

Phuket Gazette

Volume 14 Issue 05

News Desk - Tel: 076-236555

February 3 - 9, 2007

Daily news at www.phuketgazette.net

25 Baht

The Gazette is published
in association with

The Nation

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Big reward for goldshop bandit

By Natcha Yuttaworawit
& Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

PHUKET: A 300,000-baht reward is on offer for information leading to the arrest of a brazen bandit who made off with gold jewelry worth more than one million baht in a daylight robbery on January 27.

Officers report they have been following tips called in by a woman claiming to be the robber's girlfriend, scouring the areas where she said he has been hiding, but without success.

Suthathip Jedipram, 28, an employee at Thongroj gold shop, in Dowroong Villa on Chao Fa East Rd, said that the robber walked into the shop, took out a gun and shouted at her and the other employees not to call for help or set off the alarm.

The robbery lasted about three minutes.

The robber looked thin and was wearing a denim jacket, camouflage trousers, a helmet, gloves and a long hair wig. He rode a motorbike without a license plate, she said.

Pol Maj Gen Decha Budnampetch, Commander of Phuket Provincial Police, told the *Gazette*, "The robber walked into the shop just 30 minutes after it opened, and at that time there were about three or four employees there. Nobody was hurt during the robbery even though the robber showed a gun.

"The shop lost about 107 bahtweight of gold, estimated to be worth more than one million baht. We have checked their CCTV to try to see the robber's face and more details so that we can arrest him.

"We believe it might be the



FAST FUGITIVE: This CCTV image shows the one-million-baht robbery of the Thongroj gold shop in progress, and the suspect, who police believe is still in Phuket.

same person who committed another robbery in 2006, because he used the same method."

In that robbery, a lone gunman walked into BR Gold Shop, at the entrance of Dawroong Villa, wearing a full-face helmet, jacket and olive-colored pants. He took gold jewelry worth about 500,000 baht from the store before fleeing on a motorbike without a license plate.

In both robberies, no one was injured but the robber was able to ride off within minutes of entering the store.

Pol Lt Col Sompong Boonrat, Deputy Superintendent of Phuket City Police Station, reported that a woman from Bangkok called with a tip that the robber was hiding in Rawai.

Police searched the area, he said, but have yet to find the robber or his loot.

"I believe that he might still

be hiding in Phuket and we have instructed officers at the Tah Chat Chai checkpoint and the airport to keep a sharp eye out for anyone fitting his description.

"We might have a good chance to arrest him if the person reporting the tips is legitimate," Lt Col Sompong said.

Police are expected to release a sketch of the suspect's face soon.

A 300,000-baht reward is on offer for information leading to the suspect's arrest.

The Thongroj gold shop has put up 200,000 baht of the reward money, with the remainder to be paid by donations from the Phuket Goldseller's Association.

An application was made for special investigators from Police Region 8 headquarters in Surat Thani to join in the manhunt.

Barami 8 squatters pull up stakes

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

KALIM: About eight months after receiving first eviction notices, squatters living on government land on Soi Phra Barami 8 have slowly begun moving out, fearing court-ordered fines and possible arrest if they stay in the area.

Poonsak Naksena, Chief Administrative Officer of Patong Municipality, told the *Gazette* that the squatters in the first three homes hit with court-ordered fines have vacated their homes in recent weeks.

The squatters in those homes had accrued fines of around 180,000 baht by the time the province ordered them forcibly removed if they did not vacate by November 10.

However, when the deadline came, the Municipality, fearing a riot, did not go through with the forced evictions.

Since the deadline, many residents have begun to leave the area, fearing their homes would be the next ones served with court orders, said K. Poonsak.

In addition to fear of arrest, the squatters may be tiring of living without power, which was cut off in mid-2006 in an effort to enforce the initial eviction notices served two months earlier.

After the power was cut, the villagers staged an angry protest at Provincial Hall, demanding a fair resettlement and restoration of power.

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

Most of the squatters work low-paid jobs in Patong.

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Limo driver returns B200,000 in 'lost luggage'

PHUKET: Airport limousine driver Prateep Seeponnok has been commended for returning almost 200,000 baht worth of cash and goods to their Norwegian owner after they were left in his car.

K. Prateep, accompanied by Phuket Vice-Governor Worapot Rattasima and Tourist Police officers, returned the forgotten luggage to Rolf Bernharn Knobloch on January 30.

K. Prateep told the *Gazette*, "At 10 pm on January 29 I drove Mr Knobloch from Phuket International Airport to Patong.

"After I dropped Mr Knobloch off at The Royal Paradise Hotel, I didn't realize that he had left his bag in my car, so I drove off and parked beside a shop on the way to my house.

"It was then that I saw a bag, very similar to the car's interior color and easy to miss, behind the front seat. So I called the Tourist Police and reported it as lost property," he said.

K. Prateep explained that he turned the money in because it was the right thing to do – and because he was afraid of being arrested if he kept it.

Inside the bag Tourist Police found two smaller bags containing a brown wallet, a black zip wallet with 658 baht, a passport, 87,000 baht in cash, two airplane tickets, a Visa credit card, a bank card, a European travel insurance card, a Nokia mobile phone and charger, three pens and Norwegian kroner equal to 92,000 baht.

Tourist Police contacted Mr Knobloch and made arrangements to return his luggage.

Mr Knobloch was very appreciative and thanked K. Prateep and the Tourist Police.

K. Prateep received 1,000 baht as a reward for his honesty.

– **Sompratch Saowakhon**

Phuket exempt from 'smile and wai' training

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET: Immigration officers at Phuket International Airport are not required to undergo the "smile and wai" training that their counterparts at Suvarnabhumi Airport have been ordered to complete.

Thailand Immigration Bureau Commander Pol Lt Gen Suwat Tumrongsikul ordered the 1,200 Immigration officers at Suvarnabhumi Airport to add a little warmth by smiling when welcoming visitors.

The order came after officials became concerned that tourists may be discouraged by immigration officers' hard-nosed behavior.

The training, called the "Sawasdee Project", was developed by Suan Dusit Rajabhat University to help officers balance their dual roles of human lie detectors and national greeters, said Lt Gen Suwat.

He described the course as a "personality modification program" that also aims to develop officers' skills for vetting suspicious characters.

However, Phuket Airport Immigration Office Superintendent Pol Col Surasak Athapanyawanich told the *Gazette* that his officers have been conducting similar service training at monthly meetings for more than a year.

"This project is good because we work

in the service sector. It helps the officers in being service-minded.

"Once a month, every month, I train my officers about ethics, being service-minded and how to speak good, polite English," he said.

"We have had good feedback about us smiling and being friendly, which is very satisfying for us and for all the organizations we deal with," he added.

Pol Col Ittipon Atchariyapradit, who was promoted to Superintendent of Phuket Immigration Office on November 1, said, "We already have similar training, and we have had good responses from people who have come to our office."

Ya bah dealer escapes after high-speed car chase

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

PHUKET CITY: After overturning his car in a high-speed chase with police officers, a suspected *ya bah* (methamphetamine) dealer eluded police and a sniffer dog team from Phuket Provincial Special Operations Unit in woodland near Baan Kuku, Tambon Rassada, on January 29.

Pol Lt Col Sermpan Sirikong, Deputy Superintendent (Criminal Investigation) of Phuket City Police Station, told the *Gazette* that police had two warrants for the arrest of Phuket native Apisit Ninpan, 24, on drug charges. One of the warrants was issued in Bangkok, the other in Phuket. The tip-off that led to the arrest attempt came from Apisit's girlfriend.

"His girlfriend came to the police station to report that he had stolen her car and she wanted us to get it back. She did not know that her name was also on the arrest warrant from Phuket. Now we have arrested her and will hold her at Phuket City Police Station until she appears in court. I am not sure why the couple came back to Phuket from Bangkok," Col Sermpan said.



Four suspects were arrested and 2,550 *ya bah* (methamphetamine) pills seized on January 22 by Phuket Provincial Special Operations Unit, working together with officers from the Border Patrol Police.

"Police spotted Apisit's car and gave chase. Apisit flipped his car near Ban Kuku in Tambon Rassada, then fled on foot. We found the black Toyota Yaris overturned by the side of the road. Inside the car we found 50 *ya bah* pills and some bank transaction receipts. Now we are still hunting for him," he added.

Provincial Administrative Officer Wiroj Suwannawong, leader of the Special Operations

Unit, said, "We got a call from police about 1 pm yesterday requesting two sniffer dogs from

our division to try and locate a suspect.

"We searched for about two hours but could not find the man because the forest in that area is very thick."

In another *ya bah* seizure, on January 22, the Special Operations Unit seized 2,550 *ya bah* pills and arrested four suspected drug dealers.

The raid, carried out with the help of officers from Phang Nga-based Border Patrol Police Unit 425, was the largest reported drug seizure in recent memory.

Phuket Provincial Chief Administrative Officer (*Palad*) Piya Bharatasilapin told the *Gazette* that officers also seized about 40,000 baht in cash, four gold necklaces with a combined weight of 13 baht (195 grams), and a .38 revolver from the suspects.

Body found floating off Koh Bon

KOH BON: The body of an unidentified young man believed to have been a Burmese fisherman was found floating off Koh Bon January 24.

Pol Lt Col Chana Sutthimas of Chalong Police said that the discovery was made about 2 pm by a tourist, who then notified the Phuket Tourist Rescue Center at Chalong Bay.

The body was then recovered by officers from the center, he added.

Col Chana said that the victim, about 25 to 30 years old, was dressed in blue trousers and a white shirt.

He was not carrying any documents, but had a tattoo on his chest in a script that appeared to be Burmese.

"The man had multiple stab wounds to his abdomen.

"We think he died about three days before his body was found," Col Chana added.

– **Supanun Supawong**

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Legionella scare sparks course in disease control

By Supanun Supawong

PATONG: Dr Wiwat Sitamanod of the Phuket Provincial Health Office (PPHO) announced that the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) is investigating claims that six tourists contracted Legionnaire's disease while on holiday in Patong.

"The PPHO received a fax from a foreign embassy on January 9 about some of their nationals who were diagnosed as having Legionnaire's disease after being on holiday in Phuket.

"On January 10 we investigated this claim and then held a meeting to discuss this with 50 hotels in Patong. Now foreign countries have placed emphasis [on this] and are watching Phuket," he said on January 24.

Dr Wiwat declined to name the two hotels involved.

However, the MoPH website states that five tourists who have contracted the disease – two Swedes, two Finns and one Norwegian – stayed at one hotel in Phuket.

A Belgian tourist, staying at

a different hotel on the island, was later also confirmed as having contracted the disease.

The website states that the first five tourists were staying at a 400-room hotel that, under supervision of the PPHO, has since undertaken extensive cleaning of its air conditioning system, cooling towers and water supply.

Dr Wiwat was speaking at a seminar entitled "Protection and Control of Legionnaire's" at Phuket Graceland Resort & Spa in Patong. The event was attended by more than 400 hotel employees from Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi.

In addition, a workshop was held for some 90 technicians from Phuket hotels to train them in how to keep all equipment free of *Legionella* bacteria.

"Now, within two weeks of the report [claiming that Legionnaire's disease was contracted in Phuket] we must report to the European Working Group for *Legionella* Infections [EWGLI] the results of our investigations and what control measures we have taken.

"We must [focus on this problem] this until they are satisfied with what measures we have taken," Dr Wiwat said.

Leaflets handed out at the seminar explained that if EWGLI is not satisfied with corrective measures taken, the organization will post on its website the names of the hotels where the disease was believed to have been contracted.

The notice will be posted for two years, or until EWGLI is satisfied with remedial action taken.

Dr Wanchai, Chief of the PPHO, said, "I don't want to announce the names of the hotels... PPHO officers have checked and already have the situation under control."

To boost tourist confidence in hotels that are not sources of the disease, the PPHO has launched its "Golden Certified" project.

Hotels can apply to be inspected by the PPHO, which will assess what policies and procedures the hotel has in place to protect against Legionnaire's Disease.



One of the 12 resort buildings being built illegally on protected forest land when the construction site was raided on October 25.

Slow progress in encroachment probe

By Sompratch Saowakhon

NAI HARN: The investigation into the building of a resort on protected forest land at Ao Sane is making slow progress, though police expect to make more arrests soon, Chalong Police told the *Gazette*.

Some 30 forestry officials raided the illegal construction site on October 25. Two construction foremen, Virot Niyomdechai, 31, of Satun Province, and Viriya Yimsomboon, 25, of Nakhon Pathom, were arrested and their equipment was seized.

Virot and Viriya were charged with violating Article 54 of the Forestry Act of 1941, Article 14 of the Forest Conservation Act of 1964 and Article 360 of the Penal Code.

At the time of the raid the site had 12 buildings in various stages of completion.

"We know who the owner of that resort is but we can't tell you because the investigation is

on-going. More people are involved in this case, and we plan to charge those persons soon," Pol Lt Col Chokchai Sutthimek of Chalong Police told the *Gazette*.

"Muang District Chief Weerawat Janpen has held many meetings about this case, but we need time to gather more evidence. The two men we arrested have denied the charges in court. So now we must get more information from the Phuket Forestry Office," he added.

Aroon Solot, President of Rawai Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*), said that construction work had now indeed stopped. "After Muang District Chief Administrative Officer (*Palad*) Techin Weerawong and forestry officials raided the site there has been no further building work. I have ordered the *OrBorTor* Rawai Civil Engineering department to check the site to be sure that building work does not recommence," he explained.

Police arrest Phang Nga murder suspect in Patong

PHUKET: Tourist Police have apprehended Wanasart "Bank" Jeensrikong, 23, for his role in the June 28, 2003, murder of Sarawuth Yamyang in Phang Nga's Takuatung District.

Following a tip-off, the suspect was arrested on January 25 after he was found working as a chef at a hotel in Patong. Plainclothes police arrested the suspect at the hotel, which they declined to name.

Wanasart had confessed to

his role in the killing, police said.

Wanasart was a resident of Tambon Khok Kloy, just across the Sarasin Bridge from Phuket, police said.

Police allege that at 10 pm on the night of the murder, Wanasart and two other members of the "Simon" gang confronted K. Sarawuth and inflicted serious injuries from which he later died.

Neither the motive for the attack nor the weapons used

were disclosed due to the on-going nature of the investigation, police said.

The suspect has been handed over to Khok Kloy Police, who are continuing their investigation with the aim of arresting the other assailants.

Nai Harn curve claims two lives

CHALONG: Two men, both 20, died in a motorbike accident when the driver overshot Ku Bua curve on Saiyuan Rd around 7:30 am January 29.

Pol Lt Col Sanguan Muangtam at Chalong Police Station said that the two men, one from Nakhon Sri Thammarat and the other from Trang, were friends who had come to Phuket to work.

"The men were on their way from Baan Saiyuan to Nai Harn when the motorbike overshot the curve and landed in a four-meter-deep canal beside the road," Lt Col Sanguan said.

Both men died at the scene.

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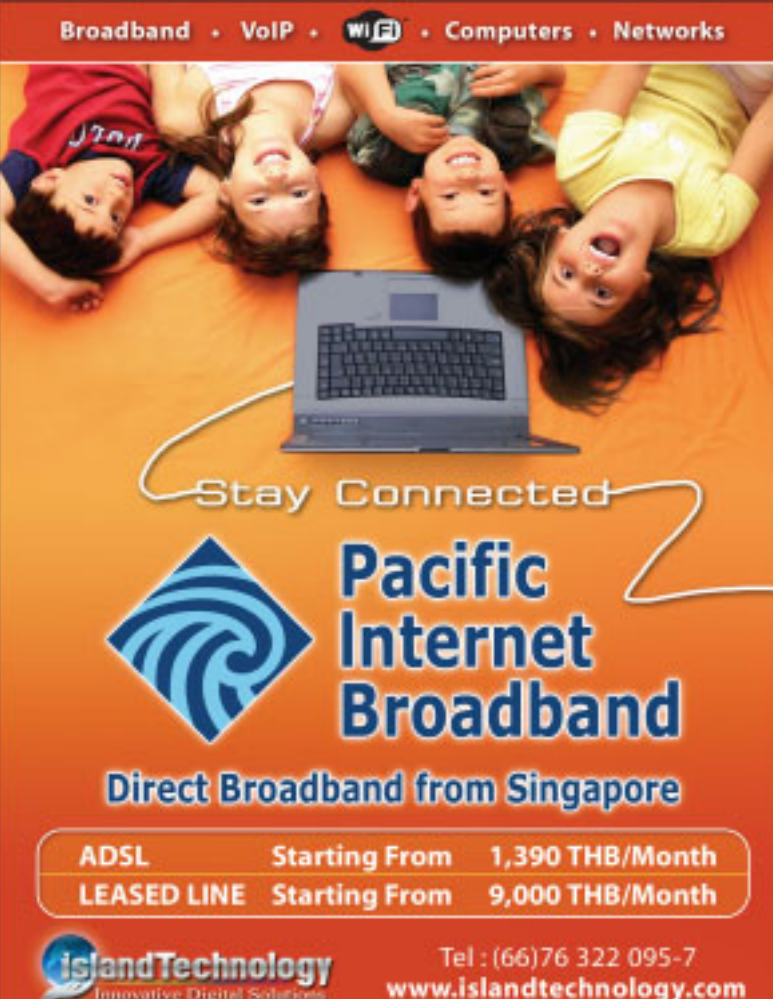
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The uneasy truce between meter-taxis and the Phuket Limousine and Business Services Co-operative (PBC) over the right to pick up passengers at Phuket International Airport (PIA) took a turn for the worse at 8 am on January 21, when about 100 PBC members went on strike.

Drivers of the limousines refused to pick up fares and blocked access to the airport parking lot to rival meter-taxis.

The protest, the latest in a long line of conflicts over the years, saw a mad scramble by airport authorities to arrange buses to shuttle tourists into town so they could arrange transfers to their destinations.

The strike was instigated by the mysterious arrival of a new "meter-taxi" stand at 2 am that morning. The stand was positioned prominently on the main arrivals concourse – traditionally the sole domain of the PBC, which pays more than 1.3 million baht to the airport for the right to operate there.

PBC President Manot Chusak told the *Gazette*, "I saw meter-taxi drivers use a truck to move their counter beside the exit door, and the President of the Phuket Private Meter Taxi Association (PPMTA) was directing the action.

"It's not fair for the limousine drivers, because we signed a legal agreement with meter-taxi drivers and they aren't following it, so I want to talk with the government, PIA staff and meter-taxi representatives," he said.

K. Manot was referring to a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in mid-2006. The MoU allowed the PBC to keep their concession provided they improved their service, allowed meter-taxis and the Airport Bus service to continue operating there – and pay a 10% increase in the concession price.

When the PPMTA first set up at the airport in 2002, following a steady stream of complaints to the provincial government about the PBC's service and prices, they were initially allowed a small counter at the back of the



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Taking a

Tourists arriving at Phuket International Airport on January 21 were welcomed to the island not by a fleet of smiling drivers waiting to whisk them away to their resort rooms, but by a protest by the airport limousine drivers staging a protest over a new counter to serve the taxis.

Here, the *Gazette's* Sompratch Saowakhon investigates what sparked this latest spat between the two public transportation factions.

Phuket Limousine and Business Services Co-operative (PBC) rates

Phuket City: 400 baht (limousine) / 800 baht (van)

Laguna: 450 baht / 900 baht

Chalong Circle: 550 baht / 1,100 baht

Patong: 550 baht / 1,100 baht

Rates provided by Phuket Limousine and Business Services Cooperative (PBC).

Meter-taxi rates

Service charge: 100 baht per vehicle, only for collection at airport

Initial charge: 50 baht (includes first two kilometers)

Running charges: 2km-22km = 12 baht/km; after 22km: 6 baht/km

Typical fares: Airport-Patong = 400 baht; Patong-Airport = 300 baht

Rates set by Phuket Land Transportation Office.

parking lot. Out of view of most new arrivals, the cheaper service became a hit, but only with those who were aware of it.

About seven months ago, following an agreement hammered out by Phuket Provincial Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) Nivit Aroonrat, the PPMTA set up a counter at a more strategic location, beneath the ramp leading up to the departure hall one floor above arrivals.

Upon leaving his native Phuket in December, Palad Nivit told the *Gazette* that resolving the dispute between the PPMTA and the limo drivers was his greatest accomplishment in office.

However, one detail was missing from that agreement:

whether or not the meter-taxis and the Airport Bus would be able to open counters on the arrivals concourse, as they do at most international airports.

The unexpected arrival of the new, air-conditioned meter-taxi counter in such a prime location was a breach of the MoU, K. Manot maintained. "They have breached the agreement, so maybe they should be banned from the airport. They have caused problems here many times before," he said.

"And I want to talk with the Governor about the number of taxis allowed," he added. "There are four personal taxis here, and 40 more with the Phuket Private Meter-Taxi Association."



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stand at the airport



Phuket Limousine and Business Services Cooperative (PBC) drivers explain their concerns to members of the press during their January 21 protest at the airport. Photo: Yongyot Preuksarak.

Fortunately, the tense stand-off on January 21 ended non-violently at 5 pm with the removal of the offending counter, which was last reported seen well out of sight behind the airport fire station. People seeking a meter-taxi can still get one at the old spot, beneath the departure ramp.

PPMTA President Suwun Tamchu denied having any involvement in physically installing the new counter. Another outfit, the Phuket Taxi Meter Company, must have been responsible, he said.

The PPMTA and the Phuket Taxi Meter Company (PTMC) are not the same, K. Suwun explained.

