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Mob blockades police station

By Jenjira Ruengjarus
& Dominic Earnshaw

CHERNG TALAY (*Gazette/The Nation*): More than 100 local residents blocked the roads around Cherng Talay Police Station early on October 6 to protest the transfer of four men suspected of assaulting two local youths to another police station.

The mob also demanded the transfer of the Cherng Talay olice Chief, Deputy Superintendent Pol Lt Col Suwat Kaewphrom.

The incident followed a fight outside a restaurant and karaoke bar 500 meters from the police station. Injured with head wounds in the melee were Cherng Talay natives Chamanan Inthong, 26, and Rin Thirawiriyapon, 25.

About 9:30 pm, Maj Wacharin Jiratatanwivat and fellow Cherng Talay Police officers broke up the fight and arrested Wirapong Sawat, 23, Wacharaphong Sirimontree, 18, Rontichai Upachama, 24, and one minor. All four were from Udon Thani.

Pol Sgt Sakarin Parnkhan said, "We took the Udon youths to Thalang Police Station for questioning because they were threatened by friends of the local gang after we brought them to Cherng Talay Police Station.

"The Cherng Talay gang misunderstood, thinking we were going to release the suspects. They raised a mob of around 50 people and marched on the police station, shouting for the removal of our chief [Col Suwat]."

Around 12:30 am, more protesters arrived. The mob began to use motorcycles, police barriers and traffic cones to block



The mob surrounded Cherng Talay Police Station, and chanted for Cherng Talay Police Chief, Pol Lt Col Suwat Kaewphrom, to be removed.

Photo by Yongyot Pruksarak

Srisoonthorn Rd and Ban Don Rd. The crowd also began to shout, demanding the return to Cherng Talay Police Station of the four suspects.

Cherng Talay Police radioed for assistance. At 1:30 am, Pol Col Chalit Thinthanee, Deputy Commander of Phuket Provincial Police, arrived with about 100 officers from Phuket City, Kathu and Thalang, as well as Special Operations officers.

Representatives from the mob, led by Cherng Talay Village 1 chief Suthee Lianudom, demanded that the four suspects be brought back to Cherng Talay, that the facts of the case to be made public and that the four Udon youths be charged. They also demanded that Col Suwat be transferred within 15 days.

If their demands were not met, the mob would regroup to drive Col Suwat out of office, they said.

They also demanded immunity from prosecution for blocking the roads.

At 4:30 am Col Chalit agreed to pass on the mob's requests to his superiors. With that, the protesters reopened the road and went home.

Col Chalit told the *Gazette*, "The police didn't do anything wrong. They just took the four suspects for questioning at Thalang because the two gangs were still fighting..."

"I have presented their demands for consideration by my superiors. They have accused the Deputy Superintendent of Cherng Talay Police Station of corruption; maybe people have just misunderstood how he carries out his duty.

The three adult suspects from Udon were charged with attempted murder and are being held at the Provincial Court, Col Chalit said.

Widow recounts night of murder

CHERNG TALAY: In an exclusive interview, Chanthana Chao-wanich has explained the sequence of events the night her husband, well-known businessman Suriya Chaowanich, 49, was assassinated.

K. Chanthana, 34, from Bangkok, was with K. Suriya at their home in Baan Bang Jo on the night of September 12.

"I was not feeling well, and was lying down in our bedroom upstairs. K. Suriya was watching TV [in the same bedroom]," she said.

"I was half asleep and heard the gunshot, but [at that time] I wasn't sure whether the sound came from a gun or if it was firecrackers... The air conditioning and the TV were both on, so I couldn't hear anything from outside clearly..."

"I came downstairs five to 10 minutes later to call him to come to bed and I found him lying on the floor [of the sala]," K. Chanthana said.

Thalang Police Superintendent Pol Col Chinnarat Rittakanond had earlier explained to the *Gazette* that K. Suriya's body was found lying face down in a sala, which is separated from the main house. On the sala table were a teapot and three teacups.

"I know nothing about the killers because I didn't see anything. K. Suriya always answered the door himself, and because he was in the property business, people were always coming round to offer their land for sale.

"That night I was very confused and shocked. I called the police at Cherng Talay Police Station and my staff. The police

Continued on page 2

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Widow recounts night of murder

From page 1

have called me in for questioning twice already. I don't know why he was killed, or whether it involved his business or his private life. I simply can't say; I have no idea why," she said.

"I'm his legally registered wife, but his sons are from his previous marriage. I have no children and lived with K. Suriya for about eight years," she said.

"I used to ask him what was he thinking about because sometimes he looked quite serious, but he always told me not to worry about it," she said.

Investigating officer Pol Lt Col Chamroon Plaiduang told the *Gazette*, "We have questioned nearly 20 witnesses but we still do not have any leads.

"This case will take a long time to investigate, and we have yet to investigate his land deals.

"And as K. Suriya's murder was reported to the Crime Suppression Division (CSD) in Bangkok, they will join in our investigation."

Col Chamroon added that police believe the most likely motives [for the murder] are business deals and K. Suriya's estate, which remains to be inherited.

Gambling tops arrests statistics

PHUKET: Statistics released by the Phuket Provincial Police again show gambling as top crime category, with 164 people busted for gambling-related offenses between September 1 and 30.

The second-highest category was for drug-related offenses, with 109 arrests made.

There were two cases of attempted murder, with arrests made in both cases.

Two murders were reported during the period, with one case solved.

New Naval commander installed

AO MAKHAM: Rear-Admiral Supot Prukha (right) was promoted to Vice-Admiral and installed as Commanding Officer of the Third Naval Area Command on October 4, replacing Tana Bunnag (left), who has been promoted to "Deputy Chief of Staff Officer to Commander" in Bangkok. The ceremony took place at 10 am, when the officers and sailors under V/Adm Supot reported to their new commander, the 11th man to hold the position.



Carrefour to open at Jungceylon site

By Sompratch Saowakhon & Supanun Supawong

PATONG: French hypermarket chain Carrefour will open its first branch in Phuket as part of the December 1 soft opening of

Jungceylon, putting to rest to speculation that the now-deposed Thaksin government's efforts to reign in the expansion of large retailers would effect the project.

The opening was confirmed during an October 6 press conference at Jungceylon by Prawit Janyasittikul, Deputy CEO of Phuket Square Co Ltd, which is developing the Jungceylon megaproject in the heart of Patong.

"Construction of Jungceylon is now about 85% complete. It is a total of 75,000 square meters, of which about 70,000sqm is already reserved..."

"We have just signed with Indochine in Singapore to open an international pub and restaurant of about 3,200sqm. It will be the first Indochine branch to open in Thailand," he said.

A 400-room hotel will open in the complex about the middle of next year, but it was not disclosed whether it will be independently managed or branded as part of an international chain.

Jungceylon will be divided into five zones:

Silang Boulevard: a general

shopping area decorated in "tropical style" with international fast food eateries, sports stores, fashion stores and a spa.

The Port: an outdoor area with a pool featuring a 20-meter Chinese junk, catwalk and stage. Nightly shows featuring music and water fountains will be held there nightly at 7:30 pm and 9 pm.

Sino Phuket: an entertainment area with pubs, bars and international restaurants, open until 2 am. This zone will not be open on December 1.

Phuket Square: a department store area, including a Robinson department store, Carrefour and an SFX cineplex with five movie theaters.

Thailand Plaza: a market-style area featuring Thai arts and crafts for sale from all parts of Thailand.

Jungceylon Chief Marketing Officer Tassanee Thepprasertwangsa said, "We have set aside a budget of more than 100 million baht for local advertising on radio, television and in the print media in the first year, starting this November."

The grand opening will be in February, 2007, she added.

Seminar to explain use of nominees in Thai companies

PHUKET CITY: A seminar to help individuals and the business community understand the Foreign Business Act (FBA) will be held at the Royal Phuket City hotel on October 23.

Organized by financial consultants Network Advisory Team and sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, the forum will be in English and moderated by Preecha Hantongtus, Senior Trade Officer at the FBA section of the Department of Business Development, the Ministry of Commerce.

It will begin at 1 pm, finish at 4:30 pm, and cost 4,900 baht per person, including VAT.

The seminar will comprise:

- The legal definition of a foreigner;
- The business categories affected by the FBA;
- The limitations on businesses of each category with respect to foreign ownership;
- The legal definition of a nominee;
- The fines and prison terms for using nominees; and
- a question and answer session.

For more information and reservations, call Tel: 076-212989 or 089-4743694, or Email: info@thaiaccounting.com.

Princess to visit Phuket

PHUKET: HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn will visit Phuket on October 20 to preside over the official opening of three new centers on the island.

In the morning, Princess Sirindhorn will chair the ceremony to lay the foundation stone for the new building of the Thai Red Cross Society, Phuket Chapter, on Rattanakosin 200 Pi Rd in Phuket City.

After this, Princess Sirindhorn will graciously preside over the opening of the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization's new "E-Library", located at the Muang Phuket School on Wiset Rd in Rawai.

Princess Sirindhorn's third stop will be at the Wang Talang International Lapidary Co on Chao Fa West Rd, where she will chair a ceremony to open a new section of the shop that will sell products made by tsunami victims.

Princess Sirindhorn is then scheduled to have a private tour of the Rolly Tasker sail loft, also on Chao Fa West Rd.

Her last scheduled visit for the day will be to Patong, where she will officially open the Children's Happy Home Foundation, a childcare center.

Immigration moves office

PHUKET CITY: On Monday, October 9, the Phuket Provincial Immigration Office (PPIO) relocated to the old wooden Marine Police building, across the road from its traditional site on Phuket Rd.

PPIO Inspector Pol Lt Col Pipat Pongpan told the *Gazette* that the move was to allow the old PPIO main building, which was built 23 years ago, to be pulled down and a new building erected in its place.

The new building will be in Sino-Portuguese style and will be much bigger, he added. "It will look like two buildings together but will be just one, with three floors at the front and four floors at the back," he said.

"Trangthong A Tree Commerce Ltd Partnership has been contracted to construct the new building. Work should be completed within 360 days, with a budget of 12 million baht," Col Pipat explained.

"Foreigners should have no problem finding our new offices as we have a sign posted out front saying, 'Temporary Office of Phuket Immigration'."

"All the usual Immigration services will be available at the PPIO's temporary offices, and the PPIO will keep the same hours: from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday," he added.



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Phuket to splurge B3 million on high-season carnival

PATONG: Two festivals in Patong will mark the beginning of the tourism high season this year, starting with the 19th Annual Phuket Carnival, from November 1 to 3, and continuing with Loy Krathong Festival activities on November 5 and 6.

On the opening day of the Phuket Carnival there will be a "Phuket lobster celebration", a swimsuit fashion show by professional models and a concert by many well-known artists and groups including Thaitanium, Modern Dog, Palmy, Peter Corp Direndal, Lydia and T-Bone. There will also be a cabaret performance by the Bangkok

"Day Freeman" troupe of ladyboy performers.

Maitree Narukatpichai, President of the Phuket Tourist Association (PTA), said, "This year we are celebrating the 60th anniversary of His Majesty the King's accession to the throne and in honor of His Majesty's birthday on December 5, there will be a variety of activities all day and night, even more than other years. These will include beachside sports activities, a parade, night entertainment, a food fair and beach buffet, and OTOP booths."

Patong Deputy Mayor Chairat Sukbal said that

Patong Municipality received 3 million baht in funding from the Phuket Tourism Association for this year's carnival.

K. Chairat said the investment would pay off in tourism revenue, both for local businesses and Phuket residents.

Following the Phuket Carnival, Loy Krathong festivities will be held on Soi Bangla. During Loy Krathong small lotus-shaped floating baskets with candles lit are released onto water courses in the belief that it will bring good luck in the new year.

— Tanisa Bunyasiwa

Underwater tsunami memorial installed off Phi Phi islands

PHI PHI ISLANDS: Thailand's first underwater tsunami memorial was laid down on the seabed in Tonsai Bay, off Koh Phi Phi Don, in a ceremony on September 30.

The memorial, 1.4 kilometers offshore and at a depth of 20 meters, took about one month to install. The monument comprises three large granite markers, each 150-centimeters tall and arranged to form an equilateral triangle, with a smaller 80cm-high granite marker standing in the center.

The distance between each of the markers is 5,395 cm, corresponding to the number of victims whose names and nationalities are identified. Visitors can see its location from the three yellow buoys bobbing on the water surface.

At a location exactly 2,874cm from the memorial site is a traditional Thai sala, built from wood collected from the wreck-

age left behind by the series of waves. The distance to the center of the monument represents the number of the victims whose identity could not be determined.

Napasorn Kakai, Assistant Director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand Southern Region 4, told the *Gazette* that it is also hoped the memorial will lure divers and snorkelers back to the Phi Phi Islands.

"The three pyramids represent the three elements of earth, wind and water. Man must keep all three of these elements in natural balance, otherwise the forces of nature will restore the balance themselves. We hope the monument will serve as a reminder of the need to maintain ecological balance," she added.

Representatives from the UK, France, China, Taiwan, Korea and Italy took part in the memorials' dedication ceremony, which was attended by a total of about 200 people.

— Janyaporn Morel

Tourist dies in suspected suicide

CHALONG: A South African man apparently took his own life October 9 by putting a plastic bag over his head and breathing in LPG gas from a cooking fuel cylinder.

The deceased was listed in the Chalong Police daily log as Joeachem Hendrik Smit, 46. His passport, recovered at the scene, showed that he had last entered Thailand on September 15 on a one-month tourist visa.

According to the police log and witness accounts, Smit's body was discovered about 1 pm in his rented room in Soi Boonlert, off Patak Rd, in Chalong.

The discovery was made by Nathawan Phromsinlapaporn. Nathawan, in her 30s, said she had gone to visit Smit. When she entered his room, she found Smit sitting motionless with his back against the bathroom door.

There was a plastic bag over his head and a hose from a nearby LPG cylinder running over his shoulder and under the bag.

Thinking he was still alive, she removed the hose and bag and closed the cylinder valve. Then, realizing her friend was dead, she left the room, closed the door and notified police.

Smit's landlord, Junt Panya-keaw, said that Smit had rented the room three months ago at a rate of 3,000 baht a month.

"He didn't have much money and said he only wanted to stay for a few months," she said, adding that Smit always greeted her with a smile.

Junt said that on the morning of Smit's death she saw him go to the Roongnapa Minimart across the street and return with some bottles of beer.

Nation party to return to Phuket

By Andy Johnstone

PHUKET: Nation VI, billed as Asia's largest gay and lesbian party, will be held at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa from October 20 to 22.

Held since 2001, the annual event has grown from a one-night party in a disused theme park in Singapore to an international multi-day festival of gay and lesbian pride.

Last year's party, the first one to be held outside Singapore, was held in Kata-Karon and attracted more than 2,000 party-goers from Thailand and around the world.

Day 1 of Nation VI kicks off at 4 pm with a fundraising event in support of the Rainbow Sky Association of Thailand. This will be followed by an 11 pm to 6 am set called the "Military Ball" — not a reference to the coup in Thailand — by Argentinian-born tribal house DJ De León.

The headline party on Day 2 will be another all-nighter — the Danse Royale — this time by the legendary writer, producer and DJ Tony Moran from the USA.

As stated on his website — www.djtonymoran.com — Moran has written and remixed for Donna Summer, Becky Baeling, Britney Spears and Beyoncé Knowles, and "has turned out



The Nation V event in Karon last year attracted some 2,000 gay and lesbian party goers from around the World. Nation VI will return to Karon from October 20 to 22.

www.fridae.com

dance floors from Tel Aviv to Rio de Janeiro, New York to LA, and just about everywhere in between."

Day 3 features the Pirates Paradise Pool Party by UK DJ Severino, from 4 pm to 8 pm, and Hot Couture by Taiwan's David S and Victor Cheng from 11 pm to 4 am. The day ends with the farewell Feelin' Good party, from 4 am to 8 am, by Australia's Kate Monroe who played at last year's event.

Running concurrently with Nation VI and also in Karon will be W@Nation, presented by the Two Queens Party, the monthly

all-women's party organizer in Singapore.

The organizers of the three-day W@Nation event say they are presenting the largest entertainment line-up ever assembled for any women's program at Nation in its six-year history.

Dr Stuart Koe, CEO of Fridae.com, organizer of the Nation V party, said, "Since its inception, Fridae has empowered thousands of gays and lesbians to connect with one another, find information relevant to their lives, and meet others online and offline for friendship, networking and much more."

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You're in serious pain. You need WHO YOU GONNA

The question of how to get an ambulance in Phuket is harder to answer than it may first appear. Unlike many places in the West, where there is usually one centrally-located dispatch station for a community, Phuket has a whole host of separate – and often competing – ambulance providers and their respective emergency numbers to choose from.

Some respond to only specified areas; others claim to cover the whole island. Some will respond to the call, but only if you want treatment at their hospital. Making matters worse, finding a dispatch number that is answered by an English speaker on duty can prove daunting to say the least, as tests by the *Gazette* have proved.

There are several ambulance services in Phuket: six hospitals with ambulance services; three private, non-profit ambulance providers; and one government-run ambulance service. The Tourist Police has escort cars and a mobile van, but none are equipped to handle medical emergencies.

The hospitals providing ambulance transport are Vachira Phuket, Phuket International, Bangkok Phuket, Mission, Thalang and Patong Hospitals.

Among the private rescue services, all of which are dispatched by the local police station, the largest is the Kusoldharm Foundation, which has response teams always stationed at three locations: Jui Tui Shrine in Phuket City, Heroines' Monument in Thalang and at Patong Hospital.

A sharp pain sears through your left arm and, clutching your chest, you fall to the ground. You know the symptoms: you're having a heart attack. Groping for a telephone before you lose consciousness, you try to call an ambulance. But what number to dial? Where can you reach an English speaker to describe your condition and location? Here Desk Editor Zach Fridell and *Gazette* reporters look into Phuket's emergency medical services and how quickly they can get to you.

The other two are Narenthorn Foundation, which uses Vachira Hospital as its base; and the Ruamjai Foundation, based in Chalong.

There is also the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) ambulance service, which is based at Chalong Pier.

Unfortunately, deciding which of these to call in a life-or-death situation presents a maze of options.

Here's what happens in an emergency:

You, or a bystander, call an emergency line. You can call 191 for the police, who can dispatch emergency response workers from the Narenthorn, Kusoldharm or Ruamjai Foundations, or you can call the *OrBorJor* center at 1555. Narenthorn also co-operates with the local hospitals to find the nearest available ambulance in order to get medical assistance to you as fast as possible.

You also have the option of calling the hospital of your choice

by dialing them directly; 1719 will get you Bangkok Hospital Phuket, 1669 goes to the government hospitals of Patong, Thalang and Vachira, as well as the Narenthorn Center. Keeping track? If you're unfortunate enough to have to need this information after a motorbike accident, you'll have to remember these while you're dazed by the side of the road.

Jeff Craig, a volunteer emergency medical technician with the Kusoldharm Foundation, is frustrated with the system, which he sees as inadequate.

"People think that they're safe here. They think they can just call an ambulance like you can in America. But you can't. Try it. See what happens," said Jeff, who works as a golf pro at Blue Canyon by day.

The problem, according to Jeff, is a combination of slow response time and a lack of English-language training. If an injured foreigner were to call a hospital, he said, it would be an arduous task for him to describe the nature of his injury and where the ambulance was needed.

If the injury is severe, the victim might have already fallen unconscious by the time an English-speaker gets to the phone, he said.

"You may eventually get transferred to someone who speaks English, but it'll be someone in the accounting office, not anyone who knows about medicine," Jeff said. "It's something



The mass mobilization of the island's ample ambulance fleet was one reason why fewer than 1% of tsunami victims died of injuries after being rescued. If you fall off your motorbike at night in Mai Khao next week, however, your chances are not that good.

that needs to be addressed."

The *Gazette* called the 191 operator in Phuket City to see if it would be possible to get an ambulance by speaking only English. Although the dispatcher said he spoke English, he was unable to answer any questions, even one as basic as, "How do I get an ambulance?" He suggested dialing 1155 instead. That number reaches the Tourist Police office on the bypass road, where the officer on duty spoke English clearly but could not send out an ambulance, offering a sedan instead. Not the best result if you have a fractured spine.

The same problem presented itself when the *Gazette* dialed 1669, the line for both the government hospitals and the Narenthorn Center. The dispatcher on duty could not speak any English and had a very hard time understanding the word "ambulance."

When asked in Thai about the language difficulties, he ex-

plained that an English-speaking nurse was usually present, but happened not to be on duty at the time. Bad luck if you are starting to go into shock.

Sunthorn Pattup, an officer at the *OrBorJor* dispatch center and ambulance service, admitted that his workers face the same problems.

"This is a government service, so it is free of charge," he said. "Sometimes we have language problems because our staff cannot understand English."

At the international hospitals, English is more prevalent and it is possible to find an English speaker within one or two call transfers. These services, however, only deliver patients to their hospital, not the nearest emergency room.

Also, unlike the free volunteer services, there is a charge to ride in hospital-owned ambulances. The problem does not lie solely with the international hospitals, which are effectively turning Phuket into an international medical hub, but with the patchwork emergency system the island continues to rely upon.

Another problem, getting an ambulance to your location, is especially troublesome for those who happen to live in the far northern parts of the island. The JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa, near the airport, has hotel vehicles on standby to take injured guests to the hospital, as many resorts and hotels around Phuket do.

But if the guest chooses to have an ambulance respond, or an accident happens in the area surrounding the resort, workers at

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who is losing blood – and fast.

The Thai director of a spa off Thepkasattri Rd in Mai Khao told the *Gazette* (under the condition that her name not be used) that she has had to call ambulances three times for customers. Each time the ambulance took 45 minutes to arrive, she said.

Recently she tried to call an ambulance for a motorbike accident nearby by dialing 1669, but there was no answer. She said she let it ring, and called back again, but could not get any assistance. She then tried to call the Kusoldharm Foundation, but was told that they do not cover that area. Eventually the man who had been in an accident was forced to flag down a taxi to get to the hospital.

There is probably a surplus of medical emergency vehicles on the island, as one can see by the vehicles sitting idle outside Vachira Phuket and the Narenthorn Center most of the time. Unfortunately, unequal distribution, poor communications and lack of a centralized dispatch center conspire to ensure that when

the Marriott say it can take as long as 45 minutes for the ambulance to come from Thalang Hospital, the nearest to the resort. Not a good time frame for someone

TRY THESE NUMBERS

- 191 – Direct line to local police, who can then dispatch ambulance teams from the Kusoldharm Foundation, the Narenthorn Center or the Ruamjai Foundation
- 1555 – *OrBorJor* ambulance service, based at Chalong Pier
- 1669 – Narenthorn Center and the government hospitals: Vachira, Thalang and Patong.
- 1719 – Bangkok Hospital Phuket.
- 076-237227 – Mission Hospital.
- 076-210935 – Phuket International Hospital.
- 1155 – Tourist Police (cars only – no medical personnel or equipment).

a trauma victim needs one most, he can only guess as to when an ambulance will arrive.

“The real issue is that you, me, my family and friends are totally unsafe in an emergency,” Jeff said. “However, with the right funding we could have a very workable system up and running in no time with complete coverage.”

*Additional reporting by
Natcha Yuttaworawit,
Sompratch Saowakhon and
Suganya Semacote*

WHERE THE AMBULANCES ARE

Some parts of the island are much better served than others.



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Queer News

The 18 wheels of karma

A would-be car thief was given a crushing dose of justice on the motorway between Bangkok and Pattaya, after his bid to rip off a taxi driver's vehicle ended with him being flattened by an 18-wheel truck.

Taxi driver Nirit Luangjan, 40, picked up a passenger in Bangkok one day early last month, driving the fare all the way to the seaside resort town on Pattaya.

With gasoline prices so high, Nirit understandably did not want to drive all the way back to Bangkok without a fare. He therefore roamed the streets of Pattaya, hoping to find someone looking for a ride to the capital.

His patience eventually paid off – or so he thought – when in the early morning hours of September 26 he came across a young man who said he was willing to foot the bill.

As the pair drove through Chon Buri Muang's District, however, K. Nirit felt the urge to stop and empty his bladder by the side of the road.

It was at this point that his young fare, Watcharin Kertsri, 18, seized his opportunity.

Just as K. Nirit was finishing his business, Watcharin jumped on him, held him in a headlock, and tried to steal his wallet.

K. Nirit tried to fight back, but was no match for his younger oppo-

nent. He decided to make a break and run for help instead.

Watcharin, meanwhile, sprinted back to the taxi and revved the engine to make his getaway.

Unfortunately for him, his driving ability did not match his prowess at fighting.

Instead of speeding away into the night, the taxi lurched backwards, into a drainage ditch between the two carriageways.

Watcharin, whose name means "the birth of glory", had accidentally put the car into reverse, not forward.

K. Nirit, having regained his strength and courage, rushed in to try and retrieve his precious taxi. But after a brief tussle, Nirit again found himself overpowered. Again, he began to run away.

