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Troops brought in from Krabi province inspect a car as part of the boost to security at Phuket International Airport following the coup on September 19.

Phuket calm after coup

By Gazette Staff

PHUKET: Top government and tourism industry officials in Phuket have largely adopted a wait-and-see attitude following the military coup staged in Bangkok on September 19.

Phuket International Airport Director Sq/Ldr Pornchai Eua-aree, told the *Gazette* on the morning after the coup that the situation at the airport was normal, with no reports of canceled flights.

However, a group of about 100 military personnel stationed in Krabi arrived at the airport at around 2 am on September 20 to maintain security, he said. Their presence there had not disrupted

activity or created any unease among people using the airport, he said.

"They are just there to provide security and will continue to conduct security checks, especially at the departure hall entrance. I would like to inform the public that there are no problems whatsoever flying in or out of Phuket," he said.

"I think the tourism situation in Phuket will quiet down for about a week, given that some tourists may be alarmed by the turn of events. But when travel agents explain to them that this type of thing is fairly common in Thailand and that the situation here remains peaceful, they will begin to return," he said.

Phuket Tourist Association (PTA) Vice-President Panu Maswongsa was less optimistic.

Speaking sarcastically the day after the coup, he said that it would not affect prospects for the upcoming high-season for tourism much – the terrorist bombings in Haad Yai had ruined the outlook already.

"If you were a tourist, would you still want to come to Thailand?" he asked.

Like most tourism industry experts the *Gazette* talked to, K. Panu declined to speculate further, saying that it was still too early.

"With the bombs in Haad Yai and now this coup, I am not
Continued on Page 2

Popular Bang Tao business owner murdered

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

THALANG: Well-known local property developer Suriya "Aud" Chaowanich, 49, was shot dead in his Cherng Talay home on September 12.

K. Suriya was the Managing Director of Phutawan Residence & Spa and owner of Phuket Laguna Riding Club.

Thalang Police Superintendent Pol Col Chinnarat Rittakananond told the *Gazette* that the victim was shot in the house where he lived with his *mia noi* (mistress).

"We think that the victim was making tea, about 8pm, when he was shot at close range, and therefore we assume that he knew the murderer well.

"Apparently, there was no one else present at the time except his *mia noi*, who said she doesn't know anything and didn't see who was coming and going from the house. This makes our investigation very difficult," he said.

"We are focusing our investigation on his land business at Layan to find out whether a business dispute could have been the motive. We have already questioned K. Suriya's *mia noi* and his [K. Suriya's] secretary. We will question his *mia noi* further to determine why she does not know who came to the house before the killing," he said.

"We collected bullet fragments at the scene. We think the weapon used was a .357. It appears that the victim was shot three times in the head, but we have to wait for the autopsy results to be sure," he added.

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Post-coup Phuket calm

From front page

really sure about the tourism situation in Phuket at the moment... There might be a short-term downturn in occupancy rates, but if the situation remains non-violent then we might start to see the situation return to normal in a week to 10 days."

The man charged with maintaining security on the island, Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pol Maj Gen Decha Butnampetch, said the situation in Phuket remains normal and calm.

In his view, the coup was little more than an administrative overhaul at the national level.

Phuket Provincial Police had already heightened security measures following the terrorist bombings in Haad Yai last weekend and were therefore prepared for any additional threat that might arise, he said.

His department was ready to deal with any mob action that might arise, whether they be celebrating the coup or protesting against it – but at the time of going to press there had been none.

Under the martial law imposed last night, police are authorized to break up assemblies of more than five people, he said. The press would be subject to increased censorship, he added.

"This morning I had to report to the Governor and sign my name at Phuket Provincial Hall to confirm my presence here. After all the officials reported in, the Governor took the list to the Army Region 4 Command in Krabi," he said.

Local hotel operators remain guardedly optimistic that the coup will have a limited impact on Phuket's tourism industry, provided that events do not turn violent.

Bill Barnett, Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks, said that it was business as usual at his firm, which is overseeing development of several mixed-use residential and hotel projects on the island for overseas investors, including LaSalle Investment Management and Kingdom Hotel Investments out of Dubai.

"We've spoken to all our overseas clients today, and they are all staying the course. These guys are used to this – they understand the climate and see the big picture. We have a number of projects that are at critical decision-making stages and there have been no glitches so far. Some of them have even said that what is going on might be a good thing. For business it's a bit of a non-event, but it's a media feeding-frenzy."

As for the residential real estate market, he said, "Most people who are buying residential property in Phuket are Asia-friendly... I think the basic attitude is that the situation is one of short-term pain for long-term gain," Mr Barnett said.

"The only question people raise, and rightly so, is that if there is a change in government, what will the new government's policy be towards foreign investment? Is it going to be pro-business or not? But it's still early," he added.

Police seize assault rifle

By Sompratch Saowakhon

TAH CHAT CHAI: Police conducting a routine vehicle inspection at the Tah Chat Chai checkpoint on September 17 arrested a man for having an automatic rifle, ammunition and five *ya bah* (methamphetamine) tablets.

Police identified the driver as 38-year-old Chatchay Nilata, from Trang Province. He was alone when he was stopped, at about 8 am, after crossing onto the island over the Tao Thepkra-sattri Bridge.

Police said the suspect acted suspiciously at the check-

point, where round-the-clock security checks have been in effect since the September 16 terrorist bombings in Haad Yai.

His vehicle, an extended-cab pickup with Trang license plates, was impounded as evidence after police found a Heckler & Koch assault rifle and 133 bullets on the rear seat.

They also found 10.45-caliber bullets, five *ya bah* pills and legal documents relating to a land dispute between the suspect and the president of the Trang Provincial Administration Organization. The suspect was taken into custody.

Police boost island security

By Jenjira Ruengjarus & Sompratch Saowakhon

PHUKET: Following the terrorist bombings that rocked central Haad Yai on September 16, Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pol Maj Gen Decha Butnampetch urged for public support in keeping the island free of acts of terrorism that could threaten the island's tourism industry.

Gen Decha called for the support at a seminar at Patong Hospital on September 18.

The meeting followed the six bombings in Haad Yai on the night of September 16. The blasts, which signify a significant escalation of the on-going violence in the Deep South, are expected to have a major negative impact on tourism to that city, the most popular destination among Malaysian tourists after Singapore. Malaysia is Thailand's single largest source of foreign tourists.

Gen Decha noted that the Haad Yai blasts had cleared that city of tourists practically overnight. It would take a minimum of at least six months before the situation there would begin to return to normal, he said.

In order to prevent Phuket from suffering a similar fate, he called on the public to keep a sharp eye out and report to police any suspicious activities or occurrences.

"Protecting Phuket depends in large part on the people who live here ... because 1,010



An officer inspects the contents of bags in the back of a pickup at the Tung Tong police checkpoint following the Haad Yai bombings.

police officers are not enough to fully protect the 600,000 to 700,000 people who live here," he said.

"The public can help the authorities in many ways. The main methods are: abiding by the law, not supporting or assisting criminals and keeping an eye out for any criminal activity, which should be reported as soon as possible. It's not as hard as one might think," he said.

Police have stepped up security at police checkpoints around the island, including the Tung Tong checkpoint on the way to Patong Hill, at Chalong

Circle and at Tah Chat Chai.

Runjuan Tongrut, Assistant Director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Southern Region 4 office in Phuket City, told the *Gazette*, "The bombs in Haad Yai may have frightened people from visiting the South, but I think the impact on Phuket will be limited because Phuket and Haad Yai are 500 to 600 kilometers apart.

"Also, I am confident in the work of the government, including the police," she said.

"Since the violence in Haad Yai, we have yet to receive any reports of canceled flights to

Beach vendors get eviction reprieve

By Jenjira Ruengjarus

CHERNG TALAY: The stall operators on Bang Tao Beach were not forced to clear the beach on September 15, as had been threatened by eviction notices issued earlier this month. Instead, they have been allowed to stay until a new site is found for them, after progress in talks between the vendors and the authorities.

The news follows a meeting of local and provincial government officers and beach vendors on September 13.

At the meeting, beach vendor Prajim Plodphai said, "I have lived here since it was a tin mine. We earn our living here, which was allowed by the local *tambon* [subdistrict administration] office 14 years ago, and the Cherg Talay *OrBorTor* [Tambon Administration Organization] also allowed it.

"We don't want to move, but the government said we have to. They stuck the eviction notices on our doors, saying that we had to move out before September 15, – but we won't. We will fight this

until the end of our days. We would be very happy if the government did the same as they did at Patong Beach, and we are not asking them to give us the land titles for the land," he added.

Santi Korkarvee, Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) member for Cherg Talay, said, "The government should clear the beach and allocate areas [for vendors], and create a walkway about a meter wide [along the beach]."

Wiwat Dorktien, a Vice-President of Cherg Talay *OrBorTor*, suggested that at least some of the operators may be able to relocate to a nearby plot belonging to Laguna Phuket Resorts & Hotels. "Government officers should talk to Laguna Phuket and survey the recommended sites," he said.

A representative of Laguna Phuket said the request to have the vendors relocate to the resort's plot would be brought to his superior's attention.

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An officer at Phuket Provincial Immigration Office, helps foreigners come to grips with how the ban on issuing tourist visas-on-arrival affects them.

New visa rules confirmed

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

PHUKET: New rules limiting stays in Thailand on "visas on arrival" to 90 days over any six-month period were confirmed at a September 15 meeting of Immigration Department Chiefs in Bangkok.

The new policy will go into effect on October 1. In a related development, the Royal Thai Consulate in Penang, Malaysia, has stopped issuing double-entry tourist visas.

Pol Lt Col Pipat Pongpan, an Inspector at Phuket Immigration Office, told the *Gazette*, "Anyone who has already stayed 90 days on visa-on-arrival permit does not need to worry. We will start counting the days from October 1.

"[Foreigners from countries qualifying for visas on arrival] can come in and out of the country as many times as they like with a

visa on arrival, but can stay for a maximum of 90 days in any six month period. If they stay 90 days then they must leave for 90 days before they are entitled to another visa on arrival.

"They can, however, go and request a tourist visa from a Royal Thai Embassy or Consulate abroad and come back into the country," he said.

"Extensions above the 90-day limit may be granted in exceptional cases, such as if the tourist is suffering from an illness or involved in a lawsuit," he added.

"No new investment visas will be issued after October 1. However, existing visas in this category may be extended if the holder still has funds of 3 million baht and is still doing business in Thailand," Col Pipat said.

Tourist visas are still available, for a fee, at Thai embassies and consulates in neighbor-

ing countries. The Royal Thai Consulate in Penang, however, will now issue only single-entry 60-day tourist visas. An official at the consulate said that an order had been sent down from Consul Pramote Pramoonasab to cease issuance of double-entry tourist visas, which allow a total stay of up to 120 days.

However, double-entry tourist visas are at present still available from the Thai Consulate in Kota Bharu and Thai Embassy in Kuala Lumpur.

A source in the Visa and Travel Document Division, Department of Consular Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), said that the move by the consulate in Penang is not due to any changes in MFA policy.

The decision whether or not to issue double-entry tourist visas rests solely at the discretion of each diplomatic mission, the source explained.

New dive rules stand – Governor

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET: The new regulations affecting Phuket's dive industry will be adhered to until the rules are reviewed and any changes agreed to, Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura has said.

The Governor affirmed his resolve in seeing the new rules being applied at a meeting with Chatupol Chindapol, President of the Diving Sport Association of the Thai Diving Association (TDA), on September 14.

K. Chatupol met Governor Udomsak to submit proposed ideas from local dive operators regarding new dive regulations signed into effect August 25.

According to the new regulations, all dive operators are required to register their businesses with the Phuket Marine Office by September 30, and then to submit monthly reports with extensive details.

K. Chatupol said that the TDA agrees with the department's environmental conservation goals, but had suggested some changes and recommended that the regulations should be enforced nationwide.

"Dive operators must submit some private information and some foreign operators do not understand the aim of the regu-

lations. The TDA members requested for the provincial authority to review or revise some of the regulations and – to achieve the main goal of environment conservation – they should be reviewed point-by-point at a meeting of all agencies and businesses involved," he said.

Governor Udomsak said that the ideas proposed will be reviewed by the committee, and some points might be revised.

"Dive operators have complained that some reports required too much information or were required too often, so the committee will review the regulations and see if they need to be changed.

"We might change for some reports to be filed every six months, but it depends on the details and the related laws," he said.

However, he added that the regulations will be enforced as is, and reviewed and any changes made only if "problems occur".

"Phuket provincial authorities are implementing the regulations as they are supposed to be, and it's normal that new rules might make some people feel uncomfortable. But if we don't start, we can't say what the problems are, and that's not right," he added.

Scheduled September blackout

PHUKET CITY: The Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority has announced a scheduled blackout in order to continue its work on high-voltage power lines.

The electricity blackout will take place at the following locations:

September 28 (9 am to 4 pm), Rawai.

Wiset Rd: both sides of Wiset Rd from Muang Phuket School to Laem Phromthep, including Soi Suksan 1 and 2, Baan

Bangkontee, Soi Massayid Bangkontee, Soi Ruamjai, Friendship Beach, Moo Baan Phuket-Rawai, Soi Saliga, Moo Baan Happy Home, Rawai beachfront, Soi Yanui and Baan Laem Phromthep.

Saiyuan Rd: from Wiset Rd to Nai Harn Beach, including Baan Saiyuan, Sois Samakkee 1, 2 and 3, Soi Saiyuan 1, Soi Ruam Nanachart, Soi Khok Yang, Soi Khok Makham and Soi Naya.

For more details, call Tel: 076-211663.

Kenny G to headline Phuket jazz festival

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PHUKET CITY: Saphan Hin will host one stop of the Jazz Royale Festival 2006, a four-city international music festival sponsored by the Tourism Authority of Thailand to celebrate HM The King's Birthday on December 5 and boost tourism.

The 100-million baht event, presented by RSi Dream Entertainment Company Limited, will kick off with two 4,000-seat concerts in Bangkok (December 9, 10) before moving to 3,000-seat concerts in Chiang Mai, Hua Hin and Phuket on December 11, 16

and 17, respectively.

The Phuket show, starting at 6 pm, will feature: Kenny G; Dizzy Gillespie and the All-Stars Band; Ahmad Jamal; Georgie Fame; Marta Töpferová and Regina Carter.

Tickets, priced at 2,500 baht and 3,000 baht, will be available from mid-October at all Thai Ticketmaster outlets; online through the company's website: Thaiticketmaster.com and at all Major Cineplex movie theaters from mid-October.

For more information call RSi-DREAM Entertainment in Bangkok at Tel: 02-6647591-5.


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Gazette Desk Editor **Dominic Earnshaw** was in Haad Yai, on his way back from a trip to Malaysia, when the bombs went on September 16. Here he gives his account of the night's events.

Photos by Dominic Earnshaw and Swen Seebach

HAAD YAI HORROR

At about 9:30 pm, two jolting bangs – no more than 30 seconds apart – ripped through the night above the traffic noise of a bustling Saturday night in Haad Yai.

I rushed to the hotel window to check if there was a fireworks display going on. There wasn't. The sound of the explosions was different from fireworks as well, deeper.

All I could see from my ninth floor window were wisps of smoke beginning to rise up over the buildings. As the reality of what had happened began to dawn on me, I felt the first twinges of adrenaline in my stomach.

I had only just gone back to my room to use the bathroom, after having eaten a bad prawn earlier in the day. Had I not, I would likely have been in the area where the bombs went off, drinking with friends.

Running down to the hotel lobby, I was met by a hotel security guard and a friend who was waiting for me there.

Agreeing that it had to have been bomb blasts, we headed out of the hotel. After a brief pause to discuss where the sound had come from, we rushed along the street.

At the corner we saw others gathering and heading towards the flames, rising near Ocean Shopping Mall, in the very heart of the city's commercial and tourist district.

As we entered the street where the first explosions had come from, a shout went out



A smashed motorbike lies on the ground outside the Brown Sugar Bar, where at least two people were killed by one of Haad Yai's bombs.

warning that another bomb was about to go off. The shout was passed down the line and the advancing crowd retreated en masse.

About a minute later, a third explosion rang out. Whether the bomb had been discovered in the nick of time or whether it was just a rumor that happened to be true is unclear. Either way, that warning must have saved many casualties.

From a safe distance round the corner, away from any unattended motorcycles that could have been wired with explosives, we stopped to explain what had happened to two men emerging from a shop.

Cigarettes were nervously distributed as the men lamented that the Southern insurgency had now spread to Haad Yai.

When our nerves had calm-

ed somewhat, my friend went back to the hotel with the guard to fetch a camera.

I went back to the scene to ask police about what was happening and whether there was anything that could be done to help. A Westerner in a blood-soaked white T-shirt walked away from the scene as fire engines rushed in to get the blaze under control.

The crowd of onlookers began to reconvene. Police hastily taped off the area and tried in vain to get the crowd to disperse.

Warnings about the militants' tactic of waiting for people to be drawn to the scene before detonating more explosives seemed to fall on deaf ears. Very few people were dissuaded from trying to get a look.

When the camera arrived we went in under the police lines to where the firemen had finished extinguishing the flames. Frantic shouts went up periodically as the street was cleared to allow emergency vehicles to pass.

All that was left was the smoldering carcass of a tuk-tuk and a mangled motorcycle, the casualties having already been evacuated.

Although the fear of further attacks was still very real, I felt compelled to stay and resisted the nagging desire to retreat to the relative safety of my hotel room, high above the uncertainty on the streets.

It was then the rumors started. Everyone seemed to

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Street lights throw an eerie glow over firemen and rescue workers outside the Ocean Shopping Center, the scene of another bomb atrocity.

agree that there had been three blasts in the immediate vicinity but news was filtering in of other attacks.

Word went round of a bomb at the Big-C Supercenter. Estimates of casualties ranged from 50 to 100, with at least two dead. Despite this, the immediate atmosphere was more one of nervous excitement than sorrow.

Police and Special Operations Unit volunteers pushed back the cordon and tried to account for all the remaining motorcycles

on the scene. Adding to the tension, a policeman said that he had heard that 10 or so more devices were hidden around the city, waiting to go off.

When the area had been cleared, police began to allow shop owners back in to retrieve their goods.

Advancing soldiers, armed with assault rifles, crossed paths with merchants scurrying past the debris, carrying mannequins and bundles of clothes.

When the situation seemed

to be under control we decided to leave. After walking for maybe five minutes we came to the scene of another blast.

Again, crowds were pushing at the cordon. After discussing with an officer, I was allowed under the line.

The atmosphere here was more somber than at the shopping center. The forms of two bodies could be seen under bloodied white sheets; the crowd control was far stricter.

Police shouted aggressive-

ly for people not directly involved to leave the area.

Outside the cordon, a woman knelt, in tears. Inside, shop owners were herded back behind the metal grills of their premises.

The bodies – one a Caucasian male, the other an Asian female – were briefly uncovered before being lifted into rescue foundation trucks.

The adrenaline faded, replaced by a heavy feeling something like fatigue. My thoughts went to the victims' family; I had

just spoken to mine and had felt the worry in their voices.

After watching forensics police examine the scene, I left to find my friend. He was talking with two Filipino tourists who were staying in the Indra hotel, just next to the blast.

Hampered by the language barrier, they seemed at a loss for what to do. Police would not let them return to the hotel. They were keen to leave the city and get back home.

We walked back to the hotel, gingerly avoiding unattended rows of motorbikes.

In the reception area we met up with the guard and swapped news.

The number of blasts was now up to five by his count. The bombs were in areas frequented mainly by tourists – both Thai and foreign – and had clearly been aimed at causing maximum carnage in the busy streets.

We all agreed that the event was a terrible tragedy for the whole city.



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Queer News

Transgender trauma

While some tourists jet in from around the globe specifically to enjoy the androgynous charms of Patong's legion of ladyboy prostitutes, there are still cases where off-guard male tourists end up with a ladyboy under the misunderstanding that he is a real woman.

Such misunderstandings can – and often do – result in disaster, as two recent reports in the local press have shown.

Green season: The first case happened on September 9, at about 3:30 am, when Pol Col Prasit Yodthong received a report from staff at the Thara Patong Hotel that outside the hotel a group of enraged ladyboys were beating senseless two Saudi tourists.

Col Prasit and eight motorcycle patrol policemen were soon at the scene, pulling the furious ladyboys off the Saudi men and taking them into custody.

Off to Kathu Police Station went the ladyboys, while their victims, with gashes on their heads and wrists from being slashed with knives, were rushed to Patong Hospital, conveniently located right across the street from the scene of the fight.

From their investigation, police learned that the group of five ladyboys had been prowling for customers in front of Tiger Entertainment Complex, on Soi Bangla, when they happened upon two drunken young Saudis, both named Mohamad, aged 24 and 25.

As is the common practice along the walking street around bar-closing time, the boys-turned-girls used a series of somewhat-less-than-coy gestures to attract the attention of the two Arab travelers.

The heaving breasts having led them into thinking their accosters were actually

attractive young females, the Saudis negotiated a price of 2,000 baht each for the two ladyboys, named Nong Suzee and Nong Som-O, from Nong Khai and Chiang Rai Provinces, respectively.

Taking the ladyboys back to their room at the Thara Patong Hotel, however, they soon learned the truth: down below they were still wholly male.

Thinking they had been tricked, the two men refused to pay and contacted the hotel staff for help to get rid of Suzee and Som-O.

But as they were doing so, the two “girls” called their friends by mobile phone for back-up and a melée ensued outside the hotel.

Police arrested the five ladyboys to charge them with assault, but the two Saudis decided not to press charges, flying back to the relative sanity and tranquility of their home country the following day.

Faux pas: In the second case, at about 5 am on September 12, a 23-year-old Frenchman named Simon freaked out in the rented room of 24-year-old Nong Ple, a ladyboy who had not yet undergone the final step in gender-reassignment surgery.

When he learned that the bargirl he had gone home with was really a barboy, Monsieur Simon frantically tried to grab his clothes and bid the ladyboy adieu.

But the crafty Nong Ple locked the door to his room, blocking the Frenchman's most logical route of escape. In his desperate bid for freedom, Simon went to the third-floor balcony – and jumped.

He was last reported to be in a grave condition at Patong Hospital, where he was being treated for a head wound requiring 50 stitches and a fractured vertebra.

Source: Siang Tai



PATONG: Reader Walter Johnson send these pictures showing blatant dumping on the land behind the Montana Grand Phuket Hotel on Rat-U-Thit 200 Phi Rd.

TRASHING Phuket



“The view,” he wrote, is from the ninth floor of the ocean side of the

hotel. It looks as if almost every building surrounding this large lot has contributed at one time or another to the garbage piled up here.

“All should be held responsible for the cleanup proportional to the amount they have dumped.


“I hope there is something we can do to get dumps like this cleaned up. Unfortunately, this one is too big for me to get done by myself.

“Patong [Municipality] must get involved and the land owners must get the message that this is not okay. “I’m not sure who owns the land in these pictures but without the trash it is a beautiful wetland and would make a nice park.”





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Scandals involving monks eroding faith – researcher

Disenchantment towards the Thai Buddhist clergy has reached a level where many monks return to their temples from their morning alms rounds with nearly empty bowls, media researcher Kitima Surasonthi of Thammasat University's Faculty of Journalism and Mass Communications told a seminar at a Bangkok hotel.

The phenomenon becomes particularly noticeable when a monk becomes embroiled in a scandal that gains widespread media coverage, she told the seminar, organized by her faculty in conjunction with the Culture Ministry.

"At some temples, monks now have to cook their own food because of diminishing faith in Buddhism among members of the public," she said, reporting on findings from a study of monks' views on news reports concerning Buddhism.

Some monks have commented that they wish newspapers and television stations would report less on scandals about bad monks because it rebounds on the good monks, she said.

Most of the adverse news reports centered on amulet sales, black magic, gambling, pornography, lottery predictions, brawling and sex.

