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Songkran road toll plummets

By Natcha Yuttaworawit
& Semacote Suganya

PHUKET: Shortly before closing on the last day of the official seven-day Songkran holiday period, the Chief of the Phuket Provincial Office for Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (ODPM) told the *Gazette* that there had been just two road accident deaths in Phuket during the "danger week", from April 11 to 17.

The total number of road accidents was much less than last year's figures, he said.

ODPM Chief Aroon Kerd-som said, "We have had 20 reported accidents, 22 injuries and two fatalities; a Korean man, Min Gee Park, 28, and a Thai man, Anon Sinthunawa, 25, both killed in motorcycle accidents.

"A total of 40,000 drivers were stopped at checkpoints during the week, with 2,400 people charged with offenses. The most common charge was riding a motorcycle without wearing a helmet, followed by driving without a license. Less than 1% of the charges were for drunk driving.

"Compared with last year, the number of reported road accidents fell by 79%, with related injuries down by 76%. Deaths fell by two-thirds.

"This year the Don't Drink and Drive Foundation sent 50 victims of accidents involving drunk drivers to hand out 'Don't drink and drive' stickers at checkpoints," K. Aroon said.

K. Aroon added that he could not comment further on the



ROAD RIVALS: Rain during the week leading up to Songkran may be responsible for less carnage on the roads this year.

figures until they had been officially announced at an upcoming meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall.

The day before the count started, two English tourists were killed in separate incidents on the roads in Phuket.

Lee Jonathan Thomas Pettit, a 34-year-old English tourist, died in a motorbike accident in Kata about 4 am on April 10.

Lt Col Chockchai Sutthimek, Duty Inspector at Chalong Police Station, said that Mr Pettit was driving at high speed along Kata Rd when he was involved in a scrape with a motorbike waiting to turn right onto Ket Kwan Rd. Mr Pettit came off his bike, hitting his head on the road.

Capt Padungpong Duk-sukkeaw, an Investigating Officer at Chalong Police Station said, "Mr Pettit was taken to Patong Hospital but succumbed

to his head injuries and died in hospital.

"We could not check his blood alcohol level as he had lost too much blood," he added.

The same morning, at about 12:30 am, a British man attempting to cross Wiset Rd was killed when he was run over by a car. He died at the scene.

Chalong Police Station Duty Inspector Lt Col Chockchai Sutthimek identified the victim as Alan H White, aged 81.

The driver of the Mitsubishi sedan that ran over Mr White was identified as Wachara Cholchawalit, who was returning home from a cremation ceremony at Wat Rawai.

He told police that he did not see Mr White and had no chance to avoid him.

Police do not suspect that either K. Wachara or the victim had been under the influence of alcohol at the time of the crash.

Valentino faces land charges

BANGKOK (*The Nation*): Malaysian national Tan Teik Hai, 56, better known as "Valentino", Phuket's former honorary consul to Morocco, is facing charges involving encroachment on more than 1,000 rai on Koh Yao Yai.

After completing its investigation into a development project on Koh Yao Yai, the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) recommended prosecution against Tan and his in-laws Sudjai, Bunlert and Krajang Kheereephorn for encroaching on forest and public land.

Jeeliang Fishery Phuket Co, which hired the three relatives, also faces charges.

Tan's wife, Suwaphat Kheereephon, has not been charged. At the time of her and her husband's arrest at their home in Phuket on October 29, she was honorary consul to Djibouti.

DSI Director-General Sunai Manomai-udom said on April 11 that officials who allegedly helped the suspects with document forgery will not face charges because the statute of limitations had run out.

However, he added that an ongoing extensive DSI probe would soon lead to loan officers at local branches of two commercial banks being charged for facilitating the encroachment.

Although K. Sunai did not explain how the unidentified bank employees helped the suspects, it is believed that loans worth around 3 billion baht were secured by Valentino and his associates using improperly issued land title deeds as collateral.

All four suspects have been released on bail of 200,000 baht each.

The first Public Prosecutor's hearing is set for April 27.

Soft opening for Phuket Welcome Gate

TAH CHAT CHAI: About 1,000 elderly people from around Phuket took part in an Elderly Day Ceremony at the Phuket Welcome Gate April 11 to preserve Thai culture, celebrate Songkran and encourage people to realize the importance of elderly members of the community.

Although the official opening for the Welcome Gate has yet to be organized, Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor) Vice-President Suthep Thepsakul said that the Elderly Day ceremony marked the venue's soft opening.

Construction of the Welcome Gate began late 2005 on 25 rai about 300 meters from the Sarasin Bridge with the budget of 46.67 million baht from the OrBorJor.

The complex comprises six offices, areas for stalls selling OTOP (One Tambon One Product) goods, 29 seven-meter-tall concrete pillars with passages explaining Phuket's history in Thai and English engraved on them, and a 21.8-meter tall granite sculpture.

Teens injured in drive-by shooting

PHUKET CITY: Two teenagers were injured in a drive-by shooting in Rassada in the early hours of April 10.

Apichai Thongsart, 17, and Somkuan Petsanun, 18, were with friends in the Saphan Ruam area in Rassada when a gang of about seven people pulled up on motorcycles. One of the men shot into the group.

Apichai was hit once in the pelvis and Somkuan was hit once in the pelvis and once in the back.

The victims identified 'Joe Kingkaew' as being among the attackers," Maj Rassada said.

"The victims were not certain if he was the man who shot them. However, we will question him as soon as possible," he said.

Phuket ready 'To Be Number One' province

PHUKET CITY: Phuket is one of two provinces in the South to compete in the To Be Number One Province finals, to be held on June 22 at the IMPACT Arena in Muang Thong Thani, in suburban Bangkok.

Phuket will also be represented in the To Be Number One Community, by Baan Lipon Khao Lan; and in the To Be Number One Organization, by Big C supercenter, Phuket.

The southern region To Be Number One awards ceremony was chaired by HRH Princess Ubol Ratana Rajakanya on April 12 at the Royal Phuket City Hotel.

The To Be Number One project is a royal patronage

project of Princess Ubon Ratana, who wants to encourage Thai youths to join positive activities in order to prevent them from turning to drugs and other vices.

The contest is divided into five groups: To Be Number One Province, To Be Number One School, To Be Number One Community, To Be Number One Organization and To Be Number One Community in the Region.

Other representatives from the South include: Yan Ta Khao Rathachanoopatham School from Trang and Lansakaprasan School from Nakhon Sri Thammarat, in the school competition; Baan Khok Mamuang from Narathiwat, in the commu-



HRH Princess Ubol Ratana Rajakanya hands a southern region To Be Number One Province award to Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit at the awards ceremony in Phuket City on April 12.

nity competition; and PJ 37 Parawood Co Ltd from Yala and Supara Co Ltd from Phang Nga,

which both made it into the finals in the To Be Number One Organization competition.

Cabinet approves new changes to Business Act

BANGKOK (*The Nation*): The Cabinet has approved the revised amendments to the Foreign Business Act, but it remains uncertain whether the bill will pass the National Legislative Assembly (NLA).

The NLA were to debate the amendments on April 18. Some 50 NLA members have rallied against the changes, saying they jeopardize foreign investment.

Commerce Minister Krirk-Krai Jirapaet has said he is ready to present the amendments to the NLA.

The Cabinet approved the new draft of the Foreign Business Law after the Commerce Ministry agreed to revise it to make it friendlier to foreign investment. The Cabinet rejected an earlier draft in February.

There are six key amendments.

First, the new draft will focus on the voting rights of foreign shareholders. If a company is 49% foreign owned but foreigners hold more than 50% of its voting rights, the company will be defined as foreign.

Second, it will remove more businesses covered under Annex III. This will allow these businesses, such as insurance and non-commodity futures market, to be covered by specific laws.

Third, the new draft will remove the amnesty for those violating the nominee law.

Fourth, the draft will increase the penalties for violating the Foreign Business Law. Maximum jail terms will be increased from three to five years, and fines of between 100,000 and one million baht will be increased to between 500,000 and five million baht.

Fifth, it will expand the pe-

riod from two to three years for foreign companies operating in Annex I and Annex II to revise their ownership structure to conform to the new law.

Foreign companies in Annex III must inform the Commerce Ministry within one year that they have foreign ownership status before continuing to operate as normal.

Sixth, a 17-member committee will be formed to rule whether a company is Thai or foreign owned in case of a dispute.

The Commerce Ministry says the amendments create more transparency by clearly defining foreign ownership and delineating the types of businesses that are open to foreigners.

It is also aiming to make it clear that using nominees to circumvent foreign-ownership caps is prohibited.

The draft is a compromise between an earlier version from the Commerce Ministry and those of the Council of State and the NLA, which has the power to reject the draft and introduce its own bill.

However, the Commerce Ministry insists that its draft is better than those from the NLA and the Council of State.

The ministry's new draft takes into account key concerns raised by the Cabinet and the foreign business community, said Skol Harnsuthivarin, Secretary to Commerce Minister Krirk-Krai.

The draft maintains the clause on voting rights.

However, the draft will not focus on management control, as the Council of State suggested, as the government considers that it would be too stringent for foreign investors, K. Skol said.

The new draft removes the amnesty clause because it would like to create fairness for Kularb Keaw, now under police investigation over allegations it acted as nominee for Singapore's Temasek Holdings in the Shin Corp takeover.

Pramon Suthivong, chairman of the Board of Trade of Thailand and Thai Chamber of Commerce, said most businesses affected would find the latest draft more appealing but there would be some who might be unhappy with it.

"It is impossible to satisfy all parties, particularly foreign investors. But since it is necessary to amend the law, the government has to go ahead and do it," K. Pramon said.

All existing businesses will be able to operate freely under the new draft, but new businesses might need time to study it more closely, he said.

The Key Piece of the Puzzle

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Historic bank to become a museum

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET CITY: Phuket City Municipality will renovate two Sino-Portuguese buildings in the heart of Phuket City with the aim of preserving the town's cultural past.

The old Chartered Bank building at the intersection of Phuket Rd and Phang Nga Rd until recently housed the Phuket City branch of Siam City Bank, but will soon be converted to a cultural museum.

The Sino-Portuguese building is almost 100 years old and was one of the first bank buildings to be built outside Bangkok.

Although the Phuket Regional Treasury Office (PRTO) will maintain ownership of the building, Phuket City Municipality will be responsible for the renovations.

Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwannasuppana said the building will be redeveloped as a learning center about "Old Phuket" lifestyle, culture and history.

She added that the building is an example of the town's architecture that must be preserved for the next generation.



The old Chartered Bank building (pictured) will be preserved by being transformed into a cultural learning center.

Phuket City Municipality will also redevelop the old Talad Yai Police Station, across Phang Nga Rd from the old Chartered Bank building, to be a tourism information center.

The old police station was built about the same time as the Chartered Bank building, and is now also owned by the PRTO.

The building, with the clock-

tower perched atop, was once the main office for the Kusoldharm Foundation and is currently a Phuket City Police patrol center mainly staffed by civil defense volunteers.

More than 60 million baht will be needed for the project, K. Somjai said, adding that the plans for the renovations are expected to be ready by year's end.

Chindapol injured in college shooting

PHUKET CITY: A young member of the Chindapol clan, one of the largest families on the island, was shot outside Phuket Vocational College in Saphan Hin on the night of April 15 while he was waiting for a friend.

Maj Sarit Butnongsang, Duty Inspector of Phuket City Police Station, on April 17 told the *Gazette*, "The injured youth is Duangdon Chindapol, 18. He was shot by two teenagers while he and three friends were waiting for another friend near Phuket Vocational College.

"One of the victim's friends said that two teenagers drove up to them on a motorcycle. One of the teens got off the bike, walked up to Duangdon and shot at him three or four times. He was hit in the cheek, neck and hand.

"She said that both of Duangdon's assailants were wearing helmets so she couldn't get a clear view of their faces. She couldn't remember the registration plate number of the motorcycle.

"We need to take a statement from Duangdon to find out if he knows of anyone with a grudge against him. Presently, however, he is still unconscious in serious condition at Vachira Hospital."

Another Phuket youth was left comatose af-

ter being shot in the head early the following morning as he rode his motorcycle at Saphan Hin.

Police have yet to identify a suspect or determine the motive for the shooting.

Jakkrid "Dong" Chukamchang was watching football and drinking at a friend's house on the night of April 15.

Lt Col Somkid Boonyarat, an Investigating Inspector at Phuket City Police Station, told the *Gazette*, "After they had finished drinking, Jakkrid and his friends got on their motorbikes to go home, but rode only about 100 meters before someone fired a single shot at them."

The bullet entered Jakkrid's right temple and exited his right cheek. He was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital, where he remained comatose in the Intensive Care Unit. Police believe Jakkrid is 17 years old.

"The owner of the home in which Jakkrid and his friends drank beer said they just sat watching football on television and did not make a loud noise or bother anyone.

"We still don't know the gun size or type, but we are in the process of interviewing witnesses to determine a suspect," Col Somkid said.

West Sands to build water park

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn & Stephen Fein

MAI KHAO: Central & City Developments has announced it will build Phuket's first "water park" as part of its six-billion-baht West Sands Resort and villa project.

The 150-million-baht park will cover 6,400 square meters and feature state-of-the-art water rides, all to be designed and built by Canadian water park design specialist WhiteWater through its office in Korea.

West Sands Sales and Marketing Director Barry King told the *Gazette* that there are no plans to open the water park for admission to the general public, but said that local residents will be allowed access on special occasions.

The park should be open in June 2008, he said.

The announcement comes

while a provincial investigation into claims by local residents that part of the West Sands project is on public land is underway.

Investigation committee member Techin Techawong, Administrative Officer at the Damrongtham Center provincial complaint center, told the *Gazette* that the committee planned to inspect the site again after the Songkran holidays.

Together with representatives of the Mai Khao Tambon Administration Organization and the Phuket Provincial Land Office, the committee will do additional survey work at the site to ensure that the construction work being done concurs with land title deeds and construction permits presented as evidence by the developer, K. Techin said.

However, he added that all of the West Sands' title deeds and construction permits appeared to be in order.

Policeman charged over temple brawl

CHALONG: Chalong Police have charged a Crime Suppression officer with disturbing the peace following a brawl at a Songkran fair at Wat Karon.

The officer, named by police as "Sgt Maj Bird", or better known as "Ja Bird", has not been suspended from duty.

Lt Col Peeranut Chatinkaew, a Crime Suppression Inspector at Chalong Police Station, told the *Gazette* that he was called to the temple at 12:30 am on April 11 to deal with a fight that had broken out between five men and some local youths.

Witnesses had reported that one of the men had fired shots into the air with a handgun.

When Col Peeranut arrived at the scene the men had already left, leaving four local teens – three boys and one girl – battered and bloody, Col Peeranut said.

The morning after the incident, Karon Sub-District Chief (Kamnan) Winai Chitchaiw, backed by about 50 villagers, de-

livered a letter to Chalong Police Station Superintendent Col Chalit Kaewyarat demanding that Ja Bird be quickly arrested and justice be served.

Col Chalit told the *Gazette* that Ja Bird had already turned himself over to Chalong Police. "We have charged him and his accomplices with causing a public disturbance. After being informed of the charges he was released. He has not been suspended from duty as they are only minor charges," he said.

Col Peeranut added that firearms charges will be brought against the person who fired the gun as soon as police are able to establish who it was.

The injured youths have also been charged with causing a public disturbance and police have arranged a meeting with both sides to investigate who started the fighting and whether any further charges will be brought, Col Peeranut said.

— Sompratch Saowakhon

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The Broncel barrier

Dutchman Robert Broncel, tsunami survivor and now Chairman of Van den Noort Innovations in the Netherlands, was recently in Phuket to drum up support for his ambitious plan to build self-deploying "tsunami barriers" in tsunami-prone coastal areas around the Indian Ocean rim, starting in Patong.

The *Phuket Gazette's* News Editor Stephen Fein reports.

As soon-to-be European Sales and Marketing Manager of the Turtle Cove project in Mai Khao, Robert Broncel, 67, was in Phuket for a meeting in late December 2004. When the tsunami hit on Boxing Day, he was in a speedboat nearing Phi Phi Don Island.

"We took off from Phuket half an hour late. Had we left on time, we would have been washed ashore. We were the first ones to see Phi Phi after the tsunami, a couple of minutes after it began to hit.

"When we arrived, we saw masses of water rushing off the island to the sea. There were about 15 people on the speedboat we hired. We were all flabbergasted at what we were seeing. Nobody said a word," he said.

"The captain of the speedboat realized the danger and headed back out to sea. We were the only ones to get out of the bay safely, so we went out and warned other approaching boats to stay out. Later we went out to look at Phi Phi village and saw nothing but roofs sticking out – nothing else – and debris coming toward us. It was only then that

we realized a major disaster had taken place, but we still thought it was a local disaster. Then we tried to find out if anything had happened in Phuket, but the mobile phones didn't work...so we decided to head back to Phuket," he said.

"On the way back, a 'ricochet tsunami' came up behind us in a series of breakers, all traveling at about the same speed we were. That was the only time we were afraid, so we all put our life jackets on – but eventually the waves died down."

He visited Patong the following day.

"It reminded me so much of my youth, because I am a war child. I saw the devastation after the battle of Arnhem, in 1944. I came back to Amsterdam feeling like a zombie."

Unable to sleep, he called his doctor. Robert was told the best therapy was to "take action" and "do something that makes you feel good, whatever it is."

But what could he do?

The answer began to emerge on the first anniversary of the tsunami as Robert was watching a program on Discovery Channel that documented the



Graduate students at Maritimus Engineering, at the Technical University in Heerlen, in very south of the Netherlands, test the barrier's design in a hydraulic laboratory.

work of a team of international experts who surveyed the thrust fault zone with a submersible.

"When they finally found the fault zone, they came to the conclusion that the sea floor was so destabilized that another quake could take place at any time – and when it does it will likely be closer to the Thai coast than the last one. That was their conclusion. This made me aware of the fact that something had to be done about it," he said.

Perhaps the fact that he is Dutch made Robert think along a different line than the conventional wisdom, which says that the only way to deal with a tsunami is to issue warnings and conduct evacuations before the waves hit.

As the low-lying geography of their homeland has required of them, the Dutch have become the undisputed masters at water engineering projects, which include such triumphs as the world's longest sea dike, built to block the

North Sea back in 1932.

Curious, Robert called the University of Delft and described his experiences to a researcher there, asking if anyone in their hydraulic engineering department had ever done work on tsunamis.

They said "no", but put him in contact with Johann van den Noort, a royally-decorated Dutch inventor who had designed a unique barrier for inland floods that might be adapted to block tsunami surges.

"It took him a while, understandably, but eventually he called me and said, 'Robert, I think I can say Eureka! I will send you a few designs by email,'" he said.

Not long after, Johann named Robert the Chairman of his company, Van den Noort Innovations, and put Robert in charge of the Tsunami Barrier project.

The design Johann envisioned consists of a large wall that

is placed out in the bay. Before a tsunami hits, water levels in the bay quickly recede, which would pull the barrier into place and deflect the inevitable onrush of the wave.

As this design needed to be thoroughly tested in a hydraulic laboratory Johann found Maritimus Engineering at the Technical University in Heerlen, in very south of the Netherlands, to build a prototype tsunami barrier to assess his design.

Two graduate students there, Maurice Janssen and Kevin Swinkle, decided to test the tsunami barrier design and report their independent findings as part of a joint graduate study thesis.

The testing started in March 2006, and the pair published their independent findings in a 150-page report in January 2007.

Patong was chosen as a site for the study for two reasons: the large potential for losses – both human and commercial; and because it is a bay, which would lower construction costs by removing the need to build piers.

Much more detailed information about the topography, composition of the sea floor and incoming water movement in Patong Bay would also be needed before the tsunami barrier could be built there, he added.

NUTS AND BOLTS

The barrier envisioned for Patong would likely consist of hollow-body construction steel, filled with polystyrene to maintain lifting capacity even if some seepage did occur. Built at a depth of four to five meters and

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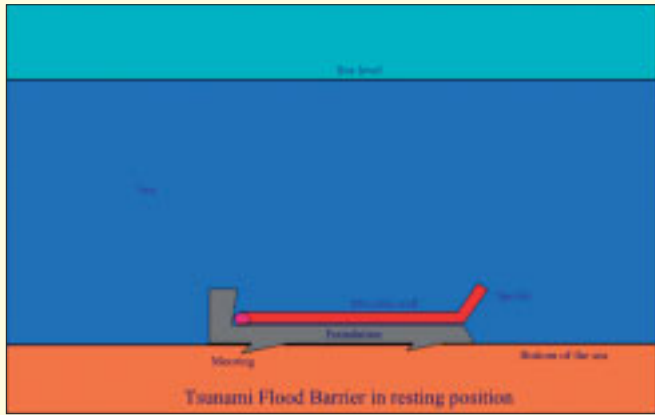
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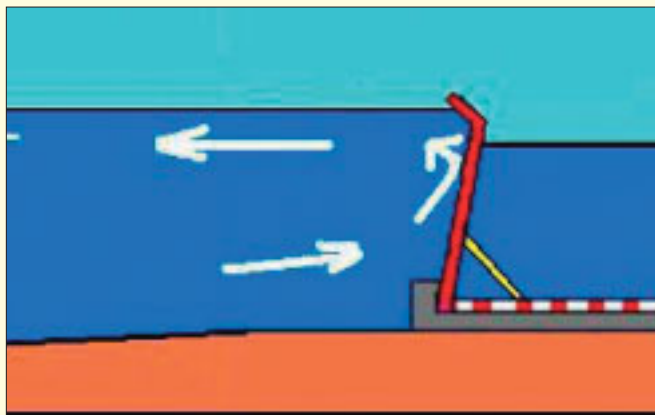
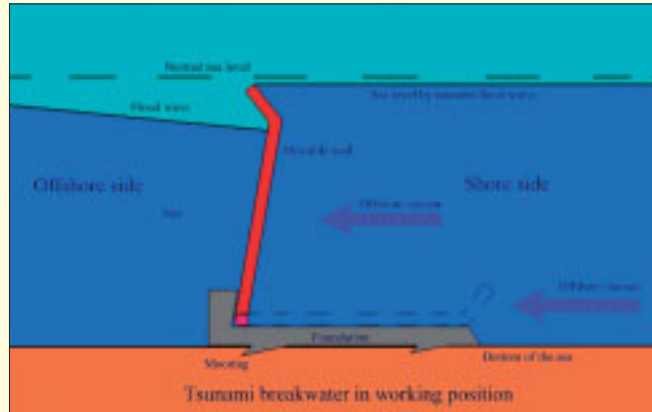
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In its resting position, the barrier would have no effect on shipping or marine life – and it might even make a popular dive site.

