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Mob stages blockade after police kill youth

By Janyaporn Morel

KOH KAEW: About 1,000 people from Koh Kaew blocked Thepkasattri Rd for four hours in the afternoon of April 18 after a 17-year-old local youth died after being shot by a policeman on the bypass road early that morning. A Phuket City police officer has now been suspended from duty without pay over the shooting.

The protest caused long tail backs with some tourists forced to carry their luggage past the mob and continue their journey in other vehicles.

The protest was sparked by the death of Worawut Samarnmit, who, according to his father K. Yongyuth, was shot by Sgt Prasarn Chuayman of Phuket City Police Station.

One of the victim's friends told the *Gazette* that Worawut and his friends were riding along the bypass road about 1 am when two police officers pulled alongside and asked them to stop so they could inspect their driver's licenses.

The youths refused to stop and one of the officers fired a shot, hitting Worawut in the left hip, the friend claimed.

Worawut was rushed to Vachira Phuket Hospital, where he died soon after, the friend added.

About noon on the day of the incident, the victim's family and about 100 villagers from Moo 4 Tambon Koh Kaew brought Worawut's body to Phuket City Police Station, where they were assured by Provincial Police Deputy Commander Col Chalit Thintanee that the accused officer would be dealt with to the full extent of the law.

Unsatisfied by the assurances, villagers gathered in front



Yongyuth Samarnmit (left, in gray polo shirt), whose son Worawut died after the shooting, speaks to protesters at the Thepkasattri Rd blockade.

of Yabunnoon Mosque about 2 pm and set up a blockade, refusing to let traffic pass.

At 3:15 pm, Phuket City Police Station Superintendent Col Nos Sawetalek arrived to negotiate with the protesters. He offered three assurances in return for them disbanding: 1. Police will not allow the suspect to leave the province; 2. The officer will be suspended from duty during the investigation; and 3. Five villagers will be appointed to the investigation committee.

However, the villagers refused to disperse and instead presented a list demanding:

1. An officer be named responsible for the case;
2. The officer who shot Worawut be discharged from the police force and all police officers assigned to Koh Kaew be assigned to another area;
3. The Crime Suppression Bureau or the Central Investiga-

tion Bureau be involved in the investigation;

4. The officer who shot Worawut pay compensation to the victim's family.

5. Protesters be granted immunity from prosecution for staging the protest.

6. All the demands be agreed in writing.

Col Chalit agreed to the demands, saying that he would be responsible for the case.

The crowd dispersed after the victim's father confirmed that police had accepted their demands.

Col Nos told the *Gazette* that Sgt Prasarn has now been suspended from the police force without pay while the investigation is underway. "We have also moved all six police officers who used to be responsible for Koh Kaew out of the area and installed a new team to replace them," he said.

Contradicting results for Patong's one-way surveys

By Supanun Supawong

PATONG: The results from two public opinion surveys of Patong's one-way traffic system are in – one says the public is in favor of keeping the system, the other says it is not.

Prince of Songkla University, Phuket campus, surveyed 759 people in Patong, with 60% saying that are satisfied with the one-way system, but 40% saying they are not happy with it.

The survey of 662 people conducted by the Policy and Planning Department (PPD) of Patong Municipality, however, shows that only 41.2% of people are in favor of keeping the system while 47.3% want it scrapped – 11.5% declined to respond.

Nawapol Na Nakhorn, an officer at the PPD, said that the survey asked about improvements that should be made and what respondents believe the benefits and disadvantages of the one-way system are.

"The most popular suggestion was to slow down traffic so pedestrians can cross the street safely," K. Nawapol said.

Phuket Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Decha Budnampetch said, "Different people have different opinions, so nobody is right or wrong. The one-way system will stay, but we have to make it better than it is now."

He added that the Phuket Governor will hold a meeting to discuss the one-way system and the survey results.

According to Col Teeraphol Thipjaroen, Superintendent of the Kathu Police Station, the meeting to discuss the future of the one-way system will be held soon, as the end of the evaluation period passed on April 14.

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Third death in the last hours of Songkran

KATHU: In the fading hours of the government's "seven days of danger" road safety campaign over the Songkran holidays, a 17-year-old motorbike rider died after his motorcycle and a Toyota Fortuner collided at the junction of Wichit Songkram Rd and the entrance to Bang Wad Dam.

At a Governor Meets the Press meeting held April 18, the day after the official end of the Songkran holidays, it was explained that Eakasit Khamnoi was driving at 10:35 pm April 17 when his motorcycle and the Fortuner collided. Officials named the driver of the Fortuner as 45-year-old Australian John Ian Roberts.

Eakasit was pronounced dead at the scene.

Mr Roberts has been charged with negligence causing death.

Throughout the nation 361 people were killed in road accidents with 4,805 injured from 4,274 accidents during the seven days of Songkran celebrations.

Gazette onboard Dragonair flights

PHUKET: The *Phuket Gazette* is now on board all Dragonair flights from Hong Kong to Phuket.

Dragonair flights depart Phuket at 6:05 pm Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, arriving in Hong Kong 10:35 pm local time, and at 12:20 pm Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays, arriving in Hong Kong 4:45 pm local time.

In the opposite direction, Dragonair flights depart Hong Kong at 2:40 pm Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, arriving in Phuket 5:05 pm, and at 8:50 am Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays, arriving in Phuket 11:10 am.

The service uses Airbus 320 aircraft, configured with eight Business class and 150 Economy class seats.

Immigration denies dive shop 'shake down'

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET: Phuket Immigration Office Superintendent Pol Col Ittipon Atcharyapradit has denied that Immigration officers were involved in what seems to have been a shake-down attempt at a Patong dive shop on April 3.

He believes the men were impostors.

In an email sent to the *Gazette*, it was explained that a dive instructor emerged from the company's dive training pool, where he had just finished teaching a dive class, when two men arrived claiming they were from Phuket Immigration Office.

The men asked to see the dive in-

structor's work permit and passport.

However, the dive instructor said that he did not have it with him as he had just been submerged in the water.

The men questioned the instructor away from the dive students, and then went to the instructor's house to check his passport and work permit.

Finding that dive instructor was hired legally and had all the necessary paperwork, the two men left, the email said.

Col Ittipon said that Phuket Immigration Office does not send officers to check work permits unless he receives a complaint that foreigners might be breaking the law.

"We did not send any officers to check any work permits on that day, and we have no plans to start doing that."

"To prevent people from imitating Immigration officers, you can ask them to present their Immigration Officer ID card."

"You can also call us to check whether we have sent anyone. You can call Phuket Immigration Office at 076-211905 or call Pol Capt Rassarin Teerapattanakul, the Deputy Inspector who is responsible for Investigation work, at 081-6167933 anytime," he said.

Col Ittipon added that complaints about people imitating government officers can be filed at any local police station.

Crazed taxi driver defends his Jatukam

By Supanun Supawong

PHUKET CITY: Realizing that he had lost one of his precious Jatukam images, a motorbike taxi driver went on a rampage April 16, vandalizing a car and threatening residents of a government housing estate with a large knife.

Capt Nikorn Chuthong of Phuket City Police Station identified the man as Aphinan Chanthana, 41.

"He went crazy after leaving one of his five Jatukam images at an amulet stall [at the bus station on Phang Nga Rd]."

"He believed that staff at the stall had stolen it, but after nobody there confessed to stealing it, he used a large knife to damage a car belonging to one of the staff," Capt Nikorn said.

"After that, about 11 am, he rode off furiously on his motorbike. But as he was fleeing, he saw someone following him. Thinking it was the owner of the car he had just damaged, he rode his motorbike to the government housing estate on Koh Sireh."

Aphinan parked his motorbike outside the estate then walked inside to where he saw Kornthip Sealai, 23, who lives in Building 4 with her younger brother.



AMULET ANGER: Aphinan Chanthana is escorted out of the housing estate on Koh Sireh where he had taken a woman hostage.

Photo: Kom Chad Luek

He threatened K. Kornthip with the knife, demanding that she walk back up to her single-room apartment on the second floor, where her younger brother was.

Some time later, Aphinan heard someone calling out to him from the back of the building, and so he went out onto the back balcony where he saw a policeman in a Fire Department cherry picker talking to him through the wire security grate.

"The policeman tried to per-

sue him to surrender, but he insisted that the police should go away," Capt Nikorn said.

"While Aphinan was talking with the policeman, Kornthip and her brother sneaked out of the room. Police then flooded the room with 'fire extinguishing chemicals' to subdue him, but he protected himself by breathing through a piece of cloth."

"Two hours later, he began to feel weak and he walked downstairs and surrendered to police," Capt Nikorn explained.

"Aphinan is currently at Phuket Provincial Prison. He has been charged with destruction of other people's property and trespassing," he added.

Phi Phi ferry sinks after engine catches fire

KOH PHI PHI: More than 100 tourists were rescued by the Krabi Marine Police after a fire broke out on the ferry they were taking from Phuket to Phi Phi Don Island on April 23.

Phuket Marine Police Officer Lt Col Prathueng Srilamontree identified the vessel as *Jet Wave 3*, which departed from Rassada Harbor in Phuket that morning bound for Phi Phi Don Island.

As the vessel was rounding the Maya Bay area of Koh Phi Phi Lei about 11 am, a fire broke out in the engine room.

Frightened passengers rushed to the bow of the 32-meter vessel, where they waited until a number of speedboats dispatched by the Krabi Marine Police came to their rescue.

All of the tourists were safely transported to Phi Phi Don Island, about 15 minutes away. There were no reports of injury or anyone abandoning ship.

The 85-tonne vessel, one of four owned and operated by the Andaman Wave Master Co, continued to burn and later sunk.

The apparent cause of the blaze was a fuel line leak, Col Prathueng said.

Passengers were later returned to Phuket free of charge if they desired.

Marine Police will likely try to raise and remove the sunken vessel, he added.

The Key Piece of the Puzzle

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Police shooting sparks mob on Koh Yao Noi

By Janyaporn Morel

PHANG NGA: Some 100 angry villagers on Koh Yao Noi descended upon the Koh Yao Police Station on April 21 after a youth, who was shot by a police officer the day before, died from his injuries.

The villagers arrived around 1 pm with the body of 20-year-old Theerawut Kumuda, who died 10 am that morning.

Pol Col Jakkarit Srisuwan, Superintendent of the station, told the *Gazette*, "Around 10:30 pm on April 20 police were informed that about eight youths had refused to pay their restaurant bill. So L/Cpl Surin Muangthip and L/Cpl Boonlert Borisuth went to investigate.

"While they were on the way to the restaurant, which took about 10 minutes, the youths paid the bill, but our officers were unaware of that. So when they arrived they asked who hadn't paid, and that made the group of youths angry and they began swearing at the police, so the police left.

"But as the officers were leaving a fight broke out in the group, and one man was injured, so the officers intervened and

stopped the fight, which angered all the youths.

"The officers then left the restaurant, but they were followed by the youths, who were now carrying a knife and broken bottles.

"About 30 meters from the restaurant one of the officers fired his gun into the air and ordered them not to follow, but Theerawut charged at them. So L/Cpl Boonlert shot him once in the stomach," Col Jakkarit said.

K. Theerawut was rushed to Koh Yao Hospital, then later transferred to Vachira Phuket Hospital, where he died.

"We detained the police officer who shot him and charged him with attempted murder, but we changed the charge to murder when we found out that the victim had died," said Col Jakkarit, adding that the officer was charged because he should not have used his gun when defending himself.

About an hour before the protesters arrived, Phang Nga Vice-Governor Titawat Chao-walit met officers at the police station and heard Col Jakkarit's description of events and a report from the Koh Yao Hospital doc-

tor who treated Theerawut.

"We tried to explain to the villagers that we will follow the law and conduct a fair investigation, but the villagers demanded that we fire the policeman," Col Jakkarit said.

"There was one point that we couldn't concede - they wanted the officer to apologize directly to Theerawut's body. We knew it was impossible to let him do that because as soon as he would have stepped outside he would have been beaten by the mob," he explained.

Col Jakkarit said that around 5 pm the police agreed with K. Theerawut's parents' following demands:

1. that L/Cpl Boonlert be denied bail and remain in prison.
2. that police conduct a fair investigation.

3. that Col Jakkarit request that the Phang Nga Provincial Police Commander suspend the suspect without pay until the investigation is complete.

The victim's parents also requested that L/Cpl Boonlert pay 500,000 baht restitution.

The mob dispersed after L/Cpl Boonlert apologized to the body from his jail cell.



Rescue volunteers work to remove the pickup truck in which five tourists from Krabi were killed in an accident on Thepkrasattri Rd.

Five die in one-car accident

PHUKET CITY: Five Thai tourists from Krabi died after the pick-up truck they were traveling in slammed into a power pole near Super Cheap on Thepkrasattri Rd early on April 18.

The tourists were driving back to Krabi about 5 am when the driver lost control of the car, which careered off the road and into a power pole, Duty Inspector Maj Russada Kluengwong of Phuket City Police Station said.

"The driver was Chumpon Hemphithak, 28. The passengers who died were Theeraphat Tepbud, 21, Tawan Tepbud, 18, Passakorn Pet-awut, 18, and Narin Kundee, 18.

"The only survivor is Anirut Yangkoon, 18," he said.

"We believe the driver did not know the road well or might have dozed off, but from the autopsy we know there was no alcohol in his blood," he added.

B50.6m tin mine museum to open by December

KATHU: Work is complete on the 50.6-million-baht Kathu Mining Museum building, which is expected to open by December.

Project consultant and local historian Sommai Pinphutthasilp told the *Gazette* that construction of the museum building, located on the Kathu-Koh Kaew Rd, began in September 2005.

Work was completed about six months after the target date of October 2006 because of delays in finding a suitable contractor, said K. Sommai.

"We will announce the

opening date within two months, after appointing a subcontractor to install the exhibition pieces.

"Right now only the building itself is complete," he added. "We have to find a subcontractor, which could take some time, but we expect to open this year."

Funding for exhibitions, about 10 million baht, is from the Governor's discretionary provincial development budget.

The 7,000-square-meter museum will tell the story of Phuket's tin mining history and explain the tin mining process.

NESDB meets Gov over development

PHUKET CITY: A representative from the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) met Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit April 23 to discuss a wide range of development issues facing the island.

Thanin Pa-Em, Director of the Competitive Development Office of the NESDB, explained that he was in Phuket to review and follow up on projects supporting development of the island, such as projects that support development of the Meetings, Incentives, Conventions and Exhibitions (MICE) industry, marinas and transportation systems.

"We are not gathering new ideas, we just want to be sure projects will be followed up, and how the NESDB can assist with local problems," he said.

K. Thanin added that the



Thanin Pa-Em, Director of Competitive Development Office of the NESDB.

reshuffling of top brass in Bangkok has led to delays in projects being approved.

"Many projects have not been approved by the central gov-

ernment, but that doesn't mean we are not paying attention. It's because there have been changes in the government. Every time they change the ministers, the priorities change," he said.

Local feedback was also a priority during his visit, K. Thanin said. "We want to see if people throughout Phuket want the same things and have the same opinions."

He said that the NESDB understood Phuket's problem of underfunding from the central government, and that the NESDB is ready to address the issue.

"The budget is not enough because the allocation is according to number of people registered [living on the island], which is very small. The budget is not as much as we need, which we will discuss," he said.

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Bang Neaw Dum:

A trip to the hillside site of the Bang Neaw Dum Reservoir project reveals why the government had difficulty convincing property owners in the area to sell their land so that a dam and reservoir could be built there.

The valley is a property developer's dream. Cool and breezy, it sits at high enough elevation to afford views of the sea in the distance. Although surrounded by rubber plantation, with virgin forest on the highest peaks, it is just three kilometers to the Heroines Monument.

The valley where the dam is being built is home to a natural watercourse known as Klong Bang Neaw Dum, named after one of the most prominent hill peaks in the area, Khao Bang Neaw Dum.

When the earthen dam is completed by the Irrigation Department in May 2008, it will create Phuket's second major reservoir, with a capacity of 7.3 million cubic meters and total catchment area of more than 5.5 square kilometers.

Bang Neaw Dum is one of two new reservoirs being built by the Irrigation Department, the other being a 5.7-million-cubic-meter basin at Klong Krata in Chalong. Still in the planning and land acquisition phase, the Klong Krata project is tentatively scheduled for completion some time in 2009.

Both reservoirs are intended to expand municipal water supply into areas that currently lack service, while easing the burden on the 7.3-million-cubic-meter capacity Bang Wad Reservoir in Kathu, which, along with the island's many abandoned tin mines, has just barely been able to meet demand for water during

The seasonal nature of rainfall in Phuket, coupled with a steady increase in demand for water, has left many parts of the island with chronic dry-season water shortages. Thalang, which lies outside the existing provincial water supply network, has suffered the most.

Groundwater wells on which most of Thalang relies for water dry up or become brackish for longer period each year – especially in coastal areas.

Long-suffering residents will be heartened to know that relief is on the way, in the form of a large dam and reservoir project now about 40% complete in the hill-sides of Baan Manik, in Tambon Srisoonthorn.

The *Gazette's* Sompratch Saowakhon and Stephen Fein report.

several recent dry seasons.

Like much of Tambon Srisoonthorn, the site of the Bang Neaw Dum reservoir was once mined for tin. Evidence of this can be seen in the two tin mine ponds and an old tin mining sledge abandoned in the area.

Acting Director of the Bang Neaw Dum Reservoir project is Irrigation Department official Pornthep Bunyaphaluek.

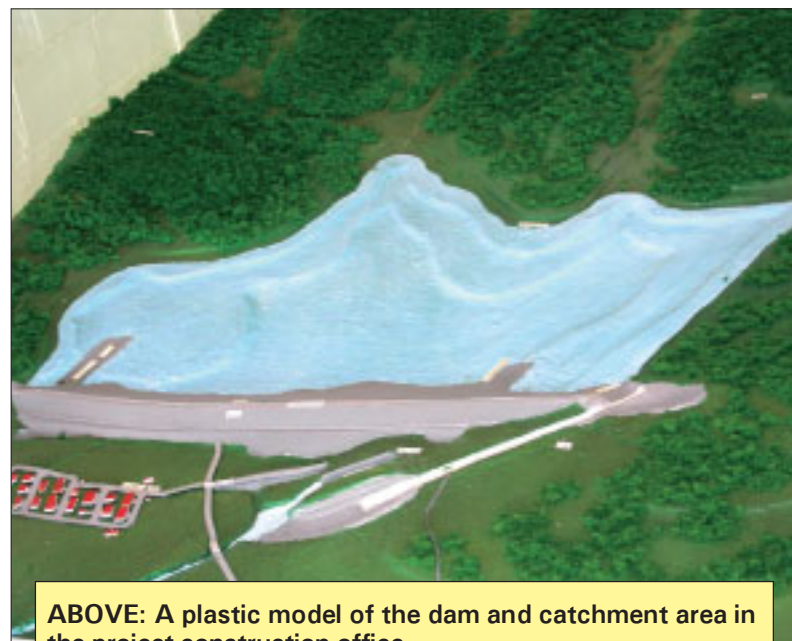
He told the *Gazette* that his department, which falls under the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, is only tasked with sourcing fresh water. Treatment and distribution of the water they collect is the responsibility of the Phuket Provincial Water Supply (PPWS) office, which will use most of the water to keep up with rapid property development in southern parts of Thalang.

Leftover water could be sent south to Muang District, he said.

The PPWS in 2006 built a 17-kilometer pipeline from the privately-held Hitlor and Manik

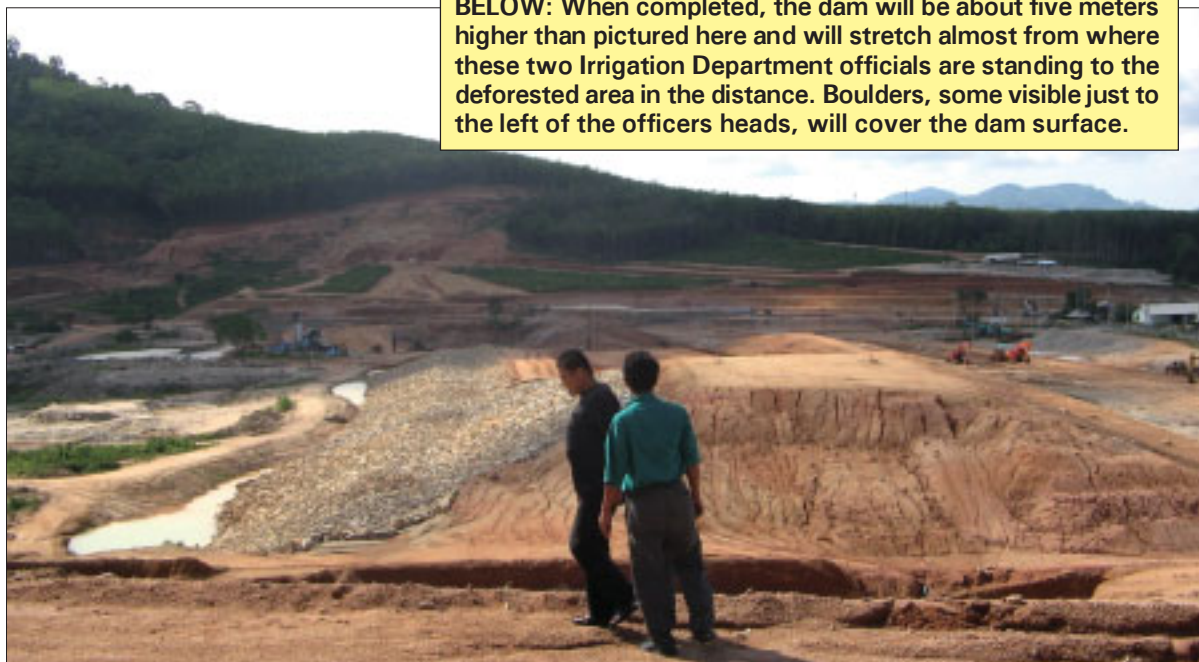
tin mine ponds, also in Tambon Srisoonthorn.