According to a survey of 400 respondents in Bangkok, 51.5% said their faith in Buddhism had dropped because of scandals about monks having sexual relations with women. Only 18% said the negative news reports did not affect their faith.

Royal rescue: HM Queen Sirikit has accepted an infant with severe skin disease who lives in Nakhon Ratchasima's Chum Phuang District to be placed under her care.

Two-year-old Thitikorn Wilai, or Nong Dong, is suffering from ichthyosis, a rare condition that leaves sufferers with skin that vaguely resemble fish scales.

He will soon be transferred from the provincial hospital in the northeastern province to either Chulalongkorn or Siriraj hospitals, said Dr Samrerng Yaengkrahoke, the Head of the Provincial Public Health Office.

The Royal Household Bureau has coordinated with the provincial authorities to have the boy transferred to one of the two Bangkok-based hospitals.

Depressing statistics: Overall national sentiment has slumped, and Bangkok residents are the most unhappy in the country, according to the latest survey on "gross domestic happiness" conducted by the Assumption Business Administration College (Abac) Poll Research Center.

The survey, of 4,864 people in 25 provinces, focused on their happiness over the past month. Out of a possible 10 points, Bangkok residents' happiness was rated at just 5.54. In Isarn, where the happiness index rating has consistently been the highest since the center began keep-

ing track, was 6.69 points in the latest survey.

The country's happiness index slipped to just 6.34 points in August, down from 7.29 in July.

In June, when the country celebrated the 60th anniversary of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's accession to the throne, the index soared to 9.21 points.

According to the survey, a higher income does not necessarily mean more happiness. When divided into groups based on incomes, 19% of those earning less than 5,000 baht a month said they were happy, while only 9% of those earning more than 30,000 baht monthly said they were happy.

Viagra falls: Eight in every 10 Thai women are not "fully satisfied" with their male partners' erection hardness compared to the global average of six in 10, according to the "Global Better Sex Survey 2006" carried out by pharmaceutical company Pfizer, which produces the popular anti-erectile-dysfunction drug Viagra.

The latest survey results from the company indicate a strong correlation between erec-

tion hardness and satisfaction with one's sex life, love, romance and overall health.

The survey was carried out in 27 countries, including Thailand, from October 2005 to March 2006.

In the survey, about 12,500 men and women were asked a series of questions and asked to rate their satisfaction regarding the hardness of men's erections and how often they had sex.

The survey also found that Thais had sex less frequently – about four times in a period of four weeks – than the global average of about six times over the same period.

However, unlike the association between erection hardness and satisfaction, the survey found no link between sexual frequency and the levels of satisfaction either in men or women.

Hey be us corpus: Chulalongkorn University (CU) academics are working on a three-year effort to produce an 80-million-word corpus of modern Thai language to honor His Majesty the King's 80th birthday and National Thai Language Day next year.

The corpus will be a computer-stored collection of writings



NO MORE MONKEY BUSINESS: Farmer Pinij Perin of Khok Sida village in Phon Thong District, Roi-Et province, is offering to sell his monkey for 13,000 baht because it can no longer get enough work to pay for its keep.

The popularity of polyester pillows and of canned and instant coconut milk has hurt business in the village, renowned for raising monkeys to collect fruit and coconuts, as well as coconut husks traditionally used in the making of pillows.

Residents have been forced to sell more than 100 'unemployed' monkeys.

Seeing the necessity of having a thorough and standardized corpus, the academics started the Thai National Corpus (TNC) in October last year for completion in September 2008.

The project was taken under HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's patronage. She offered the project organizers 3 million baht in funds.

The TNC will serve as a reference for Thai studies researchers, students and teachers, and organizers hope it will also boost the country's image of giving importance to its national language and supporting its research with a proper methodology and technology.

After completion, the TNC will be available to researchers either via the Internet or in a CD-ROM format.

Many Thai organizations have created corpora for internal use, but copyright issues prevented them from allowing public access, said Asst Prof Wirote Aroonmanakun of the Chulalongkorn Department of Linguistics.

Only the National Electronics and Computer Technology Center's 400,000-word corpus is open to the public, but its data is mostly derived from academic papers and some news articles.

Thus, it does not represent the entire field of Thai language, said project manager Kachain Tansiri.

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



ANDAMAN COASTING

By Franky Gun

Khao Lak residents in mid-August most likely thought they had seen the worst weather this low season had to offer when strong winds caused minor damage all over the area. The worst was, however, yet to come.

Rainfalls of biblical proportions pounded Khao Lak and neighboring areas in the first week of September, causing severe flooding along highway Number 4, known as Petchkasem Rd, through the center of Khao Lak and – as usual – all along Bang Niang Rd. One of the highway's lanes had to be closed to traffic for several hours as the water stood up to one meter deep at times.

Mudslides and erosion in the serpentine road section of Lamru National Park contributed to at least two car crashes.

At a curved section of highway the supporting soil had partially been washed away from under the road, making this curve probably the most dangerous one in all of Khao Lak.

Although provisional attempts have been made to fix it, it is just a matter of time until a truck with a load heavy enough to crack the road surface passes by – or over – the faulty section. Since the curve borders a steep cliff, it is quite likely that a fatal accident will occur here in the near future.

Yet, nobody seems to care, and why should they? The road surface is still there, even though there is no foundation left to support it.

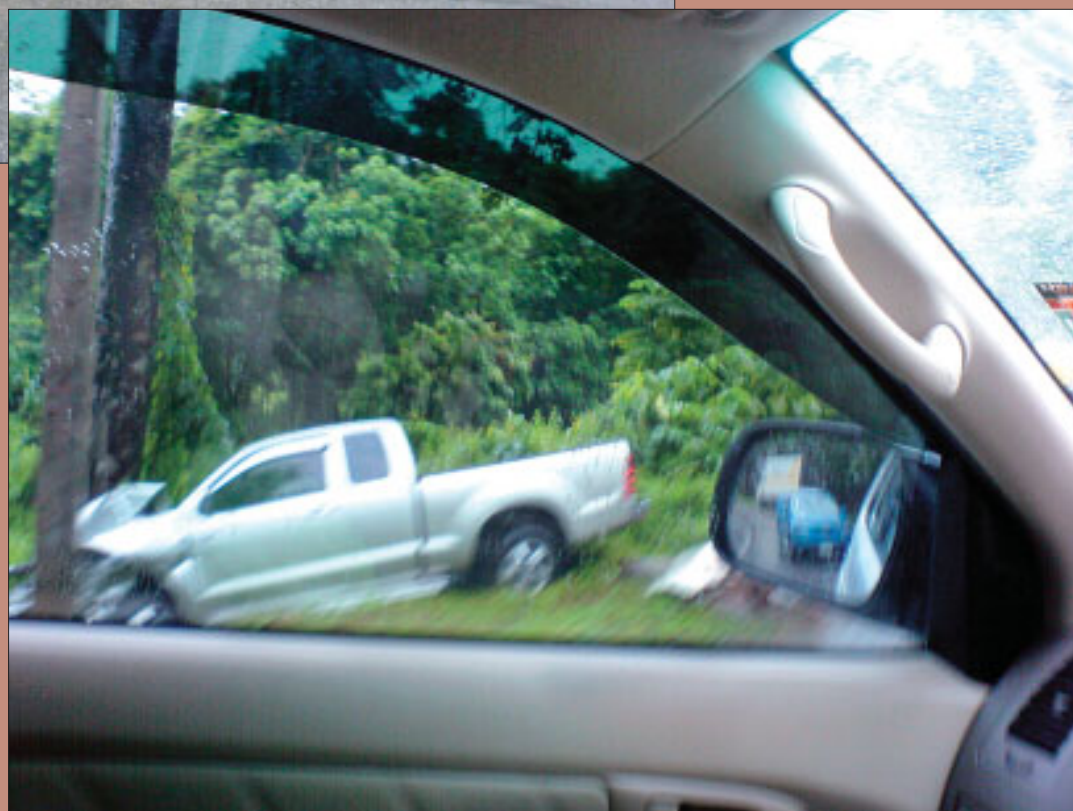
Come and visit us! Another memorial site to honor the Thailand-wide ignorance of road safety has just been opened in Khao Lak! Free get-rich-quick tip of the day: Install a video camera in a water-tight case opposite that corner and you most likely will get some great footage for *The World's Most Amazing Videos* soon.

Smashing time in Khao Lak



LEFT: Red plate spells danger? The pickup truck involved in this incident was so new that it still bore the supposedly temporary – but in this case permanent – red license plate.

BELOW: One of the 'lucky' in Khao Lak. Other vehicles – and their drivers – may not have their crash arrested by a tree. A nearby cliff has yet to claim its first victim.



Heavy reconstruction all along Chong Fah Beach gives support to Khao Lak residents' high hopes that Khao Lak will be back to pre-tsunami status within two years.

Yet there is reason for concern. Khao Lak has been widely known by tourists as a beach resort dominated by single-story beach bungalows with no high-rise development.

Now, more and more three-story apartment buildings are being erected all along Khao Lak's coastline.

This is most likely a result of resort owners trying to compensate for the losses caused by the December 2004 tsunami.

It seems logical that three apartments will result in bigger profits than a single bungalow. Yet tourist numbers in the season to come will show whether foreign Khao Lak lovers are in tune with this rather drastic change of the landscape.

Despite more than 90% of the shophouses in Khao Lak's northern half still being unoccupied since December 26, 2004, investors are obviously convinced that they are smartly targeting a niche market by building even

more of these rather unappealing two- or three-story elongated boxes along Petchkasem Rd with the plan to rent them out.

The mind-boggling question however is: "Who will be the tenants?" Perhaps the investment will pay off in the long run, as some shophouse owners in Khao Lak's southern half recently began to ask ridiculous amounts of key money from would-be tenants for their simple two-story shop houses just because they are located near the center of Khao

Lak. As long as shophouse owners in the Bang Niang area are not joining in the key-money nonsense, there is a good chance that all of these shop houses will be occupied by say... 2012.

Well, how's that for a top-notch niche investment?

Another change to the fabric of Khao Lak should have been the tsunami memorial, which is planned to be erected in a select area of the Lamru National Park that overlooks the Andaman Sea. Many Khao Lak residents be-

lieved that the memorial would be ready by this high season, but construction has not yet started and there are no signs that it soon will.

Nobody seems to be concerned about this delay though, since the unofficial tsunami memorial site of Khao Lak has always been the beached police patrol boat, which can still be seen on the left hand side of Petchkasem Rd near Bang Niang Beach when driving in the direction of Phuket.

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Students from Wirasatree Anusorn School in Pa Khlok set up a video camera during a visit to an area with mangrove forests and seagrass beds at the location for their documentary film.

Learning through the camera's lens

By Sophia Buranakul

The newly-established Fah Diow Foundation (One Sky Foundation) has teamed up with the European Union and Thailand's Coastal Habitats and Aquatic Resources Management (Charm) project to launch an environmental education campaign in schools in Southern Thailand. The project will use storyboards and video shot by students to increase awareness of local environments.

Fah Diow aims to bring together people of diverse backgrounds to share their skills, experiences and abilities, as well as their ideas and dreams for the future.

Special attention will be given to children, the elderly, women and people from marginal groups including ethnic minorities.

Twelve schools in Ranong, Phang Nga, Phuket, Krabi, Trang and Surat Thani will use video cameras and video editing, with special training for teachers to help the project along.

Children have prepared storyboards on the theme "Changes in Coastal Resources from Past to Present". The video documentaries will be presented for judging in Phuket on October 29.

At the same time, an open storyboard competition has been launched in all schools in the 14 southern provinces so that students can learn more about their local environment, especially the changes that have affected this environment since their grandparents were children.

It is hoped that the competitions will stimulate discussion

about changes in how coastal resources are used and conserved, and what can be expected for the future.

Although originally developed by Walt Disney for animation preparation, storyboards are now used in the production of most film, including documentaries.

Storyboards, like cartoons, show action "shot-by-shot". They help with planning and visualization of the video, and show details including locations, lighting, participants, actions and camera angles.

The use of video documentaries and storyboards supports in-depth research on local issues, while also being fun and creative for children who may be more familiar with movies and cartoons than with libraries, Fah Diow organizers said.

The storyboards produced by the 12 schools that have received cameras have shown a very high level of preparation, and have given the Fah Diow team new insights into the lives of local people in coastal areas, organizers said.

Prizes for the top-of-their-class winners of the storyboard and video competition include participation in a seven-day video documentary-making camp to be held next April and May, giving budding film-makers the chance to improve their skills.

The deadline for the open storyboard competition throughout Southern Thailand is September 30. It is open to children from grade 4 to grade 12. More details of the competition are available in Thai and English on the Fah Diow Foundation website at www.fahdiow.net

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Baby-toting mom shoots robber dead

Young mother Thatsanee Namrop, while still clutching her baby, shot dead a robber who was holding her husband at gunpoint in the Thung Song District of Nakhon Sri Thammarat on September 10.

The robber's accomplice returned fire, wounding both Thatsanee and her husband, before attempting to flee the scene.

The woman's husband, Thawee Nuankhao, despite having been shot in the chest, gave chase and shot the man dead before passing out.

The incident was reported to Thung Song District Police around 9 pm.

When officers arrived at the scene they found Thatsanee sitting with her 14-month-old daughter in her lap and a 9mm pistol in her right hand. She had been wounded in her left arm. Police rushed her and Thawee to hospital.

Police also found the bodies of the two robbers, Nathawut Phunphanang, 30, and Somsak Eamkamlang, 37. They had both been shot in the head. Next to Nathawut's body was a 9mm pistol, while Somsak's hand was still grasping a .357 pistol.

Pol Maj Suraphon Phakdee, Duty Inspector at Thung Song District Police Station, then led a team to interview Thatsanee at the hospital. Maj Suraphon reported that Thatsanee told police that the incident had begun while her husband was outside sweeping up rubbish and she was preparing milk for their child.

She said that after hearing her husband shout out, she got to the front door where she saw two men wearing balaclavas threatening him with guns.

She then ran to the bedroom where she grabbed her husband's pistol, hiding it behind her back.

The robbers then marched her husband into the bedroom and demanded that she hand over her gold necklace.

One of the men ordered her



Brave mum Thatsanee Namrop recovers in Thung Song Hospital, Nakhon Sri Thammarat, after being wounded in a shoot-out with robbers, both of whom were killed.
— Photo Kom Chad Leuk

husband to lie on the floor. Thatsanee seized the opportunity to draw the pistol and shoot the

robber closest to her in the head. The other bandit opened fire, shooting her and her husband before turning to run away, Maj Suraphon reported Thatsanee as saying.

Thawee grabbed the gun from his wife and went after the robber, shooting him just as he was leaving the house. Thatsanee then shouted for the neighbors to call the police.

"I decided to shoot the robber as I thought that whatever happened he was bound to harm my family. I didn't expect that I would kill him though," Thatsanee told reporters at the hospital.

She added, however, that she was pleased that both of the robbers were dead as if they had escaped alive she would be scared of revenge attacks.

Pol Maj Gen Sutjai Yanrat, Commander of Nakhon Sri Thammarat Provincial Police, said, "We know that the two robbers were part of a gang of about 10 people.

"They always prepared thoroughly before their attacks by wearing gloves so the forensics department could not identify them.

"Police will investigate the

incident and make sure that the husband and wife are treated fairly. From the evidence it looks as if it's a clear case of self defense.

"We will have a ceremony and present a shield to the couple for assisting the authorities in their work," Gen Sutjai said.

"Having a gun is a good thing if you use it in a positive way, as in the case of K. Thawee's family. But if you use a gun inappropriately or to do harm to people then it will be a danger to yourself," he added.

Kamnan assassinated: A well-known *kamnan* (tambon chief) was gunned down in Songkhla on the morning of September 8 while he was returning from driving his son to school.

Kesom Jantawee, 46, *Kamnan* of Baan Han in Bang Klam District, was shot 10 times – in the head, torso and right arm. According to an officer at Haad Yai Hospital, where Kesom was taken after the shooting, his left arm was almost severed from bullet wounds. He died at the hospital.

Pol Lt Col Chalemchai Bunsiri, Investigating Inspector at

Bang Klam District Police Station, said that Kesom was on his way home after taking his son to primary school when a white Toyota Mighty-X pickup pulled up alongside.

Two men in the back of the pickup opened fire, one with an M-16 and the other with an 11mm pistol. After hitting Kesom with a fusillade of gunfire in full view of crowds of shoppers at a nearby market, they sped away.

Bystanders took Kesom to hospital. It was later discovered that Kesom had a pistol at his waist, Col Chalemchai said.

Col Sakhon Thongmune, Deputy Commander of Songkhla Provincial Police, said that Kesom had previously been accused of being involved in the double slaying of former Songkhla Provincial Council Member Manit Wilairat and his elder brother Manat, as well as the 2005 assassination of the President of Baan Han Tambon Administration Organization.

Not a leg to stand on: Police in Trang have arrested a crippled man for stealing metal plates and stakes from railway tracks after he was abandoned by his two nephews, who fled the scene as police arrived.

Police were alerted to the crime by locals who reported that a gang of men were behaving suspiciously by the railway tracks.

Around 1:30 am on September 10, Pol Capt Pirasin Retthaphiphat, Duty Officer at Khlong Teng Sub-District Police Station, led a team out to investigate.

At the scene, police detained Surasak Jantalet, 30, along with a bag containing 84 rail stakes, 12 metal plates and a metal bar used for prying out the stakes.

They also found a Honda Nova motorcycle fitted with a sidecar in which there was a wheelchair.

Police reported that Surasak confessed to stealing the railway stakes and plates and also admitted to having more stashed at his house. Police searched his home and seized a further 50 stakes and five plates.

Surasak, according to police, said that he collected scrap metal to provide for himself, his younger sister and two nephews.

Before his arrest, he had gone to look for scrap but could not find any, so, as he had run out of money to feed his family, he decided to steal it from the railway track instead.

He said would select railway ties that were rotten and then use a metal bar to lever out the stakes. When the police arrived, his two nephews fled into the night, leaving him helpless, he said.

Trang Provincial Public Works Inspector Aekachai Nunkaew said that the metal stakes have a market value of 20 baht per kilogram, while metal plates sell for 200 baht a kilo.

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

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Location Map



TALES OF A TRAVELER

By Ed Peters

IN A STATE OF UNREALITY

The reason for going to the so-called Democratic People's Republic of North Korea (DPRK) is much the same as the classic explanation for climbing Mount Everest: because it's there.

This is no easy trip. It's practically an excursion to another planet, where normal rules do not apply.

"The past is a foreign country, they do things differently there," wrote LP Hartley, and indeed North Korea is stuck firmly in the Stalinist 1950s and does things as differently as it's possible to imagine.

Burdened with an economic system that would be laughable if it wasn't so tragic, and a political legacy that is indistinguishable from a state religion, the *apparatchiks* who run North Korea insist that all foreign tourists (usually in the tender care of Koryo Tours – www.koryogroup.com) are kept under strict supervision.

REVERENCE

Top of the high-compulsory list of Must-Visits is the statue of the country's founder, Kim Il Sung, where visitors may be presented with a bunch of flowers to lay reverently by its plinth. Cameras whir, recording foreigners paying tribute to the "Great Leader".

All in all, you can pretty much rule out nightlife, being allowed to wander round on your own, making friends with the locals or anything else which smacks of freelance gallivanting.

Hotel accommodation can border on the bizarre – endless mirrors but no guarantee of a waste paper bin – and meals can be a touch maudlin at best.



Above: Heroic Juche Tower. Left: Even in first grade, the children know how to salute. Below: Guard at Panmunjom.



However, along the carefully strictured way there is a great deal of amusement to be had in reading between the lines, imagining what the inhabitants really think and posing the odd innocent question to your minder to make him or her squirm.

Most trips to the DPRK start in Pyongyang and follow a course as predictable as a tram's, accompanied by a forced cheerfulness without the merest hint of irony.

The 140-meter Tower of the Juche Idea, topped with a 20-

meter torch, is a monument to the country's self reliance.

The Grand People's Study House can hold up to 30 million volumes, but don't expect to find anything authored outside North Korea's borders.

The song and dance performance put on by youngsters at the School Children's Palace is superbly choreographed – so much so that you might think it was put on by automatons.

And the Fatherland Liberation War Museum stages a marvelously one-sided account of the

country's struggle for its own version of independence.

There is some respite from the propaganda, although not for long, during a hike in the Myohyangsan Mountains. This is followed by a tour of the Friendship Exhibition, filled with gifts donated from abroad to the Great Leader. It's pardonable to think they might have been clearing out their attics.

The DPRK comes into its sharpest focus at Panmunjom, the border with South Korea where talks are still held in a building

whose conference table straddles two nations.

Enormous flags snap in the wind on either side of the heavily-guarded boundary, and the commentary from the ever-present guides becomes if anything more strident.

Everyone in the south is a miserable puppet of the American Imperialists, bowed down by the yoke of a fascist government and yearning for liberation from the peace-loving north. Ahem.

North Korea. It's less of a country than a state of unreality.



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ALL IN A NIGHT'S

The radio crackles into life – the words are garbled, but the message is clear. Ten men stationed at the Jui Tui Shrine in Phuket Town run toward an ambulance and a few converted pickups, barely waiting for the stragglers to pile in to the back before the vehicles speed out of the parking lot, lights flashing, sirens wailing.

Details begin to emerge. Someone has been stabbed at the Koh Sireh fishing pier.

Police, as usual, have radioed the Kusoldharm Foundation, Phuket's non-profit ambulance service, to send an emergency response team.

Jeff Craig is driving the first pickup, methodically switching between the tones on his new FBI-issue sirens while Led Zepelin plays on the CD player.

Jeff's blond-brown hair, tan features and good looks betray his day job as a golf pro at Blue Canyon Country Club, but his aggressive driving and slightly black sense of humor show a different side – the Emergency Medical Technician, or EMT, from America who spends his free evenings as a volunteer paramedic in Phuket.

We arrive after 12 fast minutes to find a crowd surrounding a shirtless man laying near the edge of the pier loading area.

Jeff jumps from the pickup, but once he arrives at the body he realizes it's too late.

The man is laying in a puddle of blood that covers his neck and flows down past his head into a nearby sewage drain.

Jeff checks the pulse, then pulls open the man's eyelids and shines his flashlight to check for pupil dilation. He's been dead at least 20 minutes, the victim of multiple stab wounds.

"Oh, he may pull out of it yet," Jeff would later joke with the young journalists who hadn't seen a violent death scene before.

"You thought you saw a

By day, Jeff Craig is a golf pro at Blue Canyon but at night his role is very different, as he hurtles around town with the 'ghostbusters' – the volunteers of the Kusoldharm Foundation – picking up the peices after fights and road accidents. Two *Gazette* staffers went out with him recently. Here is their report. Words by Zach Fridell, Photos by Dominic Earnshaw.

dead guy, but he had actually just fallen on a bottle of ketchup. He's up and around and laughing about it now."

Jeff moved to Thailand 11 years ago to work as a golf pro and toured from 1992 to 2000, but after spending two years in Phuket he realized there was a need for emergency medical training.

Pickup trucks would race around the city to motorcycle accident sites, hastily loading the victims into a cloth stretcher and throwing them in the back of the truck before speeding to the hospital.

This earned them such nicknames as "The Body Snatchers" and "Ghostbusters", as their work



Above: Jeff Craig (blue shirt) helps carry a bike crash victim to an ambulance. Below: Backboard and neck brace ensure that the ride to hospital will not aggravate any damage to this bike crash victim's spine.

is seen by ethnic Chinese as a way of keeping the island from being overrun by disembodied souls.

The approach was the best available option at the time, but it was also very dangerous for victims.

Any one with a spinal injury could be permanently disabled – or even killed – by the manhandling and bouncing ride.

After being trained as a paramedic in his native North Carolina, Jeff knew the importance of stabilization and backboards.

