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Judge stalls new dive rules

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET: The Administrative Court in Nakhon Sri Thammarat has ruled the new regulations affecting Phuket dive operators be suspended indefinitely, pending the results of a court case challenging their legality.

News of the suspension came from Aekachai Soonthorn, who has been appointed defense attorney for the province in the case. K. Aekachai is also Secretary to the Phuket Provincial Chief Administrative Officer (Palad), Nivit Aroonrat, who has been central to the new regulations' implementation.

The case was lodged against the province, which brought the new regulations into effect October 1, by members of the Thai Diving Association (TDA).

TDA representatives told the court on October 19 that the strict new rules infringe on their privacy rights and are very difficult to comply with, and requested that the court temporarily suspend the regulations until it rules in the case.

The suspension was granted by court order on October 30. The court cited in its decision concerns that former Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura may have overstepped his authority by authorizing the regulations.

The court accepted that some procedures required under the regulations, including the submission of business information, appear incompatible with the stated aim of the regulations, environmental protection.

"Although the judge understood why Phuket province is-



UNDER PRESSURE: The dive regulations brought into effect on October 1 have been suspended, leaving operators to business as usual - for now. - Photo courtesy of Amphan Prasaeng

sued the regulations, he said they might give too much power to the governor. The judge said that we have many laws to use to protect the environment, so we should use existing laws rather than make new ones," K. Aekachai said.

K. Aekachai added that he intends to appeal the suspension to the Supreme Administrative Court in Bangkok within the 30-day appeal period, which ends November 30.

Although they are awaiting the court to provide more of the prosecution's evidence in the case so that they can prepare their defense, the appeal has already been prepared and is only awaiting the signature of Phuket Gov Niran Kalayanamit before it can be filed, he said.

Gov Niran became the

nominal defendant in the case with his October 31 promotion to the post of Phuket Governor.

The court has yet to set any dates to hear testimony in the case, K. Aekachai added.

Pongsawan Sathatham, a TDA committee member also serving as its attorney in the case, told the *Gazette* that in the meantime TDA members are running their businesses as usual.

Palad Nivit said he was unaware of the court ruling, but said that the province would continue to appeal any court orders suspending or rescinding the regulations.

"I'd like to do the right thing to preserve the country. Even if the court does not agree with the provincial announcement, we still want to perform our duties as well as possible," he said.

Mob threat staves off Barami 8 evictions

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

KALIM: Fearful of inciting a riot, municipal officials on November 10 decided not to remove three squatters' homes along Soi Phra Barami 8.

The demolition of three homes, the first of 61 to be removed to make way for a government road-widening project, was ordered on November 6 by Phuket Provincial Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) Nivit Aroonrat at a meeting at Kathu District office.

Owners of the three homes have defied a court eviction notice issued in May and each now face more than 140,000 baht in fines, assessed at 1,000 baht a day.

If they are unable to pay, they face being jailed.

Patong Mayor Pian Keesin on November 6 agreed to the removal of the three homes.

However, the soi was quiet November 10 as officials feared a riot would ensue if they went through with the plan.

Palad Nivit told the *Gazette* that the province still intends to remove the homes. He declined to give a demolition date, though. Doing so would increase the likelihood of mob action, he said.

"They have received the order from Phuket Provincial Court. They cannot refuse," said Palad Nivit, who added that he views the stand-off as a test case for all squatters in the area.

The squatters earlier rejected an offer to be relocated to small, rented plots on the grounds of Wat Kathu. They said such a move would ruin their livelihoods and upset their families.

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Austrian

Thieves steal donation money from city hospital

PHUKET CITY: About 2,000 baht was stolen from a donation box at Bangkok Phuket Hospital on November 7.

Pol Lt Aekarat Playduang of Phuket Provincial Police told the *Gazette*, "The theft was reported about 2 pm yesterday [November 8]. The box was located in an isolated place and no one saw it until late the next morning."

He added that the staffer responsible for regularly emptying the collection box had estimated that about 2,000 baht was stolen.

Donations placed in the box went to the Sikkha Asia Foundation, which provides educational support for poor students.

"The box is inside the hospital building but it is in a dark corner in front of the rehabilitation section. Although the hospital is open 24 hours, this section is closed at night," Lt Aekarat.

"We found fingerprints but we have to investigate more. We have no leads, but we will check the fingerprints and compare them with the information we have," he said. — *Janyaporn Morel*

Phuket Public Library closes for renovations

PHUKET CITY: Phuket Public Library, on Phuket Rd, has closed for decoration and essential renovation. The library, which lends around 7,000 books each month, is due to reopen on January 29, 2007.

In addition to renovation of the building, the selection of books will be expanded and updated with the purchase of around new reading material – estimated at around 1 million baht – for the library, which opened in 1981.

Pencak Silat moved to Turkey

By Noolek Karaket

PHUKET: The 13th Pencak Silat Martial Arts World Championship, set to be start in Phuket on November 18, has been moved to Turkey due to the coup.

The competition was originally scheduled to be held November 18 to 26, with more than 500 competitors from 25 countries registered for the event.

Pencak Silat is a group of martial arts of Indo-Malaysian origin that can include hundreds of styles and is practiced throughout Southeast Asia. It has

several names, including Panchak, Montjak, Silék, but is most commonly known as Pencak Silat.

Songsak Kitikarnkul, Chief of Phuket Sport Authority of Thailand told the *Gazette* that organizers moved the competition to Turkey due to "political instability".

"Because of the difficulties with the changing administration and the new Prime Minister, as well as a complete change in the people they were organizing with. Because of that, the organizer decided to move the competition to Turkey," Songsak said.

Weapons seized at Kathu checkpoint

By Sompratch Saowakhon

KATHU: Four men were arrested on November 9 after a routine inspection of their pickup at the Phra Barami Rd vehicle control point uncovered four pistols, ammunition, a walkie-talkie and two pairs of latex gloves.

Tung Tong Police Deputy Inspector for Crime Suppression Pol Capt Wiwut Chumnankit said police pulled over the red-gray Mitsubishi pickup, with a Phuket license plate, at the checkpoint about 1 am as it headed toward Phuket City.

A search of the vehicle found 27-year-old Seksan Sirivutcharaporn, from Chanthaburi, in possession of a 9mm Czech CZ pistol.

A subsequent search of the truck's cabin turned up another 9mm automatic pistol, a .38 revolver and a .32 automatic pistol, all hidden in a bag along with a spare magazine of 15 rounds of 9mm ammunition. All of the weapons were loaded. Only the revolver was registered.

Police also seized an Icom-brand walkie-talkie and two pairs of latex gloves.

The other three suspects were identified as Apidej Tometin, 28, of Chanthaburi; Suriyun Rattanakunsart, 25, of Bangkok; Jirut Kaewkun, 47, of Chonburi.



Pol Maj Pasakorn Sonthikun questions Jirut Kaewkun as the three other suspects wait.

Jirut produced a card identifying himself as a police officer responsible for security at Parliament in Bangkok. An initial background check by police confirmed that Jirut had once been a police officer stationed at Parliament, but that he was no longer a member of the civil service.

All four men were taken into custody and held at Tung Tong Police station, where they face charges of carrying unregistered weapons and ammunition in public and possession of restricted communications equipment without a permit.

All were denied bail and being held at Chalong Police Sta-

tion as this edition goes to press.

A search of a large, two-story home in the Land & Houses Nantawan project in Chalong on the afternoon of the same day found evidence linking the four men to a powerful figure in Patong, Chalong Police Superintendent Pol Col Chalit Kaewyarat later told the *Gazette*.

Chalong Police are expediting the case against the powerful figure, whom he declined to name at his time.

Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Pol Col Chalit Tinthanee accompanied Col Chalit and other members of the Chalong Police on the raid.

Swedish bar owner arrested in knife fight

PATONG: Bar owner Nicolas Cazus, 40, from Sweden, slashed a Thai man with a knife in a fight over a collision with a motorcycle on November 7.

Pol Lt Col Pisit Chunpet said that police responded to a call from a Cazus's bar on Soi Sainamyen at 3:45 am.

He explained that Cazus had just parked his car in front of his bar when Nuttavuth Palee, 26, pulled up on his motorbike.

The two men began to argue over a collision between the two vehicles earlier that resulted in Cazus's car being scratched.

The men started fighting in the street, leading to people from the bar coming out and separating them, Col Pisit said.

Cazus was led to the bar's kitchen, but Nuttavuth, still angry, followed him to continue the conflict.

The fight flared up again, and Cazus picked up a small knife and slashed Nuttavuth across the cheek and across one leg, Col Pisit said.

Both men were arrested and taken to Kathu Police Station.

Vienna-Phuket flights launched

PHUKET: Austrian Airlines has launched high-season direct flights between Phuket and Vienna.

The new route, which started November 4, has the capacity to bring more than 10,000 tourists a year to Phuket and inject 2.5 billion baht per annum into the local economy.

Initially, flights will depart from Vienna at 2:15 pm on Fridays, arriving in Phuket at 6:45 am the following day.

From Phuket, the flight will leave at 10:05 am on Saturdays and will reach Vienna at 3:55 pm local time on the same day. A second flight departing Vienna on Mondays and Phuket on Tuesdays, at the same times, will be added in December.

The route will run until the end of April, 2007.

The Key Piece of the Puzzle

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New stalls are being built to replace the encroaching structures used by 32 vendors on Bang Tao Beach.

Work begins on new Bang Tao beach stalls

By Supanun Supawong

BANG TAO: After January 1, 32 beach vendors currently encroaching on Bang Tao Beach will move into small new stalls now being built for them by the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor).

Thalang District Chief Administrative Officer Nikorn Torhirunyapreuk told the *Gazette* that work is now underway on the first 11 stalls being built for the vendors, allowing them to sell their goods in the area legally for the first time.

K. Nikorn heads a special panel appointed by former Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura to find a solution to the problem of encroachment, viewed by the province as an eyesore ruining the beach's natural beauty.

The new stalls are being built to one side of Laguna Beach Resort.

Work on the project is being overseen by the Phuket Provincial Public Works Office, Cherng Talay Tambon Chief Sommit Suebsin and the Cherng Talay Public Works Department.

Funding for the project is from the OrBorJor.

When all 35 stalls are ready to move into, a "lucky draw" will be held to determine which vendors will occupy which units.

The results of an earlier "lucky draw", on October 10, were nullified as many vendors refused to take part – fearing that the province would never come through on its promise to find a replacement area for them.

Other vendors who did take part later complained that the original site plan too greatly favored those who drew the choicest spots, nearest to the entrance of Laguna Beach Resort.

The committee then revised the plan, changing it from a single walkway perpendicular to the beach to several parallel walkways, each running parallel to the shoreline.

Under the new plan, stalls selling the same kinds of goods will be side by side so that shoppers can compare prices. The new layout also ensures that no shop will have much more of a competitive advantage in terms of location.

Survey work is now underway to establish new locations for several restaurants that encroached on the beach by building terraced dining areas out over the tidal zone, K. Nikorn said.

Illegal encroachment by vendors is a problem along the entire length of Bang Tao Beach, which currently has about 90 illegal stalls on the sand, a survey by K. Nikorn's panel has found.

Swede attacked in drive-by shooting

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PHUKET CITY: Police are investigating a drive-by shooting on Chao Fa East Rd on November 12 in which a foreigner was targeted.

A 43-year-old Swedish man, who asked for his name to be withheld to protect his security, was the apparent target.

He was driving his Toyota Fortuner along Chao Fa East Rd at 8:30 pm when another vehicle overtook him on his right, a passenger opening fire and spraying the car with bullets, several of which hit and shattered the rear window on the driver's side.

Able to escape unharmed, the Swede called the police from a 7-Eleven store.

"I thought it was an accident at first," the man said. "When I turned around I saw the back window was shattered, and I had a lot of glass around in my hair and all around the cockpit. And still I didn't realize they were shooting because I didn't hear the bang, I just heard the glass shatter. I thought maybe a second car – or a motorbike – had hit my car."

It was only when the third



At least six bullets had struck the Swede's car before he realized that he was being shot at.

shot came at him from the rear that he realized he was under attack. There were at least six bullet holes in his car by the time he was able to get away, he said.

The victim said that he has no idea who would want to attack him, especially since he has lived in Phuket a total of three to four months in between other travels.

"It was over very quickly, within a few seconds," he said.

Unable to identify his assailants, the man now has police protection in case his attackers return. He also urged any eyewitnesses to speak to the police to help solve the crime.

Police officers said that they are investigating leads and hope to make an arrest soon.

Chalong blackout

PHUKET: The Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority (PPEA) has announced a scheduled blackout from 9 am to 5 pm November 29, in order to maintain and repair high-voltage power lines.

The blackout will affect Chao Fa West Rd, from Wat Chalong to Chalong Circle, including the Chaityapruk, Baan Laddawan, Baan Siwalee 2 and Baan Mantana projects of Land & Houses Park, Soi Pramot, Soi Thanuthep, Moo Baan Chalong Suk.

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SUFFERING A

Tourists from Western countries are used to wide doorways, reserved parking, access ramps and elevators always being available, but in Phuket such facilities are the exception instead of the rule. That doesn't mean that handicapped visitors cannot find ways around these problems, as one Swedish visitor recounted.

"Street access can be difficult sometimes, but the nice thing is that there's always somebody more than happy to help," said Mikael, who was so happy with his first trip to Phuket that he has relocated here.

Adrian Smith, from the UK, has also enjoyed his visits to Phuket. Many tourist attractions provide access for people in wheelchairs, such as Kata Viewpoint and Phuket Zoo, he says.

However, he adds that simply getting around can be an onerous task, though he, too, is grateful for the number of people in Phuket who just happen to be nearby to help him negotiate curbs and stairs.

Tom, also from the UK, found himself in the same position and relocated to Phuket as well. Through Jai Dee Holidays, he is now working to offer holiday packages to disabled people. These come complete with pick-up from the airport, specially-adapted hotel rooms, custom tours and transport, as well as the help of caregivers, nurses and doctors with specialized equipment, if needed.

"I love the people and the country so much that I want to provide holidays for disabled people," he said.

Sandy Treweek of Jai Dee Holidays said the company face obstacles all over the island, but have learned the best ways to get around.

"One of the problems in Phuket is a lack of thought for the disabled at the planning stage of projects. Most hotels, bars and restaurants here have no disabled access or very poor access," he

Potholes, open sewers and sidewalk bazaars are just a few of the inconveniences we all face every day in Phuket. For handicapped residents and tourists confined to wheelchairs, however, such obstacles make traveling around the island difficult and dangerous – if not impossible.

Gazette staff report.



Adrian Smith (left) says that getting around Phuket can be challenging, though many people are happy to lend him a hand.

said.

"We know there is a growing demand for disabled travelers to come to Thailand. But at present disabled people – those in wheelchairs in particular – are very restricted as to where they can go."

Some hotels have seen the lack of facilities as a way to tap into a niche market otherwise unexplored by Thailand's tourism industry.

Jayne MacDougall, Health & Safety Director of Meridien Thailand Resorts, explained the adaptations made at Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort, located south of Patong.

"The 40-acre hotel has ramps at almost every set of stairs on the ground floor. These aid both wheelchair users as well as families with children in strollers. There are also paths wide enough for a wheelchair to maneuver along all the way down to the beach, although if a wheelchair-bound guest wants to go on the beach or into the sea, then staff must carry them."

Jayne explained that although the wheelchair-friendly route from one area to another may not be the shortest distance between two points, guests appear not to mind.

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PHUKET HANDICAP



Adrian Smith, from the UK, has enjoyed several visits to Phuket. Many tourist attractions provide access for people in wheelchairs, he says, such as Kata Viewpoint and Phuket Zoo.

vide facilities for handicapped. However, the limited space and old design of the airport makes it impractical to adapt existing facilities for use by the disabled. Yet this is still an important issue, so we will try to get something done in the future.

"The airport has wheelchair and toilet facilities for disabled tourists, and we have staff ready to help them as much as we can. For flights that must be boarded from the ground, for example, we have special hydraulic-lift platforms we can use. With the right equipment, there is little that the able-bodied can do that the disabled cannot.

One forward-looking company, Patong-based Scuba Cat Divers, even offers a handicapped dive instructor program that meets the International Association of Handicapped Divers (IAHD) standards. Those who undergo the three-day course get special instruction in how to relate to some of the psychological aspects of someone who has become physically disabled.

They also learn about a variety of physical disabilities and how they relate to scuba diving as well how to overcome some of the problems they might encounter when training physically disabled divers. Those who meet the pre-requisites, which include holding an active PADI Open Water Scuba Instructor certification, can go on to become IAHD-certified instructors.

Scuba Cat dive instructor Christopher Pace, who runs the program, told the *Gazette* that the program has been offered for about two years and is always available, though only a handful of people have taken it so far.

Most of the disabled divers who have used Scuba Cat's services were satisfied with the facilities for the disabled in Phuket in general and Patong in particular, he said.

Christopher, a Frenchman, said he was unsure if any other dive companies in Phuket offer such a program.

Scuba Cat's IAHD program shows that Phuket, like the ocean itself, is a large market with potential benefits that only a few pioneers have begun to explore.

is, as are many existing hotels, constrained by the geography of the hotel and of the land it sits on," she began.

"We could, as I have seen in other resorts, put ramps at every set of stairs. The problem is, the flights [in many hotels] are very steep, and, consequently, so are the ramps, which is both dangerous and difficult for the wheelchair user and their carer or partner," she continued.

"Of the resort's 470 bedrooms and suites, two have been adapted to be wheelchair friendly, although guests with other mobility problems also use them, as do people with no mobility problems at all," she stated.

The two special rooms are on the ground floor and closest to the reception lobby, and therefore closest to staff, should they be needed.

"Here, the bell captain and the nurse – we have one on site around the clock – will take responsibility should need arise."

The two adapted bedrooms look, at first glance, no different than other rooms. The sharp-eyed may spot that the door, which

is wider than a standard one, has two peepholes – one at a regular height and one lower for wheelchair users. The low step into the room has been replaced by a gentle, rounded ramp.

The bathtub has been removed to give wheelchair users easier access to the shower – the controls for which are lower than standard, as is the bottom of the slide that the shower head sits on. Hand rails have also been installed. The sink is lower than in other rooms and the cupboards beneath have been removed, allowing wheelchair users to get close to the sink.

Jayne explains that the two adapted bedrooms interconnect adjacent rooms.

"Wheelchair users often come on holiday with a carer – if not their partner – so they must have ready access to one another," she noted. "And although the equipment in the rooms is fairly standard, we can and have brought in equipment from a hospital as per the needs of the guest."

Jayne explained that the two rooms are very popular, usu-

ally booked year round.

"Of course, anyone can use these rooms, but we find that a number of guests who use wheelchairs or have other mobility problems book these rooms year after year.

"Wheelchair users and others have, increasingly, a sizable amount of disposable income and – naturally enough – want to go on holiday. The airlines are now more accommodating to them, so hotels should be as well.

"People with mobility problems, due to age or other factors, will become an ever-increasing part of the holiday market. Hotels should realize this."

In fact, the hotels should realize it by law. A law, created in 1991 and updated in 2001, states that all new public buildings should be handicap-accessible. The detailed document, dictating everything from the slope of access ramps to soap dispenser specifications in handicap-accessible hotel rooms, also mandates that sidewalks be accessible to wheelchairs as well. But, as with most disabled-access laws, these only apply to new construction.

Chalerm Rakmark, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Public Works Department, said, "At Karon Beach, we rebuilt all the sidewalks about two years ago so that disabled people using wheelchairs can use them.

"As the law is enforced and effective now, all government offices, new hotels and public areas must have facilities for disabled people."

K. Chalerm said that the responsibility for checking the new developments falls on the local authorities.

"Every new building plan for hotels, government offices and public areas must include facilities for disabled people. The plan should be sent and checked by the local *OrBorTor* (Tambon Administration Organization) and forwarded to the Public Works Department for approval."

Despite the new regulations, disabled visitors still commonly experience setbacks at many points in their travels – starting at the airport.

Phuket Airport Director Sq/Ldr Pornchai Eua-aree told the *Gazette*, "We are trying to pro-



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Queer News

Turdiform terrorism

SURATTHANI: Monday mornings are usually tough enough to face, but imagine turning up for work and finding your desk covered in stinking excrement and swarming with flies.

It was precisely that scenario that confronted workers at the Surat Thani Educational Service Area 2 on the morning of November 6.

At the scene at about 11 am the same morning, a *Thai Rath* reporter found few office workers willing to discuss the unsavory scene that confronted them earlier that morning in the office, which was still being cleaned when the intrepid reporter arrived and began asking questions.

With a residual odor still in the air, Surat Thani Educational Service Area 2 Director Wittaya Sada explained that the desk of one Kanchana Chariprat, acting Deputy Director of the Human Resources Department, appeared to have been the target of the underhanded attack, which took place over the weekend when the office was unmanned and unguarded.

K. Kanchana's workstation was covered with excrement, swarming with flies and smelled so foul that some office workers immediately began to wretch upon scent of it, he said.

Another office staff member who has probably seen better Monday mornings was the cleaner, who was ordered to clean up the mess immediately after its discovery and was still working at the task two hours later.

Director Wittaya said he suspected the excrement

had been placed on K. Kanchana's desk by a dissatisfied employee, possibly one who had been transferred against his or her will, failed to receive benefits he or she thought were due – or simply didn't like the way the department was run.

Placing excrement on K. Kanchana's desk might have been the co-workers way of embarrassing K. Kanchana and making her lose face, he added.

In the world of bureaucracy, crisis is normally dealt with by forming a committee. In this case, however, Director Wittaya said such an action should not be necessary.

"I don't think this incident justifies setting up a special investigation panel," he said.