Currently there are about sixteen Irrigation Department officials working at the project site overseeing the work of project contractor Bunchaipanich (1979) Co Ltd, which began work on the



ABOVE: A plastic model of the dam and catchment area in the project construction office.

BELOW: When completed, the dam will be about five meters higher than pictured here and will stretch almost from where these two Irrigation Department officials are standing to the deforested area in the distance. Boulders, some visible just to the left of the officers heads, will cover the dam surface.



463-million-baht project on May 19, 2006. They have until May 17, 2008, to complete the work.

Adding greatly to the total project cost of 820-million-baht was more than 300-million-baht in expenses to acquire 59 plots of privately-held land covering

632 rai, just over one square kilometer.

Owners of plots along the main road were paid 500,000 baht per rai in compensation, while those holding plots along the soi leading up to the dam were paid 400,000 baht per rai. All others



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Phuket Gazette

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It's about dam time



This large concrete spillway will allow excess water to run off safely into Klong Bang Neaw Dum during the rainy season.

were paid 300,000 baht per rai.

Also expropriated were three plots of land, totaling more than 14 rai, that were occupied by people without title deeds. The land acquisition process was completed in 2006.

To be similar in appearance and construction to the dam at Bang Wad Reservoir, the dam at Bang Neaw Dum is being made of compacted clay excavated at the site. The dam's outer surface will be inlaid with large boulders to prevent erosion and add stability.

In addition to a supply pipe to send water to a PPWS treatment plant, the dam will also include an effluent pipe to allow flow to continue along the klong's natural watercourse as well as a

large spillway to release excess water safely during the rainy season.

K. Pornthep said that the potential of seismic activity at a variety of magnitudes had been factored into the dam design to minimize the possibility of an earthquake damaging the structure and causing a flood.

"This is not really a problem to worry about because the dam is being made of clay. Unlike a concrete dam, if there is a seismic event

the clay is pliable enough to adjust itself without cracking," he said.

Irrigation Department experts are closely overseeing the work to ensure it is being built to specifications, he added.

When the dam is complete, five or six Irrigation Department officials will be stationed at the site, which currently houses several small offices and a camp for workers — many of them Bur-



Bang Neaw Dum project director
Pornthep Bunyaphaluek







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Queer News

Why talking to girls may be dangerous

TRANG: An employee at the Trang branch of Tesco Lotus had a lucky escape April 19 when an angry KFC worker attempted to shoot him at point blank range with a shotgun. The cartridge, however, misfired.

About 10 am, Sombun Si-khajan, 31, was working in the tape section as usual when Phichet Kanmak, 33, who worked at the store's branch of KFC, strode up to him, pointed a shotgun at him and pulled the trigger.

K. Sombun was spared from almost certain death however, when the gun made only a sorry click rather than the expected boom.

K. Sombun jumped forward to try and wrest the gun from Phichet before he could get another shot off, causing a fight to break out.

K. Sombun, however, was apparently no match for the enraged Phichet and quickly found himself having his head bashed repeatedly against the counter.

At that point, the supermarket's crack team of security guards somewhat belatedly arrived on the scene and broke up

the scuffle. Phichet made good his escape, but left his shotgun behind.

When police from Trang Muang District Police Station led by Lt Narin Phumsawat arrived on the scene, they found the battered K. Sombun waiting to give a statement.

K. Sombun told police that he was fairly sure that the attack was motivated by jealousy as Phichet had seen him chatting with his girlfriend and may have thought that he was hitting on her. The day before the attack, Phichet had gone to speak to him in the store about the issue, K. Sombun said.

K. Sombun later reported to the police that sometime after the attack, Phichet called him to demand the return of his shotgun and also to tell him that he had "lots of guns".

Police concluded that the motive for the attack was most likely jealousy and said they were still hunting for Phichet. At the time of going to press, they still had no leads as to his whereabouts.

Source: Kom Chad Luek



It looks as though the local authority that provided this fine wooden enclosure for garbage next to Mai Khao Beach, at the end of Soi Maliwan Uthit, may need to think again about the scale of local garbage-dumping needs. The sign on the enclosure reads, naturally, 'Please keep

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it can be the start of a friendship.*



Samui-Penang air service launched

On April 20, the first direct flight took passengers from Koh Samui to Penang in Malaysia. The flight is operated by Malaysian Airlines subsidiary Firefly Airlines and will leave and return from the island city daily.

A test flight from Penang carried passengers to Samui on April 15. These included tourists from Europe, Malaysia and Indonesia, all countries that provide an important source of visitors for Samui.

The plan to introduce a direct flight began when former Samui tourism chief Panu Woramit brought representatives from Malaysia and Indonesia's tourism sector to Samui to exchange ideas and discuss a regional marketing strategy with members of the Tourism Authority of Thailand.

According to Ruengnam Jaikwang, the head of the Thai Hotels Association in the region, during those meetings the idea to open a new route between Samui and Penang was discussed and an agreement was reached.

Wealthier Malaysian and Indonesian tourists have large budgets and increasingly choose to tour their neighboring countries. K. Ruengnam says the new route will encourage greater exchange between the two destinations and also provide convenient opportunity for Samui residents to visit one of Malaysia's most attractive, fascinating cities.

Law clinic: The Samui Municipality Office recently opened a public law center to help local people with legal issues and give them advice on civil and criminal cases, mainly between local businesses.

Surinya Yuennan, Samui's assistant municipality chief, says the island's business sector has developed very fast, which



Firefly Airlines is now providing a daily service between Samui and Penang, using 50-seat Fokker aircraft.

means serious changes are needed, especially in the way some members of the local community deal with problems and disputes.

Unfortunately, few local people are aware of the intricacies of Thai law, which leads to problems, he said.

This project was designed to help local businesspeople reach mutually acceptable agreements based on legal rather than personal criteria. The island authorities also hope the law clinic will help build a better understanding of legal procedures and ethical business practices.

Everyone is welcome at the clinic, where trained public officials are available to answer questions and give their recommendations based on previous cases and legal precedents.

Development holdup: Property developers from the UK and Scandinavia have sold off nearly 6 billion baht worth of projects on Koh Samui because of the island's new city plan and a lack of clarity in the amended Foreign Business Act.

The new city plan on Koh Samui will mandate that property projects cannot be constructed

higher than 150 meters above sea level. As a result, property developers planning projects higher than that must suspend them.

Project land on Koh Samui may be discounted by as much as 10% to 20% from the average price of 5 million baht per rai for seaview locations. Meanwhile, demand for resorts and villas has shown only slight growth since last December because foreign investors are loath to investing without knowing how the

amended Foreign Business Act will affect their ownership status. Many foreign buyers have delayed decisions about buying new homes on Koh Samui.

Land prices on Koh Samui have been stable this year while seaview land prices on Koh Samui recorded double growth from 2 million baht per rai to 4 million baht per rai.

Bike smash: When the Samui volunteer rescue team was

called to the scene of a serious accident in Taling Ngam sub-district, they found a motorbike had crashed head on into an excavator, which was parked by an area of road works without a light or warning sign to show drivers that the road was under construction.

The body of a man was found at the scene of the collision, together with his badly injured passenger, who is Burmese.

Both were taken to the Samui Hospital, the former submitted for an autopsy while officers tried to discover his identity and contact relatives.

There have been other serious accidents in areas where road repairs are taking place. Along with Taling Ngam, the road through Bang Por is another accident hotspot due to the general lack of warning signs or police to direct traffic through hazardous zones.

Samui's roads are already notoriously dangerous, but many local people say that structural repairs currently taking place in many parts of the island are, in many cases, making the roads even more deadly.



FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND

By Barry Singleton



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A hostage-taker was overpowered by police at a gas station in Phang Nga's Thap Put District on the morning of April 21 after grabbing a woman at knife point in a 7-Eleven in Trang Town and attempting to force a policeman to drive them to Bangkok.

The victim, Nophamas Jirawuth, 23, told police that Rithidet Ratanawong, 42, grabbed her arm and threatened her with a knife as she was shopping in 7-Eleven about 1 am. He then ordered a policeman, Snr Sgt Maj Chanchai Suphpol, who was nearby when the incident occurred, to drive them to Bangkok.

For a number of hours, Snr Sgt Maj Chanchai circled the streets of Trang before Rithidet realized and ordered him to take the route to Bangkok. When they reached a Shell service station in Thap Put around dawn, K. Nophamas and Snr Sgt Maj Chanchai both asked for permission to go the toilet.

When K. Nophamas was safe, officers who had been following Snr Sgt Maj Chanchai's car moved in and charged Rithidet, placing him under arrest.

K. Nophamas told police she was putting her change in her purse when Rithidet grabbed her arm and said to her, "I'm sorry, I'll let you go in the morning."

"I was very shocked and so agreed to do as he ordered," K. Nophamas said, "though the whole time I was a hostage, I didn't feel scared as the man talked sensibly, though he did mumble to himself a bit. But I was sure he wouldn't stab me."

Rithidet told police that he had come to Trang with his wife and six fellow workers two days earlier to work in a construction camp. The evening before the incident he had been drinking with friends in the workers' camp and had argued with a friend as he thought his wife was going to leave him for the friend.

"I thought that my friend



Five soldiers were injured when a 10-kilogram roadside bomb tore through their pickup truck in Pattani's Mayo District April 19. A day later, three soldiers were injured and three killed when a larger roadside bomb was detonated next to their patrol vehicle in neighboring Yarang District.

Hostage forgives 'polite' kidnapper

was going to come and shoot me to shut me up so I ran out of the camp. I can't remember how I got to the 7-Eleven. About 1 am as I was standing outside the store, four or five youths walked up to me. I thought they were going to attack me so I ran into the store. Inside I saw knives for sale so picked one up and used it to take K. Nophamas hostage," Rithidet said.

He added that he hadn't intended to create such a big incident, he had just wanted to be

safe and to return to his native Sakon Nakhon province and see his seven-year-old daughter who lived with his ex-wife.

K. Nophamas said she did not want to press charges against Rithidet as he had spoken politely to her and had complied when she asked him not to grasp her so hard and not to hold the knife to her throat. Lt Col Nirat Pandam, Deputy Superintendent of Trang Muang District Police Station, however, said that Rithidet will be charged with unlawful detention and attempted murder.

Marooned: Eight fishing boat crew members were found deserted on Satun's Koh Kwiang April 19 claiming that they had

been attacked by a group of pirates in a long-tail boat.

The men were discovered by a fellow fisherman who reported their plight to Satun's Marine Police. The men were picked up by a police patrol boat and taken to the Marine Police Office.

One of the crew members, Thanom Sinseng, 60, told police that they were on their way to Perlis in Malaysia when the incident occurred. When they were passing Koh Phi, about half a nautical mile from the shore, a long-tail boat with five men inside pulled up along side them. The men in the long-tail boat then threatened them with a rifle and two pistols and forced them to board the long-tail. All eight crew

members were then dumped on Koh Kwiang, about one nautical mile from Koh Tarutao, K. Thanom said.

Col Lertchai Thinrath, Superintendent of Marine Police Region 9, said that he had ordered three patrol boats to hunt for the stolen vessel.

Patriarch cuts off amulets: His Holiness the Supreme Patriarch will no longer provide materials from Wat Bowon Niwet, his temple in Bangkok, such as ash from incense or powder from bricks, to make the Jatukham Rammathep amulets that have sparked a crime wave in Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

The amulets, which are believed to have magical powers and cost up to 600,000 baht apiece, can only be made with the permission of the southern province's Wat Phra Mahathat Woramahawiharn.

The Supreme Patriarch has provided materials to produce amulets to all temples and individuals that request them but will now stop doing so, the office of his secretary announced yesterday. It did not say why.

Interest in the amulets began in the middle of last year and hit fever pitch this year. On April 9, a woman was crushed to death when thousands of people rushed into a school in Nakhon Sri Thammarat to buy coupons they could exchange for the amulets.

The amulets have become the main target of thieves in Nakhon Sri Thammarat, said Colonel Yanaphat Norasing, Superintendent of the province's Muang District Police Station.

Amulet robberies occur daily, local residents say. On April 22, 30 amulets worth 15,000 baht were stolen from the residence of Phra Palad Nikom Kamalo, Abbot of Wat Nam Song in Muang district.

Earlier in the month, a thief broke through the ceiling of an amulet stall in the province and made off with more than 200,000 baht worth of Jatukham Rammathep amulets.

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

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Safety measures at waterfalls

After 38 holidaymakers at three waterfalls in Trang province were swept to their deaths by fierce torrents during Songkran, all natural tourist attractions vulnerable to flash-floods across the country will get alarm systems or disaster-warning towers.

Towers equipped with sirens and loudspeakers will be built at waterfalls with suitable terrain.

The sirens will have crank handles so that they are not dependent solely on electricity, said Anucha Mokekhawes, Director-General of the Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Department.

The department's local offices and provincial authorities under the Interior Ministry were assigned by Deputy Interior Minister Banyat Chansena to work together to implement the project.

Evacuation drills would be held regularly while safety measures would be tailored for each site. Safe areas should be designated for swimming, while park rangers and lifeguards would be on standby at each location, K. Anucha said.

Taking stock: Police on April 19 arrested a man who has swindled more than 20 women, whom he met initially through online chat rooms.

Wutthirat Limson, 21, was arrested at Lat Phrao Soi 122 in Bangkok while allegedly trying to swindle his latest victim. Bang Khen police had been following him because of the many arrest warrants issued against him.

The suspect, who has been charged with theft, fraud and extortion, is a vocational school dropout. He told police he preyed on about 20 women whom he got to know through online chatting. He had sex with some, he said.

Bang Khen police who



Officers at the Nambuengkarn Police station in Nongkhai, along with Forestry Police officers from neighboring Udon Thani Province, arrested Dok Wiangluang (center) for smuggling live wild animals and animal carcasses into the Kingdom. The woman, a Lao national, was caught selling the wildlife right in front of the Nambuengkarn Municipality offices.
— Photo Nittisak Setthasangsri.

made the arrest quoted him as saying that he usually lied to the women that his father "owned a private hospital" and he himself worked as a stock analyst with a financial firm. His latest scam netted about 1.4 million baht in cash and a car, he said.

Porn tips: Social Development and Human Security Minister Paiboon Wattanasiritham wants the police to prosecute operators of 250 websites that allegedly show pornographic cartoons.

"I will refer this issue to the police so that legal proceedings against the people behind these websites can start," said K. Paiboon on April 19, during a meeting on "Safe and Positive Media".

Thousands of youths visit these websites every day, he said.

"These young people will develop incorrect perceptions about sex," he warned.

Paiboon said a ministerial

committee on safe and positive media resolved to push for harsher punishment against pornographers, who face fines of up to 6,000 baht and three years in jail.

The Positive Media Operation Center hotline number, 1111,

receives at least 35 complaints of allegedly improper media each day.

Counter-corruption: The Justice Ministry will propose draft legislation concerning the retrieval of overseas assets that have been obtained through corruption. The legislation will go before the Cabinet in mid-May.

The ministry will propose laws for retrieving assets in any country, as well as amendment of Article 87 of the Criminal Code to scrap the statute of limitations in cases when those accused have fled the country, K. Tongthong said.

If the Thai court ordered the assets to be seized, officials in the country where the illegal assets were held would be required to place them on the market. The proceeds would then be returned to the Thai authorities, he said.

The legislation's implementation will reportedly be hurried so that it falls within this government's term.

Risky businesses: Companies involved in mining, consumer-goods production and the construction industry were the worst offenders last year in terms of breaching worker safety laws, the Labor Protection and Welfare Department announced.

Agency Chief Padungsak Thephasdin na Ayutthaya said the department had inspected safety measures at 19,820 workplaces and found that the vast majority, 86%, observed the labor safety laws.

Of the 2,657 law-breaking workplaces, the top five sectors at fault were the mining industry (at 30% of the sites inspected); consumer-goods production (22%); construction (19%); transport and logistics (13%); and electricity, gas and waterworks (10%).

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

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By Semacote Suganya

Most gas stations in Phuket close at about 10 pm, so what do you do if you are out and about after that time, and running low on fuel?

A doctor and his family have brought to Phuket a solution that is decades old in other parts of the world – a self-service coin-operated petrol pump and installed it on Chao Fa West Rd.

Dr Kamol Prinyanusorn, a medical doctor, has started a side business of running a petrol service pump to bring in extra income for him and his wife Wanida "Ae" Patan.

"First he looked on the Internet, then we saw there are many in Krabi. He has been interested in this for a few years. There is another one beside Prince of Songkla University," said K. Ae.

The self-service pumps' "Minipump 51" logo comes from the couple's house number and yellow was chosen so the sign would be easy to see after dark.

"We invested about 200,000 baht when we opened the mini service pump at the beginning of March," said Dr Kamthorn Prinyanusorn, Dr Kamol's father.

The self-service gas pumps are easy to work and will take both coins and bank notes (20 baht, 50 baht or 100 baht) 24 hours a day. The bank note must be flat for the machine to accept it, but otherwise seems to work well.

"Once someone tried to use something like an M100 bottle cap, it made the machine malfunction because it knew that was not the real coin, so we knew something was wrong with it. The machine stopped working until we fixed it, we lost clients during that time, but we did not lose any petrol," said Dr Kamthorn.

"The main client group is young motorbike riders at night time. Sometimes it's like a meeting point here," K. Ae said.

She added that many people have said it's very convenient and they appreciate that they can put just a few baht worth of petrol in their bikes.

"There are cars that use our pump but we have limited length of plastic tube so it is not always long enough to transfer petrol to



FILL 'ER UP: The tanks outside Dr Kamol Prinyanusorn's home deliver 91-octane gasoline because that is what most motorbikes use. The coin-operated pumps are located on Chao Fah West Rd.

Doctor cures late night fuel woes

the cars," K. Ae said.

The downside of the coin-operated pumps is they do not give change.

"One customer had 100 baht and wanted to fill up only 60 baht. However, I was there at the time, I just gave her 40 baht change from my pocket," said Dr

Kamthorn.

The pump has two tanks, a 400-liter tank and a 200-liter tank, that tell the operators when the tanks are getting low. Dr Kamthorn then buys more petrol to manually refill the tanks. They choose to put 91 petrol in the pump, since that is what most

motorbike users prefer.

"We do worry about some-one damaging our pump or even fires because we are not here all the time," K. Ae said.

My husband is dealing with some friends to add another two mini pumps under the 51 logo this year," she added.

From a financial angle, Dr Kamthorn said, "We expect to get the return on our investment in about two years. We usually fill up the petrol tanks every day."

Aside from manually refilling the tanks, there is one other complaint – carrying all the coins to the bank.

"We have to sort out the different type of coins, then take them to the bank. It's heavy for me to carry the coin bags sometimes," said Dr Kamthorn.

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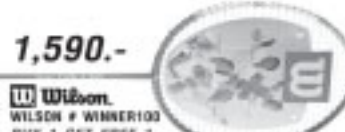
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CONTINENTAL COMFORT

Even when the warm, tropical rains lash down I still feel every now and then the need for comfort, and particularly for the comforting, homemade food much like I had during cold harsh winters back in Scotland.

This hadn't occurred to me as I made the relatively long trip south to La Villa on Kwang Road in the Bann Prangthong residential estate.

I was a little apprehensive about going to a restaurant in a housing estate and didn't want to be eating in such surroundings, but I got a completely different impression when I arrived.

There is a large plot of land and only a few houses dotted around, this affords La Villa plenty of freedom to create its own atmosphere with no hint of the "neighbors" peeking in.

From the outside, La Villa seems modestly-sized but after one is greeted at the entrance by pleasantly attentive staff, it takes on a Tardis-like quality and opens out as broad and beautifully as the train of a peacock, giving a whole new complexity to the area within.

The main dining room has just four dining tables, providing an intimacy I didn't expect. There is also an understated and comfortable lounge area, so it doesn't require a large number of people or a busy night to create an atmosphere of warmth.

The tall patio doors open out onto a swimming pool and on either side of this are two smaller buildings, which were very intriguing. What exactly are they for? It was at this point that Eric Bayon, the manager and gracious host, informed me that La Villa was once a small private resort and has only recently been converted to its current form.

On the left there is a small villa, which would once have been accommodation, that has been transformed into a private room that can seat around 24 people. It was reflected on the right with two smaller rooms for 12, which would be perfect for private business meetings.

These more private areas



The main room contains just four tables, but exploration discovers many delights beyond. The food, too, such as the beef tenderloin (above), is a delight.



are just steps away from the main area so service never suffers. The rooms give you the option of having your own quarters, or being in your own dining room and are perfect for large groups and families who want to create their own atmosphere as each room has its own sound system.

What really caught my attention, though, was what I could see out on the lake that edges the garden of La Villa. Walking down through the garden we moved effortlessly across floating pontoons to inspect a quite unworldly sight.

There seemed to be huge lights bursting out of the water and as we took a closer look, Eric assured me we were not being invaded by other beings. They were in fact lights coming from floating swimming pools. Five of them. These are fully functional pools and range in depth from half a meter to four meters. Each pool has a little twist with diving bridges and balancing beams.

These will come into their own next month when La Villa begins opening during the day with a buffet menu, as there will be fishing and canoeing for the kids on the lake – while the rest of us enjoy our food in peace. At

night however, the pools become the perfectly serene backdrop for a pre- or post-dinner drink.

We seat ourselves on the sofa and have a chat about food and find out that Eric wants to bring a bit of real French country food to the area. You know, the sort of things grandmothers make, with their own little take on those famous traditional recipes.

Could this be the food I'd searched for in the rain?

We started with some canapés and in particular the parma ham on homemade bread with a slither of mango gave me that little bit of a zing to sharpen up the taste buds.

The menu had a good mix of traditional French food without forgetting that time moves on so there was a hint of a modern edge too. I decided on the carrot and poppy seed salad with scallop and courgette, with saffron pistils and tomato vinaigrette, at 420 baht.

