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500 protest park fee hike



The protestors completely blocked the road outside the new Tourism Authority of Thailand building.

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PHUKET CITY: All of the op-
erators running tours in Phang
Nga Bay – some 500 of them –
staged a peaceful protest at the
Tourism Authority of Thailand
(TAT) Office on August 8 to de-
mand that the Ministry of Natu-
ral Resources and Environment
reconsider its intent to double
entry fees for national parks with
effect from September 15.

Police blocked off a section
of Thalang Rd to accommodate
the protesters, who represented
a variety of companies and tour-
ism industry associations from
Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi
provinces.

Their main concern is that
the scheduled entrance fee hike

will damage their livelihoods by
causing a decline in the number
of tourists using their services to
visit the parks.

The entry fee for foreign-
ers is slated to rise from 200 baht
to 400 baht for all national parks.

For Thais and foreigners
with residence permits or work
permits, the entry fee will also
double, from 20 baht to 40 baht,
except with regard to the Surin
Islands and the Similans, Ao
Phang Nga Park, Ang Thong
and Koh Tarutao. In those
places the price for Thai visi-
tors is slated to quadruple, to 80
baht a head.

Vichut Untimanon, owner
of a company that operates long-
tail boat trips to three islands in
Ao Phang Nga Marine National

Park, recalled the last time the
park fee was raised, about five
years ago.

He told the *Gazette* that
before the fee was doubled from
100 baht to 200 baht, his company
was carrying between 2,000 and
3,000 tourists a day. After the
price rise the number fell to
around 1,000 a day, he said.

"We don't want this price
hike because it will really hurt our
business and cost a lot of jobs,"
he added.

Many tour operators have
already begun to change their itin-
eraries as a result of the Min-
istry's plan, he noted.

Korseem Fongla-ae, owner
of a souvenir shop on Koh Panyi
in Ao Phang Nga National Park,

Continued on page 2

Want to wed in Phuket? Sorry, not possible now

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET: Want to get married
in Phuket City? Thalang? Then
you're out of luck. Both offices
have run out of marriage certifi-
cates.

The only District Office
that still has certificates – now
in very limited supply – is Kathu.

An official from the Muang
District Registration Department,
requesting anonymity, admitted
that her department ran out of
certificates two weeks earlier.

"If anyone wants to get
married here, they will have to
wait until we get fresh supplies
of certificates from Bangkok,"
she said.

"Alternatively, they might
ask the Kathu District Registrar
to register their nuptials."

She added that the short-
age of certificates is not confined
to Phuket but is a national prob-
lem – the entire country is gradu-
ally running out.

An officer at Thalang Dis-
trict Office, who also requested
anonymity, said that his office,
too, had run out of marriage cer-
tificates the previous week.

Suksan Siang-Ake, Chief
of the Kathu District Registra-
tion Department, said he still has
some forms left.

"People can come here to
get their marriage registered un-
til we, too, run out of certificates;
we have only a limited number
left."

Mali Satiworaman, Chief of
the Registration Printed Forms
Department of The Bureau of
Registration Administration
(BORA) in Bangkok admitted
that the shortage of marriage
certificates has been a problem
for more than a month now.

K. Mali explained, "The

Continued on page 2



Your Piece of Paradise

Phya Thai Hospital standoff continues

By Jenjira Ruengjarus

PHUKET CITY: Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) President Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr has spoken out against Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura's decision to delay the buyout of the abandoned Phya Thai hospital.

"The purchase of the abandoned Phya Thai hospital is like a dream that has fallen apart. I started the process with the Governor on January 13, and the provincial committee for this project and the *OrBorJor* committee negotiated the [buyout] price with the TAMC [Thai Asset Management Corporation]," Anchalee said on August 7.

The TAMC agreed to sell the property at a discounted price of 315 million baht, down from 492 million baht, but only until the end of April.

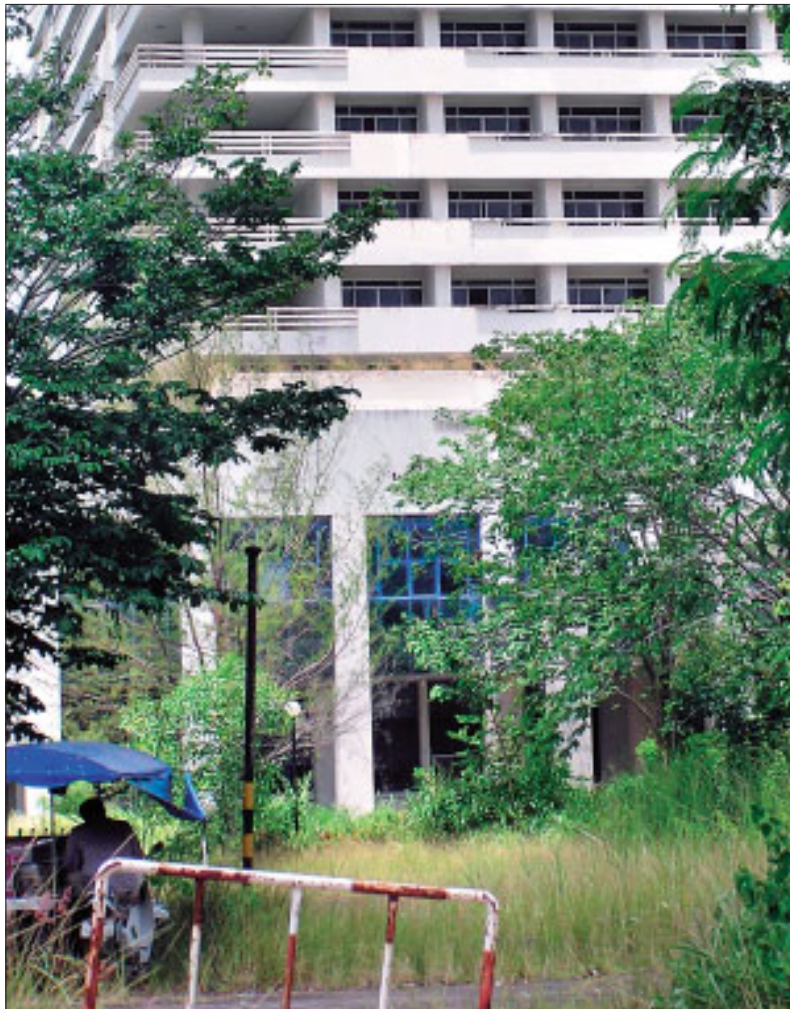
Just before that deadline, Gov Udomsak appointed a special committee to reconsider the project, prompting K. Anchalee to negotiate for the deadline to be pushed back a month. It is now well past the extended deadline, but the Governor still refuses to budge.

The project needs the Governor's approval of a request for a 215-million-baht loan from Krung Thai Bank and the Government Savings Bank.

However, Gov Udomsak is withholding his approval until he is satisfied that the new hospital will be run effectively and in line with Public Health Ministry objectives.

"So now the project is just like a dream that cannot come true. I can't ask the TAMC to hold down the price any longer because it is now out of our [*OrBorJor*] control. We have to wait until the next Governor sees that there are not enough hospitals to treat the number of patients in Phuket; then this project will be reconsidered," K. Anchalee said.

She added that Gov Udomsak should keep in mind that he was the one who asked then-Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawa-



As the argument continues, the weeds keep growing in the grounds of the abandoned Phya Thai Hospital.

tra for 800 million baht to buy the Phya Thai building during one of the PM's visits to Phuket.

"Why is he thinking about the management of the hospital and the problems that might follow, and what will be done with the hospital if it is not a success? "He does not have the answers for us, and we're the ones who will be held responsible for it. In the meantime, we can save money and buy it for 315 million baht, but still he does not give his approval," K. Anchalee complained.

But the Governor is standing his ground. He told the *Gazette*, "If the *OrBorJor* wanted to buy the Phya Thai hospital so it would become a state hospital, then I would have no problem with approving the loan requests.

"What they should consider carefully is what the hospital will be used for and how it will be

managed. Also, are there enough doctors and nurses for the new hospital? And if not, what will they do?

"Doctors and nurses prefer to work for private hospitals because they offer better pay than state hospitals. The *OrBorJor* should consider this, too.

"They should also ensure that nothing contradicts with the Health Ministry objectives, which are different [from those of the private sector]," he added.

"I have suggested that the *OrBorJor* discuss this further with [Caretaker] Public Health Minister Pinit Jarusombat, [Caretaker] Deputy Interior Minister Somchai Soontornwat and Department of Local Administration Director-General Saroj Katchamart, but we have not had a good chance to talk and come to a conclusion.

"I will not approve the request for the loans unless these three people also agree," Gov Udomsak said.

"Slow and sure is better than rushing and making mistakes," he added.

Photographer held after killing girl with her own gun

KALIM: A freelance photographer has confessed to murdering a cashier from a Patong shopping mall, after a police search uncovered the .38 revolver used in the slaying stashed away inside a pillow in his rented room on Soi Larb Ped, Patong.

Pol Lt Col Chao-walit Niamwadee of Kathu Police Station said the body of 22-year-old Kanjane "Rung" Kraisee was found by rubber tappers and reported to the Kathu Police at about 8:30 am on August 20.

K. Rung had suffered three bullet wounds, in the back, chest and face.

The subsequent police investigation revealed that the victim had been employed as a cashier at Ocean Shopping Mall on Soi Bangla, a job she had quit just two days before her death.

A former colleague at the mall told investigators that, just

before quitting her job, K. Rung had become romantically involved with a freelance photographer, whom he identified as Anucha "It" Unruan, aged 19.

Anucha initially denied ever having known K. Rung. His face turned white, however, when police produced mobile phone records showing several calls between him and the victim just before her death.

He later confessed and police found the murder weapon, a .38-caliber handgun belonging to the victim, stashed away inside a pillow in his room.

Anucha told police that he had initially shot Rung by accident but then, frightened at the possibility of being arrested, shot her twice more to keep her quiet.

He is now in custody in Phuket Provincial Prison, awaiting trial. — *Natcha Yuttaworawit*



The victim, Kanjane 'Rung' Kraisee. Photo by Kom Chad Leuk

Marriage certificate shortage

From page 1

reason we are short of marriage certificates is that the printers couldn't print the amount we needed in time. They said that they needed more time because each certificate has to be printed with a unique number.

"Another problem is that many provinces send their orders in late. Every three months the registration departments of each province are supposed to tell us the number of certificates they need.

"If they don't do this on time

then we don't know how many to order," she added.

"We have now received the certificates from the printers and we will send them out to the provinces as quickly as possible."

Meanwhile, another shortage has occurred: the official at Muang District said that her office has also run out of the spiffy new "smart" ID cards for Thais.

Anyone living in the district who wants to upgrade from the traditional "dumb" ID card will just have to wait until fresh supplies arrive from Bangkok.

Tour businesses protest plan to hike park fees

From page 1

said the rise would not only hurt local businessmen like himself, but would also anger foreign tourists by making them feel they were being taken advantage of.

"I already have fewer customers buying goods at my shop. When the price hike goes into effect, I may have to close it down altogether," he said.

A highlight of the protest

came when Sarayuth Mallam, Deputy Chairman of the Phuket Tourist Association, handed an official letter of complaint to TAT Region 4 Office Director Suwalai Pinpradab, who agreed to deliver the protesters' demands to Natural Resources and Environment Minister Yongyuth Tiypairat.

K. Sarayuth revealed the demands contained in the letter. These were that the price hike be canceled, with entry fees staying at the current rates or, failing that, that public hearings be held to give local businesses a say in what the new fee should be; and that entry fees reflect demand, being higher for popular parks and lower for others.

The protestors will give the Ministry one month to reply favorably. Failing that, organizers said, there will be more protests.

Editorial: page 26

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Anchalee denies bias over use of stadium

By Jenjira Ruengjarus

PHUKET: The President of the Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*), Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr, has denied allegations that Surakul Stadium is for the use of Thais only.

The allegations were made after the *OrBorJor* rejected a request to hold the Phuket International Soccer 7s tournament, planned for November, at the stadium.

"I know the organizers of the Soccer 7s competition would like to hold it at Surakul Stadium but the competition will last two whole days and will consist of many matches. That could damage the field, so we cannot permit it.

"If it is for only one day with a couple of matches involving two or four teams however, then maybe we can allow them to use the stadium," K. Anchalee said.

When asked whether there

was an anti-foreigner policy in allocating use of the stadium, K. Anchalee replied that the *OrBorJor* would carefully examine all requests to hold soccer tournaments at Surakul Stadium from both Thais and foreigners.

She added, however, "If the schedule is full or there is more than one request to use the stadium on the same date, then domestic users will be given priority."

K. Anchalee cited the Senior World Cup, held in April of this year, as an example of the stadium being used by foreigners.

She explained that she is not normally involved in the decision-making process; a committee led by *OrBorJor* Vice-President Suthep Thepsakul manages the schedule for the stadium and decides whether to permit tournaments to be held there.

She added that match days at the stadium are followed by a few days of no play to allow the

grass pitch to recover. Anyone requesting to use the pitch during these rest periods are turned down.

This she surmised, might be the reason why some requests for use of the pitch by foreigners have been rejected.

Commenting on the controversy over the international Rugby 10s tournament earlier this year, which was also denied permission to use Surakul stadium, K. Anchalee explained that the *OrBorJor* had a no-rugby policy due to worries about damage to the turf.

"We didn't even the allow the Ministry of Justice to play rugby on the field," she said.

The *OrBorJor* did allow matches in the world's first international 80-80 rugby tournament to be played at Surakul in August last year, though the *Gazette* understands that this was only after pressure from the Ministry of Tourism and Sports.



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The World comes to Phuket

AO MAKHAM: *The World*, a 196-meter floating condominium that continually cruises around the world, arrived in Phuket on August 8 for a two-day stay en route to the Phi Phi Islands and then to Singapore.

Weighing 43,524 gross tons with 12 decks, *The World* has a crew of about 250. During its port call in Phuket, it had 130 passengers on board.

The World offers luxury living aboard a first-class cruise liner, with 165 privately-owned units ranging in price from US\$825,000 to US\$6.3 million (33 million to 250 million baht). As of November 2005, more than 95% of the "condos" aboard the vessel had been sold. Residences now available for sale range in price from approximately US\$1.3 million (52 million baht) to US\$3.6 million (145 million baht).

The 106 private apartments range in size from 102 square meters to 301sqm, and each includes a fully-equipped kitchen, bathroom, living-dining area and veranda with optional jet pool. All

furniture, appliances and equipment, as well as advanced audio and video technology, are included.

There are also 19 "studio apartments" ranging in size from 62.7sqm to 93.9sqm, and a further 40 "studios" averaging 32.5sqm.

Interiors of the apartments were created by internationally-renowned interior designers including London-based Nina Campbell, J P Molyneux of New York and Rome-based Luciano Di Pilla.

Most residences aboard are available for rent. A six-night stay starts at US\$1,200 (48,000 baht) a night.

"It is a fantastic ship. It has everything on board for the perfect vacation. I like it. I have been on board two times before, and I will join in the next trip," one guest said.

"We have been to the beach, elephant riding, Chalong Temple, and the markets, which are very nice. I hope to visit Phuket again," he added.

Hospital, hotels sign medical tourism deal

PHUKET: Bangkok Hospital Phuket has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with nine hotels to promote medical tourism in Phuket.

Dr Kongkiat Kespechara, Director of Bangkok Hospital Phuket, said that the hospital would arrange first aid training for staff of the nine signatory hotels and would ensure staff knew what to do in the event of an emergency.

The hotels have also been inspected to ensure their facilities are suitable for patients recovering from surgical or medical treatment.

Dr Kongkiat also said that they would work together to promote Phuket as a destination for health tourism.



Dr Kongkiat and Louis Bronner of the Boathouse, sign the MOU.

The nine hotels that signed the MOU are: Mom Tri's Boathouse, Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa, Holiday Inn Resort Phuket, The Merlin Beach Resort, Le Meridien Phuket

Beach Resort, the Phuket Graceland Resort & Spa, the Katathani Phuket Beach Resort, The Access Pool Resort & Spa, and the Bundarika Wellness Resort.

New dive rules checked for flaws

PHUKET CITY: The Chief of the Provincial Public Prosecutions Office, Bantoon Thongtan, is checking the new dive rules for loopholes dive operators might use to avoid compliance, Aekachai Soonthorn, secretary to Provincial Chief Administrative Officer, said August 15.

However, K. Aekachai said that K. Bantoon was not asked to check if the new rules were legal, as K. Bantoon was a member of the drafting committee.

Members of the dive industry have challenged that the new rules are unconstitutional.

Governor Udomsak Usawangkura is currently in Sweden. He is due to return on August 22, so the new rules will not be signed into force until that date at the earliest.

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Ecotourism takes on

A quick search on the Internet for “ecotours in Phuket” draws up everything from the age-old “enjoy the natural wonders” type of tours – by speedboat or ATV – to operators who are conscious of their tours’ impact on the environment and who make serious efforts not to disturb the environment. Some even to support the environment with, for example, replanting programs.

Definitions of ecotourism vary tremendously. However “ecotour” companies generally agree that ecotourism is nature-based tourism, focusing on such destinations as national parks, islands, beaches and other areas of natural beauty.

However, in Phuket pressure is mounting for operators who tout ecotours among their range of services to take a more active role in preserving the environment – as opposed to just roaring about in speedboats to look at nature.

Pakdee Krutanang, President of the Phuket ecotourism Association (PETA), explained that PETA members are at the conservationist end of the ecotour spectrum, often being involved with beach and dive site cleanup events.

“We are a center for ecotourism information. We help to coordinate solutions to environmental problems and aim to preserve our natural resources, too,” she said.

“Our membership includes more than 40 ecotourism companies in Phuket and Phang Nga provinces that offer tours to destinations such as Koh Yao Noi and Koh Yao Yai, Koh Khai and Koh Maprao,” K. Pakdee explained.

“Ecotourism in Phuket attracts both Thai and foreign tourists. Almost all the Thai ecotourists come for festivals held in Phuket,” she explained.

“Foreign eco-tourists are mainly from Korea, and we also

Ecotourism has been a buzzword for some time in Phuket’s ever-expanding tourism industry. But for some tour operators it has meant nothing more than renaming old tours that show off Phuket’s natural surroundings. For others, however, it means a serious attempt to develop sustainable tourism by preserving the environment.

Here, the *Gazette*’s Natcha Yuttaworawit talks with local villagers about what ecotourism means to them, and how they see it developing in the future.



have many from Saudi Arabia.”

One ecotour destination is Bang Pat stilt village, located at the north end of Phang Nga Bay in Thap-put District, Phang Nga.

Phu Yai Baan (village chief) Yuso Malasee told the *Gazette* that ecotours to his village are becoming increasingly popular.

“We have many activities for tourists, including longtail boat tours around the village and to nearby mangrove forests. Our home-stay packages give tourists the chance to experience the villagers’ way of life.

“We can explain to tourists how our village lives with its environment, and tourists can try things such as making shrimp paste or learning how to remove the meat from crabs,” he said.

Of course, some might wonder whether lessons in preparing and eating the local wildlife actually constitute ecotourism.

Pongchart Choueorm, Chief of the Khao Pra Taew Wildlife Conservation Development and Extension Center, the national park in Pa Khlok that is

home to the popular Ton Sai Waterfall, has a different view. He feels it is important to educate people about the wildlife in the park.

“Our main duty is to preserve the environment, which is achieved by training park officers and educating the public through, for example, our three-day-two-night youth camps.

“We teach visitors about the wildlife in the park. However, as our office is at Ton Sai Waterfall, we can offer only indirect support to the ecotourism industry. But if tourists or a tour company want our officers to explain to them certain points about the environment, we can do that,” he said.

K. Pongchart pointed out that visitors to the park probably already have an active interest in the environment. “All the people who come here love the forest. They are different from the usual tourists, who come to Phuket to enjoy the beaches,” he said.

He added that many of the people who visit the park are students and families in Phuket who are interested in learning more about their environment.

He believes that much more could be done to educate people about Phuket’s natural habitats.

“The government should promote the park more, so that a larger numbers of tourists will visit and learn about the environment here. This can indirectly help to preserve the environment at Khao Pra Taew.

“However, whether tourists



receive in-depth explanations about the environment here depends on whether the private companies’ tour guides know much about the park environment,” he added.

Taking environmental education directly into one school is Ajarn Benjalak Ungsuapchua, a teacher at Chalermprakiat Somdej Phra Srinakaran Phuket School, which borders a mangrove forest near Saphan Hin, in Phuket City.

“With our school being next to a mangrove forest, we decided to use the mangroves to teach students about nature. Now we have separate areas of the forest marked out in zones, and some

areas have been replenished with mangroves that were planted as part of our study projects,” she said.

Ajarn Benjalak, who teaches English at the school, also uses the mangroves as a natural classroom for building up her students’ English vocabulary. She also encourages her students to walk through the forest often so they can learn to appreciate it.

“Every year we stage a walk rally for students and invite their families to join in so they can learn how important the mangrove forest is,” she said.

On Koh Yao Noi, in the center of Phang Nga Bay, recent history has highlighted the need to find a balance between man’s desire to make use of natural resources and the need to preserve of the environment.

Samroeng Rakhiet, President of the Koh Yao Noi Ecotourism Association, explained to the *Gazette*, “Local villagers formed this club in 1994 because we had a crisis: most of the villagers are fisherfolk, and at that time ministerial regulations were introduced that did not allow fishing by trawler within 3,000 meters of any island in the bay.

“There are about 67 islands in Phang Nga Bay, so some [businesspeople] broke the law and fished near the islands.

“The trawlers were always

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Left: Bang Pat stilt village at low tide. Villagers offer home-stays, tours of the mangroves and lessons in eating crab. Above: a crab boat on Phang Nga Bay. Tensions between trawlers and village fishermen made the villagers more eco-sensitive. News headlines also attracted the first tourists to the islands.

there were no hotels on the island, they stayed with local villagers. This gave some villagers who had been entirely dependent on fishing an alternative source of income," K. Samroeng explained.

There are now about 30 homes on the island that offer home-stays to tourists.

"What is important is that visitors come here learn about our way of life and our environment. It is important because people in big towns think that we have a commercial fishing fleet, but we do not – we are a fishing community, and the people who see fish in the market never know what was involved in catching that fish.

"But when they come here they learn because, as part of our home-stays, they get the chance to catch the fish with the fisherman," he said.

Grassroots government on Koh Yao Noi now supports ecotourism on the island. Wiwa Upama, who represents villagers from Moo 5 on Koh Yao Noi's Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*), told the *Gazette*, "The *OrBorTor* supports ecotourism by supporting ecotourism jobs for local people and we have a project to regenerate mangrove forests on the island.

"We coordinate with villagers and the *Phu Yai Baan* of each village, and we have an annual event for students to help replant the mangroves on Koh Yao Noi. We also teach children and teenagers how to preserve their natural environment and how to be good tour guides," said K. Wiwa.

"This year [ecotourism] has been good as both Thai and foreign tourists have been consistently coming here. The local fishermen's boats and nets have been replaced since the tsunami, and although the price of fish and other seafood is low, the villagers are doing okay," she added.

However, K. Wiwa noted that, as more and more tourists choose to visit Koh Yao Noi, the *OrBorTor* will have to consider carefully the development of the island, especially in light of the recent launch of the 200-seat ferry service to the island [See First Person, page 27].

"Koh Yao will have many tourists, so we must plan to ensure that development, such as roads, has a minimal effect on the environment and the community," she said.

Closer to Phuket, people living on Koh Maphrao have also started offering eco-friendly home stays on the island. They are already quite conscious of the

need to preserve their environment.

Weerapan Nakwijit, of Koh Kaew *OrBorTor*, which is responsible for Koh Maphrao, told the *Gazette*, "The people on Koh Maphrao depend on either fishing or rubber tapping to make a living. But now more and more of them are starting to offer home-stays so they can earn more income.

"Currently there are no cars on the island; there are only motorbikes, some with sidecars, to get around. The *OrBorTor* could help by improving the concrete road around the island.

"Now there are about 20 houses in the home-stay project, and the people there have always been involved in replenishing the mangrove forests. Tourists can help them with that, too."

As the ecotourism buzz spreads throughout the region, it seems that some lessons have been learned from Phuket's unbridled pace of development over the past two decades.

Perhaps it is the closer relationship between those offering the service and the product they are selling – the environment; perhaps it is plain common sense. Regardless, it seems that this grass-roots approach to tourism may be getting it right.

dragging away our own [static] nets, and some of them also started using electronic fish finders to catch fish. The number of fish in the area started decreasing, and many corals, marine plants and much young marine life was destroyed," K. Samroeng said.

The result had a huge impact on the Koh Yao Noi fishing community, he explained.

"Many villagers had to move to big towns such as those on Phuket to find work. This created more problems for our community as children were left behind by their parents to live with their grandparents.

"The government never helped us with these problems. Some owners of rafts [floating landing stages that also rent out fishing gear] were nice. They helped us by letting us use their nets and then charging us only a small fee when we made a profit," he said.

Those early days left a lasting impression on the Koh Yao Noi community. The association has grown to include some 500 members from seven villages on the island, and now takes an active role in preserving the community's environment.

"Our duty is to assist government officers with their investigations into environmental affairs by giving information and advice, and by observing, so they

can arrest people who break the law," K. Samroeng said.

"We also help restore mangrove forests and teach villagers how to preserve our environment. For example, we now use smaller nets because the larger ones can damage coral and the environment."

In an ironic twist, coverage of the problems of 1994 alerted many would-be travelers to the existence of Koh Yao Noi as an unspoiled haven in the Andaman region, thereby kick-starting the island's move toward eco-friendly tourism.

"We were inspired by our visitors, who had learned about Koh Yao Noi from the news. As

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Queer News

SERIOUS ABOUT HER EDUCATION

After expelling a female student for “intolerable” behavior, school teachers at a commercial school in Nakhon Sri Thammarat are living in fear for their lives following the girl’s return accompanied by a gang of young thugs, who smashed windows and threatened to kill every teacher in the school.

The contretemps started when one of the teachers overheard a girl student discussing with another whether or not she should lower the price she had been charging clients for her sexual favors.

Prostitution not being one of the majors offered at the school, the teacher decided that it was inappropriate for the girl to be establishing a pricing strategy for her assets in this way and reported the student, in the second year of the school’s lower-certificate program, to school supervisors.

They, in turn, prepared a note for the girl’s parents, requesting their presence in a meeting to discuss their daughter’s wanton behavior.

