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Activists move to halt pier projects

By Sompratch Saowakon

PA KHLOK: Following months of protests by environmental activists on Koh Yao Yai, the Ministry of Transport (MoT) revoked permission for a development firm to build a pier and breakwater at Klong Son Beach.

Now grassroots groups in Phuket are mounting similar challenges to coastal development projects along Phuket's west coast.

On April 22, activists from Pa Khlok and Ao Por petitioned a National Economic and Social Advisory Council (NESAC) working committee to block pier projects planned at Cape Yamu, Ao Por and Chalong.

The petition came about a month after cancellation of a plan to build an 85-meter pier off Baan Yamee, in Koh Yao Yai Village 3 in Phang Nga Bay. That decision followed a protest of several months, during which a coalition of Phang Nga-based activists camped out at the project site and refused to move until permission granted to Bangkok-based development firm Naracha Company was revoked.

After about two months of protest, the stalemate ended in late February, when the Phang Nga Marine Department Office received a letter from the MoT instructing them to revoke Naracha's building permit.

The Koh Yao Yai protesters had argued that the dredging of 100,000 tons of seabed to build the breakwater would destroy the marine environment they rely upon to make a living.

Similar arguments are now being brought forth to stop or re-examine coastal development projects in Phuket, most notably a planned 39-berth marina project



NOVEL NUTS: Prime Minister Sarayud Chulanont inspects nuts with a special coating, developed by a Thai university, which prevents growth of mold for 10 years.

The nuts were on display at the Council of University Administrative Staff of Thailand's annual convention at the Royal Phuket City Hotel April 27 and 28.

"As temporary PM, I am fully supportive of education centers and have seen education centers cooperate with society and their research become commercially viable," PM Sarayud said, adding that he would like to see universities contribute more in improving tourism and preventing disasters.

at Cape Yamu that would be part of a 100-rai hotel and villa project by The Yamu Company.

Pier construction, budgeted at 60 million baht, would require dredging the seabed to a depth of 1.6 meters and the removal of

18,000 cubic meters of sediment.

The Pa Khlok Tambon Administration Organization (*Or-BorTor*) has granted permits for the on-land construction, but the Phuket Marine Department of

Continued on page 2

Crocodiles spotted at tin mine

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PHUKET CITY: The Phuket Provincial Fisheries Office (PPFO) is warning the public to stay away from an abandoned tin mine on the south side of town, following reports by local residents that two or three crocodiles were spotted there April 25.

Provincial officials are trying to track down and catch the reptiles, but thus far to no avail.

Aroon Kersom, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Office for Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, told the *Gazette* that he visited the tin mine lagoon with Phuket Vice-Governor Worapoj Rattasima after receiving the report.

"We stayed there until noon, but they never showed themselves so we went home," he said.

All three crocs were described as at least one meter in length, he added.

The PPFO, which has been ordered to catch the crocs, have been unable to spot them.

PPFO Chief Priro Suttaporn said that the size of the lagoon and the crocodile's ability to blend into the environment may be factors hindering the search.

"It is the last tin mine on Soi Sansuk. I have told local residents to stay away from the lagoon and not to let their children play there," he said.

PPFO officials were to go to Koh Sireh to get special netted traps, which they plan to bait with chicken carcasses in the hope of catching the crocs, he said.

The owner of a crocodile farm in the area has been questioned. He told the PPFO it would be impossible for any but the smallest baby crocs to escape from their enclosure, which is surrounded by two concrete retaining walls.

Continued from page 1

Protestors move to halt pier projects

Phuket is still considering its application to build the pier.

To gauge local opinion about building the marina, The Yamu Company distributed 200 questionnaires.

The company reported that 75% of local residents were in favor, while 17% were opposed and 8% had no opinion.

At a meeting on April 20 Phuket Vice-Governor Worapoj Ratthasima, who chairs the provincial waterways committee, gave The Yamu Company 15 days to convince local residents of the advantages of building the pier.

Spearheading opposition to the project is the Pa Khlok-based Phuket Province Local Fishermen Groups Coordination Network, an umbrella group representing six local fishing rights groups who oppose the project.

Their petition, presented on April 22 to NESAC, outlines the network's dissatisfaction with the outcome of the April 20 meeting and expressed the coalition's fears that coastal development projects will continue to be approved over their opposition and in violation of their rights.

Thanu Naeb-nien, Coordinator of the Wildlife Fund Thailand's Phuket office, said the public opinion poll results reported by the developers did not accurately reflect local sentiment.

If the project is approved in such a manner it would set a terrible precedent for the future, he said.

An officer at the Phuket Coastal Fisheries Research and Development Center at Cape Panwa sent the *Gazette* research documents showing that there is still healthy coral and seagrass in the intended project area.

All the good work Pa Khlok residents had done in conserving coastal resources could be jeopardized by the project, said the researcher, speaking under the condition that his name not be printed.

Immigration Chief denies private security service

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET CITY: Phuket Provincial Immigration Office (PPIO) Superintendent Pol Col Ittipon Atchariyapradit has dismissed claims that the PPIO will launch a private security service, contrary to claims being made in an advertising flier currently being circulated on the island.

The flier claims that, "A special task force will work together with an approved security company in order to provide and equip homes with a fully proven alarm system which is connected to the Phuket Immigration to ensure a

24-hour security service. On the other hand another 24-hour security service also can be provided by a trained and skilled patrol special-force squad under the responsibility of Phuket Immigration."

Pol Lt Col Yod-ake Ruksasuwat, the PPIO officer involved in the project, told the *Gazette*, "We have a team that will patrol every member's property at any location on the island, and we will be working with a security company that has a very good security system, so members can be sure of the security being offered."

He added that the service will offer

alarms directly linked to Phuket Immigration.

"This project is only in Phuket. I have already submitted my project to the Phuket Immigration Office and have already been given permission," he said.

However, Col Ittipon said that he knew nothing about the project and stressed that it would not directly involve the PPIO.

"Phuket Immigration's duties involve visas and permits to stay, checking vessels that enter the Kingdom, investigating aliens who might jeopardize the country's stability, and general immigration administration. We have no other duties except these," he said.

Woman killed as water truck careers off hill

By Janyaporn Morel

CHALONG-KATA: A woman on her way to work at a hotel in Kata was killed on the afternoon of April 25 when she was struck by a water truck that crashed into a pickup truck and her motorcycle before plunging down a steep embankment on the hill between Chalong and Kata.

Pol Lt Col Peeraphan Meemak of the Chalong Police, identified the dead woman as Benjarat Saejan, 28.

Police believe K. Benjarat was on her way to work at a hotel in Kata when the accident occurred.

K. Benjarat was riding her motorbike behind a pickup when the water truck, traveling in the opposite direction toward Chalong, crossed over the dividing line and crashed into the side of the pickup.

Police said that the truck then swerved, but hit K. Benjarat's motorbike head-on, knocking her – but not her motorbike – clear off the road.

The crash occurred near the Phuket Muay Thai Camp and Gym.

The driver of the pickup truck suffered minor injuries.

K. Benjarat's body was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital by volunteer rescue workers



Workers struggle to remove the water truck from its resting point after rolling down the steep embankment.

from the Chalong-based Kupai Foundation.

"We still don't know what was wrong with the truck, as we

have not been able to question the driver. He fled the scene, but we now know his identity," Col Peeraphan said.

Official population rises by 2,262

PHUKET: Between March 21 and April 20, Phuket's three District Offices registered 2,262 new residents, bringing Phuket's official population to 315,557.

Provincial Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) Piya Bharatasilpin reported the increase to Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit during the monthly meeting of the Phuket Provincial Security Committee April 26.

There were 1,881 new registrations during the previous reporting period, from February 21 to March 20.

Of the new registrations, 1,061 were in Muang District, 586 in Thalang District and 615 in Kathu District.

Also contributing to the rise were 224 babies being born during the period, compared with just 84 deaths.

Valentino land charges delayed

BANGKOK (*Kom Chad Luek, The Nation*): Prosecutors in the land encroachment case against Malaysian Tan Teik Hai, better known as "Valentino", and his associates have delayed bringing the trial to court as they are still waiting for the Department of Special Investigations (DSI) to submit more evidence.

The first Public Prosecutor's hearing of the case was held April 27 at the Office of the Attorney General.

Wongsakun Kittiphromwong, of the Department of Special Litigation, ordered Tan and four associates to return for another hearing May 24.

Tan, Phuket's former honorary consul to Morocco, his Thai wife Sudjai Kheereephorn, the Honorary Consul for Djibouti, and her two brothers Bunlert and Krajang face charges involving encroachment on more than 1,000 rai on Koh Yao Yai.

Also facing charges is Malaysian Tan Chi Kiang, who is a Vice-Chairman of the Phuket Chamber of Commerce.

Tan Teik Hai and Tan Chi Kiang allegedly bought 52 plots of mountain land from locals in Phang Nga's Koh Yao district between 1988 and 1991 and had land titles for these plots issued illegally.

The suspects allegedly used nine of the plots as collateral to secure bank loans – through links with bank executives – of a much higher amount than the plots' actual value.

An informed source said the suspects never repaid the loans and the principal plus accrued interest owed now stands at about 3 billion baht.

The Key Piece of the Puzzle

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Safari Pub facing permanent closure

By Supanun Supawong

PATONG: Kathu District Chief Khantee Silapa will ask Governor Niran Kalayanamit to order the permanent closure of Safari Pub as the venue has been caught repeatedly trading after hours, most recently early April 27.

Kathu District Chief Khantee Silapa told the *Gazette*, "I have ordered police to watch Safari Pub closely and to not allow it to reopen. This will be an example to other entertainment venues in Phuket that the government is serious about this problem."

Police arrested the manager of Safari Pub, charging him for trading after hours, Chief Khantee said, adding that the usual punishment for bars trading after hours is 30 to 60 days' closure.

"Entertainment venues caught operating without a license will be closed and not allowed to reopen until they get a license," he added.

"We have warned many entertainment venues for trading after hours or not having licenses, but they are still open.

Passawut Sukban, 33, owner of Safari Pub, told the *Gazette*, that the venue is operates as usual because it has yet to be ordered closed. "We have not closed, and even last night [April 30] we were open.

"If they want to arrest people for keeping clubs open later than allowed, police could arrest owners and managers from almost every entertainment spot in Patong.

"I admit that we were open later than allowed by law, and that we are supposed to close at 1 am, but if all the entertainment here shuts at 1 am that means we can't do business.

"It is well known that we are an entertainment place and we do not have any naughty shows, prostitution or drugs.

"The Governor's policies should stick to the illegal lottery, gambling and stripper shows, instead of the times we can entertain," K. Passawut said.

Chief Khantee said that about 60 entertainment businesses in Kathu District have applied for licenses since the police began their crackdown.

The move to close Safari Pub follows the April 26 meeting of the Phuket Provincial Security Committee, when Gov Niran said, "Regarding bars or entertainment venues that stay open after hours or don't have licenses - I want the police and officials to crack down by closing businesses that have been warned many times but are still open.

"There is no need to worry about who is connected with the business," he said.

Drunk falls down well, drowns

CHALONG: Police are treating the death of a Chalong man whose body was recovered from a well in the Soi Palai area April 23 as an accident.

Pol Lt Col Sanguan Muangtham of the Chalong Police told the *Gazette*, "There was no evidence of foul play, but we recovered a bottle of *lao khao* (rice whiskey) from the well.

"His mother also admitted he was an alcoholic," he said.

Rescue workers used rope to hoist the body from its position, partially submerged in water in the well.

The name of the victim was withheld at his mother's request, Col Sanguan said.

Suniran re-elected Mayor of Chong Talay

CHONG TALAY: Suniran Rachtapruk was re-elected mayor of Chong Talay in the April 28 election, beating one challenger to retain the role.

Voters also chose 12 new administrative members, six from each electorate.

Of the 2,546 registered voters in Chong Talay, 1,983 went to the poll, a 78% turnout.

Mayor Suniran was re-elected with 1,300 votes, while the challenger, Manit Faipet, received 623 votes.

Voters were also allowed to choose a "no vote" option.

The newly elected administrative members are: Supat Athidompon, Siprai Kruasanit, Wicha Sisuphan, Somkit Thanandornwat, Wiroj Chuphak, Jaroon Thawichatanon, Lengtek Pongsanon, Wichan Phatchararungroj, Pol Sen Sgt Maj Korakit Sirsakunsombat, Niwet Ananwiwat, Wisut Techa-upathamkun and Prasert Changlek.

Positions for the administrative members will be decided at a later meeting.

Immigration clarifies 90-day rule change

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET CITY: Following a spate of complaints from confused foreigners entering Thailand on "visa exemptions", Pol Capt Krissarat Nuesen of the Phuket Provincial Immigration Office has made a statement to clarify the 90-day rule and how it was changed, effective April 1.

Visa exemptions, commonly referred to as "visas on arrival", allow tourists from certain countries who arrive at the border without a visa to have permits-to-stay, typically for a period of 30 days, issued by Immigration officials.

"People who enter Thailand on a 'visa exemption' are permitted to stay only 90 days in a six-month period," he said, adding that the six months is calculated as a 180-day period starting from the first day that the foreigner enters Thailand on a visa exemption.

Capt Krissarat explained that from October 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007, when determining how long a foreigner entering Thailand on a visa exemption would be allowed stay, the officer at the border would check to see if the foreigner had been entering Thailand on consecutive visa exemptions.



Pol Capt Krissarat Nuesen of the Phuket Provincial Immigration Office.

If he had been, the officer counted all the days from the first visa exemption - even if the foreigner had not been staying in Thailand for all that period.

He added that from October 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007, Immigration had refused foreigners to stay in Thailand on a visa exemption past the 180-day pe-

riod - again, regardless whether the foreigner had stayed 90 days or not.

"However, the rule has been changed. From April 1, we now count only the days the foreigner has stayed in Thailand - and foreigners are now allowed to stay past the 180-day period," he said.

The number of consecutive visa exemptions allowed is no longer limited to three, he added.

As for foreigners who complain about discrepancies in the counting of days, K. Krissarat reminded those who choose to enter on multiple visa exemptions that it is up to the discretion of the Immigration officer on duty how many days to grant the new arrival, provided it is 30 days or fewer.

Capt Krissarat stressed that the 90-day rule does not affect people who have been issued a visa from the Royal Thai Embassy or Consulate.

"If you want to stay longer, then apply for a visa from a Royal Thai Embassy outside Thailand. That way the rule will not apply to you," he said.

US consular services in Phuket

KARON: The Consular Section of the American Embassy in Bangkok will provide consular services from 8 am to noon at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Beach Resort & Spa on May 11.

The following consular services will be available:

- Passport renewal applications (\$67.00 or 2,546 baht for adult passports, and \$82 or 3,116 baht for a child's passport).
- Notarial Services and Certified Copies (\$30 or 1,140 baht).
- Absentee ballot application and voting abroad information.
- Social security, VA or other federal benefits question.

Applicants are asked to bring exact change for fees.

This is likely to be the final visit by US consular staff until August or September.

For more information contact the American Citizen Services Unit (Tel: 02-2054049, Email acsbk@state.gov).



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Sleepy Mai Khao, with Phuket's longest beach and a population of 10,700, is at the northern end of Phuket and reaches from the airport up to the Sarasin Bridge. The quiet area has recently become host to a development blitz, with 10 projects of at least 906 resort and residential units and billions of baht in investment underway.

Mai Khao has long been known for its long white-sand beach, peaceful fishing villages and the turtles that lay their eggs there. But soon to arrive are condominiums, residential housing, high-end resorts and luxury villa developments, with most of them expected to be completed by the end of next year. The one major resort currently in the area is the JW Marriott Phuket Resort and Spa, though most of the local municipality's tax income comes from Phuket International Airport.

Mual Tipparat, Chief of Public Works of Mai Khao Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) told the *Gazette* that developers took interest in Mai Khao Beach after the 2004 tsunami, which he says resulted in the sea becoming clearer and the sand and beach areas more beautiful.

The cost of land along the 10-kilometer beachfront has increased from about 4 million baht a rai before the tsunami to eight to 12 million baht a rai today.

K. Mual explained that most of the beachfront land had been bought by investors hoping to profit on reselling the property. "Most of the investment is in resorts, condominiums and apartments and upscale villas, but there will be a housing development as well," he said.

However, K. Mual added that several developers have decided not to go ahead with construction, preferring to take a wait-and-see approach due to the potential changes in the Foreign

Developers set

Between Phuket International Airport and the Sarasin Bridge is Mai Khao – home to Phuket's longest beach and a stretch of sleepy fishing villages. For decades the area has been overlooked by developers.

However, it seems that is about to change. Mai Khao has no fewer than 10 major projects underway, and the locals so far have voiced nothing but support for the development.

The *Gazette's*
Leelananporn and
Janyaporn Morel
report.



Mai Khao Beach, better known for turtles and quiet fishing villages, faces an onslaught of development.

Business Act (FBA) and the coup last year.

"One benefit of these projects will be that many local people will find good employment. Almost half of the employees at the JW Marriott and at the airport are local people from the Mai Khao area.

"The only problem we can foresee is that the local water supply is not built to support the growth that is coming, but we expect that these developments will manage and solve that problem.

"I don't think the develop-

ment of Mai Khao will be similar to Patong or Kata and Karon because we will keep this an orderly process. We believe Mai Khao

Beach will keep its quiet and peaceful atmosphere. We have not allowed beach-chair businesses here in the past – and we will continue that policy even when the number of resorts and tourists increase," said K. Mual.

"We have many shrimp farms here and it used to be a popular business; people could make a lot of

money. But shrimp farming has come into some problems and some farms are now losing money.

"I don't think the development of Mai Khao will be similar to Patong, Kata and Karon because we will keep this an orderly process. We believe Mai Khao Beach will keep its quiet and peaceful atmosphere" – Mai Khao *OrBorTor* Chief of Public Works Mual Tipparat.

"I've started talking to these people about considering new forms of business involving the changes taking place here. House rentals would be good because of the number of employees that plan on working here will need accommodation – small rental houses

would be a good business. "It won't be until mid-next

year that we will have a clear idea of what Mai Khao will really look like. Everything is under construction right now, so it is difficult to get a real feel for it. Essentially, the beachfront is full – we won't have much more development after this," he added.

The Chief of Mai Khao Village, Manoch Saythong, told the *Gazette*, "If the *OrBorTor* and the officials involved with environmental issues keep good control of these projects, these developments will be very good for us – in fact, you may see more development here than in other areas.

"As long as our community and religious leaders don't change, I don't think the social and cultural aspects of our people will be affected even if

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sights on Mai Khao



Mai Khao Takes Off:
Ten new developments
are scheduled for the
area, and six are
already under
construction, such as
this site at West
Sands.

more businesses invest in the area.

"I would like to see the new businesses help take care of Mai Khao Beach similar to what the JW Marriott has done.

"They have done a very good job of taking care of the environment here by cleaning the beaches and supporting the

turtles," he added.

Chief Manoch added that two other major projects are planned for the area: the Mai Khao Sports Complex and the International Exhibition and Convention Center.

However, these projects have been on the drawing board for years, and signs of progress

are few and far between.

Support for the new developments even reaches down to the local villages. Mai Khao villager Sombat Saeong owns a grocery store and has seen a recent increase in profits. He told the *Gazette*, "More than a thousand workers are in the area now, and that really helps my business."

The Projects:

Projects planned and under construction in the Mai Khao area include:

The Anantara Resort Phuket. A five-star property on 43 rai. The project is still in the planning stage but plans to open in the second half of 2008 with 83 pool villas.

The Reef. Developed by Phuket Property Hunter, the project is currently under construction and will have 44 condominium and apartment units.

Turtle Cove. A Lersuang Group project, Turtle Cove is nearing completion and will have 100 two-bedroom luxury condominium and apartment units. It will offer five-star resort facilities, including a large swimming pool, restaurant and bar.

West Sands. Developed by Central & City Developments Ltd, West Sands will be on 100 rai with 350 condominiums and apartments. The developer will also build Phuket's first water park at the resort. Comprising four rai and costing around 150 million baht, it will have state-of-the-art water rides and a children's area. The project is under construction.

Sala Phuket Resort and Spa. Sala Phuket was the first project in Mai Khao to break ground after the tsunami. The resort will feature private swimming pools in 63 of the 79 rooms, suites and villas, as well as Sino-Portuguese architecture and design and five-star facilities. The project sits on 40 rai and is under construction.

Sai Khao Villas. Developed by Ocean Front Land Sai Khao Villas, the project will consist of six to 13 private high-end villas. The site, 657 meters of beachfront immediately north of the JW Marriott, is under development but construction has yet to begin. The goal of the project is to build a limited number of villa estates each on about four rai.

Land and Houses. Well-known for their project in Chalong, Land and Houses is planning 53 housing units in Mai Khao, Moo 1. Construction has yet to begin.

Tawarawadee Resort. In the planning stage – no information has been released about the final configuration of the property.

Moon Light Resort and Spa. Also in the planning stage; construction has yet to begin.

Andaman Condominiums. Still in the planning stage, the project will have 44 condominiums and apartments.



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 <p style="text-align: center;">Serenity Terraces "Peace Tranquility on the beach" (Rawai Area)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Contemporary beachfront living ◆ A beautiful beachfront location affording spectacular sea and island view ◆ An exciting mix of apartments, penthouses and absolute beachfront villas ◆ Full 5-star facilities include a large clubhouse and pool ◆ An optional resort-style rental scheme ◆ Fractional ownership of a classic wooden 89-ft yacht. 	 <p style="text-align: center;">Mövenpick Residence "Ultimate Beachfront Living" (Karon Beach)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Centrally located on Karon's stunning white sandy beach, offering unhindered views of the Andaman Sea ◆ An idyllic place to find a second home in the sun ◆ Thirty brand new 125sqm two-bedroom apartments ◆ Conceived as an open living concept ◆ The spacious verandah-offers a highly prized view ◆ The perfect opportunity for a life-long tropical investment ◆ Price start from 14 million baht 	 <p style="text-align: center;">Private Individual Villa in Laem Singh/Resale "Beach Front Quality Villa" (Surin Beach)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Land area approximately 1,600sqm & building area 600sqm. ◆ Direct private access to Surin beach with absolute breathtaking sunset views ◆ 2 master bedrooms and 2 guest bedrooms with en suite bathroom ◆ Private terraces, spacious living, dining area ◆ Full-equipped modern and Thai-style kitchen ◆ Private infinity pool 19 X 4 meters ◆ 2 large maids' quarters with 2 individual bathrooms
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Queer News

Guest mars wedding with one-gun salute

NAKHON SRI THAMMARAT: A wedding celebration turned to hasty funeral preparations when a respected guest accidentally shot himself in the head while trying to fire a shot into the air to welcome the groom's procession to the bride's home.

Pol Lt Col Worote Sukger, Deputy Superintendent for Investigations of the Pakpanang District Police, received a report of the incident at 9 am on April 27.

Rushing to the scene, Col Wirote and other officers arrived at a house in Village 4 of Tambon Hoolong to find more than 100 people, all dressed in their finest clothes, staring at a pool of blood and talking with disbelief about what they had just witnessed.

Police learned that the pool of blood belonged to lawyer Tanin Changsakut, a resident of Bangkok's Yannawa District.

K. Tanin, 43, had traveled to Nakhon Sri Thammarat to celebrate the marriage of his young sister-in-law Rattanaporn Iamsang at his wife's family home.

As the groom's procession, in Thai known as *khan maak*, arrived at the front door, K. Tanin

and his wife descended the stairs for the traditional greeting.

