price: 7.1 million baht. Tel: 06-9536881.

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villa Layan. Exclusive villas with panoramic view of Layan Bay. For sale. Tel: 076-272-371, 01-7371688, 01-397-3267. Further details, please see our website at: www.phutawanresidence.com

NEW VILLA FOR SALE



350sqm living space, pool, double car park, 4 bedrooms, office room, absolute privacy and security. 15.9 million baht. Tel: 07-8896074. Email: info@sea-property-phuket.com

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in Kuraburi, Phang Nga. Price: 68 million baht. Tel: 01-1719705.

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Land plot with building permit or off-plan from 1.5-12.5 million baht. Please contact for full details. Tel: 07-8852969. Email: junekata@hotmail.com

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Property Gazette

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CENTRAL KAMALA

Large 2-bedroom apartment. All mod cons, UBC, etc. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 01-8111067.

NICE HOUSE IN LAND

& Houses Park. 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, fully furnished, aircon, cable TV, kitchen, telephone line, washing machine. Long-term only. 25,000 baht per month. For more information, call K. Pasit at Tel: 07-1745511 or K. Pakapon at Tel: 01-8096409, or Email: mekchay@hotmail.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.

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restaurant. Available for an astonishing 10 years at 3.8 million baht with a monthly rent of 20,000 baht. All fully equipped and comes with a 2-bedroom owner's flat. Property is only 150 meters from the beach. Tel: 01-3704215. Email: davidhnelson@hotmail.com

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PATONG 2-BEDROOM

apartment. Large and luxurious. UBC, swimming pool, aircon, good location and quiet. Price: 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 06-2790837.

KAMALA, LONG LET

2-bedroom house, 3 aircons, furnished, UBC, phone line, parking. 11,000 baht a month. Tel: 07-1789273.

HOUSE FOR RENT

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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

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: 06-9060166.

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

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NERAMIT HILL

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SHOPHOUSE

46/2 Ket Kwan Rd, Kata. 10,000 baht per month, 1-year lease. Contact for more details. Tel: 076-330889. Fax: 076-333187. Email: drcracknell@gmail.com

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.

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at Pakhlom 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. Tel: 01-6063525.

APARTMENTS

Chalong. Titima Mansions; 2 bedrooms, furnished, aircon, hot shower, security and gardens. Tel: 01-8914964. Email: beachcomberwa@yahoo.com.au

KARON APARTMENT

Central Karon. 50m from the beach. Newly furnished and renovated 2-room apartment with 2 balconies, cable TV, Wi-Fi, aircon. 20,000 baht per month. Long term only. Tel: 06-2718254.

BIG HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, living area, kitchen, etc, on Phisit Gorani Rd, Patong. Monthly rent: 15,000 baht. Available from August 10. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-4717629. Email: maxgmuender@hotmail.com

3-BEDROOM HOME

Chao Fa Rd. 207 sq wah, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, nice living room, good kitchen, cool garden, parking for 3 cars. Fully furnished. For sale at 6.7 million baht or rent at 40,000 baht a month. Tel: 01-597-8315. Email: phuket8@hotmail.com

BEACHSHOP BAR

Excellent location, 90sqm on Laguna beach for rent or sale near Lotus Restaurant. Beachfront and road access.. Tel: 076-271159. Email: barcode91@yahoo.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 Please see at: www.ayudhya.net

VILLA FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, aircon, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, big-dish sat TV, many extras. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 01-8081804.

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

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Property Gazette

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www.gardenislandphuket.com

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Looking for a small house, 2 or 3 bedrooms with kitchen, bathroom and furniture. Internet (ADSL) required. Needed for up to 6 months or more. Location: Kathu, Patong, Kamala or nearby. Max budget: 15,000 baht per month. Please send an offer by email. I will arrive Phuket on October 6. Email: thaicheck@gmail.com

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

SEEKING HOUSE

to rent. German family is looking for house to rent near international school. Min 1 year. Tel: 06-188922.