They made the mistake, however, of asking the young hooker to deliver the message to her parents.

When the day of the meeting arrived the girl appeared with some adults she had dragged in off the street who were clearly not her real parents.

The school administrators therefore gave her another letter – this time an expulsion notice citing “intolerable behavior”.

This enraged the girl, who on August 8 returned to the school with a band of about 20 friends, male and female, none of them students at the school.

They marched in, armed with wooden sticks, smashing school property and trying to assault the teacher who had issued the expulsion notice.

Before leaving, they said they would return to “kill every teacher in the school”. They did return the next day and – although the promised massacre did not take place – they continued to issue threats.

Later, a truancy officer from Nakhon Sri Thammarat Educational Area 1 office said that the school had requested “a force” of officers to come to the school after the initial rampage, but that they were too understaffed to do anything when the gang returned.

He said it was up to the school staffers themselves to decide whether to press criminal charges against the girl, but added that he “understood” that the teachers were too afraid for their own safety to do so.

“After all, they have to come to the school every day on public roads and something bad could happen,” he said.

Source: Kom Chad Luek

Royal favorite to feature on stamps

Set for launch on September 1 is a limited-edition four-stamp set featuring Khun Tongdaeng, favorite pet of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

Previously released items featuring the Royal Pet – including polo shirts and a comic book penned by HM The King himself – have sold like hotcakes, requiring additional issues to meet high public demand.

One million sets of the 3-baht stamps will be available. The four-stamp set featuring Khun Tongdaeng – who bears an honorific normally reserved for people – in a variety of poses, including one with a litter of puppies.



The philatelic release, the seventh by Thai Post this year, marks not only Khun Tongdaeng’s pre-eminence as the royal pet, but also the fact that 2006 is the Year of the Dog in Chinese astrology.

Khun Tongdaeng, a female

of predominantly Basenji abstraction, was rescued as a stray puppy and raised in the Royal Palace, where she is now His Majesty’s constant companion.

First day covers will be priced at 22 baht each.

TRASHING Phuket



PHUKET CITY: The Provincial Administration Organization may justifiably be proud of Surakul Stadium, Phuket’s best. But garbage collection systems leave a great deal to be desired.

This photo was shot after a sporting event there on July 22. All of the garbage, including hundreds of used foam food containers, was placed in large, thin plastic bags.

These were quickly ripped apart by the many stray dogs in the area and strong winds left debris strewn over the entire area, including a nearby slum, whose inhabitants were undoubtedly grateful for the windfall. Not.



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it can be the start of a friendship.*



'Quit drinking for family's sake' – health agency plea

At a seminar held to mark upcoming Mother's Day celebrations, the Thai Health Promotion Foundation (ThaiHealth) called on husbands to quit drinking and to stop abusing their wives.

Thailand has a major problem with alcohol abuse which has a big negative impact on families, ThaiHealth said.

Between November, 2005 and July this year some 4,600 calls about drinking problems were made to the foundation, its Communications Director, Wilasinee Phiphitkul, said.

Some 58% of callers were wives and 17% were children, she said.

More than a third said men's drinking habits affected family relationships by leading to violence or sparking arguments.

At the seminar, two women with alcoholic husbands spoke tearfully of their experiences before describing how their lives had changed for the better since their husbands quit drinking.

Condom controversy: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has no intention of allowing a condom brand to go on sale with a trade name that carries a sexual connotation, Secretary General Dr Pakdee Pothisiri said.

Singer Puntiva Pumiprathet, who goes by the stage name "Tom Dundee", had hoped to manufacture and distribute the condoms under the Tom Dundee brand, donating some of the proceeds to Wat Phra Baht Nam Phu.

The temple is also known as the Aids Temple because it offers care for patients living with HIV.

However, in Thai, *dundee* can mean "good penetration", and the Culture Ministry publicly blasted the use of the name "Tom Dundee" as inappropriate and offensive to Thai culture.

The FDA's K. Pakdee announced, "We sent a letter to the manufacturing company on May 31 saying that we would not allow such a trade name."

Adding that the FDA alone has the mandate to approve or reject the request for a condom trade name, he also complained that the Culture Ministry should have consulted the FDA before firing its public broadside.

Key sectors at risk: Seven key industries could suffer severe labor shortages if schools do not produce the right personnel to serve their expansions, according to the Education Ministry.

The Ministry's Education Council Office studied future labor demand from the petrochemicals, food, automotive, tourism, textiles, software and logistics industries, and concluded that the combined shortfall could reach

almost 584,600 workers in three to five years – unless action is taken soon.

"We're asking the office to extend the study ... We'll discuss the results with all parties, particularly universities and vocational colleges. Then they can draw up teaching plans to match the demand," caretaker Education Minister Chaturon Chaisang said.

Bottleneck to bliss: Traffic congestion costs Thailand a much larger portion of its financial and social resources than it does in developed countries, a seminar on public health organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Escap) was told.

Rae Kwon Chung, an Escap expert on environment and urban development, said the so-called "social-asset cost" in Thailand in the past few years had become proportionately five to 10 times higher than in countries such as the US, Japan and the UK.

To reduce this cost, Thailand must improve its public transport and traffic management systems to encourage motorists to drive less. Better conditions would also help increase the quality of life for Bangkok residents, he said.

Chung also proposed an Escap development guideline for Thailand that focuses on ecological and environmental improvements – a solution he said would lead to a slow-paced but increasingly solid economy and eventual prosperity.

The seminar, titled "Gross National Happiness (GNH) of the Countries in the Mekong River Basin", is a regular event in which eight local and regional NGOs take part.

Pain relief peril: The FDA has issued a warning about the dangers of giving large amounts of aspirin to children suffering from fever.

The move came in the wake of the recent re-emergence of bird 'flu in the country and caretaker Public Health Minister Pinij Charusombat's concerns about the unwelcome side-effects of aspirin in children.

K. Pinij expressed concern about the widespread use of aspirin following a report that a nine-year-old girl in Lop Buri died recently from taking too much aspirin.

FDA secretary-general Pakdee Pothisiri said his agency would send a circular to pharmacies nationwide, urging them not to sell aspirin to parents who planned to give it to their children. Aspirin, which can be fatal when taken in excess, is often used to relieve high fever symptoms, which are associated with such diseases as influenza and dengue as well as bird 'flu.

Hua Hin booming: The coastal resort town of Hua Hin is enjoying robust growth in the property market thanks to growing demand for long-term investments, reports a recent survey by property consultants Knight Frank.

The survey shows huge demand for prime areas in Hua Hin and Cha'am, but beachfront locations suitable for property development are becoming increasingly difficult to find.

Of a total of 1,732 condominium units priced from 30,000 baht to 100,000 baht per square meter in 18 projects, 75% have already been sold.

Another factor supporting the Hua Hin property market is the thriving local tourism industry, as reflected in Tourism Authority of Thailand figures.


These show that 1.8 million Thais and 400,000 foreigners visited the town in 2005, an increase of 15% on the previous year.

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



IN A NUTSHELL: Kham Wongsan, a 73-year-old cycling enthusiast in Chiang Mai, proudly sports the crash helmet he made from a coconut shell. He says the effectiveness of his invention has been proved in real accidents.

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A prominent local politician from Chaiya district, Surat Thani, was shot dead mid-song, while out partying in a karaoke bar with a local senior district officer on August 8.

Supchok Yang-on, President of Takrop Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBor Tor*) was sitting on a sofa with the Chief Administrative Officer (*Palad*) at the local District Office and a young woman, whose name was not reported, when two men armed with shotguns walked in through a side door.

They fired five shots into K. Supchok's head and midriff. He died on the sofa, still clutching the microphone.

In addition to being *OrBor Tor* President, K. Supchok was also an assistant secretary of the National *OrBorTor* Association and an important campaign worker for a local senator. He was also a conservation activist working to protect mangrove forests and sea cows.

Police said the motive for the killing is likely to have been a dispute over business interests, women or local politics.

Pol Col Chaisak Sinthusak, Superintendent of Chaiya Police Station, said that they have some theories as to who the perpetrators were.

Within hours of K. Supchok's assassination, a *Phu Yai Baan* (village headman) was shot dead at a gas station in neighboring Nakhon Sri Thammarat province. Amnat Jampetan, *Phu Yai Baan* of Village 6, Tambon Pakphun, was at the gas station filling up his pickup truck early on August 8 when two men on a motorcycle shot him dead.

Rags to riches: A poor 15-year-old trash collector in Haad Yai has been adopted by a multimillionaire property developer who was impressed with the boy's hard work and devotion to his family.

As the sole heir of the mil-



SWAN SONG: Pol Col Chaisak Sinthusak inspects Queen Pub Karaoke where Supchok Yang-on (inset) was blasted at short range.

Pol shot down in karaoke lounge

lionaire, who is unmarried, the teenager also stands to inherit 100 million baht.

Kajonsak Aree-eua, 15, a high school student, has supported his family for the past six years by collecting discarded bottles and paper to sell.

Formerly his mother worked in a drinking water plant but

was forced to quit when the job became too much for her.

Kajonsak then began roaming the city after school looking for garbage for up to six hours at a time.

It was while out picking through garbage around four years ago that Kajonsak met local property magnate Sutham Phakdebun, 43.

K. Sutham, having watched Kajonsak pick up scraps off the street, offered the boy 100 baht. But Kajonsak refused the money, saying that he did not want to be indebted to anyone.

Instead, K. Sutham suggested that Kajonsak should do odd jobs around his home instead.

He said, "I have been watching over Kajonsak and helping him with money for food and school fees for the past four years.

"I have seen that he is good and faithful, especially since he comes from such a poor background. Therefore I have decided to legally adopt him and the process was completed on August 7."

Kajonsak and his family, comprising seven people, live in a small rented room in Haad Yai.

His eldest sister has been unable to work and is in poor mental health after being raped by a gang of youths.

K. Kajonsak will continue to live with and support his fam-

ily, but his education will be supported by K. Sutham.

Highway robbery: Three youths on a motorcycle attempted to rob a police sergeant and his girlfriend as they were returning from a funeral in Trang Town early on August 3. In the ensuing gun battle, the policeman was hit three times.

As Pol Sgt Jumphon Bunchai, a Crime Prevention and Suppression Squad Leader at Yan Ta Khao District Police Station, was riding his motorcycle with his girlfriend sitting pillion, three youths on another motorbike rode up alongside them. One youth pulled a gun and ordered Sgt Jumphon to pull over.

Sgt Jumphon sped up, trying to escape his pursuers, but the three young men kept on his tail and tried to kick his bike over. Sgt Jumphon drew his own gun and fired a shot at his attackers.

His girlfriend, afraid of being hit by a stray bullet, decided to jump off the bike.

The three youths pulled over and forced her to hand over 1,800 baht in cash and a gold bracelet. Sgt Jumphon then opened fire on the robbers, who fired back before getting back on their motorbike and making their escape.

Sgt Jumphon managed to report the incident, despite being hit in the leg and stomach. His girlfriend hailed a passing car to take them to hospital.

Police found a trail of blood leading in the direction in which the gang had fled, indicating that at least one member had been shot. They also collected one bullet casing as evidence.

High price of fuel: A converted fishing boat was seized after the Royal Thai Navy found its crew selling smuggled diesel fuel to other fishing boats in the Gulf of Thailand, around 40 nautical miles off Songkhla.

Following a tip-off, the navy sent a ship to investigate and discovered the crew of a fishing boat, *Choksin Amnuay*, in the act of refueling another boat.

Seeing the navy ship approach, the boat being refueled sped away but the Navy were able to intercept and board the *Choksin Amnuay*.

On board the 20-meter boat, officers found no fishing equipment at all. Instead, the inside of the ship had been fitted with a 70,000-liter tank containing around 10,500 liters of smuggled diesel.

The navy officers detained the four crew members and escorted the *Choksin Amnuay* back to shore.

The crew were charged with smuggling fuel into the Kingdom.

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

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Tropical showcase a first in the region

By Sompratch Saowakhon & Stephen Fein

For three months starting November 1, the Royal Agricultural Research Center in Chiang Mai will host what promises to be the “mother of all tropical plant shows”, the Royal Flora Ratchaphruek 2006 International Horticultural Exposition for His Majesty the King.

The exhibition, the first of its kind in Southeast Asia, will showcase 2,200 species of tropical flora, with 2.5 million tropical plants over an area of 21,000 square meters, including displays from 30 nations from around the world.

Each Thai province will also be represented by a booth set up at the exhibition. Phuket will display four specially selected plants from December 1 to 10.

Thainwan Pusil, an officer at the Phuket Service Center for

Crops and Production Resources, in Thalang, told the *Gazette* that the four plants chosen for display at the island’s booth were selected because they are either important to Phuket, or – in three cases – rare indigenous species.

The plants will be surrounded at the Phuket booth by Phuket pineapples – with free samples for tasting – and the colorful, red flowers of the *wua-lai* Phuket betel to attract the interest of passers-by.

The first of the four plants chosen for the show is known as the *khon-tee-sor* tree in the vernacular and as the “three-leaved chaste tree” or “Indian privet” in English. Scientifically classified as *Vitex trifolia* Linn, it is a member of the Verbenaceae family, growing up to four meters in height and carrying small but attractive blue-violet flowers.

Locally, it can be seen on the grounds of Satee Phuket School, which has a *khon-tee-*



The *khon-tee-sor* or Indian privet.



The *Jebailai* Phuket Palm.

sor cultivation project and once sent a tree to HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn as a gift. Many parts of the tree have herbal uses in Thailand.

The other three plants chosen to represent Phuket are all palm varieties indigenous to the Khao Pra Theaw hill range in Thalang. The first, the *Jebailai* Phuket Palm, was first identified in 1998 by Malaysian palm expert Datuk Seri Lim Chong Keat (CK Lim), who gave it the scientific name *Pinanga wataniai* CK Lim, in honor of Thai palm researcher Watana Sumawong.

A ground palm, it has attractive variegated leaves of dark green and light green that resemble bird feathers.

The second palm, the White Elephant Palm, is known locally as the *lang khao* or *jao muang talang* palm. It bears the scientific name *Kerriodoxa elegans* Dransfield, after the Irish

botanist Dr AFG Kerr, who first identified it as a separate genus of palm in 1929. Unique to the Khao Pra Theaw area, home to the Gibbon Rehabilitation Project, the White Elephant Palm is listed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as the world’s most endangered palm species.

Growing up to seven meters tall, it has a dark leaf stalk and light-colored elegant fan-shaped leaves. Its long yellow flowers can be seen from December to February in its preferred habitat, moist soils well inland and at about 300 to 500 meters above sea level. It was the presence of the white elephant palm that was largely responsible for Khao Pra Theaw gaining its status as a wildlife park and forest reserve in 1977.

The last palm, the *mark tong thalang*, is another indigenous and endangered species. Also first identified by CK Lim in 1998, and subsequently given the classification *Iguanura thalangensis*, the identifying features of this seldom-flowering ground palm are its small trunk and prominent dark-green leaves, which resemble fish tails.

K. Thainwan said his office was given just three months by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives to choose the plants, three samples of which will be sent to the show, along with 50 *wua lai* betel palms and Phuket pineapples. None of the rare species will be for sale.

Transporting the plants all the way to Chiang Mai will be a feat in itself. They were sched-




The *mark tong thalang* palm.

uled to leave Phuket for Bangkok by truck on August 8.

Upon arrival in the capital they will be cared for and allowed to “recuperate” at the Department of Agriculture Extension. From there they will later be sent to the plant show in time for the December show.



White Elephant Palm.




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FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND

By Barry Singleton

The caretaker Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Yongyut Tiypairat, visited Koh Samui in early August to check on progress in the implementation of tougher restrictions on land sales.

When he arrived at the Samui Land Office, he was surprised to be faced by an angry gathering of local landowners who accused the authorities of stealing their birthright by reclaiming large tracts of land.

The caretaker Minister had previously asked the Koh Samui District Office to carry out a survey of the island and to ensure that developers were not encroaching onto public land. He had also asked officials to explain the reasons behind their actions to local people.

In reality, however, local officials went ahead and marked off large areas in the interior of the island without giving a proper explanation.

In some cases they were accompanied by armed guards in case of local resistance.

Conflict soon followed, with rumors spreading that money was being offered for anyone



Angry landowners accused the authorities of 'stealing their birthright' by reclaiming large tracts of land.

Environment Minister defuses backlash by Samui landowners

who prevented the inspections, by whatever means.

The caretaker Minister expressed anger at the District Office's behavior and explained to the landowners that Samui's natural resources belonged to everyone, emphasizing that the

land should provide a legacy for future generations.

He also guaranteed that those with legitimate claims to land would not lose their property, as long as they could prove that they were the legal owners. He invited landowners or their representatives to join the government team on future inspections.

The District Office survey identified 34,000 rai of public land that it says must be reclaimed and protected. However, Samui Mayor Warakorn Ratanarak expressed concern that in some parts of the island public land is used by poor villagers for farming.

He urged the authorities to work more closely with local village leaders in order to distinguish between land marked for development and land being used for the benefit of local villagers.

Local tycoon assassinated: In the early hours of July 28, Samui Police were called to a bar in central Lamai after well-known Thai bar owner Kormet "Ta To" Jasurat was shot dead.

Kormet owned a number of bars and massage parlors in the area, and was also prominent in local politics. Officers found his body next to his pickup truck surrounded by 11mm shells. He had suffered fatal wounds to the head.

Witnesses later reported that two men had come to the bar

at around 1 am and shot K. Kormet in the chest.

He apparently survived the initial attack and crawled to his car, where the men shot him in the head.

Two bar girls were also injured in the attack, hit by stray bullets. Ornanong Narmpo, 18, was wounded in the shoulder and Soonet Panya, 28, was hit in the right side of the head. Both were taken to Bangkok Hospital Samui.

Police said that the motive for the murder is not yet clear, but they are investigating a previous incident involving K. Kormet that may shed light on the killing.

Local campaigner murdered: Nippon Wasin, a 57-year-old man from Baan Bang Rak who was known for his outspoken views on development and civic responsibility, was shot dead on August 4 while riding his motorbike home from a temple fair.

As a local security volunteer and acting assistant to the village chief, K. Nippon often came into conflict with people from various sections of the community. The villagers of Bang Rak, however, were outraged by the murder and have vowed to track down the killers and bring them to justice.

Former MP of Surat Thani Prawit Nilwacharamanee is pushing the police to investigate

the shooting thoroughly as he feels that local people on Samui should not be afraid to voice their opinions and concerns in public.

Balking at pay back: The Surat Thani provincial government recently asked hotels to respect an old law requiring them to compensate their guests in cases of theft. Letters were sent out asking hotels in the province to decide on an appropriate figure, with a minimum of 500 baht, and to offer this money to guests who suffer theft on their premises.

However, many local business people say the proposal contradicts common policy in most sections of the hospitality and travel industry worldwide, whereby guests and passengers are asked to take responsibility for their own personal belongings.

In addition, they argue that most hotels in Thailand already offer safety deposit facilities free of charge – and are willing to compensate their guests if these prove to be inadequate.

Mary Knotman, a bungalow manager from the UK, said such an approach would lead to a dramatic increase in cases of fraud. "It would be necessary for guests to prove to the hotel that their possessions had been stolen on site," she said. "That would often be difficult and could lead to disputes and create bad feeling between hotel staff and guests."

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On the menu



WITH

Andy Johnstone

The Red Room

Live in a sprawling metropolis, and one dreams of living on a tropical island. Live on a tropical island, and one dreams of a sprawling metropolis. Well, perhaps not the entire thing, but certainly some elements of it.

For example, casual dining by the beachside hotel has its place, but occasionally I hanker after a bit of the bright lights of the big city, a little of the refinement and excitement found only in the urban sprawl.

Phuket has its snatches of big-city living – in terms of dining – and a welcome diversion from “paradise” it is too. With this in mind, and knowing that here I can drive a damn sight faster than in, say, Bangkok, a trip to Bang Tao’s very own slice of metroland is in order.

The Red Room Restaurant & Lounge is the destination, and once through the doors, I am assailed by the daring use of black, slate gray and – of course – red in the décor and furnishings. The striking, even sexy, colors hint at something of an experience tonight, so I think it’s time for a drink.

Predictably, I choose a vodka martini, and a jolly good one it is too; no need to go behind this bar and explain how to make one (as I have in seven others in my time in Thailand). My companion, oddly, orders a port.

The very charming Marc-Antoine Audibert, Red Room’s General Manager, chats with us, telling us of his work at Bangkok’s rather swish Koi Restaurant and his grand designs for Red Room.

Naughty but nice: Foie gras cooked in essence of duck.



Good food? Just take it as Red

I feel he knows he is on to a good thing here. The restaurant is almost terminally hip and with the After Work party on Thursday nights now a regular feature, it lends itself perfectly to the In Crowd.

The menu – traditional French, Japanese and a couple of crossover dishes – is a joy to behold. Marc is keen to make his suggestions and, spoiled for choice again, we agree to eat everything he suggests, sharing it all.

Moving from the enveloping sofa to our table requires a strength of purpose rarely exhibited by me these days. It’s not that I don’t want to eat – far from it; I’m ravenous – but rather that the sofa is utterly comfortable. I

suppose that I may have actually chilled out, as they say these days.

Spurred on by my dining companion, not a woman I would like to get into a fight with, I sashay to the music and the table.

Marc’s suggestions are, not surprisingly, bang on target. We dive into the crayfish soufflé with asparagus tips, Parmesan and truffle oil first. As light as candy floss, it marries the earthy aroma of the black truffle with the delicate taste of the crayfish more than adequately.

Foie gras cooked in essence of duck and served with a slightly zingy pepper jelly presents the naughty delights of the almost-buttery texture of the liver with a modern sensibility.

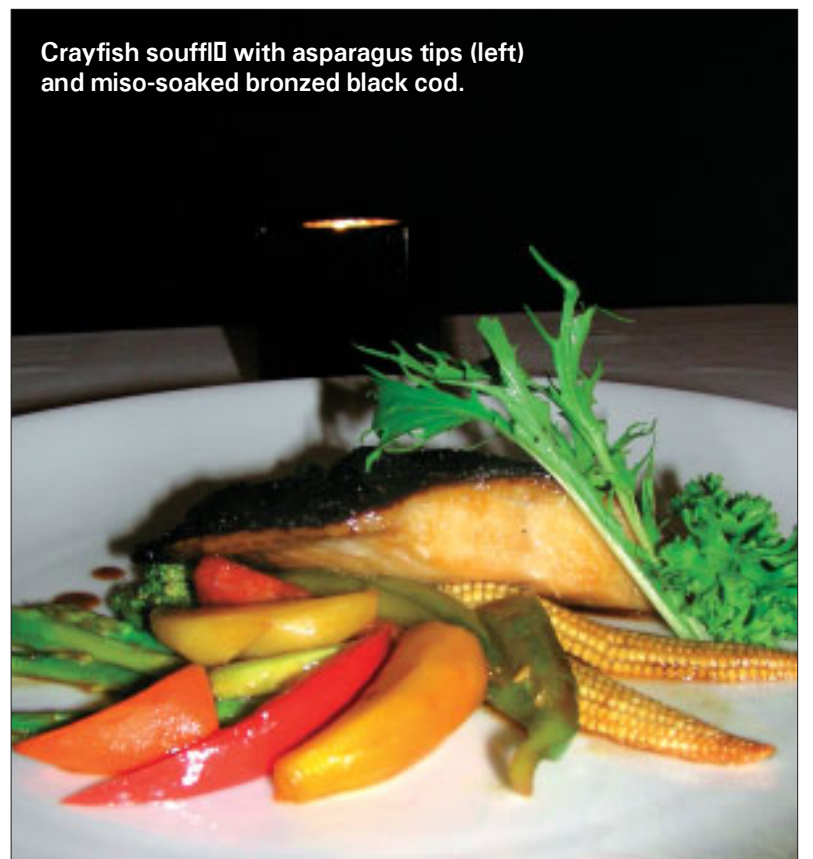
Perhaps because it is a little naughty to eat foie gras is one of the reasons it is so good, as all illicit pleasures are

More sensuous earthy tastes and smells arrive in the soup of wild mushrooms with black truffle oil. This is seductive, almost sinfully good food. I should have brought my rosary beads; a confession may be in order.

The main courses are no more likely to be good for my soul. But it is absolutely doing good things for other parts of me; I am in culinary rapture.

The miso-soaked bronzed black cod is sweet and plump, cooked expertly and presented gracefully with a harlequin of vegetables. Marc advises us that the dish is one of the most popular at the Red Room; we can see and taste why.

Crayfish soufflé with asparagus tips (left) and miso-soaked bronzed black cod.



Grilled duck breast.

The chef excels himself with the grilled duck breast, which he prepares on a bed of wasabi-scented sweet potato cake with plum sauce.

Again, it’s a little of the Old World being married to the East. It seems that, despite what Kipling said, the twain do actually meet at the Red Room – and without pretension or pomposity.

The style of Bangkok and the traditions of East and West have found a home here.

Through ingenuity and creativity, Marc and his team give the diner a meal rich with surprise, but at the same time full of comfortable familiarity.

The Red Room Restaurant & Lounge, Bang Tao Beach, Srisoonthorn Rd, Cherng Talay. Tel: 076-271136 or email: marc@richmondth.com. Expect to pay in the region of 2,000 baht for a meal for two, excluding drinks.



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Hard shell, soft heart

Jansookorn Sae-Eung is not one of Phuket's leading citizens – she doesn't belong to the Phuket International Women's Club, the Phuket Business Women's Association, any of the Rotary or Lions clubs, the Hash House Harriers, Alcoholics Anonymous or the Skat Club.

A look in her wallet – not a ladies' clutch purse but a plain wallet – reveals no American Express, Carte Blanche or Diner's Club cards.

If anything accidentally falls from it while she's talking to a cop you can bet it won't be the governor's business card, a certificate of membership in the Thai Rak Thai Party or a handwritten note from the provincial police commander extending his personal esteem.

Despite her poverty of credentials or connections, "Na", as she's familiarly known, is nonetheless an important person in Phuket for many, especially those in need.

For, though she resembles the Statue of Liberty not at all, she provides the "wretched refuse", "homeless" and "tempest-tost" of our shores not with mere slogans but with real help.

Meet Na, the philanthropic female motorcycle taxi driver.

