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IN THIS ISSUE

NEWS: Chalong killers caught; Kamala OrBorTor President ousted. **Pages 2 & 3**

INSIDE STORY: Homes for the poor in Rassada. **Pages 4 & 5**

AROUND THE REGION: Koh Tao turtles. **Page 7**

AROUND THE NATION: Opium cultivation; Booze tax fails; WildAid. **Page 8**

AROUND THE SOUTH: Huge funeral for cop; Rubber fire; Chumphon murder. **Page 9**

PEOPLE: Tsunami tales of Thai grace. **Pages 14 & 15**

LIFESTYLE: Qipaos are back. **Pages 18 & 19**

SPA MAGIC: Chocolate rubs and sweet treats. **Page 20**

LARGER THAN LIFE: Shrimps on the 'barbie'. **Page 21**

GOVERNOR'S LETTER: Dementia, dangers, drugs & dogs. **Page 27**

SPORTS: Cricket; Darts; 'Party' regatta results; Extreme triathlon. **Pages 34 & 35**

PROPERTY: Gardening: Golden Shrimp; Design: Tile style; Construction: Happy house; Home of the week: Nai Harn. **Pages 36-39**

PLUS

QUEER NEWS 6; AROUND THE ISLAND 10; MOTORING 13; HAPPENINGS 16; PROWLER 17; TAKE A BREAK 23 & 24; BOOKS, PHUKET DIARY 25; EDITORIAL, LETTERS 26; HOROSCOPES, MOMMA DUCK 28; YOUTH 'N ASIA 29; COMPUTERS 30; BUSINESS AND MONEY 32 & 33; CLASSIFIEDS 40-51.

Four charged in Kamala murder

By Supanun Supawong

KAMALA: Police arrested four suspects for the murder of Nongnuch Kongpleum, 42, who was gunned down in front of The Club restaurant on the main road through Kamala about 7:30 pm February 23.

Lt Col Monsak Srisuwan, Duty Inspector at Kamala Police Station, told the *Gazette* that the victim, 42, was the partner of Dutch property developer Harry Tawando, 72, owner of a number of properties in Kamala and along Nanai Rd in Patong.

Police presented the four suspects to the press at Kamala Police Station on February 27. All four suspects have been charged with conspiracy to murder. A fifth suspect, Sinchai Khonghawm, allegedly a hired gunman who pulled the trigger, remains at large.

According to a police press statement, the killing was carried out at the request of Patong-based accountant Juraiwan "Eet" Samit, whose agency had been handling the Dutchman's business, Baan Naka Resort Co Ltd.

Juraiwan, who held power-of-attorney for the company, allegedly felt she stood to lose a great deal when Mr Tawando announced he was planning to sign the resort business over to K. Nongnuch, with whom Mr Tawando had been living with for more than a year.

To prevent the handover, Juraiwan allegedly paid her employee Prasit Suwanmanee to find a gunman to kill K. Nongnuch. Prasit then consulted Wichit Numnuan, who put him in touch with Amorn Boonthong



CONSPIRACY SUSPECTS: Police present the four suspects in the murder of Nongnuch Kongpleum at a press conference February 27. They are (front, from left) Juraiwan "Eet" Samit, Prasit Suwanmanee, Wichit Numnuan and Amorn Boonthong. The alleged gunman, Sinchai Khonghawm, is still at large.

from Surat Thani. Amorn arranged for Sinchai to carry out the hit for 110,000 baht; with 50,000 up front and the remainder to be paid after the job.

Amorn and Sinchai met Wichit and Prasit in a room at the Happy Inn motel near Central Festival on the afternoon of February 23 to plan the attack.

Prasit then drove Sinchai and Wichit, who was to drive the getaway bike, to Kamala so that they could see where the attack was to take place and what their target looked like.

That evening, Prasit called K. Nongnuch with his mobile phone, asking her to meet him at The Club to pick up the Baan Naka Resort company documents, which had been in the accountant's possession.

"K. Nongnuch asked an employee to go with her. The two attackers followed her on a dark blue Honda Dream to the front of restaurant.

"The man riding pillion

pulled a gun and shot her in the back. They then fled the scene.

"The employee who accompanied her called Mr Tawando. K. Nongnuch was taken to Patong Hospital where she later died," Col Monsak added.

Under questioning at Kamala Police Station on the morning of February 24, Juraiwan denied any involvement with the killing, but Prasit's inconsistent reports of his whereabouts on the night of the murder and nervous demeanor led police to investigate further.

Police report that they found a record of the call to Nongnuch that lured her to the club on Prasit's mobile phone.

Under further questioning, he confessed to his role in the murder, police said.

He also told police he was going to meet Amorn and Wichit at a waterfall in Surat Thani at 4 pm on February 25 to complete the deal, at which time police arrested the pair.

Gov Niran changes stance on jet-ski ban

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET CITY: Phuket province has backed down from its firm stance to gradually phase out jet-skis in the province and is now allowing owners of registered jet-skis to replace old or inoperable vessels with new ones.

Karon Municipality sent a letter of complaint to the Governor following the arrest of 36 people found to be operating unregistered jet-skis in Karon in early February.

In March 2004, former Governor Pongpayome Vasaputi ordered a ban on all new jet-ski registrations, hoping that as existing jet-skis aged and became inoperable, their numbers would gradually be reduced, with a complete ban going into effect in March 2011. There were 219 registered jet-skis at the time the ban went into effect.

However, in a meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall yesterday afternoon, Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit agreed to allow owners of registered jet-skis to replace their old or broken machines with new ones.

The order contradicts the 2004 order by K. Pongpayome, now Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Interior.

At yesterday's meeting, representatives of the the Marine Police and several local administrative bodies agreed that:

-The total ban will still go into effect March 4, 2011;

-Jet-skis are required to comply with all local regulations;

-The Marine Department will accept no new jet-ski registrations apart from those made in replacement of registered boats.

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Couple attacked on bypass road

PHUKET CITY: A Phuket man was beaten then blasted by a shotgun when he and his wife were attacked by a motorbike gang on the bypass road on February 19.

Chatchai Chuenjitsoonthorn, 26, and his wife, Maliwan, stopped for a red light at the Tesco-Lotus intersection about 1:30 am. While they waited, about 20 youths on motorcycles pulled up around them, Lt Theeradet Jiraksa at Phuket City Police Station explained.

Incensed by the way K. Chatchai looked at them, the gang followed them and hurled beer bottles at K. Chatchai, causing him to fall off his motorbike. The gang then stopped and about six youths started beating K. Chatchai while the rest looked on.

K. Chatchai hit one of the youths, who in retaliation pulled out a sawed-off shotgun and fired into K. Chatchai's side. The gang then fled.

The couple identified the shooter, a Phuket native, from police photographs. A warrant has been issued for his arrest.

81 Burmese arrested at Wat Chalong Fair

PHUKET: Immigration officers arrested and seized the mobile phones of 81 Burmese laborers who broke an 8 pm curfew so they could attend the Wat Chalong Fair, which was held from February 16 to 22.

Phuket Immigration Superintendent Pol Col Ittipon Atchariyapradit, said, "If they have [mobile phones and vehicles], it increases the risk that they will commit crime. I'm not saying that only Burmese commit crimes, but it is the first thing we can do to help protect citizens."

The Wat Chalong raids followed an order announced February 15 by Phuket Vice-Governor Vorapoj Rattasima instructing police to crack down on foreign laborers.

Tourism roadshow to reach 14 nations

By Semacote Suganya

PHUKET CITY: Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit announced on February 23 that to promote Phuket to foreign markets the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor) and hotels and hospitals yet to be selected will be going on a 14-country roadshow.

The tour will begin in Berlin at the International Tourism Borse and visit other European cities from March 4 to 16.

From March 16 to 18, the Phuket show will be in Malaysia for the Malaysian Association of Tourism and Travel Agents show.

From there the roadshow will move to Singapore for the National Association of Travel Agents Singapore show on March 23 to 25, and then on to the United Arab Emirates for the Arabian Travel Mart in Dubai May 1 to 4.

From June 11 to 13 they will be in Korea for the Thailand Festival in Korea, followed by a June 14 to 17 stint at Hong Kong's International Travel Expo (ITE).

Other countries that are on the roadshow schedule are England and Sweden in August, Russia and nearby countries August to September and India, also in September.

Countries that the participants wants to eventually visit are Australia, Japan, Morocco,

several Eastern European nations and China.

The roadshow budget will be funded by the OrBorJor through the TAT. According to OrBorJor President Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr, the budget for ITB increased to 2.1 million baht as the booth rent price is higher.

Spending for Malaysia will be 250,000 baht, the Singapore tourism show will cost 300,000 baht, Dubai's tourism show will be 600,000 baht, the roadshow in India will cost 1.5 million baht. The Russian roadshow will cost an estimated 1 million baht, she said.

The first priority in selecting hotels for the roadshow, given booth space and budget support, will go to those that have paid the OrBorJor hotel tax, she added.

Four arrested for Chalong killing

By Supanun Supawong

CHALONG: Four men were arrested February 26 after gunning down 44-year-old construction worker Phichai Wanlayapetch in broad daylight after he dropped his young child off at a daycare center in Chalong.

The men arrested are Sangkom "Kom" Anukul, 46, Watcharin "Kai" Janya, 35, and Somkanay "Lek" Sriphan, 36, all from Surat Thani; and Suchart "Neung" or "Bao" Sornsang, 33, from Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

Chalong Police Station Duty Inspector Lt Col Chokechai Sutthimake told the Gazette that Sangkom, Watcharin and Suchart pulled up in a bronze-colored Mitsubishi sedan as K. Pichai was leaving the day care center at 7:40 am.

"They pulled up behind Pichai to identify him as he walked to his car, which was parked in front of GT Construction shop, about 40 meters from where he was shot," he said.

Pichai was shot three times with a .357 handgun, with in-and-out wounds in the neck and right hip. A third slug grazed his waist.



CHARGED: Phuket Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Decha Budnampetch (back, right), with (seated, from left) Somkanay "Lek" Sriphan, 36, Watcharin "Kai" Janya, 35, Sangkom "Kom" Anukul, 46 and Suchart "Neung" or "Bao" Sornsang, 33.

He died at the scene, Col Chokechai said.

The attackers then drove off, but Chalong Police coordinated with other police stations to catch all of the suspects within three hours.

"Sangkom and Watcharin were caught at 8 am at the intersection of Kwang Rd and Chao Fa West Rd.

"Suchart was caught in the Mazda pickup at 9:40 am at the Shell petrol station in Mai Khao.

"Suchart told police that Somkanay had got out of the car and escaped on foot. Police finally caught Somkanay in Chalong at 10:30 am.

"The men confessed to conspiracy to murder, being in possession of an unlicensed firearm, and carrying a firearm in a public area without a permit," Col Chokchai added.

Police said the most likely motive for the murder was a business dispute.

Bars caught in late-trading crackdown

PATONG: Twenty-six bar operators have been charged with trading outside permitted hours in raids since February 14.

The operators of nine venues in Patong, including Night Station Discotheque and Safari Pub, were arrested for violating the mandatory closing time of 2 am in raids on February 15.

The second round of raids came about 4:30 am February 16 on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, with the operators of the Jonas Tree Guest Bar, The Sunday Bar, Paris Bar, The Nineteen St Bar and Eminem Bar arrested.

About the same time the next day, police arrested the operators of Cat Bar, Tiger Bar, UK Bar, Irish Bar, Sunlight Bar, Captain Big George Bar, KSR Bar, Sporting Sun Bar, and Blacky Monkey Bar - all in the Soi Dongtal area.

The operators of Highlander Bar on Nanai Rd, Krapao Bin Bar on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, and Galaxy Pub on Phang Muang Rd were also arrested.

The crackdown follows Pol Gen Sereepisut Temiyaves' February 5 appointment as acting Commissioner-General of the Royal Thai Police.

All 17 bar operators arrested were charged with operating an entertainment venue and selling alcoholic drinks outside permitted hours.

If convicted, the operators face punishment of up to one year in prison and fines of up to 60,000 baht.

The Key Piece of the Puzzle

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Karon turtle eggs hatch



KARON: Seventy-six leatherback turtles have hatched so far out of the 103 eggs laid on Karon Beach in December.

Before December, leatherbacks had not laid eggs on Karon Beach for more than 10 years.

Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) Veterinarian Sontaya Manawattana told the *Gazette* that 36 eggs hatched February 23, 37 on February 24, and three more on February 25.

The PMBC will continue to watch over the remaining 27 eggs and see how many eggs produce live offspring.

— Photo: Phuket Marine Biological Center

OrBorTor Kamala President dismissed over corruption

By Sompratch Saowakhon

KAMALA: Jaral Sararak, President of Kamala Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*), has been dismissed amid allegations of rampant corruption.

The order removing him from office, signed February 23 by Kathu District Chief Khantee Silapa, followed an investigation requested by Sorranun Sane, Chairman of the *OrBorTor* Board.

K. Khantee told the *Gazette*, "We have investigated Jaral many times for a lack of transparency in his work. From investigating the income from *OrBorTor* garbage collection we have concluded that there is definitely corruption.

"We examined the figures for Kamala *OrBorTor*'s income from garbage collection and found that the *OrBorTor* received only about 3,000 baht a month. The real figure should have been far higher."

The *OrBorTor* board now

needs to select a new President from its 11 remaining members within 15 days.

A by-election for Jaral's Village 1 constituency seat will be held within 60 days, K. Khantee said.

K. Sorranun claimed that K. Jaral had profited personally from his position. "I'm the person who requested that Kathu District examine his time in office. I've known about his behavior since he took office.

"Every house in the constituency must pay 30 baht per month. There are also four hotels that collectively pay between 30,000 to 40,000 baht a month.

"From these proceeds, Jaral handed over only about 3,000 baht a month to the *OrBorTor*.

"Jaral has a background in the garbage collection business. I and many other officers warned him about this, but he didn't stop," said K. Sorranun, alleging that Jaral's company was using *OrBorTor* trucks to collect garbage without a contract.

Jaral told the *Gazette* that the charges against him were unfair and that he was being framed by K. Sorranun and the Chairman of the *OrBorTor*, with whom he had a long-term dispute.

"I'm new here. I became *OrBorTor* President in 2004. The *OrBorTor* Chairman and its Chief Administrative Officer have been here much longer than me, so have much more influence.

"They have been trying to unseat me with corruption allegations for a long time now. I managed to get a budget of more than 100 million baht from the government for Kamala *OrBorTor*. No other President has been able to do that in the past.

"There was corruption in the *OrBorTor* garbage collection service. I, however, was not responsible. There were many officers involved, especially accounts officers.

"If I were still President, I would launch an investigation into the matter," K. Jaral said.

Asian arrivals overwhelm Phuket airport immigration

PHUKET: The Phuket holidays of about 2,200 East Asian tourists got off to a slow start early on February 22, when they were forced to wait hours to clear Immigration at Phuket International Airport (PIA).

Twelve flights landed in little over an hour just after midnight, overwhelming the Immigration officers on duty.

It took officials until past 4 am to process the crowd of holidaymakers.

The first of the flights landed at 12:30 am, followed by 11 more charter and scheduled flights from China and South Korea, landing at about five-minute intervals.

Weera Thippayathad, a PIA official, said that the delays at Immigration were exacerbated by most of the visitors not being able to speak or read English, and thus unable to complete immigration arrival cards.

The usual 30-40 seconds it usually takes to per-person processing time took much longer than usual as officers had to complete the forms for them, K. Weera explained.

The eight Immigration officers on duty were assisted by 10 PIA staff called in to help.

"The problem lies with the landing slots allocated by the Department of Civil Aviation, which is responsible for flight scheduling. I don't understand why they arranged for so many flights to land in such a short period of time," K. Weera complained.

At 2 pm that same day, Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit chaired an urgent meeting to discuss ways to prevent a recurrence.

Gov Niran also ordered the PIA and the airport Immigration office to inform the Department of Civil Aviation of the problem.

Swede dies after being run over by 10-wheel truck

KARON: A Swedish man was killed instantly on a hill between Kata and Chalong after he fell off his motorbike and was run over by a 10-wheel truck on February 23.

Lt Col Anek Mongkol of the Chalong Police identified the victim as Tommy Leif Jonsson, 50, from Sweden.

Police reported that Jonsson was driving a dark blue Yamaha Nouvo motorcycle along on Patak Rd over the hill between Kata and Chalong, when he apparently lost control and fell off his vehicle near the Plub Pla Resort.

The driver of a truck following him, 29-year-old Suwanchai Karnprakob, failed to notice the fallen Swede, who was killed instantly when his skull was crushed and both legs broken.

According to police, K. Suwanchai fled the scene in the vehicle, owned by a concrete company in Phuket City.

He was later arrested by police and charged with vehicular manslaughter and released without bail.

According to the police report, Jonsson was returning to his bungalow in Karon from Chalong Police Station when the accident occurred.

He went to the police station to report a previous motorbike accident just two days before in the hope of having his hospital fee for that accident covered by his insurance.

The victim's body was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital to be claimed by relatives.

— *Semacote Suganya*

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In the Rassada port area, on the eastern side of Phuket City, it is impossible not to notice the poverty and shanties lining the fetid canal. Many of the people living in those ramshackle shacks have no rights to occupy the land they live on and are at constant risk of eviction.

The Community Organization Development Institute (CODI), a public organization established by royal decree in July 2005, and the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor) are now aiming to help one Rassada community near the bridge to Koh Sireh by providing low-interest loans to build houses and allowing the villagers to lease the OrBorJor coastal land on which they are currently living rent free, but illegally.

The Rassada community, living in the Tah Reua Mai neighborhood, will be part of a national housing project known as Baan Man Kong, or "stable housing". The project aims to help families who have nowhere to live or are illegally encroaching on government or private land.

Jirasak Poonsom, Community Action Officer of CODI, Southern Office in Phattalung, explained to the *Gazette* that the Baan Man Kong project improves peoples' lives by developing the whole community.

"Many of the people [who will be part of the Rassada project] have been living on the land for 20 years or more; they don't know who it belongs to. Most of the residents come from other provinces and moved to Phuket when the province's population was expanding so quickly that the authorities couldn't keep an eye on all their land," he said.

The project site is 7 rai 2 ngan (about 12,000 square meters) and belongs to the OrBorJor. So far 58 families of the 60 or so families living in Tah Reua Mai have agreed to join the project, K. Jirasak said.

From old

Land encroachment by the poor is an ongoing problem in Phuket. People from other provinces are attracted to Phuket by the prospect of high-paying employment in the island's booming economy, but many end up squatting on government or private land.

The Community Organization Development Institute and the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization has launched a pilot project to help one such community in Rassada.

Gazette Reporter Natcha Yuttaworawit and Chief Reporter Sangkhae Leelanapaporn investigate how much this new initiative will help those in need.

"Only a few families are unwilling to join the project. Some of them believe that the government will always be willing to help. Maybe they haven't thought that the land they are living on is not theirs and that one day they may be forced to move off the land. Others are still not sure that the project will really happen. The last group are people that are just stubborn and refuse to move," he said.

Tah Reua Mai currently is not on the public electricity grid or connected to municipal water mains, forcing the villagers to buy from private suppliers at inflated rates. Most of the families have between four and six members, and their income comes from businesses in the port area.

The OrBorJor is supporting the project by allowing the residents to lease the land they are squatting on. The initial lease will be for 25 years and K. Jirasak believes that the OrBorJor will extend the lease in the future as the land has no real commercial value.

CODI arranged the contract with the OrBorJor, though

the lease will have to be paid by the local people with the aid of CODI loans.

CODI will develop the infrastructure around the project by installing a bridge, sala and raised walkway. It will also arrange a community garbage collection system. It is community-building projects such as this that will stop the area degenerating back to a slum, K. Jirasak said.

CODI also makes villagers organize the construction work for their houses by themselves in the hope of building organizational skills and community unity. No checks are made on how the loans granted by CODI are used, K. Jirasak added.

The villagers have designed the houses with help from CODI architects. The raised houses will be 6m by 10m and have two bedrooms, a balcony, living area and bathroom.

To build each house will cost between 150,000 and 200,000 baht. Villagers will be responsible for building their houses or hiring laborers to build for them. The money will be loaned to the villagers at an interest rate of 2%

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shack to debt trap?



PLANS: The community as it stands now, where many of the villagers have been living illegally on OrBorJor land for more than 10 years (above). The planned development (right) would dramatically change the look of the community.



per annum. The amount loaned will be dependent on the income of each villager and must be repaid within 15 years.

"This project is better than renting a house privately as the loan repayments for this project will be about 1,000 baht a month, whereas renting a similar house would cost about 2,000 baht a month. Also, this project provides a more stable environment for the families," K. Jirasak said.

Despite K. Jirasak's optimism and enthusiasm for the project, the feedback from residents has been mixed.

Wimonwan Boonkerd, 48, has been living in Tah Reua Mai for more than 10 years since coming to work in Phuket from her native Nakorn Sri Thammarat. Now she works as a beautician and is a member of the village committee. "I followed my husband to work here and have

never paid rent while I have been living here. I heard that this land belongs to the government, so I thought that I didn't have to pay.

"There is no water supply here so all the villagers have to buy water from a truck, and electricity costs six baht a unit, which is very expensive. I'm not happy to be living like this. I know now that it is illegal; I want to live within the law. If we move to the new house that the OrBorJor and CODI support we will get public electricity and water supply, and we can be sure that we will not be ordered to leave - we will not be trespassing," she said.

Nudamas Sinla, 33, from Nongkai, has been living there for 15 years. "We do not have enough money to build new houses. I know I can borrow from the CODI at an interest rate of only 2%, but I will still have to pay it back.

to join. The reason we included them in the project is because we want to keep the village unified and don't want them to feel abandoned. They know that they will have a place here if they change their mind," she said.

Sirilak Thipwong, 29, a housewife and village committee

"I have three children, the oldest is now registering to study nursing. I have to work to look after my children on my own. I have no savings," she said.

"If we have to move, it will cause me a lot of problems. I can't build a house by myself and it would only mean more debt. My income is not guaranteed, I get paid on a daily basis.

"Now we have a temporary house registration, which gives us no real rights to the land. I know the OrBorJor and CODI want to help, but I really don't want to be in debt. Of course I'd like to have a nice house like they are talking about, but I don't want to destroy my current home. If I could make it a bit nicer that would be fine. Most of the houses around here are built to a decent standard.

"We understand what the government is trying to do, but we need them to understand our way of life here. Most people here aren't too worried about the state of their houses, they just want access to public water and electricity supplies.

"When the OrBorJor became involved, however, they said that we'd have to live somewhere legally before we could get public utilities.

"Even if they said that they'd build new houses to replace our old ones without us having to borrow money, I still wouldn't be able to move. I make 300 to 400 baht a day, if I had to miss work to go and build a new house I'd have nothing to live on.

"If I did decide to move, it'd take at least a month and then I'd be even worse off. I've got no money to hire people to build the house for me. CODI just said that they 'build communities not houses'."

"The OrBorJor will improve the area around the land and CODI will find temporary accommodation in the area for us while the houses are being built, but I cannot build the house by myself, I have too many other responsibilities. I have to take care of my three children.

"The budget for building each house is about 150,000 to 200,000 baht. Whoever wants to borrow the money [from CODI] must have savings of at least 10% of the amount they wish to borrow, so if a villager wants to borrow 200,000 baht he must have savings of 20,000 baht," she said.

K. Nudamas however, disagreed that 58 families had agreed to join the project. "The figure of 58 families registered in the project actually includes 10 families who have not yet agreed

member, said, "I heard about the Ao Phuket development project, so we are afraid of being evicted to make way for it. The OrBorJor said that we will be a pilot project and will be an example for other communities in Phuket, but we can not be sure that in 25 years the OrBorJor will extend the contract or not, although hopefully by then we will have houses of our own.

