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IN THIS ISSUE

NEWS: Drug dealer caught; Patong by-election results. TTVI pay delay. **Pages 2 & 3**

INSIDE STORY: School Security. **Pages 4-5**

AROUND THE NATION: Ladyboy cockup; Buoyant baht; Condoms required. **Page 7**

AROUND THE SOUTH: Mass roundups; Tilting temple; Backstabbers; Hazy days. **Page 8**

PEOPLE: Family ties survive tough times. **Pages 14 & 15**

AFTER DARK: Watery Patong venue brings back Elvis, squeaky clean restrooms and quiet socializing. **Page 17**

FEATURES: Nutty soap idea cleans up in an eco-friendly way. **Page 18**

COMPUTERS: HDTV: getting framed, the faster the better. **Page 30**

SPORT: Boxing; Football; Cricket; Darts; Sports tourney. **Pages 34 & 35**

PROPERTY: Gardening; Construction update; Home of the Week; Property Watch: part-ownership comes of age. **Pages 36-39**

PLUS

STAMPS, QUEER NEWS 6; AROUND THE ISLAND 9; ACROSS THE BAY 10; LETTER FROM LANTA 13; HAPPENINGS 16; LIFESTYLE 19; AMBROSIA'S SECRETS 20; MOTORING 21; TAKE A BREAK 23 & 24; BOOKS, PHUKET DIARY 25; EDITORIAL, LETTERS, FIRST PERSON 26 & 27; FIT FOR LIFE, HEALTH MATTERS 28; PATTAYA, HOROSCOPES 29; BUSINESS & MONEY 32 & 33; CLASSIFIEDS 40-51.

Phuket election monitors named

By Gazette staff

PHUKET: Kittipong Thiengkunagrit, director of the Phuket Election Commission (PEC), has confirmed which five Phuket residents will form the election committee charged with ensuring that polling in Phuket in the next general election will be free and fair.

K. Kittipong said that 15 people applied to be election monitors in Phuket.

The five chosen were: Phuket Vice-Governor Tri Augkaradacha; Phuket Labor and Social Welfare Office Chief Pradup Apai; Muang District Office Chief Veerawat Chanpen; lawyer Suepsak Tangvinit and retired government officer Uthai Sriwilai.

At a meeting July 10 the five members elected V/Gov Tri as their chair.

He responded by saying, "I will try to do my best and I believe that the committee here has good knowledge and good ability. We can use that to work as a team together."

"The first thing I want to



Phuket's new election commission, from left: Phuket Labor and Social Welfare Office Chief Pradup Apai; retired government officer Uthai Sriwilai; Committee Chair and Phuket Vice-Governor Tri Augkaradacha; Muang District Office Chief Veerawat Chanpen and lawyer Suepsak Tangvinit. – Photo by Yongyot Preuksarat

do is to create a campaign to have more people who have house registrations in other provinces to report to vote in their province too."

Dr Prapa Kayee completed serving her six-year term as PEC chair on January 31. By law, she must step down and is not allowed to serve on the committee again.

K. Kittipong, as director of the PEC, is a government em-

ployee charged with ensuring that the election committee performs its duties corruption-free. His position is separate from the self-governing committee.

The election committee will oversee a referendum on the new constitution that is to be held on August 19 to pave the way for a general election, which Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont is aiming to hold on December 16 or December 23.

German to be deported over no work permit

By Gazette staff

PHUKET CITY: German architect Frank Witzel is awaiting deportation following his arrest on June 22 by Immigration officials. He was arrested for working without a work permit while on a building site in Patong, and for performing work prohibited to foreigners.

Witzel pleaded guilty to the charges in court in February. He was fined 1,000 baht and handed down a one-month jail sentence, which was suspended for two

years.

Witzel explained to the *Gazette* that the events that led to his deportation began with his company, Modern Architecture & Design, and its Patong View Talay project on the Patong hillside.

The project, built on land that Witzel owned on the hill opposite the Esso gas station on Phra Barami Rd, will consist of 14 apartments priced from 4.2 million to 18.6 million baht each.

Witzel, 52, had designed the project, but when it came time to

renew his work permit at the beginning of the year, he ran into problems. He first tried to go to the Phuket Provincial Labor Office to renew the permit, he said, but it was closed due to a holiday.

He said that when he returned, he was told that the work permit had expired on the holiday that the office was closed and that he would have to apply for a new permit.

He relayed the information to his staff, who failed to submit

Continued on page 2

3 dolphins, 2 turtles found beached

By Janyaporn Morel

KAMALA: A dead dolphin two meters long and weighing about 40 kilograms was found on Kamala Beach July 5, bringing the total of beached dolphins to three.

Two hawksbill sea turtles have also washed ashore, one July 9 on Surin Beach and one July 6 at Mai Khao.

Karnjana Adulyanukosol, a biologist at the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC), told the *Gazette* that both turtles were snared in fishing nets and the turtle found on Mai Khao died from the injuries. The second turtle is being treated at the PMBC.

"The turtle we found on Surin beach was injured from a fisherman's net on one of its front legs, but fortunately the wounds did not destroy the muscle," K. Karnjana said.

"The turtle was also very tired from being trapped in the net and a lack of food, so it remains in treatment. We are giving it antibiotics and we will try to feed it some liquid food as well."

Both turtles are about one foot long and biologists estimate they are two years old.

K. Karnjana said that the PMBC concluded that the most recently-found dolphin had been dead for about five days, and the dolphin's sex and species could not be determined due to decomposition of the carcass.

The cause of death was also unknown.

Two dolphins suffering from respiratory illness were found beached last week. One has since died from its illness while another remains at the PMBC receiving treatment.

From page 1

German deported

the application.

On February 3, he was called out to the work site to answer questions about where pipes should be laid. At first Witzel declined because he had no work permit, he said, but he was assured it would not take long, so he agreed.

Once there, he pointed out where the pipes should be laid, but suddenly found himself confronted by Immigration officers who had driven out to the site to do a "spot inspection".

Unable to produce his work permit, Witzel was taken to the Immigration Office in Phuket City and charged with working without a permit.

He was also charged with working in an industry prohibited to foreigners – specifically, working as an engineer and architect.

Witzel faced a penalty of a 2,000-baht fine and two months in jail, but when he pleaded guilty, his penalty was reduced to 1,000 baht and one month in jail.

Since Witzel had no criminal record his sentence was suspended for two years. He paid the fine and was released.

However, he still had to deal with Immigration regulations that state that any foreigner convicted of a crime is subject to deportation. Witzel said he was never told of those regulations and was surprised when he was arrested again June 22, detained at Phuket Immigration and told that he would be banned from entering Thailand for at least two years.

His lawyers – and he has gone through three lawyers so far – have been negotiating to reduce his exile, and Witzel has been told that he may be barred from entering Thailand forever if the officials in Bangkok deem it so.

In the meantime, Witzel, was transferred from Immigration jail to Mission Hospital after six days, and finally released again on bond, awaiting deportation.

Witzel's German business partner has bought most of his interest in the Patong project. Witzel said he is afraid he stands to lose a large investment if he is forced to stay out of Thailand.

Gambling tops confusing list of crime statistics

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

PHUKET: Gambling has topped the latest crime statistics released by Phuket Provincial Police with 205 arrests made from June 1 to 30.

There were 125 people arrested in drug-related cases, of which 61 involved *ya bah* (methamphetamine): five for selling, 30 for possession with intent to sell, 14 for possession and 12 for use. A total of 7,821 pills were seized.

Thirty-three people were arrested for

inhalant abuse and 15 for possession or use of cannabis, with 345.68 grams confiscated. There were six arrests for possession of *krathom* (an indigenous Thai plant that acts as a mild stimulant) with 7,240 leaves weighing a neat 500 kilograms confiscated.

Following up on the record-breaking *krathom* raid on a house in Thalung on June 21, the *Gazette* on July 10 confirmed with Lt Col Kritthana Poothiluecha of Thalung Police Station, who led the raid, that 2,000 kilos of *krathom* were seized at the house.

Col Kritthana said the evidence was

then forwarded to the state prosecutor, who filed with the court that the haul weighed in at only 500kg, including branches and leaves.

Chasing down another anomaly, the *Gazette* confirmed with the reporting officer that one person was arrested for possession of 0.4 grams of heroin, and another for possession of 0.1 grams of cocaine.

Three people were arrested for possession of *ya E* (ecstasy) with 10.14 grams seized.

There were 142 cases of theft reported, including 22 motorcycles stolen.

Police bag kratom dealers by surprise

By Sompratch Saowakhon

KOH SIREH: Police staging a *krathom* raid on a house on Koh Sireh had a surprise on July 4 when a woman carrying a sack full of the contraband leaves accidentally walked in on the bust.

Pol Maj Chalermchai Hernsawat led the warrant-endorsed raid on the house of Jarern Musika, 56, about 3:30 pm after an investigation discovered that *krathom* was being kept there.

Officers arrested Jarern after finding 500 *krathom* leaves in the house.

However, while officers were assessing the fruits of their labor, Ratchada Kerdtrap, 36, walked in on the bust while carrying a sack stuffed full of the leaves.

The officers asked her what was in the sack, and she reluctantly replied that it was full of *krathom*.



Ratchada Kerdtrap (left) surprised police when she walked in while they were raiding the home of Jarern Musika (right) while carrying a sack full of *krathom* leaves.

After a lengthy count, police reported that the sack contained an additional 1,600 leaves.

The woman was arrested, and she and Jarern were taken

to Phuket City Police Station.

"Both were charged with possession of *krathom* for using and selling," Maj Chalermchai said.

Phuket wins To Be Number One prizes

PHUKET: Phuket province won two prizes in this year's To Be Number One competition, held at Impact Muang Thong Thani in Nontaburi on June 25: one for committed support of the competition and another for dedicated participation.

The competition recognizes community projects put forward to tackle drug abuse by local youths.

Rattiya Chancawee, policy and plan analyzer of the Phuket Provincial Health Office, said, "Phuket has participated in the To

Be Number One competition since it started in 2004. We have supported this project by setting up the To Be Number One Club in Phuket."

The To Be Number One Club, a community project based in Baan Liporn Khaolan, in Thalung, also picked up a 100,000-baht prize and a trophy in recognition of its efforts to curb drug abuse among minors with the support of the public and private sectors.

Police nab Patong ya bah dealer

PATONG: Phuket City Police seized more than 220 *ya bah* (methamphetamine) pills and arrested two men and one woman in a series of drugs raids July 5.

Pol Maj Chalermchai Hernsawat posed as a buyer and arranged to buy *ya bah* pills from Apiwat "Tee" Sumetheentikul at Sainamyen Soi 1 at 11:30 am.

At the rendezvous, police found Apiwat in possession of 70 *ya bah* pills and arrested him.

While being questioned at Kathu Police Station, Apiwat received a phone call from a young woman known as "Na".

Apiwat told police that he had arranged to meet the girl by an advertising billboard on the bypass road to supply her with *ya bah* pills that were hidden there.

Police took Apiwat to the meeting point, where a bag containing 150 *ya bah* pills was found, although police were unable to find Na.

Apiwat was then escorted to his home at Sainamyen Soi 1, where a bag of five *ya bah* pills was found and two of his friends – Nares Sangsamee, 26, and Davan Janheep, 24 – were arrested.

Apiwat had been released from prison in May after being convicted of using and distributing *ya bah*.

After the bust he was again charged with using and distributing *ya bah*. Nares and Davan were charged with using *ya bah*.

All three are being held at Kathu Police Station.

– Sompratch Saowakhon

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Phuket natives win Patong by-election

By Supanun Supawong

PATONG: Weerapoj Iamsup of the Sor Tor Kaow Mai Party and Suwat Somnam of the Patong Gao-na Party were elected to Patong Municipal Council in the resort town by-election on July 7.

Boonsong Nawarak, acting chief administrative officer at Patong Municipality, told the *Gazette* that K. Weerapoj drew 898 votes, K. Suwat 646 votes, Somkiat Kuru 637 votes, Wig Tonghom 587 votes, Boontan Piromrit 464 votes and Suttipoj Charoensup 197 votes.

K. Boonsong said his office was happy with the voter turnout. "We are quite happy with the

number of people who cast votes. Of the 3,454 eligible voters, 1,916 people voted," he said, a turnout of 56%.

There were 39 spoiled ballots and 66 blank votes.

K. Weerapoj, 30, is a Patong native, a local restaurateur and father to one daughter.

"This is the first time that I've been a candidate in an election... I have a plan for Patong but I must first present it to Patong Municipality, so I cannot talk about it just yet," he said.

"I think I won the election because of my father. He used to be a member of the Provincial Council [the former provincial administration organization]. He

has done many things for Patong, so that's why people voted for me," he added.

Phuket native K. Suwat, 50, has two daughters of his own and an adopted child, and is also a local businessman.

"I stood in the Patong municipal election in 2003, and was an active councilor for four months. People voted for me because I am a direct, frank person," he said.

"I plan to follow up on why property tax is so high, and I want find out why Patong Municipality lets the private sector rent public land. I want to check how Patong Municipality works," K. Suwat added.

Karon bank robber evades police

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

KARON: Chalong police, still stumped after a farang bank robber made off with 420,000 baht June 28, are appealing to owners of motorcycle rental companies in Karon to come forward with information of suspicious individuals who rented black, automatic motorcycles between June 26 and 28.

The perpetrator may have used a Suzuki Step, a Yamaha Mio or Nouvo, or a Honda Click, said Capt Thammasan Boonsong, who admitted his team was still no closer to finding the man who robbed a Siam Commercial Bank branch on Patak Rd.

Several individuals have been investigated and cleared, he added.

The robber is said to be Caucasian, with a short beard or stubble, and between 30 and 40 years old, according to witnesses who saw the man waiting outside the bank before the robbery.

Capt Thammasan urged anybody with information that may lead to the suspect's arrest to call him at 081-6413007.

TTVI staff pay day delayed by 2 months

PHUKET (*Kom Chad Luek, Gazette*): Thailand Tsunami Victims Identification (TTVI) officers working at Bang Maruan cemetery, where 400 bodies remain unidentified, worked without pay for two months because of red tape that prohibited the new TTVI boss from authorizing their salaries.

The problems began after former TTVI chief Pol Col Khemmarin Hassiri was transferred to an inactive post in January following accusations from ambassadors of several countries that the TTVI had misused donated tsunami recovery funds.

Royal Thai Police Deputy Commissioner-General Gen Achilawit Subarnbhesaj then assumed command of the TTVI.

However, Gen Achilawit resigned, handing the TTVI reins over to Royal Thai Police Commissioner-General Lt Gen Vanchai Srinuan, who was installed as TTVI chief though without the authority to approve salary payments.

The workers were paid on July 2 after national media coverage of their plight,

The fate of the cemetery, however, remains uncertain.

Col Khemmarin was transferred after the ambassadors of seven countries (including the UK, the US and France) last November called on the Royal Thai Police, who oversee the TTVI operation, to divulge how donations have been used.

Thirteen other countries have now added their support and are pushing for answers.

Worried about Thailand's international image, Thailand's Minister of Foreign Affairs Nitya Pibulsonggra sent a letter, signed by the seven ambassadors, to the general of the Royal Thai Police inquiring about international concern surrounding TTVI.

In June it was reported by *The Nation* that a former supervisor of Bang Maruan cemetery alleged that 30 million baht (83% of all donations) had gone missing from TTVI funds.

Jack Fell Down...

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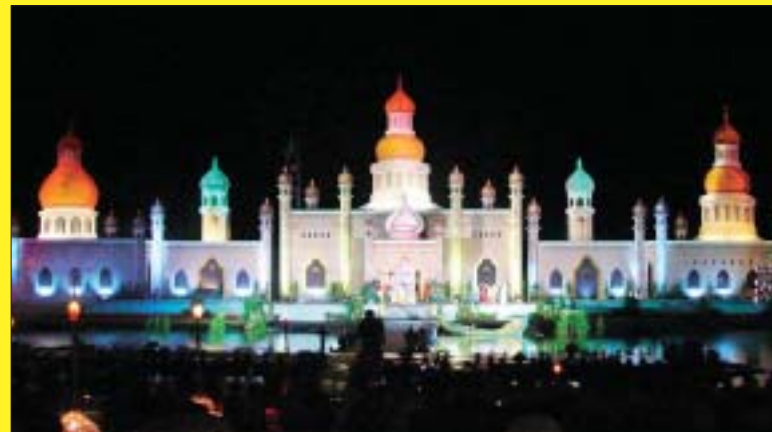
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Hilal Town Festival returns



The Phuket Provincial Administration Organization will hold the third Halal Food Hilal Town festival from July 27 to 31.

The event, located on the road west of the Thalang intersection, will feature a variety of food stalls, with items prepared to halal requirements, along with products from 14 southern provinces on sale. Highlights of the event will include local Muslim gourmet cooking contests, an economic self-sufficiency exhibition and career training programs.

There will also be zebra dove singing contests and Holy Koran reading contests for youngsters. A spectacular light and sound show telling the tragic story of Princess Mashuri will take place at 8 pm every evening.

Woman's remains identified

THALANG: Police believe they have identified the woman whose remains were found in a wooded area in Tambon Thepkasattri on the evening of July 4.

A cousin of Anutch Manee-kwan has come forward, saying that K. Anutch, 40, had not been seen since June 27.

The cousin reported that K. Anutch was living in a rented room near Super Cheap, where she worked.

"On June 27 she [K. Anutch] received a call from her ex-husband and rode away on her motorbike," Lt Col Jamrun Plaiduang, investigator of Thalang Police Station told the *Gazette*.

"We found her motorbike on June 30 on the road to Cherno Talay, about 200 meters from

Heroines Monument, but there was no obvious damage to the bike."

The remains were found another two kilometers further along the road, leading police to suspect that her body was dumped in the woods.

Doctors at Thalang Hospital performed an autopsy but did not find any wounds, so the body has been sent on to a forensic laboratory at the Prince of Songkhla Hospital in Songkhla.

"I have not charged anyone yet because we have no evidence. However I will investigate her cousin's statements again and we are awaiting the forensic results from Songkhla," Lt Col Jamrun said.

— Supanun Supawong

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School security in Phuket:

Schools around Phuket are attending to safety and security issues and it has created curiosity among parents, who are wondering what is going on. Here *Gazette* reporters Natcha Yuttaworawit and Pathomporn Kaenkrachana survey some of the island's larger schools and asks them what they are doing to safeguard their young charges. "The most important thing is the students' lives..." said BIS's School Manager Assistant Professor Dr Nares Pantaratorn.

When Kajonkietsuksa School on Chao Fa West Rd last month introduced a policy to check parents' ID on entering school grounds to pick up their children, concerned parents emailed the *Gazette* asking why such a measure was being taken.

Nunthiya Lohitchan, a teacher at the school, explained, "This is not because of the situation in the three southern border provinces or anything to do with rumors about kidnapping in Phuket or anywhere else, we just wanted to do this so our students are safe and to show their parents that they can rely on us."

"There are not enough spaces for parents to park their cars when they come to pick up their children after school, so we introduced our new 'Expressway' policy. We want to explain to every parent that we do not want to inspect your car, we just want to check that you have a school ID card, to prove that you are there to collect your children."

"Just show us your card, then we'll let you into the school grounds to pick up your children and take them back home – and

you will not have to worry about finding a place to park your car," K. Nunthiya said.

Chalum Athatham, Deputy Director of the Phuket Education Area Office, explained to the *Gazette* that each school in the province must have a student safety plan and have a person responsible for ensuring that the plan is being carried out.

"Student safety plans have three parts. The first part aims to prevent injury from accidents at school, such as preventing students being hurt in accidents from any construction being done in the area. The second part deals with natural disasters, such as what is to be done in case of a storm, flood or tsunami."

"The third part focuses on protecting the student from individual dangers and addresses issues such as maltreatment, kidnapping, sexual abuse, fighting, drugs and other vices," K. Chalun said.

"We have had these safety plans for a long time and are nothing to do with the problems in the Deep South. However, we urge schools to keep in touch with news that affects students, such as the [Virginia Tech] shootings



Parents are now fully behind the new security measures, though there were some concerns at first.

in America, so we can learn from such events.

"The Kajonkietsuksa School Expressway policy is good for students' safety and it helps build parents' trust in the school. However, some parents have misunderstood why the school has done this."

"There are so many different parents who come to collect their children from the school that the teachers are concerned about the possibility of kidnapping and other dangers, and some parents change which people come to pick up their children," he explained.

"The school has installed a closed-circuit television (CCTV) system, too," he added.

"We have not had any negative effects from the South and Kajonkietsuksa launched the 'Expressway' policy only after surveying parents whether or not they would like to have it."

Sister Usanee Hemabud

explained to the *Gazette* that Darasamut School has a similar program. "We have 2,600 students and we have security guards at the entrance, but we do not have an ID card system. Instead, we give parents stickers to put on their cars."

"We cannot know all of the parents who come to collect students after school home. Some parents are busy with work at that time, so they might ask or even employ someone to take their kids home," she said.

"We plan to install CCTV at the front gate soon," she added.

"We must consider all aspects of safety, not only the danger from strangers, but also issues such as now we have a new building under construction but will be finished soon. We remind students every morning to stay away from the construction site. Our students understand and know they have to take care of

themselves," Sister Usanee said.

However, she added that some parents are not as thoughtful about their own children's safety. "Some parents park their cars at the construction site of the new school building at the side of the school, and walk their children through the construction site to reach their cars. This is dangerous because something might fall on the children's heads or they might hurt themselves by tripping over sharp metal," she said.

Dr Supaluck Kanjanamethakul, director at Wittaya Sathid School, said, "We have a security guard at the entrance and about 800 students."

"Parents must show the 'parent ID card' issued by the school when they drop off their kids in the morning and when they collect their kids in the afternoon. In the morning we have teachers at the entrance to receive the students from the parents and walk them to the classroom or to morning assembly."

"We also have duty teachers walking around and checking the classrooms and buildings," she said.

Father Pakpoom Worra-

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are your children safe?



A Wittaya Sathid School teacher checks in students as they arrive on the school grounds.



Guards at BIS carefully check IDs and keep track of school visitors.

porntassana, director of Dowroong Wittaya School, said, "There are 2,000 students here at Dowroong Wittaya, so our student safety plan is very comprehensive. Most important, we have an annual meeting between teachers and parents so we can come up with ideas on how we can make sure the kids are safe and happy at the school."

Fr Pakpoom explained that one benefit of the parent-teacher meetings is that parents have the opportunity to help beyond the school's scope of responsibility. "Some parents are police or security guards, and they can help in dealing with issues such as drugs in the school and even help with problems when students go out at night," he said.

As for school policy, he explained, "We have many rules

about parents collecting their kids after school. Parents of kindergarten students must sign up at the beginning of the year before being allowed to pick up their kids.

"Parents of students in older classes do not need to sign up, but the teacher will be on duty to make sure the students are collected by the right people."

"When children are taken on school excursions, it doesn't matter if they are on the school bus, in teachers' cars or in a bus provided by the company organization to take the children to the activity, the students must always be accompanied by a teacher," he added.

"We have security guards on duty 24 hours a day. Also, our three janitors and two cleaners who live on school grounds keep an eye on things in general, and

we have teachers rostered on duty every day to walk around the school," Fr Pakpoom said.

Meanwhile, north at British International School (BIS), School Manager Asst Prof Dr Nares Pantaratorn, explained, "We have about 900 students, including 150 boarders. We have a specific team responsible for security that operates under the responsibility of the service manager."

"We have a Health and Safety Committee that controls and manages not only the school's security but also aspects such as food hygiene. We also have a nurse and a Bangkok Hospital Phuket ambulance on standby 24 hours a day," he explained.

Regarding stranger danger, Asst Prof Nares said, "We have five gates to the school and we regulate which gates people are

not allowed to use to enter the school. We also have CCTV that records all people who enter the school, and we issue ID cards for parents that they present to security guards on entering the school."

He explained that people entering the school without a school-issued ID card are asked to present photo ID, such as a driving license, that they must leave at the gate in exchange for a visitor's pass. The ID is returned when the visitor leaves the school.

"All parents must provide the school with personal details that we keep in case of an emergency, such as emergency contact information, so we can contact them if the need arises," said Asst Prof Nares.

"We also have emergency

plans in case of fire, bomb threat, kidnap or natural disaster," he added.

However, Asst Prof Nares explained that checking of ID at the gate initially angered parents. "At first many parents were angry, especially if their kids had been attending the school for a long time. They did not agree that we should check their ID every time they entered the school. Many times they were angry at the guards, so we had to explain to them that the guards were only following orders, and that we were doing this for their own kids' safety. But now everything is okay, and they are happy that we have this policy," he said.

"The most important thing is the students' lives, then their health and then their property – in that order," he said.



Knight Frank


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STAMPS

Stamp recalls HM The King's days on radio

Thailand Post will launch a stamp on August 4 depicting HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej hosting a radio show at Amphon Sathan Throne Radio Station, Dusit Palace. The stamp is being made to commemorate National Communications Day, as well as celebrate the upcoming 80th birthday of HM the King.

Measuring 44 by 27 millimeters, the stamp will cost 3 baht, or 10 baht with a first day cover envelope, and only 1.2 million will be issued.

HM the King, an established musician and founder of Amphon Sathan Throne Radio Station, used to entertain citizens with his Friday night shows on which he aired his favorite jazz songs.

The stamps will be available at all 10 post offices in Phuket.



A shocking tale from a temple deep in the forest

LOPBURI: More than 200 people from Baan Nong Kam in Lopburi's Muang District held a protest June 27 to drive out a local abbot, whom they accused of setting up an electrified fence to keep villagers away from his forest temple.

One of the protest leaders, 58-year-old Charoen Wongpao, told reporters that Phra Khru Palatwiroj Ophaso, Abbot of Wat Suwanahong Forest, liked to chase away villagers who went foraging in the woods.

