

Phuket Gazette

Volume 14 Issue 13

News Desk - Tel: 076-236555

March 31 - April 6, 2007

Daily news at www.phuketgazette.net

25 Baht

The Gazette is published
in association with

The Nation

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Aussie arrested for abducting daughter

By Supanun Supawong

PATONG: An Australian father who abducted his own daughter and demanded 30 million baht from his estranged wife was arrested at his rented apartment on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd at 8 pm March 23.

Pol Lt Col Yodake Raksasuwat, Inspector at Phuket Immigration Office, told the *Gazette* that John Justin Goyen Leary, 39, was arrested after police discovered his whereabouts by tracing his mobile phone calls to a local pizza restaurant.

Col Yodake explained that Leary had collected his three-year-old daughter Savannah from school on October 26 last year, then fled with her to Singapore before entering Malaysia.

"From there he sneaked into Thailand without passing through Immigration. The most recent entry in his passport is an entry stamp for Malaysia, so we believe that his intention was to have police presume that he was



TRACED: Australian John Leary, who allegedly abducted his daughter and fled to Phuket, faces extradition. Photo: Yongyot Preuksarak

still in Malaysia," he said.

Col Yodake said that Leary had allegedly demanded 30 million baht from his American-born estranged wife, who was granted custody of Savannah during their divorce, to have Savannah returned to Australia.

"Leary had been staying at

ADD Mansion in Patong since January 14. In late February, he called his wife in Australia on his mobile phone and said that his daughter was now staying with him. If she wanted her daughter back, she would have to transfer 30 million baht to him," Col Yodake said.

"After that, his wife contacted the Australian police," he added.

An investigation by Australian police led to the discovery that the call was made from Phuket.

Phuket Immigration officers searched mobile phone company records and found that Leary's phone was used to order pizzas from a restaurant in Patong.

"So we checked with the restaurant and they showed us where he was staying," Col Yodake explained.

He added that Leary had also made several calls to a pharmacy to place orders for Valium.

Leary has been charged with illegally entering the Kingdom.

At the time of going to press, Leary was being held by Immigration in Bangkok pending an extradition request by Australia.

Savannah was taken to the Pha Ya Thai Children's Residence, also in Bangkok, and has been picked up by her mother.

Phuket's poor protest govt inaction

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET CITY: About 300 angry villagers from more than 20 slum communities protested noisily outside Phuket Provincial Hall on March 22, demanding that Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit help alleviate their poverty.

Protest leader Supat Nunkhao, from Pla Katak Pattana community on Koh Sireh, told the *Gazette* that the villagers want the provincial authorities to de-

velop their homes and basic services.

"Everyone in our villages has been waiting for help from the government for a long time, but we still have nothing," he said.

K. Supat said that, apart from wanting a decent home and access to utilities, the protesters also want to be free from the risk of being charged or evicted due to encroachment, as many do not legally own the land they live on.

"There are some villagers

now living on public land, but we don't get development assistance from anyone. All the government agencies just pass the buck.

"The Tambon Administration Organizations (*OrBorTor*) don't take responsibility and push us off to the Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*).

"The *OrBorJor* sends us off to the provincial authorities, and the provincial authorities tells us it is the Land Office's respon-

sibility. Now no one helps us," he said.

Initially the villagers insisted that they would not leave until they had spoken to the Governor despite being told that he was away in Bangkok.

About 3 pm, Vice-Governor Tri Augkaradacha returned to the hall and representatives handed him a letter demanding the province come to the communities' aid. The protesters then disbanded.

Search for bypass shooter continues

PHUKET CITY: The search continues for a Phuket youth suspected of shooting and beating a man on the bypass road on February 19.

Chatchai Chuenjitsoonthorn and his wife, Maliwan, were attacked by a motorbike gang of about 20 youths while on their way home from a late-night meal.

The couple identified the shooter from police photographs. The attack was motivated by the youths allegedly not liking the way K. Chatchai looked at them.

Maj Sompong Boonrat, Deputy Inspector at Phuket City Police Station, told the *Gazette* that an arrest warrant has been issued for the alleged shooter.

"We are continuing to investigate and have some more small clues to work with in bringing the criminals to justice," he said.

SIPA launches utilities payments website

PHUKET: Paying your utility bills is only one click away. The Software Industry Promotion Agency (SIPA) has launched its "One Click Finish All: One Stop Services" initiative through the www.thaionestop.org website.

The website, for now in Thai only, accepts online payments for water, electricity and telephone bills, but users must have an account with Bank of Ayudhya.

Police box torched

By Supanun Supawong

RASSADA: A "temporary" police box installed at the entrance to Pahin Namsai Village, located off Ruam Pattana Rd, has turned out to be very temporary indeed. It was burned to the ground by persons unknown at about 4:30 am on March 19 – just one week after it was installed.

Lt Col Adul Niraphai, Duty Inspector at Phuket City Police Station, told the *Gazette* that construction of the box was financed by

a local man identified only as "K. Opas".

Fearing for his safety, K. Opas had asked for better police protection following a dispute with other residents of the housing estate.

After questioning K. Opas and other local residents, police believe the arson attack was carried out by K. Opas's adversaries as an act of intimidation, Col Adul said.

However, no arrests have been made in the case as there were no eyewitnesses, he added.



SHELLED OUT: The remains of the week-old police box at Pahin Namsai Village in Rassada.

Domestic flights return to Don Muang Airport

By Semacote Suganya

PHUKET: Thai Airways International (THAI), Nok Air and One-Two-GO domestic flights between Phuket and Bangkok have resumed services at Don Muang Airport, Bangkok's former international airport.

Kalayapha Panich, THAI's District Sales Manager for Upper-Southern Thailand, explained that THAI flights to and from Bangkok run from both airports in the capital.

"Passengers are welcome to choose which destination they want: Don Muang or Suvarnabhumi. We are happy to make the changes and do our best for them," she said.

Each day until October 27, the first THAI flight from Don

Muang to Phuket is at 7:20 am and the final flight at 7:30 pm. The first flight from Phuket to Don Muang is at 9:25 am and the last flight departs the island at 9:35 pm.

Also until October 27, the first THAI flight from Suvarnabhumi to Phuket is at 8 am and the last at 6:20 pm. In the opposite direction, the first flight from Phuket to Suvarnabhumi is at 10:10 am and the last at 8:40 pm.

THAI flights using Don Muang Airport will be coded with four digits, starting with 1 – TG 1203, for example – while those operating out of Suvarnabhumi Airport will have just three digits, K. Kalayapha explained.

Nok Air has announced a new flight schedule, which came into effect March 25, corresponding with its move to Don Muang. Daily flights to Phuket depart Don Muang from 7:30 am through to 5:55 pm Mondays to Thursdays and Saturdays, and a late service departs 8:10 pm Fridays and Sundays.

Nok Air daily flights to Don Muang depart Phuket from 9:15 am to 7:45 pm Mondays to Thursdays and Saturdays, and a late service departs 9:55 pm Fridays and Sundays.

One-Two-GO also resumed

using Don Muang on March 25, but has kept some services flying to and from Suvarnabhumi.

Flights to Phuket depart Suvarnabhumi at 2:30 pm daily; and at 10:20 am on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays; and at 6:20 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

Flights from Phuket to Suvarnabhumi depart the island at 12:10 pm daily; and at 8:10 am on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays; and at 4:20 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays.

Daily flights to Phuket depart Don Muang at 7 am, 10:40 am, 2:30 pm and 6:20 pm, while One-Two-GO flights departing Phuket for Don Muang leave at 8:50 am, 12:30 pm, 4:30 pm and 8:10 pm.

Phuket business owner Vatchara Pongsa, who regularly flies between Phuket and Bangkok, told the *Gazette* that she is very happy that flights have returned to Don Muang.

"Suvarnabhumi is too big and too far to walk inside, it takes too long to get my luggage. But at Don Muang, everything is much more convenient. It is just a short walk to the car park or to get a taxi, and the cost of a limo or taxi is much cheaper at Don Muang," she said.

Phuket Tourist Association Vice-President Panu Maswongsa told the *Gazette*, "There should be no problems for passengers flying to and from Phuket. Nothing much has changed; passengers just need to check and specify which airport they want to go to," he said.

Phuket Bike Week returns

PHUKET: Several thousand bikers from all over the world are expected to participate in the 13th Annual Phuket Bike Week 2007 to be held April 14 and 15 by Phuket Riders Club and Ride Thailand Magazine.

Throughout the weekend bikes such as Harley-Davidsons, BMWs, Ducatis and Hondas will be touring the island, including a procession through Patong, Kata, Karon, Promthep Cape, Rawai and Thalang.

Past Phuket Bike Weeks have enticed at least 5,000 people

to the island. Highlights of this year's festivities include a Big Bike and Motor Show on April 14 at 4 pm and a Biker Fashion Show by Harley-Davidson Bangkok at 9:30 pm that night.

Both expos will be held at Thainaan restaurant, opposite Central Festival Phuket, on Wichit Songkram Rd.

On April 15 activities will be centered around Jungceylon shopping center in Patong and will feature a Big Bike Party at 7 pm and the Miss Phuket Bike Week judging at 9 pm.

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Cocaine traffickers and heroin dealers nabbed in one week

By Natcha Yuttaworawit
& Dominic Earnshaw

PATONG: Kathu Police arrested a Vietnamese couple on March 25 for possession of heroin with intent to sell, seizing more than 40 grams of the drug.

Acting on information provided by an informant, a team of officers from Kathu Police Station led by Investigations Inspector Lt Col Serm Kwannimit at 3 pm approached a single-room, second-floor apartment on Ratpatanusorn Rd.

As they neared, a shoe came flying out the flat's front door. Police found 12 small sachets of heroin in the shoe.

Inside the room, police found Vietnamese national Tran Van Tien, 38, and his 26-year-old roommate Don Tee Hieng, described by police as his wife.

Police searched the room and found 33 small paper sachets of powdered heroin with a total weight of 11.54g, plus several more solid chunks of the drug with a total weight of 30.1g. They also collected three syringes as evidence, Col Serm said.

Knowing the police were approaching, the couple threw out the drug-laden shoe in a desperate attempt to hide the evidence, he added.

"After we questioned the suspects, we learned that they regularly visit Thailand as guest workers," he said, adding that both held all the necessary documents to work in Thailand.

Don Tee Hieng, who had been previously arrested for selling fake "brand-name" clothes, was selling wigs and clothing at the time of her arrest.

Tran Van Tien told police that when they last entered the country, on March 23, he smuggled in three bars of heroin that he bought in Vietnam at a total cost of 7,000 baht. The weight of each bar was not disclosed.

Police failed to believe Tran Van Tien's claim that the heroin was for personal use only because of the amount of the drug seized and the fact that much of it had already been packed into small paper sachets typically used for sale to users.

Although Don Tee Hieng told police she had no knowledge of the drugs in the couple's shared room, both were arrested and charged with possession of a Category 1 narcotic with intent to sell.

They are now being held at Phuket Provincial Prison.

In another recent drug bust, two Peruvian men were arrested at Phuket International Airport on March 21 with more than two kilograms of cocaine they were



Vietnamese national Tran Van Tien can expect hard days ahead as he faces a bout of heroin withdrawal in a cell at Phuket Provincial Prison. Standing by him is his partner Don Tee Hieng, who said she had no idea there were drugs in the couple's shared room in Patong.

Photo: Yongyot Preuksarak

carrying internally.

A press release from Som-yot Santarvorn, Chief Customs Inspector at Phuket International Airport, reported that Godoy Paz Sadi Mercedes, 29, was found in possession of 91 packets of cocaine, weighing 883g.

His accomplice, named as Panaifo Walky Elcodoro, 27, had ingested 124 packets weighing a total of 1,203g.

Thai-language press reports said that the men were on an international flight to Phuket when one of the men was no longer able

to keep his cargo in, excreting some of the packages into the airplane toilet.

Upon landing, customs officers found eight feces-smeared packages of the drug hidden in a shoe.

The men were X-rayed at Vachira Phuket Hospital, where the rest of the drugs were discovered – and recovered.

Both men were charged with importing a Class 2 drug without permission and are being held in Bangkok by the Royal Thai Police Narcotics Bureau.

Phuket-Penang flights to begin

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET CITY: Malaysian Airlines' new low-cost carrier Firefly airlines will start daily direct flights between Phuket and Penang from April 13.

At a March 22 press conference at the Royal Phuket City Hotel, Malaysian Tourism Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor said that Firefly will start another daily direct service between Samui and Penang on April 15.

Last year, about 1.9 million of Malaysia's 17.5 million tourists were from Thailand, and Tourism Minister Mr Tengku Mansor said that the country wants to increase that number to 2.2 million in the upcoming year.

"This year is a very special year for Malaysia because Malaysia is going to celebrate our 50 years as an independent nation," he said.

The target is 20.1 million tourists this year, he added.

Mr Tengku Mansor said that this year there will be 240 events held in Malaysia, which he hopes will attract Thai tourists.

The Malaysian Tourism Minister played down the troubles in Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat, saying that it had little effect on tourism in other areas.

"That's why I'm traveling here. I'd like to build confidence in my people that there is nothing wrong with Phuket, Haad Yai, Songkhla or anywhere else in southern Thailand," he said.

Austrian found dead in hotel room

PATONG: An Austrian man was found dead in his hotel room on March 22, an apparent victim of alcohol poisoning. According to Kathu Police, 38-year-old Dr Werner Jellen was found dead in room 302 of Patong Resort Hotel at 2:30 pm.

Pol Lt Col Sophon Borirak reported that there was no evidence of foul play in the room, in which two bottles of whiskey were found.

Police collected the man's belongings, listed as 920 euros in cash; 13 travelers' checks with a total value of 8,290 baht; a wristwatch, two cameras and two suitcases and their contents. Also collected was Dr Jellen's Austrian passport, numbered G09937080.

The daily log, noting that the victim's body was covered with vomit, listed the probable cause of death as toxic shock and heart failure from alcohol ingestion.

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Bureaucratic bungle...

On October 25 last year, some 30 officials led by the Muang District Chief and Forestry Department officers raided a construction site located behind Baan Krating Resort at Ao Sane, just around the point from Le Meridien Royal Phuket Yacht Club in Nai Harn.

The construction was deemed illegal, as Forestry Department officials said the buildings were on a national forest reserve. Two construction foremen were arrested and later released on bail.

The raid followed a ban on all construction at the site issued August 15, 2006 by the Rawai Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*).

On March 18 this year, however, the *Gazette* inspected the site to find that not only had the 12 buildings been completed, but that foreign guests were already staying in some of the units.

Knowledge of the completion of the buildings came as surprise to some people, including Techin Weerawong, who was Muang District Chief Administrative Officer (*Palad*) when he led the October 25 raid on the site.

On March 21, he told the *Gazette*, "Really? It's finished already? I didn't know because I have moved to a new position at Phuket Provincial Hall."

K. Techin, now Chief of the Phuket Provincial Administrative and Justice Enactment Group, is still the head of the provincial committee investigating the alleged encroachment at Ao Sane.

However, K. Techin explained that although he was the senior government officer at the raid, illegal construction in Nai Harn came under the responsi-

The ghost of Phuket's land probe scandals in 2003 and 2004 has raised its ugly head in Nai Harn with the completion of 12 new villas and other guest accommodations developed as part of the Baan Krating Resort at Ao Sane in Nai Harn.

The resort owner claims he has a full Chanote land title to the land on which the new structures were built, but Forestry Department officials say they can prove it belongs to them.

To complicate matters, the land in question was once *SorPorkor* land, degraded forest land set for use by the poor for agricultural uses only.

The ownership dispute has now landed in the courts, but in the meantime guests at the resort get to enjoy their stay literally surrounded by forest.

The *Gazette* investigates.

bility of Rawai *OrBorTor*. "They can use the law to order a ban on construction, but if building continues that means that the builders have ignored the order.

"If the buildings are now finished, the next step is for Rawai *OrBorTor* to inform the police that the builders have ignored the order. The *OrBorTor* has the authority to do this.

"The latest report I received from Pol Lt Col Chockchai Sutthimek at Chalong Police Station was that police were still investigating whether the buildings were in a forest reserve area and that the case had not yet gone to court.

"I want to ask the police about their progress in this investigation and I want to ask Rawai *OrBorTor* why they have allowed construction to continue after they have ordered a ban on construction.

"Why haven't they informed the police that the or-

der has been ignored and they have continued building the resort? I want the media to closely follow up on this case, because now it's not in my responsibility now that I have moved to a new position."

Lt Col Chokchai, the officer responsible for investigating whether the buildings are on government land, was brief in his comments to the *Gazette*. On March 22 he said, "This case is still under investigation and it has not gone to court.

"So far, we have reviewed many documents and much evidence from the old 'owner' of that land, and we have interviewed the Phu Yai Baan for that area and Rawai *OrBorTor* officers.

"Officers from the Phuket Office of the Forestry Department are adamant that the buildings are in a forest reserve area, but we are waiting for the owner [of the buildings] to show us evidence that he owns that land," he added.

A source at Baan Krating Jungle Resort, who declined to have his name printed, told the *Gazette*, "I have several docu-



ABOVE: One of the new buildings that are complete, some already have guests staying in them.

BELOW: Rustic is not the word... The guest bungalows are literally surrounded by forest.



ments confirming that the buildings are not on forest land. I have had these documents for more than 10 years, since the land was bought from the previous owner.

"I think the Forest Department officers misunderstand which land is which. We can show them the land plot markers, which show that the buildings are about 50 to 60 meters from government land.

"The documents have been confirmed by three government offices, and I have sent these documents to police officers already. I have permission from the Land Office and the Forestry office that allows us to renovate the 42 existing buildings. The buildings are not on forest land, but we must wait for that be proven," he said.

Yet, that still leaves the matter of the resort continuing its

construction of the new villas and guest accommodation in direct defiance of Rawai *OrBorTor*'s ban.

Lt Col Anek Mongkol, the police officer responsible for investigating the continued construction, said he knew nothing about the new buildings' completion.

"If construction has continued, that means they have ignored Rawai *OrBorTor*'s order to stop building, which is another charge in addition to the two initial charges of building the resort without permission and disobeying an official order," Col Anek said.

"If they have not stopped construction, Rawai *OrBorTor* has the authority to ask police to inspect the site. We will compare the difference in the buildings' stage of completion, which will be



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in the Nai Harn jungle



One of the accommodation buildings under construction at Baan Krating Resort on October 25 last year. Rawai OrBorTor ordered a ban on construction on August 15, but construction went ahead as the court had yet to rule on whether the building is on government land.

evidence with which we can charge them with ignoring the order.

"If the court rules that they have ignored an official order, it will be up to the court whether the buildings are to be removed or not," he added.

Col Anek made it plain that two arrests have already been made, and that if police were to take further action they will need to receive another complaint from Rawai OrBorTor.

However, that complaint may not be coming.

Rawai OrBorTor President Aroon Solos on March 22 told the *Gazette*, "We informed police officers about this a long time ago. The men were arrested, and we checked again after the [October 25] raid and we can confirm that they had stopped construction."

K. Aroon was surprised that the investigation was still under way. "I thought that this case would have been taken to court by now," he said, adding that he had handed the responsibility for follow-up action on the case to Rawai OrBorTor Public Works Chief Bumrung Pimonrattanakarn.

K. Bumrung explained, "On August 15, 2006 we issued an order for construction of the new buildings to stop.

"But three days later, on August 18, 2006, the owner sent us a letter explaining that the resort was not building new structures, instead they wanted to renovate the existing wooden buildings that were built there in 1991," he said.

"They also attached a court order permitting them to do so."

K. Bumrung said that he would not be asking police to take

action on the continued construction that saw the new buildings through to completion after the October 25 raid.

He says that he has already asked police to do so, and that his original complaint is what sparked the October 25 raid.

"I must look at the law first to see whether we can file complaints that will see extra charges laid for action after October 25," he said.

A senior official at the provincial Forestry Department office, who asked to remain anonymous,

told the *Gazette*, "Baan Krating has lodged a claim to have a Chanote title issued for the land, and that claim is currently being heard in court.

"The Muang District Chief has explained to me that while the claim is being heard in court, they have the right to build on the land.

"We know that 37 rai in that area has been handed over to the Forestry Department, but I'm not sure about the adjoining land – that might belong to the Phuket Provincial Land Reform Office."

However, the Forestry Department officer remains adamant that the buildings in question are on government land.

He said that about 8 rai, 2 ngan (about 11,200 square meters) is land covered by the 1941 Forest Act and one rai (1,600sqm) is regular forestry land.

"We have evidence that proves it's forestry land, but now the case is under investigation, which means that it's up to the court to rule in this case," he said.

To this, Vittawat Nak-sawad, a lawyer at the Phuket Provincial Agriculture Land Reform Office (ALRO), concurs.

He told the *Gazette*, "As part of the investigation into Baan Krating, we have inspected the site with Forestry Department officials and agreed that the land where Baan Krating is used to be SorPorKor land and it was definitely handed over to Forestry Department."

SorPorKor land is government land that local people were issued rights to use, but for agricultural purposes only, and it is regulated by the Agricultural Land Reform Office (ALRO).

"But whether a Chanote has been issued for it I don't know, that would be the responsibility of the Land Office," K. Vittawat said.

So was a Chanote land title deed for the disputed land ever issued by the Land Office, and if so – was it issued legally? That will be up for the courts to decide – so expect it to take awhile.

In the meantime, you probably won't be hearing too many complaints from the resorts guests about choice of accommodations.

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Fundraiser a miraculous success

By Stephen Fein

NAI HARN: About 1,000 local Buddhists attending a three-day fundraising event at Wat Nai Harn received a bit of a shock when the temple abbot Ajarn Prakhun Soonthorn appeared to suffer seizures during an intense chanting session on the first night of the ceremonies on March 15.

The monk later told concerned members of his flock that his sudden change in constitution was not from a medical disorder, but rather because he had "felt the presence" of the deity Jatukam Ramathep during the episode.

News of the event came to the *Gazette* from Gerard "Jay" Wiseman, 39, and his Thai partner Anong Khammeeto, 31, proprietors of the Come Inn Bar & Restaurant in Nai Harn. The couple attended morning, afternoon and evening prayer sessions on all three days.

"There were 29 temple abbots from all over Thailand, including one who is 113 years old. Many local Buddhists as well as some from other parts of Thailand had brought Buddhist amulets and statues to be blessed. We had brought our collection as well as a beautiful Pi Ganesh statue we have in front of our restaurant to protect against evil and such," Jay explained.

"All of us, maybe 1,000 people and as many amulets and Buddha image statues were connected by a single holy thread during the chanting..."

"There were two women sitting close to us who were me-



A GOD'S ODDITIES: People attending prayer ceremonies at Wat Nai Harn were amazed by circular aberrations that appeared in photographs taken at the event. They believe the uncanny resemblance between the circular spots and the consecrated amulets produced during the fundraiser are evidence of the deity Jatukam's presence.

diums. They were greatly affected by the ceremony; going into trances and collapsing. This was the norm for the Thai locals, but as a *farang* it was difficult for me to suppress my interest and

pay attention to the prayers of the chanting monks.

"At the end of about two hours of chanting, the crowd started to clear – that was when the abbot appeared to suffer a sei-

zure. The crowd rushed him, some massaging his feet, others putting tiger balm under his nose," he said.

"I thought maybe he was suffering from heat exhaustion from the many hours of the intense ceremonies, but later the next day we were told that he had actually felt the presence of Jatukam enter his body," said Jay.

Pictures taken by Jay that and the following evening had strange circular images that seemed to resemble the round amulets the monks had prepared for sale at the event. Jay developed the photos and returned the next day to give prints to some of the monks.

"The reaction from all was overwhelming with offers of money to have a copy," he said.

Refusing the money, he gave the few photos he had and promised to return with CDs and a few more prints the following day.

Asked if he believed the monk had really felt the presence of a deity, Jay said, "I am pretty open-minded and I have had experiences in life that are pretty hard to explain... but the energy

that seemed to consume everyone there was very positive.

"As for the pictures I took, I have seen similar [aberrations] before but not with the details and different colors – and they are making the amulets in these colors... But what convinced me that Jatukam really does affect people deeper than just on the surface is that the next day our restaurant was choc-a-bloc full.

"The whole reason people believe in Jatukam is the belief that if you have faith and pray to him, Jatukam will bring you good luck in your business... and we have been busy every night since," he said.

Jay and Anong showed the *Gazette* some Jatukam amulets they had bought during the fundraiser. Standard-issue amulets originally sold at just 500 baht are now fetching up to 10 times as much among amulet collectors. Some 4,000 of these were made, along with 200 "special edition" amulets. Rumor has it that 21 "first casting" amulets have been sold for more than 15,000 baht.

Some Jatukam amulets made 30 years ago in Nakon Sri Thammarat, originally sold for 100 baht but now fetch over 500,000 baht.

Whether what transpired at the prayer session in Nai Harn was a true miracle or not is a question of faith, but there is no doubt that the temple will finish its latest building project: 1.5 million baht was raised on the first night alone and entire proceeds over the three days netted more than four million baht, the couple told the *Gazette*.





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Five-year-old boy murdered in Lipa Noi

A five-year-old Thai-Austrian boy was murdered and his mother severely injured in an attack in Lipa Noi Sub-district March 13.

The boy and his Thai mother, Araphan Yanacroft, 30, were sitting at the rear of their home when a man attacked them with a knife.

The boy's throat was cut during the attack, and he was stabbed several times.

K. Araphan suffered wounds to her throat and was rushed to hospital where she remains in a serious condition.

Lt Col Boonma Kaewlaead, Investigation Inspector at Koh Samui District Police Station, said forensic evidence recovered from the scene of the murder has been sent for analysis. He also said that police are currently investigating more than 10 suspects in relation to the case.

One line of inquiry involves a building company hired by K. Araphan to build a house on the island. The owners of the company allegedly bought materials worth several hundred thousand baht on credit from a local supplier but neglected to pay the bill. Police interviews have revealed this resulted in several heated arguments between the owners of the company, who have since disappeared, and K. Araphan.

Another possible reason for the attack was theft, say police, but they are waiting for forensic results before reaching any firm conclusions.

The boy's Austrian father

was in Europe at the time of the killing and boarded a plane straight to Thailand on hearing of his son's murder. He is also being questioned to determine possible motives.

Stolen cars head to Samui: Police in Samui have been ordered to be on the lookout for stolen cars being imported illegally from Malaysia.

A group of three car thieves apprehended near the Thai-Malaysian border in Kota Bharu are believed to be part of a larger ring that buys cars in Malaysia under the country's leasing system using borrowed ID cards.

Two of the group were Malaysian, and one was Thai.

Officers confiscated a Toyota Wish that the three suspects admitted to buying in Malaysia and were driving to sell in Thailand.