While doing so, K. Tanin pulled his 11-millimeter pistol from his waist holster, preparing to fire a shot into the air as a way of heralding the arrival of the groom's party.

But as he pulled the revolver from the holster with his right hand and released the safety with his thumb the weapon somehow discharged, firing an 11mm slug up through his chin.

The bullet lodged deep inside the head of K. Tanin, who fell to the ground with a thud.

As soon as they recovered from the initial shock, relatives rushed K. Tanin to Pakpanang Hospital, where he later died.

An initial investigation revealed that K. Tanin was not only a famous Bangkok lawyer, but also an expert marksman who had won gold medals in club shooting competitions in the capital – and always carried his pistol with him, wherever he went.

It was not reported whether the couple continued the wedding ceremony.

Source: Siang Tai



On the otherwise scenic road that starts from Ta Reua Temple in Tambon Srisoonthorn, near the border of Tambon Koh Kaew, lies this stretch of road piled up with with garbage on both sides.

Despite a sign reading "Private property: Don't dump trash here!", a pickup stopped and deposited another black bag of garbage a bit further down the road as the *Gazette* was taking this picture.

TRASHING
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it can be the start of a friendship.*



With the beginning of the rainy season approaching, it is by now possible to give a summary of how successful the latest high season in Khao Lak really has been.

I called several tour operators and dive shop and resort owners to get an idea whether their expectations in regards of bookings were met for the 2006/2007 season in Khao Lak and surrounding areas.

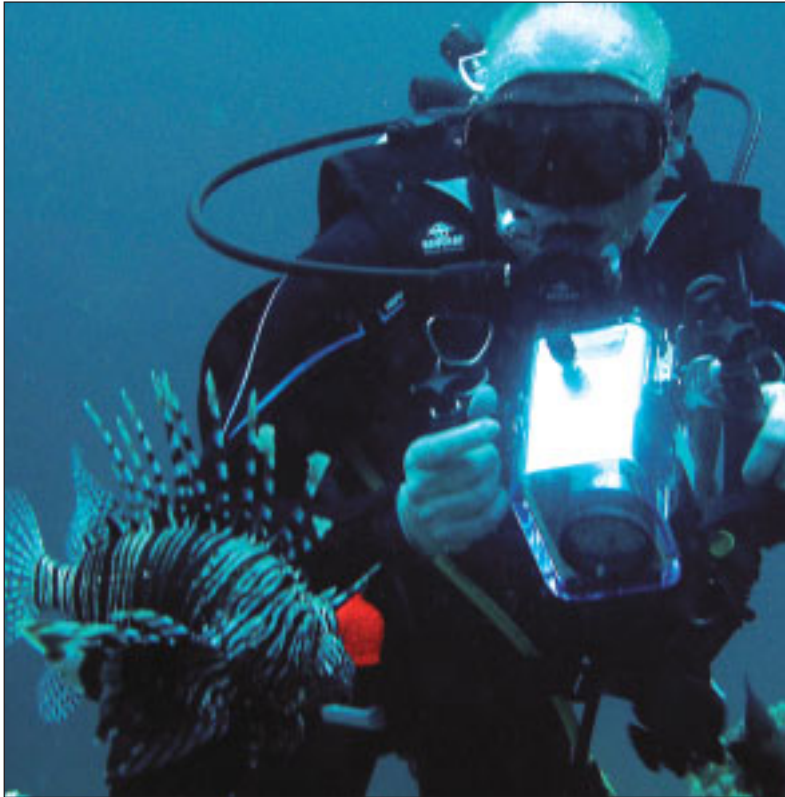
Overall, positive news came from operators in Khao Lak's scuba diving sector. Most of the dive shop owners reported that their expectations have been matched or that bookings even exceeded their own forecasts. It appears however that numbers are not back to pre-tsunami standards yet. Some of the leading Khao Lak dive operators (operators with no branches in Phuket or other provinces) reported that bookings were about 50% of their best pre-tsunami season.

These numbers match exactly with the actual numbers of rooms available in Khao Lak at this very moment. Before the tsunami, Khao Lak had around 5,800 rooms to accommodate guests. By April 2007, the official count is 74 resorts providing 2,840 rooms in all of Khao Lak, not even 50%. Hence it appears that there is no change in consumer behavior or their preferences in Khao Lak in regards to outdoor activities. The scuba diving industry in Khao Lak appears as successful as it was before and will certainly grow and gain strength with each and every new resort built in the area.

In my 63rd issue of Andaman Coasting, I already had an in-depth report regarding resort and hotel occupancies for this ending high season and expected tourist numbers for the coming 2007/2008 high season. The latter yielded very positive results since several leading European tour operators will treat Khao Lak as priority number one destination in South Thailand from the end of 2007 onward.

The question that remains is whether reconstruction efforts in Khao Lak will be able to match the number of tourists arriving in

Season ends with positive reviews



Up close and personal: The *Gazette's* intrepid columnist interviews a fish to find out how the high season was underwater.

the coming high season. With just six months to go, many fear there will not be enough accommodation to cater to the expected flood of tourists in 2007/2008.

The only comforting thought I can come up with right now is that Europe's leading tour operators have enough experience to calculate the risk of upcoming overbookings and/or cancellations due to resorts not being completed in time. Obviously their outlook on developments in Khao Lak is very positive and this should be regarded as a good sign.

Mixed information came from Khao Lak-based restaurant, pub and shop owners. Some stated that it has been their best season ever, while others were very disappointed.

The most positive results came from owners with business-

es near Nang Thong Beach due to many resorts being completed in combination with an undamaged and ever growing infrastructure. Since Bang Niang Beach slowed down drastically in regards to reconstruction efforts after a head start on Nang Thong Beach, it appears that Bang Niang-based businesses weren't as successful as many hoped for. This mainly is the result of ongoing construction in all of Bang Niang between November 2006 and February 2007 plus a rudimentary infrastructure with only a few small restaurants present and shopping opportunities sized down to what the 7-Eleven at the Bang Niang Beach intersection has to offer.

Peter Stiller, managing director of Holiday Service Khao Lak, who runs the local elephant

village and mini zoo on Khao Lak Beach near Lam Ru National Park, reports that visitor numbers were slightly below expectations but still satisfying. He said that a big portion of visitors were mainly German nationals who opted for Khao Lak as a substitute destination since Phuket was totally overbooked. Mr Stiller believes that Khao Lak could have seen more visitors this season if information about Khao Lak on the Internet had been more comprehensive.

"People were uncertain about the construction status and whether there would be construction sites next to their preferred hotels. So they booked other destinations like Phuket just to prevent disappointments. But this rather unpleasant situation will certainly improve for the coming season since most resorts will be completed by then with websites up and running," he concluded.

More information about the elephant village and the mini zoo featuring 14 crocodiles, two gibbons, three Brahminy kites, three turtles and a small orchid farm can be obtained via email: hscm@loxinfo.co.th Also, anyone who wants to learn more about hotels and activities available in Khao Lak for the coming season is welcome to inquire with Mr Stiller under the same email address.

Tit for TAT: This issue ends with bad news for Khao Lak residents and business people alike and with an appeal to show courage and to take action. The official website of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) still does not feature Khao Lak as one of its "Grand Destinations". To find Khao Lak you still have to click on the Phang Nga link and then guess that Khao Lak can be found under "attractions".

The tiny 241-word text talks about the Lamru National Park and gives readers the impression that there is no accommodation present and that Khao Lak is actually a camping destination. Clicking on "to stay" (for accommodation) results in a short list of Phang Nga-based hotels, showing not a single Khao Lak-based resort or hotel.

I have made several attempts via email asking the TAT to please include and treat Khao Lak as a "Grand Destination" supplying photos and general information about the area, but to no avail.

I am surprised that Khao Lak, basically missing out completely on the TAT website, does not result in a combined outcry among resort owners and businesspeople since they are investing billions of Thai baht in the area and are regarded as a camping destination by the TAT, the institution that should actually do their very best to support especially the destinations hurt most by the December 2004 tsunami.

I strongly urge everyone who runs or owns a business in Khao Lak to contact the TAT immediately via email at center@tat.or.th or call the head office at 02-2505500 to complain about this unbearable offline situation.



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By Franky Gun

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About 3,000 villagers from Surat Thani, Nakhon Sri Thammarat, Krabi and Phang Nga provinces overran two palm plantations in Surat Thani's Khiri Rat Nikhom and Khian Sa districts April 25.

About 4 am, some 2,000 villagers led by Wimon Chertchuchon, Chairman of the Southern Organization for the Development of Land for Agriculture, occupied a palm plantation in Tambon Tha Khanom, Khiri Rat Nikhom District, belonging to Thaksin Palm Company.

Later that day, another 1,000 or so villagers, also led by K. Wimon, invaded a plantation belonging to Chor Kiatjaroenphattana Company in neighboring Khian Sa District.

The protesters claim that the companies' contracts to farm the state-owned land on which their plantations stand are about to expire and are demanding that the land be divided up among local villagers. Surat Thani police sent officers to control the protests, but their were no reports of violence.

Officials from the Provincial Treasury Office and other connected organizations said that they were in the process of consulting on how to divide up the land and that, to ensure transparency, the process would take some time.

First priority would be given to Surat Thani residents who had registered as poor people, officials added.

Cold-hearted killing: The owner of a large refrigerator business in Songkhla's Rathaphum District was shot dead April 24 while he was returning home from neighboring Khuan Niang District.

Attackers used an assault rifle to pump more than 20 bullets into the Toyota pickup of Chaiathon Saesim, 38, at 3:30 that morning. He died at the scene.

Maj Rathakon Phakdeewanit, Duty Inspector at Rathaphum District Police Station, said that the victim's wife believes that the killing was motivated by adultery as her husband had close



IN COLD BLOOD: Refrigerator shop owner Chaiathon Saesim's pickup truck after the April 24 attack in Rathaphum District Songkhla in which he was killed.

Villagers storm palm plantations

relations with two or three other women.

K. Chaiathon's employees, however, believe the killing was the result of a business dispute, Maj Rathakon said.

Police are following the two leads, he added.

A day later, a former president of Thee Wang Tambon Administration Organization in Thung Song District, Nakhon Sri Thammarat, and his wife were shot dead on their way back from having their Jathukam Ramathep amulets blessed at a local temple.

Sommitr Phetchseemeun,

53, was driving home from Wat Khok Katin with his wife at 10 pm April 25 when one or more attackers opened fire on the pickup.

K. Sommitr was hit multiple times in the head and body. He died at the scene. His wife, Noophan, 54, was hit in the abdomen. When rescuers arrived, she was still breathing, but she died on the way to hospital.

A figure close to K. Sommitr said that the attack was likely to have been motivated by vengeance stemming from local politics as it was rumored that K. Sommitr was connected to the

killing of another local politician last year.

Scaly contraband: Police on April 28 rescued some 140 live pangolins hidden in a house in central Haad Yai awaiting transport to mainland China and Hong Kong.

The scaly anteaters were packed in plastic boxes when Lt Col Phichai Kirawanich, an investigator at Provincial Police Region 9, and his team raided the house. Householders Achara Boonrat and Thanonjit Komuk were arrested for possession of protected wildlife.

Col Phichai said the pangolins, which are worth millions of baht, were smuggled from neighboring countries and destined for China and Hong Kong, where people believe the meat increases libido.

Anniversary attack: The historic Krue Se Mosque in Pattani came under gunfire on the morning of the third anniversary of the deaths of 32 militants who died in a hail of rockets and assault-rifle fire after hours of holding out in the building in 2004.

No one was hurt in the April 28, 2007 attack, but police were quick to blame separatists for the shooting.

Local Muslims were conducting morning prayers inside when two men drove up in a sedan and fired at least seven rounds at the building.

"Opening fire on a holy mosque is a desperate act of insurgents which is meant to arouse anger among Muslim brothers," Army spokesman Col Akra Thiprot said.

The attack came on the anniversary of the day when government forces gunned down at least 106 insurgents, including some at Krue Se, who charged 11 police outposts with little more than machetes.

Wareuma Waredoloh, chief of the village where the mosque is located, was quoted as saying that 24 Muslims had been holding pre-dawn prayers when the firing began.

"I think the gunmen just wanted Muslims to remember the incident three years ago, and that's why they fired at the mosque," Wareuma said. "Actually, people are trying to forget that incident. We are here today to pray for peace, pray for an end to violence."

Market murder: A grilled pork vendor was shot dead at his stall in a market Trang Town's Tambon Thap Thieng.

Witnesses reported that at 11:25 am on April 29, a fat youth who looked about 18 years old and a man who looked about 23 walked up to Nat Buranajan's pork stall and immediately began arguing with him.

The fat youth then drew a pistol and shot K. Nat four times. The pair then ran to a red Honda Civic driven by a third man and made their escape.

K. Nat was hit in the left temple, cheek, shoulder and ear. He died at the scene.

Lt Col Nirat Pandam, Deputy Superintendent of Trang Muang District Police Station said that police are working on the theory that the killing was either due to a personal dispute or to adultery.

Police do not believe the crime was motivated by a business disputes as K. Nat was not known to have any problems connected to the grilled pork trade, Col Nirat added.

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

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Call for little condoms for tots

Aids-prevention activist Meechai Viravaidya proposed distributing "finger condoms" to pre-school children as the latest measure in the fight against HIV/Aids.

Delivering a speech to some 80 participants in an HIV/Aids agenda public hearing at the National Economic and Social Advisory Council (NESAC), K. Meechai praised Thailand for reducing new cases by 90%.

The chairman of the Population and Community Development Association then revealed his plan to produce finger condoms for pre-school children.

K. Meechai said he had received a good result after he put the mini-condoms on his one-year-old grandsons' fingers, as the kids were interested and found it fun.

Finger condoms, which resemble a male condom, are typically used by kitchen workers and others to cover cuts and open wounds while working, in order to prevent infection and the spread of disease.

"We must be brave and think outside the box like this, so that attempts at Aids prevention will yield success," said K. Meechai, whose name is sometimes used as a synonym for "condom" among Thais.

K. Meechai urged the Education Ministry and Social Development and Human Security Ministry to be open and to shift from focusing on stopping youths from having sex to giving them knowledge about safe sex, possibly in the form of handbooks.

Jail for juniors: In the wake of repeated violent clashes at its facilities, the Juvenile Observation and Protection Department wants to send older inmates with felony convictions and problem-



BUDDHIST PROTEST: Hundreds of Buddhist monks and lay people took part in a march from the Buddhamonthon religious complex in Nakhon Pathom to Parliament on April 25. Nine elephants were used in the procession, held to pressure drafters of the new constitution to include a clause listing Buddhism as the national religion.

atic behavior to mainstream prisons.

"I may need to propose this measure to prevent them from causing trouble," Director-General Paisal Wichienkua said.

"Convicts who are almost 18 years old and receive a long jail term should be sent to prisons," Paisal said, adding that those at the juvenile centers should not be over 20.

The department's juvenile centers were designed and staff were trained to deal with young inmates, 18-24-year-olds who were filling up centers, he said.

Of more than 6,000 inmates in the department's system, nearly 3,000 were in that age range.

Control measures used for the young occupants would not be very efficient when applied to older convicts, who were usually blamed for instigating the violence.

The department would ask the Justice Ministry to amend laws to ensure that those over 18 when arrested were sent to prisons, not to the youth rehabilitation centers.

As an immediate measure,

he ordered officials to block inmates access to news about breakouts or violence at other correction facilities.

"Also, the gang leaders behind any incident should be subjected to temporary custody at prisons or military camps," he said.

Torrid Tak: Temperatures soared to 44°C in Tak province on April 25, making it the hottest day in Thailand in 47 years.

Meteorological Department statistics indicate the highest temperature recorded in Thailand was 44.5°C, in Uttaradit province on April 27, 1960. That was followed the very next day by 43.9°C recorded in Udon Thani province. Tak saw 43.7°C in 1983 and 43.5°C in 2004.

Tak Weather Bureau chief Somsong Duanmai said the mercury had regularly gone past 40°C in the northern province since the start of April.

People have avoided going outdoors, except when they cooled down in rivers, he added.

Taxis triumph: An opportunist thief drove off from a Bangkok police station late on April 26 with a police sergeant's pickup, without knowing that the officer's six-year-old daughter was asleep in the back.

The theft took place some time between 9 pm and 10:30 pm at the Lad Krabang Police Station.

The girl was rescued unharmed about 3 am the following morning, apparently not knowing what she had gone through during the hunt for her captor. She slept well during the ordeal, while her captor drove her about 50 kilometers from Lad Krabang.

A report of the stolen vehicle was broadcast by Jor Sor

100, the popular traffic radio station, mobilizing the city's taxi drivers.

The pickup truck was spotted by taxi drivers in Nonthaburi. By the time police arrived, more than 100 taxis had surrounded the stolen car.

The thief, Tewa Parnses, attempted to flee the scene, but the taxi drivers helped to arrest him. He claimed that he stole the truck as his motorbike ran out of petrol. He is now facing charges of stealing property from a government compound at night and illegally detaining a minor.

Corruption code: The statute of limitations for corruption and malfeasance cases will be extended from 20 years to 30, Justice Minister Charnchai Likhitjitha said.

The Criminal Code will also be revised to exclude such cases from the limitations as long as officials facing charges are still at large, he added.

The amendment is undergoing review by the Council of State for tabling before the National Legislative Assembly.

Grass-roots project: The Village Fund, a grass-roots scheme of the ousted Thaksin Shinawatra regime, will be continued but re-oriented to champion the sufficiency-economy philosophy.

"The present government supports this project, because it is still, in principle, seen as useful to the public, better than all the other populist projects initiated by the previous government," said Social Development and Human Security Minister Paiboon Wattanasiritham.

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

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PIE-EYED FOR CHARITY

By Ryan Nerone

By combining one part passion for baking her native country's most popular dish, the Australian meat pie, with one part all-purpose desire to help those in need in Thailand, Lady Pie has yielded a savory recipe for rewarding philanthropy.

Lady Pie, properly known as Mrs Susan Usher, has been living in Phuket since 1993 and has been operating her Australian gourmet pie business since 2004. The original shop was located in Kamala and was tragically swept into the Andaman Sea by the tsunami.

Not more than two weeks after the disaster, she was kneading and rolling again in nearby facilities, and her present operations are in Cherng Talay where she perfects her delectables and dishes them out to locals here in Phuket, and, most recently, in Bangkok.

Earlier this year, she partnered with Sister Joan Evans, a retired nun from Australia, to implement a pie drive to provide funds for the Presentation Slums Mission which aims to assist the underprivileged living in Klong Toey, a slum district in central Bangkok. Two drives have been held thus far, and the results were resoundingly beneficial for the residents of that community.

Lady Pie recalls the commencement of the fund-raiser, "Genevieve, a wonderful expat girl in Bangkok, approached me and asked me to do a pie drive. So I agreed, dropped the price below the wholesale price, paid for the crate to ship them up there and I donated 400 pies. Genevieve went out and sold them to the expats in Bangkok, and the response was absolutely phenomenal. We raised 110,000 baht between the two pie drives, and we plan to continue the drives in the future."

The 2007 Sister Joan Pie Drive proceeds provided both food and educational support to the Klong Toey community. For each 100 pies sold, the donations provided one child's annual school fees, dinner for 12 families and school bus fare for 200



Sue 'Lady Pie' Usher: 'The response was absolutely phenomenal. We raised 110,000 baht.'

children. For every 1,000 pies sold, milk for 120 babies, uniforms for 120 children and one month's lunch for 120 children were provided.

"Another exciting thing that came out of the pie drive in Bangkok was a request from an Australian goldmine operation working in Laos for 400 pies to be sampled by their 1,500 Australian employees. If the product goes over well, they could aid the pie drive by ordering 2,000 pies a week and the resulting donations

would be immense," she says. Lady Pie hopes to mirror the established successes of the Bangkok pie drives here in Phuket. "When we went to one of the international schools in Bangkok, we sold all 400 of our pies within two hours, and the entire proceeds went to Sister Joan," she says.

"So, if we can do it there, then we can do it here in Phuket. It's a good way for people to contribute because you donate money to a good cause, but, at the same time, you get something

in return."

She intends to partner with the Phuket International Women's Club (PIWC), which is active in the sponsorship of education for children and helps more than 250 children financially with their education from primary school up to university level.

Additionally, she hopes to work with the Life Home Project, a charitable foundation in Phuket that provides a supportive community for HIV positive mothers and their children.

Life Home Project provides job, health and other supportive resources for the mothers who reside with them.

Both organizations extend their outreach to impoverished individuals in Phuket, and by us-

ing her established presence here in Phuket, Lady Pie is confident that the drives would be an overwhelming success and would establish a dedicated outlet for generating donations from a variety of markets.

When discussing her reception from consumers outside the tourist and expat realms, Lady Pie said, "I've just been absolutely blown away by the response from the Thai people. They are becoming more adventurous with their food."

"They are inquisitive at first, but then they just keep coming back. Some of my recent goals have been to create pies using spicier ingredients, as well as reducing the traditional size to 9 centimeters in diameter which is a more suitable product for them, and they have been going quite well within the Thai market."

Lady Pie Australian Gourmet Pies includes Lady Pie herself and her staff of six workers, who are from Baan Don which is located just outside Cherng Talay, including Boom and Noon who have been working with her since the inception, and Tan, Lilly, Par and Tang, who been a part of the team for the past year.

Lady Pie operates storefronts in Cherng Talay and Chalong, and her pies can be purchased in supermarkets in both Patong and the Boat Lagoon, as well as in various restaurants around Phuket.

She intends to expand both her delicatessens and production areas in Cherng Talay, which she forecasts will boost her output threefold.

Future plans include opening a permanent booth at Jungceylon in Patong and selling pies at the Phuket International Rugby 10s at Karon Municipal Stadium on May 26 and 27.

Lady Pie. 120/6 Srisoontorn Rd., Cherng Talay, Phuket 83110. Tel: 076-271049. Also, Perfection Fashion Cafe 1/8-9 Moo 1, Soi Songkhun, Chaofa Rd, Chalong, Phuket 83000. Tel: 076-383232. Email: info@ladypie.com Website: www.ladypie.com

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Help! I'm turning into my parents

A while ago my kids and I were doing our usual Friday night family ritual – watching a music show on satellite TV, snuggled up together on the sofa in our pajamas.

Zombie Nation were on with a song that one son particularly liked. The band members were gyrating about in a gormless fashion and smashing up their instruments.

It was then that it happened. In an involuntary action the words just came out of my mouth. “Gawd!” I shouted at the set. “Look at the state of them!”

My eldest son shot me a look of mingled horror and disgust, which said, “What the hell do you know?” I suddenly realized he doesn't understand that I'm not just this woman who serves up spaghetti.

Listen darling, I felt like saying, I was once a fully paid-up rock chick – well, I did have a pair of knee-high, skin-tight, leather boots – and whatever I say about music I say in a totally knowing, post-modern way. I've had my fair share of backstage passes and I know one end of a tour bus from the other. OK?

But there was no point. I knew and understood the look he was giving me. It was the same look I gave my parents umpteen years ago when my mother made inane comments about Top of the Pops on British television.

On Morrissey: “What on earth is that in his back pocket? A bunch of flowers? What are they for?” On Boy George: “Why is he wearing eye-liner?” On virtually anybody: “Is that a boy or a girl?”

Yes, in one horrifying acid flashback millisecond, I was back in another living room, in London, in front of the box with my mum and dad. All that was missing was the shag-pile carpet and velour sofa.