The PPMTA has 40 cars while the PTMC has just four cars. All taxis from both groups must pay the airport 40 baht per fare, and passengers using either service must pay a 100-baht fee

at the counter. This amount stays with the PPMTA or PTMC.

However, it is the PTMC that negotiates with the airport authorities, who in turn answer to Airports of Thailand (AoT) in Bangkok, he said.

Notably, K. Suwun admitted that the controversial counter was built by the PPMTA at a cost of 120,000 baht and with the understanding that the PPMTA could install it themselves outside the arrivals door.

However, AoT in Bangkok had later instructed its personnel at Phuket Airport that only the PTMC could install it, since it held a contract with AoT and the PPTMA did not.

The counter was then sold to the PTMC for 100,000, with the understanding that both groups would use it, K. Suwun said.

However, he insisted the

installation of the counter on January 21 came as a surprise. "What were they thinking? Why did they do that when we were quite happy operating at the current counter under the ramp?" he said.

K. Suwun said he wanted to set up a meeting with the PTMC, but that its owner had changed his mobile phone number and could no longer be contacted. Repeated efforts by the *Gazette* to contact the owner have also been unsuccessful.

PIA Director Sq/Ldr Pornchai Eua-aree confirmed that the PTMC had permission to set up the booth where it was installed on January 21.

"That location provides better access for people seeking a meter-taxi, and that is the airport's primary concern," he said.

The call from the PBC's K. Manot to restrict the number of

taxis at the airport seems to be a needless request. The counter move shows a drive to get more passengers, and K. Suwun said that the PPMTA has no plans to increase the fleet of meter-taxis operating out of the airport, because the current number is the maximum that low-season passenger demand can sustain.

He added that the Airport Bus service, launched in October 2005, had not affected business.

"We have different markets. The Airport Bus targets backpackers while we target people with lots of luggage," he said.

However, Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit told the *Gazette* that the province had denied a request to allow more meter-taxis to operate there, saying that the number of taxis now in service was sufficient to meet demand. The *Gazette* could not identify exactly who had applied to have more taxis there.

Gov Niran added that he thought the dispute between the limos and the meter-taxis had been resolved with the MoU signed last July.

"We want to make everything in order at the airport, especially public transportation. In the past the PBC had a sole concession to operate there, but we had many requests by Thais and

foreigners alike to allow the meter-taxis in," he said.

Friction is likely to remain between the taxi drivers and the airport limousine drivers, especially as the meter-taxis offer cheaper fares. K. Suwun said the PPTMA would like to increase its rates, but could not do so without sacrificing its competitive advantage on price.

Currently, people using meter-taxis save about 120 baht on trips to Patong and about 200 baht on trips to Kata-Karon, he said.

Reports that meter-taxi drivers often refuse to turn on their meters and instead try to negotiate a higher rate when dealing with foreign passengers were untrue, he added.

The issue was raised at a provincial level meeting in December, when Governor Niran reported having received numerous complaints on the matter.

Police inspected meter-taxis at checkpoints during the holiday season drunk-driving crackdown to ensure their meters were turned on.

Traffic Inspector Pol Maj Teerawat Leamsuwan of the Phuket City Police, who coordinated the effort, told the *Gazette* after the holiday period that no violators were found.



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Queer News

MEMBERS ONLY

RAWAI: Outraged residents of Village 2 are demanding the immediate removal of numerous *Sivaleung* (Shiva's member, or *lingam*) statues that decorate a newly-built spa, claiming that the phalluses will embarrass tourists and other passers-by.

On January 20 Aroon Solos, President of the Rawai Tambon Administration Organization, paid a visit to the Suppaya Spa (Suppaya means "Assets of the Supreme One"), a 100-room facility located along the road from Kata to Karon.

K. Aroon was not going for a massage, but rather to convey the displeasure of local residents about the wall surrounding the spa's grounds, which is adorned with numerous pillars built in the shape of erect male penises, each inscribed with Hindi script.

Work on the facility, built with Board of Investment privileges, began about three years ago, K. Aroon learned.

"This means the spa [and the lingam surrounding it] were built in part with government money," K. Aroon told the *Gazette*.

The spa is now almost complete, but has yet to begin operations, he added.

K. Aroon has asked the Phuket Provincial Culture Office to try and persuade the spa to cover up or move the offending images.

For some Hindu believers, the lingam are sacred symbols for the worship of the Hindu god Shiva.

However there aren't many Hinduists in Rawai, where most residents are Muslims, Thai Bud-



The lingams (left) ring the spa, and are plainly built to impress (above). But local villagers say they are shocked and dismayed.

dhists, Muslims, new-age mystics – or just alcoholics.

The statues have created a real conundrum for K. Aroon, who wants to respect the religious beliefs of the spa's owners while at the same time quelling public outcry.

During his visit, K. Aroon met with the spa's operations manager, who explained that the

statues reflected the spa owner's religious convictions and were intended to generate brisk trade, not offend.

K. Aroon told the manager the location of the statues so close to a public road was inappropriate for a tourist place such as Phuket and asked if they could be removed or covered up – although he did not say with what.


As this edition goes to print, the phalluses remained proudly standing in all their lifelike glory.

However, following a meeting including the spa owner, K. Aroon and a representative from Phuket Provincial Culture Office on January 26, K. Aroon told the *Gazette* that the spa owner had agreed to modify the statues so that the pillars will be topped in-

stead with images of lotus flowers.

In the meantime, the *Gazette* hears that some local residents have already taken to calling the stretch of road past the spa as "Dildo Drive" and that people are traveling from other parts of the island to view the island's newest icons.


– Source: *Gazette*



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Project to promote 'sufficiency economy'

The public and private sectors have joined forces to promote HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 'sufficiency economy' philosophy, through TV programs and on-the-road activities throughout the year.

The "Be Por-Piang Generation" project, launched at the Crown Property Bureau in Bangkok, is part of the celebrations for HM The King's 80th birthday this year.

Dr Jirayu Isarangkul na Ayudhya, chairman of the Sufficiency Economy Promotion Subcommittee, said that "sufficiency economy" was not just about being economical, as many understood it to be. It also covered many other things, such as shaping people's attitudes toward improving their lives and could be applied to fields other than agriculture.

The project will focus on moderation, good virtues, knowledge and self-sufficiency, he said.

Pusacha Donovanik, Executive Vice-President of JSL Co, said the company would produce the project's media materials, including TV, Internet and on-the-road activities to reach nationwide audiences so they could pursue 'sufficiency economy' in their daily lives.

Everybody's happy: A new study seeking to measure the Gross Domestic Happiness (GDH) of people aged between 12 and 24 in metropolitan Bangkok found that they were "quite happy" with their lives. Assumption University's Abac Poll and Srinakharinwirot University's psychology students jointly conducted the poll, surveying happiness, leisure time and quality of life of 1,564 youths. The average GDH score was 3.52 out of 5, indicating they were quite content.

However, many respondents appeared to think that happiness was dependent on wealth and materialism. One-third said having plenty of money would make them happy, one-third



FIELD OF DREAMS? Some 50 rai of poppy fields were discovered about 10 kilometers from the Thai border in Ungpang District, Tak province, on January 23. An infantry soldier guards the plantation before its illicit crop is burned.

wanted to preserve their looks and keep belongings up-to-date so people couldn't brand them "out of date". More than 25% said they didn't like wearing the same clothes often.

Abac poll chairman Srisak Jamornmarn said females had a higher score of happiness than males, and gave more importance to materialism, physical appearance, education, family and religion.

Helluva heist: Thieves in Songkhla's Haad Yai District ran off with an ATM, which had been filled with 2.45 million baht a day earlier.

Sathaporn Nilpradab, 43, a security guard at nearby Songkhla Social Security Office, told police that five men in a white pickup truck arrived around 2 am. Two men pointed a gun at his head, tied him up and threatened to kill him if he did not remain silent, he said.

"I was in shock and constantly begged for my life," said

the security guard, adding that he could not remember any of the thieves' faces.

Two men used a two-wheel cart to haul the Krung Thai Bank ATM onto the truck before speeding away.

It all happened in 10 minutes, the guard said.

Number crunching: The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) is slashing the 2008 tourist-arrival target from 20 million to 16 million as it switches its tactics from quantity to quality.

Newly appointed TAT Governor Pornsiri Manoharn said the original target was too high and did not match the goal of becoming a leading world destination in terms of quality.

Citing concerns about how Thailand can survive in the global tourism industry with old destinations, low returns and a degraded environment, K. Pornsiri said it was time to change the national strategy.

To pursue quality travelers,

the TAT needs unique tactics to attract tourists from the regular target markets, while trying to explore new markets, particularly the Middle East and Eastern Europe. At present, 65% of tourists are from the Asia-Pacific region, she said.

However, this year the TAT is aiming for 14.8 million foreign visitors, up 18% from 2006. These tourists are expected to spend 547 billion baht, a 13% increase.

Domestic travelers are expected to make 82 million trips, generating 577 billion baht.

Push for cheap drugs: Thailand is planning to "legally" break the patents of three more drugs, two of which are medications for HIV treatment and the other for the country's most common type of heart disease, Public Health Minister Dr Mongkol na Songkhla announced.

The country is in critical need of the drugs, yet cannot afford to cover the cost of treatment due to the limited healthcare budget, he said.

There were more drugs being considered for compulsory licensing (CL), he said.

"We are not simply going to

do CL on more and more drugs, but only the drugs in critical need that the state cannot afford to buy...CL is legitimate domestically and internationally. Thailand is not the first to do compulsory licensing," he said.

Pollution control: Residents of Rayong's Muang District should seek a court order forcing the National Environment Board (NEB) to declare Map Ta Phut Industrial Estate a pollution-control area, environmental lawyer Surachai Trong-ngam said.

K. Surachai advised unhappy residents to ask the Administrative Court for an Environmental Protection Act ruling over an NEB decision to delay imposing a pollution-control zone on the estate, home to 89 factories.

The NEB on January 11 decided to delay imposing the measure following a recommendation from the Pollution Control Department, which said Map Ta Phut was polluted by at least 40 dangerous compounds, including cancer-causing agents.

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



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Tip-off leads to big ganja bust

Region 4 Border Patrol Police arrested four suspects and seized nearly a quarter of a tonne of cannabis in a raid in Haad Yai District, Songkhla.

The seizure was announced on January 23 at a press conference at the Border Patrol Police Headquarters in Songkhla's Muang District. Pol Col Nikhom Sonsri, Deputy Commander of Border Patrol Police Region 4, said police had been tipped off that a large-scale cannabis dealer would be sending a delivery to a customer in the province.

After further investigation, police located the Haad Yai hotel where the dealer was staying.

At 10 pm January 22, officers stopped a blue Mitsubishi Strada pickup on Lopburiramesuan Rd in Haad Yai.

A search of the vehicle uncovered 214 one-kilogram packages of pressed cannabis hidden in a secret compartment built into the truck's roof upholstery.

Police arrested four suspects: Kitthisak Thaweesuk, 47; Sukot Matlee, 54; Num Chinbun, 22; and a 17-year-old identified only as "Aek". All four suspects confessed and were charged with possession of a Class 5 drug with the intent to supply.

Police discovered that the four had brought the cannabis from Amnat Charoen Province with the intention of selling it to a customer in Sadao, whence it would be smuggled into Malaysia.

Pornographic promotion: Two hotels in Nakhon Sri Thammarat City were busted in the early hours of January 24 for showing pornography to lure customers.

The first raid was at 1 am on the Saowalak Hotel in Tambon Thasak. Pol Maj Sathapon Phatanarak, a Crime Suppression Inspector at Nakhon Sri Thammarat Muang District Police Station, checked into the hotel in plain clothes with other officers. A hotel employee then turned on an "obscene VCD" for their entertainment.



Pol Col Nikhom Sonsri, Deputy Commander of Border Patrol Police Region 4 (in uniform), with the 214 kilos of cannabis seized.

Maj Sathapon arrested the hotel manager, Napharat Lekmat, 19, on charges of possession and public broadcasting of obscene material. Six VCDs were seized as evidence.

Half an hour later, the same unit raided the Jongrak Villa Resort in Tambon Paknakhon. The officers used the same method and arrested hotel manager Samphan Thongkaemkaew on the same charges. They also seized 53 VCDs.

Samphan confessed that he provided pornography free-of-charge to "short time" hotel guests. The service made him very popular with guests, he said.

Palm power: The first biodiesel plant in Thailand, producing a daily output of 10,000 tonnes, will begin production in Surat Thani province next month.

The prototype plant, located in Kanchanadit District, is owned and operated by the Surat Thani Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*). The facility will produce biodiesel fuel using palm oil supplied mainly by local growers. The alternative fuel will be used by trucks and other vehicles with diesel engines.

Biodiesel produced at the 18.5-million-baht plant, which has yet to be named, will cost users

only slightly more than the untaxed diesel that is sold exclusively to fishing boats.

Lethal love: Somrak Niluang, 15, was shot dead on January 23 by a love rival in Nakhon Sri Thammarat's Phibun District.

Kai (not his real name), also 15, told police that he, Somrak and a third boy were on their way home when they encountered two members of a rival gang, Jos, 16, and Jeng, 17 (not their real names).

Jos reached into a fertilizer sack he was carrying and pulled out a shotgun, Kai said.

Somrak's group fled, but Jos managed to shoot Somrak once in the back, Kai explained to the police. Somrak died at the scene.

The investigating officer, Pol Capt Nit Kanjanawong from Phibun District Police Station, said that Jos and Jeng had already left the area and police were preparing evidence to request arrest warrants.

The motive for the killing was a dispute between rival groups of youths sparked by Somrak and Jos both pursuing the same girl, Capt Nit said.

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

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Brit survives brutal hit-and-run

Briton Marilyn Shein was taking a morning walk for her health, but was lucky to escape with her life when a truck hit her from behind along the roadside in the Bang Po district of Koh Samui.

Ms Shein owns a villa at the luxury Napasai Resort on the north coast of Samui and was taking a four-day fast at the nearby Samui Detox Center. The morning walk was part of the program and a guide from the detox center and another participant from the UK joined Marilyn on the walk.

The truck driver, who later fled the scene, pulled out to overtake another truck and drove straight into Ms Shein while trying to avoid an oncoming car. She heard the vehicle approach and turned to see what the noise was. Her head then smashed the truck's windscreen and she was thrown into the air, suffering broken ribs, a punctured lung and severe damage to her hand. The two other people suffered minor injuries.

A foreign-run developer, Sabai Properties, owns the truck in question, and the company has accepted full responsibility for the accident, agreeing to cover the victims' medical bills and deal with insurance matters.

Ms Shein owns a company herself and has had to cancel important meetings in China while she recovers in Samui's Bandon International Hospital. She needed more than 100 stitches in her head and will also require surgery on her finger.

"It's bad but it could have been worse," she said. "My main concern apart from the pain is that the driver is not facing the consequences. But the emergency services and medical care have been excellent. I also have my daughters here, which is a great comfort."

Police know the driver's identity and are conducting an island-wide search.

Large trucks that transport construction material and supplies pose an ever-increasing threat to road users and tourists on Samui. Many of the drivers are young and reckless, with a reputation for using stimulants. Local companies that own these trucks tend



GET OUTTA THE WAY: Large trucks such as these are creating dangerous road conditions throughout Samui, as one hapless expat discovered.

to charge per job, which means the faster they drive, the more money they make.

Money artist nabbed: In mid-January, Police Inspector Surasak Thiprat and a team from the Samui Police Station obtained a permit to raid an advertising shop on the island where they suspected false bank notes were being produced.

On searching the premises, officers found two 1,000-baht notes that proved to be forgeries, a special computer program used to design the notes and a 40,000 baht printer.

The owner of the shop, known only as Khun Panya, later confessed to printing fake money and passing it to his friends, who used it to buy goods around the island. He could not say exactly how many notes he had produced, but admitted that it totaled a substantial amount.

Although the designs were almost identical to authentic 1,000-baht notes, their creator said the paper used was slightly thicker than regular bank notes.

Police spent the following day contacting local banks and shops, warning them to be on the look-out for suspicious bank notes. But with such a high transient population on the island, Inspector Surasak said it would be



FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND

By Barry Singleton

very difficult to trace and remove all the counterfeit money from the system.

Police extortion probe ordered: The Commander of the Surat Thani police force, Maj Gen Wibhun Bangthanai, recently ordered an inquiry into claims that local police extorted money from a tourist on Koh Pha-ngan.

Daniel Dane, 23, a military officer on holiday from Canada, reported the incident to the local police and also notified his embassy.

Mr Dane said a man in uni-

form stopped him for a minor traffic violation, then demanded 15,000 baht in cash. When Mr Dane could not produce the cash, he was escorted to an ATM machine to withdraw the sum.

Gen Wibhun ordered a probe to establish which, if any, of the island's police officers were involved in the extortion. The Commander says he is taking the claim very seriously, and is particularly concerned about the island's reputation, since the crime was also reported to the Canadian Embassy.

Scot arrested on heroine charge: On December 22 at 10

pm, Pol Col Bhunma Geawlaiyat from the Samui police and Captain Teerasak Buasuwan from the Tourist Police arrested Ian Morrison, a 40-year-old Scot, at his home in Mae Nam district.

Officers found a bag of heroine in the house, as well as a set of weighing scales and 10 tablets of methamphetamine, or "ice". A list of customers written in English was also discovered, as well as a comprehensive record of drug sales, with orders totaling around 10 million baht.

Police took Mr Morrison to the Samui Police Station for questioning. He denied involvement in drug dealing. The investigation continues.

Goodwill Games: Surat Thani is the host province for the national Goodwill Games 2007. The events will take place in three main venues around the province, one of which is on Koh Samui.

The games attract competitors from all over the country, who will compete in a total of 28 sports. Samui will host five main events: shooting, beach volleyball, *tae kwon do*, snooker and canoeing. The other two venues for competitions will be in Surat Thani Town and at the Raja Prapa Dam complex.

On February 2, a planning meeting took place with members of the Samui Municipality and the Provincial Sports Department. The games will start on March 20 and last for a whole month.

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Volunteers help out at Immigration

By Zach Fridell

A former pilot, a former British Royal Marine Commando and a former fire department chief may sound like a nursery rhyme motley crew found in a riding in a bathtub, but they are instead increasingly becoming the first line of local information for tourists in Patong.

As Tourist Police volunteers, these men already help tourists by giving directions and recommendations, and help to resolve disputes as they patrol the streets with Thai Tourist Police officers.

Now, however, they are using their skills to tackle one of the trickier problems for tourists: extending their holidays through the Immigration Office in Patong.

Tim Gardener, Assistant Group Leader of the Tourist Police volunteers, explained that the volunteers were asked to help out at Patong Immigration. To Mr Gardener, a former pilot, the task seemed only natural as the prime propose of the volunteers is to help tourists by providing information.

"We have 15 nationalities and 31 languages and dialects represented," he said, adding that one of the volunteers speaks 11



INTELLIGIBLE ADVICE: Volunteer Tourist Police Assistant Group Leader Tim Gardener advises tourists at the Immigration Office in Patong about extending their stay in Phuket.

languages, including many dialects of Chinese.

"We are slowly training everyone, and once they're trained they don't even have to be in the office to give advice. We will be able to phone the Russian chap, or the Hungarian chap, the Ro-

manian, Greek, et cetera, and just do it over the phone, which wasn't done before," he said.

"If someone who speaks a tourist's language isn't in the office, they'd be only a phone call away," he added.

Having the volunteers at the

Immigration office has already had a positive impact. "At least 100 people come here every day," Mr Gardener said. "And, as you can see, there are no queues. Usually at this time [3 pm] there are long queues."

"Half of the questions we get can be answered in under five seconds," he added. "These poor chaps [the Thai Immigration officers] are stamping and writing for six hours a day, and it requires a lot of their concentration to make sure the stamp is correct."

"We're pre-processing, almost pre-screening, which makes the Immigration officers' work a good deal easier," he said.

Of the 34 foreigners signed up to help the Tourist Police, 20 "patrol" officers have been invited to help out at Patong Immigration. "We have two fully-trained officers at the Immigration Office, and eight more are undergoing training," Mr Gardener said, adding that the aim is have a volunteer there every day.

The training manual, including 20 Immigration forms and their explanations in English, is about 70 pages long and must be understood by each officer before he or she is allowed to give advice, he explained.

The most frequent requests by tourists at the office involve

30-day extensions to stay for tourists traveling on visas issued outside the country, and seven-day extensions for those with visas issued on arrival.

More complex matters, including matters involving non-immigrant visas and work permits, are referred to the main Immigration Office in Phuket City, where the volunteers plan to set up office before next high season.

Why do these volunteers spend their free time this way? Especially when there are so many other ways to pass time on this island?

Frank Tomenson said he became a volunteer because other volunteers had been so helpful to him during his vacations in Phuket before he moved here.

Richard Johnson said that he especially wanted to help people because he found the process confusing when he was a tourist. "I had a lot of questions when I came here and there was no one to help me," he explained.

For more information call the Phuket Tourist Police Station on Thaweewong Rd, Patong, at Tel: 076-254693 (24 hours) or the Phuket Immigration Office on Thaweewong Rd, Patong, at Tel: 076-340477 (Monday-Friday, 10 am-3 pm).