"From the information received," explained Col Chaiyuth Ninlawong, Superintendent of Samui District Police Station, "the thieves generally target Toyota Wish or Altis models, which require a down payment of around

200,000 baht. They then drive the cars to Thailand, crossing the border at Perlis, Kelantan or Kedah."

Once the cars have been sold, the gang then contact insurance companies back in Malaysia and claim they have been stolen, claiming compensation of 99%, which amounts to as much as one million baht for some models.

The models in question are now popular on Koh Samui, so police are working with the Im-



A Toyota Wish waits for a buyer in a showroom. Samui police have been warned to be on the lookout for stolen Toyota Wish and Altis models being imported from Malaysia by fraudsters.

migration Department to check cars with papers from neighboring countries, some of which may have been sold cheaply to rental agencies for tourism.

Developing dispute: A legal dispute between a Thai construction firm and a foreign property developer may add further heat to the much-publicized reclamation of land and property on Samui.

Thai firm Tropical Arch Co Ltd filed a compensation claim with the Samui District Court when the foreign developer it was working for failed to pay the full amount agreed for its work.

The project in question, on

Samui's northern coast, includes both villas and apartments, with some properties on sale for more than 7 million baht.

Tropical Arch filed for 3.4 million baht in outstanding payments. After hearing the evidence, the court asked the Legal Execution Office to issue a warrant to seize funds from a bank account held by one of the developer's representatives in Thailand.

The reclaimed money amounted to some 65,000 baht, but the Thai firm says this fails to cover the amount lost and it is therefore seeking further compensation, which may include re-

claiming land or buildings.

Despite many reported disputes in the island's property sector, this is the first time that a local company has successfully sued a foreign developer. This may prove significant, both in terms of future Thai-foreign business contracts and also the outcome of other commercial conflicts on the island.

Samui has water! Chawalit Sarak, Chief of Surat Thani Provincial Water Authority, says Samui has enough reserve water to last until the next rains despite the early onset of the dry season, which meteorologists have blamed on El Niño.

On an inspection of Samui's small desalination plant, which was installed last year, K. Chawalit said that he believed existing reserves would guarantee a continuous supply. He later added, however, that the plant could be used if further resources are needed.

Samui has suffered both droughts and floods in recent years. Many people blame rampant development, which has led to the destruction of forests and created channels that allow rainwater to run off into the sea. With Songkran festival in the middle of a long dry season, local commentators say the expensive desalination process may be required.



FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND

By Barry Singleton



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Popular brothel busted

Immigration police raided a hotel operating as a brothel in Nakhon Sri Thammarat City March 24, arresting 26 women. The brothel had reportedly been operating for more than 20 years without any police interference, according to local reports.

At 12:25 am Pol Capt Ekkachai Sidam, Deputy Investigation and Suppression Inspector at the South Region Immigration Center, led a team of five plain-clothed officers to Wiang Fah hotel, Soi Thai Hotel, Jamroenwithi Rd.

The officers preceded to the second floor and found that most of the floor's approximately 30 rooms had their doors open with attractive women sitting outside beckoning to the many would-be customers who were walking up and down the corridor. The officers then identified themselves and began to arrest the women.

A middle-aged women accompanied by two or three bouncers then approached the officers in a threatening manner. Capt Ekkachai identified himself and told the group that anyone who obstructed the officers in their duty would be arrested.

At this, the women and the bouncers turned pale and promptly retreated, leaving the officers to go about their work unhindered.

At that point officers from Nakhon Sri Thammarat Muang District Police Station, led by Superintendent Col Yanphat Narasing, arrived on the scene to help process the detainees.



Watchful residents: Dr Pornthip Rojanasunan and a forensic team inspect an Islamic boarding school where three students were killed in a March 17 bomb attack. The team were allowed to enter the school after negotiations with local residents, who previously accused local officials of launching the attack and barred them from inspecting the scene.

All of the suspects were aged between 19 and 26 years old and were reportedly Haw Chinese and hilltribe women. None had a valid Thai ID card.

All 26 were charged with prostitution. As they could not produce an ID card, they were also charged with illegal entry into the Kingdom.

Police said that they were preparing evidence to request an arrest warrant for the owner of the brothel on charges of bring-

ing people into prostitution and housing illegal immigrants.

Locals were reported to be very critical of the raid as the Wiang Fah hotel was the last such brothel operating in the city.

Orders for the raid were reportedly given by national police chief Gen Seripisut Temeyavej to Pol Col Sayan Krasaesaen, Head of the South Region Immigration Center, without the knowledge of Nakhon Sri Thammarat Provincial Police, who only found

about it when it was already in progress.

Pugnacious pachyderms: Two elephants working in a rubber plantation in Nakhon Sri Thammarat were seriously injured March 19 after being attacked by wild elephants, members of the South's last remaining wild herd.

The elephants had been tied up for the night by their owners when the attack occurred. Thirty-year-old female Khlong was left with severe cuts to the left eye, flank and left leg, and 50-year-old female Bunhai had more than 10 tusk wounds.

Phonphirom Funtrakul, a vet with the Southern Friends of Elephants Foundation, said that the elephants that carried out the attack usually live in Khao Nan National Park straddling Surat Thani and Nakhon Sri Thammarat provinces. "The herd is now about eight strong. The domi-

nant male is a 60-year-old who has a rather fierce nature. In the dry season, from March to May, the herd comes down to feed in the foothills. I think that the elephants were probably foraging when they came across Khlong. They then attacked her before running back into the forest before dawn. I've warned all villagers with domestic elephants to be very careful as the wild herd has probably not gone far," he said.

Palmed off: A well-known environmental activist was seriously injured in an assassination attempt in Surat Thani's Phanom District March 22.

As Sot Sutnak, 57, was riding his motorcycle home, a gold Isuzu pickup truck pulled up behind him and someone in the car shot him twice in the back. K. Sot fell to the ground, playing dead until his attackers left the scene. He then called for help and relatives took him to Surat Thani Hospital, where he is in a serious condition. Police also found a .357 caliber cartridge case.

Police believe the motive for the attempted killing was K. Sot's environmental work; they are paying particular attention to his opposition to palm plantations in Surat Thani and Krabi provinces.

Col Samran Majaroen, Superintendent of Phanom District Police Station, said that police cannot yet give the exact motive for the crime and are still investigating a number of leads. They are waiting to question the victim. The attackers left little evidence and no witnesses as the crime scene was in a dark and quiet soi, Col Samran added.

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

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Cop implicated in assault case

A policeman in Saraburi province has been suspended from active duty pending an investigation into his alleged role in a February 25 attack on a young karaoke bar hostess whose arm was chopped off.

The policeman, Pol Lance Corporal Nirut Thammasap, was charged with attempted murder and causing serious injuries, along with carrying a government-owned firearm while off duty.

Lt Gen Pratchaya Sutthapreeda, chief of Provincial Police Bureau 1, said civilian Nirat Kongtham carried the knife and chopped off the victim's right arm above her elbow while he was riding pillion on a motorcycle driven by Prasarn Bundok, another civilian.

L/C Nirut was riding another motorcycle alongside them, he said.

All three were released on bail after they turned themselves over to Baan Mor Police Station, where Nirut is assigned.

Gen Pratchaya said Nirut's superior officers would also face disciplinary action for allegedly helping Nirut by distorting the facts of the investigation report to read that the victim, Suphansa Wichananant, lost her arm in a road accident.

K. Suphansa lodged a complaint with acting police chief Gen Seripisut Temiyavej because there had been no progress in the local police investigation nearly one month after the attack.

In a press interview, K. Suphansa said that the men had followed her on two motorcycles after she had left the karaoke bar to escape their sexual harassment. When his motorcycle caught up to hers, Nirat chopped off her right arm with a single swipe of a long knife.

Despite losing her arm, the singer tried to continue her escape but crashed her motorcycle and broke her right shin in three places.

K. Suphansa said that a number of Baan Mor police officers interviewed her in the hospital the morning after the attack. They dismissed her account because they claimed she was still in shock, she said.

Class action: Two years after the practice was revoked in a revised Education Ministry regulation, suspension from class will soon be in effect again as a punishment for disruptive students.

Education Permanent Secretary Jaruyaphorn Thorranin said suspensions could be used against only high school and vocational school students and in extreme cases of aggression, immoral conduct or violent acts harmful to others. The duration of suspensions to be administered has not been determined but will soon be decided, K. Jaruyaphorn said.

The revival of suspensions



A woman weeps while looking at a Siriraj Hospital noticeboard displaying pictures of the dead from a March 20 bus crash. Twenty-nine people were killed and dozens injured when the double-decker bus traveling from Yasothorn to Bangkok caught fire and careered down a hill on a four-lane highway in Saraburi, about 105 kilometers north of the capital.

It was later revealed that the bus had been in service for 36 years.

State-owned, intercity bus operator Transport Co said it will "get tougher" on private companies and provide initial assistance of 10,000 baht to families of the victims, many of whom were burned beyond recognition.

was prompted by petitions from parents whose children had been victims of violent classmates or who had suffered physical assault by students from rival schools.

A 2005 regulation had revoked suspension from class and caning, which had long been practiced in Thailand, following a series of campaigns by educators and child psychiatrists.

Mass communications: Most of the programming on Thailand's six free television channels is geared more to consumerism than toward social development, a study by Chulalongkorn University's Media Monitoring project has concluded.

Asst Prof Uajit Virojtrairatt said his survey "Do Thai TV Stations Take Audiences to Be Consumers or Citizens?" showed that 69.4% of all six channels' programs focused more on selling products than on social development. The survey covered all programs round the clock from February 1 to 7.

Channel 11 had the highest percentage of "social development" programs (86.8%), followed by Channel 9 (51.3%).

Channels 7 and 3 had the highest ratio of commercial programs. They also enjoyed the highest ratings.

The survey also showed that state-owned Channel 5

placed heavy emphasis on commercial programming.

The survey was instigated by calls from academics that it was time for Thailand to have a public television station with high-quality content as an alternative to commercial programming aired to meet advertisers' needs.

Summer break danger: Statistics released by the Ramathibodi Hospital Child Safety Promotion and Injury Prevention Research Center say that more children are likely to be killed in accidents during the school holidays currently underway than any other time of the year.

The school holidays start in March and end in mid-May.

Drowning, the leading cause of accidental deaths among children, is most common in March, April and May.

"Parents need to pay close attention as young children often drown in enamel basins, water buckets, wells and other water sources near home," said the center's Director, Adisak Plitponkarnpim.

If drowning children were not rescued within five minutes, they had minimal chance of survival, he added.

Traffic accidents were another leading cause of child deaths. "On average, 65 children are killed in traffic accidents every month," he said, adding that average figures climb to 75 in March and 85 in April.

Other causes of accidental child deaths given were poisoning, falling, burns, explosions and accidental death by firearms.

"On average, these causes account for about 98 child deaths a month, but the figure reaches 116 in March, 132 in April and 118 in May," he said.

Copter crash kills nine: Nine naval personnel were killed when their Bell 214 helicopter crashed in a rice field in the northeastern province of Surin on March 23, the Royal Thai Navy said.

Rear-Admiral Ruangthip Thienthon said the helicopter was one of two on a routine training flight from Ubon Ratchathani to U-Tapao naval base in Chonburi when it crashed in Surin's Ratanaburi District at about 11:45 am.

Witnesses in the other helicopter saw smoke coming from the rear engine before the helicopter crashed and exploded, R/Adm Ruangthip said.

The bodies of the crash victims were taken to U-Tapao naval base.

The two pilots were identified as Cdr Tossapol Thumwong and Lt Cdr Passakorn Rakwong.

The seven passengers were Lt Jitruti Jit-aree, Chief Petty Officer Suwit Panichwattana and petty officers Somkiet Seuyoi, Manit Khumpai, Niwat Mungsaeng, Thawal Khonnoen and Thanakorn Nuansutha.

As all died in the line of duty their families are entitled to naval benefits, he said.

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

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Give a smile, get one back

By Janyaporn Morel

As we all know, the streets of Patong can be real obstacle courses: potholes, vats of boiling oil, soi dogs and tangle of electric wires are just a few of the obstructions regularly encountered.

If you think its bad for you, just imagine what it must be like for disabled people.

Australians Terry Brown, Alan Cladingboel and Bob Donnelly have been coming to Patong for 12 years, during which time they have seen just how difficult it is for Phuket's disabled.

Wanting to help, the three kind tourists decided to donate mobility scooters to give 20 disabled people in Phuket a little more independence.

The scooters were presented to the lucky recipients at a March 20 ceremony at the Thara Patong Resort and Spa attended by representatives of the Patong Beach Rotary Club, Patong Nurses' Association, Phuket Special Education Center and the Phuket Handicap Club.



MOBILE AT LAST: Apaporn Chayasat, right, says, 'I'm happy to get this scooter. It will make my life easier.'

Above, Terry Brown and Alan Cladingboel say they want nothing in return 'except a smile'.

In his speech at the ceremony, Mr Brown said that after deciding to buy scooters for the disabled people, he wasn't sure whether the type of scooter he



had in mind would be suitable for Phuket. So last September he gave one scooter to a man named Satien, who lost both his legs in a car accident 10 years ago. After

a few test drives, K. Satien was using his scooter all the time – and it has made a big difference in his life.

"In Australia we live a good, happy life. No problems, good health. But we see too many people here with disabilities who cannot help themselves at all. The government does not have the money to help everybody, so we decided to do this. We don't want anything at all in return except a smile," Mr Brown said.

Appropriately enough, the 80,000-baht scooters are built by Smile Family (Siam) company in Bangkok. Powered by rechargeable electric batteries, they are simple to control and can be driven with just two hands because the accelerator, light, horn and brake controls are all on the steering wheel.

"There's only one company in Bangkok that makes this scooter. I tried to find them in Phuket when I came here in March last year, but I couldn't. When I went home I looked on the Internet and found an electric car company in Bangkok that makes the golf carts, tuk-tuks and many models of scooters. They also have electric wheelchairs. This company exports many scooters to Japan, but because they are so expensive people here cannot afford them," he said.

"The reason we chose to buy scooters is because electric wheelchairs don't really give people the kind of mobility they need. But with scooters, they can travel at 12 kilometers an hour. If they want to go to the shop, they can go and come back in five minutes," he added.

With the help of Smile Family Co, which sold the scooters to Mr Brown and his friends at half-price, the Australians were able to donate more scooters than they thought.

"We would like to buy even more. Maybe we will do this

again. I have spoken with a Swedish man here who said that he will go back to tell his people. Maybe they will also do the same next year. This is good, because the tourists want to give something back to people here," he said.

Mr Brown said the reason he and his friends did this was to help these people – and to see the smile on their faces.

"Any time you see people here who are disadvantaged and poor, they are all very sad. Giving them money doesn't necessarily help, because they might not know how to use the money wisely. But with something like this they will be able to use for a very long time," he added.

One scooter recipient was 14-year-old Anisa Ratso, who has suffered from muscular dystrophy in her legs since she was 10. She can't walk very well and has fallen down many times, sometimes breaking bones. Her mother Suthida said that she would like for Anisa to spend her life as normal children do and the family is trying their best to help her.

"We are happy that she will have chance to go out and visit many more places because of this scooter and she can see the world outside our home," said K.Suthida.

The scooter has been especially helpful in allowing her to continue her studies through Phuket's Non-Formal Education Center.

"If she doesn't learn, she will be a child without a future, which is not fair to her because she is clever girl," K. Suthida said.

Apaporn Chayasat, a 22-year-old who has suffered muscular dystrophy since birth, graduated from high school at the Non-Formal Education Center Phuket. Now living with her grandmother in Phuket Villa 3, she is planning to take a computer course in Pattaya in April.

"I'm happy to get this scooter. It will make my life so much easier. For example, now I will be able to drive to buy something for my grandmother in the village," she said.

Wimonrat Khocharoen, Head Nurse at the Emergency Room of Patong Hospital, was responsible for choosing the scooter recipients, all of whom come from Patong and Phuket City.

"We have projects to help the disabled in many communities. In deciding who should get these scooters, we screened people to see who would benefit most from having them. Single leg amputees are common candidates, as are people with congenital or acquired disorders that have left them unable to walk," she said.

There are still about 10 handicapped people in Kamala area who need scooters to bring smiles to their faces, she said.



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TOKIKO PROFILE: In 1966 she won the best new talent award of the Japan Record Grand Prix by singing her song "A Red Balloon". She also won the best singing artist award of the Japan Record Grand Prix in 1969 by singing "Lullaby For A Lonely Night" and in 1971 by "Travel Weary In Shiretoko". She has been writing her original songs and singing them and many Asian and European songs. In recent years, she enthusiastically started on performing with an orchestra and so many concert have been done not only in Japan but many countries in the world; U.S.S.R ('68), China ('81,'95), U.S.A ('87,'88,'90,'97,'02), France ('89,'92,'95), Belgium ('89), Russia ('92,'00), Egypt ('94), Austria ('95), Bulgaria ('95), Brazil ('98), Czech ('95), Vietnam ('99,'00), Canada ('88,'02), Turkey ('02)

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BOMBAY CONNECTION

Indian cuisine is tremendously popular in Britain and many other countries, but mention the words *ahaan khaek* (Indian food) in Phuket and most non-Muslim Thais will screw their faces up, making gestures as if they are pinching their nose shut or wafting away a bad smell.

The reason? Most Thais will tell you that there is an oddly unpleasant aroma to Indian food.

But there is one big exception to this: *roti*, a fried wheat paste topped with sugar and sweetened condensed milk, or sometimes with banana, fruit jams or other toppings.

Popular all across South and Southeast Asia, *roti* is popular in Bangkok as well as Bombay, and just about everywhere in between.

The original plain *roti* from India is eaten as a staple with curries, much as Thais eat rice with meals. In Phuket, the two most basic options are with egg or without, but there is also a variety of fillings and toppings to choose from that vary from vendor to vendor.

Roti are cooked on a large, flat iron griddle, most often at a roadside stall. Many *roti* vendors also sell *mataba*, which is a sort of stuffed *roti*.

To experience the full range of the *roti*, *mataba* and other popular Indian and Muslim foods, a trip to Rotee Lovers on Chao Fa West Rd is a must.

Rotee Lovers was opened last December by owners Shalisa "Yui" Prinyanusorn and her sister-in-law Wanida "Ae" Patan, whose mother Mabuba provides the recipes and oversees the kitchen.

"Our restaurant has about 100 seats, half of which are outdoor for evening dining. We have both Thai and foreign customers. Some are Muslim, some not. Our goal is to offer delicious and affordable Muslim foods in a relaxing, spacious atmosphere. We find many Muslim restaurants are too cramped and dark," K. Yui said.

"When we first opened, we targeted customers in nearby areas. But now people are coming from everywhere in Phuket. We have customers who come from Surin Beach to try our food. They



FAVORITES:
Above, *mataba*.
Right, classic *roti*
nam gaeng, with
chicken curry
sauce.



hear of us by word of mouth," she said.

"Our menu starts with *roti* and *mataba*, we have plain *roti* that can be eaten with many different curries. We also have *roti* with sweet toppings, such as sugar, banana, raisins or sweetened

milk. We have *mataba* stuffed with chicken, beef or tuna," said K. Yui, adding that as a Muslim restaurant there is no pork on the menu.

Rotee Lovers also has salads: *salat khaek* (green salad with peanut dressing), tuna salad

and chicken salad with Thousand Island dressing.

"We also have many different curries. One popular item is beef or chicken stew on rice. Our *khao mok gai* [yellow rice steamed with marinated chicken] is another big seller," she said.

CHEAP eats

BY
Janyaporn Morel

Two hard-to-find Muslim dishes at Rotee Lovers are *kuay tiew gaeng* (noodles in curry soup) and *gurama* curry (Indian beef curry). They also offer an Italian-Indian hybrid that you won't see too many menus: spaghetti in curry soup.

"All of our curries use special seasonings that we buy in Bangkok," K Yui said.

The most popular selection on the 50-item menu is the *masaman* curry. Made using K. Mabuba's special recipe, a huge batch is prepared each day to meet demand. Other popular choices include oxtail soup and omelets.

One of the newest additions to the menu is the "roti puff". Invented about two months ago, it uses a special frying method and extra-thick *roti* dough to produce a crispy fried outside and sweet, chewy inside that is perfect with ice cream or blueberry jam.

Rotee Lovers carries a selection of ice-creams, sorbets and beverages from Iberly ice-cream in Bangkok as well as fresh fruit punch.

The price for plain *roti* is 15 baht each, and *mataba* is a reasonable 35 baht per portion. A serving of *khao mok kai* will set you back 40 baht, while rice and curry dishes are 50 baht.

Rotee Lovers is on Chao Fa West Rd, about 200 meters south of Kajonkietsuksa School in Wichit. Open daily from noon to 3 pm and 4:30 pm to 9 pm. Closed Fridays. For more information call 089-8970131, 085-9050707 or 081-5514200.

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THE PIANO

By Marque A Rome

Jimmy Cicero was playing the baby grand piano at Dusit Laguna's classy Horizon cocktail lounge late one recent Thursday. Every seat was taken – a rare thing for such a venue, where patrons usually pause only because they are waiting for someone or something.

But Jimmy is far from usual; a musician of rare musicality, he packs 'em in nightly.

A group of hip-looking Germans pulled up closer to the piano while he intoned the refrain to *Breaking Up is Hard to Do*, one of his best tunes. Jimmy has a voice that belies his 69-kilogram, 168-centimeter frame: a silky tenor like Tony Bennett's that never strains. His delivery, moreover, has arguably more cojones than that of Mel Torme, called the greatest voice in jazz.

The German group were regulars: "Hoo! Jimmy," they called out, applauding, then lamenting audibly as he announced that the next number would be his last for the evening. "I hope to see you all again tomorrow night," he said, pretending to ignore their dismay, then tried to close with the suggestively titled *I Want to Go Home*.

"Hey, Jimmy! One more," one of them called. The Horizon was still full, but it was closing time. "I'm sorry, that was my last song," replied Jimmy.

"No. One more. What do you like to play? Play us your favorite!"

He relented, closing with Jesse Belvin's lush, charmingly romantic *Goodnight My Love*.

Jimmy is 60. He's lived some pleasant dreams over the years – admits to rough times as well – but is always hoping for a sunnier, brighter tomorrow.

Like many famous singers, Jimmy is an American of Italian heritage. "But we're not an East Coast Italian family," he said, explaining that the famous ones are associated with New York.

Hayward, California, on the other hand, Jimmy's home, has



BACK TO THE KEYBOARD: Jimmy Cicero found property sales could never replace the music.

been associated not with singers but with canned fruit, ironwork and electrical equipment.

That might have been different had Jimmy struck a different chord, so to speak. He might have done for Hayward what The Beatles did for Liverpool. His beginnings were promising enough.

Hayward is just southeast of San Francisco. The famous bay forms a kind of inland sea between the stately city and its

less scenic suburbs. Industrial Hayward is an ocean away in terms of status from San Francisco and its Renaissance Revival opera house.

Yet there are bridges across the bay and the cultural divide might not be too great for an enterprising youth with a good voice, a knack for keyboards and the gift of gab.

"I started playing piano and singing professionally when I was about 12," he recalled. His

mother encouraged him to take piano lessons as a child.

"My first gig was singing at a church dance." That was in 1957, two years after Elvis Presley's emergence and three years into the rock 'n' roll era.

On Jimmy's side of the bay, rock ruled but Elvis wasn't king. There, R&B artist Chuck Berry, a defiantly twangy black guitarist from nearby Oakland, had shot to fame. Berry thumbed his nose, musically, at Beethoven and Tin

Pan Alley, singing his own unvarnished lyrics.

His music, like that of Fats Domino, Ray Charles and Sam Cooke, spawned a movement that transformed how white artists played. Jimmy Cicero was among the seminal group of white Bay Area R&B performers.

Rolling Stone magazine critic Michael Rozek in a November 1974 review of Tower of Power's album *Ain't Nothin' Stoppin' Us Now* noted that the band's leader, Emilio Castillo, and its white members were part of a mass Bay Area "white-love-for-soul-music" trend about 1967. Rozek, however, thought "a white 'horn band' called the Spiders playing Curtis Mayfield and Gene Chandler tunes" had greater influence.

"But who showed the Spiders their schtick? Maybe another local white named Jimmy Cicero..." Cicero, Rozek averred, was perhaps the first white kid to "cop black licks 'round Hayward".

As a teenager, Jimmy developed playing local clubs and dances. Although he describes his style now as a "a mixture of jazz and soft pop", he started as a rock 'n' roll singer: "I was lucky 'cause I could always sing," he drawled disarmingly, "even though I had kinda neglected my piano."

"I started to put on dances, and eventually owned my own teenage nightclub when I was 18. It was in Hayward and was called Cicero's."

That was not the first time he would trade on his surname, which might come straight from a Sinatra film. If you Google his name, however, you will find that a more Internet-savvy professional wrestler dominates the first page of hits.

During the late '60s, Jimmy had a six-piece R&B band "and played the Hammond organ". Back then organs weren't drowned out by electric guitars and required no tricky mic technique to avoid feedback noise on stage. Listeners loved 'em.

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MAN

having a classic sound. Billy Preston played one on The Beatles' timeless *Let It Be*.

"My first Hammond was an M-1 spinet," Jimmy noted, "but after a couple of years I moved up to a B-3," the Rolls-Royce of electric organs.

Having turned 21, he hooked up with popular Bay Area artists Stan Cristo and The Casuals: "I worked with them for a couple years and was fortunate to have great press coverage."

Oakland Tribune entertainment columnist Perry Phillips took a shine to him: "He always mentioned my name... We became good friends."

Having achieved local hero status, Jimmy expanded his group to six pieces. The Summer of Love came and went but the Bay Area remained a hotbed of musical invention. "Those days," he recalled, "were a lot of fun."

"For a long time" he "played right next door" to Tower of Power. He also sat-in with Santana for six or seven concerts during their peak.

That was a great experience," he said. Later he played with Chuck Berry.

Then, in 1971, aged 24, he moved to Reno, a resort town near Lake Tahoe, straddling the California-Nevada border. Fueled by gambling revenue, it was and still is a magnet for entertainers.

Jimmy stayed there for 17 years, playing clubs and casinos and opening his second Cicero's as a restaurant and nightclub. It was steady money.

Tower of Power, meanwhile, got album contracts and regular reviews in *Rolling Stone*, reaching icon status.

Then Jimmy became interested in jazz: "I actually played a lot of jazz in Reno. For many years I had a B-3 trio – organ, sax and drums." He played bass with the organ pedals. "I toured with Rick Nelson and the Stone Canyon band for about a year and a half."

Pretty-boy TV star Nelson, of Ozzie and Harriet fame, had been fielded as a substitute heart-throb for teenage girls while Elvis served in the army during the late '50s.