Born 43 years ago in Vachira Hospital, Na has lived in Phuket all her life. The "sae" in her surname reveals Chinese ancestry. "Our home was on Ras-

Jansookorn 'Na' Sae-Eung's life has not always been easy. But, as Patsya Chongtong found, this has not made her bitter. Quite the reverse, in fact.

Na makes it her business to look after those on the bottom rungs of life in Phuket, be they crippled animals or Burmese with no papers.

sada Rd, in the fresh market," she recalled during a recent interview, "but my grandma sold that house. I don't know why. We were more or less a typical middle class family then, I suppose," she said, adding that her recollection may be imperfect because, "I was just a kid."

Hers was not a typical middle class family for long, however, after her father found "someone else to care for".

"He lived on Patipat Rd. near Khao Rang Hill in Phuket City. I'd see him often in the market, but we never said hello. Why should we? He never visited."

While her father, who died three years ago, was of Chinese ancestry, her mother's maiden name was "Jehti": "My grandfather came from India to deal in scrap metal. He was rich. But my grandmother was, uh...unfaithful, and they separated."

Na's grandmother, from Phuket's then-small ethnic Thai community, apparently marched to a different drummer than that of her peers.

"She wasn't close to her brothers or sisters. I never really understood her; we weren't close."

Na was left to fend for herself when her mother went to work at a rubber processing plant and took up with another man.

"I went to school for a while at Wat Kajorn behind the provincial courts. I don't recall whether I'd finished second grade before I had to leave."

She was pressed into service taking care of her half-brother, Somchai, nine years her junior, and never returned to school, remaining, by her own account, "almost completely ignorant" until she was grown.

Somchai, on the other hand, received the benefit of an education and became a welder after graduating from one of Phuket's technical colleges.

Life was grim: "My mother worked all the time at the rubber plant; and, after I was 15, I did, too." She developed a severe allergy that caused skin eruptions and left her gasping for breath.

"I got so weak from working there I thought I'd die."

Then, suddenly, everything changed. "My grandmother had bought another house across from Rama IX Park – where a convenience store stands now – and the woman who rented space in front for her fruit stand offered me a job.

"She saw I was shelling cashews after work for 1.50 baht per kilo and suggested I should come work with her instead.

"How can I?" I replied, "I don't even know how to use a scale!"

But "Ba" – Auntie – said she'd teach the struggling waif "everything" and that was the beginning of Na's education in the wider world of commerce.

"I spent four or five years selling fruit before I opened my own stand in the market." That lasted only two years.

"Business was poor, so I sold out, bought a *samlor*' [three-wheel motorcycle vending cart] and started selling soft drinks and fried bananas."

She prospered for some years, "but bananas rose to 30



ROAD WARRIOR IN FULL ARMOR: In the basket is a bottle of water and another of sunblock, for her fingers – the only part of Na the outside world can see.

baht a bunch one year and profits plummeted."

"What to do?" she wondered. Though early on she had taught herself to read – and has remained an avid reader – she lacked the educational prerequisites for office work. Return to the rubber processing plant was out of the question and Na was, anyway, too accustomed to being her own boss to be anyone else's drudge.

"So I paid 3,000 baht to the *win* [taxi stand] leader for my red vest, and started driving a motorcycle taxi."

LIABILITY

This new career led to a number of changes. Na was then 32 years old, and a woman of strikingly beautiful face and figure: romance, however, had proved elusive, and her beauty might prove a dangerous liability were she to pick up the wrong fare – so she hid her charms beneath layers of clothing and a bandit-like mask.

"Sometimes when men grab me round the middle to support themselves as we take off, they are surprised to discover I'm a woman.

"Oh!" they say, 'I'm sorry. I thought you were a man.'"

Typically, only her eyes and her fingers are visible, the rest a ball of indeterminate gender.

Another change, perhaps a

greater one, involved caring for animals. "My *win* was in front of Provincial Hall," she explained, "and about two months after I'd started driving a taxi I saw a dog – 'Judy', I called her – who'd had a litter beneath the passenger shelter by the tennis courts. I wanted to take one of the puppies for myself, but other people got to them first; so I took Judy."

This, she observed, was strange: "I had never cared for animals before. In fact, I was the sort of person who hated dogs. Judy was my first, but after that I decided to feed what stray animals I could."

So she began taking care of the animals around Provincial Hall.

"Acharn Snow White noticed that strays thereabouts seemed in better condition than those elsewhere," she said, referring by her nickname to a teacher at a nearby school, "and she contacted me after finding out it was because I took care of them."

The teacher put her in touch with the wife of an official who introduced her to two vets. "They help animals that are sick or hurt," she was told.

After that, Na began searching out creatures in need of medical help, transporting them to the veterinarians – and concurrently feeding a network of some 18 dogs scattered around Phuket City.

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"My mother did the cooking at night and I brought the food to them in the mornings. I put it on a newspaper, waited till they finished eating, cleaned up, then went to the next group."

"I'm particularly interested in animals that are crippled, because no one else wants them."

She still weeps to think of one dog with an enlarged head and other congenital deformities: "He was in pain all the time and couldn't control himself. I had to hold his head up to feed him and then he'd bite me – bite me really hard – but he didn't know what he was doing."

Eventually the animal's suffering became too great and when Na consulted the vet, "he told me the only humane thing to do was to put him down. I did; but I've never felt good about it."

Na had saved up a small nest-egg from her previous businesses, but it all went to the dogs – so to speak.

Today she must rely largely on income from driving taxi to finance continued feeding.

Her humanitarianism, however, probably hurts her in that regard. "The Land Transport Office has established rates for [motorcycle] taxis," she explained. "25 baht for the first two kilometers. But they are impossible to enforce. People give me whatever they want."

"I usually ask them how much they can afford. Sometime they can afford nothing, so I take

them for free. I like it better, however, when they tell me ahead of time."

"I still take them where they want, but when I know that they're broke it doesn't spoil my feeling for them the same as when they spring it on me after taking them."

She gets "two or three" deadbeats per month. "But I've never called the police. It isn't worth the aggravation, and they don't cost me that much, rarely more than a liter of gas."

INIQUITIES

Na's work provides special insight into iniquities suffered by society's underclass: "Burmese are paid usually between the 5th and 10th of each month. The following Sunday they visit relatives."

"You'll notice a lot of checkpoints are set up at that time. Burmese without papers – and some with papers – are seized. Taxi drivers are expected to co-operate. 'Go on over there,' we are told and when the Burmese get back [from conferring with the police] they usually have nothing left but fare for the taxi; sometimes not even that."

"Once I picked up two Burmese girls: one had papers, the other hadn't. Suddenly we saw a checkpoint ahead. I told the girls to hide any valuables quickly. The girl behind me stuffed her earrings down my pants, and I had to conduct negotiations with a pointy

earring stud jabbing me in the rear."

The girl was seized. "I pleaded with them to let her go. But they threatened to deport her if we couldn't give them money."

"How much?" I asked. "Normally it's 10,000 baht," came the reply, "but for you we'll make it 5,000."

In the event, the hidden earrings were pawned for two thousand baht and the cash discreetly stuffed into an envelope.

"They took it," she noted witheringly. "It was all the girls had, but that was better than nothing."

On another occasion she tried to soothe a woman irate over the behavior of her foreign husband. "Look at him! He's parked the car so it blocks the exit and won't move it," said the woman.

"Everyone is upset and they don't understand why I don't get him to move. But he's always like this; says 'This is Thailand; you have to accept it.'"

"I hate him. However, he's rich. I'm just waiting for him to die so I can get his money and make my family comfortable. But he makes me so angry sometimes that I'm ready to have him snuffed!"

"I told the woman that murder is a sin, and that she should calm down and try to be more uplifting in her thoughts. 'Money isn't everything,' I said."

"I don't know whether she was listening, though."



Na has a soft spot for strays, whether they are animals or people with no official ID.

Facts about the BriteSmile® teeth whitening system

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 second topic, the BriteSmile® teeth whitening system, will be presented by one of the most experienced dentists in Thailand with this new technology, which is rapidly

becoming the tooth whitening system of choice in the United States, where it was developed.

In short, BriteSmile® is a treatment that whitens teeth in just one hour with a patented "blue light" technology that gives fast and effective result. Not a laser or heat treatment, this blue light was developed by a team of former NASA scientists led by Dr John Warner and Mr Eric Montgomery, specialist researchers in dental healthcare products and cosmetics. In tandem with a proprietary whitening gel, this technology accelerates the whitening process.

The treatment, developed in Hollywood, has been clinically proven safe and effective and is very popular in fashion circles and beauty institutes around the world. During the session, the panel will

discuss various aspects of this treatment, which is completely new to Phuket, including:

-WHO CAN BENEFIT?

-IS THERE DISCOMFORT INVOLVED?

-HOW MUCH HYDROGEN PEROXIDE DOES THE WHITENING GEL CONTAIN?

-WILL THE TREATMENT HARM MY TOOTH ENAMEL OR FILLINGS?



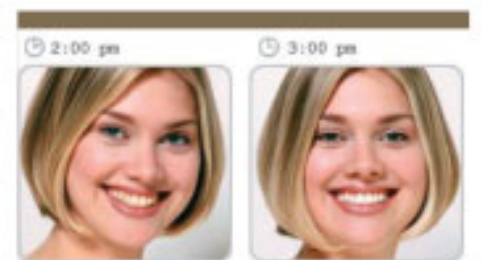
-ARE THERE ANY SIDE EFFECTS?

Following the session there will be a cocktail reception in an adjacent room, with a chance for those interested to look at displays showing:

-HOW BRITE SMILE WORKS

-HOW TO DO THE METAL-FREE RESTORATION BY CEREC 3D

-MODELS OF SOME COMMON IMPLANT PROCEDURES



BRITE SMILE®
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The session is open to all, but those wishing to attend should reserve a seat in advance by contacting Khun Ladawan at Tel: 076-345341-2 or 01-6372669.

This week

GRANTED AN EDUCATION: The Phuket International Women's Club (PIWC) on August 10 handed out 20,000-baht scholarships to 30 poor students from Phuket Rajabhat University (PRU) as well as 10,000-baht scholarships to 59 needy students at Phuket Vocational College – a grand total of 1.19 million baht.

At the ceremony are PIWC members (all seated) President Cindy Ratcliffe (center, in blue) and Vice-President Joan Watson (4th from left), and (from left) Honorary President Olivia Bhuntipkrisnaraj, Scholarship Committee member Sharon Cook, Sue Arnulphy, Wipa Tanmanatragul and Margaret Spratt along with PRU teachers Dr Uma Prawat and Asst Prof Pranee Sakulpipatana.



GLISTER MISTER: (From left) Mom Tri's Gallery curator Watcharin Rodnit, artist Chairat Songsri, fellow curator Jay-da Rodnit and Mom Tri's Boathouse Public Relations Manager Lisa Sol celebrate the August 5 opening of the 'Colour of Gold' exhibition of works by K. Chairat. The exhibition will run until August 31.



JUST POPPED IN: Miss Thailand World 1994 Pop Areeya (center) is welcomed to Bangkok Hospital Phuket (BHP) by Piyanooch Ananpakdee (left), BHP Senior Marketing and Communications Manager, and children, for the August 2 free preview of her first documentary movie *Dek Toh*, which relates the hardship faced by poor children in Sameng District, Chiang Mai Province.



SENIOR RESPONSIBILITY: Laguna Resorts & Homes Managing Director Micheal Ayling (center, in white shirt) poses with a senior citizens from the Phuket Home for the Elderly at the Casuarina Pub & Restaurant at the Dusit Laguna Resort. After lunch at the restaurant, the seniors were taken to see the animated movie *Kaan Kluay* as part of the resort's annual outing for elderly residents of the home. The outing has been organized by LRH every year for eight years.



POOLING RESOURCES: Pierre Desjoyaux (rear, center) and his family and staff celebrate the July 29 grand opening of the new Desjoyaux Pools showroom and offices on Wichit Songkhram Rd, near Central Festival Phuket.

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BEHIND THE WHEEL

By Jeff Heselwood

There is a new Freelander. Well, in some markets, there is – the Freelander 2. In others it's being called the LR2 to reflect its Land Rover family heritage.

Whatever the badge says, the vehicle is built on a newly-developed platform, which it will share with Volvo's new S80 and V70, as well as the Ford Galaxy and S-Max people movers, which makes the LR2 a little larger than its predecessor.

"This is the first time on a Land Rover that we've shared design like this with Volvo," says Mark Burnston, Land Rover's chief body engineer.

The original Freelander was launched in 1997 and was seen by many as having created a new class of vehicle: a mini-SUV.

It swiftly became Europe's top-selling 4x4 and remained so in its home market, Britain, until the end of 2005.

The demise of Rover caused a few problems when supplies of the K-series, four-cylinder en-



FREEWHEELING AGAIN

gine dried up, leaving just a diesel option or the larger V6.

The new model is Land Rover's fourth new vehicle in little more than four years, with the Range Rover coming in 2002, the Discovery 3 in 2004 and, last year, the Range Rover Sport. The new LR2 has many Freelander design cues, but also resembles a scaled-down Range Rover.

"We purposely kept strong cues from the original Freelander, such as the clamshell bonnet, stepped roof and the basic form," says Land Rover design director Geoff Upex. "But the overall look is new and much more contemporary. We have deliberately kept a close design relationship with

the new Discovery and the Range Rover Sport, but interpreted it to suit customers of a compact 4x4."

Designed and engineered at the Land Rover technical center at Gaydon, Warwickshire, in the UK, the LR2 will be built at Ford's Halewood plant in Liverpool.

Two new engines are available: a 3.2-liter straight-six gasoline and a 2.2-liter four-cylinder turbocharged diesel. The 230 bhp (171 kW) gas engine provides a top speed of 200 km/h with a 0-100 km/h time of less than nine seconds – reasonable performance for what is still a very capable off-road machine (not that many owners will ever venture

off-road, of course).

The diesel motor delivers a more modest 158 bhp (118 kW) but scores heavily in the torque department with 400 Nm at its peak and 200 Nm available all the way from 1,000 rpm to 4,500 rpm.

Full-time all-wheel drive and Land Rover's Terrain Response system ensure excellent on- and off-road performance, while the patented gradient release control, as well as hill-descent control, offer reliable, steady control on steep inclines. The gasoline model comes with a six-speed automatic transmission, while the diesel has either manual or auto, again both six-speed.

The interior of the LR2 is a

major improvement over the Freelander, with more head, shoulder and legroom in both the front and rear.

There is a "theater" seating structure with the rear seat passengers sitting slightly higher than the front occupants, improving their view forward.

Trunk space has also been increased by 38% over the outgoing vehicle.

The rear seats fold in a 60:40 split to offer additional cargo space or will fold completely flat if required.

A two-part panoramic sunroof is an option, while there is a wide range of audio systems available. All models receive an auxiliary audio connection for iPods and MP3 players as standard equipment.

There is a total of seven airbags: dual front bags, side bags, full-length air curtains and an inflatable knee bolster to protect the driver from injury from the steering column.

Land Rover in Bangkok says there are no plans to launch the LR2 in Thailand "in the immediate future". But given the success of the previous Freelander, it would be surprising if they do not change their minds very soon. Expect the LR2 before the end of the year, although no prices are quoted at present.

Jeff Heselwood may be contacted at Email: jhc@netvigator.com



ANOTHER QUALITY PROJECT FROM LAND & HOUSES Land & Houses Park Phuket



Pruerkyapa

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 134 sq.m.



Pruerk-Saran

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 286 sq.m.



Pruerk-Pirom

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 298 sq.m.

Model	Area (sq.wa)	*Total price*(baht)	Deposit (baht)	50% Down payment (baht)	Final payment (baht)
Pruerkyapa	56.2	3,790,000	100,000	1,895,000	1,795,000
Pruerk-Saran	216	11,860,000	100,000	5,930,000	5,830,000
Pruerk-Pirom	99.6	9,900,000	100,000	4,950,000	4,850,000

* These prices include air-conditioners, wall paper, kitchen and garden

* 1-year-free use of the club facilities except spa and restaurant

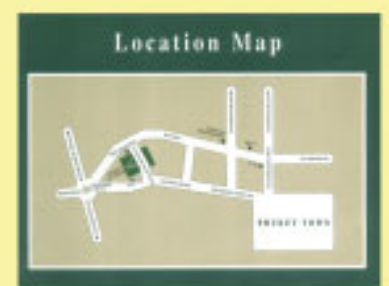
* The price and style of the houses may be changed without prior notice

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Iced coffee versus latte macchiato, cold cucumber soup versus a stew. In hot climates, people tend to choose not only lighter food and drinks, but also lighter fragrances.

The good news for people in Phuket is that perfumers are now increasingly picking up on this.

"When it's hot, a heavy fragrance is instinctively left on the shelf, just as, at mealtimes, people are more likely to choose a light salad or something similar," said Werner Hariegel, business manager of the German association of perfume stores in Recklinghausen.

Perfume makers in Europe are reacting more decisively to the summertime "fragrance diet" and are offering lighter versions of their well-known perfumes, also more suited to tropical climates.

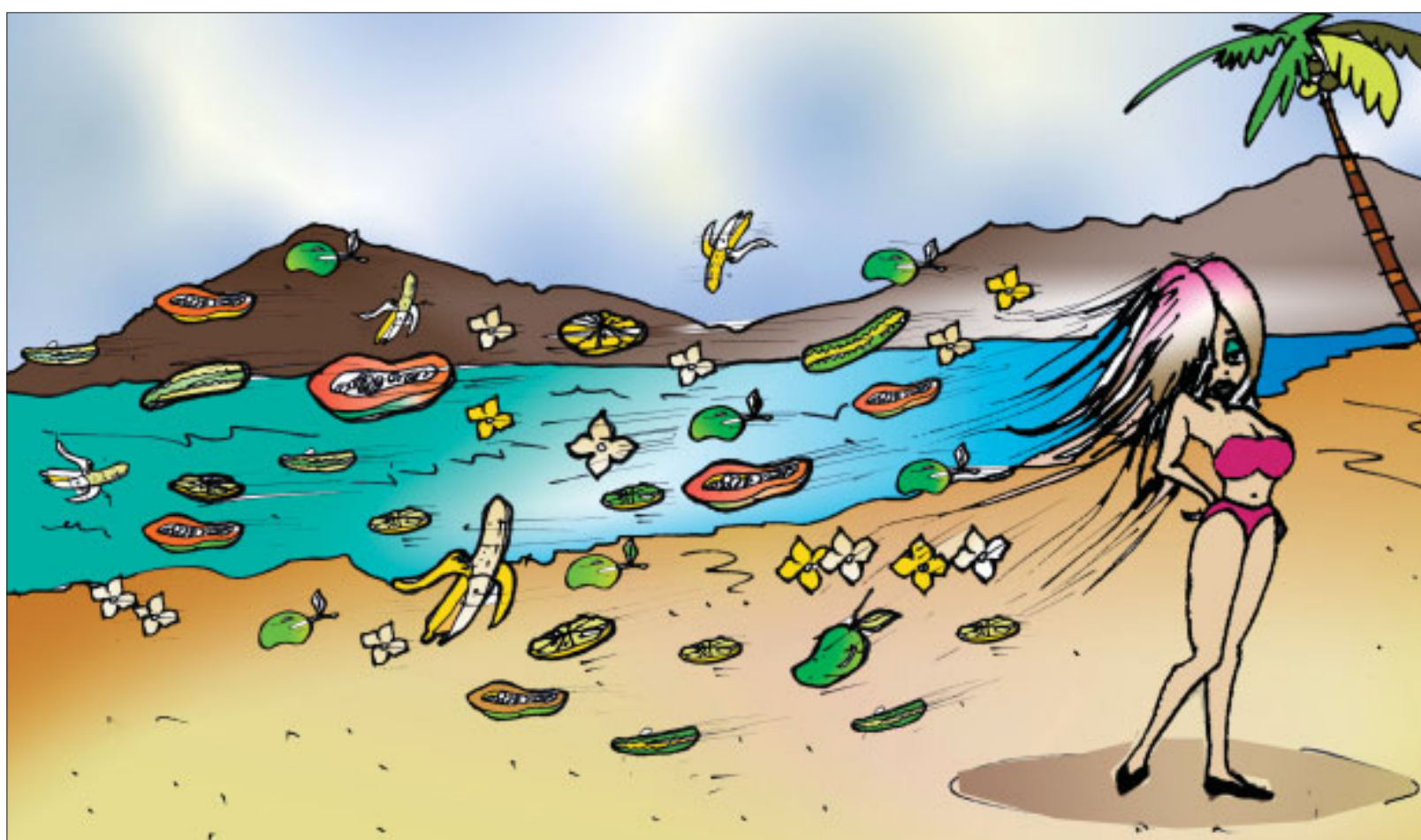
"Single-season fragrances are more common than they used to be," said Martin Ruppmann of the association of cosmetic product vendors in Wiesbaden. This trend has developed because consumers handle fragrances differently from the ways they did in the past.

"Perfumes used to be worn only on special occasions. Today fragrances accompany men and women all day long, becoming a fashion accessory," Hariegel said.

In addition, lighter versions of successful perfumes are comparatively good for the perfume maker.

"It's easier to latch onto a known theme than to position a completely new fragrance in the market," said Marc vom Ende, a perfumier at the German producer Symrise in Holzminden, Lower Saxony.

As it does with regular perfumes, the spectrum of fragrances varies among the lighter summer perfumes. Mr vom Ende describes the current trend as being "transparently floral, but not overblown". Mr Ruppmann said



Cool fragrances for hot nights

that, despite the freshness, the erotic nature of fragrances doesn't have to be denied.

"For that certain something in a perfume, floral aromas are combined with naughty fruit tones such as mango or papaya," said Mr vom Ende. Such fragrances are meant to incite a "desire to nibble", he added.

The fashion house Escada in Munich has produced Pacific Paradise, a mix of lime, coconut, banana blooms and cotton candy, designed to lure customers to a beach party for the senses.

Competitor Aigner is pushing an "erotic invitation for the senses", The ladies' version of Aigner Black Icedrops includes the scents of bergamot, pink grapefruit and exotic floral tones to beguile the senses. The men's

version has woody tones combined with the smell of fur and white moss.

New York designer Carolina Herrera's 212 On Ice definitely aims to send out a signal to the opposite sex. A cocktail of mandarin, ripe red berries and sandalwood results in a complex ladies' fragrance "with an undeniably simple effect on the senses". Men can spray on a "sensuously subtle" mix of incense, sandalwood, citrus and light musk tones.

Like the ingredients, the packaging also includes some consistency across the products. Pink is the color of the season for the women. As it is for Escada and Carolina Herrera, pink is the color of choice for the French maker Azzaro. Azzaro's Pink Tonic, as

the name implies, is also packaged in pink.

The fragrance, with pink grapefruit and red currant scents, is supposed to be youthful and feminine.

Perfumes without alcohol are especially light and easily tolerated by the skin, particularly when sunbathing. Among those available are summer versions of Classique and Le Male from the French fashion designer Jean Paul Gaultier.

New York designer Donna Karan also leaves alcohol out of her DKNY Refreshing Body Mist. Ingredients such as green cucumbers, grapefruit, lily of the valley and violets create a fresh floral fragrance.

On especially hot days the designer recommends putting the

spray in the refrigerator for a few hours and spraying it over the entire body if necessary.

Consumers really cannot go wrong in wearing the light summer fragrances, say perfume makers.

The ideal place to spray the fragrances is on the neck and inside the wrists, and, for women, in the hair.

Spraying them on clothes is not recommended because residue of the fragrance can stick to the cloth.

That could cause problems because perfumes are often changed to match a mood or an occasion, and if residue from a perfume remains in the clothes it may clash with the next fragrance that is used, Marc vom Ende said.

— Sandra Cantzler, *dpa*

Before buying perfume, allow the full fragrance to emerge

When buying a new perfume, consumers should allow time. Perfumes reveal themselves in stages. The fragrances change subtly over a couple of hours or even days from when they are first sprayed on.

At first, the so-called "head tones" are perceived. "There are volatile components of a perfume that develop within seconds after being sprayed on and disappear

even faster," said Marc vom Ende, perfumer at German fragrance maker Symrise. A favorite head tone is, for example, citrus.

Following the head tones are the "heart tones". "They develop after about 30 minutes or maybe an hour," said Mr vom Ende. These typically consist of floral tones, but sometimes are woody aromas.

Lastly, there are the "base tones". Especially long adhering ingredients are responsible for these. Typically, vanilla, musk or ambergris are used.

"These materials can be smelled over hours, sometimes even over days," explained Mr vom Ende.

So when buying perfume, accept the offer of a sample spray, then go for a walk or for lunch, and see whether you still like the fragrance after a couple of hours.

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A household remedy millennia old is being reinstated. Honey, it seems, helps the treatment of some wounds better than the most modern antibiotics.

For several years medical experts from the University of Bonn have been recording positive results with what is known as "medihoney".

Even chronic wounds infected with multi-resistant bacteria often healed within weeks.

In conjunction with colleagues from Dusseldorf, Hamburg and Berlin the researchers now want to test in a large-scale study the experience they have gained.

The fact that honey can help wounds to heal was known to the Ancient Egyptians. And in the last two World Wars, poultices with honey were used to help heal soldiers' wounds.

However, the rise of the new antibiotics replaced this household remedy.

"In hospitals today we are faced with germs that are resistant to almost all the current antibiotics," Dr Arne Simon explains. "As a result, the medical use of honey is becoming attractive again for treating wounds."

Dr Simon works on the cancer ward of the Bonn University Children's Clinic. As far as treating wounds is concerned, his young patients form part of a high-risk group: the medication used to treat cancer, known as cytostatics, slows down the reproduction of malignant cells, but also impairs wound healing.

"Normally a skin injury heals in a week; with our children it often takes a month or more," he says. Moreover, children with leukaemia have a weakened immune system. If a germ enters their bloodstream via a wound, the result may be a fatal case of blood poisoning.

For several years paediatricians in Bonn have been pioneering the use in Germany of medihoney in treating wounds.

AN ANCIENT REMEDY MAKES A COMEBACK



You always knew honey was good for you

Medihoney bears the European Community seal of approval for medical products, and its quality is regularly tested.

The results have been astonishing: "Dead tissue is rejected faster, and the wounds heal more rapidly," Kai Sofka, wound specialist at the University Children's Clinic, emphasizes.

"Changing dressings is less painful, because the poultices are easier to remove without damaging newly-formed layers of skin."

Serious wounds can often smell unpleasant, adding to the stress on the patient. Honey helps here, too, by reducing the smell.