After a long day it was just what I needed as the fresh burst of the courgette complemented the slightly tangy carrot and poppy combination to bring my senses to life.

The tuna and scallop tartar with sake marinated salmon roe and raspberry sauce, 620 baht, was equally refreshing and made me think more of sunning myself

grams for 800 and 1,200 baht, and by the look on my companion's face there would be no arguments there. I have rarely seen a dish attacked with such gusto.

As you may imagine, after these dishes we were feeling rather full but as Eric pointed out while smiling broadly, "you have just had a French meal". All we needed now was to retire to the sofa and fall asleep.

The thing is though, I am definitely a dessert fan and to help our stomachs agree to squeezing a little more in, Eric suggested a 180-baht lemon sorbet with a dash of vodka.

Amazingly it worked and before long I was tucking into the chocolate mousse, 260 baht, while the Coupe Romanoff, 280 baht, was being enjoyed on the other side of the table.

The remarkable thing was, that after all of this rich, homey food, in a lovely warm environment I didn't feel cumbersome or tired. In fact I felt so light and fresh after such a culinary treat that the long road home to the north seemed to go by in a flash.

Before I knew it I was in bed and dreaming of the rain lashing against the windows as I sat and looked out – while eating my grandma's winter cooking.

La Villa is in Baan Prangthong on Kwang Rd, Wichit. Tel: 076-264031. Website: www.lavilla-phuket.com

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LOBSTER HOUSE

It's a tall order for a beauty queen

As the tallest Miss Thailand Universe ever, Farung 'Kwang' Yuthithum – Miss Thailand Universe 2007 – is preparing to represent the country at the upcoming Miss Universe pageant. The beauty queen was recently in Phuket to help with a 2007 Sea Turtle Conservation Ceremony, releasing turtles into the sea at the Sheraton Grande Laguna Beach hotel on April 11. She took some time out from giving speeches, greeting people and helping sea turtles to talk with the *Gazette's* Supanun Supawong about what brought her to these heights and what she planned to do while in Phuket.

It's been a rough year in the world of beauty pageants, with Donald Trump's Miss Universe pageant coming under fire as he saw the winner of the preliminary Miss USA pageant carted off to alcohol and drug rehab while other competitors resigned due to pregnancy and underage drinking.

As Trump's Miss Universe crown seems to tarnish, there's no doubt in the minds of pageant followers that the judges this year will be looking for someone with

outstanding morals, quiet social life and, of course, international beauty.

Nineteen-year-old Miss Thailand Universe 2007 Farung "Kwang" Yuthithum has had a normal family life of sorts; her mother is a former beauty queen and her father works in the Thailand prison system as Deputy Director of Pathum Thani Provincial Prison.

Kwang soon will be studying her third year at the Rajamangala University of Technol-



ogy Thanyaburi in English for International Community with the hope of eventually becoming an ambassador. She credits her father with helping shape her thoughts on current news and political situations.

"My mother is from Lampang and my father from Pathum Thani, where we live now. My father talks with me about news and policies.

"My mother was once Miss Lampang so she always supports me and gives me suggestions such as taking care of my skin,

eating healthy foods and developing my personality," the reigning beauty queen said.

Could this upbringing and family care be what pageant organizers are searching for this year? Who can say for sure. But one edge Kwang feels she has is her height. Standing 179 centimeters tall with the enviable measurements of 33-24-33, Kwang credits her stature as one of the factors for winning the Miss Thailand Universe title.

"I think the reasons that I won Miss Thailand Universe

2007 are my personality, my height and appearance, and my answers to the on-stage questions in the final round," she said.

Kwang feels her height, she is the tallest Miss Thailand Universe to date, will help her stand out and will give her Asian beauty and sharp features a boost, perhaps to the Miss Universe crown. In comparison, the current Miss Universe, from Puerto Rico, measures in at 175cm.

Kwang grew up admiring pageants and the beautiful women who ruled them, obviously influenced by her mother's reign as a beauty queen. "My mother has her Miss Lampang crown and sash at home and I always watched beauty pageants on television so those were my inspiration. Also I saw Khun Pornthip when she won Miss Thailand Universe. All of this made me want to be Miss Thailand Universe."

Thailand is home to two former Miss Universes, Apasara Hongsakula in 1965, who holds the distinction of being the shortest Miss Universe ever crowned, and Pornthip Nakhirunkanok in 1988.

"After I won, I was so very glad and happy because it's a big



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During her first trip to Phuket Miss Thailand Universe 2007 Farung 'Kwang' Yuthithum helped release turtles, and said she would remember the beauty of the sea, white sand beaches and sea life. She added that, at the Miss Universe pageant in Mexico City, she would speak of how Phuket has recovered from the 2004 tsunami.

contest. I get to be the representative of Thailand at the world-wide pageant Miss Universe 2007. I made many friends at the Miss Thailand Universe pageant, I met new people and I have learned a lot such as the importance of responsibility and patience. It was one of the best experiences in my life," said Kwang.

But in the days leading up to the Miss Universe pageant, to be held in May in Mexico City, this beauty has a lot of work to do including learning how to walk on stage and how to do her make up and hair for the pageant, as well as how to dress.

She says that her duties as the reigning Miss Thailand Universe aren't interfering with her studies, as she is currently on holiday. But when duty calls she knows that with her crown comes responsibility.

"After I became Miss Thailand Universe, my life changed. I have to do many things such as go out for social events and pre-

pare myself for the Miss Universe contest in Mexico. It is my job to do anything that is a Miss Thailand Universe responsibility," said Kwang.

At the Mexico City pageant Kwang will also have to showcase a talent of hers. She is working with Miss Thailand Universe committee members to plan a piano solo, as Kwang teaches piano to kids and adults. She is hoping that she will be able to perform a song written by HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

"I will do my best at the

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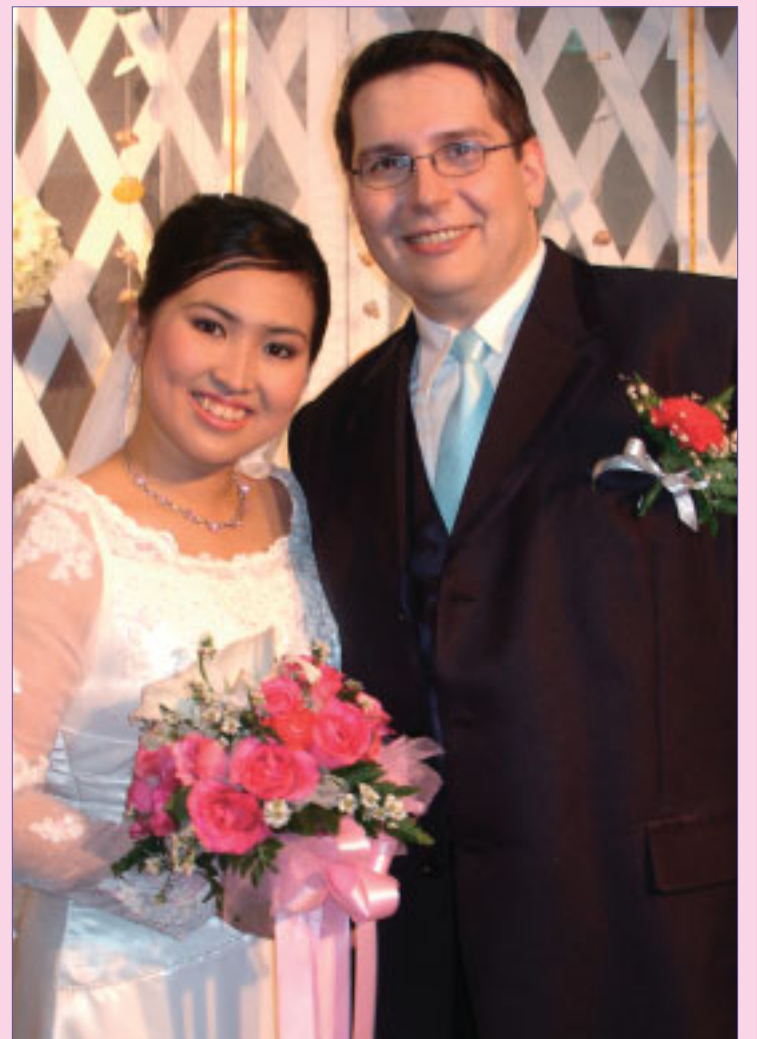
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Recent weddings in Phuket



Above: Panida Rassami and Boonchai Phoncharoen were married in the Phra Pitak Grand Ballroom at The Metropole Hotel on March 25.

Right: Nine days earlier, also at The Metropole, Pinchanok Sombat married Andria from Germany.



*Happily
Ever
After*

Miss Universe 2007 contest. If I win Miss Universe 2007, the first thing that I will do is thank everyone who has given me moral support."

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This week



HAPPY HOSTING: International singing sensation Tata Young (center) and boyfriend Prem Budsarakamwong (2nd from right) are welcomed to the Burasari Resort in Patong by (from left) General Manager Chris Green, Managing Director Lily Udomkunnatum and Resident Manager Conor O'Leary.



EGGSELLENT: The Easter Bunny (center, red fur) hangs with a few of his friends during the Easter Egg Hunt at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort and Spa's Kidz Paradise.



SWANKY SILK: Silk Air's Thailand Manager Ajish Suny Henry Morris (back row, in white) hosts an "Indian Night" party for his Phuket staff at the Naithonburi Beach Resort.

PLAY IT AGAIN: Pop singer Ford performs at a birthday party at Ba Le Restaurant on Phuket Rd, Phuket City, using his saxophone and vocal abilities to swoon the full house of fans.



SPORTING CHANCE: To celebrate the opening of their fifth Phuket branch of Super Sports, CRC Sports Co Ltd Managing Director Nath Vongphanich (center) joined by Super Sports staff presents Patong Municipality Deputy Mayor Chairat Sukkaban (2nd from left) with free sports equipment for schools in the



SAFE SHOPPING: The Phuket Branch Manager of Property Care Services, Scott Duncanson (2nd from right), reviews the preparedness of a few of his security officers with Jungceylon General Manager Kornarong Thailachumras (center).



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By Jeff Heselwood

A 4x4 that is often overlooked is the Subaru Forester. The Forester features permanent all-wheel drive as well as the unique flat-four, horizontally-opposed two-liter engine.

This unusual engine configuration of having the pistons in a horizontal position, rather than vertical, apparently produces less vibration and a lower center of gravity, while also, of course, contributing to a lower hood line.

The Forester, with its two-liter gasoline engine, produces a reasonable 158bhp (116kW) at 6,400rpm and 186Nm of torque. Not a performance vehicle, but solid enough all the same. Where the car does score, however, is with its sophisticated all-wheel drive (AWD) system that ensures constant stability and even cornering.

The Subaru drive system is symmetrical, eliminating any power losses. Everything from the engine to transmission, transfer to propeller shaft and rear differential is logically arranged in-line without the doglegs or deviations



of other four-wheel-drive setups. Full-time AWD has distinct advantages over two-wheel drive, particularly in cornering. By transmitting power simultaneously through all four tires, the vehicle steers neutrally and naturally – no running wide or lift-off tuck in. It is inherently safer, while if required the Forester will happily go off road and cope with difficult terrain.

The “boxer” engine is light and compact. Horizontally-opposed pistons are reportedly smoother and more efficient than conventional in-line or V-type configurations. Rotational balance is maintained because the pistons counteract each other meaning less vibration, while the lower center of gravity also contributes to overall stability.

The Forester is well finished inside and out, with leather trim available on some models. Dual airbags are fitted, along with active headrests to help eliminate whiplash. The front seats can be adjusted for height, while the rear

seats fold in a 60:40 split, or can be laid flat to accommodate larger loads. The top Forester models have a special rear suspension that maintains an even ride, even when fully laden.

Safety features abound, particularly within the high-strength cab. The ring-ribbed safety “cage” integrates the roof, door, window pillars and the floor into one strong energy-absorbing framework. It encloses the entire passenger compartment, ready to dissipate impact energy no matter which direction it comes from.

Pedestrian safety is another consideration and the low hood line of the Forester aids this. The hood is made of aluminum and there are energy-absorbing front bumpers and breakaway module windshield wipers. The Forester is not listed on the Euro NCAP crash tests, but it is reasonable to assume it would get high marks.

With the Forester, the tiny, by Japanese standards, automaker is contributing to comfort and safety at a reasonable cost.

Prices for the Subaru Forester start at just over two million baht for the entry-level model. The Forester is available from Motor Image Subaru Co Ltd in Thailand. More information is available at www.motorimage.net/th/

Jeff Heselwood may be contacted by sending an email to jhc@netvigator.com

5

12

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To be continued on May 12, 2007. Here!!

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Pirates



Thai model and designer Metinee Kingpayom launched her lingerie collection, "Metinee by Jintana", in Phuket recently with a fashion show in Patong.

Metinee by Jintana had its Phuket debut at the Jungceylon Grand Opening Ceremony Celebration summer fashion show.

Other brands displayed on the catwalk included Phuket Mermaids, Levi's, Rip Curl and Surfer's Paradise.

With the theme "The Pirates of the Andaman", the fashion show drew a large crowd with its accompanying light-sound-dance show (left) and sizzling summer fashions with today's hottest bikini and lingerie trends.

There are four collections by Metinee: "Kiss" is designed

for teenagers with a colorful, soft look; "Grace" is a smooth, classic style appropriate for any occasion, mainly done in black and brown; "Passion" is designed for sexy working women, made from lace and pastel cloth; "Lacey Eyes" is very strong and sexy underwear made from dwindling cloth with the main colors being black and red.

The partnership gives the lingerie company a fresh look and has been attracting more attention to the brand as well.

Prices start at 300 baht. New collections will be launched every two months, and will include swimwear, sportswear and pajamas.

Metinee by Jintana lingerie is now available at Central, Big C, Tesco Lotus and Carrefour, with more stores to be added soon.

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

Thailand Tatler Best Restaurants Award 2004, 2005 & 2006

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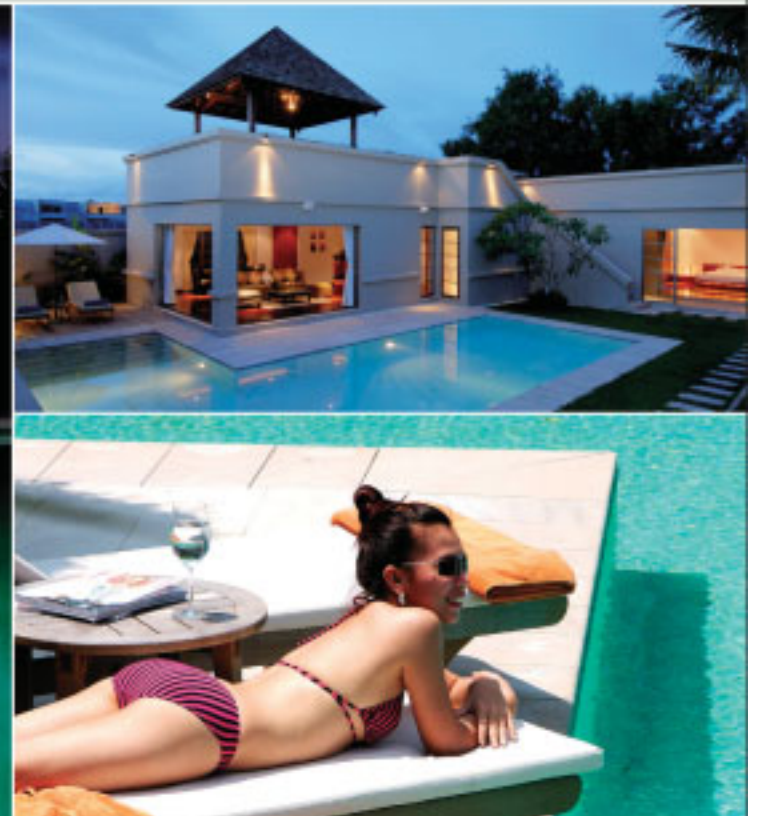


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We want our customers to have a good treatment. We can help them relieve their mental and physical tensions, that's the reason we used this name for our spa," Araya Limpanudom, Body & Mind Spa Owner, tells me when I visit her spa at Boat Lagoon.

Body & Mind Spa was first established at Karon Beach three years ago and due to high demand this second branch has been set up as a garden day spa.

K. Araya says her garden spa aims to serve residential customers, unlike the first branch at Karon beach where almost all the customers are tourists. So far, she adds, the response has been excellent.

I sit at the reception lounge sipping the hot bale-fruit drink while listening as K. Araya explains the spa. I look around the spa area, finding that this is another tranquil place where I can seek some relaxation.

The spa sits on about one rai of land, surrounded by lush, green gardens with a lotus pond at the center.

There are three wooden buildings decorated in Thai-Balinese style at the edge of the garden. K. Araya takes me around the area and explains that there are five double treatment rooms and each room is attached to an outdoor bathtub and shower.

There are two private Thai massage rooms, a room with two seats for foot massages, and also a sauna and a steam room.

The spa menu starts with foot massages at 600 baht for 60 minutes and also offers body wraps, scrubs or facial massages starting at 1,000 baht for 60 minutes. There are also many spa



DAY AND NIGHT: Carefully-thought-out lighting ensures the spa is warmly welcoming at any time.

packages to choose from, beginning at 1,600 baht for 90-minute treatments. All treatments include hot herbal tea, fresh fruit and juice. The prices exclude the 10% service charge and 7% government tax.

The Body & Mind Garden Spa also provides "spa cuisine" - they work with Porto to create cuisine packages with low-calorie and delicious entrees and treats to complete a day at the spa.

K. Araya introduces me to the spa's very popular signature treatment, the Secret Jasmine

Rice. K. Araya loves this treatment because she saw her grandmother and mother use it when she was young.

"People come to spas in Thailand because they want to experience original Thai treatments with Thai herbs, so that's what we do," says K. Araya.

Another popular treatment at Body & Mind Spa is the coconut scrub. The spa also gives advice to customers concerning their skin, as there are some treatments would be not suitable for certain skin types.

"Our customers can choose the massage oils they want and our menus are flexible because we want them to enjoy themselves and to be as relaxed as possible," K. Araya explains.

I opt to have the three-hour Secret Jasmine Rice treatment at 3,300 baht, and I follow therapist Nitiporn "Tom" Saenkhwa, who has five years' spa experience, to a private treatment room.

I undress and start my outdoor shower, although I feel a bit strange and concerned that somebody might see me from outside. But it's just my nerves and my shower is ended without anyone disturbing me.

I am then told to climb on the massage bed for the first step of the Secret Jasmine Rice treatment, a body scrub. K. Tom scrubs all over my body with the jasmine rice scrub paste, and I can smell the scent of the rice throughout the treatment. This step takes one hour, then I am told

to shower off the scrub. I can tell that my skin is more radiant and soft after I dry off.

The second step begins with an aromatherapy massage. K. Tom massages my back and front with a jasmine-scented oil and I sometimes drift off as the massage she gives me is very soothing. K. Tom finishes the aromatherapy massage and begins the last step - a facial massage, which feels wonderful and relaxes all my body.

I finish my three-hour full body treatment and come out with feeling very relaxed to have some fresh fruit and orange juice. I am happy when I meet up with a friend who greets me saying that my face and skin are looking very nice. Thank you Body & Mind!

Special discounted rates are available until October 31, 2007.

For more information contact Body & Mind Garden Spa, 22/1 Boat Lagoon Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200. Reservation can be made at Tel: 081-7197788 or visit website at: www.body-mindspa.com

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TALES OF A TRAVELER

By Ed Peters

From time to time, cruise ships anchor in Patong Bay, glistening like spacecraft and, it almost goes without saying, looking undeniably inviting. The popularity of cruising rises and falls, and is sometimes seen as the choice of only the newlywed and the nearly-dead – that is, honeymooners and seniors.

Ocean-going ships were once the speediest and most comfortable way to get about the globe. Temporarily eclipsed by air travel and the so-called jet set, they are now making a comeback. Relatively new to what it calls “The Far East”, the Italian cruise line Silversea is currently including Phuket and Bangkok as stops on its Asian voyages, mini-odysseys which are all the more welcome for their all-inclusive pricing and strict ban on staff gratuities.

Wherever passengers are headed, they know they have arrived on Silversea from the very moment they step on board. White-gloved waiters deferentially offer a glass of chilled champagne, setting the tone for the days ahead at sea.

How passengers occupy themselves in the days ahead is very much a matter of personal choice, perhaps starting out with an alfresco breakfast, dallying for an hour or two’s pampering in the spa, browsing the designer boutiques or the Internet, working up a sweat with a game of water polo, simply unwinding in the whirlpools or catching up with a few classics in the extensive library.

It’s well known that cruise ship passengers’ waistlines often gain an inch or two during their voyage thanks to the exemplary cuisine that’s laid on from dawn to dusk and beyond. Indeed, there’s temptation aplenty with Silversea, whose open dining policy allows guests to eat with the companions of their choice at whatever time they feel like it.



GLISTENING LIKE A SPACECRAFT: The *Silver Whisper* (above) is one of Italian cruise line Silversea’s four ships

JUST LIKE HOME: The owner’s suite aboard the *Silver Whisper*.



Silversea enjoys an exclusive partnership with the celebrated Relais & Chateaux Gourmands Association and the main restaurant’s menu lines up 30 signature dishes created exclusively by Relais & Chateaux guest chefs. Plus, of course, there’s an array of fine wines from around the world, all complimentary, as accompaniment.

If Silversea’s ships are lively by day, by night they posi-

tively hum. Whether it’s a toe-tapping Broadway-style show, a moonlight movie on deck, a flutter in the casino or simply easing into one of the intimate bars for a quiet drink and a chat, there’s something to suit all tastes.

And with an eye on the possibilities of piling on the pounds, Silversea provides an onboard wellness program, based around a fitness center that bristles with state of the art equipment, where

instruction in pilates and yoga is also available, as are personalized health programs and dietary advice.

