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Police net 5,000 fake bank cards

By Sompratch Saowakhon

KATHU: Police have arrested three Sri Lankan men for credit card fraud, seizing more than 5,000 blank ATM cards, of which about 2,300 were encoded with information from real bank cards.

Police suspect the three men may be part of a much larger ring operating in popular tourist areas throughout Thailand and other parts of the world.

Investigating Inspector Pol Lt Col Boonlert Onklang of the Kathu Police identified the three suspects as Pathmathas Ganeshamoorthy, 26; Srikanthan Veerasingam, 29; and Sivagnanam Gnanakanthan, 35.

The passports of all three men revealed that they had been frequent visitors to Thailand.

Col Boonlert said that police arrested Ganeshamoorthy and Veerasingam at the northern end of Thaweewong Rd in the early evening of January 2 after a closed-circuit TV camera had videotaped the pair using a fake bank card to draw money from an ATM machine in front of the Kon Thai Pub in Karon.

At the time of the arrest, one of the men was sitting in a silver-colored Honda car; the other was on the beach.

A search of the vehicle uncovered a notebook computer, 2,703 blank white bank cards and three flash drives.

After the arresting officers turned down a 2-million-baht bribe in exchange for their release, the men were questioned, Col Boonlert said.

The two men told police the cards and equipment belonged to Gnanakanthan, who had arrived in Phuket earlier that day, Col Boonlert said.



Suspect Pathmathas Ganeshamoorthy at Kathu Police Station with the fake bank cards in front of him. Ganeshamoorthy and two other Sri Lankan men were charged with electronic card forgery and possessing a fraudulent electronic card with intent to use.

The men had picked up Gnanakanthan at the airport and dropped him off at his hotel, the Pen Villas in Surin, he added.

A visit to Gnanakanthan's room early on January 3 uncovered an additional 2,533 bank cards. Of these, 483 were green and the remainder white. Unlike the cards seized earlier that day, all the cards were marked with a four-digit number.

Police also seized an MSR206 magnetic strip card reader and encoder.

The men were taken to Phuket Provincial Court yesterday afternoon and each was charged with one count of electronic card forgery and one count of possessing a fraudulent electronic card with intent to use.

Col Boonlert told the Gazette that checks made on January 6 by officers from Thai Military Bank showed that about

2,300 cards had account information programmed onto the magnet strips and nearly all of that information came from British accounts.

Some cards were encoded with account details from the US, Finland and Sweden.

The information was from both debit and credit cards. He added that police have not yet identified the account holders who were defrauded.

"The men obtained the account details from gang members in the UK who copied it from customers' cards when they used them in shops or for other services. The gang then sent the 16-digit card number, card expiration date and four-digit pin code by email or phone to the cell here.

"The criminals then programmed the card number and expiration date into blank cards

Continued on page 2

Patong sets new parking zones

By Supanun Supawong

PATONG: New parking zones will go into effect on a three-month trial basis January 15, when a one-way traffic system will begin along three major roads in the central tourist district.

A press conference was held at Patong City Hall January 9 to remind the public about the change, which is intended to bring some measure of order and safety to the town's notoriously chaotic roads.

Attending were Patong Mayor Pian Keesin, Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pol Maj Gen Decha Budnampetch and Kathu Police Superintendent Pol Col Teerapol Thipjaroen.

They reminded the public that beginning at 6 am on January 15, all southbound traffic will be routed along Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, which will become one-way.

Northbound traffic will be routed along the beach road.

All connecting roads will be two way, except Chalermprakiat Rd and Prachanukhro Rd, which both will be one-way heading toward the beach.

Soi Bangla also will be one-way during the day, but will close to all traffic nightly at 6 pm.

Parking will be permitted along selected roads, as follows:

- Thaweewong Rd (the beach road), beach side from the Sea Pearl Hotel to Soi Bangla;
- Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, one side along its entire length, side alternating daily;
- Prachanukhro Rd, Ruamjai Rd, Sawasdirak Rd and Haad Patong Rd, along the north side;
- Chalermprakiat Rd, along the south side, but only opposite the Swiss Palm Beach Resort.

Continued from page 1

Sri Lankan card fraudsters nabbed

expiration date into blank cards using a magnetic strip card reader and encoder and wrote the pin number on the cards.

"They then used the cards to withdraw cash from ATM machines here in Thailand. They withdrew 2,000 to 5,000 baht a time.

"We believe the blank cards also came from Britain," Col Boonlert said.

"We believe that in total the men withdrew about 6 million baht as they confessed that they received only 10% of the money they withdrew, the remaining 90% was sent to members of the gang abroad," he added.

The men were being held at Kathu Police Station.

On January 15 police will request an extension of the men's detention period to allow for further investigation into the fraud ring, Col Boonlert explained.

The cards seized in Phuket were similar to cards seized in earlier raids in Bangkok and Chon Buri, he added.

Singer murdered

PHUKET CITY: The body of a 29-year-old woman who had been stabbed to death was found in the area behind Wat Sansuk, south of Nimit Circle January 6.

The body was reported to police at 8:20 am. Responding police officers found the victim's naked body laying face up with stab wounds to her chest.

Nearby were the woman's shoulder bag, cosmetics and motorbike.

The victim was identified by relatives as Duentem "Kai" Tongsung, 29, a cashier at a local Caltex gas station and a former singer at a Phuket City bar.

Police believe she may have been lured to the area for sex.

Investigation Inspector Pol Lt Col Ekkasit Pinkaew told the *Gazette*, "There were no signs of rape and her bag still had 200 baht in it, so we don't know the motive for her murder but we presume it has to do with someone who was angry with her."

Property expo opens at Central

PHUKET CITY: The Property Investment Exhibition 2007 (PIE), is being held at Central Festival Phuket until January 16, from 10 am to 9 pm.

More than 30 exhibitors have hundreds of properties in Phuket, Phang Nga, Krabi and on Koh Samui on show, at prices starting around US\$500,000 (15 million baht).

Properties with a total value of more than 300 million baht were reserved at last year's PIE expo.



Suwit affirms tourism targets

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET CITY: Tourism and Sports Minister Dr Suwit Yodmanee affirmed the government's national targets for 2007 of 14.8 million foreign tourists and 82 million Thai tourists, with earnings of 547.5 billion baht and 377.8 billion baht, respectively.

Dr Suwit announced the targets at a meeting of about 280 government and private sector representatives from the 14 southern provinces at The Metropole hotel January 8. Delegates included Governors, Vice-Governors, police, municipal and Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) officials, travel agents and tour operators.

The domestic tourism plan for the southern region this year is aimed at general tourists, youth and family, working and high-income people, seniors, and corporate travelers, while the foreign tourism marketing plan is aimed at "high-quality free individual travelers", families, sport groups and honeymoon couples, he said.

The main attractions for the



Dr Suwit Yodmanee, Minister of Tourism and Sports.

region were outlined as sea, sand, diving, golf, seafood and health services, but the TAT will also promote other attractions, such as culture, sports and entertainment.

Dr Suwit said that the plan for 2007 was to target the niche market of "good quality, foreign tourists".

He said, "To support the growth of tourism, we must consider upgrading tourism resources according to 'star rating' stan-

dards, but at the same time use the 'green leaf' standard to protect the environment.

"We will also promote sports to attract tourists; and most importantly, help local people and communities to take part in local tourism," he added.

After the meeting, Dr Suwit said that the most urgent problem that local businesspeople and government agencies had notified him of was the lack of direct international flights to many popular tourist destinations in the southern provinces.

"I will have to talk to the Transportation Ministry to find a way to help tourism in the South, such as connecting flights between Bangkok, Phuket and Haad Yai, and flights to Phang Nga, Samui and Ranong, with international flights," he said.

The decades' old idea of an international convention center in Phuket was raised again. "Phuket has requested to build a convention center [here], which I think is important; therefore I will discuss it again with the Phuket Governor," Dr Suwit said.

IN BRIEF

Alleged rapist falls to death

CHERNG TALAY: Echa Bumrungs, 31, died of head injuries after being pushed off a second-story balcony by the boyfriend of a young woman he was caught having sex with.

Pol Lt Col Jessada Sangsuee said that on the morning of New Year's Day, Echa allegedly followed a girl he had been drinking with back to her home, where she lived with her boyfriend, jet-ski operator Preecha Longlha, 36.

As Echa was allegedly raping his victim, Preecha returned home and heard screams for help.

In the ensuing fight, Preecha shoved the Echa off the balcony, Col Jessada said.

Preecha, who has been charged with murder, told police he did not intend to kill Echa, and he didn't think the fall would result in Echa's death, Col Jessada added.

New Year road toll hits targets

PHUKET: Three people died and 32 people were injured in 35 reported accidents from December 28 to January 3, nearly matching the government's target road toll for the holiday period.

The provincial government had set a target of no more than three dead and 39 injured in 35 accidents for the period.

Children's Day

PHUKET: Activities have been organized all over the island to entertain kids on Children's Day, January 13.

Highlights include a fire-fighting drill at the airport and a demonstration of an air-sea rescue by the Royal Thai Navy at Cape Panwa.

Blackouts

CHALONG: The Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority (PPEA) has announced blackouts along Chao Fa West Rd on January 15, 16 and 17, in order to continue its work on high-voltage power lines.

The blackouts, from the PPEA substation to Chalong Circle, will be from 9 am to 5 pm.

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British boy electrocuted in Patong hotel room

By Suganya Semacote

PATONG: Seven-year-old British boy Connor Dean O'Keeffe was electrocuted while playing a video game in his hotel room at the Sunset Beach Resort, police have confirmed.

Pol Lt Col Sopol Borirak, of Kathu Police Station, identified the victim as son of David Skinner, 49, and Kathleen Patricia Curry, 45.

Police were notified of the death about 8 pm on December 30 by staff at Patong Hospital, where the boy was rushed for emergency treatment.

Col Sopol said that police presume that the boy went swim-

ming at the hotel pool before returning to his room, where he began playing a video game without drying off.

The combination of water and electricity led to an electric shock, which proved fatal, police said.

Col Sopol said that no charges will be brought against the hotel and there will be no investigation.

No further details of the accident were given by police.

Management at the hotel were unavailable for comment.

The family was on a 10-day stay at the hotel when the accident occurred and have now returned to the UK.

US experts lead anti-terrorist police workshop

By Supanun Supawong

PATONG: Some 30 Thai police and military personnel are undergoing a two-week "Military Law Enforcement/Boarding Officer" course conducted by US military experts at the Patong Resort Hotel.

The training, which began January 8, is the latest of many ventures funded by the US Defense Department's Counter Terrorism Fellowship Program (CTFP) for Thailand. The program, which in 2006 had a budget of about US\$200,000 (more than 7 million baht), is financed by the Joint United States Military Assistance Group (JUSMAG) office in Bangkok.

Attending the training are 10 officers of the Phuket Police Special Operations Unit, along with four officers from Kathu Police, six Marine Police officers, two Immigration Police officers, five

Navy officers and four Crime Suppression Division Officers assigned to Phuket Customs.

Unlike previous counter-terrorism programs organized by JUSMAG in Phuket, this session focuses on threats at sea and port areas, with training in how to identify potential threats.

Capt Walter Bruce Watson, Junior Naval Attache at the US Embassy in Bangkok, told the *Gazette* the training will help make areas such as Patong safe for visiting sailors.

"The training that they provide helps make Phuket a safer place for American sailors who come and visit. They train police in how to identify bombs and what to do if they find one," he said.

"We have always felt that Phuket is one of the safest places in Asia, but this just helps give us assurance that it is even safer than it was before," he added.

US crews on leave in

Phuket can number from 250 to 2,000 people at one time, he said.

Leading the training is Lt Junior Grade Trevor Blount of the United State Coast Guard's International Training Division.

He said the coup in September had no impact on the training to be offered, which was scheduled before the coup, and has already been given in Singapore and on Langkawi Island in Malaysia.

"There may be a few things that are specifically for Thailand, but nothing would change as far as the coup is concerned," he said.

Capt Watson said the whole US side was excited to be in Phuket and was impressed by the way the island's security forces worked together.

"If anyone else wanted to know how to do it right, we would tell them to come to Phuket," he said.

CCTV ready next month

PHUKET CITY: Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pol Maj Gen Decha Budnampeth has announced that the 16-million-baht closed-circuit television (CCTV) surveillance system will be operational in three popular tourist districts by mid-February.

Work on the project, begun last August, was funded under former Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura's discretionary budget for provincial development.

The network, being installed by telecommunications provider CAT Telecom Public Company Ltd, uses high-speed, wireless CDMA EV-DO technology, similar to the wireless network now available to Internet users around the island.

Sixteen CCTV cameras will begin operating in Patong in mid-February, with similar systems in Phuket City and Kata-

Karon expected to be in service by the end of the month.

CCTV video feeds will be monitored at a command center in the local police stations: Kathu Police station for Patong; Phuket City; and Chalong Police Station, which covers Kata-Karon.

Tourism industry leaders lauded the upcoming security boost, while noting that the New Year's Eve bombings in Bangkok had not greatly deterred foreign visitors from coming to Phuket.

Phuket Tourist Association President Maitree Narukatpichai insisted that cancellations resulting from the Bangkok bombings were minimal, with occupancy rates in island hotels still high at 90%, on average.

Maj Decha also reminded the press that a one-way traffic system would go into effect in Patong January 15.

The new system is expected to improve traffic flow as well as increase security there, he said.

Dutchman dies in motorbike accident

KAMALA: Dutch national Rob van Hardeveld, 40, died from injuries sustained when his motorbike went off the road at a sharp curve between Patong and Kamala on December 27.

Pol Lt Naruwit Phuthawilo of Kathu Traffic Police reported that Mr van Hardeveld was dead at the scene of the accident.

His body was returned to Holland on December 30.

Hotelier Sithi Tandavanitj passes away

PHUKET CITY: Sithi Tandavanitj, President of the Thai Hotels Association, Southern Chapter, died after suffering a heart attack on December 30. He was 79 years old.

A sociable Phuket native, K. Sithi was on the management committee of The Metropole hotel and also served as President of the Parent-Teacher Association at Phuket Vocational College.

He was also a former President of the main Thai Hotels Association.

K. Sithi may be best remembered for opening his family's Sino-Portuguese-style home to townspeople and tourists for performances during the annual Old Phuket Festival.

K. Sithi's son Thiti Tandavanitj told the *Gazette* that the family home will continue to host these performances to maintain his father's tradition.



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Since he began working in Phuket as a Vice-Governor, he has seen many problems develop, Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit told the *Gazette*.

"The biggest problem is that Phuket is no longer a local society, as it was 20 or 30 years ago...When I first arrived here in 2001, there were still about 4,000 rai of rice paddies on the island.

"But now much of it has gone, sold off by villagers for economic reasons."

Gov Niran is glad to see some of Phuket's traditional ways of life preserved, even if it is just to serve the needs of the all-important tourism industry.

"I talked to the owner of a new hotel that just opened in Sakoo [in Thalang]. They bought a piece of land next to the hotel where they set up a rice paddy with some cows and buffalo so that their customers can watch from the balcony while they are eating lunch or dinner and get a taste of traditional Thai life," he said.

"I think that we have to start looking into this matter more, otherwise old customs will cease to exist. Phuket could soon become just another concrete jungle with no identity of its own, as has happened to so many other places."

PHUKET'S HIDDEN

With its post-tsunami recovery now nearly complete, Phuket finds itself once again faced with the same problems it was struggling to deal with before the waves hit: fast-paced, poorly-regulated development that is stretching the island's infrastructure to its limits and causing social upheaval and environmental degradation. *Gazette* Chief Reporter Sangkhae Leelanapaporn and News Editor Stephen Fein report.

Gov Niran sees a huge influx of outsiders – both foreigners and Thais from other provinces – as another big challenge facing the province, especially as most of these people don't appear on house registration forms, which are used by the government to allocate government budgets.

"This is what we call 'irregular emigration'. There are about four million people visiting Phuket each year, about 60% of them foreigners. Some have decided to work or stay here long-term. Some marry a Thai, others choose to retire here. As a result, we now have people of al-

most every nationality staying in Phuket.

"We see foreigners applying for work permits every day. I think Phuket issues the largest number of work permits, after Bangkok and Pattaya. Tailor shops are one of the biggest employers, with most of their foreign staff from Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. Other foreigners work in real estate, the diving industry or as consultants," he said.

"Some may think that it is time to start screening foreigners who want to come to Phuket or to limit the number of foreigners entering Phuket each year [to work]. But if you look at the other point of view, it isn't fair to new businesses just starting up. Of course well-established companies would like to see the market stabilize, so that they can focus on high-quality tourists and making profits."

However, Gov Niran told the *Gazette* that if the issue of Phuket's rapid growth is not addressed soon, the island may simply run out of resources to sustain the growth.

"If we do not control this soon, there might be five million, 10 million or even more. This will lead people to begin to fight over resources such as land. It will also increase the amount of trash and pollution. Traffic will increase.

Water supply and provision of other public utilities will also become issues."

Dealing with encroachment issues and other land squabbles are already a top priority for Gov Niran, who established a high-level provincial panel to sort out the numerous disputes on the island following the unprecedented bombing of three homes in Chalong a little more than a month after his promotion to Governor.

"There are now a lot of Thais and foreigners moving here, both legally and illegally, but the amount of land remains the same – there is not enough. With the demise of agriculture here, many people have sold off their land to foreigners. Land in Phuket has become very valuable – it's like gold. This is why we see people encroaching in mangrove forests, along beaches and even in national parks. There are people from all 76 Thai provinces trying to grab land here, and this is why it is so difficult to control. In the old days everybody knew everybody else and crime was not a problem, but now we have people from all over Thailand settling here."

Gov Niran said Phuket's registered population of 290,000 residents is far below the actual number of people on the island at any given time – as evidenced by the fact that the number of motorbikes and cars registered here is much higher.

"We must admit that we don't know the actual population...This affects every aspect of development. In economic terms we lose out because the central government allocates budgets based on the registered population, and this is why we lack funding in many areas, such as law enforcement." [See *The Governor's Letter*, issue of January 6-12, for Gov Niran's strat-



egy to deal with this problem.]

Despite the inevitable growing pains, Gov Niran is still eager to see the island's infrastructure improve to support its continued growth as a premier international tourist destination.

This will involve expanding the island's road network, improving public transportation by developing a rail system and finally building the world-class international convention center that has been talked about for more than two decades.

He also sees yachting and sports tourism as other industries the government should support.

"Now we have only three marinas, with only half of the total capacity of Langkawi in Malaysia.

"We should also have a big sports complex as well, but we will have trouble getting these until the island's actual population is known, and that is why I am making that a top priority," he said.

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POPULATION CRISIS



The Kata-Karon area, which has seen an explosion in hotel construction in recent years, now has at least 8,500 hotel rooms. The *tessabaan's* registered population in September 2006 stood at just 6,519. So who is cleaning all those rooms? Gov Niran wants to find out.

ket's ability to keep up with its ever-growing population, Phuket Tourist Association (PTA) Vice-President Panu Maswongsa told the *Gazette* the number of hotel rooms on the island has already passed the 40,000 mark, not including pool villas and other types of accommodations catering to families and long-stay visitors.

K. Panu said the population explosion could be better contained if government agencies

paid better attention to permitting procedures and encroachment issues.

"If property developments were limited to land with proper title deeds there wouldn't be much of a problem. Unfortunately, that is not the case. People are now building on government land, including protected areas such as mangrove forests," he said.

In some cases, this is done in collusion with government of-

ficials who issue title deeds on what is actually government land, he said.

"We are a free trade country. As such we cannot stop business or construction that is done legally. However, we do have environmental protection laws in place that could help slow down the impact of development, if enforced."

K. Panu agrees that Phuket's "concealed population" is a big problem, one that needs to be

dealt with as soon as possible.

For every registered resident of the province, there is an unregistered counterpart, he said.

"If you want to know why we are starting to see traffic jams, just look at the numbers. There are 300,000 cars and 300,000 motorcycles registered in the province," he said.

But that is just the tip of the iceberg. "When you are out driving, you only need to notice how many vehicles have plates issued in other provinces to realize the real extent of the problem," he said.

To help address the "concealed population" issue, the PTA has already asked its member hotels to register their staff on a house registration booklet (*tabien baan* in Thai) set up in the hotel's name. New staff are asked to transfer their house registrations from their home provinces to Phuket once they pass an initial employment probation period, he said.

He also said that existing laws requiring people to register in the areas where they actually reside are too weak to be effective. "In fact, there is a law requiring people to register after a certain number of days after moving to a new province, but the fine is only 50 baht. That is why it doesn't work," he said.

Problems of over-development, under-reported population and all the ensuing social and environmental woes are probably most pronounced in Patong. In December 2006, the municipality had a registered population of 11,079.

Tourism Authority of Thailand figures for 2005 put the number of hotel rooms at 9,919.

Given the new hotel openings since 2005 and all the unregistered establishments, it is safe to say there is one hotel room for

each registered citizen there.

Patong Deputy Mayor Chairat Sukkaban told the *Gazette* that if the government expects to meet its target of 20 million tourists by 2008, it should not expect much help from Patong in terms of providing extra rooms to accommodate them.

The municipality's usable land area is reaching its development limit and hotel owners already face big problems filling hotel rooms during the low season, he said.

"Perhaps some parts of Phuket still have an inadequate number of rooms to meet demand and can be further developed for tourism, but not Patong. What we need is to find new target markets to keep our rooms filled during the low season. The most profitable hotels owe their success to good marketing that keeps rooms occupied during that period," he said.

K. Chairat said that among the town's important infrastructure needs was the burial of overhead power cables, the messy entanglements of which are both an eyesore and threat to public safety.

He also called on the Land Transport Office to take more action in preventing traffic jams, regulating of car and motorbike rental operators, and preventing locals from taking advantage of tourists.

K. Chairat is in favor of the governor's plan to encourage unregistered residents to get themselves listed on local house registration forms.

"I think it is a good idea to know the real population of Phuket, because it stands to help us in many ways. It will be important to involve owners of rental homes and flats in registering their tenants," he said.

As for the continuing rise in the number of hotel rooms, he said, "We cannot forbid private sector investment. If it is done according to the law, how can we stop it?"

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Queer News

Bad news for the Tiger of Thalang

Being the leader of a youth motorbike gang in Phuket is always dangerous. Occupational hazards include bullets and blades from members of rival gangs, police who will eventually make a charge stick, and carelessly-driven pickups that can quickly put an end to motorcycling mayhem.

Despite the obvious risks, gang leader Kroekkriat Jantananon, from Baan Liphon in Thalang, would no doubt have been greatly surprised by the circumstances of his final undoing.

At 27, Kroekkriat, who went by "Seua Liphon" or "Liphon Tiger", was approaching retirement age as leader of his gang and decided to train a promising young man, "News", to eventually take control of the group.

News's attempts to step into the shoes of leader of the gang, a *Thai Rath* reporter implied, led to him being charged with attempted murder early last year – a charge for which he was out on bail at the time of the events on New Year's Day.

Friends of Seua told reporters that the night started with the Liphon gang seeing in the new year at Patong Beach. After the countdown, the gang moved on to strut their stuff at Night Station disco on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd.

