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Island-wide security CCTV now online

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET: The next time you are having a night out on the town in Patong, Kata-Karon or Phuket City be sure to keep a smile on your face: you might be on TV.

Col Peerayuth Karachedi, Superintendent for Administrative Affairs at Phuket Provincial Police Station, told the *Gazette* on February 14 that a closed-circuit television (CCTV) system has been fully tested and is now operational in the three popular tourist locations.

Each of the three locales has 16 cameras linked to a command center at a local police station in Kathu, Chalong and Phuket City, respectively.

Installed under a 16-million-baht contract with telecommunications provider CAT Telecom Public Company Ltd, the CCTV system uses high-speed wireless CDMA EV-DO technology, similar to the wireless network now available to Internet users around the island.

"All the equipment is ready, but we still need to make minor adjustments to optimize efficiency, such as shifting camera angles slightly to maximize the



WATCHERS WATCHING: Worawit Worrawiboonpong, Manager of CAT Telecom's Phuket Office, shows off the capabilities of the new high-tech surveillance system to Phuket City Police Superintendent Col Nos Svettalekha at the Phuket City Police Station CCTV Command Center.

area of coverage... but from our tests we can confirm that the system is up and running at all three locations," he said.

About one week was spent testing the equipment in all three areas, he added.

The CCTV cameras can record data for up to 30 days before the data needs to be archived.

The ease with which the video images can be replayed and reviewed is expected to improve law enforcement, security and traffic control, he said.

By the end of February police officers in the respective command centers will begin a two-month training program in how to operate the system effectively.

The course will be taught by engineers from project contractor Bosch Security System Thailand, Col Peerayuth added.

Cat Telecom will be given 10 more days to fine-tune the system to police requirements, after which time the police will sign off for final payment, he said.

Teenage murder suspects still at large

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PHUKET: Almost three weeks after a gang of nine teenagers killed a transvestite in a glue-fueled stabbing frenzy, four suspects remain at large.

Phuket City Police say they know the full names of two of the remaining suspects, but are waiting to learn the full names of the other two suspects so that a

single arrest warrant for all four can be requested from the court.

Lt Col Adul Niraphai, an Investigating Inspector at Phuket City Police Station, told the *Gazette* he knows the full names of two of the teenagers, one 17 and the other 18, but only the nicknames of the other two suspects: a 14-year-old girl nicknamed "Rom" and 17-year-old boy nicknamed "Mut".

All four are suspects in the January 31 slaying of transsexual glue addict Keittirat Longnawa.

All were allegedly "friends" of K. Keittirat, 31, whose body was found on January 31 with the throat slashed near Soi Honsaitong in Rassada Village 3.

Five suspects, ranging from a 16-year-old girl to a 21-year-old man, have already been charged with conspiring to com-

mit murder in the case.

According to police, the youths were huffing glue with the victim when one of the boys became enraged and stabbed K. Keittirat with a kitchen knife.

High on glue, the other eight youths then joined in a frenzy of stabbing, kicking and hitting the victim with sticks, Phuket City Police Station Superintendent Col Nos Sawetalek told the *Gazette*.

Old Phuket Town Festival

PHUKET CITY: The 9th Annual Old Phuket Town Festival will take place on and around Thalang Rd from 5 pm to midnight on February 23, 24 and 25.

The festival will start with a daily Chinese prayer ceremony from 5 pm to 6 pm at Queen Sirikit Park.

On Friday, at 5:30 pm, there will be a "Phuket Culture Parade", from Saphan Hin up Phuket Rd to Rassada Rd, west to Suriyadet Circle then north to Thalang Rd, where it will turn east and end at Queen Sirikit Park.

At 7 pm Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwannasuppana will open the festival in the park.

There will be activities, shows and amusements from 6:30 pm to 10 pm every night at the park and along Thalang Rd.

Near the park, people will be able to board a gor jan boat, and travel along a section of Klong Bang Yai as Phuket City residents once used to do.

From 7:45 pm to 8:35 pm there will be a nightly light and sound show in the park.

An exhibit showing photographs from HM the King Bhumibol Adulyadej's visit to Phuket in 1959 will run daily from 5 pm to 10:30 pm, while a display entitled "Old Sino-Portuguese Phuket" will be shown simultaneously at 63 Thalang Rd.

Swiss swindler arrested after stabbing policeman

By Janyaporn Morel

THALANG: Swiss national Carlos Minnig, 39, on February 19 stabbed a Tourist Police officer while resisting arrest on suspicion of attempting to extort "protection money" from a fellow Swiss national.

The arrest followed complaints from Swiss businessman Rene Langansand, 42, that Minnig claimed to be an Interpol agent and offered protection services for Mr Langansand's Koh Lanta business – for a fee.

According to a Tourist Police press release, Mr Langansand filed a complaint at Phuket City Police Station claiming that Minnig, 39, had made phone calls and sent text messages to his wife, Atchara Yoongthong.

In the messages, Minnig allegedly threatened to kill Mr Langansand's entire family if protection money was not paid that evening.



Pol Maj Bundit Khaosutham (in uniform) announces the arrest of Carlos Minnig, a Swiss national, on charges of extortion, drug possession, illegal entry and resisting arrest.

Phuket Tourist Police Inspector Maj Bundit Khaosutham ordered an undercover officer to accompany the businessman to the arranged delivery spot, a house in Pru Somparn Village,

Tambon Thepkrasattri, Thalang. When the pair arrived at the scene, Minnig ordered Mr Langansand to get out of the car and lie face down on the ground. Minnig then produced a pair of

handcuffs and ordered Mr Langansand to put his hands behind his back.

The undercover officer and two more Tourist Police officers doing surveillance then moved in to arrest Minnig, who stabbed one of the officers before he could be detained.

The officer sustained only minor injuries.

On searching Minnig, officers found a package of cannabis hidden in a cigarette packet. Minnig confessed that to having bought the drug in Koh Lanta.

During questioning at the Phuket Tourist Police Office, Minnig failed to produce his passport.

He has been charged with extortion, resisting arrest, possession of a Class 5 drug (cannabis) and illegal entry into the Kingdom.

"We think that Minnig was not working alone," Maj Bundit said. "We are now tracking down his accomplices," he added.

Koh Yao villagers stage pier protest

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PHANG NGA: About 30 protectors have been camping out for more than a month on Klong Son Beach on Koh Yao Yai, demanding the government scrap plans for a pier to be built there by a large land developer.

The protesters, comprising poor Muslim residents and representatives from non-governmental organizations, see the project, which includes dredging of 100,000 tons of seabed sediment to build an offshore breakwater, as a threat to the marine environment that they rely on to make a living.

The villagers began their protest after the project had been

approved during a July 20 meeting chaired by Phang Nga Governor Winai Buapradit.

It wasn't until late December that residents of Baan Yamee, where the project is to be built, learned that the 85-foot pier planned by Bangkok-based developers Naracha Company had been approved in full and that construction was set to begin early this year.

The villagers sought help from the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), which sent letters seeking reconsideration of the project's approval granted by both the Ministry of Transport (MoT) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE).

Citing arguments put forward by the NHRC, the MNRE ordered that the project be postponed indefinitely while the MoT reconsiders its approval.

However, the protesters say they will not leave the beach until the MoT scraps the project entirely.

Earlier this month, NHRC Commissioner Vasan Panich told the *Gazette* that the site is part of "tsunami protection" zone, one of many coastal areas protected from development in order to leave intact natural barriers to any future tsunamis.

K. Vasan said that the proposed construction would "certainly" affect offshore seagrass beds that sustain the area's highly-endangered dugong population.

The NHRC has received a reply from the MoT agreeing to reconsider the project and will continue to pressure the MoT to

come to a quick decision, he said.

About a month ago, the MoT requested Phang Nga Governor Winai Buapradit to have construction postponed until the MoT makes a decision, he added.

At Gov Winai's request, the headman of Village 3 explained to the protesters on February 17 that the company cannot begin work until the ban is lifted – but to no avail.

"They refuse to budge until the government revokes its approval, because they don't believe that Naracha will abandon the project otherwise," said the headman, who asked that his name not be printed.

"I plan to set up a meeting between the protesters and a local Muslim leader. They respect him, so maybe he can convince them to leave the beach and wait at home for the project to be canceled," he said.

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Two die in horror head-on smash

Sompratch Saowakhon

SAMKONG: A Finnish man and a Thai tuk-tuk driver were killed in a head-on collision between a tuk-tuk and a pickup truck shortly after 1 pm February 14.

A Finnish woman and Thai man traveling in the tuk-tuk were also injured in the accident.

The Finns were in the back of a white tuk-tuk driving north-bound past Steak Samkong restaurant on Yaowarat Rd when the accident occurred.

The Finn, identified as Eero Untamo Malim, was rushed to nearby Vachira Phuket Hospital, but was dead on arrival, a nurse in the emergency ward said.

Tuk-tuk driver Payao Junjue was still alive when he was cut out of his vehicle with "jaws of life" hydraulic cutting equipment, but died at Vachira Hospital about 4 pm.

Mr Malim's companion, Raija Helena Engberg, was taken to Bangkok Hospital Phuket to be treated for a broken leg.



Kusoldharm Foundation volunteers clear the accident scene. Tuk-tuk driver Payao Junjue and one of his passengers, Eero Untamo Malim of Finland, both died from injuries sustained in the crash. Two other passengers were injured.

A man traveling in the front passenger seat of the tuk-tuk also sustained a broken leg.

The driver of the pickup, Lanju Saechiw, was unharmed in the incident, said Maj Sarit Butnongsang of Phuket City Police.

Police have yet to charged anyone with a crime, he said.

However, he added that initial investigations indicated that K. Lanju had caused the accident by driving on the wrong side of the road.

Crackdown ordered on foreign laborers

PHUKET: Police have been ordered to crack down on alien laborers using mobile phones or found on the streets after 8 pm, Phuket Vice-Governor Vorapot Rattasima said February 15.

At a meeting at Provincial Hall, V/Gov Worapot said that he had received reports that alien laborers were leaving their registered place of abode after 8 pm and freely using mobile phones, both of which were prohibited by provincial order in December.

"I have met with traffic police and told them to arrest any alien laborers they find on the streets after 8 pm. I would also like the media to look out for and report any violators," he said.

The meeting was held to discuss implementing Cabinet's December 19 resolution to extend work permits for laborers from Burma, Laos and Cambodia for another year.

There are currently about

11,000 alien workers in Phuket whose work permits and right to remain in the Kingdom are set to expire February 28, and 21,000 whose permits are set to expire June 30.

Both these groups, the vast majority of whom are Burmese, can now have their permits extended for another year, V/Gov Worapot explained.

Employers must apply to extend their workers' permits at the Phuket Provincial Labor Office before the permits expire.

Employers must bring their workers' current work permits, "quota" documents showing how many alien laborers the employers are allowed to employ, and a medical certificate for each worker.

A three-month extension costs 450 baht, a six-month extension 900 baht, and a one-year extension 1,800 baht.

— Sompratch Saowakhon

Blood Bank launches blood drives

PHUKET: The Phuket Red Cross Blood Bank at Vachira Phuket Hospital has announced that it will collect blood donations every month at locations across the island.

Officers from the Red Cross Foundation, Phuket Chapter, will collect blood donations

from the following locations as follows:

Feb 25: 10 am to 8 pm at the Big C supercenter.

Feb 28: 10 am to 4 pm at Phuket Provincial Court on Damrong Rd, Phuket City.

For more information call K. Mon at 076-217293 ext 263.

Hundreds wed on Valentine's Day

PHUKET: A total of 202 couples chose Valentine's Day to officially tie the knot, with 134 couples registering their marriages yesterday at Muang District office alone.

The number of couples wed at Muang District Office was somewhat lower than last year, when 142 couples took the plunge, but still far more than the office's daily average of about 10.

Phuket Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) Piya Bharatasinlapin was on hand at Muang District Office to give a morning speech and preside over a lucky draw, with prizes provided by the Muang District Office.

The Muang District Office weeks ago posted a notice announcing that it would refuse to accept any applications for divorce on February 14.

The first to be wed in Muang District, at 9 am, were Dewan Chareonpornpakdee and his bride Charatsri Khaimook,

both 27-year-old Phuket natives. The honor came after the pair won first prize in the lucky draw, — a 21-inch television set.

"Today is a day of love, so I choose to register my marriage today. But even more important, it is also my mom's birthday," K. Charatsri said.

The couple were wed in a religious ceremony November 3 last year, but deferred registering the marriage because they were busy — and because they wanted to wait for an auspicious day, she explained.

The oldest couple to regis-

ter at Muang District yesterday were Anan Yomana and his wife Yee Thongkaew, both 57.

Kathu and Thalang District Offices recorded 31 and 37 weddings, respectively.

Kathu District refused to process one application for divorce, while one such application was accepted in Thalang.

"They told me they really needed a divorce and said they didn't care whether or not it was Valentine's Day, since the holiday is really not a part of Thai culture," an officer there told the Gazette.

German tourist dies of heart attack

KARON: German tourist Boeres Reiner, 44, died of a heart attack while sunbathing on Karon Beach on the morning of February 7.

Pol Lt Weerapong Rakkitoe, Duty Officer at Kathu Police Station, said that Mr Reiner had been on holiday in Phuket for about a

week with his wife, who called police after Reiner suffered chest pains and difficulty breathing about 10:15 am.

Reiner was rushed by the Kusoldharm Foundation to Patong Hospital, where his condition worsened and he later died.

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After yelling at a young beach masseuse about her crying daughter, a deranged man doused the woman with paint thinner and set her alight. As the girl's parents ran to their daughter's aid, outraged witnesses pounced on the man and beat him up.

The victim is now in hospital, critically injured with first degree burns. Her attacker, a known drug addict, according to police, will be sent to a psychiatric hospital for evaluation.

Kathu Police Duty Inspector Lt Col Sophon Borirak confirmed details of the attack attributed to him by Thai-language newspaper Thai Rath.

The report stated that the attack was carried out at noon on February 13 by Sombun Kaewkhaaw, a 43-year-old native of Tambon Paknam in Chumphon's Muang District.

Sombun is well-known in the Loma Park area of Patong Beach, where he spent much of his time huffing paint thinner, bothering beach vendors and harassing foreign tourists. However, he had never before been implicated in any violent crimes, the report said.

Speaking on the afternoon of February 16 at Vachira Phuket Hospital, where her daughter Somjai Phromdaen, 21, is being treated for burns to 30% of her body, 49-year-old Pennee Phromdaen told the *Gazette* that on that afternoon her family was working as usual at Patong Beach.

K. Pennee went to escort K. Somjai's two-year-old daughter, Sairung "Ice" Parnsang, to buy some noodle soup from a nearby vendor, while K. Somjai and her father stayed behind under the shade of an awning where they work massaging foreign tourists. While walking back to the awning, the little girl became fussy, demanding to be carried.

As her hands were already full with a bowl of noodles, K. Pennee could not carry the child.

Masseuse torched in daylight attack

Working on Patong beach with her family and young daughter, **Somjai Phromdaen** was attacked by a man described by police as a well-known nuisance. The man, enraged that K. Somjai's daughter was crying, doused her in paint thinner and set her alight, leaving her with first degree burns over 30% of her body. How could this happen, and what is being done to prevent it from happening again? The *Gazette's* Supanun Supawong and Sangkhae Leelanapaporn report.

Instead, she walked back to the awning, less than seven meters away, to ask K. Somjai to help carry back the crying child. Left alone, the girl started screaming. Her crying apparently agitated Sombun, who was in the area and in possession of a green tea bottle full of paint thinner.

When K. Somjai went to retrieve her child, Sombun started ranting at her. Witnesses later said the man was incomprehensible. K. Somjai carried the child back to the awning before returning to argue with Sombun.

As they argued, Sombun suddenly pulled out a bottle of thinner, doused the girl's shirt with it, and set her alight with a cigarette lighter. As flames engulfed her body and she fell to the ground, Sombun picked up a sharp piece of metal, the kind used to stake down beach umbrella support cords, and was about to hit her with it, but instead turned and ran away, K. Pennee said.

Shocked, she and her husband ran out to help their daughter.

They pulled off her burning shirt, but her bra continued to burn with the highly volatile liquid. Eventually the flames were doused with water, but not before K. Somjai sustained serious burns over most of the front of her upper body. The flames also burned off much of her hair and left her unconscious.

She was rushed by the Beach Guard to Patong Hospital, where she received emergency treatment. She was later transferred to Phuket International Hospital and again, for financial reasons, to Vachira Phuket Hospital. Doctors there estimate it will be at least a month before she can be released.

Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit has promised financial help for the cost of her daughter's treatment, K. Pennee told the *Gazette*.

Holding the hand of her daughter, whose entire upper body was covered in bandages, K. Pennee told the *Gazette* she wanted government officers to help look after the public by not



SUSPECT: Sombun Kaewkhaaw in police custody after his attack on K. Somjai, without his beloved green-tea container full of inhalant.

allowing obviously disturbed people to threaten society.

She described her daughter, who remains unable to speak, as a friendly, hard-working girl who had followed in her own footsteps by becoming a beach masseuse. K. Somjai is married to a man from Trang, the child's father, and the whole family lives together in a home in Chalong Village 10, she said.

The beating administered to Sombun gave him a broken nose and covered him with bruises. There were no reports of any arrests relating to the beating of Sombun.

During questioning, Sombun told police that he had once been employed as a teacher at Bang

Neaw School, a government primary school in Phuket City, and had also once held the rank of sergeant in the Thai Army, assigned to a special forces unit.

The contradictory and confused nature with which he answered questions, and the fact that he had no evidence to back his statements up, left police skeptical of anything he said, Col Sophon was quoted as saying.

Sombun was sent to Suan Saranarom Hospital in Surat Thani, where his mental condition will be assessed. He will be charged if deemed sane, the Colonel was attributed as saying.

When asked about the cruelty of the attack and what could be done to prevent similar attacks

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AFTERMATH: Somjai Phromdaen on February 17, after the bandages were removed from her face.

in the future, Gov Niran urged the public to immediately report any people whose behavior might constitute a threat to society to the appropriate authorities, such as officials at the Phuket Social Development and Human Security (SDHS) office.

"We all have to work together. The public really has to be the government's eyes and ears in this, otherwise there is no way we can get these people the treatment they need," he said.

Kathu Police Superintendent Col Teeraphol Thipjareon told the *Gazette* he recognized the threat to society posed by people like Sombun, but said there is little that police can do about it.

"The police cannot do much. We can arrest them and send them to the responsible agency, such as the SDHS office, but I don't know if they have sufficient staff and resources to deal with all of them. I can say for sure that there are many crazy people walking the streets of Phuket these days."

Sombun was no stranger to Kathu Police, who only last year

twice sent him to the SDHS office in Phuket City, hoping he would stay away.

"I don't know why he keeps coming back to the Patong area, because in fact his hometown is Ranong or Chumphon," Col Teeraphol said.

Kathu Police said they recognize the threat to the tourism industry and make a point of removing obviously deranged people from Patong.

"As for people who are insane but manage to conceal the fact, I am not sure how many there are. But for people who are clearly suffering from psychosis, there aren't any in Patong now," he said, adding that it was fortunate that no tourists were injured by Sombun.

"He will be charged as normal in accordance with the law, but if he is found to be insane or to have an abnormality in his brain the court can take this into account and deem him not responsible for his actions. In such cases the punishment can be lessened or canceled altogether. It is really up to his psy-

chiatric evaluation, the results of which will be submitted in the case file submitted to the court," he explained.

Like the Governor, Col Teeraphol encouraged the public to report any obviously deranged people they come across to police.

"We will arrest them and send them for evaluation," he said.

To find out exactly how cases like Sombun's are dealt with, the *Gazette* called the Phuket SDHS office.

An official explained that the Phuket Public Health Office, through its Psychiatry Department at Vachira Phuket Hospital, is responsible for initial psychiatric evaluation of criminal suspects.

Patients found to have mild mental illness are treated at Vachira, while more serious cases are sent to Saranirom Hospital in Surat Thani, she said.

The role of the Phuket SDHS office is to provide post-treatment services. For those with relatives, the agency tries to unite

Eyewitness Account

Peter Bowen, a tourist from Pleasanton, California who happened to be in the area at the time of the attack, described his view of events in an email sent to the *Gazette*:

"I got to the beach about 11:30 am. I walked down to the north end of Patong Beach, by the dolphins. Just as I hit the sand I see every Thai man on the beach running from every direction to one spot. They're all hauling ass.

My first thought was 'gang fight'. I can't help myself. I gotta see what's going on, so I head toward where they're all converging.

Then, I see eight guys carrying a big Thai girl by the hands and feet. She's unconscious and it looks like she's been rolling in dirt. Then, I see a big brawl going on, twenty guys beating on one guy. Punches, kicks: a real beating. The guy goes down and they all continue the beating. The guy is down, but the beating continues. They're all getting their kicks in. Finally the guy is not moving and the fight breaks up with a handful remaining standing over the body.

I ask two tourists standing next to me what happened. You won't believe this, but they said the guy threw gasoline on the woman and lit her on fire. A Thai woman from the restaurant on the beach there walks up and asks what happened. The tourists tell her.

She asks, 'Was it a big woman? With a baby?'

They say yes.

She says, 'I know them. That man was around my restaurant last night. My customers say that man is bad.'

She says he was breathing something. She covers her nose and and inhales like blowing her nose. Meanwhile, one of the guys standing over the body of the 'gas man' gives him a few more kicks.

I walk away. I hear an ambulance. When I leave, gas man is gone. I never saw any cops show up. I don't know what happened to 'gas man' or the woman.

I was thinking that if this happened in my neck of the woods there would have been an army of police, CSI unit, press helicopters, and the lead on CNN. Please understand that I've never seen any violence in a number of trips to the Land of Smiles.

I hope my comments indicate that this was nothing but an isolated incident. I like this place too much. I want to find out what happened to the poor woman and the condition of the 'gas man'."

them with family members who can look after them. Those whose families are unwilling or unable to provide them with the care they need are sent to a shelter in Nakhon Sri Thammarat, she said.

In this particular case, Gov Niran also asked that her agency

and Vachira Phuket Hospital give "extra care" for K. Somjai, since she was an innocent victim, the officer confirmed.

However, she added that assistance in this case would be in more of a morale-building capacity than in direct financial support.





 <p style="text-align: center;">Laguna Residences/Resale "Sought-after Lifestyle Opportunity" (Bang Tao Beach)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 4 bedrooms, 2-story residence with direct golf frontage ◆ Approx. 1,350sqm land area, land plot 456sqm ◆ 12 by 4 meters private swimming pool, with large pool terrace area ◆ High quality finishes ◆ Laguna benefits and privileges are included ◆ Professional management, high demand area, anticipated strong rental yields 	 <p style="text-align: center;">Blue Canyon Country Club / Resale, Rental "In the Venue of Legends..." (Mai Khao Area)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To own an apartment in one of the world's most famous & exclusive golf club and resort ◆ Located only 10 minutes drive from airport ◆ Option to renovate 3-bedroom duplex & single level units to renowned interior designer ◆ All units have beautiful golf course views with some units having partial sea views ◆ Investment opportunity within the hotel rental pool ◆ Title insurance & golf club membership included 	 <p style="text-align: center;">The Palm Beach Club "The Next Level in Ultimate Luxury" (Bang Tao Beach)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Breathtaking ocean front villas ◆ Combine extreme exclusivity with stunning design and hotel rental package ◆ Modern tropical living in a supreme location ◆ Amazing gymnasium and spa facilities ◆ Phuket's fastest selling beachfront development 70% sold in 8 months ◆ Completion by early 2008 club memberships included
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Queer News

A self-made policeman

SONGKHLA: No one would claim the life of a laborer in Thailand is easy; having to toil in the midday sun while others make all the money is sure to rankle.

