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Illegal resort complex raided

By Sompratch Saowakhon & Tanisa Bunyasiwa

NAI HARN: Two construction foremen were arrested and their equipment seized on October 25 in a raid by forestry officials on a resort complex being built on protected forest land above Baan Krating Jungle Beach at Ao Sane.

The raid was carried out by 30 volunteers and officials from the provincial Forestry Department office and Muang District Office after a tip-off.

Officials arrested two foremen, identified as Virot Niyomdechai, 31, of Satun Province, and Viriya Yimsomboon, 25, of Nakhon Pathom.

Officials are now trying to identify who ordered the construction at the site, which has 12 buildings in various phases of completion at the site, accessible from the road that runs through Le Royal Meridien Phuket Yacht Club.

Seized as evidence were two small excavating machines, two electric generators and a cement mixer.

In the police report, the area of encroachment was listed as 9 rai, 2 ngan.

The Forestry Department valued the land at 648,000 baht.

Virot and Viriya were charged with violating Article 54 of the Forestry Act of 1941, Article 14 of the Forest Conservation Act of 1964 and Article 360 of the Penal Code. They were taken to Chalong Police Station for questioning and later released on bail.

A few days after the raid, Muang District Chief Adminis-



One of the government officers who raided the illegal construction site at Nai Harn admires one of the few completed bungalows.

trative Officer (*Palad*) Techin Weerawong said that the Rawai Tambon Administration Organization would be responsible for clearing the site of the illegal dwellings, as the area of the encroachment falls under its jurisdiction.

His office would conduct a joint investigation with the Chalong Police in order to learn who ordered the work and to bring that person or persons to justice, he said.

"The important thing is that all local people play a part in the long-term conservation of our forest reserves. I don't want the forests of Phuket to suffer the

same fate as those in Central and Northern Thailand," he said.

However, the investigation has already got off to a sluggish start. On October 31, six days after the raid, Pol Lt Col Chokchai Sutthimek of the Chalong Police told the *Gazette*; "Now the police are waiting to hear from the Muang District office to see who they will appoint to work with us in the case investigation."

Muang District *Palad* Techin Weerawong confirmed that his office was still working to see which district officer would work with the Chalong Police to find the project owner.

New Governor warns of 'problems'

By Natcha Worrawut

PHUKET: Bangkok native Niran Kalayanamit was promoted to Governor of Phuket following a Cabinet meeting in Bangkok on October 31.

Cabinet approved the promotion as part of a bureaucratic reshuffle of 60 Ministry of Interior officials.

Governor Niran, 52, had been Phuket Vice-Governor for five years, moving to the province after tenure as Director of the Foreign Affairs Division of the Office of the Permanent Secretary for the Interior.

Explaining his vision – and concerns – Governor Niran told the *Gazette* that Phuket has many economic, social and environmental problems that need to be urgently addressed.

"I cannot fix these problems alone. All other departments – and staff within them – as well as the *Palad* and the private sector must cooperate to succeed; we have, after all, a shared responsibility," he said.

He added tourism will remain as the basis of the island's economy. "The island's main income is from tourism – 85 billion baht from 4.7 million tourists in 2004 before the tsunami – but in the two years since then, we have failed.

"We must help each other to get the tourists back again, to make them trust us again.

"I think we must strive together for the best of Phuket," Gov Niran concluded.

Also moved in the reshuffle was former Phuket Vice-Governor Manit Wattanasen, who was transferred to an inactive post in Bangkok.

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THAI boosts flight schedule

BANGKOK: Thai Airways International (THAI) on October 28 increased its weekly number of domestic flights from Bangkok to Phuket from 77 to 82. The increase is part of its route extension and adjustment plans to cope with an expected increase in air passenger traffic during the northern winter period. The extra flights will continue until March 24, 2007.

Service on the Bangkok-Perth-Phuket-Bangkok route will also increase, from two to three flights weekly, as will weekly flights from Bangkok to Krabi, from 24 to 28 weekly.

THAI has also increased its number of flights to Chiang Mai, from 72 to 77 weekly, in support of the Royal Flora Ratchapreuk 2006 plant and flower show now taking place in the northern city.

All flights on the Phuket and Krabi routes are aboard Airbus A300-600s or Boeing 737-400s.

New international flight routes introduced during the same period include thrice-weekly service to Johannesburg in South Africa and three flights a week to Hyderabad, Bodhagaya and Varanasi in India.

International routes to Bangkok from Europe increasing in frequency starting December 1 include: Stockholm-Bangkok (from 6 to 7 weekly flights); Rome-Bangkok (6 to 7); Munich-Bangkok (5 to 7); Madrid-Bangkok (4 to 6); Moscow-Bangkok (3 to 4) and Zurich-Bangkok (6 to 7).

The total number of flights from New York and Los Angeles will also increase, from seven to 10 weekly.

Motorbike enthusiasts urged to join 3 Nation Charity Ride 2006

By Jenjira Ruengjarus

PHUKET: All bikers are invited to join this year's 3 Nation Charity Ride 2006, which aims to see more than 1,000 motorbike enthusiasts from Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand ride to show their support for several charity projects in Phuket and Phang Nga.

A welcome party for riders arriving from Penang Motor Sports Club and from Team 27 Motorcycle Club in Singapore will

be held at Saphan Hin November 17 at 6 pm.

On November 18 riders will meet at Saphan Hin, before departing en masse at 8:30 am for Phra Ratchatarn Tub Lamu School in Phang Nga, where a school nurse's station paid for by the charity ride will be officially handed over.

The nurse's station, fully equipped with medical supplies, cost 700,000 baht.

Riders will then move on to

the naval base in Tab Lamu to attend a ceremony to hand over a nursery there, also paid for by the clubs.

While in Phuket riders will hand out 100,000 baht in scholarships to more than 30 students from poor families in Mai Khao.

The charity ride has also funded the building of a public sala by the roadside at Tah Chat Chai police checkpoint at a cost of 250,000 baht.

Other donations to be made

will be to the Mid Road Dog Shelter in Thalang and to families of children with cleft palates.

Riders will wrap up the day with a party at the Royal Phuket City Hotel, on Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City, before starting the ride home the next morning.

Next year's 3 Nation Charity Ride will be held in Malaysia.

For more information call Sumon at Tel: 081-6919346.

RARE MEDIUM WELL DONE AND ARRESTED

KATHU (*Kom Chad Luek*): Tung Tong Police are preparing to file charges of "deceiving the public" against a *mah song* ("spirit medium") who pretended to skewer his tongue with a sword during this year's Vegetarian Festival, but in fact ran the blade through a pig's tongue that he had secretly concealed in his mouth to fool onlookers.

The incident was reported to Tung Tong Police Duty Inspector Pol Lt Col Passakorn Sontikul at 1:30 pm October 30 by the managing council of Kathu Chinese Shrine, generally accepted to be the shrine where the now-famous Vegetarian Festival began more than a century ago.

The shrine's council members said they had detained one of their *mah song* after he confessed to the fraud.

Arriving at the scene, police found the man being beaten by an angry mob. They stopped the fracas and took him to Tung Tong Police Station for questioning.

He was identified as Paitoon Khopweij, 27, a woodcarver



Nicked in real life: Paitoon is led away by police.

from Chalong Village 10. Paitoon told police that he had been a *mah song* for five years, formerly at a different shrine. Having seen the impressive displays of ritual self-mutilation by other shrines in this year's street processions, he wanted to do something new and impressive for the Kathu Shrine's procession on the morning of October 29.

He told police he wanted to impress the crowds by skewering his tongue bottom-to-top with both a long, pointed sword and a

sharp-tipped saw blade – but that he was too afraid of the pain.

Waking up early the morning of the parade, Paitoon went to the market, where he cut the tongue out of a pig's head, washed it and put it into his own mouth, pretending it was his own in the street procession, during which he skewered it as planned.

Paitoon told police that no one suspected anything until the following morning, when a group of "senior" *mah song* came by his quarters near the shrine to in-

spect his wounds. Amazed to find none, they pressed him for an explanation.

Failing to come up with one, he admitted what he had done.

The other *mah song* reported him to the shrine council, which convened an emergency meeting to discuss the matter. It was decided to expel Paitoon from the shrine and report him to the police to be charged with "deceiving the public".

But before the police arrived, a crowd of angry villagers who heard about the affair arrived and began beating him up.

The head of the Kathu Shrine asked police to prosecute Paitoon to the full extent of the law in order to set an example for other *mah song*.

Such behavior is unacceptable, could threaten the festival's integrity and cause a downturn in tourism, he said.

Col Passakorn said Tung Tong Police said the incident was unprecedented and that charges would be filed with Phuket Provincial Court.

Peranakan convention heads for Phuket next month

By Tanisa Bunyasiwa

PHUKET: The Thai Peranakan Association will host the 19th annual Baba Peranakan Convention in Phuket December 1 to 3, with visitors from Singapore, Malacca, Penang, Kuala Lumpur and other parts of Thailand expected to at-

tend. Peranakan is the Malay word used to describe people of Chinese ancestry in Malaysia, Indonesia and southern Thailand, usually referring to people who have mixed heritage.

The convention, themed "Under the Golden Chain" to represent the connection descendants make between Chinese and local heritage, will be the first Peranakan convention held in Phuket.

The event will include displays of Peranakan culture such

as traditional dress, food, dance and a display of a traditional Phuket-Chinese wedding ceremony.

OrBorJor President Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr said that the convention aims to promote Peranakan culture and to foster and share the common heritage.

The conference will coincide with an exhibition of Peranakan culture that will be held on the third floor of Central Festival Phuket from November 25 to December 5.

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BANGKOK (*The Nation*): Well-known Phuket resident Tan Teik Hai, aka "Valentino", and his wife Suwaphat Kheereephon were released on bail of 600,000 baht each on October 29 following their arrest on charges of encroaching on a vast plot of beach-front land on Koh Yao Yai in Phang Nga.

Tan, a Malaysian national who serves as the honorary consul to Morocco, and his wife, honorary consul to Djibouti, were arrested at their home in Muang District on the evening of October 29.

Col Piyawat Pinket, spokesman for the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) in Bangkok, said the couple were wanted as prime suspects for illegally acquiring more than 1,000 rai on Koh Yao Yai in 1994.

After taking over the case from local police late last year, the DSI found that the couple had paid land officials to have title deeds issued illegally on 300 rai of public land and part of a forest reserve, a DSI report said.

The report also said that after 1994, title deeds had been issued on other public and re-

Valentino and wife bailed on land charges

stricted areas covering another 700 rai.

The DSI report alleges that the couple used the deeds as collateral for mortgage loans totaling more than 400 million baht. The mortgages were granted by two now-defunct financial institutions of which Tan was a director.

DSI Deputy Director-General Pol Gen Tawee Sodsong said he had asked the Anti-Money Laundering Office to investigate who approved the loans.

Four other suspects in the case have since turned themselves in to the DSI.

They are Malaysian Tun Chi Kieng, reportedly a broker for the

land-grabbing scheme, and Thai nationals Krachang Kheereephon, Boonlert Kheereephon and Maj Nakhon Thongmee.

All four negotiated their surrender to police and were released on 600,000 baht bail each, calculated as 200,000 baht each for three separate encroachment cases.

Col Piyawat said the investigation involved 52 land plots and 16 encroachment cases, with charges on 13 other cases expected to be made after the DSI has surveyed the land involved.

After that, the DSI investigation would expand to other areas of Koh Yao District, Gen Tawee said.

B1m reward for US-Thai fugitive

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

BANGKOK: Thai and US law enforcement officials October 27 announced a 1-million-baht reward for information leading to the capture of Saner Wonggoun, a most-wanted US fugitive believed to be hiding in Thailand.

Saner, alias "Shorty" or "Buck", is wanted in connection with the 1994 murder of his pregnant wife and their eight-month-old unborn child.

Saner, born in Nakon Nayok Province in 1947, went to live in the US at the age of 21. He joined the US Air Force in the mid-1970s and became a naturalized US citizen in 1978.

On August 1981, he married Sopha Yodpet and they later had two children.

In January 1994, the body of a pregnant woman, later identified as Sopha, was found wrapped in a sleeping bag and dumped



An artist's conception of what Saner may look like aged 59.

along a deserted road in California. When the police attempted to contact Saner for questioning, they discovered he had abandoned his two children with a neighbor and bought a one-way ticket to Bangkok. Thai Immigration has confirmed that Saner arrived in Bangkok on January 14, 1994.

Saner's last known location is Thailand. His hometowns are Nakon Nayok and Prachinburi. Saner is currently 59 years old. He was 150 centimeters (5' 0") tall and weighed 61 kilograms (135 pounds) at the time of the murders.

He had a 3.5-cm scar on the left side of his chin and a scar on his left wrist. He can speak English and has worked as an artist and gardener. Saner may have changed his name and/or appearance to avoid capture.

Anyone with information on his whereabouts or activities is asked to immediately contact one of the following numbers or email addresses. The identity of callers will remain strictly confidential.

24-hour hotline: 086-066-1788, 086-0661782; Email: us_fugitive@yahoo.com

US Embassy Regional Security Office: 02-2054108; Email: DS_RS0Bangkok@state.gov



A golfer contemplates his next shot as Blue Canyon enjoys a management takeover.

New board members take control of Blue Canyon

THALANG: Yongyos Palanitsena has announced that a four-man committee comprising himself, Chaichana Ratanatrairat, Wisut Srisnagkaew and Nuntaporn Asumpinapong will oversee the running of Blue Canyon Country Club (BCCC) in place of the full board of Murex, the company that owns the BCCC.

Yongyos made the announcement following an October 29 board meeting at The Metropole hotel, attended by seven newly-appointed members and one long-term member.

He had been chosen as chairman, he said.

Formation of the new management committee follows an order issued by the Phuket Provincial Court to install seven new members to the board of directors of Murex, bringing the total number to 12.

The court ruled that a quorum of any six of the 12 members can have decision-making power, and ordered that every two months any BCCC income after

expenses be deposited into a Murex account. The bankbook would be kept at the court, which must first approve any withdrawals.

The orders, issued October 19, were announced at the Phuket Reporters Club on October 25 by Chart Chindapol, who said that he was representing the Chindapol clan. Chart is a relative of the chief plaintiff in the case, Rewat Chindapol.

The day after Chart's announcement, Pol Col Supachai Fuenpanich, Superintendent of Crime Suppression Region 5, executed a search warrant at Blue Canyon Golf Course accompanied by Singaporean Sia Leng Yerng, one of the original five Murex board members.

The search warrant was issued October 25 by the Criminal Court in Bangkok, allowing Col Supachai to remove documents from the building for investigation.

Throughout all the legal wrangling, the BCCC golf course has remained open for play.

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In motorbike-happy Thailand, 80% of the 20 million registered vehicles are motorcycles. But the convenience of slipping in and out of traffic comes at a price.

Before helmet use by riders became mandatory, 90% of those who died in traffic accidents were motorcycle users. Almost all those deaths were due to head injuries.

Legislation making helmet use mandatory was finally passed in December 1994. This law, along with subsequent enforcement and education programs, led to a 40% decrease in head injuries among motorcyclists and a 24% drop in biker deaths within two years.

According to the Phuket Provincial Health Office (see table) the latest statistics show that the overall number of motorcycle accidents resulting in injury or death is still alarmingly high, with 167 dead and 12,143 injured in the 12 months of fiscal 2006, which started October 2005.

Actual numbers are probably a lot higher, as these are just the figures collected by the three government-run hospitals on the island: Vachira Phuket, Patong and Thalang.

To illustrate the importance of helmets – and the danger of not using one – the *Gazette* interviewed one worker who sees

Phuket's hard-headed

As you get ready to leave in the morning you make sure to put on a pair of pants and a shirt, you comb your hair, grab your keys and hop on the motorbike.

But what about a helmet?

A quick look around the streets of Phuket shows that an alarming number of people are more concerned with looking good than staying alive. Some take their vanity with them to the grave.

The *Gazette's* Supanun Supawong and Sompratch Saowakhon report.

the difference helmets can make every day.

Koson Komutphon, a volunteer with the Kusoldharm Foundation volunteer rescue service, responds to motorbike accidents all around Phuket.

"Of all the accidents I've seen in Phuket, 70% to 80% are from riding motorbikes. They happen most often happen on public holidays or weekends when people aren't working. The downtown part of Phuket City has more motorbike accidents than any other area. Most people don't wear helmets when they're

riding motorbikes, especially teenagers. I always see people who are injured because they aren't wearing one.

"People who do wear helmets get injured, but their heads are saved. The people who are injured the most are the passengers sitting behind the driver, because they almost never wear helmets. I can easily say that helmets save lives during accidents," he said.

Places where teenagers like to congregate and drag race have a high incidence of fatalities – and a correspondingly low

**Motorcycle Accident Statistics for Phuket
October 2005 - September 2006**

	Accidents	Deaths
October '05	847	5
November '05	942	9
December '05	1,071	13
January '06	1,225	15
February '06	1,259	22
March '06	976	20
April '06	1,154	16
May '06	927	10
June '06	995	15
July '06	809	15
August '06	919	11
September '06	1,019	16
Total	12,143	167

Source: Phuket Provincial Public Health Office

incidence of helmet use, he said.

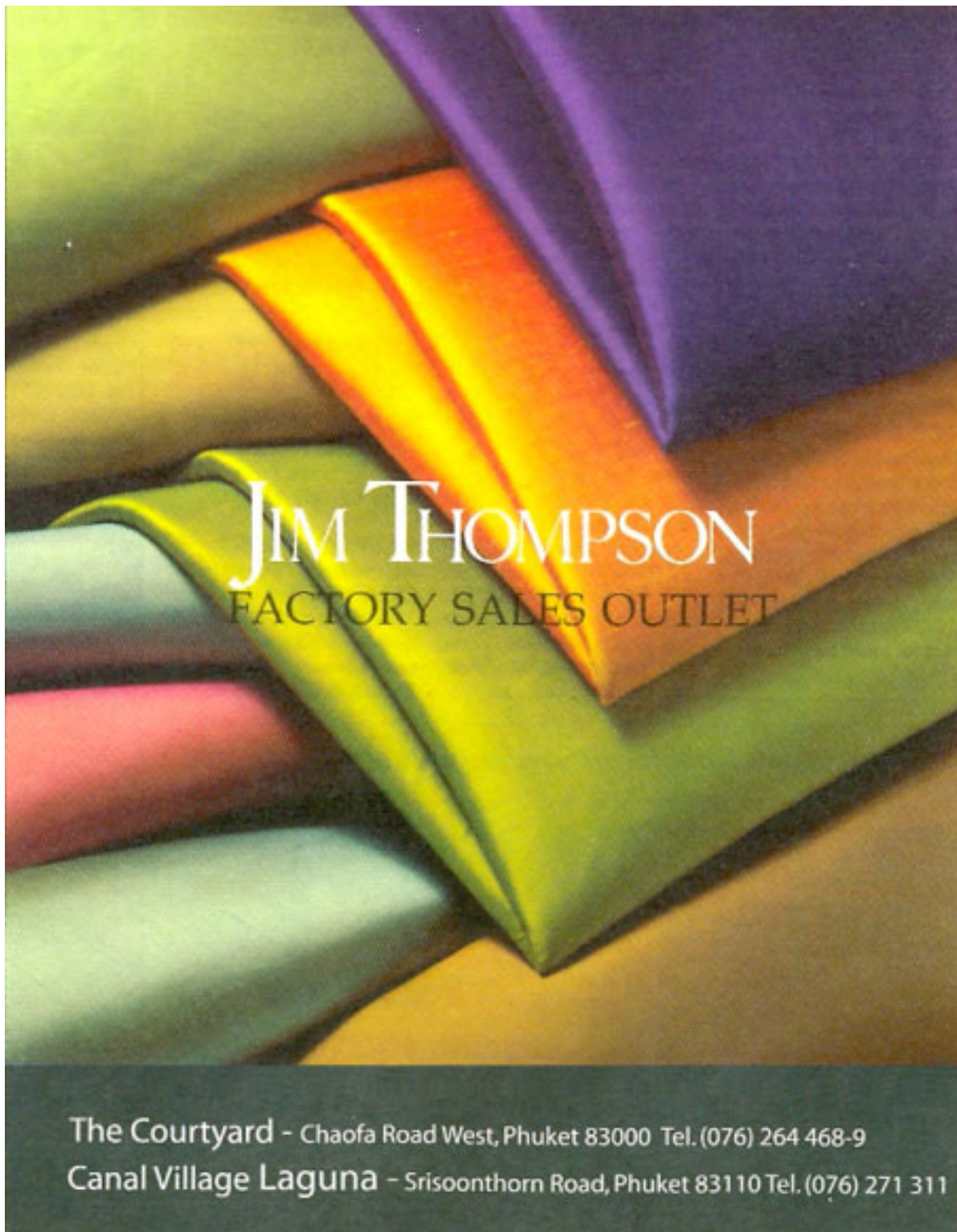
"Most motorbike riders in Phuket don't wear a helmet when they're riding, especially in the Saphan Hin area [a popular place for youth gangs]. Every year, three or four people are killed in that area from motorbike accidents. Most motorcycle deaths are the result of people hitting their heads on the pavement," he added.

The quality of the helmet one chooses to wear can also be a matter of life and death if one

comes off a motorbike, he said.

"It's also a problem if they're wearing a non-standard helmet, or one that does not meet minimum requirements. In Phuket, I would say that about two-thirds of the people wear helmets that don't meet the standards. If they get in an accident they can also die from brain swelling.

"The police check only to see that people are wearing helmets, but they never inspect the quality of the helmets. It's impor-



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motorcycle riders



Left: Cheap plastic helmets may not keep your cranium from cracking, but they are effective protecting your wallet from police fines. Above, three vocational school students, riding without helmets, wait at a Phuket City intersection. But they did stop for the red light.

tant to wear a helmet when you're riding. Any helmet can help at least a little, but it's also important to get a standard helmet, because they can truly save your life," Sangarun Phakadang, Head of Public Hazard Relief for Kusoldham Foundation, added.

Statistics from the Phuket City Police Station show that helmet infractions account for 756 out of the 3,369 traffic tickets issued in September, more than any other violation.

Pol Maj Teerawat Leamsuwan, a Traffic Inspector at Phuket City Police Station, said too many people come to realize the importance of wearing a helmet only after a tragedy occurs.