While dancing at the club, News accidentally trod on the toe of a member of a local Patong gang, sparking a fracas. Pushing and shoving ensued, and the Patong gang member asked if News wanted "to take it outside". News immediately accepted the challenge and, determined to prove his bravery, asked his friend Flat to accompany him to his bike to fetch a 9mm pistol from under the seat.

News and Flat then walked back to teach the local boys a lesson, but were unable to find them. Determined not to let the slight on his honor go unpunished, News instructed Flat to drive the bike on a

hunt for the enemy while News rode pillion, pistol at the ready.

Unbeknownst to the two hunters, Seua and the other gang members had followed them out of the club.

News and Flat found their quarry in the area of The Royal Paradise Hotel and were about to attack when Sq Ldr Sen Sgt Maj Amnat Kaewkrajok from Kathu District Police Station happened to pass by; seeing what was going on, he stepped in to put a stop to it.

In front of crowds of Thai and foreign tourists, a ruckus ensued. News was thrown to the ground, but he managed to pull out his pistol and fire a shot into the air, just as Seua and the rest of the gang arrived on the scene.

News, mistaking the newcomers for more members of the opposing gang, opened fire, hitting Seua in the neck and stomach, killing him.

Also hit in the salvo were: Seua's 24-year-old sister Netanapha, who was hit in the right leg; two gang members, Suwan Ratanapontri and Narong Thongkhod, both 20, who were grazed on the right shin and hit in the right knee respectively; and Phanitha Angsuchonsin, 22, who was seriously hurt after being hit in the stomach.

On seeing the carnage he had created, News instructed Flat to drive him away from the scene before he could be apprehended by police.

A local Thai-language daily reported on January 3 that police had caught up with News at his house in Tambon Srisoonthorn the next day as he was packing his bags to leave Phuket.

During questioning News allegedly admitted that he had accidentally shot dead his own gang leader and that the gun he used had belonged to the victim.

The report made no mention of the fate of Flat.

Source: *Thai Rath*




TRASHING Phuket



PHUKET CITY: This piece of land at the corner of Surin Rd and Surin Soi 3 road used to be jungle. It's private land and there is a sign, presumably erected by the owner, warning people against dumping garbage there.

To no avail, of course – it being a well known fact that those who trash the countryside are usually ignorant lowlifes who quit school before learning how to read, in order to make a career out of defecating on their own doorstep.



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Khao Lak is back! These words were recently used as the headline for several classified property ads in the *Phuket Gazette* placed by a Phuket-based real estate agent.

This might appear as “just another ad” to some, but it reveals a much deeper message to people who truly care about Khao Lak. Phuket-based realty agents have a much bigger spectrum of property, in different price and quality categories, located on the island itself.

While this could lead them to concentrate on promoting only Phuket, which would be in their own interest, some of them have chosen to help promote Khao Lak by placing ads similar to the one mentioned above.

The hidden message in this ad shows that Phuket expats obviously support the combined efforts of Khao Lak’s community in fighting their way out of the post-tsunami misery by pushing reconstruction efforts to the limit – against all odds.

And yes!

Khao Lak residents and businessmen really have done it; Khao Lak truly is back. Most reputable hotels and resorts in Khao Lak and along neighboring beaches are fully booked, and most restaurants, cafes and pubs are reporting record figures much higher than in the best pre-tsunami season of 2002-2003.

Talking to visitors in Khao Lak, the words that I hear the most are “courageous”, “brave” and “unbelievable”.

It seems that most people can’t believe how fast the area has recovered and regained strength in the tourism market.

Most remarkably, Phuket expats have made nothing but positive comments about Khao Lak. Some years ago, Khao Lak seemed to be rather of an annoyance to Phuket businesspeople since at that time it was considered a competitor and Phuketians fought hard to hush down everything that could shift tourists’ attention away from the island.

Today everything has changed – Khao Lak has fought its way into the hearts of Phuket’s expat majority with bravery and determination. The ad is the best example to prove it.

Memorial: The second tsunami memorial conducted on Bang Niang Beach on December 26 stirred up mixed emotions among Khao Lak expats and visitors alike. Opinions on the event have not been entirely positive.

Many said they would prefer a quiet multi-religious ceremony in the morning – without any media presence – and the obligatory lighting of candles and launching of paper lanterns after sunset – again without the presence of the media and also without VIPs enjoying the limelight;

Khao Lak completes its tsunami comeback

without helicopters landing on the beach, almost destroying workers’ camps and covering the whole area in stirred-up sand; without the hype; and without the unnecessary party-like touch.

I picked up comments from a Swedish couple who were very confused by the loud and omnipresent disco music distributed by tons of PA speakers.

“We get the impression that they [the organizers] are having a big party here instead of a memorial ceremony.

“Next year, we will go to a secluded beach nearby and have our own little ceremony to remember our sister and our brother-in-law who we lost here in 2004,” they told me.

A Khao Lak expat who lost many friends on that Boxing Day

said, “This stupid tsunami party really makes me angry. Suddenly Bang Niang is so important to everyone – for a day – and after that we have to clean up the rubbish they left behind.

“I have my own private space where I mourn the loss of my friends. I don’t need a party organizer to teach me how and when to do it.”

His point of view was shared by most of the Khao Lak expats I talked to in December.

Without any fuss, party music and limelight-hogging VIPs, the international tsunami museum opened its doors to visitors last month. The museum is opposite the 7-Eleven at the Petchkasem/Bang Niang Rd intersection and is open daily.

In a subtle and ethical way, visitors are introduced to the tragic events of December 26, 2004, without any Hollywood-style thrills and frills and certainly without disco music.

I believe a visit to this quiet



Mourners release a lantern at the Bang Niang Beach tsunami memorial December 26. The ceremony provoked mixed reactions among Khao Lak residents, with many put off by the party-like atmosphere.

location could be educational to the party-loving organizers of the past two Bang-Niang-based memorial services.



ANDAMAN COASTING
By Franky Gun



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A ship from the Thai Royal Navy Third Naval Area Command detained 64 Rohingya and Arakanese illegal immigrants following a search of a fishing boat near the mouth of the Kraburi River in Ranong on January 3.

All 64 were taken to Ranong Port for questioning by Immigration and Marine Police, with Ranong Governor Kanchanapa Keeman present.

The refugees were all men aged between 18 and 50. From questioning the leader of the group, Norohamed, 27, and the captain of the boat, Sun Su, 32, authorities learned that the group had come from Cox's Bazar, near the Burmese border in Bangladesh.

The group collected 14,000 baht and bought a fishing boat, which they then converted to transport people.

They set off from Bangladesh on December 14 and were hoping to meet an agent in Ranong named Soe Win, who promised to find them jobs in Malaysia, the group's representatives told the authorities.

The men were due to be deported.

The Rohingya are a Muslim minority ethnic group in northern Rakhine State, Burma. Many now reside in neighboring Bangladesh due to Burmese government persecution.

Bad relations: A 72-year-old man shot dead his estranged "son-in-law" in Trang January 4, claiming that the victim always came looking for his former "wife" and caused trouble when she would not see him.

When police from Trang Town Police Station, led by Lt

Navy foils mass landing by illegal immigrants



ROADSIDE DESTRUCTION: A patrol vehicle carrying soldiers lies destroyed following a roadside bomb in Yala's Muang District January 4. Ten soldiers were injured, three of them critically.

Narin Phunsawai, arrived at the scene, they were met by In Bunphen, who was waiting outside to give himself up.

Inside the building they

found the body of Montri Siphon, 41, a building contractor. He had been shot in the chest with a shotgun and had a knife wound to his left elbow.

K. In reportedly told police that the victim had been his daughter's husband, but the couple separated after his daughter found out that Montri already had a family.

After their separation, Mon-

tri continued to come visit his ex-wife, but she refused to see him. This caused him to fly into a rage, K. In said.

When Montri arrived on January 4, his ex-wife was not at home so Montri began accusing K. In and his wife of hiding their daughter from him, he added.

He then began smashing up furniture and hit K. In's wife.

K. In raised his hands to *wai* and plead for Montri to leave, but to no avail. K. In therefore grabbed a knife and slashed at Montri's arm, but he still refused to leave.

With rising anger, the elderly man grabbed his shotgun and shot Montri once in the chest.

"Montri's behavior had been making life difficult for us for a long time," K. In said.

"He would come to see my daughter all the time, even though she didn't want to see him.

"Recently he accused me and my wife of hiding her from him. He damaged our property and even hit my wife. Even when I *wai*'d and pleaded, he wouldn't leave us alone."

Gunpoint abduction foiled:

Three people were left with bullet wounds in the early hours of New Year's Day in Haad Yai after a botched abduction attempt.

The victims told police that at about 3 am January 1, two men on a motorbike approached their group and at gunpoint ordered Kanlaya Burirat, an 18-year-old high school student, to get on the bike with them.

They then drove off. Kanlaya's two friends, Yusa Rradanabun and Naran Ratanaphisai, both 19, gave chase on their motorbike.

On route Kanlaya managed to wrestle free and jump off the motorbike as it was moving. The man riding pillion then shot at Kanlaya as she was lying in the road.

When her friends came into view he opened fire, hitting both.

The would-be kidnappers then rode off at high speed, along with Kanlaya's mobile phone.

The victims were taken to a hospital, but were not seriously injured.

Police are working on the theory that the men had taken Kanlaya with the intention of raping her.

Around the South is taken from the pages of The Nation and Kom Chad Luek

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25 provinces at risk of drought

Authorities forecast that 25 of Thailand's 76 provinces will be hit by serious drought over the next several months as the dry season continues.

Siriphong Hangsa-phruek, head of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment's Water Resource Department, said five of the 25 provinces at risk were hit by serious flooding during the recent rainy season.

K. Siriphong said the long-term forecast was conducted for the first time as part of measures to prepare Thailand for the coming El Nino weather pattern.

The risk assessment was based on three factors for each province: length of time since the last rainy day, irrigated or non-irrigated status, and water reserves, K. Siriphong said.

"Unlike previous years when we focused on trying to beat the drought by shipping water to affected villages, we will encourage them to build village-based pipe water systems as much as possible," he said.

The Water Resources Department had been building such pipe systems for years.

It expected to complete about 1,000 systems by March, before the drought season

reaches a peak later in the year.

Public exposure: In a bid to increase government transparency, the Official Information Commission will work to ensure that all state agencies provide public access to details of government contracts.

Prime Minister's Office Minister Thirapat Sirirangsan said the move is in line with Article 9 of the Official Information Act 1997 requiring all state agencies to publicly reveal information about projects, plans, budgets, contracts and concessions.

The Official Information Commission will begin checking whether all state agencies were complying with the act by the end of February, he said.

The government also plans to amend outdated laws to keep up with advanced technology and develop an index to indicate the transparency of each state agency, he said.

Right to die: A new Health Bill that would give terminally-ill patients the right to decline life-prolonging medical treatment needs only Royal Endorsement before becoming law. The bill was passed by the National Legislative Assembly January 4.



A vendor from Bo Bae Market in Bangkok yells as he tries to get loose from a police truck. The man was among dozens of vendors from the market who protested against the city authorities' order to move to a new area. A number of vendors were briefly detained after clashing with police.

Photo by:
Watcharachai
Klaipong

Section 10 of the bill reads: "A person has the right to make an advance directive stating his or her decision not to receive medical treatment in a way that serves only to delay his or her death during the terminal stage of his or her life...Health professionals shall be required to honor the advance directive and by doing so, they shall not be held re-

sponsible for any resulting consequence."

While supporters embraced the bill, citing it respected a person's will to choose whether to live on or die, some expressed concerns that such a move would lead to euthanasia.

Scholarship shift: The Education Ministry will continue with

the "One District One Scholarship" project launched by ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, but under the new name "Scholarships for Community Development" and with a different allotment system.

Education Minister Wijit Arisa-arn said the scholarships will now be granted from educational-service areas, not government districts.

"The educational-service area will ensure a fairer chance for students vying for scholarships. We must not forget that some districts have only one secondary school while some others have plenty of them," said K. Wijit said, noting that the number of secondary schools in the educational-service areas was usually similar.

The revamped project would also raise the maximum income of eligible applicants' families, from 100,000 baht to 150,000 baht a year.

Future recipients will also be required to study in fields that respond to national and local development needs, he added.

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



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By Supanun Supawong

In a bid to ease the load on the island's only incinerator, at Saphan Hin, the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) has opened an organic fertilizer factory to produce fertilizer from organic waste.

People on Phuket currently produce more than 450 tonnes of garbage a day and the volume is rising about 7% a year, putting a huge strain on the incinerator, which handles the bulk of waste disposal on the island.

The factory, built on two rai in Baan Borkraud in Thalang, cost 2.7 million baht to build and can process up to five tonnes of organic waste a day, producing up to two tons of fertilizer.

As well as reducing the volume of waste to be burned, the factory processes damp waste, which hampers efficient operation of the incinerator.

Currently the organic waste used is collected from 30 homes in Tambon Thepkasattri and 80 homes in Baan Borkraud. Thepkasattri Municipality distributed

WASTING AWAY

bins so that residents can separate their organic and non-organic waste, which is then collected by municipal garbage trucks during their normal rounds, but with the organic waste being sent to the factory.

The factory is not yet working at capacity, but the municipality will later expand its collection area to boost production.

Dry and liquid fertilizers are produced at the factory. Two types of liquid fertilizer are made, one from plant and fruit scraps and the other from animal waste, such as fish and shells. Dry fertilizer is made from plant and fruit scraps and animal droppings.

The *OrBorJor* is looking to sell its fertilizers, and is in the process of presenting its products to businesses such as hotels for use in their gardens, Nongphanga Suwaphith, Coordinator of the factory, told the *Gazette*.



REUSED REFUSE: Students help to sell bottles of liquid fertilizer produced by the new plant.

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However, prices for the fertilizers have not yet been set, she added.

A second organic fertilizer factory, costing about two million baht to build, is planned for Cherng Talay, with work set to begin in the first quarter of this year.

Thawat Rojthanapong, Director of the Cherng Talay Tambon Administration Organization Public Health office, said the Cherng Talay factory, which

will operate in the same manner as the Thalang factory, will be on a site behind Cherng Talay School.

It will be connected to a water treatment plant that is planned to be built at a later date.

Phuket Vice-Governor Worapot Rathasrima, at the official opening of the factory on December 1, said, "This is a very good project as the organic fertilizer factory can solve the problem of bad-smelling organic

trash... now organic trash will be eliminated by the correct method and can be put to use as a fertilizer."

Prasong Trirat, Mayor of Tambon Thepkasattri, emphasized the project's aim to act also as a learning center.

"This project will be an example, and a way of educating local people and government bodies, in Phuket and across the country, about community waste management."

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Another year, another body

Why can't men and women agree on the ideal body shape? These days a taut body is the envy of every other woman who has reached or passed her 40s. But my hour-glass-loving male friends find it a turn-off.

What will 2007 bring for the pop singer Madonna? Every few years she is pictured looking fitter than a butcher's dog and twice as muscular. And yet again, over a gossipy lunch with friends the other day, photographs of Madge in her muscular glory became the number one water-cooler topic for an hour or so.

It's become something of a ritual with my friends, and by now we know the routine. First, there is the male chorus of "Yeuch! Did you see her? She looks like a man in drag."

Then the females pipe up, "I think she's amazing for forty-something. God, I wouldn't mind looking like that."

Back come the men, "Oh, come on. She looks like a geezer bird." And so on.

At which point the women declare their admiration for all the work Madonna puts into staying on top, and one of them says, "You men have no idea."

Then the men look baffled, because once again they've been reminded that, contrary to natural law, how they react to a woman's appearance is far less important than what women think themselves.

This is something we're all vaguely aware of, but it's always brought to our attention when Madonna gets snapped – biceps popping, brick-solid cleavage. The fact is that women have their ideal body type and men have their ideal female body type, and the two are not the same at all.

Narrow, tight, toned, firm – these are all words that excite the average female's saliva glands. We can appreciate a Liv Tyler décolleté and a Beyoncé behind, but nothing commands our respect quite like prominent bones, pronounced muscle definition, drum-tight midribs and thighs set wide enough apart to pass a liter bottle of mineral water between them.

Men – my partner included, thank God for me – on the other hand, despair of the bony-arsed female. They prefer women to be softly rounded, not Alphonse like Arnie Schwarzenegger. They long for pillowy breasts, lightly padded hips and neat little waists rather than the anaconda torso we girls consider the epitome of fit. How many times have you heard a man say, wistfully, "She looks so scrawny now" of some new Atkins/Ashtanga yoga makeover, while the women crowd around, begging for tips on how to achieve the look?

In this respect, Madonna is exactly like the rest of us. Her body shape is partly dictated by fashion, partly by her own standards and partly by a sense of competition with her peers. She has sensors geared to What Men Want, of course, but they are overridden when it comes to stuff that really matters, namely her figure.

She likes what she sees in the mirror because she finds it aesthetically pleasing and because of what it represents: being in control and knowing that she can hold her head up high at those lunches with Britney and J.Lo. Muscles, from some women's point of view, equal staying young. Maybe she's a little too strong in the shoulders for some tastes, but when the alternative is bingo wings – the kiss of mid-



dle age, apparently – it's a no-brainer.

Nothing to wear? "I've got nothing to wear" is one of those statements that really irritates anyone who isn't female. It is also one that every woman on the planet can empathize with.

Along with the conviction that our thighs could do with being smaller, not ever having quite the right thing for the occasion is a condition that afflicts all women, regardless of the size of their wardrobes or the money they spend on clothes.

I clearly remember looking forward to the day when I was grown-up and self-sufficient and all the panicking was behind me. But one of life's harsher lessons is that that day never arrives. You will never have the perfect clothes for the party, and if you do, the shoes will be wrong and the bag okay but not ideal.

This is just part of the female condition. It has always been this way, but the problem has undoubtedly been compounded by modern culture. First of all, nobody has a clue any more about what they should be wearing: dress codes are rarely specified, and instructions such as "smart" and "smart casual" have

replaced the old crystal-clear "black tie".

Added to that, there's a kind of unspoken consensus that the more confident you are, the less you are obliged to adhere to these vague guidelines.

So, at parties, you will find girls in spray-on trousers and chiffon tops, strapless dresses, shredded denim minis and whatever else takes their fancy.

All this flexibility means that every choice becomes loaded with significance and every event involves second-guessing which way the other guests are going to dress. It's naff to look ultra-polished if everyone else is wearing low-key stuff and it's sad to dress wispy-pretty if the occasion is fashion-sharp. You'll look as if you're trying too hard if you wear the glittery halter neck frock to the last-minute knees-up, but passé if you go in the glittery top and jeans.

A dress with a glittery scarf around the neck might solve the problem, but not in a fashion-conscious crowd. Marc Jacobs, darling, was doing them way back in 2002.

Formal is a whole minefield of its own: Formal trendy? Formal with parents? Formal glamorous, or formal respectful? But then again, formal is a picnic compared with, say, lunch with the upper class or – my personal nightmare – what to wear to a rock concert.

Basically, when a woman says "I've got nothing to wear", what she actually means is the following.

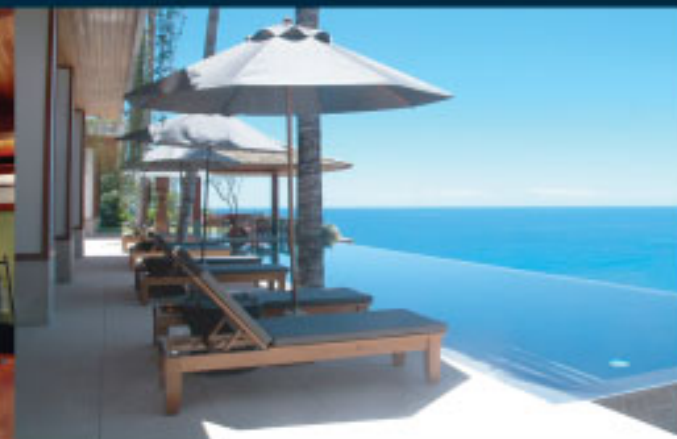
"I have nothing to wear for this particular occasion, which is subtly different from all other occasions. I haven't got the right coded messages going on. I am looking for edginess, vulnerability, sexiness, nonchalance, and I don't want to appear to be competing. Is it any wonder I'm hysterical?"

Happy New Year.

Ambrosia Sakkadas, a UK-born Greek Cypriot and graduate of Central St Martins College of Art & Design in London, is an artist, designer and newspaper columnist. Her first novel, Greek Girls Don't Cry, is available from amazon.com.

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For Anupap Yongchuyot time is not just important – it is his life. At age 14, he was forced to leave school to provide for his family. He began working 13-hour days, seven days a week at Wong Chun Kee watch repair store, bringing home 100 baht a month.

Nearly 44 years later, he remains in the same location on Phang Nga Rd. Now the master instead of the apprentice, K. Anupap still carefully repairs timepieces day after day.

Here he tells the *Gazette's* Sompratch Saowakhon how time has marked his story.

For 56 years the Wong Chun Kee watch repair shop has stood quietly tucked away in Soi Pradit opposite the On On Hotel on Phang Nga Rd. The shop was originally little more than a wooden shed where the first owner, after whom the shop is named, repaired watches and replaced batteries.

For Anupap Yongchuyot, however, the small shop has become the centerpiece of his life. K. Anupap's father moved from China to Phuket in 1936 and worked with a cooperative of four

other men to create a lathe factory on the island. While his father worked, young Anupap attended Ti-Hua Thai-Chinese primary school, now known as Thai Hua School, where Anupap enjoyed classes with his friends.

At the end of each day, however, K. Anupap returned home to work odd jobs in the evenings and on school holidays. When Anupap was 14, one of his father's associates defrauded the company, leaving the family with a total of 20,000 baht, and forcing Anupap out of school entirely.

"After that my father sent

me to work at a bicycle shop in Phang Nga. That was the first time I had ever left Phuket, but I was happy to do it and I understood why I needed to – I had to help support the family.

"But at lunch time on my first day I felt so homesick that I started crying, and that same day I fled back to Phuket. My father understood how I felt, so he comforted me and took me to his friend's shop where I could work repairing watches," K. Anupap explained.

And work he did – from 7 am to 8 pm, every day of the week, K. Anupap learned the watch-repair trade from his mentor. For his long hours he brought home 100 baht a month; 95 baht for the family and 5 baht he kept as pocket money.

This experience instilled in young Anupap a deep-rooted work ethic and a sense of thrift that have stayed with him for life. Handy traits, he says, as he is his own boss and has to be very disciplined.

In the same year he started work, K. Anupap also had his first taste of love. "She was a pretty girl, a lot of boys liked her, but she liked me. She told me she liked me because I was a good boy," he recalled.

K. Anupap courted her for several years while he continued working long hours at the watch shop. However, because he worked such long hours and didn't have time or money to spend on her, another boy with a car began dating her. But Anupap didn't let it get to him because he



knew that the relationship wasn't meant to be.

"Life depends on destiny," he says. "Everything happens by itself and you can't predict what's going to happen next."