By trapping coastal water, the barrier forces the approaching tsunami to meet its natural opponent: stationary water. Independent testing found that even when the tsunami wave exceeds the coastal water level, it still causes a dramatically smaller impact.



In lab testing, the barrier deflected much of the approaching wave back over itself, minimizing impact.

Graphics courtesy of:
Van den Noort Innovations BV
(www.noort-innovations.nl)

at a distance of several hundred meters from the beach, the barrier would consist of aligned sections, each affixed to the sea floor by piled concrete foundations.

"This type of piling construction, widely used in Holland, would prevent the foundation from simply floating away under the tremendous forces involved. It must be piled into the sea bottom, the depth of the piles de-

pending on the topography of the sea floor.

"It is difficult to say, but it will have to be deep enough to prevent the foundation from moving."

When asked about possible leakage between different sections of the barrier that could allow retreating "negative tsunami" water to seep through, he admitted it would be impossible to make the system 100% watertight.

"But this doesn't matter. It won't do any harm as long as it is kept to a maximum of 2% to 3%," he said.

"The barrier will come up automatically, rising quickly and locking into position. When the positive tsunami approaches, it will be blocked by the water trapped behind the barrier. This has been tested in the lab. When I saw it myself, I couldn't believe it because it causes the tsunami

water to turn back, with upper level water running back over itself. This is the crux of the story... but when down, the barrier will be invisible, with no affect on shipping or marine life," he said.

"We don't know the width of each section yet, as that will also take more study and depend on whether such sections can be prefabricated. They might be three to four meters wide, perhaps, depending on the manufacturer's production capabilities."

Although coated with anti-fouling agents, the barrier would need some maintenance by divers, who would go down periodically to see what was growing and what needed to be removed.

"We can't say how often at this point, because we don't know what will grow on it or how fast it will grow," he said.

Asked if a particularly strong ebb tide could accidentally force the barrier up, Robert said that scenario had been tested in the lab and ruled out as a possibility. "We will engineer it so that it will only deploy in the event of a major tsunami wave with the potential to inundate the coast and cause a great deal of inland damage," he said.

COSTS

When asked about the cost of making the tsunami barrier, Robert said he couldn't give an exact figure without first consulting construction companies with experience in large, offshore projects.

He noted, however, that it would be far less expensive than sea works already in place in the Netherlands.

"Once arrived at, the cost of building the barrier would of course need to be weighed against the cost of the expected destruction caused by another tsunami," he said.

"It can be built. What I need

is further study on the exact area of construction. We need to know the approximate price from an interested marine construction company, along with a letter of interest from the authorities concerned, who in this case might be the Governor of Phuket – at least to start with," he said.

"We only need such a letter for one purpose. It is completely without financial obligation, but we need it to get the financing arranged. We must show something to the banks, who will want to know that the local community is really interested in the project," he said.

As governments in Asia most likely have no budget for a solution like this, Robert stressed that he would not approach the Thai government for the funding. Rather, he would approach the World Bank or perhaps one of the charitable foundations set up by very wealthy individuals.

"I have started something here and I have no idea where it will end up. Funding is not relevant as far as the [Thai] government is concerned."

"Also, this is not a commercial project. It is not our goal to make a profit on it, but at the same time we prefer not to lose money on it either. So far we have paid up front about 50,000 euros," said Robert, who has also invested a great deal of time in the project by visiting with officials in Sri Lanka and Kuala Lumpur.

"But we can't go on forever paying out of pocket without knowing if we are going to be successful. So now is the time to do the local research needed and get a cost estimate together so we can approach those who might potentially provide funding," he said.

Reiterating that research indicates it is only a matter of time before another tsunami hits Phuket, Robert said, "God forbid it happens tomorrow. The beauty of the barrier is that it will deploy automatically, with no need for any advance warning."



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Queer News

A professional disagreement

In any profession, accepting the rise of a younger generation can be difficult; no one likes to see their skills being surpassed by up-and-coming youngsters.

Going by a recent incident in Phetchabun, the world of hired killers is no different, apart, perhaps, from being a bit more dangerous.

In the early hours of April 14 Maj Kittiphong Phromsuwan, an Inspector at Phetchabun Muang District Police Station, received a report of a shooting in the district's Wang Chomphoo area.

At the scene police found the body of 32-year-old Phailak Yoongam slumped next to a marble table. He had been shot in the chest with a shotgun. The victim's twin brother Phairam and friend Wanchai Khammuangjai, 32, were waiting to give a statement to the officers.

K. Phairam said that himself, his brother and K. Wanchai had been drinking liquor at his house to celebrate Songkran. When they ran out of liquor, they went to get some beer instead and carried on drinking at K. Wanchai's house, where the incident happened.

They then stopped at another friend's house to invite him

to join in the festivities. Finding only their friend's father, 57-year-old Saleang Nakkham, they invited him to join them instead.

Saleang joined their drinking circle but, after a few drinks, fell into heated discussion with K. Phailak about the hired killing business, with both sides challenging each others' abilities, K. Phairam said.

K. Phairam explained that he thought the pair were just joking around and warned his brother to respect his elders. After a while, the pair broke into an argument, forcing K. Phairam to take Saleang home, he said.

About 15 minutes later, Saleang returned with a shotgun. Standing next to the garden fence, he raised the gun and shot K. Phailak.

When police went to Saleang's house, they found him waiting to give himself up. He told police that K. Phailak had been boasting to him of how he was an expert killer and had shot dead a countless number of people. "If you knew my past, it would leave you shivering," Salaeng quoted K. Phailak as saying.

Apart from boasting, K. Phailak also mocked Salaeng by saying that his generation was already passed it and couldn't challenge K. Phailak, Salaeng

said. Salaeng tried to tell him that it wasn't good to speak to your elders like that, but to no avail and a fight soon broke out.

K. Phailak's friends quickly broke up the fight and escorted Saleang away. As he was leaving, Saleang said, K. Phailak shouted after him, "Do you want to test me daddy? Don't run away, we'll meet here."

K. Phailak then shouted again, this time using the pronouns *koo* and *meung*, very rude when not used between close friends. "Koo am not going anywhere...I'll wait for *meung* here you old dodderer," he shouted.

"The anger at being insulted by someone of my son's generation was too much. I went home, grabbed my shotgun and then went back and shot Phailak. After that I bought a beer to drink while I waited for the police," Salaeng said.

The reporter added that Salaeng's past illegal deeds were well known in the area. As for K. Phailak, boasting about his killing skills while drunk was apparently par for the course.

At the time of his death he was fighting a rape charge and an assault charge, among many others.

Source: Kom Chad Luek



HRH's 84th birthday marked

Thailand Post Office will mark the 84th birthday of HRH Princess Galyani Vadhana, sister of HM King Bhumibol, with a 3-baht stamp to be issued May 6.


Only one million copies of the stamp, measuring 27 millimeters by 45mm, will be made.

HRH Princess Galyani was born in London on May 6, 1923. The projects under her

royal patronage are extensive and varied, mostly in education, sports, social welfare, medicine and public health.

The Princess has been a guest lecturer at several Thai universities, focusing on foreign languages, especially French. She founded the Association of Teachers of French in Thailand.


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For many residents and visitors the tsunami has receded from memory, but many unresolved issues and needy people remain.

Fortunately there are people who haven't forgotten and visitors have returned to Krabi to see old friends they met before the tsunami and pay respects to those they lost.

One pre-tsunami visitor to Krabi who never forgot and vowed to return and help those in need is Ernie Halter.

Ernie Halter is a Los Angeles-based singer/songwriter who was on holiday in Ao Nang three years ago. We met at a music show at Encore Café and kept in touch periodically over the next few years.

I watched his career progress, the clubs he was playing getting bigger and more prominent.

Ernie graduated cum laude from the prestigious Berklee School of Music in Boston, which includes among its alumni John Mayer, Melissa Etheridge, Donald Fagen (of Steeley Dan), Steve Vai and Quincy Jones.

Ernie recently released his first CD *Congress Hotel* and has been on a promotional tour including appearances on *The Tonight Show*, *The Late Show* and *Good Morning America*. So when he offered to play a free concert to aid the tsunami orphans in Krabi, I gladly accepted.

On March 19, Ernie returned to the Encore Café to play a two-set show, donating all proceeds to the Sriphong Phukaoluan Foundation (www.krabirelief.com), which is sponsoring 101 tsunami children through its "Tsunami Child Sponsorship Program".

Chuan Phukaoluan, President of the Foundation and a former Mayor of Krabi Town, was on hand to start off the show. By the way, he enjoyed himself so much he stayed the

Victims not forgotten



LA-based singer/songwriter Ernie Halter plays at the Encore Café.

entire evening!

The concert was a financial success for the foundation and a great night of music from a truly gifted artist. The next day Ernie played for the children and even surprised them with a few magic tricks.

Ernie promises to return next year with some top notch musicians for an even bigger show. You can follow Ernie's US tour on his website at www.myspace.com/erniehalter.

Landing a good plot: Much has been written about the property boom in Phuket; now the spotlight is starting to shine on

Krabi as well. Articles in the *Bangkok Post*, *Asian Wall Street Journal* and others reflect the attractiveness of the region. Even with the uncertainties of the current government's attitude toward foreign investment, the interest remains keen.

Larger real estate firms and developers from Singapore and Hong Kong have arrived to scope out the landscape. Adding to this wave are Phuket investors, some flush with cash after a successful high season and looking to expand their businesses or find an alternative to high land prices in Phuket.

What most people find is that beachfront properties are scarce and not cheap – except when compared to Phuket, Hong Kong or Singapore.

But the boom here is seen as just beginning and the out-

LAND PRICE HISTORY OF KRABI

Prices per rai in million baht

Location	1994	2000	2004	2007
Lai Thai Resort (700m from Ao Nang Beach)	0.2	2.0	6.0	8.0
Ao Nang beachfront land	8.0	12.0	15.0	20.0
Ao Nang beachfront units	3.8	15.0	20.0	25.0
Klong Ouang beachfront	2.0	5.0	7.0	10.0
Haad Yao beachfront	0.2	1.5	2.5	4.0
Ao Namao seaview land	0.2	1.5	5.0	7.0
Na Thai	0.03	0.2	1.0	2.8
Thalen Bay beachfront	N/A	3.0	5.0	7.0

Annual rental per unit

Ao Nang Beach road	0.06	0.3	1.0	2.0
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look is rosy. Old-timers like myself (I bought my first piece of land here 13 years ago) say, "What took you so long?"

The table shows some historical land and rental prices in the Krabi derived from interviewing local landowners. Obviously these drastic increases in land prices cannot continue as prices reach the levels of Phuket, but the discerning investor can still find a diamond in the rough.

But before you run out and empty your bank account to buy

property, get yourself a good lawyer. Do your research and try to deal with a reputable real estate agent.

If you are dealing with a Westerner trying to sell you some land or a house, ask to see their work permit. There are a few reputable, registered companies around – and a number of others trying to get a free ride without the proper credentials. As Krabi grows, the money will become a magnet for some unscrupulous business people.



ACROSS THE BAY

By Gus Reynolds

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Bloody holiday for Deep South

The Songkran festivities saw no let up in violence in the Deep South with attacks continuing throughout the week.

On April 16, some 50 militants torched seven buildings in Pattani's Muang District, including public schools at Ban Bana, Ban Juloh, Ban Pakahang, Ban Kueya and Ban Korlaebeleh, Pattani Governor Phanu Uthairat said.

A public health clinic at Talulo sub-district was also torched, while a teacher's house was set ablaze near Ban Kue Ze School.

The militants were targeting public buildings as they had "failed to manipulate the local people" to rise against the authorities, K. Phanu claimed.

In the neighboring province of Yala on the same day, two people were shot dead in two separate gun attacks in Lidon sub-district. The first attack at 7:30 am killed Malaseng Dokoh, the 63-year-old President of Lidon Tambon Administration Organization, right in front of his house.

About two kilometers away, security official Waehama Hajisamaeah, who is also a driver for a senior district official, was also shot dead in front of his house.

In Narathiwat, a gun attack in Rangae district injured Manaseh Sa-ah, a local resident, while he was walking through his village. He was hit three times in his right leg and taken to a district hospital.

A 70-year-old Buddhist rubber farmhand was shot and burned by suspected militants as he drove his motorbike home from a market in Narathiwat's Rusoh district April 15.

The attack came a day after insurgents shot at a train on the Narathiwat-Sungai Kolok



TAPIR TRIUMPH: Songkhla Zoo had more than just Songkran to celebrate on April 13 as one of its Malayan tapirs gave birth.

The healthy 6.9-kilogram male was born at 2:30 am on the first day of the festival. Its mother, eight-year-old Phon, was showing strong maternal instincts and was caring for the baby well, zoo officials report.

Songkhla Zoo has been chosen to be the center of a high-tech tapir breeding program using artificial insemination techniques as well as natural breeding. The zoo has a collection of eight adults in the program.

route, leading to services being suspended.

On April 12 a bomb exploded in a busy market in Yala, wounding 11 people as hundreds of angry Buddhists gathered in the town center to call for tougher security measures.

The bomb, packed with shrapnel, was placed next to a pork stall inside a water pipe left behind by construction workers. Police believe the explosion was set off by mobile phone. Two soldiers and a police officer were among the injured.

A second bomb went off in the bathroom of Yala's bus station, but there were no injuries.

The incident came one day after suspected insurgents shot and burned a recent graduate, Patcharaporn Boonmart, 26, apparently in retaliation for the shooting of four unarmed Muslim youths by a group of Village Defense Volunteers (VDV) April 9. Six other Muslim youths were injured in that attack.

Army spokesman Colonel Akara Thiproj defended the actions of the VDV, saying the Muslims had provoked the drama by throwing stones at them.

Fatal charm: A 51-year-old woman was crushed to death and dozens were injured April 9 when thousands of people attempted to force their way into a technical school to buy coupons for the sought-after Jatukam Ramthep amulets.

Crowds of people had been waiting since midnight on Sunday at the coupon-selling spots of Nakhon Si Thammarat Technical College, Rama XI Park, and Thanakhonyanwaropasuthit School to get the special edition

amulets produced by Wat Phra Nakhon.

The crowd caused a five-kilometer traffic jam in the city.

Nearly 10,000 forced their way to the coupon desk on the second floor of the technical school about 8 am. Many women and elderly people fainted and were trampled by the crowd.

Officials had to pull out the injured and found that Phuen Khongpetch, 51, had been trampled to death and her body was covered with footprints. Dozens were injured and the college gate and fence were destroyed.

At Rama XI Park, people also broke through the gate to get the coupons. The chaos overwhelmed the 100 policemen present and caused the coupon selling to be halted.

Many people were upset and remained at the premises in the hope the selling would resume, while some cried because they could not get coupons.

Nakhon Si Thammarat Police Commander Maj Gen Sudjai Yanarat, who later visited the in-

jured, said police would look into the death to find out if K. Phuen had passed out or was simply knocked down in the stampede.

If it was the latter, the event organizer would be charged with recklessness causing another's death. Gen Sudjai said the authorities would prevent such a tragedy recurring so this death would be "the last of its kind".

Wat Phra Nakhon had held a similar coupon-selling event on March 16, but the chaos from people fighting over the coupons forced the temple to suspend the activity. It started selling the coupons again April 8.

Phra Maha Maitri, abbot of Wat Phra Nakhon, said people wanting reservation coupons for the amulets consisted of three groups: those who really worshiped the talisman, those who aimed to re-sell the amulets for profit, and teenagers hired by amulet-selling businessmen at 500 baht to 1,000 baht to get the talismans so they could later boost the price and make a profit.

"The chaos resulted from the third group who were hot-headed and disrespected the rules and pushed their way in," said the monk. He said the temple was now tightly guarded by police for fear of the talismans being stolen.

The famous amulet is believed to have magical power that protects its holder from harm and brings good luck.

Cop killed: Region 9 Police are leading a joint operation to find the killers of a Haad Yai police major who was found shot and stabbed to death by the side of a road in Phattalung province.

Police reported that in the early hours of April 10 Maj Wutichai Jantakan, 37, set out from Thungtamsao Tambon Police Station in Haad Yai District to go to visit a friend in Phattalung. His body was found at 9:30 am the following day hidden in a patch of grass in the province's Khaochaison District. He had been shot and had his throat cut.

The Toyota pickup he was driving, which belonged to a fellow officer from Thungtamsao police station, was found torched in a field in Songkhla's Rattaphum District in the early on April 12.

Lt Col Sompol Reungketphan, an Investigating Officer at Khaochaison District Police Station, said, "This was not an ordinary robbery because after the criminals had shot Maj Wutichai, they used a knife to slit his throat, which shows that they must have had a strong grudge against him."

Police are working on the theory that the killing was motivated by adultery or the second-hand car business in Haad Yai in which Maj Wutichai was involved, Col Sompol said.

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



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Trang waterfall flood kills 39

At least 39 were killed and ten more injured on April 14 following flash floods at two popular waterfalls in Trang province, near the hilly border with neighboring Phattalung province.

Rescue workers found 28 bodies at the Sairung and Prai Sawan waterfalls on the day of the tragedy and 11 more the following day.

Most of the bodies were found at the popular Sairung Waterfall, police said.

Visiting the waterfall on Sunday, in the middle of the Songkran holidays, Deputy Interior Minister Banyat Jansena said the tragedy happened "out of the blue" and government officials had done their best to help victims.

The Deputy Interior Minister said he ordered the provincial administration to consider restricting access to the waterfalls until public safety could be assured.

The flash floods occurred at nearly the same time, shortly after 2 pm. The two cascades, both in Yan Takhao District, are located about four kilometers apart along the same range of hills.

Officials said reports that tourists were also washed away at the Lamplok and Tonetae waterfalls in Palian District were simply rumors.

Tourists to the waterfalls were caught off-guard by the flash floods and many could not get out of the waterways in time.

Local villagers said there were heavy rainfalls on the mountains early Saturday morning.

Sompong Khaodee, a Trang disaster mitigation official, said tourists at the two waterfalls noticed that water turned murky at about 2 pm, shortly after which the flash floods arrived.

Some 300 officials from several government agencies were rushed to the two waterfalls to rescue the stranded and injured tourists, he said.

Family Thais: Traditional Thai family bonds are fraying, with Western-style nuclear households replacing traditional extended families, recent studies show.

The latest statistics, revealed by the Public Health Ministry, show that the percentage of nuclear families has reached 60%.

A survey by the National Statistical Office (NSO) confirms the trend.

Researcher Amornwich Nakhornthap of the NGO Child Watch Project said that growing numbers of kids and youths "living alone" has resulted in increased teenage pregnancy and a rising divorce rate, now at 25%.

One in every four primary students is living away from his or her parents; for secondary students it's one in every three.

Only one in every two university students lives with a par-

ent, K. Amornwich reported.

The number of "teen" mothers and fathers is exploding, with the number of teenage girls giving birth at hospitals accounting for 10% of all new mothers nationwide, he said.

Economic pressure is likely one of the main reasons for family ties unraveling, according to several surveys and research studies. A recent Public Health Ministry report stated that 36% of families admitted that income couldn't cover the daily expenses of the whole family.

Kidnapping case: The Phra Khanong Provincial Court on April 14 allowed a police application for the further detention of five men suspected of kidnapping an American oil trader.

The court denied bail applications from the five. They were arrested after allegedly kidnapping Mark Hutchenson, 46, at gunpoint from his Bangkok condominium on April 7. They demanded US\$800,000 (28 million baht) for his release and took \$400,000 from his residence.

The five men are metropolitan police officer Senior Sgt-Major Suchart Muengkunlong, Thai-American Nicolas Pruksukan, Mongkol Sukkasem and American brothers John and James McCleary. They are in custody at the Lumpini Police Station.

Two others, metropolitan police Sergeant Sathit Prasaphangsri and Crime Suppression Division Sergeant Prasertpan Punarittidej, were arrested earlier.

A SWAT team rescued Mr Hutchenson on April 12. Police suspect three more men are involved and in possession of the stolen cash.

They have been identified as Immigration Police Lt-Colonel Thanapol Boonnak, Chokechai District police Sergeant Adul Kamorn and Thai-Dutch civilian Samuel Prasomthong.

EMS improvements: Thailand's inadequate emergency medical services (EMS) could be in for a major boost, as the caretaker Cabinet has approved in principle a plan to provide more funding to bring them up to the highest in-



A coach carrying factory workers caught fire on a road in Saraburi's Nong Kae District on April 12. No one was injured as the workers managed to escape the blaze, unlike the March 20 double-decker bus fire that claimed the lives of 30 passengers in the same province.

Dr Witaya Chadbunchai, head of the World Health Organization's Center for Injury and Prevention and Safety Promotion, said up to half of all victims of emergency situations in Thailand die at the scene, while 35% die after one or two hours.

Some 15% of victims died after being admitted to hospital.

"With such a window of opportunity for life saving, we can save more lives and mitigate disabilities and illnesses through an improved emergency medical system," he said.

Dr Surachet Satitniramai, Director of the Bureau of Emergency Medical Service, said of the 3.5 million incidents requiring emergency medical services each year, only about 100,000 cases get a proper response because of the inadequate EMS system.