"Thai traffic laws are now very strict about motorbike users wearing helmets. Most motorbike drivers don't take an interest in the importance of wearing a helmet until they're in an accident. Many of them will put on the hel-

met only when they see police, but they don't fasten the chinstrap.

Every day we set up a checkpoint at a different location from 9 am to 12 pm, from 7 pm to 9 pm and midnight to 3 am. In fact, the traffic law states that passengers on motorbikes must wear helmets too, but we compromise and let the passengers off with a warning," he said.

The police see increased public awareness as the key to any long-term change in attitudes about road safety, he said.

"From October 1, 2005, to October 1, 2006, Phuket City Municipality implemented an education program with every school in Phuket, along with community discussions with adults, to teach the public about traffic laws. We also put up posters on public holidays reminding people to wear helmets. We show photos of motorbike accident victims to the

public so they can see what happens if you don't wear a helmet.

"After the project, the number of people who were injured in accidents was lower for a while – but now it's back up the same rate."

Maj Teerawat thinks that inspecting helmets for quality falls outside the scope of his officers' duties.

"It's not the duty of the police to check [quality]. Motorbike users in Phuket should use helmets that meet the standards, but there are some people who don't. And if the traffic police see a motorbike rider not wearing a helmet, they can give them a ticket no matter if they're at a checkpoint or not.

"We now have 60 traffic police officers and on Saturdays and Sundays we set up a checkpoint at Saphan Hin to check and ticket motorbike users who don't wear helmets. I would like to see

every motorbike rider wearing a helmet. The people know the law, so it just depends on them to wear one," he said.

In Phuket, the best-selling helmet retails at just 199 baht, but experts warn that you get what you pay for because cheap helmets offer the least protection. The 199 baht helmets are half-head cover designs made of plastic. They are used primarily for avoiding police tickets, instead of providing strong head protection.

This kind of helmet is not safe at the nape of the neck, where it is easiest to sustain spinal fractures.

Aware of this fact, the Thai government launched numerous public education campaigns to convince riders that helmet quality is important, but has met with limited success.

Wilaiwan Pengsawang, owner of ST Trading Shop on Bangniew Rd, said that although her shop offers a wide selection of helmets, the cheaper ones are by far the most popular.

"In the shop we have both half-head and whole-head cover helmets. The half-head models range in price from 99 baht to 299 baht. The full-head covers start at 270 baht and range up to more than 1,000 baht. All helmets are labeled with MorOrGor (the Thai Industrial Standard code), except for the 99 baht helmets.

"In fact, Thai law says that we are not allowed to sell the 99 baht helmets because they don't meet the standards, but I sell them because there is such a high demand for them from customers," she said.

"Full-face helmets are much more safe," she continued. "I always encourage my customers to buy a helmet that is good quality, even if it comes at a slightly higher price.

"But people still prefer the 199-baht helmets the most because they are cheap, even though they don't provide as much protection," she added.

Among some people, styling and design factors can play just as important a role as protection when it comes to helmet selection, especially among young people, she said.

"There is one 850 baht full-head helmet that is popular with the teenagers because it has a modern design too."

Perhaps there is some reason for hope in this regard. The 199-baht varieties are as pathetic in appearance as they are in providing protection for the head.



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Queer News

A BLOODY OFFAL STORY

CHALONG: Residents of Chalong Village 10 called police on the evening of October 11 to report a pile of apparently-human organs tossed into a thicket along Saneh Soi 10.

Shocked and in fear that a serial killer was on the loose, they were somewhat relieved to eventually learn that the abandoned innards were of canine, not human, origin.

Responding to the call, officers led by Deputy Inspector Pol Capt Samarn Senreut arrived at the scene in a 191 patrol pickup just before dusk.

They were accompanied by members of the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization's Phuket Tourist Rescue Center and volunteer rescue workers from the Phuket Ruamjai Foundation.

When they arrived, a large crowd of Thais and foreigners had assembled around a spot in a wooded area about 300 meters off the road.

Squeezing their nostrils shut with their thumbs and forefingers to keep out smell, the crowd gawked at a decomposing pile of what they thought were human remains: liver, intestines, ribs and other internal essentials, all finely chopped and left to rot on a clump of wild grass.

Missing, however, were the telltale signs that a murder had taken place.

There was no head, no severed limbs or other evidence that could be used to establish whether the remains were those of a human murder victim – or just those of a slaughtered animal.

For this reason, samples of the remains were collected for examination and analysis by medical experts.

Fearing the worst, some of the gathered crowd speculated that the remains were human.

Some theorized that they had been dumped there by a reincarnated See-Ouy, the notorious Chinese-immigrant serial killer who murdered and ate the livers of least six children in Prachaup Khiri Khan and Rayong provinces during a reign of terror that lasted from 1954 to 1958.

After some time, a nurse from Bangkok Hospital Phuket who lived in the area arrived.

There was a large, collective sigh of relief when she said that the remains could not be human because the ribs were too small.

Speculation among the crowd then shifted to more likely explanations as to how the sloppy pile of gore came to be deposited there, one of the most popular being that someone had slaughtered and butchered a dog to eat before leaving the remains there.

Officials are now reportedly looking for the culprit.

Source: Siang Tai




This area next to the Armani tailor shop on Bang Tao Beach, close to the Laguna Beach Resort, has become an open-air museum of unwanted artifacts, donated by other shopkeepers and restaurateurs from the area.

The fascinating exhibits include bamboo chairs, black plastic bags filled with delights, light bulbs and logs. Amazingly, some people have expressed disgust at this civic-minded attempt to turn an unused piece of government property into an educational facility.


Come across any other open-air museums? Let everyone know. Send a photo and a brief description to dump@phuketgazette.net

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FDA waters down booze ads ban

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) radically toned down its "total ban" on alcohol advertising by permitting "indirect" TV commercials that carry the name of alcohol companies, but prohibit showing the brand name or logo of particular alcoholic drinks.

The agency said some exceptions were essential to give the alcohol industry more room to maneuver.

The new rules allow any form of advertising that does not carry the brand name or logo of alcoholic products.

The name of an alcohol company is allowed to appear as a sponsor of a TV program without time restriction, as long as it is not the same name as the alcohol product, said Mani Arunaku, the acting FDA Secretary-General.

As for the controversial use of attractive girls for sales promotions at bars and restaurants, Mani said that that will still be allowed as long as their uniforms do not bear the brand or logo of the product they represent.

As for alcohol displays at convenience stores, department stores and bars, the law will not be as strict as the ban on cigarette advertising, Mani said.

Only displays of alcohol products blatantly promoted by advertising will be regarded as a violation of the alcohol ban.

From November 3, any violation of the ban will be prosecuted without prior warning, Mani said.

The penalty includes a maximum three-month jail term and a maximum fine of 30,000 baht.

Odds-on favorites: The Government Lottery Office board agreed to keep the jackpot prize for the two- and three-digit lottery, but will limit the grand prize amount to 10 million baht to allow more people to win smaller prizes.

GLO Permanent Secretary for Finance Suparat Kawatkul said the new method would award punters with lottery tickets that had the set number that matched the winning set number and the ticket's running number, the last six digits of which match



Shake your money-maker: A-go-go dancers strut their stuff during dancing lessons organized by Empower Foundation at a bar on Patpong Rd in Bangkok. The aim is to help them to learn new, better and safer styles of dancing – and to improve their career prospects in the process.

the six-digit lottery's first prize number.

The prizes will also vary according to the purchase price. A ticket bought for 100 baht would win 10 million baht, a 50-baht ticket would win 5 million baht; and the 20-baht ticket would win 2.5 million baht, Suparat said.

If the draw had no jackpot winner, there would be no prize money accumulated for the next draw – as in the past when some jackpots accumulated up to as high as 100 million baht.

Instead, special prizes would be introduced enabling 97 people to win smaller prizes where only one person would take the entire jackpot previously, he added.

On location: Two Hollywood movies, *American Gangster* and *Rambo IV*, will use Thailand as a shooting location, Tourism and Sports Minister Suwit Yodmani has confirmed.

American Gangster, starring Academy award-winner Denzel Washington, will begin shooting in Chiang Mai later this month. The US\$100-million movie will be directed by *Gladiator* director Ridley Scott.

Sylvester Stallone will be also in Thailand next year for the

fourth *Rambo* movie: *Rambo IV: In the Serpent's Eye*. Scenes, filmed in Bangkok and Chiang Mai, will show Rambo living a secluded life in Thailand before the action begins. The film is set for release in 2008.

The two movie shoots are together expected to infuse more than 160 million baht into Thailand, Suwit said.

Thailand earned 1.37 billion baht from 372 film shoots in the first nine months of this year, an increase of 45% on the same period last year.

Patrons apart: Activist Amnuay Sunthornchot called on the Education Ministry to scrap the secondary school quota for the children of school patrons, saying the system had ruined the education system and led to overcrowding and an inefficient learning environment.

Amnuay agreed with the latest policy issued by Education Minister Wijit Srisa-an, which let 430 of the most popular secondary schools hold entrance exams, while other schools were being made to admit all applicants next year.

The 430 schools would use the 50:40:10 student intake ratio,

comprising 50% for children in the school's catchment area, 40% for those who pass an entrance exam and 10% for children with "special talents".

However, Amnuay urged the ministry to force prestigious schools to cancel their 5% quota for children of school patrons, which is often embedded into the 10% quota for children with special talents. Such a system is against human-rights principles and basic ethics, he said.

Street of dreams: Under orders from Bangkok Governor Apirak Kosayodhin, the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) will develop bicycle lanes based on successful models seen in other cities.

Apirak said any new roads

built in the capital from now on would include cycle lanes.

The city will also improve its sidewalks, with three new designs to suit specific locations – historical areas, tourist areas and general areas – with an emphasis on cost-effectiveness, durability and ease of maintenance.

"I have already instructed the relevant authorities to consider building ramps along the footpaths for people with disabilities," he said.

Plans to set up bicycle lanes in the busy streets of the capital go back to the time when its extensive system of canals were filled in and paved over.

Inside job: The Southern Bangkok Criminal Court sentenced a former police officer to 39 years in jail and a 2-million-baht fine to for embezzling narcotic evidence, consisting of *ya bah* (methamphetamine) and *ya K* (ketamine), for redistribution.

The court initially sentenced Pol Capt Pongsak Lilapongsathorn, 34, to a life sentence, but reduced the punishment to 39 years and four months because his testimony proved useful to the case.

As a deputy inspector at the Forensic Science Division, Pongsak's duty was to take narcotics seized from drug crackdowns for laboratory testing, the prosecution said, but instead he kept the drugs and sold them.

Pongsak was arrested in a sting operation in his office, where a search conducted in front of his supervisors turned up 2,694 *ya bah* tablets and 20 bottles of *ya K*.

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

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Fishermen in Trang go back to sail

A project has been launched to reintroduce sail-powered fishing boats in Trang province.

The project's founder, Suwat Thonghom, a teacher at Sapharachini school in Trang Town, said that after the tsunami local fishermen were not able to catch as much as before and were also hard hit by high fuel prices.

Suwat worked with local leaders and villagers to use folk wisdom to resurrect old methods of sailing so they could be adapted to modern boats.

"It cost 4,000 baht to fit out the first boat, which we used to test and present the project. The money came from the parents and guardians of children at Sapharachini School," Suwat said.

Suwat added that converting to sail boats would help preserve the marine ecosystem by reducing the amount of engine oil leaking into the water. The change would also lead to an increase in marine life in the area as animals would not be disturbed by engine noise, he said.

Sayan Bunya, a local fisherman, said that after the tsunami the environment in the local seas had changed and fishermen were having to go further afield to bring in their catch, which often did not cover the fuel costs. He had therefore decided to join the project. Outside of the fish-

ing season, he would run sailing trips for tourists to supplement his income, Sayan said.

Songs for death: A deputy village headman was shot dead October 21 as he was leaving the toilet at Khon Sang Ngan, a well-known "songs for life" pub in Surat Thani City.

Phusit Chamnan, 44, Deputy Headman of Village 6 in Tambon Makhm Tea, Muang District, was pronounced dead at the scene.

He was dressed in "songs for life" style – for which Thai star Ad Carabao is well known – wearing a pair of jeans, a white tank top and a red bandanna.

Before the attack, Phusit had been drinking with a group of friends who were all attired in similar style. After they had been drinking for about an hour, Phusit excused himself to go to the bathroom. As he was opening the door to leave the toilet a man shot him once in the back of the head with a .38-caliber pistol.

The gunman then ran out of the pub toward a waiting Mitsubishi car. Phusit's friends gave chase, but the gunman and his accomplices opened fire, forcing them to dive for cover. None of the pursuers were injured, and the attackers drove off at high speed.

Pol Maj Songyot Chotisawan, Duty Inspector at Surat Thani City Police Station, said that police are working on the



Firefighters in Songkhla City battle to put out a fire caused by an electrical short circuit on Nakhon Nok Rd on October 25. The blaze spread to surrounding buildings, gutting three houses before firefighters were able to bring it under control.

theory that it was a revenge killing, likely sparked by a business dispute.

Police speculate the killer was a hired gunman who had watched Phusit until he saw an opportunity to carry out the execution, he added.

It was reported that Phusit, in addition to being a deputy village headman, was involved in many businesses in the area, including construction projects and rubber plantations, and was widely respected in his village.

Manhunt: A prisoner on trial for murder and robbery managed to escape from a prison van while being taken to court in Surat Thani on October 26. The following day he held up a convenience store at a gas station, making off with 2,000 baht in cash.

Sitichai Phetrat, 24, was on trial for a robbery and murder in Chumphon and another murder in Surat Thani. While being trans-

ported to a prison in the center of Surat Thani City, where he was due to stand trial at the Provincial Court, Sitichai kicked open the cage door in the back of the van in which he was being transported. When the van stopped at a traffic light in Village 3, Tambon Makhm Tea, Sitichai jumped out of the van and made his escape.

At the time of going to press, Sitichai was last seen robbing a convenience store at a gas station in Phunphin District in the evening of the following day.

Pol Col Chaiphaphon Wamsiri, Superintendent of Phunphin District Police Station reported that Sitichai had used a broken energy drink bottle to threaten staff members at the store and made them hand over the 2,000 baht in cash that was in the till.

He then rode off on a motorcycle in the direction of Chumphon.

Col Chaiphaphon added that

staff at the store identified the escaped prisoner by a picture they had seen, and that at the time of the offense he was wearing jeans, a white T-shirt and a pair of trainers.

Despite mobilizing more than 20 officers to search for Sitichai, police had yet to find any more clues as to his whereabouts, Col Chaiphaphon said. Pictures of Sitichai have been distributed to all police stations in the country to aid in his capture, Col Chaiphaphon added.

Bad Alms: A dawn bomb attack in Narathiwat on October 23 killed a soldier and injured a dozen people, including monks and civilians.

The attack prompted provincial Governor Pracha Therat to condemn the bombers. He said Allah will punish those who committed violent attacks. The incident was additionally abhorrent as it targeted innocent people and came during the holy month of Ramadan, he said.

The blast ripped into five monks who were on their morning alms round and the military guards accompanying them.

The five- to seven-kilogram bomb exploded at 6:30 am in front of an electronics shop on Chamroonnara Rd in downtown Narathiwat. Police said the bomb had been hidden in a street trash can and was likely detonated by mobile telephone.

The 13 injured soldiers, monks and civilians were taken to a nearby hospital.

Private Pramote Wannasuk, 22, from a Chon Buri-based special task force, died shortly after arriving at the hospital. Three of five wounded monks from Wat Promniwat were in serious condition, police said.

Governor Pracha, a Buddhist, did not state who he thought was behind the attack, but said that violence was against all religious doctrines.

Pracha noted it was too easy to plant bombs and acknowledged the device could have been set hours earlier during an electricity blackout due to heavy rain.

Violence has rocked the Deep South since the beginning of 2004, with more than 1,700 people being killed in the violence since then.

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

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LIGHT FANTASTIC

By Tanisa Bunyasiwa
& Noolek Karaket

Loy Krathong, one of the most important festivals on the Thai calendar, is held every year on the full moon night of the 12th lunar month, usually in November.

This year millions of people across the country will gather on the banks of rivers, by the sea or even round specially-built ponds to float (loy) small vessels made from banana leaves (*krathong*) on the evening of November 5.

The *krathong* are colorfully decorated with bright flowers, adorned with a few coins, three joss sticks or incense sticks and an orange candle. The orange represents the monkhood and lighting it is seen as a way to make merit.

A popular explanation as to the origin of the festival dates back to 14th century, during the Sukhothai period. The legend goes that Chief Consort Noppamas made the first *krathong* as a gift for Lithai, King of Sukhothai.

The King and his court were so impressed by the image of the *krathong* floating away down the river that they contin-



ued the practice, which has grown to the annual celebration it is today.

In memory of the festival's founder, beauty contests of traditionally-dressed local girls are held across the country, with the winner crowned *Nang Noppomas*.

One of the main beliefs associated with *Loy Krathong* is that it is a way to thank the goddess of the water, Mae Khong Kha, and to ask forgiveness for dirtying her waters – perhaps no small irony that many of the country's waterways are choked with *krathong* during the festival.

Many other superstitions are attached to the *krathong* as well. Many people believe that as it floats away, it takes with it all the bad luck from the year that has passed and wishes are made for the new year. The candle also holds significance – if it stays lit into the distance, it is a sign of

Loy Krathong is a festival for everyone: Families, lovers and children. The festival supposedly began some 700 years ago in Sukhothai.



good things to come. If it quickly goes out, however, it is considered a bad omen.

Floating a *krathong* together is also an important ritual for young lovers and the path of the *krathong* on the water is taken as a sign of the potential of their relationship.

LOY KRATHONG IN PHUKET

SAPHAN HIN, PHUKET CITY: Celebrations will start at 9 am with a *krathong*-making and painting competition. Winners will be announced and prizes presented between 1:30 pm and 3 pm.

At 5:30 pm there will be a parade from outside the Phuket City Municipality offices on Narison Rd to Saphan Hin.

Festivities will continue at Saphan Hin throughout the evening with *Nang Noppomas* beauty contests and performances from schools in Phuket City.

PATONG: Events on Soi Bangla will start at 6 pm with performances by students and professional entertainers and continue with *Nang Noppomas* beauty contests, a bartender contest and a *krathong*-making competition.

NAI HARN: Events will be held by the lake from 4 pm. There will be the usual *Nang Noppomas* and *krathong* making contests as well as One Tambon, One Product (OTOP) stalls, performances by local

schools and a *look thung* (Thai country music) contest.

KARON: Karon Park will be the venue for events starting at 7:30 pm, and including a performance by Thai band Santipap, traditional dancing, food and products stalls, and *Nang Noppomas* contests.

CHERNG TALAY: The Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) will stage festivities from 6:30 pm at Surin

Beach, with *Nang Noppomas* contests and performances by local schools.

For information about Loy Krathong festivities in your area, contact Phuket City Municipality at Tel: 076-221725; Patong Municipality at Tel: 076-344275 or visit www.patongmunicipality.org; Karon Municipality at Tel: 076-330478, Rawai *OrBorTor* at Tel: 076-288651; Cherng Talay *OrBorTor* at Tel: 076-271096; or Thalang District Office at Tel: 076-311046.





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Driven mad by golfing rumors

Answer the following golf trivia question: where is the rumored site of the new 18-hole championship golf course in Krabi?

- A. Ao Namao
- B. Khlong Muang
- C. Hat Yao
- D. Nong Thalay
- E. All of them

The answer is E – and probably a few more sites we have not yet heard about.

Rumors of a new golf course in Krabi have been circulating for years, to the point where the locals have become completely cynical about the latest new story of a championship course “coming soon”.

Many of the stories in recent years were grounded in apparent attempts to jump-start the real estate market in the surrounding area, or to sell developments nearby.

It was with some curiosity that I heard stories of the current nine-hole golf course – the Pakasai Country Club – actually finishing its expansion project to



become a regulation 18-hole course. So I decided to take a look.

The course is located on the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT) property just outside Nuea Khlong. The back nine holes were opened in Sep-

tember, and the reviews have so far been favorable.

It is not an easy course for some hackers, as the fairways are narrow and unforgiving to the errant tee-off. But the green fees are quite reasonable, ranging between 400 baht and 800 baht,

depending on the time of the week. Clubs and other equipment including carts are also available for hire. Memberships are available for residents.

If you don't have time to play 18 holes, or just fancy hitting a few balls, then you can always head out to the Krabi Golf Driving Range.

This range must have one of the world's most scenic backdrops. Three-hundred-meter-tall limestone karsts encircle it, giving a breathtaking view and at the same time making even the best drives seem minuscule by comparison. The driving range is on Route 4 as you head out of Krabi toward Phuket, on the left hand side across from the Krabi Fish Farm.

Whither the weather? This rainy season seems to be one of the wettest in years, especially to those who enjoy outdoor pursuits.

Property developers complain that it rains every time they pour cement. Staff renovating hotels swear that a cloudburst appears every time they start painting. Tourists complain that the



ACROSS THE BAY

By Gus Reynolds

Narrow fairways by favorable reviews: Tee-off from hole 3 at the Pakasai Country Club.

skies are clear until they are half way out into a four-day island tour.

According to our local meteorologist, affectionately named Mr Will, the total amount of rainfall hasn't been above normal so far – it's just that the number of days it has rained is above average.

Mr Will, who rarely goes by his real name of Will Otteranger, is a retired physics teacher from Holland, with a degree in meteorology.

While living in the Netherlands, he measured the weather in his garden every day, keeping detailed records of rain, wind and temperature. But since his home country already had a professional meteorological service, Mr Will kept his observations to himself.

After retiring to Thailand, he immediately saw a need for better weather measurement and prediction, and his hobby has bloomed again. He started a web site, www.aonangweather.com which takes data from a number of feeds in the US, Europe and Thailand, to produce measurements of rain, ultraviolet radiation, solar energy, wind and temperature.

His four rain gages in Krabi have also showed great disparities in the climate, something we locals have noticed for years. He has dubbed one area “Rain Alley”, because it receives a disproportionate level of rain. The area, from Khlong Muang to Nong Thalay to Sai Thai and Krabi Town, sometimes experiences monthly rainfall 200% greater than surrounding areas.