This is presumably the reason why casual-laborer-for-hire Thanongsak Rakngam, 31, a native of Songkhla province, decided to turn to a more easeful occupation.

Thinking that police work looked like it might be a profitable pursuit, he decided to appoint himself to the exalted rank of police lieutenant-colonel.

In the early hours on February 11, Thanongsak set up his very own road checkpoint on Soi 23, Phetchkasem Rd in Haad Yai City. At 2:30 am that same night, Pol Sgt Jamrak Jitpaloh from Haad Yai District Police station was on his way home. He had been attending personal business, so was out of uniform.

As he was driving down Soi 23 he saw Thanongsak – whose name roughly translates as “one who believes in his own power” – dressed in full uniform, signaling for him to stop. Having nothing to hide, he complied and pulled over. With authority, Thanongsak reached over to take the keys out of the ignition of Sgt Jamrak’s motorbike.

On seeing the insignia of a police lieutenant colonel on Thanongsak’s uniform, Sgt Jamrak became somewhat confused – he did not recognize this ranking officer asking to see his driving license. Police lieutenant colonel is a rank of some prestige, each district police force having only a few such officers. Sgt Jamrak was

sure he knew all the high-level officers in Haad Yai Police District.

He did not question Thanongsak however, and willingly complied with the “officer’s” requests. He pretended to phone a relative, claiming that he wanted to say that he had been delayed. Instead, he stealthily dialed 191 and told Sub Lt Chatree Suwandon at Haad Yai District Police Station, of his suspicions.

When Lt Chatree arrived at the scene, Thanongsak’s face turned pale. He was lost for words when Lt Chatree then asked to see his “superior’s” police ID card. At this point, Thanongsak, realizing the jig was up, promptly confessed that he was really just a casual laborer.

At Haad Yai District Police Station, Thanongsak admitted that he had successfully pulled the stunt on numerous occasions in various quiet sois in Haad Yai where police were unlikely to pass. He told police that he waved down passing vehicles, demanding to see the drivers’ licenses and checking whether the insurance and registration were up-to-date. He then convinced any offenders that an on-the-spot fine would be far easier for both parties than continuing the matter at the station.

Thanongsak’s uniform was seized as evidence. He was charged with impersonating a government official and wearing the uniform or insignia of an official without having the right to do so. Each charge carries a maximum sentence of one year in prison and a 2,000-baht fine.

Source: KomChadLuek




Say what you like about people who dump trash illegally, they are at least egalitarian. They’ll dump it in slums, and they’ll dump it right next to signs advertising fabulous seaview homes selling for 9.9 million baht. This artfully arranged informal dump is next to Sai Yuan Rd, at the entrance to Soi Axel’s Road, on the way to Nai Harn.

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Krabi is finally growing up. Tesco-Lotus has arrived, or at least its construction machinery has, and the local expats are applauding.

While many like to take a weekend trip to Phuket for shopping and to get away for a few days, it is a nuisance not having any decent shopping for Western items nearby.

Finally I shall be able to buy a pair of shoes without driving all the way to Phuket.

Rumor has it that Big C is sniffing around as well, and probably will build right next to Lotus. Then we would be going from famine to feast – now all we need is a hospital and an international school. Did you say hospital? Again, the little fairies are whispering that an international hospital has been looking for land in Krabi. That's good news for us all.

The big buzz in the expat business circle has been the proposal to amend the Foreign Business Act (FBA) by the Thai government. The Foreign Business Act dictates restrictions on foreigners as to what types of businesses they can operate and under what conditions. Probably the most visible change to the FBA is the stricter enforcement of 10 rules against the use of nominees in Thai corporations.

In the past, foreigners would arrange for Thais to act as "nominee" shareholders, holding shares in the interest of the foreigner and not acting as genuine investors.

For a small fee, the Thais would act as silent partners. These laws were rarely, if ever enforced, but all that has changed. I won't get into the reasons why.

Any company that has nominee shareholders is considered in violation of the current Foreign Business Act regulations, regardless of whether the new amendments are approved or not.

The new amendments list the penalties and time-frames for compliance. Any company with nominee shareholders will be given 90 days to notify the government and one year to comply.

The second major change



CLEAR THE WAY: The Tesco-Lotus construction site is a welcome sight for all in Krabi.

Growing pains

that the amendment will bring about is the use of voting rights to circumvent the shareholder restrictions. In the past, a company that was 49% foreign and 51% Thai could effectively be controlled by the foreigner through the issue of preferred shares to the foreigner. If each foreign share receives 10 votes and each Thai share one vote, the foreigner essentially retains ownership of the company and circumvents the Foreign Business Act.

The amendment to the FBA will outlaw companies using this shareholder arrangement, and stipulates they

have one year to notify the government, and in most cases two years of operation, before reverting to a true "Thai" company.

In previous issues we commented on what the effect of these changes and others would have on local businesses. As time has passed and the issues have become clearer, it is apparent that certain businesses will be affected to a greater degree than others.

Technically, when one opens a Thai-majority company – 49% foreign and 51% Thai – the shares should be bought by each shareholder to capitalize the company. As we all know, through the

nominee system, the foreigners paid for all the shares.

Under the new changes, most small businesses will remain open and not face too much scrutiny.

However, when it comes to companies investing in land and property, the story is different. The amendment to the FBA, while not yet law, is already being enforced in the real estate market.

Companies with foreign shareholders are being blocked from buying land in Krabi unless they can prove the Thai shareholders have paid for their shares or can pass a wealth test.

Many development companies which have been in existence for years can no longer use that company as a vehicle to purchase additional property. If one tries to open a company with foreign

shareholders to engage in real estate, it will be blocked by the Commercial Development Department for the same reason.

What does this mean for the average expat who is looking to buy his holiday home in Krabi? While the Krabi real estate market is immature by many measures, it is just starting to see some major investment money coming in.

Unfortunately, recent events have forced some of these investors take a step to the sidelines and some to step out altogether. Other businesses, such as company registration and local architectural and design firms, have also noted a significant drop in business.

Pierre-Yves Lorier, or "Ton" as he is referred to, is the Managing Director of Ton Company Limited, an architecture, engineering and construction management company based in Ao Nang.

"Initially there was panic," he says, referring to when the amendment to the Foreign Business Act first became public. "Now the seasoned expats are not as worried, as they have seen everything over the years, but it has definitely caused a downturn in the business of the newcomers coming to Thailand – they have been scared away."

It seems the bad news is settling in, with some established real estate players feeling the amendment to the SBA is a rejection of foreign investment. Other real-estate-related firms are trying to keep a happy face in light of recent developments, while still others are hoping that some sweeteners will come along with this new amendment – such as an extension of the long-term lease from the current 30+30+30-year structure to one 90-year lease, and an increase in the allowed ratio of foreign buyers in condominiums from 49% to 75% or more.

Let's pray for some sweeteners!



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By Gus Reynolds

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Airlines refuse to move back to Don Muang

Don Muang Airport may not reopen, as few airlines have shown intention of moving their operations back to the old airport, said an executive of Airports of Thailand (AOT).

Pinit Saraithong, Director of Don Muang airport, said that only three airlines – Nok Air, Thai AirAsia and One-Two-Go – were interested in moving back to Don Muang. The number of flights these airlines operate accounts for only about 10% of air traffic at the new Suvarnabhumi Airport.

“How could we survive with such a small number of clients?” he asked after meeting with more than 60 airlines, including Thai Airways International (THAI), which insisted it would not move.

AOT had earlier expected at least 30% of flights from Suvarnabhumi to move to Don Muang.

Sopin Daengteth, chairman of the Airline Operators Committee, said, “International airlines won’t return to Don Muang, even though the old airport would be reopened for international flights.”

The move would allow taxiways and runways at Suvarnabhumi could be fixed while airlines operate as usual, he said.

Cell suicide: German Helmut

Nehls was found dead in his prison cell in Udon Thani in what was believed to be a suicide, police said.

Nehls’ body was found on Valentine’s Day with his wrists slashed and a sock stuffed down his throat, Pol Capt Jirapong Singhasuriya said.

Nehls, 64, is believed to have died from suffocation, rather than loss of blood, because the slashes to his wrists, inflicted with the jagged edge of a toilet bowl, were not deep.

Police arrested Nehls, who is from Zeppernick in the eastern German state of Sachsen-Anhalt, on February 10 on charges of abducting and raping a 12-year-old girl.

Corrections Department chief Nathee Chitsawang ordered officers to question 30 inmates in the prison and to check the closed-circuit TV near Nehls’ cell.

Marital law: After waging a long battle to legally protect wives from being raped by their husbands, women’s rights activists expressed exasperation that the latest move to amend criminal codes still failed to address their concerns.

The latest proposed amendment reads: “An individual who rapes another person who is not his/her husband or wife has com-



OVER THE TOP? Actress and Thammasat University senior Chotiros “Amy” Suriyawong wore this sexy evening gown to the ceremony for this year’s Subhanahongsa Awards, the Thai film industry’s equivalent to the Academy Awards.

mitted a crime”. Current laws say it is a crime for a man to rape a woman who is not his wife.

Women’s rights activists believe the proposed new wording implies that rapes between

husband and wife are acceptable. Activists have long requested that the phrase “who is not his wife” be cut out in order to make it illegal for a man to rape his wife.

National Legislative Assembly (NLA) member Wallop Tangkhananurak said the NLA will reconsider the proposed change.

Happiness index wanes: Thailand’s “gross happiness index” has fallen to 5.68 in January from 5.74 in November and December, according to Abac Poll Research Center Director Dr Noppadon Kannika.

The negative factors claimed to have dragged the happiness factor down were the New Year’s Eve bombings in Bangkok, political divisions, the activities of ousted prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, violence in the South,

economic worries and construction defects at Suvarnabhumi Airport.

The poll of 4,704 locals and expatriates in 20 provinces between January 25 and February 10 found that people in the South and Bangkok were the least happy.

In calculating the index, “10” is defined as extremely happy and zero is extremely unhappy.

Out out damn Pop! Frightened of evil spirits known as *Phi Pop*, villagers at Kalasin’s Tambon Sam Chai raised 35,000 baht to pay a witch doctor to exorcise demons allegedly dwelling in two female villagers.

The exorcisms were carried out at Baan Nong Kung Noi community hall on the morning of February 9 by Paithoon Sommitr, 63. The treatment involved chanting magic spells and spilling water over the possessed women, who laid on the floor, screaming and crying.

Village headman Suwit Phaitecha said that following four mysterious and sudden deaths of villagers late last month, some 1,000 residents contributed to pay for the exorcisms.

Phi Pop is believed to be a female ogre who by night feeds voraciously on human intestines or the blood of animals.

Local health official Juthamas Wilasri said she had checked out the four “mysterious deaths” and found that they were all elderly persons, aged from 65 to 80, who died of heart disease and strokes.

Polluters to pay: Companies and individuals held responsible for groundwater contamination will have to pay for the clean-up if proposed new legislation and associated regulations come into effect.

The Natural Resources and Environment Ministry on February 13 filed for Cabinet approval of the Groundwater Bill. If the bill wins Cabinet approval, it will be passed on to the National Legislative Assembly.

The bill demands polluters cover costs of cleaning up groundwater contamination.

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

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Nine killed in night of violence

A string of coordinated bombings and arson attacks hit more than 30 targets, including a power plant, in the southernmost provinces on the night of February 18 and morning of February 19, the beginning of the Chinese Lunar New Year.

At least two people were killed and 29 injured in the Betong and Muang districts of Yala in a series of raids that targeted karaoke bars and petrol stations.

Yala was the worst affected province in the latest violence, said army spokesman Col Akara Thiproj, as 24 bomb blasts spread chaos and confusion around the province.

In Pattani a bomb struck a power plant in the Muang district at about 7pm leaving most of the province in darkness.

In Narathiwat, six bomb attacks hit various targets, including a karaoke bar in Sungai Kolok district at 8.45pm. One man was killed and about 20 injured in the incidents. Arson attacks were also reported at schools and a mosque in the province's Sungai Padi and Rusoh districts, officials said.

In Songkhla, a number of arson attacks took place in Jana, Na Tawee and Saba Yoi districts.

At the time of going to press, Agence France-Presse



PHYSICS 101: A crane hoisting a full concrete pouring bucket tipped onto its rear stabilizers during construction of a new Faculty of Communication Science building at Prince of Songkla University, Pattani Campus. No injuries resulted from the mishap.

reported that the toll for the night had risen to nine dead and 44 injured.

Blaze engulfs brothers: A man ran into his burning home to save his adopted brother in Trang's Wangwiset District on February 15. However, both died in the blaze.

Banlop Chalot, 32, ran into the house after seeing flames leap up and hearing the cries of his eight-year-old adopted brother, Phaisan Saelim. He managed to reach the boy, but the pair were engulfed by the blaze, Banlop's wife Im-erp Thongbua, 30, reported.

In the two-room house, K.

Banlop and K. Im-erp stayed with their two children in one room, while K. Banlop's mother, Lee Thaenmak, 60, and Phaisan lived in the other room.

Part of the house had been converted into a small grocery store, which sold whiskey bottles full of petrol to motorists.

"After we had dinner, Phai-

san went inside before everyone else. My children and I were just about to go in when I saw flames leap up in Phaisan's room. My husband ran to help. I could see that he managed to get to him and was about to carry him out when the flames leaped up and he could not get out," K. Im-erp said.

Lt Yutthaphong Thongjeen from Wangwiset District Police Station said that police believe the fire was caused by an electrical short circuit as the house had a lot of messy wiring.

The blaze was quickly fueled by the large amount of petrol kept in the house, he said

No encore: Singer Somphon Phetchnakin, 26, was shot dead on his doorstep in Thung Song District, Nakhon Sri Thammarat, February 10. The victim was an uncle of well-known Southern country singer "Kae Naphoh".

Police are working on the theory that jealousy or adultery provided the motive for the murder. K. Somphon was good looking, talented and always had many women after him, which angered other local youths, police said.

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



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That ol' Phuket magic

By Semacote Suganya

In 2003, prestidigitator David Holbourne magically appeared in Phuket, halfway around the world from his hometown of Nottingham, England.

He didn't indicate if broomsticks or astral travel were involved, but then a magician never reveals his tricks.

In a more prosaic vein, he explained, "I wanted to broaden my experience and skills in another country, and found that there are fewer professional working magicians here. I realized that I had a great opportunity to fill a gap in the entertainment market in Phuket."

The magic David performs under the company name Phuket Magic is packaged into several categories: children's magic; close-up magic, performed for adults at dinners, weddings, parties and corporate events; and stage magic for larger adult audiences, which combines close-up magic with balloon tricks.

David's Thai wife, Poo, helps him with his magic shows. He may be the world's first magician to pull Poo out of a hat.

"I love entertaining people. I make them happy and laugh – that's what makes me happy, and I love to see it. To be able to perform magic for an audience and see and hear their reaction of surprise is the best feeling in the world!" said David.

"I have lived in Phuket with my wife for three and half years, and we have built up the reputation of Phuket Magic," he said.

The couple have been commissioned to perform at events by many big businesses, including Le



AN ABUNDANCE OF MAGIC: David and Poo Holbourne deftly demonstrate their palpably perfect prestidigitation.

Royal Meridien Phuket Yacht Club, JW Marriott, The Holiday Inn and Tesco-Lotus.

Although David maintained the magicians' tradition of never revealing his tricks, one secret of his success he was willing to share was the advantage of hav-

ing a wry sense of humor. This gave him an edge over local magicians, as it gave him a greater rapport with foreign audiences, David said.

David got his start mentoring with a professional magician in Nottingham. In exchange for learning the ways of the wizard and the source of the magical pixie dust, David assisted his guru at lectures and performances and helped him as best he could. He didn't specify whether this involved being sawn asunder and sewn back together again, but he appears to still be all in one piece.

He sidelined as a huckster, putting his sleight-of-hand to good use. "I worked at the market selling bags, belts, and so on, and as

I love to entertain customers, I used magic tricks to help sell my goods," he told us.

Slydini, a master of sleight of hand tricks and misdirection, and Tommy Wonder, whose specialties were close-up and stage magic, were two modern magicians who have inspired David, who uses a somewhat more conservative stage name for himself: "Paul".

"I took three years to learn some of their tricks, such as tearing and restoring newspaper, and one called 'Merlin's Book'," he said.

David's credentials are pretty impressive. He's a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians (IBM) and

also the Derby Magic Circle. Does the Brotherhood use its supernatural powers to manipulate world affairs? He volunteered no information on that subject.

David does seem to use his powers for good here in Phuket, to the delight of many young and young-at-heart audiences.

His prices range from 4,000 baht for three-hour children's shows to 7,500 baht for a four-hour stage presentation.

Need a little magic in your life? For more information check out David's website www.phuketmagic.com or contact Phuket Magic by phone at: 087-8887676; or by email to: magic@phuketmagic.com.

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What's in a name? Think of "Joe": it could be kindly Uncle Joe Stalin, Joe 1 and Joe 4 or even Joe 90, Average Joe, Joe Bloggs, Joe Strummer (RIP), Judge Joe Dredd or Joe Schmoe.

Taking a quick spin around the world, the name "Joe" refers to Gawd knows how many restaurants and bars. There's the Navajo Joe restaurant in London, the Tokyo Joe's Blues Bar in Bangkok, the Eskimo Joe eatery in Stillwater, Oklahoma, and Tequila Joe's bar in Manila.

I am even told that humble Phuket has at least three establishments that feature the name "Joe" – Joe's Downstairs and Joe's South, and now Joe Kools.

The latter is to be found at the recently-opened Ramada Resort in Karon and is an enterprising mélange of Americana with a somewhat...a somewhat *what?* Tropical twist? Eccentric spin? Schizophrenic nature?

The first thing one notices upon entering Joe Kools is a rather large Yank tank, which looks not unlike (but is not at all like) the beast Kowalski drives in *Vanishing Point*, pinioned to the wall afore the bar. The muscle car in question is reputed to be a '64 Chevy and, so the legend goes, "Joe" parked it up the wall accidentally.

Elsewhere it's large pix of jazz greats on the walls, car license plates, Harley-Davidson seats on shock-absorber springs at the bar...

Joe Kools basks in the so-disant glory of being "the world's worst restaurant" and "home of lousy food and over-priced drinks".

Well, I know nothing about food and never pay for a drink, which means that I may be the joint's ideal customer.

So incensed was one *Gazette* correspondent that, in the February 3 edition of this turgid organ, he wrote, "...the price of a pint of Heineken was a stag-

HEY JOE...



Main picture: Who parked that there? Inset, gumbo (above) and kids' favorite The Painter Goes Mad.

gering 240 baht." Perhaps that's why the bar seats have shock absorbers. I'd be staggered, too, were I a beer drinker – but I'm not. It's shots, cocktails and wine for me.

But closer inspection is called for, and I investigate the bar menu. Indeed, Heineken is 240 baht a pint – if one buys one's pints in girly half-pint measures. Be a man, not an amoeba, and Heineken is a more moderate 180 baht a (draft) pint. Cocktails, by the way, are all 180 baht, unless one buys a "Superglass" Margarita – classic, mango or strawberry – or a 750-baht pitcher.

Joe Kools even – gulp – produces Margaritas by the cement-mixer full. I kid you not.

Ramada Resort GM Florian Hallermann is a bit of a card, in a pleasantly understated way. His enthusiasm for the Ramada

Resort is sincere.

The place is a veritable fairy kingdom. The resort has castles, family entertainment, kids' education zones and themed bedrooms, and not just for the young 'uns – Florian says that the fairytale princess rooms are popular with Korean honeymooners. The venue is ideal for a child's birthday party, however.

The restaurant has a welcome mix of comfort-food faves on the menu. Florian twists our arms into sampling the Margaritas – one of each flavor, to accompany our lunchtime feast.

We decide to sample selections from the Kids Grub Galore menu. "Octopus in the Sea" (sausage shapes in a sea of cheesy mashed potato with a fried egg for the cephalopod's eye) is a possibility, as is the "Tower of Fish", but we plump for "The

Painter Goes Mad".

Paint brushes – deep-fried cheese sticks – come served with various dips of green, red, yellow and blue hues and mashed potato. It is surprisingly yummy and (as with all the children's meals) good value at 150 baht.

We return to the adult world with a mighty plate of "Wild West" – potato skins delivered with bacon pieces, cheddar cheese and a tangy tomato sauce for 175 baht.

Down the hatch they go, along with a slurp of margarita – the best, I suggest, this side of the Chiquito Restaurant Bar in Leicester Square.

Next up is a plate of Hickory Smoked Baby Back Ribs. Although aware that Florian is a bit of a rum cove, we are nonetheless surprised to hear him intone the sacred mantra of the wonder-

On the menu



WITH
Andy Johnstone

Joe Kools

ful Chili's Grill & Bar, as performed by Fat Bastard in *Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me*: "I want my baby back baby back baby back baby back baby back ribs, Chili's baby back ribs". There is barely a dry eye – much less a dry seat – in the house. The ribs are damn fine.

"Mumbo Gumbo" – the traditional Louisiana seafood and chicken soup (180 baht) follows. The size of the portions prevents us from sampling the salads, burgers, enticing steaks from a land down under and desserts rich enough to make a cardiologist grin with anticipation.

"Another day," we say to each other. And we will. Good food, a good atmosphere – both for children and their less-mature parents – and reasonable prices; whether one resides here or is on holiday. Anyway, I quite fancy sitting in Captain Kirk's chair – to be found in one of the Star Trek-themed rooms – and telling the mem to, "Beam me up!"

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Through everything she does, Barbara Tucker tries to empower people, “to give them a good feeling and to help them to feel and give love,” she says.

These are just a few of her hopes when she steps on stage, writes a song, consults with a fellow artist or shares her strength with people in need.

“I have love to give people – which God has given me through my gift of singing – a ministry of love to awaken good feelings in people,” she says.

Barbara has always been involved in music. In her younger years she was in musical theater and sang in a church group with her sister and cousin. “My parents sang, and my father still sings in a group called The Persuasions. It was just a part of the family,” Barbara explains.

Barbara kept music in her family when she married producer and musician Marcus Fugate nine years ago. He used to tour with her, playing live and singing duets, but he is currently taking time to focus on his own projects.

“He’s more focused on his career right now, and I think it’s fine. I would take him out of his creations so much, you know. Even though I love him on stage with me, I can’t be selfish about it,” she says.

Barbara was dancing in a club in 1985 when she caught the eye of a producer. She said that the producer came up to her that night and said one of their dancers was sick and would she be in the background.