This time, however, he had enraged Watcharin, who gave chase down the road. Like a tiger chasing down his prey, Watcharin kept his eyes steadfast on K. Nirit as he closed the distance between them.

So intense was his focus that the youth failed to notice an 18-wheeler hurtling down the road, straight at him.

According to one witness, the thief was left "smashed to pieces".

K. Nirit and the truck driver were taken to Chon Buri City Police Station for questioning.

Source: Kom Chad Luek



Just outside Phuket City, in Rassada, is Thepprathan Rd. Down there, about 700 meters from the Phuket International Dog School (PIDS) is this lovely sight.

The fact that local authority garbage bins are nowhere to be seen in the area is a clear signal that garbage should instead be dumped by the roadside.

Got a favorite dumping site? Don't keep it to yourself. Let everyone know by sending pictures and a short description to dump@phuketgazette.net

TRASHING
Phuket



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

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



By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

When one thinks of Phuket, "ice" is hardly the first word that springs to mind.

That is why it might come as a surprise to learn that the province boasts some of Thailand's top ice carvers, including the team that walked off with the top honors at the Thailand National Ice Carving Competition 2006, held in Bangkok last month.

The annual competition, organized by the Thai Chefs' Association, took place at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Center as part of the International Food and Hospitality Show 2006, held from September 6 to 9.

Topping the 10 entries in the team event was Dusit Laguna Resort artist Somnuk Palachote, 38, and his two teammates: Chalermkiat Khaosoong and Boonsern Aksornmitr.

The team won a trophy, one gold medal each and a total cash prize of 8,000 baht for their effort, not to mention the right to call themselves "National Champions".

Originally from Nong Khai, team captain K. Somnuk first became interested in the art of ice carving when he saw an ice sculpture being created at Baan Rim Pa Restaurant about 10 years ago.

Working as a cook at a Patong hotel at the time, K. Somnuk remembered the advice of a friend who told him, "If you want to get ahead in the hotel business, learn a skill that few other people can do".

For Somnuk, ice carving was just the ticket. Under the initial guidance of K. Somkiat of Baan Rim Pa, who graciously taught him the basics over the course of a month, it wasn't long before K. Somnuk began to develop a real skill for ice carving.

Fortunately, K. Somnuk was able to get in lots of practice



Ice artist Somnuk Palachote shows off his skill with a glittering pair of birds flying up from Thai motifs.

Ice runs through his veins

after moving to work at Dusit Laguna Resort, where he now works in the Art Department.

"We are fortunate that the hotel hosts so many functions that require ice carving," K. Somnuk told the *Gazette*.

K. Somnuk was also lucky

that Dusit Laguna was willing to fund the trip to the capital, not just for himself but also for his two teammates, who work for different hotels on the island.

This was K. Somnuk's third time taking part in what amounts to the "national finals" for ice

carving in Thailand. In the past he placed high, but it wasn't until this year's team competition that he finally got the coveted gold medal, along with teammates K. Chalermkiat, a Phuket native, and K. Boonsern, who hails from Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

The National Ice Carving Competition is divided into team and individual categories; in this year's event, K. Somnuk also took third place out of 28 entrants in the individual competition, with a carving of a bird.

When asked what the secret to creating a prize-winning work was, K. Somnuk said the key is foresight: having a clear vision about what you want to create and knowing just what steps it will take to get there.

He was quick to point out that one doesn't get a lot of time to mull over options in the world of competitive ice carving: even at 250 kilograms, the blocks of ice they are given to work with quickly start to melt in the outdoor heat where the competition takes place.

Contestants also have to be prepared to create a work based on one of a number of different themes.

In the team event, for example, the 10 teams drew lots to determine which of six themes they would have to follow: Thailand; Thai decorative motifs (*lai Thai*); the sea, birds, fish or the countryside.

After drawing Thai motifs in the lottery, K. Somnuk and his partners had just two hours to sketch out their plan, explain it to the judges, and get down to the work of transforming more than one tonne, in five frozen slabs, into a shining work of art that was not only beautiful, but also told a story.

Imaginative concepts with a high degree of difficulty are the best way to pile up points with the judges, whose criteria also include presentation, general impression and suitability for complementing food displays.

"I'm so proud of the award. It's the first time I have won a national-level competition.

"I would really like to give my deepest thanks both to my teammates and to the hotel for giving us this opportunity," said K. Somnuk.





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Having reportedly banked some 8 million Euros (approximately 383 million baht) a year during his five-year spell as England coach, Sven-Göran Eriksson certainly has some spare change left over. He recently decided to spend some of the money on a luxury beachside residence in Thailand.

Sven visited Koh Samui last month to view the site of his latest acquisition, a villa that will overlook a quiet bay in the south of the island.

The property will cost some 60 million baht to build. The design includes sprung teak floors, Italian marble washbasins and a heated, five-seat Jacuzzi.

During an interview with the Thai media, Sven said Thailand was the perfect choice because of its gentle climate and equally warm, friendly people.

When asked how often he would visit his new retreat, he quipped, "Now that I don't have a job, I am free 365 days of the year."

Recent rumors, however, suggest the Swede may be a candidate to coach the US national squad.

Property developers on Samui welcomed the news. Koh Samui's property market has experienced a slump in recent months, after government officials from Bangkok began investigating illegal land titles and prosecuting developers for land encroachment offenses.

High-profile investments such as this may therefore help revive confidence in the island's property sector.

On hearing the news, one resident said the location was the perfect place for Sven to sit and contemplate why he never took

SVEN'S NEW GOAL: A B60m home on Samui



FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND

By Barry Singleton

the England team past a quarter-final in international competition.

Offshoot shooting: October 1 saw the opening of Q-Bar Samui, an offshoot of one Bangkok's most popular expat nightclubs. Large crowds turned out for the event, which featured top-flight DJs flown in from the capital.

Despite a good turnout, the launch of the new venue was marred by an incident that took place a few days earlier, when one of the club's resident DJs, Billie V from Australia, was shot in the arm while leaving another Samui nightspot, Bar Solo in Chaweng.



DONE DEAL: Sven-Göran Eriksson (right) shakes hands with Robert Collins, Managing Director of Savills.

The bullet shattered his upper arm and, despite surgery, will leave him unable to perform for several months.

Initially, there were fears that the shooting may have been a warning to Q-Bar's American owners from Samui's notorious local nightlife operators.

However, police investigations later revealed that Billie V was the victim of an incompetent gunman, who, having been refused entry to Bar Solo, returned to shoot the doorman and missed.

Pol Capt Thanchai Nuani-ran of the Samui Police said his officers recently arrested the man who drove the motorbike in the incident.

The man apparently confessed to his role in the shooting and named the gunman.

Police are now verifying the driver's story and have already begun an island-wide search.

Samui gets second new pier:

The Thai Port and Marine Corporation recently completed a major new pier project on Koh Samui, the second new port fa-

cility to open on the island in as many months.

The new Nathon Pier will cater for passenger and cargo ships traveling to and from Donsak, the main mainland port serving Koh Samui, located south of Surat Thani Town on the mainland.

There is parking for 250 vehicles in the immediate vicinity, and the pier is able to handle two large vessels simultaneously, as well as providing berths for 10 smaller craft.

Panuk Pasakdee, the project's chief engineer, said that the new facility was specifically designed to cater for heavy vehicles such as trucks and large coaches. He added that the first task would be to switch boat traffic from the old pier, which is in desperate need of repair.

The Samui Municipality Office will manage Samui's new sea transport hub, with 50% of the income generated by the pier to be set aside for maintenance. The Harbor Department already have an office on the pier and may soon be joined by the Tourist Po-

lice and other government agencies.

Drain funds dry up: The Samui Highway Department is installing large drains along parts of the Samui ring road in an attempt to prevent a repeat of last year's heavy flooding.

The Surat Thani Provincial Government provided 50 million baht for the project, which will also widen roads in some parts of the island.

However, Baramee Phetpanasiri, the Director of the Surat Thani Highways Department, originally submitted a plan to the Ministry of Interior requiring a budget of 1.25 billion baht to prevent further flooding and repair damage on Samui's roads.

Before the September coup, there was no functioning government in place to authorize such hefty public spending. K. Baramee was therefore forced to ask the provincial government to provide interim funding before the November monsoon.

However, the provincial funding still falls far short of providing long-term solutions, so local authorities are hoping the new regime will provide further funds.

The District Office has planted vetiver grass on some of the island's exposed hillsides to stabilize soil during the coming rainy season, but apart from that very little has been done in preparation for the wet season.

Samui Mayor Waragorn Ratanarak, is hoping there will be greater support for the island under the new administration.

"We certainly need the government's support," he said. "If Samui does not find any friends in the new government, our funding may be slow to arrive," he added.

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Militants want peace talks

The newly appointed Commander of the Fourth Army Region, Lt Gen Viroj Buacharoon, said he had received word from southern separatist groups who were keen to negotiate a peace deal.

Gen Viroj said the militants had taken the initiative, but declined to elaborate on the identity of the particular groups or organizations before discussing the matter with his superiors.

The development suggests the insurgency in the Malay-speaking region has reached a new threshold. The previous government of Thaksin Shinawatra had refused to enter into a dialog with any separatists.

Army Chief Gen Sonthi Boonyaratkalin, head of the military council behind the recent coup, has repeatedly suggested that a dialog with militants should not be ruled out.

One prominent separatist group based in Europe, the Pattani United Liberation Organization (PULO), said they welcomed Gen Sonthi's gesture and were willing to negotiate with the new government.

PULO also welcomed the ousting of the Thaksin government and expressed hope that the new administration would adopt a fresh approach towards the Muslim-majority region.

PULO's foreign affairs chief, Kasturi Mahkota, told *The Nation* in a telephone interview he thought the atmosphere between the Malay community in exile and the government would improve, but added the verdict was still out on how the situation in the Deep South would develop.

Campus killjoy: Twenty-three top state and private universities have agreed to push for an amendment to regulations governing alcohol sales that would prevent bars and entertainment venues from being opened or operated within 500 meters of a campus.

Current regulations only prohibit such places from operating within campuses or in areas adjacent to them, said Deputy Rector Parinya Thewanaruemitkul of Thammasat University, which hosted the meeting where the agreement was reached.

Four conditions were proposed for the amendment: permits must not be issued for newly opened pubs within the zone; annual renewal of permits for pubs already within the zone must be approved by university management; permits will be revoked immediately in case alcohol sales violate laws or the new regulations; the sale of alcohol to anyone under 20 years old is prohibited unconditionally.

The demand for stricter controls was prompted by frequent drunken brawls and the occasional fatality at such venues in recent years.



Motorcyclist taxi driver Surasing Paythai, 45, caught this three-meter-long python near the Bang Sue Train Station in Bangkok, after the serpent swallowed whole a local resident's pet dog and then tried to escape into the vast Bang Sue railway yard, which, like much of Thailand at the time, was flooded.

The amendment will be submitted to the new finance minister with a request that it be implemented before the end of the year, when permits are traditionally renewed.

From cradle to rage: Three out of 10 children aged three to five years old display violent or anti-social tendencies, according to a survey sponsored by the Health Systems Research Institute, an agency that oversees reform in the national health service.

Study leader Dr Pornpan Boonyarattapan revealed the findings, which showed that some 30% of Thai youngsters regularly bully friends and animals.

The survey was conducted among 13,808 people in 3,919 families in five provinces in different regions of the country: Bangkok, Nan, Sa Kaeo, Amnat Charoen and Yala.

The survey covered respondents in several age groups.

"We have also discovered about 40% of families engage in

verbal or physical violence," Dr Pornpan said.

The survey was part of a project to develop reliable indicators to determine health in each community and showed that people of all age groups had a fair physical health and good access to medical services, she added.

Transfers on hold: The Office of the Basic Education Commission (Obec) will wait for a new Education Minister to be appointed before deciding whether to continue transferring state schools to local administrative bodies.

Obec Deputy Secretary-General Chinnapat Bhumirat suggested it should now be possible to seek a ruling from the Council of State on whether the Decentralization Act, which required the transfer of state schools to local administrative bodies, remains effective with the constitution annulled.

The constitution was declared invalid following the coup last month.

Their protest stopped only when the previous government agreed to require that the transfer of state schools to local administrative bodies take place on a voluntary basis only.

Devil dog: A huge dog, half Rottweiler and half Pit Bull Terrier, mauled an eight-year-old boy in Bangkok, biting off part of his cheek and leaving him traumatized and needing plastic surgery.

Phumirin Boonchai was attacked as he walked past a one-story townhouse in a village in Bangkok's Don Muang District.

Witnesses said the Rottweiler jumped over a 1.2-meter-high fence to attack the child.

A passer-by stopped the attack and yelled for the dog's owner, Nusara Poonnuch, to come and rein in the large dog.

Crematorium explosion: The crematorium at a temple in Suphan Buri province exploded during a funeral service, injuring four monks, one of them seriously.

The explosion shattered a wall, which then fell on the four monks, including Abbot Phra Ngern Paphangkaro.

Another monk, Phra Sab Pasanno, 43, sustained severe injuries and is in an intensive care unit at a hospital.

A one-meter crack developed at the base of the 700,000-baht crematorium soon after it was built early last year.

Only 10 bodies have been cremated at the temple since its construction.

Villagers suspect faulty construction of the crematorium stemming from corruption.

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




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Rejected wife in acid revenge

Six people were injured, two seriously, after a vengeful ex-wife threw acid on her former husband and his new wife, who were drinking with friends in Thung Song District of Nakhon Sri Thammarat on the evening of October 2.

The incident was reported to Thung Song District Police just after midnight. Investigating the attack, Duty Officer Pol Capt Apichat Winitpong was met by Jirawat Na Suwan, the owner of the house where the group had been drinking. Jirawat had only a minor injury to his left arm. The other five victims had already been taken to Thung Song Hospital.

Jirawat told police that before the incident he had been drinking with his wife and four friends when Urai Thanawut, ex-wife of one of his drinking partners, joined them. After chatting for a few minutes, she suddenly pulled out a bottle of acid from her shoulder bag and threw it over her former husband, Wirat Thongkon, leaving him writhing in agony on the floor.

Some of the acid also splashed onto the other drinkers. Wirat and his friend Suthep Inprasit had to be treated in the hospital's ICU ward, Jirawat said.

Police were later able to apprehend Urai at her house. She told police that Wirat had broken up with her over a year ago, but that she still loved him and had been trying to get back together with him ever since, only to be rebuffed.

Recently she discovered that Wirat had taken an Isarn woman, Winada Uthong, as his new wife. This filled Urai with jealous rage and she had been waiting for an opportunity to kill both Wirat and his new partner,



LUCKY ESCAPE: A military truck was damaged after a bomb explosion in Narathiwat's Rangae district on October 4. Six soldiers inside the truck were unhurt.

but no such opportunity had arisen, she told police.

On the day of the attack, Urai was returning from Thung Song Town when she saw Wirat and his new wife drinking in front of his friend's house. This caused feelings of jealousy and desire for vengeance to well up inside her, so she went back home to fetch a bottle of acid, she told police.

Urai then returned to where her ex-husband was drinking and sat down with the group. When she saw Wirat happily teasing and joking with his new wife, she could restrain herself no longer. She grabbed the acid out of her bag and threw it over the couple, police reported.

Jarat Jantrakun, Director of Thung Song Hospital, said that all the victims were now out of danger but that Suthep and Warin

would have to stay in hospital for further treatment of wounds to their eyes and skin. Both men would be kept under close observation to ensure that no infections developed, he said.

It is too soon to know if the men would completely regain their eyesight, he added.

A weedy tale: Officers from Haad Yai District Police Drug Suppression Division arrested three men in possession of 153 blocks of pressed cannabis on September 30.

The three suspects, identified as Thongpun Ratspong, Thotsapon Sukapat and Wisan Kaewchai, claimed that they found the drugs in a deserted house in neighboring Na Mom District. Not believing their story, police charged them with posses-

sion of a Class 5 narcotic with intent to sell.

Rubber robbery: Four bandits wielding AK-47s staged a daring raid on a rubber godown belonging to the Deputy President of a Tambon Administration Organization in Satun Province in the early hours of October 2. Although police recovered the rubber, all but one suspect escaped.

Godown employee Somjit Chaosuan told police four men stormed into the building and beat him with AK-47 assault rifles until all his front teeth were smashed.

They then loaded about 2,100 kilograms of smoked-rubber sheets into their pickup before speeding off.

After the incident was reported to Tung Wah District Police at 3 am, all units were told to be on the lookout for a speeding metallic-silver pickup. A police patrol car spotted the vehicle and gave chase, but the bandits managed to lose them by driving into a forest, where they dumped their haul of rubber so that they could drive faster.

When police managed to catch up with the bandits again, officers shot out the tires of the speeding vehicle, which screeched to a halt – its occu-

pants fleeing on foot into the forest.

More than 100 police officers were then mobilized to hunt for the men, but at the time of going to press only one had been apprehended. He was identified as Sulaiman Yahsing, 36, from Pattani.

After his capture, about 9:40 that morning, Sulaiman told police he knew the name of only one of the other three gang members: Anuwah Yepair, 23, also from Pattani.

Officers said they would swiftly bring the remaining gang members to justice.

Fire in the temple: A fire broke out on September 30 at Wat Pichaiyaram, a 100-year-old temple in Chumphon's Muang District. Fire services were able to bring the blaze under control within 30 minutes, minimizing the damage.

The fire started in the cell of a former temple abbot that was being used as a storage room.

Witnesses reported hearing crackling noises before flames began to leap up, leading police to believe the fire was caused by a short circuit.

Malnutrition hits South: Up to 16% of Narathiwat children under the age of six suffered from malnutrition during the past year, Public Health Ministry permanent secretary Dr Prat Boonyawongvirot has revealed.

The ongoing violence in the Deep South had hindered his ministry's effort to prevent diseases and promote good health in the region, he said.

The number of ill people in Narathiwat who received treatment until making a full recovery dropped behind the ministry's target of 80%.

Dr Prat was speaking as he and other public health officials visited a village in Narathiwat, where two royally-initiated projects have been implemented.

The village has a population of 577, all of them Muslims. During the past four months, 13 children aged younger than six, 22% of the children in the village, were malnourished.

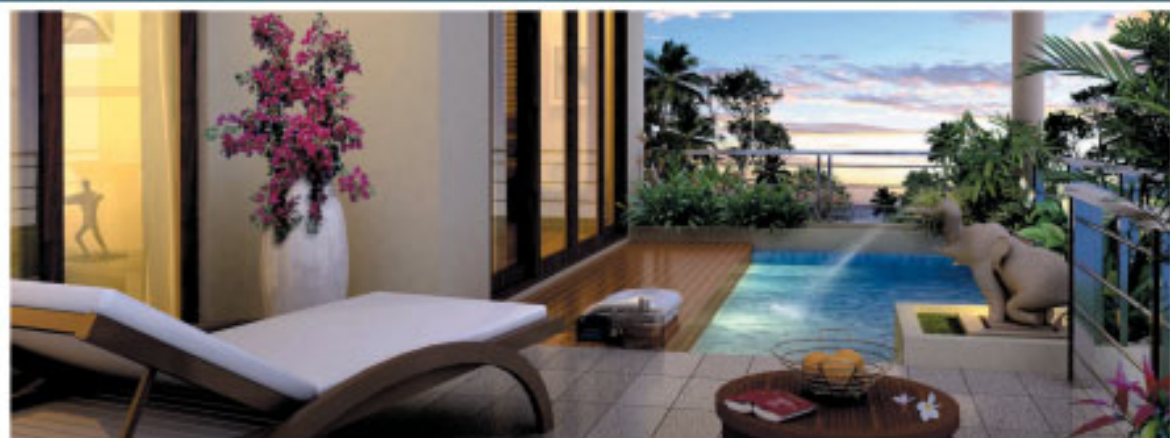
Major tragedy: Two police sergeant majors were killed in Satun's Tha Phae District after driving their pickup into a ditch on October 1.

Police reported that at around 8 am Pol Sgt Maj Surasit Sen-ning and Pol Sgt Maj Bam-rung Phichasaphak, both 40, were driving at high speed when they hit unmarked roadworks and lost control of their vehicle. Both men were pronounced dead at the scene.

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

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Yentafo: Now that is bloody delicious

By Dominic Earnshaw
& Natcha Yuttaworawit

We're sitting in Somchai's Yentafo restaurant on Thepkrasatri Rd, near the Wor Kor Intersection, and a heavily besuckered tentacle reaches out over the lumps of purplish jelly floating in the pink yentafo broth that has just been placed on our table.

A serving of yentafo is more cluttered than the average bowl of noodles. Squid, pork, tofu, shrimps, morning glory, fish balls, *kiow* (fried dumplings) and lumps of congealed pig blood are all thrown in on top of the noodles.

At only 30 baht a bowl, however, and if you have the intestinal fortitude for such genuine Thai cuisine, they are also a truly cheap eat and the restaurant is a hit with budget-conscious students from the nearby Phuket Rajabhat University.

The more squeamish can ask that the chef "*khon mai sai leuat*" to avoid having to chew through the lumps of blood, which are actually not too bad if you think about them as a kind of mushy meat jelly.

Thankfully, yentafo is not as gruesome as some other Thai dishes, such as the Northern specialty *lu*, a wonderful combination of raw meat floating in a bowl of blood, with the iron taste of the blood completely undisguised.

Make no mistake, *lu* is a cheap eat to be avoided by all but the hardest or drunkest souls.

The distinctive pink sauce of

yentafo is made from pickled bean curd and is slightly thicker than the broth of a bowl of regular noodles. The dish can be spiced to taste with the condiments provided on the table, and diners can order from the usual selection of noodles.

The dish is a wholesome filler, with the ingredients complementing each other well. If you have a particular favorite, extra portions of any ingredients can be ordered.

Yentafo runs in the family of owner Arkom Phimsorn. He inherited the stall from his father, K. Somchai, more than 10 years ago. Before that, the family ran a yentafo stall in Haad Yai.

"The recipe was handed down from my father. When he was running the stall, I would always watch him when he was cooking and preparing the ingredients. I learned everything from him.

"The most important thing is the *kiow* and shrimps I put in the bowl just before serving it to the customers," K. Arkom says.

The top-selling dish is yentafo tomyam, Thais like it as it is spicier than the regular yentafo, says K. Arkom.

Also available is tomyam, with or without soup broth, and bamee nam (egg noodles in broth) as well as a simple range of drinks, including coconut juice and iced tea.

Somchai's Yentafo is located opposite the Toyota showroom on Thepkrasatri Rd, just north of Phuket City.



Above, Arkorn Phimsorn in his kitchen.



Right, Bamee yentafo tomyam. The dark purple chunks are congealed pig's blood.

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Happily Ever After

Recent weddings in Phuket

Chutima Tanataveesakul and Christian Schmid were married in the Phuket Ballroom at the Royal Phuket City Hotel on September 28.



Also married in the Phuket Ballroom at the Royal Phuket City, but on August 10, were Kanokporn Saelim and Auychai Tantipiriyaporn.

The

Patients attending Vachira Phuket Hospital are often surprised when their doctor turns out to be a tall foreigner, chatting away happily in Southern Thai. Dr Gerhard Melcher, who comes from Bavaria, is an orthopedic surgeon and has been assisting at Vachira for more than two and a half years. The *Gazette's* Janyaporn Morel went to the hospital to find out more.

When he was young, Gerhard Melcher wanted to be an engineer. He completed an apprenticeship in mechanics, then worked as a helicopter mechanic with Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm for three years, before returning to school to work for his high school diploma, which he received in 1990.

After graduating from high school in Munich he studied mechanical engineering for five years at the Technical University of Munich (TUM), then French as a foreign language for one year at the Institut Français, also in Munich.

Then, in 1997, he made an abrupt change. He returned to the TUM to study medicine for six years, graduating three years ago.

"When I started studying medicine, I was sure I had made the right decision and would not go back to being an engineer," Dr Melcher said.

Aside from his academic achievements, Dr Melcher has also ably demonstrated his considerable sporting prowess. From 1988 to 2002 he was a member of the German national freestyle ski team. He was also German inverted-freestyle aerial skiing champion. In March, 2000, he took third place in the freestyle skiing world championships.

"I wanted to work abroad when I finished medical school, but I had no specific plans to come work in Thailand. In 2003 I did two months of medical teaching practice at the Prince of Songkhla University in Haad Yai and my professor there asked if I wanted to go on working in Thailand.



I said 'no' because I had plans to go to the USA.

"After finally finishing my studies, I worked for a clinic at my university in Munich for six months and then moved to the USA. I worked at the Salt Lake City University Hospital for one year, but I didn't really enjoy it.

"I wondered where else I

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post in Salt Lake City, Dr Melcher was introduced to Dr Jiradesh's friend at Vachira, Dr Choochart Nitwattana. Dr Jiradesh told him that foreigners are permitted to work for government hospitals such as Vachira and that he would have plenty of patients to treat there.