For a decade K. Anupap learned from Wong Chun Kee how to repair watches. The two became close to the point that K. Anupap often refers to the late shop owner as his second father. Since Wong Chun Kee's death in

1953, K. Anupap has continued running his mentor's shop.

K. Anupap said that he learns from each watch he repairs so he won't make the same mistake twice. He also prides himself on customer service and is pained whenever a customer is dissatisfied.

"I can repair every kind of watch. It used to be very difficult because spare parts were not manufactured and I had to make

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tradition



The passage of time: Anupap Yongchuyot then (above) and now (left).

them myself, but watches can be easily repaired now.”

Even though K. Anupap

worked in the shop for many years, it was a struggle for him to own it. The shop changed own-

ership several times throughout the years, but finally, the last owners, the Ekwanich family, sold him the building in 2005.

“I must have tried to buy this shop more than 10 times. Even though it’s small and very old, I have developed a fondness for it because I’ve lived here for more than 50 years,” he said.

K. Anupap also met his wife through working at the shop. She worked at another watch repair store and a salesman who traveled between the two set the pair up on their first date. They were both skeptical and didn’t want to go, but K. Anupap said he is very happy that he did.

“I think it was destiny that he introduced us. Now I have a beautiful family: my wife and three sons.”

K. Anupap said he has been successful in business because of both his skills and the reputation Wong Chun Kee built up before his death.

“Now I have many customers, both old and new, because they believe in the Wong Chun Kee name. Sometimes I give more time to the watches than to my family, which is a problem because I don’t take enough time to understand my wife and children.

“I take about one or two hours for dinner with my family and then I am back to repairing watches. But everything I have done has been for them, because I love them.”

Happy Ever After

Recently married in Phuket



Rosemary Jones from Thailand and Eric Amakasu from Japan were married at the Kata Thani Phuket Beach Resort on December 10 last year.

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This week



IT'S A SNIP: Ready to cut the ribbon to mark the December 22 grand opening of That's Siam, the biggest zone in the Jungceylon shopping complex in Patong, are (from left) Jungceylon Phuket Vice-CEO Prawich Janyasittikul, Phuket Provincial Culture Office Chief Thawichart Intarit, Phuket Provincial Office of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Chief Aroon Kersom and That's Siam designer and interior decorator Dulpichai Komolvanich.



WHAT GOES ROUND, COMES ROUND: Rotary Club (RC) of Patong Beach President David Arell (left) receives a thank-you plaque from Supachai Potchanukul, Takuathung District Chief in Phang Nga province, for the more than 1.1 million baht donated to Takuathung Hospital to buy medical equipment. The money was donated by RC Patong Beach, RC Freyung-Grefenau in Germany and Rotary International.



THE RIGHT SPIRIT: Courts Megastore (Thailand) Country Director Steve Church (in white shirt) hosts a Christmas party for children from Phuket Special School.



SHOWTIME: Children's art teacher Manop "Kru Pla" Leelaratanaporn (in black T-shirt) celebrates the opening of his English-language drama school, Act & Art, in Chalong, with staff and (back row, from left) Eva Mooney, Jeff Beach and Hannah Rumble.



STEPPING OUT: Richard Lusted and his son Patrick are all smiles as they enjoy their end of year party at Bar Tango in Phuket City with the bevy of beauties from Siam Real Estate.



NOVEL IDEA: Nongnuch Buayai and Steven Pearce brought in the new year with the soft opening of their new wine bar, Hemingways, located behind Jungceylon, in Patong.

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Fonning Toaddy is a Celtic bard who's been writing the *Thaksiad*, an epic poem celebrating the life of Thaksin Shinawatra. Recently we had the following conversation:

Tsow: Well, Fonning, how goes the *Thaksiad*?

Fonning: Och, ah've given oop en i'. Got a new book in mind, though. This one'll make me millions. Got the idea from yon *Da Vinci Code*. But I do it better.

Tsow: Tell me more.

Fonning: Aw' reet. It's called *The Galileo Codex*. Gotta base it on an Italian genius of the Renaissance, y'see. And who can compete with Leonardo da Vinci on that score better than Galileo Galilei, the lad who discovered gravity?

Tsow: Errrr, Fonning, I hate to tell you this, but...

Fonning: Shush, lad, dinna' annoy me wi' facts. A Harvard professor - no, make it Yale, we dinna' want t' be accused of plagiarism - discovers a treasure trove of Galileo's old papers in a Tuscan wine cellar.

Among them is a book in Italian. There's a note on it scribbled by Galileo sayin' he translated it from an ancient codex in Aramaic handed down to him by the Rosicrucians.

Unlike *The Da Vinci Code*, the book does na' say that Jesus married Mary Magdalene. It says he married Martha of Bethany. You know, the lass who was fussin' wi' the cookin' while her sister was listenin' to Jesus teach.

Tsow: Fonning, what have you been smoking? Nobody's going to believe this garbage.

Fonning: Hoots, mon, this is the 21st century. People will believe anything. Especially if it sounds like gossip.

Tsow: If Jesus was married to Martha, how come it didn't get into the gospels?

Fonning: The Church coovered it oop, lad! They could na have him sittin' in his wee cottage with his lovin' wife and a passel o' bairns, dinin' on haggis an' smokin' his pipe an' sippin' a dram or two an' watchin' *Larry King Live* on TV after a hard day of castin' oot demons.

That would make him just another middle-class tradesman. Much more romantic t' have him roamin' the hills of Galilee wi' his merry band of fishermen, just like Robin Hood.



'No, lad, a man like that, after he's tired himself out all day healin' lepers an' raisin' the dead, is gonna want t' come home to a clean hoose and a welcomin' wife an' a warm fire on the hearth, wi' the bairns tucked away in their cradles, an' his pipe an' slippers all laid out an' the haggis ready an' the dram all poured an' the telly turned on to *Larry King Live*.'

Tsow: But why Martha? What's wrong with Mary Magdalene?

Fonning: Och, mon, the lass had seven demons! Think the Son of God's gonna marry a wench like that, then?

Tsow: But he cast them out of her!

Fonning: An' what if they came back? How would it look when they found oot he'd moved in wi' her? There'd be a lot o' raggin' on him down in hell if that happened, I can tell ye. Bound t' get back t' the ears of the Big Bloke Oopstairs, too. Big loss o' face for the J-Man.

Tsow: If Jesus were going to get married at all, it would've been more logical for him to marry Martha's sister. I mean, he praised her for listening to his teaching and chided Martha for worrying about the housework.

Fonning: Aye, that's what they'd like us to think. But now, Jesus was the Son of God, right? So he must've been a sensible man.

What sensible man would wed a dreamy, airy-fairy lass who's always moonin' about the hoose over spiritual matters while the laundry piles oop an' the floor needs moppin' an' there's no coffee in the pot an' supper is but a distant dream, eh?

Think a man like Jesus is gonna put up wi' a wench like that?

No, lad, a man like that, after he's tired himself out all day healin' lepers an' raisin' the dead, is gonna want t' come home to a clean hoose and a welcomin' wife an' a warm fire on the hearth, wi' the bairns tucked away in their cradles, an' his pipe an' slippers all laid out an' the haggis ready an' the dram all poured an' the telly turned on to *Larry King Live*.

Tsow: Gosh. You may be right.

Fonning: Ma book will give a significant boost to family values. It'll inspire the womenfolk to stay home an' take care of the hoose an' pay attention to the cookin' - not run off to New York an' become the editor of *Vogue* or somethin' equally sinful. The conservatives will love me for this.

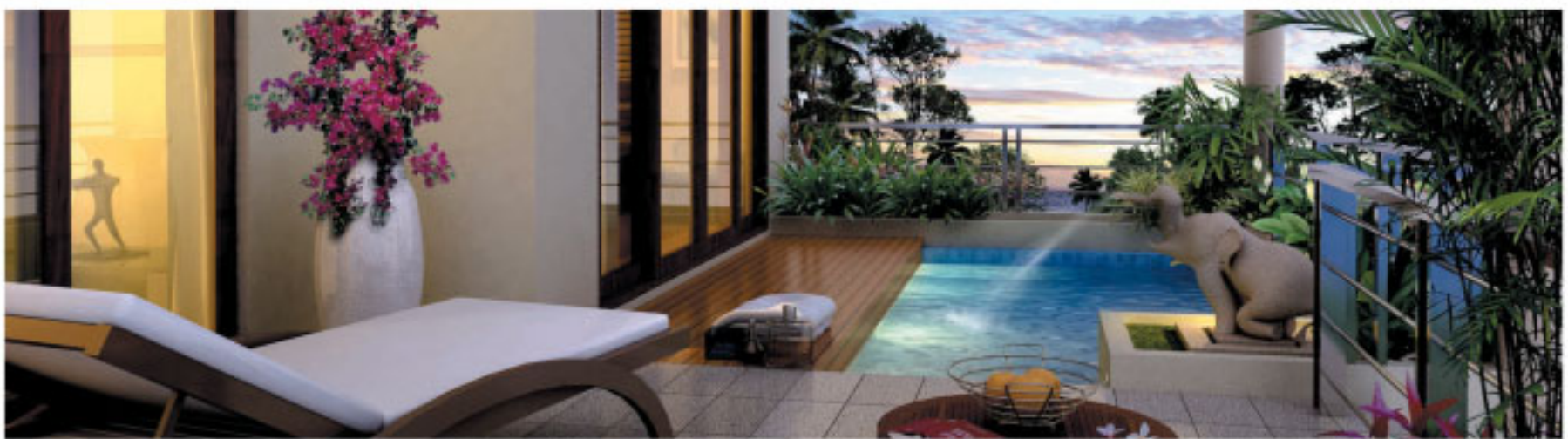
Tsow: You might get some static from the "womenfolk," though.

S. Tsow can be flamed at stsow@yahoo.com, except when he's trying to figure out why Jesus would be eating haggis when he could easily be dining on fish and a glass of wine.

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Everybody must get stoned

In the windows of the jewelry shops on New York City's 47th Street near the high-end shopping mile along Fifth Avenue the most precious of precious stones twinkle as if in competition with one another.

It's known as Diamond Street and it is not only one of the centers of diamond trade in the US, but also where young men such as RJ Nool go looking for that all-important engagement ring.

Nool, 34, took his time looking for the right engagement ring and was not frightened off by the prices he came across. Nool said he looked for the perfect ring for more than two months after getting lost in the large selection along Diamond Street.

Many men have the same problem when it comes to finding an engagement ring – the one that conjures up a certain sparkle in the eyes of the woman each intends to marry. A small, delicate ring without any distinctive features is an exception in the US.

Most men who want to give their girlfriends a ring choose a diamond, said Erik Broman, a



A jeweler on 47th Street in New York, the heart of the city's diamond district. For Americans, there is no avoiding the diamond ring when it comes to getting engaged.

gemologist and jewelry buyer for Continental Jewelers in Washington.

And the girlfriends like to show them off. After getting engaged it's common for young women to organize their own engagement parties in order to broadcast the fact that they have a diamond ring on their finger. When the engaged woman lets her girlfriends see her ring for the first time, a bit of showing off goes along with it, Broman said.

Marissa Whitehall, 27, is proud of the ring her boyfriend gave her when he asked her to marry him.

"I love this diamond," said Whitehall of the stone once worn by her boyfriend's grandmother. Whitehall's girlfriends planned an engagement party to present the ring in a manner that acknowledges its importance in the history of the family.

Young women aren't the only ones who benefit from America's love of diamonds. About half of the total retail sales of diamond jewelry worldwide

take place in the US, according to International Diamond Consultants, a trade group.

In 2005 the US was the world's largest market for precious stones, with total sales of US\$31 billion. Total worldwide sales in 2005 were about US\$69 billion.

The numbers are no surprise to Julie Herschthal of Washington jewelry store Mervis Diamond Importers. Herschthal, a saleswoman at the store, said an engagement that includes the gift of a diamond ring has long since become a common practice followed by all classes of people, not just the wealthy.

A diamond ring is part of an engagement no matter how much money a man earns, she said, adding that some customers have to save a lot, others less.

The average amount an American man spends on an engagement ring should be equal to two to three months of his net salary, if he wants to really de-

light his girlfriend with a very special ring, Broman said.

Customers typically go to great lengths to spend their money wisely, and Broman said most of his customers are educated about diamond quality.

Experts advise anyone shopping for a diamond to understand "the four C's" – cut, color, clarity and carat weight.

These relatively easy criteria have meant more and more buyers are turning to the Internet to order diamonds.

Herschthal, however, advises buyers to use caution. Diamonds available for sale over the Internet are cheaper, but customers may get unreliable information about the actual worth of the stones, she said.

Diamond shopper Nool had no complaints about insufficient advice when he bought his diamond in New York. He said the jewelers were very helpful and understood that customers don't make their decision after their first visit to a jewelry store.

Problems arose only when Nool saw the broad selection available in the New York jewelry stores. More than 90% of diamonds sold in the US are reported to pass through New York.

In the end Nool went to a jewelry store recommended by a close female friend.

The US\$6,000 ring is now exactly where it belongs – on the left ring finger of his fiancée.

Diana Teschler, dpa

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Environment expert and Rotarian and Brad Kenney enjoys his morning run. Nice shoes, Brad.

HOW DO YOUR FEET SHAPE UP?

Neutral/normal feet

Normal feet are already efficient in running so correction is not needed from the footwear. Choose shoes with good structure and cushioned soles.

Over-pronation/flat feet

Flat feet tend to roll inward when running. Look for shoes that have firm midsoles to help correct over-pronation. Avoid shoes with too much cushioning or curved outsoles.

Under-pronation/High-arched Feet

A curved, high-arched foot doesn't absorb shock well. Find flexible shoes with curved outsoles, good cushioning and shock absorption.

As the newness wears off 2007 and the holidays come to a close, it's time to make an attempt at least to follow through on a few resolutions for the new year.

It's no secret that a very common resolution is to get in shape and lose weight, so what better way to inspire yourself to start living that healthier lifestyle than a new pair of running shoes?

When looking for new running shoes it's important to think beyond your wardrobe. Buying the wrong shoes can lead to blisters, shin splints and back pain, so it's vital to identify how you run and what kind of shoe you should be wearing.

First, decide the type of running you are going to be doing. For those who are more dedicated, long distance is a possibility and could lead to marathon training. Others might be more interested in some off-trail jogging. And then there are those of us who are starting small, just a few laps to begin with.

An off-trail shoe will need more traction and a more durable covering than shoes for track or road-surface running. If looking to train for a marathon, you will want to make sure you are buying hard-wearing shoes that will hold up to high-mileage runs.

Next it's time to consider your foot shape, which is best determined by looking at a footprint, next time you step out of the shower make a footprint and study it for a minute. If your footprint has the ball of the foot and the heel connected by a band, con-

gratulations you have a normal foot! For a normal foot the best shoe is a "stability control" shoe. Stability shoes are a mix of a motion control and cushioned shoes, giving your feet the support and shock absorption needed.

If the whole foot is shown in the footprint and there isn't an area left blank for the arch, you have a flat, or an over-pronated, foot. This means that when you walk your foot rolls (pronates) inward.

By Laura Schafer

Flat-footed runners should look for motion control shoes; you do not want to buy highly cushioned shoes as they will lack the stability your foot needs. Motion control shoes are rigid and will limit pronation.

Asics, "Special EVA" or SpEVA range of shoes contains a material that Asics claims improves shock absorption and rebound lift-off characteristics, decreases midsole breakdown and

padding in the midfoot area to provide over-pronation control. The SpEVA range are available for 4,000 to 5,000 baht.

If your footprint doesn't connect and you just see the ball and the heel of your foot this means you have high arches and your foot under-pronates. Athletes with high-arched feet need to look for a shoe with cushioning to absorb shock.

Again, Asics shoes come highly recommended (no we didn't receive free trainers, hon-

est). Respected UK magazine *Runners World* makes Asics Gel Cumulus, available for about 4,500 baht, its top choice for under-pronating runners. Also highly commended are Nike Air Pegasus, on sale in Phuket at about 4,000 baht.

Be sure to enlist the store salesperson's help. They should know what type of shoe you need according to your workout plans and foot needs and help you select the best shoe for your desired regimen and budget.

Moments of Color

by Varaporn Ponrit (Map)

4th - 30th
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Traveling back in time

TALES OF A TRAVELER

By Ed Peters

Reel back about 10,000 years and the piece of land now known as Kangaroo Island had reached a watershed.

The Australian continent's tectonic plates were shaking their booty, so to speak, and the sea was gradually eroding the land bridge between Southern Australia and Kangaroo.

The result, 10 millennia later, is fortunate for visitors as the island is something of a "Lost World" – a unique wilderness crammed with outstanding natural beauty, wildlife, pure air and clean water – all just a 45-minute ferry ride from Cape Jervis to the south of Adelaide.

Nothing lies between Kangaroo and the Antarctic, and after Tasmania and Melville (off the coast of Darwin), this is Australia's third largest island, some 150 kilometers long and 30km wide, with roughly a third taken up by designated conservation parks.

The island was not occupied by Aborigines when Europeans first arrived in Australia, but archaeologists have since unearthed stone implements that suggest Kangaroo Island had an earlier human population that died out for reasons unknown around



Above: Weird wind-carved rocks on Kangaroo Island. Right: Tours now take visitors close to nature.

the time of Julius Caesar – about 2,000 years ago.

Kangaroo Island's isolation means that it is free from dingoes, foxes and rabbits, and threatened species such as the koala and platypus have been introduced to ensure their survival.

There are no prizes for working out how the island arrived at its current name, which was bequeathed by the explorer Matthew Flinders, who did a fair



bit to lower the marsupial population by slaughtering numerous kangaroos on the island in 1802.

Such pursuits are no longer practiced, and Kangaroo Island and the seas around it practically swarm with dolphins, sea lions, penguins, pelicans, wallabies and goannas, to name just a few.

Apart from its fauna, Kangaroo's geology showcases some amazing land formations, with the Remarkable Rocks and Admirals

Arch two of the highlights in the 33,000-hectare Flinders Chase National Park.

The Kelly Hill Caves were discovered in 1881, and daily tours take in this stunning system of caverns and sinkholes, as well as offering full spelunking expeditions for those who wish to delve deeper in Kelly's ornate maze of calcite formations.

In the center of the island, Little Sahara is a range of spectacular sand dunes rising straight out of the bush. Sandboarding from the ridges is thrilling.

Kangaroo Island's park rangers are masters at getting visitors up close and personal with penguins, who waddle their way from the waters around Kingscote and Penneshaw to cozy seaside burrows each evening. Similar tours take in colonies of sea lions as they doze in the sun after lengthy fishing forays in the Southern Ocean.

Kangaroo's fresh air certainly sharpens the appetite, and the island's growing range of gourmet produce – from award-winning sheep's milk cheeses at the Island Pure Sheep Dairy to pure Ligurian honey and olive oil – is on the menu at numerous restaurants and cafes.

While the island can be a bit on the chilly side during the winter, summer brings both locals and visitors down to the seaside. Sydney University recently evaluated 10,000 beaches across Australia (rating them on clarity of water, privacy and cleanliness) and Kangaroo Island's Vivonne Bay came out tops.

It's just one of dozens of long, curved, sandy beaches – perfect for beachcombing, picnics, surfing, swimming or fishing – and one of the best destinations in this latter-day Eden.

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The Toyota Corolla is hardly the most exciting car on the planet; but it is also the world's most successful in terms of sales.

It is by some margin Toyota's best-selling vehicle, with the Hilux pickup (see *Gazette* August 12) trailing by several million units.

The reason for this success is simple: the Corolla is a straightforward, no-nonsense sedan that is equally at home on the roads of Phuket, the dirt tracks of some African states or the congested highways of the Philippines.

In other words, they don't come any more ubiquitous than the Corolla.

For reasons best known to Toyota's European arm, the 10th-generation Corolla was launched in Helsinki at the beginning of December. It had already made its debut in its native Japan when Toyota's chief engineer Toshi Ezaki said, somewhat optimistically, "I want the all-new Corolla to give drivers more excitement and delight." Not words generally associated with Toyota's modest entry-level model.

Mr Ezaki continued, "When it came to developing the 10th-generation Corolla, the main challenge was to create a car that would attract the younger generation while inheriting the durability, reliability and ease of handling that is so highly rated by our current customers.

"All drivers, regardless of



Tediously reliable: Will the new Corolla break the car's reputation as a safe but dull choice?

age, are sensitive to dynamic, high-quality styling that provides a sense of luxury. Our new, strong design, combined with excellent driving dynamics, should sweep away the stereotype of Corolla as a good car that lacks driver appeal. I am confident that we have developed a car that will stir great excitement the moment you see it."

Since its launch in 1966, almost 32 million Corollas have

been sold worldwide. The vehicle is produced in 16 countries, spread over five continents, and is sold in more than 140 markets across the globe. Last year's figures confirm its continued appeal, with 850,000 cars sold around the world in 2005.

The new model is slightly longer than the existing one, but retains the same wheelbase. A sporting stance has been achieved by a wider front and rear track.

Making the car marginally wider, the interior space is improved, while the upper surface of the dash has been lowered to create a greater sense of roominess, and the panel itself is integrated into the curve of the door trim.

Space around the driver and passengers has been increased, with more head and leg room. Rear seat passengers benefit from a flat floor to increase their available space. Interior colors

are traditional dark gray or a more relaxed beige.

Depending on the market, there are now two gasoline and two diesel engines, with three different transmissions. All engines meet the latest Euro IV emissions standards and have improved fuel economy.

There is a new 1.6 liter gas motor producing 124 bhp (91 kW) and 157 Nm of torque. The 1.4L carried over from the current Corolla range gives 97 bhp and 130 Nm. Diesel engines are a new 2.0 and the existing 1.4 D. Although torque is relatively high on these units, power outputs inevitably suffer.

A choice of a five-speed manual or an automatic will generally be standard, although in some countries a six-speed manual will be available.

The new Corolla goes on sale in all principal markets early next year.

Jeff Heselwood can be contacted by email to: jhc@netnavigator.com



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The Cryptic Crossword

Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid below are the names of 20 Thai provinces. The names may read vertically, horizontally or diagonally. They may also read right-to-left or down-to-up. Score: 10 or more, good; 13 or more, very good; 17 or more, excellent.