"The OrBorJor is asking for 782,000 baht for the 25-year lease. Most of the villagers make their money day to day and have large families. This project will greatly increase their debt," K. Sirilak said.

Bunriam Sombun, 41, from Kamphaengphet, works repairing wooden boats and earns a little over 10,000 baht a month. She has not yet agreed to join the project.





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Queer News

Youths prove that even invincible amulets have limits

KALASIN: Hubris often comes before a fall, but the demise of one superstitious man in Kalasin province perhaps came more predictably than most.

The body of the man in question was found in a small shack in a forest of this northeastern province.

Maj Phabun Titiyan, an Inspector at Kalasin Muang District Police station, said that the victim had been beaten to death with blunt instruments.

Though police had yet to give final confirmation of the victim's identity, a medical card he was carrying gave the name Buan Munri.

Whatever the victim's name, evidence revealed that an attack on the man's life might not have been wholly unexpected. For a start, his stomach was covered with a large tattoo of a design believed to give protection from weapons.

He was also found with a shoulder bag containing a large collection of amulets, charms, pendants and Buddha images.

An autopsy confirmed the obvious – that the cause of death

was multiple trauma to the head and neck.

Examiners also found two strange bullet wounds where the man had been shot with a home-made rifle.

Remarkably, however, the bullets had apparently bounced off the victim, leaving him only bruised.

As it turned out, these wounds may have been the real cause behind his death – at least in a roundabout way.

The owner of the shack where the body was found, 53-year-old Lai Phanbunmee, said that the man was not from his village, but often came to stay in the shack.

He was an avid collector of charms, spells and anything else to do with the supernatural.

The victim liked to claim that his lucky charms made his skin impenetrable to knives and bullets.

So convinced was he of their power that he often invited people to prove his claims by stabbing or shooting him, K. Lai said.

The man's invincibility an-

noyed some local youths, however. Finding that they could indeed not kill the man with their home-made gun, they decided to try their luck with that most classic of weapons – a length of 2" x 4" wood.

Believing the attack was carried out by at least two people, police are now questioning local youths.

K. Lai said that he had lit candles to help the victim's spirit find the path to heaven.

Source: *KomChadLuek*



A philatelic feast

STAMPS

Thailand Post has launched a series of four stamps depicting Thai fruits and vegetables carved into elaborate floral arrangements by well-known craftsman and author Ajarn Penpun Sitthitrit. Featured fruits include watermelon, pumpkin, pomelo and papaya, all worked into intricate floral designs.

The series was launched March 1. Each stamp costs 5 baht, while the first day cover with all four is 30 baht. They can be found at all 10 Thailand Post Offices on Phuket.

More information on Ajarn Penpun Sitthitrit and on fruit carving can be found at www.simply-thai.com/Thai-Market-Carving-Book-image-pages-art-of-fruit-and-veg-carving-dual.htm

Free willy at the wat

CHALONG: A naked Slovenian man who ran short of medication for a nervous condition was found wandering naked around the grounds of Wat Laththiwanaram shortly around midday on February 17.

His stroll came to an abrupt end, however, when he was confronted by a white-robed nun.

According to Lt Col Anek Mongkol of Chalong Police, the

Slovenian, 38, drove his motorbike from Rawai Beach to the temple, where he disrobed and began walking around – until he was confronted by the nun. An argument ensued but no one was injured, he said.

Col Anek would not confirm the spelling of the Slovenian's name as printed in a Thai language newspaper, saying there was no record of it at the station

because the man had not been charged with any crime.

The Slovenian was allowed to "cool down" at the station for about three hours before he was released, Col Anek said.

He told the *Gazette* that the man was under treatment for a medical condition and his actions were not the result of illicit drug use, as reported in the vernacular press.

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Big day for turtles on Koh Tao

Koh Tao festival: Three hundred baby sea turtles were released to mark the fourth Koh Tao Underwater World Festival held February 10 and 11. Other activities included scuba diving to collect rubbish, a land and beach clean up, and live music performances.

The festival attracted a large crowd, including about 500 tourists, and was opened by Rear Admiral Thajon Ramgomut of the Royal Thai Navy.

This annual event was created to promote undersea tourism to visitors and is supported by the Surat Thani provincial authorities and the Navy. According to the event's organizer, Chaiyan Thurasakul, it is the largest eco-diving festival in Asia.

Koh Tao attracts ever-increasing numbers of tourists who come to see the incredible marine life that resides in the waters that surround the island. Increasing numbers of visitors, however, pose a threat to the ecology of the area and the festival is as much about preserving as it is promoting the location.

Before the event, local official Prayuth Thongnual said that the Underwater World Festival was expected to generate around 200 million baht for the island.

Probe halts illegal logging: A sting operation to bring down a network of land encroachment and illegal logging on Samui was launched last month by the Director of the Forest Protection Operations Office (Southern Region), Sompong Phethongklang.

In co-operation with the Koh Samui District Chief, Decha Kangsanon, an investigation team followed up claims that both public officials and private Thai investors were involved in a large-scale operation that included chopping down trees in a protected area of more than 45 rai.

Full details of the investigation have not yet been revealed. K. Decha, however, admitted to local journalists that the operation



Three hundred turtle hatchlings were released into the ocean during the the fourth Koh Tao Underwater World Festival
- Photo by Colin Parker

was prompted by an official complaint over a consortium that had hired workers to occupy 20 rai of prime hilltop woodland. The workers were allegedly instructed to clear the land of commercial tree stocks and the land was then to be divided into plots and offered to foreign investors for 3 million baht per rai.

Initial inspections of the area in question revealed that trees in the protected area had been marked for cutting. Following the discovery, during a raid at the end of January, Boonlue Klabmuang, 38, was caught cutting down trees and admitted that he was hired to do so by a group that included government officials. He later escaped from a pickup truck while being taken to Na Thon for further questioning.

Based on the size of the

land, the total potential profit from the combination of illegal logging and land sales is believed to exceed 140 million baht.

Although the team has yet to catch the masterminds, they are hoping their investigation, and the publicity it generates, will prompt those behind the destruction to abandon the project.

Youth drug den raided: Samui police arrested five students for drug offenses during a recent raid on a house in Na Thon where young people allegedly gathered to smoke hashish. The owner of the house, Sayan Srifa, 41, was also arrested.

A thorough search of the premises by a Special Operations Unit led by Pol Lt Col Boonma Kaewla-ead uncovered a range of drug paraphernalia as well as

a small quantity of heroine. Police also seized a small amount of cash and a gold necklace.

The youths, aged from 13 to 15, confessed to smoking hash-



FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND

By Barry Singleton

ish. Sayan denied selling them the drugs, despite admitting to regularly selling hashish to students and fishing boat crews on the island. He was charged with drug-related offenses and is now awaiting trial.

The boys were given a warning and their guardians were informed. Col Boonma said that he had instructed local officers in Na Thon to monitor the students' behavior closely.

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Opium cultivation increases

The area under opium cultivation in Thailand has risen 10% to 1,075 rai, while the amount of narcotics smuggled into the country through the northern border has also risen, according to Kitti Limchaiki, Secretary-General of the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB).

The ONCB said the amount of *ya bah* (methamphetamine) smuggled into the country had fallen but the amount of "ice", the chemical used for making *ya bah*, had gone up – along with increases in heroin and marijuana smuggling.

The rise in drug use and smuggling was part of a global trend that had seen the amount of opium cultivated in Afghanistan double since the Taliban, the former regime fighting the US-backed government in Kabul, were using opium production as a source of income, he said.

Deadliest cancer: Cervical cancer continues to claim the lives of more Thai women than any other form of the disease.

Dr Somyos Charoensak, Deputy Permanent Secretary of



ANGRY ISAAN: More than 400 protesters from the Assembly of Isaan People gather in front of an air force base in Udon Thani to demand the government review Singapore's use of the facility. The protesters, who accuse Singapore of trying to take over Thailand's assets, burned effigies of Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and threatened to boycott Singapore products and services.

the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), said that of the more than 6,000 new cases reported each year, about 50% are fatal.

On average, nine women per day die of cervical cancer in Thailand, with the highest incidence in the North, where about 25 in every 100,000 women had the disease.

To reduce the death toll, the MoPH has piloted a cervical

screening project using both the traditional Pap smear and a test called Visual Inspection with Acetic Acid (VIA), which requires only a trained nurse to conduct and can be done almost anywhere.

Now being used in 16 provinces, the VIA test extended the cover to a considerably larger number of the target population, women aged between 30 and 45.

Although just one-third of the cost of a Pap smear, the VIA test has an accuracy rate of up to 55.7% compared to only 29.5% for the Pap smear.

Tipple tariff: Increased taxes on alcohol products have not halted the rise in drinking and are harming certain brands while helping others,

a study by Thailand Development Research Institute suggests.

Although the country has raised the tax on alcohol on several occasions, demand has remained consistent. However, higher tax rates do cause drinkers to pick a cheaper form of booze and drinkers are more inclined to drink large amounts if they were opting for a cheaper beverage, the research found.

Smuggling now accounts for about 10% of whiskey imports and as much as 55% of imported wines, the research revealed.

The current alcohol tax structure had also created an inequity in the market which put medium-priced drinks at a disadvantage compared to expensive and cheap beverages, which have both seen an increase in sales since the recent tax rises.

WildAid: While opening the WildAid campaign against illegal animal trafficking at Bangkok's Chatuchak Weekend Market, Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont said that wildlife is Thai-

land's third most smuggled commodity, after narcotics and guns.

PM Surayud said Thai government policy aims to create a balance between conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, with movement of animals outside their natural habitat prohibited.

Describing the illegal wildlife trade as a worldwide, multi-billion-baht criminal activity, United States Ambassador Ralph Boyce said the US government supports crackdowns on the trade such as the one spearheaded by Thailand.

Classroom cut: Following the Education Ministry's recent ban on schools accepting "donations" during the pupil admission process, two of Nakhon Ratchasima's top schools say wealthy families are offering "huge sums" to secure places for their children.

Suranaree Wittaya School headmaster Silpasit Taptipthongchai said the school could accept only 480 new students each year, but that more than 500 "well-connected" people had offered huge amounts of cash to secure places for their children.

"It frustrates me. It's not easy to say 'no' because these people are heads of local government units, businessmen, reporters, and national and local politicians. Many of them have been making donations to the school for a long time," he said.

Ratchasima Wittayalai School principal Udom Phromphanjai concurred, saying he had been approached by more than 100 parents offering money for places for their children.

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

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About 100,000 people attended the funeral of renowned police officer Phantharak "Khun Phan" Rajjadej at Mahathat Worra Maha Wiharn temple in Nakhon Sri Thammarat February 22, causing heavy traffic congestion in the area.

He was one of the last commoners to be given the royal title of Khun.

Officials canceled the free distribution of the much sought-after amulets that Khun Phantharak was known for, after crowd problems at the crematorium where a large number of people fainted.

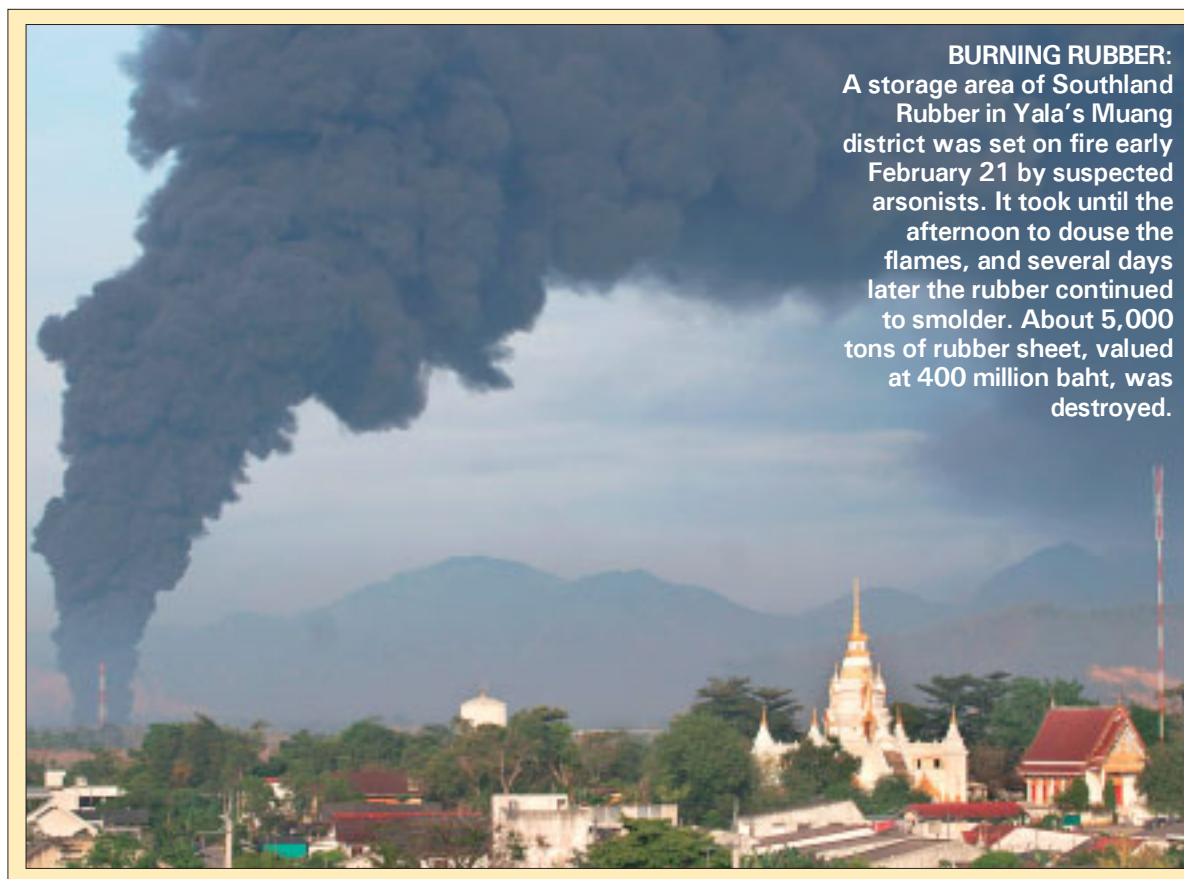
The amulets were given only to senior guests and will be distributed to the public later.

The Thai press carried many photos of the funeral, some of which purported to show Khun Phantharak's ghost returning for his funeral. This sent the demand for amulets even higher and there were reports of amulets being sold at vastly inflated prices at temples around the area.

Thousands of people arrived at the temple in the early hours of February 21 and police had to close major roads leading to the temple at 10 am the following day, forcing late arrivals to walk to the temple.

HRH Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn presided over the ceremony. The funeral was under the patronage of Their Majesties the King and Queen.

Khun Phantharak, who had a modern rank of Police Major General, died of natural causes at the age of 108 last July. He was known for his honesty and integrity along with his renowned performance in crime suppression and his practice of white magic and the amulets he helped produce.



BURNING RUBBER: A storage area of Southland Rubber in Yala's Muang district was set on fire early February 21 by suspected arsonists. It took until the afternoon to douse the flames, and several days later the rubber continued to smolder. About 5,000 tons of rubber sheet, valued at 400 million baht, was destroyed.

Huge turnout at K Phan's funeral

A combined force of around 4,000 soldiers and police provided security for the funeral and a large number of medical staff were busy treating people who succumbed to the heat.

Books about Khun Phantharak and the amulets he made, along with his posters, sold quickly throughout the day – although they were highly overpriced.

Saroj Pankaew, a 65-year-

old villager, said his late father demanded he attend Khun Phantharak's funeral because of a personal favor his father owed the late police officer.

Khun Phantharak entered police service at the age of 27 and was the commander of a regional police area before his retirement.

He died on July 5, 2006. He is survived by 12 children, four

of whom are from his second wife.

Foreign family killed: A Burmese rubber tapper and his two daughters were killed in a bloody attack on their house in an isolated rubber plantation in Chumphon February 17. The man's wife survived by playing dead after being stabbed multiple times.

At the scene, police led by

Col Pakapon Tawichasri, Superintendent of Lamae District Police Station, found the body of Lai, 36, lying in front of the house with shotgun wounds to the head.

Inside the house, police found the bodies of Lai's two daughters, Chan, 2, and Rin, 8. The girls' mother, Ma Klin, 33, was already in a hospital being treated for multiple stab wounds.

A neighbor and fellow Burmese rubber tapper, Chor, told police that Ma Klin had come to his house to call for help. He then took her to Lamae hospital. Ma Klin told him that she had been sitting outside the house talking with her husband when two men came up the path to the house.

One of the men grabbed Lai by the hair and shot him twice in the head with a sawed-off shotgun. The other man began to slash at her with a sword until she fell down. He then continued to stab her before leaving her for dead.

The man then walked inside the house and picked Rin up by the hair and slit her throat. He then did the same to Chan. Ma Klin, who had seen the killings, then passed out. When she awoke, she crawled the 500 meters to Chor's house.

Col Pakapon said that the family had no disputes with anyone and, due to the isolated nature of their house, rarely socialized with other people. Police believe the attackers had experience in the use of weapons and were probably former soldiers from one of the many insurgencies raging along the Burmese border.

Police believe the killers are part of a foreign gang extorting protection money from plantation operators, Col Pakapon said.

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

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ENCOURAGING CREATIVITY

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

As the school vacations approach, parents with children who like to draw, paint, sing, dance or even act will be looking to keep their creative kids entertained during the break.

Act & Art, which opened recently in Chalong, is one place where they can watch their children's talents bloom.

Kids today enjoy a lot of entertainment – computer games, TV, comics – but they seldom get the opportunity to express their own creativity.

Act & Art Head Teacher Manop Lee, better known as Khru Pla, said, "Children who have good creative outlets develop significant skills in the process. Arts education stimulates and develops the imagination and has a tremendous impact on the developmental growth of children; they develop stronger problem-solving and critical-thinking skills, adding to overall academic achievement and school success.

"Arts also help the child to develop a sense of craftsmanship, quality task performance and goal setting; skills needed to succeed in the classroom and beyond."

Khru Pla has been a children's art teacher for more than a decade. He graduated from the Thai Fine Arts School and studied product design at Poh Chang Institute of Arts.

He first discovered the joys of teaching children while he was head of the art department at the Kasikorn Bank head office.



Making things keeps kids absorbed for hours at Act & Art. Right: Talent shows in this still life painting.

He took a summer course in art and soon discovered his love and talent for teaching. He went on to become head teacher at Pitcha School of Art in Bangkok, and now brings his "art for fun" concept to Phuket.

"Our motto is 'Create for life', and we strongly believe in nurturing the creativity that is innate in all children," he explained. "All kids love to draw, paint and play, and we want to support them and give them the skills to realize their inspirations."

Drama teacher Eva Moon-ey has been acting, singing and dancing since she was six years old, and has taught drama at Phuket Rajabhat University for six years.

"I studied theater through high school and university. I have always loved performing, and I appreciate the confidence that it

has given me in everyday life," she said.

"For kids, drama is fun and educational; like studying English but without the boring textbooks. We sing, dance and play dress-up; it's great fun. Last week we recorded an original song onto CD and this week we will play Harry Potter."

Act & Art opened December 23 with an inaugural Act & Art Drawing Competition. Four talented young artists won free art courses with Khru Pla and a full set of painting materials for their interpretations of "Phuket in my dreams".

Khru Pla explained that the arts school has many more events planned. "As part of our courses, we have art exhibitions a couple of times a year, and the drama students will organize theater evenings to demonstrate the skills

Khru Pla is Thai but speaks fluent English, so he is able to teach mixed classes of Thai- and English-speaking students.

The drama classes, for kids aged eight to 16, are taught in English. While it is helpful for the students to have some knowledge of the language, it is not essential. "A lot of what we do is non-verbal, concentrating on basic acting skills, such as body language and facial expression.

"Whenever we read a poem or song, or watch excerpts of a movie, it is in English. However, drama provides a context for the language that traditional English classes do not, so the kids tend to pick up the language much faster and it has more meaning for them," Khru Pla explained.

The 24-hour courses consist of 12 two-hour classes, which can be taken on Saturdays and Sundays. The art courses are 2,900 baht per child and can accommodate both Thai- and English-speaking children. The English drama courses cost 3,900 baht per child. Act & Art is



they have learned throughout the course. We have a summer camp coming up in March, which will also build toward a small exhibition."

Throughout the art courses Khru Pla instructs students on basic techniques, from silhouettes to sculpture, from finger-painting to fine art. "We have art courses for children aged four to seven and from eight to 11. When there is enough interest we will also introduce courses for high-school kids based on computer art, such as graphic design and animation," he said.

located at the Island Learning Center (ILC) opposite Soi Kan Eng 2 in Chalong. ILC also has English- and Thai-language classes for children and adults.

The Act & Art Summer Camp of creative fun combining both art and English drama runs from March 19 to 30, culminating in an exhibition and performance.

For more information or to sign up for a free demonstration lesson, call Khru Pla at 087-270 7163 or the Act & Art office at 076-367289.

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There is one motor car you will almost certainly never see in Thailand; indeed it will seldom be seen anywhere in the world. It is the new 420 bhp (309 kW) Audi R8 super car.

Mid-engined, with permanent four-wheel drive and an aluminum space-frame body, the R8 will go head-to-head with some of Ferrari's best as well as the Audi-owned Lamborghini models.

Although Audi has been highly successful at Le Mans, winning five times in the past six years, the R8 supercar has been purposely developed as a serious road machine.

Audi's remarkable success at Le Mans is the highlight of the R8's racing career, but elsewhere, notably in the US, the car has taken seemingly endless victories, including in the American Le Mans Series (ALMS), which is run to the same rules as the classic 24-Hours race.

Worldwide, out of a total of 79 starts, the R8 or its derivatives have emerged victorious on 62 occasions.

Last year Audi famously won Le Mans with a diesel-engined racer, the first ever for an oil burner. This year Audi will have competition from Peugeot – also with a diesel – with none other than 1997 F1 world champion Jacques Villeneuve at the wheel, along with a number of other experienced drivers.

The R8 road car is based on the same frame as the Lamborghini Gallardo and shares other components with the Italian model. It is also scheduled to get the Lamborghini V10 at some point in the future, but for now it settles for the 4.2-liter, direct-injection gasoline unit that will propel the car to a magical top speed of 300 km/h, while the all-important 0-100 km/h sprint is accomplished in 4.6 seconds. It would probably be quicker off the line if it were not for the four-wheel drive that prevents wheel-spin.

Surprisingly for a car that grew from a racing machine, the R8 is extremely spacious and will accommodate drivers of any build. Whereas racing drivers tend to have jockey-like proportions, Audi recognizes that normal people come in all sizes. In addition, there is a capacious luggage compartment beneath the front lid and even room for two golf bags behind the seats.



PHENOMENALLY SUCCESSFUL: In 79 race starts worldwide, the Audi R8 has won 62 times.

Audi virtually pioneered aluminum construction in volume cars with its ground-breaking A8, and although the R8 will never be produced in large numbers, the expertise is apparent in its highly rigid body. The entire body shell weighs just 210 kilos and comprises extruded sections, aluminum panels and highly complex cast nodes joined by welded seams, rivets and self-tapping screws.

Created mostly by hand at Neckarsulm in Germany, the R8 is a piece of precision engineering, while a rear spoiler and an under-body diffuser keep the beast under control at speed. This aerodynamic efficiency actually limits the top speed to a shade over 300 km/h. Without the drag of the spoilers, it would be substantially higher but less controlled.

To stop the vehicle, four massive drilled and ventilated

discs are fitted with six-pot calipers front and rear. Ceramic discs are an option, enabling higher braking temperatures to be maintained, but these lack grip at low speeds.