"Every doctor who studied abroad has to pass an exam from the Medical Council of Thailand before they can practice here. At first I thought I would have to work for about six months before I could get the certificate, but actually it's very difficult.

"The exam is all in Thai, so I had to study more. Now I've been here two and half years and I still don't have the certificate yet. This means that any medical examinations or treatments I order have to be approved by Dr Choochart," he said.

"Now I'm helping here for free, though the hospital does provide me with accommodation. The number of hours I work depends on me, but if I'm not preparing myself for the exam, then I'll usually be here," he said.

Dr Melcher said that he enjoys being a doctor at Vachira because his Thai patients are friendly and easygoing.

"Thai patients are nice and not too fussy like foreigners. Western patients often have

HELLO, THERE:
A very young patient comes to terms with the idea of having a foreign doctor.

doubts in the treatments prescribed, and sometimes they just don't trust the doctor. Thai patients have faith in their

doctor's advice; this makes life much easier," he said.

"I like Thai people who live outside the city and who have never had contact with foreigners. I think that Thai people who have had a lot of involvement with foreigners often just think about how they can benefit from the relationship.

"This is understandable; maybe they have had bad experiences with foreigners before. I like the patients in this hospital though, they may be poor, but they are sincere. I like their smiles. Sometimes they don't know how to reply to my questions so they just smile," he said.

Dr Melcher plans to continue working at Vachira, despite the fact that, when he gets the certificate from the Medical Council of Thailand, he could work in any hospital he likes – and many of them could offer a considerably greater financial rewards.

"I also like to work outside the city, in places where they have no doctors. I once went to



'I like the patients in this hospital ... they may be poor, but they are sincere. I like their smiles.'

German, French, English, Portuguese, Spanish, Norwegian, Dutch, Italian, Swedish and Thai. This proved invaluable in the aftermath of 2004's tsunami.

"I worked very hard at that time. I went four days with almost no sleep. There were many foreigners who came to the hospital and they were so scared. They felt safer and more comfortable when they encountered a doctor who could speak their language," he said.

Asked whether he had any plans apply to become a Thai citizen, he said it had never crossed his mind.

"I still want to be a foreigner, a foreigner who can live with Thais without any problems. I want Thai people to keep their identity. I want them to retain their good nature. Thai people are friendly and calm; not aggressive.

"The best example to show to foreign countries is the recent coup. In other countries I don't think you would have seen people going out to give flowers to the soldiers and take photos with the tanks.

"I have been working with Thai people for more than two years and no one has ever become angry with me or been rude to me," he said.

"The most difficult thing for me being a doctor here was when people spoke Southern Thai, though now I am more used to it. The first time when patients meet me, they are sometimes scared, especially the children.

"But once they get to know me, they are fine," said Dr Melcher, smiling.

could work, and I started to think about Thailand again," he said.

Dr Melcher's first visit to Thailand came in 2000 when he had a stopover in Bangkok and visited Phuket on the way back from a skiing competition in Australia.

"As I was studying to be a doctor, I was interested to know

how hospitals in Thailand operate. Therefore I called in at Phuket International Hospital to observe what they were doing there. I was introduced to an orthopedic surgeon, Dr Jiradesh Khaosong, and we became good friends," he said.

When he came back to Thailand in 2004 after leaving his

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This week



NOW SMILE: At the recent Promjai Dental Clinic seminar on dental implants, cosmetic dentistry and teeth whitening at Royal Phuket City Hotel are (from left) Dr Narong Potiket, Promjai Dental Clinic owner Dr Achara Pandaeng, tooth whitening expert and singing star Dr Kittiluk "Joom Jim" Junratsathien and Dr Sirichai Kiattavornchareon.



HEALTHY HANDOVER: As one of his last duties as Governor of Phuket, Udomsak Usvarangkura (2nd from left) receives from Royal Phuket Marina Developer Gulu Lalvani a photo of the Tambon Vichit Healthcare Center. The center was donated by construction giant K-TECH and Mr Lalvani. K-TECH owner Dominic Kevorkian (right) and Phuket Public Health Office Chief Dr Wanchai Sattayawuthipong look on.



BLOOD WORKS: In the center row, Peter Carolan (3rd from left), Senior Officer, Health and Care, of the International French Red Cross; Dr Rachanee O'Charoen (center), of the Thailand Red Cross Society's National Blood Center; and Henna Korte (3rd from right), Country Coordinator, Finnish Red Cross; pose with volunteers at a recent seminar on developing a blood-donor program. The event was held at the Royal Phuket City Hotel.



RIVER OF WINE: Eddie Sawiris (right) celebrates becoming 50 years of age with his partner Sharon (left), family and close friends at Lakeside Restaurant, Laguna. Eddie, Sharon and their son Khan recently moved to Phuket from Margaret River, Western Australia, where the family owns the boutique vineyard Frog Choir Wines.



HECTA-HOWARD: The Green Man Pub proprietor Howard Digby-Johns and his wife Phoonphan "Nui" Jangraksa take a break from the main celebrations for Howard's 60th birthday on October 4 with a quiet toast in the pub's wine cellar.



BANTHAI BACCHANALIA: BanThai Beach Resort & Spa General Manager Gerard Tan (center) poses with Landolt Wine Co Managing Director Hannes Landolt (left) and Phuket Best Food Director Dr Chukiet Thitadilok at the recent wine tasting of the Romanian and Moldovan wines imported by Phuket Best Food.



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Ford looking to sell off Aston Martin

Aston Martin, the iconic British sports car maker, has a "For Sale" sign outside its Gaydon headquarters in central England.

The firm, part of Ford's Premier Automotive Group (PAG), is now generating profits, which is more than can be said for sister PAG brands Jaguar and Volvo, and is producing 5,000 cars a year – about the same number as Ferrari makes.

While rumors constantly swirl about Ford's future, you have to ask why the world's number-three car manufacturer would want to rid itself of one of its profitable brands?

Chief executive and Chairman Dr Ulrich Bez, who has been one of the mainstays of the company's turnaround in recent years, is said to be mounting a management buyout.

Dr Bez has more than 30 years in the industry and is an automotive engineer as well as a senior executive.

Before he moved to Aston Martin, he was a business adviser to Ford in the US, and previously he had been involved in product design and development at Porsche, BMW and Daewoo (the latter now owned by GM).

German-born Dr Bez is the author of more than 40 scientific publications related to passive safety, aerodynamics, materials and design concepts.

It is Dr Bez who can take the credit for the launch of Aston Martin's current three-model lineup: the US\$234,000 V12 Vanquish, the US\$160,000 DB9 and the more-reasonably-priced V8 Vantage, selling at US\$110,000.

"The V8 Vantage is a significant car for us," said Dr Bez at the launch.

"It is now the third model in our range and is the culmination of the first phase of reinvigorating the Aston Martin brand around the world, which began in the year 2000."

The exterior of the V8 is beautifully proportioned, featuring a long hood to house a magnificent 4.3-liter V8 along with a two-seater cabin, while minimal front and rear overhangs give it a wheel-at-each-corner look.

Although the car is not particularly spacious, there is a rear hatch that opens onto a large luggage area that improves practicality.

Before launch, the Vantage

V8 underwent extensive test and development programs, with a total of 78 prototypes rigorously tested over more than 2½ million kilometers.

High-speed testing was carried out at the Nardo test track in Italy, and teams went from Dubai, where temperatures can hit 49°C, to Sweden, where they can reach -30°C.

Performance figures for the compact Aston Martin are astonishing. Maximum speed is 280 kmh, while the sprint time from rest to 100kmh is an intoxicating five seconds exactly.

The all-alloy V8 features variable inlet camshaft timing thereby improving the torque output which peaks at a massive 410Nm. Maximum power is a strong 380bhp (283kW).

The engine is assembled by hand at Aston Martin's new engine production facility in Cologne, Germany, where all the company's engines are built, including the outstanding V12 for the Vanquish and DB9.

Part of the performance equation is due to the lightweight body and underpinning construction.

The body is aluminum, the windshield surround is die-cast aluminum and the door inner panels are cast magnesium.

Weight, though, has to be balanced in a sophisticated sports model. To this end Aston Martin engineers have located the six-speed gearbox in a transaxle at the rear of the vehicle, connected to the engine by a cast-aluminum tube and carbon-fiber prop shaft.

The configuration bestows an almost perfect weight distribution of 49:51 on the Vantage V8.

The interior is in the very best Aston Martin tradition, with grain leather upholstery, an alloy finished fascia, 10-way adjustable power seats, automatic climate control, dual-stage driver and passenger airbags, together with side airbags.

Although Aston Martin is officially on the market, Ford stresses that no decision has been made about Jaguar or Land-Rover.

Aston Martin is considered to be the easiest brand to part with as it is the smallest in terms of production numbers.

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



Above, the 'baby' of the range, the US\$110,000 Vantage V8, is a 'significant car for us', says Chief Executive and Chairman Dr Ulrich Bez (right), who is said to be mounting a management buyout.



By Jeff Heselwood

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Take a group of gung-ho, Devil-may-care, roaring reporters and effete editors, lock them in a secure and safe environment, provide them with enough caffeine-overloaded "energy" drinks to make a tuk-tuk driver balk and watch the results.

What is this, a cruel experiment? The latest reality TV show? An investigation into Huxley's Infinite Monkey Theorem (IMT)?

For anyone unfamiliar with the IMT, Gian-Carlo Rota wrote, in a textbook on probability, "If the monkey could type one keystroke every nanosecond, the expected waiting time until the monkey types out Hamlet is so long that the estimated age of the universe is insignificant by comparison ... This is not a practical method for writing plays."

Rota died before the book was finished. Good Lord willing and the creek don't rise I might before this is.

Anyway, digressions aside, it's worse, far worse. It was a "taste-test" idea dreamt up by an editor to be known by the nom de plume of Philippa M.T. Paige, during the weekly editorial meeting.

"Taste test?" said one testy editor, "I'd rather taste ten tigers' testes."

"Not again," we said as one.

The assembled energy drinks, from the well-known Red Bull and .357 – the latter is a species found in abundance in its natural habitat, empty and by the side or in the middle of the road, a little like lemmings at a fjord – to the lesser-spotted Sun Spark were looked upon with fearful delight, and even delightful fear, by the *Gazette* editorial team.

We were almost at the



By Andy Johnstone

point of no return. First, however, some history.

Lipovitan was the brand that started off the energy-drink boom in Thailand.

Having long been relied upon by weary salarymen toiling away in post-war Japan, it was introduced here in the 1960s by workers in Japanese companies.

The twitch-inducing kick quickly caught on among Thai laborers and it spawned a flotilla of copies, the most successful being *Krathing Daeng*, or Red Bull as it is known in the West.

Taisho, the company that makes it, claims that it is "an innovative concept of incorporating energy-enhancing vitamins into a liquid form." After listing its many virtues, however, they also note, "These statements have not been evaluated by the FDA. This product is not intended to treat, diagnose or cure any disease."

Lipovitan-D at 12 baht a bottle is at the luxury end of the energy drink market, a clear 2 baht more expensive than most of its competitors. For the mon-

"Taste test?" said one testy editor, "I'd rather taste ten tigers' testes."



ROCKET FUEL

ey, consumers get an extra 0.2 grams of vitamin T and the guarantee of Japanese quality.

Vitamin T, incidentally, is believed to be a factor in the production of soldier ants and termites – the aggressive ones with the huge heads.

The Lipo family of drinks are

a godsend when the handlebars of your motorbike begin to look like an attractive pillow for a high-speed nap or you have 25 minutes to produce 1,500 words of copy on energy drinks.

Our poisons of choice were: M150, Sun Spark, Red Bull Theoplex-L, Carabao Daeng, Ranger, White Shark, Shark Coolbite, Lipovitan D, Lipo-plus, Red Bull Extra, Red Bull, Luk Tung Max, Carabao XO Smell of Whiskey and .357 Magnum +.

Exciting though these brands may be, we noticed that, compared to other countries, Thailand has a rather shy approach to naming such drinks.

In Korea, one can buy Bacchus-F. In the US, Cocaine™ – which does not contain that naughty crystalline tropane alkaloid – is available. Crunk!!, Lost Big Gun, Pimp Juice, Gay Fuel, Cum, Semtex and Who's Your Daddy are on shelves, too.

Even actors are getting in on the, er, act. Steven Seagal's

Lightning Bolt can be bought, so the marketing blurb says, "in over 60 countries, including Wales and Zambia!"

Another reason not to visit those two places then.

We drank the liquids. Some of us were more used to them than others. Some of us were more used to drinking Red Bull with equal amounts of vodka and noticed a slight dullness to the taste.

We were all to write down the effects felt. Some did. Others forgot. One or two couldn't control their motor functions.

Here are some extracts from the journals.

"A bottle of Lipo drunk after lunch adds a certain edgy excitement to the afternoon at work. Work is produced more rapidly but sustained concentration and attention to detail prove difficult.

"As is the case with many good things in life, downing one bottle of Lipo turns the drinker into someone who wants to down



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another bottle of Lipo. The temptation to sustain the energy and keep the 3 o'clock come down at bay is almost irresistible."

"Also available from Taisho Pharmaceutical Company is Lipo-vitan-D's beefed up cousin; Lipo-plus. This is 50% larger in volume and contains a whopping 1.4 grams of taurine as well as 1.6 grams of honey.

"Lipo-plus is best taken clutched in the left hand, with a bottle of SangSom or Mekhong whiskey in the right.

"If it's near the end of the month and funds are running low, the Mekhong can be replaced by Alcohol Factory brand rice liquor (*lao khao*), available from any 7-Eleven for a dangerously small amount of money.

"But don't ignore the government warning that you should not consume more than two bottles of any one of these drinks in a 24-hour period (written on the side of the bottle in eye-strainingly small Thai letters) as the inevitable comedown can be unpleasant.

"As the alcohol starts to wear off, or your body starts refusing to process it, the first twinges of paranoia can be felt creeping into the brain.

"Difficult questions arise, such as: 'Is it really such a good idea to be drinking at 5 am in the middle of nowhere with a group of workers from Nakhon Sri Thammarat, one of whom is proudly showing off where he was shot through the face?'

"Or the more mundane: 'Why am I pissing my life away on industrial alcohol and sketchy drinks made by drug companies?' start flowing thick and fast into what is left of the mind, usually accompanied by rushes, heart palpitations, uncontrollable quivering, and a desire to phone your mother and say, 'Mother, I can never come home again because I've left an important part of my brain somewhere, somewhere in a field in Hampshire.'"

Another sacrificial victim, sorry, researcher, noted:

"I inadvertently picked up a

bottle, and was told that it was the worst possible energy drink. Not wanting to be the only guinea pig, I started having all the writers try it.

"Their reactions were classic: 'It has the smell of a fruit. A fruit that is about to be dead.'

'No no no no...'

(Cough cough) '... That's NOT good.'

"Another reporter said it 'tasted like fish sauce', and the sampling quickly deteriorated as reporters challenged each other to do shots, each grimacing after the shot was done.

Several couldn't speak for a minute after they had done the shot as they had to concentrate on keeping the liquid down.

"Finally a hardier reporter from the TV section came in to try it and said he loved it. It was the only mildly-positive remark, and he was the only one it didn't leave gagging, even though he couldn't suppress a few coughs.

"His explanation? 'It tastes like whiskey.' But then, it was Carabao XO Smell of Whiskey."

Be aware, dear reader, that these drinks do contain rather high quantities of caffeine, but none come even close to that of fresh

coffee.

They also contain Taurine, from the Latin *taurus*, meaning bull, which was first isolated from ox bile in 1827 by German scientists Friedrich Tiedemann and Leopold Gmelin).

The BBC website has a report that researchers at the University of London's School of Pharmacy suggest that taurine can reverse the liver damage caused by alcoholism or even a heavy night's drinking.

Taurine is also, supposedly, "abundant in most forms of cat food as it is essential for cat health."

Bulls, pussies, sharks? This is too much for me; I'm going for a quiet lie down in a dark room – at least until the tremors wear off.

– *Additional research by Dominic Earnshaw and Zach Fridell*

Twist of pate – the bald truth

It starts with a receding hairline during puberty followed by a bald spot on the back of the head. Soon, only a fringe of hair remains where there had once been a full and proud thatch.

Many men suffer from male-pattern baldness. Some find toupees or hairpieces uncomfortable, but turning the remaining hair into a comb-over is rarely an attractive option either. The best look remains a short, simple cut.

"By age 50, about 50% of men have some hair loss, but in many different ways," said Professor Ulrike Blume-Peytavi, head of the Clinical Research Centre for Hair and Skin Physiology at Berlin's Charite Hospital.

Of course, everyone has some natural hair loss. A normal person has about 100,000 hair follicles and loses about 60 to 70 a day.

"But if it turns into 60 to 100 strands a day, you should get it looked at," says dermatologist Rolf Hoffmann.

Even those levels of hair loss do not mean baldness is imminent. If it only lasts for two or three days, Professor Blume-Peytavi says not to worry.

"But if the hair loss continues for more than eight weeks, you should go to the doctor – not wait until the hair has grown noticeably thinner."

Sometimes the problem is spot baldness, but that is rare and caused by illness. "In 95% of men's cases, the diagnosis is inherited baldness," says Dr Hoffmann. Men can calculate their



While men are becoming increasingly worried about going bald, many are unintentionally highlighting bare crown.

risk of going bald by looking at the heads of their forefathers. "The maternal grandfather is the key," says the doctor.

Dr Hoffmann advises people away from their first impulse – covering up the thinning areas with their remaining hair. Hairstylists agree. "Making a deep parting and then combing the remaining hair over just doesn't work," says fashion hairstylist Winfried Loewel.

His colleague Klaus-Dieter Kaiser, a one-time hairstyling world champion, recalls with horror the way men of earlier generations would try to hide bald spots.

"When your hair starts to thin out, just cut everything around it shorter," recommends the expert. "If you leave your hair long in back and on the sides, then you

only draw attention to the thinning regions," he says.

Covering a growing bald spot with a toupee or hairpiece should be left to those who cannot psychologically deal with going bald, says Professor Blume-Peytavi.

Another option is using popular drugs like Rogaine or Propecia to keep the balding in check.

"But you can't influence the gene. As soon as you stop taking these medications, the hair will start to fall out again," says Professor Blume-Peytavi.

– *Kai Portmann, dpa*

'Mother, I can never come home again because I've left an important part of my brain somewhere, somewhere in a field in Hampshire.'

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TALES OF A TRAVELER

By Ed Peters

Reap the benefits

Rule One for travelers to Siem Reap is to get “adopted” on Day One. This is easily done, with moto taxi drivers clustering by the major hotels and thoroughfares, proudly boasting in nigh-fluent English of their local knowledge and the worthiness of their steeds.

The going rate is about US\$10 a day, the combination of 250cc armchair plus pilot is thoroughly comfortable, and once you’ve been taken under one driver’s wing, the others leave off pestering you.

Not that Siem Reap is a hassle; the town is booming, largely helped by the arrival of an estimated one million visitors a year who flock to Angkor Wat and the surrounding temples.

While this is the prime, unmissable attraction of this part of Cambodia – catch a ride in the tethered balloon at sunrise for the best views, with the least people in the way – there’s a lot more to see both during the day and after dusk.

Zippering about in a moto taxi is a sightseeing tour in itself. The Siem Reap panorama unrolls by the roadside, with nothing to block the sights and sounds along the way.

About 15 kilometers south of town, Tonle Sap lake is one of the largest bodies of freshwater in Asia, remarkable for its annual quintupling in size to around 12,000sqkm when the Mekong river, swollen with snow melt and monsoon run off, backs up in a unique hydrological phenomenon.

Tonle Sap is home to more than 100 varieties of waterbirds, some 200 species of fish, as well



as turtles, crocodiles and otters. In many ways it is the lifeblood of the country’s agriculture, and is the site of numerous picturesque floating villages, populated by a mix of Khmer and Vietnamese.

Boat trips from Chong Khneas are a great way to spend half a day or more and take in fish farms and the Gecko Environment Center, as well as the higgledy-piggledy dwellings that line the shore.

Inland, and perhaps half-an-hour’s drive by moto, the National Silk Center at Puok is one of the most heartening signs of Cambodia’s regeneration.

Apart from showcasing the silken trail from worm to loom,

Left, Cruising on Tonle Sap. Top, the Angkor Wat balloon rises to 200 meters. Above, one of the chic watering holes in Siem Reap.

the center hosts a beautifully-laid-out shop, Artisans D’Angkor, where products created by 700 artists in 15 rural workshops are up for sale.

Back in town, numerous spas provide an antidote to a day on Cambodia’s roads, which despite the best efforts of your moto driver have a tendency to bump and jar.

From simple reflexology to more elaborate body treatments, there is no shortage of choice, with the Kainnora Spa at the Angkor Palace Resort – one of a score of new hotels which have mushroomed along the airport road – drawing crowds of repeat customers.

It may be the end of a day of sightseeing, but things are just beginning at Pub Street, a closely-knit grid of eateries and watering holes whose etymology requires little explanation.

Rather than simply being a backpacker hangout, the area’s taken a decidedly up-market turn in the past couple of years, with posh restaurants such as Blue Pumpkin and colonial-style cafés such as Indochine adding a touch of class to the more earthy mix of Irish pubs and Indian curries joints.

And at the end of the evening, there’s your faithful moto taxi to run you home in comfort.

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Comments from our customer boarded during 14-16 Feb 06
“Everything was perfect. The boat was clean and was very good condition. Service perfect, Food perfect, Captain perfect. We enjoy very much.”

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Where Samuel Taylor Coleridge alive, well and on holiday here, a quick trip to Sukko Cultural Spa & Wellness would undoubtedly have him reaching for his poetic pen.

The only difference to his poem Kubla that the great man would make might be:

*On Phuket isle did Kubla
Khan
A stately pleasure-dome
decree...*

Sukko Spa, set on 35 rai just off Chao Fa West Rd, is a vast and complex edifice, a veritable Xanadu, a pleasure-dome to the pleasures of the senses. It impresses by its scale and markets itself with the enigmatic tagline, "The world's first cultural spa".

It borrows design architectural motifs from the Sukhothai period and from perceived impressions of what the palace of Indra, the Hindu god of war and thunder, may have looked like.

Appropriately enough for a visit to a facsimile of Indra's palace, it is raining today. An occasional bolt of lightning splits darkling skies. The thunder sounds ominous, much like the sound of a thin sheet of metal being shaken backstage during the storm scene in a play.

I rush through the rain to the entrance, where I am greeted by Rangsiman "Chai" Kingkaew, Business Analysis Manager of Sukko Spa.

The sound of the rain and thunder seemingly dissipate once I find myself within the great walls of Sukko. It is suddenly hot and quiet, and although I thought Sukko would be just like any other spa, I was wrong.

We climb five steps to a heavy door, which looks like it may have come from a mighty fortress. The solidity of the door and the structure as a whole imparts the feeling of safety and security. The outside world is kept where it should be – outside – by this mighty gateway.

At the bottom of the stairs, we pay homage to Sri Ganesh, the Lord of Good Fortune and the Destroyer of Obstacles, by casting a flower upon the waters before his statue.

