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Foreign teachers face crackdown

By Noolek Karaket

PHUKET: Schools across the island have asked Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit to petition the Ministry of Education (MoE) to ease new regulations requiring all new foreign teachers to have at least a bachelor's degree and to pass an extensive background check before they can begin work.

The decision to approach the Governor was made at a meeting at the Phuket Educational Service Area (PESA) office on October 31, chaired by Niran as one of his last acts as Vice-Governor before his promotion to Governor.

At the meeting, attended by representatives of 37 private schools and 14 government-run schools on Phuket, it was agreed to ask the Governor to petition the MoE to also allow teachers to work while the lengthy background checks are being conducted.

Owners of small private schools employing foreign teachers, especially language schools, feel the new requirements, which came into effect September 29, are too restrictive and time-consuming, taking months to complete before a new teacher can be hired.

The new policy requires that all foreign teachers possess at least a bachelor's degree, a certified copy of which must be presented to the local MoE office along with a certified copy of the applicant's academic record.

Before hiring a new teacher, schools must wait for approval from the MoE's International Education Promotion Division, which must check the



New regulations requiring all foreign teachers to hold a minimum bachelor's degree could backfire and create a teacher shortage, opponents say. -Photo courtesy of British International School.

authenticity of the teacher's credentials by seeking a confirmation letter from the university the applicant claims to be graduate of.

The new policy specifies three other requirements:

- The applicant must possess a passport with a non-immigrant visa of any class, except for an "ED" study/education visa. The visa must be valid for at least 15 days before the date of application;

- The name of the teacher must match that on his/her passport and academic degree;

- Teachers from countries where English is not an official language must present evidence of English-language fluency, in the form of standardized test re-

sults with the following minimum scores: IELTS 5.5; or TOEFL 550 or TOEIC 600.

Gov Niran said that, apart from security concerns, there are many foreign teachers in Thailand who lack proper teaching credentials.

The crackdown is likely to affect Bangkok, Chiang Mai and Phuket the most, as these are the provinces with the greatest concentrations of foreign teachers, he said.

PESA Director Chien Sriueng confirmed that the bachelor's degree and background checks apply only to new hires, not existing foreign staff.

There are currently 105 foreign teachers in Phuket, employed by 35 different schools.

American caught with fake 'visa'

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET CITY: Following an American man being caught with a fake permit-to-stay submitted with his work permit application, the Phuket Provincial Employment Office (PPEO) has warned all foreign workers – and the companies that employ them – to remember that forgery of Immigration stamps and documents is a serious crime.

At the "Governor Meets the Press" meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall on November 6, PPEO Chief Boonchoke Maneechote announced that people found guilty of producing Immigration stamp forgeries will be prosecuted, with offenders facing from six months to five years in prison, a fine of 1,000 to 10,000 baht, or both.

The warning followed the September 19 discovery of a forged permit-to-stay stamp in a work permit application of American Jeremy Loud. Boonchoke said that Loud, 33, applied for a permit to work for DPic Imaging Ltd Partnership.

The application was submitted to the PPEO by Phuket Visa & Accounting service.

The American had granted a power-of-attorney to the manager of Phuket Visa & Accounting to apply for the work permit on his behalf.

When the applicant went to pick up the work permit, however, a PPEO officer noted that copies of the applicant's permit-to-stay stamp failed to match the stamps in Loud's passport.

The office therefore refused to issue the work permit, contacted Phuket Visa & Accounting to inform them of the

Continued on page 2

Labor Office warns of using fake 'visas'

From page 1

apparent fraud, and reported the matter to police.

Nattasorn "Somjet" Eadkanan, Managing Director Phuket Visa & Accounting, told police that the company had hired "freelance" agent "Nong Man" to handle the work permit application on the company's behalf.

"We hired him because we were busy and he had a perfect record with other jobs we gave him in the past. So when he prepared the documents for me, I signed them all without checking every page and submitted them myself to the Employment Office," Somjet told the *Gazette*.

Neither himself nor the American had any way of knowing that the application contained copies of fake permit-to-stay stamp, he said.

Somjet confirmed that Nong Man was a civilian and not a Thai government officer. Efforts to contact Nong Man at his Phuket Villa California home or by telephone have thus far proved successful, he said.

"I think he knows he has been found out," said Somjet.

HAZY DAYS

PHUKET: The haze that descended on Phuket November 1 was the result of cool temperatures and rain, which combined raised relative humidity to 100% and created fog, the island's top weatherman has said.

Chumnong Chitpukdee, Director of Southern Meteorological Center (West Coast) Phuket, said that during the "fog", land and sea transport should proceed with caution. "The 'fog' will have no effect on high-season tourism," he added inevitably.

However, the haze, found all along Thailand's Andaman Coast, continued to hang over Phuket on November 7.

B1m murder fugitive arrested in Phitsanuloke

PHITSANULOKE (*The Nation*): Fugitive murder suspect Thai-American national Saner Wonggoun was arrested November 3 in Phitsanuloke province.

The former US Air Force non-commissioned officer pleaded guilty to a murder charge filed by local police in California for the murder of his pregnant wife Sopha in 1994, police said.

The arrest came just seven days after Thai and US authorities announced a one-million-baht bounty for information leading to Saner's arrest.

Police initially located Saner two days earlier, following a tip-off that a man resembling a police sketch of Saner was selling charcoal at Khoke Matoom Market.

After a two-day stakeout, police approached the subject and brought him to a local police station for further questioning.

Saner's identity was later verified by various documents issued by Thai and US authorities, including Thai and US passports and a bankbook.

Deputy Police Chief Gen Issaraphan Sanitwong na Ayutthaya said Saner had signed an agreement for his extradition to the US.

The bounty will be given to the Thai police by US authorities, but the officer did not say how much the informer who provided the crucial tip-off would receive.

Saner said he had contemplated suicide several times, and felt as if he had died the

day after he killed his wife.

"I have been living in misery all along. I have been living on given time. No happiness or anything at all," he added.

He had never withdrawn any of the three million baht he earned through serving in the USAF, for fear he could be traced, he added.

Saner said he killed Sopha out of rage after learning that she was eight months pregnant, despite living nearly a year together without sex.

He said he had hit her on the back of her head with a hammer while she was watching television and their two children were out. He later dumped her body 50 to 60 kilometers from his home.

Pian begins Barami 8 evictions

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

KALIM: Patong Mayor Pian Keesin on November 6 reluctantly agreed to demolish three squatters' homes on Soi Phra Barami 8, the site of a proposed road-widening project that has been delayed by the numerous illegal dwellings there.

The three houses are among 61 that face destruction, but are the only dwellings that the court has ordered demolished.

Mayor Pian agreed to demolish the homes at a meeting at Kathu District Office chaired by Phuket Provincial Chief Administrative Officer (*Palad*) Nivit Aroonrat, who has long sought removal of squatters from the hillside area.

Most of the 61 families who face eventual eviction from the area work in low-paid jobs in the Patong tourism industry; many have children who attend school there.

Their electricity was cut when they were served their eviction papers last May by provincial officials, who were accompanied by some 100 police and security officers.



Three of the 61 squatters' homes on Soi Phra Barami 8 were to be demolished November 10, to make way for a road-widening project.

Two months after receiving the eviction notices the squatters not only refused to move, but also staged an angry protest at Phuket Provincial Hall, where they demanded a delay in the eviction, negotiation of a fair resettlement and restoration of electric power.

The province, represented by Nivit, took a hard line with the villagers after they rejected a plan to be resettled on small plots of land owned by Wat Kathu, some six kilometers away.

Saying that the time for negotiation in the case had passed, Nivit ordered Mayor Pian to demolish the three dwellings.

As of November 5, each of the three homeowners had run up 137,000 baht in fines for defying the court order to vacate. If unable to pay the fines, each face a one-year jail sentence, he said.

The three targeted dwellings fall most directly in the path of the intended roadway widening project.

The province wants them to relocate first so that the owners of 12 other dwellings in a group of 15 targeted for immediate relocation will follow suit and will not need to be served with court orders.

Nivit said it was time that the province showed the encroachers that it is serious about the evictions.

"Patong Municipality must first deal with these three cases, because the villagers are still there despite the court order. I don't want to ask the court to issue orders against the other 12."

"We need to do this in order to set an example and prevent more problems later on," he said.

Mayor Pian first asked to bring in the Justice Ministry's Legal Execution Department to advise and help negotiate a "step-by-step" solution to the problem, but in the end agreed for the three holdouts to be demolished on November 10.

Numerous police units, including members of the local Police Border Patrol Unit, are expected to provide security during the operation.

Entries accepted for IMPAC Dublin literary contest

PHUKET: Submissions for the Junior IMPAC Dublin Literary Awards for Thailand 2006, with

the contest topic of "A Tale of Thai Grace and Compassion" are now being accepted.

The competition is open to pupils aged 14-18 on December 15 who study in Thailand. Submissions in English, between 800 and 1,200 words, must be entered by the same date. Eligible students are invited to write a real-life or fictional account on Thai people's "unique" characteristics.

The winner of the Southern region competition will receive 10,000 baht, and two merit prizes of 5,000 baht will also be awarded.

Each of the four regional winners – plus one parent and one teacher – will receive round-trip tickets to Bangkok and hotel accommodation for the award ceremony in February. The national winner, plus one parent, will receive a trip to Dublin for the Senior International IMPAC Dublin Literary Awards ceremony.

Send entries to: Thai Grace & Compassion, The Phuket Gazette, 367/2 Yaowarat Rd, Talad Yai, Muang, Phuket, 83000 or to muk@phuketgazette.net before December 15.

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Jimmy Carter visits tsunami-hit village

By Sompratch Saowakhon

TAH CHAT CHAI: Former US President Jimmy Carter on November 1 visited villagers at the north end of the island who lost their homes to the tsunami. New homes were provided for them by Habitat for Humanity, a charity headed by Carter.

Villagers gave a heartfelt welcome to Carter and his wife Rosalynn, who were accompanied by US Ambassador to Thailand Ralph Boyce, Habitat for Humanity International CEO Jonathan Reckford and Dr Chai-narong Monthienvichienchai, chairman of the Thai board of Habitat for Humanity.

During his visit, from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, Carter inspected some of the 96 tsunami-recovery homes the foundation built. He also spoke to villagers about their income and how they felt about their new abodes.

Seventy-one of the homes were built using interlocking soil-cement blocks made by the villagers themselves under a "livelihood development" project. Some of the homes, however, still do not have toilets.

Carter autographed several bricks and even lent a hand in using the press used by villagers to mold the bricks.



Rosalynn and Jimmy Carter in Phuket. The former US president lent a hand with the press used by villagers to make bricks to replace their homes lost to the tsunami during his visit on November 1.

The 20 houses closest to the Tah Chat Chai shore are on wooden stilts and cost about 120,000 baht each to build.

The 71 homes built with the blocks cost about 95,000 baht apiece.

FOUNDATION

"Many people lost their homes to the tsunami, and the home is the important foundation for the family.

"I have worked with Habi-

tat for Humanity for 23 years, and each year I spend one week helping people to rebuild their homes," Carter said.

"I want you to know that I – and a lot of people around the world – care about you and wish you happiness with your new homes," he added.

The Carters boarded a flight to India in the afternoon, bound for Lonavala, near Mumbai, where Habitat for Humanity is building 100 houses for homeless villagers.



Paul Chetwynd-Talbot pictured with Debra O'Hanlon.

Killer to be transfered to Bangkok

PHUKET CITY: Briton Paul Chetwynd-Talbot is still being held at Phuket Prison, though he is expected to be transfered to the more comfortable Klong Prem Prison in Ladyao, Bangkok, before the end of the year.

Paisarn Suwannaraksa, Chief Warden at Phuket Prison, told the *Gazette*, "It will be more comfortable for the prisoner because he is a foreigner, and easier for friends or relatives to visit. [Klong Prem Prison] is also near the UK embassy, which is more convenient for embassy staff to visit their national in prison."

Talbot, 32, was jailed at Phuket Prison, on Damrong Rd, on May 24 after being sentenced to 10 years for murdering his girlfriend, Debra O'Hanlon, on July 31, 2005, in the Patong room the couple shared at the time.

– Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

Beaches fail '5-star' award

By Stephen Fein

PHUKET: Visitors seeking a "five-star" beach experience in Thailand will have to head to either Krabi or Satun, as none of the eight beaches in Phuket monitored by the Pollution Control Department (PCD) will be awarded the coveted "5-Star Tourist Beach" rating for 2006.

Dr Pornsook Chongprasith, Director of the PCD's Marine Environment Division, said that only three beaches of 105 monitored this year received the top rating: Adang Island Beach in Satun, and Haad Yao on Phi Phi Don and Bilae Beach on Koh Hong, both in Krabi.

Phuket should take heart, though. The three beaches were the first ever to get the five-star rating under the program, now in its fourth year.

The PCD will post the ratings on signs at each beach to raise public awareness and encourage residents to keep them pollution-free and attractive.

The beaches were subject to quarterly monitoring and numerical values assigned to beach-

quality indicators, such as water quality (bacteria counts), local land use, the amount of litter on the sand and under the water in a random sweep, and the presence of sand dunes.

Dr Pornsook told the *Gazette* the results of the five-star beaches had been confirmed, but that final results and rankings for all the other beaches were being double-checked.

The final results will be posted on the PCD website in a few weeks' time and the signs updated by the end of the year, she added.

PCD Environmental Scientist Saisunee Chaksuin said that preliminary, unofficial results of the eight Phuket beaches monitored in 2006 indicate that all will receive either 4 or 4½ stars.

Patong, Surin and Nai Yang all maintained the four-star ratings assigned to them in 2005, while Karon Beach stayed at 4½-stars, largely because of the presence of sand dunes there.

Four other Phuket beaches were monitored for the first time: Kata Yai (4 stars), Nai Harn (4½), Kamala (4½) and Bang Tao (4).

'Father Ted' star to headline on comedy night

PHUKET CITY: Ardal O'Hanlon, best known as the wide-eyed Father Dougal from the classic TV show *Father Ted*, performs for the first time in Thailand for the Punchline Comedy Club at Watermark on November 15.

"If you love comedy and smart talking – and only go to see one comedy show, make it O'Hanlon," said a recent review in UK newspaper *The Daily Express*, while *The Guardian* said,

"[He] displays a proficiency of delivery which puts him well ahead of the pack. He is a complete joy to watch, planting the sort of silly images that bump around in your head forever."

O'Hanlon will be supported by Brit Noel Britten, of Bizarre Bath comedy walks fame, and Canadian Glenn Wool – headline acts themselves on any other night.

Tickets are 1,500 baht each and a three-course dinner is an

additional 995 baht. Happy hour will be from 6 pm to 7:30 pm. The adults-only show begins at 9 pm sharp.

The show is expected to be a sell-out, so punters are advised to book now.

Rollerblades and dog collars are not necessary.

For more information contact Stuart Bird at Tel: 076-239730 or 081-7376184 or by email at info@watermarkphuket.com

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SCHOOL FOOD

Are children getting what they need?

School food has – among certain nationalities – long been the butt of many a joke, almost to the same extent as airline food. Scarcely a Brit over 30 will not still emit a slight snigger at the mention of Spotted Dick, a steamed suet pudding containing dried fruit and usually served with custard, which has been a staple on lunch menus for decades.

However, taking Napoleon Bonaparte's famous maxim that "An army marches on its stomach", can it be said that a school educates on its?

The *Gazette's* Noolek Karaket, Tanisa Bunyasiwaand and Andy Johnstone look into the state of school meals in Phuket, both in the government and private sectors.

There is a saying that one should "Breakfast like a king, lunch like a prince and dine like a pauper," that is, one should eat the main meal of the day as early as possible.

This may be sound advice for those looking to maintain a certain weight, but how does it apply to schoolchildren, most of whom are on the go all day long.

Do they receive enough nutrition from their school meals? Is it really the responsibility of a school – state or private sector – or the parents to ensure this?

One teacher at a local international school, who asked to remain anonymous, agreed readily that the school must take responsibility.

"Some parents at my school and, as I know from colleagues

in other schools, are more than happy to leave all responsibility to a school for their children's welfare – including food. If the school doesn't provide the meal, then who will?" said "Jilly".

She explained that in her four years of teaching in the state system in the UK she saw some of her pupils suffer academically because of a poor diet – and sees the pattern repeated here.

"There are two causes of the problem, and in all honesty I can state that as far as the UK goes and my school here, it is not that pupils are not informed of what makes a good diet and not that a healthy meal is not made available to them. They do know, and good meals are provided.

"It pains me to see children looking tired and hungry when they come to school. The parents



Students tuck in Baan Samkong School. The 'eat-healthily' attitude is taking some time to filter through to all children, despite promotion by local authorities.

– or in too many cases, the maid – have rushed them out of the house in the morning, stopping to pick up a snack from 7-Eleven, if they're lucky, on the way in.

"At least here [at the school] children have a choice of fruit and drinks at all break times as well as a range of salads, pasta, vegetables and meat dishes at lunchtime. Some students, however – especially teenage girls – have already started to be so weight-conscious that they skip this meal, too. It's so easy to spot the ones who don't eat; by mid-

afternoon their energy has gone and their concentration is flagging. It affects their academic attainment, too. Many studies support this observation."

Tida Touawaluck is a dietitian at Vachira Phuket Hospital. She, too, is aware of at least a casual, if not a causal link between diet and attainment.

"The government recommends, and I support this, that children should eat five times a day, divided into three main meals and two healthy snacks. This approach is not unlike the 'grazing'

diet proposed in many Western countries.

"Children at school age," she said, "require a lot of protein to help their bodies and their brain cells develop properly. The nutrition they receive should come from protein, found in meat, eggs and milk. Of course, it's also vital that all food groups – grains, vegetables, fruit and fats – be well represented to form a balanced diet."

Tida explained that part of her role, in conjunction with the local education authority, is to visit

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The kitchens at the British curriculum International School make as many as 1,500 meals a day, with an emphasis on healthy eating.

all state schools in Phuket twice a year to educate pupils on the importance of a good diet.

"I show them the right foods to eat, why good nutrition is important – and also to give them an idea of what can go wrong if they do not eat a balanced diet. I must say that I am sometimes disappointed with some of the choices available at school canteens.

"There is too much 'fast food' on offer," she noted, "or it is too easy for children to be able to buy sugary snacks that give them a quick rush, but later, when the effects have worn, make them feel more tired than they did before. Obesity, too, is an increasing problem in Thailand."

She noted, however, that many government schools that had been offering food of minimal nutrition value have improved.

"Healthy food campaigns, instigated by the local education authority and run in conjunction with the provincial public health office, have gained a lot of attention from pupils, parents and teachers.

"All parties concerned have started to be far more careful in terms of the foods selected. They are becoming interested in controlling obesity and malnutrition, relying more on fruit and milk

snacks instead of cakes, and rice and meat products instead of french fries and chips.

"Next, however, I'd like to see fewer advertisements on TV for fast food. All the hard work I and my colleagues around the country do with schoolchildren is undermined by these commercials," she noted. "Junk food makes them fat and unhealthy."

The "eat-healthily" attitude is taking some time to filter through to all children, however, and with a few reservations, too.

One Year 7 student from Baan Samkong School said, "I eat lunch at school every day – it's always rice with some soup, curry, often chicken or fish, and vegetables; we don't have much choice – because my parents think it's good value and filling.

"But I usually have a little money each day with which I buy fast food or candies with my friends. It's fun to do that."

The British curriculum International School (BIS) enjoys a good rapport and liaison between school and parents. Bongkotratana "Rose" Sathaporn, Director of Marketing & Business Development, and Natalie Murray, one of the "Friends of BIS Phuket", demonstrated a shared vision of

the importance of nutritional school dinners.

The 873 pupils, including about 170 boarders, enjoy a wide choice for midday meal, with little – if no – likelihood of revolution. Boarders, incidentally, have five meals a day at school, seven days a week.

In fact, it appears that BIS involves all parties in deciding what makes up lunch – as long as it meets the exacting standards of the school nutritionist and the school nurse. Also, the BIS refectory meets the exacting criteria set down by the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH).

"We are subject to spot checks by the MoPH, as well as regular inspections by the local public health office under its 'Clean Food, Good Taste' rating system," said K. Rose.

"These ratings are to check that food served here is prepared hygienically," she added, noting that the best way of determining the popularity of dishes is by watching where the lines form at lunchtime.

"We have sections for international food, Thai and Asian food, as well as salads and fruit.

"It's almost impossible not to eat healthily here... Favorite dishes are the sesame chicken wings and the deep-fried pork.

Some of the older boys pile their plates with both of those and noodles, rice and vegetables."

Natalie added, "It's very different from schools in the UK, where, due to a change in government policy some 25 years ago, local education authorities were forced to put the contracts out to public tender.

"The cheapest bids often won, and even now food is supplied at the cheapest possible price and in ready-made portions.

"The children here have no such restrictions. Everything is cooked fresh; all fresh foodstuffs – meat, fish, vegetables – are bought in daily."

Pupils, she said, also have a voice in the dishes offered. "The Student Council has suggested that lasagna be added to the menu. Our chefs – many of whom have years of experience

in hotels – will create a number of versions, all of which will be healthy, and then [staff, Friends of BIS and the Student Council] have the arduous task of taste-testing them..." she added.

"Seriously, though, it is run like a military operation, and the 873 pupil meals each lunchtime do not include meals for the teaching staff, which puts it up to about 1,100 meals. Factor in occasional parents or visitors meals and the kitchen produces up to 1,500 lunches," said Natalie.

"One thing we are trying to change, however, is the inclusion of the amount of calories per dish on the menu. Calories aren't necessarily representative of the healthiness of a meal. Far better, we feel, to show the amount of fiber, fat, protein et cetera per meal on the menu."

Pupils, too, seem to value the meals offered, with pasta and rice dishes – as well as fruit – being firm favorites.

Even Year 7 pupils see the wisdom of the school canteen being off limits until after lunch.

"I think a lot of children would go there to buy drinks and crisps if we were allowed to go before lunch," said one 11-year-old girl.

"But we're usually so full that we're not that interested. It's a good idea, and I really like the food. Spaghetti Bolognese is probably my favorite.

"I do lots of sport – most of us do – and we have lessons at school that talk about what we should eat.

"I know that carbohydrates and protein are really important, as well as fruit and vegetables, so I always try to leave room for them," she said.

"I suppose [pupils at BIS] have a bigger range of things to choose from than at government schools, but I don't know what I'd do if I went to one of them and could go out and buy things. Maybe I would. I suppose a treat is ok now and again."



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Queer News

That'll teach him

In Nakhon Sri Thammarat's Thung Yai District, mystery surrounds the murder of a man who was found beaten and stabbed to death, his penis burnt to a crisp.

The grisly murder was reported to Thung Yai District Police around dawn on November 2. Arriving at the scene, in a rubber-tapping community in Tambon Prik, police led by Duty Inspector Pol Lt Col Leuachai Thongsin found the body of 31-year-old Wacharakorn Krainara in front of his home in Village 2.

Clad in a red shirt and black pants, the corpse was covered in deep slash marks. The victim appeared to have been beaten with a blunt object.

Police found a lit candle stuck on his forehead, along with extinguished candles in each ear and one more in his mouth.

Strangest of all was the victim's penis, or what was left of it. His killers had used a rubber boot as fuel for a fire to burn the sex organ.

Police didn't have to travel far to find a prime suspect.

Right across the street from the murder scene was the home of Rarn Klomsuk, quiet with doors shut and apparently unoccupied.

When the owner returned some time later, police asked to search the house. There they found bloodstained clothes belonging to Rarn's 30-year-old son, Preuksa. He was taken in for questioning, but denied involvement in the killing.

Preuksa's younger brother, however, told police that he was home the night before when Preuksa returned home with three or four friends, all drunk. The group sat in a *wong lao* ("whisky circle") and continued drinking at the home.

The younger brother left the home for a quiet place to sleep. Returning the next morning, he discovered his neighbor's dead body across the street.

