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IN THIS ISSUE

NEWS: Fire razes Phi Phi stores; Police take down drug-crazed shooter.

Pages 2 & 3

INSIDE STORY: A school, a home and a chance for needy students in Phang Nga.

Pages 4 & 5

AROUND THE REGION: Samui's prisons filled with foreigners.

Page 7

AROUND THE NATION: Election rules changing.

Page 9

PEOPLE: Kathu Wittaya's award-winning administrator.

Pages 14 & 15

TRAVEL: Koh Lone - an exotic getaway in Phuket's backyard.

Page 19

LARGER THAN LIFE: Midlife motorbike madness, but why?

Page 23

BOOKS: How not to write a travelogue.

Page 27

FIRST PERSON: Why teacher regulations are needed.

Page 29

THE GRAY AREA: We're all in this together.

Pages 30 & 31

COMPUTERS: Vista flaws apparent already.

Page 32

SPORT: ACYC; Andaman Games; Title fights; Langkawi results; Darts.

Pages 36 & 37

PROPERTY: Construction; Design; Gardening; Home of the Week.

Pages 38-43

PLUS

QUEER NEWS, TRASHING PHUKET 6; AROUND THE SOUTH 8; AROUND THE ISLAND 10; MOTORING 13; HAPPENINGS 16; LIFESTYLE 20 & 21; SPA MAGIC 22; TAKE A BREAK 25 & 26; PHUKET DIARY 27; EDITORIAL, LETTERS, ISSUES & ANSWERS 28 & 29; HOROSCOPES 30; BUSINESS & MONEY 34 & 35; CLASSIFIEDS 44-55.

Gypsies protest for fishing rights

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET CITY (*Kom Chad Luek, Gazette*): Some 100 sea gypsies from Rawai on February 7 petitioned Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit to help settle an ongoing, sometimes violent dispute over fishing rights near resorts.

The complaint follows sea gypsy Pratan Charncheow suffering decompression sickness after having his oxygen supply hose cut while diving off Nui Beach on December 31.

During that incident Pratan was fishing off the beach, about 2 kilometers south of Kata lookout point, with five other sea gypsies, including Alim Hadsaitong. They were diving for fish using a surface pump with attached air hoses.

K. Alim alleged that while three of them dived and the other three waited on the surface, a person from a nearby resort arrived on a jet-ski and cut K. Pratan's oxygen hose.

K. Pratan suffered decompression sickness following his rapid ascent to the surface for air.

He was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital, where doctors ordered him not to dive for 30 days.

The jet-ski driver also threatened to crash his jet-ski into other sea gypsies who fished there, K. Alim said.

A complaint of attempted murder was filed at Chalong Police Station on February 1, K. Alim said.

Fishing is the sea gypsies' only livelihood, K. Alim told the Governor.

Since the province began promoting tourism, sea gypsy



PLAYING A ROUND: Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi (left) and Thai Prime Minister Gen Surayud Chulanont met in Phuket for a round of golf at Mission Hills Golf course on February 11.

Both men left for Bangkok for an audience with HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej February 12, followed by a series of meetings at Government House.

PM Badawi was last in Phuket October 2004, when he played golf with former PM Thaksin Shinawatra at Blue Canyon Country Club.

villagers have been repeatedly threatened by hotel or resort owners, who attempt to prohibit them from fishing along beachfronts where resorts are located.

"We think that we have the right to use our country's natural resources," said K. Alim, "yet many times we have been threatened by tourism business operators and then told we had to be patient."

"But this time it is too much. We can't accept it. We would like to know why the province allows this situation to continue as it has, because we don't want to have any problems with anyone."

After hearing the com-

plaint, Gov Niran ordered Phuket Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Decha Budnampetch and Muang District Chief Weerawat Janpen to investigate all of the allegations.

The Governor promised the villagers, generally referred to in the Thai press as Khon Thai Mai ("new Thai people") fairness in the investigation.

Chalong Police Superintendent Pol Col Chalit Kaewyarat identified the jet-ski driver as 30-year-old Chalothorn "Boy" Chotithanang, an employee of the resort at Nui Beach.

He was arrested and charged with attempted murder, then released on bail, Pol Col Chalit said.

Patong hotel declared free of Legionnaires'

By Supanun Supawong

PHUKET: Breaking the silence regarding the reported outbreak of Legionnaires' disease at the hotel in January, Phuket Grand Tropicana General Manager Apichart Aha announced that the hotel has been declared free from the bacteria and that all water fixtures in the hotel have been cleaned thoroughly.

Dr Wiwat Sritamanod, of the Phuket Provincial Health Office, confirmed that the hotel had followed all necessary steps and that tests conducted on the hotel by the Bureau of Epidemiology (BE) show that it is free of the Legionnaires' bacteria.

To ensure there will be no further outbreaks the hotel sanitized equipment that uses water and will continue to monitor water quality, water temperature, the amount of chlorine in the water and the cooling systems used for the air conditioning.

A second hotel, which has not been named, is still undergoing tests, Dr Wiwat said, but it has implemented "quite strong measures" to kill the bacteria.

K. Apichart said that a Swedish expert on the bacteria visited the hotel and inspected the chlorine levels and water temperature.

"We now have an automatic pump to control the chlorine levels in the water," he said.

The PPHO and BE checked the water at the hotel four or five times until they were confident the bacteria was no longer present, Apichart said.

"The last report, from the Department of Health on January 27, shows that our hotel has followed the measures to manage and protect against future Legionnaires' outbreaks," he said.

Gambling tops January arrests

PHUKET: From January 1 to 20, police arrested 208 people for gambling and 115 people for prostitution in Phuket, according to the latest crime statistics from the Phuket Provincial Police.

Cases involving *ya bah* (methamphetamine) totaled 99, with 108 arrests made and 5,681 pills seized.

Thirteen people were arrested for sniffing glue or paint thinners, 25 for possession of marijuana and three for possession of Ecstasy. Ten arrests involved *krathom*, with 103 leaves and six bottles of *krathom*-based intoxicant confiscated by police.

Eighty-five cases of theft were reported to the police, including nine stolen motorcycles. Arrests were made in 37 cases.

Ten arrests were made for possession of unlicensed firearms.

Four arrests were made in the seven cases of attempted murder reported. There were 13 reports of assault, with arrests made in nine cases.

Four rapes were reported, with three arrests made.

Local girl wins national contest

BANGKOK (*Nation*): Kathu Wittaya School student Waranya Nawaluck, 17, was awarded the National 3rd Annual Junior IMPAC Dublin Literary Award for Thailand on February 12.

The theme for the essay was "A Tale of Thai Grace and Compassion".

K. Waranya's essay revolves around her personal experience of the 2004 tsunami and the impact that the disaster had. One of the judges, Suchada Nimmanit, said the strength of Waranya's essay was her choice of words and the simple metaphors she employed.

As the national winner, Waranya will travel to Dublin accompanied by a parent where she will attend the Senior International IMPAC Dublin Literary Awards ceremony.

OrBorJor to spend B160m on education

By Supanun Supawong

PHUKET: The Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) will spend 160 million baht of its 340-million-baht budget for fiscal 2007 on education, *OrBorJor* President Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr has announced.

The dedication of nearly half the *OrBorJor*'s annual budget follows seven schools transferring their administration organization from the central government to the *OrBorJor*.

Improvements in educational standards in the first four schools to transfer – Baan Maireab, Kathu Wittaya, Muang Phuket and Chong Talay schools – were already evi-

dent, K. Anchalee said in a press release outlining only rough details of the budget.

Part of the education budget will be used to build an "Andaman Learning Center" at the Lucky Complex in Saphan Hin. Part of the long-abandoned building will be transformed into a science education center, complete with a planetarium and other attractions.

The *OrBorJor* will spend 56 million baht on tourism promotion, with a focus on "market development" in India, as the growing Indian middle classes have high spending power and tend to travel with their families or in large groups, K. Anchalee said.

In addition, *OrBorJor* employees will stage road shows and attend trade fairs

around the world, including in Germany, England, Sweden, Denmark, Malaysia and Dubai.

Part of the tourism-promotion budget will be spent on upgrading tourist attractions on Phuket and on improving the quality of services offered by tourism businesses.

Pipping tourism with some 60.6 million baht allocated was "quality of life development", which includes projects for the young, the elderly and the underprivileged.

Other areas of spending included 7.2 million baht on information technology projects, 28.7 million baht on administration development, 9.3 million baht on natural resource development and 18.2 million baht on infrastructure development.

Fire destroys shops at Phi Phi Islands

By Sangkhae Leelanaporn

PHI PHI DON: A fire raged through beachfront shops at the eastern end of Ton Sai Bay on Koh Phi Phi Don February 11, causing estimated damages of more than 2 million baht. No one was hurt in the blaze.

The fire began at a beer bar around 11:30 am and swiftly raged through 10 other shops. With freshwater supplies quickly depleted, hundreds of residents and tourists formed a line and passed buckets of seawater up the rocky beach to douse the flames.

It took about two hours to put out the fire, which was strengthened by gusts of wind.

Krabi Governor Siva Sirisaovalak later praised the tourists and everyone involved for their part in extinguishing the fire.

"Had they not joined hands, the damage could have been much more widespread," he said.

Phi Phi police chief Lt Col Jakra Saovakul said witnesses suggested a short circuit was the cause of the fire. He estimated the damage at 2 million baht, mostly in destroyed alcohol prod-



People inspect the remains of the shops destroyed by the fire, which took two hours to extinguish. Photo: The Nation.

ucts, fishing gear and dry goods sold in the 10 shops.

Funds had already been allocated to the island's disaster prevention and mitigation center, he added.

Gov Siva said Phi Phi Don was overcrowded and should be re-planned to ensure emergency help could reach trouble spots more swiftly.

Tents and consumer goods

were brought in for the victims, one of whom described the damage to her shop as "just as devastating as the tsunami".

R/Adml Supot Pruksa, Commanding Officer of the Third Naval Area Command, ordered a Navy helicopter to fly in from its base at Phuket International Airport to conduct an aerial survey of the damage.

After two years of recovering from the 2004 tsunami, the two Phi Phi Islands have been attracting large numbers of tourists in recent months.

— Additional sources: *The Nation*, *Kom Chad Luek*.

Laborer killed by lover in drunken 'accident'

RASSADA: Banya Wosongkram, 20, from Khon Kaen died after being stabbed by his lover during a drinking session at a worker's camp near the bridge to Koh Sireh on January 31.

The incident occurred while he was drinking with two friends and his lover Siam Raisanguan, 32, a married woman from Kalasin province.

Lt Col Ampolwat Saengreuang of Phuket City Police Station said, "Banya was drinking with two friends. He called the woman over, saying that he didn't have any money for dinner.

"They were joking around about cheating and the man said 'if I've cheated on you then you can kill me'.

"Siam then grabbed a fruit knife lying nearby and jabbed at K. Banya with the 8½-inch blade. The knife went into his chest.

"The woman then pulled out the knife, causing the cut to bleed profusely, and screamed 'Don't die! Don't die! I was only joking!'. His friends took him to hospital, but he died on the way," Col Ampolwat said.

When police arrived, Siam was standing outside with blood on her hands. She did not know that K. Banya had died, he added.

Despite claiming that the stabbing was an accident, Siam was charged with murder, Col Ampolwat said.

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Addict gunned down after 4-hour standoff

By Supanun Supawong

PHUKET CITY: A four-hour standoff between police and a drug-crazed pork vendor ended violently February 7, with a policeman sustaining two bullet wounds before returning fire, hitting the gunman three times.

Phuket City Police Inspector Lt Col Umpolwat Sangrueng told the *Gazette* that about 5 am, Khamlah Thaninkunlaphat, wife of 39-year-old Chayakorn "Aod" Thaninkunlaphat, arrived at Phuket City Police Station to report that her husband was in a dangerous psychotic state, the result of his latest round of *ya bah* (methamphetamine) abuse.

She told police that her husband was enraged by her hiding his 9-mm pistol from him the day before out of fear he would shoot somebody.

As she was explaining the situation to police, K. Khamlah received a call on her mobile phone from a relative, who said that her husband had found the weapon and was running amok with it in their neighborhood off Mae Luan Rd.

Returning home, she found that Chayakorn had burned the inside of his pickup truck, which was still smoldering on a soi nearby. In front of the house was Chayakorn, sitting on a motorbike and holding his gun.

Demanding that everyone accompany him, Chayakorn said he was going to visit the grave of his father and paternal grandfather at the Chinese cemetery behind Surakul Stadium, not far from their home.

As Chayakorn stood by his father's grave near the road, police arrived. Seeing them, Chayakorn set fire to some high grass before fleeing to an uphill part of the cemetery some 200 meters from the road, firing warning shots and threatening to shoot anyone who approached.

About 9:45 am, one of Chayakorn's three daughters called him by mobile phone convinced him to come down.

During his descent, however, he came across Phuket City Police Crime Suppression Inspector Maj Pongnarin Suthin.

Chayakorn fired twice, hitting Maj Pongnarin in the shin and

calf before the officer returned fire, hitting Chayakorn twice in the stomach and once in the back, causing him to collapse to the ground.

Chayakorn attempted to shoot himself in the head, but when he pulled the trigger the gun did not fire, Col Umpolwat said.

Chayakorn was rushed to Bangkok Hospital Phuket and Maj Pongnarin to Vachira Phuket Hospital.

At the time of going to press, both men remained in hospital and were listed as being in stable conditions, Col Umpolwat said.

Chayakorn's wife told police her husband had been a *ya bah* addict for about five years.

Col Umpolwat said that once Chayakorn had been released from the hospital, he would be charged with attempted murder of a government official.

A cousin of Chayakorn has also filed a complaint of attempted murder against Maj Pongnarin over the incident.

Police, however, are yet to take any action on the complaint.



Aid for Southern temples

Food offerings were collected by 109 monks from Phuket who walked a path through Saphan Hin on February 11. About 2,000 Buddhists in the area donated dry food such as rice, instant noodles, medicine, canned fish, drinking water and milk.

The offerings are to be handed over to 266 temples in Songkhla, Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat at a ceremony in Songkhla.

US consular services in Phuket

KARON: Officials from the Consular Section of the American Embassy in Bangkok will visit the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort and Spa on February 28 to provide consular services to US citizens.

The following services will be available from the American Citizen Services from 8 am to

noon: Passport renewal applications; Notarial Services and certified copies; Absentee ballot application and voting abroad information; Social Security, VA or other federal benefits questions.

For further information email acsbk@state.gov or call the American Citizen Services Unit at 02-2054049.

Thai killed in Phang Nga mutiny

PHANG NGA: The captain of a Thai fishing boat, *Muang-Dam 2*, was seriously injured and his First Mate killed on February 9, when nine Burmese crew members mutinied about 40 miles off the coast of Phang Nga Province.

A tour boat found the captain of the boat, Chalermpon Phosung, floating adrift with serious stab wounds.

After the tour boat reported the incident to the Royal Thai Navy Third Naval Area Command at Cape Panwa, in Phuket, two Thai Navy vessels were sent to hunt for the mutineers.

About 4 pm, the Navy patrol boats sighted *Muang-Dam 2* west of the Similan Islands and ordered the vessel to stop.

The Burmese crew members, who were then in control of the boat, ignored the order.

According to a Royal Thai

Navy press release, they also then killed the boat's Thai First Mate, identified only as K. Sri.

The ship's mechanic, whose name was not released, managed to jump ship and was later rescued by another vessel.

The mutineers set the boat ablaze and then abandoned ship.

The Navy detained two of the men, who were later handed over to police.

The fate of the other seven remains unknown, a source at the

Third Naval Area Command told the *Gazette*.

The mutiny was incited by Burmese crew members taking offense at being scolded by the captain, the source explained.

Capt Chalermpon was taken to Takuapa Hospital, in Phang Nga province, to be treated for stab wounds to his left ear, right arm and chest.

Muang-Dam 2 belonged to Wanchai Maleemongkol from Samut Prakan.

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Tired of the come-and-go charities appearing and disappearing after the 2004 tsunami, Philipp Graf von Hardenberg decided to create a project with lasting impact and a chance to break the poverty cycle for poor children and orphans in Phang Nga. His solution? A boarding school that teaches life and business skills through hands-on education, while retaining traditional Thai values and a family setting. The *Gazette's* Semacote Suganya reports on the Yaowawit School in Kapong.

CREATING A HOME

and ending a cycle of poverty



FUTURE ARTISTS: Students smile during an art class at the Yaowawit school in Kapong.

The 2004 tsunami brought aid agencies, missionaries, and a slew of foreigners to the devastated Baan Nam Khem coastline of southern Thailand. Many have come and gone, but the founders of the Yaowawit School in Kapong built a project to stay.

Originally a response to the tragedy wrought by the tsunami, the school project found a need for quality education and a boarding school setting for the area's orphans and poorest children.

"I started the project because I saw a lot of big organizations coming in, helping for one day, then they left to the next village. A lot of children were very sad because they got used to one person who soon left, so I decided to make a project that would stay

for the long-term," said Philipp Graf von Hardenberg, founder of the Yaowawit School and of the Children's World Academy Foundation (CWAF) based in Hamburg, Germany.

The CWAF sponsored the Yaowawit School to provide a comprehensive approach to the needs of the children in the area. Though a boarding school, an on-campus home and family-style setting is provided for the students. The youngest children live in a family home on the school's

campus. When they reach the age of six, they move to the boarding dormitories, which are also designed to be family-oriented with a live-in teacher or tutor. Each dorm has four bedrooms with four children each. The children look after their living areas themselves as would be expected in a normal home.

"Poor people cannot afford a good education so they stay poor. It is the same way in Germany, America, and all over the world. Our idea is to break this

pattern with education," Mr Graf von Hardenberg told the *Gazette*.

"The program here starts with the standard Thai curriculum, but we want to teach the children skills so they can be self-sufficient when they leave. We will teach them about hospitality and tourism – a big business in Thailand – organic farming, Thai herbal medicine and much more. We already have an organic garden and a fish pond," said co-founder William Gaynor.

The project chose the com-

munity of Kapong, about 30 minutes inland from Baan Nam Khem, as its location, hoping it would alleviate fears of the children and staff of being too near the sea.

While the school is not yet completed and at this time enrolls children only through grade six (about 12 years old), vocational programs will be added as the school grows.

School Director Man Sooksawee reported that, "all our funds came from donations. We now have two classrooms for kindergarten and six for the primary school. We serve a total of 80 children. Next year we plan to add 15 more children to the kindergarten program. The next phase of construction will include a computer room, art room, and a guest house for volunteers and visitors."

The official opening ceremony was held on April 24,

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2006, with a visit from HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. At that time, the school had about 40 children.

The long-term goal of the school is to eventually provide for up to 180 boarding students and an additional 40 to 50 from the surrounding community, reports school Family Manager Chatkwaee Nanthapanij.

Yaowawit School also intends to develop a system of "learning centers", which will include an Eco-Farming Center; a Tourism and Hotel School, with a restaurant and 24-room hotel on the school grounds beginning in late 2007; a Health and Nutrition Center, based in the restaurant where students will learn about nutrition and how to cook; a Body and Soul Center where they will be taught about fitness and mental health; a center for Traditional Culture and Modern Art; and an internet-enabled Global Communication Center, to provide language instruction in Thai, English and other languages.

An essential part of the school's educational philosophy is real-world experience for the stu-

dents in the subjects they are studying. This is achieved by activities such as fishing with an experienced fisherman and business professionals visiting the school. Staff from Bangkok Phuket Hospital, for example, have visited the school to teach about nutrition and to help train the teachers.

Yaowawit School also typically has two to five in-residence volunteers from other countries who assist with instruction and help expose the children to other cultures.

The idea, Mr Graf von Hardenberg said, "is to give the children all the education they want, so when they leave here they will have an opportunity to get the job they want, or go to the university they want, or do anything they want to do with their lives".

As building and operating the school will be expensive, the school has numerous projects planned to help with its ongoing operational expenses, above and beyond what the original donors have contributed. It is expected that the hotel training program will

generate income from the guest rooms, as well as from the restaurant. The farming project is also expected to generate some income.

Once completed, the entire project is expected to cost about 86 million baht. That price includes all buildings but not the operating costs.

Mr Graf von Hardenberg said that local materials were built into the design of the buildings to keep costs down. That idea caught the interest of a UNICEF project designer who came to the school to see for himself – and now uses the concepts developed at that Yaowawit School in his own designs.

"At the beginning people thought that we were missionaries and didn't know what we wanted from them. Now they know us and trust us," reports Mr Graf von Hardenberg.

"I really think that people are learning that we are one world and that we have to take care of each other. At the Yaowawit School we try to make a small bit of difference in this world."

Yaowawit School



"We are not here to tell them to do this or do that. We don't want to bring German or American or Western style of living here. I am here only as the founder. The school is run by an all-Thai management team."
-Yaowawit School Founder **Philipp Graf von Hardenberg** (left)

Background of students:

Total: 80
Orphans: 30
From broken homes: 42
From physically or sexually abusive homes: 5
Handicapped: 2
Female students: 35
Male students: 34
Older students who reside at Yaowawit, but attend school in Kapong: 10 (no secondary program at Yaowawit yet)
Religion: Buddhists 72, Muslim 7

School Principles:

"Besides providing a fundamental education and traditional values, it is our aim to teach the children practical skills, craftsmanship, entrepreneurial spirit and technical know-how. The children deserve the chance to give their best and to receive an excellent education in order to be able to improve their own living conditions in the future. [...] Thus, they will have a realistic chance to break the cycle of poverty."

- Children's World Academy



VEGETABLE OF THEIR LABOR: Students gain experience growing food in the school's organic garden.

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Queer News

Centipede on steroids

RAWAI: Villagers in Rawai were dumbfounded when a huge centipede, reportedly half a meter in length, was spotted near a public waterhole in Village 2.

At 1 pm on February 6, villagers in the area of Baan Thai Mai (New Thais Village, or "Sea Gypsy" village) on Wiset Rd were seen crowding around a 20-meter-tall sugar palm tree. All were excitedly trying to catch a glimpse of an enormous centipede reportedly hiding out high up in the tree's canopy.

Some villagers were throwing rocks at the tree, hoping to force the arthropod to come down and make an appearance. Others stood ready with cameras, hoping to capture an image of the creature as a souvenir.

One villager, identified only as Rawee, 45, said he was the first one to spot the centipede the day before.

He and four other friends were bathing in the public waterhole when he saw the enormous centipede crawl down the tree and dip itself in the water before crawling back up to the safety of the tree's upper reaches.

He described the centipede as reddish-brown in color, about 50 centimeters in length and with a girth similar to that of a human arm.

Rawee and his bathing buddies were astonished by the size of the centipede because they had never seen anything like it, he said.

After the initial shock wore off, he screamed out to other villagers in the area about the centipede. All who saw it agreed that it was, in truth, a very large specimen. Word of the discovery soon became the talk of the *tambon*, with people from near and far hoping to catch a glimpse of the hundred-legged invertebrate.

The sheer size of the creature, if correctly reported, is significant because the largest known species of centipede, the Amazonian giant centipede, reportedly maxes out at about 30 centimeters in length. The Vietnamese centipede, which matches the color description given by K. Rawee, only reaches about 20 centimeters in length.

At last report, residents of the area were planning a mission to scale the sugar palm in an effort to catch a better view of the centipede – or even capture it and put it on display for all to see.

Surprisingly in a case such as this, there were no reports of people trying to divine winning lottery numbers from aspects of the creatures physiology.

Source: Siang Tai

STAMPS



Cupid goes postal

To mark Valentine's Day, Thailand Post on February 7 issued a scratch-and-sniff stamp with the image of yellow rose – the sixth rose stamp issued since 2002.


The price is five baht, 12 baht with a special collector's envelope. A million copies are to be printed.

Philatelists and flower-lovers on a tight budget are sure to like the fact that the rose fragrance is designed to last for up to six months – probably before your special letter reaches your loved one.

A reader dropped into the *Gazette* offices recently to hand in this photo of a nice fresh garbage dump on Muean Ngoen Rd in Patong – the road leading to Tri Trang Beach. The dump is outside the Baan Nern Sai Hotel. However, the contents come not from the hotel but from local residents, who apparently have such poor eyesight that they cannot get the trash in the box provided. Not that it would make much difference if their aim were better; the reader said that garbage trucks are unknown in the area, though dogs and rats are now regulars.

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According to the Acting Director of Samui's prison, Weerayut Kalasri, foreign convicts account for 54% of inmates in the island's 181-million-baht facility.

Most of the foreign prisoners are Burmese, sentenced for crimes such as drug dealing, murder and rape, he said.

The remainder includes Cambodians, Laotians and Nepalese, many convicted for petty crimes.