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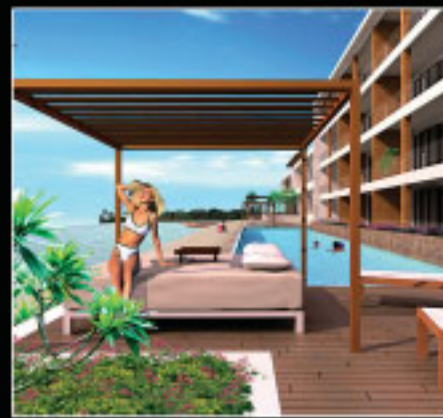
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THERE'S NAN BETTER

Nietzsche said that life was a choice between suffering and boredom. He never said anything about having to put up with both at the same time, which readers of this column oft must do.

Oh, an apology of sorts: I was away covering the battle in Mboti Gorge in the little-known African nation of Ishmaelia, hence this being the first Dining Out for some time. It was tough over there and a break to recharge the batteries was in order.

The indefatigably charming Claude Sauter, Resident Manager of Phuket's Grand Old Lady, the Cape Panwa Hotel, liaises with his erstwhile colleague Somjai Teera-Umpornpant, the General Manager of its sister property, The Bay Hotel, which is also down Cape Panwa way, to find us a room for the night.

Dinner, too, is offered, prepared by The Bay's Executive Chef from Sardinia, Francesco Greco, whose resemblance to the *Commedia dell'Arte* character Brighella is uncanny.

And so I throw caution to the wind and decide to let my hair down for a night, even when casually indulging in what may loosely be termed the curse of the idle classes: work.

I had a drop to drink, too. Well, the evening was such fun that I feel I have forgotten most of what occurred. I predict a hail of letters to rain down, the likes of which has not seen since that dreadful explosion in the Scrabble factory.

However, there is no stable for us despite scores of people taking advantage of The Bay's "Winter Package", which lasts until March 31.

A word or two about The Bay, which, in an era of uniform hospitality, remains as pleasantly individual as the Cape Panwa Hotel.

The Bay occupies a pleasant spot overlooking Ao Panwa and the islands therein. Each room – a suite, actually; the property was conceived some years back as an upmarket condo development with studio, one-bedroom or two-bedroom facilities – has its own living and dining area and private balcony, and a pantry.

There is a refreshing old-world charm about The Bay that takes one back to a kinder, gen-

Right: Dinner with Claude Sauter (left) and Executive Chef Francesco Greco makes for a memorable meal.

Below: try to save room for one of the delectable desserts at Uncle Nan's.



ter age. In keeping with our environs, I don my cravat, place my swagger stick firmly under my left arm and request the pleasure of the mem.

We are greeted by Claude and ushered into Uncle Nan's, where Francesco explains that he is the Exec Chef of this restaurant and another two – the Number 43 Italian bistros in Bangkok and Rayong – of the Kasemkij group.

Francesco, whose rapport with Claude has us in stitches, has crammed plenty into his 36 years. He launched

Scoozi and Fogo Vivo in Bangkok in 2004 and 2005, respectively. He has taught the blind to use



computers and was a volunteer paramedic – both while a full-time chef.

He was chosen to launch the restaurants for his nation's Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of the Interior, and he completed his national service cooking for the Esercito Italiano's elite Raggruppamento Unità Difesa. "I cooked for the other ranks and the officers," says Francesco. "Good experience. After all, who would make bad food for their commander?"

Claude stifles a laugh.

Over a loaded plate of superb antipasti – imported salamis and Prosciutto di San Daniele, candyfloss-soft Mozzarella di Bufala, olives and rosemary focaccia – we learn more about Francesco. Almost as much an

academic as a chef – three sommelier courses in as many years, for example – cooking is in his blood.

"My destiny was written," he states. "My mother was a chef, as was my grandmother, Karoline, who was Hungarian. She was the family chef of the Rothschilds in Paris in the 1930s."

Heritage indeed.

Francesco is also a bit of a food scientist, and an admirer of Ferran Adrià of El Bulli fame, who also began his culinary career in the army.

Someone, possibly me, mentions the word "margarine". Claude looks vaguely concerned; he knows that margarine is a red flag to Francesco. The air turns electric with the Exec Chef's coruscating but learned damning of

the middle-age spread loaded with trans fat.

"Why not use butter?" asks Francesco.

But then the primo – in fact a sampler of three dishes, a porcini risotto, bucatini Sugo all'amatriciana and ravioli – arrives and is consumed ignoring the politesse of speaking with one's mouth open. So much good food, good company, good conversation and good wine.

Lovers of cute calves – no, not the part of the leg behind the shin – may prefer not to read that I plumped for veal for my second. The veal is so tender it appears to fall apart, as if offering itself to me, before the knife.

A medley of vegetables – contorno – for my dining companions, who are tucking into chicken in a saffron and cream sauce and a beef dish obviously so delectable that Claude refuses me permission to photograph it.

We gently progress through the rest of the traditional Italian menu with dolce, caffè and ammazcaffè in the form of – what else from a dynamic, forward-thinking Sardinian chef steeped in tradition – mirto.

The conversation continues, covering all from hotel occupancy rates (deemed "very good") to food to politics to food to the crisis in Umami and everything under the sun.

Perhaps not all diners or guests at Uncle Nan's at The Bay Hotel will have the distinct pleasure of Claude and Francesco's company for an entire meal. We did, and it made what was an exceptional meal into one of the most memorable dining experiences the mem and I have enjoyed.

The Bay Hotel Phuket. 31/11 Moo 8, Sakdidej Rd, Cape Panwa, Phuket 83000, Thailand. Tel: 076-391514. Email: gm@thebay-phuket.com. Open daily, 6:30 pm to 11 pm. Expect to pay around 1,800 baht per person (without wine).

On the menu



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Can a man change his nature and turn from a life of violent misdeeds to one of love and compassion? Meet 'Ice Cream' Man, whose hands once wielded a knife or a gun in street fights, but which now serve ice cream to children. In this scoop of a story, the *Gazette's* Sompratch Saowakhon digs deep to find the heart of a giant.

To the casual customer or passerby, there is no indication of the troubled past of Amnat Singhol – nicknamed "Man", and hence "Ice Cream Man".

Man comes across as simply happy; he doesn't allow his former nature to overwhelm him. "Everyone has had a troubled past," he says.

When he was a teenager, from about 15 to 18 years old, Man was often drunk from morning to night, and constantly involved in fights.

"If you'd met me 20 years ago, you'd probably have been scared to talk to me, because I was a bad boy. I simply accepted my hot-tempered nature at that time.

"I was always involved in gun and knife fights with my enemies. I wasn't scared of anyone.

"I nearly went to prison three times on assault and weapons charges. If I had any problems with others, I didn't give in to them.

"My brother and I were

very bad boys. Together, we would fight all-comers; he was always very protective of me, so I really love him," Man says.

He has his brother to thank for his new life.

"When I was young, my father bought ice cream equipment for my brother. He didn't have a job and dad felt sorry for him and wanted to get him started in business.

"At that time I was still a teenager, and I wanted to be a soldier but I couldn't be because I was overweight. When I was about 21, I was working at an alcohol shop when my brother asked me, 'Do you want to be an employee forever?'

That was the turning point of my life," Man explains.

Soon after, Man went to work at the ice cream shop, where his brother taught him the secrets of making ice cream.

He has been working in the business since, for about 16 years now, and feels that his brother is like a father to him.

Although Man still buys ice

LEARNING TO



cream from his brother, he now has his own portable operation, with motorcycle and refrigeration equipment.

Man's ice cream is very popular. "Sometimes I am so busy

scooping ice cream that I don't have time to look up and see my customers' faces," he says.

What is the secret to his success, and why does his ice cream taste so good?

"I don't have a special recipe, it's just normal ice cream, but I always have a cheerful word for my customers who have some problems in their lives.

"Sometimes they don't

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COOL IT



'If you'd met me 20 years ago, you'd probably have been scared to talk to me, because I was a bad boy,' says Man. But now he is everyone's favorite.

day at Surin Rd and Soi 2, then on to Soi Bornam in town, and then Saphan Hin, where I stop to have lunch until 1 pm. Then it's on to Luang Por Rd near the Ocean Shopping Mall and Robinson department store.

"My last stop is in front of the Bangkok Bank on Phang Nga Rd until 5 pm, then it's back home. This last place has a lot of customers, especially children. They are so cute, especially when they want to try to scoop ice cream by themselves. It's a happy time for me, and I think for whoever passes by as well."

At the end of the day Man goes home to his sister's house in Srisuchart Grandview Village, as he doesn't have a home to call his own yet. "My big dream is to have a little house in Phuket. I'm 37 years old now but I don't have enough money to buy a house. That's because I didn't start to save money until late in life."

Man doesn't want a shop like his brother has because that would cost a lot of money. "The important thing," he says, "is that my ice cream tastes better than other shops."

Usually Man takes in about 1,500 baht a day in sales, and sometimes he is commissioned to provide many boxes of ice cream at about 2,000 baht each for office parties, which is quite lucrative for him.

However, the margins are small and he makes only about 8,000 baht a month after paying all bills.

But Man isn't in the ice cream business for the money; he does it for the love of the job and his customers – and his girlfriend.

"I have a girlfriend who loves me. She has gone to Taiwan to work for three years and she will come back next year," he said.

"Now I'm waiting for her to come back so we can look for a house together; that is my dream."

want ice cream, just someone who understands them. I mean, you must sympathize with people; every day they have to deal with the cruel world and the demands of other people. At least I'm someone who can cheer them up a little.

"As for my ice cream flavors, they aren't the same every day, I have seven different ones: coconut, vanilla, corn, cantaloupe, mixed fruit, chocolate and jack fruit. I also offer seven toppings: corn in syrup, sticky rice, potato in syrup, pineapple in syrup, peanuts, palm tree seeds and soy beans. Two scoops are only 10 baht, and you can help yourself to toppings."

Sometimes Man lets children scoop their own ice cream – making him their hero after school.

"I start out at 10 am every

Happily Ever After

Recent weddings in Phuket



Marta and Ulf Christoffersson from Sweden were married at Le Royal Mridien Phuket Yacht Club, Nai Harn, on January 14.

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This week



LUCKY NUMBER 9: John Magee congratulates chief reporter Sangkhae Leelanapaporn on nine years of excellence in reporting at the *Phuket Gazette*. To mark the journalist's entry into her 10th year with the newspaper, the entire staff got together at the Watermark bar and restaurant.



GRAND PROMOTION: Phuket Tourist Association (PTA) President Maitree Narukatpichai (center) congratulates Pornsiri Manoharn (2nd from left) for her promotion to TAT Governor at the Tourism Plan 2007 convention at The Metropole hotel on January 8. PTA Adviser Mathee Tanmanatragul (left), Former PTA President Pattanapong Aikwanich (2nd from right) and PTA Vice-President for Domestic Affairs Somboon Jirayus look on.




YOUNG START: Phuket Vice-Governor Smith Palawatvichai (in blue) opens the 2007 National Children's Day Fun Fair at Laguna Phuket, as Thalang District Chief Samart Waradisai (7th from left) and Laguna Phuket Managing Director Micheal Ayling (4th from left) join in. Thousands of children attended, all enjoying the on-stage entertainment, game stalls and activities.



A LATIN AFFAIR: Restaurateur Jorge De la Torre (3rd from right), celebrates the opening of his Latino's restaurant, bar and Latin club in Rawai on January 5. Joining him, from left, are Restaurant Manager Aline Ribeiro Mesquita, Chef Fernando Ramirez, Assistant Director Wirakan Aektasaeng, management trainee Axelle Paire and Consultant Bethy De la Torre.




WELL PICTURED: Somrak Maneemai (center) hands one of his paintings to Satree Phuket School Director Kiattisak Pilawat. K. Kiattisak officially opened the Kor Ey Kor Kai, Hor Nokhook Tato art exhibition at Phuket Art Gallery on Thalang Rd, Phuket City, on January 6. Kittipong Ngowsiri looks on.



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The Christmas and New Year festivities saw the entertainment areas packed with holiday-makers enjoying the open-air bar scene.

The police have let the closing time slip to 4 am for the soi bars. A number of new discos have opened, but it will be a miracle if all can get enough capacity to last for long.

The Christmas and New Year's crowd has headed home, only to be replaced by more sun-seekers.

Bookings are high and it is now quite difficult to find a hotel room. People arriving without reservations are having a hard time getting a roof over their heads.

Komedy klub killed: The comedy club planned for the Yorkshire Inn in Soi Sans Sabai has been shelved.

The idea itself was sound and would have provided some lively alternative entertainment, but instead the venue has been changed into a steak house and sandwich bar.

The original project depended on the use of a rotation of international comedy stars, but officialdom was not amused.

As with Rock City, Thai red tape raised its ugly head, requiring a deluge of paperwork filled out in triplicate to get the requisite visas and work permits for the short-term performers.

Shakeups, deals, updates in Patong

Market street revival: The old market street connecting Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd to Nanai Rd has been given a new lease on life now that Jungceylon has opened.

It is now an important thoroughfare again. The increase in foot traffic will be a boon to the little bars and guesthouses along this forgotten zone; the Sick Buffalo bar and Ferbs Guesthouse especially caught my eye here, while in the market itself there is a new restaurant called Hemingway's.

The section of Nanai around the junction is also benefiting, and there are even more bars open now.

Joe Kools not so cool: This new club on the northern side of the Karon Park is in the new Ramada Inn, formerly the Felix Karon Hotel.

It boasts that it is "The world's worst restaurant," and its motto is "The home of lousy food and over-priced drinks."

I cannot disagree with either statement. The furniture and



Hemingway's is one restaurant that is benefiting from the revival of the old market street between Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd and Nanai Rd.

layout are good, with a spacious dining area and plenty of comfy booths to sit in, while the bar stools are over-sized bicycle seats with a suspension spring underneath.

They have half-heartedly attempted to copy the Planet Hollywood/Hard Rock

style, but have fallen somewhat short. The five-piece band was, at best, mediocre.

PATONG PATROL

By Prowler

But what really got my hackles up was when I received the bill – the price of a pint of Heineken was a staggering 240 baht.

I cannot think what would

induce me to revisit the place.

Time Machine – deja vu all over again: Last year this bar was revamped and opened as the Pizza Bar but never managed much trade. This year it has seen another makeover and been split into two separate places.

The bar is called The Time Machine, and to be honest now is a late night Thai hang out, but the staff were friendly enough and I had a few late ones with them.

It is on Phisit Gorani Rd, just a short stagger from Scotties Bar.

Soi Sunset: At long last the Galaxy building has been demolished and the lot it occupied is vacant.

Word now is that the place is going to be left as a parking lot for a while until the landlord decides what to do with it, which means that one entire side of a street is lying idle.

The talk of a big hotel going in has stopped, and it is now believed that small shop units with accommodation may be built.

Club 730: This hip-hop club used to be in the entrance to the Paradise Complex but has moved to Happy Street, near the open-air boxing ring where The Loft used to be.

The Loft was the temporary location of the Crocodile Club, which has now reopened as the D Club – things move fast in Patong!



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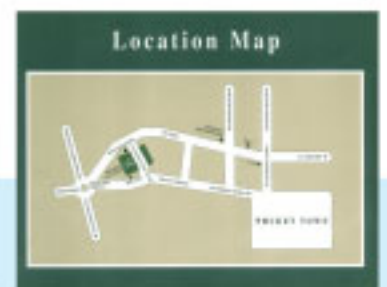
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A brace of bracing cocktails

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

The Phurita Bar and restaurant at the Phulin Resort Karon is a good place to sip a cocktail or two while enjoying the quiet poolside scenery.

Ratchpisake Changphauk, Food and Beverage Manager at the Phulin, said there are two particularly popular concoction there at the moment.

The first is the exotic "Phulay", a Thai portmanteau meaning "between hill and sea" (*phu* in Thai is hill, and *lay* means sea).

The second is the "Kwam-Sook", named after the Thai word meaning happiness and contentment.

Both cocktails are the creations of bartender Sayan Wanthong, who has worked at the Phurita since opening in October 2005. He said that his two formulas are refreshing and relaxing.

"Phulay is a green cocktail, with a tangy sourness balanced by just the right of sweetness," says K. Sayan.



Phulay
1 oz of light rum
1/2 oz of coconut rum
1/2 oz creme de menthe
2 oz of pineapple juice
1 oz of lime juice
1/2 oz of syrup
Shake and pour into a wine glass over ice.

Kwam-Sook
1 oz of gin
1/2 oz of Crème de Cassis
1/2 oz of Galliano
2 oz of orange juice
1 oz of pineapple juice
1/2 oz of lime juice
**Top with grenadine
Shake and pour into a champagne flute**

He notes that the Phulay tends to be popular with women whereas the orange-colored Kwam-Sook is more of a hit right across the gender divide, including those in the middle of the divide.

Apart from having the zest of orange and pineapple, a dash of lime gives it a penetrating but

not overpowering sourness that kicks in slowly after the initial sunburst of sweetness starts to fade.

For both recipes, pour all ingredients into a shaker and add ice, then shake about 15-20 seconds before pouring into glass – then enjoy.

The Phulay should be serv-

ed with ice, the Kwam-Sook without.

The recipes for the two cocktails, as listed above, are not set in stone.

"You can adapt the recipe to suit your taste – but don't change it too much or you may get a strange taste," K. Sayan warns.

Laying

By Laura Schafer

It's the first thing most women put on every day, and many women say they feel naked without it.

It is both our best friend and our worst enemy, but it is a fact of modern life: makeup. But before all the color, glitz and glam goes on, a sturdy yet subtle foundation must be laid.

According to a study by Estée Lauder, 94% of women wear the wrong foundation. Wrong for the skin type, or the wrong color – or just wrong. Without the right type of foundation, no matter what goes on top, you won't be able to put your best face forward.

The first step is to determine which type of foundation is best for your skin type.

An oil-based liquid foundation is best for dry skin and provides medium to heavy coverage. A water-based liquid foundation gives light coverage and is ideal for sensitive skin, while a cream foundation is best for normal skin and also gives medium to heavy coverage.

Also be sure to find a foundation with some sun protection. Most foundations have their SPF protection clearly marked.

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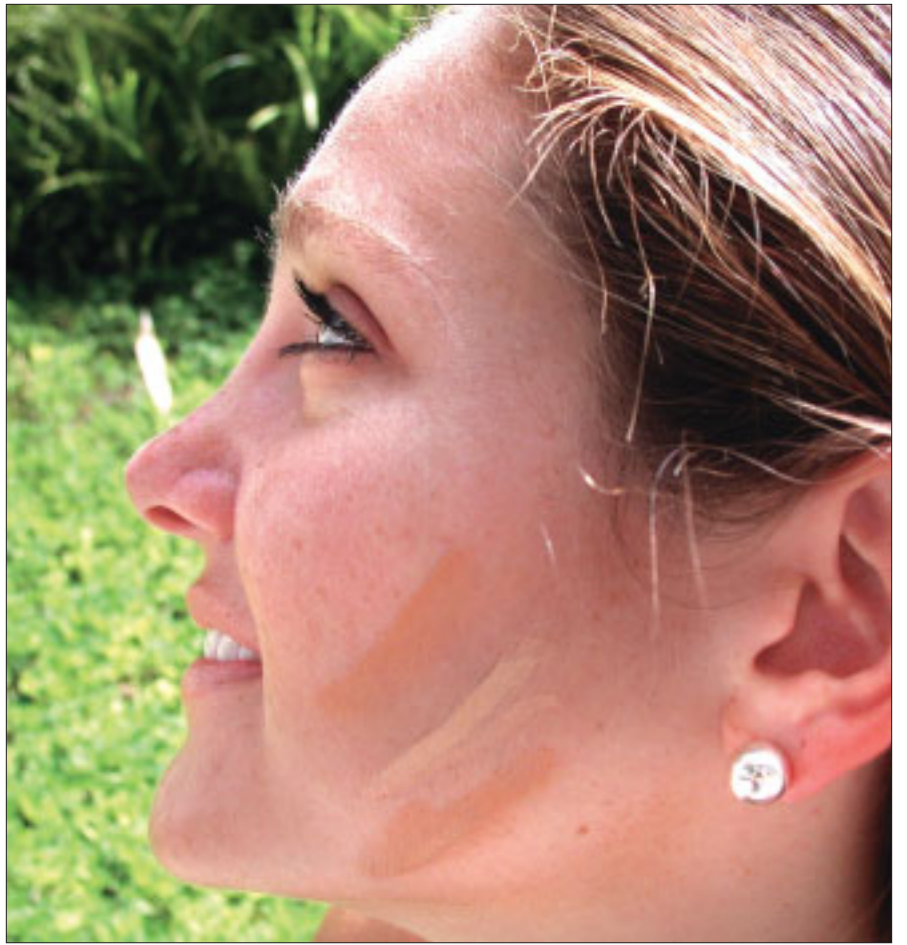
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the foundation for facing the day



Left: Spot concealers can help you look fresh, whatever the state of your brain cells from the night before.

Above: Check foundation colors before you buy by applying stripes of them on your jaw. Make sure you look at them in natural light so that you see their real color.

— Model: Alexis Sabol

The Clinique makeup counter at Central Festival Phuket shared a few tips for choosing a foundation. The easiest way is to test a series of foundations on your skin at the store before you buy.

Go into the store with a clean face free of makeup. Test foundations along your jaw line and make sure to blend in all the way using your fingers or a sponge.

Apply only a small amount for the most natural look.

As lighting in stores is often fluorescent, step outside or near

a window to see the color in natural light.

The last thing you want is to realize that you're actually orange when the mirrors at the store showed a perfect match.

Some days a light covering isn't enough. For these times use a spot concealer in addition.