Pol Lt Col Nithitorn Tanserisakul, Deputy Superintendent of the Thung Yai Police, said initial attempts to track down the other members of Preuksa's *wong lao* had failed.

Thung Yai Police Superintendent Pol Col Prasert Reeyaphan said that Preuksa and his friends were members of a gang of drug-addicted rubber tappers whose nefarious activities were well known to local police.

He suspected that the group, engaged in a drug-fueled drinking session at Preuksa's home, became enraged when Wacharakon approached them about the noise they were making.

Preuksa would be the first charged with murder and the others will follow after warrants are issued for their arrests and they are apprehended, he added.

The use of candles may have been to "trick" or "block" the spirit of the deceased from escaping the body and exacting revenge upon his killers, he surmised.

There is a widespread belief in black magic in the area, he noted.

Naowarat Cheubaankoh, the 29-year-old widow of the deceased, said her husband was a rubber tapper and a nephew of Pol Lt Col Siri Krainara, former Deputy Superintendent of the Thung Yai Police.

Her husband liked to socialize and drink alcohol, she said.

She had no idea why someone would want to murder her husband, she added. **Source: Kom Chad Luek**



Anyone living in Moo Baan Srisuchart, between the bypass road and Soi Paniang, will be familiar with – possibly even used to – the garbage scattered in almost every soi, especially around Soi 5.

Adding to the mess are the members of a *wong lao* (whisky circle) who repeatedly forget to take their empties home with them (above).

Got a favorite dump in your neighborhood? To see it featured here, send a picture with a brief description to dump@phuketgazette.net

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

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



By Andy Johnstone

In Chris Swift's words, "The worst thing I ever did in photography was to read a book about photography. It was called something like, *How to Take Excellent Photos in 10 Easy Lessons*, and was, of course, filled with the author's rules, not mine. In fact, it took me a long time to stop following other people's rules."

Chris, born in 1949 in Cairo, was working for a major law firm on Madison Avenue in New York City at the time – back in the '80s.

"This was the period of the so-called 'me' generation, and I was well and truly stuck in the vortex of it," he admitted. "In one chapter of the book it said, 'Before you take a shot, ask yourself what it is about the shot that you like. You'll then be able to take a better shot.'"

"Well," said Chris, "I could never answer the damned question, so I didn't take the shot – or any others – for years. In fact it took the same length of time to return to photography as it did to figure out that the author was nuts. You want my advice? Simple. You like the shot, you take the shot. Period. And as for my feelings on *How to...* books, it's a little similar to the lyric from that Sunscreen song of a few years ago: 'Read the directions, even if you don't follow them...'"

Chris, who has a new exhibition – "The Abstract" – running at Watermark Bar Restaurant until November 30, recalls that he found the "Greed is Good" ethos of 1980s New York too much.

"Sure, on the weekends, I'd go out shooting with black-and-white [film] and [in] infrared. Even back then, I was very much into shooting abstracts.

"But the general oppressiveness of city life and the frantic hoards scrambling for money proved to be just too much. I worked enormous amounts of overtime, saved a pile of cash and left.



The essence of abstraction



"I never went back and I've never looked back," he noted.

Chris, with his new-found reprieve from the rat race, chose to return to Cairo on a one-way ticket. "From my birthplace I traveled to India, Thailand and Japan. Travel changed me. Being exposed to so many vastly different ways and cultures over more than a year produced a person who was not the same as the one who left," he said.

"I knew then that I could never return to America to live. I didn't fit in anymore."

Chris chose Thailand as his



home. "It's a bit more relaxed here, and was especially so in 1992 when I settled, than, say, New York. I used to tell friends elsewhere in the world about the *mai pen rai* attitude, explaining that it's sort of like the Mexican concept of *mañana* – only without the sense of urgency," he added.

Chris said that his photography work has grown enormously since his early days in New York, as has the recognition of it from those intrigued by the way, as he put it, his "...eye catches the weirdness of the built world."

The recognition has been official, too. "In 2005, I was thrilled to have won an honorary mention in the United Nations International Photography Competition.

"Three of my works, *Spray Pond 3*, *Spray Pond 6* and *Cemetery 2* were selected out of around 130,000 photographs submitted from almost 170 countries," he said.

Chris's enthusiasm for "The Abstract" exhibition is infectious and, for anyone who has seen his earlier exhibitions at the Four Seasons Hotel in Bangkok,

BCIS Phuket or the Phuket Art Gallery just last month, it is a must-see.

"This is my newest stuff, none of which has been shown before, of my latest developments into minimalist abstracts," he said.

"I feel passionately that I have – as a writer might say – 'found my own voice' with what is on display.

"The images display the beauty of decay in the built world: boats, cars and architectural forms in a state of disrepair or erosion or dilapidation.

"There is a greater percentage of photographs that I love on display than I have exhibited before, and a greater number and larger works than I have shown before."

After a sneak preview, it's impossible to disagree with Chris when he said, "The Abstract is a milestone in my life."

"*The Abstract*" at Watermark Bar Restaurant. Open 10 am to 10 pm daily until November 30. Call Stuart Bird at Tel: 076-239730 or 081-7376184 for more information.



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Charges dropped against Tak Bai 58

The Ministry of Justice on November 1 agreed to drop charges against 58 suspects in the infamous Tak Bai protest, as prosecutors have insufficient evidence to prove their guilt, Justice Minister Charnchai Likhitjitttha said.

The decision was made after a meeting of officials from the Office of the Attorney-General and the National Human Rights Commission, which responded to calls from the suspects and human rights defenders.

"The decision is a part of efforts to bring justice and reconciliation to people in the three southern border provinces," Charnchai said.

The 58 suspects were charged with illegal gathering and public disturbance after a bloody protest in front of Tak Bai District police station in Narathiwat Province on October 25, 2004.

Eighty-five people died in the effort to quell the protest, including 78 who died of suffocation during transportation from the protest site to neighboring Pattani province.

The Tak Bai incident invoked international outrage over the brutal crackdown.

Not all 58 suspects will escape the law completely, however. Officials have solid evidence to pin down some of them in connection with masterminding the protest to create trouble in the region, Charnchai said.

Teen rebellion: A riot broke out at Surat Thani Juvenile Observation and Protection Center (JOPC) on October 28 after a group of detainees from Nakhon Sri Thammarat province refused to be transferred to Surat Thani Young Offenders Institution (YOI), claiming they would not be safe there.



More than 100 police officers were needed to regain control of the Surat Thani Juvenile Observation and Protection Center after more than 100 prisoners protested the transfer of some inmates.

The proposed transfer followed an outbreak of fighting between rival inmates from Surat Thani Province and Nakhon Sri Thammarat the day before.

The Surat Thani natives involved had already been transferred to the YOI the evening before, and the Nakhon Sri gang members claimed they would be in danger if forced to rejoin them.

Around 10:30 am, the 42 inmates slated for transfer rounded up the support of more than 100 fellow inmates and gathered on the center's lawn, armed with

sticks and with T-shirts wrapped around their heads.

The caretaker director of the center, Phongsura Krainara, worried the situation could get out of hand, called for police reinforcements. About 30 minutes later, Damri Bunjing, Deputy Governor of Surat Thani, arrived at the scene accompanied by Chinorot Yongkiatkan, Chief Justice of the Surat Thani Juvenile and Family Court.

After assessing the situation, they agreed to bow to the protesters' demands, ordering them to be transferred to Nakhon Sri Thammarat YOI instead. However, when two vans from Surat Thani City Police and Surat Thani Immigration Police arrived at the prison to transfer the group, they refused to get in, claiming that they were scared they would not be safe with the police. The protesters said that they would go only in prison vans, but officers refused their request.

This enraged the group, some of whom ran and grabbed

gasoline from the center's workshop and set fire to trash cans. Others locked themselves inside a building at the nearby Surat Thani Child and Youth Training Center building.

Pol Col Tesa Siriwatch, Deputy Commander of Surat Thani Provincial Police, tried to negotiate with the protesters and ordered his men to keep a close watch on the situation. When he finally realized the protesters were not willing to budge, Col Tesa ordered his men to break open the doors to the building the inmates had seized.

Officers took about 10 minutes to lever open the doors, while being taunted by the inmates inside. When the doors were finally pried open, the inmates ran out, trying to escape from the officers. Police then ordered everyone not involved in the protest to lay down on the ground before chasing down the 42 leaders until all were apprehended. At 1 pm, the group was finally sent to Nakhon Sri Thammarat YOI.

Speed seizure: Police in Narathiwat seized a total of 13,600 *ya bah* (methamphetamine) pills in two raids on October 28.

The first seizure was the result of cooperation between the Border Patrol Police Unit 44 (BPU44) and Sungai Golok District Crime Suppression Police. BPU44 Superintendent Pol Col Phayuha Butbong coordinated with Pol Lt Col Somchai Tesanok, Deputy Inspector of Crime Suppression at Sungai Golok, to set up a sting operation to arrest a *ya bah* dealer in Samaowiroj village.

Officers arranged to buy 2,000 pills of the illegal stimulant. When the delivery man arrived, he was promptly arrested and the drugs seized. He was later identified as Tanesam Tanhino, 32.

From their investigations, police discovered the address of drug ring leader Jeh Useng Hagueling, 34, in nearby Tak Bai District.

Police raided Hagueling's house, placing him under arrest and seizing four more 2,000-pill bundles of *ya bah* as well as 17 blue plastic bags stuffed with a total of 3,600 pills.

Murder in the park: The body of Sarot Chahcha, 52, was found by relatives in a park only 100 meters from his home in La-ngu District, Satun, on the evening of October 27.

Pol Lt Col Yeun Phetchana, Duty Inspector at La-ngu District Police Station, arrived at the scene in Tambon Kamphaen after receiving a report from the victim's relatives.

Sarot had gone out to the park to meet someone after receiving a phone call at 9:30 pm.

A villager reported hearing what sounded like a single gun shot around that time but thought nothing of it, police said.

Sarot's body was discovered later that day. He had been shot once in the back of the head.

Police said they thought the motive for the killing was likely to be vengeance provoked by a personal dispute.

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

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The Ministry of Culture (MoC) is seeking ways to stamp out the practice of young women dancing erotically at public events, after HM Queen Sirikit expressed concerns that some females danced inappropriately at a Buddhist charity event in Nong Khai Province.

After Her Majesty's concern was relayed via the MoC, several authorities proposed measures to ban such dancing shows and a meeting was called with representatives from 84 organizations, all invited to brainstorm a solution to the problem.

After the MoC suggested that girls be barred from working as scantily clad product presenters and dancers at public events, Labour Protection and Welfare Department Chief Padungsak Thephasadin na Ayudhaya said prohibiting under-20s from working as dancers would violate labor rights laws.

Women aged around 20 were mature and had a right to work where and at what they wished, he said.

Organizers should do their homework before sending dancers to events or locations to ensure it was appropriate for them to appear; dancers themselves could use their own discretion and cultural knowledge to determine if what they were doing was tasteful, he added.

The Supreme Sangha Council also reportedly threatened to sack senior monks if they allow inappropriate shows at their temples.

The style of dancing under fire is known as "Coyote dancing" in Thailand, after the popular Hollywood film *Coyote Ugly* that was a big hit in Thailand after its release in August 2000.

Thai temperance: The Thai Health Promotion Foundation (ThaiHealth) announced it would spend 30 million baht encouraging communities to support festivals and important events without alcohol.

ThaiHealth was spurred on by the discovery that celebrations



Ai Caramba! Erica Andrews of Mexico (center) poses next to runner-up Ratravee Jiraprapakul of Thailand (left) and Patricia Montecarlo of the Philippines after Andrews was crowned Miss International Queen 2006. The event, hosted in Pattaya, is the world's largest beauty contest for transsexuals. There were 24 contenders for the title.

'Coyote' threat

at traditional festivals had been replaced with binge drinking, a phenomenon it blames on saturation marketing by alcohol producers.

ThaiHealth's Vice-Chairman Prof Udomsil Srisangnam said the foundation was already seeing positive results in pilot projects underway in 20 provinces. "Drinking is not a Thai tradition. Alcohol companies have long tried to mislead society on that one," he added.

In Lamphun, ThaiHealth was promoting alcohol-free funerals. As well as reducing alcohol abuse, dry funerals were an average of 20,000 baht cheaper.

Lamphun will declare itself the country's first "alcohol-free-funeral province" next month, when the project will be expanded to all districts, said Songkran

Takchokedee of ThaiHealth's one-million-strong Stop Drinking Network.

Land of partial smiles: Thailand's cheeriest place is Maha Sarakham Province in Isarn, according to a survey by the Mental Health Department.

Department Head ML Somchai Chakrabhand released the results of a 2005 survey, in which 3,340 people nationwide answered a series of questions to assess their overall happiness. Possible responses ranging from "not happy at all" to "very happy".

Men had the highest levels with 47% saying they were happy; only 25% of women could make the same claim. Somchai said women were less content because they had more on their minds, including work and fami-

ly.

The study found "the unem-

ployed" as the demographic group with the lowest level of personal happiness. Most Thais are "generally happy" the survey revealed.

Playground perils: A large metal ride toppled over and killed six-year-old Chakarin Suriwong at a playground in the Territorial Defense Department's compound in Bangkok. The tragedy underlines research findings that most public playgrounds across the country are dangerous and not properly set up.

The spinning metal ride, known as a "global monkey bar", had not been safely anchored to the ground, a soldier at the compound admitted.

Dr Adisak Palitpholkarnphim, head of research at Ramathibodi Hospital in Bangkok, said 90% of playgrounds at schools and public places in Thailand are dangerous because the equipment does not match the development levels of children who use it and also because it is often not properly installed.

A study conducted in 2005, after the death of a child using a global monkey bar, found that more than 30,000 children across the country are injured by playground rides each year. Swings and slides were found to be the most dangerous.

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Jump starting Koh Samui

Koh Samui and Koh Pha-ngan may soon enjoy a more stable power supply thanks to the installation of a new undersea cable stretching 24 kilometers from Khanom District on the Thai mainland.

Suwit Samarnsoti Wong, Assistant Director of the local Provincial Electricity Authority, visited the islands in late October. After inspecting progress, he announced that power would be running through the cable before the coming high season.

The installation of the cable, Samui's third, required a serious feat of engineering to place the power lines under the seabed. A company, The Consortium of Italian-Thai Development PLC, signed the contract for the 899-million-baht project in November 2005.

Suwit said the official deadline for completion was March next year, but added that senior members of the department had pressed for early completion because of the high demand on the island's power supply over Christmas and New Year.

Samui's electricity con-



WIRED: Samui residents hope the laying of a new 899-million-baht undersea cable from the mainland will put an end to the island's chronic power supply problems.

sumption has been rising at a rate of 10% a year. The new cable will provide a much-needed boost to the power supply, with businesses and residents hoping it will also mean fewer of the power cuts and surges that damage electrical equipment.

The cable is being laid alongside the island's existing power

lines. Environmental impact studies were carried out before and after the installation by a university team from Bangkok and the results show little damage to the marine life in the area.

In addition to the power cable, a fiber-optic cable was also installed, enhancing the island's communications capabilities.

Villagers demand clean up: Residents of Samui's Bophut District, many of them workers from Isarn, recently protested against the unregulated dumping of human waste close to their homes.

The villagers accused the municipality of illegally unloading sewage from trucks onto private land – without treating it or taking measures to seal off the site.

Samui Deputy Chief Surinya Youn-an admitted it was true, saying he was ashamed at the behavior of local officials who had presumed that having a private landowner's permission was sufficient reason to pollute an area close to people's homes.

He vowed to conduct an in-

quiry into the situation and ordered the municipality's trucks to stop dumping waste in the area until appropriate measures could be taken, including digging a large septic pit and leaching field to prevent infection.

The Samui Public Works Department recently completed three sewage treatment plants on the island, but these have yet to become fully operational due to budget restrictions. Dumping waste is common practice on the island, but the government generally ensures it is done in remote areas under close supervision.

Femme fatale: On October 22, around 4 am, French bar owner Stephan Jorinon, was stabbed to death by his enraged Thai wife, who had repeatedly accused him of having sex with the female staff of his bar in Lamai.

According to neighbors, Jorinon, 36, frequently fought with his wife at their bar, The Hawan-ita, because he refused to stop sleeping with the staff.



FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND

By Barry Singleton

Pol Capt Chat-chalerm Wanthathai and his team were called to the scene after the stabbing, and found Jorinon badly injured. The Samui rescue service took him to hospital, where he died shortly afterwards.

His wife, Am-porn Chuaykhao, also 36, was found in the couple's room above the bar. She confessed to stabbing her husband, explaining that they had been living to-

gether for a year and that he regularly beat her when she accused him of adultery.



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On the menu



WITH

Andy Johnstone
The Family

How old was the last meal you ate? Apologies, let me clarify that question. I don't mean "When was it prepared?" If it was Thai food, then chances are it was extremely fresh. Probably cooked in a couple of minutes within sight, sound and smell of you.

What I mean is "How old is the recipe of the last meal you ate?" Enjoying that pizza? Good. The combination of a flat bread with a cheese topping – it was traditionally peasant food – has been around since the mid-14th century or so.

How about the pan-seared loin of coatimundi with a balsamic and kumquat *jus* and an elderberry marmalade? Hmm... dreamed up about five minutes ago by a facetious Features Editor, who still giggles at the phrase Pacific Rim. Can't help it; always had a childish sense of humor. It comes from never having grown up.

Come to think of it, that spurious dish may have some mileage, even though the coatimundi – the word is employed by Robert Jourdain in his 1997 book *Music, the Brain, and Ecstasy* an example of something meaningless to those who do not know what one is – actually doesn't live that close to the Pacific Rim (snigger).

One of the granddaddies of recipes must be the noodle.

In October last year, what was thought to be the oldest noodles yet discovered were found along the Yellow River in Qinghai, China. However, even these were found to be a couple of millennia fresher than some noxious McNoodles being peddled by a certain fast-food megacorp with a propensity for litigation...

We are Family



How old is this sandwich? Pita bread, fried aubergine, hard-boiled eggs, potato and salad.

Ignore for a moment, if one can, cuisine of the Pacific Rim (stifled laugh), and focus instead on Mediterranean er... Rim – which is not funny at all – cuisine.

The recipes from this region have been around since God – or even Bill Deedes – was a boy. With certain variations – allowing for the growth and death of empires, the shift in the fortunes of countries and their boundaries, such food was eaten by the likes of Herodotus, Pericles, Alexander and others, depending upon your beliefs – and knowledge of history.

Israel, according to the Old Testament, is the land of milk and honey. We do not see a great deal of either at The Family, a restaur-

ant immediately north of Chalong Circle on Chao Fa East Rd, but then, we don't really look for any.

Shicartzy Ovadia, from Eilat, on the Red Sea, bids us welcome with a hearty "shalom aleichem" to his restaurant. We, responding with the traditional "aleichem shalom", and take our seats.

The Family is not a new restaurant – around six years old now – nor is it a glitzy, whistles and bells self-proclaimed "best in the world" place.

The name, however, says all that is needed.

Families – us included – singles, couples and groups of friends are crowding the restaurant – which is opposite Chalong

Police Station – on a thundery Tuesday evening.

A DVD of a Pink Floyd concert is playing, accompanied by a slightly greater gig in the sky in the form of electric blue and pink lightning. All seems rather pleasant and not at all "Phuket". It's more like the relaxed, unpretentious George Town on Penang, particularly Chulia Street. Or downtown Eilat.

Israelis are sometimes described as being difficult to get to know, abrasive even, with question after question. Shicartzy, in his way, grills us over a couple of issues slightly more than he would a pita bread.

It's not aggressive questioning, nor is it to find fault or set a trap. Rather it's to gage opinions,

see where one stands. Israelis have, after all, been fighting for their families, nation and religions for centuries. Who wouldn't?

We don't take it personally and pass the test. He orders wine. We gulp it down.

The food he recommends is simple, healthy and damned tasty.

Pita served with falafel, hummus, shwarma (marinated sliced meat), *shocshoca* (eggs in a fresh tomato sauce), tahini, chopped fried chicken are brought out.

A Yemeni omelet – more like a pastry than what we recognize as an omelet – is presented to us. Shicartzy says, "This is what would have been eaten in the Exodus from Egypt."

Dating that is a little tricky, but Moses was around then and best estimates put this flight at around 1400 BC.

History, undoubtedly, on a plate. Shicartzy senses our moment of pondering. He brews Turkish coffee for us, infused with heel, an aromatic that gives a slightly orangey smell to the small, dark cups.

A genial host, good food (he also supplies kosher products, as well as Western and Thai dishes), great company, splendid music – Shicartzy has a seemingly bottomless collection of blues albums – add up to a historic meal.

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Boxing: not just

By Gazette Staff

Veronika Lundemo admits she stepped up from being a Muay Thai student to an in-the-ring boxer purely by chance.

After kickboxing for years in her home country of Norway, one summer she decided to stay in shape by studying Muay Thai at a training camp in Thailand – useful for a woman who works as a bartender and bouncer for a bar in Scandinavia.

After some time surfing the web, she came across Chalong Chi Muay Thai Boxing training camp in Chalong.

Veronika spent the summer of 2005 training at Chalong Chi. When she returned to Phuket this year, Chalong Chi offered her a contract to fight for the camp.

Veronika pounced on the opportunity, “I knew it was my last chance to do this, so I took it.”

After saying goodbye to her parents, brother, sister-in-law and two nieces in her hometown of Trondheim, in central Norway, she was on her way back to Thailand.

She’s been fighting for the gym for four months now.

Muay Thai has a reputation for brutality, its fighters using combinations of kicks, knee strikes, clinches, punches and elbows to defeat their opponents.

For Veronika, it’s this aspect of the martial art that appeals to her; in the form of kickboxing she learned in Norway, she never used her elbows or knees.

“There are more elements to it,” Veronika says. “There’s more contact, it’s more intense and there’s just more to it.”

Being a Muay Thai boxer also requires intense training, which focuses not only on learning combinations and strikes, but also on overall conditioning. Veronika trains twice a day, from 6 am to 9 am and again from 4 pm to 7 pm, five days a week.

Her typical training schedule includes running, skipping, shadow boxing and weight training.

“It’s a lot like a job,” says the 34-year-old, but she adds that the training doesn’t get her down. In fact, she says, that is what

Boxers are big, tough, brutish men who have a finely tuned instinct to hurt, right? Well, meet Muay Thai boxer Veronika Lundemo – a slender Norwegian woman who stands just 5’ 6” tall. Veronika won her bout at the Queen’s Cup tournament in Bangkok in August and is in training for her fight at the King’s Cup next month. Here Veronika tells what drives her on to compete in a sport most men would be happy to avoid.

keeps her going – each time pushing herself further than before.

“The fights are just goals along the way. Training is what makes or breaks the fighter,” she says.

Despite the intense preparation, Veronika admits she gets nervous before fights, sometimes even a week before.

To prepare for a fight she goes over different combinations in her head, thinking through the fight ahead of her. But once she’s in the ring her head goes clear. She doesn’t have to think, she knows what she has to do.

Currently Veronika is preparing to fight in the King’s Cup at the famed Lumpini Stadium in Bangkok on December 5.

Veronika proved her skills there last August at the Queen’s Cup in Bangkok – one of the biggest Muay Thai tournaments in Thailand.

Veronika not only won her fight, but she won it against a more experienced opponent on points – not by knocking out her opponent as most foreign Muay Thai fighters do.

“It was a really good feeling, like a climax, when you



achieve what you want,” Veronika says.

She admits that it was important for her to do well at that tournament, not just for herself, but also for trainer Sean and manager Paweena “Bo” Sripan.

“I’m just so grateful to Sean and Bo for giving me the chance to do this,” Veronika says.

So what does a female Muay Thai boxer do in her very limited free time? Veronika reads or listens to music. No surprise that heavy metal music is a favorite, but she listens to a little of everything. “I also spend time at the beach or go to a local spa,” she adds.