Just a few extra seconds to brace the victim's neck and spine could mean a world of difference to their survival odds.

Now the Kusoldharm Foundation boasts several converted pickups and two ambulances – one in Phuket City and one in Thalang – fitted out with backboards and rudimentary medical supplies such as breathing bags and a suction device.

Jeff rides with the Phuket City crew once every few months, and operates from his house near Blue Canyon, where he lives with his wife and seven-year-old daughter, every night through radio contact with the small dispatch office at the Jui Tui shrine.

Almost all the money for the foundation comes from small donations made to the shrine.

After the tsunami there was



a brief flood of donations when the Kusoldharm workers were featured on CNN, allowing the foundation to buy the backboards and ambulances.

More supplies and training are still required, however. That's

where Rescue Corp comes in. Jeff teamed up with Mike Dougherty, a friend from the States, in 1996 to woo big donors in the US. So far the non-profit corporation has raised US\$15,000, with another US\$7,000 on the way. But

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WORK



Jeff confers with a Kusondharm colleague at the Koh Sirei murder scene.

each ambulance costs US\$35,000, a full set of gear US\$50,000, and the Jaws of Life, a car-wreck extraction tool, runs about US\$70,000.

"If only these really rich guys could donate something they could really help things," Jeff said.

The biggest benefit the Rescue Corp has been able to promise thus far is a flight paramedic, originally from Phuket and trained in the US, who will arrive in Phuket within the year to help train the ambulance workers further.

Most of the Kusoldharm staff are still in their 20s. The turnover rate is high because the low salary can often be topped by other jobs or by working with the OrBorJor ambulance service.

A few of the more experienced workers, like Jeff, donate their time or receive small stipends for the long hours they serve.

Of the 32 members on staff, Jeff is the only one with any training in first response or medicine.

He has done several training sessions with the first responders, but he explains that since his Thai isn't perfect (though it is very good) it makes him nervous to instruct the workers on the delicate procedures. He explains that with medical terms, precision is key and any misunderstanding could injure a patient.

"They (the Kusoldharm workers) all have a basic understanding, like to protect the neck, but they'll see a grotesque arm

and focus on that when the guy also has massive head trauma," he said.

The responders almost never get called to medical emergencies such as heart attacks, Jeff said, but have a steady string of accidents and fights.

Back at the crime scene, the police still haven't arrived after 15 minutes.

Jeff has changed roles to become an investigator, following a partial bloody footprint and a trail of blood droplets that lead away from the body across the loading area.

Concerned that there might be another victim, Jeff shines his flashlight behind barrels and supports until the trail fades away near the boats moored for the night.

He returns to the body, inspects the wounds and follows the signs of a struggle – a torn, bloody shirt and droplets – across the area to re-enact the attack.

The man had no defensive wounds, which could likely mean he was drunk when attacked. He was also stabbed several times in the back before the fatal blows to the neck.

Eventually the police arrive and document the scene with more photos before the body is loaded into a white plastic bag to be transported to the morgue. The next day the police will fingerprint the body in an attempt to identify the man.

As Jeff pulls off his rubber gloves and gets back in his truck, the radio crackles again. Lights, sirens and action. That was only the first call of the night.

Happily Ever After

Recent weddings in Phuket

Narisara (Nok) Charoenrat from Ubon Ratchatani and Nick Hofmann from Sausalito, California, USA, were married on July 15 at their residence in Chalong, after which they celebrated with a wedding party at the Danang Seafood Restaurant.



Kanokporn Saelim and Auychai Tantipiriyaporn were wed in the Phuket Ballroom at the Royal Phuket City Hotel on August 10.

COURTS

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This week



SOUTHERN STUNNERS: Amelia Jacobs (right), 17, a Thai-Dutch student at Satree Phuket School, won the Southern Thailand round of the Miss Teen Thailand 2006, held at the Kata Beach Resort on September 10. Here she poses with the pageant's runners-up.



IF I WERE A CARPENTER: With the Carpenter Clan all in Phuket for a family reunion last week, local resident Martin Carpenter MBE, (white shirt, with arm on son Leon) hosted a dinner for about 100 friends at the TwinPalms resort. From left: Martin's wife Lillian, father Bob, mother Matty, brother-in-law Allan, sister Claire, brother Steve and soon-to-be sister-in-law Angela.



BEST FOOT FORWARD: Children from Anubarn Phuket School prepare to march at the Phuket City Municipality's first Kindergarten Sports Day at Saphan Hin on September 10.



HALAL HIGH NOTE: Sawas Sumalyasak, Sheikhul Islam of Thailand and President of the Central Islamic Committee of Thailand, presents Royal Paradise Hotel President Dr Jirachai Amornpairoj (2nd from left) with a certificate of approval for serving Halal food at the opening of the hotel's Casablanca Arabian Restaurant on September 15. Royal Paradise Hotel Managing Director Oralak Amornpairoj (left) and guests look on.



WATER PROJECT: Japanese Ambassador Hideaki Kobayashi (2nd from left) hands to (from right) Phang Nga Governor Winai Buapradit, Kuraburi District Chief Surat Akrawiroj and World Vision's Chusak Wuthiwaropas a placard showing the waterworks system built by World Vision and funded by the Japanese government. The system is for villagers of Baan Thung Nang Dam, Phang Nga province.



GOOD TO GIVE: Chusak Wuthiwaropas (left), Executive Director of World Vision Foundation of Thailand, and Thai celebrity Pascharasri Benjamas (in hat) cheer with children from poor families at the Phuket World Vision center after receiving 40,075 baht in support donations. The money was raised through an auction of personal items belonging to Thai celebrities and well-known local figures, including Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura and Provincial Administration Organization President Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr.



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I am riding a 1997 Harley-Davidson FXR Fatboy Classic and my passenger is a sexy Thai rock singer called Jackie who is wearing D&G aviator sunglasses, knee-high black leather biker boots, torn denim hot pants and a white linen blouse knotted at the stomach.

This is the version I would like to offer. The truth is that I am actually riding a 1996 Honda Wave I borrowed from the girl in my local FamilyMart and my lady passenger is wearing fake Ray-Bans, pedal pushers, a blouse that clashes with her bum-length rusty bleach blonde hair and a silly hat.

But she is a Thai rock singer. I met her at a party at the Muzic Cafe in Patpong Rd last week. It was just the other night while I was drowning my sorrows after accidentally laundering the phone number of a noodle magnate's daughter, that I first noticed Jackie belting out an impressive rendition of *What's Up* by 4 Non Blondes. During a break I started the conversation by helpfully pointing out she should add an "S" to the title because "What up? What going on?" sounded a little too Isarn.

DRY-RETNCHING

I netted her mobile number. I had always fancied dating a singer.

Speaking her broken – almost irreparable – English, she said her name was "Jack-eeeeee" and though she can sing classic Western rock and pop songs her English leaves a lot to be desired.

But here I am in the hazy Bangkok afternoon sunshine asking her in wobbly Thai if she wants to eat Thai or farang food while at the same time, as I approach a junction with a lungful of tuk-tuk exhaust, some prat driving beside me in a brand-new (as they all seem to be in Thailand) SUV makes a left turn without indicating (as they all seem to do in Thailand) and then, despite being clearly in the wrong, has the nerve to beep me, and so I beep him back.

Alas, the FamilyMart girl's bike has seen better days and the sound produced is more like a kitten dry-retching than a beep.

Fortunately I was chugging along at a modest 20kph and had just been overtaken by a knock-kneed old biddy on a chicken chaser so no harm was done.

I picked up Jackie outside a KFC on Silom Rd. I don't know where she lives; that is something she has failed to divulge, but she performs every night with a Thai band and another Thai singer, a man with long scraggly gray hair and brown teeth who wears a pale denim jacket over an old USA flag vest, who looks more rock 'n' roll than Keith Richards and reminds me of Ad Carabao, and if you don't know who Ad Carabao is I have neither the time nor the inclination to explain.

Did I forget to mention that her 16-year-old brother is perched on the back behind her, probably as some kind of chaperone? This is common when dating half-decent Thai women but it's also a

DREAM DATE? DREAM ON

CAPITAL Letter

By Stiffy Rectangle

The *Gazette's* Man in the Capital recently scored a date. With a rock singer, no less. This was such an extraordinary event that he felt compelled to put fingers to keyboard and tell readers all about it. How did the date go? Read on...



pain in the butt, even if you do just want lunch to see if the attraction is still there in the sobering light of day.

We find a modest restaurant, the menu is all in English but Jackie knows what she wants and orders "spagg-et-teeeee carbonaraaa". Her brother, who incidentally has zero understanding of written or spoken English, orders the T-bone steak, causing me to choke on my Singha, turn red in the face and glances to be exchanged.

To my relief the ensuing silence is broken by the waitress who informs us, "No have T-bone today" so the little shit looks at

the prices again and orders the fillet steak, the second-most-expensive meal on the menu.

I ask Jackie what time she starts work and she says "Muzic Caffay". I ask her what song she most likes to sing. "Yes," she says.

There ensues a period of uncomfortable silence which only serves to highlight the pointlessness of the situation and this is probably why it is so rare for me to invite a girl to lunch.

I tap my fingers on the table and look around with a ho-hum expression. I look left into the restaurant and then right, out onto the street, at the shoppers

struggling to get past each other in the revolving doors of Central, at the dried squid seller who has her back to me and I can hear the methodical beep of the doors about to close on the BTS overhead and to my right.

I look at her brother opposite me and he smiles ... I mean to smile back but it comes out as a forced grimace.

Typically, my food arrives

the moment I light up a cigarette. Because of her horrid, greedy little opportunist, let's-get-what-I-can-from-the-farang-man-who-wants-to-shag-my-sister sibling I have gone for the cheapo special, the grilled chicken breast in mushroom sauce with mashed potato.

I can't recall ever being presented with such a crappy, colorless meal and can easily imagine what Gordon Ramsay would say upon being presented with such flat, culinary dullness, and if you don't know who Gordon Ramsay is I have neither the time nor the inclination to explain.

Jackie gestures for me to begin and, being the gentleman I am – even in such farcical situations, I explain in broken Thai that where I come from it is impolite to begin before everybody has their food.

Her spag-et-teeeee carbonaraaa arrives and it looks almost as bland as my meal does, a clumsy mass of white and beige with the occasional glimpse of pink.

My dry chicken breast with tasteless mash covered in mushroom gloop is, unsurprisingly, rubbish, but I persist and by the time I have finished the unstimulating, flavorless mush I have become a dab hand at salt application.

The brother, whose name is I couldn't care less, is clearly enjoying his fillet steak with chips and grilled carrots – which doesn't look too bad, and so it shouldn't for 380 baht, which is over five quid. His meal alone costs more than mine and Jack-eeeeee's put together but he does at least finish it.

STRUGGLING

Jackie is struggling and asks for my help, and so I reluctantly manage a couple of forkfuls of the vapid, salty, faux-cheesy stodge.

I remind myself that I am still young and life is wonderful but it is also what we make it, and I endeavor to stay strong, get through this situation and learn from it, though the question still remains, "How did I let this happen?"

The night we met she had been wearing a black leather bra and a cowboy hat so I can only assume that, in my drunken state, Magic Johnson had woken up, made his presence known and pushed me to get her number, and if you can't figure out what Magic Johnson is, I have neither the time nor the inclination to explain.

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Above, Sport Compact Zoom, 10-30x25. 2,950 baht from Hunter at Central Festival. Below, West Marine 7X50 nitrogen filled, with integral backlight. 9,995 baht from Phuket Sail.



KEEPING FOCUSED

The seasoned hack – that's me – knows just the right time to throw in a cultural reference to kick start (or in some cases to perform CPR on) an article.

This piece is about various types of optical devices – field glasses, binoculars and spotting scopes, but not opera glasses; they don't fall into my aria of expertise...

Swiftly back to the cultural reference and, from an episode of *Father Ted*:

Father Ted: "Now concentrate this time, Father Dougal. These [Ted points to some plastic cows on a table] are very small; those [Ted points at some cows out of the window] are far away."

Why traipse across a muddy field to see up close and personal an old tumbledown building – particularly one occupied by members of, for argument's sake, an opposing army – when, from



Essential Kit
By Andy Johnstone

the comfort of one's FV107 Scimitar, a decent pair of binos will bring the place into sharp relief, just before a couple of HM Government's 30mm HE shells hit the place? Most definitely an essential piece of kit.

Myth-busting time: a decent pair of binoculars, that is, a well-collimated (correctly-aligned) pair, will produce a single, circular image that appears to be three dimensional.

The "figure-of-eight" frame around the image being viewed, so beloved of Hollywood, Bollywood, Trollywood, Dollywood and Stoliwood, just isn't true.

By the way, the cause of the 3D-effect granted by binos over monocular devices stems from the fact that the two views – seen, of course, through the two tubes – are presented from different viewpoints. These two images

"merge" to produce the perception of a single perceived view with a sensation of depth (stereopsis), thus allowing a distance to be estimated.

Binoculars and other optical aids tend to have rather confusing numbers on them. Some of these numbers are known among the cognoscenti as price tags.

Others, 8x50, for example, are seemingly more arcane in their meaning. It's quite simple, really. The larger number refers to the diameter in millimeters of the big lens (the objective lens) at the front, whereas the smaller number refers to the magnification power, that is, it "brings" the object viewed eight times closer.

Therefore, a pair of 8x50 binos have 50mm-diameter objective lenses and a magnification power of eight.

However, don't rush out to by a pair of, say, 50x300 field glasses, before considering that – generally – the larger the magnification power and objective lenses, then the more glass is used, and, consequently, the heavier the binos are. Heavier binos are, of course, far less easy to keep steady, unless one buys binoculars with a gyroscopic image-stabilization device.

Try, if possible, to buy a pair that are nitrogen-filled. These will be hermetically sealed and, therefore, more resilient to fogging and a build-up of mildew.

Happy viewing, and don't forget to play a trick on an unsuspecting friend by smearing boot polish around the rims of the eyepieces for that classic "raccoon" look.

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Coffee affects different people in different ways – and much depends on how the beans are prepared.

CAFFEINE ATTACK

Some people sit in the office and drink 10 cups of coffee a day. Others feel their hearts racing after one espresso. Everyone has their own tolerance for caffeine. Some experts say that particularly sensitive people are probably reacting to the coffee's tannin. People who suffer adversely from coffee should pay close attention to their body and its signals.

"Caffeine affects the central nervous system ... the metabolism," says Antje Gahl of the German Nutritional Association (DGE).

Depending on the amount ingested, it can excite the heart and circulation, but also the stomach, intestines and kidneys. That's because caffeine blocks receptors that are responsible for picking up adenosine, which is produced by the body and promotes relaxation.

Thus, coffee usually has a desired effect when people drink it in the mornings and afternoon. "They wake up, can concentrate and can make decisions faster," says Hans Biesalski, a professor at the Institute for Biology, Chemistry and Nutritional Science at Stuttgart's Hohenheim University.

THE SHAKES

Some people get the shakes after drinking coffee. In such cases, some quick exercise can help. It lets the body work off the energy that comes from the coffee.

Different people filter caffeine out at different speeds, says Gisela Olias of the German Institute for Nutritional Research in Potsdam. "For some people, it takes three to five hours. For others, it can take up to 12," says Gahl.

Biesalski says this is the reason for the different tolerances. "We're all individuals," he says, adding that he can easily stomach coffee after his evening dinner and has no problem falling asleep, but becomes ill after drinking tea.

According to the DGE, a 125-milliliter cup of green or black tea contains 20 to 50 milligrams of caffeine – sometimes called theine (derived from the French for tea – *thé* – and pronounced "tay-ee") in tea. The same size cup of coffee contains 80mg, while a 50ml cup of espresso only contains 50mg. The amount of caffeine in a cup of coffee depends on the preparation and roasting of the beans.

Espresso contains less caffeine because the beans are roasted more strongly. Additionally, the tannin, which causes so many problems for some people, is destroyed in the process. Finally, the water used for espresso is under more pressure and pushed through the coffee grounds faster. "That



STRONG MEDICINE: That cup of java contains a variety of chemicals that have far-reaching effects on the human body.

means less dissolved tannin," says Biesalski.

These factors can make regular coffee more palatable if it's prepared in an espresso machine, says Biesalski. "Anyone who doesn't like coffee after dinner because it keeps them from sleeping is well-advised to try espresso."

People with sensitive stomachs should also check out these miniature Italian coffees. "Chlorogenic acid is the strongest acid in coffee. It's broken down only 30% during normal roasting, but up to 70% in stronger roasting processes," says Olias.

That means extremely roasted espresso beans have smaller concentrations of this acid, which encourages the stomach to produce hydrochloric acid. But Biesalski says the jury is still out on what role chlorogenic acid plays in causing problems.

Analysis is still pending on almost 100 different coffee elements. But any of these could be responsible for making coffee unpalatable to some. "Even today, we still don't know why some people can't handle filtered machine-brewed coffee," says Biesalski.

He advises sensitive coffee drinkers to only consume as much as "feels and tastes good". Anyone who notices themselves becoming agitated should cut consumption. On the other hand, the researcher notes, "as far as I know, there are no studies that show coffee has negative effects

on healthy people. That means you can drink as much coffee as you want." Still, people with heart

problems and blood pressure problems should be careful.

– **Thorsten Wiese, dpa**

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Classic *nam ya* sauce (foreground) with other choices available at Kanom Jeen Bai 3.

Breakfast in the afternoon

By Jenjira Ruengjarus

Phuket people have an odd affection for *kanom jeen*, those Chinese noodles served cold and topped with curry and vegetables to taste.

The island's residents, especially those in Phuket City, have gained a reputation for eating this staple for breakfast – a culinary aspect that usually draws a wry smile from Thais from other provinces.

But when most *kanom jeen* eateries on the island are calling it a day, Baan Liphon villager Pornchanok "Gai" Preechakarn is kicking the doors open at her restaurant Kanom Jeen Bai 3 – literally "Chinese noodles 3 pm".

The restaurant, located on the west side of the main road to the Sarasin Bridge, about four kilometers north of the Heroines' Monument, is easily spotted as you approach from the south by the rooster and the number "3" painted on the side, and by the growing number of diners waiting for the restaurant to open.

"I named my restaurant *Kanom Jeen Bai 3* because it opens at 3 pm, when most people are nearly finished work and students are heading home from school. So at that time they are hungry and drop in here before they go home," K. Gai explains.

"There are always many people out front waiting for us to open, and people keep coming in when we're serving," she adds.



Above, Pornchanok 'Gai' Preechakarn: 'I do this because I like eating kanom jeen.' Below, the essential accompaniments.



K. Gai, 40, as well as her teenage son and her daughter K. Taeng, welcome diners with a smile, just as her parents did when they sold *kanom jeen*.

"My parents started selling *kanom jeen* when I was 14 years old," explains K. Gai. "They used their own recipes and ran a stall in front of Wat Srisoontorn in Thalang Town.

"They were open on Saturdays and Sundays, and when-

ever there was a fair at the *wat*."

K. Gai opened the restaurant three years ago, on the same site where she and her husband used to sell cuts of beef. "I do this because I like eating *kanom jeen* and selling it has become a family business," she says.

On offer are four curries – *gaeng kiew waan gai* (chicken green curry), *nam ya pla* (fish paste curry), *gaeng tai pla* (fish maw curry) and *gaeng neua*

(beef curry) – all cooked by K. Taeng, who has learned the recipes as handed down through her family.

K. Taeng intentionally does not make the curries very spicy, as roasted chilies and chili powder are provided free for diners to spice their meals to their own preference.

A plate of *kanom jeen* noodles with curry costs 12 baht. People can also create a blend of curries for their noodles, a popular choice among children who cannot eat spicy food.

Vegetables, including bean sprouts, pickled lettuce, cucumber, long beans, eggplant, winged beans and other local vegetables, as well as iced water are all in the price.

A boiled egg costs five baht, as does an extra serving of noodles without curry, which K. Gai says is popular with frugal students.

So if you suffer a snack attack while in Thalang, drop by K. Gai's place and enjoy Phuket's favorite breakfast at the time of day that the rest of the country eats it.

If for any reason you can't find her restaurant, call K. Gai at Tel: 076-274163. The restaurant closes at 8 pm.

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I have been writing newspaper columns for nearly six years, and I regularly get emails of all sorts, both good and bad, from readers. I received one recently which had a PS that read: "Why do you have to use a ridiculously obvious made-up name like Ambrosia? Own up your real names (sic) Tracy isn't it?" There was a time when I wished it was.

The emailer assumed that Ambrosia was a pseudonym. And why shouldn't she? Who in their right mind would name their daughter after a British brand of rice pudding?

The message was not from Phuket, by the way. This one came from Cyprus – where 'Ambrosia' is also a trade name for olive oil and vegetable oil.

When I was at school or university it never crossed my mind to use an alias. The offspring of celebrities may have been given names such as Romeo, Phoenix Chi or River, but my link with celebrity ends there – unless you count my winning a singing competition when I was six.

My parents – actually my father – saw fit that I should be named after my grandfather Ambrose, and also that I should be given an unusual name. "An unusual name for an unusual child," he used to say. Quite.

In case you're wondering whether I got a lot of stick about my name at school, well for the first 12 years of my life, yes, I did. Ambrosia creamed rice. Tapioca. Semolina. And when I developed my bazoombas, "Ambressiere". Anything but Ambrosia.

At school, surrounded by girls called Sue and Fiona, my first name was such a source of shame that for a while I refused to use it. Instead, I insisted on being called by the shortened version of Sia. My real name marked me out as different – and even worse in my case, foreign – which was not what I wanted at my snobby girls' school in the London suburbs.

Sometimes I despaired. Why hadn't my father given me a sensible name like other children in my own family? All my

THE NAME GAME



female first cousins were either Helens or Natashas (changed from Eleni and Anastasia for the benefit of the non-Greek community). What could you change Ambrosia into?

It was only later in life when I went to art school and decided, as one does, to reinvent myself that I realized I had the most wonderfully artistic name already – and all I had to do was use it.

All the associations with my first name – the Greek food of the gods, passionate Greek Goddesses, and even creamy milk puddings – suddenly became a glamorous bonus rather than a source of mortification. And did my personality change with a

new label? You bet your sweet ass it did.

Now, years later, I find myself in the bizarre position of having a downright cool name. I was quite flattered when I was dubbed the Greek "it" girl with the fashionable name at London Fashion Week one year. The pregnant fashion editor of a well-known glossy UK monthly even said she'd name her child after me. I never heard back from her, but I do hope she had a girl, not a boy.

I've found having an unusual name can be both a blessing and a curse. It's a blessing because everyone remembers it – and I'm the type who auto-



erases the name of the person I've literally just met.

Having children of my own posed an interesting dilemma. In the end, I decided against the exotic. Not because I'm deeply scarred by my own experience (believe me, it made me stick up for myself at school), nor because I didn't fancy something unusual (I did toy with Salvador or Alessandro for my first born, but Him Indoors put his size 44s firmly down).

No, it was simply because, finding myself with an unpronounceable Greek married name, I could envisage the hours they would spend spelling both names on the phone to electricity or gas board officials if they ever moved to England, and I couldn't put them through that.

Unlike in my early years, unusual names are the current vogue, and are no longer the sole domain of celebrity parents. So offspring bestowed with more unusual monickers will, I hope, never have to go through the emotional hoop-la that I did.

As far back as Shirley Temple – who inspired a rash of baby name-alikes – celebrities

have influenced parents' choices. Jade, for example, was a decidedly eccentric choice for Mick Jagger and his ex-wife Bianca, but now it's one of the most popular girls' names in Essex.

Jack and Chloe might constantly top the pops, according to the Office of National Statistics in London, but I noticed recently in my friend Maria's bog-standard state school in Wembley, that mums in the playground below out for Precious, Dillon, Orlando or Fionn.