When searching for a concealer to cover up "panda" circles left from the late night before, or perhaps just an unfortunate inheritance, look for concealers with different color bases for covering any blemish Monday morning may hand you.

The Estée Lauder Prime FX Pro Concealment Kit includes concealers of different shades, such as a "red corrector" and a "blue corrector".

A red-based corrector works to conceal blemishes, broken capillaries and to brighten. A blue-based concealer will cover dark spots, under eye circles and even freckles.

A yellow-based concealer, not included in the kit but available separately, will help cover up most imperfections. Pick a shade that is one-half to one shade lighter than your skin, but remember

that concealer is a spot cover, not intended for all-over use.

Love it or hate it, make sure

that you're wearing the right type of makeup so that you don't, er, lose face.

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BEHIND THE WHEEL

By Jeff Heselwood

Making its debut at the North America International Auto Show (NAIAS) in Detroit, the new Rolls-Royce Phantom Drophead Coupé is the ultimate in motoring decadence. It exudes quality from stem to stern, and although it is clearly based on the Phantom sedan, the Drophead has, says Rolls-Royce, something like 1,300 new parts specially developed for the car. Every exterior panel of the new car is original, with carefully considered proportions more suited to the shorter body.

As with the Phantom, the new car has a long hood and 20-inch wheels, emphasizing its majestic appearance. Visually, the convertible actually works better than the closed car, possibly due to its lower, neater lines.

"This car gave us the chance to think about the very nature of convertible motoring and in particular what it means to Rolls-Royce," said Chief Designer Ian Cameron. "Above all we were determined to make this car a joy to live with, and engineered it to give years of effortless service to its owner."

Two visually stunning features of the new Phantom are the optional brushed stainless steel hood and the rear teak decking, both carried over from the 100 EX concept that appeared at the Geneva show in 2004 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Mr Rolls



Okay, you've converted me

DROPHEAD GORGEOUS: The Phantom Drophead Coupé is sumptuous, speedy and stylish – a classic that bristles with technology.

meeting Mr Royce. The brushed finish of the hood and A-pillar are reminiscent of the classic Phantoms of the '20s and '30s, while the rear deck comprises more than 30 individual pieces of teak, protected by a special blend of oils, and as with all woods and veneers used by Rolls-Royce, it is sourced from sustainable forests.

Classic it may be, but the vehicle bristles with the latest technology. Beneath the front number plate is a discreet camera to provide a split-screen view of the road ahead, via the on-

board monitor, to assist parking or pulling out of a side road.

The "picnic" trunk has a bottom-hinged lid capable of holding a weight of 150 kilos and doubling as outdoor seating for adults, while the interior will accommodate at least three sets of golf clubs. Importantly, the trunk space remains intact whether the roof is raised or lowered.

The sumptuous leather front seats incorporate integral seatbelts and active headrests, while legroom in the rear is exemplary, making the Phantom Drophead a

full four-seater. Open cars, of course, require different acoustic properties and in-car entertainment is delivered via nine channels and 15 speakers, creating a quality audio experience whether the roof is up or down.

The large wheels are equipped with run-flat Michelin tires enabling the car to tool on for up to 160 kilometers at speeds of 80 kph after a flat, despite its immense weight of 2,600kg.

To shift this mass, the power plant is the same one as the sedan: a powerful 6.75 liter V12 developing 453 bhp (338 kW) and 720 Nm of torque. Acceleration is a staggering six seconds from 0 to 100 kmh, while maximum speed is electronically limited to 240 kmh.

The brakes are equally impressive, with ventilated discs all round, utilizing twin-pot calipers on the front, single-pot at the rear. At rest an electro-mechanical parking brake can be applied at the push of a button on the dash. Emergency brake assist steps in under heavy braking, immediately applying full force in conjunction with the ABS in any emergency.

Clearly, North America will be the largest market for the new Phantom Drophead and it is unlikely to be spotted much in Asia. But if you ever get a chance, take a look at this beauty.

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

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It is normal for a man like myself to take time to relax at good spas, but it's not easy finding a private spa that caters to my special needs.

However, I have finally found one – Hiranyikara is a spa, as they say, “with men in mind”. It is located in a quiet area on the right side of the road to Bang Wad Reservoir in Kathu.

Although I am in a rush to try it when I learn that this spa targets men, I am a little shy to go there alone. So I convince a friend of mine, a girl who is more familiar with spas, to accompany me.

Spa consultant Jongrak “Pom” Khemsri welcomes us to the spa and hands us refreshing fresh ginger drinks. K. Pom explains that *hiranyikara* is the Thai name for the Nepal trumpet flower, also called Herald’s trumpet. In Thai, the flower’s name conveys a sense of being soft yet strong.

“Our spa focuses on serving gay men. We had our grand opening on November 23, and we have had a surprisingly good response,” K. Pom says. “We have about 20 customers a day, comprising tourists, Phuket expats and residents. About 70% of our guests are foreigners. We also welcome straight men and women, too,” says K. Pom.

The spa has nine therapists: seven men and two women, all of whom serve both male and female guests.

The spa menu includes not only the usual massages and facials, but also signature treatment packages such as Just for Men and Experience Hiranyikara, as

What’s on the other man’s mind...

well as hair treatment and waxing. Prices range from 500 baht for a manicure or pedicure to 5,500 baht for the three-hour Experience Hiranyikara package.

K. Pom explains that Hiranyikara uses organic, non-allergenic spa products by Académie and Algotharm.

“One of our most popular signature treatments is the Aroma Hiranyikara Massage. It’s an oil massage that combines Thai massage and sport massage to help soothe muscle aches and pains,” he says.

My friend seems to be anxious to try this treatment, but I still want something special for men that I would not find elsewhere, so K. Pom suggests I try a treatment from the Just for Men range, such as an Exfoli-

ation Back Massage.

He says that this treatment helps to remove dead skin from my back and helps to accelerate the natural skin-renewal process. I agree that it could be good for me since I usually don’t have the time to scrub my back myself.

The spa area is decorated in modern tropical Thai style, mainly in purple and black. There is a Thai massage room with four



No lack of elegance: The pool at Hiranyikara Spa.

beds, which can be partitioned off by curtains; three VIP treatment rooms; a shower room; an oil massage room with four beds; and a foot massage room with three beds.

Beside the swimming pool is a sauna with separate rooms for men and women, and a steam room that men and women can enjoy together. Guests can also enjoy a traditional Thai massage right by the pool.

“We think that many gay people don’t know of a private place for spa treatment, so we are happy that our spa is now known for that and that they can relax in privacy,” K. Pom says.

My friend meets her female therapist who will give her an Aroma Hiranyikara Massage,

applies the scrub to my back. He starts scrubbing my left shoulder, then down the left side of my back to my loin and buttocks. He scrubs again on other side with sweet movements. I feel relaxed and sleepy.

K. Ath finishes scrubbing, which takes about 20 minutes, and removes the cream with a wet towel. My back feels very clean.

He tells me to turn over, and continues with an oil massage. He applies muscle therapy massage oil on my arms and torso, and then massages my arms, then all my body. I keep my eyes closed all the while. This helps me feel more relaxed, although I feel a little embarrassed that he can see me naked.

After the massage, I take a shower in the adjoining open-roof bathroom, which has bamboo wall. I can see the view outside, but I just hope that no one can see me from out there.

After my shower, I dress and wait beside the pool for my friend. I am served with a hot ginger drink and fresh watermelon and pineapple. About 10 minutes later, my friend arrives and sits beside me.

She asks me about my treatment. I can only reply, “Hmm... I’ll be back, but next time alone.”

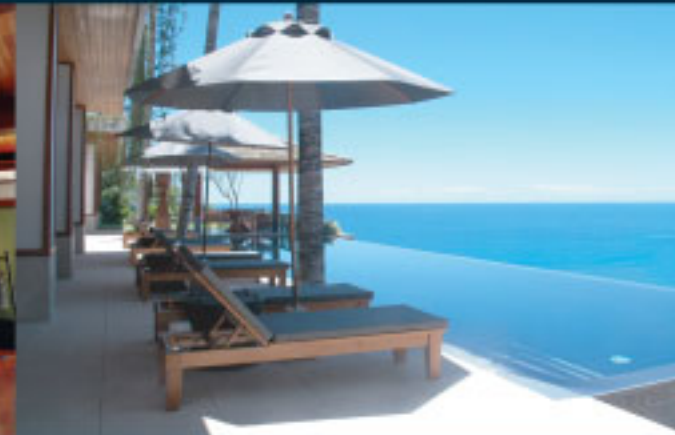
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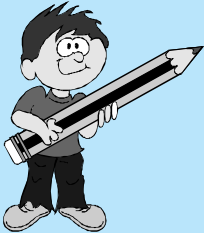


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Puzzles



The Cryptic Crossword

Spot the Difference



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

Solution on next page.



ACROSS

1.

Gets comfortable on long wooden bench. (7)
4.

Hits the mixed drinks. (7)
8.

Involved in quiet rodent. (4)
9.

In a trice? Not quite – it’s dodgy. (4)
10.

Little dogs swallow 1,000 shoes. (5)
12.

She cleans the room in church with yellow mother’s ID. (11)
14.

Ha! Right clothing for crop collections. (8)
17.

For example, right, and French bird. (5)
20.

Knock out pest in city. (5)
21.

Encroach on spa surrounded by hair. (8)
25.

Vote for, or back, cute way to kill. (11)
27.

Chunk of turf for five hundred and six on overtime. (5)
29.

Note to boxer: Island. (4)
30.

Chopper is center line. (4)
31.

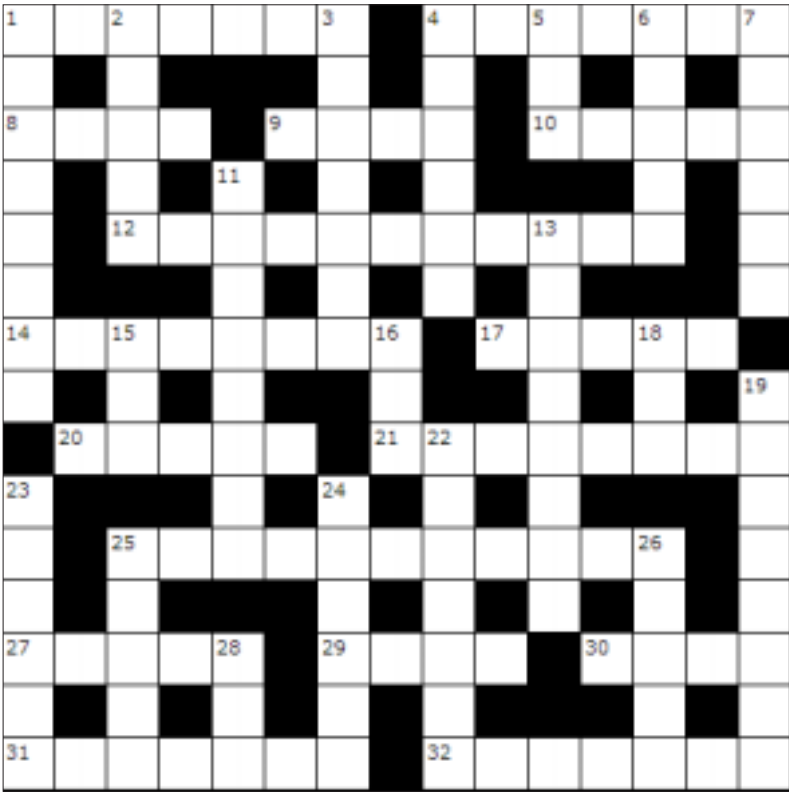
Miss? I’ll say “Rocket”. (7)
32.

Back lonely T as headache cure. (7)

DOWN

1.

Shirt tag crumpled but undeviating. (8)



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2007

2.

Subject to little picture. (5)
3.

Strongbox better by half – a sure thing. (4, 3)
4.

Prayers, almost, for those who shell out. (6)
5.

Sleep in card game. (3)
6.

Drone, identity is damp. (5)
7.

To the south east, identical seed. (6)
11.

Material speed cut to pieces. (8)
13.

Emperor makes wind in Australia and the States. (8)
15.

Right! I love city. (3)
16.

Steamship shirt is faster than sound. (1, 1, 1)
18.

Time for baseball statistic. (3)
19.

Adopting idea, wrecked pal, so sue! (8)
22.

Nothing in rot to allow underground extension. (7)
23.

Knowledge of bits of Swiss kingdom. (6)
24.

Animal house does not decay easily. (6)
25.

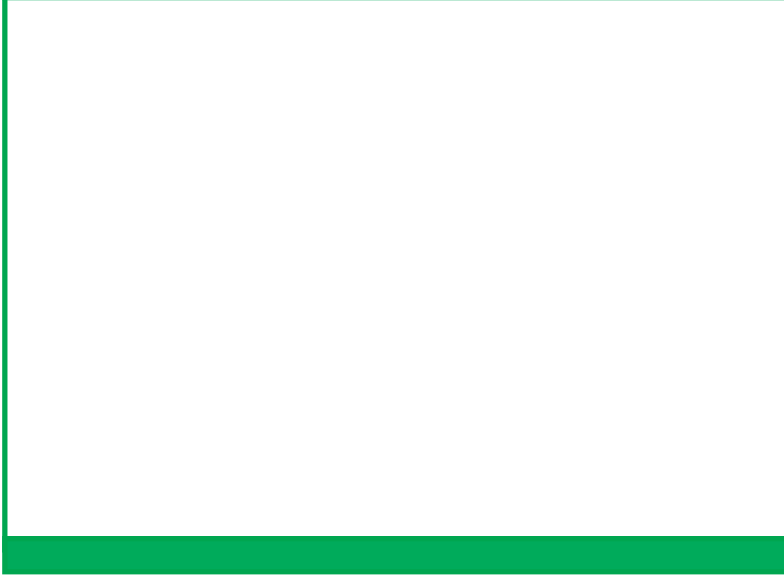
Singer lives badly. (5)
26.

Big sister has 20 in a long time. (5)
28.

It’s back in a language group. (3)

Solution on next page

Scribble Space



EZ TRIVIA QUIZ

1.

An alloy is a mixture of two types of what?
2.

Charles Lindbergh became famous for what solo act?
3.

In which country would you find the river Po?
4.

Arabian, Barbary and Lipizzaner are all types of what?
5.

Sonny Liston was a champion in which sport?
6.

What is the cube root of 27?
7.

By what nickname was Richard I of England known?
8.

How wide is a standard soccer goal?
9.

If a man is a bigamist, what does he have?
10.

What word means “grumble” and is also the name of a bird?

Answers on next page

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

V. EASY

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 ‘rain’.

What are they?

1.

Fluid outlet.
2.

Get.
3.

Killed.
4.

Ordinary.
5.

Amuse.
6.

Relevant.
7.

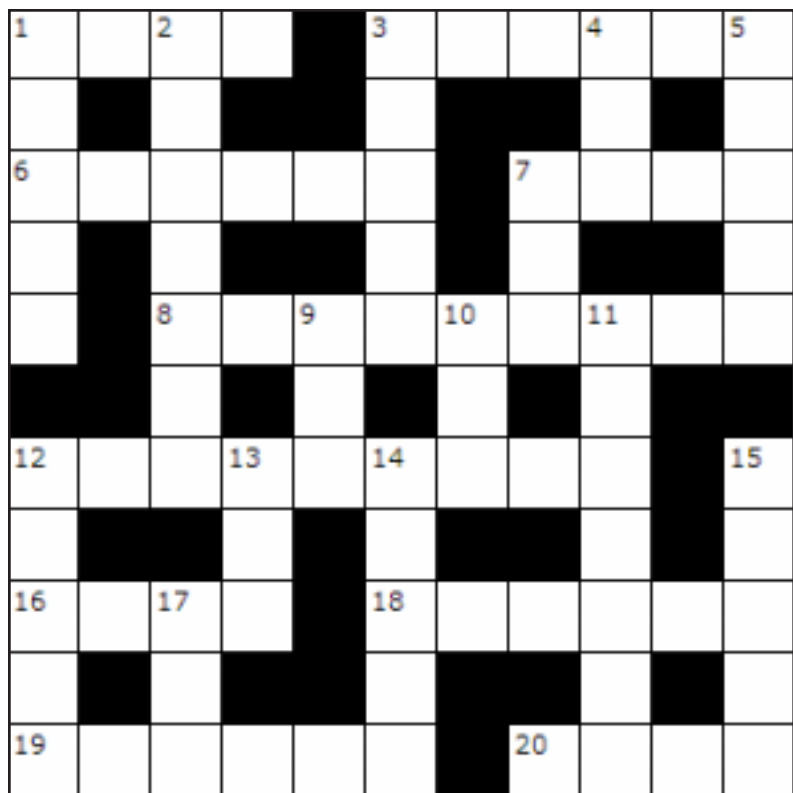
Nuts.
8.

Wood pattern.
9.

Small road.
10.

Pretend.

Answers on next page



Quick Crossword

ACROSS

1. As well.
3. Hindu god.
6. Atlantic island group west of Portugal.
7. Against.
8. Pretty insect.
12. Entertainment in the night sky.
16. Kick out of power.
18. Not originals.
19. He owes money.
20. Burden.

DOWN

1. Astonish.
2. Drool.
3. Pay a call on someone.
4. Female chicken.
5. Togetherness.
7. Essential gas mixture.
9. Pull along.
10. Make a mistake.
11. Current fad.
12. Results of heavy rain.
13. Consume.
14. Movie star's award.
15. Talks with "th" instead of "s".
17. Underwater warship.

Solution below, right

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



1. What sport was banned in Florida in 1989 after a campaign by Robert and Angela Van Ettan?
2. Which sport has only one rule: "You can't play it the same way twice"?
3. Which country took the gold medal in the 2006 Bandy World Championships?
4. Bandy is the ancestor of what modern sport?
5. Alan Pettigrew has for 20 years held the world record in which sport?
6. What is unusual about the monthly NAC Seattle Swims?
7. In 2003/2004, Stephen Gough walked from one end of the UK to the other wearing what?
8. Gwon-gyokdo mingles Korean martial arts with what other style?
9. Who made the first bungy jumps, from which bridge and on what date?
10. Which "sport" involves a large PVC sphere rolling downhill with a "pilot" inside it?
11. Vigaro, a mix of cricket and baseball played mostly by women, is most popular in which country?
12. In ARDF, competitors carry a map, a compass and what else?
13. In which country would one be most likely to find camel wrestling?
14. In the Coopers Hill annual cheese-rolling competition, what kind of cheese is used?
15. Dinant in Belgium is known for which annual aquatic event?
16. Which ancient horse race features teams called Bruco, Chiocchiola, Istrice and Tartuca, among others?
17. In which city do cockroach races form part of national day celebrations?
18. In which country do the Kenwood World Pillow Fighting Championships take place?
19. On April 22 each year, in Springfield, Missouri, competitors attempt to hit a target 50 feet below with what?
20. Which country hosts an annual wife-carrying contest?

Answers below

Puzzle Solutions

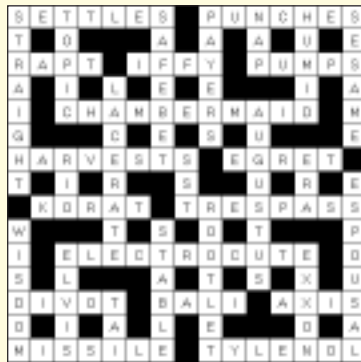
EZ Trivia Answers

1. Metal; 2. Flying across the Atlantic; 3. Italy; 4. Horses; 5. Boxing; 6. Three; 7. Lionheart; 8. Eight yards (7.3 meters); 9. Two wives; 10. Grouse.

Monster Quiz Answers

1. Dwarf-tossing; 2. Calvinball; 3. Russia; 4. Ice hockey; 5. Haggis hurling; 6. Participants are naked; 7. A pair of boots – nothing else; 8. Muay Thai; 9. David Kirke, Chris Baker and Ed Hulton, from Clifton suspension bridge in Bristol, England, April 1, 1979; 10. Zorbing; 11. Australia; 12. Radio direction finding apparatus; 13. Turkey; 14. Double Gloucester; 15. La Regate des Baignoires (The Bathtub Regatta); 16. The Palio di Siena; 17. Brisbane, Australia; 18. USA (Kenwood, California); 19. Typewriters; 20. Finland.

Cryptic Crossword



Quick Crossword



Sudoku

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

Solution to this week's Cartoon Puzzle



Just an ordinary executioner

There should be more books like this: the tale of an ordinary Thai man transcribed into English. Chavoret Jaruboon tells his life story to Nicola Pierce who, alas, does not appear to be a professional writer.

She begins far too many sentences with such unnecessary words as “fortunately”, “unfortunately”, “sadly”, “happily”. She is unaware that sentences do not start with numerals or that numerals under 10 are written out.

She misspells plenty of place names such as “Pattanee” and “Sattaheep”. Also prisoners may have started a “ruckus” but not a “raucous”.

But no matter, Chavoret’s voice comes out loud and clear.

The son of a revered schoolteacher in Nonthaburi, he was not much of a student and took up a roving life as an Elvis Presley-style guitar player in various rock bands, touring American bases in Thailand during the Vietnam war.

Then he settled down in Nonthaburi with a wife and child and found steady work as a prison guard in Bang Kwang Central Prison. He rose to become executioner and shot 55 felons before the death penalty was changed to lethal injection.

