

Phuket Gazette

Volume 13 Issue 35

News Desk - Tel: 076-236555

September 2 - 8, 2006

Daily news at www.phuketgazette.net

25 Baht

The Gazette is published
in association with

The **Nation**

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Much of the most spectacular scenery in Phang Nga Bay is within national parks, leading tour operators to worry that higher entry fees would hit their businesses hard. - Photo: Tourism Authority of Thailand.

Park fees hike put back a year

By Suganya Semacote & Sompratch Saowakhon

PHUKET: The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment will postpone its planned doubling of national park entry fees by more than a year, Phuket Tourist Association (PTA) Deputy Chairman Sarayuth Mallam told the *Gazette* on August 24.

Speaking by telephone from Bangkok, K. Sarayuth explained that Natural Resources and Environment Minister Yongyuth Tiypairat has agreed to postpone the fee hike, from 200 baht to 400 baht for foreigners.

It will now come into effect on November 30 next year, he said.

Earlier this month, some 500 tour operators rallied at the Tourism Authority of Thailand Office in Phuket to demand that the fee hike be scrapped altogether, or that at least their concerns be taken into account before any price increases went into effect.

Citing the effects of similar entry fee hikes imposed in the past, the tour operators said that doubling entry fees would damage their livelihoods by causing a decline in the number of tourists visiting the parks, especially foreigners.

Entry fees for Thais were also set to double from September 15, from 20 baht to 40 baht. The two-tier pricing system,

whereby visitors to Thailand pay 10 times the fee for Thais, has itself long been an embarrassment for tour operators and others in the hospitality industry.

K. Sarayuth said he saw the postponement of the fee hikes as a partial victory only, as tour operators consider that even small increases are threatening to tourism.

Thanapong Apaiao, Chief of the Sirinath Marine National Park in Thalang, confirmed that the entry fee hikes would be postponed until November 30, 2007.

He said that although he had yet to receive official confirmation, he had been made aware of the postponement by ministry officials in Bangkok.

Beer bottles bombard cop shop

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

PHUKET CITY: A gang of teenagers, possibly angry with the police for setting up roadblocks to crack down on motorcycle gangs, launched an attack on Phuket City Police Station in the early hours of August 22, lobbing beer bottles at the building.

Pol Lt Theeradet Jiraksa told the *Gazette*, "A teenager stopped his motorcycle on the road in front of the police station and threw a beer bottle at the front of our building. It didn't do any damage, though."

"I couldn't get a clear view of him as he was a long way away, and the motorcycle he was driving had no registration plate," he added.

Later, more youths arrived and began throwing empty beer bottles at the station, but still from too far away to hit the building or any vehicles in the parking lot in front of it, Lt Theeradej said.

"I think they may have been angry with police for setting up checkpoints to arrest motorcycle gang members. But they may just have been drunk."

"There have been many incidents of teenagers fighting on [Chumphon Rd] outside the police station, but they don't usually target us. That is why I think that this time they may have been particularly angry with us."

Phuket City Police Superintendent, Pol Col Nos Svettalekha said, "Following this incident I have told my officers to be more vigilant around the police station. Incidents like this must not be allowed to recur. If we catch the offenders they will be severely punished."

"Teenagers currently cause a lot of problems for police, but we still have the same number of officers, so we have to work much harder than before."

Mystery over Chinese firm's role in Ao Phuket

PHUKET CITY: It is some two weeks after it was reported that Thai Longstay Management Corp Ltd (TLM), a private company 30% owned by the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), signed a 40-million-baht "primary contract" with a Chinese state-owned enterprise to help develop part of a long-stay project at Saphan Hin.

But locally, information is hard to come by. Phuket Vice-Governor Niran Kanlayanamitr, head of the provincial committee for the Ao Phuket project, said he knew nothing about it.

The developer, China No 17 Metallurgical Construction Corp, was reported to have inked a deal, along with five other local and international marketing agencies, to build and sell a project called "Phuket Bay International City".

However, V/Gov Niran could not confirm whether the project the Chinese developer was involved in is the same Ao Phuket project as has been on the provincial government's drawing board for the past two decades, despite the descriptions of the two projects being remarkably similar.

The original Ao Phuket project, would be built on reclaimed land off Saphan Hin and would include hotels, meeting and conference facilities, shopping areas, a marina and an "IT city" that planners hope will lure high-tech businesses from around the world.

According to a report in *The Nation*, TLM's "Phuket Bay International City" is to be a long-stay resort located within Saphan Hin, designed as a complex that would include a conference center, single-story houses, condominiums, a shopping center and a marina.

However, V/Gov Niran said that the Ao Phuket Development Board – at least to his knowledge – had yet to decide whether the project, once built, would be managed by the government or a private sector organization.

– Janyaporn Morel



Phuket Governor Udomsak Usawarangkura (right) hands over ownership of Bussabong, a monkey trained to pick coconuts, to Mardnai Kongtup from Chong Talay (blue shirt). The Governor was helping officials from the Community Development Department hand out essentials worth more than 300,000 baht to 103 poor families from around the island. The essentials included sarongs, pots and pans and even a couple of *samlor* equipped as mobile kitchens.

Lucky Complex to be science learning center

By Jenjira Ruengjarus

PHUKET CITY: The Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) has failed to secure funding for its grand plan to redevelop the area around the Lucky Complex at Saphan Hin and will instead convert the vacant six-story building into office space and a "Science Learning Center", *OrBorJor* President Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr announced at the Phuket Merlin Hotel on August 15.

"The investors, the Royal Sawasdee Co Ltd, had signed a contract to lease the Lucky Complex from the *OrBorJor* for 20 years and were willing to pay

about 500,000 baht a month," K. Anchalee said. "They signed the contract before the tsunami, and many investors and business owners were interested in joining the project. Royal Sawasdee had already restored some parts [of the complex] and they had a plan to create a duty-free plaza on the 20-rai area."

However, she added, "After the tsunami, the investors and the business owners withdrew from the project because the number of tourists dropped more and more every day," she said. "So Sawasdee Co stopped their project and have given the building back to the *OrBorJor*."

The Royal Sawasdee Co Ltd, led by President Roongroj Phamornsuan, has about 20 years' experience in retail business, including cooperations with BBC France. The original Lucky Complex project was to be di-

vided into three parts: a retail store area; an export goods area run by the One Tambon, One Product (OTOP) group; and a duty-free zone.

"The new plan is to convert the first and second floors into an IT section or an area for private businesses," she said. "We will move our offices to the third and fourth floors because we have outgrown our current offices, and the fifth and sixth floors will be the Science Learning Center," K. Anchalee explained.

"But now, we are still in the planning stages. The project is not nearly ready to start, and so far it is just an idea. The Learning Center will require a budget of about 60-70 million baht, which is more than we currently have," K. Anchalee said. "In the next few years I expect that everything will be finished with a budget of about 100 million baht," she added.

Police still looking for abductor

CHALONG: Police are still searching for the second man allegedly involved in the abduction of Jitra Soonsud, 35, who was found handcuffed and drugged in a house in the Phuket Country Home estate, on Chao Fa East Rd, on May 29.

"We know who he is and we have a warrant for his arrest, but I don't want to reveal any more details at this moment," Pol Lt Col Jessada Sangsuee of Chalong Police Station told the *Gazette*.

The man is believed to be from Nakhon Sri Thammarat. K. Jitra, an independent real estate broker, alleges that on May 29 she went to the home of Sassiri Klinhom, a government official from Surat Thani Province with whom she was involved in a property deal that had turned sour.

K. Jitra told police that Sassiri and another man dragged her inside the house and then forced her to swallow several pills and sign a document.

They also took 105,000 baht from her, along with her car, which was later found abandoned but undamaged.

Sassiri, Assistant Registrar at the Kian Sa District Office in Surat Thani, presented himself on June 1 to Chalong Police Station to deny charges of extortion and causing bodily harm. He was released on bail of 150,000 baht.

Col Jessada said, "K. Sassiri has told us nothing. He wants to talk about it only in court."

US consular services in Phuket

KARON: Officials from the Consular Section of the American Embassy in Bangkok will visit Phuket on September 15 to provide consular services to US citizens.

The following services will be available from 8 am until noon in the Similan Room of the Phuket Hilton Arcadia Resort & Spa:

- Passport renewals (US\$67 or 2,680 baht for adult passports);
- Insertion of additional passport pages (no charge);
- (Note: Bring a photocopy of your passport photo page for all passport renewal applications and requests for extra pages.)
- Notarial services (US\$30 or 1,200 baht for the first notarial; US\$20 or 800 baht for each additional notarial);
- Embassy registration and/or address change;
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All applicants are asked to bring the exact fee for the services required. For more information, call the American Citizen Services Unit at Tel: 02-2054049 or Email: acsbkk@state.gov

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Dive industry rules published

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET CITY: The Phuket provincial authorities have released details of new dive industry regulations that came into effect on August 25, when they were signed by Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura.

A draft of the regulations had been under review for the previous two weeks by Phuket Provincial Chief Public Prosecutor Bathoon Thongton.

The Governor wanted to wait until this review was complete before putting his name to the document.

The new regulations consist of three parts. The first is the announcement ordering dive operators to comply with the new regulations and citing the laws backing the regulations. The an-

nouncement also stipulates that organizers of "boat races and speedboat races" must obtain permission to hold races.

The second part sets out the procedure dive operators must follow in order to register, while the third is the registration form itself.

As announced previously, dive operators must present, along with the registration form, the company's registration documents and tax information, the work permits of foreign staff, all boat registration documents including the names of captains and crew members, records of salaries and wages, and details of any related website, the company's payment systems, diving courses and students.

Dive businesses that are granted permission to operate

from the province will also have to submit monthly reports giving details of income, current staff and dive trips made.

Businesses that fail to submit reports, or which are deemed to have submitted inadequate reports, will risk losing their permission to operate.

One major addition to earlier versions of the regulations is that dive operators must also state officially which dive sites they use and update this information whenever there are changes.

All dive operators are required to register at the Phuket Marine Office by September 30 this year.

Copies of the new regulations and related documents may be downloaded from the Gazette Online, at www.phuketgazette.net/news/index.asp?id=5192



Phuket City Municipality and the Phuket Education Service Area Office staged a Good Manners competition for students of all ages from kindergarten to high school on August 29.

Competing students had to demonstrate how to *wai*, how to stand when talking to an adult, receive something from an elder person or give something to an elder, walk on the knees past an elder, walk past a standing elder, sit politely on the floor, prostrate oneself to worship the Lord Buddha, bow or curtsy, and receive a gift from royalty.

Body of missing tourist found

PHANG NGA: The body of Scottish tourist Shenaz Kapoor, who had been missing since a white-water rafting accident on August 15, was found near the Song Phraek waterfall in Phang Nga on August 24.

A British consular official confirmed that Miss Kapoor's body had been formally identified and repatriated to Scotland for a funeral service.

Her body, found caught under a rock in shallow water, was discovered in the Baan Mae

Nang area by a police sniffer dog team.

Pol Lt Col Worawit Yama-ree told the *Gazette*, "We identified the body using medical and dental records that were passed on to us by the British Embassy. Miss Kapoor had a distinctive birthmark on her right shoulder that we were able to use to identify the body."

"Her family in the UK have now confirmed to the British Embassy that the body is that of Miss Kapoor," he added.

OrBorJor signs up 7th school

PHUKET CITY: The Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) has added a seventh school to its portfolio in its drive to promote educational excellence in Phuket.

At a ceremony at The Metropole hotel on August 23, *OrBorJor* President Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Baan Nabon School, whereby the *OrBorJor* will help the school to build on its record of success in teaching science, mathematics and information technology (IT).

The other six schools that have already signed MOUs are Muang Phuket and Talad Neua (strong in science and math),

Baan Maireab and Kathu Wittaya (English), Thalang Pranang-sang (English and IT) and Chong Talay (balanced curriculum).

The *OrBorJor* spent more than 30 million baht in 2005 on recruiting 333 teachers. This year its budget is 20 million baht for 233 teachers, and it has allocated a further 22.5 million baht to hire the same number of teachers next year.

The *OrBorJor* has also provided 14,569 exercise books, textbooks and teachers' manuals to 61 of Phuket's 64 government schools, including the seven that have signed MOUs, as they had shortages of books.

— *Jenjira Ruengjarus*

City to get new slaughterhouse

PHUKET CITY: Phuket City Municipality has announced plans to build a new high-standard pig slaughterhouse to replace the current one near Ruam Phun Pol Bridge.

Chaiyapreuk Phanpreuk, Deputy Mayor of Phuket City, said that the move is necessary because the Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*), which owns the land where the current slaughterhouse is, had informed him that the lease will not be renewed when it expires at the end of 2007. The *OrBorJor* has other plans for the land, he said.

The new slaughterhouse will be built on a three-rai plot behind the Phuket Incinerator on Rattanakosin 200 Phi Rd. Work is slated to start early next year and should take about a year.

"The slaughterhouse we

are using now is too small and outdated. The method used to kill pigs is still the old system of hitting them over the head and then hosing them down with hot water," K. Chaiyapreuk said. "This is not as hygienic as modern methods."

He explained that, in the new slaughterhouse, a machine will be installed that can administer an electric shock to stun the animals before an automatic knife slits their throats.

"The new slaughterhouse will be next to the incinerator. This is very convenient for disposing of carcasses. The new facility will be cleaned out daily with high-powered water hoses," he said, "and the building will be sealed against rats and other animals. The consumer will get a 100% guarantee of safety."

The new slaughterhouse should be able to kill more than 300 pigs a day.

"If we have a modern slaughterhouse we may be able to increase the market for locally-made pork products. At present, high-end resorts buy pork from outside the province," K. Chaiyapreuk said. "We may also consider building a factory to produce Chinese sausages."

The slaughterhouse is expected to cost around 60 million baht. It has not yet been decided whether it will be privately funded or paid for by the Municipality, or using a combination of municipal and private funds.

After the new facility opens, the Provincial Livestock Office will cancel all permits for slaughtering pigs elsewhere in Phuket.

— *Sangkhae Leelanaporn*

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Sixteen police CCTV cameras should be up and running in Patong by November 1 as part of the first phase of a police project to boost security in popular tourist areas. Phase 1 will cost 16 million baht and take 180 days to complete. Work will include installation of 48 TV cameras – 16 each in Patong, Kata-Karon and Phuket City – with monitoring centers in the three police stations responsible for those areas: Kathu, Chalong and Phuket City.

Here the *Gazette's* Janyaporn Morel investigates what the CCTV system entails and what it means to local law enforcement.

For Pol Col Phuwadol Vudduccanok, Deputy Commander of Phuket Provincial Police, the reason for installing the police CCTV network is simple.

"The CCTV is necessary for Phuket because Phuket is a big tourism destination, with some 4 million tourists bringing about 70-100 billion baht into the country annually," he explained.

"We expect CCTV to help prevent crime. Once we have cameras set up around the island, crime statistics will fall.

"Even when crimes do occur, we can use the CCTV to aid in investigations. The chance of recording a crime in action and responding immediately is not high, but it's also useful for that.

"We expect cameras to be up and running at Patong Beach by November 1, and the other areas – Kata-Karon and Phuket City – will follow after that," he said.

Col Phuwadol explained that the 48 cameras are just the first phase of a much larger project. He expects more surveillance cameras to be hooked up at the offices of local government agencies, such as Tambon Administration Organizations (*Or-BorTor*), and private sector organizations, such as hotels, shops and banks.

"The CCTV technology we will use is not new technology, but it's a new concept for Phuket. We are investing 16 million baht for 48 cameras, but we don't expect the system to stop there. This project will set up the backbone.

After that we will expand the system by inviting the private sector to join. We will eventually have many hundreds of cameras, which will be good for everyone," he said.

"We will be linked by fiber-optic cables, which are stable and very efficient. We will be using fiber-optic cable for at least 10 years, because there will be no new technology to replace it," he said.

He downplayed concerns that the project may itself fall prey to criminal elements stealing the cabling. "Fiber optic cable is also not so expensive now, which makes it less attractive to thieves," he said.

Once installed, the cameras will record and send images to command centers at local police stations, where police will monitor the images on three 60-inch LCD monitors that can display the footage from as many as six cameras simultaneously.

In addition, footage from all 48 cameras will be relayed to a command center set up at Phuket Provincial Police headquarters in Phuket City so that officers there

can monitor activity on eight large, high-tech monitors.

"Each police station will be responsible for monitoring their own areas, but all the footage will be relayed [from the local police station] to the command center in the city, which will be manned 24 hours a day," he said.

The provincial monitoring center will respond directly only to crimes committed within Phuket City. Response to crimes or emergencies in the other areas will be coordinated with the relevant agencies in those locations, he added.

To ensure uninterrupted monitoring ability, each camera will be fitted with an uninterrupted power supply (UPS) unit in case of power outages. All footage will be backed up and stored for later reference.

Karon Municipality have requested

that a monitoring room be set up at the Municipality's new offices [which are currently under construction] and this can be done. In the future, we will have 'Karon Police Station', but for now the command center for that area will be at Chalong Police Station.

"Patong Municipality can also have monitors set up at their offices. But the response centers will be at the police stations. Rawai and Chalong Pier will be included in the next phase of the project," he said.

The project is the first in Thailand to use CAT Telecom's "CAT IT Security" service, which uses high-speed, wireless CDMA2000 1X EV-DO technology, which is compatible with most wireless devices.

Although the cameras in Phuket will be relaying images through fiber-optic cables, Saeta-



'We expect CCTV to help prevent crime. Once we have cameras set up around the island, crime statistics will fall.'

– Pol Col Phuwadol Vudduccanok, Deputy Commander of Phuket Provincial Police

WE'RE



sira Sintuwongsanondh, Strategic Marketing Planner for the CAT IT Security project, explained that the cameras will also have built-in wireless capability using CDMA2000.

"CDMA2000-1X EV-DO is a mobile telecommunication system, so we will be able to access the cameras – or even the Internet – through a laptop with a CDMA 'air card'. Another po-

tential use is for police cars to be equipped with Wi-Fi enabled laptops, so that patrol officers can access the camera footage as well."

"We will use fiber-optic cables to hook up the CCTV project in Phuket, but police will later also have the option of connecting to the cameras – or to the Internet through the cameras – using wireless CDMA," he said.

The private sector, if they want, can be linked to the system, he added.

However, the network will not be used to set up Phuket's first public-access Wi-Fi or WAP network, K. Saetasira confirmed.

In the West, one of the main arguments against police CCTV public-monitoring systems being set up is that they invoke an Orwellian image, creating fear among the public that their every

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WATCHING YOU



Above: Coming to a street corner near you – Phuket is following the West in installing CCTV in a bid to cut crime. Left: Patong's aura of sinful excitement draws big crowds of tourists – and thieves to fleece them.

this violates human rights, we have to first consider the objective. If the objective of installing the CCTV network is simply to prevent crime and to protect normal people, then it's very useful.

"But in any criminal case, police should complete their case first before releasing footage to the media. If the suspect has not yet been found guilty, police should not release the footage to the public," he said.

"I think the CCTV security system is good and it is important for a tourism province such as Phuket. As we can see now, the number of offenses against property in Phuket is high and the trend is increasing, because where business is good, criminals often come to take advantage of people.

"And there always remains the difficulty in preventing crime," K. Banthoon added.

To that end, Col Phuwadol is looking forward to seeing an explosion in the number of CCTV cameras hooked up to the network. "New businesses that do not have CCTV for security can ask the CAT to hook them up. Businesses that already have CCTV can ask the CAT – or

another IT or telecommunications company – to check whether their current CCTV system can be linked with ours.

"Many hotels have expressed interested in connecting to the system. Somchai Pikulthong, President of the Banks of Phuket Association, said that the banks [in Phuket] will join the network," Col Phuwadol said.

"We also plan to invite private estates that already have CCTV security systems to join the network. The *OrBorTor*, once they realize the benefits of the system, will be able to take part in areas they administer," he added.

Col Phuwadol has also proposed using the system as part of a wider police communications network. "We could use it for video conferencing and exchanging information with police in other provinces," he said.

Hooking the system up to the local Office for Disaster Mitigation and Prevention and using CCTV cameras for traffic regulation were other options, he added.

"If we have CCTV all over the island, there will be less crime," he concluded.

movement will be tracked and scrutinized by the state.

Many people have argued that while there is nothing wrong with such a system in theory. The real problems arise when access

to the footage – and decisions about how it will be used – fall to the discretion of unjust or unscrupulous officials.

Phuket Provincial Chief Public Prosecutor Banthoon

Thongton agrees that there is a potential for problems, especially in criminal cases where footage is released to the media too early.

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Queer News

I think I'll go visit my sister. You wanna come?

Three boys are now safely back at home after a four-day bicycle adventure across Roi-Et Province.

The mini-biker gang set off from the home of gang leader Tawee Senput-tawong, 13, in the Kasetwisai District of the province with the aim of visiting his sister who is incarcerated on theft charges in a Juvenile Observation and Protection Center in Roi-Et Town.

On August 18, young Tawee led his two younger accomplices, Tontrakan Phosrirat, 10, and Phongphet Thaonoo, 9, out on two old bicycles. The boys took turns pedaling and balancing on the back for the 70-kilometer journey.

When they reached the town Tawee became confused by the unfamiliar streets and found he could not remember where the detention center was. The boys therefore decided to pedal around the town in an attempt to find it.

When they could pedal no more, they stopped at a sala for the night. They remained there for two days before a park security guard finally noticed them and kicked them out. Soon after, the boys, now exhausted and very grubby, were stopped by a police officer.

After talking with the boys the officer discovered that they had been reported missing and took them to Roi-Et Town Police Station. They recounted their tale to the police officers there.

The officers, taking pity on them, treated them to a meal and held a collection to raise money for them. In total they collected over 500 baht, most of it coming from Pol Sen Sgt Maj Naphrat Supratri who had won money in a recent lottery.

The police then contacted the boys' parents and told them to come pick them up. Tawee's and Tontrakan's parents said the boys might have to wait a bit; they had no money for the bus fare and would have to try to borrow it from neighbors.

In the meantime, Tawee and Tontrakan told Phongphet that they were going out to buy food and would be back soon. After a few hours the two boys had still not returned, so police sent out a team to look for them. They could find no trace. Phongphet was collected by his parents.

The search was called off when the boys turned up at school the following day, having cycled the 70km back home.

After the story was released, reporters went to interview the object of the boys' quest, Tawee's 15-year-old sister.

She said that this wasn't the first time her brother had done something like this.

Two weeks earlier he had turned up at the center in the middle of the night after cycling all the way to see her.

She said that three years before, when Tawee was 10, he had cycled all the way to Nakhon Ratchasima where she had been working, a distance of about 300 kilometers.

She explained that she and her brother were very close and she was the only person Tawee would listen to. When she was living at home she would take care of her brother as the family was very poor and their parents were busy working, she said.

Source: Kom Chad Luek



One of the prettiest beaches on Phuket's shore is Ya Nui Beach, in Tambon Rawai. Sadly, no one has

seen fit to clean up the garbage brought in by the weather, resulting in the mess pictured above.

TRASHING Phuket



Seen a nasty informal dump in your neighborhood? Send us a picture, to dump@phuketgazette.net

WARNING: SELLING ALCOHOL TO PERSONS UNDER 18 YEARS OLD IS ILLEGAL

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



By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

Mention the word “jelly” and some people think of the squiggly blob of bright green substance they loved to eat when they were children.

But for 25-year-old Natacha “Nut” Mayong, jelly is far more than strangely-textured confection – it’s an outlet for her creativity and a means of expression. K. Nut is an artist, and gelatin is her chosen medium.

Originally from Chumphon province, K Nut started selling her creations in the food court on the second floor of the Tesco-Lotus supercenter about a year ago.

He kiosk is called *Woon Khun Nut* in Thai – *woon* is the Thai word for jelly or gelatin – and also bears a sign in English that reads, “Jelly Fruit Juice”.

K. Nut said that she became interested in gelatin desserts after attending a fair in Bangkok, where one of the food vendors had an impressive array of gelatins on sale.

Having long been interested in cooking – and dessert-making in particular – K. Nut asked the owners whether they held classes to teach the tricks of the jelly-making trade.

MOLDS

As it happened, they did. So after a 10-day crash course, K. Nut returned to Phuket. A year passed, with K. Nut working hard every day to perfect her technique and acquire new jelly molds, of which she has now amassed more than a thousand – many of them imported.

These include shapes such as hearts, flowers, bears, Christmas trees, fish, dinosaurs, dolphins, ducks and roses – to name but a few.

With so many possibilities, K. Nut suspected that there might be a niche market for cute, colorful gelatin cakes and confections in Phuket, so she opened her shop at Tesco-Lotus. Her company delivers within Phuket City, sending “gelatin cakes” to customers’ homes or hotels, where they are often the centerpiece of surprise parties.