"Even wounds that consistently refused to heal for years can, in our experience, be brought under control with medihoney – and this frequently happens within a few weeks," Sofka says.

Two dozen hospitals in Germany are using honey to treat wounds. But despite all the successes claimed, there have so far been very few reliable clinical studies of its effectiveness.

In conjunction with their colleagues, the Bonn medical staff now want to remedy this. With the Woundpecker Data Bank, which they developed themselves, they will record and

evaluate more than 100 courses of disease in the coming months.

The next step planned is comparative studies with other therapeutic methods.

It has already been proved that medihoney even puts paid to multi-resistant germs such as Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), a so-called superbug that can cause outbreaks of boils in a patient, or even necrotizing fasciitis – so-called "flesh-eating disease". In this respect medihoney is neck-and-neck in the race to beat the antibiotic mupirocin, currently the

local therapy of choice for tackling MRSA.

A comparative study published by researchers in Australia makes the point that honey may be the better of the two remedies; MRSA did not develop any resistance to the natural product during the course of treatment.

Researchers also know now why honey is so effective.

When producing honey, bees add an enzyme called glucose-oxidase. This ensures that small amounts of hydrogen peroxide, an effective antiseptic, are

constantly being formed from the sugar in the honey.

The advantage of this over the hydrogen peroxide that can be bought by the bottle from a pharmacy is that small concentrations are sufficient to kill the germs, as the hydrogen peroxide is constantly being produced.

As a rule, much larger quantities of hydrogen peroxide would have to be used, because hydrogen peroxide loses its potency over time. However, in large concentrations, it damages both bacteria and the skin cells.

In addition, medihoney consists of two different types of honey: one which forms a comparatively large amount of hydrogen peroxide, and another known as "leptospermum honey".

Leptospermum is a species of tree which occurs in New Zealand and Australia. Honey from this tree has a particularly strong antibacterial effect, even when diluted.

"It is not yet known exactly why this is," Dr Simon says. "Probably it is a mix of phenol-type substances which come from the plant and make life particularly difficult for the bacteria in the wound."

– Ernest Gill, dpa



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Spa MAGIC



By Janyaporn
Morel

Sontaya Spa



Coming clean at Sontaya Spa

On a bright, sunny Saturday morning, I arrive at the Sontaya Spa, set in the landscaped gardens of the Horizon Karon Beach and Spa, where I am welcomed by Spa Supervisor Noriyana "Noor" Prayut, sporting a fresh lemon grass drink and a towel scented with lemon grass, just for me.

Greetings having been exchanged, K. Noor explains that Sontaya Spa is the newest spa of Asian Wind Spa and Leisure Consultants, who have more than 12 years' experience in the spa industry, with expertise in a variety of fields including spa design, spa treatments, aromatherapy, spa or club management, fitness consultancy and training.

"We have Moradok Spa at the Horizon Beach Resort Hotel in Patong, Tew Son Spa at the Kata Thani Hotel in Kata, Anurak Spa at the Rembrandt Hotel in Bangkok, Ruan Rom Spa at the Royal Phuket City Hotel and Sontaya Spa, the newest one, opened in January this year.

"Asian Wind is also the spa consultant for Le Spa at the Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort," she adds.

Although Sontaya Spa has six therapists to serve resort guests and walk-in clients, it can also draw upon staff from the nearby Tew Son Spa at Kata Thani Hotel for busy periods when guests outnumber the therapists.

The spa menu comprises six styles of body massage, five facial treatments, eight body treatments, eight luxury packages and seven specialty services, including aromatic herbal steam, Jacuzzi, "delight bathing" in a private spa suite, "awe" in a private

spa suite, and manicure and pedicure, any of which may be combined with any of the other treatments.

"Our guests usually take a three- to four-hour daily special package which includes a steam room session and Jacuzzi bath," K. Noor says.

"Our spa signature treatments are the Hot Herbal Clay Wrap, Hot Coconut Oil Wrap, and Body and Skin Detox, which use OPC products with all-natural ingredients," she adds. OPC, my research reveals later, stands

for oligomeric proanthocyanidins, supposedly powerful antioxidants.

The 55-minute Body and Skin Detox sounds enticing, as I feel tired from my busy week and think that it will at least draw out all the toxins from my body.

"It's good to have the dead cells scrubbed from your body," K. Noor says. "And you will feel light and clean afterwards. We will also let you try the steam room and Jacuzzi before the body treatment, and the oil massage after the body wrap."

K. Noor guides me on a tour of the spa while we wait for my therapist, Kanya "Ya" Kongchai, to prepare the Jacuzzi bath and warm the steam room for me.

"Our spa has nine beds in six rooms: two double treatment rooms, one of which has a private bath, one double Thai massage room with a private bath and three single-bed rooms, not including the Jacuzzi room and the steam room," K. Noor says.

The rooms are decorated in three different colors: yellow, pink and gray. "The colors are to change the mood of our customers.

"We have yellow Sunrise rooms that make customers feel warmer, pink Sunshine rooms that make customers feel more relaxed, and the gray rooms enhance guests' sense of serenity," she says.

Before we start the treatment, I choose which massage oil scents K. Ya will use. What surprises me is that this spa uses products from the Lemongrass House, the spa products supplier near Surin Beach that I wrote

about in this column a couple of months ago.

"We use Lemongrass House products for the body treatment, and we use Lydia Jordan products from Australia for the face," K. Noor says.

There are four scents for me to choose from. I opt for White Sand, which features my favorite scent, lavender.

My room is now ready, as is the steam chamber and Jacuzzi. The temperature in the steam room is a heady 40°C, the Jacuzzi bath a slightly cooler 35°C.

K. Ya says that although I can switch from the steam room to the Jacuzzi as many times as I want within 30 minutes, it is best for me to stay in the steam room as long as I can, and then step into the Jacuzzi.

I slip into my spa sarong and step inside the steam room, where I am engulfed in vapor laced with the scent of herbs.

For the first few minutes I feel a bit claustrophobic, and I find it a little difficult to breathe, but soon I become comfortable and begin to relax. I stay for about five minutes, and then step into the Jacuzzi. I repeat the process from steam room to Jacuzzi three times, which makes me feel really relaxed.

Next is the detox wrap. K. Ya bastes me in a white OPC cream, which, despite the scientific name, is made from natural ingredients.

She tells me to lie down on the bed, which is warmed by the heated sheet under the bed sheet, and she then wraps my entire body with the rest of the warm sheet.

This makes me feel warm, though not so hot that it is intolerable. I just lose some sweat, which is good for me, especially as I don't have time to exercise.

WRINKLES

K. Ya also massages my head and cleanses my face with a fresh towel soaked in AHC (which later research reveals is short for Aromatic Hydrating Concentrate) and then massages around my face, which helps my facial skin to tighten, removing any incipient wrinkles that might have been there.

She unwraps me after 15 minutes, and then applies the body scrub cream, scrubbing the scurf from my body, starting from the arms and moving on to my back, legs and chest.

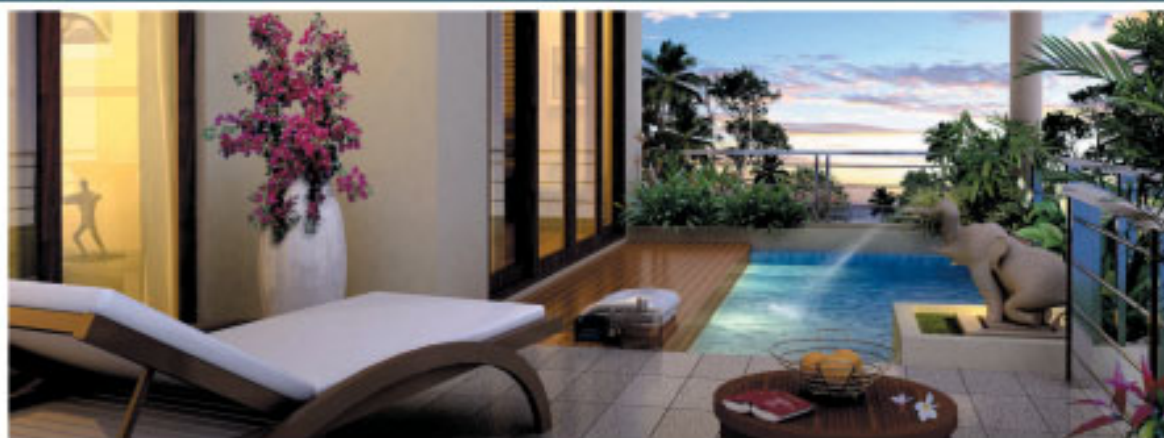
Next I am told to take a shower, and then K. Ya covers me with White Sand oil for the last step: the Deep Tissue massage that I had requested, to help relieve muscle pain.

The entire process takes two hours and 20 minutes. It costs 1,890 baht for the body and skin detox and 1,590 baht for the deep tissue massage.

Sontaya Spa is at the Horizon Karon Beach Resort and Spa, Karon Beach. It is open daily from 8 am to 10 pm. Bookings can be made by calling Tel: 076-333608 or 284555, ext. 8. Website: www.asianwind.biz

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With RayTech V6 software, courses can be charted in the comfort of your living room.

But will it do the dishes as well?

Raymarine of the UK has launched a new version of its RayTech navigation software.

RayTech V6 advanced navigation software suite is a PC-based program designed to link up with Raymarine navigational instruments on board ship.

The software is capable of sharing and analyzing information from radar, digital fishfinders, charts and navigation data. It can be used on a regular PC running Windows 98 or XP, so that a detailed course can be plotted at home before setting out to sea.

The program can be connected to on-board equipment through Raymarine's SeaTalk *hs* network switch. Alternatively it can be run on on-board navigational hardware by using a special monitor and dedicated navigation keyboard.

The new version of the software has a number of upgraded features specifically designed to give racing boats an extra edge over the opposition.

The SailRacer performance tools can monitor wind, lay lines, other boats and weather to track the best course. In addition, DataTrak time-based graphics show real-time

performance against instrument data and vessel speed.

There are also new features to make for easier cruising on extended voyages, while for fishing enthusiasts it includes a new digital fishfinding playback feature that enables users to record and play images from the on-board fishfinder. It also has new animated weather forecast displays.

The authorized Raymarine dealer in Phuket is Octopus Marine at Boat Lagoon. Tel: 076-273379. Email: info@octopusasia.com. For more information see Raymarine's website at: www.raymarine.com

Out of sight, out of mind – and out of date

By Dave Starr

No one would argue that safety equipment on a boat is unnecessary. If an accident happens at sea, getting immediate help is rarely possible.

But how many boat owners check their safety equipment on a regular basis? The fact is that many boat owners will not have even glanced at their boat's safety gear since the day it was bought.

Safety equipment is one of those items on a boat that is bought in the hope that it will never be used.

People know that they need flares, life jackets and first aid kits on board but these items are not cheap, so most people package them up carefully and stow them somewhere safe and dry.

Unfortunately, that is often where the safety gear will stay until its useful life is long past.

The time to discover that safety equipment

is expired – or worse, deceased – is before you leave the safety of the dock, not in the middle of a raging storm. If an emergency arises off-shore and someone needs medical attention, which is preferable: a first aid kit last seen two years ago or one that was inspected last month?

Flares and fire extinguishers should also be checked on a regular basis.

Every time, before taking a boat out, the safety equipment should be thoroughly checked. Anything that is out of date or looks questionable should be replaced. The inventory of equipment should be evaluated regularly to ensure that it is comprehensive enough to handle any emergencies as effectively as possible.

Dave Starr is Operations Manager at Yacht Solutions, which supplies a range of safety gear and which has offices at both the Boat Lagoon and the Yacht Haven marinas. He can be reached at Tel: 01-9681216 or by Email at: dave@yachtsolutions.net. Website: www.yachtsolutions.net


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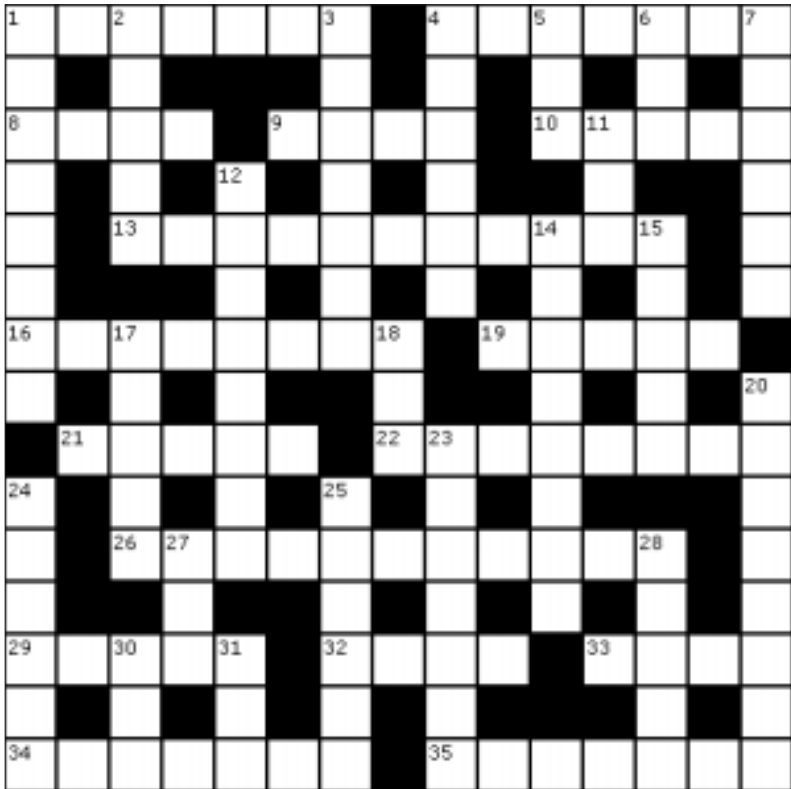
Puzzles

The Cryptic Crossword

Spot the Difference

Can you find the seven differences between the two cartoons below? And can you find them faster than the rest of the family?
Solution on next page.

- ACROSS
- 1. Overtaking death. (7)
 - 4. Weapon for right or left limb.
 - 8. Stone has no friend. (4)
 - 9. Cardinals surround quiet channel. (1,1,1,1)
 - 10. Tom's after a bunch of particles. (5)
 - 13. In vehicle, state manifestation. (11)
 - 16. Diana's pamphlet may divert attention. (8)
 - 19. Athenian story. (5)
 - 21. Treat bream to old resin. (5)
 - 22. Sad kind of bottom to flower. (8)
 - 26. One or the other may change local. (11)
 - 29. Ship's member takes the point; get ready to pray. (5)
 - 32. Top flier hangs around hospital. What a pain! (4)
 - 33. Pre-Columbian empire on Phi Phi? (4)
 - 34. Lisp low: "New cushions." (7)
 - 35. Direction to conflict for your old color.
- DOWN
- 1. Yield! Goes ahead. (8)
 - 2. Guru traversed water to one. (5)
 - 3. Fuel prank, they say of



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2006

- the stomach. (7)
- 4. Nun sat oddly, getting brown. (6)
- 5. Note not applicable to code material. (1,1,1)
- 6. Fuss in a Nigerian city. (3)
- 7. Sticky stuff for mother's twitch. (6)
- 11. Also excessive. (3)
- 12. Is Ms O'Hara a Red? (8)
- 14. Courageous in shirt for agent's identification. (8)
- 15. Gullible, I'm in part of church. (5)
- 17. Sam gets degree in dance. (5)
- 18. Check flap. (3)
- 20. Note right about shiny word list. (8)
- 23. Hates reluctant cardinals. (7)
- 24. Fetch truck. (6)
- 25. Nymphs make ironic commercials. (6)
- 27. Don't tell truth about soap ingredient! (3)
- 28. Praise erstwhile computer key. (5)
- 30. Fish points to student. (3)
- 31. Bathroom learner has too loves. (3)

Solution on next page

su | do | ku
© Puzzles by Pappocom
Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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

Scribble Space

EZ TRIVIA QUIZ

1. Which is the most northerly of the United States?

2. In which sport would you come across a silly mid on?

3. Which band recorded the album X&Y?

4. Arachnophobia is a fear of what?

5. What was Buffalo Bill's real name?

6. Name the lower of the two bridges between Phuket and Phang Nga.

7. What is fossilized tree resin called?

8. What is the capital of Denmark?

9. Which planet is closest to the Sun?

10. Which carmaker makes the Tiida?

Answers on next page

Rhyme Time

The words described below all rhyme with 'seep'.
What are they?

1. All-terrain vehicle.

2. Central tower of castle.

3. Soak.

4. Use car horn.

5. Pile.

6. Disgusting person.

7. Ovine animal.

8. In Morpheus' arms.

9. Chimney cleaner.

10. Not shallow.

Answers on next page

Solution below, right





Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

Iran Awakening (Rider, London, 2006, 257pp) is both a personal and political history of modern Iran as author Shirin Ebadi weaves together her life and her times.

In 1953, when she was six, she remembers her kindly grandmother snapping at her for silence as the family listened on the radio to the news of the CIA-inspired fall of Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadegh.

The statesman's great crime was to nationalize his country's oilfields.

After an idyllic childhood, Shirin entered Tehran University, studying to become a judge.

It was an innocent time of mini-skirts and beehive hairdos. When the first student demonstrations erupted, she was unprepared for what would follow.

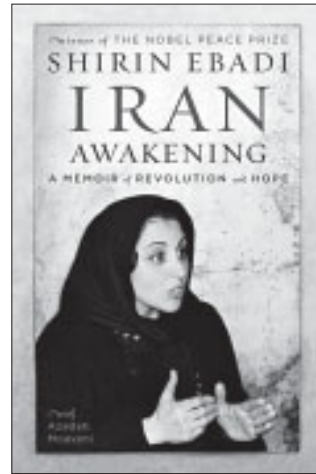
"Like most of my friends scattered among the crowd that day, I scarcely suspected that such protests were the beginning of an era.

"I never imagined that they would one day alter the course of our lives, send shock waves around the world, and produce the 20th century's last great revolution."

In March 1970, at the age of 23, she became a judge. Five years later she would marry a kind-hearted electrical engineer, who, like her own father, was a strong believer in equal rights for

A woman under Iran's mullahs

'Not only do Iranians fall in love with heroes, but they are in love with their love of heroes'



women. Soon after, she gave birth to two daughters.

Then the personal turned political. On January 16, 1979, the Shah fled Iran and two weeks later Ayatollah Khomeini arrived to a tumultuous reception at Mehrabad Airport.

Because she was a woman, Shirin was fired from her judgeship and forced to wear a headscarf. Sharia law was imposed and the religious police stepped up a campaign of petty harassment. Then Saddam Hussein invaded Iran and began eight years of savage warfare. Throughout all this, Shirin was a silent victim. Halfway through the book, she starts to fight back. In the devastation left by the war, even the

mullahs realized that it was time to bring women back into the workforce. Shirin began practicing law, often on a *pro bono* basis, defending the rights of women and children.

She became an expert in sharia law and artfully fought fire with fire in the courts.

Two million educated Iranians simply fled the madness. Shirin stayed on, stubbornly pursuing the cases of prominent intellectuals murdered by assassination squads.

Interspersed with her courtroom battles are the humdrum details of her daily life: cooking, raising her daughters, reading poetry, skiing and hiking in the mountains with friends.

For a brief moment when reformist Prime Minister Mohammad Khatami is elected by a new generation fed up with the corruption and ineptness of the mullahs, there is a moment of hope – "The Tehran Spring" of May 1997.

"There was no way Khatami could meet all these expectations. Unfortunately, Iranians are at heart hero worshipers ... Perhaps other cultures also believe in heroes, but Iranians do so with a unique devotion.

"Not only do they fall in love with heroes, but they are in love with their love of heroes. In voting for Khatami, they believed they had done their part, and they settled back in a haze of moony

adoration, waiting for him to transform Iran into the paradise of their imaginations."

On June 28, 2000, the predictable happened: Shirin was arrested and imprisoned for 25 days. Three years later, she won the Nobel Peace Prize.

Arriving back from Stockholm after receiving the award, she was met at Tehran airport by a cheering crowd the size of the one that had greeted Ayatollah Khomeini 24 years before.

In writing her book, Shirin has gone a long way towards dispelling the popular image of Iranians as angry bearded fanatics chanting and shaking their fists.

She is a representative of a 2,500-year-old civilization with rich literature, art, music and cuisine.

In her epilogue, she points out that 65% of Iranian university students are women, as are 43% of salaried workers. And in contrast to President George W. Bush's overheated rhetoric about an Axis of Evil, they vote.

"I wanted to write a book that would help correct Western stereotypes of Islam, especially the image of Muslim women as docile, forlorn creatures," she concludes.

She has succeeded brilliantly.

PHUKET DIARY

www.phuketgazette.net/calendar

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.

September 24: Ramadhan.

Islamic holiday to mark the beginning of the one-month annual fast. Not a public holiday.

September 24: Sound Waves Sunday Session at Watermark.

The island's two best party venues have teamed up for the summer.

Laem Singh's Sound Waves Crew have moved to Watermark

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for the season. Kicking phat tunes, progressive, funky & happy house with a feel-good vibe.

Undoubtedly the best DJs around. A must for those in search of good dance music. Sound Waves will be on the last

Sunday of each month: Jun 25, Jul 30, Aug 27, Sep 24 & Oct 29. A la carte brunch runs every Sunday from 11am to 6pm, amazing promos on Möet & Chandon Champagne: 2,995 baht. Come early for brunch. Decks off at 10 pm.

October 22-30: Vegetarian Festival.

Nine-day festival, renowned for colorful, noisy processions and Chinese temple ceremonies during which mediums pierce their faces with sharp objects.

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National park fee policy is barking up wrong tree

The 500 or so tour operators and staff who gathered outside the Tourism Authority of Thailand office in Phuket had good reason to militate against the doubling of entry fees at national parks, scheduled to take effect from September 15 this year.

They know from experience why it is a bad idea; last time the fees were doubled, in 2001, their turnover was halved. Unlike national park authorities, tour operators do not enjoy the luxury of simply doubling prices to make up for a drop in business.

Leaving aside for the moment the utter stupidity of double pricing, which serves only to irritate and deter foreigners who find that they are expected to pay 10 times the Thai rate, let's take a look at price structures in some other countries.

In Singapore, entry to the Botanic Gardens, arguably the finest park in Asia, costs a reasonable S\$5 – 119 baht. In Malaysia, fees vary from park to park. At the low end is Kuala Selangor National Park, which charges RM2 – just under 25 baht. At the top end is Bako Park in Sarawak, which charges RM5 for entry, plus another RM5 if one brings a camera, or RM10 if one brings a camcorder. Overall, a minimum of 63 baht and a maximum of 188 baht.

In the US, too, park fees vary. Entry to the vast Yellowstone National Park costs US\$12, or 450 baht. One could wander in the park for weeks without seeing the same part twice.

The 14 National Parks in Britain are all priced the same; they are free.

Thai parks authorities complain that they do not make enough from the current fees to staff the parks and look after them adequately. But doubling fees will likely achieve little in terms of environmental preservation and also misses the point. Parks authorities should be pushing the government for a bigger budget, not trying to act like a business, balancing costs against income.

National parks are not businesses. They are part of Thailand's national heritage, priceless assets for all to enjoy – citizens and foreign tourists alike. The Thai model of requiring the parks to pay for themselves is wrong. As national treasures, their upkeep should be paid for from national coffers.

If the government continues to insist that the parks pay for themselves, they should at least adopt a more sophisticated and equitable pricing strategy than that of so many tuk-tuk drivers: "Hmm. Not so many customers today. I'll double my prices." – **The Editor**

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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.

Attacking Norwich Union is not fair

I support the "forewarned is forearmed" approach and do not see why local tourism and security officials are so "infuriated" by the Norwich Union press release [*Gazette* news and editorial, issue of July 22].

I can understand their need to see supporting data, but the officials must already be fully aware that theft and accidents occur at quite a high rate here, right?

I buy a *Gazette* every week and robbery and shooting stories make a regular appearance. How can it hurt to remind travelers to be extra careful in certain parts of the world, including in Thailand?

Yes, the insurance company is surely looking out for its own bottom line, but it has obviously done its research. And yes, up to a point, every individual is responsible for his own well-being (choosing to wear a helmet, for example), but the more information one has, the better prepared one can be.

Here are a few statistics for local security officials: I managed to live a peaceful 30 years in the United States (a country that has a reputation for rampant crime) without ever having been the victim of a crime.

I've only been in Thailand for five months, yet already I have been the victim of a home invasion/robbery and sat 50 feet away from a shooting in Phuket Town.

In case no one has figured it out yet, Phuket has a crime problem and Thailand is not a hazard-free utopia.

I don't think the Norwich Union press release has badly

tarnished Thailand's reputation. I'm sure tourists will continue to flock here.

However, behind the smiling face of the tourism industry, a real world exists where bad things can happen – it can't hurt to be reminded of that fact.

I understand that tourists should be cautious in every part of the world, but local tourism officials should be relieved that someone is arming potential tourists with information that could make their visit to Thailand a little safer.

Tourist
Chalong

Immigration needs to be service-minded

I was reading the article [Gov raps immigration officer for barring Koreans, issue of August 12] about two Koreans being denied entry to Thailand at Phuket airport.

Denying entry is an extreme measure with serious consequences and brings deeply negative publicity. It should not be applied just for reasons of personal pride, even if the law accommodates this option.

I find it regrettable that Pol Col Surasak Adthapanyavanich seems to be endorsing this kind of behavior. The very reason why this kind of behavior continues is that these people know there will not be any consequences for it, no matter how they behave.

This attitude is evident from the following statement: "He was acting within his authority. In fact we sent back 10 Korean tourists last year under similar circumstances. In those cases, none of them complained so it didn't become a big issue."

Translation: "Since no one complains, we can do whatever we want!"

I welcome the intervention of Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura. He sees the importance of the issue to Phuket as a whole, not just to one official or his department, which seems to be Col Surasak is clearly doing.

When a tourist enters Thailand, the first person he or she meets is an immigration officer. The officers have a very important job, not only to guard the borders of Thailand but also to support the vital industry of tourism. This is particularly true in Phuket.

Thailand is advertised, justifiably, as the land of smiles. This is what people expect when they come here. The reality at airport immigration, however, is far from it.

It can be done better. A good example of how is just south of here, in Singapore. The immigration staff there are very friendly and their performance is monitored by surveys of travelers. Measures such as this could be introduced here too.