In 1989, Jimmy moved again. This time to Scottsdale, Arizona, where he opened entertainment agency Jimmy Cicero

Music Productions, and stayed five years.

"I have always written a lot of music, and although I have not had a lot of luck getting it placed, I was fortunate to get three songs in a major motion picture, Francis Ford Coppola's *The Florentine*."

The songs, two bossa nova numbers and a ballad, were *Here You Are*, *I Love Your Smile* and *People Like You, People Like Me*.

The past decade has seen Jimmy in transition. He became a licensed real estate agent in California, then decided to try his

luck in farther flung: "I spent a short time in Istanbul and that had a profound effect. I've written many pieces of music based on my visit and on study of Turkish history."

Jimmy married a Turkish woman – but they divorced because "we did not know enough about each other". He was 54.

Just a few months later two airplanes rammed into the World Trade Center and Jimmy, a man who in four decades on stage had seen nearly everything, wept. "I knew I had to make a big change. I had to go somewhere I had never been."

Seizing on Thailand, Jimmy came to Phuket and started Phuket Paradise Properties. But property sales could never replace music, so Jimmy cast round for gigs and discovered... dearth. "There're not too many places to play this kind of music," he said.

So he's more than happy about the gig at the Dusit, where he plays Tuesday to Saturday. They've signed him for the rest of the year: "It's my kinda place."

He keeps the customers satisfied, playing music by, among others, Michael Franks, Billy Joel, Elton John and Johnny Mercer – but nothing remotely Turkish.

Perhaps, like many, he's found the groove he really likes. "I don't miss the US... in Phuket, and in my heart, I feel like I've found my true home."

To find a musician of Jimmy's caliber playing in a Phuket lobby lounge is so remarkable that it brings to mind the final two lines of *Piano Man*:

And they sit at the bar and put bread in my jar

And say, man, what are you doin' here?



'My first gig was singing at a church dance.'

– Jimmy Cicero

Happily Ever After

Recent weddings in Phuket



Warachat Chatchawet and Witthawat Chompoonuch were married in the Phuket Ballroom at The Royal Phuket City Hotel on March 1.



Atchara Raksasap and Daniel Pope were married in the Phra Pitak Grand Ballroom of The Metropole hotel on March 10.



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This week



ROCKE ON: Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit (2nd from left), Chatu Mongkol Sonakul (center) and Sri Panwa resort owner Songkran Issara (4th from left) and family welcome American philanthropist David Rockefeller (4th from right) during his recent visit to Phuket.



LET THE GAMES BEGIN: Phuket Vice-Governor Worapoj Ratthasima (standing, center, not wearing jacket) sends off 92 of Phuket's fastest, strongest and toughest young athletes to the National Youth Sports Competition in Surat Thani.



HEY DJ: DJ Jokie (left) from the Q Bar in Bangkok gets the party going at Seduction in Patong with resident DJ Mickey.




LUCKY DRAW: Phuket Real Estate Club President Phummisak Hongsyok (2nd from right) hands to Sirirat Chanhom the 100,000-baht lucky draw prize for reserving a property during the Property Investment Exhibition 2007. Khun Sirirat reserved a home at Sun Palm Village.



BRUNCH BREAK: (seated, from left) Kymberley Sproule from Le Meridien Bangkok, Ann Hanson and Le Royal Meridien Phuket Yacht Club (LRMPYC) Public Relations manager Athipa Bunnak are joined by Bruce Stanley (standing, right) and LRMPYC Food and Beverage Manager Omar Alaoui for Sunday brunch at the resort.




GAZ GRADS: Phuket Gazette reporters Natcha 'Nan' Yuttaworawit (center) and Supanun 'Na' Supawong (right), and their friend Nuttapol 'James' Nuimuang, recently graduated formally from the Phuket Rajabhat University's Faculty of Human and Social Sciences English program.



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BEHIND THE WHEEL

By Jeff Heselwood

Although Toyota has the lion's share of the lucrative pickup market, Mitsubishi has in recent years launched an effective attack on the market leader, initially with its Strada and then, more recently, with its attractive Triton model.

The Triton is available with a range of cabs – as are its competitors – but has a wider choice of engine options, starting with a 2.5-liter turbo diesel producing a modest 88bhp (65kW) and 196 Nm of torque up to a top-of-the-line model with a 3.2-liter common-rail diesel delivering a healthy 162bhp and a massive 350Nm peak torque.

Mitsubishi has been in the news recently, taking its eighth consecutive Dakar Rally win. Stephane Peterhansel took his ninth victory – six on two wheels and now three in cars – ahead of fellow Frenchman and 2006 winner Luc Alphand.

Although there had been a number of different stage winners, including entries from Volkswagen, Hummer, BMW and even Ford of France's unique Buggy driven by former Dakar winner and one-time Grand Prix driver Jean-Louis Schlesser, it was the strong Mitsubishi team that came through in the end.

The 29th Dakar Rally took place at the beginning of January, starting from Lisbon and heading through Spain, Morocco, Mauritania and Mali before arriving in Senegal and the beautiful desert city of Dakar.

This year's event was marred by the death of two motorcyclists. Since the first Dakar rally in 1978, 50 people involved in the race have died, half of them competitors.

The adventure began in 1977. Frenchman Thierry Sabine got lost on his motorcycle in the Libyan desert during the Abidjan-to-Nice rally. After being rescued from the sands, he returned to France defeated by the extreme landscapes. He then promised himself that he would share this



Mitsubishi tries it on

If the PR pictures are to be believed, Mitsubishi's Triton is also for sale on Mars. On Earth, it is doing well against market leader Toyota.

discovery with as many as possible and lived for a single goal: take a maximum number of people into the immensity of the sand.

The first rally took place the following year starting in Europe. The route then continued to Algiers before crossing Agadez and ultimately to Dakar.

The Paris-Dakar rally, as it was then known, opened up an unknown world, one in which professionals and amateurs alike could take part.

This year more than 500 crew members took part in this near-8,000-kilometer adventure, of which more than half consists

of timed special stages, sometimes in sandstorms, sometimes in the dark. That so many competitors return every year for what must be one of the last big motorsport challenges in the world says a great deal about Sabine's vision all those years ago. Sadly the Frenchman died in a helicopter crash during the 1986 event.

Apart from the rigors of the Dakar, the more humble Mitsubishi vehicles also have a reputation for ruggedness and reliability and the Thai-built Triton is no exception. The model made its debut in 2005 in Thailand and is

now exported to a number of countries, including, amazingly enough, Japan. To tie in neatly with the Dakar successes, the Triton has large fender flares and clear visual links with the Dakar Pajero model.

On the 4WD versions, an Easy Select transfer box enables the driver to switch from 2WD to 4WD "on the fly", while the rear differential incorporates a limited-slip system to provide extra traction on slippery surfaces.

Mitsubishi, one of the smallest of the Japanese automakers, has recently reported a slump in sales in its Asian markets, nota-

bly Indonesia, Malaysia and Taiwan, and even in Australia, which is generally resistant to financial woes. Here in Thailand, though, the company is enjoying strong sales of all models, but in particular, the Triton pickup.

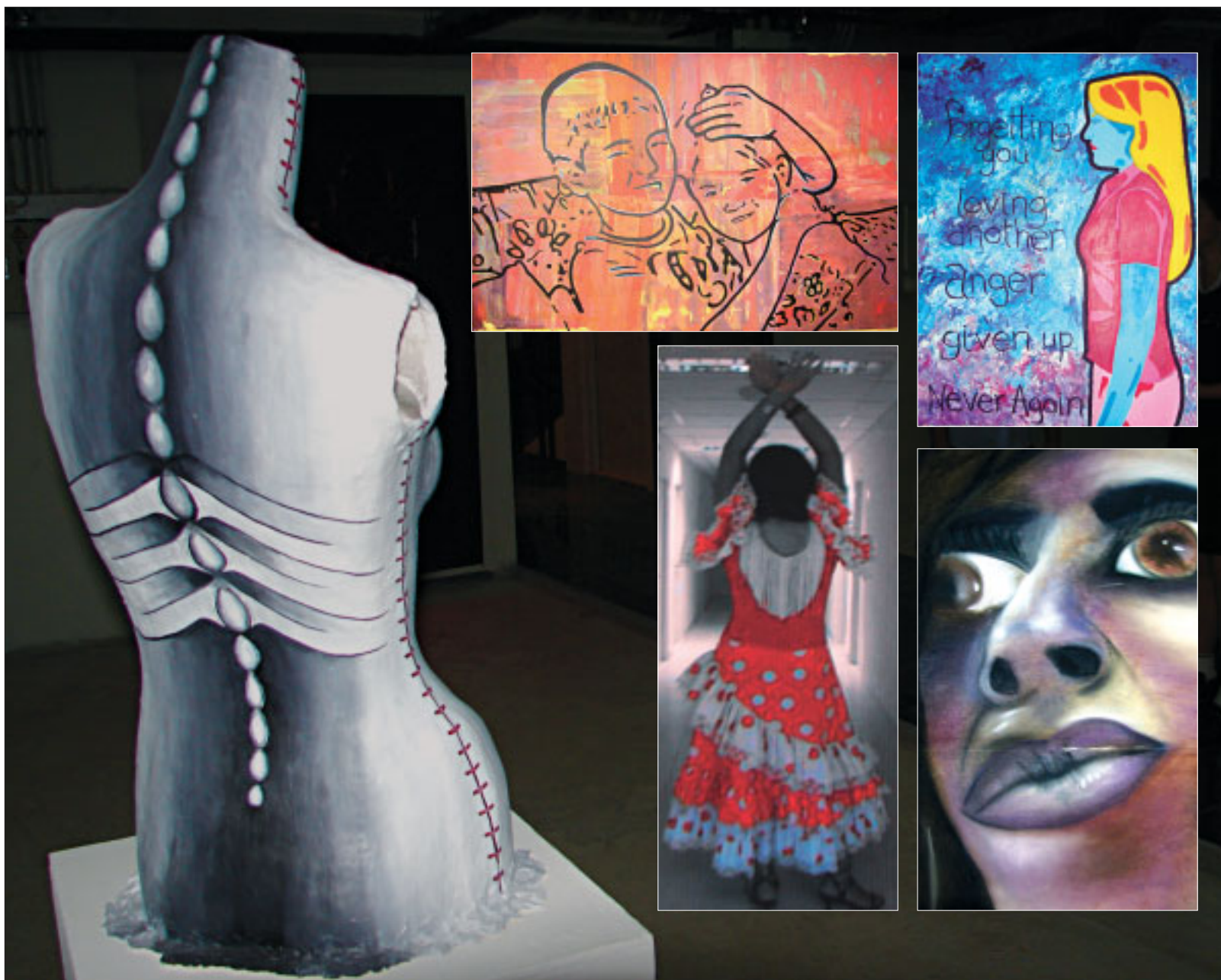
Prices start at 440,000 baht for the entry-level, single-cab 2WD model; 628,000 baht for the least expensive 4WD model; rising to 898,000 baht for the top-of-the-range 3.2-liter automatic, 4WD double-cab Triton GLS.

Jeff Heselwood may be contacted by email to jhc@netvigat.com

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By Natcha Yuttaworawit

How does someone design costumes for a beautiful, fantastic ladyboy show in Phuket? Well, for a start, it helps to be a ladyboy, of course.

Dechawut Chuntakaro has been in the stage's spotlight for more than 20 years, so you might know her better as "Khun Day Freeman".

She is often seen on TV, and you may even recognize her from the posters that are popping up all over Phuket, advertising her stage production *The Most Fantastic Beautiful Man Show*.

K. Day personally designs and oversees the making of all the costumes for her shows. "Our costume style is more based on fashion than glamor," she explains, "but what designs and materials are used in making stage costumes depends on the venue and the budget available, and other elements, too."

"At this show we are not stressing the use of makeup and we are not using 'stage makeup'. We are using a more natural style that is not too dark or too thick."

"Everything we are doing with this show is more based on fashion trends; our costumes look more like styles than costumes," says K. Day.

With several shows weekly and lots of movement by performers not just on stage but out among the audience as well, the glitzy costumes can start to show wear and tear. K. Day says that they often completely replace costumes when they are worn out.

"It costs nearly the full price of the outfit to have it repaired, so it is not worth it. We also do this for the accessories," she says, adding that keeping a high-end wardrobe is not cheap.

"For example, the dress I am wearing now I designed myself, and I embroidered it by hand. It cost about 20,000 baht to make because I used a lot of shiny glass beads," she explains.

K. Day believes that costumes must appeal to her audience. "I need my audiences to be touched by this strange, fantastic show. We transform a normal man into a beautiful man. Before seeing our show some people never knew that a man can be a 'beautiful man'," K. Day says.

However, K. Day has no aspirations to climb into commercial design. In fact, she has little interest in it.

"My costumes are designed only for show. I'm not creating designs for commercial use; the styles used in making costumes for shows should be different. However, it is easy for one field of design to start using designs from another field, so every stylist must be careful."

Most of the materials she uses are imported in order to get a better selection of color and style, but K. Day is strict in making sure that materials are good quality, especially bird feathers. "Fabric can be either synthetic or

Expressing themselves

The works of seven talented students from the British International School's International Baccalaureate (IB) Art Program on display at the Royal Phuket Marina are raising a few eyebrows and giving insight about how young artists on the island

view themselves and the world around them.

The multimedia exhibit, which began March 23, includes painting, photography, sculpture and other media.

As an academic exercise, creating the works gave the budding artists a chance to learn

about art history, techniques and the various media available to work in – as well as firm grounding in time-management skills.

As a creative enterprise under the supervision of BIS art program director Samantha Fruin, the young artists got a chance to explore themselves and share their visions, dreams and secrets with others.

"In the two-year IB Art course I have mainly explored myself; my thoughts, feelings and secrets and used a range of medias to express this. Art has helped me to know more about myself," read an explanatory placard by art student Han Byul Kim, pictured laying on her side in a short skirt.

Speaking of her experience

in the art program, student Kymberly Muego Maitland-Smith said, "I have aimed to learn more about my thoughts, beliefs and views on life through this process. Art has helped me gain more knowledge about the world and the people in it through the research I have done."

The exhibition, comprising 90 works created over an 18-month period, was opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony presided over by Phuket Provincial Administration Organization President Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr. A reception with music by BIS's Jazz Band followed. The IB Visual Art Exhibition will be open daily from 9 am to 5 pm until April 30. Admission is free.

– Laura Schafer

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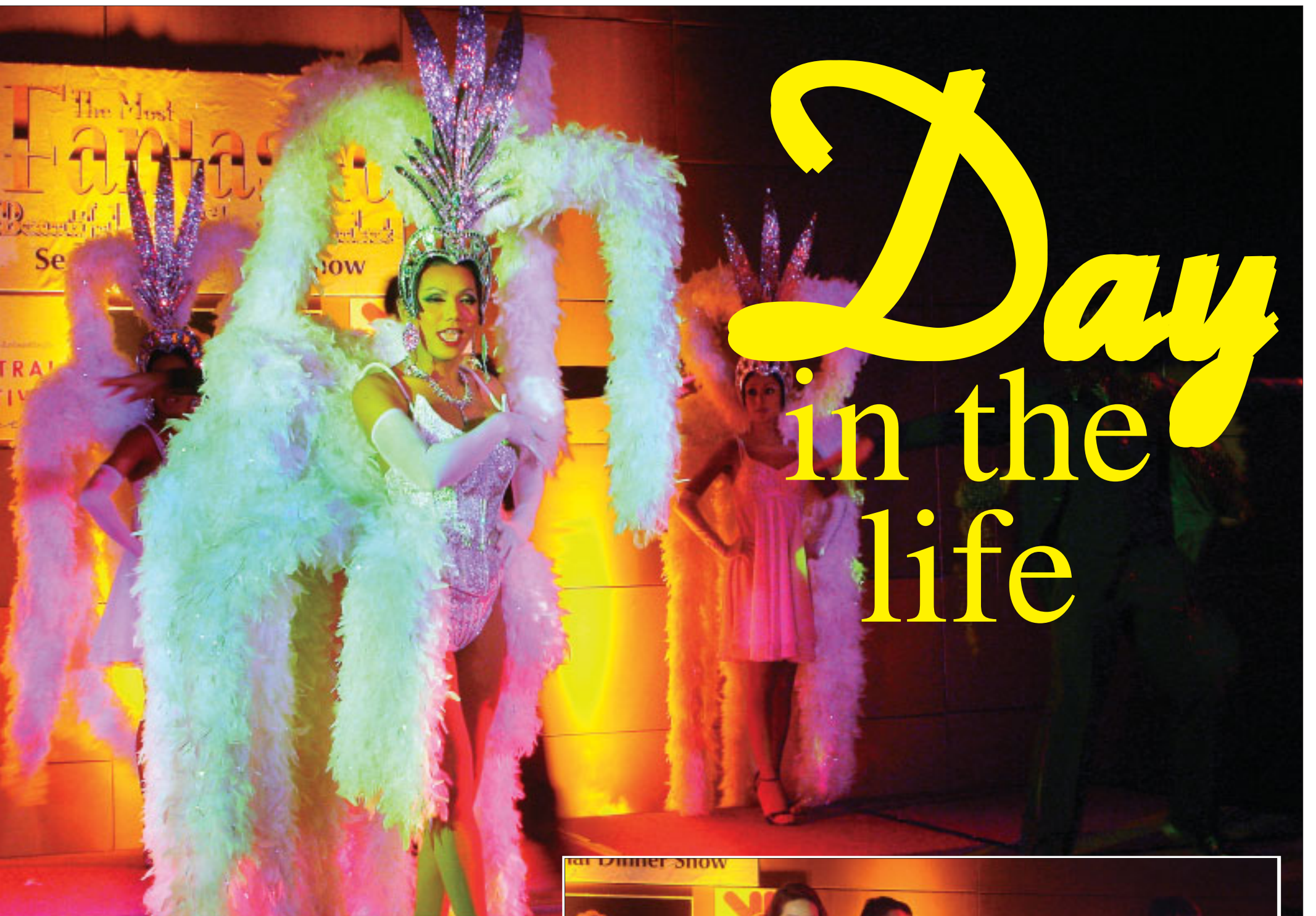
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OSTRICHES, EAT YOUR HEARTS OUT: K. Day onstage in all her feathered glory. Right, simple but sexy: another act in the show.

natural, depending on the styles and functions of the design, but bird feathers must be high quality because they are easily broken," she says.

K. Day gets most of her ideas from watching fashion shows and paying attention to different cultures and traditional dress.

"I don't have favorite colors or styles because I design for other people. I base my costumes' styles on music, such as Brazilian music, and use many bird feathers or big accessories to make the costumes colorful. If the costume is in an Asian style, I emphasize the golden tones to create a holy and 'solid' look.

"I have had a love of costumes for a long time, but I never learned how to design them professionally.

"I have learned over the years from my long experience and from magazines, foreign fashion shows and by asking my elder colleagues.

"I think of what the costume should look like, and then of the possibilities."

The Fantastic Beautiful Men Show is at PhuJa Nirvana Restaurant & Bar in Central Festival Phuket 1st floor. For more information call 076-291010 or visit the website at www.phujanirvana.com



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I have finally taken up my New Year's resolution to be healthier and to work out, but it's not easy to stick to – and my evening yoga classes have brought a few sore mornings.

So what better way to reward myself for three weeks of toning than a massage and some relaxing “me” time at the intimate Chedi Spa on the beach?

As I sit at the spa reservation desk looking through the spa menu, Spa Manager Ekasit “Say” Jeawkok greets me with a graceful *wai*.

The Chedi Spa menu is full of signature treatments, all with little additions or twists on the norm to make them all the more special.

For example, the Chedi's signature treatments use the resort's own natural products, and the aromatherapy oils are based on the four elements Earth, Wind, Water and Fire.

K. Say tells me that the Chedi Massage is the premier signature treatment. Combining a Swedish massage with a sport massage, it focuses on pressure points to soothe tired muscles and increase circulation.

“We want to take care of our guests like a mother takes care of her child,” she explains.

On that note the Chedi also offers a Junior Massage for children eight to 12 years old. K. Say explains that it is a gentle massage, allowing parents to share a relaxing spa experience with their children.

I select the two-hour Chedi Rejuvenation package at 3,950 baht and off we go to the treatment rooms. I follow K. Say up the walkway that Thai movie stars and beauty queens have trod before me. The path weaves through the jungle before coming to several small bungalows overlooking the pristine beach.

There are four treatment rooms, two double and two single. I'm led to a double treatment room with private outdoor bath.

Please Say it's so



GET STONED: A warm outdoor aromatherapy floral bath, heaven in black granite at The Chedi.

Through a glass door lie two massage beds.

My treatment begins with a footbath and a Swedish massage, which increases blood flow and circulation as the strokes and movements of the masseuse are away from the heart.

My therapist brings a tray holding the four aromatherapy oils. She explains to me the scent of each one and what it is supposed to awaken in my senses. Earth is a blend of patchouli and Thai *prai* to relieve tension; Wind is made of bergamot and orange peel to refresh the senses; Water is a mix of lavender and geranium for moisturizing; and Fire is eucalyptus and rosemary, to improve circulation.

I choose Earth, disrobe, wrap myself with a large fluffy bath towel and settle onto the end of the treatment bench. I plunge my tootsies into a warm bath and my therapist pulls out a scrub brush. I grimace, why did I choose a foot bath? I have probably the most sensitive feet ever...

But unlike other pedicure-like treatments I've had, this doesn't tickle or make me pull away; the movements are light and gentle. I lay back on the table with relief as I roll over for the massage.

As I'm lulled into a relaxed euphoria, I realize that there have been no breaks in sensation during my massage. My therapist skillfully moves around me without breaking the rhythm of the massage. Impressive.

After my back, legs, arms, feet, neck, chest, stomach, head are all kneaded into relaxation, I hop into a warm shower outside

while a warm bath is prepared for me. Soothing oils have been poured into the black granite tub

and flowers are floating on top. I climb in and lie back to watch the palm trees above me. Heaven.

My therapist comes out with a pot of hot ginger tea and a tray of shortbread cookies. I feel my heart sink a little when she says she will be back in 15 minutes; I think I could stay right here the rest of the afternoon.

But I have to get out and move on to my facial. I know, it's a rough life. My skin is soft and oil-free as I pat myself dry before climbing back onto the massage table.

The facial is the grand finale of this package. I select an Aroma Cleansing Facial to rehydrate my parched skin. I lay back and close my eyes while a cooling mist is sprayed over my face and neck and then several different cleansers are used.

Next a gentle scrub is rubbed on in little circular motions. My therapist uses a warm towel to wipe off the scrub before another round of cleansing begins.

All throughout the facial she uses gentle pressure to massage my face and neck. A facial mask is applied with a soft brush. After my face is cleansed and moisturized, my scalp is treated to a nice massage.

I sit up as my therapist links her arms in mine, twisting my back around working out the last of the kinks that last night's yoga didn't. Then, using her forearms, she works out the few remaining knots in my shoulders that were left over after the massage.

I feel so full of energy after this package that I bound off to the beach for a late afternoon swim. When I arrive at the beach, my companions ask what I've done today because my skin is glowing. I didn't hesitate to let them in on my little secret – an afternoon at The Chedi.

The Chedi Spa, open daily from 9 am to 9 pm. Tel: 076 324 017-20 ext 718. Booking two days in advance is recommended.

Spa
MAGIC



By Laura Schafer
Chedi Spa

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If I come back to my intention, my intention comes from my Heart. I am strong and I am at peace."

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When you mention Koh Jum, most people's first question is, "Where?"

It's not yet on many tourist maps and few travelers make it there.

Koh Jum is about 25 kilometers to the south of Krabi and is easily reached by the twice-daily ferry boats en route to Koh Lanta. About an hour out of the port of Krabi, the ferry stops and longtail boats arrive in the middle of the bay – and a few knowledgeable travelers jump ship.

The northern areas of the island, known locally as "Koh Pu", are rocky, rugged and covered in jungle and small rubber plantations. The southern areas of the island are flatter and the beaches are surrounded by natural vegetation, such as casuarina trees. As on Phuket and Koh Lanta, accommodation is found mainly on the west coast.

This is a very quiet island and certainly not for those looking to party and enjoy the bar life.

There are no paved roads or cars and getting around is not easy, the main options being walking or taking a motorbike taxi. Every bungalow or resort has its own version of these – so it's no problem if you do wish to explore.

There are a few motorcycles to rent for self drive also. A word of warning, however: check the brakes first.

There is no mains electricity on the island and resorts are either sophisticated enough to have their own generators or are still very small and romantically inclined and rely on kerosene lamps... but, of course, have no fans.

Local islanders still survive largely on fishing and rubber tapping, as tourism is still very much a secondary industry. The island remains untouched by the ravages of modern tourism and Koh Jum is still a very friendly place indeed.

When researching for this trip I was fortunate enough to stumble across a great website for Koh Jum Lodge, which is run



KICK BACK: There are few things in this world that can beat the simple pleasure of a hammock (left) strung between two trees by the beach.

Above: Hey, you! Get off my deserted beach!

Robinson Crusoe appeal

by French expat Jean Michel Limandas and his Thai wife, Jane. Both come from the hotel and travel industry in Thailand and brought their long and considerable experience into developing such a natural and beautiful resort.

The lodge is a real eco-resort, committed to protecting and preserving its great asset – the natural unspoiled beauty surrounding it.

The individual bungalow villas are located on an otherwise deserted 12 kilometer beach – all wooden structures with the most comfortable hammocks around. Still a wonderful pastime... a hammock strung between two coconut trees.

The rooms are all large and elegantly designed with great amenities – very comfortable and

very peaceful. The resort has a great up-market Robinson Crusoe-type of appeal, especially with its wooden deck and pool.

My the favorite time of the day by far was dusk after a long beach walk, sipping a well-deserved vodka and tonic at the beachside bar while watching the sun set behind the stunning cliffs of the Phi Phi Islands in the distance.

I'll be heading off to UK for a few months soon for a medical sabbatical and what a sight that was to take with me.

I'm planning to be back in Phuket in July and will certainly be heading to Koh Jum to relax for a few days on my return. And will certainly be seeking a traveling companion – as such sights and experiences are always so much better shared. Anyone care to join me?

Until then to all my special friends, *au revoir* and enjoy.

Thailand TRAVELER

By Bill Owen

KOH JUM: ESSENTIAL FACTS

How to get there: Drive past the turn off to Krabi on Highway 4 and head south toward Trang. Turn right onto the 4036 and then head to Laem Kruat, where you will find the public jetty.

The longtail ferry service leaves at 3 pm and takes 30 minutes to get to the island (30 baht for one-way transfer). The lodge can send someone to collect you from there at a cost of 100 baht. Private longtails can also be hired from 1,000 baht per trip.