What happens when Veronika gets angry? Well, girls, you’ll feel better knowing that she does what most of us do – she screams and sometimes even cries.

Asked if she has any advice for those of the fairer sex who are interested in learning a few Muay Thai moves, she says, “Go for it. If you want to do it and you like it, just go for it.”



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for the boys



'It was a really good feeling, like a climax, when you achieve what you want': Veronika Lundemo.

Veronika holds no expectations beyond the King's Cup tournament next month, but says she has her eye on winning again in next year's Queen's Cup tourney.

The contract alone is sufficient for her to live on and to

focus all of her energies on her training in the meantime, she said.

"We'll have to see what happens after my one-year contract expires," she says. "But I hope to be always involved in Muay Thai in some way."

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Happily Ever After

Recent weddings in Phuket



Above: Sutiya Amornsupamit and Natthakamol Tantiwatchariyakul were married in the Phra Pitak Grand Ballroom at The Metropole hotel on October 17.

Left: Nadine Kettelhut and Martin Klinkwitz, from Germany, celebrated their wedding at Le Meridien Khao Lak Beach & Spa Resort on October 14.

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This week



BACK IN BLACK: Exhibiting artist Alongkorn Poochamchote (center, with roses), and Jay-Da Rodnit of Rinda Magical Art (back row, 3rd from left) and Watcharin Rodnit (front row, 2nd from left) with visiting artists at the recent opening of the 'Healing the Black' art exhibition at Mom Tri's Gallery at the Boathouse.



GUERNATORIAL GIFT: Prasert Fuengfoo (left) of the Phuket Reporters' Club (PRC) and PRC Chairman Peerapong Ponpramoon (in red shirt) hand a congratulatory bouquet to Niran Kalayanamit on his promotion from Phuket Vice-Governor to Governor on November 1.



BOARD REPORT: Members of the media from Phuket, Songkhla and Yala provinces join Supreeya Jitrawiparat (front row, left), Marketing Manager at the Malaysia Tourism Promotion Board's Phuket office, at the National Hari Raya Open House 2006 at Kangar, the capital of Perlis State in Malaysia, on October 28.



RISING FUN: Members of the Phuket Japanese Association pose for a photo at Loma Park before the club's hour-long Patong Beach cleanup blitz on October 29. The club stages a cleanup every two months on an island beach.



FRIGHT NIGHT: Junior witches and warlocks and Dusit Laguna Resort's Guest Activity staff prepare for an evening of "trick or treat" on Halloween night.



FIRST PRINCIPLES: Martin Raich (back, left), Hotel Manager of Le Meridien Khao Lak Beach & Spa Resort, congratulates staff for completing a lifeguard and first-aid course conducted by professional lifeguard trainer David Field (back row, 2nd from right) from Queensland, Australia.



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BEHIND THE WHEEL

By Jeff Heselwood

The Ferrari 612 is not to everyone's taste, if you can say that about a Ferrari, but it is one of the more tasteful models in the current line-up. It is, perhaps, predominantly aimed at the more mature enthusiast than the out-and-out racer in us all.

Styled by Pininfarina, the Turin-based design house and long-time collaborator of the Ferrari marque, the 612 is the first all-aluminum V12 Ferrari. It is also more than a 2+2 tourer; it is a genuine two-door, four seater.

Grand Tourers are a Ferrari tradition. Ferrari built its first 2+2 12-cylinder model in 1948. Subsequent Ferrari Grand Tourers followed, including famous models such as the 250 GT in 1960, the 330 GT in 1964 and, probably the best of all, the 365 GT in 1967.

The predecessor of the 612 Scaglietti was the 456M, which although good and offering stunning performance, was never going to be a classic.

Named in honor of the Modena stylist and coach builder Sergio Scaglietti, who excelled in sculpting aluminum and was responsible for the bodies of some of the most beautiful Ferraris of the 1950s and '60s, the 612 represents everything that is exceptional about Ferrari GTs.

The beautifully engineered V12 displaces 5,748cc and produces a staggering 540bhp (397 kW) at 7,250rpm, an engine speed that produces a delightful low-pitched growl rising to a scream as the revs increase.

Maximum torque, as befits a Grand Tourer, is a stump-pulling 588Nm. The power output, in-



identally, is almost 100bhp up on the 456M.

While these figures mean that the car will move around effortlessly at low revs, the fun is to be had by operating the steering wheel-mounted paddles and changing down one or even two ratios for immediate acceleration.

Performance, needless to say, is stunning: 0-100 km/h is down to just 4.2 seconds. Maxi-

mum speed is listed as 320kmh, though exactly where you would reach this locally has to be an issue.

The aluminum technology used in the space frame chassis and bodywork, which proved such a success in the V8 360 Modena, results in a huge increase in overall bodywork efficiency, or the weight-rigidity ratio.

The light but stiff aluminum construction offers other benefits in terms of performance, comfort and safety. Its light weight contributes to acceleration, braking, handling and the driving dynamics of the car.

The layout of the drive train, with the engine mounted behind the front axle and driving the rear wheels, ensures a near-perfect weight distribution of 46% at the front and 54% at the rear, an impressive achievement in any front-engined four-seater.

Getting in and out of two-door vehicles can often be tax-

ing, but a clever hinge in the front seats means rear seat passengers have no problem accessing their seats.

For the driver, a simple switch lowers the front seat and its headrest, and tilts the steering wheel.

The seats are finished in sumptuous leather, with three memories incorporated into the electrically-operated driver's seat that re-adjusts the seat and exterior mirrors.

Legroom is generous, front and rear, and comfortably exceeds that of the 456M.

Headroom is also improved, while the dashboard is inevitably classic Ferrari: simple but effective.

Driving the 612 is exquisite: the lovely V12 responds instantly and the brakes are fantastic.

If there is a problem, it is to remember that it is not an automatic; when you come to a stop at lights or in traffic, you have to

apply the brakes, otherwise it rolls backwards. And, trust me, you feel extremely stupid in a multi-million-baht GT car doing that...

The 612 is a superb motorcar with all the pedigree of Ferrari's previous GTs and one that deserves its own place in the marque's history chapters. Absolutely outstanding.

Jeff Heselwood can be reached by email to jhc@netvigator.com



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By Noolek Karaket

You don't have to go all the way to Venice to feel the atmosphere of the Venetian carnival, arguably one of the most remarkable – and traditionally one of the most hedonistic – carnivals in Europe; it will be here in Phuket.

On November 18, conceal your true identity and let your wild side show in what is expected to be a truly spectacular evening at the romantic Hilton Palazzo.

When the Carnevale Masquerade Ball begins, you will find yourself swept back to 18th-century Europe, courtesy of the Phuket International Women's Club (PIWC).

The PIWC is hosting its annual fund-raising ball at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa on November 18, from 6:30pm to 1:30am.

This is a night when you can express yourself as someone else through a mask and have the opportunity to make new friends



VENETIAN STYLE: In Venice, carnevale is taken seriously. Now Phuket is to get a taste of the festivities.

– Photo by Luigi Scarantino

MASK MANIA

from all over the island. Dinner and entertainment featuring a live band will set the mood for dancing and carry you through the evening.

Along with dinner, ice cream, crepe stalls and other sweet delights will make for an evening of not just good food, but

lots of fun. And all without Jim Carrey.

The use of masks dates back thousands of years and have been used since for both ceremonial and practical purposes. Historians believe the 5,000-year-old Mask of Warka is the oldest surviving mask.

The English word “mask” is thought to have roots in several European languages including the French *masque*, the Italian *maschera* and the Spanish *máscara*. Other possible ancestors are the Latin *masculus* (ghost) or Arabic *maskharah* (jester or man in masquerade).

The word “person” comes from a Greek word meaning “mask”. *Persona*, the mask, is related to personality, the self one reveals to the world. Masks have the ability to conceal, change or transform the person behind the image into something or someone else.

This metaphoric “else” quality of masks makes them both playful and powerful, and relates them to ritual, religion and myth. Masks allow the wearer to pretend – and much more.

The Carnival in Venice is said to have originated in 1268 after an important victory of La Serenissima, as Venice was

called at that time, in a battle against Ulrico, patriarch of Aquileia.

To celebrate this victory, dances and reunions took place in San Marco Square. With the multicultural character of Venice at the time, magicians and others all joined in the fun. These celebrations continued to gain in popularity throughout mainland Europe in the 17th and 18th centuries.

The performance begins – joy, craziness and reason, all together. The music of Vivaldi, beautiful and mysterious masks. Every mask hides an enigma. Every mask keeps a secret. Every mask fascinates the imagination. What is hidden behind the mask? Is the mask being worn to reveal the truth or to hide it?

“Impress us with your look and the prize will be yours,” said Cindy Ratcliffe, President of the PIWC.

You can create your own mask or one can be bought at the ball. Masks can also be bought at the gift store on the second floor of Central Festival Phuket.

Tickets for the ball are 2,500 baht each and include a delightful meal, drinks and live entertainment. There are a limited number of tickets available for purchase from the following locations:

- Perfection Spa and Salon, on Chao Fa East Rd. Tel: 076-383232;
- Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa, Karon Beach. Tel: 076-396433-41;
- Watermark Bar and Restaurant at Boat Lagoon marina. Tel: 076-239-730;
- The Green Man in Rawai. Tel: 076-281445;
- West One Salon, 2nd floor Central Festival Phuket;
- Joan Watson PIWC Vice-President. Tel: 076-820422;
- The *Phuket Gazette* offices. Tel: 076-236555;
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All proceeds from the ball will go to the PIWC scholarship fund.

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Perfectly Patong

The 2006 Patong Carnival, held from November 1 to 3, was the usual melange of beautifully-decorated floats – including one with a giant, albeit fake, lobster atop it – marching bands and local traders, hotels and organizations.

This year's carnival was held with the themes "Long live The King" and "Colorful Andaman", and was presided over by Pirom Simasatian, Deputy Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Tourism and Sport.

The opening day saw both sides of the Taweewong Rd filled with locals as well as Thai and foreign tourists, who gathered with cameras in hand to capture the exciting spectacle.



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Spa MAGIC



By Sangkhae
Leelanapaporn
Tew Son Spa

It was time to reward my soul by visiting the beautiful Tew Son Spa, located amid the lush greenery of the Kata-thani Resort & Spa and with delightful sea views.

Tew Son Spa, which opened in 2003 and is managed by Asian Wind, is in the capable hands of Rawiwan "Jiew" Katesaro.

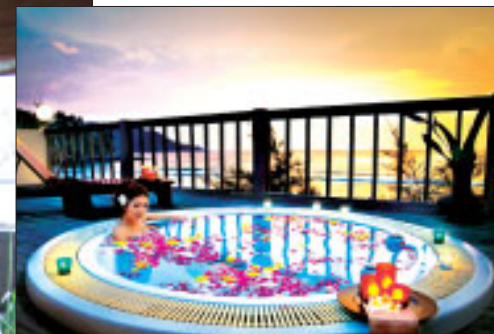
A true professional – she has more than seven years' experience in the business – she is also warm-hearted, welcoming me with a sincere smile.

K. Jiew tells me that the popular spa has 14 therapists, catering to as many as 50 customers a day during the high season. Each therapist works hard, dedicated, as they are to their calling.

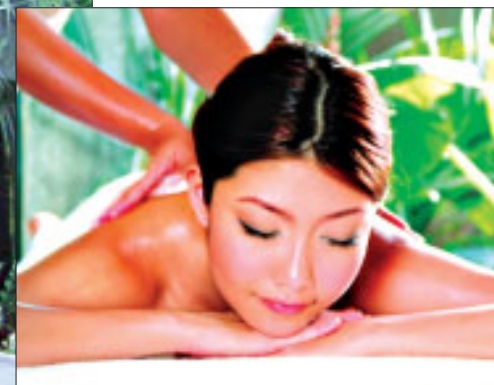
They have nine treatment rooms – three double and six single rooms – and separate steam rooms for men and women.

Most of the rooms boast both an indoor and outdoor shower. Each room is decorated with a different motif and some rooms have a window with a panoramic sea view. K. Jiew took me around to see the waterfall room and the water-spring room.

Most of the customers here are hotel guests, but the Tew Son attracts and welcomes walk-in



Left: Earth tones add to the atmosphere of relaxation. Above, the rooftop Jacuzzi.



A full menu with sea views, too

customers. Many materials used here – such as oils, scrubs, body lotions and masks – are supplied by Lemongrass House at Surin Beach, but the facial products used are by Lydia Jordane of Australia.

The spa menu here includes massages, facials, body treatments, signature treatments, luxury packages and "special treats". Each menu has many choices to match your body's wants and needs.

Another outstanding feature of Tew Son Spa is the rooftop Jacuzzi, which is booked almost every evening because it has a good view of the sunset. Natu-

rally, most of the customers who book the Jacuzzi are couples planning a private, romantic evening.

Each visit begins with a consultation with a therapist to help choose the best treatment for the customer's wants and needs.

K. Jiew suggested I try the 1,990-baht Casuarina Leaf Enzyme Wrap, which is one of the signature treatments here.

I feel a little wary at the mention of this treatment because it is my understanding the casuarina leaf could make me itch. Time, however, to find out.

My therapist Tim Injom, who has more than six years' experience in spas, will provide the signature "Nature's Own" treatment (1,820 baht). The two treatments together will take about two hours.

In the treatment room are the relaxing sounds of a water-

fall and the lapping waves. The room may not be large, but it is cozy and decorated pleasantly in a Northern Thai style with soothing earth tones. The room has an outdoor shower, fashioned from bamboo, and under a shady casuarina tree. It's as natural as you can get.

K. Tim starts me off with a mask and wrapped me in a warm blanket for 15 minutes. This treatment is divine, nurturing. A body wrap uses the nourishing properties of crushed casuarina pine needles and bergamot oil. A wonderful bergamot and lavender massage completes this memorable experience. After this comes a scrub, then I step into the outdoor shower. I return for a lotion massage.

After this treatment, my skin feels beyond soft and smooth. During the wrap, I felt

no itching at all. I like the lotion massage; it's different because usually lotion is just spread over the body without being massaged deep into skin.

I enjoy the second treatment as well – the Nature's Own facial. It uses four Thai herbs or plants extracts: a ka-min scrub, a cucumber toner, honey oil, and white mud before my face is covered with fresh cucumber.

After another hour or so, the facial is done. I know that most of the ingredients are readily available here, and that I could do it to myself if I really wanted, but... Well, it's just so much nicer for someone to take the time to do it for me.

K. Tim finished by applying eye gel, moisturizer cream and lip moisturizer to me, before a refreshing head and foot massage to wake me up. Before I head back home they serve me a cool herbal drink.

The costs of the spa treatment packages here range from 1,690 to 6,320 baht.

Tew Son Spa is open everyday from 8 am to 10 pm. The telephone number is 076-333207. Customers should call two hours in advance to book.

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TALES OF A TRAVELER

By Ed Peters

History has touched Phan Tiet, but lightly. Ho Chi Minh taught briefly at the riverside school here, but as yet no enterprising former pupil has thought to market tours following the footsteps of Vietnam's charismatic liberator.

In fact, it took an eclipse of the sun in October 1995 to put what is now one of the country's fastest growing destinations on the map.

The headland of Mui Ne was the optimum viewing point, and thousands flocked here for that most Kodak of moments when the currant bun ducked behind the cosmic curtain for a while.

When the lights came back on, it didn't take long for the entrepreneurs among the rubbernecks to put two and two together.

Hmmm... groovy beach, picturesque fishing port, nobody else here, what are we waiting for?

The great thing about Phan Tiet is that despite the arrival in the interim of more than a few boutique hotels, a Nick Faldo-designed par-72, 18-holer, and cafés selling something rather more than *pho* (noodles), it's still pretty much off the beaten track.

Even though it now hosts an annual festival celebrating the province's culture and folk traditions, it's more of a time for the locals to kick up their heels rather than an international, corporate-branded event.

Halfway between Ho Chi Minh City and Nha Trang, Phan Tiet happens to be the capital of Bin Thuan province, though you'd hardly know it.

A morning's cyclo tour can take in the armada of fishing craft moored along the Ca Ty River, the adjacent fish market that advertises itself with a very maritime whiff, Uncle Ho's museum (who was a keen volleyball



Left: Boutique hotels have arrived, but transport is still charmingly antique.

Above: fishwives chat in the town's fish market.

Below left: a nearby fishing village.



player, apparently, as well as Vietnam's Top Teacher. He was also a fan of Maurice Chevalier and a student of Escoffier) which leads naturally on to the Victory Monument, as fine an example of Socialist statuary as concrete ever espoused.

Despite the rapid development around Mui Ne, much of it has been kept in tune with the local surroundings. The Coco Beach Resort was one of the first to open, and has since found numerous imitators as well as rather more up-market cousins such as the Victoria Resort.

Mr Faldo mapped his 6,746-

yard course around the dunes, taking account of the strong sea breezes and panoramic ocean vistas.

The wind is an attraction for

other sporting types, with kite-surfing growing in popularity not just among visitors but with a healthy home-grown following too.

Surfers hang 10 between August and April when the breaks are at their best, and an afternoon's horseback trekking makes for a gentle exploration at the sort of pace that typifies the area.

Nightlife around Phan Tiet has not so much reared its head as looked up quizzically. Much of the inaction centers around sleepy cafés and restaurants, with cheap beer and cheaper sunsets the main attraction.

There's an eatery offering

rather tasty Italian food called – almost inevitably – Good Morning Vietnam, a nod to the movie starring Robin Williams as an anarchic radio DJ during the war. Otherwise, globalization – in the form of McDonald's, Starbucks and so on – remains reassuringly well over the horizon.

This will all change in time, but for the moment most of Phan Tiet remains pretty much as was in the days when Ho Chi Minh's teaching career was in its infancy.

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Puzzles

The Cryptic Crossword

Spot the Difference



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

Solution on next page.



ACROSS

1. Raincoat strip? No substitute for putting things off. (15)

9. Tuck in cape tail with a couple of prepositions. (3,2)

10. World body discovered Edward? A kind of rumor. (9)

11. Almost get into train to have a party. (9)

12. Snigger! Teetotaler in rank. (6)

14. What the...? Little Richard has three points. (7)

18. In an atelier, a kind of number. (3)

20. Dodging revolution in Seoul. (7)

21. Sprinted on gravity to province. (6)

24. Confused mum, saying "Exercise hall".

28. Backed Cardinal Pon. So red! (9)

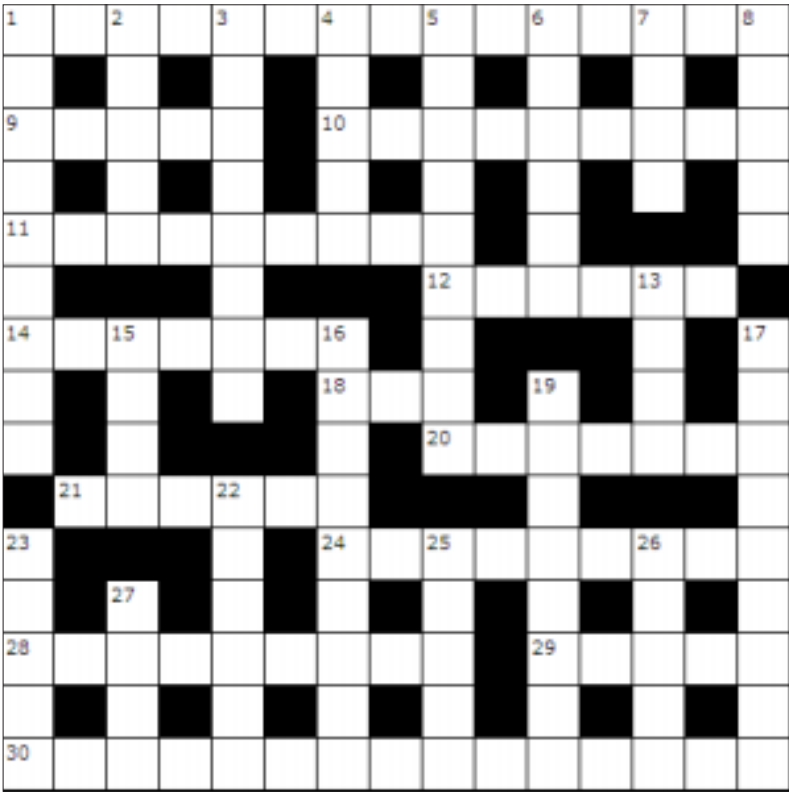
29. Take Dan to court, we hear, in African country. (5)

30. Costa Rica models turned around German party. (6,9)

Down

1. Claimant to the throne, before proposal. (9)

2. Month and French musical ensemble. (5)



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2006

3. Regarding luggage carrier and news hound. (8)

4. Underwater gear for southern Caribbean island. (5)

5. In admirer, floor piece is childish. (9)

6. Beast of burden outside at talisman. (6)

7. Race in note? Yes. (4)

8. Jog, unclothed, holding key. (5)

13. Small bag for the French and you and I. (4)

15. Pass a drink. (4)
16. Astounded, put on an act in little Germany. (9)

17. 1,000 units hold men to titles. (9)

19. Movie park in mountains, thus. (9)

22. Nothing of the French ship a Ukrainian city. (6)

23. Whities stinging insects? (5)

25. Two mothers make a lady. (5)

26. In Latin, diamond country. (5)

27. Rubbish! A hundred in army training corps. (1,1,1,1)

Solution on next page

Scribble Space



su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

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

EZ TRIVIA QUIZ

1. In which Thai province is Haad Yai?

2. The Belgian flag is composed of which three colors?

3. In which country is Mt Rushmore?

4. How many sides does an octahedron have?

5. Who is currently Vice President of the USA?
6. In Phuket, what does GRP stand for?

7. Who could not put Humpty Dumpty together again?

8. Which animals are renowned for running, en masse, off cliffs?

9. In which US state is the Alamo?

10. Who starred in *The Terminator*?

Answers on next page

Rhyme Time

The words described below all rhyme with "men". What are they?

1. Female swan.

2. At that time.

3. At which time?

4. Small bird.

5. One more time.

6. The big one in London.

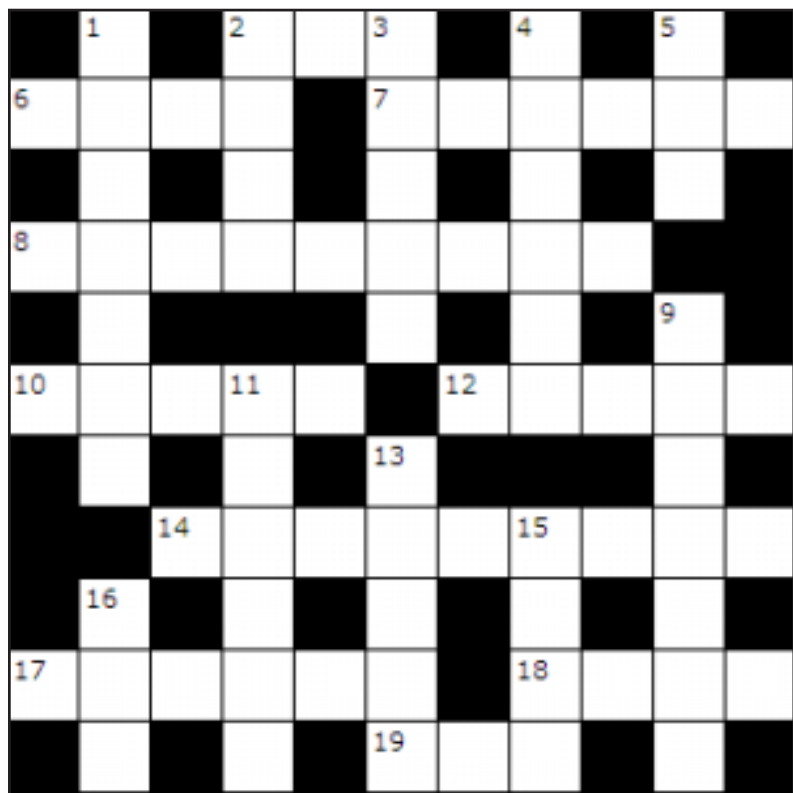
7. Rooster's missus.