SHOP IN BANGLA ROAD PATONG

I am looking for a shop in Bangla Rd. Must be at least 4.5m wide and 5m deep, and be towards the beach. Prefer long lease (3 + 3 years). Will be prepared to fly in from Australia after talking. Tel: 614257778-98 (Australia). Email: madler51@hotmail.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: chrillearning@hotmail.com

BEACHFRONT WANTED

Looking for a beachfront restaurant or business property to buy or to lease. Please contact me with full details. Tel: 09-0543505.

LAND WANTED

Seaview, beachfront land in Phuket, Phang Nga, Krabi. 10-100 rai. Tel: 01-6936437, 06-6841260.

HOUSE WANTED

Looking to buy a 2- to 3-bedroom house in Phuket or Krabi. Maximum price: 4 million baht. Email: wanphenstephen@hotmail.com

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KATA BEACH

New guesthouse with everything. Facing the beach, only a 5-minute walk, without traffic, to beach. Please see: www.southernfriedrice.com Tel: 01-8948446.

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KAMALA BEACH

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PATONG TOWER

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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

BUNGALOWS/ APARTMENTS

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

KARON APARTMENT

Central Karon 50-meters from the beach. Newly furnished and renovated 2-room apartment with 2 balconies, cable TV, Wi-Fi, aircon. 20,000 baht per month. Long term only. Please call for more information. Tel: 06-2718254.

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

Accommodation Wanted

LONG-TERM RENTAL

46-year-old, sensible, mature, professional Aussie male seeks long-term rental in Patong for 6 months. Arriving in September. Room, flat, house, bungalow, anything considered. This will be my 10th visit to Phuket since 1979. I will be doing volunteer work to try to give something back. Tel: 02-48226185, 04-12202049. Fax: 02-48272219. Email: tanseypeter@yahoo.com.au

ACCOMODATION IN KAMALA

Family of 3 seeking accommodation in Kamala. November 2006-February 1, 2007. Furnished, aircon. 2 bedrooms, kitchenette/ small kitchen. If possible, prefer maid service once a week and ADSL. Email: fam.thorgren@hotmail.com

AIRCON ROOM

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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. 5 million baht. Tel: 02-6777555 ext 238.

SPEEDBOAT

6m long, 200hp Mercury engine. Needs attention. Exchange for longtail boat 15+ persons. Tel: 05-7843043.

NEW MERCURY 90 HP

2-stroke, never used, for sale at best offer. Call K. Pen. Tel: 06-6834996.

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.

SPORT FISHERMAN

Arguably the finest quality center console in Thailand. In survey. Please call Tel: 076-292-746, 01-8922824. For further details, please see our website at: www.kohjoy.com/makocraft

Island Job Mart

Club Bamboo
Patong Beach, Phuket

A lovely and small boutique resort in Patong has vacancies for ambitious and committed people to strengthen our team

Hotel Manager

- Male or Female over 30 years old
- Thai preferable
- Bachelor's degree in hotel, hospitality or other relevant field
- Recent hospitality industry knowledge, Rooms Division/ Sales & Marketing experience preferable more than 5 years

Executive Secretary

- Female over 25 years old Thai
- More than 3 years hotel experience
- Network

Night Audit

- Male over 22 years old Thai nationality
- Education in hotel, hospitality or other relevant field
- Recent hospitality industry knowledge

All positions require:

- Excellent command of both spoken and written English language.
- Other foreign languages will be a plus
- Excellent communication and computer skills (MS office) especially Fidelio system. Organizational skills and ability to work independently
- Pro-active entrepreneurial, leadership, team player, responsible and reliable with a hands-on approach, good interpersonal skills and motivated

Please submit your CV with salary expectation and current photo to agm@clubbamboo.com
Tel: 076-345345-7 Fax: 076-345099

JOIN OUR VILLA TEAM IN SAMUI !