"I think we need to call both sides together to discuss the problem and reach a mutual understanding. I don't think this is such a severe matter. Whoever committed this wrongful deed should simply apologize to the offended party and try to reach an understanding with her," he added.

While the event didn't warrant forming a committee, it did justify a big meeting.

"I will call a meeting of the entire Human Resources Department and we will discuss what has transpired. The entire administration will attend this meeting, intended to clear the air of this and all other problems. This will allow us to work better together as a group," he said.

It was not reported whether the offending turds were human or animal in origin. *Source: Thai Rath*



TRASHING Phuket



PHUKET CITY: If you're going to create an informal dump, what more appropriate place than on the way to Suan Sukkaphap Khao Rang-Samkong Rd – the road leading to Khao Rang Health Park, close to the ritzy Royal Spa?

Most of the garbage, dumped from a pick-up truck that apparently visits regularly in the early morning, consists of construction material and waste food in black bags.

The land is privately owned and currently unused, making it the perfect place for a garbage dump.



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Monks protest MoE religion studies plan

A group of 50 Buddhist monks expressed their objection to the Education Ministry's proposal to change the name of the "Buddhist-oriented School" project to "Dharma-oriented School" in order to support the study of other religions.

The group, comprising student monks from two Buddhist universities, submitted their objection in a letter to Education Minister Wijit Srisa-an.

The monks object because the planned action could have a long-term impact, as more than half the schools across the country are located on Buddhist temple land. It is inappropriate to bring other religions into a Buddhist environment, they say.

The group is demanding that the Buddhist-oriented School project, which has 19,000 members in schools nationwide, maintain its name. They say the name "Dharma-oriented School" is not suitable to other religions anyway, because the word dharma only appears in Buddhism, which uses the word to mean "the cosmic order" that applies to all beings and things.

Phra Maha Chow Tassaneeyo, a lecturer at Mahachulalongkorn Rajavidyalaya University, said there had been a previous attempt by the Bangkok Metropolitan Authority to have 434 Buddhist-oriented schools in the capital become "dharma-oriented schools" so that students could learn about three religions: Buddhism, Islam and Christianity.

The monk said it was unfair to expect schoolchildren to place equal study emphasis on three religions, as 95% of Thais are of the Buddhist faith.

Plant pilfering: Some exotic plant varieties exhibited at the Royal Flora Ratchapruek 2006 horticulture exposition have been stolen within days of its November 1 opening, police said.

Pol Col Chamnan Ruadrew, Deputy Commander of Chiang Mai Provincial Police,



RUDE AWAKENING: A provincial bus smashed into a light pole on a highway median strip in Pathum Thani Province on November 9. Thirty passengers were injured in the crash, but remarkably nobody was killed.

The bus was on its way from Bangkok to Yasothon and then to the city of Khemarat on the Lao border when the driver fell asleep at the wheel.

said Suan Nong Nooch, which is hosting the event, had reported that certain pineapple plants were found to be missing.

It was not known who had taken them, but it seemed certain to be visitors, he said. Col Chamnan had ordered police stationed at the site to pay more attention to exhibition domes that presented exotic and rare plant species.

Every day 1,400 uniformed and plain-clothed police are assigned to the site, he added.

Wat's up? Vibrations caused by jets arriving and departing from Suvarnabhumi Airport are forcing monks at 100-year-old Wat Bamrungruen in Lat Krabang to practice amid falling roof tiles and deafening sonic blasts.

The abbot of the temple said deafening engine vibrations started dislodging roof tiles from temple buildings last month, leav-

ing holes in the roof of its century-old *ubosot*, or ordination hall.

An engineer estimated the loss would cost approximately one million baht to repair, the abbot said.

Buddha images and murals in the temple, which is located about five kilometers from the airport runway, had also been damaged by rain leaking through the roof.

Death in drink: Most drowning cases in flood-hit areas resulted from drinking alcohol, according to the Public Health Ministry.

Flooding in recent months caused 180 deaths in 18 provinces, with 90% from drowning, said Permanent Secretary for Public Health Dr Prat Boonyawongvirot.

A ministry survey of eight provinces with a total of 120 deaths found the cause most

cited was alcohol consumption, at 27%, followed by victims slipping into water, at 21%. The number of male victims was six times more than female victims and about 55% of those drowned were aged between 31 and 60 years, Dr Prat said.

Of hubs and hoppers: Leading proponents of equal rights for disabled people met with the engineer in charge of constructing 200 new toilets at Suvarnabhumi International Airport, in the hope of securing more toilets adapted for the disabled.

Topong Kulkhanchit, Regional Development Officer for

activist group Disabled People International, said he received a phone call from the engineer some two weeks after the military-appointed government reprimanded the Airport Organization of Thailand (AOT) for providing inadequate toilets for passengers at the new state-of-the-art airport.

Topong said before the meeting that the much-touted new airport has failed miserably when it comes to providing equal access for the physically challenged.

Coyote control: A Culture Ministry meeting on the hot issue of "coyote girls", scantily-clad dancing girls used to tout consumer goods, failed to reach any concrete conclusions apart from an agreement to meet on the issue again later this month.

Culture Minister Khunying Khaisri Sri-aroon said the three-hour meeting of agencies, employers and media organizations was called to gather opinions. Therefore nothing was decided about what measures would be implemented to control female product-presenters dressed in minimal outfits.

However, all parties agreed the issue was important and could lead to problems if no clear guidelines were agreed upon, she said.

No new laws would be drafted, as there were 17 existing laws that could be applied, including the Child Protection Act 2003 and the Service Place Act 1966, she said.

Agencies should study laws within their fields to see if they needed to be amended for better enforcement, she added.

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



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Above: Tam Eng owner Sirilak "Kung" Pongsungnoen



Handiworks made by charities, including the Life Home Project and the Chiang Mai Housewives' Association, are also sold at the shop.

Lending a hand

By Tanisa Bunyasiwa
& Noolek Karaket

Do you love handmade products? If you do, then the Tam Eng is just the shop for you. *Tam Eng* in Thai translate literally as "do it yourself", but can just as easily mean "hand-made".

The products in the store include rattan bags, specially designed tissue boxes, T-shirts, Thai

silks, hats, various ornaments, umbrellas and more. All of the products are cute, colorful and well-designed.

The shop is located in the heart of Phuket City's old quarter, on Soi Romanee. Along this narrow lane is a variety of shops, all nestled into the soi's trademark Sino-Portuguese shophouses.

Perfectly matching the atmosphere of bygone days, Tam Eng is decorated with a combination of traditional Thai and old

Phuket styles. Opened only about a month ago, Tam Eng has already gained a lot of attention from tourists and other passers-by.

Tam Eng store owner Sirilak "Kung" Pongsungnoen told the *Gazette*, "My first idea was that I would like to open a small business. So when I found this place, I thought it was perfect and decided to start it here.

"My husband and I designed the interior and decorated the shop together, following the building's architecture. We have products sourced from all over Thailand and others that I have made myself," she said.

Shoppers are also helping out a good cause when they buy products at Tam Eng, as many of them are made by charities, support organizations and other non-governmental organizations. These include handiworks by residents of the Life Home Project, which provides care and shelter for women and children living with HIV/Aids in Phuket.

Other popular items are designed and made by students groups and the Chiang Mai Housewives' Association.

So far, the best selling products are the necklaces and bracelets, which feature various types of stone. These pieces of art please the visitors, as do colorful textiles and lamps from Nakorn Ratchasima Province and silverware from Chiang Mai.

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It's slow going, but don't give up



ANDAMAN COASTING

By Franky Gun

Khao Lak has seen the worst rainy season since 1997, with months of constant rainfall, flooded roads and endless hours of power blackouts.

Since the beginning of November, the rain slowed down a little, but sunshine and blue skies were still a luxury to Khao Lak residents since – according to Phuket's weathermen – a low pressure front coming in from China brought with it a dense haze that covered the whole area for about a week.

The view out to sea brought the movie *The Fog* to mind, as dive boats heading to the Similan islands disappeared into the gray after just a few hundred meters.

The number of tourists visiting Khao Lak increased significantly by the beginning of November. Khao Lak-based dive operators reported full boats, tour guides started getting busier and the whole area seemed to liven up.

Even though some investors in Khao Lak stated that the beginning of the high season had been slower than anticipated, the sight of flocks of tourists around was a welcome change after the agonizing low season Khao Lak had just been through.

Resort race: Shortly after the tsunami it seemed that Bang Niang Beach would win the race



This unmarked and un-fenced drop-off will surely lead to problems – anyone who falls over the edge will be likely to meet their demise.

in the ongoing recovery competition with Nang Thong. While reconstruction at Nang Thong Beach was painstakingly slow in the beginning, almost all of the resorts there are completed and ready to accommodate guests.

Bang Niang, however, is still stumbling far behind schedule with several resorts still under construction and no end in sight.

The proprietors of several smaller resorts on Bang Niang reported a spate of cancellations after some visitors made comments in online forums critical of Bang Niang's slow recovery.

While their point of view is understandable, the fact is that every business here in Khao Lak is still recovering from the tsunami and no one can expect each and every hotel to be up and running after a mere two years.

A construction site is not

pretty, but Bang Niang still has large unoccupied stretches of beach where no construction is in sight. Instead of complaining, visitors must understand that it is essential to support the smaller resorts here to assure the survival of this region, especially in times like these.

Deadly drop: I have been contacted by concerned Khao Lak residents, asking me to specifically point out some serious safety issues along Petchkasem Rd, Khao Lak's main transport artery.

Between the recently erected Jerung guest house and the well-known Khao Lak restaurant is a 40 meter long, four meter deep drop-off over the canal that leads excess rain water away from the hills of Khao Lak toward the sea.

The drop-off is right beside the pavement and is neither fenced-off, nor does any warning sign indicate potential disaster.

If a person would fall down this artificial cliff, the chances of survival would be next to none. It is a miracle that nobody has been killed here yet, but it appears that a fatal accident has to happen here before officials do anything about it.

First down: Readers might remember me mentioning the dangerous condition of the pavement on the road to Bang Niang Beach in a previous issue of Andaman Coasting. Well, guess what? We have our first victim. During the last week of October an elderly tourist slipped on the cracked, wet, slippery pavement and broke one of his legs.

Of course, a broken leg is not enough to get any officials to end the ongoing dispute over who is responsible for maintaining the pavement, since it was built by a company appointed by the Phang Nga Provincial Administration Organization shortly before the 2005 tsunami memorial events.

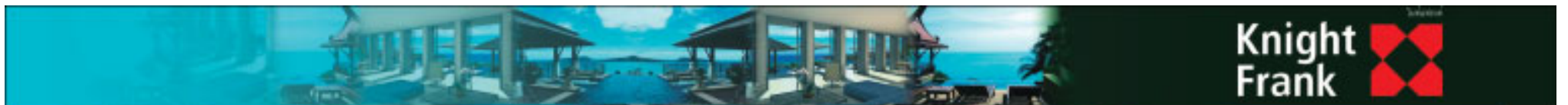
Now the local Tambon Administration Organization refuses to maintain the pavement. They claim that it is not their responsibility and that it would have never occurred if they would have been in charge from the beginning.

It appears that there will be no end to this immature cockfight in the near future, which is bad news for Bang Niang residents and investors alike. What's a five-star beach resort worth if all there is to reach it is a one kilometer long mud-covered obstacle course of a road?

What a relief: On October 27, 2006, the North Andaman Tsunami Relief held a conference in Phang Nga to promote sustainable community-based tourism for the continued economic and social reconstruction of the Phang Nga region after the tsunami.

Duangkomol Chansuriyawong, president of the Thai Ecotourism & Adventure Travel Association, gave a speech about tourism's links to government planning, community development, the environment and local crafts.

The key issue of the conference was how to learn from mistakes made by other regions so that Phang Nga and the surrounding areas can remain tranquil while gaining the economic benefits using cooperative community networks and suitable marketing to responsible tourists, with emphasis on protection and preservation of Phang Nga's natural resources.



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Exodus in Yala continues

November 12 proved to be another day of violence for the Deep South, as two men were killed and four others critically injured in separate attacks.

The crimes prompted more villagers to flee their homes in Yala's Bannang Sata and Than To Districts for the relative safety of Wat Nirotasangkharam in Muang district, while monks from 78 temples in Narathiwat province have also been forced to stop their daily routine of collecting alms until further notice for fear of their safety.

Thongpetch Chatchamni, 52, was found dead about midday in Rusoh District, Narathiwat. His wife, Pimpa Noobankoh, 46, had been critically injured. Police said Thongpetch was shot three times with an 11mm pistol. He died at the scene.

The couple, who made their living by finding wild vegetables to sell in a local market, were riding a motorbike on their way home when two gunmen riding on a motorbike opened fire on Pimpa, toppling the bike. The attackers then shot Thongpetch at point-blank range before fleeing, police said.

In a separate incident, two villagers were critically injured in a drive-by shooting in Yala's Bannang Sata District. Faisol Nisor, 22, was shot in the hip and Theerapol Sunthong, 23, in the body.

Early November 12 in the same district, four gunmen attacked a roadside teashop in a drive-by shooting that left one dead and one injured. At the scene police found 33 bullet casings, most likely used in an M-16 assault rifle.

Mahama Tohlooboh, 23, was seriously wounded in the attack and remained in intensive care while his brother Sofi Tohlo-



Makkasan police show off escaped-prisoner Sitichai Phetrat, who broke out of a prison van in Surat Thani on October 26. He was finally nabbed on November 6, following a gold shop robbery in Bangkok.

oboh, 30, died when a bullet entered his left eye.

The two were sitting and watching television at the shop when it was attacked, said police, adding that Muslim insurgents were suspected in all the attacks.

Meanwhile, the number of villagers from Bannang Sata and Than To districts seeking refuge at Wat Nirotasangkharam has risen to 206. The villagers say they

are afraid for their safety and do not wish to return to their homes.

The halting of monks' daily alms collection from villagers in Narathiwat began November 12 after the province's abbots agreed at a meeting that security for both the monks and their security escorts was insufficient.

Buddhists can still do their good deeds by coming to the tem-

ples, provincial monastic chief Prathepsilwisut said.

The recent wave of violence, including the bombings of eight car and motorbike showrooms in Yala and the killings of schoolteachers since the beginning of the new semester in November has bred fear among teachers.

Nopporn Maskhongkaew, caretaker chairman of Yala Education Zone 2, said some schools would reopen today after a week-long closure due to concerns for the security of both teachers and students after an attack on schools and schoolteachers last week.

Sanya Suwannapho, chairman of Yala's Teachers Federation, said more than 30 teachers in Bannang Sata and Than To districts had applied for relocation out of fear for their safety.

The latest attacks came despite the recent apology of Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont for the previous government's mistakes in the region.

Wedding crashers: Two women, Suphaphon Yukraphan, 18, and Iat Saelim, 34, were arrested for theft in Satun on November 5. In addition to breaking into houses and shoplifting, the women would also sneak into weddings by pretending to be guests before making off with wedding gifts and personal belongings of other attendees.

The arrests came after police discovered that the women were part of a five-person gang that had been operating in the Khuandohn and Muang Districts of the border province. The other three gang members remain at large.

Acid horror: A man was killed in an acid attack in the Thung

Song District of Nakhon Sri Thammarat on November 5. The victim's wife is the chief suspect in the crime.

The attack was reported to police by a doctor at Maharaj Hospital in the early hours of the following day. The doctor reported that Praphat Bunna, 35, had been admitted with severe chemical burns and later died of his injuries.

Relatives reported that shortly before his death, Praphat had had a violent argument with his wife, who had accused him of infidelity.

Dangerous desire: Five youths were seized by police for drug possession during a raid on a house in Nakhon Sri Thammarat where the gang was allegedly preparing an aphrodisiac cocktail.

The November 9 arrests were based on intelligence received by the province's head truancy officer who then coordinated with provincial police to arrange the raid on the unnumbered house in Tambon Khlang, Nakhon Sri Thammarat City.

At the house police found three boys, all students at a well-known college in the city, and two 14-year-old girls. They were in the process of making a cocktail by mixing fresh *krathom* (an indigenous Thai plant and mild stimulant, now illegal), sleeping pills, cough medicine and cannabis with cola. They reportedly believed that the concoction would stimulate their sexual desire.

The students were later released to their parents. Their schools were also notified of the event.

Around the South news round-up is sourced from the pages of Kom Chad Luek, The Nation and Krung Thep Turakij newspapers.



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TALES OF A TRAVELER

By Ed Peters

Ngong Ping, high above the international airport on Hong Kong's Lantau Island, has long been a place of pilgrimage. Its "Po Lin" – or Precious Lotus – monastery was founded in 1927, and the 250-tonne, 34-meter-high bronze Tian Tan Buddha was erected in 1993.

Previously, getting there involved a long slog on foot, or grinding up a twisting gradient aboard a thundering leviathan of a bus. But all this changed in September this year with the opening of the Skyrail cable car.

The cable line runs for 5,700m, executing a brisk left turn at Airport Island soon after leaving Tung Chung and starting its ascent.

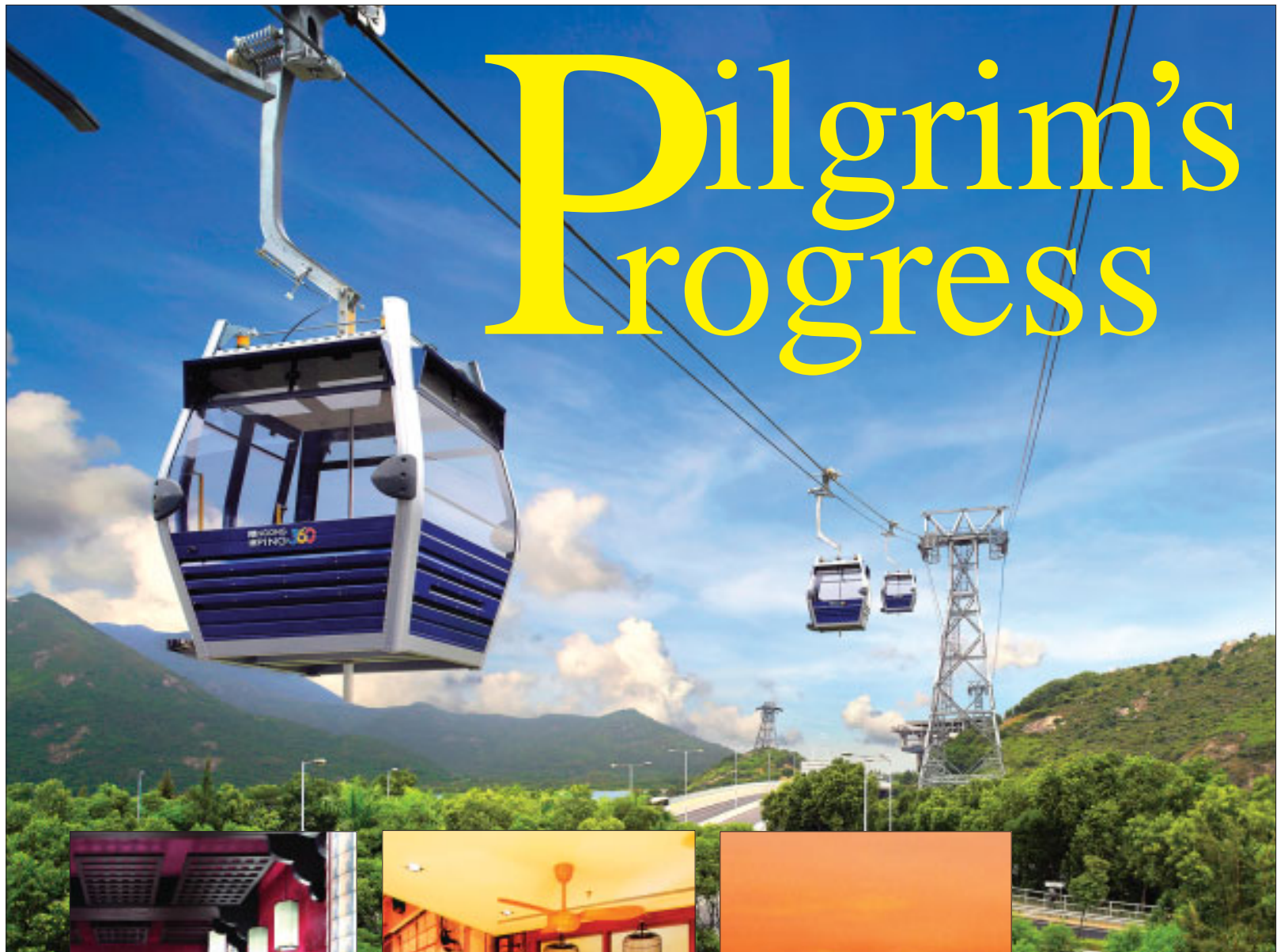
The gondolas purr aloft amid a flurry of photo taking and gasps of awe as the airport terminal spreads out far below, the aircraft on the apron looking like so many hesitant water beetles. And then there is the vista over the South China Sea, dotted with fishing craft and cargo vessels, as it stretches crisply out to the horizon.

Nearing the small town of Ngong Ping, some 20 minutes after setting off, the vegetation thins and the hillside, etched with tumbling streams and rocky waterfalls, seems close enough to touch.

The new village was built from scratch. It marks the heart of what has been dubbed "Ngong Ping 360" – an enterprise that came with a staggering HK\$1-billion (4.8 billion baht) price tag – and mirrors the style and ethos of similar habitations all across Hong Kong's New Territories, although it is probably the only one to host a branch of Starbucks.

Cobbled streets, a sunny open square where you might almost expect to find hawkers selling vegetables but is actually surrounded by cafés and restaurants, swooping tiled roofs and an air of calm all fit neatly beside the distant monastery and the statue of Tian Tan, which dominates the view along the main street.

Visitors can indulge in an Oriental Massage, pick up a



Above: The Skyrail cable car to Ngong Ping.