But this time I was the “square”, and the inevitable had happened. I had turned into my mother. To be honest, though, this morphing process had probably been under way for a while.

Perhaps the first time I became aware of it was at an antiques market in London when, without thinking, I used an expression my father might have used: “How much if I give you cash?” It chilled me to the marrow, but he was thrilled that after 20 years I'd finally managed to see the world his way.

Or maybe it was when it was pointed out to me that, just like my mother, I can't put on my lipstick without pouting.

What sped up this feeling was having children of my own. Not a day passes when I don't recycle a bizarre set of expressions that have been passed down to me like family heirlooms. “Don't you dare speak to me like that!” I catch myself saying with my mother's voice echoing down the years.

Prize for the most ineffectual must go to, “And I'm not going to tell you again!” which I shout at all three boys all the time. And then I tell them again. Why do I do that? Because my parents did, of course, and those phrases

have been hardwired into my system. I just can't help it.

I can vividly picture my mother, overrun by Miss Wild Child, dramatically flopping against a wall, raising her eyes to heaven and muttering, “God give me strength!” It is an expression I now overuse to the degree that my eldest has shortened it to “GGMS”, and I once caught my then five-year-old muttering it under his breath when he was mimicking me in a pair of clippy-clippy high heels he'd put on.

“I never mind *sounding* like my mother,” says one friend of mine. “What I really hate is when I catch sight of myself in a shop window and realize I look exact-



Music for washing up by? Coldplay.

– Photo by Juliana Phang

ly the same as her. That really gives me the creeps.”

She is convinced, too, that she even has the same body as her mother. I know about that one – I see my mother every time I step in the shower. She also laments that the reason she has never been comfortable wearing make-up is that it is something her mother just doesn't do.

Interesting, isn't it? We are more than happy to inherit certain traits from our parents – long legs, an ability to shoot pheasants from a mile – but cringe at others. In my friend's case, it's a lifelong fear of the Clinique counter.

Another friend – male, single – laments that even if his dinner parties finish at 5 am, he still has to do all the washing up before he goes to bed. He might listen to a Coldplay CD at full volume while he's doing it, but he clears up because it was drummed into him by his father that it was immoral to go to bed and leave a dirty kitchen. Now he can't find it in himself to go against the grain.

I blame the arrogance of youth. At 20 you never imagine

you could possibly get a wrinkle/enjoy Julio Iglesias albums/care about getting red-wine stains on the rug. Like developing varicose veins or wearing big knickers, it's simply never going to happen to you. And then it does.

One seminal evening for me was attending a Tupperware party. Yes, I know. It was in Cyprus, and we drank chilled Chablis – the hostess was English. What the hell was I doing at a Tupperware party?

My mother once threw one, primarily, I suspect, to show off her new teak cocktail cabinet in the shape of a boomerang, which was the last word in chic in our mock-Tudor suburban London cul-de-sac. I can't remember her actually buying any Tupperware, though. Unlike me, who snapped up loads and paid with – what else? – plastic. The shame of it...

I remember thinking to myself that night that I'd never imagined doing the same things as my mother, much less actually enjoying them in a weird sort of way. Scary.

Of course, it is biology lesson number one that however much we try to press the reject

button, we all grow up to resemble our parents. As Oscar Wilde famously put it, “All women become like their mothers. That is their tragedy. No man does. That's his.”

Many people I know put great effort into not turning out the same way, whether it's a decision not to be a doormat or an alcoholic. But is it any surprise that some little quirks still sneak their way through? Like the way I make Greek macaroni cheese by laying the macaroni side by side so it looks neat when served. Or is it just that family phrases and habits are so horribly powerful because they were rammed into us in childhood?

In my case, turning into my parents isn't all bad. It's not that I really mind it happening, it's just that I never thought it would. My mother would probably be tickled pink to hear me parroting her phrases and delighted that, like her, I can't even put the bins out without my heels on.

I'm also quite proud of the fact that she did all the housework herself even though she worked a 12-hour day, that she actually loved cooking and worked until the last minute of her pregnancy so she wouldn't let her boss down at a fashion show.

I suppose if I'm going to have to be like someone when I'm 60, then being like mum isn't so bad. And looking back on it all, she was probably just being ironic about Top of the Pops. Just like me. Well, sometimes...

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

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On a routine trip to the Immigration office *Gazette* News Editor **Stephen Fein** is sidetracked by two strange-looking bicyclists who are coasting through Phuket on their way to Malaysia. But these aren't just any cyclists, they are Cyclowns, riding on for a greater purpose.

Wheeling and

Driving my motorbike south along Phuket Rd, near the Chartered Bank Intersection, I saw ahead of me the figures of two somewhat scraggly-looking foreigners.

The sight of farang in such ragged, baggy clothing in this part of town, so near the bus station, would not normally merit a second glance – especially given the tricky merging that goes on along this particular stretch of road.

But these two, a young man and a woman, were not ordinary backpackers standing at roadside, gawking at a map. Rather, they appeared to be gliding down the road, flying through the air while gently swaying from side to side. My view blocked by a car, all I could see was their upper bodies, high above me.

"Are they actually giving foreign tourists elephant rides through the heart of Phuket City nowadays?" I asked myself.

But as the car merged right onto Rassada Rd, it soon became apparent that the pair were not riding elephants at all, but bicycles – the largest and weirdest looking two-wheel contraptions this reporter had ever seen, with the pedals about as high up as the seat usually is on most bicycles.

I followed them south along Phuket Rd and around Surin Circle, watching the reactions of the people they passed. Children and adults alike were pointing, yelling and tugging on each other's shirts: *duu farang! duu farang!*

I finally got my chance to talk to the pair when they pulled in at a small shop on Phuket Rd, near the Bang Neaw School.

Sunburned and covered with sweat, they told me that they were members of an international clown troupe known as the Cyclown Circus, which began



about six years ago in Texas. Cyclown Circus now has about 10 active members riding through Asia, though they have broken up into smaller groups for the time being.

When they are all together, as they next expect to be for a "world music" festival in Malaysia come July, the members will form a "clown band" and do street performances, trying to raise public awareness about how overuse of cars is creating traffic chaos, polluting the environment and basically screwing up the planet.

Although clowns, they aren't against making political statements. A yellow caution sign one their bikes read: *bicycling against oil wars*.

Cyclowns have also taken part in many "Critical Mass" events held in cities around the world. These are mass bicycle rides held to promote non-motorized modes of transport and to



raise awareness of safety issues facing commuters using bicycles alongside motor vehicles – although the participants are more likely to describe them as movable celebrations.

At first, the pair were somewhat hesitant to give their names, which made me wonder that if telling their names was against some sort of "clown code of conduct".

Eventually I learned that the man is Simone, a 30-year-old juggler from Italy, and the woman Rocio, an engaging 25-

year-old from Argentina, who described herself as an actress, singer and flamenco dancer. Saying they were "just friends and not a couple", Rocio said they were on their way to visit people who had offered them a place to stay in Nai Harn.

As I showed them the error of their way on a map, they made coffee out of a huge coffee pot. Reaching into my bag for my camera, I realized that a Cornetto I had bought about two hours before and forgotten about had melted over everything, in-

cluding some of my Immigration documents. I was about to throw the mess away when I noticed how emaciated Simone looked. I offered it to them and they gladly accepted, relishing what was left of the frozen confection.

Asked why they were drinking strong, hot coffee instead of water in such heat, they said, "We need the energy to get to Nai Harn."

Having been with the circus for about three years, Simone and Rocio have traveled around many countries in Europe before making their way to Asia, where they hitchhiked and pedaled their way down from China and through Laos before entering Thailand on a 30-day visa.

On my way to the Immigration office, I wondered what kind of reaction they got from officials at the Immigration Checkpoint in Nong Khai after riding those huge bikes over the Friendship Bridge.

One of the first things that struck me was that being a clown might not be all it is cracked up to be. The pair admitted to being desperately broke, the inevitable outcome of relying on the kindness of strangers.

Cyclowns carry everything they need to live on their bikes, which were piled up high with tents, sleeping pads, coffee pots, cups – and much more. Coupled with the bizarre appearance of the bikes, the mountain of knick-knacks piled onto them gives a

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CARRYING A MESSAGE TO THE WORLD: Or, in this case, Malaysia. The two Cyclowns stop for a couple of pictures, including one (left) with a friendly pineapple that just happened to be passing by.

really comical laugh in a sort of "old school" clown sort of way.

At the same time, it is hard to imagine they could have piled that many essentials onto a normally dimensioned bike – so maybe there is some method to their madness.

Unfortunately, the pair said they had no plans to do any busking or street performances in Phuket. As they began maneuvering their huge bikes back onto the road with the intent of mounting them, they told me they were just riding through on their way to Malaysia, come what may.

Thinking about my own circumscribed existence I felt almost envious, wondering what it would be like to just leave it all behind to run away to join the circus – just as they did.

Doh! I don't think my wife would like that.

I parted company with my new clown friends as they turned right at the entrance to Saphan Hin and I turned into the Immigration Office, wondering how I was going to explain why my passport was a gooey mess.

For more information about the Cyclown Circus, visit: www.spaz.org/~cyclown

Happy Ever After

Recently married in Phuket

Right: Esther Cremers and Roger Frings celebrated their wedding with a party at The Mangosteen Resort & Spa on April 20.



Left: Prapaphan Wachiradechkul and Montree Thammawong were married in the Pra Pitak Grand Ballroom at The Metropole hotel on March 1.



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HAPPY RETURNS: Celebrating Dragonair's relaunch of direct Hong Kong-Phuket flights are (from left) Ken To, Dragonair Assistant Manager for Public Relations; Sareewan Pornsiri, Dragonair Airport Service Supervisor in Phuket; Cheuk Lo, Cathay Pacific's Assistant to the General Manager for Southeast Asia; Marisa Vivattanaprasert, Cathay Pacific's Assistant Manager for Marketing; and Dragonair's Phuket Manager Sutthisak Pungtamawathanakun.



VOCAL BENEFIT: Japanese folksinger Tokiko Kato performs a benefit concert at the Movenpick Resort & Spa in Karon. Proceeds from the concert were donated to Tah Chat Chai School and to Wat Sawang Arom School in Rawai.



HELPING HAND: Lt Cdr Prapit Nuansab (back left) and Capt Dej Sreecharoen (back right) of the Third Naval Area Command make a donation to the Muslim Youth Training Summer Camp 2007 at Al Aussana Mosque in Baan Bordarn, near Tai Muang, Phang Nga.



DOUBLE TROUBLE: Rawai rapscallion Peter Wilson (in green shirt) celebrates his 65th birthday at the Freedom Bar in Rawai with his wife Ros (2nd from left) and friends Porn Sompom (left), and Mark Alexander (right) and his wife Noi Kruesuwan, who was celebrating her 29th birthday the same day.



KHANA KNOWLEDGE: Billy Chima (left) celebrates the fourth anniversary of the opening of his Khanasutra restaurant with a 'Taste of India' night for guests.



AIRCON CONFAB: Suchart Suwannakarn (left), Managing Director of Suwantawe Phuket Co Ltd, welcomes Koji Kanaoka, Senior Manager of Daikin Industries Ltd (Japan), during his recent visit to Phuket.

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COCKTAIL TIME

by Semacote Suganya

Indigo inventions

Siam Indigo partner Celine Masson has worked with her bar staff to create two new, original cocktails for the restaurant and bar on Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City.

Jutawadee Kanarath, Siam Indigo's bartender from Songkhla, helped Celine's creations come to fruition and now regularly serves them up to patrons.

K. Jutawadee showed the *Gazette* two of the bar's favorite creations: "Andy...Go", named for Siam Indigo partner Andrew Tan, and "Piscoutinous", named for partner Pisit Aongskultong.

The Andy...Go cocktail is popular with ladies due to its bright color and the sweet taste of the lychee juice.

The Piscoutinous is a little bitter from the vodka, but the lime juice and Cointreau give it a citric twist.

Garnishing the cocktails with fancy fruit or flowers is not how Siam Indigo chooses to dress up its drinks. Instead, carefully



Andy...Go.

chosen and specially ordered original glassware is used to serve the chilled refreshments, adorned with a simple piece of fruit or two.

Andy...Go

40ml silver tequila
20ml lime juice
20ml blue curacao
20ml lychee juice
ice cubes

Blend all the ingredients with the ice. Pour into a margarita glass, garnish with four fresh lychee fruits and enjoy.

Piscoutinous

40ml lemon vodka
20ml lime juice
20ml Cointreau or triple sec
40ml cranberry juice
ice cubes

Put all the ingredients in a shaker with the ice, shake and pour. Garnish with a couple of glacé cherries on a stick.



By Supanun Supawong

As the boom in the number of spas and health and beauty clinics in Phuket indicates, preserving a bright, smooth, wrinkle-free face is a high priority for many people living on or visiting the island.

They try to achieve this by using lotions, washes and cosmetics, to name some less invasive tactics. Facial treatments such as those offered at Hanako Tokyo are another simple and relaxing way to revive a dull face.

Suphawadee Nitaphai, Phuket Branch Manager of Hanako Tokyo (Thailand) Co Ltd, said, "We explain to customers the details and benefits of each facial treatment, after which the customer chooses one or discusses a particular problem so we can choose a suitable treatment."

"We offer seven facial massage courses and two new courses will be added soon. Each

Facing up

course takes a different length of time and includes free makeup after the facial treatment.

"Every member of our staff has passed a facial training course taught by experts in face and skin treatment. Although we opened just three months ago we have been well received. We have a lot of customers already."

The facial menu starts with the 30-minute Hanako Basic Course, at 550 baht, beginning with a complete facial cleansing followed by a face steam and blemish extraction, facial massage, moisturizing treatment and free makeup. Beyond this base treatment, the courses add face masks, scrubs or massages.

There are also packages that deal with correcting specific skin concerns, such as wrinkles. For this age-old problem the popular Hanako Gold Facial Course is recommended.

The course starts with deep

cleansing, then a small machine is used to softly exfoliate the skin, remove dead cells and stimulate fresh skin growth.

A face massage follows to increase circulation. A facial steam and blemish extraction are next, to clear out skin.

A seaweed or clay mask is then used to make the skin stretch, and an eye massage with bio-active eye gel reduces darkness around the eyes.

A Hanako nourishing treatment, lip treatment, makeup and shoulder and neck massage complete the experience. This 60-minute treatment costs 1,500 baht.

Men aren't forgotten here. They are given the option of a 60-minute course just for men that uses lotion for men's skin types to deep-clean the face. It costs 1,500 baht.

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to it

the After Sun Treatment, lasting 60 minutes, uses a "volcano mud green tea mask" to restore skin cells, make the face smooth and help preserve the tan. This treatment also costs 1,500 baht.

"Normally the face will shed skin cells over a period of 15 days, so those who want good results should take a course every 15 days or at least one a month.

"We currently have a promotion whereby customers who buy five treatments get one free

Whether you're male or female, Hanako staff say they can make you feel like you have a whole new face to greet the world with.

course, or those who buy eight treatments get two free. We also sell Hanako products to use at home," K. Suphawadee added.

This is the fourth Hanako Tokyo branch and a fifth branch will open soon at Oriental Spa in Deevana Resort and Spa, Patong.

Hanako Tokyo (Thailand) Co Ltd, Jungceylon Phuket Branch is on the ground floor, Jungceylon, Patong. Tel:076-366073. Open daily from 10 am to 10 pm.

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TALES OF A TRAVELER

By Ed Peters

China's pretty good at copying things, as any one from Louis Vuitton to Walt Disney will tell you; pirated versions of both their products appear on the People's Republic's retail shelves in amazing volumes.

And given the country's one-billion-and-counting population, it's not surprising that a fair few Chinese are pretty talented artists. This phenomenon is showcased at Da Fen, a village known as the "McDonald's of the Art World" a few miles north of the burgeoning boom town of Shenzhen.

There are similar places all around Asia, notably Phuket, where there's a number of galleries churning out reproductions of old and new masters. But the amazing thing about Da Fen is the sheer numbers.

Founded by Hong Kong painter Huang Jiang in 1989, it now hosts an estimated 600 studios and 5,000 artists living out Mao Zedong's dictum of "more, better, cheaper, faster".

I've long been fascinated by V S Naipaul's *The Enigma of Arrival*, the Trinidadian Nobel literature prize winner's seminal book about coming to terms with living on Salisbury Plain in southern England, the site of the 5,000-year-old Stonehenge and a few miles from where I'd grown up.

My particular copy of the book was illustrated by the painting of practically the same name by Giorgio de Chirico, the Greek-Italian pre-surrealist. Its dreamy depiction of a figure (or was it two?) wandering the deserted streets of a port where he or she had presumably just made land-



Main picture: Art is blooming in Da Fen.

Above: Ed Peters's personal version of *The Enigma of Arrival*.

Right: In Da Fen, art imitates the artists who imitate art.



fall precisely summed up the feelings that I'd experienced so often when arriving somewhere for the first time.

The original painting, in private hands in New York, was way out of my physical and financial reach, so Da Fen and its Technicolor facsimile men seemed like the best answer.

The village provided its own enigma as I arrived. Walking its grid I was assailed by a phantasmagorical palette of Rubens, DaVincis, Vettrianos and Licht-

ensteins, and quite a few chocolate box lids to boot, as well as stacks of traditional Chinese landscape paintings.

How to find someone who would copy the A4 color print-out I had tucked in my briefcase? I didn't want a daub, I wanted someone who'd be as moved by the painting as I was, and who would reproduce its message and qualities faithfully.

But – after wandering about for half an hour or so – painting quietly in an alleyway,

Zeng Hai Quan seemed to find me rather than vice versa. With the help of a translator, he cast an appreciative eye over the *Enigma* and promised a two-foot-square canvas in a fortnight for US\$60.

Back in the days of the cultural revolution, China's artists, and quite a few who weren't artists, were press-ganged into producing propaganda posters, with unvarying themes and not much in the way of imagination.

Da Fen's offerings might not


have much in the way of originality, but it was astounding how it had adapted to the free market, and rolled out square miles of canvas that was pretty much indistinguishable from the real thing.

Two weeks passed. Rarely have I greeted the courier with such alacrity. Unrolled, the painting was little short of a miracle. Zeng had caught not just the colors and Chirico's subtle shading, but the entire mood of the work. My enigma had arrived.



If I come back to my intention,
my intention comes from my Heart.
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Khao Neaw Ma Muang
(Sticky rice with coconut milk)
Serves 6 people

Ingredients: Khao Neaw Moon

500g rice grains (specifically for making sticky rice)
1kg Concentrated coconut milk
300g Sugar
1 teaspoon Salt

Method:

Soak the sticky rice grains in about 1 liter of water for three hours, then drain the water. Steam the rice for about 30 minutes or until the rice has a uniform consistency.

Mix the concentrated coconut milk, sugar and salt together in a separate pot, and warm at a medium temperature until the sugar and the salt are dissolved.

Mix the coconut milk

mixture in with the steamed sticky rice and then set it aside to cool.

Ingredients: Nam Krati

300g Concentrated coconut milk
1 tablespoon Sugar
1 teaspoon Salt

Method:

Boil the concentrated coconut milk, sugar and salt over medium heat until dissolved.

Serve the Khao Neaw Moon with the peeled mature mango placed beside it on the same plate. The Nam Krati can be served in a separate bowl beside the Khao Neaw Moon and mango, or spoon it on top of the sticky rice.



Oh man! it's mango mania

It's mango season and it seems that everywhere you go there are mangoes ready for eating in all forms – from the plain fruit ready to be peeled to flashy desserts at high-end restaurants.

Mangoes, called *ma muang* in Thai, can be eaten in a myriad of ways. Two of the most popular local mango dishes are sweet sticky rice with sweet mango and Thai green mango with sweet fish sauce.

A true fan of the mango is Phuket-born Boonchua Trikul, the 43-year-old chef at Purita Restaurant, at The Phulin Resort in Karon. She has nearly 20 years' experience in Thai cooking, and has been at the Purita restaurant since it opened in July 2006. Before that, she was Chef at the Karon Royal Wing, now the Movenpick Resort & Spa.

K. Boonchua's latest creation is a special "All Mango" menu, which is available to guests until the end of the month, when the island's deluge of mangoes is expected to dry up – well, at least a little.

The menu includes mango with sticky rice (*khao neaw ma muang*) and mango with fish dipping sauce (*ma muang nam pla wan*).

K. Boonchua learned the recipes from her mother, and when she has spare time she makes the same creations for her family to sell around her family's neighborhood.

The mangoes eaten with the sticky rice is the matured mango called *ma muang nam dok mai*. K. Boonchua explains that this mango has the best taste

Guest chef

By Semacote Suganya

because it has large amount of meat and a sweet taste.

If *ma muang nam dok mai* is unavailable, says K. Boonchua, you can use *ma muang ok-rong* as a substitute.

The *ma muang nam pla wan* dessert uses raw mango: either *ma muang pim sen* or *ma muang fa lan*. The dish is refreshingly sweet and sour, and with a subtle spicy taste just right for those sweltering afternoons.



Ma Muang Nam Pla Wan
Serves 6 people

Ingredients

200ml Drinking water
500g Palm sugar
1 tablespoon Fish sauce (or substitute with salt)
100g Sliced red onion
100g Sliced red chili
100g Small dried shrimp

Method:

Boil the drinking water then add the palm sugar and salt, stir continuously until all are fully dissolved, which will result in a simple syrup type base.

Add the sliced red onion, red chili and dried shrimp to taste and then mix together. Serve with the peeled green mango.

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Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid below are the names of 25 items of clothing. The names may read vertically, horizontally or diagonally. They may also read right-to-left or down-to-up. Score: 15 or more, good; 20 or more, very good; 25, excellent.

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

Solution on next page

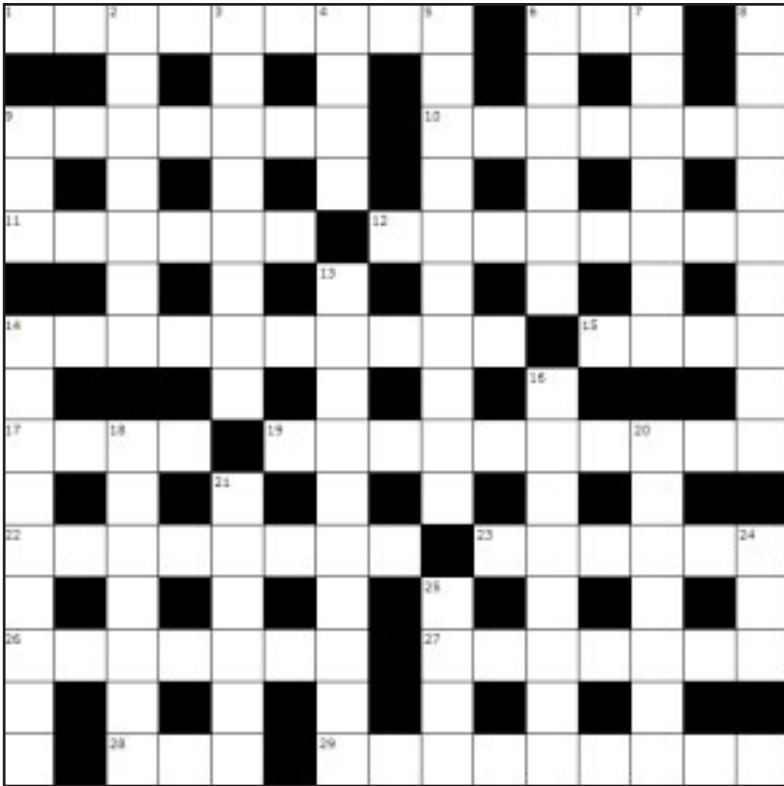
The Cryptic Crossword

ACROSS

1. Group of musicians, or box with short cheer. (9)
6. Formula 1 right tree. (3)
9. Solidify convict, and gal who takes direction. (7)
10. Drawers for a long-legged lad. (7)
11. Quietly illuminate bad situation. (6)
12. Disease turns calf sour. (8)
14. On neck of land, writer takes in point to you and LA, right? (10)
15. Correct and turn back tide. (4)
17. Bits or shirts. (4)
19. Manage commercial clergyman.
22. Fliers take a Roman road to right point. (8)
23. Tin note in ship hurts. (6)
26. Extreme cardinal follows in 10s. (7)
27. Software in favor of weight. (7)
28. Either way, it doesn't work. (3)
29. Stalk neckwear for clergyman. (9)

Down

2. Scan omen: Send! (7)
3. The panel rerouted working animal. (8)
4. In tender loving care, take a powder. (4)
5. The way to govern cars? (10)
6. Uncultivated drop? That's painful. (6)
7. Tied up again to bounce back. (7)
8. Give the boss the money! He looks after the wages. (9)
9. Gently support golfer's target. (3)
13. Idiot Brown! Take the



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2007

- German water pressure! (10)
20. Nerd lit twisted plant support. (7)
21. Did penance for a heavy weight, Ed. (6)
24. Add up some, they say. (3)
25. Picture justice of the peace, for example. (4)
14. In favor of supporter and it? Yes, a bad thing to say. (9)
16. Excellent player is almost virtuous, but has nothing. (8)
18. Corrupted it ain't, Ed. (7)

Solution on next page

Scribble Space

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

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

Rhyme Time

The words or phrases described below all rhyme with "peep". What are they?