Alternatively, guests can arrive by ferry from Krabi. Board the Koh Lanta ferry, and then transfer to the local Koh Jum longtail boats, which wait off the west coast.

The ferries currently leave Krabi at 10:30 am and 1:30 pm daily. Check locally in Krabi as these times are liable to change.

Where to stay: Koh Jum Lodge – Seaview Cottages from 4,000 baht a night, including breakfast.

Website: www.kohjumlodge.com; Email: info@kohjumlodge.com; Tel: 089-9211621

For lower-budget accommodation and good information on this lovely island take a look at the excellent website: www.kohjumonline.com

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Puzzles



The Cryptic Crossword

Spot the Difference



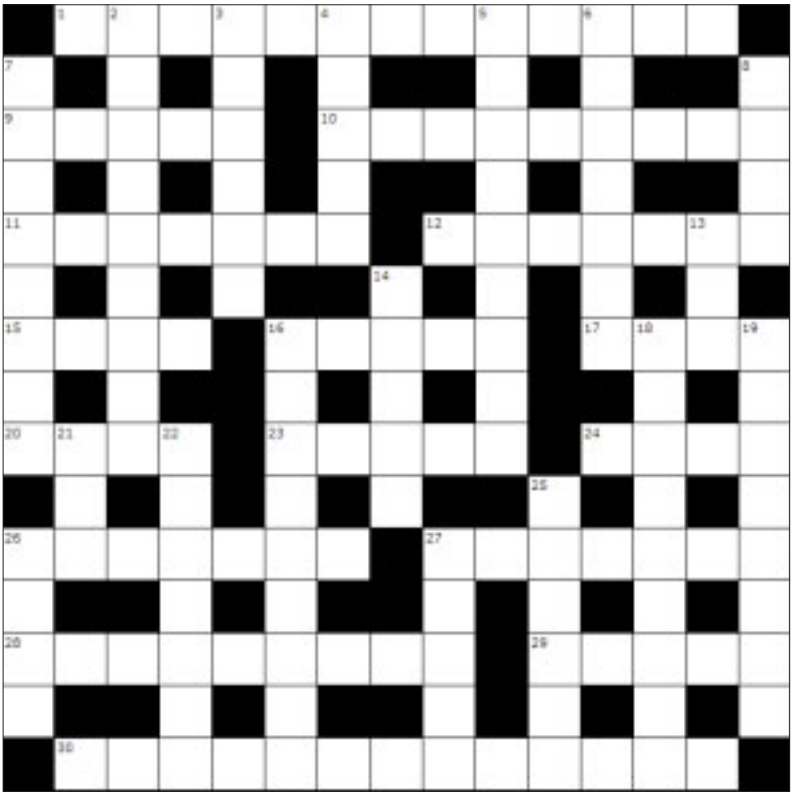
Can you find the seven differences between the two cartoons below? And can you find them faster than the rest of the family?

Solution on next page.



- ACROSS
- 1. Imposter a mesh change. (13)
 - 9. Damage? Incorrect. (5)
 - 10. The Italian in abstract with dispatch. (9)
 - 11. Coffee remnants in the garden? (7)
 - 12. A little science with ship or snip. (7)
 - 15. Exist in reverse – that’s bad. (4)
 - 16. I got in, threw off and reared in fright. (5)
 - 17. North I go to the French river. (4)
 - 20. It is in points – takes exam. (4)
 - 23. Practice to make holes. (5)
 - 24. Pace turns 26 down. (4)
 - 26. Pennies for an act of contrition. (7)
 - 27. Gave protection to limb – or Commie! (7)
 - 28. Accoutrements to catch asdic noises. (9)
 - 29. Minister to special delight. (5)
 - 30. Predict poorly – gotta conspire. (13)

- DOWN
- 2. A little ecology with no fog – he knows money! (9)
 - 3. Anna took in soldier? Heartache! (6)
 - 4. Kicks out, with saints mixed in. (5)
 - 5. Claim, “Oh, I’d become murderous.” (9)
 - 6. Sara’s in bridge. (7)
 - 7. Loot German cardinal – and brags. (8)
 - 8. The German’s about? Yes, old craftsman. (4)
 - 13. Ouch! Left late person. (3)
 - 14. I take a bit back before bone. (5)
 - 16. Entice Ed to get into vacuum cleaner action. (9)
 - 18. Burying intent, take in right – and me. (9)
 - 19. Former spouse quietly edit the point – get it done! (8)
 - 21. Anger is most of fire. (3)
 - 22. Cleaner is fake – what a smell! (7)
 - 25. Cardinal and me have twitch – it makes you sick. (6)
 - 26. Strokes favorites. (4)
 - 27. Possession, as matching group. (5)



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2007

Scribble Space



EZ TRIVIA QUIZ

1. What is the oil reservoir beneath an auto engine called?	6. What are the official languages of Switzerland?
2. What is the capital of Australia?	7. The Disney character Goofy has a son. What is the son’s name?
3. Which band recorded an album called <i>How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb</i> ?	8. Where would you find a colander?
4. What date is Boxing Day?	9. At which stage in an opera would you find the overture?
5. Which mountain range is between France and Spain?	10. Which New York street is famed for theaters?

Answers on next page

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

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

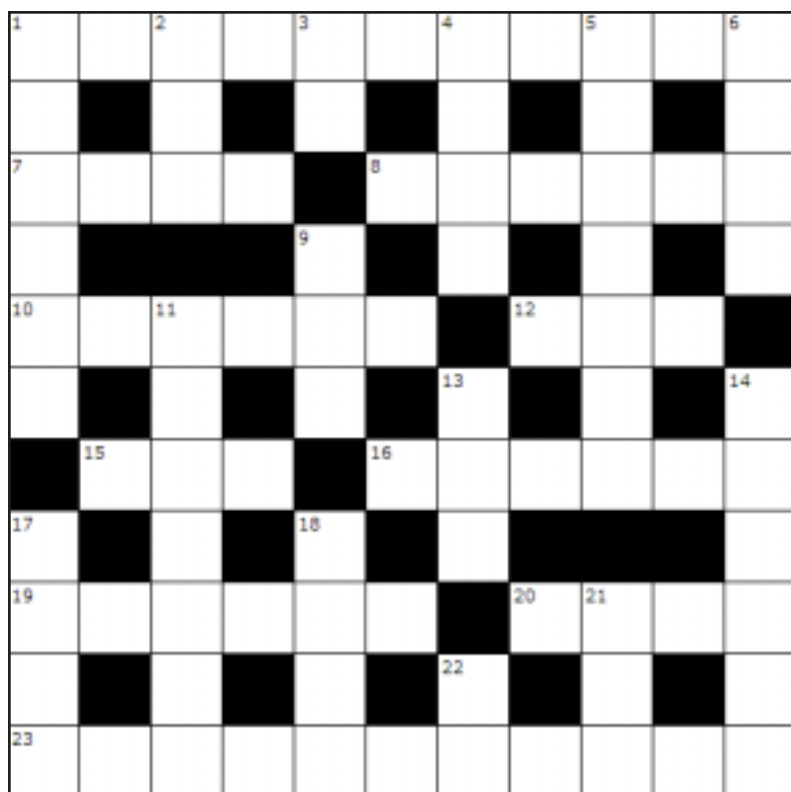
Rhyme Time

The words described below all rhyme with ‘boat’.

What are they?

1. On the water.
2. IOU.
3. Nimble animal.
4. Far away.
5. End of reported speech.
6. Cereal.
7. Swell up.
8. Castle defense.
9. Set aside for a purpose.
10. Bird house.

Answers on next page



Quick Crossword

ACROSS

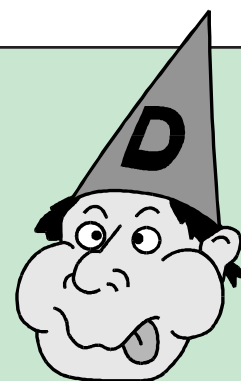
1. Not practical.
7. Hello and goodbye in Italy.
8. Tough part of old Greece.
10. Lunatic.
12. Small dog noise.
15. Candle material.
16. Wild West criminal.
19. Of horses.
20. Drink with gusto.
23. See-through.

DOWN

1. Wages.
2. Green legume.
3. Chopper.
4. Typing mistake.
5. Cut short.
6. He tells fibs.
9. Flittermouse.
11. Most famous vampire.
13. Computer problem.
14. General Eisenhower.
17. They're on the end of your legs.
18. Picnic pests.
21. Small.
22. Between Mi and Sol.

Solution below, right

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



1. Where would you find Friulian and Ladin spoken?
2. What language do Estonia's Ingrians speak?
3. In a true Abjad language, how many written vowels are there?
4. Roughly how many people have Dravidian as their native language?
5. Glagolitic is a precursor of which modern writing system?
6. Which language may be written according to Hepburn Romanization?
7. In which year was the Simplified Chinese system of writing finalized?
8. Apart from China, in which countries is Simplified Chinese used?
9. What is Nelson Mandela's first language?
10. Roughly how many languages are spoken in Africa?
11. Khoe, San, Hadza and Ndebele are all examples of what kind of language?
12. How many tones are there in the Bulu language of Africa?
13. Bulu can be broadcast by using what method?
14. What language did the Logical Language Group develop in the 1980s?
15. In which part of the brain do language processing, speech production and comprehension take place?
16. What do the following languages have in common: Catabwa, Cornish and Wappo?
17. Can users of British Sign Language and American Sign Language understand each other?
18. What form of language was used by the ñañigos terrorists in Cuba during the Spanish occupation?
19. Which British language is spoken by about 700,000 people?
20. Which is the world's second most widely spoken native language?

Answers below

Puzzle Solutions

Rhyme Time Answers

1. Afloat; 2. Promissory note; 3. Mountain goat; 4. Remote;
5. Unquote; 6. Oat; 7. Bloat; 8. Moat; 9. Devote; 10. Dovecote.

Solution to this week's Cartoon Puzzle



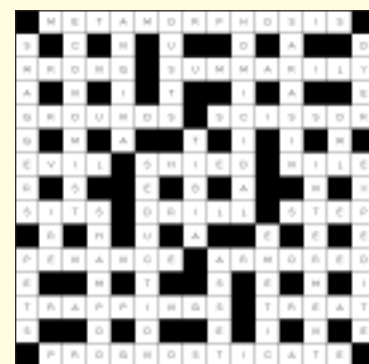
EZ Trivia Answers

1. The Sump; 2. Canberra; 3. U2; 4. December 26; 5. The Pyrenees; 6. Italian, French, German and Romansh; 7. Max; 8. In a kitchen; 9. At the beginning; 10. Broadway.

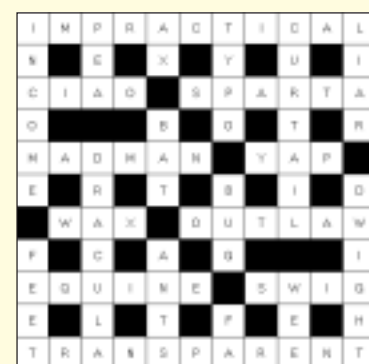
Monster Quiz Answers

1. Northern Italy; 2. Finnish; 3. None; 4. 65 million; 5. Cyrillic; 6. Japanese; 7. 1964; 8. Singapore and Malaysia; 9. Xhosa; 10. 1,800; 11. Click languages; 12. Five; 13. Drums; 14. Lobjan; 15. Broca's area; 16. They are all extinct; 17. No. The two are mutually unintelligible; 18. Whistles; 19. Welsh; 20. Spanish.

Cryptic Crossword



Quick Crossword



Sudoku

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

A poor tale of Edgar Allan Poe

Every schoolboy knows that Edgar Allan Poe came to a bad end, dead of drink or delirium in Baltimore in 1849 at the age of 40. What's unknown is the exact cause of his death amid mysterious circumstances.

The conceit in Matthew Pearl's *The Poe Shadow* (Random House, New York, 2006, 433pp) is that a rich young Baltimore lawyer named Quentin Clark, a great admirer and correspondent of Poe, takes up his case and devotes the next couple years into unraveling the secrets surrounding his death.

This is a great narrative hook but Matthew Pearl, alas, doesn't have the literary chops to pull it off. When it comes to characterization, dialog, description and plot, he is woefully inept.

Quentin Clark is a cipher. He writes in an archaic early 19th century prose that comes off as simply stilted. He is engaged to another cipher, the virginal and vacuous Hattie Blum. But then, in his obsession with Poe's death, he tears off to Paris in search of Auguste Duponte, supposedly the real-life version of C Auguste Dupin, hero of Poe's detective stories (and forerunner, as Alfred Conan Doyle would later admit, of Sherlock Holmes). The idea is to bring him back to Baltimore and put him on the case of Edgar Allan Poe.

The mysterious bits are Poe's whereabouts in the last four days of his life. Supposedly he was to travel from Richmond



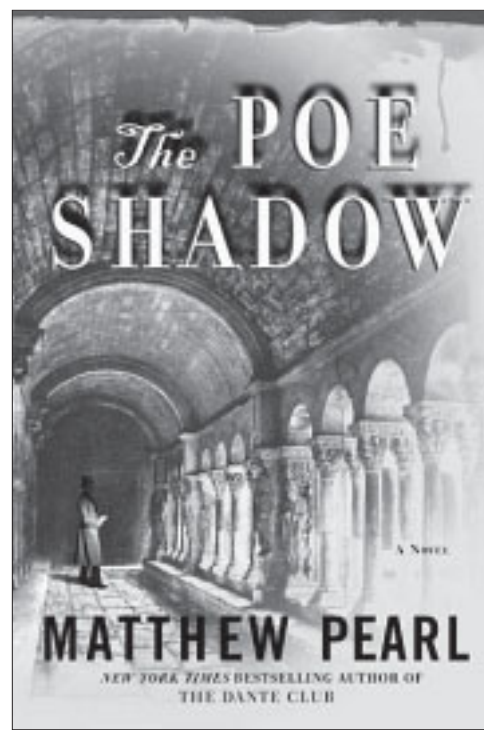
Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

— where he had recently taken a temperance pledge and became engaged to be married — to Philadelphia to edit a rich lady's poems and then to New York to pick up the mother of his late wife and bring her back to Richmond where he proposed setting up a new literary magazine, *The Stylus*.

Instead, he's found in a seedy tavern in Baltimore, stark raving out of his mind, wearing someone else's ill-fitting clothes. A doctor friend transports him to a hospital where he raves on and on about someone called "Reynolds" until he dies.

This is the case Clark presents to Auguste Duponte in Paris. If anything Duponte is more a cipher than Clark. With a vacant stare and preoccupied mind, Duponte spends his time studying newspapers in his room and wandering the streets of Paris. He resists Clark's entreaties to take on the case of Poe.



Now enters the Devil in the form of "Baron" Claude Dupin, noted lawyer and charlatan, who claims to be the real Dupin. He has snuck into Paris from London, where he'd gone to ground to dodge creditors, with his beautiful henchwoman and bodyguard Bonjoir. These two liven up the novel for a bit, but then it's back to the dreary treadmill of a plot.

The plot depends on those two hoary

19th century devices of wild coincidence and eavesdropped conversations. Clark is constantly stumbling across just the people he is looking for and then sneaking up to listen in their conversations. He does this a half dozen times with Baron Dupin and Bonjoir alone, once resorting — oh give me a break — to a rat-infested dumbwaiter.

Still you keep grimly turning pages waiting for the grand revelations that Duponte is supposed to bring forth. While the Baron races around Baltimore interviewing witnesses and concocting a sinister, violent plot against Poe, Duponte sits in his room poring over newspaper clippings. Then before the Baron is to give his public lecture to reveal all, he is shot on stage. And Clark is accused and thrown in jail, though he's nowhere near a gun. And Bonjoir kisses him with an opiate that sends him to the prison infirmary, the wall of which fall apart in a rainstorm, allowing Clark to escape. And then...

The big courtroom scene! Duponte hires a vagrant to fire a pistol that empties the court, leaving Clark conveniently alone so Duponte can reveal the results of his research. He could have just tapped him on the shoulder but no... And the staggering revelations? Mush.

Matthew Pearl has written another 19th century literary thriller called *The Dante Club*, starring Longfellow, James Russell Lowell and Oliver Wendell Holmes. I'll definitely miss the hat-trick.

PHUKET DIARY

www.phuketgazette.net/calendar

March 31: Mediterranean Night at Wine Connection.

Enjoy the flavors of Spain at Wine Connection Chalong from 7 pm to 10:30 pm. Tapas and paella at 399 baht per person. Free flow Sangria at 250 baht. Live Music. Reservations recommended. Call 076-282411/2.

Until April 1: Chess on the Beach

The 7th Bangkok Chess Club Open will be held at Phuket Graceland Resort & Spa from March 27 to April 1.

The international tournament, which is expected to attract about 100 chess players from Thailand and abroad, will be held with the theme "Chess on the Beach".

Group A of the tournament is open to all players, rated and unrated. Group B is open only to players rated under 2000 and unrated players.

The ratings are based on International Chess Federation (FIDE) or Thai ELO ratings — other national ratings will be validated by the organizer.

Up to six players from the same country may enter as a team. The total score of best five players will be used for determining the best team.

For more information please visit www.bangkokchess.com

April 8 and 9: Jungceylon Grand Opening.

Jungceylon is planning a week of entertainment and fun

during their Grand Opening April 8 to 15. On tap for the celebration are fireworks with a light and sound show, a concert by Thai super star Tata Young, the Miss International Songkran Contest, a multitude of fashion shows including bikini and lingerie catwalks and an opportunity to cheer for your favorite "Hottie" at the Miss Phuket Bike Week Pageant (see below).

All activities are free. For more information, please see the website at www.jungceylon.com

Until April 8: Island Furniture Cricket League.

The Island Furniture Cricket League returns for its second season at Cherng Talay School starting in late January and finishing up in early April.

Four local teams will play 12 round robin matches with the top two teams playing in the final. Games are 11 a side, 35 overs & played every Sunday from 11 am to 4 pm during the season.

For more information email: scarfy@loxinfo.co.th or visit the league website at: www.phuketcricket.com

April 13 to 15: Songkran (Thai New Year).

Also known as the Water Festival, Songkran is held during the driest months in Thailand, and is celebrated by Thais throughout the country by pouring water — a little or a LOT — on other people to wish them good luck for the New Year.

April 14 and 15: Phuket Bike Week.

The 13th Annual Phuket Bike Week 2007 will held on April 14-15 by Phuket Rider Club and *Ride Thailand Magazine*.

Several thousand bikers from all over the world are expected to participate in the weekend's activities.

Throughout the holiday big bikes such as Harley-Davidsons, BMWs, Ducatis and Hondas will be touring the island, including one tour past several high tourism areas such as Patong beach, Kata beach, Karon beach, Promthep cape, Rawai beach and Heroin monument.

Past Phuket Bike Weeks have enticed at least 5,000 people to the island.

Some highlights of this year's festivities include a Big Bike and Motor Show at Thai Naan Restaurant on April 14 at 4 pm, a Biker Fashion Show by Harley Davidson Bangkok at 9:30 pm that night, a Big Bike Party at Jungceylon on April 15 at 7 pm, and a Miss Phuket Bike Week contest later that day at 9 pm.

Until April 15: Perfect Phuket Contest.

Property developer C9 Hotelworks has launched a website and worldwide competi-

tion, sponsored by the *Gazette*, urging the global community to create videos of the perfect lifestyle on Phuket, with the chance to win prizes.

The www.phuketperfect.com website guides viewers to a dedicated page on the YouTube website where entrants can upload their videos from March 1 until April 15.

Winners will be announced on phuketperfect.com April 30. Top prize is a week's stay at the Movenpick Residence.

All details of the program and uploading instructions can be found at www.phuketperfect.com/contest/

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- Since 1994 -

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Pipe dreams

Unexpected heavy rainfall during what is statistically one of Phuket's driest months, March, has once again averted water shortages and given officials from the various water-supply agencies cause to sigh with relief.

Fortunately, the recent downpours did not result in any major flooding, as often happens after months of low rainfall when debris accumulates in drains and causes blockages.

Instead, the rain in many areas seemed to come in just the right amounts and intensity to clean out drainpipes and wash away their accumulated detritus – in most areas straight into the sea.

This has made the heavy rain a mixed blessing on some parts of the island, most notably Patong, which has virtually no capacity to store or make use of the naturally-purified water that falls from the sky – other than as a drain cleaning agent.

The island's undisputed mass-tourism and nightlife hub, Patong has been a victim of its own success in recent months as indicated by the overwhelming stench emanating from its sewers.

The second-phase sewage treatment plant and an innovative "constructed wetland" that was opened next to it last October are obviously incapable of treating all the wastewater. During heavy rainfalls, the treatment system's storage capacity can be overwhelmed, causing the flow of untreated sewage to flow straight into the bay with the rainwater in what is known as "combined runoff".

So while the latest rainfall may have lessened the stench from the sewers, it simply transferred much of the offending muck into Patong Bay, home of Phuket's most popular beach and also some species of seaweed and diatoms reported as found only in Patong Bay in the high season?

The Democrat Party recently called on the interim government to increase the budget for the 14 southern provinces to compensate for years of underfunding under former PM Thaksin, who at one point explicitly warned that constituencies that failed to support his Thai Rak Thai party could expect smaller budgets.

Nowhere are greater budget increases needed than in Patong, which desperately requires a sewage system separate from its storm drains, not to mention underground power lines and a range of other infrastructure improvements.

Given the municipality's tiny registered population, such upgrades would be well beyond the municipality's capacity to fund on its own – even if it weren't wasting much of its existing budget on non-essential activities aimed more at pleasing voters than truly serving the people by preserving the environment.

– The Editor

The Phuket Gazette

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The views expressed in the Phuket Gazette are those of the writers and contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher, the editor, the shareholders, or the directors of The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd.

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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.

Does the Gazette make a difference?

I have read every issue of your paper for the past two years, and most Letters to the Editor are from foreigners and most letters are negative but often offer very good, cost-free solutions to Phuket and Patong's problems.

Although many of these suggestions come from highly-educated businesspeople, I have yet to see even one of the suggestions implemented.

After reading literally hundreds of such letters it occurred to me that perhaps the letters are being misdirected.

If government officials cannot speak English well, then perhaps they cannot read it. Maybe, though not likely, immigration officers, police and politicians are under the mistaken impression that Patong is doing just fine – it is not doing "fine".

It has been decided that the new one-way street system will be permanent. Every person I have spoken to about it, Thais and foreigners, hate the new system.

So, if Thais hate it, foreigners hate it and (their strike to emphasize it) the tuk-tuk drivers hate it: then just who did the government do it for?

They say it has been done in the name of safety, but it is now less safe than before.

Could the Gazette send a copy of Letters to the Editor translated into Thai to the appropriate government officers? Then someone of authority might be able to rescue Patong.

Don Aleman
Patong

*The Phuket Governor, the three
Phuket Vice-Governors, the*

*President of Phuket Provincial
Administration Organization
(OrBorJor); the three highest-
ranking officers of Phuket Pro-
vincial Police, the Chief Judge
of Phuket Provincial Court and
the Phuket State Attorney (the
equivalent to the Public Pro-
secutor's Office), each receive
a free copy of every issue of
the Phuket Gazette.*

*We liaise regularly with
these positions to clarify the
points being made in articles.*

– Editor.

Jet-skis ban affects all, not just morons

Jet-skis are great fun and it's always nice to see children smiling as they're being taken for a ride on one by their "responsible" parents.

So why are jet-skis being banned? What damage do they cause? Just because a few bird-brained, clearly drunk people have been allowed to rent them from irresponsible operators the rest of us have to suffer – but why?

I recall the news about two Australians playing "chicken" off Patong Beach, but they were both so drunk they pushed it too far and refused to give way.

The inevitable head-on collision caused serious damage to both vehicles and major injuries to one of the Aussies.

So we now have yet another reason not to bother coming back to Phuket. It seems it is okay to drive like a lunatic and shoot, stab, rob and rape people – or just generally act like a complete moron – but drive a jet ski? NO!

Banana brains rule the world and make stupid, idiotic

rules that ruin things for everyday folk. So best we jet-ski fans look elsewhere to spend our Spondoolaks!

"We love speed"
By email

Let humanity prevail

Regarding the provincial order that introduced the 8 pm curfew and prohibition of using mobile phones for foreign laborers in Phuket, practically all Burmese workers working and living in Phuket are virtually under house arrest after 8 pm because of their nationality – an no other reason.

I understand the problems and the common feelings that must derive from this large mass of poor people who are forced to live in squalid conditions.

I do not think employing them and forcing them to live this is the way to solve the problems connected to the real need for low-wage labor in Phuket.

Most important, the house arrest is applied to every person of certain nationalities, without distinction between criminals and people who came here – pushed by poverty – for honest work.

It is not difficult to define this move as racist. Such behavior is sadly similar to that seen in many countries in the last century, but hardly acceptable in the "Land of Smiles" in the year 2007.

What would Thai people say if a country with Thai guest workers was applying such a general curfew on them?

I would like to invite Thai people to think of foreign workers as human beings first, punishing only the criminals among them.

Federico Parodi
Italy

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

THE GRIM REAPER IS STILL WINNING

The number of injuries and deaths on Phuket's – and all of Thailand's – roads continues to climb in spite of government campaigns to reduce the number of accidents, and Phuket is usually in the top five provinces for the number of accidents.

There are 12,000 to 13,000 people killed every year from accidents in Thailand and most of them are employed. These workers earn an income of 200,000 to 300,000 baht per year so if they can live for another 30 years they will create an income of around 70 to 80 billion baht for our country, so why shouldn't the government solve this problem? The cost to society not just in lives, but even in productivity and money is too great to not act.

The government has shown us through projects like the new traffic control measures taken at the Heroines Monument that they can decrease accidents if they take action. If people can not discipline themselves then the government must step in and create order out of the chaos.

At Vachira Hospital the monthly death toll from accidents is usually 10 to 12 people, as many as 300 injured. Sometimes 15 are killed in one month. The numbers are going up, not down.

The 30 people who died from the bus fire in Saraburi form another example of poor discipline. Many of our government officials have visited foreign countries where they have seen how the rules and regulations work to provide social order and safety and help create a good life. Why can't the government take those ideas and modify them to do something in Thailand?



FIRST PERSON

The injuries and fatalities on the roads of Phuket and Thailand are a national tragedy says Vachira Phuket Hospital Director Dr Jessada Chungpaibulpatana. His service on the front line of death, injury and pain has given him some strong opinions about what should be done to solve the problem.

I lived in Belgium for a year and I saw that they don't use buses to transport people long distances – they use trains. Buses are used there only for tourists. Why can't we do that here? It is safer and faster. But no one wants to ride the train here. It is too slow and doesn't go where they want to go.