Maria's little daughter, called the nice Greek name of Helen, has a best friend whose full name – take a deep breath here – is Silver Savannah Octavia Milan Lolita Isabella Venice Indigo Olive. The girl's mother confessed to Maria that she could have continued indefinitely, but this was the maximum allowed.

These days, the oddities would be children with names from my childhood, the kind I longed to have, such as Claire, Jackie or Mandy.

I couldn't help but titter when an old friend of mine recently visited from London and showed my son photos of her children and their friends. "This is David", she said. "And these are his friends Tim, Paul and Phil."

My son Augustus looked at the photos for a long time. "Mummy," he eventually asked, "why have they all got such funny names?"

Ambrosia Sakkadas, a London-born Greek Cypriot and graduate of Central St Martins College of Art & Design in London, is an artist, designer and newspaper columnist. Her son is not called Augustus. She made that bit up.

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The Cryptic Crossword

Hidden Words

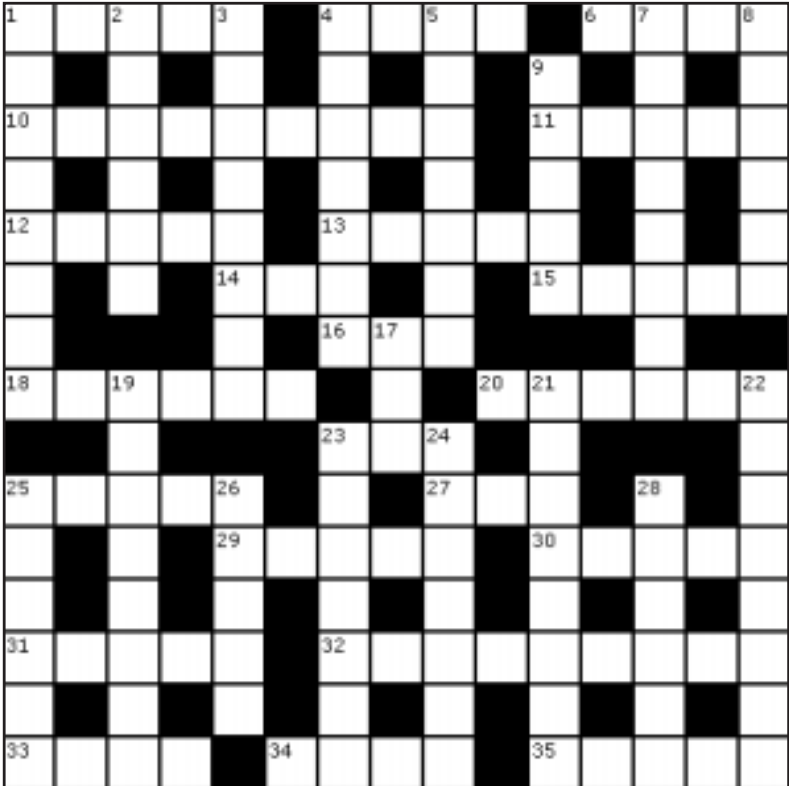
Hidden in the grid below are the names of at least 15 makes of motorcycle. The names may read vertically, horizontally or diagonally. They may also read right-to-left or down-to-up. Score: 7 or more, good; 10 or more, very good; 15 or more, excellent.

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

Solution on next page

ACROSS

1. Blend point of clock part. (5)
4. Superior cardinal has big cup. (4)
6. Tobacco for cormorant. (4)
10. Terpsichore, for example, meant – they say – entertainment. (9)
11. Goes poorly as mouth parts swallow a thousand. (5)
12. Clog drunkard taking sailor in. (5)
13. Dissect sentence for average direction. (5)
14. NY city whisky. (3)
15. Put your foot down over letter addition. (5)
16. Communist sort of admiral (3)
18. Powerful river next to scout’s shelter. (6)
20. Island has acid measure of UK and French. (6)
23. Saturate bribe. (3)
25. State weight for Georgia. (5)
27. Boating implement, or about a...
29. ...taper to fall. (5)
30. Dark time for knight without knighthood. (5)
31. Cleric has most of rabbit. (5)
32. Oil can fit – oddly, it’s not real. (9)



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2006

33. Shoe support with family chart. (4)
34. A tidy way to drink. (4)
35. Slackens rope; reduces pain. (5)
- Down
1. Admiral’s place stones joint. (8)
2. Cushions for young pigeons. (6)

3. Particle may bring Ron to power. (8)
4. Cleaner on the soccer pitch. (7)
5. Said, “Complete, Ed.” (7)
7. Carry back whale. (8)
8. Pigs so strangely spread rumors. (6)
9. Heraldic red mixed sticks. (5)
17. I am in Rome therefore not right. (3)
19. In the same place in tangle, can be touched. (8)
21. Dance what sailors round before a smoke. (8)
22. Cloths use Texas mahjong pieces. (8)
23. Check smell of the French cold. (7)
24. Warsaw chap has feline and weasel’s kin. (7)
25. Microscope part to see small tower. (6)
26. Jelly like small picture. (5)
28. Spies representatives. (6)

Solution on next page

Scribble Space



su|do|ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

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

EZ TRIVIA QUIZ

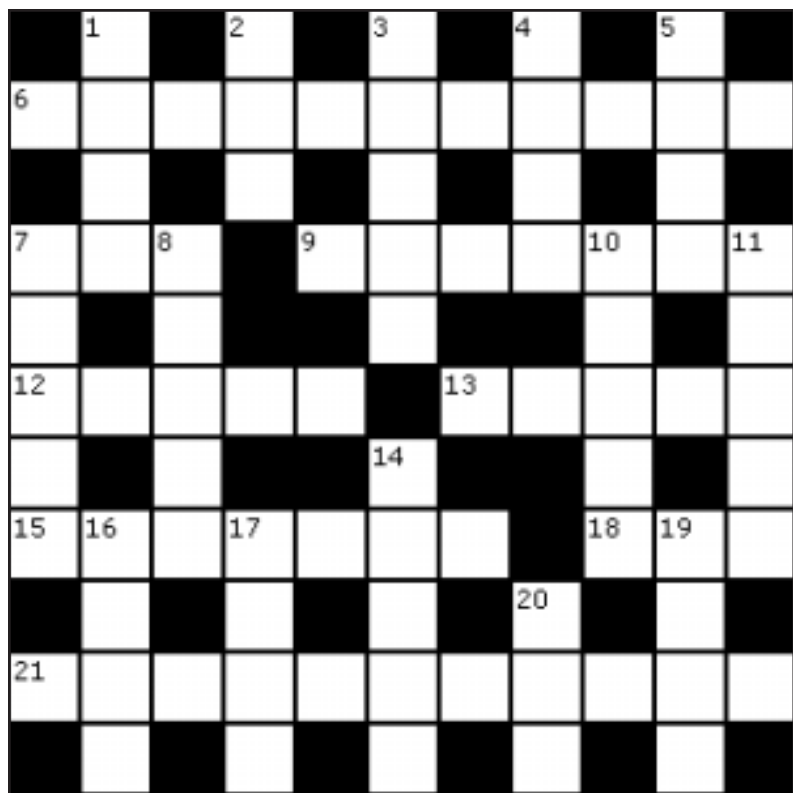
1. How many states are there in Malaysia?
2. Bruce Wayne is the secret identity of which caped crusader?
3. What rectangular military formation was the hallmark of ancient Greek warfare?
4. Who wrote *Das Kapital*?
5. US President George W Bush is a graduate of what university?
6. How many squares does a standard chess board have?
7. Which river connects the Great Lakes with the Atlantic Ocean?
8. Which gas is the main constituent of the Earth’s atmosphere?
9. Which isotope of uranium is commonly used to generate nuclear power?
10. Which actress is actor Jon Voight’s daughter?

Answers on next page

Rhyme Time

The words described below all rhyme with “take”. What are they?

1. Dull pain.
2. Milk drink.
3. Sneaky person.
4. Roué.
5. Slow down.
6. Vampire killer.
7. Temblor.
8. Duck partner.
9. Error.
10. Get a piece of.



Quick Crossword

ACROSS

6. Very large shop.
7. Place to sleep.
9. Clam dish.
12. Large sea.
13. Grilled bread.
15. Reduced in rank.
18. Essential element.
21. Soldier who jumps.

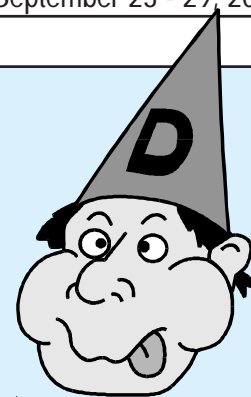
DOWN

1. Jekyll's alter ego.

2. Beloved animal.
3. D-Day beach.
4. Raven relative.
5. Not there.
7. Fair-haired.
8. Nighttime fantasy.
10. Bangladesh capital.
11. Helicopter essential.
14. ***** Firma.
16. Dutch cheese.
17. Semi-precious stone.
19. What a drink may be.
20. Part of a gear.

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. In what year and in which country was actor Donald Sutherland born?
2. Which clouds develop at a higher altitude: cirrostratus or altostratus?
3. There are two common causes of cirrhosis: alcohol abuse and what?
4. Which is the largest internal organ in the human body?
5. Which country is the world's only sovereign Grand Duchy?
6. The British national anthem (in translation) is also the royal anthem of which other European country?
7. Pharmaceuticals companies Ciba-Geigy and Sandoz merged in 1996 to form which company?
8. Robert Mugabe has been head of the Zimbabwean government for how many years?
9. What is the modern name of the ancient Greek city Pergamon?
10. In which country is it?
11. Modern domesticated turkeys descend from birds native to which part of the world?
12. The Sargasso Sea is renowned for having large amounts of what?
13. Name the six countries bordering the Black Sea.
14. What is Tim Berners-Lee usually credited with inventing?
15. Who quipped, "The World Wide Web is the only thing I know of whose shortened form takes three times longer to say than what it's short for."
16. *Blücher*, *Salamanca* and *Sans Pareil* were all early forms of what?
17. In which year was the first design for a rubber band patented?
18. Who composed the *Gymnopédies* in the late 1880s?
19. In terms of mobile phones, what did GSM originally stand for?
20. Prodrome and aura are precursors of an attack of what medical condition?

Answers below, left

Puzzle Solutions

Monster Quiz Answers

1. 1935, in Canada; 2. Cirrostratus; 3. Hepatitis C; 4. The liver; 5. Luxembourg; 6. Norway; 7. Novartis; 8. 26; 9. Bergama; 10. Turkey; 11. North America; 12. Seaweed; 13. Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine, Russia, and Georgia; 14. The Worldwide Web; 15. Douglas Adams; 16. Railway locomotives; 17. 1845; 18. Eric Satie; 19. Groupe Spécial Mobile; 20. Migraine.

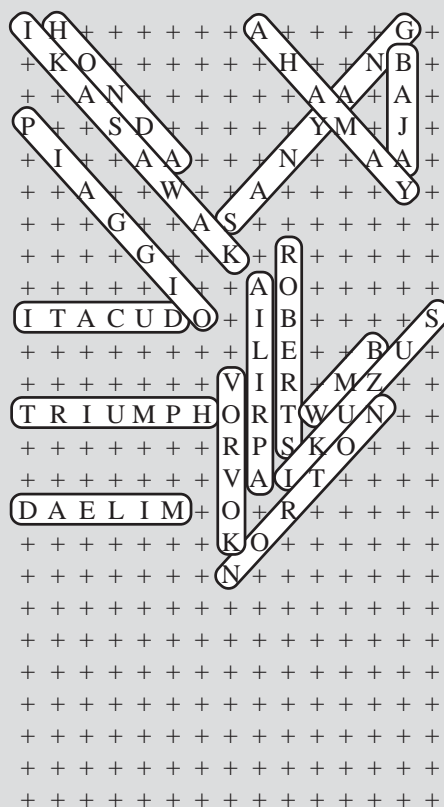
EZ Trivia Answers

1. 13; 2. Batman; 3. The phalanx; 4. Karl Marx; 5. Yale; 6. 64; 7. The Saint Lawrence River; 8. Nitrogen; 9. Uranium-235; 10. Angelina Jolie.

Rhyme Time Answers

1. Ache; 2. Shake; 3. Snake; 4. Rake; 5. Brake; 6. Stake; 7. Quake; 8. Drake; 9. Mistake; 10. Par-take.

Hidden Words SOLUTION



Solution to this week's Cryptic Crossword



Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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

A genuine Bangkok gumshoe

Fictional *farang* detectives abound in Bangkok – in novels ranging from the competent to the God-awful – but this is the first memoir from a real one.

Confessions of a Bangkok Private Eye (Monsoon Books, Singapore, 2006, 272pp) is the true tale of Warren Olson, as told to writer Stephen Leather, about his decade-long career as a private investigator in the Big Mango.

As he relates in his first chapter, Olson started out as a horse trainer in his native New Zealand, then fetched up as a marketing manager in a hotel in Surin where he learned Thai, Lao and Khmer, languages that would stand him in good stead in the bars of Bangkok when he set himself as a gumshoe. His bread and butter cases were, of course, bargirls and his clients their ever-gullible Johns.

In *The Case of the Double-Crossed Dutchman*, the book starts off with a bang: "There are a whole host of things I love about living in Thailand: the gorgeous women, the climate, the food, the beaches.

"But right at the top of the list of things I hate is being pursued at high speed by two motorcyclists with gun-toting pillion passengers."



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

This is in the course of an investigation of the lovely Thai wife of a fat Dutchman.

She arrives in Thailand for the Songkran holidays and instead of joining her family in Chiang Mai, she promptly shacks up with a young waiter she'd met in a Thai restaurant in Holland.

Olson gets the photographs and a wad of euros from the furious husband.

Most of his cases are of a similar ilk, though sometimes the lover is a lesbian or the potential bride a katoey. Olson tells his tales with cynical relish.

The general plot goes that old, fat, ugly *farang* becomes besotted by beautiful young long-haired bargirl who – surprise! – doesn't really love him and is craftily emptying his bankbook using a wonderful range of schemes. To the bitter end, the punter ardently believes that his



Warren Olson on his beat – the mean streets of Bangkok.

love is not an ordinary bargirl, that she is "different".

"At that point part of me wants to say that they're all the same, that they are all just hookers hooking, and that the best way to see if a bargirl is lying is to check if her lips are moving.

Rule number two: If a bargirl's lips aren't moving, she's preparing her next lie. But I don't tell the clients that, of course. I tell them how much I charge and I give them the number of my bank account and once the

money's been transferred I go through the motions."

Other cases are more rewarding: a middle-aged Thai magazine editor, a devout Christian, is hustled out of her life savings by a Canadian con-man pretending to be a Protestant minister.

Olson tracked him down, had him thrown in Thonglor jail and then shook him down for all of his ill-gotten gains. This was actually his first case and he concludes: "I'd made money and I'd

helped someone; a private eye couldn't ask for a better result."

Olson is hardly a paragon of virtue. Whoremongering was originally his prime motivation for moving to Thailand and he's not above sleeping with the target of one marital investigation when he concludes that she hasn't gone back on the game, but is simply out for a night's fun. Of course, he doesn't tell the client.

The book itself is competently written but badly flawed with multiple duplications. He describes the Thai custom of bridal price over and over again. At least a half dozen times, he repeats his professional creed, "The client is always right even if he's wrong." And in hearing the initial stories of his duped clients, he overuses the phrase, "Alarms bells rung in my head."

Still, this is a worthy addition to the voluminous literature on bar girls in that the stories are based on true cases told in just the right cynical world-weary tone. In the end, Olson is jailed for a trumped-up car-theft offense but escapes back to New Zealand with his Thai wife and daughter. We're not given the story behind his marriage but his detective agency is still in business. If you want to contact him, buy the book.

PHUKET DIARY

www.phuketgazette.net/calendar

September 24: Start of Ramadhan

Ramadhan is the Muslim fasting period, lasting one lunar month. Muslim do not eat or drink during daylight hours.

September 30: 7th Phuket International Beer Festival.

This year The Phuket International Beer Festival will take place on the opening day of Munich Oktoberfest. The venue: Watermark Bar Restaurant at the Phuket Boat Lagoon Marina.

The festival involves the drinking of copious quantities of amber nectar, though to avoid it seeming a mere slosh-up it is loosely disguised as a competition.

Entry fee: 800 baht for 12 beers. Entry registration: www.watermarkphuket.com or call Stuart Bird at Tel: 081-7376184.

October 14: Wine tasting.

Once again Wine Connection in Chalong welcomes the

winemakers Paso Del Sol and Terra Mater from Chile, from 7 pm to 10 pm. On this special occasion, we will be trying their latest vintages. Six wine tastings, an hors d'oeuvre buffet and live music, all for 350 baht. For information call Paul Clark at Tel: 076-282411, ext 16.

October 22: 2nd Phuket Int'l Mountain Beach Marathon.

The day's events include a full 42-kilometer marathon, a half-marathon, a mini-marathon and a 5km fun run/walk. T-shirts

and souvenirs will be given to all participants. There are special accommodation packages for 2-5-star hotels for participants in this event.

Along with food and drinks there will also be raffle draws with prizes such as hotel stays, dinners at restaurants and bar vouchers, and much more. For information contact K. Jeerasak at Tel: 081-8912663 or by email to: info@katakaron.com

October 22- 30: Phuket Vegetarian Festival.

This nine-day festival is renowned for its colorful, noisy processions and Chinese temple ceremonies during which *mah song* (mediums) pierce their faces with a variety of sharp objects while "possessed" by Chinese gods. Devotees taking part in the festival over the nine days abstain from sex, meat and alcohol.

November 18: PIWC Gala Ball Dinner.

The Phuket International Women's Club's annual fundraiser will take place at the Hil-

ton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa. This year's theme will be "Italian Masked Venetian Carnevale".

The organizers are seeking sponsors, who will have their names and company logo displayed in the event's program booklet, which will be given to all 450 guests at the ball.

For details of the event and sponsorships, call Deborah Williamson at Tel: 085-7829019 or email deborah@puriti.org, or Nadine Oliver at Tel: 084-8375297 or email nadine@puriti.org.

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Adding insult to injury

With little more than a month to go before the onset of what was cautiously forecast to be a banner high season, Phuket has yet again been dealt a blow – this time a double-whammy that will certainly damage our vital tourism and property industries.

First came confirmation that the Immigration Bureau of the Royal Thai Police would go ahead with its enigmatic plan to limit to 90 days the maximum stays of visitors entering Thailand on free “visas-on-arrival”. The following day saw the horrific bombings in Haad Yai, an unprecedented escalation of the conflict in the Deep South that resulted in tourists being killed.

The reason stated for the change in Immigration policy was two-fold: to stop foreigners from working illegally in the country and to keep out undesirables.

The new policy effectively ends any hope that the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) might have held for achieving the marketing organization’s targets of 15 million visitors in 2007 and 20 million in 2008.

Worst of all, it will keep out a few hundred thousand good tourists, just the kind of long-stay visitors that the TAT, schools and hospitals have been working so hard to attract: free-spending, law-abiding people whose presence in Phuket has turned the island into a truly international destination – something so much more than just your basic, pre-packaged beach resort.

Phuket alone is home to thousands of such tourists, many of whom support Thai partners and children. Their presence here also attracts countless visits from friends and relatives overseas, further boosting tourism revenue and the country’s foreign exchange reserves.

To appreciate the full extent of the impending damage, one must consider how tourist arrival figures are tallied. The typical long-stay tourist who spends most of the year in Phuket and does multiple “visa runs” accounts for 12 tourist visits to the country – not one. It’s not difficult to understand, then, that limiting such tourists to half this number – or driving them away completely – will spark a sharp reduction in arrival figures, long used as a bellwether indicator of the country’s progress in reaching “developed” status.

Thai Immigration will never stop the problem of illegal foreign workers through ill-conceived, broad-brush policies such as this. If truly serious, the police could start solving the problem tomorrow morning by simply rounding up and deporting all the foreign touts working illegally on the streets of Patong alone. To mis-identify as felons and effectively “deport” thousands of law-abiding contributors to the economic health and social texture of Thailand seems a reckless move indeed. One cannot help but wonder what, really, might have motivated it.

– The Editor

The Phuket Gazette

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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.

Visa provisions for part-time residents?

Has anybody from the Immigration Department thought about the implications [of the new visa rules] to visitors in Phuket who have homes here on the island? These people often arrive on a simple tourist visa and intend to stay for the winter, and some even longer.

Many of these guests are not eligible for one-year visas or work permits because they don’t have businesses, and most are not eligible for retirement visas because they are too young.

This group of guests is here to enjoy their homes and the graciousness of Thai people. Do the current changes by the Immigration Department have provisions for these guests, or are they only allowed to spend time in their homes six months of the year?

It seems right for the Immigration Department to have checks in place to try to control those who visit Thailand from abusing Thai hospitality, but I think the restrictions need to be relaxed so those guests who do invest in the local economies have more latitude on entry.

Concerned resident
Patong

New visa rules may scare off foreigners

Why doesn’t the *Gazette* publish a story about how Thailand is built from foreign money, especially that spent by foreigners here after the tsunami?

My Thai wife fears that if I must stay 90 days in Malaysia, for example, that I will need to spend my money there and she

will have nothing to live on. There are, after all, many Thai women who live on their farang partner’s money.

For me there is no problem, but I know that most expats who live here will tell their friends that they should not visit Thailand, and that they should go to other countries like the Philippines and Vietnam where there aren’t so many visa problems.

I have loved Thailand for 20 years, but the next time I have to do a visa run and stay 90 days in another country, I may just stay there for good.

The Immigration office should send police to bars and dive schools to control the problem. They should throw out any bosses who don’t give work permits to their staff.

I know many workers who would like work permits, but the Thai companies won’t give them the paperwork. It’s not just a problem connected to foreign bosses, either.

Thailand should look at its Immigration regulations and compare it to places like the Philippines, where you pay 10,000 baht for a one-year visa.

UB
Phuket

Internet censorship a trite misdirected

Thailand has some contradictory attitudes and rules that don’t really make any sense for most Western people.

I couldn’t believe that it blocks Internet sites with adult content until I checked it myself. Isn’t it too much these days for any country to control free access to information? There’s also media censorship banning images that are considered erotic.

On the other hand, they probably have the biggest sex tourism industry in the world. I’ve never seen so many prostitutes on the streets as I have here in Phuket – and I’ve been to Rio! People just close their eyes to the young girls walking around shopping areas and restaurants with old guys sometimes three or four times their age.

It looks to me that the dream of most of the poorer Thai girls is to find some old foreigner to take care of them. The government behavior of just ignoring it doesn’t really help them at all.

Instead of dedicating so much time and efforts to analyze and block access to information, why doesn’t the nation look at what is really going on here and try to help solve these matters in a more objective and practical way?

Eric Marshall
Sydney

Twinning Thailand – with Iraq...

One is regularly astonished by the Thai authorities’ ability to cut Thailand’s throat by damaging her economy and blackening her face.

The ludicrous reasons offered for the new visa policy – ie, to expel foreign owners of small businesses working on a temporary visa – stem from their typical “blame the victim” attitude.

By Thai law, such owners must be in partnership with one or more Thais, and the foreigners are the financial partners, not the main operators.

They are, however, the ones who can create a friendly place for the tourists, especially if one considers the mafia-style prac-

Letters conveying views and suggestions are published here. Those seeking comment from government officials or business owners are published as *Issues & Answers* at www.phuketgazette.net.

Mega-retailers have not hurt Mom 'n Pop stores

It is lucky that Phuket does not have a problem of small retail stores "versus" the mega-retailers. For the past two years, however, the owners of small retail outfits have voiced their concerns with the Chamber of Commerce. We are ready to help find solutions and offer advice, as appropriate.

Although [the Chamber of Commerce], has never received a complaint about the effects of megastores on independent, small retail outfits, it once took action by conducting a survey to determine what, if any, effects there were.

However, the Chamber of Commerce didn't get very much information and has not determined what the effect really is.