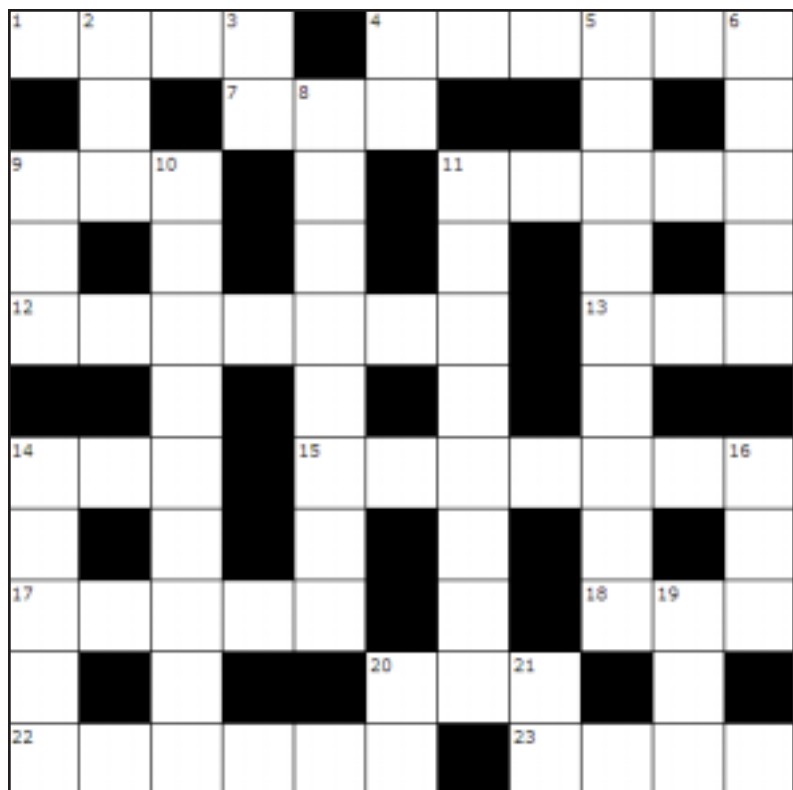
1. Difficult to wake.
2. Farm animal.
3. Soak.
4. Shed tears.
5. Reprobate.
6. Euthanase.
7. 4x4 vehicle.
8. Harvest.
9. Auto horn sound.
10. Innermost part of castle.

Answers on next page

EZ TRIVIA QUIZ

1. Which nursery rhyme character ate curds and whey?
6. How many *ngan* are there in one *rai*?
2. What is the capital of Australia?
7. In which year did the United States declare independence?
3. Which country's flag has a white cross on a red background?
8. In which Thai province is the city of Haad Yai?
4. Name the great white shark in the movie *Finding Nemo*.
9. Who was Prime Minister before Thaksin Shinawatra?
5. In which city is Big Ben?
10. Who had a hit with the song *El Nin-YO!*?

Answers on next page



Quick Crossword

ACROSS

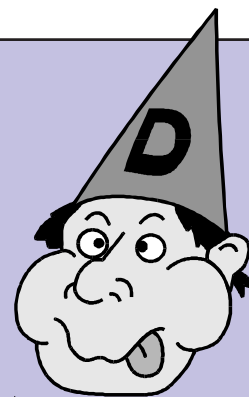
1. Surrealist artist Salvador.
4. Tenant.
7. Resort essential.
9. Between foot and hip.
11. Province east of Phuket.
12. Solar clock.
13. US tax collectors.
14. Zero.
15. As opposed to analog.
17. Ape.
18. Adam's donation to Eve.
20. Measure of electricity.
22. ***** and Gretel.
23. Burden

DOWN

2. Consumed.
3. Exists.
4. West Coast city, in short.
5. Colliseum fighter.
6. Train guides.
8. Table of elements.
9. First word of 4 down.
10. Ladies and ?
11. 1,000th of a metric ton.
14. Greek god's companion.
16. Where scientist works.
19. Debtor's promise.
20. Mr Capone.
21. Italian river.

Solution below right

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



1. Which country has a televised cookery contest called (in English) *Iron Chef*?
2. In the Philippines, what is *balut*?
3. If you wanted to order *balut* in Cambodia, what would you ask for?
4. Some airlines bar *Surströmming* because of its strong smell. What is it?
5. What dish is served in a plastic catbox with a new, clean pooper-scooper?
6. In 1993, who released an album consisting entirely of songs about food?
7. Where would you find people eating Huhu grubs?
8. In what circumstances might you consume a maguëy worm?
9. What name is given in Cajun cuisine to a turkey stuffed with a duck stuffed with a chicken?
10. What is the Hebridean delicacy *guga* made from?
11. In which country might you eat fried monkey toes?
12. In which culture do people drink blood drawn from the neck veins of live cattle?
13. What was spam originally called?
14. Haggis is traditionally accompanied by *chappit neeps* and *tatties*. What are these?
15. Where would you be most likely to find seal flipper pie?
16. These days, *schmaltz* usually means an excess of sentimentality. But it can also be eaten. What is it?
17. Grits are made of hominy. But what is hominy?
18. Where might you eat *hakarl* – putrefied shark meat that has been buried for up to six months?
19. *Kvass* is made by fermenting what in water?
20. In Italy there is a bitter liqueur made from artichokes. What is it called?

Answers below left

Puzzle Solutions

Monster Quiz Answers

1. Japan; 2. Duck embryo, cooked in the shell; 3. *Pong tea khon*; 4. Fermented Baltic herring; 5. Kitty Litter Cake; 6. "Weird Al" Yankovic; 7. New Zealand; 8. With mezcal or tequila; 9. Turducken; 10. Young gannet; 11. Indonesia; 12. Masai; 13. Hormel Spiced Ham; 14. Mashed turnip and potatoes; 15. Newfoundland; 16. Chicken fat; 17. Blanched white corn meal; 18. Iceland; 19. Old bread; 20. *Cynar*.

EZ Trivia Answers

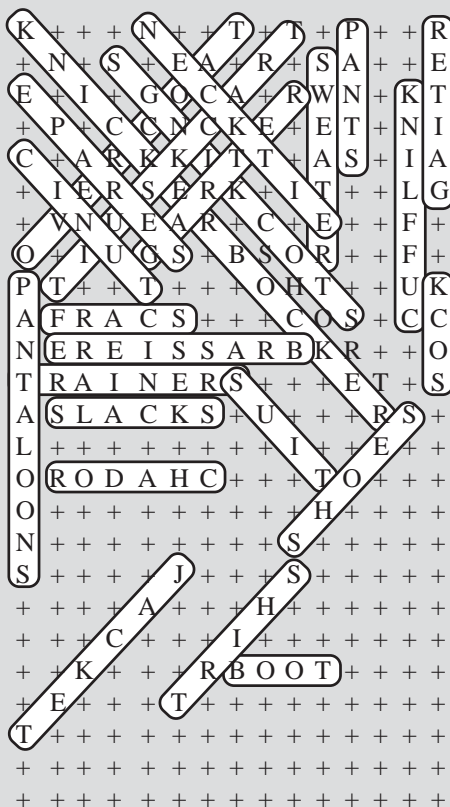
1. Little Miss Muffet; 2. Canberra; 3. Switzerland; 4. Bruce; 5. London; 6. Four; 7. 1776; 8. Songkhla; 9. Chuan Leekpai; 10. Tata Young.

Rhyme Time Answers

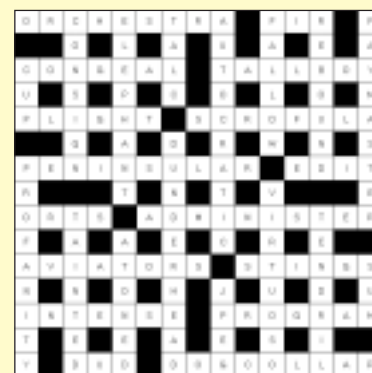
1. Fast asleep; 2. Sheep; 3. Steep; 4. Weep; 5. Black sheep; 6. Put to sleep; 7. Jeep; 8. Reap; 9. Beep; 10. Keep.

Hidden Words

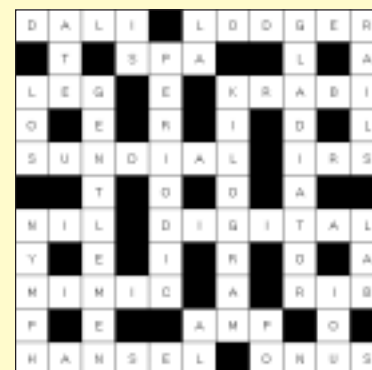
SOLUTION



Solution to this week's Cryptic Crossword



Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle



Poor show by veteran satirist

It rankles when a favorite author turns lame. Especially when the volume at hand is not a library book or free review copy but a hefty trade paperback for which I paid 650 baht. The book is *Nature Girl* (Transworld Publishers, London, 2006, pp306) by Carl Hiaasen. I want my money back.

A native of Florida, Hiaasen is a respected muckraking columnist at the *Miami Herald* who for decades has taken on corrupt politicians and despoilers of the last patches of wilderness in southern Florida.

His 10 novels have carried on this theme and feature a vast array of colorful villains: sleazy strip club owners, wife murderers, political fixers, heavily armed psychopaths, right wing militias, corporate rapists of the Everglades and even bass tournament cheats. As said of Milton's Satan, the devil has the best lines.

The problem with his 11th novel is that the villains are so petty and pathetic. They are a loser and a lecher: Boyd Shreave, a telemarketing phone operator in Fort Worth, Texas, and Louis Piejack, owner of a fish market in tiny Everglades City.

On the same day both run afoul of Honey Santana. Piejack grabs her right breast, Shreave phones her up in a middle of dinner and ends up calling her a "dried up old skank".

For Piejack, his employee Honey

Santana's revenge is immediate: she bonks him in the genitals with a crab-cracker mallet. For Shreave, revenge is more complicated: she invites him and his mistress on a phony real estate promotional kayak trip to Dismal Key, one of the Everglades' Thousand Islands.

Why? Honey is nuts. Since the birth of her son Fry 12 years ago, Honey has suffered from bi-polar disease: "She struggled with a rabid intolerance of callousness and folly, both of which abounded in South Florida."

"I didn't forget my pills," she assures her son at one point. The kicker: "Which was true: she'd thrown them in the trash a week ago."

Honey Santana's estranged husband, a crab fisherman named Perry Skinner, takes his own revenge on Louis Piejack by hiring two Cuban thugs to insert his right hand into a cage full of stone

crabs. The resultant hospital operation is botched, leaving his fingers surgically mis-attached.

Now all this is told in lively language.

Like most people with a boat in South Florida, Perry Skinner had smuggled marijuana until he got busted along with half the male population of Everglades City.

"The shit had gone down before Fry was born, and he wouldn't have been born at all if Honey Santana hadn't been waiting for Skinner when he got out of prison; waiting in a lemon-colored sundress and white sandals," Hiaasen writes.

"It was a total surprise, especially the smile. She'd mailed 147 letters to Skinner while he was locked up; few were conciliatory and none were forgiving. Yet there she'd been, all dressed up and glowing in the Pensacola sunshine when he's stepped through the gates at Eglin. The first words from her mouth were: 'If you ever run another load of weed, I'm gonna cut off your pecker and grind it into snapper chum.'"

All these characters wind up on Dismal Key, along with a fugitive half-breed Seminole named Sammy Tigertail, a fishing guide and former alligator wrestler –

who once fought "an eight-footer displaying the ferocity of a bean-bag chair" – and Gillian Tremaine, a ditzy college girl who has volunteered to be his "hostage".

There are plenty of laughs scattered through the text but the gimcrack plot goes nowhere. It's an extended vaudeville slapstick skit with all kinds of horribly comic mishaps happening to the two designated idiots: Boyd Shreave and Louis Piejack.

In the end, Honey and her husband Perry are reconciled and live

happily ever after in her double-wide trailer with son Fry.

I wouldn't be so upset by this fluff if the writer were other than Carl Hiaasen. Since the death of John D MacDonald, Hiaasen and Elmore Leonard have ruled the roost as the masters of South Florida crime fiction. His latest offering offers no competition whatsoever.



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt



PHUKET DIARY

www.phuketgazette.net/calendar

Until May 31. Live Blues at Joe Kool's.

Every Monday night is Live Blues night at Joe Kool's in the Ramada Hotel at the north end of Karon Beach. Come out and join the Groove Doctors for a night of live music with blues, R&B and funk tunes and Mr Joe Kool himself: Tony "Chainsaw" Wilson. The Groove Doctors are the local talent who performed at the Phuket Blues Festival in February. We can heal ya! Music starts at 8 pm.

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 race start at 8 am.

For more information contact Hugo Jones at Tel: 081-

0782024; e-mail: hugodeb@hadyai.co.th or visit www.tri ballisticclub.com

May 6. Auction of carpets.

A genuine auction at Movenpick Resort & Spa, Karon, not to be missed. Take this opportunity to own the finest Silk Persian carpets from Iran, handmade woven carpets from Central Asia, Qum, Pakistan, Nain, Srinagar, Isfahan and much more... 80 lots will be offered. Don't miss this opportunity.

No additional charges or fees imposed by auctioneer. All import taxes and duty has been paid. For serious buyers only.

Grand Ballroom III, viewing time noon, auction time 2pm. For more information contact K. Kelly at Tel: 081-9561077 or email: kaew_kay@yahoo.com

May 13: BIS 5km Fun Run.

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

A warm-up will begin at 3:45 pm and the run will start at 4 pm at BIS. Registration is 200 baht for adults and includes an event shirt. After the run there will be

a swim at the BIS pool, sausage sizzle and entertainment.

May 26 and 27: Phuket International Rugby 10s.

The Phuket International Rugby 10s this year will be held at Karon Municipal Stadium May 26 and 27.

Two teams to watch out for, according to tourney organizer Patrick Cotter, are Devon RFC and Aussie Armed Services, comprising players from the Australian Army, Navy and Air Force.

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

June 17: Laguna Phuket International Marathon 2007.

Organizers Go Adventure Asia are expecting 1,500 international runners from 40 different countries to compete in the The Laguna Phuket International Marathon 2007.

A half-marathon and a 10km fun run will also be held so that people of all ages and athleticism can take part.

Proceeds from the event will go to HOPE worldwide (Thailand), which is dedicated to helping needy children and underprivileged girls in Thailand.

For more information visit www.phuketmarathon.com

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Detouring road blockades

The April 18 blockade of Thepkasattri Rd in Koh Kaew is only the most recent in a long series of road closures carried out by groups protesting rights violations – in ways that directly infringe on the rights of others.

Sadly, Phuket has a rich and varied history of such road blockades. The only common thread running through them seems to be that the protesters are never held accountable for their actions.

Last October, enraged villagers of Baan Kho En set up tents on Thepkasattri Rd in Mai Khao demanding improvements to a dangerous curve.

In February 2005, more than 200 people blocked Thepkasattri Rd to protest against plans to make them pay rent on government land they occupied for 15 years.

Road blockades have become so common that they seem to have developed into a sort of default procedure for airing grievances against the authorities, even though it is inevitably innocent tourists who suffer the most, especially those who miss their return flights and have their vacations ruined as a result.

Despite numerous instances over the years, successive provincial administrations have yet to devise a systematic strategy to deal with these illegal road closures.

Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit wants to change this. Clearly miffed at the provincial response – or lack thereof – to the most recent blockade, he has decided to explore ways to better deal with the next episode, which is inevitable if history is to be any guide.

Unfortunately, Gov Niran's suggestion to build a second major north-south artery [See Governor's Letter, facing page] on the island as a way of addressing the problem hardly seems practical at the moment. The interim government has chosen to ignore even the most urgent of Phuket's budgetary requests. Can we reasonably expect them to fund a new highway for this stated purpose?

While Gov Niran's idea to have detour routes set out in advance is more practical, the best method would be prevent such road blockades from happening in the first place – or at least have the ability to clear them off the streets when they do occur.

But even that seems unworkable as well, given that the police are more often the cause of the problem in these cases than the solution.

Since blockages along Thepkasattri Rd seems to be increasing, perhaps the best course of action for the foreseeable future is one recommended by the airlines for decades: if you are booked on a flight make sure you plan to arrive at the airport several hours before the scheduled departure time.

– The Editor



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.

Absorb the culture, don't change it

Why do we visit other countries? Is it to go absorb a different culture? To indulge in new experiences, to breathe in the aroma of different lands, to broaden our knowledge?

This is how it was intended.

We go, we visit, we complain, we have tourist opinion polls on the services offered, the facilities, the food. We even get involved in the politics.

And, don't like it? Doesn't live up to our expectations? Not like back home? Do we just return to our habitat, vowing not to visit the country again?

No, we change it.

We can't help ourselves. It's something we do – and do it well. To the detriment of all involved. Build a place that reminds us of home. Put up restaurants that serve our food. Start companies that deliver our toys.

Have what we have at home – in someone else's country!

Now, if we were dissatisfied enough with what we had at home to make us want to change another place into what we know, why bother. Dissatisfied is dissatisfied no matter where we go. We take it with us.

Complain, complain, complain.

Instead of kilometers of undisturbed beaches, beautiful countryside, open spaces, there are billboards touting new developments for sale. Condominiums, high rises, luxury hotels, every service the tourist could wish for, every inch of beautiful white sand covered in umbrellas and deck chairs.

Everything to be had at home.

Why? Why not then, just stay home?

Travel magazines are no longer travelogues inviting us to "go and see" exotic destinations. They are real estate catalogs, property guides. This condominium for sale, that exclusive resort, this investment opportunity.

And the governments of the countries who allow it to happen are no less guilty than the tourists who expect it to happen.

More money into the country from tourists. So more facilities can be built to draw more tourists. It's good for the economy.

What economy? The real economy or the pseudo economy being created by the masses of dissatisfied visitors?

Count the empty houses. In one street of 13 houses, eight are empty. Their owners live elsewhere. These are for the once-a-year guests. Or some rich tycoon's holiday home.

How many houses can a person live in at one time?

Even animals now have two habitats – their semi-natural one and a rehabilitation center.

Has anyone thought of doing a holiday exchange program?

There are already too many houses, too many buildings, too many people. The earth is groaning under the sheer weight of it all. Every inch of space is being developed to assuage man's intolerable greed.

Feel the difference in the temperature of built up areas as opposed to open spaces in the same vicinity. The heat reflected from buildings and other structures is palpable to the most in-

sensitive of humans.

Global warming isn't something that is happening somewhere else, it's happening here. Wherever humans gather.

Every now and then Nature shakes its head in annoyance and a natural disaster occurs, wiping out some hundreds of thousands of people.

Not listening? Nature stamps its foot and an uncontrollable, untreatable disease makes its mysterious appearance, wiping out millions. And it's happening more often.

There are no other worlds to conquer. No other planets where man can live. If there are, the Universe is keeping them carefully hidden away. We will never find them. We don't deserve to. This is it.

Carry on building, breeding and breaking down. Soon it will be gone. The day will come when Nature puts its foot down. And that, fellow humans, will be that.

Go look, go see, go absorb. Then go home with beautiful memories.

Do no harm and leave no footprints.

J O Yost
Kamala

One Sweet reply

Dear Benjamyn of Rawai (see Letters to the Editor, April 28 issue), you prove my point on chauvinism so beautifully, I doubt you're even aware of it.

Was your last statement meant to insult me by making a reference to a standard of weight in women that is acceptable to you?

There we are again with those male aesthetic requirements for women that was the

The Phuket Gazette

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COMMUNICATION TO AVOID ROAD BLOCKS

This morning [April 26] during the monthly meeting of the Phuket Provincial Security Council Meeting, I discussed with my three Vice-Governors and the Phuket Chief Administrative Officer ways to alleviate problems related to street protestors who block off roads in order to draw attention to their cause.

The problem is most severe when Thepkasattri Rd is blocked, as this is the only major route to the airport from most parts of the island. For this reason, we are considering the possibility of building a new road or expanding existing ones to serve as alternative ways of getting to the airport.

We need to do whatever is necessary to keep road links to the airport open at all times. To achieve this, when such situations arise we need to be able to take swift action and relay important information in order to set up detours and take other measures to best deal with the situation before it becomes unmanageable. This is essential because having tourists miss their flights will no doubt harm Phuket's image.

As for the latest mob in Koh Kaew, I was in Pattaya attending a meeting at the time it happened. I learned about the situation from a reporter – not from any of my staff. I have already reprimanded them for this, ordering them to contact me directly when such situations arise. The people responsible for reporting to me need to realize that I need to be kept in the loop when fast decision making is essential.

On April 18, the heads of several departments were out of town and out of contact when this was going on. This hindered our ability to deal with the situation. For this reason, we need to have a chain of command in place so that we can deal with these situations as efficiently and effectively as possible at all times.

Entertainment venues: I am still getting complaints about en-

The Governor's LETTER

In his fifth Governor's Letter to Phuket's expatriate community, Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit discusses the need for an alternate route to the airport in times when protestors block the roads.



tertainment venues staying open past the designated closing times and creating noise, which annoys local residents.

The situation seems to be worst in Patong. I have heard reports that some entertainment venues there stay open as late as 5 am, making noise throughout the night. I have ordered both the Kathu District Chief and the Superintendent of Kathu Police Station to crackdown on this and to conduct more frequent inspections.

They need to be consistent and even-handed in carrying out the crackdown, not selectively targeting some establishments while ignoring others. My policy is that action should be taken against the management of each and every entertainment venue that chooses not to respect the law.

Community protests: Another long-standing problem in Phuket is that of whole local communities making numerous demands of the province. Right now there are about 30 such groups, most of which represent communities whose members have encroached on government land. Some of these groups include

members who have built houses on public land and the sold them using fraudulent documents.