The R8 may be a high-performance super car, but it does not lack creature comforts: a 140-

watt quality audio system is fitted, automatic air conditioning and luxury sports seats trimmed in Alcantara and leather are standard. Options include a parking system incorporating a rearview camera, and a Bang & Olufsen sound system with 12 speakers and 465-watt output.

While it may never reach Thailand, it is a distinct possibility rich enthusiasts will add an R8 to their collection somewhere in Southeast Asia.

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

BEHIND THE WHEEL

By Jeff Heselwood



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Tsunami writing earns student national award

By Janyaporn Morel

Waranya Nawaluck, a 17-year-old student from Kathu Witaya School, was awarded first prize in the Third Annual National Junior IMPAC Dublin Literary Awards for Thailand on February 12 at the Conrad Hotel in Bangkok.

She was also a winner in the Southern region competition, winning the essay contest with the theme of "A Tale of Thai Grace and Compassion", receiving her award at the offices of the *Phuket Gazette* on January 30.

It is the second time a student from Phuket has won the national competition, which is organized by *The Nation*.

K. Waranya was born on October 8, 1989, to Pipat Nawaluck, an immigration officer, now retired, and his wife Premwadee, who works at the Songkhla Treasury office.

Her older sister, K. Chayuda, is in her third year of Information Technology studies at Thammasat University, Bangkok.

This was the first time K. Waranya had ever submitted a piece for a literary competition, and she never thought that it would win first prize, she said.

"I told the story of the grace of Thai people after the tsunami by telling my real experiences. I think this could be why I won," K. Waranya said.

She and one of her parents will have the opportunity to attend the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Awards ceremony in Dublin, Ireland, in June of this year. The organization will pay their travel expenses.

Read K. Waranya's award-winning piece on the facing page.



Waranya Nawaluck (2nd from right) with her award, accompanied by her father Pipat Nawaluck (left), her English teacher Ajarn Dilaka Jaeng-iam (2nd from left), and *Phuket Gazette* Editor Parichat Utintu.

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A Tale of Thai Grace and Compassion

By Waranya Nawaluck

The Tsunami, a disaster that everyone was afraid of. A disaster that everyone didn't want to happen. Nobody wanted to face it, but we did, we have known this time and we have learned from it.

I think everybody already knows what a tsunami: three or more big waves, the waves of destruction that come with the devil, waves that take away everything from us.

For only one word, it means so many things for so many people. Though it's just a wave that comes from the beautiful sea it is not just a tiny little wave but a powerful one that can smash and attack everything with nothing left, even a beautiful city.

I think that for many of us, who didn't face it by ourselves, still want to know what it looks and feels like. Still, I believe nobody wants it to happen again.

I still remember the day in December, people were playing, people working, and I guess people were sleeping. But on this day the sea was not sleeping.

Some people just like the sea because it's beautiful, some use it for holiday relaxation, and some use it to build sand castles on the shore. But most of them swim with joy and happiness in the sea. But on this day no one knew that it would carry with it such great terror.

Just in one minute, everything was falling down, even the half of me, the side that never tasted the sea before. Everything happened so fast, the earthquake begun and made my body feel separated. Something's around me where being broken or already broken. The water from the beautiful sea then begun to slip away.

The water that was everywhere was making people around me very frightened. All of them were interested in what was happening. But before they could get used to it the sea rose again and the sea came crashing back in with a bigger wave. The wave was so high that it attacked me and all other things around there. I wished everything to be back where it was.

My body was not separated from the attack of the wave which smashed into people, buildings and everything around me. Buildings, cars, boats, they all floated their separate ways. The joy was ended.

Everyone was so frightened and tried to run away for their lives. Some walked around screaming, and some were already taken away by the sea. Tears, so much that I've never seen, were falling down from their faces. In a short time, everything was taken away – lives and happiness. From this disaster, people who just wanted to go to work or have some fun were now in hell.

Some had nowhere to live, they could not find their families or friends, their businesses were shut, they were being rushed to hospital or they were thinking about what just happened. This entire event became a deep scare in their life that won't be forgotten. In a short time, what was happiness became loss, sorrow and hardness which I never seen before.

This disaster which happened to me in Patong Phuket in December [2004] now makes me understand things better than when I did before, but it still makes me.

Even people who were not caught by these waves have had bad things happen to them.

They miss family members, miss love and worry about another Tsunami.

But of all of things that may have been valuable was for me to see the compassion of the Thai people. I saw kindness, sympathy and love from Thais and people from all over the world. When Thai people helped somebody they smiled, this is the grace of Thai people. Everyone giving help, and everybody who saw this event helped other people.

People from far way donated things or somebody came to help. I saw the faces of these people, and even though they looked tired they were willing to help. A lot of helping makes a lot of difference, and I have the feeling that if there are many people, they can be large

and strong and support each other.

Nowadays, after the terrible event has passed, the result of everybody helping each other have resulted in a new Patong, and some say a better Thailand. We have new buildings, better beaches, a Tsunami warning system, better roads and a better understanding of Tsunamis.

I have also learnt a lot from this time. I have learnt about my people more, of the grace and compassion of the Thai people, the way we helped each other and tourists as well.

I hope you're not too sad from this story of mine, but it's true as I was there. I wanted this to be a happy story, about hope and the love of people. The times I shared so long ago are far gone now but they are still strongly in my mind. I love my people and I am proud of the way we acted after the Tsunami nearly two years ago. To me this is Thai grace and compassion. Thank you for reading my story.

Happily Ever After

Recently married in Phuket



Yuki (left) and Sato Kurosaki celebrated their wedding at the Laguna Wedding Chapel on February 19.

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This week



LOVELY PAIR: Deputy CEO of Phuket Square Co Ltd Prawit Janyasittikul (center) presents a bouquet to members of Four-Mod pop duet Chutimon "Four" Chairat (left) and Prawit "Mod" Janyasittikul. Four-Mod performed a mini-concert of "easy love songs" at Jungceylon on Valentine's Day.



DA REAL THING: Da (left), lead singer of the Thai rock band Endorphine, pulls a fan close for a picture during her February 7 concert at Makumba nightclub at Phunpol Night Plaza. During the intimate, hour-long concert, Da took pictures with many excited fans and even brought them on stage while she sang.



SHAPESHIFTERS: At the inaugural Lumini Fashion Show held recently, Anchalee Treesungsuan (2nd from left), owner of the Phuket franchise for Lumini body-shaping lingerie, is joined by reigning "Miss Amazing Lumini" Prapapan Chavalit (left), Miss Lumini International 2000 Nonthakorn Boonpitak (2nd from right), and Miss Lumini International 2003 Nasara Hongron.



DUCKING IN: Phuket Vice-Governor Smith Palawatvichai (2nd from left) joins the opening of the extension to the Little Ducks preschool at British International School with Headmaster Dr George Hickman (2nd from right), Deputy Headmaster and Head of the Primary Program Daryl Orchard (left), and Deputy Headmaster and Head of Secondary Program Nicholas Botting.



HEART WARMING: Heart Specialist Somsak Khongcharoen of Bangkok Hospital Phuket (2nd from right) presents a gift to patient Viky Konrad Hasson (center) and his wife (2nd from left) from Sweden as a memento of Mr Hasson's stay at the hospital after suffering heart difficulties during his flight from Bangkok. Joining them are Inger Opsal (left), translator for the hospital, and Heart Center Manager Wattana Rattanadilok Na Phuket.



OF MICE AND MEN: Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB) Corporate Affairs Director Chiruit Issarangkula Na Ayuttaya (2nd from left) presents a gift to students (in jackets, from left) Sorawut Artamapasangsang, Suthima Nakrit, Somrudee Shurat and Wannisa Philab for winning the 'Event Producer' category in the local round of the national MICE Explorer Competition. TCEB Exhibitions Manager Sirikarn Charusadhirakul (left) and Business Development Director of Impact Exhibition Management Co Ltd Narumon Chiramongkol look on.



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Rent hikes force ago-gos to go

Phuket remained busy as February saw a fresh influx of romantics, here to celebrate Valentine's Day in the sun.

Needless to say all, the girls about town were eager to receive gifts on St Valentine's Day (though most had never heard of St Val before leaving the farm in Isarn).

Heart-shaped balloons and cuddly toys bedecked the streets. It was a tat vendor's dream come true.

The firecrackers and gongs of Chinese New Year celebrations followed four days later. The holiday is a big event for Thais of Chinese extraction on Phuket from the old tin-mining days.

Hemingway's: This new restaurant opened a few months ago in the Banzan Market complex at the rear of Jungceylon.

I have found it to be good value for food and very clean and tidy. The owners have not crammed in the furniture a la Thai-style, the tables are well spread out.

The bar is on a separate level from the dining area and has a comfy armchair and settee area to read the daily papers that are on hand. You have a choice of

eating indoors in the aircon or sitting outside on the terrace.

The menu offers a choice of Thai and English dishes, including steaks and fresh seafood. The full English breakfast lived up to its hype and my beers were only 60 baht each. They have a cocktail list and also a small but good selection of wines.

My only moan is the small size of the coffee cups. I would like to suggest that the owner pop across the road into the Carrefour and buy some large coffee mugs.

They also produce their own home-baked pies, which looked enormous.

The main advantage Hemingway's has over others is it has a choice of two carparks – one beside it and one underneath too. It can be accessed from the Nanai Rd or from the new road that leads to Jungceylon.

Dragon Club's makeover: For some inexplicable reason Dragon has started to demolish the entire front bar area.

The pool hall, the Internet station and the long bar have been taken out. It seems a bit strange to start such work in the middle of high season.

But then again, the Dragon

never sleeps – it is busy all year round.

Dragon has only recently imported a bevy of Bangkok beauties lined up to do more dance routines in the later part of the night.

Soi Sea Dragon is a-changin': It is lease renewal time for some places in Soi Sea Dragon and the following changes have already happened. Some were planned and others have come as a surprise.

Bottoms Up closed up: This go-go has gone. The owners did not want to (or could not afford to) renew the lease. It was always one of the minor players struggling to make its way. I hope their employees can find a home in one of the neighboring establishments.

Erotica no more: In a classic case of "too many cooks" the owners have had a bust-up over the lease and other things, so the doors are closed after only three months in business. I would like to think that this is a temporary glitch, as the place was different and did try and entertain its patrons with good shows.

Sold: Champagne A Go-Go has been sold and the new owners have taken possession and closed the place for remodeling.

I hear it is no longer going to be a go-go bar but will revert to being an open air music pub.

Garden expansion: I believe that the Kamala Beer Garden is probably the most popular drinking den in Kamala, even though there is some healthy rivalry with the Mountain View Bar at the south end of the village.

The Beer Garden recently underwent a major expansion. The back wall has gone and there is now a large outside dining area. There are also new toilets and a pool table area set aside from the main bar area.

The owner has a computer sound system full of classics from the 70s and 80s. There is a full menu ranging from bar snacks to full dinners.

The place is now a lot better as there is good air flow keeping it smoke-free and cool.

Prices are pub prices, and

there are several choices of draft beers available alongside a wide variety of bottled beers. There is plenty of pretty staff on hand and service is slick.

Soi Sansabai: This soi is the late-night, after-hours, last-chance saloon. Once drinkers leave the Bangla area they hot-foot it up to the various bars and restaurants that enjoy a late license.

Now every available space has been converted into a small bar or snack shack. One enterprising fellow has put up a small kiosk selling Bratwursts and sandwiches.

The Thai food vendors are also there in force with all sorts of food choices.

Unfortunately the street has become a through-road for traffic exiting the one-way system.

The police are going to have to take steps to reduce the number of motorbikes that are double-parked and blocking traffic at the top of the road. There are two perfectly good car parks just 50 meters up the street.

Prowler can be contacted by email to ab_prowler@yahoo.co.uk

PATONG PATROL

By Prowler



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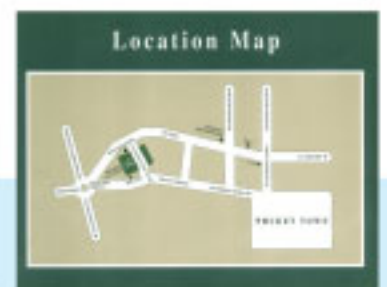
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Qipao

EVOLUTION

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

With Phuket's rich Chinese heritage it's plain to see the influence the island's far northern cousins have had on the culture here, not least of those influences being clothing.

One type of traditional Chinese dress, the qipao, has remained in style, with both classic and modern versions popular on Phuket.

Qipao, a Teochiu Chinese word, refers to the Chinese dress that is often seen during Chinese New Year celebrations.

The original qipao was a shapeless unisex dress with a Mandarin collar.

Both little girls and women still wear the traditional women's garment, a full-length dress with upright collar.

Men, however, now tend to wear an updated version of the male qipao; a long, loose-fitting shirt with an upright collar matched with loose-fitting pants.

The qipao style of dress began in China during the Qing Dynasty (1644 to 1911), though its most popular years were during the reign of Emperors Kangxi and Yongzheng (1662 to 1736).

In the late 1800s Western culture began seeping into China



and people began to wear a more Westernized style of dress. Women's qipao became more fitted, as in the style we see today, around 1900.

Around that time sleeves became shorter, and some versions have since become sleeveless. Qipao were originally worn as everyday clothing, though a dress made of fancier material might be saved for special days.

This traditional Chinese dress is worn not only for Chinese celebrations but also by women all over the world. It has inspired designers and made appearances on many high fashion

runways and red carpet walks.

Today we see qipao in Western pop-culture – from video games such as *Street Fighter* to the blockbuster movies *Kill Bill* and *Spiderman* – shortened and made of every material.

As part of the Chinese New Year celebrations, the Phuket office of the Tourism Authority of Thailand held a fair at Queen Sirikit Park on Thalang Rd February 20 and 21, during which fashion shows were staged highlighting the qipao, in both men's and women's styles.

Here are a few of the qipao that were on display at the show.



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Like many women, I have a weak spot for chocolate. I love American Hershey's, English Cadbury's and Swiss Toblerone – dark, white, milk chocolate, I'm not picky.

So when I heard about the Chocolate Heaven promotion at Amari Coral Beach Resort's Sivara Spa, I naturally said, "Sign me up!" The promotion read, "Sheer indulgence in chocolate, but guilt-free and calorie-free." Now what girl could resist that?

The Amari Coral Beach Resort is located near Patong Beach, nestled in the hills just far away enough to allow you to forget about the hustle and bustle of Bangla, but close enough to be able to enjoy a night on the town. Sivara Spa is tucked away even further up in the hills from the resort.

Spa Manager Paratree Jey-joo meets me at the top of the stairs leading to the spa's lobby. As we discuss my treatment options, we sip warm ginger tea.

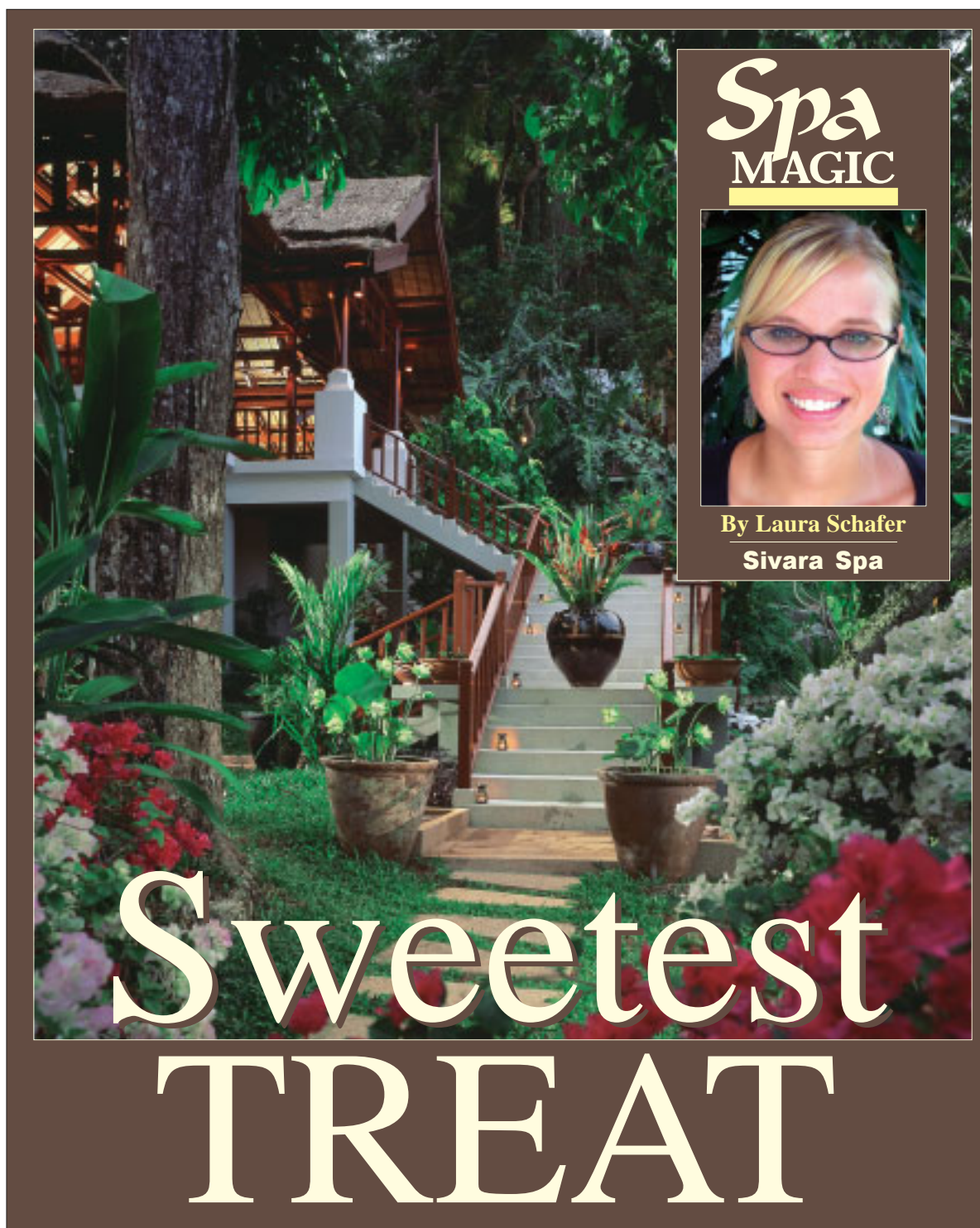
The spa menu has scrub, wrap, facial and massage options galore. All of them sound enticing, but I can't resist the promise of being covered with gooey coco, this chocoholic's dream come true.

K. Paratree asks me what I feel is my biggest skin concern. Since I'm a weekend beach-goer and a bit of a sun worshiper, I confess to having dry skin. Luckily for me, the chocolate scrub suits all skin types and is good for adding moisture.

The full Chocolate Heaven spa package consists of the chocolate body scrub, chocolate body wrap and, to top me off – no, not cherries – an aromatic oil massage.

As we walk to my treatment room, K. Paratree explains that the concept of Sivara Spa is being surrounded by the beauty of both nature and Thai culture.

I step into a private pavilion with the front open to a panoramic sea view. At this point I know



this was going to be one sweet morning.

The pavilions are spaced with lush gardens in between, so there is no need to worry about being interrupted or someone sneaking a peek of me receiving treatment.

There are four pavilions, each with two beds, a bathroom

and an outdoor shower. One pavilion includes a Jacuzzi and an herbal steam room. Because of their popularity with customers, K. Paratree told me that two additional open-air pavilions are on the drawing board. There are also three seaview air-conditioned rooms.

I quickly change into a robe

for my first treatment – a 30-minute body scrub. When I come out my therapist is waiting, Thai music is playing softly in the background, lemon grass incense is wafting through the air and I'm about to become a chocolate-covered girl.

My therapist begins scrubbing my legs and feet in slow cir-

cular motions. I wiggle my toes to feel if the scrub feels sticky, but no, it just feels like body scrub should. As she works her way up my back and arms I can distinctly smell the coco in the scrub. It smells like I'm being coated in a candy bar and I'm grinning, well, like a kid in a candy store.

I roll over for my front-side scrub and my stomach grumbles because we smell chocolate but we're not getting any. And my stomach knows that doesn't happen often.

My skin is tingling all over from the scrub. I hop under the outdoor shower and rinse off before my massage. I'm surprised at how easily the scrub washes off – chocolate never comes out of clothes like that – and how soft my skin feels.

I dry off. There are fresh sheets on the massage table, and I climb on. I selected an ylang-ylang/lavender oil for my 60-minute Body Balancing massage, which is a deep-tissue massage combining Indonesian and Thai massage techniques.

I am asked to describe areas of my body where I feel the most tension – upper shoulders and neck from being bent over a computer most of my day – and how much pressure I would like for the massage. I reply, "Medium: not too hard, not too soft."

Again my therapist begins with my legs and works up to my shoulders. I roll over to be massaged on my front side, face and head. I lie back and listen to the waves crashing against the beach below and feel a breeze sweep through the pavilion.

Relaxed from my massage, I look in the mirror and realize how my skin seems to glow from the scrub. I need to do this more often.

The 1,700 baht Chocolate Heaven promotion runs until the end of March, but the chocolate scrub has been added to the regular spa menu. The menu has several signature packages and mix-and-match packages as well.

This treatment is a sweet treat, I think as I walk down the steps to rejoin the bustling streets. Next stop: a candy bar.

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Ice manages a barbecue shop. "Of course," one would say. "That's exactly what you would expect to find in Phuket. A barbecue shop run by Ice."

Beer is probably a better name for somebody involved with barbecues, but there isn't anybody around named "Beer", at least not now. But of course, without ice, the beer wouldn't be any good anyway.

But my friend Ice, whose real name is Aet Nakuran, manages The Barbecue Store in Phuket for Brad McElroy, whose company imports top-quality barbecues from Australia, New Zealand and other places.

Names like Barbecues Galore, The Barbecue Factory and others are well known in the lands down under, but with the increase in outdoor living in Phuket, demand for them has increased here as well.

Most places that sell barbecues are housewares stores where the staff wouldn't know the difference between a real barbecue and a booze-up outside the 7-Eleven.

The apparatuses used in such impromptu al fresco parking lot parties are tins with a stainless steel grid on top. They hardly qualify as 'barbie', fair dinkum, me old mate.

Although a few years ago it was fairly rare, now it's a regular thing in Phuket to go around to somebody's place for a "barbie".

AL FRESCO GRILLS, ER, BARBIES, ON THE RISE



Ice (left) in the Barbecue Shop with Brad McElroy. All that's needed now is someone called Beer.

There's all sorts of things you can grill up: fish, prawns, potatoes and of course, the essential barbecue fare, steaks and sausages. Good bangers, T-bones, hamburgers and chops,

that's what barbecues are all about.

There was an odd thing a few years back. Paul Hogan, an Australian of dubious acting talents, famous for playing an out-

back character by the name of Crocodile Dundee, was used to promote "barbies", along with beer, or tourism, or something else Australian on television in America.

LARGER THAN LIFE

By Graham Doven

But he would say, "I'll slip an extra shrimp on the barbie for you."

Weird, eh?

Shrimp. A shrimp, as far as I know, is a small prawn. I can't think of anything more ridiculous at the moment than firing up a magnificent barbecue for a small prawn.

But then, Americans are an odd lot, it has to be said.

Actually, Ice's barbecues can be used for small prawns, if that's what the customer wants, but I'll certainly be using it for something a good deal more substantial.

Inviting friends around for a poolside barbecue or, in my case, a small-fish-pond-side barbie, is good value.

That's it then, a barbecue, some sausages and steaks, beer and Ice. Done deal.

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Puzzles

Spot the Difference



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

Solution on next page.



su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

U BAEV

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.