In my opinion the megastores that have opened in Thailand – if they were legally registered – should be allowed to conduct their business because Thailand is a country that prides itself on free trade.

I agreed to an idea that some people suggested to zone this kind of business in areas that are far away from town. I have friends who live in Ireland, and that country does not allow this kind of business to operate in their country at all; it's enshrined in law.

To circumvent this, the megastores opened small shops that are open 24 hours. Tesco Express is one example. These stores, incidentally, are actually worse than the megastores, which at least are forced to close at some time of the day.

Investors who open businesses here will have a large effect because, for example, the cost of goods at a convenience store is, and will always be, more expensive than at megastores, which buy in bulk and therefore enjoy economies of scale.

I want to be fair when I talk about megastores. The first good thing to say about them is that the

FIRST PERSON

After the success of mega retail stores that invested in Thailand, smaller stores began to complain that the hypermarkets were taking away their livelihoods. In response, a number of owners of smaller, independent retail outlets, as part of the Small Retailers' Association, handed a letter to the Ministry of Commerce on September 13 lobbying for a law to limit the expansion of the megastores in Thailand (see News this edition).

The latest news is that 15 megastore chains refused to sign a MOU agreeing to halt the expansion of their businesses, and they held another meeting on September 20 to discuss their plans.

Here, **Eam Thavornwongwongse**, President of Phuket Chamber of Commerce, discusses the pros and cons of megastores.



consumer benefits from them because items bought there are cheaper than at small retail stores.

The second is that people benefit from being employed by these retailers, even if they are managed by foreigners.

Really, there is no difference between a megastore employing possibly hundreds of Thais in low-paid positions and a chain hotel employing equal numbers of Thais in similar posts. A job is a job.

The third benefit is that most of the goods sold by megastores here are produced in Thailand, rather than imported. I think megastores are better than the duty-free stores at the airport

because all of the products for sale at duty-free stores are imported.

Also, by virtue of the fact that megastores have large stocks of staple goods – such as rice and water – when, for example, the tsunami occurred, it was easy to find these items. If Phuket had been hit a few years before the arrival of the megastores, then supplies of these essentials may have begun to run down.

Yet megastores are not all good news.

The small retailers might lose out to the megastores, although – and somewhat ironically I might add – small retailers are often seen buying their stocks at megastores simply because the

prices there are cheaper than from other suppliers.

Phuket is much luckier than other provinces, because the traders who went out of business here were able to adjust to survive.

You can see most of the shophouses on Yaowarat Rd and Thalang Rd, which used to be retail shops, have been adapted by their owners to conduct other businesses, ones that support tourism, such as guesthouses, souvenir shops or restaurants.

We are a free-trade country, so it not strange at all if good businesses want to expand. If they are legal, then they cannot be forced to stop trading.

I sometimes feel that it is as if we – in Thailand – are living in

a village that has only one shop that belongs to a villager and sells many goods. However, as the economy has improved, people now have cars or motorcycles and have started to buy goods from other villagers.

The village shop's owner cannot tell the villagers that they are forbidden to shop elsewhere. It is the same with the problems that we face now.

The thing that we are most worried about is that the megastores do not pay local taxes. The megastores pay taxes through their main offices, which are registered in Bangkok. It would be better if that money were collected and used locally.

For example, garbage produced at megastores is collected by the municipality for the area where the store is. Yet the municipality does not receive tax from them to pay for garbage collection; it all goes to Bangkok.

But it isn't just garbage collection. No local municipality receive funding from taxes collected from megastores in Phuket. As the Pattaya Chamber of Commerce said when they were angry about a similar situation, "If there is a fire in a Pattaya megastore, please call the Bangkok fire brigade to put it out."

I really think that we should not force megastores to open small chain stores because if they do, their small stores will be open 24 hours a day, and that might effect the independent cornershops. Or the megastores might change their marketing to offer free delivery to attract more customers, or offer Internet ordering. What then would the government do?

We have not seen this type of "anti-expansion" campaign against other industries. Phuket has never attempted to stop international chain hotels from opening or expanding existing properties here. Phuket is like a convenience store, really; it is open for free trade.

tics by Thai operators in places such as Samui.

Therefore, the question that should be put to the Immigration Department is: Why can't foreign owners get a proper visa?

The answer might raise the suspicion that the "new" policy is part of the time-honored tradition of Thai co-owners getting rid of foreign partners in order to get a developed business for free.

As usual, the policy is sweeping in scope and it does not make any distinctions. Hence, it easy to foresee that a lot of foreign consulates and embassies in Thailand will be burdened by the workload and mess the new

regulations will create.

Considering what is involved and its ramifications one can easily predict that new policy will lead to a Thai Iraq: diplomatic for Thaksin and disastrous for more than just the tourism sector.

Loki Ragnarokssen,
Pyrmont, Australia

Making those informed decisions

I'm so glad that SK Walker of Kata has brought to the attention of your readers the shameful way some real estate agents operate (Letters, September 9).

Letters

When I first came to Phuket, nobody told me that it got so busy in the high season – all those tourists cluttering up the place – and then just a few months later there's no water when it's so very, very hot. Why is that? And after that it gets all wet in the rainy season. Really, people who plan to live here should be told these things so they can make informed choices. I think I'll sell up and go back to my mum in Southend.

Roger Neil
Rawai

Thanks for the laugh

Thank you. I had a wonderful laugh over the letter from SK Walker (Letters, September 9).

Walker buys a house in the tropics – in the monsoon belt no less – and says no one told him that it gets hot and humid here! Hilarious.

I am thinking about buying a house in Europe. I saw one on a nice sunny day in Summer there so presumably it stays like that all year?

OK Walker, here are some hints. Buy a cupboard heater for about 500 baht and your shoes won't go moldy. Put on the aircon

and you won't feel the unbearable heat and humidity, or grab a cold beer, wear a T-shirt and enjoy the outdoor life here.

The island's reputation won't get damaged. The whole world is scrambling to live here because the climate and way of life is so much better here than anywhere else.

It's the same old story of the winging farang – it's time for them to pack their bags.

But thanks for your letter and bless the *Gazette* for publishing it – it was a wonderful laugh.

Richard Hayes
Phuket

Goo and blow

There's exciting news for Thailand from the wonderful world of toilets. Soon the World Toilet Organization will sponsor its second World Toilet Expo and Forum in Bangkok. This heady event will be capped by celebrating World Toilet Day on November 19.

Together with the Public Health Ministry's Master Plan for Public Toilet Development, this will put Thailand in the forefront of the race to become the Toilet Hub of Southeast Asia.

But "hub" is not quite the right word for a toilet center. I favor a more toilet-oriented word like "seat". As the Toilet Seat of Southeast Asia, Thailand will be poised to blaze new trails in the realm of toilet-dom. Our motto will be "The Nation That 'Can Do' in the Loo."

As an ardent toiletophile, I applaud the Public Health Ministry's campaign to develop Thailand's toilets. In a future column I will propose a radical new design for a super toilet that will be uniquely and quintessentially Thai.

But there's a problem: many existing Thai toilets have a serious defect that requires immediate corrective action. I first noticed this when I was teaching at a local university. The men's



bathroom didn't have soap or towels. After doing our business, we men could rinse off our hands, but we couldn't wash them properly nor dry them afterwards. Always we would emerge from the bathroom flapping our hands to dry them off.

I recently visited a Bangkok hospital, where I was stunned to see that there was no soap in the bathroom to wash with after providing stool and urine samples. For a hospital not to have soap in its bathrooms is a major offense against public hygiene.

The doctor said, "Oh, if we put soap in the bathrooms, people will steal it." I was shocked. Presumably this was also the rationale for not putting soap or towels in the men's room at the university.

Is it conceivable that Thailand's toilets are a hub for soap and towel theft? Behind the smiles, are the lovely and charming Thai people petty thieves who stoop so low as to filch soap and towels from public bathrooms? [Why not? The rest of us are - Ed]

If so, I have stern news. Before Thailand can become the Toilet Seat of Southeast Asia, it is going to have to put an end to such shameless behavior and start putting soap and towels in its bathrooms.

Fortunately, the big hotels and shopping malls have found a solution to this problem. Their top-of-the-line bathrooms don't feature actual soap and towels, but they do provide goo dispensers and electric hand-blowers.

The goo dispenser is a met-

al box attached to the bathroom wall. When you press a button, it excretes into your hand a slimy substance so lacking in aesthetic appeal that nobody in his right mind would try to steal it. Even if you did, how would you get it home? You can't put a gob of goo in your pocket without getting your pocket all greasy and making passers-by wonder about the origin of that growing stain on the front of your pants.

I'm not a goo fan. I prefer something less icky, something more solid and traditional to wash my hands with, like soap [because it's easier to steal - Ed]. But if soap theft is a problem, goo dispensers are a possible solution.

The managers of top-of-the-line bathrooms have solved the towel-theft problem by shrewdly installing electric hand-blowers. These are very high-tech; they thrill Yuppies and teenagers with their inherent trendiness.

After washing and rinsing your hands, you stick them under the hand-blower. A sensor detects

them and blows out a blast of warm air to dry them off. Unfortunately, if the sensor is sluggish, you might have to stand there for three or four minutes before it activates.

And if you have very wet hands, you may have to activate the blower three or four times to get them really dry. You could end up spending 10 to 15 minutes just getting your hands dry. That could inspire fellow toilet-users to jeer at your incompetence. Oh, the shame.

Despite their shortcomings, the goo dispenser and the electric hand-blower are the way to go for bathroom managers who fear soap and towel theft, and I recommend them to the Ministry of Public Health.

S. Tsow can be praised for his concern for toilet hygiene at stsow@yahoo.com. Coming up: A Toilet for Thailand, in which the learned author proposes a new design for Thai toilets.

Is it conceivable that Thailand's toilets are a hub for soap and towel theft?

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In The Stars

by Isla Star

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Putting too much emotional energy into an immature relationship may come at too high a price for you. Take some time to consider just how well you know the person concerned after such a short time. If it's your birthday this week, look back on the year passed to focus on positive achievements as some of these can be built on to create a profitable period ahead.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Look forward to a significant meeting midweek, as you are about to discover a relatively easy way of expanding your financial horizons. Do not lose hope of romance just because someone's attention seems to be elsewhere. There is justifiable reason for this and a little prompting will encourage them to spill the beans. Pay attention to a dream you have this weekend.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Your perseverance at work starts to pay off. If you have been wondering how much longer you can keep up the fast pace, appreciate being able to sit back and watch others take over. However, you must practice the art of delegation. If you're single, Taurus tugs at your heartstrings on Saturday. Be aware that an ex-partner is subject to bouts of jealousy before taking this attraction any further.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Life settles down into the slow lane, and you will be happy to take things at a snail's pace after recent activity. Accept an invitation to get out of the concrete jungle and into some real nature this weekend. On Tuesday, Virgo comes up with a proposition that should be given consideration no matter what others say. The color violet enhances your charisma.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Dealing with practical matters leaves you cold, but you will have to warm up to several tedious tasks this week. Crucial paperwork is best signed and sealed on Wednesday, when the stars will work in your favor. Once all this is out of the way, the scene is set for lighter-hearted activities. Watch out for an interesting approach from Pisces. Number 7 can bring luck on Thursday.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): A starburst of excitement livens up your life this week. Unexpected visitors start the trend on Sunday and communication from a person you thought would never be heard from again is also forecast. On Monday there is chance of an important commitment being forgotten, so check your diary carefully. Take matters into your own hands regarding romance as the person concerned has no idea of your interest.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Stop waiting for the straw that will break the camel's back. Your negative outlook is the only obstacle to a happy existence right now. Plan to do some pleasant things for yourself; even a modest treat will cheer you up. Capricorn has the answer you need regarding a work-related dilemma. Don't listen to Aquarius as their best interests don't involve you. The color strawberry red will help lighten your mood.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): The final days of September should see you getting to grips with tasks you had put off while more exciting events were happening. The best days for scheduling appointments concerning bureaucracy are Monday and Tuesday. Check that you have all relevant facts at hand before stating your case. A long-standing financial question is put to rest, leaving you free to make plans well into next year.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Family matters need more input from you. Your usual approach of ignoring the obvious in the hope it will fade away is starting to seriously irritate those close to you. The excuse of pressing work commitments can't be used as this is one area of your life that is running on its own steam. If you're single, Leo has been sizing up ways of making an irresistible impression. Number 4 is lucky on Wednesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): You have stronger leadership skills than you realize. There's a likelihood that these skills will be put to the test midweek - how you handle this responsibility will dictate whether promotion is on the cards. If you're tired of playing games of snakes and ladders without making it to the top, this is the ideal opportunity to throw a double-six. An electric moment this weekend pushes romance onto a more serious footing. Wear the color gold to bring luck.

LEO (July 24-August 22): You shouldn't have too much trouble getting what you want this week. However, set clear boundaries when it comes to doing favors for others. A lazy Sagittarian would love to see you doing all the hard work while they sit back and reap rewards. A short journey into the unknown on Sunday brings enlightenment. Number 8 can bring luck on Thursday.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Following your heart will find true happiness. If you let this relationship fall by the wayside because it seems to be too much trouble, regret will result. Where work is concerned, consult someone who has been in the same boat to decide how to handle a difficult colleague. A distant goal gets closer; making a bit more effort will bring it right to your doorstep.

Few Phuket residents realize that the island is right in the middle of sea crocodile territory. That's right, *Crocodylus porosus*, that fearsome modern-day dinosaur so famous in Australia, actually ranges through Burma, Bangladesh, India and all the way to Sri Lanka.

Seen any on your beach-front lately? Even in that nearby mangrove estuary?

I doubt it. Until recently, the last confirmed *C. porosus* sighting in Phang Nga Bay was 1971, and Phang Nga Bay is lined with mangrove swamps – or was until shrimp farms came along.

Then in November 2002, Miranda, a four-meter-long “saltie” was caught in deep mangroves near Phang Nga National Park headquarters. She is now at the Wildlife Breeding Center.

Thailand's sea croc extinction year is generally regarded as 1950. Since then, there have been two sightings. In 56 years, that's only two specimens of a predator so fearsome that their “ultimate reptile” image makes them appear invincible. What's scary is that these last two specimens may not even be native, but probably strayed down from Burma – sea crocs are noted long-distance, open-ocean swimmers. So for all intents and purposes, *C. porosus* is extinct in Thailand. That may seem like a good thing, but the saltie is a top predator that, when spotted, can indicate a healthy ecosystem.

So what happened?

We did. Humans hunted *C. porosus* for their skins and meat, and we eventually drove them out of the region.

ELIMINATED

We destroyed coastal habitats so completely, especially mangroves, that no self-respecting croc would make its home here anyway. We've also eliminated their prey, replacing mouse deer and wild pigs with shrimp farms and marine rubbish.

Don't like salties? When is the last time you saw a sea turtle or gibbon in the wild? Perhaps you've spotted some natural wonders in a shark fin soup restaurant, but I run deep nature trips and I've had only three gibbon sightings in 17 years. Although I have swum with sea turtles in densely-developed Hawaii, I've never seen a wild sea turtle in Thailand.

There are several reasons that this ecosystem has deteriorated. Certainly, hunting crocs for their meat and skins takes its toll, but loss of habitat is the real silent villain.

I learned about habitat loss before I was 10 years old. I'm from Southern California, where we made our eco-mistakes in the 1950s. Every new Los Angeles freeway took its toll on burrowing owls, and the lucky (or unlucky) ones that survived made it to my living room.

It's no secret that habitat loss is a major contributor to extinction. However, it is mystifying when we ignore the lessons

Time to learn the lessons of Western mistakes

THE GRAY AREA



By John 'Caveman' Gray

of history. America leveled its forests, allowing spring floods to overrun the Mississippi Valley. So what? Let's cut down some more jungle.

I recently saw a fashionable custom-built subdivision rising out of a fresh dirt hillside that looked distinctly similar to the California hills that turned into mudslides during my youth, showing that humans are another species that fall prey to clumsy human intervention.

We watched TV coverage of people losing their homes, and even their lives, in those mudslides. So let's cut down all our trees and cap our mountains. In 10 years we may wonder why Phuket has mudslides just like the ones we used to see on CNN.

After turning Phuket into rubber plantations, we should now turn that land into subdivisions. The damage done to that land occurred decades ago when we took out the jungle for agriculture. Now, we have plenty of rubber-tree flatlands slated for development. Let's use those open areas first, even if they may not have sea or hill views, instead of taking out more jungle.

Today's issue is encroachment into what little is left of Phuket's remaining jungle and forest. Don't think that all the animals are gone. Far from it –



There is still plenty of wildlife in Phuket, but habitat destruction increasingly threatens animals such as this Burmese python.

owls, huge constrictors, cobras, colugos, serpent eagles and other rare birds still frequent Phuket's forests. We should protect this habitat from the constant pressures of development not only for the animals, but also for ourselves.

That doesn't mean we should be anti-development, but we can be pro-planning. As long as we continue to over-populate the planet, we need to build. However, we can minimize the environmental damage with proper planning. Phuket is doing a fair job, but we can do a lot better.

Millionaire's Row is a spectacular spot with stunning homes, but should we have built on the point in the first place? Most responsible planners who don't work for developers would probably say “no”, the point should have remained “greenbelt”, to the

benefit of plants, animals and humans. But what's done is done, so we might as well enjoy the stunning homes.

That doesn't mean we should let it happen again. Let's habitate the open, level space on the island before we take out any more forests. Let's remind our landowners that *farang* spend more money on land with big trees than we do for plain dirt.

A governor's job is to be

pro-development, but Governor Udomsak Usarangkura is doing a great job of striking the middle ground between conservation and business. All land officials should follow his balanced-growth example, especially when it comes to protecting our few remaining forests. Mudslides start where trees are absent.

We shouldn't be too quick to malign developers. It's easy to lay all the blame in one place, but at the end of the day, we buy their buildings. There are some tacky monstrosities popping up in the most inappropriate locations, but for every “take-the-money-and-run” walk-up, another developer builds a work of art.

And we can't blame it all on the Thais. Asians don't hold the monopoly on eco-disasters or extinction. Western examples including the Tasmanian Tiger, American Passenger Pigeon and thousands more species are rampant examples of Western irresponsibility.

Only this year, some arrogant bonehead German bureaucrat turned a comedy into a tragedy by ordering the shooting of Bruno the Bear, a bear that had been introduced into the Italian Alps and had unwittingly wandered into hostile German territory. Why did they not tranquilize Bruno, give him a radio collar and turn him into an environmental example?

We don't have to repeat Western mistakes in Thailand. Those mistakes are ours to learn from – and to eventually do better than the West.

Can that happen? Yes.

Will it? Place your bets.

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Recovering deleted digital photographs is a snap

Of all the Windows tricks I've encountered over the years, this one has saved so many people, so many times, that you should consider cutting out this column and stuffing it in your camera bag.

Believe it or not, if you accidentally delete pictures on a digital camera, there are Windows programs that can help you get them back. The method isn't entirely foolproof, but if you just deleted the shots of the company outing to Ao Nang, and you didn't keep a backup, there is hope. Best of all, the photo undelete utility I like best doesn't cost a penny.

First, some perspective. Tell me if any of these things has ever happened to you:

- You were looking through the pictures on your camera, probably trying to zoom or rotate one of them, when you accidentally hit the wrong key and deleted the picture. Oops.

- You had to adjust a few camera settings, the phone rang, you dove to pick it up, and in the process you somehow managed to re-format the disk. Even bigger oops.

- You transferred all of the pictures from your camera to your computer, and the computer's hard drive conveniently turned belly-up. Time for a swear fest.

Don't tell anybody, but I've blown away pics all three ways. In the course of a week.

Luckily, cameras don't have fancy file systems. They use plain, old, simple FAT – the File Allocation Table approach pioneered in the original version of DOS, about 30 years ago. Bill Gates himself wrote much of the code for FAT in the days before Windows. Camera FAT works with memory cards much like DOS FAT worked with floppy



You can take pictures, but can you undelete them? Woody (no, that's not him in the picture) can.

disks and, later, those "gigantic" 2 MB hard drives.

While FAT has few redeeming values, one of its great virtues lies in the way that it deletes files. Or, actually, in the way it doesn't delete

files. Cameras (via FAT) divvy up their memory card space into **fixed-size** chunks. When you take a picture, the camera grabs enough unused chunks of the memory card to hold the picture, transfers the picture from the camera's computer to the card, and marks the

chunks of memory as being "in use". Easy.

When you tell your camera to delete a picture, it doesn't really delete anything. It just changes the first character of the file name to a reserved character that signifies, in effect, "the next time you need a chunk of memory, you can use all of the chunks that used to belong to this picture."

File undelete programs take advantage of the fact that the data – your picture – isn't actu-

ally deleted until the camera needs to re-use the space on the memory card. With a bit of luck, you can recover pictures that you took a long, long time ago.

Here's how to get the pics back:

1. Don't use the camera! More precisely, don't use the memory card that holds the pictures. Every time you use the memory card – or on some cameras, every time you stick the memory card back in the camera – you stand the chance of overwriting some of your old pictures.

2. Go to www.snapfiles.com/get/restoration.html and get the latest version of the program called Restoration.

While Restoration isn't the fanciest file undelete program on the block, it works very well, and it's 100% free thanks to creator Brian Kato.

Restoration doesn't have an installer – it's a simple zipped ".exe" program. If you have a thumb drive, it's well worth schlepping Restoration around as part of your emergency bag of tricks.

3. If the card is still in the camera, connect the camera to your PC in the usual way – probably through a USB port. If the card is out of the camera, buy or borrow a card reader, stick the card in the reader and connect the reader to your PC. You can pick up good quality multi-format card readers for much less than 500 baht at any computer store.

4. Double-click on the downloaded file REST2514.ZIP. Restoration asks for a location to place the folder REST2514, which will contain all of the program files. In the Extract To dialog box, click Reference and choose a good location (such as C:\Program Files). Then click OK.

5. Find the folder you extracted, then double-click on Restoration.exe. For example, if you extracted to C:\Program Files, you need to run C:\Program Files\REST2514\Resoration.exe.

6. Follow the on-screen instructions to find and recover the deleted files.

Restoration restores only one file at a time – which can be terribly time-consuming if you deleted all the pictures on that fancy new 2 GB card. Restoration can also be a bit snarly to work with, particularly because of its bare-bones interface. I know of two good alternatives to Restoration, but they're both pricey:

File Scavenger from Que-Tek (www.quetek.com/prod02.htm) has a vastly superior user interface, although there's no way to view files before undeleting them. That's particularly vexing because cameras have such clever methods for naming files – it's hard to choose between, say, IMG000213.JPG and IMG000214.JPG when you don't know which picture is which. The free demo version of File Scavenger will recover only files up to 64 KB in size, which is much too small for testing with camera photos. The paid Personal Use version costs US\$49 (about 1,800 baht).

Recover My Files Data Recovery from GetData Software (www.getdata.com) clearly takes the top spot on the undelete heap. With a fully-fledged user interface, including previews, Recover My Files even lets you burn recovered files directly to CD or DVD. The demo version lets you see your pictures, but doesn't let you save them. The full Recover My Files costs US\$69.95 (about 2,600 baht). It'll undelete files on just about any imaginable kind of storage medium. If you want the camera-only Recover My Photos version, it's just US\$39.95, (1,500 baht).

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

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Sauce maker decides hotel biz looks tasty

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

With 94 years under its belt as a manufacturer and exporter of premium sauces, Nguan Chiang Food Industry Co Ltd will enter the Patong hotel industry with the October 2 opening of its Patong Paragon Hotel.

Nguan Chiang is best-known for its Golden Boat brand of soy sauces, a legacy of the founding Lekviriyakul family which in 1912 started selling soy sauce made in the family kitchen using an original recipe.

Patong Paragon marks a grand deviation from the family's core business, and if the Paragon enjoys success, the company is prepared to launch two more luxury boutique resorts in the Andaman region.