To deal with this, I have established district-level committees to hear their complaints and try to find solutions. If they have any problems, they should address the designated committee member representing the government [instead of protesting]. I have instructed each committee to report back to me on their progress.

Crime increasing: Phuket is very difficult to regulate, especially given its steady rise in population. Thais from every region of the country continue to migrate here and there has been a large influx of foreign residents coming to live here as well.

As Phuket becomes more international and urbanized, a rise in crime is perhaps inevitable. For this reason, I would like to ask help from everyone in keeping an eye out and provide useful information to the police, who are tired from being overworked.

We are trying to address the rise in crime by setting up checkpoints, not just for traffic violations but also to check for possession of weapons. I have continued the previous provincial administration's

policy of establishing Phuket as a "gun free zone" by refusing to approve any new gun ownership applications. However, I have approved some applications to extend gun licenses for owners who registered their firearms before the ban was put into effect.

Phuket needs MICE: On April 23, representatives from the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) came to Phuket to follow up on progress on siting a number of "mega- projects" in the province.

I informed them that Phuket really needs a 1.8-billion-baht budget [to build a convention center] to support development of the Meetings, Incentives, Conventions and Exhibitions (MICE) industry. I told them I thought it was better to move ahead with this project on its own than wait to develop such a facility as part of the proposed 100-billion-baht Ao Phuket project.

I also told the representatives that Phuket desperately needs funding for a second trash incinerator.

Other projects we would like to move forward on include improving our wastewater systems and building new marinas, as well

as a sport training complex and a light rail system.

Casinos: The Director-General of Macao's Labor Department came to Phuket on April 23 to discuss the labor shortage faced in Macao, which is a special administrative region of the People's Republic of China.

I was told that Macao's economy is booming, with its total annual income surpassing that of Las Vegas for the first time in 2006. The boom, led by the gaming industry, has been followed by a great deal of foreign investment in the resort and spa industries.

As Chinese nationals are forbidden from working in casinos, a great number of foreigners are required to fill these positions. Already many Thais have gone there to work, but more casino workers are needed – from Thailand and other countries.

The Director-General was curious to know why Phuket doesn't have any casinos, given that they can generate a lot of income that can be directed to address pressing social problems, such as improving educational opportunities by providing scholarships to needy students.

I explained to him that the former government had instituted a second lottery to replace the illegal underground lottery and that proceeds were earmarked for social development.

However, I explained to him that traditional Thai culture views indulging in games of chance as a vice. This is reflected in our laws, which is why casinos are currently prohibited. However, I had to admit that many Thais still travel to Macao and other neighboring countries to gamble at casinos.

Niran Kalayanamit
Governor of Phuket
niran_pkt@hotmail.com

Letters

subject of my letter to the Editor. FYI – I weigh 115 pounds and am 5 feet 6 inches tall, practically Thai-sized except with a much larger bust.

While we're on the subject of attractiveness, how many Western men in Thailand are exploiting local women because they can't attract females in their own countries? Could you be one of them?

And as for me "dismissing" Thai women, or having anger toward them, I was being sympathetic to them. I cringe for her every time I see a lovely young Thai woman with a Western cretin twice her age who is so obvi-

ously beneath her.

If you think Thai women have equal opportunities as men, then you are either delusional or just plain ignorant.

By the way, I can change the oil in a car, in fact I've torn down the 351 Cleveland engine on my 1970 Mach 1.

And Benjamyn, my name is Ms Sweet to you, thanks.

Christy K Sweet
Thalang

Racing away with driver's angst

As a car and motorbike driver

on Phuket for years, I was surprised to read Per Dompert's letter about Patong being a raceway [Gazette, April 21 issue].

The huge increase in traffic on the island, especially in Patong, has greatly limited the chance of speeding. The one-way traffic flow has made it more convenient for drivers, but not impossible for pedestrians to cross.

People driving at 100km/h in Patong, and 120km/h on the beach road? Perhaps Per should check his speedometer. And

surely 30km/h is okay in a 40-50km/h zone.

Luminous color speed bumps? Traffic lights everywhere?

Why not install pedestrian bridges – they're even safer. Radar guns and hefty fines for driving over 30km/h?

Do you not have enough laws in your home country? Are you not sick of the many rigidly enforced laws for every little thing on the road?

Nail carpets for loud, speeding motorbikes that do not stop? Hey, why not shoot them?

Last week in Thalang a 17-year-old died. Satisfied?

Confiscate motorbikes that are too loud? Deport resident farangs with loud motorbikes?

There are some loud motorbikes, in particular the smaller two strokes, but there are fewer and fewer as they are no longer produced.

Some big bikes rented out to tourists are also loud, but the increased traffic ruins their fun now. As for Phuket Bike Week, that's only one week.

If people don't like it here, they should go to Langkawi. It might be what they are looking for.

Alfred Hoeld
Patong

Taking pets overseas

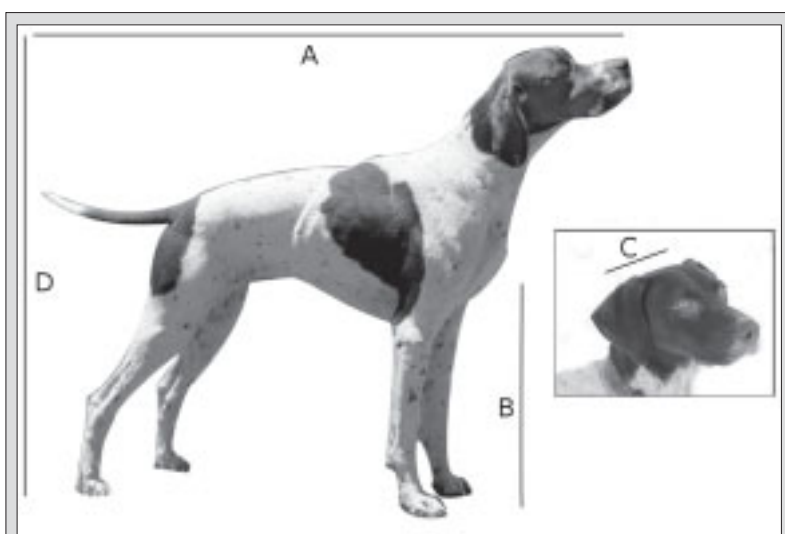
Last week the *Gazette* featured an Issue & Answer about taking a cat overseas. The Soi Dog Foundation (SDF) receives many requests for help in sending pets overseas, but it is not possible to cover the regulations for every country in this column. Any person seeking advice should contact the SDF or the country's embassy.

Regulations vary from country to country. For example, you cannot take a dog to Australia without it first spending at least six months in another approved country. For North America, however, it is relatively simple.

The European Community, to which most pets from Thailand are exported, recently standardized import regulations, though the UK and Sweden have stricter guidelines.

In-flight cages must conform to International Air Transit Association (IATA) regulations and be approved by IATA. Although your pet may be allowed to travel from here if the cage is too small, you are likely to be fined when you collect your animal, especially if sending it to a Western country. If the pet is in transit at airports such as Amsterdam or London it will not be allowed to travel onward until you have either provided or paid for the correct size cage.

IATA-approved cages are available from Shamu Shamu on Chao Fa East Rd, but allow time in case the correct size is out of stock. Also, start putting your pet in the cage at night or at other times to get it used to it, and to reduce their stress when the time



The correct size of container for your pet should have the following dimensions: Length = A + 2B; Height = D; Width = 2 x C.

comes to travel. It is also a good idea to put an old unwashed T-shirt that you wore the day before in the cage before departure.

To calculate the correct size cage, measure the dog or cat from nose to tail and add half the length of one of the front legs. This gives the length required. See the diagram for details of determining the other measurements.

A vet answering the Issue & Answer said that you should take the dog to a clinic and have a blood test done. A couple of years ago this would have been fine for Europe but

is not acceptable now. The blood test *must* be carried out by an approved laboratory, and the simplest way of doing this is to take the animal to the Phuket Animal Hospital on Chao Fa West Rd where the vet there is used to preparing and sending blood samples to the Pasteur Institute in Brussels. There are no approved labo-

ratories in Thailand.

I recommend contacting the institute directly to get the results, as there have been cases of these getting lost in the post.

The animal can be micro-chipped at the same time, which is another requirement for most countries.

If your dog is going to an EC country other than the UK or Sweden you can send your dog 90 days after the blood sample is taken, but your pet must have had a rabies vaccination at least 30 days but less than one year before the sample is taken.

A similar regulation exists for taking animals to many other countries including Japan, where the wait is six months from the date the blood sample was taken.

If you are taking a pet to the UK you have the option of sending it to another country first. Many people take UK-bound dogs to France, for example, where it must stay for at least six months before being allowed into the UK – and this is on top of fulfilling French regulations.

You can take your pet to the UK next week without any microchip or vaccination, but it will spend six months in a quarantine

kennel. This arrangement must be booked in advance.

You must also get an export license from a government vet here in Phuket. Allow at least three days for this. The Phuket Animal Hospital can do the paperwork for you.

If you intend to take your pet as on-board "luggage", contact the airline in advance to ensure they will allow this. However, in my opinion it is much less stressful for owner and pet alike for it to travel in the hold, which has exactly the same temperature and pressure as the cabin.

On this critical point, cabin pressure can seriously affect a dog or cat's respiration and can even cause death. However, there are some herbal remedies to relieve stress that can be added to their water.

When you arrive at the airport your pet will be weighed and you will have to pay excess baggage at the airport ticket desk. Charges vary from airline to airline.

If sending your pet by cargo, ask the Phuket Animal Hospital to take care of the procedures or contact K. Tim of Skytrade, who is very experienced in organizing the shipment of pets and will organize the export permit. She speaks good English. The Skytrade office is at the airport cargo terminal.

Whichever method you choose to ship your pet, do not feed it on the day of travel, but do provide water in the cage. Shamu Shamu sells spill-proof water bowls, which are far better than plastic rabbit feeders, which are prone to leaking.

If sending your pet by cargo, ensure all required documents are securely fastened to the cage, and keep photocopies just in case.

Failure to comply with a country's regulations will mean your pet will either have to spend time in quarantine or will be shipped back to Thailand at your expense, or – in the worst-case scenario – be destroyed.

If you follow the advice above, both you and your pet will have a stress-free journey.

For more information about exporting your pet from Thailand call the Soi Dog Foundation (087-0508688), Dr Suchon at the Phuket Animal Hospital (081-8936355) or K. Tim at Skytrade (081-9682329).

LAYING DOWN THE LAW



With Friedrich "Sam" Fauma

Courting disaster

In Thailand love is often in the air, but what happens when that love turns sour and the courts get involved?

Mr X had lived in Thailand for many years, married, had a child with his wife and moved to Phuket to live and run his business.

After settling in Phuket he found out that his wife was seeing another man, Mr Y. So Mr X started investigating the matter and after he had all the evidence he needed, he filed for divorce against his wife and for sole custody of the child.

Mr X won both cases, and in the divorce his wife admitted to seeing another man and having a sexual relationship with him, all backed by Mr X's evidence.

After hearing the testimony of his wife in court Mr X learned that his wife was lured into leaving him by Mr Y, who had promised a financial arrangement for her, and a business, if she would leave her husband and child.

That made Mr X even angrier and he filed civil and criminal charges against Mr Y on the grounds of adultery. The court ruled in his favor and ordered Mr Y to pay him a substantial sum.

Mr Y and his lawyers appealed against the amount.

During the appeal Mr Y sold some of his assets in Thailand. When Mr X found out that Mr Y had sold his assets while the court case was still being heard, he filed additional criminal charges against Mr Y for "cheating against creditors".

Both sides waited for the Appeals Court decision for some time, with Mr Y restricted in his freedom as he had pending criminal charges against him.

Eventually they settled for about half the original court order, but still a six-figure amount. After many years of court hearings and filings, in the end both parties settled their dispute and got on with their lives.



By Top Dog

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In The Stars

by Isla Star

TAURUS (April 21 – May 21): If you recently have taken the plunge to make radical changes to your life, you will be pleased by this month's more calming astral atmosphere. The stars will guide you toward relaxation and rejuvenation. If it's your birthday this week, treat yourself to a soothing spa treatment to start the year ahead on a positive footing. Wednesday is a good day to make new friends; you will meet people of the same mindset.

GEMINI (May 22 – June 21): While some may occasionally doubt all your dreaming and scheming there should be concrete proof this week that you have a magical touch when it comes to business. If your personal relationship skills aren't quite up to scratch, this is a good time to reflect upon past mistakes and resolve not to go down the same jungle path again. A romantic encounter is forecast to take place later in the week.

CANCER (June 22 – July 23): If you enjoy playing cat and mouse you should be having the time of your life at the moment. But if you're tiring of not knowing what's going on, you should definitely make that clear before things get out of hand. Work is satisfying, particularly midweek when the signing of a contract should mean you receive financial rewards for hard work. Wearing the color slate gray to the office should give out the right message.

LEO (July 24 – August 22): A wave of passion knocks you sideways this weekend. If you are ready to take the plunge you can look forward to an exciting love affair. If you're already spoken for, take your partner for an excursion off the beaten track to liven up the relationship. Work occupies most of your time after Monday when some sort of merger is indicated. Number 9 can bring luck Thursday.

VIRGO (August 23 – September 23): Your pride could prevent you from making progress this week. Those of you who are prone to believing you are always right will come up against a situation where this philosophy just doesn't hold true. Be prepared to back down gracefully and open to learning an important lesson. Aries continues to be a source of romantic pleasure, but you will have an important decision to make this weekend. The scent of peppermint enhances your mental power.

LIBRA (September 24 – October 23): If you have been caught in the middle of a bust-up between friends you'll be pleased when the people concerned settle their differences this weekend. Calming astral influences affect you after Tuesday until the end of the month. Make the most of this beneficial atmosphere to investigate new possibilities in business. It seems likely that you will be involved in a career change before June. Wear turquoise to improve your chances in romance.

SCORPIO (October 24 – November 22): Communication with someone you fell out with recently improves and reconciliation is forecast to take place midweek. Plans for an extended trip later in the year begin to crystallize, but some of you are likely to get cold feet closer to the date of departure. If your partner is behaving oddly, you will not get to the heart of the matter by demanding answers. Try a surprise romantic dinner for two instead.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23 – December 21): The weekend turns out to be much more enjoyable than you'd anticipated. You could still be in a gloomy mood after a difficult period recently. Getting out and about with fun-loving friends is a sure-fire way to blow away the cobwebs. You can feel confident that the month of May will turn out to be more rewarding than April was. Wednesday is a good day to approach your boss regarding a raise in pay.

CAPRICORN (December 22 – January 20): You will be counting your lucky stars on Monday or Tuesday when an important item that was lost is found. Pace yourself during the week ahead as energy levels will be low. Eat fresh tropical fruit to improve this situation and avoid burning the candle at both ends. Pisces has been asking mutual friends about you, but it will take a while for sparks to fly.

AQUARIUS (January 21 – February 19): A creative period is about to begin for you. Your artistic talents are about to be appreciated as never before; take care not to sell yourself short. Travel is highlighted during the month of May, but you should double-check your agenda before making definite arrangements. Your hot temper is hard to ignore this weekend and if you can't cool the atmosphere down with reasonable words, leave them to boil over alone.

PISCES (February 20 – March 20): There are no easy answers this week, but your natural patience will help. At work, you are advised to play the waiting game until the end of this month when the astral atmosphere will encourage more speed. Where romance is concerned Cupid isn't quite ready to fire the necessary arrow, but some progress will be made later in the week. Money starts to flow more steadily in the right direction.

ARIES (March 21 – April 20): Something that was a fantasy could become reality. You will have the ability to make dreams come true until the middle of May. Make sure you wave the magic wand in the right places. This weekend someone makes it obvious how much they like you; if you're not ready to put this relationship onto a more committed level, now's your chance to spill the beans. Wear the color cinnamon to encourage truthfulness.

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SINGAPORE IN A SLING

I'm fresh off the plane from Singapore, burdened with some sorrowful tales to tell. Once upon a time I could hop a quick plane to Singapore, jump in a taxi to Sim Lim Square and some three hours out of Phuket revel in the latest and greatest computer technology at stunningly low prices.

One trip does not a trend make, but if this trip to Sim Lim is any indication, Singapore's not nearly as inviting as it once was. Two reasons: price and selection.

My old rules of thumb have flown out the, uh, windows. For years, prices at Panthip Plaza in Bangkok have run 10% to 15% cheaper than Phuket; Sim Lim in Singapore came in 10% to 15% cheaper than Panthip; and Mongkok Computer Plaza in Hong Kong generally undercut all of them by 5% to 15% or more.

Prices in the US and (some parts of) Europe generally ran neck-and-neck with Singapore. Individual items varied all over the place, of course, but it's almost always been worth the time and effort to fly to Singapore or Hong Kong – or at least Bangkok – to buy hardware.

Times are changing. Based on spot-checking items that I commonly buy, just this week, prices in Sim Lim and Panthip are almost identical. Hong Kong's considerably cheaper. Surprisingly, prices in the US – specifically at Costco and other discount retailers – come in 15% to 20% cheaper than Hong Kong, and 30% to 40% cheaper than either Bangkok or Singapore.

That may be a temporary aberration: most laptops now come with Windows Vista pre-installed, and it's possible that prices in Bangkok, Singapore and Hong Kong are temporarily out of whack because the major OEMs (original equipment manufacturers like HP/Compaq, Dell and Lenovo/IBM) negotiated bet-

ter prices in the US. Whatever the reason, Singapore computer prices no longer put Panthip to shame, and a US mass discounteer runs rings around both.

An example. I have in front of me an advertisement from Costco for a Toshiba laptop with a 17-inch wide screen, running an Intel Dual-Core T2060 processor, 1.6 GHz, 1 GB DDR2 memory and 120 GB hard drive, a DVD-RW drive and Vista Home Premium. (English translation: a fast but not real fast laptop with a gorgeous wide screen that'll play movies, record and play HD/widescreen TV shows, burn DVDs, and do everything most people need with a computer running the latest version of Windows.) Priced around 28,300 baht.

The closest match I could find in Singapore included a much tinier 15-inch wide screen monitor and Windows XP Media Center Edition (no Vista Home Premium goodies), for S\$ 1,999, or 43,000 baht. That's 50% more than the US price, for a considerably less capable computer.

But price doesn't tell the whole story. At least at this point, Singapore is falling behind technologically, as well.

The government of Singapore (via Singtel) controls all telecoms in the country. For reasons I can't begin to fathom, Singapore has decided not to invest in third generation mobile phone technology.

By contrast, Hong Kong, South Korea and Japan are rolling out 3G as fast as the wheels will move. China has already become one of the world's top 3G hardware providers.

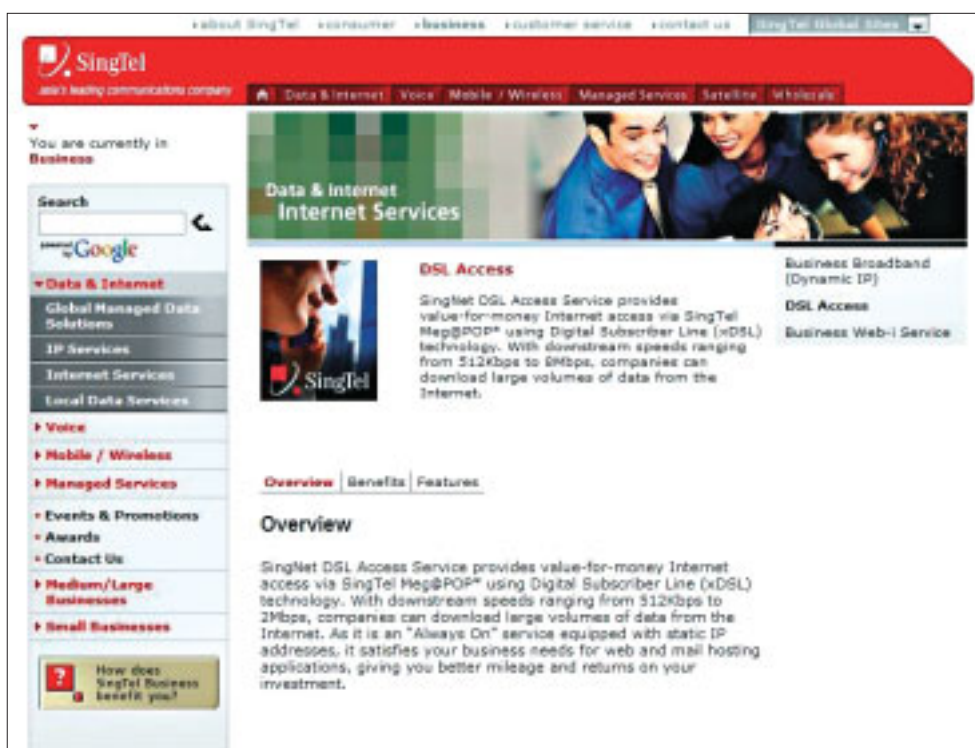
I'm not concerned about Singapore's stunning lack of 3G

telephone handsets. But I am appalled that Singapore isn't installing the plumbing for fast mobile Internet access. Perhaps the Founding Fathers plan on introducing WiMax to the entire island at some point, but in the interim, Singaporeans can't patch into the same fast Internet that we in Phuket (and increasingly most of the world) can get with an EV-DO AirCard.

Computer people in Singapore are green with envy – and full of questions – about our EV-DO AirCards. How's that for a role reversal?

Singapore's tight (some would say "ham-fisted") control over telecommunications has other consequences. For example, it's almost impossible to find a decent cordless telephone handset in Singapore.

Why? Because the Government of Singapore has determined that Singaporeans should not own the cordless telephones that are widely available just about anywhere else in the world.



While Singapore's national telephone company, Singtel, offers ADSL service (described on this page as running at a maximum of both 2 Mbps and 8 Mbps), it hasn't yet caught up with Phuket's EV-DO fast wireless Internet.

Wide-screen saga: On this trip, I expected to buy a widescreen monitor. As I mentioned last week, I'm finally going to bite the bullet and buy a replacement for my myopia-inducing 17-inch SyncMaster LCD monitor. I really want the Dell 3007 WFP, a gorgeous 30-inch monitor from Dell, but the price gives me nose-bleeds.

I settled on the 24-inch Dell 2407 WFP so, a week before I flew to Singapore, I contacted Dell in Singapore and asked them to sell me a 2407 WFP. I got the usual Dell shtick – they don't sell anything over the counter; Dell has to deliver and install the monitor, although they will bill it to my credit card. Fine, I said, "install" the 2407 WFP in my hotel room. No dice: Dell doesn't deliver to hotel rooms. Moreover, Dell requires five business days' advanced notice to buy a monitor, and I'd just missed the cutoff. Oy.

So I went back on the web and discovered that Samsung has just released a line of monitors that give the Dells a run for the

money. Rumor has it that Samsung manufactures Dell's monitors, so these new Samsungs really shine. Samsung's prices for the new 305T, 275T and 245T (30-inch, 27-inch and 24-inch widescreen monitors, respectively) beat the US prices for Dell's monitors by a smidgen. So I figured, what the heck, if Dell doesn't want my business, I'll pop into Sim Lim and pick up a shiny new Samsung.

Wrong. When I got to Sim Lim I discovered that the monitors aren't available in Singapore yet. You can get the new "T" monitors in Korea and North America, and they should be in Hong Kong soon, but Singapore has only the older, smaller, much less impressive BW series.

That's the bad news. The really bad news? Samsung now sells the older BW series in Thailand – but retail prices run about 30% to 40% higher in Panthip than in Sim Lim.