There is also a handful of European inmates serving sentences for drugs and fraud offenses.

According to prison staff, many people from neighboring countries end up in prison on Samui for minor offenses. This, they say, is because local people are more likely to press charges against foreigners than they are their fellow countrymen.

One example is a recent case involving Kam Oo, a Laotian woman with a four-month-old baby who was convicted for stealing a pork chop from a Tesco-Lotus Superstore and is now being held, with her child, in the island's jail.

Kam Oo resorted to theft after her husband, having brought her to the island, disappeared and left her penniless with a small child to look after.

Despite this, managers at the superstore chose to press charges and the police were obliged to make an arrest.

Many Thai prisons lack facilities for inmates with children, so the task of providing baby supplies and offering assistance with child-rearing generally falls on the wardens.

Many of them volunteer their time for the sake of the children, which adds considerably to the workload.

With so many economic migrants arriving on Samui to find work, instances of petty crime are on the increase. Many believe a

Foreigners outnumber Thais in Samui Prison



Guilt by association: Samui's tiniest prisoner is the four-month-old child of a Laotian woman convicted of stealing a pork chop.

more tolerant approach would save public resources and avoid putting people through unnecessary hardship.

Tourism-U: A new international tourism college is due to open on Samui, under the supervision of the Rajabhat Surat Thani University.

On February 12, the Rector of the university announced the appointment of Somdet Phra Buddhayarn as the first Dean of Samui's tourism college. In this position he will oversee a range of courses designed to guarantee that the island's staff achieve international standards of skills and service.

Samui's growing popularity

as a world tourist destination has led to a serious shortage of skilled staff on the island. The Thai Hotels Association also supports the

college, which, they hope, will improve professionalism in the tourism sector as a whole.

Scammers: A gang masquerading as reporters from a Thai daily newspaper recently fooled a number of prominent business

people and public officials on Samui into paying for bogus tickets to a charity talk show at a local school.

The tricksters claimed the 1,000 baht entrance fee would go toward the 23rd Goodwill Games, also known as the Muang Khon Dee Games, which will take place in Surat Thani next month.

Members of the Samui Municipality, as well as several resort owners and business people, believed the story and parted with cash.

It wasn't until Governor Niwat announced that funds for the games had been generated through sponsored walks around the province that suspicions were raised.

The authorities then alerted the police, who soon discovered that the gang was operating out of Haad Yai and had taken money from people for similar bogus events in the past. The whereabouts of the culprits remain unknown.



FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND

By Barry Singleton



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Acting on a tip-off, police in Songkhla discovered the internal vault of a stolen Krung Thai Bank ATM buried in a forest in Chana District. The machine had been stolen from Haad Yai on January 24.

The 100-strong search team, which set out at 8 am February 4, was led by Pol Lt Gen Adul Saengsingkaew, Assistant Commissioner General of the Royal Thai Police and Acting Police Region 9 Commissioner.

Next to a coconut plantation in the specified area, officers found a circular patch of soil about two meters in radius that looked as if it had been recently covered over. Digging at a depth of about one meter, officers discovered the vault. It had been opened with a blowtorch and the 2.4 million baht it had once contained was missing.

Police have arrested two suspects in connection with the case. Phakdee Chalee, the coconut plantation guard, admitted to knowing that the ATM safe was buried there, but denied any involvement in the robbery. K. Phakdee, 45, claimed that the six-member gang that stole the machine had turned up and demanded to use a shack on the plantation.

Police also arrested Loh Ketmasuriya, 48, in a nearby

ATM vault found, but without B2.4m

house, and seized two shotguns and two safety helmets matching those worn by the robbers. Loh denied any knowledge of the robbery.

Godfather Jr: Surat Thani Police on February 5 arrested a 17-year-old on suspicion of "countless" muggings, including the robbery and shooting of a Marine Police Officer.

The youth was arrested at 10 am in Surat Thani City after he was caught snatching gold jewelry at about 1 am the same day.

Under questioning, the suspect also confessed to the shooting of Pol Sen Sgt Maj Somsak Suwanla-ong, who was stationed at Marine Police Region 6 Command in Surat Thani. Sen Sgt Maj Somsak was seriously injured after being shot with a sawed-off shotgun during a robbery last year.

Pol Col Atthapol Plengwithaya, Superintendent of Surat Thani Muang District Police Sta-



Police inspect the ATM vault after it was discovered buried in a Songkhla forest.

tion, said that the young suspect was the leader of a mafia-style gang, with many followers who

have committed numerous crimes. Police know the identities of the other gang members and are now in the process of rounding them up, Col Atthapol added.

Security barrier to be extended: The government will extend a security barrier along the Thailand-Malaysia border in an effort to curtail the insurgency in the South and prevent illegal workers entering the country from Malaysia, Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont said on February 4, the final day of a four-day visit to the region.

A three-kilometer divide currently separates part of Sadao District in Songkhla from Malaysia's Perlis State.

The government would extend the fence 27 kilometers into Yala, PM Surayud said.

Health-care crisis: Continuing violence in the Deep South has reduced residents' access to health-care and led to Narathiwat leading the country in cases of elephantiasis, with 118 cases.

Public Health Minister Mongkol na Songkhla said all residents of villages with elephantiasis cases had to take medication every year as a preventive measure against the mosquito-borne disease. The incidence of elephantiasis in Narathiwat was 33 cases per 100,000 people – 11 times higher than the national rate.

All 78,000 residents of 19 affected Narathiwat villages received medicine in 2005, but as violence flared into almost daily attacks last year, only 35,000 villagers received the medicine, he said.

"We have drawn up a five-year plan to ensure that the medicines reach all local people," Dr Mongkol said.

He also expressed concern about the fact that many children in Narathiwat were underweight.

Knowledge Park opens: HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn inaugurated a new Thailand Knowledge Park (TK Park) on February 6 in Yala.

Modeled after Bangkok's TK Park, the southern branch incorporates local touches such as rubber-wood decor and a Muslim prayer room.

In its month-long soft opening, TK Park has attracted more than 10,000 visitors.

The Yala branch has about 10,000 books and journals and games with Thai content, and a database covering southern music and songs, plus 200 books about the South.

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

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Election rules face big changes

Under the new Constitution, party-list MPs and single-MP constituency elections will be scrapped, Drafting Subcommittee Chairman Charan Pakdithanakul has announced.

The main reason for scrapping the party-list MPs is because the system allows capitalists to rise to power through money politics, he said.

The subcommittee decided to maintain the number of constituency MPs at 400, fearing that politicians may oppose the new constitution if it reduces the number.

They also ruled to scrap the single-MP constituency system to make way for a multiple-MP system, in which each constituency will be larger and MP candidates who win the most votes respectively are elected in each province, K. Charan said.

Vote counting will be changed to curb electoral fraud by ballots being changed on the way to the center; the new method will also prevent canvassers from being able to check if voters vote for the candidate they want, he said.

The subcommittee also ruled against political parties merging during the tenure of an administration and banned exit polls on Election Day.

Lotteries to continue: The controversial two- and three-digit lottery will continue, even if the Council of State decides the Thaksin government had no legal position to launch it, Finance Minister Pridiyathorn Devakula said.



Shan State Army soldiers parade in their stronghold of Doi Tai Laeng, opposite Mae Hong Son, to celebrate the 60th anniversary of resistance to the Burmese junta.

-Photo by Chaiwat Pumpuang

He added that he had not received the council's legal interpretation.

"I need to read that first, then I'll find a way to continue operating the lottery. I have plenty of options," he said.

The Prime Minister's Office Minister, Prasith Kowilaikul, confirmed it was K. Pridiyathorn's decision whether to continue operating the lottery.

Gang green: A public hearing on future energy production was called off after a mob of about 300 angry protesters from Prachuap Khiri Khan obstructed the

entrance to the Siam City Hotel in Bangkok, where the event was to be held.

"You build, we burn," shouted the protesters, who insisted the government drop its 15-year draft energy plan, which includes a proposal for nuclear power plants. The hotel asked the organizers to cancel the meeting, because the protesters were frightening guests.

Energy Policy and Planning Office Director-General Viraphol Jirapraditkul said the hearing would be re-scheduled.

The demonstrators, who oppose construction of two coal-

fired power plants in their province, later moved to the Industry Ministry to protest the possibility that the government might develop a new industrial estate in the South, possibly in their province.

Tragic bus: An elderly woman was reunited with her family 25 years after taking a wrong bus that led her into a life of poverty and confinement.

Twenty-five years ago, Narathiwat resident Jaeyaena Beuraheng, now 76, thought she was boarding a bus bound for Narathiwat from Malaysia.

Not being able to read, write or speak Thai, the Malay-speaking woman and mother of eight did not know the bus was headed for Bangkok.

She tried to get back to the South from the capital, but compounded her crisis by taking a bus to Chiang Mai. There she spent five years begging until she was arrested and placed in a social service center in Phitsanuloke.

K. Jaeyaena's identity was discovered earlier this month by three students from Narathiwat who happened to be working at the center.

For years, staff at the center had assumed K. Jaeyaena was either Mon or Shan. The three Narathiwat women were the first ones there who had ever been able to fully communicate with her.

Medical breakthrough: Chiang Mai University has created the world's first easy-to-use strip test to measure blood levels of Nevirapine, a widely-used HIV/Aids treatment.

Each test costs just 100 baht and can accurately measure Nevirapine levels within 10 minutes.

"This is an efficient method of checking if patients are taking the treatment regularly," said researcher Chatchai Tayapiwatana, who helped develop the strip test using competitive enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay, or Elisa, techniques.

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

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By Natcha Yuttaworawit

In a kingdom world-famous for its scenic beaches and historic sites, Wat Chalong stands out as one of the most historically significant temples in the south of Thailand.

Although its origins are hard to pin down, it was well-known to King Rama V, who renamed it "Wat Chaitararam". The new name never gained common acceptance, however.

Wat Chalong has had many abbots, but the first recorded one was Poh Tan Tao. His successor, Luang Poh Chaem, was the most famous abbot, known for being a protector of the people.

The Wat Chalong Annual Fair is a large and time-honored event on Phuket, but few are aware of its origins.

Chalong resident Chaiwat Chatchawet, somewhat of an expert on Wat Chalong, volunteered some information on the subject of the Chalong Temple Fair, which this year runs from February 16 to 22.

"Nobody knows exactly when it started, but my forebears told me that they celebrated the festival since birth.

"This fair started...because there used to be many Chinese who lived here for the tin mines. When the Chinese New Year arrived early in the year, they did not have anywhere to go to relax except the temple.

"It is the Chinese New Year tradition that after they pay respect to their ancestors, they go out to celebrate with family," said K. Chaiwat, age 54.

"The fair kept growing along with the community around it. I can remember helping out in the temple as a child by bringing the sand used to create a miniature pagoda (a merit-making practice also performed at Thai New Year, or Songkran Day) and listening to the monks chanting.

"It's just in the last three years that we have restored this

Are you going to Wat Chalong fair?



Above: Rides for children and other kinds of entertainment are part of any *wat* fair these days, but this year gambling and other less salubrious diversions are banned.

tradition [of sand pagodas] in order to preserve it for the younger generation. In the past, the area near Wat Chalong was intersected with canals – there was an abundance of sand, so we didn't need to buy it as we do today.

"The fair is seven days and seven nights long, with many di-

versions, lots of food and other local products. As for amusements that involve gambling or anything considered obscene, the Religious Affairs Department has issued a warning to the temple committee, so this year there won't be anything like that.

"Wat Chalong hosts the annual fair, while other organizations, such as the Tambon Rawai Administration Organization and Phuket Provincial Administration Organization give their support. The temple controls the budget... the annual budget for the fair is at least a million baht.

"Many people contribute toward the fair, and any funds raised by it go toward social causes, such as for Phuket Muang School, Vachira Phuket



Hospital and donations to flood victims.

"I don't worry about the en-

tertainment, because I think most people come here to pay respect to the monks rather than to see the shows. Entry is free, and vendors must close by 2 am. A lot more teenagers come than older people, but I think it's better for them to come here than go to pubs or bars.

"I think the temple is still the most important thing for Thais, and the best way to develop children," K. Chaiwat concluded.

If you're driving, Wat Chalong is about eight kilometers from Phuket City on Chao Fa West Rd (Route 4021), on the left before Chalong Circle.

A 20-baht bus from the Downtown Market bus area on Ranong Rd in Phuket City will also take you there.

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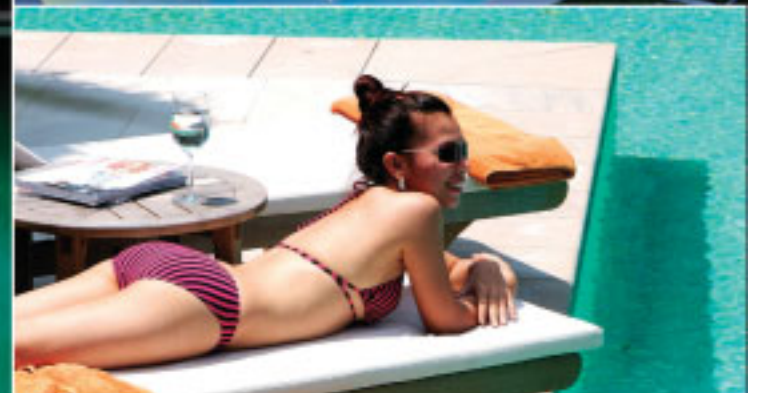


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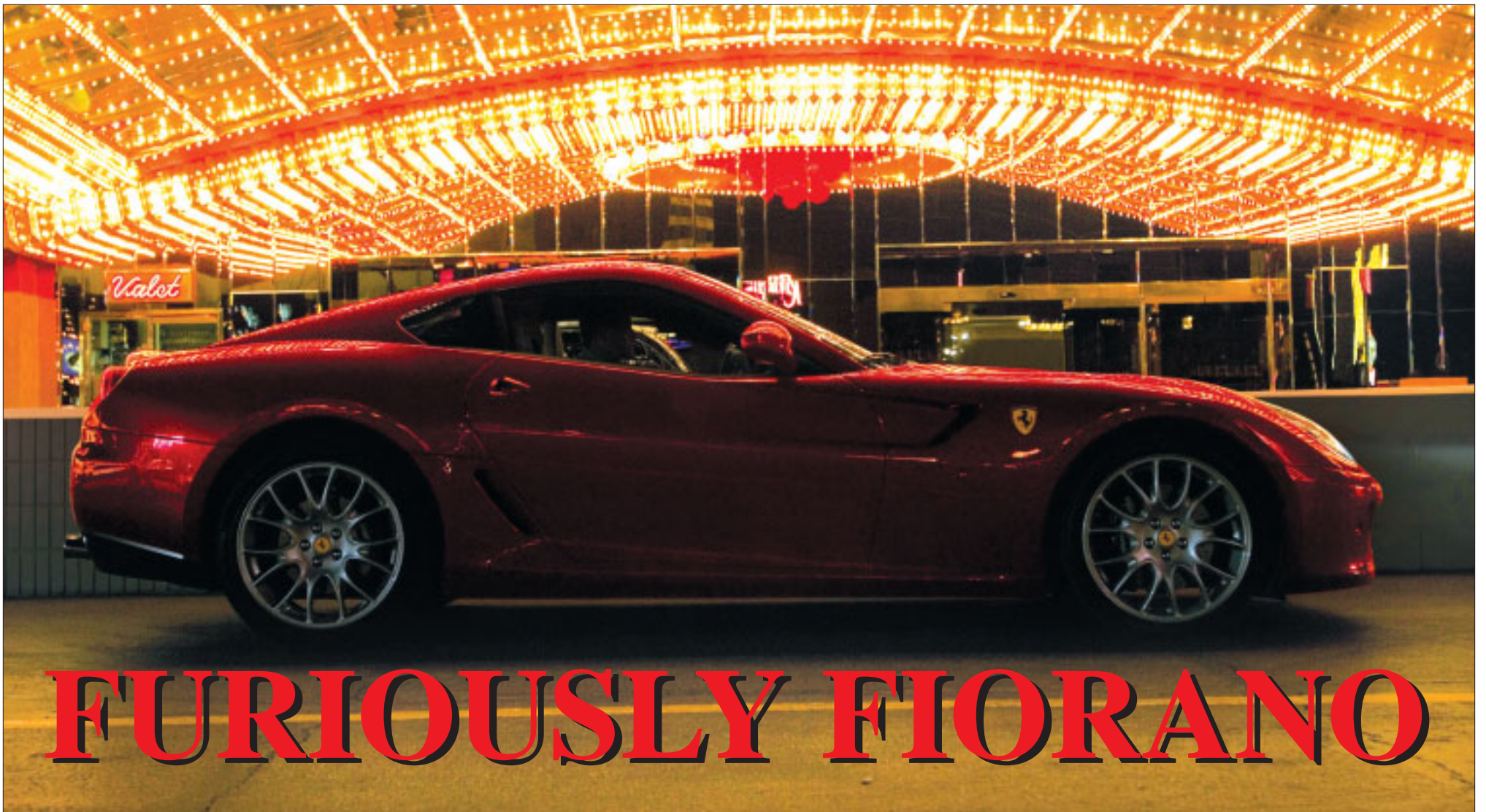


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F-F-FAST: The new 599 GTB Fiorano is screamingly fast, achieving 0-100kmh in under four seconds, and costs a mere 9 million baht – plus tax.

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A balance has been struck in the interior between the car's sporting aspirations and the inti-



By Jeff Heselwood

macy that only hand-crafting and personalization can achieve.

The passenger area of the cabin is trimmed in sumptuous leather, while the driver's cockpit boasts high-tech detailing in carbon fiber and aluminum.

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The tachometer is centrally-mounted in the instrument binnacle in front of the driver and is red-lined at 8,400rpm.

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Lengthy testing in the Ferrari wind tunnel has resulted in a drag coefficient of just 0.336, a remarkable feat considering the necessary downforce required for a car that can exceed 330kmh.

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

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There's a well-known Thai expression that goes, "School is a child's second home, his teachers his second parents."

This saying illustrates the important role teachers play in Thai society in developing children to be future leaders and respectable individuals. Some 50 years ago, the Ministry of Education (MoE) dedicated January 16 as Teacher's Day to praise, encourage and recognize teachers' efforts.

This year, the Phuket Governor's Office awarded the 38 Outstanding Teacher Awards: 28 to classroom teachers and 10 to school administrators, many of whom have a decade or more of experience in the classroom.

One Outstanding Teacher award recipient in the administration category was 58-year-old Phuket native Kham Sukhapan, who has been working as a teacher for 35 years and is now Director of Kathu Wittaya School.

"Being a teacher involves not only giving the students knowledge, but also teaching them about life's realities," said Ajarn Kham.

It may come as little surprise that Ajarn Kham chose the teaching profession, as his father was Phuket's Deputy Education Chief when Kham was a boy growing up on Mae Luan Rd in Phuket City.

Kham was a good boy growing up and wanted to please his parents, so he worked and studied hard to be a teacher – as they hoped he would – while his six siblings all pursued careers in different fields.

Ajarn Kham started his education at Anuban Phuket School and then continued to primary

Because teachers are such an important part of every child's upbringing, Thailand sets aside one day each year to honor its teachers, with each province awarding its best educators with highly-coveted Outstanding Teacher awards.

One of this year's recipients was Kham Sukhapan of Kathu Wittaya School. Here he tells the *Gazette's* Janyaporn Morel what he's learned from his 35-year teaching career

school at Tessabaan Pluk Panya School.

He graduated secondary school from Phuket Wittayalai School and was then admitted to the two-year teacher's course at Nakhon Sri Thammarat Teacher's College, now Rajabhat Nakhon Sri Thammarat University.

He then moved to the capital, studying at Suan Sunanta Teacher's College in Bangkok for two years before gaining his de-



gree from Wittayalai Wichakarnsuksa, now Srinakharinwirot University's Prasarnmitr Campus in Bangkok.

After he graduated at age 23, Kham's teaching career began with a job at Phuket Wittayalai School earning the princely salary of 1,250 baht a month.

He taught history, social studies and geography there from 1971 to 1977 before moving to Sai Nam Phung School in Bangkok's Phra Khanong District for five years. He moved back to Phuket Wittayalai School in 1982.

In 1990 Ajarn Kham was promoted to Deputy Director of Phuket Wittayalai and then accepted a position as Headmaster at Veerasattri Anusorn School in Pa Khlok. There he stayed until he became School Director in

2002.

"I have been Director for Kathu Wittaya School since April 2004. When I started in school management I had to learn more about the other fields of education so that I could give good advice to the entire teaching staff. I think that is why schools under my management have continually developed and won many awards," he said.

Kathu Wittaya is a large school, with 1,020 students studying in *Mattayom* (secondary level) M1 to M6. Almost all of the students are from Kathu District, though there are a few from Muang and Thalung Districts as well.

Of all the schools in the district, Kathu Wittaya is perhaps the best known because it was designated a model of development

under the former government's "One District, One Dream School" program in January 2006.

"For the Outstanding Teacher award, teachers were required to submit a summary of their work from 2003 until 2007 to a judging committee.

"This was the first year that the winners were selected this way, considering their contributions both to school and society. I'm the first director of Kathu Wittaya School to receive such an award," he said.

The award is not Ajarn Kham's first teaching award, however. He was awarded Thailand's Best Teacher Award (*Khuru Sadudee*) in October 2002 and The Best Director Award by the Secondary School Administration Association of

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PEOPLE

Ajarn Kham is proud of his awards, including Best Teacher in Thailand (photo in foreground).

Thailand (SAAT) in 2002 and 2003, when he was a director at Weerasatree Anusorn School.

He was also awarded a Tsunami Samaritan award in 2005 for founding a tsunami relief center and helping about 200 people who lost their homes in the tsunami by first providing temporary shelter in the school, and placement services later to help them find a new permanent home.

"I am most proud of the *Khuru Sadudee* award, which is the national award that the Teacher's Council of Thailand gives every year to the best teacher in the country. There were 886 teachers who received this award from about 300,000 teachers in Thailand that year," he said, adding that the awards mean a lot in a field where a great deal of personal sacrifice is involved.

Ajarn Kham also has a full

life outside the school. He is married to K. Chadawan, a teacher at Phuket Wittayalai School, and they have two daughters; the first one is working for the Thai Savings Bank and the second one is studying in the Faculty of Dentistry at Chulalongkorn University.

"My wife and I have never told our daughters what we want them to do with their lives. They are free to choose their own course – as long as they are good people," he said.

As for the challenges facing children growing up in the new millennium, he said, "Thai children now are getting great advantages from new technology, unlike children in the past. The world now is wide open. Although the new technology is good, we have to make sure we use it the right way, too. My biggest concern for Thai children is they are becoming too materialistic. There seems to have been a change in social values that has resulted in many children becoming conceited and self-centered. I think we really need to take extra care with how we raise children in this day and age," he said.

"The most important thing for us now is to teach students how to be good, strong members of society. We have to accept that the world is constantly changing and we must work hard, using our experience to teach children how to protect themselves from vices," he said.

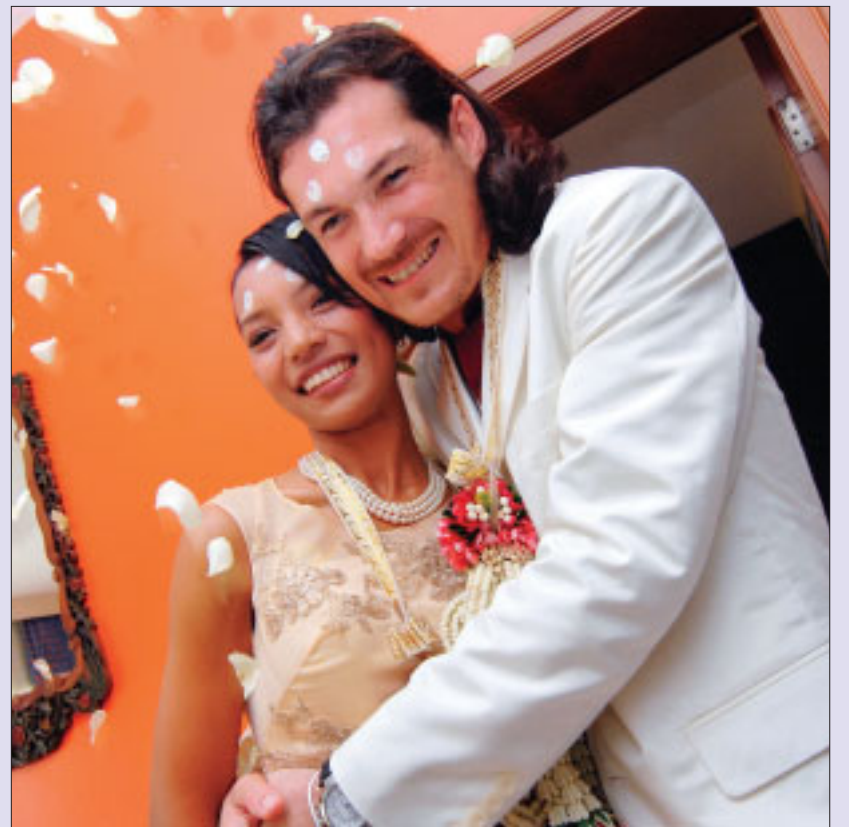
"I'd like children to be smart, happy and productive members of society. Of course it all depends on a child's own capabilities and wishes, but if our students go on to be successful in life, that is enough for teachers," he concluded.