Queer News

People from the village had been collecting plants growing in the area for more than a century before Phra Khru Palatwiroj arrived, K. Charoen said, but now they were not allowed to even collect tamarind growing near the temple.

Although villagers were persevering with the abbot's isolationist antics, they were sparked

into action when he ordered the erection of a barbed-wire fence around the temple.

At night, the abbot connected the fence to an electric supply of sufficient voltage to give nasty electric shocks to anyone unfortunate enough to bump into it, K. Charoen said.

The fence runs right next to a road, making it dangerous for

villagers to walk along, he added.

Rather than the temple serving as a community center or spiritual retreat, most local residents were afraid to even approach it, K. Charoen complained.

Phra Khru Palatwiroj defended himself by saying that he had installed the menacing security measures as a way of attaining some peace and quiet.

In the past he had seen strangers coming and going at

night. After 13 dogs in the area had been poisoned, he decided to take action, the abbot explained.

Phra Khru Palatwiroj met representatives from the village mob to try and bring an end to the protests.

In the end they agreed that Phra Khru Palatwiroj would move the fence back from the road so villagers were not endangered and that he would explain to villagers why the fence was needed in the first place.

Source: Naewna

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Novotel apologizes to ladyboy

Tension between the Novotel Bangkok on Siam Square and groups advocating gay rights ended after ladyboy Sutthirat Simsiriwong accepted an apology from the hotel, which had refused her admission two weeks earlier.

"I will let bygones be bygones. In the future I will be a guest of the hotel," said K. Sutthirat during a press conference organized by the hotel on July 5.

Insisting that the hotel did not have a policy of refusing entry to people based on their sexual orientation, hotel manager Gerald Hougardy delivered a "sincere apology" to K. Sutthirat, who was barred from the hotel's Concept CM2 nightclub.

"We accept responsibility for the error in judgment by our employees on the night in question," he said, adding that such an unfortunate incident would not happen again.

Hougardy also admitted the apology came too late, as the incident took place almost two weeks ago. "The incident was unbelievable, it took time for us to investigate," he said.

K. Sutthirat said she would contact all her supporters who had carried out an international boycott against the Novotel Siam Square and other hotels in the Accor Group chain to end the campaign.

Wedlock warning: The use of condoms will soon be made legally mandatory at the insistence of wives or girlfriends during sex, Public Health Minister Dr Mongkol na Songkhla told a Bangkok seminar.

Dr Mongkol repeated his message that laws on social issues and gender equality were now primary solutions for HIV/Aids problems, as per an agreement reached at a recent Geneva meeting of the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/Aids.

As a result of the Geneva meeting, the gender issue would later be formulated into laws in a number of countries including Thailand, which would give legal protection to women whose sex partners refused to use condoms during sex, he said.

Dr Mongkol recently told reporters that about 40% of new HIV infections in Thailand are among women who contract the virus from their husbands.

Hotline halted: Following a police raid on a sex-line company and the arrest of a number of female students working for illegal telephone sex services via the 1900 audio-text line, TOT revoked a concession granted to Thai Televoice and fined it 3 million baht for breach of contract.

Nathee Sukolrat, acting chairman of the TOT board, told a press conference that TOT would also file lawsuits against the firm for compensation and



TO MARKET: A six-wheel truck driven by Amphai Rojkarn, 42, smashed into a Toyota Vigo pickup truck in Nakhon Pathom, killing K. Amphai's passenger Ophas Khwanmong, 45, and critically injuring the pick-up truck's two occupants, Pol Sgt Maj Somsak Sornprasit, 36, and his wife Areerat, 34. The number of dead and injured among the swine K. Ampai was transporting at the time of the crash was not reported.

check if any TOT officials were involved in the wrongdoing.

The cancellation was because this service became a social problem and TOT acted for society's benefit, he said.

The sex-line companies arranged for female operators aged between 18 and 25 to take calls in three shifts a day. Each opera-

tor, earning an average of 250 to 300 baht a day, had to talk with customers for at least 200 minutes a day. Those reaching 300 minutes would get a bonus. The service charged 13 baht a minute.

Buoyant baht: Currency expert Adisak Kammoon, vice-president

of KGI Securities (Thailand), believes the baht could rise to 30 to the US dollar due to market mechanisms if the Bank of Thailand (BOT) does not intervene in the level of the currency.

"The BoT still doesn't let the baht move freely according to market forces, which is considered dangerous because it may quietly lead to another financial crisis," he said.

"As long as the BoT is not confident that exporters will be able to compete on their own, it is unlikely that the 30% capital control [on certain types of foreign capital inflow] will be revoked. There is a possibility that there may be additional measures to prevent the baht from rising further. If the baht is allowed to move according to the market, the level of the baht should be 30 baht," he said.

TV eye: A recent survey by Assumption Business Administration College (Abac)

Poll Research Center has found that most children have been exposed to TV scenes featuring verbal abuse, rape, fights and physical attacks.

Dr Yongyuth Wongpiromsarn, adviser to Deputy Prime Minister Paiboon Wattanasiritham, disclosed the findings at a seminar on Thai soap operas, the

producers of which voiced objections to plans to strictly limit what TV viewers can watch at specific times of the day.

Arisara Chinprayoon, a member of a parents' network in favor of the plan, said that TV plays an important role in child development and that children are not mature enough to realize that not everything on TV is appropriate.

The Abac poll surveyed 2,486 children aged between three and 18 in Bangkok and its adjacent provinces from June 30 to July 2.

Cyber cigs: Thailand pushed for controls on cigarette advertising and sales on the Internet at the Second Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, which ended after a week of discussions in Bangkok on July 6.

"Thailand's proposal to control cigarette ads and sales on the Internet is based on the fact that the Internet is a highly influential medium on youths in the cyber age," said anti-tobacco activist Dr Hatai Chitanondh, a deputy chair of the meeting.

Disease Control Department Deputy Director-General Dr Seri Hongyok said representatives from each member country would be asked to express their opinions on Thailand's proposal before ratifying it and making it part of the convention.

During initial discussions, there was partial support for the initiative, he said.

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

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Direct action 'works' in South

A senior police officer July 5 defended the decision to employ "direct pressure" and make sweeping arrests of villagers in insurgent-infested areas.

Col Poompet Pipatpetpoom of Yala Provincial Police said the tactic has succeeded in getting more local residents on the government's side, as well as putting a dent in the insurgents' activities.

Col Poompet also claimed that many local residents, including detainees, have turned to the government's side and begun to provide useful intelligence information about insurgent activities.

The operation, carried out by combined forces of hundreds of soldiers and police, began at the end of June.

Col Poompet's claim contradicted that of other security officials, who said that the insurgents fled the target areas on the first day of the operation.

A local resident said many of the 250-plus people arrested in Narathiwat's Sungai Padi and other districts nearby were elderly men, as well as young people who were not involved in the insurgency.

Col Poompet said the combined forces demonstrated that the security agencies in the restive region are united. Critics said the agencies often compete among themselves and have little consideration for any national agenda.

Amulets tilt temple: The overwhelming popularity of Jatukham Ramathep amulets may be damaging the Mahathat Woramahawiharn Temple's sacred chedi.

Lorries and pickup vehicles deliver boxes of Jatukham amulets to the monastery's compound,



COMING HOME: The body of Sgt Sombat Phansathian, killed in a bomb attack in Pattani, is carried onto a Royal Thai Air Force plane to be taken back to his home in Buri Ram.

where they are blessed in consecration rituals.

On July 3 locals complained the chedi had begun to lean as a result of vehicles arriving at the temple each day with the amulets.

The centuries-old structure, in Nakhon Sri Thammarat, is believed to house Buddha relics.

"We have to do something before further damage is done," said resident Somchoke Boonwisut.

Locals will ask provincial governor Wichom Thongsong to take action to halt damage.

Local Fine Arts Department Director Banjong Wongwichien said experts were on the way to examine the chedi.

"But, for the time being, everything depends on the temple abbot," he said.

Nakhon Sri Thammarat Vice-Governor Somsak Khamta-weeprom said he will hold talks with abbot Phra Ratchatham-suthee before any provincial action is taken.

Revenue officials wanting to know how much the temple was making from the amulets visited the abbot the same day.

Provincial police chief Maj Gen Sudjai Yannarat praised residents' efforts to protect the temple and ordered a security detail at the site.

Many vehicles sneak into the temple at around 3 or 4 am, before traffic officers are present, he said.

Provincial Public Works Chief Chaiyapat Siriprasert said it would be easy to determine whether the chedi was leaning, but added that his department was too busy to check at the moment.

He suggested that an academic institute help.

Backstabbers: A young man was stabbed to death outside a bar in Trang Town in the early hours of July 4 after trying to help a friend being attacked by a group of youths.

When police from Trang Muang District Police Station arrived at the scene Chanchai Saekhwo, 24, had already been taken to Trang Hospital, where he later died from his wounds. He suffered three or four stab wounds in the back, one of which severed a major artery.

Before the incident, K. Chanchai and a group of about 10 friends had been drinking in Warm Up bar on Rassada Rd, witnesses said. As they were leaving at closing time, a group of three or four youths rushed up to them. One of the attackers stabbed a friend of K. Chanchai, 20-year-old Wirat Jamroen, in the hand.

K. Chanchai went over to help his friend escape to his motorbike, which was parked in front of the bar. Before he could escape, however, he was stabbed in the back.

Police believe that K. Wirat and his attacker are likely to have had an argument in the past as witnesses reported that they had not seen any trouble between the two groups as they were drinking in the bar.

People who knew K. Chanchai said he was quiet and had never had any problems with anyone.

Police are now trying to contact K. Wirat for questioning.

Hazy days: People in Satun province are being warned to take health precautions following smoky haze believed to be caused by forest fires in Indonesia.

Dr Samruam Danprachankul of the Satun Provincial Public Health Office warned people with respiratory problems, as well as the elderly and young children, to take measures to protect themselves from the white haze.

People in high-risk groups should stay indoors with the doors and windows shut as much as possible until the haze passes. If they have to go outdoors, they should wear protective face masks, he added.

The haze has also reportedly been causing traffic problems, particularly to motorcyclists who have complained of stinging, red eyes and headaches.

Dr Soonthon Charoensuk, owner of Soonthon Medical Clinic, said that smoke concentration of July 6 was heavier than the two preceding days. The number of patients coming to his clinic to be treated for coughs, sore throats and eye problems increased from 20 to 30 people a day to 50 to 60 people a day following the haze.

The number of patients coming to the clinic for treatment daily is expected to rise with each day that the haze remains, he said.

Despite warnings from medical professionals, a reading from a Pollution Control Department mobile air quality testing facility taken on July 5 indicated that the haze had not yet reached a level considered to be dangerous to health.

Assistant chief shot: An assistant village chief was shot dead in Surat Thani's Phrasaeng district in the evening of July 3.

Samran Chimreuang, 43, assistant chief of Saisopha village 4 was found dead outside his house. He had been shot with a shotgun.

From their investigations, police found that K. Samran had just returned home and was inspecting the area around his house before going to bed when he was shot.

As he was walking, an unknown number of gunmen pulled up on a motorcycle and called his name. K. Samran walked up to the men, one of whom shot him dead.

Police said that they are not yet sure of the motive for the murder, but believe it to be based on a personal dispute. Police are confident that the killer is someone from the village.

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

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PROMJAI DENTAL CLINIC

Wat Chalong to go beyond 'bog-standard'

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

Wat Chaitararam, commonly known as Wat Chalong, will no longer leave visitors caught short or feeling flushed.

The Office of Tourism Development, Ministry of Tourism and Sports (MoTS), has joined forces with Siam Cement Group to build Thailand's first "toilets for tourism" at Phuket's most famous temple.

The move comes after a committee from the World Health Organization (WHO) inspected the quality of toilets in Thailand's most popular tourist spots, said Dumrong Sangkaweelert, director of the Office of Tourism Development.

The facilities at Wat Chalong didn't come up smelling of roses in the WHO committee's evaluation.

K. Panya Kraitat, a public relations officer at the Office of Tourism Development, came up with the idea to upgrade the temple's toilet facilities to more effectively cater to visitors' needs.

Siam Cement Group offered 3 million baht toward the construction of the new toilets, which the MoTS hopes will set a shining example for other top tourist attractions to follow.

"These will be the first tourism toilets in Thailand, and thus will be a guide for other places too," K. Dumrong said.

Construction on an area of 900 square meters will begin July 15 and is expected to be completed for a grand opening on April 18 next year, which will also mark 100 years since the death of Luang Por Chaem, one of three famous monks who practiced at Wat Chalong.

The new facilities will include 11 toilets for women, while the men's side will hold six toilets and eight urinals. There will also be one handicap-accessible stall.

Existing toilets will be demolished to make way for more parking space.



Dumrong Sangkaweelert, director of the Office of Tourism Development.



The toilets at Wat Chalong fell short of international standards in an evaluation by the World Health Organization (WHO). Visitors now have a new set of facilities to look forward to, due to open April next year.

Wat Chalong, located eight kilometers south of Phuket City, is the most famous of Phuket's 29 monasteries. The temple is dedicated to three monks – Luang Por Chaem, Luang Por Chuang, and Luang Por Kluam – who were renowned herbal doctors in the late 19th century.

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ACROSS THE BAY

By Gus Reynolds

Fire broke out at the Pra Nang Inn, one of the first resorts in Ao Nang, in the early morning hours of June 26.

The original part of the hotel, on the corner of the beach road at Ao Nang with the reception, restaurant, bar and original rooms is on the south side of the street and was closed for renovations when the fire broke out. The newer, more upscale rooms and pool are across the street.

The original structures in the older section were made made of bamboo and coconut wood – in short, a natural tinderbox. The fire was reported just after 6 am, with the most likely cause an electrical short circuit from the renovations being carried out.

By 6:30 am, when I happened to pass by, the two-story building was engulfed in flames. The Ao Nang Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) fire truck arrived followed by the Krabi Town fire truck. Even the Krabi Resort lent their water truck to help contain the flames.

Luckily, the building and rooms were empty due to the renovations, and there were no injuries or fatalities.

There was a real danger that the fire would spread to adjoining resorts and businesses in the densely packed beachfront area. Again luckily, the fire trucks and a timely rain shower kept the fire from spreading, but the main hotel structure was completely destroyed.

Direct flights: Krabi Airlines, Thailand's newest carrier, has announced it will begin direct flights from Oslo and Munich to Krabi on November 1, with direct flights from Australia to follow later this year.

Krabi Airlines will be the first international airline to use

Original Ao Nang resort is destroyed by fire



GONE: The bare concrete frame is all that is left of the Pra Nang Inn, one of the first hotels to open in Ao Nang.

Krabi as its base of operations and it has ambitious plans to increase its fleet of two Boeing 777-200ER aircraft to five within five years.

The second phase of expansion will add flights from the west coast of North America as well as Japan and Korea.

This news has the local tourism industry abuzz. With rumors of additional charter flights from Asia and Europe this year, optimistic tour operators are already reporting huge increases in bookings, and now the name of the game will be to try and secure

rooms for all the potential guests.

As mentioned in this column last month, the past high season had carriers flying new services from three international cities to Krabi. It has been bantered about that this season will see another 10.

Buy the book: Over the past few years, inquiries into the Krabi property market have grown dramatically, but there hasn't been a central marketplace for information, especially commercial properties. Now it seems Krabi's property market has come of age,

with Krabi Consultants looking to publish a property guide featuring listings, local information and advice on how to avoid the pitfalls in owning a property in the area.

There are some websites hanging about, but few offer more than a handful of properties, and as there are very few secondary residential homes for sale in Krabi, this booklet will focus on commercial properties for sale: guesthouses, restaurants, resorts or land for commercial development.

The book will be published

in both Thai and English and is expected to launch September 1.

Correction. In my previous article about the up-and-coming island of Sriboya, it was reported that the main power lines had been laid to the island, along with Koh Jum and Koh Phi Phi. This is incorrect. The plans have been approved and the project has been opened to bidding.

Construction is expected to take 10 months, with a completion date of January 2009 – so don't throw away those generators just yet.



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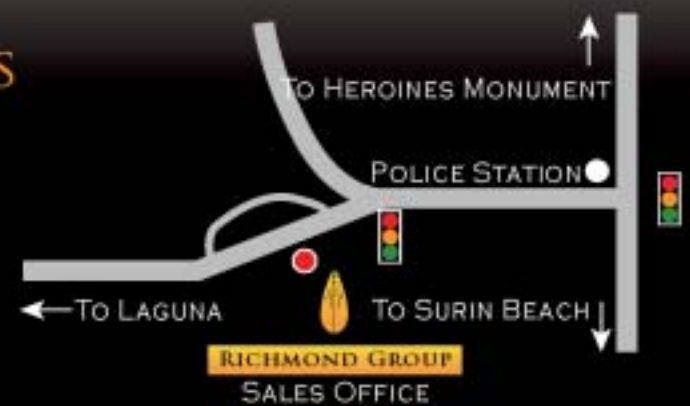
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Lanta in the limelight

There is no disputing that Koh Lanta is one of the hottest “emerging” tourist destinations in South-east Asia. Branded a few years back by *Forbes* magazine as one of the “world’s sexiest islands”, Koh Lanta has now been named in TripAdvisor.com’s list of top 10 “hot spot” international destinations.

But before the imminent arrival of mass tourism, Lanta has a small window of opportunity to strike the fine balance between commerce and environment.

According to Krabi Governor Siwa Sirisaawaluck, Lanta’s development plan is now being implemented and is making steady progress. The plan calls for the island to be developed as an eco- and health-tourism destination.

Luckily the physical topography of Lanta makes defining what is at stake easier as officials ready the island for the arrival of more tourists and Sheraton-sized resorts. A mountain range effectively divides the island into two distinct areas – the west coast area with 10 beaches, dotted with resorts, and the east coast area with its national park, mangrove forests and nearby islands.

Whether Lanta can overcome the pitfalls of mass development remains to be seen. However, in the meantime, both tourists and eco-travelers have an opportunity to experience and enjoy both sides of Lanta.

Smooth roads: If you haven’t been to Lanta for a few years you would be happy to know the dusty, pothole-riddled roads have been tamed. In fact, the island’s roads are paved to the point where one wonders what it’s all for.

Lanta’s new roads are part of the government’s bigger plan to ready the region’s infrastructure for the increase in arrivals created by the opening of Krabi International Airport. Part of that plan also includes the current widening of the highways to four lanes from Phuket, through Krabi, to Trang at a cost of 43 million baht.

Debate about the possibility of a new bridge continues to be hottest topic with locals. Currently, traveling by road between the Krabi mainland and Koh Lanta Yai, (the larger of the two Lanta islands), involves two car-ferry crossings.

Recently, Prime Minister Gen Surayud Chulanont visited Lanta Island, promising to consider a proposal for bridges linking Koh Lanta Noi to the mainland and connecting the two islands of Lanta Noi and Lanta Yai.

For now, Chailert Pinyorat-anachote, the chief administrative officer for the Krabi governor’s office, has offered some solutions to ease the inconvenience for locals and tourists:

When Duane Lennie first arrived on the island of Koh Lanta six years ago he predicted that it was only a matter of time before the masses arrived on this tropical paradise, nestled between Koh Phi Phi and the coastlines of Krabi and Trang Provinces. The locals agreed. ‘They’re coming soon’ was the refrain heard all over the island.

‘Soon’ has now arrived, hence this new monthly column in the *Gazette*, in which Duane will inform readers what matters most to people living on Koh Lanta and help others discover one of Southeast Asia’s fastest growing tourist and property development destinations.

nience for locals and tourists: Three ferries will now be in service at all times, with one departing in both directions every 20 minutes.

Bubbling under: Scuba diving is a driving economic force behind the tourist industry on Lanta with its proximity to the world top-10 ranked scuba sites at Hin Daeng and Hin Muang.

ScubaFish, one of the island’s top dive companies, is taking the environmental lead by launching their Marine Education Centre named Aqualogy (www.aqualogy.org).

The center will teach divers about marine conservation and plans to spearhead a number of marine conservation, research and local community projects. It’s always great to see businesses trying to put something back into the environment in which they make their living.

Going home: Just a year ago visitors had very few choices when it came to home buying on Lanta. Today, you can count no

less than 10 foreign-targeted property developments ready to launch next high season.

While land prices continue to rise in excess of 20% every year, Lanta still offers some real deals when compared to similar projects on Phuket and Koh Samui.

Two of the more interesting projects we’re keeping an eye on are the 12-million-baht Sea Breeze Villas on Long Beach and a new (yet to be named) marina project located close to the five-star Pimalai Resort and Spa.

The marina project will be the first of its kind in this part of the Andaman Sea with a 40-boat marina and a condominium village.

Seasoning: Green Season is a great time to venture over to Lanta. It’s not as easy to get here because the Phuket and Krabi Town passenger ferry boats stop running from May till October, but the road journey is worth it for the natural beauty and reduced prices.

Kan Tiang Beach, located on the far south end of the island



The pier at Lanta Old Town, on the east coast of Koh Lanta Yai. Koh Lanta is a great ‘Green Season’ destination for lovers of water sports, nature and culture.

Photo by James Walsh

in a protected cove, is a good bet; it has year-round swimming and daily beach garbage removal.

Another option is Lanta Old Town, situated in a protected harbor on the island’s east coast. The east coast is a true adventurer’s playground and home to the island’s unique indigenous and historical fishing communities which live on the fringes of an ancient mangrove forest and a protected national park.

The area now has a couple of funky guesthouses and is the

best place for boat-tour departures this time of the year. Sun Fishing and Island Tours (www.lantalongtail.com) offers year-round longtail boat tours to some of 20+ nearby islands.

Duane Lennie is an international marketing consultant based in Lanta who owns www.bestofkolanta.com, www.kolanta-realestate.com and the Mango House Boutique Resort. You can contact him at info@bestofkolanta.com

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As her workload mounted and her husband showed no signs of recovery, K. Boo was diagnosed with the itchy skin condition psoriasis, brought on by stress, which left her skin red and

values shine the dark times



dry on her head and the small of her back, and caused her to suffer from dizziness. After six months the condition spread to

other parts of her body and she was forced to leave her job at the 7-Eleven.

The cost of medical care for

both K. Boo and K. Peud became a heavy burden, and so K. Boo began working from home washing and ironing clothes while tak-

ing care of her husband and children. Laundry services earned only 1,500 baht a month, and it wasn't long before the family fell

behind with the rent, owing 11,500 baht over five months.

"The time that is the hardest," says K. Boo, watching her children playing in front of their rented room, "is when my kids want some snacks. I can't give them anything, but I'm lucky that they understand how difficult it is for us."

Adding to the hardship, on May 20 this year K. Peud's condition worsened and he is now unable to take care of himself and has trouble speaking. The family have had to pull together to survive. O, the eldest son, now helps take care of him, while Namneung looks after her younger brother.

"I want it to be me instead of him," says K. Boo, looking at her husband. "He can earn more money than me. I never know how tomorrow is going to turn out so I have to just make the best for today."

"I have to make things better for my family. I'm not waiting on charity, I want to get back into a routine. One good thing is that the landlord has let me put two washing machines in the front yard so I can do more work."

"They are a hard-working, diligent couple,"

says 51-year-old landlord Tasanee Dornthongkwa.

"When K. Peud recovered and could walk again he went straight back to work, so I have never minded helping them."

"Even though they missed five months' rent I never said anything. I help them as much as I can because I don't want their situation to get any worse."

BATTLING ON: Above, Although still suffering from a long run of hard breaks, K. Boo and her family have pulled together to make the most of what little they have. From left, Namneung, Nai, Boo, Peud and O.

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ALL SMILES: Thai actress Kamolchanok 'Kwang' Khemayothin (center) poses with happy mothers and children at the 'How to raise your child to be a smart, good and happy person' workshop sponsored by Bangkok Hospital Phuket and Phuket City Municipality.



THAI TOAST: UK Ambassador to Thailand David Fall (3rd from left) celebrates the official birthday of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II at Phuket Country Club with (from left) Phuket-resident British notables and guests Howard Digby-Johns and his wife K. Noi, Gunapon Pope, Alan Cooke and Martin Carpenter.



HAPPY HANDOVER: Phuket Vice-Governor Smith Palawatvichai (3rd from left) hosts the handover of the Phuket Sunshine Village from French Red Cross representative Anne Bideau (3rd from right) to Supaluck Kanjanamethakul (2nd from left), managing director of the foundation. The French Red Cross funded the building of the facility, which provides residential care for 38 orphans and daycare for preschool-age children.



RAISING THE FLAG: Don Battles celebrates American Independence Day on July 4 with a 177-baht buffet for his customers at Don's Mall in Rawai.



HAUGHTY HI! Chaiyasit Huadsiri (left), managing director of Baan Rommai Chailay Co Ltd, and John Lindsay (right), sales manager of Baan Rommai Sovereign Heights, celebrate the launch of the Sovereign Heights project with Chatchai Kaewbutta, President of CFG Srisawat Leasing Co Ltd.



YOUNG AT HEART: Club Med Phuket General Manager Alessandro Cordogli leads the cheers at Club Med's World Wide Children's Party 2007, providing fun and activities for 110 children at the Phuket resort. Similar events were held at all 68 Club Med resorts around the world on the same day.

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Elvis has not left the building

If you hear a sweet voice calling you for one night of sin, look again, because it's not just the pretty girls on Soi Bangla who like to shake, rattle and roll. Elvis is back (again) and this time he's making his home at the newest addition to Patong's nightlife scene, H2O.

Located in Phuket's most inventively named soi (Soi Post Office), H2O is a bar with a bucketload of differences: water, to be precise. After a soft opening at the beginning of June, the teething problems of the water features are close to being resolved.