From far left: The multimedia Walking With Buddha show; the Ngong Ping Tea House; and the Po Lin Buddha at sunset.

bird's nest from the Home of Swallows, essential merchandise from Souvenirs to Go and Chopsticks Gallery, or simply pop into the Ngong Ping Tea House, which hosts a fact-filled history about what more than 1.3 billion of the world's inhabitants call *Tcha*.

From the Tea House, it's only a short step to the multimedia "Walking With Buddha" show, a deferential nod to Ngong Ping's antecedents that starts beneath a replica bodhi tree, and progresses via two animated films about the life and philosophy of Prince Siddharta to an examination of the Buddha's teachings.

Right next door, The Mon-

key's Tale Theater presents more animated magic – spot the moral amidst the selfish hirsute mammal's attempts to snag a luscious peach – and a fair bit of rain, smoke and mist plus a shower of falling leaves.

Leaving the village, past Hong Kong's 700th 7-Eleven convenience store, the tourist trail leads to the real attractions of Ngong Ping Plateau – Po Lin and Tian Tan.

Wafting incense and robed monks are much in evidence at the monastery, while the Buddha is the epitome of serenity. His right hand is raised, representing the removal of affliction, and his

left hand is placed on his knee to signify human happiness. Uniquely, the statue faces north rather than south.

Ngong Ping 360 is another

landmark in Lantau Island's progress, and the Skyrail cable car brings new luster to that old cruise line advertising slogan of "getting there is half the fun".


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Fortune telling is a popular career in Thailand, as you can see in advertisements via TV, radio, magazines, journals, newspapers or even advertising messages on your mobile phone.

There are many kinds of fortune tellers, some can foretell your future by reading your palm, others rely on your date of birth, and some can see through the mists of time just by looking at your physical features. These are just a few of the legion of methods used in Thailand.

One famous foretelling method is reading tarot cards.

The history of tarot cards, or gypsy cards, as they are often called in Thailand, is shrouded in myth.

The first reliable records of their use – as a game rather than a method of divination – come from 15th Century Italy, though many devotees believe the cards have a much longer past than that, perhaps stretching back to ancient Egypt, though there is no evidence for this theory. Evidence of the cards being used in mysticism first appears in late 18th century Europe.

When talking about tarot cards in Thailand, it is usually not long before the name Khuntong Asunee Na Ayudhaya is brought up. The 53-year-old with characteristic long curly hair is the most

IT'S ALL IN THE CARDS

Ever wondered why people's lives are different? Why success seems to come effortlessly to some people, while others have to fight to get anything? Have you ever thought about destiny? Why do some people feel they need fortune tellers to reveal what is in store for them?

Janyaporn Morel meets a man who may have the answers: famed Tarot card reader Khuntong Asunee Na Ayudhaya

well-known tarot card reader in Thailand. He is also considered as being one of the people responsible for sparking the popularity of tarot cards in Thailand. He is also the author of a number of books on the subject and is now teaching classes on how to see into the future.

K. Khuntong talked exclusively to the *Gazette* about his life while he visited Phuket in order to meet his students and reveal

what the future has in store for some Phuket locals.

"I graduated with a bachelor's degree in biochemistry from the University of Alabama. My father is a doctor and he wanted me to be a doctor like him, but my grades were not good enough to study medicine in Thailand. So he sent me and my brother to school in the US," he said.

K. Khuntong's interest in tarot card reading started when

he came across a set of tarot cards in a shop while he was living in the US.

He bought the cards because he was interested in the strange pictures on them. He learned how to read them from the booklet that came with the set.

After K. Khuntong graduated he came back to Thailand and started working in the fields of music and writing.

"I never thought I'd be a fortune teller. I was a writer, music commentator and desk editor for a music journal at Siam Konlakarn Music Company for two years. Then I was a desk editor for the music journal *The Quiet Storm* for about three years," he said.

"At that time, about 1983, disco was coming to Thailand. I got a job as a DJ for a discotheque in Patpong. I was making about 10,000 baht a month and I liked the music. I also learned how to play music. In spite of my degree, I have never worked in science," K. Khuntong said.

He began to take fortune telling more seriously when he moved to work in Macau as a DJ and a freelance columnist for *Matichon Weekly* news journal.

"In my free time I tried to learn more about how to use tarot for telling the future, and I started to read cards for people as a sideline.

"I got about 100 baht a time. It was just for fun, I didn't think of it as a career," he said.

After he finished his DJ contract in Macau, K. Khuntong

decided to come back to Thailand. He asked the tarot cards what career he should pursue, the answer from cards told him to be a fortune teller.

"I didn't believe the cards, so I didn't start fortune telling as the cards had guided me. At that time fortune telling was not so popular as a career option. Fortune tellers

were just unemployed people sitting under trees. They never made much money," he said.



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Khuntong Asunee Na Ayudhaya: 'People shouldn't listen only to fortune tellers ... they have to control their lives themselves.'

ten to people's problems, but you also have to advise them. Fortunately I have yet to meet anyone who was close to death. I have seen a lot of people who are having business difficulties though. They want to know which path they should take in their future.

"I believe that the cards have their own magical power. A lucky person will pick good cards, while an unlucky one can only get bad cards," he said.

"We have to accept that tarot cards have had their reputation for a long time. If they didn't have real power then they would not have survived until today and become famous in Thailand. Tarot cards are popular worldwide and many people believe them. I also have foreign customers; many from Hong Kong, and some from the US and Switzerland.

"People shouldn't listen only to fortune tellers though, they have to control their lives themselves. Nothing is 100% certain. Fortune tellers just help to show you the way when you are confused or want to make a decision" he added.

"I have believed in the mystical arts since before I went to the US. When I was a teenager it was predicted by a fortune teller that I would go abroad and marry a foreigner, which turned out to be true. The tarot cards have helped me to build up my life. I have received many things from the wonder of the cards," he said.

"When I came back I continued working as a columnist for *Matichon*. After a while a friend who knew that I could read tarot cards asked me to come and tell fortunes at his restaurant in the evening."

K. Khuntong then found that, with fortune telling, he could make good money. He applied to work as a fortune teller at the Montien Hotel in Bangkok and within two years built up a strong reputation for his mystic abilities.

"I made 200 baht for each reading and the hotel would take half of that, but it was still a lot of money for me. The maximum number of customers I had a day was 14, which meant I could earn 1,400 baht a day," he said.

K. Khuntong then quit his work at the hotel and set out as a private operator, "I became famous because many magazines, journals and TV shows interviewed me. When I quit working for the hotel it was not difficult to find a new place to work.

"Many restaurants invited me to work for them for more

money. The cost of a consultation increased rapidly, from 200 to 300, to 500 to 800 and 1,000. Now it's up to 1,500 baht a reading."

Aside from telling fortunes, K. Khuntong also writes books about the mystery of tarot cards and other methods of divination.

"I want to share the mysteries of tarot cards with people, not just tell them how to read the future," he said.

"It's difficult to explain how the cards can tell the future. I am just a reader who expresses the meaning of the cards, which is a serious job.

"Not only do you have to lis-



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This week



MINDFUL DEVELOPMENT: Tawatchai Sudtikitpisan (right), President of Kiatnakin Bank, and Phuket Vice-Governor Pongsak Praivet together open the "New Home in Your Mind" home fair at Central Festival Phuket. On show were homes from 10 new projects in Phuket, all financed by Kiatnakin Bank.



TOP TOUR: Tourism and Sports Minister Dr Suwit Yodmanee (center), his wife Khunying Songsuda Yodmanee and Phuket Governor Niran Kanlayanamit share a smile at Tah Chat Chai on November 1 during Dr Suwit's recent inspection tour of tsunami-affected areas in Phuket and Phang Nga.



IT'S A SNIP: Asia Web Direct (AWD) Chief Executive Officer Jirapa Eawsakul (center) prepares to officially open the company's new Krabi office, its fifth in the region. Asia Web Direct Business Development Director Kevin Rautenbach (left) looks on.



SECOND SENSE: SenSes Health & Beauty Clinique Director Naranporn "Kathy" Namchoo and guests celebrate the clinic's 2nd anniversary 'Noche Blanca Party' on October 26. The event included a performance by Jowell Montout, from the famed Moulin Rouge in Paris.



THUMPIN': Singapore's renowned high-energy percussion band The Strike Force strike a pose at BanThai Beach Resort & Spa before taking part in the this year's Phuket Carnival at Patong Beach.



EXPRESSION: Photographer Chris Swift (in orange shirt) with Scott Flaxman (right), Executive Chef at the Watermark bar and restaurant, and staff on the November 1 opening night of Chris' photography exhibition 'The Abstract'. The exhibition will continue at Watermark until November 30.

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Help! I'm going cold turkey

My kids will be home any second now so I've been down on my hands and knees hiding my secret stack of books under the bed.

Sounds pretty rock 'n' roll, almost as if I have a particular penchant for porn. But the truth is much more shameful – I recently became addicted to self-help books...

It all started when I was in London recently, and went into the charity shop in Kensington High Street. I spotted a copy of Fiona Harrold's *Be Your Own Life Coach* for a mere 20p – about 14 baht!

The friendly orange cover promised to show me how to take control of my life and achieve my wildest dreams. Success and eternal happiness for less than the price of a chocolate bar? I couldn't refuse.

After all, the past few years of my life have been in parts, tragic, sad, confusing and most of all totally disorganized, so what did I have to lose?

You don't have to tell me that self-help books are distinctly un-British, horribly self-indulgent and inherently naff. Like most of us, I've felt rather superior whenever some celebrity or "troubled"

star has been spotted clutching a copy of something like *How to be a More Loving, Caring Person – the Celebrity Way*. But I thought buying a self-help book would be a laugh.

I had no idea.

With a few uplifting words and some easy exercises – "spend some quality time with yourself", "imagine your ideal life" – self-help books make you feel as if you can take on the world.

OK, so sometimes they slip into squirmy hippie-speak, as in "What do I tolerate in my life that demeans my divineness?", but for the most part it's like getting a one-on-one ego massage. And it really seemed to work.

I wrote endless lists of my personal goals, repeated such mantras as, "I deserve the best" – very, very quietly and only when Him Indoors had gone to work – and I felt happier and more confident.

I even booked an adventure-filled holiday ("Try something you've never done before") and made a "shrine" to myself containing photos of me as a child, as a reminder that I was a divine being. Yes, I did tell you that this was shameful...

Soon I was hooked and, like any addict, I needed my next fix.



Faster than you can say, "self-obsessed, new-age bollocks", I headed for the self-help section of WH Smith on my next visit to the UK.

But it turned out to be a grubby, sobering experience. The only other person there was a middle-aged man furtively eyeing up titles such as *Get Anyone to Do Anything You Want* or *Feel the Fear and Do It Anyway*.

When he saw me staring, he definitely felt the fear and grabbed the nearest book, which happened to be called *How To Be An Assertive (Not Aggres-*

sive) Woman in Life, in Love and on the Job.

It was a mistake, I'm sure, and he soon scuttled off.

Scan the self-help shelves of a bookshop in the West and you'll find hundreds of promise-laden titles.

There are practical ones that will inspire you to get a promotion at work, and more airy-fairy, spiritual ones that will help you attain sainthood.

The latter are mainly American and thanks to the fluffy pictures on the covers, are generally the most humiliating to buy.

Like everything else I've been into so far, I bought the lot. And as the months passed I realized I was in trouble.

I couldn't even cross the road without examining my motivation... was I about to take a positive step?

But, like any other addict, I had to reach rock bottom before I could come up again.

I knew I was desperate when I clicked on to Amazon on the Internet and found that – based on a history of my recent online purchases – the book they thought I'd most like to read now was called *Who Moved My Cheese? An Amazing Way to Deal With Change in Your Work*

and Your Life by one Spencer Johnson.

However, the clincher came when Him Indoors admitted he couldn't go near me in the bedroom because the photo of me as a cutesy eight-year-old in bunches staring down at him from the "me shrine" freaked him out too much.

Now I'm going cold turkey. I've hidden my books, dismantled my shrine and torn up my mantras.

Once I'm free of all the "believe it's possible" baggage, I might even write my own book – a kind of self-help book to help self-help addicts stop buying self-help books.

Actually, one has already been written. It's called *Self Help Nation: The Long Overdue, Entirely Justified, Delightfully Hostile Guide to the Snake-Oil Peddlers who are Sapping our Nation's Soul* by someone called Tom Tiede.

Maybe if I hadn't been so busy with my mantras and my shrines I could have got there first?

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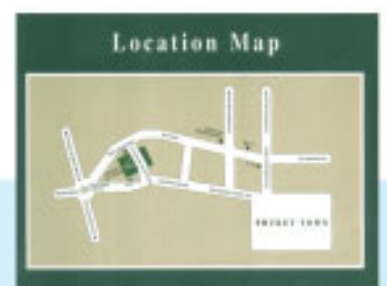
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Being earnest about handbags

A handbag can say more about a woman than her shoes and, because the accessory has become so important, handbags are challenging footwear as the top-ranking object of desire among women going on a shopping spree.

"The handbag is a best friend, a status symbol and a mirror of the soul all at the same time. Women define themselves through their bags," said Ulrike Schwarz of the Handcraft Museum in Deggendorf near Munich, which has dedicated an entire exhibition to the handbag.

Thus, it's no wonder that handbag makers have begun giving their products names. Women don't carry a red or black handbag any more; they carry a Miranda, Julia or a Venezia.

"With some outfits, the purse is more important than the clothes," said Traudel Albrecht-Fuchs, fashion expert at the International Leather Goods trade show in Offenbach. However, selecting the right must-have accessory is not always easy.

"Finding the bag that matches an outfit is the high art of perfect styling," said style expert Maria Hans of Hamburg. The current fashion trend is toward large bags, which means the straps must be sturdy. Also currently in style are bags that are cornered off, dark in color and with plenty of detail.

A bag must endure wear and tear on a daily basis. There are, however, limits to its functionality. When it comes to having a cocktail after work, attending the theater and going on a first date, the roomy bag that's ideal for shopping should stay home, Maria advised.

"The ideal situation is to have two bags, if one plans to be



Miss Germany 2006, Daniela Domroese, with some of her own collection of handbags. The not-so-humble handbag – 'a best friend, status symbol and mirror of the soul in one'.

backpacks". And she said the colorful courier bags with funny logos or slogans shouldn't be about in the evening. In the winter months when dark clothing is the rule, red usually makes the best contrast color.

All metallic colors such as copper, gold, silver and bronze are a must. Maria advises paying attention to quality.

"A cheap gold bag can quickly show its wear," she warned. But women do not have to buy the most expensive designer bag. Anyone shopping for a bag can pick a reasonably priced one."

– **Britta Schmeis, dpa**

out in the evening," she said. Then you can leave the large one in the closet or in the car. You don't need a handbag big enough to

carry a Filofax and a second pair of shoes to have a drink at the bar.

"In the evening there's no harm in carrying a small bag," said Maria. Especially elegant is a small clutch bag under the arm or a handbag with short handles made of a beaded chain or metal links, suggested Traudel.

In general, the new trend is for a woman wearing an evening dress or suit to sport a leather bag that matches any outfit.

And at the moment, anything goes as colors and materials are mixed, and instead of tone on tone there may be different nuances.

Maria wishes women would not carry or wear "dimwitted

The first floor of Ocean Shopping Mall and the Sunday night market on Phang Nga Rd (near the bus station), both in Phuket City, have extensive ranges of fashionable handbags.

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By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

Hair: another part of your body that shows how healthy you are. But with pollution hanging in the air and the chemicals of shampoo, conditioner and hair dye, as well as blow-drying, sunshine, chlorinated swimming pools and sea water, your hair's health is sure to suffer.

You'll be glad to know, however, there are many materials and methods to combat these environmental problems and beauty habits that damage your hair every day. Different kinds of home treatments can be bought or made. A visit to the salon or hair spa can also help uplift dull or damaged hair.

For people who have time, try a home hair treatment. It's cheaper than going to a salon, but does require more work as many of the suggested items are fresh products that will need to be mashed up or made into a more liquid form.

One of the benefits, of course, is that you can also keep the product on your hair as long as you want or need – and in the privacy of your own home.

Materials that are good for a home hair spa treatment are egg yolks, leech lime, honey, bananas, coconut milk and avocados.

Treatments should be based on the type and color of hair you have. Each material matches with different types of hair; for



No, not breakfast, but balanced nourishment for your hair, as available from the Centara Spa menu.

HAIR TODAY

example, avocados can be used to moisturize dry hair and lemon juice adds shine to dull hair.

A less messy and less complicated way to get healthier hair is to go to a hair spa. Many spas or salons offer deep hair-care treatments. Try the Inner Shine aromatherapy hair treatments at the Centara Spa located at Cen-

tral Kata Resort, which launched a promotion this month for people who love their hair.

Monchanok Sung, Spa Manager of Central Kata Resort, Phuket, told the *Gazette* about Centara's newest additions to its spa menu – The Avocado & Coconut Calmer and Egg Yolk & Honey Revival. Both of these

treatments are made from natural products. Raw egg yolk, coconut milk, avocado, and peppermint and chamomile oils are used in the hair treatments to give the perfect nourishment for shiny and healthy hair.

Centara Spa takes this beauty ritual to another level by incorporating the holistic elements

of Yin and Yang. These elements are used to tailor the hair rituals based on your Yin and Yang energies; healthy hair comes from a balanced and nourished body.

Before you start, the receptionist will have you fill out the Yin and Yang Questionnaire to find the best way to match the service with your hair needs. The questionnaire consists of four simple questions about your sleep patterns, skin and hair type, personality and mood.

The answers are then tallied, and if you have more Yin energy a treatment to emphasize, then Yang will be used to balance, and vice versa.

Not only will you get beautiful hair, but you'll get a calming treat as all sessions start with a 15-minute head massage. The selected concoction is then applied to your hair. It will be allowed to set and soak in for 20 minutes while you relax. You may choose to wait in either a sauna room or use a hair steamer.

Inner Shine Hair Spa Treatment is available at all Centara Spa of Central Hotels & Resorts including Bangkok, Hua Hin, Samui, Phuket, Krabi and Hat Yai (except at Central Samui Village, Samui and Central Karon Village, Phuket)

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LUNCH DATE

By Sompratch Saowakhon

The time was right. The place was set. Just she and I; our first lunch together. Knowing that her hunger would be her chaperone, I had brought her to Chern Long Kung Kata restaurant, located just behind Central Festival Phuket.

Cheap, I know, but the food is great. I figured that if I could quieten her stomach, then her heart would be mine.

It's lunchtime and the restaurant is full of diners, lured in by the good smells and the good word-of-mouth reputation whipping around town.

Here diners can choose from buffets of fresh ingredients and cook their food themselves on the *kata*, a small steel basin with a raised center grill section, placed on their table.

We are given a warm welcome by staff and Restaurant Manager Patamakorn Sornsart, who manages to find a space for just us two – among the throng of diners already sitting.

Next, we approach the huge buffet of fresh, raw ingredients. The first dish to catch her eye is a big tray of shrimp. She waded in, sorting good from bad, large from huge, while I stood back stunned by the choices.

The lines of fresh food beyond that look appetizing, too: different kinds of meat, including pork, chicken, sea bass and other

types of fish. Some are prepared with Thai seasoning, others with honey, garlic and pepper, roasted red pork powder, Thai herbs, sesame or salt.

Next is the selection of *kanom jeen*, or Chinese noodles. To flavor the *kanom jeen* are *gaeng kiow waan* (spicy coconut curry) and *naam ya* (spicy herb curry) as well as a range of vegetable side dishes, including black-eyed peas, cucumbers, pineapple and eggplant.

Opposite is the *somtam* (spicy papaya salad) buffet, with other foods available including sushi, a salad bar, desserts, fresh fruit, fried rice and *gaeng som* (spicy orange curry), as well as the steak service counter, where sirloin beef, pork, chicken and fish are cooked to your preference.

Diners appear to be so impressed by the quality of food and the variety on offer in the buffet that there is little conversation and lots of eating.

Unfortunately, my companion is little different. She is more interested in the food than she is in me.

But not worry, at 98 baht per person, excluding drinks, this is one setback I can afford. Pity she isn't shorter though; children under 110 centimeters tall pay only 59 baht each.

Chern Long Kung Kata. 35/65 Moo 5, Wichit, Muang, Phuket. Tel: 076-210198, 076-210233.



Above and right: the restaurant has a dizzying selection of food. Below: Cook-it-yourself fare, using a *kata* grill plate.




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How eagerly I anticipated the familiar homecoming that awaited me just three hours away as I departed China and looked forward to arriving somewhere less alien.

I had been away from Bangkok for some time and Bangkok Airways had come to rescue me and return me to the city I once called home, the City of Angels, Bangkok.

As I finished off my prawn curry, mini salad and small bun that I had laden with butter and my small cheese portion, I reclined my seat with a cartoon sigh and dwelled upon my long-ago first landing at Don Muang International Airport.

I reminisced about all of the arrivals that had followed, all those walks from the plane through the gate, turning left and following the other passengers and the black-and-yellow illuminated signs to immigration.

I fondly recalled waiting my turn, wondering if I was in the fastest queue and getting so eager and impatient to enter my beloved adopted homeland that I feared such anxiousness would attract unwanted attention from bored immigration officers.

How I miss the beige paint and the 1970s echo of the place, and that stamp of approval from a bored man who stamped 10,000 passports a day, yet who still managed a weak welcome smile. Then down the stairs to the baggage carousel, which would be the final wait before breezing past customs, past the name cards and the taxi touts to the sliding doors. Once through the doors I would be hit with a blast of heat, which I understood was the city's way of welcoming me back.

Each time, the moment I heard the sounds of Bangkok – the traffic noise from the flyover and the echoes of bus hydraulics and taxi horns off concrete – was one to savor for as long as it took me to smoke a crumpled cigarette.