Happily Ever After

Recent weddings in Phuket



Above, Tassarín Plawong and Tanet Thammakeeratiwong were married in the Phra Pitak Grand Ballroom at The Metropole hotel on January 19.



Right, Nichakan Sriwareepipat and Mirco Canonica celebrated their wedding at The Allamanda Laguna Phuket, also on January 19.

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MAKHAM MATES (above): Michael Zimmermann (center, blue shirt) celebrates his art show opening at Art Makham studio in Rawai with fellow artists Sandra Marquis (4th from right) and Olivier Pages (front, right).

STAR SCHOOLING (right): As part of a nationwide tour, Thai actress Sinjai Plengpanich (back left, orange shirt) and Asian Institute of Business and Communications partner Siriwimon Sitthiprasart (front, orange shirt) visit students at Phuket's Wittaya Sathit School, joined by School Director Somjit Sinlapasart (back right, yellow shirt) and her students.



KEY WINNERS: Phuket Vice-Governor Vorapoj Rattasima (3rd from right) helps present keys to Pimwipa Wongkam (2nd from left) and Suiwha Auchotikaweerun (2nd from right) for cars won in the Chevrolet Thailand Grand Sale lucky draw. Present are Tourism Authority of Thailand Tourism Investment Department Executive Director Pornthip Onnoom (right), Tourism Authority of Thailand Southern Region 4 office Assistant Director Runjuan Tongrut (left) and Siriporn Nunkliang from Chevrolet Phuket.



SIMMERING SOIRÉE: Kitchenette Boutique Phuket Managing Director Natthakit Lertsakdadet (2nd from right) and partner Pilanya Intrawuth (left) hold a housewarming party at Kitchenette Boutique with guests Boonsri Hongyok (center), Supakit Thongchua (2nd from left) and BSH Home Appliances Managing Director Dr Andreas Meier.



VIRTUALLY VR: Software Industry Promotion Agency (SIPA) Phuket branch manager Dr Rattana Wetprasit (in red dress) leads the soft opening of 3D animation business VR Plus with VR Managing Director Jitti Aphiboon (4th from left) and staff.



LAGUNA LODGE: At the Laguna Phuket Global Travel Awards at the Raffles Hotel in Singapore, Laguna Phuket Managing Director Michael Ayling (right) poses with representatives from award winners (from left) Qantas Holidays, Kuoni UK, Royal Orchid Holidays, Tourism Authority of Thailand's Sydney office and Diethelm Travel.



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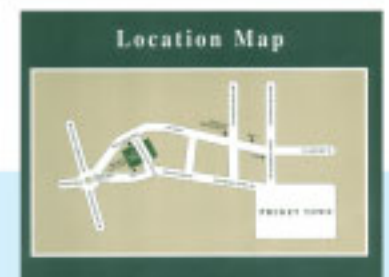
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Pruerk-Lawan	120.6	8,900,000	100,000	4,450,000	4,350,000
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Where to go when a-Lone

While surfing the web recently I came across the interesting fact that January 24 had been officially declared "the most depressing day of the year".

This well-known "fact" was apparently discovered by a Cardiff University professor who specializes in seasonal disorders.

His calculations were based on several factors including weather, post-Christmas depression and general lack of both personal commitment and cash.

"Following the initial thrill of New Year's celebrations and changing over a new leaf, reality starts to sink in. The realization coincides with the dark clouds rolling in and the obligation to pay off Christmas credit card bills," he said.

The formula was devised to help a travel company "analyze when people book holidays and holiday trends," said a spokesperson from a London-based PR agency.

So this is obviously the time when those stuck in the frozen North truly crave to be away enjoying themselves by tropical beaches with the sun on their backs like us Phuket locals.

Strangely enough, it was the very same day that it suddenly dawned on me, while stuck yet again in the seemingly never-ending traffic jams in Chalong, surrounded by these very same tourists in their minibuses and coach-

es that it was time for me too to get away and escape!

But where to go? No need to go far, just had this need to escape the crowds for a while.

With an editor chasing me and an approaching deadline, it dawned on me: call K. Thiti, General Manager and owner of Cruiser Island Resort on Koh Lone. Already being in Chalong, I could be there in minutes!

So with a small overnight bag, a good book in hand and a turned-off telephone we jumped in a long-tail boat and were soon zipping towards the island.

A little while later, relaxing in a well-positioned deck chair, a cold glass of wine in hand, watching quietly as the sun dropped behind the hills of Chalong across the bay, I quickly realized that my escape attempt had been successful.

It really is amazing just how simple it is for us here to get away. How lucky we are, with the many dozens of islands and small resorts to visit, some literally only a few minutes away.

That evening a quiet dinner at the beachside restaurant was followed by a wonderful, relaxing moonlit swim in the pool – it was time for bed with the good book.

The room was comfortable, with all basic amenities, and since my last stay the resort has expanded and now has more than 30 bungalows and four separate room types to choose from.

All the rooms are well

Thailand TRAVELER

By Bill Owen



Above, the beach on Koh Lone. Below, bungalows and gardens at the Cruiser Island Resort.



FACT SHEET

How to get there: Catch the boat at Chalong Pier. The resort has regular complimentary boat services for all overnight guests.

Accommodation: The resort has several room types available, starting from 3,900 baht + VAT and service for their garden villas. Breakfast is an additional 300 baht for adults and 150 baht for children.

Contact details:
Cruiser Island Resort, Koh Lone.
Tel: 076-383210, 076-281392
Fax: 076-383211
Email: info@cruiserislandresort.com
Website: www.cruiserislandresort.com

equipped and ideal for both couples and families with young children. Babysitting services are also available for parents who wish to hang out at the beach bar instead of minding the kids.

The next morning, after one of the pleasures of a short "escape" – a wonderful lie-in – we had breakfast and went out on a self-paddle kayaking trip. Then it was definitely time to escape

again, as we were about to be overtaken by a large group of Chinese day-trippers.

One word of warning: the resort does get a little crowded some days during lunch times when the regular daily tours arrive. It is however, comparatively easy to hide away at the pool or simply jump into the resort's kayaks for a few hours. I guess everyone is escaping these days.

A long-time resident of Phuket, Bill Owen is GM of Phuket's leading event management company, Oriental Leisure, and can be contacted by email to bill@oriental-events.com

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Surviving without the Internet

Internet addicts living in Phuket are all too familiar with their beloved web being slow, or even worse, completely out of service.

But the devastation caused to Internet lines by the Taiwan earthquake shortly before New Year's Day left millions of people across Asia cut off from email and websites for days. Even now, connections across the region are sluggish.

In a world where high-speed connections have been taken for granted, the event has forced us to face up to the reality of what life without the Internet would be like, and in many cases exposed our inability to cope.

It is hard to imagine we ever lived without Google searches, eBay auctions, online shopping and Skype – but in reality, it is only a matter of a few years since we somehow managed to struggle from one day to the next without ever logging on.

In those seemingly far-off days, things were still bought and sold, families were still fed, public transport still worked, businesses still made profits and social events were still successfully organized and executed – all without the Internet. It's just that we had to do things differently.

Charles Mok, head of the Hong Kong Internet Society, said the Internet disruption caused by the earthquake should serve as a "wake-up call".

"There are people who should think about whether they can plan their life in a different way," he said.



WRITE A LETTER??? The experts say that many people find it easier to express emotions on paper, and the recipient will generally treasure a letter far more than an email.

"If for some reason they can't use the Internet for a period of time and they just sit there complaining, maybe there are other things they should think about doing.

"This earthquake ought to make them realize there are other things to do in life than going on the Internet. They should really find a better balance. Just like other things in life, at some point you might unexpectedly lose it – and you really have to cope with it."

Experts say there is no knowing when the next Internet blackout will occur. So to help

prepare for the next time Asia is cut off from the outside world by a natural disaster that severs our Internet connections, here are seven things you can do to remain sane when the computers are down.

Pick up a phone: Put a voice to the names of email business contacts you have known for years but have never met or spoken to by phoning.

An even more radical approach would be to arrange a face-to-face meeting over coffee. Hearing a voice or seeing a face is a great way to build confidence and trust that can only benefit your business or career.

Use your legs: The world of instant messaging and email has created workplaces in which no-one speaks to each other – where orders, reports, requests are sent via the Internet.

This may save you time, but the consequences can also be bad for your health.

Try instead using your legs, get up from your chair, take a walk around the office and talk to your colleagues.

In addition to building relationships, both social and work, those extra steps and rest peri-

ods away from your desk will burn calories, rest tired eyes and stretch muscles and avoid strain which in the long term can result in bad backs, eye strain and repetitive-task-related injuries

Go to the library: An online search may be fast and effortless, but there is nothing like a reference library to make you really appreciate the world of knowledge.

Surround yourself with books and get a taste of what it was like to engross yourself in research before the Internet. The process is far more challenging and rewarding.

Write a letter: If you want to say something and can't do it in person, there is no better way than a letter. A good letter will be kept for years.

Psychologist Dr Lisa Mathewman, of the University of Westminster in the UK, says many people find it easier to express their emotions on paper.

Despite being considered old fashioned, letters are more appreciated by the recipient, she says.

"It is a very warm gesture and women in particular appreciate them."

Rediscover the art of conversation: Use the Internet-free time and time away from chat rooms and game sites to talk and play with your children, or even just to have a family meal together.

Resurrect old board games, go to the movie, go for a walk, or rediscover your old CD collection and enjoy some quality time with your family.

Go shopping: With Internet shopping becoming more popular, there may come a day when only weirdos go the mall.

Make the most of window shopping rather than browsing, go try on clothes, pick up, flick through and feel the weight of a book before buying, handle real cash or simply wander around a wet market taking in the sights, sounds and smells. Buy a pen to write letters with.

One day this may be all a thing of the past. Take the Taiwan breakdown as a warning and savor the experience now.

Enjoy the freedom: It is a well known fact most of us are slaves to the Internet.

A survey last year commissioned by Hewlett-Packard claimed office workers spent an average of four hours a day talking to friends online and messaging – more time than they spent actually working.

Researchers found workers showed a total lack of discipline in handling emails, unable to resist the temptation to answer immediately – even thinking it was acceptable to answer during meetings or conferences – with the effect that they were having to constantly change direction. As a result their brain slowed down.

Health writer Jane Alexander, author of *The Overload Solution*, says the consequence is a constant state of alert for emails, causing what she terms "overload", a condition resulting from having too many demands pressing on you at the same time.

So use the current Internet slowdown as an excuse to free yourselves from the computer at least for a few days, and enjoy the extra time on your hands.

– Hazel Parry, dpa

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By Semacote Suganya

Missing from the ranks of thousands of handbags sold by stores, stalls and hawkers in Phuket are handbags with some stylish street chic and a hint of tropical flair.

But there is a place that fits the bill: Chartage at Jungceylon in Patong, where a fascinating range is available in European design and materials from the tropics.

In fact, the bags are just one range of accessories at the store that are designed by Belgian Bex Look, who was previously a designer for Christian Dior.

The store also carries original-design scarves, belts, jewelry, hats, shoes, purses and earrings.

Mr Look and his team of five Belgian designers create all the accessories found in the Chartage stores.

There are 10 stores in Thailand that carry Mr Look's designs exclusively, all found in five-star resort areas, including at the Hilton Phuket Acadia Resort & Spa in Karon, the Regent Chalong Beach Resort and the Hilton Hua Hin Resort & Spa.

"He chose to open the franchise in Thailand to expand the fashion market here. He believes that Thais like foreign fashion," said Sureerat "Bee" Sae-lee, Chartage Managing Director and owner of the Patong store.

K. Bee explained that all the styles on display at the store are changed every six weeks, replaced by up-to-date designs of the latest styles and trends.

"We have every style for customers to choose from. If they don't like one style, there will be another one in the shop they are sure to like. In each new set there are three or four different styles," she said.

"Our designs give customers more options in choosing according to their own tastes.

"When people can't find the right bag or accessories to match



International sophistication in black (above), red (left) or brown (inset). Chartage has designs, materials and colors to fit most people, moods and occasions.

their dress for dinner or a night out, they just come here and they finally find the right accessories

or handbag to match their outfit," said K. Bee.

She added that Mr Look is

always coming up with new designs, and that he even sketches while traveling on a plane or while he's staying in a hotel.

Mr Look also keeps a careful eye on his stores; he came to the Patong Chartage to organize the shop and arrange the displays himself, she said.

"His concept is based on the change of seasons. For Thailand, he adapted the designs according to Thai seasons. He inspects the shop once or twice every month," K. Bee explained.

"We have designs for all ages, and all our bags have a very luxurious look. The prices are

very reasonable considering the design and quality compared with other brand names," says K. Bee.

Most of the purses are made in Bangkok. Materials such as crystals and beads are imported and then mixed with natural materials such as coconut, baby bamboo strips, leather and shells to create these designs. Handbags are priced from 1,000 to 9,000 baht.

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Just hearing the word “spa” makes me feel more relaxed. But when I hear that the spa I am next to visit is the award-winning Le Spa at Le Meridien Khao Lak Beach & Spa Resort, I start to think that those awards must be deserved.

A quick jaunt over the hill to Patong can be harrowing enough, but the 120-kilometer drive north from Phuket City and over the Lamru National Park range, although gorgeous it is, would be just cause for some of the best relaxation therapy in the region.

Le Spa was recently awarded the coveted titles of Thailand’s Leading Spa Resort and Asia’s Leading Spa Resort at the World Travel Awards 2006, a highly regarded event in the global tourism community.

Le Spa is the highlight of the resort, with eight private treatment villas surrounded by lush tropical gardens. I start my visit at the spa’s reception building, which is separate from the treatment villas in order to maximize privacy for guests.

Spa Manager Sinee Tongwijit, who has more than 10 years of spa experience, meets me in the spa’s reading room, which has views of the green gardens around the spa.

K. Sinee explains that the spa is the second most profitable area of hotel, after rooms, and that the outstanding aspect of the spa is the relationship between the therapists – the spa has 18 therapists and a beautician – and the guests.

About 25% of the hotel’s guests use the spa, and about 70% of Le Spa’s guests are return guests, she adds.

As we leave the reception building we pass the foot massage area. K. Sinee says that the massages are the most popular treatments in the spa, preferred even over scrubs and beauty treatments.

The spa menu is changed every year. The shortest treatment on the current menu is a 30-minute bath treatment for 950



Above: the spa at Le Meridien Khao Lak, which recently won an award for Thailand’s top spa resort. Below: one of the treatment rooms.

baht.

The longest treatment is the six-hour Wonderful Day package for 8,625 baht, which includes herbal steam treatment, a floral bath, Swedish massage, manicure and pedicure, body scrub, body wrap and a facial treatment.

K. Sinee took me on a tour of Le Spa’s eight villas, connected by paths lined with plants and water features.

Each villa comprises a large, double-bed room that is luxuriously decorated, with the curtains and lighting creating an elegant ambience. Around the main room are small, connected water features that together add to the relaxing feeling.

Every spa villa has a large sauna and a shower room, as well as a comfy sofa and a safe to place valuables in, and a private outside area where guests can receive treatment.



K. Sinee suggests I take a five-treatment package that starts with a 30-minute Aromatic Steam Bath (950 baht), followed by the one-hour Asian Herbal Exfoliation (1,850 baht), 30-minute Floral Bath (950 baht), one-hour warm stone massage (2,300 baht) and ending with the one-hour Nature’s Balancing Facial (1,750 baht).

Before the floral bath I enjoy some time in the villa’s private sauna, which is at the ideal temperature for after a shower. I then spend 30 minutes in a bath

imbued with red rose petals. The smell of roses is sweet and I feel like I am in a rose garden.

Next is a one-hour scrub using a cream made from tanaka and sandalwood, which exfoliates unwanted skin, improves blood circulation and refreshes skin. After the scrub I take another shower before my massage.

About 40 black, Indonesian stones are used for the one-hour warm stone massage. Usually I’m scared of things hot but Pornphan “Koy” Tongluang, my therapist, put my mind at ease.

The stones are just warm – not hot – and they will help my blood circulation.

I lay on a warm towel while K. Koy massages me with the stones instead of her hands. The stones are heated by being kept in warm water, and K. Koy constantly changes them to keep them warm.

I find I like the warm stone massage better than a massage by hand, and the next day I did not feel any soreness in my muscles.

My final treatment is Nature’s Balancing Facial, which includes a facial cleansing, scrub and facial mask.

Before I know it, I’ve spent almost half a day at the spa, and the visit is well worth the drive home.

Le Spa at Le Meridien Khao Lak Beach & Spa Resort. Open daily, 10 am to 10 pm. Booking one day in advance is recommended. Tel: 076-427500 or 076-427536. Website: www.lemeridien.com/khaolak

Spa MAGIC

By Sangkhae Leelanaporn

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Le Meridien
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MOTORBIKES AND MOGGIES

It is most extraordinary, and one of the greatest mysteries of life in Phuket. It's probably not the only holiday resort where this phenomenon takes place, but here we live with it every day.

Mr and Mrs Smith have spent a lifetime working hard, bringing up a family, getting their comfortable home paid off, getting a new car, waiting for a new grandchild.

Although they are possibly a little overweight, they generally consider themselves to be in the prime of their lives and enjoy the fact that they can afford to travel the world.

So they now decide to risk everything – including their own lives – by renting a Honda Dream motorcycle and wobbling off over the hills to fulfill their dream of fun and freedom, oblivious to the fact that they are highly likely to find themselves spending the rest of their vacation in a hospital bed with arms and legs suspended from the ceiling; or worse still, getting themselves splattered all over the road like the proverbial “moggy” by an out-of-control concrete truck or tour bus.

I follow them day after day as they cheat death by inches and seconds, missing pot-holes by centimeters that would cause them to fall off under the wheels of a truck coming the other way. It's probably unlikely that they would remotely consider being seen down in the shopping center at home on a Honda Dream. Their friends



and neighbors would think they'd gone bit potty, a tinny short of a six pack, if you know what I mean.

Apart from the horrifying dangers of this foolhardy way of getting around, it's not exactly comfortable. The strain of keeping the bike upright while avoiding trucks, buses and other crazy motorcyclists, the bumps, the burns on the leg from the hot exhaust, the hot sun and wind somehow all manage to create a delusional sense of fun.

When reality strikes with a bang, this form of recreation often ends up with a stay in Vachira Phuket Hospital's intensive care unit. Of the 80-odd beds in that unit, I would guess that at any given time 70 are motorbike accidents, many with fractured skulls.

Outside it's like a MASH hospital during wartime, especially on Friday night or at the start of a holiday weekend: 20 or 30 trolleys waiting for the incoming wounded. There are two or three outside another door to take away those who don't make it.

The roads on this island are deadly. It requires great care and

attention to drive these roads in the relative security of our pick-up trucks or cars. Two large adults getting on a small motorcycle who don't know the roads on Phuket or understand the dangers – and probably rarely or never get on a motorcycle at home – would probably be better off taking a relaxing holiday in Baghdad. The chances of them going home in a body bag would be less.

Phuket is not a tropical island with just a few dirt tracks between the beaches and bungalows. It is a big province with heavy traffic – and probably with more dangerous roads than any

big city. Would you ride the Honda Dream around Paris or Rome or Bangkok? If you want to get around independently, hire a car. Don't throw away your life to save a few dollars.

On that note and speaking of moggies, an old English expression for a cat, I recall a song that a friend of mine used to sing in Australia:

Somebody's Moggy by the side of the road

Somebody's pussy who forgot his highway code

Someone's favorite feline who ran clean out of luck

When he ran onto the road and tried to argue with a truck.

Yesterday he purred and played in his pussy paradise

Decapitating tweetybirds and masticating mice

Now he's just 6 lbs of raw minced meat that don't smell very nice

He's nobody's Moggy now

Oh you who love your pussy be sure to keep him in

Don't let him argue with a truck, the truck is bound to win

And upon the busy road don't let him play or frolic

If you do I'm warning you it could be CAT-astrophic

If he plays out on the roadway I'm afraid that will be that

There'll be one last despairing MEOW and a sort of squelchy SPLAT

And your pussy will be very dead and very, very flat

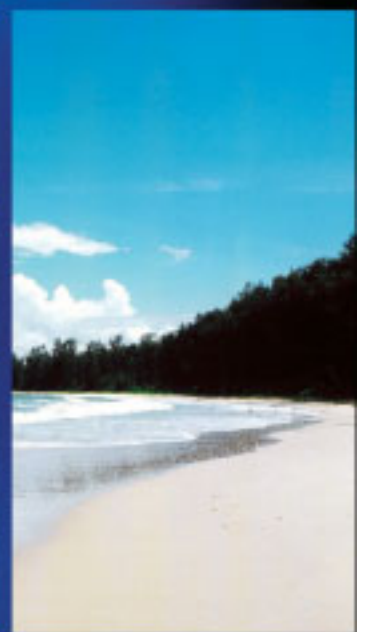
He's nobody's Moggy – just red and squashed and soggy

He's nobody's Moggy now.

LARGER THAN LIFE

By Graham Doven

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EXTREME Triathlon

February 25

**- SILK Triathlon Series 2007
Event # 3 (Phuket)**

Location : JW Marriott - Phuket Resort & Spa

- Jnr (200m swim, 3km Mtn bike, 1.5km run)
- Snr (750m swim, 10km Mtn bike, 5km run)

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Phuket Gazette

2006-2007
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SILK
 restaurant.bar

Puzzles

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?