In fact, the welfare of many victims was left in the hands of rescue volunteers whose knowledge of EMS was next to zero, he said.

ternational standards. Public Health Minister Dr Mongkol na Songkhla said it was hoped that within eight to 10 years Thailand's

emergency services would be good enough to compare with the best overseas, such as in the United States and Japan.

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

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Warming to a message

By Semacote Suganya

The agents: a group of students at Rawai Progressive International (Montessori) School. Their mission: "Plant Mission Possible" – to learn about global warming and to educate others about the effects of global climatic change. Their goal: to inspire long-term changes for the better.

Kim Kilgore, School Director at Rawai Progressive International (Montessori) School, explained to the *Gazette* that the idea for "Plant Mission Possible" came after viewing Al Gore's feature film documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*.

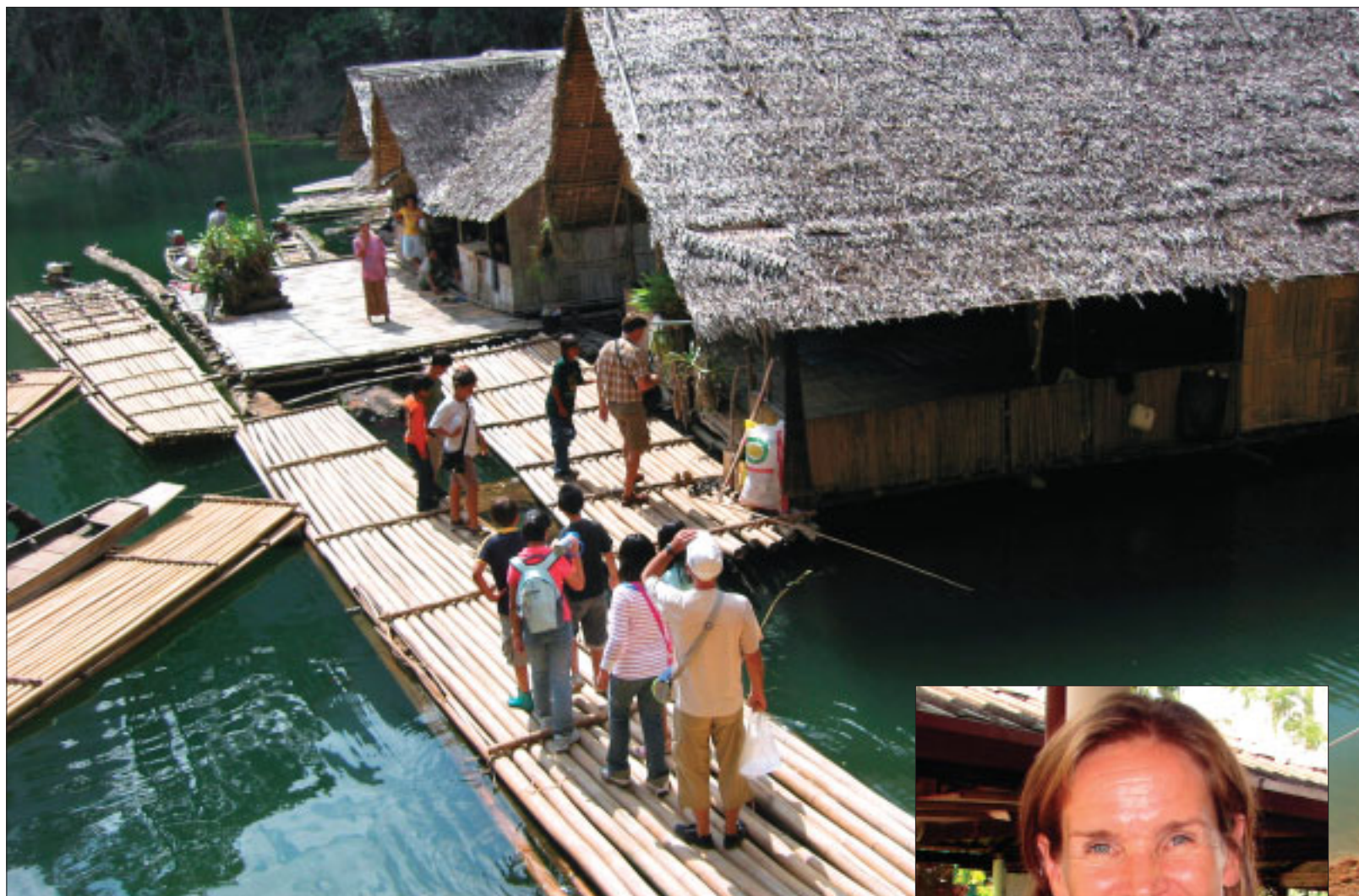
"The five foreign students and 14 half-Thai, half-foreign students involved in the project went around the island and surveyed people and took photographs about pollution, such as garbage in the community," she explained.

The project included students recounting their experiences and what they had learned in letters to editors of newspapers and magazines, and to compile notes about global warming to be included in a book about the school, she added.

The students worked in four different project groups. The first group learned about recycling and reusing by studying plastic shopping bags.

"The students learned that the plastic is not biodegradable, so they made reusable shopping bags and sold them for 100 baht each. This group made 7,000 baht that was donated to the Education Ministry," Ms Kilgore explained.

The second group surveyed shoppers at Central Festival Phuket to learn about the extent



of public awareness of global warming.

Students Siwa Bachmeyer, Julia Moewe, Jeroen Riessbacher, Jea Young Cho and Sumitra Bysnat reported from their survey, "We asked questions about global warming and electricity use. What we learned from 21 people interviewed is that 20 people knew what global warming is; 18 people thought that global warming was a major problem for the Earth; and only three thought it was not.

"Nobody knew how much

electricity they used but 19 were aware of their monthly electricity bill. The average bill was approximately 5,000 baht. The most money spent on electricity was 50,000 baht and the least was 500. Twenty people had suggestions for ways to save electricity. The most popular suggestion was to buy energy-saving light bulbs."

"Group three wrote letters to editors about the photographs taken, and commented about what they thought about the photographs," said Ms Kilgore.

The remaining group compiled a book featuring photos taken by students from all levels and students' collective comments on global warming.

"We will send the book to a Montessori School in North America, and ask them to add what they understand about global warming and then to send the book to schools in other countries in order to extend the understand-

ON A MISSION: The students spent time in Khao Sok National Park (above) to reinforce their understanding of the issues. Right: School Director Kim Kilgore was inspired by Al Gore's film *An Inconvenient Truth*.



ing on global warming," Ms Kilgore said.

For the project's grand finale the students spent a night at Khao Sok National Park, where they were surrounded by nature.

The projects' requirement that the students have such hands-on involvement is synonymous with the Montessori teaching method used by the school, Ms Kilgore explained. "The Montessori teaching method encourages children to learn by first-

hand experience, which encourages children to be independent and to follow their own interests," she said.

"We watch a child's movement and interests and give them the materials to support their interests to ensure they are learning. They don't like to be directed. They are independent; they teach themselves," she added.

"Project Planet Mission is a high-level Montessori approach to educate the children outside the curriculum. They improve their language skills by writing letters; improve their mathematics skills with their sales; improve their understanding of culture and science by going out into the community and talking to people from different places around the world.

"They learn about geography through their international approaches to communicating with children across the world; they learn about computers and set up email addresses by themselves so that they can communicate back and forth with other people. So there are many different positives of education involved in this project," she explained.

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WHOLESOME AND FILLING: Baked Rice with Dried Plum (above) and Spaghetti with Shrimp Sauce.

Im A-Roy lives up to the name

More restaurants pop up in Phuket every day, but with upscale pricing and trendy "fusion" dishes, it's becoming harder to find tasty, cheap, standard Thai and Western fare.

Luckily, the Im A-Roy Restaurant at the intersection of Patipat Rd and Ranong Rd in downtown Phuket has been open for nine years and continues to dish out local and foreign favorites at bargain prices.

Angkana Thanasiripong, the 27-year-old owner, told the *Gazette* that his restaurant has won two awards: the "Clean Food Good Taste Restaurant" designations from Phuket in 2000 and the same certificate from the Ministry of Health.

"The prominent points of our restaurant are the clean food, good taste and cheap prices. The price of our food ranges from 30 to 120 baht," K. Angkana said.

"The name 'Im A-Roy Restaurant' was thought up by my youngest sister. It means 'full with delicious food'.

"We have more than 50 food items, both Thai and Western food such as American breakfast, spaghetti in any sauce, steak and sandwiches. Also there are more than 20 beverages to serve such as herbal drinks, green tea, ginger tea,

Roselle tea, shakes, soft drinks, beer and so on," explained K. Angkana.

The American breakfast costs 30 baht and comes with a fried egg, sausage, ham and toast with butter or jam. Other popular Western foods at Im Ar Roy include spaghetti with seafood sauce for 50 baht or with chicken or pork sauce for 40 baht.

"I suggest the fish steak – which is fish meat with gravy, vegetable salad and toast for 60 baht – or the chicken steak for 40 baht. Our club sandwich is very cheap too, at 40 baht, and steaks such as the tender pork chop or beef steak are just 120 baht," he said.

Popular Thai dishes at this restaurant are the fried rice

with shrimp paste or sour pork, at 45 baht each. Baked rice with dried plum, at 35 baht, is another oft-ordered meal.

"Even though our prices are cheap, the portions are big enough for one person. I guarantee that anyone who comes to our restaurant will not be disappointed with the tastiness of our food," he said.

Im A-Roy Restaurant, at 45 Patipat Rd (the Jui-Tui shrine intersection) in Phuket City, is open Monday to Saturday from 6 am to 9 pm and Sunday from 6 am to 5 pm. Tel: 076-225319, 225638.

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THE COFFIN DODGERS

(The older they are, the better they were)

On a dreary afternoon the Phuket Vagabonds join the British International School (BIS) boys' contact rugby team for training followed by a touch-scrimmage game.

The Vagabonds, with lifetimes of rugby games behind them, shout out encouragement and good-natured jests throughout the game. As the rain starts falling from the clouds looming overhead no one gives a second thought about whether to play on, they just keep on going.

Most often when you hear or read about the Vagabonds you hear about charity, good times – and beer, of course – as these seem to be at the top of the players' hearts.

"Well, we all used to be 10 kilos lighter with a full head of hair," player Ben Hennesy starts recalling the unabridged history of the Vagabonds.

The Vagabonds played their first game in 1995 against a team of Scots. It started with Hennesy, Patrick Cotter, Steve Hatchett, Steve Wainwright, Rod Kerr and a few other members as the core squad.

"In many ways Pat, Ben and I and a few others were the nucleus, the interest was always there," says Hatchett of the forming of the team.

But these rugby veterans first crossed paths on the pitch years before. In 1988, Cotter, Wainwright and Hennesy were all playing for the British Club in Bangkok. Later the three went their separate ways, eventually stumbling into each other once again in Phuket.

Over the years, Cotter explains, they have had a constant flow of international players join the Vagabonds at home as well

For more than a decade the members of Phuket's Vagabonds rugby team have joined together not just for a game of rugby or a few beers at the pub, but for a good cause. They may no longer be the spring chickens they once were, but they have no intention of stopping. The *Gazette's* Laura Schafer meets the Vagabonds to learn what keeps them on the field.

as on the road, sometimes even flying in for a guest spot on the team.

"It's difficult to say how many people are on the Vagabonds team, sometimes 15 to 20, other times we just have 10 to play. We have loads of people who've played with us from all over the world. Phuket's a transient place. Sometimes we have international guests who fly in just to play," he says.

"That's how we came up with the name. We batted around a few ideas over some beers and Vagabonds stuck," he adds.

Just a handful of years ago it was not uncommon for one side to "loan" players to their opponents just so a 15-a-side game could be played.

After a regular squad had been formed, they took the next natural step for a rugby club – to start their own tournament.

Whether the Phuket Rugby 10s started as a sevens or a full 15-a-side tournament is still under debate, but eventually in Phuket style it leveled itself out and became the Phuket 10s.

The tournament started with just five teams and the organizers donated the profits to the Asia Center Foundation. Over the years the event has matured; 24 teams from all over the world now join the games, charity and debauchery of the weekend.

The team has even started its own scholarship program through the Asia Center Foundation. Ninety-two Phuket and Khao Lak children are supported by the Rugby 10s profits.

"It's always nice to help out, we've all been lucky in our lives. It's an ongoing thing. Even if one kid out of 100 from the program goes to a university and makes a life, it's worth it," says Cotter.

Hatchett adds, "Expats in Asia tend to have good jobs. This is a way to help out, play a few games, have a few beers."

Ah, a few beers. A bit of good fun is a requirement of any rugby tour, including things such



as themed costume nights and "tour virgin" (team rookies) beauty contests.

"On tour every team does a theme and on Saturday night they'll all be downtown dressed up and carrying around their mascot with their tour virgins. Lots of silly things like that," grins Cotter.

"They come to play from the UK on a pitch by the beach," Hennesy adds, before Cotter pips, "Plus the evening delights of Soi Bangla."

Hands down the biggest draw to the Phuket Rugby 10s is going to be the newly re-turfed Karon Stadium. The tournament aside, the guys are looking for-

ward to having the stadium as a home pitch for their team and future goals.

Cotter says that once the team is allowed to call the stadium home they have plans to bring the schools over for training, perhaps even with some Bangkok teams.

"Once we have a permanent base we want to do things in the community. At the end of the day it doesn't matter what we are doing, if the kids don't do it, it will die out," he says.

"In a few years we'll get the young lads to take over so we can retire to the beer tent and to the Viagabonds, the old boys team," adds Hennesy.

Hatchett explains, "Bangkok came up with the Bangkok Bangers old boys team, so we had to reciprocate, and Viagabonds was just a natural."

The Viagabonds is a retirement team for the Vagabonds that competes in the aptly named Coffin Dodgers tourney for rugby players of elderly distinction.

Although the group agrees that the Vagabonds' overall win-loss record is something like 50-50, the Viagabonds is another story. "Our saying is we never come first, and we're known for our boat race prowess," says Hatchett referring to a drinking competition that was introduced to relieve players of having to play another game to decide third and fourth places in local tournaments.

"We've won two third places that way," he adds.

Indeed, hot after their win

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OLDIES BUT GOODIES: Ben Hennessy critiques the BIS scrum (left). Above: Patrick Cotter (left) and Steve Hatchett (2nd from left) always enjoy a good joke.

at the Angkor Old Boys Tens comp at the olympic stadium in Phnom Phen, Cambodia, the Viagrabonds won this year's Annual Bangkok Rugby Tens Tournament with a boat race.

The team doesn't keep too close an eye on the record, the score or placement because it doesn't matter, says Cotter, who receives several nods of agreement.

"Rugby's a social thing. We go on the pitch and batter each other, then go into the pub and batter each other, in a different way of course," adds Cotter.

"Many people see it as a violent sport, but it's controlled.

My whole family plays, including my sister. It's in the Hennessy blood," says Hennessy.

The Vagabonds see huge potential for rugby as a serious sport in Phuket, and the success of the 10s only getting bigger.

Hennessy says that in arid Dubai they have a massive tournament with tens of thousands of spectators. Phuket has better weather and more attractions, he adds.

"People want to be involved but if they can do it through rugby, it's through something they love," he said.

The Phuket Vagabonds will play the Singapore Cricket Club

at BIS on May 12 at 4:30 pm. All are invited to come out and support the local lads.

All proceeds from the event support children in Phuket and Khao Lak through the Asia Center Foundation.

The foundation provides scholarships to children who are orphans from the tsunami. These scholarships make it possible for the children to stay in school, better their lives and learn a little rugby.

For more information on the Phuket International Rugby 10s see www.phuketvagabondsrfc.com

Happily Ever After

Recent weddings in Phuket



Above: Yuwadee Pornpananurak and Nucha Rakthammakit celebrated their marriage in the Pra Pitak Grand Ballroom at The Metropole hotel on March 3.

Below: Yoon Hae June and Kim Tae Seok from Korea were married in the Red Onion Restaurant at the Royal Phuket City Hotel on February 18.



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This week



WOWIE ZOWIE: Miss Universe 2005 Natalie Glebova (right) receives a warm welcome from Phuket FantaSea Chief Executive Kittikorn Kewkacha (left) and his wife K. Rattikorn during a visit to the tourist icon.



GREEN TEAM: Dusit Laguna Resort Phuket General Manager Jan Verduyn (center), Chief of Engineering Department Vichan Rattananupong (2nd from left) and resort staff proudly show off the resort's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Monitoring Award for 2006. This is the fourth time the resort has won the award.



SCHOOL DAYS: Man Sooksawee (center back, in striped shirt), Director of Yaowawit School in Kapong in Phang Nga province, welcomes visiting teachers Dr Max Fridell (back left) and Mrs Jeanne Fridell (back right) from America during a visit with students, teachers and volunteers. The Yaowawit School is a boarding school for tsunami orphans and destitute children.



CUTTIN' LOOSE: Richmond Group Managing Director Graham Bibby (right), Marketing and Sales Executive Nathaniel Bibby (left) and Red Room Manager DJ Dexter enjoy themselves at the Richmond Group Party at the Red Room in Cherng Talay.



SNOW BIRD: Sukko Spa General Manager Alongkorn Komonrujanant welcomes Oleg Kolyadin, Mayor of the Russian city of Nakhodka to the Sukko Spa. Nakhodka was recently made a sister city with Phuket.



COME ON IN: Cheraim Spa Village Assistant Executive Director Akadet Aikwanich (center) celebrates the spa's open house event "The Ultimate Aim for Body and Soul" with (from left) Sales Executive Kan Hananupong, Spa Manager Chatayodom Martmuang, Sales Manager Kessara Keereerat and Assistant Spa Manager Aunyananee Tuiwong.

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An expat at heaven's gate

Anthropologists are expressing concern for a newly identified endangered species: Thailand's long-term expat. Because of draconian new visa rules, this much-maligned minority may soon be as extinct as the Neanderthal.

What will happen to these doomed creatures after they die? I suspect it will go something like this:

Scene: The Pearly Gates. The Judge of the Dead sits at a massive desk. He looks exactly like Judge Pao Boon Jin in the TV series. Enter Tsow, a dead expat.

Judge (scowling): Fill out these forms, in quadruplicate. No carbon paper allowed, you might use it for terrorist purposes. Write legibly in capital letters: black ink, not blue. Four photos – no, those won't do, they're the wrong size, and they're pre-dead

photos, we require post-dead ones – and there's a stiff application fee. No, that's not enough, we tripled the fee last week...

(Much later, examining my application:) S. Tsow, eh? We know you, Tsow. You are a Dubious Character. Why do you want to enter heaven?

Me: I hear it's better than hell.

Judge (snorting): Don't believe everything you hear, boy. Your papers are incomplete. Where's your death report?

Me: My what?

Judge: Your death report. When an alien dies in Thailand, he is required to file a Report of Death with the Immigration Bureau. Did you do that?

Me (confused): No, sir.

Judge (snarling): Why not?

Me: Because I'm dead, sir. You can't do anything when you're dead.

Judge (pounding his fist on the desk): That's no excuse! Listen to me, boy, those hard-working people down at Immigration have an impossible and thankless job. They have to keep track of the whereabouts of thousands – maybe millions – of aliens running loose in the Kingdom. They're working their butts off trying to keep out international gangsters, terrorists, murderers, racketeers, drug dealers, flesh traffickers, pedophiles, pornographers, all sorts of human filth. Worst of all, they have to deal, on a daily basis, with scum like you.

And you can't even manage to make a simple posthumous trip down there to file a death report! You ought to be ashamed of yourself. It's bubbleheads like you who threaten to undermine the foundations of Thai society and topple it into the abyss of anarchy, chaos and despair. Such thoughtlessness will severely impact your chances of getting into heaven. (Scribbles furiously on my application.)



By S. TSOW



Me: I'm sorry, sir. It won't happen again. Next time I die, I'll be sure to report it.

Judge (sternly): Your repentance is duly noted. Now, in the unlikely event that your application is approved, you must report back to my desk every 90 days.

Me: Why is that, sir?

Judge: We must know where you are.

Me: But I'll be right inside those gates, sir. Why would I leave? And how could I leave without your knowing?

Judge: We can never be too careful. You might sneak out to take a peek into hell. Or you might turn into a terrorist

while we're not looking. Anyway, you have to report back here every 90 days.

Me: Okay.

Judge: In fact, we have a new rule that requires many people to *leave* every 90 days. They can visit hell, if they like, because that's all that's out there. It will give them perspective, broaden their horizons, make them grateful for their time in heaven. We want to make them the Grateful Dead.

Me: Oh, sir, you are hilarious. But, sir, a question: Do they serve beer in heaven?

Judge: Of course. It's heaven, after all. You can have as much beer as you like, whenever you like, and it's free. You also get peanuts and a cold washcloth.

Me (clapping my hands in glee): Oh, boy!

Judge: But first you have to get in. We require you to write a 500-word essay on the topic "Why I Should Be Admitted to Heaven". Why should we let you in instead of some other poor schlemiel? Tell us how your presence will enhance the heavenly ambiance. Ask not what heaven can do for you, but what you can do for heaven. It's getting crowded in there, and we don't have much space left. We want only quality dead people. Grateful ones.

Me: I'll get on it right away, sir.

S. Tsow can be flamed at stsow@yahoo.com after he finishes writing his essay. Readers are invited to send him suggestions. No sarcasm, please.



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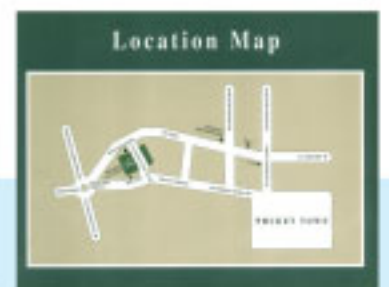
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SUMMER and the living



As the dry season begins to dampen and the temperatures continue to rise, shoppers prepare to revamp their closets – and what's more convenient than a fashion show at a shopping mall.

At the third annual Central Department Store Summer Fashion Show, big accessories, bright

colors and international styles were the picks of the season.