Another thing we see in foreign countries are modern motorways that connect city to city. These motorways go direct from city to city and don't connect to all city roads. This is fast and efficient and safe. Here the major highways connect to all the local roads, create traffic jams and increase accidents.

I think now is a suitable time to talk about making better roads and building them to be the best around. Pairing the motorways with new and improved railways

would be helpful too. I remember the government talking about building a paired railway and motorway around Thailand for a budget of 80,000 million baht about ten years ago – but it hasn't happened.

Another important issue is the number of vehicles on the roads. The reason that most people buy private cars is because using public transportation isn't convenient. The *OrBorJor*'s green buses here don't provide good service. They don't come on time and only pass by once an hour at best. You can't blame people for not using a service that is so inconvenient.

When I was in Belgium the buses there came on time and the buses passed by every five minutes. But not here. In Belgium there were many electric trams that ran together with other vehi-

cles. I wish we had that tram on King Rama 5 Road in Bangkok. Most foreign cities have similar systems that run in conjunction with the regular traffic, and help reduce traffic and keep things safe.

People always think about the results first and then use the causes to explain the result. The traffic problem is up to the government to fix. When the train takes 13 hours to get to Bangkok and doesn't even come to Phuket, how can we blame people for buying their own vehicles? The government needs to build bigger trains that can run at 120 to 150 kilometers per hour and get people to and from where they want to go.

Another thing I want the government to do is to limit the speed of motorbikes. People don't follow the speed limits, so

we should ask motorcycle manufacturers to limit their top speed to 80km/hr. This is a better method than passing a law that no one will follow.

In Singapore, vehicles have an alarm that goes off when they exceed a certain speed and this helps limit speeding. We should do that with motorbikes too, as 80% of people killed in accidents here are riding motorbikes – and most of them are of working age. The cost to our society is too great to lose these people.

Human behavior is too hard to control so we have to find ways to improve safety by limiting the speed of vehicles and providing other convenient options for people to use.

Every holiday the government has campaigns to prevent accidents. The "don't drink and drive" program is a good example. These campaigns can help but they can't do it all. Not all accidents are from drinking and driving. We have to take stronger action.

My son studies at Prince of Songkhla University at the Songkhla campus. He wanted to drive a motorbike so I made him get a motorcycle license first. But after only one week he had an accident. He wasn't seriously injured, but it made me realize that our children and family members could be killed at any time.

One thing that would help with motorbikes and bicycles would be to have a special lane that is separated from traffic by at least one meter, similar to what they do in the Netherlands.

These are my suggestions to the government and I hope they will do what needs to be done – to help reduce this serious problem.

Where can I get a multiple-entry non-imm B visa?

I've heard that the Thai diplomatic missions in Malaysia have stopped issuing one-year multiple-entry non-immigrant B visas. Is this the case?

Mick Samkong

Pisit Pichitmarn, First Secretary of the Thai Embassy in Kuala Lumpur replies:

The Thai embassy and consulates in Malaysia have not canceled the issuing of multiple-entry non-immigrant visas. Whether the applicant will be granted a multiple-entry visa or not depends on the documents they present, such as a valid work permit, and the reliability of the company that is sponsoring them.

If the documents are com-

Issues & ANSWERS

plete and the company the applicant is working for appears to be trustworthy then we will issue the visa, if not we may grant a 90-day single-entry visa and tell the applicant to come back with more documentation.

For a one-year visa to be given, page five of the work permit issued by the Ministry of Labor should indicate a work period of at least one year. If it currently says only six months then you should go and get it extended at the local labor office. This is another method of screening

applicants. If page five of the work permit shows a work period of only one year but the applicant has been working for longer than this, this is also grounds for rejection. They should go and get it updated at the Labor Office.

The job is also an important factor. The officer examining the application will consider how respectable the job is. We are particularly suspicious of English teachers and dive instructors as many are not well-qualified and are working for small unaccredited businesses. Maybe they are unable to get work in their own country so they come to Thailand.

There has been no official cancellation of this visa and every embassy and consul is instructed to follow the same poli-

cy for issuing visas of this kind. Whether they are granted or not, however, depends on the officer examining the application.

Pairoh Jeawae, an Officer at the Thai Consulate in Kota Bharu replies:

At Kota Bharu we do not issue multiple-entry visas. The most we can offer is a double-entry non-immigrant visa, which allows two stays in the Kingdom of up to 90 days per stay.

Pramote Pramoomsab, Consul at the Thai Consulate in Penang replies:

We haven't actually stopped issuing one-year multiple-entry non-immigrant visas but we suggest that foreigners who al-

ready have a non-immigrant visa ask for an extension to their permit to stay at their local Immigration Office. They don't need to come to the Penang consulate.

Generally, we issue single-entry visas. Immigration Offices in Thailand can then extend a person's permit to stay depending on the documents presented.

Penchan Boonhok, from the Phuket Provincial Labor Office replies:

If a foreigner has worked for more than six months then we can update the work period on page five of their work permit to show one year.

We can put a stamp in the back of the book showing it has been extended to one year.

In The Stars

by Isla Star

ARIES (March 21-April 20): You could easily be out of your depth in a social setting this weekend. Standing back is the only way to handle this situation. Watching sophisticated Scorpio working the crowd could give you tips for next time. As the days of April begin to pass, you will be desperate to get out of the heat. A perfect getaway opportunity should present itself before the middle of the month.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Even if you feel like doing nothing more challenging than drifting around in a cool pool there will be little chance of escaping from the pressures of necessary tasks. Luckily, a helpful Cancerian comes to your rescue and you should be able to delegate during the coming days. There's a bargain with your name written on it this weekend; a shopping trip turns out to be much more enjoyable than you expect.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Focusing too much on the big picture appears to be preventing you from taking care of small details. This week, you will be susceptible to a bout of forgetfulness that could complicate life. Make time on Sunday to write down all the things you need to achieve during the week ahead. An adventurous Sagittarius is becoming attracted to your similar spirit. Wear a piece of tiger's eye to protect against negative influences.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Efforts to improve your situation begin to seem like a steep mountain climb. Lay low this weekend and indulge in self-nurturing. You will be amazed at how much better you feel after quality relaxation. A trip down memory lane is indicated midweek when you encounter an old flame. Where work is concerned, Aquarius is about to ask a loaded question. The number 5 can bring good fortune on Monday.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Chasing your tail could irritate you this week. As the month of April begins, you will be frustrated by slow progress and lack of cooperation from others. It's probably time to set firmer deadlines and stick to them. Languish in your lair this weekend in order to conserve energy for Monday, when you have the best chance of achieving the most. Wear sunflower yellow to mellow your mood.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Your reluctance to admit mistakes is still standing in the way of progress in a romantic relationship. Unless you want this liaison to end the same way as others have in the past you must face up to the truth. At work, the atmosphere calms down next week and April should prove to be your most profitable month so far. The number 9 can bring good luck this weekend.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Don't underestimate the power of positive thinking this week. You who are low on confidence should take an honest look at your achievements so far this year and feel proud. Expect to win and that is likely to happen in April. A romantic encounter takes you by surprise this weekend, but if you're not sure whether to proceed or not take some time to think it over. The color lapis encourages clear thinking.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Misunderstandings with friends or neighbors are indicated to happen this weekend. This will not be the right moment to unleash the sting in your tail. Diplomacy and tact are the only tools you should use to solve this problem and you may need to flatter someone when it's the last thing you feel inclined to do. You are hot to trot at a social get-together this weekend.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): The coast is clear for Sagittarius who want to try a new career. You are likely to receive an offer that appears too good to be true, but seeing is believing. The astral atmosphere during April will support your endeavors, in both business and your private life. Leo will certainly appreciate your skills in getting the job done. Wednesday is the best day to hold important discussions.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Paperwork and other tedious chores should be a priority for you. You could easily be the target of a practical joke on Sunday, but will get an opportunity to reciprocate soon after. A lucky financial streak is forecast to begin that should last until the middle of the month. Investments you make during this time are sure to pay off. The scent of vanilla enhances your charisma.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): You have the golden touch this week. A project that you were beginning to think was doomed suddenly attracts interest from someone who can afford to be of great support. Unfinished romantic business requires attention this weekend; you cannot expect to move on until this affair has been properly laid to rest. When a Libran friend needs to pour their heart out it's wiser to refrain from too much comment.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): A lucky break at work lifts your spirits early next week. If you were brave enough to make your feelings clear recently, you can expect to make positive progress in business. Ignore hot gossip this weekend; Aries, in particular, would like to stir the pot and your feelings could be unnecessarily hurt. Don't push yourself to do too much in the heat as a short period of physical weakness is indicated this month.

Let go of the stereotypes

Dear Momma Duck,

Why do Thai people refer to me as "farang"? I walk into the store and somebody remarks, "farang".

I understand this to be a rude word and I feel it's used like the word "black" is used to denote a person of dark skin.

I am female, so I don't have bar women sucking up to me like all the male foreigners. Perhaps that's why I feel the distinct chill of bigotry here.

Please, can you tell me how to ask Thai people to *not* label me or call me names?

Christy
Bang Tao

Dear Christy,

I agree that it can be disturbing being labeled as being a member of a group solely based on our physical characteristics, but it happens to all of us!

You have chosen to live in Thailand, so, unfortunately, you hear it rather often. When I was living abroad, I was frequently referred to as "Asian" by those who did not know me.

I have several African friends who say that they don't consider it rude to be called "black"; it is merely descriptive. Indeed, they are proud of being "black".

Perhaps I can ease your

concern by saying that "farang" is *not* a rude word in Thai. It is merely our language's description of a Caucasian, a white-skinned person.

Linguists believe that *farang* came into our language either from the Persian word *Farangi*, which means "foreigner", or the French word *Français*.

These are reasonable theories, as both of these nationalities were among the first Caucasians who came to trade and live in Thailand.

We refer to darker-skinned Asians, such as those from Pakistan, India, Malaysia, Sri Lanka

and Indonesia as *khaek* which literally means "guest".

In my experience, any "rudeness" comes solely from the intention and intonation of the speaker. "Asian" or *farang* or "black" or *khaek* can be either politely descriptive or rude, depending upon the context and situation.

It is, in my opinion, very difficult to ask people to abandon their linguistic habits. It doesn't matter whether they are Thais or Caucasians trying to be "politically correct".

Rather, I think you should focus on the fact that most Thais are merely being descriptive and mean you no insult or harm.

Also, try hard to speak with Thais. We love it when foreigners start a fun conversation with us.

We, of course, have our cul-



Momma DUCK

By Wanida Hongyok
momma@phuketgazette.net

tural stereotypes of *farangs* just as you have yours of "Thais". The only way to break down such stereotypes is to become recognized as individuals, with a name and a personality. We would love to call you by your given name.

Since you are now in a predominantly Buddhist country, you might try to think and act like us.

When you feel angry, annoyed or frustrated with people's actions or words, just stop and think a few moments before you react. Try to establish the cause of your frustration, because the true "cause" ultimately resides in your own mind, not in that of another person.

Going through this process will calm you down, allowing you react in a positive rather than a negative manner.

Also, when something raises your negative emotions, just accept it and let it go — as a cool breeze blows and then goes away. Do not let anger or frustration destroy your beautiful day. It may be difficult at the beginning, but it will help reduce your blood pressure and increase your happiness.

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The world of teenagers is a complex one. Like an entirely new tribe or sub-species of people, we have formed our own society, with its own unique language, rules, hierarchy and values.

This period of transition is generally referred to by parents as our "weaning stage", when we start testing our wings in preparation to leave the nest behind.

As a result of this, the person we have developed into during the previous 12 years drastically changes, usually to the chagrin and at times even horror of the long-suffering parents, who soon find themselves with an alien in place of their beloved son or daughter.

This alien, once a sweet, innocent child with naively shining eyes and angelic glow emanating from his or her little body, morphs almost overnight into a grunting, whining, oily and generally abrasive creature with the manners and articulation skills of Frankenstein's Monster.

We also generally induce the same reactions in our parents as said monster did to the people of Mary Shelley's novel: fear, disgust and revulsion.

The first couple of years of this Monster stage is the initiation, during which we have to learn an entirely new code of conduct, language, set of morals and values, and etiquette.

For a lucky few these lessons are learned with fluid ease, but for many teenagers this development into an entirely new person with an entirely new lifestyle can be incredibly challenging.

For starters, there is the language we have to acquire in order to blend in with the herd.

Parents are no longer referred to as "mommy" or "daddy" or even mom and dad.

In teenage speak the people who created and raised us are either called "the parentals", "them" – uttered with a required amount of derision – or various other disparaging terms, that need not be mentioned in this article.

All the adjectives our teachers painstakingly taught us throughout primary school are replaced by the all-purpose words "nice", "cool" and "awesome".

Swear words – outside of school, of course – become so interwoven with general language that their original derogatory meaning completely loses any real significance.

Then there are dozens of confusing words used in popular music that we have to learn and then incorporate into everyday language.

An example of a phrase that only we teens understand is "fo shizzle ma nizzle" which is a simplified version of "fo' sheezy ma neezy" which, when you eventually translate it back into adult English, actually means, "I concur with you wholeheartedly my African-American brother".

Language is not the only thing that changes during the teenage years.

We adolescents have devel-

Welcome to the teenage jungle



oped our own hierarchy, not dissimilar from that of a herd.

There are the ones at the top of the food chain, the popular kids. These god-like individuals tend to be good-looking, generally intelligent, funny, smug and bossy.

Get on the good side of these kids and your life will be smooth sailing. Get into their bad books and you have already committed social suicide and no one will talk to you again until you have won back their favor.

Reading a book or mentioning an un-trendy television show, band or comic in front of them can easily be compared with wad-

ing into a river full of piranhas with a bleeding cut. They will rip you to shreds.

Just below these often cruel but blindly worshipped kids are the sporty ones, whom the Americans refer to as jocks. These kids



Youth 'n ASIA

By Amy Van de Castele

are well-liked because they are strong, athletic and impressive.

Below the jocks are the nerds. This is another American term. If you are called a nerd it means you are probably highly intelligent – but not in a good way.

Nerds tend to be overly shy and studious and it is generally believed that their academic excellence is a result of having no social skills or anything interesting to say for themselves.

Below the nerds are a motley bunch of eccentrics. The eccentrics can be divided into several different sub-groups. There are the crazies, who like blowing things up and spend each day searching for wacky new ways to get adrenalin highs.

Then there are the Goths – alarming folk with pale skin, waxy hair dyed black or purple, who dress in black cloaks, fishnet

stockings and freakishly massive boots and listen to death metal music.

And there is the "emo" set, the highly emotional and melancholic who are to be avoided on their moodiest days because one never knows what they might do.

Some of these teens become famous by the time they reach their 20s by starting bands.

Apart from adhering to the complex etiquettes permeating each social set, we teenagers tend to have still more rituals and rites of passage that would make most grownups furrow their brows, wrinkle their noses and shake their heads in disgust, as if they had never done those things themselves.

We adolescents do everything the unconventional, improper way – we listen to music at volumes that make our ears bleed, we worship strange new gods called PlayStation and Xbox, we throw violent red-faced tantrums at the slightest provocation. We grunt, whine, scream and rant. We don't tidy our rooms, we don't stick to curfews and we do venture into bars, parties and tattoo parlors.

But beneath these pagan practices, the pimples, the shouting matches and the oily skin, it is helpful to remember that we are still basically human beings with some degree of similarity to preened and proper adults.

So don't despair at the alien-Frankenstein-oily savage glaring at you from the bedroom doorway. In a few years we'll grow into decent human beings with scarcely a reminder of our adolescent ways... except perhaps a tattoo or two.

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In my last column I went over details about the One Stop Visa and Work Permit Center in Bangkok, which I discussed briefly at an International Business Association of Phuket (IBAP) meeting a few weeks ago.

In this column I'd like to go into more detail about Internet access – which I believe is Phuket's premiere "ICT Infrastructure" challenge. Next week I'll tackle several topics that were raised by the audience.

Everywhere I go, the question I hear the most, over and over again (for more than six years now) is "how do I get a decent Internet connection?" I gave a presentation on that very topic last month at a Rotary Club of Patong Beach meeting. Some of the details have changed since I gave that presentation, but the general conclusions stand.

In short, the most consistently fast Internet connection that I've used is the CAT ADSL line – a line that's installed by CAT specifically for ADSL. You can't use it for a phone line. CAT ADSL costs 2,600 baht a month, which is a princely price by international standards, but the CAT line at my Sandwich Shoppe in Patong consistently runs 1,200 to 1,600 kilobits per second (Kbps) download speed, by far the fastest connection I've encountered. To get a CAT ADSL line, go to the CAT office on Phang Nga Road in Phuket City, or Aroonsom Plaza near Andaman Beach Suites in Patong. CAT doesn't "oversubscribe" their lines, and you may have to wait several weeks (or months) to get connected.

The second fastest connection I've encountered in Phuket comes from the CAT EV-DO "AirCard." It uses CDMA telephone technology. I've talked about the limitations of the card before – it's been discontinued by the manufacturer; at 13,000 baht, it ain't cheap; and you need a PCMCIA slot (if you own a desk-

top PC without a PCMCIA slot, I have a couple adapters left at the Sandwich Shoppe).

The AirCard works most places in Phuket and many places in Thailand, outside of Bangkok. At 400 to 600 Kbps downloads

and 599 baht per month, it's fast and cheap to operate. Reader AV advises that he's found a wireless router in Phuket that uses the AirCard for its Internet connection – so you can set up your own wireless network with fast Internet, bypassing the telephone lines. The shops in Phuket with the routers were sold out last I heard; I'll let you know if I find any "in the wild".

The third fastest connection (no, I'm not a shill for CAT) I know about uses the CAT desktop telephone. This CDMA-based telephone looks and acts just like a regular desktop telephone – except you don't need to plug it into a phone line. Attach your computer to the phone via a USB cable, and you can expect 150 Kbps or so, which isn't great, but it runs rings around most other services.

(Update: On March 8, *The Nation* ran an article saying, "CAT Telecom's board yesterday resolved to engage an independent appraiser to evaluate the assets of Hutchison CAT Wireless Multimedia and CAT CDMA.

Piriya Siribon, CAT board spokesman, said the appraisal would answer whether Hutchison should take over CAT

CDMA, or the other way round." Both CAT and Hutchison have been running CDMA networks in Thailand. Presumably, consolidating the two networks – which is expected by the end of the year – will extend CDMA and "DO" coverage throughout the country.)

The general speed of land-line ADSL has improved over the years, but it has a long way to go. For example, at this moment my nominal 1 Mbps (= 1,000 Kbps) TT&T ADSL line is delivering 71 Kbps, as measured by www.dslreports.com/stest on a backbone connection to San Francisco.

Yesterday, it ran as high as 280 Kbps, but fell as low as 66 Kbps. Keep in mind that an old-fashioned dial-up phone modem

connection is rated at 56 Kbps. I'm finding that the 1,000 baht-per-month ADSL lines on offer are doing better than they did a year ago, but they're still extremely slow by international standards. Speeds fall off drastically in the afternoons, especially on weekends.

Why? They're oversubscribed. TOT and TT&T have sold too many 1 Mbps lines without installing the data pipes necessary to keep up with growing demand.

I wish I could say that the premium subscription lines – the ones offered by companies other than TOT and TT&T – work better, but I haven't seen any evidence to that effect; what I hear anecdotally leaves me doubtful. I've repeatedly challenged those other companies to prove me wrong, but I haven't yet had one taker.

Here's why I'm so enthralled with CAT's ADSL line. Two days ago CAT installed a new ADSL line in my home office, in northern Patong. I can now compare TT&T ADSL and CAT ADSL side-by-side. Right now, with my TT&T ADSL line delivering 71 Kbps, my CAT ADSL line running the same test program on the same computer is humming along at 1,442 Kbps – 20 times faster than TT&T.

For a change, I'm a happy camper.

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

KHUN WOODY'S COMPUTER

SIPA, PSU to hold .Net 'boot camp'

The Prince of Songkla University (PSU), Phuket campus, and the Phuket branch of the Software Industry Promotion Agency (SIPA) will hold the "Southern Microsoft Certified Professional Developer (MCPD): Web Developer Boot Camp" from April 23 to May 16.

The goal of the boot camp is to increase the number of local software developers and to improve their skills by training them in Microsoft .NET Framework to an international standard.

The .NET Framework, as described by Microsoft, "is a development and execution environment that allows different programming languages & libraries to work together seamlessly to create Windows-based applica-

tions that are easier to build, manage, deploy, and integrate with other networked systems."

To be accepted for the course, applicants must be software developers and graduates in related studies in one of the 14 southern provinces. A basic knowledge of program writing and .Net is required, and registrants must take the Microsoft Basic Web Developer exam as entry exam, from which organizers will choose the 55 boot camp participants.

The entrance exam will be on April 7 with the results announced April 14.

Registrants must each place a deposit, 2,000 baht for new graduates or 10,000 baht for professional software developers, which will be refunded after the course. The number of lectures has yet to be set, but the organizers have ruled that a participant must attend at least 80% of the lectures to get a refund.

SIPA lecturer Akesak Omromthurapoj, a Microsoft Certified Trainer, Microsoft Certified Application Developer and Microsoft Certified Database Administrator, will conduct the lectures.

Classes will be at the PSU Phuket campus between 9 am and 10 pm. Nantikorn Thajaroen of the PSU Faculty of Technology and Environment explained, "Participants must attend classes at PSU each day of the course; there are no days off."

Each registrant who passes the course will be issued a certificate. The deadline for registration is April 5.

– *Supanun Supawong*

For more information or to register contact K. Nantikorn at the PSU Faculty of Technology and Environment, at 80 Moo 1 Wichit Songkram Rd, Kathu, Phuket 83120. Email: nantikorn@phuket.psu.ac.th Website: www.te.psu.ac.th



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One question everyone seems to be asking is: What is happening to the Thai baht? In US dollar terms, it has been fluctuating at rates from 32 to 35 on an almost daily basis.

The reason for this is intervention by the Bank of Thailand (BoT), the country's central bank. The scenario originated on December 19 last year, when the BoT imposed controversial capital controls in an effort to stem the rise of the currency. Authorities were concerned that a stronger baht would make Thai exports less competitive on world markets. They were also convinced that foreign money was flooding into Thailand at an unsustainable rate.

When the capital controls were issued, Pridiyathorn Devakula, Finance Minister at the time, issued a statement to the effect that the new policy was the best ever devised by the BoT. Markets thought otherwise, the immediate nosedive in the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) index reflecting just how badly matters had been "thought out".

Following a subsequent series of piecemeal policy changes, the latest development is that the 30% withholding requirement on foreign funds has now been effectively withdrawn – if foreign money entering Thai financial markets is already "fully hedged" into foreign currency bond.

The Economist magazine referred to Thailand's capital controls as "bungled" and changes to foreign business ownership laws as "muddle-headed". These are accurate assessments.

The cost to Thailand has been significant. *The Nation* on February 14, 2007, cited the Finance Ministry as saying that the Bank of Thailand, through its constant intervention in currency markets, had caused 1.4 trillion baht (about US\$40 billion) to be added to Thailand's bond market – its public debt.

When central banks inter-

Why the Thai currency is so buoyant these days



DEEPER IN THE RED: The Bank of Thailand's slowness in lowering interest rates saw 1.4 trillion baht flood into bonds; in other words, debt. – Photo by EPA/Rungroj Yongrit

vene to stop their currency from rising in value, they are using local funds to buy foreign currency. To finance this activity the central bank has two choices: "sanitized" or "unsanitized" intervention. In the former case, bonds – which are simply debt instruments – reflect the amount of intervention; in the latter case, the central bank simply prints more money to cover the expense.

The BoT's interventions in the currency markets have resulted in the baht trading at slightly over 35 baht to the US dollar. In trading after hours, the baht then rapidly moves back up to around 32 or 33 to the dollar.

It is easy to imagine BoT staff jumping into their cars at the end of the working day, and by the time they reach home the currency has already appreciated.

Bloomberg analysts observed that this appreciation is not caused by speculators, but by normal foreign exchange purchases of the baht "after hours". Very little offshore liquidity exists and, naturally, in a situation of this sort it takes only small amounts of buying to force the currency upward.

Thailand is running a small current account surplus which, basically, means that Thailand is living within its means and the surplus is causing the currency to appreciate. There was evidence that some foreign funds were interested in the latter part of 2006 in investing mainly in the Thai bond market.

Some of this money undoubtedly came from the "yen carry trade". This is where money is borrowed in yen, which has very low interest rates, and invested in higher-yielding bond markets around the world.



MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

Only a very small part of this ever arrived in Thailand because, quite frankly, Thailand was not that attractive as an investment destination.

In December 2006, 10-year Thai government bonds yielded about 5.2%, well below yields in other markets, such as Australia and New Zealand.

Much of the pressure to stem the rise of the Thai baht came from the export sector, which wanted to keep its product prices competitive.

In a hard-hitting statement, BoT Audit Committee Chairman Nontaphon Nimsomboon was quoted in the March 14 *Nation*

as saying, "The central bank cannot help exporters endlessly, like we donate blankets [to the poor] every year. [Exporters] should learn to stand on their own two feet."

The central bank's withholding measure on capital inflows was intended to put a brake on the rapid rise and give exporters a breather. It was not designed to completely stop the baht from "going north" – appreciating in value.

What could the BoT have done to ease the pressure on the baht? The answer is actually very simple: reduce interest rates. In December 2006, its lending rates were 5%. The bank has since had two interest rate reductions, of 0.25 percentage points in each case, making the current rate 4.5%.

There is much speculation that there will be a further reduction of 0.5 of a point at the next meeting, scheduled for April 11. It is a great pity that the BoT did not just simply reduce interest rates by a full 1% back in December. It would have sent a strong message to any "yen carry trade" investors.

The BoT now states that upward pressure on the baht is simply being caused by exporters buying the local currency with proceeds earned in US dollars.

There comes a time in every successful nation's history when the local currency starts to appreciate in value or domestic costs rise, making export products more expensive in the global market.

This signals a challenge to exporters, who need to "move upstream" by boosting productivity and quality. It is never a pleasant adjustment, but it is a challenge that many other countries have been able to meet.

Readers are probably wondering how to take advantage of the situation through buying the baht low and selling high.

Unfortunately, the banks are the ones reaping these profits. Unless you start your own bank, there's really no way to get into this.

In reality, many institutional foreign investors view Thailand as having a rather unattractive outlook.

The "savior" of the Thai currency may come from an unlikely source; oil prices appear likely to rise in coming months and this will result in much higher import costs.

Richard G. Watson runs Global Portfolios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based personal financial-planning service. He can be reached at Tel: 076-381997, Fax: 076-383185, Mobile: 081-0814611. Email: imm@loxinfo.co.th

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'The locations of the 10 new resorts, which are predominantly in Southeast Asia, the Middle East and Indian Ocean, will extend the synergies and cross-marketing opportunities with our existing Anantara destinations' – Bill Heinecke, Chairman and CEO of Minor International.

