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British man charged over stepson's death

By Supanun Supawong

KATHU: Englishman David Murray, 37, has been charged over the death of his eight-year-old stepson, Narid "Curry" Budtharai, who allegedly died after his head hit the floor while he was being beaten by his stepfather for being a poor student.

Pol Lt Col Passakorn Sonthikul of Tung Tong Police told the *Gazette* that the incident occurred at Murray's condo home in Moo Baan Irawadee, in the Ketho area of Kathu District, at about 9 pm July 12.

Curry's mother, Ramida Murray, 32, a Thai national, told police that for three years she and Murray had been living together with her two sons from a previous marriage, Tony, 10, and

Curry, a student at Thairath Wittaya School, had been receiving poor grades for two years, said Col Passakorn, who added that last year Curry's parents warned their son about getting poor grades at school.

A week before his death, Curry's parents received a phone call from one of his teachers saying that Curry was having trouble keeping up at school, he said.

"On July 11, Murray repeatedly hit Curry with a length of blue PVC pipe," Col Passakorn said. "Curry was not allowed to go to school the next day because of his bruises and not allowed any food," he quoted Ramida as saying.

"The next day Curry wet his bed and for this Murray beat him with the PVC pipe until the pipe broke," Col Passakorn said.

"His mother told Curry to apologize for the bed wetting, but he didn't say a word. This made Murray angry again and he kicked Curry in the chest. Curry



Curry's natural father Pissanu Badtharai, a Nepalese national, was outraged to learn that his son's corpse was covered in bruises and scars as it lay in a casket at Wat Ketho awaiting cremation.

fell to the floor and was knocked unconscious when his head hit the ground," he added.

Murray then stopped his attack and tried to revive Curry, but his efforts failed and Ramida took Curry to Phuket International Hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

"Murray disappeared, taking some cash and jewelry from his home with him. He later sent an SMS to Ramida at about 11 pm that night saying he was sorry for what he had done. He told her her was contemplating suicide," Col Passakorn said.

Ramida tried to call him back but was unable to get through, he said.

"Ramida said that although David hit the child in anger she didn't think he intended to seriously injure him," he added.

On the morning of July 13 Murray turned himself in at Tung Tong Police Station, where he was charged with murder without intent

At Curry's cremation at

Wat Ketho on July 16, Curry's natural father, Pissanu Badtharai, was outraged by Curry's death. Told by his son's aunt that Curry had died in an accident, K. Pissanu only learned of the bruises on his son's body when he saw Curry's corpse in the casket ready for cremation.

Thinking the police had declared the death an accident he delayed the funeral and called for another autopsy.

However, after police showed K. Pissanu that the cause of death reported on the death certificate was "wounds sustained from blows" he allowed the cremation to proceed.

To substantiate his claims that his sons were being abused, K. Pissanu showed the *Gazette* Tony's back, which was covered in bruises and scars.

"Tony is autistic," said K. Pissanu. "He cannot talk. He can only make noises."

Murray, who has yet to be arraigned, is being held at Phuket Provincial Prison.

Three tourists drown in two days

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

PHUKET: Three tourists drowned in two days in dangerous surf conditions at Phuket beaches July 14 and 15.

A Russian housewife, a Saudi Arabian man and a Singaporean man all lost their lives: the two men at Patong Beach and the woman at Bang Tao Beach.

The first victim was Singaporean Chua Holk Beng, 34, whose body was pulled from turbulent surf at Patong Beach just before 3 pm on July 14 by members of the Phuket Provincial Administration (*OrBorJor*) beach guard.

He and his friend were swimming in the water despite red flags on the beach.

The second victim, also on July 14, was 43-year-old Ekaterina Burova, a Russian woman who was on holiday with friends and relatives.

Cherng Talay police received the report of her drowning at Bang Tao Beach about 5:45 pm on July 14. Lt Col Jessada Sangsuree of Cherng Talay Police Station said there were red flags on the beach.

The victim was swimming with her two children and one other relative when she started having difficulty and finally succumbed to the waves.

Local people helped bring her body back to shore, but she could not be resuscitated, Col Jessada said.

On July 15 32-year-old Abrahi Altalt of Saudi Arabia also drowned at Patong Beach. The red flag warnings were in effect when he entered the water.

His body was recovered and taken to Patong Hospital.





Three die in Rawai smash

RAWAI: An accident on Wiset Rd left a father, his daughter and niece dead and his wife seriously injured after the motorbike all four were riding on and a car collided about 8 pm on July 15.

Chalong Police were alerted to the accident, which happened in front of Baan Haad Rawai Bungalow, at about 8 pm.

Pol Lt Col Peeraphan Meemak, an inspector at Chalong Police Station, told the Gazette that he arrived at the scene to find the body of 29-year-old construction worker Payont Waraputh next to a smashed Honda Wave motorcycle and a gold Honda Jazz with damage to the right front side and bumper.