Sukunya Siden, head of marketing at Central Department Store in Bangkok, told the *Gazette*, "There are three concepts – swimwear, casual clothes and office clothing, or what we call 'street wear' – that you can mix and match with your clothes for

everyday wear in your lifestyle.

"There are also accessories such as eyeglasses, hats, handbags and shoes or stockings that you can use every day."

Eyeglasses this season should be oversized and in any color from dark to pastel. As for jewelry, the bigger the better; large bracelets made of plastic or wood are especially popular. Handbags will also be getting a boost, as bigger is better this summer.

Twenty-five brands were strutted on the catwalk, including Triumph, Elle-Swim, Cheetah, Speedo and AZTEC Rose, Morgan, Espada, Blue Corner and British India. All are, of course, available at Central.

The concept for the show was "Around the World". India was represented by girls with colorful scarves and turbans in their hair that matched their bright swimsuits and accessories.

Eyeglasses were mixed with summer styles to show areas of Europe, while red bows and braids were representative of China.

"This show is for the audience to take these style ideas back home and mix and match their clothes at home to become more self confident in choosing styles after they saw the models wear the clothes.

"We need to inspire our customers. Phuket has trendy fashions, so people here do not need



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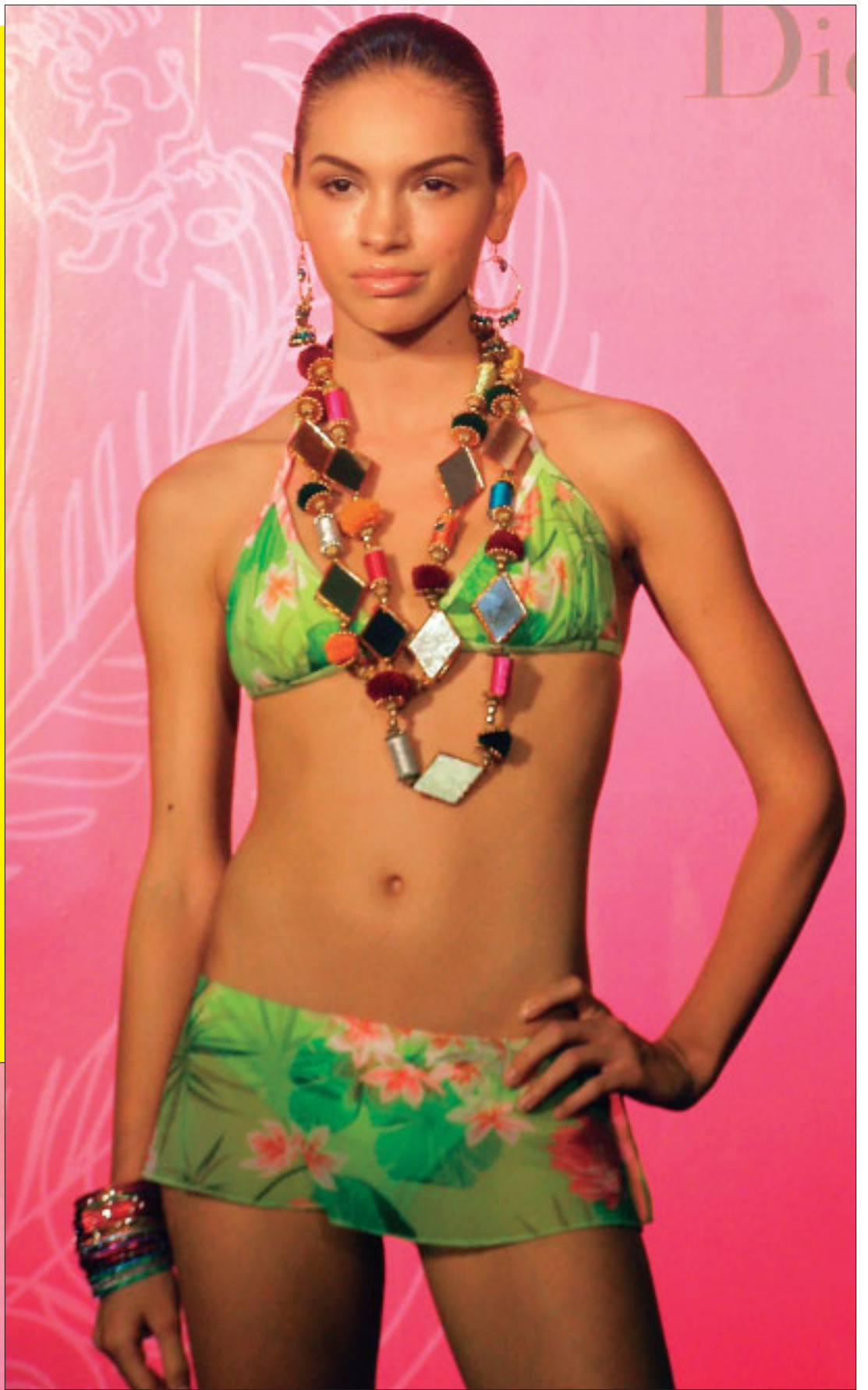
SIZZLING

Fashion dictates that swimwear this summer must be two-piece (right).

Left and below – hats are always good for summer, especially with some clunky jewelry.

Far left: Shades of school – but with stacks more class.

Center, left: When things get too hot, cool them down with shades of gray.



to open a fashion catalog, but they will get the real examples from fashion shows here.

“Now the summer fashions emphasize shorts with cotton shirts for men and vests for women. Swimwear for this season must be colorful and two-piece.

“If you add more details like shiny or colorful accessories you must not forget the accessories must match with your swimwear too. Other accessories are hats, shoes and eyeglasses,” K. Sukunya said.

And K. Sukunya had a special note to the ladies: “Please look over what your guy is wearing, because he might be a joke if he is wearing the wrong fashion!”

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Drive about 40 minutes from Sarasin Bridge toward Phang Nga Town and the landscape quickly changes as the distinctive limestone karsts come into view. The ragged towers jut steeply into the air, massive rocks with sheer sides.

Off the main route to Phang Nga a road runs parallel to a long range of karsts, eventually rejoining the main road at Thap Put. At the 12-kilometer marker stone on this road is Baan Bor Saen, a small village with a couple of schools, a mosque and, until recently, little else.

Just past a row of streetside broom vendors, however, is Bor Saen Villa & Spa, opened last year by the owners of the Boat Lagoon. It is an unexpected location for a luxury resort, but the setting, back from the road near the base of the mountains, is stunning.

The complex has one-, two- and three-bedroom villas set around a lake, each with its own private pool. The unspoiled setting for the resort is the main draw and the low-rise design takes full advantage of the pristine beauty.

The villas have a pier over the lake complete with loungers, perfect for kicking back with a few cans of beer or a G&T for an evening of fishing. This really is a place for relaxation rather than nighttime revelry as there is little happening after dark in sleepy Phang Nga.

The villa's living room and kitchen – in a separate building from the bedrooms – is well



equipped with an enormous TV and DVD player. Wireless Internet is up and running in some

rooms, and will soon be extended to the whole complex. If solitary relaxation doesn't

suit you, come up with a group

and the villas could easily house

a good party. Be careful not to

disturb the fish though.

The best way to get around the resort and explore the area is by bike, available for free at the activity center. The cruising bikes,

tandem bikes and mountain bikes are also a great way to explore the back roads and trails around the area leading past caves and through farmland. A waterfall is a short 10-minute ride away, which serves as a popular laundry spot for local women and a great place to cool off.

A ride into the rubber and palm plantations, the backbone of the Phang Nga economy, gives an impression of being in the wilds, but with less chance of getting lost as the tappers' tracks lead clearly in and out. Kind of a jungle-lite experience.

Phang Nga Town and Thap Put are both within easy cycling distance of the resort, though unless there is a hidden back road, this means braving the racing 10-wheelers on the main road.

The area holds a rural charm that has been lost from at least the south of Phuket. The people seem genuinely friendly, though the Southern Thai dialect spoken here appears impenetrable to outsiders, or at least to me.

Back at the resort, other

activities on offer include kayaks, canoes and an obstacle course with a zip-line, primarily for business team-building exercises but good for a laugh as well. The resort is moving toward a sporty theme and a triathlon group, Team The Bike Boutique, has based itself there for training. The athletes currently swim in the lake and at a pool in Phang Nga Town, but plans are underway for a large pool in the resort.

Phang Nga Town itself is little more than some shops and government buildings strung along the main road. Dining options are limited to a few noodle and curry shops. The trip into town is worth it though just for another chance to see the stunning scenery on the drive in. Stop at Klong Bang Toei for a look at the floating village and you will have a chance to pick up some fresh fish and crabs from the roadside stalls.

On the outskirts of town is Tham Phung Chang, or Elephant's Belly Cave, appropriately in the base of Khao Chang, Elephant's Hill. Local legend says

that the hill is the remains of an elephant speared by a local man named Yomdung who mistook it for a member of a herd of wild elephants that had trampled his crops.

Tours through the cave are done by canoe, bamboo raft and finally wading through thigh-deep water. The bizarrely-shaped stalactites and stalagmites are beautiful and the cave is home to a colony of bats.

The tour, however, only takes you halfway through the hill, despite the fact that the cave runs all the way to the other side. The guide explained that he could take us no further because the other half of the cave is run by a different operator and he'd "get his head caved in" if he took us on.

The guides' English is limited and at 200 baht for Thais and 500 baht for foreigners (though pleas of poverty may get a reduction) the trip is somewhat overpriced and probably best left for keen spelunkers.

There is no better way to describe Baan Bor Saen than "sleepy village" and a few days here is real getaway, and a reminder of what life in Phuket used to be like before all the development and traffic took its toll.

HOW TO GET THERE

Directions: From Sarasin Bridge follow the road to the junction with Route 4 and turn right toward Phang Nga Town. Turn right off Route 4 onto Route 415, drive for 12 kilometers and Bor Saen Villa & Spa is on the left.

Accommodation: Bor Saen Villa & Spa is running a promotion for Phuket residents until the end of May. Promotional prices are 2,200 for a one-bedroom villa, 3,300 for a two-bedroom villa and 4,400 for a three-bedroom villa. For reservations or more information call Chuck Groebner at 081-9781810 or email: chuck.groebner@borsaenvilla.com

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Face lift for the feminist?

I am full of admiration for the credo that women should grow old gracefully and be proud of the wrinkles "earned" through experience. I'm not a full-blown feminist, but I couldn't agree more – in principle.

I had quite a few friends at university who balked even at the idea of make-up, claiming that adorning ourselves was playing to men. Liberationists such as Germaine Greer declared that women were oppressed babes, their strings pulled by male standards of beauty.

I even got into some nasty debates with girlfriends who saw me as a traitor to the cause because of a bit of lip-gloss. Surely, I argued, the point of feminism was that we could do as we wished with our appearance?

Twenty years on, the focus has moved from lipstick to lasers, but the arguments are all too familiar. We should stand up brave and bold, and confront a culture that defies the baby smooth face of youth. We have to alter perceptions so that we're valued and seen in a new way.

That's fine, but I doubt it's possible in my lifetime. And I really don't think that when my face starts looking like an Ordnance Survey map the outside world will admiringly say, "What a fascinating and interesting life she has lived. She must be jam-packed full of wisdom to impart."

No, I see them glancing away, failing to register me at all.

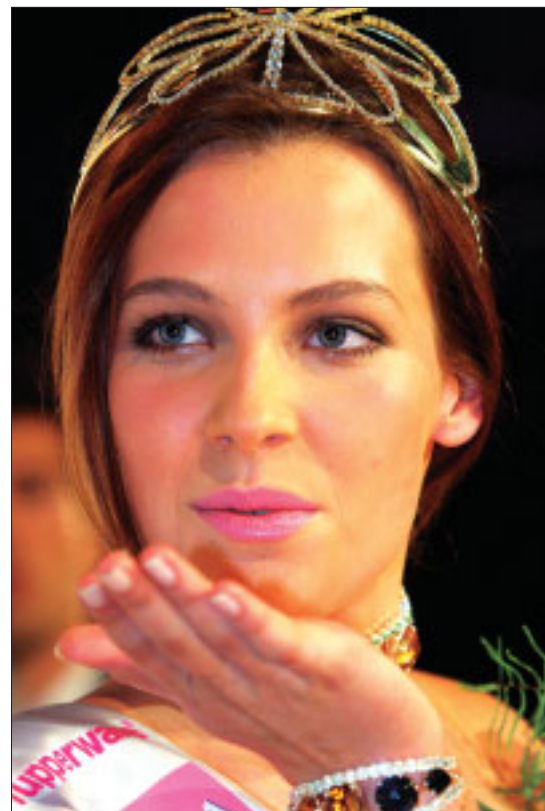
Today's women want to work longer than they have traditionally, and they want to be seen as desirable at a life stage when their mothers had consigned all that to the past. Many women believe the best chance of having the confidence to achieve these things is the way they look.

One of the advantages of the technological age is that it offers women a nip and a tuck, a peel or a suck, to adjust some of the ravages of time and unwise living, thereby restoring a sense of the self that they've enjoyed living with.

I don't mean taking off a decade or two, although wanting to wind back time to join our kids is pathological and doomed to failure. But some subtle cosmetic aid is mere damage limitation, I am assured. A friend of mine crossed a very difficult Rubicon for feminists and recently chose cosmetic surgery. Yes, it's "Laura" again.

She first started with an eye job seven years ago. "My eyes seemed to be sinking into the slack flesh around them and this depressed me. I've always liked my eyes, and see them as one of my most effective tools for communicating."

Laura was delighted with the results. People stopped saying she looked tired and told her she looked well. She was able to twinkle and flirt with her eyes again. When we met up in London a few months ago she admitted having not stopped at her eyes.



YEAH, BUT GIVE IT A FEW YEARS: Miss Czech Republic 2007 Katerina Sokolova, 19, won the title on April 14. As women strive to remain attractive longer and longer it begs the question of how feminism and cosmetic surgery intersect.

Photo: EPA/Radim Beznoska

views when she saw how cosmetic surgery helped them maintain an identity they valued. They talked of being surer of themselves, more able to be authoritative.

And while Rita Freedman argues in *Beauty Bound* that women should understand how the beauty industry oppresses them, she also sees that cosmetic surgery may be a pragmatic choice.

"The facelift is sought by many psychologically healthy females who... want to get rid of their preoccupation with a cosmetic distraction to turn their attention to more important things," she says. Surely they're then more able to stand up to the world, to make it stop and listen?

I believe feminism is about helping women. We have every right to choose how to negotiate the human condition if it doesn't harm others.

Laura is very open about her procedures, rather than treating them as a dirty secret. When someone asks her she just admits to having had surgery rather than lying.

I haven't been tempted to dabble with the surgeon's knife yet, but who knows how I will feel when I wake up one morning and discover more bags under my eyes than inside my wardrobe?

Ambrosia Sakkadas, a UK-born Greek Cypriot, is an artist, designer and newspaper columnist. Her novel, *Greek Girls Don't Cry*, is available from amazon.com and amazon.co.uk

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Hidden Words

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

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

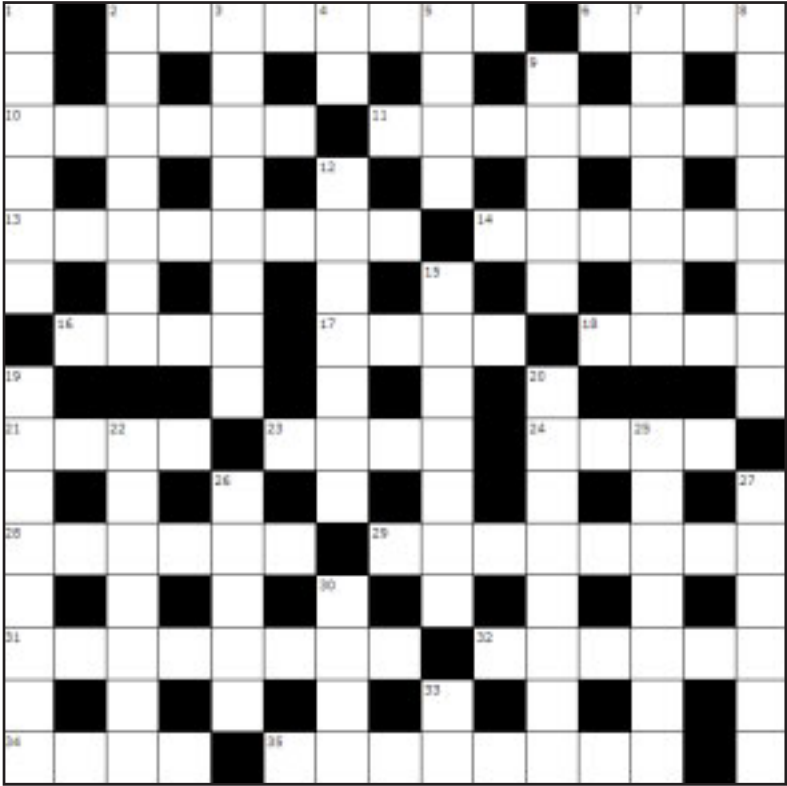
The Cryptic Crossword

ACROSS

2. Plead: “Frosted, grubby.” (8)
6. Goes out - direction to bulletin board. (4)
10. Stone head south of capital. (3,3)
11. Barnum & Bailey buyers circle fish. (8)
13. Smashes ship with crazy person inside.
14. Ancient law for inlaid design. (6)
16. Panache of lotus? (4)
17. I back bro or sis to get bird. (4)
18. With commercial it makes way in for 20 down. (4)
21. In the past, no going back to church. (4)
23. Albert to make singer. (4)
24. Portent of women only. (4)
28. Latin star takes spies to informal do. (6)
29. Turns away in confusion, sect fled. (8)
31. Having a bent, writer may recite. (8)
32. Season sees cardinal with Milan team. (6)
34. Drunk back in? Yes, for playthings. (4)
35. Don’t cable so much radio. (8)

DOWN

1. About runners, go over it again! (6)



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2007

2. Tool for father in fight. (6)
3. Note: Lends and ear and shines. (8)
4. Four drip. (1,1)
5. Spooky lake? (4)
7. Jail and bandit. (7)
8. Long tale, large town. Wisdom? (8)
9. Encourage Mr Ronay to take note. (3,2)
12. Flying brother or French town? (7)
15. Figure of speech when phone company was caught in lies. (7)
19. Animal companion to give home to teacher’s favorite. (5,3)
20. Pit company against Al – belongs to me! (8)
22. Rooster and French marshal from East London? (7)
25. Cite sex, perhaps? Stimulates, certainly. (7)
26. Asian airline loses a girl. (5)
27. Mixed tripes connected to 16 across. (6)
30. Relatively against? (4)
33. Medical examiner for first person. (2)

Solution on next page

su | do | ku
© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

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.

Scribble Space



EZ TRIVIA QUIZ

1. What is the cube root of 64?
2. What is the capital of Ukraine?
3. Where can you find molars, incisors and cuspids?
4. In which movie would you meet Leonardo, Raphael, Donatello and Splinter?
5. On which date will the final Harry Potter novel be published?
6. How many legs does an earwig have?
7. From which country does Camembert cheese originate?
8. Which game has a name meaning “the digits must occur only once”?
9. Who lost the Battle of the Little Big Horn?
10. Who or what is the Little Big Horn?

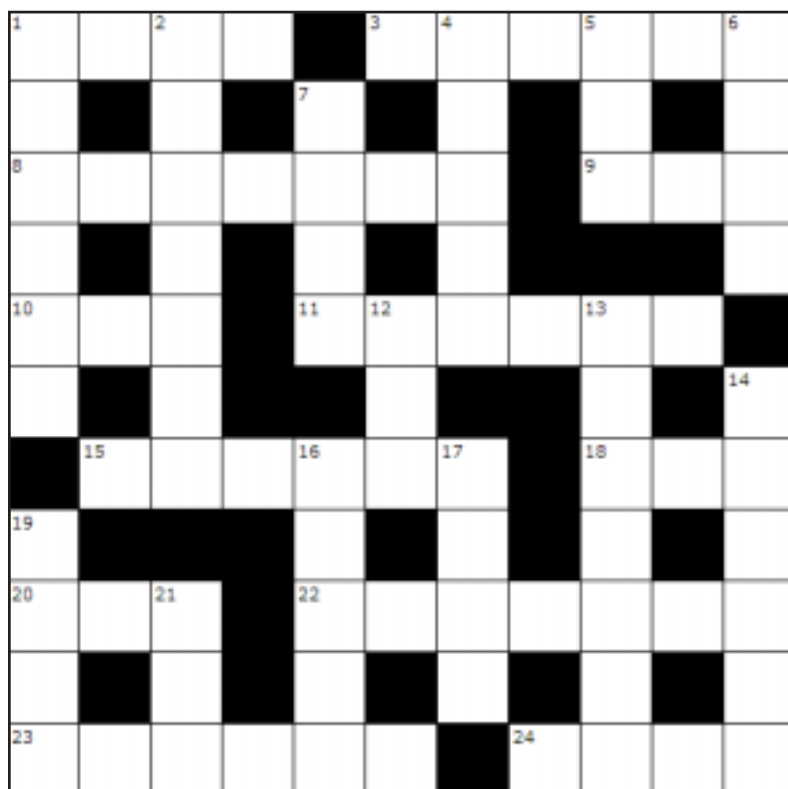
Answers on next page

Rhyme Time

The words described below all rhyme with “green”. What are they?

1. Anger.
2. Sharp.
3. Stimulant.
4. Vague number, but many.
5. Scary festival.
6. Average.
7. Manner.
8. Submersible craft.
9. Call a meeting.
10. Weasel’s bigger relative.

Answers on next page



Quick Crossword

ACROSS

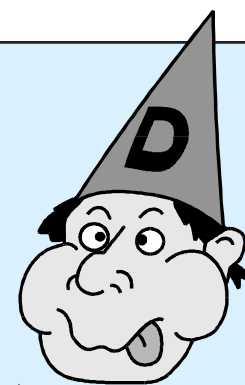
1. Mimic.
3. Long, narrow inlets from the sea.
8. Maybe.
9. Phuket metal.
10. Internet address.
11. It makes you throw up.
15. Someone really good at something.
18. Run slowly.
20. Target.
22. Painkiller.
23. Colorado city.
24. Concept.