All four of the Silversea fleet were built and outfitted in Italy, following a Norwegian design. The suites vary in size from 22 to 112 square meters, with an interior decor that is both impressive and tasteful.

An Italian marbled bathroom with full size bath and

shower and Acqua di Parma amenities, personalized stationery on the writing desk, a walk-in wardrobe, an entertainment center that buzzes with choice, and a personal safe combine to make this a seaborne home away from home.

Silversea has three planned stopovers in Phuket in the next two years. The first will on the Mumbai-to-Singapore cruise in December of this year.

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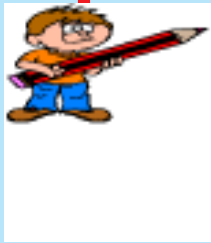
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Puzzles

Spot the Difference



Can you find the seven differences between the two cartoons below? And can you find them faster than the rest of the family?
Solution on next page.



su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

V. EASY

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

The Cryptic Crossword

ACROSS

1. Depending on temporary military unit. (10)

6. Irritating meat. (4)

10. Uncooked, first class vil- lage. (5)

11. Eat flexible prayer. (9)

12. Hostility for cardinal in time reverse? Yes. (6)

13. Deceleration of rather dim feathers. (8)

15. Set up in booth. (7)

17. Gravity and distance of outlying farm. (6)

20. You lasso continent, we hear. (6)

22. Fat man’s walk after junction? Rubbish! (7)

26. Din rap, or odd sky faller. (8)

27. Arab city wine. (6)

30. Please for small French particles. (9)

31. That woman there, on a bird. (5)

32. Acidic dessert. (4)

33. Policeman for each boss snake. (10)

DOWN

1. Dog a handful – time to be in. (6)

2. Four points to chap in media. (7)

3. Fool it around Diana ring. (5)

4. Blow to bend in gut. (4)

5. North American tree weapon. (6)

7. Plan, too, in part of com- pany. (7)

8. True mien of confused rebel. (8)

9. Stared angrily; shine point to commie. (8)

14. Get ill, it’s said, from beer. (3)

16. Record it in tidy warmth. (8)

18. Broken down of the French, I crept about... (8)

19. ...or, they say, feeling of wonder. (3)

21. I got in list of names to have a lot of fun. (7)

23. Fodder city. (7)

24. Excessively ornamented, or back to two firms. (6)

25. Under influence of drugs, delivered biblical punishment. (6)


28. Guide us to her. (5)

29. Senior back to vice president – please reply. (1,1,1,1)

Compiled by Tortuus. © 2007



Scribble Space



EZ TRIVIA QUIZ

1. How many items are there in a gross?

2. In which country is Mecca?

3. Which planet orbits between the Sun and Mars?

4. What Italian food name means “little strings”?

5. Madonna is trying to adopt a child from which country?

6. Mattock, hoe, bradawl and secateurs; which of these is not a garden implement?

7. Who is Prime Minister of Britain?

8. What does HIV stand for?

9. How many legs does a prawn have?

10. What is the standard Thai mains voltage?

Answers on next page

Rhyme Time

The words described below all rhyme with “nose”.

What are they?

1. Garden imple- ment.

2. Snooze.

3. Sit.

4. Went up.

5. Flower.

6. Went from liquid to solid.

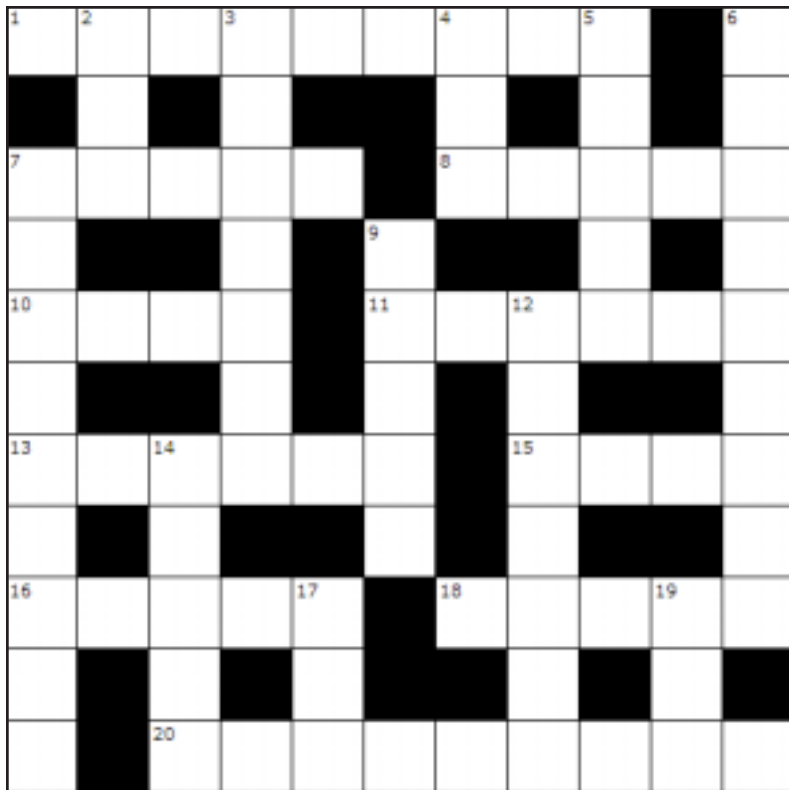
7. Rot.

8. Enemies.

9. Reveal for all to see.

10. Put over the top of.

Answers on next page



Quick Crossword

ACROSS

1. Opposite to Roundheads.
7. Sky feature.
8. Mexican buddy.
10. Lend.
11. Atlantic island group.
13. Japanese minature tree art.
15. Mongolian desert.
16. Eskimo home.
18. Boxer's weapons.
20. Oslo native, perhaps.

DOWN

2. Become unwell.
3. Former pupil.
4. Period of history.
5. Slope sportsman.
6. Study of sound.
7. Well-known person.
9. Ms Hilton.
12. Continuing.
14. Manmade fiber.
17. Rower's implement.
19. Popular drink.

Solution below, right

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1. What was initially labeled LAV, and then HTLV-III? | 9. A deficiency of Thiamine (Vitamin B ₁) causes what disease? | disease are related to which well-known and deadly disease? |
| 2. What is the term for the systematic classification of diseases? | 10. Which disease has a name that means "I can't, I can't" in Sinhala? | 16. Which childhood disease is the result of a lack of Vitamin D? |
| 3. What insect spread Leishmaniasis? | 11. The Plague of Justinian was the first firmly recorded outbreak of which disease? | 17. Ringworm is caused by what type of organism? |
| 4. Babesiosis causes the urine to turn what color? | 12. Roughly what fraction of the population of England died in the Black Death of the 14 th Century? | 18. Which disease has a name derived from the Greek for "a pair of leather scrolls"? |
| 5. Who recorded the song, <i>Why does it hurt when I pee?</i> | 13. What South American disease is spread by the blood-sucking assassin bug? | 19. The Iditarod sled dog race recalls the rush to get antitoxin for an outbreak of which disease? |
| 6. The Art Garfunkel song <i>Bright Eyes</i> refers to which disease? | 14. Labyrinthitis affects which part of the body? | 20. Doc Holliday, Emily Brontë and Cardinal Richelieu all died of which disease? |
| 7. Gout involves an excess of which acid? | 15. Mokola and Duvenhage | |

Answers below

Puzzle Solutions

Rhyme Time Answers

1. Hose; 2. Doze; 3. Pose; 4. Rose; 5. Rose; 6. Froze; 7. Decompose; 8. Foes; 9. Expose; 10. Superimpose.

Solution to this week's Cartoon Puzzle



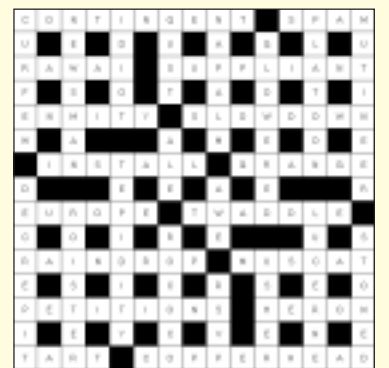
EZ Trivia Answers

1. 144; 2. Saudi Arabia; 3. Mercury; 4. Spaghetti; 5. Malawi; 6. Bradawl; 7. Tony Blair; 8. Human Immunodeficiency Virus; 9. Ten; 10. 220V.

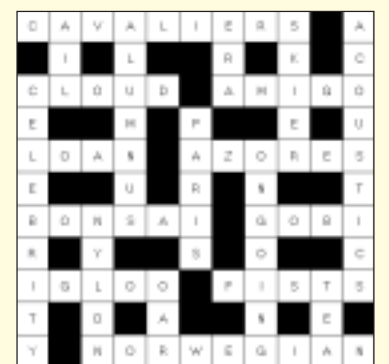
Monster Quiz Answers

1. HIV; 2. Nosology; 3. Sandfly; 4. Red; 5. Frank Zappa; 6. Cancer (the bright eyes being the result of taking opiate painkillers); 7. Uric acid; 8. Barium dust; 9. Beriberi; 10. Beriberi; 11. Bubonic Plague; 12. One quarter; 13. Chagas Disease; 14. The inner ear; 15. Rabies; 16. Rickets; 17. A fungus; 18. Diphtheria; 19. Diphtheria; 20. Tuberculosis.

Cryptic Crossword



Quick Crossword



Sudoku



Men who tied the world together

You might think that all the stories of the age of exploration – when the Portuguese and Spanish broke oceanic barriers to connect to Asia and discover the New World – have been written before, but when a real scholar tackles the subject, there's always a lot more to learn.

Such is the case with Felipe Fernandez-Armesto, a Spanish historian who has produced a startling new work called *Pathfinders: A Global History of Exploration* (W.W. Norton, New York, 2006, pp428).

His premise is simple: the early history of *Homo sapiens* was one of diffusion and the rise of disparate cultures and languages. Modern history begins with explorers who started knitting the world back together again, culminating eventually in our own age of globalization.

Fernandez-Armesto starts at the beginning: By 60,000 years ago *Homo sapiens* had migrated from Africa along the Asian littoral as far as Australia. The last great diffusion happened only a few thousand years ago with the spread of the Polynesians throughout the South Pacific.

What's unique in the author's account is its global perspective.

His survey of explorers is not limited to the usual Europeans but includes the ancient Arab and Persian seamen who opened up the trade routes to India, the mighty Asian and African expeditions of Chinese admiral Zheng Ho in the half century before the arrival of the Portuguese,



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

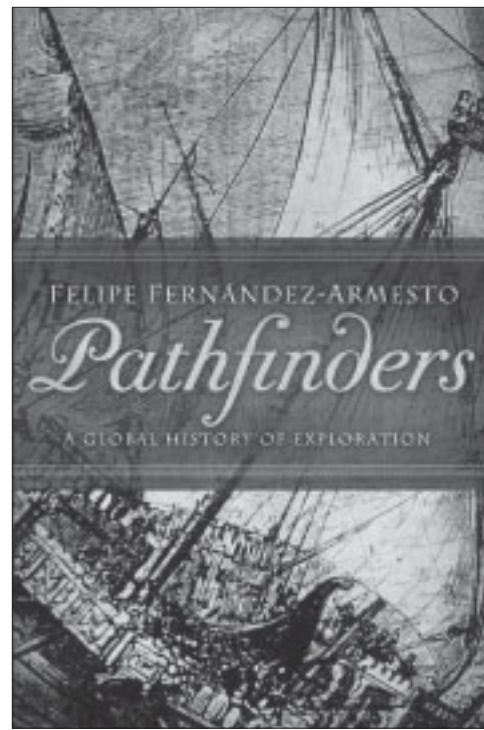
and the astonishing colonization of Madagascar by Malay voyagers.

While he gives Marco Polo his due, the author also recognizes the Arab traveler Ibn Battuta as among the greatest of the medieval age. And another curious historical nugget: just at the time of Marco Polo's travels, a young Mongol Christian monk named Rabban Sar Sauma embarked upon a journey eastward from Beijing to the kingdoms of Europe.

He made it to Rome and the Holy Land and retired in Persia till his death in 1294. In fact, 900 years earlier, the Chinese Emperor had sent an ambassador to the Roman Empire who turned back at the Black Sea in fear of fierce tribes ahead. Who knows how history might have changed?

These are the sort of questions that arise from a non-Eurocentric perspective on the history of exploration. The author unearths plenty of unsung heroes.

The English colonists in Virginia had



the idea that they inhabited a small strip of land bordering on the Pacific.

In 1673-4, a trader's servant named George Arthur took up with a war party of Tomahitan Indians on the other side of the Appalachian mountains and traveled north to the Ohio Valley and south almost to the Gulf of Mexico. "The vastness of the continent was crushing English hopes of crossing it easily and quickly," Fernandez-Armesto notes.

Africa served as the stage for the

greatest feats of exploration, beginning with Mungo Park's two excruciating treks to the Niger River in 1795 and 1805. Besides a mysterious immunity to tropical diseases (shared by Henry Morton Stanley), Mungo Park turned out perfect for the job: "restless, vainglorious, irrepressible, peniless, easily biddable, insatiably curious, and indefeasibly tough."

Due to the three epic voyages (1768-1779) of Captain James Cook, the last isolated populations of Australia, New Zealand and islands in the Polynesian Pacific such as Hawaii were brought back into contact with the rest of the world.

But there were still surprises going into the 20th century. In June 1930, a gold prospector named Michael Leahy stumbled into the unknown Goroka river valley in the central highlands of New Guinea.

Here he found a population of 100,000, each of the many tribes happily at war with each other. "In all, there were well over a half a million people living in the highland area unknown before the 1930s," Fernandez-Armesto reports.

The last holdouts now are some 40 Indian tribes in the depths of the Amazon.

The author cautions that they should not be considered failed communities which have missed out on progress: "Really they should be considered the most successful societies in history: they had achieved a conservative nirvana, preserving their culture against change, resisting the convulsive lurches of 'modernity'."

PHUKET DIARY

www.phuketgazette.net/calendar

Until April 30. BIS IB Visual Art Exhibition.

British International School (BIS) IB Visual Art Exhibition at the Royal Phuket Marina.

The exhibition of about 100 artworks by seven BIS International Baccalaureate (IB) art major students includes sculptures, photographs, paintings and fashion visual artworks.

Open daily, 9 am to 5 pm. For more information call BIS at 076-238711-20 ext 0 or Jeanette Skelton at Royal Phuket Marina at 081-7971420.

May 1. Labor Day.

Public holiday for all commercial workers, but government offices will remain open.

May 5. Coronation Day.

Coronation Day commemorates the ascension to the throne of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej on May 5, 1950.

May 6. TriBallistic Triathlon.

Event 5 of the SILK TriBallistic Triathlon Series at the

JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa.

Although the six-race series is designed for junior triathletes and their parents, with age divisions from 6 to over 60, Event 5 will include a Senior Competition comprising a one-kilometer swim, a 30km bike race and an 8km run.

The Iron Kids Team Challenge, comprising a 300-meter swim, 10km bike race and 2km run, will have two age classes: under 18 and under 12. Each team must include one first-time triathlete.

Registration will begin 7 am race day, followed by the race start at 8 am.

For more information and details, please call Hugo Jones at 081-0782024; contact via email: hugodeb@hadyai.loxinfo.co.th or visit www.triballisticclub.com

May 13. BIS 5k Fun Run.

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. 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.

May 26 and 27. Phuket International Rugby 10s.

Due to a scheduling con-

flict, the Fifteen 7 Sharks from the UK will not be back in Phuket to defend their title as Phuket International Rugby 10s champions at this year's event which will take place at Karon Municipal Stadium on May 26 and 27.

Two teams to watch out for this year, said tourney organizer Patrick Cotter, are Aussie Armed Services, which will comprise players from the Australian Army, Navy and Air Force squads, and Devon RFC.

The Coffin Dodgers Old Boys' 10s competition will also be held during the weekend, as well as a welcome party, Tour Virgin

Beauty Pageant and a fund-raising dinner.

For more information email Patrick Cotter at phuketrugby@gmail.com or visit www.phuketvagabondsrfc.com

June 17. Laguna Phuket International Marathon 2007.

The Laguna Phuket International Marathon 2007 looks set to build substantially on the success of 2006's inaugural event. Organizers Go Adventure Asia are expecting 1,500 international runners from 40 different countries. For more information visit www.phuketmarathon.com

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New flights positive for Phuket but can they make a profit?

Although the reintroduction of flight services between Phuket and Haad Yai next month is wonderful news for Phuket, one has to wonder if there is sufficient demand for the service to support two carriers [see Business, page 32].

Since Phuket's ill-fated namesake carrier Phuket Air abandoned the route in 2005, there has been no flight service between the south's two main tourism hubs. People needing to travel from one to the other have been faced with several dubious options: fly all the way to Bangkok to get a connecting flight; make a circuitous seven-hour drive by car or van; or spend nine hours or longer by "VIP" coach.

Over the past 18 months, Phuket has suffered as a result of its inability to better tap into the Malaysian tourism market, which includes large numbers of affluent ethnic Chinese who enjoy cultural links with their counterparts in Phuket. Others who will benefit include visa runners and international tourists making their way between Singapore and Bangkok.

It should also be remembered that Malaysia annually rates as the number-one source of foreign tourists to Thailand, many of whom cross the border by car or bus to visit Haad Yai and who do not want to add on seven or eight hours to their overland journey to reach our island.

Until the new flights were introduced, the irony of not being able to fly between southern Thailand's two major international airports continued to deepen with the introduction of several direct flights between cities with far less obvious affinity were introduced, most notably Malaysian-based Firefly airlines' direct services from Penang to Phuket and Koh Samui.

When the *Gazette* last covered the glaring lack of flights between Phuket and Haad Yai as a business story, in February 2006, Phuket Airport Director Sq/Ldr Pornchai Eua-aree said he had been told by several carriers that the load factor for the route was too low for it to be run at a profit.

He suggested – quite sensibly – that rather than introduce a dedicated route between the two cities, that one of the many carriers with daily flights from Bangkok to Phuket and Haad Yai consider introducing a Bangkok-Phuket-Haad Yai route. Another logical approach would be to run a 50- or 60-seat fuel-efficient turboprop service, as Phuket Air did.

Starting in a few weeks time it will be easy and economical to catch flights to Haad Yai. We should appreciate the situation while it lasts – because it might not be for long.

– The Editor

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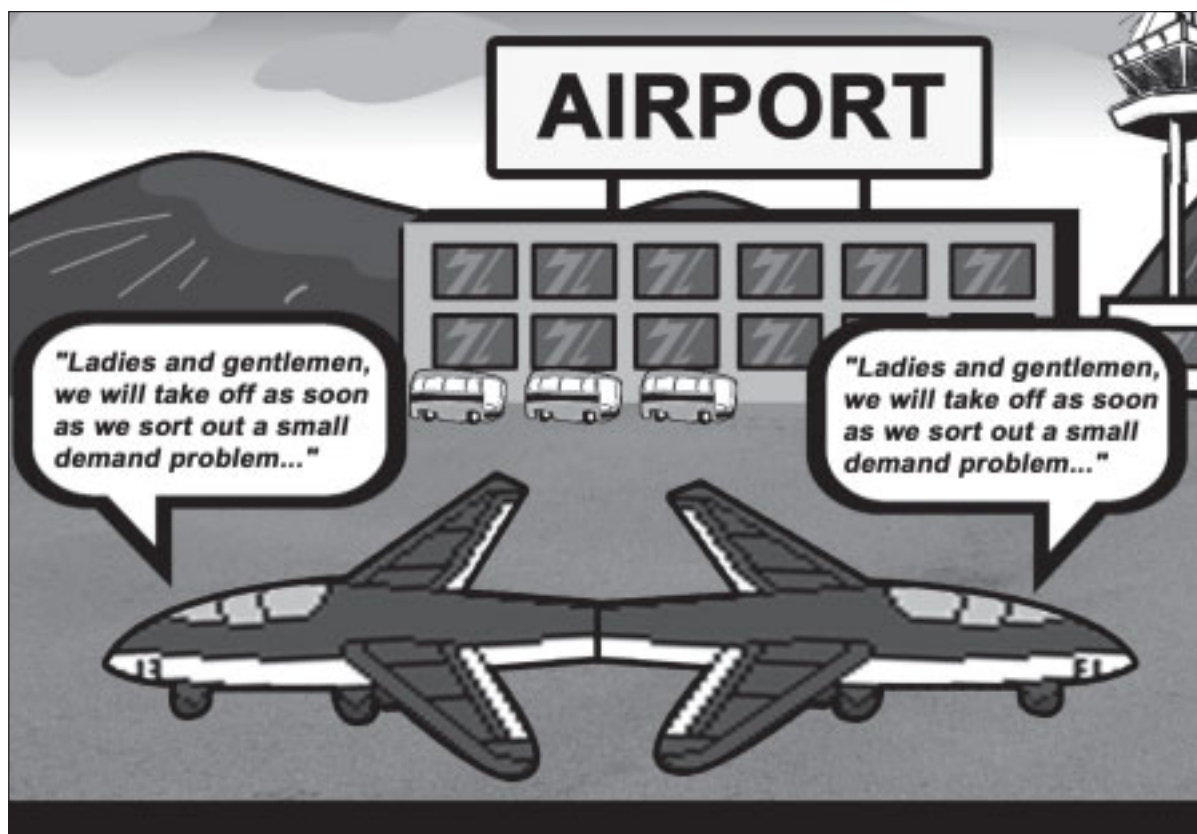
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Letters

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

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

Warm praise for school project

Regarding the "Warming to a message" article in the April 21 *Gazette*.

I would like to extend my praise to Ms Kim Kilgore, School Director at Rawai Progressive International School, for implementing an environmental program at her school that actively involves her students through engaging and constructive activities.

The comprehensive program included field surveys, data analysis, interpretation, photographic documentation and international networking. All of these are vital aspects of environmentalism, conservationism and any type of activism in general.