8. Lair.

9. Cambodian capital.

10. Bo Derek was one.

Answers on next page



Quick Crossword

ACROSS

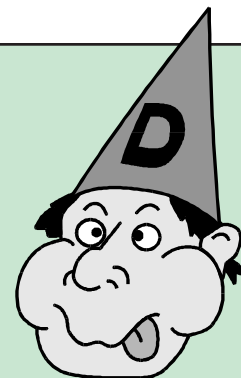
2. Overweight.
6. Certain.
7. Mistakes.
8. Not taking sides.
10. Academy Award.
12. Pursue.
14. Small blood vessel.
17. Sherlock Holmes' assistant.
18. Ms Chanel.
19. Metal source.

DOWN

1. Foreign worker in Phuket?
2. Greek goat cheese.
3. Gnashers.
4. Address a congregation.
5. Internet address.
9. Big bird.
11. Tennis player Andre.
13. Musical instrument.
15. Parasites.
16. Tree fluid.

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. Who or what was a hoplite?
2. If someone is sesquipedalian, what does he or she like?
3. If something is sesquipedal, how long is it?
4. In the US, the annual Reuben awards are given for excellence in what kind of work?
5. How many light years are there in one parsec?
6. In India, Zoroastrians are known by what name?
7. Where is the Palmer Peninsula?
8. In which year was "Singing Cowboy" Roy Rogers born?
9. Who is credited with founding Taoism?
10. In which year was Ephraim Chambers' *Cyclopedia* published?
11. Who destroyed the Kingdom of Champa?
12. She was the daughter of Ceres and she was abducted by Pluto. Who was she?
13. Who said, "Age is not a particularly interesting subject. Anyone can get old. All you have to do is live long enough."?
14. Bizet's opera *Carmen* was based on a novel by whom?
15. Where would you find protamine?
16. The Battle of Navarino was part of which war?
17. Whose navy was destroyed in the battle?
18. In which country is the River Namoi?
19. What does the dinosaur name Triceratops mean?
20. People catch the disease bilharziasis from which kind of animal?

Answers below

Puzzle Solutions

Rhyme Time Answers

1. Pen; 2. Then; 3. When; 4. Wren; 5. Again; 6. Ben; 7. Hen; 8. Den; 9. Phnom Penh; 10. A ten.

Solution to this week's Cartoon Puzzle



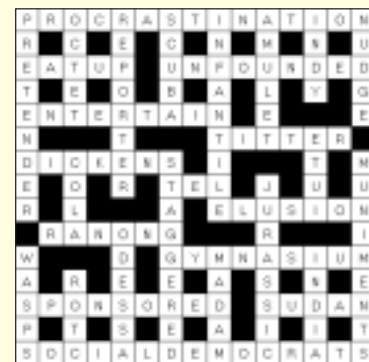
EZ Trivia Answers

1. Songkhla; 2. Red, white and blue; 3. USA; 4. Eight; 5. Richard B. Cheney; 6. Gibbon Rehabilitation Project; 7. All the King's horses and all the King's men; 8. Lemmings; 9. Texas; 10. Arnold Schwarzenegger

Monster Quiz Answers

1. A foot soldier in ancient Greece; 2. Using long words; 3. One and half feet; 4. Cartoons and illustrations; 5. 3.258; 6. Parsecs; 7. Antarctica; 8. 1912; 9. Lao Tze; 10. 1728; 11. The Annamese; 12. Proserpina; 13. Groucho Marx. 14. Prosper Merimée; 15. In fish sperm; 16. The Greek War of Independence; 17. Egypt's; 18. Australia; 19. Three horns; 20. Water snails.

Cryptic Crossword



Quick Crossword



Sudoku



The Wise Woman of Baltimore

Anne Tyler has written 17 novels set in Baltimore, the best known being *The Accidental Tourist* and *Breathing Lessons*, which won the 1988 Pulitzer Prize.

In *Digging to America* (Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 2006, 277pp), she is at the top of her form. The story opens on the night of August 15, 1997, at a nearly deserted Baltimore airport. But:

"Step around the bend, then, and you'd come upon what looked like a gigantic baby shower. The entire waiting area for the flight from San Francisco was packed with people bearing pink and blue wrapped gifts or hanging on flotillas of silvery balloons printed with 'IT'S A GIRL!' and trailing spirals of pink ribbon. A man gripped the wicker handle of a wheeled and skirted bassinet as if he planned to roll it onto the plane, and a woman stood ready with a stroller so chrome-trimmed and bristling with levers that it seemed capable of entering the Indy 500."

This mob is the Donaldsons, an American family awaiting the arrival of a Korean orphan baby



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

girl named Jin-Ho. After a tumultuous welcome full of flashbulbs and video cameras, another Korean orphan arrives and "three people no one had noticed before approached in single file: a youngish couple, foreign-looking, olive-skinned and attractive, followed by a slim older woman with a chignon of sleek black hair knotted low on the nape of her neck".

These are the Yazdans, originally from Iran, who have come to pick up their own orphan from Korea. The two families instantly become friends.

Bitsy Donaldson is a type: potter, weaver, poet, feminist, vegetarian, political activist. It's Bitsy who comes up with the idea of celebrating Arrival Day, bringing the two families together to

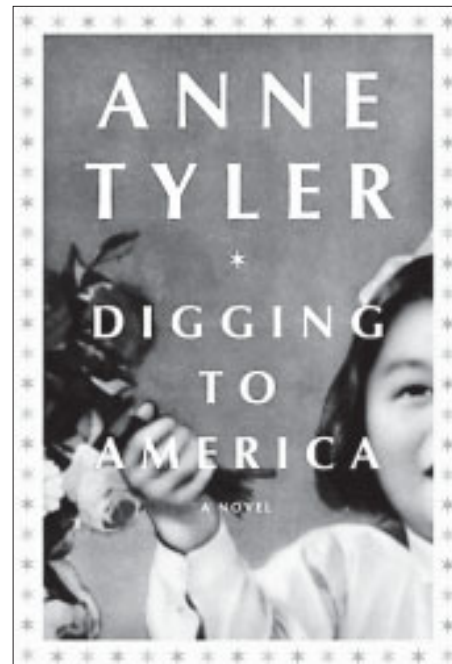
feast and watch videos of the day the two Korean orphans came to America. The two toddlers make an entrance holding hands while everyone sings "She'll Be Coming 'Round the Mountain".

The Yazdans think this is great fun. Maryam, the widowed grandmother had been a student militant against the Shah when she emigrated to America to marry Dr Kiryan Yazdan, a medical researcher. Her son Sami has refused to speak Farsi from the age of four. A real estate agent, he speaks English with a pure Baltimore accent.

Instead of the blondes he'd dated all through high school, Sami marries Ziba Hakimi whom he meets in college. Ziba is part of a large, loud, rich clan based in Washington who happily descend on Baltimore every Arrival Day for an elaborate Iranian feast orchestrated by Maryam.

While Bitsy Donaldson insists on keeping Jin-Ho's birth name, retaining her Korean bowl haircut and dressing her in traditional costume, Sukki Yazdan becomes Susan and wears blue jeans.

Not that the Yazdans are completely enamored by Ameri-



ca. And things worsen after September 11.

The pivotal character is Maryam who holds herself aloof from both Americans and Iranians. Her circle of three women friends are Greek, Turkish and French. Dave, Bitsy's father, intrudes on Maryam's life after his wife dies of cancer. They date, become lovers and Dave proposes marriage. Maryam accepts

and the two families indulge in an orgy of champagne. The next day Maryam changes her mind.

"He is so American," Maryam complains to Ziba. "He takes up so much space. He seems to be unable to let a room stay as it is, always he has to alter it, to turn on the fan or raise the thermostat or play a record or open the curtains. He has cluttered my life with cell phones and answering machines and a fancy-shamcy teapot that makes my tea taste like metal...Americans are all larger than life. You think that if you keep company with them you will be larger too, but then you see that

they're making you shrink: they're expanding and edging you out."

When the next Arrival Day comes, Jin-Ho and Susan are in kindergarten and big enough to dislike each other. Will Maryam attend? Will she return to the embrace of the Americans?

The magic of Anne Tyler is that she makes you care deeply whether she does or not.

PHUKET DIARY

www.phuketgazette.net/calendar

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

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

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

Comfort food and drinks available. Come in and chill. www.keimandrian26.com

For more information call K. Rin at Tel: 084-1935124 or send an email to info@keimandrian26.com

Until December 31: Test-drive Windows Vista and Office 2007.

If you're curious about

Windows Vista and Office 2007 – both due out in January – you can take final beta test versions for a whirl until the end of December.

We have Windows Vista build 5744 (aka "Release Candidate 2") and Office 2007 Beta 2 Technical Refresh available on a test computer at the Sandwich Shoppe in Patong – hooked up to the fastest wireless connection in Phuket.

Drop by any time: Sandwich Shoppe in Aroonsom Plaza, opposite the CAT office and Patong Language School, near Andaman Beach Suites.

For further information contact Woody Leonhard at Tel: 076-290468 or send an email to woody@KhunWoody.com

November 16-19: Andaman Spa Invitation 2006.

This four-day exhibition at Central Festival will feature spa experts and consultants who will present their views and knowledge on stage.

Special spa and beauty packages will be on offer from spa operators in Phuket and the Andaman region, including vouchers entitling the holder to buy treatments, normally priced at 600 baht or more, for only 499 baht at PSBC-member spas.

Don't miss what will clearly be the leading Spa Exhibition of the Andaman Region.

For more information call K. Gift or K. Jirasak at Tel: 081-5357803 or send an email to info@miragecreation.com

November 18: PIWC Annual Charity Ball: A Venetian Carnival Masquerade.

The Phuket International Women's Club presents a Venetian Carnival Masquerade at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa, to raise money for the education of poor students.

Ticket price: 2,500 baht, including four-course dinner & drinks. Tickets are on sale at the *Phuket Gazette* office, The Hilton, West One Salon, Central Festival, Watermark restaurant at the Boat Lagoon, and The Green Man, or contact Joan Watson at Tel: 087-2820422.



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Binding foreign teachers in red tape achieves nothing

Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont on November 3 delivered a policy statement of what his interim government hopes to accomplish within one year.

There is little to argue in the key points of his political policy agenda, which highlights, among other noble objectives, political reform, promotion of press freedom and the strengthening of independent bodies to restore a functioning mechanism of checks and balances to combat Thai society's most intractable foe: corruption.

On at least one policy objective, however, the junta's actions appear to run counter to its policy objectives. In promising to work toward decentralization of power to local administrative bodies, a legacy of the now-abrogated 1997 Constitution, one would expect a diminished role for the Ministry of Education (MoE) and an increased role in educational affairs at the local level.

This has not happened.

The MoE, which eats up more of the government's annual budget than any other ministry, recently revealed the extent to which it intends to maintain its central role by issuing a set of strict new measures, applicable to every school in the country, that will make it more difficult than ever for schools to find foreign teaching staff [see News pages].

The measures, which aim to reduce the number of less-savory foreigners having access to children, include lengthy background checks of all new foreign staff at schools, as well as a requirement that all foreign teachers at Thai schools have, as a minimum, a bachelor's degree.

It is ironic that the bachelor's degree requirement comes at a time when the the Constitution Drafting Assembly is now debating doing away this very same requirement for Thai MPs.

It is also bewildering why the MoE reasons that a person who holds a degree poses less threat to society than one who does not. Under the new rules, Hannibal Lecter would still find work in Thailand, but a well-intentioned community-college graduate would not.

Thailand's Immigration Department, its Foreign Ministry and other government branches already have numerous tools at their disposal to check backgrounds of those entering the country, and schools themselves have every reason to vet teachers thoroughly.

When will the many arms of Thai bureaucracy ever learn that vigilance, reason and effective communication – not red tape – are the keys to keeping bad foreigners out and allowing the vast majority of law-abiding ones to do their jobs and help their adoptive society?

– The Editor

The Phuket Gazette

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Letters

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

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

Don't believe the haze hype

The weather officials can't fool me: I have been able to actually smell the burning biomass from Sumatra ever since the winds turned last week [see News pages].

The first day I smelled it, I thought somebody in my compound was actually smoking marijuana.

These fires have been burning for more than 20 years and the educated public knows it's not just "brush" or "forest"; it's the entire biomass: many meters of thick peat, dead vegetation and so on, smoldering and spontaneously igniting.

See the smoke drifting right up the Andaman Coast to Phuket, Krabi and Ranong in satellite pictures on Google Images.

This haze was a big part in killing Bali tourism. When I lived there, I saw the Mount Agung volcano – which is 10 kilometers from the beach – maybe only 10 days of the year.

So take it seriously and don't just quote government press releases.

Jerry Hess
Chalong

Flemming angry at the carnival

This year the Patong Carnival [now called the Phuket Carnival] was dull. There was no laughing, but there were tired children.

The Patong Tourist Association had placed itself between two camps – the revenue office and the tourists we get the money from.

After 40 minutes of the parade came the bargirls and ladyboys.

How many sex-workers in Patong? Some say 5,000. If each one makes just 1,000 baht per day, that's 5 million baht every 24 hours. I think my calculation may be erring on the low side.

Patong is a place of sex, just as Pattaya is, so forget being nice; just be realistic.

Flemming A. Borchorst
Patong

Life's a beach – let's keep it that way

I fell in love with Bang Tao Beach when first I visited Thailand some six years ago. Now I live nearby.

When I read the headline "The Great Bang Tao Clean Up" [Inside Story, Gazette issue of October 28], I hoped the article might concern an initiative to remove the refuse on the beach. But no, it was about the uncommon muddle concerning the rights of beach vendors.

Nobody wants excessive red tape, but the problem could surely have been avoided by proper province/district organization and management, clear legislation and fair enforcement over the years.

Perhaps someone could tell me if there is a reliable system in place for the removal of rubbish from the beach? Or is it another hit-and-miss thing? I suspect the latter.

It's surprising that the authorities forget that good beaches are a major factor in attracting visitors here. I live here, and have lots of spare time. So let me help.

All I need is a beach buggy, a small trailer, some tools, chemicals to remove oil and I'll be very happy to give a foreigner's demonstration a thorough job done

well and on a daily basis.

And I promise not to dump the collected refuse just behind the tree line.

Brian Davis
Bang Tao

Thank you for your kind offer. A company has been contracted to remove litter from Cherng Talay beaches, but if you would like to lend a hand in cleaning them up, then you more than welcome to help.

At the beginning of December, Cherng Talay Tambon Administration Organization (OrBorTor) will launch a campaign to keep the environment clean. Activities will include beach cleanups and drives to encourage people to recycle their refuse. You can join in with us.

Please feel free to visit me at my office to discuss how you can help. My telephone number is 076-271096 ext105.

Tawat Rojthanapong,
Chief, Public Health Office,
Cherng Talay OrBorTor.

Rawai rapture

First, I would just like to say well done to the powers that be in Rawai; the new beachfront promenade will be a real eye catcher when it is finished. Someone in charge is doing a good job. Thanks.

Second, I went to the Loy Kratong evening at the Nai Harn lagoon. What a great show.

My wife and I had a really good laugh and the quality of the performances was outstanding.

And not forgetting how nice the lagoon looks now. Again, praise for a job well done.

John Lock
Rawai

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

Checks and balances hamper education

I agree with the spirit of the regulation, but I want to ask for fairness for my school, which is just one of the 51 schools represented at the recent meeting held in Phuket on this issue.

I wish someone would explain to us why our two work permit applications were held up, because they were submitted for approval before the new regulations were announced.

I also think this order is unfair to many foreign teachers working in Thailand, who are forced to suffer because of the actions of one person in a case that had nothing to do with them.

However, we accept and are ready to comply with this rule; I think every other school in the province can as well.

Phuket is a small province with just three districts, so I don't think it should be too much of a problem for the schools to work together with the government to check out the history of foreign teachers they plan to employ, as long as we know the requirements in advance.

But now QSI Phuket has a staffing problem, because the work permit applications that were held up. It is important to realize that QSI already has a very strict selection process, administered through its central office in the USA. It is responsible

FIRST PERSON

New regulations requiring extensive background checks on all foreign teachers working in the province [see News pages] has hit some schools harder than others.

QSI International School of Phuket, a non-profit international school, recently lost two potential staff when the province held up two work permit applications – both submitted before the new regulation was announced.

Here, QSI Phuket teacher Ruangnapa “Khru Noi” Hirunroj explains how Ministry of Education officials should better consider the needs of teachers and students when issuing edicts that effect their lives.



for checking that all teachers sent out to any of the 32 QSI schools around the world are persons of high moral standards, because we realize that they have to serve as role models for our students.

By passing our own strict standards, the teachers also comply with all hiring policies of the Thai government for foreign teachers. Our system works, too.

About eight years ago, QSI Phuket had one teacher who applied using fake academic cre-

dentials and we immediately threw out his application and denied him a job. QSI Phuket is not a school that hires someone just because his native language happens to be English. Screening applicants' credentials has always been important here. It has to be, because our reputation depends on it.

I would like the people who issued this regulation to know what an additional hardship it places on schools that already

face formidable obstacles in finding qualified, foreign staff. It is not fair to the students, either.

When I was student, I loved my teachers and always worried about them if they were absent. I think all students think like this, because they have close relationships with their teachers. But it seems that the people who put these regulations in place don't understand the importance of student-teacher relationships.

We were all students at one time, so I would like to ask those in position of power to remember this important point. Now we lack foreign teaching staff. It was already difficult enough for us before, as many of our teachers arrive here on tourist visas and we have to cover the expense of their trips abroad to get the non-immigrant visa they need to apply for a work permit.

Because of this current problem, QSI was unable to apply for the non-immigrant visas for the two teachers we intended to hire. They have since gone back to the US and we are short-staffed as a result.

The people who set such regulations need a deeper understanding of the results of their actions on schools, teachers and students. They should understand just how much time out of the classroom results, and what a loss it is for the students.

Maybe one of them could visit one day, look into the eyes of our students, and apologize to them for the fact that the library and physical education positions haven't been filled yet.

It's a big loss to the students, because they need to study with native English speakers.

The remaining teachers, including the Thai staff, suffer from this too. Now that QSI doesn't have a physical education teacher, I must add classes in this subject to my already-full course load as a music teacher.

QSI observes every public holiday and all important cultural occasions, as instructed by the Ministry of Education.

Every morning at 8 am you can see our students – including children of foreigners – proudly singing the Thai national anthem and paying their respects to the three things Thais hold most dear: Nation, Religion and our King, the same as every other school in Thailand.

QSI Phuket is a small school, with just 12 foreign teachers and six Thais, so now we are short of a physical education teacher and librarian, both jobs that should be held by foreign teachers. We went through a good deal and waited a long time for replacement staff to fill these positions, but then it fell through because of this regulation.

I want the people responsible to sympathize with international schools, which need to hire a lot of foreign teachers to educate our students. We don't want just anybody who can speak English; we only want the best teachers for our students.

Now we are worried because we need replacement teachers quickly, but that is impossible under the current rules.

So I ask those responsible to please take into better consideration the needs of the students and the feelings of foreigners who work as teachers here.

Issues & ANSWERS

DTAC EXTORTION?

I am upset because I believe that DTAC is extorting money from me and all its other customers. Because of their “Happy” credit validity period policy. Apparently, independent of the amount of credit a customer has in his/her account, he/she must spend a certain amount of money each month to keep his/her account active. That may sound reasonable, but in this case it is (or is close to being) extortion. And in most countries extortion is illegal.

On May 14 my account balance was 142.68 baht.

That same day DTAC sent me a “Happy” message informing me that my credit was going to expire on May 14. My credit did expire and I was not able to make any phone calls even

though I had more than enough credit in my account to make a local phone call.

Subsequently, I discovered that the only way I could spend the money that was already in my account was to give DTAC more money.

DTAC should rethink its credit-validity period policy. As long as there is sufficient credit in a customer's account to cover the cost of his/her intended phone call, a customer should have the right to be free from “credit seizure”.

Jopal Merob
Bangkok

A DTAC Call Center officer responds:

There are a variety of de-

nominations for pre-paid cards: 50 baht for 3 days, 90 baht for 6 days, 200 baht for 20 days, etc.

For a pre-paid, when you fill your account balance, the automatic reply will let you know how much you have in your account and the expiration date. The expiration date will count from a day you add money to your account and if it expired you cannot make a call, but your account does not expire with the date. When you fill your account balance again, the expiration day will be reset and your last account will be added with new account; it has not disappeared, nor is Dtac extorting you. You could not make a call because your date was expired but your account had not disappeared.

In The Stars

by Isla Star

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Most of your worries should be gone with the wind by the end of this week, leaving Scorpios with a welcome fresh outlook on life. Forget a get-rich-quick scheme that Pisces has been dangling as bait. The chances of this working out are about as likely as seeing an elephant fly. Those coming of age during the week ahead can look forward to a more light-hearted year.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Approach a situation at work as if walking on egg shells. Someone will have their nose put seriously out of joint if you reveal a secret. Romance is forecast to be a pleasant distraction; make this Saturday a day to remember by taking your loved one to a special place. The stars are ready to back your efforts to find more fruitful ways of making your money tree grow.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): If you have been digging in your hooves regarding domestic change, you'll find an easy answer. It appears that you have been making this situation more complicated than it really is. If you're single, resist chickening out on a blind date this weekend; it's certain to be more fun than you expect. An impatient mood on Tuesday could cause frustration in high places.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): You will feel more tranquil from the middle of this month. Your irritated mood of late has made waves where the sea should have been calm, and at least one person thinks that an apology is in order. Where business is concerned, you will learn that one cloud does have a silver lining, but others are gray all the way through. The number 7 can bring luck on Thursday.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Last-minute changes to business arrangements will keep you on your toes this week. Take a leaf out of a Cancerian friend's book if you find it hard to think on your feet. In the zone of love, you get a second chance at romance with Aries. If this involves making too many compromises, think twice before proceeding as it could be a taste of things to come.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): The heat is seriously on if you have deadlines to meet, and there's little likelihood of being granted breathing space. Coincidentally, you will be flooded with social invitations this weekend. Choose wisely how you spend your time and don't allow others to sidetrack you from what is all important. Wednesday is highlighted as being a good news day regarding financial matters. The color salmon pink will encourage balanced energy.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): A varied week lies ahead. Catching up with old acquaintances is high on your agenda, and at least one of these reunions could bring some emotional turbulence. Take time out for some quiet contemplation to deal with this. Family affairs are well-starred; you will come to realize just how important it is to maintain communication. The scent of vanilla encourages a calm mood.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Look ahead properly before you stride off into the jungle, or face becoming trapped in a sticky situation. Your partner has an idea worth listening to this weekend; with some careful planning this stands good chance of turning into a real money-spinner. Wednesday is the luckiest day for signing important agreements. The number 5 looks promising on Tuesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): You can't get enough of having a good time this week. Your social life is becoming more active, and making new friends is a positive move forward. Those who are single will particularly enjoy meeting a beguiling Virgoan. Throw caution to the wind and live for the moment. You've been bogged down in practical matters for too long. Wear the color dark chocolate to make a sensual statement.

LEO (July 24-August 22): A rollercoaster ride lies ahead. You are likely to think that there just aren't enough hours in the day to accomplish all that needs to be done, but help is closer at hand than you think. Last minute travel arrangements may seem like the last thing you need, but this trip will turn out to be a welcome break. The color strawberry pink lightens your mood.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): The days can't pass quickly enough for those looking forward to an imminent holiday. Be sure to check important details before setting off as it appears that you have a lot on your mind at present. Money matters are looking good; a cash bonus is forecast to arrive before the end of the month. Where romance is concerned, be prepared to lay your heart on the line and you won't be disappointed.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): The excitement of playing a game of cat and mouse starts to wear thin. Unfortunately, the other person is still having too much fun to want to get as serious as you would like. When it comes to the crunch you must make a sensible decision and Sunday is a good day for doing so. On Tuesday you could be pleasantly surprised by interest shown in your ideas for improving a work related situation.