Steeled without soul

CAPITAL Letter

By Stiffy Rectangle

Our Man in the Big Durian says farewell to Don Muang Airport, the international gateway that has left a lasting impression on nearly every expat who has flown into Thailand. Looking into the cold, steel heart that is Suvarnabhumi, Stiffy Rectangle realizes that the millions of baht spent on the new airport offer something new and clean, with all the trappings of the modern world – and something lost.

I was brought back to reality by the hostess removing the chaos on my dinner tray and we soon began the descent as the pilot announced that we were approaching Suvarnabhumi Airport. I felt a touch deflated knowing that the good old days of orange and beige are gone forever – unless I suddenly become a tycoon with my own private jet or attend the flying school now occupying the old airport we know and love.

With a whoosh and a clunk, the landing seemed like any other until I caught my first glimpse



Suvarnabhumi may have all the marks of modernity, but it lacks the soul of the old Don Muang Airport. Photo: The Nation.

of Suvarnabhumi... it looked like some kind of docking station from a recent *Star Wars* movie, an intimidating yet calm silvery gray, multi-limbed Dune worm lit up with blue UV lights.

Inside there's more gray, silver and blue UV, and enough headroom for King Kong, yet no buzz of activity, soul or character, let alone anything to suggest I had arrived in Thailand. If I didn't know better I could have arrived at any brand-new airport in the world.

But credit where it's due: getting through immigration and

customs was a breeze, and I could spot my baggage on the carousel as I approached and got there just in time to haul it off before it did another lap.

I was surprised how quiet the place was and how smoothly everything went, but it wasn't until I got into the red-and-blue taxi that I had any real sense I was in Bangkok. The long boulevard from the airport lined with traditional figurines was impressive, but just as unfamiliar as the airport itself.

A few days later I would fly to Samui easily and pleasantly,

only to find that Suvarnabhumi still had the personality of an aircraft hangar and the echoes of a former Prime Minister still boasting wealth and prosperity.

You can see where the money was spent everywhere at Suvarnabhumi, but no matter how hard you look you won't find the heart or spirit of Bangkok anywhere inside.



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Welcome to the 3rd Junior

IMPAC Dublin Literary Awards

- ◆ English-language essay contest open to Thai students.
- ◆ Win **cash prizes** and a **trip to Ireland!**



The Contest Topic is 'A Tale of Thai Grace and Compassion'

Write as a real life or fictional account that reflects well on Thai people's unique characteristics of grace and compassion - qualities which are in short supply in today's world.

Language: English

Length: 800-1,200 words

Age: 14-18, on Dec 20, 2006

Closing date for submissions: Dec 20, 2006

Judgement results: Jan 30, 2007

Awards presentation: Feb 2007

The contest coordinators are:

Phuket / Krabi / Phang Nga: Phuket Gazette

Northeast: The Nation, Khon Kaen

North: CityLife magazine, Chiang Mai

Central & National: The Nation, Bangkok



Writers from the South should send entries to:

Thai Grace & Compassion
The Phuket Gazette
367/2 Yaowarat Rd
Taladyai, Muang
Phuket 83000
Win@PhuketGazette.Net

Contact person:
Khun Chutimon Srithep

"A Tale of Thai Grace & Compassion"

Prizes:

1) The Winning Essay in each region will earn 10,000 baht. Additionally, there will be two Merit Awards of 5,000 baht in each region.

2) Air tickets for each Regional Winner to Bangkok for the National Award ceremony: one winner, one parent, and one teacher from each region. Bangkok hotel accommodations will also be provided.

3) The National Winner and one of his or her parents will receive a trip to Dublin where they will attend the Senior International IMPAC Dublin Literary Awards ceremony - the richest literary prize in the world. Thailand's National Winner will also meet and take part in a reading with the Winning Author of the World.

If for any reason the National Winner cannot travel to Dublin, the trip will be given to the first Merit Award Winner who can go.



Embassy of Ireland

The Nation

Citylife
Chiang Mai



Phuket Gazette



The Cryptic Crossword

Hidden Words

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

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

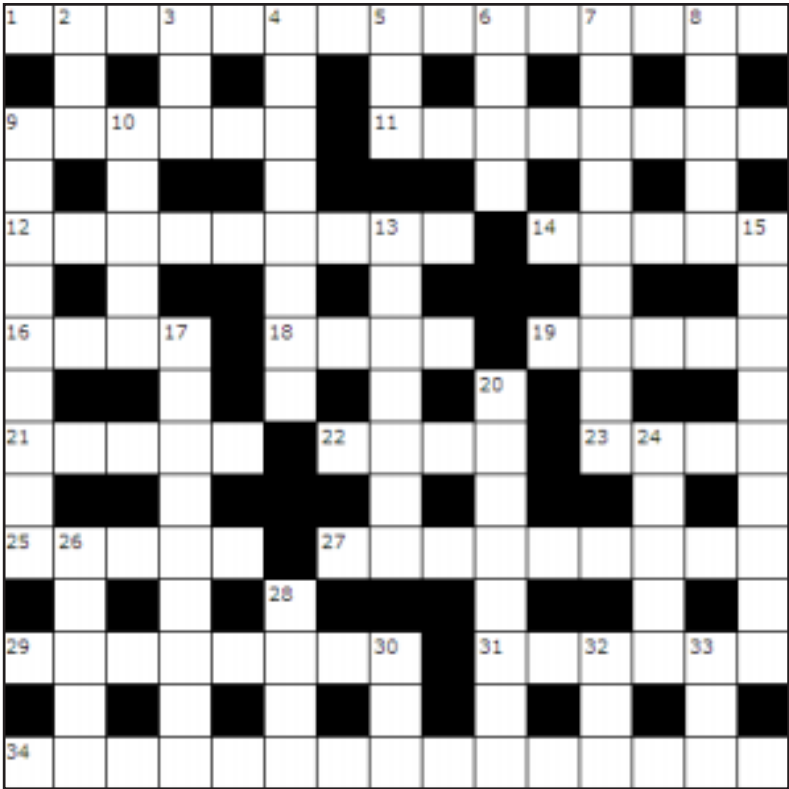
Solution on next page

ACROSS

1. House of salesmen? (15)
9. Metal coin. (6)
11. Can specialty. (8)
12. No dreamer in charge, it's lifelike. (9)
14. Brag about cardinal in boat. (5)
16. A man of color, we hear. (4)
18. Al's got nothing, too. (4)
19. Point into coconut tree to get church chant. (5)
21. A foot ailment seed. (5)
22. Bird on a string? (4)
23. Not mad about point and an alternative. (4)
25. I'm in rocky outcrop and island. (5)
27. Theater alarm demo fouled up. (9)
29. Rates, with 501 and a letter in glows. (8)
31. Consent to account with letter of the French. (6)
34. Failure to understand mission in most of catch. (15)

DOWN

2. Samuel's teacher gets lie wrong. (3)
3. Korean initials sound like they are okay. (1, 1, 1)
4. Sal points to man: one of 1. (8)
5. Little sleep; give bad review back. (3)



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2006

6. Type of power Ed passed easily. (4)
7. Back use; is echo of cold stores. (9)
8. First lady's roof parts? (5)
9. Not the southwest, nor the letter to saint. (9)
10. Jackie takes key to get beer. (5)
13. Breathe in and enthuse. (7)
15. Strengthen and consumed, but exercising moderation. (9)
17. Small organ? Ha! Romeo and Monica! (9)
20. Set off school in date. (8)
24. A boat's path is not asleep. (5)
26. Ira question: "I Arab?" (5)
28. Pets up to dance move. (4)
30. Haggard's one who must be obeyed. (3)
32. Disks and certificates. (3)
33. Pair take Arabic instrument back. (3)

Solution on next page

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

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

Rhyme Time

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

1. Take part in opera.
2. Get water out of the wash.
3. Billy Jean.
4. Chinese capital.
5. Surround.
6. Flying equipment.
7. Playground equipment.
8. Love affair.
9. Hold on tight.
10. Rebellion.

Answers on next page

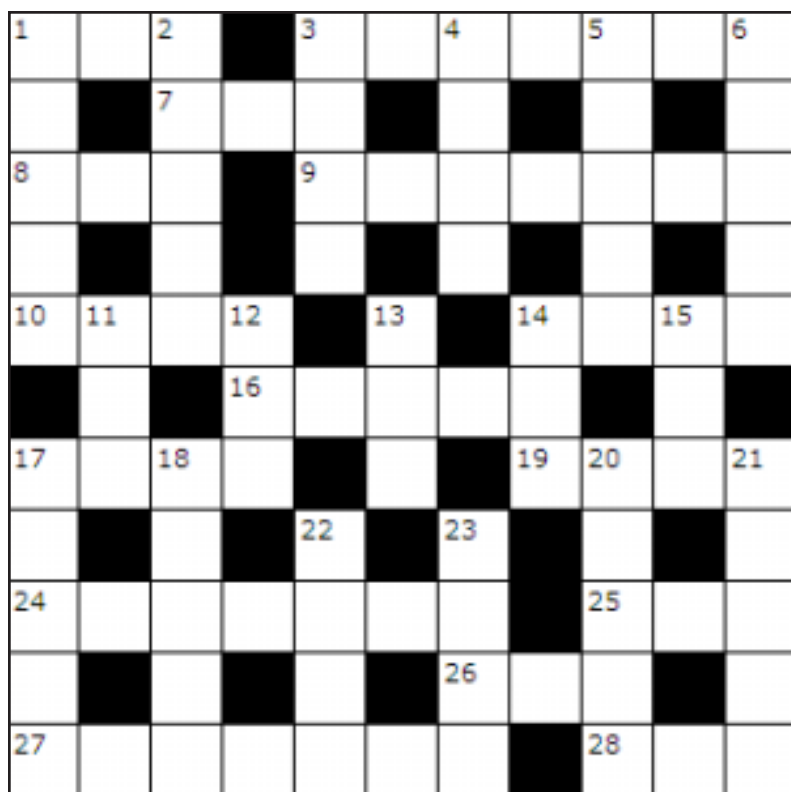
Scribble Space



EZ TRIVIA QUIZ

1. In which northern province of Thailand is Doi Suthep?
2. How many legs does a spider crab have?
3. Who stars as Ben Randall in the movie *The Guardian*?
4. Which motorbike company makes the Smash?
5. What color do you get if you mix red, blue and yellow?
6. Who presented the 2006 MTV music awards – and won two awards?
7. Who currently tops the Billboard Hot 100 with *My Love*?
8. What color boat did the owl and the pussycat go to sea in?
9. Where is the volcano Mt Etna?
10. What is the capital of the Czech Republic?

Answers on next page



Quick Crossword

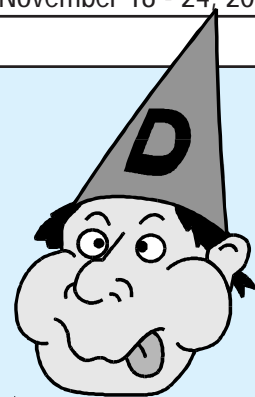
ACROSS

1. American soldiers.
3. Flower.
7. Golf teacher.
8. Fuss.
9. Makes a tape of.
10. Body of freshwater.
14. Join metal.
16. Constellation.
17. Cow meat.
19. Garden entrance, eg.
24. Tenth month.
25. Father.
26. 33 divided by 33.
27. Wizard of Oz character
28. Down in the mouth.

Down

1. Object of quest.
2. Ghost.
3. Drill a hole.
4. Killer whale.
5. Heavy suit material.
6. Pondered.
11. Beer.
12. Santa's helper.
13. Japanese belt.
14. Dog tail movement.
15. Allow.
17. Think obsessively.
18. Come in!
20. S American mountain range.
21. Finished.
22. Assist.
23. Ancient city.

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. What was the ancient Egyptians' name for Hermes Trismegistus?
2. In 13th century Europe, Conradin was king of which two places?
3. How old was Conradin when he was executed?
4. Sir Francis Walsingham was spymaster to which British monarch?
5. In which year was the first Harley Davidson motorcycle introduced?
6. Which word can mean a fish, an insect and a curve in a sail?
7. How fast can a road runner run?
8. How many *Road to...* movies did Bob Hope and Bing Crosby make?
9. Which British military unit, formed in 1859, became the 21st Special Air Service Regiment?
10. Who commanded the New Model Army, with Oliver Cromwell as his deputy?
11. Which movie won the Best Picture Oscar in 1992?
12. What is the old name for Ndjamen, capital of Chad?
13. How many years are there in a lustrum?
14. In which country would you find the city of Lutsk?
15. In which year was Pathé News launched?
16. Who wrote the novel *The Princess Casamassima*?
17. Who was the first Whig president of the USA?
18. Who was known as the Manassa Mauler?
19. What is the original meaning of "avatar"?
20. In which constellation would you find the Crab Nebula?

Answers below, left

Puzzle Solutions

Monster Quiz Answers

1. Thoth; 2. Sicily and Jerusalem; 3. 16; 4. Queen Elizabeth I; 5. 1903; 6. Roach; 7. About 24 kmh; 8. Seven; 9. The Artists' Rifles; 10. Sir Thomas Fairfax; 11. *Unforgiven*; 12. Fort-Lamy; 13. Five; 14. Ukraine; 15. 1910; 16. Henry James; 17. William H. Harrison; 18. Boxer William "Jack" Demsey; 19. An incarnation of a Hindu deity; 20. Taurus.

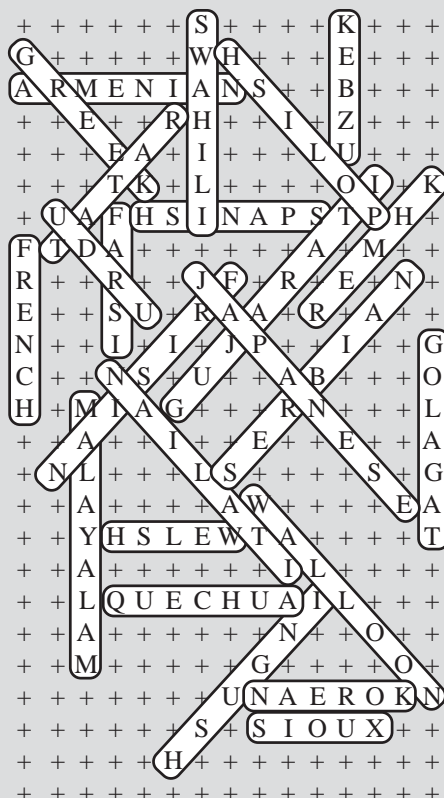
EZ Trivia Answers

1. Chiang Mai; 2. 10; 3. Kevin Costner; 4. Suzuki; 5. Brown; 6. Justin Timberlake; 7. Justin Timberlake; 8. Pea-green; 9. Sicily; 10. Prague.

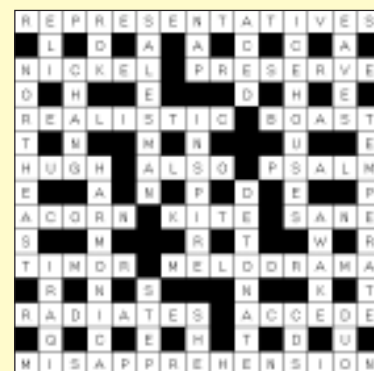
Rhyme Time Answers

1. Sing; 2. Wring; 3. King; 4. Peking; 5. Ring; 6. Wing; 7. Swing; 8. Fling; 9. Cling; 10. Uprising.

Hidden Words SOLUTION



Solution to this week's Cryptic Crossword



Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle



When I was a schoolboy in the 1950s we were all presented with that idyllic picture of the first Thanksgiving, the Pilgrim fathers and the Indians sitting down to a feast of brotherhood. When I was a college radical in the 1960s, I raged at the idiocy of the Indians for not nipping the white invasion in the bud.

Against thousands of Indian warriors, Captain Miles Standish could barely muster a dozen military-age males after the first disastrous winter of 1620 had killed off half of the 102 settlers.

The amazing thing is that, even as thousands of English religious dissidents flooded into the new states of Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island, the general peace between Indians and whites lasted 55 years. It would end calamitously with King Philip's War in 1675-76.

Nathaniel Philbrick's *Mayflower* (Viking Penguin, New York, 2006, 459pp) illuminates this era.

Subtitled *A Story of Courage, Community, and War*, this history is a fresh look at a familiar story.

It focuses on William Bradford, the first governor whose friendship with the Pokanoket chief Massasoit saved the infant colony, and Benjamin Church, the wily frontier fighter who would

The First Thanksgiving



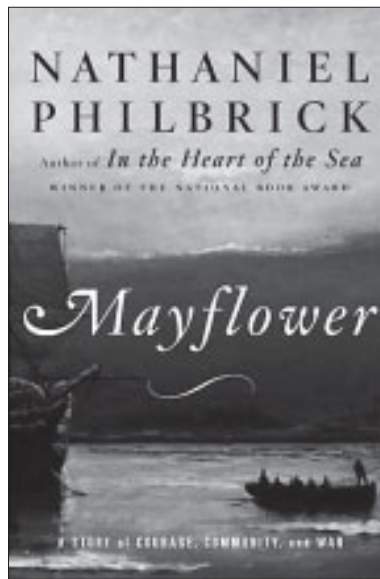
Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

triumph over Massasoit's cowardly son Philip.

Mayflower is Philbrick's seventh book. He won the National Book Award for *In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex*, which was the true story of the Nantucket whaleship sunk in the Pacific by a whale – the tale that inspired Melville's *Moby Dick*. Philbrick has a knack for presenting familiar material with an original slant.

For example, the Indians along the rocky coast of Plymouth Rock were familiar enough with white people. The oldest among them could recall their first sight of a European sailing ship, which they took to be "a walking island, the mast to be a tree, the sail



white clouds, and the discharging of ordnance for lighting and thunder."

Over the years, various adventurers and freebooters had raided the coast and taken away slaves. In turn, Indians routinely massacred and enslaved shipwrecked crews. They were also devastated by waves of plague, smallpox and influenza. The site of Plymouth Rock, for example, was abandoned by villagers nearly wiped out by plague.

So there were the Pilgrims

huddled in their stockade on the edge of a continental wilderness. Imagine their surprise when a tall nearly naked Indian named Samoset strode up to the gates and shouted "Welcome, Englishmen!"

He had spent time with English fishermen in Maine. Even more conversant with English ways was the famous Squanto, who had been enslaved and taken to England.

By adapting to Indian ways of farming and hunting, the English managed to survive and live in peace with their neighbors, both prospering through a brisk fur trade.

The Pequot tribe rose in revolt in 1637. Led by veterans of the Thirty Years War in Europe, the English fell upon a Pequot fortress on the Mystic River in Connecticut.

"After setting the Indians' wigwams ablaze, the soldiers proceeded to shoot and hack in pieces anyone who attempted to escape the inferno," Philbrick writes. They killed 400 Pequot men, women, and children.

The settlers' Mohegan allies were horrified. Indian wars were more about ritual and honor, not

mass murder. The pious Governor William Bradford wrote, "It was a fearful sight to see them thus frying in the fire and the streams of blood quenching the same, and horrible was the stink and scent thereof; but the victory seemed a sweet sacrifice, and they gave the praise thereof to God."

With King Philip's War in 1675, the conflagration was general. Entire white townships were wiped out and columns of soldiers ambushed.

Benjamin Church, who had long lived among the Indians, brought in Indian tactics and Indian allies to finally quell the rebellion and capture its leaders. Like Daniel Boone, Davy Crockett and Natty Bumppo, Church was a new kind of man: the frontiersman.

"As a roughneck intermediary between civilization and savagery, the frontiersman had a natural distrust of authority and relied on his own instincts, bravery and skill to survive."

Out of 20,000 Indians, 2,000 were killed, 3,000 died of disease and 1,000 were shipped to the West Indies as slaves. The march to the West had begun.

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

Shopee in Patong – plus Phuket's fastest wireless connection.

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

Until November 30: The Abstract: an exhibition by Christopher Swift.

Chris Swift's work is the beauty of decay in the built world: boats, cars and architectural forms in a state of disrepair or erosion or dilapidation. Only after time and elemental abuse does an object's "personality" surface. These themes run through everything he shoots.

They are the things he sees, capturing the beauty and personality in the architecture of the built world and highlighting its relationship with erosion and the time in which we live and work.

November 25-26: 4th Phuket International Soccer 7s.

The one and only Phuket In-

ternational Soccer 7s will celebrate its 4th anniversary this year.

This tournament has developed into one of the largest sevens tournaments in Asia and we expect that the response will be such that we will again need to run two tournaments.

With both open and veterans categories, there is something for everyone. Come and experience for yourself the excitement and buzz of the most popular and memorable event on the soccer social calendar.

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367/2 Yaowarat Rd, Amphur
Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-236555
Fax: 076-213971
Email: info@phuketgazette.net

Let the guests roll in

Government regulations issued in 2001 and still on the books today mandate that all new public buildings – including schools, hotels and hospitals – provide facilities to ensure adequate access for people with physical disabilities.

Sadly, the pace of development in Phuket has thundered along with scant attention paid to these sensible rules. The neglect comes not only from the private sector, which often incorrectly tends to view facilities for the disabled as an unnecessary financial burden, but also from the very government agencies that should be enforcing the regulations.

The next time you walk into a government building, take a quick look and imagine what your experience would be like if you were confined to a wheelchair, blind or otherwise limited in your mobility.

This lack of facilities extends to Phuket's all-important tourism industry. This is doubly regrettable because Phuket has great potential to develop itself as a prime tourism destination for the disabled, who make up a small but significant portion of the population around the world.

Disabled tourists in Phuket, who are accustomed to handicapped-accessible facilities in their home countries, face the daunting task of getting around in Phuket, where the conditions of side-walks often pose real challenges to the most able-bodied members of society.