These often bear such tidings as “Happy Birthday” or “I Love You”, which K. Nut spells out using her special molds, of which she has all 26 English-language letters and a good number of Chinese characters as well.

JELLY DELI



Natacha ‘Nut’ Mayong has more than 1,000 jelly molds.

K. Nut is constantly looking for new ways to bring new taste sensations into the gelatinous realm. “I love to find new ingredients. Whenever I eat, I always wonder if I could adapt the taste of the food in my mouth to gelatin,” she said.

Even though gelatin is usually produced from collagen extracted from skin, bones, cartilage, ligaments and other animal tissues, that fact did not stop K. Nut from taking part in last year’s Vegetarian Festival.

Using a special formula that she says is 100% vegetarian, K. Nut’s creations turned heads at last year’s festival, during which they sold well at Jui Tui Shrine.

FAVORITES

“It was quite successful because the gelatins were attractive and quite different from the regular vegetarian fare,” she said.

The most popular flavors are *kati* (coconut milk), chocolate, coffee and various fruit juices, she said. Among the flavors she has recently added to meet customers’ requests are jackfruit, lychee, taro, and corn.

To make the necessary colorings, K. Nut uses fruit juices and colored flavoring syrups, as

back for more when they realize that the flavors are more complex and far less sweet than they had expected.

Although she employs four staff, K. Nut always does the tricky parts herself. These include blending the ingredients, cooking and placing the heated liquid into the gelatin molds, where they cool.

“I worry that the taste will change if I don’t make it by myself, but I do let my workers help in other ways, such as by removing the gelatin from the mold after it has cooled,” she added.

Working with gelatin is harder than many people think, she said. “It’s tricky to get the consistency just right: not too firm or so weak that it becomes watery – especially when dealing with so many different flavorings and colorings”, she said.

Also, removing the gelatins from the mold carelessly can result in hours of painstaking work being wasted, she said.

“It takes about five hours to make one layered gelatin cake, because each layer needs to be

added separately and allowed to cool before the next can be applied,” she said.

Although she already has an impressive variety of molds, K. Nut is always on the lookout for new ones. She is also happy to complete orders using any molds that customers supply her with in order to fill special orders.

The cost of K. Nut’s congealed creations start from as little as two baht a piece, and range to as much as 270 baht a pound (453 grams) for an intricately decorated jelly “cake”.

For those with the required patience, K. Nut plans to offer classes in how to make gelatin confections in the future.

“This business makes me happy because I get to create new designs all the time,” she said.

Jelly Fruit Juice delivers within Phuket City. Special orders should be placed at least one day in advance. For more information, visit the shop or call K. Nut at Tel: 06-2785838 or 06-6915959.



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Patong Harbor



FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND

By Barry Singleton

According to an 18-month study funded by the European Community and Association of Southeast Asian Nations Energy Facility, Koh Samui will soon run desperately short of the water and electricity needed to develop and grow in coming years.

Kecha Thirakomen, Project Director of the Feasibility Study for the Sustainable Development of Samui Island, earlier this month said the situation needs critical attention because the island will be able to meet demand for only another two to three years.

As Samui continues to develop and grow, ever-greater demands are being placed on its resources. The study also points out that the island is still served by a modest electricity substation and lacks the water-storage facilities needed to guarantee consistent public supply.

The research team suggested a number of solutions to these concerns, some based on existing local resources.

In terms of sustainable power, solar energy and wave-generated power were recommended. Coconut husks were also



The current power supply on Samui, delivered through tangles of cables like the one pictured above, will be able to meet demand only for the next two to three years, say experts.

Koh Samui facing resources shortage

mentioned as potential fuel for an island power station.

Regarding water supply, researchers recommended that the authorities first extend the capacity of existing reservoirs, such as the one located in Chaweng, by a total of by 2.5 million

cubic meters. It also says new basins must be built in order to avoid future droughts.

The findings come at a time when Samui is facing important questions regarding its future. Many local residents hope the recommendations will provide guidelines for a more sustainable approach to development.

Regional roundup: On August 23, the Tourism Authority of Thailand hosted a special travel exhibition on Koh Samui to encourage greater co-operation between Thai and Indonesian tourism companies.

The aims of the exhibition were to bring together buyers and

sellers from various sectors of the industry and encourage exchange and co-operation between them through the creation of regional tourism packages and combination tour programs that could be offered to international visitors.

Thirty Indonesian companies were represented at the event, which took place at the Samui Palm Beach Resort in Bophut.

Raising a stink: Several hotels in Chaweng experienced problems during the recent high season when local officials ordered the Public Works Department to block sewage outlets that were

found to be polluting public areas.

Surinya Yunan, Assistant to the Samui Mayor, ordered the action. After several failed attempts to stop hotels and resorts allowing untreated waste to drain into the sea and nearby Chaweng Lake, which is part of the public water supply.

In addition to blocking the outlets, K. Surinya said that he also created a blacklist of hotels that were breaking Samui's environmental codes.

Hotels that do not introduce adequate sewage treatment equipment or find alternative ways to dispose of their wastewater risk losing their accommodation licenses, he said.

Tesco-Lotus, Samui's largest retail outlet, is also under scrutiny. Samui officials are concerned that waste from the shopping complex is being disposed of on public land. K. Surinya said that if this proves to be the case, the company will face heavy penalties.

Wicked weevils: Environmental experts from the Department of Agriculture recently announced that Koh Samui's palm trees are no longer threatened by an infestation of leaf-eating beetles, known as *Brontispa longissima* that began around three years ago.

Small "Ten Bien" wasps, formally named *Asecodes hispinarum*, were imported from Vietnam to feed on the beetles' larvae, saving the trees. However, according to local farmers, there are still dangerously high numbers of Red Palm Weevils on the island. Potentially even more destructive, the weevils, also known as *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus*, can bore deep into the trunk of the coconut tree, becoming difficult to detect.

The Ten Bien wasps are sadly ineffective against the Red Palm Weevil, which often kills trees outright. The weevils are best controlled by the regular application of pesticides, poured directly on to the larvae.

Funds are now being sought by the local government to rid the island of this newest pest. If left to spread, the Red Palm Weevil could destroy much of the island's remaining coconut plantations.

Tax haul: The Surat Thani Revenue Office recently released its mid-year tax figures for the province, which include tax revenue from the islands of Koh Samui, Koh Phang Ngan and Koh Tao.

Between October 2005 and June 2006, the tax office collected a total of 3.7 billion baht, up 5% from the same period for the previous year. Of the total, around 2.5 billion baht came from personal income tax, an increase of 32%.

Officials attributed the increase in collected taxes to better efficiency by tax office staff. However, community leaders expressed concern that the money would not be fairly allocated to improve amenities and services for local people.

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B2bn allocated to four-year drive to boost English skills

The caretaker Cabinet has approved a 2-billion-baht budget for a large-scale project to provide intensive English teaching in both schools and tutorial classes.

The project is aimed at upgrading the standard of English competency among Thai people to an international level.

Headed by caretaker Deputy Prime Minister Surakiart Sathirathai, the project will begin this year and run until 2010.

The three target groups are: high-school and university students, who are expected to improve their skills by 50%; students with special qualifications or talents, who are expected to master advanced usage of English; and at least 60,000 members of the workforce.

At the same time, the Cabinet also approved a further 529 million baht for additional Mandarin teaching during the same period to ensure all 12th-graders undergo Chinese-language study.

Simple solution: Excessive coverage of violence in the media could lead to a generation that considers rapes, murders, assaults and robberies commonplace, said activist Taenkhun Jitissara, head of the "One Family, One Grateful Child" project.

Speaking at a seminar organized by the Culture Ministry in Petchaburi Province, the activist called for urgent action from parents, saying they should "provide children with a warm family and have lots of time to talk to each other", lest they fall prey to the violent messages directed at them by the media.

Taenkhun encouraged children to hug and *wai* their parents every day and embrace His Majesty the King's "sufficiency economy" theory in their daily lives.

The project, which thus far has attracted more than 100,000 young participants, is slated to go to violence-torn Pattani next month to promote the project there.

Heavenly body count: The Office of Basic Education Commission (Obec) will not immediately revise the content of its textbooks regarding the decision of the International Astronomical Union (IAU) to downgrade Pluto to a "dwarf planet", an Obec official said.

The Institute for the Promotion of Teaching Science and Technology will have to study the matter first, said Obec Deputy Secretary-General Areerat Watanasin.

If it is deemed fit to revise the content in accordance with IAU's decision, the institute would then discuss the changes with the Obec and an expert committee, she said.

Candid camera: Following the Internet posting of photos of a young woman using a public restroom in Bangkok's Siam Square, police have warned women to be more careful when using public toilets and dressing rooms.

Wisut Wantibut, deputy head of the Crime Against Children, Juveniles and Women Suppression Division, advised women to look out for tiny devices that might be hidden in toilets and dressing rooms in spas, fitness centers and shopping centers.

"Don't expose too much of your body and please don't think you can do absolutely anything at all when you are alone," he said.

It would be better if the state imposed sales restrictions on tiny digital cameras rather than waiting for them to be misused and trying to catch those responsible, he said.

The maximum penalty for anyone caught committing such a crime is a three-year prison sentence, he added.

Off streets, into debt: Social activists criticized authorities in Chiang Mai for failing to provide garland sellers with interim assistance after taking them off the streets in the run-up to the Royal Flora Ratchaphruek 2006 horticultural exhibition, which begins on November 1 and ends on January 31.

A female activist, who asked not to be named, said the garland sellers, mostly children, were already facing economic difficulties and would have to endure hardship for another six months.

She said money from selling garlands at intersections was a major source of income for more than 80 poor families who had done it for more than 10 years. Most fathers in these families were laborers or construction workers, while the mothers had no other jobs, she said.

Running a fowl: The Ministry of Public Health's Medical Sciences Department unveiled two new mobile laboratories in an effort to cope with rising demand for advanced laboratory facilities in remote areas hit by bird flu, said Department Director-General Dr Pajit Warachit.



Famous former Muay Thai champion Tawee "Iron Wheel Put" Phipakul (left) told journalists who tracked him down about his new business selling pork with yellow rice in Trang Town, where he operates a vending stall with his youngest son, Kittipan (right).

One of the vans was sent to Phichit, where the demand for bird-flu tests is particularly high. The other is going to be kept on standby at the department. Each of the units is equipped with its own generator and is worth 15 million baht.

The laboratories are almost as well-equipped as the bird-flu

testing unit at the department offices, Dr Warachit said, and, unlike the department's 12 provincial branch laboratories, they are capable of conducting tests using real-time polymerase chain reaction, reducing by half the time needed to confirm a case of human bird-flu infection.

The 12 laboratories' con-

ventional PCR test takes about eight hours to garner results, but the real-time PCR shortens the test time to between three and four hours, he said.

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



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Thai captives escape Aceh pirates

Three Thai fishing-boat captains kidnapped by pirates from Aceh in July have escaped their captors and safe are in the hands of the Indonesian authorities.

The three men, Muthalem Matlem, Rawhim Ali and Bunlert Phrommun, all natives of Songkhla, were seized on July 25 and held on the Indonesian island of Sumatra.

The pirates initially demanded a ransom of 1.2 million baht for the safe return of the three men.

After the intervention of the Thai Embassy in Jakarta, a ransom of 300,000 baht per person was agreed upon.

The owners of the three boats on which the men served then transferred the money into an Indonesian bank account.

Before the captives were released, however, Indonesian police swooped, arresting Indonesian citizen Aslee Marujah when he attempted to withdraw the money.

The police then sent a 100-strong force to raid a suspected pirate hide-out in Langsa, Aceh. No trace of the Thai hostages or their captors was found.

Independently of the police action, however, the Thai fishermen had managed to escape from the house where they were being held in Medan. Locals helped them get to the police.

At the time of going to press the men were still in the care of the Indonesian authorities, but were expected to travel back to Thailand shortly, via Penang in Malaysia.



Boys in Pattani beat the heat by diving into a river.

Sting stung? A police sergeant in Satun has been arrested on suspicion of selling guns.

Police were alerted to the alleged crime when staff at Satun Post Office reported that Pol Sgt Suriyan Matthing, 36, had been receiving suspicious packages. Post office staff said that Sgt Suriyan had received more than 20 packages since June this year. Each package had a stated value of around 20,000 baht.

On August 23, the Commander of Satun Provincial Police, Pol Maj Gen Thonjareon Suwanno, sent a special unit to intercept the sergeant, after receiving information that he was due to pick up another package.

After Suriyan signed for his delivery, officers swooped and demanded to see the contents of the package. Inside they found a police-issue .38 pistol.

Sgt Suriyan gave a statement saying that formerly he had been a Squad Leader at Raman District Police Station in Yala Province, but since last year had been assisting the Department of Special Investigations in Satun.

He also admitted that he ordered the guns with the intention of selling them on to customers in the South.

Gen Thonjareon said that Suriyan had a list of all the people

who had bought guns from him and officers were now working to track them down. He added that he was particularly concerned that the guns may have ended up in the hands of people involved in the insurgency raging in three Southern border provinces.

The General added that police were also investigating the source of the police-issue weapons.

Booze cruise busted: Three men were arrested in a joint operation by Satun Customs officers and the Royal Thai Navy for attempting to smuggle foreign wine and liquor into the country.

Officers boarded the *Chok Dee Tammalang 2* close to Koh Doi Yai. On board they discovered 1,920 bottles of wine and spirits on which duty had not been paid.

Dog fight: Police in Nakhon Sri Thammarat are hunting for a fellow officer after a man was shot twice in the head during an argument over a dog. The victim, truck driver Somphop Saejeam, was left in critical condition.

The shooting was reported to Pol Lt Col Thammanoon Faijoo, Deputy Superintendent, Nakhon Sri Thammarat City Po-

lice Station, on August 21. Officers rushed to the scene, but the perpetrator had already fled.

K. Somphop's wife, Wanna Bandon, told police that the argument started after a neighbor, whom she knew only as Sgt Maj Od, clipped her favorite dog with his vehicle.

She told her husband, who decided to go over to Od's house to confront him over the incident and demand that he drive more carefully in future.

K. Wanna said, "Sgt Maj Od shouted that we should go and live somewhere else. This was the start of a violent argument. Sgt Maj Od kicked Somphop and he fell to the ground, entangled with his motorcycle."

"Then Sgt Maj Od pulled out his gun and shot Somphop twice. Then he got in his Toyota pickup and drove off."

It was reported that police now know the full name of Sgt Maj Od, and that he works in crime suppression. At the time of going to press, however, he had still not been found.

Blood bath: A fighting-cock expert was shot dead at close range while he was bathing outside his lover's house in Bang Khan District, Nakhon Sri Thammarat, on the morning of August 18.

The victim, Sophon Kaewtaewa, 42, was washing himself after feeding his fighting cocks, which he kept at the house of his minor wife, Nisa Bamrung, 35.

Sorn Petseengern, a neighbor, pulled up on a Honda Wave motorcycle, parked in front of the house, walked into the yard of Nisa's house and shot Sophon five times at point-blank range in the chest and throat with a 9mm pistol.

He then got back on his bike and drove away.

K. Nisa told police that, before the shooting, Sophon had walked over from his major wife's house to feed his fighting cocks. The gunman, Sorn, was also a fighting-cock expert and had been engaged in a long-running dispute with Sophon over gambling on fights.

At the time of the killing, Sorn was apparently drunk after coming back from a funeral in a neighboring village and had decided to settle the argument once and for all, she said.

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

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Norwegian Meatballs with Stewed Cabbage

Serves 2 people

Ingredients:

500g ground beef;
½ medium onion, chopped small;
20g flour;
3 beaten eggs;
Black pepper and salt to taste;
2 teaspoons Aroma sauce.

For the stewed cabbage:

1½ cups medium-chopped white cabbage;
1 tablespoon butter;
1 cup milk;
2 tablespoons medium-chopped onion;
1 cup cranberry jelly;
1 cup brown sauce prepared from packet mix.

Method:

Mix all the ingredients for the meatballs in a large bowl.

Form four balls and then fry them on medium heat for about 10 minutes, or until they are cooked.

To prepare the stewed cabbage, put all the ingredients into a pan and heat slowly.

Simmer for about 10 minutes, adding more milk or water if necessary.



VIKING DELIGHTS

You can also add ground nutmeg to the stewed cabbage.

Cranberry jelly, brown sauce and boiled potatoes are tra-

ditionally served with this meal. Terje says that the main differences between Norwegian and Swedish meatballs are that the

meat used in the Norwegian meatballs is more roughly ground and Norwegian meatballs are bigger.

Southern Fried Rice

Serves 2 people

Ingredients:

2 cups steamed jasmine rice;
½ cup mixed seafood;
½ pineapple, chopped small;
1 tablespoon onion, chopped small;
1 tablespoon tomato, chopped small;
1-2 tablespoons cashew nuts;
¼ small red chili, chopped finely;
2 teaspoons soy sauce;

Method:

Put 2 tablespoons vegetable oil into a wok and heat. Fry the seafood for two to three minutes, then add the vegetables, pineapple pieces and cashew nuts. Stir well. Add the soy sauce and continue frying for a couple of minutes before serving. For a special effect, serve the fried rice in a scooped-out pineapple half.



Deep-fried fish with three tastes

Serves 1-2 people

Ingredients:

1 fresh white snapper, weighing about 600g;
5 garlic cloves, chopped small;
3 medium-hot fresh red chilis, chopped small;
2 tablespoons tamarind juice;
1 tablespoon fish sauce;
½ medium-sized onion, thinly sliced;
3 tablespoons sugar.

For the topping, mix together:

1 cup finely chopped pineapple;
1 medium-hot red chili, finely chopped;
½ medium-sized onion, finely chopped;
Spring onions to decorate.

Method:

Wash the fish well. Heat enough vegetable oil in a large pan to deep fry the fish. Fry it for about five minutes, taking care not to overcook it.



In another pan mix the chopped garlic, medium-hot chilis, tamarind juice, fish sauce, sliced onion and sugar.

Heat this sauce slowly and let simmer for two to three minutes.

To serve, drain the fish and place on a serving dish. Pour the sauce over before arranging the topping. Decorate with attractively cut spring onions and serve with Southern Fried Rice for a delicious, filling meal.

Guest chef

By Jenna Wise

Terje Hoff was an English teacher in his native Norway for 30 years before moving to Phuket and starting the Southern Fried Rice guesthouse and restaurant. He opened the European and Thai restaurant, specializing in Norwegian food, in Kata, in December last year.

"I met my former business partner when I came to Phuket on holiday," he said. "She was an excellent manager and chef, but sadly she became ill and had to stop working."

Terje then hired Chonticha Kampongpi to oversee the kitchen, and he said he is happy with the way his new cook prepares all of the 250 dishes on the menu.

"The Norwegian and other Scandinavian visitors all compliment our Norwegian meatballs," Terje noted.

The guesthouse has seven spotless, attractive rooms, priced from 300 to 2,500 baht a night, including breakfast. There is also free wireless Internet both in the guest rooms and in the dining area. Downstairs there is a bar with pool table.

Southern Fried Rice is also the home of the Phuket Chess Club, only the third chess club to be formed in Thailand. The game is a passion of Terje's, and he welcomes anyone interested in playing. If anyone can beat him, he says, he will buy them a drink.

Southern Fried Rice guesthouse and restaurant is at 100/14-15 Kata Rd (in the Kata Night Bazaar behind Kata Thai Boxing). Tel: 076 284632 and 01-8948446. Email: sfkata@hotmail.com. It is open seven days a week from 8 am until late.



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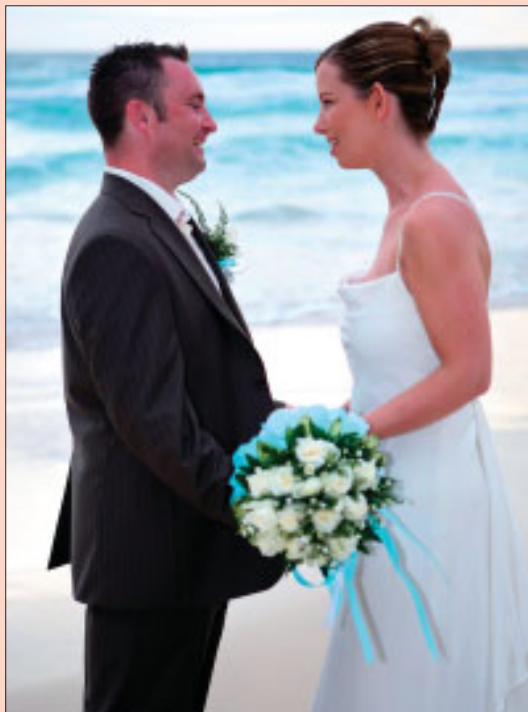
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Happily Ever After

Recent weddings in Phuket



Left: Elizabeth Doyle and Barry O'Gara from Ireland, were married at Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort on August 2.

Below: Pornthai Chainok and Giles Howle from England celebrated their wedding at the Kata Beach Resort on July 28.



BECOMING

Amancruises Manager Bill O'Leary recently made headlines when he passed a provincial-level review committee's interview in his application to become a Thai citizen. Now just a signature by the Interior Minister away from officially becoming a Thai national, the Australian-Born long-time Phuket resident tells the *Gazette's* Stephen Fein why he wants to be a Thai national – and what the process entails.

SF: How long have you been living in Phuket?

Bill: I have been here for 19 years. I first came here in 1987. I got a job delivering a sailing boat from Hamilton Island to Phuket. It was the famous cruiser/racer *Stormvogel*.

I was cruising around here in 1987 and 1988 when I met Adrian Zecha. He offered me a job as an arm of the Amanpuri's business, renting boats to the rich and famous.

So I got on board in 1988 and have been there ever since.

SF: Do you still get out on the boats these days?

Bill: I did for many years, but now we have trained up 60 crew, so they operate all the boats and I pretty much drive a desk. But I still go and meet and take all the celebrities out; because I like that part of the job.

SF: Any really big names?

Bill: All of them. Of the really big names, the top 20 celebrities in the world, the list of those who have never been to Amanpuri is short.

SF: What sort of privacy do they get?

Bill: Well, that's the whole thing. It's all very, very private because it's on a headland. Other people can't get in. It's extremely strict.

SF: They have never let me in.

Bill: (laughs) Yeah, It's that strict so the celebrities can have a really good holiday without having to worry about invasion of privacy and stuff like that. And the boats are just an extra arm of that. It's even more private – they can go out for seven or 10 days and never see anyone.

SF: Does all your family live on Phuket, too?

Bill: Yes, I live here with my wife Carolyn and my four kids live here, too. They are 13, 11, seven and three. A son, my eldest, and three daughters.

SF: Where is your wife from?

Bill: Australia. It's a full

import. It's very bizarre, we are total imports. I pinch myself every morning!

SF: So do you live near the Amanpuri?

Bill: Yes, at Surin Beach. The hotel owned the land that I live on. I was very lucky. I ran in to what is now probably the top luxury boutique hotel company in the world ... Here in Phuket, Amanpuri has the best real estate between Singapore and India... Everyone in Phuket knows that the headland location there is just phenomenal.

The Amanpuri personifies the entire company. Amazingly, it's the exact place I arrived in Phuket by boat. I arrived there on *Stormvogel* on the same day Amanpuri had its soft opening in 1987.

SF: What inspired you to apply for Thai citizenship?

Bill: Well, I am really doing it for my four children. They were all born here and I don't want them to grow up and not have a sense of identity and culture about where they are from.

I want them to be part of somewhere, rather than part of this "lost generation" culture of expat kids who don't belong anywhere and are just going to be drifting around the planet.

Also, they all read and write Thai in their essence.