The Cryptic Crossword

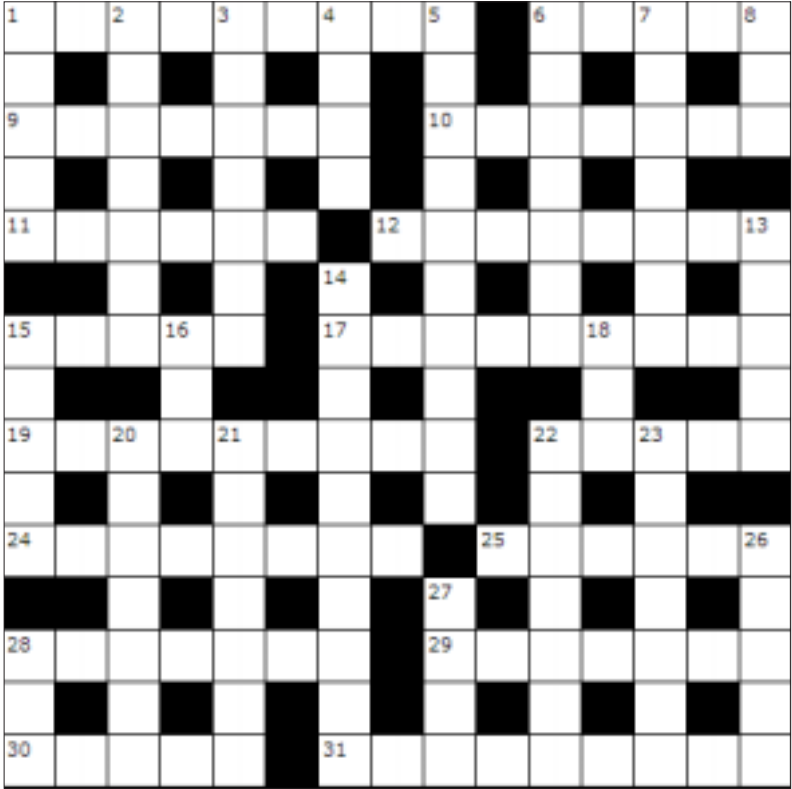
ACROSS

- Damage on one California instrument. (9)
- Pickled flower escapade. (5)
- Turn aside and switch sides about Left. (7)
- Disturb order of the French gunnery distance. (7)
- Cardinal slays abilities. (6)
- Holiday almost calling. (8)
- Operate New York fluid, somewhat. (5)
- Change order back to cattle area. (9)
- Lime mix to conceal flaws. (9)
- Manages police out east. (5)
- Far away, Dale is to be fixed. (8)
- Tough state of box, thanks. (6)
- Day out allowed one of three. (7)
- Spotted baked food with no hair. (7)
- Stiff truck has identity. (5)
- Probes glance – sin too, almost. (5,4)

DOWN

- Had a couple of Cardinals in hell. (5)
- Thug Ian with big collar. (7)
- Finished, put down top layer. (7)
- Very small amount for Jupiter satellite, thanks... (4)
- ...and Latin capital with revolutionary Hector’s missus. (10)
- Small cornets vent pirate ship. (7)
- After-work money for boarding house. (7)
- Regret street in Paris. (3)
- Requires massages, they say. (5)
- Decorative Norman let a mess. (10)
- Southern town uncooked with a digit. (5)
- Bolt partner, to Brazil, perhaps. (3)
- A party fuss. (3)
- Flattening club in key. (7)
- Activated lab; need changes. (7)
- Company has piles for office equipment. (7)
- Point radiotelephone, in pain, to be related. (7)
- German car has zero sound. (5)
- By that fact – first part – share launch has a point. (4)
- Rat returns to sailor. (3)

Compiled by Tortuus. © 2007



Scribble Space

EZ TRIVIA QUIZ

- How many stars are there on China’s flag?
- Which soccer team’s home ground is called Anfield Rd?
- What was the name of the lion in *The Chronicles of Narnia*?
- Who plays James Bond in the new movie, *Casino Royale*?
- What is the name of James Bond’s boss?
- By what name is musi-

cian Gordon Matthew Sumner better known?

- What is the capital of Tibet?
- On which mountain would you find carved the images of US Presidents Washington, Jefferson, Roosevelt and Lincoln?
- What occurrences are measured using the Richter scale?
- How many players are there on a cricket team?

Answers on next page

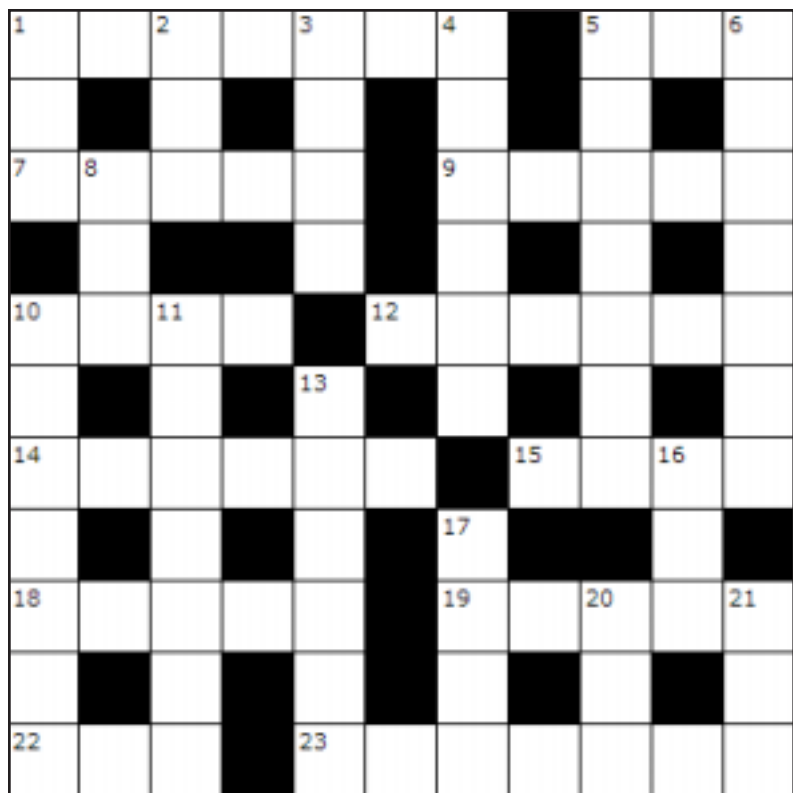
Rhyme Time

The words described below all rhyme with ‘tone’.

What are they?

- Skeleton part.
- Small rock.
- Make multiple identical copies.
- Perfume.
- Brass instrument.
- Notorious gangster.
- Call.
- Having a tendency.
- French river.
- Low cry of pain.

Answers on next page



Quick Crossword

ACROSS

1. Enchant.
5. After Jan.
7. Steed.
9. String instrument.
10. Male deer.
12. Connected to the Internet.
14. Haitian magic.
15. Headgear.
18. Carpenter's essentials.
19. Gambling city.
22. Pig.
23. Ill person.

DOWN

1. Expression of disgust.
2. Opposite of peace.
3. Used string.
4. Cuban capital.
5. SE state in the US.
6. Tree-cutting animals.
8. Not at home.
10. After the sixth.
11. Worshipping.
13. Tiny Japanese tree.
16. Afternoon beverage.
17. Tel ****, city in Israel.
20. Dressing for hair.
21. Not happy.

Solution below, right

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



1. Folded pizza is known as "calzone". What does calzone mean?
2. Which cut of beef is taken from in front of the breastbone?
3. Soldiers in the US Army receive rations known as MREs. What does MRE stand for?
4. Each MRE pack contains an FRH, which stands for what?
5. What is the name given to the technique of briefly boiling food, then plunging it into iced water?
6. Who, in the early 20th century, developed quick-freezing of food?
7. From which language does the word "gumbo" derive?
8. Which company makes Tabasco brand sauce?
9. Which organization created the HOOAH! energy bar?
10. If the US Food & Drug Administration labels something as GRAS, what does it mean?
11. From which grain are Japanese ramen and yakisoba noodles made?
12. From what substance is the yellow food dye tartrazine derived?
13. Which cooking word probably originated from the Caribbean Taino people's word for "sacred fire pit"?
14. Which Italian dish has a name meaning, "pasta the way a prostitute would make it"?
15. Who wrote, "Roast Beef, Medium, is not only a food. It is a philosophy"?
16. Add garlic to mayonnaise and what do you get?
17. Then add red pepper or paprika, and what do you get?
18. Which family of pigments give fruit a yellow or orange color?
19. To which plant family does arugula, or rocket, belong?
20. Only a few decades ago, more than 90% of the world's forced rhubarb crop was grown in a small area, the Rhubarb Triangle. In which country?

Answers below

Puzzle Solutions

EZ Trivia Answers

1. Five; 2. Liverpool; 3. Aslan; 4. Daniel Craig; 5. M; 6. Sting; 7. Lhasa; 8. Mount Rushmore; 9. Earthquakes; 10. Eleven.

Monster Quiz Answers

1. Trousers; 2. Brisket; 3. Meal, Ready to Eat; 4. Flameless Ration Heater; 5. Blanching; 6. Clarence Birdseye; 7. From Central Bantu *ki-gombo*, meaning "okra"; 8. McIlhenny Co of Louisiana; 9. The US military; 10. Generally Recognized As Safe; 11. Wheat; 12. Coal tar; 13. Barbecue; 14. *Pasta alla puttanesca*; 15. Edna Ferber; 16. Aiolo; 17. Rouille; 18. Carotenoids; 19. Mustard family; 20. Britain.

Rhyme Time Answers

1. Bone; 2. Stone; 3. Clone; 4. Cologne; 5. Trombone; 6. Al Capone; 7. Phone; 8. Prone; 9. Rhone; 10. Groan.

Solution to this week's Cartoon Puzzle



Cryptic Crossword



Quick Crossword



Sudoku

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

Straining toward transcendence

Thomas Pynchon's sixth novel, *Against the Day* (Penguin Books, New York, 2006, 1,085 pp), opens as the hydrogen airship *Inconvenience* sets off for the 1893 World's Colombian Exposition in Chicago.

Aboard the gondola are the Chums of Chance: Randolph St Cosmo, Darby Suckling, Lindsay Noseworth and Chick Counterfly. From the names alone, you know you're reading a Pynchon novel. Others who will appear are Scarsdale Vibe, Clive Crotchmas and Roberta Chirpingdon-Groin.

There's also a lot of goofing around. The Chums of Chance are characters in a boy's adventure series like *Tom Swift*. Former titles are alluded to: *The Chums of Chance and the Evil Halfwit*, *The Chums of Chance at Krakatoa*, *The Chums of Chance Search for Atlantis*.

In Chicago they meet with their mentor Dr Vanderjuice and an itinerant photographer and mechanical wizard, Merle Rideout, whose wife has left him for a magician called Zombini the Mysterious, leaving him with a sassy five-year-old daughter, Dahlia or Dally. The evil tycoon Scarsdale Vibe is lurking in his penthouse, up to various nefarious plots.

The Archduke Francis Ferdinand – whose assassination will spark World War I, which hangs like a foreboding cloud over the whole novel – appears, wanting to rent the Chicago stockyards for a pig shoot.

The plot then follows Merle Rideout and Dally to the silver mines of Colorado, which are in the middle of a labor war.



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

Here they meet mine worker, anarchist, union agitator and dynamiter of railroads Webb Traverse.

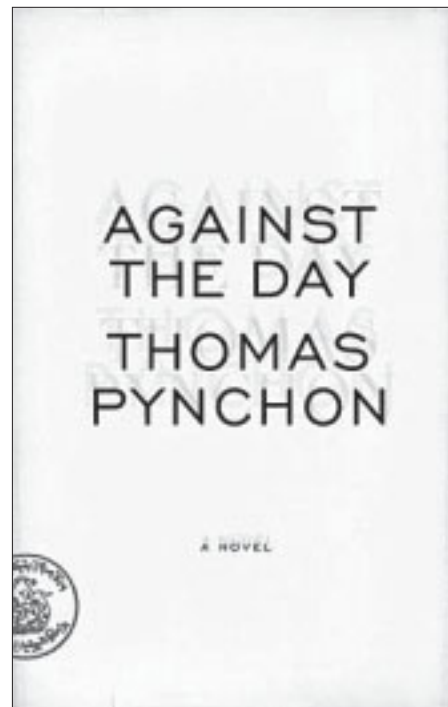
From a boy's adventure novel we've suddenly moved into the territory of John Dos Passos's USA trilogy: the deadly fight between unions and "corporate Christs".

Scarsdale Vibe arranges for Webb Traverse to be tortured and killed by a pair of gunmen, Deuce Kindred and Sloat Fresno. Webb leaves behind a family: wife Marva, daughter Lake and three sons: the gambler Reef, mining engineer Frank and math student Kit.

The main trunk-line of the plot will scatter the family all over the globe – Mexico, England, Germany, Italy, Austria, the Balkans, Inner Asia, Siberia – and continue into the 1920s.

They embark on all sorts of mad schemes, described in thick, elegant, serpentine, hallucinatory paragraphs, leavened by terse, funny, utterly authentic dialog.

Here is the dialog between Reef



Traverse and pregnant girlfriend Estrella ("Stray") about the necessity of his escape from a Pinkerton posse out to kill him:

"Darlin' you must've had public execution on your mind for a while now, and I'm sorry, I know all 'at old calico recital, oh, Honey I don't want 'em hanging you, well I appreciate that, but now tell me, what else?"

"What else? You're feeling lively today, you really want to know what else? Listen to me, side o' beef – hangin' you, I can understand, but they might decide to hang me, too. Is 'what else.'"

Besides the cowboy dialect, Pynchon is equally good at Upper Class English Twit, which Reef pretends to be on a riverboat bound for New Orleans. Eventually he winds up working on a tunnel crew in the Alps.

Frank is chased down to Mexico where he becomes involved in peasant revolutions and gunrunning. Thanks to certain mushrooms bestowed by an Indian *bruja* (medicine man) whose life he saves, Frank undergoes a series of mystical experiences before polishing off one of his dad's killers.

His sister Lake marries the other killer, then comes to a grim end in 1920's Los Angeles in a scene out of a hard-boiled detective novel by Raymond Chandler.

Kit is a central character. His tuition and living expenses assumed by Scarsdale Vibe, he takes off to Yale, then Oxford, then Gottingen University in Germany in pursuit of higher math.

In London he runs into an esoteric spiritualist group called TWIT (True Worshipers of the Ineffable Tetractys) and through them Yashem Halfcourt, the Asian adopted daughter of an English colonel stationed in Tashkent involved in the Central Asian Great Game.

In flight from goons hired by Vibe and enlisted into a dubious spy novel plot, Kit takes off for Inner Asia and Siberia for his own mystical experience.

Reef meanwhile begins an affair with Dally in Venice where she has fetched up after finding her mother in New York ... but why go on? Read it yourself.

PHUKET DIARY

www.phuketgazette.net/calendar

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 (Tel: 086-944-7721) or Joan (Tel: 087-2820422) or email Maxine at maxandgodders@csloxinfo.com, or visit the

Soi Dog website at www.soidog.org

March 4: Lions Club Bowling night for charity.

The Lions Club of Phuket will hold its inaugural Charity Bowling Competition on March 4 at CS Bowl at the Big C super-center.

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, payable at time of registration. The surplus from the

event will be used to buy and distribute encyclopedias to schools through the Phuket Educational Area Office.

Competitors may register in person at the Lions Club of Phuket on Yaowarat Rd, near the Phuket Merlin Hotel. For more information, call Tel: 076-234539.

March 14: Punchline Comedy Club at The Watermark.

Get ready for a night of laughs as three comics take the stage at the Watermark Bar & Restaurant.

Doors open at 6 pm with an optional three-course dinner for 995 baht being served until 8 pm. The show will start at 9 pm and features UK's Curtis Walker and Tim Clark, and Canadian Tom Stade.

Tickets are 1,500 baht, for reservations contact the Watermark (076-239730). Adults only please.

April 6: Chakri Memorial Day (Public Holiday).

Chakri Day commemorates the origins of the Chakri dynasty, founded by Rama I, who established Bangkok as the nation's capital. HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej, is the ninth king in the Chakri dynasty.

Government offices, banks and many business will be closed.

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A night to remember

While having fully-laden jumbo jets land every five minutes at Phuket International Airport (PIA) may be the stuff of dreams for hotel owners and the Tourism Authority of Thailand, the early morning hours of February 22 turned out to be more of a nightmare for Immigration Police and PIA officials [see News pages].

Starting at 12:30 am, 12 charter and scheduled flights from China and South Korea touched down at the single-runway airport, landing at about five-minute intervals over the course of about an hour and bringing in 2,200 tourists.

Unfortunately, PIA's ability to land so many aircraft in such a short period of time was not matched by its capacity to clear all the tourists through Immigration.

In the end, it took almost until dawn before all of the tourists were finally on their way to get some long-overdue sleep after several hours of unnecessary delay tacked onto their journeys.

While the difficulty posed by having to process so many arriving tourists falls into the "problems we like to have" category, the fact remains that inconveniencing thousands of tourists in this way hardly creates a favorable first impression of Phuket – and might even deter some visitors from returning.

This fact was not lost on Phuket Governor Niran Kanlayanimit, who called an emergency meeting on the afternoon of the same day to discuss ways to prevent a recurrence.

In that meeting, fingers were pointed at the Department of Civil Aviation (DCA), which is responsible for flight scheduling.

While the scheduling could certainly have been better, there is much PIA could have done to prepare for the impending crush.

Unscheduled landings are few and far between at airports these days, so PIA surely gets enough advance information about scheduled and charter flight arrivals to co-ordinate its staff scheduling and advise Airport Immigration to do the same.

After all, the DCA has to accommodate the needs of the airlines and – ultimately – the passengers they serve; not the other way around.

A PIA official said the delays that night were worsened by the fact that most of the visitors were unable to understand English well enough to fill out their arrival cards.

Airlines and tour companies involved can help in this regard – as many already do – by providing the passengers with arrival cards to fill out during the flight and helping those who need assistance.

After all, what else is there to do on a six-hour night flight from Beijing or Seoul?

– The Editor

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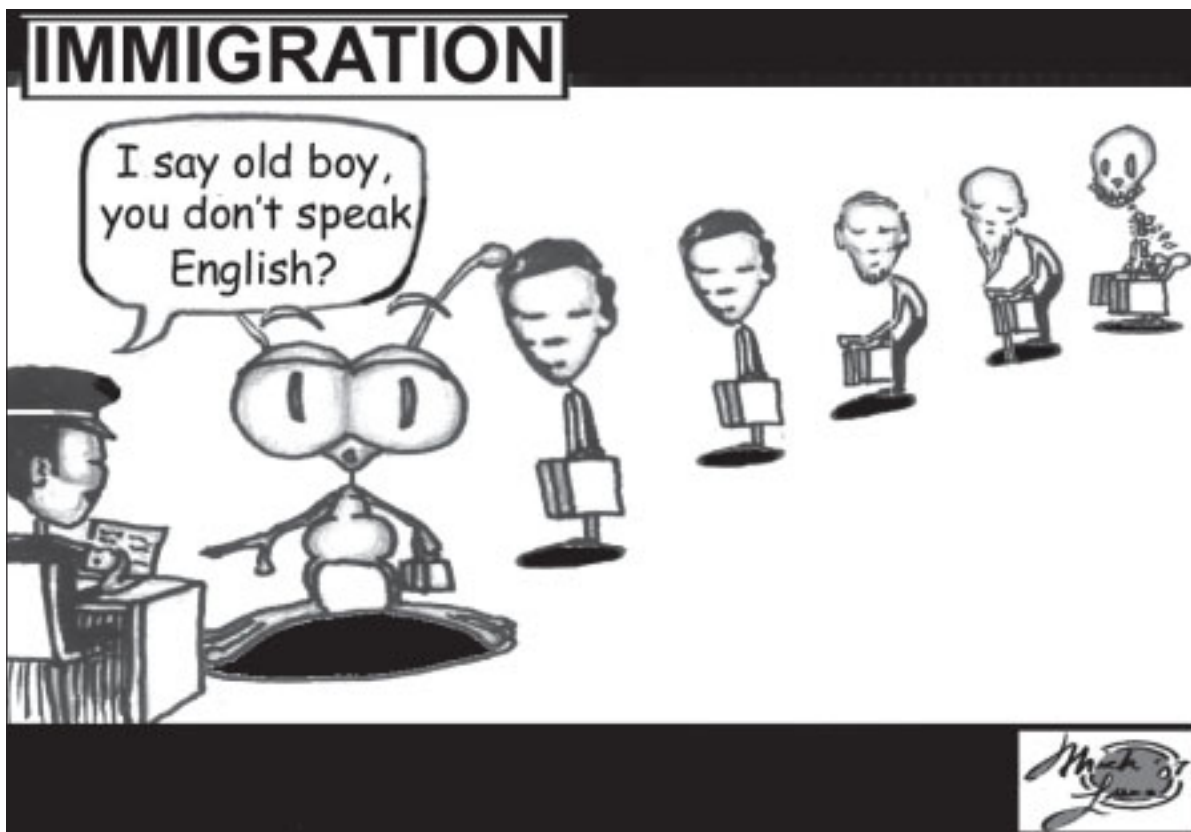
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Letters

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.

Happy with the blues

Arriving in Phuket on holiday, we were pleasantly surprised to find the International Blues Festival taking place at the Hilton resort. Two nights of great entertainment ala blues 'n' roll is right up my alley, and I had a fantastic time.

Nicely-varied styles of superb quality: electric blues, acoustic and slide guitar, piano blues with Victor Brox, and even a brilliant ukulele-ist filling in during a break in the program. The female singer from the Blues Machine had my attention for several reasons...it was all wonderful and we were entertained beyond any expectation.

For 800 baht we had two nights of superb entertainment. I saw Eric Clapton last month for 6,000 baht, and the value to me was reversed, no offense to Clapton.

I understand this was the second blues festival, *do* continue! We will be back for number three, number four, and for as long as this quality is kept up! Great job Phuket!

Eric Li
Hong Kong

Traffic and high prices: too much!

This is my ninth trip to Patong in the past eight years. Each trip I have spent three months here except when the tsunami hit and I cut my trip short.

My friends and I are considering not returning to Phuket next year, and going instead to Pattaya or Koh Samui.

Why? Since making the main streets one way, traffic has become terrible – each time you cross the street you are taking your life in your hands. Another

issue is the big price increases over the last year. Beach chair prices have increased 100%, from 50 to 100 baht, and hotel prices have increased 50% to 100%.

Patong used to be an affordable place for retirees, but soon it will be too expensive for long-term visitors. I hope the Patong business people re-think their high prices.

Will I be back next year? I'm not too sure...who knows what the prices will be.

Dominic Ortenzi
Canada

Get your hands dirty and country clean

I recently found a garbage can tipped over, with its litter strewn about the ground. There wasn't much litter, but if you look around, there are scenes like this all over Phuket, and all over the world.

And they add up quickly. The location of the tipped trash can? Suan Luang Fitness Park on Chao Fa East Rd. That is a populated area where many people walk all the time. "Oh! The maintenance crew can pick it up," we say. Don't you think that they have enough to do? Aren't you proud of your park, your province, your country?

After I saw the mess, I tipped the garbage can upright and picked up the trash. All the while, my wife was scolding me for touching the filthy garbage. It took me all of two minutes.

People have an aversion to touching dirty things. One of the dirtier bags I picked up had uneaten food in it. Well, I have news for you: it wasn't much dirtier when I picked it up than when the person who bought it first put it in their mouth.

In other countries they have a program called "Adopt a Highway". A person, family or business agrees with the local government to keep a designated area of roadway free of litter, and in return they get their name on a sign by that stretch of road saying that they are keeping the area clean. It's good PR.