Samui Villas & Homes is looking for :

- Estate Manageress*
- Villa Manageress*
- Handyman/Gardener
- Maids
- Guest Relations Officer*
- Thai Chefs
- Chief Engineers*

* Experience of 3-5 years in five-star hotel environment preferred. Good command of spoken English. Salary incentive includes service charge, bonus month and accommodation. Application with resume and picture at the office (Tel (077) 427-648) or at golf@samuivillasandhomes.com

Southern Media marketing services

Web Designers and Graphic Designers

We are a very busy marketing services company based in Phuket. We're looking for highly motivated and talented professionals to share in our success. You must be able to communicate in English.

website design

- experience of search engine optimisation
- must be able to design using css and xhtml
- flash, actionscript and php experience

talented graphic artists

- web design layout
- brochures, marketing packs, logos
- outdoor media

interested...

email us your resume with links to your very best work

jobs@southern-media.net
09 473 0575

Gazette Online Classifieds
10,000 readers every day!

British Curriculum International School, Phuket.

Teaching Vacancies for October 2006

PRIMARY SCHOOL Nursery Teacher

The school is looking for a motivated and talented teacher who has wide experience of working in the Nursery/Early Years age range. The position is required to cover a maternity leave from early October to mid-December. There is also a strong possibility that the successful applicant would be retained on a permanent contract if a new pre-nursery class (2-3 year olds) is opened in January 2007. Experience of the English Foundation Stage curriculum is advantageous, but applicants from different educational backgrounds are encouraged to apply. Prospective applicants are expected to have a relevant educational qualification (i.e. BEd, PGCE, NNEB etc.).

Candidates should email a short letter of application, CV, recent photograph and email/fax and telephone contacts of referees to the Head of Primary kamolphanv@bcis.ac.th

There is no official closing date for applications, although interested applicants are encouraged to apply by Thursday 31st August, so that interviews can take place the following week in London.

An attractive package is offered with details available on application. Further information about the school may be obtained from our website: www.bcis.ac.th



British International School, Phuket (BCIS)

59 Moo 2, Thepkasatthi Rd, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83000 Thailand

Tel: 076 238 711-20 Fax: 076 238 750 Bangkok Tel: 02 636 8991-2 Fax: 02 636 8992

SUNWING RESORT & SPA

Sunwing Resort & Spa, Phuket
72/11 M. 3 T. Chong Talay, Talang,
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
- Sous Chef
- Chef De Partie
- Cook
- Restaurant Manager
- Restaurant Supervisor
- Captain
- Bartender
- Waiter / Waitress
- Front Office Manager
- Guest Relations
- Reception
- Housekeeper Supervisor

APPLICANTS FOR ALL OTHER POSITIONS ALSO WELCOME

Candidates should send a detailed resume starting 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

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 resume 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

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

Please contact K. Angkana.
Tel: 076-271241. Email: silk@silkphuket.com For further details, please see our website at: www.silkphuket.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 Website: www.holyclothing.com

SALES ONLINE

is fun. Advance your career in a fun, friendly, smart, online office if you have clear spoken and written English, enjoy problem solving and helping customers. 2 positions. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-236616. Email: siwaporn@hotel-travel-asia.com

DIVING INSTRUCTOR

We are looking for a PADI diving instructor for our 5-star dive center on Phi Phi. Email: tony@diveh2osportz.com

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER

will have at least 4 years' HR experience with a multinational company, possess an in-depth knowledge of HRM and Thai labor law. Will handle and oversee all HR functions including recruitment process, performance evaluation, training, compensation, payroll, and ensure the implementation of the company's policies. Will be a team player with good leadership qualities, interpersonal skills, hard-working and well-organized. Proficiency in English is preferable. Tel: 076-283388. Email: pat@destinationair.com

SALES MANAGER

A dynamic self-starter with excellent presentation skills, able to sell our product with confidence to a sophisticated customer base. Must be able to think on their own, develop sales strategies to achieve targets, generate new business opportunities and build long-term sales distribution networks in Thailand and abroad. At least 5 years' experience in airline, hotel, travel industry is preferable. Tel: 076-283388. Email: pat@destinationair.com

