

Phuket Gazette

Volume 14 Issue 20 News Desk - Tel: 076-236555

May 19 - 25, 2007

Daily news at www.phuketgazette.net

25 Baht

The Gazette is published
in association with

The Nation

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Hotel-funded police patrols set to continue

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET: Extra security in Phuket will continue be boosted with more police officers and overtime hours in the next high season, announced Phuket Tourist Association (PTA) President Maitree Narukhatpichai.

The extra patrols will be paid for by the same private security fund created last year with voluntary contributions from hotels and other tourism businesses in Phuket.

During the 2006-2007 high season, the fund contributed more than 900,000 baht to the province's budget for police, helping to support 60 extra officers brought in from Surat Thani.

The instigators of the fund aim to tighten the island's security and build tourist confidence following last year's bomb attacks in Haad Yai and Bangkok.

Police have frequently complained about not having enough officers to serve with the high-season population. The fund aims to address the problem by paying for extra officers and man-hours every high season.

"We have raised money from about 12 large hotels, which each give 20,000 baht per month, and some small hotels which contribute 10,000 baht a month.

"We also get contributions from the Patong Hotel Club and Kata-Karon Hotel Club," K. Maitree said.

Col Peerayut Karajedee, Superintendent of General Staff of the Phuket Provincial Police told the *Gazette*, "From Febru-



LIFE SAVERS: Provincial Police Deputy Commander Col Chalit Thintanee (left) and Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor) Vice-President Suthin Uthaitamrong inspect some of the 100 lifeguards who will man Phuket's beaches during the hazardous rainy season.

The training program, held at Phuket Community College, was partly developed by the Royal Thai Navy Third Naval Command.

ary until now more than 900,000 baht has been contributed.

"We spent about 300,000 baht helping support 60 Surat Thani-based police officers that we borrowed from Police Region 8 Command during the high season. Those officers have now returned to their regular posts.

"Money from the fund goes primarily for overtime payments and to pay for officers working on their days off.

"We need support from the private sector because it is very difficult to get additional funds from the Royal Thai Police budget - there is no money in the budget for overtime work.

"Spending from the security fund must be approved by a 23-member committee which

oversees it. The committee has people from both the government and private sector, including the PTA President. It is headed by the Governor of Phuket," he said.

"Each police officer in Phuket is responsible for about 400 people.

"In addition to our regular duties, we have other missions including security for important people visiting the island and for special occasions such as sporting events, concerts and so on.

"All of this must be done with the 1,000 police officers we have; this is very hard job for us," Col Peerayut said.

"The fund gives confidence to tourism operators in Phuket and also supports and motivates the police," he said.

City crocodiles under fire

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PHUKET CITY: Phuket Vice Governor Worapoj Ratthasima has given permission for the headman of a village next to the crocodile-infested tin mine lagoon in Phuket City to use an M-16 assault rifle if the reptiles threaten anyone, the *Gazette* has been told.

Sightings of three crocodiles in the tin mine lagoon on Soi Sansuk, on the south side of Phuket City, were reported to officials on April 25.

V/Gov Worapoj and Aroon Kerdson, Chief of the Department for Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM - Phuket), failed in their search to find the animals.

Villagers have since been attempting to catch the reptiles with nets and baited hooks, but at the time of going to press had no bites.

Issara Bussayarat of the Phuket Provincial Fisheries Office, which has been helping villagers organize the hunt, said that his office had distributed large nets and funds to buy chicken carcasses to use as bait.

"We have permitted villagers in the area to set traps for the crocodiles or to shoot them if they think it is necessary.

"V/Gov Worapoj has given his permission for the local village headman to use his M-16 assault rifle if the animals threaten anyone," K. Issara said.

How the one-meter-plus crocs got into the pool is still a mystery. The owner of a crocodile farm in the area denied that the reptiles could have escaped from his farm, saying only very small ones could possibly slip out of their enclosures.

Police bust Laos ya bah connection

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PHUKET: Police have arrested three men and three women, and confiscated 5,830 *ya bah* (methamphetamine) pills imported from Laos, in two separate but related raids.

On May 8, police arrested Dej "Reem" Suebsod, 42, from Phuket, after he sold a bag containing about 30 *ya bah* pills to an undercover officer during a sting operation in front of Moo Baan Iravadee on the bypass road, Lt Col Somkid Boonrat of Phuket City Police Station told the *Gazette*.

Police also arrested two women who were riding pillion on Reem's motorbike: Panadda Limalai, 32, from Chaiyaphum, and Ornouma Sittidej, 29, from Phuket.

Col Somkid said that during questioning Reem told police that he was only the "runner" for local dealer, Somchai "Bung Marn" Kanuengkarn, 35, from Phuket.

Reem said that he was expected to meet Somchai the following morning at an inter-province

bus stop near Thalang Police Station on Thepkasattri Rd, where the pair would receive a delivery of *ya bah* pills.

At the bus stop, Reem and Somchai met Suriyan "Joy" Kaimook, 25, from Phuket, and Supattra "A" Srimueng, 33, from Bangkok, as planned.

As the four were walking to Somchai's pickup, police moved in and asked to inspect the women's bags. In the luggage police found about 5,800 *ya bah* pills, Col Somkid said.

"They brought the *ya bah* pills from Laos, and entered Thailand at Nong Khai by bus," he said. "They were all charged with drug trafficking and possession of a Class 1 narcotic with intent to sell."

"Somchai and Suriyan were arrested for *ya bah* distribution in Phuket about seven and a half years ago, and were released from jail last year," Col Somkid added.

The drugs seized had a street value of about 1.1 million baht.



CONFUCIOUS CONFIER: Heavy rain and strong winds on May 14 caused a 15-meter-tall pine tree, estimated to be 20 years old, to fall on to the Prince of Songkla University's Confucius Institute at Saphan Hin. The blustery conditions were brought on by a cyclone in the Bay of Bengal.

The extent of damage to the Chinese language center had yet to be determined at the time of going to press.

Prime Minister downgrades tourism projects in the South

KRABI (*The Nation*): Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont has downgraded some major tourism projects in the South, including the reopening of some small airports, and the construction of a convention center in Phuket.

The announcement came at a meeting between PM Surayud and the governors of the six Andaman provinces held in Krabi on May 14.

The premier is concentrating more on a tsunami-warning system along the Andaman coast and developing more ferry ports to link with islands.

The government has no plans to proceed in the short term with southern mega-projects, including the Phuket Convention and Exhibition Center, which won Cabinet approval three times under the Thaksin Shinawatra administration.

Surayud and eight ministers also visited Phuket, where they inspected the government's project on Andaman coastal development.

Injured diver flown from Similan islands

By Supanun Supawong

PHUKET: Russian tourist Rustem Teregulov, 39, was airlifted by Royal Thai Navy helicopter from the Similan Islands to Phuket May 9 after he was bitten by a fish – or possibly a moray eel – while diving in the world-renowned national park.

Mr Teregulov told the *Gazette* that he was diving off one of the smaller islands about 1:30 pm when the attack happened.

"I saw some sand [shifting] turbulence, and I swam very close and touched the bottom. That's when a fish or something came out and bit me," Mr Teregulov said.

The bite had peeled open the top of his hand.

"I didn't see the fish. I think it was a barracuda," he added.

Mr Teregulov, a Moscow businessman, surfaced and boarded the 32-meter power yacht he was diving from and received first aid. Rope was used as a tourniquet to stem the bleed-



FROM PHUKET WITH LOVE: Rustem Teregulov, recovering in hospital from the bite on his hand, gives a 'thumbs up' to the Royal Thai Navy's medivac efforts.

ing and his wound was bandaged.

Vice-Admiral Supot Pruksa, of the Third Naval Command in Phuket, said that the Royal Thai Navy received the call for help about 1:55 pm.

However, the pilot could not land at the rendezvous point on Island No 4, better known as Koh Miang, until about 4:15 pm due to

poor weather.

Mr Teregulov was flown to Bangkok Hospital Phuket, where he stayed for several days' recovery and observation.

Chief Petty Officer Rung-arun Inthawong, also of the Third Naval Area Command, said that it was likely Mr Teregulov was bitten by a moray eel.

Mr Teregulov, a frequent visitor to Phuket, said the incident would not deter him from returning. "Of course I'll be back," he laughed.

In April 2005, 32-year-old Matt Butcher from Essex, in England, had his left thumb bitten off and eaten by a giant moray eel while he was diving at the well-known East of Eden dive site in the Similan Islands.

Gambling still No 1 crime

PHUKET: Gambling remains the most commonly caught crime on the island with 239 arrests made from April 1 to April 30, according to statistics released by Phuket Provincial Police.

Prostitution climbed into number two position, with 92 arrests.

There were 71 people arrested in drug-related cases, of which 33 were for *ya bah* (methamphetamine)-related charges – three for selling, 20 for possession with intent to sell, eight for possession and two for use – and 1,922 pills seized.

Seventeen people were arrested for inhalant abuse, 12 for possession or use of cannabis with 237 grams confiscated and seven for possession of kratom with 206 leaves confiscated.

One person was arrested for possession of ice (crystal methamphetamine) with one "small package" seized, and another for possession of five pills of alprazolam, commonly known as Xanax, one of its trade names.

Two murders and four attempted murders were reported, with one and two arrests made, respectively. There were 14 reports of assault with 10 arrests made and five reports of rape with three arrests made.

Sixty-six cases of theft were reported, including theft of seven motorcycles and one car. Arrests were made in 39 of the cases.

Twenty-eight people were arrested for possession of unlicensed firearms and three people were arrested for possession or distribution of pornography.

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Peruvian 'mules' busted at airport

By Supanun Supawong

PHUKET: Two Peruvians were arrested at Phuket International Airport on May 8 while attempting to smuggle 1.6 kilograms of internally concealed cocaine into the country.

Phuket Airport Immigration Office Superintendent Pol Col Surasak Atthapanyawanich told the *Gazette* that the drugs had a street value of about 4 million baht and that the arrests followed a tip-off from Phuket-based Narcotics Suppression Bureau officers.

"We received information that two Peruvians arriving on Malaysia Airlines flight MH 786 from Kuala Lumpur would be attempting to smuggle cocaine into Phuket. The suspects were identified as Daniel German Flores Peredes, 32, and Juliette Jiangh Quispe Guerra, 25.

"We arrested them at 9:40 am after checking their passports at the airport Immigration. We carried out a preliminary body search but found nothing. We then took them to the Phuket Airport Customs Office to conduct a more thorough search, but again came up empty handed.

"Both suspects were then taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital, where they underwent abdominal X-rays," Col Surasak said.

"Doctors noticed some strange objects inside them so we decided to detain them at the hospital until they passed whatever they were holding in their stomach. They were given laxatives to speed up the process.

"The following morning,



BEASTS OF BURDEN: Peruvians Daniel German Flores Peredes, 32, and Juliette Jiangh Quispe Guerra, 25, hide their faces from the press after being arrested at the airport for smuggling 1.6 kilos of cocaine that they were carrying inside their bodies.

— Photo by Yongyot Preuksarak

both suspects excreted a large number of small plastic cylinders. The cylinders were about three centimeters long with a diameter of about 1.7cm, and were tightly bound with clear sticky tape.

"Peredes passed 103 of the cylinders while Guerra passed 57. The cylinders contained a total of 1.6kg of cocaine, worth about 4 million baht," he added.

Maj Sarit Budnongsaeng, an Investigating Officer at Phuket City Police Station, said that they had brought the cocaine with the intention of selling it in Phuket.

Maj Sarit told the *Gazette* that the pair said that they had been hired by a man in Argentina to bring the drugs to Phuket and

that they were due to be met at the airport, but they did not know who would be meeting them.

"It seems that in this case they were linked to organized crime, but we must wait for the Narcotics Suppression Bureau to investigate their backgrounds further," Col Surasak said.

The Peruvians have been charged with importing a Class 2 drug.

Peredes' passport showed that he had made one previous trip to Phuket.

On March 21 two other Peruvian nationals were arrested at the airport for trying to smuggle in more than two kilograms internally concealed cocaine.

Phuket Immigration nab wanted Korean

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET CITY: Phuket Immigration Police arrested a Korean hiding in self-exile in Trang's Kantang District on May 9. The man is accused of defrauding a construction company of US\$343,000 (11.3 million baht) in his native South Korea.

Later the same day at Phuket Immigration Office, Acting Commissioner of the Immigration Bureau Pol Lt Gen Boonraung Ponpanich explained that Immigration officers had, via Interpol, received a warrant for the arrest of Kim Eou Sug, 43, from the Republic of Korea.

Kim's permit to stay in Thailand was canceled on February 7. After receiving intelligence that Kim was living in Phuket, Pol Col Ittipon Atcharyapradit, Superintendent of Phuket Immigration Office, launched an investigation to track him down.

Gen Boonraung said that

Kim had been living in Kantang for about two years and had made investments in prawn farms in the area.

"We coordinated with local police and were able to arrest Kim," he said.

Kim, a former employee of Nara General Construction Co, is accused of defrauding another construction company of US\$343,000. A warrant for his arrest was issued on May 17, 2006 by Suwon District Court in Korea, though the offense is alleged to have taken place in 2004.

Kim has now been deported to face trial in Korea.

In October, another South Korean, Park Hun Chun, was arrested by Phuket Immigration following a Korean arrest warrant for fraud. Park was alleged to have fraudulently obtained approximately 10 million baht and to be connected to drugs and money laundering, Gen Boonraung said.

File work permit renewals early, says new PPEO Chief

PHUKET: The new Chief of Phuket Provincial Employment Office (PPEO) has called for holders of work permits to apply for renewals at least three working days before their current permit expires.

Nataya Anudit, who took over as PPEO chief three weeks ago, told the *Gazette* that the reminder aims to reduce the number of foreigners whose work permits needlessly expire due to misunderstandings about the renewal process and the length of time it takes.

Many of the 6,300 foreigners holding work permits in Phuket are still laboring under the mistaken belief that the expiration of a work permit could be dealt with by simply paying a fine, as one does for overstaying an Immigration permit to stay, K. Nataya said.

However, people seeking to continue work in Thailand after their work permits have expired must submit and pay for a new application then wait for it to be processed and approved. In some



Nataya Anudit, Chief of Phuket Provincial Employment Office.

cases the entire process can take months, during which time the applicant is strictly forbidden to work.

"If the work permit expires the whole application process needs to be repeated and all the associated fees paid. This wastes time, not just for the applicant but also for our staff and the Vice-Governors, who have to review and approve the applications," she said.

Tansiroj appointed Czech Honorary Consul for Phuket

PHUKET CITY: Anurak Tansiroj, Managing Director of Phuket International Hospital, has been appointed the Czech Republic's Honorary Consul for Phuket.

"There are about 5,000 Czech tourists visiting Phuket every year, and we would like to see that number increase in the years to come.

"We think that having a Czech consulate will serve as another attribute to entice prospective tourists," K. Anurak told

the *Gazette*. "The consular office will be in the new building of Phuket International Hospital that is currently under construction," he added.

"Most Czech tourists are going to Pattaya instead of Phuket because of its close proximity to Bangkok, and the idea that it is cheaper than here in Phuket," K. Anurak said.

However, he added, "I am confident that I can persuade more Czech tourists and business people to come to Phuket."



Anurak Tansiroj.



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Curing water woes?

After about a year under construction, a 528-million-baht, state of the art desalination plant using reverse osmosis (RO) technology was completed in Karon in earlier this year by project contractor REQ Water Services Co Ltd.

After initial testing, however, it quickly became apparent that the local power grid is incapable of consistently supplying the power needed for the plant to run at full capacity.

Gazette reporter **Sompratch Saowakhon** and News Editor **Stephen Fein** report.

Now the largest desalination plant in Thailand, the facility was built under a 20-year, build-and-operate contract with the Phuket Provincial Water Supply (PPWS), which agreed to buy 12,000 cubic meters of potable water daily from the plant at about 40 baht/m³.

Disruptions in the power supply to the RO plant, however, have left it incapable of producing the 12,000m³ of water promised to the PPWS by REQ Water Services, which now faces fines for failure to meet the terms of reference (TOR) of its contract.

Thus far, the most the plant has produced is about 9,000m³ per day, most of which is piped to the PPWS supply in Kata-Karon. Smaller volumes, about 1,000m³ to 2,000m³ per day, are piped over the hill to Patong, another area that faces chronic wa-

ter shortages, even in the rainy season.

The problem at the plant is one common to anyone who operates a personal computer on the island: inconsistent power supply. The desal plant, located in a scenic location just off a bend in the road from Patong to Karon, requires huge amounts of electricity. So enormous are energy demands of the desalination process at municipal supply volumes that the former Soviet Union once constructed a nuclear reactor solely to power one.

REQ's General Manager Jaturong Sa-duangkarn told the *Gazette* that the system in Karon consists of a series of 24 pumps designed to boost the seawater to the very high pressures needed to force it through semi-permeable membranes. The heart of the RO process, these membranes are contained in hundreds of tubes



It was not reported whether the plant's 528-million-baht price tag included the stack of plastic beach recliners pictured here.

that essentially serve as filters, allowing freshwater to pass through while restricting the passage of solutes.

Of all the water treated, about 40% emerges as pure freshwater. The remainder is pumped back into Karon Bay through an effluent pipe that discharges about one kilometer offshore.

K. Jaturong said the plant has received the necessary permits to discharge effluent into the sea off the popular tourist beach and that subsequent studies of the

area around the discharge point found no deleterious effects on the environment or water quality. It should be noted, however, that in countries such as the US, the highly saline RO plant effluent is classified as industrial waste.

Working at full capacity, the Karon plant is designed to produce 500m³ of freshwater per hour, or 12,000m³ a day.

For the plant to run continuously, however, it needs a constant 380-volt electric supply. The entire plant uses a single 4,000-

kilovolt-ampere transformer to convert the main grid supply to the demands of the plant, which uses a staggering 4 megawatts of power every hour.

K. Jaturong said the plant's power requirements were on the same scale as those of an entire district. Since operation began at the plant, REQ has been paying electric bills of "one, two or even three million baht in some months".

The main power supply problem lies in the seven "booster" pumps imported from

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Europe are sensitive to power fluctuations and disruptions. Like a personal computer (PC) without a UPS unit, the pumps automatically shut down if a constant voltage is not maintained.

Unlike a PC, however, it takes up to four hours to restart the booster pumps after they have shut down. Despite improvements to Phuket's power grid in recent years, the maximum amount of time the RO plant has been able to operate in one day is about 15 or 16 hours, during which time it has produced only about 9,000m³ of water, he said.

When REQ in March realized the power supply was too unstable, the company contacted the Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority (PPEA). REQ was told that disruptions could result from any number of causes, such as a tree falling on a power line or even a small animal like a snake or bird meeting its fate on an exposed cable.

K. Jaturong accepts that it is REQ's responsibility to deal with the problem. Foreign companies such as Siemens and ABB, which manufacture the components, are not at fault because the equipment was designed to operate under EU power supply standards, he said.

Although the company faces possible fines for breach of contract, REQ argues that instabilities in the power supply are a matter "beyond its control". When asked what measures the authorities planned to take for the company's failure to comply with TOR requirements, he said the case would need to be reviewed by the provincial government.

"I don't know much about that," he added.

While the plant is currently the largest of its type in Thailand, an RO plant with double its production capacity is planned to go on line in Rayong province within two or three years, he said.

That plant will have its own electricity-generating plant, he added.



The heart of the RO plant is an array of hundreds of tubes filled with semi-permeable membranes. Using high pressure pumps, the membranes remove solutes – in this case mostly salt – and allow only pure water to pass through.

Ekkachok Tantipareepun, head of the PPEA's power distribution division, told the *Gazette* that it is not possible for the PPEA to guarantee a 100% stable power supply around the clock, as there are too many possible sources of disruption, such as a car running into a power pole along the main road.

Because Phuket has no power plants of its own, the electricity needs to be transmitted along high-tension wires all the way from the mainland in Phang Nga, he added.

K. Ekkachok, confirming that the main problem was the sensitivity of the Siemens motors, said he had already recommended installing a "timing" device that would allow the motors to remain in continuous op-

eration during minor power fluctuations.

When fluctuations lasting less than three seconds occur, only the Siemens pumps were affected, he said. The plant's main breaker did not trip and other equipment continued to run un-

interrupted, he said. When asked about this possibility, REQ's K. Jaturong said he didn't think it would be possible to install the equipment recommended by K. Ekkachok.

"Those seven motors are from Europe, where higher power supply standards can be maintained because much of the grid is under-

ground. In Thailand our exposed cables face a greater risk of damage from accidents. I would put the quality of our distribution at about 90% of that in more devel-

oped Asian countries, such as Singapore and Japan," K. Ekkachok said.

"We are now working closely with REQ to try and solve the problem," he added.

Initial efforts involve working together with local tambon administration organizations and municipalities to organize an effort to cut tree branches from around power cables that supply the plant, he added.

K. Ekkachok pointed out, however, that REQ never approached his agency during the plant's design and construction phases to discuss power requirements and work out strategies to deal with supply disruptions.

"In both Patong and Kata-Karon, there are often road accidents causing power poles to be knocked down and supply disrupted. This is beyond our control.

"The best possible solution would be to bury the cables underground," he added.

Thus far, public power cables have been interred in only a very few areas of Phuket, such as along Thalang Rd and other parts of Old Phuket in the city's

historical quarter. The failure of successive governments to fund such work along the beach road in Patong and other areas of the island where they constitute both an eyesore and public safety threat have long been a cause for complaint by local politicians and tourism industry leaders.

PPEA head Suthep Jitseree told the *Gazette* that after being informed about the power supply problems his agency issued a letter to REQ advising them to install high-tech imported timing devices.

As for the quality of the water being produced at the plant, PPWS Manager Sayan Wareearoonroj confirmed that it had already been tested and passed as potable.

While declining to answer how much REQ would be paid for freshwater it produces while failing to fulfill the amount specified by the TOR in the contract, K. Sayan said that if the volume of RO water was insufficient to meet demand, supplies could be supplemented from other sources.

The problems facing the RO plant were discussed by Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit during a May 1 meeting he chaired at Phuket Provincial Hall.

The province intends to fine REQ for falling short of its production goal of 12,000m³ per day, he said. He did not specify the amount.