He didn’t know she could sing, but after that night she soon had danced in several videos and had begun choreographing. Barbara went to auditions and performed in nine off-Broadway productions as well.

During that period, she became a club promoter and began The Underground Network, the longest running club night in New York history. They switched their DJ line up at the club and eventually hired “Little” Louie Vega. After Vega met Barbara, the two collaborated on a song and she was signed to a record label.

Barbara Tucker’s countless contributions to the club music scene through her management, ideas and music have made her one of the best-known voices in the industry. Before her Valentine’s Day concert at The Chedi, this diva talked with the *Gazette’s* Laura Schafer about what drives her to do her best at everything.

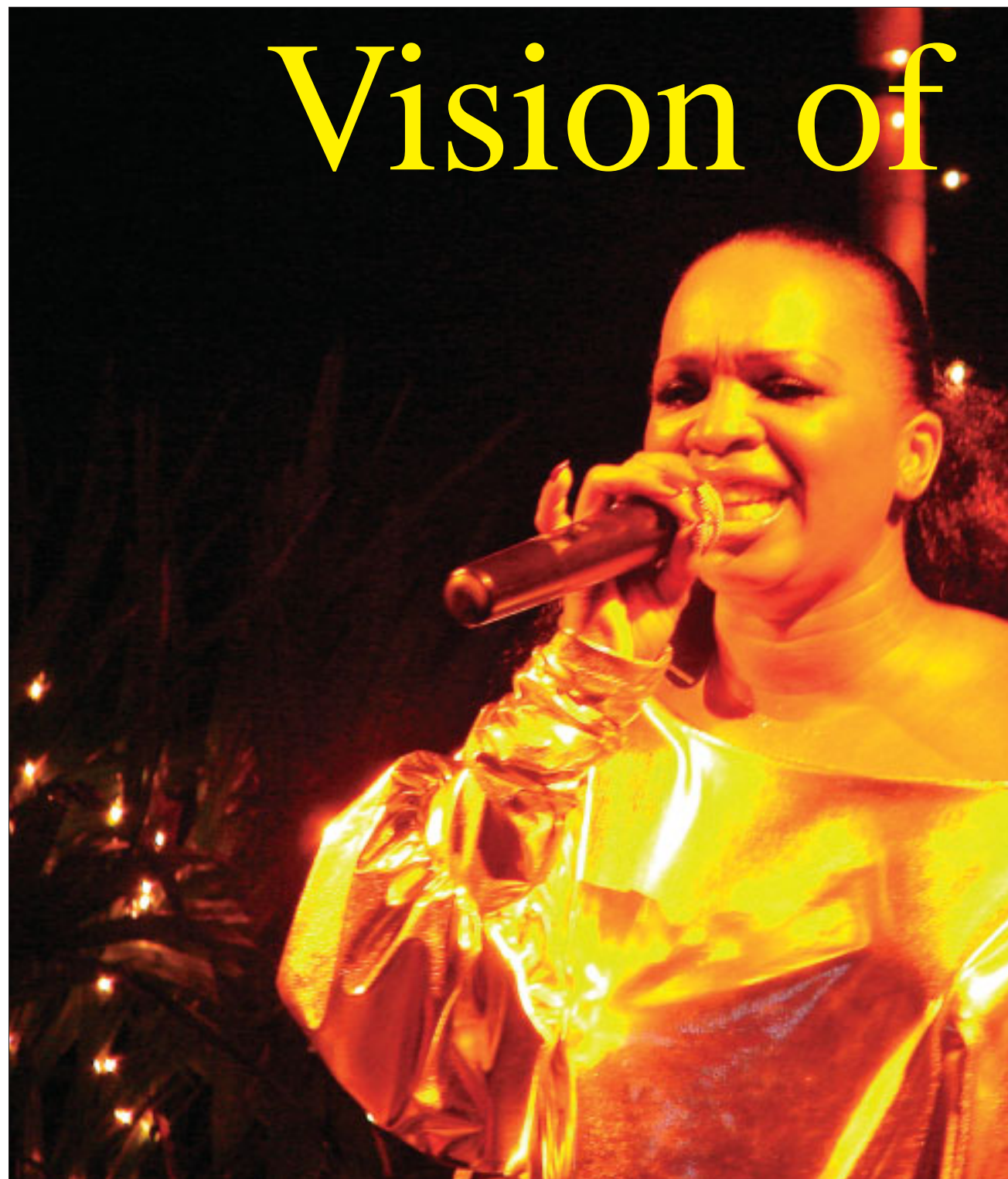
“I just kept working for various people, I’ve won and been nominated for many awards. It just keeps going,” Barbara says.

Since then she has launched a consultant company, toured, been involved in many collaborations and now has her own music label in the works. “I’ll have my own clothing line coming out soon, too,” she adds.

Her source of strength and inspiration? “God gives me ideas. I can be sleeping or sitting here and next thing I’m brainstorming and I’ll be like ‘Oh wow, we could do this’,” explains Barbara. “I’m always seeing a vision.”

Barbara has recorded a number of collaborations with different artists. She loves the harmonies and music that they make, and she loves when it all clicks.

“I just did a track with James ‘D-Train’ Williams – that was something,” she says. But



Vision of

her list of artists whom she would like to work with is long.

“Mick Jagger – I think I could be the Tina Turner of today with him,” she says, then laughs as she thinks of another. “How about Boy George? That would be fun. That’s what I look for: interesting and fun.”

Barbara’s music is fun, but she wants it to carry a message as well. Her songs *Beautiful People* and *Most Precious Love* are personal favorites because she feels that they connect with people the most.

“Those songs are very spiritual, and the more spiritual it is

the more I like it. People seem to get the message and get the meaning,” she says.

Before every show, Barbara prays that her audience will be touched and connected by the music and then take that love home with them.

“I hope what people get from my shows is to love themselves first and to search within and don’t look for the answers on the outside because the spirit will speak to you if you are quiet enough.

“I want people to not judge, just to accept people. If you can look in the mirror and accept yourself, then you can accept someone else. Because we all bleed the same,” she explains.

In her rare downtime, Barbara serves with one of the Zoe Ministries. Some days she cleans and serves others as part of the ministry program. “It’s about empowerment and how to make the best of your life.”

She is also working on setting up a program for young women in the arts. She wants to give them a place to feel comfortable and open up to their emotions. “It’s going to be for young girls about 13 to 18 years old who feel they are gifted.

“They can go there, we can counsel them and teach them the arts. We can show them that you don’t have to sleep with people to get to where you want to go.

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beauty

'I want people to not judge, just to accept people. If you can look in the mirror and accept yourself, then you can accept someone else. Because we all bleed the same'

Space". "I'm singing, I'm talking to people. I'm making them feel at home at a party. There are people from all over the world there. I keep my cool, I tell people don't let the island control you. You control yourself on the island," she said referring to the party atmosphere of Ibiza.

When she travels, Barbara listens to local music. "I like to hear the music of the land. I like to hear that spirit. It is very calming; it soothes me. I think they should do more live traditional Thai music.

"People inspire me. Inspire means 'in spirit'— that's where that word is come from. I don't really like to talk about the negative side, but if I do it's only to empower people to their positive side."

Still one has to wonder where she finds the energy and time to do everything that she does. "Everything moves slowly, and I'm very patient. I live life as things come up and I don't get stuck with time pressures. That's the only way I could survive I think. I'm very patient."

For more information about Barbara Tucker and her music see www.barbaratucker.com or myspace.com/missbarbaratucker

We'll teach them about the power within," Barbara explains. From July through Septem-

ber Barbara is in Ibiza, Spain, where she hosts a party every Wednesday called "In Bed with

Happily Ever After

Recent weddings in Phuket



ABOVE: Chalindra Mitwong and Udomsak Talasaitong were married in the Phra Pitak Grand Ballroom at The Metropole hotel on December 29.



LEFT: Pornpimon Plodbut and Christophe Durand were also married in the Phra Pitak Grand Ballroom at The Metropole hotel, but on January 15.

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This week



Classy Test Drive: Managing Director Man Sooksawee of Benz Phuket Co Ltd (back center, with cap) launches the new E-Class Mercedes-Benz E200 with test drives around the island and a lunch at Laem Phromthep for media and guests.



A ROYAL FANTASEA: FantaSea Phuket Chief Executive Officer Kittikorn Kewkacha (right) welcomes the Queen of Bhutan HM Queen Ashi Tshering Pem Wangchuck (3rd from right) and other members of the Royal Family of Bhutan during their recent visit to Phuket FantaSea.



LAGUNA GUIDANCE: Dusit Laguna Resort General Manager Jan Verduyn (left) and edition Dusit Executive Secretary Darunee Kolsaman (center) receive the *Gazette* 2007 edition from Guide Distribution Manager Jaree 'Nok' Makchan.



HOLIDAY GUIDES: Phuket Gazette Marketing Manager Natthira 'Anna' Susangrat (2nd from right), and Guide Distribution Officer Thammanoon Bunteam (right), deliver the new *Gazette Guide* to Holiday Inn Resort General Manager Wolfgang Meusburger (2nd from left) and his Personal Assistant Ladawan Chuayniam.



ABOVE – SILKY STARS: On their first night in Phuket for the Phuket International Blues Festival at the Hilton Arcadia in Karon, headliners enjoyed a dinner hosted by Silk Restaurant in Surin. Pictured are (from left) British blues legend Victor Brox; daughter and diva Kyla Brox; the phenomenal guitarist Rich Harper; and Silk Restaurant General Manager Angkana Jamsrikaew.

LEFT – SNOWBALLIN': Ken 'Snowman' Mihan and lead vocalist Mary of Pattaya's Blues Machine get rockin' at the Phuket International Blues Festival at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa in Karon.

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Okay, hands up, who thinks I'm gorgeous?

Last week I had my hair cut. Not a major chop, as I'm actually growing it, but a sleek re-style which even my hairdresser was completely proud of. Did anybody notice? Did they hell!

In the end I had to draw my radical encounter with my hairdresser to about five people's attention, and even then all they could muster was, "I thought something was a bit different". Some days I feel as though I could dye my eyebrows purple and boost my double-Fs to even more grotesque proportions and nobody would bat an eyelid...

It wasn't always this way. While at college I had a job at Harrods in London as a "mobile" salesgirl. One Christmas, on the road down the side of the store, I distinctly remember there were a couple of roofers working on a house, and on the way to work every morning I would run the gauntlet of their choice comments. Their appreciation was met with a frosty stare as I stuck my head in the air and slinked past in my boots and leather jacket.

These days I teeter along in my sexy kitten heels and hardly get a second glance. If anyone was to say anything I'd be far more likely to giggle coquettishly than act the offended feminist.

In fact the last builder who commented on my appearance was the one who decorated my house. As K. No-Name drank

the espresso I had made him, sitting in my kitchen, he asked, "Is it the way you are standing or are you pregnant again?" Truly, things obviously ain't what they used to be.

Don't get me wrong. This has nothing to do with seeking male approval. I'm chuffed if the bag lady in the London underground admires my coat. Okay, so she's only thinking of the cold night ahead, but these are desperate times.

You can't even rely on people who should know better. "Do these go together?" I ask "him indoors", he being the only other adult in the house. "Yeah, they look fine."

"Fine" in his case usually means "I don't think those colors go together, but I'm not going to risk another debate on just how color-blind I am".

Granted, my situation isn't as bad as that of my friend. She recently said of her partner, "The day Richard pays me a compliment is the day I'll know he is cheating."

If it's hard getting a compli-

ment out of your other half, don't look to other men for comfort. My good male friends seem to think they'll gain Brownie points by pretending to be in touch with their feminine side and being honest with me, when really I'm just fishing for compliments.

Once when I commented on my toned arms, naturally inviting comparisons with the muscular Madonna, one such "friend" said, "Yes, I had noticed they were rather chunky."

Another friend of mine was told, "You really are very attractive, but you should do a bit more work on your body. Your thighs are very big." There's being "one of the girls", and then there's just living goddamn dangerously.

There are also those compliments that leave you suspecting a backhander that Roger Federer would be proud of. The over-enthusiastic reception for my new sunglasses suggested that my last pair looked like a pair of cast-offs, and the exclamations of how flattering my jeans were merely indicated how well they disguised my enormous ass.

AMBROSIA'S

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SECRETS

Or, as my best mate was told, "You're so good at parties as you really know how to let your hair down," which, translated, means, "Your pissed-up party piece is a blast for everyone else, but, God, are you embarrassing."

A quick survey of my pals reveals one sad truth. It seems that while we often think complimentary thoughts, they don't always make it out of our mouths. One of the reasons for this could be the sometimes quite aggres-

sive denial that a compliment can elicit.

If someone tells us we're looking great we shoot back, "No I am not, I look absolutely awful." Sadly, learning how to appreciate compliments is something most of us achieve too late in life.

Perhaps there is a lesson in all this. Maybe it's wrong to look to others to bolster a flagging ego, and as long as the important people in your life appreciate you, that's really all that matters.

Why, only yesterday my nine-year-old told me I was the most beautiful woman in the world. Okay, so I asked him first, and yes, he knew that there was a packet of Maltesers riding on the answer, but still. He may not be a fully-formed person yet, but the boy shows some promise...

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

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Right: Even jeans and a T-shirt look good with the right shoes. Left: Bows and open toes from Karita. Below, elegant wedge heels with open toe in neutral colors, good for work or play. From Karita.



Above: Glitter at nighttime with diamante-decorated high-heel sandals in wicked black from Pearl Jam. Right: Simple but seductive strapped sandals, also from Pearl Jam.



BEST FOOT FORWARD

By Supanun Supawong

One essential accessory to a woman's style is shoes – the right shoes can make any outfit look great.

Trends in women's shoes are always changing, which would explain the over-abundance of shoes women seem to need; a fashion-conscious girl doesn't want to miss out!

Khattiya "Ta" Wuthiphan,

the owner of Karita Shoes in Ocean Shopping Mall, outlined recent fashion developments for the *Gazette*.

"Red shoes are a trend now, also shoes with heels around 10 centimeters. Most women prefer to buy trendy shoes, but shoe trends change fast, almost week-to-week. Some weeks the trend will be blue, some weeks it's yellow, violet or white. Women's shoe trends never stop," K. Ta said.

She added that colorful, closed shoes with high heels were popular. High-heeled, rhinestone-decorated ones were also hot sellers, especially for evening soirées, and footwear with small, translucent heels were all the rage for a night out.

For a more casual footing, closed rubber shoes were selling like hotcakes. K. Ta said that women often bought these everyday shoes in several colors to match different outfits.

"Some women bring in a piece of cloth to make a decision about matching the shoes to a dress or outfit... But for those who cannot decide, I can help them choose, such as silver shoes with a pink dress, or black ones with an orange dress," K. Ta told us.

"I think shoes are quite important, they make a woman look good," she concluded.

Apichart "Chart" Wuthiphan, her brother, is the owner of Pearl Jam Shoes. He agreed that women's shoes were an ever-changing fashion trend.

"Colorful, small heels in red, yellow and dark blue are popular," he said.


K. Chart also emphasized the importance of matching shoes to the rest of the outfit – for example, pairing red, white or black shoes with a red dress.

He said that closed shoes were the most popular at the moment, and that flats were good for daytime use, but for a night out there was no choice but heels.

Karita Shoes is on the second floor of Ocean Shopping Mall in Phuket City, open from 10:30 am to 9 pm every day.

Pearl Jam Shoes is located just up the road, at the Fantasia intersection, and is open from 10:30 am to 8:30 pm every day.


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Too good for their own good

The buyers of 170 million U2 albums can't all be wrong, can they? Any band that has received 22 Grammys – whatever a Grammy is actually worth – has to be supernaturally talented, surely?

A band that has espoused such causes as Greenpeace (while aiding the destruction of the ozone layer by flying around the world), Burmese political dissident Aung San Suu Kyi, unemployment in Ireland, the Make Poverty History campaign (while lead singer Bono wore US\$150 sunglasses), anti-globalization (while the band promoted the iPod) and, of course, Live Aid, must be in line for four-way beatification, right?

Sadly, as U2's espousal of important social causes has increased, the quality of their sonic output has shown a downward trend, as the recently-released *U218 Singles* compilation shows.

Odd to notice, too, that as The Edge's – he's the British guitarist of this, er... Irish band – hairline has receded, so has the innovation.

Of course, for a band that celebrated 26 years in the biz last year, it might not be surprising that it's lost some of its "edge".

It is only a little more than four years since the last U2 compilation (*The Best of 1990-2000*), which was just four years after the band's first (*The Best of 1980-1990*).

This one is an overview of their entire output, so it isn't too surprising that a great deal has been omitted.

There is no *Even Better Than the Real Thing*, from 1991's *Achtung Baby*, which hit the No 1 spot in the States. *Stay (Faraway, So Close!)*, a Top 5 hit in both the UK and Australia, is also absent.

In a 2005 interview with

Rolling Stone magazine, Bono cited *Stay...* as one of his personal favourite U2 songs, and perhaps the most underrated. So, Bono, why is it not on *U218*?

Conspicuous by its absence, too, is *Until the End of the World*, also from *Achtung Baby*. The lyrics describe a conversation between Jesus Christ and Judas Iscariot. Why, with the majority of U2 band members being Christian, and the single's chart-topping status, was this not selected?

U218 opens with *Beautiful Day*, the poly-national No 1 hit from 2001's *All That You Can't Leave Behind* – the band's 10th studio album and its fourth with Daniel Lanois and Brian Eno producing. The duo also produced *The Unforgettable Fire*, *The Joshua Tree* and *Achtung Baby*, arguably U2's best releases.

Next, it's a leap back in time with Track 2, *I Still Haven't Found... My Singing Voice* – I mean, ...What I'm Looking For, from 1987's *Joshua Tree*; before going back a further three years to *Pride (In the Name of Love)*, about Martin Luther King Jr.

The bombastic *Pride* works only on the strength of its resounding beat and big, droning bass line, not on the nobility of its lyrics, which are actually unremarkable and inarticulate emotional crowing.

Critical reception to this song remains mixed. Music critic Dave Marsh wrote of *Pride*: "I hated it, and I hate it still... What kind of overweening, sanc-



YOUNGER DAYS: The cover photo goes back the time when the Edge had more hair... and more edge.

timonious little amateur-ass person wrote that simpering idiocy? If you ask ME, when you bleed to death from the bullet, you ain't got anything left to be proud with."

By the way, obsessive-compulsives, the final verse "relating" King's assassination, begins, "Early morning, April 4, shot rings out in the Memphis

sky..." He was, in fact, shot at 6:01 pm.

With or Without You – which recently made a splendid appearance as a No 1 hit cover version on *Take Me To The Clouds Above* by Brit dance outfit LMC – from *The Joshua Tree* follows.

With remains a favorite on U2 tours. For anyone wanting to recreate the live concert experience at home, simply fill your living room with as many people – preferably ones you dislike – as you can, drench yourselves with a combination of stale beer, sweat and rainwater, play *With or Without You* at ear-bleeding volume, and burn yourself with disposable lighters held above your head.

The compilation continues with *Vertigo*, a great song. In fact, it's the best song from 2004's *How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb*. The maudlin *Sometimes You Can't Make It On Your Own* – about Bono's late father – is the only other track from *How To...* to make it

onto *U218*, although four tracks were released as singles. From there on in, all the usual suspects make an appearance.

New Year's Day, *Where the Streets Have No Name* (Tony Blair's favorite song, I am told), the martial *Sunday Bloody Sunday* – apparently a song about not having much to do at the weekend – follow alongside *Desire*, *Sweetest Thing* and *Elevation*, a thunderously good mix of crashing drums, effects, guitars and a simple refrain to which the intimate audience of 55,000 souls can sing along with ease. And oh, it was used in the 2001 film *Lara Croft: Tomb Raider*.

The penultimate track is a cover of The Skids' (Richard Jobson, where are you now?) *The Saints Are Coming* performed with Green Day.

The song, I read, was recorded for – no surprise – charitable purposes, this time for victims of Hurricane Katrina or some other worthy crowd – but, after having read through page after page of liner notes listing U2's good works, I switched the CD off.



Ear Candy
By Andy Johnstone

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Main picture: A funky and lush welcome at Hong Kong's Luxe Manor. Inset, Singapore's New Majestic (top) and Siem Reap's One Hotel Angkor, with its single suite.

CHIC BOUTIQUE

Seeking relief from the Chain Gang – carbon-copy, corporate-branded hotels whose logos bedeck all too many destinations – Asian travelers are finding sanctuary in the ever-growing breed of boutique resorts.

When the first luxury hotel opened in the Tibetan capital, Lhasa, it was besieged by locals wanting to ride the lifts and experiment with the restaurants' novelty knives and forks.

Twenty years on, the hospitality learning curve is still fairly steep, and sharpened somewhat with the opening of Banyan Tree Ringha, 3.2 kilometers above sea level.

Given that the province where it stands had recently been dubbed "Shangri-La", the hotel took its cue from the legend and duly ensured that it would blend seamlessly into the landscape.

The 32 suites and lodges are genuine farmhouses – moved from their original locations and painstakingly re-constructed – augmented by mod cons such as IDD and color TV.

In Hong Kong, The Luxe Manor is a bold fusion of hi-tech, high camp and haute cuisine – a 159-room boutique in the back streets of Kowloon that's a very viable alternative to more traditional accommodation.

Adopting a European mansion as its model, the Manor's interior designs – think wistful, Photoshopped Salvador Dali – at once astonish and astound.

Top accommodation is found in the six themed suites – perhaps with mirrored wall-

paper, or imitating a Bedouin tent – due to open shortly; however, the regular rooms are both roomy and tasteful, with luxurious, clean-lined bathrooms sporting a rain-forest shower.

The portable bedside phone works anywhere in the hotel, and the Internet-enabled television is framed within a gilt mirror. The overall effect is both cordial and entertaining, while the Italian restaurant is utterly gourmet.

There's but a solitary suite at The One Hotel Angkor, in Siem Reap – but what a suite! Its lofty ceilings look down upon an oligarch-sized bed; there's an outdoor terrace with shower, Jacuzzi and day bed; and the accessories include an iBook, an iPod and a mobile phone.

Contained in a renovated

French colonial mansion, a cocktail-olive toss from the hip Linga Bar, One's staff are drawn from a training institute for underprivileged youth and go about their tasks with a marvelous blend of decorum and style.

Dining at the ground-floor bistro is a regular treat, with fresh local ingredients imaginatively served,

and the adjoining McDermott Gallery – showcasing the work of young Cambodian artists – provides much in

the way of cerebral entertainment.

The area around Keong Saik Road in Singapore's Chinatown used to be known for its "short-time" hotels, which didn't need loyalty programs to attract repeat guests.

Yet the area has recently

undergone a rapid transformation from seedy to swish, with the arrival of a cluster of smart restaurants and boutique hotels.

Former lawyer Peng Loh led the way with Hotel 1929, and has capitalized on that property's success by opening the New Majestic.

Each of its 30 rooms was designed by a different young artist. Four of the most intriguing are variously dubbed Mirror, Hanging Bed, Aquarium and Loft. They must be seen to be believed.