This is the reason for the book’s title: *The Last Executioner* (Maverick Press, Bangkok, 2006, 296pp), subtitled *Memoirs of Thailand’s Last Prison Executioner*. Maverick Press has a penchant for jail-house books: *Welcome to Hell* and *You’ll Never Walk Alone* are two of its titles.



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

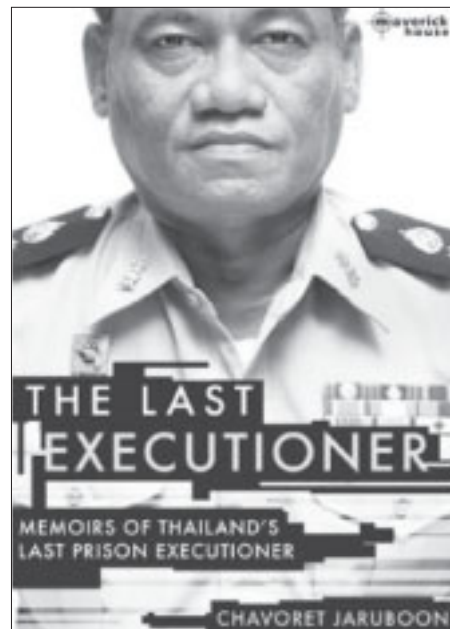
Chavoret’s early years as a rock musician are just as fascinating as his macabre later ones.

“I had great fun with the Americans,” he writes. “They taught me how to curse with expressions like ‘F— you’ and ‘Go to hell, goddamit’. It was probably different for us, a band from Bangkok.

“Everyone else – bar owners, girls and taxi drivers – just saw walking dollar signs, whereas we got a chance to befriend them. We had our own money and didn’t need anything from them. Instead, we would buy them dinner and just hang out – drinking and dancing to the latest hits on the jukebox.”

In Bang Kwang, he begins assisting at executions as a way of furthering his career.

He relates some horrific tales, such as the rape and murder of a Thammasat librarian by two hardened criminals, be-



fore the eyes of her boyfriend who was then also murdered.

“They were pure evil,” he writes. “I believe there are truly bad people who can never be cured of their desire to do depraved things. I don’t think prison will make them any better than they are, and yes, I believe this type of person deserves to die.”

Chavoret meticulously describes the procedures for capital punishment, leading up to the tying of the convicted to a cross and the burst from a stabilized submachine gun, mounted so that it looks like a sewing machine.

He does not enjoy his job but he is unapologetic: “An eye for an eye – personally, I think that’s the way it should be. There are some people who will never see the error of their ways; who would not benefit from years in prison, they would go back out into the world and kill again.

“The death penalty is not the perfect solution, but I cannot think of a perfect alternative. Some people are just evil to the core.”

He describes the various social strata in the prison: the assistants or trustees who help the guards manage daily life, the hardcore criminals, the luckless accomplices, the death row inmates, the foreigner drug runners, the ladyboys.

The highlight of the book is a long, vivid description of the 1985 prison riot, showing just how tenuous control over thousands of prisoners can be.

Ironically, Chavoret was well-liked by the prisoners.

“I have come to believe that you have to respect the criminals and be a little bit curious about how they arrived in Bang Kwang. It makes the job more bearable and adds to my job satisfaction. If you respect the criminal as an equal human being, it pushes you to do your best and motivates you to make improvements.”

After his career as executioner ended, Chavoret entered the monkhood to make merit. But while he was on the job, his devout Buddhism was no impediment to what he saw as necessary work.

PHUKET DIARY

www.phuketgazette.net/calendar

To March 30: REWIND at The Watermark

Watermark and Tommy Double T hook up once again to bring you more sleeve-rollin’, fringe-flickin’, tramline shavin’, ass-shakin’ good times.

REWIND – something new by way of something old taking it back to where it all began.

On the first Friday of each month at Watermark we will rewind to the best sounds of the ’70s, ’80s and ’90s, from the Sex Pistols to the Chemical Brothers. Happy hour 5-7 pm; REWIND 7 pm to midnight. Admission free.

For more information call Stuart Bird at Tel: 076-239730 or 081-737-6184 or email info@watermarkphuket.com

February 16-17: 2nd Phuket International Blues Festival.

Eight to 10 Thailand-based acts will perform at the festival during two nights of great blues, R&B and rock ’n’ roll.

The headline band on the first night will be British legend Victor Brox, while the second night will be headed by the Rich Harper Blues Band from the US.

Other acts already confirmed include Kyla Brox, Phuket’s own Groove Doctors, The Blues Machine from Pattaya, and Blue on Blue, Cannonball and the Soi Dog Blues Band 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 at phuketmusic@yahoo.com.

March 3: Candlelit Dinner and Let Your Hair Down Party

Soi Dog’s major fund-raising event on March 3 at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa features an elegant candlelit dinner followed by a “Let Your Hair Down” party.

Tickets are 2,000 baht per person and include a cocktail reception followed by a four-course dinner.

Have fun and help the dogs. For more information, or to reserve tickets, call Maxine (Tel: 086-9447721) or Joan (087-282-

0422) or email Maxine at maxandgoddess@csloxinfo.com.

See also the Soi Dog website at www.soidog.org



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Paying the price of collusion

There is an old adage that a successful business comes down to three key factors: location, location and location. The concept is certainly well understood by all sides in the recent protest at Phuket International Airport (PIA), where the installation of a new ticket sales counter not more than 50 meters from the old one sparked an immediate protest [see Inside Story, pages 4 and 5].

Arriving for work at the airport early that morning, members of the Phuket Limousine and Business Services Cooperative (PBC) quickly sprang into action, blocking off the entrance to the airport parking lot and erecting banners calling for the Airport Director to intervene.

It looks like the PBC may have won this most recent skirmish, but it might be losing the war. Recent years have seen the introduction of meter taxis and an Airport Bus service at the airport.

There is no doubt, however, as to who the big losers were in the latest strike: the thousands of tourists who arrived for the first day of their vacation only to find themselves in the middle of a blockade.

The Tourism Authority of Thailand last December lauded Thailand being named "best country brand for value for money" in a worldwide poll. Thailand does offer good value for money, but this only holds true in segments of the economy where free-market forces are allowed to prevail.

The public transport sector in Phuket is not one of them.

Nowhere is the effect more apparent than in places like Patong, where tuk-tuk drivers collude to enforce the highest per-kilometer fares for transport anywhere in Thailand.

They also have the nerve to protest and threaten further price hikes when the government takes steps to introduce a one-way road system to bring some order to the traffic chaos that the tuk-tuk drivers were largely responsible for creating in the first place.

To be free of the shackles of the transport syndicates what Phuket's tourism economy needs more than anything else is a much-improved public transport system: not just for Phuket City and parts of the island where the population is mostly Thai, but also along the west coast tourist towns.

A good start would be a second Airport Bus service to Patong and Kata-Karon and another bus or passenger pick-up running between those two municipalities.

As we have seen from recent events, however, winning back the roads from vested interests will not be easy – especially when government-run agencies such as Airports of Thailand are reaping huge profits from existing arrangements.

– 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.

Ask tourists about the one-way streets

Why doesn't Patong do it the easy way? Everything in Patong is for the tourists, so why not ask them what they think about the one-way system?

Most of them normally walk and don't use a vehicle, so while the traffic flow may be better, it is nearly impossible for them to pass beach road or Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd without risk.

W Stehle
Patong

Highways and byways of Patong

Why is everybody afraid to do anything about the tuk-tuks? The tuk-tuk drivers think they can do whatever they want, and their fares are above all reasonable limits.

During a protest against the new one-way traffic system, they were blocking all of the traffic in Patong for a long time and nothing happened to them, the police only stood and looked on.

I truly hope that the one-way traffic system in Patong is here to stay. It is much safer than before. I drive in Patong a lot every day, and I see that it's much better for ordinary drivers, such as delivery trucks, buses and especially the ambulances that can now arrive before it's too late.

Another thing that would be great for the one-way traffic would be a number of *songtaew* (pickups modified to carry passengers) circling Patong. Passengers could jump on and off wherever they wanted; but maybe nobody has the guts to try this against the tuk-tuk drivers.

Finally, a note to the municipi-

ality – please finish Phang Muang Rd, this would divert all the traffic that is only passing through and clogging the arteries of Patong.

Reino Olofsson
Sweden

Suvarnabhumi taxis get in on the act

I flew into Suvarnabhumi Airport for the first time last week and was quickly surrounded by taxi touts.

I spoke to someone who quoted 900 baht for the fairly short journey to the British Embassy. The second man quickly dropped his price from 900 to 700 baht – "Cheap, cheap for you". Sounds like very random and high figures to me.

So my Thai companion and I walked outside to the level below where a queue of meter taxis were waiting. Three hundred baht was quoted, thanks – that's reasonable.

As we drove, my Thai friend by chance got a call from her friend who warned her that her driver had taken a very long route before and charged accordingly.

Our driver heard this conversation, and sped up! Good, but en route I had to hand over 65 baht for a couple of toll booth stops.

When we got to the embassy his meter read 189 baht. So why the 300 baht final charge? My Thai friend asked him and the answer was, he had to pay to wait at the airport! Sure, and the moon is made of cheese.

I'd just like to advise readers to ignore the touts at the airport and to get a taxi-meter from the lower level. At least make a

note of the registration number of the taxi or tuk-tuk wherever you are and make a complaint if you're ripped off.

I love it here in Phuket but we are Thailand's bread and butter and only the "public voice" will get the bus route from Patong to Kata-Karon, and perhaps even a wonderful long-tail boat service.

Lie Detector
Kata

Welcome to Phuket

Every day I have to drive from Phuket City to Patong. Many slow drivers insist on driving on the right side of the road. Motorbikes are driven next to each other, passing cars on both the left and the right.

All this leaves me with a 30-kilometer slalom to complete to reach Patong.

Is there no way to discipline the drivers to keep left and to make motorbikes follow each other and also prevent them from passing cars that are queuing at the traffic lights? It would make driving less risky and more joyful indeed.

This should be the first thing taught when delivering a drivers license and there should be better traffic police who fine for this, instead of blocking traffic in search of drivers without helmets.

Werner
Phuket

Land of Snarls

The ongoing crisis of savage feral dogs needs not only immediate attention, but a radical adjustment of attitude by the citizens and residents of the Kingdom.

With the deepest respect to the Buddhist religion, I feel that this "right to life" philosophy is

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

The effect of new foreign capital controls on Phuket

First I would like to talk about the economic impact of new government amendments to the Foreign Business Act, which are intended to prevent foreigners from using nominees to gain majority control of Thai businesses.

Even with this new measure, there are still many ways for foreigners to invest here, such as through a joint-venture business. I think this amendment will have little impact on the investment climate because the government still supports foreign investment.

It seems to me that the amendment to close the nominee loophole has had only a little impact [on foreign investment].

The investment climate in Phuket remains strong and I am often approached by foreign investors who want to consult with me over a wide range of projects, including property developments, marinas and mega-projects, such as an elevated railway system, a sports complex and MICE (Meeting Incentive Convention Exhibition) events.

However, some foreign investors I have talked to have asked for a change in the law to allow leases of up to 90 years, instead of just 30, so they can

The Governor's LETTER

Having already served five years as a Vice-Governor, **Niran Kalayanamit**, 52, is the first Governor of Phuket to have been promoted to the top position from within the province. Here, in his second letter exclusively for *Phuket Gazette* readers, Governor Niran looks at the effect of foreign capital controls on investment in Phuket as well as other major developments affecting the island.



pass on their property to their heirs.

As for changes to the proposed International Convention and Exhibition Center (ICEC) project under the new government, Tourism and Sports Minister Dr Suwit Yodmanee has ordered the Tourism Authority of Thailand Southern Region 4 Office in Phuket to review the details of the existing 1.8-billion-baht plan.

The TAT had already decided to site the ICEC at Saphan Hin, but a subsequent public hear-

ing on the issue was perhaps a bit too open. This resulted in a wide variety of alternative locations being proposed for the center, including Koh Maphrao and other places.

The result was that a consensus couldn't be reached. For this reason, I think next time we should have a tighter format, perhaps by using a "yes" or "no" referendum for where the ICEC should be sited.

I think Saphan Hin is a good location because the area is the traditional recreational and meet-

ing place of Phuket and offers a sea view. However, the condition of the sea there is degraded.

The ICEC could help spur redevelopment along Phuket City's waterfront and improve the area. Other advantages of the area include its proximity to many government offices in the area. An ICEC would make it easy to coordinate meetings on traffic and other issues requiring government involvement.

We will have another meeting about the ICEC soon and I think we will be able to clarify

many issues relating to it.

As for reports of an outbreak of *Legionella* in Phuket, I continue to push the Phuket Public Health Office for test results [which were still not available as this edition went to press] and we are working together with the World Health Organization.

Researchers have collected water samples and conducted thorough checks at the suspect locations, and we have developed two plans for how to proceed so that we will be ready regardless of whether the test results turn out to be negative or positive.

I have also set a policy for hotel operators to undertake continual monitoring and maintenance of their guest facilities, not just to maximize profits by having many tourists stay at their hotels but also by conforming to European Union health standards.

If the test results prove that the suspect patients did not contract the disease in Phuket, we will need to have a public relations campaign to publicize this message as soon as possible.

Niran Kalanamit,
Governor of Phuket

seriously fueling the problem of stray feral dogs. Dogs and bitches are neither neutered nor spayed, thereby adding to the constantly growing population of unwanted animals.

Dogs are not licensed and are free to wander the streets, beaches and countryside as per their instinctive nature as a pack animal.

These packs of dogs are led by large, aggressive alpha males who impose their leadership on any creatures of smaller size, resulting in attacks upon children and other dogs.

Unchallenged, these alpha males and their packs even lose their fear of adult humans.

To contain this problem, dogs and bitches must be licensed, for a fee. If an animal is already neutered, then the license fee could be waived.

Unlicensed dogs must be removed from the streets, and then this "right to life" will develop into a "right for quality of life" for dogs and humans alike.

By law, all dogs in Europe and the rest of the developed world are licensed, and those above a certain size or of a known aggressive breed must be muzzled when walked in public.

These laws ensure that the dog owners are held responsible for the actions and well-being of

their pets, and the general public is protected from attacks by feral dogs, of which there are consequently very few in Europe.

The Land of Smiles must not become the Land of Snarls.

Delene Watson
Patong

Medical imbalance

Although I am not an anarchist and fully understand the need for some level of bureaucracy to keep civil society functioning, I must say I am a bit perplexed about the way the civil service works here.

For a start, there is a system requiring that everybody be listed on a "house registration form". As the Phuket Governor recently pointed out in his battle to get Phuket's "hidden population" registered, this system has failed Phuket miserably – to the tune of untold millions of baht in lost government budgets over the years and a dangerously underfunded police force.

Then there is the *bai raprowng phaet* (health certificate) that seems to be required as part of every government application stack, from getting a membership to use a swimming pool to building a nuclear power plant.

Letters

Only hopelessly naive foreigners would ever go to a hospital for one of these. Those in-the-know instead use the quick-quack clinic round the corner, where they will issue one in seconds for just 50 baht.

The last time I got one, the doctor asked me to breathe in once while he pretended to listen for signs of respiratory distress. That was it. I seriously wonder what sort of medical state – advanced leprosy perhaps? – one would have to be in to be denied one of these.

That was the entire medical evaluation necessary to be medically qualified to, in this instance, apply for a driver's license.

Speaking of driving, there is a mechanical equivalent of the *bai raprowng phaet*. This is known as the *truad saphab rot ekachon*, or *TorRorOr*, vehicle inspection certificate.

All motorbikes over five years old require an inspection. If the vehicle passes muster, a certificate is granted allowing one to continue driving it. But when I took my old Honda Dream in to get one recently they didn't do

anything in terms of actually inspecting it, at least as far as I could tell. They didn't move the bike or even start it up.

It would appear that just as the ability to walk into a medical clinic qualifies one as "physically fit", the fact that a vehicle can be driven to a garage qualifies it as "mechanically sound".

I guess the quack doctors and grease monkeys who issue these certificates gain financially in doing so – and I am sure documents they produce give the bureaucrats more papers to stamp, shuffle and store.

But it is all a big waste of time and effort to the millions of people who have to go through this useless process, which must be costing the country millions in lost productivity every year. In my opinion they should do it right, or not do it at all.

Somchai Huasaikul
Samkong

Legionnaire's salute

I would like to thank the *Gazette* for your even and balanced reporting of the recent Legionnaire's disease scare and hope that the lab results turn out to be negative for this alleged "outbreak". I think it is unfortunate that cer-

tain governments saw it fit to issue travel alerts on this before anything was confirmed.

However, the water-borne *Legionella* is hardly alone among the many potentially dangerous microbes that can take up residence in hotel rooms.

One of the first things I do when booking my hotel room is check whether the hotel I intend to stay in has carpeting.

While carpeting is of some use in keeping the feet warm in colder climates, it is wholly inappropriate for a tropical, seaside hotel. I am utterly astounded by how many hotels have it – especially considering the added cost of installation and the endless, futile maintenance.

Many otherwise fine hotel rooms in Thailand I have seen marred by carpets, which are a haven for mold, dust mites and other nasty creatures.

Not only that, but they absorb smells and liquid stains that serve as a veritable aromatic history of what went on in the room the night before – and the night before that, *ad nauseum*.

Although *Legionella* is a water-borne threat, it wouldn't surprise me one bit to learn that the hotels where it is suspected has disgusting carpeting.

P Parsons
Madison, Wisconsin

How old is ancient?

Dear Momma Duck,

I often get confused about why Thai people refer to just about anything old as "ancient". I understand that this is from the fact that the Thai word *boraan* is usually translated this way. The problem I have is that in English, "ancient" is generally used to refer to anything older than the fall of the Roman Empire, about 450 AD.

The other night, my wife saw a Ford Fairlane car (circa 1960s) on TV and described it as *boraan*. I used to drive one of those! So my question is this: just how old does something have to be to classify it as *boraan*? Also, how do you draw the distinction in Thai between something really ancient and something that is simply a bit out-of-date?



Momma DUCK

By Wanida Hongyok
momma@phuketgazette.net

However, languages are always changing, and *boraan* has become very much a part of modern urban slang; it now is often used to mean "old fashioned" or "not up-to-date". These newer usages have an ironic sense of exaggeration, rather than the traditional meaning of "ancient". For example, we can say that a person is *hua boraan*, which means an old-fashioned or traditional type.

Even in English, the word "ancient" can be used in an ironic sense to mean an old person or thing.

The use of such a word in Thai or English (*boraan* or "ancient") in reference to history is, of course, very relative. As far as historical sites go (Egyptian or Thai or whatever), it often simply depends upon when a particular culture began to build (usually religious or civic structures) in brick or stone.

In other words, something from the past which we can still see today becomes *boraan* or "ancient" just by virtue of its relative age in comparison to the buildings near it, and its continued existence in our prefab, disposable, amnesiac age.

Wondering
Samkong

Dear Wondering,

The word *boraan* originally did indeed mean something relatively old, such as stone/brick temples from the Sukothai period (12th-14th centuries) or even those from the Ayudhaya period (15th-18th centuries).

In The Stars

by Isla Star

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): If you are intent on getting ahead this year, you should drop a recently considered scheme like a piece of hot charcoal. If you've already made a tentative commitment, it's not too late to backtrack. Apart from this potential waste of time the days ahead should be plain sailing. If you're celebrating a birthday this week, it's best to arrange the festivities your way rather than allow others to have free rein.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): If the pressures of work are leaving you feeling drained lately, pull all strings necessary to take a break. Many of you probably did overtime during the holiday period to enable others to enjoy themselves. The time is now ripe to demand payback, and to become more assertive generally. This will apply to those of you who know you are allowing yourselves to be taken for granted in a personal relationship. The number 3 can be lucky on Monday.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): If you have been inclined to laze around since the start of this year, you will find fresh energy this week. You should be able to easily accomplish all tasks demanding your attention during the coming days, giving you a head start for the rest of the month. The answer to a relationship dilemma could be found in a dream you have this weekend. The color marigold yellow encourages insight.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Serious decisions are on the agenda for you this week. If this involves the choice of relocation, the stars are ready to support your plans of moving elsewhere. Things will turn out to be much easier than you anticipate; Sagittarius is ready to offer useful support. Where work is concerned, don't allow others to put undue demands on your time. Remember that relaxation is important.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Positive thinking pays off for you as the month of February gets into gear. Any doubts you had regarding a close relationship will disappear as if by magic and the coast is clear for commitments to be made. Wednesday is the best day for facing up to financial problems; someone will be more understanding than you anticipate. The color turquoise can encourage more creative thinking and practical development of ideas.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): A long-term wish is about to come true for you. Other surprises are in store later this month, one of which could be a visit from an estranged family member. Leo is attracted to you, but has other fish to fry at the moment. A relationship with Scorpio is inadvisable so retreat from this situation sooner rather than later. The number 9 can bring luck next Tuesday.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Forgiving and forgetting should be your aim this week. If you haven't been able to let go of a gripe, you must realize you are the only person suffering. Work-related success is closer than you think, but it may be necessary to make some sacrifices that family will find hard to accept. If you are single, romance doesn't have the green light yet.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Following up on an unresolved money matter should be your priority this week. The longer you leave this situation, the harder it will be to correct mistakes. The stars are smiling on your attempts to put a personal relationship on firmer footing; try making a surprise romantic gesture this weekend. Aquarius has some useful suggestions concerning home improvements. Incorporate the color royal blue to encourage a healthier bank balance.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Gaining knowledge becomes a strong focus for you. If

this is related to improving your career prospects, you may have to look at overseas study. In the meantime, concentrating on your personal relationships will bring rewards. Sunday is the perfect day for arranging a special date with someone you've started to harbor romantic feelings for, but don't rock the boat by putting any kind of pressure on. The number 6 can bring luck on Monday.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): The outlook for you is positive this week, even if you don't feel this way on Monday morning. After a rather rocky weekend, the air clears and you will find people unusually helpful until the middle of the month. Wednesday is an auspicious day for making investments; something you touch is likely to turn to gold. The color smoky gray encourages the ability to see both sides of the story.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): A game of snakes and ladders becomes tiring for you. You have probably realized by now that the other person concerned isn't going to come up with the goods as promised. It's high time to cut loose and find someone else more reliable. However, you should also be prepared to admit that you're not perfect. An unsettled atmosphere early next week means that important discussions are better postponed until after Wednesday.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Those close to you will have a hard job keeping up this week. Many of you can expect to find a spring in your step that's been somewhat missing recently. As the month of February progresses, your growing energy should allow you to achieve more than you dreamed possible. Career matters are particularly well-starred during the coming days, so this is the ideal moment to update your resumé and look around more fulfilling employment.