Traveler
Singapore

Gazette online keeps me in touch

Just a quick note to let you know how much I love reading the *Phuket Gazette* online.

I desperately miss Thailand when I am in the US, but phone calls to my Thai friends and the news from Phuket keeps me connected. Fabulous! Thank you for a great publication.

Oh, and I adore PGTV news.

Doretta
USA

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

Why Koh Yao Noi does not need a vehicle ferry

FIRST PERSON

We support the new ferry service, which stops at both Koh Yao Noi and Koh Yao Yai, because it will make travel here more comfortable and safer, for tourists and residents alike.

However, we disagree with plans to introduce a car ferry, which would open up the islands to any number of pickup trucks and other vehicles.

Koh Yao Yai has a population of about 8,000 people, Koh Yao Noi about 5,000. There are about 2,000 motorcycles on Koh Yao Noi and about 150 pickups; these are the main forms of transportation on the island.

Of the 150 pickup trucks on Koh Yao Noi, about 50 belong to a construction company that is now building a resort, so these will eventually leave the island. In addition to the 100 locally-owned pickups, there are also about 50 more pickup trucks owned by islanders who leave them parked permanently at Bang Rong Pier in Phuket. These are used when they go to Phuket on business.

The islanders choose to leave them in Phuket because the number of pickup trucks on Koh Yao Noi is already enough to meet our transport needs; bringing in more vehicles would only cause problems because the island's roads are so narrow.

Also, the only way to bring them to the island currently is by barge, which is expensive. But introduction of a regular car ferry would change all that, and our narrow roads would soon be clogged with more vehicles than they could handle. We want to avoid the same "development" path that has been followed by other islands, such as Koh Chang in Trat Province.

The passenger ferry is good, because it will allow more tourists to come here and will benefit the local economy. But we don't

Just 25 kilometers from the in-your-face tourism of Phuket lie the relatively unspoiled islands of Koh Yao Noi and Koh Yao Yai, both well-known "eco-tourism" destinations (see also pages 4 and 5 in this issue) and home to sizable populations of Muslims islanders.

The Koh Yao tourism industry recently got a boost with the introduction of Sea Canoe's twice-daily passenger ferry from Ao Por. Formerly, the only way to reach Koh Yao Noi was by longtail boat, one of which sank last year while overloaded, killing 10 people.

Here, Koh Yao Noi native Samroeng Rakhet, coordinator of the 500-strong Koh Yao Noi Community-based Ecotourism Club, explains why Sea Canoe's new passenger ferry is good for Koh Yao Noi – but why that company's plan to introduce a car ferry in the future is not.



want a car ferry because we already have sufficient transport capability that already serves as a source of tourism-related income for islanders.

There is already a regular ferry service to Koh Yao Noi, so we are lucky there is no bridge connecting the islands that would allow vehicles to drive from there to here.

On Koh Yao Yai in the past, when a vehicle approached you knew who was coming just by the sound of their engine. Nowadays, it could be anybody.

We want to welcome tourists, but our current infrastructure is inadequate for large-scale tourism. In addition to a very limited road network, we have no garbage collection or dump site, no town planning rules or ordinances, and a limited supply of fresh water.

So if large numbers of people come to the island it will cause problems, not just in relation to these factors, but also so-

cially. Right now, islanders don't feel the need to remove the keys from their motorcycles or lock their doors at night.

So far we have been able to preserve the local culture, which reflects the fact that 98% of the people are Muslim. However, we can already see the new generation trying to copy the culture of mainstream society, in fashion and consumerism, for example.

I think introducing a regular car ferry would also hurt businesses here. Now that there is a ferry service from Rassada Port to Koh Yao Yai, you can see pickup trucks full of consumer goods crossing over there to sell their wares out the back, taking business away from local shopkeepers.

Often they leave behind a lot of plastic packaging and other refuse before heading back to Phuket. We aren't equipped to handle that, so we don't want it here.

We do want tourists, but only the right kind of tourists and in sustainable numbers. We want quality tourists.

By this I don't just mean the kind that will spend a lot of money, but the kind who will also accept the island for what it is, relaxing and enjoying the natural beauty while respecting the local traditions – such as by not drinking alcohol.

A 7-Eleven convenience store opened on Koh Yao Noi on March 15, 2004. Already we can see the local lifestyle changing as a result – and it is not just the young generation.

Even our senior citizens now think it is "cool" to drive five kilometers to buy a five-baht packet of Mama [instant noodles] from the 7-Eleven, when they could walk to the neighborhood shop and get the same thing for the same price. That's a waste of gasoline.

I see changes in my own family as well. In the past, I used to get my son to stop crying by telling him that if he didn't stop crying a

ghost would come and get him. That doesn't work anymore. Now I have to tell him, "If you don't stop crying I am not going to take you to 7-Eleven".

At the moment there are about 1,000 construction workers on the island, both foreign laborers from neighboring countries as well as a large contingent from Isarn.

We have nothing against outsiders, but the fact remains that the more people there are here, the more problems will have. For example, now we see fewer and fewer crabs along the beach because these people like to trap them and eat them.

They also trap and eat frogs from the rice fields. We prefer to have a healthy frog population in the fields because it reduces the amount of pesticide we need to use.

Also, they like to collect shells and bit of coral from the seashore, taking them back to their families as souvenirs. There is not much we can do about such things, as there aren't any regulations to prevent them.

So as you can see the problem is much complex than plain road infrastructure. Even if the government were to offer a big budget to improve road infrastructure we wouldn't want it.

What we do want is to maintain the island as it is. That's why I disagree with the idea of starting a car ferry service. The passenger ferry now operates six times a day, every two hours, from Bang Rong Pier, and twice a day from Ao Por. I think this makes it easy and safe enough for people to get here – they don't need to bring their cars as well.

That will only result in a host of problems, such as crime, economic inequality, social and cultural decline and – inevitably – degradation of the environment that has sustained us for generations. – *Compiled by Sangkhae Leelanapaporn*

Letters

Action needed on credit card fraud

I have been visiting Phuket three or four times a year for the past 16 years.

Three weeks after returning to Europe from a trip to Phuket last November, I was informed by my credit card company that someone in Shanghai was using my account. The company then canceled the card and a new one was provided.

I was in Phuket again in February of this year. I never let my card leave my sight and thought I had no problems. On my next trip, too, in April and May, I made sure that my card was always in sight.

At the end of May, however, I was told by my bank that my card had been "copied", then used in a Walmart store in Charlotte, USA. Again, the card was canceled and a new one provided.

I was back in Phuket for 14 days last month. Not long after I

returned, I got the by-now-customary phone call from Visa saying that somebody was trying to use my card details.

They tried three or four times but did not succeed. My card has now been canceled and I am waiting for yet another replacement.

This is the third time in less than a year. I used my card in ATMs (Thai Military and Siam Commercial banks) on Thaweewong Rd, Patong, in Ocean Plaza Bangla, Savoey

seafood, K-Hotel restaurant, Phuket Cabana and at the Loch Palm Golf Course.

On this last trip, I paid the bills personally at counters, never letting the card leave my sight.

If I can't use my credit card with confidence anymore and I don't want to go to Thailand with a lot of cash, is it worth returning?

I suppose so, because I like Thailand, but it will be on a stricter budget, maybe with some travelers checks.

Such a pity for all those

shops, restaurants and other businesses who received my custom before.

When I told the Visa fraud department that I stayed with my card all the time, they explained that Thailand was "terrible" for credit card fraud.

They had even had a case, they said, of a credit card being copied in a bank.

It is time that Thai officials got serious about this issue.

A Van Mullem
Belgium

LAYING DOWN THE LAW



With Friedrich
'Sam' Fauma

Common sense rules, sort of

Mr A, a foreigner with a Thai wife, was involved in a legal dispute over the purchase of a plot of land from Mrs X. In the end, the court awarded him the land, ruling that Mrs X must deliver possession of the land and have its title registered in the name of Mr A's wife, Mrs A.

The court also ruled that if Mrs X failed to register the change of ownership, she would have to return the 1.35 million baht Mr A had paid her for the land.

However, Mrs A, in order to receive the land as per the court order, had to give a statement verifying whose money was used to buy the land. In her statement she said that all of the money used to buy the land was her husband's.

However, Mrs A had a foreign husband. The Land Department therefore ruled that she could not be registered as the owner of the land, on the grounds that she would be holding the land on behalf of her alien spouse, in contravention of Section 74, Paragraph 2 of the Land Code.

The court's only recourse, therefore, was to order Mrs X to return Mr A's money to him.

To achieve this, the Land Department requested the Minister of Interior to issue an order barring Mrs A from receiving ownership of the land.

The Minister issued the order, which then allowed the Land Department to uphold the court's decision by seizing the property and having it sold at auction in order to retrieve Mr A's money.

We live these days in a world obsessed by superficial appearance.

Now, you may disagree. You may square your shoulders, give an emphatic toss of your head and say, "Well I'm not like that, I'm perfectly in touch with my deeper side and I know appearance is nothing compared with what lies behind it."

I won't argue with you. Everyone is entitled to his or her opinions and should be able to express them.

But please, just take a minute to really think about it. Ponder if you will – over a good strong cup of coffee, or whatever form of fortification you need when considering weighty issues – the world we live in.

In our case, that world is the beautiful tropical island of Phuket.

Everywhere you look on this enchanting island – whether you're whizzing along the maelstrom of the bypass road or whether you're strolling along the bustling, hot, noisy, pungent streets of Patong – there are advertising boards cluttered with pictures of vacant models, there are hair salons, beauty parlors, tailors – hundreds of visions of beauty to tantalize or irritate us, or just *promises* of beauty to tempt us humble mortals not blessed with perfect skin and shining hair.

And that's just outdoors.

Wander into the refrigerated shopping malls, searching for a little peace perhaps from the subliminal pressure of processing all those empty beautiful faces and you'll find that the onslaught continues, in even greater force.

Dozens of glass-fronted shops with designers' names emblazoned over the entrances in bold swirling letters; cold metal rooms with complicated, intimidating hair-curling, heating and drying equipment that looks as if it was stolen from the prop rooms of, say, *Star Trek* or *The Matrix*.

Feeling good on the inside matters more than looks

And for women, endless shelves of skyscraper heels that promise, with their daintily colored straps and alluring silver buckles, to break our ankles as painlessly and stylishly as possible.

Then of course there are the cosmetics shops, with row upon row of beauty products that promise to whiten, bleach, pluck,

like to think.

After all, you *are* the ones who, before going out on a date (or even just a routine shopping excursion) have to pretend to be patient while waiting in various states of abject boredom and despair for your wife or girlfriend to finish trying on every single item of clothing she possesses

Just look at all the cosmetics shops, with row upon row of beauty products that promise to whiten, bleach, pluck, tweeze, mold, scorch and generally batter our bodies into a state of hairless, quivering, sweet-smelling, jaded 'attractiveness'

tweeze, mold, scorch and generally batter our bodies into a state of hairless, quivering, sweet-smelling, jaded "attractiveness".

Now admittedly, most of these products are aimed at us girls, as it is mostly we of the fairer gender that spend a lot of time preening and posing – or wilting despairingly – in front of mirrors.

But I'm sure you men out there aren't as free from the burden of appearance as you might

(before, inevitably, settling on what she first tried on three hours and two nervous breakdowns previously).

And it is you blokes who have to sit through interminable movies being simultaneously nauseated and, let's admit it, just slightly awe-struck by Brad Pitt's impossible cheekbones and Tom Cruise's pearly whites; while at the same time trying to ignore that fact that your partner is equally awe-stricken – and not at all nauseated.

So the trials and tribulations of beauty affect us all, sometimes in subtle ways, sometimes blatantly.

We are all to some degree victims of vanity.

But of all of the casualties of Beauty, it's undeniably teenagers who suffer the most.

This is not just because we're the ones going through that



Youth 'n ASIA

By Amy
Van de Castele

intense adolescent insecurity and violently fluctuating self-esteem, but also because we are victims of the ravages of hormones.

Hormones, we are taught in Biology, are necessary to keep our body in that state of homeostasis – equilibrium – that we need to be healthy.

What our teachers conveniently refrain from telling us is that hormones are also evil chemicals that cause spots, greasy hair and mood swings that leave us bursting into tears for no apparent reason.

As well as those delightful hormones there is also the psychological dark side of teenage body image – the eating disorders, the endless minutes spent sitting tearfully in front of a mirror comparing ourselves with Angelina Jolie or Orlando Bloom, the intense anxiety that gnaws

at us as we wander around the shopping mall convinced we look absolutely grotesque and that everybody is staring at us, disgust radiating from every pair of eyes.

These worries and anxieties may seem ill-founded and insignificant to adults, who have "more important" things to fret over, but for a teenager low self-esteem can be crippling.

The only solution, I believe, in this increasingly superficial world, is to ask yourself, "Would I rather waste my life in a vain struggle for that flimsy ideal of 'perfection' and end up looking beautiful but feeling deprived and deflated?"

"Or would I rather be able to sit back at the end of the day and say, 'Sure, maybe I am a few pounds overweight and my skin is the pasty color of pasteurized milk – but I don't care, because I am mostly happy with who I am.'"

I know which person I would rather be: the pale, slightly chubby but basically happy one.

Deep down inside, I know that the corny old-fashioned saying really is true – Beauty is only skin-deep. It is what lies on the inside that counts, not what's on display on the outside.

Outer beauty doesn't guarantee inner happiness. Inner happiness guarantees outer beauty. Spots and greasy hair and all.

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In The Stars

by Isla Star

LEO (July 24-August 22): You should resist trying to swim against the current this week. Whatever happens is destined to be, so don't subject yourself to an unnecessary ride on an emotional rollercoaster. If you're celebrating coming of age, friends and family will grab the opportunity to show you how much they really care. At work, steer clear of Scorpio next week unless you are ready for a showdown.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Business matters take a sharp turn for the better. Someone who has been putting a spoke in the wheel recently is about to disappear from the scene, leaving you free to do things the way you want to. Gemini has useful ideas regarding expansion, but is easily sidetracked. If you feel you can go it alone, this would be the best solution. Your luck in love is improving.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): You are advised to use your powers wisely this week. From now until the end of this month you will be at the helm. Sagittarius would like to rock the boat, but you will be alert enough to spot this coming. The chances of finding an important item that was lost recently are especially strong on Sunday. If you're single, expect to meet your soulmate soon.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): The countdown to an important deadline looms nearer. If you've been diligent during recent weeks you will have nothing to worry about. However, if you have been more intent on having a good time than taking care of business it will be necessary to cancel most social appointments this week. The color apple green will help boost your ability to concentrate.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): If your personal life appears to have gone pear-shaped, take comfort in the fact that the stars are about to shine some positive light on this area. If you honestly don't know what you've done to upset someone close, you will learn that the reason was nothing to do with you. Expect to make strides where work is concerned as well – a pay rise is highlighted, along with a chance to travel.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): You will mostly enjoy the week ahead. The only awkward time could occur on Tuesday when someone in authority seems determined to make your life difficult. Backpedal until you have a chance to present them with more facts relating to the situation. The skies are clear regarding an intimate relationship. If you would like to take this on to the next level, there are no hindrances.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Tension at work comes to a head this week. You will be slightly shocked to learn who has been causing recent ripples. This situation should be enough warning for you to take more care about who you confide in. Socially, the days ahead should glow with exciting new introductions and a reunion with someone you thought you'd never see again. The color lemon yellow will help you to maintain a cool mood.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): You may feel as though you are plowing slowly through the coming days. From now until the end of August you will have to meet some work-related challenges. However, you can look forward to positive results from all the endeavor. Someone with influence is observing your actions and is impressed with what they see. The number 3 may bring you luck on Thursday.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Allow yourself to take a rest from reality this weekend. Worrying about things that probably won't happen will only deplete your energy. Scorpio knows the ideal way to relax, and would appreciate the chance to show you. Wednesday is the most auspicious day for sorting out a financial discrepancy, but check your facts and figures carefully before making accusations. The color hibiscus red will encourage a healthier cash flow.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): The rhythm of your life will alter this week. You may be making a serious romantic commitment or you may be putting distance into a relationship that no longer has the meaning it once did. Money-making ideas will flow from now until the end of the month, but don't put any into practice until you have a concrete business plan. The number 2 could be lucky on Monday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Pool resources to make a dream come true. Success is assured if you are determined to make a splash. The wheels of business will turn more smoothly from now until the middle of next month. Where romance is concerned, try to keep your feet on the ground. If you make decisions when your head is up in the clouds, they will be the wrong ones.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): A much-needed spark of enthusiasm boosts your productivity levels this week; you are likely to receive inspiration from an unlikely source. Your negotiating skills will be put to the test on Tuesday when an all-important meeting takes place; allow others to have their say before pronouncing judgment. Capricorn is starting to feel passionate about you; a close encounter could happen this weekend. Wear silver to loosen your tongue.

Garlands, banana sap on clothes and fridge mold

Dear Momma Duck,

I greatly enjoy the fresh smell of the garlands that you often see hanging in front of spirit houses and from the rear-view mirrors of taxis.

As a form of aromatherapy, I have taken to wearing one around my neck, as this is the best way to keep the smell where I want it: near my nose.

Unfortunately, this appears to amuse my Thai colleagues; apparently this type of garland is used to show respect, not for personal adornment or aromatherapy.

I don't mind being laughed at, but I worry that I may be seen as culturally insensitive.

Do you think that I should stop wearing the garland in this way?

Yamaha Porter
Kata

Dear Ms Porter,

The *puang malai* (flower garland) has been very popular among Thai people for centuries.

There are different types of *puang malai* for different occasions such as graduations, birthdays, weddings, formal greetings and departures, and so on.

Giving a *puang malai* to someone is seen as a token of love or respect, or to wish them luck.

Today, *puang malai* vendors can be seen walking up and down the waiting lanes of cars during morning rush hour at intersections such as the one at Central traffic lights in Phuket. One can also buy *puang malai* at flower shops everywhere.

Thais like to place a *puang malai* at a spirit house, on the rear-view mirror of a car or reverently at the base of the Buddha images in the family shrine. A *puang malai* with two strands of flowers connected by a length of ribbon, with bows or rosettes, is usually used for greeting or



Momma DUCK

By Wanida Hongyok
momma@phuketgazette.net

saying farewell to friends or relatives.

I agree with you that *puang malai* have aromatherapeutic value, especially if you hang one around the rear-view mirror in your car, or somewhere in your house such as from an air-conditioner.

It's also true that we Thais do not wear them around our necks except when they are given to us on special occasions, but there's no need to be too serious about this.

It has no religious significance and, if you don't mind the gentle Thai teasing, go ahead and wear one.

Do whatever you like as long as you know it does not bother or disturb other people. Be yourself!

Thai people are easy-going and will not take offense.

But one piece of advice: do not sniff them too closely because I've heard that some vendors spray formalin on the flowers to help them keep fresh longer. Apart from that, enjoy!

Dear Momma Duck,

Whilst cutting down some banana leaves I got some sap on my clothes that left a brown stain which seems impossible to remove. Secondly, the rubber seal on my fridge door has mold stains that again seem impossible to remove. Are there any local Thai solutions to remedy these problems?

David
Chalong

Dear David,

Banana-sap stains will make you go "bananas" because there is no way that you can remove them. I have asked many experts and all of them shake their heads in sympathy.

The only solution they offer is that, if these clothes have sentimental value and are made of cotton, you can have them dyed, either black or navy blue (non-cotton fabrics are very difficult to dye).

The second solution suggested is to use these clothes from now on for gardening alone. I know it is a bit of sacrifice, but there doesn't seem to be any other choice. Unless any of my readers have other ideas?

The mold stains on the rubber seal of your fridge are an easier thing to remove, as easy as "peeling a banana". Pour some regular kitchen vinegar in a bowl and then dip a dry cloth in it. Make sure that it is fully soaked and then rub it thoroughly on the rubber. I can guarantee you that the mold stains will disappear, almost in front of your eyes.

The amount of vinegar used will depend upon the number and size of the stains.

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Free education for everyone coming through the Internet

IT ISSUES

By John Seebach

Google is doing it again, this time with the University of California (UC). The top web search engine company is funding a project to scan several million of the 34 million books at all of the UC libraries.

This 18-month project will produce the first major university library completely online and more importantly, completely indexed.

Imagine arriving at the UC/Google site and searching for a phrase from Shakespeare, and finding – in that library – every sonnet, passage, play and review where that phrase was used. How about searching “particulate matter in space”? Google will pop up every book, article and class lecture note in the library on that topic.

And if you really want to learn, take a course from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). MIT's website has every lecture, all the course material, lab experiment results and exams for every curriculum, and get this ... it's all free.

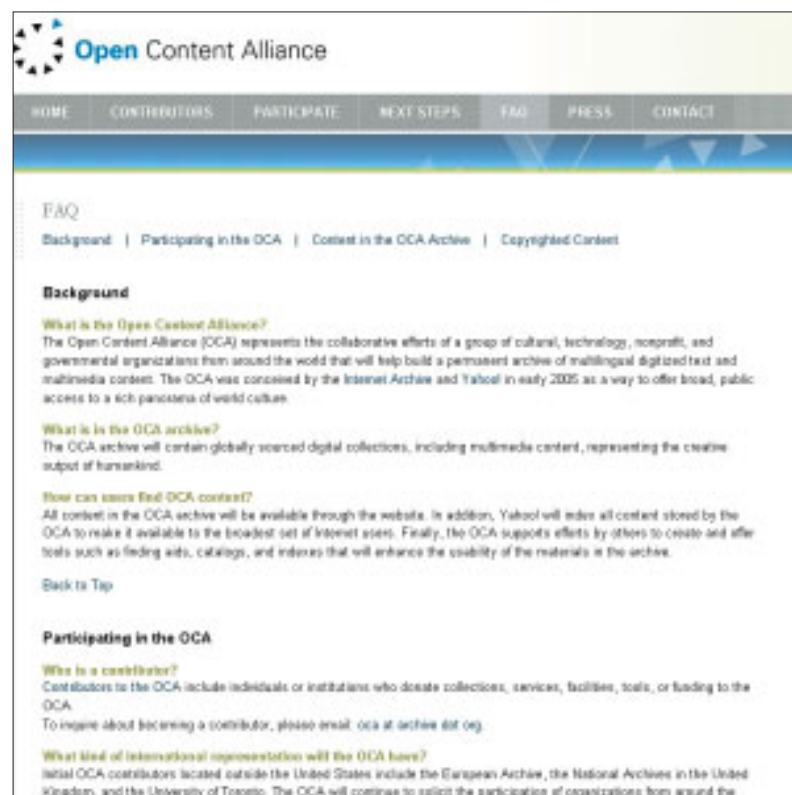
Check it out at <http://ocw.mit.edu/index.html>. This will produce nothing short of an education revolution in the coming few years.

UC library spans 10 campuses across the US and represents one of the best library collections of research and academic information in the world. The UC library now joins the rest of the Google Book Search project, which includes Harvard, Oxford, Stanford, the University of Michigan and the New York Public Library.

Google have also recently struck a deal with the US Library



FREE FOR ALL: MIT's Open Courseware project (left) and the FAQs page of the Open Content Alliance site.



of Congress to do the same thing. Now there's some light on-line reading.

If you happened to catch an earlier article in which I showcased some of the latest developments in computer-based books and electronic hand-held book readers, you can imagine where this is all going. These hardware devices are becoming more affordable and, more importantly, more readable so, as time passes, what the Walkman did for music these portable readers will do for books and any other printed material.

The momentum for Google's Book Search Project stems from the latest in a string of high-profile deals it has announced in recent weeks, including a major search and advertising contract with News Corp, which owns MySpace.com.

Adding icing to its cake,

Google also signed a deal last week to produce video advertising and deliver it online with Viacom, which owns MTV.

Enter the challenge: authors' and publishers' groups sued Google last year to block scanning of copyrighted library books, arguing that digitizing of books might tempt consumers to stop buying printed works.

Google's answer was that it was creating the electronic equivalent of a library card for copyrighted works, which will generate the same revenue as standard brick-and-mortar libraries do now.

In a more practical response to the legal threats, several of Google's library scanning projects are proceeding with the scanning of public domain works only. Plans to digitize copyrighted books have been deferred in order to avoid controversy.

However, the University of Michigan plans to plow straight ahead and deal with copyright issues later.

This idea that it is easier to ask for forgiveness than ask for permission came from Napster, the pioneer in online content sharing. If you remember, Napster was shut down and its technology sold for billions of US dollars to hundreds of new online music sharing systems, including LimeWire and Kazaa.

As all this unfolds, the Open Content Alliance (OCA – see www.opencontentalliance.org) is building its online archive of not only traditionally printed material, but also multimedia content. With founders including the University of Chicago, the University of Toronto and Yahoo!, and backed by Microsoft and the *New York Times*, the OCA on its website says it will include copyright

material, but only with express permission of copyright holders.

All this should prove interesting. As always, new developments in technology are forcing the courts to address new issues – in this case the availability of copyright material. But one thing is for sure – the web is providing a way for more and more people to broaden their horizons.

In future columns, I will explore these developments further, especially the expansion of free

online university course material, and its potential to enrich the lives of millions around the globe.

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

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With a few obvious exceptions, civilization and economic growth are taken for granted in much of Asia.

When Myanmar (Burma) achieved independence from the British in the 1960s, it looked as if it would have a brighter future than its neighbor, Thailand.

Literacy rates in Myanmar were much higher than in Thailand. However, the ensuing 40 years have resulted in an entirely different outcome.

Thailand's literacy rates and economic growth rose rapidly while Myanmar, under a socialist government followed by a military dictatorship, moved into decline. Plot the two countries' economies over the past 40 years on a graph, and Thailand's line rises while Myanmar's does the opposite.

The difference has been caused by much more effective government and positive policies in Thailand. This country also has a King who has undoubtedly contributed hugely to the stability and progress Thailand has achieved.

EFFECTIVE

Our neighbors to the south, Malaysia and Singapore, also had effective leadership and have prospered accordingly.

India produced an entirely different scenario; after independence from Britain, almost 60 years ago, it embarked on a quasi-socialist dream that turned into something approaching a nightmare for the vast majority of its inhabitants.

The story of one individual, as told in an article in *The Nation* on August 1, outlines what happened in India with crystal clarity. That man is NR Narayana Murthy, founder and Chairman of software giant Infosys.

He founded the company with an investment of US\$250 (less than 10,000 baht) in 1981. In 1990, he almost sold the company "but better sense prevailed".