When complete, patrons will be able to tip-toe across a network of flowing water channels integrated into the floor, while two waterfalls will cascade from the top of the bar behind customers being served. There won't be any drinkers washing their hands in muddy water here.

Owner Ashton Adams, 35, explained a little about his philosophy, saying, "Phuket is changing. It's not just full of young people looking for cheap beer and cheap sex any more. There are families and groups of older people who want something different."

Doused in blue light, H2O is not your average bar. The interior is lit up like a Christmas tree with the dé cor creating a lagoon-like ambience. The area on the first floor can seat around 50 people before a small stage.

Upstairs is a cozy VIP area with comfortable sofas and Playstations. Wireless headsets and movies will be available in the future for drinkers who want to relax in seclusion.

And the pièce de résistance of the bar? "People have commented that the ladies' toilets are the best in Patong," said Ashton. "My theory is that if women come here and like the toilets, they will probably come back."

Opting to move away from

the formulaic approach to music adopted by other bars in Patong, Ashton said that the tunes at H2O will make for better socializing. "I don't want the music to be too loud," he said. "I want people to come here and be able to talk without songs blaring at them."

Situated at the end of a small soi off the beach road, you might think that the location would hamper H2O's chances, but Ashton was quick to point out that Soi Post Office is the second busiest soi after Bangla.

With a grand opening slated for the coming high-season, 70 baht bottles of beer

should keep tourists happy.

H2O is open until 1 am with the chance to stay later if the venue is sufficiently busy. You can catch Elvis on Tuesdays and Saturdays, although he has been known to shake things up on other days of the week.

A Filipino band will be on stage when the "Hunk of Burnin' Love" doesn't have his mojo working, but it's the Elvis impersonator that Ashton is most excited about. "I think he's great because he really loves what he does."

As Ashton was speaking we got lucky and Elvis emerged from his dressing room and bounced onto the stage with his big boots and white jumpsuit. His beaming smile was infectious and didn't leave his face for the duration of his set. After a spot of dancing and some athletic gyrations, Elvis got down to business and rattled off a few numbers.

"Thank you, thank you very much," he said, before greeting the crowd and inviting them to dance. Viva Patong!

Soi Post Office is next to McDonald's and Zen on the beach road. For more information visit www.h2ophuket.com or contact Ashton at Tel: 084-6644050 or email: ashton@h2ophuket.com



H2O, where Elvis rocks amid waterfalls and rivers, all inside the bar. Playstations, televisions and sofas in a loft make for a more relaxing place to watch the rock 'n' roll.

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Lather up and save the planet too

By Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

Tired of cosmetics companies not doing their bit to protect the environment, Komson Ratchapatan, 33, is hoping to turn Phuket's residents back to nature with his line of eco-friendly products.

Originally from Haad Yai, K. Komson has lived on Phuket for 10 years. After seeing an abundance of cashew nut trees on the island, K. Komson took the initiative to see if he could use the resource to create a new type of soap.

"I had heard that cashew nut juice can be good for your health," he said, "so I decided to see if I could use it to make soap. Making soap has been a hobby of mine for a long time."

"I studied at the King Mongkut's Institute of Technology in Bangkok for one year. I had been using flowers to make soap when I started searching for new materials."

Cashew trees yield a kidney-shaped fruit which contains a single seed – the cashew nut. The juice of the nut is traditionally processed and distilled into liquor or made into a sweet, refreshing drink.

"I use no chemicals to make the soap – only natural oils and cashew nut juice. The soap has no fragrance and is a natural brown color," said K. Komson.

Vitamin E from rice bran oil and castor oil are in the soap to help moisturize the skin, while the soap's high pH level washes and cleanses the body.

Anacardic acid in cashew nut juice can help reduce the risk of breast cancer, and phenol compounds in the juice are known to slow the release of tyrosinase enzyme, which is involved in the formation of blemishes on the skin.

After securing the patent for cashew nut soap, K. Komson is the only producer of the prod-



uct in Thailand. He also makes a variety of other products such as shampoos and body scrubs at his home factory at Tambon Wichit. Among his recent inno-

ventions are soap products made from pineapple and natural fibers.

The cashew nut soap is already a big hit in France, where

Komson Ratchatapan wants Phuket's residents to look after the environment, as well as themselves, by trying his cashew apple soap.

K. Komson exports the product to Papillion City. Although cashew nut soap is yet to achieve the same success in Phuket, K. Komson is confident that his business will expand at a steady pace.

All of K. Komson's products are made to order and can be delivered anywhere in Thailand.

A circular bar of cashew nut soap retails at 110 baht, while a semi-circular, scented version costs 70 baht.

There is no minimum order in Phuket, but residents of other provinces must order at least five bars of soap, which will then be delivered by Thai Post.

For further information email komson@budhachad.com or visit www.budhachad.com

FLING YOUR DRINK

Bartenders from around the South descended on Phuket recently for the annual Southern Bartender Contest, held this year in Central Festival Phuket on July 5.

Judges looked for a combination of style, execution, presentation and taste to decide who would receive the coveted first prize.

'Flairing' – juggling items used to make a drink – is an essential part of a cocktail bartender's repertoire.

First place went to Ubong Marsook for his concoction, Heart of Andaman.

The top five competitors will go on to compete in the national finals in Bangkok in September.



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Above, the completed cocktails were paraded so the judges could see them in a cocktail-bar-like setting.

Left: A competitor turns a bottle into a colorful rocket during his routine.

Right: The winner was the emerald-colored Heart of Andaman.



Hot bags for hot babes

By Sandra Cantzler, dpa

We've all seen the knock-off handbags touted on Soi Bangla, and we all know that every girl dreams of picking up one of the dazzling little numbers at one of Phuket's high-end stores, but what makes one bag so much more attractive than another? The answer is simple: it's all in the name.

Every season there are a handful of styles that drive some women absolutely crazy. These styles fall under the category of the "it" bag.

They are often chic and limited-edition designer pieces, seen in the hands of only the most prominent people whose fame and class are supposed to be transferred on to us regular folk when we buy the bag. If only life were that simple.

Shoppers who can fork out the necessary cash to own an "it" bag ought also to have some clue about designer labels, because not every "it" bag hits the mark, said Maike Senger, founder of a Berlin-based website where customers can rent designer purses.

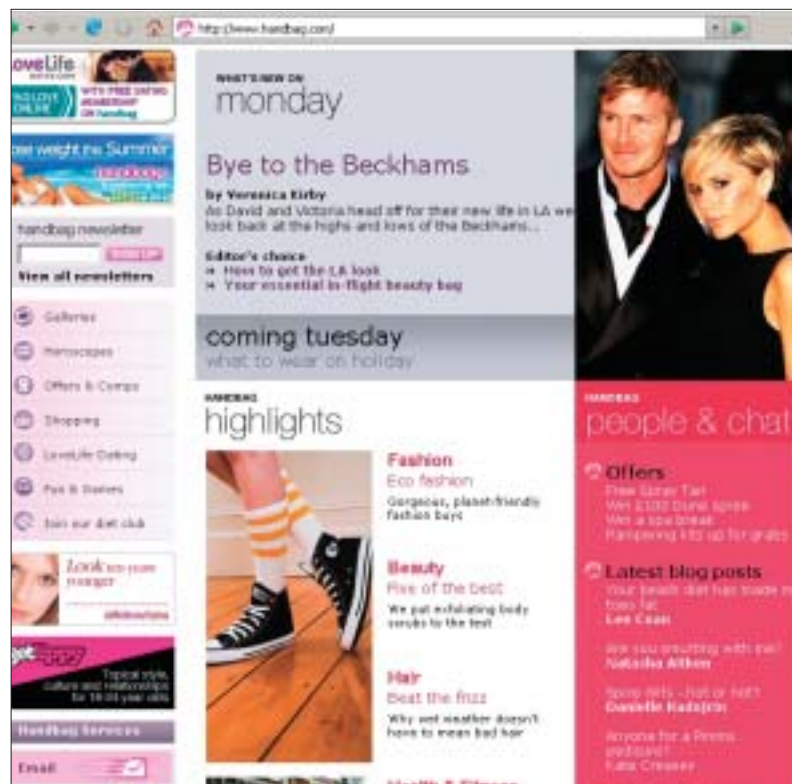
For designers, the term "it bag" has become an important part of their marketing strategies.

A purse earns its trendy status only when several factors come together: "It" bags are a combination of designer label, style and media hype, according to the popular British website www.handbag.com. This season, designs by Yves Saint Laurent, Prada and Chloe are leading the pack.

The results of a *People* magazine study also help with the selection process. Asking yourself, "What famous person carried that particular bag?" can be key to determining whether an item is worthy of your selection.

"If Kate Moss carries a particular bag, you can be sure that it will be an 'it' bag," said Maike.

Style consultant Andreas



Handbag.com is a resource for handbag-frenzied shoppers who want to keep up on what the celebrities are carrying at the moment.

Rose from Frankfurt said another feature of "it" bags is that they are produced only in limited numbers.

"Some people are thrilled to find a rare stamp. For others the thrill is owning one of only 5,000 bags just like the one Sharon Stone has," said Andreas.

Paradoxically, when searching for a specific designer bag, swift action is often as necessary as patience.

Regular customers don't often make the waiting lists that designers keep for their latest purses. This has annoyed some customers, especially people who are so passionate about purses that they collect them.

"Prominent people are often dressed by designers at no cost," said Andreas. Even before the fashion season begins, people like Kate Moss, Paris Hilton and Madonna set the new trends that the rest of the fashion world will willingly follow.

"You can never have too many purses," said Wiebke Nieland, who designs pieces using unusual fabrics for her la-

bel, Schneckenhaus, in Berlin. Purses accent an outfit, adding the right touch, "even on days when women have no desire to do themselves up," added Wiebke.

Every woman should have two to three designer purses in her closet, said Andreas. "It depends, of course, on one's budget," he continued. In terms of fashion, an expensive purse is usually a safe investment. "They can always be sold later for a good price," added Andreas.

Shoppers who can't commit to or afford a designer bag have a lot of choice in the shops, or they can turn to Maike's German-language website www.luxus-babe.de. Customers can register and rent purses from a network of designers, from Coccinelle to Gucci. The type of purse that a customer wants depends on what type of monthly rental fee they choose. Prices are from 29 to 79 euros (1,250 to 2,500 baht) a month.

It's uncertain if this service will ever make its way to Phuket. Girls, we can only hope.

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If you're only as old as you feel, that would make me 16

I was recently featured in a fashion magazine in Cyprus. The interview had taken place months before, so quite honestly I forgot to look out for it, but found myself picking up a copy in my gynecologist's waiting room. As I flicked through the mag I suddenly saw myself staring back at me from its pages.

And that was when it happened. The moment I suddenly realized that I had added a new neurosis to my repertoire. It is no longer the size of my boobs and bum or whether I am a good mother that obsesses me. Oh no. Since the waiting room revelation I have become unnaturally interested in age – whether I look good for mine and whether I've achieved enough in my time.

I must admit I hadn't thought about age much before until I read the interview and realized how long I've been around. Now, since that dreaded pap test appointment, I have at least one age-related high or low every single day.

Whenever I now read a magazine or newspaper article, I find myself scanning the feature for the subject's age. And if he or she is the same kind of age and looks better than me, I visibly wilt. But I am thrilled if I look better for my age than he or she does for his or hers.

Even if the subject has suffered some terrible tragedy, I'm ashamed to admit that my initial

reaction is one of sheer delight and to think, "Yes! Yes! Just look at my superior complexion!"

I have also developed a compulsive need to know how old people think I am. Even if they guess and say I'm a month younger than my real age I grin like a Cheshire cat for days.



about how well I am doing for my age. Compared with other people, of course. It's the same impulse that drives me to check out their achievements too.

You know what I mean. You're reading about some film starlet in a rag mag and you see that she's a mother of two, she's had two husbands – both of them her own, incidentally – she's ridiculously wealthy, and she's been Oscar-nominated. So you scan the page for her age.

How old is she? She's bloody 28! Damn, damn and double damn. More than Y years younger than me and she's done all that? It's enough to make a girl feel nauseous – it really is.

Sometimes, though, I have achieved more than the people I read about. And it would be nice to say that I adopt a benevolently pitying attitude when this is the case, especially if I look better than them.

But I do not. I'm a cow, I'm a bitch. I ring up my friends – all of whom have the same obsession, may I add – and we rejoice in our age-based superiority.

"She's 40 and she's still an office junior? Ha ha!" Or, "She's 38 and looks like that? Look at those laughter lines. Nothing's that funny!"

And even if the person we are discussing has obviously over-achieved and leads the kind of life many people dream of, we still have a dig, "That starlet? Whatever – she still looks much older than 28, even after all the airbrushing."

What I have found myself doing is slipping my age into conversations in a not so subtle way, hoping people will be astounded when they learn the truth.

This is my favorite approach. Me: "God, I'm old enough to be your mum!" Them: "Why, how old are you?" Me: "X." Them: "X? No way!" Me: "Oh! Thank you." And then I giggle like a schoolgirl for about an hour.

Talking of schoolgirls, I still self-consciously refer to myself as a "girl" rather than a "woman", just to see if anyone raises an eyebrow – or chokes to death laughing.

My obsession isn't just about how I look, though. It's also

It's horrible, I know. And I don't know why I do it.

A guy was trying to chat me up once and he asked my age. I told him to guess. He said 40. Now, considering this was five years ago and BR (Before Revelation) and he was hoping to get lucky, this was not a good answer.

Not long afterwards a friend I hadn't seen for years saw me with my eldest son, did some quick figures in her head and made me out to be 42. Hmmm.

In terms of achievements, I've really done nothing much to shout about. So why have I become like this all of a sudden? There is obviously pressure from society to look great and achieve loads, and of course we're all vain and competitive to some degree, but my age obsession is more personal.

I have the misfortune to be descended from people who always looked amazing for their age, including my parents. Now I'm paranoid that I'm going to be the wrinkled sheep of the family. Add to that my high-achieving friends – book deals, TV shows, recording contracts – and you'll see what I'm getting at.

But whatever my reasons, these constant competitive comparisons are definitely not good for the soul. I should grow up and

embrace the fact that we all achieve in our own way and in our own time. Either that or lie about what I have accomplished and hang out with old people. Or, as my aunt – who still looks 13 – cannily suggests, I should tell

everyone I'm 10 years older than I really am so they will be awestruck by my amazing relative youthfulness.

However I handle this one, it's going to be hard to change my attitude after 42 years. There, I've said it. Yes, I'm 42. What? I look younger? Why, thank you! And thank you too, auntie. My heartfelt gratitude to Cosmopolitan magazine in Cyprus for calling me "a young woman", by the way.

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

AMBROSIA'S

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You can buy a four-bedroom pad up at Laguna, complete with private pool, furnish it lavishly and still have a fair chunk of cash left in the bank. Or you can buy one of the new limited edition models from Lamborghini: the Gallardo Superleggera, of which only 350 will be made.

While it is doubtful anybody in Phuket will invest in the Italian supercar, it is inevitable that someone in Thailand will acquire one. After all, what's 25 million baht to some of our tycoons?

The Gallardo has always been considered the "baby" Lamborghini, but that is not to say it is not in the supercar league. The larger Murcié lago is equipped with a magnificent V12 engine; the Gallardo has an only-slightly-tamer V10 with five liters capacity, producing a healthy 500bhp (368kW) and 510Nm of torque. Of greater significance is the fact that 80% of the available torque is produced as low as 1500rpm.

The Sant'Agata Bolognese maker arguably invented the supercar with the Miura in 1966, a mid-engined two-seater that was good for 265km/h and a 0-100 sprint time nudging six seconds. Only 764 were made between 1966 and 1973, but it is indisputably one of the most beautiful classic cars of all time.

Legend has it that Ferruccio Lamborghini, a millionaire manufacturer of air conditioners, farm implements and tractors,



This 'baby' Lamborghini Gallardo Superleggera is one of only 350 that will be made.

How to spend B25m

began building cars after he tried to complain to Enzo Ferrari about the standard of his cars. Ferrari refused to see his fellow Italian and Lamborghini declared that he would "build a car that was better than a Ferrari in every way".

The reality is less romantic: Lamborghini and Ferrari were friends and Enzo joked that Ferruccio could not drive a Ferrari, only tractors.

Ferruccio Lamborghini was born under the zodiac sign of Taurus. Consequently all the cars have some connection to bulls or bull-fighting. The Gallardo follows

tradition and is named after a breed of fighting bulls. The Gallardo breed was created in the 18th century and was named after Francisco Gallardo and his brothers, cattle breeders from Cadiz.

The Gallardo design was initiated in 2000 and saw the light of day three years later. In its three years of production, more than 5,000 have been built, making it the most successful Lamborghini in the somewhat checkered history of the company.

Lamborghini has passed through a number of owners over

the years, before becoming part of the giant Volkswagen group and its Audi division. Ferruccio Lamborghini initially sold the company to Swiss clock maker Georges-Henri Rosetti, who in turn sold it to a property developer.

Hubert Hahne, a German racing driver, took over and, in collaboration with his partner Dr Neumann, tried to resurrect the ailing company before it was then sold to an American. The firm changed hands several times before being acquired by a consortium of Indonesian entrepreneurs,



By Jeff Heselwood

who eventually sold Lamborghini to Volkswagen in 1998.

Clearly the whole point of a car like a Lamborghini is high performance and the Gallardo does not disappoint: top speed is a staggering 309km/h. At high speed an electronically-controlled rear spoiler is deployed to aid stability, while to rein in this performance massive Brembo brakes are fitted with 8-pot calipers at the front and 4-pot at the rear. The manufacturer claims deceleration of over 1.1g in the dry, which comfortably exceeds the majority of more mundane motorcars.

Sophisticated electronics control all functions, including a drive-by-wire throttle system, traction control, stability management and emission control.

If you have a spare 25 million baht, get your order in quick to Bologna before they sell out. A limited edition Gallardo Superleggera must be worth putting in the garage, even if the garage is all you can afford afterward.

Jeff Heselwood can be contacted at jhc@netvigator.com

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Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid below are the names of 25 breeds of dog. 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, excellent. Solution on the next page.

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

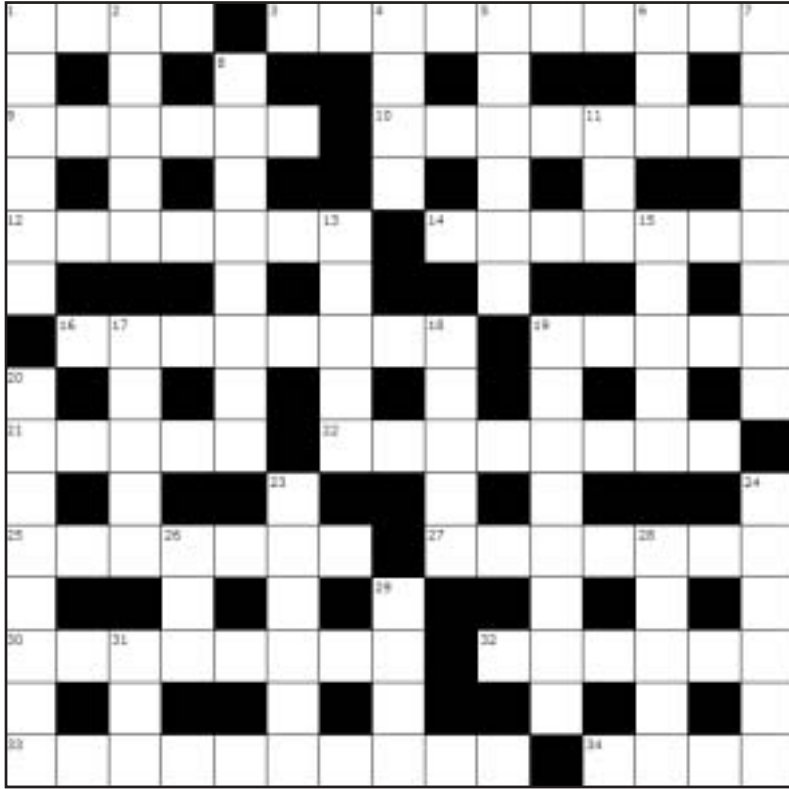
The Cryptic Crossword

ACROSS

1. Computer valley. (4)
3. Building chap with the German lizard. (10)
9. Wave! Competitor takes bad furs to her majesty. (6)
10. Itemized about two points, then lent an ear. (8)
12. Berate attempt to take turn. Thanks. (5, 2)
14. A little extra something to make insurance payment. (7)
16. Recall something about limb. (8)
19. A creditor's right to a foreigner. (5)
21. Bad housing put 50 in totals. (5)
22. Indications: stomps badly in my back. (8)
25. Hates Des in exams. (7)
27. News of water movements? (7)
30. Al leaves Australian national. (8)
32. Point to fish: "What a stink!" (6)
33. Insures cop breaks sound barrier. (10)
34. Virginia's after the French magma. (4)

DOWN

1. Stop Mr Arnaz on the street. (6)
2. Key to a Bogart movie. (5)
4. Respite for you, when surrounded by students. (4)
5. Bad feeling of tightwad? Yes. (6)



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2007

6. Rather give prosecutor a pole. (3)
7. Rudi intended to say, "Basic principle." (8)
8. Parents take note: birds need them. (8)
11. Mel's damaged tree. (3)
13. Bath as brass. (5)
15. In the vernacular, I'd take 10 and 1,000. (5)
17. Take a tonne of pure reversal to expel 34 across. (5)
18. Send timer back – it's within your power. (5)
19. Medicine against love? (8)
20. Secondhand transport employed rolling stock. (4, 4)
23. Marks transgressions about gratitude. (6)
24. Has the endless mother's ailment. (6)
26. Swallow tea? Not exactly. (3)
28. Assassin in town in Java. (5)
29. Presently, short name not know. (4)
31. Poor fool takes a step back. (3)

Solution on next page

Rhyme Time

The words or phrases described below all rhyme with 'spot'. What are they?

1. Pleasure boat.
2. Hunker down.
3. Basketball maneuver.
4. Lope.
5. Unused piece of land.
6. Specialist police team.
7. Decay.
8. Clothing pattern.
9. In the old days, essential naval supplies.
10. Secret plan.

Answers on next page

su|do|ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

HARD #24

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

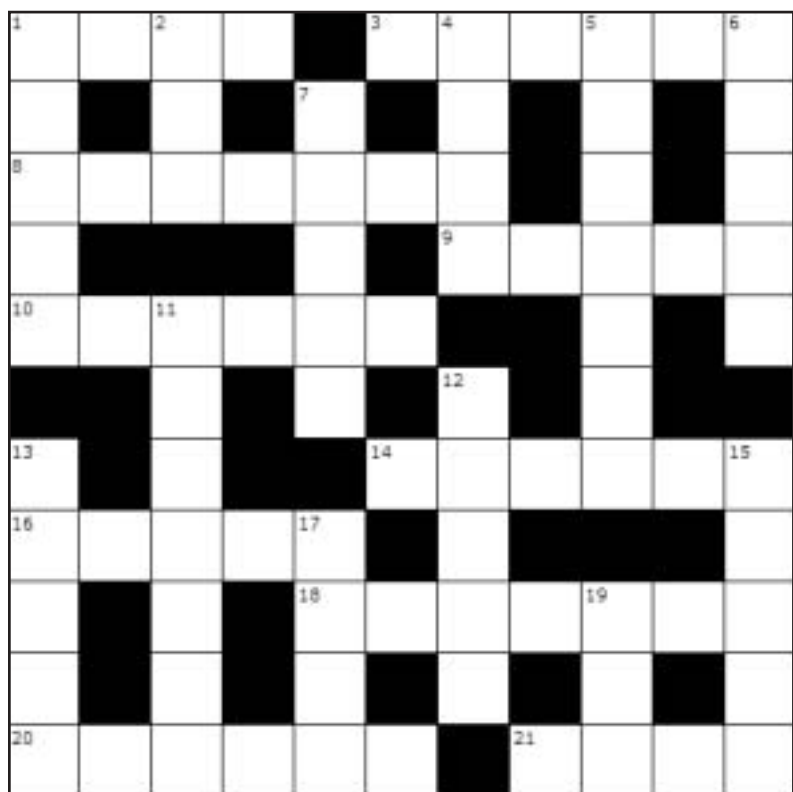
Scribble Space



EZ TRIVIA QUIZ

1. Auckland, Geneva, London, Madrid: which is the odd one out?
2. In which year did the USA declare independence?
3. Pyongyang is the capital of which country?
4. What is the terms for entwining the strands of two ropes to join them?
5. What might have a poop and a forecastle?
6. Which country's flag has vertical bars of black, yellow and red?
7. Who founded the city of Chiang Rai?
8. Which band released the hit song *Brown Sugar* in 1971?
9. Which of these is poisonous: agar-agar, turmeric, digitalis?
10. Where did rubber trees originally come from?

Answers on next page



ACROSS

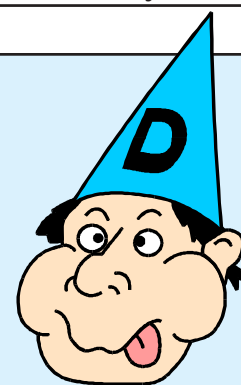
1. Smell.
3. Member of the Latter Day Saint church.
8. Force that resists movement.
9. Not tight.
10. Canadian trees.
14. Central American canal.
16. Cartoon duck.
18. Pilot.
20. White fur.
21. Make beer.

DOWN

1. Source of heroin.
2. Metal-bearing rock.
4. Gemstone.
5. The Material Girl.
6. Belly button.
7. Water mammal.
11. Play on stage.
12. Roman language.
13. Building material.
15. Bow and * * * * *
17. Show tiredness.
19. Rocky outcrop.