DOWN

1. Mediterranean island.
2. Mystify.
4. ***** James, outlaw.
5. Rodent.
6. Dispatched.
7. Sleeveless overgarment.
12. French sea.
13. Hurt.
14. Its capital is Kampala.
16. Dodge.
17. Use a keyboard.
19. Spoke.
21. Chaps.

Solution below, right

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



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

1. How many syllables are there in a *haiku*?
2. Craig Raine is associated with which style of poetry?
3. Who wrote, "The most startling incident in my life was the time I discovered myself to be a poet"?
4. Of which poet was it said that he was "so giftedly bad he backed unwittingly into genius"?
5. The Rev George Gilfillan was a member of which group of poets?
6. Who wrote the classic beat generation poem *Howl*?
7. What was poet Lord Byron's full name?
8. Where is Byron's heart buried?
9. Who portrayed Byron in the 1986 Ken Russell movie, *Gothic*?
10. Li Houzhu and Su Shi were exponents of which form of Chinese poetry?
11. In which language did the poet Aleksander Stavre Drenova write?
12. In which year did Palestinian poet Fadwa Toukan die?
13. In which US state is Mount Auburn Cemetery, famous as a final place for poets?
14. He was an Arabic poet who died in 1131. He also excelled in mathematics, philosophy and astronomy. Who was he?
15. About whom did Walt Whitman write *O Captain! My Captain!*?
16. Which poet became a prisoner of war in 1360?
17. Which two World War I poets met while being treated for neurasthenia?
18. In which James Bond book will you find a number of *haiku* written by 17th century Japanese poet Basho?
19. Name the city in which a tomb, built for the poet Dante Alighieri, remains empty to this day.
20. What was the occupation of poet Léopold Sédar Senghor between 1960 and 1980?

Answers below, left.

Puzzle Solutions

Monster Quiz Answers

1. 17; 2. Martian Poetry; 3. William McGonagall; 4. William McGonagall; 5. The Spasmodic Poets; 6. Allen Ginsberg; 7. George Gordon; 8. Under a tree in Messolonghi, Greece; 9. Gabriel Byrne; 10. *Ci*; 11. Albanian; 12. 2003; 13. Massachusetts; 14. Omar Khayyam; 15. Abraham Lincoln; 16. Geoffrey Chaucer; 17. Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen; 18. *You Only Live Twice*; 19. Florence; 20. President of Senegal.

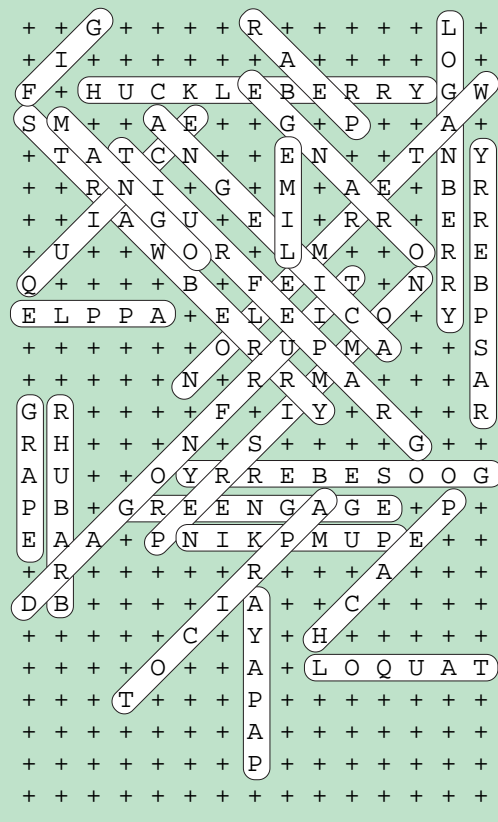
Rhyme Time Answers

1. Spleen; 2. Keen; 3. Caffeine; 4. Umpteen; 5. Hallowe'en; 6. Mean; 7. Mien; 8. Submarine; 9. Convene; 10. Wolverine.

EZ Trivia Answers

1. 4; 2. Kiev; 3. In your mouth – they are teeth; 4. *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*; 5. July 21, 2007; 6. six; 7. France; 8. Sudoku; 9. The US Army 7th Cavalry; 10. A river.

Hidden Words SOLUTION



The Phuket Gazette
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Worthwhile considering going Dutch on tsunami barrier

While Robert Broncel's visionary idea to construct a tsunami barrier [see Inside Story, pp 4-5] may at first sound like the very stuff of science fiction, there are few reasons for Phuket not to study his proposal carefully and consider issuing the Letter of Intent he seeks to build a pilot project in Patong Bay.

While revolutionary, the concept of stopping a tsunami in its tracks is not physically impossible, at least as far as preliminary laboratory testing carried out independently by water engineering graduate students in the Netherlands indicates.

Dutch expertise in water engineering is not to be taken lightly. As far back as 1932, the Dutch created a 32-kilometer dike to hold back the North Sea, creating one of the world's largest artificial lakes. The tsunami barrier envisioned for Patong would be relatively small-scale compared with many water engineering works that have been successfully built in Holland, saving that low-lying country from inundation by the sea.

Mr Broncel is realistic, conceding that a great deal more study would be needed before the barrier could ever be built – and fully aware of the minimal likelihood of getting the project funded by the Thai government.

All he and his partner Johann van den Noort are asking for is a no-strings-attached Letter of Intent from the relevant national or local authority, which they would present as proof of local interest when seeking funding from an international institution, such as the World Bank, or a philanthropic foundation chaired by one of the world's mega-rich.

While providing such a letter will cost Phuket nothing, the potential savings in terms of human life, property damage and lost tourism revenue should another tsunami hit are enormous. This is especially true in Patong, where the rush to rebuild was focused more on cosmetic improvements than minimizing the potential effects of any future disasters.

Tsunami preparedness efforts currently focus solely on providing early warning to evacuate danger areas before the waves arrive. While this approach might be effective in some areas, one only need to look back at the widespread panic following the false alarm on the night of March 28, 2005, when an earthquake measuring 8.3 on the Richter scale struck off the coast of Sumatra, to realize just how poorly prepared Patong is to conduct such an evacuation.

Building a tsunami barrier may seem like a pie-in-the-sky dream, but so too did "computing machines" and space flight less than a century ago. What has Phuket got to lose by giving the go-ahead to explore the idea further?

– The Editor

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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.

Chauvinism lives on here in Phuket

Yet another example that chauvinism is alive and well. "Richard", from France, interviewed in the article on Thai/foreigner relationships in the April 14 Gazette certainly proves his own bigotry with his statements: "Modern European and Western women want to be like a man, they argue..., don't want to stay home... or cook... They want to have a career."

Thank you for re-enforcing my argument that Western men crave Thai women because of their willingness to be compliant personal household servants. Does this man honestly believe that Thai women have an abundance of choices, yet consistently choose marriage over independence?

May I suggest Richard take a look at the classified ads in the national newspapers and count just how many well-paying jobs advertise "male only" and how many jobs open to women list as requirements "under 30, with picture".

Give Thai women the same opportunities their Western sisters have been fighting for almost a hundred years now and let's see how many of them would actually "choose" to marry men like Richard.

Aside from keeping Richard's house and cooking, another of his requirements in order to find women suitable is "long, black hair". He's careful to add though that other men will have other requirements such as, "blonde, short or tall".

I also found it interesting that in the same article, "David" states "classic features, small frame" are what he considers

important. He consistently refers to females he finds attractive as "girls", but those who are not up to standard are called "women".

Good grief, I am saddened to realize that we have taken but only a small step in the long journey BACK toward true equality of the sexes. Until that time, it seems women, or "girls", are to be rated and cherished on a scale of their perceived physical attractiveness and willingness to serve.

Christy K Sweet
Cherng Talay

Patong is a raceway

Many times in the Phuket Gazette I have read of officials declaring that they want to reduce the deaths, accidents and injuries on the roads of Patong. Every day I see many accidents here. What do the officials or police do? Nothing. They only talk to each other and stand around and watch the traffic on the beach road and Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd.

Cars and motorbikes drive 80 to 100km/h in Patong. In the morning and afternoon the mini-bus drivers make a racetrack on the roads. On the beach road in the morning from Loma Park, just past Graceland hotel and to the crossing at Novotel, they drive over 120km/h.

The following measures need to be taken: 1) Reduce the speed limit to 30km/h on all streets in Patong; 2) Build speed bumps at pedestrian crossings; 3) Paint crossings a luminous color; 4) Build traffic lights at all crossings; 5) Monitor traffic speed using police equipped with radar guns; 6) Introduce speed limits and issue fines to all who drive over 30 km/h.

Noisy motorbikes are also a big problem in Patong. Can't this be another responsibility for

police, to stop noisy motorbikes? Police could stop the drivers on Rat-U-Thit Rd or the beach road. If they do not stop, put a nail carpet on the road. Confiscate the motorbike. Resident *farangs* should lose their residence permit and be deported.

I and others have seen no evidence of the 75 extra policemen the police say they have assigned. Many tourists, families with children and the elderly in particular will not come back because it's too dangerous to cross the streets here.

Do something – NOW.

Per Dompert
Patong

31 days has September, April, June...

Regarding the letter from Dennis Wiley in the April 7 issue concerning overstay.

I married a Thai in the UK, where she has Permanent Right of Residence, free medical care and a pension. Five years ago we retired to Thailand, where I do not enjoy any of those things.

I have to renew my Thai visa every three months in Malaysia for 2,000 baht, and often wondered why it only lasted three days short of the 90 it was supposed to be for. I never bothered to ask at Immigration because of their offhand attitude.

It is much easier for Thai Immigration officials to add three months and deduct three days to the date of arrival regardless of the number of days in each month.

Every Thai knows there are 31 days in every month! It also means more money for Thailand! The stock answer? If you don't like it, go back to your country!

Peter Barnes
Patong

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

No more excuses for failed tsunami warning towers

I am really upset with the failure of the latest drill of the warning system. I'm not sure if the large budget spent on the system was worth it or not. I don't know if our people would be safe if another tsunami happened.

Everybody knew we were going to have a test of the system and they knew not to be afraid of voices coming from the tower speakers.

I announced to Mai Khao villagers in the mosque and on the community radio that the test of the warning towers would happen in the morning and to please listen for it.

We waited for the drill, but nothing happened. In the afternoon we heard that the test had failed.

It wasn't until the next day that we heard officially that the test of the system was canceled because the National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC) was worried it would scare tourists and affect tourism.

The NDWC's first priority should be saving lives, not worrying about tourism.

If a tsunami happened again, what would we do? This shouldn't be a political game with people blaming each other for

FIRST PERSON

The cancellation of the testing of 78 of the 79 tsunami warning towers on April 7 left **Virojn Manajitt**, Phu Yai Baan (village chief) of Moo 2 Mai Khao, frustrated with the entire system. Was it a waste of money? Does it really work or not? Can he trust what the government officials say about it?

K. Virojn expresses his concerns about the safety of the system and the ineffectiveness of those responsible for it.



their own gain. We feel like rats in an experiment.

A huge amount of money was spent on this system and at first we were excited about it. But now people are no longer interested.

They don't care and they don't believe in the government's plan. We don't really know why the test of the system didn't happen that day. Now we just plan

to watch out for the natural signs that go with a tsunami: the tide going out unexpectedly, fish behavior and earthquakes.

We announced to the world that we had a plan, but even the test didn't work, so now we don't know if the system will function at all.

Sometimes I really want to have a second tsunami in Phuket because I want to know if Phu-

ket's system is operating or not. The government always says that it is sure it is working and that Phuket has the best of warning systems, but we can't be sure if this is true or not.

I don't think that we should expand the system with more warning towers. Just make sure that what we have does its job. It's not a good idea to spend a lot of money on something that can-

not succeed at what it is supposed to do. Thailand received a lot of donations from overseas, but where is that money now? How effectively is it being used?

We should have better communication between Phuket and Phang Nga about testing the system – and just get it done.

We lost only one Moo 2 villager during the tsunami because Mai Khao Beach area is higher than other places.

I accept that the warning towers may be useful if they do their job correctly, but the best thing that we can do now is use our knowledge of how a tsunami works with the sixth sense each of us has.

Spending so much money on the 19 towers [in Phuket province] was like throwing the money into the sea. And the people responsible lie to us and try to switch the blame to someone or something else.

We have heard enough – we don't want to listen to excuses.

We should have a good plan to prepare for a tsunami because we don't know when one will happen again.

If it happened at night especially in high season – what would we do?

Renewing one-year 'retirement visas'

We have been renewing our "retirement visas" for many years, showing an 800,000-baht balance in a Thai bank account each time.

A acquaintance of mine also staying on a retirement visa was recently told at Phuket Immigration when applying to renew his one-year visa that 800,000 baht must now be held in a Thai bank account for three months before the one-year renewal date. Is this correct?

Juliet Toland
Phuket

Issues & ANSWERS

**Want to know how to get something done?
Want to pitch an idea to Phuket's authorities?
Submit your queries or suggestions to us and
we'll ask the appropriate people to respond.**

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

Visa for a handicapped relative

We would like to ask Immigration what we can do about our 46-year-old sister who has a paralyzed hand and leg and who is currently not working. We have nobody to look after her in India and we would like to know the procedure to bring her to Phuket?

Disha Sadarangani
Phuket

Pol Capt Krissarat Nusen of the Phuket Provincial Immigration Office replies:

We do not have a special class of permits to stay especially for handicapped people. Permits to stay issued to relatives of people living in Thailand are issued only to spouses, parents and children; not sisters or brothers. Your sister can apply for a tourist visa, on which she will be allowed to stay 30 days, but an extension of seven days' stay can be granted after the visa expires.

Pol Capt Krissarat Nusen of the Phuket Provincial Immigration Office replies:

A retiree must have 800,000 baht deposited in a Thai bank account for at least three months before applying for or renewing a "retirement visa" [a permit to stay issued by Immigration granted on the basis that the applicant has retired].

Alternatively, the applicant can show a document issued by the Embassy in Thailand for his or her home country verifying that the applicant receives a monthly retirement pension of at least 65,000 baht per month.

One of the 24-hour petrol vending machines that have been installed at various locations on the island.



Are there any 24-hour gas stations in Phuket?

Why do gas stations in Phuket close so early? Some close as early as 7 pm, and some open as late as 8 am. Are there any 24-hour gas stations on the island? And if so, where are they?

Horst Lakits
Rawai

Wanno Thongnoot, Chief of Phuket Provincial Office of Energy Business, replies:

In January legislation was passed allowing gas stations to trade 24 hours. Before then they had to close at 10 pm.

So if gas stations cannot make a profit by trading at night, or if they want to save money on wages or their electricity bills, they can close early.

In Phuket there are three gas stations that are open 24 hours:

1. Shell gas station on Phang Nga Rd (near the Honda showroom), in Phuket City;
2. Shell gas station on Thepkasattri Rd (near the Heroines' monument) in Thalang;
3. Caltex gas station on Phisit Gorani Rd (near the Kathu District Office, on the 4029 highway to Patong), in Kathu.

The Phuket Gazette notes:

Several 24-hour petrol vending machines have been recently installed at various locations on the island.

For details see Around the Island in next week's *Gazette*.

No place for nationalism

When meeting foreign businessmen to discuss the Foreign Business Act, the current Commerce Minister told the Joint Chambers of Commerce that there is a sense of nationalism in the land of Thailand and he says "we have to respect that". What he's really saying is that he – or the "interests" he's representing – doesn't like foreigners and that he doesn't know much about day-to-day trading.

This is typical of people who are too old for today's business world. It's not just old Thais, it's old Australians, Brits, Americans, Chinese and anywhere else you'd care to think of. It's the old against the younger generations, against the modern world of business and instant global communications.

Older people remember wars and cannot forget, and you cannot blame them for that. They lived in terrible times and saw friends and families suffer greatly. Yet there has to come a time when the past is past. I'm Australian and I have German friends and Japanese friends.

My grandmother, who lived in a country town called Armidale, came home one day after chatting with Mrs Wilson and Mrs Heap, who lived on farms out at Sandy Creek near Uralla. "They say some new people have just moved into the Thompson's old place," she tells my aunt. "They say that they're Germans. They're going to grow tobacco."

"No, you don't mean to say," says my aunt in a horrified manner. "Germans... around here? What's the world coming to? This used to be a safe area, never had any trouble around here, except last year when young Bill put his father's truck in to the creek after he'd stayed in the pub too long."

World War II may have fin-

LARGER THAN LIFE

By Graham Doven

ished 20 years before, but it was still very much alive in both my grandmother's and my aunt's minds. Most wars are fought over money and resources, but nationalism is the tool that is most often used to stir up the people.

Nationalism has only one place in today's world, and that is in sport. You can have as much national pride as you want when the whistle blows to start an international match. It's exciting and inspiring to hear the national anthem in the big stadium, but when the game is over you may be delighted with the result or you may be disappointed, but you should always happily applaud the fine performance of the other country.

That's what sport is all about, bringing people together in a spirit of competition.

Anywhere else, nationalism brings distrust and eventually hatred. The children of any race, religion and culture will happily play together, love each other, and would normally stay friends for life. This will only continue until their elders begin to tell them that they are different, and that somebody else is not equal because they believe in a different God, or because they are a different race.

There is no place for nationalism in today's world of business or day-to-day life. Nationalism is Burma and North Korea. Nationalism and racism are the enemy of peace, whether it is in the guise of religion or not. The eventual prize for the nationalist is hatred and destruction, and eventually complete ruin. Nobody is born a nationalist, they are only taught by others.



BONK IF YOU LOVE PATTAYA

The recent drive by the government to rid Thailand of societal ills could prove to be an unexpected fillip for Pattaya's tourism industry, according to Khun Pureasthedrivensnow, the newly-installed Mayor of Pattaya, who won a landslide victory recently with his "war on masturbation" platform.

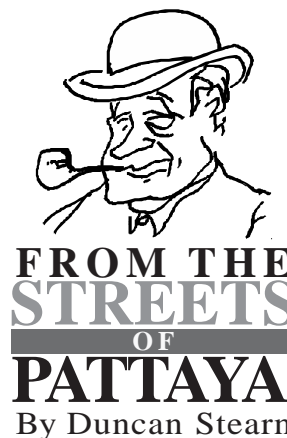
The overseas-educated Mayor, who has a PhD from Hugh Hefner University in Chicago, has proposed a radical change to the way the resort is marketed overseas, suggesting the idea of trying to attract families wasn't really working as well as previous administrations had claimed.

As an example, he noted the incredible increase in the number of go-go bars operating in the city. On Walking Street alone these had grown from just 15 in 2001 to more than 40 at the end of 2006.

He has proposed his campaign be titled "Bonk for Pattaya", envisioning it as a worthy rival to the "Amazing Thailand" and "Unseen Thailand" national campaigns of recent years.

When it was snidely suggested that the reasons for the new mayor's change of tourism focus might be because he has extensive interests in places of nighttime entertainment, K. Pureasthedrivensnow raised his hackles and spat a stream of unprintable invective at those who would seek to impugn his character.

He said, "My involvement in a raft of late-night venues such as The Hangar, The Ceiling, and Club Light Fixture are all as a minor shareholder. Everyone knows my core business has al-



ways been in the construction industry. The nightclubs have always been an excuse for me to be out late at night without too many eyebrows being raised."

The Mayor was quick to point out the potential financial benefits, not just for himself and his family, but for the world at large, if Pattaya was correctly promoted as the center of communal, rather than solitary, sexual fulfillment.

Opponents of K. Pureasthedrivensnow suggested the new mayoral incumbent had spent far too long studying overseas and had lost sight of his own cultural roots.

For his part, the mayor said, "In this politically correct world, I think a line has to be drawn somewhere, and it is my considered opinion that providing up-front and in-your-face sexual satisfaction is what has made Pattaya great and will continue to do so."

"By maintaining the status quo, we will be doing a great service to humankind. We will be at the forefront of ending self-abuse, the sin of Onan, or, to put it bluntly in the vernacular, wanking will be a thing of the past."

An end to serial masturba-

tion is just one of the many benefits foreseen by Mayor Pureasthedrivensnow. He sees great potential in attracting pubescent teenage males, "on the cusp of self-exploration", who would be sent to Pattaya by their open-minded parents to learn about the secrets of sexual fulfillment, at a discounted price of 500 baht, plus bar fine, per go.

"Think of the exponential improvement in eyesight among the young," he said, citing just one long-term benefit of his war on masturbation.

For parents who are uncomfortable with their teenage children's burgeoning sexuality or even teenagers who are steeped in fundamentalist religiosity, and who tend to sublimate their natural physical urges by resorting to violence or self-flagellation, many of whom expressed a keen interest in furthering their knowledge of whips and hot wax, Pattaya could be the perfect place.

An area would be set aside to provide the serial flagellator with a place to happily immerse himself in the joys of four-pronged anal probes, nipple clamping, and tubes of KY jelly.

The upside, according to Mayor Pureasthedrivensnow, would be a concomitant reduction in gay bashings, intravenous drug use, and suicide bombings in countries which had large numbers of young and frustrated people coming to visit Pattaya.

Although the downside would be a sharp increase in premarital pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases, the mayor found a silver lining by stating cheerfully, "this would bolster medical practices and keep hospitals fully staffed." Can't argue with that logic.

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Issues
& Answers

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In The Stars

by Isla Star

TAURUS (April 21 – May 21): Happy days lie ahead, especially if you are celebrating a birthday this week. The year ahead should be a golden one as monetary questions that have been hanging over your head for too long will be answered very soon. Take time out to review mistakes that you've made during the past year and set some challenging goals for yourself.