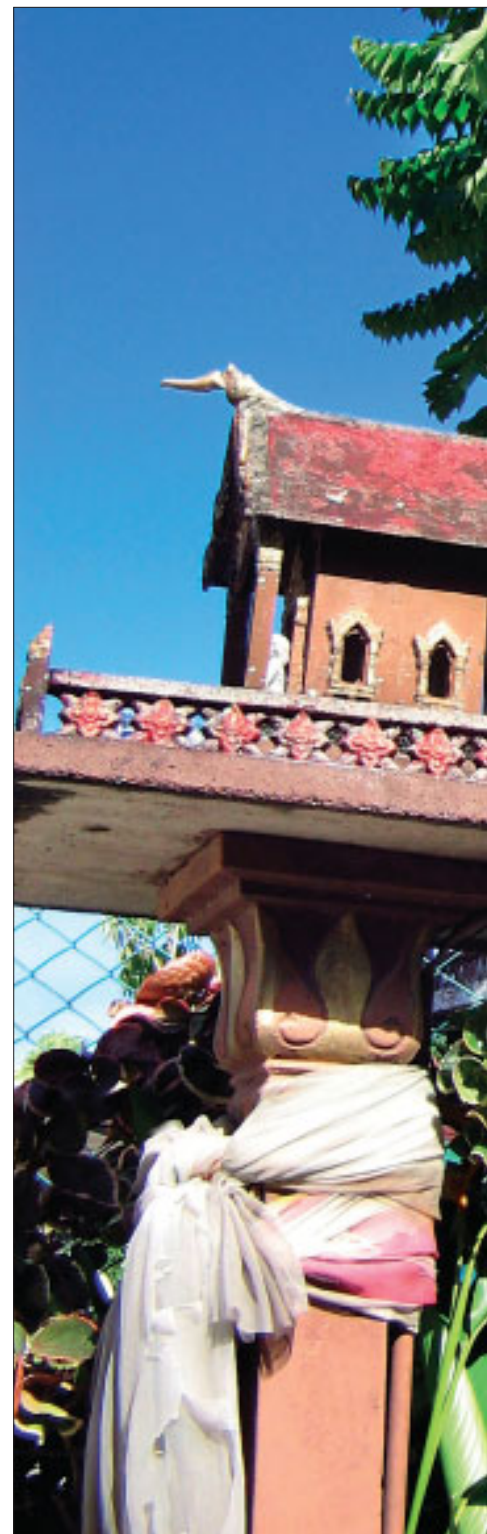
Plus, I was attracted to many of the virtues of Thai culture; the serenity and the patience and the resolve. Those things attracted me to the Thai side.

In 20 years, I have been imbued with the culture. I am steeped in what it is to be Thai and how to behave.

I have also read up on the culture and history and I think it's the most amazing country on the planet, so I wanted to be part of that too.

It's a painstaking process, though; trying to become Thai is not for the faint-hearted.

SF: When did you embark on this? When did you say to your-



self, "I am going to try and get Thai citizenship?"

Bill: About 10 years ago, I guess. I started to feel like I was at home here. Whenever I went anywhere else, I felt like I wasn't at home.

Every time I returned to Phuket I felt like I was returning home, even though it wasn't my home in any kind of formal sense.

So I thought to myself, "I wonder what the process is? Is it possible?" I had heard that other people had done it.

It has been a very painstaking, lengthy process. I knew it could be put to an end at any turn by any official. But I thought, "Well, there's nothing to lose ... why not give it a shot?"

SF: When did you first submit something to the government?

Bill: I started the process about seven or eight years ago. I first got my Thai residency, which is actually more stringent than the citizenship. They do all their homework very well. There are a lot of unsavory expats out here...

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A THAI CITIZEN



Bill O'Leary: '...the process of becoming Thai turns you Thai, I think.'

a Thai. I am a Thai inside my heart and that's all that matters to me."

And one of the panel said, "That's the best answer you could have ever given for why you should be Thai." And that is amazing coming from a 13-year-old Billy, and it is his truth, because he has lived here his entire life. He is a part of this country and culture. How could he not be?

SF: Can you hold dual citizenship with Thailand as an Australian?

Bill: I haven't gone through the complete process yet, but I will check it out as it goes. But Australia has no problem with us being dual citizens ... I think there will be no problems with Thailand either. That's a big part of their questions, too. It's a very serious endeavor. People who are married to a Thai might find it easier. I lost 10 points by not being married to a Thai.

SF: Do you think your application for Thai citizenship will be approved?

Bill: I think my chance is pretty good. The devil is in the detail, of course, but I have got this far.

SF: Did you have to pass a language test?

Bill: Well, you have to sit through an interview with eight people, including a Vice-Governor, the District Police Chief, the Provincial Tax Office chief and others... I think the Interior Min-

ister still has to sign off on it. As I said, it is not for the faint-hearted. This interview was in Thai; two hours of in-depth questioning.

SF: Is it true that you had to sing the National Anthem and the King's Theme?

Bill: Yes. You have to be good at those. I practiced for months. The National Anthem is much easier than HM the King's Theme, *Phra Baramee*. Of course my son picked them up faster than me.

They asked me why my Thai was so bad, and I told them, "If you let me be Thai then of course I will go and learn more..." But it's a points process, and I got 10 for personality. Plus, I have always paid my taxes.

They interview scores of people about you. The people you work with, the people you work for – even the guy down the street. They do their homework ... I think that only people who have been through the process can really ever know what it is like. It isn't easy, but I don't think it would be worth it if it was.

SF: Yeah, they just sent one back to Alabama...

Bill: And he was teaching, too!

SF: It seems that for every guy like Andrew Biggs you have got another guy like Karr.

Bill: Yes, that's the thing. The Thais tend to think, "Better safe than sorry... Let's not let any foreigners become Thai." That's the way they keep out the bad elements...

But the process of becoming Thai turns you Thai, I think. Because you become so patient and tolerant, loving and understanding of the culture that you think "They certainly aren't going to let too many people have this privilege and honor" – for me it's an honor.

They do not just give this away, it is very special to them and the recipient also feels that it's very special.

The recipient has to feel that they are up to the task of being a great ambassador for the country. It is really quite a serious thing.

This is the first time I have spoken about it; the process was humbling.

SF: Why humbling?

Bill: Well, the paperwork borders on the phenomenal. But now that it seems to be near to fruition, it feels like it is worth it. My children will have that now.

SF: Are you applying for the whole family?

Bill: I didn't want to go through the complete process if they didn't allow me. Why go to all that effort – taking the little girls down to be fingerprinted and all that?

It's a huge process. I thought that if I got through the screening process, and also my son Tim, then we'll take it from there. He speaks perfect Thai, far better than mine.

In one of the many screening interviews, they asked Tim if he would be upset if they declined his application to become a Thai citizen and he replied in perfect Thai, "Not at all. I don't need a piece of paper to know that I am

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This week



TASTY PIPS: Pip Austin, General Manager and Sales & Marketing Manager of Sileni Wine from New Zealand, talks to guests at a wine maker's dinner at The Evason Resort and Six Senses Spa, in Rawai, on August 19. Evason Executive Chef Justin Maiklem from Australia designed a six-course dinner with each dish paired to a different Sileni wine.



SOUTHERN FRIENDS: Parichat Utintu (3rd from left), Editor of the *Phuket Gazette*, joins Robiah Zainal (center), Director (Thailand) for Tourism Malaysia; former Director (Thailand) Sani Sham Ahmad (2nd from right); Deputy Director (Thailand) Ahmad Zawawi Bin Zakaria (2nd from left), and Supreeya Jitrawiparat (left), Marketing Manager Tourism Malaysia's Phuket office, at an reception for media and tour agents at the Royal Phuket City Hotel on July 18.



SUAVE SHINDIG: Phuket-based publishers Image Asia held the official launch party of their *One2Go Magazine*, the in-flight magazine for Orient Thai Airlines, at the Aspasia resort in Kata on August 19. The event attracted the ideal crowd of islanders for a night of sophistication and outright fun.



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Ford Thailand has added a new seven-seat SUV to its line-up with the Australian-built Territory Ghia.

"The decision by Ford Thailand to add the Territory is further proof this innovative model is a world-class vehicle," said Ford Australia President Tom Gorman.

"Australian motor-vehicle expertise is being recognized around the world and the export of the Territory to Thailand is testament to the quality of cars we are building here," he added.

The Territory features Hill Descent Control, an alloy spare wheel, and front and rear towing eyes. There are three specifications of the vehicle in other markets but in Thailand we have the top-of-the-range, all-wheel-drive Territory Ghia.

Powered by a 258bhp (190 kW), four-liter engine, the torque output is particularly impressive, peaking at 383Nm at the relatively low engine speed of just 2,500rpm. A six-speed automatic transmission is standard and features a sequential speed-shift with a leather-covered shift lever.

Ford has been selling cars in Australia since its inception in 1904, but it was in 1925 that production began, at a facility in Geelong, 80 kilometers from Melbourne, Victoria. The company claims to be the only Australian manufacturer that is wholly responsible for design,



Thailand is getting the top-end Territory Ghia with all-wheel drive and 258bhp, four-liter engine.

development and manufacture of its models. Ford, along with GM Australia brand Holden and Japanese giant Toyota, vies for the top spot in the Outback.

Traditionally, Ford and Holden also fight for honors in the Aussie V8 sedan series, with the laurels generally going to whichever company can produce a quick car and a quick driver in any particular year. Holden is on top at the moment, with Garth Tander leading the championship; Craig Lowndes in a Ford is second. There's a long way to go to the end of the season though, and that could all change with immense speed. Worth watching if

you get the opportunity; although it is something of a contact sport, nobody gets hurt and, of course, the cars are totally expendable.

The export of the award-winning Territory to other countries, such as New Zealand and South Africa, has made the SUV one of the most popular in the southern hemisphere.

In some markets it commands a turbocharged engine producing a healthy 330bhp, but in rural Thailand 258bhp is deemed sufficient.

It is, however, extremely well-appointed. There is a leather-wrapped steering wheel, which incorporates audio and

cruise control switches. The premium audio system features a six-disc in-dash system, complete with 150 Watt amplifier and sub-woofer.

The pedals are power adjustable, while there is an electrochromatic, auto-dimming rear-view mirror; particularly useful in Phuket, where few drivers seem to turn their high beams off.

Dynamic stability control and traction control are standard, while there are ventilated disc brakes front and rear, with twin-pot calipers at the sharp end. Anti-lock braking is standard, as is electronic brake force distribution.



By Jeff Heselwood

The list is endless. Suffice to say that the Territory Ghia is very well equipped throughout.

Tom Gorman says, "Our design engineers had a brief to create a Territory with enhanced performance and other excellent features – but not to compromise functionality and versatility."

The Territory is Australia's best-selling SUV, racking up numerous awards, including *Wheels* Car of the Year 2004 and consecutive Best Recreational Four-wheel Drive titles in Australia's *Best Cars* awards. Ford Thailand hopes to sell around 120 Territoris a year and is confident of meeting its target. The Territory Ghia costs around 2.95 million baht all in.

For more information on the Territory Ghia visit www.ford.co.th

For information on the Aussie V8 series, visit www.v8supercar.com.au

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



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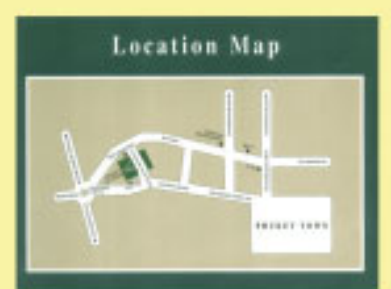
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Happy thoughts the secret to staying young

By Janyaporn Morel

Every woman wants to keep her body and face looking as young and beautiful for as long as possible, and there are many methods touted as the ultimate way of fighting the ravages of time.

Thai superstar actress Naowarat "Khun Jig" Yuktanant, who has featured in more than 300 movies and is now a mother of two teenage boys, has shown over the past 20 years that she knows a trick or two for staying off Mother Nature's cruellest jest.

Special guest at the Beautiful Mom event at the Bangkok Hospital Phuket on August 19, Khun Jig is known for taunting men by asking them to guess her age – perhaps her inspiration for sporting a hot pink Guess top at the event.

At the event Khun Jig revealed to the *Gazette* her beauty secrets. "I'm an early riser. I wake up about 5 am every morning and go for a run or a quick walk around my neighborhood while listening to music.

"I spend about 45 minutes trying to get into a sweat and make my body feel fresh, because when I start my day feeling fresh, I feel good for the rest of the day."

Khun Jig keeps herself busy, but rates being happy as equally important. "I just stay in a good mood, and do not get angry during the day. We can be nice and happy; it's easy if we set our minds to it."

Taking time out to relax also helps, she says. "In my leisure time, I usually go to the movies, dine out or exercise with friends, I don't have a lot of long holidays, except when I'm making a movie abroad – and even that's relax-



Naowarat 'Khun Jig' Yuktanant – 'You should cure your scars from the inside first.'

ing for me. My sons visit me when they can, and this makes me happy," she says.

Both her teenage boys – 17-year-old TJ and 16-year-old JJ – live and study in the US, one in San Francisco and the other in Connecticut.

"I have never had any problems in my family, even though I have raised my children by myself. I always take care of my children as if they were friends because if I thought of them only as my sons I would worry about them too much," she says.

Money is not an issue in her relationship with her sons, she says. "I am not rich. The only thing I have given them is

an education, which they can use for their future. My first son wants to be a movie director, and the second one wants to be a lawyer. I'm just their mom, who stands beside them and helps them to realize their dreams.

"I also teach my sons that they have to help themselves first before asking for help from anyone else," she adds.

In addition to keeping a busy daily schedule, K. Jig does volunteer work for the Blue Angel project at Ramathibodi Hospital in Bangkok.

She helps patients at the hospital, talking to those from upcountry before they meet doc-

tors and supporting them through encouragement. This work, she says, helps her maintain a healthy perspective towards life.

"For me, beauty comes from within. You should cure your scars from the inside first. You can put on makeup and dress nicely, but if your mind is not good, you will never be a beautiful person.

"So you have to make your day happy. Smile and think positively, and don't work too hard at becoming rich. You'll be a richer person with a beautiful mind and a good personality.

"Try to be happy with your life, because life is short, and you will be beautiful to me."

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The fruit of the olive tree is at first glance inconspicuous and unimpressive, but that small olive packs a lot of health benefits.

Olive oil is good for the body whether it's applied to the skin or eaten with salads or other foods. It's been a guarantor of health and beauty since antiquity, and now more and more cosmetics companies have rediscovered its natural properties and are using it as the basis for entire lines of personal care products.

"Cleopatra and Nefertiti knew the wonderful effects of olive oil," says Margot Hellmiss, author of *Healthy and Beautiful Through Olive Oil*.

When olive oil is used in the kitchen, its higher proportion of unsaturated fat lowers the level of LDL cholesterol in the body, helping prevent clogged arteries and heart disease.

The humble olive

In addition, the secondary plant materials and the high proportion of vitamin E in olive oil fend off so-called free radicals, "thereby putting the brakes on cell aging," says Hellmiss.

Olive oil is also good for the skin. Its fat composition is very similar to that of human skin, claims Dieter Oberg, who represents a Munich-based organization offering information about olive oil. As a result, olive oil generally doesn't spark allergies.

"In addition, it is absorbed quickly, doesn't leave a greasy film behind and helps lock moisture into the skin," Hellmiss says. The result is soft, smooth skin.

The higher proportion of unsaturated fat and vitamin E also work on the outside, particularly

on sensitive skin. People who tend to have oily skin, however, should refrain from putting on additional oil.

The palette of products using olive oil as a base has grown in recent years. The Body Shop cosmetics chain offers a bath and shower gel and the classic olive oil soap in addition to an olive body spray, which is designed to hold moisture in the skin after a bath.

Alternatively, the skin can be treated to a peel made of olive oil and rounded olive oil pits.

A Greek company, Korres, and a German company, Just Pure, also include olive oil pits in their peeling products. Olive Stones Natural Scrub from Korres and Just Pure's Olive Pit Herbal Peeling are two products

KEEPING LOVE IN THE PINK

The blissful state of being in love usually lasts less than a year and often for only a few months. The thrill recedes and along with it the feeling of having to be with or think about the other person the whole time.

The relationship becomes routine, both in and out of bed, and although there is nothing abnormal about this, it does pose some dangers. That is why couples should work hard at keeping their love alive and make a regular effort to rediscover the passion that brought them together in the first place.

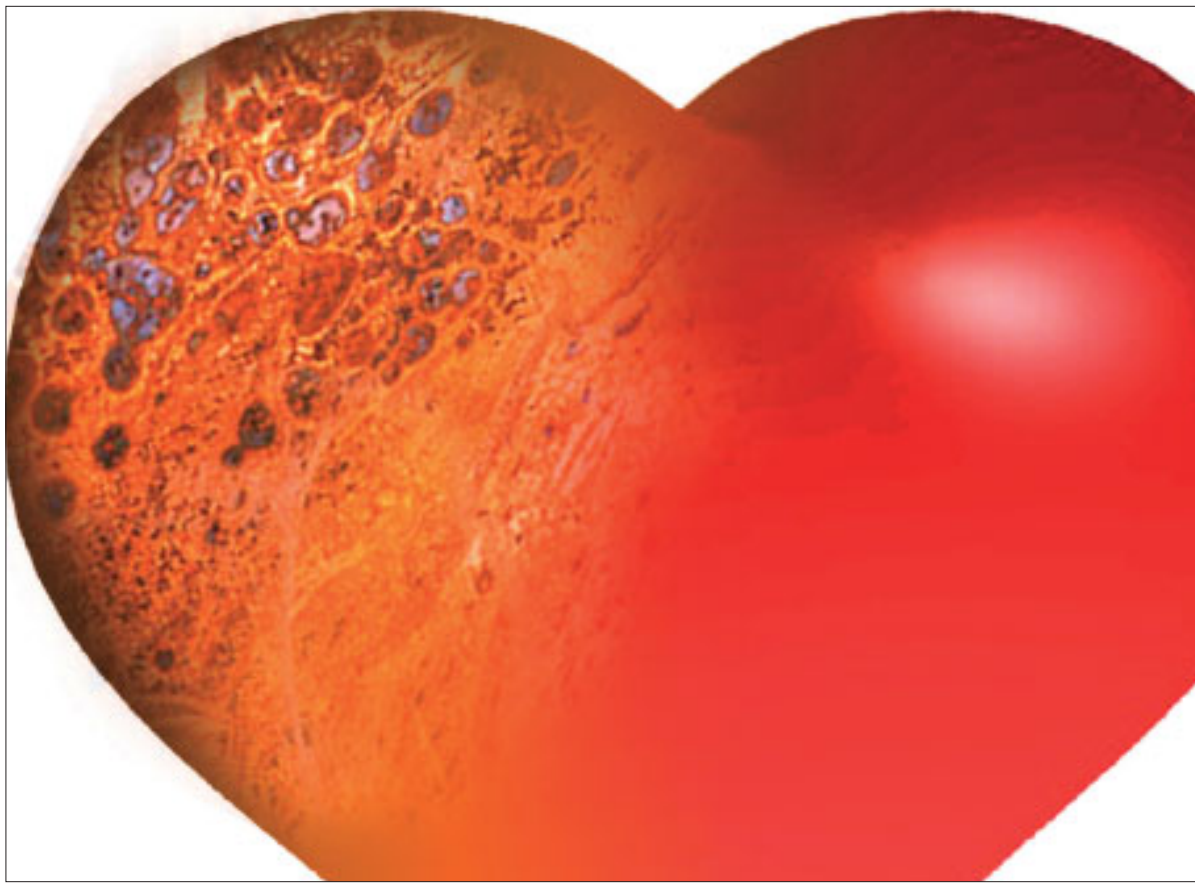
"The craziness and the intensity just goes after a while," says psychologist Ursula Nuber. This cooling-off is inevitable as the partners get to know each other better and the amount of new and exciting things they can learn about each other diminishes.

"Sooner or later it becomes apparent that loverboy leaves his socks lying around too and that the princess spends far too much time on the phone chattering to her girlfriends."

Most couples believe that love is all you need – with no extra effort involved. However, this attitude can make a relationship fade into the gray of monotony, boredom and alienation.

"We tend to assume that a relationship must work of its own accord," says Joerg Wesner, a psychologist who specializes in counseling couples. "Actually this hands-off approach is what makes a relationship deteriorate."

This is the feeling that creeps up on couples who feel they know everything there is to know about the other person – and that's when the interest starts to vanish along with the little surprises, the compliments and the gestures of tenderness. Regardless of age this phase is usually accompanied by a marked drop in intimacy, with love-making typically declining by half.



Even in the healthiest relationships, there's no escape from routine, which is a natural development. "After all, the aim is to integrate the other person into a normal, everyday life. Nobody wants to live in a permanent state of alarm," says psychologist Prof Georg Felser.

Nevertheless, too much routine should still send alarm bells ringing, especially if both parties take each other for granted. "The inquisitiveness and the exploration of the other person in all his or her facets eventually comes to an end – and often one person rides roughshod over the needs of the other. All of a sudden, habits that had been perfectly acceptable before begin to get on the partner's nerves."

That's when couples have to start working at their relationship, said Prof Felser. Rituals can help and, above all, couples need to experience extraordinary things that they can talk to each

other about – this alone can keep things fresh and lively. A typical example might be spending an unusual holiday together.

According to Ms Nuber,

couples should also seek to spend "quality time" with each other with the aim of celebrating their relationship outside the confines of everyday life.

One of Mr Wesner's suggestions is that they make a date with each other just like a couple who have just fallen in love.

"This could take the form of a dinner with one playing the guest and the other the host," he says. It is also important for a pair to keep discovering new things. By doing so the two sides do run the risk of experiencing something they don't like as well, but a sound relationship must be able to withstand that. "Lower your sights a little," Mr Wesner also suggests.

One way of injecting new life into a time-honored relationship is to "take a walk down memory lane", says Mr Wesner.

A return to the location of a holiday spent together could remind both sides of what originally attracted them to each other. Couples must also realize that happiness does not necessarily mean doing everything together.

"It is more satisfying if each person manages to retain some independence," Ms Nuber stresses the need for couples to feel a degree of freedom within a relationship, adding: "You can't miss a person if he or she is always there." – **Thorsten Wiese, dpa**

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makes a comeback

that are claimed to clean the face and body, leaving the skin smooth.

German cosmetics maker Sante bases most of its personal care product lines on olives. Shower gel, body lotion and shampoo strike a refreshing note through the addition of lime, ginger or grapefruit. Sante cosmetics, from makeup to rouge and eye shadow, also are based on olive oil and should be used to feel the effect of the olive's protective, skin-smoothing, healing oil, says spokeswoman Silke Fleiss.

Biotherm in Düsseldorf also appears convinced of the power of the olive. It claims that its facial cream, Age Fitness Power 2, will revitalize the complexion and liven up puffy skin in just five days. There are two active ingre-

dients responsible for these rapid results, Biotherm says: olive water, which neutralizes free radicals, and olive fruit extract, which smooths the skin.

For a quick beauty treatment, however, it's sufficient to reach for the olive oil that's in the kitchen cupboard, assuming it holds a bottle of high-quality cold-pressed olive oil.

Four tablespoons of this, warmed up slightly and mixed with sea salt can be used as a skin-tightening peel.

Mixed together with lemon juice, olive oil is an ideal overnight treatment for wrinkles, and soaking hands in warm olive oil makes them supple and is good for fingernails as well.

– **Melanie Brandl, dpa**

Spa MAGIC



By Jenjira
Ruengjarus

Plumeria at Thiwa Ratri Resort

I arrive at the Plumeria Spa, at the Thiwa Ratri Resort in Kamala, in the mid-afternoon after a hectic morning. The spa is located in a quiet spot, marred only by the sound of building equipment as construction of the Balinese-style resort continues around it.

Only a few parts of the spa are open and staff outnumber guests, but the atmosphere is great – I feel I am actually in Bali.

I am greeted by Kriangkrai Hiranwattana, Thiwa Ratri's Human Resource Manager, and Sales and Marketing Manager Nijjaree "Cherry" Cammang.

As we enter the spa grounds I smell an aroma in the air and inhale deeply; the smell relaxes me. We walk past a wall covered in vines with water cascading down from the top. The sound of the water splashing off the leaves gives me a chill, making me feel like I am walking near a waterfall.

Once inside, I see the spa is divided into six therapy rooms some singles, some doubles. There are also beds for foot massages. The scent of lemongrass emanates from the steam room. I inhale deeply.



HEAVEN SCENT

There I meet therapists Rungmanus "Roong" Pansasadee and Nita Thanpolkang, who both welcome me, offer me a glass of iced water and begin to explain the spa packages.

K. Roong, who has two years of experience working in spas, advises, "You should have a spa treatment at least twice a month, if possible. For someone who sits at a desk for long periods each day, it is best have a massage twice a month and a scrub twice a week.

"After going to a spa, I suggest that you rest instead of going right back to work, because after a spa treatment our bodies are relaxed and aren't ready for work."

"Your body should have time to fully relax. Try to stay out of the sun after a spa, because your skin will be more sensitive," K. Nita adds.

They recommend that I start with a sauna, followed a body scrub and end with an aromatherapy massage with a scent

of my choice – I choose lemongrass.

After taking a bath I head for the steam room, where it's a balmy 40°C. I stay inside for about 20 minutes because, as K. Nita had explained, the steam helps to open the pores before it receives the other spa treatments, helping the skin to absorb the herbs the therapists use.

After the steam room session, K. Roong leads me to a private room where I undress and she prepares my body scrub. The scrub is a mixture of tumeric and pure honey, which is rough enough to remove any dead skin and helps my skin absorb the lotion. Applying the scrub also helps to improve my circulation, K. Roong explains.

I am quite shy as I am covered only by a small towel, so when K. Roong finishes scrubbing my back and asks me to turn over, I nervously keep my eyes closed the whole time. She scrubs everywhere, including my chest.

