

Phuket Gazette

Volume 13 Issue 40

News Desk - Tel: 076-236555

October 7 - 13, 2006

Daily news at www.phuketgazette.net

25 Baht

The Gazette is published
in association with

The Nation

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Beach chair rates doubled

By Sangkhae Leelanaporn

PHUKET: A day at the beach just got a bit less friendly, as beach chair operators in Kata-Karon and Nai Yang doubled their rental rates to 100 baht per chair on October 1.

Operators in Patong are set to follow the move with a matching price hike on November 1.

Ampien Thueathin, head of the Patong Beach Chair Operators' Association, said he had been in contact with beach-chair renters in Kata-Karon and Nai Yang, discussing the possibility of standardizing rental rates island-wide at 100 baht per lounge.

After a meeting at Patong Municipality on October 2, K. Ampien announced that prices at Patong beach would rise to 100 baht starting from November 1, just in time for the first day of the "high season" for tourism.

"In Patong, the current daily rental fee is 100 baht for a set of two loungers, umbrella and a small table. But if a customer wants only one bed, we charge only 50 baht a day," he said, adding that the association had already discussed the issue with Patong Mayor Pian Keesin.

Across the island, beach chair operators operate on a daily flat-fee basis, charging the same rate for those using chairs from dawn to dusk as those who arrive at 5 pm.

K. Ampien said that the 100% price increase was justified by the high price of the chairs.

"It costs us about 10,000 baht for each set of two beds, one umbrella and a table," said K. Ampien

Plastic loungers that con-



The rental cost of a single beach chair with umbrella has doubled to 100 baht a day at Nai Yang Beach and in Kata-Karon. The same rates will go into effect at Patong Beach (above) on November 1.

form to the new municipal regulations are more expensive to buy (2,700 baht) than the heavy, wooden loungers (1,200 baht) that were banned after the tsunami.

Part of the reason for the ban on the heavy wooden beach chairs is that they caused unnecessary fatalities and a great deal of property damage during the last tsunami, when they were swept inland by the waves.

Additional factors necessitating the two-fold rise in the cost to rent a beach chair include the fact that the municipality limits the number of chairs the operators are allowed to set out, he added.

During the low season, the number of sun-loungers that can be put out is limited to 2,400, all aligned in a single row.

In the upcoming high season, the number will more than double, to 5,000 beds arranged in two rows.

K. Ampien also pointed out

that the plastic beds, lighter and easier to move than their wooden predecessors, are stacked up neatly at the end of each day, making the beach more attractive.

Not surprisingly, reaction to the news of the price hike is negative among most of the resident expatriates the *Gazette* asked.

Ulf, a Swedish expatriate who has been living in Chalong for three years, said he thought although it wouldn't effect him that much he thought the 100% price hike was "definitely too much".

One American expat told the *Gazette*, "To double it to 100 baht starting on the first day of high season is just too much.

"The people who will suffer the most are the people who work the chairs all day. Few of these actually own the chairs they work. Many are from other parts of Thailand and are just eking out a living here," he said.

THAI calls for 3-hour check-in

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET: To ease congestion and ensure that passengers arrive on time, Thai Airways International (THAI) is calling for passengers boarding international flights to check-in three hours before their scheduled departure times.

The call also applies to passengers boarding international flights at Phuket International Airport.

Domestic passengers are asked to check-in at least an hour before departure.

The call follows problems at Suvarnabhumi International Airport since its opening on September 28, which has seen many passengers not reunited with their luggage after flights, prompting THAI to set up an emergency 24-hour hotline for passengers to report missing luggage.

THAI President Apinan Sumanaseni said that baggage was reaching customers 45 minutes after landing on average.

The hotlines for missing luggage are Tel: 02-1300057-8 and 02-1300060.

Meanwhile, THAI has posted a webpage (<http://tg-importcargo-phuket.spaces.live.com>) explaining documentation procedures, in Thai and English, for shipping or collecting cargo though the THAI Cargo Warehouse at Phuket International Airport.

The webpage, which includes a list of the customs clearance documents required for receiving imported cargo, is intended to prevent a common occurrence: people driving all the way out to the airport to collect cargo only to find they do not have the correct documents.

For more information contact the THAI Cargo Warehouse in Phuket at Tel: 076-327155.

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PIWC calls for Gala Ball sponsors

PHUKET: Cindy Ratcliffe, President of the Phuket International Women's Club (PIWC), has called for businesses and island residents to sponsor, donate prizes and attend the PIWC's annual fund-raising Gala Ball, this year to be held at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Beach Resort & Spa on November 18.

"We intend to make this event a glittering evening of revelry and fun. To help us achieve this, we are hoping for many sponsorships, donations and table bookings from businesses and residents of Phuket and other provinces," said Mrs Ratcliffe.

"Our aim is to raise funds for the education of disadvantaged Thai children whose families would otherwise be unable to afford their schooling. We firmly believe that the best way out of the cycle of poverty is through education and working together.

"We now have more than 220 students, many of whom have benefited from the generous donations and sponsorships from last year's 'Evening with the Stars' event. This year, we are aiming to raise funds to ensure that our existing scholarship students can continue their education as well as providing scholarships for deserving, new children to receive an education," she said.

This year's Gala Ball is themed "Italian Masked Venetian Carnevale".

All sponsors will have their names and company logo displayed in the program booklet, which will be given to all 450 guests at the event.

For more information, call Mrs Ratcliffe at Tel: 081-0880554 or Email: yindi@ksc.th.com



Poor pupils get pedal power

THALANG: Seven schools have been given a total of 70 bicycles so that poor students can pedal to school instead of walking.

The Phuket Education Service Area Office (PESAO) presented the bikes to Baan Muang Mai School, Srisoonthorn School, Chong Talay Wittayakom School, Baan Lipon School, Baan Kuku School, Baan Koh Sireh School and Phuket Wittayalai School at a ceremony on September 27.

Three of the bikes were donated by individuals, but the remainder were paid for with funds raised by the national lottery.

To receive a bike, a student must live more than three kilometers from school and come from a low-income family. They are to use the bicycles to get to and from school, and must return them when they have finished their studies.

PESAO Director Chian Srirueang told the *Gazette*, "Last year in Phuket we had more than 100 new bicycles for poor students to use, but this year we have 70. I have talked with Vice-Governor Vorapot Rattasima and we plan to decrease the distance requirement from three kilometers to two kilometers so that more students are eligible for the bikes.

"Also, this year we have fewer bicycles because some parents don't want their children to have bikes because they are afraid they will get into an accident," he added.

— Sompratch Saowakhon

Adultery suspected in murder case

PHUKET CITY: A Burmese man died after having his throat cut on September 26 at the grocery store where he worked near Rassada Port. Police suspect adultery may have been the motive for the killing.

Pol Lt Sathit Noorit of Phuket City Police told the *Gazette* he and other officers rushed to

the scene, a grocery store near the fishing pier in Tambon Rassada, Village 7.

"The victim was already dead when we arrived at the scene. His throat had been cut."

Lt Sathit explained that people at the scene were not sure why the man was attacked, but many had said that the man had been having an illicit affair with a Thai woman who was married to another Burmese man.

"However, no-one was prepared to name the woman in question.

"We must wait until we have all the evidence before we can say for sure," Lt Sathit said.

"We know the victim was a Burmese laborer who worked in the grocery store, but we must wait for his employer to come forward with his documents so we can name him," he added.

The body was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital, where it was later collected by relatives.

— Natcha Yuttaworawit

Lucky find for Phuket in the Russian far east

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PHUKET: During a jaunt round the Russian Far East with representatives from the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) and Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor), Phuket Vice-Governor Niran Kanlayanimit signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) twinning Phuket with the Russian city of Nakhodka.

Nakhodka, which in Russian means "lucky find" or "godsend", is a port city on Russia's far-eastern coast, population 150,000.

Phuket has already been "twinning" with a diverse collection of geographic entities worldwide: Hainan Island in China, Las Vegas in Nevada, Nice in the French Riviera and Port Blair in the Andaman Islands.

The announcement was made at the Thailand Grand Invitation Host 2006 seminar held recently at The Metropole hotel. More than 250 representatives of hotels and resorts, tour companies and government agencies attended the event, meant to prepare the island for the coming high season, which officially starts November 1.

"From September 18 to 23 I went to the Russian cities of Nakhodka and Vladivostok. We were the first official group from Phuket to visit Nakhodka, and we have a lot to share with their country," said V/Gov Niran, citing Nakhodka's untapped natural resources and tourism potential.

The Vice-Governor also established an agreement for co-operation between Phuket Rajabhat University and Vladivostok State University.

He said that about 50,000 Russian tourists visit Phuket each year, and because of that he

wanted to develop stronger relations with the country.

"We also traveled around Scandinavia, to Copenhagen and Stockholm, from September 10 to 16 to promote medical and dental tourism in Phuket, especially at Bangkok Hospital Phuket," V/Gov Niran said.

"Sweden has the second highest number of tourists coming to Phuket, second only to Korea. Because of the high cost of health care in Sweden, Swedes are interested in visiting Phuket as a medical hub," he said.

Before meeting up with V/Gov Niran in Russia, TAT and OrBorJor representatives had been on an expenses-paid trip to the Ukrainian capital of Kiev and also to the Leisure 2006 exhibition held in Moscow from September 19 to 22.

OrBorJor President Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr said that, given sufficient demand, direct flights from Kiev to Phuket may be scheduled.

Executive Director of the Product Promotion Department of TAT, Charubun Pananon, gave an optimistic appraisal of Thailand's tourism prospects for the upcoming year, saying that the recent bomb blasts in Haad Yai and the military coup will have only short-term effects on the island's tourism industry.

"The international media reported a positive vision for Thailand [after the coup]. They know Thai soldiers are friendly, so I don't think it will have a big effect for Thailand.

"It may have a small effect in places such as Japan and Korea, but we will explain to them clearly what has happened and that there is no war in Thailand," he said.

Construction worker's body found

MAI KHAO: Police are investigating the death of a construction worker whose body was discovered October 2 at a construction workers' camp on the grounds of the JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa.

Tah Chat Chai Police Inspector Pol Maj Seksan Komsakorn identified the dead man as

51-year-old Biang Romkhaw, a native of Pitsanuloke province.

Biang was employed as a carpenter on a project at the hotel at the time of his death.

Police estimated the time of death at about 2 am the same day, about 12 hours before the body was discovered.

Co-workers said that K. Biang had been drinking with friends the night before, but left the group to sleep.

Biang's neck had abrasions consistent with having been strangled with a rope or cord.

There was another small abrasion on his left leg.

Friends said that Biang was a heavy drinker, but had no enemies.

His body was sent to Thalang Hospital for autopsy.

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Jaturong Sa-duangkarn (left), REQ Co Ltd Manager responsible for building the desalination plant in Karon, offers Governor Udomsak and his wife K. Maneephan a bouquet and a wai at Governor's House.

Governor quietly leaves Phuket

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET CITY: About 70 people gathered in front of the Governor's House on Narisorn Rd on September 29 to wish Udomsak Usarangkura a fond farewell on his last day as Governor of Phuket.

Governor Udomsak, who brought to a close some 38 years

of government service, left his home at 8:45 am, bound for his native Bangkok.

Before departing, he received flowers and souvenirs from government officials, and offered them tea and coffee before saying, "Thank you, and good-bye."

About 400 government officials attended his official fare-

well ceremony at Phuket Provincial Hall on September 18.

Vice-Governor Worapot Rathasima told the *Gazette* that he had yet to be informed of who will replace K. Udomsak as Governor.

"The Vice-Governors will continue as 'acting-Governors' until we hear from the new Cabinet," he said.

Army beefs up security measures across the island

By Janyaporn Morel

CAPE PANWA: Fourth Army Area Commander (4th AAC) Lt Gen Ongkorn Thongprasom announced on September 29 that the Council for National Security (CNS), formerly the Council for Democratic Reform, has ordered the Royal Thai Army (RTA) to assist in the security of Phuket.

Gen Ongkorn said that, in normal times, the RTA's primary responsibility is national security and for that reason does not intervene in provincial administration.

TOURIST AREAS

Following the September 19 coup, however, the RTA was ordered by the CNS to take over day-to-day security in the provinces, especially areas popular with tourists such as Phuket, Haad Yai, Phang Nga and Krabi.

The announcement came before a meeting with top provincial officials chaired by Gen Ongkorn at the Naval Third Area Command meeting room.

Representing the province were Phuket Vice-Governor Worapot Rathasima and Phuket Provincial Chief Administrative Officer (*Palad*) Nivit Aroonrat.

Representatives from the Royal Thai Police, Marine Police, Royal Thai Navy and other provincial offices were also present.

Before the meeting Gen

Ongkorn told the media the meeting was to establish security measures and give advice about security issues facing Phuket.

"I believe Phuket has the potential to take responsibility for its own safety and security, but at the moment the province lacks sufficient manpower.

"Therefore we have posted some troops and other security personnel at Phuket International Airport.

"We are ready to mobilize help to other parts of the island if the province requests us to do so," he said.

"In normal circumstances, we will not deploy troops in tourist areas as we have to be very careful not to spoil the atmosphere," he added.

Speaking about a rumor that Phuket is a potential target for terrorists, Gen Ongkorn said that all responsible agencies are ready and security measures are in place.

The 4th AAC will assist with security, but businesses and the public also need to do their part by remaining vigilant and reporting any threats, he added.

Gen Ongkorn said that he had received no reports of organized opposition to the coup in Phuket.

Almost all people in the 14 Southern provinces support the aims of the CNS and are looking forward to the next general election, he added.

Russian attacks resolute receptionist

PATONG: An enraged Russian hit a hotel receptionist in the face with a rattan chair after the woman refused to allow him to check in.

Pol Lt Col Boonlert Onklang of the Kathu Police said that about 1 am on October 1, 31-year-old Dmitri Maysimov arrived at Kaew Korng Mansion, on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, with a lady companion.

"He wanted to stay the night in a one-fan room, which cost 250 baht. But as he had only 240 baht, he had to borrow 10 baht from his lady friend," Col Boonlert said.

The Russian then spoke rudely to receptionist, Songkran Promsawas, before tossing 10

baht across the counter at her.

"At that point K. Songkran decided enough was enough and refused to let him stay at the hotel," he said.

Outraged, Maysimov picked up a chair from the reception area and hit K. Songkran with it before leaving with his companion, Col Boonlert said. "K. Songkran called the police, and we caught him in front of the Tony Resort," he said.

Col Boonlert said that Maysimov was fined 500 baht and was forced to pay K. Songkran 300 baht in compensation. "She was taken to Patong Hospital. She had a big bump on her forehead," he added.

Teacher's house catches fire

KOH KAEW: A fire broke out in the Chuan Chuen Lagoon house of a teacher at British Curriculum International School on October 1.

The fire broke out around 6:30 pm in the laundry-cum-storeroom at the home of Joanna Collen.

"It took nearly an hour to control the fire using one fire truck and a fire station pickup.

When I went into the room it was thick with smoke, so we had to remove the roof to allow us to work inside," said Rassada Fire Chief Ruttapong Rugsatham.

Pol Lt Patrawut Onchuay of Phuket City Police Station estimated that the damage caused by the fire was not more than 200,000 baht.

No one was injured in the blaze.

Woman's body found near worker's camp

RASSADA: The body of woman was found on September 29 near the Thaksin Concrete company building on Thepkrasattri Rd.

Pol Maj Pongnarin Suthin told the *Gazette*, "When I found the body, it was face down in the grass. The victim was wearing jeans and a gray T-shirt.

"When we turned the body over, we saw that her forehead had been struck with a blunt object. I didn't see any evidence that she had been raped. Her belt was still fastened and she had no other injuries apart from the head wounds.

"I think she had been dead for around three days when we found her.

"A nearby path leads to a Burmese workers' camp. We searched the area, but found no sign of the murder weapon. The victim was not carrying any ID.

"I questioned a motorcycle taxi driver near the scene. He said that he had often seen the victim use the path. We therefore think the victim was a Burmese worker employed by one of the two cement companies in the area, Thaksin Concrete or Phuket Cement."

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Almost every day the front pages of the Thai papers are strewn with gory photos of victims of the latest shootings. The vast majority of these cases never make it into the consciousness of Thailand's expatriate residents; the cases are too commonplace for the big English-language papers to bother with.

Though Phuket does not have the fierce reputation of some of the other Southern provinces – Nakhon Sri Thammarat in particular is renowned nationwide for its violent crimes – gun crime is still a regular occurrence on the island. The panel on the facing page is a mere selection of this year's most high-profile gun deaths. Given the space, the list of shootings could be much longer.

Victims come from all walks of life. Some of the island's most successful businessmen have met their end at the hands of gun-toting assassins. Local politicians are also common targets. Not all shootings are premeditated, though. Stories of disagreements in bars leading to bullet-riddled bodies in the car park are rife.

This, apparently, was the case with the slaying of Gregory Vandervaren, a young Belgian man who was shot dead on Koh Phi Phi Don last month. Police believe he was shot following an argument with a group of teenagers in a bar. The youths are now on trial for murder.

Samran Yukhunthorn, an officer at Phuket Provincial Hall, said that as at the beginning of August, there were 20,260 registered guns in Phuket.

To find out how easy it is to get a gun and why so many people on the island feel that they need one, the *Gazette* spoke to Teerapol Sittabut, Chief Admin-

Gun crime is rampant in Thailand. Only last month another prominent businessman was gunned down in Phuket, this time in his own home. Here Suganya Semacote and Dominic Earnshaw look at how guns get onto the island and what is being done to protect prevent gun crime.

istrative Officer (*Palad*) of Muang District, who is responsible for gun registration in Phuket most populated district.

He explained that to apply for a gun permit, a person must be at least 20 years old and have a house registration document (*tabien baan*) showing that they have lived at the same address for a minimum of six months, financial statements, a background check by police and a character witness statement from the local village headman (*Phu Yai Baan*).

K. Teerapol added that his office receives on average around 30 gun permit applications per



The latest high-profile shooting victim in Phuket was Suriya "Aud" Chaowanich, property developer and owner of the Phuket Laguna Riding Club. He was shot three times in the head.

month, of which around 80% are granted.

"The first thing we do when someone comes in to apply is to try and assess what kind of person they are, whether they look aggressive or not. About half the people who apply are government officers, the rest are mostly business owners and gun collectors. The most common guns registered are 9mm pistols.

"Once granted, gun licenses do not have to be renewed. However, they can be revoked if the holder is involved in any criminal activity. In Muang District we have revoked five licenses so far this year. When we revoke a license, however, we are usually unable to recover the actual gun. Those guns then become illegal. Any guns that are seized in police raids become government property."

Veerawat Chanpen, Muang District Chief, added, "Most of the guns used in crime in Phuket

are either brought in from other provinces or are replica or air guns that have been adapted to fire live ammunition. People who have licensed guns in Phuket are all reputable types with a career; maybe they just want a gun for sport. The amount of criminal acts carried out with guns registered in Phuket is minimal. I think most gun crime here is committed by people from other provinces.

"We are very strict about people carrying guns in public. Even off-duty police are forbidden to carry their guns with them.

CHECKPOINTS

"We can see that these measures are working because the number of tourists visiting the province is always increasing; they would not come if it were not safe. Also we have far fewer problems with guns than other provinces in the region, such as Phang Nga, Surat Thani and Trang."

The *Gazette* asked Pol Col Chalit Thintanee, Deputy Commander of Phuket Provincial Police, what measures the police had in place to deal with the gun control problem.

"To protect against gun crime we have checkpoints at Tah Chat Chai and at strategic points around the island. For gun suppression we keep detailed information, both on paper and in a computer database, of known criminals and people we suspect are hitmen. We also keep information about the backgrounds of gun owners.

"We also have intelligence gathering means. For example,

last month we confiscated a Heckler & Koch assault rifle at Tah Chat Chai. In that case, we were warned in advance by one of our sources so we could man the checkpoint and prevent the weapon from entering Phuket.

At Tah Chat Chai, we also have lockers where people can leave guns as they come onto the island. Unfortunately these have not been very successful as there is no sign directing people to them therefore not many people know about them," Col Chalit explained.

"The system isn't foolproof; weapons do slip through the net. With tour buses for example, if we have intelligence there is a weapon on board we can stop and do a thorough search, but if we do that for every bus it will annoy the passengers.

"Also, doing a thorough search takes a lot of manpower because you have to unpack all the baggage.

"Usually this isn't necessary though, because we can rely on our sources," he added.

Col Chalit explained that the major problem in Phuket is with youths who like to carry guns.

"In Phuket, pistols are the most common guns we come across; among youths we find a lot of homemade guns.

"Many young people from other provinces come to Phuket to study, with arguments sometimes breaking out between different groups.

"That said, we don't have major problems like the three Southern border provinces.

"I would estimate there are around 1,000 illegal guns in

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Phuket. Most of the guns are bought near the Eastern border with Cambodia. We are constantly seizing illegal weapons. From the beginning of July to September 28 this year, we seized 36 guns. This is a big increase when compared with the 19 we seized in the same period last year.

"Any guns we confiscate are sent for examination at the Forensics Department in Surat Thani. They check to see if the gun has been fired and if its ballistics match evidence recovered from gun crime scenes. If we discover that a gun we have seized is legally held, but the person did not have the papers with them when we searched them, then the gun will be returned.

"After examination, illegally-held guns will be destroyed, or in some cases will be used by the government services," Col Chalit said.

"If someone is caught with a gun that he or she has a permit for, but did not have the permit when asked, then that person is fined about 3,000 baht. If someone is caught carrying a registered gun that belongs to some-

one else, that person will usually be given a suspended sentence of three to six months in jail and a fine of about 6,000 baht, though sometimes the penalty can be as much as 10,000 baht.

"If the gun is not registered, the offender will go straight to prison and be fined as well. The amount and length of time will depend on the case."

Col Chalit said that the most common motives behind shootings in Phuket are business disputes and adultery.

"I urge gun owners to be careful in using their weapons or, even better, not to have guns at all," Col Chalit said.

Pol Lt Col Sakchai Limcharoen, Deputy Superintendent of Tah Chat Chai Police Station, said that police at that station search cars that look suspicious, particularly those with out-of-province registration plates, because they lack the manpower to search all cars, 24 hours a day.

They arrest anyone found in possession of a gun without a license to carry it in public, Col Sakchai said.

Illegal guns can be bought

for as little as a couple of thousand baht, but that they are usually of poor quality, he added.

Gun control is of paramount importance to Prasong Trairat, whose parents Prasert and Thavorn were gunned down in their own home on Thepkasattri Rd in May, 2003.

"We should try and prevent guns from coming on to the island. Prevention is always better than cure," he said.

"Tah Chat Chai is the key point to protect Phuket from gun crime. Police should be more strict there. Now, sometimes they stop and check cars, sometimes they don't. I understand that manning the checkpoint 24 hours a day is difficult, but officers from other areas in Phuket should be brought in to help.

"There are also civilian protection volunteers who can be called on to assist; they are more than willing to help.

"We really must take this problem seriously here, otherwise the trouble in the Deep South could spread to Phuket as well. I don't want what happened to my parents to happen to others."

HEADLINE-GRABBING SHOOTING DEATHS SO FAR THIS YEAR

SEPTEMBER 12: Local property developer Suriya "Aud" Chaowanich, 49, shot dead in his Cherng Talay home.

SEPTEMBER 10: Belgian Gregorey Vandervaeren, 24, shot dead on Koh Phi Phi Don.

AUGUST 13: Kanjanee "Rung" Kraisee, 22, a cashier at Ocean Shopping Mall on Soi Bangla, found shot dead in a rubber plantation in Kalim. She had been shot with her own .38 pistol.

JULY 6: Theeradet Patarapranee, 48, gunned down while closing up the family's shop, Bangkok Gold, on Phang Nga Rd.

JUNE 25: Phuket Rajabhat University student Teerapong "Song" Junsawee, 24, shot dead on Soi Panieng in an apparent case of mistaken identity.

MAY 4: Company accountant Somporn Pattanakij, 61, shot in the face while jogging with his wife near Suan Luang Park.

APRIL 29: Opas Noothong, 59, owner of local newspaper *Fahkumnod* ("Natural Order") and of the Jao Khun Karaoke on Luang Por Rd, gunned down by two teenagers while walking back to his office.

MARCH 14: Preecha "Ko Noi" Kraitas, 43, owner of the Phuket Shooting Range and the Fisherman Way housing estate, fatally shot while driving home from dinner with his wife and his nine-year-old son.



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Queer News

MYSTERY OF THE MISSING ROBBERS

A young Irishman who was treated for a head injury at Patong Hospital told police he was attacked and robbed while entering his hotel room.

However, Police discounted his version of events – saying he was probably too drunk to remember what actually happened.

Pol Lt Col Boonlert Onklang of the Kathu Police identified the self-proclaimed “victim” as an Irishman called Peter (last name withheld), aged 24, who had been staying in Room 105 of Sawasdee Mansion on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd for about three weeks when the alleged incident took place.

Peter was treated at Patong Hospital for a head injury requiring stitches about 2:30 am on September 24.

INVESTIGATION

Following standard procedure, staff at the hospital called police to investigate the incident, after Peter claimed he had been the victim of a brutal assault.

When the officers arrived, the Irishman told them that he was opening the door to his room on the ground floor when two men hit him on the head and stole his credit card, digital camera and some cash.

After investigating the incident, police began to doubt this version of events.

Staff at the hotel told police that the Irishman, who had returned to the hotel drunk that night, was escorted to his room for his own safety by two hotel security guards.

Police theorized that once inside, Peter likely lost balance and slipped in the bathroom, hitting his head on a plumbing fixture.

Police, noting that Peter was drunk yet still coherent during questioning, said that the combination of booze and a hard knock on the head might have led him to incorrectly reconstruct the night’s events, mistaking for assailants the hotel staff who had actually helped him to his room.

As for the missing items, police surmised that he probably dropped them or left them somewhere before returning to his room.

“We will try to find his things and return them to him,” Col Boonlert added.

The *Gazette* called the hotel to try and get the Irishman’s account of events, only to be told he had already checked out.

The hotel receptionist emphatically confirmed the police version of events.

She added that when staff realized their drunken guest had a serious head injury they had trouble convincing him that it needed medical attention.

Peter initially resisted their efforts to get him to hospital, she said.

The receptionist ruled out any possibility that outsiders could have gained access to the Irishman’s room undetected by security.

“His room was right next to the reception desk, which is manned around the clock,” she said.