K. Payont was returning from Rawai Beach when the collision occurred, said Col Peeraphan, adding that witnesses to the crash were yet to be interviewed.

K. Payont's daughter Walaiporn Waraputh, 8, and his niece Supitchaya Chaikiri, 6, were taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital by rescue workers before he arrived at the scene, Col Peeraphan said.

Both died of their injuries on the way to hospital, he added.

The driver of the Honda Jazz, Canadian Leslie Hand, 44, was returning from Chalong Circle to her home in Bang Khon Thee, Rawai, said Col Peeraphan.

Police found Mrs Hand, who was not injured, waiting at the side of the road.

K. Payont's wife Wipaporn Buayoo, 25, remains in critical condition at Vachira Phuket Hospital. Police were unable to provide details of her injuries.

The bodies of the deceased were taken to Wat Lathiwanaram for funeral services.

Mrs Hand, a long-time Phuket resident, was charged with negligence causing death and released on bail on May 16.

Chalong Police are continuing their investigation.

More Russian tourists say 'yes' to Phuket

By Semacote Suganya

PHUKET: Russian tourists now account for the fourth largest group of foreign holidaymakers visiting Phuket behind Sweden, the UK and Australia, said Anoma Wongyai, assistant director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) South Region 4 Office in Phuket.

K. Anoma attributed the boost, which nudges China down to fifth place, to the success of the TAT-organized "Leisure 2006" roadshow to Moscow last year.

The announcement follows Russian Consul Vladimir Pronin's recent meeting with Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr, president of the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor).

K. Anchalee led an entourage to Moscow as part of an initiative to promote Thailand as a holiday destination.

Taking advantage of 30-day visa ex-

emptions on arrival, 49,234 Russian citizens flew to Phuket in the first quarter this year, a 40% increase on the year before, K. Anoma said.

Transaero Airlines, the only Russian carrier serving Phuket, has three weekly charter flights from Moscow. The flights are available throughout the high season, from October to March or April.

The Russian government is now looking to appoint an hon-

to support the growing relationship between exchange.

Russian Consul Vladimir Pronin (2nd from left) and his team discuss Russian tourism to Phuket with OrBorJor President Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr (right) at the OrBorJor offices in Phuket City.

orary consul for Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi the two countries and promote cross-cultural

Pharmacy staffer shoots debt collector

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PATONG: An employee who shot and injured a private debt collector who tried to collect pastdue rent was arrested for attempted murder on July 13.

Uthai Petchara, 26, was working with Sarawuth Sukanek, 22, and another employee at Tak Pharmacy, near Loma Park on Thaweewong Rd, when four men entered the shop around 5 pm.

Narong Duangmusik, 32, and his accomplices approached Uthai and demanded he pay money that "Tak" owed in rent.

Uthai refused to hand over any money and as the four men began to leave the pharmacy he took a 9mm pistol from a drawer and fired one shot, hitting Narong's left wrist.

The four men retreated to a pickup truck and drove to Patong Hospital. Uthai then fled the scene in his black pickup with workmate Sarawuth, leaving the third worker, who called Kathu Police, behind at the shop.

Pol Maj Serm Kwannimit and his team of officers arrived at the pharmacy 20 minutes later and questioned the remaining employee, who told police the model, registration plate and appearance of Uthai's vehicle.

A police squad then drove to Patong Hospital to find Narong, who said that he was paid to retrieve rent owed by Tak to their hirer, who police described as an "Indian man".

A second police squad later found Uthai's pickup truck parked in front of the soi leading to Montana Grand Hotel Phuket.

K. Sarawuth, who was alone in the pickup, told police that Uthai had driven him from the scene before stopping the vehicle and making off on foot.

K. Sarawuth had stayed in the pickup, unsure what to do, until he was found by police.

Later that night, Uthai turned himself in at Kathu Police Station, where he was arrested for attempted murder and released on 200,000 baht bail, paid for by one of his relatives.

Pol Lt Col Boonlert Onklang of Kathu Police told the Gazette that Tak owns a 20% share of White Sand Resortel in Patong. The man who allegedly hired Narong and his gang owns the remainder of the shares. He also owns the building that houses Tak Pharmacy.

Tak and her Indian partner had argued about financial matters and Tak had refused to pay him rent owed for the pharmacy. Police did not disclose how much money Tak owed.

After Tak's refusal to pay rent, the man enlisted the help of Narong and his gang, said Col Boonlert, who added that the gang had visited Tak at the pharmacy several times and that Uthai and Sarawuth were relatives of Tak.

Narong had called Tak and told her he would visit the pharmacy at 5 pm to collect the rent. Frustrated with Narong and his henchmen's persistent visits, Tak neglected the appointment and left Uthai in charge of the shop, said Col Boonlert.

The Kathu Police have submitted details of the case to Phuket Provincial Court and will continue their investigation.