Other problems that need to be worked out include land use issues. Some parts of the plant and its related structures are on *SorPorKor* land (land reserved for agricultural use by the poor). Others, including a large water storage tank, were constructed above 80 meters, putting them in violation of a provincial ban enacted in 1997 to prevent hillside deforestation and landslides.

Gov Niran said that because the project was of such importance to the province he would help cut through all the red tape to bring it into compliance.



The man responsible for the construction of the desalination plant, REQ Water Services Co Ltd General Manager Jaturong Sa-duangkarn.





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Queer News

Miniature elephant or mammoth scam?

TAK: Taking a break from bashing his cousins in the Karen National Union, a sergeant major from the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) reportedly crossed the Thai border recently with an unusual piece of merchandise, one he came to hawking at an extraordinary price.

Sgt Maj Tinai, from the DKBA 999 Division, claimed to be in possession of none other than a *chang nam*, or water elephant, which he was trying to sell for 5 million baht in Tak's Mae Sot District.

Water elephants, at only a few inches long, are much smaller than their land-living cousins. This particular specimen had a trunk, tusks and all four legs, said Sombat Phimpha, Headman of Wang Takinag village, who claimed had met the Burmese soldier.

K. Sombat said that the *chang nam* was five centimeters long and was caught in a pond near Ko Sae Ni village in Myanmar's Karen State. The forest surrounding the pond was devoid of all wildlife as all animals, big or small, are afraid of the power of the *chang nam*, he said.

The specimen brought by Sgt Maj Tinai died seven days after its capture. After its demise, villagers lightly grilled it to prevent it from



LIGHTLY GRILLED: Photo of a *chang nam*, obtained by *Kom Chad Luek* newspaper. The chisel-like marks are presumably the result of the miniature animal being lightly grilled in order to prevent it rotting.

rotting, K. Sombat explained.

"The villagers who found the *chang nam* gave it to the Karen Buddhist soldier to sell for them over the border.

They knew Thais would be interested in buying *chang nam*, as they believe that whoever has one in their possession will have money pouring in and will know no danger, only happiness," he said.

This is not the first time Mae Sot has hit the news for its *chang nam*. In May 2003, a restaurant owner in the district achieved local fame when he claimed to have bought one from a Burmese man.

His specimen was 7.5cm tall, 12.5 cm long and had all the features that one would expect to find on a

fully-formed elephant. Before it died, again seven days after being captured, it had trumpeted like a full-size elephant, the owner claimed.

Unfortunately, the owner was so worried about the security of his precious possession that he refused to let anyone see it.

Sitthidech Mahawongsakul, Acting Head of the National Elephant Institute's elephant hospital in Lampang, said that he had never come across a "mini elephant" such as the villagers were claiming to have seen. He dismissed reports of *chang nam* as a hoax.

"There's no such thing as water elephants," declared Chisanu Tiya-charoen, Deputy Chairman of the Wild Animal Rescue Foundation of Thailand.

He challenged anyone who had one to send it in proof, or even just a hair sample, for examination.

If the specimen proved to be a real animal it could be classified. Word of mouth and photos are not enough to prove the existence of water elephants, he said.

He then warned people not to believe everything they see.

The report made no mention of whether Sgt Maj Tinai managed to find a buyer for his pricey specimen.



TRASHING Phuket


Reader Art sent in the picture above of one of two new dump sites opposite Peach Hill Hotel in Kata, apparently created by workmen who saw no point in hauling away their broken concrete and bricks when there was all that foliage waiting to be used.

Art suggested that anyone considering having construction work done should factor in a cost for transporting debris and garbage to a regular dump site.

He also expressed the hope that municipal inspectors would start issuing fines for illegal dumpers.

"Tourists and residents of the area are not impressed by these eyesores," he added. "They reflect badly upon Thailand."



Spotted a guerrilla dump recently? Alert us by sending a picture and brief description to: dump@




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Gold shops hunkering down

In the wake of frequent gold shop robberies in recent months, precautionary measures are being taken at the initiative of shopkeepers across the country with advice from local police.

At a firing range in Phitsanuloke, an entire gold shop is being built to help shopkeepers find ways to deter crime and, if necessary, engage in gunfights with thieves.

In Nakhon Sawan, a gold-shop owner uses a trained guard dog to attack anyone who crosses the safety line dividing the private areas reserved for authorized personnel and service areas in the shop space.

In Suphanburi, most gold shops have fitted grills between areas for customers and staff to prevent robbers approaching them. Many other shops are following suit.

However, the use of grills is dismissed by owners in Songkhla's Haad Yai District. One said grills would make him uncomfortable with clients and could backfire by slowing staff in giving chase.

In Khon Kaen, local police have made paperwork easier for shopkeepers to obtain and carry firearms, while providing free shooting lessons to them.

Crackdown ordered: Ya bah (methamphetamine) abuse is once again on the rise in Bangkok and other urban centers, prompting the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) to launch a new crackdown scheduled to run through September.

ONCB Deputy Secretary-General Chartchai Suthiklom said that a change in supply routes from the North to the Northeast had been detected.

Almost 261,000 methamphetamine tablets were seized in April. Most, 57%, were smuggled into Thailand via Northeast borders. Previously smugglers had used the North for 80% of shipments.



PORKING CP: Hundreds of pig breeders marched to the CP Tower on Silom Rd in Bangkok to protest against allegedly unfair trade practices by Charoen Pokphand Foods (CPF). They claim to be facing drastically lower prices caused by an oversupply in the market and so urged the company to cut back its pig breeding and support the establishment of a 'Pig Board' to develop the swine industry. However, CPF would only commit to forwarding the breeders' proposals to its top management for a final decision.

Drug-related arrests and seizures in urban areas are on the rise, accounting for 43.5% of all cases. Those in Bangkok accounted for 22% of the total.

Punch drunk: Somsak Saleewong, former director of Ban Don Chai School in Lampang's Thoen District, has been transferred to an isolated tambon as punishment after being found guilty of punching a teenage boy in the face for being drunk.

Somsak was fined 1,000 baht by police for punching a 13-year-old student for being drunk on April 27.

An internal investigation began the following day, after the boy's family complained to police.

The boy's relatives later lodged another complaint with a senior education official. The official eventually signed the transfer order after a probe found that Somsak was guilty of using excessive force. Somsak will now be the director of a school in Tambon Mae Pa, a remote area.

Girls go postal: For the first time in its 65-year history, the Post School will recruit girl students.

"If female graduates wish to work as postwomen, we will allow them, but we plan to encourage them to work at service counters. Women are softer than men and should work better in such jobs," said Parisa Pananond, Thailand Post corporate and marketing communications manager.

Mail carriers have to "cope with various risks", she added.

After a one-year course, graduates will get a job with a starting salary of 7,380 baht a month.

This year 50 of 150 places for new students will go to females.

Applicants must complete Grade 12 or equivalent.

Seven-percent solution: Cabinet approved a Finance Ministry proposal to keep the value-added tax (VAT) at 7% until the end of September 2008, postponing a scheduled rise in the tax to 10%.

Cabinet also approved the Commerce Ministry's proposal to set up a fund to assist manufacturers and farmers who suffer from liberalization under free-trade pacts.

The fund is not aimed at

providing financial support but other assistance in the form of product improvement, research and development. The government will create long-term 15-to-20-year assistance programs to small and medium-sized manufacturing enterprises.

Up, up and away: Anakin, a rare black Himalayan vulture nurtured back to health, was released into the wild near the Burmese border in the hope that it would find its own way back to nesting grounds in China and Mongolia.

As traveling companions for Anakin, four brown Himalayan griffon vultures were also set free at Doi Pahompok.

On January 5, Anakin was found lost and emaciated in Chanthaburi's Soi Dao district. The young bird was sent to be cared for at Kasetsart University's Animal Hospital in Nakhon Pathom, where along with the four griffons – found injured in

the sea around the same time – it was restored to good health.

A 200,000 baht chip was attached to Anakin's wing so that the rare bird's migratory flight patterns could be studied. The chip beams data to the Argos satellite, which relays the information to the United States twice a day.

Only 20,000 Black Himalayan vultures exist worldwide.

FBI in war on piracy: Citing a lack of stringent suppression, the United States has offered to provide agents from its Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to help combat the piracy of intellectual property in Thailand.

Economic Officer Peter Thorin and Commercial Officer Jennifer Ness from the US Embassy met with Puangrat Asavapisit, Director-General of the Intellectual Property Department, to jointly draw up an action plan to crack down on piracy.

To ensure adequate suppression, the US officers offered to provide assistance in different forms, one of which was to offer FBI officers now based in Bangkok to support the investigation of major illegal Thai manufacturers of fake products.

The matter is now urgent after the US downgraded Thailand last week from Watch List to Priority Watch List (PWL) status under the US trade law.

The US also blames government agencies – including the Royal Thai Police, the Department of Special Investigation and the Customs Department – for a lack of co-ordination in tackling illegal goods.

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

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Bounty for protest leader

Police have offered a 100,000 baht reward for a Surat Thani man suspected of inciting violence against police trying to break up an 18-day occupation of a palm-oil plantation.

More than 20 people were hurt on May 12 as police used force to disperse about 3,000 trespassers at a plantation in Khiri Ratthanikhom District.

Wimol Cherdchoochon is wanted for allegedly encouraging the group to fight with the police.

The villagers had occupied the 1,600-rai Thaksin Palms plantation on April 25, believing they had the right to acquire land in it and refused to leave.

A total of 145 villagers have been charged with trespassing and released on bail. Arrest warrants have been issued for five villagers alleged to be leaders of the group.

Surat Thani Provincial Governor Niwat Sawaskaew defended the police from accusations they used excessive force. He said they used the proper level of force, had earlier attempted to negotiate an end to the sit-in and distributed leaflets asking squatters to leave.

The reward is for Wimol only, a source said, adding the man was connected with "old power".

Police intelligence and provincial authorities suggested the occupation could have been politically motivated and designed to cause social disruption and undermine the government.

Police sources said about 200 people from the Deep South were "duped" into joining the protest. They have been sent home.

The 145 charged with trespassing are all Surat Thani residents. They told provincial police chief Maj Gen Thesa Siriawatho



FALLEN COMRADES: A soldier mourns the death of seven special forces troops killed in Pattani on May 9. The troops' pickup was hit by a roadside bomb. Each was then shot in the head at point-blank range.

that Wimol was chairman of a privately-run body called the Organization for Land Development for Agriculture in the South.

They were each promised free 10-rai plots after joining the organization. Plantation owner Thanarak Phongphettra said lost production would cost 800,000 baht. He asserted none of the plantation was on public land and his family had run the farm since 1978.

Three of those injured in the melee were police. One protester was shot in the leg as he allegedly attempted to run officers over with a pickup.

Market murder: A fresh fish merchant was shot dead in a robbery at his house in Nakhon Sri Thammarat's Chawang District in the early hours of May 11 as

he was preparing to go to work at the market.

When Thaworn Dechasathit, 37, opened the front door of the house where he lived with five other people at 3:30 am, three masked men rushed forward and pushed him back into the house, threatening him with a pistol. One of the attackers then shot him twice in the right ear. He died at the scene.

The robbers made off with 10,000 baht in cash, a video camera and K. Thavorn's chain with a number of Buddha images and a Jathukham Ramatthep amulet. K. Thavorn also had a gold chain and a gold-plated Jathukham Ramatthep amulet which the thieves did not find.

Lt Col Athiwut Waiyakan, Duty Inspector at Chawang District Police Station, said that he believes the motive for the killing was robbery and that the heist was well planned as the robbers knew when K. Thavorn would open his door.

The scene showed signs of a struggle and police believe K. Thavorn refused to co-operate and tried to fight back, so was shot by the robbers. Police are now taking statements from the other five house members to try

and build a profile of the robbers, Col Athiwut said.

Cop killers caught: Two men have been arrested over the killing of a Songkhla police major who was found shot and stabbed by the side of a road in Phatthalung Province on April 10. They claim the motive for the killing was robbery.

Region 9 Police Commissioner Lt Gen Jethanakon Naphetaphat on May 10 reported to the press that Pratheep "Long" Bunkhwan, 24, and Athit "Mo" Reuangnoi, both from Phatthalung, had confessed to killing Maj Wutichai Jantthaka, an Investigating Officer at Thungtamsao Tambon Police Station in Haad Yai District.

Gen Jethanakon said that the two men admitted they and two other accomplices, Khamhaeng Khunphrom, 24, and Sarawut Samutsan, 25, had found Maj Wutichai asleep in a Toyota pickup he had borrowed from a fellow police officer.

His killers, not knowing he was a police officer, decided to steal the truck and Pratheep shot him with a shot gun. The group then drove off in the truck. On the way, they realized that Maj Wutichai was still alive and Athit then used a knife to slit his throat.

They dumped his body by the side of the road in Khaochai-son District. When they heard the news that the man they had killed was a police officer, they decided to burn the truck to destroy the evidence of the crime, Gen Jethanakon said.

The gang also stole two pistols – an 11mm and a .38 – which they claimed to have sold in Yala.

"We have issued arrest warrants for the two suspects who are still on the run. We are also investigating whether or not this gang is the same group that has been stealing cars throughout Police Region 9 [lower southern provinces – Trang, Phatthalung, Songkhla, Satun, Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat]," Gen Jethanakon added.

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



ACROSS THE BAY

By Gus Reynolds

Over the years, this column has profiled Krabi residents who have made a positive impact on the community through their wisdom, hard work or sacrifices. Sometimes these people are called, "change agents", for they affect changes that are felt by many around them.

In this column we highlight Apichat "La" Lanlongsa.

K. La was born in 1971 in a small village in the Klong Thom District of Krabi Province. He attended school there and at age 18 went to work on Koh Phi Phi. First he helped build bamboo bungalows and later worked on long-tail boat tours. After four years a friend convinced him to try scuba diving.

Soon he was a dive instructor at one of the dive centers on the island. He made many friends among the tourists and over eight years he built a reputation for hard work and honesty. The hard work paid off when he was asked to be the general manager for the hotel in which his dive shop was located.

One of the friends he made during this time was Emiel Kok, a Dutch tourist who came to the island for scuba diving. They kept in touch, neither knowing their paths would soon cross again in a way they never imagined.

On the fateful day of December 26, 2004, the tsunami struck Phi Phi Island. In the midst of the chaos with no electricity and sporadic phone service the only phone call that K. La received that day was from Emiel.

He had called to check on his old friend and K. La responded that he had survived, but many of his staff and friends had not. Emiel said not to worry, that help was on the way. Little did K. La know that it was Emiel who was on the way and it would change his life forever.

Emiel arrived in Krabi Town the next week taking K. La by surprise. The two spent the week helping locals search for their lost ones and attending a lot of funerals.

The need for clothes, food and shelter was clear to see. Emiel and his group in Holland had raised a substantial amount of money through the Chance 4 All Foundation, which coalesced into an organization called Hi-PhiPhi.

They immediately started programs to provide necessities to locals and began hiring many of the victims to start on work projects to clean up the bay. Soon

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Apichat Lanlongsa:

A champion of change



K. La with one of the many children he has helped.

the organization had hired more than 80 Thai staff and had 100 volunteers.

K. La focused on collecting data on the survivors and their family members and coordinated with the Governor's Office to produce lists of children who had lost a parent to the tsunami. HiPhiPhi immediately supported each family with 2,500 baht per month for each child.

After a few hectic weeks had passed, K. La met another group that was active in providing aid to the tsunami victims. At that time, the SripHong Phukaoluan Foundation, then a scholarship foundation, was being reorganized into KrabiRelief.com. Emiel and K. La decided to join forces with this well-established foundation to provide aid for the children as they knew HiPhiPhi would not be there forever.

K. La was wearing two hats now, combining two organizations into one working unit and helping to move legal work and responsibilities from one foundation to the other. By March of 2005, this was nearly complete, and he became the Field Operations Manager for the Tsunami Child Sponsorship Program of the SripHong Phukaoluan Foundation.

Over the next year he worked with UNICEF, the Asia Foundation, many NGOs and the local authorities to sustain the 100 plus children in the program. He received specialized training at many seminars, including child protection, interview and investigation techniques, child psychology and legal documentation.

His work impressed many and when the Asia Foundation opened its legal aid office in Krabi in March 2006, they asked him to join. He couldn't leave his com-

mitment to the children behind and all parties agreed that K. La should go back to wearing two hats again, one for the Asia Foundation and the other at his present job.

At the Asia Foundation K. La was involved in processing documents for tsunami victims who had lost their land title deed or land ownership and for establishing guardianship over children. He helped many regain their benefits and file

claims for lost property as well as co-ordinating employment programs.

K. La, whose phone is always ringing and always has a minute to help, says the secret to the success of these programs in Krabi in helping the tsunami victims has been the co-operation between different foundations and NGOs that have the same goals.

While he admits it may be strange working for two foundations at the same time, he says he acts as a bridge between the different groups. "One foundation can't do everything," he says, "but if all the NGOs work together in a co-ordinated manner, we can achieve great results."

He cites how the professionalism of the large international foundations have helped teach the local Thai foundations how to improve their organizations. And the Thai foundations, with their local knowledge, have the information to make a program successful. K. La sees himself as helping the programs be as efficient as they can be.

What does the future have in store for K. La? As always he is a man on the move. Besides spending more time with his wife of 10 years, Michiyo, and his 11-year-old daughter, he wants to continue his training in the field of relief work to become a professional of international standard.

He is also looking forward to participating in a research project on the economic impact of the tsunami on Krabi Province. "I believe that with the experience I have gained and the connections I have made – and with additional training – I can help a lot more people," he said. We believe him, too.

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Clockwise from above, left: You ordered a case of Pepsi, boss? Scrumptious selection of food at the local restaurant; Satay on wheels; Pots and pans in the hardware store.



TIME TO DO A LITTLE SHOPPING

By Janyaporn Morel

The world just got a little smaller with Jungceylon's Amazing Thai Miniature Arts exhibition. Even if you aren't a miniatures fan, it's worth going to take a look just for the uniqueness of the pint-sized presentations.

The exhibition features more than 200 pieces in 20 scenes of "Thai Lifestyle" — but these aren't dusty, little figurines that you look at and just say "Hmmm"

— they are mechanically active displays highlighted with sound and light systems. Some pieces are so small you'll need a magnifying glass to see the detail. There is even a functioning miniature TV.

From dioramas depicting the *Talad Nam Damnoern* — the floating market in Ratchaburi; to a *Jatukham Rammathap* parade celebrating a popular goddess, a Chinese opera, and even an ancient Thai temple fair with traditional games, food stalls, perfor-

mances and much more — it's enough to keep you well entertained. The smallest miniatures at the exhibition are only two millimeters high with the largest measuring in at 15 centimeters.

The displays were created by the One Tambon One Product (OTOP) group from Bang Nam Chan community in Bangkok that started as a miniatures club about 10 years ago.

Choophan Banjongchart, who organized the Bang Nam Chan miniatures club and put to-

gether the exhibition, says that some of the artists are at the exhibition to demonstrate how to build miniature works using paper, wood and glass. If you want, they'll even teach you how to make one yourself.

Deputy CEO of Phuket Square Co Ltd Prawit Janyasitikul said the show is designed to help promote and support Thai OTOP products and help introduce them to the world by showing them to tourists who visit Jungceylon.

"About 55% of Jungceylon's customers are foreigners, so this miniature art exhibition will help promote Phuket's tourism and show off Thai art," he said.

You don't have to only look — you can buy miniatures at the exhibition as well. The figures are priced from 35 baht to as much as 500,000 baht.

The Amazing Thai Miniature Arts will run until May 27, from 11 am until midnight at Silang Hall on the ground floor of Jungceylon in Patong.

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A fast start to the day

The phrase “fast food” often conjures up images of the Western franchises that have spread throughout the world. However, another type of “fast food” exists in Phuket that is based upon local recipes offering a tasty alternative to hamburgers and French fries.

At the two Kotek Khao Mun Gai restaurants on Luang Por Wat Chalong Rd in Phuket City, townsfolk are opting for one of the speediest Thai dishes that can be served up – *khao mun gai*, rice steamed with chicken broth, topped with steamed chicken – and have developed a taste for the dishes served up.

Wattanachai “Kotek” Lord-song, the 40-year-old owner of the two restaurants, offers the standard range of *khao mun gai* dishes: *khao mun gai*, *khao moo daeng* (steamed rice topped with grilled red pork), *khao moo grop* (steamed rice topped with crispy roasted pork), *khao ruam mit* (steamed rice topped with all three: grilled chicken, grilled red pork and crispy roasted pork).

The Thai staple is served with a sauce made from salted soybeans and fresh chili, garlic, cucumber or lettuce.

However, the most popular variation K. Kotek serves is the one named after his hometown, Trang. “*Khao mun moo yang muang Trang* is popular here because it is different from the standard *khao mun gai* served in other restaurants,” he says.

“The original Trang recipe, which I use, requires a particular mix of many Chinese herbs. I order this mix from Trang because it is the only place in Thailand that sells this particular combination. It makes barbecued pork soft, smell good and taste good.

“I use streaky pork with a



TOP O' THE MORNING: The Kotek Khao Mun Gai shop in Phuket City offers seasoned rice topped with your selection of mouth-watering meats.

and encouraging people to eat at my shop.

“The shop became quite popular throughout my first two years of business. Six years later, I moved to this location, across from the Anubaan Kanjana Wat Wittaya School. Now I have two shops close together in the same neighborhood,” says K. Kotek. In fact, the two restaurants are just 20 meters apart.

Another peculiarity is that many diners are choosing to eat K. Kotek’s *khao mun gai* for breakfast, with weekend mornings being his busiest periods.

“The dishes are very cheap. It costs 30 baht for a ‘standard’ dish and 35 baht for a ‘special’ serving,” he adds.

Kotek Khao Mun Gai, on Luang Por Wat Chalong Rd, Phuket City, opposite Anubaan Kanjana Wat Wittaya School. Open daily 6 am to 2 pm. Tel: 076-218935.

CHEAP eats

By Supanun Supawong

‘medium’ amount of fat,” K. Kotek says. The pork must have some fat, but not too much. “I baste the pork and let it sit overnight so it soaks up the spices,” he adds.