Source: *Siang Tai*



NO DUMPING: Welcome to Baan Kathu: just two meters from the sign at the entrance to the village is this dump, cleverly constructed in a grotto formed by the trunk of a fallen tree. And conveniently close by, so to speak, there’s even a discarded toilet (inset picture). Come across any informal dumps that you particularly admire? Send us some pictures and a brief description by email to dump@phuketgazette.net

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Phuket


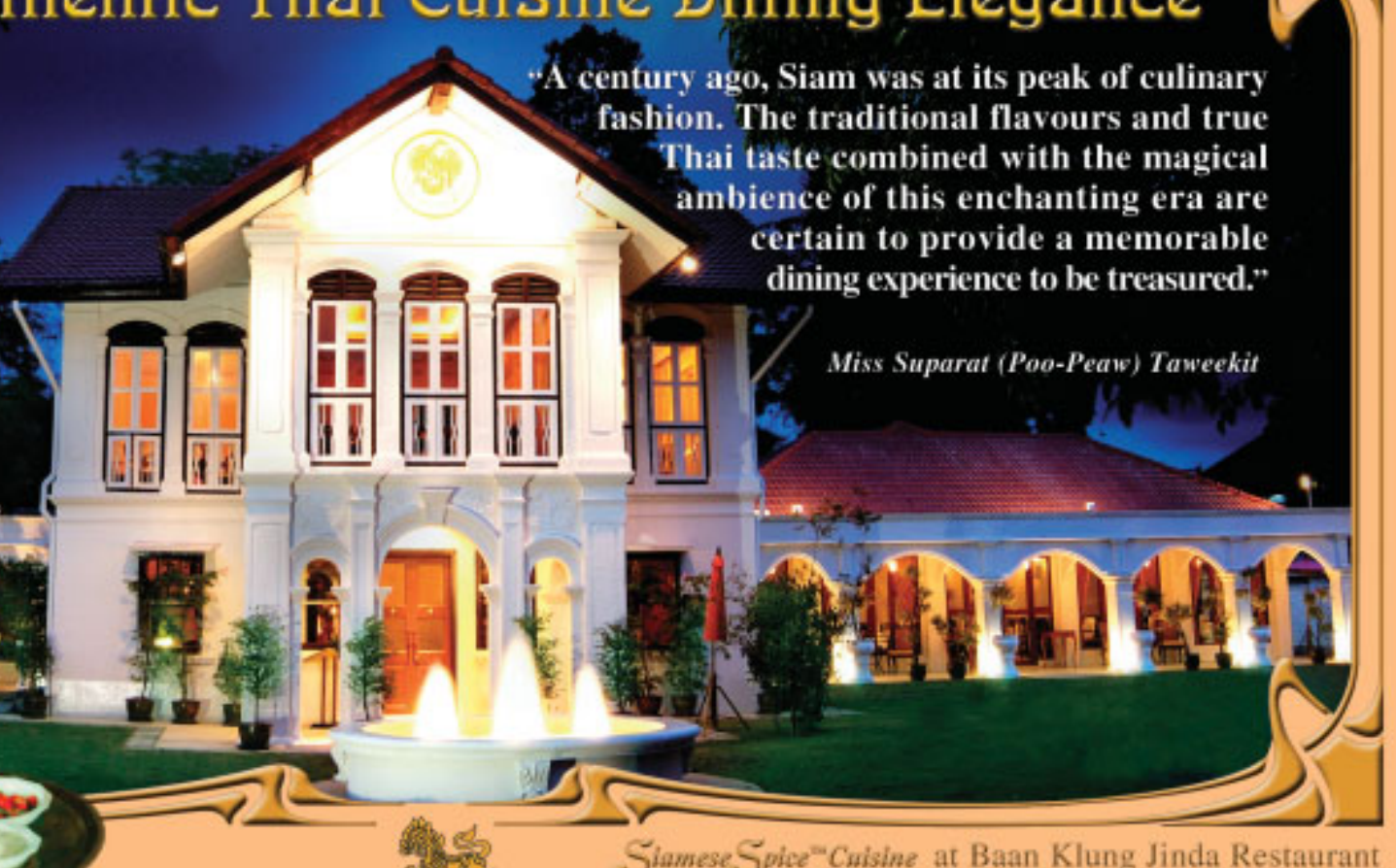





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By Stephen Fein

The gentrification of Phuket City's old quarter continues with no end in sight – and it is not just the old shophouses that are being restored there.

At the intersection of Krabi Rd and Yaowarat Rd, in the heart of Old Phuket Town, sits one of Phuket's oldest motorcycle parts supply shops, Tawatyon.

Standing out amidst the somewhat cluttered shop are brightly-colored motorbikes – in shocking pink, lime green and baby blue – that could be seen around town some 30 years ago when the shop first opened for business.

Tawatyon's primary business has always been supplying parts for motorbikes, mostly Hondas, but a few years ago one customer came into the shop with nothing more than the frame of an old Honda. Although the customer had little more than about 30% of the original vehicle, he wanted to know if it would be possible to restore the bike to its former glory.

Shop owner Tawat Silapalikitporn and his son Thanayuth asked their mechanic of 10 years, Surat "Aod" Worayad, if he was up to the challenge.

As it turned out, the bike the customer wanted to restore was the same kind of bike that Aod, 46, had worked on when he began learning to repair motorcycles back as a teenager.

Restoring the bike would be no problem, he said – as long as he could find the parts. The search began, and over several months the required parts were found, some right in the shop, others sourced locally, and the most difficult-to-find parts ordered from a store in Bangkok that specializes in parts for vintage motorbikes.

Over three months, the frame was sandblasted, the engine completely rebuilt and many other restoration steps painstakingly

New lives for ancient bikes



carried out by the patient Aod. In the end the rusty old carcass was completely transformed. Bright, shiny and new, the bike looked as cute and retro as a something straight out of a scene from The Powerpuff Girls – and it ran like a dream.

The perfectly-restored vintage Honda stood out on the streets of new-millennium Phuket, so before long more customers began arriving at the shop with more old bikes, many of them abandoned for decades in old shophouse storerooms in the area.

So far Tawatyon has restored about 25 bikes, with work underway on about five bikes when the Gazette visited.

Motorcycle restoration is an increasingly popular hobby worldwide. Finding needed parts

is not as difficult as one might think, and Tawatyon now even stocks some of what Honda refers to as "Genuine New Old Stock Parts", though most of the items carried at Tawatyon are accessories.



Above, Thanayuth Silapalikitporn and mechanic Surat 'Aod' Worayad with a work in progress.

Left, a beautifully restored Honda 70.

Thanayuth told the Gazette that a typical restoration takes about three months and costs from 20,000 to 25,000 baht, depending on the state of the bike when it is brought in and the customer's exact requirements.

It's not a lot, when one considers all the work that goes into a full restoration. It is still a good deal less expensive than buying a new carbon-fiber and plastic model – not to mention far more distinctive.

Tawatyon is located at 2 Krabi Rd, at the Yaowarat Rd Intersection. For more information call the shop at Tel: 076-211-014; 076-259275 or call K. Thanayuth at Tel: 01-6912886.

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Southern violence continues unabated

Despite hopes that after September 19 the violence in the Deep South would abate, almost daily shooting and bombings continue to plague the Muslim-majority region.

Three people, including one soldier, were killed and six others injured in a wave of bombings and shootings there, police reported on September 28.

Five soldiers were injured when a 15-kilogram roadside bomb overturned their Humvee earlier on the same day in Narathiwat's Sungai Padi District. The troops were conducting a routine patrol when they came under the attack. Investigators believe the device was set off remotely by mobile phone.

The powerful explosion left a three-meter deep and four-meter wide hole and sent shrapnel as far as 30 meters from the spot where the bomb was detonated.

One of the soldiers died of blood loss on the way to a local hospital.

In Pattani province, a man was killed by suspected militants who shot him in the head shortly after he dropped off a group of children at school, police said.

A day earlier in Narathiwat, one man was killed and two people injured when militants opened fire on a grocery store. Police believe the shooting was meant to lure them to the shop, where the militants had hidden a 10-kg bomb.

Police found the bomb after the body was taken out of the store and successfully defused it.

On the morning of September 29, Saipudin Muming, 37, a

member of the Chernkiri Tambon Administrative Organization, was found dead on the Bankadee-Bantamung road in Si Sakhon District of Narathiwat.

Police said he was riding his motorbike to attend a meeting when four gunmen riding in a pickup truck approached him from behind and opened fire with a shotgun before fleeing the scene. Saipudin died instantly.

Around the same time in the center of Narathiwat's Muang District, a seven-kilogram bomb hidden between a teashop and an aquarium exploded while the shop was crowded with villagers and police. The bomb injured a policeman and destroyed part of the shop, with shrapnel spread in a 30-meter radius.

Also in Narathiwat, suspected Muslim insurgents placed a five-kilogram bomb under a roadside pavilion on the Bacho-Banthon road in Bacho District. It was detonated, but no one was injured.

More than 1,700 people have been killed since the violence re-emerged in the deep South on January 4, 2004.

Teacher killed: A 27-year-old substitute teacher at a vocational college was apparently raped and then drowned in her own bathtub in Chumphon on the evening of September 23.

The incident was reported to Chumphon Town Police Station by the janitor of a local school early the following morning.

When police arrived at the crime scene they were met by a crowd of more than 50 locals, including a number of the victim's relatives.



DHARMA WALK: More than 70 youths from all over Thailand are taking part in a 24-day, 750-kilometer walk for religious understanding from Surat Thani province to Bangkok.

They set off from Suan Mokkh monastery on September 28, the 13th anniversary of the cremation of the retreat's founder, Buddhadasa Bhikkhu. Their journey will end at Sathira Dhammasathan Meditation Center in the capital.

The walk passes through nine provinces along the shore of the Gulf of Thailand and aims to advertise dharma through youth, using the power of the young generation to help solve social problems. It is also a way of promoting the late monk's three resolutions: to understand one's own faith, to understand other religions and to shun materialism.

Police reported that marks on the victims body, particularly around the throat, suggested a struggle. Traces of semen found on the bedsheets, suggesting sexual assault.

They estimated the time of death was around two hours before the body was discovered.

A mobile phone, a gold necklace and around 2,000 baht in cash had been stolen from the victim.

Aside from being a teacher, the victim also ran a small grocery store from her house and was a freelance typist for local students. Police speculated that before her death, the victim had been typing with her door open and that her killers had seen that she was alone.

There was likely to have been more than one assailant, police said.

The culprits were likely a group of youths who had been seen sitting drinking in a sala around 100 meters from the victim's house, they added.

Direct result: A senior teacher at a well-known school in Nakhon Sri Thammarat City died in hospital after being shot outside his home on the evening of September 28.

Police said that from witness accounts they have learned

that Arun Chaiphet, 50, had just parked his car and was opening the gate to his home when his assailant emerged from a dark corner and shot him at close range before fleeing.

K. Arun was rushed to Maharat Hospital, 200 meters from his house, but doctors were unable to save him. He had been shot three times: in the chest, left armpit and right hand.

The following day, Pol Maj Gen Sutjai Yanrat Commander of Nakhon Sri Thammarat Provincial Police, said that K. Arun was from Trang and that his wife was from Nakhon Sri Thammarat, and that K. Arun was apparently known for his "direct manner".

Such behavior may well have caused problems with his wife's family, with whom he had quarreled frequently, Gen Sutjai said.

"The perpetrator didn't use a vehicle, he just walked up and opened fire. Therefore, we strongly believe that he or she lived nearby."

Police, who recovered several 9mm bullets, are now examining the records of registered guns to see if people in the area know of anyone with a 9mm gun, he added.

Special Area: The Governor of Songkhla Province, Somphon

Chaibangyang, is pushing to have a "Special Area" created for the five Southern border provinces to help the region recover from the effects of the Haad Yai bombings of September 16.

Following a meeting to discuss ways to revive tourism and the economy in the area, Gov Somphon said that he and Lt Gen Ongkon Thongprasom, Area Commander of Army Region 4 and Director of the Southern Border Provinces Peace-building Command (SBPPC), had agreed that the five Southern border provinces of Satun, Songkhla, Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat, should become a "Special Area".

A proposal to that effect would be submitted for the consideration by the Council for Democratic Reform, he said.

"In being a 'special area', special attention would have to be given to tourism, the economy and investment. The Cabinet or other bodies involved would have to assist with the budget," Gov Somphon said.

The Governor said tourism activities should be arranged quickly to attract people back to the area. In regard to security, 200 locations in downtown Haad Yai had been selected for installation of closed-circuit television cameras, he said, adding that the coverage would later be expanded to include outer areas.

Somchat Phimthanaphunphon, President of the Haad Yai-Songkhla Hotels Association, said that occupancy rates were 10-20%, with 80%-90% of bookings made at associations hotels this month canceled.

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

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Tired of visa run confusion? Get married!

Despite photos of people giving flowers to the soldiers and of tourists having their pictures taken on tanks, the coup has still caused some concern amongst potential travelers to Thailand.

What was shaping up as an excellent season may now be in jeopardy.

Previously, hotels and resorts in Krabi had reported strong bookings for the holiday season, with some properties already fully booked.

Since the coup, booking inquiries have slowed down for many properties, though so far cancellations have been rare.

Somkiet Kanyunkarn, owner of the Somkiet Buri Resort in Ao Nang, recently returned from a meeting with officials from the Tourist Authority of Thailand.

He says, "We have had very few cancellations, and we expect bookings to pick up again once the new government is installed."



'Pleaser Visa'? Despite the recent developments in Bangkok, the changes in visa requirements and investment law will continue to be applied.

I have previously outlined the changes and increased enforcement of the existing laws of the commercial code that prohibit companies with foreign shareholders from buying land unless they first pass a series of checks.

These investigations were to determine whether Thai shareholders were actually capable of having bought their shares.

The result of the enforcement of these rules has been a dramatic drop in the number of land purchases by companies with foreign shareholders.

Registrations of property development companies with foreign shareholders have come almost to a standstill.

The recent changes to the rules about visas on arrival has also created a monumental stir.

The basic premise is that a tourist entering the country on a visa on arrival can stay for a total of 90 days in a six-month period.

The initial anxiety of those who have been living or working in Thailand on tourist visas has only been exacerbated by the lack of clear information.

So how have all these developments affected the scene in Krabi?

Vanee Ruchipong, Manager of Krabi Consultants, legal and business consultants and property developer, notes, "The number of hits on our property sales website has dropped off significantly."

"Home sales are now mainly to Thais or foreigners with retirement visas. Overall, this business has become quiet."

The company has, however, seen an upsurge in the legal business, mainly from resident tourists trying to find a way to stay in Thailand for more than 90 days.

"We are processing a large number of type 'O' retirement and family visas," K. Vanee notes.

The company has rejected a number of applicants for business formation and work permits, however, as stricter guidelines are now being enforced.

On a lighter note, the number of inquiries about marriage visas has jumped. Indeed, the visa changes seem to have brought out the romantic side of many foreign men.

How will these changes affect businesses that have in the past used foreigners on tourist visas as part-time staff to augment their staff levels during peak season?

Business owners don't seem to be too worried, as freelance workers still plan to come for the season, and will just have to put up with the added hassle and expense of leaving the country to apply for a tourist visa outside of Thailand.

ACROSS THE BAY

By Gus Reynolds

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No clues in school arson attacks

The Council for Democratic Reform (CDR) has urged those who ordered or carried out arson attacks on five local schools in Kamphaeng Phet Province on September 27 to surrender to make their expected harsh punishment a bit lighter.

CDR spokesman Lt Gen Palangkoon Klaharn did not rule out that the schools were set ablaze in an act of defiance against the September 19 military takeover.

He also declined to say how much information on the attacks the military had to determine what the real motive was.

"To those who did it, you should give yourselves up to the authorities because the evidence being gathered will certainly lead to you in the end. It would be good if you make it known why you did it – and what local conflicts led to the attacks," he said.

The spokesman said CDR leader and Army commander Gen Sonthi Boonyaratkarin was "saddened" by the arson attacks, given that schools were public property and needed to keep children educated.

Meanwhile, three former Thai Rak Thai MPs for Kamphaeng Phet dismissed suggestions they were behind the arson attacks. They said no one would be stupid enough to risk execution by doing such acts at a time of martial law.

Quick cash: At least three thieves forced open an ATM machine on a Chon Buri super-highway during a rainstorm, getting away with a money box containing 6 million baht, police said.

Following the report of the theft at 1:30 am, police found that one of two ATMs at Kasikornbank's Om Muang Chon Buri branch had been yanked open.

Police suspect the culprits destroyed a security camera and, after a failed attempt to force open the machine with a jemmy, chained the ATM's cover to a pickup truck and drove off, ripping out the money box from the machine.

Police seized the jemmy at the scene and recovered parts of the money box from the road, near a Muslim cemetery.



Dancers from a community radio station perform in front of soldiers guarding the Royal Plaza, as the soldiers and tanks have become a tourist attraction. The CDRM, which staged the bloodless military takeover, has since banned such displays and ordered soldiers not to let well-wishers handle their weapons.

The culprits' knowledge of the bank's schedule in putting money in the machine and of the getaway route suggested to police that they were local residents.

Free trade: Major retailers failed to show up for a meeting at the Ministry of Commerce to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) agreeing to freeze their expansions for 30 days, saying the agreement would adversely affect their operations.

The Ministry decided to act against the retailers after thousands of small retailers in August protested loss of business to multinational hypermarkets, supermarkets and convenience stores.

Members of the Thai Retailers' Association said the MoU would affect their companies' future plans and that the agreement was short on details, even though some of the clauses in the MoU were acceptable to them and were prepared to compromise.

They recommended that the ministry set up a working group consisting of government officials, consumer-protection agencies, small community retailers, representatives of modern retail chains

and the academic sector.

Tremor terror: Fearing a tsunami, hundreds of coastal residents raced out of their homes in Prachuap Khiri Khan Province in search of higher ground early on September 28, after earthquakes woke them in the middle of the night.

According to the Mineral Resources Department, four tremors could be felt in between 8:27 pm on September 27 and 1:46 am the following day. The tremors came from earthquakes centered in Burma.

The situation started to return to normal only when officials arrived in Tambon Sam Roi Yod to announce that no tsunami was imminent.

Of the four earthquakes, the last one was the most powerful, registering 4.8 on the Richter Scale.

Terrible tally: Corruption involving 95 mega-projects carried out over the five and a half years of the Thaksin administration probably cost the state coffers about 400 billion baht, according to a recent study by Supanee Chaiamporn and Sirinith Arun-rue of

the National Institute of Development Administration (Nida).

Based on statistics from the National Economic and Social Development Board, 95 large infrastructure projects with a combined investment of 1.35 trillion baht were implemented by the government since 2001, not including 220 billion baht on Suvarnabhumi Airport and related projects.

If the corruption consistently reached the 30% level, the sums siphoned off would be about 450 billion baht for the 95 large government projects and 73 billion baht for the new airport and related projects.

A total of 400 billion baht for all the projects seemed reasonable, the academics concluded.

Plant matter: According to research by the Health Systems Research Institute (HSRI), of the tens of thousands of herbs in use in Thailand, 10 have been selected as having the most potential for export: aloe vera, turmeric, pueraria mirifica, mulberry, golden bush, malacca, Asiatic pennywort, black pepper, cassumunar ginger and andrographis pan

iculata.

HSRI researcher Dr Jiradej Manosroi said possible uses of the herbs include moisturizing, anti-aging, anti-wrinkling and whitening.

"All could be made into cosmetics for the global market," Dr Jiradej said.

Export of herbs for cosmetic purposes is easier than as medicine or food supplements because of lengthy testing requirements and regulatory limits in the global market, he said.

"With strong political will and proper support, the first Thai herb brands could soon be available on the world market, promising an impressive income," he said.

The global herb trade is estimated to be worth 784 billion baht. Thai exports have notched up only 1 billion baht in 2006, according to Dr Jiradej's research.

Last chance: Nicotine chewing-gum manufacturer Pfizer has launched a campaign aimed at creating awareness about its products. Pfizer feels its stop-smoking products have huge potential in Thailand, where an estimated 1.7 million Thai smokers are estimated to want to kick the habit.

Pfizer is encouraging family members and friends of smokers to send postcards with motivational messages about stopping smoking.

Pfizer's Udom Vinaruenatr said successful smoking cessation without medication required an average of six to eight attempts, with a high number of smokers falling along the way and finally returning to the habit.

Therefore, the company has allocated more than 10 million baht for this campaign, which runs until November.

"We expect to be able to help about 10,000 smokers to actually quit...The World Health Organization has certified the use of nicotine replacement therapy and it is twice as effective as quitting on your own," he said.

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

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Honda has announced its new, third-generation CR-V compact SUV. Although not the first car-based SUV, it has proved remarkably successful, with more than 2.5 million sold worldwide in the past 11 years.

The latest CR-V continues where the previous one left off, but, says Honda, "offers more car-like dynamics" as well as greater comfort and a more luxurious interior. Styling is not radically different on the new vehicle, but new side windows and a "cab-forward" look to the upper body creates a slightly sportier look.

The new model features two interesting high-tech systems that, claims the automaker, are unique in this particular segment of the market. The first is an adaptive cruise control, a radar-controlled system that maintains a pre-set distance from the vehicle in front.

This operates in conjunction with the collision mitigation brake system (CMBS), which initiates a series of warnings to the driver if the distance to the vehicle ahead decreases beyond an acceptable level, before applying strong braking and retracting the front seat belts if the situation becomes critical.

Also for the first time in a CR-V, adaptive lighting is fitted, with the low-beam headlamps turning in the direction of travel. Passive safety is taken care of by dual-stage front airbags, side airbags and full-length air curtains.

Full-leather upholstery is optional, while the top-of-the-range CR-V has an eight-way adjustable powered driver's seat. Also optional is a panoramic glass roof.

The interior dimensions are much the same as the outgoing model, although larger doors improve access and there is slightly more luggage space in the rear. The rear seats split in a 60:40 fashion, or can be folded all the way forward to create a large, flat cargo deck. Added flexibility is provided by a double-decker luggage area, formed by a shelf above the load floor. In this way, luggage can be divided with the kids' strollers stored below and suitcases or bags above.

Power units are either an all-new 2-liter gasoline engine, or a 2.2 diesel. The diesel is Honda's proven 138bhp (100kW) unit, but improved aerodynamic efficiency has led to a 12% improve-



By Jeff Heselwood

SUV savvy

Honda goes for a sportier look with its new CR-V

ment in fuel economy. The gas motor is based on the 1.8 SOHC unit from the Civic range and delivers 148bhp (110kW) at 6,200rpm and 190Nm of torque at a rather heavy 4,200rpm. Gasoline engines are mated to either a six-speed manual gearbox or an optional five-speed automatic transmission. Again, the different aerodynamic qualities and the new transmissions contribute to an improvement in fuel economy.

Performance has been enhanced by the new gasoline engine, with a 0-100kmh time of 10.2 seconds for the manual and 12.2 seconds for the automatic.

The real-time four-wheel drive system combines a quiet, fuel-efficient dual-pump system with a cam unit that senses front-wheel slippage and transfers pow-

er to the rear wheels. Increased stability and greater safety on slippery roads is provided in this way, but under normal conditions the CR-V drives just like any other Honda: through the front wheels.

A number of minor changes have been made to the suspension geometry, as well as a lowering of the center of gravity and larger wheels, which all contribute to more agile handling and responsiveness. As the majority of 4x4 machines almost never venture off road, the fact that the CR-V drives and handles like a car must be extremely attractive.

The new Honda SUV first appears at the Paris show in the first two weeks of this month, and will go on sale in world markets in January 2007. No prices have yet been given but the existing model is around 1.4m baht and there is no reason to anticipate any significant increase.

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



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Happily Ever After

Recent weddings in Phuket



Wissara Phuengrang and Surasak Meetham were married in the Pra Pitak Grand Ballroom at The Metropole hotel on September 9.



Phimchanok Sombatkamrai and David W Matot exchange rings during their wedding at the Patong Bay Garden Hotel on September 23.

MARITIME

Craig Coupland came to Phuket with barely a baht to his name after his marriage went to pieces – 'All she left me was a beer crate, the refrigerator and a newspaper,' he recalls.

But Coupland had special boatbuilding skills, unique in Thailand at that time. There was soon heavy demand for those skills, allowing him to settle in Phuket, where he has remained happily since. **Marque Rome** went to talk with him.

Most of us, working alone, can only dream of what we might achieve had we the chance, the skill, the materials, the expertise and so on.

The artist in charcoal or paint can improve on his dream by making a picture; the engineer or architect, a model; but production processes in the end normally require a team with, perhaps, heavy machinery.

One man, working alone, however great his vision, is usually limited in productive capacity to mock-ups and test models; the finished item is a factory product.

Usually. But, working with glass fiber and infusion-molding technologies, one man can do it all if need be; and with a small team he can work wonders.

Fiberglas, trade name of the material created in 1938, when US firms Owens-Illinois Glass Company and Corning Glass Works joined to form the Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corporation, is the perfect material for loners and mavericks with the talent, energy, vision and desire to do big things in their own special way.

Were Michelangelo Buonarroti – the Renaissance painter, sculptor and architect – alive today, he'd likely work in fiberglass. It is at once among the lightest, sturdiest, most plastic yet most durable of construction materials.

Consider how Michelangelo

had to abandon one of his greatest schemes, the architectural and sculptural adornments for the Medici family's San Lorenzo church, merely because quarrying and transport were too difficult: the mass of marble necessary overwhelmed the considerable resources put at his disposal by Pope Leo X.

Australian Craig Coupland, on the other hand, when commissioned a few years ago to create a 50-foot fiberglass catamaran, did it by himself on the beach with a few hurriedly trained helpers.

'I'd grown to become one of the best in Queensland. I loved my job; I worked seven days a week. Everyone wanted to hire me.'

Coupland, 40, from Brisbane, just north of Queensland's Gold Coast, does not pretend to be another Michelangelo: his creations are mostly practical – speedboats, aircraft, carbon-fiber sailboat masts, car and motorcycle parts; yet the finished products display both artistry and sophisticated technology. Call him a master of the glass-fiber art.

Coupland was born in the UK. "My roots are in Birmingham," he explained. "My father was an electrician; he worked on the aircraft carrier *Ark Royal* for the Royal Navy," Coupland said.

He described his father as a jack-of-all trades: "Most of the family picked up a lot of things from Father – by the time we were 15, we knew exactly how to plug in a power cord and change a light bulb," he joked, in his broad Australian accent.

When Coupland was five,



the family emigrated to Australia. "I was the youngest of five boys – no girls – and always sort of the black sheep of the crew," he said. "My brothers all had some sort of qualification, but I hadn't. I spent most of my time on the beach, surfing."

His black-sheep persona remains. He's tall and lanky, a bit like Clint Eastwood. He sports an earring, a diamond stud in his left incisor and dozens of tattoos, most of his own design.

"I tried the electrical business with Father," he said, "but I couldn't get into it." He was creative, liked to draw and always felt when he saw "anything on the street" that he could "modify it or make it better".

So, instead of electrical work, he took up what was to become his life's oeuvre. "I apprenticed four years in fiberglass," he explained, "and four years as a shipwright."

"In three years I was manager of a major company, Marky Industries PLC, based in Queensland. They made Ford Louisville semi-trailer cabs.

"But I was always interested in my father's naval side. One day, a friend said, 'You're interested in boats; why don't you get into that?'"

So I went to work for Sable Marine. They were making three boats a year; we upped that number to 11." The craft were 31-foot catamarans, "both fly-bridge cruisers and sailing boats." Coupland was foreman.

After three years he moved to Fineline, a company making custom car bodies, Harley-Davidson accessories and other custom one-offs: "Things nobody else could manufacture – so you really had to have your head about

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MICHELANGELO



Craig Coupland works on another hull. He is a master of the fiberglass chopper gun; using it 'is quite an art, really,' he says.

you. We did a lot of drag cars from America, and AC Cobra bodies."

Sports car aficionados had made the AC Bristol Cobra one of the most sought-after makes in history, thereby spawning a major kit-car industry that provided Coupland with important experience.

Car-making had its attractions – and Coupland still enjoys customizing cars and motorcycles – but the lure of more money recalled him to boats. "Marine Magic: it was a custom boat-building

firm dealing largely in carbon-fiber construction," he said.

At the time, he had already mastered the "fiberglass chopper gun". "That's a hand-held machine that shoots out fiberglass, resin and hardener all at once.

"Using it is quite an art, really – and I'd grown to become one of the best in Queensland. I loved my job; I worked seven days a week. Everyone wanted to hire me."

The custom-boat firm also dabbled in infusion molding, a high-technology process that in-

volves using a vacuum pump to suck resin through a sandwich mold, resulting in ultra-light, durable construction.

"It was an almost experimental process at the time. No one used it for production, but I'd always enjoyed playing around with stuff like that."

The knowledge served him well in construction of numerous custom yachts, speedboats and several aircraft.

"I had to build an airplane with a fuselage that weighed 43 kilograms – not an easy task." The client was a nature photographer who wanted to carry the plane with him into isolated areas.

"I built three of them, and they all passed certification." Though not himself a college graduate, Coupland has taught courses in fibreglassing and infusion molding in Queensland and Sumatra.

In Australia, he was on top of the world – or so he thought. "I got married, bought my first house and had my first child when I was 26 – married at 26; divorced at 27."

The break-up ruined him. "I lost everything I owned. By the time she left, I was in an apartment room, staring out the window with barely two baht to rub together.

"All she left me was a beer crate, the refrigerator and a newspaper – and that was the best thing she ever did, 'coz I picked up the paper and they were advertising a boat-building job in Pattaya; that's how I got my first job in Thailand."

He spent two years building boats in Sri Racha "for a German guy. Then I went back to Queensland for six months to build

a boat, but it just didn't feel right after two years in Thailand."

Perhaps he was lonely. "Thai women get you your dinner, a beer; they take care of their men. Heck, my wife back in Australia – you'd have to buy her a new dress just have sex!"

So when he got a call from Phuket to build a 50-foot catamaran for an Australian scuba-diving firm, he jumped at the chance.

"The guy asked me, 'Can you do it or not?' So I asked him, 'How many people in Australia can do it?' He said he wasn't sure. Then I asked, 'How many Australians working in Thailand can do it?'"

"None!" he replied. So that's how I got the job. As far as I know, that's the biggest fiberglass mold of a cat in Thailand."