Vista talk: If you're interested in the new version of Windows, and you can make it to Patong on the night of May 8, drop me a line. I'll be talking with the Rotary Club of Patong Beach about Vista. Dinner starts at 7 pm and the talk will begin right after.

There will be lots of time for questions, in fact, I hope almost all of the presentation will be a Q&A session. Dinner costs 400 baht, with proceeds going to one of Rotary's many projects.

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

KHUN WOODY'S COMPUTER

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ON THE MOVE



Phuket native **Yongsak Natpracha** has been appointed General Manager of the Patong Paragon Hotel. A hotelier with more than 30 years of experience both locally and overseas, K. Yongsak has a degree from the Faculty of Commerce and Advertising at Anderson University in Indiana. His extensive experience includes working with Sheraton Asia-Pacific and the Thavorn Group. Before joining Patong Paragon, he was Resident Manager at the Diamond Cliff Resort & Spa.



Robert Morris from the US has joined the Hoteltravel.com team as Quality Assurance Manager in Phuket, overseeing the customer service department. Mr Morris studied Business Administration at the University of Arizona before embarking on a 34-year career with American Express Travel, where he was responsible for service delivery and client management, rising to the position of Vice-President and General Manager.



The new ophthalmologist at Bangkok Hospital Phuket is **Dr. Khemawan Wethayawikoon**, from Phuket. Dr. Khemawan graduated from the Medical Science Faculty of Medicine, Board of Ophthalmology of Mahidol University in Bangkok. She has five years of experience as an ophthalmologist including work at Chulalongkorn Hospital. Before moving to Phuket she worked at Rajavithi Hospital in Bangkok.

Apartment-condo prices holding

By Teddy Tucker

Phuket's apartment and condo prices seem to be holding firm in spite of a slowdown in sales attributed to the bombings in Bangkok, continued problems in the South, confusion over proposed changes in the Foreign Business Act (FBA) and last year's military coup.

Several of the island's property developers and sales representatives told the *Gazette* that condo and leasehold apartment sales and prices don't seem to be reacting to the "dramatic increase in the unsold stock of condominiums in resort areas" reported by Raimon Land in its February Condominium Focus report.

The survey also states that "some resort condominium markets are now risking reaching a point of saturation as a result of the significant amount of new supply launched in 2006". The report included both freehold condominium properties and leasehold apartment projects in its sur-



A fine prospect from here: Sales and prices of apartments and condos such as Patong Loft, pictured, continue strong – but location and views are an essential part of the equation.

vey of resort locations around the nation.

"We have just come to the end of a very good high season for sales. The market has slowed

down slightly but it is the time of year that things generally do slow down in Phuket," Morna MacDonald, a Senior Negotiator from CBRE Phuket, told the *Gazette*.

"There has been no price decreases in any of the condo projects out there. Maybe prices won't increase during the low season, but we haven't noticed things softening.

"This is the time of year when we find a lot of people doing their research in preparation for their visit in the high season and our website gets extra busy. For us the leasehold market has

always been stronger than freehold," she added.

Paul Moorhouse, Managing Director of Layan Gardens and developer the Layan Estates and Lakeside Villas projects explained that foreigners buying in Hong Kong, Australia and Singapore buy leaseholds, so they are familiar with the process.

"It's safe, it's certain, it's not trying to break the law, it's not forming [nominee] companies which are illegal, it's not having to do annual accounts – it's just very straightforward. It's not a problem with the majority of peo-

ple and it is the safest, easiest and cheapest way of doing it for the customer. The majority of property in gated communities on the island are leaseholds."

Mr Moorhouse says that if not for the events of the last year their sales would have been 20% greater than they were. He added, however, "We're going great guns, a lot of it has to do with the locations we're in. Layan Gardens's sales and prices increased in 2006 over 2005 – and 2007 continues strong.

"Leasehold apartments depend on their location and concept," agrees Amous Lee, Managing Director of Knight Frank Phuket, citing direct beachfront, views and a hotel-lifestyle concept as being important factors. "The FBA is not an issue," he says, "good rental programs and rental pools help with sales."

Mr Lee reports an increase in condo prices and sales this year particularly in the 21 to 28 million baht price range and sees leasehold prices as staying equivalent to freehold prices. Current prices for most projects on the island are in the 85,000 to 130,000 baht per square meter range, with those prices moving up and projects on the higher end continuing to perform well.

"Although we had record sales in 2006, we know some potential buyers are waiting for the political situation to clear and the changes to the FBA to be clarified before they commit," says Richard Skene, Assistant VP of Laguna Phuket Property.

"In addition, the low season for customers visiting Phuket is now upon us, which traditionally affects property sales. As the season picks up again, and with word of upcoming encouraging news on the political front, the outlook for property sales this year is positive.

"The prices of all of our properties at Laguna Phuket have remained robust and have increased with sales progress. Even the resale market prices have continued to increase, showing strength in the market and a demand in quality homes," he added.



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World growth looking good

The US economy is slowing, but inflationary pressures are muted and much has been made of the drop in the US residential housing market and "sub prime" mortgage defaults. Unemployment, however, is a very low 4.4%, which, for America, is virtually full employment. Consumers are still spending and retail sales figures are rising at a faster rate than most previous estimates expected.

A slowdown to around 2% Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth for the first half of 2007 is not bad news, the US is not an emerging market. Moderate growth with low inflation is a healthy situation. Alan Greenspan, the former Chairman of the US Federal Reserve (US central bank), recently commented that the effects of a US slowdown will be greatly countered by high growth rates in emerging markets.

The announcement in late April that the Chinese economy had grown in the first quarter of 2007 on a year-on-year basis of 11.1% in terms of GDP took markets by surprise. Tension had been increased for financial markets by the postponement of the announcement by the Chinese government from the start of the trading day until the end of business. Chinese stock markets were down over 6% before the announcement. Stock markets hate uncertainty.

The consensus opinion for growth as obtained in a poll conducted by Dow Jones Newswires

was for 10.3%. The 11.1% worried markets but recovery of much of the losses happened the next day. What is important is that the tremors were felt outside of China. This is a new phenomenon. Markets over recent years have been interested in the Chinese economy, now the Chinese news actually moves them.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said immediately after the announcement that steps would be taken to cool economic growth. The Chinese Government is rightly concerned about the potential of a "hard landing" for the Chinese economy in the future. China has already increased base lending rates three times in the past year by 0.27% on every occasion. (Why 0.27%? I don't know, perhaps it is just an lucky number. Every other central bank uses 0.25% or 0.5%, etc).

Other measures have already been taken and are likely to be intensified. These include a continual tightening of the amount the commercial banking sector has to hold with the central bank. This is intended to rein in bank lending but also naturally provides capital in the event of a bad loan crisis in any future economic slowdown.

Chinese retail sales rose 15% and industrial production rose well over 17% during the

same period. Stellar numbers indeed! Inflation also rose from a consensus estimate in a Merrill Lynch poll from 2.8% to 3.3%. This breaches the upper limit of 3% set by the Chinese government.

Overall, however, this is very good news for global growth. China is "urbanizing" at least 20 million people a year. This creates enormous demand for raw materials and commodities and the services requirement is also creating huge opportunities for a wide range of global companies. It is also raising the living standards for a very large number of people; China today is unrecognizable compared to 30 years ago.

Neighboring Japan has an economy that is still several times larger than China's. Japan is also benefiting from the China and Asia boom; the Japanese economy is growing slowly but is achieving better growth than during the 1990s and early 2000s. Consumer confidence is rising. Japan may have escaped deflation but it still is not experiencing inflation. Credit rating agency Standard & Poors has just raised Japan's sovereign debt rating from AA- to AA in recognition of the continued economic growth and outlook.

India is another major Asian economy that is enjoying rapid

economic growth at around 9%. This is putting serious pressure on infrastructure. India's central government is aware of the situation and is investing heavily in this area.

The private sector is also contributing to infrastructural development with the construction of "business trade zones" where companies install complete infrastructure in a large business "park" to enable themselves to have first class services. Many of these zones are under construction in India; the first completed project is near Chennai (Madras).

Most analysts believe India has a very bright future but also believe that stock markets are currently overvalued. In a recent interview on Bloomberg with the CEO of Aberdeen Asset Management, Martin Gilbert, said that India would be very attractive if share prices fell – but not a current levels. Aberdeen Asset also strongly favors India for the quality of its companies, he added.

Inflationary pressures are rising in India and the central bank, the Reserve Bank of India, has been raising interest rates and generally tightening up monetary conditions to combat symptoms of overheating.

India is now producing more IT graduates than the US and Europe combined. That still does not meet demand; on average every IT graduate has three or four job offers before leaving university. Companies are actively hunting on campus. Salaries are rising by around 15% a year in

the IT sector and graduates commonly "job hop" because of lucrative offers.

Vietnam is another country with strong economic growth. At present, growth rates are around 9%, and it is expected to be larger than the Thai economy within fifteen years. However, valuations on the stock market are high and often described as "frothy".

Five countries are among the most popular in Asia: Taiwan, South Korea, Malaysia and Singapore. The last is Pakistan which a number of major investment houses strongly favor. What everybody in the investment world agrees upon is that, eventually, it is the individual investment that counts over country allocation. Another very sound reason for using the "cocktail" approach, in other words using an investment vehicle that invests in a number of countries in the region as opposed to single country investment.

The European Union is growing as a unit at a rate of 2.7% GDP. This, compared to average rate over the past decade, is approaching "boom" conditions. The global economy is steadily becoming larger, this is a healthy situation. Stock markets are likely to make gains in 2007, albeit with periods of volatility.

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

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Jarl Sararak, the former President of Kamala *OrBorTor*, won the amateur 10-yard shooting contest and placed fourth in the 25-yard professional category at the Phuket Village Headman Club's shoot-off April 28.

JARAL ON TARGET

KATHU: Jarl Sararak, the former President of Kamala Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*), won the 10-yard amateur shooting contest at the Phuket Village Headman Club's shooting competition April 28.

The shooting contest, held at Kathu Shooting Range, was open to *Phu Yai Baan* (Village Headman) and *Kamnan* (Tambon Chief) on the island.

K. Jarl also took fourth place in the 25-yard professional category.

About 300 competitors took part in the shoot-off, which lasted from 9:30 am to 5 pm. Participants could choose their own weapon, either a .38 revolver, 9mm pistol or .45 pistol.

Vice-Governor Worapoj Ratthasima opened the competition with three shots from seven yards, but failed to score high points. Trophies were donated by Department of Provincial Administration Director-General Charnchai Soontharamut (a

former Governor of Phuket), and were distributed by V/Gov Worapoj.

— *Sangkhae Leelanapaporn*

RESULTS:

Amateur women, 7 yards: 1. Sunisa Aonchart, 2. Nantika Maneetham, 3. Wanwisa Klaewnaron.

Open 15 yards: 1. Veerapong Thonghom, 2. Udom Rattanawan, 3. Prasert Chansong (Chairman of Phuket Village Headman's Club).

Professional 15 yards: 1. Chaiwit Thummontri, 2. Thana Pholpalangkool, 3. Kanong Eiaddum.

Amateur 10 yards: 1. Jarl Sararak, 2. Chaiwit Thummontri, 3. Padung Wirojpawat.

Amateur women 10 yards: 1. Munthika Maneetham, 2. Wanwisa Klaewnaron, 3. Atchra Sangin.

Professional 25 yards: 1. Pornthep Kamsuwan, 2. Veera Euebamrung, 3. Veerathon Pholpalangkool, 4. Jarl Sararak.

1,600 in fun and games for Municipal Day

PHUKET: About 1,600 workers from Phuket City Municipality and the five municipality schools joined together for a feast of sports on Municipality Day, April 24.

The day started with a religious ceremony as the municipal workers prayed to the house spirits at Phuket Municipality Hall and was followed by games of football, chair ball, basketball, a mini-marathon and other local sports throughout the day.

The event was organized to promote sports in the province, and the Pink team, with members

from the waterworks, Phuket City Municipality Pawn Shop and Muang Phuket School, took the day's top trophy.

In the soccer tournament, however, the Pink team lost 1-4 against municipal workers from the Education Department and Bang Neaw School in a shootout after the regulation game ended in a 1-1 tie.

There was also a series of seven local sports, including a "stick and hoop" relay race rolling a tire around the track, three-legged races, rice sack races and a tug of war.



Although the Pink group couldn't hold on long enough to win the tug of war, they did manage to take the top prize overall at the Phuket City Municipality Day in a series of sports, some of which were serious, but some of which were strictly for fun.

Phuket wins gold in OrBorJor Cup

KRABI: Phuket athletes brought home six medals from the seventh Southern OrBorJor Cup held in Krabi April 23 to 27, including

gold in the men's *takraw*, men's 100-meter swim, and men's 200m and 400m footraces.

Phuket also picked up silver medals in the mixed couple's pétanque and the women's 200m sprint, and a bronze medal in the men's 200m sprint.

Phuket *OrBorJor* (Provincial Administration Organization) competed in soccer, volleyball, *takraw*, pétanque, swimming and track events.

The Southern OrBorJor Cup is an annual national sports competition with teams from all 14 Southern provinces and one special-entry team from Prachuap Khiri Khan. Athletes must be OrBorJor staff to compete in the competition.

The aim of the tournament was to foster good relations among *OrBorJor* officers in the South.

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WORLD-CLASS SERVICE, LOCAL PRICE

By Scott Mallon

There are fighters who are willing to fight the best, doing so as often as possible, and there are fighters who only fight opponents they are certain to defeat. Unfortunately, The Ring's #1 flyweight, Pongsaklek Wonjongkam (65-2, 34 KOs) falls into the latter category.

The diminutive Thai scored yet another victory over inferior opposition, as he has for the majority of his career, this time scoring a seventh round TKO in Saraburi over Tomonobu Shimizu (10-2, 4 KOs) of Japan.

Wonjongkam, a southpaw, has gone undefeated since 1996 and the victory marked the 17th consecutive time he's defended his WBC trinket.

Shimizu, 25, magically soared from 39th in the WBC's January ratings to number 14 for his title shot against Wonjongkam. So just what did he do to deserve this whopping 25 spot jump in the ratings?

He won a 10-round decision over Fahpetchnoi Sor Chittpatana (13-2, 9 KOs), the very same fighter who the now-deceased Filipino journeyman Lito Sisnorio (10-6-1, 3 KOs) destroyed in five rounds.

The Wonjongkam-Shimizu farce (and that's what it was) took place just six days after Lito Sisnorio passed away after being knocked out by former WBC flyweight champion Chatchai Sasakul – in what most considered an absurd mismatch.

Shimizu, like Sisnorio, didn't have much of a chance and was seriously outclassed. From the opening bell, Wonjongkam, 29, advanced without fear, covering up when Shimizu threw punches and letting his hands go when the opportunity presented itself.

In honor of the King of Thailand, the promoter lined one side of the ring with a wall of yellow, gas-filled balloons. One spectator, taking exception to the tribute blocking his view, hurled a lit cigarette and instantly ignited the balloons into a ten-foot high wave of flames.

Fans scurried for cover as the fire shot from left to right in a matter of seconds. The fighters stood motionless in the center of the ring watching the chaos unfold. In total, 20 bystanders suffered minor injuries and 10 min-



Pongsaklek Wonjongkam took on Tomonobu Shimizu in another mismatch, something that is a noticeable pattern of Pongsaklek's title defenses. The yellow balloons in the background were ignited into a fireball mid-match, injuring 20 spectators and temporarily stopping the fight.

Exploding balloons add to Saraburi farce

utes went by before the bout continued.

For the next three rounds, Shimizu worked his jab but could do nothing to prevent the champion from pounding him at will. Wonjongkam appeared bored but focused and only exerted enough energy to remind Shimizu he was the boss.

To his credit, Shimizu continued to fight, occasionally landing but never hard enough to gain the Thai's respect.

In round five, Wonjongkam turned up the heat, ripping body shots, and winging overhand rights. Shimizu was brave, perhaps too brave. It was boy against man and obvious to those in attendance the bout would only last as long as the Thai wanted it to.

Wonjongkam spent the next two rounds running after Shimizu. Early in round seven, he scored with two short uppercuts on the inside that knocked the wind out of the Japanese fighter and cut the bridge of his nose.

Sensing his chance, Wonjongkam pounced, immediately going in for the finishing blow. One short uppercut after another landed, crashing into Shimizu and driving him against the ropes.

The Thai lunged in with a

straight left and then a huge right that finally put Shimizu down to the canvas.

He rose at the count of seven, nose broken and gushing blood. The Thai confidently strode across the ring, looking to punctuate the victory.

Shimizu backpedaled, occasionally firing out his jab-straight right but only the bell saved him from the aggressive champion.

Between rounds, referee Brad Vocale looked in on Shimizu and upon evaluating his condition, decided to stop the fight.

The bout goes into the books as a TKO number seven for Wonjongkam.

The Thai has publicly stated he plans to defend his title 20 times before retiring.

His next defense is in Ja-

pan against Daisuke Naito; a fighter he knocked out in 34 seconds – the fastest knockout ever in a flyweight round – and also defeated by a seventh round technical decision.

There is bad blood between the two and Wonjongkam wants to shut Naito's mouth, "He talks a lot; too much. I've already beaten him twice but he still thinks he's a better fighter than me. I want to knock him out and shut him up."

Assuming he gets past Naito, Wonjongkam's 19th defense would be a rematch – against Tobonomu Shimizu.

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

PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

Offshore move into the lead

PATONG: After week three in the Patong Darts League, Offshore moved into first place with eight out of a possible nine points by beating Beach House at home in a Nanai Rd derby – before losing the beer leg.

With Didi's dropping out, however, several teams still have a game in hand – including Dogs Bollocks, who took all six points in their first two matches.

In other matches, newcomers Simply Red got their first taste of victory, taking two points when they downed Valhalla on the road. Meanwhile, it looks like taking a season off did some good for Shakers, who now sit in a tie for second place after swiping all three points at Coyote. Defending champs Piccadilly again found themselves on the losing end, this time on the road against Queen Mary, 7-2. Billy from Aberdeen had the hot hand for Queen Mary, checking out his singles and doubles and tying for high score.

Send any match information to darts@phuketgazette.net for inclusion in this article.

April 24 results: Queen Mary 7 Piccadilly* 2; Beach House* 2 Offshore 7; Coyote Bar 3 Shakers* 6; Valhalla* 2 Simply Red 7 (* = winner of beer leg).

Standings: 1. Offshore (8 pts.); 2.= Shakers, Dogs Bollocks (6); 4. Coyote Bar (5); 5. Queen Mary (4); 6.= Valhalla, Beach House, Simply Red (2); 9. Piccadilly (1).

May 8 matchups: Piccadilly v Shakers; Dogs Bollocks v Offshore; Coyote Bar v Queen Mary; Beach House v Valhalla; Simply Red = bye. (home team first)

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by Bloomin' Bert

*Oh I do like to be beside the
seaside,
Oh I do like to be beside the
sea,
Oh I do like to troll along the
prom, prom, prom,
Where the brass band plays
tiddly-om, pom, pom..."*

I haven't lost the plot – honestly. Though I do concede that some people will be puzzled by the lines of that song. At least three or four of the half-dozen readers of this column, anyway. The bottom line is that anyone not from England won't have the faintest idea what I'm prattling on about.

Those who are familiar with the ditty may well already be singing the next line of this song, written in 1907 by a bloke called John A Glover-Kind. Brits or their visitors might have heard it played by a dodgy brass band full of bored pensioners trying to bring some cheer to a typical English so-called "summer".

I should explain. The British are a bit odd. I should know; I'm one of them. We like to stroll aimlessly along the "promenade" that seems to be a feature of every British beach.

We perversely derive pleasure from the realization that we're making the most of our summer, despite the fact that we're wrapped up in several layers of clothing to try and keep warm, and it's teeming down with rain. "I'm at the seaside, and I'm going to enjoy it." That's before hypothermia sets in.

On the odd occasion that the temperature rises above 20°C, you'll even find adventurous souls who feel that the water is tempt-

Want a beach garden? Nature knows best



These plants along Rawai Beach prevent the waves from eroding the shoreline, and if they can survive here they're bound to be good for your beachfront garden.

ing enough to want to go in for a dip. This noble intention goes pear-shaped within seconds as they realize that the water temperature has a long way to go before it catches up. You can always tell English bathers by their various shades of blue.

Let's face it – English seaside towns don't have a great deal in common with the beach resort areas of Phuket, apart from sand

and saltwater. Missing here are an old pier with a crumbling theater perched on the end, bingo, game arcades and gypsy fortune tellers.

How about those ridiculous cheap black hats that English seaside visitors insist on wearing? The ones that, for some unfathomable reason, invite passers-by to "kiss me quick"? Perhaps not. Or the saucy postcards that may have been a bit raunchy when they were created in the fifties but today are just lame.

Then there's the food. Not good. Candy floss (aka sugar on a stick), pickled cockles and whelks that were well past their sell-by date months before they were eaten by unsuspecting tourists, and fish and chips. Hang on; come to think of it I could murder a cod and chips wrapped in that delicious-smelling, vinegar-sodden newspaper.

Anyway, back to sunny Phuket – more specifically, our seaside, and the plants that grow here. There are plenty of plants that will thrive forever in regular

soil with the odd drop of rain every now and then to keep them looking chirpy, but what about plants that are in areas directly exposed to the sea?

The main thing to consider is how exposed these plants will be to ocean wind and spray. Oddly, wind often puts greater stress on plants than salt spray. Direct exposure on the beach is the most difficult for plants to tolerate. Even in Phuket we can get some days of fairly relentless wind and sea-spray. There aren't that many plants that can cope with that, but the ones that do are impressive in their own way.

The sea lettuce is one. It's not the most inspiring plant in the world, all it does is sit in the sand and grow. Yes, I know that cynics would question what else we should expect from a plant, but this one is possibly the chartered accountant of the plant world – it's so unobtrusive.

It's a survivor, though. You only need to see how many of these thrive in nothing but sand at places such as Karon Beach

to realize how little they need to stay alive.

Come to think of it, Karon has a few survivors. There are a couple of ground dwellers there that you could confuse as being the same from a distance. The sea morning glory and the sea bean both trail themselves along the sand and produce vivid purple flowers, and both grow quite happily in 100% sand.

Native seaside plants are the best choice to put in your garden by the sea. If you travel to any beachside areas on the island, you'll see an abundance of plants. Actually, you'll probably see very few beaches that are all sand – that's not the way it works.

Nature tends to use various ground-cover plants to hold sand in place, preventing beach erosion. That, in turn, prevents the plants from disappearing too; exactly what the sea beans, lettuces and morning glories are quietly doing. It seems to work – this "nature" thing seems to know what it's doing.

The Madagascar periwinkle is another ground cover that grows well here. It's a weird little shrub, with shiny oval leaves and distinctive five-lobed flowers that are either white or purple – nothing in between, for some reason. You'll see them spring up without warning where you least expect them. It's not a plant you need to nurture – it almost does the work for you.

Then there are the trees. There would be little point in looking at salt-tolerant plants and ignoring a few obvious ones – the coconut palm, the pandanus (screw pine) and the casuarina. These sand-dwellers are also a familiar sight on our beaches. If they're happy there, they'll do just as well in your garden at home.

So cheat. Have a look at what nature has done, and copy it – I won't tell a soul, as long as you promise not to whistle *Oh I do like to be beside the seaside* or wear a hat inviting me to kiss you quick. By the way, does anyone know a good spot in Phuket for vinegar-sodden, newspaper-wrapped fish and chips?