“I also barbecue the pork over coals, which tastes better than cooking it with gas. I use a medium heat: not too hot as this sears the pork and not too weak as this makes the pork chewy,” he explains.

“I must pay attention to every step to make it good, but that’s why it has become very popular. In one day I can sell 30 to 40 kilos of pork.

“I also order the black soya sauce and the salted soya beans

from Trang because they taste better than most of what is available in Phuket,” he adds.

K. Kotek opened his first *khao mun gai* shop near the bus station on Phang Nga Rd eight years ago. “I moved to Phuket nearly 20 years ago after marrying a Phuket girl. When I was living in Trang, I was training to be a muay Thai boxer, but after moving to Phuket I began to work as a tuk-tuk driver,” he explains.

“But I did that for years and I was bored of it. I wanted my own business, I wanted to earn more and I wanted to do something that I knew well – so I opened a *khao mun gai* restaurant.

“I know *khao mun gai* very well. When I was a child, I helped

one of my uncles at his *khao mun gai* restaurant. He still runs this restaurant, and my brother has since opened a *khao mun gai* restaurant in Trang, too,” says K. Kotek.

“I made quite a few friends while working as a tuk-tuk driver, so after I opened my shop, they helped me by spreading the word



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Peering into the crevices of the foot, the contours of the instep and the tender points in the heel, Jarus Taenkaew is offered an unlikely window to the body of his patients.

Through the sole, perhaps, he can view the souls of his patients and determine the causes of their problems.

At the very least, his trained fingers can give a rejuvenating and insightful foot massage.

A trained reflexologist, Jarus hails from Nakhon Sri Thammarat. A gardener and carpenter by trade, his formal education ended at age 11 with a primary school certificate.

In 1995 Jarus moved to Phuket to garden and build bamboo and nipa palm leaf huts in a "folk" style, just as his father and grandfather had taught him. Noting his skill, a staff member at the Club Andaman Beach Resort saw Jarus's huts and hired him to build bungalows at the resort, a job he still returns to in the low season.

"I had many problems before my life became comfortable, as it is now. When I lived in Thalung I planted morning glory to sell, but there wasn't enough rainfall at that time so I did not make any money from it, so in the low season I would build huts for the resort."

Then one morning as Jarus was going through his morning ritual of saying his prayers and listening to the radio, he heard an advertisement for a therapist training course offered by the Phuket Provincial Health Office (PPHO).

"I went to the PPHO and asked if I would be able to work for the government if I passed the course. But the real reason I was interested was because my father-in-law had partial paralysis and pain, and I wanted to make him feel better."

After he passed a 90-hour course in massage therapy, Jarus went to talk with Patong Hospi-

tal Director Dr Thaweesak Netwong about the possibility of working for that facility's Medical Spa. Dr Thaweesak told him he needed more training. Jarus agreed.

In order to secure the hospital position, Jarus went to Bangkok to take a course from the Ministry of Public Health. After 300 additional hours of massage training he was prepared for the position at Patong Hospital. It was in this second set of classes when Jarus focused on foot massage.

"I remember on November 1, 1999, Director Thaweesak called me to sign a contract to start working with the hospital. "It's really fun. I didn't know medical vocabulary when I started. One time I heard a nurse say 'go to the ward', and I had to think for a while 'what is the ward?' But I try to learn from my experiences. I started working here eight years ago, and now I know what the ward is."

Jarus ran into a roadblock when the hospital asked him for his primary school certificate. Since it had been 47 years since

he graduated, he didn't have it handy. To get a copy he had to return to his hometown to see if his school had the certificate it had issued to him 36 years earlier when he was just 11.

"Even though there is a new director, they still kept my old certificate. Some parts of the certificate were destroyed by termites, but it was still useful," Jarus said with laugh.

"The director of the Phuket Non-Formal Education School came here for a massage and asked me about my education. Then he asked me to study more to get my high school diploma."

After Jarus received his high school diploma in 2004, Dr Thaweesak asked him to study for a certificate in massage therapy at Phuket Vocational College.

Jarus complied and completed the course just this past March. Then he received another call for further training – this time to become a teacher himself.

"The Ministry of Public Health called and asked me to train to be an expert teaching others about foot massage."



Jarus said he is very happy to be a teacher and never hesitates to share his knowledge with others as he never imagined he would have skills like these, much less be able to share them with others.

It seems like a lot of work to start a second career late in life, but Jarus wanted to complete the necessary training in order to continue working at the hospital and helping people, "I want to work and use my knowledge to help people, because many people did not get the chance like I did. I'm lucky."

Jarus has taught his wife the massage techniques that he knows. And he has been able to use his skills to ease his father-in-law's pain. What upsets Jarus is that he cannot teach his sons his trade and watch them follow it, as three of them are already married with families and their

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foot forward

Patong Medical Spa Reflexologist Jarus Taenkaew says feet are an important indicator of a person's health as they are the center of all nerves.

I'm too old to start again. I am teaching the next generation and they can go to other countries for a brighter future."

Jarus enjoys the challenge that his position gives him. Since he often sees patients before the doctor he often has the first chance to discover what the problems are and what possible treatments might be. Even though many people, especially Thais, are squeamish about feet, Jarus has learned and appreciates the importance of this part of the body.

An experienced reflexologist can break up patterns of stress in other parts of the body through the 7,200 or so nerves in the feet, at least according to one of the theories of how reflexology works.

"Our feet are the center of all nerves, so foot massage is the most important," he explains. He adds that although he is already skilled in foot massage he wants to continue to learn about it and improve his skills further.

Asked about the typical Thai aversion to humankind's lowest extremity, Jarus takes a professional outlook.

"I never hate to touch feet. I can tell people about their health now, and that can help them know more about it.

"And I help the doctor better understand the patient, because some patients cannot explain to the doctor what is wrong. As an old man I must take care of myself. I think it is a good thing that I can take care of other people's health too."

Jarus knows that he's getting older, but he insists he wants to continue working and that his work actually helps keep him

healthy.

Lacking foreign language skills, Jarus naturally faces challenge working with his foreign patients. He can communicate with them through actions however, carefully watching their reactions to his touch.

Jarus said of one of his female foreign patients, "I know all the points on the bottom of her feet. When I press on any of these points, if she feels pain she will tell me by wincing or crying out. Then I will try to explain to her that she has some problem with a certain body part or system by showing her the reflexology chart of points of the foot.

"Foreign patients are more difficult to understand than the Thai patients, but I must try and learn to understand them because they are my patients too."

Reflecting on his second career Jarus said, "Now I must take care of myself, I know my limits. I'm really happy with my work. I can remind the patient that they have some problems with their health, I can discover that by foot massage.

"When I press the correct spot and the patient feels pain, I guess they must go see the doctor. I'm happy to help the patient know how healthy they are now. It seems like I remind them to check their health. I never worry about income, I just make certain to live with what I have and that my family is not trouble.

"I will work until I don't have any energy. I always think of the sufficiency economy, which is our King's suggested way of life. It's really the best thinking for me when I feel tired. I can tell everyone that I'm very happy."

Happily Ever After

Recent weddings in Phuket



Above: Juthaporn Charoenchaiwattana and Lt Surasak Inprom of the Royal Thai Navy make good use of his sword to cut the cake during their wedding in the Phuket Ballroom at the Royal Phuket City Hotel on April 29.



Left: Terra Johnson and Logan Maynard were married in a tradition Thai ceremony at The Mangosteen Resort & Spa on March 21.

own lines of work. The fourth is studying at university in a different field.

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This week



BACK TO SCHOOL: Tossaporn Thepabutra talks to children at the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization's Summer Camp 2007, a sports program for children of sailors stationed at the Third Navy Command on



MANY HAPPY RETURNS: Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit (left) receives a flower basket and a Chivawattana Life Promotion Card to celebrate his 52nd birthday from Bangkok Hospital Phuket Director Dr Kongkiat Kespechara (center) and Deputy Direc-



GUNDERBAR! Fritz Hasselbach (3rd from left), owner of world famous Gunderloch Winery in South Mainz, Germany, recently spoke at a seven-course wine tasting at the Amari Coral Beach Resort in Patong. From left are Amari Coral Beach Executive Assistant Manager Max Sieracki, event organizer Hans-Peter Director of Black Forest Distribution Co. Ltd, and *Gazette* contributor Marque Rome.



CHILD CARE: (From left) Evason Environment Coordinator Arnfinn Oines and Evason Area General Manager Alasdair Junor join Program Officer Luc Ferran from the Combating Trafficking and Child Sex Tourism program in signing a Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel in Tourism.



KITCHEN PARTY: Fagor Home Appliances (Thailand) celebrates the addition of Zeyco kitchen furniture and wardrobe systems to its product range with a cocktail party hosted by Zeyco (Thailand) Managing Director Keong Yeow Kwan (right). From left are Fagor Logistics Service Director Lertsak Photong, Managing Director of FG Interthai Marketing Co Ltd Chomanad Kongmanwatana and Zeyco Marketing Manager Raymond Teh.



PARADISE ON A PLATE: Suwalai Pinpradab (left), Director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand Southern Region 4 Office, represents Phuket in accepting the award of "Asia's Maritime Capital" at the 2007 Christofle Asia Boating Awards from *Thailand Tatler* magazine Chair-

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It might seem counterintuitive to want to sit in an old tin mine while you have a drink, but after a visit to the Tongkha Tin Syndicate bar at the Indigo Pearl resort in Nai Yang, you might not want to go anywhere else.

The bar follows the theme of the resort and takes the look of an old tin mine with a modern twist. But instead of dusty mining tunnels and the smell of dank air, you'll find a spotlessly clean bar stocked with 34 kinds of whiskey and several draft beers; and instead of mine workers smelling of sweat you'll find the swanky guests that Indigo Pearl attracts.

You will also find a sports bar with a full-sized snooker table and pool table, filled with authentic antiques the Na-Ranong family has salvaged from their old tin mine in Samkong and home in Saphan Hin.

Prakaikaew "Moo" Theerathada, Assistant Managing Director and daughter of resort owner and Managing Director Wichit Na-Ranong, explained that she and her father decided on the tin mining theme because three generations of their family worked in the industry in Phuket.

On the walls of the bar are old chalkboard timetables, from



It's mine, all mine

AFTER DARK

By Zach Fridell

the ceiling hang old fans that were once used to aerate the tunnels, re-covered with old tin bags the family pulled from their old properties.

Also adorning the walls of the bar – and elsewhere in the resort – are photos of K. Moo's great-grandfather and grandmother.

To transform the concepts into realities they hired renowned

architect Bill Bensley.

When the bar first opened, Mr Bensley said, "There were two major points of inspiration to the design we created.

"The first was to use some of the wonderful old existing buildings constructed with elaborate hardwood and steel plate structures that construction costs would make prohibitive today.

"Over the years these structures had been covered up on the inside and I found myself

in the ceiling peeling back these layers and finding some wonderful older structural designs to work with.

"The second point of inspiration was to incorporate K. Wichit's family history into the design and we have been able to do this through every facet of the resort including the eight food and beverage outlets and their names, right down to the staff uniforms."

Indeed, one of the old

names of Phuket was "Tongkah", inspiring the name of the bar.



Wichit Na-Ranong

The prices have risen since the heyday of the tin mines – a small bottle of Singha costs 150 baht and a bottle of Heineken 170 baht – but if you're coming to a whiskey bar, drinking only beer may seem a bit of a waste.

Tongkha stocks a wide range of whiskeys to suit your palate, and your wallet, with a few bits of flair.

The wide selection includes the color wheel of Johnnie Walkers, at least eight Japanese stills and one Dallas Dhu that costs 1,590 baht a shot – and 24,900 for the bottle.

The rest of the selection starts at 140 baht for the drink most likely enjoyed in the real mines – Mekhong Thai whiskey – to a standard cost of around 250 baht per shot.

Near Nai Yang Beach, this trendy bar is a top place to relax and watch sports, shoot a few games of pool and soak up some wiskey. No pickaxe required.

Tongkha Tin Syndicate. Located at Indigo Pearl Resort, Nai Yang. Open daily 5 pm to 11 pm.



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Itsy-bitsy teeny-weeny hell

I doubt there exists any item in the clothing lexicon that is more capable of single-handedly reducing a woman to a crumpled heap of self-loathing than the innocent-sounding term "swimwear".

The word sounds so practical, friendly almost, belying its hideous and dark potential to ruin one's life.

Not only is swimwear specifically designed, so it always seems, to make the wearer feel fat, old and past it, but it is also a nightmare that visits us on a constant basis.

Every year we run the "cozzie" gauntlet – knowing and fretting that hundreds of strangers are going to see it, judge it and criticize it – and we attempt to pick out the least offensive, most covering-up thing we can find to get wet and brown in. Or in my case, red.

Each time I decide to buy new swimwear I set my radar to realistic by trying to find what my granny would have called "a proper swimming costume".

However, you simply cannot get such a thing these days unless you're prepared to don a garment that the Queen of England might be comfortable wearing at a pool party.

It appears that women with breasts and – worse – bottoms, are not expected to display themselves on the beach when high season hits.

What the range on offer indicates to me is that boobs and bums girls are also not welcome at the poolside.

At the point of sale we are gamely invited to pick up a thong. But for those of us whose flesh moves when we so much as raise an eyebrow, the thong is a definite non-starter.



And that's pretty much it. From my extensive research, most of which, I must admit, was carried out in Europe, the merchandise seems to leapfrog from thong to old lady's costume with handy "skirt", which is there, supposedly, to hide those upper thigh bits.

But I don't want to wear a rah-rah skirt on a boiling hot day, so why would I get permanently attached to my swimming costume? So I'm guessing that it must have been a bright fair-minded designer who came up

with the amusingly named "tankini" to satisfy those of us who are in between.

A tankini looks as if it's going to cover your tummy with a nice, uplifting vesty-top while giving you the option of covering your bum to your own taste, and probably that of the rest of the beach as well.

You can go for a skimpy-ish pant if you are so minded, but I, you may have gathered, am not. Or you can opt for a large but not quite hospital-issue pair – my choice.

But what the tankini doesn't tell you is what it is going to do when it gets wet. Last summer, newly tankini clad, I walked on to the beach confident that I was dressed appropriately yet fashionably. Minutes later I emerged from the water wearing what amounted to a skimpy bikini.

Somehow my lovely tankini top had rolled itself up into a nasty

AMBROSIA'S

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SECRETS

notice me" swimsuit or, heaven forbid, the aqua-rah-rah.

So in the interests of averting further shopping casualties, I hereby present a few handy hints for sales staff that should make the experience of buying new swimwear a whole lot more fun.

1. Try more sympathetic lighting in the changing rooms – this is not a football match in mid-winter Scandinavia.

2. Why not offer a few cocktails? Make it more of a beach experience – it could work in your favor. I'd buy anything when I'm three sheets to the wind! And play some tropical music too – I might even salsa if I had a margarita.

3. Find a replacement for that gusset-strip thing – it's like having an empty potato chips packet shoved down your knickers.

4. Have some matching sarongs hanging casually around – we can use them to cover a multitude of sins and you'll also get an extra sale or two.

And finally, here's a tip for those of you who are beach bound: equip yourself with some great sunglasses and an even greater beach bag. Everyone's attention will be drawn to them, and if they're stylish and snazzy enough, no one will even notice your bum.

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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By Natcha Yuttaworawit
& Supanun Supawong

Cornrows and cornrow stylists have become commonplace along the beaches of Phuket. Youngsters are anxious to have colored beads in their hair, while the older crowd is free to experiment with a new look – at least while they are on holiday.

But this hairstyle, borrowed from Africa, is working its way into today's fashion as the cornrow hairstyle spreads around the world for men and women of all races.

By braiding the hair back, the wearer is able to keep their hair out of their face and eyes.

The process itself can be tedious and time consuming. Depending on the type of hair and whether or not hair extensions are used, it can take anywhere from three to 15 hours to complete.

Once it is complete the braids may stay in place for up to three months, if properly taken care of.

Perhaps that is why this style is so popular among athletes such as Rio Ferdinand of Manchester United, tennis players Venus and Serena Williams, NBA basketball player Allen Iverson. Locally Jay-Da and Watcharin Rodnid, owners and resident artists of Rinda Magical Art on Yaowarat Rd, brought the hair style with them after spending time on another island.

Jay-Da worked in the Caribbean for eight years. During her time there she saw that locals braided their hair to make it more manageable in the tropical heat. Wanting to fit in she asked her boss if it would be a good idea for her to braid her locks. Her boss promptly said yes.

"From the first time I braided my hair I immediately fell in love with it, and now I always wear it like this. My hair is very long, so we (me and my hair stylist) spend about nine hours putting the braids in," Jay-Da said.

She suggests getting braids redone every three to four months to keep up with hair growth. She also lets her hair out of the braids for about three months of the year.

She warns, "Sometimes I have problems with this hair style. When I went to get a passport the officer did not want me to use a picture of me with this hairstyle. I asked if it was illegal and said I would not change my hair style. Finally they gave in because there are no rules that say that I cannot have this hair style for my passport picture.

"I think this hair style has its charm. We spend a lot of time to do it and it looks like art, each braid is so straight. Many people get confused about my hair because it is so long and colorful; they think I'm wearing a wig.

"I think I will wear this hairstyle until I'm old. It is my identity, people remember me in this style," said Jay-Da.

Sangthong Kwanchouy, owner of Massage and Braids in Karon, said, "Most of my custom-

Braidy Bunch



Jay-Da and Watcharin Rodnid. 'It is my identity, people remember me in this style,' she says.

ers are children, because they like the colors of the beads. The most popular style for children are the little braids with many colorful beads. The single-braid style is most popular for teenagers and older."

The braids can be all natural or K. Sangthong can braid in colored hair extensions for pizzazz. Accessories such as beads or hair ties add more color and personal style to the braids as well.

"This hairstyle will still look good for at least three months, but that does not mean you must take it out after three months. You can keep the braids in as long as you want," said K. Sangthong.

"The good thing is this hair

style can make you look fashionable. The disadvantage is the braids must be done very firmly or they will become ragged and come out," she added.

Hair in cornrows can be washed by carefully using a mixture of shampoo and water and a quick rinse with fresh water. After the shower, aqua wax or hair oil is added to maintain the sheen.

The price of the style and the length of time to do it varies depending on the length and type of hair – short, long, curly or straight. At K. Sangthong's shop it takes at least four to five hours. Prices start at 400 baht, but do not go over 2,000 baht.

Cosmo Professional Salon Administrator Tiwa Orawatkul said, "The prices for cornrows depends on the thickness of the customer's hair.

"Cornrows using hair extensions are quite expensive because the customer has to pay up to 8,000 or 9,000 baht for them. Cornrows with only the customer's natural hair cost up to 500 baht," said K. Tiwa.

"The cornrows can stay in as long as the customer wants. Cornrows made with hair extensions are flammable, so wearers must be careful around flames. Hair can be washed and conditioned like normal styles," he said.

Cosmo Professional Salon is open daily from 10 am to 10 pm, closed on Thursday. There are four branches in Phuket: one next to Expo (opposite Maythee) 4/2 DilokUthit 2 Taladyai, Tel: 076-210872; Samkong branch 1 on Yaowarat Rd, Taladyai, about 100 meters before Baan Samkong School, near the junction to the Butterfly Farm Tel: 076-254344; Samkong branch 2 Yaowarat Rd, Taladyai, about 50 meters from the Irawadee Village junction Tel: 076-254846; Chalong intersection 7/6 Chao Fa East Rd, Chalong Tel: 076-381868.

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PROMJAI DENTAL CLINIC

The 101-year-old luxury yacht *Kalizma*, famed for her Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor days, is in Phuket for the summer. Named for their children Kate, Liza and Maria, she has just completed a two-year refit intended to restore her to like-new condition in the original Edwardian-style.

The yacht is said to have been purchased by Richard Burton for Elizabeth Taylor as a gift following her Oscar for *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* and it was aboard *Kalizma* that Burton presented Taylor with her famous 69.4-carat diamond.

The present owner bought the yacht 11 years ago and, due to the vessel's poor condition at the time, he had her rebuilt from top to bottom.

The most recent work was completed only six months ago and included adding an upper deck that allowed for a more spacious (and elegant) owner's ensuite stateroom below the helm. The refit also enlarged and modernized the galley and allowed ensuite facilities in the three double and two twin guest cabins.

Everything from woodwork to upholstery to goldleaf trim was carefully selected for its adherence to the design and style of the Edwardian period in which she was built.

Kalizma provides comfortable accommodation for her guests in two single and three double cabins. Though she has done a bit of chartering from time to time, she is primarily a vessel for her owner's pleasure.

A walk through the yacht gives one a sense of more gracious and unhurried times when life was lived at a much slower pace and time was taken to just sit and enjoy life – not to rush out and “experience” it. Soothing and relaxing it is.

Powered by steam when she was built in 1906, *Kalizma* was converted to diesel power about 40 years ago and is cur-



Just over a century old, *Kalizma* maintains a nostalgic charm coupled with the best in contemporary amenities.

Where Liz Taylor got rocked by Richard Burton

All at
SEA



By Teddy Tucker

rently powered by one 640hp and two 325hp Cummins engines. Cruising speed is a stately 12 knots and she has a range of almost 4,000 miles.

Two generators provide for life's comforts and the water maker can produce six tons of water per day – some of it for

the Jacuzzi that sits on *Kalizma*'s stern.

From providing support to the Royal Navy during both World Wars to accommodating Britain's Peter de Savary during his 1983 bid for the America's Cup (he was the owner at the time), to rumors of Brad Pitt's purchase of her for Jennifer Aniston (not true says the captain) and the antics of Burton and Taylor in Hollywood's golden days, *Kalizma* has seen a good bit of the world.

But these days life is a bit more sedate – most recently she has been sailing round the Mediterranean, the Persian Gulf, Indian waters and the Far East.

The sailing agenda for this winter is flexible but is likely to include Goa, the Maldives, the Seychelles and Andaman Islands.

Credit needs to be given to the owner for the careful restoration of this classic yacht, though he wishes to remain in the background and prefers the spotlight

to be on *Kalizma* – and to Captain Avnish Dhall who nurtures his historic charge with obvious pride.

Kalizma is berthed at Yacht Haven Marina – and you can get a good view of her from the restaurant there. It is worth taking binoculars with you to get an even better view of this piece of yachting history.