Mr Will says this is just his hobby and that his web site is free and open to all. It's a great tool for tourists, hotel owners and weather enthusiasts alike. So, Mr Will, can I pour that cement tomorrow?



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BEHIND THE WHEEL

By Jeff Heselwood

The Paris motor show – Mondial de l'Automobile – generally throws up a number of new offerings or radical concepts from the domestic French automakers, PSA Peugeot-Citroën and Renault.

This year's was no exception, but of far more interest was the long-awaited new Volvo, the C30 compact.

The C30 is expected to contribute significantly to the revival of Volvo's fortunes, which have gone into decline in recent years due to the lack of new models.

Although the XC90 luxury SUV is still selling well, and the face-lift S80 has been generally well received, these are, by definition, niche models appealing only to a relatively limited section of the market. The C30, the Swedish manufacturer anticipates, will significantly raise its volumes.

A three-door hatchback, the C30 is Volvo's first foray into the small-car segment since the end of production of the exceedingly tedious 340 of the 1980s, which in itself was based on a DAF design and built in Holland.

Project director of the C30, Håkan Abrahamsson explained, "The compact format of the C30 has not prevented us from integrating much of what is best in the larger Volvo models," he said. "Even the smallest Volvo should provide the right premium feel, in all respects. This applies not only to the appearance and the impression of quality, but just as much to how it is to drive and use. Our intention is that the C30 should attract people who love driving."

There is a wide range of engines available for the new car, although inevitably, they will not all be offered in Southeast Asia. The smallest gasoline motor is a



Volvo goes compact

1.6-liter, 4-cylinder unit, producing a meager 100bhp (74kW), while at the top of the line is a 2.5L, 5-cylinder turbo chucking out a healthy 220bhp. There are also three diesel motors available.

Despite its compact dimensions, the C30 offers a comfortable and flexible interior. Seating for four adults and ample storage space is provided, while the seats in the rear fold individually and can be folded from either inside the car or from the glass tailgate.

The audio system is, said Abrahamsson, "one of the very best factory-fitted systems in the world". Three levels of audio are available: a 4 x 20W amplifier with four speakers; a 4 x 40W amp with eight speakers; or a digital class D amplifier from Alpine with an output of 5 x 130W and with Dolby Pro Logic Surround and 10 Danish Dynaudio speak-

ers. All this in a relatively small internal space.

On the road, the C30 has impeccable manners and in most markets dynamic stability and traction control will be standard. Steering is electro-hydraulic on all models except the 1.6L gasoline version, while a relatively long wheelbase for a car of this size, gives excellent handling and a well-controlled ride.

Safety has long been a Volvo by-word and to produce a small car that was anything but safe would have been unthinkable.

"Although the C30 is 22 centimeters shorter than the S40, it has the same safety level as its sedan sibling," Abrahamsson said.

"The body structure is designed in the same way to contribute to controlled deformation,

and the inner protective systems are similar."

The front of the vehicle is divided into zones that are made of different grades of steel with different deformation characteristics, to absorb and dissipate impact energy in an effective – and safe – manner.

Dual-stage front airbags are fitted, as are seat belt tensioners on all four seats. Side airbags and full-length air curtains prevent serious injury in the event of a side impact. Volvo's unique whip-lash protection system is incorporated into the front seat headrests to reduce the risk of neck injury.

Volvo anticipates selling around 65,000 C30s a year, most to European customers. The intention is to sell three out of every four C30s to customers who do not currently own a Volvo, broadening the marque's appeal.

The Volvo C30 is not yet available in Thailand. For more information contact Wittayakorn Tangsee of Volvo Phuket Tel: 076-218839-40 or visit the Volvo showroom next to the Shell gas station on Thepkasattri Rd, Phuket City.

Jeff Heselwood, a regular contributor, can be contacted by email at jhc@netvigat.com

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MAKING THE MOST OF

Last year Nisa Petponsap graduated with a degree in accounting from Phuket Rajabhat University. The achievement marked the end of 19 years of schooling, much of which was made possible through Phuket International Women's Club (PIWC) grants totaling about 90,000 baht.

Growing up in Phang Nga, Nisa's childhood was hard. She grew up with her father and older sister, Nongkran, after her mother and father separated when she was a baby. Her father, a rubber tapper, was left to raise Nisa and Nongkran.

But when she was 15 her father died in a motorbike accident. The girls moved in with their grandmother at Khok Khloy, just north of the Sarasin Bridge, and Nisa started work to help pay her way through high school.

"My grandmother and my aunt were seamstresses, so I sometimes helped them so we had more money to pay for my schooling. At that time Nongkran was studying in Bangkok, so she was almost never home," Nisa said.

After she graduated from high school, Nisa was admitted into Phuket Vocational College's accounting program and expected to spend long hours working to pay her way through.

However, she learned about the PIWC scholarships and decided to apply. She is now one of 250 students who have benefited from PIWC scholarships.

"I was given a scholarship from the PIWC during my first year at Phuket Vocational College."

"I was there for three years, and after I received my diploma I was admitted to study

The Phuket International Women's Club (PIWC) has supported local charities and schools for 17 years, awarding grants and scholarships to keep poor kids in school. The club of 150 Thai and foreign women holds fundraisers and charity drives throughout the year to attract donations.

One such scholarship student began receiving support from the PIWC seven years ago, and now, at 24 years old, Nisa Petponsap from Phang Nga is working as an accountant, keeping the books for the Albatross Café & Pub in Canal Village in Laguna, Phuket.

Nisa explained to the *Gazette's* Janyaporn Morel how the PIWC helped her to gain an education.

'If I hadn't had the scholarship from the PIWC, my life would be very different from how it turned out,' said Nisa.



at Phuket Rajabhat University to earn my bachelor's degree in accounting," she said.

But Nisa's good luck was to be short-lived; on December 26, 2004, Nisa's sister Nongkran,

who had been supporting the family, was killed in the tsunami.

"My sister had completed her diploma at a sports college in Bangkok and then worked for the recreation section at the Sofitel hotel in Khao Lak.

On the day of the tsunami she was working as a beach lifeguard, and she was hit by the tsunami. We found her body a week later, but she had already been buried," Nisa said.

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"My grandmother was very sad and took Nongkran's death hard. She died a year later, when she was 82," she said sadly.

Nisa continued in school until her graduation, and after seven years in school she found a job at the Seng Ho bookstore in Phuket City, where she worked for two months until she found a job working as accountant and purchasing agent at the Albatross Café & Pub.

"I've been working here more than a year now. I get a salary of 7,000 baht and an extra 4,000 to 5,000 baht a month from the pub's service charge, so it makes my life easier," she said.

Nisa is now making enough to rent a room at 2,500 baht per month with a friend and get to work on Laguna's staff bus.

"If I hadn't had the scholarship from the PIWC, my life would be very different from how it turned out. I might not have graduated, or I would have had to work much harder to get the money for school," she said.

"The PIWC gave me 20,000 baht a year for the last two years of school. That went on tuition fees and books. I also worked as a seamstress and an exhibition booth saleswoman to get extra money for clothes and meals."

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SCHOOL



Making a living: Nisa is now working as an accountant with the Albatross Café & Pub in Canal Village, the shopping area in Laguna Phuket.

The PIWC will hold its annual fund-raising Gala Ball on November 18 at the Hilton Arcadia Phuket Resort & Spa. Proceeds from the event will go toward helping hundreds of children from poor families to complete their schooling.

Tickets, priced at 2,500 baht, include a four-course dinner and drinks.

They may be bought at the Phuket Gazette office, The Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa, West One Salon in Central Festival, Watermark Bar Restaurant at the Boat Lagoon, and The Green Man Pub and Restaurant.

For more information call Joan Watson at Tel: 087-2820422 or visit www.phuket.com/piwc/

"The PIWC didn't ask for anything in return for the scholarships, they just told us to be good people and do good things for society. They also taught us the value of money," Nisa said.

Happily Ever After

Recent weddings in Phuket



Wasin Koysiripong, daughter of former President of the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization Dr Prasit Koysiripong and his wife Dr Sudawan Koysiripong, married Jaipet Hatthakam in the Columbia Garden at the Dusit Laguna Resort on October 7.

The couple also had a Chinese tea ceremony in the Phra Pitak Grand Ballroom at The Metropole hotel earlier the same day.

— Photo above by PMEDIA Studio




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This week



BRIGHT IDEA: Guests at Le Meridien Khao Lak Beach & Spa Resort release Yi Peng 'floating' lanterns for good luck at the resort's first anniversary on October 16.



A SNIP OF ART: Former Phuket Senator Paiboon Upatising prepares to open the "Thailand Pictures" exhibition by French artist Jean-Claude Bessonnat (left) at Phuket Art Gallery on Thalang Rd, Phuket City. The exhibition will run until November 15.



COOKIE MAN CRUMBLES: 'Khun Woody' Leonhard (seated, in blue shirt) celebrates his 55th birthday and the second anniversary of the opening of his Sandwich Shoppe in Patong on October 20. Seizing the opportunity and under the approving eye of his father George – who recently moved to Phuket – Woody proposed to long-time girlfriend Duangkhae 'Add' Tongthuang (sitting in Woody's lap). She said yes.



WHAT, ME WORRY? Tony Knight (right), Captain of the 100-year-old S/Y *Seraph*, smiles his best as Pracham 'Pui' Rachai and Melanie Hilgers of Melli's & Pui's Thai Travel service give the recently launched Ao Chalong-Laem Phromthep cruises the thumbs-up during a media inspection cruise.



VILLAGE PEOPLE: Royal Phawadee Village resort owner Claude de Crissey (3rd from right) and his wife K. Phawadee (in green dress) receive bouquets from Phuket Provincial Administration Organization Vice-President Suthep Thepsakul (2nd from left), his wife K. Nipa (left) and from other guests at the October 20 opening of the resort.



SWISS DELIGHT: Three Prince of Songkla University students received at total of 150,000 baht in scholarship assistance from Lions Club of Phuket Pearl Charter President Adrienne Tusoni (center), on behalf of the Lions Club Zurich-Witikon, Switzerland, on October 6. With them are (from left) PSU Faculty of Technology and Environment Asst Dean Juthamas Chaipetch and Dean Puwadon Butrat, Lions of Pearl President Dr Kanchanamethakul and Wanida Hongyok.

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UNCOMMON SENSE

Sometimes very strange things go on in the Kingdom, especially regarding government regulations. I received an email a few days ago documenting the most recent meeting of the Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce in Thailand (JFCCT).

Among the subjects discussed were a couple of fascinating items, especially one that points out that anyone visiting Thailand to do business – of any duration – could be locked up.

Did you know that a work permit is required to have a one-hour business meeting? Can you imagine the Japanese chairman of Toyota being carried out, kicking and screaming, as a result of sitting down for a one-hour meeting with the Managing Director of Toyota Thailand, or Condoleezza Rice being frogmarched out of a meeting with an oil company boss?

Here's the email, unedited:

**Summary of Meeting:
JFCCT with Immigration
9 Oct 2006**

Business Visa for short term:
Worldwide most countries allow

foreigners to visit for a short period of time with a business visa and attend meetings, congresses, exhibitions, marketing promotions, short working periods etc/without having to obtain a work permit. Thailand is the only country in the world which requires every foreigner to obtain additional to the Non B Visa also a work permit, even he attends a meeting just for 1 hour.

It was suggested to abolish this requirement in Thailand (in order to prevent that every honest business man coming to Thailand behaves illegal from the time of entry).

Thailand should either accept the short term working under the Non B Visa, or issue easy obtainable Business Visa to such business man.

It is understood that this business visa shall NOT entitle this foreign person to gain income or employment in Thailand under this business visa.

New kind of Non Immigrant Visa: Immigration informed that foreigners can now obtain a 3 year multiple Non Immigrant Visa with multiple entry at every Thai embassy or consulate a-



broad for a fee of 10,000 Baht, granting the traveller a maximum period of 90 days in Thailand per arrival.

Details can be found of the website of the Ministry of Foreign affairs.

Immigration suggested to contact the Thai embassies in the foreign countries to find out what kind of documentation is required for obtaining such a visa.

Note: None of the attending representatives of the Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce have ever heard anything about this kind of Visa."

The new kind of B visa has not shown up on the suggested website, but if anybody more Internet-literate or patient than I can

find it, I would appreciate the information.

However, the visa issue is causing a great deal of concern in the property industry, especially because the information released is unclear, and still does not seem to address homeowners who are not retired, permanent residents under the Thai law or working in Thailand.

But back to the work permits. If work permits are required for a one-hour meeting, where did this rule come from?

As the JFCCT's report states, "Thailand is the only country in the world that has this requirement." Although it would appear that this regulation is not being enforced, otherwise the authorities would be arresting

thousands of foreign business-people who have meetings in Thailand.

None of this makes much sense, but neither does the equally ludicrous restriction on alcohol sales in the big supermarkets between 2 pm and 5 pm.

That's the one place where it's easy to control the sale of alcohol to minors, and where minors would be least likely to try to buy it.

The result is an inconvenience to shoppers, and the minors continue to buy it from any small retailer in the soi – just as they always have done.

To be fair, it's not only in Thailand that common sense seems to be not so common.

In Australia they used to close the pubs at 6 pm. To beat the clock, people would race off from work straight to the pub, downing as many drinks as possible before the pub closed, usually about 10 drinks in 45 minutes, before staggering home to fall about and beat up the wife.

Oddly enough, that was called the "happy hour". The name remains today.

Governments and politicians are not often known for their common sense. That's probably why they became politicians.



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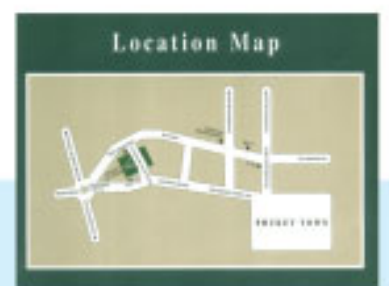
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Pruerk-Lawan	120.6	8,900,000	100,000	4,450,000	4,350,000
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Toys for toddlers and tycoons

Already wondering what to get this coming holiday season for that special someone who already has it all? Well, whether you're shopping for a toddler or a tycoon, two famous gift lists published this month should give you plenty of ideas, not to mention a healthy overdraft.

Toy Wishes magazine published its "Hot Dozen" list of must-have holiday toys, which was dominated by playthings incorporating lavish dollops of technology.

Of course there are the usual dolls, with Barbie and the 12 Dancing Princesses, or if you want a little more attitude, the more streetwise Bratz Forever Diamondz. There's even an updated monopoly set on the list.

But be honest. If money were no object would you get a plain plastic doll, a classic board-game or a high-tech horsey such as Butterscotch? This US\$300 (11,000 baht) marvel is an interactive, life-sized miniature toy pony that uses sensors to respond to touch and sound – moving toward a child when its name is called or going to sleep when the lights are off.

If neither of those tickle your fancy, then how about the US\$40 (1,500 baht) TMX Elmo? The old Sesame Street favorite has been updated with sensors and motors that make it slap its knee and fall over in a fit of laughter after it is "tickled".

Lego makes the list with a US\$250 (9,200 baht) Mindstorms NXT Robotics Toolset that lets children ages 10 and older build and program robots.

But the ultimate toy for the holiday may well be Nintendo's hotly-awaited new video game console, the Wii (pronounced "We"). This family-friendly ma-



A model wields a new Nintendo Wii handset, a must-have toy for the coming holiday season.

chine incorporates new technology that replaces the old toggle stick and button controller with an intuitive motion-sensing device. This operates like a television remote control and lets players simulate swinging a bat, sword or tennis racket.

Nintendo touts the console as the first of its kind aimed at casual gamers of all ages. But don't use that as an excuse to avoid getting your special tycoon something from the fantasy gift list put together each year by luxury retailer Neiman Marcus.

Its catalog of extravagance really does prove the saying that

the difference between men and boys is the price of their toys.

For a mere US\$3.8 million (139.5 million baht), fat cats can buy lifetime membership at Italy's Castiglion Del Bosco wine estate, which includes unlimited time at Tuscan villas built among Roman ruins and access to swimming pools, vehicles and spas.

If that package seems a little mundane, how about a US\$1.76 million (64.6 million baht) space flight? For that bargain price six people can blast off on SpaceShipTwo, the commercial passenger craft under construction by Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic.

After the fantastic voyage, passengers will spend four nights with Branson on his private island in the British Virgin Islands.

The annual list also resur-

rects a perennial favorite – the limited edition sports cars. This year's offering is 50 black 2007 BMW M6 convertibles with V10 engines, each of which can be had for a mere US\$139,000 (5.1 million baht).

Then there is the street-legal (though not in Thailand) GG Quad machine – described as the offspring of "a muscle car that ran off with a motorcycle" for US\$56,465 (just over 2 million baht). If you prefer adventure of a different sort you might prefer a backyard water park for US\$100,000 (3.6 million baht), not including installation.

American sports fans can salivate over a package of tickets to six events including the Super Bowl; the Major League Baseball, National Basketball Association and National Hock-

ey League All-Star games; the US Open tennis women's final; and a surprise bonus event. All the events include meals with sports stars and bids for the package at a charity auction start at US\$250,000 (9.17 million baht).

The luxury retailer claims it does not make money on the fantasy gifts, which it uses to promote the more mundane items in its catalog, like US\$500 (18,000 baht) cashmere sweaters.

"We choose gifts that cause people to ask, 'Who in the world would buy something like that?'" said Ginger Reeder, Vice-President of Public Relations for Neiman Marcus. "We're particularly looking for things with a sense of humor. Just because you grow up doesn't mean you stop wishing for things."

– Andy Goldberg, dpa

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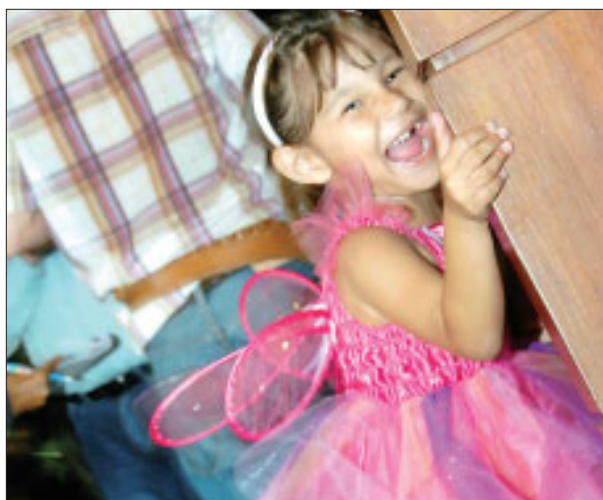
On a wing and a prairie

Gunslingers replaced gin slings for a night at Watermark, when the Boat Lagoon bar and restaurant celebrated its fourth birthday with a Cowboys & Angels party under the guidance of heavenly host Stuart Bird.

Watermark is a place where angels rarely fear to tread, and Sunday, October 28 was no exception. Darling creatures in white squeezed into their costumes, wings a-fluttering on their backs, halos hovering above their heads and, heavens above, the women came as they were.

The cowboys squeezed into their chaps, and one or two cowgirls were seen easing themselves between a pair of tight chaps, too, lariats in hand, before they swapped six-shooters for six shots.

Unlike a spaghetti western, there was no bad, let alone any ugly, just Phuket's good and beautiful people.



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Dennis Cogen is a dry and jovial New Yorker who, after his success with Perfection Spa, wanted to provide the residents of Phuket with some of his favorite and much missed dishes from home.

This he has achieved in a dining room filled with books, pictures and music to suit anyone who wants to relax or unwind. Fashion Café, on Chao Fa East Rd, offers a quiet meeting place conveniently located between Chalong and Phuket City – in the same building as Perfection Spa.

This is not Dennis' first foray into the catering business. Aged 15, he worked in a busy candy store on the Queens and Brooklyn border in New York. The store made a big name for itself with the rich and famous of Manhattan – thousands of dollars' worth of exquisitely-made candy was sold at Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving.

It was a challenge to choose one dish to represent each of the three meals of the day and although Fashion Café has gained

a reputation for some of the island's best pizzas and pasta, the featured recipes were chosen for being deliciously different.

Beginning the day with breakfast – here's one for champions. Nostalgic of his New York days, Dennis has trained his gifted chef, Jup, to make Eggs Benedict, named from Lemuel Benedict, a stockbroker who one morning popped into the Waldorf Hotel with a hangover and asked the waiter for dry toast, bacon, poached eggs and Hollandaise sauce. The rest, as they say, is history.

For lunch we hop over to France for a crepe, that versatile and elegant pancake that can be served with a sweet or savory filling. The word crepe is derived from the Latin *crispa* meaning curled. Filled with spinach and cream, it's a winner.

And for dinner it is hard to beat Fashion Café's Rack of Lamb, which, although originating in France, has become one of New York's most popular dishes.

Dennis has no doubts that he has satisfied his hunger to serve those dishes he so missed from New York.

Guest chef By Patsy Kitsoff

Crepes Serves one

Ingredients

1 cup of wheat flour;
1 cup of milk;
1 egg;
2 teaspoons of butter;
Salt and pepper.

Method

Mix ingredients together to make a batter. Heat oil in a pan and put half a ladle of the batter in it. Fry



until brown on both sides. Add half the spinach mix, fold the crepe and repeat the exercise with the rest of the batter.



Rack of Lamb with Redcurrant Sauce Serves one

Ingredients

4 lamb chops;
½ cup olive oil;
Rosemary;
Salt and pepper.

Method

Marinate the lamb chops in olive oil, rosemary, salt and pepper for an hour and then grill under a moderate heat until cooked to your liking.

Sauce

1 tablespoon redcurrant jelly;
½ cup white wine;
½ cup gravy.

In a pan, melt the redcurrant jelly and mix the ingredients together. Reduce it slightly and then pour over the lamb chops and serve with grilled vegetables.

Eggs Benedict Serves one

Ingredients

Hollandaise Sauce
5 egg yolks;
1 tablespoon of vinegar;
½ cup melted butter;
Salt and pepper.

Method

Set a pan of water to boil. Mix a few drops of vinegar with the egg yolks in a bowl and whisk over the pan – as if it were a bain marie – of boiling water until it becomes creamy. Add melted butter, salt and pepper.



Spinach and Cream Crepe Serves two

Ingredients

Spinach and Cream filling
1 cup spinach, wilted;
½ cup cream;
1 oz cheddar cheese;
Chopped red onion;
Salt and pepper.