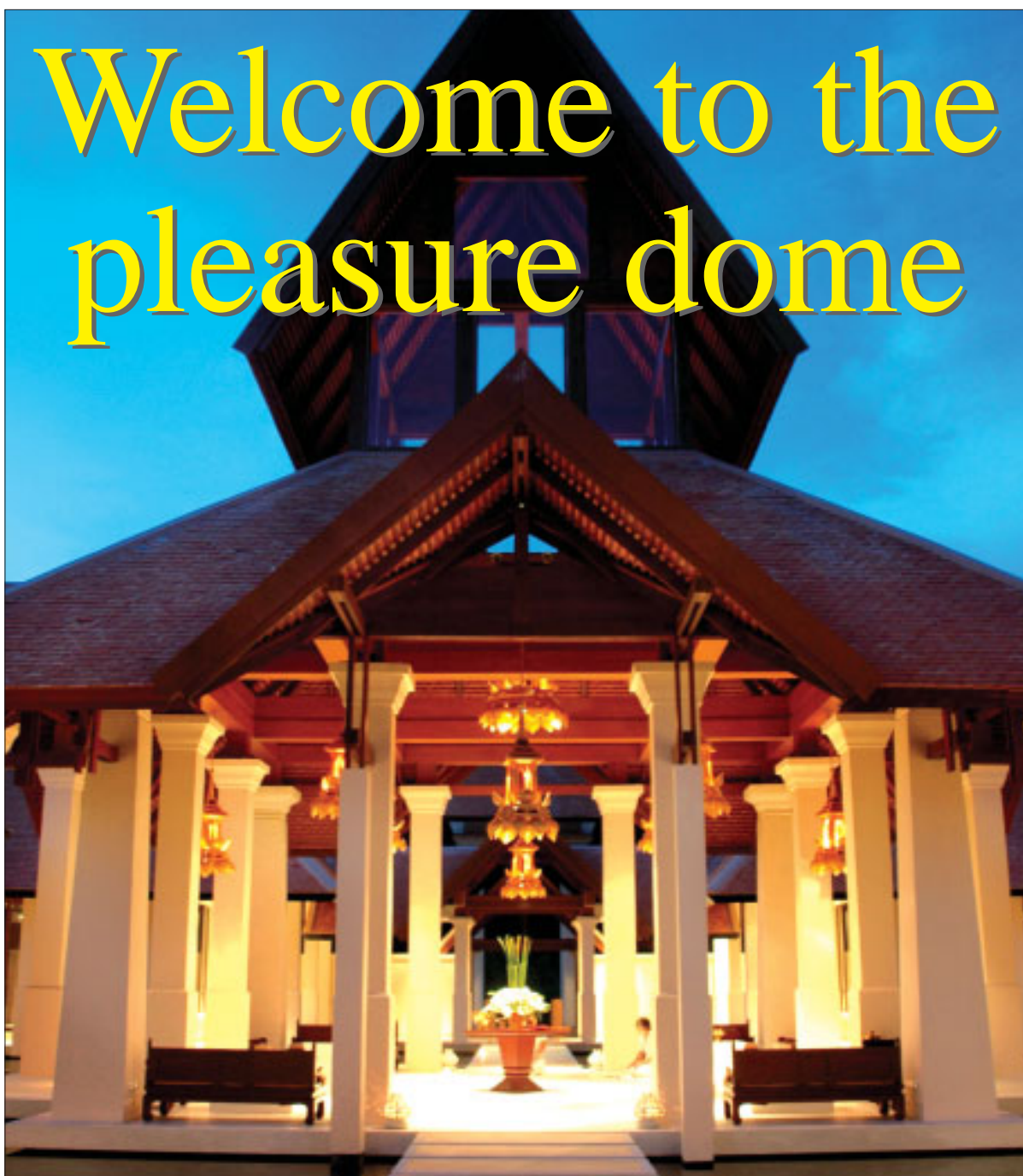
This symbolic act is to rid the customer of worldly troubles and cares; we then attach a sliver of gold leaf to the portal we have just entered.

I look up to the ceiling. It is so high that I feel like a mouse beneath it, much like mortals might feel gazing up at the top of Mount Meru, where Indra lives.

There are pools aplenty, each of them filled with fish and fresh flowers. As I gaze at these, two receptionists greet me. They welcome me as if I were a princess, using ancient, graceful Thai words so rarely heard these days.

K. Chai and I speak for around 10 minutes, our conversation interspersed with the sound of wind chimes and old Thai music, while the air is filled with the aroma of incense. I begin to relax. I begin to feel sleepy.

K. Chai tells me that Sukko has a clubhouse for those who



love to exercise, the Amarita pool for water activities, the Sukko Gallery that sells spa products and souvenirs, the Aspara studio, the Sukko Spa Academy for therapy instruction, a Thai cooking class and the Cultural Spa Program.

"Our newest therapy," begins K. Chai, "is the silk treatment that we call 'Royal Thai Silk', which uses powdered silk as one component of the skin scrub. Another choice popular with our clients is the Sukkothai Ayurvedic treatment."

K. Chai recommends that I indulge myself in the Royal Thai Silk massage. This, so it is claimed, protects the skin against wrinkling, helps to build up collagen and elastin, protects against ultraviolet A and B rays as well as against free radicals.

He also suggests lunch before my massage.

Staff quiz me as to which element – earth, water, fire or air – I am (it transpires that I am water) before deciding upon a menu for me.

Lunch is red pork curry, broccoli with prawns, steamed fish with lime and five-color rice – a spectrum based on the Benjarong colors of black, red, white, green or light blue and yellow.

After lunch, I talk to therapist Pongjan "Ae" Thanyaros about the supposed properties of powdered silk. "Silk powder can lift up the skin and hydrate it," she begins. "It contains about 18 kinds of amino acid, but all we do is mix it with natural yogurt; we use no other ingredients.

"We harvest our silk from the purest sources, and I recommend that a silk facial treatment be enjoyed once a fortnight, or better still, each week, for maximum effect," says K. Pongjan. The first of the three steps

of my facial begins with Siriporn "Fon" Baisri, another therapist – incidentally, they all must undergo 800 hours of training to become Sukko therapists – removing my makeup.

She then scrubs my face

with curcuma powder mixed with honey for five minutes before leaving for a little while. K. Siriporn gently removes the concoction with a soft, warm flannel.

Next, she applies the silk-and-yogurt paste to my face, spreading the cool, smooth mixture around with her delicate fingers. The fragrant mixture makes me feel at once refreshed and relaxed. My friends tease me that they want to kiss and eat me.

This she leaves for around 15 minutes before removing it with a soft, warm cloth. I feel the blood flowing through my revitalized face.

Finally, she bathes my face with a moisturizer, massaging the cream deep into my skin. My face, my body, my whole being feels soft and light.

Sukko Cultural Spa and Wellness. 5/10 Chao Fa West Rd, Wichit, Muang, Phuket. Tel: 076-263222. Fax: 076-264533. Website: www.sukkospa.com

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PUZZLES

Spot the Difference



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

Solution on next page.



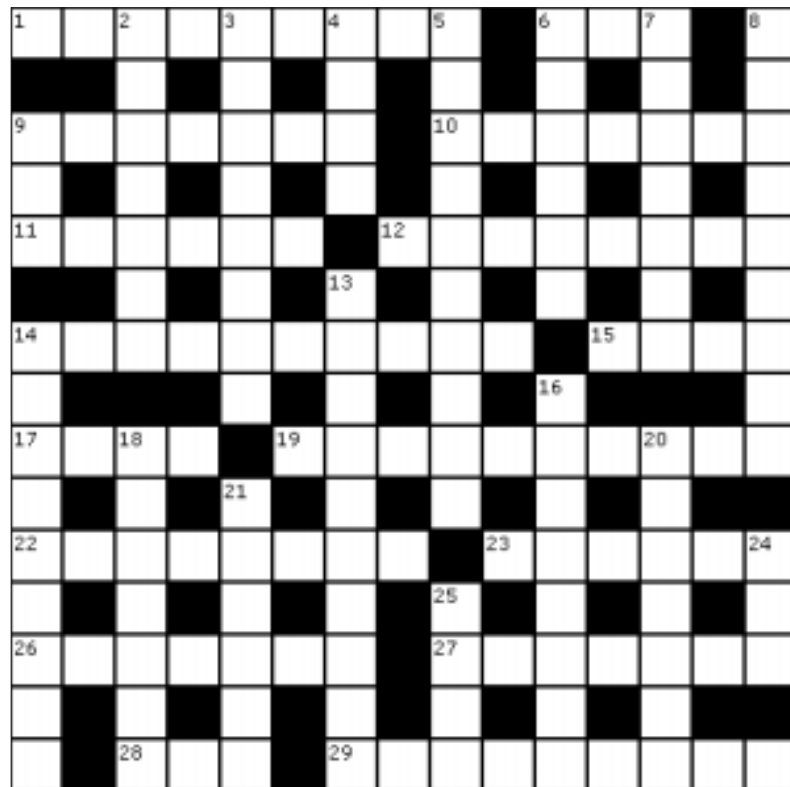
The Cryptic Crossword

ACROSS

1. Am I harsh? I rejigged
Yogi. (9)
6. For Scrooge, before
humbug. (3)
9. Eyepiece used to read
back into mole. (7)
10. Mixed God in it?
Investigate! (3,4)
11. Steed in a harsh-sounding
description. (6)
12. Able to take mess back to
put it together. (8)
14. Syrah and fruit to make
another. (10)
15. Water in Madrid is a given
under arch, initially. (4)
17. Horse that ran this way
won nothing. (4)
19. Striking for each curse
I've added. (10)
22. Nothing happening in
director's call. (8)
23. Ran on note for visa run
town. (6)
26. Tart had no point. The
brass! (7)
27. Enjoying making holes. (7)
28. Look, I say. (3)
29. Abating, send back
temporary accommo-
dation. (9)

Down

2. Hair on a weird islander's capital. (7)



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2006

- | | | | |
|----|--|-----|---|
| 3. | Breaks niches. (8) | 9. | Member of Parliament has heroin and speed. (1,1,1) |
| 4. | Look for Indian chap, say. (4) | 13. | Pirate's at liberty to kick 'er. (10) |
| 5. | Instinct has Di looking blurry. (10) | 14. | Altar dog I fix for old fighter. (9) |
| 6. | Eavesdropped and irritated. (6) | 16. | Points auto got for French delicacy. (8) |
| 7. | Give, then shoot personal carrier. (7) | 18. | Law adds letter to statue. (7) |
| 8. | Not a good way to sell parts. (9) | 20. | I do. Liz and cardinal worship. (7) |
| | | 21. | Plain step to physical education. (6) |
| | | 24. | Transport for musical performance. (3) |
| | | 25. | As previously mentioned, I'd take little Emily. (4) |

Solution on next page.

Scribble Space



su | do | ku
© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

V. EASY

15

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

EZ TRIVIA QUIZ

- | | | | |
|----|--|-----|--|
| 1. | In which Thai province is Railay Beach? | 6. | Who has a hit currently with the song <i>B'Day</i> ? |
| 2. | How much is $(3^3-3) \times 3$? | 7. | What metal is a mix of copper and zinc? |
| 3. | Which car company makes the Yaris? | 8. | What does the Morse code "... --- ..." spell out? |
| 4. | In which city is the Prado museum? | 9. | The RMS Titanic sank after hitting what? |
| 5. | Which is the second-largest of the Hawaiian Islands? | 10. | Which country rules the Faroe Islands? |

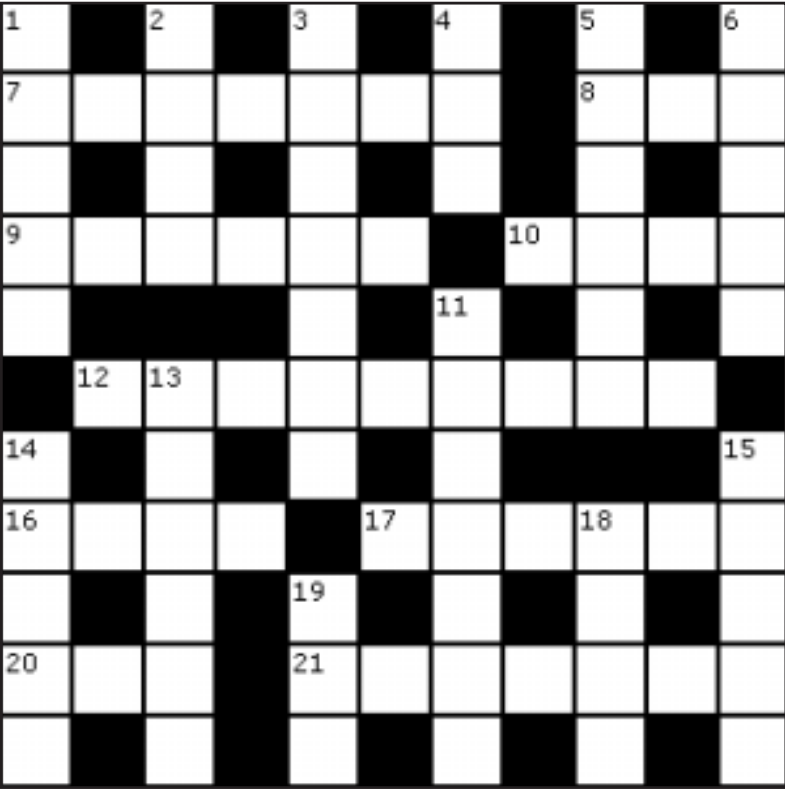
Answers on next page

Rhyme Time

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

1. Reaction to mouse or monster.
2. Martin Luther King had one.
3. Three-decker warship.
4. Old Faithful output.
5. Central idea.
6. Beck, burn or run.
7. Recover pawned item.
8. Political system.
9. Mary Wilson, eg.
10. Coal stratum.

Answers on next page



Quick Crossword

- ACROSS
- DOWN
7. Emotion.

8. Orang Utan or gorilla, for example.

9. Peeper protector.

10. Norwegian capital.

12. Very funny.

16. Sit for a painting.

17. Horse's fastest gait.

20. Possess.

21. Protection against the sun.
1. Tender.

2. Hereditary unit.

3. Expressed in numbers.

4. Early bird.

5. Bahamas capital.

6. Devil.

11. Very strange.

13. Mad.

14. Spy or specter.

15. Fruit.

18. Scottish girl.

19. Therapeutic resort.

Solution below, right

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



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

1. In which year was the dwarf planet Pluto discovered?

2. In Roman times, Pluto was god of what?

3. In which year did Pluto the dog first appear in a Disney cartoon?

4. What is Pluto the dog's son called?

5. In the *Sailor Moon* cartoon series, who transforms into Sailor Pluto?

6. What gates does she guard?

7. She carries a staff in the shape of what?

8. In *Astro Boy*, what color is the robot Pluto?

9. Who is Pluto the robot's master?

10. Operation Pluto, in World War II, linked France and Britain with what?

11. Project Pluto successfully created the world's first what?

12. Name the album released in 2005 by New Zealand band Pluto.

13. Where was Pluto Airlines based during its three years of existence?

14. Pluto Water, a medical remedy popular in the US

in the early 1900s, had what effect on those who took it?

15. Where was it bottled?

16. The steam locomotive Pluto operates in which British county?

17. Pluto Shervington plays what kind of music?

18. What food features in his best-known single, *Dat*?

19. Where would you find the decommissioned Pluto Reactor?

20. Manel Cruz fronts the band Pluto from which country?

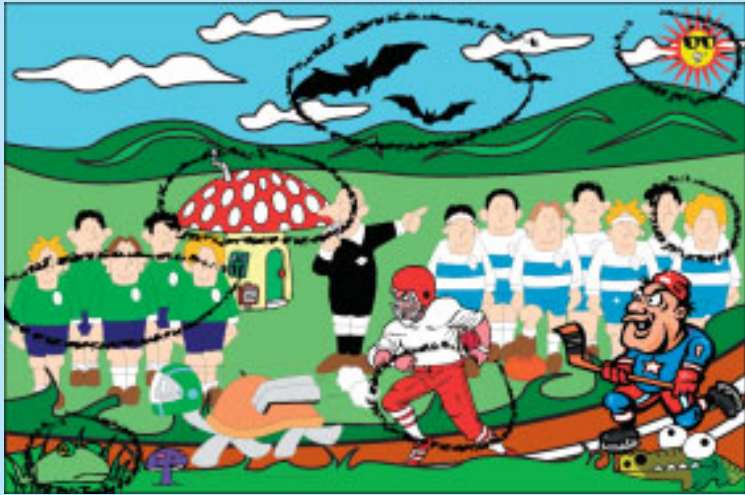
Answers below, left

Puzzle Solutions

Rhyme Time Answers

1. Scream; 2. Dream; 3. Trireme; 4. Steam; 5. Theme; 6. Stream; 7. Redeem; 8. Regime; 9. Supreme; 10. Seam.

Solution to this week's Cartoon Puzzle



EZ Trivia Answers

1. Krabi; 2. 72; 3. Toyota; 4. Madrid; 5. Maui; 6. Beyonce; 7. Brass; 8. SOS; 9. An iceberg; 10. Denmark.

Monster Quiz Answers

1. 1930;

2. The Underworld;

3. 1930;

4. Pluto Junior;

5. Setsuna/Trista Meioh;

6. The Gates of Time;

7. A key;

8. Green;

9. Chochi Chochi Ababa the Third;

10. Undersea oil pipelines;

11. Nuclear ramjet engine;

12. *Pipeline Under The Ocean*;

13. Sharjah, UAE;

14. Laxative;

15. French Lick, Indiana;

16. Cornwall;

17. Reggae;

18. Pork;

19. Harwell, Oxfordshire, UK;

20. Portugal.

Cryptic Crossword



Quick Crossword



Sudoku



While you can't always judge a book by its cover, some times you get lucky. *The Last of Her Kind* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, New York, 2006, 375pp) is one such book.

I had never heard of author Sigrid Nunez but I was attracted by the novel's cover: two young women sprawled on a couch, long-haired and dressed in flowing hippie clothes.

I plucked it off the new arrivals shelf of the Neilson Hays Library in Bangkok and am so glad I did. It is a major work of American literature

The Last of Her Kind is about Ann Drayton, a fierce idealist and champion of the poor who rose to prominence during the student revolt at Barnard and Columbia in 1968.

Her story is told by her roommate in freshman year, Georgette George.

Ann, a child of wealth and privilege, had specifically asked for a roommate from a poor background and Georgette fits the bill, growing up in a hard-scrabble upstate town in a family of "silence and violence".

There is a runaway father, an angry and chronically sick mother, and six children with dim drug-ridden prospects. Georgette turns her back on it all to make a life in Manhattan.

A major American novel



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

Ann took to political activism early to spite her wealthy parents. She's brilliant, sexually adventurous, a born leader. An only child, she adopts Georgette as her sister.

Lazy and withdrawn, Georgette feels complimented. Night after night, they lay in the darkness and talk their hearts out.

At this point, you wonder where the author is going with all this. What's going to happen to the pair over the next 38 years?

Suddenly you're off on a roller-coaster plot of giddy highs and lows, sharp twists and turns, dazzling surprises and harrowing plunges into the dark depths of character. Unlike less

accomplished woman writers, Sigrid Nunez is not much interested in delicate emotions; what's she's after is the wild panorama of the 1960s and how women coped for decades afterwards.

Georgette's tone is discursive, jumping back and forth between past and future, from confused teenager to twice-divorced middle-aged mother of two.

She dropped out of Barnard after her sophomore year and became a secretary at a beauty magazine.

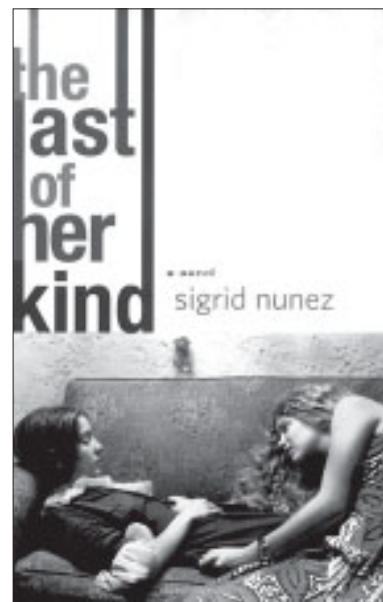
She and Ann drift apart and the focus now shifts to a third woman, Georgette's younger sister Solange.

At age 14½, Solange does the Sixties in spades, running away from home and criss-crossing the country in a spate of drug-addled sexual adventures.

She just missed Woodstock but had a front row seat to Altamont, leaving her with a traumatic fixation on Mick Jagger.

After three years on the road, she turns up at Georgette's apartment with all kinds of physical and psychic wounds.

There is a harrowing set piece in which Georgette suffers



a bad acid trip in Solange's tenebrous kitchen – a description that leads the reader to instant empathy with Solange, who suffers multiple breakdowns.

In another, Georgette goes to dinner with Ann and her lover, Kwame Kwesi, a former black radical now content to teach sixth grade in Harlem.

When Georgette innocently compliments him on his beautiful blue eyes, Ann flies into a raging tirade about rape during the

days of slavery. This severs their friendship.

In 1976, Ann is catapulted into the headlines when she shoots dead a policeman named Thomas Sargente, who had been harassing her lover. Her famous statement becomes an icon: "If Thomas Sargente had said nigger one less time, he might not be dead."

Refusing high-priced counsel or any contact with her parents, Ann is sentenced to 25 years to life. She devotes herself to service of her fellow inmates, mostly black and poor.

With Ann lost behind her prison walls, Georgette uses two devices to illuminate her soul. She switches to third person to tell the improbable story of her "Big Love", who will shed light on Ann's childhood.

She also appends a story published in the last issue of her late husband's literary magazine: "Orphan Annie and the Hand of God", a memoir written about Ann by a tough black prison mate who became her best friend.

Sigrid Nunez has immortalized the 1960s with all its passion, yearning, foolishness, pathos and nobility.

PHUKET DIARY

www.phuketgazette.net/calendar

Until December 30: Art sale at keimandrian 26 café gallery.

Art sale by local artists Sam Fruin, Cindy Shaw, Claire Lester and Kathy Manthei.

Work includes photos, paintings and screen prints. Also on sale are Christmas gifts and crafts made by people living at the Life Home Project.

Comfort food and drinks available. Come in and chill. Call K. Rinat Tel: 084-1935124 or see: www.keimandrian26.com

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 for competitors 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, 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 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 Hantongtut.

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

For details contact K. Sriuran 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. This year the organizers expect to see several more teams take part. Open to all – if you love fishing, come and join in.

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 follow immediately after end of fishing on the last day.

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

November 4: Child Watch Charity Gof Tournament at Blue Canyon Country Club.

The 8th Annual ChildWatch

Charity Golf Day and Dinner comprises a fun Stableford Golf Competition played on Blue Canyon Country Club's famed Canyon Course, followed by a buffet dinner and auctions to raise money for ChildWatch, a Phuket-based children's charity.

Be a sponsor or just play on the day. For full details and registration information please see www.bbap.org/golf2006.html or contact Chris Hill at Tel: 08-98711171 or by email to honsec@bbap.org

To tell Phuket about your event go to www.phuketgazette.net/calendar and click "Add Your Event".

Cherngtalay Church

Sunday Service:
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How to prevent emergencies from becoming tragedies

Foreigners from around the world come to Phuket's hospitals to get a new nose, a new hip or even a new gender, but try to call for help in English after a motorbike accident and you may find it difficult to get an ambulance ride to those very hospitals.

The piecemeal emergency service that covers Phuket relies on a disjointed collection of individual ambulance services provided by non-profit groups and for-profit hospitals. There are no less than seven emergency numbers to choose from, and for English speakers there is no guarantee that the number you call will have an operator fluent enough in English to assist you.

In an emergency medical situation, quick communication is critical. Information about the location, type and extent of injuries, and the number of people injured is vital in getting the right medical team to respond fast. With a growing population of foreigners, the importance of multilingual emergency phone operators is becoming increasingly apparent.

It is for this reason that Phuket should establish a center to coordinate all emergency response units. Currently there is very little communication between ambulance services and hospitals, but a multilingual, central dispatch could greatly improve the response times and quality of emergency care on the island – and save lives.

Communication must also be seamless between the competing emergency response teams. If a person is injured in Thalang but, because the caller doesn't know better, a private hospital in Phuket City is called, the victim will have to wait an unnecessarily long time. A central dispatch would handle such calls and the emergency would easily be rerouted to the Thalang Hospital emergency team. Similarly, if one response team is busy attending to another emergency, another local ambulance could be sent.

But this can not happen without sufficient funding to fit out all ambulances on the island with the necessary equipment so that they are all equally capable of responding to emergencies.

While great strides have been made to upgrade the quality of ambulances in Phuket from the snatch-and-grab pickups to some modern ambulances, training is still woefully deficient. The volunteers, while doing a great service that would also otherwise be lacking, are still not paramedics and have not undergone training that could save many more lives.

An island-wide response would not just benefit foreigners, but would raise the quality of care for all the island's residents. This should be an obvious improvement that will bring many aspects of Phuket's medical care into the 21st century.