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

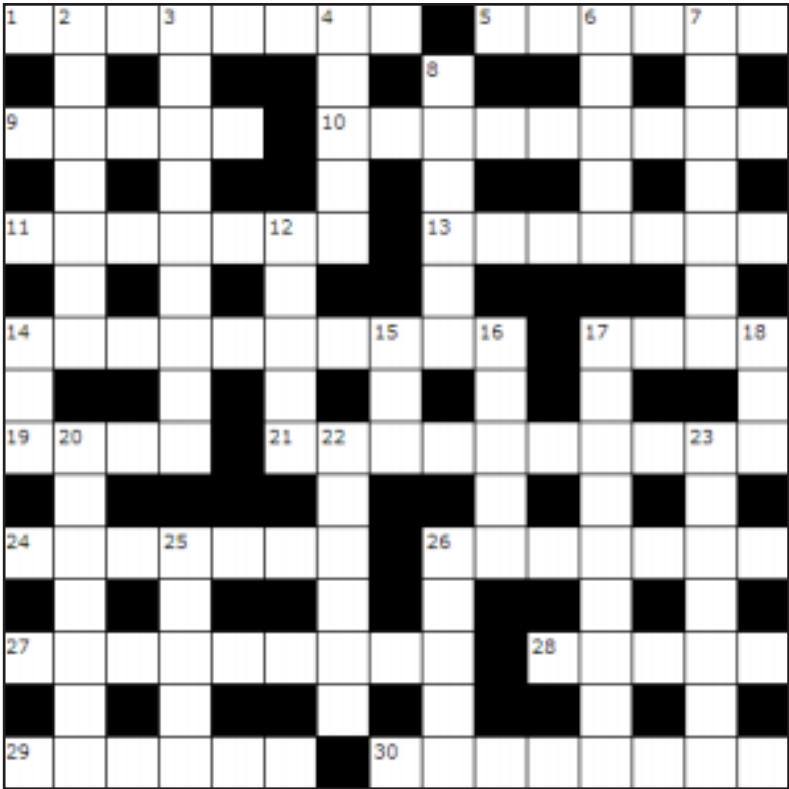
Solution on next page

ACROSS

- Almost scores, is in cutting implement. (8)
- Bend student into tips for making flowers. (6)
- Preceding so, pig's home is indistinct. (5)
- I grew anon about Oslo native. (9)
- Bird box tier. (7)
- Slow mover. Note: more like lace. (7)
- Thus, Scottish bridge from now on. (10)
- Topple the States in overtime. (4)
- "Fight double," they say. (4)
- Move heavily, John, to chopper. (10)
- Queue for piece of pork. (7)
- Fast about a little science for Hitler. (7)
- Devise dead used after paperwork bend. (9)
- Birds on strings? (5)
- Significance of foreign goods. (6)
- In fold, get bigger. (8)

DOWN

- Severely damage 100 after little wave. (7)
- Twisted cat is liar, but acidly witty. (9)
- To renovate, I leave wiener returned. (5)
- Behold note in charge; it can be reasoned. (5)
- Pets have network in Jupiter and Mars. (7)
- The correct chap to fly first, they say. (6)
- Animal waste is rotten, Al! (5)



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2007

14. Hotel I'd concealed. (3)

15. Strange drink. (3)

16. "Hi, Ena," said dog's cousin. (5)

17. Express opposition; I've a target. (9)

18. Kat's back in the province. (3)

20. All the same in little university grade. (7)
22. World body has lad with nothing to discharge. (6)

23. Nuts cash three points. (7)

25. Temporary employee has zero rhythm. (5)

26. It's almost free, on gas. (5)

Solution on next page

Scribble Space



su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

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

Rhyme Time

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

- Voiced displeasure.
- Ate.
- Courted.
- Impolite.
- Vendetta.
- Canny.
- Took legal action.
- Strip.
- Cross representation.
- Emotional state.

EZ TRIVIA QUIZ

1. Khao Yai National park lies mostly in which Thai province?

2. In which country does the Hajj pilgrimage take place?

3. Which color is a mixture of red and yellow?

4. Who currently has a hit with the single *Wind It Up*?

5. Which country has borders with Spain alone?
6. Who will play Indiana Jones in the fourth movie, coming out this year?

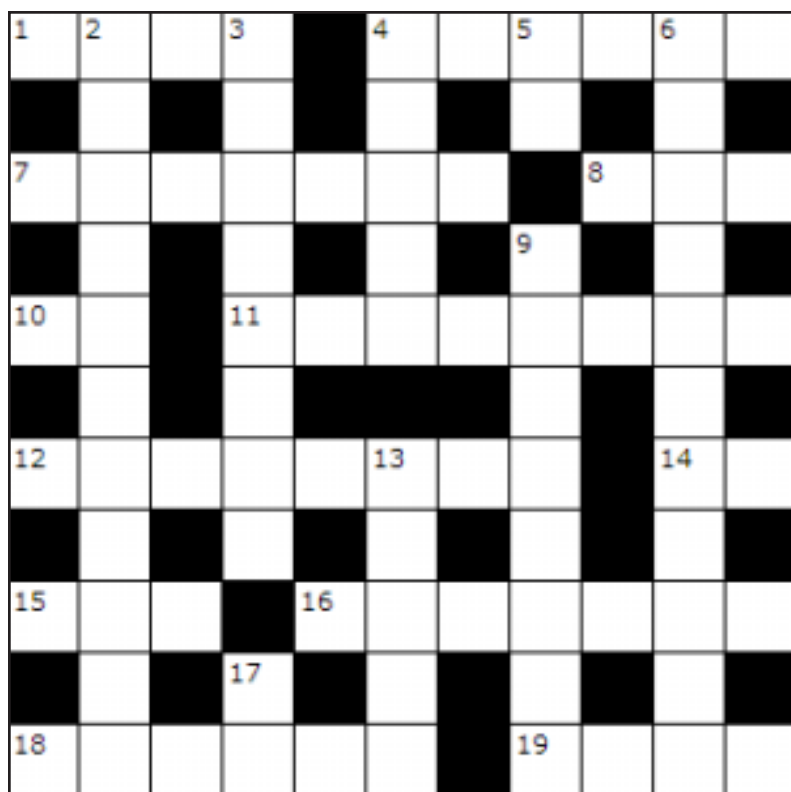
7. How old is he?

8. Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuk will soon be crowned king of which country?

9. What are the colors of the Canadian flag?

10. JPEG, TIFF and BMP are all types of what?

Answers on next page



Quick Crossword

ACROSS

1. Injure with a knife.
4. Dethrone.
7. Golf course part.
8. Snoop.
10. 3.14159, etc.
11. Make a new pal.
12. Blueblood.
14. Yes, in Spain.
15. Wildebeest.
16. Soccer goal-scorer.

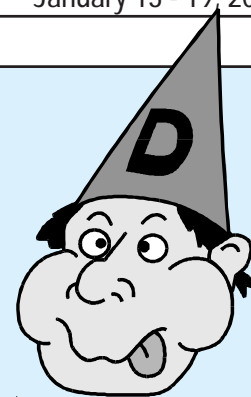
18. Jacket.
19. Sicilian volcano.

DOWN

2. Old-fashioned.
3. Without a saddle.
4. Stunted person.
5. Italian river.
6. The Boss.
9. Bitter denunciation.
13. Say.
17. The wizard's country.

Solution below right

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



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

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1. Who or what is a priapulid? | 7. The caves contain wall paintings dating back roughly how many years? | 14. In which year did Rudolf Diesel patent the Diesel engine? |
| 2. Who said, "When a man opens the car door for his wife, it's either a new car or a new wife." | 8. Which craftsman would use a last? | 15. Constantine XI Palaeologus was the last ruler of which empire? |
| 3. Who wrote the music to which the US Marine Corps anthem is set? | 9. Who founded the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem? | 16. Where would you find the Samoyed people? |
| 4. Which company made a model of car called the De Soto? | 10. In 1788, Baptist minister Elijah Craig was the first person to make what? | 17. In Greek legend, who was the father of Polyphemus and Orion? |
| 5. Where would you find the Dravidian languages spoken? | 11. If you are <i>locum tenens</i> , what are you doing? | 18. How long did the pony express last as a business? |
| 6. What did French schoolboy Jacques Marsal discover in 1940? | 12. What is the Rub' al Khali, and where is it? | 19. Why did it end? |
| | 13. How many people died in the Oklahoma City bombing of 1995? | 20. In which city was Napoleon born? |

Answers below left

Puzzle Solutions

Monster Quiz Answers

1. A marine worm; 2. Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh; 3. Jacques Offenbach; 4. Chrysler; 5. South India and Sri Lanka; 6. The Lascaux caves; 7. 16,000; 8. A cobbler; 9. Godfrey of Bouillon; 10. Bourbon whiskey; 11. Standing in for someone temporarily; 12. A desert in southeastern Saudi Arabia; 13. 169; 14. 1892; 15. Byzantine; 16. Northern Siberia; 17. Poseidon; 18. Less than two years; 19. The transcontinental telegraph line was completed, rendering it obsolete; 20. Ajaccio, Corsica.

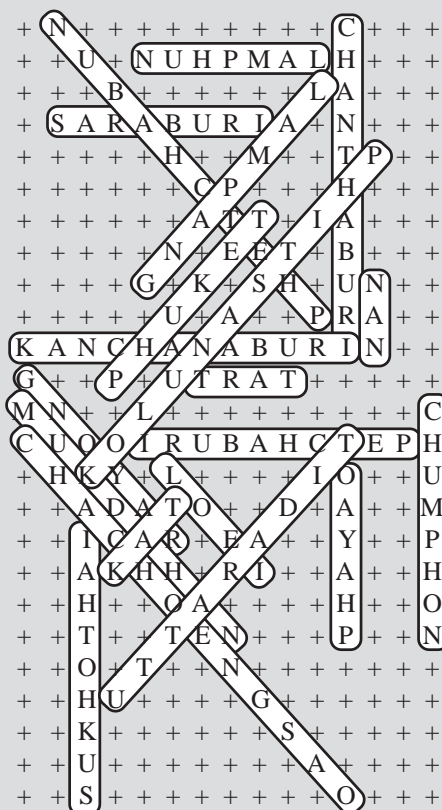
EZ Trivia Answers

1. Nakhon Ratchassima; 2. Saudi Arabia; 3. Orange; 4. Gwen Stefani; 5. Portugal; 6. Harrison Ford; 7. 64; 8. Bhutan; 9. Red and white; 10. Digital images.

Rhyme Time Answers

1. Boomed; 2. Chewed; 3. Wooed; 4. Rude; 5. Feud; 6. Shrewd; 7. Sued; 8. Denude; 9. Rood; 10. Mood.

Hidden Words SOLUTION



Solution to this week's Cryptic Crossword



Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle



PATHOLOGIST POSSESSED

Following *The Coroner's Lunch* and *Thirty-Three Teeth, Disco for the Departed* (Soho Press, New York, 2006, 247pp) is the third in Colin Cotterill's series about 73-year-old Dr Siri Paiboun, the national coroner of Laos.

The time is 1977, two years after the Communist Pathet Lao have taken over the country and things are not going well. A huge chunk of the population has fled across the Mekong to Thailand.

"With every post-revolution month that passed, the Pathet Lao government was learning how much more difficult it was to run a country of warm bodies than it had appeared on paper," Cotterill writes.

"For 10 years in the caves of Huaphan, the dream had always been to gain power. As few of the cadres honestly believed that dream would ever come true, no detailed plans were laid for the future.

"No practical policy of public appeasement was worked out. Nothing spoiled a good popular uprising more than the presence of people and the need to satisfy their unreasonable demands."

Dr Siri had lived in those caves in the remote northeast corner of Laos and, as national coroner now, has been flown from Vientiane back to Huaphan to investigate a bizarre murder.

A boulder has fallen on a concrete pathway near the former presidential cave, exposing a mummified corpse that had been drowned in wet cement.



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

"A mummy, as if in frozen horror, lay shriveled within a shell of concrete that it had once filled.

"One arm was by its side; the other held high above its head. Its knees were bent slightly and it seemed to be dressed only in a pair of nylon shorts that were now several sizes too large for it.

"Their brilliant red contrasted sharply with the almost black-chocolate surface of the corpse."

Dr Siri and his buxom quick-witted nurse, Dtui, soon determine its identity: the body is that of Odon, one of two black Cuban orderlies who'd been assigned to the local hospital under Dr Santiago, a Cuban surgeon and an old friend of Siri's.

His tall and handsome companion Isandro had fallen in love with a patient, the lovely Hong Lan, daughter of the Vietnamese colonel who was leading the fighting against local Hmong guerrillas.

The two Cubans were ordered out

of the country but managed to return and hide out in the caves.

This is where two million tons of American bombs had failed to dislodge, or even scratch, the Communist leadership. On a walk in the countryside, Dr Siri finds himself mesmerized by the sunset: "He saw it as a huge bullet puncturing the horizon in slow motion. The horizon bled, red seeping from the entry wound and oozing across the landscape.

"It occurred to him that forensic pathology might be damaging his appreciation of nature."

He is also tortured by the presence of ghosts killed by the American war machine.

As established in the previous novel of the series, Dr Siri is possessed by the spirit of Yeh Ming, an ancient Hmong shaman. This makes him susceptible to dreams and visions.

"So many ghosts were calling to him from the fields. Impressionable young cadres were among them. He'd put many back together in field hospitals after their encounters with the Hmong resistance.

"They were telling him, 'Look at us. What good did it do? All you did was fix us up so we could go and be killed in the next battle.'

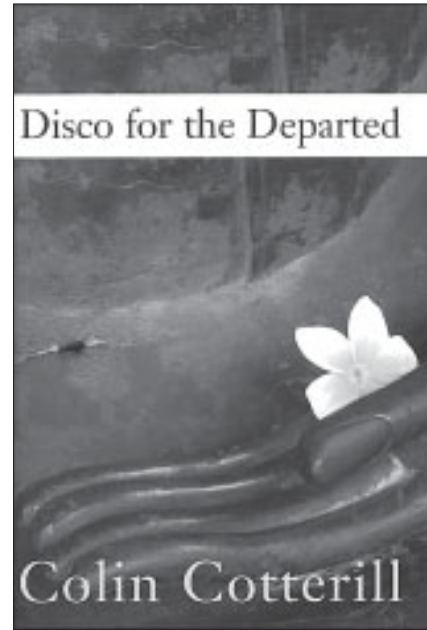
"They were right. He didn't want to listen to them. He wanted to sleep, but in sleep he'd have to face the malevolent spirits who lurked in the dark alleyways of his nightmares."

These psychic sessions lead to a vision of the dead dancing to disco music in the former assembly hall of Pathet Lao headquarters.

Worse, possessed by the spirit of Odon, Dr Siri joins in. The plot grows darker when it turns out that both Odon and Isandro had been dabbling in Palo Mayombe, the Cuban version of voodoo.

Just when you'd thought that Dr Siri and Nurse Dtui have solved the mystery of the Cubans' murders, the plot twists again for another surprise.

This is a tale told with great warmth and humor and I'm among the many of Cotterill's fans eagerly awaiting the fourth in the series.



PHUKET DIARY

www.phuketgazette.net/calendar

To January 30: Moments of Color art exhibition

This exhibition, at The Watermark Bar & Restaurant in the Boat Lagoon, shows the work of local artist Varaporn "Map" Ponrit. Daily from 10 am until the bar closes. No entry fee. To contact the artist call Tel: 081-6963901 or email: art@phuketlifestyle.com

January 21 - April 8: Island Furniture 2007 Cricket League.

The Island Furniture Cricket League returns for its second season starting in late January & finishing up in early April.

Four local teams will play 12 round robin matches with the top two teams playing in the final. Games are 11 a side, 35 overs & played every Sunday during the season.

Email Mark for more details at scarfy@loxinfo.co.th. Call Tel: 086-1208346 or visit the website at www.phuketcricket.com.

February 16-17: 2nd Phuket

International Blues Festival

The dates for the 2nd Annual Phuket International Blues Festival at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa have been moved forward to the 3rd weekend of February, for improve the chances of great weather during the outdoor event.

Eight to 10 Thailand-based and highly-acclaimed international artists will descend upon Phuket for two nights of great blues, R&B and rock 'n' roll.

The headline band on the first night will be British legend Victor Brox, who once had Jimi Hendrix playing in his band, while

the line-up on the second night will be headed by the Rich Harper Blues Band from the US.

Other acts already confirmed include Kyla Brox (Victor's daughter), Phuket's own Groove Doctors, The Blues Machine from Pattaya, and Blue on Blue, Cannonball and the Soi Dog Blues Bank from Bangkok.

Tickets are 500 baht for one night or 800 baht for both nights. For more information see the events website at www.phuketbluesfestival.com or contact Andy Andersen by email to phuketmusic@yahoo.com or by calling Tel: 086-6822639.

February 16-20: Phang Nga Bay Regatta

The 10th Phang Nga Regatta organizers are taking registrations, with this year's regatta limited to 45 yachts. Already 21 entries are confirmed, including two of the superfast Firefly 850s.

The racing will take place over the Chinese New Year. The opening party will be held on February 16, with the racing continuing around Phang Nga Bay and returning to Phuket February 20.

To register, visit the website at www.bayregatta.com or con-

tacting the secretary at Email: info@bayregatta.com

March 27-April 1: 7th Bangkok Chess Club Open

This tournament will be held at the Phuket Graceland Resort & Spa.

The international tournament is expected to attract about 100 chess players from Thailand and abroad.

Entry fees vary from 500 baht to 2,200 baht, depending on the player's skill level and club affiliations.

For more information visit www.bangkokchess.com

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Stand up and be counted

The recorded history of population censuses goes back as far as 500 BC, when the Persian Empire's military used one for issuing land grants and tax purposes. There are also several references to government head counts in the Bible.

Census taking is hardly a Western innovation; the oldest census data still in existence comes to us from China, where the Han Dynasty successfully counted up its 57.5 million inhabitants back in the fall of 2 AD.

Given such an impressive historical record, it is indeed sad that the government of Thailand seems to have no clue as to how many people actually inhabit Phuket, nor has it seemed to care – until now (see Inside Story, pages 4 and 5).

Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit's initiative to get an accurate assessment of the island's population is simple common sense, especially given how much the island has lost over the years in government budgets due to under-reporting the population, which is tabulated from house registration forms.

The extent of the problem appears to be most severe along the island's west coast, which is ironically also the island's biggest cash cow in terms of tourism revenue.

Over the years, Phuket has been a real money-spinner for the nation. Last year alone, the province remitted 850 million baht in taxes and fees to Bangkok. What do we get in return? At most schools in the province – at least those still being administered by the Ministry of Education – funding remains woefully inadequate, as it is based on the reported number of residents.

It is a bitter irony that it took a tsunami and a subsequent flood of charitable donations, mostly from abroad, to provide elementary schools like the one in Kalim with modern classrooms.

Many other government schools in the province appear little different from their counterparts in the most rural, undeveloped backwaters of Isarn. Are these to be the staging ground for Phuket's much-touted development into a high-tech, international city?

Sufficient government funding is lacking for law enforcement as well. It is no wonder the crime rate continues to rise as an ever-growing influx of miscreants from other provinces come here, do their worst, and then disappear without a trace. How can a police department with funding based on a population of 290,000 be expected to protect the estimated one million people that might be on the island during the peak high season?

It is time Phuket got the government funding it needs and deserves. All this requires is for island residents to register on Phuket house registration forms and for Immigration to add up how many tax-paying foreign residents are on the island.

– The Editor

The Phuket Gazette

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Letters

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

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

Praise for Chalong police

I would like to compliment the Chalong Police for all of their help in dealing with a Thai landlord who refused to refund my house damage deposit.

Because I am a foreigner, I wasn't sure if I would be taken seriously. However, I received very fair help and treatment, maybe better than I would have at home in the US.

Beginning with the police-woman who told me, "Don't worry, we can help you," all the way to the officer who helped us negotiate a final settlement, the Chalong officers were very kind and very professional. I would especially like to thank Officer Saman Promhom.

Phil Lynch
Phuket

Nude Driving

Oh goodness, is Thailand turning into Costa del Sol? On a fairly busy section of Bang Tao Beach, in between sun loungers, sand-castles and so on, I came across a guy driving golf balls full pelt into the sea, landing among the swimmers and jet-skis. A very full carrier bag of new golf balls awaited dispatch.

Seemingly possessing more money than common sense or consideration, he certainly had no safety- or environmental-awareness.

Further on, admittedly on a quieter part of the beach, there was a male nudist. I'm certainly no prude, but I anticipated grumbles, at the very least, from Thai objectors as he was stretched out within two meters of a small Buddhist shrine on the

beach. Clearly, he'd missed the chapter on do's and don'ts in Thailand.

It occurred to me that I should have joined the two men together, in a manner of speaking. Now that would surely have resulted in police attendance.

Brian Davis
Bang Tao

Only 90 days? Bye...

When I or any other EU citizen – or those from a long list of other countries – enter Malaysia, I can stay without a visa for three months and get a three-month extension upon request at the nearest immigration office.

When a tourist – albeit from a limited number of countries – enters the US, he or she automatically gets a three-month stay and six additional months on request at the port of entry, no visa required.

But when I came to Thailand for the umpteenth time, Immigration officials at the airport give me just 30 lousy days when I really wanted to spend the entire winter.

And if I want to stay longer than 30 days I cannot just go to the closest immigration office and ask for an extension. That would be too easy.

To punish me for my love of Thailand, I have to spend a day on a bouncy microbus, leave the country for a few minutes, get a fresh 30-day stamp and return. This not only costs money, but also nerves and time.

Just before the fall of Thaksin, the powers-that-be made it even more foreboding. Now it's 90 days in, then 90 days out. One can get only three extension stamps – three visa runs and you're out of here.

Long-term tourists spend good money here – room rent, food, drink, entertainment and so on. All this money goes directly to local people.

I have just spontaneously given a gift to a new mother who had worked up to her last week of pregnancy at my favorite grocery store. In Iceland mothers get six months paid maternity leave, just like in many foreign countries. Wouldn't it be nice if they could spend that time and all that welfare state money on a Thai beach?

Tourists, long term or short, will probably obediently leave after 90 days, but many will not return. I certainly will not. Any hassles they were subjected to will get re-told a thousand times to their friends and relatives at home and on Internet blogs. As we learn in marketing psychology, positive experiences are rarely reported.

All it would take is one stroke of a pen by just one executive to get back to the old visa-run system.

Even better would be an edict from the new governing council to adjust immigration requirements to something similar to those of Thailand's tourism competitors. Nowadays that is any country with a tropical climate, beaches and friendly people. There are many to choose from.

So, sometime in January my 90 days will be up and I'll take the sleeper train ride to Butterworth, Malaysia, where the same sun shines and the same ocean laps the beaches.

I hear living expenses are cheaper there than here. They even offer Thai massage.

Dr Jerry Hoss
Phuket and Detroit

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.

Dealing with savage dogs

It happened on Christmas Day. My son, World, was playing on his scooter at the park in Moo Baan Thep Satree on Thepkasattri Rd, not far from Mission Hospital.

I was working that day and he was staying with my mom. He was bored and just wanted to go outside, but after being outside for just 10 minutes he was bitten by almost 20 stray dogs that roam around here.

My mom called me to tell me that he had been bitten by a dog, but I had no idea he was hurt so seriously. I arrived home about 30 minutes later and when I saw what they had done to him I cried. He was in such pain and his body, especially his legs, rear, arm, neck and face were covered with blood.

I took him to hospital for treatment and vaccines six times. He was not admitted to the hospital but we had to go to have his wounds cleaned and for more vaccinations almost every day after that.

He stayed home for five days and went back to school January 3. He still can't sit at all because his rear was bitten, so he has to lay face down all the time, even when he is eating.

I don't know what would have happened if an old man did not help my son. I might have lost him forever, or his injuries could have been even more serious.

The worst thing is that now he is so scared of dogs. I carry him to the car in front of my house because he is still scared to go outside. That means he has to stay at home and watch TV, and cannot go out to play with other kids.