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. Which is currently the fastest street-legal production car? | 8. What was the original name given to the Pagani Zonda supercar? | equivalent of a wolf whistle? |
| 2. How fast can it go? | 9. Why was the name changed? | 16. The Lamborghini Murcielago is named after a famous fighting bull. But what does “murcielago” mean? |
| 3. How long does it take to go from 0 to 100 kmh? | 10. Which road car was based on the Jaguar D-type racing car? | 17. Which Aston Martin car is featured in <i>Lara Croft: Tomb Raider</i> ? |
| 4. Who described the car as “the most pointless exercise on the planet”? | 11. How many were made? | 18. In which city are the Koenigsegg supercars made? |
| 5. Name the driver used by the BBC program <i>Top Gear</i> to test fast cars. | 12. The Maserati MC12 is built on the same chassis as which other supercar? | 19. In 2003, the Koenigsegg factory caught fire. What caused the fire? |
| 6. Which supercar manufacturer also has a catering business called Absolute Taste? | 13. How many seats does the McLaren F1 car have? | 20. In 2005, a Koenigsegg CCR beat the speed record set by which other supercar? |
| 7. Which supercar appears on the packaging for Gillette’s Mach 3 Turbo razors? | 14. Which is the fastest production car with automatic transmission? | |
| | 15. Which car’s name is the Piedmontese language | |
- Answers below, left**

Answers below, left

Puzzle Solutions

Monster Quiz Answers

1. The Bugatti Veyron 16; 2. 407.5kmh; 3. 2.5 seconds; 4. Gordon Murray, designer of the McLaren F1 supercar; 5. The Stig; 6. McLaren Group; 7. The Saleen S7; 8. Pagani Fangio F1, after race driver Juan Manuel Fangio, who helped design it; 9. Fangio died; 10. The Jaguar XKSS; 11. 16; 12. The Enzo Ferrari; 13. Three (the driver sits in front, in the center); 14. The Mercedes-Benz SLR McLaren; 15. Countach (Lamborghini); 16. Bat; 17. Aston Martin V12 Vanquish; 18. Angelholm, Sweden; 19. A short-circuit in a dishwasher; 20. The McLaren F1.

Rhyme Time Answers

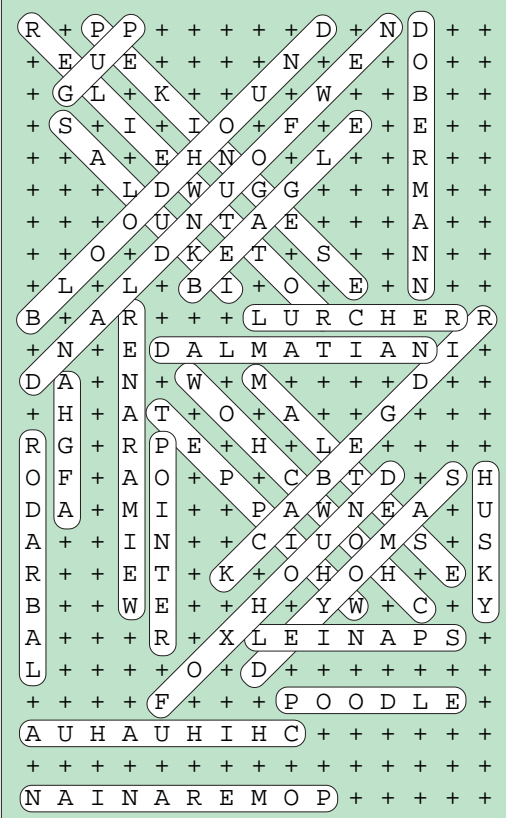
1. Yacht; 2. Squat; 3. Jump shot; 4. Jog-trot; 5. Vacant lot; 6. SWAT; 7. Rot; 8. Polka dot; 9. Powder and shot; 10. Plot.

EZ Trivia Answers

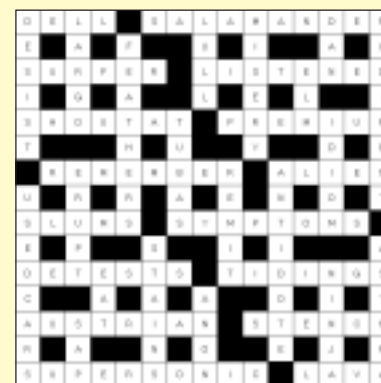
1. Auckland (all the others are in Europe); 2. 1776; 3. North Korea; 4. Splicing; 5. A ship; 6. Belgium; 7. King Mengrai; 8. The Rolling Stones; 9. Digitalis; 10. The Amazon rainforest.

Hidden Words

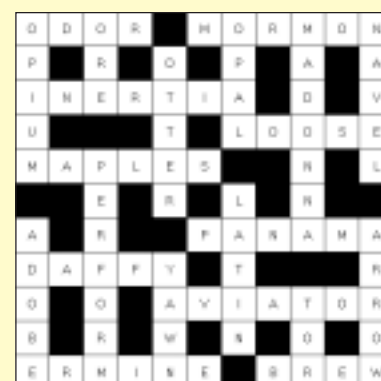
SOLUTION



Solution to this week's Cryptic Crossword



Solution to this
week's Quick
Crossword



Solution to this
week's Sudoku
puzzle



Apocalyptic masterpiece

Cormac McCarthy is 74 and his last novel, *No Country for Old Men*, reflected some of the concerns of a twilight life: how to maintain love and bring lasting good into a world riddled with evil. It is a theme he continues with in his new novel, *The Road* (Vintage Books, New York, 2006, 287pp), his 10th and perhaps his best.

McCarthy is one of the great American prose stylists. His 10 novels can be divided into three phases: First came the lush descriptive Southern novels with their echoes of Faulkner, culminating in *Suttree* (1979); then came the stark, brutally violent novels of the Southwestern desert country: *Blood Meridian* and the *Border Trilogy*. Now we have this slim, taut tale of a nuclear winter in post-apocalyptic America.

The novel is dominated by the image of an unnamed father and his son, endlessly pushing a grocery cart of scavenged provisions south down a deserted highway, seeking the warmth of the Gulf of Mexico and shelter from marauding bands of killers.

Whereas McCarthy's masterpiece *Blood Meridian* focused on a son who fled his father to join just such a band of nihilists – American filibusters in Mexico in the 1850s – *The Road* is the story of a

loving father desperate to shield his eight-year-old son from death and the evil of men.

The prose is terse and elegiac:

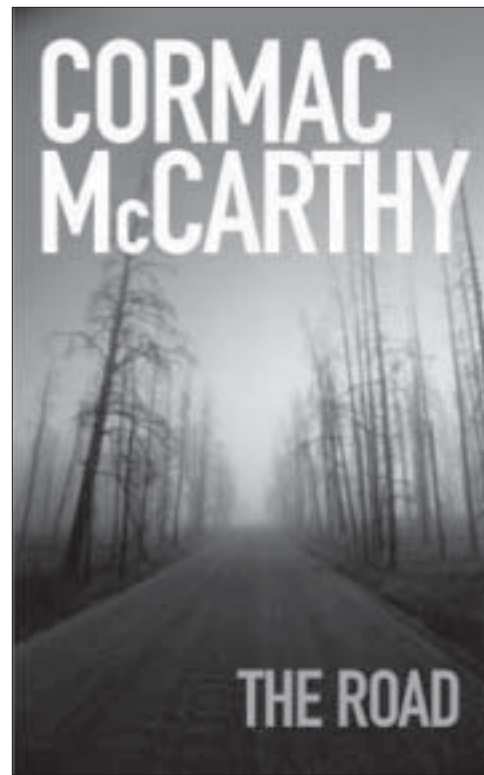
"They passed through the city at noon the day following. He kept the pistol to hand on the folded tarp on top of the cart. He kept the boy close to his side.

The city was mostly burned. No sign of life. Cars in the streets caked with ash, everything covered with ash and dust. Fossil tracks in the dried sludge. A corpse in a doorway dried to leather. Grimacing at the day."

They make their relentless way south, fighting off cold and hunger, scavenging for anything useful in deserted farmhouses and barns and shops. Much has been picked over by bands of survivors before them. The father is on constant lookout for danger on the road. Every so often they find a treasure, like the boy's first can of Coca-Cola, but mostly it's a hard slog through a bleak and devastated land: burned woods, ruined farms, deserted villages.

Fellow survivors inspire nothing but terror. The man and boy awake to see a ragtag group with red scarves, marching four abreast down the highway.

"An army in tennis shoes, tramping. Carrying three-foot lengths of pipe with



leather wrappings. Lanyards at the wrist. They clanked past, marching with a swaying gait like wind-up toys. Bearded, their breath smoking through their masks... The phalanx following carried spears or lances tasseled with ribbons, the long blades hammered out of trucksprings in some crude forge upcountry. The boy lay with his face in his arms, terrified. They passed two hun-

dred feet away, the ground shuddering lightly. Tramping. Behind them came wagons drawn by slaves in harness and piled with goods of war and after that the women, perhaps a dozen in number, some of them pregnant, and lastly a supplementary consort of catamites illclothed against the cold and fitted in dogcollars and yoked each to each. All passed on."

These are the bad guys.

With no food for days, the father and son stumble on through snowstorms. They are saved by the discovery of an underground shelter in the backyard of an old plantation house. For some precious days, they feast on the bounty of pre-war America.

At last they reach the coast – not the blue spectacle the boy had been led to believe.

"Out there was the gray beach with the slow combers rolling dull and leaden and the distant sound of it. Like the desolation of some alien sea breaking on the shores of a world unheard of. Out on the tidal flats lay a tanker half careened. Beyond that the ocean vast and cold and shifting like a slowly heaving vat of slag and then the gray squall line of ash."

Here the endgame of their long struggle to find the good guys is played out. The ending is, simply, tremendous.

Dedicated to McCarthy's young son, *The Road* was awarded the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

PHUKET DIARY

Upcoming events on the island

July 14. Bastille Day French Buffet Dinner and Wine Tasting at the Wine Connection.

Come and enjoy the flavors of France (Normandy, Lyon, Provence, South West) with a buffet dinner for 390 baht per person or a special deal: Buffet and Free Flow French Wine for only 1,000 baht per person. For more information call Pascal at 087-8896074.

July 14. French National Day Buffet and Wine at the Royal Phawadee Village.

The evening starts at 6:30 pm with wine and appetizers in the lobby, followed at 8 pm with a "Mistral Gagnant" buffet next to the pool.

Prices are 690 baht per person (only on reservation) with a 5% discount for the 2nd and 3rd person coming with you and a 10% discount for the 4th and 5th person.

For more information & reservations contact Claude at 081-8936677, email: claudedecrissey.co.com or claudedecrissey@hotmail.com; contact Bao at 084-8492122, email: bao@crissey.co.com or bao1973@hotmail.fr Website: www.royal-phawadee-village.com/14juillet.html

July 15. Meditation Retreat.

Free monthly meditation retreats on the third Sunday of the month from 1:30 pm to 3 pm at Wang Kung restaurant, behind Suan Luang Park in Phuket City. The sessions will include an

introduction to meditation, relaxation exercises and meditation practice, as well as a question and answer period.

Instruction is provided by English monk Phra Nicholas Thanissaro and people of all nationalities and religions are welcome to attend.

For more information call 081-3704005, 089-6476424 or 087-2838185; email: mananya@hotmail.com or poolsuk@asianpremier.com; or visit www.meditationthai.org

Every Sunday. Brunch at the Mangosteen Resort and Spa.

Specialty brunches every Sunday, from 11 am to 3 pm, with an Italian brunch on July 15. Only 499 baht net, with the first 20 bookings each week paying just 399 baht net. With a half-bottle of wine, the charge is 950 baht net. For more information call Christophe Lopez at 076-289399 or email: info@mangosteen-phuket.com

July 19 to 22. Evason Phuket Race Week.

Four days of top-class yacht racing and five nights of great beachside parties at the Evason beachside terrace.

Race Week is organized by Image Asia Events and is held under the auspices of the Yacht Racing Association of Thailand and the Ao Chalong Yacht Club. For more information contact Grenville Fordham at 081-894-8122, email: gren@image-asia.

com or visit www.phuketraceweek.com

July 22. Mission Hills Invitational 2007.

Don't miss this annual special event at Mission Hills Golf Club sponsored by Club Car and the Tourism Authority of Thailand.

The entry fee is 2,500 baht per player, including caddy fee, cart fee and buffet dinner. The registration closing date is July 15.

Registration from 10 am; shotgun start at midday; buffet dinner at 6 pm. Great prizes will be awarded to the best players. For more information email: info@missionhillspuket.com

July 29-30: Asarnha Bucha Day and Khao Pansa.

This full-moon day of the eighth lunar month commemorates the Buddha's first sermon after attaining Enlightenment more than 2,500 years ago. Evening candlelit processions take place at all Thai wats.

Khao Pansa marks the beginning of the Buddhist Lent and, for monks, the start of the Rains Retreat. A candle festival is held annually on this day, with sculpted beeswax candles depicting mythological creatures, being carried in parades to local temples.

August 6-11. Laguna Phuket Summer Music Camp.

The Laguna Phuket Music Camp will feature free workshops open to any act, talent or

audio-visual crew. Talent will include musicians, bands, vocalists, soloists, dancers, DJs and media jocks. Music genres will range from rock to rap.

There will also be live performances on Saturday August 11 from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm at the Laguna Holiday Club Resort by those involved in the workshops and YRock Pop winners Ghost Souljah and Dani & Maren from Hong Kong.

For further information email belmike@netvigator.com

September 5-7. KTO Junior Golf Challenge 2007.

The inaugural KTO Junior Challenge Golf Tournament at the Laguna Phuket Golf Club is open to children six to 17 years of age who hold a current handicap card from a recognized golf club. Registration is US\$ 285 (approx. 9,975 baht) per player, including welcome reception, 3-day green fees and caddy fees, awards luncheon and more.

Registration closing date is July 31, 2007. Special events, discounted green fees and special hotel rates at Laguna Beach Resort have also been arranged. For further information visit www.kids-tee-off.com

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Breath of fresh air

The introduction of roadside breath tests are a welcome move to help reduce Phuket's notorious road fatality toll. Just a few years ago, a person died on Phuket's roads every 36 hours, leading to the island's roads being ruefully dubbed "Phuket's culling machine".

So far this year, according to government statistics, 117 people have died and more than 7,000 people have been injured in accidents on Phuket's roads.

Although the statistics garnered from the island's three government hospitals do not indicate how many accidents involved alcohol, a study by Silpakorn University in Nakhon Pathom found that in 969 collisions involving 1,082 motorcycle riders, "alcohol proved to be the most outstanding cause" and contributed to at least 393 of those crashes.

Naysayers will no doubt claim that the breath tests will only add another unofficial revenue stream for the boys in brown, while not preventing the drivers from continuing on their route.

But those critics may be surprised to learn that the road police have followed the book and cracked down on drunk motorists – even those not involved in accidents – by arresting and charging 73 drivers between December 28 last year and June 30 this year.

Yet, as learned by governments in the West, the real change must come from the drivers themselves – not just from law enforcement.

When was the last time you heard someone in a bar declining another drink by saying, "No thanks, I'm driving"? Or even heard of a "designated driver" to ferry friends around on a night out?

Facing Phuket's poor public transportation options (a motorbike taxi or a ridiculously overpriced tuk-tuk), people instead load up and hit the road.

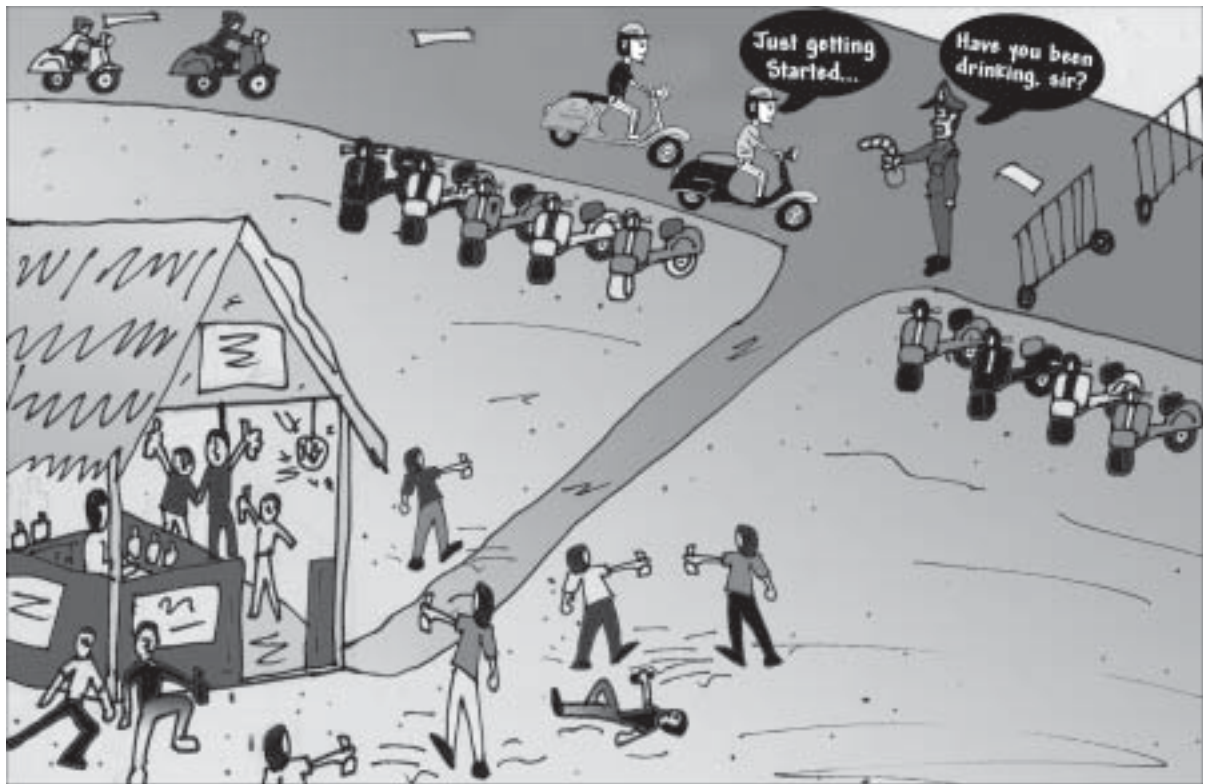
Having reliable, reasonably priced, late-night transportation would be a huge step forward in keeping people from driving after they've been drinking.

Until that day, however, the new laws will at least aid police in pushing in the right direction. The laws are being branded as "tough", yet are no more stringent than most other countries.

Even then, Phuket City Traffic Police Traffic Inspector Lt Col Teerawat Leamsuwan points out that action against those found "borderline drunk" will be given leniency. One couldn't ask for a more "true Phuket" solution.

Regardless, the time has come for Phuket motorists to sober up. Having harmless fun is a civil right. Putting other people's lives in danger is not.

— The Editor



Letters

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

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

Count your blessings

In response to Heavens Sent's complaint in Vol 14, Issue 26, about the outages failing to happen, I only have one thing to say: count your blessings, mate.

People usually complain about the frequency of these blackouts and droughts in Phuket, and Heavens Sent's complaint is that he didn't get his fair share?

Come on, are you actually disappointed that the public works people actually managed to do their work right this time and managed to solve a problem that would have caused even more inconvenience?

How about looking on the bright side and accepting with gratitude the fact that you were spared an inconvenience, rather than being so upset to write in and gripe about it?

Mayrene Chester
Villa California
Phuket City

Dangerous days

Ten years ago we visited Phuket for the first time, and we were so impressed by the safe streets and the feeling that no one would harm or take advantage of us here that we have been coming back every year since.

This may be our last visit though, as I am amazed by the increase in violence and the seemingly total disregard for the law that now exists in Phuket. A week does not go by without the report of a murder, a rape or a drive-by shooting appearing in your newspaper. Am I talking about events in New York? Alas no, it is happening in Phuket and I am wondering why.

Vietnam is looking really good for our next Asian experience, which is a shame because we still think Thai people are fantastic ambassadors for the country. Unfortunately, money and greed seem to have taken over from friendliness and that famous smile.

Bring back the old Thailand, especially in Phuket, where a holiday used to be safe, secure and a great experience.

John Dedman
Kingsley
Western Australia

Out of... whack

I was having lunch with a friend yesterday when we started talking about his new car, which is not fitted with an alarm system. During the conversation we came to realize that there are probably more murders on the island than there are car thefts.

Good for him, his car is probably safe. But it doesn't say much about the level of violent crime here, which seems to be way out of whack with the tropical island paradise many of us have come to believe we have found here.

Perhaps if the police spent more time on violent crime than on raiding small gambling parties, which always seem to lead the list of crime statistics, they could get things under control.

I fully understand it is easier and safer to puff up arrest statistics by busting a few old guys playing cards and betting a few baht than it is to chase down violent criminals.

But the police do have a duty to the general population to keep us relatively safe – don't they?

Something is seriously wrong when you have a higher probability of being killed than of having your car stolen.

Uneasy in paradise
Phuket City

Vice? We've got bigger problems

Jeremy Stigwell wrote last week about cracking down on vice, which translates as closing Soi Bangla and thus closing Patong.

Does he believe that the dirty beach with polluted water, the horrid traffic conditions, a lack of toilet facilities, "special farang prices", stray dogs, the highest transportation costs in Thailand, and so on, are the main draw to Patong and Phuket?

Without vice this economy would fail even more than it already is. His unbelievable diatribe about even tougher visa requirements would ensure the collapse of most cities in this country.

The Immigration Department here is more talked about, laughed about and complained about than all the comparable agencies in all the 32 different countries I have visited combined.

If that department weren't such a tragedy it would be a training course on "How not to draw tourists into your country".

Thailand is already the lowest on the list of the 10 top South-eastern Asia nations in every category and failing more every day.

Hell, they don't even have a government! Two robberies do not a "crime capital" make, Jeremy.

Don Aleman
Phuket

The Phuket Gazette

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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.

Police ready to crack down on drunk driving

Two years ago Phuket had a lot of drunk driving accidents, but we are more vigilant now, using checkpoints to check for drunk drivers.

Traffic police charged 73 drivers with driving while intoxicated between December 28, 2006, and June 30, 2007. We arrested those drivers between 1 am and 3 am at checkpoints in Phuket City.

Most of them were between the ages of 18 and 25 years, and all had alcohol/blood levels exceeding 50mg/100ml.

The process works like this: First we observe the vehicle as it approaches a check point to see whether it is well-controlled.

The second step is for the police to talk to the driver and smell for alcohol on the driver's breath and clothing.

If the officer suspects the driver is intoxicated he will then use a breathalyzer called a SAM-03, which estimates alcohol/blood levels.

If a person's estimate is 50 to 100mg/100ml, we will ask them to step away from their vehicle and sit and drink cold water for about 30 to 60 minutes.

Then we will do the breath test again to see if they are at or below 50mg/100ml. If they are, they can then go home with no charge.

The 73 drivers we charged with drunk driving all had alcohol/blood levels from 100mg up to 200mg, so we had to charge them with drunk driving, as they were very drunk.

FIRST PERSON

"Most drivers want to hide from the police when they are drunk because they fear being arrested more than they fear for their lives. I can't agree with that," Phuket City Traffic Police Traffic Inspector Lt Col Teerawat Leamsuwan says. Here he speaks out about Phuket's drunk driving problem and the tough drunk driving law that has been passed, but not yet enacted.



If charged with drunk driving, the fine is 2,000 to 10,000 baht, or three months in prison, or both.

A driver may ask for a second test if they are surprised by the result, but the traffic police can arrest and charge them based only on the first test if the result is over 50mg.

Under a national law that will soon go into effect we will also be able to charge someone if they refuse to take the breath test, and the penalties will be greater.

Phuket City traffic police have three breathalyzers (SAM-03) for alcohol testing and there is another one with the Police In-

vestigation Team. The SAM-03s are good quality and can get an immediate result when drivers breathe into them.

They are a good tool, but we don't have enough sampling tubes for the driver to breathe into; we have about 200 and we must buy more of them from our local budget.

Normally, when we set up a checkpoint we have only traffic police, but during holidays such as Songkran or New Year we also have nurses and doctors joining us.

We send the SAM-03 units to Bangkok every six months to check for accuracy. If there is any problem we replace them.

The testing provides us with a certification that the units are in good working order and we can show this certificate in court if a driver contests the results of the test.

I worry about every drunk driver because they can lose control of their vehicle. It's lucky for you if you meet us on the road, and I need drivers to realize that.

But most drivers want to hide from the police when they are drunk because they fear being arrested more than they fear for their lives. I can't agree with that.

I want to ask every driver that if you are drunk please don't

Guidance from the police brochure

Under the new law, 50 milligrams of alcohol per 100 milliliters of blood will be the legal standard for establishing driving under the influence of alcohol.

While blood alcohol content is commonly referred to as a percentage, the legal measure refers to the weight of alcohol per volume of blood.

Safe levels of alcohol usage (under the proposed new law – specified in gov't brochure):**

Two small bottles of beer (325ml) or four small bottles of "light" beer, or

Two glasses of wine (80cc glass), or

Six bottle caps of whiskey.

**** Wait one hour before driving. ****

These suggestions, from a government brochure, are only guidelines. Blood levels can vary significantly depending on weight, metabolic rate, body water content and other factors.

drive. If you must go somewhere, please ask someone else to drive.

Compiled by Sompratch Saowakhon

Can I open a pawn shop?

Is it legal to open a pawn shop in Thailand? If so, how would a person obtain a permit and can the shop be opened anywhere, say in Phuket?

Benjamin Winningham
Thailand

Suwit Sangmanee, Phuket Provincial Administrative officer, replies:

In Thailand, Thai nationals and private companies are allowed to open pawn shops. However, you will first need approval from the local District Office where you want to open the shop.