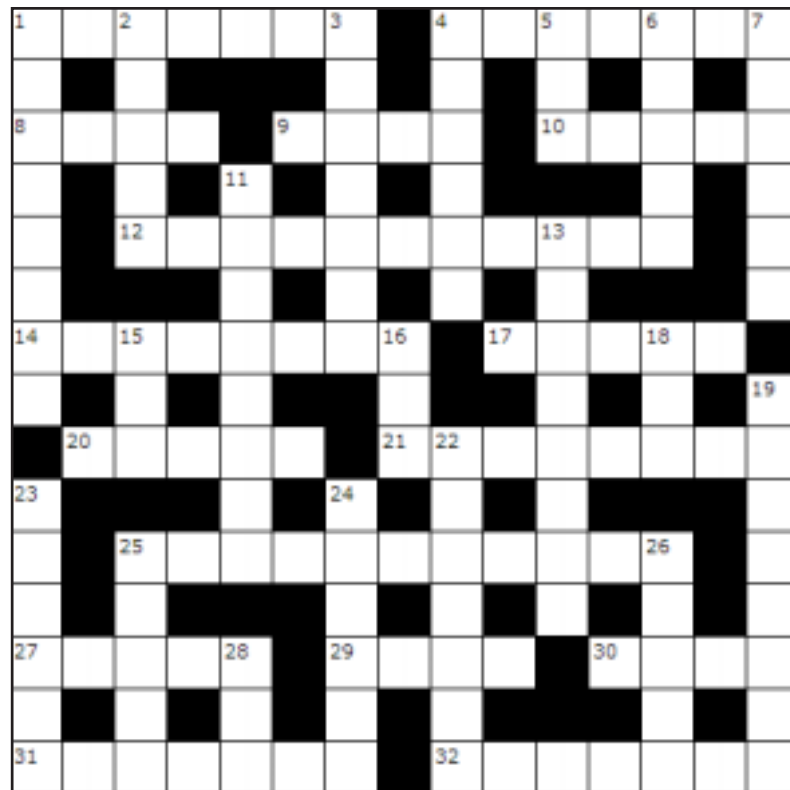
The Cryptic Crossword

ACROSS

1. Type of ball direction for riflemen's blasts. (7)
4. Bart's a virtual person with quiet son. (7)
8. Plant went up. (4)
9. Two butts - a fish! (4)
10. A hundred and four and French perfume component. (5)
12. Oddly, most do chafe when well-shaven. (6-5)
14. Eat in the evening, then took an attitude. Dubious. (8)
17. Miss takes tea, they say, in light fogs. (5)
20. Known associate of Ron in western town. (5)
21. Arrest wedding attendant for obstruction. (8)
25. Hi! Arctic spy destroyed treatment for mental problems. (11)
27. Transport was gloomy. (5)
29. Biblical part of play. (4)
30. Worker and I are in opposition. (4)
31. Up-to-date electrical charge. (7)
32. Concerning title: Get back! (7)

Down

1. In flower holder, anti-

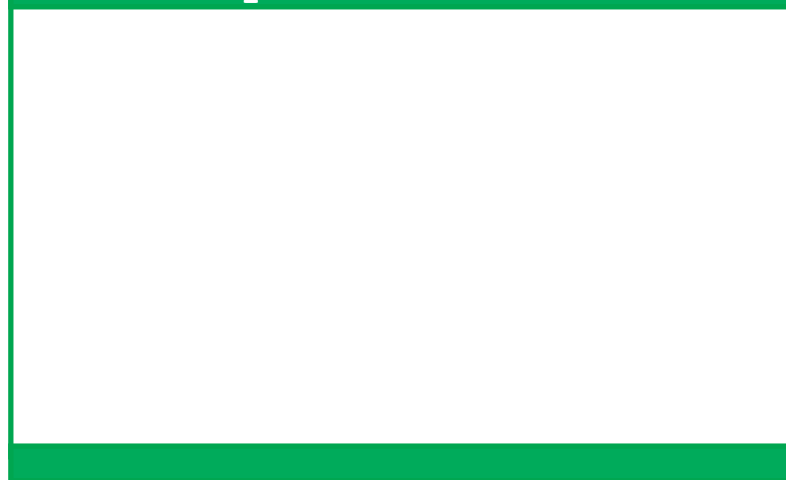


Compiled by Tortuus. © 2007

2. Mafia law is swollen. (8)
3. Thpeakth. (5)
3. Coal carrier may sink ship. (7)
4. Employs people for sticks. (6)
5. A big one, buddy. (3)
6. Rescued! Dave's back. (5)
7. Not a particle? It's an idea... (6)
11. Not stereo, Tony causes boredom. (8)
13. Ships manicure equipment. (8)
15. After physical education, a legume. (3)
16. The French for "Little Desmond". (3)
18. Drink and eat badly. (3)
19. Muir I led back to fever. (8)
22. Pamphlet or agricultural machine. (7)
23. Acid in favor of microphone. (6)
24. Boat seat block. (6)
25. Musician, be quiet in support! (5)
26. Cheat Georgia, and dance. (5)
28. Expire, little cube! (3)

Solution on next page

Scribble Space



EZ Trivia Quiz

1. Which soccer team is based at the Emirates Stadium?
2. Who is the youngest player in rock band Van Halen and what instrument does he play?
3. Which guitarist plays with Shakira on *Illegal*?
4. What does the Malay word *durian* mean?
5. What is the capital of Vietnam?
6. In which town is the cartoon series *The Simpsons* set?
7. Which cartoon series features the Broflovskis and the Stotches?
8. Who wrote the novel *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*?
9. Which national flag has the words, "Ordem & Progresso"?
10. How many stripes are there on the US flag?

Answers on next page

Rhyme Time

The words or phrases described below all rhyme with "dark". What are they?

1. Listen!
2. Severely simple.
3. Illiterate person's signature.
4. Public garden.
5. Carefree episode.
6. Get aboard.
7. Flash of light.
8. Basic constituent of matter.
9. Often dangerous fish.
10. Part of a circle.

Answers on next page

su | do | ku

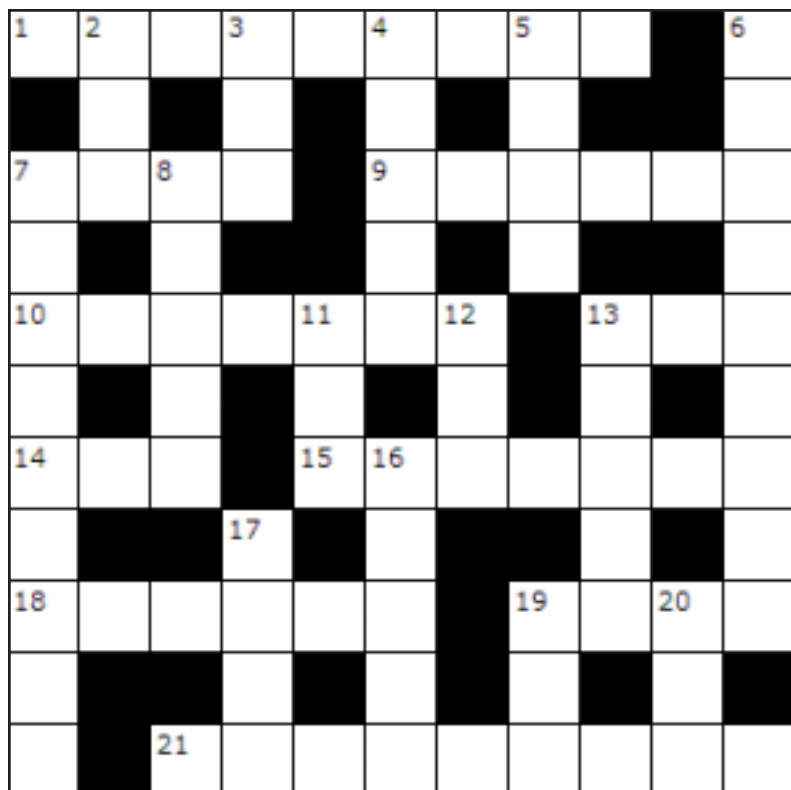
© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

MEDIUM

The principle of 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. Guess if you will, but each Sudoku puzzle can be solved using logic alone. Beware: this puzzle has only one solution, which is on the next page.



Quick Crossword

ACROSS

1. Fellow-worker
7. Long, narrow hole.
9. Most aged.
10. Carrion bird.
13. Lady's counterpart.
14. Fisherman's equipment.
15. Exile.
18. It counteracts acid.
19. Tale on a grand scale.
21. Unreadable.

DOWN

2. Nocturnal hunter.
3. Auction item.
4. Love in Paris.
5. Reverse.
6. Southernmost continent.
7. A week.
8. Small island.
11. Flying saucer, maybe.
12. Consume.
13. Bog.
16. Bring together.
17. Mr Anka.
19. Record label.
20. Not well.

Solution below, right

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



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

1. Up, down, bottom, top, strange and ...?
2. There are known families of basic particles from which all matter is made. Quarks are one. What is the other?
3. When he discovered the principles of density and buoyancy, Archimedes supposedly shouted "Eureka!" What does it mean?
4. Who invented the reflecting telescope?
5. How many atoms are there in a molecule of water?
6. What invention rendered the astrolabe obsolete as a navigation aid?
7. What were the other main uses of the astrolabe?
8. Who first generated radio waves, and in which year?
9. What practical application did he think they would have?
10. How many years later were X rays first detected, and by whom?
11. Joseph J Thomson proposed the plum pudding model as a way to describe what?
12. What is a more common name for electroluminescence coronal discharge caused by the ionization of the air during thunderstorms?
13. Which element has the lowest boiling and melting points?
14. Which is the second most abundant element in the universe?
15. Erlenmeyer, Buchner and Florence are all types of what kind of laboratory equipment?
16. What would you measure using a pycnometer?
17. Boyle, Charles, Gay-Lussac and Avogadro all formulated laws relating to what?
18. In which field of science would you encounter Killing horizons?
19. Why are they called Killing horizons?
20. In the Fibonacci series, what number comes between 8 and 21?

Answers below, left

Puzzle Solutions

Monster Quiz Answers

1. Charm (the different "flavors" of quark); 2. Leptons; 3. "I've found it!"; 4. Sir Isaac Newton; 5. Three – two hydrogen and one oxygen; 6. The sextant; 7. As an aid to astronomy and as a way to determine the direction of Mecca; 8. Heinrich Hertz, in 1888; 9. None; 10. Seven years, by Wilhelm Roentgen; 11. Atoms; 12. St Elmo's Fire; 13. Helium; 14. Helium; 15. Glass flasks; 16. Density; 17. Gasses; 18. Astronomy; 19. They are named after German mathematician Wilhelm Killing; 20. 13.

Solution to Cartoon Puzzle



EZ Trivia Answers:

1. Arsenal; 2. Wolfgang Van Halen, guitar; 3. Carlos Santana; 4. Thorny fruit; 5. Hanoi; 6. Springfield; 7. South Park; 8. Ian Fleming; 9. Brazil; 10. 13 - seven red and six white.

Rhyme Time Answers:

1. Hark; 2. Stark; 3. Mark; 4. Park; 5. Lark; 6. Embark; 7. Spark; 8. Quark; 9. Shark; 10. Arc.

Cryptic Crossword Solution



Quick Crossword Solution



Sudoku solution



From hordes of American retirees in Pattaya with way too much time on their hands comes a huge teetering stack of inept novels about bar girls and *farangs*.

The latest, by one JF Gump, is a fat trilogy about American retirees and the stunning 20-year-old bar girls who love them.

But with *Living Thai Ways* (Bangkok Books, Bangkok, 2006, 234pp) we have a parallel genre: the American retiree who rents a bungalow in Pattaya and after a few years, and the barest smattering of the Thai language, sets himself up as an expert on Thailand.

Author Michael Keller is the kind of bar-room bore from whom tourists flee screaming out into the night.

The volume I have is actually the second in his series, entitled *More Living Thai Ways Part II* and subtitled *Dos and don'ts & short stories*. The cover is a cute photo of a macaque monkey guzzling a can of Singha beer. That's about all this book has going for it.

You know what would make a great book? A memoir by a backpacker pioneer who embarked on the Freak Trail 40 years ago and discovered virgin southern Thai beaches and hill-tribe trekking in the North.

But, why, oh why are we supposed to be interested in Michael Keller's hackneyed travelogue of group geriatric bus tours in Chiang Mai, temple visits, souvenir-buying and taxi cab guides who speak a version of English I have never heard in

The clueless Thai 'expert'

Thailand: "To show respect, gift no matter how humble must offer. Big impolite if not do."

There is a 16-page *Expat's Survival Guide* with lame advice such as, "Do learn the Thai greeting called *wai*" and "Do use first name etiquette" and "Do not be annoyed with double pricing" or "Do not drink or brush your teeth from a tap in your hotel bathroom".

This is followed by his description of his overnight stay in his guide's house, which he considers the height of daring adventure.

The guide's young son says: "Please to reminding you, sir, pleasing fact of King Mongkut (sic) Rama IV. Long times ago King offer your President Rincorn in Amerika many big fighting elephant so to help finish most terrible North-South in war."

I mean, what country is Keller in? The kid speaks like an extra in *The King and I*.

There is a long boring and conde-

scending chapter about the security guards Keller has hired for his Pattaya bungalow. One sees a ghost and reports the incident this way:

"Ghost sit in palm tree. Watch me. Ooooooh-eeee! Evil come out of palm tree. It make open the gate in mystery. Big ghost float inside say 'Hello'! What can I do? Ooooooh-eeee! Evil spirit try get me. I

no go back working outside till devil-one go bye-bye. Monk need come. Burn incense! Make blessing on house. Chant! Pray!"

Keller is always telling the reader how much he loves Thai people, but you get the sense that they are mostly comical oddities to him.

In other chapters he goes on to tell you how he came to rent his house and adopt "a little doggie" named Miss Moo. He dotes on the mutt with so much sentimental schmaltz you want to strangle the little bitch.

Then he tells you how to get a Thai massage, ending this chapter with: "Take Miss Moo's Wise Advice: Go get a Thai massage!" I mean, how awful can you get?

More awful. He yammers on and on about loutish Pattaya tourists. "Undesirable visitor behavior in any country is unacceptable...For those obnoxious few, common sense seems not to prevail while on holiday in Thailand," he whines from his perch as prissy moralist.

Then he's back on the geriatric tour group beat again, describing a *khantoke* dinner and a hill tribe "cultural show" at the Chiang Mai Cultural Center.

For pure filler he provides pages upon pages of *farang* food items available at Thai supermarkets and an entire chapter on Thai fruits. When will this ever end?

More chapters on Thai holidays and transportation routes and Thai snakes and reptiles. Finally, he lists all the ways to do volunteer vacation work in Thailand, concluding: "Opportunity knocks. Are you listening?"

Hell, no.

Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt



PHUKET DIARY

February 20: Phang Nga Bay Regatta

Join the finale bash for the Phang Nga Bay Regatta! This regatta finale and Chinese New Year party will be held on Nai Harn Beach by the Puravarna Hotels Ltd. Le Royal Meridien Phuket Yacht Club, and promises to be the soiree of the year.

February 24: Lions Latino Night fundraiser

The Lions Club of Phuket Pearl will hold a fundraising "Latin Dance Benefit" night at the new Latino's Restaurant in Nai Harn on February 24.

There will be salsa, merengue and other Latin music and dancing, with a DJ and a solo guitarist providing the rhythm.

Tapas and a special-recipe punch will be served.

Proceeds from the event,

which will start at 6:30 pm, will go toward Lions' projects, including helping children at risk, youth development, education, work rehabilitation and disaster relief.

Tickets, at 500 baht, are available from Latino's (call Jorge at 076-388180), the Phuket Merlin Hotel (K. Yupa, Tel: 076-212866), and Wittaya Sathit School (Dr Supaluck, Tel: 076-226029).

For more information, contact Adrienne Tusoni (Tel: 081-4770342, Email: adriennetusoni@yahoo.com).

February 25: Silk TriBallistic's Extreme Triathlon

Join the third of six Silk TriBallistic Triathlon Series. These events will be held at JW Marriott Phuket Resort and Spa and are designed for athletes ages 6 to 60 and up.

This event will be an Extreme Triathlon, with ocean swims and off-road mountain bike trials.

Junior athletes will compete in a 200-meter ocean swim, 3-kilometer off-road mountain bike trial and a 1.5m run. The senior division will include a 750m ocean swim, a 10km off-road mountain bike trial and a 5km run.

Register online at www.triballisticclub.com; or registration on competition day begins at 7 am, with the triathlon starting at 8 am.

For more information see the website, or email info@triballisticclub.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 and 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.

For more information or tickets, call Maxine (086-9447721) or Joan (087-2820422) or email Maxine at maxandgodders@csloxinfo.com, or visit the Soi Dog website at www.soidog.org

To April 8: Island Furniture Cricket League

The Island Furniture Cricket League is back for its second season, finishing in early April.

Four local teams will play 12 round robin matches with the top two teams playing in the final. Games are 11 a side, 35 overs & played every Sunday during the season. Games are held at Cherng Talay School. Come out and bowl your best or cheer on your favorites!

Contact Mark (scarfy@loxinfo.co.th) for more information or check out the website at www.phuketcricket.com



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Phuket Gazette
- Since 1994 -

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Manage not to waste

Of the numerous infrastructure problems currently facing Phuket, none are more pressing than that of solid-waste management. There is no disputing the basic facts: the total amount of solid waste Phuket produces has grown more than 5% annually over the past decade, resulting in some 460 tons of garbage that currently needs to be burned every day – and about 30% higher during the tourist high season. This is almost double the Saphan Hin incineration plant's rated capacity of 250 tons per day.

Even if Phuket City gets the requested 1 billion baht in funding it desperately needs from the central government to build a second incinerator, the furnace probably won't come online before waste production on the island has exceeded the 500 ton-per-day mark, meaning that it will be overburdened before it is even built.

Making matters worse, the island's only landfill, also at Saphan Hin, has already reached full capacity. Is it any wonder that garbage continues to pile up along roadsides and on private land?

Other problems at the incinerator are well-documented, including the fact that about half of the waste incinerated there is organic, including leftover food, vegetable matter, disposable diapers and their contents – and much more.

Burning these results in incomplete combustion, which reduces burning efficiency and results in the release of dangerous substances – including dioxin – into the environment.

With such a dire situation at hand, one would expect local government agencies to take decisive action – yet there has been little tangible action to address this issue, which is a grave threat to our tourism economy.

One way that the amount of garbage we produce could be trimmed overnight would be to impose a provincial ban on the distribution of advertising circulars by large retailers such as Tesco-Lotus, Big-C, Courts, HomePro and the newest entry Carrefour.

Untold numbers of these unsolicited enticements to buy are spread around the province every day, with most going completely unread before they eventually end up being sold as scrap – or worse – needlessly burned at the incinerator.

All it would take to put a stop to this practice would be a provincial order or a gentleman's agreement among the companies involved, who would still have numerous advertising options to choose from.

If all agreed to end this unsustainable practice, the retail playing field would remain even – and retailers might even be able to pass along the savings to their consumers in the form of lower prices. What better way of attracting shoppers could there possibly be?

– The Editor

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.

Foot and mouth

In reply to the letter "Land of Snarls" (*Gazette*, February 3); Yes, there are some dogs on the island that should be put down, but do not forget that the majority of homeless dogs have been abandoned from as young as five weeks old, left at temples or on the roadside.

People do not bother to get their bitches spayed, hence too many dogs.

There are welfare organizations and volunteers who work very hard catching female dogs, that are then spayed. They also treat sick animals and try to find them new homes whenever possible. Their sole income is from various fundraising activities and public donations.

You state that all dogs in Europe are licensed. This is totally untrue. Having lived in the UK most of my life, where I bred, showed and judged dogs, and also ran a boarding kennel, I can assure you that dogs are not licensed in the UK or most of Europe.

If you are so incensed about this, why not pitch in and help?

Criticism is welcome, but please make it constructive and accurate.

Hilary Duckham
Rawai

Goodbye Phuket, I'm outta here

I used to live in Kamala and loved Phuket, but decided to move to Koh Samui because of one single reason: the daily harassment by the Traffic Police.

Every single day I was stopped on my motorbike and asked to produce my driver's li-

cense, which I sometimes forgot to bring with me, and subsequently had to pay a hefty fine of 300 baht after waiting in line for several minutes at the police booth.

Why is this allowed to happen? I have never seen anything like this in a tourist resort anywhere on the planet, and certainly not in Thailand!

On Koh Samui I have never been a victim to this. Phuket is a police state! And all these roadblocks everywhere... is it war in Phuket?

This really kills all the pleasure of being in Phuket. So now I am enjoying my life and spending my money in a better place.

Bye bye Phuket!

Otto Olsen
Norway

Patong one-way system a mistake

I have been staying in Thailand for four months and have spent most of that time in Patong Beach.

I like this place, but the change to a one-way traffic system – which works well on Koh Samui's smaller roads – does not work here as the traffic is too heavy and too fast.

Pedestrians, the handicapped, children, and the elderly cannot easily cross the busy beach road. Some visitors to Patong do not get to see Patong Beach at all! Tourists talk on the Internet and to other tourists here and they tell each other that the road is too dangerous to cross. They avoid it. This will mean lost business as people go elsewhere.

I suggest some speed bumps to reduce the speed of

vehicles traveling on this road. Tourists and locals, too, will then be able to cross the road more easily and without danger.

No one wants to get hurt crossing the road.

Erwin J van Marle
Patong Beach

Smile and Wai

I read with great interest the article about the policy by officials at Bangkok airport to greet visitors with a smile and a *wai*.

I think this is not only a really great example to other airports in Thailand, but to those around the world.

Of course these people are doing a very important and difficult job, they need to be vigilant, but to be welcomed in this manner after nearly a full day's travel from Scotland would be a reminder of why Thailand is the world's best tourist destination.

Thailand can build as many tourist attractions, luxury hotels or mega-airports for the convenience of foreign visitors as it wants, but none of these can beat the happy smiling faces of the Thai people everywhere you go.

I first visited Thailand last September when I spent two weeks in Patong, and have just returned from my second holiday in January; I am already planning another visit in the summer. I plan to be a regular visitor for many years to come.

I really hope the officials on Phuket review their policy and follow the example shown at Bangkok.

Regardless, I shall smile and say a cheery hello to them.

Jim Robb
Aberdeen, Scotland

Letters conveying views and suggestions are published here. Those seeking comment from government officials or business owners are published as *Issues & Answers* in the *Phuket Gazette* Online.

Teachers need vetting

I agree with the Ministry of Education's policy to enforce strict checks on foreign teachers. This order does not make it harder for us to find English teachers and it allows us to be more confident in our children's safety and education.

All we are concerned about is ensuring that all our teachers have valid visas.

Almost all of the subjects in our English-language program are taught in English. The only exceptions are Thai language, social studies and history, all of which we feel are best taught in Thai as they are very detailed.

Therefore we need well-qualified teachers to run the program. Currently, we have 16 foreign teachers teaching the 234 English Program students. The program runs from grade *matayom* 1 to *matayom* 4 [about 12 to 16 years old].

We already have a strict screening system for foreign teachers applying to work at our school. We require that all teachers must have a degree in the subject they will teach.

For example, a mathematics teacher must have a degree in mathematics. They must also have a reference letter from their previous employer.

We double check the source of all documents to protect against forgeries. If an applicant has worked in any schools in Phuket before, we check their record while they were teaching at that school. Schools here cooperate well together.

We have a committee for recruiting foreign teachers that checks all documents to make sure the applicant is properly qualified.

Most importantly, we try to employ only native English speakers, as parents are keen that their



FIRST PERSON

On September 29 last year the Ministry of Education (MoE) introduced tough new regulations requiring all new teachers to have at least a bachelor's degree and to pass an extensive background check before they can begin work.

The move came following the deportation of American John Mark Karr, a former suspect in the 1996 murder of six-year-old JonBenet Ramsey in Boulder, Colorado, who was employed at a school in Bangkok.

Amnuay Pupatanun, Head of Satee Phuket School's English Program and responsible for screening foreign teachers to be employed by the school, explained to the *Gazette* the measures he takes in checking foreign teachers applying to the program.

children learn correct pronunciation.

When all the documents have been checked and approved we have the applicant teach a trial lesson so that the recruiting committee can be sure he or she can really teach. We consider if the applicant can convey knowledge to students effectively and if he or she can focus on the right aspects of a subject.

After the lesson, we assess the applicant's performance and make suggestions. The committee will then carry out a more detailed interview with the applicant. After that, the committee assembles the results of all the assessment procedures and decides whether to offer a job to the applicant.

Since the MoE ordered stricter background checks to be

made on foreign teachers applying for jobs, we check any applicants against the blacklist on the MoE website that is constantly updated. There are two lists of blacklisted teachers; one for teachers found to have fake qualifications and one for child abusers.

We give new teachers a four-month probation period. During this period, the new teachers are assessed by the students, myself and other management-level teachers. We do not inform teachers beforehand when their lessons will be observed. We also take into account how well they cooperate with other members of staff.

If the new teacher passes the assessments, we offer them a full contract. If we feel there is room for improvement, we will

give them recommendations and extend their probation period. If there is no improvement after the extended period is over, we cancel their contract.

My students have had many foreign English teachers and have told me what they expect and hope for in an English teacher. This information is a great help to us when we are recruiting new teachers or assessing existing ones.

The problem we have in hiring foreign teachers now is that the salary here is lower than in other provinces, especially Bangkok. Here we offer an initial salary of 30,000 baht, but in Bangkok foreign [native English-speaking] teachers start at 40,000 to 50,000 baht.

This means that foreign teachers often don't stay with us

for a long time. We have a very high turnover of employees and are struggling to solve the problem.

We try to offer incentives to keep teachers with us. For example, mathematics and science teachers, when they have passed probation, get 8,000 baht a month extra on top of their salaries. Mathematics and science teachers are the most difficult to find.

We pair foreign teachers with a Thai "buddy" teacher to help them in case they have any problems.

We do have some culture-clash problems, but not so often. We deal with this by holding annual cultural courses for foreign teachers to explain to them how to act and what to expect from Thai students.

If we are short of English Program teachers, we can move teachers from the Thai program or can request teachers from Prince of Songkla University (PSU) to come and help us. If we cannot find native English-speaking teachers, we will accept Thai teachers who hold degrees from abroad or who can communicate well in English. They receive the same salary as foreign teachers.

The high teacher turnover problem could be solved by agreements between the Thai government and foreign governments. For example, the government should introduce a teacher-exchange program to provide Thailand with good teachers from English-speaking countries.

On the whole, the new MoE policy makes us feel confident that we will have good teachers in our schools. This is very good for children and will put parents' minds at rest too.

*Compiled by
Janyaporn Morel*

Where is all the municipal water?

Why is so little municipal water available for big and small hotels on Haad Patong Rd and Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd?

I have been staying in Patong since August and it was the rainiest three months in years. Yet all this time hotels have had to buy water by the truckload so that guests can shower because there has been no municipal water available.

Small hotels are losing money and tourists because Patong Municipality or Kathu Municipality do not provide the basic service of water. The city water runs for maybe 15 minutes each day since high season started November 1. Where's the city water going?