Anantara Resort to open in Phuket

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET: Through its Anantara Resorts brand, Minor International Corporation is investing in a major new resort on Phuket to be located next to the JW Marriott on Mai Khao Beach.

The resort is scheduled to open late next year with 82 one-bedroom Pool Villas and one two-bedroom Pool Villa to be designated as a Presidential Suite.

The Phuket property will be one of 10 new Anantara Resorts to be built in Asia in the next two years. The Anantara Royal Coco Palm Resort Khao Lak that was destroyed in the tsunami is on the list as well, and is slated for a complete rebuild and is expected to reopen at the same time as the Phuket resort. Four of the 10 new properties are under negotiation and their locations have not been released.

The 10 new projects are a precursor to global expansion that will see at least 40 new Anantara resorts in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Europe over the next 10 years. Contrary to existing development trends on the island, the Phuket project will not be a mixed-use development—none of the villas will be sold for residential purposes.

Marion Walsh, Brand Director – Public Relations of Anantara Resorts, told the *Gazette*, "The Phuket property will be aimed toward the discerning five-star guest, who knows and appreciates the finer things in life."

"The source markets for the resort will be a combination of European, regional and Thailand-based guests. P49 Design & Associates of Bangkok will oversee design of the project, though spe-

cific design issues have not yet been settled."

The Anantara Brand intends to use a "hub and spoke" strategy that connects each new resort to key regional hubs of operation to provide an economy of scale and operational efficiency.

"This is a very exciting time for Anantara Resorts, as the brand is very focused on developing in key markets which enable our guests to feed their passion for exploration and experience."

"The locations of the 10 new resorts, which are predominantly in Southeast Asia, the Middle East and Indian Ocean, will extend the synergies and cross-marketing opportunities with our existing Anantara destinations," William E Heinecke, Chairman and Chief Executive of Anantara's parent company, Minor International said in a press release.

Minor International is one of Thailand's leading hotel operators with a portfolio of 16 hotels and more than 2,352 rooms under the Marriott, Four Seasons, Anantara and Minor International brands.

Through a joint venture with Marriott International, it has developed the 144-room Marriott Vacation Club Time Share on Phuket.

It is one of the largest spa operators in the Asia-Pacific region with spas in Thailand, China, the Middle East, Africa and the Maldives under the Mandara and Anantara brands.

Minor International is also Thailand's largest food service operator with more than 558 outlets system wide under The Pizza Company, Swensen's, Sizzler, Dairy Queen and Burger King brands.

ON THE MOVE



Jan von Hildebrand, 31, from Germany, has been promoted to Events Manager at the Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket. A native of Freiburg, he has a degree in Economics and a certificate in Hotel Management from the Lausanne Hotel School in Switzerland. He worked as the Assistant Restaurant Manager at Le Java in Lausanne for three years and as an Events Executive for one year at the SGLP before being promoted to Events Manager.



Laura Schafer, from Martinsburg, Missouri, USA has been appointed as a Desk Editor at the *Phuket Gazette*. Laura holds an Agricultural Journalism degree from the University of Missouri (MU). Before moving to Phuket, she worked as a Teller Supervisor at First National Bank and Trust in the USA. Laura also spent one year as a student intern in the Communications Department of MU's Sinclair School of Nursing.



Waraporn "Amy" Suwahiran, from Phuket, has been appointed Assistant Sales Manager of Knight Frank Phuket. A graduate in Humanities and Art from Prince of Songkhla University, Pattani, she worked as the Customer Service Supervisor at Tesco-Lotus in Pattaya, as Marketing Manager at Impressive Tour and Travel and as Assistant to the General Manager at Asian Wind Co Ltd before joining Knight Frank Phuket.

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Remington returns to ACYC with a win

CHALONG: Jim Ellis on *Remington* made a welcome return to the Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) Keelboat and Multihull Race Series by winning the Cruising Class in Race 2 of the 2007 series on March 25.

Ellis also won the Image Asia Encouragement Award for his return to Ao Chalong after a long stint in the Thai Gulf, and was guest MC at the prize ceremony.

Harry "Lord Pie" Usher finished second on *Eos*, followed by Tony Dudman on *Onyx* in third place.

Scott Duncanson on *Somtarn Express* also returned to ACYC racing in

winning form, taking victory in the Racing Class ahead of Niels Dgenkopf on *Phoenix* and *Minx*.

Firefly 850 catamarans yet again dominated the Multihulls Class, with Mark Pescott on the helm of Bill Phelps's cat *Twin Sharks* leading the field. Pescott, who designed the locally-built 850s, is tipped to win the class series.

Roger Kingdon on *Moto Inzi* finished second in the class, and Chris Jongerius on *The Frog* finished third.

Mark Horwood on *Charro* again finished fourth in the class, though Tony

Knight of the ACYC explained that *Charro's* handicap will be revised again, which is expected to see closer corrected finishing times.

After a delayed start following a dismal and gusty morning, the fleet enjoyed light conditions with breezes from six to eight knots on Chalong Bay, Knight explained, "All boats finished their courses," he was happy to report.

The return of *Remington* and *Somtarn Express* to the ACYC race series is expected to be followed by the return of regular racers. "X Cat Riot will be

back to race in the Multihull Class and John Fenn's *Four Winds* should be back in time for the next ACYC race," Knight said.

"*Fidgi*, which was unavailable to race in the Cruising Class this time, is also likely to return," he added.

Race 2 of the series was sponsored by Roger Diggelman's Composite Yacht Constructions.

The next ACYC race day will be on April 8, with skippers' briefing at 9:30 am. For more information call Tony Knight at 081-7470074. All are welcome to join, regardless of sailing experience.

PATONG DARTS LEAGUE



Piccadilly celebrate

BULLSEYE! Members of The Piccadilly Bar dart team celebrated their first championship in the Patong Darts League (PDL) by hosting the PDL Awards Ceremony at their bar on Soi Kebsup on the night of March 20. Holding the trophy is team captain Lindsay, along with (from left to right) Chris, Stephen, Dave, Jeff and Jack.

Some 30,000 baht in prizes were up for grabs during the awards ceremony, which was sponsored in part by Patong Whisky. A scrumptious buffet was served up by Marcus of Kamala Beergarden, also a Piccadilly player.

Some other key Piccadilly players who couldn't make it on the night include: Ulf, who is celebrating his 50th birthday in Sweden; Mike from England; Tony from Wales; and Englishman Steve, proprietor of Hemingway's at Baanzaan and the Martini restaurant on Soi Kebsup.

ESPN-Laguna games raise B500,000 for Life Home

CHERNG TALAY: Laguna Phuket and the ESPN STAR Sports football broadcasting team raised 500,000 baht for Phuket's Life Home Project March 24 and 25. The Life Home Project is a shelter for HIV-positive mothers and their children.

The proceeds were raised from a charity golf tournament, dinner and quiz night, with an auction of autographed team shirts from Manchester United and Fulham Football Clubs, as well as tickets to an English Premier League game inclusive of roundtrip Phuket-London flights, among other items.

Phuket locals showed great support for this charity event and the opportunity to get up close and personal with TV personalities

These were Andy Penders and Sharkee Tan of *Football Crazy*; John Dykes of *Football Focus* and Andrew Leci of *Here We Go*; ex-Birmingham City's Paul Masefield; pundit Jamie Reeves; Malaysian ex-footballer and sports commentator Sheby Singh; former Hong Kong Rangers footballer Derek Currie; and *Club EPL's* Charlie Webster.

Forty-eight golfers participated in the charity golf tourna-



BACKSWING: Club EPL presenter Charlie Webster was in Phuket for a charity fundraiser for the Life Home Project. Sadly, her team did not place in the top five.

ment at the Laguna Phuket Golf Club on Saturday. Eight of the celebrities played in teams with three other golfers.

Later in the evening more than a hundred guests attended the charity dinner, during which the football quiz, hosted by John Dykes, and the auction were held.

Former Scottish professional footballer Murdo MacLeod was a surprise guest speaker at the dinner and regaled dinner guests with anecdotes from his professional football career, which includes playing in two World Cups, drawing laughter and applause throughout his 20 minutes on stage. The winners of the golf tournament were also announced at the dinner, each receiving two-nights accommodation at the Laguna Holiday Club Resort inclusive of the Sunday BBQ for two at the hotel's @Seventeenth restaurant.

The following morning the ESPN STAR Sports team visited the Life Home Project where they had the opportunity to meet with the women and children living at the shelter as well as the volunteers working at the Project. The ESPN STAR Sports team was warmly received by the children who were thrilled to show them around the Project's new and impressive facilities.

The 500,000 baht donation presented to Life Home Project will go toward the purchase of a mini-van to be used as a school bus for the children at Life Home Project.

For the record, the golf tournament was won by the team of Andy Combe, Sukhathai Chumbala, Tuk Chumbala and Rolf Jansson.

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Local lad Suthichai shows visitors how it's done

PHUKET: The Motocross Sports Federation of the South (MSFS) held their first motocross competition in Phuket March 24 and 25 just off the bypass road, drawing more than 100 competitors and 500 spectators.

Local boy Suthichai Tuakkeaw took top honors in the KLX 110 Open competition, besting Krabi boys Kittirat Thepkeaw, Isara Ariyamak, Thawatchai Chaikrodchaban; and Nathawat Pordpai from Surat Thani, who came in second through fifth, respectively.

The race was opened and presided over by Piya Bharatasilpin, Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) of Phuket (2nd from right).

Winners in each class received cash awards from 1,000 to 6,000 baht and trophies, with a total of 189,000 baht given out.

The next tournament will be held on April 13 and 14 at Somboon Motocross Park, Chumpon.

Yada, Yada...The Art of Nothingness

By Scott Mallon

Anyone who knows anything about boxing in Asia – more specifically boxing in Thailand – knows one of the biggest problems in the sport is the blatant mismatches. Call it one of my pet peeves, but I don't particularly like to know the result of a fight before it takes place.

Excitement in boxing stems from the not knowing. When a fight is legally fixed, so to speak, forget about the edge-of-the-seat moments a good seesaw battle can provide and forget about a visiting fighter getting the win.

In Thailand, far too many Thai fighters are matched with fighters who don't belong in a boxing ring, much less in a ring with a fighter who has 50 or 60 professional fights PLUS 100 or more professional Muay Thai fights. So my response was simple and to the point, "Make good fights...yada, yada, yada."

Yada, yada, yada = Don't throw hapless Filipino or Mexican taxi drivers in with former or current champions to make the Thai fighter look good in the eyes of the viewers.

The average boxing fan really wants only one thing – to be

entertained. It generally makes no difference if a boxer is a world champion or making his pro debut, if a fight is compelling, the fans are happy. How compelling can a fight be if the result is already a forgone conclusion?

So when promoting fights, those using solid fighters will in all likelihood get solid results. Don't bring a taxi driver to fight against a champion boxer and don't send a fighter to perform brain surgery.

The problem, I was told, is "the good fighters don't want to come to Thailand for the money we are able to offer."

So? Offer more money! If the money isn't there, then match Thai fighters against one another. How often does this happen? Not often enough; in fact fights between Thais in boxing are rare, especially fights between the country's top-ranked fighters.

The pool of boxers in Thailand is indeed deep so why not use the resources right in front of you? Why import third-rate fighters to put on lousy shows when there's a plethora of good fighters right on your doorstep?

About a year ago, former WBA Super Bantamweight Champion Somsak Sithachawal squared off in a tune-up bout

against a fighter by the name of Almaz Assanov. At the time of the fight, Somsak was 42-1-1 and Assanov had one fight – a loss.

To make matters worse, Assanov was fighting for the WBO Asia Pacific Bantamweight title.

Not that the WBO Asia Pacific Title is what I'd call a true title but whatever happened to earning a title shot?

I openly challenged the legitimacy of the fight, and the promoter, shocked to hear of my desire to see two evenly-matched fighters in the ring, told me I didn't know what I was talking about and then stormed off.

The boxing cards in Thailand are 99% free to the spectators. Muay Thai fans, however, pay between 200 and 1,600 baht for tickets. These fans come to

Bangkok stadiums six days a week, every week of the year, to watch muay Thai and, most importantly, to gamble. The majority of fights are Thai vs Thai and the stadiums are standing room only, every day. If Thai fans are willing to pay to watch muay Thai, you'd think they'd be willing to pay to see world-class boxers.

Muay Thai has a huge following in the country, second only to soccer. On any given day you can walk by a shophouse or restaurant and inevitably you'll find a TV showing muay Thai. A few years ago the Thai government instituted a broadcast regulation that prohibits stations from televising more than two hours of muay Thai per broadcast. Thus the stations are hesitant to show boxing on a muay Thai card, fearful they'll lose viewers who don't

care for boxing. For now at least, muay Thai is the cash cow.

Boxing managers are in the business of getting fighters the best purse for the least amount of risk, but there's a fine line between finding an opponent who gives your fighter work and an opponent who is merely there to take a beating.

So there are some difficulties that need to be overcome... yada, yada, yada...what's new?

Good fights and good fighters = happy fans and a healthier boxing scene. It's not rocket science – its boxing!

Scott Mallon is a member of the Boxing Writer's Association of America, Ring Magazine's Ratings Advisory Panel and the International Boxing Research Organization.

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Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

A LOAD OF OLD RUBBISH

Rubbish is something we all produce everyday. Before anyone says it, yes, I know that I produce rubbish too. Once a week, somewhere near the back of the *Phuket Gazette*. But what can we do to redress the balance a bit? Recycle? I'm not sure, to be honest.

Recycling is taught to children today as if it were a religious doctrine; unbelievers who don't recycle will go straight to hell.

I wonder whether recycling is just a bit of a Western scam to make consumers feel less guilty about consumption. "I know consumption is bad for the planet," they may well think, "but I can still buy heaps of stuff, because I recycle."

Many local and national governments in the West encourage their eager citizens to separate diligently. Consequently, many homes have boxes of carefully separated rubbish – a bin for paper, one for glass and another for plastic. Huge trucks then come along regularly to collect the contents of these boxes.

Where does that truck's oil and diesel come from? Where does the energy come from to break down that paper? Where does the water appear from that mulches that paper? What about the bleach used on the old paper to make new paper, or the fuel that heats the glass up enough to melt it?

Even if it did make sense, everything is so expensive over there that there's no way it could be economically viable. I wonder how much of this stuff that disappears into the recycle truck's bowels actually makes it to where

we think it's going? Will we ever know?

At least there's one place where recycling in its truest form exists very successfully – Thailand. These old ladies with ancient sidecar motorcycles that draw up outside your Phuket home every day and rummage through the rubbish.

They all have their own specialties, it seems. The plastic bottle ladies pick out the plastic stuff, leaving the cardboard, paper and glass bottles to their respective collectors who will inevitably appear later. Even Phuket bin men are in on the act – as they empty your bin, they do the separating for you, and make sure everything ends up in exactly the right place.

There's no scam or government-backed feel-good factor here – you know full well that this stuff really will be used again or recycled. And even better, these bin men and sidecar ladies are making a few baht from it. Now that's recycling at its finest.

Recycling in the West probably wastes more than it saves. Instead of recycling, why not reuse and refuse – and not only plastic bags from the supermarket, but everything. Bread wrappers are sandwich bags. Tin cans are pencil holders. Refusing is not



RECYCLED: Old coconut shells make perfect pots for orchids.

using in the first place. Don't buy a newspaper with the idea of recycling. Read someone else's. Then leave it where yet another person can find and read it. Bring your own plastic bags to the supermarket. And so on. Bert the environmentalist? I'll be hugging trees next.

Conservation organizations themselves are equally guilty of producing rubbish. They try to give the impression that by sending out their junk mail, which you never asked for in the first place, on recycled paper they are helping the natural environment.

The best way for them to help the natural environment would be for them not to send out unsolicited junk mail in the first place. That really would be conservation.

You can reuse and recycle

in your garden, too. Once you've collected all your bits of coconut husk, stray leaves, grass clippings and plant trimmings, rather than stuffing them into plastic bags and leaving them outside to be taken away, why not put them to use in your garden?

Coconut husks are like surrogate plant pots – they're brilliant. Instead of going to Homepro and buying half a dozen of those cheap, nasty little orange plant pots, drill a hole in the bottom of a few coconut husks and you have plant pots that haven't cost you a penny and are environmentally sound.

Even the plants that grow in them are likely to be happier, as the roots will meet something natural as they grow out, rather than an impenetrable plastic wall. Bromeliads such as orchids are

very much at home on a chunk of coconut husk – all they need is something to grab hold of.

Most garden rubbish can be recycled on site as mulch or compost. "Recycling" is probably a bit of a misnomer, as it implies that you actually have to do something. Far from it.

Leaves can be used on their own as a mulch, but they're somewhat unwilling to stay in place in windy locations and they easily wash away from beds during heavy rain showers. Leaves perform best as a mulching material when they are shredded or composted.

Grass clippings are the least ideal mulching material. They are easily blown away by the wind, decompose very rapidly, and can pack down to form a mat that could exclude air and water from the root zone. Therefore, spread grass thinly over the ground, mixed with other mulching materials or even better, composted with other yard waste so it sticks together more effectively.

In an ideal world, trimmings such as twigs and small branches should be shredded before they are used as a mulch. A mechanical chipper/shredder is needed for this process. As most of us don't have one of these devices on standby, you'll probably have to either dump or burn your clipped branches and twigs.

So what to do with this mulch stuff? You can use it around plants in beds or around individual trees and shrubs in a lawn. Eliminating grass from around plants greatly reduces the competition for water and nutrients from the turf and increases the growth rate and health of trees and shrubs.

In addition to being useful around plants, you can use mulch as ground cover for walks, trails, driveways, and play and natural areas. It can also be composted and used as a soil amendment for flower and vegetable gardens.

The amount of mulch to apply will depend on the texture and density of the mulch. Compost and many wood and bark mulches are composed of fine particles and shouldn't be any deeper than about 10 centimeters after settling. Excessive amounts of these fine-textured mulches around shallow-rooted plants can suffocate their roots causing disease and poor growth. Mulches composed solely of leaves or grass clippings should never be more than about five centimeters in depth.

Recycle because it saves a few baht or because you want to. Or don't recycle at all, and leave it to the experts – those sidecar ladies will be here before you know it. I'm only too happy to donate a few small green bottles to them; and that means it's time for another Heineken.

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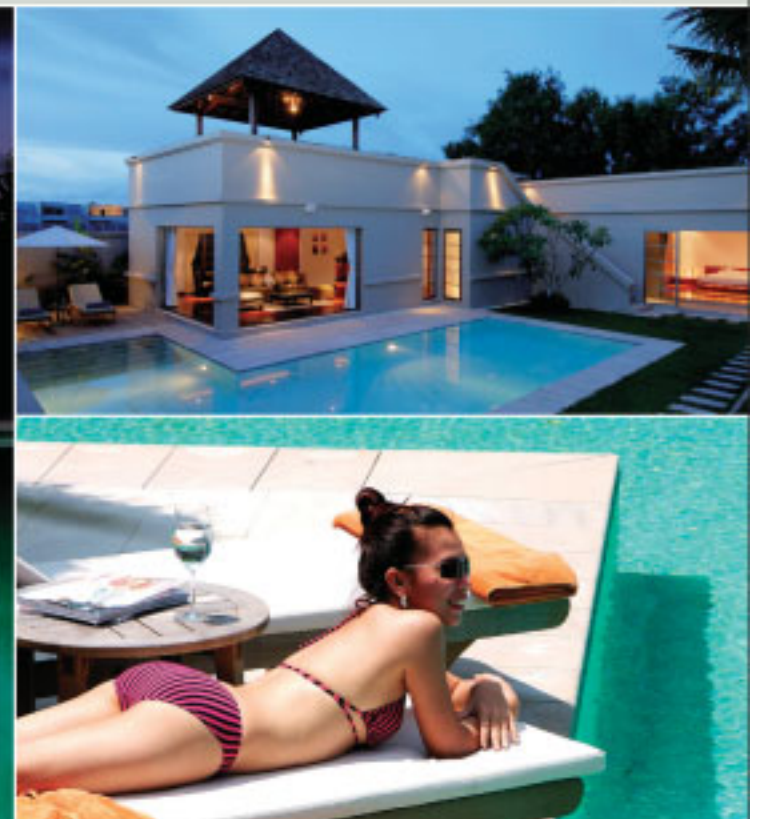
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Decor

by Natcha Yuttaworawit

WHERE EAST MEETS WEST

Decorating a room with different styles of furniture can be a challenge, especially when the designs hail from different parts of the world – such as Asia and Europe.

But the French owners of Casa Pagoda furniture store on Dibuk Rd prefer to say *vive la différence*, giving their shop a truly East-West hybrid name – and letting the furniture inside follow suit.

Owner Jean Pierre Chamol, a French businessman who has spent more than 20 years in Thailand, told the *Gazette* that all his furniture is crafted from high-quality materials.

The new Phuket shop is actually the fourth for the company, as there are two shops in Bangkok – one at Siam Paragon – and another in Shanghai.

“We choose excellent materials from foreign countries, such as oak wood and leather imported from the USA. All of our designs are by Western designers, even some of the Asian furniture,” said Mr Chamol.

When asked if having Westerners design Asian furniture would compromise authenticity, he said that all of his designers have a sufficient grounding in Asian tradition and culture to help him meet his ambitious goal: “to blend the best of both East and West to create beautiful, classical styles that will always be modern”.

Mr Chamol explains that the Western-style pieces, such as chairs and couches, feature leather upholstery; the Eastern-style pieces – including lamps, desks and cabinets – are identified by their distinctly Asian shapes and colors.

Mr Chamol suggests blending the two styles of classic pieces, such as a black leather chair in European style with an Asian style wooden desk with brass handles.

Casa Pagoda comes out with a new collection every two months. The current designs emphasize gray and pastel tones.

Smooth leather is also used, but in bright colors such as red to give the furniture a modern look. Furniture in classic brown and



Above: Chinese-style ‘distressed’ chest of drawers (B69,000) with gray-and-red upholstered armchair (B39,000). Below: Red leather seats (from B9,800) with leather-topped coffee table.



black is also popular as these are timeless colors, he explains.

“The most popular piece that has become a signature of Casa Pagoda is the club chair made from red leather in classic style. It is two styles in one chair. It is both luxurious and modern – and easy to put in any corner of your house,” added Mr Chamol.



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Home of the Week

Kathu

Luxury living on the course, of course



Calm views of the Phuket Country Club course (above) complement the roomy comfort of the villa (left).

This attractive Thai-style villa is brand new and is made up of three spacious buildings. The villa is fully fenced in with a plot that measures more than 800 square meters. The villa itself has more than 340sqm of living area spread over two floors.

The entrance has electric gates and leads to a two-car covered parking area with a waterfall and fishpond, a laundry room, and the swimming pool pump room to one side.

To enter the main house one can use either large double doors to the swimming pool and terrace area, or the main house entrance on the left of the car park or an outside stairway that takes you directly to the upper floor.

Once inside the property there is a fully-fitted, European-style kitchen. The lounge and dining areas are spacious and alone measure 62sqm.

The rest of the downstairs consists of a bathroom and storage room plus an office, which could be used as a fourth bedroom. There is an outside cov-

ered terrace with barbecue area next to the 10m by 6m swimming pool.

The upper floor of the property has a large master bedroom with an en-suite bathroom that includes a Jacuzzi. This bedroom has plenty of wardrobe space and also features a balcony overlooking the swimming pool with views of the surrounding hills.

There are two more double bedrooms each with an en-suite bathroom and a balcony. The villa offers a first-floor lounge overlooking the 14th hole.

The villa is air conditioned throughout and offers quality living at a sensible price of 19.5 million baht. The location is beautiful, serene and very relaxing.

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Construction Update

by Janyaporn Morel

Kamala Falls under way

Site clearance for the Kamala Falls project by developer Lotus Trinity has begun on 18 rai of Kamala hillside, and construction is expected to begin by the end of April.

Ben Daniel, Managing Director of Lotus Trinity Co, explained that the project will comprise 12 condominium blocks and six villas. Construction will be divided into two phases, and will start with the residential buildings on the top level and proceed down the hill to the clubhouse.

The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2008.

Mr Daniel explained that the name Kamala Falls was inspired by a small stream that flows down the hill and passes through the development. The main sales focus of Kamala Falls will be its geography and location.

"Kamala has the community spirit of a village. There are many restaurants and bars here but if you want an even more active lifestyle, Patong is only five kilometers from Kamala Falls," he said.

The development will be built on different levels facing the sea. There is forest land around the development and the nearest beach is 300 meters away.

There will be 102 units of contemporary-style apartments in 12 buildings with a four-bedroom penthouse atop each. Penthouses will each have an area of 650 to 689 square meters, each with a private pool measuring 9m by 3m, or 15m by 3m. Prices for the penthouses will start at 26 million baht.

There will be 66 two-bedroom "superior" apartments, ranging from 177sqm to 195sqm, which can be converted into three-bedroom units. Prices will start at 9 million baht.

An option for customers that Mr Daniel expects to be in strong demand is the one-bedroom "deluxe" apartments. Each of these 24 apartments will have an area of 82sqm to 97sqm. Prices for these units will begin at 5.5 mil-



SEA VIEW, NATURALLY: View of the bay from the Kamala Hills site.

lion baht apiece.

"Our condominium buildings will be four-story buildings built in steps against the hillside, and we will have glass elevators providing views over the trees. Each block will have a 30m-by-8.5m swimming pool, and the pools will be connected by a series of cascading waterfall features. We will have a lot of greenery and water here," Mr Daniel said.

There will be six four-bedroom pool villas, each with an area of 717sqm, on the top level of the development. Two floor plans will be offered: bedroom pool view or living room pool view. Villa prices will start at 50 million baht each.

"We will build the villas when the client has agreed on the architectural specifications because we have created some basic plans and if they want to change them, they are welcome to do that," said Mr Daniel.

"Facilities in the development will include a mini-mart, spa, travel agent and a sales and rental office. The main focus is on entertainment, so there will be a large bar and restaurant. There are very few first-class seaview restaurants on the west coast between Laguna and Patong, so we felt that it was important to have one here. Another large pool will featured at the clubhouse," he said.

The primary marketing concepts for Lotus Trinity are the

geography of the area, the living space and the rental value, said Mr Daniel.

"Our main idea is blending the inside and outside living areas. We really want to make the terrace usable, our smallest terrace for a one-bedroom unit will be 15sqm and all the doors will open fully to give you more space. "All the materials are

matched inside and outside so it will look like one big floor.

"We believe that the rental market will be very strong and the apartments will be the first to sell – and to facilitate those investors we have a 'Rental Ready' furniture package," he said.