The property's bedecked with arresting artworks, and the restaurant is overseen by the youthful Yong Bing Ngen, who matches his idiosyncratic style of Cantonese cuisine to the wines of the world.

Singapore, sometimes nicknamed "Asia Lite" by unkind critics, has suddenly taken on a very hip twist.

TALES OF A TRAVELER

By Ed Peters

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The two faces of the new Mercedes-Benz



DaimlerChrysler, or more specifically Mercedes-Benz, recently took the unusual step of launching its important new car not at an international motor show such as Geneva or Frankfurt but in its own backyard in Stuttgart.

Despite being a relatively low-key event, more than 600 international media representatives turned up to view the new addition.

The new C-Class is the first car in the world to offer two alternative front ends. The more staid of the model line-up will feature the traditional pointed star on the hood, while the sporting versions will have a larger badge in the center of the radiator grille.

Mercedes-Benz boss Dr Dieter Zetsche said, "Starting with the vehicle's external appearance, each customer can decide for him- or herself where they want the emphasis to be."

The outgoing model accounted for more than two million units, making it the most successful C-Class released. Introduced 25 years ago as the 190, the "Baby Benz" has proved remarkably durable in its various incarnations, and this latest model represents the fourth generation of the car.

The new sedan offers outstanding safety and comfort. Technical innovations include a new "agility control" system that adjusts shock absorbers in-line with driving conditions and a brake system that intervenes accordingly when needed.

Inside are seven air bags, seat belt pre-tensioners and belt-force limiters, all standard. For the driver and front passenger there are adaptive headrests that react to support and protect the occupants' heads within a fraction of a second if the vehicle is hit from behind.

In addition, the new sedan is fitted with brake lights that flash rapidly under emergency braking to help prevent rear-end shunts. Like the larger Mercedes'

models, the new C-Class is available with Mercedes' unique anticipatory occupant-protection system, known as Pre-Safe.

All models are comprehensively equipped, with alloy wheels on most units as well as projection-beam headlamps, and on some versions a luxury multi-function steering wheel with 12 buttons controlling different aspects of the vehicle.

There are four engines on offer: three gasoline and one diesel, all developed to increase performance and improve fuel economy. The engines immediately available, from the C200 four-cylinder unit through the C280 and C350, offer exceptionally smooth delivery of their respective outputs.

Later this year Mercedes-Benz will extend the range and add a C320 CDI V6 diesel unit, as well as a C180 Kompressor (turbocharged) model and a C200 CDI. The Kompressor is now a "something-for-nothing" method of extracting more power from a small capacity unit, using an exhaust-driven turbo instead of the previously used engine-driven – and less efficient – supercharger.

When all engine options are fully released, their respective outputs will range from 136 bhp (100 kW) for the C200 CDI to 272 bhp (200 kW) for the C350 V6 gas model.

"Through innovative high-performance technologies we aim to raise the bar even higher when it comes to safety, comfort and agility in the segment of compact premium automobiles," said Dr Zetsche. "The new C-Class will thus set new standards when it comes to providing the most sophisticated driving experience in its segment."

Three versions of the new C-Class will be available at dealers in Europe by the end of March, with the others coming on-stream progressively throughout the year. Expect to pay from 2.69 million baht for the C180 Kompressor and from about 3.19 million baht for the C230.



BEHIND THE WHEEL

By Jeff Heselwood

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Hidden Words

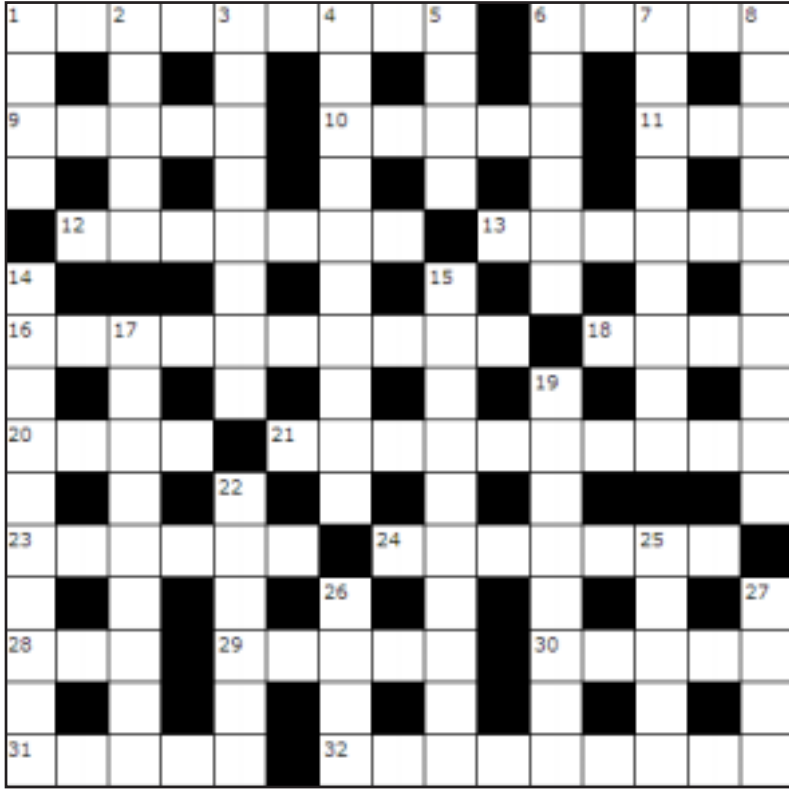
Hidden in the grid below are the family names of at least 25 herbivores. The words may read vertically, horizontally or diagonally. They may also read right-to-left or down-to-up. Score: 15 or more, good; 20 or more, very good; 25 or more, excellent. Solution on the next page.

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

The Cryptic Crossword

ACROSS

1. In commedia dell'arte, breathe heavily with crazy person. (9)
6. Leaves young attendants. (5)
9. Swerve almost perpendicularly. (5)
10. Number for all time? No! (5)
11. Baseball statistic, period! (3)
12. Honey's hairdo. (7)
13. Instruments for wine-glasses. (6)
16. Tempest character and us? That's rich! (10)
18. Tie up on high open ground. (4)
20. Manage ecclesiastical vestment. (4)
21. Degrades Samuel; I hit badly. (10)
23. Note: Untie relative. (6)
24. Tao gets in a rut on island. (7)
28. Printer's measure after 50, lad. (3)
29. Car key, we hear, is green-brown. (5)
30. Foreigner takes a property right. (5)
31. Sal is in rope material (5).
32. Fury in prong fruit. (9)



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2007

DOWN

1. Overtake mountain gateway. (4)
2. She's more than nice. (5)
3. Broadcast joints and balloons. (8)
4. O moon virus! Oddly, it

- eats all. (10)
5. Exploding Chevrolet? (4)
6. Stake, or back in word. (6)
7. Super fur garment. (9)
8. Clothesmaker has joint stress (10).
14. Glasses for extravaganzas. (10)
15. Smoking gun, if omit a turn. (10)
17. They're against the other side. (9)
19. Imitate alum back in site. (8)
22. Satan has the Spanish coin. (6)
25. Elsewhere, Al and I swing both ways. (5)
26. Conflict over shirt blemish. (4)
27. On one occasion in the past. (4)

Solution on next page

Scribble Space



EZ TRIVIA QUIZ

1. Brussels is the capital of which country?
2. What is the hardest natural substance known to man?
3. Which country do pandas come from?
4. Which is the world's largest mammal?
5. What was Phuket's main industry before tourism?
6. Who wrote the novel *A Christmas Carol*?
7. What was Little Miss Muffet eating when the spider arrived?
8. What is the currency of Hong Kong?
9. What is the national animal of Thailand?
10. On which continent would you find gorillas?

Answers on next page

Rhyme Time

The words described below all rhyme with 'air'.

What are they?

1. Seat.
2. Open area in a town.
3. Uncommon.
4. State.
5. Fix.
6. Rich person.
7. Single diamond.
8. Frighten.
9. Rip.
10. Southeast Asian language.

Answers on next page

su | do | ku
© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

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



Quick Crossword

ACROSS

1. Powerless on the sea.
4. Breathing organ.
8. Part of a machine.
9. State between Mississippi and Georgia.
10. "Mummy", in German.
11. Concepts.
13. Monk's female equivalent.
14. ***** utan.
15. House lizard.
16. Not professional.
18. Fruit seed.
19. Fencing sword.
20. Attached to pencil end, often.

DOWN

1. Make room for.
2. Sailing event.
3. Pink birds.
5. Ms Thurman, actress.
6. Jumping insect.
7. He fakes illness to get off work.
12. Gets away.
17. Top fighter pilot.

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. The Blue House is the official residence of the president of which country? | 8. In heraldry, what word is used to describe the color white? | found about 380 BC? |
| 2. Who is the oldest national leader in the world, and how old is he? | 9. What is the ABO system used for? | 15. Which organ of your body might be affected by strabismus? |
| 3. The Trobriand Islands are part of which nation? | 10. If you are suffering from abulia, what have you lost? | 16. Which 1956 movie starred Marlon Brando, Glenn Ford and Machiko Kyo? |
| 4. According to Dorothy Parker, brevity was the soul of what? | 11. Friday is named after Freyja, the Germanic goddess of what? | 17. How much money did Ayatollah Khomeini offer in 1989 for the death of author Salman Rushdie? |
| 5. What did John Taliaferro Thompson invent? | 12. Who had a hit song in 1967 with <i>Friday On My Mind</i> ? | 18. In which year was the Frisbee introduced? |
| 6. Who led the Kon Tiki expedition in 1947? | 13. D G Rossetti, W Holman Hunt, and John Millais were members of which art movement? | 19. If a carnivore eats meat, what does a palynivore eat? |
| 7. Florence Nightingale Graham founded which cosmetics company? | 14. Which school of philosophy did Zeno | 20. What or who is a fucus? |

Answers below, left

Puzzle Solutions

Monster Quiz Answers

1. South Korea; 2. Malietoa Tanumafili II of Samoa, aged 94; 3. Papua New Guinea; 4. Lingerie; 5. The tommy gun; 6. Thor Hayerdahl; 7. Elizabeth Arden; 8. Argent; 9. Classifying human blood; 10. The ability to make decisions or act independently; 11. Beauty; 12. The Easybeats; 13. The Pre-Raphaelites; 14. Stoicism; 15. The eye; 16. *The Teahouse of the August Moon*; 17. US\$3 million; 18. 1957; 19. Pollen; 20. A brown alga.

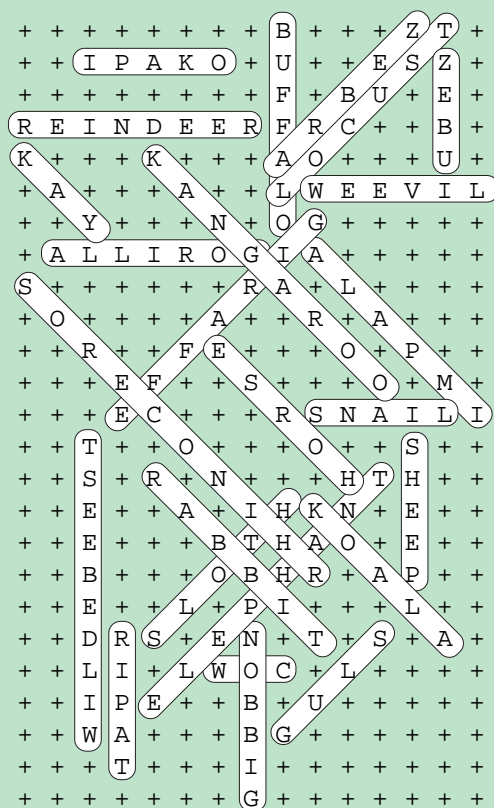
Rhyme Time Answers

1. Chair; 2. Square; 3. Rare; 4. Declare; 5. Repair; 6. Millionaire; 7. Solitaire; 8. Scare; 9. Tear; 10. Khmer.

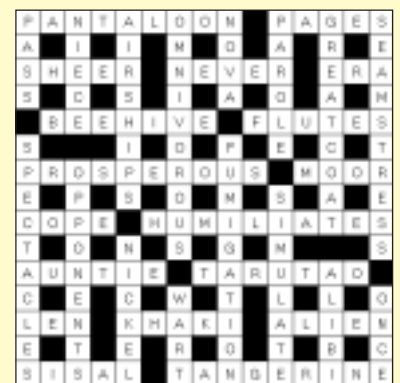
EZ Trivia Answers

1. Belgium; 2. Diamond; 3. China; 4. Blue whale; 5. Tin mining; 6. Charles Dickens; 7. Curds and whey; 8. The Hong Kong dollar; 9. The elephant; 10. Africa.

Hidden Words SOLUTION



Solution to this week's Cryptic Crossword



Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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

So who is Thomas Pynchon?

Thomas Pynchon is a genius. In 1963, at the age of 26, he published the most amazing first novel in the history of American literature.

V. is the story of a search for a mysterious woman who encapsulates the history of the 20th century and roves from New York to Paris, Cairo, German South-west Africa, Malta and points beyond.

The theme is the Second Law of Thermodynamics or Entropy – the idea that humanity is running out of energy and reverting to inanimate matter. A dismal idea but *V.* is hysterically funny, full of zany characters with weird names who caper about in a frenzy, every so often breaking into song like in a Brecht play.

Now, as a genius Pynchon is entitled to be eccentric. He is a fanatical recluse, making J.D. Salinger look like a publicity hound. He doesn't give interviews or readings and there are no photographs of him beyond his schoolboy days. His very whereabouts for many years was a secret.

Critics lumped *V.* in with the popular black humor novelists of the day: Joseph Heller, Bruce Jay Friedman, Kurt Vonnegut. But he would soon move way beyond them and his name is perennially mentioned for the Nobel Prize.

In 1966 he came out with the slender *Crying of Lot 49*, a comic novel about paranoia, set in modern California. Then, after a seven year silence, he produced a giant masterpiece called *Gravity's Rainbow*, set in World War II Europe with a theme of death and fate symbolized by the V2 rocket. Judges awarded it the 1973 Pulitzer Prize, but the board rejected it, calling the novel turgid and obscene, and gave out no prize that year. *Gravity's Rainbow* did win the National Book Award.

Again another silence, this one for 17 years till the appearance of *Vineland*, about exiled aging hippies and evil narcs in northern California. This novel featured a warmth of tone and richer characters centered about a father's love of his daughter.

Mason & Dixon in 1997, a historical novel about the famed surveyors, also drew on fully-fleshed characters.

And now, a decade later, comes the culmination of Pynchon's lifework: *Against the Day* (Penguin Press, New York, 2007, 1,085pp). That's right, 1,085 pages. And these are big pages with small type and scant margins.

In form, *Against the Day* is a return to type to his early novels with multiple wacky characters and singing vaudeville turns, but in substance it is much broader:



Pynchon: Oceanic phrases.

a mystical quest to understand time and transcendence.

Writing in the *New York Times*, Michiko Kakutani, the doyenne of American literary criticism, savaged *Against the Day*. It was as if the chief rock critic of *Rolling Stone* declared that Eric Clapton

can't play the guitar. In fact, she labels Pynchon an "Emperor with No Clothes" and declares that his new novel is like reading one by a Pynchon imitator on Quaaludes.

If Pynchon is on Quaaludes, I'd hate to see him on steroids. His great high-prose oceanic sentences roll like the best of Faulkner and Proust. Here's a sample, two thirds of the way through the book when two American characters are thinking about skipping out of the oil town of Tampico as the revolution in Mexico is brewing:

"Away to the west and the Sierra, in grand residences faintly visible through the mists that rose from the malarial lowlands, the gringo population cringed on top of their breezy river-bluffs, waiting for the native uprising they all believed imminent, as they lay supine in their bedrooms night after night, beset, in the few hours of sleep they did find, by nearly identical nightmares of desert flight, pitiless skies, faces in which not only the irises but the entire surfaces of eyes were black, glistening in their sockets, implacable, reflecting columns of flame as wells blazed and exploded, nothing ahead but exile, loss, disgrace, no future anyplace north of the Rio Bravo, voices invisible out in the oil-reek, from out of the diseased canals, accusing, arraiguing, promising retribution for offenses unremined..."

Now this is magnificent prose. I'll tell you about the plot next week.

PHUKET DIARY

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).

To February 25: Old Phuket Town Festival

The 9th Annual Old Phuket Town Festival will start with a prayer ceremony at 5 pm at Queen Sirikit Park.

On Friday, at 5:30 pm, there will be a "Phuket Culture Parade".

There will also be activities from 6:30 pm to 10 pm every night at the park and along Thalang Rd. From 7:45 pm to 8:35 pm there will be a nightly light and sound show.

Photographs from HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 1959 visit to Phuket will be exhibited daily

from 5 pm to 10:30 pm, while the exhibit of old Sino-Portuguese Phuket will be open at 63 Thalang Rd.

The festival will close with a prayer ceremony, a lion dance performance and a puppet show.

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 (086-944-7721) or Joan (087-2820422) or email Maxine at maxandgoddess@csloxinfo.com, or visit the Soi Dog website at www.soidog.org

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The Phuket Gazette
- Since 1994 -

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Tackling all forms of terrorism takes preparedness

Much has been written and said about the "War Against Terror" since US President George W Bush began using the expression to justify his government's actions in the Middle East after the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City on September 11, 2004.

Unlike Baghdad, Bangkok and Bali, we here in Phuket have thus far been spared from violence against civilians – at least of the kind intended to attain political or religious goals.

However, there has been no lack of terror here in recent months. The latest incident was the shocking attack on February 13 of a young beach masseuse named Somjai at Patong's Loma Park by a well-known paint thinner addict [see Inside Story, pp 4-5].

The attack, carried out by an unstable man who apparently could not bear the sound of a screaming child, came just a few weeks after two other drug-related violent crimes: the January 31 stabbing murder in Rassada of a transvestite by a gang of nine fellow glue-sniffers and the February 7 shootout between police and an amphetamine-crazed pork vendor behind Surakul Stadium in Phuket City.

Both Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit and Kathu Police Superintendent Col Teeraphol Thipjareon are correct to urge the public to report characters who indicate a threat to society.

The truth is, however, that the human time-bomb who attacked K. Somjai was removed from Patong by Kathu Police at least twice before finding his way back to carry out this horrific attack on K. Somjai.

It is true that the assailant in this case was never implicated in any violent crimes before this attack, but the fact that he was allowed to continue to lurk about a children's playground, sniffing solvents day after day and harassing tourists, speaks volumes in itself.

Perhaps people who work in the area had already given up reporting him, knowing full-well that he would only return again.

One hopes that the newly installed closed-circuit television (CCTV) security systems now up and running in Patong gives police officers there a valuable new tool to spot threats to public safety – and that they effectively act upon such threats.

The fact that no officer appeared to have been on the busy beach at midday during the middle of the high season highlights our unpreparedness.

What if the next threat comes from an Al Qaeda operative and not a solvent-crazed lunatic? Terror is terror, and we should be prepared to stop it in any form.

– The Editor

The Phuket Gazette

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Letters

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

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

Greed is killing Phuket's tourism

Since coming here I have been forced to put pen to paper by writing to you at the *Gazette* about all the unsavory practices that proliferate in unchecked abundance on this paradise isle.

A friend of mine was checking his bags in for a flight that left at 1:35 am on January 23 as his visa expired at midnight on the 22nd, only to be told by the check-in staff that he would have to pay "one day overstay" as his flight was leaving after midnight!

Knowing, as most people on the planet do, that once you have gone through passport control into the departure lounge everyone is then in "international territory" (hence duty-free shopping), he pointed out to the lady that he would be in the departure lounge by midnight, she in turn phoned Immigration to check.

As it was, Immigration sheepishly folded to his particular point of view, which was the only correct one anyway. But the barefaced effrontery displayed by all the airport staff in trying to rip off any tourist beggars belief.

It seems to me that the Thai government's so called "clamp-down" on visa controls is back-firing horribly on themselves, as many people are vowing never to return and opting to go spend their money in Laos, Vietnam, China and so on.

So, well done Thailand! You have really shot yourself in the foot and are actively discouraging people from returning. The sympathy extended to you worldwide post-tsunami has well and truly expired, as are many visas from people who won't be returning because of your money-grabbing greediness!

At least Dick Turpin had the decency to wear a mask! Get a grip on yourself Thailand, your short-term gain will lead to long-term pain. Whoever or whatever set you on this current economic/financial greed trend ought to be fired now before the damage is irreversible.

You have a beautiful country, so why make it so difficult for people to enjoy it and fill your coffers in the process?

Tired of greed
Phuket, for now

No comment about foreigner-labeling?

I attentively read the article about foreign teacher crackdowns published in the February 10 issue of the *Gazette*, and I was astonished for two reasons.

First of all, I've never heard anything so ridiculous and offensive directed toward a category of people, i.e., foreign teachers who work to help Thai students improve their English, their education and more, in terms of social living and civics.

To compare all foreign teachers to the American John Mark Karr is the same as to say that all foreign teachers are potentially pedophiles and dangerous people!

The unbelievable opinions and comments expressed by Thai Immigration Chief Pol Lt Gen Suwat Tumrongsiskul (that the crackdown is to prevent crime and protect students...and to remove those with deviant sexual behavior that could put children at risk) sounds impolite as well as discriminating. Are Thai teachers exempt from pedophilia and crime?

Dear Lt Gen Suwat, why don't you compare the profes-

sional background of Thai teachers with that of the foreign teachers?

If I was a foreign teacher teaching in Thailand, I would resign tomorrow, as I couldn't accept the Thai teachers, students and parents thinking of me like a criminal and pedophile!

Secondly, I was really surprised about the silence, or "no comment", from the *Gazette*, as to the inappropriate judgment expressed about the English native-speaking teachers. Probably for the *Gazette* to comment on the "Patong one-way streets" issue is more important.

Bernard Dupont
Thalang

Sounding off at the True UBC

About 100 years ago radio broadcasters discovered how to adjust the volume of sound being transmitted. Not only that, they found that commercials could be transmitted with the sound at the same volume of the programs being broadcast.

It's true! Commercials do not have to be about five times the volume as the movie. I know you probably don't believe this but you can verify this claim easily enough.

Maybe, just maybe, if you did this a husband could watch late-night TV without waking the entire neighborhood and a naggy wife, or else he would have to switch off the TV, which means that he would not see the commercial at all.

I'm sure that advertisers do not like viewers having to switch off their costly commercials – also true, just call them.

Don Aleman
Phuket

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

Phuket sports: Lacking

Phuket is a haven for tourism, but not for someone who loves sports. Phuket has had many plans in the past to develop sports teams, but things are still very quiet on the local sports front. If you had lived here 10 or 20 years ago you would notice the difference in the sports scene in Phuket Province. At that time Phuket had many spirited football players and was very successful at match competitions. That's not true now though. But I am working to turn that situation around.

I grew up on Phuket, but headed off to Bangkok at age 18 to study at Sripatum University and spent a further five years at university in the Philippines studying engineering, then back to Bangkok to work.

I returned to Phuket eager to play football for the local club. I was excited about representing my home province in sports competitions. I came back to Phuket from Bangkok to play for the club – and they didn't even pay for my bus ticket. But I didn't care – I was full of spirit for our team and our home. This is the spirit that I hope to rebuild. So many players today don't have the team spirit that we want for Phuket. The biggest problem is that many of the players are not from Phuket, and don't have the pride and strong feelings about our home here. They are often interested only in money and they look at it like a job.