But what Phuket currently lacks in terms of access ramps, modified bathrooms and wide doors it makes up for by offering something unique to this country: Thai hospitality.

On his website, one disabled American summed up his experience in Phuket as follows: "Phuket is not a natural (tourism choice) for disabled visitors for many reasons. Its streets are rugged and narrow, and to enter most establishments you'll need to climb at least a few steps. Bathrooms are often up a flight of stairs or too small to get into easily. So why go to Phuket if you're disabled? My answer is simple: the Thai people are friendly and accommodating beyond belief."

Considering this view, it wouldn't take much in terms of infrastructure to turn Phuket into a prime destination for handicapped tourists – and their friends and relatives who accompany them on holiday. All that is needed is a bit of planning and foresight.

It is no more expensive to build a ramp than a set of stairs. The cost of a new public bathroom is only marginally higher if handicap facilities are included. Such facilities also benefit parents pushing strollers, the elderly and those with temporary disabilities due to accidents – and quite possibly you some day.

– The Editor

The Phuket Gazette

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Editor: Parichat Utintu

Managing Editor: Chris Husted

Editorial Consultant: Alasdair Forbes

Chief Reporter: Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

Editorial Team: Stephen Fein, Andy Johnstone, Natcha Yuttaworawit,
Janyaporn Morel, Dominic Earnshaw,
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Publisher: The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

Contact us

Advertising Sales: adsales@phuketgazette.net

Classified Advertising: classads@phuketgazette.net

Website Services: koy@phuketgazette.net

Gazette Guide inquiries: guide@phuketgazette.net

Telephone: 076-236555 (10 lines) Fax: 076-213971

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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.

Patong Beach: Phuket's Pattaya Bay

I read your publication weekly and when I read the letter "A Reader Writes" (October 21 issue) I felt the need to give you my 10 bahts' worth.

A few weeks ago a group of 10 friends came to visit me from my country, South Africa. They booked into the Seaview Hotel in Patong and loved every minute of their 12-day stay. The only thing they were disgusted with was Patong Beach.

They loved the nightlife, the vendors and the entertainment, found the beach was filthy. One friend took a walk up the bridge next to the hotel only to find human waste drifting into the sea from the drainage canal.

After this they spent all their time on Karon, Paradise and Surin beaches. Patong Beach lost their business due to the bad hygiene.

I lived in Patong for a year before moving to Chalong. I visit all these beaches around me, but cannot get myself to go back to Patong. Is there any petition or anything we can do to get the Governor to pay attention to this?

I get the feeling that the Thai business owners are not concerned as long as they make money today. But what about when tourists go to Samui, Krabi and these other places? Patong will eventually be classified as a second Pattaya Bay.

When tourists come to Phuket they usually first come to Patong. No matter how wonderful the other beaches are, the tourist will remember their first impression and not return to our wonderful island. I love this place and think it is a shame that nothing

is being done to clean up the bad and maintain what is good.

Concerned Farang
Phuket

Top pita patter – but not enough review

The photograph of the pita sandwich for the review of The Family Restaurant [*Gazette*, November 11 issue] was spectacular. It made me want to go right out and buy one, which I did.

I was amazed to see that they had a huge menu with many interesting Italian, European and Thai dishes that were given very short shrift in a half sentence. In fact out of 20 paragraphs only three or four were devoted to the restaurant review. The other paragraphs were Mr Johnston's usual nonsensical ramblings, which on occasion mention what music he was listening to on his car radio.

Gentlemen, I ask you: is it too much to expect to list the hours of the restaurant? In this case – midday to 10pm, closed on Saturdays. There – that wasn't hard, was it.

Table tents advertised frozen margaritas and pina coladas at 100 baht and frozen fresh fruit drinks for 50 baht. They were delicious and noteworthy. Andrew mentions wine only in passing, typical for an Englishman not interested in food or drink. Possibly he should stick to music reviews. The least one should have is a mention of the price of a glass of wine – as an example: Italian jug wine 100 baht per glass, Australian Cabernet 120 baht per glass. Bottles from the US, Australia and France from 900 to 1,800 baht.

A few sentences about the service or wait-staff would be

helpful, but are rarely included. Is the staff attentive? Can they understand English? Was ordering easy or a chore?

I wonder if you might find a reviewer more interested in food than in listening to himself.

Frank Visakay
Rawai

Call to improve emergency responses

The article about the high risk tourists face in the event of an emergency was outright scary. With no single emergency phone number for Phuket, those in need do not know which number to call from which part of the island.

Even if they do call the right number, there is absolutely no certainty that the person who answers the phone will be able to speak a language other than Thai or has even have a fundamental understanding of first aid.

Bangkok Phuket Hospital should coordinate emergency rescue calls according to the world-class standards the hospital so proudly attests itself of. Everywhere on the island you see help-promising posters "Emergency Calls 1719".

If not, they should be requested to take the billboards down. I am glad not to live in America, but some legal responsibility for making claims would certainly serve Thailand well.

If the press or the local authorities don't pursue the subject vigorously, diplomatic representatives from foreign countries should get together for the sake of their citizens.

May I suggest a follow-up report about the first-aid qualifications of the rescue teams.

Pico
Phuket

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

Fighting crime with few resources

Police from Chalong Police Station have a responsibility to look after an area including Chalong, Karon and Rawai. These three areas constitute a large area and recently there have been many criminal cases.

We now have more than 100 police officers at the Chalong station, but that is not enough to solve all of the cases and problems. I know this sounds like an excuse, but it's the truth. The number of cases and complaints have gone up every year due to the increase in population and the ever-increasing number of tourists.

We also have about 10,000 more housing development units being built, mainly in the Karon and Rawai areas, which exacerbates the problem. I think we should have a law to control the amount of housing development in each area.

Every day we have to arrange police to serve those areas, and when VIPs arrive, Phuket Police are always in charge of their security, taking resources away from other areas.

If there is a problem during the time a VIP is visiting, we don't have enough officers to look into the problem. We also have to arrange police to cover tourist areas such as Wat Chalong, Cape Promthep, Koh Hei, Koh Racha Yai, Koh Racha Noi, Kata Beach, Karon Beach and so on.

We can't send all of our patrol officers out to inspect because some of them have to stay at the police station to respond to new calls, and some have to go out on the beat.

All of the patrol officers have to work in shifts so this is another reason we don't always have enough officers out on the streets patrolling. If you look at the number of people in Phuket versus the number of officers available, you will see that we are understaffed.

The main duty of the police is to protect the public, suppress crime and to look out for people following our slogan of "Cure suf-

FIRST PERSON

The residents of Chalong have complained that crime in the area has escalated due, at least in part, to an influx of laborers to feed the construction boom, with hundreds of new houses and other buildings being erected.

The *Gazette* raised this issue with Pol Lt Col Chokchai Suttimak, an Investigating Inspector at Chalong Police Station. Here is his explanation of the causes of crime in the area, and the difficulties the police face in solving the problem.



fering, enrich happiness." But the police themselves are not very happy because every day they don't know what will happen.

In the area covered by Chalong Police Station the number of robberies is now decreasing, but the number of accident reports is always rising because Phuket has a lot of people, and thus a lot of cars and motorbikes on the road.

We don't have very smooth roads in Phuket either. On old stretches of road, such as the road to Kata and the access to the Plub Pla hotel, we often have accidents. Accident cases that are caused by poor road conditions are hard to resolve and equally hard to prevent.

When people have a problem they want officers to be on the scene immediately. If the of-

ficer arrives late, the police are blamed, but sometimes it's impossible to get there sooner as we have so much to do.

Nowadays the police have to work very hard because there are so many cases to respond to. People often complain to us at the Chalong station, and we try to explain the reasons [why the police are late or do not solve the crimes], but they don't understand.

Another major problem we have is lack of funding. We get a budget from the government, but it is not enough. Right now we have a small room big enough for five officers, it's gets quite crowded. Before that, the room was even smaller but we had donations to buy the officers desks.

Most of the police at the

Chalong Station have to use their own money to buy computers and set up Internet access. Sometimes the superintendent supplements the budget to buy computers, but there is no budget – we have to ask people for more donations.

Police work a lot harder than people see. During the public holidays, when workers in other occupations get time off, police still have to work. In fact, during holidays police often have to work double shifts, and if there are 10 holidays in a row, the police will have to work all 10 days to look after people and control traffic on the road.

It's during those times that many people take their families out on vacations, but the officers don't have time to spend with their families.

Some people blame offic-

ers' kids for misbehaving, but it's because police officers do not have any time to spend with their family.

Nobody knows that or sympathizes with the officers. Police often have to work overtime without getting paid.

We also run into many people who try to make our job more difficult, and we don't have any high-tech machines to find or follow criminals.

There is also a strict framework for how investigations have to proceed. The police can't arrest criminals just because they want to.

The framework says that in the case of crimes such as robbery, the police can't arrest the suspects right away but have to wait until the provincial court issues an arrest warrant or a search warrant, which can take an hour or a whole day. This gives the criminal time to hide evidence or run away.

The law gives protection and rights for criminal suspects, such as the right to refuse to give testimony to the police, the right to consult with a lawyer, the right to bring a lawyer or another person to take part in the investigation with the police, and the right for criminals or suspects to be released on bail.

If the police solve a case, that's good, but if they ever make a mistake people criticize them. So many officers are afraid to do anything [because they do not want to be criticized if they make a mistake].

This means the police have to protect themselves because if there is a problem, nobody can help them solve it.

In the past, police commanders could protect their officers, but now they cannot because if the commanders do protect their officers they are accused of siding with them.

All of this results in the police having low morale and no incentive to work.

That said, I guess every occupation has its problems.

Is it legal to own a pet snake?

I was wondering if it is legal to own a pet snake in Thailand? Are any species of snakes protected by law? If so, which snakes can I own and where can I buy one?

Declan Smith
Phuket

An officer at the Office of Natural Resources replies:

There are 14 kinds of snake that are protected under of the Office of Natural Resources.

The 14 kinds of snake are the reticulated python, Indian python, the blood python, the copperhead racer, the common Malayan racer, the red mountain racer, the black-striped mountain racer, the green mountain racer, the red-tailed racer, the king co-

bra, the Indochinese rat snake, the keeled rat snake, the Oriental rat snake and the iridescent earth snake.

Of the 14 protected types of snakes, you can legally own only the reticulated python and the Indian python.

You can buy them at Fang Thon snake markets in Bangkok and Sukhothai province as those snakes are bred there.

You will be issued a receipt that you can present to the Office of Natural Resources in Bangkok, which will issue you a permit to own your snake or snakes that is valid for three years.

Apart from 14 types of protected snakes, you can own any

other type of snake and as many of them as you want – as long as you can feed them.

However, please note that it is illegal to export live snakes or even their skins for trade.

How do I know if my wife has filed for divorce?

I was married to a Thai in Bangkok in January 2004 before we both moved to the UK. My wife has since returned to Thailand. How can I find out if she has filed for divorce, and is it possible to do so from the UK? Would it also be possible to object to the divorce from the UK?

Divorcee?
Stevenage, UK

Suksan Siang-Eak, Chief Registrar at Kathu District Office, replies:

Under Thai law divorce filings are accepted only if they are filed by husband and wife. This means that your wife cannot apply for divorce without your signature.

If either partner does not agree to divorce, then the a peti-

tion for divorce can be filed with the court.

If your wife files for divorce without your consent, you will receive a letter from the court requesting your presence for the divorce proceedings. After you have received this letter, you can file your objection to the divorce with the court in Thailand while you are still in the UK.

Issues & ANSWERS

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

Petrodollars en route to Phuket

There's money flowing down the streets in Kazakhstan, said Roger Holland, "like here in Phuket you've had water flowing down the streets".

Holland should know. He is President of Scot Holland, Kazakhstan's best property company.

He and his wife had just arrived in Phuket having traveled from Almaty to Bangkok on one of the twice weekly flights available between the two cities.

"I believe that you are going to see a lot more people coming down here from Kazakhstan," says Roger. "Previously there were only weekly flights for the high season months, but now it's all year round."

Massive reserves of oil, gas and mineral deposits are now being exploited by major companies from all over the world and the money is really flowing in to the former Soviet-bloc state.

"Kazakhstanis, like the Saudis before, are finding themselves with more money, much more money and they don't know what to do with it. They know, however, that they should do something with it, so clearly, investing in property is the obvious choice."

Roger brought one group of people from Kazakhstan to Pattaya, where they have already bought property. Now he is in Phuket with his wife Yorkinoy looking at the available projects.

Roger and Yorki were one of the first buyers at Grove Gardens on Cape Yamu, where they have just taken possession of their new apartment, so the Phuket market is already familiar to them.



Roger Holland and his wife Yorkinoy during their visit to Phuket.

His company, Scot Holland, is on the verge of becoming CB Richard Ellis, Kazakhstan. That will make it the first international brand name in the real estate business in the country.

Although their main focus is the domestic market, selling Kazakhstani property to Kazakhstanis, the focus is increasingly on international property, given the availability of so much disposable cash.

Traditional markets for Asians – the UK and North America – still apply. But the current hot spot is Dubai. With its glitzy shopping centers and fabulous hotels, the emirate has a natural appeal to Kazakhstanis, who also appreciate the duty-free zone as well as the seaside location.

Apart from the Caspian Sea on its far western border, Kazakhstan is landlocked – thousands of miles from the nearest ocean. Hence, seaside resorts like Dubai and the tropical islands of Thailand are attracting a great deal of interest, especially as these

destinations develop their infrastructure and facilities.

"Marinas, golf course developments and ocean view villas are the popular choices," Roger says.

"Kazakhstan doesn't have these things, although there is a new golf course in Almaty and it costs US\$40,000 for a membership.

"That will increase the interest in golf – once people learn to play, they start looking for new challenges and new courses to play. It's an addictive game, once you hit a few shots well."

The only drawback to buying into the Thai property market is the rather confusing laws. People from Kazakhstan, like people everywhere, prefer to build on firm, freehold land titles.

Like most foreigners seeking to invest here, Kazakhstanis won't be looking for residency or citizenship; there's too much money in their country.

But they certainly will be looking to spend that money in other places – and Roger Holland is confident that Phuket will be one of them.

In The Stars

by Isla Star

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): You will have a pleasant surprise as you enter alien territory. An event that you haven't been looking forward to goes off without a hitch; remember to thank someone who has been supportive. As the week passes, you will wonder what you've done to deserve so much good luck, but it's no more than you deserve. Scorpios enjoying a birthday can expect to receive a highly appropriate gift.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Avoid making mountains out of molehills. Your oversensitivity needs to be calmed and you can start by tuning out everything on Sunday. Libra has some good, free advice on Monday if you're prepared to listen. A rocky romantic connection will become slippery if you don't tread carefully now. The color jade green promotes subtlety.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Take a short break if you don't feel ready to face high season; you won't be able to get perspective on your life otherwise. It's not too late for some slashing and burning to take place. Leo has been dreaming about you and will make their presence felt this weekend.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Events fall into place as snugly as patchwork pieces this week. Your confusion lifts and what you need to do becomes clear. The green light for a second chance at romance is given, and if you've recently hooked up with a Piscean, you learn something surprising about this person. Try a different angle to solve a business-related rift. The number 9 can bring luck on Thursday.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Devote some attention to sorting out a business misunderstanding before it becomes as twisted as a bagful of cobras. On Monday, you will be in a good position to see what needs to be done, but after Tuesday the stars will not encourage others to understand your point of view. Aquarius wants to find out what you're really made of and will make an approach soon.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Camouflage yourself well if you want to track down a certain

someone who didn't meet a recent business obligation. If it becomes obvious that you're on their trail, there's every chance they will disappear from sight forever. Wednesday should be a good day to sign new agreements with people who have proved to be trustworthy. Wear a moonstone to encourage celestial support.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): A little understanding will go a long way. Step back and look at situations more objectively this week if you have been feeling uncharacteristically impatient lately, you will soon receive the reassuring news that you've been hoping for, concerning finances. This will put you in a position to make life-altering decisions, but remember that fools rush in. The number 7 can bring luck on Thursday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Hard work is sure to pay off, but you'll be sorry if you can't resist cutting corners. Others are attracted to you like butterflies to a bright flower. Making a date with Cancer is promising, but Scorpio will prove to be too much even for you to handle. A bout of absent-mindedness may lead to important papers being left at home when you have an appointment.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): The sunshine of your life will be the bearer of surprising news this weekend. It may take some getting used to, but this revelation will transform your life in a positive way. At work, the atmosphere is disturbed by a colleague determined to make waves. The only way to calm the situation is by doing absolutely nothing. The color aquamarine can encourage peace of mind.

LEO (July 24-August 22): You'll find out that you're not the king of the jungle after all. A recent romantic connection may bring disappointment. Those already in a committed relationship should try approaching a bone of contention from a different angle. Burying it won't work as it is sure to be unearthed later. The number 4 is promising on Wednesday.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Travel is highlighted this week and will certainly broaden both your mind and your horizons. Fresh ideas will come flooding in, encouraging you to set your sights higher. Inspiration also comes from a fellow earth sign; not every scheme they suggest is worth considering, but at least one is realistic. Wear a light lotus scent to encourage purity of thought.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): You will thank your lucky stars that a stressful scene is firmly behind you – if you want a quiet life – but those who prefer to stay in the fast lane will find the stimulation they crave close to home this weekend. Sagittarius has a plan to sweep you off your feet, but Aquarius's promises have no chance of turning into reality. The color deep violet helps to dissolve feelings of jealousy.

LARGER THAN LIFE

By Graham Doven

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BORING BANGKOK

Tex Hogwaller slapped a newspaper down on the bar. "Well, there you have it, ladies and gentlemen and those who are awaiting gender reassignment surgery: It is now official. *The New York Times* says Bangkok is boring."

"Shoot, Tex," said his brother Bubba, "It don't take the hoity-toity *New York Times* to tell us that."

"If *The New York Times* says Bangkok is boring, it really must be boring," declared Tex, "because there ain't no newspaper as boring as *The New York Times*. Shoot fire, they don't even have no comic strips. What the hell is the point of a newspaper that don't have no comic strips?"

Uppity Brit-twit Cedric Smarmington-Fyffe chimed in. "You retarded colonials don't have newspapers," he sniffed in his posh accent. "To have a proper newspaper, you must have a page three girl, like *The Sun* has."

"If *The Times* did have comic strips, they would probably be smartass faggoty left-wing comic strips like 'Doonesbury'," Bubba replied.

"'Doonesbury' died when Zonker Harris turned 30," Tex growled. "Ain't nothin' as pathetic as an agin' hippie."

"I would be grateful if you gentlemen would enlighten me on this business of Bangkok being boring," I interrupted.

"Says here *The New York Times* has decided that Bangkok is boring," Tex rejoined, thumping the newspaper.

"It quotes the guy who owns the Q Bar as saying, 'Bangkok is a dead town. It was one of the most fun places in Asia.'"



"How would he know?" I asked.

"Yeah, how would he know?" Bubba echoed. "Shoot, his bar don't have no go-go dancers. All it's got is a gang of artsy-fartsy women flouncin' around, an' they're all wearin' clothes."

"A bar ain't a bar if it ain't got no go-go dancers," Tex thundered. "Preferably *nekkid*."

"The bar action, gentlemen, has shifted to less salubrious climes," Cedric announced. "Shanghai swings, I am informed. Even Singapore is said to have a livelier nightlife than Bangkok. Then of course there are always traditional bastions of debauchery, like the Philippines."

"The Bangkok bar scene died the day the *Post* fired Trink," Bubba proclaimed.

We all nodded in agreement, and drank a toast to that august sage, revered to the point of worship by generations of Bangkok barflies, but tragically struck down at the height of his powers by a heartless clique of managerial zombies.

"It also died the day those greedy bar owners on the third floor of the Nana Plaza raised the price of a small beer to 100 baht," I added.

"Hear, hear," Cedric applauded. "Since then, the prices have escalated relentlessly. Nowadays you have to hunt hard

to find a bar where a beer costs under 100 baht.

"There are a few on Soi Cowboy and on the second floor of the Nana Plaza, I am reliably informed."

"Yeah, but the girls in them bars all wear clothes," Bubba pointed out.

"Ah blame the death of the bar scene on Purachai," Tex grumbled. "First he kills it off with early closin' hours, then he runs away to Australia."

"Somebody should hire someone to track him down and brain him with a boomerang," Bubba suggested.

"I blame it on a combination of factors," I said. "First,



Purachai and the police, with their infernal early closing hours and their 'no show' edict and their constant drug raids. Second, the firing of Trink, a tragedy comparable in historic significance with the sinking of the *Titanic*. And third, those greedy bar owners."

"What's the TAT going to do now that the *Times* has trashed Bangkok as boring?" Tex wondered.

"Easy," I answered. "A new tourism promotion campaign: Boring Bangkok. When you're all stressed out from adventure tourism – bungee-jumping in New Zealand, shooting the rapids of the Zambezi, hunting tigers in India, trekking up to the Mount Everest base camp – take a break from all the excitement and come to Bangkok to be bored."

"Shoot, you can go to Lubbock, Texas, if you want to be bored," said Bubba.

"Bangkok does it better," I said. "Bangkok is unique. Despite its boringness, there's always the underlying excitement of knowing that if you go out for a drink, the police may grab you and make you pee in a cup. No other city I know of can make that claim."

You can relieve S. Tsow's boredom by flaming him at stsow@yahoo.com, but not when he's out on the town peeing in a cup.



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DO – the good, the bad, the ugly

Reaction to the new CDMA2000 1XEV-DO Rev A wireless broadband service now available in Phuket from the Communications Authority of Thailand (CAT) continues to pour in. Here are just a few of the questions and comments I have received, along with my replies.