PROJECT MANAGER

Project Manager reports to MD and will be responsible for managing special projects. We require problem solving skills and proficiency in English. Prefer at least 5 years' experience in construction or engineering business. Must be able to establish, organize and implement project plans well. Tel: 076-283388. Email: pat@destinationair.com

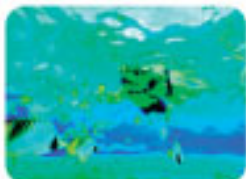
FITNESS MANAGER

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 by email to: bighouda5@hotmail.com

Island Job Mart



Destination Air, based in Phuket Thailand, will fly over the beautiful crystal clear blue water of the Andaman Sea. We are looking for the following dynamic and qualified persons to work and grow with us.



Project Manager

The Project Manager will report to Managing Director and will be responsible for managing special projects.

Preferably at least 5 years in construction, or engineering business, ability to establish and implement project plans, well organized, problem solving skills, proficiency in English communication.

Sales Manager

You are a dynamic self starter with excellent presentation skills and ability to sell our product with confidence to a sophisticated customer base. Must be able to think on their own, develop sales strategy to achieve targets and generate new business opportunities and build long-term sales distribution networks in Thailand and abroad. At least 5-years experience in airline, hotel or travel industry is preferable.

Human Resources Manager

The Human Resources Manager will have at least 4 years in HR experience with a multi-national company and possess an in-depth knowledge of Human Resources Management and Thai labor law.

Handle and oversee all human resources functions including recruitment process, performance evaluation, training, compensation, payroll, and ensure the implementation of the company's policies.

A team player with good leadership qualities, Interpersonal skills hard working, well-organized, proficient in English is preferable.

Attractive remuneration package will be offered to the qualified candidate. Please send your resumes to: pat@destinationair.com

Destination Air Co., Ltd.
27/111 Choktip Villa,
Chalong, Muang, Phuket,
Thailand 83000
Tel: 076-283388
Fax: 076-283289



Asia Web Direct is expanding and needs additional, enthusiastic staff to join our growing team in a modern and exciting work environment:

PHUKET

Advertising Sales Manager 1 Position
Advertising Sales Executive 1 Position
Assist. Business Development Manager 1 Position
Business Development Coordinator 1 Position
Product Administration 1 Position
Data Entry 1 Position
Programmer 2 Positions
Advanced Web Designer 3 Positions
Maintenance / Designer 2 Positions
Web Designer 2 Positions
Web Editor 1 Position
Travel & Tour Manager 1 Position
Client Service Staff (Travel & Tour) 1 Position
Japanese Content/Web Staff 1 Position

BANGKOK

Sales Support Executive 1 Position
Client Service Staff 1 Position
Web Services Manager 1 Position
Advanced Web Designer 1 Position
System/IT Manager 1 Position
Programmer 1 Position
Advertising Sales Executive 7 Positions

SAMUI

Advanced Web Designer 1 Position
Advertising Sales Executive 1 Position

Full descriptions of the jobs are online at www.asiawebdirect.com/jobs.htm

We offer excellent salary and benefits, please apply directly at:

Asia Web Direct Co., Ltd.
4th Floor, Muang Mai Building, 9/17 Thepkasattri Road, Phuket, 83000
Tel: 076-236 550 Fax: 076-236 542
Email: hr@asiawebdirect.com

SUPERVISOR/FOREMAN

Smart, enthusiastic male to train as supervisor/foreman for Safeway relocatable building/rental company. Must speak, read and write English. Tel: 076-281283, 01-8924804.

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 contact K. Oy Tel: 076-281588. Email: chitrada-phuket@peerapatholding.com

TOUR DESK STAFF

To work for dive company selling scuba diving and boating tours. Experience preferred, will train suitable applicants. English-speaking essential. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

WORK IN INTERNET

shop. We're looking for female Thai nationals to work as cyber cafe receptionists. 1 full time, 1 nighttime (6 pm to midnight). Possibility of lodging. The applicant must speak English. Patong and Phuket City area. Call K. Yupa. Tel: 076-341255.