What's the story about the Patong Hill movies?

Dear Momma Duck,

At the small shrine atop Patong Hill, I notice that they sometimes set up a screen to show a movie. It seems like a strange place to show a movie to me, especially given the lack of parking and general road chaos in that area.

Someone told me these movies were not, in fact, for public viewing but rather for the spirits who inhabit the hilltop there.

Is that true? If so, how and when do they screen them? What type of movies do they usually show? How common is this practice? Is it local to Phuket? Is it ok to stop and watch "with the spirits"? Can I drink beer there if I do?

Stephen

Dear Stephen,

Thai people love to make vows, take an oath or in other ways make wishes or prayers for something.

When their wish is fulfilled they must repay according to their promise or *kae-bon* to the spirits, the shrine or to the Buddha, although this practice is certainly not a part of Buddhism.

They tend to ask for happiness, to recover something that is lost, to have a child, for success, to pass an exam, to win a lottery and so on.

One could say they tend to ask for almost anything under the sun and they really never stop asking.

If a spirit could speak, he or she might say, "For God's sake, I've had enough of your requests."

However, this practice has existed for a long, long time and in fact seems to grow continuously.

Our belief is that one cannot forget to *kae-bon* if the wish comes true.

Otherwise, if the promise has not been fulfilled, the spirit will haunt your mind and cause bad karma.

There are various common ways to *kae-bon*, which often depend upon which shrine and where you go to make a wish or a vow.

For example at the famous Tao Maha Prom shrine in Bangkok, wooden elephants, seven colored garlands and sponsoring a Thai classical dance are often offered at the shrine.

This varies from one region to the next. A person could even make a vow to run a marathon if his wish is fulfilled.

In the South, a traditional *leekay* show or shadow puppet show was commonly offered to the spirits. In modern times, this has often become the playing of a movie.

In the case of a movie, one could vow to have an English, Thai, Chinese or even an Indian movie.

If you happen to pass by when the show is going on, you can certainly stop to watch, even though it is not really intended for public viewing – although I would really caution you about the dangerous traffic situation at the Patong Hill shrine.

There is no specific forecast when they will screen them.

It may also be possible that the Chinese shrine on top of Patong Hill is celebrating its yearly homage to the spirits with movies.

Of course you can drink whatever you want, but it would be a good idea to fill a little cup and offer some to the spirit at the shrine as well.

For sure he'll bless you and maybe even decide to grant you a wish.



Momma DUCK

By Wanida Hongyok
momma@phuketgazette.net

People tend to ask for almost anything under the sun and they really never stop asking. If a spirit could speak, he or she might say, "For God's sake, I've had enough of your requests."

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THE MOODY BLUES

There is a saying that goes, "Life is a roller-coaster". This saying refers to how life is comprised; it is a series of perpetual "ups and downs", with high points and low points.

There are times when you feel as happy as if you'd won a million baht – and then there are the days when you feel so frazzled and fed up you just want to shut your door on the world and go to sleep for a week.

Everybody has those moments, although the frequency of good moments and bad moments varies depending on the person. Some fortunate people naturally have more happy times than bad times, usually due to the circumstances they were born into, such as the financial state of their family or the emotional state of their parents.

At the other end of the spectrum, some people just seem to suffer from more bad luck, usually because they have not had a good start in life.

You would think the relationship between the circumstances of your life and your mood would be as clear as black and white.

But nowadays a new trend is emerging; many people in today's world, despite having enough money, a supportive family and fun friends, just aren't having as many high points as you might expect. In fact, some people's moods plummet and remain low for a protracted period of time.

This results in failure to live a healthy, functional life. The medical term for this? Depression.

The symptoms of depression are as follows: not enjoying activities you previously loved, withdrawing from family and friends, persistent feelings of having failed, loss of purpose in life and troubles with eating and sleeping.

This disorder, only recently recognized as a actual illness, used to be referred to as "mal-

The symptoms of depression are as follows: not enjoying activities you previously loved, withdrawing from family and friends, persistent feelings of having failed, loss of purpose in life and troubles with eating and sleeping.

It's a disease that can afflict anyone, regardless of background.

aise" or "melancholy", which gave people the unfortunate impression that depression was just a temporary emotional state, perhaps reflecting a flaw in the affected person's character.

In today's world, much to the relief of depression victims, doctors now know that it is a disease of the brain caused by the imbalance of a "happy" chemical in the brain called serotonin.

Serotonin promotes a stable mood and helps us eat and sleep normally. When something inhibits serotonin's uptake in the brain, we get depressed. This can go on for a long period of time and can even be fatal if it's not treated.

Unlike other severe mental disorders, one of the major problems with depression is that it's a subtle illness so it can often go undiagnosed. You might not know someone has it, even if they're your best friend or a family member.

Even if you do get suspicious, you might just attribute their behavior to something like stress

or hormones, two problems we teens suffer from a great deal.

In the turbulent teenage years it can be difficult to separate the melodrama from the real drama of a mental disorder, but the reality is that depression is one of the most common illnesses among teenagers.

It can be very debilitating, especially as these adolescent years are when we lay the foundations for our futures.

If a teenager falls prey to depression – the illness which Winston Churchill famously called "the black dog" – they lose interest in friends, school and family. Depression can even lead to further problems such as drug and alcohol abuse or eating disorders.

If this happens the best thing is to get medical help, even though there might be embarrassment about the "stigma" surrounding depression and the popping of anti-depressant pills.

Fortunately, a revolution in the anti-depressant industry has resulted in a whole new range of

medications with few side effects and proven results.

Sometimes depression can continue for a long, lonely period of time, as it is hard for family and friends to relate to the emotions involved because they have never experienced them.

People with depression can feel isolated, lost, helpless, out of control, even suicidal. The important thing to remember is that help is always out there in the form of psychiatrists, medication and the support system of family.

Really, the stigma about this disease should not exist. The simple truth is that teens, and indeed anyone who contracts depression, aren't irrevocably reduced to jibbering wrecks in straitjackets. They are normal people just like you, with a house, pets, friends and hobbies.

The only difference is that every day they must battle with

a malignant illness that attempts to rob them of happiness and pleasure. It is a cancer of the emotions, and just like cancer it can be treated.

With a mild bout of depression, the afflicted teen's typical "healthy" behavior of wanting to stay in bed, moaning, complaining and shouting becomes much more pronounced – so much so that they might refuse to get out of bed, stop eating properly and just want to sleep all day.

It's tough, but it's not the end of the world.

No matter how frustrating it is to be the friend or family member of a teenager with depression, don't give up on them.

Their behavior is not that of a selfish stubborn person. Rather, it is symptomatic of someone who has been temporarily taken over by an illness that hijacks the brain and can cause them to say things they don't mean or take actions they would never consider while in a normal frame of mind.

What you must never forget is they are still the loving, good person they were before the disease struck, and that with a little support that true kernel of their personality can resurface and take back control of their emotions.

Depression may be a crippling disorder, but it is just a disorder and it can be effectively treated with support and some helpful "happiness boosting" anti-depressants. All the black dog needs is a collar and he can be banished to the dog house for good.



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By Amy Van de Castele

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DO definitely does it

People I've never met before are stopping me and asking about DO (pronounced "dee-oh"), the new wireless broadband service from the Communications Authority of Thailand (CAT).

People all over the island are excited, for a change – and well they should be. DO isn't perfect, but it's a giant step forward for long-suffering Phuket Internet users.

For those of you who have not kept up to date, CAT has installed DO receivers on its towers all over Phuket, and over much of Thailand.

Phuket was chosen for the pilot program because of its rather compact size and its likely demand for fast, relatively cheap, reliable Internet access.

The technology is called CDMA 2000 1xEV-DO Rev A.

How good is it? Consider this. In the US, Sprint announced last month that it was just starting to roll out its DO Rev A network, a move that "will give the nation's third-largest wireless carrier the fastest wide area network" in the US.

Sprint will have DO in 21 US cities by the end of the year. We have it here. In Phuket. Now.

At this point, you have just one choice for DO: you must buy a Sierra Wireless 580 "air card" from CAT. It's a PCMCIA card and it will only fit into a PCMCIA (also called a "PC-Card") slot – the long, thin slot that's common on laptops but unusual on desktops.

The card costs about 16,000 baht and as I write this CAT still has some available. If you buy the card now, DO service is free for the rest of the year. After Janu-

ary 1, it costs 1,290 baht per month.

CAT doesn't make any speed claims, but I was impressed by my test results. The only place I couldn't get a signal was at Nai Harn Beach. I didn't test everywhere on the island, of course.

Some people wait months to get ADSL lines. The DO card installs in minutes, no land line necessary, and it should work in all the major population centers – and many "upcountry" areas – throughout Thailand. No extra charge. No hassle.

In my previous articles, I said you had to go to one of the CAT offices to get the card.

I mistakenly said there were three in Phuket: in fact, there are only two, one on Phang Nga Rd in Phuket City and another in

Aroonsom Plaza in Patong.

Several people have told me that they've

seen DO cards offered elsewhere in Phuket.

Don't be surprised if mobile phone companies get into the act. As long as you're buying a Sierra Wireless 580 card with DO service from CAT, you've got the right beast.

I have received at least 100 emails about DO. Here's a sampling from them:

Q You may find this amusing. I read your article on DO so I had my Thai staff call two different CAT offices.

It took three days of calling before anyone could be found who had heard about DO.

Finally, on the third day, we were able to get a quote: 15,450 baht for the card and 1,290 baht per month.

When my staff asked if it works on a specific Soi in Ka-

mala she was told to bring the computer to Patong and they would test it to be sure it works in Kamala.

SR

A DO is new to CAT, so don't be too surprised if it takes a while to find somebody who knows about it. But if you say "Dee-Oh" (or maybe "Computer Cee-Dee-Em-Aaa"), you will get hooked up with the right people.

Once you find the right people, you'll be amazed at how well they know the product. At least, I am.

CAT's working with world-class "3G" third-generation mobile phone technology, and doing a bang-up job with it.

Q I am a little bit concerned about the location of our house. It is at a base of a large hill, not far from Chalong Circle. I don't want to spend this kind of money just to find out that it won't work. What do you think?

MC

A The only way to find out for sure is to go down to CAT, order the card and wait for them to install it.

They'll come to your house or office and make sure you can get a signal. If it doesn't work, you don't owe anything.

Your biggest problem right now may be getting in line quickly enough.

If the volume of interest I've seen is any indication, CAT has a sure-fire winner on their hands, and it may take a while to get out to your place.

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. Both should be available worldwide in January.

Obituary: John Seebach

A sad loss to Phuket's computer community



On October 11, the computer community in Phuket was saddened by the loss of one of its most prominent members when John E Seebach succumbed to heart failure after swimming with his wife, Autcharawan "Gay" Pratumwan.

John is survived by his mother, Teresa, older brother Richard and sister Carol, as well as his wife.

John was born in New Jersey on November 18, 1958, and he grew up in upstate New York, in a small town called Horseheads. In 1982, John graduated from the State University of New York (SUNY), majoring in Mechanical Engineering.

In 1987 he was awarded a second degree, an Associate of Arts degree in Accounting from Texas A&M University. He was also a certified Microsoft Network Engineer.

After graduating from SUNY, John worked in the oil business, with Ingersol Rand as an R&D Engineer, SEPCO Industries as an Applications Engineer, and ARAMCO as a Project Manager on two offshore rigs.

In 1990 he joined California Pacific Medical Services as a Project Manager, where he implemented one of the first wide area network physician-support systems in Northern California.

John moved to southern Thailand in 1995, working as MIS Director for the International Division of Phillips Seafood Company. He met Gay while working for Phillips Seafood. They married on August 9, 2002.

In 1999, John and Gay moved to Singapore and founded Lavabread Co Ltd, which developed one of the first Internet-based e-commerce systems. They sold the company in 2001 to Firststep.com, an American Internet company.

In 2001, John and Gay moved to Phuket, founding Island Technology Co Ltd, one of the most active computer companies on the island. In four years the company grew from two employees with 1.2 million baht annual revenue to 31 employees with revenues in excess of 30 million baht. John designed and installed the first commercial broadband network in southern Thailand.

Recently, John and Gay devoted increasing amounts of their time and effort on Luna Phuket, their luxury garden villa development just outside Laguna Resort and the Sheraton and Banyan Tree hotels.

John was a member of the Rotary Club of Patong Beach and on the board of the International Business Association of Phuket. He took part in many early rounds of the Phuket Information City project.

He had a reputation as a results-oriented hard worker, with a big heart and a gift for wisecracking banter. He was renowned for his tales of small-town upstate New York and for his oft-repeated claim that, "Gay saved my life."

We'll miss you, John.

– Woody Leonhard



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ON THE MOVE



Vutiphan Wangprakob-sak, 33, from Bangkok, has been appointed General Manager of The Waterfront, Phuket. He holds a degree in office management from Bournemouth Polytechnic in England and a degree in management from Cambridge University. His diverse work experience includes working as Managing Director of BKJ Prosign printers in Bangkok and one year as an assistant at the Nepalese Embassy in Bangkok.



Pattama Daraboth Yoshimura, from Prachuap Kiri Khan, has been appointed Director of Rooms of Le Royal Meridien Phuket Yacht Club. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in arts from Mahidol University International College. In 1999 she started her career in the hospitality industry as a Guest Service Agent at the Shangri-La Hotel in Bangkok. She later joined Starwood Hotels & Resorts at the Sheraton Grande Sukhumvit.



Haleng Whaji, from Patani, has been appointed Assistant Restaurant Manager for The Mangosteen Resort & Spa. He has more than 13 years' hotel experience on Koh Samui and Phuket. Before joining The Mangosteen he was Restaurant Manager at Muang Samui Resort & Spa on Samui. His experience includes working in food and beverage at Maiton Island Resort, Phuket Merlin Hotel, Amanpuri and the Royal Phuket City Hotel.

By Supanun Supawong
& Janyaporn Morel

Club Andaman moves ahead with commercial development

The Club Andaman Group (CAG) is moving ahead with its Andaman Bazaar commercial property development on Thaweewong Rd, Patong, with the complex's central attraction, the ThruSea entertainment venue, due to open by the end of this month.

ThruSea, a 980-square-meter shopping promenade, is being built behind Andaman Bazaar, which stretches from Haad Patong Rd to Saxophone restaurant.

ThruSea is about 60% complete and expected to cost a total of 7 million baht.

Nol Sawangjang, Asset Management Manager of Club Andaman Beach Resort, explained that ThruSea will have capacity for more than 300 guests, with 75% of its floor area outdoors.

"The modern-design restaurant will be divided into two sections: upstairs will be an open-air terrace where guests can enjoy cocktails while enjoying the view of Patong Beach; downstairs will



be a dance floor with the latest sound-and-lighting system," he said.

"CAG management has

concentrated on designing ThruSea to be a big luxury entertainment venue in outstanding modern style.

"It will be similar to The Port, another entertainment venue in Patong, or Rock City, which is part of Andaman Bazaar, but ThruSea will serve everything at 'normal' prices," Nol added.

Andaman Bazaar is CAG's first venture into the Patong commercial property market. Of its 46 units, each with 48sqm of interior space, 39 units are already being rented at 60,000 baht a month. A deposit of six months'

rent – 360,000 baht – is required to take up occupancy.

CAG was formed to create an asset management company bringing together resources of the 253-room, four-star Club Andaman Beach Resort and the 93-room Andaman Beach Suites Hotel. The company began construction of Andaman Bazaar in July 2005.

CAG General Manager Adison Sitthiwong explained that the move adds to the Club Andaman Beach Resort's and the Andaman Beach Suites Hotel's combined competitiveness.



Left: Two parts of the project are complete and operating.
Above: General Manager Adison Sitthiwong.

"Many hotel businesses in Patong are expanding. Many are managed by foreigners and international-chain businesses, so we must improve our hotels to remain competitive," he said.

Adisorn explained that moves introduced to improve Club Andaman Beach Resort include ISO 9001:2000 certification and the use of key performance indicators to improve the hotel's effectiveness. "Although these systems are not new for hotels belonging to foreigners or run by international-chain management, for Thai people they are new management tools that can help us to improve our quality of service," he said.

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MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

In the world of financial planning, financial institutions usually have their bases in different countries. As no single investment house has the total solution to client needs, it is necessary to use an investment platform to simplify matters. For example, finding the best solution for any client may require the use of financial products from anything from three to eight different financial institutions.

However, this would lead to confusion because of a number of factors. Administration itself would become tedious, extremely time consuming and in the event of the death of a client it would lead to a legal nightmare of having clients' beneficiaries trying to tie up multi-jurisdictional estates, all requiring probate to be granted in a number of countries.

SOURCES

In addition, each financial institution used by an investor requires extensive documentation on source of wealth, proof of residential address and so on. The alternative would be to rely on one financial institution to provide services for the client, but that in turn would limit the client to both investment opportunities and types of investment.

No investment house in the world can expect to offer all possible types of investment choices and to be the best choice for every type of investment.

Although many banks and other asset managers offer to manage money, they usually do so on the basis of offering three different types of portfolios: secure, balanced and aggressive.

What they are basically packaging are three different choices. The secure approach usually means a portfolio consisting of bonds and some cash. The balanced approach consists of bonds, cash and equities. The

Diving into investment? Just trust a Scot to use a platform



Investment contracts are available. Scottish Life International calls them PIMS, short for Personal Investment Management Service, and base currencies include pounds sterling, euros and US dollars



aggressive fund usually consists of equities (stock market) with perhaps some recourse to a small inclusion of bonds and cash.

Rather than "one size fits all" this simply leads to "three sizes fits all". It simplifies matters for the financial institution, but can hardly be described as "personal financial planning".

The solution to all these problems is actually quite simple – use an investment platform. This allows investors to go through the anti-money-laundering, source of wealth process only once – regardless of how many financial institutions the capital is actually invested in.

It also gives the investor much greater control over the allocation of assets in the investment portfolio.

For example many people are wary of exposure to risk in stock markets, but do not want their money to be invested in

only bonds and cash. There are many alternatives available completely separate from all these areas.

The insurance industry has moved in to fill this gap in the market by offering "investment platforms" whereby the client and an adviser make the investment decisions.

In practice, the insurance company's products are rarely used, but insurance companies provide a straightforward way of investing in assets regardless of the actual investment house.

This has come about simply because all the major investment houses, including the world's largest banks, want to offer their products via insurance

companies. To them, insurance companies are a huge source of new business that takes no effort to access, and they do not need to go through the anti-money-laundering requirements as the insurance company has already attended to them.

For banks and asset managers, it is simply a matter of their dealing department conducting instant business with the dealing department of an insurance company. It is professionals dealing with professionals. As a result, normal charging structures are heavily discounted as these are electronic transactions.

A recent addition to the range of insurance companies used by Global Portfolios is Scot-

tish Life International, part of the Royal London Group. Formed in 1861, today it is the largest mutual insurance company in Europe. A mutual insurance company is owned 100% by the policy holders; there are no outside shareholders.

Scottish Life has its headquarters in Edinburgh, and its international headquarters in the Isle of Man. It has a solid reputation for good service, and I have found that while Scottish Life must observe anti-money-laundering regulations, it has not taken this to excess.

Currently it is operating in the UK, Germany, the Middle East and Africa but is now extending operations into Asia.

Although dealing with literally hundreds of global financial institutions, Scottish Life offers normal discounts and its charging structures are highly competitive. Investors can obtain full valuations of Scottish Life portfolios via the Internet on a daily basis.

Investment contracts are available. Scottish Life International calls them PIMS, short for Personal Investment Management Service, and base currencies include pounds sterling, euros and US dollars.

However, any major currency can be held, including Singaporean dollars, Canadian dollars, yen, Australian dollars and so on.

In addition, Scottish Life's level of service has been impressive; it employs some very dedicated people.

Richard Watson runs Global Portfolios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based personal financial planning service. He can be reached at Tel/Fax: 076-381997. Mobile: 081-0814611. Email: imm@loxinfo.co.th

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The youngest competitor in the Sprint Triathlon, 11-year-old Josh Henthorne races to the finish.

PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

Didi's thump Shakers for a double

PATONG: Didi's have defended their title of Patong Darts League champions, finishing the season with 54 points out of a possible 66 with a two-point win over Shakers on the road.

Coyote finished in second place on 51 points, and Piccadilly third on 47, the highest to date for those two teams.

Other highlights in the last week of play include Queen Mary's Steen taking the high score with a 180 against Dogs Bollock's and, in a battle between newcomers, TaiLife eking out a 5-4, two-point win over Funky Monkey, leaving the latter to claim the wooden spoon award in their first season of play.

At the team captain's meeting on November 4, the league received the shock news that Amigos were dropping out. Word lat-

er came that Jungle Juice would follow suit, lowering the number of teams in the league to just 10.

Another bar expressed an interest in joining the league, but as this goes to print it was still undecided whether to play an unbalanced schedule with a bye for one team each week or go with just 10 teams.

Play is expected to resume on November 14, but the season schedule has yet to be confirmed. Players should consult their team captains, who should receive new schedules soon from League Secretary Steen.

The Thai Darts Association is compiling information for a web page about darts venues in Patong. To have a venue listed, email a scanned map and other basic information about the venue to: darts@phuketgazette.net

Alternatively, drop off a business card with a map at Piccadilly Bar on Soi Kebsup or with League Secretary Steen.

October 31 results: Funky Monkey* 4 TaiLife 5; Queen Mary 8 Dogs Bollock's* 1; Amigos 5 Valhalla* 4; Shakers* 3 Didi's 6; Jungle Juice 3 Coyote Bar* 6; Piccadilly 5 Offshore* 4 (* = winner of beer leg).

Final Standings: 1. Didi's (54 points); 2. Coyote Bar (51); 3. Piccadilly (47); 4. OffShore (41); 5. Dogs Bollock's (37); 6. Shakers (33); 7. Amigos (32); 8. Queen Mary (28); 9. Valhalla (25); 10. Jungle Juice (23); 11. TaiLife (13); 12. Funky Monkey (12).

Beer legs: 1. Coyote (17 legs); 2. Piccadilly (15); 3. Didi's (14); 4. Offshore, Shakers (13); 6. Queen Mary (12); 7. Amigos (10); 8. Dogs Bollock's, Valhalla, Jungle Juice (9); Funky Monkey (6); TaiLife (5).

TriBallistic draws big turnout

MAI KHAO: More than 80 race entrants between the ages 6 and 72 took part in the second Silk Series Triathlon at the JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa on November 5.

In the Splash-N-Dash Race, athletes eight years or younger completed a 50-meter swim, three-kilometer cycle and 750m run.

Anne-Flore Smits led the race from start to finish, closely followed by BCIS schoolmate Celine Russel. Jesse Horwood finished in third place in his first triathlon event.

In the Junior Distance Triathlon, 20 competitors ranging from seven to 14 years old competed in three age categories. Manisha Lama, 11, led the swim with Bronte O'Leary close behind in second place. Teisha Jones once again showed her strength on the bike as she moved into first place during the 6km cycle.

A superb finishing run by Victor Kirstein saw him take line honors, followed closely by Teisha Jones in second place. Another great performance by Philip Johansson gave him third place.

Other results in the Junior Distance Triathlon: Under-8 Boys: Raymond Windsor. Under-8 Girls: Victoria Bird. Under-10 Boys: Jonas Johansson; Under-10 Girls: Teisha Jones. Under-12 Boys: Philip Johansson. **12 years and older:** 1. Victor Kirstein; 2. Casey Underwood; 3. Mia Dwyer.

The main event, the Senior Sprint Distance Triathlon, saw many new competitors, but it was dominated by competitors in the masters (age 50+) category.

Lee Horwood helped his

team off to a winning start with an exceptional performance that saw him exit the water two minutes ahead of Matthew Porter, 14, in second place. Fast swims by students Emma Breschi and Amy Henthorne put them into third and fourth places after the swim.