With your application you must show:

- your passport or Thai ID card;
- proof of ownership of the property where the shop will be opened;
- three two-inch photos clearly showing your face;
- the tabien baan (house registra-

tion document) on which you are registered.

The fee to apply to open a pawn shop is 20,000 baht in Bangkok and 10,000 baht elsewhere in Thailand. The fee is non-refundable if your application is denied.

If the District Office approves your application to open a pawn shop, then your application will be sent to the Phuket Provincial Administrative Office for approval.

Saowadee Silapa, Phuket Provincial Deputy of Administra-

tion and Justice Enhancement Group, replies:

Please note that the law requires pawn shop owners to have at least 15 million baht held in reserve in a Thai bank account.

Another important law is that it is the local District Office's absolute discretion whether to allow more or to have fewer pawn shops in their districts.

This means that if the local District Office simply decides to have fewer pawn shops in their area and asks you to close down, then you will have no right to appeal that decision.

Does my baby need to get a passport?

I have a 20-month-old daughter who was born in Thailand but already has a US passport, issued by the US Embassy in Bangkok.

If I take her back to visit her grandparents in the US this summer, does she need a Thai passport or a Thai ID card to re-enter Thailand as a Thai?

My fear is that she will be considered a foreigner and have to do visa runs for the rest of her life...

Nervous dad
Phuket City

Chulanun Bunyarit, an Immigration officer at Phuket International Airport, replies:

There will be no problem as your daughter was born in Thailand. On her birth certificate issued at the District Office is an ID number.

This same number is used

in issuing the child's Thai ID card when the child turns 15 years old.

Although you can apply for your child to be issued a Thai passport, there is no need to. Your daughter already has an ID number. All you are required to do is show her birth certificate, plus one copy, to the Immigration officer when she leaves or enters Thailand.

An officer of the Passport Division, Haad Yai replies:

Although your daughter will be allowed to enter and leave Thailand by showing only her Thai birth certificate, the ideal solution would be to obtain a Thai passport for her.

This will help to avoid any confusion. She can use her US passport to enter and leave the US, and her Thai passport to enter and leave Thailand.

Issues & ANSWERS

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

Do the aqua-motion, baby

I think by now most of you are aware of the benefits of regular exercise, but knowing what types of activities are best for you is another story. A regular exercise schedule should be part of a balanced week, but in order for this to happen there are a few variables that must fall into place.

One of the major hurdles for a lot of people is convenience. Do you have to drive for 30 minutes to go to the gym, train for one hour, shower and then drive home for another 30 minutes?

If your level of commitment is not 100%, setting aside two hours three or four times a week may become a chore and ultimately not worth it! So what's the answer?

Keep things close to home and, if you are like most Phuket residents or holiday makers, you will have access to a pool.

We are literally surrounded by water and, more often than not, within reach of a public lap swimming pool, villa complex pool or

local spa or holiday resort facility.

If you are now thinking to yourself, 'Hey, I can't swim, so getting in a pool will be a waste of time,' think again. A productive 60-minute water-based exercise session can easily be completed in a 5x10 meter swimming pool without having to perform any movement that resembles a swimming stroke.

This is how you do it: To begin you will have to make two purchases, the first being a pair of foam flotation dumbbells. These look like a normal set of dumbbells that you see in

the gym but with one major difference: they are made of foam and they float, thereby creating resistance as you push or pull them through the water.

Your second purchase is an aqua-jogging flotation belt that can be strapped around your waist. This provides extra floatation for deep water exercising and keeps you afloat while you perform exercises such as running through the water.

Water creates a natural resistance that enables you to move your body through movements without the impact stresses that are found in many land-based exercises, such as running.

Being in water is also relaxing, fun and cool. The benefits that can be gained from regular aquacising are considerable and include increased cardiovascular fitness, improved flexibility and joint range of motion, greater muscle strength and endurance, along with reduced bodyfat levels and muscle toning.



WATER BABES: Aquacise makes working out easy. Above, members of the Phuket International Women's Club get fit at the Hilton Arcadia Resort.

All of this and you will not experience any post-training soreness or stiffness.

A few precautionary guidelines for aquacising: don't forget to protect yourself from the sun as much as possible by wearing a hat and sunglasses and slopping on some water resistant sunscreen or wearing a thin lycra shirt. Make sure, too, that you have a bottle of water poolside and drink about 250 milliliters every 20 minutes.

Consult a qualified and experienced trainer who can devise or lead you through some aquacising sessions that are specific to your fitness level and requirements. You will begin to feel the benefits of exercising in the water in no time.

FIT FOR LIFE

By Nick Dobyn

Nick Dobyn is the manager of Phuket Personal Trainers Co Ltd, a Rawai-based personal fitness consultancy specializing in personal fitness training. For more information call 086-2514801, or email nick@phuketfitness.net or visit www.phuketfitness.net

Combating cardiac arrest

In 1999 an email began to circulate with the title "How to survive a heart attack when alone". I guess it is still doing the rounds because I was recently asked if there was any truth in its contents.

It is worth noting that "heart attack" and "cardiac arrest" are terms that people tend to use interchangeably, when in fact they are different. A heart attack occurs when parts of the heart are damaged due to lack of oxygen from disrupted blood flow. This can happen without you being

aware, with the pain and time it takes to get to hospital, or with a massive coronary forcing you to keel over.

Heart attacks can lead to cardiac arrest, which is an abrupt loss of heart function due to an irregular or complete lack of heartbeat. Cardiac arrest can also occur quite suddenly and for no apparent reason.

Although the email mentions having a heart attack, it is really referring to a cardiac arrest and suggests the following action:

"Do not panic, but start

coughing repeatedly and very vigorously. A deep breath should be taken before each cough. The cough must be deep and prolonged, as when producing sputum from deep inside the chest. A breath and a cough must be repeated about every two seconds without let-up until help arrives, or until the heart is felt to be beating normally again..... in this way, heart attack victims can get to a hospital."

The American Heart Association, the British Heart Foundation and the Resuscitation Council (UK) don't go quite so far as to say that it is total hokum, but they are all quite clear that the best result would be a few seconds of extra consciousness before you succumbed. The latter goes so far as to state that it "...knows of no evidence that, even if a lone patient knew that cardiac arrest had occurred, he or she would be able to maintain sufficient circulation to allow activity, let alone driving to the hospital".

The misleading email probably originated from what can occur during cardiac catheterization. This is a procedure during which a small plastic tube (the catheter) is inserted into an artery, possibly in the groin, and then directed toward your heart. A dye is injected through this tube

so that the doctors can use X-rays to visualize the vessels that supply blood to your heart tissue to see if you have a blockage somewhere.

This procedure is not without risk and some patients may develop irregular heartbeats, known as arrhythmias, within the first 15 seconds. Seeing as these can lead to death, the patient may be asked to cough repeatedly until either the arrhythmia disappears or the crash team arrives.

So now that the terms are cleared up, what exactly do you do if you think you're having a cardiac arrest in Phuket and there is nobody to witness it? Well, the same thing that you would do anywhere in the world. Die, probably. In that situation, you may as well try the deep breathing and coughing because you're in last chance saloon.

The more useful question is what to do when you witness somebody having a cardiac arrest? In the UK, I'd call 999 and perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) until the ambulance arrived. There doesn't seem to be an all-in-one number here, however, so while you can still do the CPR, you need to find out the hospital numbers in your area and any EMS numbers in advance and pop them in your mobile phone and also on a piece

of paper above your land-line. Remember that CPR simply buys time – it isn't going to restart the heart. What might do that is a defibrillator, and you had better hope that the ambulance coming has one in it. And that it gets there in three to seven minutes.

This wonderful machine often gets your heart back into normal rhythm if you're having a cardiac arrest. The good news is that anybody can own and be trained to use one. Known as AEDs (automated external defibrillators), they are about the size of a laptop and are basically a computerized paramedic for these situations. The average price is about US\$ 2,000 (68,760 baht).

Considering the lack of a 999-type number, the lack of local ambulance service stations and the time it takes to travel from, let's say, Kamala to Patong, the only solution for Phuket that I can see is for each village or town to have designated AED points that everyone is aware of and that are manned 24 hours per day. Goodness knows who'll pay for it, though.

George Robbie holds a master's degree and diploma from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. A UK-qualified teacher, he provides science home schooling in Phuket. You can email him at home-science@gmail.com

HEALTH MATTERS

By George Robbie

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I am amazed at my popularity. I don't want to make people reading this feel inadequate, but if I don't open my email every day my inbox seems to become overwhelmed.

The only problem I have with this truly incredible popularity is I can't quite remember who so many of my correspondents are, how I know them or where I know them from.

Many of these mysterious contacts are women; and I like women, a lot. Most of them seem to know some amazingly intimate aspects about my personal situation and physical condition.

Let me give a few examples. You'd be amazed at the number of friendly people offering to help me extend the length, and occasionally the thickness, of my penis. How nice.

Obviously, one of my former – sadly dissatisfied – female conquests has contacted places such as the Dr Josef Mengele Institute for Unusual Medical Research (I think it's in Argentina, or maybe Paraguay) and given them thorough information about my "condition". Not much

Mail stereotypes



**FROM THE
STREETS
OF
PATTAYA**

By Duncan Stearn

you can do about genetics I always thought, but these e-mailers assure me I have the opportunity to possess a "weapon" of amazing size if only I'll part with a small monetary fortune.

A couple of other friendly correspondents have offered to teach me, via the wonders of email, how to "last much longer". I have to say I always thought my abilities in this area were quite adequate. After all, in Thailand's steamy and humid weather it's so easy to work up a lather of sweat in just a minute or two, even with the air-conditioning on full blast.

Still others offer ways of increasing the volume of the end product of each and every nocturnal "happy ending".

Sadly, the results so far have been disappointing.

The Pamela Anderson Mammary Enlargement Center in Los Angeles keeps sending me offers. These nice people are un-

der the misguided impression I have a desire to change my sex and turn into a female. Of course, they've probably noted my Pattaya address and, having done their homework, figure I could well be a candidate for gender re-assignment surgery.

The problem I have is finding time to answer all these nice people who send me emails. I find

I'm spending literally hours a day replying to Sandra (she's "hot and horny"), Ivana (she's also "hot and horny"), Natasha (she's married she tells me, but is "hot and horny") and Savannah (she tells me she's in the process of gender re-assignment surgery and hopes to remain "hot and horny"), among others.

I've never been to Africa and have only one friend who lives on the entire continent. Yet, and again I don't want to make readers feel inadequate here, I receive mail from wives, sons, daughters and business associates of sundry dictators, presidents, prime ministers – most overthrown or passed away – offering me amazing financial deals just for the use of my bank accounts. I mean, how popular is that? And the sums are phenomenal, with my expected share more than enough to buy a couple of high-floor condos in Ocean's View or

Edge or whatever it's going to be called. That's the 90-story giant development planned for Jomtien: expected to be the worlds' most towering residential phallic symbol.

You probably think I'm joking. Well, I can tell you there must be a dozen or more countries in Africa with millions of US dollars locked up in bank vaults. Think about this: from my little jottings and scribbles on a notepad I am able to give my reader a practical idea of the value of the money just sitting idly waiting for release. Turned into Thai baht the money would equate to an astounding 10 million standard bar fines in the chrome pole palaces of Fun Town. Now that's one hell of a load to get off my tiny mind, let me tell you.

Thinking about this, perhaps I should start taking up the kind offers of some of my emailing pals and think about buying the wherewithal to "last much longer". After all, what's a few thousand baht among friends when others are willing to part with literally millions just for the use of my bank account?

In The Stars

by Isla Star

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Libra's hidden depths may take some getting to the bottom of, but it's important for you to know what makes this person tick. The stars are smiling on your attempts to get into a more upbeat social life this weekend. If you're celebrating a birthday during the coming days, it should be one to remember for years to come.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Mixed fortunes will mean that it's hard to know whether you're coming or going this week. A promise made last month regarding payment fails to be met but you should be able to embark on a promising new business venture. A relationship with an Aquarian will probably end on the rocks, but Sagittarius is waiting in the shadows.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): You still need to guard against laziness. There's no need to be a hive of activity, but you are advised to set some sort of realistic schedule for the rest of the month. The stars are ready to back your endeavors to change jobs, but you may have to settle for less than you want in the beginning.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): A slow start to the week suits most of you. You should achieve what's necessary with the minimum of effort and manage to have a rewarding social life too. Mixed messages on Thursday may confuse you. Ask straight questions to get the truth.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Avoid making important decisions until the end of the month. You will not be really sure what you want until then and should try to keep options open. Your talents at work are appreciated by more people with power than you realize. It may be hard to please your partner this week, but this will not be your fault.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): A storm is brewing at work this week and you will need to stick to your principles. On the upside, your efforts to be noticed romantically finally bring results. Those already in a committed relationship should hear good news from their partner midweek. Expect to be reminded of an unpaid bill or debt on Monday. The color lime green promotes a lively mood.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): You will get the most satisfaction from your love life if a relationship is kept on a casual basis. Becoming involved with Pisces too quickly can only bring heartache. Tuesday is the best day for finance-related appointments; it's worth asking for the moon on that day. The scent of frangipani helps open your mind.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): There's not much that you can do to change what is unsatisfactory in your life this week. If you find it difficult to shake off your fixed ideas of how things should progress, cool down and go with the flow. By the end of this month you will be surfing the wave of financial success. Wear ice-blue to encourage patience.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Where romance is concerned, Gemini would still like to rekindle the flames of a past relationship. You will have to make it clear how the land lies. Devote quality energy to sorting out work-related problems that have been accumulating. The number 6 can bring good luck on Sunday.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): A slow but steady week is forecast for those born under the sign of Aries. Confused money matters that have been brewing for some time come to a head midweek; make sure that you stay in con-

trol. Arians who already have a serious partner should plan a second honeymoon to energize this relationship. If you are ready for romance, wear bright tropical colors to get noticed.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): If you have been undecided about which direction your life should

take, you will see clearly where to go. This will probably involve staying in the same place where you've taken root, but finding new ways to feel fulfilled. Creative occupations bring more pleasure during the coming weeks, but you need to make more effort to get them under way.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): You will have to separate business from pleasure in order to make more positive progress. Those of you who have been sidetracked by an attractive colleague's obvious personal interest are advised to avoid getting involved for now. The number 8 can bring some good fortune this Saturday.





The Department of Lands in cooperation with the Phuket Real Estate Club, Association of Phuket Property Agents and Delice Thai have set up a forum "Problems and Solutions for Real Estate in Phuket" on July 14, 2007 in the Hay Nakha Room of the Royal Phuket City Hotel.

We have invited guest speakers in the real estate and related fields to discuss the current situation of real estate in Phuket.

Speakers:

Mr. Thawan Thimasarn
Director of Subdivision of the Bureau of Standard Land Document Issuance

First Lieutenant Phummisak Hongsyok
President of the Phuket Real Estate Club

Mr. Eric Tomlin
Secretary to the Association of Phuket Property Agents

Mr. John F. Magee
Publisher of the Phuket Gazette

FAQ:

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Can foreigners own land and property?
Freehold or Leasehold?

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Phuket Gazette



For more details, please contact:
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HDTV: size doesn't matter

The free PC Group Therapy sessions keep getting more interesting – and more diverse. At last Sunday's session we had a chance to talk about high definition TV (HDTV) in Phuket.

Ben Hobbs at H3 Digital – probably the foremost authority on the subject in Phuket – wrote to me about HDTV. Here's what he said:

"I read your article in the *Phuket Gazette* with interest. I thought I should mention that you can buy HD-DVDs in Bangkok. The company will even deliver to your door in Phuket.

"If you have an Xbox 360 you can buy an HD-DVD drive for around 10,000 baht. Since HD-DVDs don't

have regional encoding, you can play HD-DVDs from anywhere in the world on the Xbox.

"My company works with home theater PCs (Vista Media Center) and can rip HD-DVDs to WMV format. When stored in WMV format, a typical HD movie ends up from 4GB to 9GB in size. We tend to rip to 720p ["progressive" frames per second, see below], but this still looks stunning compared with DVDs.

"Our Media Center PCs typically come with 1 terabyte (roughly 1,000 GB) of hard drive space, so theoretically you could have every single HD movie that you would want available on your home theater, all at the touch of the remote."

Unless you're a computer jock who minored in electrical engineering, discussions about HDTV turn real thick real fast, getting all bollixed up in acronyms and head-spinning phrases.

As befitted a PC Group Therapy session, I tried to deconstruct Ben's letter and explain what's happening in layman's terms. I'm a plain speaker by predilection and a Dummy by pro-

fession – it's in my blood. So, here's my take.

HDTV means different things to different people. At its heart, HDTV is just an attempt to replace old TV standards with much higher-quality video and audio. The audio part is complicated but tractable. The video part runs all over the lot.

On the audio side, any HDTV rig will support Dolby 5.1 surround sound, at a minimum. Expect a center speaker, two front side speakers, two rear speakers and a sub-woofer all to work together with the machine that plays HD-DVDs. Anything beyond Dolby 5.1 is gravy.

On the video side, people tend to confuse resolution (the number of lines shown on the screen) with the

aspect ratio (the ratio of height to width). Let me start with the latter.

Old TVs have an aspect ratio of 4:3. So a screen that's, say, 40 centimeters wide will be 30cm high. Back in the days of black-and-white TV, 4:3 worked great. People were more interested in seeing Lucille Ball's hairdo than a broad expanse of fake living room. Face it: A close-up of Elvis's gyrating pelvis looks better at 4:3.

Nowadays, most TVs have a much wider aspect ratio; most frequently 16:9 – the typical ratio for widescreen television. Many people presume that most movies these days are made at 16:9 and that 16:9 is equivalent to HDTV. Wrong and, uh, wrong.

Most movies these days are made a little bit wider than 16:9. If you do the math, you can calculate that 16:9 is the same as 1.78:1. Some movies nowadays are made at 1.85:1, which is only slightly wider than 16:9. But most movies come out in "anamorphic" 2.35 or 2.40:1 ratio.

If you have a widescreen TV, and you play a DVD that



Woody orders up a fine sunset in Patong. Above, the picture at a 4:3 aspect ratio. Below, the same shot, but at a 16:9 aspect ratio.



shows big black bands at the top and bottom, it's because the DVD player is trying to show an anamorphic movie on a 16:9 screen.

One of the folks at the therapy session noted that DVDs in Thailand are generally marked with the movie aspect ratio on the back of the box. It would behoove you to ensure that you play a 16:9 DVD on a 16:9 TV, or a 4:3 DVD on an older TV.

I checked a couple of DVDs of dubious pedigree and found this to be true.

One says, "Standard Version formatted from its original version to fit your screen." Presumably, the Standard Version is 4:3, and it's been cropped on the left and right to fit.

The other says, "Widescreen Version presented in a 'letterbox' widescreen format preserving the 2.35:1 aspect ra-

tio of this original theatrical exhibition. Enhanced for widescreen TVs." So if you play the widescreen version of this particular DVD on your 16:9 TV, you'll get black bands at the top and bottom.

Note that none of this has anything to do with HDTV. The DVDs in question are regular 100-baht knock-off DVDs – a very long way from "high definition".

A 1,000-baht DVD player will slap a movie up on your widescreen TV without a hitch. There are many 16:9 widescreen TVs that aren't high definition by any reasonable measure.

For a TV (and a DVD player) to qualify as "high definition", a higher standard applies, and it has nothing to do with the size or aspect ratio of the screen. It has everything to do with the quality of the picture, one com-

ponent of which is measured by the number of lines drawn on the screen and how they are drawn.

Here's where things get really complicated, because experts don't agree on what constitutes "high definition".

Most flat-panel TVs show pictures with either 720 lines or 1,080 lines. TVs that can show 1,080 lines are "higher def" than those that show 720 lines – although the quality of the picture you see may not be substantially better on a 1,080 screen than on a 720 screen.

Lines on the screen can be drawn one of two ways: if the TV is fast enough, it draws one line at a time, painting an entire frame on the screen, then goes back to the top of the screen and starts all over again with the next frame. That's called "progressive", or "p" for short.

If the TV isn't fast enough, it draws every second line in a frame, goes back and fills in the rest of the lines, then starts all over again with the next frame. That's called "interlaced", or "i".

Hence, HDTV screens and the shows that play on them are rated 720i (rarely seen these days), 720p (considerably better than 720i), 1,080i (many experts argue that 720p produces a better picture than 1,080i) and 1,080p, the current king of the hill. By comparison, standard DVD movies display at 480p.

So far about 500 movies have been released in high definition format, most of which you probably don't want to watch, and they're pretty evenly divided between HD-DVD and Blu-Ray.

Most people, in most parts of the world, watch most of their HDTV on satellite or cable. You have to pay a (sometimes steep) premium for HDTV channels, but the quality is generally superb.

Many popular shows appear in HDTV format: *My Name is Earl*, *Lost*, *Rome*, *Prison Break*, *Murphy's Law*, *Heroes*, *Everybody Hates Chris* and many more.

HDTV in Thailand is another story. As far as I know, UBC doesn't have the ability to broadcast HDTV. I've seen reports that UBC is running at 576i.

There seem to be no indications when (or if) television in Thailand will catch up with the rest of the world.

Anyway, if you buy an HDTV and expect to see any HD shows in Thailand, you're in for some very interesting times.

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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Investors frequently find themselves looking to the future. This is natural because it is only by this route that there is a possibility of being able to assess the outcome of investment strategies. However, as the future is really an unknown entity, it is unlikely that anyone can, in a broader sense, obtain the correct answers.

The world does not evolve in any easily predetermined manner. Centuries ago it was all a little bit easier and not that much changed, especially if measured in decades. The process over the past 250 years became even more difficult to assess.

The introduction of the industrial revolution instituted change which was at first slow, but the momentum has continued to accelerate in virtually every field of human activity. There was even an American president who, 80 years ago, wanted to produce a register of inventions as he firmly believed that everything that could be invented had already been discovered. It is not only in the area of technology that changes take place but many other areas.

India is a perfect example; 50 years ago, India obtained independence from Britain. In the decades that followed millions of Indians emigrated to the UK and many more would have followed that route if they had been able to obtain entry permits. In addition, the world's wealthier countries poured money into India, not as an investment destination, but to stave off starvation. Most of these donors would have freely admitted that they were simply appeasing their consciences and the recipient (India) appeared to be a bottomless pit.

Then, in the early 1990's, a change occurred; India altered its economic policies. The realization that a free market system was the only successful route to take was adopted in practice. There is no suggestion that this suddenly changed an economic hell into



Gazing into crystal balls

an economic heaven. Apart from anything else, the changes were not that drastic and any major shift cannot take place overnight.

What did happen, and the process is very much ongoing, is that India moved in the right direction, and in a similar manner to change already mentioned in this article, the process is accelerating. Today, India is no longer on the global donor's list; they have substantial and rising foreign exchange reserves and all that in only a little over 15 years.

Money is still pouring into India but it is no longer "hand-

outs", it is private investment. However, one of the very unexpected benefits that the UK found was that by having a substantial domestic Indian population, together with the widespread use of English in India, the UK has now become the most favored destination for Indian foreign investment.

Many Indian companies have flourished in the past decade and today a number of them are no longer content to simply operate in India or open branch offices in other countries.

Little did the British administration in India in the 19th century realize, that when they formed India's first stock market and implemented British Law, it set the stage for Indian businesses to buy substantial companies on the London Stock Exchange.

MONEY TALKS



By Richard G. Watson

Indian companies also favor the UK because of the similarities in the legal system; it makes them "feel at home".

Another development that very few people could have envisaged was the recent decision by Singapore's government to

increase its population from 4.5 million to 6.5 million. Although Singapore's government would dearly like the locals to increase their birthrate; they are more than aware that this will not happen to any marked extent regardless of incentives.

People in first-world countries, simply do not favor large families. Just to maintain population stability each female must produce, on average, 2.1 children during her lifetime. Singapore realized that to achieve its target population, it must rely on immigration.

Naturally, if it was only bodies that Singapore wanted, they could probably fill their quota in a month. Many people from poverty stricken countries would be only too happy to oblige. Singapore, however, is in the market for highly skilled immigrants and successful entrepreneurs who will create wealth and employment opportunities in areas such as financial services, banking, IT, pharmaceuticals, and so on.

The underlying reason for wishing to increase the population to 6.5 million people is because, at that level, it believes it will be large enough to reach its own "critical mass". This, naturally, has already had some interesting results. The real estate market has moved into something approaching a frenzy.

One Singapore-based fund manager gave me an example. A new housing development which had just opened its "gates" to buyers found itself facing an enormous queue of people. The developers biggest problem was processing the paperwork; this must be every developer's dream.

The queue was so long that those at the back realized they stood little chance of being able to buy a property before they were all sold out.

Many Singaporeans are natural entrepreneurs and this was no exception. Some of the lucky buyers at the front of the queue, having purchased their property, simply walked over to the less fortunate at the back and sold their properties for several hundred thousand dollars profit talk about a quick buck!

Many older condos in Singapore are being demolished to make way for newer and much more expensive blocks. Now that is really a property boom. Singapore is also buying soil to expand the geographical area of the island. Neighboring Indonesia is not short of soil but is now refusing to supply it; really a case of sour grapes and envy.

Perhaps some entrepreneur could interest investors in a new Real Estate Fund, would anybody notice if one of the Butang group of islands suddenly shifted a few hundred kilometers south?

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

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ON THE MOVE

Bangkok native **Pol Col Gris-sak Songmoonmark** has been appointed superintendent of Kathu Police Station. He holds a master's degree from the Faculty of Management at Naresuan University and has also studied at the International Law Enforcement Academy in Bangkok. Col Grissak's experience includes working with the Highway Police, Narcotics Department and Investigation Team of Police Region 6, and most recently he was the superintendent of Tourist Police Region 1 in Bangkok.