Marvin Falikovic
Patong

Sayan Wareearoonroj, Manager of Phuket Provincial

Want to know how to get something done? Can't understand some of the dafter things that seem to go on in Phuket? Want to pitch an idea to Phuket's authorities or institutions? Then this is the forum for you. Submit your queries or suggestions to us and we'll ask the appropriate people to respond to them.

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

Issues & ANSWERS

Water Supply (PPWS), replies:

For many years Phuket has suffered water shortages during the high season because supply has been insufficient to meet demand. Patong, Kata and Karon have suffered the most. This is why we have built a desalination plant in Karon to help to solve the problem of water shortages in those three areas.

The plant, which is still undergoing testing, is currently producing about 7,000 cubic meters of water a day. We expect the plant to be working at its full capacity of 12,000m³/day by the beginning of March.

If you still suffer water shortages please inform the PPWS office near Phuket Country Club on Wichit Songkram Rd, Kathu, or call 076-321515.

When can we sleep?

This is the third email since December that we have written to the *Gazette* and we cannot understand why the police don't want to help us.

Nothing has changed; every night one or two bars turn up the bass so deep and so loud that it's impossible to sleep.

Many children live in the area and many people who have to work in the morning cannot sleep.

Yesterday they began at 9:30 pm, playing loud music through to 2:15 am.

Many people – taxpayers – have complained in the *Gazette* about bar noise and every time the police say that they want to fix the problem, but nothing has happened – for the fun of only five to 10 drunken tourists, bar girls and the bar owners.

Our lives are not livable here. This is a residential area, not an entertainment area.

Where is the law? Why must bars in Bangkok, Pattaya and all the other provinces close at 1 am, but not here?

Jochen Lauer
Patong

Kathu Police Deputy Superintendent Lt Col Chartchai Nicrodhanond replies:

We sometimes check bars in the Nanai area but we mostly focus on checking bars and entertainment venues on Soi Bangla, because it's a busy area with many bars and many people.

However, I would like to know the bar's name and its location so I can arrange for police officers to take action and warn the owners.

In The Stars

by Isla Star

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): You shouldn't underestimate the power of wishful thinking this week. If you're celebrating a birthday, expect some extra magic when friends spring a pleasant surprise. The year ahead should be a positive time, particularly if you set your sights high. Discard unproductive ideas before they have chance to waste your energy. Tuesday is the luckiest day for making a romantic approach; Leo will appreciate your honesty. Wear an opal stone to promote reflection.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Where romance is concerned, you have been seeing only what you want to see. You are advised to face up to the facts

you know to be true. If travel is imminent, it's essential to double check important details before you set off as there could be unexpected drawbacks this week. Someone's hot-headed mood could cramp your style at work early next week.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): If you have been on the receiving end of mixed romantic messages you need to get to the bottom of this matter. The stars will back your efforts to set the record straight this weekend. If you're not achieving all that you should at work, consider exploring other directions. Gemini can offer support by introducing you to someone with influence. The number 8 can bring good fortune on Thursday.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Postal delays could cause you to be in a frustrated mood this week, but there's no point in charging like a bull in a china shop. The astrological atmosphere appears positive regarding finances, although personal relationships will be subject to a few storm clouds until the end of the month. Meditate on what is really important in your life to

get priorities right. The scent of orange oil will encourage clear vision.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): A merry mood means that you will be on the lookout for some fun and games this weekend. Invite an Arian friend to paint the town red; Aquarius will only cramp your style. Your high energy during the last days of February means that much can be accomplished, so dare to go out on a limb and investigate new money-making possibilities. Number 3 can bring luck on Monday.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): If you are suffering from unrequited love you will find a valid reason to move on this week. Whether this comes from a new love interest or work project you will be amazed at how much more positive you feel about life in general. If you're planning an overseas trip, be realistic about how much money you can afford to spend. The month of March could spring an unwelcome financial surprise.

LEO (July 24-August 22): You will be burning with enthusiasm for a new project this week. While success is indicated, there are a few detours to be negotiated along the way. Sagittarius and Pisces are likely to be the ones you can count on, but Aquarius has their head in the clouds and will make empty promises. Your love life could use some extra sparkle; try springing a sensual surprise on your partner this weekend.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Your usual down to earth approach to affairs of the heart won't work as well this week. Someone would like you to express your feelings in a creative way, and is likely to become bored very soon if you can't do this. Having your own way at work is also likely to provide some stress; be prepared to accept that you can't always be right. Wear the color chocolate to encourage a more mellow mood.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Variety is the spice of life for you during the final days of February. One of your New Year's resolutions was probably to become more creatively fulfilled and you should see sure signs of this happening now. If you are single, you will benefit from making an approach to an attractive newcomer on the scene. The number 7 can bring luck this weekend.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Your self-esteem is rising as the year progresses. This probably has something to do with the fact that your talents are being appreciated by people who matter. Many Scorpios are probably considering a career move and this will be influenced by nurturing astral conditions for several weeks to come. Only romance is subject to a rocky path; you are advised to be on the lookout for gold diggers.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Your thirst for adventure and travel is about to be quenched if you are brave enough to accept an unusual invitation or proposal. If you feel safer staying in a familiar environment, you will only have yourself to blame for being bored. Any doubts you may have can easily be satisfied by doing some simple research. Saturday is an important day for resolving a romantic dilemma, but make sure that this matter is kept very private.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Planning and preparation are two of your most useful skills. If you know how to use them to best advantage, you will be ahead of the game this week. Where work is concerned, restrictions are due to be lifted and you will discover the sky is the limit. A former partner has turned over a new leaf and there is a possibility that romance could be rekindled. Wear the color bronze to enhance your earthy appeal.

It was 1950. As we looked into a starlit, satellite-free sky with a round moon, my mother said, "Johnnie, you are special. As a human being, you are the most remarkable machine we know, the result of a billion years of evolution. Every human is special, a god in our own universe."

"You are so special you can do anything you want. You set your own limits, and if you set no limits, you have no boundaries."

"Someday, if you really want to, you can even fly to the moon – as long as you never forget you are nothing but an overgrown monkey!"

In the universal scheme, we really aren't that much more important than any other species – but we are the only species which can really muck things up. And that we do very well.

Fifty-seven years on, this all came home to me in two mid-January days, right on my own soi. Somebody who had never heard of the Phuket Animal Welfare Society dropped a bitch and her litter amongst the rubber trees.

Coming home from work, my busy soi was peppered with puppies so young they had no vehicle awareness. Maneuvering motorbikes became something like a computer game, the mother obviously concerned but unable to control the puppies. Luckily, none were grease spots... yet.

I realized these were unwanted dogs. The mother was living in double distress – because she wasn't spayed she had lost her home (perhaps a good thing), and now was worried about her pups.

I called the Soi Dog Foundation and found there was no more room at the inn. I begged and pleaded – our house has 17 strays already – despite living in the jungle, our inn is also full. After a little finagling and flattery, the Soi Dog field team of K. Sanae and K. Nok found temporary space at the Phuket Animal Hospital. A rendezvous was arranged and we captured the five pups hiding in thick vegetation.

I felt good. It was a successful collection, with not one puppy going under car wheels.

But I had another job in



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Creating a culture of respect for life

THE GRAY AREA



By John 'Caveman' Gray

hand – feeding a captured white-bellied sea eagle.

The juvenile white-belly came to my attention a month earlier when neighbors tried to sell me the bird. They had rescued the raptor from a man who had sling-shot it in the rubber trees.

When I first saw the eagle, its wings were seriously clipped – a maiming akin to a human having both legs chopped off.

I refuse to buy wildlife, but I fed the bird every day and massaged it with love. They finally “gave” me the eagle.

I was elated, but disturbed. It takes six months for the primary feathers to come back, and the eagle wants to soar above the clouds. Instead, it's in jail.

I haven't been to Patong at night for years, but I hear the wildlife touts are out in force, walking past police patrols despite laws meant to control them.



The white-bellied eagle wants to soar, but its wings have been clipped so, instead, it is in jail.

So what's going on? Despite the hard work of groups like PAWS and Soi Dog, people still abandon dogs. I would never call the “pound” in America, but Soi Dog hosts animals for life – nothing like the “In-Humane Society,” the cost-effective American way, where good dogs are executed after just three days.

We build Phuket's biggest and busiest roads, where dogs run free until they get hit, but we don't finish the job by adequately funding Soi Dog Foundation and PAWS. It's common knowledge that wildlife laws are woefully enforced in Thailand, but nobody blows the whistle.

Why aren't the Thai-language media doing their job? Commercial viability comes with a price: social responsibility. A few public service announcements are in order – people can't learn unless they are informed.

Maybe it's time to bond our

community with an organized and comprehensive community fund. The basis would be contributions – no matter how small – from every business and employee on the island. Ten baht a month would be enough for the minimum contribution.

Such an effort is more about awareness than money, but the money is still necessary to create a bit of commitment.

First, Phuket community leaders must come together for a common goal – making Phuket more livable, socially- and environmentally-aware, and attractive for tourists.

Such an effort requires dialog – well-publicized dialog. If community-proud Phuket leaders would discuss these issues, they would discover that others also care. In the process, a beneficial social plan would develop. That's how a sense of community can evolve.

Once a social agenda is developed, people still need to know their money is well-spent. The best guarantee is citizen review committees, where icons and housewives review budget requests and follow the money to make sure it is corruption-free and well-spent. Yes, even Thai society can be corruption-free – we just need highly visible and transparent citizen committees to ensure it.

Then, the money must be spent effectively. A few years ago, I was on the board of a major non-governmental organization (NGO) – the only board member in history who actually did site reviews of the programs. The NGO did nothing, so I

dropped out. They can't do the same with a panel of 20 citizens who will yank their funding if programs aren't effective.

Finally, fund-raising requires social pressure – and that means publicity. When issues become publicized, it is harder to ignore them. Dog-deserters, reckless drivers and parents who don't provide their children with motor-bike helmets need to be given a message from neighbors, co-workers and through the media.

In only 15 years, Mayor Edward Hagedorn worked a miracle in Puerto Princesa – a provincial town in the Philippines. Starting with no money and a policy of zero tolerance for corruption, Hagedorn convinced his constituents that brooms are good for the environment, that traffic laws exist for a reason, and that stray dogs are not just unsightly, but the responsibility of humans.

He virtually eliminated corruption by creating transparency. By setting a positive example, he dramatically cut drug use and crime motivated by peer pressure.

Mayor Hagedorn proved that even in Asia, people will care, once they become aware.

Does Phuket have the courage to do the same?

Prove it! Soi Dog's number is Tel: 087-0508688 and PAWS is Tel: 076-264504. Contributions are gratefully accepted by both.



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KHUN WOODY'S COMPUTER

Fixing Vista - Already

The first round of bug fixes for Windows Vista are available. Chances are good that if you use Vista, you haven't received automatic notification of their existence.

You can see them if you click Start | All Programs | Windows Update and then in the upper left corner click the top line, which says Check for Updates. At this point, I recommend that Vista users download and install the available updates. Pass on the language packs, unless you really need them.

If you buy a new Vista-compatible computer, you should NOT assume that you have the latest video driver.

If you have a high tolerance for pain and decide to upgrade a Windows XP machine to Vista, make sure you start with the Windows Upgrade Advisor. It will help point you to the right video driver.

Regardless of which path you choose to Vista enlightenment, once Vista is up and running, drop by your video card manufacturer's website to make sure you have the latest video driver.

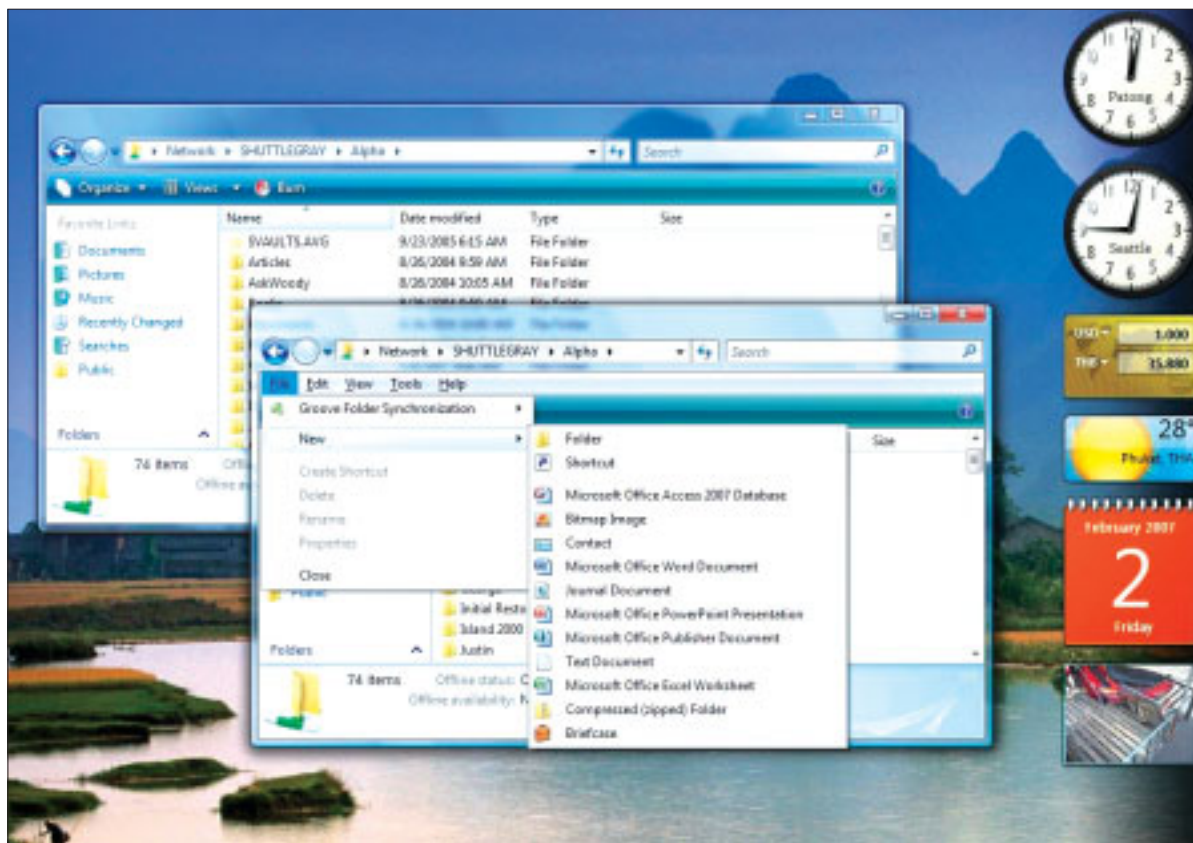
In the past, I've warned people about installing the latest, greatest video drivers, because they had a tendency to create more problems than they solved.

For the next few months, though, you should keep up with the latest versions of the video drivers, as the manufacturers (working with Microsoft) swat Vista bugs left and right.

For NVIDIA Vista drivers start at: www.nvidia.com/content/drivers/drivers.asp

For ATI drivers start at: <http://ati.amd.com/support/driver.html>

Intel's site is harder to navigate, but start at: download



NEW ORDER: Windows Vista's fancy new Explorer doesn't display the classic menus File, Edit, View and so on (left), but you can bring them back if you know the right tweaks.

finder.intel.com/scripts-df-external/Support_Intel.aspx

Not sure which brand of video card you have? In Vista, click Start | Control Panel, then click the System and Maintenance link. Scroll down to the Device Manager icon and click the View Hardware and Devices link. Then double-click on Display Adapters.

Menus: If you've used Windows XP for more than a week, you've undoubtedly had occasion to dig into Windows Explorer's menus. To map a network drive, for example, click Tools, Map a Network Drive. To Undo a copy or a Rename, click Edit, Undo. To have Windows show filename extensions or hidden folders,

choose Tools, Folder Options, View. You can even use Windows XP Explorer's menus to move up one level in the folder hierarchy: View, Go To, Up One Level. All of those are simple actions with Windows XP's Explorer. Just click on the right menu, and it's done lickety-split.

But when you try the same things with Vista, it doesn't work the same way. There aren't any menus. You hunt and click and peck and swear, and ten minutes later come up empty-handed: things that are easy to do in Windows XP's Explorer just aren't possible in Vista's Explorer. Or at least it appears that way.

Where did Vista's Explorer menus go? That's easy, grasshopper. Microsoft hid them to protect you. Over the course of years, Windows menus in general (and Microsoft Office menus in particular) grew into malevolent, gruesome, sprawling and illogical monsters. Instead of

cleaning up the menus, the Powers That Be employed the Red Queen approach: Off With Their Heads!

In the latest incarnations of Microsoft products, menus appear in some places, don't appear in others, straddle the fence occasionally, and make a mournful sucking noise here and there.

Several of the new Office applications have done away with menus completely – you can't get them back for love nor money. But other Office 2007 apps will only work if you deign to click the menus.

Outlook 2007 demonstrates the Emperor's new clothes big-time: Outlook itself only works with menus, but its email editor (Word 2007 in drag) hasn't a menu to its name. It's like watching Michael Moore saunter down the runway at Gucci's spring fashion show.

So how do you get Vista's Explorer to show you menus? It's

easy. Press the Alt key. That brings Windows Explorer's menus back, putting them front and center where the Windows Gods intended. (The same trick works in Internet Explorer.)

Unfortunately, pressing the Alt key doesn't bring the menus back permanently. In fact, if you click just about anywhere inside the Explorer window, Vista takes it upon itself to turn the menus off again. Fortunately, there's a quick way to make the menus appear all the time. Here's how:

1. Inside Vista, bring up Windows Explorer (say, click Start, Documents or Start, Computer).
2. Press the Alt key. That brings up the menus.
3. Click Tools, Folder Options. Then click the View tab.
4. Near the top, check the box that says Always Show Menus.
5. While you're here, make Vista show you hidden files and folders (click the button marked Show Hidden Files and Folders); make Vista show you filename extensions (in all of my books I rant about Microsoft's stupid design decision to hide filename extensions - uncheck the box marked Hide Extensions for Known File Types); and have Vista show you all of your files (uncheck the box marked Hide Protected Operating System Files (Recommended) - note that you have to click through a Warning dialog box).
6. Click OK.

Congratulations. You've just taken off Vista Explorer's training wheels. More Vista tips are coming in the weeks ahead.

When he isn't writing computer books and magazine and newsletter articles, Woody Leonhard (woody@khunwoody.com, www.askwoody.com) runs Khun Woody's Bakery and the Sandwich Shoppe in Patong.

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ON THE MOVE

Bangkok-born **Sirisopa Shuchit** has been appointed Spa Manager at Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort. K. Sirisopa's experience includes working as Spa Director at the Sheraton Saigon in Vietnam, Managing Director of the Samadhi Wellness Centre in Krabi, and Wellness and Spa Manager at Sila Evason Hideaway & Spa on Koh Samui.



Canadian **Genevieve Pardoe**, 25, has been appointed Marketing Communications Manager of Le Meridien Khao Lak Beach & Spa Resort. A graduate in art history at Queen's University in Kingston, Canada, and in international studies at that university's annex at Herstmonceux in Sussex, England. Ms Pardoe has traveled throughout Asia for more than two years, and has worked in Seoul and most recently in Bangkok, where she was Public Relations Manager with publishing firm WPP.



Phuket native **Srisuda Ngakaew**, 30, joined the Watermark Bar and Restaurant in October 2002, and has since earned successive promotions, first to Supervisor and now to Restaurant Assistant Manager. Before joining the Watermark, K. Srisuda, who has a bachelor's degree in tourism from Phuket Rajabhat University, worked for five years as a hostess at the Thavorn Beach Village & Spa.



Tourism bosses head for Berlin

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET: The Phuket Tourist Association (PTA) and the Tourism Authority of Thailand's (TAT) Southern Region 4 office will once again be sending representatives to the International Tourism Bourse (ITB) in Berlin on March 7 to 11.

The Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*Or-Bor-Jor*) has provided a 2 million baht budget for the booth and decorations at the event, which annually draws nearly 7,500 exhibitors from 190 countries.

This comes on the heels of the TAT's decision to reduce the tourist-arrival target for the country from 20 million to 16 million as the organization re-evaluates its tactics. Newly appointed TAT Governor Pornsiri Manoharn said that the original target was too high and did not match the goal of becoming a leading world destination in terms of quality.

Phuket, however, will still aim for 4.7 million tourists, the same as last year, said Suwalai Pinpradab, Director of TAT's Southern Region 4 office.

"We lost many tourists after the tsunami – there were only about two million in 2005 – but the number of tourists increased in 2006 to about 4.7 million, which was almost the same as the year before the tsunami," she said.

The government's policy for this year is to emphasize quality tourists, but K. Suwalai said that Phuket already draws high-quality tourists as the cost of living in and visiting Phuket is high, especially in hotel prices.

"The other quality tourists are those concerned with the environment and natural resources conservation. We now have Scandinavians who are conscientious about environmental conservation, as we can see some groups are coming here to plant trees," she said.

TAT also has a goal of tourists in Phuket spending an average of 4,000 baht per person per day, an increase from last year's goal of 3,700 baht.

"In our region we emphasize nature tourism, entertainment, shopping and sports activities. At the same time, we still want to promote medical tourism,

as we did last year, because we are only successful in dental cosmetic and plastic surgery, but we still can promote the other medical treatments as well," she said.

K. Suwalai said that the tourism authorities in Phuket are striving to bring in tourists throughout the year, not just during the traditionally high-tourist season. The Scandinavian market is expected to be the main market in the rainy season, while TAT has opened new markets in many countries in Asia, especially India, that are emphasizing meetings and weddings.

The TAT is also looking to South Korea, which has consistently provided visitors year-round.

"We are now starting to see good results from Japan, and we are starting to see results from the Asian and the Middle Eastern market from July to September. Another key region is the Australian market, which is becoming stronger as it's very easy to travel here with the increasing number of direct flights," she said.

"We are now also starting to market to the Benelux group such as Belgium, Netherlands and France, which is getting a good trend in Phuket and Khao Lak. After ITB, we will have a road show to these three countries," she said.

"Our staff from TAT will be responsible for our booth, while hotel representatives will meet

customers who they have contacted and made appointments with. ITB is a good opportunity for tourism operators to meet their customers directly, and our exhibition booths can seat about 20 operators," she added.

Adisorn Sitthiwong, General Manager of Club Andaman Beach Resort, who will also join the ITB exhibition, told the *Gazette* that ITB is the pinnacle of tourism events throughout the year for tourism operators.

"We will go to update our marketing information, and we also have a new improved presentation to introduce to our customers. We will present our products at the PTA booth and we also have appointments scheduled with our customers," he said.

"Our goal is still to emphasize the European market, which is our biggest source of customers. We also want to encourage long-stay guests while retaining old customers too," he added.



Phuket will aim for 4.7 million tourists, the same as last year, says local TAT Director Suwalai Pinpradab.

VITAL STATISTICS: LIMITED COMPANY REGISTRATIONS PLUMMET BY HALF

Type	Dec 2004	Dec 2005	Dec 2006	% change 2005-06
Limited company registrations	75	103	53	-48.54%
Limited partnership registrations	20	19	24	26.32%
Limited companies changed	251	310	370	19.35%
Limited partnerships changed	36	30	35	16.67%
Companies deregistered	14	42	24	-42.86%
Partnerships deregistered	12	18	11	-38.89%

Source: Phuket Provincial Business Development Office.

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Do Not Drink Tap Water!

Readers often email me requesting details of my portfolio management service and the returns that can be expected.

The answer is anything but straightforward as there are many variables involved. In short, returns hinge on two major factors: the individual's needs and attitudes, and what the future will bring.

Portfolio managers often talk about an asset mix of 65% equities, 30% bonds and 5% cash, or 75%, 20% and 5%. These combinations lack imagination, and in the period from 2000 to 2003 they were a recipe to lose money. Some investors who chose this mix are yet to fully recover, and some investment houses have now added commercial property to their asset mix.

I do not understand the attraction of bonds. Yields on 10-year government bonds vary from slightly more than 4% on 10-year "bunds" (German government bonds denominated in euros) to currently 4.8% on their US equivalent, and just under 5% on UK 10-year "gilts".

Why invest in bonds when

there are alternatives that provide double the returns without the risk? Emerging market bonds might be considered different from bonds in general as returns have been high, but I still think an exit strategy is essential.

Most investors look at investments as assets – cash, equities, bonds or property – with the hope they will rise in value. However, as I have said time and again, prices rise and fall for commodities and assets of all descriptions, including the aforementioned, and currencies fluctuate. The world is not nearly as stable and predictable as we would like.