The whole process takes about 45 minutes, after which K. Roong leaves me alone, smothered in the lotion, for about five minutes. While she's gone I start to feel cold, even though I am covered by a blanket.

But she soon returns and I wash off, immediately feeling lighter, as if I could jump and touch the roof if I wanted, though

I don't try. K. Nita then massages me with the lemongrass aromatherapy oil. She is very cute and I become sleepy as the massage and oil takes effect.

After the treatment, K. Nita serves me a glass of bale fruit juice. Although the spa has only been open four months, it is the best I have visited.

All three treatments took about an hour and forty-five minutes because the employees had to leave early that day, but the typical time for a body scrub is 50 minutes (1,500 baht), 60 minutes for aromatherapy massage (1,500 baht), and about 20-30 minutes for the steam room.

Other services available include foot massages, Thai, Swedish and sports massages, and

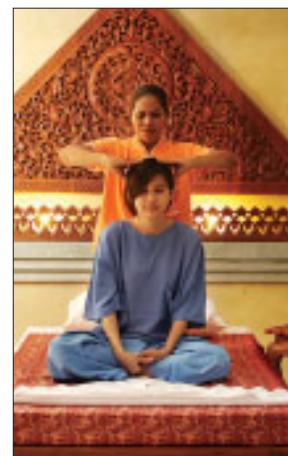
head, back and shoulder massages which all range in price from about 1,200 to 2,000 baht.

The spa packages are available at the following prices until October 31.

The Plumeria Welcome package costs 5,000 baht and lasts three hours, the Experience of Siam is 6,000 baht for about

four hours, the Romantic in Love package for couples is 6,800 baht for 200 minutes, and the After Sun Refreshment is 5,000 baht for 180 minutes.

The Plumeria Spa, Thiwa Ratri Resort and Spa. 99/99 Moo 3, Kamala Beach, Kamala, Kathu, Phuket (near Phuket Fantasea). Open daily, 9 am to 10 pm. For more information call the office Tel: 076-279999 or K. Cherry at Tel: 09-4716341.



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DELIGHTS of diving off Redang

TALES OF A TRAVELER

By Ed Peters

If you asked how Pulau Redang, 45 kilometers off the east coast of Malaysia, is faring after a decade and a half as a national marine park, the answer would have to be: not too shabbily.

Before 1990, Redang followed the same path as a score of other islands in Asia. Home to a substantial fishing community, its reefs and beaches gradually came to the attention of divers and other tourists. But then agricultural development on the island deluged the surrounding waters with silt, scuppering snorkeling for more than a year.

With the creation of the marine park, however, and thanks to nature's resilience, coral and fish numbers gradually returned to previous levels. Developers moved onto the island fairly swiftly though, and six major hotels subsequently opened.

So, unsullied "Prospero's Isle" Redang is not, but the tempests that swirled around in years gone by have abated, and you can now dive and otherwise amuse yourself here knowing that on shore and below the waves this is one of the best getaways that Malaysia has to offer.

The park comprises seven other smaller islands. Most of the major dive sites are within a 20- to 40-minute boat ride away.

Mini Mount is a popular day-and-night dive site, partly as it is so near to some of the major resorts. The reef drops to 18 meters at its deepest and has granite boulders carpeted with soft corals, sponges and stinging hydroids scattered around the sandy bottom. By day, cowries, spider shells and colorful Christmas tree

worms mingle with angelfish, parrotfish, wrasse and other reef dwellers. Night diving can be a rewarding experience, with many nocturnal creatures such as crabs, eels, urchins, squid, spiny lobsters and cowries making an appearance.

A little further off the coast, Pulau Lima is a cluster of five islets with table, staghorn and fire coral dominating the shallower depths, while soft coral colonies begin at around 18 meters. Apart from the usual reef fish, black tip reef sharks, moray eels, lionfish and puffer fish are all often spotted here.

To the south, the dive site off Pulau Ekor Tebu mainly comprises steep granite boulders down to about 20 meters until it reaches the sandy bottom.

The site is especially noted for the huge variety of corals; brain and lettuce corals in shallower water, with whip corals, sponges and other soft corals deeper down.

Repeat visitors to Redang sing its praises, regaling each other with sightings of old familiar inhabitants of the reefs around the island.

An outsize moray eel that used to lurk underneath the jetty at the Marine Park Centre has apparently moved to a shipwreck offshore, while a second slightly smaller eel is regularly spotted around a rocky outcrop nearby.

There's also a giant grouper, which lurks by a big rock near the jetty. It has gradually become bolder over time and now dares to swim up near the surface and show off its full glory.

Of course, diving is not compulsory on Redang. You can trek off round the island, take a day's cruise around the archipelago, try spotting the turtles that come to lay their eggs or – if all that seems over ambitious – indulge in a moderate fry up involving the beach, a towel and some factor 15.




One of the best getaways that Malaysia has to offer, Redang has some beautiful dive sites.



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**The
Gazette Guide**

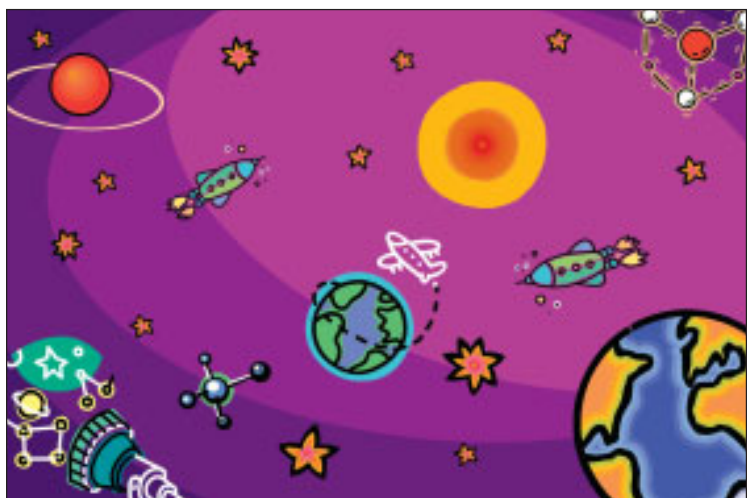
It's everywhere! Are You in it?

Puzzles

Spot the Difference



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



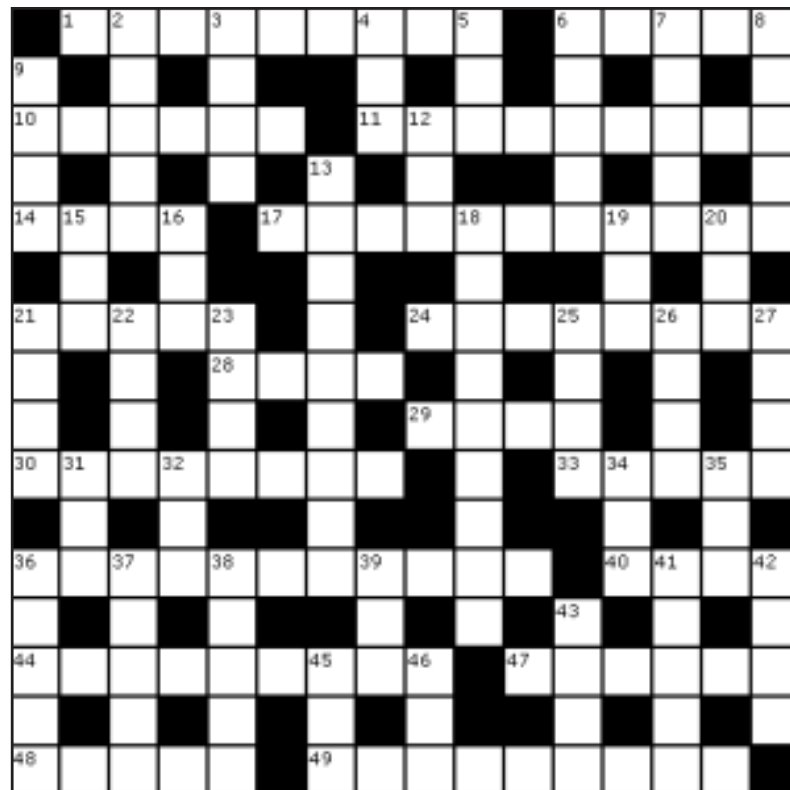
The Cryptic Crossword

ACROSS

1. Valuer a quiet expresser of approval. (9)
6. Carriage tutor (5)
10. Town smell around a shirt. (6)
11. Rebuke confused dear Mr Pin. (9)
14. Copy rebound. (4)
17. Blue-blood month; I have nothing for loch. (11)
21. Wheel part talked? (5)
24. Clip etc I used for sun's track. (8)
28. Raise the back end. (4)
29. Precolumbian civilization in California (4)
30. Coil crab badly for cleaner. (8)
33. To north, a pig pen. Unpleasant. (5)
36. He talks to toppers. (11)
40. Sandhill for cardinal after push for payment. (4)
44. In toto, rye makes bad reputation. (9)
47. Skin design for military show. (6)
48. Shared by goats and cuckolds. (5)
49. Merchants eat tool. (9)

DOWN

2. Black tone. (5)
3. Right fluid for ice venue. (4)
4. Knight be the father of no cardinal. (3)
5. Criticise music. (3)
6. Air in firm city. (5)

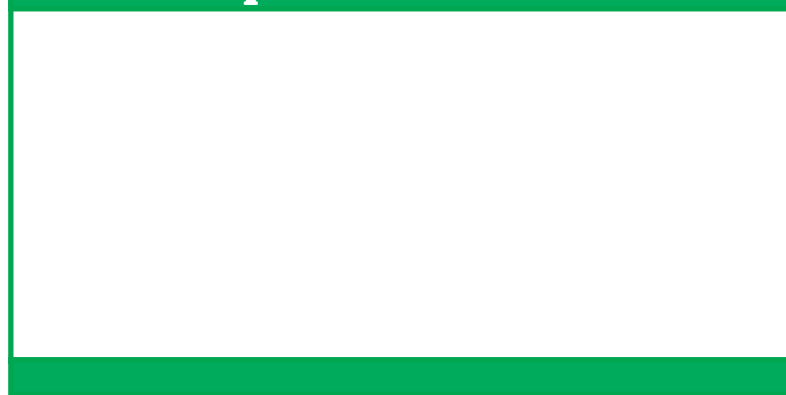


Compiled by Tortuus. © 2006

7. Astonish a labyrinth. (5)
8. Conceals skins. (5)
9. A quiet pair of cardinals in church. (4)
12. Getaway key? (3)
13. About a mile in pan gets bell tower. (9)
15. Catch policeman. (3)
16. OK about a tree (3)
18. Carriage Ed overused. (9)
19. Sleep in card game. (3)
20. Polish sport? (3)
21. With span, clean and neat. (4)
22. Finished six balls. (4)
23. Queen leave, therefore. (4)
15. I rushed to the country. (4)
26. Flip a coin to back southern drunkard. (4)
27. Big town for Honda. (4)
31. I say yes. (3)
32. Where flowers recline? (3)
34. Total increase. (3)
35. Net back number. (3)
36. Premonition of a hump. (5)
37. Do, or player. (5)
38. Challenges 500 with God of War. (5)
39. Drunkard, thus junction. (3)
41. Final say. (5)
42. Rose made love god. (4)
43. Salvation Army on Rhode Island makes garment. (4)
45. 42 has no right to dawn goddess.
46. Pacific island bark. (5)

Solution on next page

Scribble Space



EZ Trivia Quiz

1. What is the capital of Ecuador?
2. Who was the Formula One World Champion in 2005?
3. What team was he driving for?
4. Name the evil character in the *Nightmare on Elm Street* movies.
5. If B=2 and J=10, what is Y?
6. The clarinet, oboe and bassoon belong to which class of instruments?
7. In which computer game would you meet Chun Li?
8. Which province is immediately north of Phang Nga?
9. Who is King of Sweden?
10. How many millimeters are there in a kilometer?

Answers on next page

Rhyme Time

The words or phrases described below all rhyme with "race". What are they?

1. A smidgin.
2. Speed.
3. Pursue.
4. Self-respect.
5. Low tone.
6. One of three in a diamond.
7. Top gun.
8. Medieval weapon.
9. Add a dash of liquor.
10. Bishop's address.

Answers on next page.

su | do | ku

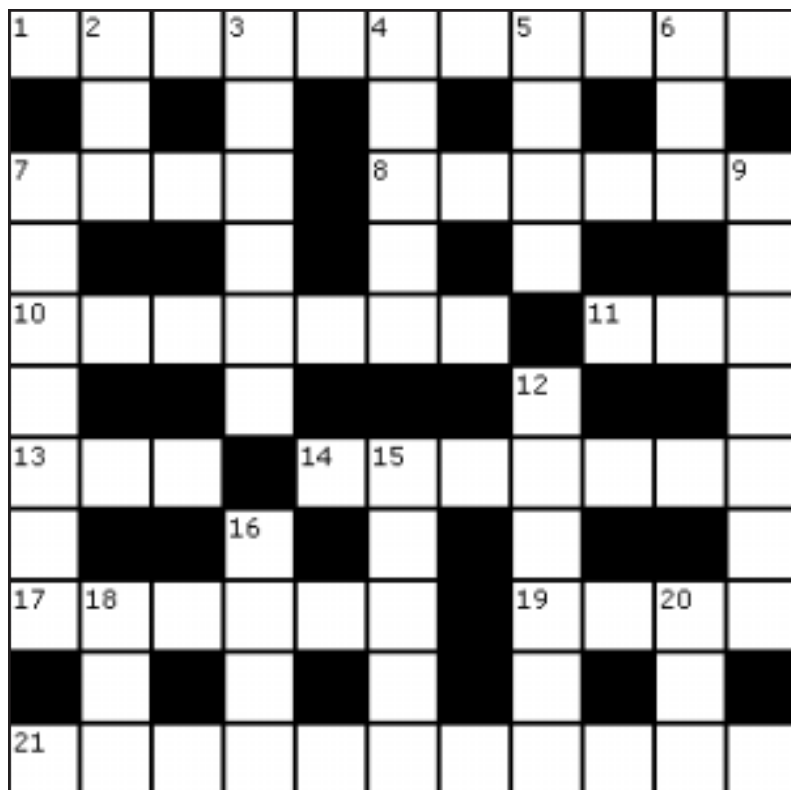
© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

MEDIUM

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



Quick Crossword

ACROSS

1. Alpine country.
7. Draft animals.
8. Beats with a better card.
10. Not contrived.
11. Snake for the neck?
13. Public transport vehicle.
14. Popeye's favorite vegetable.
17. Flat fishes.
19. Was in debt.
21. Not needed.

DOWN

2. Product of 20 dn.
3. Organ of taste.
4. Additional.
5. Forte.
6. Little bite.
7. Full version of 13 ac.
9. Hidden.
12. Bars of metal.
15. Sheriff's men.
16. Eye affliction.
18. Relatives.
20. Organ of hearing.

Solution below, right

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



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

1. The Latin for "three roads" gives us which modern word?
2. Harold Sydney Harmsworth, 1st Viscount Rothermere, founded which British newspaper?
3. What was the nickname of Australian Rules Football star Gordon Coventry?
4. Near which city is Lake Fusaro?
5. The *USS Delaware* was captured in 1777 by the British during a battle in which river?
6. Who led the Communist Party of Malaya against the British in the 1950s?
7. Who wrote the novel *The Currents of Space*?
8. Apart from the Sun, which is the brightest star seen from Earth?
9. In which constellation is it?
10. Which oil tanker recently sank in the Philippines, its cargo polluting several islands?
11. "Operation Ripper" was a military operation during which war?
12. Joshua Richards is renowned as a virtuoso player of which instrument?
13. In which country would you find Semien Wollo?
14. Camogie is the women's version of which sport?
15. Name Alexander the Great's father.
16. In 1892, Charles-Émile Reynaud projected the first animated movie. What was it called?
17. Where did Zen Buddhism first emerge as a philosophy?
18. Complete this list: Legion; Cohort; ?
19. What is the botanical term for the spreading of seeds by ants?
20. Which gangster was stabbed to death in 1958 by actress Lana Turner's daughter?

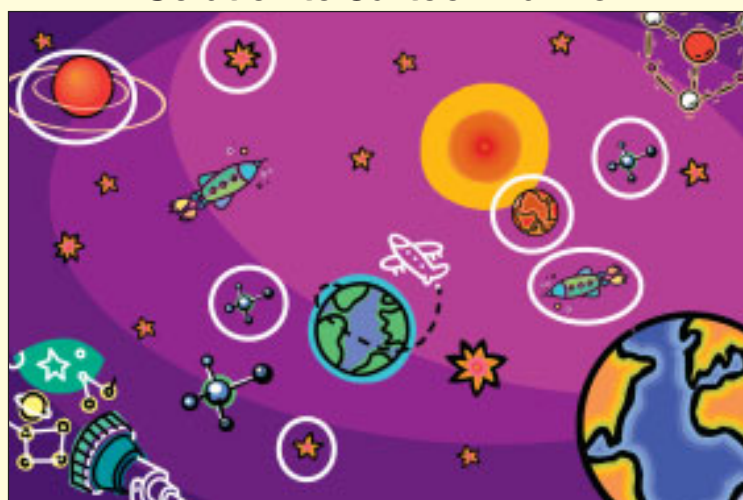
Answers below, left

Puzzle Solutions

Monster Quiz Answers

1. Trivial; 2. The *Daily Mail*; 3. Nuts; 4. Naples; 5. Delaware River; 6. Chin Peng; 7. Isaac Asimov; 8. Sirius; 9. Canis Major; 10. *Solar 1*; 11. The Korean War; 12. The tunonica; 13. Ethiopia; 14. Hurling; 15. Philip II of Macedon; 16. *Pauvre Pierrot*; 17. China; 18. Century; 19. Myrmecochory; 20. Johnny Stompanato.

Solution to Cartoon Puzzle



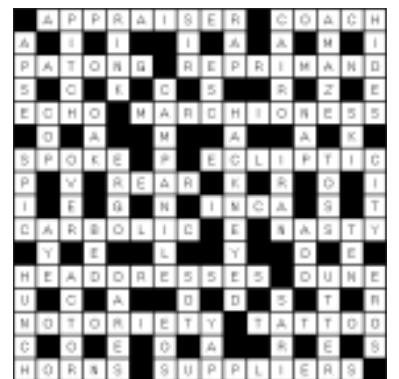
EZ Trivia Answers:

1. Quito; 2. Fernando Alonso; 3. Renault; 4. Freddy Krueger; 5. 25 (its position in the alphabet); 6. Woodwind; 7. *Street Fighter*; 8. Ranong; 9. HM King Carl XVI Gustaf; 10. 1 million.

Rhyme Time Answers:

1. Trace; 2. Pace; 3. Chase; 4. Face; 5. Bass; 6. Base; 7. Ace; 8. Mace; 9. Lace; 10. Your Grace.

Cryptic Crossword Solution



Quick Crossword Solution



Sudoku solution

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

In The Stars

by Isla Star

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): If Cancer is dithering over a business deal, look elsewhere for a partner. Your instincts should be telling you not to invest more than feels right. Support will come from an unexpected direction. If it's your birthday this week, look forward to a year of change, mostly for the better. The number 6 is lucky on Monday.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Early nights and relaxation are recommended. Your recent tiredness could lead to something more serious if you don't let up. Where rocky finances are concerned, you spy a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel next week. Wear the color peach to encourage calmness.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): You will perk up after a weekend of socializing. Continue working on reducing stress levels by starting a modest, but regular, exercise routine. Aquarius has set their heart on getting to know you better; expect an approach to be made within the next few days.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): You will need to drive a hard bargain in order to get what you want this weekend. Pisces is about to play a tricky game where romance is concerned, so keep your head screwed on. The color light green will help you remain as cool as a cucumber.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Check your

investments this month. The stars will back your choice of where to put your money. Leo would like to lead you up the garden path – make sure you don't end up deep in the jungle. Your subtle attempts to raise the subject of a salary increase will be ignored at work. Assert yourself.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Avoid wasting energy on projects that should really be abandoned. Close relationships will benefit from more auspicious astral influences during September. You will have to juggle finances when a bill arrives in your mailbox midweek. Cancer has been asking about you – get ready for romance.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): If you were hoping to get a second chance to make the right impression you will get it this week. If this is about a new job, make sure you have all the information you need to prove you're the right candidate. If you are single, you are about to be swept off your feet, most likely on Wednesday.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Life has posed some serious issues for you recently, so you should accept invitations to socialize this weekend. Long-distance communication is highlighted; take this chance to rekindle a friendship. On Tuesday you will have a setback related to business, but every cloud has a silver lining. Wear the colors chocolate brown and cream to mellow your mood.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): You will learn something to your definite advantage this week. You should know ex-

actly how to react. Use spare time this weekend to sort out things that are cluttering up your home; fresh energy needs space in which to flow. Scorpio needs to cry on your shoulder, but don't encourage this to become a regular habit. The number 5 comes alive on Monday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): If you know you didn't play fairly last month, you will probably have more on your plate than you want this week. The chances of romance with Aries are looking more positive, but you should avoid playing cat-and-mouse games. Remember: once bitten, twice shy. Tuesday is the most auspicious day for arranging a meeting with your bank manager.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): The answer to a mystery is revealed this week. Leave this matter firmly in the past; there's nothing you can do to change it. You realize that your platonic feelings for someone are changing. Let this relationship develop at its own pace and Cupid will help. Keep a firm grip on your wallet this weekend – others would love to see you throw your money away.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Wishing for the moon won't bring it any closer. If you are lonely and would like to become romantically involved you will have to wait a little longer. This month, the accent is on success in business and your focus needs to be strong. Something you would like to achieve before the end of the year comes closer on Thursday, but have legal papers carefully checked before signing on the dotted line.

The Greatest Bar of All

I am a New Yorker, but I never knew that Manhasset is the ultimate bar town on Long Island, its half-mile-long main drag on Plandome Rd lined with lots and lots of famous bars. The best was Publicans, a classy everyone-knows-your-name community center.

For author J R Moehringer the bar was the father he never had. He immortalizes it in his great sprawling memoir *The Tender Bar* (Hodder & Stoughton, London, 2005, 368pp).

"As an only child, abandoned by my father, I needed a family, a home, and men," he writes. "Especially men. I needed men as mentors, heroes, role models, and a kind of masculine counterweight to my mother, grandmother, aunt and five female cousins with whom I lived. The bar provided me with all the men I needed, and one or two men who were the last thing I needed."

His love affair with the Publicans bar started when he was seven and passing a softball field with his mother while the bar team in their orange uniforms was playing a league game. There he saw his Uncle Charley the bartender and the bar owner, Steve.

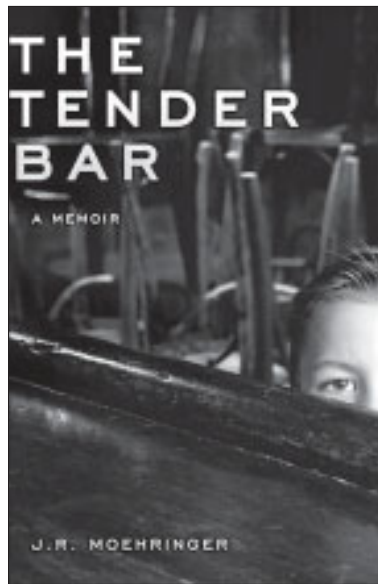
"The men sported cummerbunds of blubber that stretched their XXL jerseys ... Everything about the men had this surreal, cartoonish quality. With their scant hair, giant shoes, and overdeveloped upper bodies, they looked like Blutos and Popeyes and steroidal Elmer Fudds, except my lanky Uncle Charley, who patrolled the infield like a flamingo with sore knees. I remember that Steve wielded a wooden bat the size of a telephone pole, and ev-



ery home run he clouted hovered in the sky like a second moon."

This is the stuff myths are made of and Moehringer has the skills to bring a whole bevy of barroom characters to brilliant life. As the boy grows up, Charley and his cronies – Cager, Fuckembabe, Jedd, Joey D, Tommy, Bobo, Colt, Smelly, Bob the Cop, Fast Eddie – initiate him into the mysteries of drinking, women, betting, fast cars and the art of Frank Sinatra.

Against all odds, the author is accepted into Yale and against greater odds, he graduates. In his sophomore year he goes into an emotional tailspin at the failure of his first love and nearly flunks out. But it is the love songs of Frank Sinatra that save him. At graduation, who should be guest speaker but Ol' Blue Eyes himself.



"He thanked us for inviting him to speak of his 'art', and though he was an artist, he said, he wanted us to know first and

foremost he was a saloon singer. He loved saloons, and clearly loved the word. Every time he said 'saloon', his vocal cords relaxed and his streetwise Hoboken accent reemerged, overtaking his valiant attempt at Ivy League elocution. A saloon was the birthplace of his voice, he said. A saloon was the launch pad of his identity. A saloon was where his mother took him as a boy and sat him on the bar and told him to sing for all the men. I looked around. Was everyone getting this? Frank Sinatra grew up in a bar! No one seemed all that surprised, but I was pounding my fist on my thigh."