The problems he faced were all because of an inept government that stifled the economy.

Then, in 1991, the man who is now Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, became Finance Minister. Thanks to his liberalization of the economy and a huge reform agenda, business conditions changed almost overnight.

India moved on to an eco-



DANGEROUS CITY: A multiple-stabbing victim is treated at a fire station in the once up-market Hillbrow area of Johannesburg. The South African government has recently started an investigation into the high rate of violent crime.
Photo – EPA/Kim Ludbrook



MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

conomic growth pattern that continues today.

These days Infosys employs 58,000 people in more than two dozen countries and is a good example of what is being achieved through an increasingly free enterprise economy.

Narayana Murthy put matters into perspective: "I was a strong socialist. [But] by the end of 1970 I [had reached] the conclusion that leftism is just bogus. Socialism in India is meaningless. Creation of jobs requires entrepreneurship".

Across the Indian Ocean lies Africa. Many examples of

unsound economic policies are to be found there. Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia) is a perfect case.

In 1980, the government changed and a new President, Robert Mugabe, was installed. He preached a doctrine of left-wing socialism and in the following 26 years reduced a once-prosperous society with an advanced agricultural system into chaos and absolute poverty.

When he took control, the Zimbabwe Dollar was at parity with the US Dollar; today the largest bank note is the Z\$100,000. With it you can barely buy a loaf of bread. Unemployment is at least 70% and inflation is over 1,000% a year.

Mugabe managed to turn a country that exported agricultural products into one in which the majority of the population verges on starvation. Yet he still rules the country.

Nine years ago, I left South Africa and sailed to Thailand, I had seen a country that had once been prosperous and dynamic turning into another African disaster. I still have many clients and friends in South Africa so I though I was aware of the situation to a reasonable extent.

I was not. My stepdaugh-

ter, born and raised in South Africa but now a Canadian citizen living in Toronto, sent me the URL of a blog site showing the reality of present day Johannesburg and surrounding suburbs.

To those not familiar with that city, it was not only the fi-

movie *Escape from New York*, in which New York is turned into a penal colony.

Johannesburg is devastated. Hotels no longer exist, and what were once business centers, medical centers and apartment blocks are home to countless squatters, living without electricity or running water, in conditions of dire squalor.

The Africans once called Johannesburg "Egoli" – the City of Gold. Today, the building owners have long fled, everything has descended into anarchy, and to walk down the streets is not just risky; it's insane.

My stepdaughter put it this way: "You're in for a real shock if you can remember some of these places and how they used to look. This is some very disturbing stuff..."

It is. This is what bad government can achieve. Take a look for yourself at <http://deathofjohannesburg.blogspot.com/>

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.

Dreams that become nightmares

nancial and commercial capital of South Africa; it was by far the most advanced city on the continent.

It contained all the infrastructure of a first-world economy, the 11th-largest stockmarket in the world and the corporate headquarters of many banks, insurance and mining groups, including Anglo American, the second largest mining group in the world.

Adjoining Johannesburg is an area called Hillbrow which, when I first arrived in 1975, was full of apartment blocks with trendy boutiques and outdoor cafés. Having previously lived in Australia, I found Johannesburg a revelation; it made Sydney look poor and somewhat backward.

Today, Johannesburg and the inner core of suburbs more closely resemble a scene from the



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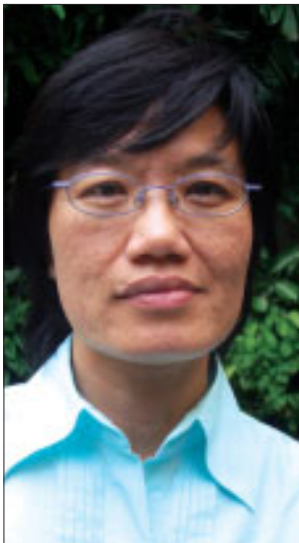
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ON THE MOVE

Rina Petasai, 46, from Bangkok, has been appointed Director of Human Resources at the Burasari Resort in Patong.

She has a master's degree in information systems management and a degree in political science, both from Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok.

Her working experience includes eight years as Human Resources Manager with the Robinson Group (Thailand) and, before moving to Phuket, four years in human resources with TV content provider JSL Co in Bangkok.



Ian Sherlock, from England, has been appointed Executive Chef at Le Méridien Phuket Beach Resort. His 23 years' experience includes working as Executive Chef at the Banyan Tree Bangkok and as Executive Sous Chef at the Royal Mirage Jumeria Beach in Dubai. Most recently, he was Executive Chef at the Bangkok Marriott Resort & Spa.

He has won a gold medal for his work on inflight menus for Emirates airline and helped to bake the longest cake in the world, a feat recorded in the Guinness Book of Records.



Azuan Noordin, from Malaysia, has been appointed GM of The Mangosteen Resort & Spa. He has an honors degree in hospitality administration and a diploma in hotel and catering management. During his 19 years in the hospitality industry, he has spent a decade working with international hotels, including Hilton, Holiday Inn, The Pan Pacific, Waldorf Astoria and Best Western, as well as independent hotel and resort properties in Asia. Previously, he was Group GM of Baan Yin Dee Boutique Resort.



Airport bus service B3m in the red

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PHUKET: The operators of the Phuket Airport Bus, which runs between Phuket City and the airport, have confirmed that, since starting the service 10 months ago, they have lost more than 3 million baht.

The Manager of Airport Bus Phuket, Vichet Radomkit, said, "The main reason the service has been losing money is fuel costs. In the past we could buy diesel at 19 baht a liter; now it is 28 baht a liter.

"This has greatly increased our expenses as we must run every day and we have canceled some early-morning services on Sundays and Public Holidays to cut costs.

"In the future we hope to switch to NGV [natural gas] but Phuket does not yet have the facilities to support that."

The Airport Bus service currently operates three coaches and two minibuses. The frequency varies, depending on the time of day, from one hour to 1½ hours.

K. Vichet said that the break-even point for the service is around 15 passengers per trip. At present, however, buses make the run to or from the airport with

as few as three or four people aboard.

He hopes that things will improve now that the service has been allowed closer to the airport terminal building.

"Previously, the Phuket International Airport (PIA) authorities would not let us have a bus stop near the terminal – they said that the buses were too big and would block the entrance.

"Now, however, they are being more supportive and allow us to stop near the arrivals terminal, and have put up a big electronic scrolling-text sign to announce our service to passengers.

"In spite of this, however, our costs are still higher than our income, so we continue to lose money," he added.

The company is far from quitting, however.

"We are a new service and are not yet as well known as, for example, the airport bus service at Don Muang Airport in Bangkok.

"I think that in the future the Airport Bus here will be highly valued by passengers coming to Phuket Airport even though there are alternative forms of transport such as limousines and meter taxis, and passengers with a lot of luggage

may find these options more convenient," he added.

K. Vichet said that there was little competition between the buses, and the limousines and meter taxis, because they were aiming at different sectors of the market, with the bus service targeting mainly backpackers.

"We have asked the Province to allow us to increase the

maximum fare from 52 baht to 72 baht but we have to wait for confirmation. The new fare will still be cheaper than [the fare for a comparable distance] by airport bus in Bangkok.

"The passengers on our service are around 60% Thai and 40% foreign. I think business will improve now that we know more about passengers' behavior and

have a better bus stop at the airport."

He acknowledged that the fact that the bus service has only one route, which goes nowhere near the tourism centers of the west coast of the island, is a weak point. "We are thinking of introducing new routes around Phuket to make the service more convenient," he said.

The bus service has only one route, going nowhere near the tourism centers of the west coast, which the manager admits is a weakness.





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Strong winds give ACYC a blast from the past



SHE LIKES A BIT OF ROUGH: *Seraph* under full sail, including the famed 'gollywobbler' stretching from the top of the foremast to the main mast. The 100-year-old vessel reached a top speed of 8.8 knots on the run around Koh Mai Thon. — Photo: www.seraphcruises.com

AO CHALONG: Winds gusting up to 28 knots sped the 100-year-old *Seraph*, with Tom Howard at the helm, from Chalong Bay, around Koh Maithon and back to Chalong in just over three hours on August 13 to claim victory in the Classic class in Race 9 of the Ao Chalong Yacht Club Keelboat and Multihull Race Series 2006.

Gunther Nutt on *Kerida* sailed well to complete the course without breakages and take place second in the class.

But the Cruising class were not so lucky. To keep the smaller craft in safer waters, the course was set as two "legs" — from the bay, out to the safe water mark in Ao Makham and back.

John Fenn on *Four Winds* was only boat to finish the full course, the other two entries on the day being forced to retire.

Harry Usher on *Eos* retired after a strong gust blew out his spinnaker, and Kevin Ashby on *Lily* retired after announcing unspecified breakages on board.

Eos was awarded second

place, and *Lily* third, because of their race positions at the time of retiring.

In the Racing class, Mick Kealy and Kevin Gillow on *Minx* proved yet again too quick for Stuart Crowe on *Cinders*, while in the Multihulls class local catamaran gurus Mark Pescott and Mark Horwood dueled for top honors on the day.

Pescott helmed *X Cat Riot*, one of his designs from Australia, to victory over Horwood on *Cyrene*, whose crew included former owners Michel and Susan Arnulphy.

The next ACYC Race Series regatta will be on August 27. For more information call Tony Knight at Tel: 01-7470074.

A glaring omission from the regatta was Scott Duncanson on *Somtam Express*. Mr Knight explained that Duncanson was racing in the Platus class in the Thai national finals in Pattaya. He was already set to win the class, having scored four wins and with only two races remaining.

— **Chris Husted**



Actors and actresses from the RS stable will come to Phuket to lend extra glamor to the event.

Phuket chosen as venue for TV adventure show

PHUKET: The first Isuzu Adventure Race Thailand Championship, involving climbing and kayaking among other events, will

Call for entries for 2006 Kasco golf

THALANG: The Kasco Golf Invitational tournament will return to Phuket in October. The competition, to be held at the Blue Canyon Country Club, is now in its third year.

The event, on October 28, will be limited to 120 players.

Members of Blue Canyon Country Club may now register for the event. After August 31 registration will be open to all. The deadline for all registrations will be 5 pm on October 21 or when all 120 places are filled.

Entry form and terms and conditions may be downloaded from the club website at www.bluecanyonclub.com/events. For more information, call the club at 076-328088 ext186 and ask for Jamie or Tim, or Email: golf@bluecanyonclub.com

be staged in Phuket from October 27 to 29.

The competition will be filmed and broadcast by satellite to viewers worldwide, say the organizers.

Teams of four people, each including at least one woman, will have to prove their physical and mental toughness over the course of 60 hours. To reinforce that toughness, 1 million baht in prize money and goodies will be up for grabs.

The competition is being organized jointly by entertainment provider RS Public Co, Tri Petch Isuzu Sales Co and the Tourism Authority of Thailand, and aims to "develop adventure sports in Thailand to a world-class level and promote Thailand as an Asian adventure-sports hub as well as encouraging young people to play sports".

Roongtawan Saghuanpong, a public relations officer from RS, said that the details of the competition have yet to be finalized but that it will be staged at popular beaches in Phuket such as Patong, Kata and Karon.

"The activities in the event will include climbing and kayaking. More details will be released later on our website at www.rs.co.th," she said.

"We plan to broadcast the competition on satellite television to an audience of more than 200 million people. We hope we can support tourism in Phuket," she added.

During the competition concerts will be arranged, featuring artists from RS.

The competition will be open to people over the age of 15, but details of how to enter have yet to be released.

PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

Didi's still leading, but it's tight

PATONG: Now 10 weeks into the June-October installment of the Patong Darts League 2006 and Didi's still maintain a one-point lead after taking all three points with a 5-4 win on the road against Footrot Flats.

Piccadilly are still snapping at their heels though, securing three points with a tight home victory over Amigos.

Other teams taking all three points on the week were Coyote and Shakers, with wins over TaiLife and Jungle Juice, respectively.

Patong Dart League matches are held every Tuesday night around Patong. No team membership is required and tourists are more than welcome to join in: just show up at any of the venues below and ask for details. For more information, email: darts@phuketgazette.net

August 8 results: Queen Mary* 4 Valhalla 5; TaiLife 2 Coyote Bar* 7; Footrot Flats 4 Didi's* 5; Piccadilly* 5 Amigos 4; Jungle Juice 4 Shakers* 5; OffShore 6 Dog's Bollocks* 3 (* = winner of beer leg).

Standings: 1. Didi's (25 points.); 2. Piccadilly (24); 3. Coyote Bar (20); 4. Offshore (19); 5. Amigos (16); 6. = Queen Mary, Dog's Bollocks (14); 8. Valhalla (13); 9. = Shakers, Jungle Juice (12); 11. TaiLife (6); 12. Footrot Flats (5).

August 22 matchups: TaiLife v Offshore; Footrot Flats v Dog's Bollocks; Shakers v Amigos; Jungle Juice v Valhalla; Didi's v Piccadilly; Coyote Bar v Queen Mary (home team first).t

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Speedy Sittipong is king of the road

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET: Sittipong Chenglai from the Dusit Laguna Club came out of the Mother's Day holiday weekend as the undisputed king of local long-distance running, winning the Cherng Talay mini-marathon on August 12 and then repeating the feat the following day over a similar distance in Tambon Rassada.

The two race days saw a combined total of around 1,500 entrants put foot to pavement in road races held in celebration of the birthday of HM Queen Sirikit and the Diamond Jubilee of HM The King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

About 800 runners from Phuket and other provinces including Phang Nga, Trang, Surat Thani and Songkhla, along with a spattering of foreigners, braved the rain and early-morning start to compete in the Cherng Talay Municipality Mini-Marathon, held on Mother's Day, August 12.

The following day some 700 more runners joined in the various races over differing distances in Tambon Rassada.

The August 12 races featured a 13-kilometer mini-marathon and, for the more sedate, a 3.5-km fun run. Both races started and finished at the Cherng Talay Municipality Office.

Starting and finishing at the Rassada Tambon Administration Organization offices on August 13 were a half-marathon, a 10.5km mini-marathon and a 4km fun run.



Double winner Sittipong Chenglai.

Cherng Talay Mini-Marathon results:

Men's open: 1. Sittipong Chenglai; 2. Darasak Kruathongkeiw; 3. Phu-ngern Saengkaew; 4. Somchoke Jaengwang; 5. Seksan Chaipan.

Women's open: 1. Oranee Kuanun; 2. Karuna Nakkara; 3. Nisa Sengsuk.

Rassada Half-Marathon results:

Men's open: 1. Sittipong Chenglai; 2. Somchoke Jaengrun; 3. Wattana Senthong.

Women's open: 1. Nisa Sengsuk; 2. Nalinda Divis; 3. Arunee Unchareon.



The winning Plookpanya School team with their coach, Sittichai Kruekaew. – Photo by Dan Miles

Plookpanya girls win cheer contest

SAPHAN HIN: The 10-girl team from Plookpanya School won a cheerleading competition on August 10 at Saphan Hin, up against competition from five other teams from Phuket and two from other provinces.

Under their trainer, Sittichai Kruekaew, the Plookpanya girls have become a force in competi-

tive cheerleading over the past three years; last year they won the Singha Cheerleading Contest in Phuket.

The other teams were Tessabaan Muang Phuket School, Baan Bang Niow School and Baan Samkong School, all from Phuket, and one team each from Trang and Phang Nga.

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Construction Update

by Janyaporn Morel



Above and far right, computer-generated perspectives of Ananthara Seaview Villas.



Bas Van Straten, Project Manager of Leisure Club Asia.



Five projects for Leisure Club Asia

Leisure Club Asia is currently embarking on an ambitious development plan with five projects currently underway, mostly in the Patong area. The next project to get off the ground will be the Ananthara Seaview Villas.

The three-bedroom villas, with private pools, have been de-

signed in a contemporary style and will be built on a hillside overlooking Patong Bay.

Bas Van Straten, Project Manager of Leisure Club Asia explained, "We are now building our Semi-Detached project in Patong, close to the Club Bamboo Resort on Nanai Rd. This project is sold out already.

"Close to the Semi-Detached project we also have the Ananthara Pool Villas. These, too, are sold out. When we have all the necessary documents and have completed the legal process, we also plan to start work on the Asawana Villas, in Patong again, and the Royal Villas at Pointe East in Pa Khlok," he said.

Mr Van Straten said that the Ananthara Seaview Villa project will have two semi-detached buildings comprising four villas that will be built on 50 Pi Rd.

"The villas will [each sit on] a plot of between 192 and 215 square meters. There is also a 315sqm plot which has been reserved by a customer who wants to build a four-bedroom villa. There will be a 3.5m-wide road between the plots," he said.

Being semi-detached, the 2½-floor villas will share part of a side wall, but each will have its own car port at the front and 7 x 4m private swimming pool at the back. The living area and kitchen will be on the ground level, with access to the pool terrace.

There will be a bedroom and bathroom on the middle floor, and another two bedrooms, one with en-suite bathroom, on the top floor.

The central floor will cover only half the area of the villa, leaving the living room with a very high ceiling, giving an airy and cool living area.

"Prices will range from 8.9 to 10.9 million baht. The villas will have the same basic design but buyers can choose to have extra equipment installed. We have "gold" and "diamond" packages as supplements to the standard design.

"These will include different materials and extras. For the floors, kitchen and bathrooms we will use only high-quality materials. We will use hardwood for the pool terrace, the dining and living room floors will have ceramic tiles and in the bedrooms we will lay laminate flooring," he said.

Mr Van Straten said that he expects to sell all the villas by the end of the year as there are a limited number of private villas for under 10 million baht in Patong. He added that he thought the modern design of the villas would also be a draw for buyers.

"Other villas in Patong and in the rest of Phuket are mostly built in Thai style; the concepts are all very similar," he said. "For people that do want to buy a Thai-style villa, we have Ananthara

Pool Villas. But we want to offer the dream [of living in the tropics] to clients at an affordable price. The Ananthara Seaview Villas have the same level of luxury as a condominium, but have more usable space at the same price, or even a lower price," he said.

"It will take about a year to complete all the villas. We expect to start in October this year and estimate that we will finish work around October or November of next year."

Mr Van Straten added that Leisure Club Asia is now looking for a location for its next project, which may be in Patong or elsewhere, but definitely with a similarly modern design style. "We want to keep it compact, with five to 10 units in an attractive location, possibly Nai Harn, Cherng Talay or the Bang Tao area," he said.

MULTI-STORY

"We are looking for a small area. At Bang Tao, there are now many real estate developments that are different from our concept because they are single-story villas that need a large land area. We want to optimize the land by building multi-story projects. I think a lot of people don't want a large amount of land; people know that land is very expensive here and most people come to Phuket to go out, not to stay at home all day," he said.

"We are a young company and emphasize modern design and attractive pricing. We believe we have a niche market in the line of project development, because we have a mixture of hospitality-business experience, young, challenging designers and attractive pricing, so we can offer something different in the market here," Mr Van Straten said.

For more information, contact Bas Van Straten at Tel: 076-344 380, 01-893 0135 or visit the Leisure Club Asia website at: www.leisureclubasia.com

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1



2



3



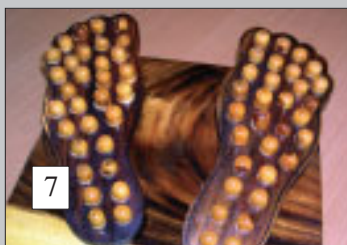
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4



7

1. Candle holder sets from Nong Mango, various prices; 2. Painted vases from Nong Mango, B540; 3 and 4. Carved vases from Phuket Unique Home, around B1,000; 5. Cooler from Phuket Unique Home, B680; 6. Giant vase from Phuket Unique Home, various styles and prices; 7. Foot massager from Nong Mango, B250.

The versatile mango

Mangoes are among the most recognizable tropical fruits. It's not just the fruit, however, that can be put to good use. Mango wood, though not commonly used in construction, is perfect for ornaments and decorative finishes.

Mango wood is a soft wood that is smooth, light, and easy to carve. It is these qualities that make it perfect for decoration. It can be painted, varnished or left with its natural coloring.

Nong Mango Wood, which has two branches in Phuket on Pattana Thongthin Rd and at the Holiday Inn, has its own factory in Chiang Mai, a city renowned for its artisans.

Perfect to fill an empty nook or corner are large floor-standing "torpedo" vases, available either plain or painted. Another

floor-standing vase, this time with a Chinese dragon motif, can be had for 895 baht. Nong Mango also makes a wide variety of smaller, table-top vases.

It also produces many designs of candlestick holders, both painted and carved, including unusual designs such as ones modeled on a sunflower. Small ones start at 50 baht and larger ones go for around 350. The carved designs are more expensive than the painted ones due to the painstaking workmanship required.

For more functional products they have do-it-yourself massage equipment. A body-massage gizmo is 50 baht and there are two varieties of foot-massage machines for 250 baht each (Picture 7). For smokers there are Thai-themed ashtrays with elephant and buffalo designs priced between 95 and 120 baht.

Another outlet for mango wood is Phuket Unique Home on Phuket Rd, opposite the old TAT office. The company started 12 years ago in Phuket and has its own factory in Kuku.

Phuket Unique Home's biggest market is hotels but it also sells items retail. A range of ice buckets and vacuum coolboxes in mango wood finish are available, giving a bit more class to a day at the beach than the standard plastic versions.

The company also stocks a range of vases, candlestick holders, wastepaper bins and hotel accessories such as bill holders.

For more information about Nong Mango Wood call Malai Jinajan at Tel: 01-8922922 and for Phuket Unique Home call Suthon Ittipalanukul at Tel: 076-212093 or 076-224975.

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Home of the Week

Rawai

A home with a built-in income

Built on one rai of Chanote-titled land in Rawai, this property overlooks Phuket Riding Club and is only minutes from the sea.

The landscaped grounds lend a natural feel to the open area between the main detached villa, which has 250 square meters of indoor space, and the five stylish, one-bedroom holiday bungalows at the rear of the plot.

Shared by the residents in the main villa and guests in the holiday bungalows, which can generate an income of 36,500 baht a month, is the 80-sqm private pool and large sala set in the center of the garden.

The buildings, only six years old, are well maintained and are cooled by air conditioning and fans fitted throughout.

The main house features a large living and dining area with views of the garden and pool, and a high ceiling to help keep the temperature down. The three bedrooms are bright and airy, and also have views of the garden.

The two main bedrooms have built-in closets and en-suite

bathrooms that have been tastefully decorated and tiled, as are the other indoor bathroom and the outdoor shower area.

There is also another room that can serve as an office or as a fourth bedroom.

The modern kitchen is fitted with sleek, white storage closets and contrasting black granite bench tops.

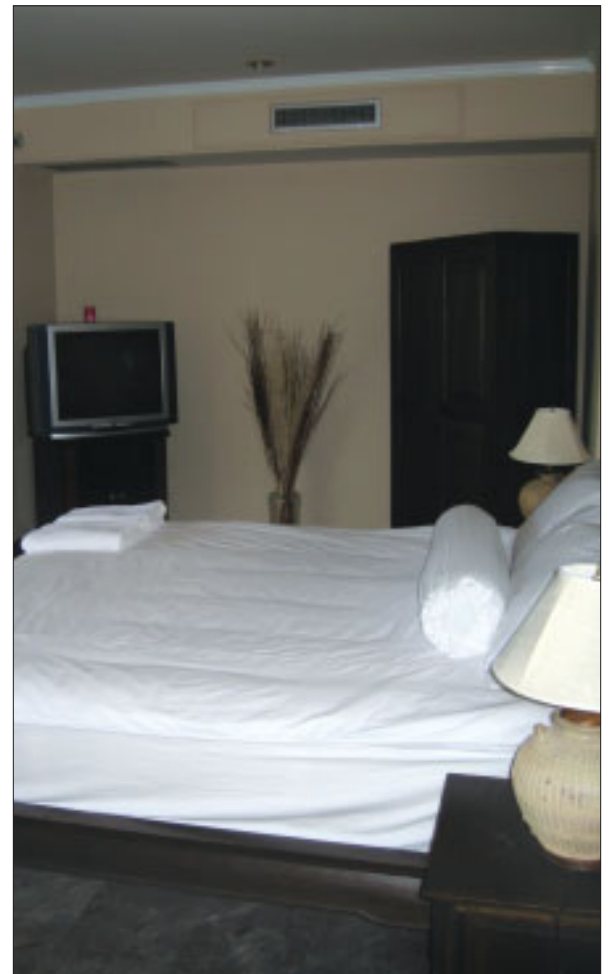
The property is available fully furnished; some of the furniture was custom-made to fit.

Utilities include a separate laundry, a carport, well water and a phone line for both calls and Internet access.

This property offers the opportunity to buy not only a home to live in but also one that will generate a comfortable income with little in the way of overheads and few maintenance hassles.

The asking price is 19.5 million baht.

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



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Forget garlic. This is the *real* thing

I really hope my breath doesn't smell. You never really know, do you? We can all do that Mr Bean-style breathing into your hand and inhaling whatever is produced, but that doesn't really give you much of a clue.

The only guaranteed result is that you will inevitably make a complete idiot of yourself.

Even if someone in your vicinity does emit the kind of mouth odors that could strip paint off walls, then most of us (even me) are usually far too polite and reserved to actually point out the reality to them. I know you may find that difficult to believe about old Bert, but I can be polite sometimes. It just doesn't happen very often.

Perhaps members of the opposite sex are the most difficult to deal with on the bad breath front. They could be intelligent, attractive, polite and possess numerous other positive attributes.

But although beauty can hide a great many things, it is totally unable to mask the reality of bad breath. Sweet nothings whispered late at night into one's ear aren't nearly so sweet when they smell as if you're in the back of a garbage truck.

DILEMMA

You have to wonder, "How can she not know?" when the lovely lady has breath that would fog up a sunny day. There's really no tactful way to handle a situation such as this.

You could try the old "I've got some chewing gum - would you like a stick?" approach, but the outlook isn't particularly good, in reality. Or there's always the high-tech option - refer her to www.badbreathogram.com. Yes, it really does exist. But she may not take it well.

If that fails, about the only possibility left would be "I've got a spare toothbrush, some dental floss, industrial toothpicks and a bottle of Listerine... how about giving them a try?"

Perhaps wearing a army-issue full-face gas mask when enjoying her company would also send out the subtle message that something may well be amiss.