– The Editor

The Phuket Gazette

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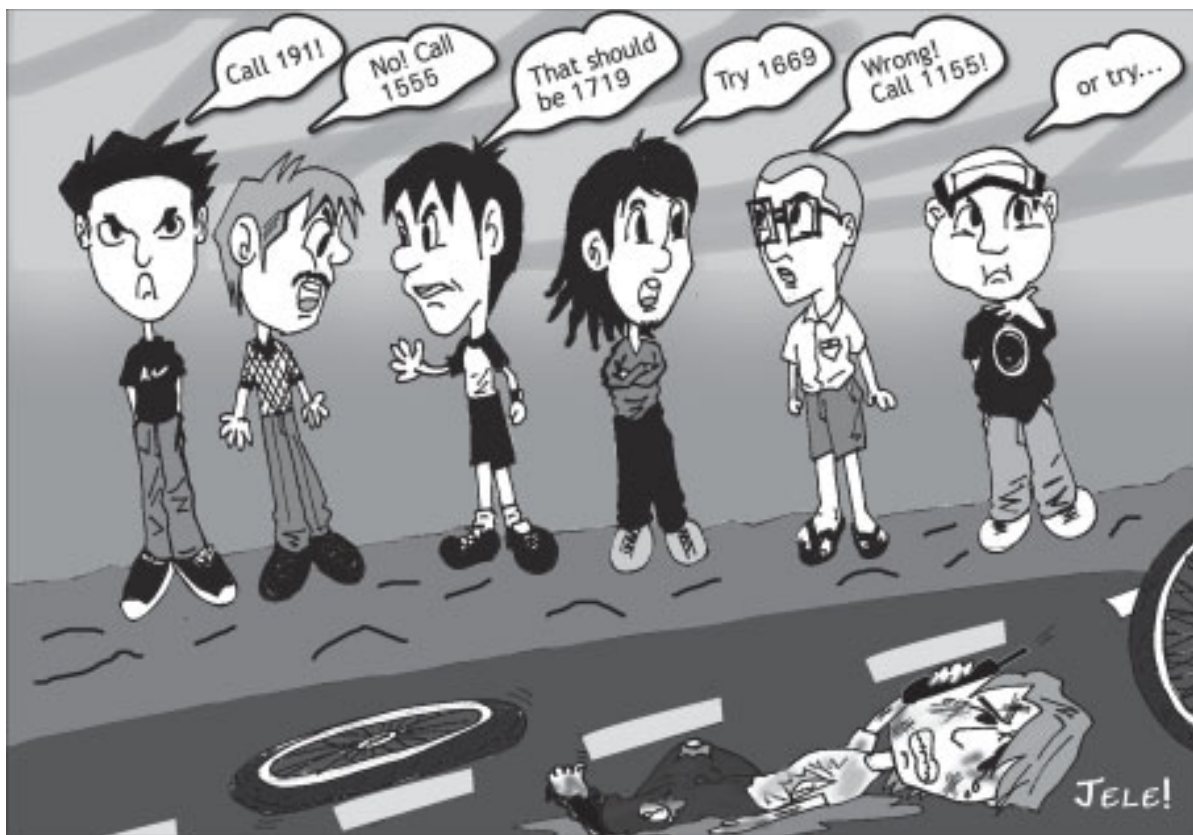
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Letters

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

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

Drive hard – with a vengeance

I'm all for expats assimilating themselves into the culture of their adoptive countries – learning the lingo, eating the food, paying their taxes properly, taking a wife and indulging in many other aspects of the life offered in their new-found home.

Hooligan expats – I can find it in my heart to forgive the tourists – absorb some of the worst aspects of the Thai mentality when it comes to being on the road.

Let's face it, with all the natural grace and charmingly-slow *sabai sabai* attitude that the natives have, there has to be an outlet, and in Phuket that is driving.

Put them behind the wheel of a car and they drive as if there is no tomorrow. The smiles vanish to be replaced by expressions of open aggression, and the larger and faster the vehicle is the worse the driving gets. It must be something to do with "compensating" for deficiencies.

Put a chap or a woman seemingly straight off the plane into their version of "paradise" and behind the wheel of a car, and they do the same.

They overtake on blind bends, drive straight at oncoming vehicles – though politely flash their lights to let you know they have no intention of stopping – do not wear their seatbelts, let their offspring clamber around the inside of the vehicle as if it were a play park, and generally do everything they do not do back home.

And it's getting worse, with the standards of driving being not just an example but a metaphor

for so much more.

The enforcement of laws here in the Wild Wild East is lax, and just because one can get away with something does not mean one should.

Peter Marwood
Cherng Talay

Unhappy Tourist 1, Patong 0

The sports field next to the beachfront temple in Patong is in a most unsuitable area. The insane noise generated at maximum decibels by the screaming commentator during the regular football matches – for the token audience – not only disturbs the monks in the temple, but also disturbs paying tourists in the hotels in the immediate vicinity.

Given that Phuket lives off tourism, and that Patong Beach is the main tourist hub, I would have thought that the last thing Patong needed was such an appalling noise to drive away the tourists.

I, for one, will not be returning to Patong. It was far from relaxing by the swimming pool of my hotel with the hysterical, highly-amplified, incessant football commentary, while I had to keep my hotel room window tightly shut to keep out the noise.

Not my idea of a tropical paradise.

Disgruntled tourist
By email

And today's guest speaker is...

I would like to applaud the Gazette for co-sponsoring the upcoming "Seminar on use of nominees in Thai companies", which I, for one, will be sure to

attend – although I must say that I find the seminar cost of almost 4,900 baht per person a bit steep. Perhaps the Gazette is planning to fly in a special guest speaker who knows a great deal about the use of nominees, shell companies and the like, and who justifies the high cost: Thaksin Shinawatra perhaps?

Intrigued in Antigua

Scam in the sun

That's a real liberty indeed, jacking up the price of a plastic chair to 100 baht – and doing so right on the first day of the high season for tourism.

It just goes to show that while tsunamis and corrupt governments may come and go, the prevailing mentality that foreign tourists are little more than mindless cattle to be overcharged, bilked and milked to the last precious baht remains as constant as the North Star.

Charles McBride
Nai Harn

Here is the news

Phuket is heavily dependent on its tourism and, consequently, many residents and tourists are interested in any developments in the tourism industry, but are the beach chair rental rate and Thai Airways International advising passengers to turn up an hour earlier the most newsworthy stories that a week in Phuket has to offer?

A look on your own inside news pages shows three brutal unsolved murders. Are these really of less interest to your readers than the price of beach chairs?

Pao Songkhram
Rassada

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

A steep learning curve for Phuket's Education Office

FIRST PERSON

I am part of the decision-making team that coordinates between the PESAO and the *OrBorJor* for schools now under its administration. Under existing regulations, local administrative bodies cannot provide direct budgetary assistance to schools without first getting the consent of the local education office.

This fact is clearly expressed as part of the Memorandums of Understanding signed between the seven schools and the provincial council that has agreed to support them.

The *OrBorJor* would like to help those schools directly, but cannot. The *OrBorJor* must first prepare a plan and submit it to both the PESAO and the director of each school in question.

What schools they choose to support, and in what amounts, is up to them because it is their budget. I couldn't tell you what criteria the *OrBorJor* uses in deciding financial support for schools, but I think their criteria do not involve identifying shortages as a top priority.

They seem to be more based on meeting the future needs of society, as is evidenced by their designating one school to be a center of excellence for English and another in math and sciences.

In the case of the *roong-ran nai fan* project [the "Dream School" project established by the Thaksin government], we supported that and it is in many ways similar to what the *OrBorJor* is doing by establishing schools as centers of excellence based on

Under a decentralization plan mandated by the now-abrogated 1997 Constitution earlier this year, the administration of seven government schools on the island was handed over from the Ministry of Education (MoE) to the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*).

As part of its plan to establish certain schools as centers of excellence in specific fields, the *OrBorJor* has provided some 14,500 exercise books, textbooks and teachers' manuals to 61 of Phuket's 64 government schools, most of which are still administered by the MoE through its local branch, the Phuket Educational Service Area Office (PESAO).

Here, PESAO Assistant Director Chalum Utthatham explains what his agency is doing to ensure that kids all over the island get a good education.



each school's traditional academic strength.

However, in educational funding there are always basic infrastructure questions to address as well. These include school supplies, instructional equipment, school buildings and teacher training and development. Decisions about curriculum tend to come later and do not matter much if more basic needs go unmet.

The PESAO has many projects under its control. Not only are we responsible for the 65 government schools in the province, but we also have to

oversee 19 private schools, three international schools as well as 60 vocational and training schools, which include driving schools, computer training schools and language centers.

But we still strive to identify poorer schools in our area of responsibility and help them in order to ensure a balance in the quality of public education.

We try in any way possible to help poorer schools, such as by sourcing scholarships and providing the basic equipment and infrastructure for schools facing shortages.

For example, we have a

plan to connect 11 small schools via satellite so that they can receive real-time instruction through the Klai Kang Won Palace [Royal Patronage] Project, which is aimed at addressing teacher shortages in small, rural schools.

The *OrBorJor* is also spending some 10 million baht annually to hire teachers in areas where they are needed, especially in areas far from town.

The *OrBorJor* presented their plan to us and we discussed it together first. I think it is an ongoing project for both organizations, trying to improve the qual-

ity of schools in outlying areas to equal the quality of schools in town.

Because the budget from the central government is quite limited, we do not get enough funds to adequately meet the educational requirements of every school in the province. So if other organizations such as the *OrBorJor* choose to help out, then we are happy for their assistance.

Besides the *OrBorJor*, we have also talked with *tambon* administration organizations (*OrBorTor*), municipalities and local organizations so that we all understand our mutual needs.

Why must my driver's license expire before I can renew it?

I recently went to the Phuket Provincial Transportation Office (PPTO) with all the correct documents, including my current motorcycle license, and applied for a five-year motorbike license.

I was told that my license had two weeks left and to come back after the license had expired.

I went through great pains to pass my test – legally and correctly – here in Thailand, and do not intend to ride about on an ex-

pired license. Is this information correct?

Terence Patong

Supakorn Wilairat, Chief of the License Section at the PPTO, replies:

According to regulations set down by the Ministry of Transportation, if you apply for a driver's license you must first be issued with a license that is valid for one year.

After you have held that

"provisional" license for a complete year, you will be issued a license that is valid for five years.

The law is very clear in that the one-year license must expire before you can be issued a five-year license.

Five-year licenses, however, are treated differently. They can be renewed up to two weeks before they expire.

The best thing to do is to renew your license on the same day that it expires. If that is not

possible because your license expires, say, on a public holiday or a Sunday, then you should renew it the next day that the PPTO is open.

The PPTO charges no fee for renewing a license after it has expired as long as the license is being renewed within one year of it expiring.

If you try to renew your license more than one year after your previous license has expired, then you will be required to re-

peat the entire process of obtaining a driver's license, including all tests.

Although traffic police are usually understanding if they catch you driving on a license that has only recently expired, they might charge you for driving without a license if the license has been expired for quite some time.

For you, as a foreigner living in Thailand, to renew your driver's license, you must apply at the PPTO in person and bring with you your previous driver's license, passport, letter from Immigration confirming your address and two one-inch photos.

The prices for the different types of licenses are as follows:

A one-year motorcycle driver's license costs 55 baht; a one-year car driver's license costs 105 baht; a five-year motorbike driver's license costs 255 baht; and a five-year car driver's license costs 505 baht.

To make an inquiry, please call my office at Tel: 076-211019 during regular office hours.

Issues & ANSWERS

**Want to know how to get something done?
Want to pitch an idea to Phuket's authorities ?
Submit your queries or suggestions to us and
we'll ask the appropriate people to respond.**

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

In The Stars

by Isla Star

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): You should remember that the only safe way to keep a secret is to keep it secret and not tell anyone. You will need to find subtle ways of changing the subject so a prying Aquarian friend realizes your lips are truly sealed. If your birthday falls during the coming days, expect the year ahead to proceed at a faster pace. You are certainly up to the challenges ahead and will benefit financially more than ever before.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): If you have replenished your energy, you will accept an invitation that involves physical exercise and fresh air this weekend. If you are still recuperating from recent hard work you can be forgiven for wanting to do nothing more strenuous than stroll around the garden. Whatever you decide to do, the focus should be on taking time out to smell the roses. Wearing the color emerald green will encourage your mind to open to new possibilities.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Wiping the slate clean will prove to be harder than you'd imagined. If you want to move on without cumbersome emotional baggage you should make every effort to leave with a clear conscience. Where money matters are concerned, take experienced advice before investing in a seemingly fail-proof scheme. Aquarius has noticed you in the crowd and is making inquiries regarding your status. Number 5 looks lucky on Monday.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): You should take action over an irritating situation at work that has been simmering lately. Left unattended, it is likely to boil over very soon. You sometimes find it difficult to really listen to someone else's opinion, but you will need to overcome this handicap to reach a satisfactory conclusion. On the romantic front, your partner is planning a surprise – if you discover what this is beforehand, remain silent.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Try to ascertain whether the view is really as good from the mountaintop as you've been led to believe before you decide to struggle up it. There's evidence that someone is under the impression that you're easily led. If you are lonely, you soon will be able to bid farewell to being single when you are introduced to a charismatic person – romance is forecast to be a big part of your life in the near future.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Have faith in your ability to reach new heights. Astute moves you make now will guarantee success in your career before the end of this year. During the remaining days of October, those who are looking for a more fertile pond to swim in should find it. However, don't make the mistake of leaving your

present situation without finishing what you started. The color copper encourages strength.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): A rather muddled week lies ahead for you. This is not a good time to rely on other people meeting deadlines, so allow plenty of room for decisions to be made. You will be occupied by affairs of the heart early next week when someone close to you has news you never expected to hear. Find a quiet space to digest this information before reacting. Number 7 looks lucky on Sunday.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): The see-saw state of your feelings regarding an intimate relationship needs to be examined. If you cannot make up your mind about whether you see a future in this liaison you are advised to step back and let matters rest for a while. The answer will come clearly when you are feeling more relaxed. Take a chance on showing someone with influence just how creative you can be.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Flaws in your cash flow will become obvious this week. Happy-go-lucky Geminis are advised to tighten the purse strings until a healthier bank balance is evident. If someone close to you is proving to be high maintenance, it's high time you explained what the reality is. Be ready to listen to advice from a practical Taurean acquaintance; it's worth its weight in gold. Tuesday is the best day to settle a debate.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Some sort of love triangle threatens to disturb your peace of mind. To get to the bottom of this mystery you will need to be able to face the truth. A dream you have early this week could hold the key to solving a financial dilemma. If you can't resist a bargain you will enjoy shopping on Saturday. Wear a turquoise stone to encourage free thinking.

LEO (July 24-August 22): This Sunday is the most auspicious day for having your say where domestic affairs are concerned. Ripples of discontent have been affecting your mood lately and you will feel calmer when an honest discussion has taken place. In the area of romantic relationships, your need for space can be satisfied with Libra. This fledgling liaison has support from the stars. The number 8 can bring luck on Sunday.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): A rumor you hear in the middle of the week is only hot air. If you jump to conclusions easily you could suffer unnecessary stress by doing so. Love is in the air and you are inspired to make a dramatic gesture, which is certain to impress the person concerned. Wet weather inspires you to make changes at home. Incorporate the colors burgundy and cream in your decor to encourage harmony.

Is it indelicate to sip soup from the bowl?

Dear Momma Duck,

When I go to my local restaurant, they often serve a small bowl of soup with my lunch.

However, they don't provide a soup spoon. As I find it difficult and time consuming to get the soup to my mouth with the table-spoon they provide, is it OK to sip it straight out of the little plastic bowl like the Chinese do?

I would like to drink the soup this way, but I am afraid because I never see any one else doing it.

Stefano

Dear Stefano,

Most local restaurant staff are not trained to serve food to foreigners and neither of you may have the language skills to request or provide a "soup" spoon (which in Thailand is usually one of those flat-bottomed stainless-steel spoons).

Next time, look on the table for either a closed rectangular stainless-steel box which may contain chopsticks and such spoons, or a stainless-steel cup with a bunch of clean spoons, chopsticks and forks in it.

When taking such a spoon or fork, most Thais make a practice of taking a piece of tissue



Momma DUCK

By Wanida Hongyok
momma@phuketgazette.net

from the dispenser on the table and wiping the utensil before use.

On the other hand, please feel free to sip the soup straight out of the little plastic bowl. Nobody (except perhaps for other foreigners) will raise an eyebrow.

Phuket has many Chinese tourists and many of us are Chinese descendants, so this style of eating is quite the norm for a local restaurant.

We are still using chopsticks, which we learned to use from the Chinese, so why not sip soup out of a bowl?

How do I meet a nice girl?

Dear Momma Duck,

I have been in Thailand for many years now and I am still having trouble meeting a decent Thai girl to have a relationship with. It seems as though Thai girls are interested only in *farang*.

When I try to meet girls on the street and I speak in English, they tend to shy away and give me a unpleasant look and make me feel like an idiot. Maybe because I am Asian-American and look Thai they don't want to talk to me.

Please help! Tell me the secret of meeting a Thai girl.

Sam Tsan

Dear Sam,

Don't loose heart yet. The night is yet young. In Phuket, it is important to join groups or situations (such as a health club or sports groups) where you can meet "normal" girls.

Thai women normally meet potential partners in group situations, not by talking to someone on a street or in a shop.

Go to art or other cultural exhibitions at hotels. If you have a profession or business, you could join a service club such as Rotary or Lions, some of which meet in English.

Good Luck.

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Youth 'n ASIA

By Amy
Van de Castele

The famous book *Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus* is arguably one of the best-known self-help books on the planet, and with good reason.

The title may be a little extreme, but there is a solid kernel of truth behind it: men and women, boys and girls, are very different. We have different thought patterns, behaviors, values, wants and needs.

As the title suggests, we might as well come from different planets, so little do we have in common.

The first contrast shows itself in our basic appearance. Obviously girls have a couple of, ahem, protrusions that boys don't. Boys have broader shoulders,

deeper voices and they tend to be more muscular than girls. They also have a protrusion of their own. Girls have softer skin, usually longer hair, and we tend to giggle more.

There are the obvious fashion differences. Females tend to wear skirts and glittery blouses and bras, boys usually don't – well, unless you live on Soi Seadragon; there, the line between male and female seems to have become a little, shall we say, blurred.

Of the mental divide, marked differences appear when we compare personal preferences. These rise to the surface when we are only toddlers and become clear with our choice of toys.

Girls want to play with their pretty Barbie dolls, with their swishy blond hair and ill-fitting plastic stilettos, while boys prefer running over people's feet with their remote control cars or using their toy soldiers to play sniper using family members as targets.

It must be mentioned, however, that these differences can be attributed to social conditioning – in other words, we play the role society, and our families, dictate for us.

Think about it; how many

The girl wants to ask the boy out but she feels too shy, so she flirts and makes suggestive remarks using the ultimate feminine tool, subtlety. These whistle effortlessly over the puzzled boy's head,

parents do you see dressing their little girl in khakis and pressing miniature race cars into her grubby little hands? And, visa versa, how many parents do you notice gushing about how handsome their son looks in his coordinated pink spaghetti-strap top, skirt and pumps?

Only the odd one or two, most likely.

Sigmund Freud theorized that people go through five stages of development. The second-to-last phase, from the age of six to the onset of puberty, he called the "Latency stage", during which boys and girls remain in separate groups, socializing mainly with members of their own sex.

This period enhances the differences between the genders as girls are likely to be surrounded by dolls, catfights and pajama parties, while most boys choose rough-and-tumble play.

Then comes puberty and

the terrible teens, when, as I'm sure all my friends will agree, the difficulties posed by the yawning contrast between lads and lassies become quite painful to bear.

It is as if we speak two entirely different languages. Girls speak the lingo of fashion, hot guys and emotions while boys are well-versed only in the language of play fighting, toilet humor and trying to decide which giraffe-esque supermodel is sexiest.

This wouldn't be a problem if we still remained in segregated social groups, but as we struggle down the rocky road of teenhood, our hormones make members of the opposite sex – at times – suddenly seem very appealing, and the divide between us narrows to a fine line. This period is when our differences make life tricky.

First, there is the problem of sussing out whether the object of your desire reciprocates your feelings, a very tricky endeavor when boys and girls have vastly different ways of showing they are attracted to each other.

This entails a complicated and rather bumbling ritual of longing sideways glances, crude teasing (from the boys, of course), flushing cheeks and hearts that beat against adolescent ribs like birds trying to escape from their wooden cages.

The girl wants to ask the boy out (it is the 21st Century after all) but she feels too shy, so she flirts and makes suggestive re-

marks using the ultimate feminine tool, subtlety. These whistle effortlessly over the puzzled boy's head, leaving him to resort to jokes, teasing and name-calling, which he assumes the girl can translate into, "I like you, wanna go see a movie?"

Eventually one or both of the two sides will get fed up, admit their feelings and, with a chorus of angels singing above, a fumbling novice relationship will begin.

These first relationships are usually a heady mixture of fun, heartache, humor and frequent misunderstandings from both sides. Girls tend to have a stereotypical media-spawned image of romance – walks on the beach, kisses by moonlight, their boyfriend declaring his everlasting love and maybe serenading her with his own version of *You're Beautiful*.

Boys, however, have something very different – and slightly less romantic, though no less media-inspired – on their minds. You can probably guess what it is.

When you combine the romantic girlish vision with the average teen boys' fantasies, you get a teenage relationship, which comprises a constant series of questions and their often difficult answers.

There are many stumbles along the way, and intentions are often "lost in translation". Hearts are wounded, tears flow and boys curse bitterly.

But in the end, despite the daunting barriers and the immense differences between the Martians and the Venusians, there is one similarity that somehow makes it work – when it comes right down to it, the differences are what we most appreciate about each other.

Does the Land Code totally ban foreign land ownership?

Mr A, a foreigner, wanted to buy some land. After finding a suitable plot, he signed an agreement with a person selling the land and put down a deposit.

The agreement stipulated that Mr A would make final payment on the day of transfer of ownership, on that day receiving full rights to the land being bought.

However, at the Land Department office on the specified transfer date, the seller refused to transfer ownership to Mr A.

The seller said that as Mr A was an "alien" as defined by the Land Code, which under Section 86 stipulates that foreigners are prohibited from owning land.

The seller therefore declared the agreement "null and void".

Mr A took legal action against the seller, but lost the case in the First Court and again in the Appeals Court.

He then took his case to the Supreme Court, in Supreme Court Appeal 312/11.

In handing down its decision, the Supreme Court noted that the agreement stipulated, "Commencing from the date this agreement has been made, the ownership right over the purchased property, irrespective of one's name appearing on the

Land Title registration page, shall be transferred into the buyer's name solely and the buyer, as the holder of the ownership right over the purchased property, is entitled to perform his legal right over the property and fully benefit from the said property."

The Court also noted that the agreement carried another provision: "The buyer, as the foreign national juristic person, shall receive permission from the Ministry of Interior in advance to enter the transfer the ownership right as in the Land Title registration page.

"The seller therefore certifies to give all necessary assistance and support to the buyer in order to apply as the holder of ownership right over the purchased property and the seller

certifies that after the buyer receives the permission from the government office to hold the ownership right the seller will immediately transfer the ownership right over the land to the buyer."

In short, because the seller had signed an agreement to hand over ownership rights to the land according to these two provisions, the Supreme Court ruled that in this instance the seller could not declare the agreement "null and void" expressly because Section 86 prohibits foreigners from owning land.

What this seems to imply – again, at least in this instance, as judges in Thailand are not bound by precedent – is that Section 86 of the Land Code is not an absolute prohibition on foreigners owning land.

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Depending on where you are around the island, your Internet connection can range from pretty impressive to close to unusable.

At some times you may experience an 80% drop in performance, or you may not even be able to connect at all.

The sorry state of broadband here in Phuket is the result of many factors and on any given day they can add up to a very frustrating online experience. We have all had good and bad Internet days.

Whether your connection is dial-up, ADSL or a fiber-optic leased line, many of the variables that affect your Internet performance are pretty much the same.

Challenges facing ADSL and broadband providers in Phuket include sub-standard telephone cables and infrastructure, the high cost of supply from the primary-level Internet Service providers (ISPs), antiquated equipment at the telephone companies and a lack of technical expertise and support from those who govern Thailand's Internet connectivity.

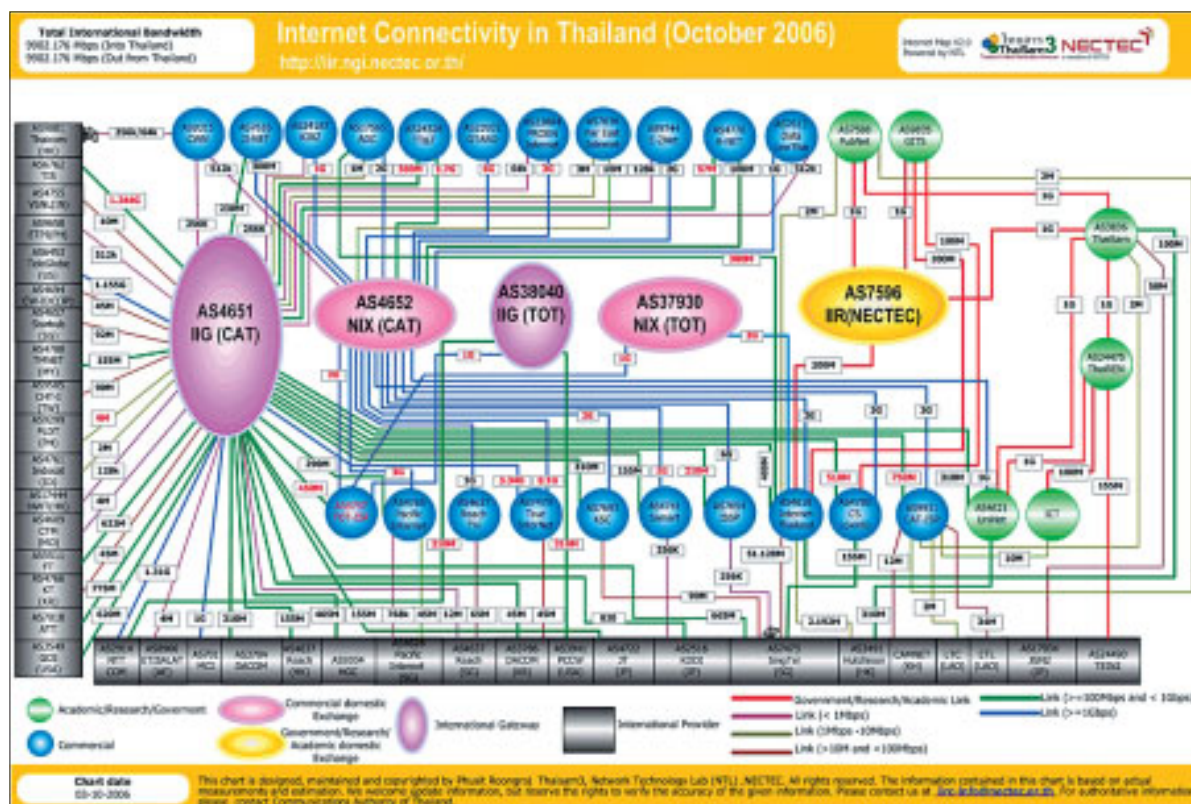
Raw deal: Let's face it; if you're overpaying for cake mix then you'll be selling expensive cakes. This is the reason for Phuket's over-priced – and under-performing – Internet services.