Method

Heat oil in a pan and fry the chopped onion and spinach. Add salt, pepper, cream and cheese and fry until almost dry. Leave to make the crepes.

Poached Eggs Serves one

Ingredients

2 eggs
1 muffin
2 rashers/slices of bacon/ham

Method

Cut a muffin in half and toast. Place two slices of freshly-grilled ham or bacon on each half. To another pan of gently-boiling water, add a drop of vinegar and break two eggs into the boiling water. The white of each egg will encase its yolk. Boil for about three minutes. Put each egg onto each muffin half. Pour Hollandaise sauce on top. Best served with sauté potatoes.



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OK, picture this: sweat, tumescence, yelps of passion, and Harrison Ford, his face obscured by a flying helmet, giving Lena Olin a good seeing to in *Hollywood Homicide* with the aid of a frosted donut...

Yup, after years of deprivation, it seemed as if the full-on whoop-dee-do, no-holds-barred sex scene was about to be back in vogue. But that was three years ago. And in my view nothing decent has hit our screens in the loin department ever since.

Cinema-goers had been denied intimacy for years, worried by AIDS and the feeling that the public had maybe become tired of seeing Michael Douglas's bouncing bottom.

Directors and producers in the 1990s appeared to give the thumbs down to explicit on-screen material. Then, for a while, it seemed as if Hollywood was climbing out of its pants again. If a fake orgasm defines the quality of a sex scene, at one stage there were certainly more of them about than in the days of *When Harry Met Sally*.

Monster's Ball (should that not have been a plural?) raised a few eyebrows – and probably more – with its fast-cut scene of Billy Bob Thornton and Halle Berry going for it on the living room carpet.

In *The Matrix: Reloaded* we saw Keanu Reeves and Carrie-Anne Moss indulging in an interminable bout of cybersex, and in *8 Mile*, most parents of teenage Eminem fans were surprised to see the rapper and Britanny Murphy share a breathless moment while astride some heavy machinery.

In the days before DVDs and the Internet, the cinema was

Coming soon to a cinema near you: sex



It was just a teeny weeny frosted donut: Harrison Ford

– Photo by EPA/Giulia Muir

a dark space where teenagers disappeared to smoke Player's Navy Cut and to feel each other up.

The cinema listings in British newspapers in the 1970s were a full of nudie entertainments of both the highbrow and bargain bucket variety.

There was the arty-farty *The Story of O* and the trashier ones with meaningless titles like *Confessions of a Naked Virgin*, in which some Jack the lad small-

time actor would go full frontal with a whole load of Harold Wilson-era housewives. And don't pretend you don't remember, especially if you are over 30.

In the '80s, mainstream movies absorbed these influences and yielded a great and gruesome, in my opinion, era of above-the-title shagging. In *9½ Weeks*, for example, Mickey Rourke and Kim Basinger used a jar of honey to discover pleasure undreamt of by Winnie the Pooh.

AMBROSIA'S

ambrosia@phuketgazette.net



SECRETS

And in *Fatal Attraction*, Michael Douglas – who, as you may have gathered, is not one of my favorite actors – put the grouting round the kitchen sink through a series of extreme tests in the company of Glenn Close. When you think about the location, maybe he should have waited around a couple of years for Liv Tyler.

Ten years on, however, and sensibilities seemed to have shifted. Perhaps it was because those in search of such things could find them so easily on the Internet or on video, but throughout the '90s most mainstream Hollywood movies, or at least the ones that I managed to see, were about as spicy as a Sophia Loren recipe for spaghetti meatballs.

But then, and not only in films but also in advertising and fashion, the ball seemed to spin round again. Shortly after we hit the new millennium a rash of independent pictures appeared, some even depicting actors doing "it" for real.

Yep, in films like *The Brown Bunny*, Chloë Sevigny (an Oscar-nominated actress, unfortunately) gives Vincent Gallo a 15-minute, ahem, oral workout. Controversy probably still rages on Internet movie sites as to the veracity of such performances, but one thing is for sure – these scenes certainly kick out the previous "did they or didn't they?" debates.

For example, Donald Sutherland and Julie Christie in *Don't Look Now* – did they really do it? And what about Jack Nicholson and Jessica Lange in *The Postman Always Rings Twice*?

According to Karen Moncrieff, director of the indie picture *Blue Car* (a 10-minute sex scene was sliced to the bone, if you'll pardon the expression, by its American distributors), "sex is back because of European initiative".

"American audiences are too squeamish about that kind of stuff," she complained in an interview. It is quite clear that the Americans don't know what they want.

If you have seen the film *Intimacy*, a British independent movie starring Kerry Fox and Mark Rylance who go for it on a grubby carpet in southeast London, you will find that Moncrieff's sex scene could not have been any tamer.

Me, I'm an old-fashioned girl. My personal favorite movie sex scene is probably pretty dull by today's standards, but I still don't think you can beat stuff like the butter scene in *Last Tango in Paris* (Maria Schneider) or the bridesmaid bonk in *The Godfather* (James Caan).

As for Mr Ford or Ms Olin, they of the flying helmet and the baked goods, you may have seen the film and felt unsettled by it.

But you can console yourself with this simple thought: if it made you feel queasy or bemused, at least you didn't have to endure the embarrassment of waking up with one of them in the morning.

Meanwhile, I'm off to the boulangerie to do some shopping. And please do let me know when there's a decent sex film on again.

Ambrosia Sakkadas, a UK-born Greek Cypriot and graduate of Central St Martins College of Art & Design in London, is an artist, designer and newspaper columnist.

PHUKET DIARY of coming events

Until November 5: World Tour Phuket Thailand Open 2006 Volleyball Championships.

The island is set to host the joint Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB), Thailand Volleyball Association and Pentangle Promotions Company World Tour Phuket Thailand Open 2006, a world-class volleyball competition for women, which started on November 1 on Karon Beach, with 75 teams competing.

Entrance to the final rounds of the tournament is free.

November 5: Kids TriBallistic Triathlon Series

The second SILK TriBallistic Triathlon will be held November 5.

The event will be divided into three distance categories: the "Splash 'n' Dash" (8 years and under: 50m swim, 3-km bike ride, 750m run); the "Junior" (200m swim, 6-km bike ride, 1.5km run), and the "Senior" (750m swim, 20km bike, 5km run).

Registration begins at 7 am on race day, with an official start at 8 am.

The TriBallistic Triathlon series is presented by SILK restaurant, hosted by the JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa, and sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*.

For more details call Hugo Jones at Tel: 081-0782024 or send email to: hugodeb@hadyai.loxinfo.co.th.

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The Cryptic Crossword

Hidden Words

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

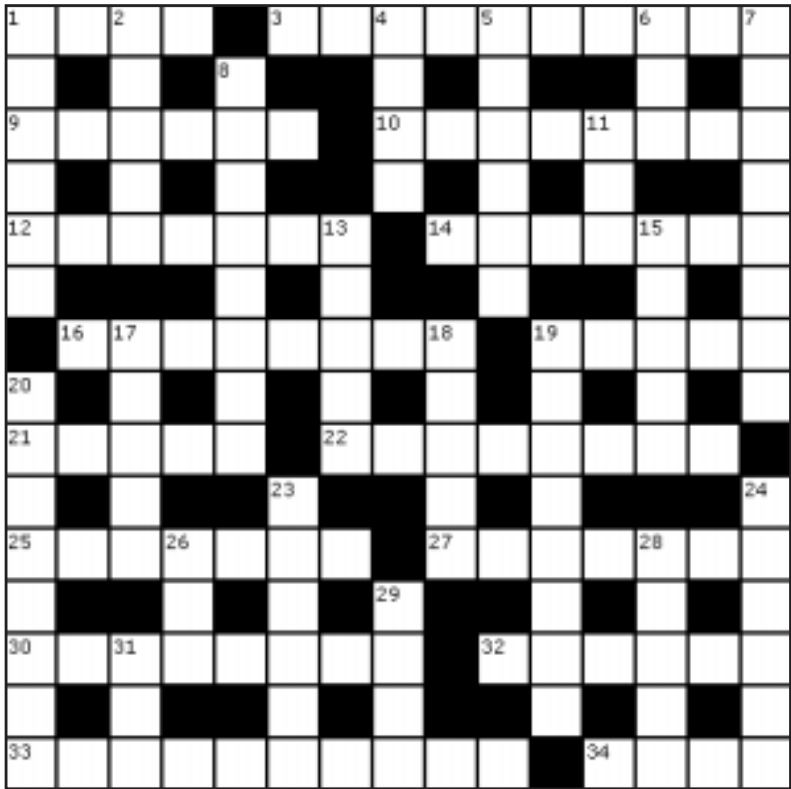
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Y	H	S	D	N	J	Z	B	G	E	M	Z	S	D	D
T	E	N	A	M	O	F	R	L	F	I	W	D	S	T
C	V	E	Q	Z	N	M	H	C	O	S	K	R	E	K
K	A	N	D	I	N	S	K	Y	J	H	E	A	E	M
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U	W	X	A	L	S	D	J	R	L	A	Y	B	M	O
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W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

ACROSS

1. See you! Degree of country. (4)
3. Fellow feeling pal’s joint. (10)
9. Bird smokin’. (6)
10. Of the French, 100 take fire remnant to 12th. (8)
12. Lives about the teams. (7)
14. Short resolution to little lake: Reply! (7)
16. Cookies for small guards. (8)
19. Preserves parts of castles. (5)
21. Headed for tied up. (5)
22. Tire of pleasant period. (8)
25. A month in charge. Very clean. (7)
27. Patricia thanks. Yes, a city. (7)
30. Reversed photo? No. (8)
32. Take disguise off twisted evil ‘un. (6)
33. Diana’s happy? Quite the opposite. (10)
34. Use spoon in jail. (4)

DOWN

1. Escapades involve the Right in promontories. (6)
2. Polishes aficionados. (5)
4. Race in 500? Yes. (4)



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2006

5. Kissed head support for editor. (6)
6. Center in chubby chap. (3)
7. Reborn as padre, I get to heaven. (8)
8. Not strong point, married and moldy. (8)
11. Pam reverses chart. (3)
13. Gordon Sumner’s con trick. (5)
15. Watch the last letter. (5)
17. Red French makeup. (5)
18. Nothing in unappetizing food vessel. (5)
19. Kind of cop who may be crucial to rock. (8)
20. Got a bit done, strangely. (8)
23. Idea: Six with love in sin. (6)
24. Average has left, or reception room. (6)
26. Pulse discomfort for princess. (3)
28. Wide awake for warning. (5)
29. Surrender offspring, we hear. (4)
31. Nitrous oxide, for example, is fun. (3)

Solution on next page

Scribble Space



EZ TRIVIA QUIZ

1. The flag of Sitzerland consists of which two colors?
2. What is the capital of Cambodia?
3. In which books would you find the character Bathilda Bagshot?
4. Which city is on the bank of the Rio Negro in Brazil?
5. Which TV presenter was recently killed by a stingray?
6. Which Dickens character says, “God bless us every one”?
7. Marco Polo called it Cipango. Which country is it?
8. The disease cirrhosis affects which organ of the body?
9. In which city would you find the Arc de Triomphe?
10. Cleopatra was queen of which country?

Answers on next page

su|do|ku
© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

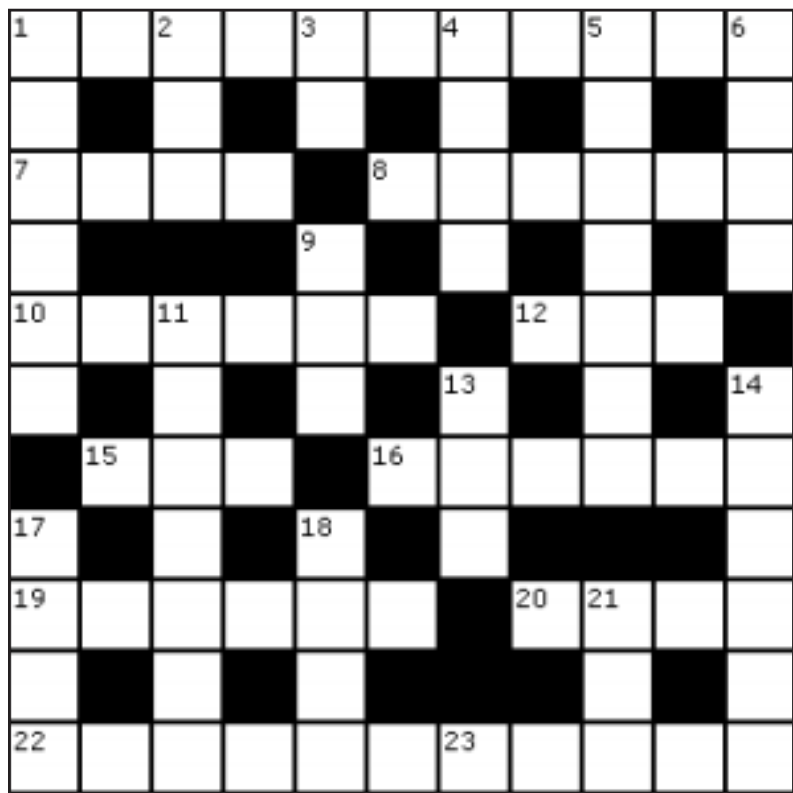
Sudoku is very simple: each row, each column and each “box” of nine squares within the puzzle must contain all the numbers from 1 to 9 with, naturally, no repetitions. Beware: there is only one solution to this puzzle, which is on the next page.

Rhyme Time

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

1. Two-wheeler.
2. A long way to walk.
3. View positively.
4. Sound capturing device.
5. Sudden price rise.
6. Predatory fish.
7. Stop working.
8. Small child.
9. Similar.
10. Long spear.

Answers on next page



Quick Crossword

ACROSS

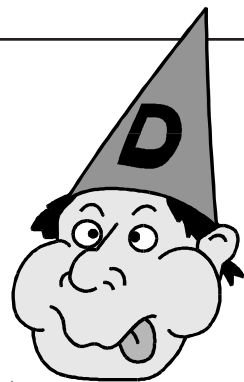
1. Holland.
7. Pay.
8. Clothing fastener.
10. Lots and lots.
12. Wrestling maneuver.
15. Frozen water.
16. Small person.
19. Helen was one.
20. Bathroom wear.
22. Eating places.
2. It pulls much larger ships.
3. For example.
4. Rude person.
5. Zero.
6. Dispatched.
9. Sleeping place.
11. Medics.
13. Upper leg joint.
14. Greek capital.
17. Leading actor or actress.

DOWN

1. He discovered gravity.
21. Possess.

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. Name the "international" language invented around 1879 by German clergyman J M Schleyer.
2. Phoebe Moze was a star in which show?
3. Who based a musical on her life, and what was the musical called?
4. What is the name of the strait between Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic?
5. The Dominican Republic occupies two thirds of an island. Which country occupies the other third?
6. German-born Andreas Ludwig Priwin is better known by what name?
7. How many Academy Awards has he won?
8. In the US in the 18th century, who or what was a pistareen?
9. Walther Bauersfeld is credited with inventing what?
10. Which planet orbits the sun between Saturn and Neptune?
11. Which Hitchcock movie came out in the same year as Coppola's *The Godfather*?
12. Where do the words "one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all" appear?
13. What word can mean "a large merchant ship" or "a fleet of ships"?
14. Who founded the first recorded settlement in Greenland?
15. Which Islamic sect believes that the 11th-century Ismaili caliph Al-Hakim was the embodiment of God?
16. Who wrote the novel *Stranger in a Strange Land*?
17. If something is described as virgate, what shape is it?
18. On what day is the Japanese New Year?
19. With what instrument would you measure the work capacity of a muscle?
20. British forces under Gen Sir Isaac Brock captured which American city in 1812?

Answers below, left

Puzzle Solutions

Monster Quiz Answers

1. Volapük; 2. Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show; 3. Irving Berlin, *Annie Get Your Gun*; 4. The Mona Passage; 5. Haiti; 6. André Previn; 7. Four; 8. A small silver coin; 9. The modern planetarium; 10. Uranus; 11. Frenzy; 12. In the United States' Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag; 13. Argosy; 14. Eric the Red; 15. The Druze; 16. Robert Heinlein; 17. Shaped like a wand or rod; 18. January 1; 19. An ergograph; 20. Detroit.

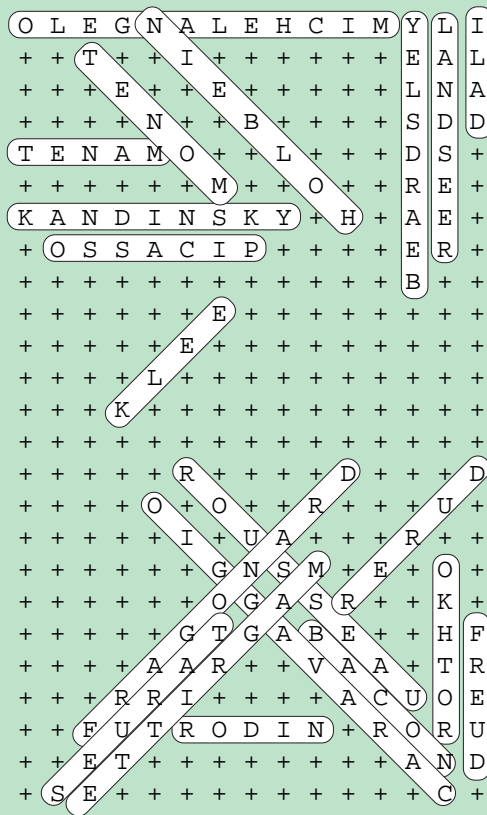
Rhyme Time Answers

1. Bike; 2. Hike; 3. Like; 4. Mike; 5. Hike; 6. Pike; 7. Strike; 8. Tyke; 9. Alike; 10. Pike.

EZ Trivia Answers

1. Red and white; 2. Phnom Penh; 3. The Harry Potter novels; 4. Manaos; 5. Steve Irwin; 6. Tiny Tim 7. Japan; 8. The liver; 9. Paris; 10. Egypt.

Hidden Words SOLUTION



Solution to this week's Cryptic Crossword



Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle



A discourse in Tenglish

Many readers will be familiar with the word "Tenglish". It refers to a hybrid kind of English often spoken in Thailand. Just as we have Hinglish (Indian English, achchha!), Singlish (Singaporean English, lah!), Jinglish (Japanese English, deska!) and a host of other inglishes, we also have Tenglish: Thai English, spoken with Thai pronunciation, intonation and syntax.

It is not my intent here to make fun of the English spoken by Thais whose mastery of the language is incomplete. Everybody struggles when studying a new language, and if the atrocities which we foreigners commit against the Thai language could be cataloged, they would fill a far larger volume than any that could be devoted to Tenglish.

But Tenglish can cause misunderstandings which are often amusing, and I propose to list a few. My source for these anecdotes is a friend, Fardley Nerdwell. His girlfriend, Noy, provides him with a steady supply of Tenglishisms.

"Take the movie Iron Eagle," Fardley told me one day. "Noy thought it had something to do with ironing an eagle, as you would iron a shirt. She wondered how the eagle would react."

"Probably unfavorably," I surmised.

"One of her favorite singers is Juttin Timmerlay. Bet you can't guess who that is."

That was easy: Justin Timberlake.

"There's also the movie star Boot Weelit."

That was easy, too: Bruce Willis.

"Shot Put," Fardley continued. "Guess who that is."

That one stumped me. It was George Bush.

"One day she had to go to the hot peter to see a friend. It took me some time to figure that out. She meant the hospital."

"I wonder how the two of you manage to communicate at all," I said.

"It can get frustrating," Fardley admitted. "The time I had the most trouble understanding her was when she came back from a trip to Hua Hin with her

girlfriends. I asked what she liked best about Hua Hin. She said, 'I like hot.'"

"Hot," I echoed. "She meant the warm weather?"

"Nope. Guess again," Fardley said.

"Hot food," I ventured. "She ate some spicy-hot food there and liked it."

"Nope. Try again."

I was baffled. "I like hot."

What could such a cryptic utterance possibly mean? The most sophisticated linguist, the most skilled cryptanalyst in the bowels of the CIA, would tear out his hair in frustration if he had to decipher that enigmatic statement.

"There's a town named Hot up around Chiang Mai, but you said Noy was in Hua Hin," I said.

"Right. Think, man! When you go down to the beach at Hua Hin, what's the first thing you see?"

I thought. "Well, you see ponies on the beach giving rides to tourists."

"Exactly. 'Hot' means 'horse.'"

"Ah," I said. "So Noy liked riding the horses on the beach."



"Sometimes she inadvertently warns me against making a wrong decision," Fardley said. "Once we were driving along and she suddenly said, 'One woe for life.' I was startled. At that very moment I had been daydreaming, wondering if I should ask her to marry me. And now, like a thunderbolt, the possible consequences came crashing down around my ears. If I married Noy, quite possibly I would have 'one woe for life.'"

"Nice of her to warn you," I said.

Fardley chuckled. "Yes, but it was unintentional. She had merely been reading a sticker on the back of the car in front of us.

It was a Volvo, and the sticker read 'Volvo for Life.'"

"That's a new one," I observed. "I've heard 'Volvo' pronounced 'wowo' before, but never 'one woe.'"

"There's also a Khorat Hotel in Bangkok, and a famous country-and-western song called *Writing Bahboo*. Bet you can't tell what those mean."

I was stumped again. The hotel turned out to be the Conrad, and the song was *Lightning Bar Blues*.

"One day she was gazing into a mirror and looking disconsolate," Fardley went on. "She sighed, 'I am owned!' I was puzzled. Owned? By whom? Did she find our relationship confining? Had she given her heart to somebody else? Had she been sold into slavery? But no, nothing so dramatic. She meant 'I am old!' At the advanced age of 25 she was imagining bags under her eyes."

"Better to be old than owned," I philosophized.

S. Tsow can be flamed, preferably in Tenglish, at stsow@yahoo.com

Horizontal dancing and a close shave

If you have ever wandered about the beer boozers, Sierra Tango bars and ogling dens, you may have taken a fancy to one or two females employed in these establishments. You may even have engaged in some horizontal dancing with said ladies, either in the dine-and-dash style of the Sierra Tango bars or the more long-term "Put Your Toothbrush Next To Mine" manner.