GEMINI (May 22 – June 21): Events in business have been forecast to proceed at full speed ahead. You will have the energy necessary to accomplish many things until the end of April. However, this will come at a cost to your personal relationships. Avoid friction in the family by springing a surprise outing this weekend. If you're single, wear the color dusty rose to send subtle signals.

CANCER (June 22 – July 23): Get your priorities right and the week ahead will be fulfilling. Not planning ahead can lead to frustration, particularly on Monday and Tuesday. Virgo is working on a way to show romantic interest; it will be worth the wait if you're single. If you are already in a relationship, enjoy a romantic evening on Saturday. The number 2 may bring luck on Wednesday.

LEO (July 24 – August 22): Relinquish the low profile you've been keeping since the beginning of the year. This is the week to start shining, and the attention you attract will place you in good stead during the months ahead. The only cloud hovering above you concerns a personal relationship that has been on shifting sands lately. Sunday is a positive day to have an honest discussion.

VIRGO (August 23 – September 23): Your love life is put to the test this week. If you've been economical with the truth you must face up to this or see your relationship fizzle out fast. Your career is looking up; and if work has been scarce recently, expect to be rushed off your feet soon. Eat plenty of fresh fruit to top up energy levels and resist the temptation to party until sunrise.

LIBRA (September 24 – October 23): Prosperity is well-starred during the last days of April. You are now reaping the rewards of hard work done earlier in the year. If you're still waiting for payment due from a business deal, expect to hear good news mid-week. A joint venture with Pisces is not a good idea, but if they agree to your terms then it's worth further consideration. Romance takes you by surprise this weekend.

SCORPIO (October 24 – November 22): A cloud that's been hanging over your head does have a silver lining. Astral backing during the final days of April should ensure that you have no excuses for feeling down. Work commitments tire you after Tuesday, but it's not a good idea to trust others to do important things. Wear the color vanilla to encourage a sweeter mood.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23 – December 21): Keep a tight grip on financial matters this week. A monetary mishap is forecast, but this can be avoided if you are vigilant. The temperature rises in a romantic relationship. If you are already involved, your partner will show how much they care this weekend. If single, you should accept a social invitation on Saturday. Wear the color flame orange to add fire to your appeal.

CAPRICORN (December 22 – January 20): The only way to get the message across to someone you don't want to associate with is to freeze them out. If this person is an Arian, it will be difficult to ignore their advances. On Monday, you're all at sea regarding an investment. It would be better not to commit until mid-May, when the stars will support new endeavors. The number 4 can bring luck on Thursday.

AQUARIUS (January 21 – February 19): Sparks fly when you meet an alluring Piscean this weekend. If you are ready to board the love boat again look forward to an exciting summer. If you're still nursing the wounds of a failed relationship, it's still worth making friends with this person. Romance could blossom later. A delayed payment has you ready to stir up trouble midweek, but this will achieve nothing except invoke bad feelings.

PISCES (February 20 – March 20): It appears you have forgotten a promise to help a friend. Those who have had other things on your minds should come clean and ask for forgiveness. Honesty is the best approach. While work matters are occupying much of your time and attention, resist accepting other commitments. The pace of life is set to slow down next month and a much-needed holiday is also indicated then.

ARIES (March 21 – April 20): The temptation to throw caution to the wind is strong this weekend. Take care of your money and leave excess cash at home. Where a budding romance with Taurus is concerned, the heat is definitely on. However, not everyone will be thrilled at the prospect of this liaison. A dream you have this weekend gives inspiration for a change of career.

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Know your alphabet soup

Fast Internet options on the island are growing so quickly you need a scorecard to keep up. Consider this article the latest update in the broadband wars, Phuket style.

Note that I always test line speeds with www.dslreports.com/speedtest, running their Java-based test on a connection to the US west coast. If you're testing Internet speeds within Thailand (using, adslthailand.com for example), your results will be very different from international speeds.

The fastest widely available Internet service in Phuket? CAT HiNET. I'm not talking about the CAT service from TOT or TT&T or any other Internet company. I'm talking about CAT's own HiNet service, which only works with a line that's installed by CAT.

CAT HiNet employs ADSL technology, which means the signal travels over an ordinary-looking telephone wire. You plug your computer or router into a wall socket that looks just like a phone jack. The service is 2,600 baht per month – very expensive by international standards, but you get what you pay for.

CAT rates the line at 2048 kilo bits per second (Kbps) downloading and 800 Kbps uploading, and I routinely see real speeds of 1,400 to 1,600 Kbps both at my Sandwich Shoppe near Andaman Beach Suites in Patong and at my home office in north Patong.

Readers all over the island report similar speeds.

You may have to wait a few months to get a line. At this point they're waving setup and installation fees. Also, if you contract for a year in advance, you get one month free.

In my experience, the 1,000-baht-per-month ADSL services from TOT and TT&T aren't worth much, with line speeds that frequently dip down to dial-up levels (60 Kbps or less), and rarely exceed 200 Kbps, even at 5 am. Most frustratingly, the speeds drop way down in the afternoon and evening, and especially on weekends.

I have a lot of anecdotal evidence that premium ADSL services from other providers are marginally faster. If you have an ADSL line that you like, write to me! I'd love to hear about it.

WIRELESS

If you can't get a CAT HiNet line, if you need the mobility of a wireless connection, and/or if you don't want to shell out 2,600 baht per month for an Internet connection, your next-best choice involves a different kind of technology called CDMA.

Here's where things get complicated. There are four different kinds of wireless Internet access that you'll find here on the island. They may sound similar, and they all offer ways onto the Internet without using a phone

Linksys has a wireless router that patches into CAT's EV-DO network, using a Sierra AirCard.



line, but they're very different.

WiFi (also known as 802.11g) works from a box with rabbit ears on top of it, commonly called a wireless router or wireless access point. When people install wireless Internet, they plug the wireless router into an ADSL line. The speed of your Internet access using WiFi is limited by the speed of the Internet connection.

WiFi signals only travel a short distance – 100 meters or so. Almost every modern laptop has a WiFi card. If your computer doesn't have WiFi built-in, you can find USB WiFi adapters at every computer shop in Phuket.

There's an older form of wireless Internet access called GPRS. If you have a mobile phone account with DTAC, True or 1-2-Call, you've probably seen references to web access using your mobile phone with GPRS. It works anywhere you can get a mobile phone signal.

You connect your mobile phone to your computer with a USB cable or Bluetooth. GPRS runs 50 to 60 Kbps – fast enough

to download your email, but frightfully slow for almost anything else.

The third kind of wireless Internet is a close relative to GPRS, but works at faster speeds – 100 to 150 Kbps. There are several similar services that employ this "second generation" mobile phone technology. In Phuket, you're most likely to encounter the terms EDGE or CDMA2000 1x. Sorry about the confusing terminology, but that's

the industry's fault. DTAC, AIS and True all offer EDGE in various flavors; CAT offers CDMA2000 1x (also called, confusingly, CDMA1x and just plain 1x). They all use similar methods to deliver similar access speeds.

The latest, fastest wireless technology – called EV-DO (or 1xEV-DO, or "dee oh") – hooks into a "third generation" mobile phone system from CAT.

Right now, CAT only offers DO access via the Sierra Wire-

less AirCard 580, a PCMCIA card that's been discontinued by the manufacturer. The card's expensive (12,900 baht with three months' free access), but unlimited access costs only 590 baht per month. At 400 to 500 Kbps download speeds, DO runs rings around the wireless competition.

THERE'S MORE

Got that? Good. Permit me to confuse you even more.

CAT wants to sell more DO cards, so it doesn't sell a wireless router for the Sierra AirCard. As you can see in the picture on this page, the Linksys WRT54G3G-ST uses an AirCard for its Internet connection: stick your AirCard into the top of the router, and all of a sudden you have fast Internet access for all of the computers that you can plug into the router, plus any computers connected via WiFi. It's a weird hybrid that bridges the gap between DO and WiFi. I'm seeing more and more of these AirCard wireless routers here in Phuket, brought in from the US – and at least two were on sale here on the island.

Finally, the flavor of DO that CAT runs right now is called Rev 0 ("rev zero"). There's a faster

flavor in the wings called Rev A ("rev a"). In practice, transmission speeds for EV-DO Rev A are slightly higher than those for EV-DO Rev 0. The main attraction of Rev A? For technical reasons that are hard to explain, Skype and other voice-over-the-Internet packages work significantly better with Rev A than they do with Rev 0.

I have no idea when CAT will start offering EV-DO Rev A, but when they do, international phone calls will be free.

KHUN WOODY'S COMPUTER

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

ARE YOU HOT?

Here are two absolutely free Wi-Fi access hotspots on the island.

• Valhalla V-Plaza, Soi Sunset, Patong. 256/512kbps. Available 24/7.

• Aqua Restaurant and Bar, Paradise Complex, Patong. 512K ADSL, 8:30 am to 4 am.

If you're hot – and free – just drop Woody an email.

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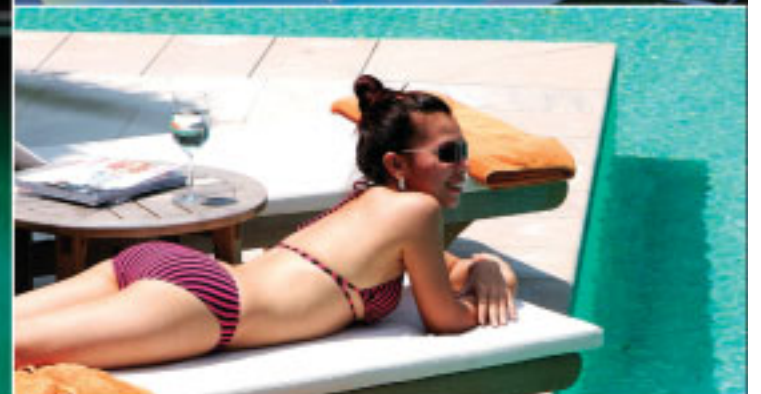
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Panama's allure for expats

The expatriate community of Thailand has little in common as an overall entity except that they are expatriates. Many regard Thailand as home and some see it as another country in which they will spend part of their lives. That said, a substantial number of people want to know what are their options regarding other countries which offer a similar climate where the local government is extending a welcome.

For the super rich, the list of countries is reasonably large, but the range of choices for the "middle class" of expatriates is relatively small, especially where land ownership is a requirement, combined with long-term security. Into this list, I also factor a reasonably high standard of medical care at affordable rates.

One reader brought my attention to a country that quite honestly had never even reached my radar screen – Panama. Now, before somebody starts a rumor that Richard Watson is about to emigrate to Panama, I stress that this is not the case.

Last year, I wrote an article on retirement in Malaysia and

MONEY TALKS



By Richard Watson

shortly thereafter I had a telephone call from a Bangkok-based company in my industry wanting to buy my business as "We hear you're leaving Thailand".

However, people do like to have options in life even if they never get around to examining these in depth, let alone taking up an option.

Panama has thrown out the welcome mat to expatriates and the Panamanian government is seeking immigrants both for retirement and to set up businesses.

It is a small country, only 29,760 square miles; about the size of my native Scotland. Fortunately, it enjoys a much more

pleasant climate, very similar to that of Phuket.

For those who find Phuket slightly warmer than they like, Panama also offers mountainous areas close to the capital Panama City, which are cooler.

Panama is becoming a relatively popular retirement destination not only with Americans but also with French, Germans and other nationalities.

The economy is largely dependent on agriculture, financial services and tourism, with some manufacturing. Naturally, the Panama Canal is a major source of revenue and there is a review taking place in June this year with an upward bias (naturally) on fees. In an age of high fuel costs, the Panama Canal is in a very favorable position.

For retirees, the government of Panama is looking for either pension income of US\$500 per month or a lump sum of US\$200,000. The latter can be invested in a bank account locally, invested in property or a mixture. For example: US\$120,000 in a property and US\$ 80,000 in a bank deposit.

There are few restrictions

on the purchase of property, only that it have a proper title deed and that it be not less than 10 kilometers from an international border. The latter requirement would appear to deter drug smugglers from setting up "shop" close to Columbia, which borders Panama to the east, and in any event most sensible people would want to keep some distance from that unfortunate country.

There are also some restrictions on the purchase of some island property, but islands such as Bacos Del Toro have become popular with resident expatriates. It is a short journey from the beaches of the Caribbean to those of the Pacific.

Due to its close proximity to the equator, Panama does not suffer from hurricanes and it is geologically stable (no earthquakes).

The Government of Panama is headed by a democratically elected President who is allowed to hold office for only one five-year term.

Expatriates are entitled to import one duty-free vehicle every two years. After five years of residency, they have the option of taking out Panamanian citizenship depending on what type of visa has been selected.

Expatriates are also given a 10-year guarantee that any concession will not be withdrawn.

Panama has a long history of being a "tax haven" and many people throughout the world use Panamanian companies as low-cost investment vehicles, even if they have never set foot in the country. There are 120 banks from 35 countries, including Citibank and HSBC, operating in Panama.

Hospitals come in two formats: government and private. Many private hospitals are affiliated with hospitals in the US, but

costs are much lower. Most doctors have qualifications from either the US or Europe. Government hospitals can be accessed by everyone.

For education, there are three US university branches in Panama City as well as three accredited international schools and dozens of fine bilingual schools.

Panama has a long history of being a "tax haven" and many people throughout the world use Panamanian companies as low-cost investment vehicles, even if they have never set foot in the country.

Panama also has world-class deep-sea fishing, scuba diving, surfing, white-water rafting and many golf courses. It is also a treasure trove for lovers of flora and fauna.

Currency is simple; Panama's currency is the US

Dollar and that really makes life and financial planning straightforward. There are no exchange controls. Viva Panama!

For those interested in starting a business, it is a very welcoming environment. Small businesses only require capital of US\$40,000 (around 1.5 million baht) and must employ a minimum of three locals. Presumably, that would mean a maid, gardener and driver; expatriates are resourceful enough to make their own decisions.

Spanish, although the official language, is not a necessity for expatriates as English is widely used and many expatriates never get around to learning the native language. Although for those with an affinity for languages no doubt there are some advantages in learning Spanish.

The reader who introduced me to the "Panama concept" is traveling there in June and, for interested parties, I shall have more information.

Richard Watson runs Global Portfolios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based personal financial planning service. He can be reached at Tel and Fax: 076-381997, Mobile: 081-081-4611. Email: imm@loxinfo.co.th

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ON THE MOVE

Nattaya Chitchonthan, from Phatthalung, has been appointed General Manager of Malisa Villa Suite at Kata Beach. She has a degree from the Faculty of Hotel and Tourism Management at Prince of Songkhla University, Phuket campus. She worked at the Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket as Convention Service Secretary, Event Executive and Events Sales Manager. Before moving to Malisa Villa Suite she served as Assistant Director of Sales at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort and Spa.



Thipwimon Chatchavansilachai, from Bangkok, has been appointed Front Office Manager at Le Royal Meridien Phuket Yacht Club (LRMYC). Thipwimon has an English degree from the Faculty of Humanities at Ramkhamhaeng University. She also has more than 10 years' experience in the hotel business, including Reservations Manager at LRMYC and at the Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket. She also worked as Spa Manager at Le Royal Meridien Baan Talang Ngam, Koh Samui.



Peerawut Kunchon, from Bangkok, has been appointed Director of Rooms at Le Royal Meridien Phuket Yacht Club. He has a degree from the Faculty of Business Management from National University, San Diego. He has worked as Front Office Manager and Director of Rooms at Katathani Phuket Beach Resort for six years. He has also served as Executive Assistant Manager of The Panwaburi Resort and Spa, and before moving to Le Royal Meridien he worked as Front Office Manager at Trisara.



Kingdom Holdings 'favors Asia for growth'

By Teddy Tucker

The recent acquisition of properties in China and Southeast Asia by Kingdom Holdings Investments (KHI) are part of an overall strategy to diversify its hotel and resort holdings and to take advantage of the rapid growth the region offers, Tim Hansing, Senior Vice President of Acquisitions & Development for KHI, told the *Gazette* recently.

This strategy included the purchase in May last year of what was then the Crowne Plaza Karon Beach Phuket resort by KHI, which brought Swiss company Movenpick in to replace Crowne Plaza as manager.

So far this year KHI has announced the purchase of prop-

erties for the development of a Four Seasons in Langkawi, the Fairmont Raffles in Manila and the Raffles hotel in Da Nang, Vietnam.

It also announced on April 10 that it had bought a hotel in Kunshan, China. HRH Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal of Saudia Arabia, Chairman of KHI, said, "China is the world's fastest growing economy . . . we will be well positioned to capitalize on the region's economic growth."

A US\$115 million (4 billion baht) Raffles Resort Phang Nga, just south of Thai Muang on Tah Sai Beach, and the management of a Raffles Phuket on the south end of Kata Noi Beach in Phuket, both to open in 2009, are part of the overall strategy.

Speaking of the Raffles Resort Phang Nga project, Hansing said, "We chose the location based on its easy access to the airport as well as the beautiful beach and the freshwater lake where the resort will be sited."

Hansing is optimistic about the Phang Nga project. "We don't anticipate any special problems with government, labor or environmental issues as we have had lots of experience putting together projects in developing countries."

"We are familiar with governments in transition, military governments and other issues."

KHI is headquartered in Dubai and is an international hotel and resort acquisition and development company focused on

high-growth emerging markets such as the Middle East, Asia, Africa and Europe. The company has ownership interests in 34 properties in 17 countries.

The properties include 20

operational hotels and resorts and 14 hotels and resorts currently under construction or as part of existing hotel expansion. KHI is listed on the Dubai and London stock exchanges.

VITAL STATISTICS: INTERNATIONAL PASSENGERS UP 41%

February 2006	February 2007	Change
International passenger (total)		
173,506	244,830	+ 41.1%
Domestic passengers (total)		
261,937	309,921	+ 18.3%
International Aircraft movements		
1,191	1,750	+ 46.9%
Domestic Aircraft movements		
1,317	1,734	+ 31.7%

Source: Phuket International Airport

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Prizefighting: the early years

By Scott Mallon

For nearly 50 years, actor Charles Bronson was the classic cinematic tough guy. He'll probably always be one of my favorite actors and I was truly sad when he passed away in August of 2003. I grew up watching his movies; *The Mechanic*, *Mr Majestyk*, *Breakheart Pass* and, of course, *Death Wish*.

Probably one of his best movies, though, was *Hard Times* (1975) which fictionally chronicles a strong and silent bare-knuckle fighter's life and his quest to fight the best and find the big money. Set in the depression, this movie gives a glimpse into the bare-knuckle, no-holds-barred, street fighting bouts of days gone by.

Boxing as an organized sport dates back about 5,000 years; some of the ancient forms make present-day boxing seem tame in comparison. When boxing was added to the Olympics in 688 BC, a boxer's only protection was strips of soft ox-hide wrapped around the hand. The strips, called himantes, were about 10 to 12 feet in length. The fingertips and thumb were uncovered, while the knuckle portion had outside layers of hard, sharp-edged leather added to make the blows more devastating. Inside, wool was used to protect the hands, though this must have made them quite sweaty as well.

The Roman invention of the caestus, a boxing glove reinforced with iron and lead, trans-



Boxing in its current, 'civilized' form was begun in 1867 under the Queensberry Rules. Until then it was just a bunch of guys beating each other up. Boxing clothing has evolved too.

Photo: Library of Congress

formed the Greek art of boxing into an even more vicious battle. There were no time limits in these bouts, which ended only by submission or death. Often held in makeshift outdoor stadiums, fighters would jockey for position to lead their opponents into the glare of the sun, thereby blinding them and rendering them momentarily defenseless.

In order to prevent contests from reaching excessive lengths of time, fighters were given the option of *klimax*. The combatants would take turns remaining motionless and striking each other, with a winner declared when one of the fighters admitted defeat – or were rendered incapable of continuing.

In 393 or 394 AD the Greek Olympics were abolished, but boxing continued mainly in street fights and cultural events

with the last man standing declared the winner. Occasionally iron spikes or some other ghastly device designed to mutilate, blind or kill the opponent were added.

In parts of Southeast Asia, fighters would dip their wrapped hands in resin and then dip them in ground glass for maximum effect and punishment. The sport was brutal by any standard.

Pre-Queensberry era: Boxing began its transformation in the early 1700s, when the first recognized boxing champion, Englishman James Figg, opened the "School of Arms and Self Defense" in London. Figg changed the sport from one which used punching, wrestling and kicking (known as parring) to one which

relied solely on punching skills. At the time, there were no weight restrictions or divisions, no gloves, no set number of rounds, no specified length to the rounds and no rest periods.

In 1743, Jack Broughton, a student of James Figg and known as the "father of English boxing", implemented the use of his Broughton Rules, which soon caught on and became the standard for all bouts. Each round would end when a fighter was knocked down or out of the ring. A fight ended when one combatant was unable to rise from a knockdown within 30 seconds. Fights could end by knockout, capitulation or police intervention.

These rules remained in play until 1839, when the London Prize Ring Rules introduced the use of a 24 square-foot boxing ring with ropes surrounding it. This was to mark the end of the days when spectators formed a "ring" around the fighters. Kicking, gouging, biting, head butting and punches below the belt were all forbidden and a fighter who was knocked down was required to rise under his own power within eight seconds.

Queensberry rules: In 1867, British sports administrator John Graham Chambers (1841-1883) codified the Marquess of Queensberry Rules, which paved the way for modern boxing. These rules called for three-minute rounds with a one-minute

break and required the boxers to wear padded gloves or muffers. If a man took a knee, he was not to be hit, and if he were knocked down, he would then have 10 seconds to stand up.

A three-foot square in the center of the ring was drawn and when a fighter was knocked down, his handlers had 30 seconds to pick him up and position him on one side of the square ready to re-enter the fray. If they failed to revive him or the fighter surrendered, the bout would then be over.