All independent Internet access providers are in the same boat: the price of "bulk" broadband is far more expensive than in most other countries – about 100 times more, in some cases.

My guess is most of us can imagine why. The point is that all ISPs, sub-ISPs and reseller agents are paying very high prices for their raw material.

Strung out: The next challenge is that all broadband access in Phuket and surrounding areas passes through Bangkok, Surat Thani or Haad Yai – and sometimes all three – through long ca-

Getting every last drop from the Internet glass



As NECTEC's map of all major ISPs in Thailand shows (above), all Internet access in Thailand – at one point or another – is shared, even the mighty gateways that connect Thailand to the global backbone.

bles that connect Phuket to Thailand's national gateways to the Internet.

The hardware and software used by the gateways are a significant source of our local Internet problems.

Phuket is more than just a few kilometers away from the gateways, and we have all seen how well telephone cables are strung across the country – sometimes even without the use of telephone poles.

In addition, most cables are rather short, and require multiple connections. The cable used is of poor quality and there is little or no quality control of workmanship

during splicing of connections.

Please don't interfere: A lesser-known problem, but certainly a major source of Phuket's local Internet woes, is that whenever a telephone cable is poorly spliced or is too close to a power cable, "noise" from the power cable interferes with transmissions being carried on telephone cable.

Normally this noise results only in that annoying background static (crackling noise) that you hear when trying to speak with someone, but in the digital Internet connection world this interference can be crippling.

If you're talking on the telephone and there's background noise, you can ask the other person to repeat a sentence or to speak louder. You can also infer what they are saying from con-

text, even if you do not hear every word.

Computers, however, are not so smart. They need to receive every single bit (and byte) of data. If the computer receiving the transmission does not get complete packets of data, then it cannot make any sense of the transmission.

This in turn requires the whole transmission to be sent again and again until finally all the ones and zeros are received so that your computer knows what to show on your screen.

Now consider the problems mentioned above and just imagine how many chances there are for a cable between Phuket and Bangkok to pick up noise such as rain, poorly-spliced connections, noise from power lines, animals on the cables and even the occasional cement truck taking out a telephone pole or three.

Are you depressed yet? It gets worse.

Oversubscribing sucks: This is the big one. The Internet, more specifically our local connection to it, is like a big glass of water.

The glass can only hold so much water at one time. If too many people put their straws in and start sucking away, the result is simple – there is not enough water to go around.

This is called "over-subscribing" and it is the main problem here in Phuket. All Internet providers pay about the same amount for a "glass" of Internet and all consumers want cheaper Internet.

So far the best available solution is to combine "groups" of consumers into specifically-

priced packages and allow them to share the cost.

The sharing may be of a connection to Bangkok, to the gateways, to corporate connections or to the ADSL telephone switching equipment.

Regardless, you can be sure that all the Internet access in Phuket – at some point or another – is shared.

The key is to work with an Internet provider who tells you the real story and allows you to choose your price point. Be sure the ISP monitors all traffic daily to ensure that the "glass" always stays full.

A minus: You may have heard about DSL (digital subscriber line). This is usually pretty good, and notice the lack of an "A". The difference between ADSL and DSL is that the latter uses direct cable connections between the ISP and the user.

ADSL, however, goes through the local telephone company's infrastructure, including sub-standard cables and antiquated telephone switching equipment, not to mention oversubscribing.

The result is low-quality, noisy telephone cables connecting you to outdated telephone exchanges that connect you to undersized gateways, which in turn connect you to overpriced access to the international Internet.

Looking ahead: So what is the future of broadband in Phuket? Not something to email home about, at least not yet. It comes down to a matter of commitment.

There are three major challenges. First, the huge costs that all ISPs must pay for connecting to the gateways must be reduced; this is up to the government.

Second is the quality and condition of our telephone and communications infrastructure.

Last, and certainly not least, there must be more honest advertising. If so-called "ISPs" continue to advertise one megabit of Internet access at 800 baht a month, but deliver 40k, and do not tell users that the "glass" is oversubscribed, then the entire industry will lose credibility, and in the end, everyone will lose.

John Seebach has more than 25 years' consulting experience in Management Information Systems and Business Process Re-engineering. His company, Island Technology offers IT solutions and Broadband services throughout Southeast Asia. For more information contact him at: john@islandtechnology.com

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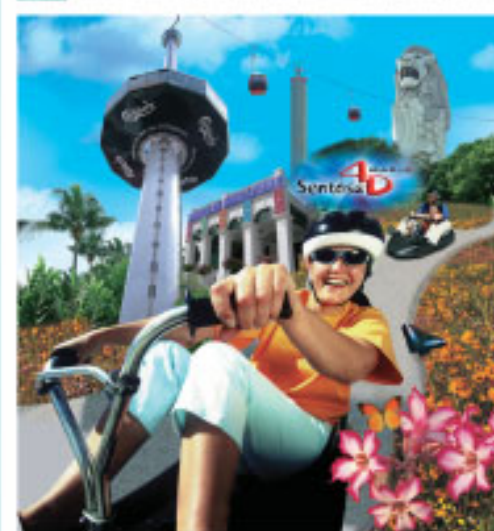
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ON THE MOVE



Australian **Anthony Ross** has been appointed General Manager of the Indigo Pearl resort at Nai Yang Beach which is due to open December 1. He holds a degree in hotel management from Victoria University in Melbourne. Before joining Indigo Pearl, he developed and operated Azur, a luxury lodge in Queenstown, New Zealand. His experience also includes the renovation and relaunch of The Sentosa Resort and Spa in Singapore for Beaufort Hotels, corporate positions with the Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group in Europe and Hong Kong and many years with Pan Pacific Hotels and Resorts in Australia and Asia.

Arnaud Girodon, from France, has been appointed Executive Assistant Manager of the Indigo Pearl. He holds an advanced hotel business degree (majoring in hotel and catering management) and has worked in the hotel industry since graduating in 1995. Since 1999 Mr Girodon has worked in senior management positions in a number of properties in Dubai. He most recently held the position of Executive Assistant Manager during the pre-opening and opening period of the 393-room, 5-star Al Murooj Hotel and Suites.



Ratree Prasarnkarn, from Phang Nga, has been appointed General Manager at Stoney Monday Elite Developments and Stoney Monday Oasis Hotel in Patong. She has a degree in economics from Ramkhamhaeng University in Bangkok. Her career experience includes three years as Senior Accountant with Carrefour in Bangkok, three years as Assistant Manager at the Swiss Hotel in Patong and three years as Hotel Manager at the Stoney Monday Oasis.

WHEW! Coup has only slight effect on tourism

By Suganya Semacote

PHUKET: Tourist bookings and arrivals suffered no more than a small blip in cancellations, with most tourists choosing to defer rather than cancel their holiday following the September 19 coup, according to tourism specialists on the island.

Nampetch Tipaxorn, Marketing and Communications Manager at Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa, "Immediately after September 19, about 5% of our bookings canceled.

"However, since September 25 our bookings have recovered by 3%. Most of the cancellations were by Europeans and Japanese, and were just a very small impact on our volume.

"The high season will cover those cancellations," she said.

Kritika Suksom, Client Service and Communications Manager at online booking agent Asia Web Direct, agreed. "There were cancellations after September 19, but people started booking again after September 25."

SHORT TERM

However, a senior management source at the Laguna complex told the *Gazette* that immediately after September 19 the five hotels there suffered a cancellation total of about 1,000 room nights, including cancellations from corporate groups, travel agents and individual bookings.

"But it was just a small, short-term effect. Now [bookings] are back to normal, especially for the high season, which looks like it will be a very good season," the source said.

Suwalai Pinpradab, Director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand's Southern Region 4 Office in Phuket, said, "There was only a small impact. Tours from



'Tourists just keep coming,' says Phuket International Airport Director Sq/Ldr Pornchai Eua-aree.

China postponed immediately after September 19, but now they are back to normal."

Indeed, K. Suwalai added that tourism to Phuket was growing despite the coup, and looking even stronger than before.

"New corporate groups from India are holding conferences in Phuket, and even now in early October we can see that more charter flights and bigger aircraft will be coming.

"A Russian charter company will be sending its first charter flight this month, ahead of its originally scheduled arrival in November or December," she said.

RUSSIANS

K. Suwalai explained that Russian airline Transaero will be flying in about 220 tourists once every 10 days from October 25 through to March 25 next year, and Jet Star will be landing a 582-seat Boeing 747-400 three times a week from November 24.

"There are no more effects at all from September 19. We have quite positive hotel bookings this year.

"For example, some 2,000 people will be in Kata-Karon for the Nation party on October 20 to 23, and in December there will be some 10,000 people arriving for a credit union conference, as well as the King's Cup Regatta, the PIMEX boat show, the annual superyacht event, the jazz festival and many other activities in Phuket," she said.

The credit union conference, from December 1 to 10, is to celebrate International Credit Union Day and has already had 6,000 people confirm attendance.

"In addition, more Indian corporate groups are coming here, and so are more leisure groups from Israel.

"On October 13, financial corporations from India will hold conferences and workshops in Phuket for about 300 people," she added.

K. Suwalai said that the number of arrivals so far this year on the island was on target to reach the pre-tsunami level of about 4.8 million.

Phuket International Airport Director Sq/Ldr Pornchai Eua-aree said, "We thought that outbound tours would be affected more than inbound tours, but in the end there were no changes [in the number of passengers] at all. Tourists just keep coming," he said.

He added that he has had talks with key figures and expected arrivals from Sweden and Italy to receive a boost in the near future.

"The problem now is that there are not enough rooms to accommodate them," he said.

K. Suwalai attributed the continuing growth to the push for the tourism sector to focus on developing sustainable tourism.

"We are convincing Phuket operators to improve their service, products and standards and to learn sustainable tourism in order to preserve the environment and tourist attractions for long-term use.

"For example, we are training taxi drivers and street vendors to develop good attitudes towards service and ethics, and to understand how they play an important role in improving Phuket's tourism image," she said.

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MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

For investors who are looking to place their hard-earned cash in an investment, even the smallest amount of research will reveal the bane of investors: inconsistency. Most investment funds available – and there are many thousands – are extremely volatile in performance.

Where volatility is relatively absent, it is usually replaced by humdrum performance. There are very few investments in the world that have low volatility and good performance.

Investors are always searching for that investment that will consistently return 30% a year. However, in reality any investment that gives this level of return simply cannot be relied upon to deliver predictably.

One of the few exceptions is a property fund called Glanmore. This is not to be confused with a Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT), which invests in a mix of properties listed on stock exchanges.

While REITS are popular, they are something of a hybrid between a property and stock market investment. This may seem appealing, but it does have the one major disadvantage of being subject to the ebbs and flows of the stock market.

The Glanmore Property Fund is an “old style” property fund that holds a wide variety of commercial properties and is valued independently.

There are no property shares in the fund, only physical properties. These range from standard retail units to retail warehouses, shopping centers, office blocks, leisure centers, hotels and industrial warehouses.

The portfolio of commercial properties avoids problems with residential properties. Residential properties can suffer from the same problems as the stock exchange: over-enthusiasm followed by disillusionment on the part of the private investor.

During property booms, the individual investor has a tendency to buy a spread of different properties, usually on borrowed money, with the intention of letting out these properties. The idea is that the tenant will pay for the cost of the mortgage. In the short term, this allows individual investors to make a lot of money in a short time.

However, residential property prices tend to rise when interest rates are low. As interest

Fund offers investors best of all worlds



The Glanmore portfolio includes hotels as well as retail properties, warehouses, shopping centers, office blocks and leisure centers. – Photo EPA/Rapetti

rates start to move upwards, the profit margins become slimmer and the result is forced sales.

Another problem for investors buying residential properties for investment rather than for personal use is that in most countries capital gains taxes apply, so the investor tends to want to hold on to these properties to avoid having to pay substantial amounts of tax.

Commercial property normally avoids this type of volatility as it is simply too expensive for most individual investors and takes individual investors out of their “comfort zone”. In addition, very few individual investors have anywhere near sufficient assets to afford a wide diversification of commercial properties.

The Glanmore fund avoids this problem. It gives individual investors access to a wide variety of commercial properties without

the investor having to negotiate leases with large corporations or have governments as tenants.

The fund, while having its

“mind and management” in the UK, is actually a Guernsey-listed Open-Ended Investment Company, in effect a mutual fund/unit

trust. Being listed in Guernsey, it complies with all the rules of a very tight regulatory authority.

While basically aimed at expatriates, the fund is also accepted by the UK as an approved vehicle for UK residents and is eligible for their self-invested personal pensions (SIPP) and small self-administered schemes (SSAS) investments.

Founded in April 1997, the Glanmore fund has an impressive and steady history of returns with negligible volatility: 17.39% over the past 12 months, 61.43% over the past five years, and 144.89% since its inception.

The fund has an above-average performance over the past year for one simple reason: small properties that were bought in the “early days” when the fund was small are being sold for substantial profit.

Investors may opt for straightforward capital growth with income added or they can opt to take a twice-yearly income and add the remaining capital gains to their holding.

Income, which is paid out in January and July, totals more than 5%, and the fund’s history shows that it has never fallen below that figure – impressive, when an investor takes into account its steadily rising price, which means in real terms that the actual income is continually rising as is the value of the holding.

Becoming increasingly popular in Asia, the fund is now accepted by the Singaporean government via the Monetary Authority of Singapore. The fund is valued at over UK£837 million (almost 60 billion baht).

To meet demands of international investors, the fund is also available in US dollars, with a fund valued at US\$26.79 million (about 1 billion baht).

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



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College to mark birthday with offroad event

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET CITY: The Phuket Challenge 2006 Off-Road Contest will take place on October 21 and 22 at the new off-road track just off the bypass road, near the new Hill Hut restaurant.

The 4x4 event is being held to promote tourism during the Vegetarian Festival 2006 and to mark the 35th anniversary of the establishment of Phuket Rajabhat University (PRU), the main organizer.

All proceeds will go to Royal projects under the patronage of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.

Drivers will compete in five categories:

Standard: Diesel engines up to 3,200cc or gasoline engines up to 2,300cc; original factory suspension systems and tires, or T/A equivalent.

Classic: Diesel or gas engines up to 2,500cc; original suspension; suitable tires (at contest judge's discretion).

Leaf spring: Suzuki Caribbean (gas engine up to 1,600cc or diesel engine up to 2,000cc) or Toyota LN (4Y gasoline engine or diesel engine up to 3,000cc); original suspension.

Coil spring: Standard diesel engines up to 3,000cc; 4Y gas engine.

Open: All 4WD vehicles, gasoline or diesel.

Entry to the Standard and Classic

categories is 1,500 baht each. Entry fee to each the other categories is 3,500 baht each.

The winner in the Open category will receive 15,000 baht in prize money, while second place will merit 9,000 baht and third place 6,000 baht.

In all the other categories, first place will receive 10,000 baht, while second and third-place winners will receive 7,000 baht and 5,000 respectively.

The top three in each category will also receive trophies.

Entrants must register their vehicles between 2 pm and 6 pm on October 20 at the off-road field on the bypass road.

Racing will take place from 7 am to

6 pm on October 21 and from 8 am to 4 pm on October 22.

The prize-giving ceremony will begin at 4:30 pm on October 22, and include a lucky-prize draw with a 40,000-baht Yamaha motorbike as the top prize.

The competition is organized by PRU and four Phuket-based off-road clubs – the Thalang Off-road Club, the Chao Fa Off-road Club, the Classic Off-road Club and the Family Phuket Club.

For more information about the event call Wannayuth Suthikul at Tel: 081-891 2268, Paichet Khompairae at Tel: 081-9704135 or Manop Taweesuwan at Tel: 081-8922047.



BRING ON THE SUB: Players in the 2006 HotelTravel Soccer 7s Tournament will be hoping for drier conditions than during last year's championships. Forty teams from 13 countries are to take part in the tournament, which will be held on November 25 and 26 at Phuket Rajabhat University. There will be two categories this year; the Men's Open and the Men's Masters, the latter for players aged 35 and over. To register a team, look for additional players or to find a team, email: info@thai7s.com or visit www.thai7s.com



DO RUN RUN: Children from the red team at the British Curriculum International School are ready for the gun at the start of a cross-country run on October 6. Students from every grade joined in the annual event, starting and finishing at the school's soccer field.

BCIS organizes soccer academy

KOH KAEW: The British Curriculum International School (BCIS) will hold a soccer academy from October 25 to 29.

The course will be run by

UK Soccer Academy (UKSA) and will have coaches certified by the English Football Association (FA) and Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) flown in from the UK.

Apart from ball-handling skills, the academy also aims to build sportsmanship, communication and teamwork.

Every child who takes part

in the academy will receive a UKSA kit, including jersey, shorts and socks, sponsored by FBT Sports, and a soccer ball.

The academy is open to boys and girls ages eight to 18. Entry costs 7,000 baht a child.

For more information see www.uksocceracademy.com. To register, email: ppreez@bcis.ac.th or call Tel: 076-238711.

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Already confirmed for the tourney are the top two teams in this year's world championships so far: Larissa Franca and Juliana Felisberta Da Silva from Brazil (left), and Tian Jia and Wang Jie from China.



77 teams booked in for feast of beach volleyball

PHUKET: Thailand's first-ever Swatch-FIVB (Fédération Internationale de Volleyball) Women's Beach Volleyball World Tour tournament will be held on Karon Beach, Phuket from November 1-5.

The Phuket Thailand Open has prize money of US\$200,000. It will be the most prestigious beach volleyball tournament staged in Thailand – and the largest such tournament held in Asia.

The Phuket Thailand Open has attracted tremendous interest from the world's leading beach volleyball teams.

A total of 77 teams from 31 countries have entered the tournament – including the current Olympic and World Champions Misty May Treanor and Kerry Walsh from the USA.

All of the top-ranked teams in this year's world standings will also be coming, including players from Brazil, China, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Spain, Australia, Austria, Cuba, France, Greece, Japan, Norway, Belgium,

Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Finland, Hong Kong, Hungary, Latvia, Russia, Sweden and Ukraine.

The finals in Phuket will feature 32 teams: 22 on the basis of their world ranking, two teams from Thailand (as the host country) and the remaining eight from a knock-out qualifying round to be played on November 1. Thailand will have four teams among the 53 in that round.

The main competition will take place on the following four days.

The Phuket Thailand Open is sanctioned by the FIVB and the Volleyball Association of Thailand (VBAT) and is the last stop on the Swatch-FIVB Beach Volleyball World Tour 2006.

Chaiyapak Siritwat, Chairman of the organizing committee, said, "The staging of such a prestigious event in Thailand is bound to raise the image and awareness of the sport here."

"Our girls have performed well in beach volleyball – we won

the Asian Games gold medal in 1998, and have also recorded a number of SEA Games victories.

"Our next objective is qualification for the 2008 Olympic Games. The staging of a Swatch-FIVB World Tour event in Thailand is a critical factor in achieving that goal."

Matches will start from 9 am daily, except on finals day, when they begin at 3 pm.

iTV will cover both semi-finals live on November 4, and the final and 3rd-place play-off the following day. The broadcasts will be from 3 pm to 5 pm.

Admission to the tourna-

ment is free, and the program includes beach volleyball camps, cheerleader contests and other activities in the tent village.

Sponsors include Swatch, the Tourism Authority of Thailand, the Sports Authority of Thailand, the Kata Group of Hotels, Haad Thip, Grand Sport and Mikasa.

For further information, visit the event website at www.fivb.org or contact Pentangle Promotions Co Ltd at Tel: 02-3823491-3, Fax: 02-3823490 or Email: ppc@pentanglepromotions.com

PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

Coyote overtake Piccadilly

PATONG: With just four weeks to go, Didi's maintained their lead with yet another 5-4, 3-point win, this time at home against Jungle Juice.

In the battle for second, Coyote moved one point ahead of Piccadilly, who took two points at Valhalla but lost the beer leg.

Coyote cruised on the road at Funky Monkey, winning 8-1 and taking the beer leg to snatch up all three points.

The last chance they may have to slow down Didi's will come when the two teams play on Soi Saensabai this week.

Send reports of high closes, 180, etc, to: darts@phuketgazette.net

October 3 results: Queen Mary* 2 OffShore 7; Dog's Bollocks 6 Amigos* 3; Funky Monkey 1 Coyote Bar* 8; Shakers* 8 TaiLife 1; Valhalla* 2 Piccadilly 7; Didi's* 5 Jungle Juice 4. (* winner of beer leg)

Standings: 1. Didi's (46 pts.); 2. Coyote Bar (39); 3. Piccadilly (38); 4. OffShore (33); 5. Dog's Bollocks (29); 6. Amigos (28); 7. Shakers (26); 8. Queen Mary (24); 9. Valhalla (22); 10. Jungle Juice (18); 11. TaiLife (11); 12. Funky Monkey (10).

October 17 fixtures: Queen Mary v Piccadilly; TaiLife v Jungle Juice; Valhalla v Dog's Bollocks; Funky Monkey v Shakers; Didi's v Coyote bar; Off-Shore v Amigos. (home team first)

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Construction Update

by Suganya Semacote

Centered in style

Residents started moving in to Baan Suwantawe serviced apartments on Dibuk Rd, in Phuket City, last month, marking the end of some 19 months of construction in the heart of Phuket City. The four-story, 30-unit block is in contemporary style and located on 1.5v rai behind Queen Sirikit Park.

Suchart Suwannakarn, owner of air-conditioning distributorship and white goods company Suwantawe Co Ltd, went ahead with the development after securing a 30-year lease for the land from the government.

"All rooms face the park. It is very quiet and has fresh breezes, which is a combination that cannot be found anywhere else in the center of Phuket City.

There is no annoying noise from traffic, even though you are in the middle of town," he said.

K. Suchart was inspired to build Baan Suwantawe through his experiences installing and servicing air-conditioning units at hotels on the island.

"During my time fitting and fixing air-conditioning units, I saw many different styles of hotel rooms. That's how I came up with the idea of Baan Suwantawe, which is my dream realized," he said.

Twenty-four of the four-story apartment block's 30 units are 36-sqm studio rooms, each with a balcony of eight square meters. There are also two 42-sqm studio apartments without balconies.

The apartment block also



Baan Suwantawe's sharp architectural lines are attracting people looking for a modern, urban lifestyle.

houses four different penthouse units: a 68-sqm penthouse and a 55-sqm penthouse, each with bedroom, living room and dining room; a 68-sqm penthouse with bedroom, living room, dining room and 16-sqm terrace; and a 58-sqm penthouse with bedroom, living room, dining room, 10-sqm

poolside balcony and 46-sqm upper deck balcony.

Studios units without a balcony are being rented at 14,500 baht a month; those with a balcony at 16,500 baht a month. Monthly rental rates for a penthouse unit range from 23,000 baht to 34,000 baht.

Accommodation is also available at daily rates, a small studio with balcony costing 1,400 baht per night.

K. Suchart says that the apartment block is currently enjoying 30% occupancy, with most residents foreigners and business people wanting fully-furnished accommodation in the center of town.

All rooms feature sharp ar-

chitectural lines and polished surfaces.

Services and facilities provided include maid, IDD phone line, magnetic key card entry, mailbox service, 24-hour security, a security cameras on every floor and maintenance service.

The apartments are fully furnished, including all kitchenware, cable TV, refrigerator, microwave and broadband Internet connection. Guests have access to a large communal swimming pool.

Baan Suwantawe is located at 1/10 Dibuk Rd, Phuket City. Tel: 076-212879. Fax: 076-215541. Email: baansuwantawe@yahoo.com

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Decor

by Natcha Yuttaworawit

Repainting is child's play



COLOR BY NUMBERS: Durable, washable paint for children's rooms is available in a huge range of colors. **HUE AND CRY (Inset):** Choosing the wrong color can have painful consequences.

— Photo by Rungtip Hongjakpet Izmen, Interior Decorator.

One of the best ways to brighten up a child's playroom or bedroom is also the simplest: re-paint the room in bright colors.