Coupland received room, board and A\$1,000 (about 28,000 baht) a week building it on the beach in Tambon Sakoo, near Phuket International Airport.

"It took eight months to build and I made A\$320,000 (8.9 million baht).

"I started getting a name for myself. I'd come to Thailand with less than 1,000 dollars in my pocket, but within a year I'd made A\$3.5 million (98 million baht)."

The craft was powered by two Yamaha 200hp two-stroke outboards. "It'll fly over a meter-high swell – no problem. It's an awesome boat."

To ensure that it doesn't come unglued during the pounding, Coupland used infusion molding to create a honeycomb be-

neath the lower floor, making the hull tremendously strong: After finishing the cat Coupland trained up a small team of Thais and took to building his own 33-foot mono-hull speedboats to order.

"My last one does 44 knots; that's about 120 kilometers an hour; it has to be the fastest one on the island. You've really got to hang on to the steering wheel at that speed."

"After I met my wife, Kaewjai, we started our own company, Boat Jing Jo Fiber, to make the speedboats.

"Everyone – including the Royal Thai Navy, Customs and the Marine Police – was checking out our boats. The Navy bought one."

K. Kaewjai, formerly a talented chef, has since manifested her own flair for boat-building.

"When we met she didn't know the front end of a boat from the back. But with four years' experience she's got good, and quite likes working in timber."

The boat business, however, has its ups and downs, and competition is keen.

Four years ago, only a few firms could tackle the kind of construction Coupland prides himself on.

But today the field is more crowded. Still, he doesn't plan any big change soon. "At the end of the day," Coupland said, using one of his pet phrases, "if you're doing a job you love, in a place you love, with the woman you love – that's what life's all about."

Thai women get you your dinner, a beer; they take care of their men. Heck, my wife back in Australia – you'd have to buy her a new dress just have sex!



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This week

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER: (Below) Praphan Buathong (2nd from left), Partner and Manager of Timber Hut in Phuket City, celebrates the pub's 17th anniversary with friends on September 19.

EASILY AUDYBLE: (Right) Thai rock star Audy provides the entertainment.

REDIOACTIVE: (Inset) Three 'pretty girls' take to the stage to promote Johnny Walker Red Label at the party.



OUT OF THE BOX: Phuket Vice-Governor Phongsak Plaivej (blue shirt) draws the winning tickets in the lucky draw for the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Thailand Grand Sale 2006 at Central Festival Phuket on September 23. Brand-new Chevrolet Optra cars were given to two shoppers who used their Visa credit cards in Phuket to pay for goods discounted as part of the Grand Sale promotion, from mid-June to mid-August. Pornthip Onnoom (left), Director of the TAT's Tourist Assistance Center, looks on.



VIVA EL PRESIDENTE! Helmut Goergen (2nd from left) celebrates his installment as President of the Lion's Club (LC) Phuket Andaman Sea at the Merlin Beach Resort in Patong on September 23. Celebrating with him are (from left) Nasser Javadizadeh, Vice-President of LC of Phuket Pearl; LC Phuket Pearl President Dr Supaluck Kanchanamethakul, Steven Ng Liang Teik, President of LC George Town, Penang; and Lee Boon Hoe Vice-President LC George Town, Penang.



DOGGONE COLLECTORS: John and Jill Dalley (rear, right and 2nd from right) with the Soi Dog Foundation's 'dirty dozen' before hitting the streets of Patong on September 23 to collect donations for the dog welfare charity.



FULL HOUSE: Neil Cumming (right), President of Asia Web Direct (AWD), hands the Top Performing Hotel award for the number of rooms booked through the Phuket.Com portal over the past year to Wolfgang Meusburger, General Manager of the Holiday Inn Resort Phuket, in Bangkok on September 25.

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For 50 years, Brookes and Gatehouse (B&G) has been developing new electronic solutions for sailors' needs. Harnessing technical developments and has continued to be the focus that keeps B&G on the leading edge of advanced marine electronics.

Today, B&G equips every Volvo Ocean Race boat and is working with every America's Cup team. It uses the knowledge gained in these exercises to provide quality products and services to the everyday sailor.

Among B&G's ever-evolving range is RemoteVision (RV) – a wireless link to the boat's instrument system and pilot in the palm of your hand. As used by Dame Ellen MacArthur on her record-breaking round-the-world voyage. The unit is lightweight and palm-sized.

RV boasts a range of features, including alarm answer mode, instrument calibration made easy and clear data view from anywhere aboard, making RV ideal for cruising or short-handed racing as it gives full control from anywhere on board.

From fun to safety, the new Simrad (soon to be called Navico) range of emergency position-indicating radio beacons (EPIRB) features the latest in EPIRB technology.

The new Simrad EPIRB range comprises the EP50 and the EG50, which activate automatically on contact with saltwa-

High-tech devices that make sailing safer



Left, the Simrad EG50 EPIRB, with 16-channel GPS for increased position accuracy. Above, B&G's Remote Vision, used by Ellen MacArthur on her record-breaking around-the-world voyage.

ter. Both versions are available with manual or automatic release.

The EG50 is also fitted with a 16-channel GPS for increased position accuracy. A two-part bulkhead bracket ensures that it does not accidentally trigger.

A high power strobe light for night time enables immediate recognition by rescue services.

An intelligent diagnostic feature tracks battery usage and a user self-test facility enables

crew to monitor the battery before it reaches a critical minimum level.

The specially developed batteries also comply with exemptions for hazardous carriage requirements for lithium batteries.

Most Simrad GMDSS safety electronics are fitted with non-hazardous batteries, which reduces the cost and complexity of transportation.

EPIRBs are an essential part of a full Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (or GMDSS for short), for which Simrad has developed an enviable reputation over more than 10 years.

Two safety packs featuring Simrad products have been put together to meet SOLAS requirements.

Safety Pack 1, for vessels from 300 to 500 tons, consists of one SA50 search and rescue transponder (Sart), the smallest Sart currently in the world; one EP50 Auto EPIRB; two AX50 handheld GMDSS-approved VHF radios; and the batteries and chargers for all units included in the pack.

Safety Pack 2 for vessels over 500 tons, consists of two SA50s, one EP50 Auto and three AX50s and the batteries and chargers for all units included in the pack.

Remember also that many nations require even small fishing vessels to carry an EPIRB beside their VHF radio.

For further information about B&G products and the Simrad range, contact Electrical Marine Co at Boat Lagoon at Tel: 076-239112 or email: damian@electrical-marine.com



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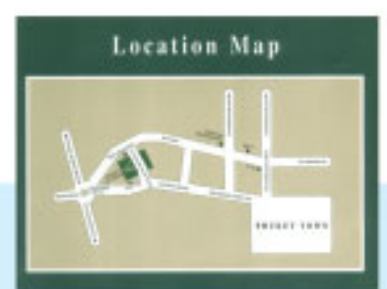
Pruerk-Pirom

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 298 sq.m.

Model	Area (sq.wa)	*Total price*(baht)	Deposit (baht)	50% Down payment (baht)	Final payment (baht)
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Pruerk-Lawan	120.6	8,900,000	100,000	4,450,000	4,350,000
Pruerk-Pirom	99.6	9,900,000	100,000	4,950,000	4,850,000



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Josh Lee (right): 'How'd you do it, Andy?' Andy Dowden: 'I forget...'

BEER

What more is there to say?

Complete and utter newcomer Andy Dowden – who, it is alleged, has never in his life allowed a drop of beer to pass his lips – was the astonishing dark-horse winner of the 7th Phuket International Beer Festival, staged at The Watermark Restaurant & Bar at the Boat Lagoon on September 30.

Despite high-octane opposition from 15 experts, Dowden convinced the judges (who were also competitors – go figure) that his Fursty Ferret ale from the UK was the finest brew on offer. He received a pewter mug for his efforts.

Surplus funds raked in by the event will go toward funding a children's party at the restaurant



Above: At the start of the competition the table was clear. Below, left: Some judges insisted on doing their job. Below, right, Sue 'Lady Pie' Usher upheld the good name of women beer drinkers.



PHUKET DIARY

October 14: Wine tasting.

Once again Wine Connection in Chalong welcomes Chilean winemakers Paso Del Sol and Terra Mater, from 7 pm to 10 pm. 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 marathon, a half-marathon, a

mini-marathon and a 5km fun run/walk. T-shirts and souvenirs will be given to all participants. Accommodation packages in 2-5-star hotels are available.

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

October 22-30: Phuket Vegetarian Festival.

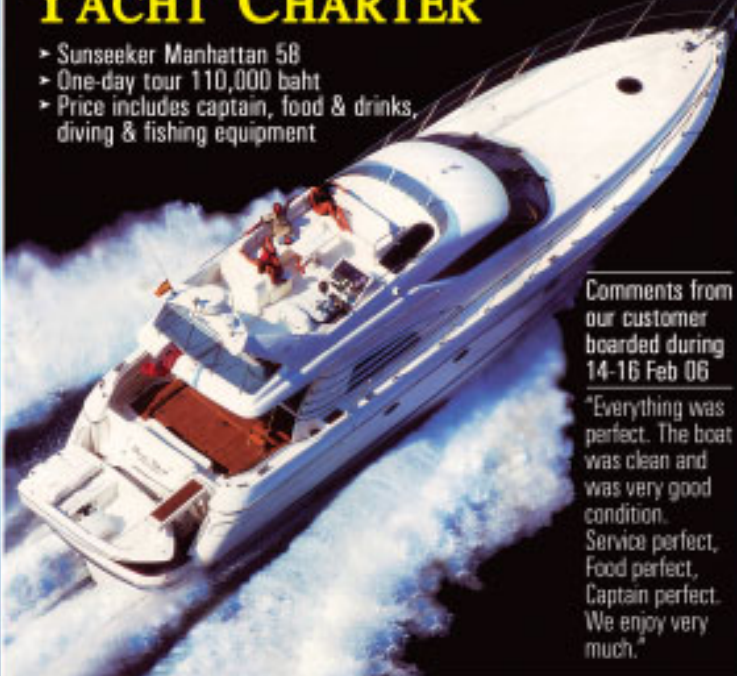
This nine-day festival is renowned for its colorful, noisy processions and Chinese temple ceremonies during which *mah song* (mediums) pierce their faces with a variety of sharp objects while "possessed" by Chinese gods.

October 23: Chulalongkorn Day – Public Holiday.

Chulalongkorn Day celebrates the reign of Rama V, best

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MASSAGE IN A BOTTLE

Imagine, if you will, a world where one can simply pop a pill or two – legal ones – for instant weight loss. If that sounds too good to be true, then that's because it *is* too good to be true.

"Slimming pills" are, however, nothing new. Amphetamines – speed – have been used for years both legally and illegally to suppress appetite and for losing weight although the side effects tend not to do much for one's looks.

Many legal tablets sold over the counter with the claim that they can help one lose weight, do exist.

There is, however, very little evidence that these pills will help in a quest for weight loss, especially the ones marketed on the notion that they can be taken while still eating a normal diet and yet result in a lighter you.

However, GNC (which operates under the full name General Nutrition Centers) – of which there are 25 branches in Thailand, 5,000 others in the US and many more in some 40 other countries – offers a number of slimming pills and diet-supplement products.

The products are manufactured in the US to standards set down by the US Food and Drug Administration and imported to Thailand, where, it is reported by GNC, that they have been passed by the Thai FDA.

However, as pointed out on a number of products sold by GNC, "These statements [relating to the efficacy of the product] have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease."

Inderjeet Singh Bhatia, a

In Part 2 of our series on slimming services and products available in Phuket, the *Gazette's* Suganya Semacote looks at some of the remedies you can swallow – and the claims you may or may not want to.

GNC pharmacist in Bangkok, explains that fibrous seed-husk Psyllium – a popular dieting aid taken before a meal – will expand in the stomach making one feel like eating less.

GNC's website (www.gnc.com), however, refers to Psyllium as a dietary supplement.

The website also carries a specific warning about what GNC classifies as a dietary supplement: "As a dietary supplement, take one capsule with at least 8 fl oz of water or other fluid three times daily."

"Taking this product without enough liquid may cause choking."

"Taking this product without adequate fluid may cause it to swell and block your throat or esophagus and may cause choking."

"Do not take this product if you have difficulty in swallowing."

"If you experience chest pain, vomiting, or difficulty in swallowing or breathing after taking this product, seek immediate medical attention."

Yikes!

Psyllium is sold at 1,300 baht per 90 tablets.

Another popular product in the company's range is L-Carnitine (levocarnitine) is a non-essential amino acid that can be synthesized by the body.



Get help from kelp – unless you are hyperthyroid.

Amino acids, for anyone who doesn't know, are the "building blocks of protein" and help fuel skeletal muscles.

Found abundantly in red meats – 100 grams of lean steak contains around 95 milligrams of levocarnitine – it is stored in skeletal muscles where it is needed to transform fatty acids into energy for muscular activity.

It also facilitates the metabolism of long-chain fatty acids. Each capsule contains 500mg of L-Carnitine, and are sold in bottles of 30 tablets for 2,100 baht.

Conjugated Linoleic Acid (CLA) is naturally occurring fatty acid that is present in cheese and ground beef – which are, ironically, two types of food those seeking to lose weight often remove from their diets – and is sold by GNC as soft gel capsules 100% derived from safflower seeds.

Many people who take CLA may, according to some studies, show a tendency for reduced abdominal fat. Research by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) may have some animal lovers hopping mad.

In 2004, Clare Engelke, a PhD student at the University of Western Australia, conducted a study.

A media release following the study on the CSIRO website states, "The meat of Australia's bush kangaroo may be the highest known source of the healthy fat CLA. In trials, CLA has been shown to possess potential anti-carcinogenic and anti-diabetes properties, in addition to reducing obesity and

atherosclerosis (high blood pressure).

Ms Engelke found that the meat-fat of the Western Grey kangaroo in some circumstances has up to five times higher CLA content than lamb." So there.

GNC sells CLA soft-gel tablets for 2,900 baht per 90 tablets.

Kelp, a member of the brown seaweed family, contains iodine, which may help the thyroid gland to function normally. Each tablet – GNC sells them in tubs of 200 pills – contains 150 micrograms of iodine.

Chichakorn Puwapairoj, a pharmacist at the GNC store in Phuket, said that anyone interested in buying products from the company must speak to a pharmacist first.

"We ask our customers questions about their lifestyles, eating habits, allergies and any health problems," said K. Chichakorn.

"For example we will not recommend kelp tablets to anyone with hyperthyroidism because the high iodine levels present in kelp tablets – so useful for people with an underactive thyroid gland – may have a negative outcome."

GNC, on the first floor of the Tesco-Lotus supercenter, is open from 9 am to 9 pm daily. Visit www.gnc.co.th or www.gnc.com for more information on all products.

Don't forget: LOTS of water...



of coming events

remembered for abolishing slavery in Thailand.

October 23: Hot Seminar – The Foreign Business Act.

Foreigners doing business in Phuket are invited to a half-day seminar on the Foreign Business Act with officials of the Commerce Ministry, including Senior Trade Official Preecha Hantongtus.

The seminar, at the Royal Phuket City Hotel, will be conducted in English.

For details contact K. Sriruan at Tel: 076-212989 or 089-4743694, or by email to: info@thaiaccounting.com

November 1-4: Annual Game Fishing Competition.

The Unofficial Phuket International Tournament (UPIT) is the replacement event for the Phuket Classic Tournament. Definitely a fun and friendly event, last year saw 14 teams from all

over the world participating in the event, and this year we expect to see several more teams take part. Open to all – if you love fishing, come and join us.

Team registrations (Max: 4 anglers per team) at the Tamarind Bar on the evening of November 1, from 7pm. Fishing days are November 2, 3 and 4. Trophy presentation and party follows immediately after end of fishing on November 4.

For details contact Uwe Schitteck at Tel: 081-7195766 or Email: uweschitteck@yahoo.com

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IN THE PINK

By Dominic Earnshaw
with photos by Dan Miles

A large pink fluorescent sign read "Pi Lady Caf" – below the Pink Lady trademark icon of a woman reclining in a Martini glass – draws us in off the street.

Blasts of *look tung* music comes to the ears as the front door is opened and closed.

This is very Thai entertainment, an upmarket version of the outdoor stages that can be seen by the side of the road throughout Thailand – and a world away from the vacuous "trendy" house clubs of Cherng Talay.

Entertainment Manager Chalermchai "Kop" Rapeeponvarodom says that there are around 60 girls working in the café. The girls' ages range from 18 to 27, he says.

K. Kop brings out two girls for us to meet, Nong Bee Bee, 23, and Nong Khwan, 24, and then leads us all to the upstairs VIP rooms. The rooms, which go for 250 baht an hour, each have a large bank of settees and a private VCD karaoke system, as well as an excellent view of the stage through the large windows.

Insulated from the music below, we have a chance to talk to our new companions. Nong

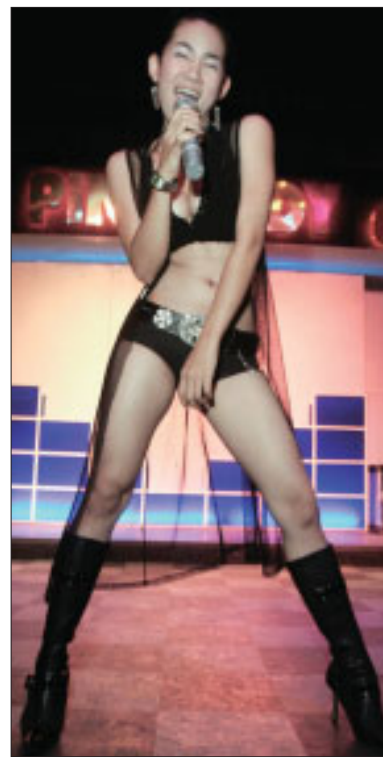
Khwan originally hails from Phetchaburi. She says she is happy working at Pink Lady, adding that her parents don't mind. When she is not at work, her hobbies are sleeping and shopping.

She wants a husband who will be able to support her and any children she will have, but he does not need to be rich as long as he's sincere. Nationality is not important.

As for politics, she is presumably pleased with developments in Bangkok, as she says she thought the Thaksin regime was bringing instability to the country and he should have resigned from politics.

Just after 10 pm, we are taken back downstairs in anticipation of the first of the two nightly shows. A bevy of women dressed in various shades of pink parade onto the stage and launch into some loosely-choreographed routines, taking it in turns to come to the front and sing. Many are struggling – and often failing – to keep the boredom from showing on their faces.

The acts that follow, however, step up the tempo considerably. Smaller groups come out to lip sync to Western pop or perform spirited renditions of *look tung* and Thai pop classics. Costumes are changed between ev-



ery set, getting skimpier and more exotic as the night goes on. Later, two dancing boys are brought out to add to the spectacle.

The club is now starting to warm up. Shrieks of laughter are coming from the tables behind us toward the back of the room. The café is filled with a mixture of

Thais, Northeast Asians and the odd Caucasian. K. Kop says that about 80% of the guests are foreign, though most of those are long-term residents.

By this point we have lost our female company, probably having realized that, given the *Gazette's* expense budget and the natural parsimony of low-ranking journalists, ours is not the best table to be at.

Shortly before midnight the second show begins. This time the girls seem to be putting more effort into their display, and it soon becomes clear why. Café staff start coming forward with *puang malai*, colored garlands of flowers, and placing them around the girls' necks.

K. Kop explains how the system works. Customers buy a *puang malai* and tell the waitress which girl they wanted to give it to. The *puang malai* range in price from 200 baht for a small yellow one, to 5,000 baht for a big pink one and 10,000 baht for a big gold one. The girls can exchange for cash the garlands they receive.

Garlands and tips is how they make their living, there is no set monthly wage.

By the end of the show, some of the girls' necks are overflowing with garlands – a couple of the big pink ones and one big gold one have been sold.

Other girls have none.

Pink Lady Café is on Phuket Rd on the way to the Immigration Office. It is open daily from 7 pm to 1 am. The shows are at 10:25 pm and 11:45 pm.

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After a couple of months of over-indulgence in chocolate truffles, ice cream, Chardonnay (I don't care if it's considered passé), caffeine and stress, I have decided to get back on the right track before I go off the rails completely.

Having become somewhat of an expert in decluttering, detoxifying and getting-yourself-out-of-a rut rituals, I am going to share with you a small collection of my body-cleansing, mind-detoxing, space-redefining, time-stretching strategies. Cleansing your lifestyle doesn't have to hurt...

Detoxing does not just mean having a squeaky-clean colon and a flawless complexion. It's about home, work, relationships and even travel – learning how to deal with a hurry-worry world.

We're bombarded with information. With ringing mobiles, whirring faxes and constant email deliveries, it's becoming harder to tune out. We're surrounded by labor-saving devices, yet we've never had less time to ourselves.

Sure, we'll survive. Our lives will still work. Sort of. But they'd run smoother if we took more account of the small things vital to the bigger picture of personal and professional fulfillment.

Time is the new luxury, and we all want more of it. Yet as the pace of living accelerates, there seems to be less and less. You can't stop the clock but you can slow it down. Take an ecological approach – less waste and rush, less pointless agonizing about the future and more savoring, luxuriating and living in the present.

- Get up earlier and do something you really enjoy. Richard Carlson, author of *The Don't Sweat the Small Stuff Workbook* (Hodder & Stoughton), advises setting the alarm clock a whole hour earlier. I reckon you could cut this back to a mere 15 minutes, as long as it's the pleasure – not the pressure – principle that predominates.

- Start each day with a stretch. "During the stretch, become more aware of every part of your body – from toe to toe, from fingertip to fingertip – and feel it getting stronger." These



START EACH DAY WITH A STRETCH: Karla Veronica Jimenez Amescua, Miss Mexico, demonstrates how at the recent Miss World finals in Poland. Photo: EPA/Adam Hawalej Poland Out

DETOX your daily life

were the words of a life-coach instructor I went to a few years ago. End your stretching session with a moment of calm, focusing on feeling strong and energized before you start the day.

- Have breakfast. People who skip breakfast eat more during the day than those who don't. After a night's sleep your body needs fuel. Boost your vitamin C levels with fresh fruit and avoid sugary snacks mid-morning.

- Beat fatigue. Siberian gin-

seng boosts circulation and energy and helps the body adapt to stress. I've seen it in many different concoctions, but my personal favorite is Health Aid's Haemovit Liquid Gold. It includes honey, malt, vitamins, minerals, ginko biloba, Siberian ginseng, muira puama and sarsaparilla. It tastes disgusting but it works!

- Run a "rescue" bath. Add 12 drops of Dr Edward Bach's Rescue Remedy to a hot bath – it will de-stress you in minutes.



Great stuff to have in the drawer or in your bag, a few drops under your tongue will also curb your stresses.

- Blitz your desk every day. Clear away clutter and useless bits of paper, then clean your phone and your computer screen. You'll feel more in control and positive about facing a busy day.

- Get nasty jobs out of the way. Each morning, choose one task you've been putting off and sort it out immediately. It won't be as hard as you think, and you'll be really pleased when it's done.

- Drink water. Improve your health instantly by drinking at least 1½ liters a day. It clears the skin, aids digestion and maintains energy.

- Keep a stash of dried apricots or bananas to keep you going. Both release energy slowly and are high in antioxidants, iron and magnesium – a deficiency of which can cause tiredness.

- Focus your mind. When you can't concentrate, take a break to go for a quick stroll. Fresh air will help relieve stress and refocus your thoughts.

- Reduce the time you spend on your mobile. This will minimize your exposure to electromagnetic radiation.

- Control your "yang" energy. Practitioners of shiatsu regard stress as a manifestation of excess yang energy. Cathy Meeus, co-author of *Secrets of Shiatsu* (Dorling Kindersley),

suggests the treatment which works on the Li 3 pressure point to "boost your ability to cope". The point is located where the bones of the first and second toes merge. Using firm pressure from your thumb, work on this point for a few minutes or as long as you feel necessary. I do this before I send in my column... it works.

- Keep the air inside humid. Air conditioning dries the skin and saps energy. Keep cups of water on windowsills and near radiators, and spray a little water into the air every hour.

- If you spend a lot of time in the car, listen to Bernie S Siegel's *Finding Your True Self* (Hay House Audio Books; from Amazon.com). This inspiring tape offers a method to program yourself to be happier and more balanced.

- Cancel appointments and get up-to-date. You'll feel back in control.

- Your mindset can be every bit as polluted as your body. Ask yourself what sort of diet you are feeding your brain. A brain that's fed junk is never going to operate optimally.

- Sing your heart out. Research shows that singing slows a racing brain and regularizes breathing and heart rate. Just remember to shut the windows first.

- Smile. We all know that it makes us feel good. Physiologists say that the mere act of smiling triggers the release of uplifting brain chemicals via changes in the facial muscles.

- A good belly laugh also does you a world of good.

- And finally... if you need to drop some pounds but are sick of fad diets and boring dietitians, buy *The Little Black Dress Diet* by Michael van Straten. (Kyle Cathie Limited). It works.

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.