It is immensely important to teach our youth concepts with a global perspective in mind, so that they can gain a deeper understanding of how people's actions affect our natural habitat, and how countries are not isolated in their use of natural resources, but affect everyone on our planet.

April 22 marked the worldwide day of observance, Earth Day, intended to inspire awareness of and appreciation for the environment. It is reassuring to know there are individuals here who are actively educating our future generations in the concepts that Earth Day intends to promote.

Every person within our society needs to continually make a conscious effort to remain aware of our actions and how they are either improving or degrading the world that surrounds us.

Finally, remember that each and every day should be considered Earth Day.

O Ruddock
Chalong

Male misconceptions

In regards to *Chauvinism lives on here in Phuket* in Letters to the Editor in the April 21 issue of the *Gazette*, while I certainly understand the points the writer presents, I suspect that Christy has a few stereotypes floating around of her own.

A quite common misconception of Thai women, and Asian women in general, by Western women is that they are submissive and nice quiet little ladies who will do anything we Western men say. Absolute rubbish!

Anyone who is either married to or who has a friend married to a Thai woman knows that they are not submissive little things bowing to our demands.

A friend of mine was married to a woman who had him working two jobs day and night to make as much money as he could. And try coming home a little late with a flimsy excuse... no explanation needed here!

There is probably still a level of "man work" and "lady work" around the house. I wash the cars, fix things around the house and do the more manly things – she does the dishes and laundry and the things she is better at.

To me that division of labor makes sense. Would Christy rather she change the oil in the car and her man do the laundry? (My ironing is beyond abysmal.)

As to the points about job ads having age specifications and requiring photos – those aren't just for women – look a little more closely and see that adverts that are looking for males often have the same requirements. Photos are a typical requirement for a job application here and age limits, while I abhor them, are quite typical as well.

I'm tired of Western women dismissing Thai women – I think they should release their anger somewhere else – like at the diet center maybe...

Benjamyn
Rawai

Knocking silent tests

Given the failure of the latest testing of the National Disaster Warning Center's (NDWC) tsunami warning system, it was heartening to read in your newspaper last week [*The Broncel Barrier*, Inside Story, edition of April 21 – 27, 2007] that at least *someone* is working to create a system to protect us from tsunamis that would *not* rely on government bureaucrats to be effective.

It is time the NDWC issued a public statement on exactly what happened that morning. If the system doesn't work – and there is no reason to believe that it does – then it is time to fix it.

If the system does work, then it is time a full audible testing take place, consisting of more than just somebody "knocking" on a microphone. A full test of all the alarms over a period of time is needed to make sure that the solar-powered batteries that power them are holding sufficient charge. After all, this high-technology equipment is located in a corrosive, salty environment.

Reminders that the system is tested silently every day is a scam. Whoever heard of testing an audio system "silently"? Would you buy a home stereo system before cranking it up in the shop to make sure it works? The very idea is an assault on common sense.

Bewildered
Cherng Talay

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

ESSENTIAL RESOURCE FOR ISLAND'S FUTURE

At Khao Pra Taew Wildlife Conservation Development and Extension Center we have the duty of promoting and publicizing natural resource conservation, specifically forest and wildlife conservation.

We also provide a learning process, which I think is a very important duty of ours, that can teach people to be more conscientious about conservation and to help them work together in conserving the natural resources of forest and wildlife.

We have a nature education trail called the "Tone Sai Waterfall Nature Trail" for people who want to learn about natural resources and the forest in Khao Pra Taew.

The nature trail is an activity that will encourage people to learn about nature by truly seeing and interacting with it, these are the special things about the center. These activities can make people love nature after learning about it.

We have developed this nature trail project supported by a Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) budget of 900,000 baht. This project will eventually include more trails, a service center and landscaping. Now we are look-

FIRST PERSON

Global warming and other environmental problems all stem from the same action says **Pongchart Choueorm**, chief of Khao Pra Taew Wildlife Conservation Development and Extension Center. That action is the destruction of forests and natural areas. With the development of educational trails and centers at the Khao Pra Taew Wildlife Conservation Development and Extension Center he is hoping that people will begin to educate themselves and take action in helping to conserve Phuket's forests and the flora and fauna in them.



ing for additional funds from government or private sectors to help construct them.

I believe that this project will be good for people who love natural resources and want to conserve them. We hope people will form a group or club for natural conservation. This project can also support ecotourism in Phuket. It will be a different kind of

experience for tourists visiting Phuket.

Once we find enough money for further development, I reckon that we will take no more than two years to finish the project. After this development project is finished, Khao Pra Taew will be one of the best places for nature trail education in the world.

People can help support the center by visiting it and helping to bring it to the public attention. This should create a network of supporters for the center.

We should pay attention to natural conservation anyway, but particularly right now because the world has changed and there are increasing problems with global warming and the greenhouse ef-

fect. This makes the world hotter and is also causing more natural disasters. All these problems are happening because nature is being destroyed, so people should work together to conserve the natural environment. There are easy ways to help such as as not cutting down trees in forests and not supporting people who do.

People should not overlook this area because Khao Pra Taew is the most complete forest in Phuket, with a wide range of flora and fauna. The conservation center has an area of 13,925 rai – about 4% of Phuket – covering parts of Thepkasattri, Srisoonthorn and Pa Khlok sub-districts.

We have many kinds of plants and wildlife, such as heritage palms, monkeys, gibbons, *cynogale bennettis* (an otter civit of the Malay peninsula, Borneo and Sumatra) and even waterfall crabs, which are difficult to find – but you can see them here.

*Compiled by
Supanun Supawong*

For more information about the Tone Sai Waterfall Nature Trail and the conservation area contact Khao Pra Taew Wildlife Conservation Development and Extension Center at Tel: 076-311998.

Why did I pay an extra B10 to send an airmail letter?

I recently went to the post office at Big C to send a letter to Belgium, which I was told cost 34 baht to send by airmail. I thought it was a little expensive as the letter comprised just two sheets of paper in an envelope.

When I arrived home, I checked the rates on the Thai Post website, which said the cost should have been 24 baht.

I returned to Big C and asked the girl why I paid 34 baht. She told me that I had to pay a tax. I understand a little bit of Thai but I didn't understand what kind of tax it was.

I asked her for a receipt, which she happily issued, stating that I paid 34 baht. So, what kind of tax did I have to pay?

RM
Chalong

Therawat Thavipongsak, Distribution Officer, Phuket City Post Office replies:

In short, it's not a tax. To explain, any postal service counters at Big C – or in any shopping mall – are authorized to offer Thai Post services, but they are not directly operated by Thai Post.

Such service counters charge a minimum service fee of 10 baht. Perhaps the girl at Big C did not know the correct words to explain this to you.

It would have been better if they had told you in advance about the service charge, or if you had gone to a Thai Post post office and mailed the envelope direct, as you would have been charged just the postal rate without any service fee.

How do I get high in Phuket?

In my travels around the island, I have seen paragliders in the air a couple of times. I would love to take up paragliding as a hobby here. Is there a club on the island? I am a veteran skydiver and as there

isn't much of that going on here, paragliding would likely do wonders to pacify my need to fly.

Dave
Phuket

Dr Prasert Theplaong, Phuket representative of the Thailand Paraglider Club replies:

Members of the Thailand Paraglider Club last demonstrated their skills in October at Ya Nui Beach in an effort to drum up support for the sport in tourism-oriented Phuket.

You can call me for more information at Tel: 076-255-336 or 08-94695571.

Flying with cats

I will be traveling to France in the near future, and I would like to take my cats with me on the journey. Can you please tell me the procedure for exporting a cat from Thailand back to France?

My local veterinarian informed me that they have to be identified with a microchip in order to exit Thailand. They are already identified with a tattoo number that was given in France, is this sufficient for leaving the country under Thai law?

Barbara
Chalong

Sutath Ngamkoranatikarn, an officer at Phuket Animal Quarantine Station, replies:

In the case of exporting a cat back to the country of origin in which it was born, the following items are required.

The cat's "passport" along with a photocopy, the owner's passport, the cat's vaccination book and the original permit documents that you received when you first brought the cat here from France.

The items can be brought to the Phuket Animal Quarantine Station, located at the airport, dur-

ing working hours, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm from Monday to Friday.

We will check all of the documents prior to issuing the certificate for exporting the cat. All items should be given to the station a minimum of three days before the journey to allow for processing.

As to the microchip, there is no problem if your cat doesn't have the microchip because the tattooed ID number is acceptable under Thai law and can be used as the pet's identification reference also.

Boonyaporn Petchanok, Veterinarian from Rak Satt Pet Hospital, Khao Rang replies,

The owner should ask about vaccination requirements from the country that they will export the cat to. Generally in Asia, the biggest concern is rabies.

You can bring your cat with the vaccination book to the pet hospital, and we will check if your cat already has all vaccinations needed or not, if not we will do that and issue the medical certificate for your cat to present at the animal quarantine station.

In The Stars

by Isla Star

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): You realize that home really is where the heart is this week. Many of you will start to feel more comfortable with yourselves and what is happening in your life. If you're coming of age this week, a surprise visitor makes a special trip for your birthday party. Your instincts relating to finances are red hot until the end of the month; use this advantage to increase your investment power.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): You could learn that opposites do attract this week. Someone with an icy demeanor will be warmed by the fiery side of your nature. A spot of romance should put the spring back in your step, so get ready to have some fun. Where business is concerned, Scorpio would like to make a situation unnecessarily dramatic midweek. Your talent for dissolving heated discussions can be put to good use.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Your goals take priority from now until the end of the month and woe betide anyone who tries to block your progress. After a low start to May, most of you will be fueled by the desire to get ahead in both work and personal areas of your lives. Prosperity is in sight and you can expect a lucky financial break to occur on Tuesday that should pave the way toward that pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

LEO (July 24-August 22): You could get caught up in extended family disagreements this week. No matter how detached you try to remain, some input will be required. Pisces has some career advice this weekend that could prove to be worth more than its weight in gold. However, you may have to radically change your way of thinking to succeed in this new direction. Wearing the color sky blue can encourage you to set your sights higher.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): You could find it difficult to get down to basics, such as work, this week. If your head is in the clouds because of romance, try asking yourself if being swept off your feet is worth risking your already shaky financial security. Business opportunities are waiting for you to exploit them, but others are ready to snap them up if you aren't quick enough. Number seven can bring luck on Thursday.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): A shot in the dark pays off for you this week. Although you're not usually one to take risks, intuition serves you well until the end of the month. Your social skills are at a peak and invitations are about to come flooding in. The world is your oyster at the moment, so make the most of this benevolent astral atmosphere. Wear copper to balance energy.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Finances continue to be positive, with a bonus of some sort forecast to come your way this week. The general trend for you is upbeat; the only slight downside could come on Monday when an argument at work could cause bad feelings. Romance is low-key, but you should be full of self-confidence at the moment and enjoying your own company. Wear deep jungle green to encourage earthiness.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): It may seem that friends are asking too much of you this week. Just as soon as you've helped one person out, another comes knocking at your door. Your tendency towards generosity needs to be curbed before others' expectations get out of hand. If you've been entrusted with a secret, beware of spilling the beans on Sunday when Scorpio starts to probe. The number five can bring luck on Monday.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Being too conservative could prevent you from getting the most out of life this week. Don't dismiss offers because you think they're too wild to even contemplate. Aries has a very interesting proposition this weekend that could enable you to branch out in the world of work. Affairs of the heart are well-starred until Monday when something said in the heat of the moment could cause ripples of discontent.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Some much needed fun is on the agenda for you. Accept invitations to venture into new social circles and you won't be disappointed. Saturday is forecast to be a particularly rewarding day and you could easily be admiring the sunset with an attractive new companion. The beginning of next week is an auspicious time for making money, but you are advised not to make impulsive decisions.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): More focus on the home is indicated for you this week. If you're not truly content with your living situation, now is the right time to start searching for alternatives. Leo can give some good tips concerning fresh locations, but Cancer has only their own interests at heart. Problems with children need to be addressed before they intensify; setting firm boundaries is recommended. Wear sunshine yellow to promote harmony.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): You become more interested in spiritual matters and Libra will be happy to answer some related questions. Meditation can help to curb your occasional aggressive approach to solving problems. Money matters come to a head midweek; this is an auspicious time to sort out overdue personal administration as it is likely that a windfall is due to fall in your lap. Wear a piece of amethyst to enhance your intuition.

THOSE LITTLE WHITE LIES

Dear Momma Duck,

In recent weeks, my mother-in-law has been staying with me and my Thai wife to help raise our 18-month-old daughter.

While I appreciate the help, there is one thing I have noticed her doing with my daughter that I don't approve of.

My wife is recently back to work, and my daughter misses her when she is gone and cries "Mommy! Mommy!" a lot.

Now, my daughter won't always go to my mother-in-law when she is called, so recently my mother-in-law has taken to saying "Let's go see mommy!" when she wants the child to come to her – even though she knows full

well that her mother is off at work.

To me this is just lying. When I asked her please not to lie to my daughter like that she just laughed it off and said, "*Mai pen rai!*"

I was brought up to believe that lying is a sin. Is it common for Thais to lie to children of such a young age? If so, how can the children ever learn the value of being honest? Was I "out of place" confronting her like that?

Truth seeker
Samkong

Dear Truth seeker,
I am one of those Thai chil-

dren who were brought up with such "white lies" and I don't think it hurt me very much. I much prefer these family "white lies", given with love, to the lies of politicians, which end up with people getting killed.

Indeed, what is a "lie"? Are fairy tales and myths "lies"? Is not the "history" of any country as taught in the schools not full of "lies"?

Thai adults, and I suspect adults in all other countries and cultures, tell stories and "lies" to children in order to keep them safe or happy or to teach them proper behavior, but they do it with love and good intent.

Your mother-in-law wants

your daughter to be happy, not unhappy that her mother is away, and this is the way she keeps your daughter happy.

True, all the religions and sects have rules against lying so I guess we're all breaking religious rules without intending to.

But in the Thai language there is a clear distinction between a "lie" (*goh hok*), the meaning of which has a strong sense of deceiving in order to gain benefit, and *lawk*, which is deceiving with good intent – what in English is called a white lie.

You have to admit that, with young children, white lies often work like magic, while reasonable explanations are beyond their understanding.

I think you should just view this as a cultural difference rather than "lying" and try not to worry about it.

As I said, your mother-in-

law's intent is undoubtedly good and her love will communicate much better than words.

It's also probably not a good idea to offend your mother-in-law.

After all, she's not a paid nanny and has raised a daughter who turned out good enough to attract you.



**Momma
DUCK**

By Wanida Hongyok
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The question of what you want to be when you grow up is posed to us from a very early age. Our parents start asking when we're about four, then our teachers ask us when we start school, and the question is repeated by relatives, strangers and counselors and even by ourselves throughout the years that follow.

When you're young it's a simple enough question to answer, as all questions are when you're six or so. Boys, whose parents buy them toy guns, badges and plastic spaceships, understandably want to be policemen or astronauts. Girls, who play with Barbie's hair and dream of having a pony of their own, want to be vets or actresses, or practice being a housewife, giving English tea parties with plastic cups and imaginary tea.

These ambitions tend to carry through primary school, but when you get a bit older, around the onset of puberty and the start of secondary school, you begin to realize there are quite a few more options available to you, many of them more favorable than being shot at by criminals or sticking needles into screaming cats.

You can be a footballer like David Beckham, although preferably without wearing a sarong or a hair band; you can be a lawyer or an accountant; a model or a receptionist; a librarian or a Formula 1 racecar driver. Bearing these goals in mind, we try hard at Physical Education if we intend to challenge Beckham's crown, or we throw all our ef-

forts into Drama with the intention of becoming the next Nicole Kidman.

But as secondary school progresses, the subjects we must study to pursue such dreams turn out to be more boring or complicated than we ever thought, and we change our minds. Who wants to be a biologist anyway? It would be much more fun – and easier – to be, say, an artist. All you have to do in Art is draw a bowl of fruit and splash some paint on a canvas, right? As for Math, who wants to do a job involving equations, formulas or long division? Surely you would die of boredom.

With these changes of heart, it's a pleasure to reach the 12th grade, when we can drop several subjects, winnowing them down to six. What they forget to tell you is that you can't actually drop Math, which is what every student secretly dreams of.

During the final two years of school, however, the job spectrum broadens and as you begin to think about university and the future with renewed seriousness – because after all, it's now fast approaching – you realize that there are many more professions out there than accounting, mod-

eling or being a scientist. You can be a bio-engineer, a child psychologist, a florist, a quantum physicist, a butcher, a baker or a candlestick maker.

For impressionable teenagers the stress of having so many choices can be overwhelming. Though for a select few who have stuck with the choice they made when they were much younger, life becomes a question of focus and dedication.

Some are certain they will follow in the footsteps of their parents and take over the family business. Others, however – artists, writers or athletes who began honing their talents early in life – know they never want to do anything else.

Beware telling any adults you want to be an artist or a writer, however. The typical response is generally a weighted pause, a raised eyebrow, then an indulgent smile at the obviously deluded teen and, "A writer? How interesting..." uttered in tones dripping with derisive amusement.

Before we teenagers can even think of pursuing our chosen profession there is the slight matter of passing our final exams that will allow us to break free of high school and step into the lofty corridors of university.

The importance of these examinations puts immense pressure on our young shoulders and the stress of studying for these



Youth 'n ASIA

By Amy Van de Castelee

exams makes it difficult to revise study notes.

Instead of absorbing every detail of the process of DNA transcription, or committing key quotations from *Death of a Salesman* to memory, our minds are bombarded by images of failing miserably and ending up penniless and scruffy on the streets, or being murdered by furious parents, and we realize that for the past hour not a single word of anything we've read has registered in our memories.

Fortunately teachers have the presence of mind to hand out booklets with revision tips, one of which is to listen to classical mu-

sic, although the *Moonlight Sonata* is more likely to reduce you to tears or drooling slumber than to help you revise Economics vocabulary.

When the day of the exams dawns, otherwise known as the moment when we stumble into the seventh circle of Hell, the fear and pressure can be, literally, asphyxiating.

At best, we experience a violent trembling of the limbs and a quickened heartbeat. At worst, we stare at the paper and realize our minds have gone blank of everything but the jaunty lyrics of a Spice Girls song we happened to hear at a bar the previous weekend.

In some cases, we even faint or hyperventilate, or our brains completely shut down and in the oppressive silence of the examination hall we fall asleep.

When the ordeal is over, however, and if we managed to scrape through with a few passes, we realize with excited apprehension that we are one step closer to being working, money-earning adults.

Even better, the gates of university are about to swing open to receive us, shining like the gates of heaven itself with the promise of higher learning and new experiences... and a few undergraduate parties. After all, we might as well have a little fun before we have to start work in the real world, right?

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Conventional wisdom, both from web pundits and at Phuket parties, posits that you should wait for Service Pack 1 before installing Windows Vista.

I say poppycock. I've been using pre-release forms of Vista for almost a year now, and aside from an occasional screw-up, it works great.

The relative lack of problems with Vista, in my experience, puts Windows XP Service Pack 2 to shame: Vista's more stable, more secure and marginally more capable than XP SP2. If you're waiting for Vista Service Pack 1, you're going to be disappointed.

From what I've seen the major problems with Vista at this point have more to do with flaky drivers, the programs that control video cards, printers, sound cards and the like than any inherent problem inside Vista.

There's enormous pressure on driver vendors to get their hardware working with Vista. It's going to take a while to get all the old hardware working with the new operating system, and in the interim plenty fall through the cracks.

Don't think for one moment that I'm urging you to install Vista on your current Windows XP computer. Far from it. Upgrading operating systems is a monumental pain in the neck.

If you have an up-to-date computer with a hefty video card (at least 128MB of onboard memory, preferably 256MB or more), and a high tolerance for pain, you might want to consider upgrading. But if you have a Windows XP SP2 system that does what you need, upgrading to Vista can be much more hassle than it's worth.

Should you be tempted to upgrade your current PC from XP to Vista, drop by the official Vista upgrade advisor page,

If you lust after Vista, there's no need to wait

www.microsoft.com/windows/products/windowsvista/buyorupgrade/upgradeadvisor.aspx, and make sure your PC has the oomph to pull it off.

In my opinion: don't upgrade your current PC to Vista unless there's a feature in Vista that you absolutely must have. Instead, wait until you buy a new PC – and when you do, get it with Windows Vista Home Premium pre-installed.

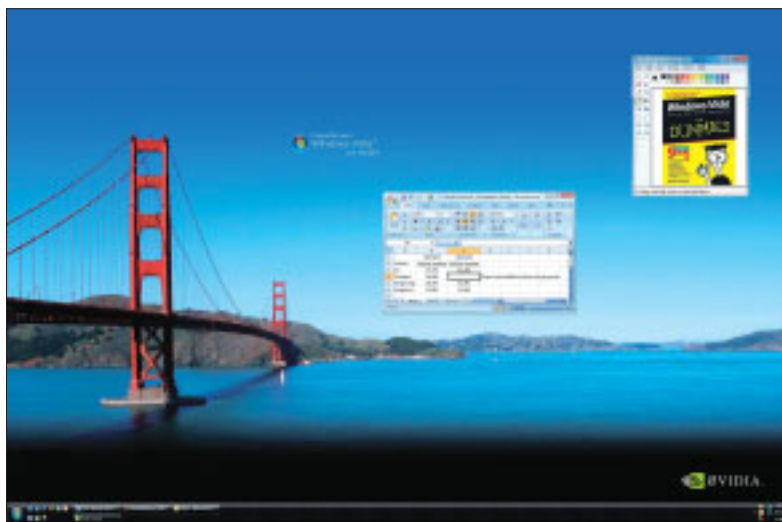
Buying a new PC with Windows XP limits its useful life because XP won't be supported forever. If you get Vista Home Premium pre-installed on a new PC, you greatly increase the like-

hood that the drivers will work. More than that, if you're moving

on to a new PC, you have to go through all of the hassles of transferring programs, data and settings from one PC to another. The pain of migrating to a new operating system at the same time you migrate to a new computer is only slightly greater than the change in machines itself. Don't set yourself up to suffer twice.