FIRST PERSON

Phuket's Chairman of the Sports Development Club **Wongwara Sanguansak** is frustrated with the way government officials hinder the sports community. In other provinces he has had an easy time organizing matches that were huge successes, but here he feels that local officials don't care and are creating problems that keep events from taking place.



We need to change this thinking by starting with our young people and teaching them a love of sports and encouraging their love of Phuket. That will build the spirit that will grow our teams and our attitude and make us successful.

I am eager to develop sports on Phuket, but there are many problems in the way. I would like to change the status of the sports club to that of an association. Local clubs do not have formal status and function primarily as a group of volunteers. Changing the status of the organization to that of an association will allow us to seek government funds to help

build sports development programs. Other things that get in the way include government officials failing to grant permits to use the local facilities.

Phuket has a great location with excellent facilities such as Surakul Stadium, one of the best stadiums in the 14 southern provinces. We are ready and eager to organize big national and regional matches, but we find government officials make it very difficult to get a permit to use the stadium. Why do they do that? Why isn't getting a permit an easy process?

Last year I organized a large match for Chumphon Province

and it was very easy to do, it was a huge success with big crowds. Why can't we get that done here? Local officials don't care, they lose documents that I send them, and every time we try to organize something a problem is created that keeps it from getting done. They don't co-operate even if it is for the good of Phuket Province.

Reorganizing our club as a sports association, in addition to bringing in funding, will allow us to organize sports competitions and use the local facilities without having to ask government officials for permission. I hope to get this done in the next three to

four years – it is a long process and requires many governmental permissions.

These problems don't hamper my spirit though, and I continue to plan events and training in Phuket. Our latest plan is to organize a "train the trainer" program for every futsal coach in the 14 southern provinces. The coaches will then pass along what they learn to their players.

On March 10 we will have a big football match between the Thai Star Team (a team of Thai TV stars) and a Phuket VIP team (mostly government officials) to help raise money to support our activities. We have asked to use Surakul Stadium for this match.

Next year we will host the 2008 Senior Footballer's Association of Thailand and the Senior World Cup 2008 in which many countries will join in. It is hard to organize all of this, but I hope everyone will join in to help do this for Phuket.

I focus on Surakul Stadium as the condition of the field at the Saphan Hin stadium is not good. I think the person who is responsible for the Saphan Hin facility should have it repaired. It just shows that nobody cares – that there is no harmony between the sports community and the people responsible for the facilities. It is important that we develop these programs together.

We have to have harmony first and we should do what is best for Phuket.

Patong traffic rules, ok?

When will Patong Police begin enforcing vehicle exhaust noise laws that have been on the books for years? It would be nice to sleep uninterrupted through a whole night without hearing modified, extra-loud bikes roaring about town.

Another problem is, how do you cross Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, against constant one-way traffic that does not stop or slow down? I, and others, have seen no evidence of the 75 extra officers the police said they had assigned.

As it is, with no traffic lights and no policeman, you just run like hell and hope you make it. I hope that Patong Hospital is at least ordering extra beds.

Last but not least, where do I now catch the bus to Phuket City? The bus used to stop on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, but now that road is one-way – in the wrong direction for the bus.

Don Aleman
Patong

Pol Lt Col Jakkrid Saewattana at Kathu Police Station replies:

Police have asked the municipality to build pedestrian crossings with speed bumps in

Issues & ANSWERS

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front of them on the one-way system.

Regarding noisy motorbikes, police punish offending motorists when we catch them, but it is difficult to catch them as they're driving down the street making the noise.

Pol Capt Parinya Rattana, Chief of Traffic Police at Kathu Police Station, replies:

The Sainamyen intersection (with Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd) and Bangla T-junction (Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd) have always had traffic police on duty, as well as traffic lights and pedestrian crossings.

We plan to install 10 traffic light pedestrian crossings throughout Patong. We have not yet installed them as we are waiting for budget approval from Patong Municipality.

A representative of Transport Co Ltd, which operates the

Patong-Phuket City bus services, replies:

The bus takes the same route it always has. It starts at the Banzaan Market on Nanai Rd, turns west onto Sainamyen Rd, then turns south onto Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd and continues until it turns right onto Prachanukroh Rd.

From there, it turns right onto Thaweewong Rd and continues along the entire length of Patong Beach until the Kalim Intersection, where the bus turns right onto Phra Barami Rd and then continues all the way into Phuket City.

There are many bus stops along the route, but you can hail the bus anywhere and it should be able to stop for you to get on.

Every day, including public holidays, the first bus to Phuket City departs Banzaan Market at 5 am and every 30 minutes to one hour thereafter. The last bus to Phuket City departs at 6 pm.



As the road to Banzaan Market in Patong is a private road, there is nothing illegal about the tables and chairs that clutter the sidewalk.

Off on the wrong footpath

Are there no rules for building or renovating here? Along the road from Banzaan Market to Nanai Rd it is not possible to walk on the sidewalk because it is blocked with flowers or tables and chairs.

In addition, parts of the sidewalk have been tiled with indoor tiles, so the tiles are slippery when wet. That means that the only place left to walk is literally on the street. Can the municipality do something about this so we can walk safely on the sidewalk?

Ennio Romano
Patong

Patong Deputy Mayor Chairat Sukbal replies:

The footpath along the street from Banzaan Market to Nanai Rd is on private land, so Patong Municipality has no power to regulate it.

We have contacted the owner and asked for Patong Municipality to be able to take over that area. However, the owner has yet to get back to us with an answer.

Once that area belongs to Patong Municipality, we will develop it appropriately.

THE FESTIVAL OF PATTAYA

There's a cruel and essentially outdated joke that goes something like this: "What's the difference between Australia and yogurt?" The answer being: "Yogurt has a culture."

Well, each year Sydney, Australia's first city, stages an eponymous festival, usually for a couple of weeks beginning in late January. In 2006, this allegedly cultural extravaganza featured an act entitled "Glue Your Brain", produced by the improbably-named Erwin Wurm.

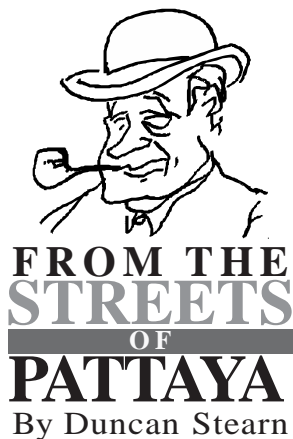
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Essentially a sculptor, Wurm is inspired by our relationship with everyday objects from rubber bands to cars to sweaters to gherkins." I have to say, "gherkins" don't exactly strike me as everyday objects, but perhaps I'm being too harsh.

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by Isla Star

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LEO (July 24 – August 23): Passion burns strongly this weekend. If you have a hot date planned, you are certain to enjoy what transpires. If you are without someone special in your life, you should organize a night out with friends in similar situations. Wish upon the first star you see this Saturday night as the astral atmosphere is ready to back your ability to make the right business decision. The number 6 can bring a change of luck on Tuesday.

VIRGO (August 24 – September 23): You will be letting out a sigh of relief that a difficult personal situation is finally behind you. Make a resolution not to allow yourself to become trapped like that again. A new relationship with a Libra has the balance to be well-starred, but maintain a slow, steady pace for the time being. Wear the color ruby red to encourage steadier emotions.

LIBRA (September 24 – October 23): Contrary to your usual demeanor, you are likely to be on fire this week and not at all prepared to worry about what others think. This could easily lead to a confrontation on Monday or Tuesday when a close friend or partner releases some of their frustration concerning your behavior. Try to calm down for long enough to listen to their point of view. Wednesday is the best day to instigate a peace-making date.

SCORPIO (October 24 – November 22): Your charm is as sweet as a ripe mango. If you know how to use this to full advantage, you will reap a fruitful harvest. If you are single, you should get surprising enjoyment from a blind date this weekend. If you're stuck in a domestic situation that seems impossible to escape, the price of freedom is lower than you think. The color deep silver encourages planning skills.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23 – December 22): If you are strapped for cash, you should reflect on past successes. You appear to have a forgotten talent that can be further tapped into to generate extra income. An Aquarius has a tempting proposition for you this weekend, but further investigation is advisable. Fog clouding the future should begin to lift during the first week of March, which will allow you to make promises that can be kept.

CAPRICORN (December 23 – January 20): Your much-needed privacy is compromised this weekend, but you will have to let some of your guard down if you want to move on to the next business-related level. This advice is also relevant where personal relationships are concerned. Someone appears to be getting a little irritated by your secretive nature. A dream you have early next week sheds light on an unsolved mystery.

AQUARIUS (January 21 – February 19): A recent romantic let-down may have left you emotionally bruised, but you should see some light at the end of the tunnel of love this week. Where you are concerned, still waters certainly run deep. Harmonious astral influences enable you to begin planning for a different future; however you should paddle in shallow water until full confidence returns. The scent of mint peps up your energy level.

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- Sawatdirak Rd (near Patong Hospital), Patong
- Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd (opp. 7-Eleven), Patong
- Thara Patong Hotel, Thaweewong Rd, Patong
- Mae Luan Rd (diagonally opp. 7-Eleven), Phuket City
- Yaowarat Soi 2 Rd, Phuket City
- Chao Fa East Rd (opp. Big One Supermarket), Phuket City
- Klong Pak Lak, Patong
- Club Andaman, Patong
- Phisit Gorani Rd, Patong
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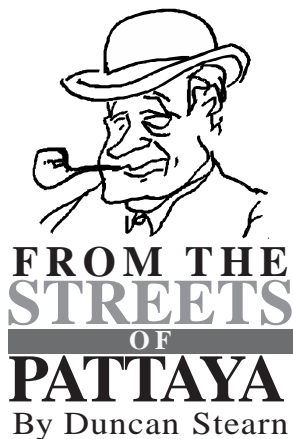
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GEMINI (May 22 – June 21): The most progress will be made if you are prepared to adopt a fresh perspective on work. Spring is the ideal season to instigate new approaches, so you should make the most of opportunities. A partner's uncharacteristic behavior is as clear as mud, but you will understand the reasons behind it quite soon. Number 5 can bring good fortune on Wednesday.

CANCER (June 22 – July 23): You are advised to tie up loose business ends before they start to get too tangled. You have the practical experience necessary to offer useful advice, but Scorpios have already burned their boats in this area. If you're not getting the attention you deserve from a close relationship, start doing your own thing more. This will soon persuade the person concerned to take action.

LEO (July 24 – August 23): Passion burns strongly this weekend. If you have a hot date planned, you are certain to enjoy what transpires. If you are without someone special in your life, you should organize a night out with friends in similar situations. Wish upon the first star you see this Saturday night as the astral atmosphere is ready to back your ability to make the right business decision. The number 6 can bring a change of luck on Tuesday.

VIRGO (August 24 – September 23): You will be letting out a sigh of relief that a difficult personal situation is finally behind you. Make a resolution not to allow yourself to become trapped like that again. A new relationship with a Libra has the balance to be well-starred, but maintain a slow, steady pace for the time being. Wear the color ruby red to encourage steadier emotions.

LIBRA (September 24 – October 23): Contrary to your usual demeanor, you are likely to be on fire this week and not at all prepared to worry about what others think. This could easily lead to a confrontation on Monday or Tuesday when a close friend or partner releases some of their frustration concerning your behavior. Try to calm down for long enough to listen to their point of view. Wednesday is the best day to instigate a peace-making date.

SCORPIO (October 24 – November 22): Your charm is as sweet as a ripe mango. If you know how to use this to full advantage, you will reap a fruitful harvest. If you are single, you should get surprising enjoyment from a blind date this weekend. If you're stuck in a domestic situation that seems impossible to escape, the price of freedom is lower than you think. The color deep silver encourages planning skills.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23 – December 22): If you are strapped for cash, you should reflect on past successes. You appear to have a forgotten talent that can be further tapped into to generate extra income. An Aquarius has a tempting proposition for you this weekend, but further investigation is advisable. Fog clouding the future should begin to lift during the first week of March, which will allow you to make promises that can be kept.

CAPRICORN (December 23 – January 20): Your much-needed privacy is compromised this weekend, but you will have to let some of your guard down if you want to move on to the next business-related level. This advice is also relevant where personal relationships are concerned. Someone appears to be getting a little irritated by your secretive nature. A dream you have early next week sheds light on an unsolved mystery.

AQUARIUS (January 21 – February 19): A recent romantic let-down may have left you emotionally bruised, but you should see some light at the end of the tunnel of love this week. Where you are concerned, still waters certainly run deep. Harmonious astral influences enable you to begin planning for a different future; however you should paddle in shallow water until full confidence returns. The scent of mint peeps up your energy level.

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Tips for dodging Vista's Genuine disadvantage

I have been using Windows Vista extensively, exhaustively, for more than six months. Since Microsoft officially released the beast on January 29, it's been fun watching all the mixed reviews.

I'll stick to my original assessment: if you get a new PC, make sure it has Vista Home Premium installed.

If you are happy with your current Windows XP system, leave it alone. Vista's neat, it's useful and it's fun, but it isn't a killer app – despite Microsoft spending five years putting it together. Upgrade from Windows XP to Vista if you enjoy tinkering, but if you have better things to do, don't sweat it.

Many, many people are running versions of Windows XP that have been branded “Not Genuine” by Microsoft's official Windows Genuine Advantage program.



There are four versions of Windows Vista to choose from – and none of them is exactly easy on the wallet.

But if Vista is what you lust after, go for Home Premium as a minimum.

Edition	Full version	Upgrade version	Price Difference
Vista Home Basic	9,360	4,430	4,930 less
Vista Home Premium	11,514	5,784	5,730 less
Vista Business	14,338	7,137	7,201 less
Vista Ultimate	19,218	9,590	9,628 less

All prices in baht from Shop4Thai in Bangkok.

Consequently, decent law-abiding citizens – as well as folks who want all the “Genuine” goodies and/or to avoid the software police – have asked me about the

relative benefits of buying Windows XP or Vista.

In short, if you have to pay to get a genuine copy of Windows, which version should you buy?

My advice remains unchanged – if you have an older PC, don't bother with Vista, but if you have a relatively new PC with 1 GB of memory or more and a decent video card, consider splurging on Vista Home Premium.

However, this past week there has been a startling development that puts a new twist on my advice. In order to understand how this new development changes things, you must understand Vista's pricing structure.

Vista – as with most Microsoft software – comes in many different versions, almost all of which are available in two flavors: the “upgrade” version and the “full” version.

Depending on where you shop, the full version costs up to 5,000 baht more than the upgrade version.

You can also buy an OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) version of Vista, meant for computer builders, at a considerably reduced price, but be aware of the fact that the OEM version can be installed on only one PC.

You can't de-activate it or install it on a different PC. If your PC dies, or gets sent back to the

manufacturer, you lose the copy of Vista that you paid for.

In my experience, installing the OEM version of Windows XP was very tricky, and if you blew the installation, phone support from Microsoft in Bangkok left much to be desired. Personally, I avoid OEM versions.

That leaves the upgrade version and the full version. There's a reason it's called an “upgrade” version: in order to install a Vista “upgrade”, you must already have a copy of Windows XP that's been blessed as “Genuine” by Microsoft's Windows Genuine Advantage program. If your XP is deemed not Genuine, you must pay for the “full” version.

Or must you? Brian Livingston, in the latest *Windows Secrets* newsletter (windows.secrets.com/comp/070201) has uncovered a method that allows a “clean install” of an “upgrade” version of Vista on any PC, whether it's running a copy of Windows XP that has been verified by Windows Genuine Advantage or not.

Anybody can do it. No squirrely installation tricks, no doctored files. Just common sense, uncommonly applied.

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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Forging ahead into futures

In Phuket we have a foreign investment company called "Thaisarco" that is involved in tin production. It is, in turn, owned by AMC, Amalgamated Metals Corporation of London, which is the largest producer of tin in the world and a founder of London's Metal Exchange around 150 years ago. Thaisarco is listed as subsidiary number 23.

This article is dedicated to subsidiary number 7, AMT Futures Limited, based in London and regulated by the UK's Financial Services Authority (FSA).

Until recently, AMT Futures dealt solely with institutional clients, often Swiss banks. However, associates of mine who are based in Kuala Lumpur persuaded AMT Futures that their funds were suitable for some retail investors and one of AMT's managers, Brian Fudge, has rarely seen London since. The demand in Asia has been enormous from China, Thailand, Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia.

In January I met with Brian Fudge in Bangkok and we simply ran out of time to be able to discuss everything involved in AMT and the world of futures. He kindly decided that he would have a week's family holiday in Phuket and every day before embarking on holiday family commitments he would have a business meeting with me.

The world of futures is extremely complex and I readily admit to being on a steep learning curve.

Fortunately, Brian is very enthusiastic, experienced and

knowledgeable in his field. Back to school for me. At least I don't have to wear a uniform.

AMT Futures offers three different funds. Starting with the most profitable, but most volatile, is their IQS Fund; the other AMT Funds will be covered in a future article. In the period 1996 to 2006 the IQS Fund returned net to investors, after charges, an incredible 2849% growth. By the end of January 2007, this had topped 3,000%. "No pain, no gain" is a well known phrase; Brian Fudge is blunt, "you will lose money" he often says.

Unlike hedge funds where managers are often finding themselves in a situation where returns are falling and every year too many entities are sharing the same "waterhole", futures are a law unto themselves.

Comparing IQS to both the US Benchmark equity index, the Standard & Poor (S&P 500) and the CSFB Fund Index (Credit Suisse First Boston) reveals a very different set of results for the period 1996 to 2006. The stockmarket returned 142.68% and hedge funds 245.32%, but IQS saw a return of 2,849.64%.

However, IQS has faced some hard times. The events of 9/11 forced the New York Futures market to move premises to New Jersey and many traders died in the twin towers. Trading, when it did resume, was initially on a very limited scale and even the times allocated were reduced to a bare minimum. While AMT Futures is based in London, the massive disruption to the New York market



Oil is just one element in the IQS futures portfolio.

– Photo by Waltrau Grubitzsch, dpa

interrupted global futures markets.

However, after suffering six consecutive months of trading losses after 9/11, the Fund bounced back to gain 41.42% in 2002. Good performance was not something of the past and 2005 saw the fund make 113.64%. Agreed, 2006 was not quite so good, it made a mere 33.25%. Hard times indeed!

AMT Futures do not employ any traders for any of their funds, all traders are external. They apply the principle of best of the

best. All trading models must continue trading regardless of what happens, the show must go on. Any trader who for any reason cannot continue trading in any situation is immediately replaced.

The IQS Fund, itself, is a computer driven system, there is no human involvement, and this is referred to as "emotionless trading".

The IQS system invests in a variety of assets, however, this is a much smaller range than is used in other AMT Funds. IQS covers the following 15 areas:

metals – copper and gold; energy – crude oil and natural gas; interest rates – 30-year US treasury bonds; currencies – US dollar versus the British pound, Canadian dollar; and Japanese yen; agriculture – coffee, cotton, sugar, wheat, soybeans and soya bean oil.

The attraction of futures is that there is potential to profit from both rising and falling markets. Yes, with luck, you can have your cake and eat it, too!

This is not an investment for the fainthearted or for anyone seeking to make a quick buck. This is also not an investment that anyone who considers themselves sane should commit all their funds. This is simply a possible component in a diversified portfolio.

This is also not an investment like Amaranth the ill-fated hedge fund that "lost the plot" going long on leveraged positions in the natural gas market. IQS, by being computer driven, is not only "emotionless" but also does not have an ego. When the going gets tough the computer quits and moves on.

Minimum investment is US\$10,000. They will deal directly with the public but be aware that anti-money laundering requirements are in force. Sorry, Osama, this is yet another investment that you cannot enter. However, one interesting fact, prior to 9/11 Al-Qaeda associates actually sold US airlines shares, short. Capitalism rules everywhere.

AMC's website is: www.CFPFunds.com

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: 081-081-4611. Email: imm@loxinfo.co.th

MONEY TALKS



By Richard Watson

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ON THE MOVE

Dr Siranee Louengtong, from Chiang Mai, has been appointed Assistant Medical Director/Dentistry Specialist at Phuket Laser Center in Patong. She comes from a dentistry position at Wachira Phuket Hospital. Dr Siranee holds a degree in dentistry from Chiang Mai University and has had traumatic restorative dentistry training from Prince of Songkla University.



Komkrit Sirichart, from Chaiphaphum, has been named Food and Beverage Manager of Le Royal Meridien Phuket Yacht Club. Previously he worked in the same position at the Conrad Hotel in Bangkok, and before that he was at the Sheraton Grande Sukhumvit. K. Komkrit has been working in food and beverages in the hotel industry for more than 20 years.



Kanokwan Nokwichien, the former Group Insurance Manager at Max Assurance Co. Ltd. in Bangkok, has been appointed as the new Financial Controller at Phuket Laser Center in Patong. She is an economics graduate from the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce in Bangkok and also holds a Master's degree from St. Mary's College in Kansas, USA.



By Supanun Supawong

Animating advertising

The success of a business depends not only on the quality of the work they do, but also on the quality of the message that they present to the public.

The role of advertising is to create an interest in a business that brings the client to the door or creates a desire to buy the product or service offered.

How well this message represents the business and the quality of its content and production can make or break a business.

VR Plus Co Ltd of Phuket produces eye-catching 3D animation and visualizations that allows customers to see in-depth presentations – primarily real-estate projects – from an office or website without having to take a long drive out to a project site.

Businesses that want to use this type of info-tizing (or is it advert-mation?) no longer need to go to Bangkok to have a 3D production put together. VR Plus can now do it here, using local talent trained by VR Digital Co Ltd of Bangkok (the parent corporation of VR Plus) through the Software Industry Promotion Agency's (SIPA) Phuket office. Their soft opening was on February 7, and a grand opening is tentatively planned for the middle of this year.

The Phuket Managing Director of VR Plus Jitti "Joe" Aphiboon (who is also the Technical Support Manager of VR Digital in Bangkok) said the beginning of the 3D animation and visualization business on Phuket came through the "Pre-Professional 3D Animation" training project sponsored by SIPA Phuket.

"In 2005 and 2006 we were invited to provide this training on Phuket and we had such great success with the trainees that we decided to open VR Plus here. We weren't initially interested in opening an office on Phuket, but the availability of well-trained local talent and the maturing of the local property market told us the time was right."

VR Plus, through VR Digital, prides itself on keeping abreast of the latest developments in software. "If there is anything new about animation, we will know. VR Digital frequently sends staff to look at new animation products in Europe. This means our customers will always have the latest and best in animation," K. Jitti told the *Gazette*.

Animation and 3D projects don't come cheap. It is complex and time-consuming, and thus costly, work. "Simple projects can start at about 200,000 baht per minute [of animation produced] and more complicated productions can cost as much as 500,000 baht per minute.

Most projects take about two months to complete, K. Jitti says, and an advantage to having the production done locally is that the client can give feedback at each stage of the project and problems can be quickly corrected and changes easily made.