An era ended with the death of owner Steve from a heart attack at age 47. After the funeral, his legion of friends gather at his bar.

"Publicans had never been so packed, so loud, so happy and sad at the same time. As the liquor flowed, and the grief grew, and the laughter mounted, a type of hysteria set in, though some of the hysteria may have been caused by a lack of oxygen. The air was so thick and hot with sweat and smoke that breathing was an effort. The barroom looked like Dante's Manhasset. Eyes bulged. Tongues lolled. Every five minutes someone dropped a bottle, and large sparkling lagoons of booze and crushed glass began to form ... In such a sea of sadness, it seemed, all the whiskey in the world was but a drop."

Moehringer moved from Manhasset to Denver in 1990, but he left behind for his readers a timeless place.

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Guilt by association

Although there is no evidence that notorious American teacher John Mark Karr ever visited Phuket during his 10-month stay in Thailand, entry of his name and the word "Phuket" in the popular news.google search engine generates an alarming number of "hits" from media outlets around the globe.

This sad fact indicates that once again Phuket is being linked, albeit indirectly, with pedophilia.

This is extremely unfortunate because, in fact, no evidence exists that pedophiles, foreign or otherwise, are flocking to Phuket – despite the admittedly large size of its sex industry. Nevertheless, the province is routinely mentioned, along with Pattaya and Koh Samui, in foreign press reports about the "lure of Thailand" to pedophiles.

That is not to say that reports of foreign pedophiles are unknown here. Just last year, Canadian Jocelyn Leblanc was ordered deported after confessing to charges of sexually molesting a five-year-old male student in Patong. Although the *Gazette* was unable to confirm all the details of that case, we do know Leblanc was handed a two-year jail term, reduced to one year because of his admission of guilt. What happened after that is vague; although police said he was to be deported, the *Gazette* has received an unconfirmed report that he is still on the island. Another theory is that he was sent back to Canada to serve out his sentence there. However, the Canadian Embassy, like other foreign missions, refuses to divulge such information to the media, citing the "right to privacy" of its nationals.

The only other case that has come to the public's attention was that of Scotsman James Fraser Darling, sentenced a decade ago to 33 years in jail for sexually abusing nine Sea Gypsy boys. On appeal, his sentence was reduced to time served and he was deported.

Child molestation is probably no more common in Phuket than in most of the countries in which these damaging reports are generated. Yet perception can mold reality; all the media attention linking Phuket to the Karr case may reinforce misperceptions that Phuket is a haven for pedophiles – even at a time when Thailand has made considerable progress in protecting its youth from sexual predators.

Until Thailand becomes party to an effective system for tracking cross-border movements of known child molesters, the best we can do in Phuket is to prevent the island from becoming a destination of choice for foreign pedophiles.

Would-be molesters need to know that they face stiff jail terms with no chance of parole, release on bail or deportation unless there is follow-up. Without follow-up, all that the authorities will achieve is to hand the pedophiles a license to begin their depravity anew on some foreign shore.

– The Editor

"Phuket Gazette"

In association with The Nation Multimedia Group PCL

Editor: Parichat Utintu

Managing Editor: Alasdair Forbes

Deputy Editor: Chris Husted

Chief Reporter: Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

Editorial Team: Stephen Fein, Andy Johnstone, Natcha Yuttaworawit,
Janyaporn Morel, Jenjira Ruengjarus, Dominic Earnshaw.

General Manager (Marketing): Oranee Pienprasertkul

General Manager (Television): Chutimon Sriitthep

Marketing Manager: Natthira Susangrat

Classifieds Manager: Phatsara Raktammakit

Publisher: The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

Contact us

Advertising Sales: adsales@phuketgazette.net

Classified Advertising: classads@phuketgazette.net

Website Services: koy@phuketgazette.net

Gazette Guide inquiries: guide@phuketgazette.net

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

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Letters

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

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

A word of warning about credit cards

We were recently the victims of Visa fraud – over US\$3,125 was charged to our account by someone in Bangkok. We used the card only once in the past two months. The unauthorized charge came right afterwards.

A friend of ours told us that soon after he used his card in Phuket he had two charges made to his Australian credit card – one for 4,000 euros and the other for 7,000.

This is written as a warning to others to be wary of unauthorized charges to your cards when you use them in Phuket.

Steve Soper
Phuket

Malaysian national parks far superior

Thank you for your editorial on national park fees [*Gazette*, issue of August 19].

However, your information regarding Bako National Park in Sarawak is incorrect. There is no camera or video fee charged.

I know only a few places in Borneo where you have to pay a camera fee: Turtle Islands National Park, Danum Valley Conservation Centre, Sepilok Rehabilitation Centre for orangutan and the canopy walk in Poring. They are all in Sabah.

This makes Bako Park, which I think is one of the best in Southeast Asia, very cheap to visit.

The difference in entrance fees for Malaysians and foreigners is negligible. What's more, national park officers speak En-

glish very well, there are information brochures written in correct English with very few mistakes and the maps are clear and easy to understand.

There are only a very few parks in Thailand that can match this.

One thing is for sure, if I have to pay 400 baht to see a waterfall in a tropical forest, I will go to Malaysian Borneo. At least they don't kill their hornbills there.

Thailand can learn a lot from Malaysia. They have a plan: Vision 2020. They want to be a developed country by the year 2020. I think they are on the right path.

Manu Alders
Phuket

We stand corrected. Although a number of websites state that there are charges for using still and video cameras in Bako Park, Tourism Malaysia confirms that Mr Alders is correct.

– Editor

Problems catching the airport bus

I am very interested in using the airport bus as I abhor supporting the overpriced tuk-tuk and taxi limousine services to and from the airport.

Getting a ride from friends to Central Festival Phuket or Surakul Stadium is quite easy but I'm still not sure where to wait and what time?

However, finding information about the bus seems very difficult. I once had a friend try to explain where the bus stop at Central was.

I had another friend say he had a schedule and was going to have it laminated to put up in

his shop, but that never happened.

I also have no idea what time the service starts and ends and I am also clueless as to which part of the airport the bus leaves from.

Of course there are more Thais using the service as there does not seem to be any information in English. Some contact information with your article [Airport Bus B3m in the red, issue August 19] would have been helpful.

A simple website might be good. Can you please let me know where I can get general information?

Would the Tourism Authority of Thailand office have a schedule I can have?

Jaisabai
Kata

There is no website with this information. For up-to-date information on the bus service, call the Tourism Authority of Thailand office in Phuket at 076-211036 or 076-212213 during office hours, seven days a week.

– Editor

Vocally local

While I was happy as a sandboy to see my profile in print [Cheap Eats, *Gazette* issue of August 26] I was a little peeved [at the implication in the caption] that I am "not local".

I agree that I'm not a Thai national but I have lived and taught in Phuket City for the past six months and have no immediate plans to change either my job or address.

Steve Garner
Phuket

PS: I have no objection to being referred to as "a local *farang*".

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

THE CHOSEN FEW

BETWEEN THE LINES

By Patsya Chongtong

Some people think that Thailand, home of the multi-million-baht Elite Card, which offers expedited passage through airport Immigration and a few other perks, is just a cheap holiday destination.

But it's more than that; it's an exclusive place, as two recent news items illustrate.

The first involves Commerce Ministry Deputy Permanent Secretary Yanyong Puangrach, who earlier this month announced that amendments will be made to the Alien Business Operators Act of 1999, regarding what businesses foreigners are permitted to conduct.

"The law stipulates yearly amendment to the Act," he said, "and the Business Development Department is in the process of amending three schedules in the addenda."

K. Yanyong chairs the committee that oversees what types of business foreigners may operate. A large number of foreigners, it seems, are opening businesses in the service sector – services in which Thais are said to be "not yet competitive".

Incredibly, the spa business was cited as an example. As the law currently allows foreigners to operate spas, K. Yanyong vowed, "Amendments taking into account the current situation must be enacted."

The first schedule to be amended lists types of businesses that foreigners are barred from outright. The second cov-

ers businesses involving national security or "matters affecting morality and culture", which foreigners may enter only with special permission from the Cabinet ministers concerned. These two schedules, he said, "need little revising".

The third schedule is the one currently under scrutiny. This specifies businesses in which Thais are "not competitive" and in which foreigners may engage only after receiving approval from the Director-General of the relevant government department.

The Director-General, however, must in turn first receive permission to grant such exceptions from the Commerce Ministry's permanent Foreign Business Operators committee – headed by K. Yanyong.

"A number of additions will be made to this list, especially [in] the service sector of the economy," he was quoted as saying.

IN CRISIS

"Strict guidelines are necessary regarding [an] increase in [minimum] foreign investment [in such businesses] so that Thais have a chance to compete," he said.

Readers perhaps imagine the Deputy Permanent Secretary has mom-and-pop businesses in mind, right?

Well, yeah... if those mom-and-pop businesses happen to be giant retailers. "Take large-scale retailers, for example," K. Yanyong said. Presently the minimum investment foreigners need for permission to enter this sector is 100 million baht. This figure probably should be increased because, as it stands, a mere 100 million baht is too little, thus allowing giant international retailers to enter the Thai market too easily.

"The result is that small Thai retailers are in crisis."

But are they really? Has anyone noticed a dearth of small retailers here in Phuket? I should

In many cases, local retailers have been able not only to compete, but to thrive against 'foreign' competitors. To cite examples: the retailer to beat in Phuket on price is not one of the foreign concerns K. Yanyong is alluding to, but Super Cheap, the island's homegrown retailer, which attracts such large crowds that many people shop elsewhere simply to avoid the crush.

think not; the streets are lined with them, with new ones opening every day. As far as competition is concerned, moreover, the inability of small retailers to compete on price with "hypermarts" is hardly unique to Thailand. Giant retailers and their unrivaled power over the market is a worldwide phenomenon – one of the hallmarks of "globalization".

But in many cases, local retailers have been able not only to compete, but to thrive against "foreign" competitors.

To cite examples: the retailer to beat in Phuket on price is not one of the foreign concerns K. Yanyong is alluding to, but Super Cheap, the island's homegrown retailer, which attracts such large crowds that many people shop elsewhere simply to avoid the crush.

As for "spas" – so-called after the town of Spa in Belgium, famous for its hot springs, which Thailand's glorified massage and beauty emporiums nearly all lack – can anyone take seriously K.

Yanyong's assertion that Thais can't compete? Aren't Thais the experts on massage? They have been a pillar of this country's tourism business for decades.

One cannot help suspecting that the aim of additions to the Foreign Business Operators Act is perhaps not to ensure competition, but to exclude it.

That Thailand is an exclusive place may be easily deduced by identifying those among one's acquaintances who have been granted permanent Thai residency status or acquired Thai citizenship. Go ahead, count 'em up.

One may know persons who have spouses, children, homes and businesses in Thailand, who have lived here for a decade or more, yet none have either citizenship or permanent residency.

It may come as something of a surprise, then, to discover that, under Section 5 of the Alien Registration Act of 2493 (1949), all foreigners aged 12 years or older living in the kingdom must have a Thai identification card,

which is evidence of residency status.

Regarding citizenship: under the Citizenship Act of 2508 (1965), foreigners applying for Thai citizenship need show only that they are of legal age; have a trade or profession; have lived in Thailand continuously for five years; "have knowledge about Thai language as specified by the Ministry"; and "behave well".

Many foreigners fit this profile yet hardly any receive Thai citizenship – which is difficult for natives of the Americas, Europe or Oceania to understand. It appears to be big news, in fact, if they are even considered for it.

CITIZENS

A case in point occurred about the time K. Yanyong was making his announcement: Phuket's provincial office received applications for Thai citizenship from two foreigners, one Australian, the other Indian (see also p14).

"Both say they have lived in Thailand a long time and love Thailand and the King," a vernacular report noted.

"They answered questions from the relevant government agencies; speak Thai well; have learned the national anthem and the King's Theme by heart, and sang the songs harmoniously.

"Both answered every question correctly, in accordance with regulations issued by the Interior Ministry last year setting forth criteria for Thai citizenship."

Vice-Governor Worapot Rattasima said the applications would be passed on to the Interior Ministry for consideration.

However, a Thai reporter sneered at the idea of foreigners becoming citizens. "They're just trying to get comfortable in Thailand," he said.

Such remarks only serve to validate K. Yanyong's point of view. This is, after all, an exclusive place.

How do I find my errant husband?

I have been married to an Englishman for 10 years. We have two children, who have both Thai and English passports.

My husband left me last year after we had big problems, and he took the children with him.

I want to see my kids and finish with him. I know he is still in Thailand but I can't find him.

He has a non-immigrant O visa and goes to Burma on a "visa run" every 90 days.

Could Immigration help me to find him? If Immigration can find him, are they allowed to tell me? What can I do?

Nuttaporn Patong

Adisorn Chanta, a lawyer with the International Law Office, replies:

Immigration may be able to help – if they have the information. Normally such information is not open to the public, but under Thai law you and your husband are one person, so you should be able to see it.

Whether you were married in Thailand or England you can apply in a court to file for divorce and eventually for custody of the children by using your husband's last known address for filing in court.

Certainly you will be able to enforce your legal right as a

mother to see your children regularly. I recommend that you hire a lawyer to help you with divorce and custody proceedings.

You could also ask for help at the Phuket Provincial State Attorney's Office; there is a legal assistance department in that office. Their office is on Rattana-

kosin 200 Phi Rd in Phuket City.

Pol Capt Krissarat Nuesen of the Phuket Immigration Office replies:

Usually the private address of a foreigner may not be divulged to anyone not involved with that person.

However, in this case, if you bring evidence of your marriage to the Immigration Office and explain the problem, we may be able to help.

We do not know if we have your husband's address in our records. This depends on whether he has reported it to us, as he should.

If he is renting a house, there should be a record from his landlord – landlords are supposed to report foreigners living in their properties. The trouble is, not all of them bother to do so.

Phuket Immigration Office is at the Saphan Hin end of Phuket Rd, in Phuket City.

Issues & ANSWERS

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

The buffalo died, send money please, said the letter. The buffalo fell sick, then died in the middle of the rice field.

When it died it fell on papa and broke his leg, and while they were taking him to the hospital on the motorcycle they had a crash with a police car.

Then when the writer of the letter sold the buffalo meat, a dozen villagers got food poisoning and had to be taken hospital.

A very expensive business, all this, which apparently explains why money is required when the buffalo dies.

I had always wondered why the buffalo dying was a reason for requesting money, especially in Phuket where I have no idea what buffaloes do. I have not seen a buffalo doing a hard day's work in Phuket for as long as I've been here. The only useful thing they do is live in a field that needs fertilizing.

I have a friend who contributes to this publication and he recently wrote a piece about how the buffaloes of Phuket are being pushed into ever-decreasing habitats. Much like the snakes, lizards and other forms of wildlife that are being pushed out by the rapid development.

The buffaloes of Kamala were regularly photographed walking along the beach at sunset. Every afternoon, just before sundown, they would head down to the beach and walk the length in the edge of the surf, silhouetted by the setting sun.

I used shots of this remarkable sight in a tourism video that I made for the Thai government. They were absolutely beautiful shots, but the powers that be didn't want them in the video. Pollution, they said. Pointing out that the real pollution was garbage and waste – and the fact that a few buffalo turds didn't hurt anybody – failed to change their minds.

They also thought that it would turn some tourists away, though they would have to be tourists who did not know that the Asian buffalo is a very different



Take it easy when the buffalo are around. It could cost you 20,000 baht if you hit one, and that's not counting the repairs to the car.

Horns of a dilemma

beast from the wild African Cape buffalo or the feral buffalo found in Northern Australia.

I suppose the prospect of looking up from a peaceful rest in a deckchair to see a herd of ferocious horned beasts stampeding toward you could be a bit unsettling. However, unlike the African buffalo, which will attack anything in sight, it is extremely rare for Asian buffaloes to become aggressive unless very frightened.

Mind you, there was a case in Kamala when one of these placid old local buffaloes attacked and killed its owner – and became stew for its troubles. I remember this well, because I got to eat a couple of bowls of this particular buffalo myself.

For serious buffalo enthusiasts, here's an excerpt from Wikipedia: "The classification of the Water Buffalo is uncertain. Some authorities list a single species, *Bubalus bubalus*, with three subspecies, the River Buffalo (*B. bubalus bubalus*) of South Asia and the Carabao, or Swamp Buffalo, (*B. bubalus carabanesis*) of the Philippines and Southeast Asia, and the Arni, or Wild Buffalo, (*B. bubalus arnee*).

"Others regard these as closely related, but separate species. The Swamp Buffalo is primarily found in the eastern half of Asia and has 48 chromosomes.

The River Buffalo is mostly found in the western half of Asia, and has 50 chromosomes. Fertile offspring occur between the two. It does not readily hybridize with cattle, which have 60

chromosomes." So now you know.

The buffalo has been the workhorse of Asia for centuries, pulling plows in the rice fields and pulling carts. Although the buffalo is still working for a living in most parts of Southern Asia, in much of Thailand it has little to do.

In Phuket, it is being pushed into smaller and smaller areas, and is often seen crossing busy roads in Thalung. It's a pleasant sight to see the old buffs lumbering across the road, oblivious to

traffic, but motorists have to be wary of them, especially at night. They are very hard to see in the dark, especially when covered in mud from a day spent pleasantly wallowing.

Hitting a buffalo is very unpleasant for both buffalo and the vehicle and its occupants. So take it easy driving round the old rice fields at night. Although they don't seem to have much purpose, it is going to cost you around 20,000 baht if you wipe one out. To pay for the buffalo that is, not the car.

LARGER THAN LIFE

By Graham Doven

PHUKET DIARY

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 the 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 hyp-

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

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Filling in the blanks for all that property

It would of course be hypocritical of anyone living here, me included, to condemn all the new construction.

The same thing that brought us here continues to attract others, though the unspoiled beaches, beautiful countryside and sleepy villages that first attracted visitors to Phuket barely three decades ago are now virtually all gone.

But as new developments multiply, it is difficult to be certain of just what effect the building boom is having on Phuket's environment, though it is easy to see that large areas of former jungle are being cleared from hillsides to satisfy the increasing demand for a room with a view.

How many rare plants are being swept away is anybody's guess. We have already seen in some areas of the island that, in times of heavy rainfall, properties can be damaged and even swept away when there are no trees to hold the soil together.

What effect this is having on the wildlife population is not so clear. Other than a few protected animals in the national park, Phuket's wildlife is largely insect and reptilian.

Millions of frogs and lizards feed on mosquitoes and other insects. They, in turn, provide food for snakes that become food for the only wild mammal I have ever seen on the island – and that was only once a couple of years ago – the mongoose.

I have to admit that I have no idea how many of them exist here; the majority of mammals were hunted to extinction years ago.

What is obvious is that these animals' habitats in the lowlands are disappearing fast. Few frogs live higher up in the hills, so I presume numbers of all species are falling.

At least Phuket is doing something to protect the environment. We have to hope that the law that forbids any building on land higher than 80 meters above sea level is never rescinded, though some properties I have seen look suspiciously close to this figure.

I hope that the committee set up by Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura to monitor construction projects will be given the power to prevent work starting before environmental impact assessments are carried out. One question that has puz-



This is where the soil comes from...



... and this is where it is going.

zled me for a long time is: where does all the soil used for building come from? Every day of the year trucks loaded with red earth can be seen thundering down the roads on the way to construction sites.

A site of 100-plus rai close to me will take an estimated 28,000 truck loads of soil to fill, I was told by the developer, but he had no idea where it comes from. I would again be a hypocrite to condemn this practice as my own small plot was also filled with soil.

I asked my builder if he knew where it came from and, again, he had no idea. When you need soil you

simply phone one of the supply companies and order by the truckload, he said.

It appeared that the only way to find out was to follow the trucks. The results were quite disturbing. One I followed took a left turn halfway between Talang and the Heroines Monument heading south. The turn is signposted Ban Liphon.

Go down this road a few miles and you come to an area of foothills. For at least a mile nearly every hill has been cut away or is in the process of being cut away. It is a grotesque

For at least a mile nearly every hill has been cut away or is in the process of being cut away. It is a grotesque sight.

sight. What remains is vast cliffs of red earth.

When it rains it is clear that water pouring down these cliffs continues to erode the soil away, and even nature must find it impossible to get anything to grow on such a surface. A look on the map shows this area to be next to, or maybe even within, the boundaries of Khao Phra Thaeo National Park.

That landfill is needed is indisputable, but surely there must be a better method than this.

Another truck I followed took me down a road I have passed many times but never driven down. It leads into a valley of stunning natural beauty, which has probably only been seen by a few people, as the road actually goes nowhere.

I shall keep its location a secret, but it is amazing how much beauty still exists here if you get off the main roads.

Even down this secret road, however, there were two sites.

although the hill would be lower than before and have a flat top, at least trees and other vegetation would have the chance to recolonize it.

This article is not intended to be seen as having a go at the construction and development industry.

Thailand needs foreign currency, and Phuket is providing plenty of it, and as long as there is a demand for housing and new hotels, developers will meet that demand.

But unless development is better controlled with, say, more areas of designated green belt, then we can certainly kiss paradise goodbye and, along with it, the tourists the island relies on.



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Waste technology powers up the production of fuel

By John Seebach

This week I will drift away from focusing on the IT sector a bit, and dabble in technology and alternative fuels instead.

As an undergraduate engineering student in northern New York State, I had a physics teacher who was nothing short of a genius with a true gift of making complicated subjects understandable.

I signed up for just about anything he was teaching and one of my favorite courses was world energy resources. Now, remember this was back in the late '70s, so this guy was truly ahead of his time when he predicted that rotting garbage and animal products would someday help to fuel the world's insatiable appetite for energy.

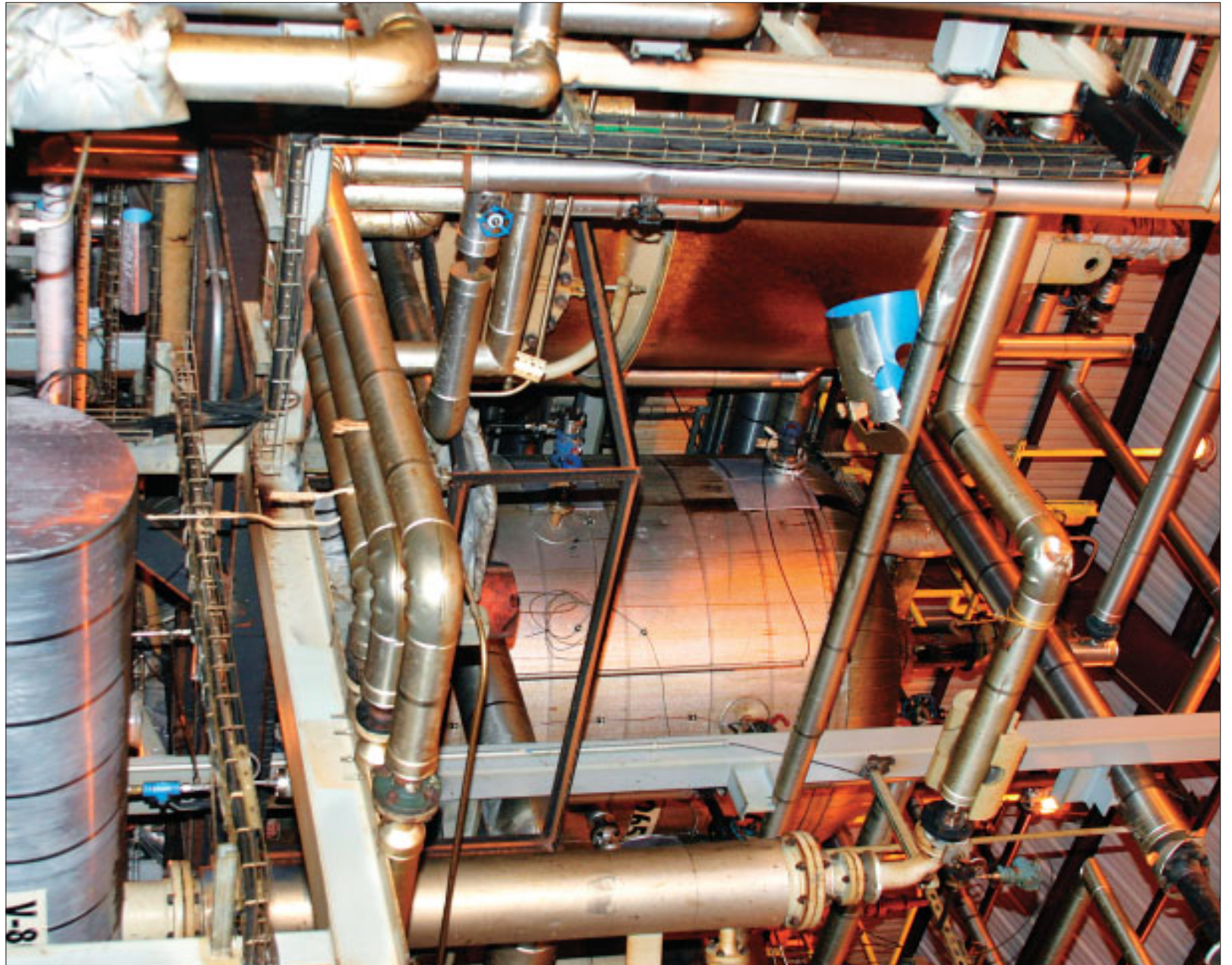
Today, such products are actually making their way into the pipelines that feed our world's energy needs.