I have lived here for two years but never thought there

FIRST PERSON

Eight-year-old boy Tanwa "World" Wortong was attacked by a 20-strong pack of stray dogs that roam the streets of Moo Baan Thep Satree housing development, located off Thepkasattri Rd.

His injuries were so serious that his single mom, **Tanatchaporn Sae-Ang**, 35, decided to sell their home because they cannot endure the strays anymore.

People in the village have called the local administration many times but there had been little response until now.

The *Gazette* interviews K. Tanatchaporn about what she plans to do in hope of getting officials to help make the village safe from stray dogs.



would be a problem like this. When people want to buy a house they always look for a nice house within their budget with parks nearby.

People never think about stray dogs. It was a bad decision to live here because the number of dogs with owners, as well as the strays, is increasing all the time.

During the day some of the strays stay in the jungle or are somewhere else, but every evening almost 20 stray dogs gather and bark very loudly.

Before my son was at-

tacked, we have stayed here because we had bought the house, but now I'm too tired to fight with the dogs.

Many people have laughed at me after hearing that I am selling my house because of the stray dogs, but if you haven't had this problem, you don't know what it feels like or how hard it is to live with this.

I took my son to school this morning, but after he saw the dogs at school he started to scream again. I just want him to recover as soon as possible.

People in this neighborhood

know that this is a problem, and it is quiet here at night because no one is brave enough to go out. Residents are always calling Rassada *OrBorTor* (Tambon Administration Organization) to complain or to ask them to do something about the stray dogs, but an *OrBorTor* officer said they do not have the budget to buy the tranquilizers necessary to move the dogs.

I called Rassada *OrBorTor* and let them know that my son was attacked by the stray dogs, but they only asked me for my address. I used to call the man-

ager of the housing development, but he is always busy and all I can do is leave messages about the increasing number of stray dogs.

On January 3 an officer from the *OrBorTor* shot three dogs with tranquilizers and moved them out of the area. Local people tried to tell them that there are not just three dogs, but the officer said they do not have the budget to buy more tranquilizers.

So many people here have been bitten by the dogs; it is a problem that is getting very tiresome. Many people have also decided to sell and move out because they can't sleep well at night and because the *OrBorTor* has done little about the problem.

Even when we want to take the garbage out at night we have to keep a close watch all around, which is not how it should be. We should have the freedom to go walk in the park or to the stores nearby.

My house cost almost 1.7 million baht, which is not cheap, but I have decided to sell it and move out anyway.

I don't want money, I want to see officials get involved and move all stray dogs to the right place.

I want to send a letter to the Minister of Interior and the Minister of Agriculture so they will know about this. I reported it to the police but they can only record my complaint as evidence to be used in the future because they cannot hold anyone responsible.

I don't want the officers to kill these dogs, but please move them to somewhere else where they can live and people are safe as well.

I've still got those work permit blues

What is the current status on playing in hotels and bars for musicians?

I've been told that work permits are not required but I must register where I play.

To create a company or to have the bar pay for a work permit is a great expense and crazy if I'm only playing once a week. Please, can you clarify this murky situation?

Elton John
Patong

Boonchoke Maneechote, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Employment Office (PPEO), responds:

Every foreigner who wants to work in Thailand needs to apply for a work permit from the PPEO.

Work as a musician is not prohibited to foreigners, nor working time limited, but people who work as musicians have the right to work only for one employer at a time, otherwise it's illegal.

The musician employees can request a work permit through their employer or by themselves.

We will issue a work permit as long as your visa is valid, but the maximum is six months.

For more information call the PPEO at Tel: 076-212814.

Issues & ANSWERS

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Sleepless in the South

A wine bar-cum-dance venue recently opened in Nai Harn. The music has been thumping loudly until 2 am, making it impossible for nearby residents to sleep.

Is it possible to ascertain whether this establishment has the necessary licenses? Aren't they supposed to have noise insulation?

Whatever happened to the promising concept of zoning? Can we expect more of the same in this previously quiet area?

Aroon Solos, President of the Rawai Tambon Administration Organization (OrBorTor), replies:

The *OrBorTor* issues per-

mits for construction of restaurants in the area. However, there are no entertainment zones in the Rawai area.

This venue could be a restaurant selling food and drink that also has music, but if they are disturbing people with loud music and stay open beyond legal trading hours, you can tell the police.

I will pass this issue on to the police, too.

Pol Col Chalit Kaewyarat, Superintendent, Chalong Police Station, replies:

Thank you for informing us. I'll keep checking for places disturbing people in Chalong and Rawai areas.

Traffic solutions for Soi Namjai

I live in Baan Namjai, in Rawai, where it is nearly impossible to access or leave our houses on markets days. Vehicles on both sides of the street block access, although there are "no parking" signs and a policeman stationed there.

The soi is the only one in the area that has not been paved and the traffic has created large potholes, which makes access and departing our houses nearly impossible. What can we do about these problems?

Exclusive resident
Rawai

Aroon Solos, President, Rawai Tambon Administration Organization (OrBorTor), replies:

I have ordered officials to organize parking there and to allow traffic to flow when the market is open.

We plan to pave this road. We have asked for the budget to build a road there this year.

TIGERS IN THAILAND?



MAKING TRACKS

By Top Dog

The demise of the Asian Tiger is a subject regularly addressed by newspapers and TV programs around the world.

Unfortunately, despite numerous meetings each year by government representatives and the threat of sanctions under agreements such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), this magnificent creature seems doomed in the wild.

India, which is home to the largest population of tigers, has seen its tiger population dwindle from an estimated 100,000 a century ago to less than 2,000 today.

This is despite the much heralded Project Tiger introduced in the 1970s to protect them. The burgeoning human population, together with the increasing demand for tiger skins and body parts, has seen the total population of tigers completely wiped out in some "reserves" there.

Of the eight species of tiger, three are now extinct and experts predict at least two more will go the same way within 10 years.

What about Thailand? It is difficult to find any up-to-date statistics. A survey carried out in 1999 using trip cameras came up with an estimate of around 250 roaming the national parks close to the Myanmar border. From what has happened in India it is safe to assume that the number is now far less.

The Wildlife Conservation Society Thailand admitted, "With more than 40 years of national park and wildlife laws to protect wildlife and wild lands and with extensive investment in national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and



Thailand has done an outstanding job of trying to protect tigers – but is it enough? Probably not.

– Photo by Monika Betley

non-hunting areas, Thailand has done an outstanding job for conservation in the region.

"However, it is becoming clear that, with increasing human pressures, the current protection system cannot guarantee long-term survival of many threatened species and their habitats."

Although the trade of endangered species is now illegal in Thailand and its reputation for being the world's largest super-market of such products has diminished, dozens of shops dealing in body parts can be found just across the border in Cambodia and Myanmar.

Undercover agents have exposed a huge market operated

by well-organized criminal gangs throughout the region.

It is not surprising. By trapping a tiger a poor villager can earn around US\$1,000, the equivalent of two years' income in some of the poorer regions of Southeast Asia.

Tiger skins, which are often shipped via Bangkok, can easily fetch US\$20,000 in Japan and North America (probably the biggest single market), while dried tiger bone and other delicacies such as tiger penis soup fetch hundreds of dollars per kilo from people with money to burn, particularly the Chinese.

The fact that none of these ancient remedies for male impo-

tence and other ailments has any effect whatsoever does not seem to slow the trade at all. Clearly Viagra has not caught on yet with the more traditional Chinese.

This is not the only problem, however. It has long been tradition among Thai hill tribes to strip and burn forest to grow crops and also to hunt smaller mammals indiscriminately for food.

With the former, the tiger's habitat is reduced, while with the latter its natural prey disappears. Also, with dwindling numbers inbreeding increases, causing a general weakening of the species.

It may seem incredible that in the 21st century man seems powerless to prevent the total disappearance of one of the planet's most magnificent creatures, but sadly that now appears to be happening rapidly.

One place in Thailand where somebody is trying to preserve the Asian Tiger is Wat Phra Luangta Bua in Kanchanaburi province, about three hours drive from Bangkok and not far from the Bridge on the River Kwae.

Some people have likened

this Tiger Temple to little more than a zoo and claim the animals are drugged to keep them docile, but this is hotly denied by the monks, who state that the objective is to use the donations paid by tourists who visit here to set up a proper reserve where the tigers, which have all been rescued, can live a natural existence.

Presently they are caged most of the time but are taken out each afternoon for walks, when tourists can touch and pose with them for photographs.

Although this facility operates on principles completely different from those found in the West, the fact that there have been 10 cubs born here naturally in the past three years indicates they must be doing something right, as virtually all tiger births in Western zoos occur only after artificial insemination.

I shall be writing more about this project next month as I plan to visit it in the next couple of weeks, and see for myself whether it is just another tourist trap or a genuine effort to preserve the tiger in Thailand.

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In The Stars

by Isla Star

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Beware of pessimism; it's vital to start the week on a positive note. Love picks up after Wednesday, but until then avoid any confrontational situations. Where money is concerned, this is not a good time to offer a loan to a Piscean friend in need – it's important this person accepts more responsibility for their lifestyle. The scent of pine freshens your thinking.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Taurus can give useful advice regarding a monetary dilemma, but Virgo is full of hot air. You find Scorpio attractive, but this will never be a compatible match. Aquarians are advised to regard the coming few weeks as a period of creating strong karma and emotional harmony. Think carefully in all ways before you act. A property project needs to be on stronger ground before you commit.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): A Virgo catches your eye on Sunday, but their tendency to be right all the time would cause stress in a relationship. If you didn't receive a career promotion or pay rise last month, take action by reminding the right people of your dedication. Luck is ready to back you up on Tuesday. Remember that happiness is a personal responsibility. The number 7 can bring luck midweek.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): This should be turning out to be a powerful career month, with achievement visible on the horizon. You are advised to adopt more creative thinking patterns to maximize the astral benevolence now working on your behalf. Something special is likely to develop from a platonic relationship with Sagittarius, but you must be patient. Monday is the best day to hold legal discussions. The color beige helps tone down your energy.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): There is no point in worrying about water that's already passed under the bridge. The sooner you realize it's healthier to move on, the better. Answers to important questions should arrive sometime this week; you should feel cheered by the results. A calmer mood develops on Thursday and you will be in the right mindset to make plans. Number 5 comes alive on Wednesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): You are advised to refrain from keeping secrets from your loved ones, no matter how trivial you consider this information to be. Honesty is the only policy this week. Unnecessary drama is about to be eliminated from your life, leaving you free to focus on what is really important. Give Leo the benefit of the doubt this weekend, instead of making a mountain out of a termite mound.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): You are advised to tone down your ego. Power struggles can only lead to a complete blackout. This is also not a good time to make impulsive decisions regarding love affairs; it's far better to create a quiet space in which to reflect on what is good and bad in a particular relationship. Mixing business with pleasure lightens your load this Saturday.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Your insecurity in spiritual matters can be eased by a meaningful conversation with an Arian friend this weekend. You are advised to pick up the pace of physical activity; all the holiday feasting and lounging around in your lair has probably not had a positive effect on your well-being. A new job appears promising, but talk to people already employed in this situation before making a firm decision. Number 3 is lucky on Monday.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): You should heed clear messages from others this week; cracks in a relationship will not disappear unless you are prepared to look at the foundations of the problem. Employment is subject to auspicious stars after Tuesday; the planets will support your attempts to get noticed. Gemini would like to get to know you better. The color seaweed green enhances your charisma.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): This is an excellent week to sow seeds for future work prospects. If you can resist being too independent, you have a good chance of hooking up with a like-minded Scorpio during the coming days. This person will be able to provide the financial backing that you lack to transform a creative idea into reality later in the year. Exciting family news cheers you up midweek – long distance travel is looking likely in the near future.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): You may feel frustrated about a certain area of your life at the moment. Some assistance from a practical-minded Taurus is forthcoming. You might not find their words helpful at first, but slowly the sense of what they've said will sink in. The rest is up to you. Aim for a low-key week to allow your depleted batteries to charge. The scent of sandalwood enhances your appeal.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Going out with Aries this weekend allows you to see the lighter side of life. Many of you have become bogged down in work worries, but these should ease after the middle of the month. Fun times lie ahead after that. You start to consider relocation, however a golden opportunity to better yourself without having to move is about to be presented. Tread water until this happens. The number 9 can bring luck on Sunday.

Great STEAKS!



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Vista: A view to spending large

I just finished final edits on my second Windows Vista book – *Windows Vista Timesaving Techniques For Dummies* – and it feels good to be able to rejoin the human race.

The first Vista book, *Windows Vista All-in-One Desk Reference For Dummies*, hit store shelves in the US and Europe a week before Christmas, and sold out before the end of the year.

With a total of nearly 1,400 pages of text about Vista out the door, I'm feeling a bit of Vista burn-out, as you might imagine.

Writing computer books against impossible deadlines gives new dimensions to the old curse, "May you live in interesting times."

Imagine the joys of working with beta test versions of Windows and Office that frequently turn belly-up at the most inopportune times, trying to figure out what the %\$#@! Microsoft engineers were thinking when they made some hare-brained design decisions, and writing entire sections that have to be trashed when

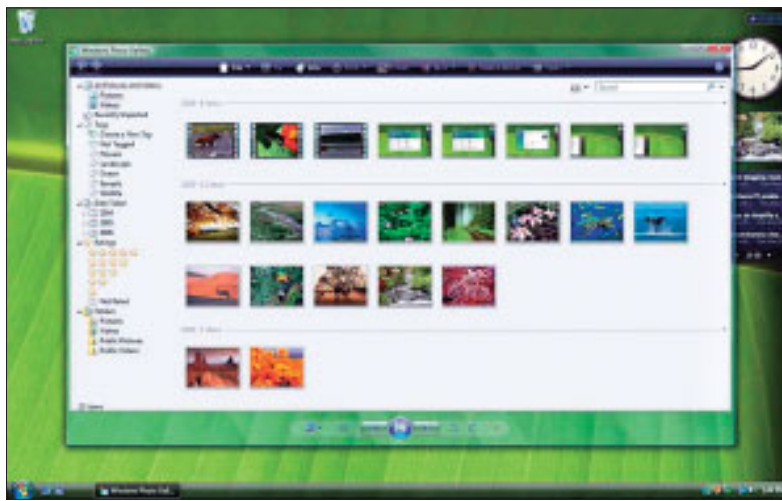
Microsoft changes its mind at the last minute.

Windows Vista itself isn't officially available just yet. It'll launch in New York on January 29 with a(nother) multi-million-dollar media extravaganza, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing. New PCs with Vista pre-installed will roll off the assembly lines on that date, and any new PC you buy after mid-February or so will undoubtedly have Vista installed.

The final version of Vista ("Build 6000" or "RTM") went out to Microsoft's biggest customers in early December. My overall first impression of Vista can be summed up in one question: It took Microsoft six years to do that?

My second impression can be summed up in another question: How can they get away with charging so much?

Check the prices and you'll see what I mean. The full version of Vista – called Vista Ultimate – runs 14,275 baht (US\$ 399) in the US. No, that isn't a typo. The cheapest version that



This took six years? The very cheapest version of Windows Vista – Home Basic – is really not worth having. For the full bells-and-whistles Vista, however, be prepared to shell out a whopping 14,275 baht.

you'd want to buy, an upgrade from Windows XP to Vista Home Premium, costs 5,700 baht (or US \$159). And, yes, you have to buy one copy of Vista for each of your computers.

In general, I recommend that you not try to upgrade: it's a difficult process even under the best of circumstances, and older hardware (particularly older video cards) may not make the transition well. If you can wait, hold off until you can buy a new computer with Vista pre-installed.

When you get that new computer, beware of the new "Home Basic" version of Vista. I call it Windows Vista Bait-and-Switch. In creating Vista Home Basic, Microsoft stripped away many features most Windows users will want. The idea's pretty simple: Microsoft provides a very cheap version of Windows for hardware manufacturers to install on their cut-rate computers.

After a week or two with Home Basic you'll be desperate to upgrade to Home Premium (trust me, you will). To do so, you call the manufacturer or log on to their website, provide your credit card number, and receive a new key. Type the new key in your machine and bingo! You're suddenly upgraded to Home Premium. You don't get a new CD. No package. No downloads. The

bits are already on your machine. You just have to fork over the shekels to get the features unlocked. Very clever.

I'll cover Vista extensively in future columns. Drop me a line and let me know what you'd like to see.

QUAKING

On December 26, an earthquake measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale hit Taiwan. Under-seas fiber optic cables got ripped up, and communication all over Asia took a big hit. Long-distance telephone on Taiwan was severely curtailed for many days. In mainland China, the government wouldn't talk about it ("state secrets" they claim), but many people lost Internet service for an extended period of time.

Why? The Internet is nothing if not redundant. Urban folklore has it that the Internet was built to take multiple nuclear hits and stay alive. (In fact, the Internet's initial design didn't specifically address N-bombs, but it included technology for handling extensive multi-point failures.)

Re-routing on the Internet isn't something that has to be set up manually: it's automatic, part of the design, and "baked into" the way the Internet works. So why did a relatively minor earthquake in Taiwan make Internet connections all around Asia –

particularly in Phuket – suddenly fall over and play dead? Why was there any slowdown at all?

Turns out there are three factors at work.

- The vast majority of Internet traffic in Asia travels to the east, to the US, and not to the west. It's faster, easier and cheaper to connect underwater to the US, rather than using land lines, satellite and submarine cables to traverse the (much greater) distance to Europe. There's a whole lot of data going through a small handful of cables, and many of them converge off the coast of Taiwan.

- Telecom companies all over Asia, when confronted with broken lines to the US, didn't want to re-route to the west. Why? Money. They don't have contracts with existing data pipe providers for redundant connections. Ad-hoc re-routing to the west would've cost an arm and two legs. Their customers got caught in the lurch.

- The big Internet companies with servers located worldwide have historically skimmed on Asian locations.

I tried many times to connect to Hotmail, Microsoft.com, and Yahoo. No luck. But Google and Gmail worked great.

Why? Apparently Microsoft (which owns Hotmail) and Yahoo haven't invested enough in servers on this side of the Pacific.

Google, on the other hand, has server farms all over the place. When I tried to get through to Microsoft.com, I had to connect all the way to the US – and that was like trying to breathe through a tiny straw. But when I hit Google, I didn't have to go over the Pacific.

Woody Leonhard's new *Windows books*, *Windows Vista All-in-One Desk Reference For Dummies*, and *Windows Vista Timesaving Techniques For Dummies* should be available worldwide this month. Email woody@khunwoody.com or visit www.askwoody.com.

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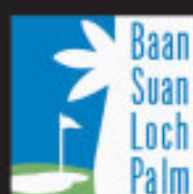


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ON THE MOVE

Santika Phothiphrom, from Bangkok, has been appointed Accounts Director at JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa. She has a degree in journalism and communications from Thammasat University, a post-graduate diploma in communication arts from Edith Cowan University in Perth, Australia, and a master's degree in communication arts from Griffith University in Brisbane, Australia. K. Santika joined the resort as Beverage Manager during pre-opening in 2001 and moved to Sales & Marketing as Accounts Manager in 2003.



Aekphon Phothiphrom, from Bangkok, has been appointed Assistant Food & Beverage Director of JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa. He graduated from IHTTI School of Hotel Management in Neuchatel, Switzerland. K. Aekphon joined the resort as Director of Restaurants during pre-opening in 2001 and was promoted to Food & Beverage Manager in April 2005. In his new role, K. Aekphon will assist the Food & Beverage Director in all aspects of food and beverage, as well as banquets.

Phiangjai Yaikaew, from Nonthaburi, has been appointed Assistant Customer Relations Manager of Club Andaman Beach Resort. She has a degree in business management from Rangsit University in Bangkok and a master's degree from the Faculty of Political Science from Ramkhamhaeng University. Before moving to Phuket she was a government officer at the International Security Office, Ministry of Public Health, in Bangkok, for seven years.



Capital

The implementation of capital controls in Thailand demonstrates how truly complex the world is. The results of these measures, even after rapid amendments to protect the Thai stock market, have continued to ripple.

Many innocent parties have become unintended victims and are being squeezed by these measures.

Their range is surprising. The Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) reported in *The Nation* on December 28 that a number of Japanese-based companies have suspended plans to increase equity in their Thai subsidiaries because they simply cannot afford to deposit 30% of this capital with the Central Bank for one year. To add insult to injury this is a non-interest bearing account.

They view the current measures as "a much more serious problem than the coup".

JETRO however, gave a balanced viewpoint; if the Thai baht appreciates to 33 baht to the US dollar, it also would affect future Japanese investment, they said. They suggest a 10% withholding requirement.

Foreign investment is vital to Thailand. Chalongsob Susongkorn, the President of the Thai Development Research Institute, was quoted in *The Nation* on December 28 as saying, "The financial crisis in 1997 happened because we did not have a bond market for support.

"But the 30% capital reserve requirement imposed on the bond market would destroy the debt market in the long run and increase overall risks. The Central Bank should review this [rule]."

He went on to discuss a moderate solution that would be more market friendly. Fortunately, he is an economic adviser to the Prime Minister and will be submitting these recommendations to the central bank.

However, other academics

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control victims count the cost



A COMPLEX WORLD: Keeping people employed in China has an effect Thailand's economy.

Photo: EPA/Zhu Chao

have disagreed with his solution and have put forward their own economic models.

Another unintended target is personified by the experience of Michael Gomez of Pacific Investment Management Company, a unit of Germany's Allianz AG, better known as PIMCO and virtually a household name in the US as it is a massive bond fund manager.

Gomez helps manage US\$35 billion of emerging market assets. On the Thai situation, he merely stated, "We're looking to mitigate".

PIMCO simply invests in bonds throughout the world; it is not in the business of speculation.

Naturally, PIMCO keeps a continuing watching brief on every economy in which it invests and it is a very welcome visitor to any country.



MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

Then PIMCO gets caught in a Thai type situation; unexpected but par for the course when being involved in emerging market debt.

Gomez has seen the gyrations of Latin American debt markets and experienced in the Argentinean debt crisis when he thought that they would receive preferential treatment because they were holding Argentine Government Bonds that carried a guarantee from the World Bank. "It was a painful lesson.

Make sure you always have an exit strategy in investments," he was quoted as saying in the *Asian Wall Street Journal* on December 27. In any event, PIMCO has limited investment in Thailand.

Strong capital markets – bonds and stock markets – are what Thailand needs. India's economic growth is greatly aided by its long-standing capital markets, which were installed by the British in the late 19th century.

The pressure still seemed

to remain up until the end of 2006. There is obvious upward pressure on the Thai baht, so Central Bank intervention is a given looking at the movements in the currency.

The stock market is a little stunned by events and markets hate uncertainty. Bloomberg (December 28) reported that there was a lack of "offshore liquidity" in the Thai baht and routine foreign exchange movements – not speculators – were forcing the currency upward.

Bloomberg was only commenting on this one issue, not the entire situation.

Thai Finance Minister Pridiyathorn Devakula is correct in his statement that the artificially low value of the Chinese currency, the yuan, is causing many problems that are rippling out to other countries, Thailand being only one example.