Vista comes in eight different flavors. For almost all of the people, almost all of the time, the version you want is called Vista Home Premium. You can run through the details, but the bottom line is pretty simple: if you buy Vista Home Basic, you'll want Home Premium within a week.

You could spend a lot of extra money for a little extra benefit with Vista Ultimate. You



Tired of squinting at a tiny 17-inch screen? This is what Vista looks like on a 24-inch widescreen monitor.

could fall for the hype and buy Vista Business. But if you only want to buy Vista once, get Vista Home Premium.

Big screen: While I'm on the topic of buying new computers, permit me to foist one more personal bias on you. No matter what kind of computer you buy, if you're going to use Vista, get a big monitor and back it up with a hefty video card. I've been trying to run Vista on very sharp 17-inch LCD monitors, the same monitors that worked great with XP, and I'm ready to tear my hair out.

Vista screams for more real estate: not only can you get more work done on a bigger screen, you can have more fun, too. Vista's Media Center playing a downloaded high-definition movie on a wide-screen monitor is something you have to see to believe.

I've finally reached the

point where my desktop is screaming for a wide-screen monitor, so I've gone looking all over Asia for decent alternatives. I was more than a little surprised by what I found.

Samsung widescreen monitors look great. Samsung offers a decent, reasonably priced 20-inch widescreen monitor called the 205BW. I found the monitor all over Sim Lim Square in Singapore, and the Mong Kok computer center in Hong Kong. Surprisingly, prices in Singapore were about 15% lower than Hong Kong.

I checked for the same monitor in Bangkok (both at Panthip and IT City) and couldn't find a 205BW anywhere. Apparently Samsung isn't – or at least wasn't – selling that particular model in Thailand.

The monitor I really want? The Dell 3007WFP. It's a gloriously beautiful 30-inch monitor that's only slightly smaller than the

QE2 (which is to say, *Queen Elizabeth II*, the fishing boat). It also costs as much as a first class cruise, so I settled on its smaller, but still elegant sibling, the 24-inch Dell 2407WFP.

I hopped onto Dell's website and found that the 2407WFP goes for US\$611 (about 20,000 baht) in the US. A few quick clicks confirmed that Dell sells the same monitor for HK\$4,888 (about 20,200 baht) in Hong Kong, and S\$999 (about 21,400 baht), including a web cam, in Singapore.

I looked on the Dell Thailand site and found that Dell doesn't even list the monitor as being available for order in Thailand. So I wrote to Dell Thailand and asked for a price. I was a bit miffed to learn that Dell wants 28,000 baht for the 2407WFP in Thailand. That's 42% more than the US price.

Somebody's getting shafted. Make sure it isn't you.

Vista talk: I'll be giving a presentation on Vista to the Rotary Club of Patong Beach on May 8. Dinner starts at 7 pm and the talk will begin right after dinner. Actually, we usually start talking about computers before dinner, but what the heck.

There will be lots of time for questions, in fact, I hope almost all of the presentation is a Q&A session. The cost to attend the presentation is 400 baht. Shoot me email if you can make it and I'll try to finagle you an invitation.

Stocked: After years of lamenting the fact that few *Dummies* computer books ever find their way into Thailand, much less to Phuket, you can imagine my astonishment when I walked into SE-ED bookstore at Lotus and found a copy of one of my new books, *Windows Vista All-In-One Desk Reference For Dummies*, there on the shelves.

Further exploration revealed that both SE-ED upstairs near the food court and SE-ED downstairs near HomePro stocked two copies each. Damn near had a heart attack.

I don't know if the books are still there, but if you grab one, or pick up any of my books wherever you may roam, for that matter, drop it off at my Sandwich Shoppe in Patong and I'll be happy to sign it.

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

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Investments that consistently make money without ever losing any are rare and valuable entities. In 2003 a particular investment was featured in this column and it seems timely to feature it again because it has continued to display its ability to increase in value on a monthly basis.

Since December 2003, this investment has become attractive to a broader audience as it became available to investors with base currencies in euros and US dollars as well as the original base currency, pounds sterling.

The fund in question is the Protected Asset TEP Fund. TEPs are Traded Endowment Policies. These are the old-style endowment policies issued by virtually all major insurance companies in the UK. They are not market-related in a direct sense but instead give investors guaranteed bonuses.

To avoid UK tax on gains made before a policy is 10 years old, investors have to find someone to buy the policy from them, otherwise early encashment leads to a tax on any gain in value. To find a buyer for an existing policy is easier than it seems; there are daily advertisements in the UK press offering exactly this service.

Even if an investor approaches an insurance company requesting a surrender quote, under the UK Financial Services Act, the insurance company will give the surrender value but will add in large block capital letters that a higher figure will normally be available in the secondary market.

The insurance companies are pleased to comply with this piece of legislation as they do not want to have to surrender policies unless it is necessary. The original investor also benefits in two ways; the policy when sold produces a higher value and because it has been sold and not surrendered the gains are legally tax free.

Trading endowment policies Everybody's a winner

The buyers in the secondary market know exactly what they are buying: a second-hand endowment policy that has, embedded in its value, what are referred to as terminal bonuses, which become payable only on the expiry of the original contract.

The secondary-market purchasers are also acutely aware of the investment history of every insurance policy in which they invest. This means that terminal bonuses, because they are vested in each policy, effectively produce a guarantee for future capital profit.

Only policies that are at least eight years old are considered worthy of purchase. The underlying assets of these policies are mainly equities (shares), bonds, commercial property and cash; very similar in fact to what would be held by a typical pension fund. Not all of the assets in fact are in the UK; almost all policies have an international component.

It is a "win-win" situation all around. The original investor sells the policy for more than its surrender value and the gains are tax-free. The insurance company keeps the policy "on its books" and the secondary-market purchaser buys an asset which, if held to maturity, is bought at discount to its true value.

Secondary-market pur-

chasers vary, sometimes it is individuals who are seeking to buy a legal tax shelter, or banks wanting to purchase an asset at lower than true market value.

In this instance it is a fund management group, Protected Asset Management, that buys selected policies and places them all into a fund.

For an asset manager, there is very little actual work to do and this is reflected in their fee structure, no entry cost, no exit cost and an annual management charge of only 0.975% per annum.

It has been a very successful investment strategy, the fund has never had a negative month, it simply keeps on rising in value and I know from experience that this is exactly what most investors want.

It certainly will never produce huge returns but it consis-

tently makes much higher and consistent returns that can be achieved via bank deposits or bonds.

For sterling investors, the fund has returned 8.42% over the last year, 25.79% over three years and 64.61% since launch date on March 16, 2001. The average purchase price of policies is £14,076 (915,000 baht); the average guaranteed element is £17,899 (1 million baht). All returns are net of the annual management charge. All statistics are up to March 1, 2007.

For US dollar and euro investors, the Protected Asset TEP Fund launched these fund classes in December of 2003. Over the past 12 months returns are 7.95% and 8.03% respectively and over three years 23.95% and 24.22%.

The Protected Asset TEP Fund is domiciled in the Isle of Man. The administrators of the fund are Abacus Financial Services. The auditors are Deloitte & Touche. The Royal Bank of Scotland International are the Custodian Bankers.

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



MONEY TALKS

By Richard G Watson

ON THE MOVE

Urs Aebi, from Switzerland, has been appointed General Manager of the new Alila Phuket resort in Kamala and will oversee its soft opening in September. He leaves his role at The Racha Resort where he oversaw the initial opening of the villa resort just before the 2004 tsunami and the subsequent rebuilding and relaunch post-tsunami.



Rodolphe Gay, from France, has been appointed Resident Manager of Alila Phuket in Kamala.



Rodolphe has a strong food and beverage background, and his career spans assignments at the Mandarin Oriental Dhara Dhevi in Chiang Mai,

Mom Tri's Boathouse and Villa Royale in Phuket, the Parrot Cay Resort & Shambala Spa in the Providenciales and the Bora Bora Lagoon Resort in French Polynesia.

Boonmee Khlongrua, from Krabi, has been appointed Learning & Development Manager of Le Royal Meridien Phuket Yacht Club. He holds

a master's degree in International Relations from Macquarie University in Sydney. Previously he was an Educational



Consultant at STA Travel Co in Bangkok and the Assistant Training Manager with Ascott International Management. Before taking his current position he was the Learning & Development Manager at Sheraton Krabi Beach Resort.

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By Semacote Suganya

After almost two years with no flights connecting Southern Thailand's two largest international airports, low-cost carriers Nok Air and One-Two-GO will both launch regular services between Phuket Airport and Haad Yai Airport, starting in mid-May.

Service on Nok Air's 150-seat Boeing 737-400 will begin on Tuesday, May 15.

Flights will depart Phuket daily at 2:05 pm and reach Haad Yai at 2:45 pm. The return leg will depart Haad Yai at 3:15 pm, landing in Phuket at 3:55 pm.

Average ticket prices for economy class will work out to about 1,500 baht one-way, including all taxes and fees.

Sehapan Chumsai, Nok Air's Executive Vice-President for Marketing, told the *Gazette* that there is demand for flights among businessmen unwilling to make the seven-hour drive from Phuket to Haad Yai, which involves first driving north and then all around Phan Nga Bay before the journey south can even begin. The drive takes even longer, about nine hours, by VIP coach.

"We think there is a sufficient demand and we see this route as a good opportunity to help travelers between the two cities save time," he said.

Although the flight schedules announced will only remain officially effective until October 27, just days before the traditional start of the high season for tourism in Phuket, K. Sehapan is confident that the route will be a long-term success.

"Whenever Nok Air launches a new route we try to have patience and develop that route as best as possible. If passenger demand increases in the future, we can add more flights. We are confident that this will be a popular service that will develop and grow over time," he said.

When asked about sharing the route with rival carrier One-Two-GO, K. Sehapan said he was confident because Nok Air has developed itself as the top do-



BRIGHT FLIGHT: Nok Air's colorfully painted Boeing 737-400 will begin to fly the Phuket-Haad Yai route daily in mid-May, with competition from One-Two-GO's slightly larger McDonnell Douglas MD-82, flying three times a week.

Nok Air, One-Two-GO to fly Phuket-Haad Yai

SCHEDULES				
Route	Frequency	Flight No.	Depart	Arrive
Nok Air: effective May 15 - October 27				
Phuket-Haad Yai	Daily	DD7624	14:05	14:45
Haad Yai-Phuket	Daily	DD7625	15:15	15:55
One-Two-GO: effective May 12 until further notice				
Phuket-Haad Yai	Wed-Fri-Sun	OG2281	11:30	12:00
Haad Yai-Phuket	Wed-Fri-Sun	OG2282	12:30	13:00

mestic carrier in terms of market share since its introduction three years ago, having developed a strong sense of customer satisfaction from its services and standards.

"For example, we launched our Bangkok-Phuket service with just two flights daily, but now we have six flights a day," he said.

K. Sehapan said he expects the bulk of passengers using the new service to be people on business or visiting relatives. About 35% are expected to book their flights online, with another 35% booking through the Nok Air Call Center. The remainder will buy

their tickets at the airport (25%) or through agents (5%)," he said.

"Actually, the Phuket-Haad Yai route is one that local people have been asking us about for a long time now, ever since Thai Airways stopped its service. People's lifestyles have changed since then; traveling by air has become more routine," he said.

In fact, the last carrier to fly the route was Phuket's namesake carrier Phuket Air, which used an aging 60-seat Japanese NAMC YS-11 turboprop to run the route.

The service was suspended after a bomb planted in the departure lounge by Pattani sepa-

ratists exploded on April 3, 2005, killing one person. The service was scrapped altogether in October of that year. Other carriers who have abandoned the route include the now-defunct Air Andaman, Bangkok Airways and Thai Airways, which had daily flights for many years, some with stopovers in Trang.

Also seeking to profit by reviving the Phuket to Haad Yai route is domestic carrier One-Two-GO Airlines, which will launch the first flight of its Wednesday-Friday-Sunday flight schedule on May 13. At 1,500 baht all inclusive, the 30-minute flights will leave Phuket at 11:30 am, with the return leg leaving Haad Yai at 12:30 pm.

One-Two-GO Executive Director for Commercial Affairs Manassanant Tantiprachai said One-Two-GO expects strong demand from Malaysian tourists flying into Haad Yai who want to continue on to Phuket and don't want to make the journey over land. "This was a popular route for many years when it was run

by THAI," said K. Manassanant, who likewise noted that One-Two-GO was planning on the route's long-term success.

"Our strengths lie in our aircraft, a 172-seat McDonnell Douglas MD-82, plus the fact that we have free snacks and beverages on all flights. We also have a maximum luggage weight of 20 kilos and allow passengers to change flight dates with no charge. We expect Malaysian tourists and Thais to make up the bulk of our passengers," she said.

Most of these, about 50% or 60%, are expected to purchase tickets through agents. The remainder will book through the call center or by Internet," she said.

One-Two-GO is also expanding its services to Nakhon Sri Thammarat and Surat Thani, raising the number of weekly flights between Bangkok and those destinations to 12 and 11, respectively, she added.

For more information visit: www.nokair.com and www.fly12go.com



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Two competitors battle it out at the Taekwondo Championships.

Phuket overflowing with taekwondo gold

PHUKET CITY: Dragon Gym in Phuket won a trophy donated by Prime Minister General Surayud Chulanont for "Best Male Competitors" during the 10th South Thailand Taekwondo Championship held at the Saphan Hin sports stadium April 21 and 22.

More than 400 competitors from the 14 southern provinces competed in the tournament, and 24 gold medals were awarded to Phuket's 60 athletes.

The CTDC club from Surat Thani received the best female competitors cup, also donated by PM Surayud.

Each year the tournament is held in a different province; last year it was held in Trang, organizers have not yet decided the location of next year's meet.

The gold winners from Phuket, listed by weight class, were:

Male 7-8 years: Ne Damwongsa, Spitter; Natthapong Somchaiya, Junior Paper; Ratchata Sawangtrap, Paper; Rachata Tannatai, Fin; Krittut Tannatai, Bantam.

Male 9-10 years: Sakdinan Kongkrapan, Junior Paper; Chumpon Sangaanya, Fly.

Male 11-12 years: Chayuth Wijitsilp, Fly; Nakin Vichaiathanapat, Bantam; Siwakorn Sujipong, Light Heavy; Natthapat Tantramart, Heavy.

Male 15-16 years: Athit Chareonlapsukying, Fin.

Female 5-6 years: Budsayakorn Sa-

ngaanya, Spitter; Nattha Sriprom, Junior Paper.

Female 7-8 years: Donlaporn Suchayanont, Junior Paper.

Female 9-10 years: Ketsara Keittiachawachai, Fly; Napassanan Atiwanitchakul, Light.

Female 11-12 years: Anna Pumjan, Bantam; Fareeda Wongtongdee, Feather; Alissa Wattanalatrak, Light; Rammika Sutthasien, Middle; Ratchakorn Rammultri, Light Heavy.

Female 13-14 years: Usarawee Samran, Fly.

Female over 17 years: Kannika Bunlert, Fly.



AO POR: More than 500 participants and spectators took part in paddle races held at Ao Por Pier from 9 am to 5 pm on April 22.

Twenty-six teams competed to see who was the fastest in the two-man inflatable canoe competition, while 13 boats were entered in the 10-man competition for *hua thong* boats, which have longtail-like hulls but lack a longtail engine.

Prize money for the event, organized by Rajabhat Phuket University, was 7,000 baht, 5,000 baht and 3,000 baht, respectively, for the top three teams in each division.

Most competitors were from the Ao Por area. One team of Westerners, making an attempt on this bastion of Phuket sport (above), were knocked out in the first heat of the inflatable canoe event.

PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

Ex-champs Didi's drop out

PATONG: Two-time champs Didi's have withdrawn from the current season of the Patong Darts League. Points from all games played against them have been extracted from the league table and future matches scheduled involving Didi's will be considered byes.

League players will just have to find some other way to have fun in Patong on a Tuesday night.

Of the nine teams still standing, only Dogs Bollocks and Offshore managed to harvest all six points from their first two matches, tying for first place.

Dogs Bollocks, led by the strong Thai doubles combo of Lek and Peak, hounded defending champs Piccadilly to a 7-2 defeat and took the beer leg for good measure.

Piccadilly are now languishing in last place with no points now that the points they won in their first match at Didi's have been stripped.

Meanwhile, Offshore, who many picked to have a strong run at the title this league, managed only to eke out a three-point win against Shakers, who are just returning to the league after dropping out over the high season.

The only other team to take all three points were Freddie and the boys of Coyote, who found the board at newcomers Simply Red on Soi Kebsup very much to their liking, winning 8-1 and the beer leg.

In one of the oddest results of the week, Queen Mary somehow managed to lose the beer leg at home after a 9-0 whitewash against Beach House. Too much free beer, perhaps?

On a vaguely related topic, rumors swirling among members of the league that the traditional round dart board was to be replaced by a "square" dart board at the professional level in the UK turned out to be nothing more than a rather clever April Fool's Day spoof.

Send any information, relevant or otherwise, to: darts@phuketgazette.net

April 17 results: Piccadilly 2 Dogs Bollocks* 7; Queen Mary 9 Beach House* 0; Shakers 4 Offshore* 5; Simply Red 1 Coyote Bar* 8; Valhalla - Didi's bye (* = winner of beer leg).

Standings: 1.= Dogs Bollocks, Offshore (6 points); 3. Coyote Bar (5); 4. Shakers (3); 5. Queen Mary (2); 6.= Valhalla, Beach House (1); 8.= Piccadilly, Simply Red (0).

May 1 matchups: Piccadilly v Beach House; Offshore vs Valhalla; Shakers v Simply Red; Dogs Bollocks v Coyote Bar; Queen Mary - bye (home team first).

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Wolves grab Phuket Sixes



Lashing out: A player in the sixes smacks one for the boundary.

KARON (*The Nation*): Two teams from Perth fought out a dramatic final at the Phuket International Cricket Sixes April 22, with the Joondalup Kinross Wolves pipping the Leeming Spartans with a mighty 6 off the last ball to claim the Sixes title.

Following heavy overnight rain, which washed out the second half of the charity Twenty20 match on Saturday night, hot and steamy conditions greeted participants as the finals day got underway at Karon Stadium.

But the action on the field from the teams was as hot as the conditions and the Cup final proved the best so far in the history of the tournament. Leeming batted first in the final and notched up a challenging total of 84 runs with Wayne Montana and Brad Mant both retiring at 30 following bludgeoning knocks.

Joondalup, making their debut at Phuket, chased the total down steadily. But Wayne

Fontana's bowling for Leeming proved difficult to get away in the final over and two runs were required from the last ball. That however was dispatched for a massive 6 toward the beach by "Chimpy", which ensured victory and the Cup to Joondalup.

Earlier, Joondalup had defeated CBB Postels and Leeming Spartans had downed Lamma CC to reach the final.

For more information see www.phuketsixes.com.

Other results:

Cup Champions – Joondalup Kinross Wolves; Runners-up – Leeming Spartans CC.

Plate Champions – Pocari CC; Runners-up – Singapore Airlines.

Bowl Champions – Sunshine CC; Runners-up – Karon Seasanders.

Spoon Champions – Applecross CC; Runners-up – Green Man Gunnas.



SPIRITED: Ben Copely's Asia Spirit was fast enough to keep pace with the Firefly catamarans, and too quick for the rest of the fleet in the ACYC racing April 22.

Clean victory for Asia Spirit

CHALONG: Ben Copely and his crew on *Asia Spirit* flew around the course to win the Racing class in Race 4 of the Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) Keelboat and Multihull Race Series 2007 on April 22.

Asia Spirit avoided the traffic jam on the crowded start line to make good time in patchy wind on the first upwind leg to the water mark at the northern end of Chalong Bay.

Throughout the rest of the race – a series of "sausages", up and down the bay – Copely and crew made the most of the light to moderate breezes – and even kept pace with the very quick Firefly 850 catamarans.

Nick Band on *Emerald Blue* sailed well to win second place in the class, with Nigel Beare on the much smaller *Fidgi* struggling with the wind all afternoon to finish third.

Only two Firefly 850 cata-

marans joined the fleet: Chris Jongerious on *The Frog* and Roger Kingdon's *Moto Inzi*. *Twin Sharks* did not race as Mark Pescott was away in Australia.

The Frog nearly stalled on the start after having to give way to *X Cat Riot*, but picked up the pace to put on an entertaining duel with *Moto Inzi* all round the course.

However, *Moto Inzi* pipped *The Frog* across the finish line to win.

But it was the older, heavier catamarans that made the most of the conditions, with all three beating the Fireflies on performance handicap.

Tim Milner on *See Krong Huk* finished first, followed by Bob Brindley on *X Cat Riot*, which gave good chase all afternoon. Ben Kimble on *Charro* finished third.

Harry Usher on *Eos* won

the Cruising class and the Image Asia Encouragement Award, relegating Tony Swain-Dudman on *Onyx* to second place.

Both view the expected return of John Fenn on *Four Winds* at the next ACYC race to be a serious challenge.

The Day Sponsor of Race 4 of the series was The Light-house, in Chalong.

There will be no ACYC races in May as many ACYC members will be racing in the Top of the Gulf Regatta being held off Pattaya May 3 to 7 and in the Koh Samui International Regatta from May 27 to June 2.

The next ACYC race will be on June 10. All are invited to join, regardless of sailing experience. Cost is 100 baht per ACYC member, 200 baht per non-member – Thais can join free.

For more information call Tony Knight at 081-7470074 or visit www.acycphuket.com

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Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

Elephants are mega-cool. I know that today, of course, having been here in Thailand for a while. The elephant is even one of the many symbols of this country – it's so important here, it used to be on the national flag.

Apart from being the largest terrestrial animal on earth, second in height only to the giraffe, did you know that elephants have knees, as we do, but on both their front and hind legs. Despite this, they're one of the few animals that can't jump.