"Animation has a lot of process work that must be done in its development. We must first create a storyboard that meets the client's requirements. This requires a close working relation-

ship with the customer and their okay at each step," says K. Jitti.

"Only when the story is laid out and fully approved by the customer can we begin production. Time and price are affected by the complexity and details of the animation. Projects that feature houses with lots of details and decoration, or flowers and vegetation, can become expensive.

VR Plus's target market is primarily larger property businesses due to the expense of an-

imation and 3D work. Their goal in the first year is to complete about 18 projects at around 700,00 to one million baht each.

The company has already had some success garnering clients such as Grace Home at the Boat Lagoon, Coconut Village, the new Shangi-La Resort project, Patong Rim Talay, and Baan Sawan. "We want to start slow as our staff do not have a lot of experience yet," K. Jitti says. The new office is staffed

locally by eight technicians who all attended and passed the "Pre-Professional 3D Animation" courses in either 2005 or 2006.

VR Plus Co. Ltd., can be found at their new offices at 369/113/114 Yaowarat Road, Talad Yai, Muang, Phuket 83000. Contact them at Tel: 076-236165 or via email at: vr-plus@hotmail.com, or for more details, see their website at: www.vr-plus.com



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Footballing orphanage: Boys from the Youth Football Home in Thalang practice their skills every day.

Youth Football Home to double enrollment

By Janyaporn Morel

THALANG: The Youth Football Home in Phuket is going to nearly double its enrollment on April 1, when 15 more boys will be admitted into the football-oriented boarding house.

Youth Football Home (YFH) provides food, clothing, education, lodging and, of course, football training to orphaned or needy boys from across Thailand.

Supawadee Petchtonglang, General Manager and Warden of YFH, told the *Gazette* that they would like to expand that number to an even 32 – enough for two full scrimmage teams.

“We already have 17 boys aged between 8 and 11 years old who are studying in primary grades 1 to 6 at Thalang Prangangsang School. Now we want 15 more boys to bring that number to 32. We have everything set for 32, and that number will get us two football teams,” she said.

The first group of nine boys, from Bangkok and northern prov-

inces, arrived at the school May 11, 2006. Another eight boys were selected from Phuket and Phang Nga following a soccer camp at the school in October that year. All boys were enrolled at the Thalang Phranangsang School.

The YFH sits on 8 rai in Thalang District, about 150 meters from Wat Muang Komaphat. The complex includes a dormitory for 32 boys, housing for staff and a full-sized soccer field and training areas.

Boys admitted into the home receive a full education, as well as daily coaching and training.

“We are looking for children from anywhere in Thailand who are destitute and who love playing football. We are especially looking in the local areas of Phuket and Phang Nga. We have sent requirements and other information to many schools along with application forms that will be collected before selecting our new admissions,” K. Supawadee said.

“We start our selection pro-

cess by interviewing the children, then visiting their homes and families, before the final step of testing their football skills,” she said.

About 50 boys will be invited to the selection camp on April 1, when the field will be narrowed to the final 15.

The school regularly hosts footballers from Germany and Britain who conduct guest training sessions with the boys.

“Children must follow our schedules from early in the morning until bed-time, including training in football and attending school. We provide everything for children and teach them everything, including ethical behavior and how to be good people in the future,” she said.

For more information contact Youth Football Home Foundation (Phuket): 142/4-5 Moo 3, Thepkasattri, Thalang District, Phuket 83110; Tel/Fax 076-512 524, 089-5873618; or visit the website at: www.youthfootballhome.com

PM Surayud to hand out Johnny Walker silverware

THALANG: Thai Prime Minister Gen Surayud Chulanont will visit Phuket for another golfing event during the Johnny Walker Classic, where he will present awards on March 4, tournament officials at Blue Canyon Country Club have announced.

The tournament will be held from March 1 to 4, and will be the third time the BCCC has hosted the event.

This follows PM Surayud's February 11 visit to the Mission Hills golf course, where he played a round with the Malaysian Prime Minister. The result of that match was carefully concealed from the public.

The Johnny Walker Cup, a US\$2.4 million (almost 79.8 million baht) tournament, will feature three of the world's top 10 players: third-ranked Adam Scott of Australia, number five Ernie Els and number eight Retief Goosen, both from South Africa.

There will also be three players from the European Ryder Cup team with Captain Ian Woosnam, former Captain Sam Torrence and Colin Montgomerie, along with Mike Weir, a former US Master's Champion.

Montgomerie has won a record eight European Order of Merits during his career, and in 2006 narrowly lost the US Open Championship. His last victory came at the UBS Hong Kong Open in December 2005.

Because of the high-profile visitors, BCCC announced that it will dramatically increase security protocol around the club in anticipation of the event.

The security measures will require the cooperation of the Phuket Provincial Police, Tourist Police, Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*), Highway Police and BCCC Security, said Provincial Police Deputy Commander Col Chalit Tinthanee.

Eight teams to contest Rassada soccer cup

RASSADA: The second *OrBorTor* Rassada Cup will kick off February 25, giving eight teams a chance to win a 10,000-baht grand prize in the football tournament.

The Rassada Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) is hosting the 11-a-side event at Phuket Rajabhat University February 25 to March 3, with two matches a day beginning at 2:30 pm.

The tournament will feature teams from each of the seven villages in Rassada, along with the host team, with prizes of 10,000 baht for first, 8,000 baht for second, 6,000 baht for third and 4,000 baht for fourth place.

Last year's champion, the team from Village 4, will be returning this year for their second shot at glory.

Bowling ... for encyclopedias?

PHUKET: The Lions Club of Phuket will hold its inaugural Charity Bowling Competition on March 4 at CS Bowl at the Big C Supercenter. Funds raised from the event will be used to donate encyclopedias to Phuket schools through the Phuket Educational Area Office.

The competition will start at

9:30 am and end about 4 pm. There will be 28 teams of three people per round. The entry fee is 3,000 baht per team and is due at time of application.

Bowlers can apply in person at the Lions Club of Phuket on Yaowarat Rd, near the Phuket Merlin Hotel, or by calling 076-234539.

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EXTREME: The third TriBallistic triathlon will take place Sunday, February 25, around the JW Marriott Resort & Spa. The "Extreme Triathlon" will include a 750-meter ocean swim, a 10-kilometer off-road mountain bike trial and a 5 km run. Registration will begin at 7 am, with the first race at 8 am. This is the third of six triathlons in the Silk Triathlon Series; the next will be held March 24.

BIG BOXING BOUT RESCHEDULED

BANGKOK: An article in the February 17 *Gazette*, "Boxing in Thailand," stated the super bantamweight clash between Napapol Kittisakchokchai (40-2, 36 KOs) and Saenghiran Lookbanyai (20-0, 15 KOs) would take place on March 2 for the WBC interim championship title.

However, Napapol has suffered a shoulder

injury, forcing a postponement of the fight to April 6.

In addition, the bout has been downgraded from an interim title fight to a title eliminator, which means the winner will have a chance to challenge current champion Eagle Kyowa (17-1, 6 KOs) for the world title.



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PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

MONKEYS SUNK

PATONG: The latest casualty in the Patong Darts League has come with the shock announcement by Funky Monkey bar proprietor Simon that his side will be dropping out of the league, with immediate effect.

The team's departure is probably due to their losing their home venue on Nanai Rd. They had been playing out of the nearby Beach House until Simon decided to throw in the towel. They lost all three points in their final match in heartbreaking form, losing 5-4 to defending champs Didi's – and then losing the beer leg.

It is the second dropout this league, following Shakers decision to pack it in mid-January.

Left with just eight teams, down from 12 a year ago, the league table has once again been reworked with league secretary Steen extracting all points from games left involving Funky Monkey.

Benefiting one point from Funky Monkey's departure are Piccadilly, who lost the team game at home to Funky Monkey and now don't have to pay for it in the standings. They now sit with a one-point lead and one game in hand going into the final four weeks of play. But if they manage to hold on and take the championship will it just be from attrition? Time will tell.

In the meantime, any bar interested in entering a team in the next league, which is scheduled to begin in mid-March, should contact owners of any of the participating bars for details or email: darts@phuketgazette.net

Those interested should consider that failure to field a team on the scheduled night of play can result in fines – something to consider as the start of the next league coincides with traditional onset of the "low season" for tourism.

Revised standings: 1. Piccadilly (26 pts.); 2. Queen Mary (25); 3. Didi's (18); 4.= Dog's Bollocks; Coyote Bar (17); 6. Offshore (13); 7. Valhalla (10); 8. Beach House (6).

February 13 results: Didi's* 5 Funky Monkey 4 (now void); Offshore 3 Dog's Bollocks* 6; Queen Mary 6 Coyote Bar* 3; Valhalla* 5 Beach House 4 (* = winner of beer leg).

February 27 matchups: Valhalla v Dog's Bollocks; Coyote Bar v Beach House; Offshore v Queen Mary; Didi's and Piccadilly have byes (home team first).



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Gardening

by Bloomin' Bert

A Rose Apple by any other name

Things are different now. Not the most incisive observation, you may say, but back in the days of my youth, our lives were a lot more innocent.

We didn't have any drugs or other such illegalities at my school, for example. Unless tobacco counts, of course – sneaking out of the school grounds for a sly fag was about as errant as our behavior got.

Before any transatlantic types start to wonder why I would have thought that having a sly fag between classes was a good idea, it has a lot more to do with the inhalation of tobacco smoke than something significantly more unsavory.

We got into huge trouble if a teacher heard us swearing, even from a distance. Thinking about it now, they probably just guessed. And got it right. Today, it's nothing for a teacher to be told to "**** off" to his face; there's nothing he can do, as the child is simply "expressing himself". A child does, of course, have the absolute right to express his individuality in today's world; perish the thought that some may consider his attitude to be rude.

The hands of the police are equally tied. Any misdemeanors by the youth of the more "developed" nations are dealt with nowadays by do-gooder counselors who talk through the transgressors' problems in an effort to modify future inappropriate behavior. What utter twaddle.

Not that many years ago, if the police caught you red-handed doing something you really shouldn't have been doing, then you knew you were in trouble, mainly due to the fact that the policeman gave you a severe clip around the ear, leaving you in no doubt that your behavior was "inappropriate". It didn't need talking through or analyzing; your physical pain and ringing ears did the job very well. Behavior modified on the spot.

Next was the long walk home, and the handover to your father. He's not a happy man at this stage – after all there's a policeman at the door with an errant son in tow. You're now officially in trouble again, and punishment number two ensues – more clips around the ear. This time it's doubled – one clip for the daft behavior and another for getting caught. It was a system that worked.

I have a romantic fondness for apple trees. We didn't have much in the way of sweets; my treat was my grandmother giving me a penny all to myself to spend on sweets. So we had to improvise. Apple trees were always a favorite target, but there



Perfectly suited to life in Phuket: the rose apple – *chomphu* in Thai.

was a problem – the best trees were always in somebody else's garden.

This was where "scrumping" came in. It was usually a two-lad affair. One would keep watch for that grumpy old Mr Jones bloke, while the other would hop over the fence, climb the tree and grab all the Granny Smiths they could carry. This was the stage at which Mr Jones would inevitably appear out of nowhere, waving his stick and screaming at the top of his lungs about "you bloody kids", as we scampered down the back lane – we knew that if he ever caught us that stick would be put to effective use. And we knew we would have deserved it.

We don't have much in the way of apple trees in the traditional sense here in Thailand. They do grow a few varieties

further north where it's a little cooler, but in our neck of the woods we have to make do with what are known in these parts as water apples or rose apples. Thais know it as *chomphu-saaraek*. The easiest way I know to remember this particular Thai name is to say it exactly as it sounds: "shampoo". Scientific types refer to it as the *eugenia aquea*.

They have very little to do with their more traditional cousins, the ones more associated with the temptation of Adam and Eve or inflicting cranial damage on dead physicists with big hair. I digress. The rose apple is, not to put too fine a point on it, a bit boring. It tastes of exactly what it most consists of – water.

It looks a bit like a kind of small, waxy pear, between five and eight cm long. It is created

by an evergreen tree which will grow up to about eight meters tall. More often the trees have a short, crooked trunk branching close to the ground, and a non-symmetrical, open crown.

The leathery, light-green, short-pointed leaves are about 20 centimeters long, and almost hide the faintly-fragrant flowers, which appear in clusters of three to seven. Thin-skinned and shining, the fruit varies from white to various shades of red. There may be a few small seeds in the fruit, but generally they're seedless. At least you're not likely to be spitting out seeds every few seconds.

The trees are happiest in "moist tropical lowlands" – Phuket fits the bill perfectly. In theory, it grows best in any area with a fairly long dry season. It's not particularly drought-resistant though, and requires a reliable water supply. The best way to cheat this is to plant them along the sides of streams or ponds, spaced five to seven meters apart.

The species presumably originated in Southeast Asia, but nowadays it appears from India through southeast Asia to the Pacific islands. It even features in Fijian mythology.

There are definite flowering seasons for the water apple; often two, sometimes three in a year, but the timing varies from year to year. They commonly flower early or late in the dry season, and the fruit ripens 30 to 40 days after the flowers first make an appearance.

Propagation is usually by seeds, but if you're an adventurous type, or even a gardener who, unlike myself, actually knows what he's doing, the water can be air-layered or even grafted onto some of its close relatives, such as the java apple.

I'm reliably informed that it even has medicinal uses for a number of maladies – apparently a decoction of the astringent bark is a local application on certain fungal complaints. Unfortunately I haven't the faintest idea what that actually means.

The water apple, or rose apple, or shampoo, whatever you want to call it, is perfectly suited to life in Phuket. The trees do a great job of filling large chunks of your garden, but I just wish their fruit tasted a little more interesting. Had these things existed in my Yorkshire youth, I doubt we'd have bothered scrumping them. Not really worth a clip round the ear from the local bobby for this one.

Time for a sly smoke.

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Design

By Semacote Suganya



KEEP IT CLEAN: Typical bedroom in The Lofts. Inset, developer Hans de Beer.

Minimalism amid the mayhem

A minimalist approach isn't something of ten seen in Patong, but that is exactly the inspiration for the Baan Yin Dee's serviced apartment complex the Lofts in Aroonsom Plaza off Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd.

"The rooms are minimalist in style. When you say minimalist, you have a lot of floor space – you get modern chairs; everything is set up spaciouly," said developer Hans De Beer.

By using glass stairs, few partitions in the rooms and a white decor throughout, Hans and partner Alex Bressers hope to give residents an open-living feeling.

"We included a touch of European style with the kitchen, bathroom and balcony. The large panes of glass make it easy to integrate indoors and outdoors. The kitchens are open; they are not separated from any other areas. So you can eat or chat at the bar, or you can sit at the balcony still chat while others are cooking. So it's not like a normal kitchen, which is separated," explained Hans.

The color, or lack of it, in the Lofts also plays an important part in the look and feel of the apartments, set off by an original painting, not a copy or reproduction, in each room to add a splash of color and individualism to the room.

"White as a look is more than just a light color; it helps us to escape from being in the one country.

You know, people here go to the beach, but when they go back to Europe it is dark most of the time. So we wanted to make it bright," said Hans.

"Also, we made the balconies big because when people come to Thailand they want to sit outside. They sit inside when they go back to Europe because it's cold and dark," he added.

For a modern look and to add to the sense of space, Hans and Alex chose steps made of glass in the lobby and mirrors on the elevator walls.

"In contrast to the building's main style, we used wooden pillars on ground floor where the restaurant is situated because we wanted to create a warm feeling in the restaurant, and wood helps to create that feeling.

"The lobby could have been made to give a cooler feel, but we wanted to create a warm atmosphere – and a cooler ambiance would have required using different materials," said Hans.

Although neither Alex nor Hans is an architect or interior designer, they came up with all of the interior design concepts used at the Lofts, using their experience in creating their boutique resort Baan Yin Dee, and their own homes.

"The reaction to the design that we hear from people is amazing. This is an open area and passers-by come in to have a look, because they are curious. A lot of people like the look," Hans said.

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Construction Update

by Janyaporn Morel

Site clearance for a new luxury contemporary-design apartment development, Beach Front Phuket, at the south end of Bang Tao Beach is now under way.

Construction is due to commence mid-year and expected to be completed by the end of 2008, Micheal Martin, Lead Agent of Beach Front Project, told the *Gazette*.

Beach Front Phuket, will be a four-story apartment building comprising 14 units, each with two bedrooms and two en-suite bathrooms. The site has an area of approximately 930 square meters and has 27 meters of beach frontage on Bang Tao Beach.

The building will be divided into three types of apartments. There will be four "Deluxe" apartments of 110sqm, three "Suite A" apartments of 88sqm, and seven "Suite B" of 101sqm.

The Deluxe apartments will be the beachfront units on each floor with a full sea view from the balcony, while the Suite A and B apartments will have a partial sea view.

A special design feature for Beach Front Phuket is to have a Jacuzzi bath on the balcony for



A computer-generated impression of how Beach Front apartments will look when complete. The apartments are expected to be finished by the end of next year.

REAL BEACH FRONT

the Deluxe and Suite B apartments so the residents can enjoy bathing outdoors with the sea view.

"Our project is the only absolute-beachfront apartment in

Phuket without any road between the building and the sea. It's going to be a quality-construction up-market apartment with a nice location on Bang Tao Beach and is very close to Surin Beach and

all the facilities there such as restaurants and bars. The residents can also access the Laguna Resorts' facilities to the north with shopping, restaurants and the golf course.

"There are a lot of Western people who want to live in this area. And the fact is that we are going to be well-managed and will give a good rental return back to the owners," Mr Martin said.

When the apartment building is completed, a 4m x12m swimming pool and tropical garden will be set on the area between the building and the beach. There will be covered parking for nine cars under the main building and another five parking spaces at the front of the building facing the coastal road.

"About 50% of our target customers are people from Hong Kong who like to come to Phuket because it's close. It's only about two-and-a-half hours by plane so they can come easily on the weekend," Mr Martin said. The remainder of the target market will be primarily Europe focusing

on Scandinavia, the UK and Russia.

The apartment prices range from 10 million baht to 18 million baht. Furniture packages will be offered at extra cost. Of the 14 apartments, one has already been reserved.

"We will have a rental return management program, which is now under negotiation with a management company. This is a high priority so the buyers will get a premium rental return and a rental guarantee," Mr Martin said.

Beach Front Phuket's architectural work and interior design are from Thailand-based companies Triaxial Co Ltd, and Roof Co Ltd. Both have local experience with developments such as those built by the Richmond Group.

For more information the Beach Front Phuket sales office at 4/3 Moo 5, Srisoonthorn Road, Cherng Talay, Thalang, Phuket 83110. Tel. 076-270090, or visit their website at: www.beachfrontphuket.com

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The battle of the brands

A new era of brand mania is currently sweeping the Phuket property market in the form of "lifestyle investment".

Mixed-use hotel and residential projects are not only grabbing headlines here, but are becoming a global phenomenon.

What's driving this emerging trend and how does it differ from traditional real-estate investing?

In the beginning, or say in the early 1990s, came Phuket's first brand-managed product: the villas at Amanpuri.

For the first time luxury and resort pampering could be enjoyed not only in a hotel but in your own private residence. Following this came the Sheraton Island Villas and then the Banyan Tree, which was one of the earliest proponents of the private pool villa.

As the resort market in the post-1997 economic doldrums in the region suffered, so did the entry of new products to the marketplace.

Fast forward to 2002 onward, and the cusp of a property boom on the island with new resorts coming on line, and the stage was set to take off from what the Amanpuri had started.

The Banyan Tree brought new products to market, the Sheraton assumed management of the Laguna Golf Villas, and eventually Trisara created a similar hotel and villa synergy to that of the Amanpuri.

Moving on to present day and a variety of locations and products are now poised to push into the marketplace.

From Jumeirah's Private Island Resort and Cape Yamu on the east coast, to the Moevenpick Residence down south in Karon; Dusit Laguna's new pool villas and the Raffles Resort and Residences in Phang Nga, "mixed-use resort" is becoming a common term.

One of this year's most eagerly awaited projects is Bang Tao Bay's Shangri La Resort and Residences, which was launched recently in Hong Kong and has created a buzz throughout the region. With prices in the range of 40 to 60 million baht and strong



PROPERTY WATCH

By Bill Barnett

early reservations, certainly the brand fascination is bringing new buyers to the shores of Phuket.

So what makes hotel developers diversify their investment strategy and mix hotel and residential products into one? Certainly one of the most obvious is to capitalize on a hot property market, being able to turn superior bottom-line development profit from sales and at the same time maximizing liquidity versus tying up capital in a long-term investment.

Secondly, it is a means of alternative project financing. Rather than over-leveraging a project with bank loans, developers are able to bring low-cost equity into a project and accelerate the investment cycle. Equally important is an overall reduction of risk to the developer by diversifying into both the tourism and property markets, hence hedging their bets.

As in any economic boom though, there is a flip side to the coin and some key long-term cause and effects with this type of project. Initially, the restriction of ongoing cash-flow potential for the hotel owner who in a healthy hotel market would stand to make better returns from retaining the units than by selling them to individual lifestyle investors.

Of greater significance is the potential to eventually sell a hotel and cash out on a much larger scale. Hotels are usually valued on a cash flow rather than replacement basis and once you remove a good portion of the hotel units from the equation – though the developer was able to cash out on early sales – the overall value of the asset has been negatively impacted. In



The northern end of Bang Tao Bay, soon to be home to Phuket's latest big brand, Shangri-La.

other words short-term gain may be long-term pain.

This leads us back to where we started. And what does this all mean to an individual investor

looking at purchasing a hotel-managed unit? Ongoing yields or rental returns are far more important than with a more traditional house or apartment. Capital

appreciation may be viewed differently in a hotel scenario where units must be in the rental pool and the owner does not have an option to live full time in their property. Also a factor is that hotel management contracts have a far shorter life cycle than real property; what happens when the contract expires or there is a change of operators? How might that affect performance?

The brand phenomenon is here to stay, and certainly its entry into the local property market is a plus in promoting Phuket around the globe, not only to real-estate investors but tourists as well. For investors buying on strong fundamentals, international brands that have global distribution and sales and marketing networks overseas will certainly perform at the premium end of the market. Rental returns should benefit from this and ultimately provide an advantage in the marketplace. At the same time, lifestyle investment is just one segment of the property market and one needs to view not only the immediate future but the longer-term horizon. Only time will tell.