Analysts generally agree that the Chinese currency is as much as 40% undervalued. The yuan is not convertible, so the Chinese authorities basically dictate the acceptable trading band for the yuan. China is looking at this whole position from a domestic perspective.

It suits the Chinese to have an undervalued currency; exports become so much more competitive and this creates employment. China faces enormous challenges, not least the need to spread

wealth back to non-coastal provinces.

In addition, there is a need to continue to allow job creation at a tremendous rate combined with a business-friendly environment.

Many foreign investors are less than charmed with their treatment as investors but everybody wants exposure to the "big one".

A substantial number of analysts believe that the forthcoming Beijing Olympics will be the beginning of the debut of China on the world stage as a superpower.

The emphasis will be on China as a rising economic power instead of a military one, on the surface at least, though Taiwan will still have cause for concern.

Correction: My article in last week's *Gazette* mentioned that Friends Provident manages assets of about UK£50 billion (about 3.5 trillion baht). It actually manages assets of around UK£150 billion (more than 10 trillion baht).

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

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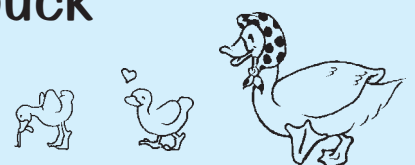
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CHARTCHAI CHIONOI:

Blood, Sweat, Tears and Joy

By Scott Mallon

Chartchai Chionoi is Thailand's second world champion in professional boxing, after Pone Kingpetch, and is considered the great-grandfather of boxing in Thailand. He was HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's favorite boxer, spending time at the palace and often receiving public praise from His Majesty.

He is also a devout family man who was driven by the need to give his wife and four children a good life.

I took the 6 am train from Bangkok, arriving in the early evening to see Chionoi at his home in Chiang Mai. His son Boi had arranged to pick me up but, in typical Thai fashion, the entire Chionoi family was waiting for me at the train station. I had a hotel reservation, but they would have none of it – I would be staying at their home. We stopped and had dinner at one of their favorite restaurants before we made the 45-minute journey from the city to their home in the hills.

The Chionoi home is set on a hill about 200 meters from the main road, hidden behind hundreds of trees in a lush, green forest. The tallest trees are in the back of the house and when standing on the doorstep the tip of the Doi Suthep is just visible. A small pasture lies between the house and a creek just before a huge row of soaring trees that extends all the way to the main road. To get to the house, you must first negotiate a rickety, 7-meter-long wooden bridge that descends at 45 degrees across



Chartchai Chionoi with the WBC World Flyweight Championship belt he won in Bangkok 40 years ago.

the creek, and the house is another 100 meters through an alley of shrubs.

Chionoi's home is a shrine to the three-time flyweight champion. It is a traditional Thai home, made from wood, two stories and set on thick wooden pillars. Modest but comfortable, you can't help but scan the busy walls of the home and take in the memories of Chionoi's life.

That first night we stayed up well into the wee hours of the morning talking about everything

life has to offer, including boxing, of course. Family and relationships are also popular subjects.

There were times we talked only of boxing and others we spent having fun; such as our trip to the waterfall on Chionoi's property or our late-night barbecue, discussing the relative virtues of being single or being married. I was given not only an interview, but an inside look into the life of Chionoi and his family before and after boxing.

All along the way, Oot,

Chionoi's wife of 45 years, has been his constant friend and companion, doing everything her husband has with the exception of physically getting in the ring and doing battle. Nonetheless, she has felt her share of the punches – and still does.

When I first met Chionoi, I had a hard time understanding him; like countless other pugilists who have fought in many-a-hard battle, he slurs his words. I originally thought he might have Parkinson's or Alzheimer's, but later

found doctors don't know what is specifically wrong with him – other than his brain having been damaged from being on the receiving end of far too many punches. Fortunately he has the resources to receive the care he needs and is examined every three months.

Several times a day he would motion to me, telling me he was spinning and suffering from a headache. Noise compounds his condition, filling his head with confusion. A room full of people talking can set off a headache, which is why he and his wife moved to the countryside – it's serene and uncluttered.

I found myself telling him more than once how many children I have and that "Yes, I am married to a Thai woman. She's home in Bangkok taking care of the kids." His short-term memory is virtually non-existent, though his medium-to-long-term memory is excellent.

I resisted the urge to feel sorry for him, and thankfully so. Much like Muhammad Ali, he wants no sympathy and is quietly content. He is far from destitute and is instead full of life. He has land throughout Thailand and a doting wife and four children who help make sure he is well taken care of. They are all extremely proud of what he's accomplished and sacrificed and are acutely aware he has given his blood, sweat and tears – for them.

When at the end of our time together I asked Chionoi if it was all worth it, he wasted no time in telling me "Definitely."

"Boxing has been good to me and my family," said Chionoi. "Sometimes it's painful to see my championship belts and the photos on the wall because I miss the excitement of being in the ring, but if I had it to do all over again I wouldn't have it any other way."

Even now, 31 years after his last fight, his face and name are remembered. When a group of us went to a small food market on the side of the road, a woman asked, "Didn't that guy used to be a fighter? He's... Chionoi... right?!" Chionoi simply smiled and waved, slightly embarrassed but happy to be remembered.

CAREER: 1957 - 1975

Championships: WBC Flyweight (1966-1969, 1970), WBA Flyweight (1973-1974), OPBF (1962, 1963), Ring Magazine Title, Lonsdale Title.

Scott Mallon is a member of the Boxing Writers' Association of America, Ring Magazine's Ratings Advisory Panel and the International Boxing Research Organization. He lives in Bangkok with his wife and two children.

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Local lad helps Thailand to bronze

SHENZHEN, CHINA: Local badminton player Maneephong Jongjit, 15, helped take the Thailand Youth Badminton Team to third place in their group at the Badminton Asia Under 16 Mixed Team Events competition.

Thailand's team was boosted to a 3-0 win over Sri Lanka thanks to Maneephong's win in Boy's Doubles with his partner Nidhiphon Phuangphapet, as well as other wins in both the Boys and Girls Singles.

"I was happy with our placing, although we expected to do better than this. Anyway, I think I did my best and I'll continue practicing for the next tournament," Maneephong said.

The competition, held December 20-22 in Shenzhen Longgang Sports Center, included nine teams divided into two groups. Thailand competed against Indonesia, Korea and Sri Lanka. The Thai team lost to both Indonesia and Korea 1-3 before beating Sri Lanka.

China, from Group A, won the competition over second-placed Korea. Teams from Malaysia, Japan, India and Jordan also took part in the event.



What a racket: Maneephong Jongjit hams it up with a giant baminton racket.

Boats slow to enter Langkawi regatta

By Chris Husted

MALAYSIA: With less than four weeks until the Royal Langkawi International Regatta 2007, to be held from February 4 to 9, only 21 yachts had been entered in the event at the time of going to press.

Last year 41 teams took part in the event, including Thomas Blixt on *Ericsson VO60* and Racing Class winner Ray Roberts's *Quantum Racing on Ulumulu*.

However, several yachts from Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC), which has a strong record of winning at the event, will be back to defend their titles.

Returning to defend his Multihull Racing title will be Roger Kingdon on his *Firefly 850 Moto Inzi*, and Kevin Gillow will return on *Minx* to defend the IRC1 title.

Keith Garry on *Beaux Esprits* will be back in the Premier

Class to improve on his second place finish last year. In that race he finished behind David Lindhal's *La Samudra*, which has not yet been entered in this year's event.

Bolero, *Sofa So Good* and *Nom de Plume* have registered, and are likely to vie for top honors in the Club Cruising Class.

Fat Cat, *My Toy* and *Rusalka* will also race, most likely in the Ocean Rover Class.

However, Tony Knight of the ACYC told the *Gazette* that it is still too early to tell how many ACYC yachts will be taking part.

"Plenty of boats will be sailing down [to Langkawi] to take part in the event, though some boats that have regularly raced at Langkawi will not be joining this year," he said.

"Perhaps having the Phang Nga Bay Regatta (PNBR) held so close after it has something to do with it."

This year's PNBR will be held from February 16 to 20.

Mr Knight said a date has yet to be set for this year's Rebak Champagne Run, the traditional overnight race from Ao Chalong to Rebak Island in Malaysia, enroute to Langkawi.

He added that the ACYC race calendar for its annual Keelboat and Multihull Race Series will be announced within the next few weeks.

For more information call Mr Knight at Tel: 081-747 0074.

PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

A serious shake-up

PATONG: It was a rather jarring week in the Patong Darts League, with the shock announcement that long-time stalwarts Shakers have left the league, with immediate effect. Apparently Olivier and friends are too busy making pizzas these days. Best of luck.

To rectify the league table, the results of all games played against Shakers have been discarded. For the rest of this season, all teams scheduled to meet Shakers will have the evening off – unless another bar is interested in replacing them.

In January 2 play, Piccadilly took all three points at league leaders Coyote to move within one point. In that match, Coyote got off to a 2-0 start in the singles, but Tony from Karon turned it around for Piccadilly, winning the third singles. Piccadilly won all the remaining points, with their captain Linds scoring the winning dart in the first doubles and also closing the team game.

Meanwhile, defending champs Didi's lost a close one at Offshore, going down 5-4 in the singles/doubles but regrouping to win the team game.

Tied for third place after the league table readjustment following Shaker's departure are Dog's Bollocks and Queen Mary, who took all three points at Funky Monkey (up for sale, but the dart team will play on according to owner Simon).

Team captains are asked to continue sending results to league secretary Steen by 6 pm the Friday after the match at the latest. Additional match information can be sent by email to darts@phuketgazette.net for inclusion in this article.

January 2 results: Offshore 5 Didi's* 4; Coyote Bar 2 Piccadilly* 7; Dog's Bollocks 8 Beach House* 1; Funky Monkey 3 Queen Mary* 6 (* = winner of beer leg).

Standings: 1. Coyote Bar (16 pts.); 2. Piccadilly (15); 3.= Queen Mary, Dog's Bollocks (14); 5. Didi's (12); 6.= Offshore, Valhalla (8); 8. Beach House (6); 9. Funky Monkey (3).

January 16 matchups: Piccadilly v Didi's; Queen Mary v Dog's Bollocks; Funky Monkey v Offshore; Valhalla v Coyote Bar; (home teams first). Beach House has bye.

PGA Pres Cup date set

KATHU: The Phuket Golf Association (PGA) will hold their annual Presidents Cup tournament January 26 at the Phuket Country Club.

The tournament will be divided into four flights based on handicap, with a flight for women and youths as well.

Tee-off is at 11:30 am, and registration costs 2,000 baht for PGA members, or 3,000 baht for non-members.

In the evening following the

tournament there will be a party at the club house for competitors.

PGA president Surin Bamrunghol said that he expects more than 140 golfers to join this tournament. The club will also vote for a new president at the meeting that evening as K. Surin ends his tenure.

For more information contact K. Surin at Tel: 081-8912333 or K. Sirichai at Tel: 076-3210-3840, or email: info@phuketgolf.org

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Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

I have to start with an admission. I'm no Adonis. Brad Pitt and that Spanish bloke from *Zorro* – Antonio Something-or-other I think it is, the ladies seem to like him – have nothing to worry about.

At least I can say with a degree of confidence that my limited features have nothing on the hapless individuals featured on a website called www.mingers.com – the name of the site alone makes it worth a visit. They proudly claim to be “the home of the facially inept”, and having seen some of the offerings on display, I can't disagree. They have some howlers.

That's how things have changed over the years – the Internet has opened up a whole new world of opportunities for those whose looks aren't exactly classical. Maybe I'm in with a chance after all.

I've always wondered why you seldom see people who look like the back end of a bus in the media. Aliens tuning in to TV from space would be somewhat disappointed to land on this planet after watching our TV output during their travels here. They'd soon realize that not all women have Pamela Anderson's profile. Unfortunately, very few do.

I remember a friend of mine, German as it happened, an enthusiastic fan of the TV series *Dallas* and *Dynasty* at the time, going over to the States for a visit. She was very much looking forward to it; after all, she knew exactly what to expect – she'd been watching Americans on the telly for years. She came back a little despondent, with only one thing to say on her return: “It's not much like *Dynasty* – they're all as ugly as we are”.

Am I the only person who actually wouldn't complain about seeing more unattractive people on television? Perhaps that busty bird from *Lost* who always has

SWAMP THING



Mud, mosquitos, snakes, creepy-crawlies – and the world's ugliest trees. But they're fascinating, too.

problems with her top shirt buttons becoming mysteriously unfastened could be portrayed by a 50-year-old dragon from behind the counter at Woolworths. You know, the one with the mustache.

I'm not putting forward a particularly good argument here, on reflection. Television should obviously be a beautifully perfect place, where such common monstrosities as fat people, overbites, unfetching haircuts and cellulite are nowhere to be seen.

In the western world, if you want to see ugly people, just walk outside. Ugly people abound. The plant world tends to be a little more attractive, though. But there are exceptions. The rather hideous crown of thorns plant, with its insidious little thorns and silly little flowers perched on top is

certainly up there in the ugly scheme of things.

Tree-wise, one single example stands out as being perhaps the ugliest tree on the planet – the mangrove. Known as *mai chai laen* in Thai, it's an odd beast; decidedly weird. Initially, mangrove trees seem to have little going for them, with their twisted branches and confused root systems that look as if they can't decide what they want to do.

For many people, mangrove swamps look like muddy, unpleasant places filled with mosquitoes, snakes and spiders. Well actually, they are. But if you're willing to do some squelching around in the mud, you'll find that hidden in the twisted vines and branches are plenty of reptiles, wild looking insects, crabs and other animals that make their homes in the mangroves.

If you do decide to brave the reptiles and creepy crawlies that make their home there, you may be surprised by the variety

of odd sounds you will hear. The mangrove is about the only tree I know that causes so much noise. Go anywhere near these things at low tide, and the mud sounds like a bowl of Rice Krispies. Snap, crackle and pop from all directions.

You'll always find mangroves at or near the water's edge in protected marine habitats, which means that while you are likely to find mangroves along the calm banks of the east coast of Phuket, you're less likely to see them on the more wave-beaten west coast shores of the island. Having not scanned every inch of the west coast personally, I know that somebody will no doubt prove me wrong on that point.

So what makes a mangrove tree a mangrove tree? There are several features that all species of mangrove trees have in common: A tolerance to conditions of high soil salinity and being submerged in water or waterlogged soil, as well as a tolerance of low oxygen conditions.

Most plants produce seeds that don't sprout until they are planted. Mangrove seeds are different because they actually start to grow into a new plant while

they are still attached to the parent tree. These specialized seeds are called seedlings, and once they're ready, they use the water around them to disperse themselves.

In the middle of a mangrove clump (known as a mangle, if you want to get technical), the amount of salt in the soil can be up to three times the amount found in seawater, believe it or not. Mangrove trees are adapted to survive in salty soils that would kill most other kinds of plants, which is the main reason why mangrove trees can thrive in areas too harsh for other vegetation.

One type of mangrove, the black mangrove, performs an impressive feat – it uses snorkels, called pneumatophores. These structures are covered with small holes that allow the roots to breathe in the same way a snorkel lets you breathe while underwater.

I know the mud in which these trees live isn't exactly the most pleasant stuff in the world, if you were to scoop up just one teaspoon of mud from a mangrove forest and look at it under a very strong microscope, you'd find that it contains more than 10 billion bacteria which, I'm told, is among the highest concentrations found in marine mud anywhere.

This bacteria helps break down leaf litter and other bits of natural material, and probably a lot more less-natural debris that finds its way there, in turn producing sources of nutrition for plants and animals, making mangrove swamps an important coastal habitat.

The mangrove may not be the prettiest tree in the world, but at least it does a decent job. Facially inept humans, on the other hand, well, I'm not so sure. And if I ever suggest that generously cleaved ladies with blouse button problems should be replaced on TV by women with mustaches, someone please shoot me. Then dump me in a mangrove swamp.

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Above, reclaimed teak dining table, 35,000 baht, and chairs, 8,900 baht each.

Left, Julalak Khamphila: 'I don't think anywhere else in Phuket offers styles similar to ours.'

Reclaiming rustic charm

Using reclaimed teak-wood from South-east Asian homes, Zee Zee Interior adds a touch of rustic charm to a modern contemporary look.

The wood used to make the pieces of furniture at Zee Zee is taken from old houses that have been dismantled. The wood is then refurbished and fashioned into modern furniture, Julalak "Mam" Khamphila, owner of Zee Zee Interior, explained.

"We change our furniture designs every three to six months, but maintain our concept of a contemporary look by using the latest trends. For example, our 'gray collection' is

based on previous styles that used the natural color of teak-wood, but is in darker colors," said K. Mam.

K. Mam and her husband, Jim, work with Ojawa, a factory in Indonesia, because they feel that they get more original designs than they would from other manufacturers.

The couple sailed to Thailand from Indonesia, where Jim owned a handicraft factory, with plans to start a new business. Those plans became Zee Zee Interior, which opened two years ago.

"The inspiration for our products come from what we like, but our designs come from us plus

input from current market demand. I don't think anywhere else in Phuket offers styles similar to ours," said K. Mam.

"The products here are unique, and we have only high-end, quality pieces. Many customers say that our products are expensive, but that's because our products are made using real teak and quality materials, so they will last," she added.

Zee Zee Interior. 293/27-3 Moo 1, Srisoonthorn Rd, Cherng Talay, Thalung. Open Monday to Saturday, 9 am to 6 pm. Tel: 076-326046. Email: zeezee@csloxinfo.com. Website: www.zeezeeinterior.com.

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Construction Update

by Janyaporn Morel

Phuket Chulajaroen Co Ltd will start building its 400-million-baht Thanaphat Park Phuket development on nine rai of land on Chao Fa West Rd next month. The project, near Suan Luang park, will contain shophouses, home offices and a block of condominiums.

Worapong Boriboon, Marketing Manager of Pearl Real Estate Co Ltd, the marketing management company for the project, told the *Gazette* that the project owner, Phuket Chulajaroen Co Ltd, saw there was still room for business expansion on the outskirts of Phuket City and therefore decided to develop a new business zone on a patch of land belonging to the company.

The project will comprise a 160-unit block of condominiums, four three-and-a-half-story shophouses, which will each have a usable area of 203 square meters, and 39 three-story home offices that will be divided into two types; 25 Type A units with 320sqm of



A place to work and live

usable area; and 14 Type B units with 220sqm of usable area.

The shophouses, which will

face out onto the road, have all been sold. The home offices are still available.

"The Type A home offices will have three bedrooms and four bathrooms and are suitable for people who are looking for an office near the city. They combine a home and a workplace in one," K. Worapong said.

The first floor of the Type A home office can be used for an office area and will be equipped with a kitchen and a bathroom.

The second floor will house more office space as well as a multipurpose room that can be used as another office or could be converted into a bedroom.

The third floor will have three bedrooms. The master bedroom will have an en-suite bathroom and the other two bedrooms will share a bathroom.

There will also be a living area, which could also be used as an extra bedroom.

K. Worapong explained that

Type A home offices were already on sale and reservations were also being accepted for Type B home offices, though customers requesting a Type B will have a longer wait as construction will begin on Type A first.

"The selling point of the home offices is that they will have a large usage area and also a roof deck that can be used as a garden or a relaxation area," he said.

The seven-story condominium will be divided into 160 studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom units. All will be fully furnished.

K. Worapong said that they expected to start selling the condominiums in July this year.

Construction work on the home offices will begin in February. The first phase of Type A is expected to be finished by the end of the year, when building work on the condominium block will begin.

The whole development – including garden, pool and parking spaces – is due to be completed within three years. The complex will have underground electricity supply, water supply and holding tanks and a 12-meter-wide road.

The shophouses were on sale at 5.95 to 6.5 million baht. Until the end of February, the first 10 Type A home offices (pictured above) will be on promotion at 4.99 million baht. On March 1 the price will rise to 5.29 million baht.

The Type B home offices range from 4.19 to 4.69 million baht. The price of the condominiums has yet to be released.

"The project is very close to many city facilities and our target customers are the new modern generation of business owners who are looking for home offices that give them more space and allow for a comfortable lifestyle," K. Worapong said.

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Home of the Week

Loch Palm

SWISH, ON THE COURSE

This multi-level home is located in the heart of Phuket, 12 kilometers from Phuket City, close to all amenities and alongside the ninth fairway at Loch Palm Golf Club.

Another golf course with expansive views will open at the rear of the property in June.

Custom-made, burnished steel doors open to a long entryway that leads into this open-plan home. A large living room extends into the dining and kitchen area, with glass throughout from ceiling to floor providing views of the swimming pool, terrace area, surrounding mountains and golf course.

The air-conditioned interior occupies 323 square meters, including four bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms, additional bathroom, large office area and a large studio that could be converted into a fifth bedroom.

All of the fixtures and mirrors in the home and outdoors are custom made from burnished steel to match the front entrance,

giving a yesteryear feel to the home.

The master bedroom has a walk-in closet and a double-seater Jacuzzi with lights. The golf course and hills, as well as the pool and living room, can be seen from the master bedroom.

The 9m by 4m pool includes an elephant motif water feature with three spouts that pour into the pool, complementing the elephant statues surrounding the pool. The pool area also includes a barbecue grill and large deck, and is viewable from most areas of the home.

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The home has Chanote title and is available at 16 million baht.

To view contact Ken at Lifestyle Properties Co Ltd at Tel: 081-6493557 or Email: info@phuketlifestyle.com, or visit the website at: www.phuketlifestyle.com.



Above: The well-lit, inviting living room of the home.



Right: The wall around the pool forms an attractive backdrop and ensures privacy.

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Property Gazette

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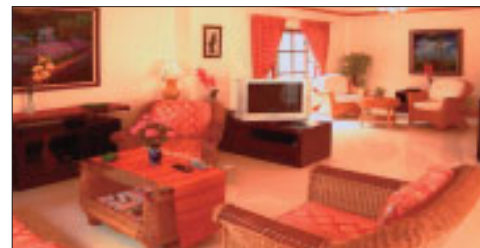
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Property Gazette

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Property Gazette

3 BEDROOM VILLA



Kathu, peaceful residential area, 134sqm living space. 4.6 million baht. Tel: 076-381490. Email: info@sea-property-international.com

NAI HARN VILLAS



11-villa project, large communal pool, secluded area close to beautiful Nai Harn Beach. Starting from 8.3 million baht. Tel: 076-381490. Email: info@sea-property-international.com

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14 rai Chanote house lots. 1.5km north of Mission Hills Golf Course. Government road. Power nearby. 960,000 baht full price! (8 lots only)

14+ rai behind Pointe East in Pakchit area. Government road access. Year-round stream. Nor Sor 3 Gor title. 550,000 baht a rai! Financing available.

Beautiful fully-modernized 1,000sqm (10,000sqft), 2-story building in Nai Yang area. 3.9 rai Nor Sor 3 Gor title. Underground electric, solar hot water, many amenities. 44 rooms including 8 bathrooms. Excellent as clinic, spa, office, school or residence. Large parking area, further buildable land. 36 Million baht. Financing available. See to appreciate! Creative solutions for foreigners wishing to purchase.

Please call Chris Fisher for more details.