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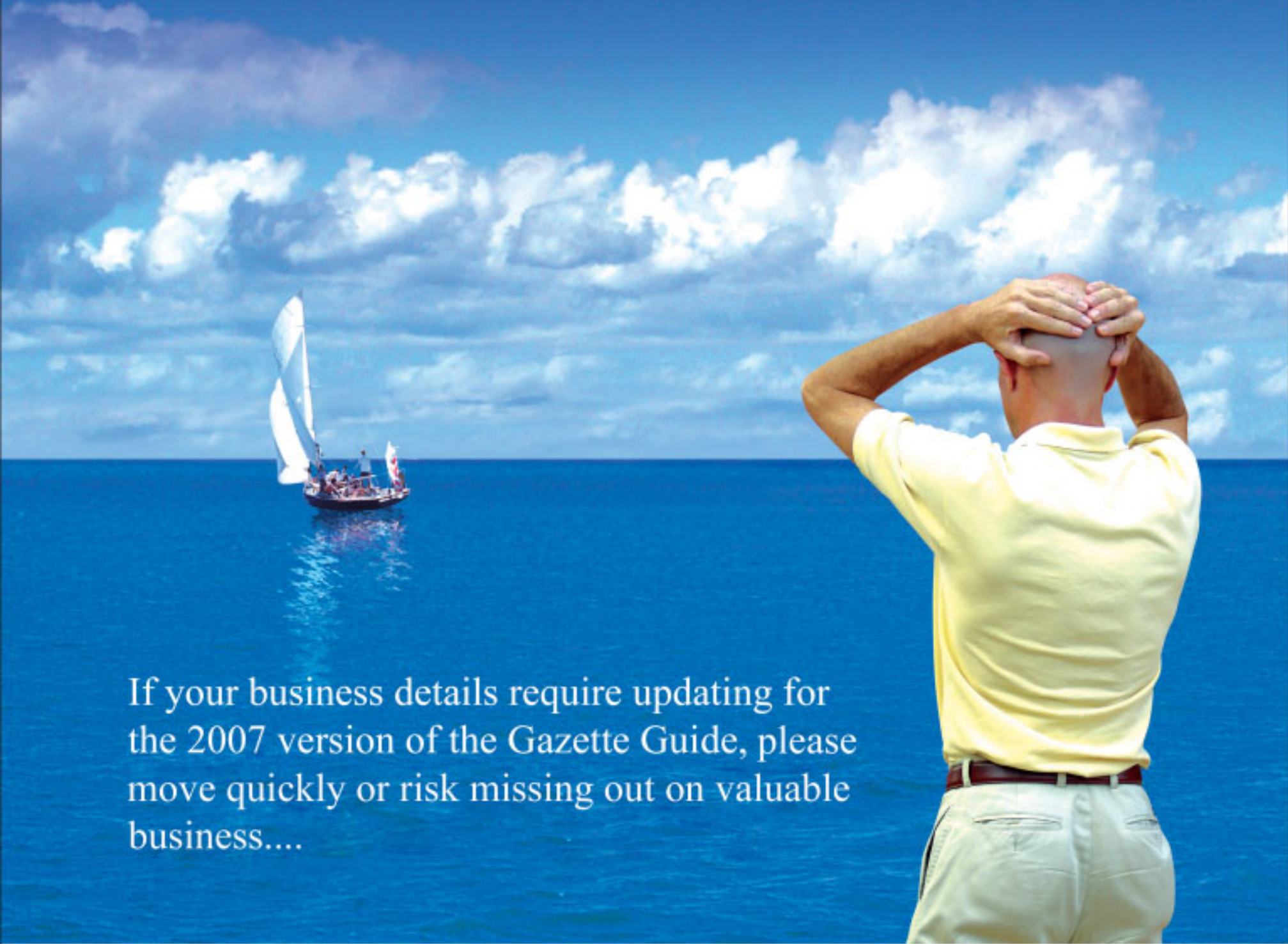
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Hidden Words

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

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

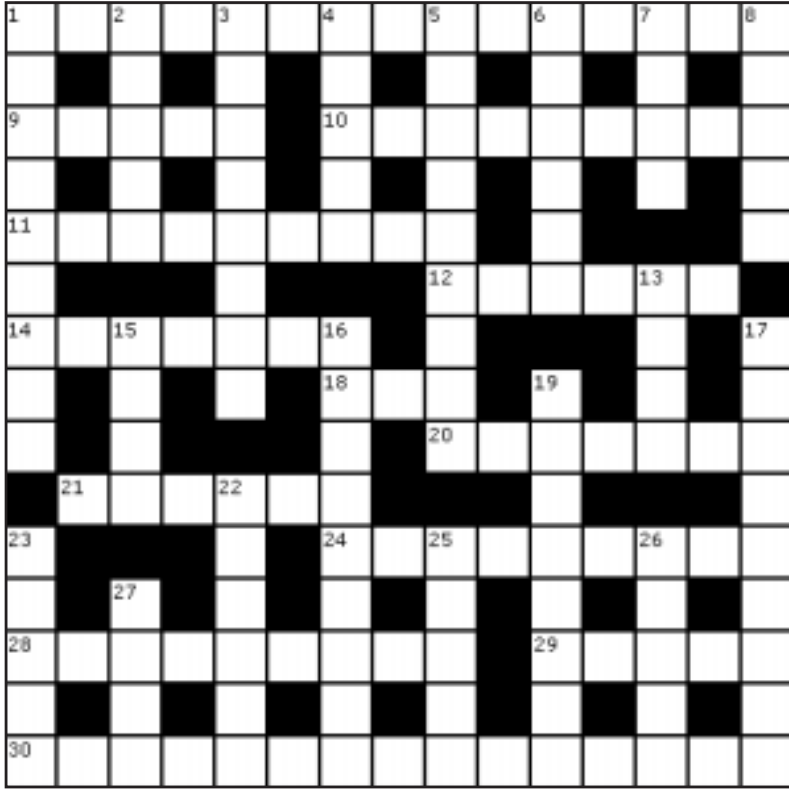
The Cryptic Crossword

ACROSS

1. All the same, perhaps with seating only? (15)
9. Is friend with quiet fool. (5)
10. Involved twisted need – about 144. (9)
11. Aide may help small creature. (9)
12. Back zero fuel. (6)
14. Examine fly, for example, in quiet. (7)
18. A turn in the past. (3)
20. Vacillate about direction of speaker. (7)
21. Get back, speaking of Sept '06 Bangkok event. (6)
24. Sunset feature following gravity nadir.
28. Stories for giraffes? Lies! (4,5)
29. Radio for piano technician. (5)
30. Janitors are great under canvas, with lair inside. (15)

DOWN

1. Fruit flower juice in one direction. (9)
2. Shows disapproval about ring of Patong pests. (5)
3. Phoney tax for queen. (8)



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2006

4. Said, “Hello, Ina (what an animal!).” (5)
5. Drunk dog, maybe, in a difficult position. (5,4)
6. No overdose for the French rice product. (6)
7. This month, in the street. (4)
8. Dizzy, taking up, gets horse to move. (5)
13. Way to drink. Cool! (4)
15. Seemingly put one’s name to a wave. (4)
16. Sailor Paul in a piece of canvas. (9)
17. Blaze is effective in making aerial entertainment. (9)
19. Point to hesitation. Ranked and having teeth. (8)
22. Speaker, alternately a rocky outcrop. (6)
23. Little amounts of money for parasites. (5)
25. Sense is point about gallery. (5)
26. Helen interested, a bit, in revolutionary. (5)
27. Loud wave action causes a panic. (4)

Solution on next page

Scribble Space



EZ TRIVIA QUIZ

1. What is the currency of Australia?
2. Who is the lead actor in *World Trade Center*?
3. According to *Rolling Stone* magazine, what was the best music album ever?
4. Which country is immediately north of Lithuania?
5. Who currently tops singles charts with the single *SexyBack*?
6. Who wrote the play *Toad of Toad Hall*?
7. Who or what is the Gila monster?
8. Where is the Gila river, after which the “monster” is named?
9. In heraldry, what color is “sable”?
10. If there are 40 baht to one US dollar, and 115 Japanese yen to one dollar, how many yen is 1,500 baht worth?

Answers on next page

su|do|ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

HARD

14

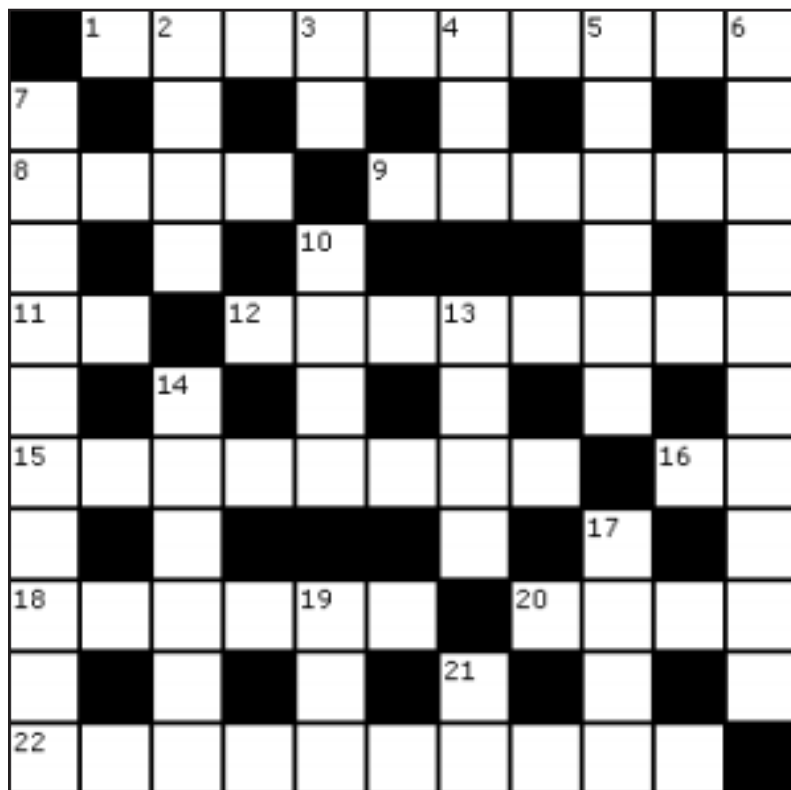
Sudoku is very simple: each row, each column and each “box” of nine squares within the puzzle must contain all the numbers from 1 to 9 with, naturally, no repetitions. Beware: there is only one solution to this puzzle, which is on the next page.

Rhyme Time

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

1. Complaint.
2. Game bird.
3. Line of color.
4. Rubbish!
5. Fluid conduit.
6. Ready to eat.
7. Exaggeration.
8. Use keyboard.
9. Use credit card.
10. Sailor’s entertainment.

Answers on next page



Quick Crossword

ACROSS

1. Faster than the speed of sound.
8. Lazy.
9. Not often.
11. Doctor, in short.
12. Storyteller.
15. Scientific investigation.
16. After noon.
18. Untighten.
20. European mountains.
22. Amazed.

DOWN

2. California college initials.
3. For example.
4. Susan, in short.
5. Unclothed state.
6. Make concessions.
7. Glass slipper girl.
10. Information.
13. Actor **** Hudson.
14. Go with someone.
17. Run away.
19. A long time.
21. Postscript.

Solution below right

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



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

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1. Which is the world's longest railway tunnel? | Jamaica, Long Island, in which year? | 15. What sauce was originally formulated on Avery Island, Louisiana, in 1868? |
| 2. How long is it? | 8. What is the difference between <i>origami</i> and <i>kirigami</i> ? | 16. Who said, "From the moment I ... showed her how to be truly herself, our marriage was all downhill"? Who was he speaking about? |
| 3. What is the correct term for the art of ringing bells? | 9. In which sea are the Komandorski Islands? | 17. What does the Yiddish word <i>zaftig</i> mean? |
| 4. The name "Cossack" originates from the South Turkic <i>qazak</i> , meaning what? | 10. In Hinduism, what is a Saiva? | 18. Who wrote the cowboy novel <i>Riders of the Purple Sage</i> ? |
| 5. Which American athlete won Olympic gold in 1932 for javelin and 80-meter hurdles, then, as a golfer, won the US Open in 1948, 1950 and 1954? | 11. How did the bacterium <i>salmonella</i> get its name? | 19. What was the maximum speed of the world's first gasoline-powered automobile, built in 1885? |
| 6. Who died in a gun battle with FBI agents in front of the Biograph Theater in Chicago in 1934? | 12. In golf, what is the term used to describe when a golfer hits the ground first, before hitting the ball? | 20. Who built it? |
| 7. The world's first true supermarket, the King Kullen Market, opened in | 13. Name the Roman god of gates and doorways, who had two faces looking in opposite directions. | |
| | 14. Tilbury, curricule and whiskey are all types of what? | |

Answers below, left

Puzzle Solutions

Monster Quiz Answers

1. The Seikan Tunnel in Japan; 2. 53.6 kilometers; 3. Campanology; 4. Adventurer; 5. Mildred "Babe" Didrikson; 6. John Dillinger; 7. 1930; 8. In *kirigami* the paper may be cut as well as folded; 9. Bering Sea; 10. A person who worships Shiva; 11. From its discoverer, pathologist Daniel Elmer Salmon; 12. Sclaffing; 13. Janus; 14. Horse-drawn carriages; 15. Tabasco sauce; 16. Roger Vadim, about Brigitte Bardot; 17. Having a full, shapely figure; 18. Zane Grey; 19. 14.5 kph; 20. Karl-Friedrich Benz.

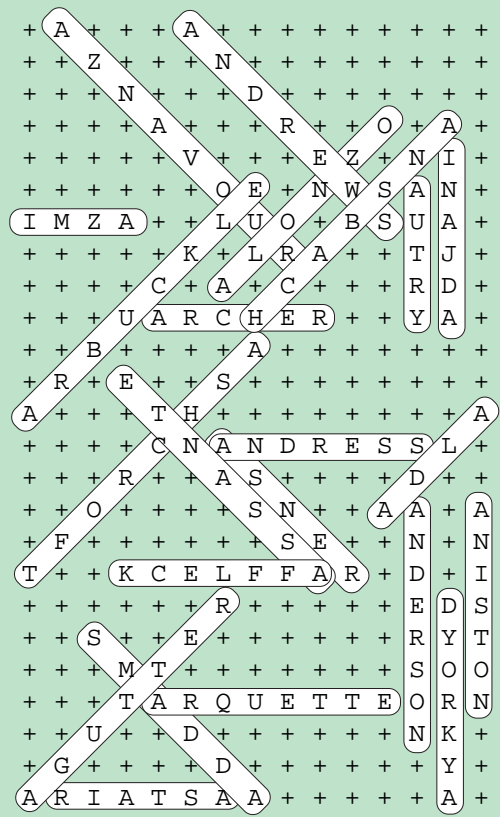
Rhyme Time Answers

1. Gripe; 2. Snipe; 3. Stripe; 4. Tripe; 5. Pipe; 6. Ripe; 7. Hype; 8. Type; 9. Swipe; 10. Hornpipe.

EZ Trivia Answers

1. Australian dollar; 2. Nicolas Cage; 3. The Beatles' *Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*; 4. Latvia; 5. Justin Timberlake; 6. AA Milne; 7. A lizard; 8. Arizona, USA; 9. Black; 10. 4,312.50 yen.

Hidden Words SOLUTION



Solution to this week's Cryptic Crossword



Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle



A Toilet for Thailand

In my last column I applauded Thailand's efforts to become the Toilet Seat of Southeast Asia by hosting the November 11 World Toilet Expo and Forum in Bangkok. To cement our credentials before the world's toilet-seeking eyes turn upon us, we must invent a toilet that embodies quintessentially Thai characteristics.

Recent trends in taste among Thai Yuppies, the newly rich and pre-teenagers mandate that our Thai toilet must be the epitome of sparkle and flash, worthy of being displayed in hyper-glitz shopping malls like the Emporium and Siam Paragon.

To quote the pretentious title of a new book, it must embody "Thai Chic". That means it must appeal to the trendy, the fashionable, and the irredeemably shallow.

I call it the Totally Thai Toilet or the Ravishing Rosebud Restroom. It will come in a variety of tasteful colors.

As the user enters the bathroom, he or she will find a large rosebud dominating the room. A musical voice will intone "Sawatdee!" as classical Thai music plays softly in the background and the petals of the rosebud gracefully open to reveal a golden throne within.

GENDER

And here I must digress to deal with an important issue that has split the ranks of toiletophiles into fiercely warring factions.

The perceptive reader will be asking, "Why does this toilet greet its user with a curt 'Sawatdee'?" Where is the politeness particle, the gracious "khrap" or "kha" which traditionally ends this charming greeting?"

The problem, dear reader, lies in determining the gender of toilets. Are they male or female? Should they say "khrap" or "kha"? Among experts there is disagreement on this issue.

One pro-feminist faction argues that toilets are obviously female, because the circular configuration of the seat suggests the entrance to the female reproductive apparatus.

Another faction, equally pro-feminist, indignantly rebuffs this argument. They say the toilet's seat is so large that such an analogy is invalid, insulting, and degrading to women.



Yet a third, pro-masculine, faction argues that toilets are male because they are traditionally named John. But this faction has difficulty producing any evidence of maleness in the toilet's configuration.

A sub-faction argues that the handle used to flush the toilet is proof of maleness, but an opposing sub-faction objects that the handle is pathetically small and that comparing the flushing mechanism with the male member defames males planetwide.

A gay faction insists that toilets are gay. Their homophobic opponents demand to know

how gay toilets would, uh, interact. I suspect we'll have to let the gay toilets figure that out.

The controversy over toilet gender and orientation continues to rage, and as the designer of the Totally Thai Toilet, I have to take a stand. In accordance with my reputation for bold decision-making, I go for the wuss option and I declare that my toilets are bisexual. To satisfy the pro-fem-

inists, we shall make the seat smaller. To placate the pro-masculinists, we shall make the handle as big as a calabash.

The greeting "Sawatdee!" will be rendered politer by having a soft feminine voice gently intone, "Welcome to the Totally Thai Toilet, the Ravishing Rosebud Restroom. We wish you a pleasant and productive excretory experience."



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Having enthroned himself amidst the rose petals, the user can use an adjacent computer console to provide the sensory pleasures of his choice.

Soft music will soothe his senses; a sound-and-light show will be projected upon the opposite wall; the scent of jasmine will fill the air; a pair of gentle synthetic hands will emerge from the wall to massage his neck and shoulders; an exhalation of warm air will waft from the toilet depths to warm his bottom.

Finally, a karaoke function will enable him to accompany his efforts with robust outbursts of song.

After the deed has been accomplished, the toilet will clean its user with a spurt of warm water from the depths, followed by a prolonged blast of warm air. When he rises from his throne, elephants will trumpet in exultation and the triumphal march from Aida will thunder throughout the bathroom.

The Totally Thai Toilet is bound to win world-wide acclaim for Thailand, not to mention its inventor. All I require is a modest grant of several million baht to develop a working model.

S. Tsow can be flamed at stsow@yahoo.com, but not while he's waiting for the government to cough up that several million baht.

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The Phuket Gazette
- Since 1994 -

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Will tourists take beach chair price hike lying down?

By the time this editorial is published, the price of renting a beach chair for the day at most Phuket beaches will have doubled from 50 baht to 100 baht [see news].

Of course there will be little or no outcry over this, because the people who are being targeted with this 100% price hike, tourists, are already overcharged for just about every service they receive during their stays in Phuket – yet seldom are they seen to complain.

Phuket is already gaining a reputation for the way tourists are overcharged. Tourists are routinely charged 100 baht for a tuk-tuk ride that would cost about 20 baht just about anywhere else in Thailand. For services that cater to Thais and foreigners, double-pricing is the norm and is practiced everywhere, from boxing stadiums to massage parlors.

One must ask: what industry in Thailand, apart from one which caters overwhelmingly to foreign tourists, could get away with an overnight 100% price increase?

Beach chair operators claim that the cost of a beach chair set is 10,000 baht. This, they say, is more than the cost of the wooden chairs formerly used and, along with a restriction on the number of chairs they can set out, justifies the price hike.

That is absurd.

Even if the cost were 10,000 baht per set [a quick telephone call to SuperCheap proves that it is not], each set would need to be used and rental paid for 50 times for the investment to be recouped.

Given that the same set of beach chairs can be used and paid for several times a day during the high season, it is easy to see that each set will pay for itself within a few months into the high season. After that, it is all profit, the type of which is seldom seen except in cases where collusion or monopoly are at work.

Compare beach chair rental rates with another tourist-oriented rental industry in Phuket where collusion does not exist, say, motorcycle rentals. The standard rental rate for a 100cc motorbike is 150 baht a day, even though the bike new will cost the operator about 37,000 baht. This works out to 247 rental days a bike needs to be rented out for before the investment cost is paid back, not accounting for the fact that a motorbike costs a lot more to maintain than molded plastic.

Raising beach chair rental rates 100% before the start of the upcoming high season will only confirm tourists' perceptions that the island is becoming a tourist trap.

– The Editor

The Phuket Gazette

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The views expressed in the Phuket Gazette are those of the writers and contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher, the editor, the shareholders, or the directors of The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd.

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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.

Praise for Bangkok Hospital Phuket

I would like to say thank you to Dr Sopon Krisanarungson, Cardiologist at Bangkok Hospital Phuket.

I want to say to anyone who needs help from a cardiologist to go and see this fantastic doctor and his perfect staff.

I was in ICU for 24 hours and I saw how well the staff work; very well organized and no stress at all. I was not too sick – recovering from angina – and could watch everything, even an 87-year-old Thai lady who had just undergone heart surgery.

Dr Sopon would often come into the ICU and check all his patients. Just before midnight I asked him, “Doctor, you started at 8 am this morning and you are still working, don’t you need to sleep?”

His answer was, “I have no time now, I have to take care of my patients. I want to help everyone.”

Again Dr Sopon, thank you and your great staff. To Bangkok Hospital Phuket I will say that you must be very happy with Dr Sopon and his team.

Jochen Schmitz
Thalang

Praise for PGTV

I am now back in the UK after a great two-week break in Phuket, eating nice food and enjoying the beaches and the friendly smiles.

The coup was a bit strange although I was not worried about it, and most of the tourists I spoke to were not worried by it, either.

I think it will not have any effect on the high season.

Anyway, it is now nice to be back and watching PGTV again. You would be surprised how many of us watch it when we are back home in Europe.

The forecast is now for “glorious sunshine” for the next few weeks as Able is back on TV.

Andy Dearden
UK

Kata blazers a cut above the average

After reading that not one, but two tailor shops were destroyed in the September 24 blaze opposite Mom Tri’s Boathouse in Kata, I worry whether the island’s highly-endangered custom-made garment industry will ever be able to sustain such a crippling blow to its population.

By my estimates, there are now only about 500 tailor shops left in Kata-Karon and Patong.

I call on the new Government, once it is settled in, to have the courage of their convictions and to make this scarcity, this paucity of tailor shops on the island’s west coast a matter of top national priority, perhaps by funding a “One Tambon, Two Hundred Tailor Shops” scheme.

It is the people’s right, right?

Harry Ho
Singapore

A frank wish for a mail menopause

If and when we get a new elected Government, I hope its members will do something about the growing problem of unsolicited adver-

tisements distributed by the island’s major retailers, such as Tesco-Lotus and Big C Supercenter, to name but a few.

In my neighborhood in Phuket City, I get mountains of it – sometimes up to four or five different brochures and circulars a day. Some of these have up to 24 pages. It has gone beyond ridiculous.

Every month I end up having to throw away a huge stack of paper – I don’t have a budgie’s cage to line – all of which goes unread. It is not surprising, perhaps, that the one retailer on the island that doesn’t resort to these environmentally insane tactics is also the one with the lowest prices.

Lately, the very same retailers who are responsible for this endless flood of unsolicited printed material have come under pressure from the Ministry of Commerce as being a danger to the livelihoods of mom and pop shops. What about the danger they pose to the environment?

Phuket is a tourism province, and these retailers are despoiling it by covering it in trash and adding an unnecessary burden to the incinerator, which is already working over its capacity.

After years of living here, I can never remember any of our elected officials introducing draft legislation to address any of the numerous environmental issues facing the island.

Come to think of it, I can’t remember them trying to push through any new legislation at all. Maybe they were all too busy shopping.

Earnest
Samkong

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

Boom in gun crime creates extra cases for hospitals

The first point I want to make is that crime is increasing, and on many occasions weapons are used in carrying out crimes on Phuket. The most common weapon used by criminals is the gun.

Most of the casualties brought in to Patong Hospital are victims of road accidents, but the second highest number of admissions is of people who have been shot. The number of people on the island is constantly rising, and the population boom has led to overcrowding, which can itself spark disagreements between people, whether personal – as in family disputes – or in business.

Both medical staff and the police have to work hard and liaise because of this social problem. Patong Hospital is a district-level government hospital that performs a vital social function and treats a lot of people. Patong itself is different [from many other places in Thailand] in that it is a tourist resort; that in itself can create problems and certain types of injury.

We are constantly looking at ways to develop the hospital, and our current standards of care – in the form of medical staff and equipment is such that we are rated far higher than “just” district level hospital facility.

We are, of course, perfectly capable of treating “ordinary” patients with diseases or people who have suffered what I would call general accidents. Although

FIRST PERSON

We are all too familiar with the shockingly high death toll on the roads of Phuket, with traffic accidents a depressingly common sight. What is not seen so often in public, however, is the result of gun crime.

According to Patong Hospital Director **Dr Thaweesak Netwong**, the treatment of gunshot wounds comes second only to the treatment of road injuries.

News reports of crimes involving firearms have become commonplace. Both police and medical staff have to work together on each case, especially if there has been a fatality when autopsy findings may help result in a conviction. Here Dr Thaweesak gives his thoughts on gun crime to the *Gazette's* **Natcha Yuttaworawit**.



the standard of care we provide is regarded as high, we still strive to make it even higher, especially in an area as busy as Patong.

Phuket is an important part of Thailand's overall tourism strategy, and if there are problems in Phuket, then this can reflect on the Kingdom's image as a whole.

In terms of medical treat-

ment, there is no difference if a patient is an accident victim or a gunshot victim. The required treatment will be given.

What is very important, though, is recognizing whether there will be a subsequent criminal investigation.

Many of the people referred to us by an emergency founda-

tion or by the police are casualties related to gun crime, so we have to record everything after they have been admitted because such information is important to the police in their investigations.

We must check everything carefully, and in the case of an autopsy such details as the nature of a wound and the trajec-

tory of the bullet or bullets can play a vital role in the investigation of a case. If we do not pay sufficient attention at the autopsy stage or do not carry it out properly, this can cause problems for any subsequent police case.

Many people have guns and carry them in public. I believe that if only government officials were allowed to have such weapons, then crime would decrease. I do not agree with the government allowing people who are not government officers to carry firearms.

In some situations, however, I understand that some people need to be armed, for whatever reason. However, I do not agree that people who may be armed for legitimate reasons, for personal protection, for example, should shoot to kill.

If a person has a weapon in his hand, there is a chance he will lose his temper, and therefore there is a high risk of an accident or a crime taking place.

Emotion often overwhelms reason.

I do not believe that the law should be changed, but I do think that the police have to be a lot stricter in checking people for weapons.

People who have guns should not carry them in public, and they should also try to control their feelings. The simple fact is that guns are dangerous, and their use can affect both their owners and their loved ones, whether they like it or not.

Who is responsible for my tax payments: me or my employer?

I am a foreigner working in Thailand's hospitality industry, and in 2004 I changed employers. The employer I worked for from January to the end of May, 2004 handled and paid all my monthly deductions of income tax.

The employer with whom I worked from June, 2004 until the end of 2004 also handled all tax and automatic deductions from my salary. However, as the second employer did not include my income from my previous employer in declaring my annual income, on which my tax declarations are based, I am now facing a tax bill of around 150,000 baht.

Both employers had signed an agreement with me that the income tax was payable by the employer (them), and not the employee (me).

According to the tax officials I contacted, the mistake is clearly the fault of the second employer.

How can I get the second employer to pay for their mistake?

How can I make sure that I do not have legal problems, as I believe I should not have to pay tax that my former employer already paid for me?

How can I delay this payment to the tax office to gain more time to settle this issue with my former employer?

Hotelier
Phuket

Pensri Passakul, Chief of the Phuket Area Revenue Office, replies:

There is nothing the second employer can do now because

they have already filed a tax declaration for you, even if the declaration didn't include tax information from your first employer. You have to come to the Revenue Office in person to check what tax information has been filed.

We cannot guarantee that you will not face any legal problems without first investigating your case more thoroughly. We need to know specific details about your case, but if you have received a notice to pay tax it was because our records show that you – or your employer – have neglected to pay some tax.

As yours is a very special case, we cannot offer any suggestions because we don't have enough information about it.

The due date the tax is payable cannot be deferred. The only

thing you can do is to come to the revenue office on Narisorn Rd in Phuket City, as quickly as possible. Bring all your documents, such as the contracts between you and your employers, and also the tax estimate letter (the notice informing you that you must pay 150,000 baht). Only then can we investigate your circumstances and give you advice.

The fine for late tax payment is 1.5% of the tax outstanding per month. If the result is that you have to pay the outstanding tax, but you can't pay it all in one payment, then you can negotiate the terms of payment with us. However, to be allowed to make deferred payments you will need to provide a guarantor or some form of collateral to guarantee payment.

Issues & ANSWERS

Want to know how to get something done? Want to pitch an idea to Phuket's authorities or institutions? Then this is the forum for you.

Submit your queries or suggestions to us and we'll ask the appropriate people to respond to them.

Write to: The Phuket Gazette, 367/2 Yaowarat Rd, Muang, Phuket 83000. Fax

In The Stars

by Isla Star

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Unsettled communications put a damper on your week, but don't let it get you down too much. As long as you make your point clearly and stick to it, the other person will calm down soon enough. On a more upbeat note, work is going well and you could be receiving an offer to do something that is far more up your soi than your present occupation. The color lavender enhances your appeal.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Rest and relaxation should be top priorities once again for you. If you feel as though you're drifting apart from old friends, more effort needs to be put into socializing. On Sunday, Capricorn has an awkward question to ask. Try to answer this tactfully, as it will take a lot of nerve for them to approach you. The number 9 can be lucky next Thursday.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Dreaming of greener pastures will take your mind off important commitments this week. If you truly believe that it's time to move further afield, you are advised to spend time investigating practical possibilities. Family members probably won't be over the moon at any proposal to relocate, but you will find ways to make the prospect appealing to all. In the meantime, make an effort to focus on the present.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): If you are starting to experience too much pressure within a personal relationship, you should instigate an in-depth conversation this weekend. The stars will back your efforts to smooth over this bumpy patch on Sunday, but if the person concerned shows no signs of admitting their control tendencies you are advised to cut your losses and embrace freedom once more. An opportunity to progress up the career ladder comes along mid-week.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Weather conditions provide a good chance to catch up on domestic chores. Discard items you no longer have use for to make room for new energy to flow in your home. It's likely that all this cleaning will unearth a precious item you thought was lost forever. Finances improve when an overdue debt is repaid early next week; think twice before lending to this person again. Aquamarine is your lucky color.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Your emotions cool this week, allowing you to consider what the next move should be. If you aren't sure how much more you want to commit to an intimate relationship, take as much time as you need to decide. Promises made in the heat of the moment are sure to be regretted very quickly. The color primrose yellow will encourage wisdom.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Your good deeds from earlier in the year will be rewarded before this month is finished. Come rain or shine, you are bound to be in a good mood and others will swarm in your direction. Making new friends is a key-note of the coming days – at least one of them will prove to be a future close ally. Where work is concerned, Libra has what it takes to join you in a new venture.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): You can be forgiven for wondering where all the excitement has disappeared to this week. After being on a high for so long, the quiet days will take some getting used to. Use extra spare time by making concrete plans for the future; you can set one ball rolling quite easily by doing some research. If your piggy bank is full to bursting, investigate more profitable ways of saving money.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Positive forces are working to protect your long-term interests. If you need proof that this is happening, watch out for a subtle sign mid-week. A few potholes must be navigated carefully during the coming days, but your astute eye should see these before they have chance to trip you up. Look further than the immediate horizon when planning a trip away – long distance travel is forecast in the near future.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Your inclination to clam up when pressed for opinions will score against you this week. Influential people are waiting to see if you can come up with the goods they need and you won't get another chance to make rapid career progress until next year. Take some tips from an Arian friend regarding interview tactics, and consult a trendy Scorpio for advice on how to dress to impress. The color aubergine will inspire confidence.