BLUE FROG RAWAI

Looking for full-time cook for foreign and Thai food, must speak English. Up to 15,000 baht per month depending on experience. Call Pavel at Tel: 06-2832279.

YACHT CREW

Crew wanted on 17m private sailing yacht to cook and do maintenance work on board. As we sail to other countries, must have passport, current driving license and a reasonable command of English. Previous experience and references preferred. Salary: 18,000 baht per month, all found when on board. Tel: 06-9465916. Email: barrycager1@yahoo.co.uk

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.

Tel: 076-342099, 01-8365413.

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

Indigo Real Estate Co. Ltd.

Administrative Assistant

Responsibilities:

- Manage the Business Development Manager's schedule to ensure that all appointments/ schedules are kept
- General clerical assistance to the Business Development Manager to ensure that work flows smoothly
- Take care of preparing any documents needed
- Make all domestic and overseas travel arrangements
- Perform other functions and duties as may be assigned

Qualifications:

- Female/Male age between 22-35
- Bachelor's Degree or higher in any field, major in English is an advantage
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Good interpersonal and communication skills
- Proficient with all MS Office applications
- Maturity, positive attitude and ability to find and solve problems
- Can work independently
- Willing to work hard
- Service minded, flexible, active, fast learning, enthusiastic and good human-relations skills
- Able to work under pressure and be flexible.
- New graduates welcome
- Able to work in Samui

Interested applicants, please send your detailed resume together with a recent photograph and daytime contact telephone number to the email address below suwanna@indigoRE.com or 076-271 614 for any more information.

Looking for a job?

Still haven't found the perfect candidate?

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at www.phuketgazette.net!

Island Job Mart



Currently being upgraded with additional bungalows, food & beverage facilities, as well as leisure & relaxation areas.

We offer competitive International salary, service charge, accommodation, 3 meals per day and 1 day extra traveling leave per month.

Thai Nationality applications are welcome for the following positions:

- Bar & Beverage Manager
- Restaurant Manager
- F&B Public Relations
- Restaurant / Bar Supervisor
- Waiter / Waitress / Bartender

- Front Office Manager
- Guest Relations - German & English Language
- Cruise Guest Relations
- Guest Service Agent
- Reservations Manager
- Reservations Executive
- Bell Boy Attendant

- Sales & Web-Marketing Executive
- General Manager Executive Secretary

- Assistant Chief Engineer
- Air Condition - Electrician - Pump Technician
- Carpenter / Painter

- Asst. Executive Housekeeper
- Laundry Supervisor
- Bungalow Attendant
- Public Area & Garden Supervisor / Attendant

- Human Resources Manager
- Human Resources Administrator
- Emergency Room Nurse
- Quality & Talent Development Trainer

- Sous Chef
- Chef De Partie
- Demi Chef De Partie
- Cook & Commis Cook
- Steward Attendant

- IT Manager / Supervisor
- Accounts Receivable Supervisor
- F & B Cashier

Please send your CV with a color photo, current salary & expectations to hrdphi@escoms.com

Tel: (075) 620798 / 621334

www.phipi-palmbeach.com www.phipi-palmbeach.com/job.php

Walk-in interviews at Holiday Inn Resort Phi Phi Island-Phuket Office

On 26th & 27th of August from 08.30 hrs. to 18.00 hrs.

for the perfect trip...just click!

HotelTravel.com

The Hotel Travel Network (www.HotelTravel.com), the world's leader in Discount Hotel Reservation is expanding its business and offering an exciting work environment with opportunities for career growth.

Applications from candidates with the following qualifications are now being taken for our Phuket office.