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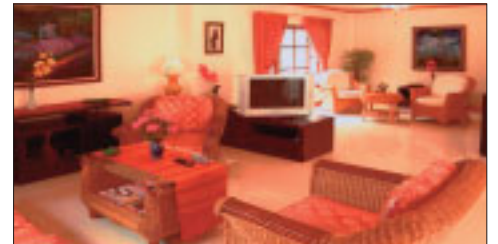
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New house in Kamala. 4 bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms. Master bedroom has Jacuzzi. Quality-build inside & out. Solid wood floors & ceilings. Western kitchen, pool. Detached 2-car garage with studio above. Interior over 300sqm, walled-in plot. 50% financing. Sale 15.5 million baht. Rent (min 6 months) 90,000-120,000 baht a month. Contact Boomer Tel: 086-2878966. Email: boomerkamala@hotmail.com

BARGAIN BUNGALOW,

Pattaya. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 aircon units, fully furnished, satellite/cable TV, IDD telephone, fully alarmed. Situated on 64 sq wah 3 minutes from new highway to Bangkok airport. 24/7 security. Includes company, so no problem to transfer. 10 minutes to beach, Tesco, Carrefour, Big C. Asking 3.35 million baht. Tel: 087-127-3272. Email: ken@loxinfo.co.th

12 RAI IN PALAI

Flat land for sale. 12 rai total. Road access, water, electricity, Chanote. Ready to build. Willing to subdivide. Price 3 million baht per rai. Please contact for more details. Tel: 087-1057320. Or via Email: stefan@webspace.se

APARTMENT IN PATONG



New freehold apartment (85sqm) located near Simon Cabaret, on a hillside in a green and quiet environment, overlooking Patong with sea view, on the 4th floor. Low monthly maintenance.



2 bedrooms, 2 balconies 2 bathrooms, luxurious, modern European standard, fully furnished, ready to move in. Price: 5.9 million baht.

Tel: 086-2771204.

Email: alfred.keller@isofta.ch

RAWAI 2-STORY

New house. 160sqm. Price: 1.3 million. Close to beach. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-9408914. Or contact via Email at: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

RAWAI CONDO

for sale. 2 nice rooms Renved-newat Rawai Condotel Price 450,000/600,000 for more information. Call Tel: 084-658-4437, 084-1899336.

VILLA CALIFORNIA

For sale. 3-bedroom house, corner plot, many extras. Asking: 3.5 million baht. Tel: 089-8751154.

LAND FOR SALE

Opposite Sheraton Krabi. For business, apartments, guest-house. Tel: 089-9709106.

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Property Gazette

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's Monument. Tel: 084-690-7057.

PHUKET VILLAGE



Townhouse for sale. 70sqm. Price from 1.9 million baht. Tel: 086-470-4691. Email: narin@phuketvillage.se For further details please visit our website at: www.phuketvillage.se

LAND MISSION VISTA.

1/2 RAI FROM 960,000 baht. Lovely, quiet plots with rural views. Only 1km from International Golf Course. 14 RAI OF PEACEFUL LAND. SOME SEA VIEWS. FRESHWATER CREEK RUNS ALL YEAR. For those who want to get away from the crowds. Opposite Cape Yamu. Only 580,000 baht per rai. Phone: Warren Crowe @ Waann Marketing. Eng: 0812704291 Thai: 0897072520 Email: thailandmls@gmail.com

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SEAVIEW

townhouse. Just finished. Stunning views, elegantly furnished. Great neighborhood. Tel: 084-8419885. Email: phukethomes@hotmail.com

HOME / OFFICE - URGENT SALE

Detached 2-story house. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 4 aircons, 3 telephone lines, ADSL area. Just north of town, near Lotus. Excellent gateway to the Boat Lagoon, Yacht Marina and British Int'l School. Asking price: 4.8 million baht. Please contact for further details. Tel: 089-6474652, 081-5375970. Email: info@yourrooms.com Please see our website at: www.widediscovery.com/house.htm

PANORAMIC VIEWS

Land for sale. 11 plots in Rawai and Kata from 3 million baht. Tel: 081-2730080. Please visit our website at: www.landandshopforsale.phuket.net

URGENT SALE

Land & Houses Park, Phuket. Chalong. 825sq wah, 4.1 million baht. Tel: 087-9074404. For more details Email: ppppatch@hotmail.com

MODERN NEW HOUSE

For sale Kathu: 3 bedrooms, ensuite bathrooms, large living room, kitchen/diner, laundry room, walled garden, private parking, modern design, located near International school, golf courses, supermarkets. 9 mins drive to beach at Patong. Price 4.6 million baht. Tel: 076-323-421, 084-8439579.

RAWAI 1,200 SQM

plot. Beautiful mountain views, chanote title. Only 3.2 million baht. Tel: 081-537-6866.

HOUSE FOR SALE

Kathu. 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, lounge, dining room, big kitchen, furnished. 1.6 million baht. Tel: 087-2705514.

AMAZING SEA VIEW

Land in Kata 400sqm, road, electric, water. Must view. Only 3.5 million baht. Tel: 089-6525664.

FANTASTIC VIEW

of the sea. In Makam bay. 800sqm soft slope, chanote, electric, concrete road. 5.3 million baht. Be fast. Call Tel: 087-8938747.

LAND FOR SALE

Rawai land 432sqm near Mangosteen resort, opposite Stone Inn. Sale by owner. Tel: 086-2733288.

LAND FOR SALE - SAMUI



Land for sale on Samui. Nice location, just 2km to beach, 750sqm. 1.7 million baht. Tel: 076-288860, 086-9474494.

SEA VIEW RAWAI

beach. 300 meters to beach. 1 1/2 rai. Chanote title, full infrastructure. Ideal for apartment. A steal at 9.5 million baht. Tel: 089-652-5664.

HALF RAI SEAVIEW

in Rawai. 200m from the beach. Chanote. Last plot in Rawai. Asking 4 million baht. Nice for villa. Call Tel: 081-5376866.

2 STORY HOUSE

for sale, 1 year old. 432 sqm land, quiet area, hill view. Price 3.7 million baht. Must see! Tel: 087-2711270. Email: gimko_8@hotmail.com

RAWAI 1 RAI

for sale. Beautiful area. 100 meters from main road, must see. Bargain at 4.2 million baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 081-5376866.

NEW HOUSE 6 BEDROOMS



Furnished house located on quiet lagoon at the edge of Phuket City and ready to move in. Price: 15 million baht. Full details or viewing see www.phuketbb.com or call and ask for Lilly at Tel: 089-6523375.

VILLAS IN RAWAI

2-story luxurious villas. 325 to 500sqm living space on 700sqm plot land. Starting from 15 million baht. Tel: 089-6525664.

RAWAI 300SQM

plot. Ideal for house, 50m from main road. Bargain price only: 1.2 million baht. Tel: 081-5376866.

LAND IN RAWAI

200sqm. Chanote title. Ideal for villa, quiet location. Only 750,000 baht. For info call Tel: 081-537-6866.

LUXURIOUS VILLA

In Rawai for sale. Balinese style, private pool. Only 7.5 million baht. For info call Tel: 089-652-5664.

2 UNITS FOR SALE

or rent. Located in Patong, Soi Wattana Clinic. For info call Tel: 081-8269390.

FOR SALE OR LEASE

Transferable lease, 30 + 30 years. 3-bedroom, 2 1/2-bathroom, fully-furnished Balinese-style villa located in Kathu hills. Price: 5.5 million baht. Please call for more information and details at Tel: 087-3865200.

BIG HOUSE ONLY 3.2 MILLION BAHT

We have a nice 2-story house for sale in Kathu. Open ground floor with European kitchen with ceramic cooking plate, dining room, living room, bathroom, store-room, terrace and balcony. The upper floor has 2 bedrooms with balcony, 1 aircon, and bathroom. There is a garden surrounding the house and a carport. Fully furnished. 5 minutes to Big C and Lotus. Big house, small price only 3.2 million baht. Tel: +31-646098573. Email: shd1@planet.nl For further details please see our website: www.home.planet.nl/~duang000/house.htm

HOUSE FOR SALE

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

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Surin Beach—Modern Seaview Apartments for sale

Within 100 metres of the beach. 80 sqm. of living space. One bedroom, living room, European-style kitchen, fully furnished, air conditioning, hot water system, home security system, internet connection, television and satellite TV. The price starts from 6.5 million baht for the first-floor apartment.

Please contact Ann 66 1 868 7676 or email: ann@mms.ais.co.th

Property Gazette

NAI HARN



Perfect as a holiday home and a sound investment opportunity with excellent rental prospects. These 1- and 2-bedroom resort-style apartments are set in a peaceful location, close to the beauty of Nai Harn beach. Starts from 2.7 million baht. Tel: 076-381490. For info Email: info@sea-property-international.com

PHUKET VILLAGE



Villa for sale. European standard, fully furnished. Price from: 3.9 million baht. 50% loan for foreigners. Tel: 086-4704691. Email: narin@phuketvillage.se For further details visit our website at: www.phuketvillage.se

NAI HARN LAND FOR SALE

Great 2x800sqm plots. Electricity + water. Chanote. 3.2 million baht each. No brokers. Please call for more information. Tel: 081-8940580.

CHALONG LUXURY

house. 2 stories, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, secure quiet location, 2 kitchens, laundry room, full aircon, double garage, etc. Area: 292sqm. Teak curved staircase, spa, solar hot water, nice gardens, river views. 7.9 million baht. Chanote. Please call for more details. Tel: 076-383193, 089-7245655. Or see our website at: www.phuket house4sale.com

SHOP HOUSE

New and fully furnished. Good location on Prachautit Rd near Tesco Lotus. Urgent sale: only 3.7 million baht. Tel: 076-248639, 081-7195102. Fax: 076-248639. More info at Email: orapar@hotmail.com

CONDOMINIUM FREEHOLD

Cape Panwa, 106sqm living space, ground floor, open-plan dining and living area with direct pool access, European kitchen, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished. 6.5 million baht. Tel: 076-279280, 086-2821172, 089-8746054. Email: apawann@hotmail.com

NAI THON BEACH LAND PLOT FOR SALE



100sq wah. Ready to build with permit, electric, water drainage. 2km from beach behind Sakoo School. Tel: 086-4704691, 086-686-5304. for more info Email: phuketvillage@yahoo.se

CHEAP LAND RAWAI

Chanote title. 540,000 baht. Approx 12 x 14sqm plot. Good access, and in a convenient, quiet residential area. Tel: 087-2806275. Email: zeno1109@yahoo.co.jp

THALANG CHANOTE

land plots. With electric & water in residential area near Ton Sai Waterfall. Start from 450,000 baht. Tel: 089-291-1112.

1 BEDROOM CONDO

fully furnished, 5 min. walk to beach, pool, Jacuzzi, 2.4 million baht. Tel: 085-8864050.

HOUSE FOR SALE

2 story house Chanote, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, western kitchen. 4.2 million baht. Tel: 081-9795755.

RAWAI BEACH

condo. Seaview, freehold, 450,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

TWO RARE INVESTMENTS

Opportunities for investors and/or builders now exist for purchase in Patong.

1/2 rai with outstanding sea view, existing plans with building license for 3-story luxury complex with 9 apartments with a total covered living area of 900sqm. Covered area, roof terrace and space for a swimming pool. Driveway entrance from main road, 3-phase electricity, and water. Price for quick sale: 12 million baht (approximately 250,000 euros).

Patong land with panoramic sea view, 1,300 sqm (almost 1 rai). Driveway entrance from main road, 3-phase electricity and water. Price for quick sale: 5.5 million baht (approximately 117,000 euros).

Obvious high returns can be expected from both purchases. Contact for further information. Tel: 081-087-3033 (Swedish, English) or 089-6524090 (German, English, Thai). Email: patong seaview@gmail.com

Properties For Rent

DELUXE 4-BEDROOM



Luxury villa. Private pool and gardens. 1 min to the beach. Very quiet, furnished, UBC, Internet. Best views in Phuket. 10 mins to BICS. 70,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-2796283.

SURIN BAY AREA,

big garden. Long-term lease now available on 3-bedroom house with aircon, outdoor kitchen, opening up to 1.2 rai of screen-fenced garden. Unfurnished or partially furnished as required. Good for pets, kids & privacy. Large covered outdoor area. Garden maintenance provided. Tel: 086-9410410, 086-2692020. Please see website for details & photos at: www.phuket house.here.fastmail.fm/Surin_Beach/Surin%20House%20-%20Details.doc

MAIN ROAD

3-story commercial building approx total floor area 500sqm. Suitable for bank, insurance, offices, etc. Tel: 081-8111067.

ROOM FOR RENT

Patong. Nice room at Patong Condotel, aircon, TV cable, hot water, long-term rent. 5,000 to 8,000 baht per month. Call Tel: 089-6478569, 089-7297978.

KATA EXOTIC

oceanfront. 5-star luxury 1-bedroom apt. Spa, pool, quiet area, ADSL, seaview. 32,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-9171161, 089-9726017. Email: asiasail@yahoo.com please see our website: www.koumbele.com/kata1

CHALONG NEW HOME

2-bedroom, furnished, for rent with telephone, UBC & aircon. Tel: 089-6521473.

PATONG STUDIO

Apartment, 300m to beach, nice decor, clean, comfortable. Aircon, fridge, TV, double bed, pool, parking. Tel: 081-0825707. For further details please see website: www.phuket-accommodation.info.details/photos

STYLISH HOUSE -

Rawai/Naiharn. 2 air-conditioned bedrooms, ADSL, cable TV. Open gallery, living & dining area. Spacious terrace & balcony with beautiful view. Walled garden and parking space. 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-388639, 083-1062680. Contact Email: hans.susemihl@freenet.de

RAWAI VILLA FOR RENT



6 bedrooms, living area 250sqm, landplot 1,064 sqm, swimming pool, guest bungalow, quiet and safe cul-de-sac, ADSL, 2 telephone lines, includes maid and pool services, 90,000 baht per month, long term only. Tel: 076-381490. Email: info@sea-property-international.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

Located at Baan Sorn Naramit house project. 500m from Heroine's Monument. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, spacious living room, fully furnished, air conditioned, covered parking. Contact. Tel: 081-895-0784, 076-324224.

RAWAI HOUSE

for rent. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furniture, kitchen. 800m from Rawai beach. 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-5376866.

HOUSE FOR RENT

Located in secure estate. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, dining room, living room, study, fenced garden, UBC, ADSL. For rent long-term. 30,000 baht a month. Tel: 084-843-9579. For more info Email: somlerdee@yahoo.com

NAI HARN HOUSE

for rent. 1 minute to Nai Harn Beach, 3 bedrooms, aircon, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, 20,000 baht per month, minimum 1 year. Tel: 081-3971835.

RAWAI LUXURY

villa. Large, 4 bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms. UBC cable, ADSL, maid service, 50sqm swimming pool, lovely garden and sala. Short- or long-term rent. Tel: 086-2790837.

PATONG TOWER

rental. One-bedroom corner unit on 16th floor of seaview condo building. Good for single person or couple. For rent now at 2,400 baht a night for one week or more. Tel: 081-273-4212. For more info Email: coasters@earthlink.net For further details, please see our website at www.patong tower-rentals.com

LONG-TERM, KATHU,

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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Property Gazette

BEACHFRONT VILLA FOR RENT



Chalong, 3 bedrooms ensuite, open-plan kitchen/dining area, living room opens to outdoor terrace with swimming pool, Jacuzzi and sala, maid's quarters, stunning views. 120,000 baht, long term only. Tel: 076-381490. Email: info@sea-property-international.com

STYLISH RAWAI VILLA FOR RENT



4 bedrooms ensuite, open-plan kitchen/dining/living room. Living area: 323sqm. Land: 1,780sqm. All rooms have direct access to swimming pool (12m x 5m) and garden. Maid's quarters. 110,000 baht, long term only. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-381490. Email: info@sea-property-international.com

PATONG SEAVIEW



2-bedroom apartment in Baan Suan Kamnan. Nice green and quiet neighborhood just outside Patong. Long-term. Price from 20,000 baht. Has ADSL, UBC, and is safe. Call Edwin. Tel: 086-7866350. Email: buurmanb@hotmail.com

LAGUNA TOWNHOME FOR RENT



4 bedrooms. 90,000 baht per month. Contact Amber. Tel: 089-2001681. Email: aabsxx88@truemail.co.th

PATONG KALIM



Only the best for you. 2-bedroom apartment with big pool. Close to Patong and almost on beach. For long term only (from 1 month). Price depending on length of stay: 40,000-60,000 baht per month. Call Edwin. Tel: 086-7866350. Email: buurmanb@hotmail.com

NEW HOUSE FOR RENT



Located at Anuphas Manorom Village, near Suan Luang public park and about 1.5 kilometers from Central Festival Phuket. 82sq wah, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, and gardens. Please contact Mr Mongkol for more information. Tel: 084-0628040.

CHUAN CHEN

Lagoon. Near British school, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, fully furnished, available from February. Tel: 084-0651133.

CHALONG NEW HOME

2-bedroom, furnished home for rent with telephone line, UBC & aircon. Contact at Tel: 089-6521473.

PATONG TOWER

With sea view. 1-bedroom apartment 100 meters from beach. UBC, parking, pool. Tel: 084-8473304.

SURIN SPRINGS

Long-term rent. 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, large luxury lakeside house, private pool, aircon, sat-TV, wi-fi Internet, furnished. 5 minutes walk to Surin beach. 100,000 baht per month inclusive. Tel: 076-270655, 089-9084861. Email: kingsrqw@lds.co.uk

HOUSE FOR RENT

or sale. 2 floors, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, one big store-room and a large garden on the 80sq wah (320sqm) land plot. It's on Saiyuan road, 10 minutes to Nai Harn and Rawai beaches. Direct sale for 6.5 million baht net including 2 aircons and some built-in furniture. Tel: 084-9916654.

BEACHFRONT CONDO

Kalim, Patong. High standard, fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, pool, many facilities. Tel: 081-8920038.

RAWAI BEACH VILLA

Room rental. Daily or monthly 3,000 to 9,000 baht. Aircon, safe, ADSL, UBC. Please contact for more details. Tel: 084-3079909. Email: dyotachan@yahoo.com

LAGUNA AREA

Discovery Gardens. New fully-furnished, 2-bedroom houses. Large pool, WiFi, cable TV, maid service. Excellent rates for 1 night or 1 year! Tel: 076-527594, 084-8661965. Email: jziment@yahoo.com www.phuketmarbella.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

By Kasina. Varanee Villa on bypass road. Fully furnished, cable TV, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 1 kitchen, 1 living room, hot water, 2 air conditioners, garden, parking area, refrigerator, ADSL. Short term: 11,000 baht a month. Long term (minimum 1 year): 10,000 baht a month. Move in! (This price is not including ADSL) Tel: 081-9796134. Email: kasina_navamachiti@yahoo.com

KATHU 3-BEDROOM

house for rent. Fully furnished. 2 bedrooms with aircon, 1 without. Cable TV, garden, secure estate, telephone. 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-8876101.

KATHU RENTAL

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, modern design, walled garden. Near shops, international school. Long-term rent only. 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-8439579. Email: kittisakdj@yahoo.com

SEA VIEW, PATONG

Luxury 2-bedroom apartment with 3 bathrooms, UBC, ADSL, large pool, lovely furniture. Short or long term. Tel: 086-2790837.

KATA LUXURY

Apartment. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, huge terrace Western kitchen & bathroom available March 1 for short- or long-term rent. Tel: 089-5926890. Email: north8west98@yahoo.com

RENT A HOUSE

Beautiful house, views of elephants and nature, big terrace, 130sqm basement, garage, full aircon, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. European style. Long-term rent: 30,000 baht a month. Please contact. Tel: 081-2711082. Email: happyjo@procom.in.th

PATONG LONG-TERM

rent. New 2-bedroom house for minimum of 1 year available 30,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-6932759. Email: wunhung@gmail.com

APARTMENT PATONG

Large 1-bedroom apartment. Aircon, cable TV, separate kitchen, car parking. Only 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-2790837.

LARGE HOUSE FOR RENT

Kathu. 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom furnished house for long-term rent. Telephone line, UBC TV, garden, etc. Close to golf course and international school. On quiet private road. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-323-663, 089-8752532. Email: paulstrong23@hotmail.com

BUNGALOW

1-bedroom bungalow on Chalong Bay beach front for rent. Terrace, kitchen, aircon, car park 15m from house. Fully furnished. 12,000 baht a month. Tel: 084-6584437, 089-7297978. Email: property1998@hotmail.com

4-BEDROOM HOUSE

for rent. Large house with 3 bathrooms, gardens & parking. 15,000 per month. Tel: 089-9085242. Email: enilfrus@yahoo.co.uk

HOUSE FOR RENT

Located in secure estate. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, dining room, living room. Sturdy fenced garden, UBC, ADSL. Long-term rental: 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-843-9579. Email: somlerdee@yahoo.com

MODERN OFFICE

For rent/sale. Situated minutes from Phuket City, this newly-built small office offers great value for a company of 15-30 employees. All amenities available. Move in and start work right away. Sell for 4.3 million baht. Long-term rent: 25,000 baht a month. Tel: 081-537-5970. Email: info@yourrooms.com

FOR RENT LAND & HOUSE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms in Land & Houses. Fully furnished, 2 aircon bedrooms, 1 aircon living room. Rental price: 20,000 baht per month. Please contact for more details. Tel: 081-544-0571, 087-1745511.

KAMALA BEACH

Very nice, new apartments and homes for rent, fully furnished, near beach. 15,000-25,000 baht per month. Please call for more information. Tel: 084-3059606.

OFFICE FOR RENT



Thai-modern style. Located at very good location in Cherng Talay near Laguna on the way to Surin Beach. Will be finished by March. To resecure or inspect Tel: 081-8976984.

HOUSE & GARDEN

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

LOVELY 4-BEDROOM HOUSE, CHALONG

4 bathrooms, spa, aircon, pool, garden, UBC. 800sqm. Quiet area. 65,000 baht a month. Tel: 086-2817605.

RAWAI SEAVIEW

Apartment. Deluxe studio, furnished, full kitchen, hot water, cable. 7,000 baht. Tel: 084-0571420.

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43' Motor Yacht (1994)
12,800,000 THB

Sunseeker 55 Camargue (1994)
\$350,000 USD

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 / 01 968 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
tel/fax: 076 206 260
email: yacht Haven@leemarine.com

ASIA MARINE

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She is equal part fisherman, cruiser and performance machine As new.
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Maxi 88'
Prestigious transoceanic cruising yacht for either private or charter usage. Built to highest maritime and commercial standards.
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This boat is in perfect condition and ready to sail. She has Center Board. Soon sailing back to the Med.
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Extraordinary cruising yacht for sale.
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Wolkround 31
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The Oryx 36

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41' JEANNEAU SAILBOAT 1990

Fully-equipped sailboat. Airon, solar panels, dive gear. Includes Boat Lagoon berth. A great boat! US\$110,000. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-9726017, 089-99171161. Email: asiasail@yahoo.com For more details please see our website at: www.koumbele.com

BOAT CHARTER BUSINESS

Charter business ready to operate including 31ft Sunseeker Cabin Cruiser, client contracts and a work permit. Tel: 081-895 0680. Email: trin@phuket-sunseekers.com For further details, please see our website at: www.phuket-sunseekers.com

AVON DINGHY

English, 4 meters, wooden floor, 5hp Johnson outboard. 150,000 baht. Please contact. Tel: 089-8733952.

BAYLINER TROPHY

20ft. Engine only 50 hours, good for fishing, mooring free. 550,000 baht. Please contact. Tel: 089-8314703.

FERRY FOR SALE

Length 30m, gross 322 tons, 244 passengers. Price: 12.2 million. Please call Dock at Phuket. Tel: 081-4084991.