LEO (July 24-August 22): If you have been shouldering a burden lately, you find peace of mind this week. Someone you can trust offers support, leaving you free to focus on other affairs. Business commitments will benefit from a more objective approach – you must learn to separate emotions from the work you know needs to be done. A welcome romantic approach brightens up the weekend for those who are single. Wear the color dusky rose to encourage a tranquil mood.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Your negotiating skills are finely tuned this week. If you are ready to take more responsibility you will be spoiled for choice. From now until the end of the year, the emphasis is on making up for lost time, particularly in the area of money-making. Give a friend who let you down recently one more chance to get their act together.

Third vampire novel lacks bite

Subtitled *A Tale of the Vampire of Siam*, Jim Newport's *The Reckoning* (Willat Publishing, Los Angeles, 2006, 259pp) is the third of a series featuring the Bangkok-based, 150-year-old French vampire named Ramonne Delacroix.

It is, alas, the weakest and bound to be a disappointment for the fans of the first book, *The Vampire of Siam*.

The comic book conceit of the first novel was that there was a vampire loose in the streets of modern Bangkok. But Ramonne was colorfully drawn, the dialog replete with black humor, and the narrative pace sprightly.

The strength of the novel

came from the complex relationship between Ramonne and wealthy dilettante Martin Larue as well as the loving and meticulous descriptions of Bangkok.

The second in the series – *Ramonne: The Return of the Vampire of Siam* – suffered from the lack of the core relationship between Ramonne and Martin. This time around, they barely had anything to say to each other. But again, the novel abounded with vivid descriptions of trendy 21st-century Bangkok.

Most of the third novel takes place in Siem Reap, Cambodia, where Ramonne first turned vampire and where Martin is now running an orphanage with his wife, former playgirl Areeya.

Both have turned into cardboard paragons of virtue. The author's sense of place fails him in Cambodia. The prose is desultory and the dialog wooden.

Ramonne has gone soft too. He is dispatched by his gangster boss to kill the son of a rival in Paris. But along with all the physical powers of Superman, he can also read minds and when he sees that the son is innocent of any crime, he kills the father instead and brings his heart back to Bangkok. He also kills off a slew of bodyguards, but since even bullets don't harm him, there's little suspense or tension here. One yearns for a bit of Kryptonite.

While in Paris, Ramonne salvages his old journal from his days with explorer Henri Mou-

hot's 1859-61 expedition up the Mekong. Thus we learn in detail how he was bitten by Zhoupeng, a 1,000-year-old Chinese vampire in the ruins of Angkor Wat.

Well, it seems the old boy is back and up to no good in partnership with remnants of the Khmer Rouge, terrorizing the countryside with ritualistic killings and looting ancient temples. Martin learns of this after his assistant and one of his orphans are killed by the gang. Antoine, a French temple restorer, tells him:

"There is a collaboration underway that is intent on plundering the temples and tombs on a grand scale. The riches gained will sustain it and arm it for future conquests in this country. It is the remnants of the Khmer

Rouge that hold it in unity, but rumor has it that a much darker, mysterious face is at its core. The villagers speak of a powerful demon... a 1,000-year-old fiend that sucks the blood of its victims and feeds on their souls."

To the rescue rides Ramonne. As the gang lays siege to the orphanage, Martin and Areeya, suddenly proficient with M-16s, fight them off while Ramonne confronts Zhoupeng.

Their fight is like what you see on Saturday morning TV Japanese monster cartoons, all huffing and puffing and emitting of death rays and zombie armies.

Off the two fly in a whirlwind to Bayon Temple where Martin is obliged to bring along five-year-old Hon, his favorite orphan boy who – gadzooks! – emits his own powerful blue ray of goodness which kills the evil vampire and turns the yellow eyes of the good vampires into blue. Which means that Ramonne is not a vampire anymore. Neat, huh?

But it seems that the kid is dead. Martin is very upset:

"It was an agonized plea against all that man holds holy. It was a challenge to God. It was the ultimate question. The question Ramonne himself had purged his demons with not many moments ago. The word was not enunciated, but the meaning was there in the long plaintive wail. 'Why?'"

But Ramonne touches the kid's forehead and his blue eyes open. Whew! What a relief!

If you're a fan of those Japanese cartoons, go for this book.



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By James Eckardt

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With Vino, very crash

Most people who visit Fun Town fully expect to be able to sit quietly at an outside beer boozier and be pestered around 800 times an hour by the forlorn multitude of watch sellers, shoe shiners, cigarette floggers, carpet baggers, gum toddlers, flower peddlers, photo snappers – and other sauntering hucksters too numerous to mention.

However, nearly being pole-axed by a runaway motorbike is not usually part of the scheduled evening's entertainment.

This happened at the old Viking beer boozier in front of the Pinewood Condo complex on Second Road when a young lady turned the key to start her Yamaha Vino but, before she had time to mount and take control of the motorized steed, it reared up onto its back wheel and took off under its own power in the direction of the assembled drinkers.

Thankfully, its path was impeded by a couple of Formica tables and chairs. As it plowed into them, the bike did a pirouette worthy of Baryshnikov before crashing to the ground with a whine.

The Vino – a Japanese make with an Italian name, and designed to run on Lambrusco and Chianti rather than gasoline – had been “in gear” when the young lass decided to start it up, thereby leading to its solo one-wheeled performance.

Tartar, the Viking's mascot, resident monkey and tourist attraction, was not amused by the spectacle, choosing instead to offer his own diversion by reverting to his party piece: guzzling milk from a baby's bottle while at the same time responding to the call of nature.

Degree of Difficulty 9.9: Yet another freak incident at the Viking beer boozier began to give rise to thoughts that the joint was perhaps located in the beer bar equivalent of the Bermuda Triangle, considering the number of out-of-the-ordinary incidents that kept happening there.

One night, an imbibor who originally hails from the Bavarian region of Germany fell down.

Now before you say, “So what? That happens hundreds of times in boozers across Fun Town all day every day!” I should add that this was a performance worthy of Greg Louganis at his best, albeit sans water, swimming trunks and a diving board.

The punter had just hopped

off his bar stool, reached forward to inspect the bills for the booze he had consumed and, stepping backwards, misjudged the location of his seat. Instead of connecting posterior with vinyl he continued his gravitational spiral towards the waiting concrete in a perfectly executed backward tumble, legs and arms outstretched. The most impressive aspect of the performance was that his cancer stick never left his mouth.

The German claimed his performance was caused by the shock to his wallet on discovering the price of draft beer at the bar had risen from 49 baht to 50.

Pumpkin Head: When a girl wearing more campaign medals (read: large chunks of gold) than an African potentate and speaking English like she'd been edu-

cated in the hallowed halls of Cambridge tells a first-time foreign visitor to the Land of Gullible Men that she's been working in a bar for just three months, you'd be excused for thinking she might be stretching the bounds of truth a tad far.

When she then suggests to the lust-struck foreigner that it would be possible for him to reside in Fun Town – if he buys a bar and puts it in her capable hands – you might think the odd alarm bell would go off in his addled brain. It doesn't – and the result is predictable.

In a past life, I was involved in the horse and greyhound racing industry. A common phrase uttered about many gamblers arriving on a racecourse is, “Off goes the head and on goes a pumpkin”.

For some wily damsels in Fun Town it must be like shooting fish in a barrel with a bazooka as foreigners suspend reality and, in a desperate attempt to stay on in the Land of Beer Bars, shell out cash to go into a “bidnet” they know little or nothing about, with a girl they know little or nothing about; in a country they know little or nothing about.

What a letdown

I know we are not supposed to write anything bad about the recent, ahem, political realignment but as an arm-chair spectator down here in Phuket, almost a thousand kilometers from the action, I feel let down – like something is missing.

Okay, people have been distributing flowers, and go-go dancers dressed in camouflage gear were a nice touch. But so what? I can see that on Soi Seadragon any night I want.

This “realignment” had way too much feel-good factor for my taste. It looked to me like it was staged by the Tourism Authority of Thailand. Where's the drama in that? The coup in May 1992, now that was a coup. A real military coup, with all the trimmings.

Back then I was teaching English at a small house on Soi Rachakru in Bangkok. By coincidence, the house happened to be on the same cul-de-sac where Chatichai “Mai Pen Rai” Choonhavan, Prime Minister at the time, happened to live.

So there I was one afternoon in February, sitting on the floor with some eight- and nine-year-old girls, when the school's domineering hi-so headmaster bursts into the room and says excitedly, “Class is over! You can go home now!”

“What? We haven't even finished coloring in these giraffes!” I said with mock indignation, already thinking about beer.

Then, looking out the window, I saw the playground in the front yard swarming with commandos in camouflage, all totting M-16s and looking bothered.

There were jeeps on the soi with machine guns mounted on the hoods and a truck that looked like a paddy wagon. It must have been for the crafty Chatichai, who, as it turned out, had already fled to England, of all places.

What is it with Blighty and deposed Thai premiers anyway? Why don't they go lick their wounds someplace more cheerful, like Disneyland?

“Go home to your country!”



I DRINK I CAN, I DRINK I CAN: This pickup tried to make it over the hill to Patong with the bed full of the sweet, amber liquid. Like so many vehicles before, it failed.

us via FoxNews, accompanied by a jazz soundtrack. It's a disgrace, if you ask me. Can I say that? [No – Ed]

Back in '92, after a few hours, the martial music stopped. The cheap graphic was abruptly replaced by a military commander, covered in chest salad and reading from a sheet of paper the reasons they had to have a coup – something about “dictatorship by democracy” I later found out.

Although I understood not a word he said, I found the whole thing electrifying. Yes! I am living through a coup in Southeast Asia! It's a banana republic! And I was right in the middle of it – history in the making!

However, my girlfriend at the time – like many people – couldn't have cared less. Her concern was that she was missing her favorite soap opera.

Then, as the military commander droned on and on, the clock hit 6 pm. It was time for the time check. Just as abruptly as the military commander had appeared, he was cut off and the Thai National Anthem started playing.

He had apparently forgotten to check his watch. After the one-minute time check, he reappeared, still droning on about why they had had to have a coup.

“Who is really in control here?” I thought to myself. That's the feeling you are supposed to get from a military coup. And I didn't get it from the current, er, reshuffle.

Comments, queries and criticisms to: stoolpigeon@phuketgazette.net



one of the soldiers told me as I started walking up the soi, wondering just what the hell was going on.

So I walked back to my apartment about a kilometer away, opened a Singha beer, and turned on my black-and-white TV.

All there was on the screen was a cheap graphic with the Thai flag and military music by John Phillip Souza. That, in my view, is and should remain the standard for coup-making. Coups should be in black-and-white. The music should be military.

But this last coup came to



By Duncan Stearn

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I have seen the future of rock 'n' roll, and its name is "deeh-oh". The folks at the Communications Authority of Thailand (CAT) were kind enough to give me a sneak peek at their new wireless technology, and it rocks.

By the time you read this, you will be able to access the Internet wirelessly at ADSL speeds, anywhere on Phuket. At least that's the plan, and it looks like it may come true. I know that it is working in Patong, and I have reports of wireless access in Kamala, but it's unclear yet exactly how good the "100%" coverage will be for the rest of the island.

This is the 3G ("third-generation") mobile phone technology that I've been talking about – and it's here, in Phuket, right now. I ran a speed test in Patong on September 26, and it was impressive. But I'm getting ahead of the story.

The technology, correctly called CDMA2000 1xEV-DO Rev A (check wikipedia.org if you're curious about the acronyms), but known to its friends as EV-DO, is a wireless broadband data standard used by telephone companies in Japan, Korea, the US, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Russia, among many others.

It works like cell phone technology, except it's wicked fast: where your cell phone connection may run at 30 Kbps or 40 Kbps (thousands of bits per second), a full-bore EV-DO connection in the best conditions tops out at 3.1 Mbps, or 3,100 Kbps, a hundred times faster than GPRS. Computers will require a special network card, commonly called an air card, to connect.

The fastest commonly-available wired ADSL lines on the island run at a nominal 2 Mbps; my CAT line at the Sandwich Shoppe in Patong hits 1.4 to 1.6 Mbps, which is remarkable for Phuket. Based on what I've seen and heard, wireless EV-DO in Phuket will deliver at least half that speed, and maybe more.

You don't need a phone line, a fiber optic cable or a wireless

Wireless broadband is here – everybody say 'Dee-Oh'

hotspot. Heck, you can surf the web while you're riding your motorbike and still get reasonably good response times. I expect that EV-DO will revolutionize Internet access in Phuket overnight. At least, if CAT can keep up with demand.

Is speed important? It is to me. Last week I downloaded the latest beta copy of the next version of Windows, called Windows Vista. The file weighs in at 2.7GB (2.7 billion bytes). I made the mistake of downloading the file using my TOT ADSL line. It took just under two days. If I had downloaded the file at the Shoppe, it would have taken about six hours. If you've never

experienced the difference between the web running at 40 Kbps and the web running at 2

Mbps, you'd be amazed at how the speed difference increases your productivity.

Here's how EV-DO works: The telephone company sets up a network of EV-DO towers, similar to the cellular towers (so far only in Patong and Kamala). The phone company then sets up and maintains, in effect, an EV-DO "dial tone". You pay the phone company a monthly fee for EV-DO access.

The user also has to buy a card, colloquially known as an "air card," that plugs into your laptop – it slides into that long, thin receptacle called a PCMCIA or PC-card slot. If you've ever plugged a Wi-Fi card into your computer, the "air card" is similar, but the base that sticks out of the PC is considerably thicker.

Few desktop computers come with built-in PCMCIA slots, but it's cheap and easy to install a PCMCIA slot in a free hard drive bay, and PCMCIA-to-USB adapters specifically made for EV-DO are becoming more common (for examples, Google "usb pcmcia ev-do").

CAT sells a range of air cards from 5,390 baht to 15,990



Install a Sierra Wireless AirCard, such as the 580 PC pictured here, into your computer and you're ready for broadband wireless in Phuket.

baht, with the price depending on the plan selected. Plans can range from 590 baht a month for 200MB of downloads to 1,290 baht for unlimited downloads.

Installing the card was a bit scary and time consuming, but easy. The installer replaced a system file called ikernel.exe on one of my Windows XP SP2 machines, and that had me worried, but I haven't experienced any untoward side effects.

At the end of the installation, you're instructed to insert the air card. A program pops up. You click to connect and... that's all there is to it. On my Windows XP SP2 test machine, Windows automatically identified the hardware, installed the drivers, detected the EV-DO signal and hooked me up to the Internet, no intervention required. I got Firefox going and it was just like being plugged into an ADSL line.

It's broadband. It's wireless. And it works, anywhere in Patong.

I tested a well-known air card from Sierra Wireless called

the AirCard 580 PC. It isn't the latest, greatest card. In fact, it's at the bottom of the current Sierra Wireless line, but it worked fine.

I promised that I wouldn't print my test results here until CAT had a chance to get a better card from Bangkok and I had a chance to run round-the-clock speed tests, so I won't tell you exactly what kind of speeds I had. But I will say this: it's a whole lot better than my 2 Mbps TOT ADSL line, which frequently bogs down at 80 Kbps, but not as fast as the 2 Mbps CAT ADSL line at the Shoppe.

At its heart, EV-DO is a telephone technology, and CAT will also offer voice services in addition to broadband data, although regulatory concerns may have an effect on what CAT can deliver. Another benefit is that a fast Internet connection immediately makes very low cost international long-distance telephone, via VoIP or Skype-like services, a distinct possibility.

On the other hand, there are

still many unanswered questions. EV-DO, like cell phone service, can have trouble poking through concrete walls, may suffer from echoes or dead spots, and certainly won't tolerate massive thunderstorms.

Among the slew of unanswered questions are: Will the EV-DO signal be able to reach the fringes of Phuket? Into basements? Since it's new, will we see frequent service outages or enormous performance hits? If EV-DO becomes popular, will demand bog down the network? Will we be able to buy cheap equipment in, say, Korea or even at Panthip Plaza, and get it to work here? Can CAT keep the price of unlimited access down to the point where most Phuket residents with laptops will pay?

Only time will tell.

Here's what floors me. While Thailand is caught in a political Gordian knot, the folks at CAT are coming out with innovative, affordable telecom products that go way beyond the tired, old me-too cell phone technology that's been around for years. I never expected to see 3G in Phuket this year, and I was beginning to wonder if we'd see it this decade.

Somehow, CAT has cleared the regulatory hurdles and brought us something to get excited about. I sure hope it's a sign of good things to come.

More details – and prices – in my next column.

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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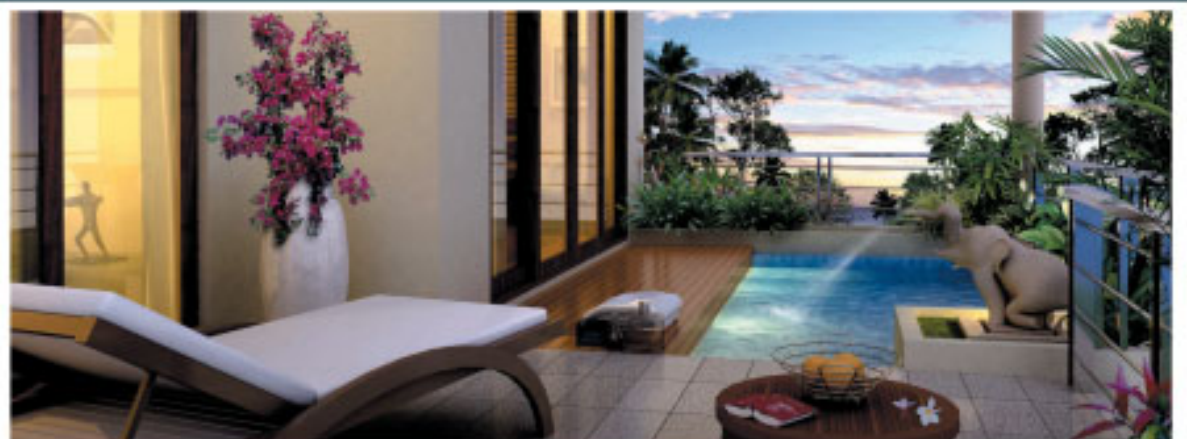
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ON THE MOVE

Nampetch "Nikki" Tipaxorn has been appointed Marketing and Communications Manager at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa. An international-marketing graduate of Chulalongkorn University, she also has a master's degree from George Mason University in Virginia, USA. K. Nampetch has nine years' experience in the hospitality industry. She was previously Sales Manager at Kata Group Resorts and joined Hilton Phuket Arcadia in 2004 as Personal Assistant to Director of Sales.



Chaturong Angsupsirigul, 32, from Bangkok, is the Operations Manager at Watermark Bar Restaurant. K. Chaturong has a degree in hospitality from Assumption University and has worked within the hospitality industry for more than eight years. After graduating, he worked for three years at Sukhothai Bangkok as a receptionist before joining the Banyan Tree Phuket as a Resort Host in 2002. His position before joining Watermark was as Assistant Manager at Trisara.



Pornrat Genprasertsiri, 32, from Ratchaburi, has been appointed Front Office Manager of Patong Paragon Hotel. He graduated from the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at California State University, Northridge. He has more than 10 years' experience in the hotel industry, which includes working as the Assistant Front Office Manager at the Samui Peninsula and in the same position at the QVC Resort in Patong.



Destination Properties buys Felix

KARON: Destination Properties Co Ltd (DP) has bought the 125-room Felix Resort in Karon, investing some 400 million baht in the purchase and a major upgrade to the hotel.

The property will be branded with an international operator yet to be announced, though DP Public Relations Manager Mr Amante C Amante Jr has confirmed that an operator is expected to be announced by the end of this month.

The move cements DP's expansion throughout Thailand. DP currently owns the Hilton Hua Hin Resort and Spa and is developing the new Hilton-branded Doubletree Golf Resort & Spa near Sri Racha, Chonburi, which is due to open early 2008.

DP recently acquired the Kamala Bay Terrace Resort in Phuket, rebranding it as an ALILA Phuket Resort. It also owns Shambala Villas on Samui and will shortly launch Destination Air, a seaplane shuttle service flying from Phuket International Airport to Krabi, the Phi Phi islands, Koh Lanta and other destinations along the Andaman Sea coastline.

Mr Amante said in a September 22 press release, "We feel responsible to send an important message to the global hotel and



Artist's impression of one of the themed rooms, in this case a Jules-Verne-type underwater world.

travel industry that, so far, the situation here is non-violent and everything is calm.

"The airport, airlines and hotels are operating normally so we decided to proceed with the deal. We are hoping that our business move today will be able to send out a message of confidence in Thailand's tourism in spite of what is happening.

"Destination Properties is committed to creating 'Great Places to Be' and this hotel resort investment in Phuket is a major project for us. We are also

proud of the fact that Lehman Brothers is supporting us in this deal as our financing partner. We believe in the great potential of Phuket and this is one way to help the country."

The Felix Resort is currently being refurbished into a family resort. The renovation is to be finished by early November. "A lot of resorts in Phuket cater to honeymooners, couples and adventurers, but not specifically to families. It is this market that we are exploring," said Mr Amante.

Once re-opened, the Felix

will become a family themed four-star resort featuring a 1950s-style rock 'n' roll diner as its main restaurant serving burgers and pizza. A refurbished bisected '57 Chevy or Cadillac will be the centerpiece, with a big rotating sign and possibly a pink 1957 Chevy on the roof.

The 49 Superior Rooms and 48 Deluxe Rooms, each offering 44 square meters of space, will be upgraded and renovated in a Mexican style, including re-tiled bathrooms with new vanities to create a "rustic" feeling.

For children, the resort will offer various 20 themed hotel rooms in either Spaceship and Underwater World themes.

The resort will also feature the "Siam Adventure Club", Play-Station Zone, kids' club, outdoor poolside cinema, X-Box Video Zone, water slide and special children-only restaurant.

There will also be a "bottomless" ice cream machine providing free ice cream cones to kids all day long.

Ernie the Elephant, the re-

sort's mascot, will lead daytime fun activities for kids at the Siam Adventure Club.

For parents, the resort will offer fashionable, modern rooms, spa treatment beds around the pool, the World News Coffee shop with the latest editions of newspapers from around the world as well as fitness and Internet centers.

Gary Murray, CEO of Destination Properties says, "The resort will be one of a kind in Phuket, with an outstanding family program for our guests. We have designed the resort in a way that we deliver what families are looking for in a great holiday vacation.

"Whether it is our rock 'n' roll diner, our themed hotel rooms, or our kids-only restaurant, this will be a great place for families."

Mr Amante said that DP continues to look out for other properties in Phuket, primarily three- to four-star resorts with about 100 or more rooms, with the aim of buying them and upgrading them to five-star level.

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A smiling staffer reflects on the delights of the new office.

Silk Air moves to new offices

Silk Air has moved from its temporary office The Metropole hotel in Phuket City to Bypass Square, the new development opposite the Tesco-Lotus supercenter on the bypass road.

The office's new address is: SilkAir (Singapore) Private Limited, 101/17 Moo 1, Tambon Kathu, Amphur Kathu, Phuket 83120. Admin/Sales/Accounts Tel: 076-304014-16, Fax: 076-304017. Reservations/Ticketing Tel: 076-304018-20, Fax: 076-304021. Tradewinds: 076-304022, Fax: 076-304023. Email: silkair@loxinfo.co.th.

US heading for recession?

Time to hedge your bets

Every weekday from 3 pm onward, CNBC, the business television channel, airs a program called Global Forum. Three of their presenters, based in the US, Europe and Asia, combine to give the latest news and interviews on the business world and financial markets.

Recently their US presenter interviewed the chief economist of one of Germany's largest banks, Commerzbank. The question was posed: is the US going to be able to "ride out" the decline in the housing market and show positive gross domestic product (GDP) figures, or is the economy going to move into recession?

Commerzbank's chief economist replied to the effect that the question itself was wrong and should have been on the lines of "is the US economy going to record higher or lower growth than the consensus opinion (for 2007)?"

There is room to disagree with the economist's response; the question was valid. The Commerzbank's chief economist said the consensus was for GDP growth of 2.7% for the US in 2007, but Commerzbank's prediction put the growth at only 2.3%.

Reality often differs widely from the thinking of economists, including their consensus.

The US should be able to avoid a recession in 2007, but it is far from certain. The US consumer has been in full spending mode for years but, with house prices falling and credit card and other debt at records levels, how much longer can this last?

Considering that the US consumer accounts for two thirds of the economy, their spending patterns are of vital interest.

A US recession will not be the end of the world, but will have unpleasant implications for every other economy. Asia, especially countries such as China that are basing their economies on exports, are very vulnerable to a hard US slowdown. China may appear, superficially, to be in a very strong position but deeper research reveals many inadequacies.

The banking system is still in an embryonic phase and credit assessment and lending criteria are almost non-existent.

Consumer spending is low and savings are very high. This may seem a bonus for the economy; it does help to have a sav-



Aiming for more exports: Chinese models show silk fashions during the opening of the Hangzhou silk fashion festival on September 19. The Chinese themselves still tend to save rather than spend, leaving the economy overreliant on exports. Photo: EPA/Wu Hong.

ing culture but, in China's case, it means that the economy is too reliant on exports.

Emerging markets, including Russia, China, India, Eastern Europe and much of Asia are changing the global economy.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has raised its predictions for economic growth for 2006 to 5.1%, and 4.9% for 2007 though even the IMF raises a note of caution regarding US consumer spending and the effect this may have on the US economy.

Everybody is guessing, nobody actually knows.

For investors, the global economic situation is at best confusing. There are areas of stability where one can shelter regardless of the economic cycle but the choice is very limited. The idea that one can invest in any asset class, the old "buy and hold" strategy, has been revealed to be, in general, a very poor philosophy.

It is no wonder then that "hedge funds" have become increasingly popular. The whole idea that investors must wait until an investment rises in value to make a profit is discarded.

The view that asset prices, commodities, bonds, currencies, equities, almost anything in practice must rise is obviously flawed. Investment opportunities are often available on falling prices.

Oil is an excellent example; the price rose dramatically and

then fell virtually in "crash" mode. Any strategy that allowed a manager to take advantage of rising prices and subsequent falling prices is potentially superior to a one-way trade.

Hedge funds have been the increasingly popular way for investors to have it "both ways". From a tiny industry in 1990, hedge funds now have an estimated US\$1.13 trillion under management. Increasingly, even pension funds are incorporating hedge funds into their list of assets.

America still has the largest hedge fund industry but its share of this booming market has fallen from around 83% in 2002 to 61% in 2005.

The beneficiaries have mainly been Europe, especially the UK, and Asia. Hedge funds assets almost doubled from 2002 to 2005.

The US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) tried to enforce registration and other regulations on the industry, but this was rejected earlier this year by a US Federal Court.

In the UK the rules for registering a hedge fund are difficult, but once the process has been approved by the UK authorities, the Financial Services Authority (FSA), allows them to operate freely with only a modest regulatory regime.

In the UK only one hedge fund has been fined, and that was for insider trading.

The hedge fund and its CEO each had to pay the equivalent of around 50 million baht in fines, but the investors in the hedge fund were allowed to keep

the gains because they were innocent parties.

The term "hedge funds" is confusing; a reasonable comparison would be "property", that obviously covers everything from a private house to a factory. Hedge funds vary enormously in their approach and are just as diverse as "property".

To access this investment vehicle requires a lot of research. One tip: look at the managers. What experience do they have and what is their track record.

Also, it helps to be wary of

any group that is too large, it is far easier to manage a few hundred million dollars than tens of billions.

Large groups also tend to be bureaucracies and lose their entrepreneurial flair. Small, in relative terms, is often beautiful.