Parinthorn Lertchuwongsa, of Adisak Trading Co Ltd on the bypass road, says, "We have a huge range of colors available and offer advice on the best colors and types of paint to use for each customer's house and each particular room."

"We have more than 1,000 colors for people to choose from. If a customer cannot find a particular color that he has in mind, we can create a custom color to match his needs."

K. Parinthorn explains that many people still use normal interior paint for their child's room because they don't know about the potential dangers posed by bacteria, mold or dust.

"The best paint for a child's room protects against bacteria and mold, and – most importantly – is easy to clean," she says.

"The special paint we have for children's areas allows walls to be wiped cleaned with a sponge and water. This is differ-

ent from normal interior paints, which do not last long when wiped clean.

"This paint can last up to 20 times longer than normal interior paints when cleaned regularly like this."

K. Parinthorn strongly advises parents against using exterior paints indoors.

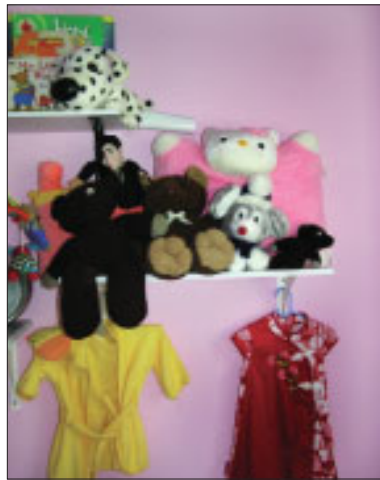
"You should not use exterior paint because, although it is designed to last against wear and tear – wind, rain and sunshine – it offers little of no protection against bacteria and mold."

At about 2,400 baht for an 18-liter can, the special interior paint is more expensive than normal paint – but K. Parinthorn thinks it is more than worth the extra expense.

"If parents use the correct paint, one that is easy to clean and protects against germs, the child will be happy and parents will not be frustrated by their child draw-

ing or painting on the walls," she said.

Adisak Trading Co Ltd, located opposite Tisco Bank on the bypass road, is open Monday to Saturday, 8 am to 6 pm. Tel: 076-261420-6.



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Home of the Week

Cherng Talay

Make it BIG

This large four-bedroom villa, offering 430 square meters of interior space, is part of an estate comprising a total of nine villas and eight town houses near the Laguna complex.

The walk into the house gives views of a nearby lake and 60-square-meter pool, both imparting a sense of space.

The upper floor has a large master bedroom with hardwood "cathedral" ceiling and a separate changing area with walk-in wardrobes along two walls.

There is also a second master bedroom with attached bathroom and a guest bedroom.

Downstairs is another bedroom complete with floor-to-ceiling sliding doors that give access to the garden and offer a lake view.

Also on the ground floor is a spacious lounge and dining room, separated by two steps. The lounge and the downstairs bedroom feature sealed wood floors as do the second master bedroom and guest quarters.

The interior of the house was designed by Hong Kong-based Jepsen Designs. The entrance hall, dining room and master bedroom have limestone flagstones giving the house a feeling of continuity.

All upstairs windows are fitted with colonial-style sliding or closing wooden shutters, eliminat-

ing the need for curtains. All the windows are paned with extra thick glass with diamond-cut edges.

The house has a total of five bathrooms and an 18sqm maid's room.

It is equipped with a security system – including remote-controlled sliding gates – and a burglar alarm. It also has a 5,000-liter underground water storage tank.

The house, which has high potential for renting, is on the market for 38 million baht, leasehold. Transfer fees will be split 50-50. The current estate management fees are 22,500 baht a month, including pool cleaning, garden



The main entrance to the villa features a 60-square-meter swimming pool bordered by manicured lawns.

maintenance, 24-hour security guards and the maintenance of common areas.

For more details contact Richard Lusted at Siam Real Estate at Tel: 076-288908, or visit www.siamrealestate.com or email: info@siamrealestate.com



At the rear of the house is a terrace and pool overlooking the lake.



Even the entrance from the carport is impressive.

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Insurance Bond	\$ 2,000
Training Course	Inclusive
Residual Equity Refund	Yes
Full Time Captain	Yes

Specifications

Hull	Sunseeker 37 Sportsfisher (29.8')
Features	Luxury Functional Utility Cruiser/Cabrio Console 11' 7" Beam 6' 5" Headroom
Engines	Volvo 57 Lite MPI/DOHC PROP STERNDRIVES
Cockpit	Seating 10, Large Sunbed, BBQ, Teak Floor, Storage and Fish/Bait Boxes, Ice Box, 10 Rodholders



Sunseeker 53 Portofino

\$116,890_{USD}

Equity Cost & Maintenance Levy	
10% Equity Purchase	\$ 116,890
Application Deposit	\$ 23,378
Balance on Allocation	\$ 93,512
Ongoing Maintenance Levy	8,500
Insurance Bond	\$ 2,000
Training Course	Inclusive
Residual Equity Refund	Yes
Full Time Captain	Yes

Specifications

Hull	Sunseeker 53 Portofino (36.11')
Features	Luxurious 3 Cabin Layout, Electric Hardtop, State of the Art Navigation and Entertainment Packages
Engines	Twin Caterpillar Turbo Diesels
Cockpit	Seating 16, Large Sunbeds, Fore and Aft, BBQ and Refrigerator with ice maker, Jet Boat in Garage

Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

A different fruit of the vine

I like a good curry. I'm a Yorkshireman after all, and the center of the curry universe in the UK was only a few miles from my former home in sunny England – Bradford. There are few things that I miss from that corner of the planet, but curries are definitely one of them.

Bradford is probably solely responsible for one of the greatest culinary inventions in the history of mankind; one that is rarely mentioned in the hushed hallways of whatever clubs those executive chef types probably belong to. Bradford invented curry and chips.

There are those who will argue that the only appropriate accompaniments to a curry are rice or chapattis, but these people are missing out on an incredibly pleasurable dining experience. They have never experienced the culinary delight of dunking a big fat chip into a bowl of curry, and munching on the combination. Superb.

For any Americans who are a little confused at this stage, chips are what you usually call "French fries", or even, I'm led to believe, "Freedom Fries". If you could please refer to your "chips" as "crisps", as they are more correctly known, this would avoid a lot of confusion. Thank you.

Anyway, getting back to curries. The options that are generally available start off with the korma, which, to be honest, is a bit of a girl's-blouse curry. It can be quite tasty, but there isn't a great deal of bite to it. The kids will love it, as it's fairly innocuous. Then there's the inevitable chicken tikka massala, which for some reason seems to have taken over from roast beef and Yorkshire pudding as the national dish. Again, it's a curry for wimps – flavorsome enough, but not really one for the lads.

Then we get on to the more serious stuff, moving up to the Madras. This is where things get interesting, as these curries start to bite back.

They aren't *phet* in the same way as Thai food; they

somehow hurt more. This is especially true when you move on to the more serious vindaloo, which, if the chef puts his mind to it, can blow your socks off.

Unfortunately, many of my compatriots think about indulging in a curry only when they leave the pub after a few pints, and think it will be a good idea to hurl a bit of abuse at the waiter, and ask for "the hottest thing on the ***** menu". A hint, lads – don't upset the waiter. The word gets back to the bloke cooking the stuff, and he will inevitably hurt you.

A vindaloo leaves many of these strapping, drunken chaps weeping with the curry strength, yet are all adamant that they can handle it.

The next step up from a vindaloo is a pahl. This is an evil concoction, designed, I suspect, especially to satisfy the Indian restaurant staff's totally justified lust for revenge.

The term "vindaloo", I discovered recently, actually derives from the fact that for centuries the meat for these curries was marinated in vinegar, which comes from wine, which is of course made from the fruit of vines. At last, we get to a topic that is vaguely connected to



Twining vines, such as the mandevilla, climb by spiraling round upright supports.

something green and growing.

Technically, vines are "plants that grow horizontally over the ground or climb by twining or attaching appendages to a support".

In Phuket, there are vines in bloom every month of the year. Most of these vines are evergreen, doing their job year round. Many vines which grow in this part of the world have unusual and striking foliage and flowers. It doesn't seem to matter whether they are growing wild or if someone has deliberately put them there – they're every-

where, in one form or another.

Vines can be used in a variety of ways in your garden. Posts and poles, and even undesirable trees can be transformed using vines to alter their form, texture and color. Species of vines exist that cling or climb on wood, stone, brick or even sheet metal, so you can select vines to give character to uninteresting walls or fences. Closely clinging vines can also be used to accentuate architectural lines of buildings, or larger, branching vines can soften lines you'd rather not see.

Vines are not entirely independent, so often they need some type of support if you grow them upright. To choose the proper support for a particular species of vine, it's important to understand how the vine is going to climb. They can be separated into three basic types of climbers: clingers, twiners and winders.

Clingers are vines that grab hold of rough surfaces by means of rootlets or sticky disks. I'm sure "sticky disks" isn't the official term but you know what I mean. Examples of these are the ivy you see in more temperate climates, the climbing fig and the philodendrons.

These types of vines are

often used to cover solid upright surfaces such as trees, fences or walls. You shouldn't grow them on wooden walls because they prevent the wood surface from drying, which increases the chance of rot. Clinging vines may also loosen mortar between bricks in masonry walls and can sometimes be hard to remove.

Twining vines climb by encircling upright vertical supports. They are often used on poles, vertical wires, or lattice structures.

Most of these vines will spiral in only one direction. If you attempt to train one to spiral in the opposite direction, usually it won't cooperate and you may even damage it. Check out the spirals that are probably already there. Twining vines include mandevilla, Confederate jasmine, allamanda and bougainvillea.

Winders climb by means of tendrils, which come in many forms and sizes. It's the tendrils that wind themselves around some kind of support, rather than the stems themselves. You can use these to cover lattice, wire mesh or other supports when you want them to spread horizontally.

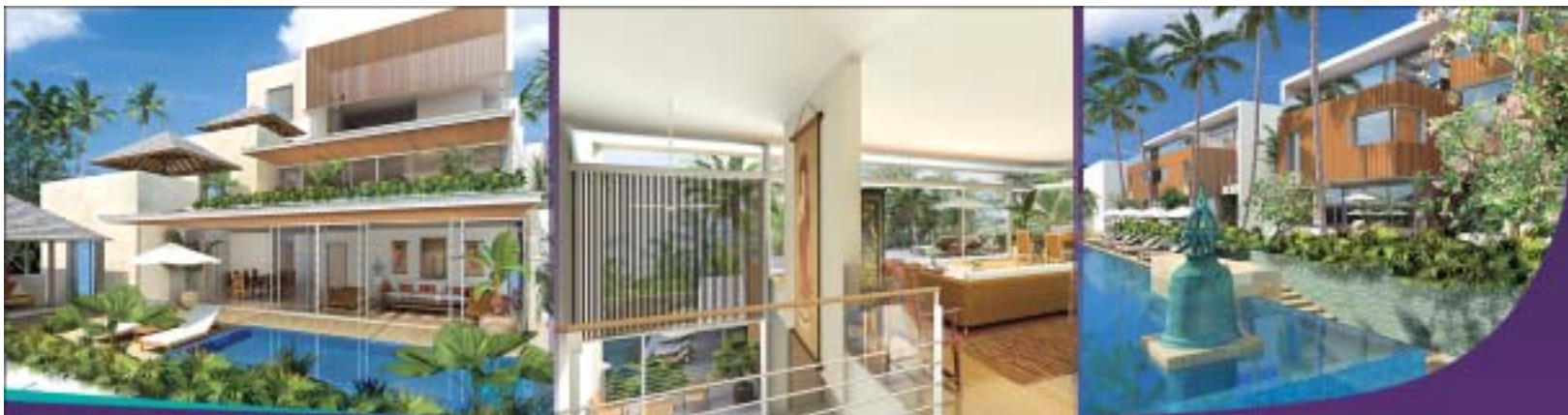
Examples of tendril vines include the glory lily (the spectacular gloriosa superba), the passion flower and many members of the pea family.

Give the tendrils a push in the right direction and, in hours, their tendrils will be well and truly locked around what ever they can find.

Vines and vindaloo? Tenuous, I know. Do yourself a favor though. The next time you're in the mood for a curry, say no to the rice or chapattis. Order a plate of chips instead. You'll be glad you did. Oh, and be careful not to upset the chef.

Want to know more about a plant in your garden?

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Property Gazette

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Tel: 076-342275

Fax: 076-344314

Property Gazette

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

STUNNING SEAVIEW, KATA



400sqm Chanote title, road, electric, come and look. Coffee for free. Tel: 089-6525664.

CONDO FOR SALE



Rawai sea view, 126sqm living space, common pool. 4 million baht. Tel: 087-889-6074. Email: info@sea-property-phuket.com

KATA SEA VIEW



High-quality apartment, 250sqm living space with a top sea view. 3 units left. Starting price: 14.5 million baht. Tel: 087-8938747.

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

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

PATONG SEA VIEW

Best spot. A tall and beautiful house with private pool and great seaview. 70 meters above and 100 meters away from the sea. In the best neighborhood, 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-bedroom, 4-bathroom house on Chanote land with many extras and optional 2 separate 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

HOUSE IN SAI YUAN

Address: Soi Kiumyang Nuati 200 sq wah. Price: 14 million baht. Fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully-fitted kitchen, living room, swimming pool, and one car parking space. Tel: 081-2733303, 081-9684125.

520 SQM RAWAI

2.2 million baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 089-6525664.

524 SQM PLOT

In quiet area in Rawai, great for building house & living. Asking 2 million baht. Tel: 086-2670898.

HOUSE FOR SALE

Kathu. End house, ensuite 2 bedrooms + 1 extra bathroom, lounge, dining room, kitchen. 1.6 million baht. Tel: 087-2705514.

HOTEL FOR SALE



Naka Island. 200m beachfront, 80 villas, total 120 rooms. Tel: 087-8896074. Email: info@sea-property-phuket.com

HOUSE IN CHALONG

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 stories. Asking: 3.9 million baht. Come & look. Tel: 081-5376866.

HOME IN CHALONG

for sale. 100 sq wah. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 living room, big garden. Call K. Nit. Tel: 081-0790688.

KARON SHOPHOUSE

3-story shophouse strategically located between Hilton Arcadia and Movenpick hotels in Karon. 200sqm indoor area. 300m from the sea. 6 million baht. Tel: 081-892-7847. Email: colonapt@loxinfo.co.th

SMALL PLOT RAWAI

524sqm, sea view, nice and quiet, Chanote title. 2.5 million baht. Tel: 086-2670898.

1 RAI FOR SALE

In a residential area between Chalong & Rawai. Flat & square, must see. Great opportunity. 3.5 million baht for quick sale. Includes a registered co ltd. Be fast. Please call for more information. Tel: 081-9560204.

QUALITY-BUILT HOMES OFFERED

for sale in a prestigious location in Phuket. Prices range from 4 to 11 million baht, with bank financing available. For more information please call. Ask for Miss Am. Thai & English. Tel: 087-3826258, 081-5270527.

EAST-COAST OFFICE

or shop with 2 bedrooms upstairs. 1.7 million baht. Tel: 081-8918689.

HOUSE FOR SALE

New house, 1,496sqm, 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, located close to bypass road with lagoon views. Close to Tesco-Lotus and Central. 20 million baht. Tel: 081-537-5284 or 089-7291066.

AO CHALONG

5 rai, 135sqm of beachfront land near Chalong. Price: 10 million baht per rai. Please call for more information. Tel: 081-6939571.

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.

SMALL HOUSE

Rawai. Walking distance to the beach. 1.9 million baht. Tel: 086-2670898.

THALANG, 1 RAI

1.2 million baht. Tel: 089-6525664.

PLOTS NEAR LAGUNA

Chanote plots on Pasak Hilltop. 1,000-1,600sqm. From 3 million baht. Please contact for more info. Tel: 081-893-0692 or 081-9798685, or Email: mervowen@vol.net

NICE LAND, RAWAI

520sqm, quiet area, good location for building your own house. Price: 2 million baht. Tel: 086-2670898.

NICE SQUARE PLOT

In Nai Harn, 1 rai, almost last piece. Chanote title, be fast. Please contact for more details. Tel: 089-6525664.

NEW HOUSE

for sale in Kathu, near BCIS. Call Lynn at Tel: 07-2799500. For more information please visit: www.baan-phuttharat-phuket.com

BEAUTIFUL SEAVIEW

Ao Por, 380sqm, 1.6 million baht. Tel: 081-1719705. Email: atetayap@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

Nanai Rd, Ka Semsab 1. House no. 56/3, 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 1 living room, 1 kitchen, 250sqm living area. 7.9 million baht. Contact K. Joy at Tel: 081-8931191.

NAI HARN 1 RAI

Beautiful plot, 800sqm residential area, must see! 3 million baht. Tel: 081-8940580.

KATA, 900M TO BEACH

Land plot with building permit or off-plan from 1.5-12.5 million baht. Please contact for full details. Tel: 07-8852969. Email: junekata@hotmail.com

HOUSE IN SAI YUAN

Rd Soi Tohinkaw, 80sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fitted kitchen. Price: 3.4 million baht. Tel: 081-2733303, 081-9684125.

GEOFFS Co., Ltd.

LAND FOR SALE IN KATHU



5 rai 50 sq wah with Chanote title, good area, great canal at the back. 5 minutes to Big C & Central, perfect for private complex. 8 million baht / rai.

HOUSE FOR SALE IN KATHU



At Anupas Golf Villa, with Chanote title, lake views 3 bedrooms + maid, 3 bathrooms, aircon, hot water, curtains, kitchen units, land area 75 sq wah 3x3.5 meter, pool & jacuzzi. 7 million baht.

HOUSE FOR SALE AT PHUKET



At Phuket Country Club Golf Course, near clubhouses 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, aircon, kitchen units with hob, hood, oven and dishwasher. Land area 175 sq wah with Chanote title, 7.3x12 meter pool & jacuzzi. Nice & quiet, beautiful golf views. 17 million baht.

Please contact: Mr. Geoff Curry

Mobile: 08-8540061.

Tel: 076-323214, 08-0803414. (K.Ning)

Fax: 076-323215.

Email: mrgeoffcurry@yahoo.com

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Apartments: Laguna-Bangtao Beach.

40 luxury apartments. Two-bedroom garden apartments, 140sqm. Also 2-story penthouse. Excellent location for rental program. 300m to beach. Price: 10 - 22 million baht.



New house for sale. Mountain view, Rawai.

2- and 3-bedroom, 2-story villas with private pool. 25 modern 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- and 3-bedroom luxury apartments from 106 to 215sqm. Offers stunning ocean views. Price: 5.2 - 11.3 million baht.



House for sale near British school.

Two-story house, 4 bedroom, 3 bathroom including one Jacuzzi. Good location with splendid mountain view. Price: 5.5 million baht.



Ideal lakeview location for high-rise building.

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Property Gazette

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Properties for Sale



- 3-storey house with 4 b/r
- 478 sq.m. living area
- Finest materials used throughout
- Located on the quiet Rawai beach

Baht 23 Million



- 2-3 b/r contemp. tropical Thai homes on Karon beach, 276 sq.m. built-up area, 322-459 sq.m. plot
- Int'l property management

From Baht 11.35 Million



- 3 b/r condo located within Blue Canyon Golf & Country Club
- 10 minutes drive from the airport
- Freehold condominium title

Baht 14.58 Million



- 60 rai of elevated waterfront land
- On east coast, private road access
- Over 300-meter water frontage
- Can be divided into 30 rai each

Baht 5 Million/Rai

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ABSOLUTE BEACHFRONT FOR SALE



2.2 rai of absolute beachfront land with Chanote title at Khok Kloy. 25 mins from Phuket International Airport.

No agents please.

Please contact. **Tel: 07-8891717.**

Email: wayne_phuket@yahoo.com

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

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

NICE FLAT LAND

in Rawai. 1/2 rai or 1 rai in quiet area. Has access to road, water, and electricity. Asking 3.2 million baht. Tel: 089-652-5664.

NEW HOUSE @ NAI HARN

Hill view, just a few minutes to the beach, Chanote title. Over 1,600sqm, including the house. Fully landscaped garden. Tel: 081-7371688. Fax: 076-273083. Email: info@phutawanresidence.com

SEAVIEW LAND

Gated community. Nearly 2 rai, Bang Tao, infrastructure complete, ready to build. 7.9 million baht. Tel: 086-267-0157. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

BIG HOUSE

in Kamala. On 2 ngan, beautiful place, large kitchen and living room. 7.6 million baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 087-2827357.

CAPE LAEM KAD

9 rai: 15 million baht. Tel: 081-1719705. Email: atetayap@yahoo.com

HOUSES FOR SALE IN KATHU

3 luxury villas w/ private swimming pools 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

3-STORY TOWNHOUSE

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, good condition. Land area: 25 sq wah (100 sqm). Living area: 180sqm. Very convenient but peaceful 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 info. Tel: 081-5358575.

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. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-7212736. Email: ty-pretty@hotmail.com

SEA VIEW HOUSE

Nice Thai/Eastern houses in Kata. High quality, 250sqm living space, top view. Tel: 087-8938747.

FOR SALE 7.5 MILLION BAHT

140sqm townhouse in Boat Lagoon Marine Residence. Water view, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, washer & tumble drier, maid/utility room. Fully furnished, 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.

PATONG APARTMENT

Luxury apartments, square place, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, European style. Fully furnished, pool. 2.7 million baht. Tel: 081-8940580.

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-conditioned bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 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.

BEACH-FRONT 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

Properties For Rent

RAWAI BEACH HOUSE FOR RENT



3 bedrooms, furnished, swimming pool, 1 year or more. Call Gina at

Tel: 089-6499939

HOUSE + BIG GARDEN

Fully furnished, 2 aircon bedrooms, hot shower, living room, kitchen, garage. 11,000 baht per month. Palai, Chalong. Tel: 081-8924311.

6-BEDROOM HOME

450sqm. For lease. Quiet location, 2 mins from Nai Harn Beach. Beautiful 1,600sqm garden. 500,000 baht per year. Tel: 076-288495. Email: leachbrian@hotmail.com

COMFORTABLE HOUSE



Located on the pleasant Chowfah Thani estate. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms (2 ensuite), living room, study, kitchen, garden, garage area, ADSL, UBC. 35,000 baht per month. Long-term letting only. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-8948374, 084-843-9579. Email: somlerdee@yahoo.com

2-BEDROOM HOUSE

for rent in Boat Lagoon, furnished, serviced. Short term: 40,000 baht per month. Long term: 35,000 baht per month. Available Nov 1, 06. Tel: 086-2820567.

PHUKET B.I. APARTMENT

New in Kathu. Big room, 1 bedroom, aircon, cable TV, Internet, hot shower, garden, car park. 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-692-3163.

HOUSE FOR RENT

Kasem Sap Village, Patong. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, pool, fitness center, security, telephone. 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-7419391. Email: panna_jensen@hotmail.com

Would you like to keep up on what's happening in Phuket - the good, the bad and the bizarre? Let us share it with you - every week!

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Property Gazette

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 per month. 12-month lease rate is 50,000 baht. Tel: 081-8943839. Email: donandinge@csloxinfo.com

BEDSIT, CHALONG

Furnished large bedsit with kitchen and bathroom. Farang comfort in local area. Tel: 081-9683546. Email: robin46@gmail.com

PATONG BANGLA

area. Commercial or residential use. 140 sqm, 2 floors. Price: 250 baht per sqm a month. Tel: 087-8817600.

QUIET HOUSE

for rent. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, kitchen. 80 sq wah. Big garden, cable TV, telephone + ADSL. 25 minutes to Phuket City, 10 minutes to international school and Boat Lagoon, 15 minutes to the beach. Furnished and in quiet location 1km east of Heroines' Monument. 17,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-474-0222, 089-6502666. Email: mammos56@hotmail.com For further details see our website at: www.thehoteldeals.com/photos/house.htm

KATA LUXURY

apartment. 2 bedrooms, furnished, ADSL, aircon, teak kitchen, huge terrace, 2 bathrooms, quiet area. Fully serviced for 1,800 baht a day; or available non-serviced. Tel: 089-5926890. Email: north8west98@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

Aircon, phone, 2 bedrooms, near Chalong. 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-2929967 081-7425884.

PATONG SEA-VIEW

Condo. Newly remodeled 1/1 condo, 14th floor. Spectacular sea view. 100 meters to beach, Soi Bangla. Full kitchen, granite floors. All amenities, maid service. Short or long term. Tel: 084-1590501, 081-375-3970. Email: patongcondo@yahoo.com

APARTMENTS

for rent. In Karon Beach, long or short term. Tel: 089-491-2496. Email: mailjic@gmail.com

HOUSE & GARDEN

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, fully furnished, European kitchen. Pls contact us for further details. Tel: 076-330520, 076-333292. Fax: 076-330895. Email: pen47@hotmail.com

LOFT-STYLE FLATS

Kathu. 4 large, quiet, central flats. 6-15,000 baht a month long term. Tel: 081-968430. Email: hkmsn@yahoo.com

SURIN RENTAL

2-bedroom apartment. Fully furnished, teak floors, pool, UBC. Near beach. Tel: 081-2731740.