Korean / Italian customer service agents:

- Fluent in Korean/Italian; both written and spoken
- Have a good command of English
- Have basic computer skills and experience with MS Office software (Word, Excel, Outlook)
- Thai nationality/Travel Industry/Internet experience would be an advantage

Translators (work at home) for the following languages:

- German / Italian / Korean / French / Spanish / Japanese
- Must be a Native Speaker
- Must have good command of English and excellent translation skills

Accounting Officers:

- Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Finance or Bookkeeping
- Knowledge in English and basic computer an advantage
- Experience in accounting for 1-2 years

System Support Engineer / Manager:

- Have English skill
- Responsible for leading a small team to provide 1st level system support within an MS windows client / server environment
- Knowledge and experience of the following skills is essential (but not limited to) Windows Server 2003, Windows XP, TCP/IP, MS Exchange, ISA Server, IIS and Web Services and Active Directory

Content Dept Assistant:

- Bachelor's Degree
- Good command of spoken and written English
- Advanced organizational and computer skills (Excel, Word, Outlook)
- Having prior experience as a Marketing Assistant, Personal Assistant, Executive Assistant, or Office Coordinator would be an advantage

Interested applicants please submit your application including resume / CV or employment certificates to Employment@HotelTravel.com or call 076-282808 Khun Parichaya for the further information

cape yamu

Sales Support Ladies

Site Inspector Urgently 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 East Coast.

We are looking for young, good looking Thai ladies with competent English skills, both written and spoken, for our Pavilion. They must be of Phuket's 'guest relations' character, who are caring and informative for our clients.

Appropriate candidates should submit their resumes to Human Resources Department 28/7 Moo 2, Thepkasatri Rd, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83000

Email: annie@campbellkane.com Tel: 076 204 008-9, Fax 076 239 837 www.capeyamu.com

campbell kane

URGENTLY
required staff.

- * HR Manager
- * Senior Accountant

Please send CV and photo by email or 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 a business expansion.

- 2 Junior Programmers
- 1 Web Designer
- 1 Sales Assistant

Please send CV and photo by email or contact for more information. Tel: 076-248305, 09-4740065. Fax: 076-248754. Email: career@bluedzine.com

Employment Wanted

PROJECT MANAGER

Scandinavian Engineer, B.Sc. with good local knowledge. Based in Phuket for 10 years but working abroad now. Looking for a contract-/project-manager position with a serious company in Phuket. Full time or part time. Email: inphuket@hotmail.co.uk

HANDYMAN

for hire. Thai man, 30, with 5 years' experience in construction control and homecare jobs. Very responsible, honest. 15,000 baht/month. Tel: 01-8953185, 09-5913996. Email: malaisiam@hotmail.com

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Announcement

SCIENCE WEEK

You are invited to come and see the "Science Week" exhibition at Phuket Rajabhat University between August 16 and 18, 2006.

Bulletins

Alcoholics Anonymous

is holding meetings in English at the following places:

Phuket City

Mission Hospital

on Wed and Sun at 7 pm

Bangkok Phuket Hospital

on Fri at 7 pm

Patong

Patong Hospital

on Mon, Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun at 7 pm and on Fri at 8 pm

For more info, please call
012732053 (Scandinavian),
019564031 or 018912895

Business Opportunities

EARN 18% INTEREST per year. No-risk guarantee. 6 million baht per year gives 1.08 million baht net profit US\$150K gives US\$27,000 net per year. Call Mr C at Tel: 07-2670714 Capital INV.

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company. Business brokerage and real estate company for sale due to personal reasons. Our name is known all over Thailand. Yearly profit of 2 million baht. Asking for 1.9 million baht. Includes fully-equipped office at great location. Tel: 01-7191522. Email: chfredo68@yahoo.com

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for sale. Chao Fa Rd, Phuket, Thai and Issan food. Rent 5,000 baht per month. Only 195,000 baht for quick sale. Please call Tel: 076-321138, 04-8492006.

PATONG GUESTHOUSE

for lease. 13 rooms, bar, restaurant, owner's unit, reception, fully equipped and operating. Opened in year 2001. 5 years. 3.6 million baht, no key money. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-344707, 01-6916147. Email: info@baansuanvilla.de

7% NET INTEREST

Invest in shophouses and earn a nice income. 1.4 million baht per unit. Email: yvanito@yahoo.com

VCD/DVD SHOP FOR SALE



Tsutaya Thepkasattri. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-6903123.