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

MONEY TALKS



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Hungarian wins fight night with brute force

By Zach Fridell

PATONG: The Thursday Night Fights at Patong Boxing Stadium provided a real slug-fest on September 28, with some boxers eschewing technique for hard hits and knockouts.

The climax of the evening was an international fight more resembling a one-sided street brawl than the art of Muay Thai.

The hard hits started early in the night. In the fourth fight, at 112 pounds, Nongchamp from the Tiger Muay Thai camp came out with a barrage of punches and knees, knocking out *OrBorTor*

Kamala fighter Prasartchai in Round One with a knee to the head.

The next match, at 113 pounds, didn't last much longer. A fighter from Koh Yao going by the name of BinLaden was KO'd in the second round by Khunpol Siyusop, who floored his taller opponent with a knee to the chest.

Bin Laden, who enjoyed a considerable height advantage, wasn't nearly as elusive as his militant Islamist namesake. He simply couldn't cope with the ferocity of Khunpol, who appeared to land a knee to Bin Laden's

crotch just before knocking him out.

Bin Laden required the assistance of three trainers to stand again and make his way out of the ring. His current condition and whereabouts are unknown.

The fireworks continued in the sixth fight, a 116-pound affair, which lasted well under one minute. Peteak, from Phuket, came out with a quick combination of high kicks before landing a big right drive to KO Pandeang from Phang Nga.

The fight just before the main event, pitting 138-pounders Praedam of Koh Yao against homeboy Chaiyo of Pak Plee Gym, was the only key match-up of the night to go the distance. In a fierce battle, Chaiyo was unable to use his reach and height advantage to keep Praedam at bay.

The pair fell into a rhythm early in the fight, with Chaiyo trying to telegraph long kicks to Praedam's head and midsection. But these mostly errant kicks lowered Chaiyo's guard, allowing Praedam to move inside and pile up points with a relentless attack of jabs, knees and elbows.

Desperate to free himself, Chaiyo at one point tossed Praedam right out of the ring in one of his many throw-downs. But Praedam, as relentless as a pit bull terrier, just climbed back in and continued to score inside, eventually piling up enough points to win by decision.

The main fight, a rematch between Saifa of Phang Nga and Dindaeng of Patong, ended the same way their first fight had: Dindaeng winning by TKO when the referee stopped the fight because of cuts to the head sustained by Saifa.

In their previous encounter, Dindaeng won by TKO after using his elbows to open a nasty gash on Saifa's head that took 22 stitches to close. Aware of this,



Zantos strikes a victory pose after flattening Petsiam Sor Kongthong.

the elbows came out quickly again, cutting Saifa's forehead and right cheek before the referee called off the fight in the middle of the third round.

Saifa had been bleeding since the first round, the blood streaming from his forehead and coming close to his eyes.

The final bout of the night, a Thai boxing "international" event, was less a fight than an exhibition of street brawl-style hard punches.

HUGE SWINGS

Petsiam Sor Kongthong, from the Rawai Muay Thai camp, was pitted against stocky Hungarian Zantos, fighting out of Rawai Muay Thai.

While Petsiam showed technique and skill, initially using his knees to block Zantos' onslaught, he was in the end no match for Zantos' brutish power.

Zantos came out fast, taking huge swings at Petsiam and backing him into a corner. Zantos tried to use his knees in the corner, but short legs and limited flexibility only brought the knees halfway up to Petsiam's chest.

Each time the boxers were

separated, Zantos would again windmill his way in, landing punches with the full force of his 170 pounds.

Petsiam amazingly made it through the first round, though his Round 2 prospects did not look good as he appeared woozy and without much strategy left to defend against the heavy-hitting Hungarian.

He made it only halfway through the round before Zantos smashed him with big hook, knocking him out cold.

As one spectator remarked, Zantos may have won the bout, but he won no admirers in the process.

His lack of Muay Thai technique and reliance on his weight advantage could leave him vulnerable when matched against a fighter his own size.

But the encounter also proved that sheer power can compensate for lack of style. As long as the fight ends in a knockout, no points are needed.

Patong Boxing Stadium is on Sai Nam Yen Rd, Patong. For more information, call Tel: 076-345578/345165 or 081-737-7193.

PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

Didi's maintain their lead

PATONG: Didi's still have a commanding seven-point lead after beating OffShore at home 5-4, but OffShore took the beer leg to salvage a point. That allowed the two teams tied for second, Coyote and Piccadilly, to pick up one point each as they both took all three points in their matches.

In the Piccadilly v TaiLife match, Steve the Brit had a match winning finish in the doubles, going out on 76 (12, 14, x25) and then checking out the team game in similar fashion on 114 (t20, 18, x18).

The other Steve from Piccadilly took the high score with a 180.

With just five weeks to go, the league is all Didi's to lose, but Coyote will have the chance to pick up some much-needed points when they travel to Soi Saensabai to play the league leaders on October 17.

Send match details to darts@phuketgazette.net if you would like to see them included here.

September 26 results: Queen Mary 5 Shakers* 4; Dog's Bollocks 4 Didi's* 5; Amigos 5 Jungle Juice* 4; Valhalla 0 Coyote Bar* 9; Piccadilly* 6 TaiLife 3; OffShore* 6 Funky Monkey 3; Postponed September 19 match: Didi's 5 Offshore* 4 (* winner of beer leg).

Standings: 1. Didi's (43 points); 2.= Piccadilly, Coyote Bar (36); 4. OffShore (31); 5.= Dog's Bollocks, Amigos (27); 7.= Queen Mary, Shakers (23); 9. Valhalla (21); 10. Jungle Juice (18); 11. TaiLife (11); 12. Funky Monkey (10).

October 10 fixtures: TaiLife v Didi's; Amigos v Queen Mary; Dog's Bollocks v Piccadilly; Jungle Juice v Funky Monkey; Coyote Bar v Shakers; Offshore v Valhalla.

Valley Boys, BBAP tie in Nike Canyon Challenge, but Fab Fore extend lead

THALANG: Round 3 of the Nike Golf Canyon Team Challenge 2006 was a tight affair but, in the end, resulted in very little change on the leader board.

Although the Fabulous Fore team finished third in this round, the 12 points they garnered extended their lead from six to 11 points, for a league-leading total of 44 points.

The Round 3 event, in the four-person best ball format, saw

tight competition; there was just a six-shot difference between first place and last.

Coming right down to the wire, the final results had to be settled through retrogression scoring.

The Valley Boys, consisting of captain Peter Wood, Peter Davies, Wayne Fielder and Alain Cipolat, tied with the BBAP team (captain Martin Carpenter, Mark Phillips, Nigel Peters and Paul

Moorehouse) on a low score of 57 (-15).

The Valley Boys won the weekly event through retro, by having a lower score on the back nine.

The next match will be played on October 10, when the little-known "flag day" format will be used.

The competition is being contested on the Canyon course of the Blue Canyon Country Club.

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US Ryde over Europe

THALANG: The Americans continued their dominance in the Blue Canyon Ryder Cup, winning the second annual tournament against Team Europe.

The three-day tournament was played with 4-ball matches in the mornings and a foursome format alternating shots in the afternoons.

After three days' competition, Team USA won the competition 21½ points to 14½.

Team USA's Captain, Randall Coleman, and Team Europe's Captain, Peter Hamilton, assembled the teams from their respective continents – and slightly beyond their borders.

Team Europe seemed to have the upper hand with a band of willing European golfers ready for the challenge, while Team USA resorted to recruiting an Australian, Evan Burford, onto their team to match the opposition's strength in numbers.

By the end of the second day, Team USA was up six points over Team Europe, and they managed to stretch the lead another 1½ points in the final day to wrap up the tournament.



The victorious American team, in red, have made it two out of two in Phuket's own Ryder Cup.

Clouds fails to damp biathlon enthusiasm

By Hugo Jones,
with photos by Peter Hamilton

MAI KHAO: Gloomy weather, courtesy of a slow-moving tropical depression, did little to reduce the enthusiasm of the 60-odd competitors in the first event of the Silk TriBallistic Triathlon Series held at the JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa on October 1.

The strong gusts of wind may have been a blessing in disguise or a double-edged sword. They may have cooled the competitors down and provided a tailwind, but every tailwind becomes a headwind when running or cycling into it.

Regardless, the athletes competing in this biathlon, which comprised – for Juniors – a two-kilometer run followed by a 10-km bike ride and finishing with a 1-km run. Seniors, who faced a 6-km run, a 10-km bike ride and a 3-km run – recorded some excellent times.

The day, however, was not without its drama. One competitor was taken to hospital after battling to reach her teammate at the transition area and collapsing.

It was later reported, after she was discharged from hospital, that she had taken insufficient fluids and nutrition in the day before the race.

The next TriBallistic event will be on November 5, again at the JW Marriot Resort & Spa. Visit www.triballisticclub.com for more details.



Above: Amy, Tony and Josh Henthorne all placed well in their respective age groups.

Right: Marcus Goetz won the Under-10 Boys class.

Far right: The pain! Taj Jones and Angus Hamilton, the youngest competitors in the event, battle it out on the final straight.



RESULTS

Juniors. Under-8 Boys: 1st Taj Jones. **Under-10 Boys:** 1st Marcus Goetz, 2nd Lucas Hechlar, 3rd Jonas Johannson. **Under-10 Girls:** 1st Teisha Jones (Overall 1st place). **Under-12 Girls:** 1st Emily Kirstein, 2nd Melissa Kegans, 3rd Alysa Bebbington. **Under-12 Boys:** 1st Shannon Smith (Overall 3rd

place), 2nd Ali Kelana, 3rd Jarowit James. **12+ years Mixed:** 1st Victor Kirstein (Overall 2nd place), 2nd Jasper Roberts, 3rd Antonia Murray. **Teams.** 1st Angus Hamilton, Alex Hamilton; 2nd Cassidy Wetzel, Tiffany Smith.

Seniors. Under-16 Boys: 1st Josh Henthorne (Outstanding

performance: 11 years old, overall 5th place). **Under-16 Girls:** 1st Timana Hossack, 2nd Amy Henthorne. **Open Women:** 1st Michelle Hossack (Overall 4th place), 2nd Tanya Mitchell, 3rd Lizelle Van Den Berg.

Open Men. 1st Mark Bamber (Overall 1st), 2nd Tony Henthorne,

(Overall 2nd) 3rd Attapong Tam-mawong (Overall 3rd).

Masters. 1st Ted Pulaski.

Teams. 1st Bianca Gotz, Manisha Lama, Tash Peters; 2nd Ben Coffin, Tristram Coffin; 3rd Bronty O'Leary, Shannon Robinson, Casey Underwood.

NIKE GOLF CANYON TEAM CHALLENGE 2006: Scoreboard after first three rounds

Team	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	TOTAL
Fabulous Fore	16	16	12	44
Arahmas Killer Bees	14	12	7	33
BBAP	12	0	15	27
The Valley Boys	6	2	15	23
Arahmas Blazing Bandits	0	14	7	21
The Village People	4	9	7	20
Arahmas Mighty Mites	10	6	2	18
Blue Canyon Plugs	6	9	0	15
MP3	2	4	7	13
Nearest The Pin #2	H. Shen	K. Noi	K. Pim	
NTP #7	M. Weinstein	J. Hoppen	K. Noi	
NTP #14	Noi	S. Pao	S. Bailey	
NTP #17	J. Powis	M. Weinstein	Phongpan	

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Construction Update

by Janyaporn Morel

Work begins on Phase 2 of Baan Rommai Chailay



Above, the view from one of the homes in Phase 1. Left and below, construction of Phase 2; four show homes are expected to be completed by February next year.



Following the success of Phase I of Baan Rommai Chailay (BRC) on Ruam Pattana Rd in Kuku, construction has begun on Phase II of the project, with Thai-Balinese style houses being built on a site next to the original project.

BRC Sales Marketing Manager Prangthip Chutipongpattanakul told the *Gazette* that only one unit remains unsold of the 30 villas completed in Phase I.

"About 60% of our customers are Thai business owners, and most of those who bought houses in Phase I have already moved

in. We serve the needs of customers who want to live in a resort home with a sea view but still want to be close to the city, which is very rare to find because most luxury developments are on the west coast," she said.

Phase II will comprise 32 two-story detached houses on a total of 12 rai. The homes will have three to five bedrooms and be on plots ranging from 520 square meters to 1,040sqm. Every home will have panoramic views of Phang Nga Bay to the east.

"For Phase II, we have eight different home designs. We will maintain the contemporary Thai-Balinese designs, while offering larger living spaces and land plots than in Phase I. Almost

all units will have private pools, and the houses will include built-in kitchens and wardrobes," K. Prangthip said.

"We designed the houses in the same theme [as the Phase I houses], so you will not see a big difference in color or design in our project," she explained.

"However, for the interior design, we modified our plans for Phase II following our experience with Phase I," she added.

The four show units under construction are scheduled to be finished by February 2007. However, the Phase II units are already up for sale.

"Customers can see the

designs and atmosphere of Phase I units, where some residents are already living," K. Prangthip said.

She added that residents will also enjoy many benefits from living in the managed community.

"We are building a big clubhouse, which will be finished at the same time as the houses in Phase II.

"The clubhouse, set on 1.3 rai of land, will serve all residents in our project. It will have a large communal pool, 25 meters long, as well as a convenience store.

"We also already provide other services, such as a maid service to take care of houses while owners are away and good security at our single entrance gate.

"These allow us to ensure the safety of the residents. We also have a service center that residents can call to arrange taxi service. We provide all of the services one would expect to find at a quality hotel," K. Prangthip added.

Phase II is scheduled to be finished by mid-2008. Prices for the units range from 17.5 to 35.5 million baht.

For more information contact Baan Rommai Chailay Co Ltd, 79/4 Moo 3 Tambon Rassada, Muang, Phuket. Tel: 076-240-991-2. Website at www.baanrommai.net

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Decor

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

Just about everyone agrees that wood looks good, but installing a teak or *maka* solid wood floor can be a very costly addition to a new home. However, there is another option: laminated floor panels. Prime examples of the fine look laminated flooring can add to a room can be seen at the Kata Beach Resort, the Boathouse in Kata, the Mangosteen Resort & Spa in Rawai and at the Boat Lagoon.

Kaindl Flooring Partnership Ltd, which imports laminated floor panels direct from Germany, was started in Phuket five years ago by its Managing Director Matthias Ludecke. There are now two branches in Phuket: the main showroom is on Chao Fa West Rd, near the intersection with Thepanusorn Rd; and the other in Cherng Talay.

Laminated floor panels are chipboard; high-density fiberboard (HDF) substrates and laminate (the decorative layer) that are bonded by either a one- or two-step process.

"They are suitable for all forms of domestic floors as well as for offices, restaurants, hotels and sports facilities," Mr Ludecke explains.

The advantages of laminated floors over traditional hardwood floors include ease of maintenance as well as resistance to staining, fading and the caustic effects of most household cleaning agents.

Laminated floors are not only suitable for wheelchairs, but can resist cigarette burns, heavy impacts and day-to-day wear. Although for indoor use only, the panels are UV resistant to preserve their color.

"What a person prefers for a floor, whether granite, wood or tiling, is a matter of personal choice. I personally prefer laminate flooring. In addition to looking better, laminate flooring is cleaner than tiling because there are no grout lines for dirt to get trapped in.

"It is also softer to walk on than parquet. Underneath the laminate is two millimeters of foam for noise reduction that gives a softer feel to the floor when walking on it," says Mr Ludecke.

Laminate flooring is warmer, too, and not just in appearance, he adds. "Thais and foreigners who have been living in Thailand a long time walk around the office barefoot, but the air conditioning makes their feet get cold, especially if they're walking on tiles. Laminate floors are simply warmer," he says.

A major benefit of having laminate floors in Phuket, Mr Ludecke explains, is that the HDF fibers are so tightly compacted that the panels are resistant to termites.

Old homes with tiled floors – and there are many in Phuket – can be refurbished with laminate panels, simply by setting them on top. This gives the floor a new look without the having to remove the tiles.



Above, laminated floors not only add a warmer ambience to a room, but also are literally warmer to walk on because of the noise insulation foam packed within each panel. Inset, Kaindl offers a huge range of styles to choose from.

Making wood work at home

Laminate floors are not suitable for use in wet areas, such as bathrooms or laundry rooms, because, as with any wood, laminate floors are prone to stains and water damage.

"You can clean it with a mop and a normal amount of water, but if you have a water leak from a burst a pipe you will have to replace the floor, just as you would with any wood floor made from, say, teak or *maka*," he explains.

To guard against this worst-case scenario, Kaindl keeps a stock of the laminate floor panels it offers for about two or three years, so customers can buy just the number of panels needed for repairs in the same color and style they have already bought.

Among the range of styles currently in stock are Walnut, Chestnut, Moritz Maple, Perigord Pine, Royal Beech, Sacramento Pine, Ticino Walnut, Cognac

Oak, Pasadena Oak and White Beech. A much larger range of styles is available to order.

Priced from 500 baht to 1,500 baht a square meter for the panels alone, laminate floors at first seem expensive to customers, says Mr Ludecke.

"Many people come into the shop and ask, 'Why is it so expensive?'" he says. "But when I point out to them that they can buy plain tiles at 200 baht a square meter, but that more attractive tiles can cost up to 2,000 baht a square meter – and that's without installation – they understand that laminate floors are not expensive at all."

Kaindl Flooring Phuket. Open Monday to Saturday, 9 am to 6 pm. 17/13-3 Chao Fa West Rd. Tel: 076-216212. Fax: 076-214676. Mobile: 081-2712684 (English and German), 081-8914425 (Thai).

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Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

Put this plant on a couch

I wish I could explain to people more clearly that I actually do like Americans. Unlike the way they describe us Brits, I wouldn't claim that they were "cute" or "quaint". And I know for a fact that they don't have lots of "those neat old castles".

Bless 'em. You almost want to pat them on the head and send them scurrying off on their way, describing everything as "like, totally awesome". Not that we can teach them much in the art of condescension. Call any American answering machine and you'll get a computerized voice that sounds as if it's addressing a five year old, telling you that after leaving your message ("please wait for the tone" though), "you may hang up or wait for other options". Gee, thanks. Glad you were there to explain that darn machine.

They also have a knack of inventing new words, with the assumption that the rest of the world needs these additions to the English language. It's almost become an art form over there.

"Surveilling", "obsessing" and "dissing". "Burglarize" or "dove" instead of "dived". Come on, please.

Even the simplest verbs aren't safe from the ever-present transatlantic tendency to create words for no good reason. Since when did the simple word "confess" become "fess up"? Are they just bored? Do they feel that these inanities are really necessary?

Then there's the old "trousers" versus "pants" thing. Perhaps a good way to help both those of American English and of the Queen's English visualize this conundrum properly is by way of Superman. To the average Brit, it's clear that Superman, for some strange reason, wears his pants on the outside when in superhero outfit mode; but to Americans it's obvious that Superman only wears pants on the outside when in Clark Kent mode.

Language disagreements aside, Americans are a strange lot. For the most powerful nation on the planet, an extraordinarily large number of them seem to



The mussaenda plant of Phuket is a surprisingly confused shrub, with colored leaves bigger than its flowers and a unhealthy complex about its dull, washed-out colors.

have "issues" that they need to mull over with their therapist. They want to "know themselves better" and "get in touch with their inner beings".

The mussaenda, probably an American, also has "issues". The problem is that it does not know what color it is – it simply can't decide. Perhaps several thousand dollars worth of therapy might encourage this confused plant to come to terms with its identity.

It has a number of alternative names, from lady flowers to the virgin tree.

In Thai, it's known as *donya*. There are hundreds of hybrids of the mussaenda, but all have the common theme of the rather pale, hairy, boring-looking leaves topped off by a huge splash of

color that seems to come from nowhere.

The colored areas aren't even the flowers, which is where the plant's personal identity crisis comes in. These brightly colored areas are in fact just colored leaves that want to grab a bit of attention. It's almost as if they're in competition with each other.

If these were seventies disco dancers, they'd be comparing medalion sizes.

The colorful bracts come in dozens of hues, but are mainly shades of red or white. My Thai is far from proficient, but many of us can figure out that in Thai, they're *donya daeng* or *donya khao*. The flowers themselves are much less showy. If you can find them, they're small,

yellow, white or orange flowers at the center of each bract. This system of colored bracts is the same system used by other tropical plants, such as heliconia and bougainvillea.

The various varieties are often named after famous ladies from this corner of the globe. There's even a famous cultivar named after Imelda Marcos, the "Dona Imelda". There's one that's ripe for psychoanalysis.

The mussaenda can be a rather small shrub, or can become a small tree, up to about 10 meters tall.

Some commercial nurseries often train mussaenda to look more tree-like, so that they can be used for landscaping. Their natural habit is to produce many stems, so it can tend to be a bit of a Rambler.

This is one that needs a firm hand when it comes to pruning. Like their lady namesakes, give them an inch, and the mussaenda will take a mile. It will quickly become straggly unless it's pruned quite ruthlessly. This will help to shape it, as well as produce more branch tips, which means more flowers and more color bracts.

DRAINAGE

All it wants is a fair bit of drainage, along with consistently moist soil, without being "claggy" (I think I just invented that word myself. My apologies to dictionary writers). Sandy soil is fine.

It will enjoy full sun to partial shade, but the best bract colors will appear if it gets plenty of sun. It's a bit of a balancing act in this regard, as the Phuket sun in the height of the dry season is probably a bit too much.

There are many plants that will stop you in your tracks and take a closer look. Many plants give displays of color so vivid that you'd almost imagine that they'd been tampered with by some manic painter who had only DayGlo colors in his paintbox. The heliconia and bougainvillea are a couple that stand out here. Unfortunately, the mussaenda isn't one of them. Walk past this and you'll be decidedly underwhelmed, as its colors are positively washed out in comparison.

Perhaps this is really the source of the plant's problems; it's just not very exciting. Perhaps it's not an identity crisis or a problem of not being able to get in touch with its inner feelings at all. It probably feels that it just can't compete with the likes of the bougainvillea. What it really needs to do is get to know itself. Maybe it does have issues after all.

Anyone know a good therapist?

Many plants give displays of color so vivid that you'd almost imagine that they'd been tampered with by some manic painter who had only DayGlo colors in his paintbox.

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Home of the Week

Boat Lagoon



Living it large at Boat Lagoon

This recently-completed house at the Boat Lagoon estate has approximately 15 meters of private canal frontage and an interior floor area of about 300 square meters.

On the ground floor there are three bedrooms – all with en-suite bathrooms – and maid's quarters, which could also be used as a study or fourth bedroom.

The master suite features a large walk-in wardrobe and a Jacuzzi in the bathroom.

Also on the ground level is a large kitchen and bar area fit-



ted with imported Western-standard finishings and equipment, living area, dining room, guest bathroom, laundry and storage area.

There is a double carport, and at the front of the house, alongside the canal, is a private swimming pool.

The house is fitted with imported marble and granite benchtops while the bedrooms boast teak flooring.

This modern house uses – stylishly – glass and stainless steel throughout. As one would expect with such a luxurious property as this, the entire house is air conditioned.

Included is a membership in Boat Lagoon's Boat Club, which gives the buyer full access to facilities at the Boat Lagoon, including swimming pools, gym and tennis courts.

The house is for sale – furnished – at 20 million baht with Chanote land title. Leasing the property under a 90-year lease program is also available.

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



Membership in Boat Lagoon's Boat Club is included in the price of this property.



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Property Gazette

Properties For Sale

PATONG VILLA FOR SALE



Very exclusive, completely-furnished new villa with swimming pool in best residential area of Patong. Two floors, three bedrooms with aircon, three bathrooms, jacuzzi, Western kitchen and dining area. Living area: 200sqm. Freehold land: 150sqm. 8.5 million baht. Tel: 081-892-8526. Please see our website at: www.phuket-besthomes.com

LAND FOR SALE 5 RAI



Chalong. Electricity, water, road access. Price: 2.7 million baht/rai. Tel: 087-889-6074. Email: info@sea-property-phuket.com

PATONG APARTMENT

Luxury apartments, square place, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, European style. Fully furnished, pool. 2.7 million baht. Tel: 081-8940580.

BIG HOUSE

in Kamala. On 2 ngan, beautiful place, large kitchen and living room, 7.6 million baht. Tel: 087-2827357.

NAI HARN 2 RAI

Beautiful plot, 800sqm residential area, must see! 3 million baht. Tel: 081-8940580.

RAWAI SHOPHOUSE FOR SALE



2 new, connected shophouses in Rawai, on Wiset Rd, 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

TOWNHOUSE NANAI

2-story house, 90sqm in beautiful "Manguers" residence. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, kitchen, living room, garden, pool, security, furnished. No brokers, price 3.3 million baht. Call Khun William. Tel: 081-9796220.

HOUSE FOR SALE

cheap. Unfinished 2-story house for sale near Phuket Country Club. Quiet area, 18 wah, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Near all shops. Asking 850,000 baht. Tel: 087-127-3272. Email: ken@loxinfo.co.th

BEACHFRONT LAND

for sale. 1,125 sq wah, 30x130 meter with Nor Sor 3 Kor. Sukorn Island, Trang. Price 1.6 million baht. Tel: 084-8516845. Email: odo_jp@hotmail.com

KATHU TOWNHOUSE

New 2-story house with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, car park, gates and security. Price 1.7 million baht firm. Tel: 087-8822462.

NEW VILLA FOR SALE



350sqm living space, pool, double car park, 4 bedrooms, office room, absolute privacy and security. 15.9 million baht. Please contact Tel: 087-8896074. Email: info@sea-property-phuket.com

RESTAURANT AND PUB

Main street, 400sqm, renovated last year, long-term lease. Tel: 081-0894964. Please email for further details. Email: janco2002@hotmail.com

CHIANG MAI LAND FOR SALE

60-, 3- and 20-rai plots on Ring Route (San Peesua). Good for big project property development. Direct sale from owner. Tel: 081-7212736. Email: ty-pretty@hotmail.com

KHAO LAK & PHUKET

Khao Lak is back; bigger, better & more beautiful than ever. We have oceanview & beachfront land on offer. Tel: 081-8931360. Email: noi@phuketproperties.com For further details, see our website at: www.khaolakland.com/land.htm

SEAVIEW RAWAI

20 rai, almost beachfront. Great for apartments, yellow zoning. You invest, we build, manage, and sell. Guaranteed to triple your money. Tel: 087-8938747.

NEW TOP VILLA

for sale. Top view overlooking lake and golf course, 4 minutes to BIS. 70sqm pool, 5 bedrooms. 19.5 million baht. Tel: 087-0911552.

NEW SEAVIEW APARTMENTS



Located on Patong hillside on Nanai Rd. 1-bedroom, 47sqm apts; 2-bedroom, 72/95sqm apts; and a 172sqm penthouse. Prices from 2.25 million baht. Tel: 089-4725530. Email: bertheike@aol.com For further info please see: www.blue-ocean-view.com

CAPE LAEM KAD



9 rai, 15 million baht. Tel: 081-1719705. Email: atetayap@yahoo.com

FOR SALE 7.5 MILLION BAHT

140sqm townhouse in Boat Lagoon Marine Residence. Water view, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, maid/utility room. Fully furnished, washer & tumble drier. Very good condition. Free use of gym. 50m pool. Restaurants, hotel, bank, supermarket and more. New medical center opening soon. Close to international school and all major shops. 24-hour security. Tel: 086-2820567.

SEA VIEW HOUSE

Nice Thai/Eastern houses in Kata. High quality, 250sqm living space, top view. Tel: 087-8938747.

NICE FLAT LAND

in Rawai. 2 rai or 1 rai in quiet area. Has access to road, water, and electricity. Asking 3.2 million baht. Tel: 089-652-5664.

BEAUTIFUL SEAVIEW



Ao Por, 380sqm, 1.6 million baht. Tel: 081-1719705. Email: atetayap@yahoo.com

CHALONG-016 SEAVIEW



8 rai for sale by owner. Tel: 081-8976230.

LAND FOR SALE 10 RAI



Koh Yao Noi, east coast. Sea view, 165m beachfront. Electricity, water, road access. 3.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-2722013. Email: info@sea-property-phuket.com

SALE OR LEASE

2,500sqm Thai-style villa, built 1999, with panoramic sea view. Located on Cape Panwa. For sale at US\$4.5 million or for lease at US\$39,000 a month. Call Mr Abdulloh at Tel: 081-569-7220. Agents welcome.