CONVERSION

To be more specific, there is a now a refinery system, called "thermal conversion", that takes just about anything from your average slaughterhouse that is not packaged for the grocery store and churns it into a heavy sludge rich in BTUs (British Thermal Units).

To explain, BTUs are a measure of a fuel's energy capability. For example, burning gasoline would have a high BTU content compared with burning paper or wood. It takes roughly 270 tonnes of turkey offal and 500 tonnes of pig fat to produce 500 barrels of low-grade fuel oil worth US\$12,600. This "medium" BTU content product is then combined with higher-grade oil to produce diesel and heating fuels that burn much cleaner than coal, for example.

A thermal-conversion plant in Missouri has teamed up with



DIGESTIVE SYSTEM: Inside the Missouri plant that is turning slaughterhouse waste into fuel oil.

its local-water treatment plant, and is now supplying 75% of the water-treatment plant's energy needs. Think about it: they are using waste products from food processing plants to clean up waste products from the local citizens – that's garbage cleaning garbage.

In our energy-hungry world, it's a dream come true. This thermal-conversion process will soon be refined to take materials other than slaughterhouse waste, such

as municipal sewage, old tires, mixed plastics and nearly every other wretched piece of junk nobody wants to deal with, and turn it into high-grade fuel oil.

One drawback of this new technology is the foul odor it produces. Back in 2005, when the plant finally went online after years of delays, the local residents picketed the plant and forced it to shut down.

Ozone scrubbers, which are used to eliminate odors at tire-burning and natural-gas production plants, were then introduced at the plant. This was just the ticket to get the plant back up and running, and since then it has operated at 70% efficiency, producing more than 5,000 barrels of crude oil a day.

The positive side of this equation is that the oil produced does not need to be refined to be useful. Just add a few chemicals and it is ready to feed hot-water boilers, thermal heaters and a host of other industrial energy systems. The oil meets specification D396, a grade widely used by electricity generators. The oil can

be sold to utilities as is, or further distilled into vehicle-grade diesel and gasoline, or, via a steam process, made into hydrogen.

This is very encouraging news because there is currently a push to get hydrogen fuel-cell technology implemented in the automotive sector. If this technology can be developed commercially, it means much more than cheap fuel, it means clean-burning fuel will be produced from waste products produced from our own food processing plants.

So why has success in this field been so long in coming? Basically, everything has been more complex and expensive than anyone guessed.

First, the conversion process needed tweaking. Each variable – temperature, pressure, volume, tank-residence time – needs to precisely match the feedstock, which proves to be far from easy on an industrial scale.

The most difficult aspect has been finding the sweet spot in the process parameters. This isn't a laboratory; the plant operators

have to respond to the real world of varying supply. If they get two truckloads in a row of just feathers for example, they need to deal with that high-protein peak. Or if they get too much blood at once, the result is too much water. The solution so far has been to blend disparate truckloads of stock in a holding tank, making what enters the process relatively consistent.

This technology is breaking new ground not only in fuel oil energy supply but also green energy, and deals directly with major waste problems as well.

There is finally a solution to what to do with all those turkey and cow leftovers from the slaughterhouse, and ah yes, let's not forget about all the human poop that gets turned into hydrogen power in the process.

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



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ON THE MOVE

Denis Thouvard, from France, has been promoted to General Manager at Le Royal Meridien Phuket Yacht Club. Mr Thouvard has more than 18 years' experience in the hospitality industry. From 1996 to 1998 he worked on the renovation of Le Royal Meridien Phuket Yacht Club. He also worked with Starwood as General Manager of the Sheraton Grande Sukhumvit, Bangkok.



Torsten Richter, 34, from Germany, has been promoted to Hotel Manager of the Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket. Mr Richter has a hospitality degree from Cornell University and three years' experience in food and beverage. He worked for six years at the Sheraton Park Lane Hotel in London. He was previously Executive Assistant Manager of Food and Beverage at the Sheraton Grande Laguna.



Nuttaphol Sakulkosol, 40, from Bangkok, has been hired as Director of Engineering at Le Meridien Khao Lak Beach & Spa Resort. K. Nuttaphol received a degree in administration and organization management from Phuket Rajabhat University and has more than 10 years' experience in the hospitality industry. He was previously Chief Engineer and Loss Prevention Manager at Mayfair Marriott Executive Apartments, Bangkok.



Sotheby real estate franchise opens doors

CHERNG TALAY: Sotheby's has come to Phuket, though it's not quite the famous 260-year-old London auction house. Hunter Sotheby's International Realty (HSIR) is a franchise from US-based Sotheby's International Realty (SIR), which does have links with Sotheby's auction house.

The brokerage, started by husband-and-wife team Andrew and Krista Hunter, aims to attract wealthy clients from around the world and offer unique property in the region.

Mrs Hunter said it's not just the price that will determine what the firm offers. "We represent any unique property – something out of the ordinary, something special," she said. "Obviously a lot of properties in Phuket fall into that category just by virtue of Phuket being something special."

HSIR offers a number of advantages to sellers, she said. These include the ability to list Phuket properties on the Sotheby's International website and in the Sotheby's auction house magazine. HSIR can also give and get referrals from more than 300 other Sotheby brokers around the world, Mrs Hunter said. SIR has also sent representatives from the main office to train the five brokers on staff at the local branch.

Another local realty company that courts a similar, high-

end audience is CB Richard Ellis (CBRE). But Sararat Saephoo, a sales administrator for the company, said that she does not believe that another broker on the island will make a difference to CBRE's sales base.

"We are not worried about the [competition] because we have many customers and they give us good feedback," she said. "The demand in the high-end market is greater than in any other market."

The Hunters moved from Shanghai, China, to Phuket after researching the realty opportunities available in Southern Thailand. Mrs Hunter said she and her husband hope to open separate offices in Phang Nga and Krabi.

SIR is a subsidiary of Realogy Corp, itself a spin-off from Cendant Corp, a New York-based provider of business and consumer services, primarily in the real estate and travel industries.

SIR was formed in 1976 "to provide independent brokerages with a powerful marketing and referral program for luxury listings." It has a long-term strategic alliance with Sotheby's, the Michigan-based owner of the venerable auction house.

SIR supports franchisees with operational, marketing, recruiting, educational and business development resources.

– **Jenjira Reungjarus**



Since Mikhail Gorbachev dismantled communism, Russians have enjoyed unprecedented freedom, including the freedom to travel, many to Phuket. But since the tsunami, numbers have plummeted.

– Photo EPA/Sergei Chirikov

OrBorJor in drive to attract Russians to return to Phuket

PHUKET: The Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) has allocated 2 million baht for the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) to stage a presentation called "Phuket Happy Hour" in Moscow during a Leisure 2006 Expo in the Rus-

sian capital from September 19 to 22.

The aim is to boost the number of Russian tourists coming to Phuket.

In 2004, 102,349 Russians visited Phuket, but in the year following the tsunami that num-

ber plummeted to about 9,000 – a drop of 91%.

The TAT has recently staged presentations across Europe and Asia, but this will be the first in Russia since the tsunami.

"We want to stage a presentation about Phuket to let them know about our events, sports and many tourism services," said Suwalai Pinpradab, Director of the TAT Region 4 office in Phuket.

"There have been charter flights from Russia before and we want them to return," she added.

Seven or eight businesspeople, *OrBorJor* and TAT officials, and Phuket Tourist Association members will go to Moscow.

"We hope that the presentation will help us to attract more Russian tourists next year, and that arrivals from that country will return to close to the number we had in 2004," K. Suwalai said.

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The baby boomer generation – those born in the decade after World War II, roughly 1945 to 1955 – are no longer babies. They are graying now, and are either retired or not far from it.

What is interesting about this generation is that these people have greater affluence and much wider choices than any generation before theirs.

Lloyds TSB, a major British bank recently conducted a survey of the attitudes of people approaching retirement in the UK. One of the results was an eye-opener: more than 91% of respondents said they wanted to retire outside of the United Kingdom.

In reality, for most of the 91% this will not happen, for a variety of reasons such as family ties, friendships and fear of the unknown. But significant numbers of people will move, usually to warmer climates. In North America this will mean relocation to the “sunshine belt” and in Europe a move to warmer areas in the south.

The world, as we are all very aware, is much “smaller” than it used to be. Modern communications and transport make the difference.

Another great change that took place in the 20th Century was the rapid decline in the importance of the extended family unit. Many will bemoan this as a tragedy but it is reality.

On top of that, educational improvements have led to greater wealth and individual freedom in many countries. Whether people choose to exercise that freedom is entirely a personal matter.

RETIREMENT

The significance for Southeast Asia is that a small percentage of the 91%, which equates in real terms to a substantial number of people, are already making this region their retirement home.

A significant number will spend some months every year in Southeast Asia and travel home for the remainder of the year. Others will spend most, if not all, of their time in this region.

Countries such as New Zealand and Australia have long understood the economic benefits of this “gray immigration”. One “gray” immigrant is worth, on average, more than 10 tourists in terms of the host nation's income.

Catering to specific markets by creating the regulatory, physical and skills infrastructure is already being done in this region. One perfect example is the medical tourism; it is widely understood that this is a very profitable area.

Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and India are aggressively promoting this form of tourism with great success.

The benefits are not merely financial; medical tourism provides local entrepreneurs with the opportunity to develop hospitals of a high standard and gives local medical professionals career



Malaysia offers 10-year visas and the right to own one or two properties. – Photo: EPA/Ahmad Yusni



MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

Benefits of the baby boomers

opportunities that otherwise would not exist. It also makes better health care facilities available to local residents.

However, Southeast Asian governments have generally been very slow to recognize the massive benefits that this retirement immigration could bring to their economies.

They pay lip service to the theory but do not appear to have thought the whole situation through.

If countries in this region are really serious about encouraging retirees, they must ask themselves: “What do retirees want?”

One of the prime desires is the security of owning the property to which one retires. Countries such as Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines offer retirees packages but all of them limit the retirees to owning apartments in condominiums.

Many retirees, however, want to have their own gardens – part of the attraction for people

living in this region is the natural beauty of the plants, birds and other wildlife. Gardening is a popular hobby among senior citizens.

Malaysia has stolen ahead of its rivals. Its government has realized that retired people want security, so it offers 10-year renewable visas and the right to own one or two properties.

The scheme, known as “Malaysia My Second Home”, requires the retirees to meet certain criteria: for example, the properties they buy must cost more than a stipulated minimum.

This is for two simple reasons: Malaysia does not want to encourage “breadline” retirees and it does not want foreigners competing for property with poorer Malaysians.

Certain income levels or fixed deposits are also required to guarantee the financial stability of the applicant – in this regard Malaysia is similar to Thailand.

There are other valuable incentives in this program. For further information see the excellent Malaysia My Second Home website at www.imi.gov.my/Eng/im_MalaysiaMy2Home.asp.

Take a look, too, at the excellent magazine *The Expat*, available in hardcopy and online at www.expatriate.com.

The most ambitious project ever devised for retirees was envisaged in the mid 1980s by some heavy-hitting Japanese investors.

The country selected was Somalia because of its year-round hot climate.

The idea was to transport 300,000 Japanese retirees to a substantial chunk of coastal land in Somalia with first-world infrastructure – roads, electricity, housing, medical care, entertainment, shopping, golf courses and so on.

The benefits to Somalia would have been a massive infusion of capital and many employment opportunities.

Somalia, however, descended into civil war – where it remains.

The project was canceled.

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

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Grueling course for beach and mountain marathon

KARON-LAEM PHROM-THEP: All are welcome to join the Phuket International Mountain Beach Marathon 2006 on October 22, when athletes run from Karon Circle to Laem Phromthep and back to complete a full marathon circuit of 42.195 kilometers.

The event, being organized by the Kata-Karon Municipality, the Tourism Authority of Thailand and Phuket Hotel Association, also includes a 21.1-km half-marathon, a 10.55-km mini-marathon and a 5-km Fun and Family Run. All races will start between 3 am and 11 am at Karon Circle.

The top prize in the men's

category of the full marathon is 20,000 baht, while the first woman to complete the circuit will win 12,000 baht.

Competitors must pay and register before race day. Registration forms can be downloaded or completed online, in Thai or English, through the event website: www.phuketmarathon.org

Entrants must also confirm registration and pay the appropriate entry fee to the race organizers at Karon Park from 10 am to 9 pm on October 21.

Entry to the marathon is 500 baht, half-marathon 400 baht, mini-marathon and Fun and Family Run 300 baht.

Mini-marathon set for Naiharn

NAI HARN: The Rawai and Chalong Tambon Administration Organizations (*OrBorTor*), The Evason Phuket Resort & Six Senses Spa and Phuket Rajabhat University have teamed up to organize a mini-marathon and fun run on September 10.

The 10.5-kilometer mini-marathon will be raced with separate divisions for men and women, with the following categories in each division: under 15 years, open, 30-34 years, 35-39 years, 40-44 years, 45-49 years, 50-54 years, and over 55 years. Entry costs 200 baht per person.

Entry to the 4.8-km fun run costs 100 baht per person. The race categories are: open, over

35 years, VIP and families with children under 7 years.

All races will be run under International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) rules, and will start and finish at Nai Harn lake.

First-, second- and third-place winners in each category will win 1,000 baht, 700 baht and 500 baht, respectively. The top five in each race will receive a trophy.

For more information or to enter call Rawai *OrBorTor* at Tel: 076-288651 ext 14, or 01-5375345 (K. Tor), 01-0834944 (K. Aom), 01-8943287 (K. Yui), 07-8848229 (K. Jarongchai) or 09-9087639 (K. Yo).

International beach volleyball venue moved to Karon



Thailand (red tops) lost to Japan in the finals of the FIVB Beach Volleyball Challenge 2005, but Phuket won the big prize – the right to hold the 2006 top-level tournament.

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

KARON: The venue for the Swatch-FIVB World Tour Women's Professional Volleyball tournament, originally scheduled to be held at Kata Beach November 1 to 5, has been moved to Karon Beach.

The move was announced at an August 25 meeting at the Kata Beach Resort, attended by Phuket Sports Association President Eam Thavornwongwongse, Karon Municipality Mayor Tawee Thongchaem, private company representatives and related personnel from the Kata Group of hotels, which will host the event.

K. Eam, also Director of the Kata Group, told the *Gazette* that the tournament was moved to the new location, in front of Kata Beach Resort in Karon, because high tides were expected to inundate Kata Beach during parts of the last day of the tournament, Loy Krathong Day.

A survey of Kata Beach on August 21 conducted by K. Eam, Geoffrey Rowe of event organizers Pentangle Promotions and other officials determined that Kata Beach would be unsuitable for tournament play on that day due to high tides.

The tournament requires a minimum 8,000 square meters for four playing courts, including a center court with seating capacity for 3,000 spectators.

Additional space is also needed for the sale of products

under the government's One Tambon One Product (OTOP) program.

Other aspects of the exciting tournament remain unchanged, with up to 60 of the world's top women's beach volleyball teams expected to compete for about 7 million baht in prize money.

These include four teams from beach volleyball powerhouse Brazil, two from Greece and others from China, the US, the Netherlands and Belgium.

The event is the last of 15 stops on the US\$3.36 million (135 million baht) FIVB World Tour Calendar for 2006. Play will be broadcast by iTV and admission is free of charge.

Phuket's hosting of the event follows the success of the FIVB Beach Volleyball Challenge 2005, held in Patong last December, which saw over 3,000 fans turn up to cheer on the bikini-clad competitors.

The Japanese pair of Shinako Tanaka and Eiko Koizumi won that event, beating out Southeast Asian Games gold medalists Jarunee Sannok and Kamoltip Kulna of Thailand in the final.

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Schools combine for first joint sports day

PHUKET CITY: August 25 marked the first time that Dowroong School and Darasamut School have joined together on the sports field at Surakul Stadium.

Students in the schools took part in a day-long event that included cheerleader and aerobic dance competitions, track races, long jump and shot put.



PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

Didi's go two points ahead

PATONG: Didi's pushed their Patong Darts League lead to three games with a crucial 5-4 win at home over second-place Piccadilly.

The winning dart was thrown by Thai player Bao, aka "Baoster", whose partner Pikey hit some big scores to get down into doubles territory before the Piccadilly pair of Markus and Chris.

Piccadilly came back to win the beer leg with yet another clutch finish by Jeff.

Piccadillian Ulf, who actually hails from Sweden, hit two 140s in his winning singles match against Didi's Simmo.

In other matches, Valhalla were the only team to take all three points in their 5-4 win at Jungle Juice. Dog's Bollocks picked up a 6-3 away win over Footrot Flats before losing the beer leg. Shakers posted a surprise beer leg win after an 8-1 thumping by the Amigos.

OffShore continued in their winning ways, with a 6-3 win at TaiLife, who salvaged the beer leg and its associated point. The win put OffShore in a tie for third place with Coyote, who maintain a game in hand after their match with Queen Mary had to be postponed.

More importantly, Coyote lead the league in the all-important quest for beer, having racked

up nine beer leg wins after 12 weeks of play. Newcomers TaiLife and Footrot Flats have been most generous in this regard, having bought nine rounds each.

Team captains are requested to send match results to league secretary Steen as soon as possible. Send any additional match information to: darts@phuketgazette.net

August 22 results: TaiLife* 3 OffShore 6; Footrot Flats* 3 Dog's Bollocks 6; Shakers* 1 Amigos 8; Jungle Juice 4 Valhalla* 5; Didi's 5 Piccadilly* 4. (* = winner of beer leg)

Standings: 1. Didi's (29 pts.); 2. Piccadilly (26); 3.= Coyote*, Offshore (23); 5. Amigos (21); 6. Dog's Bollocks (18); 7. Valhalla (16); 8. Queen Mary* (15); 9. Shakers (14); 10. Jungle Juice (12); 11. Footrot Flats (9); 12. TaiLife (7) (* = one game in hand).

Beer legs: 1. Coyote Bar* (9); 2. Piccadilly (8) 3.= Didi's, Queen Mary*, Amigos (7); 6.= Valhalla, Shakers, Jungle Juice (6); 9. OffShore (5); 10. Dog's Bollocks (4); 11.= TaiLife, Footrot Flats (3) (* = one game in hand).

September 5 fixtures: TaiLife v Amigos; Footrot Flats v Queen Mary; Shakers v Piccadilly; Jungle Juice v Dog's Bollocks; Didi's v Valhalla; Coyote Bar v OffShore Bar (home teams first).

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Many of the rooms have timber-and-glass doors opening onto the garden or the swimming pool terrace.

Use of timber makes dream home unusual

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Located in a peaceful cul-de-sac in Rawai, the home is close to the many amenities of the area. The neighborhood includes beautiful beaches, restaurants and bars. Not far away are Chalong's banks, post office, medical and dental services, yacht club, veterinarians and markets.

The well-equipped Western kitchen includes black granite counter tops, a four-burner cook top, an oven, an exhaust hood and solid timber cabinets both above and below the bench tops.

The three main bedrooms all have built-in closets and en-suite bathrooms, with the master suite featuring a corner Jacuzzi. A fourth bedroom, without bathroom, is suitable for use as a study.

The home also has many out-of-the-ordinary features, such as vaulted ceilings, timber beams,

timber skirting and cornice, and a hardwood floor. The bedrooms have ceramic tile floors with hardwood borders and the bathrooms have hand-glazed tiles, glass basins, white marble counters, wooden cabinets and big timber-framed mirrors.

Many of the rooms have timber-and-glass bi-fold doors opening onto the garden or the swimming pool terrace. Window and door frames are also custom-built in timber, as are the eye-catching internal and external doors.

Outdoor areas feature hand-glazed tiles set into colored sandwash. There are two outdoor shower areas, one with a "rain shower". The garden is walled for privacy and the street frontage has a terracotta brick wall.

The land title is Chanote and the property is priced at 17 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 an email to: info@siamrealestate.com

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Grandfather clock with plain case, from Muangthong Watch Yaowarat, 11,000 baht.



Square-faced clock from Lin Fu Gallery, featuring Chinese calligraphy. 800 baht.



Striking colors: Wall clock from Lin Fu Gallery, 1,200 baht.



Mother-of-pearl inlaid grandfather clocks, 18,000 baht from Muangthong Watch Yaowarat.

CLOCK THESE

In any living room, the quiet tick of a clock adds a special serenity to the atmosphere. Quiet electric clocks don't quite make the grade in this respect; even those that have a tick don't have the quiet mechanical murmurs that a traditional piece of clockwork has, or the throat-clearing noises it makes before it strikes.

Thanormkiat Korsermsri, owner of Muangthong Watch Yaowarat, has a range of mechanical clocks ranging from wind-up wall clocks to impressive weight-driven "grandfathers" – freestanding long-case clocks.

K. Thanormkiat's father and elder brother started the business 30 years ago on Bangkok Rd. There was one particular grandfather clock that K. Thanormkiat particularly liked.

About 20 years ago, his father wanted to sell it, but K. Thanormkiat persuaded him to keep it.

He still has it in his shop, which he moved to Yaowarat Rd a year ago.

He also has a range of other grandfathers, with the mechanisms imported from Germany and the cases made in Bangkok.

These clocks, he says, have a working life of at least 100 years – making them future antiques – because they do not rely on plastic motors driven by batteries but on brass movements

powered by gravity, in the form of three weights.

These impressive clocks cost between 10,000 and 18,000 baht, with the cases at the top end of the range featuring intricate mother-of-pearl inlay.

K. Thanormkiat sells and fixes clocks at his shop, and offers free delivery for any grandfather clock bought. He also sells wristwatches.

If, on the other hand, trying to remember to wind a clock every week or every month is not for you, Roongtham Lakhaphan, the owner of Lin Fu Gallery, takes a more modern route with his timepieces.

The brightly-painted, hand-made clocks are imported from

China and are powered by two AA batteries. They come in two basic styles: square clocks without glass costing 800 baht and rectangular clocks with glass-covered faces costing 1,200 baht.

• *Muangthong Watch Yaowarat, 38 Yaowarat Rd (near the intersection with Phang Nga Rd), is open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am to 6:30 pm. For more information call Tel: 06-7459708.*

• *Lin Fu Gallery, 25/3 Mae Luan Rd (opposite Soi Panthep) is open from Monday to Saturday from 8:30 am to 6 pm. For more information call K. Roongtham at Tel: 01-537-9211 or 076-220104.*




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Construction

by Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

Modern living in the city



Commercial and residential: home offices (left) and townhouses.

SMD Development, the company responsible for Chalong Park View, has a new project on the southern edge of Phuket City.

The Phuket Modern Life project, being built on 15 rai of land near the intersection of Sakdidet Rd and Chao Fa East Rd will have both commercial and residential properties.

The first units are expected to be ready for buyers to occupy in around seven months.

Nucharin Angthanadilok, Manager of SMD Development, said that the company will invest around 300 million baht in building 91 units – some of them shophouses, some home offices and the remainder townhouses.

SMD also plans to build serviced apartments on the plot in the future, though the cost of these is not included in the 300 million baht.

“Our land plot is in the shape of a lucky Chinese ‘gold bag’,” she noted.

“People believe this will bring good fortune to their lives and their businesses. We started marketing last May and we have already sold all 10 home offices,” K. Nucharin said.

Apart from the home offices, the project will have 65 townhouses and 16 shophouses. The future serviced apartment blocks will contain 220 units.

Construction will begin with the shophouses. Work is slated to start this month, with buyers expected to be able to move in around seven months later. The three-and-a-half-story shophouses will be large. Each will be 4.5 meters wide at the front and occupy a 90-square-meter plot.

The shophouses will have four bedrooms, three bathrooms and a living room and will sell at

5.5 million baht for units facing onto Sakdidet Rd and 4.2 million baht for units facing into the development.

“I have heard that the buyers plan to open a variety of businesses, including a home decoration store,” K. Nucharin said.

The home offices will be 8m wide and be built on 160sqm of land. The three-story buildings will have three bedrooms, four bathrooms, a meeting room, one storeroom and two car-parking spaces. They will be priced at 4.99 million baht.