Thamrong Srirattanalim, General Manager of the hotel, explained to the *Gazette* that construction of the Paragon, which is located on four rai at the intersection of Thaweewong Rd and Phra Barami Rd, began in November 2004 but the site was hit by the tsunami a month later.

The hotel comprises 121 rooms: 83 Deluxe rooms, 19 Executive Deluxe rooms, 12 Superior rooms, six Executive Suites and one Presidential Suite. As the room designations suggest, the Paragon aims squarely at the upper end of the hotel accommodation market, with room rates ranging from 8,000 to 40,000 baht a night, net.

"Our target groups are business-leisure and corporate clients as the hotel is four-star-plus and focuses on distinguishing itself from the competition through outstanding service.

"We are focusing on Europe, as those countries have currencies with high purchasing power. Our emphasis is on location and services," K. Thamrong



The huge pool will form the focus of the hotel.

said.

"We aim for our staff to deliver high-quality service, and we have a strong training program," he said, adding that the hotel's 150 or so staffers are being put through a 45-day training course.

"In addition, every one of our department heads have come from chain hotels, and I have 20 years' hotel experience. We are proud to be an independent hotel management team with experience in chain hotels," he added.

"Our strength is our name, location, the hotel's beauty and its quality of construction, which all will attract guests – especially our outstanding location.

"We have a full range of hotel facilities. There is a seafood restaurant in front of the hotel, on the second floor is a lounge bar and a café, and the main center feature is a huge swimming pool," he added.

"Our global reservations

network and sales and marketing team is in our Bangkok corporate headquarters. Our chain hotel experience, our headquarters in Bangkok, the owner being Nguan Chiang, and our large number our quality rooms to accommodate guests make us a 'best' quality hotel," he added.

Asked whether he thought Phuket's hotel accommodation market was reaching a supply saturation point, K. Thamrong said "It depends on the target market, what value is being offered [by the hotel] and what business targets the hotel is aiming to achieve.

"Our first priority is our management, which is international standard and its performance will be evaluated every financial quarter," he said.

As a pre-opening special rate from October 2 to 31, rooms are available at 2,999 baht net a night. For more information, see www.patongparagon.com

ON THE MOVE

Kwanrudee Manee-wongwatthana from Bangkok has been appointed Vice President of Communications of Raimon Land plc. The holder of a master's degree in public relations from Fort Hays State University in the US, K. Kwan started her career as Public Relations Manager at Panorama Groups where she was responsible for corporate PR strategic planning. In 2005, K. Kwan joined Vivaldi Seasons Co Ltd as Senior PR Manager, dealing with various prominent clients such as Pan Pacific Hotel, Alcatel and Guinot Institute. She handles all communications for Raimon Land including projects in Phuket such as The Heights and Kata Gardens. Immediately before joining Raimod Land, K. Kwan was PR & Marcom Manager at BECi Corporation Ltd.



Mali Boonpektrakul, from Phuket, is the new Area Director of Sales for Evason Phuket. An international business management graduate of the University of the Chamber of Commerce, Bangkok, her experience before moving to the Evason included working at the Dusit Laguna Resort, Kata Thani Hotel and Beach Resort, Peach Hill Hotel & Resort and the Andaman Canacia Resort & Spa as Director of Sales.

Nakhon Si Thammarat-born **Keattisak "Uwan" Sriwijitr** is the new Purchasing and IT Support Manager of The Mangosteen Resort & Spa Group. He has a degree in computer business administration from Kasem Polytechnic University, Bangkok, and a broad range of accounting-based skills, particularly in information technology R&D. He has almost 10 years' hotel experience in various positions and companies, including with the Karona Resort & Spa and the Thai Naan Group. His most recent position was with the Baan Yin Dee Boutique Resort Group.



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Minimum wage to rise?

PHUKET: Decha Pruekpatanak, Chief of Phuket Provincial Labor Office, has applied to the caretaker Cabinet for the minimum wage in Phuket to rise by three baht – from 181 baht a day to 184 baht – with effect from October 1.

K. Decha told the *Gazette*, "Currently the minimum wage in Phuket is 181 baht, which was set January 1 this year, but the cost of living in Phuket has risen due to many factors, including the rising price of fuel, inflation and economic expansion."

However, K. Decha admit-

ted that he was concerned that the higher minimum wage would contribute to inflation on the island.

"I am worried that once the minimum wage has been increased, prices will increase too. The new wage rate will affect everyone from unskilled labor to government officers," he said.

Only Bangkok has a higher minimum wage than Phuket; there it is 184 baht a day.

Chon Buri province has the third-highest minimum wage rate in the country, a long way behind Phuket at 166 baht a day.

The joys of inflation — Japanese style

Central bankers frequently talk about the risks of inflation, but only occasionally do they refer to the opposite: deflation. This is not surprising when one considers the economic history of the world; during the past 60 years cases of inflation far outnumber deflation.

Japan, for several years in the late 1990s and early 2000s, felt the effects of deflation and it was an ugly situation. When people believe that prices will fall in the near future, they naturally postpone decisions relating to making purchases. Why buy today what can be bought cheaper next year?

The consequences of this situation are, ultimately, extremely damaging. Everything starts to contract instead of expand. Real estate prices and stock market values fall, and companies move into survival mode. The Japanese central bank, the Bank of Japan, had to move to a zero-interest-rate policy and commercial banks started to charge customers for depositing their cash, providing them with no more than a security service.

Thankfully, times have changed. Real inflation appears to exist in Japan, although it is difficult to assess because the method of calculation has recently been altered. The Governor of the Bank of Japan, Toshihiko Fukui, assures everyone that inflation is real, albeit muted.

Economic growth is evident and companies operating railway networks are, suddenly, becoming the rumored target for takeovers. It is not that Japanese railways have become the new frontier for investment; it is the value of the real estate they own that is making them attractive. Real estate prices are on the move upward — a significant change after a decade or so of falling prices.

When people think of Japan as a possible investment destination it is usually in terms of well-known Japanese companies such as Toyota, Honda, Mitsubishi, Canon, Toshiba and so on. The reality is that Japan is much more than an exporting nation — it is the world's second-largest economy.

Investors usually refer to Japanese stock markets in terms of the Nikkei Dow, which is still a superficial approach. Japan is

also home to the second-largest stock market and has almost 4,000 companies. The Nikkei Dow simply tracks the largest 225 of them. A far better index is the TOPIX, which covers more than 1,600 companies and gives access to firms that are virtually unknown outside Japan but are, nevertheless, important to the overall wealth of Japan Inc.

September saw the release of capital investment spending figures by Japanese companies in the second quarter of 2006 and they are spectacular — an increase of 16.6% on the same period in 2005. This reflects, unless it is statistical aberration, a very definite sign of growing confidence. These are the highest figures recorded in 20 years.

Orbis Investment Management, one of my favorite mutual fund management companies, some months ago said that they had moved positions in their Japan Equity Fund in favor of the domestic market at the expense of export-oriented companies.

The fund's managers were concerned that they had perhaps moved too early, and the economic figures appear to support their concern. This frequently happens in the investment world; you know a party is going to start, but you arrive early and just have to wait. It is far better and more profitable than investing at a peak which is much more common, unfortunately, for most retail investors.

While on the subject of Orbis, I should mention that their funds are closed to new investors and have been since March 17. I tried to draw their investor relations department in Bermuda into telling me when they will reopen. Their response was, "We don't know."

After pressing the issue I was told to contact their "in house legal counsel", which I did by email. The response, in a nutshell, was the same. Apparently there are too many factors involved, and they quoted their president's statement, "Orbis view this as a marathon and not a sprint."

Existing investors are welcome to invest new money and can deal normally, only new clients are currently barred. One of the biggest problems they face is complying with anti-money-laundering regulations. Orbis, unfortunately for them, deal directly



Rumors of Japanese railway takeovers are being peddled.

Photo: EPA/Frank Robichon

with the public as well as financial institutions. Dealing with the former, in this new world of bureaucracy since 9/11, creates headaches for any financial busi-

ness. Swiss banks, for example, now estimate that 5.1% of their total expenditure is on regulation compliance.

To recap, for the very few

who are not yet aware of the new world of compliance, this is effectively a result of 9/11. The US government formed the FATF (Financial Action Task Force) to cooperate with governments around the world to, supposedly, enforce strict anti-money-laundering regulations with the goal of stopping terrorist and organized crime syndicates from using financial and banking systems.

Naturally, terrorist groups now use other routes and anything remotely worthy of the name "organized crime" are sophisticated enough to run circles around the system. That leaves the general public having to leap through hoops to meet all the requirements of these new regulations.

These regulations have spawned a whole new industry in the private sector for countless bureaucrats, and are a sure-fire way to reduce unemployment. Should you be under the impression that these new "compliance officers" are not serious about their business, you are not well informed. The sales department of one financial institution told me that they refer to their own compliance department as the "business resistance unit".

What governments are really trying to catch is not related to terrorism or organized crime, but everyday tax that their long-suffering public tries to avoid.

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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Runners complete 900km Bangkok-Phuket relay within four days

KATA-KARON: For many people, the 900 kilometers from Bangkok to Phuket is too great a distance to drive.

Running to honor the reign of HM The King, however, the patriotic staff of the Kata Group of hotels managed to cover the distance on foot in less than three-and-a-half days as part of their Kata Group Non-Stop Mega Marathon Run.

Some 45 runners took part in the endurance test, which started at Supachalasai National Stadium in Bangkok at 9 am on September 10. The runners, all dressed in yellow, traveled around the clock in two buses, taking turns to run or walk two kilometers each before passing on the baton to the next team member.

The runners obviously trained for the event, as they managed to cover the entire distance by the afternoon of September 13, some 11 hours ahead of the scheduled arrival time of 3:30 pm on September 14.

With so much time to spare, the runners made a previously unscheduled stop at Phuket Pro-

vincial Hall in Phuket City, where they presented Phuket Governor Udomsak Usvarangkura with a yellow flag bearing official emblem of HM The King.

After a good night's sleep, the event concluded with a ceremony at Karon Stadium at 3:30 pm the following day.

The event was presided over by Phuket Provincial Chief Administrative Officer (*Palad*) Nivit Aroonrat.

Also in attendance were Runjuan Tongrut, Assistant Director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand's Region 4 Office in Phuket City; Phuket Senator-elect Thanyarat Achariyachai and her husband Pamuke Achariyachai, Managing Director of the Kata Group; and Eam Thavornvongwongse, Director of the Kata Group of Hotels and Chairman of the Phuket Chamber of Commerce.

One of the runners encapsulated the group's sentiment by saying, "I never became tired because I ran to celebrate His Majesty the King's birthday and did so with all my heart."



My turn on the tiller? Mick Kealy (white shirt) and three youngsters get to grips with the new dinghy.

ACYC launches sail training dinghy

CHALONG: The Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) on September 17 launched its first locally-built Reflection dinghy, *Mudlark*, to be used to teach children to sail.

"Based on the world-acclaimed Mirror dinghy, it is the first of a number that we will be procuring over the next months and years and will primarily be used for youth training and development," said ACYC Secretary Tom Howard.

The dinghy was officially handed over by its creator, Gunter Nutt, to ACYC Commodore Mick Kealy, who minutes later was sailing it offshore with several youngsters on board, all learning the way of the wind.

"The boat has been entirely financed through fundraising and extremely generous donations from members and friends of ACYC," Mr Howard said.



Tom Howard: More boats to come

More events will follow to allow the club to buy two more Reflection training dinghies, he added.

For more information or to make a donation call Tom Howard at Tel: 081-7971120.

PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

Didi's do it again

PATONG: Didi's extended their lead to a full eight points with a three-point win on the road against Queen Mary.

Piccadilly took all three points from second-place Coyote and moved back into a tie for Number 2 spot. In that match Chris threw the winning dart, with an impressive double-bull, x17 close to go out on 84. In a Nanai Rd derby, Offshore swept all three points against Jungle Juice. Send all reports of high closes and other information to: darts@phuketgazette.net

September 12 results: Queen Mary 3 Didi's* 6; Dog's Bol-

locks* 6 TaiLife 3; Amigos* 8 Footrot Flats 1; Valhalla* 4 Shakers 5; Piccadilly* 5 Coyote Bar 4; OffShore* 6 Jungle Juice 3 (* winner of beer leg).

Standings: 1. Didi's (38 points.); 2.= Piccadilly, Coyote (30); 4. Offshore (27); 5.= Amigos, Dog's Bollocks (25); 7. Shakers (21); 8. Queen Mary (20); 9. Valhalla (19); 10. Jungle Juice (15); 11.= TaiLife, Footrot Flats.

September 26 fixtures: Queen Mary v Shakers; Dog's Bollocks v Didi's; Amigos v Jungle Juice; Valhalla v Coyote Bar; Piccadilly v TaiLife; Offshore v Footrot Flats (home team first).

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TriBallistic Triathlon ready to roll

MAI KHAO: The first event of the 2006/2007 SILK TriBallistic Triathlon Series is set to take place at the JW Marriott Resort & Spa on October 1.

The SILK Triathlon Series, which commences with a run-bike-run triathlon, comprises six races specifically designed for junior triathletes aged 6 to 11 years and senior triathletes aged 12 to 60+.

There will also be a series of special "Splash 'n Dash" races for the under-8s, keen on experiencing triathlon for the first time.

Junior competitors will begin this year's series with a two-kilometer run, followed by a 10-kilometer bike ride and finishing with a one-kilometer run. Seniors face a 6km run, a 10km bike ride and a finale of a 3km run.

Registration will begin at 7 am on race day, with an official start time of 8 am.

The athletes' accumulated points from their best four results in the SILK Junior & Senior Triathlon Series will be totaled to determine the award winners. Athletes must compete in at least three SILK Series races

to be eligible for the awards, but the best four results will be calculated.

The top three male and female junior and senior athletes will receive awards at the TriBallistic annual dinner next June. The best overall triathlete in the 2006 SILK series will receive the "Triathlete of the Year" award.

For more information, visit www.triballisticclub.com, call organizer Hugo Jones at Tel: 081-0782024 or send email to: hugodeb@hadyai.loxinfo.co.th

Fab Fore take early lead in Nike Challenge golf

THALANG: Blue Canyon Country Club launched its first annual Nike Golf Canyon Team Challenge on August 29.

The 10-week challenge has teams playing a total of six events, each with a different format of play. Points are awarded for the team's position in each round.

In Week 1 play, in scramble format, the Fabulous Fore team of captain Liam Stewart, Steve Bailey, John Marinko and Hong Shen shot a low score of 52 to take first place and the associated 14 points.

Second place went to Arahmas Killer Bees, earning 12 points from a 54. In third place were the BBAP team, who earned 10 points with a score of 55.

In the Week 2 Stableford Competition play, the Fab Fore repeated their first place performance. They now have 32 points and a commanding lead over Arahmas Killer Bees.

The next event, to be played on September 26, will be in a four-person best ball format.

Standings after Round 2: 1. Fabulous Fore (32 points.); 2. Arahmas Killer Bees (26); 3. Arahmas Mighty Mites (16); 4. Blue Canyon Plugs (15); Arahmas Blazing Bandits (14); The Village People (13); BBAP (12); The Valley Boys (8); MP3 (6).

A BREAK IN HIS CAREER

PATONG: German Muay Thai fighter Mathias Arndt has his broken arm cradled by a doctor after a match on September 14 at the Patong Boxing Stadium.

Arndt trained for two years in Germany before coming to Phuket six weeks ago, and plans on returning to Germany in October.

Before the fight he said he was worried about hurting himself because he was looking forward to fighting in Germany. Twenty seconds into the first round his fears were realized when he broke his forearm while pummeling his opponent with a flurry of punches.

Patong Boxing Stadium is on Sai Nam Yen Rd, Patong. For more information call Tel: 076-345578, 076-345165, 081-7377193.

Nadal match moved to Hua Hin

BANGKOK (The Nation): The much-anticipated exhibition tennis match between world No 2 Rafael Nadal of Spain and No 4 David Nalbandian of Argentina, originally to have been played in Phuket, has been moved to Hua Hin.

Chaiyapak Siriwat, Vice-President of the Lawn Tennis Association of Thailand, said the match was relocated to Municipality Stadium in Prachuap Khiri Khan, because the stadium is near His Majesty the King's Klai Kangwol Palace.

The match has been organized to celebrate His Majesty the

King's 79th birthday and the 60th anniversary of his accession to the throne.

K. Chaiyapak added that as Nadal would spend only two days in Thailand, it would be more convenient for him to compete somewhere near Bangkok.

World No 2 Nadal, a quarter-finalist at the recent US Open, will fly to India for the Chennai Open after his stop in Thailand.

K. Chaiyapak revealed that Nadal's appearance fee is US\$370,000 (14.8 million baht) and Nalbandian's is US\$320,000. The match will be played in the afternoon of December 31.



Photo by Dan Miles



Some two tons of debris were removed from Phuket's beaches and the surrounding seabed during International Coastal Cleanup Day on September 16. Pictured above are volunteers on Kata Beach with the trash they collected, just some of the more than 200 people who took part in the cleanup around the island.

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Decor

by Natcha Yuttaworawit



Simplicity is the key, says Kosol Sermboonyasuk. Furniture in his shop, Art One, echoes this belief, featuring geometric shapes in plain, often muted colors.



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Increasingly, less is more

In his 10 years in Bangkok and two years in Phuket working as an interior design consultant, Kosol Sermboonyasuk of Art One Co Ltd, on Suthat Rd in Phuket City, has seen home trends come and go – and people's top choice nowadays, he says, is minimalism.

"The most popular interior style now is minimalism. People are choosing to decorate their houses with less furniture and fewer patterns.

"The furniture most people are opting for is smooth and based on geometric shapes such as orbs, cubes and cones, and they are choosing plain colors," he says.

"Good interior design of a home can show the real character of the person living there, and that includes the colors and the shapes of objects featured throughout the home, including the walls, ceilings, floors and curtains.

"A good interior designer should also consider the weather and location of the home too," says K. Kosol, a Bangkok native

and interior design graduate from Rangsit University.

"People are currently choosing furniture with less details compared with recent contemporary styles, which offered furniture with many more 'busy' details and patterns. In addition to preferring simple styles, people are choosing earth tones to give their homes a more natural look," he adds.

However, K. Kosol says that as many homeowners are looking for that simple look, many are opting for minimalist styles from the '60s and the '80s, which may not be the ideal choice for their home or for the ambience they are trying to create.

"People should choose a style to suit themselves, and they should also look to buy handmade furniture, which is always better because the craftsman pays more attention," he says.

Art One Co Ltd, 7/1-2 Suthat Rd, Phuket City. Open Monday-Saturday, 9 am-5 pm. Tel: 076-217709, 081-7197303.

Home of the Week

Rawai

LANNA STYLE



The house has a delightful 'country' solidity. It also has (below) mature tropical gardens.

Located in a quiet but high-demand, up-market residential area of Rawai, this contemporary Thai Lanna-style home sits on a tropical garden plot of 2,500 square meters on a hill offering unobstructed views over Chalong Bay, Rawai Beach and the nearby hills.

The elevated site and lush natural surroundings ensure that a fresh breeze always keeps the house cool.

The four-bedroom home features 400sqm of living space as well as a separate bungalow for housekeeping staff. The huge teak pillars, sandstone blocks and the teak shingled roof give the house an outstanding appearance. Doors and window frames are also made of teak.

The rooms are bright and spacious, and the high ceiling in the living and dining areas guarantee comfortable temperatures year-round throughout the house. Exquisite furniture, along with hardwood timber floors, eaves and verandas all combine to create the home's ambience. The four bedrooms, each with en-suite bathrooms, are beautifully furnished with teak wardrobes and bedroom suites.

The kitchen is exceptionally well equipped with the latest in kitchenware and high-quality fittings from Switzerland. There is ample storage and an island bistro table. The home also has several storerooms, a laundry and a carport.

New technology has been built in wherever possible to make the property safe and to ensure low maintenance. If required, a 24/7 property and maintenance service is available.

The property is surrounded by a 2½-meter wall and secured by a sophisticated security system. The large teak entry gate is remote controlled, and the sound system is centrally controlled en-



abling the owner to listen to music on almost every terrace.

Broadband Internet access keeps you in touch with the rest of the world, and the garden is watered by a high-tech system with timers and zones. The deep well provides the home with crystal-clear water that is heated with solar power, while rainwater is collected in a separate 12,000-liter tank.

The gardens are immaculate with Balinese-style terraced slopes and include a Navinda swimming pool with built-in Jacuzzi. In order to warm up for tee-off, there is a putting green

in a garden which will help you to improve your short game.

The land title is Chanote, and the property is for sale at 38 million baht.

For more information, contact Saralrat Saephoo, Sales & Marketing Administrator, CB Richard Ellis (Thailand) Co Ltd, Phuket Residential Sales Services, 12/9 Moo 4 Thepkrasattri Rd, Tambon Koh Kaew, Amphur Muang, Phuket, 83000. Tel: 076-239967. Fax: 076-239970. Mobile: 086-9401015. Email: saralrat.saephoo@cbre.com. Website: www.cbre.co.th

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION ONLY

Construction Update

by Janyaporn Morel

Lotus Gardens bloom at Bang Tao

The 26 contemporary condominium units being built on 7.5 rai at Lotus Gardens, about 200 meters from Layan Beach, are on target for completion in November.

Tony Nixon, a development partner of Lotus Gardens, explained that work on Lotus Gardens began in June 2005, adding to Yaowalak Sangiemkul's already extensive list of development projects on the island, including Surin Heights, Nakatani Village, Baan Chai Lei and Palm Beach Club.

"The project now is about 80% complete. All of the building structures are complete and all the electrical and plumbing systems have been installed," Mr Nixon added.

Lotus Gardens will comprise six blocks, with the two blocks atop steps and facing Layan Beach called Sunset Residences and the other four, facing the garden areas, called Garden Residences.

The Sunset Residence blocks will each contain four single-level, two-bedroom condominiums stepped up from the garden and a three-bedroom penthouses occupying the two top levels of the block. Each Sunset Residence unit will have a private 3.8 x 2.5 meter plunge pool, a sala on the deck area and a private courtyard that can be accessed from the bedrooms.

Each of the two-bedroom condos will have an equipped kitchen, living and dining area, en-suite bathrooms adjoining the bedrooms, a toilet and a study totaling 203square meters of internal



Computerized rendering of one of the Sunset Residences at Lotus Gardens. Inset, partner Tony Nixon.

space. The plunge pool, courtyards and outside deck are set on an external area of 110sqm.

"The study can be used as

a third bedroom if the buyer wants, and we have included a toilet nearby so guests will not need to enter your bedrooms," Mr Nixon said.

Each Sunset penthouse will include one bedroom with en-suite bathroom, kitchen, a living and dining area on the lower level and two bedrooms on the upper level. The total internal area will be 337sqm, and the external area 146sqm.

The Garden Residence will comprise four buildings set to face extensive landscaping featuring swimming pools, massage salas

and communal areas for social events that feature a bar deck, party lawn and moon pool.

Each Garden Residence block will house two two-bedroom condominiums on the ground floor, and two duplex three-bedroom penthouses on the two top floors.

The two-bedroom units will have an internal area of 137sqm, including two bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms, kitchen, living and dining areas. The external

area will cover 75sqm, and include a sala and a courtyard.

The Garden penthouses will feature three bedrooms on the lower level, each with an en-suite bathroom and walk-in wardrobe. The kitchen, living area and dining room will be on the upper level, and open onto outdoor areas.

"We set aside 40% of the area to be the gardens, because the whole idea of the development is that no one looks directly in on anyone else. So everyone has their own private residence with 50 or 60 meters' width of garden at the front of them," Mr Nixon said.

Sunset condominiums cost 17.9 million baht each, while Sunset penthouses cost 19.9 million baht apiece. Garden Residence condominiums each cost 13.75 million baht, while the Garden penthouses cost 19.9 million baht a unit.