It is worthwhile to at least consider the proposition that to enter the field of investment while simply expecting any asset to rise in value is going to depend on lady luck. History has shown that during some periods it has been a successful strategy, but during others it has been at the very least a frustrating and a painful experience.

For example, consider the

Strategy shifts see profits made on falling prices

American Dow Jones Index over the past century. The index managed to reach the 1,000 level in the late 1920s, but in 1929 it crashed. It was not until 1951 that the Dow hit 1,000 again, and from 1964 to 1981 it increased in value by just one point – not even 1%. For most of this period it was falling, despite periods of high inflation in the late 1970s. In short, over a 17-year period investors lost money in real terms – which means a lot of money.

Therefore, it would seem

logical to have an investment strategy that not only tries to profit on rising investment values, but also when prices are falling. There is a shift in the minds of many away from the idea of an "absolute return" strategy and towards making profits regardless of market situations.

This approach is via trading strategies, usually by using funds.

While not every asset class is appropriate for this approach – property is a perfect example – many other asset and commodities classes are routinely used in this fashion and have been for decades.

In my opinion, the fund approach is the only route to take; it gives transparency and a regulatory discipline.

Currencies, stocks, bonds, hard and soft commodities all make for easy inclusion into a long or short fund. Some managers will use a wide range of options, others will limit the range on purpose.

Assets in a fund are often capped at, say, US\$100 million (about 3.5 trillion baht). Some fund managers are comfortable with this level of investment, as they are able to maneuver their portfolios to avoid being so large that they become the market itself. Small, in relative terms, enables flexibility.

Investment management at

"the coal face" usually entails much research and a continual review of the investment portfolio. There is another route, however. It still involves detailed research, but the ongoing investment is controlled by a computer. This is called "emotionless trading".

This week's article merely touches the surface of strategies that profit on falling asset prices as well as rising prices. Next week I will look at several examples, which vary from the merely profitable to the exceptional. The approach will not be suitable for everyone, but it can be extremely profitable.

Capital controls in Thailand have led to many unexpected consequences, one of them being a currency "tennis match" involving after-hours trading in the baht, commonly called "offshore trading".

The baht has been moving strongly upward overnight, then

at the start of each business day the Bank of Thailand (Central Bank) has intervened to drive the value of the baht down to around 35.75 to 36 to the US dollar.

Initially the percentage movement was limited to around 2%. Bloomberg even commented that diminished liquidity was driving the baht up, not speculation.

However, by early February, it appeared that speculators had noted the strength of the baht in offshore trading and overnight currency appreciation started growing higher. At the time of writing this had raised the baht to about 33-34 to the US\$1. It has become so predictable that the currency is moving in wide bands on a daily basis.

What is also happening is that when people remit money to Thailand from overseas, the Thai banks are converting it at the overnight rate. This allows them to pay much less in baht than would be the case if they waited until the Bank of Thailand en-

tered the market in the morning.

No doubt every Thai bank would deny using this strategy. In reality, it is such an easy route to make a 5% to 7% profit as to be irresistible.

The baht is facing market forces that want to move the currency higher. It is a very complex issue, but it shows that central banks find it almost impossible to resist strong market trends.

The Malaysians are facing a similar situation, but their reaction has been different. They are emphatic that they will not introduce capital controls but are content to simply intervene to stop their currency appreciating too rapidly.

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.



MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson



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ACYC sets race series dates

PHUKET: The Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) has announced the race dates for its Keelboat and Multihull Race Series 2007, as well as other key dates on Phuket's yachting calendar.

Race dates for the series are: March and 25, April and 22, June and 24, July 15, August and 19, September and 23, October and 23, and November 4 and 18.

Other key dates on the calendar are: May 4 to 8 Top of the Gulf Regatta (Pattaya), May 13 ACYC Dinghy Match Racing, May 27 to June 2 Koh Samui International Regatta, July 2 to 9 Taser World Championships, July 19 to 22 Phuket Race Week, November 16 to 24 Raja Muda Regatta (Malaysia), November 30 ACYC Series Presentation night and December 1 to 8 King's Cup Regatta.

For more information call Tony Knight at 01-7470074 or visit www.acycphuket.com.

PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

Panic for Piccadilly

PATONG: Piccadilly survived a scare on the road by coming back from 2-4 down to sweep the doubles and beat Beach House 5-4, also taking the beer leg.

Second-place Queen Mary kept their lead to just two points with a 7-2, 3-point win on the road at Didi's.

In that match, Lars was the hero in the beer leg, checking out on a X20 after Didi's failed to close on a very unlucky X13, despite a 200-point lead.

For dart players in the Kata-Karon area, there are at least two bars you can play at without coming all the way over to Patong.

One is The Frog bar in Kata, about half-way up Thaina Rd on the left heading away from the 5-way junction. They have a proper oche, and lots of good Swede players hang out there in the high season.

In Karon, the place to play is Blue Bar, run by sharpshooter

Tony – one of the best players in the Patong Darts League.

It's on the first small soi on the left as you head up Patak Rd, away from the beach, in a small labyrinth of beer bars located in front of CS Resort.

If any other bars on the island have an active darts scene, please feel free to tell us about it at: darts@phuketgazette.net

February 6 results: Didi's 2 Queen Mary* 7; Beach House 4 Piccadilly* 5; Valhalla 0 Offshore* 9; Coyote Bar* 3 Dogs Bollocks 6 (* = winner of beer leg).

Standings: 1. Piccadilly (28 pts.); 2. Queen Mary (26); 3. Coyote Bar (22); 4.= Didi's, Offshore (19); 6. Dogs Bollocks (17); 7. Valhalla (11); 8.= Beach House, Funky Monkey (7).

February 20 matchups: Beach House v Didi's; Piccadilly v Valhalla; Coyote Bar v Offshore; Dogs Bollocks v Funky Monkey; Queen Mary has a bye.



Sliding toward defeat: A tug o' war team finds the opposition too strong.

Surat teams dominate games for the blind

By Sompratch Saowakhon

SAPHAN HIN: More than 100 athletes ran, kicked, pulled and threw their way to victory in the Andaman Games February 7 and 8, all without the use of their eyes.

Seeing-impaired or blind participants from Thailand's 14 southern provinces joined in the Andaman Games for the Blind at the Saphan Hin sports complex where they competed for bragging rights, trophies and cash prizes.

Six events were on offer with participants from Surat Thani dominating their regional adversaries.

Phuket's team won the tug-of-war event and grabbed the 5,000-baht prize. The checkers event was also won by the local champion who garnered a 3,000-baht award.

The 100-meter dash and

1,000 baht was won by a participant from Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

The Surat Thani teams conquered the competition in the futsal, 100-meter relay race, and "goal ball" and won cash prizes of 5,000, 3,000 and 5000 baht respectively. Goal ball is a three-a-side game developed for blind

players that uses a rubber ball with a bell inside.

The object of the game is to score by passing the ball across the opposing team's goal line.

The sports festival was sponsored by the Thailand Association for the Blind, Southern Region.

Date set for int'l marathon

PHUKET CITY: The Second Phuket International Marathon, the biggest long distance endurance run in Southeast Asia, is scheduled for June 17 according to a recent announcement by organizers Go Adventure Asia.

About 4,000 competitors from 40 countries are expected to compete, an increase from last year's 2,000 runners.

There will be five distances:

marathon (42 kilometers), half-marathon (21 km), 10-km fun run, 5-km walk and 1-km children's run.

The event will wind up with a party and awards ceremony on Sunday night in the Columbia Garden at the Dusit Laguna Resort.

Reduced registration fees are available until April 1, and more information is available at www.phuketmarathon.com

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Title fights to showcase Thailand's best boxers

By Scott Mallon

BANGKOK: Thailand will host two World Boxing Council (WBC) world championship prizefights in March, one pitting top-ranked Thais against each other.

On March 2, superbantamweights Napapol Kittisakchokchai (40-2, 36 KOs) and Saenghiran Lookbanyai (20-0, 15 KOs) will meet to determine who will receive a shot at the world championship currently held by Israel Vazquez.

"Saenghiran and Napapol are ranked number one and two in the WBC and the matching of these two outstanding Thais in an interim title contest is a historic occasion," said WBC Vice-President Pol Gen Kovid Bhakdibhummi.

Also in March, number-one ranked Thai strawweight Oleydong Sithsamerchai faces number-two ranked Omar Soto of Puerto Rico.

Both bouts are interim championship title fights, which are normally held when a champion is injured or in a legal predicament. However, the WBC has judged the bouts worthy of championship status in appreciation of the HM The King's 80th birthday later this year.

Should Sithsamerchai win, he would then challenge current champion Eagle Kyowa (17-1, 6 KOs) for the world title. Kyowa, a Thai now fighting out of Japan, has defended his belt three times since winning it from Katsunari Takuyama in August 2005.

Recently, at the annual Asian Boxing Council (ABCO) conference, Gen Bhakdibhummi declared six Thai fighters ready for WBC title fights: Napapol



HEAVY HITTERS: Saenghiran Lookbanyai (right) and Napapol Kittisakchokchai pose with the WBC belt they are competing for.

Kittisakchokchai, Saenghiran Lookbanyai, Oleydong Sithsamerchai, Chonlatarn Piriapinyo, Devid Lookmahanak and Sirimongkol Singwancha.

The Kittisakchokchai-Lookbanyai match promises to be an explosive one. Lookbanyai has knocked out 75% of his foes while Kittisakchokchai's KOs stand at 90%. Kittisakchokchai, 28, has the edge in experience and has fought one world-class fight, losing to Oscar Larios in 2003 when he challenged for the WBC Superbantamweight title. He's gone on to rack up 17 straight victories since the loss and briefly held the WBC International title.

At 26, Lookbanyai has the chin to stand up to his opponent's heavy fists and may be the fresher of the two.

Both fighters have faced relatively soft opposition during their careers. Neither fighter is

on the *Ring Magazine* (US) nor the *Boxing Monthly* (UK) rankings, and regardless of the winner current champion Israel Vasquez stands to keep the title.

ABCO champion and WBC number 6 featherweight Piriapinyo passed his toughest test in September, winning a hard-fought, but unanimous, decision over former WBC Superbantamweight champion Yoddamrong Sityodtong.

The undefeated fighter from Chon Buri has defended his ABCO belt 12 times and hopes to get a chance at a title later in the year.

Superflyweight Lookmahanak worked his way up to WBC number 2 by winning his first 15 fights. The 115-pounder was ABCO's Fighter of the Year in 2006, but will be hard pressed to defeat WBC champion Christian Mijares or number 1 Mexican superstar Jorge Arce.

Roberts keeps Langkawi title

By Chris Husted

MALAYSIA: Former King's Cup winner Ray Roberts and his crew on *Uluvalu* have successfully defended their title in the IRC Racing class at the Royal Langkawi International Regatta, held from February 4 to 9.

Roberts finished the class's eight races with five first places and three seconds to relegate Frank Pong on *Jelik* to second place, while Rolf Heemskerk on *Yo!2* finished third.

Despite not placing in the racing class, Phuket did well in the remaining classes, leading with David Lindahl's Phuket-based *La Samudra* winning the IRC1 class, ahead of Malaysia's Ng Heng Li on *Gapurna Mat Salle* in second place and fellow Malaysian Mohd Faiz B Norizan on *Gapurna Mas Ayu II* in third. Last year *La Samudra* won the Premier Racing class.

Mike Downard's *Sail in Asia* team from Ao Yon won the Sports boat class, ahead of Aus-

tralian Warwick Heath's MYCQ team. Mohd Razali B Mansor's Navy 2 team finished third in the class.

The MYCQ team also won top honors in the Sports (under 25 years) class, while Malaysia's Hazman Hazim R Dermawan and his MYA crew finished second.

Teiki Ballian and his South Thailand Youth Team snapped up third place.

Back as defending champions of the Multi-hull Racing class, Roger Kingdon and his crew on *Moto Inzi* had the edge in the one-design Racing Multi-hull (Firefly) class, comprising an all-Phuket-built fleet, with five first-place finishes.

Henry Kaye's *Mamba* came second in the class, with Bill Phelps's *Twin Sharks* third.

Other winners: Premier Multihull, Bob Brindley, *Xcatriot*; Club Cruising, John Ramsden, *Sofa So Good*; Club Cruising (Ocean Rover), Kevan Perrins, *Rusalka*.

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Construction Update

by Semacote Suganya

Stylish new apartments in Chalong

The Pier, located next to Chalong Bay, is under construction and a two-bedroom show apartment is expected to be opened in March.

Twenty “ultra-chic” apartments and four penthouse suites with private roof decks will sit on a plot of nearly two rai. Construction began in October of 2006 and is expected to be completed by October of 2007.

One of several Richmond Group projects, the four-story development will include a beach-side cafe, jazz bar, roof-top cocktail bar, gym and spa – all with views of Chalong Bay.

The apartments were designed by internationally-renowned architect Sim Boon Young of Eco ID Architect and Design in Singapore. The concept was to create an environment of relaxation in an open-air living space.

“The quality of the design and the ultimate finish will be unmatched,” Richmond Group Sales Executive Nathaniel Bibby told the *Gazette*.

Mr Bibby added that the



Above: Computer model of the apartments on the waterfront at Chalong. Right: Deck, pool, ocean – the right combination.

apartments are designed to accentuate the views of Chalong Bay through the use of glass and an open floor plan. “The decking

and the swimming pool area flow directly onto the beachfront. As such, the views to the ocean and outlying islands will be completely uninterrupted.”

All the units will range from 80 square meters to 160sqm, each with a balcony facing the bay. Prices will range from 10 to 35 million baht. A furniture package, if desired, can be added to the purchase.

“We chose the location here because of the view and the beachfront, which allows for a 24-meter-long swimming pool and sea views from all the residences, as well as for the popularity of the Chalong area. The customer attraction here is our location, the sea view, the convenience and quality of our facilities, and from some points of view, of investment.

“When buying a property from the Richmond Group, each buyer will receive a Richmond Privilege Card providing access to all of our facilities around the island,” said Mr Bibby.

The open-air apartments accommodate the sea breeze and are carefully designed to provide views of the beach and the sea. White-washed walls, white-



stained furniture and raw timber floorboards set the mood. Diaphanous drapes dress the large window openings.

“The design will flow like an artist’s studio, with all the doors sliding open so the breeze can pass through,” Mr Bibby added.

The target groups for the project are young professionals from Hong Kong, Singapore and Dubai and older people seeking retirement homes.

The complex will consist of four floors. On the ground floor there are eight 80-sqm units with one bedroom and one bathroom. The second floor will have two of the 80-sqm units and four 120-sqm units with two bedrooms and two bathrooms. The third floor

will have four of the 120-sqm units and one larger 160-sqm unit with three bedrooms and three bathrooms.

The fourth floor will have four 120-sqm units each with two bedrooms with a roof sala and two bathrooms and one larger 160-sqm unit with three bedrooms, a roof sala and three bathrooms.

The fourth floor units all will have penthouses and roof access. These will be a lift to access each floor.

“All the Richmond group projects have the best quality and materials. Our company motto is ‘the finest property in the finest location’. We want to provide the best possible quality,” Mr Bibby said.



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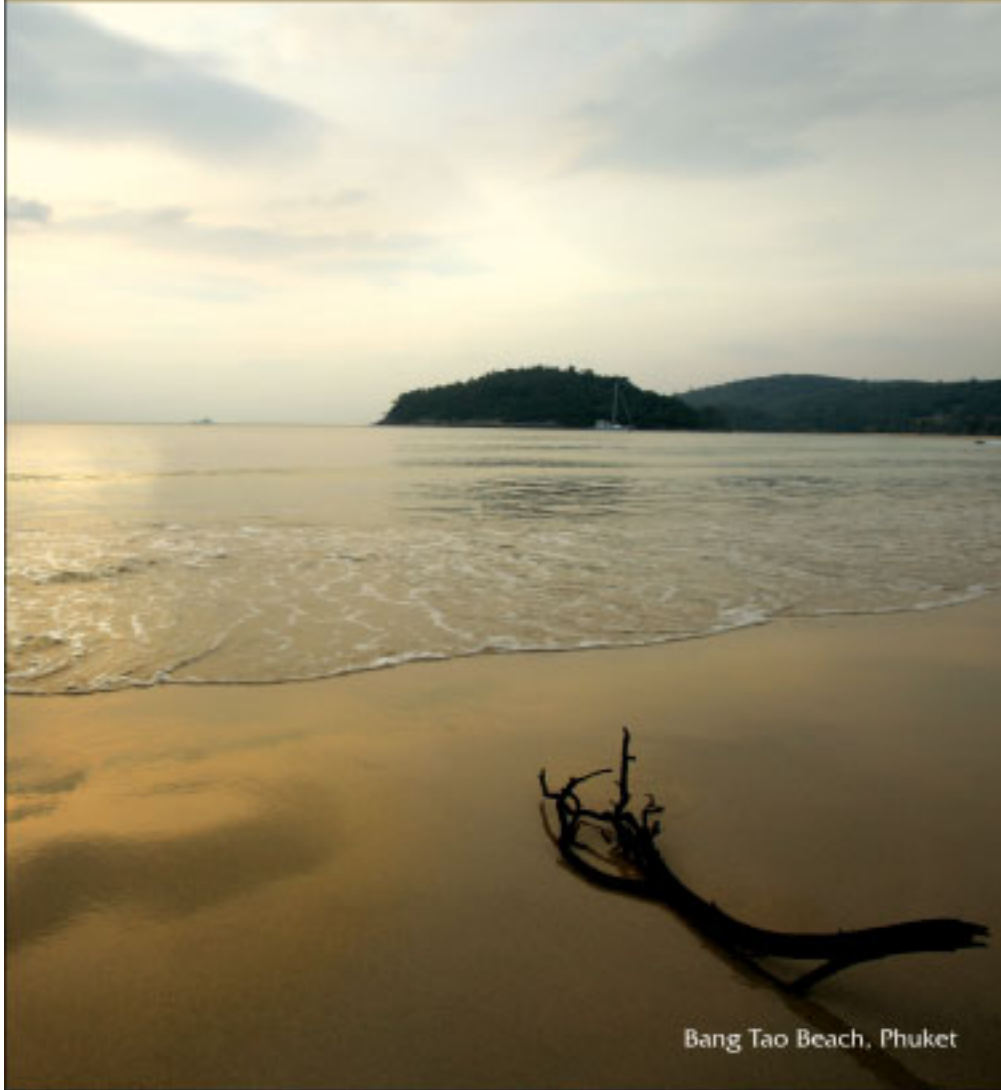
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Out of the box

Many people would not have looked twice at the townhouse. Although the home, in Land & Houses Park, behind Wat Chalong, was built on the bank of an old tin mine lagoon and has scenic views of the hills to the west, it is one of many identical homes built as part of a project.

But Somporn "Zhu" Trakarnboonchai saw the building and had different ideas. It had fired her imagination. She has since transformed the house from an enclosed block to a home of open space and creative ideas.

K. Zhu has studied interior design over the past few years as part of her career change from being an antique and silver dealer. In remodeling the home, which took some five months, she elicited advice from many artisan friends.

High on her list of priorities was creating the impression of much more space from a standard townhouse five meters wide and 21m long, on a 210-square-meter plot. "Many townhouses have 'fixed space' and are designed to make you feel like you're living in a box.

"Here, we changed all that by removing all the ceiling panels to make the house airy, spacious, well-ventilated," said K. Zhu, adding that the renovation included knocking down several walls to create more open space.

After knocking out the partitions, K. Zhu used different colors and patterns of wood to make room boundaries obvious. "Old houses have character. If we take the time to think we can come up with many ideas about what we can change about the house. I find it exciting, and we're impressed with what we have done," said K. Zhu.

K. Zhu and her husband, Dirk Naumann, describe their decor scheme as a mix and match of modern and antique. They have always had a panache for antiques, and collected most of the antique furniture and decorations dotted around the house during their travels over the years. The antique maps that adorn the walls are from when Mr Naumann was an antique map dealer.

"My wife accomplished two things with this house: she opened it up to make the eyes flow around the house, and she used a variety of textures, materials and colors to make the house more airy, because it is not big," said Mr Naumann.



Above, a fire-engine red spiral staircase leads to the work room under the roof. Below: bathroom with a lake view. Left, Zhu" Trakarnboonchai



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Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

Underdog of the plant world

I'm all for the underdog. The trouble is underdogs don't make it very often, which is why I've got a soft spot for them.

Take football, for example. Probably one of the best-known tournaments in the world is the FA Cup, in England. I think they even let the Welsh in too.

Anyway, the eventual winners are fairly predictable – it's quite likely to be Liverpool, Man United, Chelsea, Arsenal, or any of the usual crowd that hover around the top of the Premier League.

Just about the only time I get excited in the qualifying rounds that lead up to the FA Cup final is when somebody you've never heard of beats one of the big teams, causing their victims to become mightily embarrassed.

In 2001, Wycombe Wanderers defeated Premiership-side Leicester City, and were only narrowly defeated in the semi-final by Liverpool. Kidderminster Harriers were the last non-league team to reach the fifth round of the FA Cup, in 1994. They defeated Birmingham City and Preston North End before eventually falling to Premiership-side West Ham United. Keep them coming.

I remember back a few years when one of my local teams in the UK, Harrogate Railway Athletic, reached the second round of the FA Cup. They lost, obviously, but it was fun. Not at

all bad for a team whose ground consists of a field next to a railway track. Their total seating capacity is zero; it really is just a field.

I'm no boxing fan, but I couldn't help cracking a quiet smile of satisfaction in 1990 when boxer James "Buster" Douglas, given odds of 42-to-1 by some bookmakers, managed to topple the previously-undefeated Mike Tyson – his first-ever professional defeat.

The plant world has its underdogs too. Weeds. Gardeners can be a pretty zealous lot, often keen to rip anything out of the ground that they haven't put there themselves. Any uninvited guest in the garden is trespassing by default, and deserves death by uprooting. No trial or jury, just instant justice.

Sometimes the merciless extraction of something growing in a carefully tended flower bed seems a little unjust to me. Perhaps taking just one look and concluding whether or not a plant has a right to exist in our gardens is a bit hasty; maybe the underdog deserves a chance after all.

With this thought in mind, I tried an experiment some time ago. I filled a large pot with potting compound but planted nothing in it. I fed and watered this pot, as I did everything else in the garden, but decided not to take issue with anything that decided to grow there of its own accord.

Admittedly, what appeared



Barleria cristata can take a lot of abuse.

more often than not was that rather annoying trailing grassy thing that grows an inch a day, spreading everywhere; the one that serves no other purpose but to irritate gardeners. Also, I got a lot of those tall spindly weeds with tiny purple flowers at the end that almost need wire cutters to hack through, along with Thai-style "daisies" and other assorted undesirables.

I should be able to go on at length with all sorts of impressive sounding names for all these, but to be honest, I haven't a clue what any of them are called. They were just weeds. They've all certainly done their homework in terms of self-preservation, as it seems to be very difficult to eradicate any of them.

But one of the results of this very unscientific experiment was pleasantly surprising. A rather attractive flowering plant eventually emerged, which, following the conventional rules, would have been dismissed as an "undesirable" in the initial stages.

The *barleria cristata*, or Philippine violet (*ang-kaap* in Thai) is a small shrub, with twin-petaled flowers on the end of a half-inch tube, in varying shades of mauve. There are a couple of other varieties, one with white flowers and another with a striped combination. It just appears out of nowhere, its seeds presumably spread on the wind.

Many gardeners intentionally plant barleria and use it as a small hedge, or even clip it into

strange geometric shapes. It's quite wiry and forgiving, and, like many other varieties of plant life here, will put up with a lot of abuse. About all it needs to thrive is plenty of sun and some water every now and then. If it's pruned regularly, it will become a lot bushier.

Barleria plays its underdog character well. It shows up looking a little sorry for itself, pretends it isn't really there at all and does its best to blend into the background without you noticing. Before you even realize it, barleria makes its home with you long-term, having started out as something that wasn't even wanted – not unlike a soi dog that somehow seems to become part of the furniture.

As a single plant, barleria is not really that impressive. But put a few of these in the same patch of the garden, and it won't take long to develop into something a lot more worthwhile.

If you're not keen on waiting for a few barleria plants to appear in your garden in their own good time, another way of propagating more is by taking a reasonably thick, healthy-looking cutting and sticking it into some potting compost. It will take root quickly.

You can even buy them pre-grown at the local garden center. A few baht will get you an underdog that's ready to go.

I'm thinking of packing a few of these in a box and sending it to England, addressed to "The National Team". It really doesn't matter which sport – it might be the gentle hint that they all seem to need.

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Home of the Week

Layan

This luxury home in Layan has a focus on practicality and functionality, enhanced by privacy and the tranquility of a hillside setting.