Kamala Falls is aimed at investors from Hong Kong, Singapore and Scandinavia, Mr

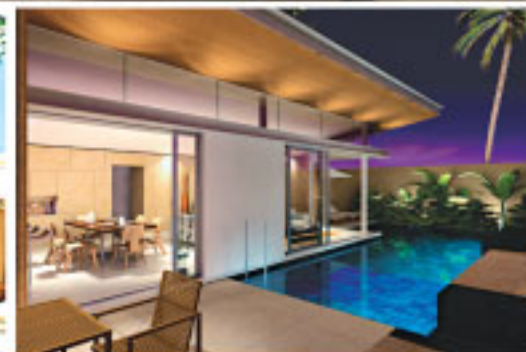
Daniel said. "We have a dedicated Scandinavian sales team and we are working closely with them. We will be joining exhibitions in Dubai, Dublin and London at the end of summer.

"This will be a much more aggressive marketing campaign than we have done before. Previously, we were involved with projects in Bang Tao and the problem there is the activities and facilities are really only in Laguna.

"But here we have everything and Patong is very close, so for people who want to be near activities but not right in the middle of it with all the noisy music and tourists running around, this is the perfect balance," he said.

The contractor for the Kamala Falls project is Sommit Construction Co Ltd.

For more information contact Lotus Trinity Co Ltd. 73/141 Moo 3, Kamala, Kathu, Phuket 83150. Tel: 076-385275. Fax: 076-385489. Website: www.kamalafalls.com



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Property Gazette

Properties For Sale

TROPICAL VILLA FOR SALE



Living area: 600sqm + garden area 6,400sqm (4 rai). Large 250sqm terrace. 3 bedrooms & 1 master bedroom with ensuite. Open-plan kitchen, living room, Jacuzzi, swimming pool, 100sqm of artificial river & charming island, 3-car garage & exterior parking. Completely furnished, foosball table and snooker. Price: 49 million baht. Located at Pa Khlok, 5 min from Ao Por, Marine Golf, etc. No sea view. Company formed since 2002. Chanote title. Project by international architects. Contact Tel: 081-8935270. Email: mrdupouy@yahoo.fr Website: www.tropical-house.net

RARE STUNNING

seaview land in Layan. 8 rai, Chanote, road access. More information at email: danwea@loxinfo.co.th

RAWAI BEACH VILLA

for sale. 2 new houses. Asking 3.5 million baht with 240sqm. Price: 5 million baht with 400sqm of land. 100 meters from the beach. Tel: 086-9408914. Contact email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR SALE 3 MILLION BAHT



Must sell, discounted price. 2 bedrooms, includes all furniture and appliances. Quiet, gated community, pool, sauna, gym. 1 minute from Nai Yang Beach. Custom floors, cabinets, tiles, lighting. Euro/US standards. Contact for more details. Tel: 089-8742607. Email: jintananong@yahoo.com, loverofasia72@yahoo.com

12 RAI IN PALAI

12 rai of flat land for sale between Chalong and Phuket City. Road access, water, electricity, Chanote title. Ready to build. Willing to subdivide. Price: 3 million baht per rai. More info at Tel: 087-105-7320. Email: stefan@phuketit.co.th

PATONG HOMES FOR SALE

Buy properties direct from owners (no middle man). Tel: 087-2650118. Email: ant_p_clark@yahoo.co.uk For further details, please see our website at http://housesforsalephuket.blogspot.com

RAWAI BEACH

condo. Sea view, foreign freehold. 450,000 baht. Tel: 086-9408914. For more info email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

BANG TAO, 5.3 MILLION BAHT



New house, 2 minutes to beach or market. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, with hot water. Contact K. Shanya. Tel: 087-3863388. For more information email: shanya.arman@gmail.com

COMFORTABLE HOUSE FOR SALE

in secure and desirable development. 3 bedroom (2 ensuite), 3 bathroom. 2 floors, living room, verandahs, kitchen, study, laundry room, garden, garage, ADSL, UBC. 8 million baht. 084-8439579. Email: somlerdee@yahoo.com

4-BEDROOM VILLA

with pool. 1km from Laguna, 5 aircons, ADSL, Sat TV, living room, garden. Contact at Tel: 084-8516121.

TWO SHOPHOUSES

84 wah. Near Robinsons and Sapan Hin. 24 million baht. Please contact me for further details. Call Tel: 081-370 7795, 089-470 8519. Email: nawalak@yahoo.com

MODERN STYLISH HOUSE FOR SALE

in Kathu. 3 bedrooms, ensuite bathrooms, large living room. Kitchen/dining, laundry room, set around spacious veranda with walled garden, private parking, semi-rural yet close to shops, international school, golf courses. 9 minutes to Patong. Price: 4.6 million baht. Tel: 084-8439579. Email: somsrij@aol.com

RAWAI 2-STORY

new house. 160sqm. Price: 1.3 million baht. Close to beach. For more information call Tel: 086-9408914. Or contact via email at: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

IMMACULATE VILLA



Very private location. Lush tropical garden, pool, 4 quality bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, large living room, top kitchen, huge patio. Fully furnished, 450sqm of living area, 1,500sqm land. Chanote. Thalang area near Heroines Monument. Contact Tel: 084-6907057.

CHALONG SHOPHOUSE

with ocean view. 3 stories, perfect for small business. Very close to Chalong pier. 2.5 million baht. For more info please call K. Supachai. Tel: 081-554-4140.

BANGTAO SEA VIEW

land plots. 3.9 million baht. Land plots with infrastructure. First class sea view. Tel: 086-2670157. Contact via email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

URGENT SALE!

2 million baht. Furnished, 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom home with kitchen and 2 aircons. Ready to move in. Please contact us for more details. Tel: 086-7003376. Email: contactmalisa@yahoo.com

HIGH-TECH OFFICE

High-tech office building in central location close to Chalong circle. 2 stories with a total of 408sqm with sea view in quiet residential area. Central aircon system, complete security system, contactless door access system, CCTV with remote access. Server room with armored door and CAT5 cable system for computer network and phone switchboard. Private carport. Perfect for companies that need an attractive office with high standards. Price: 15 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-282211, 081-958-0815. Fax: 076-283251. Email: moo@phuketgajden.se

BUILDING WORTH 20 MILLION BAHT



The TEXT-AND-TALK Academy building in Patong is for sale! This beautiful building is like no other in Phuket.

-- Bid First! Bid now!--

We will sell to the highest bidder over 15 million baht. For further information and details from the owner, contact K. Sureeporn at Tel: 081-810-7476. Email: sureeporn01@gmail.com

KARON POOL VILLA

2 bedrooms, furnished, quiet location, sea view. Price: 7.5 million baht. Call Tel: 089-4735080.

KATA BEACH

apartment. New one-bedroom apartment with pool, gym and services. 3 million baht. Tel: 089-4735080.

RESORT ON PHI PHI

18 rooms for sale on 5 rai of leased land. 14 years remaining on contract, can be extended. Plenty of room for expansion. Contact for details. Tel: 081-7193375. Email: resortonphiphi@hotmail.com

LUXURY KATA BEACH

sea front. Aspasia, 5-star, 1-bedroom apartment with pool, spa, leasehold, furnished. Priced to sell at 8.4 million baht. Tel: 089-9726017, 089-9171161. Email: asiasail@yahoo.com For details, please see our website at www.koumbele.com/kata1

WE BUILD YOUR

house for 990,000 baht. 90sqm bungalow for 990,000 baht. 145sqm two-story house for 1.39 million baht. We build you any style of private home or commercial building in any location on Phuket. Tel: 076-322015, 086-8528234. Email: info@1nj.de Contact JN-Tech Co., Ltd. German Construction. See website at: www.1nj.de/e-index.html

Nara Place Sal-yuan Project



7.2 Million Baht

Luxury tropical Asian-style house built-in furniture and private pool.

Why pay expensive fees to rent when you can own your own place?

Ready to move into now.

Starting at only 71,000 baht/month

Tel. 08-7071-9907

www.naraplacephuket.com

SEAVIEW LAND IN CHALONG



3 rai for sale, stunning sea view over Chalong bay and surrounding islands. 8.5 million baht per rai. Can subdivide. Tel: 087-1057320.

Email: stefan@phuketit.co.th

FREEHOLD CONDOMINIUM

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

KRABI LAND

Land for sale near Ao Nang, mountain view. 1.2 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-7475293.

FREEHOLD CONDO

for sale. Double bed, TV, fridge, balcony, parking. 1.3 million baht. Tel: 085-7977786. Email: tj_biggie@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

2 stories, 4 bedrooms in Chalong. Western kitchen. Discounted price: 3.8 million baht. Tel: 081-9795755.

CENTRAL PATONG LAND FOR SALE!

SUITABLE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF LUXURY HOTEL

Unique investment opportunity

The premises are situated in a prime location immediately adjacent to the luxurious new Tailife Spa on Soi Sunset, close to Bangla Rd. Consents have been obtained in principle to extend the existing three-floor structure, a rare opportunity to develop luxury hotel accommodation in central Patong. Other uses will be considered. The owners are offering a 10 year lease that can be renewed. Key money and rent terms negotiable.

For details please call Khun Robert 081 370 3606 or Khun Darren 081 2712 469

All classifieds
in these pages are

PAID!

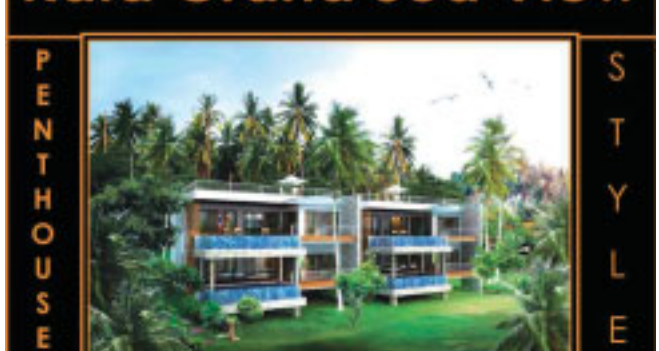
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....because they're real.



21 Luxury Family Villas with Swimming Pool
Located on the beautiful Southern Tip.
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www.platinumresidencepark.com

Kata Grand Sea View



4 luxury Penthouses. 1 house. Selling Fast!! Best View in Kata
224 sq. meter living area. Start at 12 million THB.
Call 08 6686 2389 or 08 5783 9062

Property Gazette

TOWNHOUSE IN TOWN



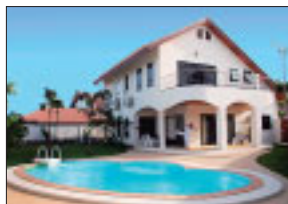
2-story townhouses close to Mission Hospital and Rajabhat University. For sale at 1.85 million baht per unit. Tel: 081-7872201. Email: phuket8@hotmail.com

MODERN HOME IN SAIYUAN



Rock-style home, 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, a huge kitchen and a big garden. For long-term rent at 35,000 baht a month. For sale at 8.5 million baht. Tel: 081-7872201. Email: phuket8@hotmail.com

DREAM HOUSE FOR SALE



Dream house in Chalong on 715sqm of land with private pool. 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, Western kitchen, 7 A/Cs, dual carport and much more. Perfect for families. A must see. 16 million baht ono. Tel: 081-892 6251. Email: mrsouza@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at: www.phuketdreamhome.com

Palm + Rubber

Plantation 50 Rai Chanote, 2-story, Thai-style house. Wayside Surat - Phuket Ideal for tourism or industrial purpose.

14 million baht.
Tel: 081 968 3067

FAMILY HOME ON CHAO FAH RD



4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, a modern kitchen and a lovely garden. For long-term rent at 35,000 baht a month. For sale at 7.5 million baht. More info via email: phuket8@hotmail.com

RAWAI SHOPHOUSES FOR SALE/RENT



2 new, connected shop-houses in Rawai, on Wiset Rd. Living area: 200sqm. Freehold land price: 4.5 million baht. Financing possible. Tel: 081-8928526. For further details please see our website at: www.phuket-besthomes.com

HOUSE 65SQ WAH

Tropical house. 400m to beach. Foreign owner. Great price. Urgent sale. Tel: 089-1134668, 087-0493508. Email: jhone04@hotmail.com

4.5 RAI IN RAWAI

Square plot, access via 3 roads, Chanote title, 200m from beach. For more info Tel: 081-8918085. Email: savasdee51@hotmail.com

ONLY TWO LEFT

Cool, clean, classic, contemporary villas. Just 2km from British International School. Chic loft style, open living, dining and kitchen areas. Three bedrooms, three bathrooms, office, separate two-car garage with laundry, maid's room. All closet fittings and appliances are included. Fabulous values at: 12.9 & 13.9 million baht. Tel: 089-972-3406, 081-5378587. Email: oasisphuket@yahoo.com

OCEANFRONT HOME IN CHALONG

Unique opportunity to purchase a spectacular villa right on the sand for only 34 million baht. Call Chuck for more details. Tel: 076-271544, 087-209-5174. Contact via email: info@phuketmarbella.com

LAND IN AO NANG

1 to 3 rai for sale, Chanote title, 5-minute drive to Ao Nang Beach. Ideal for residential use. Water and electricity on site, public road access. 1.7 million baht per rai. Tel: 075-661108, 081-5374925. Fax: 075-661108. Email: dutchkev@loxinfo.co.th

LAND FOR SALE

8 minutes to Laguna, Baan Jo Thalang, 153sq wah (600sqm). Chanote title, water and electricity. Asking price: 1.325 million baht. Tel: 081-041-5646. Email: Khunraf@hotmail.com

KAMALA MAIN ROAD

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

HOUSE IN KAMALA

2 bedrooms, bathroom, living room, kitchen and garden, quiet place. Price: 1.5 million baht. Tel: 087-2827357. Email: jimdroz@hotmail.com

BUILDING FOR SALE

500,000 baht. Or rent for 35,000 baht per month. Building is 225sqm, 15m x 15m. No key money. Call for more details. Tel: 085-7972231.

HALF OF A DUPLEX

house. 27.7sq wah, Baan Rock Garden I, price: 1.4 million baht. Tel: 086-7432011.

LAND FOR BUILDING

A 3-rai plot next to the beach on Khor Aen Suan Maprao Rd near Yacht Haven, Phuket. Please call K. Naphavadee for further information at Tel: 02-3991065, 089-4883119.

THALANG LAND PLOTS: CHANOTE

With electric and water in residential area near Ton Sai Waterfall. Starting from 450,000 baht. Call Tel: 089-2911112.

HOUSE & SWIMMING POOL

New 0.5 rai, 4-bedroom, 3-bathroom house with maid's room, built-in furniture, and safety system. 16 million baht net. Tel: 076-238307, 089-7276901. Email: chantrap@lagunaphuket.com

LAND FOR SALE

near JW Marriott, 14m x 15m. Price 400,000 baht. Tel: 086-7432011.

THAI-STYLE HOUSE CHALONG

This large, well-finished Thai-style house has a good sized carport with laundry room and maid's room with a bathroom to the side. 3 bedrooms. The property stands on 800sqm of land and the house is 300sqm. The surrounding area is unspoiled and there are two other houses in the same side road which is a cul-de-sac (dead end). Convenient, quiet location for all shopping and leisure amenities. Asking price: 13.5 million baht. Tel: 086-7432011.

RAWAI CONDOS

1.1 and 1.25 million baht. 2 x 57sqm, 1-bedroom condominiums, balconies, hill views, top (5th) floor, fully furnished, aircon, very smart, secure. Chanotes for foreign ownership. Tel: 087-8917408, 089-2925309. For more info email: gillies18367@hotmail.com

MODERN NEW HOUSE

For sale in Kathu. 3 bedrooms, en-suite bathrooms, living room, kitchen, laundry room, walled garden, private parking, modern design. Located near international school, golf courses, supermarkets. 9 minute drive to Patong beach. Price: 4.6 million baht. Call Tel: 084-843-9579. Email: somsrij@aol.com

PATONG HOUSE

for sale. 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. For more information and details please contact Tel: 089-6620804. Email: renoothailand@gmx.net

4-BEDROOM VILLA

with pool. Directly on the beach in Sichon in the mainland opposite Koh Samui. 11 houses and only 8 left! Priced at 9 million baht. Please contact for more details. Please call Tel: 084-0572743. Email: admin@thaisunshinedevelopments.com

PANORAMIC VIEWS

Land for sale. 11 plots in Rawai and Kata from 3 million baht. Tel: 081-2703008. Please visit our website at: http://landandshopforsale.phuket.net

FANTASTIC VIEW

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

FOR SALE OR LEASE

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

PATONG TOWER SEA VIEW



Furnished 1-bedroom, 1-bathroom condo with 2 separate balconies, and foreign freehold ownership. Quiet in the heart of town and shops. Unobstructed panoramic view. 100 meters from Patong beach. Pool, indoor parking, 24-hour security and reception. A rare chance to secure a one of a kind location! Offered at 7.5 million baht. Tel: 087-2761225, 081-6927397. Info via email: patong15@gmail.com

SEAVIEW HOUSE

2-bedroom house with large swimming pool and European kitchen in the best area in Patong "Baan Suan Kamnan". 17.5 million baht. Tel: 086-2706454, + 44778-999 5522, 089-4727588. Send email: djudges@hotmail.com

COLLEGE TOWN

apartments. 30 apartments, 4 shophouses, city center, 95% occupied. 14 million baht obo. For further information, please contact Martin at Tel: 087-2676300.

KATHU HOUSE

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

APARTMENT

building for sale in Phuket City. 18 rooms, 4 floors with Chanote. Call for more information. Tel: 084-0541447.

EXOTIC KATA OCEANFRONT

5-star luxury, 1-bedroom apartment. Spa, pool, quiet area, ADSL, sea view. 38,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-9726017, 089-9171161. Email: asiasail@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website: www.koumbele.com/kata1

BEACHFRONT LAND

for sale. 1,125sq wah, 30 x 130 meters with NorSor 3 Gor. Sukom island, Trang. 1.6 million baht. Please contact for more details. Call Tel: 084-8516845. Email: odo_jp@hotmail.com



Surin Beach - Modern Seaview Apartments for sale

Within 100 metres of the beach, 80 sqm. of living space. One bedroom, living room, European-style kitchen, fully furnished, air conditioning, hot water system, home security system, internet connection, television and satellite TV. The price starts from 6.5 million baht for the first-floor apartment. Please contact Ann 66 81 868 7676

NEW PATONG VILLA WITH POOL



Very exclusive, completely-furnished new villa with swimming pool in best residential area of Patong. Two floors, three bedrooms with aircon, three bathrooms, Jacuzzi, Western kitchen and dining area. Living area: 200sqm. Freehold land: 150sqm. Price: 8.5 million baht. Tel: 081-8928526. www.phuket-besthomes.com



Magnificent Balinese Top End Estate. Land 1 Rai - Indoors: 650sqm, 5-bedroom, 5-bathroom, Infinity pool. High-end furnishings. Great Views. Call 08 6686 2389 or 08 5783 9062.

Property Gazette

MISSION HEIGHTS LAND SALE

Fully-serviced land plots various sizes. Please ring for price. Tel: 089-2262612. Email: jim@jimmarsh.net

FOREIGN OWNERSHIP

Nai Harn beach condos, high quality and up-market, safe, secure, large 2-bedroom units completely furnished & equipped. Great location and views, close to beach. Only 8 million baht, a must see! Call Tel: 076-202201, 081-7974068. Fax: 076-202820. Email: tum@phuketlifestyle.com

TOWNHOUSE

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

KATA BEACH

bargain. 2 minutes to beach. Quick sale due to moving. 2.9 million baht. Please call for further information at Tel: 084-8405834.

PATONG LUXURY

condo. Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, splendid terrace, pool. 5.5 million baht. Tel: 085-7972231. Email: unthaidom@hotmail.com

STUNNING VIEW

Chalong land. 5 rai at 5 million baht per rai. Chanote title. Access from 2 roads, electricity. No agents. Please contact for further information. Call Tel: 084-9256568. Email: gloriabcl@yahoo.com

PHUKET VILLAGE

villa for sale. European standard, fully furnished. Price from: 3.9 million baht. 50% loan for foreigners. Please contact Tel: 086-4704-691. Email: narin@phuketvillage.se For further details please visit our website at www.phuketvillage.se

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.

KATHU NEAR GOLF

course. 2-story house, 1 year old. 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. House is 220sqm. Land is 488sqm. Fully furnished. Price: 7.5 million baht. Call Tel: 083-3953976. Email: kawthai@hotmail.com

FURNISHED HOUSE

5 minutes to Laguna Phuket. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, UBC, ADSL, solar water heating, 3 aircons, living room, large hall area, pool 5m x 10m. Usage area: 310sqm. Land: 1,200sqm. 13 million baht. Contact for more info. Tel: 089-8738295. Email: tomasflet@hotmail.com

PATONG CONDO

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

CHALONG HOUSE

for sale. 2-story house in Chalong. 376sqm, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, maid's room, kitchen, living room, 2 aircons, good area. 4.2 million baht. Tel: 081-0790688.

1 RAI RAWAI LAND

High quality. 1 rai Chanote land covered in palm trees, very beautiful, road, electric, top area, private. 4.5 million baht per rai. 2 one-rai lots available. Call Tel: 086-5950188. Email: nsupin@yahoo.com

SURIN SPRINGS

Stunning, luxury lakeside house. 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, private pool. 5-minute walk to beach. Aircon, Sat TV, ADSL, nicely furnished. 25 million baht. Please contact for further information. Tel: 076-270655, 089-9084861. Email: kingsrqw@lds.co.uk

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.phukethouse4sale.com

28 RAI ON KOH LONE

Located on Koh Lone island. Has 120m of beachfront, opposite Phuket Aquarium. Call K. Tum. Tel: 084-0002083.

HOUSE FOR SALE



Includes furniture, 2 aircons and hot water. For sale at 5.9 million baht (land and house). 80sq wah (320 sqm), 2-story house with 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, big storeroom and large garden in a nice tranquil area. 10 minutes to Nai Harn and Rawai beaches and 15 minutes to Phuket City. Please call owner for viewing. Tel: 084-9916654.

BOAT LAGOON LAND

for sale. 174sq wah opposite lagoon land with Chanote. Tel: 081-9521950. Email: Aristotravel2004@yahoo.com

NAI HARN BEACH

townhouse, 184sqm, fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 280m to beach. Great location and views. 12 million baht, a must see. Call Tel: 076-202201, 081-7974068. Fax: 076-202820. Email: tum@phuketlifestyle.com

161SQ WAH HOUSE

for sale. Maneekram on Klang Road, large block, nice site, sea views from 3rd floor. Please call for details. Thai & English. Tel: 084-6267730.

RAWAI 400SQM

land. Chanote title, 100 meters from main road, square plot. Asking: 1.6 million baht. Tel: 081-5376866.

KATA CENTER

shophouse for sale/rent. Tel: 081-2730080. For further details, please see <http://landandshopforsale.phuket.net>

SEAVIEW LAND

in Nai Harn. 640sqm with Chanote, views to Phi Phi. 2.9 million baht. Tel: 076-288-047, 081-8941660. Email: cottrell@loxinfo.co.th

1 RAI IN NAI HARN

Just over 1 rai (2 x 1/2 rai). Chanote title, on Soi Naya, with access road and ready to build. Only 7 million baht. Tel: 086-2728094. Email: jilock100@hotmail.com

SMALL PLOT, RAWAI

200sqm. Chanote title. Asking 750,000 baht. Good location for house. Tel: 081-5376866.

BEST HONEST DEAL

in Rawai. 2 plots of land with hill view. Flat, ready to be built on. Chanote titles. 3,576sqm (2 rai, 96sq wah). 35m deep x 107m wide. 7 million baht. 1,252sqm (3 ngan, 13sq wah). 27m deep x 50m wide. 3.2 million baht. Call for info. Tel: 089-9728544. Email: av58phuket@yahoo.com

Properties For Rent

RAWAI SEAVIEW APT

Deluxe studio, new, furnished, full kitchen, aircon, cable TV. Price: 7,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-0571420.

RENTAL HOUSE

8 rooms, new air conditioning, with or without boat and car. Call Tel: 087-8844725 for more information.

NAI YANG HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedrooms (2 with aircon), living room, kitchen, fridge, garden, fenced, ADSL and UBC. 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-6506221. More information at email: ek_phuket@hotmail.com

3-BEDROOM 2-STORY HOUSE,

Rent period 1-6 months until Nov 2007. Fully furnished. 3km to Nai Harn beach. Peaceful and quiet area. Call Tel: 087-8062407. Email: tse.goran@gmail.com

CHALONG, NEW HOME

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

KAMALA BEACH

New apartment and houses for rent or sale, fully furnished. 15,000 to 30,000 baht. Tel: 084-3059606.

PATONG TOWER

sea view. 1-bedroom apartment. 100 meters from beach. Long or short term. Call Tel: 084-8473304.

1-BEDROOM CONDO

in Patong Tower. Newly renovated in a beautiful modern style. Best location in Patong. Only long term. 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-1238320. Email: deherder@hotmail.com

RAWAI HOUSE

for rent in Rawai resort. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, kitchen, terrace, fully furnished, 2 safes, 5 aircons, ADSL Internet, communal pool, tropical gardens, car park. Long lease. Price 50,000 baht per month. For more information Email: hans_lange@hotmail.com

BIG HOUSE FOR RENT

3 big aircons, bedrooms fully furnished, but no fence. Beautiful garden, near Chalong Bay. Price: 30,000 baht per month includes elec + water. Tel: 081-8924311.

CHALONG HOUSE BIG GARDEN

Fully furnished, 2 aircon bedrooms, hot shower, living room, kitchen, garage. 11,000 baht a month. Palai area. Tel: 081-8924311.

RAWAI RESIDENCE

studios. Rental per month: 6,000 to 12,000 baht. Aircon, safe, ADSL, UBC, close to beach. Tel: 086-9408914.

QUALITY HOME AT KATHU



Single house, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, a pantry, kitchen and maid's room. Close to Lotus. Long-term rent at 35,000 baht a month. For sale at 7.8 million baht. Tel: 081-7872201. Email: phuket8@hotmail.com

EXCLUSIVE RESIDENCE

3-bedroom villa offering breathtaking sea views. 3 bathrooms, maid, snooker room, study, lounge, dining, kitchen, spacious terrace. Tropical gardens, private pool. Secluded and secure location. Internet and sat TV. 70,000 baht per month. Call Tel: 086-2796283.

2 CONDOS FOR RENT

or sale. Melville House or Phuket Palace, completely new, fully furnished, lots of extras, 20,000 baht per month each. 3.9 million baht or 3.2 million to buy freehold. Tel: 084-1861858. Email: coltat1962@yahoo.com

QUIET HOUSE WITH

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educator. Horizons Learning Center, an expanding international school in Phuket, seeks experienced creative, energetic educators, to join our team. Special interest/talent in music, arts or sports a plus. International teaching degree required, ESL teachers need not apply. Tel: 076-238756. Fax: 076-238756. Email: admin@horizons-phuket.com

CHEF, ASSIST CHEF, Waitresses.