"We have customers from Scandinavia, England, Singapore, Hong Kong and other markets.

Our project is located in the north of Bang Tao. We want to offer customers the beach, a relaxing lifestyle and low-density living," he said.

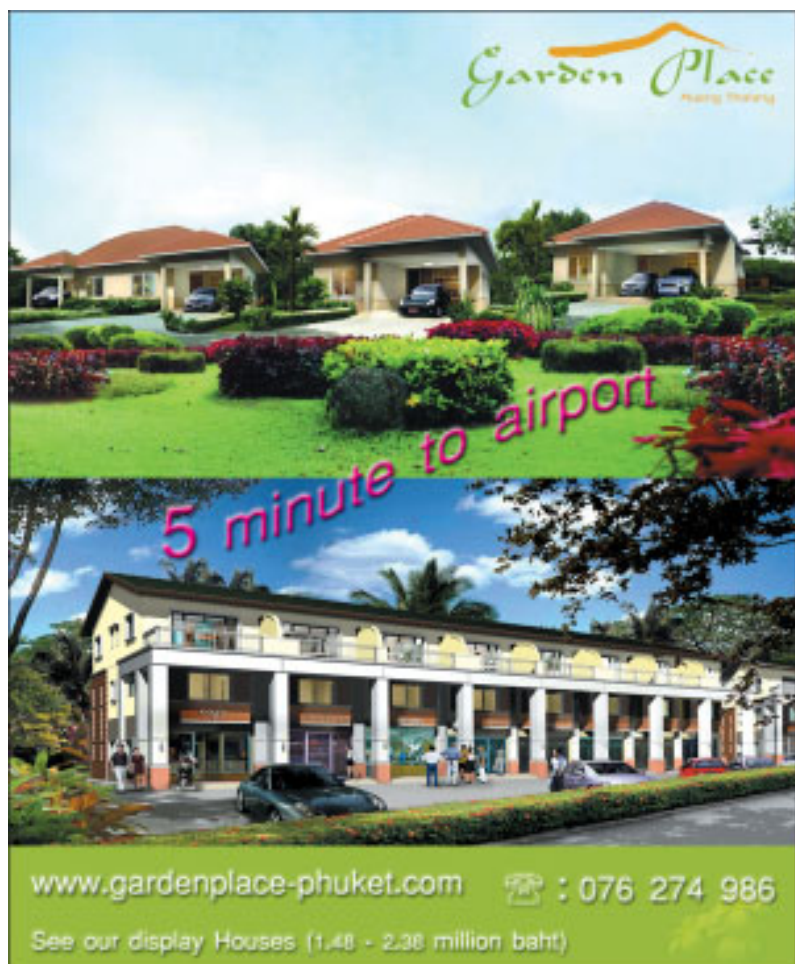
The project will also provide common facilities, including a formal reception area with business services for residents and guests, a shared

swimming complex with a 25-m swimming pool, wet bar, Jacuzzi and recreation deck for exercise and entertainment activities. There will also be 24-hour security guards, landscaped gardens, maintenance services as well as cleaning, repair and general maintenance services.

The condominiums are available unfurnished, but buyers can select from a range of furniture packages to be offered by the developer at the time they move in.

"There are only five Sunset Residence condominium units still available. We have already sold three condominium units as well as the two penthouses. At the Garden Residence, we have five condominium units and six penthouses still available," Mr Nixon said.

For more information contact Lotus Gardens at 394 Moo 1 Srisoonthorn Rd, Cherng Talay, Thalung, Phuket. Tel: 076-325 591, 086-9537025, 081-958 5018. Website: <http://www.lotusgardensphuket.com>





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Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

What is it with pink? We in the West have a lot to answer for. It would seem that many consider the color to be perfect for anything vaguely feminine. I'm not even sure that it's the females that have made this decision – perhaps the red-blooded macho blokes from my end of the world have decided to associate all sorts of ideas with something as simple and uncomplicated as a color.

It's probably the fault of parents in the West, to be honest. They bear a child who happens to be of the female gender. What's the first thing that dad does as soon as the little darling arrives home, if not before? Paint the bedroom walls pink. There are even stories of parents who have had an ultrasound done (does anyone really recognize babies in those black splodges?), and the doctor has missed the image of the rather important part of the anatomy that identifies a son.

Panic ensues. The bedroom was painted months ago. The father can't possibly put his future son and heir in a room painted pink – he might be scarred for life, perish the thought. A quick visit to the Western equivalent of HomePro later, and he's armed with a few gallons of blue to splash on the walls, to keep his son on the straight and narrow. I'm surprised the more radical types haven't accused these parents of being discriminatory.

So why on earth is it blue for boys and pink for girls? Who decided that pink was a bit limp-wristed in the first place? What about orange? Or purple? Thais have got it absolutely right in this regard – they simply don't care. You see strapping lads the size of brick outhouses wearing the brightest gayest pinkest shirts you could ever imagine in this neck of the woods – try going up to one of them and telling him his shirt's a bit dodgy. I dare you.

I went past a school the other day whose students had a particularly distinctive uniform – purple nylon sports trousers with bright pink shirts. And why not. I used to think I was hugely daring when I bucked society's rules in deepest darkest Yorkshire by occasionally wearing pink socks in my youth, as we all did. After all, we were hip and cool.

Now I have a pink shirt here in Phuket (it actually leans towards peach) which sits at the bottom of my clothes pile. Every time I go out wearing it, merciless jibes are the inevitable result. I should be a little more willing to wear pink, I suppose, but then again blue is my favorite – it's a boy's color. Some things just never change.

Back to the pink thing, and something gardenesque in subject matter. I wanted to call this one the pink spider lily, but it's actually the *Crinum amabile*, also known as giant spider lily, or



Nothing limp-wristed about the *Crinum amabile*, which grows enthusiastically.

IN DEFENSE OF PINK

swamp lily. This particular epithet is perhaps a little unfair, given its particularly un-swamp-dwelling looks; it would be more at home in Kew Gardens, or in the grounds of a royal palace somewhere. In Thai it's known as a *phlap phleung*.

The giant spider lily is what the scientific types refer to as a "herbaceous perennial". All that means in more normal language is that it doesn't have any woody parts to it (it's mainly water) and it lasts for more than two growing seasons.

Those so-called "experts" in the botanical field are thrown into disarray when it comes to this plant. The *Crinum amabile* has a confusing and hard-to-sort-out history. It's likely to have been confused in the past with other similar plants. As far as most of them are concerned now, it's a distinct species, but is considered

by many to be a hybrid between a couple of other *Crinum* species that are too boring to list.

The linear, sword-like leathery leaves grow in a kind of rosette shape. These glossy leaves are a deep, greenish-red and reach a length of around one meter. Now this is where the pink connection comes in – you knew there had to be one somewhere. Pink, fragrant flowers with small, red stripes sit on top of a succulent, cylindrical flower stalk, which is up to about a meter tall.

A 15-centimeter-long floral tube bears six petals and sepals, and rosy stamens appear from the throat of the tube. These dramatically striking, fragrant flowers appear during most seasons of the year. The fruits of the swamp lily (or whatever you want to call it) are lobed seed capsules that are 3 or 4 cm thick. The mechanics

of growing are fairly unusual, too – it appears from large bulbs that protrude above the soil line.

They may well need a little attention once in a while. The flowering stalks can grow a bit too enthusiastically for their own good and become top-heavy, so they might need a little extra support in the form of stakes to keep them from falling over. Also, as the blossoms fade, the stalks should be removed back

to the bulb. The only other thing you'll need to do is remove yellowing leaves throughout the growing season. They like it like that.

Propagation of the *Crinum amabile* is dead easy: All you need to start new plants is to divide older clumps. Literally grab bunches of the things, with their bulbs, and move them to their new home. They'll start producing clones of themselves in no time.

This lily is happiest in soils that are moderately moist. Irrigation during the dry season is a good idea, although any additional water at this time of the year would be a bit of a pointless exercise, assuming it's in the line of fire for rain.

If you plant it in full sun to partial shade, it will give you maximum growth and flowering. The giant spider lily is fairly tolerant of salt spray and grows well in coastal communities (Phuket being no exception), but you'll need to make sure it's kept away from direct salt spray. It's not one for the beach.

Apart from planting these things, it's good to see that Phuket is doing its bit to change the image of the color pink, anyway. Besides the odd *Crinum amabile* dotted around, some businesses are trying hard too.

I've heard tell that the Pink Lady, an entertainment establishment in the center of Phuket City, is hardly the sort of place that's associated with anything even remotely "light in the loafers" as they say. Laudable. Perhaps I'll pop in for a pink gin. Cheers.

Want to know more about a plant in your garden?

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Property Gazette

Properties For Sale

RAWAI SHOPHOUSE FOR SALE



2 new, connected shophouses in Rawai, on Wiset Road are for sale. Ground floor: sales office, staff room, kitchen, dining room and toilet. Second floor: master bedroom with separate bath and 2 separate bedrooms with connecting bath. Third floor: living room and ensuite bedroom. Living area 200sqm, free hold land: 100sqm. Price: 4.5 million baht (US\$113,000). Tel: 081-8928526. Please see website: www.phuket-besthomes.com

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LAND FOR SALE 5 RAI



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RAWAI CONDO

for sale. Seaview, freehold. 450,000 baht. Tel: 086-686-5567. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

NEW APARTMENTS

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Phuket Real Estate THIS WEEK'S HOT PROPERTIES

Real Estate - Construction - Architects - Legal

Beach front Villa in Rawai, with great views to Chalong Bay and islands. It comprises, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, Western kitchen, living and dining room, maid's room, laundry and store room, pool with jacuzzi, and a nice garden with a sala. Price: 25 million Baht

Kho Yao Yai Land - 30 Rai (48,000 sqm) of land on Koh Yao Yai with beautiful white sandy beachfront and magnificent Phang Nga Bay views. It is very interesting for a resort or villa project. Price: 90 Million Baht

Layan Land - One of the last stunning sea-view plots located in Layan. It is only 2 minutes to Bang Tao Beach, 5 minutes to Laguna and 15 minutes to the airport. It has potential for a high-end villa project. The land size is 13 Rai, 3 Ngan, 60 Talang Wah. Price: 98 million Baht

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Property Gazette

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Rawai. 600,000 baht. Square plot, within walking distance of the beach. Last plot at this price. Tel: 081-5376866.

HOTEL FOR SALE



Naka Island. 200m beachfront, 80 villas, total 120 rooms. Tel: 087-8896074. Email: info@sea-property-phuket.com

1 RAI, RAWAI
Chanote, electricity, water supply, top location. 3.2 million baht. Must view. Tel: 086-2670898.

GREAT SEAVIEW
Chalong top spot, soft slope, 4.5 million baht near beach. Tel: 087-8938747.

RAWAI, 1 RAI
Nice and quiet, easy to build, Chanote, concrete road, electric, water. Asking 4.9 million baht. Tel: 087-8938747.

NAI HARN, 1 RAI
Number-one beautiful and the last plot at this price 5.8 million baht. Tel: 089-6525664.

RAWAI, 2 STORY
house. 160sqm, new, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. 1.6 million baht. 400 meters from beach. Tel: 086-6865567. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

LAND FOR SALE
Land for sale at Karon-Kata. 11.5 rai, sea view, on hilltop, 2 minutes to beach. Tel: 081-5392617.

HOUSE IN RAWAI
near beach. Well-presented house near Rawai Gym. 2 bedrooms, 3 baths. 5.1 million baht. Tel: 076-388685, 08-56196680. Fax: 076-388-684. Email: mike.smith2000@runbox.com For further details, please see our website: www.andamanthaiproperty.com/atp_property_376.htm

3-STORY TOWNHOUSE

7 steps, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, good condition. Land area 25 sq wah (100 sqm). With built-up area, 180sqm. Location very convenient, but peaceful area in town at Soi Pae Chun, Mae Luan Rd near Khao Rang hill. Price: 2.5 million baht. Business tax transfer fee and others (if any) shared 50:50. Tel: 081-5358575.

SMALL, LEVEL LAND
plots in Chalong. 360sqm, ready for building your dream home on. Chanote titles. 1.5 million baht each. No agents. Email: samansamphan@hotmail.com

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GARDEN VILLA
2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 150sqm, overlooking private pool/sala with open lake view at Loch Palm golf course. Price: 13.2 million baht. Email: savedaplanet@hotmail.com

PROPERTIES FOR SALE

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1 Rai, 4 million baht
8 Rai, 5 million baht/Rai Develop. Block.

LAND CHALONG
2 Rai, 6 million baht/Rai. Exclusive Area, Sea Views. 62 Rai, Offers. Ideal Sub-division, Sea and Island Views.

BEACHFRONT LAND NAI YANG
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Email: crowe-thai@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE



Rawai. 150sqm, communal pool, 3 bedrooms, absolute privacy and security. 6.2 million baht. Tel: 087-889-6074. Email: info@sea-property-phuket.com

LAND FOR SALE IN KATHU



5 rai 50 sq wah with Chanote title, good area, great canal at the back, 5 minutes to Big C & Central, perfect for private complex, 8 million baht / rai.

HOUSE FOR SALE IN KATHU



At Anupas Golf Villa, with Chanote title, lake views 3 bedrooms + maid, 3 bathrooms, aircon, hot water, curtains, kitchen units, land area 75 sq wah 3x3.5 meter, pool & jacuzzi 7 million baht.

HOUSE FOR SALE AT PHUKET



At Phuket Country Club Golf Course, near clubhouses 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, aircon, kitchen units with hob, hood, oven and dishwasher. Land area 175 sq wah with Chanote title, 7.3x12 meter pool & jacuzzi. Nice & quiet, beautiful golf views, 17 million baht.

Please contact: Mr. Geoff Curry
Mobile: 08-8540061.
Tel: 076-323214, 08-0803414, (K.Ning)
Fax: 076-323215.
Email: mrgeoffcurry@yahoo.com

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Cherng Talay area, 61 sq wah, 2 floors with 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 200 meter from Redroom Restaurant. Price: 4.2 Million Baht. Tel: 09-9089829. Email: jitboon_19@yahoo.com



Property Gazette

MARINA VIEWS

Limited selection of various sizes of offices & apartments for rent, from December. Stunning views with use of pool & gym. Tel: 076-206704. Fax: 076-206706. Email: info@yacht-haven-phuket.com

APARTMENTS

and houses in Patong and Rawai from 10,000 to 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-686-5567. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

IDYLLIC HOUSE

for rent. Just minutes from the British Curriculum International School and 2 popular golf courses. A modern 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom house with a large living room, modern kitchen, pleasant walled garden and swimming pool. Situated in a small private residential cul-de-sac in Kathu. Taste-fully furnished, private parking. Rental: 35,000 baht per month. Please contact. Tel: 08-48439579. Fax: 076-323421. Email: somlerdee@yahoo.com

CAPE YAMU HOUSE

This charming house with spectacular sea views has 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, lounge/dining room, kitchen, snooker room, study, sauna, swimming pool, all located in outstanding gardens 10 minutes to BCIS, 1 minute to sea. 80,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-2796283.

FREEDOM

Apartments available near Wat Patong, Soi Khuanyang, 256. Small kitchen, cooker, fridge, fully furnished, Europe style, balcony, aircon, fan, cable TV, safety box, hot water bathroom, cleaning 2 time per week. 9,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-8450541, 081-8914561.

LAKEVIEW APT/LOFT

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 floor near Lotus. Great area, furnished, cable, phone, aircon. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-8928208.

HOUSE FOR RENT

Beautifully furnished 2 bedrooms house in Kathu. Aircon, UBC, phone and kitchen. Long term only. Tel: 081-3673106.

HOUSE IN LARGE

garden. 3 bedrooms, 2 toilets, outdoor kitchen and living area opening to large, fenced garden. Suitable for kids and pets. Tel: 086-9410410, 086-2692020. Email: here@fastmail.fm

APARTMENTS

Cheap apartments in Phuket City near Vachira Phuket Hospital, very quiet and clean. 4,000 baht per month. Please call for more information. Tel: 081-7472033.

PATONG TOWER

1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, nicely furnished, UBC, DVD, aircon, pool, parking, sea view, only 300m to the beach. Central Patong. 23,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-8473304.

NEW HOUSE

for lease or rent at Nai Harn Beach, before the lake. 2 minutes to the beach. Safe area. 600sqm with swimming pool. Tel: 089-6492947.

BOAT LAGOON

and Patong. - 17 rai: Boat Lagoon, sea view, 2.5 million baht per rai. - 5 rai: Patong, 5.5 million baht per rai. - 3 rai: Patong, 5 million baht per rai. Tel: 087-8942337.

FOR RENT PER DAY

or per year. Luxury apartments: 35-75sqm, with pool, at Residence Edouard in Soi Veerakit in Patong. Tel: 076-296800 or see: www.residence-edouard.com

PATONG APARTMENT

Sea view, kitchen, cable TV, 10 min to beach. 600 baht a day, 12k a month. Please call Alan at Tel: 087-2635735.

RAWAI HOUSE

for rent. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. 15,000 baht. Tel: 081-8081804.

NEW HOUSE FOR RENT!

A must see. 9 months old. Located in an excellent location, minutes to Rawai and Nai Harn beaches. High quality with beautiful & modern design and 162 square meters of living area. The house has 2 large bedrooms, 2 private bathrooms, 1 guest toilet, a large living/dining room, terrace and a storage room, 1 air conditioner, private car park, free water and garbage service. The house is furnished with 1 set of king-size bed + mattress, 5-door wardrobe, a vanity set, a dining table, fridge, curtains. Asking 22,000 baht a month or nearest offer. Call K. Nui. Tel: 089-594-0887, 076-288611.

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BIG HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, living area, kitchen, etc. Phisit Gorani Rd, Patong. Month rent: 15,000 baht. Tel: 089-4717629. Email: maxgmuender@hotmail.com

APARTMENTS

Chalong. Titima Mansions; 2 bedrooms, furnished, aircon, hot shower, security and gardens. Tel: 01-8914964. Email: beachcomberwa@yahoo.com.au

RAWAI SEAVIEW

Apartment. Luxury studio, full kitchen, hot water, cable, etc. All new 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-0571420.

SERVICED CONDOS

and apartments for rent long term or short term. Tel: 076-292628, 089-4912496. Please see our website: www.bluewaterphuket.com

3-BEDROOM HOME

Chao Fa Rd, 207 sq wah, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, nice living room, good kitchen, cool garden, parking for 3 cars. Fully furnished. For rent at 40,000 baht per month or for sale at 6.7 million baht. Tel: 081-5978315. Email: phuket8@hotmail.com

APARTMENTS

Patong. Rent out for long stays. 1 bedroom, 1 TV room, cable TV, aircon. Same apartment with good sea view. 8,000-20,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-2909567. Please see our website at: www.brommathaihouse.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: 086-2718254.

LUXURY HOUSE

3 bedrooms, near Laguna, furnished, spa pool, poolside bar, garden, aircon. 1 rai. 29,000 baht a month. Tel: 089-5944067.

DETACHED HOUSES



Four new detached houses for rent at Pa Khlok, just 5km from an international school. Each has 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. Asking 13,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-6900626.

CLASS SEAVIEW

villa rental. Available November! Views do not get better. Very safe and quiet. 5 bedrooms total. Alternatively, rent 3-bedroom house or 2-story bungalow-apartment separately. Private entrances and pool access. Email: pococonnor@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: 081-8111067.

NAI HARN

Sweet home for rent. Fully furnished, short/long term, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 balconies, TV/music. Move in! Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-851-9072. Email: goodtastefor goodlife@yahoo.de

KARON STUDIO APARTMENT



Large studio apartment for rent. 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, Western-style kitchen, pool, near Karon Beach. Free Wi-Fi (ADSL), good price. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-398436-7, 086-9062220. Email: karonstudio@hotmail.com For more information please visit: www.karonstudio.com

DISCOVERY GARDENS

Near Laguna. 2-bedroom, newly-built, fully-furnished houses with large communal pool. Available short/long term. Tel: 076-271544, 089-1956722. Fax: 076-271545. Email: info@phuketmarbella.com

PATONG SEAVIEW

Condo. Newly remodeled 1/1 condo, 14th floor. Spectacular sea view. 100 meters to beach, Soi Bangla. Full kitchen, granite floors. All amenities, maid service. Short or long term. Tel: 084-159-0501, 081-3753970. Email: patongcondo@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

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Tel/Fax: 076-324312

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Property Gazette

Property Wanted

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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: 081-6936437, 086-6841260.

LARGE-SCALE LAND

Wanted: Big piece of "rough" land, size approx 50-150 rai, minimum 400m x 400m. Phuket or Phang Nga. Must be in a remote area or former open-cut mine. Valley site preferred. Should be suitable for outdoor sports field. Land titles must be ready for purchase. Email: jibjoyly@hotmail.com

WANTED: SHOP SPACE IN KAMALA

I need to rent a shop for a restaurant in Kamala. Must be in a good location. Please contact for more information. Tel: 085-7866596. Email: roger_sommer1@hotmail.com

1 RAI +

Looking for Chanote land with a sea view, up to 2 rai, preferably on the west coast of Phuket. Must have road access and utilities. Please contact via by email: ulrichkuhl@gmail.com

BEACHFRONT WANTED

Looking for a beachfront restaurant or business property to buy or to lease. Tel: 089-0543505.

HOUSE & WORKSHOP

For woodworking machinery with 3 phase electricity. Tel: 084-8473304.

1-STORY SHOP

We are looking for a 1-story building suitable for a small shop. Seeking locations in Phuket City, Kathu, Chalong and Patong. Please contact us if you have property like this available at very reasonable rent. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-214000. Email: info@siamquick.com

SEAVIEW LAND

wanted. I'm looking for 1-2 rai of seaview land in the Ao Makham area. Tel: 085-032-7100. Email: saze@gmx.net

NEED SEAVIEW LAND

I am looking for prime seaview land at Patong Beach. It must overlook the bay and town. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-0540120. Email: richard.market@gmail.com

HOTEL WANTED

Small hotel/resort wanted on Phuket or nearby island. Email info/pics to Alan. Email: movinlos@yahoo.com.au

GUESTHOUSE

and restaurant in Patong, Karon, Kata or Phuket City. Please email if you have or know of something appropriate. Email: chrillearning@hotmail.com

SHOP IN BANGLA ROAD PATONG

I am looking for a shop on 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

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PATONG LUXURY APARTMENTS

Central Patong 1- and 2-bedroom apartments. Email for information and photos. Please contact for more information. Email: suites247@yahoo.com

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HOUSE OR APARTMENT

At Nai Harn 1 or 2 beds/baths, fully furnished, TV and music. For rent long or short term. Near the beach. Please contact for more info. Tel: 076-388621, 084-8519072. Email: goodtasteforgoodlife@yahoo.de

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CHALONG PIER SEAVIEW

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LOFT STYLE

apartments Kathu. 4 large apartments, 6,000-15,000 baht a month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-9684230. Email: hkmsn@yahoo.com

Accommodation Wanted

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for Hobie Cat. 14 or 16. Ready to sail. Trailer OK, but not required. Tel: 076-947-50141.

FISHING BOAT FOR SALE



Fishing boat in good condition. Jim Young's "Vindex" design. Built-in cedar strip/epoxy, 35ft long, 12ft beam 300hp Cummins 6BTA diesel ZFHG, hydraulic steering from main cabin or fly bridge. Sleeps 2 couples in forward cabin or conv. area, WC/shower/hand basin. Including berth until Oct 06. Contact Peter for details. Tel: 01-8166940. Email: peterhae@e-mail.in.th

DIVE BOAT FOR SALE



Length: 18m. Beam 4.5m, Hyno 6-cylinder 300hp turbo diesel engine, Isuzu 80hp 20kw generator, just out of refit. Fully licensed for 35 persons, crew on standby. 3.5 million baht. Please call Tel. 084-8451208, 076-381877.