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Boat. Selling your liveboard dive boat? Contact for full details. Tel: 65-63487172, 65-96722511. Fax: 65-638 93792. Email: headoffice@fishermenscuba.com

NAUTILAC RIGID HULL INFLATABLE

550. In-board Evinrude 115hp + Yam 15. 250,000 baht. Tel: 087-8844725.

DINGHY FOR SALE

Rubber-fiberglass, 3.2m, red, no cover, no engine, just checked and serviced. 43,000 baht. Tel: 076-398364, 081-9587435. Fax: 076-398365. Email: Info@Liveaboard-thailand.com

19' RIB

Built by Cholamark. 140hp Yamaha and 20hp spare. New bimini & tube covers. With trailer. 640,000 baht. Please contact for more details. Tel: 762-200730, 084-8394868. Email: amulphy@bigfoot.com

FRENCH SKIPPER

100,000+ miles and 25 years' experience. Good technician looking for a stable job. Tel: 084-8528171. Email: fredve@hotmail.fr

POWER CATAMARAN

66'x23' built in 2006 with ply-glass epoxy, huge space! 90% finished. Best offer! Tel: 087-8919620.

INDONESIAN WOODEN

Boat. Thai registered wooden boat and company for sale. 65ft long, 18ft wide, 30t weight. Email: shaanxi.xian@vipmail.hu



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Boats & Marine

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- Sunseeker Manhattan 58
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- 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, Thapkasatri Road, Koh Kaew,
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Bangkok Office Tel: +66-2-429-2877, 429-2021
(Contact Ms. Kanokorn Sanguthai)
E-mail: sales@sunnay.com Website: www.sunnay.com

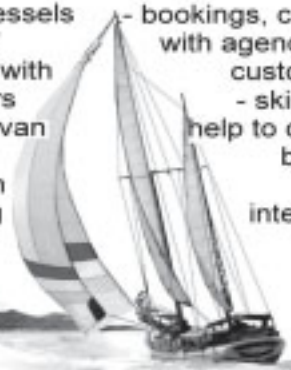
CHARTER - BUSINESS for SALE

fully operating

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- 2 sailing vessels 41' and 44'
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peter@sailing-in-thailand.com

MAXI 77 26-FOOT SAILBOAT



For sale with equipment. In good condition. New engine. 720,000 baht. Contact. Tel: 086-9500313. Email: retouchannel@hotmail.com

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Two 6BTA Turbo diesels 180hp ex-airport tankers. 2,500 euros for pair. For UK port. Please contact for more details. Tel: 084-8374894. Email: gary@tukl.com

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1968 Islander 44 world cruiser, Haven Marina 50. Contact for more details. Email: kustemption44@hotmail.com

CRUISE IN STYLE



36' Oceanrace hull, twin Volvo turbos, full interior, turnkey, perfect condition, 3.5 million baht. Tel: 084-8424861. Fax: 076-200-191. Email: brittsplace@hotmail.com

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RUBBER DUCK 10FT

With Honda 8hp, 4 stroke. Perfect condition, ready for fun. Contact George. Tel: 086-9724805.

Kitchenette

Boutique

Our company specializes in design, production and installation of kitchen as well as other home built-in cabinetry. Due to our rapid growth and expansion, we are looking for enthusiastic, highly motivated and highly competent professionals with passion for challenges to join our exciting team in the following positions:

Sales Designer (1 position)

- Male/Female, age over 28 years
- Bachelor's Degree in Marketing or related fields
- Some experiences in sales, with good leadership and pleasant personality
- Fluency in written and spoken English
- Good computer skill
- To be able to work with your own car will be beneficial

Administrative Officer (1 position)

- Male/Female, age over 30 years
- Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or related fields
- Some experiences in accounting and administrative jobs, with good leadership and pleasant personality
- Good computer skill
- Good command of English

Job application: contact 081-8091386 or boutique@kitchenette.co.th

Kitchenette Boutique Co., Ltd.
76 Thepkasatri Rd., Phuket 83000 Tel./Fax: 076-232-375-6



Phuket - Thailand

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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 Thepkasatri Rd., Muang, Phuket
For interview send resume to long@watermarkphuket.com
Tel: 076-239078, 081-8941657

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

PADI DIVEMASTER

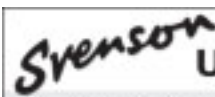
We require a PADI Divemaster for our busy 5-star dive center on Phi Phi. Good salary plus commission, food and accommodation for suitable applicant. Email: tony@diveh2osportz.com

COMPANION

Housekeeper for elderly American. Age 25 to 45, unmarried, basic English. Permanent job w/ many benefits. Call. Ao Chalong for app. Tel: 076-282868.

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



URGENTLY REQUIRED

An international company specializing in sales of unique and exclusive products/services has vacancies for

FEMALE SALES CONSULTANT <PHUKET BRANCH>
EARN 40,000.00 - 80,000.00 BAHT PER MONTH

Qualifications:

- 25-35 years of age, Thai nationality
- Must speak English
- Self-motivated, self-confident and able to sell
- Experience with cosmetic products or other types of personal selling could be useful but is not necessary
- Selected candidates will receive high earnings and full, comprehensive training

TELESALES / RECEPTIONIST

EARN 15,000.00 - 20,000.00 BAHT PER MONTH

Qualifications:

- Thai females
- Able to speak, read and write English
- Able to use computer (MS Office program)
- Work experience in sales/telesales
- Good personality and service-minded
- Interpersonal skills and enthusiastic

Please submit application in English only, with curriculum vitae and recent photo, to:

Svenson Hair Center Thasila Ltd.
Central Festival Phuket, 2 RD Floor Room No. 209 A
74-75 Moo 5, Chalermpakiat Rama 9 Rd, T. Vichit, A. Muang,
Phuket 83000 Tel: 076-249657-60, 089-4492500.



Paradise Designs is an Architectural Design Consultancy based in Phuket. To cope with our expanding projects, we are looking for bright & dynamic candidate to fill the following position.

DRAFTSMAN/ASS. INTERIOR DESIGNER

- Bachelor's degree in Architecture or Interior Designer.
- Min 2 Years working experience in Cad Operation, Interior Particularly in residential & hotel.
- Positive attitude, self-motivated, proactive interpersonal & communication skills.
- Computer literacy: Auto CAD, 3D Max, Photoshop, Microsoft office or related to graphic work.
- Fair in both written & spoken English.
- Able to work in Phuket, Own transportation.
- For non local people company have accommodation.

Interested candidate, please send full resume, expected salary & enclose a recent photo by fax or email to:

Human Resource Dept.
PARADISE DESIGNS LTD.

The Plaza Surin, 5/50 Moo.3, Cherngthay Sub-District,
Thalang District, Phuket 83110
fax: +66 76 271242 email: hr@paradisephuket.com

MANAGER RECEPTION

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.

PART-TIME TEACHER

Tefl teacher wanted. English native preferred for teaching kids 3-5 years. Please contact for more information. Tel: (Thai) 084-7144104, (Eng) 087-1069890.

HOTEL STAFF

In need of receptionist, spa therapist and restaurant staff for 27-room hotel in Patong. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-8920038.

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

Island Job Mart

Dusit Laguna
RESORT
PHUKET-THAILAND

Job Vacancy

ตำแหน่ง / Position	แผนก / Dept.	จำนวน / Amount
1. Food & Beverage Manager ผู้จัดการแผนกอาหารและเครื่องดื่ม	Food & Beverage	1
2. Restaurant & Bars Manager ผู้จัดการร้านอาหาร	Food & Beverage	1
3. Restaurant Manager ผู้จัดการร้านอาหาร	Food & Beverage	1
4. Captain กัปตันห้องอาหาร	Food & Beverage	3
5. Waitress พนักงานเสิร์ฟหญิง	Food & Beverage	2
6. Bartender พนักงานผสมเครื่องดื่มชาย	Food & Beverage	1
7. Training Manager ผู้จัดการฝ่ายฝึกอบรม	Human Resources	1
8. Executive Housekeeper หัวหน้าแผนกแม่บ้าน	Housekeeping	1
9. IT Manager ผู้จัดการฝ่ายเทคโนโลยีและสารสนเทศ	Accounting	1
10. Cost Controller ผู้ควบคุมฝ่ายต้นทุน	Accounting	1
11. F&B Cost ผู้ควบคุมต้นทุนฝ่ายเครื่องดื่ม	Accounting	1
12. Pool & Beach Attendant เจ้าหน้าที่ดูแลสระว่ายน้ำและชายหาด	Guest Activity	1
13. Secretary to Director เลขานุการผู้อำนวยการฝ่ายอาหารและเครื่องดื่ม	Food & Beverage	1

For more information, please contact Human Resources Department
Tel. (076) 324 324 Fax. (076) 324 174 E-mail : dlphrmgr@dusit.com

Job Openings at Mövenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket

Mövenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket – Thailand is looking for a Director of Human Resources.

Located on Karon Beach, the Hotel is the perfect place for relaxation in some of the most beautiful natural surroundings in Thailand. With 382 rooms and butler serviced residences, the F&B department features 4 restaurants, 3 bars, a 24 hours room service and large banqueting and conference facilities.

We are searching for an outstanding individual to head up the **Human Resources** function of this 5-star deluxe hotel operation. This position and the success of the appointee will make a significant contribution to the achievement of the hotel strategy.

He/She will be familiar with all aspects of HR - recruitment, employee relations, performance management, compensation and benefits, to training and management development.

Director of Human Resources

Minimum Job Specifications

The Director of Human Resources supervises all relevant activities in the field of Human Resources, such as personnel, training, development, administration and instruction within the Hotel operation. This always with due regard to execution and maintenance of our operational policies and standards, international and domestic.

He/she ensures that the Hotel consistently maintains a superior, motivated and skilled workforce at all levels, considering both, human capital practices as well as commercial aspects. He/she maintains smooth-running personnel administration procedures and P&P.

The Director of Human Resources, through the hotel Training Manager is also responsible for the supervision and organisation of all training activities within the hotel with his/her staff. In performing these duties he/she shall at all times maintain good relations with his/her supervisor, the Department Heads and supervisors as well as with the local authorities and other key persons.

The ideal candidate will be a University Graduate and have:

- Exceptional motivational skills
- Be hands - on
- Minimum 3-5 years Managerial experience in 5-star hotel properties in similar Corporate capacity
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Both strategic and pragmatic in approach
- Excellent command of English speaking, writing and reading
- Familiar with Thai Labor law and all Human Relations Issues

Please submit your detailed resume and recent photograph to the Human Resources Department.

Mövenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket
509 Patak Road, Karon Beach, Phuket 83100, Thailand
Phone +66 76 396139, Fax +66 76 396122
rudi.scherb@moevenpick.com
www.moevenpick-hotels.com

THE PALM BEACH CLUB

A six-star resort-style development along the shores of Bang Tao Beach is currently seeking for a candidate of

Purchasing Manager

The successful candidate should be in possession of these qualifications:

- Thai national.
- Bachelor's degree in any field.
- Experienced in property business is preferable.
- Strong ability of a negotiator.
- management ability
- Fluently in spoken & written English.
- Ability to work under pressure.

All positions offer an attractive package.
For interview please send CV's, resumé and photograph to info@thepalmbeachclub.com

GST International Co., Ltd.
326 Prabamee Road, Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150
Tel: (076) 310 402 - 4 Fax: (076) 310 405

URGENT!!!!

Casual, Part-Time Staff

watermark
bar restaurant

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 Theplacathi Rd. Muang, Phuket
For interview send resumé to hr@watermarkphuket.com
Tel: 076-239078, 081-8941657

ANDAMAN PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT is the Project Consultant for • Property Management • Architecture • Interior Design Project Manager, company located at The Plaza Surin, Phuket, is seeking for a qualified and energetic person to fill in the position below;

CIVIL ENGINEER

- Bachelor's degree in Construction Engineering
- 2 Years' experience in construction of resident projects, real estate development or project management.
- Excellent Auto CAD, Microsoft office or any software relevant to the position
- Positive attitude, self-motivated, proactive interpersonal & communication skills, well organized & able to deal with contractors
- Fair in both written & spoken English
- Able to work in Phuket, Own transportation
- For non local people company have accommodation

Interested candidate, please send full resume, expected salary & enclose a recent photo by fax or email to:

Human Resource Dept.
ANDAMAN PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT CO., LTD.
The Plaza Surin, 5/50 Moo.3, Cherngthalay Sub-District, Thalang District, Phuket 83110
fax: +66 76 271242 email: hr@paradisep Phuket.com

PROMOTION PERSON
required. Thai national, male or female, for promotion of real estate project. English required. Tel: 086-3418781, 087-0778454. Fax: 076-292073. Email: solitude001@aol.com

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

MARINE TECHNICIAN

Dream Yacht Charter is looking for an experienced Technician. Good English is necessary. To join our team, please send resumé by email to:

Email:
thailand@dreamyachtcharter.com

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Bachelor's degree, Thai national, hard-working, enthusiastic, able to communicate in English, basic accounting skills. Please send resume to info@stoneymonday.com or call during office hours at Tel: 076-296321 or contact K. Ratre at Tel: 087-2658865.

EXPERIENCED WEB DESIGNER

Experienced Web Designer needed. At least 2 years' experience in a similar role. Must be proficient in HTML, PHP, CSS, Photoshop and Dreamweaver. Only experienced applicants need apply. Tel: 076-280060, 089-529 2050. Fax: 076-280060. Email: willy@phuketdesign.com

SIMPSON MARINE

Requires the services of a Charter Boat Sales and Booking Representative. The ideal candidate will be a Thai National, have a strong background in sales and marketing, an excellent command of English both written and spoken, be self motivated and confident, a background in a marine related field would be a strong advantage, own transport is essential. Initial applications should be made by emailing a full resume and references to email: phuket@simpsonmarine.com

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Executive required by Property Care Services for Hygiene and Pest Control division. Preferred applicants are English-speaking female university graduates aged 25-35. Previous sales experience required, technical training provided. Tel: 076-224658, 081-6949088. Email: sirin@pcs.co.th

PROPERTY CARE

Services Administration Assistant / Accountant required. Preferred applicants are female, university graduates aged 25-35 with good English skills. Self confidence and strong character a must. Excellent salary and conditions available. Tel: 081-9586879. Fax: 076-254774. Email: scott@pcs.co.th

WWW.GLOBALHOME.EU
We need Sales Reps to visit realtors. Commission-based. All regions. Send resumé to: info@globalhome.eu

Island Job Mart



KASEMKIJ CO., LTD.

Do you wish to work in Thailand?

Kasemkij Co Ltd, owns and operates first class hotels and serviced apartments in Thailand: Bangkok, Chonburi, Rayong, Phuket and others. We would like to invite all applicants who are willing to work in Thailand to come and apply for the following positions:

1. Japanese Guest Relation (Japanese-3 positions) Sriracha, Chonburi
2. Guest Relation (Expat) Phuket
3. English Instructor (Filipino)
4. Executive Chef, Sriracha, Chonburi and Rayong
5. Project Manager (Civil Engineer) (Site)

(Bangkok Head office-Silom Rd.)

6. Senior Project Manager (Civil Engineer) Salary 80,000 Baht and up
7. Architect
8. Web Programmer & Design

Position 1, 2, 7 experience is not essential.

Position 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 require at least 1 year working experience.

Attractive salary and other fringe benefits will be provided to the right candidates

Interested candidates please submit your application letter, photograph with detailed resume and other evidences to

Human Resource Development Department: Mr. Chirinet
2 Somdej Chaopraya Rd, Klongsan, Bangkok 10600
Tel: 02 861 4572, 081 651 7867
email: job@kasemkij.com



Avantika Boutique Hotel, a small boutique beachfront luxury hotel with 31 rooms at the end of Patong Beach, is looking for suitable candidates for the following positions;

- | | |
|-------------------|------------|
| - Secretary | 1 position |
| - Reservation | 1 position |
| - Reception | 1 position |
| - Housekeeping | 1 position |
| - Waiter/Waitress | 1 position |

Contact: Please send your recent photo, resume, reference & expected salary to :



Human Resources Department

Avantika Boutique Hotel
4/1 Thaveewong Rd., Patong,
Kathu, Phuket 83150
Tel: (076)292 801-5, Fax: (076) 292 808-9
E-mail : info@avantika-phuket.com

QUALIFIED PRIMARY TEACHER

Small bilingual school requires native English Speaker to teach national curriculum to class of 5-9 year olds. Commences August 2007. Salary: 50,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-2705028. Email: laughinggecko99@hotmail.com

EXPERIENCED MANAGER

New company with patented product starting small in Phuket, but large multicountry growth potential. Short life span until copied. Need manager with Thai/English/computer/sales skills. Salary, car/truck, profit-sharing, all owner's profits go to orphans. Tel: 089-2300949, 089-9171161. Email:

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

RESERVATION STAFF

Diethelm Travel is looking for highly qualified and service-minded operations staff. Good command of English and computer skills are required, experience in tourism is a plus. Thai nationals only. Tel: 076-209163, 081-8927714. Email: max@dto.co.th

Employment Wanted

FRENCH SKIPPER

25 years experience + 100,000 miles. Good technician looking for a stable job. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-8528171. Email: fredve@hotmail.fr

PROFESSIONAL

Married couple from the UK. Occupation: retired Accounts Manager/Property Agent seeking a position possibly working for an owner of a guesthouse/hotel. We are hard working, trustworthy and reliable, with many years experience in this field. Also prepared to lease guesthouse at the right price. Tel: 087-8942573. Email: bobbi_hazza@hotmail.com

SKIPPER WANTED

To take care of 2 sailing boats on Ko Chang and run sailing trips also for nonsailors. Farang preferred. K. Peter Email: pu@sailing-in-thailand.com



The Regional Wing of
Singapore Airlines

SilkAir (invites applications for the positions of)

CUSTOMER SERVICES ASSISTANTS

Requirement :

- Thai Nationalities
- Possess Bachelors Degree in any discipline
- Good command of spoken and written English
- Customer Services oriented & comfortable with meeting people
- Basic knowledge of airline operations
- Experience in travel industry or airline would be an added advantage
- Willing to work long hours on shift and weekend

Employee Benefits

As an employee of SilkAir, you will be entitled to a comprehensive range of attractive benefits, including free travel on SilkAir, discounted travel on Singapore Airlines, 12 days annual leave, uniform and laundry allowance, training opportunities and employee share option scheme.

Please send a full resume including work experience, education qualifications, salary expectation and a passport-sized photograph to Manager Thailand, SilkAir, 101/17 Moo 1 T.Kathu A.Kathu Phuket 83120 or by email to silkair@loxinfo.co.th before 10 March 2007

Please indicate the position you are applying for on the top left-hand corner of the envelope. We regret that only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

PHUKET ANDAMAN REAL ESTATE

A worldwide real estate company in Phuket is currently seeking the following qualified candidates:

Sales Manager

- Thai national
- Bachelor's degree
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Computer literate (Excel, Word, Power Point, Outlook Express)
- Strong analytical and problem-solving and Team leadership skills.
- Able to work overtime if needed
- Search engine knowledge and interest.
- Own car
- Must have at least 2 years' experience in properties sale
- Good salary for the right candidate

Please send your CV with a color photo, current salary & expectations to info@phuketandamanrealestate.com
Tel: (076) 245966

www.phuketandamanrealestate.com

Walk-in interview at 17/11 Chaofa Rd, Muang, Phuket 83000

SALES REPRESENTATIVE WANTED

If you have your own car and want a paycheck that is limited only by your ambition, we might have a job for you.

Our furniture company is looking for an experienced sales representative who is capable and willing to build their own customer base. The position requires generating outside sales and servicing clients. We are looking for applicants who speak and write good English, are computer literate, team players and have a charming personality. Basic knowledge of the furniture business is preferred. A generous salary, commission and benefit package will be offered to the successful candidate. Interviews will be conducted Wednesday, February 28.

PLEASE CALL 076-223-025 FOR AN APPOINTMENT.

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

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: 076-246427, 081-7879454. Email: andersp@loxinfo.co.th



THE PARADISE KOH YAO

Boutique Beach Resort & Spa

The Paradise Koh Yao Boutique Beach Resort & Spa, 4-star resort, with 70 rooms, two restaurants and 2 bars, located on Koh Yao Noi Island in Phang Nga, less than one hour by boat from Phuket and Krabi. We are looking for a

CHEF DE CUISINE

The position is open for both Thai Nationals and Expatriates - expected starting date in May 2007

Requirements are as follows:

- ✓ Over 30 years of age with minimum 3 years' experience in similar position and resort category in Thailand.
- ✓ Island experience would be an advantage
- ✓ Outgoing personality/guest interaction
- ✓ Hands-on with Italian/Mediterranean cuisine knowledge
- ✓ Quality oriented with excellent leadership and managerial skills
- ✓ Problemsolving person with a "can do" attitude

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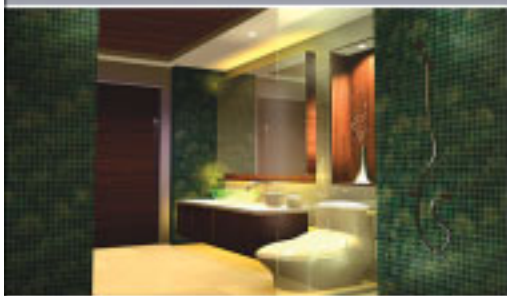
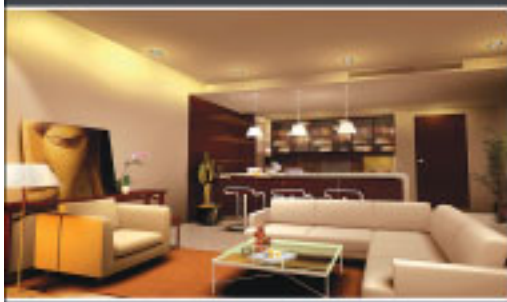
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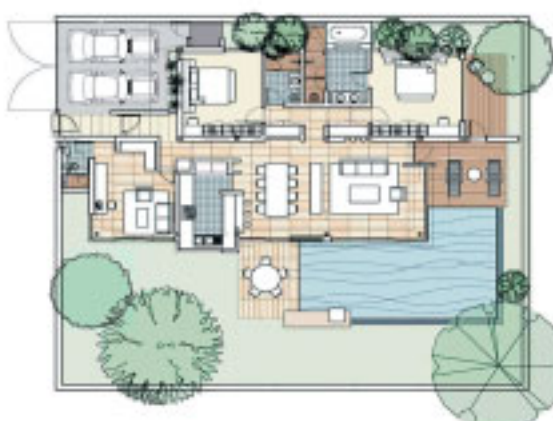
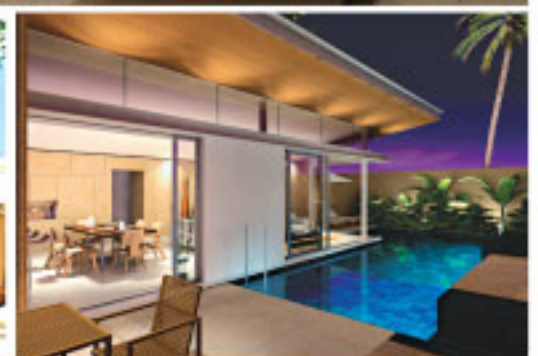
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