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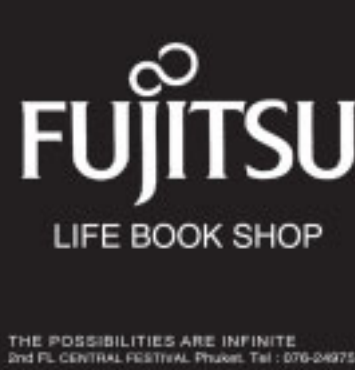
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**Do Not Drink
Tap Water!**

Everybody knows about the infamous four-letter words of the English language. The taboo words, the swear words, the words that would make you squirm with embarrassment if your wide-eyed three-year-old sister suddenly shouts them out in a crowded room.

These words, the sacred vocabulary of rappers, gangsters and rebellious teens, represent the dark and seedy aspects of life. They are not to be uttered in polite company.

Except, that is, for one word. Yes, there is one four-letter word that is an exception to the rule, one word that millions of people say every day, even to their family and friends.

That word is – drum roll, please – LOVE. “Love?” you might ask in bewilderment. “How is love a four-letter word?”

Well, apart from the obvious reason, “love” is a four-letter word because not only does it describe one of the most blissful states of human existence, but also because it is the cause of grievous heart-wrenching suffering for untold millions of people across the world.

That’s right, suffering. Now, for those of you who are in the perfect, romance-movie, slushy-love-song kind of love, this idea of love as a form of suffering might seem absurd.

But for the rest of us – those who reside in the real world – this notion will be painfully familiar.

The fact is that while most forms of love are beautiful, ego-boosting and saccharine-sweet, there is one kind of love that is so malevolent and insidious that it can reduce a perfectly healthy person to a gibbering wreck in need of a straitjacket.

This aggressive malady is known to most of us as unrequited love. It is the bane of many a wistfully insecure teen’s existence.

From birth to about age 13

we are immune. Then puberty strikes, weakening our defenses and allowing this opportunistic ailment to worm its way into our blood.

Symptoms vary from case to case, but the most common one involves scribbling the name of the object of affection all over school books, accompanied by carefully inked red hearts and declarations of “I love so-and-so” and “So-and-so is totally hot”.

Then there is the classic staring-into-space syndrome when one loses all concept of time and place as the mind is assailed by fantasies of the oblivious loved one suddenly having a lightbulb moment and realizing they love you back.

Of course there are the physical afflictions of unrequited love that inexplicably appear whenever the Chosen One appears in the school corridor.

These include sweating, palpitating heart, blushing and the inability to form a coherent sentence. There might also be nausea, sudden muscular immobility and a jaw that dives floor-ward and refuses to be winched back into place.

The unfortunate irony of unrequited love is that, while these mannerisms are all triggered by a deep gushing form of love that consumes every fiber of your being, they invariably cause the object of your desire to think you are a complete lunatic and steer well clear of you. Forever.

Another sad fact of this affliction is that there is no real cure for it; only time – or perhaps a soul-splintering rejection if des-

Cupid’s arrow: Oooh, that hurts



Youth 'n
ASIA

By Amy
Van de Castele

perate enough to confront the loved one – will heal this obsession.

People suffering from unrequited love syndrome experience different levels of severity. Some are only mildly affected and soon

move on from their little infatuations. Others spend a few months wistfully dreaming of a certain handsome young man or model-like girl who breezes past them in the corridors with nary a word of greeting. But after a while the attraction wears off and they find something else to distract them.

Then there are the severe cases, the poor doomed souls who have been well-skewered by one of Cupid’s misguided arrows, then left high and dry when he forgot to shoot the other person too.

These lovesick people spend endless hours moping around in their bedrooms listening to weepy ballads and writing shamefully sentimental poetry, dreaming of the day when they will muster up every last reserve of courage and ask their beloved on a date.

In their minds, this scenario always ends with hugging, kissing and wholehearted accep-

tance. In reality, however, when the unfortunate smitten do actually set eyes on the object of their desire the excitement becomes so overwhelming they might actually stop breathing for a moment. Speech becomes impossible, let alone actually approaching the person and asking if they would like to, er, like, you know, maybe go out sometime...if it’s not too much trouble...please?

On the odd occasion that such a proposal does ensue – usually after the pursuer has imbibed a fortifying measure of alcohol or during a passion-fueled moment of desperation – the pursued is usually frightened off by the longing that blazes from the smitten one’s eyes and a flat rejection follows.

The realization that all the months of hoping and dreaming were in fact in vain can be rather disheartening and the next few days will be spent in recovery, holed up listening to angry rock music pondering what they could have done differently.

This stage of the illness might seem like the worst, but it’s a positive step on the path to being cured of unrequited love.

Well...at least until the next time your eye happens to be caught by some dazzling, apparently superior being, and those familiar symptoms of infatuation come flooding back.

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We speak English, German, French, Japanese

I recently received from WM in Bangkok the following advice: High-speed Internet connections that are running slow can be fixed simply if you know what you are doing.

To speed up your Internet connection you must dump your cache; it's slowing down your computer. You can do this right now by clicking your "Tools" button on your browser, then selecting "Internet Options".

You can then remove your "Temporary Internet Files", and "Cookies" and "History" too, if you like. This will free up the blockage and allow your computer to run faster.

Forgive me for repeating your comment verbatim, WM, but I've heard this advice from several people on the island lately.

A couple of months ago, I read essentially the same advice in one of the big Bangkok English-language newspapers.

Although you mean well, there's just one problem. The tip is completely, totally, utterly incorrect. It's an electronic urban legend.

Every computer contains many caches. Cache is computer lingo for "something that you leave sitting around somewhere to speed things up." So, for ex-

Flush with cache

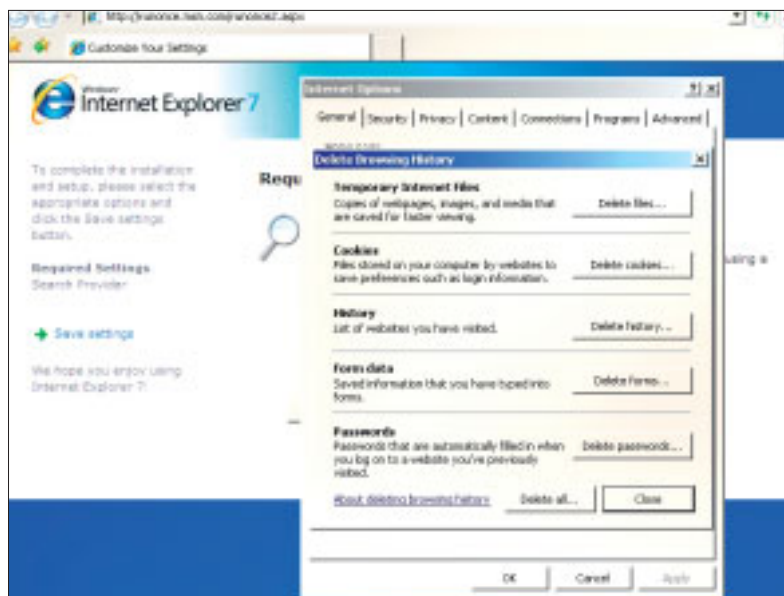
ample, your hard drive has a cache – data on the hard drive (which takes a long time to access) gets shuffled to and from memory chips inside the drive (which are fast) to speed up access to the data.

A cache is very similar to a buffer, if you've ever bumped into that term.

The primary difference is one of intent: a buffer exists to hold a large chunk of data, so it can be broken down into smaller chunks. A cache exists to speed up access to data. Frequently, the two functions overlap: one man's cache is another man's buffer, and vice-versa.

Every moderately sentient Web browser maintains a cache. When you surf to a Web page, the browser looks inside your computer to see if you've already retrieved that particular page. If you have, the browser can retrieve the page from your computer's memory, which is a heck of a lot faster than downloading it again from the Internet.

Of course, the browser has



QUICK FIX?: Trashing your cache is easy in IE7. But first, ask yourself why you are doing it.

to be able to figure out if the copy of the page that's inside your computer is the same as the copy that's currently available on the Internet.

The precise method for deciding whether a cached page has gone stale is rather complicated, and varies from browser to browser.

To confuse things a little bit, most Internet Service Providers

also maintain caches of frequently-accessed Web pages. That causes all sorts of problems for people who make changes to their Web pages. But I digress.

Internet Explorer stores its cached Web pages in the "Temporary Internet Files" folder. If you delete your Temporary Internet Files in IE, you *slow down* your Internet access. Why? Because IE can't use already-fetched pages – you deleted its cache, so it has no choice but to go out to the Internet to retrieve a fresh copy of every page you request.

That isn't a huge time waster because IE immediately starts caching every new page it gathers. But it does slow things down a bit until the cache gets built back up.

There are three good reasons for clearing your browser's cache:

- You've run out of space on your hard drive. IE's Temporary Internet Files folder gobbles up space like Garfield stuffs lasagna. (I give several hints for

taming IE's voracious appetite in *Windows XP Timesaving Techniques For Dummies* and in *Windows Vista Timesaving Techniques For Dummies*.)

- You want to erase all memory of where you've been. If that's your aim, make sure the deleted files don't end up in the Recycle Bin.

- You have reason to believe that Internet Explorer's cache is all screwed up. I've never seen this happen, but apparently in rare circumstances IE can start dishing up old Web pages, and the only way to correct the problem is to flush the cache.

Having said that, I would be derelict in my duties if I didn't point out one important fact. You shouldn't be using IE 6. It is so full of security holes that Microsoft posts a major collection of patches for it every month.

Every Windows user should upgrade to Internet Explorer 7 (www.microsoft.com/windows/ie), specifically because it closes many of the IE 6 security holes. Even IE 7, in its short life, has sprouted several security holes of its own.

You may need to upgrade to IE 7 even if you don't use Internet Explorer, because Microsoft's other programs – specifically Outlook, Outlook Express, and Windows Mail – use IE behind the scenes, and security holes in IE 6 poke through to Outlook.

If you don't already have an alternative Web browser of choice, run, don't walk, to your computer, download and install Firefox (www.getfirefox.com). Now. Seriously. It may take a while to download Firefox, but it's considerably more secure than IE. And it's free.

Note that Firefox and IE happily coexist, side-by-side. Firefox doesn't step on IE's toes. IE doesn't even know that Firefox exists. And if you want to flush Firefox's cache, by all means, go right ahead. Just don't expect it to speed up, OK?

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People change, economies change, politicians don't

One certainty is change, whether we like it or not, and one thing that is certain to keep changing is demographics.

It is estimated that Ethiopia's current population of 63 million will jump to a staggering 130 million by 2030.

While cynics snipe that not enough people have television there, the cost to that country will be more that it can possibly finance.

Future population figures for Japan are alarming. It is predicted that in 700 years Tokyo will have a population of 400 million people. Andy Brough, a Fund Manager at Schroders, on CNBC predicted that by the year 3000 Japan will have a population of 1 billion.

China is predicted to find that limiting population growth is a two-sided coin. It is widely expected that in 50 years it will have achieved the first aged society in which the average inhabitant will still be relatively poor.

America is also facing problems. The number of Americans, spurred by immigration, is increasing and recently reached 300 million.

This gave rise to a spate of cartoons, best epitomized by the Mexican illegal immigrant tunneling under the US border to find himself greeted by a crowd of

people welcoming him as the 300-millionth American.

Jokes aside, America is facing its own crisis. Most politicians avoid the pressing issues, as the solutions are politically unpopular; they leave such solutions to their successors. It is in situations such as these that countries with independent central banks have a great advantage.

Ben Bernanke, the Chairman of the US Federal Reserve (Central Bank) gave US politicians a taste of reality. In testimony before the Senate Budget Committee he outlined the facts. America is facing the looming retirement of 78 million "baby boomers", those born from 1946 to 1964.

Bernanke said, "This huge wave will hit the US budget as



MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

well as the economy. The longer we wait, the more severe, the more draconian, the more difficult the objectives are going to be. I think the right time to start was about 10 years ago."

The US for once is actually enjoying a modest deficit. Bernanke called this the "calm before the storm". He strongly warned politicians to address the issues of social security, Medicare and Medicaid, which are government programs for the elderly, the poor and the disabled.

The alternative was for bud-

get deficits to soar and Federal deficits to reach unprecedented levels. "Thus a vicious cycle may develop in which large deficits lead to rapid growth in debt and interest payments, which in turn adds to subsequent deficits."

Eventually this "would spark a fiscal crisis, which could be addressed only by very sharp cuts or tax increases or both".

The US currently spends around 8.5% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on these programs. It is expected that by 2030 this will reach 15% of GDP. Perhaps this is why George Bush is spending so much money on the space program, which includes a manned landing on Mars. Not from a desire to emigrate but to take the public focus away from the looming realities.

The Democratic Party seems equally keen to avoid the real issues. During the early part of Bill Clinton's Presidency, he announced that his wife, Hillary, would be giving attention to sorting out the issues of Social Security and other related issues.

With much less fanfare, it was later released that Hillary had been unsuccessful in her endeavors and the whole issue was shelved. This has not stopped

Hillary from her attempt to stand in the next Presidential election.

In Hollywood it is common for actors to follow in their celebrity relatives' footsteps. After the "Bush II" presidency, are we now going to see "Clinton II" appearing out of 300 million people?

Surely, there should be a wider choice. Hollywood and US politics have much in common, including living in a fantasy world. There is an old political adage, "For peace at home, have a war abroad." George Bush managed that as well.

Europe is experiencing the same demographic situation, and its politicians are as adept as their US counterparts in avoiding – or evading – reality.

In France, a presidential campaign is underway for elections to be held in mid-2007. On the left is socialist Marie-Ségolène Royal, who is trying at least to hold some of the central ground

by promising not to raise taxes despite the urging of some of her radical colleagues.

On the center-right is Interior Minister Nicholas Sarkozy, who is proposing to reduce taxes

for the highest income earners from 60% to *only* 50%. In other words, for high wage earners who cannot escape taxes, the government will move from being the senior partner in their pay to being an equal partner.

One would expect that most owners of successful small businesses in France are masters in the art of tax evasion. Under these circumstances, who could blame them?

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.

Most politicians avoid the pressing issues, as the solutions are politically unpopular.



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ON THE MOVE

Le Méridien Phuket Beach Resort has appointed **Derek Loke** Director of Sales and Marketing. A Malaysian, Mr Loke has more than 30 years' experience in the hospitality industry and brings an extensive knowledge of the tourism industry to his new posting. Mr Loke joined Le Méridien from the Laguna Beach Resort in Phuket. He has also worked with Meritus Hotels & Resorts in Hong Kong, and with the Sheraton Hong Kong Hotel & Towers.



Chanyanuch Sena, 30, from Nakhon Sri Thammarat, has been appointed Operations Manager at Grove Gardens Resort & Residence on Cape Yamu in Pa Khlok. K. Chanyanuch has a degree in hotel business from Phuket Rajabhat University. Since graduating she has worked at Mom Tri's Boathouse in Kata, Banyan Tree Spas and Angsana Spas. Before moving to Grove Gardens she was Operations Manager at The Aspasia in Kata.

Pramote Thanksakdorn, from Bangkok, has been appointed Assistant Director of Project Management of Central Hotels & Resorts. K. Pramote has an engineering degree from Chulalongkorn University and more than 16 years' experience in mechanical and electrical engineering. Before joining Central Hotels & Resorts, he was Tender Division Manager of City Power Co Ltd.



Koh Lone attracts top-end resort chain

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

KOHLONE: International luxury hotel chain Taj Resorts and Palaces will enter the Thai market with the Taj Exotica Resort & Spa on Koh Lone opening in 2009, Taj Hotels India General Manager Mario Poppen has announced.

The resort, reportedly costing 33 million baht, is just part of the top-end hotel chain's global expansion.

On January 11 Taj Hotels took over the The Ritz-Carlton, Boston from Millennium Partners for US\$170 million cash (5.69 billion baht).

Over the past year the company has announced that in 2008 it will open the Taj Exotica Resort, Spa and Golf in Doha, Qatar; the Taj Exotica Resort & Spa in Dubai, United Arab Emirates; and a Taj

luxury hotel in Cape Town, South Africa.

The chain currently has 76 hotels worldwide.

However, Aroon Solos, President of the Rawai Tambon Administration Organization, has confirmed to the *Gazette* that two other hotel operators have applied to build on the small island off Phuket's west coast.

"A total of three hotels and resorts have asked for permission

to construct on Koh Lone. The resorts are waiting for approval from the Phuket Provincial Office of Natural Resources and Environment," he said.

"It is good for local people because the resorts will bring in more income. Local people will be

able to work as hotel staff, and more tourists will come to visit this island.

"I heard that the new resorts and hotels will be four- or five-star resorts, which is very good for Koh Lone, and the styles will be based on nature," K. Aroon said.

"There are not too many people on this island. Their income is mostly from fishing and tourism. There is only one resort on the island, with about 20 to 30 rooms.

"Although it is high season, not many tourists come to Koh Lone, but that might be because there is only one resort on the island," he added.

Prakong Songmuang, village headman on Koh Lone, said, "More resorts will be good for us. Villagers will be able to make more money to support their families.

"We haven't had a pier since the tsunami. If the new resort built a pier that belongs to them but they let us all use it, that would be very nice for us," he added.

'More resorts will be good for us. Villagers will be able to make more money'
- Prakong Songmuang, village headman

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PSU won the parade competition, but when it came to sports, Rajabhat were the clear victors.

Phuket Golf Association elects new president

KATHU: Prachuab Subcharoen was elected president of the Phuket Golf Association (PGA) after the conclusion of the President's Cup 2007 tournament January 27.

K. Prachuab takes the place of Surin Bamrunghol, whose three-year tenure has expired.

The vote, by PGA members, came after a day-long tournament that saw Nobuyuki Baba take the individual championship and the Junior PCC team win the team trophy.

Mr Baba had the overall low gross with 73 strokes, while Thanat Phungdet, Chanon Sparre Knudsen, Prariwat Pinsawat and Sariya Sanguannarm formed the winning foursome, scoring 210 points.



Prachuab Subcharoen

Sirada Panpetch scored the lowest individual score in the women's flight, with 80 strokes, while Sariya Sanguannarm won the youth flight with a gross of 82.

Rajabhat beats PSU

PHUKET: Rajabhat University took five of the seven trophies against Prince of Songkla University (PSU) at the fourth University Games held January 27.

Rajabhat won all five sporting events at Saphan Hin stadium: futsal, men and women's volleyball, and men and women's basketball. PSU won the parade and cheerleading competitions.

Jiramet Rungrueng, PSU's organizer for the event, said that each university had about 180 students in their cheer teams, 100 students each in the parade, and 50 athletes apiece.

PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

PATONG: Queen Mary moved back into first place by one point by winning all three points in both its regularly scheduled match at Beach House and its make-up match against Offshore.

In the game between Queen Mary and Beach House, Dave of Beach House just managed to arrive in time for the first singles, then settled the high score with a 180 in his first three darts.

Piccadilly stayed within one point of the new leaders with a 5-4 win against Dog's Bollocks.

January 23 results: Dog's Bollocks 4 Piccadilly* 5; Beach House 1 Queen Mary* 8; Didi's 6 Valhalla* 3; Coyote Bar* 5 Funky Monkey 4 (* = winner of beer leg).

Standings: 1. Queen Mary (23 pts.); 2. Piccadilly (22); 3. Coyote Bar (21); 4. Didi's (17); 5. Dog's Bollocks (14); 6. Offshore (13); 7. Valhalla (10); 8. Beach House (7); 9. Funky Monkey (5).

February 6 matchups: Didi's v Queen Mary; Beach House v Piccadilly; Valhalla v Offshore; Coyote Bar v Dog's Bollocks (home team first).

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Competitors take part in one of the stranger events at the Sports & Family Day – water volleyball.

Big day for Rotarians

CHERNG TALAY: Having received its official charter last month, the new Rotary Club of Laguna Phuket was the honored guest of the island's six other Rotary clubs at a Sports & Family day on January 28. The event was held in front of the Dusit Laguna resort.

With roughly 140 participants organized into four color-coded teams, the Rotarians and their families gave their utmost on the football pitch and aboard sea kayaks.

The athletes also endured Olympian activities such as a scavenger hunt, chair ball, tug of war and most notably "water volleyball". In the latter, opposing teams launched water balloons over a net at each other by snapping towels.