However, as other attractions sometimes get in the way, such relationships can take time to flower and prosper, and the lady may well find herself still gainfully employed where you first made her acquaintance.

This can be sad when you start to feel as if you could fill an IVF test tube or 10 and you'd like to relieve yourself of some of that tension. So you decide to return

to the bar where the lady of your dreams is working – but she's not there.

The bar girls who work with your missing lady and who were formerly very chatty and helpful suddenly develop serious cases of amnesia or Alzheimer's – or both.

You ask a simple question like, "Where is Nok?" and they look at you as if you've just turned green and have a nestful of vipers protruding from your ears. Alternatively, they simply lie.

"Nok go Bangkok today, you come back tomorrow", or "Nok day off" or "Nok find cure

for lung cancer and go to Sweden to collect Nobel Prize".

Of course, none of this true and any man who actually believes what he's being told really should think about spending his evenings in the IVF clinic armed with appropriate reading matter. At least a plastic beaker won't lie to you.

Super girls, super shavers: A small group of imbibers from Denmark was once happily slurping away in the Super Girl ogling den in Soi Diamond off Walking Street when they decided to liven the proceedings by engaging the dancing damsels in a game of fun.

They offered 500 baht to girls willing to engage in a game of "Scissors, paper, rock".

For anyone recently arrived from fun-filled destinations like Afghanistan or Iraq, I should explain that this involves you and another person making one hand into a fist, shaking your arm, counting to three and then either keeping your hand as a fist, opening it out fully to resemble a piece of paper, or making a sign with your two forefingers to indicate scissors.

The rules are that scissors will beat paper, but not rock, while paper will beat rock but not scissors.

The Danes offered 500 baht – no strings attached – to any girl who could win the best of three games.

If the girl lost she was given a disposable shaver and asked to remove certain bodily hairs not generally seen in polite society. She then had to return and present the proof.

Some of the Super Girls joined in with all the fervor of gamblers on a winning roll at the craps table.

At least one girl managed to pick up 1,500 baht before finally losing and having to retire to the bathroom armed with a shaver.



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Thai culture of carelessness

The argument regarding just how far the state should go in trying to protect its citizens from their own worst instincts is as old as the history of governance itself.

Some argue that those stupid enough to ride motorbikes without proper protection for their heads should be allowed to do so. Unlike drunk car drivers, people who ride motorbikes without helmets will suffer the cost of their own poor judgment themselves, they argue.

Taking this line of reasoning to its logical conclusion, some people maintain that those incapable of understanding that the forces of physics apply to their own skulls simply do not deserve to pass their genes on to the next generation.

Such arguments fail to stand up to scrutiny, however. Lifelong care for those who suffer brain damage and other disabilities from failing to wear helmets is a huge social cost to Thailand, which suffers from one of the highest rates of motorcycle injuries and deaths in Southeast Asia.

Figures cited by the World Health Organization reveal that some 80% of the 20 million registered motorized vehicles in Thailand are motorcycles. In 1992, when helmet use was not mandatory, 90% of deaths resulting from traffic accidents were among motorcycle users, almost all due to head injuries.

The introduction of a helmet law reduced these rates significantly, yet Thailand still suffers far higher rates of injuries from motorcycle accidents than other countries in the region such as Malaysia and Singapore, where traffic police don't "compromise" on helmet law enforcement by allowing pillion riders to ride without head protection.

Saddest of all is the fact that it is the most innocent members of our society, the children, who are at the greatest risk and in need of protection. Rarely does one see a child on a motorcycle in Phuket wearing a helmet. Far more common is the sight of an unprotected child – or children, sometimes as many as three – literally hanging on to the driver, and without protective headgear.

When the inevitable occurs, the incident is passed off as "fate" or "bad karma". Children who survive this neglect tend to pass on the same careless approach to road safety to their own children. In this regard, failure to wear a helmet is just one symptom of a culture of carelessness that pervades Thai society and must be changed.

Such change should start by enforcing the existing laws limiting the number of pillion passengers riding a motorcycle to one, and ensuring that every man, woman and child who sets out on a motorbike is wearing a helmet that meets basic minimum safety standards.

– The Editor

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Letters

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

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

Bulletproof – or a loaded – argument

John Wright (Wright and Wrong, Letters, *Gazette* issue of October 28) makes fair comment about the plague of whining foreigners. I think the chief offenders are those who have made little effort to understand life here and to fit in with it.

I am very happy to live in Thailand instead of my home country, and I hope Mr Wright agrees that, even as a guest here, it would be sad if one was not allowed the opportunity to express an opinion and make fair, constructive criticism. A greater culprit than the foreigners might well be someone in authority who is unwilling to listen to criticism and act on it.

I've been in Thailand several years and feel there are many everyday "problems" that could be solved by simple means. A change of attitude, a commonsense policy, organization, control and thoroughness would go a long way. One example is pollution, which is crying out for someone to sort out properly. If there is no action, surely Phuket is "shooting itself in the foot".

Brian Davis
Bang Tao

Money balks

Please, *Gazette*, try to encourage Richard Watson, the veteran Money Talks writer, to report on something other than his two pet loves: Brandeaux and hedge funds.

Brandeaux, on average, receives a healthy plug once a month, while hedge funds seem to achieve double that.

More than this, however, it appears that Mr Watson fails to report objectively any problems with hedge funds. Has he been isolated in Phuket for too long, unable to access recent news stories regarding hedge funds, particularly Amaranth Advisors?

Perhaps Mr Watson will do his reading public the honor of giving the cons as well as the pros in future articles.

Colin Stropley
Kata

Woody's goodies

I would like to thank Khun Woody for his excellent computer article "DO delivers – at a price" [*Gazette* issue of October 28 – November 3].

I recently moved here from Singapore and had the usual hold-ups getting an ADSL line installed by my landlord, so the 3G wireless Internet service from CAT has been a real godsend that has allowed me to get a lot of work done using my laptop.

From what I can see so far, and my experience has been fantastic, this is a very big deal for Phuket. The service is even better than Singapore's 3G offerings.

We went to the CAT office on Phang Na Rd to sign up for the service. The people there were very nice and within 30 minutes or so I had my card and CD-ROM in hand. I have been doing IT for decades so wasn't worried about installing it on my own. After glancing over the docs, the only catch is not to put in the card until the installation program asks for it. After getting back home, I was up and running in about three minutes.

So thanks for the article. It was a job-saver for me as the TOT ADSL line, which I still need

for redundancy, now looks like it is going to take weeks to get activated.

Heavens Spent
Samkong

Water: not a barrel of laughs

I couldn't help but laugh when I read in a recent issue of the *Gazette* that the Bang Wad reservoir had reached a record level of 6.3 million cubic meters of reserve water supply.

Given the island's ever-increasing resident population, rising number of visitors each year and the property-industry spurned water catchment areas, I reckon that's enough to last to, say, about Songkran.

After then we'll hear the island moan yet again about water shortages, and hear the government's same old excuses being trotted out by the relevant government departments topped up with, "Don't blame us, we're doing the best we can."

Yep, roll on '07.
Will Stokes
Chalong

Monkey business

I was saddened by the story about the coffee-drinking monkey, Poy, in the *Gazette* (issue of October 28). I understand that regulars at the coffee shop think it's great, but surely they could give poor Poy something healthier than coffee to drink.

They should give Poy bananas, nuts, surely anything but an addictive substance half the adult population in the Western world are struggling to kick as a habit.

Hanging Around
Phuket City

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

Unfair for limo drivers

Presently the PBC has about 150 limousines and 150 drivers. The number of fares we take to their destinations has fallen, with most of our members now making about four or five trips daily – compared to seven or eight trips daily at the same time last year. The reason that we are getting few fares is simple: metered taxis.

Before, metered taxis stood by to pick up fares in the airport car park, where they have a ticket counter. Back then, it didn't have too great of an effect on our business, but now the airport authority allows taxis to collect fares right at the arrivals pick-up area.

We have a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the provincial government which stipulates that metered taxis cannot pick up fares in this area [because the PBC pays annually for a concession to operate there]. But now the Airport Authority of Phuket is allowing them to do that, in breach of their contract with us.

I have already submitted a letter of complaint with the provincial government, which is processing the case.

I fully understand that good service, comfort and speed are important aspects of any limousine driver's work. This is especially important for an airport limousine drivers, as we are part of the impression new arrivals get on their first visit to Phuket. This is why we have to be service-minded.

Our new project will improve our drivers' service-mindedness, ability to communicate with passengers and driving standards.

We now have a maximum speed of 120kph on highways [Pol Maj Thanawat Liam-suwan, Traffic Inspector of Phuket City Police Station told the Gazette that the speed limit

FIRST PERSON

The Phuket Limousine and Business Service Cooperative Ltd (PBC), which holds a concession to pick up fares from Phuket International Airport, recently embarked on a new project to improve its quality of service.

The plan, aimed at increasing both revenue and the co-op's public image, includes dressing up its drivers in uniforms, improving their English language skills and even teaching them to drive more slowly.

Here PBC President **Manod Chupak** tells the *Gazette* more about the ambitious new initiative – and why it was needed.



on highways is 90kmh, while an official from the Phuket Provincial Land Transport Office told this newspaper that the speed limit was 100kmh] and 80kph in built-up areas. However, we still have some cases when we have to drive fast, such as when we have to get a fare to the airport in time to check-in on time for a flight. At the moment we have been getting fewer complaints about our drivers speeding.

In the past we have always tried to improve our service and the main reason that we want to improve the PBC's image is to increase both our co-op's income and service efficiency.

The TAT Southern Region 4 Office in Phuket will arrange a driver training session for 20 limousine drivers on November 3, 2006. Airport limousine drivers will be the first to receive it, be-

fore tuk-tuk drivers and taxi drivers.

Academic Aphichart Damdee will organize the session, which will involve two to three hours of training in language and manners.

Communication is important for drivers. Even if some passengers don't like to talk too much, it's still important that our drivers are able to greet customers, introduce themselves, and get information about their destinations. The drivers also must be able to sense just how much communication the fare wants to engage in.

In the future, we might invite American James A Mabey to give them training over a 15-day or 30-day period. We cannot start that yet, however, because our new committee members just took up their posts on October 1.

Another improvement to

our service will be "welcome drinks" and cold towels presented to passengers at the ticket counter.

In addition, we are preparing to sign a contract with seven hotels, including the Royal Paradise Hotel in Patong, Patong Resort and two more in Kata, the names of which I cannot recall.

After we sign the agreement, we will be able to collect fares from these hotels. I have chosen these hotels specifically because there won't be any problems with other people operating taxi businesses in those areas. We will also agree not to take fares from those hotels on tours into Phuket City.

Under the arrangement, airport limousine drivers will be able to pick up fares at these hotels, but only after receipt of a fax the previous day. If the hotel wants to cancel, they must let us know

at least two hours in advance.

These contracts with the hotels will allow our drivers to increase income and decrease expenses. In the past, airport limousine drivers delivering guests to their hotels always had to return to the airport empty, which is a waste of gasoline, money and time. So this arrangement will increase our income. The price of the service will remain the same.

Another fact we want to make known is about passenger's benefits. All PBC limousine passengers are covered by first-class health and life insurance, lost luggage insurance up to 200,000 baht and payouts for accidental death of up to 1 million baht. We are also covered for up to 10 million baht in the event of the death of a third party.

But most passengers don't know about the benefits our passengers have, so we will make a sign at the ticket counter and print the information on the ticket itself, both in Thai and English. We also plan to publicize our co-operative over the airwaves and have a plan to open our own community radio station.

So the image of the PBC is improving all the time and I hope this project will be successful within one year. We will also encourage passenger feedback by asking them to fill out customer satisfaction forms, the results of which will be analyzed after three months. So far the project is still in its initial stages. I would estimate that only about 20-30% of the changes have been implemented.

We have a bit of a problem at the moment in that we are currently operating under a one-year concession contract with the airport, with an annual fee of 600,000. If we could secure a long-term contract, then we would be able to keep this project in place continually.

How do I obtain a permanent electricity meter and my own bill?

Our company rents a shop unit that is in a series of other shop units. All renters have a temporary electricity meter except the landlord, who has a permanent meter. The electricity company told me that only one permanent meter per registered house number is possible. Is this true? If so, why does the electricity company give out "temporary" meters which then stay temporary for years?

The electricity company will not issue bills for temporary meters, and I have been told that I cannot pay my electricity bills

via a bank account. Why is it that the electricity authority cannot provide the same service to people with "long-term" temporary meters as they do to customers with permanent meters?

Susi Wong
Karon

Suthep Jitseree, Manager of the Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority (PPEA), replies:

Permanent electricity meters are provided for homes that have been registered with the local Tambon Administration Or-

ganization (*OrBorTor*) and have had house registration documents (*tabien baan*) issued to them.

Other residences that have not been registered with the local *OrBoTor* and do not have a house number are issued temporary electricity meters. However, bills are issued for temporary meters, and they can be paid from a bank account.

People living in homes with temporary meters, but who want permanent meters, must first have the house registered with the *OrBorTor* and a house number issued to it.

Issues & ANSWERS

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

The law and naming children

What Thai laws are there about a child's surname? Can a child take a combination of the mother's and the father's surnames? Can a child have a stranger's surname, a surname completely different from father and mother's surnames?

Somsong
Phuket

Suksan Siang-ake, Kathu District Chief Registrar, replies:

A child born out of wedlock automatically comes under the custody of the mother and must use the mother's surname, unless

the father alone registered the child's birth, which means that the child must use the father's surname. If both parents registered the birth then the child can use either surname.

Parents can choose a new surname for the child but the new surname must not be the same as anyone else's family name and must be in Thai.

Although you have the right to use any surname for your child, I suggest that the child has the same surname as the parents because that name is unique to that family.

In The Stars

by Isla Star

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Having a short fuse could cause you to say something you will regret this week. Remember that other people's opinions are just as important to them as your outlook is to you. If you are celebrating a birthday, it's worth asking your partner for the moon. Monday is the best day for taking a hot property deal to the next level and Tuesday for agreeing on a financial matter.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): You should still tread with trepidation where personal relationships are concerned. Your partner is likely to take innocent words to heart, which could cause arguments to brew. Later in the week a surprise visit will brighten your day. On the financial front, check that you actually sent an invoice before chasing for non-payment. Single Sagittarians are forecast to meet someone who could turn out to be a true soul mate.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): A long walk in the fresh sea air will do wonders to blow away the cobwebs. If you can't find the time to do this, then take a serious look at your schedule. There's at least one responsibility that can be off-loaded. An ex-partner is thinking about you; expect contact to be made imminently. Those who are contemplating moving to another house will probably need to settle for less than they desire.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Be careful not to shoot yourself in the foot this weekend. Your usual talent for having a way with words will probably be compromised by adverse astral conditions. The atmosphere clears toward the middle of this month, so put important business appointments on hold until then, if you possibly can. Leo looks poised to make a romantic approach, but Scorpio isn't available. The number 1 is lucky next Thursday.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): A groundbreaking meeting will take place this week. You'll have reason to jump for joy – if you were quick off the mark last month. Romance proceeds at a snail's pace, but your patience makes this easy to accept. If you are single, then forget your recent interest in Libra; this person is more of a cold fish than you realize. The color marigold orange encourages virtue.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): You will need a good head for figures to understand a financial situation early next week. Be sure to calculate carefully and double check. If you're mourning the lack of a fulfilling social life, then you need to get out of your rut and look further afield. On Wednesday you may need to call in a favor from a good friend. The scent of roses promotes a harmonious atmosphere.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Someone whose heart you thought was made of stone proves they do have feelings, after all. Good things come in threes for you this week, starting with positive news from overseas. After a flurry of activity on Monday and Tuesday, make rest and relaxation priorities. An investment opportunity presented by Aries is well worth consideration. Wearing the colors lime green and electric blue will spark off more energy.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Don't get carried away by promises made this weekend. Leo is only too ready to offer everything on a platter, but will not come up with the goods when you need them. Focus on projects that will have short-term results for the time being. Seek pleasure where you are certain to find it rather than heading off in new directions. Number 8 looks promising on Wednesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): It is advisable to trust your head more than your heart where romance is concerned; you should have taken enough lessons on board to know what is the right thing to do. An Aquarian friend is down in the dumps this weekend and expects you to do some cheering up. Make sure to pay overdue bills before going on a mad shopping spree. The color sunset pink softens your outlook on life.

LEO (July 24-August 22): If you can't get to the bottom of a mystery, it's time to ask for a second opinion. Sweeping this matter under the carpet won't work. On Tuesday, you may be faced with an important decision; insist on having the necessary time to consider all outcomes. An alluring Arian takes your breath away this Saturday and you find a seductive way of breaking the ice. The color gold brings luck.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Pouring oil on troubled waters is a skill that will become useful midweek. As much as you don't enjoy getting caught up in situations that have nothing to do with you, this will be unavoidable. Your luck in finances is set to improve slowly and surely, but you should streamline expenditure. Living for the moment is fine until the unexpected happens. The color lavender helps you see the truth more clearly.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): If you don't like what's being offered regarding a new job prospect, there's room for negotiations early next week. After then, someone hungrier for the opportunity will whisk it away from you. You should ask yourself if Capricorn has ulterior motives for painting a negative picture of a situation you believe to hold promise. As for romance, pieces of a puzzle fall into place this Sunday.

The source of Bubba's magic

A recent edition of *The New Yorker* featured a 30,000-word profile entitled "Being Bill Clinton". Editor David Remnick accompanied the former American president on a lengthy swing through Africa on his anti-AIDS crusade.

On the way from New York, Clinton stopped off in Berlin to catch the final game of the soccer World Cup. Before a huge crowd gathered at the Brandenburg Gate to watch the televised match, Clinton appeared briefly on the giant screen and was greeted with hysterical applause.

On his subsequent tour

through Africa, he was mobbed by rapturous crowds. The contrast with the current US president, Remnick noted, couldn't have been greater. George W Bush has made himself the most hated man in the world.

Clinton represents a different kind of American: warm, compassionate and optimistic. In Africa, he is seen as the second coming of John F Kennedy.

So how did Bubba get to be the way he is?

The question is answered in the first volume of his autobiography, *My Life: the Early Years* (Vintage Books, New York, 2004, pp646). The second volume about his presidential years is both cur-

sory and turgid, cribbed from daily diaries. But the first, when he was writing his heart out – about his childhood, his schooling, his early days in politics – is an American classic.

His childhood itself was classic Americana: the large Southern family fond of feasts and storytelling, his hardworking grandparents who instilled in him a lifelong aversion to racism, his fun-loving hard-drinking parents afflicted with a dark side. His grandmother thought that his stepfather Roger was "nothing but trouble".

"She was right about the trouble part, but not the 'nothing but',", Clinton writes. "There was more to him than that, which makes his story even sadder."

There were shameful episodes of violent drunken abuse. "I came to accept the secrets of our house as a normal part of my life," Clinton writes. "I never talked to anyone about them – not a friend, a neighbor, a teacher, a pastor... The question of secrets is one I've thought about a lot over the years. We all have them and I think we're entitled to them. They make our lives more interesting, and when we decide to share them, our relationships become more meaningful."

When he was 10, in 1956, the family got its first TV set, leading Clinton off on a string of 1950s memories: favorite kiddie TV shows, favorite movies, favorite music (Elvis, of course).



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

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The presidential conventions of that year sparked his first political interests. A year later, the violence surrounding the desegregation of Little Rock's Central High School led him to a life-long commitment to racial justice.

Overweight and clumsy in high school, excluded from the popular inner circle of jocks, he turned his energies to band music, school plays and political debates. In Georgetown and Yale, he found himself in the middle of the turbulent politics of the 1960s. The climax came with the riot between police and left-wing students at the 1968 Chicago Democratic convention. The event had a huge effect on Clinton:

"The fleeting fanaticism of the left had not yet played itself out, but it had already unleashed a radical reaction on the right, one that would prove more durable, more well financed, more institutionalized, more resourceful, more addicted to power, and far more skilled at getting and keeping it... Unlike the kids in Chicago, they didn't want America to come back together. They had an enemy, and they meant to keep it."

Many of the facts of Clinton's college years – including meeting his wife – are well known. Much less known are his early days of Arkansas "retail politics", driving alone from one small town to another drumming up support for his first political race – a time he recalls with much humor and warmth.

This is the jolly specter that will haunt the Republicans in 2008.

For trees, it's a jungle out there

Why is it that some trees are much taller than the average canopy level?

Find some old-growth jungle, such as at Ton Sai Waterfall or Khao Phra Taew, and take a look at the tallest trees. They have very straight trunks and no branches until they are above the average canopy level. This is because everything in the jungle, the high canopy jungle, is struggling for sun.

There's no sense in growing branches in the shade. Branches have leaves, and leaves need sunlight in order for the plants to grow. Part of the reason why sunlight is so important is because the soil in the tropics is not that nutritious.

There is a downside to this, however. For a tree to reach the upper canopy, it must grow a massive trunk – and this can take many decades.

There are also opportunistic plants lurking everywhere, trying to grab a free ride to the top. So, the tree is in a battle with a bunch of other plants, but which ones?

Bamboo, for example, is a very fast-growing grass. Yes, technically it is in the family *Poaceae*, which is the grass family. Under ideal conditions, some bamboo plants can grow up to a meter in one day. The only place you'll find bamboo in a true primary/pristine jungle is where a large tree has fallen, thus permitting light to reach the ground, or on a natural edge.

If allowed to grow, the bamboo will inhibit other plants – including trees – from growing by eating up all of the sunlight. No light will then reach ground level, so the seeds of emergent trees will be unable to sprout and grow.

Another unsocial plant is the rattan, which is in the palm family *Palmaceae*. The rattan has its main body rooted in the ground, but it also has long arms called tendrils. These are fast-growing and actually climb trees.



Behind you! The strangling fig cheats to survive by piggy-backing on existing trees, eventually killing them by blocking out the sunlight.

NATURE NOTES

By Dave Williams

They grow up towards the light above the host so they can monopolize all the sunlight through their leaves.

The tendrils also have downward-facing thorns, apparently to prevent them from dropping all the way to the ground in case a branch on the host tree or its trunk falls. These thorns are likely for protection too, although

most thorns on plants face upwards instead of down in order to protect the core of the plant.

A rattan's tendrils can also grow up to a meter in length in one day. If a tree is, say, 100 meters tall – well, you do the math.