The first prizefight using these rules was in 1885 and was between Dominick McCafferty and the man who was to be the last bareknuckle champion, John L. Sullivan. "Gentleman" Jim Corbett then defeated Sullivan in 1892, becoming the first champion under the Marquess of Queensberry Rules. In past centuries, gun battles, swords and knives were used in duels to settle disputes. Boxing soon became the favored method of resolving differences and boxing clubs, gyms and promotions sprung up around the US and England. Young men were urged to "step into the ring and work it out" and the sport slowly gained popularity around the world. The rest is history.

Scott Mallon is a Bangkok-based boxing writer from the US. He is a member of Ring magazine's ratings advisory panel

BIS to host fund-raising run

KOH KAEW: The British International School (BIS) will hold a 5-kilometer fun run Sunday May 13 to raise funds for the school, including money to cover the basketball court and provide shade for the tennis courts.

A warm-up will begin at 3:45 pm and the run will start at 4 pm at BIS.

Registration is 200 baht for adults and includes an event shirt. After the run there will be a swim at the BIS pool, sausage sizzle and entertainment.

Champs off to a shaky start

PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

PATONG: In the first week of play in the low-season installment of the Patong Darts League, defending champs Piccadilly won their first five singles games before losing every other game, including the all-important beer leg.

The highlight of that match came when Didi's scorekeeper Chris flipped in the season's first 180.

Another highlight was when Didi himself happened to return to the bar from Switzerland during the doubles play, in-

spiring his boys onto their turn around – until he succumbed to jet lag and called it a night.

In another interesting match-up, the hottest team towards the end of the last league, Offshore, crushed newcomers Simply Red 8-1, taking the beer leg as well.

Some suspect a performance-enhancing substance, possibly beer, was involved, while others note that first matches by

"expansion" teams often end up in a rout.

Shakers, who have rejoined the league after a high-season hiatus, looked in strong form as well, taking all three points playing at the Beach House on Nanai Rd.

The only other team to pick up all three points was Dogs Bollocks, who got off to a strong start with a 7-2 victory at home against Queen Mary.

All team players are encouraged to submit notes about big closes, double-one marathons, or comely barkeeps to: darts@phuketgazette.net for inclusion in this article.

April 10 results: Didi's* 4 Piccadilly 5; Dogs Bollocks* 7 Queen Mary 2; Beach House 4 Shakers* 5; Offshore* 8 Simply Red 1; Coyote Bar 7 Valhalla* 2. (* = winner of beer leg).

April 24 matchups: Didi's v Dogs Bollocks; Queen Mary v Piccadilly; Beach House v Offshore; Coyote Bar v Shakers; Valhalla v Simply Red (home team first).

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Academicals make it two in a row

By Mark Whetton

CHERNG TALAY: After a week of rain, Phuket Academicals (PAC) managed to pull off a victory over the Island Cricket Club (ICC) in the final of the Island Furniture Cricket League, held in stiflingly hot conditions at the Cherg Talay school on April 15.

The PAC team had topped the points table for the season with 83 points while the ICC lads had gathered 71. Third were the Cricketers Club Phuket side with 56 while Patong had to settle for last place on the table finishing a point behind with 55. The final had all the makings on being a replay of last season's decider with the same two teams fighting it out.

The players and spectators were honored to have ex-Australian international player Trevor Chappell as one of the umpires who also oversaw the toss. This was won by PAC skipper Roddy Meyer who, given the hot conditions, decided to put his side into bat first.

Meyer would have been a bit worried within the first over however when he was bowled for just one run by a low ball from Diwan Mydeen. Some very tight bowling by the ICC team saw them give away just 28 runs in the first 10 overs. The season's top-scoring batsman Jafar Ali was caught at point by Anand Chand for just 10. The ICC team were looking in good shape at the first drinks break by having PAC 2 for 31.



Academicals Captain Roddy Meyer (left) and ex-Australian International player Trevor Chappell, who served as umpire for the season championship match, pose with the trophy.

Academicals batsmen Mike Ayling and Dave Kelleway, however, then put together what is undoubtedly one of the best batting partnerships ever witnessed in the league. Kelleway soon had the scoreboard ticking over but the heat was having an obvious effect. Running singles just didn't appeal to him as was shown by him dispatching one of Rajiv Pandey's overs for 25 runs, which included 3 fours and 2 sixes.

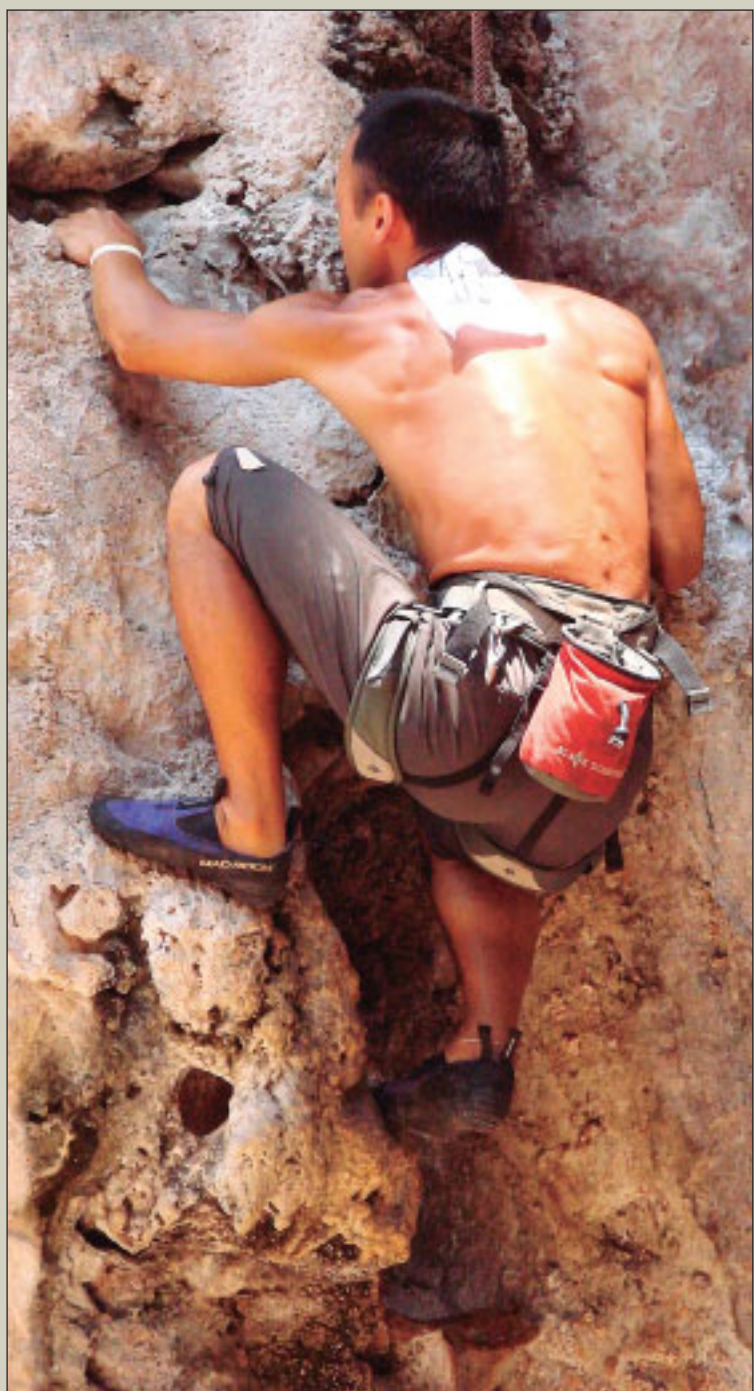
He was eventually bowled by Anand for 75, an impressive score at any time but more-so given the conditions. Ayling continued his stable innings at the other end but was eventually

stumped off the bowling of Sameer after batting for 2½ hours. Other batting mentions were 18 from Stuart Reading and 14 not out from Daryl Orchard. He hit a four off the last ball of the innings to take the PAC total to 202 for 5 off their 35 overs. A very respectable total and one that wouldn't be easy to reach for the ICC lads after spending a couple of hours in the sun.

After lunch, the ICC batsmen set out to chase down 203 for a win. They didn't get off to a good start, losing Anand (1), Hardeep Kapoor (3) and Sameer (4) within the first 10 overs. A decent stand by Surender (24) and skipper Deepak "Vicky" Mehra (11) was eventually ended by the usual tight bowling from Nifty Catts, Ali and Meyer who each bowled 9 overs. By the 20th over, ICC were 6 wickets down for just 78 runs on the board and the writing was on the wall. A brief stand by tail-enders Rajiv (23 not out) and Dev (12) was entertaining but the target was never in danger.

PAC won their second consecutive title bowling ICC all out for 126 in the 27th over. Bowling mentions were Ali with 3-38 off his 9 overs while Meyer snatched 4-39 off his nine. Man of the Match went to Dave Kelleway for his 75.

Anyone interested in playing in or supporting next season's league can contact Mark Whetton via email at scarfy@loxinfo.co.th or by telephone at 086-1208346.



SPEEDY SCALERS

KRABI: Twenty-five climbers raced up the cliff faces of Railay Beach in Ao Nang as part of the premier Speed Rock Climbing Competition April 15. The event, organized by CliffMan Climbing Center and the Sheraton Krabi Beach Resort, raised money for charity.

Climbers were divided into professional and amateur categories as they raced 12 meters or more up the cliff faces. The winner received a trophy and 2,000 baht cash.

Organizers say they plan to hold the event again next year.

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Construction Update

by Janyaporn Morel

Baramée Hill Co Ltd's Patong Loft Condominiums is now 80% complete and 80% of the 72 units for sale have been sold in the 300-million-baht first phase of the project.

Joe S Kasisopa, Sales and Marketing Director of Baramée Hill Co Ltd, said that the 82-unit building, with 10 ground-floor shop units for rent, is the first phase of the Patong Loft Condominium project on five rai on Phra Barami Rd.

"We reserved about 50% of the land for phase two of Patong Loft. When phase one is finished we will begin a new condominium project on Nanai Rd which will be called the Nanai Loft. When that is 70% complete we will start phase two of Patong Loft. Completion of phase one and phase two of the project will take about two years," he explained.

The first phase of the project has been under construction since late last year and is expected to be completed by December this year.

The building will have 72 living units on the second to seventh floors and 10 shop units on the first floor. Accommodation will be available in four types: studio, one-bedroom apartment, two-

SEVEN-STORY SUCCESS



Secure and almost sold out: Patong Loft Condominiums on Phra Barami Rd

bedroom apartment and two-bedroom penthouse suites.

There will be eight studio units of 40 square meters, 20 one-bedroom units of 56sqm, 36 two-bedroom units of 90sqm and eight two-bedroom penthouses of

140sqm.

"When the project first launched we had set the price for a studio at 1.4 million baht and up to 4 million baht for a penthouse, but now prices are rising quickly and there are very few units left.

The price now for a studio is 2.3 million baht and 4.7 million baht for a penthouse," K. Joe said.

Phase one facilities will include a 200sqm swimming pool, car park and garden. On the ground floor where the shop units are to be located will be a fitness center, hair salon, spa, travel agent, bar and restaurant. There will be four elevators. The management office will be built separately from the condominium building.

"The strong points for the project are the convenient location and good value. We are located in a prime area of Patong, only about a 10-minute walk to the beach and 15 minutes to

Jungceylon and other shopping centers.

"We will also have a high-level security system with multi-point security checks and CCTV. Residents will be able to access the building by key card from three entry points: Phra Barami Rd, Sai Nam Yen Rd and Ratpatanusorn Rd.

"Most of our customers have been from Europe but we also have had a few from Asia and Thailand. They bought units as second homes and we haven't yet had anyone inform us that they want to rent their units," K. Joe said.

Baramée Hill Co Ltd is an experienced property developer, which has been involved with several projects in Phuket including the Sea Pearl Entertainment Center in Patong and Dusitburi in Phuket City. In addition to Nanai Loft on Nanai Rd, future Baramée Hill projects include SS Hill Villas on Patong Hill, Royal Bayview Villas on 50 Pi Rd in Patong and a high-end condominium and penthouse project in Kalim called The Phuket Monte Carlo.

The construction contractor for Patong Loft Condominium is Sub Som Nam Properties Co Ltd.

For more information contact Patong Loft Condominium Sales Office at 67/2 Phra Barami Rd, Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150. Tel. 076-345995 Website at www.phuket-realestates.com.

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Above: Mix it up: The bar area has a mix of cultural styles, with Moroccan-style lamps, dark Chinese furniture and Arabic stone bar. Right: Eclectic ownership: (from left) K. Pisit, Andrew and Celine.



SLIGHTLY MOORISH

The cultural mix of the owners gives the 80-year-old Sino-Portuguese building that is now Siam Indigo, a bar and restaurant in the heart of Phuket City, its eclectic look. Ideas for the interior decor came from the three partners Pisit Aongskultong, Frenchwoman Celine Masson and Malaysian Andrew Tan.

K. Pisit was the main designer of Siam Indigo, drawing on his 18 years in design as well as his experiences in being involved in well-known local projects including the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Beach Resort & Spa in Karon, the Phuket Cabana Resort in Patong and the popular Kan-Eang restaurant in Chalong.

However, it is the classic styles he enjoys the most. "I like the heritage areas in the centers of cities such as Phuket. Here, the buildings are Sino-Portuguese, which are well known all over the world," he said.

Although K. Pisit was the main designer, all three partners were involved in deciding on furnishings for the restaurant and bar. "Our inspiration came from the things that the three of us all like beauty, art, food," he said.

"Many people say the style here is Indian or even Moroccan. We wanted to mix styles, including Indian, Chinese and Arabic. Old Phuket was a commercial center, and many coun-

tries were involved in trading here. So I used styles from those cultures.

"Eclectic' is what I call it. For example, we use Moroccan lamps, an Arabic-style stone bar and Chinese-style furniture. All these together make a perfect atmosphere and balance," said K. Pisit.

"Eclectic has a very interesting meaning," Celine added.

"It means that you use elements from different people, different things, different cultures. We have tried to keep our identities of me as a Westerner and K. Pisit as a Thai and the fact that we are in Phuket. We have taken all these elements and combined them to create a cock-

tail lounge," Celine explained.

Celine, who was the main influence in designing the lounge area, said that she used tapas bar-style as a base design. "A tapas bar matched our design and the atmosphere we wanted to create, but you can also see Indian and Sino-Portuguese influences that suit our place as well," she said.

The whitewashed walls are left plain so as not to detract from their adorning works by artists from Bangkok and Phuket, she added.

"We used classic colors, but at the same time we used modern styles in order to create a more lively effect. Keep the old, mix with the new," Celine said.



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Gardening

by Bloomin' Bert

The ever impatient Busy Lizzies

Mums – bless 'em. They're hilarious. They have the uncanny knack of being able to say the daftest things and totally get away with it. They've even mastered the art of saying daft things in two completely different ways.

First there are the myths they put across as complete fact when we were young, presumably because we were too dippy to realize it. Quotes such as "If you pick your nose, you'll grow pig's trotters", "If you keep picking your nose your brains will fall out" or "Stop picking your nose or your head will cave in" must surely sound familiar. Why can't mums just say, "Don't pick your nose it's disgusting"?

My sister, now happily married with three ankle-biters of her own, always always swore blind she'd never say, "Because I said so" to her children. And yet there she said it, last time I was back in nearly-sunny Yorkshire. Totally lame, but she does it anyway, I think it's part of the rite of passage in becoming a mum.

Another of my mum's favorites was the classic, "Finish your meal; there are thousands of starving people in Africa". Yet she never saw the humor or logic of the situation when I offered to put my leftovers in a box and post it to those poor people.

She also used to say, "Make sure you have clean underwear on in case you get run over by a bus." I never had the heart to tell her that if I was indeed run over by a bus, the cleanliness of my Y-fronts would be the last thing on my mind.

My mate's mum had a bit of an evil streak. She told him that if he swallowed an apple pip, an apple tree would grow inside him and the branches would poke out of his ears. And that if he drank his dandelion and burdock



EXPLODING SEEDS: Busy Lizzies, also known as *impatiens* or *thian* in Thai, can add quick color to the garden and are very unforgiving to forgetful gardeners.

(can you still get that stuff, by the way?) any faster than in small, polite sips, that he would explode. He believed her.

The other side of a mum's daftness comes when you're older. I'm sure that every grown person's mum is a bit doolally in some way. My own mum is famous for minor slips of the tongue surprisingly, I'm not going to list them here. She'd make my life a misery on her next visit to Phuket if she ever found out. Having said that... No, not a word.

My mate's mum, now that's a different story. Rumor has it that she once went to see him and said, "My knee is giving me terrible pain today."

"Well don't suffer then, mum," he replied. "Take a couple of Paracetamols to ease it a bit."

"You don't take Paracetamols for knee pain. Everyone knows that. They're only for headaches," she explained.

Another gem from her was when she said, "It's best to go for a walk before noon be-

cause there's not much oxygen left later on."

This is the same mum who talks about "Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Ryvita*", claims to have "Curtains 95" on her computer, and asks for tins of "Dur-ex paint" at the local equivalent of HomePro. Bless.

I really can't give my mum too much grief she put up with me during the earlier years of my life, after all. One thing that I do remember from those years was her fondness for houseplants. They were everywhere and were her pride and joy. Especially her Busy Lizzies.

Being a typical youth, I wasn't particularly appreciative of her plants, but ironically here I am, several decades down the road on the other side of the planet writing about the things.

Busy Lizzies are actually part of the much bigger *impatiens* family, but probably the best-known member and are often referred to by that name.

These attractive little annuals got their Latin name, *Impatiens walleriana*, from seed pods that explode when they ripen, apparently. They shoot their sticky seeds far and wide. They are certainly not alone in that regard. Impatient to reproduce, perhaps?

Impatiens are so popular possibly because they're dead easy to grow and flower enthusiastically all year.

Today's versions of the plant are more tolerant of sun than many older varieties, but too much sun will stunt their growth, resulting in shorter plants with small leaves and fewer flowers.

You will find *impatiens* (with the generic Thai name *thian*) at most garden centers in Phuket, probably in hanging baskets, but there are other ways of getting them, too. The one in the picture, in my front garden, was rescued from the street after it literally fell off the back of a lorry. You can even grow them from seed if you're feeling adventurous, but if you can buy one for a few baht, why bother?

Impatiens are available in a number of different colors red, scarlet, pink, white, rose and mauve and in star patterns and bi-colors with light colors inside the flowers and darker colors at the margins of the petals. They come in single, semi-double or fully-double flower forms.

There are actually hundreds of varieties, and identifying exactly what each one is seems to be an art in itself. Even my mum couldn't tell you what they all are. Ultimately, all that matters is that you've got something in your garden that fills the gap effectively.

When growing *impatiens*, you'll probably want to give your plants the best start possible by mixing some of that coconut husk/compost stuff into the soil at planting time and finish off by watering thoroughly. To keep your plants looking their best, you'll need to water them daily at this time of the year. Don't get them waterlogged, though.

They're forgiving, too. Miss a day or two and they'll wilt like crazy and look as if they've given up completely, but throw some water at them and they'll bounce back in a few hours. This strategy isn't particularly suggested though.

Deadheading (removing flowers as they finish blooming) and pinching growing tips to encourage branching are two things you can do to increase the vigor of these plants and the number of flowers that they produce for you.

My mum would approve of this, me writing about Busy Lizzies. If I tell her though, she'll probably get the wrong end of the stick, as ever. "Who's this 'Lizzy' woman? What's she busy doing?" and so on. In fact, I'll probably make a start on that explanation now, on my Curtains 95 computer. Where would we be without our mums...

Want to know more about a plant in your garden? Email Bloomin' Bert at: bert@bloominbert.com

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In the property developer's world of revenue and expenses one of the most overlooked areas is tax planning. All too often at the beginning of a project the lion's share of a developer's time is spent with architects, contractors, lawyers and marketing people.

In many cases only once they pass the point of no return, when sales are in hand, buildings are rising into the sky and tax bills start coming in do they realize how much money is leaking out of a project on tax payments. By then it's often too late to change business structures and contracts to minimize the tax to be paid – and more often than not it's a costly lesson.

An essential part of starting any new business, in addition to a viable business plan, is assembling a financial model that meets both profit expectations and addresses project risk. This is a long-term projection of what is expected in project expenses and income over the development cycle.

Once this is done, tax planning can be done with accountants, tax professionals and legal advisors, whose aims are to minimize taxes through a well-thought-out company structure and sales-contracting documents. At the same time tax assumptions are applied to the profit and loss projection to produce a clear bottom-line forecast.

Although it sounds complicated, the process allows a business to engineer results and ensure that by the time the buildings are up and units are sold that there's money in the bank for investors and developers alike. It's a step-by-step process that starts when you sit down with your accountant and start looking in detail at expected costs.

Input from quantity surveyors, project management, contractors and architects allow assumptions to be made on overall cost and contingencies. The sales and marketing team will add in



The Revenue Department's website has won prizes for its clarity. But it's still best to consult an expert.

Learning the hard way about taxes

expectations on selling prices, take-up rates and the cost of promoting the sales effort.

Other key expenses such as company organization and running, legal expenses associated with closing sales transactions, and financing costs contribute as significant expenses.

As in any analysis the devil is in the detail and it's most effective to do a zero-basis approach versus applying percentages or lump-sum accounts. List detailed assumptions and build the projection with as much factual data as you can lay your hands on.

Often both revenue and expenses can be benchmarked to similar projects and consultants who have worked on other projects will have access to actual costs so that forecasts become more accurate.

Listing these details not only makes this an effective approach to estimate total profit but also provides an operating budget and ongoing management tool to use continually to look at actual versus projected results vis-a-vis the

monthly profit and loss statement.

With this document in hand, it is best to hire a tax professional to advise on optimizing tax efficiency, which in turn becomes the blueprint for the legal team to create a company structure and set of sales agreements.

Projects in countries such as Thailand need a resource who is well versed in the Thai Revenue Code along with experience in

other property developments. Locally in Phuket NAT (Network Advisory Team) are a recognized firm, while in Bangkok Grant Thornton, BDO Richfield, Deloitte and PricewaterhouseCoopers are some of the better-known names.