The townhouses, also three stories high, will each have a 120-sqm footprint and will have three bedrooms, three bathrooms, living and dining rooms and one car-parking spot. They will sell for 3.2 million baht apiece.

“We started clearing the land in April this year and right now we are building a road through the project. Work has been going slowly due to the recent heavy rain but we expect to have the whole project, excluding the serviced apartments, finished within two years,” K. Nucharin said.

“As for our serviced apartments, we are still researching market demand and may yet change our plans.

“At the moment we plan to build a pair of 12-story buildings with a total of 220 units.

“The project will include a clubhouse and full amenities such as a fitness club and swimming pool.

“It is very difficult to find good land for building apartments

in Phuket City; we are very lucky in that respect,” she added.

“Phuket doesn’t have [much in the way of] quality serviced apartments like in Bangkok, and we intend to change that. We plan to keep the apartments for rent, apart from the top floor, which we may sell,” she explained.

Apart from the buildings, SMD also has plans to provide leisure facilities in the development. Two rai of land has been set aside for a “tropical park”.

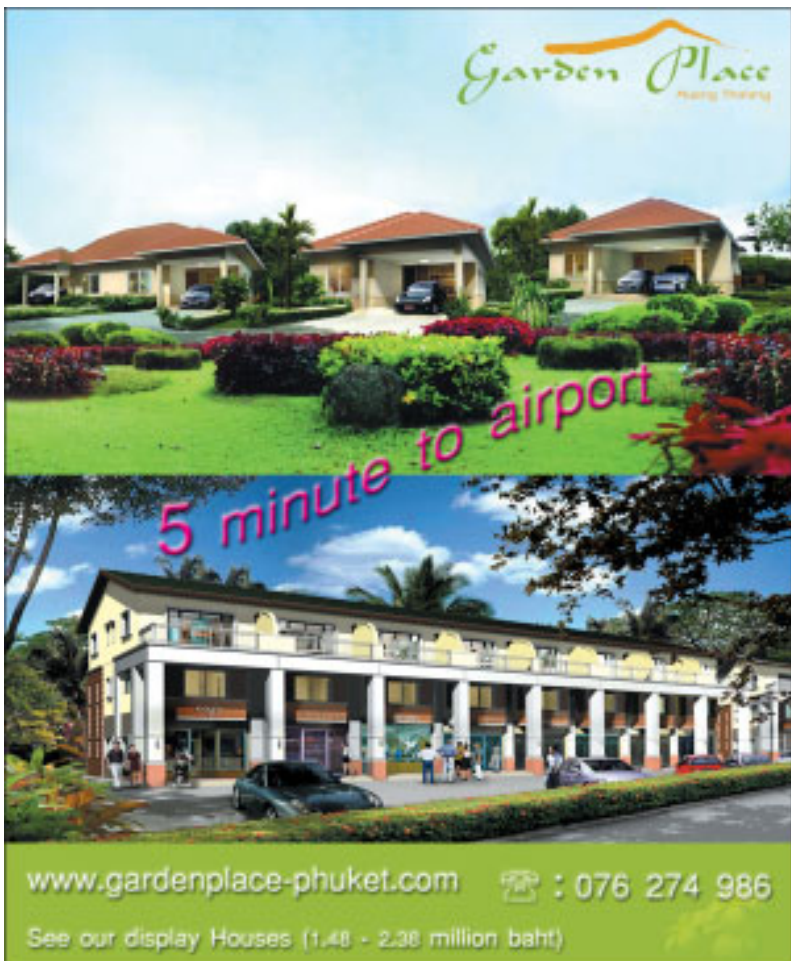
cide which section of the market to target,” she added.

Thitiya Jujinda, Sales Executive of SMD Development told the *Gazette* that the project had been very successful since the first phase went on sale at a booth in Tesco-Lotus in May.

“We intend to develop the land so that people can live and work in the same place.

“About 40% of the whole project [excluding the serviced apartments] is already pre-sold. We are aiming to present a new

This 300-million-baht project is being developed on a plot of land shaped like a lucky Chinese gold bag, with the aim of bringing good fortune.



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An exercise area and children’s playground will also be provided.

“It will be a very beautiful area with many kinds of palms and other plants,” K. Nucharin said enthusiastically.

“I think the property business in Phuket still has very high growth potential because we have many people, both Thai and foreign, coming to work here.

“This means that the demand for housing is high; the project owner just needs to de-

style of modern home that stands out from other developments in Phuket,” she said.

“We will have security guards on duty 24 hours a day and just one entrance gate so that the project can be kept secure,” she added.

For more information contact Phuket Modern Life, Marketing Office at Tel: 076-242695, 076-281516-7 or see SMD Development’s website at: www.smd.co.th

Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

Intellectually challenged cane

I think it's fair to say that I'm not the most politically correct person in the world. Perhaps that's one of the many reasons I choose to live in Thailand. I don't think there's even a word or phrase for "political correctness" in Thai – explain the concept to most Thai people and the inevitable response is to ask why anyone would even bother.

Case in point: a school in Thailand needs a teacher for its kindergarten class. The administrator would prefer a lady, maybe because a person of the female gender would fit in better at the school, or maybe because students have been used to a mother figure in the past. Perhaps they'd just prefer a woman – who knows.

Whatever the reason, that's what they advertise for, and that's what they get. Sorry, gents, we've just been discriminated against. Tough luck. That's just the way life is at times.

On another teaching note, I was a "learning facilitator" (I believe "teacher" is considered oppressive in some educational circles) in a past life. Some of the kids – sorry, "young people" – I taught were spoiled attention-seeking brats. I certainly wasn't aware that they were "emotionally challenged", as they are now.

When I was in school, the less-able kids were in the "remedial" class. Now they lump them in with all the other kids, presumably so that no one has a clue, rather than just one or two students who were in the dark before. Everyone missing out doesn't seem to be a problem in the PC world.

The teacher can't even write on a "blackboard" any more. The term is now "chalkboard," to avoid racial offense.

I applied for a new passport back in the UK a few years back. The application form had a space in which I was supposed to explain the basis of my claim to British nationality. To be honest, I hadn't a clue how to answer.

The nice lady in the passport office wasn't much help either. She was limited in the responses she could offer, for fear of discrimination against someone else. So I wrote, "Cos me dad woz." They gave me a passport anyway.

Political correctness is an insane way to reformat the language for no good reason. My dictionary describes political correctness as "a real or perceived attempt to refine or restrict language and terms used in public discussion to those deemed acceptable or appropriate." It is, of course, complete and utter nonsense.

The world outside Thailand is getting more and more politically correct by the day. Luckily, in this more sensible corner of the world we are less affected by the wave of idiots banning dolls that don't endorse same-sex marriages, or who tell us that we can't call short people "dwarfs," or that we should rename the population of the world "human-kind." Just wait, they'll be calling ladies "wo-humans" next.

The word "dumb" falls neatly into the category of words we're just not allowed to use anymore. I actually agree that it probably shouldn't be used to describe people who can't speak, but what can possibly be wrong with using it to describe people whose intellectual skills are somewhat lacking? How else would you describe the kind of individual who looks down a hosepipe to see why the water's not coming out yet?

Fortunately, the gardening world hasn't been affected by the insanity of political correctness and we can still call a spade a spade (obvious, I know – my apologies).

The dumb cane, or *sao noi pra pairing* in Thai, is a case in point.

Some would argue that it got its rather un-PC English name from the fact that it doesn't look particularly bright, but most would agree that it was actually named for the fact that it renders leaf munchers unable to speak.

Apparently it contains several noxious, irritating substances, such as calcium oxalate crystals, that affect your throat and voice box if you're daft enough to try to eat it, making it more than just difficult to speak – it may even kill you.

But there is an upside. The dumb cane, or *dieffenbachia*, looks impressive, and is a superb way to fill a corner in a shady area without much work.

It has a stem about five centimeters in diameter and big leaves about 30cm long. The leaves range in color from light to dark green with white, cream or yellow markings. In most plants, the leaves appear out of a single stem.

Some varieties have slightly different appearances, but they all have the same theme of pale creams and greens.

It's not a difficult plant to look after and will demand very little attention aside from regular water, without letting the soil get too soggy.

The major requirement to raising dumb cane is a good location. The cane will suffer a bit in the Phuket sun, as strong sunlight burns the leaves and makes



them dry and curl up. Put it in the shade, and it will thank you always.

That's not to say that you should shove it under the stairs where it will never see the light of day; "bright, diffused light", as those proper gardening books say, is ideal.

Even growing new plants isn't exactly rocket science. Cut a length of the stem as little as

six inches long and stick it in some moist soil and it will grow. Let a stem bend sideways and touch the ground and it will sprout roots too – it's a determined beast.

Bear in mind, however, that this is not a child-friendly plant, so it shouldn't be grown where kids have access, just in case they put some in their mouth. Even cutting and repotting the dumb cane needs a bit of caution

– the juices can irritate your skin, so wear gloves.

The cane will grow like a maniac in a relatively short period of time. A few years ago I had a carport with a rather boring wall down one side of it, with large expanses of glass bricks in the upper reaches of the wall.

I bought a couple of dumb canes and sat them at the foot of the wall. They grew. And they grew. They tried to "go toward the light," as they say in those made-for-TV movies, and all the leaves turned to face the open front of the car port.

Then they got bored, and a little too tall for their own good. As they started to lean sideways under their own weight I wired them to the wall. Almost overnight the leaves turned toward the next nearest source of light – the glass bricks above.

If you ever put dumb canes in a shaded area such as a hotel lobby, all the leaves will be facing the direction where they can get the maximum amount of light. They've figured this out for themselves, so perhaps this cane isn't so dumb after all.

Isn't it refreshing that I can say that here without fear of a PC backlash?

No need for the dumb cane to be consigned to the remedial class – and I'll make sure I put that on the blackboard.

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Property Gazette

Properties For Sale

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5 RAI LAND WITH

views, will cut. 2.7 million a rai. Power, phone, good location, Chanote. Tel: 076-280-440, 06-6831964. Email: franklee200@hotmail.com

PLOTS NEAR LAGUNA

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- 12.5 rai (20,120sqm) near Heroines' Monument Thalang. Ideal for residential project. Price: 12 million baht.

- 27 rai (43,200sqm) on Thepkasattri Rd, KM 34.6. Price: 24.6 million baht. Tel: 01-4084991.

BARGAIN HOUSE

In popular small development in Kathu. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, large living room, kitchen/dinner, laundry room, covered patio, private parking, walled garden. Nearly completed. Rural setting though close to all facilities. 4.5 million baht. Tel: 04-8439579. Fax: 076-323421. Email: somlerdee@yahoo.com

7 RAI BEACH LAND

for sale. Outer island beach-front land, 15 minutes from Ao Por pier. Great for developers. 3.5 million baht per rai. Email: solitude001@aol.com

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2,500sqm Thai-style villa, built 1999, 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.

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KATHU TOWNHOUSE

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in Karon. 3-story shop house strategically located in Karon between Hilton Hotel and Movempick Hotel. 200sqm indoor area. 300m from the sea. 6 million baht. Tel: 01-8927847. Email: colonapt@loxinfo.co.th

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HOUSE FOR SALE



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lease. 90-year lease for 350,000 baht or rent for 2,000 baht a month. Seaview. Tel: 06-9408914. Email: pim_sweettygirl@yahoo.co.uk

RAWAI CONDO SALE

Seaview, freehold. 450,000 baht. Tel: 06-6865567. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

RAWAI 2-STORY

house for sale: 1.4 million baht. 10-year finance. Central Rawai. 140sqm. Tel: 06-940-8914. Email: pimsweettygirl@yahoo.co.uk

PATONG CONDO

sale. Freehold condo. Brand new. 900,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 06-9408914. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

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Bali style pool villas, 2 and 3 bedroom villas ranging in size from 200-300 sqm, plot 650 sqm, all with swimming pool. These high-quality lifestyle estates are the future of Phuket and offer investors the best quality investment and private living. With balcony, nearby restaurant, public pool, gym etc. Price: from 19.4 million baht

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Modern mixed Eastern and Western style, large open terrace and living area, with a magnificent view over the Andaman sea and Kata with white beaches and wonderful sunrise, bedrooms inc bath-room, telephone line, shared pool, gym etc. Price: 19.2 to 19.8 million baht

Kata new 2-bedroom condominiums
Condominiums are located on a headland overlooking the beaches of Kata and Kata Noi and the charming beach-side village of Kata. Facilities include two swimming pools and waterfalls and tropical garden. Full resort-style management rentals and other services and parking. Price: 13.2 to 14.4 million baht

Layan Phuket 3 bedroom apartment
Situated on a gentle sloping hillside in Layan overlooking several lakes to the beautiful valley and white beaches of Layan and Bang Tao and the Laguna Phuket Golf Course to the Chong Talay Hills beyond, this estate really is an oasis of tranquility. The price includes the fully completed apartment including all quality built-in furniture, wardrobes and Western kitchen appliances, built in all rooms, lighting and ceiling fans. Price: 18.25 to 22.45 million baht

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Phuket Real Estate THIS WEEK'S HOT PROPERTIES

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Rawai - Land. This plot of 1,000 sq. meters is located in a quiet area in Rawai, only 5 minutes from the beautiful Nai Ham Beach. Two houses are partly constructed. Price: 3.7 million baht.

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Property Gazette

YOU CAN SAVE MONEY - BUY DIRECTLY FROM THE DEVELOPER



Very exclusive completely furnished new villa with swimming pool in best residential area of Patong. Two floors, three bedrooms with aircon, three baths, jacuzzi, Western kitchen and dining. Living area 200sqm, free hold land 150sqm. 8.5 million baht.



Three new connected prestigious modern villas fully furnished in Patong, Nana Hill. Only one left for sale, ready to move in. Four floors, three bedrooms, three baths, big balcony, roof garden with jacuzzi, sea and mountain view, garage. Living area 200sqm, free hold land 100sqm. 6.2 million baht.



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Please contact Peter at
Tel: 01-8928526.
For details please see our website at:
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HOTEL FOR SALE



Naka Island. 200m beach-front, 80 villas, total 120 rooms. Tel: 07-8896074. Email: info@sea-property-phuket.com

220SQM HOUSE

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HOTEL FOR SALE

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TOP SEAVIEW

apartments in Kata. Unbelievable quality and space. 2 bedrooms, only 4 million baht. Tel: 06-2670898.

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beach front. Condo apartment on beach. Your garden, your beach. Includes yacht. It may have a high price, but there is no better deal, and no better property. Please call for more details. Tel: 07-8938747.

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- 12 rai, 6 million baht. Petkasem road side, beautiful pond, very scenic. Sale by owner.

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Tel: 01-8601464.

LAND FOR SALE

in Lampang. 142sqm, ideal for resort house. Land in a real estate project on Phaholyothin highway, very beautiful with panoramic hill view. 1.7 million baht. Call Khun Apple. Tel: 01-8601464.

PATONG APARTMENT FOR SALE



Two bedroom, two bath, lounge, dining area, kitchen in good condition. Fully furnished with aircons, phone, UBC, storage. Central but quiet location near Jungceylon. Nice views over pool and hills. For fact sheet E-mail: patongsun@yahoo.co.uk

LAND FOR SALE 5 RAI



Chalong. Electricity, water, road access. Price: 2.7 million baht per rai. Tel: 07-8896074. Email: info@sea-property-phuket.com

NEW CONDO FOR SALE

At Blue Canyon Country Club, 1 condo, number 102. 265sqm, 3 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms. Priced at only 55,000 baht per sqm. Tel: 01-6971154. Email: non_siwa@hotmail.com

YANUI BEACH 1 RAI

Stunning mountain view, great for villa. Chanote title. 4.3 million baht. Can build for you under your supervision. Tel: 01-5376866.

LAND FOR SALE

4 rai, 351sqm near JW Marriott resort in Thalang. 3 million baht per rai. Please contact for more details. Tel: 09-2891502, 09-9915502.

HOUSE FOR SALE



3 million baht. Must sell, discounted price. 2-bedrooms, includes all furniture and appliances. Quiet gated community, pool, sauna, gym. 1 min from Nai Yang Beach. Custom floors, cabinets, tile, and lighting. Euro/USA standards. Contact for more information.

Tel: 09-5878154. Email: loverofasia72@yahoo.com

STUNNING LAND

in Rawai. Land with 8m wide road, underground electricity, quiet, 2 minutes from beach. 3.8 million baht, pay half, half on finance. We can do construction or you can do it yourself. Tel: 09-6525664.

WANT SOME LAND?

I want to sell some of mine, so come and pick a piece. Call for details. Tel: 06-6831964.

CONDO STUDIO

Furnished. 32sqm, pool, corner unit, ocean view. 2.2 million baht. 5 min to Bangla. For sale by owner. Email: guntmitt@aol.com

HOME SWEET HOME

New, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, tastefully furnished, Chanote. Asking 3 million baht. Tel: 09-5926482.

1.5 RAI FOR SALE

Only 1 million baht per rai. Near Heroines' Monument, 10 minutes to British curriculum school. Tel: 09-8731019.

NEW HOUSE

in Kamala. Small 2 bedrooms. For quick sale at 1.25 million baht. Good area. Tel: 01-892-8208.

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Please contact Ann 66 1 868 7676 or email: ann@mms.ais.co.th

Property Gazette

SEAVIEW PATONG



Nice apartments in the best neighborhood on the island. Baan Suan Kamnan, just outside Patong, overlooking the sea and Patong. Quiet and green residential area. Really super 1- and 2-bedroom apartments. Long term only (3 months and longer). Also one large, free-standing, 3-bedroom house with breathtaking views. Apartments with comforts (furniture, aircon, safe, ADSL internet and UBC). Rates from 20,000 baht. Tel: 06-7866350. Email: buurmanb@hotmail.com

PATONG SEAVIEW

Condo. Newly remodeled 1/1 condo, 14th floor. Spectacular seaview. 100 meters to beach, Soi Bangla. Full kitchen, granite floors. All amenities, maid service. Short or long term. Tel: 04-159-0501, 01-3753970. Email: patongcondo@yahoo.com

OFFICE BUILDING

space. Just 2 kms from Lotus on Bypass Road. New 2-story office building space of 240 sqm for rent. Tel: 076-238-777, or 01-7371678. Fax: 076-239739. Email: supotpac@phuket.ksc.co.th

RAWAI HOUSE

For rent, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. 15,000 baht. Tel: 01-8081804.

APARTMENTS

Patong. For long-term rent. 1 bedroom, TV room, cable TV, aircon, good seaview. 8,000-12,000 baht per month. Tel: 09-2909567. www.bromma-thaihouse.com

KARON STUDIO APARTMENT



Large studio apartment for rent. 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, Western-style kitchen, pool, near Karon Beach. Free WiFi (ADSL), good price. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-398436-7, 06-9062220. Email: karonstudio@hotmail.com Or for more information please visit: www.karonstudio.com

BEACH HOUSE

The one and only house directly on Kamala beach. 2 bedrooms w/aircon, 2 bathrooms, fans throughout, home office w/ADSL modem, European kitchen, fully furnished. UBC and electricity extra. Available immediately. 50,000 baht per month, 12-month lease. House photo at online Gazette advert. Tel: 01-894-3839. Email: donandinge@csloxinfo.com

PATONG TOWER

1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, nicely furnished. UBC, DVD, aircon, pool, parking, seaview, 300 meters of beach. Central Patong. 23,000 baht per month. Tel: 04-8473304.

HOUSE FOR RENT

Nanai road, good views, 1 bedroom, Thai-style, short or long term. Cheap. Email: cosmicrhythms2003@yahoo.com

PHUKET B.L.

apartment. New in Kathu. Big room, 1 bedroom, aircon, cable TV, Internet, hot shower, garden, car park. 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 01-692-3163.

VILLA FOR RENT



275sqm living space, 1,200sqm of land, 10m pool, 3 bedrooms. Fully furnished. Nai Harn. 70,000 baht per month. Tel: 07-8896074. Email: info@sea-property-phuket.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

In Kata-Karon. Located on Patak Rd, near PTT gas station. Furnished. Aircon, TV, freezer. 2 bedrooms. Tel: 06-9544155, or 04-0600972.

HOUSES

Apartments in Patong and Rawai. From 10,000 to 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 06-6865567. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

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 per month or for sale at 6.7 million baht. Tel: 01-597-8315. Email: phuket8@hotmail.com

LARGE VILLA

Kamala. 300sqm, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, separate granny/maid accommodation, beautiful real teak furnishings, plasma TV, full-size snooker table, UBC, ADSL, 2-/3-car garage. Set on 1 rai with tropical garden. 60,000 baht per month, minimum 1-year let. Tel: 01-8111067.

CHALONG NEW HOME

Perfect Western-style home for rent. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon and telephone. Tel: 09-6521473, 076-280-466.

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.

KAMALA, LONG LET

2-bedroom house, 3 aircons, furnished, UBC, phone line, parking. 11,000 baht per month. Tel: 07-1789273.

LUXURY HOUSE

Three bedrooms, near Laguna, furnished, spa pool, poolside bar, garden, aircon. 1 rai. 29,000 baht per month. Tel: 09-5944067.

TOP VIEW, TOP VILLA

for rent. Overlooking Loch Palm golf course. 5 bedrooms, furnished. 95,000 baht per month. Tel: 07-2698492. Email: paularen@gmail.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

Home and office, 1,500sqm, Phuket City area, Wichit Songkhram Rd. Fully furnished, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Tel: 04-0629587.

APARTMENTS

Chalong. Titima Mansions; 2 bedrooms, furnished, aircon, hot shower, security and gardens. Tel: 01-8914964. Email: beachcomberwa@yahoo.com.au

BEAUTIFUL VILLA

2 bedrooms. European standards. 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 per month. Tel: 07-2810452.

SHOPHOUSE BLOCK

5 terraced houses for rent on the bypass road. 35,000 baht per month. Call K. Vachira. Tel: 01-3269495.

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Includes kitchen, hot-water shower. 5 mins walk to bus/beach. Farang comfort in local area. Tel: 01-9683546. Email: robin46@gmail.com

SHOPHOUSE

46/2 Ket Kwan Rd, Kata. 10,000 baht per month, 1-year lease. Tel: 076-330889. Fax: 076-333187. Email: drcracknell@gmail.com

PATONG 2-BEDROOM

apartment. Large and luxurious. UBC, swimming pool, aircon, good location and quiet. Price: 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 06-2790837.

HOUSE & GARDEN

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, air conditioning, fully furnished, European kitchen. Email: pen47@hotmail.com

NICE PATONG

condo. Aircon, big bedroom, cable TV, fridge, microwave, parking and pool. 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 05-2453132. Email: tj_biggie@hotmail.com

APARTMENTS

in Patong. Near Wat Patong, Soi Khuanyang 256. Small kitchen, refrigerator, fully furnished, European style, aircon, cable TV, fan, hot water, bathroom. 8,300 baht per month. Tel: 04-8450541, 01-8914561.

DISCOVERY GARDENS

Near Laguna. 2 bedroom, newly-built, fully-furnished houses with large communal pool. Available short/long term. Tel: 076-271544, 09-1956722. Fax: 076-271545. Email: info@phuketmarbella.com

FOR RENT BY DAY

or by year. Luxury apartments: 35-75sqm, with pool, at Residence Edouard in Soi Veerakit in Patong. Please contact. Tel: 076-296800. www.residence-edouard.com

BIG HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, living area, kitchen, etc. On Phisit Gorani Rd, Patong. Monthly rent: 15,000 baht. Tel: 09-4717629. Email: maxgmuender@hotmail.com

NAI HARN

Sweet home for rent. Fully furnished, short/long term, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 balconies, TV/music. Move in! Tel: 04-8519072. Email: goodtasteforgoodlife@yahoo.de

CENTRAL KAMALA

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Property Gazette

Property Wanted

HOTEL WITH BEACH/SEA VIEW

Looking for a hotel to buy. Must have a beach or an amazing sea view. Email: franco@lemonsurf.com

WANTED: SHOP SPACE IN KAMALA

I need to rent a shop for a restaurant in Kamala. Must be in a good location. Tel: 05-7866596. Email: roger_sommer1@hotmail.com

SHOP IN BANGLA ROAD PATONG

I am looking for a shop in Soi Bangla. Must be at least 4.5m wide and 5m deep, and near the beach. Prefer long lease (3+3 years). Will be prepared to fly in from Australia after talking. Call Tel: +61 425 7778-98 (Australia). Email: madler51@hotmail.com

ONE-STORY SHOP

We are looking for one-story buildings suitable for a small shop. Seeking locations in Phuket Town, Kathu, Chalong and Patong. Anyone with property like this available with very reasonable rent please call Tel: 076-214000. Email: info@siamquick.com

BEACHFRONT WANTED

Looking for a beach-front 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

1 RAI PLUS

Looking for Chanote land with a sea view, up to two rai, preferably on the west coast of Phuket. Must have road access and utilities. Email: ulrichkuhl@gmail.com

SEAVIEW LAND

wanted. I'm looking for 1-2 rai of seaview land in the Ao Makham area. Tel: 05-032-7100. Email: saze@gmx.net

NEED SEAVIEW LAND

I am looking for prime seaview land at Patong Beach. It must be overlooking the bay and city. Please contact for more information. Tel: 07-0540120. Email: richard.market@gmail.com

LAND IN KATA/KARON

I am interested in buying 1.5-2 rai of land in Kata or Karon. Must be suitable to build house on. Email: sverker_gustafsson@yahoo.com

LAND WANTED

Seaview, beachfront land in Phuket, Phang Nga, Krabi. 10-100 rai. Tel: 01-6936437, 06-6841260.