The 20km cycle was fought strongly with great performances by Jenny Hechlar, Klaus Hebben, Richard Cracknell, Kanit Yongaskul and the youngest senior competitor, 11-year-old Josh Henthorne.

John Duoma proved too strong for the rest of the field in the run, finishing the 5km in first place. Second place went to Richard Cracknell and third to Kanit Yongsakul, all of whom were racing in the masters category.

Other results in the Senior Sprint Distance Triathlon.

Under-16 Boys: Josh Henthorne. **Under-16 Girls:** 1. Timana Hossack; 2. Amy Henthorne; 3. Catherine Bird. **Open Men's:** 1. Mark Bamber; 2. Akghox Modorai; 3. Oliver Mitchell. **Open Women's:** 1. Jenny Hechlar; 2. Georgia Bamber; 3. Michelle Hossack. **Team Category:** 1. Lee Horwood & team; 2. Matthew Porter, Kritsada Chok and Zach Underwood; 3. Phil Russel and Neville Dwyer.

Race three of the series will be held February 25 at the JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa. This event will be an "Extreme Triathlon", requiring mountain bikes and involving cross-country running.

Junior Distance will be a 200m swim, 3km mountain bike and 1.5km run. Senior Distance will be 750m swim, 10km mountain bike and 5km run.

The *Phuket Gazette* is the sole media sponsor of the series.

Bike races

KARON: The "Karon Mountain Bike II" competition, with mountain bike races over 25 kilometers, 15km and 10km, will be held November 18.

Entry fees are 350 baht and 300 baht for the 25-km race and the 15-km race, respectively, and the 10-km ride is free to join.

The 10-km race will begin at 9 am, the 15-km race at 11 am and the 25-km race at 2 pm. All races start at Karon Park.

For information, contact the Kata-Karon Municipality Education Division at Tel: 076-330478 or Phuket Beach Boy Mountain Bike Team at Tel: 089-8747308 (Prasert), 089-8747308 (Dany) or 081-893-1778 (Jeab).

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ChildWatch Charity Golf Champion Alan Hoppen (right), receives his trophies and prizes from Anton Casey.

Hoppen wins Childwatch golf

THALANG: Some 150 golfers and their friends turned out on Saturday, November 4, for the Child Watch Charity Golf Competition at Blue Canyon Country Club. Organizers announced the money raised surpassed last year's total of 1.2 million baht.

The 8th annual charity golf competition began with a shotgun start at 12:30 pm. Five hours later, the competition culminated in 11 trophies and prizes being handed out to the day's top golfers.

The ladies' champion was Irene Saw of Singapore, while Englishman Alan Hoppen, a member of Blue Canyon, earned the men's top prize. The chipping

contest from the clubhouse terrace to the 18th green was won by 12-year-old Victor Kirstein, whose shot finished within 30cm of the hole.

"It was a fantastic day. We are very proud to have assisted in raising a record amount in support of Child Watch thanks to the generosity of the sponsors, private donors and golfers," said Martin Carpenter, Chairman of the BBAP and also the Master of Ceremonies at the event. "We are very pleased that every year to date we have managed to improve on the previous year for Child Watch - Phuket."

The *Phuket Gazette* was the event's media sponsor.

Viagrabonds victorious

PHNOM PENH: In an upset at the Anchor Rugby Tens tournament last week, the Phuket Vagabonds returned home with the Old Boys Champions' trophy.

Phuket's coffin dodgers defeated the heavily favored Bangkok Bangers 15-10 and French Indochine 25-15 to hoist the trophy for the first time in club history.

"I can't believe it," said Vagabonds veteran Steve "Hot-dog" Hatchett. "We've never won anything."

The first match at the Phnom Penh Olympic Stadium against Bangkok was a hard-fought victory despite the Vagabonds' numerous injuries and headaches going into the match.

A late try by star winger Graham Sofie was the decider and left the Phuket fans more surprised than anyone in the silenced stadium.

With a victory behind them, despite obvious shock, the Phuket team was able to muster enough confidence from their traveling supporters to finish off the French with some unusually good plays and a lucky bounce or two.

Most valuable player and highest scorer of the tournament was center Jamie Dunne, a speeding blur throughout the weekend.

The Vagabonds will play in the Bangkok Tens in January prior to hosting this year's Phuket Tens in May.

Chinese make clean sweep of Phuket beach volley finals

KARON: The final of the Swatch FIVB volleyball tournament on November 5 – the last event of the 2006 world tour – was an all-Chinese affair, pitting Xue Chen and Zhang Xi against compatriots Tian Jia and Wang Jie.

Xue and Zhang went on to win in the third all-Chinese final of this season's FIVB tour. American gold medalists Misty May-Treanor and Kerri Walsh took third place.

Seeded third in the 32-team main draw, Xue and Zhang scored a 21-18, 21-15 victory in 48 minutes. The winners will split the US\$32,000 (1.2-million-baht) winners' prize while their Chinese rivals split US\$22,000 for second place.

"This is a great way to end our FIVB season," said 17-year-old Xue, who teamed with Zhang to win the top spot at the May tourney in China, where they defeated Tian and Wang for the Shanghai crown.

"Tian Jia and Wang Jie had defeated us seven times straight since Shanghai, so we are glad to break their streak against us," said 21-year-old Zhang, who was named the Most Outstanding Player of the Phuket tourney.

"Since they are a very good team, we have to play a perfect match to defeat them. We did that today."

For Xue, the final also completed the most successful season ever for a player her age in international women's beach volleyball. In addition to becoming



Xue Chen (right) returns service, watched by partner Zhang Xi.

the youngest player to win FIVB titles, she and Zhang finished third on the points standings (5,120) with US\$195,200 (7.8 million baht) in winnings, four medals and a 55-23 match mark for 13 tournaments.

Tian and Wang, who also defeated Xue and Zhang in September to win gold in Warsaw, were competing in their ninth Swatch "final four" this season. Tian and Wang placed second to Brazil's Juliana Felisberta Silva and Larissa Franca – 7,060 points to 5,940 – with \$238,600 in earnings, eight medals and a 60-20 match record.

The Phuket Thailand Open bronze medal was claimed by top-seeded May-Treanor and Walsh as the Americans beat fourth-seeded Nila Ann Hakedal and Ingrid Torlen of Norway for the second time in three days, with a 21-15, 21-13 win in 32 minutes.

May-Treanor and Walsh split US\$16,000 for third place, with the Norwegians sharing US\$12,000.

The Americans ended the FIVB season fourth overall, with US\$201,400 in winnings.

The *Phuket Gazette* was the exclusive media sponsor for the event.

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Construction Update

by Janyaporn Morel

Red Cross gets a new home

The new Phuket Provincial Red Cross office being built on Rattanakosin 200 Pi Rd is 40% complete and is expected to be finished by April next year, two months ahead of the original completion date.

The 18.62-million-baht project, funded by the Thai Red Cross Society, will comprise a two-story Sino-Portuguese-style building, a one-story storage building and necessary infrastructure on the 6.2-rai plot.

Construction of the buildings began in July this year.

"The new Red Cross buildings are being built to replace the existing office, which is located at the Governor's house on Narisorn Rd," said Rapeepat Na Nakorn, Chief of the Governor's Office.

"The existing office has been used for 93 years and is in constant need of repair, and the office doesn't have enough space to support the growth of the Red Cross."

The main building will have an interior space of 850 square meters, with two offices, a reception area and a meeting room with capacity of 50 people on the ground floor. The second floor will have additional office space.

A budget of 10 million baht has been set for the main building, and 4.12 million baht set aside for additional facilities such as roads, a water tower, parking space and roadside drains.

The storage building, with its 600sqm of interior space, is expected to cost 4.5 million baht. All donated supplies will be stored there.



Left, construction is far enough advanced for the building to show its distinct resemblance to the plans, above.

Below, Chalerm Rakmark says the first phase will be complete in about five months.



A budget has not been dedicated for fitting out the interior of the buildings, and office materials

will be moved from the old office.

Chalerm Rakmark, Chief of Operations at Phuket Provincial Public Works Office, told the *Gazette*, "The first phase [both buildings] will be finished about April next year.

"The remaining area of the site will be used for the future

Phuket Red Cross projects, including a blood bank, a multi-purpose building, canteen and guard houses."

The project has been designed and is being built by contractor PK 2001 Limited Partnership under the inspection of the Phuket Provincial Public Works Office.

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Equity Cost & Maintenance Levy

10% Equity Purchase	\$ 64,890
Application Deposit	\$ 12,978
Balance on Allocation	\$ 51,912
Ongoing Maintenance Levy	5,000
Insurance Bond	\$ 2,000
Training Course	Inclusive
Residual Equity Refund	Yes
Full Time Captain	Yes

Specifications

Hull	Sunseeker 37 Sportsfisher (39'8")
Features	Luxury Functional Utility Cruiser Centre Console 11'7" Beam 6'5"
Headroom	
Engines	Volvo 5.7 Litre MPI/DPD PROP
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Cockpit	Seating 10, Large Sunbed, BBQ, Teak Floor, Storage and Fish/Bait Boxes, Ice Box, 10 Rodholders



Sunseeker 53 Portofino

\$116,890,000

Equity Cost & Maintenance Levy

10% Equity Purchase	\$ 116,890
Application Deposit	\$ 23,378
Balance on Allocation	\$ 93,512
Ongoing Maintenance Levy	8,500
Insurance Bond	\$ 2,000
Training Course	Inclusive
Residual Equity Refund	Yes
Full Time Captain	Yes

Specifications

Hull	Sunseeker 53 Portofino (56'11")
Features	Luxurious 3 Cabin Layout, Electric Hardtop, State of the Art Navigation and Entertainment Packages
Engines	Twin Caterpillar Turbo Diesels
Cockpit	Seating 15, Large Sunbeds, Fore and Aft, BBQ and Refrigerator with ice maker. Jet Boat in Garage

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Decor

by Natcha Yuttaworawit



Above: simple-to-create idyllic corner. Right: Toad and coleus.
Below: Hollow trunks stand ready to serve as planters.



Letting a little bit of nature in

Many people landscape their yards, using nature to make their homes more beautiful, but few people consider bringing a little of the garden into the home to much greater effect.

A firm believer that a little nature can make the interior of a home much more beautiful is Sontaya "Lek" Yuttapornpong.

Lek opened his business, Natural Living, on the bypass road about three years ago, specializing in creating indoor gardens.

Lek says that small indoor gardens can be used in any corner of the house, but the most popular places are in the living room and the bathroom.

"You should think carefully about which furniture you have,

too. If it is modern-style furniture, then you should use plants and decorations that complement the rest of the room," he says.

Among the plants Lek uses to create his miniature garden features, aquatic plants are his best-sellers, including lotus, Asiatic pennywort and sedge.

Other popular plants and include Salicaceae (*Salix babylonica* Linn) and a variety of small shrubs.

Lek also uses rocks and stones ranging in texture and color, including limestone, sandstone and slate, as well as decorative items, most of them Thai-style, including ornamental dolls and lamps.

"I love nature and I want to help people make good choices for other people who love nature too," he says.

He adds that if an item a customer has in mind is not in stock, he is happy to order from elsewhere – or even have it custom-made.

He has one warning though: "You should not put any plants in your bedroom, because at night plants give off carbon dioxide, and that is bad for your health."

Natural Living, on the bypass road, to the north of Tesco-Lotus (look for the orange sign on the east side of the road). Open Monday to Saturday, 8 am to 5:30 pm. Free delivery within Phuket. For more information call Lek at Tel: 086-6823613 or Aoy at Tel: 086-6827761.

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Home of the Week

Rawai

LASTING RESORT

Pool is at the center of life in this home

Driving through landscaped gardens along the stone-covered driveway, one could easily mistake this Thai-style residence for a quiet boutique resort.

Although this one-rai property has all the facilities of a resort and comes with a separate guest bungalow that can be rented out, it is as private as could be.

The shady gardens, with palm trees galore, are surrounded by a large security fence, and are maintained to the highest standards, with shrubs lining the driveway and other main features.

The wooden sala, guest bungalow and main residence all front onto a private 24-square-meter swimming pool with Jacuzzi.

In addition to keeping the house cool, the traditional Thai-style roof adds to the resort ambience, with its large covered terrace offering the perfect place to relax or dine alfresco.

Inside is a large open-plan living area, tastefully furnished with sofas and fittings that blend with the Thai style used throughout the house and offering views

through sliding glass doors to the garden and pool areas.

There are two kitchens with gas cook tops and granite work surfaces; the main kitchen also features an island breakfast bar.

Each of the three bedrooms includes built-in wooden wardrobes and an en-suite bathroom.

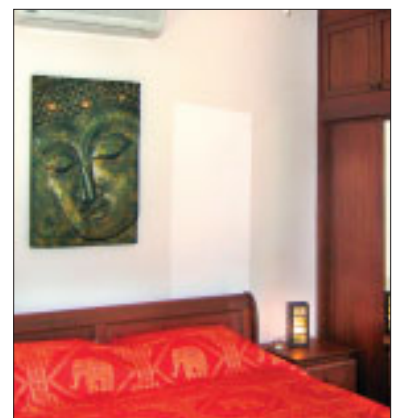
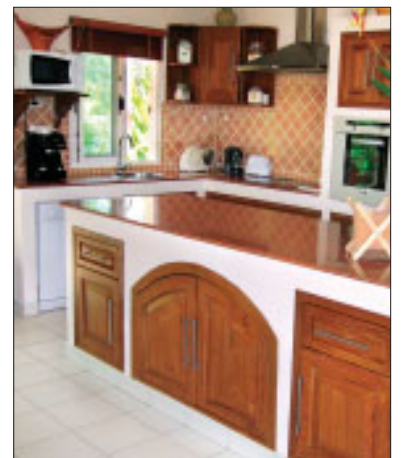
All rooms in the house have air conditioners, fans and fully-screened windows to let cool breezes in – and keep out unwanted pests out.

The home comes with UBC TV, well water supply and Internet connection.

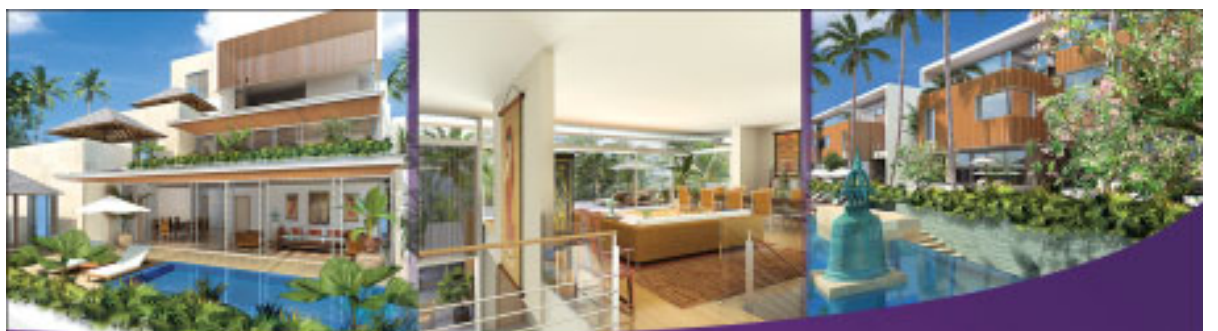
There is a separate laundry room as well as a spare room that can be used for storage or as an office. Car parking is provided under a carport.

The property is available, fully-furnished and with Chanote title, at 25 million baht.

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

There's water all around us. I know that's a bit obvious, given that we're on an island, but water really is everywhere.

Apparently there's water even on Mars. Following its most recent mission to the Red Planet, NASA released color photographs showing where water can be found on the Martian surface.

A NASA scientist explained, "Whenever we've seen pictures of Mars before, they've always been black and white. It turns out the water's been there all along, we just couldn't see it."

As a result of this momentous news, NASA is now preparing a series of missions to send humans to Mars. As the atmosphere is immensely toxic, big domes will need to be erected to house the first settlers. However, as NASA now knows of the vast water supplies, it will be able to produce inexhaustible amounts of oxygen easily and quickly.

Boeing is said to be in co-operation with NASA to build the first large scale ships to carry first human colonists, settlers and supplies to the red planet.

McDonald's, which is part-funding the project, is said to be delighted. In a recent statement, McDonald's said "This is incredible news. We are even bringing out a new 'McMars range' to serve to our first customers on the Red Planet. This is a great day in the history of McDonald's. In fact it's one small step for the world, one giant leap for McDonald's."

NASA has begun a calculation of the estimated time until the first man will set foot on Martian soil. There are rumors that rookie Spanish astronaut Chris Columbus may be asked to take this position, a fact that has caused discontent amongst other astronauts who feel his name gives him an unfair advantage.

The European Space Agency is considering yet another mission to Mars. However, it has yet to find people willing to take up the challenge due to fears over a safe landing.

This story is of course com-

pletely fictitious, and I can't even take any credit for it. Mark Lowton of TheSpoof.com deserves that.

In Phuket, water is much easier to come by and, as the dry season approaches, the need for supplementing normal rainfall in your garden increases. But when to water? That's not an easy question to answer.

One of the most important factors in successful gardening is knowing when and how to water. Most things you do to your garden, such as fertilizing, pest control and pruning, have easy-to-learn rules. Watering has no specific rules, however, because when and how

much to water depends on the kinds of plants, type of soil, time of year and weather conditions.

I suppose the bottom line is to water only when plants need watering. Sometimes they make it easy for you. The leaves of many plants will begin to curl in the early stages of a water shortage. Later, the leaves will become limp; at that stage it's officially wilted. Ideally, plants should be watered before they wilt. Allowing them to wilt frequently will result in excessive leaf drop and, long-term, the plants may never bounce back.



Watering the garden is a good time to do some daydreaming – about living on Mars, perhaps.

Some plants may not show symptoms of a water shortage until it is too late, so they should be watered when the soil around them feels dry and crumbly. Recent plantings need a bit of extra TLC. Bear in mind that when plants were in containers in the garden center, water was probably applied every day. Also, during the first few months after being planted in a garden, new plants have only fairly small root systems and can absorb water only from a limited area underground.

Keep a close watch on the

lawn, too. If it starts to change color, even a bit, it probably needs water. If the edges of the grass leaves start to curl and take on a dull, bluish-gray color, water the lawn. Those spinning sprinklers are the cheapest, as you can just attach them to the end of a hose and move them to where you want them.

Watering should be done in the early morning or evening, when temperatures are lower. Water in the heat of the day, and much of what comes out of the hose just disappears through evaporation, which is a bit of a waste of time – and water.

When watering, give the soil a thorough soaking. Frequent, light sprinklings just waste water and do little to satisfy the water requirements of a plant growing in a hot, dry soil. This style of watering also promotes shallow root systems, which increases susceptibility to damage if you forget to water for a few days.

A much better theory of wa-

tering is to make sure that water reaches down to a depth of about 20 centimeters. This type of watering allows roots to readily absorb the water. With pot plants, 3cm of water is sufficient for the sandy soils we have in Phuket. However, because all soils and plants are not alike, don't rely on this too much – you may need to make some adjustments.

To figure out when a sprinkler has delivered 3 cm of water, place open cans or cartons at intervals in the spray pattern and water until the water level in the cans averages 3 cm. Not exactly rocket science.

Water should be applied only as fast as the soil will absorb it. Watering with a hose nozzle turned on full force can do more damage than good. Fast-flowing water runs off quickly carrying soil with it and exposing plant roots to the sun. More efficient watering can be accomplished with soaker hoses and sprinklers. Soaker hoses do a good job, but they don't cover as large an area as sprinklers.

I've seen Thai gardeners not only soak the ground, but wet the leaves, too. I'm honestly not sure what that does, but they seem to think it's a good idea, and it obviously works, as Phuket is hardly short of nurtured gardens.

I think it's safe to say that there's a lot more water here in Phuket than there is on Mars. I suppose I really should apologize for the water-on-Mars story. Then again, I rather like the idea of a McMars. With a glass of water, obviously.

Want to know more about a plant in your garden?

Email Bloomin' Bert at: bloominbert@hotmail.com

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Property Gazette

Properties For Sale

HOUSE FOR SALE CHALONG AREA



Quiet area Chalong. Land size: 1,000sqm, living area 210sqm, 3 bedrooms, pool 7m x 3m. 10.5 million baht. Tel: 081-2722013. Email: info@sea-property-international.com

PA KHLOK, BAY VIEW OF PHI PHI

400sqm, located in nice peaceful area with waterfall, jungle, hill. Chanote title, road access and electricity. Only 3.5 million baht. Tel: 081-8025420. Email: thureewan@hotmail.com

BUNGALOW COMPLEX

5 Kamala houses with aircon, kitchens, large swimming pool, landscaped gardens. 9 million baht, or buy individual units leasehold soon. Tel: 081-6064649.

HOUSE FOR SALE

Kathu. Fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully-fitted kitchen, garden, parking space. Quiet soi close to Phuket Country Club and Central. 3.2 million baht. Tel: 076-323192, 081-4998719. Email: marshall_hugh@yahoo.co.uk

LAND FOR SALE

Naka island 10 rai, 3.5 million baht a rai, sea view, agents welcome. Please contact via email: resortinvestment@hotmail.com

SALE/RENT

4 bungalows, 1 restaurant. Bang Tao Beach, 500 meters from the sea. Tel: 081-894-6686.

HOUSES IN RAWAI



Lovely 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom near Wiset Rd. 100 sq wah, with pool: 6.5 million baht. 75 sq wah, no pool: 4 million baht. Tel: 084-852-4091. Email: kobhacki@yahoo.com

TROPICAL POOL

Villa. Two-story, 596sqm, 4-bedroom house in a prestigious, managed estate. Salt-water swimming pool and sea view. Tel: 081-6919106. Email: villanakathani@yahoo.com For more information, please see our website at: www.karlssons-phuket.com/realstate

800SQM RAWAI

2.8 million baht. Nice coconut-tree land with small creek and 2 two-story, partly-built homes. Very nice land and well priced. 2.8 million baht. Tel: 076-346346, 086-272-6508. Email: info@phuketrealstate.com

LAND FOR SALE

In Mai Khao area. 9.3 rai 1.2km from the beach and turtle cove: 1.6 million baht a rai. Or 7.3 rai 500m from the beach for 3.2 million baht a rai. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-264-6808, 083-1743880.

RAWAI, 2-STORY

House. 160sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, for sale at 1.8 million baht. 400m from the beach. Please contact for more details. Tel: 086-686-5567. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

ALLAMANDA CONDO

For sale. 1 bedroom, lagoon view, freehold (not 99-year lease), approx 82sqm interior space. 6.9 million baht. Sale by owner. Tel: 852-9042-1196. Fax: 852-28092455. Email: fgoforth@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

2-story house, Chalong. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, beautiful kitchen, nice garden, quiet and safe street. 4.5 million baht. Tel: 081-7475293, 085-783-9825. Email: chillihouse@hotmail.com

HOUSE IN 2 UNITS

Pretty house on Kata hillside in 2 units, small garden, 2 parking spaces. Upstairs: 2 bedrooms, bath, living room, kitchen, terrace front/back. Downstairs: one bedroom apt, bathroom, kitchen, living room, terrace. Both units with aircon, cable TV, broadband, WiFi, hot showers. 10 mins walk from glorious Kata Beach, 5 mins from shops, markets, restaurants and all services. Fully furnished: 4.9 million baht. Please contact for more details. Tel: 085-7867502. Email: vv.gabrielle@gmail.com

NICE HOUSE

In Land & Houses Park. 2 stories, 3 bedrooms. Fully furnished, aircon, cable TV, kitchen, telephone line, washing machine. Tel: 087-174-5511.

HOUSE FOR SALE

Chalong 2-story house fully furnished. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, maidroom, kitchen and living room. Nice garden 2 car park. 95 sqm. 4.9 million baht. Tel: 081-0790688.