After working as a sales representative for two years, **Angkana "Koy" Kaewpradit**, from Songkhla, has been promoted to assistant manager – website products at the *Phuket Gazette*. She is a graduate of Prince of Songkla University, Phuket Campus, where she studied in the Hotel and Tourism Management program. As part of her training, she interned in the F&B, front office, housekeeping and sales & marketing departments of several major resorts on the island before joining the *Gazette* in 2005.

Nattapon "Rick" Chollatee, from Krabi, has been promoted to survey crew chief and construction site supervisor at Wanamakok Civil & Environmental Consultants Co Ltd (WCEC). He is a graduate of Phuket Rajabhat University, where he studied industrial technology. Nattapon had been working as a surveyor with WCEC since November of 2005.

VITAL STATISTICS:
INTERNATIONAL PASSENGERS UP 39%

May 2006	May 2007	Change
International passenger (total)		
89,123	123,926	+ 39.1%
Domestic passengers (total)		
224,340	250,543	+ 11.7%
International Aircraft movements		
874	1,167	+ 33.5%
Domestic Aircraft movements		
1,417	1,862	+ 31.4%

Source: Phuket International Airport

Prawn farmers face threatening downturn

By Supanun Supawong

PHUKET: Prices for white prawns, the lifeline of Thai prawn farmers, are hitting new depths this year due to oversupply and the strengthening of the baht. According to local officials, half of the small prawn farmers in Phuket have been forced to close, and soon more may have to follow suit.

At a June 19 meeting Phuket Vice-Governor Smith Palawatvichai met representatives from Phuket Provincial Fisheries Office, Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) and Phuket Shrimp Farmers Association (PSFC) to discuss strategies to keep prawn farmers in Phuket afloat.

In 2006 Thailand produced 500,000 tonnes of prawns, but

this year the market will have 600,000 tonnes ready for sale, depressing market prices. That, added to the baht's 10-year high and high taxes and tariffs, has hurt prawn farmers' profitability this year.

To counter the effects of the rough market, Phuket Provincial Fisheries Department is holding a "Blue Flag Shrimp Festival", which will continue until the end of September.

Theerayuth Thanomkiet, chairman of the PSFC, said farmers used to get 100 baht per 100 small prawns and 200 baht per 40 large prawns, but those prices have dropped to 50 baht per 100 small prawns and 140 per 40 large prawns.

"Phuket sells 100 to 200 tonnes of exported prawns every month," he said. "But many

farmers have lost money and have had to close their businesses.

"It would be better if we could export the prawns ourselves, but we have to go through exporters and we cannot control the prices.

"However, we have tried to increase awareness and encourage people to buy more prawns locally, and we have encouraged hotels and restaurants in Phuket to buy more prawns. We will also ask the provincial government for a budget to help pay for electrical and gasoline bills."

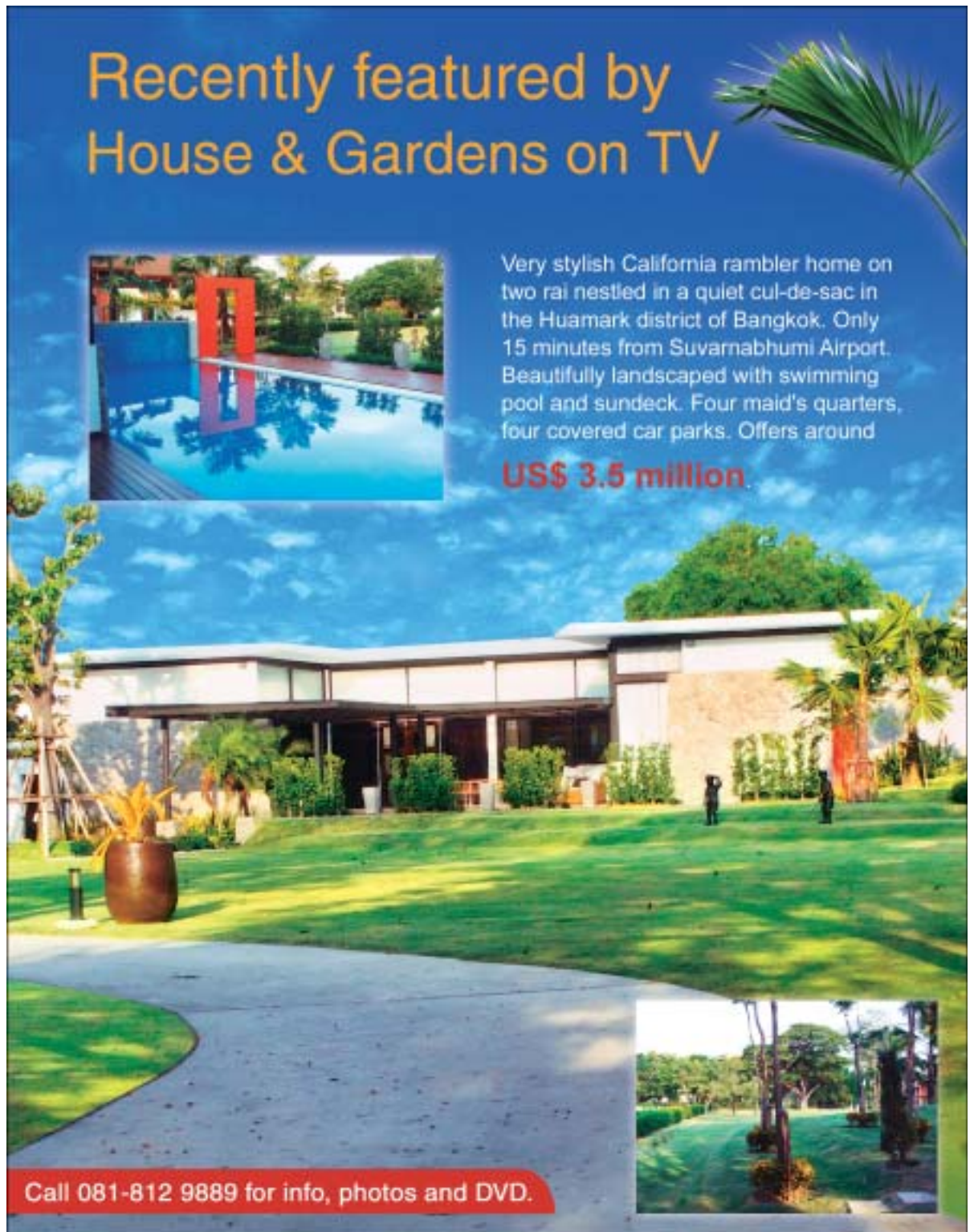
Other strategies the cooperative is exploring include the export of baby breeding prawns to places such as Iran, and investigate markets outside of the traditional trading partners of America, Japan and Europe.

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By Scott Mallon

Mismatches and tune-ups

For as long as boxing has been around there have always been set-ups; that is, fights against tomato cans. Some fights are between decent fighters and hapless wannabes with no chance in hell of winning and others are between good fighters and fighters seemingly on the payroll, so to speak.

Thai fighters are regularly criticized for the caliber of their opponents, more often than not, justifiably so.

Thailand isn't the only country mismatches take place in though; Mexico, the Philippines, Japan, Korea and even the US all have fighters who take tune-ups against less than stellar opponents.

In March of 2003, the Philippines' beloved Manny Pacquiao faced Serikzhan Yeshmangbetov (5-5-1, 3 KOs) in Manila.

Never heard of Serikzhan Yeshmangbetov? Not many have, but the Kazakhstani fighter actually scored a knockdown in the fourth round. Pacquiao dispatched of Yeshmangbetov the following round.

Korean champion In Jin Chi faced the 2-3 Thongcharoen Mahasap Condo of Thailand around the same time in Korea. Chi was 26-2 and the bout was a tune-up for his shot at the vacant WBC featherweight championship fight against Michael Brodie. Chi took the Thai out in four.

Thongcharoen Mahasap Condo was also the opponent for

Japan's Takashi Koshimoto. Koshimoto is scheduled to meet In Jin Chi this month for the WBC featherweight title.

Koshimoto was 34-1-2 when he fought Thongcharoen Mahasap, who was 2-6. The bout before that, Koshimoto faced 3-3 Ratanasak Saktawee of Thailand.

Back in 1999, the great Marco Antonio Barrera, who was 49-2 at the time, squared off against Cesar Najera, 2-1. The bout was declared a non-contest after Najera was discovered to be his sparring partner.

Earlier this year, Filipino Lito Sisinorio (10-6-1, 3 KOs) died tragically from brain injuries reportedly suffered in his bout against former world champion Chatchai Sasakul (60-3, 38 KOs).

Before fighting Sasakul, he faced current world champion Pongsaklek Wonjongkam (65-2, 34 KOs), # 1-ranked flyweight Panomroonglek Kratingdaengym (18-0, 10 KOs) and # 1-ranked light-flyweight Oleydong Sithsamerchai (23-0, 8 KOs) – all of which are considered mismatches by unbiased boxing in-



Manny Pacquiao, from the Philippines, is obviously proud of his body but it's questionable how proud he should be of some of his victories.

to spectators, both live and on TV.

Also, aside from the occasional soccer or cricket match, there are no pay-per-view events in Thailand. Pay-per view fights are shown on Thai TV or cable channels such as SuperSport. ESPN Friday Night Fights and Classic Fights.

Tuesday-night fights are shown on various cable channels but, most importantly, boxing in Thailand is still shown on a regular basis on Thai TV.

In the past, the only three sports in Thailand were boxing, Muay Thai and football.

Now, competing with sports such as snooker, tennis, weightlifting, bodybuilding and badminton, all bidding for a share of the market, boxing promoters need to be more creative and work even harder to make a profit.

The free shows and televised events keep boxing fans in touch with the fight scene and their favorite fighters, allowing promoters to build the name of their fighters as well as their own.

Revenues are generated from sponsors like Red Bull, M-

150, Twins, 3K Battery and a few others. These sponsors donate their products and envelopes of cash to the fighters in exchange for invaluable publicity.

Boxing is and always has been a business. Promoters know they need to get more than just one or two fights out of their fighter in order to make the sort of money that keeps them solvent. In order to do so, promoters need to milk the cash cow dry.

Fighters have a limited period of earning potential which can end at any time; promoters have no guarantee of how long that period will be so they need to protect their investment and maximize their profits.

While boxers in North America and Europe fight once, twice or possibly three times per year, most Thais fight an average of three to six fights per year.

One or two of the opponents might be classified as worthy adversaries with the rest being tune-ups. Herein lies the dilemma: just what is an acceptable tune-up?

Unfortunately what is deemed acceptable by promoters and what is deemed acceptable by fans is not always the same. Thais are repeatedly given opponents who have little chance of defeating them in between their big fights or title defenses.

This helps get the needed rounds of work in with little to no risk of blowing the bigger and better paydays ahead.

They acquire real-fight experience while at the same time remaining in the public eye and



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hopefully making money for the promoter.

The downside to this approach is that real-fight experience is always gained from within the confines of Thailand and against fighters who are "on the payroll". On the payroll simply means promoters know they can use certain fighters over and over again without having to worry about them disrupting their plans. They are journeymen who tend to lose far more than they win or who are willing to fight against a Thai who they know is far better than them.

Thais have had a bad habit of losing when fighting outside of Asia and this approach is at least one reason why. In Thailand, the opponents are predominately from the Philippines, Japan and Indonesia with others coming from Africa, Mongolia, Kazakhstan and China.

A closer inspection of some Thai fighters' records reveals many of the same opponents. For instance, Pongsaklek Wonjongkam has fought and defeated Mark Sales of the Philippines three times.

Sales has fought Fahlan Sakreerin, Chonlatarn Piriyapinyo, Pramunsak Posuwan (twice), Sairun Suwansil and Sod Looknongyangtoy, all within an 18-month period, defeating none of them.

Fighters with no recorded, verifiable fights on their ledger from China, Kazakhstan and Japan have taken on top-ranked fighters and champions, and in some instances they've even fought for world titles. Matching a fighter who has less than five or 10 fights against a former world champion who has 60 or 70 fights isn't considered a tune-up in most cases; it's regarded as a gross mismatch.

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



Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwansupana (center, pale blue shirt) with the victorious Sutthipong Concrete.

Solid win for Concrete

PHUKET: Sutthipong Concrete team from Phang Nga beat Phuket Central Tour team 1-0 on July 8 to win the annual Phuket City Municipality football competition.

The tournament, which began June 19, attracted 16 teams from throughout Southern Thailand. All matches were played at the Saphan Hin stadium.

Sporadic showers did not dampen the spirits of the 200-odd spectators who turned up to watch the final of the 11-a-side tournament.

For their win, Sutthipong won 50,000 baht in prize money and a trophy.

In second place, Phuket Central Tour won 30,000 baht, while Nong Mark team from Satun won 15,000 baht for finishing third.

PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

Dog's take the lead, look likely for championship

PATONG: Dogs Bollocks lead the Patong Darts League with 22 points, two points ahead of Shakers, and currently are in form to go on to claim 37 points to become this season's champions.

With five weeks left of the season, Valhalla and Simply Red have been mathematically eliminated from winning top honors.

Piccadilly, the reigning champions, would have to take every remaining point possible to beat Dogs Bollocks current score of 22.

July 3 results: Beach House* 5 Piccadilly 4; Valhalla* 4 Offshore 5; Simply Red 3 Shakers* 6 (* = winner of beer leg).

Standings: 1. Dog's Bollocks (22 points); 2. Shakers (21); 3. Offshore, Beach House (19); 5. Queen Mary (18); 6. Piccadilly (11); 7. Valhalla (6); 8. Simply Red (4).

July 17 matchups: Piccadilly vs Valhalla; Queen Mary vs Shakers; Dogs Bollocks vs Simply Red (home team first). Beach House, Offshore have byes.

PCU to hold rematch with Zimbabwe

CHERNG TALAY: The Phuket Cricket Union (PCU) will host a rematch with the Zimbabwe Stragglers July 21 and 22.

The two sides met last year as well, with Zimbabwe taking the prize in a 2-0 win.

There are 16 players a side and the two teams will play two matches.

The PCU players said they will be holding practice sessions and open games Sunday mornings from 9 to 10 am on the turf next to the Red Room bar and restaurant in Cherno Talay, with more practices to be announced later.

The match formats will be 35 overs with 11 a side.

For more information contact Mark "Scarfy" Whetton at email: scarfy@loxinfo.co.th or Tel: 086-1208346.

Six schools in sports tourney

PHUKET: The annual athletics tournament for Phuket City Municipality schools will take place from July 12 to 20 at Saphan Hin Sports Center and Surakul stadium.

Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwansupana said, "The aim is to support and develop Phuket City's youth to become stronger individuals and quality human resources for the future of our community."

"Through interaction between the schools involved, we feel we can foster good relations between teachers and students

and provide all with an opportunity to showcase their abilities."

Participating schools will include Plookpanya School, Bangneaw School, Kajornrangsang School, Tessabaan Muang Phuket School, Piboonsawaddee School and Samkong School.

The annual event will feature eight sports including football, futsal, takraw, table tennis, patanque, beach volleyball, indoor volleyball and running.

The winner from each sport will be awarded a medal and a trophy from the Phuket City Municipality.

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GUACAMOLE ON THE VINE

What is the point in hats? That may seem like a rather daft question, but really, what is the point? I suppose if it's particularly cold, there is a solid argument for wearing something warm and woolly, or something that has furry flaps on the sides, but one thing all hats have in common is that they seem to be designed to make the wearer look as ridiculous as possible.

Those furry flaps spend more time sticking out at a 90-degree angle than they do keeping the wearer's ears snug, and the makers of furry hats seem insistent in attaching a little woolly bobble on the end of a piece of string to their creations. Silly. All these hats appear to be designed with the word "undignified" in mind. I just don't get it.

I used to think that those novelty caps with clapping hands or beer-holders in them were hilarious, producing similar levels of mirth to slogans on T-shirts such as "I'm with Stupid". Nowadays, this type of thing looks a little tired. Or maybe I'm just getting old.

Come to think of it, there are very few hats that don't look a little asinine. Baseball caps are a case in point. Worn by Americans of all ages, the preference seems to be either a sports team or an insignificant rural agricultural machinery company in Iowa – "Hank's Tractors" or "E-Z Plough Pennsylvanuckey", and so on. That's when they're not wearing their cowboy hats, of course.

The Brits used to have a bit of a hat thing going on too. It wasn't long ago that gentlemen working in the city would turn up for work in a pinstripe suit replete with bowler hat. At least the bowler hat nonsense has died out. Unfortunately, some of them have gone in the opposite direction and taken to wearing baseball caps to work. Oh dear.

Abroad, in the days of the British Empire, my ancestors were adamant that pith helmets were the fashion statement of the time, as they sauntered around India and Malaya wearing the things. I have no idea what purpose they felt those ridiculous beige monstrosities were serving, or even why they were called "pith" helmets. Perhaps they were simply taking the pith. I'm not sure.

Other nationalities have their own rather special types of headgear too. Do Australians really sport those wide-brimmed things with corks dangling all over the place? I'm pretty certain that Moroccans wear the Tommy Copper-style fez, and that the Norwegians used to go around wearing daft pointy helmets with horns sticking out of them.

The Germans have their green Tyrolean hats; the ones that look like props from a cheesy Robin Hood film, and the French have the predictable black beret.

My personal favorite, perhaps because it's the daftest of the lot, is the Mexican sombrero.



Home-grown guacamole: just the thing to go with that sombrero you brought back from your vacation in Tijuana.

Do Mexicans really put those things on their heads?

One thing they certainly do is produce great food, much of which is served with superb guacamole. Not surprisingly, you can grow the principle ingredient of guacamole, the avocado, here in Phuket. Also unsurprisingly, the process is dead simple.

The first step, and perhaps the most obvious, is to open the avocado and remove the pit, or stone, or whatever you want to call the seed, from the center. The only thing to bear in mind at this stage is that you should try to avoid scoring the seed with the knife as you cut around it. You should have two halves of avocado, which you can either scoop out and eat, or turn into guacamole.

This flesh is actually full of nutrients. Avocados contain just five grams of fat per serving, and no cholesterol or sodium. They also contain 60% more potassium per ounce than bananas and are high in fiber, vitamin B6, vitamin C, vitamin E, potassium and folate (if you're interested in that kind of thing).

Wash the seed under running water, but don't use soap or anything to clean it – just a soft cloth. Gently wipe away and remove any of the green fruit that might be on the pit, as leaving it there will get a bit messy later on. Rinse it, and then blot it dry with a kitchen towel.

The next stage is a bit weird, to be honest. Carefully push three toothpicks into the thickest width of the seed. You'll need to push the toothpicks in about a centimeter deep. The toothpicks will help suspend the avocado seed in water and keep the top part of the seed in fresh air, with the fatter base of the seed under the surface of the water.

Suspend the pit over a glass filled with water. The toothpicks should rest on the rim of the glass and hold the pit in place so it doesn't sink to the bottom. Over the coming days and weeks, keep checking the water level in the glass to make sure that the water is covering the fat base of the pit by about a couple of centimeters.

Place the glass on a bright windowsill or outside in a spot where it's unlikely to be moved or knocked. In about three to six

weeks the top of the avocado seed will begin to split and a stem sprout will emerge from the top. At the same time, roots should begin to grow at the base.

When the stem grows to around 12 to 15 cm long, pinch off the top set of leaves. In another two to three weeks, new leaves will sprout and more roots should appear. Now is the time to plant the young avocado tree. Put some of that coconut husk composty stuff into a decent-sized pot. Make a small depression in the center of the compost and place the pit, root-side down, into the depression. Don't put it in too deep – you want to have the upper half of the seed above the soil.

Add more soil around the pit to fill in any air holes by the roots and gently push the soil around the base of the seed. The seedling's stem and leaves should be straight and pointing up at this stage.

Next, water it generously so that the soil is thoroughly moist, but do this fairly slowly and gently so that when it's poured in it doesn't dig out holes in the soil. Keep the seedling watered but don't let the soil become gooey. If the leaves turn yellow, this means that the plant is getting too much water. If that happens, let the soil dry out for a couple of days, and then go back to watering it lightly.

Give it lots of sunlight and wait. That's it, really. Once planted out in this part of the world, an avocado tree can produce fruit in as little as three or four years. Having several avocado trees growing together helps with pollination, although this isn't essential. In time, your avocado tree will grow to between five and 10 meters tall, but with pruning its height can be kept shorter.

There are probably sombreros the size of avocado trees out there – and probably tourists drunk and daft enough to wear them. What they should do is attach a couple of clapping hands to them and dangle a few corks from the rim. Wouldn't that be amusing? Yawn.

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Construction Update

by Supanun Supawong

The Thepthanee project, which translates as “city of angels”, will bring a heavenly touch to 41 individual houses and 33 Sino-Portuguese-style shophouses on 15.25 rai opposite Super Cheap when completed in mid-2009.

Oramai Sujarit, sales manager for the project, said that 100 million baht has been invested in the two-part project.

The commercial buildings will be in the “Thep Panich” area while the houses will be in the “Thep Pimarn” area. The project’s location will be a draw since it is near Phuket City’s shopping, hospital, university and government sectors, K. Oramai said.

K. Oramai said that so far the houses have turned out to be very popular with government officials, who find the location’s proximity to their Phuket City offices appealing.

Construction on the project began in February and a grand opening will be held in August.

Each shophouse will be four stories high, 4.5 meters wide and 18.5m long. The first floor will have a kitchen and an open area for business, while the second floor will include a bedroom.

Two more bedrooms are designed for the third floor, and the fourth floor – half the length of the building – will hold an office space.



The Thepthanee commercial and residential development on Thepkasattri Rd will include plenty of room to work and live

ANGELIC ASPIRATIONS

“The commercial buildings will be finished by December,” said K. Oramai. “Construction is already 80% complete.”

The prices for the shophouses range from 3.9 million baht to 5.4 million baht, depending on the size of the plot. The company reports that 70% of the units have already been reserved.

The houses, to be built be-

hind the commercial buildings, are designed in Balinese style, with two stories and three bedrooms. Each unit includes a living room, kitchen, two-car carpark, garden and sliding glass windows.

Each home will have an interior area of 200 square meters, with 54sqm of land surrounding the house. The houses are 9.5m wide and 12m long, and prices

start at just under 4.95 million baht. Twelve of the houses have already been reserved, and construction of display home will be finished in August.

Providing security will be 24-hour guards and on-site CCTV. The project was designed by G-Plane Design.

“We use top-grade materials and allow the customer to

check the construction every step of the way,” K. Oramai said. “If they have anything they want to fix or change during construction, that’s not a problem.”

For more information call the Thepthanee sales office at 076-219969 or K. Oramai at 087-3868332 or 089-1277379. Website: www.phuketassets.com

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Home of the Week

Koh Kaew

An attractive show by the lake



This three-story home in Koh Kaew includes spacious living areas, private swimming pool, a sala and secure parking while giving its residents convenient access to BIS, local marinas and much more.

This week's Home of the Week is a contemporary-design, three-story house sitting on a 640 square meter plot in Koh Kaew. Positioned inside one of the areas most popular expat communities, the home's convenient location gives residents access to many local facilities including the British International School, Boat Lagoon and Royal Phuket Marina.

The home has 302sqm of living area. Upstairs are three bedrooms in addition to a small living space, all fully furnished with stylish fixtures and modern appliances. The master suite features a private en-suite bathroom as well as a spacious private balcony that overlooks both the pool and garden. The other two bedrooms each have smaller balconies in the front of the house and one of these bedrooms includes an en-suite bathroom.

The lower level of the house includes a comfortable living room with tile flooring, a woodgrain dining table and earth-tone furniture that provides ample space for the family in a relaxing environment. A laundry room and fully equipped Western-style kitchen round out the amenities while the wood-frame windows throughout this level fill the area with natural light and allow for scenic views of the exterior.

Outside is a private 40sqm swimming pool with a wooden sala. The backyard is fully fenced with the landscaped garden providing both a picturesque view and a functional purpose as a fence for a portion of the yard.

A small terrace leads toward the front of the house where covered, off-road parking for two cars is available with a security gate.

Utilities include satellite TV, telephone, broadband Internet, water heater and three-phase electricity.

Priced at 15 million baht with *Chanote* title, the property is available on either freehold or leasehold terms.

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



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What do esteemed luxury brands such as Four Seasons, Ritz Carlton, Hyatt and St. Regis all have in common? All are players in the global surge in fractional ownership, and it's a trend that is growing in the worldwide property market.

Upscale brands are increasingly becoming commodities and in their quest to gain further market penetration they are seeking out niche products to grow both the brand and the core operating business.

From a historical perspective, fractional ownership is an offshoot of the timeshare industry, coupling its ambition to attract a lucrative higher-end targeted customer base together with more a traditional real estate investment vehicle.

Typically fractions are sold on usage rights for owners from two weeks per year (1/25th) up to 13 weeks (1/4th). Ownership structures vary but in many cases, as legally allowed, buyers are able to secure a deed and an undivided interest in the property similar to a strata title. In the case of a 1/4th fraction this would be a 25% ownership interest.

When comparing timeshare to fractional ownership it's more of a real estate investment than a lifestyle purchase. Unlike timeshare which is more focused on the mass market, fractions are aimed at rich individuals, and

prices for the shares are often in the range of 3.32 million to 33.2 million baht (US\$ 100,000 to US\$ 1 million) or more.

Upper-tier brands are required to service both the owner's personalized service needs and also to drive sales based on brand recognition and appeal. The more recognized the brand, the greater the premium that can be charged, with pricing differentials often in the range of 30-40% above non-branded projects.

The ability for owners to schedule usage time is of primary importance to the buyers. In

High-end fractional ownership matures

general terms, schemes range from rotating calendars throughout the year, to a set calendar or fixed weeks, and in many instances a lottery or rotating calendar plan wherein owners can register interest in multiple periods which may fit their individual schedules.