Another plant that cheats to survive is the strangling fig (*Ficus*). This lazy parasite uses birds and other animals to carry out its ingenious procreation.

If a mature fig fruit is eaten by, say, a hornbill, the bird then defecates the seed. If the hornbill happens to be sitting on a branch at the time the seed will

stick. It immediately starts sending aerial roots down to the ground while at the same time growing branches skyward.

Eventually, the aerial roots will grow around the trunk of the unfortunate host tree. But this is not what eventually kills the host. It's what goes up that does the most damage.

The strangling fig also grows its leaves higher than those of the

host and kills it by starving it of sunlight. So the next time you happen to be out there in the jungle, take a look up. You can actually see what's going on.

It's every plant for itself in the battle for sunlight and survival.

Dave Williams runs the eco-expedition company *Paddle Asia*. For details, visit <http://www.paddleasia.com>

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If you've been following the news stories, you probably know that both Microsoft and a small, non-profit company called Mozilla recently released new versions of their respective Web browsers.

I'm still a fan of Mozilla's Firefox – a program that was originally designed primarily by a college sophomore and programmed by a group of volunteers. But I have to admit that Microsoft is finally catching up.

A bit of history.

More than any other product, Internet Explorer (IE) reflects Microsoft's odd and tortured approach to the Web. After ignoring the Internet, by and large, for many years, Microsoft released the first version of IE in 1995, as an add-on to Windows 95. In 1996, Microsoft built IE version 3 into Windows itself, violating anti-trust laws, using monopolistic tactics to overwhelm Netscape Navigator. That isn't my opinion; it's that of courts all over the world.

Having illegally driven its competitor out of business, Microsoft made almost no improvements to IE between August, 2001 and October, 2006, when the 'Softies finally released IE7. IE has become the single largest conduit for viruses, trojans, spyware and crapware in computing history, with major security patches appearing almost every month. Microsoft didn't make any money from IE, had no incentive to improve it, and you and I suffered.

And then there is Firefox. Dave Hyatt, Blake Ross, who was a sophomore at Stanford at the time, and hundreds of volunteers took on Microsoft, producing a fast, small, free alternative that quickly grabbed a significant share of the browser market. Microsoft responded by incorporating many Firefox features into IE7, which was released in mid-October.

Big news in the browser biz

Meanwhile, the good guys, er, the Firefox team came up with more than a few new ideas of their own, culminating in the release of Firefox 2.0 in late October. IE has a few features that aren't in Firefox 2.0, but Firefox 2 is loaded with goodies that IE7 can't touch.

So what's to like about IE7? Plenty. For starters, there's no question that it's more secure than IE6. (The Bard would have called that "damning with faint praise".) IE7 has finally picked up the tabbed interface – the ability to open several Web pages at the same time, each appearing on a tab inside IE itself – that Firefox has had from the beginning.

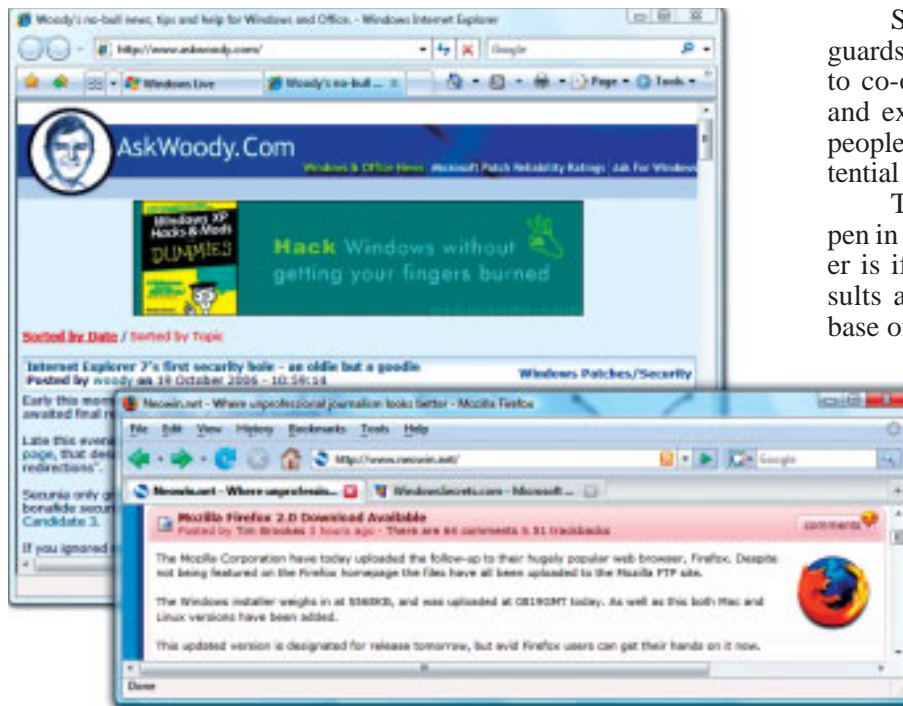
Print routines in IE7 run rings around IE6: you can actually print a Web page and not have it fall off the sides of the sheet. There are several more worthwhile improvements, and at

least one feature – Quick Tabs, the ability to see all tabbed pages at once – that

hasn't yet appeared in Firefox.

What's not to like about IE7? Plenty. Much of the old IE6 code persists in IE7, leaving many to wonder how long it'll be before IE7 starts sprouting security holes as adroitly as its predecessor. IE7 will install only on computers that pass the "Windows Genuine Advantage" hurdle that I talked about in a previous column – a horrendously flawed Microsoft attempt to halt the widespread dissemination of pirate copies.

IE7 will be "pushed" onto desktops soon. In fact, the push may have started by the time read this. If you have Windows automatic update turned on, the updater will ask your permission (!) to install IE7. At this point, I sug-



Keep an eye on Woody's site (top) for updates on IE7 security holes and other problems. Meanwhile (above), Firefox 2.0 is now available.

gest you wait and listen to the screams of the unwitting testers before installing it. I'll be following IE7's progress closely.

Ultimately, though, you will have to install IE7. Leaving IE6 running on your computer is equivalent to hanging out the welcome mat for every piece of junk malware floating around the Internet. Because of the way Microsoft built IE into Windows itself, you're exposed to IE6's intransigent ways even if you never use IE. Hard to believe, but true.

When you install IE7, you will be asked if you want to turn on the anti-phishing filter.

The anti-phishing filter examines Web sites as you surf to them, and tries to determine if the site is trying to extract personal information from you for nefarious purposes. IE7's anti-phishing filter should have no problem when you log on to, say, your

bank's logon page, or an airline's reservation page or Amazon's book ordering page.

But it'll squawk loud and long if you venture to a page that looks like, say, the PayPal or eBay logon page, but in fact retrieves the information you type and sends it to a scruffy teenager in Kazbukistan.

Before you blithely click to turn on Microsoft's anti-phishing feature, make sure you understand the consequences of what you're doing. Microsoft buries the details so deep it'd take a law degree to get the straight story.

Because of the way the IE7 anti-phishing filter works, if you agree to use the filter, you will send Microsoft complete, detailed records on every site you visit. Every site.

Understand that it isn't Microsoft's fault. Phishing sites go up and down quickly – a knowledgeable phisher won't leave his site up for more than a few days, and the very best have come and gone in a few hours.

An effective anti-phishing tool needs to catch, identify and block bad sites in a matter of hours, or even minutes. While Web browsers can (and do) identify bogus sites by their inherent, uh, phishiness, nailing a site more-or-less conclusively requires human evaluation.

So an anti-phishing tool that guards against fresh attacks has to co-ordinate the observations and experiences of millions of people, feeding the results to potential victims very quickly.

The only way that can happen in real time on your computer is if your Web browser consults an up-to-the-minute database of bad sites every time you

move to a new site.

And the only way that can happen is if your Web browser checks the blacklist database to see if the Web site you're about to hit has been tagged as a phishery.

Because of the way the Web works, when you check the database you leave

behind an IP address. If you use IE7, that giant database belongs to Microsoft, and a log of every Web site you visit, complete with your IP address, gets added to Microsoft's vaults. It's a Web advertiser's data mining dream come true.

Firefox 2 takes a gentler – though not necessarily better – approach. Firefox 2 doesn't pester you to sign up for anti-phishing services.

Instead, by default, the folks at Firefox periodically download a blacklist to your computer – a list of known phishing sites that the browser blocks.

Should you decide to sign up for Phirephox Phishing Protection, you will be warned, "If you choose to check with Google about each site you visit, Google will receive the URLs of pages you visit for evaluation... Google will receive standard log information, including a cookie, as part of this process." Straight talk. Admirable.

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

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PHUKET KING'S CUP REGATTA

2 - 9 December 2006



ON THE MOVE

Singaporean **Dick Isaac Ong Poh Chye**, 48, has been appointed Assistant Director of Knight Frank's Phuket office. Dick holds a diploma in building maintenance from Asia Pacific International University and another in property maintenance and facilities management from Singapore Polytechnic. His previous work experience includes employment with CB Richard Ellis, Standard Chartered Bank, Newman & Goh Property Management Property Consultants and the Oriental Hotel in Singapore. His move to Phuket follows work at Knight Frank Estate Management Pte Ltd in Singapore.



Chatree Rongmuang from Phang Nga Province has been appointed as the Front Office Manager of The Mangosteen Resort & Spa. A graduate of Srinakharinwirot University's English program, Chatree also holds a degree in hospitality from Sukhothai Thammathirat University. He has more than 12 years' hotel experience in Bangkok and Phuket. Prior to joining The Mangosteen, he was Room Division Manager with Sabana Resort in Nai Harn. His experience on pre-opening teams includes work with Amari Atrium Hotel, Ascott International Group and Oakwood City Residence in Bangkok.



Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa has announced the appointment of **Michel WJ Scheffers** from Holland as its new Food & Beverage Manager. Michel has worked with several five-star hotels in Asia, including the Dusit Thani Hotel in Bangkok and The Victoria Angkor Hotel in Cambodia. Prior to his new appointment, he was working at Laguna Beach Resort as Director of Food and Beverage operations.



LTU launches Germany-Phuket direct flights

LTU International Airways was set to launch direct flight services between Germany and Phuket November 1.

Direct flights depart Munich on Wednesdays and Sundays, with direct return flights departing Phuket on Mondays and Thursdays.

Travelers in Düsseldorf can board a connecting flight to catch the Wednesday flights from Munich to Phuket.

The Thursday return flights from Phuket to Munich connect with a flight to Dusseldorf.

The flights are to use Airbus 330-200s, which can accommodate 323 passengers; 18 in business class and 305 in economy class.

Fully booked, the new flights have the capacity to bring in 969 tourists a week, 3,876 tourists a month.

The flights are scheduled to continue until April 30, 2007.

Jarubhani Palarit, Sales & Marketing Manager of LTU Asia

Tours Ltd, explained that LTU launched the service to cater to rising customer demand in Germany.

"The initial direct flights to Phuket are 80% booked, which is a welcome move for the high season as many German people want to fly to Phuket," Jarubhani said.

She added that if the flights proved popular the airline will extend the service until the end of next year.

LTU also now has an alliance with Bangkok Airways to use Bangkok as a hub for travel throughout the region.

LTU now offers direct inbound flights from Munich to Bangkok on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays, and from Dusseldorf to Bangkok on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.



Aircraft in LTU's distinctive red-and-white livery can now be seen in Phuket.

Arrivals from Germany can connect with Bangkok Airways' direct flights between Bangkok and Yangon, Phnom Penh and Siem Reap, Luang Prabang as well as Koh Samui, Chiang Mai, Sukothai and Trat.

Outbound LTU direct flights now include from Bangkok to Munich on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays, and from Bangkok to Dusseldorf on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Mondays.

Arrivals to Germany can

connect with LTU flights to destinations including Dusseldorf,

Munich, Hamburg, Berlin, Stuttgart, Madrid, Rome and Athens.

Meanwhile, at the time of going to press, Scandinavian travel agent TUI Nordic's inaugural direct flight of its twice-weekly service from Gothenburg, Sweden's second biggest city, was due to arrive in Phuket about 1:45 pm November 2.

Boeing 747-400s, with a capacity of more than 400 passengers per flight, will be used for the flights, which will land in Phuket on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

The service will continue until April.

LTU International Airways (Phuket International Airport office). Tel: 076-327432. Fax: 076 327433. Email: ltu.airways@ltu-asia.com

VITAL STATISTICS: INTERNATIONAL PASSENGERS JUMP 57%

Type	Sept 2006	Sept 2005	% change
Domestic passengers	106,104	67,572	57%
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Look East for the future

The economic outlook for the world in 2007 is encouraging. The growth, as usual, will not be equally spread and forecasting is by no means an exact science. However, based on the current statistics, this is what is likely to transpire.

The US economy will, probably, record a GDP growth of about 2.5%. This is somewhat lower than projections for 2006, but still represents a benign environment.

Markets have been anticipating the next move by the US Federal Reserve, America's central bank, to be a downward turn in interest rates. This may not happen.

There are some indications that inflation will remain at the high level of the Fed's comfort zone. With unemployment at a low rate of 4.6%, productivity gains are unlikely to be impressive and there are pressures for incomes to rise.

The wild card for the economy is still likely to be a falling property market, and economists are scrambling to assess the effect this will have on consumer spending. The sheer size of the US makes it difficult to assess the overall residential property market. Many states never even really participated in the boom in prices; these states are unlikely to be greatly affected by the current turmoil.

However, the banking group HS-BC reported, in a 2005 survey of the US residential market, that 18 states were in "bubble" territory. It is these areas that the current drop in prices is likely to cause the most problems.

Millions of Americans have perceived the rise in residential property prices as a sign of increased wealth. Consequently, they have refinanced their home loans or used them to provide immediate cash for consumer spending, resulting in consumers taking on record levels of debt.

However, falling prices in



Hyundai Motor India launched a new model in September. India has ambitions of becoming a manufacturing hub to rival China.

- Photo by EPA/STR

many areas for residential property have removed this feeling of increased affluence.

Economists are trying to gauge the effect of this loss of wealth and many are now trying to compare its effect to consumer behavior after a stockmarket crash.

The typical economic model tells us that the impact of falling house prices is likely to be between two and four times as large as that of falling stockmarkets.

Over the past five years, the housing boom has resulted in the creation of many new jobs, and a substantial number now appear to be at risk. Consumer spending to date has still remained on track; it is future trends that are of some concern. Low unemployment levels have given overall figures a boost.

The current account deficit, with the trade deficit as its largest component, is of great concern, running at around 7% of GDP. This is bound to have future ramifications, probably in the form of a much weaker US dollar in the years to come.

MONEY TALKS



By Richard Watson

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petite for takeovers of companies around the world. The Indian government is acutely aware of the need to change laws to allow capital to be used more efficiently. It is also spending large sums of money on infrastructure.

It will take decades for India to start to show its full potential, yet with growth rates now at around 8%, they are making rapid progress. India wants to become a manufacturing hub to rival China; it is only hindered by bureaucratic obstacles that must be removed.

China's economy continues to make rapid strides. The IPO - initial public offering - of China's largest bank, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) recently raised almost US\$22 billion, the largest IPO ever recorded in the world. A significant percentage of these shares were

purchased by global financial institutions.

China has become a major economic force and now holds foreign exchange reserves close to US\$1 trillion. By comparison; the US has US\$40 billion.

Japan, the world's second-largest economy, is continuing with its economic recovery. Growth figures are still not impressive, but for 2007 it should manage to achieve about 2.5%.

Domestic demand is rising, but Japan has the same problem as many European countries - an aging and declining population. The central bank, the Bank of Japan, is expected to increase interest rates in 2007, but at a very modest rate to avoid upsetting a still-fragile recovery.

Elsewhere in Asia, many economies are still experiencing reasonable economic growth, on average 4% to 6%. This is obviously lower than the boom times of the 1980s and early 1990s.

Many of Asia's more developed countries are feeling the competitive pressure of China's economic growth and low-cost manufacturing. The huge change for Asia as a whole over the past decade has been the massive increase in foreign exchange reserves. It would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, for the region to experience another 1997 financial meltdown.

The balance of economic power in the world is rapidly moving to Asia. The global economic pie is getting larger, and Asia's share of it is growing ever larger.

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: 081-081-4611. Email: imm@loxinfo.co.th

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Moto Inzi proves a puff is enough

AO CHALONG: Roger Kingdon and crew on *Moto Inzi* managed to inch across the finish line before light winds disappeared altogether to win Race 13 of the Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) Keelboat and Multihull Race Series on October 29.

The regatta, sponsored by Susan "Lady Pie" Usher, herself racing on *Eos*, was ground out in very light winds around the islands to the west of Chalong Bay.

Eos and *Four Winds* had their now-customary tussle in the Cruising Class, this time with *Eos* taking top honors on corrected time.

Five multihulls – four from the Pescott/Latitude 8 stable plus *Kellowyn*, the Farrier Trimaran out of Idaho via Seattle – started the race. *Moto Inzi*, however, was just too quick for the flotilla and added more points to its season tally.

The ACYC will hold another Family Day November 5 with dinghies and free sailing lessons for children along with an afternoon barbecue. Visitors are welcome.

For more information contact Tom Howard at Tel: 081-797-1120 or by email at: sales@sea-phuket.com



The Chinese 'Sina.com' team aboard *Blue Juice* in last year's King's Cup. They placed fifth in IRC 1 division. – Photo: www.guynowell.com



Pedals to the metal

International marathon cyclists from Dubai zoom towards the finish line October 28 at the Moevenpick Resort & Spa, Karon, escorted by the the manager of the resort's Wildfire restaurant, riding the Moevenpick's pizza delivery bike. The cycling marathon began at the new Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok October 21. The 20 participants, aged between 14 and 60, were primarily from Dubai, but the group also included two cyclists from Thailand's national cycling team.

KATA: Retired businessman Frank Pong will be leading a small fleet of Chinese-owned yachts to Phuket to take part in the annual King's Cup Regatta.

Mainland China has experienced a growing interest in competitive sailing in the past few years, and with the 2008 Beijing Olympics approaching, the country's sailors are now starting to travel abroad to sharpen their regatta skills.

For the first time, a team of sailors from mainland China took part in last year's King's Cup, attracting a large following of Chinese media that sent daily television updates to Shanghai and other large cities in China.

As the countdown starts to this year's regatta, held December 2 to 9, the experienced Pong has been helping some of his countrymen gain international experience. But it hasn't been easy. "A major hurdle is the language barrier," says Pong.

"Most [yacht] owners from China do not speak English and they have been coming to me for

assistance in just sending in the entry forms for their boats.

"Of course, that is the easiest part of all. Race instructions are the hardest."

Pong has promoted the sport of sailing in China for many years. He has sailed in most of Asia's regattas and owns some of the region's fastest yachts.

At this year's King's Cup, Pong will be sailing his 75-foot *Jelik*. He will be joined by countrymen Adam Wu and Qiu Jian Min, who are entering their 41½-foot *Corby*, *Hummingbird*. Both owners are members of the Longcheer Yacht Club in Shenzhen.

The two owners were part of the Chinese team that sailed in last year's King's Cup on chartered *Blue Juice*, a Phuket-based yacht, and they sailed *Hummingbird* in the Koh Samui International Regatta after buying the boat in March this year.

"They are keen and have been practicing regularly in the summer," said Pong.

Pong said that many other

Chinese yacht owners were excited to enter this year's King's Cup. "I was told by various other owners from the Mainland that they too want to join," he said.

He added that there are two other possible Chinese entrants for the 2006 King's Cup, including *Cavalier*, a 40-ft catamaran that sailed from France to Shenzhen last year.

Pong also predicted that a large crowd will be following the Chinese yachts at this year's regatta. "It is likely you will see hundreds of [Chinese] supporters this year, if all the [Chinese] boats attend," he said.

Organizers expect that this year's regatta will attract a record fleet for two reasons: the regatta will be celebrating its 20th year and because this year marks the 60th anniversary of His Majesty the King of Thailand's accession to the throne. His Majesty, a sailor himself, is also the regatta's patron.

For more information about the King's Cup Regatta visit www.kingscup.com.






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FIVB: A preview of the action on Karon Beach

By Zach Fridell

KARON: Some of the world's best women beach volleyball players will be showing off their skills at the FIVB Phuket Thailand Open November 4 and 5, the last stop on the Swatch FIVB Beach Volley World Tour 06.

For *Gazette* readers ready to take in the beach spectacle, here's a list and photos of some of the stars to keep an eye out for.

Team USA's **Kerri Walsh** and **Misty May-Treanor**, fresh off a win at the previous FIVB tourney in Mexico, have a long history of wins and are vying for top honors in Phuket. Named Association of Volleyball Professionals (AVP) Team of the Year in 2003 after an undefeated season of 39-0, they went on to win Olympic gold in Athens in 2004 with a winning streak of 91 games and 16 tournaments.

This year the team has slowed slightly, coming to Phuket's tournament seeded in second place, but a strong finish – or a possible withdraw by the Brazilian teams – could propel them to another FIVB tour championship. The win in Acapulco was their third win in seven tournaments, but consistent play puts them in contention for the overall win.

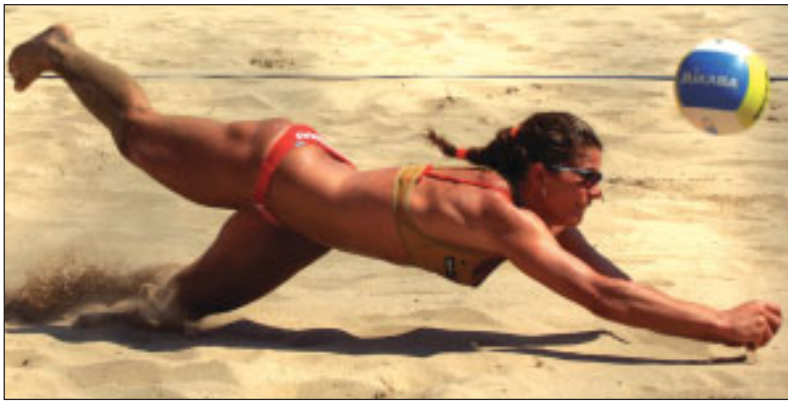
Team Brazil's **Juliana Felisberta Silva** and **Larissa Franca** are favorites to win in Phuket, but organizers say – as of press time – that the other two Brazilian teams have pulled out of the final tournament and it's unclear whether Juliana and Larissa will compete.