BAR/CAFE

Modern, well appointed in Nanai Rd, ready for high season includes 2 studio units. 5 year lease: 700,000 baht. Call Tel: 06-2766626. Email: jockadams99@yahoo.com

BAR FOR SALE

Bangla Rd. Established location, 46 month + lease: 3.5 million baht. Call 12-8 pm. Tel: 07-2732427.

BAR WANTED

Farang wants to buy a bar in Soi Bangla. Tel: 09-4755752. Email: kaapoxxx@msn.com

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).

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

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. Tel: 09-4758914. Email: sell_laundry@yahoo.co.uk

RETIRE ON ROCKET

science. Online option trader offers private tuition. Learn to trade the financial markets safely and profitably from home, with a small account. You will be amazed - 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

NANNY/MAID

Seeking honest, reliable nanny to look after two farang children, aged 6 and 4. Some English required. Please call K. Boo at Tel: 04-6903884.

STAFF FOR INTERNET

cafe Ravvai. Thai female, basic English knowledge and computer skills. Good salary offered. Tel: 076-288808, 07-2650652.

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

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

ASST MANAGER

English-speaking Thai lady, 25-35, outgoing, with experience wanted to run and market 2 juice shops in Phuket. 12,000 baht up a month + commission. Tel: 01-823-9448. Email: cjp@punpun.biz

PA/SECRETARY

to assist foreign manager. Thai national with English, accounting and computer skills, good presentation and pleasant personality required. Email: robor@loxinfo.co.th

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

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

BUSINESS CENTER FOR SALE

Prime location at Patong Beach. Includes 15-room guesthouse, 64-seat restaurant, 5 motorbikes & 1 jeep, Internet cafe & established travel agency. No brokers. Call Ian at Tel: 01-0820039, or Niki at Tel: 01-0911662, Email: patong05@gmail.com Website: phuketdir.com/coaststar/index.htm

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

PHI PHI ISLAND

Interesting and cheap business on the beach. 3-story building with sea view. Tel: 06-7396031. Email: fepigada@yahoo.it

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

RESTAURANT/BAR + ROOMS

Great location in the busiest area of Karon Plaza. Daeng restaurant with 4 rooms on 2nd and 3rd floor. Very popular Thai restaurant. 750,000 baht incl first two years rent. No monthly rent no contract limit. After 2nd year 220,000 a year. Tel: 01-5972213. Email: sfrkata@hotmail.com

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 at Tel: 09-9858309. Email: crockstrom@hotmail.com

CRUISE BOAT PARTNER

Live aboard with Capt & cook > 17% on investment. US\$50-150,000. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-0784550. Email: dnblk@hotmail.com

Business Products & Services



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Sci-Fi models, Sculpture, Metal works, Fantasy & Horror, ready and custom-made models from used auto parts. Coffee table, table set and various furniture for home decoration. Our work makes junk car and motorcycle parts valuable.
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www.phuketjumpingcastles.com

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PATONG USED BOOKS

Open in Patong. 200 Pee Rd between Tony Resort & Sea Sun Sand Resort. Please call for more information. Tel: 09-7242136.

VISA RUN TO ANDAMAN CLUB

Only Eve. Wow, low-season price 1,300 baht only. Includes lunch at hotel, visa, transfers, insurance, breakfast, soft drink, aircon boat. Tel: 09-1954877 (QISMI), 01-5352637 (EVE) www.evevisarun.com

KITCHEN/ BEDROOM FITTER

Must be reliable and experienced with own transport & tool kit. Call Alan for full details.

Tel: 04-8473304.

Email: select-kitchens@hotmail.com

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Tel: 04-7457024.

Book online and save time & money

Personal Services

NATIVE ENGLISH

teacher, TEFL cert. Group, conversational and business classes. Please call for more information. Tel: 04-057-1420.

TRANSLATION HELP

Offer for any foreigners who have doubts translating English to Thai (or vice versa), please contact me. I would be pleased to answer you free of charge. Contact Email: ajarn44@hotmail.com

THERAPY

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TRANSLATION

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