NICE SQUARE PLOT

In Nai Harn, 1 rai, almost last piece. Chanote title, be fast. Please contact for more details. Tel: 089-6525664.

NICE LAND RAWAI

520sqm, quiet area, good location for building your own house. Price: 2 million baht. Tel: 086-2670898.



BEAUTIFUL HOUSE

Newly reconditioned house with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, open kitchen, 5 aircons, marble floor. With separate office, 2 telephone lines and high speed internet. Perfect, quiet and safe location, between Patong and Phuket town. Asking price 4.2 million baht. Will consider any good offer!

Tel: 086-2740010
Email: info@biomedil.net

HOUSES FOR SALE IN KATHU

3 luxury villas w/ private swimming pool located near Kathu Waterfall on a private road. Fantastic view of Loch Palm Golf Course. Each house is 301sqm & has 3 levels w/ 7 air-conditioning units. Ground floor: large bedroom off pool deck and sala, ensuite bathroom, large walk-in closet & large storage room.

First floor: living room, family room, dining room, Western-style kitchen, laundry room, bathroom, storage area, pantry.

Second floor: master bedroom, ensuite bathroom, dressing area w/ built-in wardrobe, 2 bedrooms w/ built-in wardrobe, second bathroom.

Each house also includes double-door refrigerator, washing machine, built-in oven, microwave oven, kitchen hood, built-in cabinets, desk, and custom shelving.

Price per house: 17.5 million baht. Please contact via Email: joehall43@msn.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

Nanai Rd, Ka Semsab 1. House no. 56/3, 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 1 living room, 1 kitchen, 250 sqm living area. 7.9 million baht. Contact Khun Joy at Tel: 081-8931191.

Phuket Real Estate THIS WEEK'S HOT PROPERTIES

Real Estate - Construction - Architects - Legal

Rawai Land - 5 rai seaview in Rawai (across from Rawai Villas), only 1 minute to Rawai beach. This plot has electricity and 3 government roads, side, front and back, so ideal for a small development. The best-priced seaview land in Nai Harn / Rawai / Chalong! 2 checked Chanote titles.
Price: 22 million baht

Rawai Land - Green, quiet and well-priced! 960sqm located in Rawai. Bore has already been sunk. Two partly-built 2-story homes. Large coconut trees, end of road and no close neighbors due to adjoining government land. Urgent sale, owner has dropped price 200,000 baht. 3 Chanote titles.
Price: 3.5 million baht

Patong Land - 3 Rai of seaview land in Patong. Very cheap price at 15 million baht. No offers! Other land in this area is 8 million per rai. Land includes road access to the plot. Land titles checked and correct. There are great views of Patong Bay and city from the land. Land sits at 39 meters above sea level. A great developers plot!
Price: 15 million baht

Phuket Real Estate Partners Co., Ltd.
111 Rat-U-Thit 200 Pee Rd, Patong Beach, Phuket 83150 Thailand
Tel: 076-346346 Mobile: 06-272 6508, 09-871 5192
Email: info@phuketrealestate.com www.phuketrealestate.com


Seaview Condominiums for Sale
Rambutan Residence
An Investment in Paradise

Rambutan Residence offers 20 luxury freehold fully furnished apartments for sale. Located in Soi Playbay just off Nanai Rd at Patong Beach, Rambutan Residence offers wonderful sea views from the three upper floors overlooking Patong Bay.
Prices start at 2.7 million baht.
Please contact Peter at Tel: 01-8928526
For details please see our website at: www.phuket-besthomes.com

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in these pages are
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- your assurance that
whatever's advertised here
is seriously for sale.
Gazette Classads - they work!
....because they're real.

Property Gazette

Very Exclusive
completely furnished
with swimming pool & sala
in best residential area of



Kata. 3 floors, 4 bedrooms
with aircon, 5 restrooms
4 bathrooms, kitchen and
dining area, living area
includes furniture.

Tel: K. Nuk 081-7372885.
Email:
tounuk18@yahoo.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

**QUALITY-BUILT
HOMES OFFERED**
in a prestigious location in
Phuket for sale. Prices
range from 4 to 11 million
baht, with bank financing
available. For more informa-
tion please call. Ask for
Miss Am. Thai & English.
Tel: 087-3826258, 081-
5270527.

HOUSE IN SAI YUAN
Road soi Tohinkaw, 80sqm, 2
bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fit-
ted kitchen. Price: 3.4 million
baht. Tel: 081-2733303,
081-9684125.

RESORT FOR SALE
36 high-end rooms, pool and
tropical garden. Be in business
for the high season. Asking
price 37 million baht. Tel: 06-
2670898.

CHALONG NEW HOME
This elegant 2-bedroom, 2-
bathroom home with large liv-
ing area, separate office air
conditioning & telephone is a
must-see. Tel: 089-6521473.

KARON SHOPHOUSE
3-story shophouse strategi-
cally located between Hilton
Arcadia and Movenpick hot-
els in Karon. 200sqm indoor
area. 300m from the sea. 6
million baht. Tel: 081-892-
7847. Email: colonapt@
loxinfo.co.th

1 RAI FOR SALE
In a residential area between
Chalong & Rawai. Flat &
square, must see. Great op-
portunity. 3.5 million baht for
quick sale. Includes a regis-
tered Co Ltd. Be fast. Tel:
081-9560204.

HOTEL FOR SALE



Naka Island. 200m beach-
front, 80 villas, total 120
rooms. Tel: 087-8896074.
Email: info@sea-property-
phuket.com

**BIG VILLA
HIGH END**



4 bedrooms, pool, 520sqm
living space. Come and see,
no better house on island.
Great price, includes car.
Tel: 089-6525664.

KATA SEA VIEW



High-quality apartment,
250sqm living space with a
top sea view. 3 units left,
14.5 million baht starting
price. Tel: 087-8938747.

CONDO FOR SALE



Rawai sea view, 126sqm
living space, common pool.
4 million baht. Tel: 087-889-
6074. Email: info@sea-
property-phuket.com

SMALL HOUSE
Rawai. Walking distance to
the beach. 1.9 million baht.
Tel: 086-2670898.

524 SQM IN RAWAI
Beautiful and quiet, Chanote
title, top plot for house. 2.1
million baht. Tel: 087-893-
8747.

PLOTS NEAR LAGUNA
Chanote plots on Pasak hilltop.
1,000-1,600sqm. From 3 mil-
lion baht. Please contact for
more information. Tel: 081-
893-0692 or 081-9798685,
or Email: mervowen@vol.net

THALANG, 1 RAI
1.2 million baht. Tel: 089-
6525664.

**3-STORY
TOWNHOUSE**



3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms,
good condition. Land area:
25 sq wah (100sqm). Living
area: 180sqm. Location
very convenient, but peace-
ful area in town at Soi Pae
Chun, Mae Luang Rd, near
Khao Rang hill. Price: 2.5
million baht. Business tax,
transfer fee and others (if
any) shared 50:50. Contact
for more information. Tel:
081-5358575.

**PATONG SEA VIEW
BEST PLACE**
A tall and beautiful house
with private pool and great
seaview. 70 meters above
and 100 meters away from
the sea. In the best neigh-
borhood, no better, the best
on Phuket. Baan Suan
Kamnan: a quiet, green,
residential area on a hill.
Just outside Patong. Enjoy
the benefits of being close
to the action but leave the
noise behind. 5 bedrooms,
4 bathrooms, house on
Chanote land with many
extras and optional 2 sepa-
rate apartments next door.
(Buy house or company) Tel:
086-7866350. Email:
buurmanb@hotmail.com
For further details, please
see our website at: www.
patongbluepoint.com

BEAUTIFUL LAND
in Nai Harn, close to main
road. Opportunity for business
& development. 1 rai. Call us
now. Tel: 087-8938747.

SEA VIEW KATA
400sqm. Chanote title, road,
electricity and water. These
are the last stunning plots in
Kata. Tel: 086-2670898.



Surin Beach—Modern Seaview Apartments for sale

Within 100 metres of the beach, 80 sqm. of living space.
One bedroom, living room, European-style kitchen, fully
furnished, air conditioning, hot water system, home security system,
internet connection, television and satellite TV.
The price starts from 6.5 million baht for the first-floor apartment.

Please contact Ann 66 1 868 7676 or email: ann@mms.ais.co.th

**PHUKET ANDAMAN
REAL ESTATE**

**Buy or sell
Call us**

**Construct a High-rise Building-
Lake view**
Ideal land location to build high-rise building,
a block of flats or splendid residence. Near
main road and university.
Price: 8 million baht

**New house for sale, mountain
view, Rawai**
2-story villa comes with a private pool, 2 or 3
bedrooms. 25 modernistic designer homes
situated on a lush tropical hill at the southern
tip of Phuket.
Price 19.4 - 27 million baht

**New condominiums for sale - Ao
Makham**
87 luxury condos with freehold titles. 2- or
3-bedroom luxury apartments from 106sqm
to 215sqm. Offers stunning ocean views.
Price: 5.2 to 11.3 million baht.

**House for sale - near British
school**
Two story house, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms
including one Jacuzzi. Good location with
splendid mountain view.
Price 5.5 million baht

**Land for sale, stunning sea view-
Chalong**
Ideal for small development. 8 Rai near
Chalong temple, road access, Chanote
title.
Price: 5 million baht per rai, totals 40
million baht

Contact us
+66 (0) 7624 5966 Office
Skype: wallha5075

www.phuketandamanrealestate.com
Email: info@phuketandamanrealestate.com
phuketandamanrealestate@hotmail.com

**BEACHFRONT
BANGSAK BEACH**



19 rai, 80 million baht. Please
contact for more details.
Tel: 081-1719705. Email:
atetayap@yahoo.com

**BEACHFRONT
JUTEE BEACH**



296sqm, 1.8 million baht.
Tel: 081-1719705. Email:
atetayap@yahoo.com

HOUSE IN SAI YUAN
Go down Soi Tristar for 500
meters and turn right, then
continue for 100 meters and
the house will be on your left.
There is a "for sale" sign. It's
108sqm and has 2 air-condi-
tioned bedrooms, 2 bath-
rooms, living room and a fitted
kitchen. There is also a big
garden and a swimming pool
(and a parking space). Tel:
081-2733303, 081-968-
4125.


HOUSE IN SAI YUAN
Address: Soi Kiumyang Nuati
200 sq wah. Price: 14 million
baht. 3 bedrooms, 3 bath-
rooms, fully-fitted kitchen, liv-
ing room, swimming pool, and
one car parking space and is
fully furnished. Tel: 081-
2733303, 081-9684125.

NAI HARN LAND
For sale. 400sqm, Chanote
title, with road access, elec-
tricity, only 2.7 million baht.
Tel: 081-5376866.

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**Acquisitions
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Properties for Sale




- Exclusive 3 b/r villa fully furnished
- Walking distance to Kata beaches
- Full resort management facilities
- Rental management option

Baht 30 Million



- 4 b/r contemporary tropical home
- Overlooking the fairways &
greens of Phuket Country Club
- Few min. to major shopping areas

Baht 18 Million



- 2-storey villa with private pool
- 4 b/r, 1,100 sq.m. plot size
- 550 sq.m. built-up area
- Located in Laguna area


Baht 45 Million



- Hillside elevated land in Ao Po
- Sea views of Phang Nga Bay
- Covered by rubber plantation
- 21 rai, Nor Sor 3 Kor title

Baht 4.5 Million/Rai

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Property Gazette

BEST SEAVIEW KATA



Make your own dream house in Kata with the best construction company, own design, 400sqm plot, 250sqm tropical villa, high standard, includes pool. Now 9.9 million baht, reduced from 13.5 million. Guaranteed profits. Best plot. Tel: 089-6525664.

10 X 9M BUNGALOW
990,000 baht. JN-Tech Co, Ltd will build you a new 90sqm bungalow for 990,000 baht. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, dining, living room. Land is available, starting at 1 million baht. Building time is 3 months. German management! Tel: 084-8528234.

LAND FOR SALE
4km from Heroines' Monument towards Pa Khlok. Very nice piece of land. 1 rai, 79sq wah. Tel: 081-8953649.

NEW APARTMENTS
near Nai Harn Beach. 60 & 85 sqm. Fully furnished, full aircon, Jacuzzis, cable TV, pool in landscaped garden, residential area. Price: 2.9 to 3.9 million baht. Tel: 087-2815795. Email: chaussecyril@yahoo.fr

RAWAI SEA VIEW
540sqm, Chanote title, road, electric. Don't wait, buy now. Please call for more information. Tel: 081-5376866.

HOUSE CONTRACT
Almost finished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, near PTT gasoline station, Cherng Talay. Valued at 2.9 million baht, must sell to best offer. K. Peter. Tel: 087-2644125.

RAWAI, 1 RAI
Nice and quiet, easy to build, Chanote, concrete road, electric, water. Asking 4.9 million baht. Tel: 087-8938747.

STUNNING SEA VIEW
in Kata. 400 sqm, soft slope, Chanote title. The most beautiful in Kata. Tel: 081-537-6866.

BOAT LAGOON VILLA
Last one. Opposite BCIS. 3 bedrooms, 1 extra room, maid quarters. 621sqm. 17 million baht. Tel: 089-4441124. Email: nacky2u@hotmail.com

HOUSES FOR SALE
Beautiful 2-bedroom houses in Kathu. Fully furnished, kitchen, aircon, UBC, phone and garden. Chanote title. 33.5 million baht up. For viewing call. Tel: 081-3673106.

SMALL PLOT, KATA
1.4 million baht, 5-minute walk to beach, water & electricity, Chanote title. Please call for more information. Tel: 081-6911053.

KATHU HOUSE
For sale: 2-story house 432sqm, Mountain view quiet area 10 minutes to Patong Central-Tesco Lotus. 3.8 million baht. Tel: 087-2711270.

LAND FOR SALE
79 rai beachfront land on the east coast of Phuket, close to airport, Mission Hill Golf. Email: tthai@hotmail.com

ONLY 1 HOUSE LEFT
A boutique development of 5 houses in Nai Harn. Inside 165sqm. Covered terraces, cedar roof, pool, 2 bedrooms, 1 work room, 3 toilets. Land 343sqm, top location in Nai Harn. Well-known arch. Only 9.2 million baht. Tel: 081-8447408. Please see our website at www.nchantra-property.com

HOME IN KATHU
For sale. 400sqm, 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 1 living room, 1 kitchen. Big business room. Contact K. Olan. Tel: 076-202283, 084-1901437.

BEACHFRONT
apartment. Includes yacht. Top of the range, 220sqm, high quality, 16m boat in front. All new interested buyers get good price. No brokers. 1st to see will buy. Call Tel: 087-8938747.

BUILDING PLOT
for sale. Sloping land with lovely elevated views. Soi Kathu waterfall area. Nor Sor 3 Gor title, 1,400sqm. 4.4 million baht. Tel: 089-6498703.

BUNGALOW COMPLEX
5 Kamala houses with aircon, kitchens, large swimming pool, landscaped gardens. 9 million baht or sell individual units leasehold soon. Tel: 081-6064649.

KAMALA APARTMENT
The Club, 1 bedroom, excellent condition, fully furnished and equipped. US\$69,000. Please call for more details. Tel: 087-8957545.

RAWAI CONDO
for sale. Sea view, freehold. 450,000 baht. Tel: 086-686-5567. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

NAI HARN, 400 SQM
Beautiful area, square plot, Chanote title. Asking 2.7 million baht. Call Tel: 081-537-6866 for details.

LUXURY VILLA SALE
4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, tropical gardens, swimming pool. Price: 8 million baht. Tel: 081-0912137, 087-9237242.

HOUSE FOR SALE
3 million baht. Must sell, discounted price. 2 bedrooms, includes all furniture and appliances. Quiet, gated community, pool, sauna, gym. 1 min from Nai Yang Beach. Custom floors, cabinets, tiles and lighting. Euro/US standards. Please contact for more details. Tel: 089-5878154. Email: loverofasia72@yahoo.com

BARGAIN HOUSE KATHU
In popular small development. 3-bedroom house with 3 bathrooms, large living room, kitchen/diner, laundry room, covered patio, private parking, walled garden. Nearly complete. Rural setting though close to all facilities. Sale price: 4.5 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-8439579. Email: somlerdee@yahoo.com

LAND & HOUSES PARK NUNTAWAN 1
Urgent sale: 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom house with parking for 2 cars. House is on 624sqm of land. 6.2 million baht. Tel: 076-238777, 081-7371678. Fax: 076-282514. Email: supotpac@phuket.ksc.co.th

CHUAN CHUEN
Lagoon. 3 bedrooms, 2 plots. 560sqm floor space, 220sqm open plan. Large kitchen & terrace. Close to BCIS & Boat Lagoon. Tel: 086-0406866, 081-9796707. Email: adrian.j.simpson@gmail.com

RAI, RAWAI
Chanote, electricity, water supply, top location. 3.2 million baht. Must view. Tel: 086-2670898.

7 RAI BEACH LAND
for sale. Outer island beachfront land, 15 minutes from Ao Por pier. Great for developers. 3.5 million baht per rai. Email: solitude001@aol.com

SMALL PLOT
220sqm with sea view. Price: 1.4 million baht. 5 minutes to Nai Harn Beach, next to the front entrance of the Mangosteen Resort. Please call Tel: 087-3828820.

STUNNING SEA VIEW
Karon, top design, unbelievable views, come and look. Tel: 086-2670898.

PATONG CONDO
Brand-new freehold condo for sale. 900,000 baht. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

520 SQM RAWAI
2.2 million baht. Tel: 089-6525664.

RAWAI BEACH VILLA
Sale or lease new house including registered company. 400sqm and large concrete road. Price: 5 million baht. Please contact for more details. Tel: 086-6865567. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

LAND FOR SALE
Perfect seaview land, 1 rai in Rawai: 6.5 million baht or best offer. Also 1 rai sea view: 3.3 million baht. Financing available from owner for foreigner or Thai. We are also open for any options or any ideas. Call 089-7291391.

Properties For Rent

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. Tel: 076-398-436-7, 086-9062220. Email: karonstudio@hotmail.com For more information please visit: www.karonstudio.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

HOUSE FOR RENT
Land & Houses Park, Chalong. 3 bedrooms, aircon. New, 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-2825107.

BUNGALOW
for rent. Quiet location, 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom bungalow with garden, carport, covered patio, utility room with washer and dryer, fully furnished with handmade teak furniture, fully equipped with crockery, cutlery, glassware, bed linen, computer with ADSL, TV and DVD with cable, clubhouse with pool and security guard. 7-minute walk from Kamala beach, 10-minute drive from Patong. Phone Chaluth (English-speaking Thai) at Tel: 076-383164, 083-1028500, 084-1850036 for a viewing or drop by the management office at Kamala Nathong houses, Soi 10 Kamala (next to Phuket FantaSea).

PATONG 2-BEDROOM
apartment. 2 en-suites, kitchen, aircon, UBC, swimming pool, ADSL. 25,000 baht. Tel: 086-2790837.

2-BED BUNGALOW
Rawai, quiet location, aircon, ADSL, cable TV. 9,000 baht. Tel: 086-2790837.

NEW 2-BEDROOM
house. Unfurnished apart from two beds. Hot shower, big veranda, quiet area. Muangtong 1.3km to town, 2km to beach. 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 085-8855415.

PHUKET B.L.
apartment. New in Kathu. Big room, 1 bedroom, aircon, cable TV, Internet, hot shower, garden, car park. 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-6923163.

RAWAI LUXURY
villa. Long-term rent. Furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, covered 2-car carport and terrace, garden. Rawai Beach. 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

VILLA FOR RENT



275sqm living space, 1,200sqm of land, 10m pool, 3 bedrooms. Fully furnished. Nai Harn. 70,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-8896074. Email: info@sea-property-phuket.com

BEACH HOUSE



Architect-designed, direct access to Kamala Beach, 2 bedrooms w/aircon, 2 bathrooms, large living room, open-style European kitchen, home office. Fully furnished, fans throughout, large decks facing beach on both floors. Available immediately. Minimum 6-month lease, 55,000 baht month. 12-month lease rate is 50,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-8943839. Email: donandinge@csloxinfo.com

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1-bedroom apartment, 100 meters from beach, long/short term, 40,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-847-3304.

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Property Gazette

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.

QUIET HOUSE

for rent. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, kitchen. 80 sq wah. Big garden, cable TV, Tel + ADSL. 25 minutes to Phuket City, 10 minutes to international school and Boat Lagoon, 15 minutes to the beach. Furnished and in quiet location 1 km east of Heroines' Monument. 17,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-474-0222, 089-6502666. Email: mammos56@hotmail.com For further details, pls see our website at: www.thehoteldeals.com/photos/house.htm

LOVELY, 4 BEDROOMS

Chalong, 4 bathrooms, spa, aircon, pool, garden. 800sqm, UBC. Quiet area, 65,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-281-7605.

HOUSE FOR RENT

Aircon, phone, 2 beds, near Chalong. 6,000 baht/month. Please call for more information. Tel: 087-2929967, 081-7425884.

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

KATA LUXURY

apartment. 2 bedrooms, furnished, ADSL, aircon, teak kitchen, huge terrace, 2 bathrooms, quiet area. Fully serviced @1,800 baht/day; or available non-serviced. Tel: 089-5926890. Email: north8west98@yahoo.com

MODERN OFFICE

for rent/sale. Situated minutes from Phuket City, this newly-built small office offers great value for a company of 15-30 employees. With all amenities available, this office is ready to move in and start work. Sell at 4.3 million baht. Long-term rent at 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-537-5970. Email: info@yourrooms.com

LAKEVIEW APT/LOFT

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 floors near Lotus. Great area, furnished, cable, phone, aircon. 25,000 baht/month. Tel: 081-8928208.

HOUSE FOR RENT

Located in the popular and secure Chaofah Thani estate. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, living room/kitchen, etc, with ADSL, UBC TV, garden, furnished, air conditioned. Rent: 36,000 baht per month. Long-term rental. Tel: 084-843-9579, Fax: 076-323421. Email: somsrijenner@lycos.com

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

BIG SHOPHOUSE

for rent/sale. Located in Soi Patong Resort, off Soi Bangla, the commercial hub of Patong Beach. Approx 180sqm on 2 open-plan floors. Suitable for commercial use. Unfurnished. Tel: 076-340290. Email: paciugo89@yahoo.com

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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 LUXURY

seaview. Newly remodeled 1/1 condo, 14th floor w/ balcony. Spectacular seaview. 100 meters to beach. Full kitchen, granite floors. Custom teak furniture, UBC TV, maid service. Tel: 084-159-0501, 081-3753970. Email: patongcondo@yahoo.com

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 162sqm 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 and curtains. Asking 22,000 baht per month or nearest offer. Call K. Nui for more information. Tel: 089-5940887, 076-288-611.

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Fully furnished, 2 aircon bedrooms, hot shower, living room, kitchen, garage. 11,000 baht per month. Palai, Chalong. Tel: 081-8924311.

SHOPHOUSE BLOCK

5 terraced houses for rent on the bypass road. 35,000 baht per month. Please call Khun Vachira. Tel: 081-3269495. for more information.

HUGE 5-BEDROOM

Chalong. Master bedroom, 3 bedrooms with bathroom, great location. Call Bill for details. 45,000 baht a month. 40,000 baht if pay whole year. Please call for more details. Tel: 089-7299619.

HOUSE FOR RENT

New, 2 bedrooms built to Euro standards. Aircon in main bedroom. Fully furnished with good quality. Kitchen with all necessary equipment, including 2-door fridge. Elevated with walled garden. Very private, good view toward the ocean. Available now for a minimum of 1 year. 200,000 baht. Email: alansimpson75@hotmail.com

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

DETACHED HOUSE FOR RENT/SALE



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Apartments. Near Wat Patong, Soi Khuanyang, 256. Small kitchen, cooker, fridge, fully furnished, European-style, balcony, aircon, fan, cable TV, safety box, hot water bathroom, cleaning twice a week. 9,000 baht/month. Tel: 084-8450541, 081-8914561.

HOUSES ON MY ISLE

I have a big website with houses for rent and sale on the island where I was born. Welcome to Phuket! Please contact. Tel: 081-9680309. Email: info@houseinphuket.com www.houseinphuket.com

OFFICE SPACE

Just 2 km from Tesco-Lotus on bypass road. Office space of 240sqm for rent in new 2-story building. Tel: 076-238-777 or 081-7371678. Fax: 076-239739. Email: supotpac@phuket.ksc.co.th

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.

PATONG, SEA VIEW

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NEW HOUSE

for lease or rent at Nai Harn Beach, before the lake. 2 minutes to the beach. Safe area. 600sqm with swimming pool. Please call for more details. Tel: 089-6492947.

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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. 084-845-1208, 076-381877.

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Rubber dinghy with new 50hp engine. In excellent condition, rarely used. Price: 95,000 baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 081-895-1724.

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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. Please call. Tel: 02-6777555 ext 238, 081-8335750.

Island Job Mart



Johnson Controls Inc is a Fortune 500 company, which has achieved excellence for more than 100 years. Established in 1885, we are today a global leader in building controls and facilities management. Due to growth in Thailand, Johnson Controls/YORK is looking for dynamic, customer-focused candidates, who possess a drive for excellence, to join us for a challenging and rewarding career. We require candidates of the highest professional caliber, who share our corporate philosophy of continually exceeding our customers' expectations.

Process Refrigeration System Service Manager Pattaya Branch

Our Refrigeration Business in Thailand is experiencing growth and diversity of offering to the combined building efficiency business market. The process systems division of Johnson Controls/York supplies equipment into the chemical, petrochemical and pharmaceutical industries.

As such, this new position has been identified to focus on the growth and profitability of process refrigeration business in the Eastern Seaboard Business Area in Thailand.

This position will report directly to the Country Refrigeration Business Manager, Thailand and will be an integral member of the Thailand's team based in Pattaya Branch.

PRINCIPAL DUTIES:

1. Manage the PRS business as well as being a part of the hands on group
2. Proactive look for new opportunities to ensure our growth.
3. Deliver results to ensure the Plan is reached.
4. Ensure customers satisfaction.
5. Ensure that service, maintenance, commissioning, overhaul, trouble-shooting, installation, warranty repair and any other specialist service on the complete range of JC/York and other manufactures Process and Industrial refrigeration equipment is carried out at highest level of quality and in line with company policy & procedures as well as the industry recognized best practices.
6. Ensure service work is completed safely and efficiently at all times with minimum call back and warranty expense.
7. Develop and implement local initiatives to support the overall service strategic objectives both short and long term.
8. Maintain company assets such as service vehicle and any other tools and/or equipment
9. Ensure the continued and sustainable growth of our maintenance base through customer relationship building with new and existing customers.
10. Identify training needs, for the staff.
11. Ensure that jobs are closed in terms of issuing reports, invoices and recording
12. Perform any other duties from time to time, whether ad-hoc or otherwise, as assigned by your superior or management

Qualifications

Bachelor's degree in business, engineering, or related discipline required. MBA preferred. A minimum of five years of progressive field sales experience. At least three years successfully selling HVAC or building automation system service or projects. Demonstrates a commitment to integrity and quality in business. Excellent initiative and interpersonal communications skills. Demonstrated ability to influence the market at key levels.

The successful candidate will have formal technical qualifications and significant management experience in a similar role. You must have proven profit and loss management track record with the ability to demonstrate a successful sales growth, balanced performance in customer satisfaction, service delivery, and employee development. Leadership and relationship management, excellent written and verbal communication skills combined with effective management skills are essential for success in this role.

Solution Owner Sales Pattaya & Phuket Branch

Under general direction, responsible for the sale of large, complex, bundled offerings with guaranteed savings to high potential, solution sales customers in the commercial buildings market at the Director-level. Promote the JCI value proposition at the executive level (D-level) by providing solutions to the customer's business and financial challenges. Builds and manages long term customer relationships/partnerships with key and target building owners. Responsible for customer satisfaction. Executes the sales process to aid in cultivating and managing long-term relationships and in seeking out, qualifying and closing new sales and guaranteed savings opportunities. Positions renewable service agreements and guaranteed savings as the foundation of managed account relationships. Utilizes sales tools to plan and document progress as well as increase business opportunity in accounts. Leverage monthly checkpoints to gain progressive commitments from the customer. Seeks to expand the depth and breadth of offerings within that account. Select account team on key and target customers. Focused in a vertical market.