The duo has led the pack for most of the season and has the lead in points, but an absence or poor showing in Phuket is likely to cost them their season lead.

Two Chinese teams are ranked third and fourth for the



Players to watch for: Above left, Norwegians Nila Ann Hakedal and Ingrid Torlen celebrate beating the Brazilians; above right, Misty May-Treanor of the US and, below, Larissa Franca of Brazil.



Phuket tourney, and although **Jia Tian** and **Jie Wang** trail the two leading teams significantly in points, they have had a good season as they prepare for the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

Keep an eye on Norwegians **Nila Ann Hakedal** and **Ingrid Torlen**, who beat top-seeded Brazilians Juliana and Larissa in Mexico to take bronze, their first FIVB medal. Walsh said, "I would like to congratulate the Norwegians for their first-ever medal. They played great against us in the semi-finals and we were very fortunate to win. Since the Brazilians will not be in the season finale next week in Thailand, we expect we'll be facing Nila Ann and Ingrid sometime in the Phuket event."

Two teams from Thailand are guaranteed entry to the main draw event, with four other teams competing in the qualifying rounds.

The semi-finals and finals will be shown live on ITV on November 4 and 5, from 3 pm to 5 pm. The tournament will also be shown on Eurosport to more than 200 million households in Europe, and will be aired to an additional 20 million households in the US.

The Phuket Thailand Open is sponsored by the Tourism Authority of Thailand, the Sports Authority of Thailand, the Phuket Gazette, the Kata Group of Hotels, The Swatch Group, Grand Sport, Mikasa Haad Thip and CS Loxinfo.

PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

PATONG: Didi's shook off losing all three points to Coyote the week before with a solid three-point win against Funky Monkey on October 24, clinching their second straight Patong Darts League title with one week of play to go.

They will host the league party at Didi's on Soi Saensabai on November 7.

Play in the new league is expected to resume using the same schedule the following Tuesday, November 14, league secretary Steen said.

October 24 results: Dog's Bollocks 5 OffShore* 4; Amigos 2 Piccadilly* 7; Valhalla 5 Queen Mary* 4; Shakers* 8 Jungle Juice 1; Didi's* 7 Funky Monkey 2; Coyote Bar* 6 TaiLife 3; (* = winner of beer leg)

Standings (one week remaining): 1. Didi's (52 pts.); 2. Coyote Bar (48); 3. Piccadilly (45); 4. Offshore (40); 5. Dog's Bollocks

(36); 6. Shakers (32); 7. Amigos (30); 8. Queen Mary (26); 9. Valhalla (24); 10. Jungle Juice (23); 11. Funky Monkey, TaiLife (11).



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Construction Update

by Suganya Semacote

Piling and foundation work began in September on the Pearl of Naithon luxury condominium project, with a total of 78 apartment and penthouse units on 7.5 rai of land at Nai Thon Beach. The project is on schedule for completion by the end of next year.

Project Managing Director Stephen T Hughes, who formerly owned a telecommunications business in the United Kingdom, said investment in the project was about 20 million pounds sterling (about 1.4 billion baht) from a consortium of UK and Singaporean investors and their Thai partners known as the Kingsbourne Group.

Project design, in the contemporary Thai style, is by Phuket-based architect firm Lerthai Architects and construction is being done by Vassi Construction Company Ltd, also based on the island.

The project is divided into six four-story condominium blocks, each bearing the name of a precious stone: Emerald, Jade, Opal, Ruby, Sapphire and Topaz.

Each block has apartments on the ground and first floors and two-story duplex (shared wall) penthouse units above. Westward-facing units afford views of the sunset over the ocean, just a few meters away.

The condominium blocks are arranged around a central clubhouse area, facing the beach. Clubhouse facilities include a drop-off area, restaurant, administrative offices and reception area, bathrooms, gym, steam and sauna, pool bar, swimming pool, terrace garden and sala.

Garden areas will be tropi-



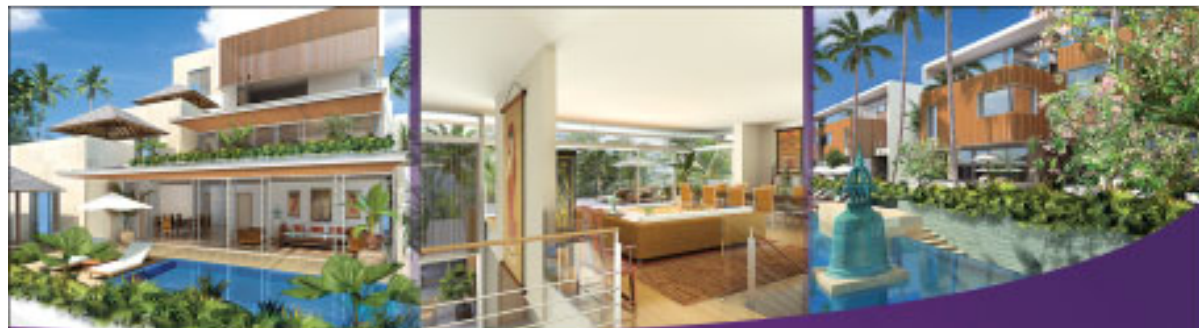
cally landscaped. Additional facilities will include a free-form swimming pool with jacuzzi, a swim-up bar and a spa center.

All units will be allocated spaces in an underground car park.

Prices range from about 10 million baht for a ground-floor 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom unit to 22.4 million baht for a four-bedroom, four bathroom penthouse. The developers are targeting UK buyers, whom they expect to take about 30% of the units, along with Scandinavians, Americans, and buyers from cities in Asia, including Hong Kong, Shanghai and Singapore. About 15% of the units have already been sold.

For more information visit the website: www.pearlofnaithon.com or call Stephen Hughes at Tel: 087-8888066.

Above, computer rendering of the project as it will appear from the sea. Below, living room in one of the three-bedroom units.



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Decor

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

For Natthakit Lertsakdadet of Kitchenette Boutique on Thepkasattri Rd in Phuket City, a kitchen deserves much more attention than being considered simply as the room for cooking.

"Every house must have a kitchen regardless of the house's design, but the owner or the kitchen designer must think of how the kitchen's character, usability and materials integrate with the home's general design," he said.

Natthakit, an MBA graduate from Chiang Mai University, has been working with firms selling custom-design kitchens for seven years. "Designing a kitchen is not the same as designing other parts of the home. With both there are many styles and each designer has his or her own preferred style, but with kitchens the owners often want to have a much larger say about what should be where, and then there are those owners who simply have no idea whatsoever about how they would like their kitchen to be," he explained.

"We aim to build functional kitchens. We discuss with the owner how they use the kitchen. For example, when they walk into the kitchen, what is the first thing they do? The answer to that question makes it easier for us to decide what layout we should use.

"We consider what activities the home owner might use the kitchen for, whether it be just for cooking or for parties and eating in as well. We also consider air flow and where windows are positioned, right down to where the sink will be," said Natthakit.

"So each kitchen's design is determined by the needs of the customer so it is as functional as it can be for them. That is what Kitchenette has learned from more than 15 years experience, and the more we talk to customers the more we learn."

Natthakit added that Kitch-

Cooking up kitchen ideas



Above, clean lines: an example of work done by Kitchenette Boutique. Left, Natthakit Lertsakdadet: 'Each kitchen's design is determined by the needs of the customer.'



nette Boutique focuses on both the electrical appliances and the kitchen furniture. "I think this is a special approach," he said. "We use long-lasting, high-quality materials because the kitchen is one part of a house that gets heavy-duty use, and we use real wood to make sure that the cabinets are strong and that the wood is termite-proof.

"Most of our products – except the electrical appliances, which are imported from Germany because they are good quality – are made in Thailand. We import only some wood that is not available in Thailand."

Natthakit explains that Kitchenette Boutique's clientele is more at the elite end.

"We ask that they be involved in designing their own kitchen, which is unusual for many of them, especially the housewives as they are not usually involved in designing the kitchen, they just cook in it.

"We use a 3D computer program to show customers what their finished kitchen will look like, and in creating the layout we consider many factors, including basic things such as how many and where power sockets will be.

"All materials and electrical appliances are guaranteed by the manufacturer, and we offer after-sales service to customers," he added.

Kitchenette Boutique. Open Monday to Saturday, 9 am to 6 pm. 76 Thepkasattri Rd, near Tiny Coffee. Tel: 076-232375-6.

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Home of the Week

Kathu



VALLEY VIEWS

Positioned high up on the side of a hill, this unique house overlooks the valley of Kathu with the hills on the far side of the Kathu as the backdrop.

This home has been styled for living in the tropics and designed with the view in mind; the main structure sits elevated on

the hillside and along the entire front of the home is a large veranda.

The indoor areas cater to all your living needs, but the main attraction of this house is the veranda and its impressive view.

Most of the 700-square-meter plot, which is fully fenced with an electric gate, is covered in landscaped gardens.

A concrete driveway leads to the parking area under the home that adjoins the ground-floor terrace with dining table and chairs.

On the upper level, the main deck is complete with wooden furniture, including a large dining table that can comfortably seat eight. A sofa and a matching pair of sun loungers complete the setting.

Off the terrace, but still en-

joying the view, are the lounge room, an office and the master bedroom with en-suite bathroom.

At the rear of the house are two more bedrooms and another bathroom, as well as a fully equipped Western kitchen to rear of the lounge room.

All windows are fitted with mosquito screens, and the home comes with air conditioning and solid teak flooring throughout, except the terrace, which has terracotta tiles.

Priced at 11 million baht, the property is available freehold with Chanote title.

For more details contact Richard Lusted at Siam Real Estate at Tel: 076-288908, or email: info@siamrealestate.com, or visit the website at: www.siamrealestate.com

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Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

Whatever happened to good telly? You used to be able to switch on and find at least something that was worth watching. Maybe I'm just getting old (of course, I am) but things just aren't what they used to be on the box.

Nowadays the airwaves are dominated by programs like *The World's Greatest Ever in the History of Mankind Never-seen-before Car Chases Caught on Tape*. Really, this stuff was boring even before it was "the world's greatest ever", but it's TV for the masses, so each one "greater" than the one before.

Even the Discovery Channel is succumbing to the temptation to hype things up. Gone are the days of informative programming – now it's *The World's Biggest...* or programs about disasters. It's getting old. What do they do next?

So-called "comedy" shows are just plain embarrassing now, with their predictable routines and canned laughter. *M*A*S*H*, back in the '70s and early '80s, was incredibly popular in the UK at the time. Why? Obviously, it was hilarious, but also because there was no canned laughter. It left its British audience to decide for itself what parts of the show they should find funny.

Why can't they bring back some of the old classics? *Fawlty Towers*, obviously, and *The Two Ronnies* would have to be there, but what about that forgotten classic, *Steptoe and Son*?

A truly bizarre bit of television, *Steptoe and Son* was all about a lustful old rag-and-bones man in London named Albert who lived with his long-suffering son, Harold, or 'Arold as he was known by his father.

The grubby and irritating Albert wasn't exactly the easiest person in the world to live with, and the hapless son constantly did his best to escape from his father.

Any Brits from my generation will remember the lascivious leers from the old man upon any mention of anything even vaguely



When pruning, aim for a clean, neat cut if you can, as growth behind it will be quicker.

TRIMMING ONE'S BUSH

female. The response from 'Arold was predictable: the immortal "You dirty old man..."

I'm probably turning into a bit of a dirty old man myself, actually. In fact there's no "turning into" about it – I think that in all likelihood I've been a dirty old man for years. There, I've said it. There are too many single gentlemen of my generation who try to deny it.

I even found myself distracted in a dirty-old-man kind of way while gardening recently. A friend of mine who is younger, far better looking and decidedly more female decided to trim her bush in her front garden. It was becoming a little unkempt so she decided to attack it with the pruning shears, and kind of kept going.

That's the thing about pruning – once you start you can't stop. An hour later, she decided

to take a break, and the fact that we live in Phuket, and that she'd decided to undertake this task in the heat of the day, meant that she'd become a bit sweaty.

She hadn't bothered wearing a certain undergarment when she'd got up that morning, with the result her now-sodden T-shirt was doing a magnificent job of highlighting a particular part of her anatomy. Well, two particular parts, if you want to get technical. This is the kind of gardening I like. Even pruning can be fun.

Talk to a gardener from the Western world about pruning, and he'll take a sharp intake of breath immediately, and shake his head with doubtful severity. "Now you've got to be careful", he'll say. "You really need to pick a suitable bud, and cut exactly an inch above that. But of course you can't prune that particular plant

at this time of the year," and so on.

As we all know, we're not in that part of the world – we're in Phuket. No need for doubtful severity here. You can just hack away at whatever you want. Literally.

There's a lot of nonsense put forth by so-called experts about pruning, but here are a few Bert tips, for what they're worth: You can prune at just about any time of the year.

You should cut in such a way that you think the whole thing either works better or looks better – make it the shape you want

and encourage it to grow in the direction you tell it to.

Aim for a clean, neat cut if you can, as growth behind it will be quicker.

When pruning large branches, first make a small cut underneath to stop the bark from tearing all the way down the limb.

If you're not sure what your intentions are, prune in stages, a bit at a time; you can always take more off, but it's hard to stick bits back on again.

Be ruthless if that's what's needed.

There are some plants for which pruning is essential to promote new growth. Many plants have a single flower or group of flowers on the end of a stalk rising from the ground. Heliconia, canna and some members of the lily family are examples. They are healthiest when whole stems are cut back completely once their flowers have finished blooming. Each stem will flower only once.

Should you want to take pruning to the extreme, then you could even sculpt your hedge into the shape you want. With the speed of growth here, it doesn't take long to train your plant around a wire frame of just about any shape.

I'm a big fan of gardening by the fairer sex. Does that make me a dirty old man? Yes, probably. Do I care? Not in the slightest. I'm even happy to dispense advice to appropriately-dressed willing lady pruners, or help to trim their bushes. Happy hacking.

Want to know more about a plant in your garden?

Email Bloomin' Bert at: bloominbert@hotmail.com

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LUXURY PATONG

seaview house. Stunning view over Patong, 5 rooms, 3 upstairs, 2 downstairs, 2 kitchens, 3 bathrooms, 2,500sqm land 230sqm indoor living, 150sqm outdoor living, 45 million baht. Tel: 081-719-3962. Email: phuketvillasale@gmail.com

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4 rai of land in Krabi Province, 7km to Krabi Town, 7km to Ao Nang. Amazing view. 1.4 million baht per rai. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-7475293, 085-7839825. Email: chillhouse@hotmail.com

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Developed land on a slope in Iravadi Housing Estate for sale. Beautiful view. 880 sqm. 4.4 million baht. Please call for more details. Tel: 084-6717856.

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400sqm. In nice peaceful area with waterfall, jungle, mountain. Chanote title, road access and electricity. Only 3.5 million baht. Tel: 081-8025420. Email: thureewan@hotmail.com

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GREAT SEA VIEW

Chalong top spot, soft slope, near beach. 4.5 million baht. Tel: 087-8938747.

1-STORY POOL VILLA

Sai Yuan. Between Rawai and Nai Harn in a nice area. Spacious tropical-Asian style with 5-star quality. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms + guest villa. Infinity-edge pool, big terraces + 508sqm tropical gardens. 8.9 million baht. Tel: 086-684-5368. Email: bisop5@yahoo.co.uk

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Villa, only 9.9 million baht, plus land plots for sale. Tel: 086-2670898.

RAWAI HOUSE

Includes pool. 7.5 million baht. 220sqm. Balinese style, stunning materials and layout. Best house, best price. Tel: 087-8938747.

PRIME LAND FOR SALE

Ao Makham - 1 rai, 1 ngan (2,000sqm). 25 meters of the land faces the main road and the back of the land is close to the sea. Price: 6 million baht. Nor Sor 3 Gor title.

Rawai - 2 rai, 70 sq wah (3,408sqm) on Wiset Rd (the main road to Rawai). 70 meters of the land is on the main road. Ideal for business or seaview condominiums. Price: 19 million baht. Nor Sor 3 title. Contact for more details. Tel: 081-8921057, 081-6919679. Email: angela_prajantabut@hotmail.com

SMALL PLOT

Rawai. 600,000 baht. Square plot, within walking distance of the beach. Last plot at this price. Tel: 081-5376866.

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Property Gazette

HOUSE FOR SALE



Nai Harn, 200sqm living space, 8m x 4m pool. 6 million baht. Tel: 087-889-6074. Email: info@sea-property-international.com

HOUSE FOR SALE



Absolute quiet in Chalong. Land size 1,000sqm, living area 240sqm, 3 bedrooms, 8m x 4m pool. Viewing highly recommended, 12 million baht. Tel: 081-272-2013. Email: info@sea-property-international.com

AMAZING SEAVIEW! KATA

Private Sale. Fantastic 4-story end-unit apartment on new development near completion. Need to sell quickly! Rooftop sun terrace with one of the best sea views in Phuket! Huge living room, 3 double bedrooms with balconies, 2 bathrooms, plus self-contained guest studio on ground level with living room and double bedroom with ensuite bathroom. Communal swimming pool and sun deck. Genuinely good value at 12.9 million baht ono. Call Greg for more details. Tel: 086-277-6698.

CONDO FOR SALE

On the 8th floor of Sky Inn in Patong. Also 122sqm house for rent at Pa Khlok Pleonuan. Tel: 081-5354177.

130 RAI AT LAYAN

Beach. Beautiful sunset seaview land at Layan Beach. 2 minutes to beach. One of the last under 80 meters and in the correct zone. Tel: 086-2726508.

BIG HOUSE KAMALA

On 2 ngan, beautiful place, large kitchen and living room. 7.6 million baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 087-2827357.

BEACHFRONT LAND KOH YAO YAI

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villa. Long-term rent. Furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, garden, covered 2-car carport and terrace. Rawai Beach. 20,000 baht a month. Tel: 086-940-8914. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

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Chalong Nia bon. 1 bedroom with kitchen, furnished longterm, 3 star plus, cheap. Tel: 089-6153576.

APARTMENTS

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LAKEVIEW APT/LOFT

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EXOTIC KATA

oceanfront. 5-star luxury 1-bedroom apartment. Spa, pool, quiet area, ADSL, sea view. Available December to January. Tel: 089-9726017. Email: asiasail@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at: www.koumbele.com/kata1

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HOLIDAY HOME

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MARINA VIEWS

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VILLA FOR RENT



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for rent/sale. Located in Soi Patong Resort, off Soi Bangla, the commercial hub of Patong Beach. Approx 180sqm on 2 open-plan floors. Suitable for commercial use. Unfurnished. Tel: 076-340290. Email: paciugo89@yahoo.com

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APARTMENTS

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NEW HOUSE

for rent or sale. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, garden, aircon, near Lotus, Central and Patong Beach. Nice, quiet area. Tel: 081-7356684, 084-1871939.

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CHALONG

beachfront. 3 bedrooms, furnished townhouse, as new, long term. 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-4706104.

KAMALA

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The New Oryx series from**

Gulcraft



Runabouts, Day Boats : 26 - 36 ft
Sport Cruise Series : 27 - 45 ft
Passenger Ferry : 36 - 56 ft

**TO AVOID DELAY!
ORDER NOW FOR THE NEW SEASON**

14/1 Moo 2, Thepkasattri Road, Phuket Boat Lagoon,
Phuket, THAILAND 83000
Tel: (66) 76 239986 Fax: (66) 7623 9987

GAME FISHING

Aussie custom 6-meter centre console, Thai "Flagged", in commercial survey! Import docs 100% correct. www.kohjoy.com/makocraft

WINDSURFING EQPT

wanted. Sails, masts, booms and boards wanted. Can collect. Tel: 076-282864, 084-8501340. Email: southseasurf@gmail.com

2 YAMAHA 200 HP

2 strokes. 2003, good condition. Including accessories. 250,000 baht ono for the pair. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-381010. Email: dsa@evasonphuket.com

COLUMBIA 45

world sailer. 45 ft sailboat fully equipped for worldwide sailing. Australian import duty paid (US\$10K + profit for reselling her in Oz). Built 1974 with spacious interior and two cabins. Life raft new in 2005, SSB radio & email. RIB dinghy with 15hp outboard. Email: aa4mw@yahoo.com

8-FOOT DINGHY

Rubber dinghy with 5hp engine, in good condition. Price: 60,000 baht. Tel: 081-895-1724.

SAIL & KAYAK

Big boat, shade, good food. Captain + 12 people for day trips, 6 overnight. Tel: 081-6771641.

TOUR / FISHING BOAT

Jim Young's "Vindex" design. Built in cedar strip/epoxy. 35 ft long, 12 ft beam. 300 hp Cummins turbo diesel ZF gear box. Hydro stunning from main cabin or fly bridge. Thai built/ licensed. Price: 1.5 million baht. Tel: 081-8166940.

STEPPA 36 FOR SALE

Due to an increase of our boat capacities, Sub Aqua Khao Lak is selling its speedboat fleet. Blue Sea 1 (a "Steppa 36" fiberglass hull built by Phuket Water Taxi) is still available for sale. Best offer gets it. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-485165, 081-787-4043. Fax: 076-485165. Email: khaolak@subaquadivecenter.com

RUBBER DINGHY

2.5m: 20,000 baht. 3.5m dinghy: 40,000 baht. 5hp engine: 15,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Email: smuldersos@hotmail.com

FOR SALE

27 ft fiberglass center console speed boat: 600,000 baht. 26 ft open fisherman fiberglass boat with 200hp Yamaha: 500,000 baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 086-5950978.

NEW 35' SPEEDBOAT

for rent. Luxury fiberglass boat with head, shower, cabin, etc. Rent to hotels, dive shops and private day trippers. Please contact for more information. Tel: 46-704534768. Email: info@swedcraft.com



Find more classified ads

"Boats & Marine"
at **www.phuketgazette.net!**

Island Job Mart



Eclipse is a leading restaurant development and management company with offices in Hong Kong and Bangkok. We are now looking for the following professionals to help us open Phuket's first MEXICAN RESTAURANT & MARGARITA BAR located on Beach Road in Patong.