ELEGANT HOME

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2 HOUSES, NAI HARN

Secluded. Large open-plan living and dining areas opening onto large garden and pool*. 2 aircon bedrooms, en-suite bathrooms (w/bathtubs*), fitted kitchen (w/oven). 1) 5.5 million baht. 2) 3.2 million baht (*not included). Tel: 076-281461, 087-2689123. Fax: 076-281462. Email: info@sariyahouse.com

LAND & HOUSES PARK - CHALONG

250sqm house on 464sqm of land. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, big European kitchen, study, big lounge, aircon, nice garden, 2 carports, partly furnished, near clubhouse with pool, Chanote title. A bargain at 7.9 million baht. Tel: 076-283235. Email: sanaralang@yahoo.de

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140sqm townhouse in Boat Lagoon Marine Residence. Water view, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, maid/utility room. Fully furnished, washer & tumble drier. Very good condition. Free use of gym. 50m pool. Restaurants, hotel, bank, supermarket and more. New medical center opening soon. Close to international school and all major shops. 24-hour security. Tel: 086-2820567.

LOVELY SEA VIEW

1 rai (800sqm), Chanote, road access and electricity. Good location, private, nice surrounding with jungle, waterfall and hills. 15 mins to airport and town. 5.7 million baht. Tel: 081-8025420. Email: thureewan@gmail.com

QUICK SALE VILLA

Owner moving, Kamala villa 3 bedrooms, 3 en-suite bathrooms, 300sqm. Chanote. Landscaped gardens, aircon, a bargain at 7 million baht. Tel: 081-6064649.

HOUSE IN RAWAI

3-bedroom, 2-bathroom European-style house. Fully furnished in rural Rawai on 780sqm. Large master bedroom with en-suite, walk in closet and aircon. Modern Western-style kitchen with granite tops and built-ins throughout. UBC & phone line. Big breezy veranda, carport and established garden. Chanote title 8.3 million baht. Tel: 087-8919349. Email: phuket-house@hotmail.com

KATA BARGAIN

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, double bedroom with en-suite bathroom. Use of communal swimming pool and sun deck. Genuinely good value at 12.9 million baht ono. Please call Greg at Tel: 086-2776698.

HOUSE FOR SALE



Chalong 800sqm land 400sqm living space, pool, absolute privacy, must see. 15.9 million baht. Tel: 087-8896074. Email: info@sea-property-international.com

SMALL PLOT, RAWAI

750,000 baht. Chanote title, nice and quiet. Tel: 081-537-6866.

GREAT SEA VIEW

Chalong top spot, soft slope, near beach. 4.5 million baht. Tel: 087-8938747.

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Condo in Patong Tower on the 15th floor with magical sea & sunset views. Fully furnished. Price: 8.9 million baht. Freehold. Tel: 076-346-346, 086-2726508. Email: info@phuketrealstate.com

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BEACHFRONT

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Property Gazette

HOUSE FOR SALE



2 affordable homes in quiet Rawai area. 170sqm living space, 625sqm land, 2-3 bedrooms 4m x 8m pool. 6.3 million baht each. Tel: 081-272 2013. Email: sea-property-international.com

PRIME LAND IN NAI HARN AREA

Plot 1: 25 sq wah (100 sqm), approximately 2km from Nai Harn Beach, close to the main road. Ideal for a business location or for shophouses. Price: 1 million baht. Land with title deed.

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Please contact for any further information. Tel: 081-8921057, 081-6919679. Email: angela_prajantabut@hotmail.com

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SEA VIEW

apartments in Kata. Already started, 40% sold, 2 bedrooms. From 3.5 million baht. Kata Center, walking distance to beach. Tel: 087-8938747.

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800sqm for 3 million baht; 400sqm for 1.9 million baht. Top area. Tel: 081-5376866.

RAWAI NEW VILLAS

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KATHU POOL HOUSE

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50 rai with Chanote title. Good price, good location. 12m road, 200m to the land. KuKu Rd, near Rajabhat University. Jungle land for quick sale: 120 million baht. First owner. Tel: 086-7406156.

HOUSE FOR SALE



Sea view family home in Rawai, 220sqm living space, 640sqm land, 3 bedrooms. 8.8 million baht. Tel: 081-2722013. Email: info@sea-property-international.com

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 sea view condominiums. Price: 19 million baht. Nor Sor 3 title. Contact for more details. Tel: 081-8921057, 081-6919679. Email: angela_prajantabut@hotmail.com

LAND FOR SALE

1324sqm Kathu. The block is elevated & situated in Soi Rama VI, waterfall road, ideally situated opposite a public park with access to a national park, Nor Sor 3 Gor title, 3-phase electricity. Private water well possible. Stunning views. Quiet location, yet centrally located with easy access to schools, hospitals, shopping & golf clubs. Patong Beach an easy 10-minute drive. 3.5 million baht. Share land transfer cost 50/50 (no offers please). Please call for more information. Tel: 089-6498703.

PATONG LAND

For sale or lease. Main road near Phuket Simon Cabaret. 2 rai, 36 million baht. Tel: 081-8922830.

SEA VIEW RAWAI

2,000sqm of land with sea view. In Soi Saliga, good area. 9.5 million baht. Tel: 076-388156, 081-6939571.

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HOUSE FOR SALE



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LAND IN NAI HARN

Only this land left at Nai Harn Beach, before the lake. 1,800sqm on main road to the Beach. 15 million baht. Tel: 084-6266670.

PROPERTY 4 SALE

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RAWAI VILLA FOR SALE



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AMAZING SEA VIEW! 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 en-suite bathroom. Communal swimming pool, sun deck. Genuinely good value at 12.9 million baht ono. Call Greg for more details. Tel: 086-2776698.

RAWAI CONDO

For sale. Sea view, freehold. 350,000 baht. Please contact for full details. Tel: 086-686-5567. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

PATONG CONDO

Brand-new freehold condo for sale. 900,000 baht. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

RAWAI BEACH VILLA

Sale or lease new house including registered company. 400sqm and large concrete road. Price: 5 million baht. Please contact for more details. Tel: 086-6865567. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com



Near Tesco Lotus Bypass Road

15m. main road front, Chanote, 1300 sqm



Price 17 million Thb

Other land Phuket:
Koko, 29 rai, Chanote, flat, close Puket Town.
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www.phuketandamanrealestate.com
Email: info@phuketandamanrealestate.com
phuketandamanrealestate@hotmail.com

THAI VILLA FOR SALE



Thai villa, located down the Panwa Peninsula overlooking beautiful Chalong Bay. This Thai-style residence has 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, a Western-style kitchen, living room and a large swimming pool. 19.5 million baht. Tel: 081-897-4180. Email: gay@islandtechnology.com

HOUSE FOR SALE



3 million baht. Must sell, discounted price. 2 bedrooms, includes all furniture and appliances. Quiet, gated community, pool, sauna, gym. 1 min from Nai Yang Beach. Custom floors, cabinets, tiles and lighting. Euro/US standards. Please contact for more details. Tel: 089-5878154. Email: loverofasia72@yahoo.com

KHAO LAK & PHUKET

Khao Lak is back; bigger, better & more beautiful than ever. We have ocean view & beachfront land on offer. Tel: 081-8931360. Email: noi@phuketproperties.com For further details, see our website at: www.khaolakland.com/land.htm

LAND FOR SALE

4 rai of land in Krabi, 7km to Krabi Town, 7km to Ao Nang. Amazing view. 1.4 million baht per rai. Please contact for more details. Tel: 081-7475293, 085-7839825. Email: chillhouse@hotmail.com

Gazette Online Classifieds – 10,000 readers every day!



Surin Beach—Modern Seaview Apartments for sale

Within 100 metres of the beach. 80 sqm. of living space. One bedroom, living room, European-style kitchen, fully furnished, air conditioning, hot water system, home security system, internet connection, television and satellite TV. The price starts from 6.5 million baht for the first-floor apartment.

Please contact Ann 66 1 868 7676 or email: ann@mms.ais.co.th

Property Gazette

ABSOLUTE BEACHFRONT FOR SALE



2.2 rai of absolute beachfront land with Chanote title at Khok Kloy. 25 mins from Phuket International Airport.

No agents please.

Please contact. Tel: 07-8891717.

Email: wayne_phuket@yahoo.com

ONLY 14 SHARES LEFT!

For a large prime commercial site located only minutes from Kata Beach, share value: 425,000 baht. Can be bought in lots (max 14). For further details contact Mark. Tel: 087-2742759. Email: britcorp@hotmail.com

7 RAI IN KATHU

Overlooking golf course. This 17-rai plot is very well located and has views to the golf course, a sealed road and electricity. 4 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-2726508. Email: info@phuketrealstate.com

HOUSE IN KATHU

for sale. 1.6 million baht, 2 stories, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Tel: 081-6760125.

NAI HARN, 1 RAI

Asking 5.7 million baht. Good for house & project, come & look. Call 087-893-8747 for more information.

HOUSE FOR SALE

Nai Harn location 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, very nice kitchen made by Index, swimming pool 4x8 meters, also 315 sq wah. Asking price 5.5 million baht or best offer. Please call for more information. Tel: 084-6268105.

BEACHFRONT

on island. Start at 1 million baht a rai. Swimming water & good for boating, too. Tel: 081-5376866.

PATONG VILLA LAND

For sale: stunning 750sqm villa with a further 900sqm landscaped garden area. 30m frontage to Soi Nanai 2. All facilities connected. Prime for development. Chanote. 20 million baht. Tel: 084-847-8414.

11 RAI SEA VIEW

Superb seaview land in Cape Panwa. East & west sea views, 11 land titles, yellow zone, ideal for high-end villas and apartments. A must see for rarity. 100 million baht. Tel: 086-2726508.

5 RAI RAWAI

24 million baht. Development location include permits, designs. Please call for more details. Tel: 087-8938747.

LAND FOR SALE

In Lampang. 142sq wah, ideal for a resort house. Land in a real estate project. On Paholyotin Highway, very beautiful with panoramic hill view. 1.7 million baht. Tel: 081-8601464.

CHALONG SEA VIEW

8 rai for sale by owner. Tel: 081-8976230.

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

KAMALA LAND PLOTS

400sqm. 1.5 million baht, & 1,000sqm 3.5 million baht. Near main road. Nice. Tel: 076-292596, 086-267-8477. Email: tourniechristian@hotmail.com

LAND ONLY

680,000 baht a rai. Koh Samui, Lipa Noi, 8 rai with road access. Tel: 076-388581, 081-2712473. Fax: 076-289130. Email: dejaco@cscoms.com

KATHU LAND

for sale. Developed land on a slope in Iravadi Housing Estate for sale. Beautiful view. 880sqm. 4.4 million baht. Please call for more details. Tel: 084-6717856.

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

LAND FOR SALE!

12 rai 484sqm (Chanote title) with Palm Garden near Taimuang Market Phang Nga, Petkasem road side. Ideal for resort house, 35 km from Phuket airport. Near Torn-Pai waterfall. Sale by owner, no brokers. Tel: 081-6156387.

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

BEACHFRONT LAND

For sale: Koh Khor Khao, Phang Nga Bay. 10 rai, 40 million baht. Tel: 081-8922830

RAWAI HOUSE

Includes pool. 7.5 million baht. 220sqm. Balinese style, stunning materials and layout. Best house, best price. Tel: 087-8938747.

BEACH FRONT

Only 3 million baht per rai, 900 rai with 450 meter beach close to airport. Only 3 million baht per rai. I've never seen a more beautiful plot! Tel: 086-2726508. Email: info@phuketrealstate.com

PERFECT LAND

To build & develop in Rawai. Electric, 200m from main road, Chanote title. 4.5 million baht, come & look. Tel: 086-267-0898.

BEAUTIFUL SEA VIEW

Plot in Rawai, only 650,000 baht. Chanote title. Booming area, be fast! Tel: 081-537-6866.

PHANG NGA BAY

sea view. 40 rai, with the most amazing sea views. Well priced: 1.5 million baht per rai! Something very special! Tel: 086-2726508. Email: info@phuketrealstate.com

MODERN HOME

270sqm, 2 stories, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, spa, aircon, telephone line, pool, garden and 804sqm. Great location in Chalong. 9.9 million baht. Please contact for more details. Tel: 086-2817605. Email: nigelnipixie@yahoo.com.au

LUXURY PATONG

seaview house. Stunning view over Patong, 5 rooms, 3 upstairs, 2 downstairs, 2 kitchens, 3 bathrooms. 2,500sqm land, 230sqm indoor living space, 150sqm outdoor living space. Price: 45 million baht. Tel: 081-7193962. Email: phuketvillasale@gmail.com

KATA, TOP SEAVIEW

Villa, only 9.9 million baht, plus land plots for sale. Tel: 086-2670898.

SMALL PLOT

Rawai. 600,000 baht. Square plot, within walking distance of the beach. Last plot at this price. Tel: 081-5376866.

Property For Rent



We are looking for house and apartment for rent. Please contact us.

Contact us
+66 (0) 7824 5866 Office
Skype: waiha5075

www.phuketandamanrealstate.com
Email: info@phuketandamanrealstate.com
phuketandamanrealstate@hotmail.com

SEAVIEW STUNNING



Large house on Cape Yamu. 3 bedrooms, bathroom, maid, snooker room, dining room, kitchen, lounge, swimming pool, sauna, large gardens. Amazing views. House includes Internet, UBC, furniture. 10 minute to BCIS, 1 minute to sea. 80,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-2796283.

NEW 2-BEDROOM HOUSE

Unfurnished apart from 2 beds. Hot shower, big veranda, quiet area. Muang Tong 1.3km to town, 2km to beach. 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 085-8855415.

LAGUNA AREA

house. Pool, spa, poolside bar, aircon, large garden, like resort. Lease 39,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-5944067.

RAWAI LUXURY

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

APARTMENTS

and houses in Patong and Rawai from 10,000 to 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-686-5567. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

2-BEDROOM HOUSE

in Boat Lagoon, furnished, serviced. Short term: 40,000 baht/month. Long term: 35,000 baht per month. Now available. Tel: 086-2820567.

COMMERCIAL SPACE

to rent. Great location next to hotels/restaurants. 100m from Twin Palms. 100sqm, high ceilings, 3 aircons. Modern design. Tel: 085-888-2022. Email: slees@slees.com

COMFORTABLE HOUSE



Located in Chaofa Thani estate. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, large kitchen, living room, study, back and front verandas, garden, covered parking, klong at rear, UBC TV and ADSL. Long-term lets only. 35,000 baht a month. Tel: 084-843-9579. Fax: 076-323421. Email: somlerdee@yahoo.com

PATONG TOWER

rental. The best location, best sea view from one bedroom, 16th floor new corner unit, available from December 15. For 2 people or less. Email: coasters@earthlink.net For more information, please see our website at: www.patongtower-rentals.com

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.

PATONG

apartment. 300m to beach, clean, modern, comfortable. New aircon, big fridge, double bed, pool & parking. Tel: 081-0825707. Please see our website at: www.phuket-accommodation.info

CONFIRM!

Beachfront land for rent next to the Laguna Hotel. Tel: 081-5375844.

MARINA BOAT

Lagoon. Office for rent + meeting room. For more info please email to: scphuket@yahoo.com

HOUSE TO RENT

Amazing 4 bedroomed house for rent December and January. Area: Chalong/Rawai. Lay out: large 4 bed house all ensuite. Western kitchen, with all mod cons, TV room with UBC, ADSL, large swimming pool, outdoor bar. Perfect for large Family with children or couples traveling together. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-281084, 081-8953185. Fax: 076-281084. Email: info@islandhomephuket.com

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Property Gazette

NEW VILLA FOR RENT



In Land & House Residential Area Near Chalong 3 bedrooms, furnished, air-conditioned, kitchen, large living area, garden.

Baht 35,000.- per month (min. 1 year contract)
Baht 42,000.- per month (min. 6 months contract)
Baht 55,000.- per month (min. 1 months contract)

Please contact Urs at 081 846 9981 or ursaebl@gmx.net

PATONG HOLIDAY

Studio apartment close to beach. Nice decor, clean and comfortable. TV, fridge, double bed, new aircon, pool, parking. Tel: 081-0825707. Please see: www.phuket-accommodation.info for details and photos.

PHUKET B.L. APARTMENT

New in Kathu. Big room, 1 bedroom, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, garden, car park. 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-6923163.

HOUSE FOR RENT

in Rawai. Fully furnished, 1 bedroom, fan, 29" TV, UBC, fridge, hot water, washing machine, oven, stove, kitchen supplies, fenced yard, nice & safe area, free power. Available until April 10, 07. 15,000 baht a month. Tel: 089-2909525.

DELUXE BOAT LAGOON



3 bedrooms. Long-term rent or sale (leasehold). Tastefully furnished, close to school and other amenities, pools, sauna, fitness - it's all there. Tel: 076-273-466, 081-078-0014. Email: bjarneagaardhansen@hotmail.com

RAWAI SEA VIEW

DLX studio apt all new or remodeled, refurbished. Long term 7,000 baht. Tel: 084-0571420.

GUESTHOUSE LEASE

Prime location at Patong Beach. Mint condition. 22 rooms, restaurant and bar. 4 year lease. Rent 2 million baht, good will 3.5 million baht. Email: poul_66@hotmail.com

BIG SHOPHOUSE

for rent/sale. Located in Soi Patong Resort, off Soi Bangla, the commercial hub of Patong Beach. Approx 180sqm on 2 open-plan floors. Suitable for commercial use. Unfurnished. Tel: 076-340290. Email: paciugo89@yahoo.com

SEAVIEW STUNNING

Large house ion Cape Yamu. 3 bedrooms, bathroom, maid, snooker room, dining room, kitchen, lounge, swimming pool, sauna, large gardens. Amazing views. House includes Internet, UBC, furniture. 10 mins to BICS, 1 min to the sea. 80,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-2796283.

DISCOVERY GARDENS

Near Laguna. 2-bedroom, newly-built, fully-furnished houses with large communal pool. Tel: 076-271544, 089-1956722. Email: info@phuketmarbella.com

PATONG SEA-VIEW HOME



Watch the fireworks over the sea from this 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom home. Also has dining room, full kit., ADSL, UBC and pool. 70,000 baht per month. negotiable for long-term lets. Tel: 087-8821963. Email: benlee53@hotmail.com

SURIN BAY AREA

Big garden. Long-term lease now available on 3-bedroom house with aircon, 2 toilets, outdoor kitchen, opening up to 1.2 rai of screen-fenced garden. Unfurnished or partially furnished as required. Good for pets, kids & privacy. Large covered outdoor area. Garden maintenance provided. Tel: 086-9410410, 086-269-2020. Email: here@fastmail.fm Please check our website for details and photos at: www.phuket-house.here.fastmail.fm/%40Surin-Bay/Surin%20House%20-%20Details.doc

KARON APARTMENT

Central Karon. 50 m from the beach. Newly furnished and renovated 2-room apartment with 2 balconies, cable TV, WiFi, aircon. 20,000 baht a month. Long term only. Please call for more information. Tel: 086-2718254.

APARTMENTS

for rent at Karon Beach. Long- or short-term. Tel: 089-491-2496. For more info email: mailjic@gmail.com

OFFICE SPACE

Just 2km from Tesco-Lotus on bypass road. 240sqm office space for rent in new 2-story building. Tel: 076-238-777 or 081-7371678. Email: supotpac@phuket.ksc.co.th

SHOPHOUSE BLOCK

5 terraced houses for rent on the bypass road. 35,000 baht a month. Please call K. Vachira for more information. Tel: 081-3269495.

PATONG SEAVIEW

condo. Newly remodeled 1/1 condo, 14th floor. Spectacular sea view. 100 meters to beach, Soi Bangla. Full kitchen, granite floors. All amenities, maid service. Short or long term. Tel: 084-1590501, 081-375-3970. Email: patongcondo@yahoo.com

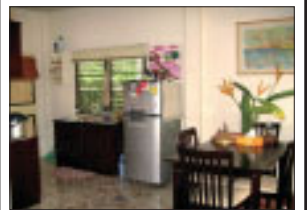
3-BEDROOM HOME

Chao Fa Rd, 207 sq wah, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, nice living room, good kitchen, cool garden, parking for 3 cars. Fully furnished. For rent at 40,000 baht per month or for sale at 6.7 million baht. Tel: 081-5978315. Email: phuket8@hotmail.com

LOVELY, 4 BEDROOMS

Chalong, 4 bathrooms, spa, aircon, pool, garden. 800sqm, UBC. Quiet area. 65,000 baht a month. Call for more details. Tel: 086-2817605.

DETACHED HOUSE FOR RENT/SALE



Located at Pa Khlok area, just 7 minutes from international school. Fully-furnished house with 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. Ready to move in. Rental price: 20,000 baht a month or for sale at 2.45 million baht (negotiable). Tel: 081-5399269.

BEDSIT, CHALONG

Furnished large bedsit with kitchen and bathroom. Farang comfort in local area. Tel: 081-9683546. Email: robin46@gmail.com

KAMALA LONG LET

2-bedroom, 3-aircon, furnished house, UBC, phone line, parking. 11,000 baht a month. Please call Tom for further details. Tel: 087-1789273.

BANGLA PATONG

area. Commercial residential use. 140sqm, 2 floors. Price: 250 baht per sqm a month. Tel: 087-8817600.

VILLA FOR RENT

Fully-furnished pool villa with 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, garden, pool. For short-term rental. Tel: 076-381995, 084-8480907. Email: sama_j1@hotmail.com

Would you like to keep up on what's happening in Phuket - the good, the bad and the bizarre? Let us share it with you - every week!

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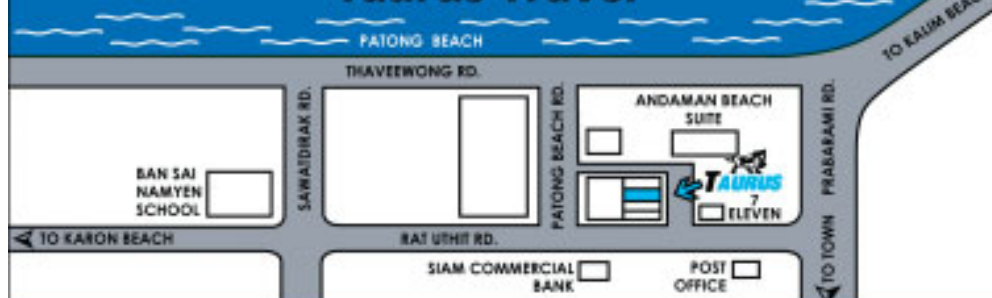
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A map of the area around the 41 Minimart. The map shows a road network with several landmarks. At the top left is the 'Laguna gateway'. Below it is the 'Chaba Restaurant'. At the bottom left is the 'Police Station'. In the center is the '41 Minimart' with a blue square icon. To the right of the minimart are 'Lifestyle & Leisure', 'Plaza Del Mar', and 'Golf Guru'. At the bottom center is 'Timlay Place'. An arrow points from the minimart area towards the bottom left, labeled 'To Laguna'.

Boats & Marine

LEE MARINE
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Riviera 37 Flybridge (2003)

- Raymarine chartplotter, autopilot
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- Onan 7Kw generator
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- Raymarine sounder
- Icom VHF
- Icemaker, 3 x fridges

\$360,000 USD

35' Cruising Sloop (1998) **\$59,000 USD**

Warwick (1994) **\$235,000 USD**

Riviera 3000 Offshore (1999) **\$225,000 SGD**

Ladenstein 47 (1998) **10,000,000 THB**

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STEPPA 36 FOR SALE

Due to an increase in 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@subaqua-divecenter.com

ZODIAC, SPEEDBOAT, SAILBOAT

Wanted either a zodiac with outboard, a small speedboat or a small sailing boat. Offers with pics and specs, please. Thanks. Email: arjan@loxinfo.co.th

SILVERTON 40FT

Family boat, 2 twin bedrooms, two bathrooms + shower, saloon, dinette, galley kitchen. Two years old but with complete interior refurbishment within 12 months. Twin Volvo Penta engines + turbo, dinghy. New Mercury outboard used regularly, very reliable. Sale due to owner upgrade. Viewing at Ocean Marina Pattaya. 5 million baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 02-6777555 ext 238, 081-8335750.