Tax planning is a prudent and well-thought-out use of the tax code. It in no way relates to tax evasion, which is most defi-

nately ill-advised. Currently the Thai tax code offers many favorable taxation treaties with the authorities in places such as Hong Kong and Singapore. There is the ability in many instances to efficiently use withholding and VAT (value added tax) credits down the line, thus lowering taxation.

For larger projects the BOI (Board of Investment) has tax holidays for qualifying projects. One of the key advantages of a leasehold structure is that it can allow the amortization of revenue for periods of up to 30 years, reducing ongoing tax exposure.

While this type of advice is costly at the onset of a project it is perhaps the best money you will spend. Going by the numbers in any venture is one of the key fundamentals to success.

Tax remains one of the largest overall expenses in any project. With careful planning and attention it can be managed to your advantage and the only surprise at project's end will be just how big the bottom line can be.

Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks (c9hotelworks.com), a Phuket-based hotel and residential property consulting firm. With more than 20 years' experience in the region, he has played an active role in some of the island's biggest developments.



PROPERTY WATCH

By Bill Barnett



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Property Gazette

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Property Gazette

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9.5 rai. Chanote, road access, great value, only 10 million baht per rai. Tel: 089-729-2313.

KARON POOL VILLA

2 bedrooms, furnished, quiet location, sea view. Price: 7.5 million baht. Please call for more info. Tel: 089-4735080.

CENTRAL

Waterfront Condo. at Karon beach, corner unit with sea view. 9th floor, 167sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, Unit#9D. 12.6 million baht. Please contact Tel: 081-4084991.

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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. Or email: contactmalisa@yahoo.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. Contact Tel: 086-2706454, +44-778-999 5522, 089-4727588. Email: djjudges@hotmail.com



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Chalong Beach Villa:

Rawai Beachfront, Contemporary Thai Style with Private Pool, 224 Sq.w., 3 Bedrooms, 3 Bathrooms, Fully Furnished, 31 Million Baht.

For More Properties Please Contact Phuket Branch

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Property Gazette

PATONG TOWER SEA VIEW



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MISSION HEIGHTS LAND FOR SALE

Fully-serviced land plots of various sizes. Please call for price. Tel: 089-2262612. Email: jim@jimmarsh.net

VILLAS IN RAWAI

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

KATA BEACH

apartment. New one-bedroom apartment with pool, gym and services. 3 million baht. Contact Tel: 089-4735080.

NEW HOME NEAR BEACH



Chalong, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 car spaces. New furniture. Quick sale at 4.5 million baht. Please contact for more details. Call Tel: 089-7830494, 081-0837354. Or send email: jimcox007@msn.com

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4-BEDROOM VILLA

with pool. 1km from Laguna, 5 aircons, ADSL, Sat TV, living room, garden. Please contact for info. Tel: 084-8516121.

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for sale. Double bed, TV, fridge, balcony, parking. 1.3 million baht. Tel: 085-7977786. Email: tj_biggie@hotmail.com

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VILLA BUNGALOWS

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BANG TAO, 5.3 MILLION BAHT



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CHEAP LAND

for sale. 2 million baht per rai. Wife's illness forces urgent sale of 3.5 rai of NorSor 3 Gor land on the government road between Ban Saku and Nai Yang beach. Permission for 8 houses already granted, deep water borehole & electricity is adjacent. 2 million baht per rai, with quick sale from a Thai owner. Tel: 076-328451, 083-1728052. Fax 076-328451. Email: phuketairport hotel@yahoo.com

ATRIUM HOUSE IN

Ao Nang. A 4-bedroom, 4-bathroom house with internal swimming pool, on 1,200sqm. 3.5km from the beach. 10 million baht. Tel: 081-6213432. Email: will@hoefsmid26.nl

PATONG CONDO

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Properties For Rent

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for rent. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large living & dining room. 42" Plasma TV. Furnished to very high standard. Private walled estate with secure electric gate. Private parking. Maid service & cable TV included. 30,000 baht per month. Long term only. Please contact Tel: 081-8111067.

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RAWAI/NAI HARN

Only 5,000 baht a month if taken good care of until September 15. New house and nice sea view. Tel: 085-7955383.

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4 BEDROOMS + POOL

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RUSTIC HOUSE FOR

rent. In Rawai. Available in May, rent 7,000 baht, min 1 year. 2 bedrooms, living room, office, kitchen, bathroom, cable, ADSL. Please contact Tel: 081-9560257.

CHALONG, NEW HOME

for rent. 2 bedrooms, furnished with telephone, UBC, aircon. Please call Tel: 089-6521473.

AMAZING SEA VIEWS

and mountain vista from large colonial house set in beautiful Cape Yamu, on Phuket east coast. 3 bedrooms/bathrooms, maid's room, sauna, huge living room and sun decks in tropical gardens. 70,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-2796283.

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c) 1 to 3 shophouse units or land plots in the Kata Noi area
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LAND PLOT PATONG



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PATONG BAY VIEW HOME



2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, pool, ADSL, UBC, kitchen, dining room, great location, long term only, must see. 60,000 baht per month. Available May 1, 2007. Tel: 08-78821963. Email: benlee53@hotmail.com

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Property Gazette

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Fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, fully-fitted kitchen, 2 bathrooms, living room, driveway. Quiet soi close to Phuket Country Club golf course and Central Festival. Call K. Pom for details at Tel: 081-4998719. Email: marshall_hugh@yahoo.co.uk

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VILLA FOR RENT

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SEAVIEW APARTMENTS

for rent in Karon and Patong beach. Tel: 089-4912496. Email: bluewaterphuket@gmail.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

2 CONDOS FOR RENT

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RAWAI RESIDENCE

studios. Rental per month: 6,000 to 12,000 baht. Aircon, safe, ADSL, UBC, close to beach. Tel: 086-9408914.

NAI YANG HOUSE

for rent. 3 bedrooms (2 w/ 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

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SEAVIEW COTTAGE



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KATHU TOWNHOUSE

Townhouse in Kathu for rent. 2 bedrooms. Fully furnished, air conditioned. 9,000/month. Tel: 081-8953661.

CHALONG HOUSE

for rent. Sea view, fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, Chalong bay. 22,000 baht per month. Call Tel: 081-6064279.

2-ROOM APARTMENT

for rent in Kamala, 3 minutes to the beach. Furnished, fridge, ADSL, Wireless LAN. 10,000 baht per month. Call Tel: 081-7193962. Email: bbq@loxinfo.co.th

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Beautiful, new 2-bedroom villa with private pool close to Rawai and Nai Harn beaches. Fully furnished, aircon. 35,000 baht per month. Pool and garden maintenance included. Minimum 6 months. Call Tel: 081-9701716.

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RAT-U-THIT ROAD SHOP

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3-BEDROOM HOUSE

for rent in Chaofa Thani. 9,500 baht a month. Nice garden. Tel: 076-280440, 086-6831964. Fax: 076-280440. Email: franklee200@hotmail.com

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CHALONG HOUSE

for rent. Fully-furnished house for rent in Chalong. Available from May 2007. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and 2 aircons. The house is 2 years old, set in the quiet and beautiful Baan Mannikram Estate. The home comes with its own private garden, TV, DVD, fridge, microwave, washing machine, telephone line, etc. Rent is 20,000 baht per month, with a minimum 6-month contract. For more details, please contact Marc Husted by email at marc_husted@yahoo.com or telephone Mr. Christopher Husted after 7pm on 087-8874659.

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for rent. Fully furnished, 3 bedrooms with aircon, cable UBC, ADSL, maid & gardener. Toyota Yaris, black, automatic. Rent from May to July 07. 49,000 a month, 20,000 baht a week. Tel: 081-9703136. Email: agogniat@loxinfo.co.th

RAWAI SEAVIEW APT

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HOUSE IN KAMALA

Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, living room, laundry. Hot water, phone, ADSL, cable TV. 15,000 baht/month. Tel: 076-263254, 081-537 7137. Fax: 076-263254. Email: sunisadia@hotmail.com

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LARGE STUDIO APT

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NAI HARN HOUSE

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RAWAI CONDOS

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CHALONG HOUSE

for rent. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, office, 4 aircons, indoor waterfall. Chalong. Tel: 084-8444228. More info via email: saison1971@hotmail.com

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- ▶ Thai Nationality
- ▶ Have a good command of English
- ▶ Have basic computer skills and excellent typing skills
- ▶ Experience with MS Office software (Word, Excel and Outlook)
- ▶ Enthusiastic & Hard-working
- ▶ Systematic Thinking & Team Player

This is a unique employment opportunity offering a generous compensation and benefit package to qualified candidates.

Interested applicants please submit your application including resume / CV or employment certificates to careers@hoteltravel.com or call +66 76 282 808 Khun Amupab Satakom for further information.

kinnareemedia

Kinnaree Media Marketing are recruiting:

- Sub-Editor / Senior Copywriter
- Experienced Freelance Writers
- Freelance Web Designer

Positions available for Bangkok and Phuket offices for work on Tropical Living in Thailand magazine and re-branding projects.

please email your resume with examples of your work to

admin@kinnareemedia.com
Tel: 076-263737-8, Fax: 076-224113

BOOK & COFFEESHOP STAFF

Two staff needed for bookstore and coffee shop at D'S Books, Koh Phi Phi. Female, able to speak English. 10,000 baht salary, free accommodation. Tel: 02-7427601, 081-9235743. Fax 02-7427601. Email: s.khongpracha@hotmail.com

ASSISTANT MANAGER

Marine company. Good English skills, strong personality, driver's license and good organizational skills required. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-6903196. Email: rotapi@hotmail.com

COOK WANTED

Small restaurant in Karon needs a female cook urgently. Please contact for more info. Tel: 081-8914019. Email: tkoschig2000@hotmail.com

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

required for a new business in Phuket. We seek a Thai lady with fluent spoken and written English and good computer skills (Microsoft Office). Please contact Phil for more details. Tel: 083-3943246. Email: pgebbett@gmail.com

SALES & MARKETING

Manager. Due to our rapidly expanding business, Destination Air, Thailand's only seaplane company, is looking for a dynamic self-starter with excellent presentation skills and the ability to present our product with confidence to our sophisticated customer base. The candidate will develop a company sales strategy to achieve the established targeted goals. A Thai or expat with 5 years' experience in sales & marketing within the travel industry is preferable. Please email your CV to: hrda@destinationair.com

Knight Frank

We are an international property consultant having 200 offices worldwide providing property agency services, asset valuation, property and facilities management, research and consultancy, due to rapid expansion, we are looking for qualified personnel to join our company as follows:

- 1. Sales Manager: (2 positions)**
 - Male or Female, age over 28 years
 - BA in Sales & Marketing or related fields
 - At least 3 years experience in Sales & Marketing
 - Knowledge of Land Development Act, Thailand Taxation structure, excellent PR skill
 - Possess own vehicle
 - Proficiency in both written and spoken English
- 2. Sales Executive: (4 positions)**
 - Male or Female, age over 25 years
 - BA in Sales & Marketing or related fields
 - At least 1-2 years experience in Sales & Marketing
 - Self-motivated & able to work independently
 - Possess own vehicle
- 3. Estate Manager/Assistant Estate Manager (6 positions)**
 - Male or Female, age over 25 years
 - BA in Management or related fields
 - At least 2 years experience in building/estate
 - Knowledge in Juristic Person Acts is an advantage
 - Strong leadership, good problem-solving skill
 - Able to work under pressure
- 4. Administrative Manager (2 positions)**
 - Female, age over 28 years
 - BA in Business Administration or related fields
 - Proficiency in both written and spoken English
 - Office administrative management, computer literacy and familiar with office automation
 - At least 3 years experience or related fields
 - Able to work under pressure
- 5. Accountant (2 positions)**
 - Male or Female, age over 25 years
 - BA in Accounting or Finance
 - At least 2 years experience in related fields
 - Familiar with accounting software and knowledge of MS-office especially Ms-Excel and taxation systems
 - Proficiency in both written and spoken English
- 6. Administrator (2 positions)**
 - Male or Female, age over 22 years
 - Vocational or higher in Business Administration or related fields
 - Computer literacy and familiar with office automation
 - Good interpersonal skill, service-minded and well organized
 - Knowledge on gardening and landscaping maintenance would be an advantage
 - At least 1 year experience
- 7. Technician Supervisor (2 positions)**
 - Male, age over 25 years
 - BA in Mechanical/Electrical or related field
 - At least 2-3 years experience in system maintenance
 - Strong leadership & self-motivated
 - Able to work independently
- 8. Technician (8 positions)**
 - Male, age over 22 years
 - Vocational or higher in Mechanical/Electrical
 - At least 1 year experience in system maintenance

Interested candidates are invited to write in with full resume, stating present and expected salaries, and enclosing a recent photo mail to:

Knight Frank Phuket Co., Ltd.
1 Plaza Del Mar Building Room no.109-111 & 201-202, Pasak-Koktanod Road, T.Cherngtalay, A.Thalang, Phuket 83110
Tel: 0-7631 8151-58 Fax: 0-7631 8159, e-mail: chutima.ninlawan@th.knightfrank.com

Remark:
Thai Nationality only. Position 1-6 good command of spoken and written English and computer literacy is essential. Male applicants must complete or exempt from military service. Knowledge of Real Estate is an advantage.

Royal Phuket Marina is Asia's most sophisticated and high-tech yachting haven, a world-class destination combining luxury waterfront living with a state-of-art marina and was awarded the prestigious "Marina Five Gold Anchors Award" by the British Marine Federation. We are looking for qualified candidates in the following position.

- Construction Manager
- Sales Executive
- Quantity Surveyor
- Restaurant Manager
- Store Officer for construction project

Interested candidates are invited to write in with full resume, stating present and expected salaries, and enclosing a recent photograph to

Email: hr@royalphuketmarina.com
Royal Phuket Marina.
68 Moo 2, Thepkasattri Rd., Kohkaew, Muang, Phuket 83200
Tel: 076-239-755, www.royalphuketmarina.com

CREATIVE ENERGETIC

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. For more information call Tel: 076-238756. Fax: 076-238756. Email: admin@horizons-phuket.com

CHEF, ASSIST CHEF

and waitresses needed. 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 contact for more info and details. Tel: 089-8093566. Email: lennartviberg@hotmail.com

PEACHTREE SPECIALIST

Male/female, Thai, with two or more years' experience using Peachtree accounting software. Well-organized with attention to detail. Interested persons are invited to email CV and photo. Email: hrda@destinationair.com or call Tel: 081-958292 for an interview.

OFFICE STAFF

We are an Internet travel agency and need a Thai female with good communication skills in English. Good personality, self-motivated. Experience with MS Word and Excel would be an advantage. For more information call Tel: 076-342750, 084-8523380.

SECRETARY/ACCT

Knowledge of English and accounting needed. Office job in Rawai. Good salary. Contact Tel: 081-5376866. Email: info@platinumresidence.com

RECEPTIONIST WANTED

Audio visual company is seeking candidates for the above position. Applicants must be fluent in written and spoken English and Thai and have good computer skills. Experience in administration and accounts an advantage. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-527640. Fax: 076-527639. Email: cv@enhanceav.com

SALES PERSONS

urgently needed. Established supplier company of hotels and restaurants for dining equipment & accessories needs a few sales people immediately. Some English and knowledge in F&B is a plus! For Thai nationals only. Time wasters need not apply! Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-261157, 089-7703681. Fax: 076-261239. Email: phuketislander@yahoo.com

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An Exclusive Luxury resort with 30 villas and a huge restaurant that sits on the hill at Chalong, natural serenity overlooking Chalong Bay, is now seeking motivated and energetic people to fulfill in the positions of:

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Night Guest Service Supervisor Guest Service Agent Bell Man Driver 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Florist Room Maid Room Boy Cleaner
Food & Beverage	Accounting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food & Beverage Manager Outlet Manager Waiter Waitress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accounts Payable Accounts Receivable Cost Controller General Cashier Income Auditor Night Auditor
Kitchen	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chef De Partie (Hot/ Cold/ Thai) Cook (Hot/ Cold / Thai) Steward Supervisor Steward 	

Qualified candidates are invited to send a resume with recent photograph to:

Villa Zolitude

50/11 Chao Fa Rd, T. Vichit, A. Muang Phuket 83000
Tel./Fax: 7624 9993 Email: info@villaszolitude.com



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By email: hrm-yao noi@evasonhideaway.com



Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following positions:

Advertising Sales

- Thai national with an out going personality
- Experience in sales and marketing
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Must have drivers license

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

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Phuket's premier property management company is looking for suitable, qualified candidates for the following positions:

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Please send your application with a recent photo to Human Resource Dept. Phuket Island Property Services Co. LTD (PIP S)

452 Srinakharin Road Chongtalay Thalang Phuket 83110 Tel : 076 270 750 Fax : 076 270 751 Email : hr@pipshuket.com

MAID WANTED

Working hours: 1 am - 10 pm.
Monday - Saturday, able to drive, female, uniform provided, good personality. 7,000 per month & 9,000 baht after probation. Tel: 089-7724664.

PART TIME

translate document online. Work from home, choose your own time. Language: French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Japanese, Greek, Italian, Dutch, Russian, Korean. Email: sakullayanee@hotmail.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.

SECURITY WANTED FOR

Night time. 7pm to 7am.

In Kathu area

3 days off, 4 days work.

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More information please contact

Bangkok Legal service Co Ltd

Tel: 076-304072-3, Fax: 076-304074

Mobile: 081-0803414

GUEST SERVICE AGENT

Destination Air has expanding opportunities for 2 persons to meet and welcome arriving guests at the airport and selected island resort locations. Thai females (2), neat appearance, pleasant personality, inspired attitude and service minded. Candidate must have strong English communication and interpersonal skills. Email your CV and professional info to: hrda@destinationair.com

Employment Wanted

LOOKING

for employment. Young, energetic Filipino girl looking for immediate employment in Phuket. Fluent in English and perfect computer skills. Tel: 089-0175706. Email: marcellep@mail.com

PROFESSIONAL

Hotel Manager. Have been in Thailand for 10 years as GM, RDM, Front Office Manager and Sales Marketing Manager. Hotel Graduate from Cambridge International College. Looking for new position. Please call for additional information. Tel: 081-0801004.

THAI NATIONAL

Fluent in both oral & written English, bachelor's degree in English Education, Coordinate with ESL teachers, 5 years' teaching experience, TESOL or TEFL certificate desirable. Understanding of student centered teaching practices. Must commit for at least 2 years. Please contact us through Fax: 076-487124.

HOUSE MAID

I require a live-in house maid. House close to Boat Lagoon. Must be friendly with dogs and able to cook. Middle aged Thai female. Tel: 081-8913067.

SECRETARY/ACCT

Knowledge of English and accounting needed. Office job in Rawai. Good salary. Please contact Tel: 081-5376866.

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Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Articles for Sale

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Siemens dishwasher. Auto 3-in-1 model. Stainless steel. Three months old. Never used. 40,000 baht new. First good offer will sell. Contact for more information. Tel: 087-9334097.

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equipment. Used restaurant equipment available. Includes cutlery, plates, glasses, jugs, 4 wooden tables with 16 wooden chairs, white plastic chairs, pots, pans, gas cooker, pizza oven (gas), plastic drawers, etc. Everything needed to open a small restaurant. Must sell quickly, open to offers for the lot. Tel: 086-2662786. Or via email at: travellingben@hotmail.com

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output, automatic carwash machines for sale. Starting from 3.9 million baht. For more details please email: carwash_phuket@hotmail.com

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UMBRELLAS CURVER

and courtyard, 3m diameter, various colors and styles. Starting at 2,300 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-7193962. Please email: bbq@loxinfo.co.th

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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
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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

GUESTHOUSE KATA NOI



11 rooms, reception, bar/restaurant area, freehold, promising investment, 32 million baht. Tel: 076-381490. Email: info@sea-property-international.com

OFFICE SHOP SPACE
32sqm in good location in Rawai. Lots of possibilities. Tel: 085-7955383.

BOOK SHOP SALE

Patong OTOP book shop for sale. Price: 690,000 baht. Tel: 084-1705552.

BEAUTY MASSAGE

shop. Busy location Nanai Rd, no key money, 6-year lease. 80,000/100,000 baht net high season profit. Includes all fixtures. 1.2 million baht. Call Tel: 086-2625321.

GUESTHOUSE FOR SALE

Near Sheraton Krabi. By owner. Contact Tel: 081-3703109, 086-7431586.

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Chalong. Urgent sale, leaving Phuket. Fully equipped, low rent, good location with accom. Reduced from 1.3 million baht to 980,000 baht or swap car, etc. Call Tel: 089-5934193.

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Intel Celeron 2.26 Ghz, 40 GB hard disk, 384 MB RAM, Geforce MX4 video card, CD/DVD drive, Win XP Pro, 17" CTR monitor, keyboard & mouse, speakers, HP PSC 1315 all-in-one (printer, scanner, copier). Sale includes many programs + free desk and chair. All for only 12,000 baht. Tel: 081-295 0814. Or email: kaya.jiv@gmail.com

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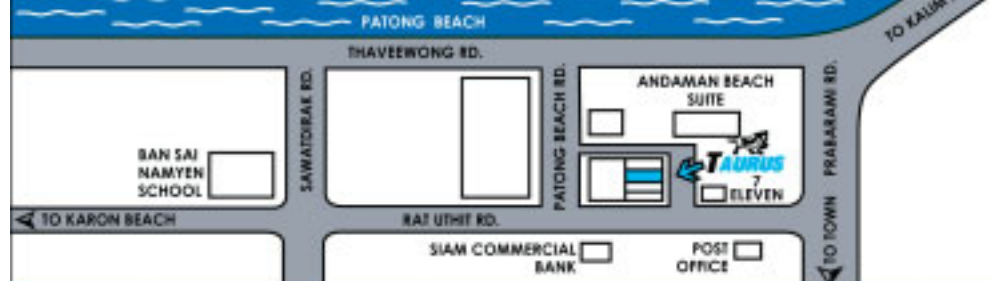
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