Tel: 086-9421930.

Email: chrisfisherii@yahoo.com
5% Commission to Brokers.

KOH YAO YAI



East coast, 8 beachfront and 5 oceanview plots available, already subdivided, Nor Sor 3 Gor land title deeds. From 2 to 6 million baht a rai. Tel: 076-381490. Email: info@sea-property-international.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

Or rent. 2 or 3 bathrooms and bedrooms. 5 km from Heron's Monument toward Mission Hills Golf Course. Tel: 089-7298009. Email: clickphuket@gmail.com

LAND 1 RAI

At Kho Ta Node. 1-2-39.9 rai, Chanote, next to new high-end project & near Laguna properties. Road & electricity, suitable for private villa or small project. 5 million baht a rai. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-325-411, 081-3701189. Fax: 076-325413. Email: phudtheera@phuketrealty.net

SEAVIEW LAND

In Ao Por. Nor Sor 3 Gor. 380sqm. Price: 1.55 million baht. Tel: 081-1719705. Email: atetayap@yahoo.com

KAMALA 1 1/2 RAI

House. Near beach, great opportunity, 10 million baht. Tel: 076-292596, 086-2678477. Email: tourniechristian@hotmail.com

NICE PATONG CONDO

With pool. 60sqm, fully furnished. Please contact for more details. Tel: 081-7727-100, 081-5657427. Email: snonticha@hotmail.com

HOME IN KHOK KLOI

118sqm, 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom with 904sqm garden, sandwash walkway & patios, with 2-car covered parking, deep well with water tank. 2.6 million baht. Tel: 081-7284821. Email: elevendigits@yahoo.com

OFFICE BUILDING

Executive office building for sale. 102sq wah. Includes aircon, security system and private carport. 15 million baht. Tel: 076-282211, 081-958-0815. Fax: 076-283251. Email: moo@mintcard.net

PATONG HOME OFFICE

or shop. Modern and luxurious design. 3-story, 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms. 2 units available, each on 120sqm of land with 175sqm of living area. 300m from the sea. On Phra Barami Rd, between Rat-U-Thit and Beach Rd. Freehold with Chanote. 18.5 million baht. Tel: 081-8936630.

HOUSE FOR SALE

Nakatani Village, Kalim Bay. Wonderful, fully-fitted-out and furnished villa. Utter luxury and fabulous location 34 million baht. Tel: 081-9241447. Email: mail@villa.co.th

KATA SEAVIEW LAND

Unique opportunity to buy 4 rai of seaview land overlooking Kata Beach along with Thai company, 2 foreign directorships and 2 work permits. Only need to transfer share ownership. In secluded location in select area with electricity and town water on site. Ideal for seaview project. 32 million baht. Also available, 0.5 rai building plot in select development surrounded by secure stone wall and mature trees with excellent sea views. Price: 6 million baht. Tel: 081-2735047. Email: houseinphuket@hotmail.com

LAND PLOTS

For sale.

- Small land plot, Rawai behind Blue Cafe: 500,000 baht.

- 1 1/2 rai Patong sea view: 12 million baht.

- 1 rai Nai Harn: 5 million baht.

- 1 rai Cape Panwa, sea view: 10 million baht. Tel: 086-272-6508, 089-8715192. Email: info@phuketrealstate.com

TWO SHOPHOUSES

Samkong area. 5 minutes to Tesco. 3 floors, 1 with modern shopfront. 3 years old. 2.8 and 3 million baht. Tel: 076-254063, 087-2652889.

TOP LAND IN RAWAI

1 rai, Chanote title, road, electric, quiet, easy to build on. 4.7 million baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 087-8938747.

Properties For Rent

NEW HOUSE FOR RENT



3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms at Pa Khlok, just 700 meters from monument. Furnished, near international school. 15,000 baht a month. Tel: 084-8516115. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

LAGUNA AREA

House with pool, spa, poolside bar, aircon, large garden, like resort. Lease: 39,000 baht a month. Tel: 089-5944067.

SEAVIEW PATONG

Luxury 2-bedroom apartment. European kitchen, aircon, UBC, ADSL, large swimming pool. Available for long- or short-term rental. Tel: 086-2790837.

HOUSE FOR RENT

Land & Houses park Chalong. New house, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished aircon, free access to pool, fitness 400 Gym. Tel: 081-7884655.

BUNGALOW

For rent. Fully furnished. 2 bedrooms with aircon. Nice, quiet & safe Chalong area. 22,000 baht a month. Tel: 081-6064279.

BUNGALOW

1 bedroom bungalow in front of Chalong Bay beach for rent. Has terrace, kitchen, aircon, car park 15m from house. Fully furnished. 12,000 baht a month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-658-4437, 089-7297978. Email: property1998@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, 1 pool, ADSL, UBC, aircon, Rawai, available from February. 40,000 baht a month. 2 bedrooms, ADSL, aircon, in Kata. 17,000 baht a month. Tel: 081-7371687, 086-9544155.

HOUSE RENT/SALE

Chalong Bay. 50 meters from the beach. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 living room with kitchen. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-388174, 085-7815664.

RENT A HOUSE

Beautiful house, views of elephants and nature, big terrace, 130sqm basement, garage, full aircon, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. European style. Long-term rent: 30,000 baht a month. Come look. Tel: 081-2711082. Email: happyjo@procom.in.th

DETACHED HOUSE

For rent. In gated estate close to British International School. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, well maintained with nice garden. 35,000 baht a month. Available Jan 07. Call Piyanute at Tel: 081-8926991, or David at Tel: 081-8500911.

AMAZING SEA VIEWS

Large villa in Cape Yamu set in delightful gardens surrounded by rolling hills and countryside. Superb views out to Phang Nga Islands. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, lounge, dining and snooker room, maid's room, kitchen, study, sauna and swimming pool, furnished, UBC, Internet. 80,000 baht a month. Tel: 086-2796283.

LUXURY VILLAS

Rawai. Samakkea Village, Soi Samakkea 2. Top-quality villas with large swimming pool, 3-4 bedrooms, fully-fitted kitchens. From 7.3 million baht. Tel: 083-1766602. Send email to: info@thailandandhome.com For further details, please see our website: www.thailandandhome.com

LANTERN PROJECT

Near BIS. Must-see show house! 450sqm, water concept, 3 bedrooms, private lift and pool. SMEG kitchen, pent-house office with panoramic view. Completion: June 2007. Available for rent at 70,000 baht a month. Please contact for more details. Tel: 081-8779-292. Fax: 081-8779292. Email: prakaisriroj@hotmail.com Please see our website at: www.gracegardensphuket.com

2-STORY BUILDING

Located on the bypass road, Srisuchart Grand View. For sale: 20 million baht. Great location for business. Call or email for visit or more details. Tel: 076-376-279. Email: scspkt@loxinfo.co.th

LAND FOR SALE

In Mai Khao area: 10 rai on the beach, 170 million baht; 1 rai, 72sq wah sea view, 3.2 million baht; 7.3 rai, 500m from the beach, 3.2 million baht a rai; 3.3 rai quiet and private area, 2.7 million baht. Call for more details. Tel: 083-1743880, 087-2646808.

FREEHOLD CONDO

Sought-after freehold condominium. Thai-style, top floor with wonderful sea views over Kalim Bay. Two bedrooms, modern kitchen. Foreigner can own in his/her name. 9.7 million baht. Tel: 076-290148, 086-2765117. Fax: 076-290148. Email: jihshand@yahoo.co.uk

PATONG CONDO

300m to beach. Clean, modern, comfortable, new aircon, furnished, ready to move in, TV, pool, parking. Please call. Tel: 081-0825707. For further details please see our website at: www.phuketaccommodation.info

CONDOMINIUM



Freehold, Boat Lagoon Marina, 195sqm living space, direct waterfront, comfortable open-plan dining and living, European kitchen, 2 bedrooms, boat mooring. 8.5 million baht. Tel: 076-381490. Email: info@sea-property-international.com

SMALL RESORT

Boutique resort/hotel for sale. Top location great income. Tel: 089-6525664.



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

VILLAS FOR RENT



Ban Phrangthong Villa Estate, 4 bedrooms, fully furnished, pool, security, close to beaches. 80,000 baht a month, long term only. Chalongs, direct beachfront villa, fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 70,000 baht a month, minimum 1-year contract. Tel: 076-381490. Email: info@sea-property-international.com

SURIN BAY AREA

Big garden. Long-term lease now available on 3-bedroom house with aircon, 2 toilets, outdoor kitchen, opening up to 1.2 rai of screen-fenced garden. Unfurnished or partially furnished as required. Good for pets, kids & privacy. Large covered outdoor area. Garden maintenance provided. 27,500 baht a month. Tel: 086-9410410, 086-269-2020. For more details and photo please see website: www.phuket-house.here.fastmail.fm/@Surin_Beach/Surin%20House%20-%20Details.doc

RENT, BOAT LAGOON

Large, 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom townhouse on Canal at Boat Lagoon. 1 year minimum. Furnished. 33,000 baht a month. Tel: 086-2820567.

9 RAI FOR LEASE

Located in Kathu. 2 minutes from Central. Suitable for long-term investor. For more info email: leekuab@yahoo.com

LAND IN PATONG

For long-term lease. 2.5 & 3.5 rai. 200 Pi Rd. Tel: 081-6424280 (No brokers).

BUNGALOW

For long-term rent in Karon Beach. 2 bedrooms, living room, kitchen, bathroom, terrace, 2 airconditioners. Fully ready and fully furnished! Quiet location near the beach. Monthly rent: 7,000 baht. Take-over of furniture is wanted; let's speak about the price! Ready to move in on 1st March 2007. Tel: 087-0066263. Email: peterkaron@gmx.de

PATONG TOWER

Sea view. 1-bedroom apartment, 100 meters from beach. UBC, pool, parking. Tel: 084-8473304.

LONG-TERM RENT

Minimum 1 year, 1/2-rai complex in Kamala. Total 7 units, which consist of 2 x 2-bedroom apartments, 2 x 1-bedroom apartments, 3 studio rooms. Swimming pool, Jacuzzi, landscaped gardens with barbecue, etc. Private road, 5 mins from beach with amenities close by. Tel: 086-2733437. Email: kamalarob@yahoo.co.uk

VILLA FOR RENT

Beautiful new 2-bedroom villa with private pool in walled garden. Close to Rawai and Nai Harn beaches. Fully furnished, aircon, UBC, pool and garden maintenance included. 35,000 baht a month. Tel: 081-9701716.

HOUSE FOR RENT

Located in secure estate. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, dining room, living room, study, fenced garden, UBC, ADSL. For rent long term. 30,000 baht a month. Tel: 084-843-9579. Email: somlerdee@yahoo.com

CHALONG NEW HOME

For rent: 2-bedroom villa with swimming pool, aircon, UBC TV & telephone line. Tel: 089-6521473.

HOUSE + BIG GARDEN

Fully furnished, 2 aircon bedrooms, hot shower, living room, kitchen, garage. 11,000 baht a month. Palai, Chalongs. Tel: 081-8924311.

HOUSE FOR RENT

Newly built, fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. 7km to Phuket City & 7km to Patong. Near Country Club. Available Feb 1 for 1-year rent. 27,000 baht a month. Tel: 076-203060, 081-0904-786. Email: malkham0614@yahoo.com

NEW KATHU HOUSE

For rent or sale. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished, garden, aircon. Near Lotus, Central and Patong beach. For rent at 25,000 baht a month. For sale at 4.5 million baht. Please call for more details. Tel: 081-7356684, 084-187-1939.

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.

RAWAI BEACH VILLA

Rent room. Daily or monthly 3,000 to 9,000 baht. Aircon, safe, ADSL, UBC. Tel: 084-3079909. Email: dyotachan@yahoo.com

LAKEVIEW APT/LOFT

office. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 floors, near Lotus. Furnished, cable, phone, aircon. 20,000 baht a month. Please call for more information. Tel: 081-8928208.

LONG-TERM RENT

Chalongs. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, carpark, furnished. Please call for more details. Tel: 089-7288311.

HOUSE IN RAWAI

3-bedroom, 2-bathroom European-style house. Fully furnished in rural Rawai on 780sqm. Large master bedroom with ensuite, walk-in closet and aircon. Modern Western-style kitchen with granite tops and built-ins throughout. UBC & phone line. Big breezy veranda, carport and established garden. Chanote title 8.3 million baht. Tel: 087-8919349. Email: phuket-house@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

Beautifully-furnished 2-bedroom house in Kathu. Aircon, UBC, telephone line and kitchen. Long term only. Tel: 081-3673106.

BANG TAO

Bungalows for rent at 15,000 baht a month + utilities (6 months minimum) or 22,000 baht a month, or 7,000 baht a week. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom with hot water, telephone line. Car park, gated, quiet, 3km from Surin. Call K. Tee at Tel: 086-2786465 or Betty at Tel: 076-270377.

LOFT-STYLE FLATS

Kathu. 4 large, quiet, central flats. 6-15,000 baht a month long term. Tel: 081-968430.

DETACHED HOUSE

For rent or sale. Just 7 minutes from international school. Fully-furnished house with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and ready to move in. Rental price: 20,000 baht a month. Selling price: 2.45 million baht (negotiable). Tel: 081-539-9269.

LOVELY, 4 BEDROOMS CHALONG

4 bathrooms, spa, aircon, pool, garden, UBC. 800sqm. Quiet area. 65,000 baht a month. Call for more details. Tel: 086-2817605.

KATA PENTHOUSE

And rooms to rent near beach. Swimming pool, cable, TV fridge, etc. Clean views. 7,000 baht a month. 400 baht a day. Tel: 086-276-6597.

BUILDING SHOP

For rent 1,000sqm, fully furnished & car parking area. Located near Heroines' Monument. Tel: 089-4711585. Email: theveewan@yahoo.com

NEW HOUSE

Phaklong, Thalangs. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished kitchen. 13,500 baht a month. Palm Garden 56/6. Tel: 081-6063525.

SURIN APARTMENT

Modern, well-furnished, 2-bedroom 100sqm apartment including: 42" Plasma TV, washing machine, SMEG ceramic hob, breakfast bar. Great views. Available long term for 30,000 baht a month. Tel: 085-8882022. Email: sleeves@sleeves.com For details, please see our website at: www.sleeves.com/photos/LersuangApartment

FOR RENT OR SALE

In condotel Sky Inn. 2 single rooms/1 double room. Tel: 089-8756803. Email: hebo41@gmail.com

2-BEDROOM HOUSE

In Boat Lagoon, furnished, serviced. Short term: 40,000 baht a month. Long term: 35,000 baht a month. Available now. Tel: 086-2820567.

KAMALA BEACH

Nice apartments or houses for long-term rental, furnished or unfurnished, 2 or 3 bedrooms. 20,000-25,000 baht a month. Tel: 084-3059606.

MODERN OFFICE

For rent/sale. Situated minutes from Phuket City, this newly-built small office offers great value for a company of 15-30 employees. All amenities available. Move in and start work right away. Sell for 4.3 million baht. Long-term rent: 25,000 baht a month. Tel: 081-537-5970. Email: info@yourrooms.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

or sale. 2 floors, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, one big store-room and a large garden on the 80 square wah (320sqm) landscape. It's on Saiyuan road, 10 minutes to Nai Harn or Rawai beaches. Direct sale for 6.5 million baht net including 2 aircons and some built-in furniture. Tel: 084-9916654.

3-BEDROOM HOME

Chao Fa Rd, 207sq wah, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, nice living room, good kitchen, cool garden, parking for 3 cars. Fully furnished. For rent at 40,000 baht a month or for sale at 6.7 million baht. Please contact for further details. Tel: 081-5978315. Email: phuket8@hotmail.com

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OCCASION IN THAILAND



Sealine T52 Motor yacht, 1999. Outstanding, maintained in a nearly like-new condition, 16 meters, 2x600 HP Man engines, 15 KW Kohler generator, tropical air conditioning, ice-maker, flatscreen TV, Dolby surround system, 3 cabins, Thai tax paid/registered. Owner wants to buy a bigger yacht. 22.8 million baht must be seen! Please call for more information. Tel: 081-8629710 (English, German, Thai).

Boats & Marine

YACHT CHARTER

- Sunseeker Manhattan 58
- One-day tour 110,000 baht
- Price includes captain, food & drinks, diving & fishing equipment

Comments from our customer boarded during 14-16 Feb 06

"Everything was perfect. The boat was clean and was very good condition. Service perfect, Food perfect, Captain perfect. We enjoy very much."



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TANKER VESSEL FOR SALE

1.5 million baht with Thai registration. Width 4.9m, length 24m. 150,000 liters. Please call Surin for more information. Tel: 081-8912333. Email: surin123@csloxinfo.com

AVON DINGY

English, 4-meter, wooden floor, 5hp Johnson outboard. 150,000 baht. Please call for more information.

Tel: 089-8733952.

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YACHT FOR SALE



Fairways Freedom 25. Very seaworthy, just finished full refit including new rigging, sails, engine, etc. She's a lovely little ship, reasonably priced. Tel: 081-9252155. Email: no1paul@gmail.com

Island Job Mart

KMD Management Group



Personal Assistant

Our client is a Western individual based in Asia with worldwide offices and operations. Due to significant time spent in the private villa estate in Phuket, we require a highly competent PA to enhance to global team.

The role will require interaction with a wide variety of people in the business as well as service providers and a diverse range of VIP's, family members and senior executives. The role will require taking responsibility for all elements of the family's Thailand operations and also some elements of corporate life.

The following are examples of the background of a successful candidate, though it is noted that personality fit with the organization is the most important requirement to fulfill.

- Bachelors/Masters Degree from a Western university.
- Experience in diary/travel planning of senior Western executive.
- Highly confident communicating in English.
- High level of IT skills including MS Office.
- Experience in dealing with our businesses and senior executives in planning and executing overseas meetings and corporate events.
- Experience working or studying in Europe or America.

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SALES OPPORTUNITY

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IF YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO SUCCEED PLEASE SEND YOUR DETAILS TO WARREN CROWE AT WAANN MARKETING CO.LTD.

Email: crowe-thai@hotmail.com

RESERVATION STAFF

Diethelm Travel is looking for highly-qualified and service-minded operations staff. Good command of English and computer skills are required, experience in tourism is a plus. Please send CV by email or contact for more information. Tel: 076-209163, 081-892-7714. Fax: 076-209174. Email: max@dto.co.th

THAI OPTICIAN

Preferably woman, experience is a plus and must speak English. Please contact ASAP. Tel: 089-8746170.

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. Property Management Manager 1 Position

- Female, age between 28 - 35 years.
- Min. 2 years experience in this field.
- Good command of both spoken and written English.

2. Sales 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



URGENTLY REQUIRED

An international company specializing in sales of unique and exclusive products/services has vacancies for

FEMALE SALES CONSULTANT <PHUKET BRANCH> EARN 40,000.00 - 80,000.00 BAHT PER MONTH

Qualifications:

- 25-35 years of age, Thai nationality
- Must speak English
- Self-motivated, self-confident and able to sell
- Experience with cosmetic products or other types of personal selling could be useful but is not necessary
- Selected candidates will receive high earnings and full, comprehensive training

TELESALES / RECEPTIONIST

EARN 15,000.00 - 20,000.00 BAHT PER MONTH

Qualifications:

- Thai females
- Able to speak, read and write English
- Able to use computer (MS Office program)
- Work experience in sales/telesales
- Good personality and service-minded
- Interpersonal skills and enthusiastic

Please submit application in English only, with curriculum vitae and recent photo, to:

Svenson Hair Center Thasia Ltd.
Central Festival Phuket, 2 RD Floor Room No. 209 A
74-75 Moo 5, Chalermpakiat Rama 9 Rd, T. Vichit, A. Muang,
Phuket 83000 Tel: 076-249657-60, 089-4492500.

PHUKET FREE PLUS MARKETING CO LTD

We are looking for sales and marketing staff. Thai nationals. All customers will be Thai but some English will help. Experience preferred but not necessary as full training will be given, top salary and excellent commission. K.Nutthanun. Tel: 076-245971, 085-8880636. Email: phuketfreeplus@hotmail.com

ACCOUNTANT/ SALES

Little English experience, knowledge about Phuket, flexibility preferred. Good salary, great future. Send CV to email: info@phuket landdeals.com. Tel: 081-5376866.

WWW.GLOBALHOME.EU
Needs advertisement sales rep to visit realtors. Earn 50,000 baht a month. Email: v.ares koug@globalhome.eu

HOTEL STAFF

Urgently in need of 1 receptionist with good English skills and 1 housekeeper for 27-room hotel in Patong. Please call for details. Tel: 081-8921621.

STAFF WANTED

New restaurant. The Steakhouse is now hiring all positions. Please call Kulu PJ for more information. Tel: 076-341116.

PROPERTY CARE SERVICES

PCS Phuket urgently requires Site Managers experienced in the janitorial field. Preferred applicants are aged 30 years or up, computer literate, and have basic English-speaking skills and a driver's license. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-224658-9, 081-6949088. Fax: 076-254774. Email: scott@pcs.co.th

Island Job Mart



East West Siam has been well established for more than 20 years. We are one of Thailand's leading Inbound Tour Operators and Destination Management Companies.

An award winning travel facilitator and product innovator, we have been providing customized services to leading travel agencies, tour operators and incentive organizers throughout the UK, Europe, North America and Australia.

We have served clients with our experience, knowledge and professionalism. With the help of our well-trained multi-lingual staff (180 team members in Thailand alone) backed by a fully computerized reservation and communication system, we have the ability to provide a comprehensive range of travel services and original products throughout Thailand. We are fully insured in compliance with existing laws and international standards.

Position Required:

Representative

Qualifications:

- Male or female, Dutch Nationality
- Experience in tourism
- Bachelors Degree in any related field
- Good communication in English and interpersonal skill
- Sales experience is a must
- Computer literate
- Service oriented and good personality for handling clients
- Based in Phuket

Interested candidates should send their resume with a recent photograph and expected salary to: **Human Resources department**

East West Siam Ltd.

15/F, Regent House, 183 Rajdamri Road, Lumpini, Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330
Tel: +66 (0) 2651 9101 # 102 Direct: + 66 (0) 2651 9761 Fax: +66 (0) 2651 9766-7
www.ewsiam.com Email: hr@ewsiam.com

ACCOUNTING/ ADMIN MANAGER

Publishing company requires experienced person for a variety of general accounting functions: Quick Book entries, cost control, banking, invoicing, tax invoicing, collections (contacting clients and arranging payments), maintaining accurate records, control petty cash and daily acct duties. As administration manager you will oversee daily operations and junior staff and be part of the team. Right remuneration for right person. Please send CV and photo by email or contact for more information. Tel: 089-8664023, 089-8663064. Email: info@artandcultureasia.com

CUSTOMER

Service executive. Position available in Hygiene & Pest Control Division. Preferred applicants are female, aged 25 - 40, university grads with sales and operations experience. Drivers license and own vehicle required. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-224658, 081-3702488. Fax: 076-254774. Email: scott@pcs.co.th

SECRETARY TO MD

Executive Secretary required for a very exciting project in Phuket. Marketing and sales experience essential. Must be a hard worker, highly motivated and with good English/communication skills. An opportunity to earn a very good salary. Initial trial period: 4 weeks. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-8974541. Email: glk40@hotmail.co.uk

Lava Pub & Restaurant in Royal Phuket City Hotel needs following:

Thai nationals

Office clerk, female - Should have basic accounting knowledge, basic computer skills and reasonable level of spoken and written English

Bar manager, male - Previous experience in entertainment business required. You will control 25+ staff, be responsible for bar stock control and general management of the cleanliness, efficiency of the club.