New grill & steakhouse opening April 1 in Rawai, needs a chef and assistant chef who can cook Western food. Even farang chefs are welcome, work permit can be arranged for the right person. Also need 2 waitresses. Please send CV or contact for more information. Tel: 089-809-3566. Contact Email: lennartviberg@hotmail.com



HYATT REGENCY PHUKET

A world-class Hyatt Regency Hotel, introducing a distinctive style, elegance, commitment to service and attention to detail, will open soon on Nai Yang Beach. We are currently inviting applications for the following positions:

- Director of Finance
- Chief Accountant
- Asst. Manager-Human Resources
- Training Manager
- Spa Manager
- Director of Sales
- Marketing Analyst
- Public Relations Manager

If you are outgoing, energetic, customer focused Thai individuals who possess a natural flair for hospitality, creativity and passion for work, send us your resume with a recent color photograph to:

Director of Human Resources Hyatt Regency Phuket

Pre-Opening Office, Plaza del Mar, Unit 115 - 116, No. 1 Pasak-Koktanod Road, Chermgtalay, Talang, Phuket 83110 Tel: 076-318188 Fax: 076-318189
Email: hrphuket.humanresources@hyattintl.com

Should you be interested in other positions not listed above, we would also appreciate receiving your resumé.



British International School, Phuket IB World School



Teaching Vacancies for May 2007

Under an agreement with the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (Or Bor Jor), BIS, Phuket is now seeking qualified teachers to work in local Thai schools, as part of an English or ESL program. The following vacancies exist:

- Secondary School English Programme Coordinator
- Programme Secretary

PRIMARY SCHOOL - ENGLISH PROGRAMME

- Primary Class teachers from Kindergarten to Year 4

SECONDARY SCHOOL - ENGLISH PROGRAMME (Year 8 - Year 10)

- Teachers of English
- Teachers of Mathematics
- Teachers of Science

The ability to offer, in addition, IT, PE or Art would be considered an advantage

ESL PROGRAMME

- Teachers of Primary or Secondary ESL

Applicants must have a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree plus a teaching certificate (if the degree is not in education), or internationally recognized ESL qualification.

Please e-mail a letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, recent photograph and contact details of 3 referees to: Headmaster@bcis.ac.th The closing date for applications is Friday 13th April. Details of the employment package will be given on application.

British International School, Phuket (BIS)

59 Moo 2, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83000 Thailand
Tel: 076 238 711-20 Fax: 076 238 749 Bangkok Tel: 02 636 8991-2 Fax: 02 636 8992



Phuket Pavilions, 30 Private Pool Villas on a Hilltop overlooking the Andaman Sea & lush green Valley at Bangtao Beach, is now seeking for motivated and active professionals to join our team in the positions of :

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| ASST. HR MANAGER/TRAINING MANAGER | 1 POSITION |
| ASST. RESTAURANT/BAR MANAGER | 1 POSITION |
| VILLA ASSISTANT/BUTLER | 3 POSITIONS |
| WAITER/WAITRESS | 2 POSITIONS |
| BELLMAN/DRIVER | 1 POSITION |

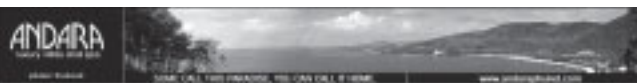
The successful candidates should be in possession of these qualifications :

- Thai Nationals, Aged not over 35 years.
- Fluent in spoken & written English
- Outgoing and pleasant personality with service mind
- At least 2 years experience in related field

Candidates fitting above requirements and qualifications are invited to send a resume with a recent photograph to

Human Resources Department PHUKET PAVILIONS

31/1 Moo6, Chermgtalay, Talang, Phuket 83110, Thailand.
Tel. +66 76 317600 Fax. +66 76 317601
E-mail : kanok@phuketpavilions.com
www.pavilions-resorts.com



An Exclusive Luxury Villas and Hotel located at Kamala Beach, Phuket is seeking for a quality & energetic person to fulfill in the position below:

ACCOUNTANT

- Male or Female, age between 33 - 37 years.
- Bachelor's degree in Accounting Management.
- Minimum 7 years' experience.
- Be responsible to establish & maintain effective accounting system.
- Analyze financial statements, monitor payment vouchers.
- Implement effective internal control system & provide management information & prepare monthly management report on time.
- Design & implement the accounting programs in financial & other models.
- Positive attitude, pleasant personality with attention to detail, service-minded, energetic & hard working.
- Ability to communicate effectively in English, computer skills and knowledge in Quick Book 2006 Program.

Interested candidates, please send full resume, expected salary & enclose a recent photo by fax or email to:

Human Resource Department,
Andara Resort and Villas Co., Ltd.
The Plaza Surlin, 5/50 Moo. 3, Chermgtalay Sub-District,
Thalang District, Phuket 83110
fax: +66 76 271242. Email: hr@paradisephuket.com



A six-star resort-style development along the shores of Bang Tao Beach is currently seeking a candidate for the position of

Project Admin Assistant

The successful candidate should possess these qualifications:

- Thai national.
- Bachelor's degree in any field.
- Experience in property business is preferable.
- Strong in communication & coordination function.
- Fluent in spoken & written English.

Project Admin Manager

The successful candidate should possess these qualifications:

- Thai national.
- Bachelor's degree in any field.
- Experience in property business is preferable.
- Strong ability of negotiation.
- Management capacity
- Fluent in spoken & written English.
- Ability to work under pressure.

All positions offer an attractive package. For interview please send all CVs, resumes, and photographs to info@thepalmbeachclub.com

GST International Co., Ltd.

326 Prabaramee Road, Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150
Tel. (076) 310 402-4 Fax. (076) 310 405

Island Job Mart

GSL is a PreMedia company with a wide range of services. To serve our worldwide customers and support our fabulous team, we are searching:

GSL
DIGITAL PRODUCTION

INDESIGN-PROFESSIONAL

we expect

- good to very good English skills
- at least 2 years experience in publishing
- InDesign and Photoshop experience
- ability to work in a team

WEB- AND DATABASE-PROGRAMMER

we expect

- good to very good English skills
- PHP, SQL optional C++ (or similar)
- Linux, Windows and probably Mac
- ability to work in a team

GSL Digital Production Co., Ltd. : Slaughterhouse Intersection
1 Patipat Road, Talad Nuea, Muang : Phuket 83000 - Thailand : www.gsl-digital.com
Tel : +66(0)76 22 60 84 : Fax : +66(0)76 22 33 92



Diving Online is seeking for qualified staff to join its team.

Accounting & Credit officer

- Good communication skills and command of spoken & written English
- Experience in Accounting and Credit
- Good computer skills
- Experience in E-commerce Company a plus

Attractive salary according to experience

Applications stating qualifications and experience, as well as expected remuneration should be sent to:

admin@save-money-diving.com

www.save-money-diving.com

Opening New Company

Bangkok Legal Services

Accountant 4 positions

Female over 25 years, degree in Accounting. Two years' experience.

Administrator 3 positions

Basic English speaking skills and computer literate.

Driver 2 positions

Basic English speaking skills. Must have a driver's license. If can handle, a work permit will be a special consideration.

Salary and a great future. Please send CV and photo by email: **Maresa_nons@yahoo.com, Ning_lilly@hotmail.com** or contact for more information.

Tel: 076-323214-5 Mobile: 08-10803414.



Protocol Design

1. Web Programmer & Graphic designer

- Profound knowledge in PHP, MySQL, HTML, CSS, Dreamweaver, Photoshop.
- Experience with Linux, Apache, Flash
- At least 2 years experience or related fields

2. Sale supervisor

- Diploma or higher in Sales & Marketing or related fields
- Self-motivated & able to work independently
- At least 2 years' experience in related fields

All positions must have good command of spoken & written English and able to work under pressure. We can offer a competitive package. Interested candidates are invited to write in with full resume space present and expected wages.

Tel: 076-249476-7. Fax: 076-249479.
Email: **nid@protocol-design.com**

Protocol Design Co., Ltd.
18/177 Moo.5 T.Vichit,
Muang Phuket 83000

***** We are working 5 days a week *****



Destination Air, based in Phuket Thailand, We are looking for the following dynamic and qualified persons to work and grow with us.

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

To handle and oversee Finance & Accounting Department in our Phuket Office and to develop and implement our financial method with high standard of work. The candidate must be:

- Male or Female, Thai nationality
- At least BA or MBA in Finance and Accounting
- Minimum 5 years experiences management level
- Full knowledge of finance & accounting functions as well as in Thai taxation
- Knowledge of Peachtree accounting software is a plus
- Strong management skill and well organized with attention to detail
- High proficiency English communication skill and computer literate

Attractive remuneration package will be offered to the qualified candidate. Please send your resumes to: **hrda@destinationair.com**
Destination Air Co., Ltd.

22/9 Moo 6, Sanambin rd, T. Maikao A. Thalang, Phuket 83110
Tel: 076-328505 Fax: 076-328598

HOTEL EXECUTIVE CHEF/CONSULTANT

- Professional Executive Chef wanted for property
- in Pattaya and consultancy position in Bangkok.
- Due to extensive upgrades and expansion into high-yield customer markets, outstanding abilities in modern culinary and menu developments are required.

The qualified candidates must have certificate of culinary training or culinary/hospitality college degree. He/She must have strong kitchen management skills, and ensures quality and consistent preparation and presentation of impressive menu items. He/She will maintain pre-approved food costs and labor costs, and has experience working in luxury hotels in Asia, preferably Thailand.

Applicants are requested to email their application with recent photograph, references and salary expectations to: **chefrecruit@yahoo.com**



THAI RENT A CAR
by Petchburee Car Rent

Petchburee Car Rent is one of the leading car rental company in Thailand established since 1978. As part of our continued expansion and streamlining in customer service Petchburee Car Rent is establishing the new operation at Suvarnabhumi Airport, Phuket Airport, Chiang Mai Airport and looking for suitable candidate to fill up the following positions.

Branch Manager 1 Position

- + Male/Female aged 30 - 35 years
- + Minimum Bachelor Degree
- + Exemplary English Proficiency
- + Computer skill in MS Office, Internet and Email
- + Previous service industry experience is preferable
- + Mature flexible and Service-minded

Customer Service Officer 1 Position

- + Male/Female aged 20 - 32 years
- + Minimum Diploma Degree
- + Previous customer service experience is preferable
- + Computer skill and good command of English are an advantage

Petchburee Car Rent (1978) Co., Ltd.
2371 Petchburee Bldg, New Petchburee Road,
Bangkapi, Huaykwang, Bangkok 10310
www.thairentacar.com, Email: **personnel@thairentacar.com**



A growing travel club is seeking for more staff to join our Phuket and Samui branch.

Russian Office Manager - Samui

- Russian nationality, male or female
- strong command of English, written and spoken
- good computer literacy
- flexible working hours
- previous work in holiday ownership business/ office secretarial work is a plus

Job Duties: Russian Coordinator/Contracts/Admin/BUP Pay will be between US\$500- US\$600 depending on experience Full training given though

Good salary package awaits the right candidates. Please submit your resume to the given e-mail address or call for more information

Rinky +66(76) 341427 Fax: +66(76) 341425
Email: **hr@clubabsolute.com**
Website: **www.clubabsolute.com**

HEAD COOK NEEDED

Run and manage a restaurant between Chalong & Rawai. Please call Jeff for more information at Tel: 081-4760380.

SECRETARY-ACCT

Knowledge of English and accounting needed. Office job in Rawai. Good salary. Contact Tel: 081-5376866. Email: **info@platinumresidence.com**

QSI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

An American-style school, has the following anticipated vacancy for the 2007/08 school year (search re-opened): Elementary classroom teacher. Successful candidate will be a native English speaker, have at least a bachelor's degree and hold appropriate certification. Letters of interest may be emailed to: **alansiporin@qsi.org**. Please include your resume and references and be prepared to produce degree and certification documents.

OFFICE & HR

Manager. Fluent in English, team player. Able to work under pressure, administrative skills, valid drivers license, visa & work permit eligible. Please contact at Tel: 081-9583095. Email: **hr@asia-marine.net**

SALES PERSONS

Need male/female, age 22 to 35. Must speak/write English fluently. Property sales, 3 positions. Sun Palm Village. Tel: 076-282594-5.

WEB PROGRAMMER

Krabi. Position requires good English and knowledge of PHP and web design. Salary: 18,000 baht per month. Contact for more information. Tel: 075-637437, 081-0775698. Email: **rbysouth@hotmail.com**

ACCOUNTING MANAGER

Rolly Tasker Sails Thailand Co Ltd requires the services of an Accounting Manager. Requirements: Bachelor's degree in accounting. Minimum 3 years' experience in manufacturing business is preferable. Strong in communication and co-ordination functions. Experience in QuickBooks is an advantage. Management capacity. Good spoken and written English. Self-motivated and proactive. Ability to work under pressure. Full time 8 am to 5 pm Monday-Saturday. Applications to the manager by mail/email/fax should include CV, recent photo and references. Contact for more information. Tel: 076-223- 893. Email: **rolly@phuket.ksc.co.th** For further details, please see our website at: **www.rollytasker.com**

FLUENT ENGLISH

speaker required for full-time position in Phuket City. Good writing and interpersonal skills required. Must be organized, focused, hardworking, reliable. Please send your CV with photo by email: **chrislia@teflmail.net**. Salary: 25-30,000 baht.

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 send CV with photo to Anders Palm. Tel: 076-246427, 081-8932575. Fax: 076-246180. Email: **andersp@loxinfo.co.th**

SIMPSON MARINE

requires the services of a charter boat sales and booking representative. The ideal candidate will be a Thai national, have a strong background in sales and marketing, an excellent command of English both written and spoken, be self-motivated and confident. A background in a marine-related field would be a strong advantage. Own transport is essential. Initial applications should be made by emailing a full resume and references to email: **phuket@simpsonmarine.com**

Tout, Trader & Trumpet



As a well-known sales, marketing and technology consultancy in the telecommunication environment, with clients in Europe, Middle East and Asia, ubinam solutions is now starting business in Thailand together with our Thai partner company 3G-Concepts.

For the industry practice Telco/Communication Technology we are looking for an

Personal Assistant (F/M, Thai national only) (Pos 1)

and a

Assistant Business Development Manager (f/m) (Pos 2)

to fill present vacancies for our new Phuket office.

The successful candidate has the following key qualifications:

For Pos 1:

- Thai National
- Experience in office management and tax issues
- Able to travel in Thailand and Asia
- Fluent in English

For Pos 2:

- Thai National or National of the European Union
- Basic experience in developing sales, marketing and training concepts for the Telco- and CE environment (especially consumer sales/shop chains)
- Good presentation skills on an upper management level
- Able to support consulting projects as well as to develop relationships with Thai and Asian telecommunication players (mobile and fixed line operators, resellers, manufacturers)
- Fluent in English and/or German
- Thai language skills are an advantage
- Living in Phuket
- Willing to travel in Thailand and overseas

Interested? - Please email your CV, stating your salary expectations, in English to: traenkle@ubinam.com

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following positions:

Advertising Sales

- Thai national with an outgoing personality
- Experience in sales and marketing
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Must have drivers license

Advertising Account Admin

- Thai national
- Experience in general office administration work
- Good command at written and spoken English
- Good management and organizational skills

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Wipa Putkeaw, Human Resources, by email, fax or post to:

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

367/2 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Fax: 076-213971 Email: fon@phuketgazette.net



Staff required

Banglao & Chalong branch

- Waitress
- Sales person, Thai female
- Maid

Walking interview at Chalong branch

19/54-57 Moo 8, Chalong Road, T.Chalong, A. Muang, Phuket 83110
Tel: 076 282 411-2

Articles for Sale

ANTIQUE FURNITURE

Hanuman Antique is closing. Last days with mega discounts on furniture. Indochina, French colonial and art deco styles. 50 to 70% off. Open Monday to Friday. 51 Patak Road, Kata.

Please contact

Tel: 087-0820100 (UK)
087-0953010 (Thailand)

GYM EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Full range of commercial fitness equipment. Top quality. Low price for quick sale. Tel: 087-3833525.

CLOSE OUT SALE!

(Business restructuring & moving to BKK) Prices reduced up to 50%. Sale from March 15 to 31, 8 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday. Terms are cash only.

Tel: 076-223025-6

BABY COT

Teak-finish wooden baby cot in very good condition. 2,500 baht. Tel: 076-396639, 085-0620688. For more info email: rtmeakin@samart.co.th

FISHING TACKLE

- Shimano TLD 25 fishing reel, excellent condition, filled with 30lb Maxima line: 6,000 baht.
- Shakespeare Tuna stick, carbon-fiber, 80lb class, like new. Cost 9,000 baht new in UK. Will sell for 4,000 baht. Will do a deal if sold together. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-1713455. Email: ronaudrose@hotmail.com

LINKSYS RVO82 10/

10 8 VPN. Brand new, still in the box. Top of the range router. Would suit company or user who has VPN or would like to put in a redundant line and have router load balance. Bought for 15,000 baht in the UK; will sell for 8,000 baht. Tel: 085-2121794. Email: lan@evocation.net

LOW INPUT, HIGH

output, automatic carwash machines for sale. Starting from 3.9 million baht. Please contact via email: carwash_phuket@hotmail.com

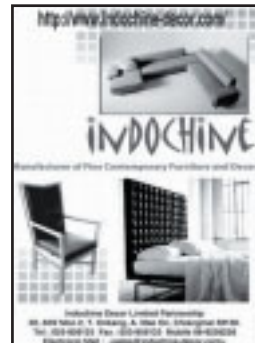
JBL SPEAKERS

Two JBL EON speakers (with amplifiers inside). Cost 65,000 baht each. Will sell for 20,000 baht each. Tel: 087-8838721. Email: bezpaulberridge@hotmail.com

DIVE KIT

Complete except tank and weights. Also dive camera and housing. Tel: 086-7843037.

FINE CONTEMPORARY FURNITURE



Get used to quality. Tel: 053-859125, 086-9238228. Fax 053-859125. Email: nanapart@indochine-decor.com For further details and information, please see our website at: www.indochine-decor.com

TWO MOUNTAIN

bikes. Giant Yukon 19, 2 tours, bike trek. Price 7,000 baht each. Tel: 089-5944017.

CASH REGISTER

Casio TV -T200- used one week: 11,000 baht. Dahon boat bicycle with waterproof carry bag: 5,000 baht. Artist easel folds into carry bag: 3,000 baht. Call Tel: 085-7838336.

UNUSED WASHING

machine. New living room and bedroom furniture below cost price. Tel: 081-7979616, 081-9521950.

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

BOOK SHOP SALE

Patong OTOP book shop for sale. Price: 690,000 baht. Tel: 084-1705552.

FITNESS CENTER

for sale. Quick sale wanted. Established, well-equipped and has a good customer base. For more information. Email: fitnessphuket@yahoo.com

SuwanBuri Co., Ltd.
SuwanBuri was founded to provide customers with first class legal advice and construction services.
SuwanBuri means "Golden City". This reflects our desire to provide high quality service while following the Golden Rule.
161/51 Moo 10, Chao Fa West Road, T. Chalong, A. Muang, Phuket 83100 THAILAND
Office: 076-381982 Fax: 076-381989
Mobile: 085-0618618
Email: info@SuwanBuri.com

ANTIQUE SHOP FOR LEASE



Dibuk road in Phuket City. Has interior decoration, aircon upstairs & downstairs, 5 rooms. Price for lease: 1.8 million baht. First year free monthly rental, second year pay: 38,000 baht per month (9-year contract). Call Tel: 081-2727795.

FITNESS CENTER FOR SALE

Gym established for 7 years in Phuket. Owner retiring. Tel: 081-8111067.

RESTAURANT

for lease in Patong. Popular restaurant/bar in Soi Sansabai. Low rent! For details call Tel: 084-8500375.

BEER BARS

For advice on buying a beer bar in Phuket. Call Kevin at TSBA. Tel: 084-7300190.

GUESTHOUSE

for sale with restaurant/bar. Located opposite main entrance to Royal Paradise Hotel. 6 guestrooms with shower, aircon, TV. Luxurious, beautiful restaurant with kitchen, high standard. 14 million baht. Call Tel: 081-8956587, 081-8949060, 086-2697093.

BAR/LOUNGE

Patong. 2 levels of bar & lounge, 2 levels of accommodation. Long lease, low rent. Only 3.6 million baht. Quick sale. Tel: 087-8817600.

KAMALA REST/BAR

New, for rent. Main road. Famous pizza. Fully fitted and ready to open. Lease 5 years, 6,000 baht per month. Key money 400,000. Call Tel: 086-2878966.

RENT RAWAI SHOP

Shop is 8mx8m, inside area is 2x8, outside apartment 8x8. Air-conditioned, new, clean, on main road. Call Tel: 089-0813183, 084-4454614.

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Call Kevin 084-7300190.
Email: kevin@tsba.info
www.tsba.info

GUESTHOUSE LEASE, PATONG

22 spacious, clean rooms, cable TV, minibar, aircon.
- Elevator, wireless Internet
- Restaurant, bar area
- No maintenance needed
- Very qualified staff
- 4-min walk to the beach
- Unbelievable potential
- Rent for Jan and Feb paid

Key money:

2.4 million baht.

Email:

poul_66@hotmail.com

RESTAURANT

for rent. New restaurant for rent at 25,000 baht per month. 1 million baht to buy all the equipment. 4 floors:

- restaurant on 1st and 2nd floor
- apartment on 3rd floor
- staff room on 4th floor

Ready to open now! Call or email for further details. Tel: 081-8915602. Email: andrea.capucci@gmail.com

RESTAURANT KATA

Austrian restaurant in Kata for sale. Good and quiet location, 60 seats, ready for take over. Tel: 086-1203660. Email: chilligarden@hotmail.com

GUESTHOUSE

Excellent central Patong location. Call Kevin at TSBA. Tel: 084-7300190.

GUESTHOUSE

Kamala, small guesthouse, bar, restaurant. 4 rooms and small apartment, beautiful terrace, very clean. 1 minute to beach. Wifi. 5-year lease. 900,000 baht. K.Bob. Tel: 087-266-1851.

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

BAR & RESTAURANT IN PHUKET CITY



Lounge/bar/pool near Royal Phuket City Hotel. 80sqm, 2 floors, fully equipped, aircon, sound system, plasma TV, nice decoration. 4-year lease, 5 years more possible. 1.9 million baht + rent. Call Tel: 081-7288087.

RESTAURANT

for sale on main road in Nai Ham. Equipment ready to go. 40 seats and room for more. Rent: 18,000 baht per month. 220sqm + garden 120sqm, good parking. Sell with company, can have work permit. Rent for 2007 included in price. 1.2 million baht. Call Tel: 081-6070184.

REAL ESTATE CO

for sale. Well-established. Furnished office in prime location, existing property bank, optimized website with villa rentals section, huge customer email database, work permits available. 1.2 million baht. Tel: 081-9705750. Email: paulgen@baansiamrealty.com

KATA BEACH

New guesthouse for sale or rent. Call for info and appointment. Tel: 081-8948446.

LIFESTYLE FOR SALE

www.homebarphuket.com Live your dream in style, level 1 & 2 bar/lounge, level 3 & 4 accommodation. 2.6 million baht + rent. Please call Tel: 087-8817600.

BUSINESS COMPLEX

Top location! Very low rent! 13-year contract. Two shops in high foot-traffic area. 5 rooms on the second floor. No brokers! Tel: 086-5888383 (Thai), 081-0820039 (English). Email: sumalee1955@yahoo.com

STUDIO IN PATONG

Studios with small kitchenette for rent in Soi Nanai 2. Low season offer of 12,500 baht a month, all included. Call Tel: 081-5362954. Email for info: petro@phuket.ksc.co.th

GUESTHOUSE

Patong. 16 rooms, newly renovated. Internet, cable TV, aircon, bar. 3 minutes to beach, busy location, 6-year lease. 4.6 million baht. Contact Keith call Tel: 087-0211763. Email: keithhbrice@hotmail.com

WANIDA MASSAGE

for sale. Soi Patong Beach. Price: 1.5 million baht. Tel: 081-7373004.

Business Products & Service

VISA & LEGAL SERVICES



Company registration 2,229 baht; one-year visa 5,999 baht; retirement visa 5,999 baht; work permit 5,999 baht; UK & US visa 16,999 baht. No more visa runs – get a one-year visa for only 5,999 baht. Establish your Thai company today, buy land or start your business for only 2,229 baht! Property title search, sales contract and land registration. Thailand's largest legal service network. Always low prices by our licensed Thai lawyers. Please contact for further information.

Tel: 076-345277.
Email: info@siam-legal.com
www.siam-legal.com

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8 models.

For children's parties.

Tel: 081-8939742

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phuketjumpingcastles.com

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TITLE SEARCH

Protect your investment. Check the land title before you buy. We offer full legal services including purchase agreement, lease and land registration. Free consultation. Tel: 076-345277. Please see www.siam-legal.com/land

NO 1 VISA & ACCOUNTING

Best prices & service! Visa service for Thai and foreigners, company registration and work permit. Tel: 076-280447, 087-2650595. For more information email: phuket@no1visa.com

OSTEOPATH

UK-trained. Call Tel: 076-388524, 081-6072343.

QUALITY WEB HOSTING

5,000 baht per year.

- Low price, high speed
- Take care of you with our best service
- Server stability
- 100% uptime
- Lowest domain pricing for .com/.org/.net/.biz
- Free parking page
- Spam & virus protection
- Webmail

Tel: 076-528737.

Please see our web site at
www.

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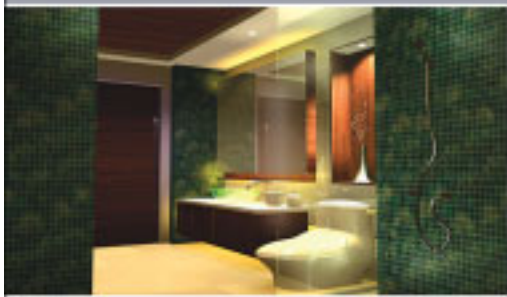
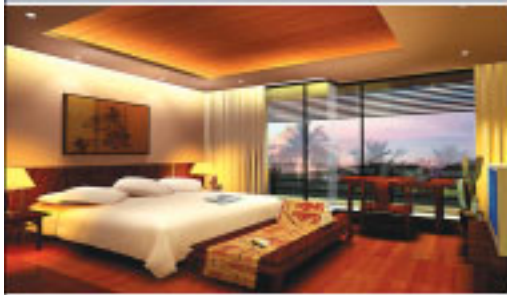
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