PEGASUS 8.2

Fiberglass Center console new 475,000 baht - Pegasus 7.2 fiberglass center console. New 375,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-527129, 086-5950978.

GAME FISHING

Aussie custom 6-meter center console, Thai flagged, in commercial survey! Import docs 100% correct. www.kohjoy.com/makocraft

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wanted. Sails, masts, booms and boards wanted. Can collect. Tel: 076-282864, 084-8501340. Email: southseasurf@gmail.com

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TOUR/FISHING BOAT



Jim Young's "Vindex" design. Built-in cedar strip/epoxy. 35ft long, 12ft beam. 300hp 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.

8-FT DINGHY

Rubber dinghy, 5hp engine, in good condition. 60,000 baht. Tel: 081-8951724.

SAIL & KAYAK

Big boat, shade, good food. Captain + 12 people for day trips, 6 overnight. Tel: 081-6771641.

FOR SALE

27ft 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 35FT SPEEDBOAT

For rent. Luxury fiberglass boat with head, shower, cabin, etc. Rent to hotels, dive shops and private day trippers. Tel: 46-704534768. Email: info@swedcraft.com

COLUMBIA 45

World Sailer. 45ft sailboat fully equipped for worldwide sailing. Australian import duty paid (US\$10K + profit for reselling her in Oz). Built 1974 with spacious interior and 2 cabins. Life raft new in 2005, SSB radio & email. RIB dinghy with 15hp outboard. Email: aa4mw@yahoo.com

2 X 200HP YAMAHA

2 strokes. 2003, good condition. Including accessories. 250,000 baht ono for the pair. Tel: 076-381010. Email: dsa@evasonphuket.com

RUBBER DINGHY

2.5m: 20,000 baht. 3.5m dinghy: 40,000 baht. 5hp engine: 15,000 baht. Email: smuldersos@hotmail.com

ZODIAC RIB FOR SALE

Pro-open 550 with 115hp Johnson outboard. Very nice condition. 750,000 baht. Includes trailer. Tel: 084-852-1431. Email: mdamkvist@yahoo.com

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Patak Rd, Chalong

Tel: 076-280400/3

Fax: 076-280403

Earth Language School

Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City

Tel: 076-232398/9

Fax: 076-232398

Sin & Lee

Thalang Rd, Phuket City

Tel: 076-258369

Fax: 076-211230

Taurus Travel

Aroonsom Plaza Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong

Tel: 076-344521/2

Fax: 076-344523

41 Minimart

Srisoontorn Rd, Chermg Talay

Tel/Fax: 076-324312

Deli Supermarket

Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong

Tel: 076-342275

Fax: 076-344314



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Island Job Mart

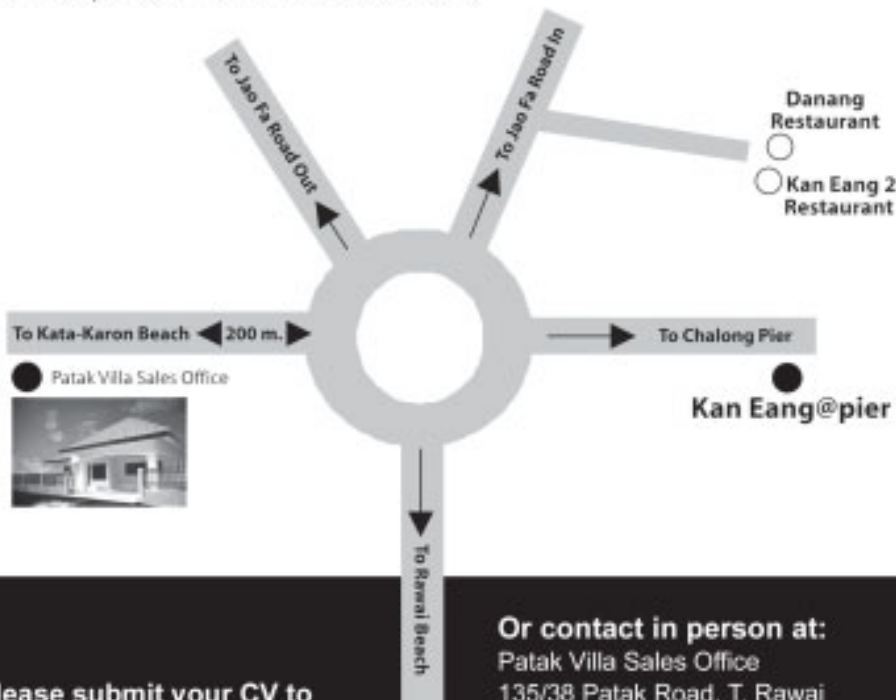
Kan Eang@pier

New stylish restaurant, coffee shop, wine shop, bay bar in boutique resort style will be opened for service early 2007.

Five-star venue restaurant is looking for young energetic and service minded individuals to fulfill the following positions:

Required positions:

F/B Manager, Executive Chef, Chief Accountant, Sales/Public Relations, Receptionist, Restaurant Supervisor, Captain, Waiter/Waitress, Bartender/Bartendy, Accountants, Purchasing, Store Keeper, Cashier, Cook, Driver, Cleaner and Gardener



Please submit your CV to
email: kaneang.pier@hotmail.com
Fax: 076-280 333

Or contact in person at:
Patak Villa Sales Office
135/38 Patak Road, T. Rawai
Muang Phuket 83130
Tel: 076-281 583 or 08-4304 6249

PROJECT BAAN COCOON

Anuphas Pirom Resort Co., Ltd., a real estate company developing luxury houses in Phuket Country Club Golf Course, currently seeking qualified candidates to fill the following positions

1. Project Architect 1 Position

- Male or female, age between 28 - 35 years.
- Min. 2 years experience with license in architectural field.
- To be able driving with license.

2. Marketing 1 Position

- Female, age between 26 - 29 years.
- Good command of both spoken and written English.

3. Secretary 1 Position

- Female, age between 26 - 29 years.
- Good command of both spoken and written English.

Please send your CV and recent photo to
Ms. Kantheera Rungsang-anotai
☎ 076-202189, 076-319084 - 5 ☎ 076-319083
✉ info@anuphaspiromresort.com
<http://www.anuphaspiromresort.com>

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 resum  and salary requirements. Email: leighw7@hotmail.com

WAITRESS STAFF

Need job experience, girls only, English, restaurant in Patong. Good salary & tips. Tel: 081-8173190. Email: felice99999@hotmail.com

PART-TIME WORK

Promotional staff needed in Patong for brochure distribution on Soi Bangla. Can be students. Contact Jony at Tel: 087-8817600.

COOK + WAITRESS

Needed. 1 cook (5 pm-10 pm) and 1 waitress needed. Tel: 081-8914019. Email: tkoschig2000@hotmail.com

THAI BOOKKEEPER

Need bookkeeper for construction project. Must have accounting experience and be dependable. Tel: 076-293184, 087-0778454. Email: solitude001@aol.com

SOLAR TECHNICIAN

And 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

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



Dive Supply is a leading importer for Scuba Diving Equipment located in Phuket and we are looking to recruit for the following position:

Shop/Sales Manager

- Foreign national (male, female)
- Fluent in English, second language will be an advantage
- PADI - Divemaster or up
- Car driving license
- At least two years Thailand experience
- Sales background is a must
- Trained retail executive with degree
- Nonsmoker only!

We offer a good salary and excellent benefits such as: long-term Employment, Work permit, One-year Visa and many more. If you think this is you, please send your res m  to stefan@divesupply.com

ACCOUNTING MANAGER

Responsible for accounting activities for mid-size company. Required: accounting degree, more than 5 years' experience, familiar with Peachtree accounting program. Working directly with Managing Director, providing financial planning and report to all of us. Strong written and spoken English skills required. Email: pat@destinationair.com

SALES/MARKETING PERSON

Real Estate agent is seeking a self-motivated and organized Thai national with excellent English skills. Should be comfortable liaising with developers and clients alike. Excellent opportunity and package. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-9705750. Email: info@baansiamrealty.com

ADMIN/CLIENT RELATIONS

Permanent position at our Yacht Haven Office. Requirements: excellent English, good computer skills, knowledge of invoicing, etc. Also require good communication skills, a driving license and a bright, outgoing personality. Starting salary: 15 to 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-348117, 081-9703028. Fax: 076-348118. Email: rob@sailing-thailand.com

FEMALE UK TV PRESENTER

We require a young, attractive and articulate British female to present a small dialogue for a corporate video for a UK recruitment firm. Very well paid for a morning's work. Please email with photo for more information. Email: lan@evocation.net

WANTED HOUSEKEEPER

English-speaking, with driver's license. Work 1 pm - 9pm. Salary 10,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-1885828.

ADMIN TRAINEE

Training position at our Yacht Haven Office. Requirements: spoken and written English, basic computer skills, bright personality. Salary starts at 5,500 to 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-348117, 081-9703028. Fax: 076-348118. Email: rob@sailing-thailand.com

ENGLISH TEACHER

Evening and weekend classes. Must have experience teaching phonics and reading. Tel: 076-255942, 081-8951131. Email: edouardfam@access.inet.co.th

wine connection

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 Exccutive	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

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Still haven't found the perfect candidate?

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at www.phuketgazette.net!

Island Job Mart

The Famous
Cape Panwa Hotel, Phuket

is seeking candidates
for the following
position:

Spa Manager

Qualifications for candidates:

- Male or Female
- Good knowledge of managing spa system
- Experience in spa management is preferred

Interested candidates please contact:
GENERAL MANAGER
Cape Panwa Hotel: 27 Moo 8, Sakdidej Rd,
Cape Panwa Phuket 83000, Thailand.
Tel: 0-7639-1123-5 Fax: 0-7639-1177
Email: gm@capepanwa.com
www.capepanwa.com

YACHT SOLUTIONS
Management Assistant

Qualifications:

- Male 30+
- Excellent English/Thai
- Good computer skills
- Driving license
- Good interpersonal skills
- Marine experience a benefit
- Good salary

Please send your application, CV with photo and expected salary to
Khan Suwannee
Yacht Solutions Co., Ltd.
20/27 Moo 2 Thepkasatri Road,
Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-239 114 / 238 939
Fax: 076-239 139
Email: suwannee@yachtsolutions.net

SALES AND MARKETING

UK-based company requires a candidate to help promote and market within the Phuket expat community and the surrounding islands on a full- or part-time basis. Would suit a semi-retired expat or Thai national with excellent English skills. Remuneration on a salary or commission basis. Contact Barry. Tel: 076-238021, 086-9764998.

OFFICE STAFF

needed. Must have very good English communication skills. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-2647702. Fax: 076-264773. Or email: info@kajonkiet.com

LAW FIRM

Looking for secretary and lawyer. Please email CV to scphuket@yahoo.com

RECEPTIONIST

Guesthouse needs receptionist. English required. Salary: 6,000 baht. Tel: 076-340677. Fax: 076-340584. Email: seafronthome@yahoo.com

ASSISTANT HOTEL MANAGER/OFFICE ASSISTANT

- Male/female, Thai national
 - Bachelor's degree
 - Good command of written and spoken English
 - Able to use Microsoft Office
 - Basic accounting skills
 - A driving license is advantage
- Contact K. Sao at Tel: 076-290363, 087-2658-865. Email resum with photo and expected salary to oasis@stoneymonday.com, info@stoneymonday.com, info@stoneymondayhotels.com

INTERNET SHOP

We're looking for female Thai nationals to work as cyber cafe receptionists in the Patong area. 1 full-time, 1 night-time (6 pm to midnight). Possibility of lodging. The successful applicant must speak English. Call K. Yupha at Tel: 089-4719712.

Staff Required

- 1 x Office Administrator
- 1 x Boat Hostess

A luxury motor yacht charter company is looking for 2 English-speaking Thai national staff to fill the above positions. Office administrator - should have office experience and hold a driving license. Hostess - a background in five-star service is essential as is a fun personality.

Please contact
prue@tawancruises.com or phone 081 8943 234 for further information.

MARKETING COLLEAGUE WANTED

- Good personality
- Working experience in marketing & sales
- University degree in business admin or related fields
- Self-motivated, service minded

Show Nai Nam Co, Ltd.
8/6 Moo 7, Kathu, Phuket
83120 Tel: 076-202580,
081-2410621. Email:
shownainarn@hotmail.com

O'MALLEYS PHUKET

The new management of O'Malleys Irish Pub in Phuket is looking for an experienced cook for its new Irish menu! We are also looking for musicians: solo performers, small jazz or blues bands, acoustic guitarists and so on, for Tuesday open mic nights. Tel: 089-4932086. Email: wes@omalleyphuket.com

SALES DIRECTOR/SALES STAFF

Required. Excellent English, experience in real estate a must. We only want the best. Excellent pay plan + benefits. Phuket based. Tel: 089-1068593.

RESTAURANT MANAGER & EUROPEAN CHEF

Sunset beach resort is looking for a restaurant manager & European chef. Tel: 076-342482-5. Fax: 076-342500. Email: info@sunsetphuket.com

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

Looking for a qualified, cool & experienced waitress. English speaking. Please call K. Pael Tel: 086-2832279.

SECRETARY NEEDED

Secretary needed in Cherng Talay. Duties include basic accounting, banking, purchasing, and documentation. English helpful but not necessary. Salary based on experience. Need to begin training on or before 22 Nov. Fax: 076-270662. Email: info@avcpuket.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.

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 an advantage, but not necessary. Tel: 076-527565. Email: cv@phuketoceanvillas.com

RESTAURANT STAFF

Well-known Scandinavian restaurant in Karon is looking for waiting staff. Tel: 089-0088146.

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

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. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-340904, 087-2834680. Email: info@yorkshireinn.com

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.

SECRETARY

/receptionist wanted. Single female, good English, friendly, computer skills, responsible. To work with foreign manager. Tel: 076-344350. Email: robor@kalimresidence.com

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 For more info see our website at: www.thephuketestate.com

RESTAURANT KARON

Seeks Thai lady to take orders. Hours: 4 pm - 12 am. Call Noy for interview. Salary: 5,000 baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 089-4731351.

Employment Wanted

SEEKING EMPLOYMENT

Work required, anything considered. Hard working, honest and trustworthy. Have done bar work, joinery construction work, computing, youth work, volunteer work, etc. Please email with details of anything you might have to offer. Email: s_murkin@hotmail.com

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.

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Original VHS PAL video cassettes. *Only Fools and Horses* and *Vicar of Dibley*. 300 baht each. Tel: 087-920-1400. Email: info@simple-biz.com

RATTAN 3-PIECE

Suite. Planter-style rattan suite with ivory colored, washable cushion covers. 3 seater couch, 2 armchairs and glass-top coffee table with 2 drawers. This is good quality rattan, not held together by staples. A bargain at 12,000 baht. Tel: 076-385932, 09-8681995. Email: stusmith@phuket.ksc.co.th

HOUSEHOLD

Contents. I am moving and offering for sale the contents of my entire two-story home. Aquarium, tables, couch, etc, as well as my diving video. Also have a car, 75,000 baht. Tel: 076-296555, 089-2911112. Fax: 076-296555. Email: qualityhouse_phuket@hotmail.com

CASIO KEYBOARD

New latest model LK30. 300 rhythm tones and song bank. Paid 12,000 baht. Will sell for 7,000. Tel: 089-593-4193.

PHUKET MEGA SALE

Many household & business items. Please email or call for complete list. Tel: 076-321-402, 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. Please contact for more details. Tel: 081-893-3077. 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. Please contact for more information. 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 more. Tel: 087-4183127 for details. 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

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Is holding meetings in English at the following places in Phuket:

Mission Hospital Phuket City
Wed and Sun 7 pm

Bangkok Phuket Hospital Phuket City
Fri 7 pm

Patong Hospital Patong
Mon, Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun at 7 pm and Fri at 8 pm
For Phuket info (English) call 081-9564031, 081-8912895

Scandinavian speaking Group Wat Karon School Karon
Tue 7 pm and Nov-April only on Sat 7 pm
Tel 081-2732053 Nor 087-2795636 Nor 086-7458910 Swe

For info on other Thailand AA meetings inquire at Tel: 02-2318300 (for Thai language press 3) www.aathailand.org or email info@aathailand.org

NOV 11: FOOD FOR

Thought's annual Christmas craft fair. Come by the shop on Saturday to do 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, Tel: 089-868-2639, or Kung, Tel: 076-281-274, for more information, or to reserve table space for the sale.

RAFFLES DESIGN

Workshop phuket. Design workshop conducted by Raffles Design Institute at the Metropole hotel, Phuket Town on Nov 18 & 19. Students will learn more about fashion, graphics and design in general. Tel: 02-6327666. For further details, please see our website at: www.rdi.in.th

ATTENTION MUSIC

Lovers. We're a few musicians (Thais and foreigners) inviting musicians interested to explore and do music on a different level to join us. Beginners with great passion for learning music are welcome too. Tel: 09-6549654. Email: cafe@rockinangels.com

Business Opportunities

KATOYS'R'US

Famous Patong cabaret bar. Tel: 081-8955242. For details, please see our website: www.katoysrus.com

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

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: peterjones100@hotmail.com

BAR/RESTAURANT

On 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

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: 081-8922830.

NAI HARN NIGHTCLUB

New entertainment venue located 600m from beach. Huge bar with restaurant, pool table, jacuzzi, foosball, dance floor, wireless Internet, 2 motorbikes, surfboards, etc. Everything is ready to go for high season. Attractive terms, low monthly expenses (around 200 Euro). The only limit is your imagination. Tel: 085-7894539. Email: johan@cityradion.se

SPA AND BAR

On 1 rai with garden and swimming pool. We are looking for someone interested in building a spa and bar around the swimming pool in tropical garden area of our resort. You would have a long-term lease from us. Email: janco2002@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

FRANCHISE-ANTIQUE GALLERY

Antique gallery, which now has branches in Singapore, La Reunion & Langkawi, looking for a franchisee. Pieces are pre-selected to maintain standard & quality. Shipment comes in as ready to start business. Great potential. Interested parties please send an email to: sroute@streamyx.com

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

RAWAI BAR FOR RENT

New bar, no key money, all equipment supplied. 12,000 baht per month or less for one year contract. Also for sale. Tel: 085-8094153.

GUESTHOUSE LEASE

Great location in Patong, long-established, 9 rooms, large restaurant/bar, 5.5 year lease. Fully fitted: 2.5 million baht. Tel: 089-6489932.

GUESTHOUSE

For sale. Bangla Rd, Karon beach. Price 16 million baht. Tel: 076-383522, 081-892-1874. Email: sanadamoda@yahoo.com

CAMBODIA BEACH

Resort sale. Sihanoukville, long lease for sale. Beachfront. Tel: 855-12950472. Email: seabreeze@online.com.kh For further details, please see our website: www.seabreeze.site.com

GUESTHOUSE

In Patong for sale with company. 208sqm with Chanote title, 150m from Jungceylon. Option to open 3 shops. Can be extended to 7 floors. Reasonable price at 25 million baht. Fax: 076-345554. Email: philipp@loxinfo.co.th

BAR WITH TERRACE

For sale, big bar and large terrace in busy hotel area on the beach road, 200sqm. Possibility to take separate kitchen also. Very good food sales and catering for other bars. Fully-fitted and furnished with 2-year lease, with 3 more years possible. Tel: 087-2706297.

NEW COMPANY

Looking for investor/s. Profit: 3 million baht or more per month. Looking for total investment of 6 million baht. Tel: 085-8880636.

LADIES FUN FITNESS

Circuit. For clubs, spas, hotels. Get ahead now! 800,000 baht. Email: nikki.indigosiam@gmail.com

ONLY 14 SHARES LEFT!

For a large, prime commercial site located only minutes from Kata beach. Share value 425,000 baht. Can be bought in lots (max 14). For details contact Mark. Tel: 087-2742759. Email: britcorp@hotmail.com

BUSINESS IN PHI PHI ISLAND

Now for sale in a top location. Popular 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

GUESTHOUSE AND

Restaurant. 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. For further details call. Tel: 087-1203082. Email: r.schimmack@mail.isis.de

LOCK-UP BAR

For sale. Bar at Karon Beach (200 meters from beach). Excellent location. Established since 1998, seating for 35. Short- or long-term lease available. Low rent. For more info call or email. Tel: 09-9711089. Email: kvrobo@hotmail.co.uk

BAR FOR SALE

Popular and successful. Amigos bar in Soi Seadragon for sale. Pool table, darts, own sound system. Price negotiable dependant on length of lease required. Tel: 087-883-8721.

RESTAURANT WANTED

Want to rent restaurant in Surin/Bangtao/Laguna area. Open to all suggestions. Email: mostlind@hotmail.com

MUSIC LOUNGE/BAR

Investment opportunity in Patong. Newly-renovated music lounge & bar for sale in Patong. Will sell up to 37.5% stake, but will not sell all. 1.7 million baht, but up for negotiation. Contact for more details. Tel: 083-1804103. Email: pamorales83@yahoo.com

VCD RENTAL

business for sale. Established business, good location. 695,000 baht ono. Tel: 086-7423014, 084-0627129.

BOOK SHOP FOR SALE

Patong OTOP book shop & Nanai book shop. 2 shops for 980,000 baht. Tel: 084-1705552.

BUNGY TRAMPOLINE

4 stations, great income. Will train for operation with or without location. Tel: 081-5430980. Please see our website: www.maxi-fun.com

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4 million baht capitalization & available for 2 work permit. Pls call K. Bee. Tel: 085-029-3095.

PARTNERSHIP

available. With B visa & work permit. A unique concept in food function & wedding catering servicing the whole of Phuket. Minimal work required, company car included. Tel: 086-2766626. Email: jockadms99@yahoo.com

BAR FOR SALE

On Nanai Rd. 2 year lease 10,000 baht per month. Pool table, darts, 42" plasma TV on wall, sound system, all fittings brand new. Buy now & enjoy high season. 950,000 baht ono. Tel: 084-8520862. Email: hotevo69@hotmail.co.uk

NICE SHOP KATA

Center. 300m from Karon beach, 120sqm for sale, 300,000 baht. Lease 300,000 a year, not available per month. Can renew every 3 years. Tel: 084-1853295.

KITCHENS

Showroom renovation. Must sell old kitchens now as new ones to arrive from Malaysia and Germany. Hurry. For further details please contact RS Venture Phuket. Email: rafael.veiga@rsventure.co.th

THE BEST SITE ON 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: georgeslancry@hotmail.com

SEA VIEW PROJECT

For sale. Sea view project sitting on 8 rai with two show houses already built. Only 60 million baht. Minimum takeover required: 9 million baht. Tel: 076-398106, 087-283-7161. Fax: 076-398517. Email: jon.gibbons@karonproperty.com Please visit: www.karonproperty.com/forest_hill_project.html

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Date	3,10,17,24	1,8,15,29	5,12,19,26	17	7,14,21,28

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Looking to buy or rent a 2nd hand timeshare or holiday club membership. Any location in Thailand considered. Email: richardrichards1234@yahoo.com

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Wanted: Blue Canyon Club membership. Tel: 081-906 6243. Email: jon@freedom surfing.com

Computers

TOSHIBA LAPTOP

6,000 baht. 10GB hard drive, 128MB, CD-Rom, Floppy, USB, parallel port, Windows XP, Office 2003. Battery not charging but adapter included in the purchase. 3 years old; some scratches but does not affect performance. This is good for students who need a cheap but reliable laptop to work on papers. Takes little space so does not clutter the room. Only 6,000 baht but will accept best offer. Let me know if you want to see. Email: gummybear_junkie@yahoo.com

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Qualifications: Must be able to speak English, love to work with children and be willing to do a minimum of 200 hours of child care. References required. For more information please contact us at Tel: 089-658-4226. Email: info@intouch thailand.com or visit at: www.intouch thailand.com

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Yellow, many accessories, good condition. Price: 45,000 baht. Tel: 081-7375909, 086-6874308.

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4 x 4s

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