Want advice on your garden?

Email Bloomin' Bert at:
bloominbert@hotmail.com

PHUKET
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Decor

by Natcha Yuttaworawit



Outdoor 'modwood' deck flooring from Room Limited was developed for waterside use. The flooring is made from powder-wood and 90% recycled plastic.

UNDERFOOT

Home owners are always looking for a way to give their home that special something, a little twist on the norm. Room Limited, suppliers of flooring, furniture and other building materials, can serve as a source of inspiration and advice.

Surawit Kittiwut, General Manager of Room Limited, Phuket, said, "The products here are almost all for construction, such as fake stone flooring, bamboo floor or fake nipa leaf roof. We also have outdoor and indoor furniture."

"Our products really suit Phuket because Phuket has many beaches and people like to live near the beach, so we offer materials and furniture well suited to that lifestyle. Before we suggest any products to a customer, we look at the customer's lifestyle and consider what their requirements might be," he added.

One of Room Limited's products is artificial nipa leaf roofing that looks real but is made from PVC. The benefits of using the replica leaves are that they will last longer and are more tolerant against torrential rains and glaring sunlight.

K. Surawit added that the roof comes with a 10-year guarantee. The roofing is priced at 1,800 per square meter and comes in several different yet "natural" colors.

Real bamboo flooring and artificial stone flooring are two options in flooring that Room Limited offers. The bamboo flooring is suitable for only indoor use, but it is easy to maintain, requiring just a simple mopping to keep clean.

"Our bamboo flooring is made from real bamboo. It's better than laminate flooring, which isn't real. Bamboo flooring is cheaper compared with, say, oak, yet offers a similar look



Apart from flooring, Room Ltd also stocks roofing, made from imitation nipa leaf.

and feel. Prices for bamboo flooring start at 1,800 baht per square meter.

"Our artificial stone floor is made from concrete and can be used both indoors and outdoors, and it does not have sharp edges like real stone does," K. Surawit said.

On offer are three patterns of stone floor: smooth (for indoors), textured (for outdoors) and terrazzo stone. The stone flooring comes in 20 colors, with prices starting at 4,500 baht per a square meter.

"We do not focus on one style, instead we focus on the basic elements. If you want a unique product and a new design for a particular use, you can come to us," K. Surawit explained.

"The materials we use are not restricted to a specific use, you can use them wherever you want. We are a supplier and do not have an installation service, but we can offer advice on installation."

"For example, when installing bamboo flooring on concrete you must install a 10-millimeter-thick plywood sub-floor first, and the bamboo floor must be glued down and also screwed onto the sub-floor," K. Surawit explained.

For more information visit the showroom from Monday to Saturday 9 am to 7 pm located on bypass road (inbound) or call 076-261151 or email at golf@room-limited.com

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Construction Update

by Janyaporn Morel



From the fourth-floor apartments, there will be fine views across Chalong Bay, with Chalong Pier in the foreground.

Aimed at the retired and medical tourist markets, the Chalong Bay View Apartments will feature wheelchair-accessible rooms and two elevators to appeal both to long-term living and patients who wish to recover after surgery.

Construction on the apartments will begin in June, and Managing Director Gary Ebsen expects that it will be finished by June 2008.

The complex will sit on 2.5 rai on Wiset Rd, about half a kilometer south of Chalong Circle on the way to Rawai and about 150 meters from Chalong Bay.

"We are trying to make

The place for rest and recuperation

ocean-view apartments affordable for more people. Our target customers are retirees or elderly people, and with the growing number of medical tourists, we will provide apartment facilities to meet the requirements of people who come to Thailand for any

medical treatment and need housing during their stopover or for their rehabilitation period.

"So every unit here has been designed as handicap accessible. We will make the apartment unit, including the bedrooms and toilets, easy for people who are in

wheelchairs to use," Mr Ebsen said.

The plan includes 67 apartments; the first floor will house nine units with Jacuzzis and gardens with a total area inside and out of 115 square meters.

Prices start at 5 million baht for a 30-year lease.

"These are two-bedroom units, but the emphasis is on making the master bedroom and living area comfortable for people over 50 years old. The second bedroom is quite small, which in the case of medical patients can be used as a nurses' quarters," he said.

The second and third floors will each house 19 two-bedroom units with 90sqm apiece. Ocean-side apartments will start at 5.5 million baht on the second floor and 6.5 million baht on the third, while apartments on the opposite side will sell for 3.9 million baht.

On the fourth floor there will

be a shared swimming pool with a 25m edge toward the ocean and 14 two-bedroom units, again with 90sqm each. Rooms on this floor will all have panoramic views and will cost 7.5 million baht.

The fifth floor will have five 139sqm penthouses, along with a 60sqm studio apartment. The fifth floor will also overlook the large swimming pool and penthouses will have their own Jacuzzis. Prices start at 8.9 million baht.

A gym, office, laundry, restaurant, massage parlor and covered parking spaces will all be included in the complex.

"The convenient location and under-market property values are the main reasons we chose Chalong for our project. It's very good value if you compare it with similar units on the west-coast beaches," Mr Ebsen said.

So far 16 of the units have been sold, leaving 51 still available. Mr Ebsen said that the property is attracting a lot of interest from Singaporeans who wish to have the apartment as their second home and as an investment.

For more information contact Gary Ebsen at Tel: 08-7898-7062, email: ebseng@yahoo.com or visit website at www.chalongbayviewapt.com



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Writing this column is a great icebreaker when I meet people. The two questions I am asked the most are, "So, what's the next big trend?" and "What little known spot will be tomorrow's real estate success story?"

Lacking a crystal ball or a genie in a lamp, most of us mere mortals have to rely on research, putting in a fair bit of road time and those key intangibles – good timing and even better luck.

Certainly Phuket, and what is becoming known as "Greater Phuket" – including Phang Nga, Krabi and their islands – is bursting at the seams. Up north over the bridge Ko Pilai and Tah Sai have seen some of the largest land transactions recently.

Bolstered by brand names such as Raffles moving into the area, it's certain to be a significant hotel and residential market in the medium term. Thai Muang with its golf course and marina potential is poised for redevelopment.

Further north, Khao Lak, despite its long stretches of white sand beaches and growing number of hotel projects, which are a key property indicator, has not yet experienced a property boom. If any area has the critical mass for tourism and infrastructure it's going to be Khao Lak in the years to come.

Will things move even further north to Takuapa or to the top of Phang Nga Bay, just head over the bridge and turn right? There are huge undeveloped areas with stunning views of Phang Nga Bay just a short boat ride to Phuket's Yacht Haven.

Krabi, with its large new hotel developments in Klong Muang and Haad Yao's "The Cove at Krabi", with its multiple hotels, golf course, condos and villas, is looking to be Thailand's next Laguna-style integrated destination resort.

With its international airport, eco-friendly focus – no jet skis, and no power poles erected along the beachfront – and with considerable tourist attractions it's still in the early development phase for the property business.

Head south and Koh Lanta

The Next Big Thing



Krabi, with its natural beauty and international air links, might just be the next big thing.

is quickly playing catch up with well-regarded resorts such as Pimalai Bay, Layana and Costa Lanta attracting more and more guests looking for new experiences. The Scandinavian sun seekers have moved quickly into the area with housing developments, businesses and even schools aimed at attracting those escaping the harsh Nordic winters.



PROPERTY WATCH

By Bill Barnett

Off Koh Lanta, Koh Jom is already offering investment properties aimed at resort-type developments. Meanwhile the white sand beaches of Trang are starting to attract both resort and property developers.

In Phang Nga Bay there is a distinct allure to islands offering both unparalleled privacy and adventure. Traditionally this was the realm of day-trippers visiting James Bond Island but the scene is rapidly changing.

Jumeirah's private island resort in Ao Por, The Village Coconut Island on Koh Maphrao and the upcoming Taj Exotica on Koh Lone, all offer mixed-use, brand-managed properties for sale. Suddenly developers are

looking far and wide for island land.

Even in our own backyard, Patong, where there has been relatively few mid- and upper-range real estate developments in

the past few years, there are over 1,000 new branded hotel rooms opening by the end of this year.

Operators such as Millennium out of Singapore and European hotelier Accor, bringing the

Mercure and Ibis brands, are leading the international charge. Transactions and new high-end development launches look to be on the rise over the next few months.

One of the most innovative properties, the BYD Lofts, have proved that buyers will pay premiums above the existing market.

So whether you go north or south, east or west – the world of Greater Phuket is indeed continuing to evolve and change. Tastes and products change, location preferences shift, while older locations shed their skins and remake themselves.

As to what's the next big thing, it could be a distant journey away or just around the corner, but get out there and explore. You just might be surprised at what you'll find.

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

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Property Gazette

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Property Gazette

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9 rai for sale at Pasak Soi 8, Cherng Talay. 2.7 million baht per rai. Please contact for more information and details. Tel: 076-282808, 086-9519198. Fax: 076-282346. Email: heypiassy@hotmail.com

APARTMENT

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

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

PATONG STUDIO

with sea view. Top studio apartment. Fully-furnished with Western kitchen, in best location with swimming pool & carpark. 2.7 million baht. Please call for information at Tel: 089-2911112.

URGENT SALE!

2 million baht. Furnished, 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom home with kitchen and 2 aircons. Ready to move in. Please contact us for more details. Tel: 086-7003376. Or email: contactmalisa@yahoo.com

Would you like to keep up on what's happening in Phuket - the good, the bad and the bizarre? Let us share it with you - every week!

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AGENCY+

Buy-Sell-Rent Properties
www.thaipropertyplus.com

Beautiful Thai House:
Rawai (SH008-03-07)
Type: Single House
Bed/Fur: 4 Bedrooms/5 Bathrooms, Semi-Furnished
Area: Approx 2005sqm.
Remark: Beautiful Beachfront House, Thai-style, Private Pool
Price: 15 MB

Large House in Thalang:
Thalang (SH018-03-07)
Type: Single House
Bed/Fur: 3 Bedrooms/2 Bathrooms, Fully Furnished
Area: 0-3-46.8 Rai (Plot Size)
Remark: Large European Style House with Pool and Garden, Nicely Furnished
Price: 16 MB

House with Garden: Off Chaofa Rd., Chalong (SH0005-03-07)
90 Sq.w. (Land area), 2-3 Bths, Semi-Furnished, Nice House in Quiet Soi, Spacious, Plenty of Room for Improvements, Extension or Pool
9.5MB

Cherng Talay House: Cherng Talay (SH0007-03-07)
174.5 Sq.m., 2 Brs / 2 Bths, Lovely House in New, Secluded Development, Master Bedroom has En Suite Bathroom with Jacuzzi
8MB

West Sands: Mae Khao Beach (SP0046-04-07)
1-4 Brs, Un-Furnished (Furniture Package Available), 350 Prestige Residences, 500m of Beachfront, Environmentally Friendly Development, Superb Leisure Facilities
Condos: 73-235 Sq.m. (Living Area)
Villas: 285-520 Sq.m. (Covered Built Area)
6.4-20.9MB
25.9-65.8MB

Koh Kaew Land: Koh Kaew (SL0047-03-07)
13-03-85 Rai, Vacant Land for Sale, Attractive Piece of Land in Sought After Location, Good Potential for Development
2.9MB/Rai

For More Properties Please Contact Phuket Branch
076 30 40 70

Property Gazette

DREAM HOUSE FOR SALE



Dream house in Chalong on 715sqm of land with private pool. 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, Western kitchen, 7 aircons, dual carport and much more. Perfect for families. A must see. 16 million baht ono. Please call Tel: 081-8926251. Or email: mrsouza@hotmail.com More photos and details can be found at our website: www.phuketdreamhome.com

NAI YANG HOUSE 3 MILLION BAHT



Must sell, discounted price. 2 bedrooms, includes all furniture and appliances. Quiet, gated community, pool, sauna, gym. 1 minute from Nai Yang Beach. Custom floors, cabinets, tiles, lighting. Euro/US standards. Contact for more details. Tel: 089-8742607. Email: jintananong@yahoo.com, loverofasia72@yahoo.com

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, 58 sqm pool, massage showerheads 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

PATONG VIEWPOINT BLUE POINT



Viewpoint for sale. One of the hot spots on the island. Blue Point is located just outside Patong. Blue Point overlooks the complete bay of Patong and has breathtaking views. Visited daily by many people to enjoy the view over Patong bay and the sunset. Located on the hillside, next to Baan Suan Kamnan, just outside Patong on the south end. Areas connected. Total area for sale is 2 rai. Perfect for exclusive residential usage. Also interesting for small/low resort or hotel. Nor Sor 3 Gor. (Upgrade and transfer with Chanote title possible). Only serious inquires. Call Edwin for more information and details at Tel: 086-7866350. Email: buurmanb@hotmail.com

12 RAI IN PALAI

12 rai of flat land for sale between Chalong and Phuket City. Road access, water, electricity, Chanote title. Ready to build. Willing to subdivide. Price: 3 million baht per rai. Please call for additional details and specifications at Tel: 087-1057320 or contact via email: stefan@phuketit.co.th

PATONG GUESTHOUSE

Freehold, furnished guesthouse at the Paradise Complex, Patong. For more information, please call Tel: 076-290393, 086-5888383. Or via email: sumalee1955@yahoo.com

ELEGANT HOME

Exclusive hillside, big pool, garden with trees. Taste fully furnished. Nice! Please call Tel: 076-388236, 089-7275407. Or contact via email to: bob@cosmic-mindreach.com Please visit our website for more info. http://villa-sale-phuket.com

BEST HONEST DEAL

in Rawai. 2 plots of land with hill view. Flat, ready to be built on. Chanote titles. 3,576sqm (2 rai 96sq wah). 35m deep x 107m wide. Asking 7 million baht. 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

CHEAP LAND

for sale. 2 million baht per rai. Wife's illness forces urgent sale of 3.5 rai of Nor Sor 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

CHALONG LUXURY

house. 2 stories, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, secure, quiet location, 2 kitchens, laundry room, full aircon, double garage, etc. Area: 292sqm. Curved teak staircase, spa, solar hot water, nice gardens, river views. 7.9 million baht. Chanote. Please call for additional details. Tel: 076-383193, 089-7245655. For photos, visit our website at: www.phukethouse4sale.com

NICE 5-BEDROOM HOUSE

A perfect, 5-bedroom, 6-aircon house, ready to move in. Close to Central Festival and Rawai Beach. Contact Tel: 081-8915296. For additional details and information including photos please visit our website at www.jikkycar.com

KARON POOL VILLA

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

SEAVIEW LAND IN CHALONG



3 rai for sale, stunning sea view over Chalong bay and surrounding islands. 8.5 million baht per rai. Can subdivide. Please contact Tel: 087-1057320. Or via email: stefan@phuketit.co.th

28 RAI ON KOH LONE

Located on Koh Lone island. Has 120m of beachfront, opposite Phuket Aquarium. Call K. Tum at Tel: 084-0002083.

LAND FOR SALE

in 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.freeseve.co.uk

SEAVIEW LAND

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

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.

LAND IN TRANG

4.5 rai in Trang. Perfect location for future business. In front of main road, opposite university. Please contact K. Tan for more info. Tel: 076-296658, 089-6513479. Email: tannynanny@hotmail.com

HOUSE + GARDEN

in Kamala: 3.2 million baht. House and 1.5 rai: 7.9 million baht. Land plot, 340sqm: 950,000 baht. Call Tel: 076-292596, 086-2678477. Email: tourniechristian@hotmail.com

KATA BEACH

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

ANUPHAS GOLF VILLA

Detached house on 320sqm land. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, fully-fitted kitchen/dining area. Solar power. Freehold, Chanote title. Price includes all teak furniture, beds, table, TV, sofa. Price: 6.9 million baht. Please contact for more info. Tel: 081-0874201. Email: glenys_home@hotmail.com

CHALONG HOUSE

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

Properties For Rent

BEACHFRONT CONDO

Kalim area, Patong. High standard. Fully-furnished, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, pool, many facilities. Call Tel: 081-8920038.

KATA 5-STAR

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 information, please visit our website at http://koumbele.com/kata2/

KAMALA LARGE VILLA

4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, quality teak furnishings, large teak kitchen, side-by-side fridge, full-size snooker table, 50" plasma TV, broadband, large garage. Set in 3/4 rai beautiful tropical garden secure private estate. Garden maintenance, house cleaning, cable TV all included. Long term: 60,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-8111067.

3-BEDROOM SEAVIEW

house with pool, large gardens. Only 10 mins to the British school. Furnished: 40,000 baht per month. Please contact Tel: 086-2796283.

CHALONG NEW HOME

2-bedroom furnished home for rent with telephone, UBC & aircon. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-6521473.

184SQ WAH HOUSE

House 184sq wah on Mae Luan Rd, near Rang Hill for rent as office, spa, restaurant or house. Email: romeplace@hotmail.com

NEW HOUSE

in Kamala. Small, 2 bedrooms. 8,000 baht per month. Close to the beach. Please contact Tel: 081-8928208.

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

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. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-2790837.

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

PATONG TOWER CONDO A BEAUTY



Beautiful Patong Tower Beach Condo with stunning 280-degree panoramic views of the ocean, mountains and town. Large outdoor patio and wrap around balcony. Completely renovated, Internet and washing machine. Available from March 1, 2007. Contact Tel: +11-861-381-634-4147. Email: For additional details, please visit our website www.PatongTowerRental.com

RAWAI/NAI HARN

Only 5,000 baht per month if taken good care of until September 15. New house and nice sea view. Call 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. Tel: 081-9560257.

KAMALA BEACH

New apts and houses for rent or sale, fully-furnished. Rent: 15,000 to 30,000 per month. For additional details, please contact Tel: 084-3059606.



Surin Beach - Modern Seaview Apartments for sale

Within 100 metres of the beach, 80 sqm. of living space. One bedroom, living room, European-style kitchen, fully furnished, air conditioning, hot water system, home security system, internet connection, television and satellite TV. The price starts from 6.5 million baht for the first-floor apartment. Please contact Ann 66 81 868 7676

House (Resort Style) for Sale



3 mins from Heroins Monument, 2-months until completion. High privacy, 134 sq wah land. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lobby, kitchen, dressing room, 2 carpark, 4x12m pool, teak pool-deck, landscape, automatic gate. Fully-furnished, 4 A/Cs, 4 TVs, Elec. piano, Gym Equip., Tel., ADSL, UBC.

8.6 million baht. Tel: (081) 502-1535

Property Gazette

SERVICED OFFICES

for rent. Modern and clean serviced office space. Complete with central air, keycard access, Internet, secretary service, CCTV monitoring, alarm system, phone lines, fax and more. Central location in Chalong. Several rooms in different sizes available. Just move in and start working. Tel: 081-8926251. Email: mrsouza@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 BAY VIEW HOME



2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, pool, ADSL, UBC, kitchen, dining room, great location, long term only, must see. Tel: 087-8821963. Email: benlee53@hotmail.com

HOUSES FROM WELLTA

My name is Wellta. I was born in Phuket. I have many houses for sale and for rent here in Phuket. Tel: 081-9680309. Email: info@houseinphuket.com For further details, please see our website at: www.houseinphuket.com

KATA LUXURY

Oceanfront 5-star, 1-bedroom apartment. Pools, gym, ADSL, quiet area, beach view. 32,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-9726017. Email: asiasail@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at http://koumbele.com/kata1/

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

HOUSE FOR RENT

Modern, two-story house in Patong. The home has a Western-style kitchen, dining area, large living area, 3 aircons, 3 bedrooms and 3 toilets. 35,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-641911, 084-8442134. Email: denelson3395@yahoo.com

HOUSE WITH BEAUTIFUL VIEW

House with big terrace and view over fields with elephants. Modern style 2 bedrooms + en-suite bathroom. Full aircon, modern kitchen, alarm system, garage and 100sqm basement. Must see. 28,000 baht per month. Long term only. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-8744050. Email: happyjo@procom.in.th

HOUSE AT CHALONG

Near Palai Beach, quiet, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, aircon, carpark, fully-furnished. Please contact for more info Tel: 089-7288311.

RENT SEAVIEW HOUSES RAWAI

In a private street, off Rawai Beach Rd. 4 single townhouses in a row just 40m from the beach. Each 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom, carport, ADSL, International Direct Dial, aircon, fully-furnished. Rent: 15,000 each, neg., available end of May. Tel: 089-9662994. Email: nengrich@gmail.com

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.

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.

PALAI, GREEN HOUSE BIG GARDEN

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

CHALONG

nearly new house for rent. 2 aircon bedrooms, fully-furnished. Quiet street close to everything. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-8485517.

PHUKET B.L. APARTMENTS

New in Kathu. Big room, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, garden, car park. 8,000 baht per month. Call Tel: 081-6923163.

LUXURY VILLA FOR RENT

Resort villa. Fully-furnished, private pool, car parking, 2 or 3 bedrooms available for long- or short-term rental. Special low season rates. Tel: 076-292265, 084-0535780. info@ayudhya.net For further details, please see our website: www.ayudhya.net

SHOPHOUSE BLOCK

5 terraced houses for rent on the Bypass Rd. 32,000 baht per month. Please call K.Chanthra for more information. Tel: 081-6932167.

PALM GARDEN

New 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom in Thalang gated community. 24 hr security, swimming pool, furnished. 17,000 per month. Tel: 081-8928208.

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

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 per month. Sell: 6.25 million baht. Contact Tel: 081-9586723.

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) rent: 8,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-3840864.

HOUSE AT CHALONG

Near Palai beach, quiet, 2 bedrooms, aircon, 1 bathroom, fully-furnished, car park. Contact for info Tel: 089-7288311.

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

RAWAI RESIDENCE

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

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

NAI HARN HOUSE

1 minute to the beach. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, aircon. 20,000 baht per month, minimum 1 year. Please contact at Tel: 081-3971835.

SEAVIEW APARTMENTS

for rent in Karon & Patong beach. Please contact for more information. 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 KATA HOUSES

for rent. 1 to 2 bedrooms, garden, UBC, ADSL. 17,000 baht per month. 2 bedrooms, aircon, TV. Rent: 11,000 baht per month. Contact Tel: 081-7371687, 086-5869821.

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. Please contact Tel: 081-9701716.

2 CONDOS FOR RENT

or sale. Melville House or Phuket Palace, completely new, fully-furnished, lots of extras. 20,000 baht per month each. 3.9 million baht or 3.2 million to buy freehold. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-1861858. Email: coltat1962@yahoo.com

KATHU TOWNHOUSE

Townhouse in Kathu for rent. 2 bedrooms, fully-furnished, air conditioned. 9,000 baht per month. Please contact for more info. 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

EXCLUSIVE RESIDENCE

3-bedroom villa offering breathtaking sea views. 3 bathrooms, maid room, snooker room, study, lounge, dining, kitchen, spacious terrace. Tropical gardens, private pool. Secluded and secure location. Internet and satellite TV. 70,000 baht per month. Call Tel: 086-2796283.

LIST YOUR RENTAL

Phuket-rentals.com does not take commissions. We have renters contact you directly. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-0799584.

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. Email: ek_phuket@hotmail.com

QUIET HOUSE & CAR

for rent. Fully-furnished, 3 bedrooms with aircon, UBC cable, ADSL, maid & gardener. Toyota Yaris, black, automatic. Rent from May 07 to July 07. 49,000 baht per month, 20,000 baht per week. Tel: 081-9703136. Email: agogniat@loxinfo.co.th

1-BEDROOM CONDO

in Patong Tower. Newly renovated in a beautiful modern style. Best location in Patong. Only long term. 18,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. 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. Call Tel: 081-8924311.