NEW 2-BEDROOM

house. Unfurnished apart from two beds. Hot shower, big veranda, quiet area. Muang Tong 1.3km to town, 2km to beach. 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 085-8855415.

RAWAI LUXURY

villa. Long-term rent. Furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, garden, covered 2-car carport and terrace. Rawai Beach. 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

CAPE YAMU HOUSE

This charming house with spectacular sea views has 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, lounge/dining room, kitchen, snooker room, study, sauna, swimming pool, all located in outstanding gardens. 10 minutes to BCIS, 1 minute to sea. 80,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-2796283.

NEW HOUSE

for rent. A must-see. 9 months old. 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, storage room, 1 air conditioner, private car parking space, 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.

HOUSE FOR RENT

Land & Houses Park, Chalong. 3 bedrooms, aircon. New, 25,000 baht per month. Please call for more information. Tel: 086-2825107.

KAMALA LONG LET

2-bedroom, 3-aircon, furnished house, UBC, phone line, parking. 11,000 baht per month. Call Khun Tom. Tel: 087-1789273.

NEW VILLA TO RENT

Best view golf, lake & valley. 3 bedrooms with pool near BCIS. 80,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-2698492.

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

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, cable TV and DVD, 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).

LOVELY, 4 BEDROOMS

Chalong, 4 bathrooms, spa, aircon, pool, garden. 800sqm, UBC. Quiet area. 65,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-281-7605.

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

KARON APARTMENT

Central Karon. 50m from the beach. Newly furnished and renovated 2-room apartment with 2 balconies, cable TV, Wi-Fi, aircon. 20,000 baht per month. Long term only. Tel: 086-2718254.

FREEDOM

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

PATONG 2-BEDROOM

apartment. 2 en-suites, kitchen, aircon, UBC, swimming pool, ADSL. 25,000 baht. Tel: 086-2790837.

DETACHED HOUSE FOR RENT/SALE



Located at Pa Khlok area, just 7 minutes from international school. Fully-furnished house with 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. Ready to move in. Rental price: 20,000 baht per month or for sale at 2.45 million baht (negotiable). Tel: 081-5399269.

PATONG TOWER SEA VIEW

1-bedroom apartment, 100 meters from beach, long or short term. 40,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-847-3304.

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 and air conditioned. Rent: 36,000 baht per month. Long-term rental. Tel: 084-843-9579, Fax: 076-323421. Email: somsrijenner@lycos.com

OFFICE SPACE

Just 2 km from Tesco-Lotus on bypass road. 240sqm office space for rent in new 2-story building. Tel: 076-238-777 or 081-7371678. Fax: 076-239739. Email: supotpac@phuket.ksc.co.th

APARTMENTS

and houses in Patong and Rawai from 10,000 to 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-686-5567. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

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

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

DISCOVERY GARDENS

Near Laguna. 2-bedroom, newly-built, fully-furnished houses with large communal pool. Available short or long term. Tel: 076-271544, 089-1956722. Fax: 076-271545. Email: info@phuketmarbella.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

New, 2 bedrooms, built to Euro standards. Aircon in main bedroom. Fully furnished to a high 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

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

LAKEVIEW APT/LOFT

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 floors near Lotus. Great area, furnished, cable, phone, aircon. 25,000 baht/month. Tel: 081-8928208.

2-BED BUNGALOW

Rawai, quiet location, aircon, ADSL, cable TV. 9,000 baht. Please call for full details. Tel: 086-2790837.

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

SHOPHOUSE BLOCK

5 terraced houses for rent on the bypass road. 35,000 baht per month. Please call K. Vachira for more information. Tel: 081-3269495.

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Four new roller blinds for sale. Navy-blue cotton, 80cm wide by 195cm long. Still in packaging. 1,000 baht each. For sale because I bought incorrect size! Tel: 087-2747648.

Boats & Marine

LEE MARINE
International Marine Brokerage

Riviera 3000 (2000)

- 2 x Volvo KAMD44 260HP Diesel engines
- Cruiser 12,000 BTU air-conditioning
- 620 ltr fuel tank / 260 ltr fresh water tank
- Electric head and holding tank system
- Kohler 4kva generator
- Beechwood interior
- 220V Hotplate and Microwave
- Simrad Fishfinder/Depth

\$225,000 SGD

Beneteau First 40.7 (2000) 142,000 Euro

Endurance 35 (1992) \$79,000 USD

Carver Santiago 630 (1991) 2,800,000 THB

Princess 366 (1996) 7,500,000 THB

THAILAND'S LEADING BROKERAGE AND NEW YACHT DEALERSHIP

Available Exclusively through Lee Marine

Dealership Office:
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Contact: Martin Holmes
tel: 076 238 803
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The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
Contact: Andrew de Bruin / Marcus Overman
Mobile: 01 894 1530 / 01 965 1437
tel/fax: 076 239 729
Email: brokerage@leemarine.com

Yacht Haven Marina Office:
The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket
Contact: Jim Poulsen
Mobile: 01 891 3237
tel/fax: 076 206 260
Email: yacht Haven@leemarine.com

Dedicated Service Department **www.leemarine.com**

NEW 35' SPEEDBOAT FOR RENT

Luxury fiberglass boat with head, shower, cabin, etc. Rent to hotels, dive shops and private day trippers. Tel: 46-704534768. Email: info@swedcraft.com

2 YAMAHA 200HP 2 STROKES

2003, good condition. Incl accessories. 250,000 baht ono for the pair. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-381010. Email: dsa@evasonphuket.com

SPORTFISHERMAN FOR SALE



Fishing boat in good condition. Jim Young's "Vindex" design. Built-in cedar strip/epoxy, 35ft long, 12ft beam 300hp Cummins 6BTA diesel ZFHG, hydraulic steering from main cabin or fly bridge. Sleeps 2 couples in forward cabin or conv area, WC/shower/hand basin. Contact Peter for details. Tel: 081-8166940. Email: peterhae@e-mail.in.th

SPORTFISHING CHARTER BOAT



40ft charter boat, 2x185hp inboards, powerful generator, boatyard re-fit completed August 2006. Air conditioned, TV, DVD, galley, 4 cabins, sleeps 8 in comfort, power shower, electric toilet, large fishing deck, fly bridge fitted with seating, GPS, fish-finder, VHF. 4.8 million baht. Tel: 085-7143656. Email: crew@cruise Phuket.com For further details please see our website at: www.cruise Phuket.com

SPECIALIST IN WORLDWIDE YACHT CHARTER

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Please contact our sales offices or web site :

Phuket Office:

c/o Phuket Boat Lagoon
Tel: +66(0)76 239 111, 273 320
Email: charter@asia-marine.net

Bangkok Office:

Tel: +66(0)2 651 95 83
Email: marketing@asia-marine.net

www.asia-marine.net



DIVE BOAT FOR SALE



Length: 18m. Beam: 4.5m. Hyno 6-cylinder, 300hp, turbo-diesel engine, Isuzu 80hp, 20kw generator. Just out of refit. Fully licensed for 35 persons, crew on standby. 3.5 million baht. Please call Tel: 084-8451208, 076-381877.

12-FOOT DINGHY

Rubber dinghy with new 50hp engine. In excellent condition, rarely used. Price: 95,000 baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 081-8951724.

CENTER CONSOLE

Australian. Super-heavy-duty aluminium 6m "MakoCraft". Thai-registered, import docs 100% and in rare Commercial Survey. Demo model available at huge saving! See website at: www.kohjoy.com/makocraft. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-292746, 081-8922824. Email: junaworn@hotmail.com

27FT SPEEDBOAT

Located in Chalong Bay. Wood/epoxy covered, bottom renewed and Mercury 225hp engine, fully repaired in Feb 2006. Thai captain takes care of the boat. Price: 850,000 baht. Tel: 084-6288630. Email: vesa.ankio@suomi24.fi

SAIL & KAYAK

Big boat, shade, good food. Captain + 12 people for day trips, 6 overnight. Please call for more information. Tel: 081-6771641.

FERRY FOR SALE

Jet cruise 1. Has 244-passenger capacity. Length: 30.73m. Gross: 322 tons. Two 1,540KW MTU engines. Docked at Rattanachai slipway, Phuket. Price: 12.2 million baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 081-4084991.

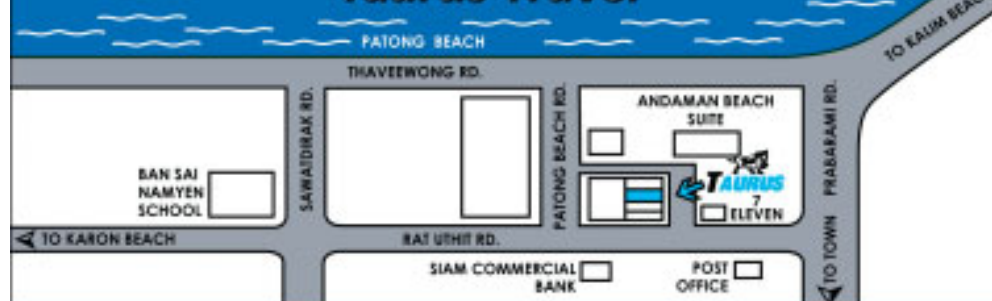
WINDSURFING EQPT

wanted. Sails, masts, booms and boards wanted. Can collect. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-282-864, 084-8501340. Email: southseasurf@gmail.com

8-FOOT DINGHY

Rubber dinghy with 5hp engine, in good condition. Price: 60,000 baht. Tel: 081-895-1724.

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Island Job Mart



Currently being upgraded with additional bungalows, food & beverage facilities, as well as leisure & relaxation areas.

We offer competitive International salary, service charge, accommodation, 3 meals per day and 1 day extra traveling leave per month.

Thai Nationality applications are welcome for the following positions:

- Restaurant Manager
- Restaurant / Bar Supervisor
- Waiter / Waitress / Bartender
- Guest Relations - German & English Language
- Cruise Guest Relations
- Guest Service Agent Supervisor
- Guest Service Agent
- Reservations Executive
- Bell Boy Attendant
- Sales & Web-Marketing Executive
- General Manager's Executive Secretary
- Assistant Chief Engineer
- Chief Engineer's Secretary
- Engineer Supervisor
- Air Condition - Electrician - Pump Technician
- Carpenter / Painter
- Assistant Executive Housekeeper
- Laundry Supervisor
- Bungalow Attendant
- Public Area & Garden Supervisor / Attendant
- Human Resources Manager
- Human Resources Administrator
- Emergency Room Nurse
- Demi Chef De Partie
- Cook & Commis Cook
- Steward & Steward Supervisor
- Cost Controller
- Accounts Receivable Supervisor
- Accounts Payable Supervisor
- Store Keeper & Receiving
- F&B Cashier

Please send your CV with a color photo, current salary & expectations to hrdphi@escoms.com
Tel: (075) 620798 / 621334
www.phiphi-palmbeach.com
www.phiphi-palmbeach.com/job.php

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:

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd
367/2 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Fax: 076-213971 Email: fon@phuketgazette.net



OFFICE STAFF

needed. Must have very good English communication skills. Tel: 076-2647702. Fax: 076-264773. Email: info@kajonkiet.com

MAID/ HOUSEKEEPER

Foreign couple is looking for a long-term maid with basic verbal and written English. Working location: Kathu, in a new house in a nice community. Working hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 am-4:30 pm. Saturday 8:30-12:00 am. Honest, self-motivated, sincere and easygoing and with soft personality. Reasonable salary for the right candidate. Please call or email for interview. Tel: 086-742-8968. Email: fima168@yahoo.com

PERSONAL TRAINER

required. The position of lead trainer has become available at the Vita Personal Training Centre. Candidates should hold international qualifications and experience and be fluent in English. Work permit is provided. Tel: 081-0880422. Email: alun@vitagroup.net

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_suvahiran@hotmail.com

MODEL FOR ART CLASS

Excellent local international school needs someone to sit naked for older art students to draw. Required for 2 hours every Monday, 3-5pm. Good rates of pay. No time wasters please. Tel: 084-849-1323. Email: sfruin@bcis.ac.th

SALES AGENT

required. Qualifications: Thai nationality, excellent written and spoken English, strong selling skills, self motivated, able to work independently, team player. A knowledge of real estate would be an advantage. Contact for more information. Tel: 076-2792801, 081-3977899. Fax: 076-279282. Email: lyndon.phillips@engelvoelkers.co.th

OFFICE CLERK

needed by new pool company. Must have good command of English, basic accounting skills, computer literate (Excel, Word, Internet), driving license. Please contact Gary. Tel: 085-7952552. Email: [wanton.gary@gmail.com](mailto:warton.gary@gmail.com)

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

RESTAURANT STAFF

Well-known Scandinavian restaurant in Karon is looking for waiting staff. Tel: 089-008-8146.

SALES AND MARKETING

Female with marketing experience wanted to promote products/services of Phuket-based company. Must speak English and have proven track record & customer base. Self-motivated & adaptable. Excellent salary + commission for suitable candidate. Full or part time. Send CV with photo to: phuketmarket@hotmail.com

STAFF WANTED

New restaurant opening soon. Looking for waitress and cooking staff. Tel: 089-2534138.

SECRETARY WANTED

Must write, read and speak English fluently and be able to use Microsoft Office. Salary range from 8,000-15,000 baht, depending upon experience. Tel: 076-296617, 086-2810515. Fax: 076-296617. Email: contactus@kdbusiness.com

COOK WANTED

All year round, English needed, easy job, Chalong. Call 087-8939464.

RECEPTIONIST

wanted. Must speak Thai and English and have massage or spa experience. Tel: 085-7859239.

STAFF FOR INTERNET

cafe in Rawai. Thai female, basic English knowledge and computer skills. Good salary. Tel: 076-288808, 087-2650652. Email: rudi542001@yahoo.de

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.



One of Phuket's biggest Dive Centers has a free position in the Booking and Sales department.

For this position we require a person with the following qualifications:

- Excellent skills in spoken and written Thai
- Good skills in spoken and written English
- A dive certificate will be a big advantage
- Good knowledge of working with a computer
- Presentable and flexible

Immediate employment possible.

Interested candidates, who fit the above profile, please Email your resumé immediately and then call Khun Dao to make an appointment for an interview

Email: info@scandinavian-divers.com
www.scandinavian-divers.com

INBOUND TRAVEL

agency, located in Phuket, seeks a qualified person to fill the position below:

Operations Manager:

- Male/Female, Thai national (prefer Phuket native)
- 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. Tel: 076-261195 for more information.

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

COOK + WAITRESS

needed. 1 cook (5 pm-10 pm) and 1 waitress needed. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-8914019. Email: tkoschig2000@hotmail.com

Island Job Mart

amanpuri

Amanresorts' leading flagship property, recently voted **Asia's Best Leisure Hotel** by Condé Nasté 2006 Travel Awards, is currently recruiting highly motivated and service-minded individuals for Permanent and Casual positions.

Experience preferred but a willingness to learn, lots of enthusiasm and customer service oriented with good English language skills essential.

A host of excellent benefits are guaranteed for both Permanent and Casual Employees, including a generous service charge.

FRONT OFFICE

- Reservations Supervisor/ Assistant Manager
- Bell Boy

AMANSPA

- Massage Therapist
- Beauty Therapist
- Receptionist
- Juice Bar Hostess

AMANCRUISES

- Boat Captain
- Boat Crew
- Hostess
- Beach Supervisor
- Beach Boy
- Fuel Barge Attendant
- Assistant Store Man

HOUSEKEEPING

- Room Attendant/Maid
- Laundry Assistant

FOOD & BEVERAGE

- Restaurant Captain
- Pavilion Dining (Room Service) Captain
- Waiter & Waitress
- Western Chef
- Japanese Chef
- Cook/Cook Helper
- Steward

AMANVILLAS

- Housekeeper
- Thai Chef
- Gardener

ENGINEERING

- Assistant Chief Engineer
- Furniture Craft Man
- Gardener
- Maintenance Workers

HUMAN RESOURCES

- Chief of Security

Please send your resumé with a recent photo, or apply in person to
amanpuri

po box 196 • pansea beach • phuket 83000 • thailand
phone 076 324 333 • fax 076 324 100/200
email pn@amanpuri.th.com

SUNWING RESORT & SPA

Sunwing Resort & Spa, Phuket
72/11 M. 3 T. Cherno Talay, Thalang,
Phuket 83110
www.sunwingphuket.com

Fully contained family resort with its own restaurants, entertainment programs and a host of activities for all ages is looking for highly-motivated and service-minded individuals committed to growth within the expanding Ocean Resort Group

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ▪ Chef De Partie | ▪ Kids Program Attendant |
| ▪ Cook | ▪ Waiter / Waitress |
| ▪ Restaurant Manager | ▪ Show and Entertainment Staff |
| ▪ Captain / Bartender | ▪ Accountant |
| ▪ Guest Relations / Reception | ▪ Hotel Service Trainee |
| ▪ Pool Attendant | ▪ Minimarket Head |

APPLICANTS FOR ALL OTHER POSITIONS ALSO WELCOME

Candidates should send a detailed resumé starting current and expected salary and telephone number together with a recent photograph to:

Personnel Department

Ocean Resort Group: 562 Patak Rd, Karon Beach, Muang, Phuket 83100, Thailand
Tel: +66 (0) 76 396599-601 Fax: +66 (0) 76 396470, +66 (0) 76 396177
Email: wisaroot@oceanresortgroup.com



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

Sales Representative Wanted

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.

Interviews will be conducted October 16, 17 & 18.
Please call 076-223-025 for an appointment.

ISLAND LIVING CO., LTD.

108/86 Moo 5, Chaleamprakeat R.9 Rd,

T. Rassada, Muang, Phuket 83000

Tel: 076 223 025-6 Fax: 076 233 018

E-mail: kotcharot@islandlivingcompany.com,
info@islandlivingcompany.com

Website: www.islandlivingcompany.com

COOK NEEDED

with good English. Small resort needs cook (all-year-round), some English a must, easy job. Tel: 076-383080, 087-8939464. Fax: 076-381934. Email: bigasail@samart.co.th

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Wanted for freelance work, must be skilled in Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator. Tel: 086-2825107.

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.

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

ENGLISH WRITER

for website. Writer, working part-time from home, ideally ex-journalist or copywriter. Would suit retired or semi-retired expat. Email: leighw7@hotmail.com

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 K. Noot at Tel: 076-340-904. Fax: 076-345259, or email your resumé 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: English-speaking female, 25, secretarial & accounts experience. To work w/foreigner in Patong. Call for more info. Tel: 087-0778454, 087-5012545. Fax: 076-292073. Email: solitude001@aol.com

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Young, enthusiastic person wanted to set up and run a new office in the marine leisure sector in Chalong. Good command of English language important. Contact with CV. Email: sales@sea-phuket.com

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 are looking for a branch manager for the Diver's Emporium, our retail outlet at Patong Beach, Phuket. Fluent English and sales experience essential. Please apply with CV to email: sdesystems@csloxinfo.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

HOUSEKEEPER

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

Articles for Sale

DIGITAL SCALE

Bizerba 8,000 with printer. 18,000 baht. Call for details. Tel: 086-1203660. Email: chilligarden@hotmail.com

LONG WETSUIT

Bare Velocity 3/2mm long wetsuit. Bought less than two months ago. (I have the original invoice.) Done 20ish dives with it. Size MLT (ML for Tall people, but I'd say it's more an L size) All black, pristine condition. Asking 4,500 baht. Hurry up, I'm leaving soon! Email: a_barreira_sevillano@hotmail.com

FURNITURE

Concrete furniture. 8 sets consisting of 1 oval table, 2 two-seater and 2 one-seater chairs. Available at less than 1/3rd the price of replacement. Can be viewed at the Islander Bar in Rawai, or contact Neil. Tel: 076-289182, 084-8507206. Email: islanderbar3@hotmail.com

MOVING SALE

In Nai Harn on October 28th.

- Siemens fridge: 12,500 baht
- Single bed: 2,500
- High chair for child: 2,000
- Bosch drill: 1,000
- Mattress: 750
- Standing fan: 700
- Wall fans: 300/500
- Table: 350
- Mirror: 350

Plus lots of cheap items and free gifts. Please call for info, directions and early bird purchases. Tel: 084-1917736.

POOL TABLE

12,000 baht for quick sale. Please contact for more details. Tel: 086-1203660. Email: chilligarden@hotmail.com

FAX/SCANNER/

printer/copier. Brand new Panasonic KX-FLB802 flatbed color scanner, copier, laser printer and telefax. Never used, due to incompatibility with my preferred computer (Apple Macintosh). New price: 16,000 baht; will sell for 12,000. Open to offers. Tel: 085-9182240. Email: bogbank@hotmail.com

SIEMENS FRIDGE

Refrigerator and freezer. Have separate doors. 255 litres in total. 1½ years old, in very good condition. Freezer can go down to -30C and the fridge stays cold throughout the day during a power cut. Asking 12,500 baht. Also have highchair for child. Solid wood with plastic-coated, removable food tray. Asking 2,000 baht. Both items will be available by the end of October but may be viewed now. Call for more info. Tel: 041-917736.

ROLLER BLINDS

Four new roller blinds. Navy blue cotton, 80cm wide by 195cm long. Still in packaging. 1,000 baht each. For sale because I bought incorrect size. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-274-7648. Email: debspatterson@gmail.com

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

Business Opportunities

BAR FOR SALE

Located in Soi Gonzo, 2 years left on lease. Please call for more information. Tel: 085-7826492.

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.

NO 1 PATONG

seaview. Looking for investment partner for newly-built, hillside restaurant & bar opening December. 4½ rai, best location and beautiful for building bungalow, apartment, hotel or villa. Tel: 089-4713610. Email: citadella.phuket@mailbox.hu

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: info@optionwok.com

PARTNERSHIP

available. Successful bar-restaurant. Prime location in Patong. Sell 50% investment for 2.2 million baht. Tel: 087-2706297.

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: www.studex.co.th

CABARET BAR

We will NOT sell all; but will sell up to 50% to a suitable partner as Ning-Nong will stay to ensure Katoys"R"Us Cabaret & staff continue. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-8955242. Email: junaworn@hotmail.com

CASH FLOW

temporary problem (divorce). European needs 250,000 baht till the end of the year. I will pay back from my fixed deposit/savings book. I have evidence of these. Good interest and lawyer contract. Have lived over 6 years in Thailand with yearly visa and work permit. Business possibility together; if you want, we can start! Email: Zukunft@hotmail.com

BAR / RESTAURANT

Patong. Small bar/restaurant for sale in Nanai Rd, Patong. 120,000 baht ono. 10 months remaining on contract. All fittings included. Tel: 085-7932051. Email: johncamel927@hotmail.com

FOR SALE

Big bar and large terrace in busy hotel area on the beach road, 200sqm. Possibility to take separate kitchen also. Very good food sales and catering for other bars. Fully fitted and furnished with 2-year lease, with 3 more years possible. Please call for more details. Tel: 087-2706297.

GUESTHOUSE

in Patong. for sale with company. 208sqm with Chanote title, 150m from Jungceylon. Option to open 3 shops. Can be extended to 7 floors. Reasonable price at 25 million baht. Please contact for more details. Fax: 076-345554. Email: philipp@loxinfo.co.th

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: 083-175-3996. Email: boomerkamala@hotmail.com

RAILAY BEACH SHOP

for rent. Spacious shop for rent with shared outdoor Balinese-style garden. Great sea-front location in a popular lively area ideal for pizzeria etc. Tel: 086-7427714. Fax: 075-695648. Email: asian_creations@hotmail.com

GUESTHOUSE

& space. 8-room guesthouse and first-floor space for sale in Patong off Rat U Thit Rd. For sale not lease. 25 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 083-1804103. Email: pamorales83@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.

MUSIC LOUNGE&BAR

Investment opportunity in Patong. 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. Contact for more info. Tel: 083-1804103. Email: pamorales83@yahoo.com

VCD RENTAL

business for sale. Established business, good location. 695,000 baht ono. Tel: 086-7423014, 084-0627129.

GUESTHOUSE

for sale / lease. Guesthouse with ½ rai of land. Lease or sell complete. Tel: 076-342280, 01-9781956. Email: palm@phuket.ksc.co.th

GUESTHOUSE

Guesthouse in Paradise Complex in Patong for long-term lease or freehold sale. Contact for more information. Tel: 076-290393, 086-5888383. Fax: 076-290393. Email: sumalee1955@yahoo.com

BAR / RESTAURANT

for sale on Nanai Rd. All fittings and furniture just 6 months old. 2½ 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

BEAUTY SALON

Beauty salon for sale, Kathu. 150,000 baht or for rent. Please contact for more details. Tel: 084-8448589. Email: bb-anaiya@hotmail.com

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for rent. Klong Dao Beach, Koh Lanta. 27 seats inside, 12-16 outside.

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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

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Exhibition
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October 4 - 7

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October 8

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