More information about the *Kalizma* can be found at www.kalizma.net

The former bridge was remodeled into this elegant and spacious owner's stateroom.





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NO-STRESS BENESSE

Benesse House provides the answer to that age-old question of whether art imitates life, or vice versa. Well, almost. However, there's no arguing with the fact that this eclectic art space-cum-boutique hotel on Naoshima Island in Japan's Inland Sea is one of the most absorbing places to stay on earth.

Benesse is Latin for "to live well" and the hotel takes this adage to its weightiest conclusion. It is strewn with artworks, and its environs include a giant yellow and black pumpkin that hovers on a jetty like a visitor from outer space and similarly intriguing sculptures spread about the grounds.

The project initially was a children's camp operated by Fukutake Publishing, which became the present Benesse Corporation. The camp opened to the public in 1989. A decade and a half later, guests can revel in staying somewhere that is truly unique.

While arty avant-garde may be the hotel's maxim, guests can anticipate a particularly comfortable stay.

Most of the rooms are divided between the Park and Beach wings. Park accommodation, which was built from wood to underline its harmony with nature, is divided into twins, doubles and suites, all of which open onto a garden terrace.

The furniture is also wooden, various works of art are displayed in each room and the public spaces double as a mini museum.

The Beach wing, which was also constructed from wood, is right next to the sea, with similar interior decor cooled by gentle breezes.

Benesse House's original accommodation, which opened in 1992, adjoins the museum, and the eight rooms and two suites here



Main picture: Colorful art acts as a humorous counterpoint to the serenity of the gardens. Insert: The calm colors of the restaurant are guaranteed not to interfere with one's digestion.

are each a mini expo devoted to specific artists. However the cream of Benesse House's accommodation is Oval, just a half dozen suites set on top of a hill with its own bar lounge and connected to the rest of the property by monorail.

Each of the six rooms naturally enjoys stimulating panoramas over the sea, and each is adorned with the works of a particular internationally-renowned artist.

These include the American sculptor Keith Haring, the Brit-

ish conceptualist David Tremlett and the German photographer couple Bernd and Hilla Becher, who are renowned for their images of industrial buildings.

Come meal time, Benesse House's guests are thoroughly well catered for.

The Museum Restaurant is the main focus at breakfast, lunch and dinner, with a seasonal menu that picks the freshest catch from the Inland Sea.

Alternatively, the Terrace Restaurant has a more Mediterranean flavor.

The Museum Cafe is more casual, serving hot or iced organic blended coffees, Belgian

waffles and ice creams. The Park Lounge is a dedicated private bar for overnight guests, while the Park Hall is set aside for private dinners and similar events.

In such tranquil surroundings, it would seem practically impossible to improve on the sense of calm, but the Benesse House manages it with a spa that provides natural therapies that develop the rich experience of

Naoshima into the nourishment of body, mind and soul.

Benesse House also hosts two boutiques, one at the museum which sells books and artworks, and another which stocks items directly related to the hotel for guests who want to take home a permanent souvenir.

And to answer the initial question of art and life: here it seems to be an exquisite amalgam of both.

TALES OF A TRAVELER

By Ed Peters

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Share ideas and perspectives with government and private-sector executives on the direction of business in Phuket. Tourism is strong, but what's the outlook? Property prices continue to rise... or do they?

The seminar, in Thai with a *simultaneous* English translation, will be held on Friday, May 25, at 1:00pm in the Grand Ballroom of The Metropole hotel. Entry is free!

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Puzzles

Hidden Words

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

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

The Cryptic Crossword

ACROSS

1.

Al’s got tummy trouble in head office – he’s a boozier. (9)
6.

Auto and French mark to put it here. (5)
9.

Garnish talk with enemy in south. (7)
10.

In difficult situations, just manages to make a living. (7)
11.

More insensitive cipher. (6)
12.

Son follows to steal in department store. (8)
15.

Stops hospital keys. (5)
17.

Medea, maybe, or goddess in ship. (9)
19.

Attractive trait of Man or 22 across. (9)
22.

Let Ma make lead, perhaps. (5)
24.

Very hungry about 5 looking intently. (8)
25.

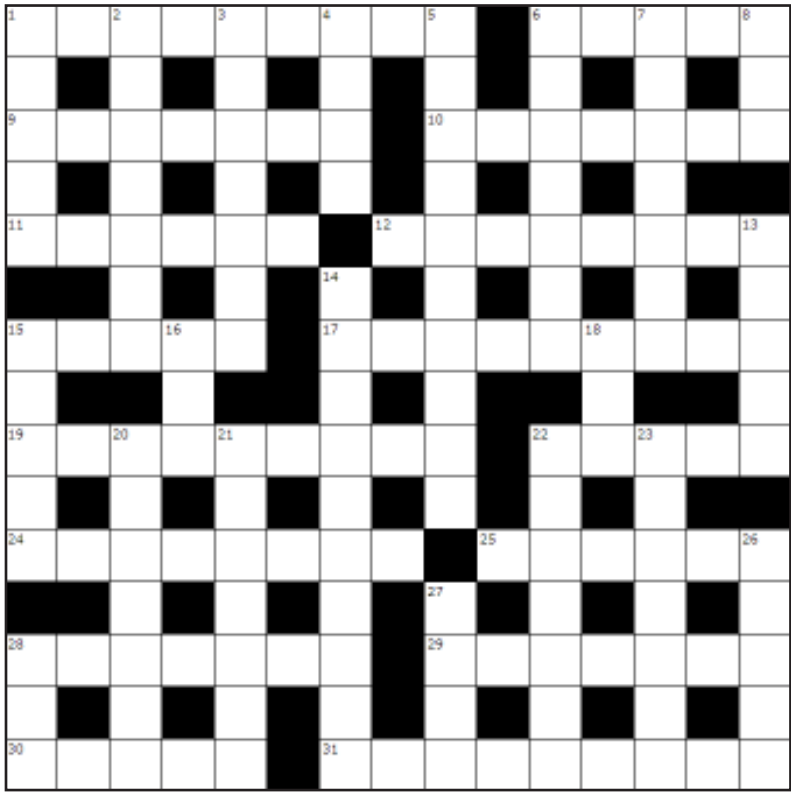
Sounded like male bees. (6)
28.

Forgive muscle and work out. (7)
29.

A pair of notes employed man in dock. (7)
30.

Pose a storyteller in reverse. (5)
31.

Anger consumed moderate. (9)



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2007

Down

1.

Tree like writer. (5)
2.

After auto, am the Spanish candy. (7)
3.

Yells for hers in nothing – and a couple of 50s. (7)
4.

Non-professional ballads. (4)
5.

Commodores rebuilt launch site. (10)
6.

Explosive string - point after it. (7)
7.

Response is ripe about ring saint. (7)
8.

It’s mixed up. (3)
13.

Nosey? Not applicable to Sal. (5)
14.

Stem snag in odd job. (10)
15.

Heard in church? Not

- hers, they say. (5)
16.

Cask is heavy, apparently. (3)
18.

Whisky town (3)
20.

Talks a lot about learner in specs. (7)
21.

Five in direction: “Cut! Wrap!” (7)
22.

Car went back about mile – supernatural event. (7)
23.

16 down is one – a country. (7)
26.

Venetian leader takes note of clever trick. (5)
27.

How magician may make tree disappear? (4)
28.

Eureka, however you read it. (3)

Solution on next page

Scribble Space



EZ TRIVIA QUIZ

1.

What is the mountain to the north of Cape Town called?
2.

Red, yellow, purple, blue; which is the odd one out?
3.

How many seconds are there in a week?
4.

In which books would you find Quidditch?
5.

What would you use Google for?
6.

What caused the 2004 Asia tsunami?
7.

Where did it happen?
8.

What is the correct term when a government orders people to stay indoors at certain times?
9.

What is the capital of Cambodia?
10.

Name the two bridges connecting Phuket and Phang Nga.

Answers on next page

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

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 “make”. What are they?

1.

Cook a cake.
2.

Sportsman’s deceptive move.
3.

Error.
4.

Milk drink.
5.

Body of fresh water.
6.

Vigil over a dead person.
7.

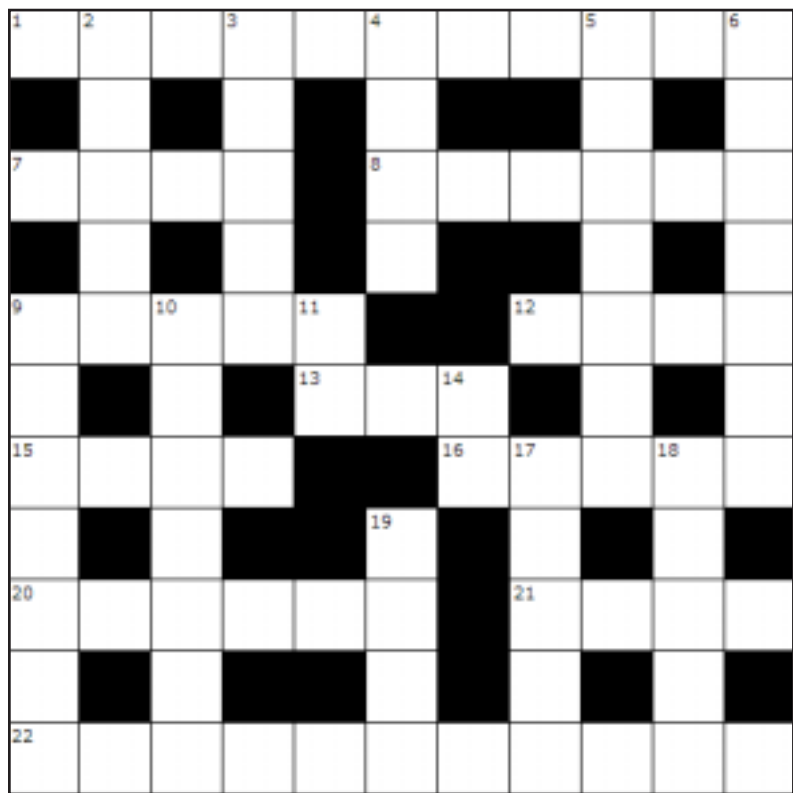
Duck’s partner.
8.

Dissolute man.
9.

Receive a share.
10.

Result of over-eating?

Answers on next page



Quick Crossword

ACROSS

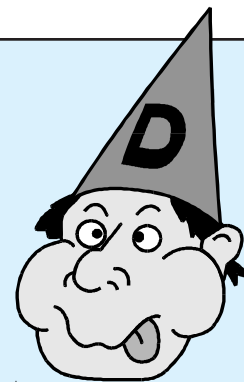
1. Government by the most able people.
7. Opposite of Good.
8. Scottish clan fabric design.
9. Opposite of a lie.
12. One time.
13. First whole number.
15. Latin water.
16. Author of *The Three Musketeers*.
20. Not working properly.
21. Main component of steel.
22. LA native, perhaps.

DOWN

2. Baby eel.
3. Small island.
4. Solemn promise.
5. It means the opposite.
6. In the US, what southerners call northerners.
9. Road flow.
10. Not common.
11. One of Santa's three words.
14. ** Sullivan Show.
17. Not the Confederacy.
18. Good smell.
19. Typing mistake.

Solution below, right

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



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

1. John Cabot discovered Newfoundland. Where was he from?
2. Which explorer is America named after?
3. Which Portuguese explorer was killed by natives in the Philippines in 1521?
4. Which Danish explorer claimed Alaska for Russia in 1741?
5. How did the US acquire Alaska?
6. Who led the first expedition to reach the North Pole?
7. There are 14 peaks in the world higher than 8,000 meters. Who was the first person to climb all of them?
8. Who holds the record for the greatest number of expeditions to the Arctic?
9. Which Spanish explorer was first to see the Grand Canyon?
10. Spanish conquistador Hernando de Soto died by the banks of which river?
11. Which explorer's exploits are recorded as the *Rihla*?
12. How many ships set out in Zhang He's first expedition in 1405?
13. Which explorer was given the rank of Admiral of the Ocean Sea by the Spanish king?
14. Who proved that the Luabala and Congo rivers were one and the same?
15. Who, in 1865, was the first Western explorer to encounter pygmies?
16. How long did the first European circumnavigation of the world take?
17. Who first explored Florida while vainly trying to find the Fountain of Youth?
18. Napoleon Bonaparte applied to join a French expedition to the Pacific in 1785 but was not chosen. What happened to the expedition?
19. Around 330 BC, the Greek explorer Pytheas circumnavigated which island?
20. Who was the first European to sail up the St Lawrence River in 1535?

Answers below, left

Puzzle Solutions

Monster Quiz Answers

1. Genoa (his real name was Giovanni Caboto); 2. Amerigo Vespucci; 3. Ferdinand Magellan; 4. Vitus Behring; 5. With a check for US\$7.2 million; 6. Fridtjof Nansen; 7. Reinhold Messner; 8. Robert Bartlett, with more than 40 expeditions; 9. Francisco Vázquez de Coronado; 10. The Mississippi; 11. Abu Abdullah Muhammad Ibn Battuta; 12. 317; 13. Christopher Columbus; 14. Henry Morgan Stanley; 15. Paul du Chaillu; 16. Three years, one month; 17. Juan Ponce de León; 18. It disappeared in Oceania; 19. Britain; 20. Jacques Cartier.

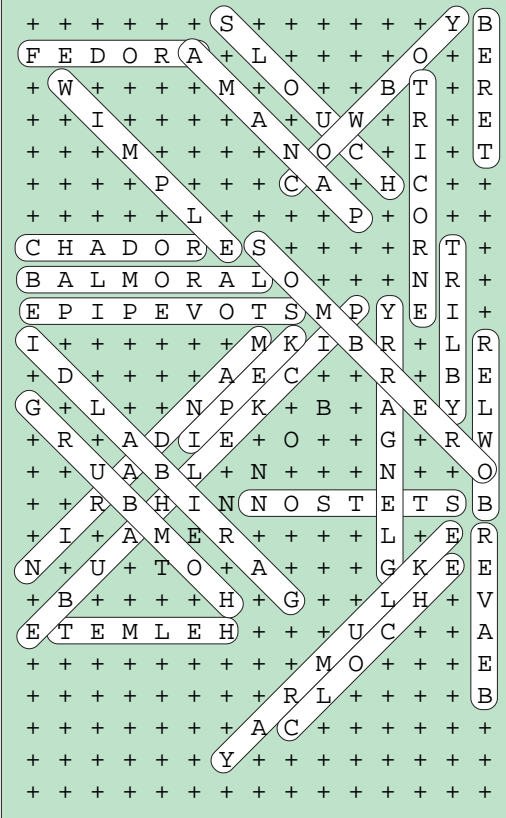
Rhyme Time Answers

1. Bake; 2. Fake; 3. Mistake; 4. Shake; 5. Lake; 6. Wake; 7. Drake; 8. Rake; 9. Partake; 10. Stomach ache.

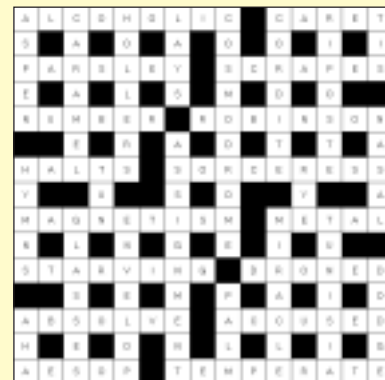
EZ Trivia Answers

1. Table Mountain; 2. Purple (the others are primary colors); 3. 604,800; 4. The Harry Potter books; 5. Searching the Internet; 6. An earthquake; 7. Off Sumatra; 8. Curfew; 9. Phnom Penh; 10. Sarasin and Thepkrasattri.

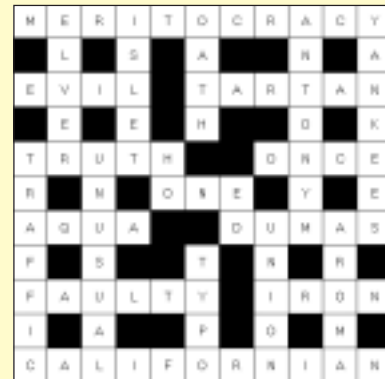
Hidden Words SOLUTION



Solution to this week's Cryptic Crossword



Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle



SWINGING SINGAPORE?

At last, after 30 years of my avoiding the city state, this book restores my faith in the Singapore character and gives me reasons to return," writes Paul Theroux in his blurb on the cover of Gerrie Lim's *Invisible Trade* (Monsoon Books, Singapore, 2004, 208pp), subtitled: "High-class Sex for Sale in Singapore". The cover photo is a beauty: a sultry Chinese woman seated in profile on a dimly-lit bed, attired in black corset, stockings and suspenders.

Swinging Singapore? What used to be the dull city in Southeast Asia is making strides lately. Its fashionable yuppie bars now stay open later than their Bangkok counterparts. And prostitution has always been legal, as in the brothels of Geylang, or at least tolerated as in the Orchid Towers complex, known as "The Four Floors of Whores".

Author Gerrie Lim's focus is on the high-end of the trade, the escort industry, and he provides a surprisingly sensitive profile of the women involved in this sophisticated and highly lucrative trade.

The book opens with a bang: "It's nine o'clock in Singapore, a typical balmy night in the tropics. Humidity hangs heavily in the air as Jasmine hails a taxi into town. It's time to go to work.

"She's going to strangle a man again."

The client is a steady customer, an expatriate executive from Japan. Jasmine is a Mongolian beauty who uses her long strong thighs to asphyxiate him into an immense orgasm.

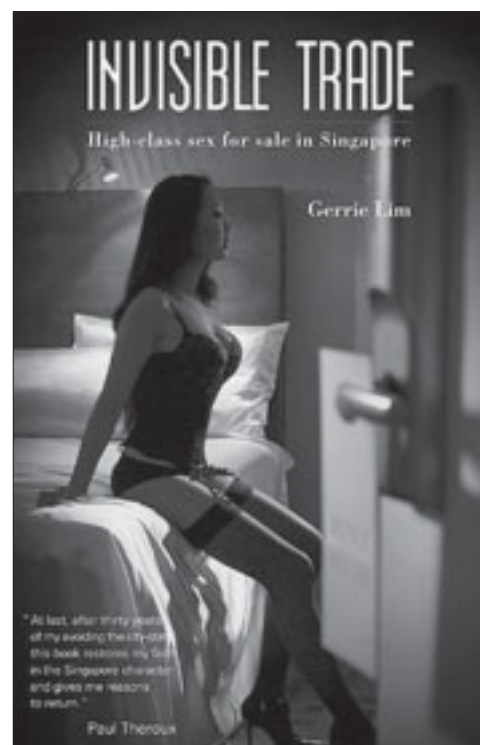
While he's naked, she normally wears jeans. "I can't wear any kinds of pants that can be slippery," she explains. "They have to have a grip."

Lim notes that there are 22 pages in Singapore's Yellow Pages advertising escort agencies. The girls come from all over the world, with a bumper crop from Russia and Eastern Europe.

"Most of the girls are extremely well turned-out," Lim notes. "Hair and makeup just right, backless halter dresses and skirts just above the knee. Swarovski pendants, Louis Vuitton handbags and definitely no gimcrack jewelry. Many of them are well-read and some are even students pursuing degrees in business administration and computer programming."

Blond-haired Svetlana, for example, is from Uzbekistan: "drop dead gorgeous and could be mistaken for a fashion model." Why does she do what she does? An awful lot of money.

"You would know if you had ever



been to Tashkent," she says. "I don't want to be poor anymore."

Still, they pay a certain price. Amelia is an Australian who has been, variously, a university student, catwalk model, brothel prostitute and escort. She tells Lim that there are three kinds of Asian clients.

"One is where they have a lot of guilt associated with being there in the first place, and they're very worried about

someone seeing them and losing face. They don't talk. They just have sex and leave.

And then you have the second level, where they have to go to certain parts of Asia to be seen with me. The third one is the type who falls in love with you – you know – the type that wants a girlfriend. Most of the time, I've had the type who falls in love."

She has never fallen for a client. "It's a continual problem. I have a lot of warm feelings for a lot of my clients. But there is always a line. I can love them for the people that they are, but no, there is a natural barrier."

Being a working girl, she admits "screws up your private relationships". Male gay escorts have no such emotional problems, Lim notes. Depersonalized sex comes naturally to them.

Lim concludes his book by returning to Jasmine, the "Mongolian Strangler", who has made a small fortune in Singapore to take home to Ulan Bator.

"It's an ironic situation, if not an entirely romantic one, but it sure is personal, spontaneous, clandestine and intimate," he writes. He quotes an American expatriate who says that nightlife in Singapore is like having a party with your parents in the house, and concludes:

"He clearly hadn't met Jasmine, who has already coerced the parents into the basement, slammed the trapdoor and thrown away the key."

Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

PHUKET DIARY

Until May 31. Live Blues at Joe Kools.

Every Thursday night is "Live Blues" night at Joe Kools based 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/Funk tunes and Mr Joe Kool himself: Tony "Chain-saw" Wilson. The Groove Doctors are the local talent that performed at the Phuket Blues Festival in February. We can heal ya! Music starts at 8 pm.

May 25 to 27. Nation Group's 36th Anniversary.

To celebrate the 36th anniversary of the Nation Multimedia Group (NMG), *The Nation* has joined forces with 12 leading business partners to take the public on a journey through Thailand's history, the present and the future. "Defining Thailand's Future" is a unique edutainment celebration with a state-of-the-art digital presentation of yesteryear, and a leap to tomorrow, taking place at Central Festival Phuket May 25 to 27 from 11 am to 6 pm.

The themes are The King, Politics, Urbanization, Brain Power, Lifestyles, Sports, Energy, Economy, Finance, How We Communicate, Farm & Foods, The Automobile, Happiness, and the Forces of Social Harmony.

For more information contact Wannaphen Silaphusith at Tel: 02-325-5555 ext 3413 or email: wannaphen@nationgroup.com



What's that buzzing noise? Must be Chainsaw Wilson at Joe Kools.

May 26 and 27. Phuket International Rugby 10s.

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

Two teams to watch out for this year, said tourney organizer

Patrick Cotter, are Aussie Armed Services, which will comprise players from the Australian Army, Navy and Air Force squads, and Devon RFC.