Food can play a huge part in whether or not your exhalations cause those around you to recoil in shock. Garlic is a prime culprit, though the symptoms don't seem to last that long, and the

actual ingestion of the stuff is inevitably rather pleasant, so who cares.

It's strange - you can genuinely say to someone "You were certainly on the garlic last night" without causing the least offence, but for some reason, "You've got a severe case of botty-breath" does not usually go down as well.

In comparison with the rather limp-wristed garlic, *sator* is positively demonic in its bad-breath power. It can reduce people to talking back-to-back rather than face each other - it's powerful stuff.

So what is *sator*? You've seen it all over the place, in markets and at the side of the road - it's that giant, twisty, string bean-looking vegetable that's very much in season at the moment.

Normally when I attempt to identify a plant in this column, I give its name in English, followed by the Thai in *italic*.

But this week's plant leaves us in a bit of a conundrum. The *sator* is the same in both English and Thai as far as I can make out, but it's a bit difficult to work out which came first. That's why they pay editors the big bucks to make *italic* decisions, I suppose.

The scientific name for the plant is easy: *parkia speciosa*, but in other parts of the world it's known as *petai* or *parkia*. It's sometimes referred to as the 'twisted cluster bean' or 'stink bean'. Whoever came up with the last one had his head screwed on straight. As unimaginative as it may be, the *sator* couldn't really be called anything else.

It's a long, flat bean with bright green seeds the size and shape of plump almonds which have a rather "peculiar" smell, to say the least.



It's the smelliest plant in town.

Sator are definitely an acquired taste, but they are popular all over southern Thailand and Malaysia. They are usually sold in bunches, still in the pod, or the seeds are sold in plastic bags. They are exported in jars or cans, pickled in brine.

Sator grow on a large tree. When they're young, the pods are flat because the seeds haven't yet developed, and they hang like a bunch of pale green, almost translucent, slightly twisted ribbons. At this stage you can eat the entire pods raw, fried or pickled. If, of course, you want to.

Usually they are harvested when the beans are mature, as

green curry. Apparently, the seeds are still edible even if they contain worms or bugs.

Sator trees aren't the easiest of trees to grow, unfortunately. Apart from anything else, they take years to grow, and you can wait as long as 10 years before they start to produce the bean pods for the first time.

In theory, you should be able to germinate the seeds then plant them to produce a fresh tree. If anyone wants to try this for themselves, please let me know the results in about 10 years' time.

Plant one of these in your garden and you'll need to guard it well. The only reason the bunch in the picture has lasted so long is that they're right outside a third-floor apartment. Thai *sator*-lovers are already scheming at ways of retrieving it.

EFFECTS

I actually enjoy the taste of *sator*, believe it or not. I'm less enthusiastic about the fact that I can still taste it, in a somewhat altered state, 24 hours later, when the effects are significantly less pleasing.

I was discussing the delights of the *sator* with a houseguest from Malaysia recently. The first thing she said about the plant's qualities is that "it makes your pee smell". Additionally, she said, it acts as a kidney cleanser.

She also swears that eating eggplant afterward gets rid of the smell.

She didn't explain if the two theories were linked.

We may well have found the smelliest plant in town. Perhaps we could add a whole new page to www.badbreathogram.com. Perhaps every single inhabitant of Phuket should consume this stuff simultaneously. Problem solved - we'd all stink together. Happy munching.



Property Gazette

Properties For Sale

FOR SALE: 1-STORY HOUSE



In Kathu hills, near waterfalls, land: 390 sqm, house: 200sqm. Fully furnished. Comes with registered company. Price: 6.5 million baht. For more details call Tel: 01-4945423.

RAWAI CONDO SALE
or rent. Freehold studio 2,500 baht/month or will sell for 450,000 baht. 400 meters from the beach. Tel: 06-686-5567. Email: chotip36@hotmail.com

GOLF VILLA
Phuket Country Club. A lovely Thai-style detached villa with 800sqm of land, and 340sqm of living area. Every luxury with wonderful location and views. Tel: 01-9241447. Email: mail@villa.co.th

PLOTS NEAR LAGUNA

Chanote plots on Pasak hill-top. 1,000-1,600sqm. From 3 million baht. Tel: 01-893-0692 or 01-9798685, or Email: mervowen@vol.net

RAWAI 2-STORY
house. For sale: 1.4 million baht. 10-year finance. Central Rawai. 140sqm. Please contact Tel: 06-9408914. Email: pim_sweettygirl@yahoo.com

BARGAIN HOUSE

in small private development in Kathu. Convenient access to golf courses, 9 mins to Patong. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, living room, kitchen/diner, laundry, large enclosed verandah/patio, walled garden, nearly completed. Approx 160sqm on 340sqm plot. 4.5 million baht. Tel: 04-8439579. Fax: 076-323421. Email: somlerdee@yahoo.com

LAYAN BEACH APARTMENTS

Resort-managed, fully-furnished studio-suite apartments, ready to move in. Prices from 3.5 million baht. Swimming pool, gym and clubhouse. Just minutes from beach. Tel: 01-7371231. For further details please visit: www.oceanbreezephuket.com

HOME SWEET HOME

New, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, tastefully furnished, Chanote. Asking 3 million baht. Tel: 09-5926482.

PLOT 1.5 RAI

for sale. Only 1 million baht per rai. Near Heroines Monument, 10 minutes to British school. Tel: 09-8731019.

SALE OR LEASE

2,500sqm Thai-style villa, built 1997, with panoramic sea view. Located Cape Panwa. For sale at US\$4.5 million or for lease at US\$39,000 a month. Call Mr Abdulloh at Tel: 01-569-7220. Agents welcome.

NEW HOUSE

in Kamala. Small 2 bedrooms. 1.25 million baht for an easy sale. Good area. Tel: 01-892-8208.

VILLA FOR SALE



Thai villa located on Cape Panwa, overlooking beautiful Chalong Bay. This Thai-style residence has 3 bedrooms and bathrooms, a Western-style kitchen, great rooms and a large swimming pool. 19.5 million baht. Tel: 01-8974180, 07-2659977. Email: gay@islandtechnology.com or jimmys@loxinfo.co.th

PHUKET PANTEP

Condo Sale. 32sqm, freehold, brand-new. 450,000 baht. Tel: 06-6865567. Email: chotip36@hotmail.com

RAWAI CONDO

lease. 90-year lease. Price :350,000 baht or rent: 2,000 baht per month. Seaview. Tel: 06-9408914. Email: pim_sweettygirl@yahoo.com

RAWAI VILLA

for sale or rent. Detached house, 2 bathrooms, 2 bedrooms, 400sqm of land. 15,000 baht per month or for sale at 5 million baht. Near beach. Tel: 06-6865567. Email: chotip36@hotmail.com

PRIVATE BUNGALOW

Koh Lanta, Klong Dao beach. Wooden bungalow 50m from the beach. Quiet and shady 32 sqm, car park, cable TV. Call Mr. Marco for details. Tel: 01-9680571.

MISSION HEIGHTS

land sale. 2 land plots of 1600sqm at 3.25 million baht, 4 land plots of 900sqm at 2.5 million baht, all fully serviced land plots. For more info call Tel: 09-2262612. Email: jim@jimmarsh.net

LUXURY HOME

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APARTMENT

2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom. Located between Surin and Bangtao beaches. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

LAND FOR SALE

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Land at Khao Khat, Ao Makham. 14 rai of flat land with stunning seaview, concrete road access and electricity. Nor Sor 3 Gor. Perfect for housing or hotel project. Price: 75 million baht. Email: info@baansuanvilla.de

HOUSE FOR SALE



2-bedroom house, furnished, appliances, in gated community, pool, sauna. 2 minutes to Nai Yang Beach. USA standard. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-5878154. Email: loverofasia72@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR SALE



2-storey house in Chalong. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, dining room, lounge room and beautiful Western kitchen. Aircon bedrooms. Quiet, safe suburb. Asking 5 million baht o.n.o. Tel: 01-7475293, 05-7839825. Email: chillhouse@hotmail.com

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SURIN BEACH VILLA

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LUXURY HOUSE

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ECO-COOL THAI HOME IN RAWAI



The open-air design of this award-winning home affords a true tropical lifestyle. Traditional Thai design and modern materials are combined to beat Phuket's tropical heat without aircon. A large, naturally-cool patio surrounded by a pool and a cooling lotus/fish pond. Priced at only 9.9 million baht, this large 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom plus office-area (240sqm) home sits on a 400sqm plot and features designer kitchen & bathrooms, hardwood floors & underground water tank for rainwater collection and storage. Call Gary at Tel: 07-8987062.

NEW LOCH PALM

pool villa. Extra-large plot - 1,200sqm - fronting main road with two-story oriental private pool villa on the edge of Loch Palm Golf Club, 5 minutes to BCIS school.

3 bedrooms + 3 bathrooms (master en-suite), large car port, roof-top terrace, automatic gate/remote. All rooms air conditioned, boilers, many views. 70% complete (ready end of Nov). 18.5 million baht.

Can choose your kitchen equipment (Fagor/Teka) and get free BOSCH security system. Tel: 01-8699686. Email: supotmail@yahoo.com

2.5 RAI FOR SALE

Nice views, water, power etc. Chalong. 7.5 million baht. Phone owner. Tel: 06-683-1964.

HOUSE FOR SALE

New house, 1,496sqm, 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, located close to bypass road with lagoon views. Close to Lotus & Central department stores. Price: 20 million baht. Tel: 01-5375284, 09-7291066.

PHUKET ANDAMAN REAL ESTATE

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New house for sale - sea view - Rawai
Superb villa development very near Rawai. Only 3 minutes walk to the beautiful beach. Both comfort and elegance are the hallmarks of the design. Gracious, tropical living can be enjoyed in this grand villa. Usable area: 380sqm. Price: 20 to 27 million baht

New house for sale - mountain view - Kathu
Situated on a hill overlooking a valley and picturesque mountain terrain beyond. There are 2 types of Hillside Villa, A and B. The design is contemporary but still retains a strong Sino-Portuguese identity. Usable area: 343sqm. Price: 9 to 12 million baht

New condominiums for sale - Karon
New condominiums featuring a choice of traditional Thai-style or modern architecture. Tropical-dream condominiums overlooking a pool and just a short walk to Karon beach. The apartments are 58 to 124sqm, as well as luxurious 359sqm penthouses, which include roof-top terraces and Jacuzzis. Price: 5.5 to 9.9 million baht

New house for sale - mountain view - Rawai
This tasteful contemporary tropical house, with high-quality teakwood furniture, is located in a peaceful area with a view of Rawai's mountains beyond. Usable area: 255sqm, land: 600sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 30sqm pool. Western kitchen. Price: 8.9 million baht

Two Studios for sale - sea view - Patong Hill
Two fully-furnished studios in a quiet estate area, near swimming pool and short walk along the main road to the white sand beach of Patong, shopping, international and Thai restaurants and night life. 36sqm usable area 3.1 million baht 35sqm usable area. Price: 3.05 million baht

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Property Gazette

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PENTHOUSE B10.8M

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SURIN BEACH LAND

1,000sqm, private sale. Short walk to beach, quiet secluded area. Road, well water, electricity. 4 million baht. Tel: 07-8836112. Email: costello@exeemail.com.au

BEST VALUE

for money. Looking for a new shophouse in Phuket? Here it is: in "Goldenville Village", on the main road between Phuket City and Patong. 4 stories, with a lot of extras, including roof terrace, built-in kitchen, solar water heating system, etc. Excellent location. To view, ask for K. Orasa's house at the Goldenville office. Price: only 2.7 million baht. Email: peterwiniker@hotmail.com

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Located 5 mins to town, 5 mins to Cape Panwa, 10 mins to Chalong. Please call or e-mail for more information. Tel: 01-9580815. Email: moodiving@yahoo.com

KAMALA SALE

or rent. 3 fully-furnished apartments on 2 floors with ornamental waterfall, Jacuzzi, sat TV, aircon, kitchen. With 2 bedrooms: 40,000 baht per month. With 1 bedroom: 30,000 baht per month. Sale price: 9.2 million baht. No better investment opportunity. Email for photos and info. Tel: +44-7815-937415.

RARE OPPORTUNITY

in Mission Hills golf project. 1,500sqm at 1.95 million baht. Chanote title. Call K. Pen at Tel: 06-6834996.

BOAT LAGOON

17 rai seaview, 2.5 million baht per rai. 5 rai Patong, 5.5 million baht per rai. 3 rai Patong, 5 million baht per rai. For further details please call Tel: 07-8942337.

RAWAI TOWNHOUSE

1.3 million baht. 2 bedrooms, living, kitchen, 100sqm, hot-water, aircon. Tel: 09-590-3665. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

KATA SEAVIEW

380sqm square plot. Easy to build on. Chanote title. Tel: 06-2670898.

LAND FOR SALE

Bang Tao : 1,400sqm cleared land for sale. Road access, electricity, water. Ready to build on. Call Rene at Tel: 01-7975060.

HOUSE FOR SALE

Near Thalang. 2 bedrooms, living room. Land: 230sqm. 1.9 million baht. Call Mr Herbest at Tel: 01-8921512.

300-METER BEACH

land for sale. Koh Yao. 18 rai or subdivide into 1-rai plots. 2.9 million a rai. Nor Sor 3 Gor, beautiful view, road, 24hr electricity, water, landscaped. Ready to build on, next to Teawson Bungalow. Call K. Si at Tel: 01-9567582, or Charlie at Tel: 07-2670714. For map and photos please Email: charlesaraines@hotmail.com

HOUSE IN KATHU

In sought-after small development. Private cul-de-sac, nearly completed. 9 mins to Patong. Located near 2 golf courses. 3-bedroom house, 3 bathrooms, living room, kitchen/diner, laundry room, large enclosed veranda/patio. Walled plot approx. 340sqm. Sale price: 4.5m baht. Principals only please. Please contact for more details. Tel: 04-8439579. Fax: 076-323-421. Email: somlerdee@yahoo.com

FREEHOLD FLATS



Phuket Palace Condominium. Fully furnished, 1 or 2 bedrooms, 1 or 2 bathrooms, with kitchen, living room. 120sqm. Asking 5.9 million baht. Tel: 09-871-9739.

ABSOLUTE BEACHFRONT LAND

6 rai, 130 meters of beachfront on Koh Sireh. Rear road access. All amenities 8 million baht a rai. Chanote title. Priced for quick sale. Contact Khun Oi at Tel: 01-8957908.

BEAUTIFUL LAND

Plots from 1 rai in luxury project between Rawai & Nai Harn with underground electricity and water, nice road access. 3.8 million baht. Tel: 07-8938747.

5 RAI FOR SALE

2.8 million baht a rai, electricity, water, 80m road front, views. Baan Nakok, Chalong. Sale by owner. Tel: 076-280-440, 06-6831964. Fax: 076-280440. Email: franklee200@hotmail.com

TOWNHOUSE

2 stories, unfurnished, 1 minute from Chalong Pier, 35.3 square wah. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Price: 2.9 million baht. Tel: 076-236590, 01-8955628. Fax: 076-236590. Email: molly_boon@hotmail.com

APARTMENT

for sale. 2-bedroom apartment between Surin and Bang Tao Beaches. 4.5 million baht. Please contact for more information. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

NEW SEAVIEW APARTMENTS



Located on Patong hillside, Nanai Rd. 1-bedroom 47sqm apts, 2-bedroom 72/95sqm apts, and a 172sqm penthouse. Prices from 2.25 million baht. Tel: 04-7085253.

HOUSE FOR SALE

in Patong. 2 stories, 5 bedrooms, fully furnished. Please contact for more details. Tel: 01-9563061. Email: sohail_carpet@yahoo.com

1 RAI IN RAWAI

2.2 million baht. Electricity, road. Chanote title, quiet area. Tel: 09-6525664.

7 RAI FOR SALE

in Phang Nga. 7 rai with 160m of water front (mangroves) opposite Yacht Haven Marina. Email: tony@diveh2osportz.com

KATA SEAVIEW

556sqm, Chanote title. Road, electricity. 3.7 million baht. Tel: 01-5376866.

SMALL PLOT

in Rawai. 210sqm square plot. 790,000 baht. Second-floor seaview. Tel: 07-8938747.

FOR SALE PATONG

Freehold condo. Furnished, fridge, TV, parking, pool, 1.2m baht. Tel: 05-2453132.

KATHU TOWNHOUSE

2 years old, 2 bedrooms (one with aircon), 2 bathrooms, living & dining area, and kitchen. Chanote title. No agents. Asking 1.6 million baht. Please call the owner, K. Chanittha at Tel: 09-7298018. Email: hugbou@yahoo.com

NEW 3-BEDROOM VILLA IN RAWAI



With pool. New 2-story villa. 278sqm living space, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully-fitted kitchen, living room, dining room and maid/office room. 3x7m swimming pool, finished garden and double carport. Also includes: 5 aircon units, hot water and fitted closets. Land has Chanote title (440sqm). This beautiful villa is selling for 6.9 million baht. Only one available. Tel: 01-5990502.

FOREIGN OWNERSHIP

Nai Harn Beach condos, high-quality, up-market, safe, secure, large 2-bedroom units fully furnished and equipped, great location and views, 8 million baht, a must-see! Tel: 01-6493557. Email: ken@phuketlifestyle.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

Baan Maneekram, Kwang Rd. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, large garden, car park. Price: 7.1 million baht. Tel: 06-9536881.

AO POR BAY



Stunning ocean-view land plot. 360sqm, ready to build on. 25 minutes to airport and Phuket's major shopping centers. For sale at 2.9 million baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-3430777.

RAWAI TOWNHOUSE

1.3 million baht. 2 bedrooms, Chanote, completely renovated, incl aircon, hot water, Western kitchen with granite counters. Please contact for more details. Tel: 06-267-0157, 09-5903665. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

New, 2 bedrooms, 2 stories, 3 bathrooms, aircon and hot water. Fully furnished. 150 meters from Patong Beach Tel: 01-0263029 or 04-814-4090.

NICE HOUSE

Nice house at Sai Yuan, on the way to Nai Harn Beach. Price: 15 million baht. Tel: 076-239444, 09-7276672. Email: utohom@hotmail.com

Rambutan Residence, Seaview Condominiums for Sale. An Investment in Paradise



Rambutan Residence offers 20 luxury freehold fully furnished apartments for sale. Located in Soi Playboy just off Nanai Rd at Patong Beach. Rambutan Residence offers wonderful sea views from the three upper floors overlooking Patong Bay. Prices start at 2.7 million baht. Please contact Peter at Tel: 01-8928526. For details please see our website at: www.phuket-besthomes.com

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Within 100 metres of the beach. 80 sqm. of living space. One bedroom, living room, European-style kitchen, fully furnished, air conditioning, hot water system, home security system, internet connection, television and satellite TV. The price starts from 6.5 million baht for the first-floor apartment.

Please contact Ann 66 1 868 7676 or email: ann@mms.ais.co.th

Property Gazette

CENTRAL KAMALA

Large 2-bedroom apartment. All mod cons, UBC, etc. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 01-8111067.

HOUSE FOR RENT

Located in the popular and secure Chaofa Thani estate. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, living room, kitchen etc. ADSL, UBC TV, garden, furnished, air conditioned. Rent 36,000 baht a month. Long-term rental. Please contact for more details. Tel: 04-843-9579. Fax: 076-323421. Email: somsrijenner@lycos.com

LUXURY 3-BEDROOM

house. Near Laguna, furnished, aircon, spa, pool, poolside bar. 1/2 rai of landscaped land. Lease: 40,000 per month. Tel: 09-5944067.

HOTEL NEAR BEACH

13 big rooms with fridge, hot water, 7 aircons, reception, bar, kitchen. 1.3 million baht a year. Please contact for more information. Tel: 07-898-0759, 075-637126. Email: www.harald_junker@yahoo.de

RAWAI SEAVIEW

for rent. Luxury studio apartment, full kitchen, hot water, cable. All new. 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 04-0571420.

NICE PATONG

condo. Aircon, big bedroom, cable TV, fridge, microwave, parking and pool. 10,000 baht/month. Tel: 05-2453132. Email: tj_biggie@hotmail.com

BEACHFRONT CONDO

Kalim, Patong. High standard, fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, pool, many facilities. Short term. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-892-0038.

APARTMENTS

in Patong. Near Wat Patong, Soi Khuanyang 256. Small kitchen, refrigerator, fully furnished, European style, aircon, cable TV, fan, hot water, bathroom. 8,300 baht per month. Tel: 04-8450541, 01-8914561.

SHOPHOUSE BLOCK

5 terraced houses for rent on the bypass road. 35,000 baht per month. Call K. Vachira. Tel: 01-3269495.

HOUSE & GARDEN

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, air conditioning, fully furnished, European kitchen. Email: pen47@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

Ao Chalong. 10 meters from beach, 1 living room with kitchen, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 garage, 1 terrace 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 05-0691611, 05-8848606. Email: phukethorst@hotmail.com

DISCOVERY

gardens near Laguna. 2-bedroom, newly-built fully-furnished houses with large communal pool. Available short/long term. Tel: 076-271544, 09-1956722. Fax: 076-271545. Email: info@phuketmarbella.com

LARGE 4-BEDROOM

house. Large 2-story, 4-bedroom, 3-bathroom house in secure estate close to all facilities. Large plot. 25,000 baht a month. Contact K. Kusama Delly. Tel: 07-884-6364, 447-944192094. For further details please Email: info@axiominvestments.com

NEW BUNGALOW

at Pakhleng Talang Palm Garden 56/6. 15 minutes to British Curriculum Intern'l School. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen. 52.3 sq wah, unfurnished. 15,000 baht a month ono. Tel: 01-6063525.

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.

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 Rent at 40,000 a month or for sale at 6.7 million baht. Tel: 01-597-8315. Email: phuket8@hotmail.com

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

KAMALA VILLAS

Beachfront, fully furnished to a high standard. Western kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge and dining areas. Large balcony overlooking swimming pool and landscaped garden. Stunning sea views, only meters from the beach. Private gated parking with storage. UBC & ADSL. Including daily cleaning and washing, daily pool service and gardener. Monthly rental: 55,000 baht. Tel: 04-843-6837. Email: info@phuket-island-homes.com. Please see our website at: www.phuket-island-homes.com

BAR/RESTAURANT

Kamala. 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

LARGE VILLA

Kamala. 300sqm, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, separate granny/maid accommodation, beautiful real tear furnishings, plasma TV, full-size snooker table, UBC, ADSL, 2-/3-car garage. Set in 1/2 rai with tropical garden. 60,000 baht a month, minimum 1-year let. 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

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. Unfurnished, 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

LAKE HOUSE

New, in Kamala, fully furnished. Has 2 bedrooms, UBC and air conditioning. Asking 17,000 baht a month. Tel: 01-8928208.

BEAUTIFUL VILLA

2 bedrooms. European standard. Fully furnished, aircon, telephone, UBC TV, swimming pool, tropical garden. 2 minutes to Rawai and Nai Harn Beaches. Long-term let at 25,000 baht a month. Tel: 07-2810452.

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.

HOUSE FOR RENT

Kathu. Large 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom house near golf course and international school. Fully furnished, European-style fitted kitchen, aircon, UBC and phone line. Located on private road with only 4 houses and 2 pools. Tel: 09-8752532, 06-9402227.

LOFT-STYLE FLATS

4 large, quiet, central flats. 6,000-12,000 baht/month long term. Please contact for more information. Tel: 04-8502926. Email: hkmsn@yahoo.com

KAMALA, LONG LET

2-bedroom house, 3 aircons, furnished, UBC, phone line, parking. 11,000 baht a month. Tel: 07-1789273.

HOUSE FOR RENT

Home & office, 1,500sqm, Phuket City area, Wichit Songkhram Rd. Fully furnished, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Please call for more details. Tel: 04-0629587.

LAND & HOUSES PARK

New house, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully equipped, 2 air conditioners. 23,000 baht a month. Contact K. Tik at Tel: 09-7280999.

FURNISHED & NEW

Includes kitchen, hot-water shower. 5 mins walk to bus/beach. Farang comfort in local area. Tel: 01-9683546. Email: robin46@gmail.com

LUXURY HOUSE

Three bedrooms, near Laguna, furnished, spa pool, poolside bar, garden, aircon. 1/2 rai. 35,000 baht a month. Tel: 09-5944067.

NERAMIT HILL

New house, long-term, 3-bedrooms, living room, kitchen, 5 minutes to Patong. Tel: 07-2674342. Email: agentsmith@ji-net.com

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.

APARTMENTS

Chalong. Titima Mansions; 2 bedrooms, furnished, aircon, hot shower, security and gardens. Tel: 01-8914964. Email: beachcomberwa@yahoo.com.au

Would you like to keep up on what's happening in Phuket - the good, the bad and the bizarre? Let us share it with you - every week!

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Property Gazette

Property Wanted

LAND IN KATA / KARON

I am interested in buying 1.5 - 2 rai of land in Kata / Karon. Must be suitable to build house on. Email: Sverker_gustafsson@yahoo.com

HOTEL WITH BEACH / SEA VIEW

Looking for a hotel to buy. Must have a beach or an amazing sea view. Email: franco@lemonsurf.com

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. Call Tel: +614257778-98 (Australia). Email: madler51@hotmail.com

LAND WANTED

Seaview, beachfront land in Phuket, Phang Nga, Krabi. 10-100 rai. Tel: 01-6936437, 06-6841260.

BEACHFRONT WANTED

Looking for a beachfront restaurant or business property to buy or to lease. Please contact me with full details. Tel: 09-0543505.

HOTEL WANTED

Small hotel/resort wanted on Phuket or nearby islands. Email info/pics to Alan. Please contact by email: movinlos@yahoo.com.au

SEAVIEW LAND

wanted. I'm looking for 1-2 rai of seaview land in the Makhm area. Tel: 05-0327100. Email: saze@gmx.net

HOUSE WANTED

Looking to buy a 2- to 3-bedroom house in Phuket or Krabi. Maximum price: 4 million baht. Email: wanphenstephen@hotmail.com

BUNGALOW RESORT

or guesthouse. I am looking to rent a bungalow resort or guesthouse in the Rawai or Chalong areas. Email: tomDEXTER2001@yahoo.de

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

SMALL HOUSE, LONG TERM

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 in Phuket on October 6. Email: thaicheck@gmail.com

GUESTHOUSE

and restaurant in Patong, Karon, Kata or Phuket City. Please email or phone me if you have or know of something appropriate. Email: chrillearning@hotmail.com

SEEKING HOUSE

to rent. German family is looking for house to rent near international school. Min 1 year. Tel: 06-188922.