The new Rotary Club of Laguna Phuket is scheduled for formal installation on March 10 at a gala dinner for all of Phuket's Rotarians – again at the Dusit, which is also home for the group's regular Wednesday breakfast meetings.

The new Rotary's primary thrust is on donations of funds, project management expertise, and other resources to worthwhile causes in Thalang District. Following a donation of sports equipment to the Cherg Talay School last month, the club is now focused on a five-year project to turn around an abject fishing village at the north end of Phuket.



Spectators turned out en masse to cheer the various teams on.

Island residents interested in joining or otherwise contributing to the work of the Rotary Club of Laguna Phuket are invited to contact Hari Bedi for details at Tel: 076-270150 or Email: hbedi@loxinfo.co.th

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Patong make it a hat-trick



PHUKET CITY: The 3rd Prime Minister's Cup football tournament continued January 28 at the Saphan Hin stadium with a match between Patong Municipality (in blue) and Pa Khlok Tambon Administration Organization. Patong won the match 1-0, their third victory in three matches in the group stage. The 15 teams in the tournament are separated into four divisions. The semi-finals will be held on February 12, with the finals on February 17 and 18.

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Construction Update

by Janyaporn Morel

Luna Phuket shines on

Work on phase one of the luxury modern villa development Luna Phuket, located near Laguna Phuket, is 30% complete. Phase one of the project comprises 10 villas on 4.5 rai. Phase two will be 11 villas on five rai.

The project, originally started by the late John Seebach, has been taken over by Paul Moorhouse, who has been involved in the creation of Layan Gardens, Lakeshore Villas, Lakewood Hills and Plaza Del Mar, as well as the Orchard Springs development, on which work began just last month.

"John just started to build the first five houses, and then unfortunately he passed away very suddenly and his wife asked me to help her to find a buyer for the project. I went to have a look at it and I liked it very much, so I put together a deal to buy and develop it," said Mr Moorhouse.

Three of the first five villas being built were sold in October last year. One of them is now complete and will become the show home. The remaining five villas of phase one will be built only after the completion of the first five.

All 10 villas in phase one are expected to be completed by December this year, while work on the phase two homes will start in May with a scheduled deadline of August 2008.

The 355-square-meter villas are in contemporary style, each



Straight from the living room into the pool: Buyers like the fact that the homes are 'not fussy', says developer Paul Moorhouse.

with three bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms.

All villas will be on plots ranging from 500sqm to 700sqm, each with a courtyard area, private pool, parking space for two cars and a barbecue in the garden area. Prices range from 16.5 million baht to 19 million baht per unit.

"This development is quite different from anything else that is being built in this area. Almost all [homes] around here are in modern southern Thai style, but [Luna Phuket homes] are very modern and very practical.

"The flow inside is very nice, and they're very light and spacious," Mr Moorhouse said.

After the first phase is completed, the development's facilities will be built, including tennis courts, a clubhouse, a bar and a small restaurant.

In the meantime, residents can use the facilities at Layan Gardens – half a kilometer away – where there is a swimming pool with pool bar, a barbecue area, tennis courts, a gymnasium and a putting green.

"The main difference of Luna Phuket from other developments is the design. Everything is all on one level. The houses have been designed to be very light, very clean and they have a very good functional design," Mr Moorhouse said.

The villas are designed by Singapore-based HD Design Co Ltd, which also designed The Heights at Surin Beach.

The project is attracting buyers from throughout east Asia, particularly people who live and work in Singapore, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Tokyo.

"Some of our buyers are expats who are married to Thais, but now we are getting many inquiries from Europe," Mr Moorhouse said, adding that the re-

sponse through online marketing has been particularly good.

"The reaction – from Europeans, in particular – is that they like the ease with which it will work, it's not fussy. But the most important aspect is the price, it's very reasonable.

"Nowhere in this area has detached homes with three bedrooms, three bathrooms and a 50-sqm swimming pool for 16.5 million baht. We can make quality houses with unique designs for that," Mr Moorhouse said.

Luna Phuket Sales Office. Unit 101/102 Plaza Del Mar #1, Pasak Kottanod Rd, Cherng Talay, Phuket 83120. Tel: 076-318111-2, 089-8737075. Web-site: www.lunaphuket.com

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Design

Wireless furniture

For people who want to store their monitors, stereos and MP3 players practically and tastefully, there is a growing range of modern furniture to choose from.

Furniture compatible with multimedia components is the industry's latest trend, according to Ursula Geismann, spokeswoman for the Union of the German Furniture Industry in Bad Honnef.

The new furniture aims to appeal first and foremost to men. "It's also about the man who wants to appreciate optimum sound from his Dolby surround-sound speakers while sitting in a comfortable upholstered furniture," said Geismann.

Another goal is making the TV screen presentable at all times. That can mean taking advantage of countless furniture systems to showcase the device and its accessories or investing in attractive sideboards and containers to hide it when not in use.

In reality, many manufacturers do not offer custom-made pieces. Usually they offer lines to mix and match and suit the style of an apartment. One example is the Menos line from Behr International in Osnabrück.

"To integrate televisions and hi-fi devices, you blend special media units into the basic set. These come with spaces for cables," says Menos owner Dieter Neumann.

The units are available in a large range of colors. The furniture includes recessed, fold-out aluminum grips as well as individual, stackable "crates" in matte or highly glossed varnishes. Colors range from shiny to subdued, sand to espresso.

The Cubus solid wood system from Team 7, based in Ried, Austria, also features streamlining. It offers individual shelving units that can be combined, some with swinging glass doors that can



The Menos shelving system from Behr International hides all the hi-fi wiring behind tasteful lacquered wooden panels.

make a room seem more open.

"Transparency comes from the balance between open and closed units," says chief designer Carl Auer. Visible metal hinges and handles made from steel create a contrast to the expressive natural cherry and beech woods.

The modular system has many elements to choose from for an individualized multimedia sys-

tem, including shelves, containers and cabinets or sideboards with integrated glass plates that can be put together to create a living space.

Sides and fronts are solid wood, while shelves and floors are robust three-layered wood. Interior lights with sensors and CD holders are available for each element.

— Heike Edelmann, dpa

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Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

I remember England, I think. The image is a little bit hazy now, but there's probably no coincidence that "hazy" describes British weather perfectly. It's grim. It seems that every day the weather system produces some variation of overcast.

Sorry, I'm exaggerating – I believe the sun did actually make a guest appearance there in 1996.

Desperation for weather that even hints at being pleasant is probably why the subject dominates conversation in the UK:

"It's turned out nice again." (It's less overcast than yesterday.)

"Do you think it will rain later?"

"Probably, but it may brighten up after." (Desperation creeps in.)

"Not so cold today, though." (It hasn't risen above freezing for weeks.)

"No, it's quite mild." Etc.

I'm absolutely serious; these conversations are the norm, and can sometimes go on for hours. There are only so many ways you can comment on weather that's cold, wet and miserable.

An ex-colleague of mine, British, not surprisingly, combined his predictable British pessimism

BBQ PLANNING

with a daily comment on the weather. Bathed in glorious Thai sunshine as we climbed into the tuk-tuk on the way to work, he would deliver his daily weather observation: "At least it's not ****ing raining". On the occasional damper days, his first line as he folded his umbrella was equally expected: "It's ****ing raining again". He was from Middlesbrough, if that explains anything.

A British barbecue is something to behold. It's planned like a military operation, with a backup procedure in place to rescue the chicken legs and sausages as soon as the first drops of rain are detected. Everyone knows what to do. It hasn't occurred to British garden planners to build some kind of covered area; having said that I'm not sure I would particularly want to be in the back garden during a British downpour. England is a country where you put your beer in the fridge to warm it up.

That's where Thailand has



A variety of looks and shapes will liven up the view as you munch on your freshly-cooked burger.

got it right. It sometimes rains here, but it really doesn't matter, as you're already probably under some sort of cover and you're hardly likely to freeze to death. Even your beer is probably already in the garden in one of those ice-filled chests that people borrow from fish sellers.

It's all rather civilized. So how do you plan the garden in which you'll be spending so many of your leisure hours? Gardens and outdoor living areas are often things that are just thrown together. We often think it does the job if it's reasonably pleasant-looking, but why not make it functional as well as aesthetically pleasing?

It might as well be designed to fit the needs of a family or whoever is likely to be using it. Whether it's for football and French cricket for the kids, or for the more 'passive' type of recreational activities that most adults tend to enjoy, everyone should be able to make the most of the outdoor environment.

Patios are the obvious things to kick off with. Fundamentally, they should be big enough to be useful. What's the point of a few uninviting paving stones chucked on the ground behind the house? Make it big enough to do what you want to do on it, or don't

bother. Table football or table tennis? Cooking area or spare dining area?

Tiny patios just look a bit silly. On the other hand, patios can be so huge that they take on the coldness of the Tesco-Lotus carpark. Ideally, the size of your patio should be in scale with the size of your garden and house.

It may seem a bit obvious, but don't forget to leave plenty of space to plant stuff. Wall-to-wall concrete certainly gives you more area to host parties for 50, but this is Phuket, so you might as well make the most of the natural beauty. It doesn't necessarily have to be exposed soil – potted plants will do the job equally well, and you can even move them around if you get bored.

Elsewhere in the garden, it's worth considering where to create flower beds and features, too. Attempting a sedate game of croquet isn't ideal while attempting to dodge rockeries and ponds. Do you really want to set up your kids' trampoline over your ixoras? Sounds quite painful, come to think of it.

Trees are always good as a source of natural shade. Even better, put them near the house to provide shade for the house itself, as well as the outdoors area. You can even group trees together

if you can't be bothered with all that growing and maturing business. Avoid trees with big fruit – unless you plan to eat the product – or anything that has flowers or seeds that will mean constant cleaning up after it.

Smaller plants are another important factor in outdoor living areas. Interesting stuff with a variety of looks and shapes will liven up the view as you munch on your freshly-cooked burger. Plenty of different colors, forms and textures are desirable; not just flowers, but different foliage too.

Masses of flowering annuals in the patio area are dead easy to get going, and given the huge choice of annuals here in Phuket, we really have no excuse not to make it spectacular.

One thing to bear in mind when choosing plants: make sure that the spot you have in mind for the plant back home in your garden is similar to where you found it in the local garden center.

Open to the sun, or in the shade? Directly under a sprinkler, or in a far corner? Close to the ground or cascading from a shelf or basket?

That's what I like about gardening in this country – there's always someone around who really knows what they're doing, and you don't even need to ask. Just copy him. Or her.

But don't go mad and try to fill every last square inch straight away. Bear in mind the rate at which everything grows here. A mish-mash of entangled, confused greenery six months down the line isn't exactly ideal.

Outdoor living areas don't need to be a giant expanse of cement. When trudging round the garden centers to resolve this, then eventually up to your elbows in muck planting your purchases, console yourself with the fact that you could be doing this in deepest, darkest England, or anywhere else cold, wet and miserable. At least it's not ****ing raining. Actually, I really don't care if it is. Hand me a trowel and a beer, please.

Want to know more about a plant in your garden?

Email Bloomin' Bert at: bloominbert@hotmail.com


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Home of the Week

Chalong



Fitted out for relaxing

This property in Chalong has been furnished and well-finished, leaving the new owner with nothing much to do except relax by the swimming pool. Not even the gardens have been forgotten, with plenty of palm trees, banana trees and other tropical plants spread tastefully around the 850 square meters of land.

Inside the 350sqm, two-story white house are four bedrooms, two ensuite, all furnished with a touch of Thai styling. There are also two additional bathrooms. On the ground floor is a good-sized dining room that sits adjacent to the Western-style kitchen, which has been fitted with gas cooking appliances and plenty of storage space.

The lounge and family rooms look out over the garden and swimming pool. An attractive wooden staircase leads upstairs

to the bedrooms and a large terraced balcony furnished with sun loungers which overlooks the 11sqm swimming pool.

Five air-conditioning units and many ceiling fans keep the house cool.

At the front of the house is parking for at least two cars and the property has been fenced off for privacy. Apart from the extensive inventory list of this property, prospective purchasers will be happy with the location close to schools, hospitals, shopping, golfing and water activities.

The owners are asking 13 million baht with Chanote title and freehold purchasing terms.

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



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Property Gazette

Properties For Sale

HOUSES FOR SALE

Or rent. 2 or 3 bathrooms and bedrooms. 5km from Heroines Monument toward Mission Hills Golf Course. Tel: 089-7298009. Email: clickphuket@gmail.com

SEAVIEW 2-BEDROOM

2-bedroom seaview houses with large swimming pool and European kitchen in the best area in Patong "Baan Suan Kamnan". 17.5 million baht. Tel: 086-2706454, +44778-9995522 (UK), 089-4727588. Email: djudgets@hotmail.com

NAI THON BEACH

Seaview land sale. 4 rai, Chanote. Tel: 089-4742140. Please see our website at: www.naithonhill.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 aircons, phone, UBC. Fully furnished. 4.2 million baht. In Land & House. Tel: 076-378-140, 081-3619277.

HOUSE FOR SALE

Patong. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, big living room and kitchen. On private land and soi. Tel: 081-7879627. Email: gerar@patongfamily.com

PA KHLOK LAND

1rai 79sq wah in Point East State. 4km away from Heroines Monument. Chanote title. Good price for very nice land. Tel: 081-8953649, 089-8718327.

FOR SALE

Bali/Thai-style house. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, private pool, near Laguna. Price: 9 million baht. Tel: 089-8686842.

NAI HARN LAND FOR SALE

Beautiful 2 x 800sqm. Water, electricity, Chanote, top location, residential area. 3.2 million baht. No brokers. Tel: 081-8920580.

LUXURY HOUSE

For sale in Chalong. 2 stories, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, secure quiet location, 2 kitchens, laundry room, full aircon, double garage, etc. Area: 292sqm. Teak curved staircase, spa, solar hot water, nice gardens, river views. 7.9 million baht. Chanote. Please call for more details. Tel: 076-383193, 089-7245655. Or see our website at: www.phukethouse4sale.com

INVESTMENT

Guesthouse in Patong for sale with Thai company. 208sqm with Chanote title, 150m from Jungceylon, on the bypass road. Option to open 3 shops, extension to 7 floors. Reasonable price: 25 million baht. Tel: 086-1062566. Fax: 076-345554.

4 SARABURI VILLAS

For sale/barter, 180sqm on 100sq wah guarded estate. 4.75 million baht. Or barter with seaview plots. Tel: 081-8142040. www.ziam.com

VILLA FOR SALE

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FOR LEASE

3.25 rai of cleared flat land. Suitable for stables, etc. Good location in Rawai. For more information call. Tel: 081-0825707.

RAWAI 3-BEDROOM, 3-BATHROOM



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EAST COAST OFFICE

Or shophouse near Mission Hills. 100sqm. 1.65 million baht. Tel: 081-8918689.

HOUSE FOR SALE

2-story house in Chalong. Aircon, 4 bedrooms, Western kitchen, 2 bathrooms. 4.2 million baht. Tel: 081-9795755.

HOUSE FOR SALE

Kathu. Corner house, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, lounge, dining room, kitchen. Furnished. 1.65 million baht. Tel: 087-2705514.

INVESTMENT

Two for the price of one! Two unfinished building projects on Country Club. Near club house. 3 bedrooms on 336sq wah. Inside 386sqm. Swimming pool 31sqm. Price: 15 million baht. Please contact for more details. Tel: 081-8929031. Email: meadymo@hotmial.com

2-STORY HOUSE

50sq wah, 3 bedrooms, near town, fitted kitchen. Must see. 4.2 million baht. Tel: 089-9095572.

LAND FOR SALE

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NAI HARN/RAWAI SEA VIEW



2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Tel: 081-9583513. Email: rayt.mg@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at: www.houseforsaleinphuket.com

PRIME LAND AT MISSION HILLS

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RAI NEAR LAGUNA

1.6 million baht. 1/2 rai Chanote title land in Baan Don near Laguna for sale. Good size for one villa. 1.6 million baht. Tel: 086-9434824. Email: phuketexplore@yahoo.com

FOR SALE OR LEASE

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RAWAI SEAVIEW

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PLOT IN PATONG

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building in Kamala. 5 minutes to the beach. 300sqm, 3 shops, 3 apartments, fully-furnished, terrace 60sqm. Price: 1.9 million baht. Long-term lease 3 + 3 years, price includes rent until March 2008. Tel: 089-4742958. Email: bbq@loxinfo.co.th

200SQM PLOT

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Property Gazette

KOH SAMUI LAND PLOT



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New apartment with swimming pool. 30 years + 30 years. Start: 2.5 million baht. Chanote land plots with electric and water from 450,000 baht. Tel: 081-6917241.

URGENT SALE!

New 2-bedroom, 100sqm apartment, Surin beach area, massive swimming pool with excellent resort facilities, best price in development! 5.95 million baht. Tel: 085-787-1320. Email: kez_turn@yahoo.co.uk

HOUSE WITH POOL IN CHALONG



Beautiful house on 224sqm of land, with private pool. Two bedrooms, big living room, bathroom with Jacuzzi and shower, European kitchen. Fully furnished, 3 aircons, ADSL, UBC. 5 million baht. Tel: 081-2720-668, 086-5336089. Email: gazette@glibber.com

SEA VIEWS

Only 600 meters to the beach. 1-, 2-, & 3-bedroom apartments from only 1.1 million baht. 20% already gone and selling fast! Full freehold condo title. Be quick! Phone James. Tel: 081-5552073, or Torry. Tel: 085-0648079.

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HOUSE + BIG GARDEN

Fully furnished, 2 aircon bedrooms, hot shower, living room, kitchen, garage. 11,000 baht a month. Palai, Chalong. Tel: 081-8924311.

BANG TAO

Bungalow. Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms (1 with aircon), hot shower and bath, phone. Quiet. Rent: 15,000 baht per month (4 month min). Utilities. Call Betty at Tel: 076-270377 or Khun Tee at Tel: 086-2786465.

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

BEACHFRONT

Condo. Kalim Patong. High standard, fully-furnished, 2-bedroom, kitchen, pool, many facilities. Tel: 081-8920038.

LAGUNA AREA

Discovery gardens. New fully-furnished, 2-bedroom houses. Large pool, WiFi, cable TV, maid service. Excellent rates for 1 night or 1 year! Tel: 076-527594, 084-8661965. Email: jziment@yahoo.com www.phuketmarbella.com

LUXURIOUS VILLA

Modern, 323sqm, new, 4 bedrooms with bathrooms, dining room, 80sqm living room. Spacious kitchen, swimming pool 12 x 5m. Land: 1,780 sqm, near Nai Yang beach. Price: 22.8 million baht. Tel: 086-2713454.

2 RAI SEA VIEW

Panoramic sea view of Phang Nga islands with infrastructure. 2 rai at 5 million baht a rai. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-270376, 086-9434824. Fax: 076-271193. Email: lagunaphuket@exotiqrealestate.com

CONDOMINIUM

Freehold, Cape Panwa, 106sqm living space, ground floor, open-plan dining and living area with direct pool access, European kitchen, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished. 6.5 million baht. Tel: 086-2821172, 089-874-6054. Email: apawann@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

New 2-story house, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, garden. Price: 4 million baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 083-1743880, 087-2646808.

NEW POOL VILLA

Land & Houses Park. 4-bedroom, 3-bathroom. European kitchen. Price: 6.8 million baht. Please call for more details. Tel: 081-0918908.

MUST SELL, KAMALA

New house in Kamala. 4 bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms. Master bedroom has Jacuzzi. Quality build inside & out. Solid wood floors & ceilings. Western kitchen, pool. Detached 2-car garage with studio above. Interior more than 300sqm, walled-in plot. 50% financing over sale. 15.5 million baht. Rent (min 6 months) 90,000-120,000 baht a month. Tel: 086-2878966. Email: boomerkamala@hotmail.com

VILLA FOR SALE PATONG



Has private swimming pool. Fully furnished. Tel: 086-2791602. For more information, please see our website at: www.thai-norwaymansion.com

NAI HARN HOUSE



Last house is for sale in a boutique development of 5 houses in Nai Harn. Beautiful roof of cedar shingles. Pool, 2 bedrooms, 3 toilets. Thai-Bali style and well-known architect with highest quality. Near beach and restaurants. Special price for last house: 8.5 million baht. Tel: 081-8447408. Email: viktoys@loxinfo.co.th For further information and details please see our website at: www.nchantra-property.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

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PATONG STUDIO

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CHALONG BEDSIT

With kitchen and hot & cold bathroom. Call or email for further details. Tel: 081-968-3546. Email: robin46@gmail.com

HOUSE IN RAWAI

2 stories, 2 bedrooms, aircon, fully furnished. For rent at 9,500 baht a month. Tel: 081-5376866.

FURNISHED HOUSE

For rent. Located in the popular and secure Villa Dowrung, Phuket City. 60sqm 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, 4 airconditioners, ADSL, UBC TV, big European kitchen and kitchen equipment, washing machine, parking place, etc. 28,000 baht a month. Long-term rental. Contact Rose. Tel: 081-8943673. Email: rosie_sa@hotmail.com

LUXURY SEA VIEW

Large private villa. With amazing views in every direction. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, maid's quarters, snooker room, large kitchen, dining room, study, fully furnished, swimming pool, sauna, all set in gardens. 10 minutes to BCIS. 80,000 baht a month. Please call for more information. Tel: 086-2796283.