Q I read your article on EV-DO and since I am unable to get a phone line I was very interested. I live on Nanai Rd in Patong, so I may have a problem, but more importantly, I have a desktop. You said that it would be difficult but not impossible to connect to a desktop. Can you explain how?
BE

A You need to connect a PCMCIA card to your desktop. It's just a physical connection problem – the only card that CAT sells at the moment is a PCMCIA card.

The easiest solution is to install a PCMCIA slot in your computer. There are contraptions you can buy that combine PCMCIA, USB, sometimes SD card, Firewire and who-knows-what-else that fit in the floppy drive. There are other contraptions that accept PCMCIA cards and plug into USB ports.

I've seen such gizmos in Panthip Plaza, Bangkok; in Low Yat Plaza, Kuala Lumpur; and in Sim Lim Square, Singapore. I have yet to see them in Phuket, but they may well be available in local shops. Failing that, hit Google.

Q I bought an air card from CAT in Patong two weeks ago and have tried it in several locations, including driving in the car and talking on the phone using Skype.



Getting your desktop connected to the Net via DO might take some time. The CAT has yet to allow any non-CAT-specific hardware required, such as this Kyocera router, to be available in Thailand.

The problem I have experienced is in Kamala. When I bought the card, I was promised that it would work in Kamala. But now after I tell them that it does not work in Kamala they say, "Sorry we do not have any CDMA towers in Kamala. The nearest tower is in Naka."

I then thought that an external antenna would solve the problem, but CAT does not sell external antennae, which is not very helpful.

I do not want to give back the card. I just want it to work in Kamala, as they claimed it would, or want to know where I can get an external antenna.

UM

A I've received several complaints about reception in Kamala. The folks at CAT told me that the beach area should be well covered, but the side toward the hills is spotty. There are plans to extend coverage in Kamala, and they hope to have it completely covered early next year.

I'm skeptical. As things stand right now, what you see is what you get.

DO does not extend to every nook and cranny of Phuket. Nanai Rd in Patong is another known weak spot. If you don't like the service you're getting, take the card back. I've been assured by everyone in the food chain that you'll receive a cheerful refund.

I don't know how well an external antenna would work in your case. But there's a big demand for USB connections, so folks can easily plug DO cards into their desktop computers. I, for one, would switch one of my wireless networks over to DO, if I could only get a DO-savvy wireless base station.

The technology is new, and we're at the bleeding edge. Sierra has a few new cards out, but it's going to take a while before CAT opens up its network to hardware that isn't supplied by CAT – assuming it ever does. Worldwide, that isn't unusual. If you want to use the Sprint DO Rev A network in the US, for example, you have to use a Sprint air card (which, not surprisingly, is manufactured by Sierra Wireless).

Q I have heard that only people who qualify to have a phone line installed can buy the air card from CAT, or get DO service. I heard that one man had to

DO – THE BASICS

Name of technology: CDMA2000 1XEV-DO Rev A

Nickname: DO

Application: Wireless broadband

Provider: Communications Authority of Thailand (CAT)

Card needed: Sierra Wireless 580 "air card"

Card fits: PCMCIA ("PC-CARD") slot, common on laptops

Cost of card: About 16,000 baht

Service cost: Free until January 1; then 1,290 baht a month

Currently available at: CAT Offices: Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City; Aroonsom Plaza, Patong.

get the card through a Thai friend. Is this true? If so, tourists will be denied the service.
EB

A Again, I talked to the folks at CAT. They say that it's much easier to get a DO account if you qualify for a telephone account, much as you would be required to establish residency in order to get a mobile phone account in most countries. For most of us foreigners, that means you need a work permit.

I was assured, however, that CAT will sell air cards and set up DO accounts for foreigners who don't have work permits. There's at least one precedent in Phuket. If you want to pursue it, ask the DO people at CAT to contact the DO people in Bangkok. The people in Bangkok have to give permission, but they have given it – on at least one occasion – already.

Q I thought you might be interested in my DO experience so far, which has been fantastic.

We went to the CAT office on Phang Nga Rd; the people there were very nice and within 30 minutes or so, I had my card and CDROM in hand.

I have been doing IT for decades so wasn't worried about installing it on my own; after glancing over the docs, the only catch is NOT to put in the card until the installation program asks for it; after getting back home, I was up and running in about three minutes.

I went to DSLreports.com, chose the Whidbey, WA, site and came back with download speeds

of 310 Kbps and 410 Kbps on different occasions at Phuket Villa 1 in Phuket City near Tesco-Lotus.

The biggest mistake I made was putting up the antenna and letting my three-year-old son see that I did it. If that breaks off, then it's over. Keeping the antenna down doesn't seem to affect speed at all.

I use my company's VPN and upload speed is probably about 10 Kbps through their VPN network. If you have to upload email attachments or something, try to do it outside of VPN – say, via Google or Yahoo email.

If you have to upload within the VPN, do it in a separate email message so that you can get your main email message body across first.

At least with the AirCard Watcher, which comes with the air card, you can see whether data is uploading or not.

My connection drops about eight times a day, but connects right back up again. There has been no down time.

Thanks for the article. It was a job-saver for me as the TOT ADSL line is going to take weeks to get activated. I will need both for redundancy.
IE

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

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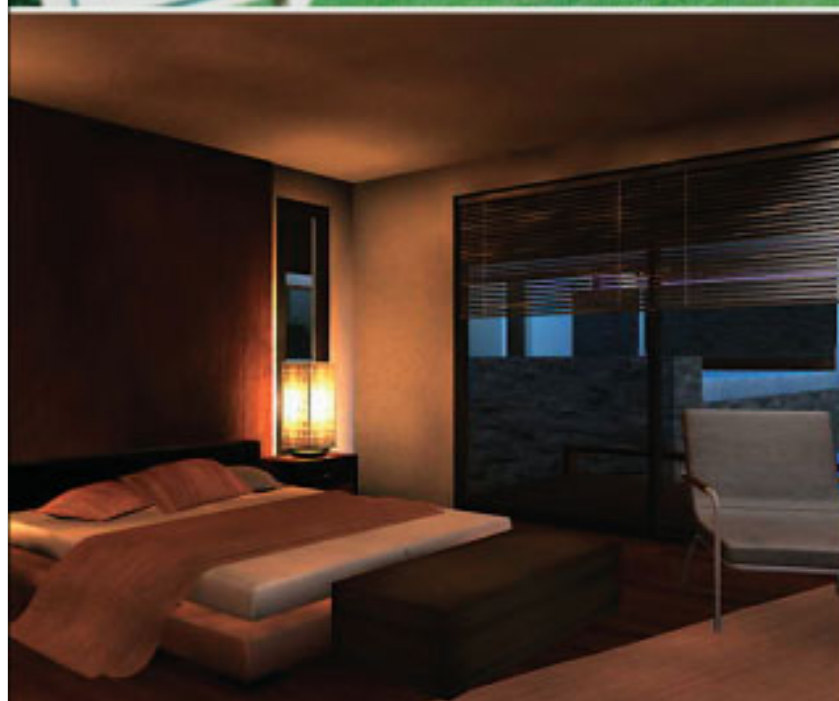
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ON THE MOVE

Joachim Grill from Austria, has been appointed Executive Assistant Manager of Central Samui Beach Resort on Koh Samui.

He holds a Masters Degree in Hotel Management from Garmish Partenkirchen in Germany and has extensive experience with five-star properties in the US, Europe, Australia, Thailand and Indonesia, including the Hotel Schweizerhof in Berlin, Hyatt International, Raffles International, Intercontinental and Banyan Tree.

Before joining Central Samui Beach Resort, Joachim was a member of the opening team for the Central Krabi Bay Resort, working as Executive Assistant Manager of Food and Beverage for almost two years.



Australian **Jason Foxman** has been appointed Food and Beverage Manager at Indigo Pearl. Jason, graduated from a Swiss hotel school and began his career in hospitality 10 years ago in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Before his appointment at Indigo Pearl, Jason was the Director of Food and Beverage at the Carlton Crest Hotel, Melbourne, and held senior food and food and beverage positions with Park Hyatt and Crown Casino, also in Melbourne.

Dion McGrath is the new Executive Chef of Indigo Pearl. Dion, 33, from New Zealand, has more than 19 years' culinary experience, and has held a number of Executive Chef positions, including restaurants such as the Peak Cafe and Cafe Deco in Hong Kong.

Dion is joining Indigo Pearl from the Four Seasons Hotel in Cairo, which is one of the largest food operations in the Four Seasons chain.



By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

Air traffic at Phuket International Airport (PIA) has surpassed pre-tsunami rates in the early stages of this high season for tourism and should exceed five million in 2007.

Airport Director Sq/Ldr Pornchai Eua-aree told the *Gazette* that the total number of passengers using the airport, both departures and arrivals, is expected to be about 4.6 million by the end of 2006, a slight increase on pre-tsunami passenger traffic in 2004, when 4.4 million people transited through the facility.

The total number of passengers should exceed five million in 2007, he added.

Thirty-nine carriers now use the airport, including 12 that run charter flights. Together these account for 12,000 to 15,000 people using the airport each day.

New carriers include JetstarAsia, which launched a direct Sydney-Phuket route on November 24, and Hong Kong-based carrier DragonAir, which will resume direct flights on December 15 following a long hiatus after the tsunami.

There are no negotiations underway with other new carriers for this high season, but the airport is working with the Tourism Authority of Thailand to establish direct flights to Phuket from the Middle East for the next low season, he said.

Sq/Ldr Pornchai said the airport can comfortably handle about 20 landings and takeoffs an hour, up to about 25 an hour during peak periods.

Current figures average at about 11 to 14 aircraft an hour, he said.

Although the airport is still below its capacity of 6.5 million passengers annually, during the high season having international flights arrive one immediately after another stretches airport services to their limits, especially Immigration.

"On November 1, we had three flights land at the same time, including 500 passengers from a new charter flight from Gothenburg, Sweden. We had about 1,000 arrivals who needed to be



Phuket Airport: arrivals are already surpassing pre-tsunami levels.

Tourist arrivals pushing airport to its limits

processed at the same time. That caused long lines at passport control and a traffic jam at the arrivals pick-up area," he said.

To prevent a recurrence, the airport is trying to limit international arrivals to 650 passengers an hour – the approximate passenger load of two large-body aircraft. He has also advised carriers to avoid arrivals during the three periods when the airport tends to be the busiest: from 8 am to 9 am, around 2 pm and again at 7 pm.

"I also send a list of daily arrivals to Immigration so that they can have as many officers on duty during peak periods," he added.

The arrival and departure halls are not the only facilities that become crowded, he added. The entire airport grounds, which cover 1,382 rai, have limited capacity for car and airplane parking and these cannot be expanded.

Currently, there are 23 parking spaces for aircraft, including 15 spots for large aircraft. With parking at a premium, aircraft need to park close together as possible in order to make maximum use of the available space.

He admitted that much of the problem stemmed from char-

ter flight aircraft, which need to park for periods of weeks. Denying them space is not a viable option as the tourists they bring in are vital to the economy, he said.

Rather, he asks charter flight captains to stay on board and assist in parking the aircraft as efficiently as possible – otherwise they have a tendency to leave the airport as quickly as possible and the aircraft cannot be moved as needed, he said.

The new two-story international flight building, a 350-million-baht extension of the existing terminal, should be complete by year's end, he added.

Most of PIA's income derives from collection of the 500-baht departure tax on international flights. For the first nine months of 2006, this worked out to an average of about 85 million baht a month, he said.

As for the Phuket-Haad Yai route abandoned by Phuket Air, Sq/Ldr Pornchai said he sent a letter to Aerothai offering to reduce parking fees as an incentive to any airline willing to take over the route. Nok Air initially expressed interest in the route, but has yet to announce any further developments.





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Thai stocks looking good

There is no simple and easy answer to the question "Should I invest in the Thai stock market?"

The first area necessary to review is the history of investment returns in Thailand. The broadest and most usual way of assessing stocks in Thailand is to look at the history of the Stock Exchange of Thailand Index (SET). The index most commonly used before the SET was actually the Bangkok Book Club.

The SET Index enjoyed a rapid rise during the 1980s and early 1990s until February 1994 when it peaked at over 1,700. Thereafter, it traded in a downward and sideways pattern until June 1997 when it was slightly over 1,400. July 1997 saw the start of the Asian financial crisis and the stock market crashed, not in the manner of the Dow Jones in New York or FTSE (The Footsie) in London, but a real crash.

In mid-1998 the market hit a bottom of 207; the average investor had lost a staggering 85% of their capital in a matter of months.

The market then rallied sharply, sold off, but gradually, in a volatile manner clawed its way back to a peak of more than 790 in early 2004. Since then it has hit lows around 580 and currently has risen to 738 (at the time of going to press). Thailand's stock market – best described as a trader's rather than an investor's market – is small by global standards and is noted for its wild price swings.

To give a more balanced view of the current situation, it looks attractive for those investors who are not afraid of risk. The term "risk" used by professional investors is simply a mea-



Prime Minister General Surayud Chulanont (right) and Finance Minister MR Pridiyathorn Devakula are making most of the right noises to encourage investment. – Photo EPA/Narong Sangnak

sure of volatility. The Thai stock market at present, and in technical terms, is cheap.

Often the way a stock market is valued is by the price/earnings ratios, which is the income of a company compared to its market price.

The lower the ratio, the cheaper the market. In general terms, a price/earnings ratio of 10 is cheap, 15 is reasonable value and 20 is expensive. Naturally, these ratios have to take into account what company earnings are likely to achieve. Therefore, a market with a price/earnings ratio of 10 might appear outwardly cheap, but if company profits fall the price/earnings ratio will rise and prices may also fall.

Stock markets are forward looking entities unless they are in a strong "bull" phase, where everyone expects everything to rise in value. Alternatively, if the market is in a strong "bear" phase everyone is so obsessed by gloom

and doom that they do not look at the future at all in positive terms. (When I say everyone, I exaggerate, there are always investors who see the broader picture, but they are in the minority.)

The Thai economy at the moment is in a "sweet spot" for investors contemplating the stock market. The economy is likely to grow at around 5% in terms of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2007. This is not runaway growth nor is it stagnation but somewhere in the middle. It is not the type of situation that encourages extremes and that is all to the good.

Inflation is falling and this is likely to allow the central bank, the Bank of Thailand, scope to reduce interest rates. Stock markets love falling interest rates, especially when it is accompanied by falling inflation and good economic growth. One of the main reasons for this is that consumers and companies have less to spend on debt servicing. For the latter this translates to higher profit.

Naturally, not all companies are going to be the beneficiaries of the current situation, especially companies in the export sector; a number of them will feel

the impact of the stronger baht. Good examples are car and car parts manufactures, textile firms and some agricultural products. They are already voicing their concerns. On the positive side the strength of the currency appears sustainable, foreign exchange reserves are strong.

Fundamentally, the Thai stock market is offering good value with a price earning (PE) multiple of just a little more than nine. The current government is making most of the right noises in respect of economic and market friendly statements.

The Finance Minister, MR Pridiyathorn Devakula, is a former Governor of the Bank of Thailand. Central bankers are usually an astute group of people and MR Pridiyathorn is no exception.

Foreign governments especially from the democratic First World may have criticized the coup. The foreign investment community is far more interest-

ed in what is really happening on the ground. At present they are favorably inclined toward Thailand.

Investment for the average individual in Thai stock markets is best conducted by using a fund. This can be achieved by using an offshore fund that invests in Thailand; it saves physically having to bring funds into Thailand.

The alternatives are to use domestic funds. My personal favorite is Siam Commercial Bank's SET Index Fund. This gives the investor the ability to track the investment on television as the fund gives a mirror image of the performance of the SET Index. It can be bought at any large branch of the bank or via a stockbroker as this fund is also an Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) and can be bought as one would an individual share.

One alternative is to buy an actively managed fund offered by groups such as Aberdeen Asset Management and AJF. Beware of individuals who claim they can give returns superior to those of these groups. The results of these groups and the index are a matter of public record; the touts make the figures up as they go along.

The other possibility is to buy a fund that not only encompasses Thailand but also other countries in the region. There are some substantial investment houses with impressive track records and investors are almost spoiled with so many choices.

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



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By Richard Watson

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Chess on the beach

By Noolek Karaket

PATONG: The 7th Bangkok Chess Club Open will be held at Phuket Graceland Resort & Spa from March 27 to April 1, 2007.

The international tournament, which is expected to attract about 100 chess players from Thailand and abroad, will be held with the theme "Chess on the Beach".

Group A of the tournament is open to all players, rated and unrated.

Group B is open only to players rated under 2000 and unrated players.

The ratings are based on

International Chess Federation (Fédération Internationale des Échecs, or FIDE) or Thai ELO ratings – other national ratings will be validated by the organizer.

Up to six players from the same country may enter as a team. The total score of the best five players will be used for determining the best team.

Prizes in Group A will be given to the top six players, the best two Thai players and certificates will be awarded to the best female player and the best junior player.

First prize will be approximately US\$1,000, and the team prize will be US\$500.

Entry to Group A costs 1,000 baht per player for Bangkok Chess Club (BCC) and Thailand Chess Association (TCA) members, and 2,200 baht for all non-members.

After March 10 the entry fees will be 1,200 baht per member and 2,500 baht per non-member.

Entry to Group B is 500 baht per player. After March 10 the fee will be 600 baht.

For more information visit www.bangkokchess.com

Date set for 5th QSI run

KATHU: Quality Schools International in Phuket (QSI) is holding its fifth annual Fun Run Saturday, November 25.

The 1.0- and 6.5-kilometer races will be held in the afternoon at Bang Wad Dam, with prizes, trophies and medals awarded.

The races are open to all ages and food will be provided. Proceeds will be used upgrade the school's computers.

Registration is from 2 pm to 3:15 pm, with the 1 km race starting at 3:30, followed by the 6.5 km race at 4 pm.

Entry is 100 baht for children and 150 for adults. There will also be a raffle and an auction later in the day.

For more information call Tel: 076-354077.



VERONIKA VICTORIOUS

Norwegian Veronika Lundemo, fighting out of the Chalong Chi camp, poses for the press with her Muay Thai World Champion belt after an impressive first-round knockout win over game-but-out-matched opponent Nong Ann. The fight was part of the Tuesday Night fight card at Bangla Boxing Stadium and part of Veronika's preparation for the King's Cup Tournament in Bangkok on December 5.

Fun run to raise funds for kids

KATHU: Child Watch Phuket will host its third Child Watch Phuket Marathon on November 19, starting from the Prince of Songkhla University Phuket campus.

There will be two courses. The first, an 11.9-kilometer circuit, will take runners to the Bang Wad Dam then back to PSU. It will have the following categories for males and females: open, under-15, 30-39 and 40-49. There

will also be a 50+ category for men and a 40+ category for women. The second course, a 3.5-km run for boys and girls under 12, will take runners part-way to the dam before returning.

Entry fees are 200 baht for the 11.9-km run and 100 baht for the 3.5-km run.

All proceeds will go to the Child Watch Phuket Foundation, to help children and other projects focused on helping children.

The first three on each course will receive a trophy presented by Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanimit and a medal. In each event, the first 100 runners to finish will get T-shirts and medals.

Registration begins at 5 am. The 11.9-km race will start at 6 am and the 3.5-km race at 7 am.

For more information call Child Watch Phuket at Tel: 076-276396 or Vittayasatit School in Phuket City, at Tel: 081-7195690.

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Martin Carpenter MBE
Chairman BBA-P

Alcohol ads ban may kill Johnny Walker Classic

BANGKOK (*The Nation*): Riche Monde, distributor of Johnnie Walker whiskey, has urged the government to decide within two weeks whether it can use the logo and brand to promote the upcoming Johnnie Walker Classic golf event at Blue Canyon Country Club in Thalung.

If the government bans the use of the logo and brand, as well as prohibits the company from using the brand in the name of the tournament, the alcohol company is ready to move the event to either South Korea or South Africa, Riche Monde President Vorathep Rangchaikul said yesterday.

The Johnnie Walker Classic has been thrown into jeopardy by government legislation banning alcohol advertising and sponsorship. The ban is set to take effect December 3.

At least two countries – South Korea and South Africa – have shown an interest in taking the tournament from Thailand, said Vorathep.

The tournament's organizing committee has given the liquor trader two weeks to decide.

Riche Monde was set to hold the tournament in March, with many of the world's top 50 players expected to take part. Golf stars including Ernie Els and Adam Scott have already agreed to play in the tournament.

Vorathep estimated that the tournament would generate employment and at least 1 billion baht in profit for Phuket. Johnnie Walker had also committed to promoting Thailand as a golf and spa paradise during the coverage. The event would be televised live to 300 million households in 62 countries.

Riche Monde asked the Prime Minister's Office, the Min-

istry of Public Health and the Ministry of Tourism and Sports for permission to keep the name Johnnie Walker in the tournament title and place billboard advertising around the course. The government is yet to respond.

If the request is not granted, the company might shift the tournament to another country, Vorathep said.

The company has sponsored the Classic for more than 15 years and has already invested more than 100 million baht in next year's tournament, including the attendance fee for several players. "We have already confirmed the location, the Blue Canyon course in Phuket, so if that changes the golfers could refuse to attend, claiming we had broken the contract," Vorathep said.

Free lessons in sport offered

SAPHAN HIN: The Phuket City Youth Center is offering free lessons in Muay Thai boxing, judo and pétanque. The classes are open to children and adults, Thais and foreigners. Thai-English translators are available.

The lessons, at the Saphan Hin Sports Complex, run between 5:30 pm and 7:30 pm, Monday to Friday.

The pétanque classes are divided into three levels according to skill and are for players from age six upward.

Muay Thai and judo classes are reserved for those 10 years and older. Judo students must provide their own uniform.