The coffin dodgers old boys' 10s competition will also be held during the weekend, as well as a welcome party, Tour Virgin Beauty Pageant and a fund-raising dinner.

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

June 17. Laguna Phuket International Marathon 2007.

The Laguna Phuket International Marathon 2007 looks set to build substantially upon the success of last year's inaugural event.

Organizers Go Adventure Asia are expecting 1,500 international runners from 40 different countries.

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

Upcoming events on the island

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

June 18. Phuket Sponsorship Clinic.

Seeking sponsors? Seeking an opportunity to sponsor? Looking to maximize an already sponsored opportunity? FREE! Phuket Sponsorship Clinic exclusively for *Phuket Gazette* readers at Trisara on Monday, June 18, from 9 am to 6 pm.

Call 02-622 0605/7 quoting "Phuket Sponsorship Clinic" to become eligible to take part in this exclusive offer.

For more information please see www.paul poole.co.th or email paulpoole@email.com

June 21 and 22. BIS presents *The Inspector General*.

The British International School's (BIS) Year 7, 8 and 9 drama students will present Nicolai Gogol's *The Inspector General* June 21 and June 22.

The play is a comedy of errors set in Russia and follows the tale of Khlestakov, a young man traveling to his parents' estate.

Through a situation of mistaken identity, the town believes he is an important government official and treats him as a dignitary.

How long can he continue the charade?

The performance will be held at the BIS main building auditorium and will begin at 7 pm on Thursday, June 21 and at 3:15 pm on Friday, June 22.

The play will last about two hours. Admission is free.

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ECC (Phuket) CELTA teacher training center is offering 40 hours of English study free of charge for beginners to advanced level. For more details contact Ms. Nui Tel: 076-214498 or email her at: eccpkt@ecc.ac.th.

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The Phuket Gazette
- Since 1994 -

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Washing the dog with expensive bottled water

While the power supply problems facing the new desalination plant in Karon will likely be overcome, reverse-osmosis (RO) technology remains an unnecessarily expensive option for Phuket in meeting its water needs. (see Inside Story, pages 4 and 5)

Despite advances in technology, desalination on the scale needed for municipal supply requires enormous amounts of energy.

When the first large-scale desal plants were built in Saudi Arabia, they were a good choice for a country with huge oil reserves and under 100 millimeters of average annual rainfall. Oil-powered power plants were built alongside the desal plants to accommodate their huge energy needs and to minimize transmission losses.

In stark contrast to Saudi Arabia, Phuket sits in the monsoon belt, where it enjoys some 2,500 millimeters of rainfall annually. With no generating capacity of its own, power needs to come all the way from Phang Nga, with huge losses along the way.

While the plant's pumps are state-of-the-art technology, the power grid on which they rely is anything but. As a result, REQ Water Services is in breach of contract for failing to produce enough water and faces stiff fines – despite paying millions of baht for electricity every month.

If the expensive-to-produce water is up to drinking water standards, as REQ claims it is, it should come as good news to consumers in Kata-Karon, where people could be spared the expense of bottled water.

REQ stands to collect 14.4 million baht in sales each month when it begins delivering water at the agreed volume – more than enough to recoup its investment costs and pay its astronomical electric bills. Such an expense to the government is justified only if the water is potable, yet there seems to be little initiative by the Phuket Provincial Water Supply (PPWS) to make it so.

Pure RO water lacks minerals, which is why producers of bottled drinking water, such as Minéré, add them after the RO process is complete. There has been no plan announced to deal with this problem or any of the others related to the treatment and distribution of potable water, concerns the PPWS has never before had to deal with.

Also, the agency has been pumping RO water over the hill to Patong, where it is mixed with water from Bang Wad reservoir and tin mines. This is the equivalent of using expensive bottled water to wash a dog or water the lawn. You would never do that with your money – but it seems the government is happy to. – **The Editor**

The Phuket Gazette

In association with The Nation Multimedia Group PCL

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Letters

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

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

Seriously, we really want taxes

It is time that the island imposed a modest property or estate tax on the ultra-expensive properties being built here.

It would be great if those funds were applied to our local schools to improve education or to fund a first-class vocational school oriented toward hospitality education. Another use for the funds might be to build an improved infrastructure such as better roads, reliable water and electricity supplies and a decent public sewage system.

Even a small annual 0.5% tax on property value would add incredibly to the island's ability to improve these things. My bet is that the wealthy property owners would not even notice the cost and would be happy to see such things done because they will eventually improve the overall value of their property.

But, as with all things financial here, if we want people to buy into the idea – we need complete transparency so we can be sure the money isn't silently slipping away into a bank account somewhere.

Let's do it.

Edgar Tiffles
Layan

Why can't Patong be the exception?

In the reports about "crack-downs" on bars caught serving after hours, one quote that rings in my head from the governor is that Patong cannot have special rules just because it is a tourist area. Why not?

Many of the tourists who are attracted to Patong come

there for the nightlife. It's no secret that there are bars where you can find a drink at 3 am. And that is why many people come!

There are many places in other countries where they allow some areas or cities to run on "special" rules. For example New Orleans, unlike most US cities, does not have an enforced open container law or a regulated pub closing time in its French Quarter district, a popular tourist spot. It may be the debauchery of Bourbon Street that keeps that city alive, and may bring it back from disaster.

I'm not suggesting that Patong become a lawless place and tourism business be above the law, but maybe relax some of the rules there to serve the main source of income – tourists. I hope that these rules are being enforced with good reason and not just to flex muscle.

Night Owl Traveler
Kata

Police need to use greater force

I am writing to express my admiration at the work of the police in dispersing protesters illegally occupying the palm plantations in Surat Thani. We could use some of this type of police work here in Phuket.

Why are mobs of people allowed to assemble illegally and then extract all kinds of demands from the authorities here in Phuket?

Why when a group of tuk-tuk drivers, squatters or people angry at the perceived misdeeds of the police get together and cause great inconvenience to the rest of us on the island do the police not use the kind of measures we saw in Surat?

A bit of tear gas and a few well-orchestrated baton charges may make the out-of-province squatters in Soi Phra Baramee 8 think twice before resisting the next attempt to rid the island of their illegally-built and unhygienic shanties. And a good thing too.

Would the laxness of the police here have been tolerated in the time of Sarit, Thanom and Praphas? I think not.

Thailand seems recently to have lost its stomach for keeping its populace in order. The decisive action taken in the battle of the palms was a welcome reminder of how policing should be done. I hope the people in charge here were paying attention.

Superintendent Jeremy
Stigwell
(retired)
Rawai

Trash season

From where I live I can easily see that low season is upon us. How do I know? The hotels and resorts along the beachfront have quit cleaning up the debris that washes up on the beach each night.

The small number of tourists in the area surely must have noticed and will probably make note to not return again next year at this time. Surely that's how "low season" remains the low season.

Come on! How much does it cost the resorts to have someone out there for a couple hours each morning?

And aren't these people freed up from some of their regular duties due to the fewer guests the resort has?

Get with it and start cleaning up a bit – and maybe high season will stretch a little longer.

Oskar Romello
Bang Tao

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

Comparing Phuket and Macau is a sure bet

This is my second visit to Thailand and my first to Phuket. I came to see how resorts and spas are run and how they manage their staff and foreign workers.

We have had a great expansion in the gambling industry in Macau starting in 2002 and there are many investors coming to open casinos.

The casinos need to build hotels to support the casinos and they need other services, such as five-star management, spa therapists, and food and beverage management. These are well-paid skills and this is my chance to see how operators here run their businesses. In Macau we are short of human resources and need to consider how best to bring in workers from outside the country.

Macau is a small city, our population is only about 500,000. In the workforce we have about 220,000 local people and 70,000 overseas workers – about a 3:1 ratio – so we have quite a shortfall of labor for all kinds of jobs.

We need people for construction, service industries, small and medium enterprises – and particularly in hotel management and staff. My visit to Phuket is an opportunity to see how businesses here deal with these issues. And, maybe, some of our employers can recruit people with professional skills from here.

I am observing how hotels and spas in Bangkok and Phuket manage their businesses. I have tried the spas in the five-star hotels and the smaller spas and compared the differences. The Banyan Tree and Hilton, for example,

FIRST PERSON

The expanding gaming industry in Macau has spurred a boom in casinos there opening hotels and spas to cater to staying punters' needs, leading **Ka Hung Shuen**, Director of Macau's Labor Affairs Bureau, to visit Phuket to see how businesses here are run. Here he explains the issues Macau faces with casinos and what Phuket might learn from the experience of the Chinese Special Administrative Region and gambling enclave.



are of a very high standard. The smaller spas don't have the nice environment of the resort spas.

Before the casinos we had low economic growth but now it is booming. Unfortunately, the casinos also bring some problems with them. Many of our citizens love to gamble and if they cannot afford it, it creates a problem for their families and our society.

Our government needs to invest in solutions for that problem. Macau has had casinos for more than a hundred years, so some people know how to deal with gambling. My father told me there was no future for me in going to the casinos, no future at all – so I stayed away.

We understand well that one might win a lot of money at a

casino, but one also might end up in great financial difficulty.

Not being from Phuket, I can't comment about whether Phuket should have a casino. But I don't believe that Phuket or the new casino in Singapore is going to compete with Macau as we have different kinds of visitors.

Macau's visitors mainly come from mainland China. I think Phuket's visitors come from Europe, the US, Thailand, Korea and Japan, but most are probably from Europe. Since we have different markets I don't think about competition, I think co-operation.

In about three years our growth rate will be in double figures and increasing. That rapid economic growth creates an opportunity for our people to increase their wealth – for the poor

as well as for the wealthy.

But this can also be a disadvantage to the casinos as the gap between the rich and the poor is increasing because people working for casinos can earn high incomes while those who do not remain at a low salary levels. While incomes continue to rise overall, the gap is increasing. Fortunately, the government has more money and can help subsidize the needs of the poor people.

I came here also to get some ideas about how to control the problem of illegal workers in Macau. Thailand has a good control system where people need to report to the Labor Ministry and some workers, through employment agencies, get training in their rights and responsibilities – and even some local language. One

problem with illegal workers is that they don't have insurance or rights, nothing at all. When I go back I will have to think about how to solve this problem.

In Macau, the first thing we need to do is to control the employment agencies there. Some people come from Thailand with only a tourist visa and they look for a job with these agencies. On the other hand, Thai employment agencies are certified by the government and I think in the future we can work with them to help place people in jobs. We want our overseas workers to come through the proper channels and have the proper training before they start their jobs.

For our overseas workers we have a very flexible policy. But we do have one major principle: if Macau doesn't have local workers for a job, we can put people from overseas in them. But those job placements should not damage the rights of our local people.

If our people, for example, earn 5,000 patacas, when you put people from overseas in those jobs they must be paid the same rate and all their benefits must be the same – so they don't force down the wages of our citizens.

Right now we have unemployment at 3.2 percent and that means we will have many more job vacancies in the future. We have 12,000 hotel rooms at present, but within three years our hotel rooms will increase to 30,000 to 40,000 – all five-star hotels. You can see that we will need some help.

*Compiled by
Semacote Suganya*

Another noisy karaoke bar

I live with my family near Rung Arun Karaoke, opposite Soi Thanuthep, on Chao Fa East Rd. They stay open every night until 1:30 am or 2 am.

Since it is merely a wooden hut, the loud music is generously distributed throughout the whole neighborhood.

My kids go to school early in the morning and deserve their sleep, as do all of the residents who live nearby.

I can't understand how the karaoke, being 800 meters from Chalong Police Station, is allowed to be so noisy and to operate so late.

Aren't there regulations about noisy businesses operating in residential neighborhoods, such as the obligation to sound-proof their premises, so as not to interfere with the neighbors' sleep and respecting closing times?

Chalong Resident

Issues & ANSWERS

**Want to know how to get something done?
Want to pitch an idea to Phuket's authorities?
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we'll ask the appropriate people to respond.**

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Techin Techawong, Administrative Officer at the Damrongtham Center provincial complaint center, replies:

Before issuing permits to entertainment venues, the provincial authority must inspect entertainment venues to verify whether or not they comply with entertainment venue regulations. If the venue disturbs people in the

neighborhood, people can file a complaint with the police.

The complaint must be filed in person, and should be accompanied with a document that addresses where the karaoke is located and how the late hours and related noise are affecting you.

We always keep an ear out for noisy venues that disturb other

people. If we find that the noise is too loud, we will notify the entertainment venue owner that he or she must decrease the level of noise being created or improve the building so that the noise is contained.

If the owner does not comply, he or she will be fined up to 1,000 baht per offense.

We thank you for informing us of the venue's closing hours. The law states that entertainment venues must close no later than 1 am.

If you would like, you can also send your complaint directly to Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit. The address is Administration Office, Phuket Provincial Hall, Narisorn Rd, T. Talad-yai, A. Muang, Phuket 83000.

For additional information, please contact the Damrongtham Center, at the Provincial Hall on Narisorn Rd, Phuket City. Tel: 076-211366.

Galloping bureaucracy

I have four horses I need to take to a stable near Bangkok.

I understand I need documentation issued by the Phuket Provincial Livestock Office (PPLO) in Phuket City to pass through the checkpoint onto the mainland, but every time I've gone to the office no one is there who can help me and no one is willing to make an appointment for me with the appropriate person.

Please, time is running short. Do I really need this document?

Christy

Veeraphap Termkiapaisarn, a vet from Phuket Provincial Livestock Office (PPLO) replies:

Yes, you need the document. Getting the right document is not complicated.

At the PPLO we have an officer on duty to issue livestock movement documents at all times during office hours.

KILLING PLUTO

Not long ago, the astronomical world was thrown into a cosmic tizzy when the International Astronomical Union demoted Pluto from a planet to a dwarf planet.

It compounded the insult by promoting the other planets to the rank of "classical" planets.

I interviewed the offended ex-planet at his icy home on the outskirts of the solar system:

Me: How does it feel to be downgraded after all those years of planetary glory?

Pluto: Crummy. Listen, I've been putting up with insults from you humans ever since Clyde Tombaugh discovered me in 1930. The first thing they did was name me after Mickey Mouse's dog.

Me: It could have been worse. They could have named you after Goofy. Or after the guy who discovered you. How would you like to be named Clyde?

Pluto: Don't even think about it.

Me: Actually, you're named after the Roman god of the underworld.

Pluto: Swell. That's all I need, to be named after some Italian gangster.

Me: No, I mean the metaphysical underworld. Hell. Hades. Where people go after they die. Pluto was the king of the dead in Roman mythology.

Pluto: Oh, yeah? Was he a good king or a bad one?

Me: Well, he was a grim sort of guy, which you might expect, since he was surrounded by dead people all the time. And he kidnapped Proserpina, the beautiful young goddess of the Spring, and forced her to marry him. So I guess you couldn't exactly call him Mr Sunshine-and-Light.



Pluto: There you go, they named me after some Gloomy Gus who was a kidnapper, a child molester and quite probably a pedophile. They're always doing stuff like this to me, and I've never done anything wrong. It's not as if I took steroids or anything.

Me: If you had, you might still be a planet.

Pluto: And then they not only downgrade me, they call me a dwarf! Isn't that politically incorrect?

Me: I believe so. Nowadays they probably call dwarfs "Petite Persons". They'll have to rename the famous Walt Disney movie Snow White and the Seven Petite Persons.

Pluto: I could handle being called a Petite Planet, or even something diminutive: a mini-planet, maybe, or a planetino, or a planetello. I'd even settle for "planetoid". Just don't kick me out of the planet family. (Begins to weep.)



Me: Hey, it's not all bad. At least they didn't call you a runt planet. At first they put you in a category called Trans-Neptunian Objects. When they realized how clunky that sounded, they called you a dwarf planet, which

wasn't much better. They've also coined the term "plutonian objects".

Pluto: So now I'm known as "the plutonian object Pluto"? Man, this just gets worse and worse.

Me: It's not so bad. They've created three categories: Classical Planets, Dwarf Planets and Small Solar System Bodies. That last category includes comets and asteroids. At least you're not one of them. And you're not the only dwarf planet. They've put the asteroid Ceres and the icy planetoid Xena in the same category.

Pluto (brightening): Re-

ally? Hey, Ceres and Xena are BABES, man! If I could just get out of this orbit they've locked me into, I could boogie with Ceres and Xena and we could beget a whole system of cuddly little planetlings.

Me (trying to cheer him up): See? It's not so bad. Now that you're no longer a planet, maybe you can work up a petition and get released from your orbit. Then it's off to the disco to rock and roll with planetary hot babes Ceres and Xena for Pluto, Stud King of the Dwarf Planets.

Pluto: Maybe. But whatever happens, I'm going to hire a lawyer and sue to get my planetary rights restored. If things get ugly, I will also sue to get the human race downgraded from humans to hairless apes.

Me (shocked): Woooo! You really know how to fight dirty.

Pluto: Why not? You humans have inflicted untold mental anguish on me. It's time for planets to fight back. If I can just get heavyweights like Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune in my corner we've got a real chance to strike a telling blow for planetary rights.

Me: Right on! I may be a hairless ape, but I'm with you, bro.

S. Tsow can be flamed at stsow@yahoo.com, except when he's wondering what it would be like to boogie with a dwarf planet. He thanks author Jake Needham whose novel Killing Plato inspired the title for this column.

In The Stars

TAURUS (April 21 – May 21): You realize that home really is where the heart is this week, as you will start feeling more comfortable with yourself and your life. If you're coming of age this week, a surprise visitor makes a special trip for your birthday. Your financial instincts are red hot until the end of the month; use this to your advantage.

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

CANCER (June 22 – July 23): Your goals take priority until the end of the month; woe betide anyone who tries to block your progress. After a slow start to May, you will be fueled by the desire to get ahead in both work

and your private life. Prosperity is in sight; expect a lucky financial break on Tuesday that should pave the way to the end of the rainbow.

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

VIRGO (August 23 – September 23): You could find it difficult getting down to basics, such as work, this week. If your head is in the clouds because of romance, ask yourself if being swept off your feet is worth risking your already shaky financial security. Business opportunities are waiting for you, but others will snap them up if you aren't quick enough. Number 7 is lucky on Thursday.

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

SCORPIO (October 24 – November 22): Finances continue to be positive, with a bonus forecast this week. Life looks upbeat; the only slight downside could come Monday when an argument at work could cause bad feelings. Romance is low-key, but you should be basking in the sunshine of self-confidence and enjoying your own company. Wear deep jungle green to encourage earthiness.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23 – December 21): Friends might ask too much of you this week. Your generosity needs to be nipped in the bud before others' expecta-

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I have come to love Thai television. Now, before you think I've lost the plot totally and suggest a course of strong pills, I do not mean to say I love it in the sense of enjoyment. I love it because much of the time it is so bad.

This is particularly so, as it is in most countries, with the soap operas – *lakhon* as they are called in Thai. An American commentator has noted, "It takes a rather special sort of person to follow soaps. You have to be highly intelligent (to understand them) and as thick as a brick (to want to)."

Thai soaps have the mysterious allure of that which is truly dreadful. They are about as varied as a Catholic priests' wardrobe and therefore completely predictable with a series of clearly defined "rules" governing the unfolding of these celluloid masterpieces.

The following is a checklist of an event or events usually found in a Thai soap opera:

First: There is the young male star and the young and extremely attractive and sweet female star. As in the best traditions of soaps – and before them, fairy tales – there is the evil half-sister and grasping stepmother.

Second: Following on from the above, there's the nice girl who falls for the charming snake and winds up pregnant. This is indicated by numerous visits to the bog to throw up.

Her best male friend, a young handsome man who happens to have only half a testicle and has been in love with the young girl since they played doctors and nurses together at the age of four, finds out and offers to take care of her and the bastard sprog when it finally hatches.

She, through a wall of tears and recriminations, rejects his

Like wet cement through a garden hose

fumbling advances. Her friends, really a pair of fair-weather types, soon realize she has a bun in the oven and can't stop whispering the news all over town.

Third: All the good-looking stars, both male and female, will be driving the latest model Benz Showoff or BMW Blastaway. Most make their living as models, although the occasional feature journalist, magazine editor or photographer gets a guernsey.

Fourth: There will be at least half a dozen visits to hospitals to check out the results of sundry traffic accidents, the odd shooting/stabbing or severe illness induced by eating an infected plate of *somtam*.

Fifth: If there is a proximity to water, either a sludgy *klong* or the ocean, then any number of female characters will fall out of vessels as varied as canoes to rowing boats to luxury cruisers or they will simply "slip" off a make-shift bridge or set of steps. Occasionally, these "slips" are inten-

tional, the accident-prone female hoping the male of their desire will rush to their rescue.

Sixth: In order to propel the plot, most of the actors will spend some time in each episode talking to themselves.

This may happen in the privacy of their own room or home, but quite often takes place in a flash toilet or at the table in a posh restaurant.

Seventh: Important characters always manage to be in a position to overhear key conversa-

tions they can use to their own advantage. This plot propulsion technique will happen at least once per episode.

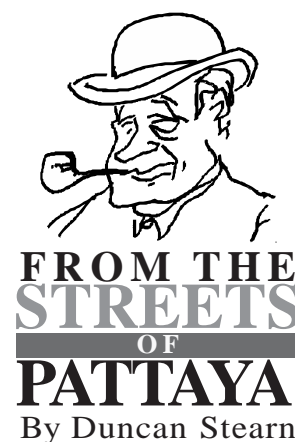
Eighth: Crying and screaming are keys to what passes for a plot. According to legend, a Thai movie maker was in Hollywood and asked a prominent American filmmaker what were the essential ingredients for a successful movie or TV series. The American replied, "You need a good screenplay."

The Thai supposedly mis-

heard this advice, thinking the American had replied, "You need a good scream play." Anyone who has watched more than five minutes of Thai TV will know this misheard advice has been taken completely to heart.

My girlfriend, aka She Who Is Always Dismayed, finds vicarious enjoyment in the soaps, but is sensible enough to recognize them for what they are, and points out Channel 7 produces the more syrupy sickly-sweet lovey-dovey soaps while Channel 3 goes in for the more violent versions.

It's no wonder so many foreign men living with Thai ladies in Pattaya spend their evenings nursing alcoholic beverages in the many hundreds of beer boozers spread the length and breadth of Fun Town.



by Isla Star

tions get out of hand. If you've been entrusted with a secret, beware of spilling the beans on Sunday when Scorpio starts to probe. The number 5 is lucky on Monday.