Phuket is a prime candidate for such a program, and we don't have to wait for the government to enact a policy. I know some local schools do this already, as well as the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

I have adopted one myself, but that doesn't mean I don't pick up litter when I see it. I carry empty plastic bags with me wherever I go. It's easy to fold them and put them in your pocket or purse. Another good thing about picking up trash: if people who normally litter see you do it, it may discourage them from their bad habits.

Somsak
Phuket

Another un-Happy customer...

I completely agree with the Issue and Answer regarding DTAC [mobile phone service] extortion. I had the same problem with DTAC. They force you to use your pre-paid money in a very short period.

Twice I refilled to keep my credit, and my balance went up and up, but in the end I lost it.

I call this crooked behavior. Since then I have stopped using my DTAC number, and will not refill it again. Extorting money makes neither good nor HAPPY friends.

Werner
Phuket

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

DEMENTIA, DANGERS, DRUGS AND DOGS

To start I would like to talk about the terrible crime that recently took place in Patong, where a deranged man doused a young woman with a volatile liquid then set her alight.

The victim is still at Vachira Phuket Hospital, where she is getting very good treatment for the injuries she suffered.

To prevent something such as this from happening again, I would like to ask the public to report any obviously deranged people they encounter in public areas to the proper authorities.

For example, the Phuket Social Development and Human Security office is responsible for interviewing homeless people, both children and adults, and finding them a suitable place to live.

In the case of mentally ill people who pose a threat to society, they need to get the proper treatment and should not be allowed to wander in public areas.

I plan to bring up this issue in a provincial meeting this morning (February 22) because it is a serious matter that needs to be addressed.

Phuket will be in danger if the number of mentally ill people walking the streets is allowed to increase.

Stray dogs: Another issue that impacts public health and safety is that of stray dogs. We currently have more than 500 stray dogs at the Mid Road Dog Shelter at Bang Khanon in Thalang.

Unfortunately, the shelter faces serious budget problems and the government agency involved, the Phuket Provincial Livestock Office (PPLO), has no budget to run the facility for fiscal 2007. Right now the shelter has to rely on money donated

The Governor's LETTER

Having already served five years as a Vice-Governor, **Niran Kalayanamit**, 52, is the first Governor of Phuket to have been promoted to the top position from within the province.

Here, in his monthly letter to Phuket's expatriate community, Governor Niran writes about how the provincial government is working to solve a number of different problems facing the island.



from the private sector.

For this reason, we really need to come up with a new management system that will allow the shelter to run permanently. I have invited representatives from all related agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), such as *OrBorTor* and the Soi Dog Foundation, to discuss the best strategy.

Right now the shelter only has about 300,000 baht in funding left to cover the cost of food and pay for five staff. Total monthly expenses amount to about a million baht per month, which is why we have to find a solution quickly.

The PPLO already helps to source food for the dogs by asking for scraps and leftover food from restaurant and hotels, but we have to meet again to find ways to expand this effort to include similar contributions from households.

Local administrative bodies should co-operate in this effort since the shelter gives them a place to send their strays.

All sides need to work together to solve the stray dog problem, including NGOs.

However, I have been informed that some NGOs are not following the provincial policy of not feeding strays.

I think that not feeding stray dogs in public areas is an important part of the overall solution to the stray dog problem, but in some public areas these groups continue to feed dogs, sometimes taking pictures of themselves doing so as a part of their fund-raising efforts.

This creates a conflict because the government wants to keep strays contained in one area.

Some parties have raised the idea of introducing new regulations and technologies to curb the stray dog problem, such as requiring all dog owners to keep their pets on their own property and implanting all pets with microchips. This is something we may consider later.

Security: As for measures to

prevent terrorist attacks, I cannot reveal very much because it is a sensitive issue.

However, I can say that we are always on the alert and continue to conduct surveillance and security checks.

Since the beginning of the year we have held meetings every two weeks regarding security. We are never negligent in this regard and are always holding meetings and analyzing intelligence, whether it be public knowledge or classified information.

Part of our approach is to continue to man security checkpoints. The government is always strict where security matters are concerned, especially at government offices, areas popular with tourists and other places where many people congregate.

Chalong bomber: As for the investigation into the case of the three homes that were blown up in Chalong, I continue to ask the police for updates but they tell me that they still do not have suf-

ficient physical evidence to request an arrest warrant from the court.

However, I have ordered the Muang District Chief to survey the land in the area and border posts have been installed to delineate property boundaries.

So even though the person responsible is still at large, some measures have been taken to prevent encroachment and land ownership disputes in that area.

Coastal issues: On February 21 I took a boat tour of the island's east coast with officers from the Marine Office. The purpose of the trip was to get a first-hand look at coastal areas, such as in Sapam Bay.

One thing I noticed was a proliferation of "floating" restaurants and other offshore structures called *krachang* (fish pens) that have been modified to serve as temporary accommodations to rent to people who want to enjoy the maritime atmosphere.

Doing this is a form of encroachment because offshore areas belong to the government.

We have long allowed *krachang* because we support the local fishing industry, but what they are doing is beyond the scope of what they are allowed to do.

I want to deal with this matter soon, before it gets any bigger. That's why I plan to discuss the matter with officials from the local administrative body and other relevant agencies.

Niran Kalayanamit,
Governor of Phuket

Grinding teeth over dual prices

After being charged 800 to 1,000 baht per filling, I asked my friend to call the same dentist the same day to ask what their charges were. The answer was about 500 per filling. It is the same at the boxing stadium at Saphan Hin. Where can one file complaints about dual pricing?

Robbed
Phuket

Wanchai Sattayawuthipong, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Health Office (PPHO), replies:

The usual office to complain to about products or services is the Office of the Consumer Protection Board in Bangkok (Hotline: 1166; Email: consumer@ocpb.go.th; or Tel: 02-6297048-

50 or 02-6297061-3, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday to Friday).

However, complaints involving medical, including dental, practitioners are passed on to the Phuket Provincial Health Office (PPHO) on Narison Rd in Phuket City. The PPHO is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, or can be contacted at Tel: 076-211330 ext 204 or 205.

We have several staff members who speak English.

There are no price control regulations governing medical practitioners.

Claims like this are difficult to investigate as in most cases the customer was notified of the fee in advance.

Also, different prices are charged for different treatments.

Issues & ANSWERS

For example, a front tooth filling and a wisdom tooth extraction are totally different prices.

We can only raise the issue with the Dental Council or Medical Council for investigation.

We cannot fine them or withdraw their practicing certificates. We can ask for such action only if a dentist or doctor has used inappropriate treatment that has endangered the health of the patient or caused the patient harm.

We cannot take action over prices charged.

One, Two... Got to pay more?

As a travel agent in Phuket I sold two tickets to a customer to fly to Bangkok February 4 on One Two Go.

He paid me the scheduled fare. On arrival at check-in he was told by One Two Go that they had decided that morning that day was to be a peak fare day and demanded an additional 500 baht fee per ticket.

He was told that if he did not pay he would not be allowed to board.

How can any business demand an additional fare after the contract has been completed and the ticket issued? This seems to be highly immoral.

Travel Agent
Phuket

Bandith Srinurak, Senior Officer, One Two Go Call Center, replies:

The normal price for a "Two Go" ticket is 1,750 baht. However, it costs an extra 500 baht if you travel on a "peak price" flight.

Peak price flights are: all flights on Fridays, Sundays, some flights on Saturdays (the public will be notified), public holidays and government holidays.

If the customer accepts to pay the extra 500 baht, the call center (Tel: 1126) can reserve his or her seat.

If the customers do not want to pay by credit card they can pay at the airport during check-in.

In The Stars

by Isla Star

PISCES (February 20-March 20): There is much more to be gained by tactful discussion than by unreasonable ultimatums. If you are impatient this week, remember that others could have different agendas and responsibilities. Your world is turning quite quickly right now but you cannot expect everything to happen at the same speed. Thursday is best for reaching agreements. Wear light turquoise to encourage a calmer disposition.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): If promotion has been dangled like a carrot in front of you for too long, it's understandable that you are tiring of this scenario. This week you see the perfect opportunity to play your own game and influential people will be forced to stop pussyfooting around. A recently begun relationship is well starred although you are likely to discover a hidden side to your new acquaintance. Remember, compromise is a two-way street.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Friends will be surprised to see a new, wilder side to your normally sedate character as March gets underway. This brief dose of jungle fever means that you will be on the hunt for fun this weekend. Reserve some energy for Monday as there are exciting challenges in the pipeline. Financially, you are set to get the security you've been dreaming of. Number 7 is lucky on Tuesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Being part of the rat race isn't always easy for you. Your reluctance to be ruthless is about to be appreciated by new business colleagues. The realization of a lifetime dream is nearing, although intense efforts will be required to bring success. Family members remain skeptical, but will soon start believing in your capabilities. The color butterscotch enhances the softer, sweeter side of your character.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): There are clear astral signs that your money tree is about to bear more fruit. However, delay any harvesting until the last possible moment. Investments in suspicious schemes are tempting but will only lead to disappointment and loss. Burying the hatchet with someone you fell out with earlier this year is highlighted. Even if you believe that too much water has flowed under the bridge, it's not too late.

LEO (July 24-August 23): You need more help than you think to get to the top of the mountain. You will be faced with the knowledge that you can't go it alone any longer. Sagittarians are ideal candidates to provide support, but Libra currently has too many other commitments. Thinking outside the box pays off in most areas of your life this week. The color sage green encourages wisdom.

VIRGO (August 24-September 23): A recent endurance test has helped you become stronger, but make rest and healthy nutrition your priorities until your energy returns to normal. Quiet contemplation highlights correct decisions you made earlier this year. On the work front, avoid jobs that could cause physical strain. Monday is auspicious for employment interviews.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Making hay while the sun shines yields the best results. If you put work responsibilities on the back burner for now, you are in danger of missing important deadlines. Pisces is beginning to believe that you're pulling the wool over their eyes, and house hunting will keep you busy for most of the month. The number 9 is lucky on Sunday.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Holiday plans are subject to alterations. If you have been looking forward to getting away from it all, you could be disappointed this week. Put aside your worries long enough to smell the roses and you will realize that relaxation is possible without escaping to another place. An Aquarian is becoming interested in turning a platonic relationship into something more meaningful. This could be a match made in heaven.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 22): March looks to be a very promising month. Some sort of financial windfall is forecast to arrive within the coming days. Personal relationships will also be affected by more benevolent cosmic conditions and it's likely that a long-term commitment will be made. You might be shocked to discover who your true friends are.

CAPRICORN (December 23-January 20): Silence is golden for you this week. After a recent busy period, an atmosphere of calm helps you to feel happier. You could learn that someone you were involved with last year is hoping to rekindle the flames. If you're not interested, the best course of action is to do nothing. Money matters require careful handling from now until the middle of the month, so resist spontaneous shopping sprees.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): If you are ready for something different, you will be thrilled to discover that a conversation you had last month is about to produce exciting results. Your money-making skills aren't always understood by others, but someone finally appreciates what makes you tick. Thursday is best for business-related appointments, as your charisma will be irresistible. Navy blue encourages words to flow convincingly.

Mind your Thai manners

Dear Momma Duck,

During the past 18 months of constructing a property, I have noted the following: Nobody seems to say "hello" or "good morning", or notify you of their departure, coupled with the fact that "please" or "thank you" are rarely expressed.

Am I missing something here, or is this just a culture gap thing? However, if it is a class-related problem, at what level does it kick in?

David

Dear David,

I think you need to understand our culture and language better so you will not feel of-

fended or bewildered. Most Asian cultures have greetings that reflect the values of the culture, and it will undoubtedly be different from those of European or American countries and languages.

For Thais, we're more concerned about our tummies and curious about other people's activities than about the weather. Instead of saying "good morning", we casually greet each other with "have you eaten yet?" or "where are you going?"

The formal *aroon sawat* (literally "morning greetings") is considered rather stilted and overly formal. Even *sawadee* (followed by the polite-particle

khrap or *kha*, depending upon your sex) can mean nearly anything under the sun, from "pleased to meet you", to "good morning", "good afternoon", "good night" or even "goodbye", is rather formal.

I have an Iraqi friend who got upset when hotel staff greeted him with *bai nai khrap*? ("where are you going?") every time he walked out of the hotel and said he wanted to angrily respond, "Mind your own business".

Since you've been working here for a long time you might not feel that there is a class structure in our society because of the general gregariousness of Thais. Although there is indeed no real class segregation, except for the

royal family, there is a very clear awareness in every social interaction among Thais of who is the most senior person.

You're the boss or employer, and therefore more senior than other staff, so they will feel *kraeng jai* around you, which loosely translates as "not wishing to disturb or intrude". Many Thais also lack the confidence to speak English out of fear of making a mistake.

Smiling is perhaps the universal formula for Thais when we don't know how to respond to a situation. We're good at non-verbal communication. I can assure you that absolutely no one would wish you to feel offended and many would be shocked to find out you are bewildered by their seeming lack of polite interaction.

Over time, however, they may gradually take clues from your behavior and begin to re-

spond in kind. If you're working with Thais who regularly mingle socially with foreigners and are acquainted with other cultures, there will be a different type of atmosphere.

I recommend that you read a book about our culture so that you enjoy your time here, and I would also advise you to learn some Thai. This will make your stay more fun and interesting.



Momma DUCK

By Wanida Hongyok
momma@phuketgazette.net

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We will survive

There are many hazards we face in our day-to-day lives. Beneath the surface of our mundane routines – commuting to and from school or work, going shopping, partying with friends – there are a surprisingly large number of dangers threading through our existence: the threat of car crashes, illness, natural disasters, drug or alcohol abuse...but arguably one of the greatest dangers we face is simply being a teenager.

Adults may scoff, but anyone who survives these adolescent years should surely deserve a medal for bravery and resilience.

Take a moment to consider the various obstacles we face: the merciless stresses and strains of rigorous study and examinations, the onset of raging hormones, the search for identity, and attempting to resist the lure of “grown-up” excitements such as alcohol, cigarettes and other things which will remain unnamed.

When you take all these factors into consideration, it's a miracle so many of us even reach adulthood, let alone remain fairly mentally stable.

Those adults who have forgotten what it's like to be a teenager may look back on those “salad days” with nostalgia, but those of us who are still struggling through the mire of adolescence are gritting our teeth and doggedly setting our sights on that beacon of hope, the 20th birthday.

Of all the stresses we face during these years, the biggest are indisputably school and self-discovery. Education is a crucial part of our existence, and invaluable to helping us forge a new life for ourselves, but our school days are certainly not devoid of stress and turbulence.

There are the text books, which seem to get thicker and thicker with each passing year. Pity the poor fools who chose to study a combination of Biology, Mathematics and Psychology; those three text books must weigh at least 10 kilograms each. When you have all three subjects on the same day, it takes

every last ounce of strength to lug the massive tomes up the stairs.

Then of course there is the mammoth task of actually absorbing everything the teachers are telling you. By the end of the day your brain is brimming with a bewildering morass of words such as “double-helix DNA”, “al-literation”, “cognitive behavioral therapy”, and a tangled mess of equations, formulae and mathematical rules.

Finally there are the examinations. These are daunting enough to strike dread into the heart of even the most studious and well prepared teenager. As if sitting in utter, cloying silence with an incredibly complicated paper lying before you isn't bad enough, you also have the added stress of knowing that if you make a mistake or forget a crucial detail your whole future could be in jeopardy.

During the precious week-ends, after all your homework is finished, of course, most local teens take the opportunity to blow off steam by venturing into Patong.

The glowing neon and alcohol-drenched streets are full of yet more scarcely concealed dangers. Even the most sensible teen is liable to experiment at least once with some form of substance, simply because we are curious.

The most common are cigarettes and alcohol. These two vices have an alluring “adult” quality to them.

Teens often fall prey to the misguided conception that if they can nonchalantly lean against a bar with a cigarette hanging off their lower lip or a glass of whisky clutched casually in their hands, they will give off an unmistakably mature air.

Of course we usually fail, as struggling to coax a flame from a lighter, choking on smoke that smells like burnt toast, and leering stupidly at strangers with alcohol-glazed eyes doesn't scream maturity and sophistication.

In the end though, we mark these adventures down to experience. One or two brief dalli-



ances are usually enough to satisfy our curiosity, and we can return to our studies that much wiser and more determined to succeed.

The intricacies of the opposite sex usually take much longer to figure out. One of the inescap-

able struggles we face is the pain of unrequited love and rejection. Teens are very susceptible to bouts of puppy love – a period of intense, worshipful adoration that lasts until the Adored One either accepts our burbled offer of a trip to the cinema or we receive the



Youth 'n ASIA

By Amy
Van de Castele

cruel but to-the-point “Like, no way would I ever go out with you”.

Despite the minefield of possible dangers that awaits us as we stumble through the rocky landscape of adolescence, we usually make it to the other side without too much mishap. Believe it or not, we teenagers are more sensible than we lead you to believe, and though we might make a few mistakes along the way, most of us step confidently into adulthood with smiles on our faces and wise twinkles in our eyes, declaring proudly “Well, we have survived”.



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Quick Launch just got quicker

If you use Windows of any recent vintage – Vista, XP, 2000 or even Me or 98 – the amazingly useful Quick Launch Toolbar can save you tons of time.

If you splurged for Windows Vista, it may surprise you to know that Quick Launch has two new capabilities that make it more useful than ever. The new tricks won't turn any heads, won't draw "oohs" and "aahs" from lemming-like crowds. In fact, they're barely documented, but they'll save you time, day in and day out.

Most people think of Quick Launch as a key Windows feature, but that isn't how it started. Microsoft introduced Quick Launch in 1997 as part of the original Taskbar, bundled with Internet Explorer 4. Back then, to use the Windows Taskbar and the original Quick Launch toolbar, you had to install IE 4 – it didn't ship with Windows 95. Times change, eh?

In all of the recent versions of Windows, Quick Launch

KHUN WOODY'S COMPUTER

consists of tiny icons to the right of the Start button. (In the extremely unlikely event that you can't see Quick Launch on your computer, right-click an empty spot on the Windows Taskbar and choose Toolbars | Quick Launch.) To launch one of the programs in Quick Launch, just click on its icon. If you're like me, you use it about 100 times a day.

I'm amazed by how many people don't realize that they can change Quick Launch so they can get to the programs, websites, folders and files that they use most often. It takes only a few seconds.

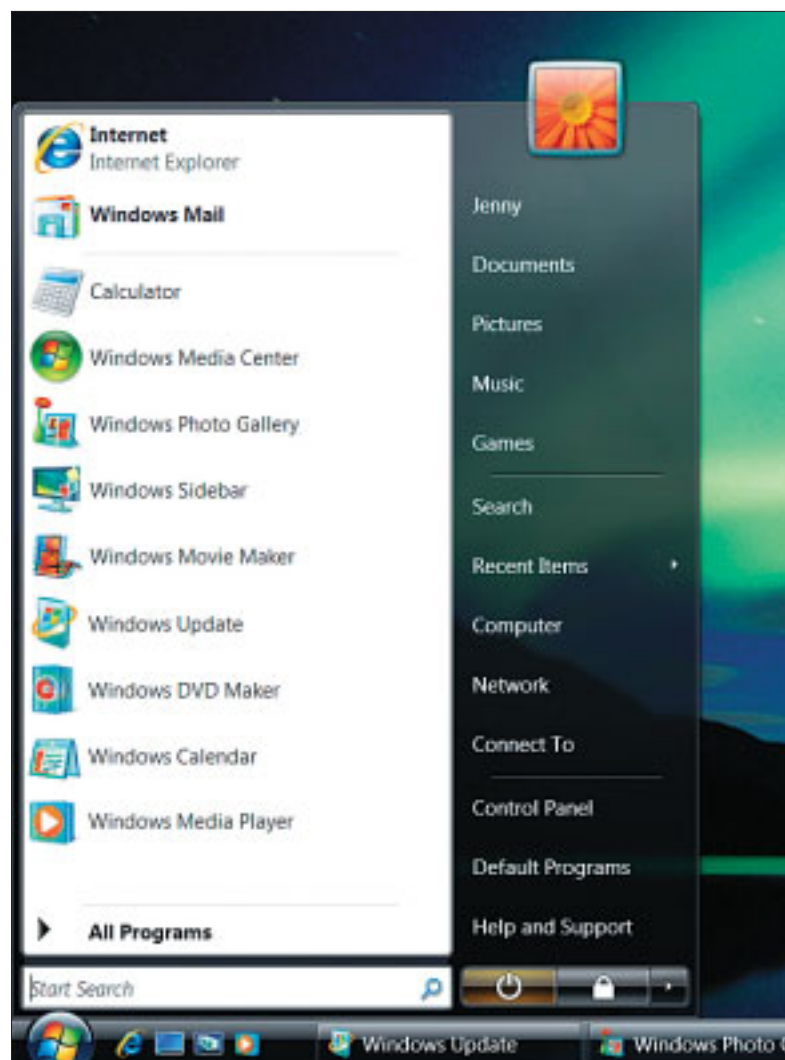
To add a program to Quick Launch, navigate to the program (typically by clicking Start | All Programs), click on the program and drag it down to your preferred location on the Quick Launch toolbar.

It's easy, fast — and in Windows XP, 2000, Me and 98, it doesn't work right. If you simply drag the program from the All Programs menu down to the Quick Launch toolbar, you'll discover that Windows XP decides that you don't want the program on your All Programs menu any more, and removes it. Not good.

No doubt somebody in Redmond thought that was a feature. I call it a bug. Fortunately, this bug has been fixed in Vista so that if you drag a program from the All Programs menu onto the Quick Launch toolbar, you get an icon on the toolbar, as you should, and the original program stays on the All Programs menu, as it should.

By the way, the workaround in Windows XP, 2000, Me and 98 is to right-click on the program in the All Programs menu, drag it to the Quick Launch toolbar, and choose Copy Here. Intuitive, eh?

Most Windows users don't



CALCULATED CLICKS: The Windows Quick Launch toolbar can be configured to save time and energy searching for frequently-used programs.

realize it, but Quick Launch can be coerced into doing more than simply launching programs. In both Windows XP and Vista you can:

- Add folders to Quick Launch. Navigate to the folder, click on it and drag it to the Quick

Launch toolbar. Clicking the folder icon in the toolbar brings up Windows Explorer, based at that particular folder.

- Add documents or templates to Quick Launch. Again, you need only to click and drag. This is useful if you have a template from which you frequently create new documents.

Every time you click on a shortcut in Quick Launch, the application opens with a new document based on that template.

- Add URLs to Quick Launch. Navigate to the website you like, click on the icon to the left of the address (commonly called a "Favicon") and drag it down to the Quick Launch toolbar.

Clicking on the URL shortcut in Quick Launch starts your preferred web browser with the page loaded.

Tip: dragging and dropping items onto an auto-hiding Vista taskbar is a monumental pain in the neck. Microsoft changed the way auto-hiding works and the result in Vista is a taskbar that plays hide-and-seek when you try to drag-and-drop.

The solution? Drag all the way down into the lower left corner, near the Vista start button. That brings up the auto-hiding taskbar so you can use it. Sheesh.

Windows Vista sports two nifty, tiny enhancements to the Quick Launch toolbar that every Vista user should know. You can launch Quick Launch shortcuts from the keyboard.

Hold down the Windows key and press a number. Windows key + 1 launches the first icon. Windows key + 2 launches the second, and so on. Try it a couple of times and you'll be hooked.

Second, Vista allows you to add a shortcut to Quick Launch by holding down the Shift key and right-clicking on the program or file to be added. Choose the option marked Add to Quick Launch. Your new Quick Launch icon appears in a nonce.

Why doesn't the same trick work for Vista folders or URLs? Heck, I dunno. Sounds like another bug to me.

ICT round table. I've been asked to join a panel discussion on Phuket's ICT infrastructure at the International Business Association – Phuket (IBAP) March 9 meeting at Phuja Nirvana, at Central Festival Phuket.