The villa has been designed to live, relax, entertain and, if desired, work in. The home has hill views and comprises four bedrooms, six bathrooms, a living room, dining room, combination games/TV/family room, study, fully-fitted spacious kitchen and self-contained utility room and separate maid's quarters.

The home has about 372 square meters of indoor living space, along with several terraces, balconies, walkways and a carport, totaling approximately 184sqm of outdoor living area.

You enter the villa at ground level and go up an outdoor stairway to the reception terrace which features a central infinity-edged swimming pool. All rooms on this level have terrace access.

There are three en-suite bedrooms on this level. The master bedroom is 5 x 5.8 meters and the two guest bedrooms are 4.5 x 5m each. Each bedroom has its own color scheme and the guest rooms are designed to ensure guests' privacy.

The 4 x 4.2m dining area opens onto the terrace and also leads through to the open-plan kitchen. Down a couple steps is the lounge, which has full patio doors on all three walls.

Outside the kitchen there is a large sala which provides views in three directions, perfect for relaxing and enjoying the sunsets. The utility room and maids' quarters are also on this upper level.

There is also an indoor and outdoor stairway to the lower level where there is a games/TV room which is large enough to house a pool table, large sofa and plasma TV.

Off this room, there is a separate bathroom, the forth bedroom, a small kitchen/bar area,

Luxury in Lakewood



and a study which could be converted into a fifth bedroom. This lower level could be sectioned off and used as a complete separate living area with self-contained sleeping and living areas as well as bathroom and kitchen.

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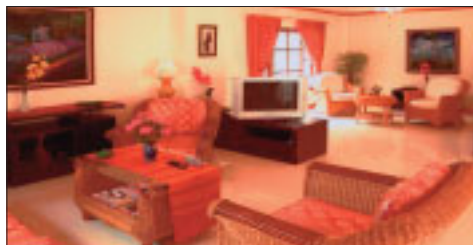
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Hillside near beach. Big pool & garden. Tastefully furnished. Very nice! Tel: 076-388236, 089-7275407. Email: cosmo campbell@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at: www.villa-sale-phuket.com.

HOUSE IN CHALONG

2 story, 2 bedrooms, large kitchen, 3 bathrooms, 2 living areas. Secluded + quiet location. Price: 9.5 million baht. Tel: 081-7190326.

PARADISE JUST GOT

A little closer. An unusual Chiang Mai inspired 3-bedroom house with pool is for sale. Set in lush private gardens. Walking distance to Rawai beach. A/C throughout, telephone and internet. 280sqm of living space on 1,100sqm of land. 9.5 million baht. Rent: 40,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-5930986.

1 RAI KAMALA

1 rai in Kamala near main road, price: 6 million baht. 350sqm plot 800 meters from the sea, price: 1.3 million baht. Tel: 086-2678477. Email: tourniechristian@hotmail.com

NEW HOUSE KATHU

Great views. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 aircons, 2 stories, west kitchen, new furnishings, secure quiet area. 7 million baht. Tel: 087-939-1035 (Eng), 086-0050318 (Thai) private sale.

2 RAI SEAVIEW

Bang Tao. Sea and Waterfall view. Infrastructure complete. Call to view. Tel: 086-2670157. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

RAWAI 300SQM

plot. Ideal for house 50m from main road. Bargain price only: 1.2 million baht. Tel: 081-5376866.

HOUSE AT LOCH PALM



Fully furnished, full golf view. 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, pool & jacuzzi, big garden. Sale at: 15.8 million baht. Tel: 081-2734193.

IMMACULATE VILLA



Very private location, tropical lush garden pool, 4 quality bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, large living room, top kitchen, huge patio. Fully furnished, 450sqm living area, 1,500sqm land, Chanote. Thalang area near Heroine monument. Tel: 084-690-7057.

PATONG SHOPHOUSE

4 floors. 6 meters x 12 meters, good condition. 20 meters off Bangla Rd, Soi Rico. Contact Pajer. Tel: 087-8817600.

AMAZING SEAVIEW

400sqm. Land in Kata, Chanote title, last available plot. 3.5 million baht. Tel: 089-6525664.

RAWAI 1,200SQM

plot. Beautiful mountain views. Chanote title, only 3.2 million baht. Tel: 081-537-6866.

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10m x 20m (50 talang wah), great view, clear and level with retaining wall, dirt. Only 1.2 million baht. Contact for more details. Tel: 076-323 749, 085-7834025. Email: captron@romar23.com

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BIG HOUSE IN KAMALA



New house for sale, 285sq wah with swimming pool. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. 3 min to beach. 9.5 million baht. Tel: 089-7259431.

VILLA FOR SALE



100 sqm. Price from 2.9 million baht. Tel: 086-470-4691. Email: narin@phuketvillage.se For further details please visit our website at: www.phuketvillage.se

LAND IN RAWAI

200sqm. Chanote title. Ideal for villa, quiet location. Only 750,000 baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 081-5376866.

INVESTMENT

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SEA VIEW RAWAI

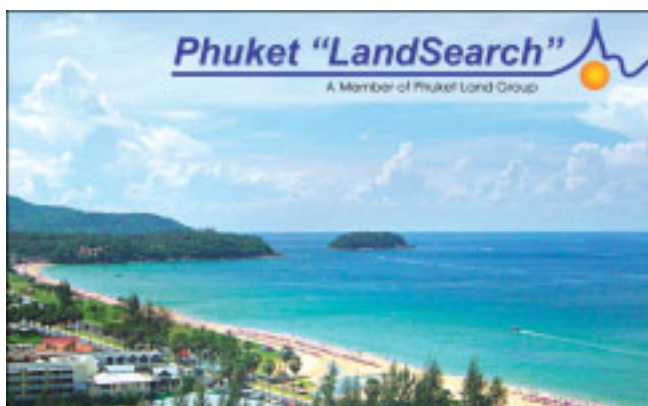
beach. 300 meters. 10 rai Chanote title, full infrastructure, ideal for apartments, a steal - 9.5 million baht. Tel: 089-6525664.

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Property Gazette

NEW HOUSE 6 BEDROOMS



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BREATHTAKING SEA-VIEWS. Large villa in private development located on central east coast. Tel: 086-2796283.

PARADISE JUST GOT

a little closer. An unusual Chiang Mai-inspired 3-bedroom house with pool is for sale. Set in lush private gardens. Walking distance to Rawai beach. A/C throughout, tel. and internet. 280sqm of living space on 1,100sqm of land. 9.5 million baht. Rent: 40,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-5930986.

MULTIFUNCTIONAL

building in Kamala. 5 minutes to the beach. 300sqm, 3 shops, 3 apartments, fully-furnished, 60sqm terrace. 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

NEW PATONG SEAVIEW

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Email:

apawann@hotmail.com

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RAWAI 1 RAI

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HOUSE FOR SALE THAI-BALI STYLE



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KATA ONE-BEDROOM

665sqm. apartment, kitchen, pool, patio, 2 aircon, 2nd floor sea view, 90 year lease, 2.46 million baht. Great location. Please contact K. John at Tel: 081-079-1135.

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KATHU 3-BEDROOM

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CHALONG NEW

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Property Gazette

PATONG TOWER

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Fully-furnished 3-bedroom house with ADSL in Kathu, 5-10 minutes from Patong Beach and Phuket City. 2 golf courses close to the house. Tel: 076-202914, 087-8062407. Fax: 076-202914. Email: tse.goran@gmail.com

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villa. Large, 4 bedrooms ensuite. UBC cable, ADSL, maid service, 50sqm swimming pool, lovely garden and sala. Short- or long-term rent. Tel: 086-2790837.

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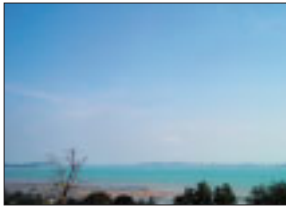
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HOUSE FOR RENT

or sale. 2 floors, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, one big storeroom and a large garden on the 80 square wah (320sqm) landscape. It's on Saiyuan road, 10 minutes to Nai Harn or Rawai beaches. Direct sale for 6.5 million baht net including 2 aircons and some built-in furniture. Tel: 084-9916654.

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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.

APARTMENT PATONG

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KATA LUXURY

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3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, fully furnished, European kitchen. Please contact us for further details. Tel: 076-333292, Fax: 076-330895. Email: nichaboon@peach-hill.com

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SEA VIEW, PATONG

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- Searchlight



3,300,000 THB



590,000 THB



155,000 Euro



4,000,000 THB



345,000 GBP

THAILANDS LEADING BROKERAGE AND NEW YACHT DEALERSHIP



Available Exclusively through Lee Marine

Dealership Office:
The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
Contact: Martin Holmes
tel: 076 238 803
fax: 076 273 319
Email: info@leemarine.com

Brokerage Office:
The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
Contact: Andrew de Bruin / Marcus Overman
Mobile: 081 894 1530 / 081 968 1437
tel/fax: 076 239 729
Email: brokerage@leemarine.com

Yacht Haven Marina Office:
The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket
Contact: Jim Poulsen
Mobile: 081 891 3237
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YACHT CHARTER

- Sunseeker Manhattan 58
- One-day tour 110,000 baht
- Price includes captain, food & drinks, diving & fishing equipment



Comments from our customer boarded during 14:16 Feb 06

"Everything was perfect. The boat was clean and was very good condition. Service perfect, Food perfect, Captain perfect. We enjoy very much."



SUNNAV (Phuket Boat Lagoon)
20/4 Moo 2, Thagkasatri Road, Koh Kaew,
Phuket 83000 Thailand
Tel: +66-76-238-976 Mobile: +66-86-951-1279
Bangkok Office Tel: +66-2-429-2877, 429-2021
(Contact Ms. Kanokorn Sanguthai)
E-mail: sales@sunnay.com Website: www.sunnay.com

Island Job Mart

Opening New Company

Bangkok Legal Services

Office Manager 1 position.

Male or Female over 25 years.
Two years' experience Good spoken & written English.

Accountant 4 positions

Female over 25 years, degree in Accounting. Two years' experience.

Administrator 3 positions

Basic English speaking skills and computer literate.

Salary and a great future. Please send CV and photo by email: Maresa_nons@yahoo.com, Ning_lilly@hotmail.com or contact for more information.

Tel: 076-323214-5 Mobile: 08-10803414.

Bang Tao Jobs Available

Hiring now kitchen staff, waiters, waitresses, IT, and many more. Immediate hire, no training needed, some English would be good. Great wages and good incentives for the right people.

Call now Michelle at Tel: 0815358588

Phuket Gazette

**Join Phuket's only
Multimedia NEWS organization.**

**The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the
following positions:**

CAMERA OPERATOR

- Thai nationals only
- Bachelor's degree in any related field
- Minimum 2 years experience in TV production
- Self-motivated, imaginative, well-organized

An attractive salary and benefits package is offered for the right candidates. Applicants are invited to send a full, detailed resumé with recent photo to:

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

367/2 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Fax: 076-213971 Email: fon@phuketgazette.net



SILK RESTAURANT & BAR A Lan Kwai Fong Group Company.
One of the island's most popular restaurants is currently recruiting highly motivated, service-minded and qualified candidates to join our team.

- Assistant General Manager
- Restaurant Manager
- Secretary
- Cashier
- Waiter & Waitress
- Cook

Attractive salary with benefits and career opportunities are offered to successful candidates. Please submit your full resume, expected salary and enclosed a recent photo to: angkano@silphuket.com

SILK RESTAURANT & BAR

5/50 Moo 3, Chermthalay Sub-District, Talang District, Phuket 83110
Tel: 076-271702-3, Fax: 076-271704, www.silphuket.com

British International School, Phuket.

Required: QUALIFIED ESL TEACHERS to work on our Intensive English Course (IEC) from April 23rd until June 29th 2007.

Requirements:

- Native English speaker.
- A minimum of a Bachelor's degree in Education or related fields.
- A minimum of a Certificate in English Language Teaching (CELTA/CELTYL) or equivalent qualification.
- A minimum of two years teaching experience in a Secondary School
- Knowledge of Cambridge ESOL Exams preferred
- Please submit an application letter along with a full CV and recent photo to Mr. Derek Evans (Head of Languages) devans@bcis.ac.th

Deadline for applications: Monday 26th February 2007

Further information about the school may be obtained from our website: www.bcis.ac.th



British International School, Phuket (BIS)

59 Moo 2, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83000 Thailand

Tel: 076 238 711-20 Fax: 076 238 750 Bangkok Tel: 02 636 8991-2 Fax: 02 636 8992

An International Studio with head office in Germany based on Phuket. We're an International Media Production company looking to grow in the Asia Pacific area. We are looking for professional to join us as following position.

POSITION:

1. STYLIST
2. MAKEUP ARTIST

QUALIFICATION:

- ◆◆◆ Experienced in position
- ◆◆◆ English knowledge
- ◆◆◆ Energetic, creative, enjoy teamwork
- ◆◆◆ Able to stay in Phuket

Interested candidates please contact K.Gol
Cell phone number 081-8942731, 086-9439111
or email to info@myclipstudios.com

HOUSEKEEPER/

Nanny/cook. Wanted for a home in Pa Khlok. Applicants must be from 25 to 45 years old. Contact for more detail. Tel: 076-260468. Email: admin@tacticalcapital.net

MAID NEEDED

Work hours 1 pm-10 pm, Mon-Sat, able to drive, uniform provided, female, good personality. 7,000-9,000 baht per month salary. Please call for more information. Tel: 089-7724664.

CHEF WANTED

Ice cream and pastry chef wanted for new restaurant in Jungceylon, opening next month. Please contact Terry. Tel: 081-3976921. Email: terrytuck@hotmail.com

ENGLISH TEACHER

For summer camp. The British International School requires dedicated and innovative, temporary part-time teachers to work at the Summer Camp. Teachers will be required to teach ESL lessons, play a significant role in activities and excursions and must be willing to carry out boarding duties. The camp will operate from April 8 to 21, 2007. Applicants must have a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree and ESL teaching certificate or an education degree. Applications should include a cover letter, curriculum vitae, the names and contact details of 3 references and a recent photograph. Email: ppreez@bcis.ac.th

URGENT NEED

A new, growing furniture and interior design company needs help urgently.

1. admin officer
2. showroom sales
3. logistic supervisor
4. interior design

Contact Tel: 076-522097, 089-4674442. Fax: 076-522098. Email: jiept@yahoo.com

SALES & MARKETING MANAGER

Urgently required: Thai with experience of sales & marketing. English & computer skills are necessary. Full time, Monday-Saturday from 2 pm to 8 pm. Good salary plus commission. Please contact for more details. Tel: 081-9355049. Fax: 076-381693. Email: applegold@gmail.com

QSI INTERNATIONAL

School of Phuket. An American-style school, has the following anticipated vacancy for the 2007/08 school year: Elementary classroom teacher. Successful candidate will be a native English speaker, have at least a bachelor's degree and hold appropriate certification. Letters of interest may be emailed to: alansiporin@qsi.org Please include your resumé and references. Be prepared to produce degree and certification documents.

DR. KATHY FROM SINGAPORE

Looking for Multi-level marketing leaders. Please SMS + 6592703585. Email: kathyng27@hotmail.com

FINANCIAL

Controller. BA/master's degree in accounting & finance with 5 years' experience in the position. Management capacity and proficiency in English communication skill as well as computer literacy. Please send CV to email: hrda@destinationair.com

JACKIE O'

Newly opened music pub in Laguna area looking for nice looking Thai girls with knowledge of music and dance. Tel: 081-8930692. Email: toto@phuket.ksc.co.th

COFFEE SHOP

Rolly Tasker Sails Thailand Co Ltd requires the assistance of a waitress to assist Coffee Shop Manager. Experience in using commercial coffee machine an advantage but prepared to train. Spoken English an advantage. Hours: 8am to 5pm, Monday to Saturday. Apply to Manager, enclosing CV, recent photo and references. Tel: 076-223893. Fax: 076-223894. Email: rolly@phuket.ksc.co.th Please see www.rollytasker.com

WWW.GLOBALHOME.EU

We need Sales Reps to visit realtors. Commission-based. All regions. Send resumé to: info@globalhome.eu.

EP SATREE PHUKET

Requires native English-speaking teachers for mathematics and drama. Call K. Amnuay. Tel: 081-3675870.

CHINESE SPEAKER

Thai who can speak fluent Chinese required for telesales job in Phuket City. Amazing salary. Email: lan@evocation.net

STOCK CONTROLLER

Rolly Tasker Sails (Thai) Co Ltd requires the services of an experienced Stock Controller. Requirements: Male, physically strong to manage placement and storage of sail cloth stock, good written and spoken English. Will have to update inventory as new stock arrives, bar-code inventory as it is placed into stock, day to day inventory management, manage day to day consumables, computer skills required and knowledge of QuickBooks manufacturing version would be an advantage. Apply to General Manager including CV, recent photo and references. Tel: 076-223893. Fax: 076-223894. Email: rolly@phuket.ksc.co.th For further details, please see our website at: www.rollytasker.com

SILK SCREEN

Operator. Rolly Tasker Sails Thailand Co Ltd requires the services of a person skilled in silk screen/logo preparation for its sailmaking and plastics production facility. Apply to the manager stating experience, recent photo and references. Tel: 076-223893. Fax: 076-223894. Email: rolly@phuket.ksc.co.th For further details, please see our website at: www.rollytasker.com

INDUSTRIAL

Machinists. Rolly Tasker Sails Thailand Co Ltd, 84/2 Moo 2 Chaofa Road, T. Vichit, A. Muang, Phuket, requires machinists experienced in using industrial sewing machines. Good salary and conditions for suitably experienced persons. Apply to the Manager by email stating your particulars, qualifications and experience. Tel: 076-223893. Fax: 076-223894. Email: rolly@phuket.ksc.co.th For further details, please see our website at www.rollytasker.com

ACCOUNTING

Manager. Rolly Tasker Sails Thailand Co Ltd requires the services of an Accounting Manager. Requirements: Bachelor's degree in accounting. Minimum 3 years' experience in manufacturing business is preferable. Strong in communication and co-ordination functions. Experience in QuickBooks is an advantage. Management capacity. Good spoken and written English. Self motivated and proactive. Ability to work under pressure. Full time 8am to 5pm Monday-Saturday. Applications to the manager by mail/email/fax should include CV, recent photo and references or contacts. Tel: 076-223893. Fax: 076-223894. Email: rolly@phuket.ksc.co.th For further details, please see our website at: www.rollytasker.com

Island Job Mart



www.destination-properties.com

Creates Great Places to Be...

Destination Properties Ltd. is a leading resort real estate developer and investor in Thailand with interests in hotels, golf resorts, and real estate developments in several key resort destinations throughout Thailand. The Group owns the Hilton Hua Hin Resort & Spa, Doubletree by Hilton Golf Resort & Spa, Sriracha Golf Club, Shambala Villas Samui, Alila Phuket, and Ramada Karon Beach Resort. We are expanding and have the following openings for qualified candidates to be based in Phuket or Pattaya:

1. Development/ Project Manager

3 Positions

- * Candidate should have a minimum of 8 - 12 years of experience working as project manager in construction projects. Experience in managing hotel/resort projects is a definite asset.
- * Good knowledge in project management is required.
- * Candidate should have a good command of English and computer skills.
- * Academic requirement: A degree in Civil Engineering, Architecture, or QS.
- * Thai or expatriate

2. Construction Manager

4 Positions

- * Candidate should have a minimum of 7 - 9 years of experience working as construction manager or site manager in construction projects. Experience in managing hotel/resort projects is a definite asset.
- * Good knowledge in site management is required.
- * Candidate should have a good command of English and computer skills.
- * Academic requirement: A degree in Civil Engineering or Architecture.

3. Structure Engineer

4 Positions

- * Candidate should have a minimum of 4 - 6 years of experience working as Structure Engineer in construction projects. Experience in hotel/resort projects is a definite asset.
- * Professional registration license is required.
- * Candidate should have a good command of English and computer skills.
- * Academic requirement: A degree in Civil or Structural Engineering.

4. M&E Engineer

3 Positions

- * Candidate should have a minimum of 4 - 6 years of experience working as M&E Engineer in construction projects. Experience in hotel/resort projects is a definite asset.
- * Professional registration license is required.
- * Candidate should have a good command of English and computer skills.
- * Academic requirement: A degree in M&E Engineering or related fields.

5. Architectural Supervisor

3 Positions

- * Candidate should have a minimum of 4 - 6 years of experience working as site architect in construction projects. Experience in hotel/resort projects is a definite asset.
- * Candidate should have a good command of English and computer skills.
- * Academic requirement: A degree in Architecture or related fields.

6. Project Accountant

3 Positions

- * Candidate should have a minimum of 4 - 6 years of experience working as project accountant on real estate or construction projects. Experience in hotel/resort projects is a definite asset.
- * In charge of one of our projects overseeing A/R, A/P, project reporting, monitoring budget, and financial draws.
- * Candidate should have a good command of English and computer skills.
- * Academic requirement: A degree in Accountancy or related fields.

7. Site Administrator

3 Positions

- * Candidate should have a minimum of 3 - 5 years of experience in construction site administration. Experience in hotel/resort projects is a definite asset.
- * Able to work as a team and good in document control knowledge.
- * Candidate should have a good command of English and computer skills.
- * Academic requirement: A degree any field.

***** ALL POSITIONS TO BE BASED IN PHUKET OR PATTAYA. *****

Attractive remuneration will be offered to qualified candidates. Please send your resume to: philip@destination-properties.com



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We are currently seeking qualified candidates to fill the following positions:

- Chief Concierge
- Guest Service Agent
- Villa Host
- Golf Villas HK Mgr (with Front Office Experience preferred)
- Marketing Communication Manager
- Russian Guest Relations Officer -2 Months Contract (Urgent)

Please apply in person or send your resume and recent photo:

Director of Human Resources

Email: sglp.recruitment@luxurycollection.com



THE LUXURY COLLECTION

10 Moo 4, Bang Tao Bay, Phuket 83110 Thailand
Tel: (66)(76) 324101-7 General Fax: (66)(76) 271465



Diving Online

is seeking for qualified staff to join its team. Applications are taken for Thai national.

Accounting & Credit Officer

- Good communication skills and command of spoken & written English
- Experience in accounting and credit
- Good computer skills
- Experience in Ecommerce company a plus

Applications stating qualifications and experience, as well as expected remuneration should be sent to: admin@save-money-diving.com

MICROSOFT OFFICE GURU

Travel Company looking for a person with "Guru" abilities/knowledge of Microsoft Office Excel/Access. Someone who can help us with our expansion needs. Not full time employment, limited project. Tel: 076-246-427, 081-7879454. Fax: 076-246180. Email: andersp@loxinfo.co.th

NANNY & HOUSEKEEPER NEEDED

We are looking for a nanny for our 2-year-old girl. We live in Patong. Good salary for the right person who speaks good English. Please apply as soon as possible. Please call. Tel: 076-512-158, 085-7947360. Email: aneethas@hotmail.com

TIGER MUAY THAI TRAINING CAMP & FITNESS CENTER

is looking for 1 Assistant Manager and 2 Receptionists to work in our Chalong office. Applicants must have basic English-speaking and computer skills, and be friendly, professional, service-minded, and energetic. Hours needed: 6:30 am to 3:30 pm and 1:30 pm to 9:00 pm. We offer excellent salary, friendly, sports-oriented working environment, breaks and lunch period, social insurance, and 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 contact K. Mon for more details. Tel: 076-367071 or 086-9404496. Email: info@tigermuaythai.com



Service is not a job - it's a way of life.

It's a professional commitment to satisfy individual needs. It's a commitment to make someone smile, to create the ultimate experience, to surpass expectations. If you have this commitment, this is your opportunity.

Watermark is currently offering opportunities in these positions:

- Waiter / Waitress
- Bartender
- Yacht Hostess
- Event Catering Supervisor

Thai nationals only. Excellent English skills, great personality, inspired attitude & service-mind required in all positions.

watermark bar restaurant

Phuket Boat Lagoon
22/1 Thaprasathi Rd, Muang, Phuket
For interview send resume to lana@watermarkphuket.com
Tel: 076-239078, 081-8941657



SALES AND MARKETING

Female, marketing and sales experience essential. Excellent English communication skills. Tel: 087-071-9907. Email: naraplace2@yahoo.co.th

HOTEL STAFF

Wanted:

- Chef/Cook
- Kitchen Staff
- Room Cleaner
- Receptionist

Please contact us for further details. Tel: 075-684788. Fax: 075-684789. Email: dasher_lanta@yahoo.com

SALES & MARKETING

Energetic, enthusiastic lady required for sales/marketing role in charter company. Good English/Thai skills and computer literacy. Please contact for more details. Tel: 087-8866919. Email: Admin@spaboat.com For further details, please see our website at www.spaboat.com

URGENT!!!! Casual, Part-Time Staff

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Phuket - Thailand
MODERN CUISINE
CONTEMPORARY DESIGN
COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

Watermark is seeking for casual & part-time staff to work for Johnnie Walker Classic 2007 (Feb 24- Mar 5, 2007):

Chef

Thai or Foreign nationals. Short term contract, experience essential.