Operations

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Head Chef
- ท็อปครัวใหญ่ | 6. Assistant Restaurant Mgr
- ผู้ช่วยจัดการห้องอาหาร |
| 2. Sous Chef
- รองท็อปครัวใหญ่ | 7. Restaurant Supervisors
- ซุปเปอร์ไวเซอร์ห้องอาหาร |
| 3. Chef de Partie
- เชฟ เดอ ปาร์ตี | 8. Waitresses
- พนักงานเสิร์ฟ |
| 4. Commis Chefs
- ผู้ช่วยก๊อ๊ก หลายตำแหน่ง | 9. Bar Manager
- ผู้จัดการบาร์ |
| 5. Bartenders
- บาร์เทนเดอร์ | |

Office

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Accountant
- สมุห์บัญชี | 1. Office Assistants
- อธิการ |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|

For office positions, hotel experience is an advantage and written and spoken English essential. Top salaries and benefits package for all positions. Email resume with photo and expected salary to patcharanan@eclipse.co.th or mail to: Eclipse Management Ltd, Suite 8E, Kamol Sukosol Building, 317 Silom Road, Bangkok 10500

ทุกตำแหน่งหากมีประสบการณ์ทางด้านงานโรงแรม, ทูตและเขียนภาษาอังกฤษได้เป็นอย่างดี
พิจารณาเป็นพิเศษ สนใจส่งประวัติพร้อมรูปถ่ายมายัง patcharanan@eclipse.co.th
หรือต่อเอกสารทางไปรษณีย์มาที่ บริษัท อีคลิพส์ แมเนจเม้นท์ จำกัด เลขที่ 317
อาคารมณีนุท ๓๘ ชั้น 8 ห้อง 8 อี. ถนนสีลม แขวงสีลม เขตบางรัก กรุงเทพฯ 10500



The Racha is Thailand's premier deluxe island hideaway, where people can balance body, mind and spirit in an environmentally friendly space. We are now looking for enthusiastic individuals to join the team of our 5-star deluxe resort with 70 villas.

- F&B Manager - Freelance Yoga Teacher

Both above positions are open to Thai or foreign nationals and require previous experience in a similar position.

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| - Bartenders | - F&B Attendants |
| - Commis I or II | - Spa Therapists |
| - Reception Supervisor | - Guest Service Officers |

You should be able to live and work on Racha Island, which is around 35 minutes away from Phuket by our own speedboat. You should have a good command of English and service mind. We will provide training for candidates with no experience.

The Racha aims to be one of the premier resorts in Southeast Asia and we provide a competitive remuneration package and benefits.

Please submit your letter of application together with your CV and a recent photograph to:

The Racha
42/12-13 Moo 5, Rawai, Muang,
Phuket 83130
General Manager gm@theracha.com
Phone 0 76 355 455 Fax 0 76 355 637
www.theracha.com



SOLAR TECHNICIAN
& sales. Wanted: technicians, sales and fitters for PV & solar hot water systems. Diploma or experience with solar energy is required. Please contact. Tel: 076-378361, 081-7722300. Fax: 076-244652. Email: info@phuketsolar.com

SECRETARY/OFFICE
staff needed by dive-liveaboard company. Must have good command of English, basic accounting skills. Salary dependent on experience. Tel: 076-398367. Email: info@liveboard-thailand.com

QUALIFIED FEMALE THAI CHEF

To live and work in the Northern Territory, Australia. Must be able to speak and read English and capable of cooking Western-style dishes as well as Thai meals. Work alongside Australian chefs. One way airfare paid for (return airfare will be paid for after a qualifying period), accommodation and duty meals provided free of charge. AU\$40,000 per annum. Please contact for more details. Tel: 08-8972251-1, 04-16179657. Fax: 08-8972262. Email: petmags@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: 084-8491323. Email: sfru@bcis.ac.th

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

New international travel/adventure company with operations in Nepal and Indochina requires personal assistant. Must speak English and Thai; reading and writing ability preferred. Should have sales and marketing background with travel industry experience. Please send resume and salary requirements. Email: leighw7@hotmail.com

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

COOK + WAITRESS
needed. 1 cook (5 pm-10 pm) and 1 waitress needed. Tel: 081-8914019. Email: tkoschig2000@hotmail.com

PART-TIME WORK

Promotional staff needed in Patong for brochure distribution on Bangla Rd. Can be students. Contact Jony at Tel: 087-8817600.

British International School, Phuket are now seeking:

Senior Secretary 1 Position

- Thai nationality
- A Bachelor or Master's Degree in either business, administration, education or related fields
- High levels of written and spoken English, along with computer literacy and developed administrative skills
- Experience of working with Thai and foreign customers and managing office staff

Registered Nurse 2 Positions

- Bachelor degree of Nursing or higher with active license
- 2 years experience in Nursing
- Computer literacy is essential
- Good spoken and written English skills
- Service minded
- Interpersonal and problem solving skills
- Challenge job-oriented
- Team player
- Loves to work with children and people

Cook's Helper 1 Position

- Male or Female
- Thai national
- Education Certificate from middle school
- 1 year related experience in food preparation

Please send a short letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, recent photograph and e-mail/fax and telephone contacts of referees to: patcharakorn@bcis.ac.th or sirirats@bcis.ac.th



British International School, Phuket (BCIS)
59 Moo 2, Thepkasatri Rd, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200 Thailand
Tel: 076 238 711-20 Fax: 076 238 750 Bangkok Tel: 02 636 8991-2 Fax: 02 636 8992
www.bcis.ac.th

Looking for a job?
Still haven't found the perfect candidate?

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at www.phuketgazette.net!

Island Job Mart

Le MERIDIEN PHUKET BEACH RESORT

Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort, one of the leading hotel on the Island, with 470 deluxe rooms, is inviting applicants for the following positions:

- ✧ Bar Manager
- ✧ Maitre d' Hotel
- ✧ F & B Hostess
- ✧ Waiter / Waitress
- ✧ Arabic Chef (Chef De Partie)
- ✧ Indian Sous Chef
- ✧ Korean Chef
- ✧ Chinese Chef
- ✧ Thai Chef
- ✧ Gardemanger Demi Chef De Partie (Cold Kitchen)
- ✧ Gardemanger Chef De Partie
- ✧ Gardemanger Chef – Junior Sous Chef
- ✧ Gardemanger Chef
- ✧ Commis Cook
- ✧ Guest Service Agent
- ✧ Guest Relations Officer
- ✧ Assistant Laundry Manager

Attractive salary, fringe benefits and career opportunities are offered to successful candidates.

Please send your resumé with recent photo by November 15, 2006 to:

Human Resources Manager
P.O. Box 277
Phuket 83000
Fax (076) 340479
E-mail: somchai.sakulthep@lemeridien.com

MARKETING COLLEAGUE WANTED

- Good personality
- Working experience in marketing & sales
- University degree in business admin or related fields
- Self-motivated, service minded

Please contact: Show Nai Nam Co, Ltd 8/6 moo 7, Kathu, Phuket 83120 Tel: 076-202580, 081-241-0621. Email: shownainam@hotmail.com

SENIOR STAFF

wanted. An established furniture lifestyle company has 2 positions available. An interior designer with proven portfolio and an experienced general/office manager. English speaking, computer literate, self motivated and professional team players. A generous package is available to the right candidates. Please send CV by email. Interviews to be arranged shortly. Tel: 089-4595142. Email: phuket@beautifulworldthailand.com

PRIVATE VILLA

We have openings for the following positions:

1. Thai chef
2. Assistant chef
3. Waitress
4. Room maid

We provide excellent working conditions and salary. Call Tel: 086-2716850.

RESTAURANT MANAGER

Sunset Beach Resort is looking for a restaurant manager. Tel: 076-342482-5. Fax: 076-342500. Email: info@sunsetphuket.com

KARAOKE HOST

required. Karaoke presenter/personality. We are looking for a real star to shine in our new Western-music karaoke wine bar and restaurant. This is a great opportunity for the right person to join a growing, thriving company in the heart of Patong Beach at the Tai Life complex. You must have the ability to sing, engage the customers and encourage them to sing, enjoy themselves and perform to the best of their ability. We will provide you with an outstanding venue, great sound and video equipment and effective marketing support. All you have to do is shine. Tel: 076-340904, 087-2834680. Email: info@yorkshireinn.com

RESTAURANT STAFF

Well-known Scandinavian restaurant in Karon is looking for waiting staff. Tel: 089-0088146.

INTERNET SHOP

We're looking for female Thai nationals, to work as cyber cafe receptionists. 1 full time, 1 night time (6 pm to midnight). Possibility of lodging. The applicant has to speak English. Patong area. Call K. Yupha at Tel: 089-4719712.



We are now accepting application and resumes for the following positions. Please apply at our Chalong location.

Wine Connection Bangtao Branch	
Shop Manager	1 Position
Resturant Manager	1 Position
Sous Chef or Chef	1 Position
Shop Assistant	2 Positions
Bartender	1 Position
Cashier	2 Positions
Cook	1 Position
Helper	1 Position
Wait staff	2 Positions

Wine Connection Chalong Branch	
Sales Excoutive	1 Position
Sales Admin/Secretary	1 Position
Assistant shop Manager	1 Position
Sous Chef	1 Position
Cook	2 Positions
Bar Staff	1 Position
Wait staff	2 Positions
Driver	1 Position

Please send resumes to

Contact: Wine Connection (Chalong branch)
19/54-57 Moo.8 Chaofa Rd., T.Chalong, A.Muang, Phuket
Tel : 076-282411-12 Fax : 076-282414.
Email: shopmgphuket@wineconnection.co.th

ASSISTANT MANAGER

Energetic female 25 to 35 yrs. Healthy, outgoing person needed to help operate 2 smoothie / juice bars! F&B and supervisory experience an advantage. 12,000 baht a month + commission. Tel: 081-8239448. Email: cjp@punpun.biz

WEB RESEARCH

administrator. Urgently required for Internet diving services company. Come and join our friendly team. Email: jobs@scuba-4u.com For further information, please see our website at: www.scuba-4u.com/web_research_admin.php

BLUE FROG

waitress. Looking for a qualified, cool & experienced waitress. English speaking. Please call K. Pael for more information. Tel: 086-2832279.

THAI STAFF

for dive shop. We have the following positions open:

- Divemaster/Instructor
- Salesperson/Office Manager

For the right candidates we offer an attractive salary corresponding with her / his working experience and education. Tel: 089-5918105.

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

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. Contact. Tel: 076-527565. Email: cv@phuketoceanvillas.com

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER

Requires past experience establishing and maintaining human resource activities. Proficient in both written and spoken English with strong knowledge of Thai government labor regulations/rules required. High degree of computer skills and knowledge. Qualified persons submit CV by email for review. Please contact **Destination Air**.

Email:
pat-james@myway.com

OFFICE CLERK

needed by new pool company. Must have good command of English, basic accounting skills, computer literate (Excel, Word, Internet) and a driving license. Please contact Gary for more information. Tel: 085-7952552. Email: warton.gary@gmail.com

BBQ RESTAURANT

Requires BBQ chef, cook's helper and waitresses. Excellent salary and working conditions for the right candidates. We are located in Patong. For an interview or for more information call Henri at Tel: 087-8901824 or Alain at Tel: 086-2830306

SALES AGENT

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. Please call for more information. Tel: 076-279-2801, 081-3977899. Fax: 076-279282. Or send email to: lyndon.phillips@engvoelkers.co.th

for the perfect trip...just click!



The Hotel Travel Network is an international and multicultural company, employing experienced and knowledgeable staff from six continents. We pride ourselves in our ability to provide unparalleled service in 8 different languages.

Applications from candidates with the following qualifications are now being taken for our Phuket Call and Reservation Centre.

Travel Writer (full time)

Job Responsibilities:

- Create/Edit Travel Guides
- Administer a Travel-related forum (answering customer's travel-related questions)
- Write Articles for Tangent E-zine, online monthly travel magazine
- Create/Edit Hotel information

Qualifications:

Prospective applicants should have the following skills/experience:

- Native English-speaker
- Excellent Creative Writing skills with a firm grasp of correct grammar and spelling
- Curiosity and passion for travel
- Ability to work on a deadline
- Internet research savvy
- Travel Industry, Marketing, or Journalism experience would be an advantage.

Interested applicants please submit your application including resumé / CV or employment certificates as well as a writing sample to careers@HotelTravel.com or call 076-282808 Khun Annapob Satakorn, Personnel Manager for further information

PROJECT MANAGER

Candidate would be able to manage projects for the MD. Projects may be in administration, construction, marketing, or technology. A well-rounded person with different skill sets and experience is needed. Must be a problem solver who can think outside the box. Submit CV by email for review. Please contact **Destination Air**.

Email:
pat-james@myway.com

SECRETARY

/receptionist wanted. Single female, good English, friendly, computer skills, responsible. To work with foreign manager. Tel: 076-344350. Email: robor@kalimresidence.com

RESTAURANT KARON

Seeks Thai lady to take orders. Hours: 4pm - 12 am. Call Noy for interview. Salary: 5,000 baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 089-4731351.

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Thai female. Age 22 - 30, good spoken and written English, able to use MS Office & email. Minimum 2 years' experience. Tel: 076-260468. Fax: 076-260440. Email: admin@thephuketestate.com Please see our website at: www.thephuketestate.com

NEW RESTAURANT

Experienced English-speaking manager required for new Indian restaurant in Laguna area. Good salary and share of profit for the right person. Please apply with your details, including current and expected salary. Please contact. Tel: 081-8937028. Fax: 076-254-827. Email: sutisa.potter@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Duties require management of the administration and scheduling for foreign managing director of aviation company. Strong computer skills and ability to communicate ideas to others needed. Must have common sense to solve problems without supervision. Candidate would be free to travel as required for training or attend trade shows in the region. Qualified persons submit by email CV for review. Please contact **Destination Air**.

Email:
pat-james@myway.com

OFFICE STAFF

needed. Must have very good English communication skills. Tel: 076-2647702. Fax: 076-264773. Or email: info@kajonkiet.com

Employment Wanted

RUSSIAN GIRL

Is looking for a job in areas of hospitality, tourism, admin, sales, translation, teaching. Ready to start! Please call for full details. Tel: 085-7820367.

NEED A JOB

in Phuket. For anyone who needs a personal assistant or a fluent English-speaking employee. I am moving with my family to Phuket and need a job. I am a university graduate, speak fluent English and have experience in secretarial work and hotel management. Please contact for more info. Tel: 086-5375391. Email: Phacharins@hotmail.com

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Announcement

FEAR BLASTER

No more phobias and fears in hours. Trauma, water, height, public speaking and more. Money-back guarantee. Email: fearblaster@gmail.com

Articles for Sale

CASIO KEYBOARD

New latest model LK30. 300 rhythm tones and song bank. Paid 12,000 baht. Will sell for 7,000 baht. Tel: 089-5934193.

PHUKET MEGA SALE

Many household & business items. Please email or call for complete list. Tel: 076-321402, 081-7372177. Email: nikki.indigosiam@gmail.com

ELECTRONIC SAFE

- 18 items, Safe Place brand
- 4 digit PIN
- Extremely easy to use
- Dimensions (cm): 35x40x22
- 1 handheld unit
- Several operating levels, controlled by password plus 2 override cards
- English manual and accessories.

Price: 29,000 baht or best offer. Cannot be sold separately. Tel: 081-8933077. Email: goldenpalms2001@hotmail.com

JAVANESE QUEEN

chairs. A pair of brand new, mustard-yellow leather teak-framed chairs. High quality, stylish and unique in Phuket. No space forces sale. 30,000 baht for the pair. Email for photo. Tel: 076-385932, 089-8681995. Email: stusmith@phuket.ksc.co.th

PADI SCUBA BOOKS

and more. PADI Instructor Manual PAPER (with FREE Peak Performance Buoyancy, Coral Reef Conservation, and Project Aware specialty outlines, and latest updates): 4,950 baht. IDC Instructor Candidate Workbook PAPER: 1,350 baht. Confined Water Lesson Prep SLATE: 290 baht. Open Water Lesson Prep SLATE: 290 baht. And much, much more. Call for details. Tel: 087-4183127. Email: americanoregon@hotmail.com

SONY 42" TV

Projection TV, boxed, as new, can be delivered. 25,000 baht or best offer. Tel: 081-906-6243. Email: jon@freedomsurfing.com

Bulletins

RAFFLES DESIGN WORKSHOP, PHUKET

Design workshop conducted by Raffles Design Institute at The Metropole hotel, Phuket City on Nov 18 and 19, 2006. Students will learn more about fashion, graphic and design in general. For more information, please call. Tel: 02-6327666 or see our website at: www.rdi.in.th

ANNUAL CHRISMAS CRAFT FAIR

Come by the shop on Saturday to do some early X-mas shopping, order Christmas goodies, and enjoy lunch or afternoon tea. There will be local artisans and crafters with lovely things for sale. Call Julie at Tel: 089-868-2639, or Kung at Tel: 076-281-274 for more information, or to reserve table space for the sale.

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

KATOYS'R'US

Famous Patong Cabaret Bar. Tel: 081-8955242. For further information, please see our website at: www.katoysrus.com

NO 1 PATONG

sea view. Looking for investment partner for, newly-built hillside restaurant & bar to open December. 40 rai, best place and beautiful to build a bungalow or apartment hotel or villa. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-4713610. Email: citadella.phuket@mailbox.hu

33 APARTMENTS

Patong. For lease at Nanai. 5-year, 10-year, 15-year options starting at 7.2 million baht for whole block. Please call for more information. Tel: 084-8922830.

RENT FREE FOR 5 YEARS

10-year lease, large restaurant/bar in Kata/Karon area in the heart of commercial spots. Capital required: 3 million baht for 49% share. Call Peter for more info. Tel: 089-2892297. Email: peter.jones100@hotmail.com

BAR/RESTUARANT

in Nanai Rd, best offer. 2 years 4 months left on lease, with further options. Profitable business, all equipment, 8 months old. 3-story building (live in). Genuine reason for this urgent sale. No time wasters, please. Tel: 084-847-8469. Email: ptpbar@yahoo.com.au

BAR FOR LEASE

On the main road, 550,000 baht. Tel: 081-6760125.

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.

RESTAURANT

for sale, Chalong. Mr Sopranos Restaurant & Bar. 40+ seats. Lounge area with pool and sofas. Cheap rent. Tel: 089-8605007. Email: meccar@msn.com

OFFERING 10%

interest. Until 31 Dec 2006 for 250,000 baht. European business man has cash flow problems for the moment (divorce). Money is on fixed deposit in a Thai bank account! Lawyer contract and partnership possibility in a newly established Thai Ltd company (if you need a visa and work permit). Email: Zukunft@hotmail.com

GUESTHOUSE LEASE

Great location in Patong. Buy before high season, long-established, 9 rooms. Restaurant, bar, family-run, good future. Please call. Tel: 089-6489932.

THE BEST SITE IN NANAI ROAD



Bar restaurant. In front of Bansa fresh market and Jungceylon (Carrefour, Cinema, opposite 7/11 and FamilyMart) 80sqm. All furniture and material new. Very nice decoration and design. Good conditions. Can start serving immediately. Tel: 076-346004, 081-17972173. Email: georges.lancry@hotmail.com

FRANCHISE-ANTIQUE GALLERY

Antique gallery which now has branches in Singapore, La Reunion & Langkawi looking for a franchisee. Pieces are preselected to maintain standard & quality. Shipment comes in as ready to start business. Great potential. Interested parties please forward an email to: sroute@streamyx.com

RESTAURANT

and apartment. Restaurant on 1st and 2nd floor, apartment on 3rd floor and staff room on 4th floor. Business for sale or lease, possibility of buying the property as well if interested. Tel: 081-8915602. Email: andrea.capucci@gmail.com

BUSINESS IN PHI PHI

Island. Now for sale in a top location. Fast food corner and Internet business, plus owner's room with balcony. 14-year contract and low monthly rent. Call for more details. Tel: 081-0820039. Email: asiantips@gmail.com

BAR RESTAURANT

for sale. Running lounge/pool bar. Very good location in Phuket City near Royal Phuket City 80sqm. All furniture and materials, new kitchen, aircon, Sono-Ecran plasma screen. Very nice decoration and design. 4-year lease. Price: 1.9 million baht. Tel: 076-383825, 081-728-8087. Email: georgeslancry@hotmail.com

KATA BEACH

Cozy small Resort & Spa, 12-year leasehold for sale. Cafe, restaurant and subleases included. Zero rent, no key money, 2 bedrooms/bathrooms. Next to beach and city center too. Can get visa/work permit. Tel: 086-5413629. For further details, please see our website at www.phuket-massage.com

SEAVIEW PROJECT

for sale. Seaview project sitting on 8 rai with two show houses already built. Only 60 million baht. Minimum take-over required: 9 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-398106, 087-2837161. Fax: 076-398517. Email: jon.gibbons@karonproperty.com Please see our website at: www.karonproperty.com/forest_hill_project.html

MASSAGE / NAIL

salon for sale. Busy massage and nail salon near Bangla. Thai owner moving to America. High season is almost here. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-0468603.

GUESTHOUSE

and restaurant. In Patong. Nanai Road, good location - opposite Mae Ubol Market. Long-term lease 3 + 3 years. Fully furnished, everything brand new. 5 rooms with aircon, fan, big fridge, cable TV, hot/cold shower. Separate small room for staff available. Restaurant with 36 seats, kitchen fully equipped. Including Thai company Ltd and all necessary licenses. Ready to operate from first day. Asking price 3 million baht, no key money! Price includes prepaid rent until July 2007. Tel: 087-1203082. Email: r.schimmack@mail.isis.de

KAMALA

restaurant & bar. Famous for pizza + Texmex. 40 seats, air conditioning, equipment, stock and furniture. For sale at 500,000 baht + rent 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-287-8966, 086-9451642. Email: boomerkamala@hotmail.com

PARTNERSHIP

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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. Fax: 076-345554. Email: philipp@loxinfo.co.th

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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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PHUKET COUNTRY

Club. I am looking for a PCC membership. Best offer considered. Tel: 086-9432078. Email: mdefeo@gmx.net

BLUE CANYON

Wanted: Blue Canyon Club membership. Tel: 081-906 6243. Email: jon@freedomsurfing.com

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computer. Apple Mac G5 desktop with 17" screen. 12 months old, as new, boxed, and still under warranty. 28,000 baht. Tel: 08-190-66243. Email: jon@freedomsurfing.com

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