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

AQUARIUS (January 21 – February 19): Some much needed fun is on the agenda. Accept invitations to venture into new social circles and you won't be disappointed. Saturday is forecast to be a rewarding day, and you could easily be admiring the sunset with an attractive new companion. Early next week is an auspicious time for making

money, but do not to make impulsive decisions.

PISCES (February 20 – March 20): More focus on the home is indicated this week. If you're not content with your living arrangements, now is the time to search for alternatives. Leo has good tips for fresh locations, but Cancer has only self-interest at heart. Problems with children need to be addressed before they intensify; setting firm boundaries is recommended. Wear sunshine yellow to promote harmony.

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








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Chomping at the Bit

I recently gave a talk at the Rotary Club of Patong Beach. Although my presentation focused on Windows Vista, the next version of Windows, questions covered a wide variety of issues. In this column I'd like to recount some of the more interesting ones.

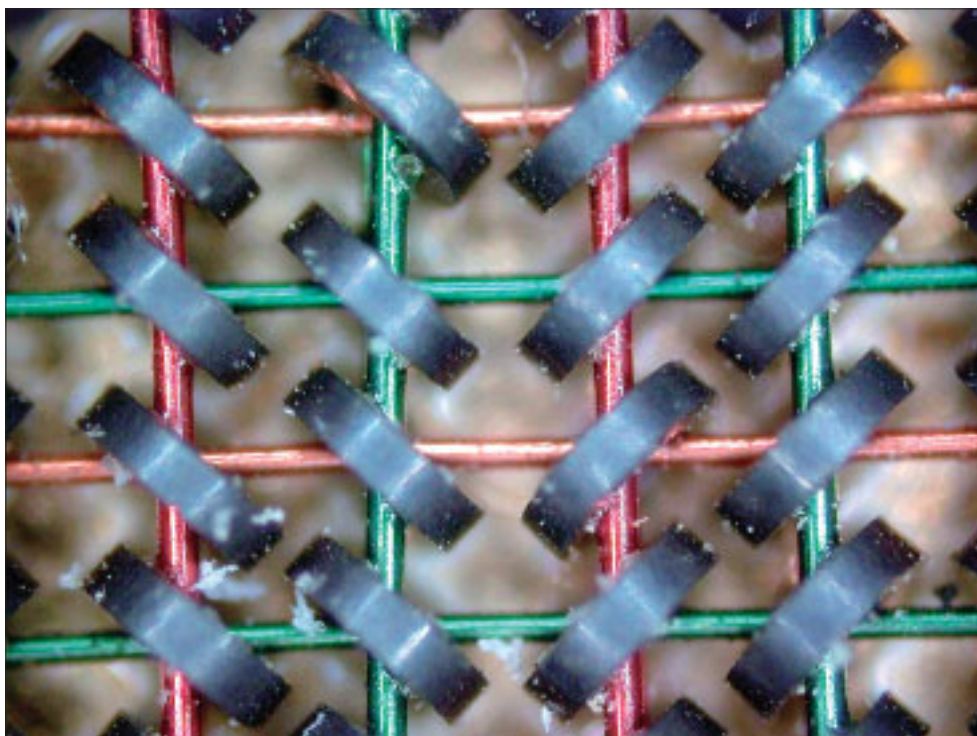
One Rotarian asked me about the difference between a bit and a byte. The word bit was coined in 1947 as a shortened form of binary digit. Give or take some semantic skulduggery, a bit is simply a 1 or a 0: if you see a number like 11010011, it's just a bunch of bits.

Fifty years ago when engineers started creating computers, they found that they could reliably store and retrieve "on" and "off" magnetic states in round pieces of iron: each round core held a single bit of information.

Even today, most computers store and retrieve 1s and 0s – which is to say, they work with bits, even though iron core memory disappeared with the dodo. CD-ROMs use pits for bits (really). Rewritable CDs use a dye.

Bytes are just a handy way of dealing with bunches of bits. Although there are exceptions, for most people and on most computer systems, a byte is eight bits. If you like, you can think of a byte as being roughly equivalent to a character: traditionally, in Western languages, each character of text was stored as a single byte.

To get a feel for how much information a byte contains, consider that the current edition of *Encyclopedia Britannica* consists of about 300 million characters, or 300 megabytes (300MB). By contrast, the latest point-and-shoot cameras take pictures that occupy 3MB, so 100 pictures on your hard drive take up as much room as the 31-volume text of the *Encyclopedia Britannica*. To look at it another way, an HDTV copy of the latest episode of *House* is about 350MB.



Magnetic core memory, circa 1960, magnified 50 times. Each round piece of iron can be magnetized in one of two directions, which are interpreted as 'on' and 'off' or 1 and 0.

Bits and bobs: Bits and bytes get particularly confusing when you talk about Internet access speeds. I'm very, very careful in this column to always talk about Kilobits per second – thousands of bits per second – when speaking of Internet upload and download speeds.

If you look elsewhere, you will frequently find references to "K bytes" per second or "M bytes" per second. Most confusing of all, some places the abbreviation Kbps means K bits per second, and other places means K bytes per second.

In this column Kbps means K bits per second. There's a big difference. A good dial-up connection, for example, runs at a very leisurely 50Kbps – good enough to download email as long as there aren't any big attachments. Many ADSL lines in Phuket poke along at 30 to 40Kbps. If those same lines were chugging away at 30 to 40 Kilobytes per second – 240 to 320Kbps – I wouldn't hear nearly as many complaints!

One visitor asked me about Internet connections through Sin-

gapore – currently, both Island Technology and TOT route ADSL service through Singapore. Obviously, everyone wants to know if access through Singapore is faster or more reliable than the access through Bangkok that the rest of us receive. I don't have any empirical evidence, but all of the anecdotal evidence I've heard shows no advantage to the Singapore connection.

Way of the DO: I have three tales to tell about CAT's EV-DO card. For those of you who haven't read my raves (or don't believe them), the EV-DO AirCard from CAT delivers a reliable 400Kbps or faster download speeds from almost everywhere on the island.

The card's expensive (13,000 baht) and it's obsolete (Sierra Wireless declared the AirCard 580 at the end of its production cycle in December), but it works – truly a godsend for anyone who needs fast, reliable Internet service and either can't get or don't want CAT's expensive (2,600 baht per month) but very fast (1,400 to 1,800 Kbps) ADSL line.

First, one reader successfully set up a wireless router and connected it to the Internet with the DO card. The trick? They

plugged the DO card into a laptop, connected the laptop to a Linksys wireless router with a cable, turned off the DHCP server in the router, and turned on Windows XP's Internet Connection Sharing on the laptop. I've asked the reader to write about his experiences in detail, and hope to get his first-hand story to you folks soon.

Second, I have just received a note from a reader who bought a Linksys WRT54G3G router in the basement of Big C. The WRT54G3G, you may recall, is the wireless router that uses CAT's EV-DO card instead of a plug-in-the-wall ADSL Internet connection. For many of you, it's the holy grail of wireless access – stick your CAT-supplied AirCard 580 into this wireless router, and all of a sudden you have a fast Internet connection that can be shared with any computer that speaks WiFi.

But there's a teensy-tiny problem.

According to Linksys's online chat-style support (which I found to be very efficient and knowledgeable), the Linksys WRT54G3G router doesn't work with the Sierra Wireless AirCard 580. The folks in the basement

of Big C who are selling the WRT54G3G don't appear to be aware of the fact that the hardware they're selling doesn't work in Phuket. At least, Linksys says it doesn't work with the only EV-DO card available in Phuket.

According to Linksys online support, the Linksys router that works with the Sierra Wireless AirCard 580 is model number WRT54G3G-ST. The "ST" is important. Vital, in fact. If you buy a WRT54G3G, without an "ST", it'll work only as a boat anchor. In Phuket, anyway. Caveat surfor!

Third, a bit of good news... a friend of mine, who bought an AirCard three months ago, walked into the CAT office to pay his bill. When you buy an AirCard, you're automatically given three months of free service. His three months were up. He was astounded to discover that the "free" period had been extended an additional two months, with no effort required on his part. Amazing.

Bene Vista: There were lots of technical questions about Windows Vista at the Rotary meeting and how well it works. In my experience, Vista's very stable – but some drivers and a few programs still don't work well.

If you have Windows XP Service Pack 2, and your computer's working fine, there's no reason at all to move to Vista, unless there's some Vista feature that you absolutely must have now. Wait until you buy a new computer, and then make sure you get Windows Vista Home Premium – not the "bait and switch" Vista Home Basic, or the more-expensive and less-capable Vista Business.

If you're worried about getting a new Vista computer to work with your existing network, you can rest easy. From what I've seen, Vista fits into existing Windows XP/Windows 2000 networks slick as can be. Wireless networking support, in particular, works like a champ.

The peripatetic life: I'm off to HOFEX, a big food/baking expo in Hong Kong this week. While there, I expect to spend more than a little time haunting the halls of Mong Kok computer center. I'll let you know if I find any interesting new hardware, and see how prices compare both with Singapore and with the discount houses in the US.

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

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EMERGING MARKETS

For the brave and patient

The world of investment offers so many choices that investors naturally find it difficult not only to select what types of investment but also which asset managers to use.

Many people make a very basic mistake when it comes to selecting a portfolio manager; they want to feel "safe" so they often choose a "brand name".

This is a good approach if one is buying a car, television and so on, but does not work when choosing a portfolio manager. The illusion of security in selecting a huge asset manager is just that: an illusion. All asset managers are essentially equal when using a fund approach. They use a common platform.

It is irrelevant if the investor is selecting a US mutual fund, UK unit trust, or a Luxembourg UCITS, they are all highly regulated, use custodian banks to hold the assets and their auditors will almost always be one of the "big four" global accounting firms.

What is really important is the skill of the portfolio manager – as the size of a fund can become a problem. If a large financial institution is managing for example 17.5 trillion baht, how can it manage these assets at a very high performance level?

The real answer is that they have probably outgrown the ability to manage the process. They are usually more than content if they can match the performance of the index in which ever asset class they select, for example the S&P 500 or FTSE 100 (the "Footsie"). Investment regulations require that an asset manager "benchmark" their performance against an index wherever possible.

In reality, fund managers



Eastern European economies – the picture shows Sofia, capital of Bulgaria – are a common component of emerging market funds. And if McDonald's is already there, it must be a good bet, yes? Not necessarily. Photo by Konstatin

find it difficult to even match index performance. In the case of the S & P 500 and the FTSE 100 index only 20% to 25% of managers can beat the performance of the index in any given year and to outperform an index on a consistent basis is rare.

Therefore, when one comes across an asset manager that not only beats an index on a consistent basis but does so with a wide margin this obviously makes an impression.

A good example is the Driehaus Emerging Markets Fund, a Chicago-based fund that, since its inception on January 1, 1997, until March 30, 2007, has beaten its benchmark indexes quite handily. The two indexes, the MSCI (Morgan Stanley Capital) Emerging Markets Growth and the MSCI Emerging Markets over the same period returned +131% and +151% respectively versus the Driehaus fund returning 469%.

When an asset manager outperforms to this level it bears investigation. The period under review, beginning January 1, 1997, was not an auspicious time for emerging markets; the Asian financial crisis of 1997 was only six months ahead. Combine this with torrid financial markets in the early 2000s and overall it was an often testing period.

This fund is independently assessed by Lipper Hindsight as the number one fund in emerging markets over the past 10 years. Over the past year, it is number six out of 170 funds in its sector; on a five-year view it is rated number seven of 103. The fund returned 18.2% annualized over 10 years and 33.22% a year over the last three years. These returns are compounded annually, on a level annual yield this would equate to around 45% per annum.

The fund is delivering consistency, though consistency is not usually apparent in emerging markets. This is a sector for the brave and the patient. Overall it is improving in quality and many emerging markets are buoyed by underlying strong economic growth.

MONEY TALKS



By Richard G. Watson

Asset allocation on a global basis is currently around 50% in Asia (just over 1% in Thailand) and the other 50% (approximately) is invested in other areas such as Eastern Europe, South America, Africa, the Middle East, and strangely, even North America and Western Europe are included.

Strange, but understandable, a fund manager often finds it easier to purchase a Russian share or similar asset via a New York or London listing.

VAM, a Luxembourg group, is extending its links with Driehaus including the highly

successful VAM/Driehaus US Small Cap, US Micro Cap and International Growth (ex-US) funds. They have removed the previous managers of those funds and installed Driehaus as the managers.

All the funds are domiciled in Luxembourg and are EU regulated. The Fund Manager is Driehaus Capital Management LLC and the Custodian Banker is VP Bank. Ernst & Young are the auditors. For more, see www.vam-funds.com

The discipline of the Driehaus approach is the key to its success. It does not make for exciting reading, but it is by using this investment discipline that Driehaus has so outperformed benchmarks – and its competitors.

Driehaus has a unique approach to investment; every company in which they invest is researched for three separate criteria. The first criterion is termed "Objective" and covers accelerating sales and earnings, desirable supporting fundamentals, positive earnings surprise and news.

The second criterion is termed "Security Timelines" and includes positive price and volume trends, good relative strength and increasing institutional interest.

Lastly, "Subjective" screens for high earnings quality, attractive industry developments, changes in the investment environment and sustainability in earnings growth.

Driehaus will only buy a stock when all three criteria interconnect. Wherever any of the three are no longer present, Driehaus will sell the holding – thus is their investment discipline.

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.t

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ON THE MOVE

Phuket native **Dr Chanin Vinyoopradit**, 57, has been appointed Manager of the Physicians Department and Manager of the IT Center at Bangkok Hospital Phuket. Dr Chanin has a degree in science and a Doctor of Medicine (MD). He has 30 years of experience in the medical profession, including 26 years in the General Surgery and Vascular Surgery department of Huachiew General Hospital, where he spent 10 years working in the IT Department. Before returning to Phuket, Dr Chanin worked at Nakornthong Hospital in Bangkok.



Sombat "Sammy" Wasikarn, 34, from Phuket, has been appointed Office Manager of Kai Tak Furnishing Co Ltd. A science graduate from Phuket Rajabhat University, K. Sombat is better known as the Studio Line DJ on 88FM, where he has been a DJ for 15 years. He has also been Shop Manager for both Phuket outlets of fine chocolate purveyor Duc De Pralin Co Ltd, and has served as General Manager of airport advertising company Finet Co Ltd.



Nataya Anudit, 54, from Bangkok, has been appointed Chief of the Phuket Provincial Employment Services Office. She holds degrees in management from both Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University and from Rajamongkol Institute of Technology, both in Bangkok. K. Nataya has nearly 32 years of experience in the employment service sector, and has been the Chief of the Employment Services Offices for Buri Rum, Ubon Ratchathani and Prachuap Khiri Khan, where she was Chief before moving to Phuket. See also main story, below.



Hotel labor shortage as young spurn low jobs

By Sangkhae Leelanaporn

PHUKET: Although job availability in Phuket continues to remain at a high level with more than a thousand vacancies across various sectors waiting to be filled, many candidates are unwilling to fill them because they consider themselves to be overqualified.

Nataya Anudit, the new Chief of the Phuket Provincial Employment Office (PPEO), told the *Gazette*, "This generation does not want to take the traditional path of working from entry level up to higher-level positions. Instead, they want to fill upper-level opportunities as a result of their higher level of education."

"But they lack a critical component essential to many of these positions – experience in the relevant field," she said.

"In the tourism industry, most employers are looking for a few experienced candidates to fill upper-level management positions; people who can communicate in English and are knowledgeable of computers."

"However, these employers are primarily seeking candidates to fill lower-level positions, including wait staff, landscapers, housekeepers and general maintenance staff," K. Nataya explained.

"Phuket needs high-school graduates, or people who have continued on with higher education, to fill these lower-level positions," she said.

K. Nataya suggested looking abroad to fill these vacancies. "One measure we can take is to sign memoranda of understanding with neighboring countries in order to increase the labor pool available," she said.

In the manual labor sector, the cost of living in Phuket is deterring domestic migrant labor from moving here to work. "Jobs are still available year-round in the rubber industry and I have tried to work with the Provincial Employment Offices in Isarn to relocate workers to Phuket."

"But many people there think that the likely wages for jobs in rubber are insufficient to cover the higher cost of living here," K. Nataya said.

"The issues here are quite different from those in Isarn. Unemployment rates in Isarn are consistently higher than in Phuket. While Phuket struggles to fill a large number of positions, this is still more desirable than having a large labor pool with few [jobs]," she said.

Secrets of effective sponsorship revealed

PHUKET: Leading independent marketing consultants Paul Poole (South East Asia) Co Ltd will hold a free workshop on commercial sponsorship and partnership marketing, at the Trisara resort on June 18.

Delegates will be shown how to identify opportunities for sponsorship hidden within their own businesses, and how to maximize benefits from the perspective of sponsors and rights holders.

Paul Poole (South East Asia) Co Ltd is a leading independent marketing consultancy based in Bangkok, specializing in commercial sponsorship and partnership marketing, working with both rights holders and brands – bringing them together and maximizing the relationship.

The consultancy has packaged, sold and managed sponsorship and partnership opportunities for a wide range of rights holders. They have been responsible

for sourcing and engaging the right sponsorships and partnerships for many of the world's leading brands.

The consultancy represents a number of Phuket events, including the Laguna Phuket International Marathon, Evason Phuket Race week, the Phuket International Marine Expo (PIM-EX), the Phuket Invitational "Superyacht Rendezvous" and the upcoming F1 UIM World Championship Grand Prix.

Eight *Gazette* readers will have a free, one-hour consultation with Managing Director Paul Poole. The free slots will be allocated on a first come, first served basis exclusively to *Phuket Gazette* readers, who should call 02-6220605-7 quoting "Phuket Sponsorship Clinic" to register.

For more information call 02-6220605-7 or 086-5633196, Email: paulpoole@email.com or visit www.paulpoole.co.th

VITAL STATISTICS: INTERNATIONAL PASSENGERS UP 39%

March 2006	March 2007	Change
International passenger (total)		
154,219	213,608	+ 38.5%
Domestic passengers (total)		
258,662	314,803	+ 21.7%
International Aircraft movements		
1,095	1,593	+ 45.5%
Domestic Aircraft movements		
1,426	2,068	+ 45.0%

Source: Phuket International Airport



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By Scott Mallon

Khmers kicking their way back into boxing

Whenever I meet or see a person in Cambodia who is around 40 or older, I find myself wondering if they were part of the genocide that occurred some 30 years ago.

I don't dwell on it or I'd go crazy but the thought is always in the back of my mind.

The people in the country are surprisingly open and friendly though, considering all they have been through and it is the sort of place that slowly takes you over. It's an odd place for sure but there is a sliver of normalcy squeezed in between the chaos.

In the last few years though the country has finally started to show signs of progress. The main streets have had the much of the garbage removed, there are casinos sprouting up and Western Union has finally made it possible to obtain any needed replenishment of funds.

Cambodia though is a poor, little thought of country. It is known to the world as a place where pedophiles prowl for children virtually unimpeded, backpackers come in droves for cheap hotels and sightseeing, and Thailand-based expatriates come to renew their visas.

The mainstream martial arts community often overlooks this impoverished, far-away country and focuses more on neighboring Thailand.

During the reign of the Khmer Rouge, traditional Khmer boxing was banned from being practiced and slowly began sliding into oblivion. Now, however, the martial arts scene in Cambodia is experiencing a comeback and is returning to its pre-Khmer Rouge status.

Basically there are three martial arts that are well liked and widely practiced in the country. The first two are Wushu and Tae Kwon Do and the last and most popular is traditional Khmer boxing, known by a variety of names such as *sovanna phum* (Golden Village boxing), *badai serei*, *kun borran Khmer* or simply kickboxing.

Cambodians vehemently dislike the term muay Thai as in their opinion muay Thai originates from Cambodia. Either way it's extremely difficult to verify so I choose not to get in the middle of this dispute.

There are approximately 75



Two Cambodian boxers battle it out in Phnom Penh

gyms sprinkled throughout the country with many of the best fighters coming from Koh Kong.

The gyms are generally poorly equipped though and many of the fighters often do not have money to eat. Yet despite it all, they fight on. Each week there are three to four fights in Phnom Penh and countless others in the countryside. Fans come in droves to watch them.

Tickets to any of the weekly fights range from 40 cents to about 90 cents. Ringside seats for under a buck, imagine that. If you are lucky you may even get in for free. Granted, the quality of the fighters is not always the greatest but the fights are entertaining scraps, at times looking like schoolyard brawls.

Cambodian fighters favor the use of elbows, which often makes for exciting, bloody bouts, but while their level of skill is rising, they still have a long way to go to match the refined technique of the Thais.

By Western standards however he leads a frugal existence; no fancy cars, no big house and no entourage.

His is a simple life, one that most Westerners cannot begin to fathom. Instead of obtaining wealth, he achieves notoriety.

The average fighter is lucky to make US\$15 to 20 per fight and as is the case in most countries, rarely do they make a living exclusively from boxing.

Most Cambodian fighters are students or motorcycle taxi drivers and have a hard time making ends meet. Yet they fight on for the sheer love of the sport.

At this point, it's too early to tell what the future of Cambodian kickboxing will bring.

The Cambodian public is always hungry for a good fight and with the help of two TV stations (Channel 5 and CTN) and sponsors such as M150, Nestle and Carabao Daeng, Cambodian kickboxing is on the mend.

It will take money, equipment, food, sponsors and marketing to bring out the very best of the Cambodian fighters and only time will tell if this can come about. Kickboxing in Cambodia has a long way to go but it's come a long way already and is gaining speed.

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

World sailing event heads for Phuket

PHUKET: Between 60 and 80 Tasar dinghies are expected to fill the waters around Phuket during the 13th Tasar World Championship, from July 2 to 11.

Tasar boats are 4.5-meter long dinghies crewed by two people. Combinations of a man and a woman or parent and son or daughter are not uncommon.

The eight-day event will



Tasar dinghy.

be centered around the Cape Panwa Hotel, where the 200 or so sailors, officials, family and friends will be staying.

Tasar is also an officially recognized race class by the International Sailing Association Federation.