RAWAI BEACH VILLA

Furnished, 2 bedrooms, 4 aircons, ADSL, UBC, 20,000 baht per month. Please Tel: 086-9408914. Or email: freeholdprop@yahoo.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

1-ROOM APARTMENT

for rent in Kamala, 3 mins to the beach. Furnished, ADSL, wireless LAN. 7,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-7193962. Email: bbq@loxinfo.co.th

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Boats & Marine

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Dealership Office
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Contact: Martin Holmes
tel: 076 238 803
fax: 076 273 319
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c/o Phuket Boat Lagoon
Tel: +66(0)76 239 111, 273 320
Email: charter@asia-marine.net

Bangkok Office:
Tel: +66(0)2 651 95 83
Email: marketing@asia-marine.net
www.asia-marine.net

Agent for:
NAUTICS SWAN

34' FAST IMPORT, 60 KNOTS

V8 inboards, perfect condition. American-made. 2.9 million baht. Tel: 084-842-4861. Email: brittsplace@hotmail.com

2-V8 MERC CRUISER W/OUTDRIVES

Perfect V8s, 370hp, inboard, w/outdrives, 1 million baht each. Call Tel: 084-842-4861. Or contact via email: brittsplace@hotmail.com

36' DIESEL OCEAN BOAT, 35 KNOTS

Perfect condition, twin Volvos, turbo, much more. 3.6 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-8424861. Email: brittsplace@hotmail.com

BRUCE ROBERTS' SPRAY 35'

Sailboat steel in good condition. Fully-equipped. Please contact. Tel: 084-112-1419. Email: g22lander@yahoo.ca

FISHING BOAT



New wood epoxy fiberglass. 1.5 meter by 6.5 meter. 120,000 baht. Please contact K. Eat for more information. Tel: 081-4775637.

TASMAN WOOD 30 FEET



Leather, chrome, looks like Riva 2 Volvo Penta. Thai registration. 4 million baht. Located in Boat Lagoon. Please call for more information. Tel: 081-7944069.

MAXI 77 FINAL SALE

Sailboat in good condition with all equipment. Asking 550,000 baht. Contact for more details. Tel: 086-950-0313.

63' POWER CRUISER

New refit originally built 2001. Four cabins with air, fully-equipped galley, water maker, twin Cummins engines, huge 3rd deck with sofas and dining table, plus much more. Must be seen to appreciate. New must-sell price that will be given after viewing only. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-9390176. Email: beaver@tstf.net

SPEEDBOAT 27FT

Located at Chalong Bay. Bottom renewed (wood/epoxy) and Mercury 225hp, 2-stroke engine fully serviced. Selling fast for the best offer! Tel: 085-7845198. Email: vesa.ankio@suomi24.fi

51FT SLOOP

Liveaboard or charter. Thai registration, new sails and new rigging. Price: US\$90,000. Contact Tel: 087-2295743.

TASAR FOR SALE

Join the upcoming World Championships in Phuket (July). Two-person performance dinghy complete with beach dolly and road trailer. 150,000 baht, or might sell 50% share to the right person. Tel: 081-8941530. Fax: 076-239729. Email: andrew@leemarine.com



Find more classified ads
"Boats & Marine"
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 organized
- 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.



Home2Thailand Exclusive Real Estate is a professional service provider in property agency services, villa project management and consultancy. We are seeking suitable, qualified candidates in the following positions:

Experienced Real Estate Sales & Marketing

Manage residential and corporate sales in Phuket region, assist GM in preparation and successful execution of plans including sales, marketing campaigns, organize & attend exhibitions and social functions. The applicant must be well presented, service minded, dynamic & energetic with pleasant strong interpersonal skills.

- Male or female, 28+ years
- BA in Sales & Marketing or related fields.
- At least 3 years experience in Sales & Marketing
- Proficiency in spoken and written English, additional languages a bonus.
- Proficient with MS Office applications & computer skills.
- Excellent communication skills is essential.
- Strong leadership and management skills
- Self-motivated & able to work independently
- Knowledge of the local area and property ownership guidelines
- Have own car.

Advanced Graphic & Web Designer

- Male or female, 25+ years
- Bachelor Degree or higher
- Good command of spoken and written English
- At least three years experience
- Good command of Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, Flash
- Have great attention to details
- Well organized and proactive

Please send your application & CV with recent photo to:

Home2Thailand Exclusive Real Estate - 8/44 Moo 3, Cherrngtalay (Surin beach), Thalang, Phuket 83110
Tel: 076 270 577 | Fax: 076 271 182 | Email: hr@home2thailand.com

ADMIN/ACCOUNTS/ DRIVER

Aquamarine Divers, operating live-aboard diving cruises, is looking for:

1) Office Assistant: Female, Thai national, beginner or first experience in Diving/ Tourism business. Computer skills a must, basic accounting skills would be a plus. Good command of English.

2) Accountant: Female, Thai national. Experience is required, as are computer skills. Command of English would be a plus.

3) Driver: Male, Thai national.

Interested candidates should contact us by email or call Tel: 076-383083, 081-5848502. Fax: 076-280397. Email: admin@philkade.com

WAITRESS WANTED
for small private restaurant in Laguna area. Must have experience and speak English. Working hours from 6 to 11pm, 6 days per week. Salary negotiable. Tel: 081-893-7028. Email: sutisa.potter@gmail.com

OFFICE SECRETARY
Real estate company's Chalong branch requires a dynamic marketing assistant, aged 30-40. Thai national, fluent in English, computer skills and results oriented. Duties will include property scouting and telemarketing. Average salary: 40-50,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-0535780. Email: info@ayudhya.net

DRIVER WANTED
Family in Pa Khlok looking for a driver with valid driver's license. Tel: 076-260468. Fax: 076-260440. Email: admin@tacticalcapital.net



Happy Biz Co., Ltd., a new and energetic company, is looking for a qualified candidate to join our winning team in the position of

Sales Executive.

The candidate must possess the following qualifications:

- Female
- Age 22-30
- Bachelor's degree in any related field
- Strong English communication skills
- Good interpersonal skill, service-minded and well organized
- Experience in sales and marketing or in food supply business is a plus
- Self-motivated and able to work independently
- Possess a car driver's license

Qualified candidates are invited to send resumes to tuavt@loxinfo.co.th or contact **076-383590**



Image Asia Events Co Ltd
Job Opportunity now!

Web programmer/Developer

Requirements:

- Young, enthusiastic Thai website developer to join graphic design and internet team in fast growing Phuket publishing company.
- Web publishing including Dreamweaver/FTP and all web applications.
- HTML, CSS, JavaScript, ASP and PHP Database platform, MySQL.
- Photoshop/Illustrator/Graphic Design skills are an advantage, but not essential.
- Knowledge of basic hardware evaluation and simple maintenance is an advantage.
- Some knowledge of English is an advantage.

To apply contact Khun Nittaya at Tel: 076-264491-2 (Office) or 081-7875938 (Mobile) or Email: nit@image-asia.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

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.



A six-star resort style development along the shores of Bang Tao Beach is currently seeking for a candidate of

Chief Engineer

The successful candidate should be in possession of these qualifications:

- Thai national.
- Bachelor's degree in Electrical or Mechanical Engineer.
- At least 10 years experience in hotel business.
- Ability to establish and implement project plans
- Strong knowledge of system maintenance management.
- Management ability
- Well organized & problem-solving skills
- Able to achieve high-level quality control.
- Proficiency in English communication.

Asst. Chief Engineer

- Thai national.
- Bachelor's degree in Electrical or Mechanical Engineer.
- At least 5 years experience in hotel business.
- Knowledge of system maintenance management.
- Well organized & problem-solving skills
- Proficiency in English communication

Interested candidates are invited to write in with full resume, present and expected salaries and a recent photo to info@thepalmbeachclub.com

GST International Co., Ltd.
328 Prabamee Road, Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150
Tel. (076) 310 402-4 Fax. (076) 310 405

STAFF WANTED

New Phuket City based company requires the following staff:

- Marketing/Sales Manager (foreigner)
- Operations manager
- Secretary/PA
- Telephone operators

All appointments require computer-literate, English-speaking personnel with admin/office experience. 5-day work week with some night shifts. Please email with CV as well as current and expected salary. Please send CV by email or contact for additional information at Tel: 081-8937027. Email: business.opp01@gmail.com

SALES PEOPLE
with work permit. Freelance jobs, high earnings selling holiday packets - no timeshare! Please call for more information. Tel: 085-7926008.

SALES & MARKETING
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. Contact at Tel: 085-7841691. Or via email: nadir.66@libero.it

BOOK & COFFEESHOP
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. Tel: 027-427601, 081-9235743. Fax 027-427601. Or via email: s.khongpracha@hotmail.com

WEB PROGRAMMER
Freelance web maintenance technician ready for new hosting company. Tel: 086-2825107.

ENGLISH-SPEAKING
staff wanted to work in Internet cafe and juice bar in Phuket City. Tel: 086-5097510. Email: simonstomas@hotmail.com

Looking for a job?
Still haven't found the perfect candidate?

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at www.phuketgazette.net!

Island Job Mart

Island Pools, Thailand

Head Accountant

- Require a dedicated person who is able to supervise/implement/standardize the whole process of accounting.
- Experience: minimum 5 years in the same position and/or accounting company and around 30 years of age.
- Spoken and written English is an advantage, prefer Thai Nationality.
- Enthusiastic, loyal, fair personality and taking ownership of tasks is needed.
- Internet and computer skills, mainly on Microsoft Office and especially in Excel.
- Able to work with existing accounting program, and observe, and modify or adapt the existing program.
- Own transportation and driver's license is required.
- Ability to work under pressure.

Offer an attractive package for the right person and will include bonus incentives, health insurance, social security, gasoline, mobile allowance and uniform

Interested candidates, please send full resume, expected salary & enclose a recent photo by email to **Island Pools Group**
53/83-84 Moo 5, Thepkasatthi Rd., Srisoontorn, Thalang, Phuket 83110
Tel/Fax: 076-273087, Email: info@islandpools.co.th, info@islandpools-thailand.com

URGENT WANTED

Purchasing Staff 1 position <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Male/Female age 22 - 30 years old. - High certificate degree in any field. - Good command of English and computers. - Experience in interior decorating, furniture and construction is advantage. 	Foremen 2 positions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Male age over 25 years old. - Knowledge of interior and construction. - Able to control and worker management. - Good command of English. - Experience in any field in advantage.
Estimating staff 1 position <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Male/Female age over 25 years old. - Knowledge of lay out, drawing, design. - Able to interpret drawing/lay out. - Experience in any field in advantage. 	Secretary 1 position <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Female age 22-30 year old. - High certificate or degree in any field. - Good command of English and computers. - High responsibility and active. - Experience in interior furniture and construction is advantage.
Accounting Staff 1 position <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thai Male/Female age 22-30 years old. - High certificate or more degree in any field. - Can close balance sheet and have accounting license. - High responsibility and active. - Good command of English and computers. - Experience in cost control, interior business 	<p>S.M. Interiors and furniture</p>

Please send your resume or contact office at:
S.M. Interiors and Furniture Co., Ltd.
35 Moo 3, Thepkasatthi Rd., T. Thepkasatthi, A. Muang, Phuket 83110
Tel. (076) 311146, (076) 275278 Fax (076) 275279
Email: admin@s-m-interior.com, s_m_2003interiors@yahoo.co.th

THE CHEDI PHUKET

A stylish Boutique Resort. Located on Surin Beach Phuket is looking for capable candidate to fill in the position of

Event & Guest Service Manager

- Female Age 27-35
- Good command of English and Computer Skill
- Capable of Communicating well
- Experience in Food & Beverage and/or Sales & Marketing will be an advantage

Reservation Officer

Qualification:

- Female Age 28 onwards
- Bachelor Degree in related fields
- Front office background is a must
- Fluent in English
- Ability to work well under pressure
- Fidelio System knowledge.

Interested Candidates are invited to apply in person or submit application with complete resume together with a recent photograph and expected salary to account@chedi-phuket.com

HOLBROOK CONSTRUCTION CO., LTD.

Accountant (5 positions) and Financial (2 positions)

The successful candidate should possess these qualifications:

- Thai national
- Female age not over 35 years
- Bachelor's degree in accounting or finance
- At least 1 year experience in related fields
- Familiar with accounting software and knowledge of MS-office especially MS-Excel and taxation systems
- Fluent in written and spoken English
- Ability to work under pressure

For interview please send all CVs, resumes and photographs to apple@larsuang.com

HOLBROOK CONSTRUCTION CO., LTD.
123/1-5 moo.5, T. Cherngtalay, A. Thalang
Phuket 83110 Thailand.
Tel: 076-326160-3, 076-326165, 076-326167-8
Fax: 076-326165

SALES & OFFICE SECRETARY

- Age 22 to 35 years old
- Good command of English
- Computer literate
- Good personality
- Good team player

Please contact K. Gift
Tel: 076-203365,
089-6595853.
Email: ajapply@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 resume with photo or contact. Tel: 089-6521951. Email: pnottley@greenheritagegroup.com

Impiana
Phuket Cabana
The Right Place. Always

Impiana Phuket Cabana Resort & Spa is surrounded by nothing but pallid white sandy beach and fringed with tropical greenery, the island's one and only first class boutique resort haven is situated at the heart of Phuket's most popular beach, Patong Beach. We are the only resort to sit directly on Patong Beach... "no one sleeps closer to Patong Beach than an Impiana guest."

With our excellent location, product and services, the resort is constantly running at a high occupancy. To ensure we constantly deliver the highest possible services to our guests, we are now recruiting highly motivated individuals for the following positions:

1. F&B Operations Manager	6. Waiter & Waitress
2. Restaurant Manager	7. Bartender
3. Chief Gardener	8. Spa Therapist
4. Bellman & Driver	9. Engineer
5. Hostess	10. Room Maid

Applicants must have a minimum of 2 years' experience in related fields strong customer service skills and good personality

For position 1-7, applicants must have good command of spoken English and positions are opened to Thai Nationality only except position no.1 (Thai candidates are encouraged to apply)

Please send your application to : hrmipc@impiana.com or call 076-340138

HORIZON HOTELS & RESORTS

Horizon Hotels & Resorts, based in Phuket. We have an opening for the following positions:

- Front Office Manager (2)
- Assistant Front Office Manager (2)
- F&B Cost Controller (1)

Qualifications:

- Good command of English (written & spoken)
- Minimum 2 years experience as Assistant Front Office Manager and one year as Front Office Manager. (4+5 star)
- Starting salary 30,000 to 40,000 plus usual Hotel
- For position 3, minimum 3 years experience required in the same position.

(Vacancies for both Horizon Patong and Karon)

Interested applicants are invited apply in person or send resume to:
personnel@horizonbeach.com
Tel. 076-284555 (Karon) or 076-292526-8 (Patong)

For further detail, please see our website at <http://www.horizonbeach.com>

CLIENT ACCOUNTING

services. Required to work with a Thai accounting firm. Translate and liaise with foreign clients. Must be fluent with spoken and written English. Computer literate with some experience in accounting and taxes. Send CV to email: tj.kvrspa@gmail.com Tel: 081-9683184.

ELITE YACHTING CO LTD

Phuket's largest independent yacht charter operator is seeking new staff to join it's expanding operations. Three positions available. 1: Charter Base Manager. Responsible in managing the bareboat yacht charter operations in Yacht Haven Marina. 2: Senior Accounts Manager. Responsible in managing all the companies accounts and invoicing. 3: Website Coordinator. Responsible in keeping the companies three websites updated. Please apply to Elite Yachting Boat Lagoon office by email to jurg@phuket-yachts.com or Tel: 076-273476, 081-9684188.

SALES/MARKETING

staff. Enthusiastic people wanted for software sales. Able to work on own initiative. 2 years sales/marketing experience preferred. Good salary plus commission. Training given. Thai national. Able to drive a car. Must speak English. Accounting knowledge an advantage. Please contact K. Mam at Tel: 076-313137. Fax: 076-313269. Email: mam@aplusplussoftware.com

GERMAN/FRENCH

speaking guide. Asian Oasis is a tour operator of June Bahtra. The magical cruise of Phang Nga bay is looking for bilingual-speaking tour guides to work on board. French/English speaking or German/English speaking. We offer good salary plus benefits. Tel: 076-376192, 081-9799918. Fax: 076-376194. Email: hkt_witthaya@asian-oasis.com, www.asian-oasis.com

Island Job Mart

Private Security wanted

Night time. 7pm to 7am.
In Kathu area
4 days work, 3 days off.
Good salary & conditions. Basic English required.
More information please contact
Bangkok Legal service Co Ltd
Tel: 076-304072-3, Fax: 076-304074
Mobile: 081-0803414

ONLINE JOB APPLICATION

HOTEL - ACCTING - SALES - IT - WEB DESIGN - F&B
www.KARON-PHUKET-HOTELS.com /JOB.htm

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following positions:

I. ADVERTISING SALES

- Thai national with an outgoing personality
- Experience in sales and marketing
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Must have driver's 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

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

Minimum 3 years' experience, CPD certified. Good English an advantage. Please contact personnel manager, Asian Wind Co Ltd at Tel: 076-381 338, 081-8957908.

RECEPTION MANAGER

Experienced in hotel reception and reservations. Computer literate. Fluent English. Driver's license. Please contact Tel: 081-5375133. Email: keith.wickers@gmail.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

ASSISTANT MANAGER

for marine company. Good English skills, strong personality, driver's license. Email: rotapi@hotmail.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, please contact. Tel: 076-219062.

Employment Wanted

CS, MARKETING, E-COMMERCE

Dutch, 27 part- or full-time work during office hours.

Tel: 084-0657218

Email: suzannessource@hotmail.com

Articles For Sale

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. Contact for more info at Tel: 075-311450, 081-4158296. Email: kheo19724@yahoo.com

WOODEN FURNITURE

Table, 4 chairs, solid wood. Value of 13,000 baht brand new. Now only 6,000 baht. Tel: 083-3913480.

LOW INPUT, HIGH

output, automatic carwash machines for sale. Starting from 3.9 million baht. For more details please email: carwash_phuket@hotmail.com

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 bedside tables + lamps. 30,000 baht. Tel: 089-4897348.

BIG COOLER

for shop. 4-month-old cooler for shop. Asking: 13,500 baht. New: 20,000 baht. Airon for room, 12,000 BTU. Price: 8,500 baht. Please call for additional details. Tel: 087-4176393.

GEMS AND JEWELRY

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 Xmetal surfboard. 6' 4". Bought for 15,000 baht and selling for only 10,000 baht. Will even include FCS bag in the price. Please contact for more information. 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

DISHWASHER

for sale. Siemens. 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

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Mission Hospital Phuket City
Wed and Sun 7 pm
Bangkok Phuket Hospital Phuket City
Fri 7 pm
Patong Hospital Patong
Mon, Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun at 7 pm and Fri at 8 pm
Chalong Health Clinic-near Chalong Circle
Tues 1 pm
For Phuket info (English) call 081-9564031, 081-8912895
Scandinavian speaking Group Wat Karon School-Karon
Tue and Sat 7 pm
Tel 081-2732053 (Nor) 087-2795636 (Nor) 086-7458910 (Swe)
For info on other Thailand AA meetings inquire at Tel: 02-2318300 (for Thai language press 3) www.aathailand.org or email info@aathailand.org

Business Opportunities

BEER BAR

Nice location in Patong. Contact Kevin. Tel: 084-7300190.

BARGAIN PRICE

Reduction. Owner returning to UK. 850,000 baht buys a large massage and beauty salon, well fitted-out, busy location on Nanai Rd. Please call Tel: 086-2625321.

CAFE/BAR CONTENTS

for sale, all offers considered, Patong. Tel: 087-2705514.

LOOKING FOR INVESTOR

We need a partner to expand our construction company. Required capital is 3.8 million baht for 40% of the shares. For more information please contact us via email in English, German or Thai. Email: info@1nj.de

KAMALA BAR

and restaurant for sale. New renovation in Dec 06, all movables are new, 36 seats. Price: 850,000 baht. Please contact for additional information. Tel: 089-5911467. Or via email: gerdjanne@hotmail.com

KARON BAR

for sale. Fully-equipped bar for sale. Call for more information. Tel: 089-9087183.

BAR IN BANGLA

4-year lease in Son Con 20 Bangla Rd. Tel: 081-9251730.

SUCCESSFUL BAR BUSINESS

1. Recently refitted, fully-stocked and very successful bar/restaurant with a/c accommodation, plasma and premium sound system. Great location for passing trade.
2. Under construction (completion August 2007): Ground floor bar/restaurant, and additional 1st floor restaurant. Independent access to private owner's accommodation. New 15-year lease. Price will include both premises and well-recognized business name. Contact owner direct, as above, for full information. Tel: 089-4746007. Email: sgiandubh69@hotmail.com

KATA CENTER

and Rawai. Shophouse for rent and land for sale. Tel: 081-2730080. Please visit our website at <http://landandshopforsale.phuket.net>

BOOK SHOP SALE

Patong OTOP book shop for sale. Price: 690,000 baht. Please call Tel: 084-1705552.

GUESTHOUSE FOR SALE

Near Sheraton Krabi. By owner. Contact Tel: 081-3703109, 086-7431586.

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

FOR SALE & FOR LEASE

Guesthouse in Karon, fully-furnished. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-1968429. Email: info@the-phuketproperty.com

RAWAI RESTAURANT

for sale. The best restaurant in Rawai, quick sale, family emergency, great contract, good profit, work permit, must be seen, call for more info. Price: 2.7 million baht ono. Tel: 084-4435751. Email: phuketranahan@hotmail.com

GOOD BUSINESS FOR SALE

Real estate & business broker. Priced at only 300,000 baht! Contact email: admin@no1phukethomes.com For additional details, please visit our website: www.no1phukethomes.com

TSBA
Selling Going Concerns
GUEST HOUSE PATONG
If you want to buy or sell a business
Call Kevin 084-7300190.
Email: kevin@tsba.info
www.tsba.info

RETIRE ON ROCKET SCIENCE

Online option trader offers private consultancy. Trade in the world's biggest financial markets safely and profitably from home with a small account. You will be amazed, it's not rocket science. Zero experience required. Have an income in the tropics regardless of other people. 100% serious. Limited places. Tel: 081-7373958. Email: info@optionwok.com

KATA RESTAURANT

Austrian restaurant in Kata for sale. Good and quiet location, 60 seats, ready for takeover. Tel: 086-1203660. Email: chilligarden@hotmail.com

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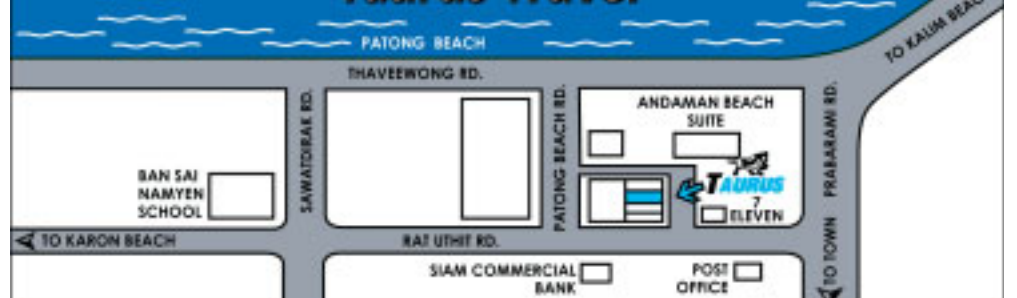
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