For more information, contact the center at Tel: 076-250163, 076-216866, or visit the website at www.youthcentre.th.edu



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PATONG DARTS LEAGUE



SHARPSHOOTERS: Celebrating their second consecutive win in the Patong Darts League were the boys from Didi's, who hosted the award party at their bar on Soi Sansabai on November 7. From left: Pom, Rene, Mike 3, Simon, Mike 2, Bao and Chris. The new season of the Patong Darts League began on November 14.

The matches for the second week of play, held on November 21, will be: Piccadilly v Dog's Bollocks; Queen Mary v Jambo; Shakers v Offshore Bar; Valhalla v Didi's; Funky Monkey v Coyote (home teams listed first).

Construction Update

by Janyaporn Morel

Plan Estate Co Ltd is preparing to break ground on Phase II of its Baan Suan Loch Palm luxury-villa development at Loch Palm Golf Club.

Phase I comprises 48 two-story houses near the golf course, with prices from 9 to 12 million baht. About 30% of those residences have been sold so far. Phase II will focus on the luxury market and will have villas ranging in price from 26 to 32 million baht.

Panumas Chayentara, Assistant Project Director of Plan Estate Co Ltd, told the *Gazette* that since the market for Phase II is different from the market targeted in Phase I, they will continue the construction as planned despite not selling all of the phase one houses.

A show house, which has been under construction since January, has been completed, he said.

"Phase II will have Zones B and C [of the development], which are set as part of the golf course. We will have five villas in Zone B and seven in Zone C," he said. "The concept for Zones B and C is to build luxury houses on big land plots, which start from 1,371 square meters in Zone B and from 1,012sqm in Zone C. These will be low-density, luxurious lifestyle houses."

The villas are designed in a blend of oriental and tropical styles, with an emphasis on the openness of nature and the homes will have wide views of the fairway.

"We will build only single-story houses along the golf course so that they will not contrast too much with the golf course landscape," he said. "Zone B is located close to hole 14, which is our signature hole and the best view on the course."

Each Phase II villa will have a total living space of 618sqm, di-



The view already exists (below); now Plan Estate is ready to break ground on villas such as the one, above, from the architect's computer.

vided into three areas. The first area will comprise three car ports, a maid's room and kitchen. The second area will be the living room, which will open on to the pool area. The third will be the bedroom, with en-suite bathroom, walk-in closet and separate air conditioner.

The villas' design allows for the areas to be "rotated" to best suit each villa's location and surrounding landscape.

"We have a kitchen budget of 350,000 baht for each house, and customers can choose their furnishings from the range available at the Absolute shop.

"We also offer a free lifetime membership to the golf club, which costs 350,000 baht. If the owner doesn't want the membership, he or she choose to have a voucher for the same amount to



spend at Central Festival," he said.

"We are targeting foreign owners and since we sold 14 units in Zone A within eight months, we think the market is very good," he said.

"We also have a security service and we provide services such as pool cleaning for the residents. We also help owners with many miscellaneous things, such

as buying plane tickets, which restaurants to visit or just with general advice.

"Our service office will be completed by the end of the year because we think that service is very important, and can differentiate us from other projects," he said.

K. Panumas said that the company has plans to develop about 30 projects in the future.

In addition to the 700 rai that Loch Palm Golf Club is set on, there is still about 2,000 rai of land to develop for another golf course and more residential developments, he explained.

"Our company's vision is to be one of the three best development companies in Phuket, and I think we can achieve that because we have many plots of land reserved. Other than Loch Palm, we have another golf course being developed through company investments," he said.

Houses at Baan Suan Loch Palm are designed by Plan Estate Co Ltd and the construction contractor is Phuket Rachakorn Construction company.

For more information contact Baan Suan Loch Palm, 32/1 Moo 2 Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket. Tel. 076-202792, 076-202794. Fax. 076-202 863. Email: plan-phuket@planestate.co.th. Website: www.baansuanlochpalm.com.

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RAWANA

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All photos taken from the location

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Design

by Natcha Yuttaworawit

Floating an idea



The versatile water hyacinth can be used to make beds, seating, lamps, tables – and more.

It's my day off, so I take the opportunity to walk to Central Festival. On the way in, I pass a furniture showroom and see a charming sofa made from water hyacinth.

Lounging on the sofa, I relax for a moment and think of the classic Thai look such furniture adds to a home.

I remember from school that water hyacinth is a fast growing aquatic plant; its flower is light violet and looks like an orchid.

It was first brought from Indonesia to Thailand during the reign of King Rama V. Clippings from the plants ended up in Bangkok's canals and it flourished there so well that it became a problem – that is until other uses were found for it. Dried, the water hyacinth stem is used to make baskets, handbags, hats, shoes and many other handcrafted items.

The sofa is part of a range made by Performax, Thailand's biggest exporter of water hyacinth furniture. Its designs revolve around style, comfort and standard production. Founded in Bangkok in 1955, Performax opened its Phuket branch six months ago to meet increasing demand.

Kitti Khantiphan, Managing Director of Performax, says, "The most common questions asked by customers are about

mold and weevils. These only occur from poor production, such as the stems not being oven dried; or unsuitable use, such as putting the furniture outdoors."

As water hyacinth is made from a dried natural material, it is best suited for interior use, not as outdoor furniture.

"For use and storage, the area must be dry, well ventilated, clean and free of excessive condensation – conditions where mold can grow," K. Kitti explains.

Furniture crafted from water hyacinth is best kept by regular dusting with a soft cloth or brush, he added.

It can be cleaned with a vacuum cleaner with an appro-

priate soft-brush fitting. "Any excessive dirt or stains can be removed by wiping with a damp cloth soaked in mild soapy water. Do not use any other cleaning agent or solvent-based solution," says K. Kitti.

"After cleaning, the furniture must be thoroughly dried, preferably in sunlight or with a hair drier. As a precaution against the formation of any mildew, the furniture should be dried under sunlight twice a year," he adds.

Performax (Phuket). Open daily 11 am to 10 pm. 1st floor, Central Festival Phuket. Tel: 076-209147-8. Website: www.vr.co.th Free delivery within Phuket.

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Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

The mark of cane, but able

Some readers may be aware – have I mentioned it before? – that my school days were spent in Yorkshire, England, in the dim and distant days of the 1970s.

To be honest, I was a bit of a tearaway at school, my tearing away mainly revolving around the furtive inhalation of tobacco smoke with my equally rebellious mates.

I didn't exactly walk down the corridors with lit cigarette in hand, but perhaps I might have done had it not been for one very effective deterrent – the cane. It was a standard three strokes on each hand for smoking in school.

The deterrent worked – somehow I never actually got caned. But the ever-present threat of the cane was always lurking in the back of my mind.

Parenting skills have come a long way in the last century, supposedly. Things are far more "civilized" now, as innocent children are no longer allowed to be brutalized by authority figures with sticks.

So how come the offspring of the parents whose misdemeanors were dealt with by physical means are now running riot? Is this coincidence? Perhaps not.

The more modern approach, according to one school guidebook, is to "increase parental involvement, suggest one-on-one counseling and talking to students about why they behaved in the manner in which they did and what they think should be done in order to correct that behavior".

What complete nonsense. These kids walk out of their little meeting sniggering, having said all the right things in terms of "acknowledging their inappropriate

behavior" and carry on as they did before. I can't say I blame them – it's exactly what I would do if I were a teenager today.

In all those years of avoiding corporal punishment, I never actually thought where the implement itself actually came from. Canes of all varieties come from the bamboo tree.

Apart from producing instruments to inflict physical pain on pre-1990s British boys, the bamboo has an incredible number of uses. No gardener would be able to survive without a supply of bamboo canes to support young saplings, and how else would a panda survive? I'm no David Attenborough, but isn't bamboo all they eat?

And how else would the outside of large Phuket buildings get repainted without those huge bamboo poles that are literally tied together? Bamboo, compared with its relatively low weight, has to be one of the strongest woods in existence.

Bamboo exists in hundreds of varieties. There are a few genera (a technical name for a large family), but ultimately, they are all officially types of grass. Some have green and yellow stripes, but most are green or golden colored. There's even a low-growing variety called Buddha's Belly, with swollen parts between the sections that resemble – unsurprisingly – a generous Buddha's midriff.

Some of Thailand's common bamboo varieties tend to be huge, so in an average-sized garden, the big ones are probably not a good idea. Even in a large garden they can be a bit of a pain as they continually drop leaves. Being near these is like living autumn every day. But if you have a gar-



Now that's some big grass: Bamboo comes in many sizes and colors.

den that big you'd probably pay somebody to pick up the leaves anyway.

The taller members of the bamboo family can reach heights of up to 35 meters, but there are a few smaller types that are a little more sensible.

These are more dainty, and while they have the same hollow woody stems, they're much less likely to try to take over the garden. There's even a miniature type you can grow in a pot and perch on a windowsill.

Watering is more important for potted bamboo as it doesn't like to dry out, but nor does it like to be soggy. You also need to be careful of the types of bamboo that don't adapt well to hot sun.

If in doubt about its sun tolerance, think back to where it was in the garden center when you bought it. They'll have got it right.

When planting very tall and slender bamboo plants, they may need to be staked initially – in fact "guyed" is probably a better term. This will prevent wind from uprooting them or damaging newly-formed roots. Tall bamboo plants are best guyed with a rope tied about half way up, to short stakes on three or four sides of the plant.

Newly planted bamboo needs frequent and liberal watering, probably daily in the Phuket climate initially. Once it has reached the desired size, it can survive with much less irrigation,

but until then you need to be generous. Lack of sufficient water, especially during hot or windy weather, is the leading cause of failure or poor growth in new bamboo.

Don't go mad though, as watering newly planted bamboo for longer than a few minutes can cause excess leaf drop. Well-established bamboo is tolerant of flooding, but newly planted specimens can suffer from too much as well as too little water.

All it basically needs is a bit of shade, reasonably rich soil, and plenty of humidity. So as long as you don't plant it in sand with no respite from the sun, it will be content.

You may be unaware of this, but the bamboo does intermittently produce flowers. These are nothing special, being rather insignificant and half-hidden among the foliage. They're probably produced out of boredom – how interesting can it be being a bamboo?

There's even a species of bamboo that flowers once every 48 years – in India's Mizoram state. The wild bamboo unique to the region blooms in unison and after fruiting the plants all die. Weird.

The bamboo that I grew up living in fear of is much less mysterious – it did the job very effectively. But now that political correctness has firmly taken hold of British education, the traditional cane is not required. Maybe somebody can come up with an alternative "behavior modification device" that doesn't involve quiet little chats. Or perhaps not. Thwack.

Want to know more about a plant in your garden?

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Home of the Week

Kathu

Seventh Heaven

This four-bedroom detached house sits overlooking the seventh green of Phuket Country Club golf course in Kathu. Construction of the house, which has been built with solid double-brick wall construction, has been thoroughly thought through.

Outside in the landscaped gardens is a private swimming pool surrounded by a covered terraced area for outdoor dining or entertaining.

The Western kitchen is designed in a U-shape, overlooks the pool and course. It is fitted with a gas stove top and oven, an extractor hood and microwave oven. The floors have been finished with quality tiling.

The spacious open-plan lounge and dining room opens, through sliding doors, onto the backyard and pool area.

The house has air-conditioning units and fans throughout, but with the cavity walls, the house should remain naturally cool.

In all, there are four bedrooms – two containing en-suite bathrooms. Another two bathrooms complete the package. There are three balconies, with the one on the roof of the house having the most impressive view.

Utilities such as UBC TV, telephone lines, mains and tank water with water heating and three-phase electricity are also included.

The owners are asking 18 million baht. The property comes with a Chanote title and is available on freehold or leasehold terms.

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.

Would you like
to see your house
in Home of the Week?

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The home fronts onto the 7th-hole fairway at Phuket Country Club and comes with a large private swimming pool (left) and modern fittings throughout, including the Western kitchen (above).



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Property Gazette

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House for sale - Rawai
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Condominium for sale - Kata
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Property Gazette

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House with pool for sale in Rawai. Brand new, ready to move in, outdoor bathroom, elegantly furnished, 2 bedrooms in 600 sqm. Asking 8.5 million baht. Call PPH. Tel: 086-9060166. Email: info@phuketpropertyhunter.com

BEACHFRONT

for sale. 58 rai at Khao Lak, close to 5-star resort. Chanote. 180m beachfront. Urgent sale at only 2.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 089-7298365.

BEACHFRONT LAND

For sale: 1,125 sq wah 30 x 130m with NorSor 3 Gor, Sukorn island Trang. Price: 1.6 million baht. Tel: 084-8516845. Email: odo_jp@hotmail.com

4 BEDROOM HOUSE

Western style. Situated in a quiet and leafy cul de sac, 1 km from Chalong circle. All bedrooms (2 ensuite) with aircon. Downstairs office with aircon. 4 toilet/shower rooms. Spacious lounge/dining area and kitchen. 4 years old, superb build quality, stylish design. 12m pool, situated in large, easily-managed garden. We love this house but are relocating to Europe. We will especially miss watching the sunset from the large balcony. Amazing value at 15.9 million baht. Tel: 086-9447721.

KATHU POOL HOUSE

Newly-built, Thai-contemporary house with pool & Western kitchen. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Tel: 084-059-5577. Email: maews44@hotmail.com

NEW VILLAS, RAWAI

For sale: 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 200 sqm living on 400 sqm land. Prices from 4.7 million baht. Tel: 081-8467770. Email: stefan.krebs@bdp-thai.com Full details and many pictures on our website: www.skvillas.tk

SEA VIEW, KATA

Modern villa, includes pool villa. 220sqm, top design. Includes furniture. On most beautiful 400sqm land. Asking only 10.5 million. Be fast, save money & time. Tel: 089-652-5664.

SMALL PLOT RAWAI

680sqm, road, electric. Chanote title. 2.1 million baht. Quiet area. Tel: 081-537-6866.

HOUSE FOR SALE



Chalong, 800sqm land, 400sqm living space, pool, absolute privacy, must see. 15.9 million baht. Tel: 087-8896074.

HOUSE WITH POOL

Rawai. New 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom house with pool in Rawai. 5.5 million baht. Tel: 076-388-685, 086-595-1499. Fax: 076-388684. Email: info@andamanthaiproperty.com Please visit at: www.andamanthaiproperty.com/atp_property_395.htm

HOUSE FOR SALE

End house in Kathu. 2 bedrooms with ensuite + 1 bathroom, lounge, dining room, kitchen + contents. 1.6 million baht. Tel: 087-2705514.



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 1 866 7676 or email: ann@mms.ais.co.th

Property Gazette

KATHU, NEW HOUSE FOR SALE

Convenient for international school, located between two golf courses, on the Phuket City side of the hill from Patong. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, large living room, large internal veranda, kitchen/diner, laundry room, private cul de sac. Part of small development. Price: 4.5 m baht. Contact Tel: 084-8439579. Fax: 076-323421. Email: somlerdee@yahoo.com

THAI VILLA FOR SALE



Thai villa, 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 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

PATONG SEA VIEW BEST PLACE

A tall and beautiful house with private pool and great sea view. 70 meters above and 100 meters away from the sea. In the best neighborhood in Patong; no better, the best on Phuket. Baan Suan Kamnan a quiet, green residential area on a hill. Just outside Patong. Enjoy the benefits of being close to the action but leave the noise behind. 5-bedroom, 4-bathroom house on Chanote land with many extras and optional 2 separate apartments next door. (Buy house or company) Tel: 086-7866350. Email: buurmanb@hotmail.com Please see our website: www.patongbluepoint.com

Properties For Rent

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

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

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

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

NICE HOUSE

In Land & Houses Park. 2 stories, 3 bedrooms. Fully furnished, aircon, cable TV, kitchen, telephone line, washing machine. Tel: 087-174-5511.

GREAT SEA VIEW

Chalong top spot, soft slope, near beach. 4.5 million baht. Tel: 087-8938747.

FREEHOLD CONDO

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

HOUSE FOR SALE

Chalong 2-story house fully furnished. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, maid room, kitchen and living room. Nice garden 2 car park. 95 sqm. 4.9 million baht. Tel: 081-0790688.

FOR SALE: 7.5 MILLION BAHT

140sqm townhouse in Boat Lagoon Marine Residence. Water view, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, maid/utility room. Fully furnished, washer & tumble drier. Very good condition. Free use of gym and 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.

KATA TOP SEA VIEW

Top sea view land plus modern apartments. 200sqm. Great value for top spot only 12 million baht. Be quick, only 3 left. Tel: 087-8938747.

ELEGANT HOME

Very private. Big pool & garden. Tastefully furnished. Beach nearby. Tel: 076-388-236, 089-7275407. For further details, please see our website at: www.villa-sale-phuket.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

2 floors, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, one big storeroom and a large garden on the 80 square wah (320sqm) landscape. It's on Saiyuan road, 10 minutes to Nai Harn and Rawai Beach. Direct sale for 6.5 million baht net including 2 aircons and some built-in furniture. Tel: 084-9916654.

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

LAND FOR SALE

Naka island 10 rai, 3.5 million baht a rai, sea view, agents welcome. Please contact via email: resortinvestment@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE



Absolute quiet in Chalong. Land size 1,000sqm, living area 240sqm, 3 bedrooms, 8m x 4m pool. Viewing highly recommended, 12 million baht. Please contact for more details. Tel: 081-2722013. Email: info@sea-property-international.com

RAWAI HOUSE

Includes pool. 7.5 million baht. 220sqm. Balinese style, stunning materials and layout. Best house, best price. Please call for more details. Tel: 087-8938747.

PERFECT LAND

To build & develop in Rawai. Electric, 200m from main road, Chanote title. 4.5 million baht, come & look. Please call for more information. Tel: 086-2670898.

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.

PATONG APT

300m to beach, clean, modern, comfortable apartment. New aircon, big fridge, double bed, pool & parking. Tel: 081-0825707. Please see our website at: www.phuket-accommodation.info

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.

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

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

MARINA BOAT

Lagoon. Office for rent + meeting room. For more info please email to: scphuket@yahoo.com

LAGUNA AREA

house. Pool, spa, poolside bar, aircon, large garden, like resort. Lease 39,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-5944067.

COMMERCIAL SPACE

Great location next to hotels/restaurants. 100m from Twin Palms. 100sqm, high ceilings, 3 aircons. Modern design. For rent. Tel: 085-8882022. Email: slees@slees.com

STUNNING SEA VIEW



Large house on Cape Yamu. 3 bedrooms, 3 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.

PATONG TOWER

The best location, best sea view from one bedroom, 16th floor new corner unit, available to rent 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 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.

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.

SEA VIEW APT

Patong. Luxury 2-bedroom apartment, en-suite, ADSL, UBC, aircon, large swimming pool, Long- or short-term rent. Secure parking. Please contact for more details. Tel: 086-2790837.

Agents for Classified Advertising

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Fax: 076-280403

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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, Cherno Talay

Tel/Fax: 076-324312

Deli Supermarket

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Property Gazette

KAMALA VILLA,

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PATONG APT

Seaview apartment with kitchen and cable TV. 10 minute walk to beach. 600 baht per day, 12,000 baht per month. Call Alan. Tel: 087-263-5735. Email: capnard@excite.com

SURIN RENTAL

2-bedroom apartment. Fully furnished, teak floors, pool, UBC. Near beach. Tel: 081-2731740. Email: harry@ladypie.com

AO CHALONG

Rental. 2-bedroom Western-style home. Furnished, full kitchen, big yard, nice garden. Available now until Feb. 38,000 baht a month includes all utilities perfect for short holiday in high season. Tel: 081-6930173. Email: jaksat@phuket.ksc.co.th

CHALONG NEW HOME

Exciting Western-standard, 3-bedroom home for rent. Separate office and staff accommodation, aircon, telephone, UBC etc. Tel: 076-280466, 089-6521473.

HOUSE FOR RENT

Kata. 2 bedrooms, swimming pool, Jacuzzi, fully furnished, 5 mins to Kata beach. Tel: 081-8913972, 076-284257.

PHUKET B.L. APARTMENT

New in Kathu. Big room, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, garden, car park. 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-6923163.

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.

SHOPHOUSE

Near super cheap. 4 stories (5m x 16m) with 5 rooms, 7 aircons, 5 phone lines. Rent: 30,000 baht a month. Tel: 076-238777, 081-7371678. Fax: 076-239739. Email: supotpac@phuket.ksc.co.th

HOUSE TO RENT

Amazing 4-bedroom house for rent December and January. Area: Chalong/Rawai. Lay out: large 4-bedroom 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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List your rental property in Phuket's rental property marketplace: Phuket Rental Listings. 24/7 self-service web interface for creating and maintaining your listings, and managing your property. 100% free - no fees, no commissions. Email: admin@phuketrentallistings.com For more information on creating your listings, (or to search for available rental properties) visit: www.PhuketRentalListings.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.

CONFIRM!

Beachfront land for rent next to the Laguna Hotel. Tel: 081-5375844.

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

STUNNING SEA VIEW

Large house in 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 BCIS, 1 min to the sea. 80,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-2796283.

SHOPHOUSE

For rent. 2½ stories, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, near Kunenti Chalong Bay. Tel: 089-4736886.

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_Beach/Surin%20House%20-%20Details.doc

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.

VILLA IN NAI HARN

Brand-new, furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. 15,000 baht a month long term. Tel: 076-288047, 081-8941660. Email: cottrell@loxinfo.co.th

DISCOVERY GARDENS

Near Laguna. 2-bedroom, newly-built, fully-furnished houses with large communal pool. Tel: 076-271544, 089-1956722. Email: info@phuketmarbella.com

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.

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

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

PATONG SEA VIEW

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

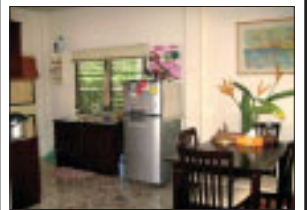
3-BEDROOM HOME

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. Please contact for more details. 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: 081-539-9269.