Another common system, once owners have all registered their interest for a year in certain time period, is to allow booking on a space-available basis, which is more conducive to short-term booking and changes in holiday plans.

For developers evaluating the potential benefits of a fractional property, this is often coupled with a mixed-use project such as a hotel so that expanded facilities such as spas, food and

beverage and leisure facilities are able to be provided but the cost is not underwritten from a fairly limited customer base. The advantage to the hotel is the ability to capture more in-house revenue and in most cases higher customer spending.

Bottom line development profit for fractional ownership varies, but as a general rule projects get a bottom line profit in the area of 35% and upwards. Marketing costs exceed normal residential developments, which range from 5-10% of turnover, yet are less than timeshare and most often range from 20-25%.

The key attraction is the ability to sell luxury property at a lower price than stand alone units and the front-end cash flow and provide a faster take-up rate than traditional property offerings.

A spin-off of fractional owners is private residence clubs and destination clubs. In many cases

clusivity of a private club.

Fractional offerings and these types of clubs also focus on exchange opportunities within their other branded properties and offer owners the flexibility to stay in other desirable locations while utilizing their existing rights. Third party exchange programs such as

RCI's Registry Collection are now focusing on the upper market as well and utilizing its network to offer owners similar offerings.

In Phuket the Banyan Tree has already launched its residence club (www.banyantreeresidences.com) which provides property ownership and exchange opportunities at its other branded properties, which are growing around the world. It is very likely that more international hotel brands will bring fractional products to market in the next few years. The trend is one worth keeping an eye on.

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.



Banyan Tree has already launched its residence club (www.banyantreeresidences.com) which provides property ownership and exchange opportunities at its other branded properties.

these are city-center properties in high-demand locations such as New York City or London, that

offer both a rational cost alternative to staying in upscale hotels along with the recognition and ex-

perience of a private club.

PROPERTY WATCH

By Bill Barnett



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Property Gazette

LUXURY VILLAS



Close to Laguna. Best negotiable price. Brand new. 1,100sqm land, 4 bedrooms, pool, lotus pond & garden. Contact K.Gai. Tel: 081-7344324. For more info, please visit our website: www.phuketgreenlandvillas.com

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Immaculate Villa. Private area, big lush garden, pool, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, living room, Scandi kitchen, huge patio, fully furnished, Bali-Thai contemporary style. Living area: 450sqm Land area: 1400sqm. Near Heroines Monument with scenic hill view. Chanote. 14 million baht. Tel: 084-6907057.

BAAN TEMFUN VILLAS
2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, kitchen, car park. 45sq wah. 1.6 million baht. Thalung area. Contact Tel: 076-527580, 086-2706828.

SHOPHOUSE

4 stories, great location near Phuket City bus terminal. 4m x 12m. Price: 3.8 million baht. Tel: 084-6518028. Email: herbert.eisenberg@gmail.com Visit our website: <http://eisrawai.wetpaint.com/page/Phuket+Townhouse>

DREAMHOUSE FOR SALE



Chalong area on 715sqm of land with private pool. 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, Western-style kitchen, 7 aircons, dual carport and much more. Perfect for families. A must see. Price: 16 million baht ono. Contact Tel: 081-892-6251. Email: mrsouza@hotmail.com Please visit our website for photos and more info: www.phuketdreamhome.com

KAMALA LAND PLOTS

For sale. Chanote titles. Great plots. 1 rai: 3.3 million baht. 1,000sqm: 2.3 million baht. 400sqm: 1.3 million baht. Contact Tel: 076-292596, 086-2678477. Email: tourniechristian@hotmail.com

KHAO LAK HOUSE

95sq wah, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 1 kitchen. 1.99 million baht (final price). Will rent for 12,000 baht per month. Call Tel: 081-892-0213. Email: relaxphuket@thailand.com

2-BEDROOM HOUSE

Kamala area. Quiet location, nice garden, aircon, close to the beach. Great place at a great price. 1.45 million baht. Please email for photos and details. Tel: 087-2756736. Email: thai_hs@yahoo.com

LAND ON BYPASS ROAD

Eleven rai. Last plot near Leelawadee resort. Chanote title. Price: 6 million baht per rai. For details, send email: ek_phuket@hotmail.com

LAND FOR SALE KOH SAMUI



Land for sale on Samui. Nice location, just 2km to beach, Meanam Soi 5, 750 sqm. Price: 1.5 million baht. Tel: 076-288-860, 086-9474494.

HOUSE URGENTLY

For sale. A beautiful 1-story house in Chalong with 3 bedrooms, indoor Jacuzzi, outdoor pool, fully equipped kitchen with island. Located on over 0.5 rai land. Urgent to sell. Priced at only 4 million baht. Tel: 075-637588, 081-6765525. Fax: 075-637588. Email: frank@krabibiz.com For additional information, visit our website: www.sothebysrealty.com

HOUSE WITH POOL

in Chalong. Beautiful house on 224sqm of land, with private pool. 2 bedrooms, big living room, bathroom with Jacuzzi and shower, European kitchen. Fully furnished, 3 aircons, UBC. 5 million baht ono. Tel: 081-2733688. Email: gazette@glibber.com For further details, please visit our website: www.phuket-property.info

3 RAI IN THALANG

50% discount for 3 rai 5 wah. Water, electric, road access, Chanote. Tel: 089-2911112, 087-3898139.

CONDO FOR SALE

Patong studio rooms, fully furnished, aircon, hot water, kitchen corner, pool, parking area, 400 meters to beach. Contact Tel: 081-4596090, 081-8411916.

SEAVIEW LAND IN KAMALA



23 rai seaview land for sale in Kamala. Prime location near north end of Kamala Beach. Nor Sor Sam title, sloping hill on main road, easy access from street, electric in place, waterfalls. 180 million baht. 2km north of Phuket FantaSea. Please contact by email for more photos or call for an appointment to view the property. Tel: 081-7284821. Email: eleventhigits@yahoo.com

KARON CONDO

Waterfront location, central Karon Beach. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 167sqm corner unit with sea view on the 9th floor, unit#9D. 12.6 million baht. Tel: 081-4084991.

LAND IN NAI YANG

for sale. Chanote. Near beach. 2 rai: 7 million baht. 1 rai: 3.5 million baht. 6,440sqm plots: 1.5 million baht per plot. Call Tel: 089-7241140. Email: nong.phuket@yahoo.de

NEW HOUSE KATHU

Great views, quiet, secure, furnished, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 aircons, Western-style kitchen, 2 carparks, 460sqm land. 6.5 million baht. Tel: 087-9391035 (Eng), 086-0050318 (Thai).

LAND IN KAMALA

All with Chanote. 55 rai in the most exclusive area near Kamala center on flat land at 8.5 million baht per rai. Also, 6 rai with good sea view at 6 million baht per rai. 20 rai with best sea view in Kamala at 6 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-2742308. Email: kim@kamalafalls.com

BEACHFRONT POOL

house. 3-4 bedrooms from only 8 million baht. For details, email: admin@thaisunshine.com

PATONG TOWER

1-bedroom modern apartment. Tel: 084-8473304. For further details, please visit our website at <http://www.selectphuket.com>

COMMERCIAL CONDO 600SQM

Individual building located on the bypass rd near Tesco Lotus. Includes a penthouse with 2 en-suite bedrooms, Western kitchen and big living room. Fully furnished. 25 million baht. Tel: 076-355067, 081-7977210. Fax: 076-355067. Email: scspkt@loxinfo.co.th

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RAWAI POOL VILLA

Two 2-bedroom pool villas for sale at 6.5 million baht each. Contact for additional details. Tel: 081-8953979. Email: bdandy@tttmaxnet.com Please visit our website at: <http://poolvilla.wetpaint.com/>

HOUSE IN PATONG

23sq wah, 3 bedrooms, 3 aircons, bathroom with hot/cold water, living room, kitchen, 2 cable TVs, 2 fridges, washing machine, fully furnished. Only 1km from Patong Beach. Price: 4.7 million baht. Contact Tel: 076-341724, 081-5690664. Email: sunsetap@ji-net.com

LAND ON KOH MAPHRAO

East side, street access, electricity, water. Approx. 1 rai, ready to be built on. Price: 3.9 million baht. 7 rai next to Swiss resort. Price: 2.9 million baht per rai. Call Tel: 081-8918930.

RAWAI BEACH LAND

500 meters to Rawai Beach, 100 meters to hotel and spa, 34.5m x 41m plot. Price: 6.2 million baht. Please contact Tel: 081-0910964.

2-STORY HOUSE PHUKET TOWN

5m x 20m, Soi Romanee. Price: 3.8 million baht. Call Tel: 084-0577505.

PATONG 3-FLOOR

shophouse. Best location, 100 meters to the beach. Built-up area: 270sqm. Ground floor: restaurant with new, fully equipped kitchen, WC, aircon, ADSL Internet. 1st floor: 2 bedrooms, teak wood floor, bathroom with new whirlpool, WC, 2 aircons, balcony. 2nd floor: 2 rooms, 1 aircon, bathroom, WC, balcony, UBC, ADSL, TV. Price: 12 million baht. Tel: 081-8914844.

NICE LAND FOR SALE

1-3 rai, hillside land, 700m from international school, sea view. 4.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-4761327.

PATONG TOWER

condo. Seaview, furnished 1-bedroom, 1-bathroom condo. 2 balconies, double bed, TV, fridge, air conditioning, pool, indoor parking. 6 million baht. Tel: 086-7730046. Email: tamjemjai@yahoo.com

SPA & RESORT

37 million baht. A peaceful place of 3 rai, 900sq wah in Ao Nang. 9 Thai/Bali-style villas, blissful open-air bathtub, tropical garden, herbal steam & Jacuzzi pool, international restaurant. Tel: 081-4236906. Email: sunsetap@ji-net.com

CHALONG AREA

3.5 rai. 40 meters to connect of mainroad near communication office. Price: 28 million baht. Tel: 084-0577505.

Surin Beach - Modern Seaview Apartments for sale

Within 100 metres of the beach, 80 sqm. of living space. One bedroom, living room, European-style kitchen, fully furnished, air conditioning, hot water system, home security system, internet connection, television and satellite TV. The price starts from 6.5 million baht for the first-floor apartment. Please contact Ann 66 81 868 7876

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Property Gazette

HOUSE FOR SALE



Single house in Soi Bangrae, Chalong. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living area, kitchen and many more facilities. Great buy. 125 talang wah & 500sqm. 6.5 million baht. Contact Tel: 081-5395317, 086-6890769.

LAND FOR SALE



Flat land, 119sq wah in Maneekram, located between Chalong and Central Festival. Full public utilities, quiet area. Please contact Tel: 084-8516115. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

KAMALA NEW VILLA



For sale/rent. 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2-car garage, studio apartment: 370sqm. Land: 750sqm. Price: 16.5 million baht. Call Boomer. Tel: 086-2878966.

Land for Sale

Land for sale at Kathu

5 rai 50sq wah with Chanote title, good area, canal at the back. 5 minutes to Big C/Central. Perfect for private complex. 7 million baht per rai.

House for Sale

House at Phuket Country

Club golf course, near club house. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, aircon, kitchen units with hob, hood, oven and dishwasher. Land area 175sq wah with Chanote title 7.3 x 12m pool & Jacuzzi. Nice & quiet. Beautiful Golf views. 17 million baht. Available for long term rent.

New Double

shop for rent

New double shop unit First and second floor: open plan. Third floor: 3 bedroom or offices, 2 shower rooms, 3 telephone lines and 4 aircon. Good location opposite lotus. Corner unit leading to 450 condos. 80,000 baht per month.

Please contact:

Mr. Geoff Curry
Mobile: 081-8540061.
Tel office contact
K. Ning: 081-0803414.
Tel: 076-323214
Fax: 076-323215

Properties For Rent

4 BEDROOMS WITH POOL

New 4-bedroom, 4-bathroom house at Loch Palm Country Club. Partly furnished, directly on the 9th fairway in a fresh, clean environment overlooking lake. Tel: 081-9390176. Email: beaver@tstf.net

BEACHFRONT ON BANG TAO

Beachfront apartment. Rare duplex, 2 bedrooms, 2 balconies, sea view, pool, parking, fully furnished, separate storeroom. Rent: 50,000 baht per month. Tel: 852-9033379. Fax: 852-28653966. Email: cmcgee@netvigator.com

RAWAI BEACH STUDIO

Furnished, kitchen, aircon, UBC, ADSL. 4,500 baht per month. Contact K. Noki at Tel: 086-9408914.

SHANTI LODGE

Do you need a place to live in Thailand? Secure, furnished with Wi-Fi, pool & maid service. Low season rates from 5,000-8,000 baht per month or with equipped kitchen at 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-280233, 081-5363134.

BEACHFRONT HOUSE

For rent. 1-4 bedrooms. Please contact for specific details. Tel: 076-381181, 076-381189.

RAWAI BEACH VILLA

Pool, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, UBC, ADSL. Price: 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

PATONG ROOM FOR RENT

Furnished, aircon, TV, wireless Internet. Price: 7,000 baht per month. Please call Tel: 089-6478596. Email: property1998@hotmail.com

HOUSE AND CONDO

Rawai location, 2 stories, 8 rooms, aircons, 170sqm, ideal for 2 families. Long-term rent: 2,800 baht per month. Condo with aircon. Rent: 5,000 baht per month. Contact for details. Tel: 084-4454614.

4-STORY BUILDING

For rent. 6 bedrooms, opposite Tesco Lotus. Contact for more details at Tel: 089-4743575, 085-9095191, 089-4744839.

HOUSE FOR RENT

Fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, cable TV, ADSL. 18,000 baht per month. Call Tel: 089-9732917.

RAWAI FLAT

For rent. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, Internet, cable TV, fully furnished. Tel: 081-6067410.

HOME ON THE BEACH

2 bedrooms, deck with beautiful sunset views, quiet. Long-term rent: 8,500 baht per month. Tel: 084-0571420.

LUXURIOUS VILLA FOR RENT

3-4 bedrooms, nicely furnished, 2 levels, sat TV, Internet, big pool. Contact Tel: 084-8516121.

1-BEDROOM CONDO

in Patong Tower. Newly renovated in a beautiful modern style. Best location in Patong area. Long-term rent only. Price: 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-1238320. Email: deherder@hotmail.com

STUDIO APARTMENT

Modern apartment off Nanai Rd. Fully furnished including TV, DVD, large fridge, fan, hot water, aircon and kitchenette. From 7,500 baht per month. Internet an option. Contact Tel: 087-2650652. Email: gisbert1@gmx.net

CLUB LERSUANG, SURIN BEACH

Modern, very well-furnished, 2-bedroom apartment in small block with pool. Close to the beach. Prices starting at 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 085-8882022. Email: slees@slees.com

HOUSE IN CHALONG

2 bedrooms, 1 aircon, 1 bathroom, kitchen, living room, phone line. Please contact for additional information at Tel: 081-5379878, 089-7298472. Email: suvittrai@hotmail.com

4-BEDROOM KATHU VILLA

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 with 300sqm each. All amenities in top-class surroundings. Internet & UBC. Yearly lease: 65,000 baht per month. Please contact Tel: 087-2698492.

B.L. APARTMENT

New in Kathu. Big rooms, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, garden, car park. Price: 8,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-6923163.

SEAVIEW LAND FOR SALE



1 rai + 160 sqm. Call for info at Tel: 085-7932718.

HOUSE FOR SALE

Soi Namtok in Kathu, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, aircon, kitchen. Price: 880,000 baht. Tel: 089-8728188.

LIVE IN KATHU

New modern-design house for sale. 3 bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms. Living room, kitchen/diner, walled garden, large veranda, private parking. Near British Int'l School and golf course. 4.5 million obo. Tel: 084-8439579. Email: somlerdee@yahoo.com

URGENT SALE

Khao Lak. Bang Niang bungalow-apartment resort. 8 bungalows with 2 rooms and 2 bungalows with 3 rooms. 6 x 12-meter swimming pool. Sauna and Jacuzzi, restaurant. All rooms with aircon, color TV, DVD player and ADSL. Parking available. Price: 9 million baht. Contact Tel: 076-346065, 081-8914844. Email: joerg@phuket.ksc.co.th

LAND IN TRANG

4.5 rai in Trang. Perfect location for future business. In front of main road, opposite university. Contact K. Tan for more information at Tel: 076-296658, 089-6513479. Send email: tannynanny@hotmail.com

CONDOS FOR SALE

Fantastic sea views and hill views in Patong Tower. Only a few minutes to Patong Beach. Must see! Contact for pricing. Tel: 076-341871, 081-5697616. Email: sales@phuketislandrealestate.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

4 RAI FLAT LAND

Chanote title, square plot, access from 2 roads. 2km from Heroines Monument. 500m from main road. Price: 6.8 million baht. Please contact Tel: 084-0577505.

BLUE CANYON CONDOMINIUM

One of the best condominiums at Blue Canyon Country Club now for sale. Freehold. 265sqm. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large terrace. Includes active golf membership. 16.5 million baht. No agents. Tel: 081-9708304. Email: amy@my-rooms.com

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Property Gazette

BOAT LAGOON HOUSE



Exclusive, fully furnished, 2-bedroom townhouse. UBC & aircon. 25,000 baht per month. Long-term lease. Please contact for additional information at Tel: 081-8921732.

PALAI, GREENHOUSE BIG GARDEN

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

CONDOS FOR RENT

Phuket Palace condos. 1 bedroom, new, fully furnished, large pool, 24-hour security. Tel: 087-2650118. Email: ant_p_clark@yahoo.co.uk Please visit our website at <http://phuketpalace501601.blogspot.com/>

KATA LUXURY OCEANFRONT

Five-star 1-bedroom apartment. Pool, gym, ADSL, quiet location, beach view. Price: 28,000 baht per month. Email: asiasail@yahoo.com For details, visit our website: <http://koumbele.com/kata/1>

NEW CHALONG HOME

Furnished, 2-bedroom home for rent with telephone, UBC, and aircon. Please contact for details and pricing information. Tel: 089-6521473.

PANWA BEACH HOUSE

Deck with sunset view, close to beach, 1.5 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, kitchen, hot/cold water. Long-term rent: 8,500 baht. Tel: 084-0571420.

NICE & MODERN HOUSE FOR RENT



Excellent location, 5 mins to Rawai & Nai Ham beaches. 162sqm. 2 bedrooms with private bathrooms. 1 guest toilet. 3 aircons. Large living/dining room. Telephone line with ADSL. Free water supply and garbage service. 20,000 baht per month. Please contact Khun Nui at Tel: 087-3830936.

BOAT LAGOON

Two bedrooms, lagoon-fronted townhouse, modern fully-fitted kitchen, use of communal swimming pool, close to BIS, shops and more. 30,000 baht per month. Contact Tel: 081-8337836.

PALM GARDENS

New bungalow on a 24-hr secure development, 3 bedrooms, furnished, pool, close to BIS, 20 mins to Surin Beach. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-8374602. Email: jcullen@bcis.ac.th

KATHU APARTMENT

A quiet furnished apartment, 2 bedrooms, living room, kitchen, 1 bathroom, terrace, aircon, fans, Wi-Fi, swimming pool, telephone. Near Loch Palm Golf Club. Available for long-term rent at 15,000 baht. Tel: 076-202725, 081-8916632. Email: golfandview@gmx.de

BIG HOUSE FOR RENT

3 big aircons, bedrooms fully furnished, but no fence, beautiful garden, near Chalong Bay. Price: 30,000 baht per month includes electric and water. Tel: 081-8924311.

LARGE STUDIO APTS, CHALONG

Bright, spacious furnished suites for rent. Rooftop spa, pool, aircon, Wi-Fi, sat TV, kitchenette, hot water shower, housekeeping. From 9,500 baht per month. Tel: 086-2826221. Email: saneroad@yahoo.com

COCONUT PARADISE



Lovely new villa near Rawai Beach. 2 bedrooms, aircon, phone, fully furnished, UBC TV, parking, private pool, tropical garden with sala. Minimum 6-month lease. 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-2810452, 087-8731180.

PATONG APARTMENT

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, UBC, ADSL, swimming pool, quiet location, sea and hill views. Price: 20,000 baht. Tel: 086-2790837.

MISSION HEIGHTS

Large luxury house, fully furnished, 4 double bedrooms, all with en-suite bathrooms, maid/guest bungalow in large 120sqm gardens. Pool and Jacuzzi, 10 mins to airport, 10 mins to golf courses. Tel: 076-528016, 089-2262612. Email: jim@jimmarsh.net

100SQM STUDIO

For rent. Furnished, beautiful views that overlook a lake, golf course and Kathu valley. Private and quiet location, pool, Internet, UBC, etc. Long-term rent: 16,000 baht per month. Contact for more information at Tel: 087-2698492.

KARON 5-STAR

waterfront living. Stunning sea view from every window & 2 balconies on 18th floor. Pool, spa, sauna, tennis, squash. Tastefully furnished, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, living/dining room, equipped Western-style kitchen with granite tops, breakfast bar. Living area: 102sqm. Rent: 4,000 baht per month. Minimum 6-month lease. Sell: 9.5 million baht. Tel: 085-7902464, 081-8928208. Website: www.phuketfurnishedapartments.com

PATONG APARTMENT

300m to the beach, clean, modern decor, aircon, fridge, double bed, pool, parking. Tel: 081-0825707. Visit our website: www.phuket-accommodation.info

3-STORY HOME/OFFICE FOR RENT

Chao Fa Rd and Naka Rd. 2 mins to Central, Big C and Lotus. 2 bedrooms, 2 hot/cold water bathrooms, 2 aircons. 25,000 baht per month obo. 24-hr security, garbage collection, common area garden. Tel: 089-4742815. Email: noppakul@hotmail.com

CHALONG HOUSE FOR RENT

2 bedrooms, kitchen, living room, dining room, laundry room, fully furnished, aircon in every room, carpark, communal swimming pool, tropical garden. ADSL and UBC satellite TV included. Price: 25,000 baht per month. Minimum 6-month lease. Tel: 087-1057320. Email: stefan@phuketit.co.th

PATONG RENTALS AVAILABLE

A number of listings that may appeal to you. Prices starting from 15,000 baht per month. Contact Tel: 081-7196088 (English) or 089-6498703 (Thai). Website: www.gardenislandphuket.com

LAGUNA TOWNHOME

3 bedrooms, 400sqm, garden and lap pool, golf course views. Price: 85,000 baht per month. Contact K. Amber. Tel: 089-2001681. Email: aabsxx88@truemail.co.th

HOME NEAR AIRPORT

8km to Phuket airport, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms at Garden Place, 115sqm. Price: 13,500 baht per month. Call for more details. Tel: 086-3823237, 081-2976162.

3-BEDROOM HOUSE

For rent in Chaofa Thani. Price: 9,500 baht per month. Nice garden. Contact at Tel: 076-280440, 086-6831964. Fax: 076-280440. Email: franklee200@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

at Land & Houses in Chalong. New house by the lake. 3 bedrooms, fully furnished, aircon, UBC, ADSL. Call for information at Tel: 081-8953649.

LUXURIOUS VILLA FOR RENT

3-4 bedrooms, sat TV, Internet, big pool, 2 levels, nicely furnished. Contact Tel: 084-8516121.

VILLAS FOR RENT



Quiet residence in Rawai on Soi Suksan 2. Great location. Electricity not included, 220sqm, 3 bedrooms, TV, DVD, aircon, hot water, ADSL, Wi-Fi, swimming pool, French management. Price: 40,000 baht per month. Contact for information. Tel: 086-2773817. Email: myprojob@hotmail.fr Please visit our website: www.christianesblue.com

2-BEDROOM FLAT

Beautiful space, fully furnished, fully equipped, Western-style kitchen. Aircon throughout. Private access to swimming pool. Elevated view of Patong. Quiet and secure. Rental price includes water and UBC TV. Contact for information. Email: simon@coppingerproperties.com

CHALONG EXCLUSIVE VILLA



4 bedrooms, 5 aircons, 240sqm, living space, tropical garden, UBC, ADSL, security system, fully furnished, short term possible. 45,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-4415131.

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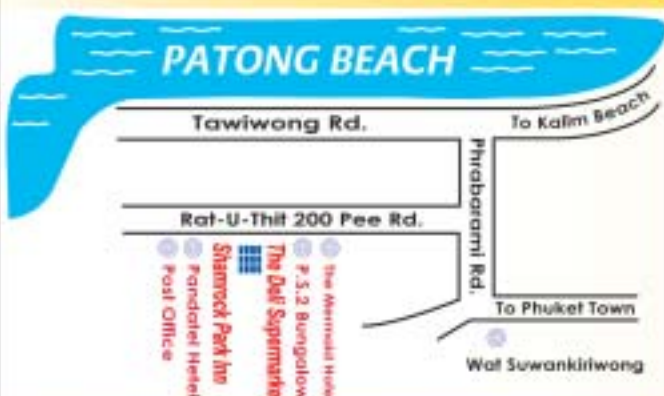
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TWIN ENGINE SPEED BOAT

Newly renovated. All new interior, paint, fuel tanks, bimini and much more! 10 meters. Licensed for 12 people. 1.2 million baht or best offer. Tel: 084-664-4050. Email: aadams007@yahoo.com

JABSCO HEAD

for sale. Recent model. All seals are brand new and in perfect condition. Can be seen in working situation at either Yacht Haven Marina or Boat Lagoon. For additional information, please contact Tel: 084-8446246. Email: rogerg@seamarineservices.com

63-FT LUXURY POWER CRUISER

Fully equipped, water maker, aircon, GPS, radar, life jackets, tender, full galley, bedding, towels, plus much more. All for a very low price. Must be seen. Contact for inspection at Tel: + 66-081-9390176. Email: beaver@tstf.net

GFK SPEEDBOAT

Dive and fishing. Steppa 37 with flybridge, inboard toilet, storage room, sun deck, shower. Thai registration for commercial business up to 22 pax. Completely renewed hull. 2x200hp Yamahas. Email: iscoth@hotmail.com

SAILBOAT 1968 ISLANDER

for sale. 44ft world cruiser, lying in Yacht Haven Marina. US\$50,000. Email: temptation44@hotmail.com

JET BOAT FOR SALE

Lots of fun! 5 meters, 120hp engine, seats 5. Includes bimini, trailer, cassette radio, life jackets, etc. Price: 325,000 baht. For info, please contact at Tel: 087-2634560. Email: mvd@nmwtil.com

BOAT SHARE OWNERSHIP

Consider sharing in my new fishing boat here in Phuket. Please click on the Gazette homepage banner "Boating & Fishing Help". Email: makocraft@hotmail.com

HOBIE 16' CATAMARAN

Good condition, fun beach boat for you and all the family. Price: 180,000 baht. For specific details, please email: bbee_1@hotmail.com

17.5-METER DIVING BOAT



For sale or charter, width 4.5m. Diesel engine, 320hp generator at 20kW. 30 person capacity. Great buy. Price: 950,000 baht. Call Tel: 081-9680571.