The race in Phuket is organized by the Phuket Yacht Club with assistance from the Ao Chalong Yacht Club.

In a press release the organizers explained that Phuket was chosen for the competition because, "The Southwesterly winds in July are ideal for a world championship, and the waters off Cape Panwa are open with clear winds."

For more information contact Robert Warnes at 081-5399560.

Last howl of the Coyote

PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

PATONG: The big news of the week was the announcement by Freddie that the Coyote Bar will be dropping out of the league, with immediate effect.

Freddie reckons it has become just too much of a hassle to get a team together every week, provide all the catering for home matches, and all the other requirements.

He also noted that the location, small size and layout of the bar make it hard to hold matches there. The last straw came when only two players turned up for a recent home match.

All points from games will be extracted and all games scheduled to be played against them will be counted as "byes".

Please note that the league table below does not include the Coyote point extraction.

In last week's matches, Offshore maintained its lead with a close 2-point win on the road over second-place Dog's Bollocks.

Now in second place are Shakers, who have recruited some of the best players in the league including Raymond (formerly Coyote, Queen Mary) and Hans (formerly Queen Mary).

The new lineup was strong enough for them to easily capture two points on the road against

struggling defending champs Piccadilly by taking five singles matches. In the other matches Beach House took all three points from Valhalla as did Queen Mary against Coyote in their last league match, although the points from that match will be extracted, as mentioned above.

In that match, Billy and the two Steens all hit 140s to share the high score for the night.

Send match info to: darts@phuketgazette.net for inclusion in this article.

May 8 results: Piccadilly* 3 Shakers 6; Dog's Bollocks* 4 Offshore 5; Coyote Bar 3 Queen Mary* 6; Beach House* 6 Valhalla 3 (* = winner of beer leg).

Standings: 1. Offshore (13 pts.); 2. Shakers (11); 3. Dog's Bollocks (10); 4. Queen Mary (7); 5. Beach House (6); 6. Coyote Bar (5); 7. Piccadilly (4); 8. Valhalla, Simply Red (2).

May 22 matchups: Dog's Bollocks v Valhalla; Piccadilly v Simply Red; Beach House v Coyote Bar; Queen Mary v Offshore; Shakers = bye (home team first).

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Phuket beats Pattaya in 'Ryder Cup'

PHUKET: Local golfers won the 8th biennial Pattaya-Phuket Ryder Cup competition held at the Burapha Golf Club in Pattaya in a repeat performance after winning the previous match held in Phuket in 2005.

There were six matches on each of the first two days of the team competition. On the first day, Pattaya outplayed Phuket with score of 4 to 2. Phuket edged out Pattaya on day two with a score of 3.5 to 2.5. But it was all Phuket on the final day with 12 single matches, as the players won 9 to 3 – returning the cup to Phuket with an overall tournament score of 14.5 to 9.5.

The faceoff is held every two years between the Pattaya and Phuket Golf Associations and alternates venues. This year's tournament took place May 2 to 4 with 14 golfers on each team.

"This is our second consecutive win and if we take the next event we get to keep the cup.

The main objective of Phuket-Pattaya Ryder Cup tournament is to strengthen the relationship between our two cities and encourage the exchange of business and tourism," President of the Phuket Golf Association Prachuab Subcharoen told the *Gazette*, "I'd like to invite people to play more golf. It helps promote tourism and brings money to Phuket – we'd like to promote Phuket as a golfer's paradise. Although it seems the cost of playing golf here is high, compared to other countries it is quite a bit cheaper. Since the tsunami many more golfers are coming here.

"There are golfers coming from Europe, Australia, Scandinavia, America, and many players from Asia including Taiwan, Singapore and China. Korean golfers are some of the top golfers coming to Phuket now. Phuket's five courses are sufficient to support the players – but they are quite full during high season," he added. – **Janyaporn Morel**



WINNERS! Jubilant Phuket players celebrate trouncing Pattaya.

Samudra back with a blast



La Samudra on her way to winning the Racing class of the Top of the Gulf Regatta.

Photo by Mark Haswell

By Chris Husted

PATTAYA: David Lindahl's *La Samudra* returned to competitive sailing by winning the Racing class of the 4th Top of the Gulf International Regatta off Jomtien, Chon Buri, from May 1 to 5.

La Samudra scored a third place in the regatta opener, then blitzed the fleet with four consecutive first places to go into the final race with an unbeatable lead. *La Samudra* scored fourth place in the final race, and the crew knew that result could be discarded to give them a net score of 7.

David Pollard's *Foreign Exchange II* and Pascal Leray's *Breakaway* both finished on 11 points in the class. However, *Breakaway* was relegated to third place overall on a count-back.

The win was the second in a major regatta for *La Samudra* this year. The first was top honors in IRC 1 class at the Langkawi International Regatta in February.

The win also affirmed Lindahl's intention to remain in competitive sailing. Doubts had been circulating since he suffered head injuries from falling down an flight of stairs late last year. He was in a coma for 11 days, and spent nearly three months in hospital, *La Samudra* helmsman Niels Dgenkopf told the *Gazette*.

La Samudra consequently was not entered in last year's King's Cup Regatta. "After the win in Langkawi, David was not feeling so well so we did not race in the Phang Nga Bay Regatta [in February] either," Dgenkopf said.

"It's good to see him back," he added.

Dgenkopf confirmed that Lindahl will race on *La Samudra*, which is based at Yacht Haven Marina, in the Koh Samui International Regatta from May 27 to June 2 and in Phuket Race Week from July 19 to 22.

In the Platu Coronation Cup, held as part of the Top of the Gulf Regatta, long-term Phuket resident and skipper of the defending national Platu champion crew Scott Duncan on *The Ferret* won the first race and third in the following two races, but placed fifth and sixth respectively in the last races of the class to finish fifth overall.

Vivat Poonpat on *Naiad*, in contrast, rallied back from eighth place in the regatta opener to finish with two first places, one second place and two third place finishes to win the class.

More than 350 sailors took part in the annual regatta, not including nearly 100 kids sailing in the Thailand Optimist Nationals.



READY, SET, HAVE FUN: Students from the British International School, along with friends and family, take off on a 5 kilometer fun run to raise money for the school on May 13.

PHUKET: A total of 250 British International School children, teachers, parents and friends participated in the annual 5 kilometer Fun Run on May 13 to raise funds for building the school's basketball court cover and shade for the tennis court.

Students on rollerblades,

scooters and bicycles also joined the fun, and everyone was invited to join a cookout after the run.

Results: Adults: 1. Hugo Jones, 2. Debbie Jones, 3. Nick Botting.

Primary Students: 1. Jonas Johansson, 2. Elena Breschi, 3. Thomas Breschi.

Secondary Students: 1. Koushi Ueda, 2. Yu Yu Komine, 3. Jae Seong Park.

Rollerbladers: 1. Milan Svoda, 2. Maxine Lukas, 3. Warocha Pimcomrie.

Cyclists: 1. Mitch Brundle, 2. Joshua Henthorne, 3. Manisha Lama.

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Construction Update

by Janyaporn Morel

Another piece of the Mai Khao jigsaw

The new apartment development The Reef sited on 8 rai of land fronting Mai Khao Beach has begun site clearance and CEO of The Reef's local developer Terra Forma Co Ltd Dr Suchon Jittanonta told the *Gazette* they will begin construction in August. The project is expected to be completed by September 2008.

The Reef will be a 44-unit apartment complex built with modular design combining one- and two-story units in each of four buildings, said Angus Keeling, Director of Phuket Property Hunter, The Reef's sole agent.

"Our project has been marketed in Singapore, Hong Kong, Dubai, London and Scandinavia. We had the soft launch on March 22 in Singapore with about 1,500 people in attendance.

"We have a lot of people interested in the project and are very happy with the way it's going.

"People who have bought units have recommended us to their friends and they too are in-



Sunrise, sunset: The Reef apartment development is built around nature on the Mai Khao beachfront, residents can enjoy breakfast with the sunrise and dinner with the sunset (pictured above in a computer-generated image).

terested in the property as it is a good value," said Mr Keeling.

Of the 44 units, nine have been reserved. Mr Keeling said that attractive points of the project are that every unit faces

the beach and its spacious design.

"Our design has very high ceilings and wide terraces. The living room ceiling height will be three meters for the single-story units and six meters for the two-

story units. All of them will have floor-to-ceiling doors that fold back to fully open the unit to the beachfront," he said.

The Reef offers four types of two-bedroom units: two each in one- and two-story configurations. Apartment sizes will range from 147 to 197 square meters. Each rooftop unit will have its own private rooftop garden and plunge pool. Prices range from 14 million baht to 22 million baht.

"The number of units on each floor depends on the configuration of the specific apartments. There are 11 units in each block but each building will have a different mix of apartments. The idea is to give a unique form to each building.

"The specifications for the property are up-scale and because of the unique modular configuration, each block will have two elevators. They will go directly to each apartment, allowing privacy and easy access for the residents," Keeling said.

"Our landscaping has been designed in a way that will provide different perspectives at different times of the day. People who choose an apartment with a rooftop area will be able to enjoy their breakfast looking at the sun

rising and their evening meal watching the sun setting. The focus is on nature.

"The modular contemporary design is a combination of forms and we will soften the look of the buildings by the use of waterfalls and landscaping. We will have many water features so people can enjoy the outside area – water is a relaxing element and the sound of running water is very calming for people.

"The IndoChine group will provide estate management and the apartments will be sold as freehold for up to 49% of the property and leasehold for the balance, according to the Thai law," he said.

Mr Keeling added that, although this is Terra Forma's first project, its architectural firm Dhevanand and construction management company Devacon Co Ltd have been involved in many projects in Phuket, elsewhere in Thailand, and abroad.

For more information please contact The Reef, 14/10 Moo 3 Sri Soonthorn Rd, Cherng Talay, Thalung, Phuket 83110. Tel: 076-383881, 086-906 0166, 083-1050008, 085-061 3269, or visit www.thereefphuket.com

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Design

by Semacote Suganya

Rooms that work



Casual elegance flows seamlessly throughout the designs used in the four distinct living areas of the spacious guest rooms at the 151-room Hyatt Regency Phuket on Nai Yang Beach, scheduled to open in late 2007 or early 2008.

Fergus Stewart, General Manager of the new hotel, said it is one of two Hyatt properties the international hotel management chain will run in Phuket. The second has yet to be formally announced. Hyatt has two hotels in Bangkok and another at Hua Hin, along with other projects in the works in Chiang Mai and Samui.

Work on the property began under the name Phuket Peninsula. The building's main foundation and main structure was already complete when the owner decided to bring in Hyatt International and run the property as a hotel and spa resort. Hyatt then brought in its own people to complete the construction and oversee the interior design.

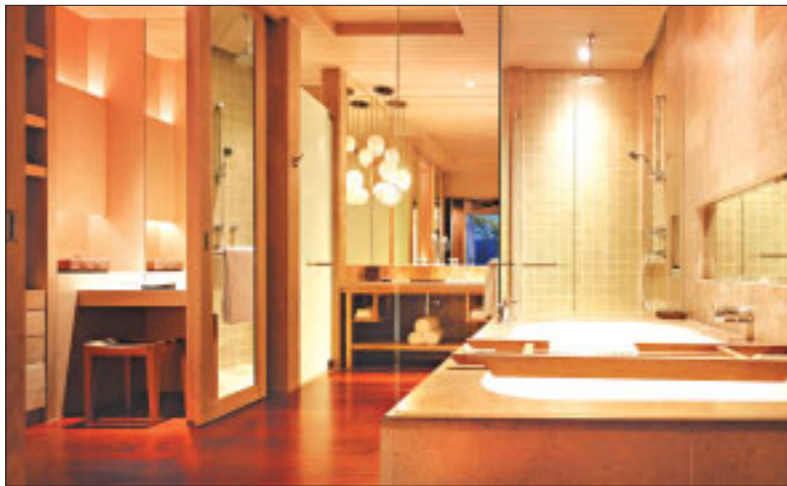
Diane Simpson Designs, a Sydney firm that specializes in hotel interiors, designed the guest rooms as well as the resort's nine large spa rooms. The designer has more than 25 years' experience and has worked on a wide range of city and resort hotel projects throughout the Austral-Asia Pacific region, Stewart said.

Guest rooms at the Hyatt Regency Phuket will be large, most with 60 square meters of space – yet they may seem even more spacious than that.

"The wood ceiling will give the feel that you are in nature. We want the feeling quite soft and not too dark. We know people are going to spend a lot of time in their room, so we want it as comfortable as possible. What we have tried to do is create four different living areas," said Mr Stewart of the prototype guest room.

The selection of textured stone and warmly colored timber extend from the bathroom through the bed and living areas and out onto the terrace, softening the line between interior and exterior spaces.

Subtle changes in color and texture define each area while carrying the space on to the next function. A glass wall between



Designs for the luxurious Hyatt in Phuket: Top left, bedroom, top right, balcony; above, the huge bathroom.

the interior and terrace allows a visual field of textured-stone wall to carry from the room out to the terrace and over the plunge pool – drawing the eye with it and giving a sense of continuity and space.

The comfortable private living space stretches out onto the terrace, which features a sofa and plunge pool large enough for seven people. "The idea is you can sit on your own balcony unseen by any other rooms and jump in to your own small private pool to enjoy a cocktail or glass of champagne," Mr Stewart said.

The interior of the room uses dark wood floors to create visual depth, while the walls change in color, texture and dimension to define the separate areas.

Changes in the form of the ceiling continue the theme, further defining the living space into four distinct areas from above – much as the floors do more subtly below. The end result provides a satisfying large room feel – but with intimate interior spaces to serve different functions.

"The bathroom is very much a living area, very spacious, with a rain shower, plenty of cupboard space, a large sink area for a lady to put make-up on and a walk-in closet. Our bathroom is almost the size of a bedroom," he added.

The sitting area includes a mini-bar, a counter to work using the hotel's wireless Internet access and a small table for informal dining while enjoying a panoramic view of the bay.





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Gardening

by Bloomin' Bert

Flame isn't just about fires; it's one of those words that's used all over the place. You can have a flaming row with your wife. She can be "flaming impossible".

Mind you, I haven't actually heard that expression used for real since the late '70s, to be fair. It only tends to be uttered by self-righteous types who avoid profanities by coming out with phrases like "blinking heck".

Then there are the flamers. This term could well describe a gentlemen who has a bit of a penchant for the color pink, walks around with a sweater draped over his shoulder (arms possibly loosely tied at the front), carries a chihuahua dog around, prefers the company of his own gender and possibly calls himself "Bunny". For once I'm trying to be politically correct here. I think I'm failing miserably.

It can equally refer to an alcoholic drink. Isn't a flaming sambuca some kind of licorice-tasting concoction consumed by drunken young ladies from Essex who have drunk the bar dry of Babycham?

Those of a geeky persuasion will perhaps spend many hours in front of their computers on those message board web-

Flamboyant and friendly

sites, exchanging witty and incisive remarks with their geeky online friends. It's weird that anyone who doesn't quite agree with anything that they have to say is immediately branded as a flamer. Apparently.

Trees aren't known to burst into flames, although they do say that in Australia regular forest fires are a natural part of the life cycles of the ecology of some areas – and that these fires do the plants and trees there a lot of good.

You need more than a little imagination to see spontaneous combustion in trees here in Phuket – several bottles of Heineken would probably help too. (By the way, Mr Phuket Heineken rep – how many times do I need to mention your product in these weekly ramblings for you to drop off a case or two at the *Gazette* offices?) You've got to try.

Back to the flame tree. It's one of the most spectacular trees you'll see on the island. Officially known as the royal poinciana it somehow symbolizes the dry



Flamin' 'eck, it's one a them Royal poinciana trees...

season here in Phuket with its vivid blooms of orange and red. I don't think anything in the flowering tree world can quite equal a royal poinciana for sheer gaudiness during full bloom. It's actually a bit of a show-off, to be honest.

The royal poinciana is a decent-sized tree that spreads branches out horizontally like a

giant umbrella. There's no point in chucking this one in a pot on your balcony – it needs a fairly large open space so that the crown can spread out comfortably. Expect 15-meter heights and spreads of 20 meters plus.

It's also one of the fastest growing trees around, shooting skyward at a rate of about a meter and a half per year until maturity. It's tolerant of a wide range of well-drained soils from acidic to alkaline and from loamy to gravelly, and is fairly salt-tolerant too. Just as well, really. It's probably best to provide protection from strong winds though, as the branches tend to catch wind like a huge sail. It does well in sunny, dry locations without too much baby-sitting.

The tree's grayish-colored bark is smooth and the feathery, fern-like leaves are twice-pinnate. In normal English, that basically means that each leaf is made up of leaflets that grow in two rows along a stem, and the leaflets themselves are composed of smaller leaflets that grow in the same way.

The blossoms are seven- to 10-centimeters across with five wide sepals (petal-like flower coverings) and five petals. The

sepals are red inside, yellow on their curling edges and green outside. The petals are usually red, but occasionally one petal may have yellow stripes or a yellow splotchy bit.

At the base of each petal is a long, claw-shaped structure. The flowers develop into flat, dangling seedpods that are up to 60cm long. These pods turn dark brown as they mature and remain on the tree for a year or more. In some areas the pods are gathered and used as fuel.

This impressive tree does have a few negatives, though: branch and twig drop, messy pods, fine leaves that clog gutters and pool pumps as well as causing stains. The tree's shallow roots grab extra water; lawns and other plantings can have a bit of a rough time trying to grow under the tree, as it casts quite a heavy shade. Perfect for sitting under with a beer, but not so good for other plant life.

Watering may cause leaves to remain on the tree longer, but too much disturbs the bloom cycle and causes a scattering of blooms over a longer period. Irrigated trees may also develop root rot and have decay problems. You'll need to prune carefully (if at all) as the soft wood rots fairly easily.

The flame tree is even known as the "flamboyant" in some parts of the world – as it's a blatant show-off, it's probably a bit of a flamer in its own right. Were it human, it would probably be a flaming sambuca/Babycham-drinking Essex girl rather than "Bunny" though. It's a little large to drape a pink sweater around it.

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



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While the practice of architecture and design requires innovation, experience and technical knowledge, it should not require the arcane practice of mind reading.

Whether you are building your dream home, a small residential project or a large-scale development, a comprehensive design brief for your architect is the cornerstone of achieving what you set out to accomplish.

Providing clear directives at the onset ensures the concept is well understood. It streamlines the design development, saves money in redrafts and minimizes changes once construction starts. Change orders are the most common way construction goes over budget, so it is well worth the hours spent drawing up your project while it is still on the architect's drafting table.

Starting from scratch can be a daunting task, so let's walk through some steps. Write down your objectives, whether is it a four-bedroom, three-bathroom house with a pool or a 40-unit upscale villa project. Then list in detail what the design characteristics are, such as a general style and key themes or elements.

List some references or benchmarks of designs you like or even small signature items from other projects. This allows a broad understanding of expectations while giving the designer leeway to innovate.

For private homes, provide a profile of who will use the property. Will it be for a young family of four or an older couple? What are their likes, dislikes and special needs? For residential developments, create an anticipated customer profile, including key characteristics of the buyers or end users. One key rule of architecture is that form follows function, so understanding who you are designing for greatly affects the plans.

With that in mind, it's important to do a site analysis from the ground up. Don't focus only on the land on which you will build, also look at the access, views, infrastructure and usage of the surrounding land.

Let's say you have a wonderful view and the land in front of you could be sold and later developed. Your view may suddenly become the back of someone's house, so intelligently addressing this before you build is far less costly than tearing down your home and starting again. Water, electrical and telephone considerations are also important and will reflect in planning for costly items such as deep wells, rainwater collection tanks, transformers and drainage.

Next, list the facilities re-



Costa Lanta on Koh Lanta shows that design can be both functional and innovative.

Designing for success

quired. Do you want two bathrooms or three? Will the carpark be for one car or more? Take the time to put together some typical sizes. Will 40 square meters be needed? Or will 20sqm be sufficient?

Providing at least general sizes is critical when presenting a project to your designer, as knowing the house size at an early stage allows you to determine if the size of your pocket book matches the project budget.

Listing the items you consider essential also helps the designer. Do you want two washbasins or one? Will there be built-in closets or a walk-in closet? Do you watch TV in bed at night? If so, instead of having a glass wall window in front of the bed, this requirement will be considered and reflected in the design.

The designs also interact with mechanical and electrical systems, such as air conditioning. For example, having ceiling fans in all rooms requires a minimum ceiling height. How many electrical outlets and TV outlets are required? Though the detail of this seems overwhelming, the last thing you want to do is arrive in your new house and realize there is no plug for your stereo on the veranda.

The last step is to look at special systems that might be required, such as Wi-Fi, audio or smart home systems, security alarms, and energy management, including water recycling. Many of these are significant costs and it is best to determine their cost effectiveness and integration into the design early in the game.

So there you have it. The

work doesn't start the day you walk into an architect's office and ask for your dream to be drawn up. Providing a detailed design brief sets yourself to get the project you want at the price you planned.

PROPERTY WATCH

By Bill Barnett



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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Price reduced to 6.5 million baht. Furnished 1-bedroom, 1-bathroom condo with 2 separate balconies, move-in condition, and freehold ownership. Quiet spot in the heart of town! Elevated, unobstructed panoramic view, 100 meters from Patong Beach. Shops, dining, banking...steps away. Pool, indoor parking and 24-hr security and reception. A rare chance to secure a one of a kind location! Call Tel: 087-2761225, 081-6927397. Email: patong15@gmail.com

RAWAI LAND FOR

sale. Near mainroad, seaview land plot, 5 rai, water, electricity. Tel: 081-8151636.

WATERFRONT

condo at central Karon Beach, corner unit with seaview. 9th floor, 167sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, Unit#9D. 12.6 million baht. Contact Tel: 081-4084991.

SHADY RETREAT

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

RAWAI BEACH

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

CHEAPEST BEACHFRONT LAND!

1.6 million baht per rai. Will sell from 5 to 22 rai. Contact for additional details at email: admin@thaisunshine.developments.com

NEW LUXURY PENTHOUSE

Beautiful panoramic ocean and sunset views over Patong Bay. Large living room and balcony.

2 bedrooms, 2 en-suite bathrooms. Fitted kitchen, aircon, ceiling fans. Includes private roof terrace.