HOUSE WANTED

Looking to buy a 2- to 3-bedroom house in Phuket or Krabi. Maximum price: 4 million baht. Email: wanphenstephen@hotmail.com

BUNGALOW RESORT

or guesthouse. I am looking to rent a bungalow resort or guesthouse in the Rawai or Chalong areas. Email: tomDEXTER2001@yahoo.de

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.

SEEKING HOUSE

to rent. German family is looking for house to rent near international school. Min 1 year. Please contact for more information. Tel: 06-188922.

LAND TO BUY 1 RAI

I would like to buy a plot of around 1 rai in a nice, quiet area. Price should not be over 1 million baht. Please contact for more information. Email: idcpetere@csloxinfo.com

GUESTHOUSE

and restaurant in Patong, Karon, Kata or Phuket City. Please email or phone me if you have or know of something appropriate. Please contact for more information. Email: chrillearning@hotmail.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

Accommodation Available

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.

KARON APARTMENT

Central Karon, 50 meters from the beach. Newly furnished & renovated 2-room apartment with 2 balconies, cable TV, Wi-Fi, aircon. 19,000 baht per month. Long term only. Tel: 06-2718254.

PATONG

Good rooms still at low-season prices. Price depends on length of stay. Tel: 01-8948446. Email: sfrkata@hotmail.com Please see our website at: www.southernfriedrice.com

APARTMENT FOR YOU

1-bedroom apartment in Soi Nanai 2. All-inclusive low-season rate 12,500 baht/month. Tel: 01-5362954. Email: petro@phuket-4you.com For further details, please see our website at: www.phuket-apartments-4you.com/patong/baan_arunsri.htm

LUXURY 3-4 BED HOUSE W/POOL

Private luxury house with private pool, tropical garden, fully fitted western kitchen, etc. E-mail for further details. Tel: 01-7722300, 01-6764849. Fax: 076-378360. Email: w_amonoo@yahoo.com

2 BEDROOM HOUSE IN KATHU

Fully furnished, 2 mins from Phuket Country Club. 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-296301. Email: sittipom_tong@hotmail.com

PATONG LUXURY APARTMENTS

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

HOTEL PROMOTION

Long stay incl ABF: 18,000 baht monthly. Beachfront, pool & spa, free wifi internet. Tel: 01-8920038. Email: anthony_sharman2006@hotmail.com

LOFT STYLE

apartments Kathu. 4 large apartments, 6,000-15,000 baht per month. Tel: 01-9684230. Email: hkmsn@yahoo.com

PATONG SEAVIEW CONDO

New remodeled 1/1 condo, 14th floor. Spectacular seaview. 100 meters to beach, Soi Bangla. Full kitchen, granite floors. All amenities, maid service. Short or long term. Tel: 04-1590501, 01-3753970. Email: patongcondo@yahoo.com

SERVICED APARTMENTS

in Chalong. Spacious studio suites with rooftop spa and pool garden. Aircon, Wi-Fi, sat TV, kitchenette, house-keeping. From 9,000 baht a month. Contact for more details. Tel: 06-2826221, 01-8938592. Email: saneroad@yahoo.com

NAI HARN SWEET HOME

Fully furnished, short/long term, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 balconies, TV/music. Move in! Please contact for more info. Tel: 04-8519072. Email: goodtasteforgoodlife@yahoo.de

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

EN-SUITE ROOMS

Close to beach, private hot shower, aircon/fan. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-342280, 01-9781956. Email: palm@phuket.ksc.co.th

Accommodation Wanted

AIRCON ROOM

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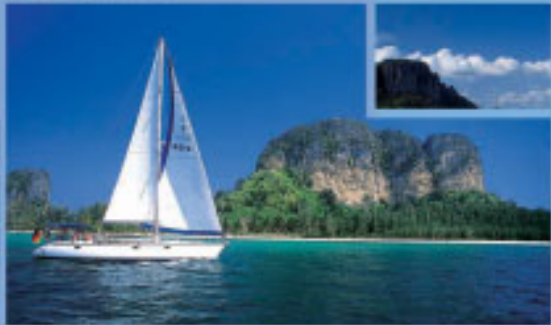
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SILVERTON 40



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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.

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Great w/end boat. For 4. Affordable, shallow draft, in good condition, just been refitted, ready to sail. For inspection, price and details, call Simpson Marine at 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

BENETEAU FIRST 7.5

Great off-the-beach sail trainer and racer, easily handled, trailable phone. Price 1.6 million baht. Call Simpson Marine for price and details at Tel: 076-239768. For further details, please see our website at: www.simpsonmarine.com

BENETEAU FLYER

Big 26ft trailer boat with cockpit shower and toilet. Twin 115HP 4-stroke Suzuki's. Call Simpson Marine for price and details at Tel: 076-239768. For further details, please see our website at: www.simpsonmarine.com

KING'S CUP REGATTA

Can take 3-4 more on Swan 55, 10-day package, bungalow incl. Also have lots of boat stuff for sale. Tel: 076-383080, 06-9401860. Fax: 076-381934. Email: bigasail@samart.co.th Website: www.big-sailing.com

Island Job Mart

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 | ▪ Bartender |
| ▪ Sous Chef | ▪ Waiter/Waitress |
| ▪ Chef De Partie | ▪ Front Office Manager |
| ▪ Cook | ▪ Guest Relations |
| ▪ Restaurant Manager | ▪ Reception |
| ▪ Restaurant Supervisor | ▪ Housekeeper Supervisor |
| ▪ Captain | |

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



Senior Reporters - Phuket Television

The *Phuket Gazette*, publisher of Phuket's weekly English-language newspaper, has launched PGTV on all Phuket cable television networks and on the Web, reaching up to 60,000 viewers a day - locally and worldwide. Our content focuses on Phuket NEWS and includes daily information on the development of the island province in all aspects.

We are seeking energetic and well-rounded Senior Reporters, as follows:

- ▶ Male/Female, Thai nationality
- ▶ Minimum of 3-5 years experience in NEWS reporting
- ▶ Inclined to work with a high sense of urgency
- ▶ Focused on quality
- ▶ Reliable and pleasant personality
- ▶ At least a Bachelor degree and fluency in English
- ▶ Ability to relocate to Phuket immediately

Multimedia skills would be an advantage. Salary is negotiable.

Please submit resumé and photo to:

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

367/2 Yaowarat Road, Muang, Phuket 83000
Fax: 076-213971

Phone: 076-236555 (10 lines), attn K. Chutimon, ext 122
Email: Chutimon@PhuketGazette.Net

ACCOUNTANT & BOOKKEEPER

Siam Real Estate require an experienced English-speaking accountant who uses Quick Books and can provide monthly figures and advance tax planning. Please send CV or contact for more information. Tel: 076-288908. Email: richard@siamrealestate.com

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

We are looking for a dynamic and hard-working individual with good communication skills to report to the MD. You should be willing to learn, and have at least the following qualifications or equivalent:

- * Thai female fluent in spoken and written English.
- * Bachelor's degree or equivalent in business or law or accounting.
- * Excellent computer knowledge including MS Office and Internet.

The successful applicant will receive a generous compensation package, including a performance bonus. Interested candidates may apply by submitting a full resumé and recent photos to:

Sunbelt network-Phuket
Sunbelt Siam Venture Co., Ltd
Royal Phuket City Hotel
Building, 1 Fl. 154 Phang Nga Rd, Muang, Phuket. Tel: 076-233333 ext. 3618. Fax: 076-233343, 05-782 9300. Email: sunbelt@email.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 for more information.

Carrefour



Carrefour the world's leading retailers

We are an international company with branches in more than 30 countries in the world. We have a vast amount of experience and expertise in running global retail businesses. We are now ready to offer a fantastic opportunity to join us and have the career you want. We are seeking bright, enthusiastic and experienced people with a positive spirit. If you are one of the new generation these are the positions we are looking for:

Section Managers

- Dry food / Consumer Products
- Bazaar Product (Kitchenware/ Furniture/Entertainment CD VCD/ Stationary/ Leisure/ Gardening/ Toy/ Sport)
- Home Appliances / Electronic Products
- Textile Products
- (Please specify your expertise)

Qualifications

- Experience in retail business or direct line products
- Good management skills
- Analytical skills and strategic planning skills

Section Managers Western Delicatessen/ Western Chef or Cook

Qualifications

- Experience as Western food chef or assistant chef, in a Western restaurant or related fields
- Good management skills
- Analytical skills and strategic planning skills

Secretary to Store Manager

Qualifications

- Bachelor's Degree or higher in Secretarial, Management, Business or related fields.
- At least 1-3 years' experience as a secretary.
- Good communication skills
- Must have initiative, independence, and dare to be responsible for own decisions

Customer Services / Information Counter

- Experience in Hotel or other service business
- Experience in other businesses involving contact and communication with foreigners
- Communication ability in Chinese, Korean and Japanese an advantage
- Excellent command of spoken English

*** Ability to communicate in English is necessary for all positions ***

To apply please send your application together with a cover letter, resume (in English), expected salary and recent photograph to:

Head Of Recruitment (Carrefour Phuket)
No.11, G/A Floor, South Sathorn Road,
Tunkmahamek, Sathorn, Bangkok 10120

Or Send your Resume by email (Preferably MS word) to Recruitment Department (Carrefour Phuket)

Phuket_store@hotmail.com and Recruitment_TH@carrefour.com

For more information, please call Carrefour Temporary Office, Patong Phuket. Call: 076 293 272, 01 420 6308

RESTAURANT MANAGER

Experienced English speaking manager required for new Indian restaurant in Laguna area. Good salary and share of profit for the right person. Please apply with your details, including expected salary. Tel: 01-8937028. Fax: 076-254-827. Email: ianpotter@hotmail.com

YACHT CREW:

Guest officer. To be part of 3-man crew on a 75ft commercial boat. Take care of guests, drink & food. Female with a high service level. Nice appearance and fluent in spoken English. You should have, or be willing to learn, food & beverage work. Good salary, with bonus. Tel: 06-0106988. Email: michaelcrons@gmail.com Captain position also available. For experienced, certified, seaman.

RESTAURANT

manager. Sunset Beach Resort is looking for a restaurant manager. Tel: 076-342482-5. Fax: 076-342500.

INTERNATIONAL LAW OFFICE



STAFF WANTED!

Thai secretary needed.

Must be able to speak and write in English

Computer skills, secretarial skills.

Have poise & be able to deal with people.

If you are interested, please contact us at...

Tel: (076) 344180 - 1

Fax: (076) 340767

E-mail: bernd@phuket-realestate-law.com

LOOKING FOR SALES EXECUTIVE

We are looking for open-minded people who are seeking a challenging career to join our office in Phuket City. You must have good spoken and written English, experience in property sales, your own car and computer skills. Please email CV with photo to: info@phuketandamanrealestate.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, coordinate bookings, and undertake office duties as required.

Please send resumé with expected salary. Email: info@simbaseatrips.com

Looking for a job?
www.phuketgazette.net/

Island Job Mart



FINANCIAL ACCOUNTANT REQUIRED - PHUKET, THAILAND

Protocol Design Co is part of a group of companies that provides design and telecommunication services on a global basis.

Protocol Design Co is looking for an experienced, hard-working accountant, with a minimum of three to five years' proven accounting experience. Must have full knowledge of Thailand Revenue and Taxation Laws.

General Requirements and Key Duties

- Proficient in both spoken and written English and should have worked in a position previously for foreigners.
- Familiar with accounting for a group of companies
- Proficient in accounting packages, such as Quick Books.
- Able to prepare financial statements, including Profit and Loss, and Balance Sheet.
- Can control expenditure, including budget preparation and implement a time-cost system for staff,

Salary

Negotiable, depending on skills and experience.

Contact

Please forward your C.V. with a covering letter to Eric Allan, Chief Financial Officer at ea@protocolsuite.com.

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:



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 resume, stating present and expected salaries, and enclosing a recent photo mail to:

Knight Frank Phuket Co., Ltd.

1 Piazza Del Mar Building Room No. 109-111 and 201-202, Pasak-Koktanod Road, T. Chermongalay, A. Thalang, Phuket 83110
Tel: 0-7631-8151-58 Ext. 102 Fax: 0-7631-8159-60 Email: chutima.ninlawan@th.knightfrank.com



LIFESTYLE & LEISURE (THAILAND) LTD.

LAEMSINGH
VILLAS

A high-end property developer, with offices in Laguna area / Laemsingh Villas, seeks a dynamic and self-motivated person for the following position:

Senior Accountant

Qualifications:

- Thai national male or female
- University degree in accounting / CPA certificate
- Minimum 3 years experience in senior account level and able to handle accounts independently
- Knowledge in local required laws including VAT, WHT, income tax, etc.
- Experience in property development is a plus
- Familiar with accounting software and have working knowledge of Windows and MS Office
- Excellent communication skills and command of spoken and written English

Attractive salary and fringe benefits will be offered to the right candidate. Please submit a CV stating education, background and working experience, as well as current and expected salary to Khun Thitiporn at thitiporn@lifestyleandleisure.com

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Aquamarine Divers Co Ltd, an operator of live-aboard diving cruises, is looking for an

OFFICE ASSISTANT, as follows:

- Female, Thai national
- Beginner or first experience in diving/tourism business
- Computer skills (a must)
- Basic accounting skills (a plus)
- Bachelor's degree or equivalent
- Good command of English
- Pleasant personality.

Long-term career perspectives for motivated and capable candidates. Please email CV, photo and expected salary. Tel: 076-383083, 01-5848502. Fax: 076-280397. Email: admin@philkade.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.

III. ARTIST

- ▶ Thai national
- ▶ Graphic-design skills and knowledge of Adobe Illustrator, PageMaker, Photoshop and Dreamweaver required
- ▶ Freehand drawing and web-design skills a plus
- ▶ Responsible, hard working, attentive to detail
- ▶ Able to work in a fast-paced environment and meet deadlines
- ▶ Good communication skills, team player
- ▶ English speaker

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

ASSISTANT MANAGER

Honest, hard-working staff under 30 years needed to be trained for managerial positions in Krabi business. Must have excellent customer service skills, supervisory ability and good English skills. Please call. Tel: 04-0646590.

RENTALS MANAGER

Siam Real Estate require a Thai rentals manager for holiday and long-term rental business. Must have good English, sales experience, and own car. Must also know the island and be computer literate. Good salary and commissions. Tel: 076-288908. Email: patrick@siamrealestate.com

2 TOUR GUIDES

Thailand Holidays needs 2 professional tour guides. Speaking German is a must. Please call. Tel: 02-5742192.

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 needed. Call for more information. Tel: 076-239768.

THE CHEDI PHUKET

The Chedi Phuket is a well-established International Resort with 108 cottages and 3 Food & Beverage outlets. The resort is currently looking for dedicated professionals to fill the position of

SALES COORDINATOR

Applicants require a minimum of 1 year experience and good command of spoken and written English. Please submit your application letter in English together with a resume and recent photo to:

Senior Sales Manager, The Chedi Phuket
118 M.3 Cheng Talay Talang Phuket 83110
Email: sales1@chedi-phuket.com
Tel: 076-324017-20 Fax: 076-324251

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

Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-264770. Email: kajonkietsuksa.school@gmail.com

OFFICE ASSISTANT

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. Email: internationalpropertyagent@yahoo.com

Employment Wanted

STAFF MANAGER, SHOPCLERK

French Fashion shop in Phuket City opening soon seeking for staff. Need to have good English skills + good personality. Please contact for all details. Tel: 09-163- 8166. Email: vjnon@gmail.com

SWEDISH GIRL

seeking work! I'm a 23-year-old girl from Sweden, I'm looking for almost any kind of job in Phuket and can start November. I have an Aerobics Instructor's diploma and good skills in taking care of children, office work and lots more. Interested? Please contact for full details. Email: cozmoz8@hotmail.com

SALES MANAGER - advertising. Looking for the right person to join our growing team at a quality magazine publishing company. Experience required: minimum 1 year sales, some English, pleasant. Salary negotiable. Email: info@artandcultureasia.com

HEADMISSTRESS

school. Native Thai teacher, with license and minimum 3 years' teaching experience, good English required. Please contact for more info. Tel: 076-282232, 01-7884665. Fax: 076-381447. Email: marc_ubags@yahoo.com

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Articles for Sale

HOME THEATRE SYSTEM

- JBL Speakers (6 x E Series) incl 250W sub woofer. Powerful system.

- Denon AVR 2105 AV surround receiver.

- Sony DVP NS5 DVD Player.

9 months old. Complete with boxes, cables, and manuals. Cost 150,000 baht - for sale at 55,000 baht. Tel: 076-318251, 08-69890919. Email: jrh1@bigpond.net.au

18K SOLID GOLD

men's Rolex. Purchased new in December 2003 from Emporium Rolex, Bangkok. Comes with papers, wooden display box and original sales price tag. Minor scuff marks from casual wear; will polish out. Save 350,000 baht off new cost. Asking 675,000 baht. Please contact for more information at Tel: 08-14208917. Email: ramjz6@hotmail.com

FENDER AMP

/ 100 w 212. New keyboard Casio Gibson, Les Paul studio, 1987 USA wah wah morley 200 meffect 606. Please call for more information. Tel: 08-72814598, 08-57649413.

MOVING SALE

Many household items for sale at very reasonable rates for quick sale! Desk, printer, cooking pans, fans, JRD Scooter (6 months old), DVD Player (new). Tel: 08-58174481. Email: k_maurits@yahoo.com

Bulletins

DEPRESSION, FEAR

Anxiety, free support group in English. Contact for more information.

Email: grtemo@yahoo.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

PRANIC HEALING

course. Pranic Healing is a form of energy healing that deals with the energy body. It is a no-touch technique. The healing method uses 'prana' or 'ki' or life energy to keep the body alive and happy. It is developed and systemized by world renowned author and lecturer Master Choa Kok Sui, a Filipino of Chinese descent. Pranic Healing originated in the Philippines and is now widely propagated all over the world. If you want to find out more and might be interested in participating in our basic Pranic healing course in October, simply contact me. Tel: 076-200477, 08-48480198. Email: aretimitra@yahoo.de

Business Opportunities

BUSINESS CENTER FOR SALE

Patong Beach prime location. Includes: 15-room guesthouse 64-seat restaurant, 5 motor-bikes & 1 jeep, Internet cafe & established travel agency. No brokers. Tel: 08-10820039 Ilan or 08-10911662 Niki Email: patong05@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuketdir.com/coaststar/index.htm

PACE FITNESS

circuit - as new. Suitable for new fitness venture, spa, hotel or gym. Contact us for more details. Tel: 08-1968-3120. Email: nikki.indigosiam@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.pacegroupexercise.com

PATONG INTERNET

cafe. Opposite Patong Paragon Hotel. Area: 60sqm. 7 computers, air conditioner & all equipment. Pantry, toilet & 1 bedroom. For sale at 550,000 baht and rent 6,000 baht a month. Tel: 08-4183 1199.

BAR FOR SALE, KATA

Well established bar in excellent condition on prime Beach Road location in zoned entertainment area. Large outside seating area, TV, and sound system. Fully equipped, including staff accommodation. Ready to go. 20 year lease with option to extend. Please contact for more information. Tel: 08-31720876. Email: tropical.lifestyle@gmail.com

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PHI PHI ISLAND

Great business for sale in the best location. 14-year contract. First to see will take. Please contact David for more information. Tel: 08-9292 3711. Email: patong05@gmail.com

OFFICE SHOWROOM

for rent. At Laguna - Plaza Del Mar, ground floor: 22,000 baht per month. 2 telephones and aircon. Security system. Ready to move in. Please contact. Tel: 08-19586805. Email: kris.derweduwe@th.g4s.com

CONSTRUCTION

Invest in Construction Ltd. We want to start a construction company and need capital of 3 million baht. German management. Contact for further details. Email: joerg@manmueng.com

BEAUTY SALON

Beauty salon for sale, Nanai Road: 250,000 baht or best offer. Please contact. Tel: 08-61409403, 08-7264-7235. Email: siamsalon_co_ltd@yahoo.co.th

BAR/RESTAURANT,

Nanai Rd. Small bar and restaurant in Nanai Rd. 10-month contract with all fittings included. 170,000 baht, including kitchen. Contact John. Tel: 08-46304809. Email: johncamel927@hotmail.com

INTERNATIONAL

opportunity. US marketing company expanding into Thailand needs distributors for a 2000-year-old Himalayan Remedy. Must speak English. Tel: 888-2657116. Email: APerve@gmail.com


PARTNER WANTED

Thai partner wanted for up-market espresso coffee bar/healthy food concept in Phuket. Successful brand and concept. Successful applicant should have retail experience. Tel: +61-414284660. Email: sdalcom@mac.com

FULL MONTY BAR

for sale. Near the front of Soi Crocodile, this popular bar is now for sale at 2 million baht with a lease of 2 years and 4 months. It has always shown good profits and is in an ideal location to make a good business. Tel: 08-98718663. Email: davidhnelson@hotmail.com

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The Plaza Del Mar -
Entrance to Laguna, Phuket.
Last two superb, 40-80 square-metre, first-floor office/showrooms in the recently completed Plaza Del Mar.



Fully fitted with concealed air-con, security system, kitchenette, floors, 2 telephone lines with broadband capability, etc.

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BAR FOR SALE

Popular and successful. Amigos bar in Soi Seadragon for sale. Pool table, darts, own sound system. 4-5 year lease. 4.5 million baht. Serious offers considered. Tel: 08-7883-8721.

OLA MOTORBIKE

Rental and repair shop for sale. 23 bikes from 115cc-1300cc. 3-story building with garage and private apartment. Serious buyers. Tel: 08-7896-2617.

NEW GUESTHOUSE

Beautiful place facing the beach, has everything. Tel: 08-18948446.

HOTEL RESTAURANT

bar for sale in Patong. Call Graeme for sale or lease. Tel: 08-48476816.

SHOPHOUSE

for rent. 2-story shophouse in the middle of Soi Bangla's famous restaurant lane where Buffalo Steakhouse and Navrangmahal Indian restaurant are. Contact Joseph for more info. Tel: 076-292628, 08-94912496. Email: info@bluewaterphuket.com

RESTAURANT/BAR

+ rooms. Great location in the busiest area of Karon Plaza. Daeng restaurant with 4 rooms on 2nd and 3rd floors. Very popular Thai restaurant. 750,000 baht incl first 2 years rent. No monthly rent, no contract limit. After 2nd year 220,000 baht a year. Tel: 08-15972213. Email: sfrkata@hotmail.com

O'MALLEYS IRISH PUB

Small business, big opportunity! Recently refurbished pub & restaurant, located in Phuket City. Package includes all paperwork, visas, 2 work permits and all licenses for a smooth takeover. 400sqm, live-music stage, sound and light system, UBC TV, 3 new pool tables (incl pool room), 15 tables, 40 bar stools, 5 fridges and freezers, kitchen equipment and over 300 taxi-bikes with O'Malleys vests driving around the city! Offers considered. Available as leasehold or freehold. Tel: 08-9729 2846. 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. Please call for more info. Tel: 08-31753996. Email: boomerkamala@hotmail.com

RESTAURANT

Koh Lanta. Must be seen. 28 seats inside, 16 outside. Rent until March 31, 2009. Rent: 200,000 baht per year. Asking price: 650,000 baht. Rent for 2006-2007 is included in the price. 50,000-baht discount if I can sell during August. Please contact Conny at Tel: 08-99858309. Email: crockstrom@hotmail.com

BAR & RESTAURANT

Bar & restaurant for sale: 1.4 million baht. 5-year lease. Please call for more information. Tel: 08-57859850.

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. Complete books. 7-year lease. Key money is 7 million baht. Tel: 08-97248791. Fax: 076-292140. Email: tatum mansion@hotmail.com

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The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd
367/2 Yaowarat Road, Phuket City
Tel: 076-236555 Fax: 076-213971

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Business Products & Services

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Mobile: 01-892 9960

Month	September 2006	October 2006	November 2006	December 2006	January 2006
Date	3,10,17,24	1,8,15,29	5,12,19,26	17	7,14,21,28

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