As we went to press, the precise topic and panel members had yet to be confirmed, but you can see the latest at www.ibap-phuket.org

It should be an interesting meeting, with lots of details about broadband, work permits and other topics of interest to computer-savvy residents of Phuket.

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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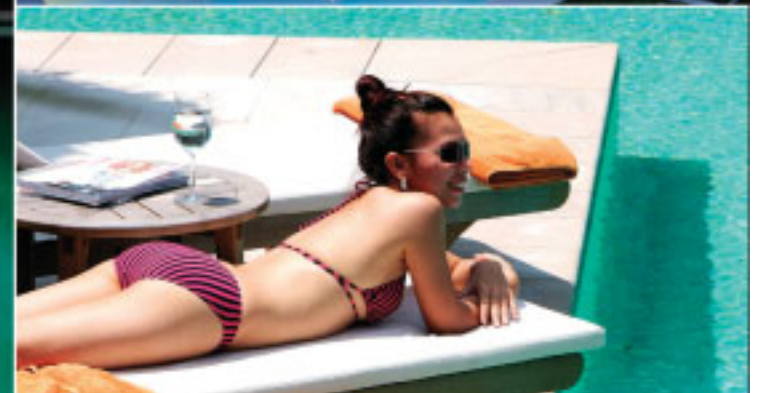
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A RICHMOND GROUP DEVELOPMENT

The recent report that the Japanese economy grew at an annualized rate of 4.8% in the last quarter of 2006 took most observers by surprise.

This was much higher than anticipated and gives concrete evidence to support the theory that Japan is continuing its economic recovery.

This is extremely important to the overall global outlook, as Japan is still the world's second largest economy (or possibly third – some figures indicate China has surpassed it).

This trend has much greater ramifications if it continues. For years Japan has been holding interest rates near zero to spur growth, but sustained economic increases will certainly make the central bank – the Bank of Japan – start to increase interest rates.

Low interest rates have made Japan a very attractive country in which to borrow money with the objective of reinvesting the proceeds in other countries, especially in global bond markets.

This course of action is known as the “carry trade”, and vast sums of money are involved.

The parties using this situation range from Japanese pension funds, insurance companies and banks, to their international counterparts and, naturally, hedge funds.

Japan is not the only source of finance for such activities. Swiss interest rates are low, also attracting “carry trade” sourcing. Much of this capital has ended up in US, UK, Australian and New Zealand bond markets, as well as in many emerging markets.

A very tiny percentage of

Japan growth will have global repercussions



A businessman looks over a yen-dollar indicator screen in downtown Tokyo – Photo EPA/Andy Rain

this money was invested in Thailand, which led to the massive over-reaction demonstrated by the implementation of capital controls.

It only takes a brief look at 10 years of economic history to note that before the 1997 financial crisis, Thai exchange rates had been fixed for years at 24.70 baht to the US dollar.

That said, one area where the interim government deserves praise is that it has endured a vast

amount of criticism without attempting censorship. Certainly, none of Thailand's neighbors would have tolerated even a fraction of such commentary.

That is not to say that I agree with the capital controls or meddling with the foreign business act. The latter is simply going to make matters much worse and is already hurting the Thai economy and new and existing foreign investment.

Japan is not the only major economy to report increasing growth.

The European Union, which, as a total entity, almost mirrors the US economy, has also increased its growth forecast for 2007 to 2.4%. This may still seem low, and it is, but by EU standards this is a welcome change and will certainly counter the predicted slowdown in US growth, which is anticipated to be in the region of 2% - 2.5% in 2007.

Japan is still too reliant on export-led growth, but there is some evidence that there is life in the rest of the economy.

Autoworker trade unions are pushing for higher wages – in most countries this would not be welcome news, but in Japan anything that helps promote the

growth of inflation is to its economic benefit.

The exception to this rule is in-

MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson



creased Japanese government spending – badly-managed government-spending programs in the 1990s led to a massive government debt, still the highest in the world. Basically, the more governments keep away from the real economy, the better it is for any country.

Should Japan continue with a reasonable level of economic growth – it does not have to be as high as 4.8% – the Bank of Japan will certainly continue to raise interest rates.

This will have two effects: First, the yen will rise in value; it could easily rise 10% before any real concerns will be voiced by exporters or the Bank of Japan.

Second, if interest rates continue to rise, so will the cost of borrowing, and with that situation there would be massive unwinding of the “carry trade”. Nobody knows the size of the yen “carry trade”, but some estimates have put it at more than a trillion US dollars.

Global liquidity would then start to fall, and investment in many bond markets would evaporate. This could lead to many emerging markets experiencing sharp rises in long-term interest rates, but falls in the value of their currencies.

Thailand could suddenly find itself not only abandoning capital controls, but having to adjust rapidly to a need for foreign capital. Much depends on the continued development of the Japanese economy.

Max King, an investment strategist at Investec, was recently the guest host on CNBC's *Europe Squawk Box*. He pointed out that when compared with developed economies, emerging markets were already expensive. He conceded that perhaps emerging markets were larger and better managed “en masse” in this economic cycle compared to historical precedents, but also pointed out the risks associated with emerging market investment.

In my view, emerging markets have too often suddenly become “submerging markets”. They often change from being areas of highest profit to areas of greatest loss. Will this time be any different? Only the future will provide the answer.

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

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ON THE MOVE



Lena Lefever from Bangkok has been appointed Spa Manager at Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort and Spa. Lena holds a degree in Hotel and Tourism studies from Bangkok University. She has been directly involved with spa management at Le Meridien St. Julians in Malta, Arahmas Resort and Spa, and Banyan Tree Spa Co Ltd. She brings "an oriental holistic vision that embraces body, mind and soul", the resort says.

Damrongsak "Richard" Nantagard from Lamphun has been appointed Construction Manager of Wanamakok Civil and Environmental Consultants Co Ltd. He has degrees in Land Surveying from Rajamangala University of Technology Lanna in Chiang Mai and Civil Engineering from Mahanakorn University of Technology in Bangkok. K. Richard has contracting experience with various construction projects in Northern and Central Thailand.



The Cape Panwa Hotel has appointed Phuket native **Wanphen Da-loonpate** as Cape Spa Manager. She previously worked in reception at Rama Gardens for seven years and 10 years in customer service at ICI 1996 Thailand Co Ltd in Bangkok. K. Wanphen has extensive experience in spa management, including time spent as Spa Manager at Santiburi Resort in Samui, Baan Thai Beach Resort in Patong and Rayavadee Resort in Krabi.

Dragonair swoops back into Phuket

By Semacote Suganya

PHUKET: After a two-year absence, Dragonair has resumed its service between Hong Kong and Phuket after a buyout by Cathay Pacific Airlines.

The airline originally began flying to Phuket in 1986, but halted service after the 2004 tsunami. It resumed flights in December 2006, and now serves Phuket with a daily round trip on an Airbus 320, which has 158 seats.

Dragonair is a Hong Kong-based airline operating a fleet of 28 passenger aircrafts to 29 regional destinations, including 21 cities in mainland China, along with seven freighters to nine airports worldwide.

The resumption of flights to Phuket coincided with new services to Kota Kinabula in Malaysia and Phnom Penh in Cambodia.

Cathay Pacific's General Manager of SE Asia Patrick Yeung was in Phuket February 22 to promote the expanded service



Patrick Yeung: 'We are here to stay long term.'

and to explain Dragonair's decision to return.

"Cathay Pacific took over Dragonair last year with a buyout valued at HK\$8.8 billion (43.6 billion baht)," Mr Yeung told the *Gazette*. Phuket was the first destination added to Dragonair since that time.

Asked about Dragonair's commitment to Phuket, Mr. Yeung said, "We are here to stay long term. Much depends on demand and we would like to increase the frequency of our

flights. The purchase of Dragonair is planned to strengthen our strategy in the region and to strengthen Hong Kong as our hub.

"Dragonair will increase our ability to serve connecting flights as well. While we are using an A320 right now we don't expect to move up to an A380 for about five years – it doesn't fit our strategy at the moment. There is not enough traffic yet," Mr Yeung said.

"We are also looking at how we can continue to make use of Hong Kong as our primary hub, and South-East Asia as a sub-regional hub - to add to our network so that people going in and out of Hong Kong can travel as hassle-free and as efficiently as possible.

"Whenever possible we will increase the frequency of our links to destinations where we already have an operations team. For new destinations we will have to look at the potential for increased cargo and traffic in our existing network."

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PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

Piccadilly sitting pretty with 4 points in hand

PATONG: With three weeks to go in the Patong Dart League, first-placed Piccadilly sit with a four-point lead with two matches remaining, against Coyote and Offshore.

In a three-point win at home against Valhalla, Piccadilly's Tony checked out on 19 darts to win his singles, throwing tons in his first three throws and then closing out on x40 on his first dart.

All other teams have been mathematically eliminated except second place Queen Mary, who close out against Offshore and Valhalla.

After two teams called it quits and dropped out, the league is now accepting applications from any bars wanting to enter teams. Visit any of the participating bars or send an email to darts@phuketgazette.net for more details.

February 20 results: Beach House 3 Didi's* 6; Piccadilly* 7 Valhalla 2; Coyote Bar 0 Offshore* 9 (* = winner of beer leg).

Standings: 1. Piccadilly (29 pts.); 2. Queen Mary (25); 3. Didi's (21); 4. = Dog's Bollocks, Coyote Bar (17); 6. Offshore (16); 7. Valhalla (10); 8. Beach House (6).

March 6 matchups: Didi's v Offshore; Piccadilly v Coyote bar; Beach House v Dogs Bollocks; Queen Mary and Valhalla have byes (home team first).

Island CC tops cricket league after first round

PHUKET: Patong Cricket Club (PCC) came away with a somewhat shaky win over The Cricketers Club Phuket (CCP) to chalk up some much needed points in the sixth and final match of Round 1 of the Island Furniture Cricket League on February 25.

After bowling CCP out for 86 runs in the 23rd over, PCC's batters got off to a wobbly start, losing opener Charlie Chelliah for just two runs.

However, a solid partnership between David Ogden and PCC captain Martin Foster saw 50 runs put on the board before the next wicket fell.

PCC looked set for a relatively easy win until pace bowler Ben Davis claimed five quick wickets for just 14 runs.

PCC, however, regained their composure and reached the target of 87 runs in the 20th over after losing six wickets.

Highlights of Round 1 include Jafar Ali's 109 runs in match 3, earning an entry in the record books as the league's first ton. Match 4 was a nail-biter as

last year's underdogs CCP beat current champions Phuket Academicals in a match that went to the wire with a win for CCP by just six runs.

Round 2 matches start on March 10 after a one-week break. During the break a squad of players will head off to Bangkok to represent Phuket in the first Thailand Seniors Inter-Regional Cup where teams from throughout Thailand will play a round-robin format. The cup will take place from March 3 to 5.

The second round of the league will open with a re-match between PCC and CCP at Cherng Talay School. First ball will be about 11 am.

For details call Mark Whetton at 086-1208346 or email: scarfy@loxinfo.co.th

— Mark Whetton

League standings after Round 1:

Club	P	W	D	Pts
Island CC	3	2	1	43
Academicals	3	2	0	32
Patong CC	3	1	1	28
The Cricketers	3	1	0	27



A Moo 7 Baan Tarua Mai player charges down the line in the first match of the OrBorTor Rassada Cup on February 25. But the match ended in a 4-2 win for the orange-shirted Laem Tuk-Kae Moo 4 team.

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EXTREME Triathlon

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

MAI KHAO: The third triathlon of the TriBallistic Club's six-triathlon series was held February 25, with Chana Panchlad claiming victory in the men's open race and Lizelle Van de Berg taking top honors among the women.

The "Extreme" triathlon was divided into two distances: the Junior category with a 200-meter swim, 3-kilometer bike race and 1.5km run; and the Senior division with a 750m swim, 10km bike route and 5km run.

The marathon was "extreme" because athletes ran through bush and sandy trails for the run and then had to make their way through an off-road trail for the biking course.

The Junior category saw 23 individual entrants and one team, while the Senior category had 17 individuals and five teams.

The next race in the series will be held in Krabi on March 24.



Spry sprites: Teisha Jones (left), 9, was the first to cross the line in the junior category at the TriBallistic Extreme Marathon February 25, and won the Under 10 Girls class. Melissa Kegans, 11, crossed the line second and won the Under 12 Girls class. The event was sponsored by Silk restaurant and the *Phuket Gazette*.

RACE RESULTS

JUNIORS

Boys under 8: 1. Taj Jones; 2. Raymond Windsor; 3. Jesse Horwood.

Girls under 8: 1. Casey Van de Berg

Boys under 10: 1. Marcus Gotz; 2. Jonas Johanson; 3. Joshua Bester

Girls under 10: 1. Teisha Jones; 2. Jazmin Brundle

Boys under 12: 1. Caelan Dwyer; 2. Philip Johansson; 3. Anan Kontigeng

Girls under 12: 1. Melissa Kegans; 2. Alysa Bebbington; 3. Xenia Viragh

Girls 12 years and up: 1. Emma Phillips; 2. Casey Underwood; 3. Anthea Viragh

Junior Team: 1. Horizons Team (Bronty O'Leary, Cassidy Wetzell, Emily Kawahigashi)

SENIORS

Boys under 16: 1. Mitch Brundle; 2. Joshua Henthorne

Girls under 16: 1. Timana Hossack

Men's Open: 1. Chana Panchlad; 2. Praiwan Imkaew; 3. Jared Jiaranie

Women's Open: 1. Lizelle Van de Berg; 2. Melanie Midgley; 3. Cindy Shaw

Masters: 1. John Douma; 2. Richard Cracknell

Senior Teams: 1. Tony & Amy Henthorne; 2. Ben & Tristram Coffin; 3. The Ted Pulaski Team

'Party regatta' sees plenty of action – on the water, too

By Chris Husted

PHANG NGA BAY: Ben Coppley's recently-launched *Asia Spirit* pipped Scott Duncanson's *Somtarn Express* by one point overall to win the Racing class in the 10th Phang Nga Bay International Regatta, held February 16 to 20.

John Vause on *Ruby Tuesday*, absent from the King's Cup Regatta in December, returned to claim third place, ahead of *Tuay Lek* in fourth place, followed by *Switchblade*, *Rhythm Stick* and *Foo*.

Former *La Sumatra* helmsman Nils Dgenkole won the Cruising A class on *Phoenix*, with Kevin Gillow's *Minx* three points behind in second place, some six points ahead of third-place Robert England's *Emerald Blue*.

Michelle Pippen and her crew on *Tropicbird* proved too quick in the 19-yacht Cruising B class, beating second-place Bill Crump on *Fistral* by two points. Kevan Perrins on *Rusalka* finished third.

David Wales skipped Henry Kaye's old catamaran *The Sting* to victory in the Multihull class, ahead of Kim Mitchell on *Alpha Centauri 2*.

Mark Pescott on *Summersalt*, often a combination that takes top honors in the Multihull class in any local regatta, managed to score third.

Kaye, determined to collect some silverware for his new Firefly *Mamba*, won the one-design Firefly class ahead of favorite Roger Kingdon on *Moto Inzi*. Bill Phelps sailed well to pick up third place overall on his cat *Twin Sharks*.

This year's PNB Regatta saw a record number of entries, with a full list of 45 boats registered about a month before the regatta set sail. A total of 48 yachts were allowed to take part this year.

Race Officer Simon James explained to the *Gazette* earlier that the number of entries was limited to ensure appropriate facilities would be available for the hundreds of sailors arriving for the regatta.

The PNB Regatta this year also stepped up its reputation as the "party" regatta, with the event kicking off at the Chandara Resort & Spa in Pa Khlok and finishing with a gala event on Nai Harn Beach replete with DJs and dancers flown in from the Bed Supperclub in Bangkok.

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ONE FARANG, WELL DONE

The British aren't very good at much anymore. I'll admit that we do occasionally stumble through the odd sporting victory every now and then, but generally we're a bit on the "could do better" side. There is just one skill at which we excel: that of taking the mickey, also known by the abbreviated form of the Cockney rhyming slang "take the mickey bliss".

The Brits are at this form of verbal jousting all the time. We can have conversations with each other that unknowing observers would consider highly offensive; an outsider would think that the two were adversarial combatants who hated each others' guts. Quite the contrary – Brits can go on for hours slagging each other off without breaking into a smile, all the while buying drinks for each other in the pub. This has Americans, for example, completely flummoxed.

I have to make a confession at this stage – I have been guilty of this myself on the odd occasion. I remember visiting Hadrian's Wall many years ago; a wall which was the historical divide between ancient England and Scotland. For those not familiar with the geography, it's several hundred miles from the south coast of England, and the English Channel separating England from France.

I met an American while I was there – a lovely lady she was.

"We're a long way up, aren't we," she commented, as we walked along the windswept wall.

"Yes, we are," I said, doing my best to sound wise. "You can see for miles from here."

"How far can you see?" she asks. At this stage I see one of those big steel communication towers way off in the distance, and decide it's time to pounce.

"Most people don't realize this, but you can actually see France from here."

"Really?" she responds, highly excited at the thought of "doing" France during her trip.

"Yes, really. Look over there." I pointed at the distant communications tower. "See that? That's the Eiffel Tower."

"Oh, my gawd!" she shrieked, and proceeded to take dozens of photographs of this national icon.

I suppose on reflection, I should feel immensely guilty at the thought of poor old Eliza-Jane joyfully returning to her family in Pennsylvucky, brandishing pictures of the Eiffel Tower taken from Hadrian's Wall. Bless her.

I would go so far as to say that before I arrived in this country, I would have naively suggested that we were world leaders in taking the mickey. How wrong I was – the Thai people are brilliant at it.

How many times have you asked a Thai person for a bit of advice, and they've playfully demanded 5 baht in return? As with the Brits, they like the sport. But



Cheating shrimp: The golden shrimp plant's flowers are actually brightly-colored bracts of leaves, hiding small, white, shrimp-like flowers in the center.

they're better at it. Restaurant and bar owners often have a hard time keeping track of whose bill is whose – I discovered recently I'm known as Mr Shout. They rarely bring me the wrong bill.

The Thai version of taking the mickey also extends to tourists. Thais are far too sensible to go out into the sun during the day, and they would certainly never consider stripping down to the bare essentials and lying in the sun all day, slowly baking. They even have a term for this – they refer to the rows of pink *farangs* on the beach as "barbecued shrimp". Merciless, and painfully accurate.

There had to be a most tenuous link to gardening somewhere, and the subject of shrimp brings us neatly on to the golden shrimp plant. Otherwise known as the "golden candle plant", "lollipop plant", by the Latin name *Pachystachys lutea* or *lueang khiribun* in Thai, it adds a spectacular splash of bright yellow wherever it happens to sit in your garden.

Originally from Peru, it's one of those plants that almost looks too good to be true. Instead of the more traditional green leaves with the odd flower dotted around here and there, the golden shrimp plant takes the idea of color one step further. It cheats.

It does have the traditional leaf setup that it shares with many members of the plant kingdom; large, deep green oval leaves with prominent veins, but they're not all green. Some of them modify themselves to form bright yellow bracts (like the red leaves of the poinsettia, or the colored parts of a bougainvillea) that mimic the appearance of flowers.

These bracts look like three to four inch bright yellow candle things from a distance. They almost hide the true flowers, which contain all the mechanisms for fertilization of the plant.

The actual flowers look like tiny white prawns, or junior shrimp. The flowers only last a few days, but the yellow bracts can stay there for several weeks,

resulting in a continuous display of these impressive vertical candlebrats. Lets face it, fertilization by insect and bird pollinators is the main reason that flowers exist, so why shouldn't they cheat and have some of the leaves help them along in this regard?

Golden shrimp plants are perfect for pots on patios and look wonderful in borders for a dramatic splash of yellow. Put them against a dark background and they'll really stand out. They can grow up to about six feet tall, but to reach that height and still look as if someone cares, they'll need regular, sensible pruning. All you need to do is cut it back by about a half a couple of times a year. It may look a bit brutal, but it will bounce back joyfully.

These things are sun worshippers, but they don't get into the same state as their human counterparts. While the Patong tourists go steadily pinker by the hour, these permanent residents just look even healthier. The golden shrimp's leaves become greener, and the original half dozen or so candles you have when you bring the plant home from the garden center will quickly multiply in number. Lots of sun, high humidity and a fair amount of water is all it will demand. It could have been invented for Phuket.

Another bonus for the golden shrimp plant is how ridiculously easy it is to propagate. Just cut an eight- to 10-inch long stem, strip off the lower set of leaves, plant it and a young shoot should soon start growing from the leaf joint. Put it in moist potting soil or sand, keeping one or two sets of leaves above the soil line. Place them in the shade initially and they should root really easily, at which time they can be planted outside to enjoy the sun.

If there's a somewhat confused American tourist in Phuket who met an odd Englishman on Hadrian's Wall a few years ago then probably I owe her an apology. She may even be baking herself on a Phuket beach as we speak. I'll let the Thais take it from here. Happy barbecuing.

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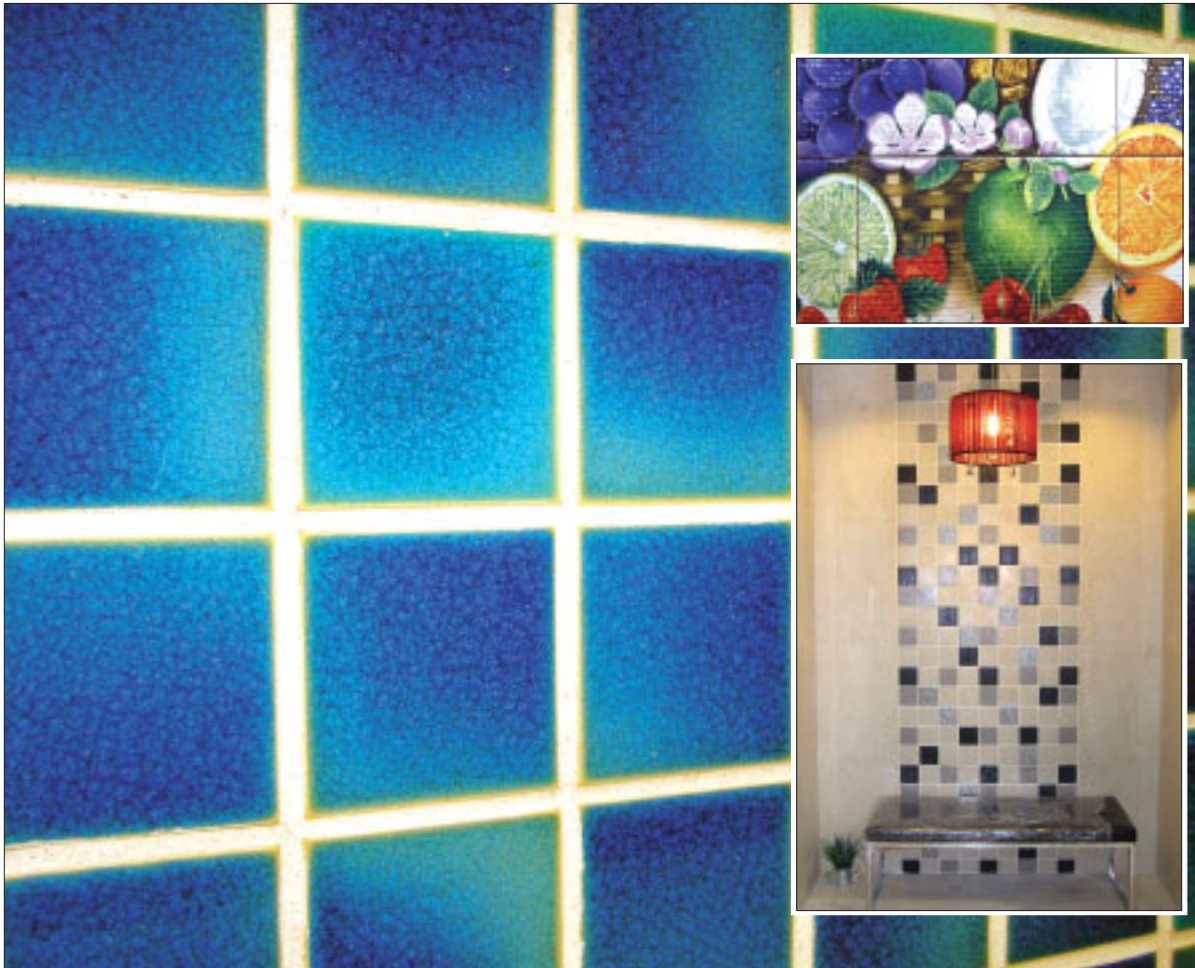
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Decor

by Natcha Yuttaworawit



Main picture: men tend to go for darker, more 'manly' colors. Inset, top: Brighten up the kitchen with some fruit. Inset, above: Tiles can make a visual highlight of an otherwise dull corner.