AUDITION ROOM

I am looking for an audition room to rent. The room must be at least 7m long and 4m wide, with white walls (for background). One of the short walls should be without windows (background). With aircon would be great. Please contact for more information. Tel: 06-6285292.

Accommodation Available

PATONG 1- & 2-BED APARTMENTS

Nanai Rd area. Quality apartments, fully furnished, Western kitchen, aircon, cable TV, internet. Long term only. 12,000 - 20,000 baht/month. Tel: 01-2705374. Email: orcella@phuket.ksc.co.th For more information, please see our website at: www.orcella.com

KAMALA BEACH

2 private beautifully-appointed, fully-furnished houses available for long or short term. ADSL, UBC available. Aircon throughout. Contact for details. Tel: 01-8931360. Email: noi@phuketproperties.com

PATONG TOWER

Rental available for up to four months from July 30 to November 30. All utilities paid for, 2 persons max at 1,800 baht a night. Email: coasters@earthlink.net Please see our website at: www.patongtower-rentals.com

SERVICED APARTMENTS

In Chalong. Spacious studio suites w/rooftop spa and pool garden. Aircon, wifi, sat TV, kitchenette, housekeeping. From 9,000 baht per month. Tel: 06-2826221, 01-8938592. Or email: sanerod@yahoo.com

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.

APARTMENT / OFFICE FOR RENT

Mansion located at Soi Phang Nga 2. Fully furnished, fridge, cable TV, aircon, hot water, car park, extra laundry service and bath. 5,500 baht per month. Tel: 076-230074, 09-1434888. Fax: 076-223566. Email: romeplace@hotmail.com

NAIHARN SWEET HOME

Fully furnished, short/long term, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 balconies, TV/Music. Move in! Please contact for more information. Tel: 04-8519072. Email: goodtasteforgoodlife@yahoo.de

3-BEDROOM HOUSE

Rawai. Nice house in Soi Tristar, off Sai Yuan Rd. Fully furnished. Aircon bedrooms, sala with garden. 37,000 baht a month. Tel: 76-3289241, 01-693-7277. Email: bent@siamdivers.com

NEW APARTMENT

Fully-furnished, big apartment for rent at Nai Harn Beach. Max 4 persons. 500 baht per day, 9,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 04-8519072. Email: goodtasteforgoodlife@yahoo.de

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

ROOMS IN PATONG

Aircon or fan, ground-floor rooms, hot shower, close to beach. Tel: 076-342280, 01-9781956. Email: palm@phuket.ksc.co.th

HOTEL PROMOTION

Long stay, including ABF: 18,000 baht a month. Beachfront, pool and spa. Free Wi-Fi Internet. Tel: 01-8920038. Email: anthony_sharman2006@hotmail.com

BEACH HOUSE

Long-term rent. Beach bungalow in a new 5-house private resort on mainland, with views to Samui, for long-term rent. Total privacy and quiet. For non-smokers. Tel: 01-891-4260. Email: tigerseyes@bycall24.de Website: www.home.arcor.de/bhouse

MODERN APARTMENT

w/Internet. 2-room apartment off Nanai Rd, 40 sqm, fully furnished incl. TV, large fridge, hot water, fans, safe, aircon and kitchenette; 8,500baht/month for long term; optional ADSL Internet available. Please contact for more information. Tel: 07-2650652. Email: gisbert1@gmx.net

APARTMENT FOR YOU

1-bedroom apartment in Soi Nanai 2. All-inclusive low-season rate: 12,500 baht/month. Tel: 01-5362954. Email: petro@phuket-4you.com For further details, please see our website at: www.phuket-apartments-4you.com/patong/baan_arunsri.htm

KARON APARTMENT

Central Karon, 50-meters from the beach. Newly furnished & renovated 2-room apartment with 2 balconies, cable TV, wifi, aircon. 20,000 baht per month. Long term only. Tel: 06-2718254.

Accommodation Wanted

ACCOMMODATION 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

in Patong. Wanted to rent from December 11-20. Need daily cleaning of room and change of sleeping clothes. Must have fridge, and within walking distance of Bangla and the beach. Please contact for more information. Email: erik_eriksen@yahoo.com

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SAFETYWAY STORAGE

200 baht per month, - 20ft container: 4,200 baht per month, - Self store: from 650 baht per month, - Site office: 5,200 baht per month, - Mobile toilet: 2,200 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-281283, 01-1251873.

Household Items

ANTIQUE FURNITURE

for sale. Chinese furniture from Ching Dynasty. Serious buyers only. Pictures/prices upon request. Please contact for more information. Tel: 07-2676024. Email: mwd@nmwvtl.com

Household Services

LOCK-UP STORAGE

24-hr security, individual storage units, well ventilated, discount rates. Tel: 01-0825707.

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BOAT-BOY (CASUAL)

We require the services of a casual boat-boy with a good command of English and a knowledge of boats. Please contact Simpson Marine. Tel: 076-239768.

BENETEAU FIRST 7.5

Great off the beach sail trainer and racer, easily handled, trailable phone. Price 1.6 million baht. Call Simpson Marine. Tel: 076-239768. For further details, please see our website at: www.simpsonmarine.com

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Great w/end boat. For 4. Affordable, shallow draft, in good condition, just been refitted, ready to sail, for inspection. Call Simpson Marine. Tel: 076-239768. For further details, please see our website at: www.simpsonmarine.com

RIVIERA 47' 2004

In showroom condition. Equipped with aircon and full electronics from Simrad and extra fuel tanks. Call Simpson Marine for price and details at Tel: 076-239768. For further details, please see our website at: www.simpsonmarine.com

FISHING BOAT FOR SALE



Fishing boat in good condition. Jim Young's "Vindex" design. Built-in cedar strip/epoxy, 35ft long, 12ft beam 300hp Cummins 6BTA diesel ZFHG, hydraulic steering from main cabin or fly bridge. Sleeps 2 couples in forward cabin or conv. area, WC/shower/hand basin. Including berth until Oct 06. Contact Peter for details. Tel: 01-8166940. Email: peterhae@e-mail.in.th

SEA-DOO JET BOAT



5-meter speedster, 1997. Twin 85hp, trailer, GPS, fishfinder, fast, completely overhauled, cover, new upholstery, in excellent condition. Price: 465,000 baht. Tel: 09-8713086.

SPEEDBOAT

6m long, 200hp Mercury engine. Needs attention. Exchange for longtail boat 15+ persons. Please contact. Tel: 05-7843043.

DIVING BOAT



For sale. Length 23m, width 5.30m, depth 1.90m, gross 58.48 tons, nett 39.76 tons. 2 diesel engines. 50-person capacity. 4.5 million baht. Tel: 09-7246953.

SEA-DOO F16 JET BOAT



Top condition, new engine 2001, Thai registration. Bargain at only 250,000 baht. Tel: 09-6525664.

SILVERTON



Hoft family boat, 2 twin bedrooms, two bathrooms + shower saloon, dinette, galley kitchen. Two 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.

LEE MARINE International Marine Brokerage

Carver 630 (1991)

- Twin Volvo 4.3lts engines w/ low hours
- New upholstery in cockpit and flybridge
- Bimini for cockpit and flybridge
- Onan Generator
- Air conditioning throughout
- Road trailer



3,500,000 THB

Tayana 48 DS (2005)



\$450,000 USD

CAL 40 (1968)



\$55,000 USD

Princess 360 (1995)



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Matteras 41 (1991)



9,000,000 THB

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Available Exclusively through Lee Marine

Dealership Office

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Contact: Martin Holmes
Tel: 076 238 803
Fax: 076 273 319
Email: info@leemarine.com

Brokerage Office

The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
Contact: Andrew de Bruin / Marcus Overman
Mobile: 01 894 1530 / 01 968 1437
Tel/Fax: 076 238 729
Email: brokerage@leemarine.com

Yacht Haven Marina Office

The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket
Contact: Jim Poulsen
Mobile: 01 891 3237
Tel/Fax: 076 206 260
Email: yachthaven@leemarine.com

Dedicated Service Department

www.leemarine.com

TANKER VESSEL FOR SALE



Thai registered, 150,000 liters, width 6m, length 23m, ready to move. 1.6 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-8912333. Email: surin123@csloxinfo.com

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90 HP, 2-stroke, never used, for sale at best offer. Please call K. Pen for more information. 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. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-3977592.

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Arguably the finest quality center console in Thailand. In survey. Tel: 076-292-746, 01-8922824. For further details, please see our website at: www.kohjoy.com/makocraft

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Well-maintained sailboats with s.s. trolley. Single & 2-person boats. Tel: 01-5399560, 01-3970905. For further details, please see our website at: www.skiffasia.com/boats4sale.html

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Fiberglass, steel trailer. New. 250,000 baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 04-653-5863. Email: gpboats@hotmail.com

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Please contact our sales offices or web site :

Phuket Office:

c/o Phuket Boat Lagoon
Tel: +66(0)76 239 111, 273 320
Email: charter@asia-marine.net

Bangkok Office:

Tel: +66(0)2 651 95 83
Email: marketing@asia-marine.net

www.asia-marine.net



Find more classified ads

"Boats & Marine"

at www.phuketgazette.net/

Island Job Mart

Dusit Laguna

RESORT
PHUKET • THAILAND

The Dusit Laguna Resort is a 5-star luxury resort in Phuket and a member of The Leading Hotels of the World. We are looking for candidates who have developed attitudes and behaviors that reflect a commitment to excellence to fill the following positions:

- Financial Controller
- IT Manager
- Cost Controller
- Restaurant Manager
- Captain
- Restaurant Supervisor

Below are the qualifications required for the above positions:

1. Thai female or male with certificate in college or Bachelor's degree in a related field from recognized university
2. Excellent computer literacy and English communication skills.
3. Pleasant personality & attitude
4. At least 2-3 years in 5-star hotels is an advantage
5. Strong leadership, interpersonal and communication skills

Interested applicants are invited to submit their resumé with recent picture

Human Resource Department
Dusit Laguna Resort, Phuket
390 Srisoonthorn Rd, Thalang, Phuket, 83110.
Tel: +66 (0)76 324324 Fax: +66 (0)76 324174
Email: dlphrmgr@dusit.com



www.lagunaphuket.com

The largest hotel and resort group in Phuket, and a listed company on the Stock Exchange of Thailand, is currently seeking a qualified candidates for the following positions based in Phuket:

IT SUPERVISOR
IT SUPPORT

1 POSITION
1 POSITION

Candidates should possess the following attributes:

- * Fluent computer literate and operation system
- * Bachelor's degree or higher, a minimum of a year experience in IT maintenance and support
- * Experience in Hardware, software and computer equipments maintenance and support are need
- * For IT SUPERVISOR - Significant experience in Opera, Micros, ACCPAC, NETWORK in hotel business system an advantage
- * Be able to communicate in English
- * Able to work in shift
- * Self-motivated, enthusiastic professional, capable of working independently
- * Strong service-mind

Send application, resume and recent photo to:

Group Director of Human Resources
Laguna Resorts & Hotels Public Co., Ltd.
390/1 Moo 1, Srisoonthorn Rd., Cherngtalay, Thalang, Phuket 83110
Tel: (66-76) 324444 ext. 16, 17 & 72 Fax: (66-76) 271718 Email: grouphr@lagunaphuket.com

Working

in the paradise island, Phuket

The Bay Hotel, a charming seafront hotel would like to invite all expatriate who willing to work in Phuket, Thailand to come and challenge for the following position;

Guest Relation (Expatriate)

This position will report to General Manager and responsible for taking good care of our clients.

Qualifications:

The ideal candidate should be

- Male or female, expatriate, with age over 22
- English native speaker, or good English communication, at least
- Pleasant personality, good human relationship and early response to the guests.

Interested candidate please submit your application letter, together with detailed resume and other evidences to

General Manager - THE BAY HOTEL, PHUKET

31/11 Mu 8, Sakdidej Rd., Cape Panwa Phuket 83000, Thailand.
Tel : 0-7639-1030 E-mail: gm@thebay-phuket.com

THE BAY HOTEL
At Cape Panwa, Phuket

www.thebay-phuket.com

SUNWING RESORT & SPA

Sunwing Resort & Spa, Phuket
72/11 M. 3 T. Cherng Talay, Thalang,
Phuket 83110
www.sunwingphuket.com

Fully contained family resort with its own restaurants, entertainment programs and a host of activities for all ages is looking for highly-motivated and service-minded individuals committed to growth within the expanding Ocean Resort Group

- 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 resumé 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

SALES COORDINATOR/ MANAGER

Wanted: Sales Coordinator/ Manager for boat excursion/tour company.

- Thai national, able to speak and write basic English
- Must have computer skills
- Must be able to manage tour desk staff at hotels, to coordinate bookings, and to undertake office duties as required. Please send resumé with expected salary. Tel: 076-388294, 01-0817163. Email: Info@simbaseatrips.com

SECRETARY WANTED

20-35-year-old Thai female, English, computer skills. Email: marto@greenworldstates.com

CHEF & WAITRESS

wanted. Chef and waitress wanted. Must speak English and have restaurant experience. Please email: gosia@asiandivers.info

INTERNET STAFF

Thai female required to work full time in Internet shop. Will also have some reception duties. Good salary and conditions. Tel: 076-284042, 04-0635773. Email: johnnymc21@hotmail.com

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

staff. We have two positions available for Academic Affairs staff. Candidates should have the following qualifications:

- Thai female
- Bachelor's degree or higher
- Very good in written and spoken English
- Tel: 076-264770, 01-892-4681. Fax: 076-264773. Email: kajonkietsuksa.school@gmail.com

BLUE FROG RAWAI

Looking for full-time cook for foreign and Thai food, must speak English. Up to 25,000 baht per month depending on experience. Call Pavel at Tel: 06-2832279.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Property developer seeks self-confident female 24-32 years old. You will: assist the project director, set up new office in Kata, be responsible for secretarial work, introduce project to customers. Qualifications required: Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Photo shop, accounting, fluent spoken and written English, university graduate, secretarial background, own car. Email: thailand@scandinavianlaguna.com

MARINE ELECTRONICS

Ex Raymarine + HMG technician, RYA skipper in Chalong. Available for odd jobs. Maybe i can help. First day for free. Call Robert. Tel: 04-6280384.

SECRETARY WANTED

A law firm in Phuket is looking for a secretary. Send resumé to Email: scphuket@yahoo.com

TEACHER WANTED

Phuket Wittayalai school requires native English-speaking teachers to teach English. Bachelor's degree a minimum requirement. Contact Antika. Tel: 01-5372886 for more information.

DIVEMASTER/DIVE

guide. PADI dive masters or dive guides for busy 5-star dive center. Training available for suitable applicants. Thai nationals only. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

BOOKKEEPER

Siam Real Estate require a Quick Books experienced bookkeeper. Location: Rawai. Good salary plus bonus. Please send CV or contact. Tel: 076-288908. Email: info@siamrealestate.com

OFFICE ASSISTANT

required. International property agent is seeking candidates for the above position. Applicants must be fluent in written and spoken English, have basic bookkeeping skills, be computer literate, and be hard working, self motivated and proactive. Please email your CV and photo. Email: internationalpropertyagent@yahoo.com

Island Job Mart

BUSINESS MANAGER

Energetic, Self-Motivated, Outgoing Personality required to manage a new retail/wholesale business based in a showroom on the bypass road.

Candidates should meet the following criteria:

- Degree holder in Business Management or Marketing
- At least 3 years' experience in selling building materials and/or furniture
- Knowledge of import procedure and logistics would be an advantage
- Must have experience in managing a small team of people
- Good command of written and spoken English and Thai

Please email CV to casey@room-limited.com

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

The job

The MD of an expanding, successful Patong-based hotel and leisure company seeks a competent Thai speaking P.A. to assist in all aspects of this thriving business.

The position offers stimulating and varied work in excellent conditions as part of a happy team.

The candidate will liaise between the MD and his growing team of Thai employees at all levels of the business, translating his instructions and ensuring they are carried out competently, consistently and accurately.

The candidate

A Thai female who is flexible, adaptable and imaginative. The successful candidate must be fluent in English and Thai, written and spoken, other languages are also an advantage. She must be computer literate in using MS Word, Excel, Outlook, and be comfortable using the Internet for research and communication.

The candidate should have a university-level education in business administration/marketing or a related field.

Any work experience in a British-owned business in Phuket is also valuable.

The conditions

An excellent salary and benefits package is included for the right candidate with the option of benefiting from a percentage of the profits.

Please contact Tel: 076-340904, 345258 Fax: 076-345259
Email: info@yorkshireinn.com

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

italasia

THE LARGEST HOTEL SUPPLIER IN THAILAND IS CURRENTLY SEEKING QUALIFIED CANDIDATES TO FILL THE BELOW POSITION:

SALES MANAGER F&B - PHUKET

1 POSITION

SALES MANAGER HOTEL EQUIPMENTS - PHUKET

1 POSITION

Applicants should meet the following criteria:

- Female or Male, Thai nationality.
- Excellent command of written and spoken english and computer literate.
- Related sales and marketing experience, minimum 2 years.
- Own transportation.

We offer an attractive remuneration package and the opportunity for career and income growth. Applicants are invited to apply in person at Italasia Group office, Phuket, or send full resume', detailed qualifications and experience with a recent photo to:

ITALASIA GROUP (Phuket Branch)
80/40 Land & Houses Park, T. Chalong A. Muang Phuket 83100
Tel: 076 282.561 Fax 076 378.030
Email: giancarlo_decesare@yahoo.com

A career or a lifestyle...

Phuket Branch.

We are looking for open-minded people who are seeking a challenging role within their career. Join our extensive international team and work for one of the world's market leaders in real estate. Our Overseas Chain Of Estate Agents Network gives you the chance to enjoy both a successful career and a dynamic lifestyle. You will be working with our worldwide offices and global property exhibitions programme.

Opportunities Available:

► Sales Support Executive 2 Positions

An exciting position with the opportunity to travel worldwide and with high earnings potential. You will be expected to liaise with new and existing clients via telephone (no cold calling) and at international exhibitions. You need to have a positive attitude and be a team player. Basic salary + commission.

Email your CV, with photo if possible, to: taa@oceanestates.com

► Listing Executive 1 Position

Negotiable and excellent communication skills, good team player, have your own car will be an advantage. Must know the Phuket island very well. Email your CV, with photo if possible, to: taa@oceanestates.com

► Sales Executive 2 Positions

Responsible for one-to-one selling to multi-national clients. You need to possess excellent communication skills and be willing to go the extra mile for our clients. Excellent earning potential for both dedicated and enthusiastic sales people. Basic salary + commission + company vehicle. Email your CV, with photo if possible, to: sandra.oneill@oceanestates.com

► Administrator 1 Position

If you are looking for a genuinely challenging career and not just a job, this is the company for you. Our philosophy is to promote from within, so the possibilities are endless for the right candidates.

Email your CV, with photo if possible, to: siri@oceanestates.com

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Corporate Headquarters • Avenida Julio Iglesias 3 • Puerto Banus • 29660 Marbella • Málaga • Spain

SWISS PALM BEACH RESORT PATONG

Urgently requires:

- 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, 01-836-5413.

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 and all food when on board. Contact email: barrycager1@yahoo.co.uk

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 attitude. Attractive remuneration package for the right candidate. Contact K. Oy for further information. Tel: 076-281588. Email: chitrada-phuket@peerapatholding.com

URGENTLY REQUIRED!

We are looking for a female with a good command of spoken and written English, Computer literacy, service-minded, flexible etc. to be a Junior Secretary and Receptionist for our Management Office. New graduates are welcome. Interested applicants please send your details and resume or contact us at Tel: 076-333251. Fax: 076-333254. Email: logistics@katamanda.com

HUMAN RESOURCES

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, incl: 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 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. Please contact. 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

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.

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. Tel: 076-236616. Email: siwaporn@hotel-travel-asia.com

Island Job Mart

We are international property consultants with over 200 offices worldwide, property agency service, asset valuation, property and facilities management, research and consultancy, due to a rapid expansion, we are looking for qualified personnel to join our company as follow:

Knight Frank

Estate Manager:

- Age over 28 yr
- BA in management or related fields
- At least 2 yr experience in building/estate management level or 3 yr in management level
- Knowledge in Juristic Person Acts is an advantage
- Strong leadership, good problem-solving skill and able to work under pressure

Chief Engineer:

- Male, age over 25 yr
- BA in Electrical or Mechanical Engineering
- At least 2 yr experience in building services
- Knowledge of systems maintenance management is an advantage

Project Coordinator:

- Age over 22 yr
- BA in related fields
- Self motivated and possess good coordinating and problem solving skills with service-mind

Administrator:

- Age over 22 yr
- BA in related fields
- Basic computer and office automation skills
- Good interpersonal skill, detailed, service-minded and well-organized

Technician:

- Male, age over 25 yr
- Vocational or higher in Mechanical/Electrical
- At least 1 yr experience in system maintenance

Remark:

- Thai national only
- Position 1-4 a good command of spoken and written English and computer literacy is essential
- Male applicants must complete or exempt from military service
- Knowledge of Real Estate is an advantage

Interested candidates are invited to write in with full resumé, stating present and expected salaries, and enclosing a recent photo mail to:

Knight Frank Phuket Co., Ltd.

1 Plaza Del Mar Building Room No. 109-111 and 201-202, Pasak-Koktanod Road, T. Chermgtalay, A. Thalang, Phuket 83110
Tel: 0-7631-8151-58 Ext. 102 Fax: 0-7631-8159-60 Email: chutima.ninlawan@th.knightfrank.com

KITCHEN/ BEDROOM FITTER

Must be reliable and experienced with own transport & tool kit. Call Alan. Tel: 04-8473304. Email: select-kitchens@hotmail.com

CASUAL BOAT-BOY

We require the services of a casual hire boat-boy. Good command of English and a knowledge of boats need. Call Simpson Marine. Tel: 076-239768.

JOB WANTED

Any position wanted by 50 year old. 6 languages, 6 years' sales and 15 years' entertainment experience. Tel: 05-7839062. Email: docucolumns@hotmail.com

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Only 1 year old. Plus 80 DVDs. 8,000 baht. Tel: 05-7839062.

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Epiphone Sheraton 22,000; Takamine 11,000 + F/ case 2,000; Squire Strat 7,500 EX1,500. Please call. Tel: 01-5379196.

Bulletins

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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

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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

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

HOTEL FOR LEASE

100 metres from Patong beach. 22 rooms superb condition. Excellent repeat business. A one-of-a-kind business. Same owner for 4 years, with complete books. 7-year lease. Key money is 7 million baht. Please contact. Tel: 09-7248791. Fax: 076-292-140. Email: tatummansion@hotmail.com

BAR & RESTAURANT

Bar & restaurant for sale: 1.4 million baht. 5-year lease. Tel: 05-7859850.

RESTAURANT/BAR

Best location on Nanai Road. Upmarket fit out. Urgent sale. Call Brian. Tel: 07-067-3360.

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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: chfred68@yahoo.com

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Small business, big opportunity! Recently refurbished pub & restaurant, located in Phuket City. Package includes all paperwork, visas, 2 work permits and all licenses for a smooth takeover. 400sqm, live-music stage, sound and light system, UBC TV, 3 new pool tables (incl pool room), 15 tables, 40 bar stools, 5 fridges and freezers, kitchen equipment and over 300 taxi-bikes with O'Malleys vests driving around the city! Offers considered. Available as leasehold or freehold. Tel: 09-7292846. Email: scottshaw77@lycos.co.uk

KAMALA

restaurant & bar. Famous for pizza + Texmex. 40 seats, air conditioning, equipment, stock and furniture. All for sale at 500,000 baht + rent 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 03-175-3996, 06-9451642 (Thai).

EARN 18% INTEREST

per year. No-risk guarantee. 6 million baht gives 1.08 million baht per year net profit. US\$150K gives US\$27,000 net per year. Call Mr C at Tel: 07-2670714 Capital INV.

BAR/CAFE

Modern, well appointed in Nanai Rd, ready for high season includes 2 studio units. 5 year lease: 700,000 baht. Contact. 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. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-4755752. Email: kaapoxxx@msn.com

7% NET INTEREST

Invest in shophouses and earn a nice income. 1.4 million baht per unit. Email: yvanito@yahoo.com



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:

- Beverage Manager
- Seafood & Pizza Beach Front Restaurant Manager
- Bar Manager
- F&B Public Relations
- Restaurant Supervisor / Captain
- Waiter / Waitress / Bartender
- Front Office Manager
- Guest Relations - German & English Language
- Cruise Guest Relations
- Guest Service Agent
- Reservations Manager
- Reservations Executive
- Massage Therapist
- Water Sports & Bell
- Sales & Web-Marketing Executive
- Assistant Chief Engineer
- Technician Supervisor / Officer
- Air Condition Technician
- Pump & Water Treatment Technician
- Carpenter / Painter
- Asst. Executive Housekeeper (Rooms, P.A. & Gardens)
- Laundry Supervisor
- Bungalow Attendant
- Public Area & Garden Supervisor / Attendant
- Human Resources Manager
- Emergency Room Nurse
- Quality & Talent Development Trainer
- English Teacher (Verbal Communication)
- Sous Chef
- Chef De Partie (Cold Kitchen, Butchery)
- Demi Chef De Partie (Hot Kitchen, Cold Kitchen, Thai Kitchen, Butchery, Seafood & Pizza Restaurant)
- Cook (Hot Kitchen, Butchery)
- Commis Cook (Cold Kitchen, Butchery)
- Steward
- IT Manager / Supervisor
- General Cashier
- Accounts Receivable Supervisor

Please send your CV with a color photo, current salary & expectations to hrdphi@escoms.com

Tel: (075) 620798 / 621334

www.phiphi-palmbeach.com www.phiphi-palmbeach.com/job.php

Walk-in interviews at Holiday Inn Resort Phi Phi Island-Phuket Office
On 22nd & 23rd of July from 08.30 hrs. to 18.00 hrs.

Accounting & Finance Manager

Salary:- 30,000- 35,000 Baht/month

Job Description:

- Monitoring and controlling accounting functions including all general accounting processes.
- Closing monthly accounts that meet both local regulations and overseas requirements.
- Managing internal accounting controls.
- Contacting the Revenue Department, Bank and an auditing firm.
- Preparing tax reports for submission to the Revenue Department.
- Preparing accounting reports as required.
- Monitoring account outsourcing staff

Qualification:

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