Outside elephant trekking, I'm not sure if there are any elephants still working in southern Thailand, though there are plenty farther north. Depending on the size of the elephant, they can actually lift 200 to 400 kilograms, believe it or not. That's nearly half a ton. Not bad at all. Isn't it good that you can sound just a little bit like David Attenborough by typing "www.google.com" into a computer.

Oh, and the term "Jumbo" comes from the elephant Jumbo, who after living in Angola, France and England, was sold to PT Barnum of The Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus in the US. Jumbo died on September 15, 1885, crossing railroad tracks in St Thomas, Ontario. The collision derailed the train.

And if you care, September 22 is Elephant Appreciation Day.

While enjoying a cold beer at Cok Chang, an elephant trekking-cum-watering hole with resident gibbons in the hills between Rawai and Kata, I once noticed a male elephant which, as I try to put this in a way that will offend as few people as possible, had

A CREEPY KIND OF ELEPHANT

become somewhat "aroused".

Maybe he'd just been flicking through the pages of *Hot Elephants Weekly* or considering unseemly elephantine frolics with Mrs Elephant that night. Those trunks are useful appendages, after all. Whatever the cause of his rising to the occasion, the result was more than a little scary. At least the name of the establishment now makes complete sense.

I heard a pearl of artistic wisdom recently, by the way – how to sculpt an elephant. Apparently it's not particularly difficult. What you do is first get a huge block of marble, then you chip away everything that doesn't look like an elephant.

Elephants aren't exactly lightning fast – although they can run at speeds up to 30 kilometers an hour; I certainly wouldn't want to be running away from an unhappy charging elephant – how often have you seen an elephant creep? They're not known for their stealth or subtlety, and are hardly likely to walk up behind you on tiptoe and shout, "Boo!" In fact anything that refers to elephants and creepers in the same sentence has to be pretty bizarre.

Now we finally get to the point of my inane ramblings – a unique plant known as the elephant creeper. Some people call



CREEPY CRAWLER: Plant an elephant creeper where vertical covering is needed.

it silver morning glory or woolly morning glory. If you are Thai you would call it a *phak-rabaat*.

This native of India and Burma is amazing for one big reason – I've never seen anything grow as quickly. Never ever. It could well be just my imagination, but when I first brought one of these home, I'm sure it extended itself by an inch or two daily. Nearly as impressive as a certain elephant I once witnessed.

But it wasn't always as enthusiastic. I first spotted it at a local garden center and jumped on the motorcycle Thai-style with it precariously gripped under one arm. By the time I got it home, it was looking a little less magnifi-

cent. In fact it looked pathetic; rather like a snake whose backbone had spontaneously turned to jelly. I thought I'd killed it. Shift of location? Wind? I had no idea. It certainly wasn't particularly happy. This lethargic state didn't last long.

By the following morning, I realized that this plant is merciless to all in its path. Tendrils shoot out continuously from the main stem like some kind of Jurassic python, coiling around whatever is in their reach. The jelly backbone had been transformed into something very different.

It is best to try to guide it away from anything you don't want it to throttle to death, as it

will strangle and smother anything that gets in its way. Mine decided that the fence it was growing near should become its domain; the fence didn't get the chance to argue. The best surprise comes with the flowers, which appear without warning. When the plant is mature, big, dramatic blueish-mauve trumpet flowers bloom repeatedly.

The large leaves, unsurprisingly, are shaped a little like elephant ears (at last we get to the elephant connection). They're green on top, with silvery white hairs below, which grow profusely from low down on the stem. The underside of the leaves feels rather like the velvet in your grandmother's jewelry box.

The elephant creeper can be grown from a pot or from the ground in rocky, sandy soil. The tendrils can grow up to around 10 meters. It doesn't need that much space – just something to attach itself to. Like its namesake, it's hardy and is quite content in either direct sun or shade. It needs plenty of watering but doesn't like standing in water.

In India, both the seeds and the roots of the elephant creeper are used for their medicinal properties. They are used to aid the nervous system, as a geriatric tonic and a mild aphrodisiac. The plant reportedly also has purifying, antiseptic properties, and is believed to help maintain healthy joints for people suffering from arthritis. If you crush the leaves and mix them with water into a paste, you have a perfect treatment for skin wounds. Or so they say.

There are supposed to be psychoactive ingredients in both the seeds and roots that some claim to have aphrodisiac qualities. I can't say that I've actually tested this theory myself, but if there is anyone that wants to put the theory to the test, then fill your boots. As it were.

Want advice on your garden?

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Design

by Semacote Suganya



IN THE PINK: The use of pink and occasional splashes of bright color warms up the minimalist grays and whites that dominate the restaurant's design.

WARMING TO A THEME

Settled among the 36 residences in Cape Yamu's Grove Garden sits the cozy Grove Garden Restaurant. The restaurant has an inviting yet contemporary design in a calm and quiet environment.

The 48-seat restaurant with indoor and outdoor seating has been open only six months and was designed by developer Lars Ydmark.

"We try to keep it all in the same trend. With the actual layout and planning we got help from Nakara Design.

"It doesn't look like much design at all, but that's the whole idea. We chose the furniture, pink sofas and wallpaper, to match the cozy atmosphere and give the restaurant a warm feeling.

"The basic thought was to create that warm

atmosphere in a very minimalistic way. That's why we have the wood floor, wood paneling and red walls, all of these together to create a homey and comfortable environment but in a minimalistic way," explained Mr Ydmark.

Mr Ydmark was involved with all of the design throughout the property. Most of the work was done in-house, but designers such as Adrian Kosh from Phuket by Design were brought in for help in some areas.

"Knowing that this area is growing, we wanted to create a level of fine dining. People who come here always come back.

"They enjoy the atmosphere because it's very quiet and very calm, and also because the quality of food is absolutely fantastic!" said Mr Ydmark.





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Home of the Week

Thalang



The home, on a 1,400-square-meter plot, is surrounded by carefully landscaped gardens.



The sculpted swimming pool offsets the square lines of the house.

Tropical space

Thalang is an up-and-coming area of Phuket and certainly will be in great demand for the coming years. Being close to boating, hospitals, shopping centers and golf courses just adds to its attractive qualities.

This large home has been built on 1,400 square meters of land and is fenced with a solid concrete border and a large sliding vehicle gate with ornamental design.

The gardens inside have been beautifully landscaped with large grassy areas full of tropical palm trees, shrubs and other local plants. At the rear of the house is a private swimming pool.

Along a tarred driveway lined with white pebbles is parking for two vehicles and the main entrance to the ground level of the two-story house. This house is quite large with an area of 450sqm.

Inside is the main living and dining area, which is tiled with beige-colored ceramic tiles.

Double sliding doors open to the garden and swimming pool areas.

Adjacent is a large Western kitchen styled to fit with the contemporary design of the house.

There are gas cooking appliances, a granite countertop and plenty of cupboard space.

The house contains four bedrooms, all with en-suite bathrooms and the main bedroom has a large attached balcony. The fully-furnished property has been styled with modern furniture in contemporary Thai.

A large property such as this it would only be complete with private maid's quarters and a laundry room. Air conditioning throughout keeps everything cool.

Listed now at 16 million baht with Chanote title and freehold purchase terms.

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



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Construction Update

by Janyaporn Morel

Getting beached in Kata

Developer Phuket Golden Place Property Co Ltd this month began work on two projects: The Beach Center and The Beach Town Home, on nine rai on Patak Rd, opposite Club Med.

The Beach Center, located at the rear of the site, will be six blocks comprising a total of 47 three-story shophouses. Construction is about 10% complete.

The Beach Town Home, three blocks of three-story townhouses totaling 19 units, is also currently about 10% complete.

Karn Prachumphan, Managing Director of Phuket Golden Place Property Co Ltd, told the *Gazette*, "We expect that the Beach Center will be finished and we will be able to transfer ownership of units to buyers by about November this year.

"The Beach Town Home will be finished about February next year," he added.

The Beach Center will feature two types of shophouses. The smaller type of 204 square meters will be 4.5 meters wide and 13m long, and have three bedrooms and three bathrooms. There will be 37 units of this type, with prices starting at 4.5 million baht each.

"We have designed the first floor to be a wide, open space for general business with a total area of 66sqm. The second floor will have one bedroom with one bathroom, and the third floor will have two bedrooms with two bathrooms," K. Karn said.

"These units will be suitable for any kind of business and owners can use the building as the family home," he explained.

The larger "two-unit" shophouses will each have a total area of 420sqm. K. Karn said these units are very popular as they comfortably allow for business expansion. Prices for these units start at 10.5 million baht each.



Grand scheme: Computer-generated graphic shows what the completed townhomes will look like.

"These shophouses will have eight bedrooms and nine bathrooms, each bedroom will have an en-suite bathroom. These are very suitable for being guesthouses, which is a very good form of investment because investors can get returns very quickly," K. Karn said.

He added that about half of both the "single-unit" and the "double-unit" shophouses have been sold already.

At the northern end of the site work is continuing on The Beach Town Home project of 19 three-bedroom, three-bathroom townhouses. Each unit will have a total area of 192sqm. Prices

start from 5.9 million baht each, and about 30% of these units have already been sold, K. Karn said.

He added that the townhouses have been designed as "resort houses", with lush gardens and a large shared swimming pool that is 6m by 15m.

Also the prices are affordable, many similar products in the same area start from 7 million baht up.

"We are fortunate to have good construction contractors, who have been involved in our previous projects, including Kata Corner Plaza, Kata Night Bazaar and The Beach Boulevard," he added.

Also under construction at the site is The Beach Boulevard Hotel, a three-story boutique hotel with 10 guest rooms, which K. Karn said is 90% complete and expected to open in July.

Plans for another boutique hotel, comprising 67 guest rooms, are afoot, said K. Karn, adding that he expects that hotel to open by next high season.

For more information contact The Beach Center sales office at Phuket Golden Place Property Co, 121 Patak Rd, Karon, Muang, Phuket 83100. Tel: 076-333114 or 081-8927-406. Fax: 076-333499. Website: www.phuket-goldenplace.com


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Property Gazette

Properties For Sale

CHALONG HOUSE



for sale in Land & Houses Chalong. New house with furniture, never occupied, very nice design, saloon, reception, office, kitchen, maid's room, 4 rooms (one with furniture and aircon + dressing equipped + bathroom with Jacuzzi). Price: 6.9 million baht. Please call for details. Tel: 081-5693890.

ATTRACTIVE HOUSE FOR SALE

in secure and desirable development. 3 bedrooms (2 en suite), 3 bathrooms, 2 floors, living room, verandas, kitchen, study, laundry room, garden, garage, ADSL, UBC. 7.9 million baht. Call for more info. Tel: 08-48439579. Email: somlerdee@yahoo.com

NEW HOUSE IN KATHU

for sale. 3 bedrooms, en-suite bathrooms, large living room. Kitchen/diner, laundry room, set around spacious veranda with walled garden, private parking, semi rural yet close to shops, international school and golf courses. Patong is 9 minutes away. Price: 4.6 million baht. For more information call Tel: 084-8439579. Email: somsrij@aol.com

MODERN LUXURIOUS villa. 323sqm newly-built with bathroom, dressing room, living room, 80sqm spacious kitchen, 2m x 5m swimming pool. Land is 1,780sqm near Nai Harn Beach. Sell for: 22.8 million baht. Car for rent: 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-2713454. Email: talavilla@yahoo.fr

HOUSE WITH POOL



Huge house located near Boat Lagoon and British Int'l School. 7 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, 8 aircons, swimming pool, Jacuzzi, fitness equipment, cable TV, ADSL. Tel: 081-5301276. Email: svanunge@hotmail.

PATONG BAY; GREAT SEA VIEW



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OCEANVIEW HOUSE, KATA

Absolute sea view, best location in Kata. Fully furnished, ready to move in. 800sqm. 4 bedrooms with pool. A must see. Tel: 076-284137, 081-7371585. Email: jaspalt@loxinfo.co.th Please visit our website at: <http://andathara.villas.com>

KRABI LAND

Land for sale near Ao Nang, mountain view. 1.2 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-7475293.

IMMACULATE VILLA



Very private location. Lush tropical garden, pool, 4 quality bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, large living room, top kitchen, huge patio. Fully furnished with 450sqm of living area, 1,500sqm of land. Chanote. Thalang area near Heroines Monument. Please contact for info at Tel: 084-6907057.

POOL VILLA IN NAI HARN

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CHALONG HOUSE

for sale. 2 stories, 4 bedrooms in Chalong. Western kitchen. Discounted price: 3.8 million baht. Tel: 081-9795755.

CONDOS FOR FOREIGN ownership. Nai Harn Beach Condos, high quality, up-market, safe, secure. Large 2-bedroom units completely furnished and equipped, great location, views, close to the beach. Only 8 million baht, a must to see! Please call for more info at Tel: 081-7974068.

RAWAI BEACH

condo. Sea view, foreign freehold. 450,000 baht. Tel: 086-9408914. For more info email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

RAWAI 2-STORY

house. New, 160sqm. Price: 1.5 million baht. Close to beach. For more information call Tel: 086-9408914. Or contact for details via email at: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

NEW HOUSE FOR SALE

in Thantong Villa 7. Townhouse with 2 floors, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms on Chao Fa East Rd opposite California Villa. Price: 1.9 million baht. Contact Khun Jeab. Tel: 084-6890760. Email: a_manasanan@hotmail.com

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freehold, two bedrooms, Thai-style condo. 20 steps to beach, ocean views, swimming pools, north Patong. 9.7 million baht. For more details phone 086-2765117 or email Jihshand@yahoo.co.uk

RENOVATION

not yet complete. City house, 9 rooms, 170sqm. Garden with 100sqm. Sell for 2.3 million baht. Rent for 13,000 baht per month. Near Nai Harn. Call Tel: 084-4454614.

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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

SHADY RETREAT



3-bedroom house for sale. Chanote title, 1.75 rai. Newly renovated, 25 mins north of Phuket airport, 5 mins to beach and local town, room to build 2 more houses. 4.2 million baht. Options to develop. Tel: 087-8067145.

RAWAI LAND

for sale. 432sqm in Rawai near Mangosteen Resort. Call Tel: 086-2733288.

NEW HOUSE FOR SALE

Beautiful, modern, European style. 3 airconditioned bedrooms, 3 en-suite bathrooms, huge terrace and living area, garage, laundry room, safe, and alarm system. Plot of 600 sqm. Quiet area. Built by European contractor. Only 10.5 million baht. Tel: 084-8441486. Email: meeuwissenpaula@hotmail.com

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Laguna area. 1.5 rai in a very popular development area next to Laguna Phuket. Chanote title. 4.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 076-325411, 081-9793369. Fax: 076-325413. For more info please contact via email: phudtheera@phuketrealty.net

LAND FOR SALE

8 minutes to Laguna, Baan Jo Thalang, 153sq wah (600sqm). Chanote title, water and electricity. Price: 1.325 million baht. Contact Tel: 081-0415646. Email: Khunraf@hotmail.com

PATONG VIEWPOINT BLUE POINT



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Property Gazette

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Kamala. Spectacular mountain-top view 3 ngan 43 wah (almost 1 rai). Electricity & water supplies. Price: 5.8 million baht ono. For more info, contact Tel: 076-386038, 086-6870379. Email: anthonym@rks1.freemove.co.uk

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4.5 RAI IN RAWAI

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CHALONG HOUSE

for sale. 2 stories, 4 bedrooms in Chalong. Western kitchen. Discounted price: 3.8 million baht. Please contact for further details. Tel: 081-9795755.

RAWAI BEACH VILLA

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- 1,252sqm (3 ngan, 13sq wah). 27m deep x 50m wide. Asking 3.2 million baht. Contact me for more information. Call Tel: 089-9728544. Email: av58phuket@yahoo.com

NEW MODERN BALINESE VILLA IN KATHU



Near Loch Palm Golf Course for sale. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, office, large living room, Western-style kitchen. Sala, water pond, maid's bungalow, 58sqm pool, massage shower heads in all bathrooms, solar hot water, aircons throughout. 330sqm living area, 800sqm land. Well priced at 14.5 million baht. For more information and details: Tel: 089-7241140 or email: nong.phuket@yahoo.de

HOUSE FOR SALE KARON BEACH



With swimming pool. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, sea view. For sale at 13 million baht. Call Tel: +49-211-4791183. Inquire via email: soipatak18@aol.com

RARE STUNNING

seaview land in Layan. 8 rai, Chanote, road access. More information at email: danwea@loxinfo.co.th

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LUXURY KATA

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Property Gazette

ANUPHAS GOLF VILLA

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FURNISHED HOUSE

5 minutes to Laguna Phuket. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, UBC, ADSL, solar water heating, 3 aircons, living room, large hall area, pool 5m x 10m. Usage area: 310sqm. Land: 1,200 sqm. 13 million baht. Tel: 089-8738295. Email: tomasflet@hotmail.com

OCEANVIEW CONDO

A must-see apartment resale, located in Kata. Stunning ocean view and walking distance to the beach. Unique opportunity. Leasehold. Call Tel: 076-292265, 084-0535780. Email: info@ayudhya.net

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in Nai Harn. 640sqm with Chanote and views to Phi Phi. 2.9 million baht. Tel: 076-288047, 081-8941660. Email: cottrell@loxinfo.co.th

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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

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Furnished 1-bedroom, 1-bathroom condo with 2 separate balconies and foreign freehold ownership. Quiet area located in the heart of town and shops. Unobstructed panoramic view. 100 meters from Patong Beach. Pool, indoor parking, 24-hour security and reception. A rare chance to secure a one of a kind location! Offered at 7.5 million baht. Tel: 087-2761225, 081-6927397. More information via email: patong15@gmail.com

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.

LAND IN NAI YANG

Chanote near beach for sale. 2 rai for 7 million baht, 1 rai for 3.5 million baht, 6 plots (each 440sqm) for 1.5 million baht per plot. For more info Tel: 089-7241140. Email: nong.phuket@yahoo.de

KATA BEACH

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

FREEHOLD CONDO

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

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building for sale located in Phuket City. 18 rooms, 4 floors with Chanote. Call for more information. Tel: 084-0541447.

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

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

Properties For Rent

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New 4-bedroom, 4-bathroom villa at Phuket Country Club. Pool, aircon, maids' rooms. Long-term: 65,000 baht per month. For more information call Tel: 086-2772691. Email: davidinasia@hotmail.com

NAI HARN, RAWAI, CHALONG

House. Maximum 150,000 baht per year. Please email: bengtjansson@hotmail.com

RAWAI BUNGALOW

1 to 2 bedrooms with kitchen, aircon, bathroom, cable, ADSL, quiet location, nice terrace. From 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-2790837.

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oceanfront luxury 2-bedroom apartment. Spa, pools, ADSL, sea view, quiet. 60,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-9726017. Email: asiasail@yahoo.com For more info, please see our website at <http://koumbele.com/kata2/>

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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.

HOUSE IN KATHU

for rent. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, living room, hot water, 3 aircons, UBC & phone. 18,000 baht/month. Tel: 089-9222800 (Eng), 081-5371515 (Thai).

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.

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.

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KAMALA BEACH

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LUXURIOUS VILLAS



for long-term rental, 4-bedroom pool villa in Rawai, living space: 300sqm. Land size: 1,700sqm. 100,000 baht per month. 3-4 bedrooms, seaview pool villa located in Rawai/Nai Harn area. Living space 350sqm. Land size 2,400sqm. 200,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-381490. Email: info@sea-property-international.com

SEAVIEW HOME



for rent, Rawai-Nai Harn area, 2 bedrooms en-suite, open living, dining area, fully furnished, 45,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-381490. Email: info@sea-property-international.com

4 BEDROOMS + POOL

New 4-bedroom home with pool. Directly on the 9th fairway. Partially furnished. Great environment, quiet and with security. Contact Tel: 081-9390176, 081-9390176. Email: beaver@tstf.net

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FREEDOM APT

Near Wat Patong (2/56 Soi Khuan Yang). Fully furnished, European style, small kitchen, fridge, aircon, fan, cable TV, safe, hot water, bathroom. 9,000 baht per month. Please contact for further details and information. Tel: 084-8450541, 081-8914561.

3-STORY SEA VIEW

Includes 6 rooms, 4 bathrooms and 2 big balconies. Great sea view, located between Rawai and Nai Harn. Contact for info. Tel: 085-7955383.

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Fully furnished, 2 aircons bedrooms, hot shower, living room, kitchen, garage. 11,000 baht per month. Palai area. Contact Tel: 081-8924311.

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Property Gazette

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KATHU TOWNHOUSE

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, new furnishings, parking, executive desk, chair, computer, ADSL, balcony, plants, close to everything. 15,000 baht obo. Tel: 089-9733276. Email: wes@1stchoicecommerce.com

CHALONG NEW HOME

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HOUSE WITH BEAUTIFUL VIEW

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YA NUI CLOSE

to beach on small resort, bungalow with 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, utility room, kitchen, dining area and lounge. 2 aircons, 4 fans, hot water, 25m pool shared, fully furnished. Telephone line, ADSL, cable TV, daily cleaning and electric. 30,000 baht for rent, sale 3.8 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-9586723.

GOLF VILLA FOR RENT

New 4-bedroom, 4-bathroom villa at Phuket Country Club. Pool, aircon, maids' rooms. Long term: 65,000 baht per month. For more information call Tel: 086-2772691. Email: davidinasia@hotmail.com

BRAND NEW HOUSE FOR RENT

New modern house. 3 bedrooms w/ aircon. 3 bathrooms, big living + terrace, Western kitchen, garage, nice garden and many options. Quiet area. Only long term. 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-8441486. Email: Meeuwissenpaula@hotmail.com

PATONG TOWER CONDO A BEAUTY

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CHALONG CLOSE TO BEACH

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, carpark, European kitchen, 4 aircons, private pool, fully furnished, ADSL, LCD TV, home security. Rent: 30,000 baht/month. Sell: 6.25 million baht. Tel: 081-9586723.

CHALONG

near new house for rent. 2 aircon bedrooms, fully furnished. Quiet street close to everything. Tel: 084-8485517.