Part-time Staff for all positions

Thai nationals only. Excellent English skills, great personality, inspired attitude & service-mind required in all positions.

All applications deadline by Wed 21 February, 2007

watermark bar restaurant

Phuket Boat Lagoon

22/1 Thaprasathi Rd, Muang, Phuket

For interview send resume to lana@watermarkphuket.com

Tel: 076-239078, 081-8941657

ENGLISH NANNIES

Fully-qualified nannies. Recruiter in England wants link with Thai employment agency. Please contact for more details.

Email: erica_ashmore@yahoo.co.uk

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Dream Yacht Charter is looking for Experienced Technician. Good English is necessary. To join our team, please send resume by email to:

Email: thailand@dreamyachtcharter.com

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We are looking for a Manager and a Receptionist. Thai, Asian or Farang. Able to control staff and take care of customers. Good salary. For more information, please call.

Tel: 085-7859239.

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

Minimum 3 years experience, CPD certified. Good English is an advantage. Please contact Personnel Manager at: Asian Wind Co Ltd. Tel: 076-381-338, 081-8957908.

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at
www.phuketgazette.net/

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Articles for Sale

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- Two 22,000 BTU Samsung aircon units: 22,000 baht each

- L-shaped dark wood counter w/glass corner display unit: 20,000 baht

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- Sanyo glass-fronted fridge: 8,000 baht

- Krups coffee machine and grinder: 7,000 baht

- Mirage chest freezer: 5,000 baht

- Aluminum kitchen prep table: 4,000 baht

- Two-ring gas stove on aluminum stand: 2,000 baht.

Tel: 084-1935124. Email: clairelester1807@yahoo.co.uk

HOME & BUSINESS

items for sale. Email or call for more details. Tel: 076-321402, 081-7372177. Email: nikki.indigosiam@gmail.com

CAKE DISPLAYS

Refrigerated cake display cabinets for sale, must sell urgently. As-new condition, price negotiable. Contact. Tel: 085-7891386. Email: willywilltoo@hotmail.com

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Guitars & amps, spearguns for fish, queen bed, new electric cable B&W, and 125 Honda Dream (22,000 baht). Tel: 081-2738376.

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Memphis Classic oversize irons, Big Brother, & bag. 10,000 baht obo. Tel: 089-8681823.

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Address:

51 Patak Road, Kata.
Tel: 087-0820100.

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low input, high output machines for sale. Starting from 3.9 million baht. Email: carwash_phuket@hotmail.com

Bulletins

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Looking for a cutter to cut patterns for ladies' dresses. Please call K. Ann Sofie. Tel: 089-9710031.

SEAMSTRESS

Looking for seamstress for making ladies' dresses. Call K. Susanne. Tel: 084-8529522.

VOICE RECORDING

Looking for a place for voice recording. Could be music studio, radio station, any sound insulated room. Please email to: sk@artecon.se

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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Wed and Sun 7 pm

Bangkok Phuket Hospital
Phuket City
Fri 7 pm

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at 7 pm and Fri at 8 pm

Chalong Health
Clinic-near Chalong Circle
Tues 1 pm

For Phuket info (English)
call 081-9564031,
081-8912895

Scandinavian speaking Group
Wat Karon School-Karon
Tue and Sat 7 pm

Tel 081-2732053 (Nor)
087-2795636 (Nor)
086-7458910 (Swe)

For info on other Thailand
AA meetings inquire
at Tel: 02-2318300
(for Thai language press 3)
www.aathailand.org or
email info@aathailand.org

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GUESTHOUSE

Patong. 6 Rooms, newly renovated, Internet, cable tv, aircon, bar, 3 min to beach. Busy location, 6-year lease. 4.6 million baht. Call Keith. Tel: 087-0211763. Email: Keithhbrice@hotmail.com

GUESTHOUSE

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 19 million baht. Tel: 086-1062566. Email: philipp@loxinfo.co.th For further details, please see our website at www.phuket-apartment.info/for_sale.htm

GUESTHOUSE

Patong, with pool for sale. 17 rooms, 1 double apartment, store room, kitchen, office, aircon, breakfast room and small restaurant, big beer bar with own sleeping room rented out, tour office rented out, and pool. Only 19 million baht. For more info Tel: 084-8528234. Email: info@1nj.de

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We are a Thai company with foreign principles that has spent the last five years professionally developing a product with a huge market in Thailand and worldwide.

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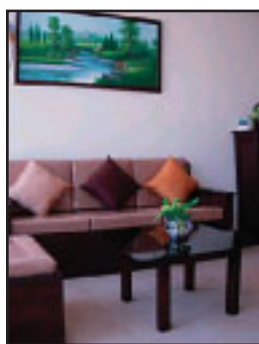
BOUTIQUE HOTEL

for lease in Patong. Very good location close to the sea (250 m) and near the nightlife. Hotel comprises 10 rooms, a beautiful, stylish restaurant, bar, and a cozy mini-spa. Monthly rental fee is 150,000 baht. No key money. Ready to run. Tel: 086-0043008. Email: info@ayudhya.net For further details, please see our website at www.ayudhya.net/english/business/index.php

BAR FOR SALE

Good location at Karon Beach (Circle). Contact for more details. Tel: 081-8914019. More information at Email: tkschig2000@hotmail.com

OFFICE FOR SALE



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.

300,000 BAHT SALES

commission. Send us name and phone 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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for sale. Patong beach bar & restaurant. Excellent high season, steady low season. Good customers from expensive hotels. Yearly net profit not less than 3 million baht. Tel: 087-2677965. More info at Email: xyz.victor@yahoo.com

PATONG BAR

restaurant + rooms for rent. Annual lease 750,000 baht + monthly rent 28,000 baht, last 6 months of contract rent-free. Nanai Rd. Call Pom. Tel: 085-7911857.

PATONG BAR

for sale. 10m x 8m, 50 + seat bar off the beach road for sale in established soi near Soi Bangla. Current owner for the past 10 years so good repeat business all year. No monthly rent. Fully equipped, own music. Because of our customer base, would suit English or German speaker. Owner willing to stay for next six months to ensure smooth transition. Price negotiable. Contact Alan at Tel: 081-2715311. Or email for more info at: mentor@phuket.ksc.co.th

RESTAURANT/GUEST

House. 60 seats, big kitchen, 7 rooms, Nanai road. 3 + 3 + 3 year contract, rent 50,000 baht per month. Price: 1.4 million baht. For more info Email: thaipaul@gmx.de

BAR FOR SALE

Patong. Bangla bar, lounge, cafe. 3x3 years lease, low rent, no key money. Bargain. Tel: 087-8817600. Info: www.homebarphuket.com

BAR FOR SALE

On Nanai Rd. Fully-stocked: 42" flat-screen plasma TV, DVD, own sound system, darts, pool table. Bargain price, cheap rent. Tel: 084-8520862.

GUESTHOUSE

for lease. Long-established hotel with 12 rooms. All rooms have aircon, cable TV, minibar and hot & cold water. 40-seat restaurant, great location. For quick sale: 1.6 million baht or offer. Contact at Tel: 086-272 7939. Or email at: eb-naiham@web.de

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Fully-equipped office available near Tesco-Lotus. 3 phase aircon, Nextel system phone and fax line. High-speed Internet, computer systems, all integrated, printers, copiers, furniture. Tel: 087-895-5200.

KATHU KARAOKE

bar, 2 rooms with machines, 2 staff rooms, kitchen, furniture. Busy location. 100,000 baht. Tel: 081-0897690 (Thai), 087-2711280 (English).

PATONG SHOPHOUSE

New 4-story shophouse building. 600sqm useable area, 300sqm land area with street frontage. Located next to Phuket Palace hotel. Price: 15 million baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 089-7241505.

PATONG BAR FOR

sale, Nanai Rd. Contract left: 1 year, 10 months. 36sqm, has everything, pool table, UBC, TV, etc. 500,000 baht offer. Please call for more information. Tel: 084-8483657.

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Bangla Road
If you want to buy or sell a business
Call Kevin 084-7300190.
Email: kevin@tsba.info
www.tsba.info

TOWNHOUSE SHOP FOR RENT

Townhouse shop for rent near Jungceylon. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen outside with covering. Contract: 18 months. Deposit: 3 months at rent of 60,000 baht per month, or 320,000 plus 40,000 per month. Contact. Tel: 081-996-1894, 084-8428839. For more info Email: sgb.fishnchips@gmail.com

SMALL HOTEL

Hillside hotel located in Patong, quiet area. 6 rooms, 2 apartments + 1 small house with wonderful view over the bay. Bar in the "garden" perfect for private party or barbecue. 4-year lease. Price: 3.1 million baht. Contact Johan for more details. Tel: 076-545565, 084-9107649. Info at Email: johan@baanmonhill.com

RARE OPPORTUNITY

Luxury freehold condominium, 103sqm, high floor, 1 bedroom. Full sea view of Karon beach. 8 million baht, for sale by owner. Tel: 084-8517725.

BAR FOR SALE

Popular and successful Amigos bar in Soi Seadragon for sale. Pool table, darts, own sound system. Price negotiable dependent on length of lease required. Tel: 087-8838721.

KARON BAR

Located in Karon, well-known central bar area. Buy at 450,000 baht, no key money and very low rent, only 4,000 bht/month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 085-7900515. Info at Email: andzi4@yahoo.com

PATONG GUEST-

house. 9 rooms, balconies, good-looking, with excellent kitchen, restaurant, bar. 5-year lease, increase optional. Quick takeover. 1.45 million baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 089-467-3810.

PATONG GUEST-

house. 16 rooms, newly renovated, Internet, cable TV, aircon, bar, 3 min to beach. Busy location, 6-year lease. 4.6 million baht. Call Keith for more information. Tel: 087-0211763. Email: keithhbrice@hotmail.com

BOOK SHOP FOR SALE

Patong OTOP book shop & Nanai book shop. 2 shops for 980,000 baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 084-1705552.

TWIN BANGLA BARS

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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This fully-automated, easy to install and maintain, state-of-the-art tank comes with an autopilot, LCD screen, VCR, sound system and UV/ionization filtration chamber. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-383-046, 089-7299748. Email: sindhulim@gmail.com Please see our website at www.samadhihaven.net

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(LPGC) Membership for sale. 475,000 baht. Please contact K. Nithirat. Call Tel: 02-6341890.

GOLF MEMBERSHIPS

Lifetime family memberships for sale at Phuket Country Club and Blue Canyon Country Club: 490,000 baht and 900,000 baht, respectively. Includes transfer fee, offers considered. Tel: 087-894-6438. Contact for info Email: simoncree@hotmail.com

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Personals

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Smart and attractive guy would like to make friends with a cute lady. Email: toby20g@yahoo.com

BACKGAMMON

Retired businessman looking for backgammon players on Phuket Island. Tel: 076-386-113, 081-5778443.

GUITAR & BASSIST

wanted for heavy-rock band. Zepp, Priest, Sabbath. Call Roger. Contact Tel: 086-515-0234.

LOOKING FOR ROMANCE

Western woman only, German/English speaking, not over 40 years. Contact. Tel: 087-8870934. Email: gischig11927@yahoo.de

BRITISH GUY, 50

Just sold my businesses in the UK, moved to Thailand, looking for a place to settle down, Phuket being my first port of call. Looking for a lady, 27 to 45, to have some fun with and, with some luck, maybe a permanent relationship. Must be fun, honest and genuine. Reply with photo to Email: Sagittarius69612@aol.com

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European, good-looking, 48, looking for Thai lady who is very well-educated and cute, for long relationship. Email: golfleur14@orange.fr

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red-nosed pitbull puppies. Tel: 087-1466622, 087-274-1388.

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Female English bulldog for sale. We have beautiful AKC English bulldog companions. Home-raised, vet-examined, shots and de-wormings current to age. Health guarantee. Shipping and delivery available. Tel: 415-415775303 (Switzerland). More info at Email: petbreed11@yahoo.com

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Companionship, home and family security. Tel: 086-6935025. Email: alan_read8178@hotmail.com Website at: http://geocities.com/yellowleafdogs

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HONDA CITY TYPE Z

1999 good condition, silver, 110 000km, full insurance. Price: 260,000 baht ono. Tel: 086-8623085. Email: davidudon@gmail.com

BMW 316I



Green, built 1995 (in Munich) well maintained, 92,000 km. For sale at only 495,000 baht. Tel: 076-398126, 087-8850064. Fax: 076-398126. Email: hajoms@hotmail.com

GOOD DEAL

Car for sale. 35,000 baht only. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-9355049. Email: applegold@gmail.com

HONDA JAZZ

Automatic. 10/2006, 4,000 km, silver, immaculate condition, airbags. 530,000 baht. Contact for more details. Tel: 076-289541, 087-2815319. Fax: 076-289541. Email: hlaeger@t-online.de

TOYOTA WISH 2006

Low mileage, full options, excellent condition. 270,000 baht down. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-7423240.

NEW TOYOTA VIOS



Toyota Vios 1.5L, automatic gears, sport wheels and tires, alarm, tinted windows, Like new. Only 6500km. You save because I'm moving. 495,000 baht or highest offer. Tel: 087-0071755. Email: jeremyloud@yahoo.com

HONDA JAZZ XTREME

2006, Farang owner, books, like new, ABS, alloy wheel sports kit. 540,000 baht. Tel: 086-2695108.

HONDA CIVIC

AT1.8 VTEC. October 02. Blue. 1 lady owner. Sony CD player. 500,000 baht. Tel: 081-7873392. Email: onecoolphuket@yahoo.com

VIOS 2003

Black, central locking, remote, 65,000km, manual gears, CD. Good condition. 365,000 baht. Tel: 089-8736889. Email: wnammatapetersen@hotmail.com

2006 HONDA JAZZ

VTEC black. 620,000 baht (or 130,000 to take over bank payments of 10,450 a month). Used privately by farang owner. In immaculate condition with ABS brakes, air bags, CD/MP3 player. Tel: 089-8134369. For info Email: travelphuket@mac.com

BMW 530i

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.

CITROEN 2CV

For sale. A lovely car to drive, in good condition (entirely rebuilt) with 2CV-powered engine. Works very well. Year: 1954. Tel: 081-4288814. Email: chadarat@iprights.com

HYUNDAI EXCEL

Very new looking. CD player, new tires, 4 doors, many accessories. Sale: 129,000 baht. Call for more information. Tel: 081-7375909.

HONDA CITY IDSL

1 careful lady owner, bronze, 2004, 50,000km, full options. 480,000 baht. Call for more details. Tel: 086-2825107.

AUDI A6 2.4 1997

2 owners from new, very good condition. Dark blue, gray leather, full options. Price: 395,000 baht. Tel: 081-0874743.

TOYOTA VIOS TURBO

TRD special edition, 143hp, 20 years old, low mileage. 1 owner, well maintained. Genuine reason for sale. 590,000 baht. Tel: 084-0603477.

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. For info Email: paul@reeframmer.com

NISSAN SUNNY NEO

VIP 1,800. Farang owned. Bought for 890,000 baht new in July 2004. 22,000km, gold color, MP3, leather interior. 480,000 baht or best offer. Contact for more details. Tel: 076-379681, 089-8540277. Email: djxav@loxinfo.co.th

NEW YARIS LIMITED

Top spec, auto, airbags. 290,000 baht down and 36 x 12,500 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-0918908.

SPORT MAZDA ASTINA

Sport Mazda Astina F323, Silver, year 1995, 1800cc. Registered in your name & fully insured. Payment options: (1) cash 215,000 baht; (2) down payment of 110,000 baht and 6,250 baht a month for remaining 19 months. Must see to appreciate. Tel: 087-3809066. Email for photos and more details. For more info Email: phuketislander@yahoo.com

TOYOTA CAMRY

2003 special edition. 30,000km only, mint condition, every extra, garaged. 950,000 baht. Tel: 081-5975091.

Pickups

NISSAN BDI 90 HP

Diesel, year 1995, good condition, 185,000km. 195,000 baht. Please contact for more details. Tel: 087-8919620.

FORD RANGER

Open cab, 17,000km, year 2006. 355,000 baht. Tel: 089-8314703.

MITSUBISHI STRADA

4-door GCAB, 2005 only 8,000 km. Looks and drives like new. 375,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-8314703.

ISUZU PICKUP

Spacecab 225,000 Baht. The pickup looks good and is in good condition. Year 1995. 225,000 baht. Tel: 086-7418345. Email: info@1nj.de

TOYOTA VIGO 2005

Automatic, 35,000km. 600,000 baht or 270,000 down and 23x14,155 baht. Reason for sale: going back to Europe. Tel: 089-2907837.

NISSAN WINGROAD

Queencab, 1.6 SLX, 11,000 km only. Year 2006. 350,000 baht. Call Ewen Sangster to view. Tel: 089-9707037.

TRITON AUTO 2 DOORS

Hard load cover, low kms silver, 6 months insurance. For sale due to baby! Perfect condition. 475,000 baht. Tel: 089-9711813.

NISSAN NV AUTO

2003. 36,000km, power steering, alarm. Like new. 290,000 baht. Tel: 087-6240667, 086-2788602.

TOYOTA AVANZA

End of 2004, auto, full options, 62,000km. 445,000 baht. Tel: 084-8411438. Email: happyone@ji-net.com

4 x 4s

TOYOTA FORTUNER 3.0 DIESEL

For sale by first owner (leaving Phuket soon). Silver gray, standard equipment, 24,000 km, Nov 2005. Price: 950,000 baht. Available now Tel: 081-5353043. Email: rainier_vig@yahoo.fr

TRITON 2.5 MEGA

Cab. 4WD, cool silver, perfect condition, 6 months old, 6 months insurance. Sony stereo + speakers + amplifier. 555,000 baht. Tel: 089-9711813.

KIA SPORTAGE

4-wheel drive. Good runner. Only 160,000 baht. Tel: 086-1542255.

KIA SPORTAGE

4WD 1997. Full service in December. Owner for 5 years now, going back to Europe. 295,000 baht to include full comprehensive insurance. Tel: 089-9723861, 081-7378662. Email: ba@kivibrian.com

MAZDA TRIBUTE 3.0 V6



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ISUZU VGS TURBO

Only 3 weeks new. Bought with full options at: 867,000 baht. Sell for: 777,000 baht. Tel: 089-5944017.

ISUZU D MAX LS



3.0 iteq, 4x4, Jan 05, 4 doors, ABS, airbags, wide alloy wheels, MP3. Only: 620,000 baht. Tel: 089-9662994. Email: nengrich@gmail.com

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Tel: 076-280400/3

Fax: 076-280403

Earth Language School

Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City

Tel: 076-232398/9

Fax: 076-232398

Sin & Lee

Thalang Rd, Phuket City

Tel: 076-258369

Fax: 076-211230

Taurus Travel

Aroonsom Plaza Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong

Tel: 076-344521/2

Fax: 076-344523

41 Minimart

Srisoontorn Rd, Cherng Talay

Tel/Fax: 076-324312

Deli Supermarket

Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong

Tel: 076-342275

Fax: 076-344314



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Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 95 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad.

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

Deadline for Wheels & Motors page: Saturday 12 noon.

Wheels & Motors

FORD ESCAPE

SUV '03. Black, 4-wheel drive, V6 petrol, 62,000km, leather seats, CD player, sun roof, V Kool film, central locking, sport package. Like a new car. Price: 750,000 baht. Tel: 085-7842004. Info at Email: ahw@telia.com

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Registered in May 2000. Only 18,600 kms. One owner, full music system, CD, subwoofer, amp, etc. 420,000 baht for quick sale. Tel: 081-8930272. Email: hakan@derani-yachts.com

JEEP FOR SALE

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TOUGH JEEP 95

Spent 49,500 baht for new vital parts + 6,000 work and 25,000 bodywork and paint. Powerful engine, 2 liter. Price: 125,000 baht ono. Call for more information at Tel: 086-2666350.

LIKE NEW, 1/2 PRICE



Toyota Sport Rider, 50,000 km, loaded and perfect. Tel: 084-8424861 or Fax: 076-200191. More info at Email: brittsplace@hotmail.com

NASTY ISUZU

Two-year-old D-max, loaded, 31,000km. 6-disc stereo, hard black cover. This is a strong and beautiful truck. Must see. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-5078966.

NISSAN FRONTIER

4WD 2002. New rear tires, shocks, stereo, aircon, insurance, 114,000 km. 350,000 baht. Tel: 085-7869068. For more information Email: scuba1959@msn.com

HONDA CRV 34,000KM

Black metallic. 800,000 baht. Woman owner, first-hand. Call for more details. Tel: 087-8822462.

TOYOTA VIGO 3.0G 4X4

Black, 4-door, 18 months old, only 12,000km. Also has first-class insurance. A1 condition: 700,000 baht. Call for more details. Tel: 089-7292846.

CHEROKEE FOR SALE

Jeep Cherokee, 4L, auto, cream leather seats. Lady-owned, good condition. Maintenance by Mercedes service. For quick sale: only 320,000 baht. Tel: 081-3430777. Email: montha_phuket@yahoo.com

HONDA CRV FOR SALE

2003, black color, ABS, airbags, leather seats, MP3 player. 715,000 baht. Tel: 089-8192313. More info at Email: peterc_33@yahoo.com

TOYOTA FORTUNER

2005. 3.0D for trade for auto gear or for sale. Contact for more details. Tel: 089-0219504, 086-2791602.

TIGER SPORT CRUISER

2002 LTD. Good condition, blue, one owner, 110,000km, full service history, many extras, 4-door, 4X4, leather interior. 550,000 baht ono. Contact for more details. Tel: 081-7817250. More info at Email: harveynolanhn@hotmail.com

CHEROKEE, 4.0L

Bronze, perfect, new Sony stereo, new paint and leather seats. All services by Benz. 91,000km. Only 420,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-0780014. Email: bjarneaagaardhansen@hotmail.com

MITSUBISHI 4X4

Mega cab. 1999, 2-door, 5-speed, aircon, foreign-owned, very nice condition, never used for work, 100,000km, CD. 375,000 baht. Tel: 077-826355, 087-0403007. Fax: 077-813145. More info at Email: tomcox100@hotmail.com

HONDA CRV

Aug 2002. 75,000km. Silver, auto, 1 owner, full options. 650,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-8736533.

KIA 20 SPORTAGE FOR SALE

For quick sale, KIA 2.0 Sportage 4WD, 137,000 km, good condition, year 1996. Price: 285,000 baht. Tel: 081-0868044. More information at Email: salg@zarazin.com

Motorbikes

KAWASAKI

Off-road. KSR, 110cc, 2006, only 900km, excellent condition. 45,000 baht. Tel: 089-9715664.

HONDA MAGNA 1998

250cc, V-Twin, 21,600km. Top condition, silver. 140,000 baht. Tel: 089-9715664.

YAMAHA R1 2003

1000cc, 23,000km, Yoshimura, New Metzeler tires. 420,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-9715664.

KAWASAKI ZX12R

Ninja. Year 2004 with 16,000 kms, green book, Phuket registered. Upgrading to K1200S. Will consider serious offers around 300,000 baht. Call for viewing appointment. Call Tel: 076-264692, 081-0862112.

SUPERB CHOPPER

Honda Steed 400cc, Chrome + options, well-maintained. 120,000 baht. Tel: 081-9704020.

HONDA WAVE 110 CC

21,709km. 4 years old, very good condition, regular service, red color. 15,000 baht. Please call for more details. Tel: 076-203365, 089-6595853.

YAMAHA FAZER 2003

1000cc, 19,000km. Akrapovic, perfect condition. 375,000 baht. Please contact for details. Tel: 089-9715664.

BMW K1200S MOTORBIKE

BMW K1200S motorbike for sale. Brand new, only 6,000 kms, in excellent condition. Color blue/white with side cases and original BMW helmet. 850,000 baht or the existing finance can be taken over. Tel: 081-8317112. Email: frank@krabibiz.com

YAMAHA NOUVO

115cc. 9,500km. Automatic. 7 months old, red color. Owner going home. 40,000 baht. Tel: 084-7453269.

HONDA CBR 400 RR

for sale. Green book, 1995, taxed & insured, pristine condition, 1 farang owner, new Dunlop tires, needs nothing. Tel: 084-8425920. Email: khao_lak@hotmail.com

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