Total area: 245sqm.

Also includes lift pool and private covered parking. Price: 12.9 million baht.

Tel: 087-8879070.

Email:

ianscondo@yahoo.com

CHEAP LAND FOR

sale. 10.7 rai, 1km to British International School, NorSor 3 title. Urgent sale at only 1.7 million baht per rai. For more info. Tel: 089-7298365.

VILLA/PRIVATE POOL

Nai Harn. 3 double en-suite bedrooms, large private terraces, infinity edge pool, mountain views, double parking. Shingle roof with makka wood, granite, marble. 9.2 million baht. Call Tel: 086-6845368 or bisop5@yahoo.co.uk

CALIFORNIA VILLA

3-bedroom house for sale. Corner plot, many extras, asking 3.2 million baht. Very nice. Tel: 089-8751154.

PHUKET PALACE

condo. New re-fit, fully-fitted and furnished. Large swimming pool with waterfall, car parking. 3.6 million baht. Tel: 087-2650118. Email: ant_p_clark@yahoo.co.uk

SELL HOUSE,

3 apartments. 1st floor: 3 rooms, 50sqm. 2nd floor: 5 rooms, 80sqm. Jacuzzi, 3x40sqm garden. 3 million baht. Live in one, rent other two. Urgent! Nai Harn. Contact Tel: 084-4454614.

CONDOMINIUMS

18 luxury condominiums in Pasak, Cherng Talay. Coming soon! Please email for more information and details. Email: info@skylinephuket.com

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Prices from 7,9 Million Baht

Property Gazette

HOUSE FOR SALE



Patanatongthin Rd, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 1 living room, kitchen, garden. Tel: 081-0916680.

IMMACULATE VILLA



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

200 METERS TO THE BEACH

New! Worth 5 million baht. Quick sale to best offer over 4 million baht. Please contact Tel: 089-7830494, 081-0837354. Or via email: jimcox007@msn.com

SHOPHOUSE SALE/ RENT URGENT

New, fully-furnished, corner unit. Sell: 3.6 million baht. Rent: 12,000 baht per month. Contact for details. Tel: 076-248639, 081-5376439. Email: orapar@hotmail.com

LAND IN NAI YANG

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

4 RAI FLAT LAND

Chanote title, square land, access from 2 roads. 2km from Heriones Monument. 500m from mainroad. Price: 6.8 million baht. Call Tel: 084-0577505.

SEAVIEW LAND PLOTS

Bang Tao. 3-phase electricity, top sea view. Starting at 3.9 million baht. Contact us for additional details. Tel: 086-267-0157, 089-5903665. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

NEW HOME NEAR BEACH



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

HOUSE & LAND PACKAGE



Beachfront on Andaman Sea. 193sq wah on Naka Island. For more information, please contact K. Pu. Tel: 081-6777914. Email: wut@tarntarasp.com Visit our website at www.phuketnakaisland.com

3-STORY SEA VIEW

Includes 6 rooms, 2 balconies, 4 bathrooms. 9.7 million baht. Roof with Jacuzzi. In Rawai/ Nai Harn. Tel: 085-7955383.

HOUSE IN KATHU

Close to golf club, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Must sell due to relocation. 1.5 million baht. Please call Tel: 087-2705514.

LOCH PALM GOLF

Loch Palm golf course. 4 bedrooms, fully-furnished, 8-meter pool. Comes with a long-term tenant if required. 24-hour security, close to schools and amenities. Tel: 601-22926511. Or email: steve.miller@pactotal.com.my

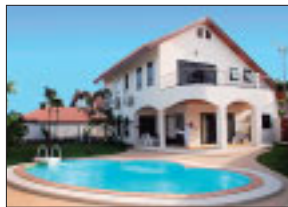
HOUSE FOR SALE

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

NEW HOUSE FOR SALE

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

DREAM HOUSE FOR SALE



Dreamhouse 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

885SQM PLOT IN

Bang Tao, 1.79 million baht. 3-phase electricity, road. Nor Sor 3 Gor. Ready to build. Contact me for further details. Tel: 089-5903665, 086-2670157. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

Beautiful Sino-Portuguese house in the center of Phuket City for sale. Already restored, ideal for restaurant, guesthouse or business. Tel: 081-9700121. Email: tikky2@mac.com

BUILDING FOR SALE

5.2 million baht. On Kata Beach tourist street, 260sqm floors with 2 bathrooms, 1 kitchen. Tel: 081-6936386. Email: kata_shophouse@yahoo.com

NEW MODERN HOUSE

for sale in Kathu. 3 bedrooms, en-suite bathrooms, living room, kitchen/dining, laundry room, set around large patio/veranda. Walled garden. Private parking. Close to golf courses, British International School. 9 minutes to Patong. Price: 4.5 million baht neg. Tel: 084-8439579. More info at email: somsrij@aol.com

SPA & RESORT

37 million baht. A peaceful place of 3 rai, 900sq wah in Ao Nang, 9 villas of Thai-Bali style, blissful open-air bathtub, tropical garden, herbal steam & Jacuzzi pool, international restaurant. Tel: 081-4236906. Email: sunsetap@ji-net.com

KOH YAO YAI

2 rai, 1 million per rai, Chanote. Water, electricity, close to the beach. Tel: 081-8928208.

HOUSE WITH POOL



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

85SQ WAH SHOP-HOUSES IN TOWN

Best location for apartment/showroom. Price: 24 million baht. Please contact us for information. Tel: 081-3707795, 089-4708519. Fax: 076-367161. Email: navalak@yahoo.com

KRABI LAND

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

HOUSE FOR SALE OR

rent. Located on Chao Fa Rd near Khao Khat viewpoint, 76 square meters, 2 bedrooms. Master bedroom is fully-furnished with aircon. Restroom with hot water. Rent: 5,500 baht per month. Sell: 1.2 million baht. Please contact K. Jeab for more information. Tel: 084-6890760 or via email: a_manasanan@hotmail.com

SEAVIEW HOUSE

2-bedroom house with large swimming pool and European kitchen in the best area in Patong "Baan Suan Kamnan". 17.5 million baht. Please contact Tel: 086-2706454, +44-778-9995522, 089-4727588. Email: djjudges@hotmail.com



Surin Beach - Modern Seaview Apartments for sale

Within 100 metres of the beach, no sqm. of living space. One bedroom, living room, European-style kitchen, fully furnished, air conditioning, hot water system, home security system, internet connection, television and satellite TV. The price starts from 6.5 million baht for the first-floor apartment. Please contact Ann 66 81 868 7676

NEW 95SQM

bungalow. 2.8 million baht. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, carport, 210sqm land. Please contact Tel: 086-9518140, 081-5383821. Email: info@1nj.de

PATONG TOWER

for sale/rent. 1-bedroom modern apartment, best location, beach road. Tel: 084-8473304. Info and photos at www.selectphuket.com

KATHU HOUSE

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

TOWNHOUSE 4 FLOORS

4 aircon units, nice furniture, large kitchen. Also with mini-pool. Price: 3.9 million baht. Please contact for more information via email: samwithness@yahoo.com

POOL VILLA IN NAI HARN

New, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, European kitchen. 5.5 million baht. Please call Tel: 076-288047, 081-8941660. Email: cottrell@loxinfo.co.th

ATTRACTIVE HOUSE FOR SALE

in secure and desirable development. 3 bedrooms (2 en-suite), 3 bathrooms, 2 floors, living room, verandas, kitchen, garden, laundry room, study, garage, ADSL, UBC. 6.9 million baht. Call for more info at Tel: 084-8439579. Email: somlerdee@yahoo.com

BANG TAO BEACH GARDENS

New luxury 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom apartment. 125 sqm. Full leisure facilities. Near beach. Low monthly maintenance charges to include wireless Internet and satellite TV. Ground floor corner unit. 9.9 million baht. Tel: 084-6304068. Email: devbottles@yahoo.co.uk

FOREIGN-OWNED

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

NEW HOUSE FOR SALE

in Phuket City. 2 bedrooms & 1 bathroom. Price starts from 1.49 million baht. Please call Tel: 076-221595.

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Property Gazette

BEACHFRONT LAND FOR SALE



1,125sq wah, 30x130 meters with NorSor 3 Kor, Sukorn Island, Trang. Price: 1.6 million baht. Please contact via Tel: 084-8516845. Or email: odo_jp@hotmail.com

RAWAI BEACH HOUSE

Recently modernized, 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom townhouse for sale with gorgeous sea views, just meters from Rawai Beach. There is a large 1st-floor terrace at the front of the house, off-road parking for 1 car, and a balcony at the rear. The bright and airy living/dining area is very large. As a bonus, there is a spacious attic room. Price: 3.3 million baht or nearest offer. Tel: 02-5097872, 081-5118201. Fax: 02-5097874. Email: ben@LDSK.com

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

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

SEA VIEW FOR SALE

10 rai, 3 ngan, 800m from Nai Thon Beach, good road. 7 million baht per rai. Please contact Tel: 089-7298365.

POOL VILLA FOR SALE

New, 4 bedrooms, 5 airconditioners, living room, kitchen, garden, fully-furnished. Contact Tel: 084-8516121.

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

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

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

DESIGNED BY YOU

New project by a Phuket local. Good location for privacy. Design your dream home. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-5372655. Fax: 076-525063. Email: kwan_1905@hotmail.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. Tel: 089-9728544. Email: av58phuket@yahoo.com

PATONG BAY GREAT SEA VIEW



A stunning beauty. Art deco house in Baan Suan Kamnan. One of the best, most quiet, green, clean and safe neighborhoods on the island. Located on a hillside at the south end of Patong. A large and tall house on a top location. Overlooks the bay of Patong in the daytime and you can enjoy the lively Patong scenery in the night time. Enjoy the views from a distance and have a look at our webcam. Tel: 086-786-6350. Fax: 076-345273. Contact via email: buumanb@hotmail.com For more info please see our website at www.patongbluepoint.com

LAND FOR SALE

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

NEW HOUSE

for sale. 4 bedrooms, 3 living rooms, big kitchen, open plan, great value. Sale by owner/builder. Tel: 076-280440, 086-6831964. Contact email: franklee200@hotmail.com For further details and information, please visit our website at: www.chalonghouse.4t.com

POOL HOUSE IN

Rawai. New house, furnished. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, 4 aircon units, alarm system, sala, 8m x 4m pool. Terrace in 2 levels, walled garden and parking. Includes company papers and Chanote title. 5.8 million baht. Tel: +45-24-419447. Email: bo@motto.dk

PATONG LAND FOR

sale. Chanote seaview land near Merlin Beach Hotel. 13 rai. 8 million baht per rai. More info at Kalim seaview restaurant. Tel: 081-6766214.

WE BUILD YOUR HOUSE

90sqm bungalow for 990,000 baht. 145sqm two-story house for 1.39 million baht. We build you any style of private home or commercial buildings in any location on Phuket. Contact JN-Tech Co Ltd - German Construction. Please contact for info at Tel: 076-322015, 084-8528234. Or via email: info@1nj.de Visit website: www.1nj.de/e-index.html

Properties For Rent

BYPASS TOWNHOUSE FOR RENT

4-story, unfurnished townhouse, opposite Lotus on Bypass Rd. 37,500 baht per month. Please call for a visit. Please contact for more information and details. Tel: 081-9707951. Email: pattawat@holidaysiam.com

KATHU LARGE HOUSE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 aircons, European-style kitchen, telephone line, garden, etc. Close to international school & golf course. Secluded, private road. Long term rental. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-323663, 089-8752532. Fax: 076-323663. Email: paulstrong23@hotmail.com

PALAI, GREEN HOUSE BIG GARDEN

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

184SQ WAH HOUSE

located on Mae Luan Rd, near Rang Hill for rent as office, spa, restaurant or house. Please contact for more info via email: romeplace@hotmail.com

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

NEW HOUSE

in Kamala. Small, 2 bedrooms. 8,000 baht per month. Close to the beach. Please contact Tel: 081-8928208.

RAWAI/NAI HARN

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

RUSTIC HOUSE FOR

rent in Rawai. Available in May. Rent: 7,000 baht per month, minimum 1 year. 2 bedrooms, living room, office, kitchen, bathroom, cable, ADSL. Please contact for additional info. Tel: 081-9560257.

PHUKET B.L. APARTMENTS

New in Kathu. Big room, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, garden, carpark. 8,000 baht per month. Call Tel: 081-6923163.

RAWAI BEACH VILLA

Furnished, 2 bedrooms, 4 aircons, ADSL, UBC. 20,000 baht per month. Please Tel: 086-9408914. Or email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

NEW CHALONG HOME

Furnished, 2-bedroom home for rent with telephone, UBC, and aircon. Please contact for details and pricing information. Tel: 089-6521473.

ROOMS FOR RENT

Wi-Fi, aircon, cable TV, safe. 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 083-1061099. Visit our website: www.villapatong.com

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.

BEACHFRONT CONDO

Kalim area, Patong. High standard. Fully-furnished, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, pool, many facilities. Call Tel: 081-8920038.

HOUSE FOR RENT

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, big living room, big kitchen, 2 sets of furniture, telephone. Near Surin and Bang Tao beaches, contract for 1 year or more. Tel: 089-2883047.

HOUSE FOR RENT

Near Central, 4 rooms, kitchen, bathroom, sat TV, 2 aircon units, ADSL. 9,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information and details. Tel: 081-8916036. Or via email: phuketgazette@siaminfo.com

HOUSE RENTALS

Wide selection of house rentals for long and short term. Rawai/Nai Harn land and house for sale from 700,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-8486139. Email: justin@lastparadisephuket.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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Property Gazette

BIG HOUSE FOR RENT

3 big aircons, bedrooms fully-furnished, no fence, beautiful garden, near Chalongs Bay. Price: 30,000 baht per month includes electric + water. Call Tel: 081-8924311.

HOUSE IN KATHU

for rent. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully-furnished, 3 aircons, hot shower, UBC, telephone. Long-term rent: 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-5371515, 089-9222800.

100SQM STUDIO

for rent. Furnished, overlooking lake, golf course and Kathu valley. Beautiful views. Private and quiet location, pool, internet, UBC. Long-term rent: 16,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-2698492.

BIG HOUSE FOR RENT



Soi Ruam, Nana Chart. Saiyuan Rd, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, big garden, telephone line, ADSL, 5 minutes to Nai Harn Beach, long-term rent only. Price: 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-215367, 081-5351570.

HOUSE IN TRANG

for rent. Beautiful new house, Pak Meang beachfront, 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. Call Tel: 087-3840864.

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. Call Tel: 084-8450541, 081-8914561.

3-STORY SEA VIEW

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

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. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-7371687, 086-5869821.

LUXURIOUS VILLA

3-4 bedrooms, sat TV, Internet, big pool. Call Tel: 084-8516121. Email: phuketmat@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

near Heroines' Monument. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, cable TV, ADSL. 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-2778461.

BEACHFRONT CONDO

Kalim Patong, high standard. fully-furnished, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, pool, many facilities. Tel: 081-8920038

HOUSE WITH BEAUTIFUL VIEW

House with big terrace and view over fields with elephants. Modern-style 2 bedroom + 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

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. Please contact for more information. 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.

CHALONG HOUSE

near Palai beach, quiet, 2 bedrooms, aircon, 1 bathroom, fully-furnished, carpark. Contact for more information at Tel: 089-7288311.

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 please email: hans_lange@hotmail.com

SEAVIEW APARTMENTS

for rent in Karon & Patong beaches. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-4912496. Email: bluewaterphuket@gmail.com

3- TO 4-BEDROOM KATHU VILLA

for rent. Pool, 4km from BIS, lake, golf and valley view, quiet on a private hill. Gated with security guard + maid. 2 luxury Thai-style villas for rent at 300sqm each. All amenities in top-class surroundings. Internet, UBC, yearly lease at 65,000 baht per month. Please contact Tel: 087-2698492.

RENT SEAVIEW HOUSES IN RAWAI

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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.



Best Western Premier Bangtao Beach Resort & Spa is currently inviting applications from highly motivated professionals for the following positions:

1. Restaurant Manager/Supervisor
2. Bar Manager/Supervisor
3. Bartender/Bar Trainee
4. Waitress/Waiter

All applicants should have a minimum of 2 years' experience in the related field and also a good command of English is a necessity. For the positions 1 and 2 the applicant should also possess strong leadership skills and being able to work individually and as a part of a team. We offer competitive salaries and a comprehensive training programme.

If you are outgoing, energetic, customer focused Thai individuals, who possess a natural flair for hospitality, creativity and passion for work, please submit your resume, salary expectation and a current color photo to jobs@oceanresortgroup.com or

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ENGLISH TEACHER

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SALES & OFFICE

staff. 3 sales & marketing positions, 1 office accounts/secretary, good command of English required, must be computer literate, have own transport. Please contact for more information. Tel: 083-181-4072. Email: nancy_phuket@yahoo.com

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reps. Looking for sales reps for time share industry. Require a minimum of 2 years' experience and references. Farang okay. Email resume first. Contact. Tel: 081-1371001. Email: solitude001@aol.com

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Kajonkietsuksa school requires native English teachers for kindergarten level (4 positions). Please email your resume or contact Tel: 076-264770. Fax: 076-26 4773. Email: kajonkietsuksa.school@gmail.com

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International Aviation College Nakhon Phanom University is looking for a Head of Accounting Department. Master Degree in accounting, credentials in labor & business laws, in English. Beginner accepted. Tel: 66-42551120. Email: gcharles01@yahoo.co.uk

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Positions are for Thai nationals only please. Busy and fun sports-orientated business in Chalong is looking for receptionist/office staff and a cook/waitress for our Thai and foreign restaurant.

Receptionist: English skills and computer skills, working with foreigners. (8 am - 5 pm)

Cook: Thai and foreign food. (2 pm - 9 pm)

Please contact for additional information and further details. To schedule an interview, call K. Smai at Tel: 076-367071. Or via email: info@tigermuaythai.com

HOUSEKEEPER/COOK

Mature Thai national. English-speaking. To cook for Thai and Europeans. Supervise, control and work with staff. Live-in, couple considered. Must like dogs. Tel: 081-9683184. Email: tj.kvrspa@gmail.com

ENGLISH-SPEAKING

staff wanted to work in Internet cafe and juice bar located in Phuket City. Tel: 086-509-7510. Email: simonstomas@hotmail.com

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- Bachelor degree or higher.
- 2 years' experience in sales department.
- Excellent communication skills including knowledge of MS Office, e-mail and Internet
- Proficiency in both written and spoken English

Reception/GRO

- Male or female.
- Bachelor degree.
- Experience in front office department.
- Excellent communication skill, service-minded
- Fluent in both written and spoken English.

F & B (Cook & Service)

- Male or female.
- Hotel or restaurant experience is essential.
- Some English required and service-minded.

Driver

- Male
- English required.
- Have a driver's license and service-minded.

All positions offer an attractive salary and benefits including service charge. Candidates with the above requirement and qualifications are invited to send a resume with a recent photograph to:

Human Resources Sri Panwa

88 Moo8 Sakdidej Road Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-371000, Fax: 076-371011
E-mail: hrr@sripanwa.com or recruitment@sripanwa.com

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

Minimum 3 years' experience and CPD certified. Good English an advantage. Please contact personnel manager at Asian Wind Co Ltd. Tel: 076-381338, 081-8957908.

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

WEB PROGRAMMER

Freelance web maintenance technician for new hosting company. Tel: 086-2825107.

CLIENT ACCOUNTING

services staff to work with a Thai accounting firm. Translate and liaise with foreign clients. Must be fluent in spoken and written English. Computer literate with some experience in accounting and taxes. Send CV to email: tj.kvrspa@gmail.com or call Tel: 081-9683184.

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Family in Pa Khlok looking for a driver with valid driver's license. Tel: 076-260468. Fax: 076-260440. Email: admin@tacticalcapital.net

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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. Tel: 076-313137. Fax: 076-313269. Email: mam@aplusplussoftware.com

STAFF WANTED

New Phuket City based company requires the following staff:

- Marketing/Sales Manager (foreigner)
- Operations manager
- Secretary/Personal Ass't
- 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 Tel: 081-8937027. Email: business.opp01@gmail.com

Island Job Mart

INDIGO PEARL
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Indigo Pearl is a unique design hotel in Phuket, Thailand. Architecture inspired by Phuket's tin mining past. Modern décor evoking a Thai factory of a century ago. Extensive, imaginative gardens. The resort is currently seeking professionals who share enthusiasm for creating a one-of-a-kind experience for all guests – an experience as rare as an indigo pearl. Highly talented individuals are invited to apply for the following positions:

Sales Manager MICE Asia (1 position) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3-5 years. Extensive experienced in Events Sales Preferably with an experienced with an international 5 stars hotel chain Fluent communications in English Outgoing and good presentation personality Good computer skills Bachelor degree in any related field 	In Room Dining Manager (1 position) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2-3 years experiences of room service in 5 star hotel preferable. Good computer and communication of English. Able to coordinate with interdepartmental skills.
Sales Coordinator (1 position) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good communications in English Some experience in Sales administration Able to coordinate and have inter departmental skills Good computer skills 	Reservations Officer (1 position) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good communications in English Some knowledge in Fidelio / Opera systems Preferably with an experienced with an international 5 stars hotel chain Able to coordinate and have inter departmental skills Good computer skills

Competitive benefits including service charge
Applicants should also demonstrate the following:-

- Positive attitude
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Apply in person or send your resumé to: **Director of Human Resources**
Indigo Pearl, 116 MI T. Sakoo, A. Talang, Phuket 83110
Tel: 076-327006 Fax: 076-327338-9
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Tel: 042-551120.

Email: gcharles01@yahoo.co.uk
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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 for more information. Tel: 076-383083, 081-5848502. Fax: 076-280397. Email: admin@philkade.com

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2. Senior Accounts Manager: Responsible for managing all the company's accounts and invoicing.

3. Website Coordinator: Responsible for keeping the company's three websites updated. Please apply to Elite Yachting Boat Lagoon office by email to: jurg@phuket-yachts.com or call for more information. Tel: 076-273476, 081-968-4188.

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Experienced in hotel reception and reservations. Computer literate. Fluent English. Driver's license. Please contact Tel: 081-5375133. Email: keith.wickers@gmail.com

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