HOUSE AT CHALONG

Near Palai beach, quiet, 2 bedrooms, aircon, 1 bathroom, fully furnished, carpark. Contact for info Tel: 089-7288311.

KATA LUXURY APT

Furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, Western teak kitchen, huge terrace. Long or short term. Starting at 20,000 baht per month for long term. Tel: 089-5926890. Email: north&west98@yahoo.com

KATHU APARTMENT

A quiet furnished apartment, 3 bedrooms, living room, kitchen, 1 bathroom, terrace, aircon, fans, swimming pool, telephone. Near Loch Palm Golf Club. Long-term rent at 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-202725, 081-8916632.

HOUSE IN TRANG

for rent. Beautiful new house, Pak Meang beach front, 1 bedroom, kitchen, bathroom, one big living room and carpark. 10 minutes to Chao Mai National Park. Long term (minimum 1 year): 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-3840864.

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VILLA FOR RENT

Beautiful, new 2-bedroom villa with private pool close to Rawai and Nai Ham beaches. Fully furnished, aircon. 35,000 baht per month. Pool and garden maintenance included. Please contact Tel: 081-9701716.

2 KATA HOUSES

for rent. 1 to 2 bedrooms, garden, UBC, ADSL. 17,000 baht per month. 2 bedrooms, AC, TV for 11,000 baht per month. Contact Tel: 081-7371687, 086-5869821.

SEAVIEW APARTMENTS

for rent in Karon and Patong Beaches. 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, carpark. Long lease. Price: 50,000 baht per month. For more information email: hans_lange@hotmail.com

2 CONDOS FOR RENT

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studios. Rental per month: 6,000 to 12,000 baht. Aircon, safe, ADSL, UBC, close to beach. Very nice. Please contact for further information at 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

KATHU HOUSE FOR RENT

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

KATHU TOWNHOUSE

Townhouse in Kathu for rent. 2 bedrooms. Fully furnished, air conditioned. 9,000 baht per 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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for rent. Fully furnished, 3 bedrooms with aircon, UBC cable, 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

1-ROOM APARTMENT

for rent in Kamala, 3 min to the beach. Furnished, ADSL, Wireless LAN. 7,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-7193962. Email: bbq@loxinfo.co.th

VILLA FOR RENT

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.

1-BEDROOM CONDO

in Patong Tower. Newly renovated in a beautiful modern style. Best location in Patong. Long term only. 18,000 baht per month. Call Tel: 087-1238320. Email: deherder@hotmail.com

BIG HOUSE FOR RENT

3 big aircons, 3 bedrooms, fully furnished, but no fence. Beautiful garden, near Chalong Bay. Price: 30,000 baht per month, includes electric and water. Tel: 081-8924311.

RAT-U-THIT ROAD SHOP

Detached building, large shop with offices above, prime location. For more info call Tel: 081-8935200. Email: gsf@seal-asia.com

3-BEDROOM HOUSE

for rent in Chaofa Thani. 9,500 baht per month. Nice garden. Tel: 076-280440, 086-6831964. Fax: 076-280440. Email: franklee200@hotmail.com

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- Very good command of English language (written & spoken)
- Previous work employment in international hotel chain, preferably a resort, would be an advantage
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- Excellent communicator, with ability to train and develop staff at both supervisory and entry level

Front Office Manager

- Male/Female, 30-40 yrs old
- Bachelor degree in any related field
- Sound knowledge of all Front Office standards & procedures & strong organization skills
- Computer literate in Fidelio (version V7.13), MS Excel & Word
- Knowledge of SLH - Trust Voyage system will be an advantage
- Very good command of English language (written & spoken)
- Previous work employment in international hotel chain, preferably a resort would be an advantage
- Minimum 3 years as an Asst Front Office Manager/one year as Front Office Manager
- Must lead by example, customer service oriented, be hands-on and create a pro-active team environment
- Excellent communicator, with ability to train and develop staff at both supervisory and entry level

Applicant must have: Outgoing personality, self confident and with an eye for detail. Position is Koh Lanta based and the successful applicant must therefore be able to adapt and live on an island location. This position is open for Thai nationals only and offers an excellent remuneration package.

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 A position is available for a smart person to earn top money. Must be fluent in both Thai and English, and hold a current drivers license. Knowledge of hotels and restaurants in and around Phuket would be an advantage. Please send your CV or contact for more details. Tel: 085-7841691. Email: nadir.66@libero.it

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 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. Please contact for more information. Tel: 02-7427601, 081-9235743. Fax: 02-7427601. Email: s.khongpracha@hotmail.com

DRIVER WANTED
 Family in Pa Khlok looking for a driver with valid driver's license. Please contact for more info. Tel: 076-260468. Fax: 076-26 0440. Email: admin@tacticalcapital.net

ENGLISH SPEAKING
 staff wanted to work in Internet cafe and juice bar in Phuket City. Please contact. Tel: 086-5097510. Email: simonstomas@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



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:

Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Admin. Secretary Retail Attendant 	Spa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spa Reception Spa Therapist Beautician (Hair / Nail)
Front Office <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Night Guest Service Supervisor Guest Service Agent Bell Man Driver 	House Keeping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Florist Room Maid Room Boy Cleaner
Food & Beverage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food & Beverage Manager Outlet Manager Waiter Waitress 	Accounting <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



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, Thepkasatthi Rd., Kohkaew, Muang, Phuket 83200
 Tel: 078-239-755. www.royalphuketmarina.com

FITNESS CENTER & SPA
 Experienced manager required to open fully-equipped professional training center. Full knowledge of equipment & fitness programs. Computer literate with a strong desire to build and become part of a new business. Call Tel: 081-5375133. Email: keith.wickers@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.kvrspa.com

RECEPTION MANAGER
 Experienced in hotel reception and reservations. Computer literate. Fluent English. Drivers license. Please contact Tel: 081-5375133. Email: keith.wickers@gmail.com Visit our website at www.kvrspa.com

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
 Design artwork for quality publications & advertising. Thai national, excellent skills in Photoshop and Illustrator with knowledge of Indesign. Some English language. Email: info@artandcultureasia.com

OFFICE ADMIN
 Audio visual company is seeking candidates for the above position. Applicants must be fluent in written and spoken English and Thai. Must have good computer skills. Experience in administration and accounts is an advantage. Interested applicants should email full CV with current salary to cv@enhanceav.com or call Tel: 076-527640 for additional information and details.

Looking for a job?
 Still haven't found the perfect candidate?
 Find more Recruitment Classifieds at www.phuketgazette.net!

Island Job Mart

STAFF REQUIRED

Owners and guests living in luxurious villas are world travelers who value convenience & service. To ensure their utmost satisfaction and experience, Phuket Villas & Homes is currently seeking Thai nationals to occupy the following positions:



1. Villa Managers - 4 positions

- Male or Female age 25+
- BA in Hotel or Hospitality Management preferred
- Excellent communication skills including knowledge of MS Office, e-mail and internet
- 2 years minimum experience in managing people
- Strong leadership and problem solving skills

2. Technician Supervisor / Estate Supervisor

- Male age 25+
- BA in Mechanical / Electrical or related field
- At least 2-3 years experience in system maintenance
- Strong leadership and self motivated
- Able to supervise other staff

3. Administrative Assistant / Estate Secretary

- Male or Female age 22+
- Vocational or higher in Business Admin or related field
- Computer literacy and familiar with MS Office e-mail and internet
- Good communication skills, service minded and well organised
- Knowledge of gardening and landscaping maintenance an advantage

4. Thai Chef - 4 positions

- Male or Female age 25+
- Hotel or restaurant experience essential
- Some English required
- Creative and very competent in the preparation and cooking of Thai cuisine
- Good organizational skills and costing experience required
- Ability to conduct cooking classes for guests an advantage

5. Technician - 4 positions

- Male age over 22 years
- Vocational or higher in Mechanical / Electrical
- At least 1 years experience in systems maintenance

6. Maids - 8 positions

- Female age over 22 years

7. Gardeners - 4 positions

- Male or Female age over 22 years

8. Accountant / Bookkeeper

- Male or Female age over 22 years
- Good command of English
- Experience with Quickbooks and payroll systems

All positions offer an attractive salary and benefits including service charge. Applicants are invited to apply in writing with full CV stating present and expected salaries, enclosed with a recent photo to: contact@phuketvillasandhomes.com or call mob: 089 152 5139

Thai Nationals only. Positions 1 - 4 & 8 require a good command of English and computer skills are essential. Male applicants must have completed or exempt from military service. Private villa or hotel experience an advantage.

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR ESTATE MANAGEMENT KATAMANDA ESTATE PHUKET



Katamanda Estate, a high quality residential estate in Kata Noi, is currently seeking proposals for management of the Estate starting 1st January, 2008. Estate management companies with the appropriate skills and resources are invited to tender for the management of all aspects of the Estate's operation including a villa rental program.

Interested parties should contact Mr Michael McCready of McEvilly & Collins Law offices via email: michael@legalthai.com.

Tender documents will be released to interested parties no later than the **30th May, 2007**.

www.katamanda.com

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

Minimum 3 years' experience, CPD certified. Good English an advantage. Please contact: Personnel Manager, Asian Wind Co Ltd. Call Tel: 076-381338, 081-8957908.

SALES & MARKETING

Thai nationals who can speak, read and write English, are computer literate in English with good negotiation skills and have their own transport are required for an office in Rawai. English-speaking general office staff needed as well. Call Tel: 083-1814072. Email: phuketconnections@yahoo.com

PROPERTY SALES EXECUTIVE

A well-established Kata property developer and manager is looking for an experienced sales executive. Applicants should be Thai, female, 25-35 years old with property sales experience. Candidates without property sales experience may also apply. Outgoing personality, excellent English and good computer skills essential. Please send resum  with photo or contact. Tel: 089-6521951. Email: pnoley@greenheritagegroup.com

OFFICE MANAGER

Thai Office Manager needed for busy sports-orientated business in Chalong. Requirements: read, write and speak English; computer skills (Word, Excel, Internet) needed. Work with Thais and foreigners. Excellent salary, social insurance and bonus. Please contact Smai for an interview. Call Tel: 076-367071. Email: info@tigermuaythai.com

CHIEF/SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

The Mangosteen Boutique Resort and Spa, a 5-star boutique resort in the south of Phuket, is modernizing its accounting system. Requirements for the position: Bachelors degree with major in accounting. Licensed to practice as an accountant by the Commercial Department. At least 5 years' relevant work experience in accounting or auditing. Exposure to Fidelio/QuickBooks systems an advantage but not necessary. English language capability a must. Please apply by email or phone before April 30. Tel: 076-289223. Fax: 076-289389. Email: myfuture@mangosteen-phuket.com

MARKETING PROJECT
NWE Co Ltd Phuket imports antique Chinese designed outdoor furniture. Looking for dynamic marketing person to promote and sell in Phuket. Contact Marc for more details at 089-8662346. Email: marc@mdcintl.com

TEACHERS WANTED

Teachers required for:

- * Public schools
- * Business/resort classes
- * On-site classes

Candidates need to be native English speakers with TEFL or CELTA certification. Preference given to bachelor's degree holders with teaching experience. Please call Brent at ECC. For more information call Tel: 076-219062.

CBRE

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Since its establishment as Thailand's first international property consultant 19 years ago, CB Richard Ellis has become the country's market leader. Due to our rapid business growth, we are looking for professional, energetic and self-motivated persons for the following positions:-

PHUKET-BASED POSITIONS

Property Manager

- Bachelor's / Master's degree in Business Administration, Hotel Management or related field
- Fast-moving and service-minded
- Strong analytical, problem-solving and proven team leadership skills
- Excellent in both written and spoken English

Administration Manager

- Bachelor's degree in Accounting or Business Administration
- Good in both written and spoken English
- Good knowledge in Accounting

Villa Rental Manager

- Bachelor's / Master's degree in Hotel Management or related fields
- Fast-moving and service-minded
- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills
- Excellent in both written and spoken English

Site Manager / Engineer

- Higher Vocational in Electrical, Mechanical / Bachelor's degree in Engineering or any related fields
- Good command of English
- Experience in M & E system

Assistant Property Manager / Site Administrator

- Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Secretarial or any other related field
- Good command of English, computer literate
- Good interpersonal relationship, hardworking, a team player and service-minded

Sales & Marketing Officer - Residential

- Good command of written and spoken English
- Computer literate - Excel, Word, PowerPoint
- Pleasant personality, service-minded
- Able to work extra time if needed
- Own transportation is a must

Sales & Marketing Officer - Investment & Land

- Good command of written and spoken English
- Computer literate - Excel, Word, PowerPoint
- Able to work extra time if needed
- Own transportation is a must

SAMUI-BASED POSITION

Sales & Marketing Officer - Residential

- Good command of written and spoken English
- Computer literate - Excel, Word, PowerPoint
- Pleasant personality, service-minded
- Able to work extra time if needed
- Own transportation is a must

Please apply in person or send your CV to:

CB Richard Ellis (Thailand) Co., Ltd.

12/9 Moo 4, Thepkasatri Road, Kohkaew, Muang, Phuket 83000

Tel: 076 239 967 Fax: 076 239 971

Email: wanpen.duangjit@cbre.co.th

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following positions:

I. 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

II. ASSISTANT ACCOUNTANT

- Thai, age 23 up
- Bachelor's degree or higher (in any field)
- Reasonable command of written and spoken English
- Must have a car driver's license
- Accounting experience would be an advantage, but the Gazette is willing to provide training for a novice with good interpersonal skills and unquestioned honesty

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

ASSISTANT MANAGER

for marine company. Good English skills, strong personality, driver's license and good organizational skills required. Please contact for more information. Call Tel: 086-6903196. Email: rotapi@hotmail.com

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. Tel: 076-342750.

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Articles For Sale

WHAT A BARGAIN

Hitachi TV 32" + VHS (2-years-old), Phillips DVD (3-months-old), 8,000 baht. Call now! Tel: 089-4897348.

FURNITURE SALE

Thai traditional bedframe, Thai classic cupboard, 2 bed-side tables + lamps. 30,000 baht. Tel: 089-4897348.

BIG COOLER

for shop. 4-month-old cooler for shop. Asking 13,500 baht. New price: 20,000 baht. Airon for room, 12,000 BTU, 8,500 baht. Call Tel: 087-4176393.

WHOLESALE

English textbooks. English literature & language with complete teaching manuals and other support materials. Also French, Spanish, German language books, dictionaries, vocabulary books, cookbooks, children's stories, novels and much more. Please contact for additional details. Tel: 075-311450, 081-4158296. Email: kheo19724@yahoo.com

SOFA

Gray-color fabric sofa, L-shaped. Bought 7 months ago for 11,000 baht, selling now for 6,000 baht because moving away. For a picture and detailed dimensions, please contact me via email: y_schwab@hotmail.com

WOODEN FURNITURE

Table, 4 chairs, solid wood. Value of 13,000 baht brand new. Now only 6,000 baht. Tel: 083-3913480.

GEMS AND JEWELRY

Auction. Genuine gems and jewelry on auction. All auctions start from US\$1. No reserve on all auctions. Buy direct from seller. PayPal accepted. Email: marketing@ehotbid.com For further details, please see our website at www.ehotbid.com

NEW SURFBOARD

Brand new, never-used Xnetal surfboard. 6' 4". Bought for 15,000 baht and selling for only 10,000. Will even include FCS bag in the price. Tel: 086-4705291. Email: wahine@rogers.com

NEW AWNINGS

for sale 3m x 2m: 15,000 baht. 4m x 2.5m: 18,000 baht. Contact via email: bbq@loxinfo.co.th

FOR SALE

Siemens dishwasher. Auto 3-in-1 model. Stainless steel. Three months old. Never used. 40,000 baht new. First good offer will sell. Tel: 087-9334097.

Bulletins

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Business Opportunities

CLOTHES SHOP SALE

Phuket Villa Dawroong. Shophouse with 4 big rooms. Rent contract 8 months left. Big glass front, suitable for other uses. Tel: 087-417-6393, 081-1430783

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KARON BAR

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30m from pier, on main street. 1 big boat, 1 small boat, 2 computers. 3.5 million baht. Tel: 089-2902155. Or via email: bk8409@yahoo.co.kr

OFFICE SHOP SPACE

32sqm in good location in Rawai. Lots of possibilities. Please call Tel: 085-7955383.

BEER BARS

For advice on buying a beer bar in Phuket contact Kevin at TSBA. Tel: 084-7300190.

GUESTHOUSE

for sale. Fully-equipped guestrooms, bar and restaurant all new. Lease contract for 11 years. 700,000 baht with 50,000 lease per month. Contact for more information. Tel: 086-1204290.

INVESTORS WANTED

Profitable franchise looking to expand in southern Thailand. Minimum investment: 1.5 million baht. Please contact for additional details. Tel: 084-8412830. Email: islandmuscle@gmail.com

WANT BUSINESS

for less than 3.5 million baht. American seeking a good business to purchase in Phuket. Must be available at a total investment cost of less than 3.5 million baht. Not interested in bars or massage business. Tel: +66-857932477. Email: garyteets@yahoo.com

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for sale. A must-see upscale Italian restaurant. Fully-equipped. Located 50m from Patong Beach. Selling price: 2.56 million baht. Contact Tel: 076-292265, 086-0043008. Email: info@ayudhya.net

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Email:
Poul_66@hotmail.com

GUESTHOUSE

Kamala, small guesthouse, bar, restaurant. 4 rooms and small apartment, beautiful terrace, very clean. 1 minute to beach. Wi-Fi. 5-year lease for 900,000 baht. K. Bob. Tel: 087-2661851.

SELLING PROPERTY

business. I am leaving Phuket and will negotiate with the right person the sale of my website at: www.phuketbusinessforsale.com Easy money with low hours year round, genuine enquiries only. Email: tonydudley@eznet.co.nz

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On our road to success there is no finish line. SEA Property International is growing rapidly and if you would like to be a reliable partner on our way of nationwide and international expansion, please give us a call. Tel: 076-381490. Email: info@sea-property-international.com

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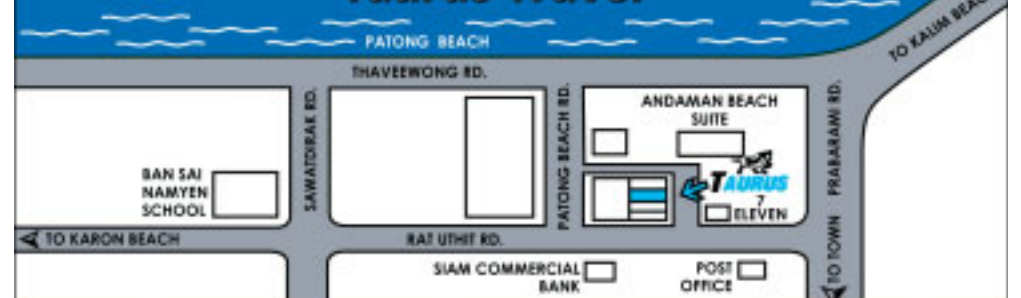
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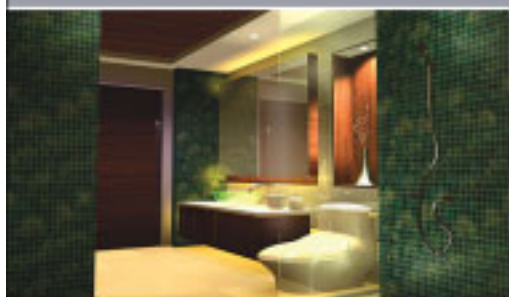
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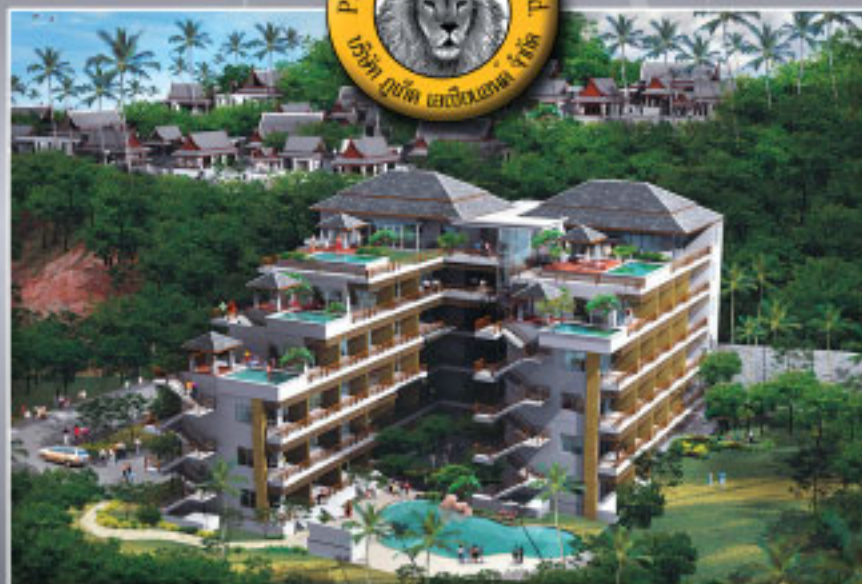
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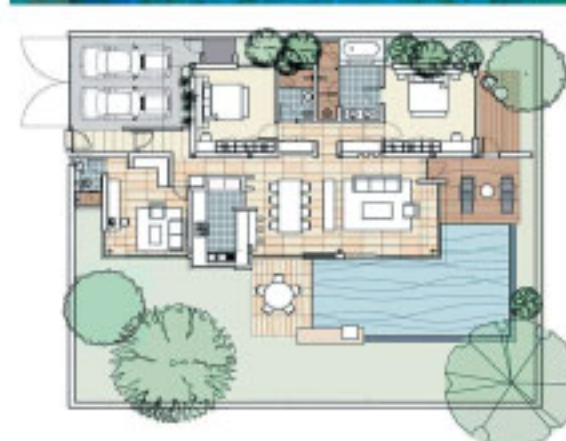
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