BEDSIT, CHALONG

Furnished large bedsit with kitchen and bathroom. Farang comfort in local area. Please contact for more information. 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 or residential use. 140sqm, 2 floors. Price: 250 baht per sqm a month. Please call for more info. Tel: 087-8817600.

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Tel: 081-8166940.

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| 2. Sous Chef
- รองท็อปครัวใหญ่ | 7. Restaurant Supervisors
- ซุปเปอร์ไวเซอร์ห้องอาหาร |
| 3. Chef de Partie
- เชฟ เดอ ปาร์ตี | 8. Waitresses
- พนักงานเสิร์ฟ |
| 4. Commis Chefs
- ผู้ช่วยก๊อ๊ก หลายตำแหน่ง | 9. Bar Manager
- ผู้จัดการบาร์ |
| 5. Bartenders
- บาร์เทนเดอร์ | |

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- สมุห์บัญชี | 1. Office Assistants
- อธิการ |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|

For office positions, hotel experience is an advantage and written and spoken English essential. Top salaries and benefits package for all positions. Email resume with photo and expected salary to patcharanan@eclipse.co.th or mail to: Eclipse Management Ltd, Suite 8E, Kamol Sukosol Building, 317 Silom Road, Bangkok 10500

ทุกตำแหน่งหากมีประสบการณ์ทางด้านการโรงแรม, ทูตและเขียนภาษาอังกฤษได้เป็นอย่างดี
จะพิจารณาเป็นพิเศษ สนใจส่งประวัติพร้อมรูปถ่ายมาที่ patcharanan@eclipse.co.th
หรือต่อเอกสารทางไปรษณีย์ไปที่ บริษัท อีคลิพส์ แมนเนจเม้นท์ จำกัด เลขที่ 317
อาคารกมลสุโขต สด ชั้น 8 ห้อง 8 อี ก. ซอยมวงสี่ลม เขตบางรัก กรุงเทพฯ 10500



The Chandara Resort and Spa, here on the northern tip of Por Bay, with privacy overlooking sparkling seas, is looking for suitable candidates for the following positions:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| • Sales Manager | 1 position |
| • Sales Executive | 2 positions |
| • Executive Secretary | 1 position |
| • Spa Manager | 1 position |

Qualifications:

- Thai nationality, female, age 25 and above
- Bachelors Degree
- At least 4 years experience in hotel business
- Good command of written and spoken English.

Contact:

Please send your recent photo, resume, reference & expected salary to :

Human Resources Department
Chandara Resort and Spa
99/1 Moo 6, Pa Khlok, Thalung, Phuket 83110
Tel: 0-7631-7847 Fax : 0-7631-7852
E-mail : admin@chandara-resort.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: 085-7840608. Email: derek@omalleyphuket.com

FEMALE UK TV PRESENTER

We require a young, attractive and articulate British female to present a small dialogue for a UK recruitment firm. Very well paid for a morning's work. Please email with photo for more information. Email: lan@evocation.net



Radi Medical Systems conducts applied research as well as develops, manufactures, markets and sells its own innovative technical medical products and services within the field of interventional cardiology

Radi was founded in 1988 and has grown successfully through the years. Average number of employees in 2005 was 300 worldwide. A major part of these are located in our Head Quarter in Uppsala, Sweden. Net sales 2005 were more than 2,000 M Baht. In 2003, a new subsidiary was started in Phuket, Thailand, and Phase 1 of manufacturing plant for our products was finished in 2005. The plant comprises Radi Medical's regional head office for sales and marketing in South-East Asia. Our operations in Phuket, Thailand, as well as in Asia in general are growing rapidly. Scope of operations as well as volumes of production is increasing continuously.

We are looking for "HR OFFICER" or "ASSISTANT HR MANAGER" based in Phuket to take care of the HR management. Our employees are our most important resource and the company policy globally is to take good care of our employees. Radi Medical Systems is also aiming high in the area of business ethics, living up to legal demands and also fulfilling regulatory requirements. As HR Officer, you will be responsible for labour legislation, medical insurance, recruitment, personal files related to quality system, development of personnel policy, salary system, and routine cares related to personnel, etc.

Required profile:

- * Thai male/female with bachelor degree in related field
- * 2-3 years experience as HR Officer or Personnel Officer
- * Strong computer knowledge and skills
- * Good knowledge about Thai labour laws and regulations
- * Good command of English
- * Pleasant personality & attitude, enthusiastic and honest

Interested applicants are invited to submit your CV with photo, letter of reference(s) with salary expectation to sue.prapapan@radi.se by 15th December, 2006. For more information call Sue at 081-8938265 or visit our website www.radi.se



Digital Media Technology Co., Ltd

Media Operator Managers 2 positions (25,000+)

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Work closely with media supervisors to ensure product's timely delivery
- Communication with overseas clients via email
- Training and developing people skills in various functions

REQUIREMENTS:

- Thai female/male aged 30-40 years
- Bachelors degree or higher in computer-related working experience
- Ability to work in a team, good communication skills and interpersonal relations
- Willing to work overtime and shifts
- Excellent command of spoken and written English

Interested candidates are requested to submit their applications together with resume, expected salary and recent photograph or apply in person to the address shown below.

9/17 Tepkasatree Road, Muang Mai Building,
2nd Floor Phuket, Thailand 83000
Tel : + 66 76 219310, 356167 Fax : + 66 76 219309
E-mail: hr@digital-media-tech.com www.digital-media-tech.com

BOOKKEEPER NEEDED A/R

An established Patong company with a mixed business portfolio is seeking a bookkeeper. You will be responsible for the recording and tracking of all income and expenditure and answerable to the FD. Our businesses include hotels, F & Boutlets, a leisure center with a pool and gym, a dance club and a live entertainment venue. We are a happy company and you must be able to work as part of a team. Excellent salary and benefits package available. Tel: 084-6275728. Email: info@yorkshireinn.com

SUPERSTAR CHEF REQUIRED

A fantastic opportunity for a chef who has the flair, imagination and skills to present excellent cuisine to our patrons. A happy, thriving company is looking for the right person to design and implement a first-class menu in a stunning environment. You will have a fabulous kitchen to work from and the support of a talented management team, leaving you free to be your best. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-6275728. Email: info@yorkshireinn.com

THAI BOOKKEEPER

Need bookkeeper for construction project. Must have accounting experience and be dependable. Tel: 076-293184, 087-0778454. Email: solitude001@aol.com

OFFICE ADMIN

Administrator needed at our Kata beach office. Native English or excellent English, age not important. Suit retired person. Tel: 084-0639223, 081-7888280.

BLUE FROG WAITRESS

Looking for qualified, cook & experienced waitress. English speaking. Please call Pavel. Tel: 086-2832279.

HOSTESS/COOK

Hostess-cook wanted. For sailing boat experience required. Please call for more info. Tel: 081-9701260.

DENTAL TECHS

Need dental techs in ceramic. Tel: 65-64847495. Email: hnnchang@gmail.com

Looking for a job?
Still haven't found the perfect candidate?
Find more Recruitment Classifieds at www.phuketgazette.net!

Island Job Mart

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 Excutive	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

INTERLAW OFFICIAL

สำนักงานกฎหมายระหว่างประเทศ

International Law Office is recruiting Accountant and Receptionist

Accountant 1 Position

- Thai National
- Comfortable speaking basic English
- Experienced with QuickBook
- Good command of computer and Internet skills
- Previous experience an advantage

Receptionist 1 Position

- Thai National
- Comfortable speaking basic English
- Experienced in dealing with non-Thais
- Computer skills
- Previous experience an advantage

Tel: 076-222191-5
Email: interlaw@loxinfo.co.th

SABANA

Sabana Resort, ideally located on Nai Harn Beach, is seeking young and dynamic individuals for the following positions:

1. Executive Secretary
2. Executive Housekeeper
3. Guest service agent
4. Waiter / Waitress
5. Therapist

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT:
HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
TEL: 076 289333 Email: hrm@sabana-resort.com

Limestone Adventures

Managing Director

Limestone Adventures is Phuket's leading motor yacht charter and tour operator. The company has a strong position in day charters, and is launching market leading daily departure excursion cruises targeting customers of 5-star hotels and premium tour operators and ground handlers.

- Open to both Thai nationalities and expatriates
- Previous experience of profit & loss responsibility required
- Tourism marketing experience preferred
- Marine experience a bonus
- Strong references required
- Attractive compensation offered

Interested parties should email their CV to
jobs@limestoneadventures.com www.limestoneadventures.com

PARADISE DESIGNS

Paradise Group is the Developer • Property Management • Architecture Interior Design • Entertainment company located at The Plaza Surin

Paradise Designs is an Architectural Design Consultancy based in Phuket. To cope with our expanding projects, we are looking for bright & dynamic candidates to fill the following position.

Position	Administration management (1 position)
Working Place	Phuket
Salary	Negotiation

Qualifications

- Bachelors degree in Administration or any related field
- Thai National female/male 25 years or above
- Min 3 years' experience in Architectural Administration Management
- Positive attitude, self-motivated, proactive interpersonal & communication skills
- Excellent in both written & spoken English
- Able to work in Phuket

Interested persons please send CV with expected salary to Chaiyan Saehang, email: pam@paradisephuket.com

Paradise Group
5/50 The Plaza Surin Building, Moo 3, Cherngtalay, Talang, Phuket, 83110
Tel: 076-271-241 Fax: 076-271-242

WORK CS @HOLYCLOTHING.COM!!

Customer service agents needed for expanding Internet fashion retailer. Are you CS experienced, hard working, team player, computer savvy with fluent English? Superior salary + bonus. Thai or foreigner. Tel: 085-7899249. Email: gstephenkay@yahoo.com Please see our website: www.holyclothing.com

NEED WEB/PHP/XML PROGRAMMER

Expanding Internet fashion retailer, based in Phuket. Minimum 5 years general programming experience. Minimum 1 year of: Web, Java, PHP, XML, MySQL programming experience. fluent English. Superior salary. Tel: 085-7899249. Email: gstephenkay@yahoo.com Please see our website at: www.holyclothing.com/progjob.html

Campbell Kane (Thailand) Ltd. is the developer of Cape Yamu, The Yamu Hotel and The Bay project. Cape Yamu and The Bay are two exclusive luxury residential property developments on Phuket's East Coast.

We are looking for competent, enthusiastic and highly qualified individuals for the following vacancies to join our growing business:

Accounting: many positions

Construction experience required in all positions. Candidates with good English communication preferred.

Please send your CV to:
Human Resources Department
28/7 Moo 2, Thepkasattri Rd.,
Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83000
Email: annie@campbellkane.com
Tel: 076-204008 - 9, Fax 076-239837
www.capeyamu.com

RECEPTIONIST

Guesthouse needs receptionist. English required. Salary: 6,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-340677. Fax: 076-340584. Email: seafonthome@yahoo.com

SECRETARY

/receptionist wanted. Single female, good English, friendly, computer skills, responsible. To work with foreign manager. Tel: 076-344350. Email: robor@kalimresidence.com

FILIPINAS WORK CS IN PHUKET

Filipina/Filipino Customer Service Agents needed for expanding Internet fashion retailer. 1 year minimum CS experience. Are you hard working, team player, computer savvy with fluent English? Superior salary + bonus. Tel: 085-7899249. Email: gstephenkay@yahoo.com Please see our website: www.holyclothing.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.

SALES DIRECTOR/SALES STAFF

Required: excellent English, experience in real estate a must. We want only the best. Excellent pay plan + benefits. Phuket based. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-1068593.

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

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. Please contact for more information. Fax: 076-270662. Email: info@avcphuket.com

LAW FIRM

Looking for secretary and lawyer.
Please email CV to
scphuket@yahoo.com

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

CS SUPERVISOR @ HOLYCLOTHING

Customer service supervisor needed for expanding Internet fashion retailer. Min 3 years CS supervisory experience. Hard working, team player, computer savvy with fluent English. Superior salary + bonus + work permit. Thai or foreigner. Tel: 085-7899249. Email: gstephenkay@yahoo.com Please see our website: www.holyclothing.com

RESTAURANT MANAGER & CHEF

Sunset Beach Resort is looking for a restaurant manager & European chef. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-342482-5. Fax: 342500. Please send CV to: info@sunsetphuket.com

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.

NIGHTCLUB

manager. Established nightclub in Phuket City is looking for a manager. The successful applicant will be male, a Thai national and fluent in English. Previous experience is essential. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-7520275. Email: comfortablynumb_18@hotmail.com

Island Job Mart



1. Front Office Department

- Night Manager 1 position
- Guest Service Agent Supervisor 2 positions
- Guest Service Agent (Night) 1 position
- Operator 3 positions
- Concierge 1 position
- Driver 1 position
- Assistant Front Office Manager 2 positions
- Guest Service Agent 8 positions
- Reservation Officer 1 position
- Airport Representative 1 position
- Bell Man 1 position

2. Housekeeping Department

- Assistant Housekeeper 1 position
- Floor Supervisor 2 positions
- House Man 3 positions
- Public Area Attendant 1 position
- Gardener Supervisor 1 position
- Housekeeping Clerk 2 positions
- Room Attendant 10 positions
- Public Area Supervisor 2 positions
- Florist Supervisor 1 position
- Gardener 10 positions

3. Food & Beverage Department

- Assistant F&B Manager 1 position
- Restaurant Manager 2 positions
- Bar Captain 2 positions
- Hostess 3 positions
- F&B Secretary 1 position
- Restaurant Supervisor 2 positions
- Bartender/Bartendy 10 positions
- Waiter/Waitress 15 positions

4. Accounting Department

- Secretary to Financial Controller 1 position
- Income Auditor/Account Receivable 1 position
- F&B Cost Controller 1 position
- Storekeeper 1 position
- General Cashier/Pay Master 1 position
- Account Payment 1 position
- Cost Officer 1 position
- Receiving 1 position

5. Human Resources Department

- Training Manager 1 position
- Personnel Officer 1 position
- Timekeeper 1 position
- Dormitory Agent 1 position
- Training Officer 1 position
- Personnel Clerk 1 position
- Driver 1 position

6. Engineering Department

- Assistant Chief Engineer 1 position
- Engineering Store Clerk 1 position
- Sound Technician 1 position
- Painter 1 position
- Engineering Supervisor 2 positions
- Electrical Technician 4 positions
- Carpenter 1 position

7. Main Kitchen Department

- Executive Sous Chef 1 position
- Chef De Partie 4 positions
- Commis I 4 positions
- Commis II 10 positions
- Steward Supervisor 1 position
- Steward 10 positions
- Pastry Chef 1 position
- Demi Chef 4 positions
- Commis II 10 positions
- Butcher 2 positions
- Senior Steward 1 position

8. Spa Department

- Assistant Spa Manager 1 position
- Spa Receptionist 2 positions
- Spa Therapist 10 positions
- Spa Attendant 1 position
- Spa Receptionist Supervisor 1 position
- Treatment Supervisor 1 position
- Beautician 3 positions

The position has the following benefits: food, staff uniform, social security, accommodation allowance, life insurance and services allowance.

Please contact 83/1 Patak Road, Soi 5 Tumbon Karon Muang Phuket

Tel: 076-284702

Email: walaiporn_p@phuketnalina.com
www.phuketnalina.com

ENGLISH-SPEAKING ACCOUNTANT

Wanted. Min 2 years experience. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-280447, 081-0808557. Fax: 076-280447. Email: info@no1visa.com

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

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

SOLAR TECHNICIANS

Wanted: technicians, sales and fitters for PV & solar hot water systems. Diploma or experience with solar energy is required. Tel: 076-378361, 081-7722300. Fax: 076-244652. Email: info@phuketsolar.com

WANTED HOUSEKEEPER

English-speaking, with driver's license. Work 1 pm - 9pm. Salary 10,000 baht. Tel: 084-1885828.

PART-TIME WORK

Promotional staff needed in Patong for brochure distribution on Soi Bangla. Can be students. Contact Jony at Tel: 087-8817600.

ACCOUNTING MNG

Will be 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

Announcement

ENERGY MEDICINE

Success when all else fails. Allergy, asthma, migraine and more. Money back guarantee. Contact for more info. Email: bioenergymed@gmail.com

Articles for Sale

PLAYSTATION 2

Play station 2 with memory chip & games 5,000 baht. Tel: 084-3046769.

U/W VIDEO CAMERA

Sony TRV 950 3ccd video camera with ikelite housing pelican hard case. 80,000 baht. Tel: 084-3046769.

PLAYSTATION 2

With 50 original games for sale 8,000 baht. Contact Giorgio. Tel: 081-2945441.

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

Business Opportunities

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

WORKING PARTNER

needed. For new exiting "never seen before" biz in Koh Samui. Price for partnership 1 million baht. Email: admin@no1phukethomes.com

BEAUTY SALON

Beauty salon for sale in Kathu 150,000 baht or 8,000 baht per month. You can live inside. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-8448589. Email: bb-anaiya@hotmail.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

BOOK SHOP FOR SALE

Patong OTOP book shop & Nanai book shop. 2 shops for 980,000 baht. Tel: 084-1705552.

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. Please contact for more details. Tel: 081-0820039. Email: asiantips@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

RESTAURANT/ GUESTHOUSE

Nanai road, 60 seats, big kitchen, beer garden, terrace. All fully furnished. 7 rooms, aircon, TV, cold & hot water 3 + 3 + 3 year contract. 1.9 million baht. Email: thaipaul@gmx.de

GUESTHOUSE SALE

or Lease. 4 year lease available, or will sell land. Tel: 076-342280, 081-9781956. Email: palm@phuket.ksc.co.th

PARTNERSHIP

available. Successful bar/restaurant. Prime location in Patong. Sell 50% investment for 2.2 million baht. Tel: 087-2706297.

BAR/RESTAURANT

Long established. More than 200 sqm. Minutes from Karon beach in prime tourist area. No key money 5 + 5 lease available. Rent 69,000 baht per month. Contact Mark. Tel: 087-2742759. Email: britcorp@hotmail.com

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: poull_66@hotmail.com

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

PIRATE SHIP INVESTMENT



We own the 35m pirate ship Hispaniola from the film Treasure Island cast in the Krabi area 6 months ago. The ship needs extensive repairs. We need investor(s) in the region of 10 million baht to make it a high-class restaurant and secure a land deal. Another option is to make the pirate ship a center of a theme park. An investor can also be a landowner who could provide suitable land with a long-term lease. If you are interested in buying the ship and use it for your own purpose we will also be interested in selling. Let's talk. Please call Nathalie. Tel: 085-1111155, 081-666-6622. Email: alexanderkbh@gmail.com

WOW! PAY LESS MONEY

Get big return on your investment. K's Car Clinic is available for a serious and creative entrepreneur. Lease 3 years. Property is sustainable and specially-designed for high performance. Easy to manage. Tel: 081-5698649. Email: rjansen@pi.net

COMPANY FOR SALE

4 million baht capitalization, no need to show statement & can provide 2 work permits. Tel: 085-0293095.

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.

GUESTHOUSE

In Kata. Prime location in Kata, opposite Club Med. 2 large rooms, 35sqm each. New kitchens, bathrooms and Western standard interior. Unfurnished, but just about ready for the high season! 5 minutes to everything. 530,000 baht. No key money, 3 + 3 year lease, 20,000 baht rent. Tel: 085-7894539. Email: johan@cityradion.se

RENT/LONG LEASE

3-story building inside Ocean Time Square department store in Phuket Town. Tel: 081-8909891, 086-305-3922, 081-4452156. Email: mornsri@hotmail.com

GUESTHOUSE

For lease in Patong. 12 large rooms, 4 small aircon, cable, busy road close to beach, easy to run. Tel: 089-2173463.

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

PHUKET FRANCHISES

Island-wide opportunities. Unique spa technology. Good and quick return on modest investment. No special skills required. Tel: 087-1446686.

INVEST 500,000 BAHT

In our company for 10% share. Will pay 200,000 baht per month. Tel: 085-888-0636, 085-8881637.

BAR/RESTAURANT

Water front. Next to Marina. 1.5 million baht. Tel: 085-7838336.

Business Products & Services



VISA RUN TO ANDAMAN CLUB

Only Eve. 1,500 baht includes transfer, soft drink, insurance, breakfast and visa fee (US\$10). Lunch at hotel luxury boat. Renew visa from Penang, 4,900 baht, not including visa fee. For more information. Tel: K. Eve 076-289201, 081-5352637. Website at: www.evevisarun.com

PILATES CLASSES

Jill is offering various pilates classes around the island. Some spaces are still available for classes in Kathu on Wed & Fri 5 pm and Karon at 9 am. Please call me for more details. Tel: 085-7945094. Email: jill.robson@gmail.com

OSTEOPATH PRACTICE

Garnett B Symonds Do Hom Hmd. Please call for more information. Tel: 076-388-524, 081-6072343.

VISA RUN TO RANONG

Now every day. Tour bus or new minibus. Fully inclusive: boat, Myanmar visa fee, lunch, water, DVD movies, music. Only 1,500 baht. Tel: 084-7457024.

EZY viza

VISA RUN SERVICE 5
Visa runs everyday. Big bus or mini-bus services available. Personal DVD players and entertainment included. 1,500 baht all inclusive. English staff available 24 hours a day.

Tel: 083-1057398
085-7855389.

JEAB'S JUMPING CASTLES

8 different models available for children's parties.

Tel: 081-8939742.

www.

phuketjumpingcastles.com

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TSBA going concerns
LIVE AND WORK LEGALLY OWN A TSBA FRANCHISE.
Business Brokers wanted!
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Call Vince: 086 152 2531
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Month	September 2006	October 2006	November 2006	December 2006	January 2007
Date	3,10,17,24	1,8,15,29	5,12,19,26	17	7,14,21,28

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