TILE STYLE

One option for breathing new life into an old room is to add some pizzazz with ceramic tiles.

Cotto Tiles Studio Design Consultant Pongsaton Jomthepmala said the most important aspect is to match the tile colors to the mood you want to create in the room.

Simply putting a tiled picture of fruit or other food on the wall can make your kitchen look more inviting and create a happier environment, he says.

The newest ceramic addition at Cotto is the Circlet Series, made up of round tiles with stylish colors and patterns that will

liven up any corner. K. Pongsaton says.

Dark-colored tiles are especially popular with men as these colors are seen as more masculine, K. Pongsaton explains, adding that it's just the opposite for women, who like more relaxing bright or soft colors.

Cotto's One-Stop Service Counter has a computer system that shows what the finished project will look like, how many tiles are needed and what's currently in stock. The Create Easy program can lay out the look of the tiled room before work begins.

Design consultants at Cotto also give customers advice on

installation and tile care. If you do not know of a tiler, Cotto maintains a list of local contractors to choose from.

Design consultants Anek Chaisri and K. Pongsaton are on hand to help answer questions and help you choose tiles appropriate for your space. The Create Easy 3D program also helps calculate how many tiles you will need.

Cotto Tiles Studio is at Sangchai Makrowasadupan on bypass road. The studio is open from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm, closed Sundays. Call 076-261073-4 or 076-261044 or visit www.cottotiles.com

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Construction Update

by Janyaporn Morel

A happy development

The 180-million-baht Suksan Place development, comprising combined commercial-residential buildings, home offices, villas and condominiums on 6.35 rai on Patak Rd, is 30% complete, and the first phase is on schedule for completion by October.

Tongchai Prayoth, Managing Director of Suksan Place Co Ltd, told the *Gazette* that construction of the first phase, which includes the commercial buildings, home offices and villas, began in January. Construction of the condominiums will begin after the first phase is complete, and is expected to be finished by the end of 2008.

The development's two "commercial" buildings will be along the road, each with five units of 162 square meters comprising office space on the ground floor and four-bedroom, five-bathroom flats above. Prices for these units start at five million baht.

The commercial buildings



AIRY LIVING: Adobe, Computer-generated image of the dining-living-pool area in one of the three-story Type A villas. Above right, Tongchai Prayoth is happy with the way things are going.

will be available as Type A and Type B units, the only difference being the location and the views.

Similarly, the "home office" buildings, which will be built directly behind the commercial

buildings, and will consist of three-story Type A and Type B buildings.

The two home-office complexes will each contain five units, each with a usable area of 216sqm each.

"We have set the home office on higher land so residents will have a view of Kata Bay, especially with the Type B buildings that will have a sea view from every floor.

"Each home-office unit will have two bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms on the third floor, and dining and living areas on the second floor. There will also be one more bathroom on the first floor with the office area," K. Tongchai said.

Each unit will have parking spaces for two cars. Prices for the home offices start at six million baht.

Behind the home offices will be five three-story and four two-story villas, each with a private pool. Each villa will sit on about 400sqm of land. Prices for the villas start from 14 million baht.

The three-story villas will have parking space for two cars, a maid's room and an electrical control room on the first floor, while on the second floor will be the swimming pool, living room, dining room and kitchen.

There will be one bedroom with en-suite bathroom on the second floor, with another two bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms on the third floor.

The three-story villas will range in size from 254sqm to 381sqm.

The condominium building will have five stories with 48 two-bedroom apartments. The condos will each have about 100sqm of usable space. Prices will begin at six million baht.

"We have set aside about 30% of the land for the service area, which will include a lush garden and a service office, and in the rest of the area we will plant trees to make the area green," K. Tongchai said.

"We are targeting Thai customers for the commercial buildings and home offices. The pool



villas will be targeted at both Thai and foreign customers, and the same for the condominiums."

Of the first phase, four home-office units, seven villas and two commercial units are unsold. The condos are yet to be offered for sale.

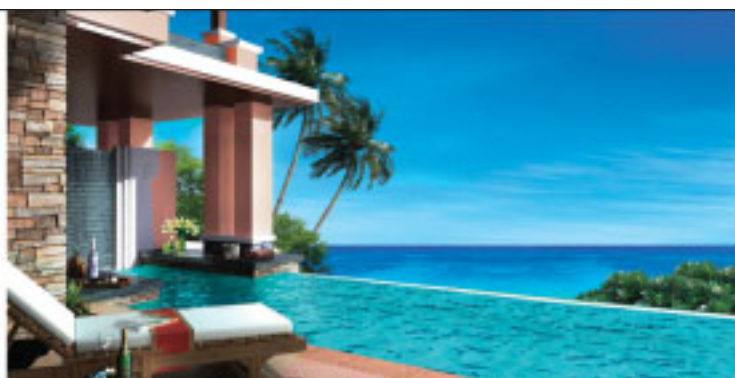
"We have a good market because our prices are not very expensive compared with other projects in the area, which are all in the high-price range," K. Tongchai said.

"Suksan" means "joyful" or "happy". We chose this name because it elicits a happy feeling for the residents," he said.

"We designed the project ourselves, and we chose to build in a modern design because it will set us apart from the nearby projects. We want something different, but not too big of a contrast from the other projects in this area.

"Most importantly, we want to have the outside look good with a modern design and good-quality workmanship, while the inside will be designed with functionality in mind."

Suksan Place Sales Office is at 67/49-50 Moo 4, Soi Suksan 1, Viset Rd, Rawai, Muang, Phuket 83130. Tel/Fax: 076-280026, 081-4770342, 081-6931609, 081-5353344. Email: suksanplace@hotmail.com or visit www.suksanplace.com



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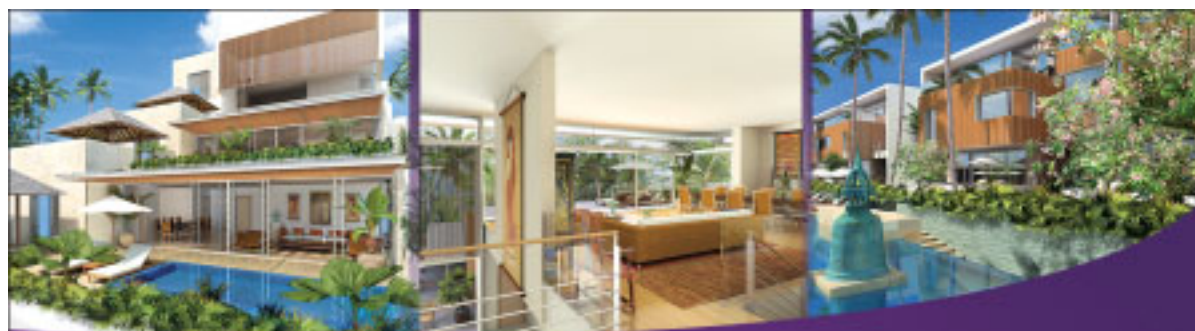
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Home of the Week

Nai Harn

This recently-completed villa of contemporary-tropical design is in an upscale, quiet area with natural surroundings, close to Nai Harn Beach.

The entrance from the road is a wide, long driveway to a separate carport, 8 meters x 8m, which can accommodate up to four cars. The entrance to the house is an oversize pair of teak doors leading to a large entrance lobby finished with a sandstone floor and decorative arches over attractive shutters and windows.

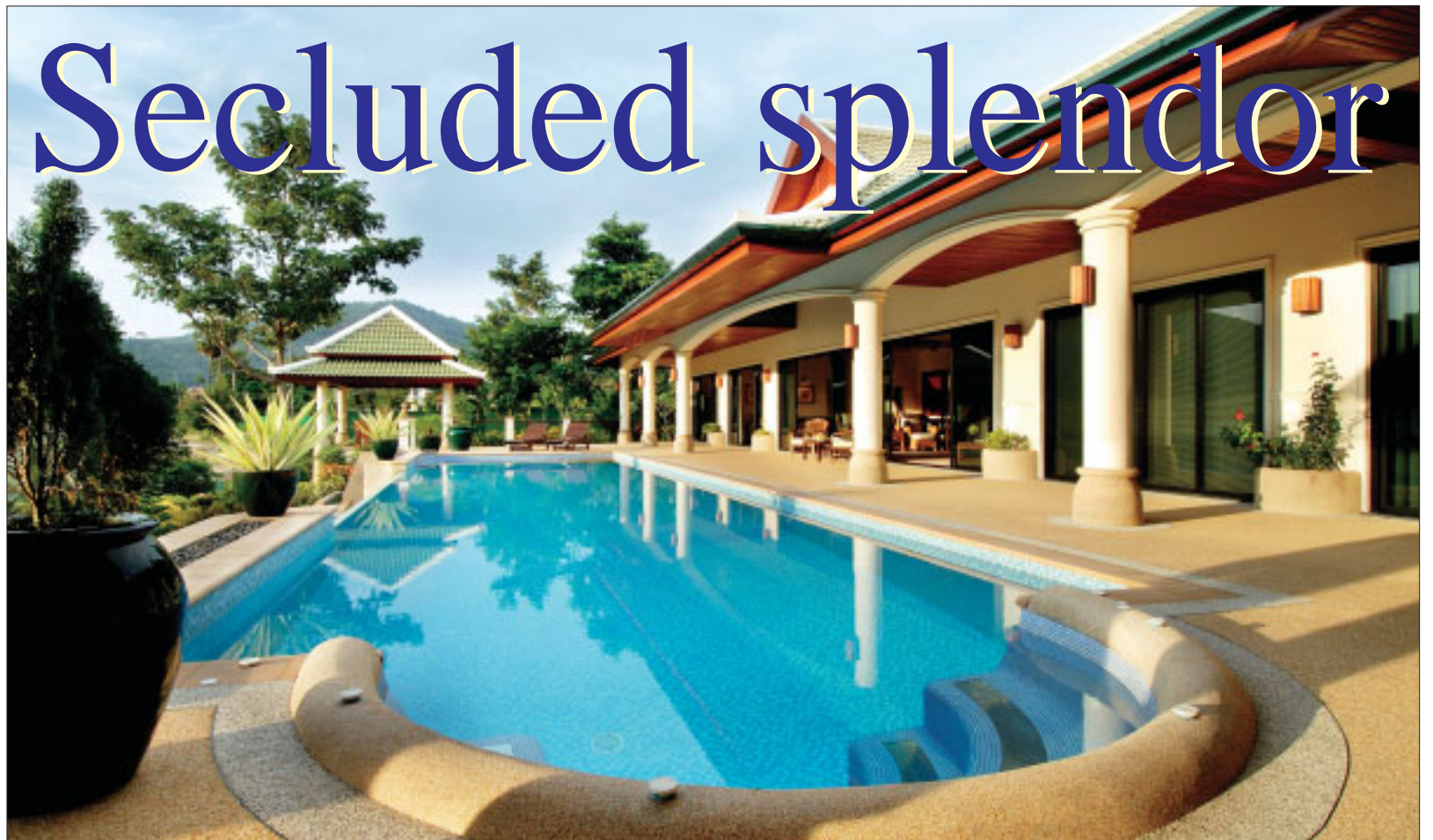
To the rear of the property are panoramic highland views visible from the 80-square-meter, in-ground, private swimming pool.

Stroll around the extensive landscaped gardens or sit and relax by the large ornamental fish pond and waterfall with its own filtration and pump system.

The house has been built on a plot totaling 2,200sqm. The owners wanted their privacy, and everything has been designed towards this objective, including being at the end of a small road with no through traffic.

Both the design, such as high ceilings in the main living area, and the position of the house use the prevailing winds to ensure effective natural ventilation.

Construction and internal finishings are of a high standard with extensive use of teak for all internal and external doors. The floors in all rooms in the main liv-



ing area are marble and granite.

The main level of the villa comprises more than 500sqm of living space that overlooks the pool, and more than 300sqm of air-conditioned accommodation: living room, kitchen, four bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms, and study linked to a bedroom and guest toilet.

The main living space is also host to a Western kitchen with

granite counter-tops, gas cooking appliances and enough storage space for a commercial kitchen.

The lower floor has an additional guest bedroom or maid's

quarters, with en-suite bathroom, together with storage area, pool pump room and workshop.

Other attractions of the home range from satellite televi-

sion to outdoor bathroom and sala.

The property is priced at 38 million baht with Chanote title and a Thai-registered company.

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



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Property Gazette

Properties For Sale

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2 bedrooms house. With large swimming pool and European kitchen in the best area in Patong "Baan Suan Kamnan". 17.5 million baht. Tel: 086-2706454, +44 77 8 999 5522, 089-4727588. Send email: djudgets@hotmail.com

KRABI LAND

for sale. Opposite Sheraton. For business, apartments, guesthouse. More info Tel: 089-9709106.

RAWAI SHOPHOUSES



2 new, connected shop-houses in Rawai, on Wiset Rd. Ground floor: sales office, staff room, kitchen, dining room and toilet. Second floor: master bedroom with separate bath and 2 separate bedrooms with connecting bathroom. Third floor: living room and ensuite bedroom. Living area: 200sqm. Freehold land: 100sqm. Price 4.5 million baht. Tel: 081-892-8526. For further details please see our website at: www.phuket-besthomes.com

NAI HARN/RAWAI SEA VIEW



2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Tel: 081-9583513. Email: raytim6@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at: www.houseforsaleinphuket.com

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

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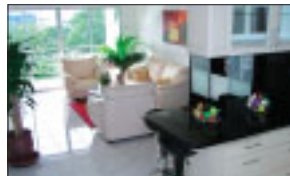
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LAND BUILDING

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NEW PATONG VILLA WITH POOL

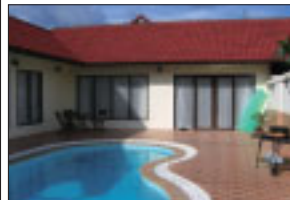


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Property Gazette

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Property Gazette

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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. Call 087-127-3272, or email: ken@loxinfo.co.th

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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. For more info call Tel: 081-9795755.

LAND IN RAWAI

200sqm. Chanote title. Ideal for villa, quiet location. Only 750,000 baht. For info call 081-5376866.

LUXURIOUS VILLA

in Rawai for sale. Balinese style, private pool. Only 7.5 million baht. For info call Tel: 089-6525664.

2 UNITS FOR SALE

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

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house for sale. 3-bedrooms, corner plot, many extras. Asking: 3.5 million baht. Call Tel: 089-8751154.

CHALONG LUXURY

house. 2 stories, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, secure, quiet location, 2 kitchens, laundry room, full aircon, double garage, etc. Area: 292sqm. Curved teak 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

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

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

NAI HARN LAND FOR SALE

Two great 800sqm plots. Electricity + water. Chanote title. 3.2 million baht each. No brokers. Call Tel: 081-894-0580.

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. Priced 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. Priced for quick sale: 5.5 million baht (approximately 117,000 euros).

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

NEW SHOPHOUSE

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

RAWAI, 1 RAI

Beautiful land, nice & quiet. Chanote title, road, electricity. 4.3 million baht. For info call Tel: 087-893-8747.

PATONG SEA VIEW

New apartment with swimming pool. 30+30-year lease. Start: 2.5 million baht. Chanote land plots with electricity and water from 450,000 baht. Please contact for more details. Tel: 081-6917241, 089-5896144.

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

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

SEA VIEW OF RAWAI

Beach. 300 meters to beach. 10 rai. Chanote title, full infrastructure. Ideal for apartment. A steal at 9.5 million baht. Tel: 089-6525664.

BANG TAO BEACH

6 million baht. Nice, newly-built, Western-standard house. 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 170sqm living area, nice small garden. Convenient location 2 minutes from the beach and commercial area. Please contact for more details. Tel: 087-3863-388. Fax: 076-325393. Email: shanya.arman@gmail.com

PATONG CONDO

Panoramic sea view, 36sqm, best location. Newly remodeled. Furnished, pool, kitchen. Freehold. 2.2 million baht. For info call Tel: 085-7823231. Email: guntmit@aol.com

PATONG TOP DUPLEX FOR SALE

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, top furnishings, pool, secure estate. 3.3 million baht. For details call Tel: 081-8940580.

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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

Properties For Rent

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.

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

RAWAI LUXURY

villa. Large, 4 bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms. UBC cable, ADSL, maid service, 50sqm swimming pool, lovely garden and sala. Short- or long-term rent. Tel: 086-2790837.

HOUSE FOR RENT

Fully furnished, 3 bedrooms with aircon, cable TV, garden, 77sq wah. Neramit Paklong Thalang. 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-2839181.

NAI HARN HOUSE

for rent. 2-bedroom, aircon, cable, close to beach, furnished. 15,000 baht. Tel: 086-1067504.

CHALONG NEW HOME

2-bedroom, furnished home for rent with telephone, UBC & aircon. For more info call Tel: 089-6521473.

CHALONG HOUSE

for rent. 3 bedrooms, kitchen/living/dining, laundry room, fully furnished, aircon in every room, car park, swimming pool, tropical garden. Hi-speed Internet and UBC satellite TV included. 35,000 baht per month, minimum 6 months. Call Tel: 087-1057320. More info at email: stefan@phuketit.co.th

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RAWAI SEAVIEW APT

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LAGUNA AREA POOL

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- Electric sliding entrance gate
- Property surrounded by concrete fence
- Fishing area behind the property, close to the huge pond

Contact Detail: Mr. Somchart: Tel. 0818169247 (Thai & English)
 Email: som_chart@hotmail.com, Mr. Benoit (Khun Ben):
 Tel: 0819586741 (French & English) Email: pods2000@hotmail.com

Property Gazette

LUXURY SEAVIEW

Large villa. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, private pool, aircon, sat TV, Internet, 1 minute to beach. Furnished, best sea views from any house in Phuket, beautiful garden. 70,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-2796283.

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OFFICE FOR RENT

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RAWAI RESIDENCE

Studio, rental per month: 6,000 to 12,000 baht. Aircon, safe, ADSL, UBC, close to beach. Call Tel: 086-9408914.

HOUSE IN KAMALA



Plot size: 160sqm. Under roof space: 120sqm. 3-bedroom house situated on a quiet soi 500m from Kamala Beach. The ground floor has a large, open-plan living/dining area and 1 bedroom. On the upper floor there are 2 bedrooms, a kitchen and living room. It is very convenient to Kamala Beach, many pleasant restaurants and the Fantasea complex. This property would be a sound rental investment due to its design and promising location. Contact Tel: 081-897 4180.

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%20House%20-%20Details.doc

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 info. Tel: 084-0628040.

OFFICE FOR RENT

Phuket City center, from 20 to 60sqm, all amenities available, rent negotiable. More info Tel: 089-6186894.

HOUSE IN TRANG

for rent. New beautiful house, Pak Meang beach front, 1 bedroom, kitchen, bathroom, one big living room and carpark. 10 minutes to Chao Mai National Park. Long term (minimum 1 year): 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-3840864.

CHUAN CHEN

Lagoon. Near British school, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, fully furnished, available from February. Tel: 084-0651133.

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.

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.

LARGE 4-BEDROOM

house for rent. Near Phuket City. 3 bathrooms, gardens & parking. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-9084252. Email: enilfrus@yahoo.co.uk

PATONG ROOM

for rent. 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.

LONG-TERM, KATHU

Fully-furnished 3-bedroom house with ADSL in Kathu, 5 to 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

TOWNHOUSE FOR RENT

2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, kitchen, living room at Tantong 3, Sakdidat road. Fully furnished, refrigerator, aircon, water heater. Tel: 084-6890760. Email: a_manasanan@hotmail.com

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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 email: coasters@earthlink.net For further details, please see our website at www.patongtower-rentals.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

Fully furnished, 3 bedrooms with aircon, cable TV, garden, 77sq wah, Neramit Paklong Thalang. 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-2839181.

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

KATA LUXURY

Apartment. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, huge terrace, Western kitchen & bathroom. Available March 1 for short- or long-term rent. Tel: 089-592 6890. More info at Email: north8west98@yahoo.com

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.

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HOUSE FOR RENT

or sale. 2 floors, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, one big store-room and a large garden on 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.

BUNGALOW

1-bedroom bungalow on Chalong Bay beachfront for rent. Terrace, kitchen, aircon, car park 15m from house. Fully furnished. 12,000 baht a month. Tel: 084-6584437, 089-7297978. Info at email: property1998@hotmail.com

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

SEA VIEW, PATONG

Luxury 2-bedroom apartment with 3 bathrooms, UBC, ADSL, large pool, lovely furniture. Short or long term. Tel: 086-2790837.

4-BEDROOM HOUSE

for rent. Large house with 3 bathrooms, gardens & parking. 15,000 per month. Tel: 089-9085242. Email: enilfrus@yahoo.co.uk

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HotelTravel.com is an international and multicultural company, employing some of the most experienced and knowledgeable staff from six continents. We pride ourselves in our ability to provide unparalleled service in almost any language.

Applications from candidates for the following positions are now being taken for Phuket Call and Reservation Centre.

Customer Service Agents (20 Positions)

Requirements:

- ▶ Bachelor degree in hotel and tourism management or related field
- ▶ Thai Nationality
- ▶ Have a good command of English
- ▶ Have basic computer skills and excellent typing skills
- ▶ Experience with MS Office software (Word, Excel and Outlook)
- ▶ Enthusiastic & Hard-working
- ▶ Systematic Thinking & Team Player

This is a unique employment opportunity offering a generous compensation and benefit package to qualified candidates.

Interested applicants please submit your application including résumé / CV or employment certificates to careers@hoteltravel.com or call +66 76 282 808 Khun Amupab Satakorn for further information.

Phukana
WINE & DINE

Five - star place located in Phuket Town is now offering opportunities in the following positions.

- * **Chef** - Experience in grilled and European Cooking
- * **P.R. (Female)**
Charming appearance, experience in wines and good command of English
- * **Waitress (Female)**
Thai National for all candidates

Interested, Please contact
Khun Kwan (081) 892-4337

SILK
restaurant bar

SILK RESTAURANT & BAR A Lan Kwai Fong Group Company.
One of the island's most popular restaurants is looking to expand its sales team. We are seeking motivated and dynamic professionals to join our Sales & Marketing team for the following position:

SALES & MARKETING MANAGER
The candidate will spearhead the development and execution of marketing and sales strategies and initiatives for domestic and international markets.

- Thai Nationality, Bachelor's or Master degree in Sales & Marketing or related field.
- Possess at least 2 years experience with a proven track record in Hospitality Sales & Marketing management.
- Demonstrable experience in handling departmental profit and loss and business plan.

Interested and qualified candidate please email your full resume, expected salary and enclose a recent photo to angkana@silkphuket.com.