Bar tenders/Service staff, male/ Female - Attractive, friendly, personable these qualities needed to ensure fun party atmosphere for our customers.

Please apply to **Lava 3,000 Co Ltd**
Office 1, 1 floor Royal Phuket City Hotel
154 Phang-nga road, Phuket City
Call Chadaporn Foytong Tel: 085-7096929
Khun Darpart Tel: 081-7971962
Or apply by email to: lava_phuket@yahoo.com
These positions carry above average salary and are available immediately.

PROJECT MANAGER

At least 5 years' experience in construction or engineering, ability to establish and implement project plans, well organized, problem-solving skills and proficiency in English communication. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-328599. Or send CV to email: pat@destinationair.com

CASHIER & BARTENDERS

For bar on Rawai Beach. Good English and experience required. Please send CV or contact for more information. Tel: 076-288887, 089-1961773. Email: cindyjcochrane@hotmail.com

SALES MANAGER

Male/female, Thai nationality, efficient English communication skills. 5 years' experience in sales development in airline, hotel or travel industry. Excellent presentation skills with ability to generate new business opportunities. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-328599. Send CV to: pat@destinationair.com

URGENTLY REQUIRED

Sales Officer- Reservations Officer- Administrative Officer. Male/female with experience and knowledge relevant to the position applied for. Tel: 076-328505. Send CV to email: bee@destinationair.com

Phuket FantaSea
The Ultimate Cultural Theme Park

Phuket FantaSea, Phuket's award-winning nighttime attraction, is seeking dynamic, highly motivated and service-minded professionals to join our 1,100-strong team.

Positions

- ★ Public Relations (Manager or Staff)
- ★ Sales & Marketing (Manager or Staff)

Qualifications:

- ★ Thai or Foreign nationals
- ★ Fluent in English as well as one of the following languages: Chinese (Mandarin), Japanese, Korean, German, French, Spanish or Russian.
- ★ Able to multi-task and work well under pressure

Please send resume (in English) with a recent photo to

Office of CEO
(Job Application)
Phuket FantaSea Public Company Limited
99 M3 Kamala Kathu Phuket 83150
Tel: 081 836 0132 (K.Siriwan) Fax: 076 385 166
Email: hr@phuket-fantasea.com

SILK RESTAURANT & BAR A Lan Kwai Fong Group Company. One of the Island's most popular restaurants is looking to expand its sales team. We are seeking motivated and dynamic professionals to join our Sales & Marketing team for the following position:

SALES & MARKETING DIRECTOR

The candidate will spearhead the development and execution of marketing and sales strategies and initiatives for domestic and international markets.

- Thai Nationality, Bachelor's or Master degree in Sales & Marketing or related field.
- Possess at least 5 years' experience with a proven track record in hospitality sales & marketing management.
- Demonstrable experience in handling departmental profit and loss and business plan.
- Own personal transportation.

Interested and qualified candidates please email your full resume, expected salary and enclose a recent photo to: **angkana@silkhphuket.com**.

SILK RESTAURANT & BAR
5/50 Moo 3, Chermgthalay Sub-District, Thalang District, Phuket 83110
Tel: 076-271702-3, Fax: 076-271704, **www.silkhphuket.com**

HR MANAGER

Male/female, experience in HR with multi-national company, possess in-depth knowledge of HR management and Thai labor laws. Excellent English communication skills. Tel: 076-328599. Send CV to: pat@destinationair.com

ACCOUNTANT

Male/female, with English communication skills and experience in bookkeeping & taxation. Please send CV and photo or contact for more details. Tel: 076-328505. Email: bee@destinationair.com

OFFICE STAFF

For new pool company near Laguna. Receptionist, admin & secretary. Good English & computer skills. Pool designer and estimator. Visio & Autocad helpful, good English. Contact Gary for more information. Tel: 085-7952552. Email: warton.gary@gmail.com

PORTUGUESE TEACHER NEEDED

Can you teach Portuguese to GCSE Standard? If so contact Gary for more information. Tel: 085-7952552. Email: warton.gary@gmail.com

ABSOLUTE SALES CO

Absolute Sales Corporation urgently needs staff to work in the office on Phuket. People with good communication skills needed for the post of manager to work with Russian clients. Contact K. Svetlanas for more information. Tel: 081-3976200.

RESORT IN BANG TAO

Looking for staff. Good English speakers for restaurant/kitchen/bar/cleaning/more. Please call K. Cim for more information. Tel: 087-188-7518.

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at
www.phuketgazette.net!

Island Job Mart

Kan Eang@pier

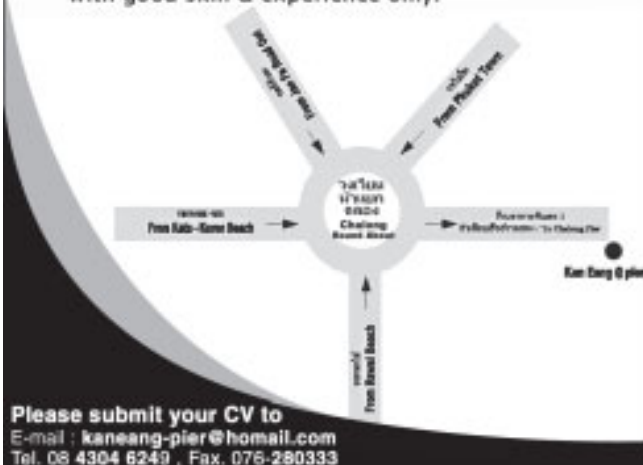
Lifestyle Restaurant, coffee shop, wine shop, Bay bar in boutique resort style will be opening for service in February 2007. Five-star venue restaurant is looking for young energetic and service-minded individuals to fill the following positions:

Required positions:

1. Chief Accountant
2. Sales & PR Manager
3. Administrative Secretary

Above positions require experience in direct field, good command of English and good computer skills.

4. Bartender (male or female incharge at Bay Bar)
5. Bar Manager (Thai or Foreigner) with good skill & experience only.



Please submit your CV to
E-mail: kaneang-pier@hotmail.com
Tel. 08 4304 6249, Fax. 076-280333

LTU ASIA TOURS LTD.

Operations

Qualifications:

- Minimum 1 year experience in travel agent or transportation company
- Good knowledge of written and spoken English
- Computer literate, Microsoft Office knowledge
- Good personality
- Willingness to work in shift duty
- Ability to negotiate with lead and assign free lance tour guides
- Enjoy working with administrative duties such as preparing lists, etc.
- Experience to communicate and to work with foreign nationals

Interested applicants shall send their curriculum vitae indicating their work experience, a recent photograph and the present and expected salary to:

Khun Thomas Berlin
C/O Phuket Grand Tropicana Hotel
48 Ruam Jai road, Patong beach
A.Kathu Phuket 83150.

LTU Asia Tours Co.Ltd.
Fax: 076-344573
Tel: 076-345808-9, 344403

Sales Representative Wanted

If you have your own car and want a paycheck that is limited only by your ambition, we might have a job for you. Our furniture company is looking for an experienced sales representative who is capable and willing to build their own customer base. The position requires generating outside sales and servicing clients. We are looking for applicants who speak and write good English, are computer literate, team players and have a charming personality. Basic knowledge of the furniture business is preferred. A generous salary, commission and benefit package will be offered to the successful candidate. Interviews will be conducted Monday January 15, 2007.

Please call 076-223-025 for an appointment.

YOUNG CREATIVE

Architect. Required to work with a property company. Experience in interiors and construction needed. Good deal for the right person. Interviews will be conducted in February. Email: sten56@msn.com

FREELANCE

Photographer. Required to work with new company. Should have experience in print media and have stock (digital) of pictures of Phuket for use in print and web. Using PhotoShop. Office in Bang Tao, interview in February. Email: sten56@msn.com

WEB AND GRAPHIC

Designer. Fantastic Designer with wide experience in print, web publishing, video editing and latest electronic media wanted to join new company with office in BangTao. Owner has 25 years' experience with media in Europe. Good deal for right person. Interview in February. Email: sten56@msn.com

SALES ADMIN

Female, 25-35 years with good written and spoken English. A year's experience in sales would be greatly appreciated. Tel: 076-215 710. Fax: 076-224368. Email: phuketsales@somerville-siam.com

Employment Wanted

FINANCIAL

& Accounting. Wanted: Thai female with 12 years' related experience. Please call for full details. Tel: 076-221191. Email: andaman.best.travel@gmail.com

CHEF IS LOOKING

For job. I like a fresh and creative contemporary kitchen, good teamwork and return guests. Contact. Tel: 085-7910717.

ADMINISTRATOR

Thai female, 33, available for administrative positions. Good English and computer skills. Ready for interview. Tel: 087-2636337. Email: paradom78@hotmail.com

FARANG GUITARIST

And singer looking for someone to play with. Call Kevin for full details. Tel: 084-730-0190.

LOOKING FOR A JOB

Singaporean lady, 27 years old. English spoken & written. Experience in real estate & law firm in Thailand. Anything considered. Please call for full details. Tel: 089-2897180.

Articles For Sale

WINDSURF BOARD

Windsure beginner board, sail rig new, still packed. 50% price. Kawasaki KSR 110 mountain bike, Mon-goose, aluminium. Near new. Tel: 087-8888244.

SCUBA

Mares Ruby, Buddy Commando BCD. 15 liter steel tank, Avanti Quattro fins, Sunnto Solution computer, Nomad sea kayak. All in good condition, sell 40,000 or will split. Call for price. Tel: 081-6064649.

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 and 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

BAR/RESTAURANT

Kata beach. Excellent lease term, great revenues. Call Kevin. Tel: 084-7300190.

CHALONG RAWAI RD

Established restaurant for sale. 395,000 baht. Rent 8,000 baht/month. With 2-bedroom house + 1320sqm, more than 100 banana trees. Please contact. Tel: 089-6467176, 089-1662804. Email: asoke_chatterjee@yahoo.com

VERY POPULAR B&B

Rated "Best in town" by Lonely Planet. Teak & red wood 2-story house with 12 rooms. Granite & marble floors, baths & kitchen. Center of Phang Nga. Busy all year. Only 9.9 million baht. Tel: 081-0882179.

INVESTOR/PARTNER

Wanted. To join the team at Lava Pub & Restaurant. Lava was launched in July 2006 in the Royal Phuket City Hotel. Lava has been gathering momentum and is poised to be Phuket City's top spot especially for expats and professional Thais. Everything in place, world-class band, office set up, fully staffed, etc. Up to 2006 shareholding available to the right character. Interested parties please contact Phil. Tel: 081-8934186. Email: lava_phuket@yahoo.com

GUESTHOUSE LEASE

Long established, long lease. 9 rooms, large restaurant, bar. Busy location. Quick sale at 1.6 million baht ono. Tel: 089-6489932.

BAR FOR SALE

Prime location near to beach. Call Kevin. Tel: 084-730-0190. Please see our website at: www.tsba.info

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: 087-8838721.

INVESTMENT

Boutique hotel opening December 2007, only 9 shares available. Great return and yearly holiday. Please contact. Email: resortinvestment@hotmail.com

300,000 BAHT

Reward. If you can send us a property buyer. Just call Marc. Give name and telephone of you and buyer...easy money!! Please call. Tel: 085-7839062.

BEAUTY SALON

Beauty salon on Nanai Rd. Rent: 12,000 baht a month. Key money: 250,000 baht. Tel: 089-6459453. Email: diggerresort@hotmail.com



Phuket Sunshine Village

We are a Child-Care Foundation looking for a
Director of Child Care Centre

Requirements:

- BA in social services or a related fields
- At least eight years experience in social work or related fields
- Self-motivated with management skills
- Advanced computer skills
- Knowledge and experience of basic accounting
- Proficiency in both written and spoken English
- Living on site is mandatory

Interested applicants please submit your application with full resume/CV, expected salary and a recent photo to:
info@phuketsunshinevillage.org

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Office/Showroom Space for Rent The Plaza Del Mar - Entrance to Laguna, Phuket.

Last two superb, 40/80 square-meter, ground floor office/showrooms in the recently completed Plaza Del Mar.



Fully fitted, with concealed air-con security system, kitchenette, floors, 1 telephone lines with broadband capability, etc.

Please email Khun Nong at plazadelmar@gmail.com for more information

Business Products & Services

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* Cabaret Show * Close Up Magic
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By Dave "Paul Jones"

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ENGLISH STAFF: 083-1057-398 or 085-7855-389

Special Offer

Herman's Restaurant and Lips Bar at Rawai Phuket on sale about deep illness of the owner.

Take over two top venues at Rawai Beach, located on Wiset Road (main road) well accepted and steadily frequented by many people. Both venues were refurbished this year and became this kind of special place touch that lets the customers feel cozy, romantic, warm in a very special place. This is the best base for a successful business.



Herman's Restaurant, the most beautiful garden restaurant with a great waterfall inside and the best menu around Rawai comes equipped - as well as technically in the kitchen - provides the restaurant 42 seats on regular basis. Herman's comes with very experienced staff for immediate start of your own business. No waiting time, no further investment necessary. Bids are welcome 2.8 million baht



Lips Bar with the best turnover in Rawai is a designed sports and cocktail bar, fully equipped as well with two bars, one brand new dancing floor, music computer, beamer for big display, where you give the guests a fun place with a special touch. No wonder that this venue became an In-Meeting point by many repeating customers. No waiting time, no further investment necessary. Bids are welcome 2.5 million baht Both venues could be purchased together or separately. Remaining rental contract for property four high seasons.

Please contact
 Tel: +66818940570 Email: hseigner@hermanns-phuket.com

DRIVING RANGE



Mountain-view golf center for sale, or invest for further projects. Tel: 081-5574560.

Penang Visa Run 4,900 baht

Non-immigrant B and O visas
 (90-day stay, multiple entry)
 60-day tourist visas
 (1, 2 or 3 entries)

4,900 baht - includes hotel, food and drink (NOT INCL VISA FEE)

Travel by 9-seat VIP minivan - movies, music, etc
 Departs from Tesco-Lotus on Sundays, 11:30 pm

Tel/Fax: 076-263475, 076-264476
 Mobile: 081-892 9960

Month	September 2006	October 2006	November 2006	December 2006	January 2007
Date	3,10,17,24	1,8,15,29	5,12,19,26	17	7,14,21,28

VISA & LEGAL SERVICES



Company registration 2,229 baht; one-year visa 5,999 baht; retirement visa 5,999 baht; work permit 5,999 baht; UK & US visa 16,999 baht. No more visa runs - get a one-year visa for only 5,999 baht. Establish your Thai company today, buy land or start your business for only 2,229 baht! Property title search, sales contract and land registration. Thailand's largest legal service network. Always low prices by our licensed Thai lawyers. Please contact for further information. Tel: 076-345-277. Email: info@siam-legal.com

www.siam-legal.com

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Email: sunbelt@gmail.com
 Office: Royal Phuket City Hill, 1 FL
 154 Phang Nga Rd., Muang, PHUKET TOWN
 The best way to Buy & Sell a business

Call to: Michael 08-6010 6988

FOR SALE

Guesthouse and restaurant. Located opposite the main entrance to Royal Paradise Hotel. 6 guest rooms with shower, aircon, TV. Luxury, beautiful restaurant with kitchen, high standard. 14-million baht. Tel: 081-8956587. Email: rudolfan2@hotmail.com

RESTAURANT

For sale. In the heart of Patong, all furniture and materials with company, low-rent 3 + 3-year lease. Reasonably priced at 1.9 million baht. Tel: 084-850-0375. Email: wilhelmdeutsch@gmx.at

GUESTHOUSE LEASE, PATONG

22 spacious, clean rooms, cable TV, minibar, aircon.
 - Elevator, wireless Internet
 - Restaurant, bar area
 - No maintenance needed
 - Very qualified staff
 - 4-min walk to the beach
 - Unbelievable potential
 - Rent for Jan-Feb paid
 Key money: 2.6 m. baht.
 Email: poul_66@hotmail.com

KAMALA

Restaurant & bar. Famous for pizza & Tex-mex. 40 seats, air conditioning, equipment, stock and furniture. For sale at 500,000 baht + rent 6,000 baht a month. Contact for more details. Tel: 086-287-8966. Email: boomerkamala@hotmail.com

BEST VISA & ACCOUNTING

prices in Thailand! With guarantee! Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-0808557. Email: info@no1visa.com

OSTEOPATH D.O.

Sport massage manipulation, accu-pressure specialist for back problems. Please contact for more information.

Tel: 084-8798243.

1st December, 2006

Public Apology

Clearance of Public Land at Bang Tao Beach

Dear All,

For all of our wrongdoing and defamatory actions in circulating wholly unfounded and incorrect information in a series of emails regarding the clearance of public land at Bang Tao Beach, Phuket, we write to express our sincere apologies.

We especially apologize to The Palm Beach Club, GST International Co Ltd and a Swiss investor for spreading false and defamatory rumors and remarks regarding their role in the beach clearance.

The information we obtained regarding the role of the The Palm Beach Club, GST International Co Ltd and a Swiss investor and the beach clearance in general has been proved to be wrong, and the way we communicated such incorrect information to the public was defamatory to The Palm Beach Club, GST International Co Ltd and a Swiss investor.

Again we sincerely apologize to the management of the Palm Beach Club, GST International Co Ltd and a Swiss investor for all our wrongdoing and defamatory actions in spreading false rumors and remarks about their company and their project at Bang Tao Beach.

Axel Schuh and Renu Khrekaeo

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

NEW SHOP OPEN THIS WEEK

Daiso Phuket Town (Near Robinson)
is Japan's No.1 ranked homeware supplier.

ALL 65 B

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Cosmetics
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Stationery
Japanese tableware
Wrapping materials
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Plastic goods
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4,900 BAHT

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or sell a business
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Email: kevin@tsba.info
www.tsba.info

VISA SERVICE
Complete service for all kinds of visas, work permits and company registration. Tel: 076-525063, 081-7284200. Fax: 076-525063. Email: kwan_1905@hotmail.com

PARTY OR WEDDING
Kois bar has 2 bars/restaurants in Kamala and can provide an excellent location for your function's buffet for 20+. From 2,000 baht. Tel: 087-9037933 Eng/Thai.

TITLE SEARCH
Protect your investment. Check the land title before you buy. We offer full legal services including purchase agreement, lease and land registration. Free consultation. Tel: 076-345277. www.siam-legal.com/land

Club Memberships Available

LAGUNA GOLF
Re-sale 15-year membership offer. 500,000 baht. Contact Jimmy Donald for more information.
Tel: 076-271874.
Email: annedonald13@btinternet.com

Miscellaneous for Sale

INTERNATIONAL TRANSLATION OF FOREIGN DRIVERS LICENSE

- < 5,000 baht, valid up to 10 years
- < 6,000 baht, valid up to 20 years
- < 100% legal
- < Sole agent in Thailand Internationally recognized & accredited.

Address: Baan Suan Place, 38/3 Moo 5, Soi Bang Yai, Phuket.
Tel: 084-0068736 Fax: 076-209058.
Email: iaa@intllicense.com
www.intllicense.com

Personal Services

LEARN THAI
At home. Charming Thai lady teacher gives Thai lessons at your home. Full course with conversation practice and home study material. Beginners or more advanced. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-7971497. Email: churee77@hotmail.com

MASSAGE
In your home or hotel. For men by a man - only. Please contact for more details. Tel: 089-2228206.

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JAZZ COOL II
190,000km, used for 6 months, Excellent condition, full insurance. Contact for more details. Tel: 087-3829407.

CRV + VIOS
Honda CRV, 2003, red, 27,000km. Asking: 700,000 baht. Toyota Vios 2003, auto gold, 52,000km. Asking 400,000 baht. Contact for more information. Tel: 089-4744704. Fax: 076-284198. Email: p_eamso@hotmail.com

NISSAN CEFIRO 1992
For sale, Nissan Cefiro 1992. In mint condition. 150,000 baht. Power steering and windows. Leather seats. If interested, please contact me on my cellphone. Cheers! Tel: 076-215829, 089-7764200.

SALE MAZDA 323

1993 model, blue color, 126,000km, 4 doors, auto gear, aircon, CD-radio player. Fixed price: 140,000 baht. Call after 6 pm. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-8491037. Email: tomDEXTER2001@yahoo.de

TOYOTA COROLLA

For sale. Year 1996, good condition, CD player, well maintained. Price: 220,000 baht. Contact for more information. Tel: 076-239111, 081-9583095. Fax: 076-238974. Email: suporn@asia-marine.net

Pickups

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2006, megacab auto. 2WD, 6,500km, JVC CD, perfect load cover. 6 month insurance left. 495,000 baht. Tel: 089-9711813.

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TOYOTA HILUX

X-tra Cab, 1997 model, very good condition, 2.8l engine, 155,000km. 150,000 baht ono. Leaving Thailand so must sell urgently. Contact for more information. Tel: 076-288500, 087-8957810. Email: t_cosens@yahoo.com

4 x 4s

MITSUBISHI 4 X 4



2835cc. 4 doors. Year: December 2001. First class insurance. Service by Mitsubishi. Price: 370,000 baht. Tel: 076-322095-7, 081-6441367. Email: aong@islandtechnology.com

TOYOTA VIGO 3.0G 4X4

Black, 4-door, 18 months old, only 12,000km. Also has first-class insurance. A1 condition: 700,000 baht. Call for more details. Tel: 089-7292846.

1962 JEEP - REFURBISHED

230,00 baht. Get more information by email or phone. Tel: 081-8924282. Email: taxiregio@freenet.de

2002 FORD RANGER XLT 4X4

4-door, Turbo, farang owned, only 19,600km, with carryboy, silver, immaculate condition, looks and smells like new. 490,000 baht. Tel: 077-248188, 086-2689460. Email: sateebonsamui@yahoo.com

HONDA CRV FOR SALE
2003 black color, abs, airbags, leather seats, mp3 player. 715,000 baht. Tel: 089-8192313. Email: peterc_33@yahoo.com

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2002 FORD RANGER

XL4x4. 4-door, turbo, farang-owned, only 19,600km, silver, with carryboy, immaculate condition, looks and smells like new. 490,000 baht. Contact for more details. Tel: 077-248188, 086-2689460. Email: sateebonsamui@yahoo.com

TOYOTA FORTUNER

2005. 3.0D for exchange for auto gear or sale. Tel: 089-0219504, 086-2791602.

MITSUBISHI 4X4

Mega cab. 1999, 2-door, 5-speed, aircon, foreign-owned, very nice condition, never used for work, 100,000km, CD. 375,000 baht. Tel: 077-826355, 087-0403007. Fax: 077-813145. Email: tomcox100@hotmail.com

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