27FT SPEEDBOAT

Located in Chalong Bay. Wood/epoxy covered, bottom renewed and Mercury 225hp engine, fully repaired in Feb 2006. Thai captain takes care of the boat. Price: 850,000 baht. Tel: 084-6288630. Email: vesa.ankio@suomi24.fi

SILVERTON 40FT

family boat, 2 twin bedrooms, two bathrooms + shower, saloon, dinette, galley kitchen. Two years old but with complete interior refurbishment within 12 months. Twin Volvo Penta engines + turbo, dinghy. New Mercury outboard used regularly, very reliable. Sale due to owner upgrade. Viewing at Ocean Marina Pattaya. 5 million baht. Tel: 02-6777555 ext 238, 081-8335750.

SEA-DOO JET BOAT

5-meter speedster, 1997. Twin 85hp, trailer, GPS, fishfinder, fast, completely overhauled, cover, new upholstery, in excellent condition. Price: 465,000 baht. Please call. Tel: 089-8713086.

Island Job Mart

British International School, Phuket is now seeking:

Lifeguard 1 Position

- Male, age not over 35 years
- University Degree, Physical Education Major or related fields
- Must satisfy standards laid down by the Head of PE
- Be strong enough and confident enough to reprimand students who are not adhering to pool rules
- Be able to communicate to students and staff in English and Thai
- Be able to work as an important part of the boarding team
- Be flexible in terms of working hours

Nursery Assistant 2 Positions

- University degree - Thai national
- A high level of English fluency
- Teaching qualifications and experience of child care/teaching preferable

Please send a short letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, recent photograph and e-mail/fax and telephone contacts of referees to: British International School, Phuket.



British International School, Phuket (BCIS)
59 Moo 2, Thepkasatri Rd, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200 Thailand
Tel: 076 238 711-20 Fax: 076 238 750 Bangkok Tel: 02 636 8991-2 Fax: 02 636 8992



Vimami Co., Ltd.

ACCOUNTANT

2 Positions (25,000 Baht++)

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- A/R Customer support in English
- Correspondence with foreign clients
- Invoice issuance

REQUIREMENTS:

- Thai female/male
- Bachelor degree or higher in accounting or related field
- At least 2 years of accounting experience
- Ability to work in a team and good communication skills and interpersonal relations
- Able to work well under high pressure or tight schedule
- Must be able to both spoken and written English fluently

Interested candidates are request to submit their applications together with resume, expected salary and recent photograph or apply in person to the address shown below

VIMAMI CO.,LTD.

64/58-59 Moo 1 Chaofa Rd., Vichit, Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: (076) 263642 Fax: (076) 264231
E-mail: vimami@vimami.com
Website: www.vimami.com

RAILEI BEACH CLUB

is looking for excellent people for the following positions:

- Accountant
- Front Desk/Office Assistant

The qualified candidates will have a diploma or degree, or equivalent experience. Must also have excellent English skills (both spoken and written). We offer a competitive salary and compensation package. Contact K. Anurat. Tel: 075-622582, 086-6859359. Fax: 075-622596. Email: sunny@raileibeachclub.com Please see our website at: www.raileibeachclub.com

SALES & MARKETING ASSISTANT

Real Estate company urgently requires an active and motivated sales & marketing assistant. Good knowledge of written and spoken English is a must. This person should be computer literate (MS Office & email), be able to organize and work independently, be service-minded, willing to learn and have excellent communication skills both in person and over email. Only Thai nationals. Good salary for the right candidate. Tel: 076-340792, 087-8822856. Email: luc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com

SERVICE MANAGER

Property Care Services (PCS) Phuket require Service Managers for their Janitorial and Landscaping divisions. Preferred applicants are aged 27-45, hold a bachelors degree in a related field, and have appropriate experience in hotel or residential estates. Please email CV and expected salary or contact. Tel: 076-246 589, 081-9586879. Fax: 076-254774. Email: scott@pcs.co.th

STAFF WANTED

The Yorkshire Inn, Patong, is now urgently seeking a night security man who can speak good English and has bar knowledge. Please contact Khun Noot at Tel: 076-340904. Fax: 076-345259. or send your resum to: info@yorkshireinn.com

WEB DESIGNER / PROGRAMMER

Needed: Thai national with the following skills: Web design, programming, Dreamweaver, Photoshop, PHP/MySQL and English. Please email CV and expected salary or contact for more information. Tel: 081-0771006. Email: jeremywilliams@hotmail.com

RESTAURANT STAFF

needed for well-known restaurant in Nai Harn. Front (2 positions), kitchen (1 position). Salary about 10,000 baht a month. Tel: 081-9560204.

ACCOUNTS

Accounting background with good English, some secretarial experience, loves to meet people, self-motivated, able to handle charter work. Tel: 076-239423. Email: k_kueyong@yahoo.com

SUNWING RESORT & SPA

Sunwing Resort & Spa, Phuket
72/11 M. 3 T. Cherng Talay, Thalang,
Phuket 83110
www.sunwingphuket.com

Fully contained family resort with its own restaurants, entertainment programs and a host of activities for all ages is looking for highly-motivated and service-minded individuals committed to growth within the expanding Ocean Resort Group

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ▪ Chef De Partie | ▪ Kids Program Attendance |
| ▪ Cook | ▪ Waiter/Waitress |
| ▪ Restaurant Manager | ▪ Show and Entertainment Staff |
| ▪ Captain/Bartender | ▪ Accountant |
| ▪ Guest Relations/ Reception | ▪ Hotel Service Trainee |
| ▪ Pool Attendance | ▪ Minimarket Head |

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

HOTEL WAITRESSES & COOK

The Club Coconut Hotel at 140/2 Nanai Rd seeks 2 female waitresses and a cook. Waitresses MUST speak some English. Please email your CV + photo or come and drop your CV at the Hotel. Tel: 076-292-907. Fax: 076-292907. Email: recruitment@club-coconut-resort.info

SECRETARY/PA

required for foreign manager in condo. Must have office experience, some accounting and computer skills, and ability to understand English. Should be single, well-presented and outgoing in personality. Email: robor@loxinfo.co.th

SALES & MARKETING

manager. If you are a highly-motivated, well-presented Thai national with an excellent command of English and a Bachelor's degree or above in marketing, we want you to join our dynamic team.

- Able to develop & execute marketing strategies.
- Computer literate (Excel, Word, PowerPoint, Outlook)
- Organized and able to work independently
- Experienced in tour operations is an advantage
- Own car

A good salary, benefits & commission incentives to the successful applicant. Please send CV by email or to our office at: 16 Soi Tueson, Hongyok U-Thit Rd, Samkong, Phuket 83000. Tel: 076-354074. Email: manager@coralseekers.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

ONLINE SALES

is fun. Advance yourself in a fun, friendly, smart office. Must have good English skills. Salaries from 12,000 baht plus commission. Start now. Tel: 076-236616, 081-8952206. Email: jobs@globalonlinereservations.com

FARANG CHEF

The Harvest Bar & Restaurant is searching for a European Cook/Chef to join our Thai staff and kitchen team to develop/manage our catering/ events dept and restaurant. Email: theharvest_foods@yahoo.com

Island Job Mart



Sabana Resort, ideally located on Nai Harn Beach, is seeking young and dynamic individuals for the following positions:

1. Management Trainee (Foreign national French and / or German speaking)
2. Activity Manager (Thai or foreign national)
3. Assistant Front Office Manager
4. Guest Service Supervisors
5. Guest Service Agents
6. ตำแหน่งอื่นๆ ระบุตามต้องการ

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT:
HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
TEL: 076 289333 Email: hrm@sabana-resort.com

BEL AIR PANWA

LUXURY WITHIN REACH

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

International property developer is seeking candidates for the position of Administrative Assistant. Applicants must be fluent in written and spoken English, have excellent computer skills, be hard working, proactive and a sales background an advantage.

Please email CV to info@belairpanwa.com

BAVARIAN OKTOBERFEST

Patong beach

Bavarian is original Woodfent from Germany! Our beerhouse with special German and Thai food and a international live band have more than 1,500 seats! Course, currently seeking qualified candidate to fill the following position:

1. Marketing Manager
2. Marketing Assistant

- Female or Male, age over 30 years
- Min. 3 years experience in marketing
- Good command of both spoken and written English
- Valid drivers license
- Computer skills

Please send your CV and recent photo to

Mrs. Juralwan Smith in our Office!
Bavarian Business Co. Ltd.
204/53 Rat U Thit 200 Pee road Phuket 83150
Tel: 076-293108. Fax: 076-293109.

PROGRAMMING

services wanted. Need a fit programmer who is willing to work hard and able to create MySQL databases in a fast and reliable fashion, and who is smart enough to understand what people want without them having to be programmers themselves. If there are creative and smart programmers out there, I need to hear from them! Business partnership without cash investment possible - simply bring some brains, your own computer and manpower. Tel: 081-2739279. Email: info@avaloncreations.com

MARKETING

We are looking for open-minded people who are looking for a career in marketing. You need to have good spoken and written English and experience in the tourism industry. Own transportation and computer skills needed. Please call for more information. Tel: 084-8490443.

SECRETARY NEEDED

Thai female with English and computer skills. Call Brian. Tel: 087-0673360. Email: brett@phuketrealstate.com

OFFICE AND SALES MANAGER

Tiger Muay Thai Training Camp, Chalong, is looking for an experienced female sports-minded manager for our office and sales department. Computer, English, and organization skills needed. Job requires speaking to and helping foreign guests while at our training camp. Salary, room, motorbike, + performance bonus. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-383107, 089-8736432. Email: Wmac1@aol.com For further details, please see our website at www.tigermuaythai.com

PEERAPAT BUSINESS

center is urgently looking to fill the position of Accountant/Inventory Controller. Female age 22-28, *PorWorSar* or higher, familiar with accounting software and gifted with a great sense of responsibility. Please send CV, photo and expected salary by email or contact K. Chitrada for more details. Tel: 081-5385032. Email: jack@peerapatholding.com



Reservations and Marketing Officers

DirectRooms is an Internet hotel reservation company. We are expanding and need staff to join our friendly, highly motivated team in our Phuket City office.

We need both full and part time staff. If you:

- ▶ Have good spoken and written English skills
- ▶ Have basic computer knowledge and experience
- ▶ Can work in our 24 hour, 7 day shift rota
- ▶ Enjoy being part of a team
- ▶ Are diligent, positive and enthusiastic

we want to hear from you! Full training will be provided.

Contact us

Email: personnel@directrooms.com
Call: Khun Jane or Aof on 076 241 145
Address: 9/90-91 Moo 3 Rasadanusorn Road, Rasada, Phuket

LOOKING FOR RECEPTION

Must speak Thai and English and have experience about massage or spa. Please call for more information. Tel: 085-7859239.

HERMAN'S RESTAURANT AND LIPS-BAR



Located close to Rawai Beach with an excellent reputation and nice atmosphere. Searching for an attractive, charming lady for our reception. If you are highly motivated, well-presented with a good command of English, we want you to join our dynamic team. We offer a good salary, benefits & commission as well the opportunity to get professional training on the job. This is an excellent chance for your future. If you are interested, call "Herman" at Tel: 081-8940570. Email: hsiegner@hermanns-phuket.com

TROPICAL HOMES

Require an office clerk. Must have good command of English, basic accounting skills, computer literate (Excel, Word, Internet), driving license, enthusiasm. Please contact David. Tel: 087-2671920. Email: info@tropical-homes.net

HOUSEKEEPER & COOK

Cook (Thai food), and housekeeper wanted urgently. Prefer live-in. Tel: 076-260468-70. Fax: 076-260440. Email: admin@tacticalcapital.net

CLEANER / MAID

Wanted to clean house, cook, and look after 55-years-young farang man. Must speak some English. Please call for more information. Tel: 086-9501411.

TEFL LANGUAGE

school. Teacher & language training. Thai national English teacher wanted full time. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-219241/251. Email: tefl@loxinfo.co.th For further details, please see our website at www.teflschoolphuket.com

SIMPSON MARINE

Phuket requires the services of a Sales/Marketing and PR lady. The ideal candidate will be a Thai national with a strong background in sales and marketing. Good command of English, both written and spoken is essential. Previous experience in marine industry would be a bonus. Apply in writing or via email to: phuket@simpsonmarine.com Interview appointments will be confirmed by telephone.

MASSAGE THERAPISTS

wanted. Looking for 2 professional massage therapists to work for one year at a spa in Mexico.

- a) Female, 25 to 35 years old
- b) Certified massage therapist
- c) Minimum of 2 years experience
- d) English-speaking ability is a must

Great salary and housing provided in a beautiful city on the coast of Mexico. For more info and interviews, call 11 am-2 pm or 4 pm-6 pm. Tel: 076-383325, 083-1743618. Email: lillysada@yahoo.com



Aleenta Resort & Spa is a 5-star resort and a member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World (SLH).

We have two properties in Thailand: Aleenta Pranburi (Hua-Hin) and our new Aleenta Phuket-Phangnga. See our website: www.aleenta.com

Sommelier / Restaurant Manager 1 Position

Qualifications

- International Experience
- University education preferable
- Strong leadership, interpersonal and communication skills
- Excellent English skills (Speaking 2-3 languages is advantage)
- Hospitality & service minded
- 5-10 years experience
- Able to work individually and as part of a team

GSA	2 Positions	Server	2 Positions
Bartender	1 Position		

Qualifications

- Male or Female, experience, over 20 years old
- Native English speaker or good English communication, at least
- Some computer skills required.
- Pleasant personality, good attitude and quick response to the guest

Room Attendant	3 Positions	Gardener	1 Position
Public Area	1 Position	Line Cook	2 Positions
Laundry Attendant	1 Position	Prep Cook	2 Positions
Electrician	1 Position	Steward	2 Positions

Candidate for the above positions must possess the following qualifications and attributes:

- Age between 18-40 year old previous experiences in similar position will be a benefit
- Pleasant personality, be service minded and have excellent communication skills
- At least conversational English
- Experience in hotel industry is an advantage

Please submit your CV with salary expectation and current photo to email: hr@aleenta.com

Tel: 66 76 -580333 Fax: 66 76- 580350

Aleenta Resort & Spa Phuket-Phang-nga

33 Moo 5, T. Khokkloy A. Thakuahtung Phangnga 82140

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

Looking for a job? www.phuketgazette.net/

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Articles For Sale

3 METER SATELLITE DISH

Includes receiver + remote. Please call for more information. Tel: 081-9583513.

POOL TABLES

Brand-new. Size: 3'x6'. Price: 45,000 baht. Please call. Tel: 076-263687, 081-8234627, 081-755-5057.

HEALTHY POOL

for sale. Salt chlorination system (chlorine-free), 18,950 baht. Hayward Super II 1.5hp pump, only 19,590 baht. Tel: 081-5375844.

MOVING SALE

- 2 queen-size beds
- Desk
- Fridge
- Big-screen TV
- Cannondale V 2000 Mountain Bike
- Epson projector
- Sony PS 2
- 18k Italian gold chain
Tel: 086-9507788. Email: simon@kingsimon.com

FRIDGE-FREEZER

Mitsubishi: cost 8,500 baht new, will sell for 3,500 baht. Beautiful glass dining table: cost 10,800 baht new, will sell for 3,500 baht. Washing machine: cost 4,000 baht, selling for 2,000 baht. No offers. Tel: 087-1466622.

VARIOUS ITEMS

- Altec Lansing USB laptop speakers. Only 2 months old. New price: 4,500 baht. Offers over 2,000 baht accepted.
- JVC car radio KD-G721, CD/MP3/WMA receiver. 2 months old. New price: 8,000 baht; now for sale at 3,000. Please contact for more information. Tel: 66-031045960. Email: gunthergenesse@gmail.com

RESTAURANT equipment.

- 1 big sign board with light
- 2 electric flat bed griddles
- 1 freezer box
- Some tables and chairs

Contact for more info. Tel: 076-286532, 087-8858708. Email: tomasholmberg77@hotmail.com

ORIS GENTS SWISS

watch. Oris Frank Williams F1 edition Swiss automatic winding wristwatch. Stainless steel case and bracelet, carbon fiber face, see-through back. Only 2 months old. Retail for 36,000 baht; will accept 20,000. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-2723901. Email: jamesbeldex@hotmail.com

TISSOT GENTS

Swiss watch. Tissot PRS 516 automatic-winding swiss chronograph. Stainless steel case and bracelet, carbon fiber face with yellow figures on black bezel. Sapphire crystal glass and back for viewing movement. Only 3 months old, with box, instructions and international guarantee. Retail 45,000 baht; will accept 25,000. Tel: 087-2723901. Email: jamesbeldex@hotmail.com

DRAEGER RAY SCR

Draeger Ray semi-closed circuit rebreather for sale, complete without the tank. Very good condition. Seldom used. 40,000 baht or nearest offer. Tel: 086-660987.

Bulletins

Alcoholics Anonymous

is holding meetings in English at the following places:
Phuket City
Mission Hospital
on Wed and Sun at 7 pm
Bangkok Phuket Hospital
on Fri at 7 pm
Patong
Patong Hospital
on Mon, Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun at 7 pm and on Fri at 8 pm
(Scandinavian Meeting)
Karon
Wat Karon School
on Tue, Sat at 7 pm
For Phuket info, Please call 08-19564031, 08-18912895 or 08-12732053 (Scandinavian)
For info on other Thailand AA meetings inquire @: 02-231-8300 (for Thai language press 3) www.aathailand.org or email: info@aathailand.org

For info on other Thailand AA meetings inquire @: 02-231-8300 (for Thai language press 3) www.aathailand.org or email: info@aathailand.org

Business Opportunities

MODERN PUB

for sale. Modern pub with license for sale. Located in Phuket Town, currently under operation with increasing revenue. Only serious investors welcome. Please call. Tel: 089-1953400.

KATA RESTAURANT

Restaurant at Kata Beach for sale, with cheap rent. 30-year contract possible. Tel: 086-1203660. Email: chilligarden@hotmail.com

TEILHABER ODER

anleger? Angebot per sofort, da neue Firmengruendung! Anlaufzeit keine, da jahrelange Praxis weltweit vorhanden! Email: zukunfft@hotmail.com

GUESTHOUSE

for lease on Nanai Rd, Patong, close to new shopping mall. 5 rooms; has bar and kitchen. 30,000 baht a month until March 2008; then 35,000 until 2011. Key money: 1.5 million baht on. Please contact for more details. Tel: 087-0382627. Email: sasithorn_chbkk@hotmail.com

DISTRIBUTOR WANTED

We are the world's targets ear piercing manufacturer. We make equipment for ear piercing as well as the jewellery to do so. All our products are made in the USA. We are looking for someone to set up a sales operation to distribute and sell our products all over Phuket and the surrounding islands. We work together as partners in these areas. Contact. Tel: 02-6644241. Fax: 02-6644000. Email: studexthailand@aol.com For further details, please see our website at www.studex.co.th

BAR FOR SALE

Located in Soi Gonzo, 2 years left on lease. Please call. Tel: 085-7826492.

BAR AND LOUNGE

Investment - newly renovated music lounge and nightclub in Patong will sell up to 37.5% investment, up to 1.7 million baht. Price negotiable. Tel: 083-1804103. Email: pamorales83@yahoo.com

BAR FOR SALE

Popular and successful amigos bar in Soi Seadragon for sale. Pool table, darts, own sound system. Price negotiable dependent on length of lease required. Tel: 087-8838721.

BUSINESS CENTER FOR SALE

Patong Beach prime location. Includes 15-room guesthouse, 64-seat restaurant, 5 motorbikes & 1 jeep, Internet cafe and established travel agency. No brokers. Tel: 081-0820039 (Ilan) or 081-091-1662 (Niki). Email: patong05@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at: www.phuketdir.com/coaststar/index.htm

SUPERSTAR

for sale! Superstar restaurant bar pub. Center of Soi Bangla Patong, 2-story building, 160sqm, restaurant, kitchen, 2 bars. Contract 2 years and 8 months: 2.7 million baht, or 4 years and 8 months: 3.8 million baht. Call from 2 pm to 10 pm. Tel: 087-8136098, 081-8927854. Email: sugarhackbar@hotmail.com

SAFE BAR

investment. We have traded for over 6 years. We will not sell all; but will sell up to 50% share to the right partner as Ning-Nong will stay as manager to ensure staff & the cabaret continue as always. Invest up to 2.75 million baht. Tel: 076-292746, 081-8922824.

RESTAURANT: B1.5M

Totally refurbished karaoke bar-restaurant. Four TV screens. Call Brian. Tel: 087-0673360.

SPORTS BAR AND RESTAURANT

For sale. Large premises in Soi Sansabai, Patong. 3 million baht for 4yr lease, 50k/mth rent. Option to extend. Tel: 089-5887876.

A-GO-GO BAR

for sale in Soi Seadragon. Will also consider selling up to 50% share to the right (management) partner. Owner has other obligations. Serious offers considered. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-9649264. Email: redtoothgecko@yahoo.com

BAR-RESTAURANT

for sale. Kata Center. 40 seats + terrace. Fully equipped + private apt & 2 rooms for rent. Cable TV, ADSL. Contract till 2011, renewable. 2.5 million baht. Tel: 081-956-0204.

KATA BEACH

Resort & Spa. 12 year leasehold for sale. Cafe, restaurant and subleases included. Zero rent, no key money: 13 million baht, next to beach and city center too! Tel: 086-541-3629. Website at www.phuket-massage.com

RESTAURANT & BAR

for rent. Klong-Dao Beach, Koh Lanta. 27 seats inside, 12-16 outside. 20m from main road, 140m to the beach. Lease is until March 31, 2009. Rent is 200,000 baht a year. The price includes the 1st-year's rent. Asking price: 450,000 baht. Contact Conny. Tel: 089-9858309. Email: crockstrom@hotmail.com

JAMES DONS 007

for sale. This popular bar is near the front of Soi Crocodile with 2 years & 4 months left on lease. Always shown good profits and in a great location. Contact Don or Jimmy. Tel: 087-8867659.

Urgent! Business for Sale

Gay bar located on Surawong opp. Thaniya road, connected 2-rooms, beautifully decorated, under operation, prime location in gay bar area, established foreign customers, price negotiable, owner leaving abroad.

Email: evesguesthousebkk@hotmail.com
Tel: 02-2330101, 02-2336507, 089-1415721.
Contact: Khun Nutcharin

THE PROPHET OF PROFITS

For all your offshore money needs. Investigate, then invest. Please contact. Tel: 00-35799933627. Email: investormorse@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at: www.investormorse.com

SMALL GUESTHOUSE

Nanai Rd, Patong. Long-term rent (2-5 years). 7 rooms, all have aircon, cable TV, fridge. No key money. Example: 5 years is 1.6 million baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 084-8469029.

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: 089-2923711. Email: patong05@gmail.com

SHOWROOM

renovation. Old kitchens, must sell now as new models will arrive in October from Malaysia and Germany. Hurry up. Contact RS venture Phuket. Tel: 081-8046354. Email: rafael.veiga@rsventure.co.th

K.P. APARTHOTEL

Karon Plaza Aparthotel consists of rental apartments. Every apartment is fully equipped and ready to rent. Located at Karon Plaza, Phuket. Tel: 076-396693, 081-8957957. www.karonplazaaparthotel.com

KAMALA

restaurant & bar. Famous for pizza + Texmex. 40 seats, air conditioning, equipment, stock and furniture. All for sale at 500,000 baht + rent 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 03-175-3996. Email: boomerkamala@hotmail.com

FOR SALE

Guesthouse and restaurant located opposite the main entrance from Royal Paradise Hotel. 6 guest rooms, water, shower, aircon, TV, luxury beautiful restaurant, kitchen high standard. 14 million baht. Tel: 081-8956587, 081-5385322. Email: rudolspanz@hotmail.com

BEAUTY SALON

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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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