FERRY FOR SALE

Length: 30m. Gross: 322 tons. 244 passengers. 12.2 million baht. Berthed at Phuket. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-4084991.

INDONESIAN BOAT

Thai-registered wooden boat for sale. 65ft long, 18ft wide, 30 tons. For details, email: shaanxi.xian@vipmail.hu or p.atiss@freemail.hu

SHIP FOR SALE

Two 500hp engines. 200 passengers. Length: 29.9m, beam: 5.0m, draft: 1.2m. Diesel, air-conditioning. Hull made from steel. 40kVA generator. Contact for more information at Tel: 076-212172, 081-8948635. Fax: 076-212252. Email: hade@seacanoe.net

20-METER POWER

catamaran with 4 double cabins (king size), 2 double cabins for crew and 2 saloons. 90% finished. Price: 49,000 euro. Please call for information. Tel: 087-8919620.

LAGOON 380 E2 | LAGOON 428 | LAGOON 448 | LAGOON 506 | LAGOON 570 | LAGOON 620

LAGOON 440
Lagoon 440 is the only catamaran to have won the 'Best of Show' award at the 2006 International Boat Show in Cannes. The boat has a distinctive Lagoon 440 design, with a wide beam and a large cockpit area. It is a very comfortable and safe boat, ideal for long sailing passages.

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Prout 43 Sailing Catamaran
New! to be finished at new owner's expectations.
Price at 227,000,- EURO

Athena 38'
The perfect 4 cabins charter yacht. Available with management deal and charter package.
Price at 200,000,- USD

Steel Hull Sailing Catamaran
Built in Eastern Europe. This boat has been entirely refitted by current owner. She is now a very sound and safe boat, can be used for long sailing passage.
Reduced Price at 89,000,- EURO

Fountain 31'
Immaculate boat for sale. Complete refit made in 2004, 2 x 200hp Yamaha.
Asking Price 105,000,- USD incl VAT, Thai Flag

Boat Lagoon & Yacht Haven Office
Tel: 076 239111
E-mail: broker@asia-marine.net
www.asia-marine.net

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Join Lee Marine at this years Sydney International Boat Show: 2-7 August
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Ferretti 550 (2005)

- Raymarine ST 6001 • dual station pilot
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1,200,000 Euro

Sydney 32
\$142,000 USD

Roberts 53 Pilothouse
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Steppa 36
2,250,000 THB

Fastlane 32
2,900,000 THB

Dealership Office:
The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
Contact: Martin Holmes
tel: 076 238 803
fax: 076 273 319
email: info@leemarine.com

Brokerage Office:
The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
Contact: Andrew de Bruin / Marcus Overman
Mobile: 081 884 1530 / 01 968 1437
tel/fax: 076 239 729
email: broker@leemarine.com

Yacht Haven Marina Office:
The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket
Contact: Jim Poulain
Mobile: 081 891 3237
tel/fax: 076 206 250
email: yacht@leemarine.com

Pattaya Office:
Ocean Marina Jomtien Beach
Contact: Mark Heath
Mobile: 081 7875408
tel: 030 235 061 fax: 030 235 062
Email: mark@leemarine.com

WWW.LEEMARINE.COM

Island Job Mart



We are an international property consultant having 200 offices worldwide providing property agency services, asset valuation, property and facilities management, research and consultancy, due to rapid expansion, we are looking for qualified personnel to join our company as follows:

1. Zone Manager (2 positions) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Male or female, age over 28 yrs BA in Real Estate/Property Management or related fields At least 3 yrs experience in building/estate management Knowledge of Land Development Act, Condominium Juristic Person Acts an advantage 	2. Estate Manager / Assistant Estate Manager (4 positions) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Male or female, age over 28 yrs BA in Real Estate/Property Management or related fields At least 1 yr experience in building/estate management or 3 years in management level Knowledge of Land Development Act, Condominium Juristic Person Acts an advantage
3. HR Officer (2 positions) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Male or female, age over 28 yrs BA in HR or related fields At least 2 yrs experience in HR function Knowledge of Thai Labor Law 	4. Receptionist (2 positions) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Female, age over 22 yrs Vocational or higher in related fields At least 1 yr experience in receptionist front office Familiarity with office automation
5. Department Secretary (2 positions) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Female, age over 28 yrs BA in Secretarial or related fields At least 3 yrs experience in secretarial work 	6. Accountant (2 positions) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Male or female, age over 25 yrs BA in Accounting or Finance At least 2 yrs experience in accounting Familiar with accounting software with knowledge of MS-office especially Ms-Excel and Thailand taxation systems

Interested candidates are invited to write in with full resume, stating present and expected salaries, and enclosing a recent photo to Human Resource Department at the address below:

Knight Frank Phuket Co., Ltd.
 1 Plaza Del Mar Building Room no.109-111 & 201-202, Pasak-Koktanod Road, T.Cherngtalay, A.Thalang, Phuket 83110
 Tel: 0-7631 8151-8 Fax: 0-7631 8159
 Email: chutima.ninlawan@th.knightfrank.com

Remark:
 Thai Nationality only
 Good command of spoken and written English and computer literacy is essential
 Male applicants must complete or exempt from military service
 Knowledge of Real Estate an advantage

20 Hours Thai Language and Culture Course

Opportunity for Foreign teachers without a degree in education and who wish to teach in Thailand. This programme is offered by the Education Faculty of Rangsit University

23rd and 24th of August 2007
 9.00-21.00
 British International School, Phuket
 12,000 Baht
 (Including lunches and dinners)

All Applicants must have at least bachelor's degree.

For more information please contact
 076 238711-20 ext. 1122 or 6103 or e-mail: saowarotm@bcis.ac.th

British International School, Phuket (BIS, Phuket)
 59 Moo 2, Thiepkasatri Rd, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83000 Thailand
 Tel: 076 238 711-20 Fax: 076 238 750 info@bcis.ac.th www.bcis.ac.th

HOTEL RESERVATION MANAGER

Top salary paid based on experience for motivated front desk girl to run renovated 12-room boutique hotel. Must speak, read and write English. Two minute walk to Jungceylon. Tel: 085-793-2477. Email: garyteets@yahoo.com

DRIVER WANTED

Local Thai driver with valid driver's license for expat family living in Thalang. Please contact at Tel: 076-260468. Fax: 076-260440. Email: admin@theestategroup.com

LIVE-IN MAID

Couple in need of a maid as soon as possible for long term. Private luxury house in Kamala. Duties: Cooking, cleaning, laundry, grocery shopping. We offer: maid's room + private bathroom. Salary: 1st month, 10,000 baht. Then 12,500 baht for good work. You are a female, age 25 to 35 and offer: Experience in hotel or luxury private house. Basic English skills. Contact at Tel: 086-1727974. Email: rene.koller@bluewin.ch For details, please see our website: http://www.romsai.ch

TIGER MUAY THAI

This is for Thai nationals only please. Busy and fun sports-oriented business in Chalong is looking for a receptionist/office staff and a cook/waitress for our Thai + foreign restaurant. We also need a nanny for a 1-year-old boy. Receptionist: English and computer skills, working with foreigners, 8 am-5 pm. Cook: Thai + foreign food, 2 pm-9 pm. Please contact K. Smai to schedule interview. Tel: 076-367071. Email: info@tigermuaythai.com

FLOWER DESIGNER

Our company is looking for a flower designer to work with our partner company located in Dubai. Contempo Events Design LLC is a leading flower design company working for 5-star hotels and top-end market clients. Applicant has to be fluent in English, age over 25 years with minimum 2 years experience. There will be an interview with our partners starting in August. Please send your resume and photos from your design work to: Management of Ms. Victoria Orchid Co Ltd. Call Tel: 086-2794757. Email: info@orchids-export.com

SIAM ADVENTURE CLUB MANAGER

Looking for a dynamic and creative individual to manage guest relations, tour and kids club in a fun family-focused resort. Foreigners welcome. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-396666, 076-396667. Email: hr@ramadaphuket.com

ABSOLUTE TELEMARKETERS!

Absolute are currently recruiting Thai nationals for new telemarketing department based in Patong. Successful applicants must speak fluent English. Salary and commission.

Email: thailandjobs@clubabsolute.com



Admin Manager - Construction

Sai Taan are one of Phuket's most successful developers. We are looking for an administration manager to join us, focused on providing support to our construction team.

Key Responsibilities:

- provide secretarial support to Sai Taan management team
- coordinate between sales, project management & construction teams
- liaise with government authorities
- provide basic financial analysis

Key Qualifications:

- excellent English language skills written & spoken
- experience with Microsoft Office, especially Excel
- ability to work as part of a team
- hardworking & willing to learn.

Sai Taan has quickly established itself as a leading Phuket property developer, based on our core belief in delivering quality villas, and doing things properly. We offer a competitive salary and benefits. Please apply in writing with a resume, stating current salary, and a photo to: info@sai-taan-phuket.com.

Sai Taan Villas Co., Ltd.
 3/14, Moo 5, T. Cherngtalay, A. Thalang, Phuket 83110
 Tel 076-271257-8, Fax 076-271256, www.sai-taan-phuket.com



Designer Way Vacation Club, the market leaders in travel agent based holiday clubs in Asia. Due to our rapid expansion we are currently seeking the following candidates for our Phuket exhibition centre:

Marketing Manager

- Thai national
- Able to develop & execute marketing strategies
- Computer literate (Microsoft Word/Excel, Outlook Express)
- Organized and able to work independently
- Experience in hotel/tour operations is an advantage Own car.

Sales Representatives

- Position open to Thai & Foreigners
- Experience preferred but not essential
- Full onsite training provided
- Top commissions paid and daily spiffs

Work permits will be provided to successful sales candidates. Interested applicants are invited to fax or e mail your resume, details, qualifications and experience with recent photo.

Tel: 076 293061, +66 857851248, Fax: 076 293060.
 Email: sales@freedomleisuregroup.com



Australian Government

Australian Trade Commission

ITEMS FOR SALE BY TENDER

The Australian Trade Commission (Austrade) would like to dispose of the following furniture by tender.

Description	Quantity
1. Desk/Side Return/Key Board Tray	1 set
2. Mobile Pedestal	1 pc
3. Medium Cabinet (80x40x160)	1 pc
4. Low Cabinet (80x40x75)	1 pc
5. Active Chair	2 pcs
6. Active Chair (with wheels)	1 pc

Items can be viewed between 0900 - 1600 from 16-20 July 2007

Please contact Khun Sawanna/Nittaya (02-3446335) for tender document and arrange appointment.

Offers will be accepted only on the proforma tender document.

Tenders need to be forwarded in a sealed envelope marked "Austrade Furniture Tender" by 29 July 2007 and forward to: Australian Trade Commission, 37 South Sathorn Road, Bangkok 10120

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following positions:

Advertising Sales

- Thai national with an outgoing personality
- Good command of written and spoken English
- At least 26 years of age
- Driver's license and own car

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to ann@phuketgazette.net

Reporter

The successful candidate will be a Thai national, with initiative, an outgoing personality, and plenty of experience about the world and how it works. Also essential are the ability to communicate in English, both spoken and written, and a car.

Good salary for the right candidate.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV and resumé to: editor@phuketgazette.net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd
 367/2 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai,
 A. Muang, Phuket 83000

Island Job Mart

Professional Sales Negotiator

Engel & Voelkers Thailand requires an experienced, professional sales negotiator to compliment our expanding network representing the very best in high-end real estate. The successful applicant will be based in our Phuket Property Shop. He/she should:

- Have excellent communication skills, both spoken English & written.
- Have at least two years sales experience in high-end real estate.
- Have a proven track record in closing luxury property sales.
- Demonstrate the ability to work as an individual both prospecting and listing.
- Show enthusiasm for future career development and promotion within the company.
- Be ambitious, dedicated and professional.

In return you will:

- Benefit from our international sales training by our in house Real Estate Academy.
- Have uncapped earnings potential.
- Enjoy the benefits of our dynamic on-going marketing program
- Become a key member of a highly professional company.
- Become part of a structured expansion program across Southeast Asia.
- Have a career future and promotion prospects within Engel & Voelkers Southeast Asia based upon performance.

Please contact Mr. Lyndon Phillips today !

Airport Customer Relations

Engel & Voelkers Thailand requires Customer Relations Agents to work from Phuket International Airport. The position will be full-time employment basis with immediate effect. This position is open to female Thai nationals. She should:

- Have excellent communication skills, both spoken English and written
- Be presentable with a confident personality.
- Have at least two years experience in resort management or equivalent service based industry.
- Be ambitious, dedicated and professional.

For further details & immediate interview
Please contact Ms. Kanchana Pimpocha today!

Phuket Office : Telephone +66 (0)76 279280-1
Phuket@engelvoelkers.com, www.engelvoelkers.com/th
Real Estate Agency



ENGEL & VÖLKERS

CBRE
CB RICHARD ELLIS

Since its establishment as Thailand's first international property consultant 19 years ago, **CB Richard Ellis** has become the country's market leader. Due to our rapid business growth, we are looking for professional, energetic and self-motivated persons for the following positions:

PHUKET-BASED POSITIONS

Accountant

- Bachelor's degree in Accounting
- Good command of English
- Knowledge of Quickbooks software is an advantage
- 3 years' experience in Accounting

Property Manager

- Bachelor's / Master's degree in Business Administration, Hotel Management or related field
- Proactive and service-minded
- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills and proven team leadership skills
- Excellent in both written and spoken English

Assistant Property Manager / Site Administrator

- Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Secretarial degree or any other related field
- Good command of English; computer literate
- Good interpersonal skills, hardworking, a team player and service-minded

Office Clerk

- Higher vocational education in any related fields
- Good command of English; computer literate

Sales & Marketing Officer

- Good command of English
- Computer literate - Excel, Word, PowerPoint
- Pleasant personality, service-minded
- Able to work extra time if needed
- Own transportation is a must

SAMUI-BASED POSITIONS

Sales & Marketing Officer

- Good command of English
- Computer literate - Excel, Word, PowerPoint
- Pleasant personality, service-minded
- Able to work extra time if needed
- Own transportation is a must

Office Administrator

- Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Secretarial degree or any other related field
- Good command of English
- Good interpersonal skills, hardworking, a team player and service-minded

Please apply in person or send your CV to:

CB Richard Ellis (Thailand) Co., Ltd.
12/9 Moo 4, Thepkasatri Rd., Kohkaew, Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076 239 967 Fax: 076 239 970
wanpen.duangjit@cbre.co.th

PHUKET ANDAMAN
REAL ESTATE

SECRETARY / ADMINISTRATOR

- + Female not over 40 year's old
- + High school diploma in administration/secretarial
- + Good command of written/ spoken English
- + Very good organizational ability skills
- + Computer literate-MS office etc
- + Active and have interpersonal skills
- + Driver's license is preferable

Send CV with photo, salary & expectations to
hakan@phuketandamanrealestate.com
Tel: 076 245966 www.phuketandamanrealestate.com
Walk-in interview at 17/11 Chaofa Rd, behind Int Law Office

HLB

(Thailand) Ltd.

www.hlbthai.com

Accountancy and Business Consultancy Services

HLB (Thailand) Ltd. is the member of HLB International, a world-wide organization of accounting firms and business advisors with 450 offices in more than 100 countries.

HLB (Thailand) Ltd. is consulting investors to plan, structure and implement their projects in Thailand. Our services include start up consulting, market and feasibility studies, financial project management, accounting and auditing services. Now we are looking for the experienced professional to fill this position:

Senior Accountant, based in Phuket (2 Positions)

Full Time : Mon - Fri (09.00 - 18.00)

Job Description :

- Control G/L, A/R, A/P management
- Control fund receipt, payment and cash flow
- Prepare regular financial reports and statements
- Take care of all banking requirements including monthly reconciliation
- Co-ordinate with auditors and government officers
- Close monthly and annual account
- Prepare monthly and annual tax returns to clients
- Provide advices to customer when appropriate

Qualifications :

- Bachelor Degree in accounting
- Minimum 3 years experience in accounting field
- Able to close accounts independently
- Fluent in writing and speaking English
- Computer literate and experience with integrated accounting software solutions
- Mature personality with good analytical and communication skills
- Able to work overtime when necessary and under pressure

Interested candidates are invited to send your resume in English only and recent photo to jaruwan@hlbthai.com

International Law Office, Patong Beach Co., Ltd.

INTLAW OFFICE
สำนักงานกฎหมายระหว่างประเทศ
บริษัท อินทราเวล จำกัด

OPEN POSITION

• Attorney

Qualification

- Male 30 years above with bachelor's degree or higher in Law from reputable educational institution with excellent academic background
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Good command of spoken/written English with Internet literacy
- Competent, high responsibility and self-motivation
- Computer skills background an advantage
- Contractual works, no litigations

Please send English resume with work experience, references, recent photograph and expected salary to the following email: manager_phuket@phuket-realestate-law.com

International Law Office Patong Beach Co., Ltd.

17/6 Chaofa road, Taladnuet sub-district,
Muang Phuket district, Phuket province
Tel: 66-76-222191 to 5. Fax: 66-76-222196
Location Phuket Town, Thailand

KARON OFFICE

staff required for boat charter/cultural tour company. Thai with good English skills, sales and marketing experience, must have own transport. Please send CV by email or contact for more information. Tel: 081-0817163. Email: gsmith100@gmail.com

ADMIN/SECRETARY

Experienced admin/secretary required for small but busy real estate agency based in Surin. Applicants should be computer literate, able to speak English and able to interact with foreign customers and developers. Email: orawan@phuketpropertyhunter.com

ART/INTERIOR DESIGN

Looking for a university graduate in art/interior design. The candidate should be highly motivated and willing to expand their skills. The nature of the job is conceptual drawing for worldwide interiors. Must have good command of English language. All interested parties contact. Tel: 083-6965232. Email: yui@orientalcon.com

HOTEL JOBS

We currently require 1 cook, 1 English-speaking receptionist and 2 waitresses. Email: info@club-coconut-resort.info

TRAINEE SALES ASST.

for real estate & property development company. You must be able to communicate well in English & be computer literate. Your own car & a phone are necessities. This is a permanent position and offers a salary and a bonus. Thai nationals only. Contact Tel: 089-6498703.

OPERATION OFFICER

French speaking. Job duty: will be responsible for operations between Phuket receiving agent and suppliers both in Phuket & overseas. Require young, dynamic person with pleasant personality, energetic and hard-working with service-oriented skills and ability to work with internationally based clients. Must demonstrate proficiency in English & French communication skills and be computer literate. Ideal candidate would be a male or female Thai national and your own transportation would be preferable. Experience with hotel and tourism industries would be an advantage. Interested people, please send CV to info@phuket-receptif.com or walk-in interview at Phuket Receptif Co Ltd 100/23 Moo 5, Chalempriakiat Rama 9 Rd, T. Rasada, Muang, Phuket 83000. For more info, please visit our website: www.phuket-receptif.com

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Articles for Sale

29" HITACHI TV FOR SALE

Perfect condition with remote, wooden table, VHS video recorder. Only 4,500 baht. Tel: 084-0603477.

SECOND HAND POOL TABLES



Coin-operated pool tables. Size: 3.5' x 7'. Price: 40,000 baht. Tel: 076-263687, 081-7555057.

42" PLASMA TV

Phillips, perfect condition, looks great. Price: 40,000 baht. Contact Khun Leons. Tel: 086-2839806.

Bulletins

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Mission Hospital Phuket City
Wed and Sun 7 pm
Bangkok Phuket Hospital Phuket City
Fri 7 pm
Patong Hospital Patong
Mon, Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun at 7 pm and Fri at 8 pm
Chalong Health Clinic-near Chalong Circle
Tues 1 pm
For Phuket info (English) call 081-9564031, 081-8912895
Scandinavian speaking Group Wat Karon School-Karon
Tue 7 pm
Tel 081-2732053 (Nor)
087-2795636 (Nor)
086-7458910 (Swe)
For info on other Thailand AA meetings inquire at Tel: 02-2318300 (for Thai language press 3) www.aathailand.org or email info@aathailand.org

PHUKET HOME MAINTENANCE

Closed for staff holiday in July. Return to work as normal in August. Email: phukethomemaintenance@yahoo.com

PIWC GALA BALL

The Phuket International Women's Club announces the most prestigious event this year - the annual Gala Ball on Saturday, November 24th at the Indigo Pearl in Nai Yang Beach. Watch for more details. Tickets will be in great demand. Contact Carol at Tel: 087-4178860, email: carol@aplusplus.com or Sue at Tel: 087-2776948, email: amulphy@loxinfo.co.th

Business Opportunities

RESTAURANT

for sale. Kata beach, 4 bedroom, 3 TVs, pool table, fully stocked, seats 80. Contact Tel: 089-5880839.

BOUTIQUE GUESTHOUSE

Center of Patong, long lease, 1st class. For more info, click on our Gazette homepage banner Boating & Fishing Help. Please contact via email: makocraft@hotmail.com

LTD FOR SALE

Clean limited company. Take over for 50,000 baht. Call for details. Tel: 085-7839062.

NEW ULTRA MODERN CLUB

H2O Entertainment Co Ltd has built an all new luxury club in Patong. 50 meters from the beach on the very popular Soi Post Office! Construction completed 1 month ago. 320 sqm. Excellent opportunity. Two options for lease. Buy outright for 10 million baht and get 12 year lease. Or pay 4 million baht and get 5-year lease at 180,000 baht per month. This club will be the talk of the town! Lower level shop available for restaurant. Please contact for details. Tel: 084-6644050. Email: aadams007@yahoo.com

PATONG BEAUTY

salon. Take over lease that runs until 2010. Please contact at Tel: 084-4414689.

KATA RESTAURANT

Small restaurant at the main road. Sell: 1 million baht. Rent: 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-9807570. Email: kata.restaurant@gmail.com

CHALONG CAFE/BAR

Wholesale & retail pies, fish & chips, etc. Cheap rent includes accommodation and 2+ 2-year lease. Loyal staff, all training and recipes are included. Price: 995,000 baht. Call Tel: 087-0245036.

INTERNET CAFE

Profitable Internet business for sale in Chalong. Contact Tel: 087-0930221. Email: simplewebs.lee@gmail.com For more details, please visit our website at http://www.simplewebs.org/details.html

KATA BEER BAR

for sale or lease. Furnished, full counter, office equipment. Great layout. Price: 550,000 baht. Contact Khun Nida. Tel: 081-6590439.

BARGAIN BUY

Bar for sale on Nanai Rd. Includes pool table, darts, 42" plasma TV, fully stocked. Bargain price: 475,000 baht. Rent: 10,000 baht per month. Call Tel: 084-8520862.

SUCCESSFUL CLUB

for sale. 1.9 million baht renovation in Oct/Nov 2006. 4 year lease. Take over for 1.5 million baht and 50,000 baht per month. Buy now and get it rent-free until Nov 1, 2007. Tel: 084-6644050. Email: aadams007@yahoo.com

GUESTHOUSE

for lease. Patong, 14 rooms, 50 meters to the beach. No key money, long term lease contract. Tel: 084-0535780, 086-0043008. Email: info@ayudhya.net For further details, please see our website: http://www.ayudhya.net

RESTAURANT / BAR

Nanai Rd, most successful venues are for sale. Restaurant, bar, living accommodation. Please contact for more details. Tel: 081-7411963.

BAR FOR SALE

Rawai, prime location on the beach road. Very nicely decorated. Price: 1.7 million baht ono. Tel: 087-2706297.

DANISH GRILL/BAR

Selling franchise. Price: 800,000 baht. Email: admin@ideacon.biz For more details, please visit our website: www.ideacon.biz/dansk_grill_bar.htm

TSBA
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GUESTHOUSE PATONG
Great revenues+profits
Long lease available
If you want to buy or sell a business
Call Kevin 084-7300190.
Email: kevin@tsba.info
www.tsba.info

PIZZA OVEN

Resort wishes to sell 2-year-old pizza oven in excellent condition. 99,000 baht. Call K. Porn at Tel: 075-607100.

SHOPHOUSES

Phuket City center near the Metropole hotel. Prices from 8,000 to 12,000 baht per month. 3-year leases or for sale. Please contact for info. Tel: 089-6186894.

SWISS INVESTOR

Private reasons for offering my 50% partnership for only 60,000 Swiss francs. Working and living in Thailand or Europe is no problem. Business is working! Email: lifestylexl2001@yahoo.de

HOTEL FOR LEASE

Long-term contract. 22 rooms fully refurbished, swimming pool, 60 covers restaurant, pizzeria. Running perfectly. Rental fee: 2.5 million baht per year. No key money. Contact Tel: 086-0043008.

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