PRINCIPAL DUTIES:

1. Sells, with minimal supervision, the JCI offerings persuasively, persistently and confidently to building owners and owner representatives at the D-level while reaching optimal profit levels. Particularly focusing on selling performance contracting while ensuring that we achieve maximize share of customers business. Focuses on demonstrating value at the executive level by providing solutions to business and financial challenges as well as working through gateways to achieve joint planning status. Sells, renews and expands renewable service agreements, including multi-year agreements, to both new and existing customer.
2. Builds partnering relationships with the economic buyer, owner or owner representatives responsible for the decision making process to drive the solution sales of JCI offerings. Manages ongoing sales process, develops relationship, responds to and anticipates customer needs. Actively listens, probes and identifies concerns. Understands the customer's business and speaks their language. Demonstrates financial and business acumen to develop credibility, loyalty, trust and commitment.
3. Seeks out, targets and initiates contact with prospective customers. Develops network of contacts. Understands and leverages sales process checkpoints as well as demonstrates evidence of gaining small trial closes and commitments. Qualifies and assesses potential customers. Refers leads to other business segments.
4. Addresses customer's financial, business, operational and environmental objectives, needs and requirements. Recommends solutions that match the customer's business and financial challenges. Differentiates JCI services and products from competitors based on business benefits and knowledge of competitor's business strategies.
5. Maximizes assigned Project Development Engineering resources effectively and efficiently. Ensures the customer and JCI receive maximum value from dedicated and assigned resources. Engages appropriate sales support resources determined by the JCI sales and business process, including COE (construction management services), energy and operational engineering and technical support, financial and legal resources, etc.
6. Effectively writes, presents and communicates proposals.
7. Utilizes applicable sales tools effectively (Sales Management Information System (SMIS), Account Management, Account Plan and Target Account Selling) to plan and document progress as well as increase business opportunity in accounts.
8. Leads the sales team by building and fostering team relationships to ensure customer satisfaction.
9. Acts as the customer's advocate in interactions with the JCI organization to ensure the customer obtains the best value from the JCI offerings. Sets appropriate customer expectations on JCI product and service offerings.

Qualifications

Bachelor's degree in business, engineering, or related discipline required. MBA preferred. A minimum of five years of progressive field sales experience. At least three years successfully selling HVAC or building automation system service or projects. Demonstrates a commitment to integrity and quality in business. Excellent initiative and interpersonal communications skills. Demonstrated ability to influence the market at key levels.

The successful candidate will have formal technical qualifications and significant management experience in a similar role. You must have proven profit and loss management track record with the ability to demonstrate a successful sales growth, balanced performance in customer satisfaction, service delivery, and employee development. Leadership and relationship management, excellent written and verbal communication skills combined with effective management skills are essential for success in this role.

Excellent career development opportunities and an attractive remuneration package will be available to high potential candidates.

For more detailed information regarding the role please contact Surachai Nilkumwong, Country HR Manager, Thailand & HR Lead East ASEAN, +662 7170751 ext 122 or +661 8273645 (mobile phone).

HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT

Johnson Controls - Building Efficiency, THAILAND
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Tel: (66-2) 717-0751 - 5; Fax: (66-2) 717-0750 Bottom of Form

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A Phuket furniture company is looking for an experienced sales representative. The position requires generating outside sales and serving clients. Applicants must have a good command of English, be computer literate, a team player and have strong interpersonal skills. Basic knowledge of the furniture business is preferred. A generous salary, commission and benefit package will be offered to the successful candidate.

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Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following positions:

I. DESK EDITOR

REQUIREMENTS:

- ▶ Fluent in English
- ▶ Able to work to strict deadlines
- ▶ A team player
- ▶ Naturally curious about the world, especially Phuket and what affects its residents
- ▶ Some page layout skills, experience with PageMaker preferred.

Salary commensurate with skills and experience.

II. 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.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV and resumé to: editor@phuketgazette.net

III. 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.

IV. IT OFFICER

- ▶ Diploma or higher in computer science, electronics or a related field
- ▶ Knowledge of using, installing and troubleshooting PCs, servers, networks
- ▶ Knowledge of HTML, using Macromedia Dreamweaver, Adobe PageMaker
- ▶ Good skills in providing technical support to end user
- ▶ Ability to work independently with little supervision
- ▶ Dedicated, friendly, follows direction well hard-working and team-player attitude

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Wipa Putkeaw, Human Resources, by email, fax or post to:

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Island Job Mart



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- English literacy is an advantage.

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- General office administration and stock control.
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- English literacy is an advantage.
- All candidates should be currently located in Phuket, or able to relocate to Phuket.

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British International School, Phuket.

Part-time Teacher of Thai, Secondary School Level (9 Hours per Week)

Must have:

- Minimum of Bachelor's degree in Education, majoring in Thai or English
- Fluency in spoken and written English
- Ability to teach Thai and non-Thai secondary school students (11 - 14)
- Minimum of 2 years relevant teaching experience

Applicants should submit:

- Full CV in English
- A short letter of application
- Names and contact details of 3 referees

Candidates should email a short letter of application, CV, recent photograph and email/fax and telephone contacts of referees to kamolphanv@bcis.ac.th



British International School, Phuket (BCIS)
59 Moo 2, Thepkasatri Rd, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83000 Thailand
Tel: 076 238 711-20 Fax: 076 238 750 Bangkok Tel: 02 636 8991-2 Fax: 02 636 8992



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

NEW TOUR-TRAVEL

Agency in Kamala. We have a prime location and the money. You will need the knowledge & experience to build up the business and make it a success. We offer a good salary plus uncapped commission. Tel: 089-5918105.

SWEDISH & GERMAN

speaking PADI INSTRUCTOR. The ideal person can teach in both languages. Suitable candidate will be offered a work permit, a good salary & commission. Tel: 089-591-8105.

RECEPTIONIST

wanted. Must speak Thai and English and have massage or spa experience. Please call. Tel: 085-7859239.

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Wanted for freelance work, must be skilled in Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator. Please call for more information. Tel: 086-2825107.

SALES & MARKETING

Deluxe furniture shop in Chengtalay seeks for 2 women for Sales & Marketing

- Good English skills
- Min 2 year's sales experience
- Age not over 35 years
- Computer skills (Microsoft Office) is an advantage
- Able to start on 1st November 2006
- Salary 10,000+ commission, negotiable

Contact: Gary 089-4756748
Email: garyuile@hotmail.com

SALES MANAGER

If you are a well-presented Thai national with a good command of English and a Bachelor's degree or above in marketing and experience in sales, we are looking for you. Requirements:

- Able to develop marketing strategies
- Organized and can work independently
- Own vehicle.

We offer a good basic salary + high commission and bonus.

Please send CV with photo plus current and expected salary by email or contact for more information. Tel: 081-9586805. Email: kris.derweduwe@th.g4s.com

DESIGNERS

Looking for local Designers. An Italian designer is looking for local designers. Interviews in Phuket on Sunday, October 1, Monday, October 2 and Tuesday, October 3. Please email harpos@tin.it if you are interested. Looking for artists specializing in painting art on paper and on textiles. Also interested in meeting textile school director in order to select the best art students. Interviews will take place at the Absolute Sea Pearl Beach Hotel at Patong Beach.

Island Job Mart

www.lagunaphuket.com

LAGUNA
RESORTS & HOTELS

The largest hotel and resort group in Phuket and a listed company on the Stock Exchange of Thailand is currently seeking the following qualified candidates to work for one of the leading developers of luxury residential resort properties in Phuket.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MARKETING-LAGUNA PROPERTY 1 POSITION

Responsibilities:

- * Creating and implementing marketing strategy for Laguna Property
- * Overseeing effective marketing and PR communications to increase sales and ensure brand awareness Establishing new channels for marketing and promotion for Laguna Property nationally and internationally

Requirements:

- * Experience of marketing operations within the real estate development business is a distinct advantage.
- * Must demonstrate initiative and have excellent management skills.
- * Excellent command of spoken and written English
- * Degree or equivalent academic achievement
- * Highly proficient with Microsoft Office
- * Able to relocate to Phuket

We offer an attractive remuneration package and the opportunity for career growth with a leading company. Applicants are invited to apply in person at the Laguna Resorts & Hotels office, or send your detailed English resume stating current and expected salary together with a recent photo to:

**Group Director of Human Resources
LAGUNA RESORTS & HOTELS PUBLIC CO., LTD.
390/1 Moo 1, Srisoonlorn Rd, Cherm Talay, Thalang, Phuket 83110, Thailand
Tel: (66-76) 324444 ext. 16,17 Fax: (66-76) 271718 Email: sunisas@lagunaphuket.com**

INBOUND TRAVEL AGENCY

Located in Phuket. Seeking for a qualified person to fill the position below:

Operations Manager:

- Male / Female, Thai national (prefer Phuketian)
- Bachelor's degree in tourism or related field (prefer travel agent/ tour service background)
- Computer skills a must (Microsoft Word/ Excel and Outlook Express)
- Good command of both written and spoken French and English / Chinese and English
- Self motivated and willing to accept new challenges.

Interested candidates, please send a CV and a recent photograph by email to: info@phuket-receptif.com. For more information, do not hesitate to contact us. Tel: 076-261195.

PARTNERSHIP

available. With B visa & work permit. A unique concept in food function & wedding catering servicing the whole of Phuket. Minimal work required, company car included. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-2766626. Email: jockadams@yahoo.com

NEED QUALITY CHEF

(Thai). For new classic Thai restaurant in Nai Ham. Applicant should have experience from good hotel or high-class Thai restaurant. Please call K. Thip. Tel: 081-2726980, 081-8447408.

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: 076-340-904. Fax: 076-345259, or send your resume to: info@yorkshireinn.com

BAR MANAGER

wanted. Experienced bar manager wanted for small bar in Paradise Complex. Good English essential. Ability to make cocktails preferred. Tel: 084-8528142. Email: trevor@sbyphuket.com

SECRETARY

wanted. F, 25 secretarial & acct, English speak to work w/ foreigner in Patong. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-0778454, 087-5012545. Fax: 076-292073. Email: solitude001@aol.com

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Young, enthusiastic person sought to set up and run new office in Ao Chalong in the marine leisure sector. Good command of English Language important. Contact. Email: sales@sea-phuket.com with CV.

NANNY

We are looking for a person who can cook Thai food and look after our two children. Must know how to swim. Tel: 089-9710031.

BRANCH MANAGER

Siam Diving Enterprises. We are looking for a branch manager for the Diver's Emporium, our retail outlet in Patong beach Phuket. Fluent English and sales experience essential. Please apply with CV. Email: sdesystems@csloxinfo.com

PASTRY CHEF

wanted. The Deli's shop at Chalong Circle (Ha Yaek), on the way to Kata, requires a pastry chef for the coming high season. Please call for more information. Tel: 076-281273. Email: violetapple@loxinfo.co.th

COOK + WAITRESS

needed. 1 cook (5 pm-10 pm) and 1 waitress needed. Please call for more information. Tel: 081-8914019. Email: tkoschig2000@hotmail.com

SALES ADMINISTRATOR

International real estate company is seeking candidates for the above position. Applicants must be fluent in written and spoken English and Thai, have good computer skills and own vehicle. Sales experience would be an advantage, but not necessary. Interested applicants should send full CV with current salary or contact for more information. Tel: 076-527565. Email: cv@phuketocceanvillas.com

ENGLISH WRITER

for website. Writer, working from home part time, ideally ex-journalist or copywriter. Would suit retired or semi-retired expat. Email: leighw7@hotmail.com

ENGLISH EDITOR

A new web hotel booking company is looking for a part-time Phuket based English editor, who has excellent English writing and computer skills. Email: w_suwahiran@hotmail.com

Employment Wanted

2 SWEDISH GIRLS

We are 2 girls from Sweden, age 33, going to Patong in January. We are looking for almost any kind of job except dishes, laundry, cleaning, etc. Can start next February. Please email if it sounds interesting. Email: pillan30@hotmail.com

HOUSE KEEPER

Part time. Available for European clients only. I speak English and work Monday to Friday 9 am till 3 pm. Prefer not to live in. Please call for more information. Tel: 086-946-9997.

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

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

DISTRIBUTOR WANTED

We are the world's largest 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: 02-664-4241. Fax: 02-6644000. Email: studexthailand@aol.com For further details, please see our website at www.studex.co.th

BAR AVAILABLE

in Phi Phi. Beautifully-constructed bar located in a resort with high occupancy all year round. Two main bars with lots of open space surrounding a beachfront swimming pool. Great ocean views. Steady customers both day and night. 4-year renewable lease available. Friendly working environment. Well-placed to catch all of the resorts' foot traffic as well as tourists and locals lounging around the pool. Contact landlord directly at Tel: 089-7284532(mobile) or Fax: 076-253209. Email: e_fowler0405@yahoo.ca

SPA AND BAR

in 1 rai with garden and swimming pool. We are looking for someone interested in building a spa and bar around the swimming pool in tropical garden area of our resort. You would have a long-term lease from us. For further details, please contact me. Email: janco2002@hotmail.com

URGENT SALE

- Koh Lanta. Restaurant, 40 seats + bar. Concept: fine dining. Situated on the main road in attractive, expanding entertainment area. 9 years left on lease. 2 years paid up front. Low lease payments. Must be seen. Price: 2.4 million baht. Serious offers considered. Tel: 081-0989870. Email: jari12se@yahoo.com

MUSIC LOUNGE

& bar. Investment opportunity. Newly-renovated music lounge & bar for sale in Patong, will sell up to 37.5% stake, but will not sell all. 1.7 million baht, but up for negotiation. 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: 087-883-8721.

CASH FLOW

problem for the moment (divorce). European needs 250,000 baht until end of the year. I will pay back from my fixed deposit/savings book. I have evidence of these. Good interest and lawyer contract. Living over 6 years in Thailand with yearly visa and work permit. Business possibility together; if you want, we can start! Email: Zukunft@hotmail.com

GUESTHOUSE

for lease. Located in Patong Beach, guesthouse with 20 rooms for lease. Recently refurbished, ready to start. Key money: 800,000 baht. Monthly rental: 150,000. This is a great deal. Contact Tel: 076-292265, 086-0043008. Fax: 076-381772. Email: info@ayudhya.net For further details, please see our website at www.ayudhya.net

BEAUTY SALON

Beauty salon for sale. Kathu. 150,000 baht or for rent. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-8448589. Email: bb-anaiya@hotmail.com

HOTEL FOR SALE

in Patong. 14-room running hotel for quick and urgent sale due to owner's sickness. Please contact for more info. Email: info@thaorientalinn.com

SPORTS BAR

and restaurant. For sale. Large premises in Soi Sansabai, Patong. 3 million baht for 4yr lease, 50,000 a month rent. Option to extend. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-5887876.

SMALL HOTEL



6 aircon rooms, coffee bar, 2-minute walk to Karon beach, 8.6 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-171-9705. Email: atetayap@yahoo.com

MODERN HOME

office 3.5 stories. Near Phuket Airport. Ready to move in. 5 minute walk to Naiyang beach. From 4.5-4.7 million baht. Contact Mr. Chakkit. Tel: 081-6775577

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

BAR / RESTAURANT

for sale on Nanai Rd. All fittings and furniture just 6 months old. 20 years left on lease with further options. Very profitable business. Genuine reason for sale. 1.5 million baht (negotiable). Buy now and enjoy the high season. Contact for more information. Tel: 084-8478469. Email: ptpbar@yahoo.com.au

SUCCESSFUL BIZ

Monthly net profit 165,000 baht. For sale at 1 million due to relocation. Tel: 076-280-447, 081-0808557. Fax: 076-280447. Email: info@no1visa.com

NEW COMPANY

Looking for investor/s. Profit: 3 million plus per month. Looking for total investment of 6 million baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 085-888-0636.

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! Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-5413629. Website at www.phuket-massage.com

BAR FOR SALE

Located in Soi Gonzo, 2 years left on lease. Please call. Tel: 085-7826492.

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Investment Opportunity in Phuket-Thailand

- **A Successful Foreign Owned and Operated Business Est. In 2000**
 - Our business sector growth locally is @25% per annum and more
 - With diversified income streams covering the same business background "3 independent and operational businesses under the one roof"
 - We have a sizable customer base that is supporting our present year-on-year growth
- **Seek an investor to help facilitate our company's expansion**
 - The investment package is multi-tiered and offers excellent returns based on a moderate growth plan over short-to medium-term
 - A. As an allocation of equity in the new company
 - B. As an operating loan to help establish business stock levels
- **What is it for?**
 - We're seeking to access the full market sector through our retail/wholesale showroom-warehouse (property is complete and ready to fit-out). It is located near **Phuket's biggest growth corridor, at "The Heroines Monument"**
 - Looking to national/international markets, through E-commerce and increased media representation
- **Contact Us Now**
If the outlined investment opportunity raises your pulse and you would like to know more of the details surrounding this excellent opportunity please forward your details to

investments@islandpools.co.th
Attn to: Greg Moore or Pat Gallagher

O'MALLEYS IRISH PUB

Small business, big opportunity! Recently refurbished pub & restaurant, located in Phuket City. Package includes all paperwork, visas, 2 work permits and all licenses for a smooth takeover. 400sqm, live-music stage, sound and light system, UBC TV, 3 new pool tables (incl pool room), 15 tables, 40 bar stools, 5 fridges and freezers. Kitchen equipment. Offers considered. Available as leasehold or freehold. Tel: 089-7292846. Email: scottshaw77@lycos.co.uk

RETIRE ON ROCKET

science. On-line option trader offers private tuition. Learn to trade the financial markets safely and profitably from home, with a small account. You will be amazed that it's not rocket science. Zero experience required. Have an income in the tropics regardless of other people. 100% serious. Limited places. Tel: 081-7373958. Email: otrader123@hotmail.com

KITCHENS

Showroom renovation. Must sell old kitchens now as new ones to arrive in October from Malaysia and Germany. Hurry. Contact RS Venture Phuket. Tel: 081-8046354. Email: rafael.veiga@rsventure.co.th

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 for more information. Tel: 089-9858309. Email: crockstrom@hotmail.com

LTD PARTNERSHIP

For sale. Used for work permit. Only 6,000 baht all in! Call for more information. Tel: 085-7955383

GUESTHOUSE

& space. 8-room guesthouse and first-floor space for sale in Patong off Rat U Thit. For sale not lease, 25 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 083-1804103. Email: pamorales83@yahoo.com

GUESTHOUSE SALE

Guesthouse and restaurant located opposite the main entrance from Royal Paradise Hotel. 6 guest rooms, water, shower, aircon, TV, luxury beautiful restaurant, high-standard kitchen. 14 million baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 081-8956587, 081-5385322. Email: rudolspanz@hotmail.com

SHOP AND LIVING

wanted. Small office/shop with living area to rent or buy. Please call for more information. Tel: 085-7955353.

PARTNERSHIP

available. With B visa & work permit. A unique concept in food function & wedding catering servicing the whole of Phuket. Minimal work required, company car included. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-2766626. Email: jockadams@yahoo.com

BOOK SHOP FOR SALE

Patong OTOP book shop & Nanai book shop. 2 shops for 980,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-1705552.

Business Products & Services

BIG PROMOTION

Yao Yai Beach Resort
2 nights, 3 days,
1,900 baht. Book now
until October 31 2006.
Incl. two-way transfer
and beach front
fan bungalow

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081-7284996.**

www.yaoyairesort.com

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Having problems with getting 1 year visa phone for free advise. Tel: 084-745-7024.

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For all that you want to advertise and organize. Moreover we can silkscreen or embroider shirts for your team. Just opened! We will give you a very special price. Tel: 076-225800, 086-9473123.

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8 different models available for children's parties.
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www.
phuketjumpingcastles.com

Penang Visa Run 4,900 baht

Non-immigrant B and O visas
(90-day stay, multiple entry)
60-day tourist visas
(1, 2 or 3 entries)

4,900 baht - includes hotel, food and drink (NOT INCL VISA FEE)

Travel by 9-seat VIP minivan - movies, music, etc
Departs from Tesco-Lotus on Sundays, 11:30 pm

**Tel/Fax: 076-263475, 076-264476
Mobile: 081-892 9960**

Month	September 2006	October 2006	November 2006	December 2006	January 2007
Date	3,10,17,24	1,8,15,29	5,12,19,26	17	7,14,21,28

TTA LANGUAGE SCHOOL

Tefl teacher training, 120 hr international cert, Thai, English, Korean + + +. Business-personnel skills. Tel: 076-219241-251. Email: tefl@loxinfo.co.th Please see our website at www.teflschoolphuket.com

MINIBUS SERVICE



Minibus with aircon, full insurance and careful driver. Can go anywhere at your request. Tel: 08-1538-8567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

PENANG VISA TRIP

Every Sunday Rtn Tuesday. Return 48 hours Incl transport, hotel, food on route. 4,900 baht (twin sharing) single sup 800 baht.

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Visa run Ranong daily incl transport, visa fee, lunch, coffee/water, 1,500 baht. Tel: 084-7457024.

GUARDIAN ALARMS - G4S

Security system promotion for October. Control panel with keypad, siren and strobe box, 4 infrared sensors, battery backup and FREE installation, now at 39,999 baht; or call for a free quotation. Tel: 076-262101, 081-958-6805. Fax: 076-262104. Email: kris.derveduwe@th.g4s.com

EZY viza

Visa runs everyday. Big bus or mini-bus services available. Personal DVD players and entertainment included. 1,500 baht all inclusive. English staff available 24 hours a day.

**Tel: 083-1057398
085-7855389.**



Personals

BACKGAMMON

Retired businessman looking for backgammon players on Phuket Island. Please call for more information. Tel: 076-386113, 081-5778443.

IS IT ME YOU'RE LOOKING 4?

Successful, happy, optimistic, generous, romantic, middle-aged farang businessman looking for genuine girl with a positive, lively spirit. Ideally you will be shorter, slimmer, younger and more attractive and intelligent than me! You will have a smile that warms like sunshine and eyes that let me see into your soul. If we find ourselves to be the perfect match then you and our children will be rewarded with affection and opportunities perhaps beyond anything you imagined. My reward would be YOU as my lifelong companion. All replies with photos answered. Email: evancarter1957@yahoo.com

Pets

ENGLISH BULLDOGS FOR SALE

AKC Male and Female English Bulldog puppies available. Champion bloodlines, health certificate, wormings, updated shots, small baggie of puppy food, full AKC registration and 1 year health guarantee. The puppies now available are US\$700 each. For more information please contact. Tel: + 521-2365352. Email: danieltriano452@yahoo.com

GOLDEN RETRIEVERS

Nice pedigree puppies for sale.
Please call for more information.
Tel: 076-383628,
089-5877114.
prs@concept-by.com

MALTESE BREEDER

Always Maltese, we are completely devoted to our Maltese that share our home and our lives - very comfortably in a loving, indoor home environment. Our Maltese are a very special part of our family. They will weigh 6 lbs full grown. We can offer a 1-year health guarantee and a double vet check-up. AKA Registered. Please contact for more information. Tel: + 303-6956444. Email: maltesepuppy_smith@yahoo.com

Club Memberships Wanted

TIMESHARE 2ND HAND

Looking to buy or rent a 2nd hand timeshare or holiday club membership. Any location in Thailand considered. Please contact for more information. Email: richardrichards1234@yahoo.com

Notices

LA CALAMITA

Pizzeria and restaurant. La Calamita has moved to Chalong Bay (200 m from Chalong circle). Please call for more information. Tel: 087-2805323.

Personal Services

UK HAIRDRESSER

British Toni & Guy-trained hairdresser available for home visits. Contact Colette. Please call for more information. Tel: 087-975 0581.

OSTEOPATH DO

Sport massage, manipulation, accu-pressure specialist for back problems. Please call for more information. Tel: 084-6433915.

Wheels & Motors

Saloon Cars

HONDA CITY SPORT



2005, 25,000km, CD player, sport wheels, expat owned, excellent condition. Selling at 550,000 baht. Tel: 089-7256994. Email: delatorregeorge@hotmail.com

FORD ASPIRE FOR SALE

1995. Green, 5 doors, GL, auto. Air conditioning and CD player. Good condition. 130,000 baht, negotiable. Tel: 086-6862519(Thai), 085-8811823(Eng/Thai), 081-8628267(Eng).

AUDI A4 FOR SALE

1.8-liter, dark metallic green with beige leather interior. 110,000km on the odometer. 17" wheels with new Yokohama tires. Serviced by Audi dealer in Bangkok. 395,000 baht. Tel: 085-1191891. Email: c_commie@yahoo.com

MITSUBISHI GALANT

Yellow, many accessories, good condition. Price: 45,000 baht. Tel: 086-7375909, 086-6874308.

VIOS TURBO

Only 3 in Phuket. Recaro seats, alloy wheels, only 12 months old. 19,000km. 595,000 baht. Tel: 087-2696174.

NEW TOYOTA YARIS

for sale. 5,400km. 600,000 baht or rent long term. Black. Please call for more details. Tel: 087-2814024.

CHEAP CARS

BMW, Mercedes, pick-ups. From 100,000 to 200,000 baht. Leaving sale! Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-9488139. Email: aladincars@gmail.com

HONDA CITY I-DSI

Auto, 2004, bronze. 1 careful lady owner, 37,000km. Perfect condition. 480,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-2573447.

BMW FOR SALE

BMW 530i. 6,000km, like new inside and out. Excellent condition, have always used car cover. Has had 3 oil changes. Price: 2.7 million baht or best offer. Tel: 076-280709, 085-7950779.

VOLVO V70 KC AWD

2001, 57,000km, 1 owner, FSH, beautiful condition. 1.45 million baht. Tel: 081-7887109

OPEL CORSA 1.4 LTR

Very very sporty only one of its kind in Thailand. Fully serviced car in Chalong. Must see! Only 155,000 baht. Tel: 087-0245036.

CAR FOR SALE

Nissan jeep 1995 80,000 baht! 85% of all vital parts new. Powerful 2-liter engine. Twin cab. Needs minor body & paintwork, offered for max at 12,000 baht. Tel: 086-2666350.

NISSAN NEO 2002

Blue, 82,000km, manual, finance possible. 370,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 083-1753220. For Thai language call Tel: 084-1842535. Email: aladincars@gmail.com

TOYOTA CROWN

6-cyl automatic, 2500 cc, 180hp. Top condition, 1994, seats 8, metallic silver. Only 220,000 baht. Photo on request. Tel: 076-333242-3, 089-6517818. Fax: 076-333243. Email: horstkaron@yahoo.com

TOYOTA ALTIS 1.8 TOP MODEL

August 2002, black, automatic, only 1 owner, full insurance. 740,000 baht. Tel: 07-2849690. Email: fullmoonbeach@hotmail.com

DAIHATSU MIRA 97

Only 66,000km, all good, nice looking, well maintained. 110,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-909-1917. Email: portly2@hotmail.com

WRX SUBARU RALLY

Fully working turbo chip. Price: 800,000 baht ono. Please contact for more information. Tel: 085-2453132. Email: tj_biggie@hotmail.com

TOYOTA COROLLA 1.5

1998, 4-door, manual, silver, excellent condition. 205,000 baht ono. Call Mr. Rudi. Tel: 076-288808, 07-2650652.

LANCIA 1800 BETA

1975 Coupe. 1800cc, 5-speed manual, original parts, good condition. 125,000 baht. Please contact for more info. Tel: 076-345-018, 081-9039862. Email: yourplace_06@yahoo.com

HONDA JAZZ, BRAND NEW



New Honda Jazz VTEC AT(AS) 1.8 automatic in silver. Only 37 kilometers! Purchased from Anuphas Phuket, but now not needed. Cost 667,000 baht; selling for 600,000 baht with original invoice and warranty. View at Kamala. Can be registered by buyer as first owner. Please call Mark for more information at Tel: 089-9191596, or for Thai call Khun Pin at Tel: 081-9812800. Email: ribbands@ribbands.co.uk

MAZDA 323 NINJA 1.8



Perfect condition, 100,000 km, just had full service. Asking 400,000 baht. Tel: 076-485271, 084-629-7767. Fax: 076-485797. Email: stardustbar@hotmail.com

BMW 316 E-30

Good and cheap car. Many new parts. 80,000 baht. Tel: 089-0114069 Email: thommm@online.no Please see photos of the car here: www.s107.photobucket.com/albums/m305/Thaifun/BMW%20316/

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Red, 31,000km, automatic w/7-speed paddle shift, ABS, air bags, and CD. No accidents. 460,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-8814734. Email: hurtt@loxinfo.co.th

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