SILK RESTAURANT & BAR
5/50 Moo 3, Chermthalay Sub-District, Thalang District, Phuket 83110
Tel: 076-271702-3, Fax: 076-271704, www.silkphuket.com
Location Phuket, Thailand

W watermark
bar restaurant

Phuket - Thailand
MODERN CUISINE
CONTEMPORARY DESIGN
COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

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 Theprasathri Rd, Muang, Phuket
For interview send resume to hr@watermarkphuket.com
Tel: 076-239078, 081-8941657

SKINTOLOGIST

Skintologist is one of the leading companies in Korea based in the medical skincare market. To globalize our brand, Skintologist Co., Ltd is preparing to open an international skincare center in Phuket. The company is looking for challenging people for new technology to join our high performance team as follows

Buyer Service Manager

- Female native English nationality
- At least a Bachelor's degree
- Age not over 35 years
- Highly motivated and service-minded individuals
- Able to start March 1
- Able to relocate to Phuket immediately

Sales Assistant Manager

- Female/Male Thai nationality
- At least a Bachelor degree and fluent in English
- Age not over 35 years
- Able to develop marketing strategies
- Ability to handle MS-Office (Excel, Power point)
- Able to start March 1

108/25, Moo 5 Cherm prakiat rd 9 road Thambon Radsada, Amphur Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-261255, Mobile: 085-7833586
www.cellfusionc.com Email: skintologist@yahoo.co.kr

WestKit
software

WestKit Software Co. Ltd. is a web design, web application, software development, and contact market solution provider. We are expanding our business and we are looking for more professionals like you! We offer excellent career opportunities, top-rated salaries and professional work environment.

WEB DESIGNERS (10 positions)

Qualifications:

- Excellent knowledge of Dreamweaver.
- Experience in Photoshop/Illustrator.
- Knowledge of Flash, Javascript, HTML, Actionscript, CSS, and/or Ajax.
- Self-motivated, goal-oriented, detail-oriented, and able to work independently.
- Able to work well and fast under pressure.
- Ability to communicate in English.

Interested candidates are invited to submit their resume with expected salary to:
WestKit Software Co., Ltd.
135/3 M. 4 T. Rawai, Muang, Phuket 83100
Tel: 076-281-569
Email: ra@westkit.com

Svenson
URGENTLY REQUIRED

An international company specializing in sales of unique and exclusive products/services has vacancies for

FEMALE SALES CONSULTANT <PHUKET BRANCH>
EARN 40,000.00 - 80,000.00 BAHT PER MONTH

Qualifications:

- 25-35 years of age, Thai nationality
- Must speak English
- Self-motivated, self-confident and able to sell
- Experience with cosmetic products or other types of personal selling could be useful but is not necessary
- Selected candidates will receive high earnings and full, comprehensive training

TELESALES / RECEPTIONIST
EARN 15,000.00 - 20,000.00 BAHT PER MONTH

Qualifications:

- Thai females
- Able to speak, read and write English
- Able to use computer (MS Office program)
- Work experience in sales/telesales
- Good personality and service-minded
- Interpersonal skills and enthusiastic

Please submit application in English only, with curriculum vitae and recent photo, to:
Svenson Hair Center Thasia Ltd.
Central Festival Phuket, 2 RD Floor Room No. 209 A
74-75 Moo 5, Chalmphakiat Rama 9 Rd, T. Vichit, A. Muang, Phuket 83000 Tel: 076-249657-60, 089-4492500.

ONLINE JOB APPLICATION
HOTEL - ACCTING - SALES - IT - WEB DESIGN - F&B
www.KARON-PHUKET-HOTELS.com/JOB.htm

ACCOUNTANT REQUIRED

For import/export company, female Thai national with good command of English. Quickbook knowledge an advantage, needs to start immediately.

Email:
merlisa@tunaco.com

SECRETARY WANTED

Thai nationality, good personality, good English skills, computer skills. We offer good salary and bonus. Please send CV to email: lawyer991@yahoo.com. Call K. Unruean. Tel: 081-4905713.

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

SALES MANAGER WANTED

Protocol Property Co., Ltd.
We are seeking qualified candidates. Position: Sales Manager

- Thai nationality, Bachelor's Degree
- Good command of both spoken and written English
- Proven experience with at least 3 years in Property Management

Attractive Salary will be offered to qualified candidates. Please send your CV with photo and cover letter to: Protocol Design Co Ltd. 18/177 Moo 5, Vichitsongkram Rd, T. Vichit, A. Muang, Phuket 83000. Tel: 076-2489234, 081-8931277. Fax: 076-249479. More info at Email: buppha@protocolsuite.com

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.

SWEDISH FEMALE SALES PERSON

Well-established inbound Scandinavian travel agency looking for a Swedish female Internet sales person to be a part of our team. A background in sales and/or the travel industry, computer skills and pedantic organizational skills will be necessary, as well as really good knowledge of Thailand. Immediate employment. Please Email or fax CV with photo to Anders Palm. Call Tel: 076-246427, 081-7879454. Fax: 076-246-180. More info at Email: andersp@loxinfo.co.th

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

WWW.GLOBALHOME.EU

We need Sales Reps to visit realtors. Commission-based. All regions. Send resum  to: info@globalhome.eu.

RESERVATION

Officer. Male/Female, Internet booking experience in travel industry is preferred. Well organized with attention to detail, proficient English communication skills and computer literacy. Email CV to: hrda@destinationair.com

DIVE SALES TEAM

Sales staff for dive center. Must have sales experience, be fluent in written English and German, dive experience an advantage. Salary negotiable. Tel: 076-344736, 086-689-7975. More info at Email: zambezikid@hotmail.com

CLEANING IN KARON

Small guesthouse, 3 rooms. Cleaning every day, 3 hours per day. 3,500 baht per month. Please call for more information. Tel: 086-271-8254.

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

Island Job Mart



www.lagunaphuket.com

The largest hotel and resort group in Phuket, and a listed company on the Stock Exchange of Thailand, is currently seeking qualified candidates for the below listed positions:

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS 1 POSITION

- Bachelor's degree in Marketing/Marketing Communications or related field
- Excellent English and computer skills essential
- Minimum 5 years experience in marketing communications preferably in hotel or tourism industry
- Ability to manage E-marketing, PR and Graphic Design teams (up to 8 staff)
- Copy writing, proof reading and editing experience essential
- Brand management skills desirable
- Position requires strong leadership qualities, independence, self-motivation and excellent organizational/managerial skills, positive attitude
- Able to relocate to Phuket

GRAPHIC DESIGNER 1 POSITION

- Competent in Illustrator, PageMaker, Indesign, Photoshop and Acrobat software programs
- Good English communication skills required
- Minimum 5 years experience in graphic design
- English language copy writing, proof reading and editing experience desirable
- Brand management skills desirable
- Self-motivated, efficient, innovative, creative, able to work under pressure
- Ability to set and work within priorities and meet deadlines
- Able to relocate at Phuket

We offer attractive remuneration packages and the opportunity for career growth.

Applicants are invited to apply in person at the Laguna Resorts & Hotels office, or send your detailed English resume stating current and expected salary together with a recent photo to:

**Group Director of Human Resources
Laguna Resorts & Hotels Public Co., Ltd.**

390/1 Moo 1, Srisoonthorn Road, Cherngtalay, Thalang, Phuket 83110
Tel: 076-271 298-300 Ext 2 Fax: 076-271 718 Email: sunisas@lagunaphuket.com



Knight Frank

We are an international property consultant having 200 offices worldwide providing property agency services, asset valuation, property and facilities management, research and consultancy, due to rapid expansion, we are looking for qualified personnel to join our company as follows:

1. Sales Manager: (2 positions)

- Male or Female, age over 28 years
- BA in Sales & Marketing or related fields
- At least 3 years experience in Sales & Marketing
- Knowledge of Land Development Act, Thailand Taxation structure, excellent PR skill
- Possess own vehicle
- Proficiency in both written and spoken English

2. Sales Executive: (4 positions)

- Male or Female, age over 25 years
- BA in Sales & Marketing or related fields
- At least 1-2 years experience in Sales & Marketing
- Self-motivated & able to work independently
- Possess own vehicle

3. Estate Manager/Assistant Estate Manager (6 positions)

- Male or Female, age over 25 years
- BA in Management or related fields
- At least 2 years experience in building/estate
- Knowledge in Juristic Person Acts is an advantage
- Strong leadership, good problem-solving skill
- Able to work under pressure

4. Administrative Manager (2 positions)

- Female, age over 28 years
- BA in Business Administration or related fields
- Proficiency in both written and spoken English
- Office administrative management, computer literacy and familiar with office automation
- At least 3 years experience or related fields
- Able to work under pressure

5. Accountant (2 positions)

- Male or Female, age over 25 years
- BA in Accounting or Finance
- At least 2 years experience in related fields
- Familiar with accounting software and knowledge of MS-office especially Ms-Excel and taxation systems
- Proficiency in both written and spoken English

6. Administrator (2 positions)

- Male or Female, age over 22 years
- Vocational or higher in Business Administration or related fields
- Computer literacy and familiar with office automation
- Good interpersonal skill, service-minded and well organized
- Knowledge on gardening and landscaping maintenance would be an advantage
- At least 1 year experience

7. Technician Supervisor (2 positions)

- Male, age over 25 years
- BA in Mechanical/Electrical or related field
- At least 2-3 years experience in system maintenance
- Strong leadership & self-motivated
- Able to work independently

8. Technician (8 positions)

- Male, age over 22 years
- Vocational or higher in Mechanical/Electrical
- At least 1 year experience in system maintenance

Interested candidates are invited to write in with full resume, stating present and expected salaries, and enclosing a recent photo mail to:

Knight Frank Phuket Co., Ltd.

1 Plaza Del Mar Building Room no.109-111 & 201-202, Pasak-Koktanod Road, T.Cherngtalay, A.Thalang,Phuket 83110
Tel: 0-7631 8151-58 Fax: 0-7631 8159, e-mail: chutima.ninlawan@th.knightfrank.com

Remark:

Thai Nationality only. Position 1-6 good command of spoken and written English and computer literacy is essential. Male applicants' must complete or exempt from military service. Knowledge of Real Estate is an advantage.



Phuket Dot Com is expanding and needs additional, enthusiastic staff to join our growing team in our modern and exciting work environment:

PHUKET

Advanced Web Designer - 2 Positions

- Thai National
- Extensive experiences in developing small to medium size web portals
- Profound knowledge in graphics, web development and multimedia software programs, especially Adobe Photoshop, Flash, Dream Weaver, Corel Draw, etc.
- Excellent command of both spoken and written English
- Ability to take leadership in design of innovative, dynamic web product

Advertising Sales Manager - 1 Position

- Thai National
- At least 3 years experience in advertising sales. Strong network of online and offline advertisers and agencies
- Must possess good negotiation and sales skills
- An independent and target oriented individual, who is a team player and is able to work well under pressure
- Outstanding written and spoken English is a must

Web Designer - 2 Positions

- Thai National
- Experienced in web development software including Dream weaver and Photoshop
- Good command of spoken & written English
- Enthusiastic & reliable

Client Service Agent (Call Center) 3 Positions

- Thai National
- Bachelor Degree in any field
- Good command of spoken and written English
- Computer literate
- Service mind person in design of innovative, dynamic web product

Airport Representative - 2 Positions

- Male or Female not over 30 years old
- Bachelor degree in any field
- Good personality with service mind
- Good communication in English
- Second language speaking are preferable

We offer excellent salary and benefits, please apply directly at:

Asia Web Direct Co., Ltd.

4th Floor, Muangmai Building, 9/17 Thepkasattri Road, Phuket, 83000
Tel: 076 236 550 Fax: 076 236 542 - www.asiawebdirect.com/jobs.htm
Email: hr@asiawebdirect.com or tasnee@asiawebdirect.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. Contact. Tel: 089-2300949, 089-9171161. Info at Email: sub@createlabs.com

QUALIFIED PRIMARY TEACHER

Small bilingual school requires native English speaker to teach national curriculum to class of 5 to 9 year olds. Commences August 2007. Salary: 50,000 baht per month. Please send resum to by email or contact for more information Tel: 081-2705028. Email: laughinggecko99@hotmail.com

MANAGER RECEPTION

We are looking for a Manager and a Receptionist. Thai, Asian or foreign. Able to manage staff and take care of customers. Good salary. For more information, please call. Tel: 085-7859239.

MARINE TECHNICIAN

Dream Yacht Charter is looking for an experienced Technician. Good English is necessary. To join our team, please send resum to: thailand@dreamyachtcharter.com



Sunparadise (Thailand) Co., Ltd. is the market leader in the supply and installation of high quality powder coated Aluminium Door & Window systems for the residential market in Thailand and S.E. Asia.

Due to our success and continued growth, we are seeking individuals who possess the following attributes to join our marketing team in Phuket.

Marketing/Sales Executive (2 positions)

- Smart and pleasant personality
- Good interpersonal skills and a team player
- Self-motivated and goal minded
- Can work on his/her own initiative
- Good command of English
- Computer literate in Microsoft Office
- Own car

This is an excellent career opportunity and earning potential for the right candidate who is looking for a challenge and to join a growing and dynamic company. Please apply in person or send your C.V. with recent photo to Marketing Manager at:

Sunparadise (Thailand) Co., Ltd.

149/5 Moo 4, Srisoonthorn Thalang, Phuket 83110.

Tel: (076) 527548-9 Fax: Ext. 12

Email: marketing_phuket@sunparadise.com

STAFF WANTED

Enthusiastic staff required for expanding software company- A + + Software producing mass market business solutions in Thai and English. Good opportunities for the right people in Phuket.

* Programmers:

Minimum: degree level and at least 1 year's working experience. Working knowledge of C programming. Outstanding university leavers may be considered

* Sales person:

At least 2 years' experience in sales/marketing. Knowledge of business accounts an advantage. Basic salary plus good commission.

* Accountant:

Minimum: degree in accounting or similar. At least 2 years' accounting experience. Thai nationals, able to speak English. Able to drive a car an advantage. Salary according to age and experience.

Send resum to: mam@aplusplussoftware.com or contact K. Mam at Tel: 076-313137 for more information.

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Bachelor's degree, Thai national, hard-working, enthusiastic, able to communicate in English, basic accounting skills. Please send your resum to info@stoneymonday.com or call during office hours at Tel: 076-296321 or contact K. Ratree at Tel: 087-2658865.

PROMOTION PERSON REQUIRED

Thai national, female, to promote real estate project. English is required. Contact Tel: 081-1371001, 087-0778454. More info Email: solitude001@aol.com

SALES PERSON

Need male/female age 22 to 35. Must speak/write English fluently. Property sales, 3 positions. Sun Palm Village. Tel: 076-282594-5.

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

PART-TIME TEACHER

Tefl teacher wanted. English native preferred for teaching kids 3-5 years. Tel: (Thai) 084-7144104, (Eng) 087-1069890.

Island Job Mart

Mercure Patong Phuket Resort

We are currently seeking experienced applicants as following positions:

Financial Controller 1 position

- Male or female, aged 30 and above
- Bachelor's degree in the field
- At least 5 years working on hotelier experience in the position
- Experience in the hotel opening team is preferably consideration
- Good command of English both verbal and written
- Strong communication and leadership skills

Chief Accountant 1 position

- Male or female, aged 28 and above
- Bachelor's degree in the field
- Experience in the hotel is preferably consideration
- Good command of English both verbal and written
- Strong communication and leadership skills

Contact person: **Mrs. Supaporn Pechphan**

E-mail: ho@deevanapatong.com

Tel: 66(0)7621 4080 Fax: 66 (0)7622 1967

Scandinavian Laguna Co Ltd

Requires a fulltime accountant with bachelor degree in accounting. Minimum of 2 year's experience. Good communication in English, good computer skills and administration is necessary.

Please submit your application with CV, recent photo and salary expectation to email address:

secretary@scandinavianlaguna.com

For further information please contact 076-285340 or visit our website www.scandinavianlaguna.com

International Law Office Patong Beach

Thai secretary needed. STAFF WANTED

- Good communication skills in English.
- Good computer and typing skills.
- Able and willing to do general work in the office.
- Able to work under pressure and to meet deadlines.

If you be interested, please contact us under

Tel: 076-344180-1. Fax: 076-340767

Email: bernd@phuket-realestate-law.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: phuket@simpsonmarine.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. Email: andersp@loxinfo.co.th

Employment Wanted

SEEKING OPPORTUNITIES

38-year-old Englishman, former country manager for leading international company, seeks opportunities to work in Thailand. Hard working, reliable and enthusiastic. Tel: 085-9046706. Contact me via email: ewan_mcphee@hotmail.co.uk

PROFESSIONAL

married couple from the UK. Occupations: 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: bobbil_hazza@hotmail.com

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Articles For Sale

GUITAR AND DRUMS

Omega drums: 8,000 baht. Squire Strat guitar: 6,000 baht. Park Amp: 6,000 baht. Takamine: 9,000 baht. Tel: 081-5379196.

ALL ITEMS 1 YEAR OLD

2 x 22,000 btu Samsung aircon unit: 22,000 baht each. 1 L-shaped dark wood counter with glass corner display unit: 20,000 baht. Square dark-wood table and 4 chairs: 10,000 baht. 1 Mirage chest freezer: 5,000 baht. Tel: 084-1935124.

LARGE LG FRIDGE /

freezer. Less than one year old, mint condition, large fridge with separate top freezer. 12,000 baht new; will sell for 6,000. Located above Steak Samkong, Phuket Town. Tel: 081-7472033. Email: justaskdan@excite.com

GT 4 RACING WHEEL

Compatible with PS2, PS1, and PCs with USB. Works perfectly and very cool. Only 3,400 baht or your best price when you contact me. Better deal than outside prices which are closer to 5,000. Tel: 076-340182, 086-280 9019.

Bulletins

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Mission Hospital Phuket City

Wed and Sun 7 pm

Bangkok Phuket Hospital Phuket City

Fri 7 pm

Patong Hospital Patong

Mon, Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun at 7 pm and Fri at 8 pm

Chalong Health Clinic-near Chalong Circle

Tues 1 pm

For Phuket info (English) call 081-9564031, 081-8912895

Scandinavian speaking Group Wat Karon School-Karon

Tue and Sat 7 pm Tel 081-2732053 (Nor)

087-2795636 (Nor) 086-7458910 (Swe)

For info on other Thailand AA meetings inquire at Tel: 02-2318300 (for Thai language press 3)

www.aathailand.org or email info@aathailand.org

Business Opportunities

OPPORTUNITY: RAWAI

restaurant. 8,000 baht per month. 60 seats, fully equipped. 15-year lease, 3.2 million baht. Tel: 085-8843610.

SALE BEAUTY SALON

French equipment, 70sqm. 680,000 baht with equipment or 180,000 baht without it. Wichit, Phuket, next to Central. Tel: 085-782-1194.

SHOP FOR RENT

in Rawai beach, 7500 baht per month. Tel: 081-2732409.

AIRLINE DIVING



5 Honda petrol-powered floating airline diving units. Ideal for beach rental or tour use. No certification required. Includes a large amount of accessories and safety equipment. Price 275,000 baht. Please contact for more details. Tel: 081-081-5952. Email: messagejohn@hotmail.com

TOWNHOUSE SHOP FOR RENT

Townhouse shop for rent near Jungceylon. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen outside with covering. Contract: 18 months. Deposit: 3 months at rent of 60,000 baht per month, or 320,000 plus 40,000 per month. Please contact. Tel: 081-9961894, 084-842-8839. More info via email: sgb.fishnchips@gmail.com

GUESTHOUSE

for sale. Guesthouse in Patong for sale with Thai company. 208sqm with Chanote title, 150m from Jungceylon on the Bypass Road. Option to open 3 shops, extension to 7 floors. Reasonable price 19 million baht. Tel: 086-1062566. Email: philipp@loxinfo.co.th See website: www.phuket-apartment.info/for_sale.htm

NAI HARN NIGHTCLUB

for sale. Offered for sale just walking distance from Nai Harn beach is this professionally-built club. More than 1 million baht in assets alone. 1.4 million baht. Tel: 085-127 4273. More info at email: mjbruggink@yahoo.com

VERY POPULAR B&B

Rated "Best in town" by Lonely Planet. Teak & redwood, 2-story house, 12 rooms, granite & marble floors, bathroom & kitchen. Center of Phang Nga, busy all year. Only 9.9 million baht. Tel: 081-0882179.

AMIGOS BAR 4 SALE

Popular and successful Amigos bar in Soi Seadragon for sale. Pool table, darts, own sound system. Price negotiable dependent on length of lease required. Tel: 087-8838721.

GUESTHOUSE

for sale with restaurant/bar located opposite main entrance to Royal Paradise Hotel. 6 guestrooms with shower, aircon, TV. Luxury beautiful restaurant with kitchen, HIBH standard. 14 million baht. Call Tel: 081-8956587, 081-8949060, 086-2697093.

CATERING BUSINESS

Phuket Mobile Catering is expanding, and to enable this investment capital is required either by a working or sleeping partner. The business, in a short time, has established a good reputation and has many existing clients. Tel: 086-2766626. Email: andaman.catering@yahoo.com

HOTEL FOR LEASE

Located in Patong Beach, 200 meters to the beach and entertainment venues. 25 rooms in impeccable condition. Rental fee: 200,000 baht/month. No key money. Tel: 086-0043008. Email: info@ayudhya.net See website at www.ayudhya.net/english/business/index.php

CAFE BAR FOR SALE

Patong. English restaurant and bar for sale "Tradition" on Nanai Rd. Up and running now. With staff. Please call Bill at Tel: 089-2911761. More info at email: billylawrence1955@yahoo.com

BUNGALOW RESORT

for lease. Twelve bungalows, mini-mart and fully-licensed travel agency. Good general condition, high occupancy rate. Long-term contract, no key money. Rental fee: 125,000 baht /month. Quick sale! Tel: 086-0043008. Email: info@ayudhya.net

PHUKET LIFESTYLE

business. Quality European-run boat charters, excursions to Phi Phi, Phang Nga, & Krabi. On-going contracts to take over. Sale includes boat, office and website. Company has capital for two work permits. For more info email or phone. Tel: 081-0817163. Email: info@simbaseatrips.com

RENT BEAUTY SHOP

Plus 30 wedding dresses, sauna, and Jacuzzi. Shop is 80sqm, apartment is 60sqm. Rawai. Tel: 076-288-070.

PATONG BAR

for sale. Soi Bangla bar, lounge, cafe. 3x3 years lease, low rent, no key money. Bargain. Call Tel: 087-8817600. More information is at: www.homebarphuket.com

NAI HARN GUESTHOUSE

8 Bedrooms, 190sqm, land 200sqm, parking, restaurant, BBQ. 3.2 million baht firm. New condo: 460,000 baht. Tel: 076-288070.

FOR SALE: RUNNING

business. Bar and terrace restaurant, strategic location on Nanai Rd (opposite 7/11 and Family Mart) in front of Carrefour. 80 square meters, many customers. 2-year lease, possibility of 3 years more. Very nice decoration and design, music installation. Price: 1.5 million baht. Monthly rent: 19,000 baht. Call Tel: 076-342626, 081-7972173.

GUESTHOUSE

Beautiful! New guesthouse with everything. 5-min walk from Kata Beach. Priced to sell quickly. New company, construction, makes it easy for foreigner to run and get work permit. For info call Tel: 081-894-8446.

FANCY BAR

for sale. Patong beach, bar & restaurant. Excellent high season, steady low season. Good customers from expensive hotels. Yearly net profit not less than 3 million baht. Tel: 087-2677965. Send email to: xyz.victor@yahoo.com

BEER BAR

on Bangla Road. Excellent opportunity. Call Kevin at Tel: 084-7300190.

WEDDING CLOTHING

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