LUXURY VILLA

Magnificent new 2-story hillside villa featuring 3 bedrooms with en-suites, infinity pool, maids' quarters. Tastefully finished and furnished in traditional Thai style. Spectacular views of Patong. Please contact for more info or to view. Tel: 081-6911580. Email: homeinphuket@gmail.com

LARGE HOUSE

For rent, Kathu. 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom furnished house for long-term rent. Telephone line, UBC, garden, etc. Close to golf course & international school. Located on quiet private road 25,000 baht a month. Tel: 076-323663, 089-8752532. Fax: 076-323663. Email: paulstrong23@hotmail.com

ONE-BEDROOM

condominium. In Patong Tower with beautiful mountain views. Fully furnished, cable TV, telephone, etc. Available for long-term letting. Please contact for more details. Tel: 089-6519872. Email: oswald.spiess@aon.at

2-BEDROOM HOUSE

In Patong, sea view, 2 bedrooms, lounge + kitchen. For rent from February 4. Please call for more information. Tel: 087-8700434.



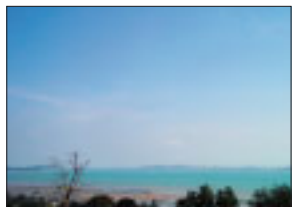
Surin Beach—Modern Seaview Apartments for sale

Within 100 metres of the beach. 80 sqm. of living space. One bedroom, living room, European-style kitchen, fully furnished, air conditioning, hot water system, home security system, internet connection, television and satellite TV. The price starts from 6.5 million baht for the first-floor apartment.

Please contact Ann 66 1 868 7676 or email: ann@mms.ais.co.th

Property Gazette

BREATHTAKING SEA VIEWS



Over Phang Nga Bay. Large colonial house set amidst rolling countryside conveniently located in Cape Yamu. 10 minutes to BIS. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, snooker room, pool, sauna, furnished, UBC. 70,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-2796283.

TOWNHOUSE

At Boat Lagoon. Large, 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom, townhouse on canal. 1 year minimum, furnished. 33,000 baht. Tel: 086-2820567.

RAWAI SEAVIEW

Deluxe studio apartment, all new or remodeled, refurnished. Long term: 7,000 baht a month. Tel: 084-0571420.

HOUSE NEAR AIRPORT

House at Wong Chalem Villa for rent, fully furnished. Aircon, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen room, living room. Please call for more details. Tel: 081-5696086.

KATA EXOTIC

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1-BEDROOM

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Beautiful Patong Tower Beach Condo with stunning 280-degree panoramic views of the ocean, mountains and town. Large outdoor patio and wrap-around balcony. Completely renovated, Internet and washing machine. Available from March 1st, 2007. Tel: 086-2815349. Email: TXXZT@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website: www.PatongTowerRental.com

LONG-TERM RENT

Chalong. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, car park, furnished. Tel: 089-7288311.

BUNGALOW RAWAI

2 bedrooms, aircon, Cable TV, ADSL. Quiet location. Tel: 086-2790837.

LAND IN PATONG

For long-term lease. 2.5 & 3.5 rai. 200 Pi Rd. Tel: 081-6424280 (No brokers).

PATONG BEACH

Condo. Sea view, freehold. 1.2 million baht. Tel: 084-307-9909. Email: dyotachan@yahoo.com

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Newly built, fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. 1km to Phuket City & 7km to Patong Country Club. Available Feb 1 for 1 year rent. 27,000 baht a month. Please contact for more details. Tel: 081-090-4786. Email: malkham0614@yahoo.com

RAWAI CONDO

Furnished, aircon, Fridge, Cable TV, DVD/CD, Parking. 6,500 baht per month for long term. Tel: 081-2720781.

PATONG TOWER

Seaview. 1-bedroom apartment. 100 meters from beach. UBC, parking, pool. Tel: 084-8473304.

4-BEDROOM VILLA

Rawai. Luxury villa. Large swimming pool, UBC, ADSL. Available Feb for long- and short-term rental. Tel: 086-2790837.

SHOPHOUSE BLOCK

5 terraced houses for rent on the bypass road. 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-326-9495.

HOUSE FOR RENT

Beautifully-furnished, 2-bedroom house in Kathu. Aircon, UBC, telephone line and kitchen. Long term only. Tel: 081-3673106.

KAMALA BEACH

Very nice new apartments or houses for rent or sale near beach, fully equipped. 15,000 to 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-3059606.

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Available March. 4 ensuite bedrooms w/pool, Western kitchen & bar, separate maid's room w/bath, sala, BBQ, Solarcell hot water, UBC, parking for 3, nice garden. In Thalang, 10 mins to Laguna/Phuket City, 15 mins to airport. 1-3 months: 150,000 baht a month. Over 3 months: 120,000 baht a month. Email: nisaya@yahoo.com

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SURIN BAY AREA

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LAKEVIEW APT/LOFT

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LOFT-STYLE FLATS

Kathu. 4 large, quiet, central flats. 6-15,000 baht a month long term. Please call for more details. Tel: 081-968430.

BRAND NEW VILLA

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FOR RENT KATHU

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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. Tel: 081-2711082. Email: happyjo@procom.in.th

FOR RENT OR SALE

In condotel Sky Inn. 2 single rooms/1 double room. Tel: 089-8756803. Email: hebo41@gmail.com

LAGUNA TOWNHOME FOR RENT



4-bedroom. 90,000 baht per month. Contact Amber. Tel: 089-2001681. Email: aabsxx88@truemail.co.th

NEW HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedrooms at Pa Khlok close to monument. 15,000 baht per month. Unfurnished. Tel: 084-8449568. Email: Wazbec@hotmail.com

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 per month, or for sale at 6.7 million baht. Please contact for further details. Tel: 081-5978315. Email: phuket8@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

Land & Houses Park Chalong. New house, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished, aircon, free access to pool, fitness at 400 Gym. Tel: 081-7884655.

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Rolly Tasker Sails (Thailand) Co Ltd requires the services of an office administrator, female preferred. Strong personality and ability to communicate with staff. English and computer skills are necessary. Full time, 8am to 5pm Monday-Saturday. Reports to General Manager. Apply in person with CV, photo and references. Tel: 076-223893. Fax: 076-223894. Email: kerryt@southwest.com.au For further details, please see our website at: www.rollytasker.com

CHINESE SPEAKER

Thai person who can speak fluent Chinese required for telesales job in Phuket City. Amazing salary. Send CV and cover letter. Email: lan@evocation.net

PART-TIME MAID / LIVE IN

Single, mature, pleasant Thai lady required to share house with elderly farang man. Own room, electricity, food and salary included. In return, you would clean house, cook, shop and take care. Must speak some English. Would suit lady who has a day job and is looking for extra income and somewhere to live. Please contact for more details. Tel: 081-8117613. Email: sue@baanrimpa.com

SALES EXECUTIVE

Thai, 25-45, good English, work on own initiative, sales experience. Basic + commission. Please send CV in English and recent photo. Email: reynolds007@hotmail.com

QUALIFIED ACCOUNTANT

And secretary required for development in Rawai. Good salary. Please contact K. Pen for more information. Tel: 081-5376866. Email: info@platinumresidencepark.com

WEB DESIGNER

Web designer required for British company located in Phuket City. Only degree-educated persons with excellent English-language skills need apply. Send CV and cover letter by email to: lan@evocation.net

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

Minimum 3 years as Chief Accountant. Good in English. Good in reporting, i.e. budget, cash flow, P&L. Knowledge of QuickBook software is a plus. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-239111, 081-9583095. Email: hr@asia-marine.net

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

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Island Job Mart

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Qualifications

1. Require at least 1 year experience in sales and marketing or related field.
2. Require multi-language speaking person, prefer Thai national.
3. Excellent in writing English and Thai would be an advantage.
4. Experience in buying/purchasing field will be considered.
5. Good personality and is service minded.
6. Internet and computer skills, mainly on Microsoft office.
7. Require a goal-oriented person.
8. Ability to drive a car with drivers license.

Manager for Swimming Pool Equipment

Qualifications

1. Require at least 1 year experience in swimming pool industry or related field.
2. Require multi-language speaking person, prefer Thai national.
3. Excellent in writing English and Thai would be an advantage.
4. Experience in buying/purchasing field will be considered.
5. Good personality and is service minded.
6. Internet and computer skills, mainly on Microsoft office.
7. Require a goal-oriented person.
8. Ability to drive a car with drivers license.

Head Accounting

Qualifications

1. Require a dedicated person who is able to supervise/Implement standard the whole process of accounting.
2. Experience minimum 5 years in accounting company and aged around 30 years.
3. Spoken and written English is an advantage, prefer Thai national.
4. Enthusiastic, loyal, fair personality and taking ownership of task is needed.
5. Internet and computer skills, mainly on Microsoft office and good in Excel.
6. Able to work with ready accounting program and get a view of modifying or adapt the existing program.
7. Ability to drive a car with drivers license.

Warehouse Supervisor

Qualifications

1. Require at least 1 year experience in warehousing or related field.
2. Spoken and written English is an advantage.
3. Background of buying/purchasing field is an advantage
4. Internet and basic computer skills mainly Microsoft office.
5. Ability to drive a car with drivers license.

All interested applicants, please feel free to send me your resume with picture to marisa@waterworkwarehouse.net

Water Works Warehouse Co., Ltd.
209/16 Moo 5, Thepkasatri Rd., T. Srisoontorn,
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Required: Temporary ESL teacher

A temporary ESL teacher to work 5 periods (3 lessons) per day (4 on Fridays) between 8-12 daily (11.10 on Fridays). The teacher must have a Bachelor's degree, plus a relevant teaching qualification (either ESL qualification or fully qualified teacher status). The work will start on Monday 5th March for a period of 4 weeks.

Application by letter and CV including a recent photograph to kamolphanv@bcis.ac.th

Further information about the school may be obtained from our website: www.bcis.ac.th



British International School, Phuket (BIS)

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Email: naraplace2@yahoo.co.th

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* Driver/houseboy

Preferably a couple with a good command of English who have previously worked for foreigners. Contact Jeanette. Tel: 081-3700246. Email: js@luxuryeventsphuket.com

Office Assistant wanted!

We are looking for a female, of Thai nationality, with good command of English, a pleasant personality and some computer skills.

We offer good working hours, a good basic salary and commission.

Please call Khun Kenth, 084-1856960, for appointment or email your CV to info@zarpazo.net



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Sales & promotion person wanted. Thai national, male or female, for real estate sales project. English required. Tel: 087-0778454, 086-3418481. Fax: 076-292073. Email: solitude001@aol.com

ADMINISTRATOR

Experienced administrator required for busy real estate agency based in Surin. Applicants should be computer literate, able to speak English & able to interact with foreign customers & developers. Please send CV or contact for more details. Email: orawan@phuketpropertyhunter.com

ACCOUNTANT/SALES

A little English experience, knowledge about Phuket, and flexibility preferred. Good salary and a great future. Tel: 081-5376866. Email: info@phuketlanddeals.com

BARTENDER/

Manager. Thai lady, some English, good customer care to lead team of five girls. Fine bar near beach at Patong. Good salary, lady's drinks commissions. Please call for more details. Tel: 087-2677965.

MANY HOTEL JOBS

Cooks, wait staff, accounting staff needed. Must speak English. Women only. Please call for more information. Tel: 081-6931179.

PROPERTY CARE

services. Property/Site Co-ordinator required. Preferred applicants are high school graduates and above, aged over 27 years, with a minimum of 2 years housekeeping/management experience in hotel field. Please contact. Tel: 076-224658, 081-3702488. Fax: 076-254774. Email: sirin@pcs.co.th

SALES EXECUTIVE

Thai F/M, age 26-35 years with good English. Should have own vehicle. At least 1 year's experience in sales field is required. If interested, please contact K. Winyoo for more information. Tel: 076-215710, 081-6915799. Fax: 076-224368. Email: phuketsales@somerville-siam.com

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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

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is looking for 1 Assistant Manager and 2 Receptionists to work in our Chalong office. Applicants must have basic English-speaking skills, basic computer skills, friendly, professional, service-minded, and energetic. Hours needed: 6:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. We offer excellent salary, friendly sports-orientated working environment, breaks & lunch period, social insurance, uniforms supplied. If you are interested in working with foreigners in an exciting environment, please apply in person at 7/6 Moo 5, Soi Tad-ied, Ao Chalong, A. Muang, Phuket 83100. Or call Mon. Tel: 076-367071 or 086-9404496. Can send CV via email: info@tigermuaythai.com

DRIVER/HANDYMAN

Personal driver wanted. Need to work as a handyman and gardener too. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-384025, 081-8261330. Fax: 076-293151. Email: jcjbreed@yahoo.com

ARCHITECT

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. Please contact for more information. Email: sten56@msn.com

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INTERNATIONAL SALES REP

French man, 40, with international sales experience looking for company willing to extend market to EU, US. Ok for long-term travel overseas. Speak GB, ES, IT, FR, NL. Contact. Tel: 089-543-6147. Email: ovincen66@gmail.com

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Running a biz and looking for somebody you can trust for more daily freedom? I speak French, English, Spanish, Italian, Dutch. French man, 40, with experience in sales and international biz. Tel: 089-5436147. Email: ocvincent@hotmail.com

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Experienced housekeeper/nanny needs job urgently. Part time or full time. Tel: 076-245488. Email: frlamote@hotmail.com

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reward. Send us name and telephone number of yourself and a property buyer. If he buys, you'll get 300,000 baht. Tel: 085-7839062. Email: docucolums@hotmail.com

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Rare opportunity to lease twin bars (Angels & Swingers) on Bangla. Seats 50, fully-equipped, ready to run. Prime location next to Seduction Disco. Offers over 1.6 million baht. Call Danny, Tel: 084-8379068 or Sakorn, Tel: 089-9546433 for more details.

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Kata beach, 3 + 3-year lease. Fully equipped. For sale: 1.5 million baht. Contact. Tel: 089-4717629. For further details, please see our website: www.phuket-beautymassage.com

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Fully-furnished office. 5m x 12m located in Cherg Talay area in a good location close to main road, opposite the bank. Nice office furniture, aircon, high-speed Internet and garden area. Ready to move in. Price: 450,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-5399269.

GO GO BANGLA

Call Kevin at TSBA. Tel: 084-7300190.

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BAR FOR SALE

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GYM FOR SALE

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RESTAURANT

For lease. Located at Kata beach 2 floors (live in). Fully furnished, ready to move in. Please call for more information. Tel: 081-9206054.

BAR FOR SALE

Patong. 100% or 50% share. Please contact. Email: peter@homebarphuket.com Please see our website at: www.homebarphuket.com

PATONG BEACH

Prawn fishing business for rent, 3-year contract or more. 900,000 baht + 18,000 baht a month. Includes all inventory, 3 staff rooms, 1 small 2-room apartment with bathroom + aircon. Good profit. Call Michel for more information. Tel: 085-7962790.

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Established restaurant for sale. 395,000 baht. Rent 8,000 baht a month. With 2-bedroom house + 1,320sqm, more than 100 banana trees. Tel: 089-6467176, 089-1662804. Email: asoke_chatterjee@yahoo.com

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RESTAURANT

and guesthouse in excellent Patong location. Call Kevin at TSBA. Tel: 084-7300190.

BOOK SHOP FOR SALE

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Information Session - Thursday, February 8th at 5.00 pm

Rangsit University Faculty of Education and British International School, Phuket will be holding a 20-hours course for Foreign teachers to comply with the requirement from the Thai Ministry of Education (MoE) with respect to Thai Language and Culture, and Professional Ethics. The course will be opened to all Foreign teachers who are interested.

Mrs. Songsri Wanasen, Former Inspector General, MoE will be holding an information session for interested teachers at the British International School, Phuket (Formerly Dulwich College) on Thursday, February 8th at 5.00 pm. at the School's Conference Room.

There is no charge to attend this information session, but an RSVP is required at headmaster@bcis.ac.th



British International School, Phuket (BIS, Phuket)
59 Moo 2, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200 Thailand
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Home school tutor and/or home schooling groups wanted. Tel: 087-269-8727.

DRIVE TO KAJONKIET SCHOOL

I need someone to drive my Thai wife and baby daughter from Phuket Villa 1 in Samkong to Kajonkiet School every day at 7 am, returning at 5:30 pm. Reliable and safe drivers only please. Would prefer to carpool with another Kajonkiet teacher with car who makes this commute every day. Tel: 089-874-0061. Email: stephenfein@gmail.com

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Retired Businessman looking for Backgammon Players on Phuket Island. Tel: 076-386-113, 081-5778443.

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Saloon Cars

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TOYOTA WISH 2006

Low mileage, full options, excellent condition. 270,000 baht down. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-7423240.

CITROEN 2CV

For sale. A lovely car to drive, in good condition (entirely renovated) with 2CV powered engine. Works very well. Year: 1954. Tel: 081-4288814. Email: chadarat@iprights.com

JAZZ COOL II

19,000km, used for 6 months. Excellent condition, full insurance. Tel: 084-8516121.

HONDA JAZZ

Automatic. 10/2006, 4,000 km, silver, immaculate condition, airbags. 530,000 baht. Tel: 076-289541, 087-2815319. Fax: 076-289541. Email: hlaeger@t-online.de

HYUNDAI EXCEL

Very new looking. CD player, new tires, 4 doors, many accessories. Sale: 129,000 baht. Call for more information. Tel: 081-7375909.

TOYOTA VIOS TURBO

TRD special edition, 143hp, 21 years old, low mileage. 1 owner, well maintained. Genuine reason for sale. 590,000 baht. Tel: 084-0603477.

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1967 VW BEETLE 1300

Black/white two tone, CD, aircon, black glass, nice condition. Much admired. 165,000 baht to a good home. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-2670102. Email: paul@reeframmer.com

DAIHATSU MIRA - 1996

Very good condition. Professional maintenance. 157,000km. 110,000 baht. Sale directly from owner. Tel: 087-2715780. Email: Peter.Czasch@t-online.de

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SUBARU WRX IMPREZA



Turbo chip. Please contact for more information. Tel: 085-7977786. Email: tj_biggie@hotmail.com

TOYOTA AVANZA

End of 2004, auto, full options, 62,000km. 445,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-8411438. Email: happyone@ji-net.com

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TOYOTA CAMRY

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SAAB 900 4-DOOR

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BMW 530i. 6,000km, like new inside and out. Excellent condition, have always used car cover. Has had 3 oil changes. Price: 2.7 million baht or best offer. Tel: 076-280709, 085-7950779.

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Automatic, 35,000km. 600,000 baht or 270,000 down and 23x14,155 baht. Reason for sale: going back to Europe. Tel: 089-2907837.

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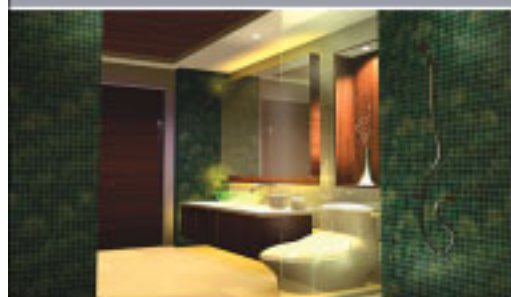
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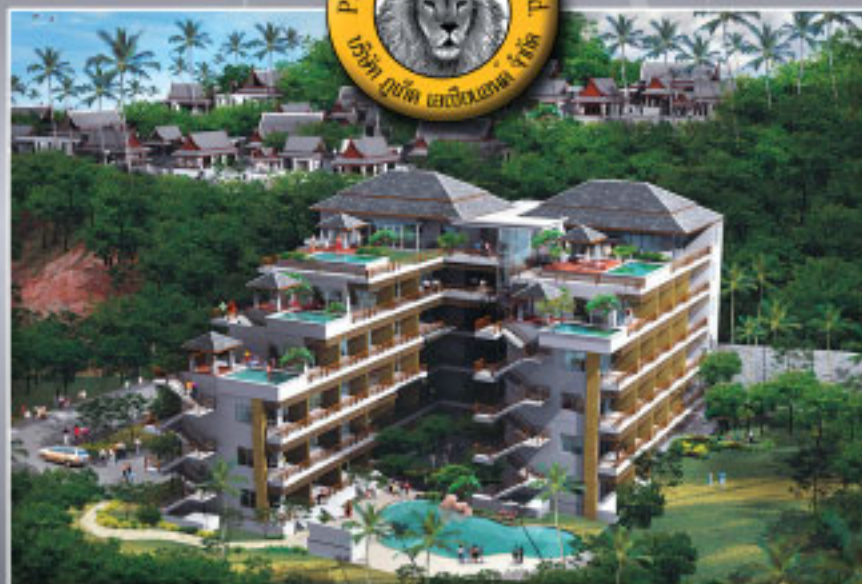
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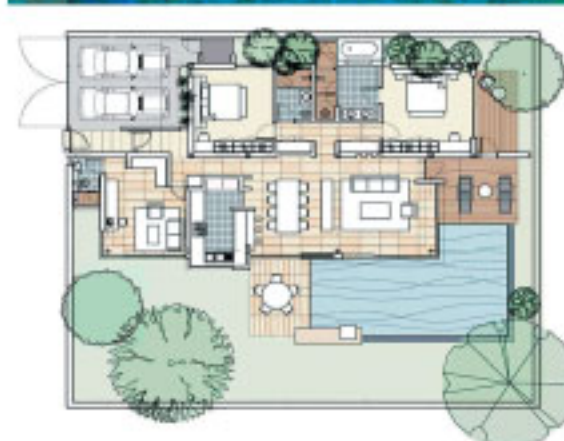
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