Students charged over road rage beating

RASSADA: Two second-year university students were arrested after allegedly assaulting a man at an accident scene on Soi Phanieng on July 2.

Phuket City police arrived at the scene to find two students, named by police as "Wit", 22, and "Karine", 23, beating 30-year-old Jaroonsak Khongjit, an employee of Phuket Adventure company.

Pol Capt Atthapol Wannasaengthong of Phuket City Police Station said that the students' motorcycle and Jaroonsak's motorcycle bumped while they were riding on Soi Phaneang.

The collision caused the student's motorcycle to crash to the ground. K. Jaroonsak was assaulted when he went to apologize to the students, said Capt

"I asked them why they beat him and they said that they were angry," he said.

"People at the scene reported that one of them had a gun and used it to hit K. Jaroonsak. When we frisked them we found a homemade gun with bullets," Capt Atthapol added.

Both students were charged with causing bodily harm and illegal possession of a firearm.





New incinerator for Phuket 'on hold'

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PHUKET CITY: Proposed plans for a new incinerator on Phuket have been put on hold despite Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwannasuppana insisting that the island's garbage problem is too

The proposal came after large quantities of fish were killed in waters polluted by leaked toxins from the island's sole incinerator in Saphan Hin.

The incinerator, which can burn up to 250 tonnes of garbage a day, cannot cope with Phuket's daily production of 520 tonnes.

Waste not burned is piled behind the incinerator next to water retention ponds. After heavy rain on June 22, water from the piles of garbage leaked into mangrove forests and into Khlong Koh Kui and Khlong Koh Phee.

Natural Resources and Environment Minister Kasem Sanhidwong na Ayudhaya toured the area and discussed the problem with government officers on June 30. He suggested the incinerator be upgraded and that Phuket residents separate garbage.

After his return to Bangkok, he recommended that Jutuporn Buruspat, deputy director-general of the Department of Environmental Quality Promotion, meet with Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit.

On July 11, K. Jutuporn met Gov Niran and Phuket Vice-Gov-



'Plans for a new incinerator must be put on hold until other solutions to Phuket's garbage problem have been examined.'

- Dr Kasemsun Chinavaso.

ernor Worapoj Ratthasima to forge a plan of action. Discussions were focused on the longterm goal of solving Phuket's growing garbage troubles.

Participants in the meeting concluded that the first step to easing the situation is to persuade people to separate their garbage. The governor approved a plan to appoint officers to raise awareness about the importance of recycling.

K. Jutuporn said that responsibility of Phuket incinerator will be handed over to the Pollution Control Department.

He added that the solution to the island's waste woes lies in incinerating less garbage.

On July 12, government officers from Bangkok attended a meeting at the Phuket incinerator, led by Dr Kasemsun Chinavaso, secretary-general of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning.

Eight projects proposed for Phuket by Prime Minister General Surayud Chulanont were discussed, including a new incinerator for the island.

Mingquan Wichaya Rangsaridh, Pollution Control Department deputy director-general, said that Phuket must improve its garbage management program and show details of initiatives, such as processing garbage into compost.

However, he added that an investigation team must first evaluate how Phuket's incinerator is being used before a proposal for a new one can be forwarded to the government.

Mayor Somjai said that seven of 19 local administration offices had helped reduce Phuket's surplus of waste through garbage separation and the recycling of materials for compost, but this had not been enough to make the volume of garbage more manageable.

Dr Kasemsun said that the budget for a new incinerator was on hold until alternative solutions were investigated, and that a new incinerator would provide only a short-term solution to the island's trash management problem.

Two youths killed in road rage shooting

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

PHUKET CITY: After a fourday manhunt, a Patong man wanted in connection with the shooting murder of two youths in front of Kaset Market, the fresh market near Robinson department store, handed himself in to police early on July 11.

The suspect, building contractor Sukkasem Charoenrat, 33, has denied the charges.

Police say they have testimonies confirming that Sukkasem pulled his Honda Phantom chopper onto Ong Sim Phai Rd around 10 pm July 5 after having a meal with his 10-yearold son at the Jay Nang khao mun gai vending stall outside the PS Inn.

Witnesses said that as he began to accelerate away from the stall, two youths on another bike crashed into the chopper at high speed, Phuket City Police Duty Officer Lt Theeradet Jiraksa told the Gazette.

The youths approached the man, whose son was slightly injured, and tried to apologize.

Instead of accepting their apologies, Sukkasem allegedly pulled out a pistol and began

People eating at street side stalls ran or dived for cover.

After firing about seven shots, the man and his son calmly got back on the chopper and rode

A restaurant owner who witnessed the incident alerted police.

Officers arrived to find Nuttapong Naweewong, 17, dead at the scene. A 9mm bullet had entered his left temple and exited from the right.

Witnesses said that the other youth, Sarawut Jitlang, 19, was shot once in the head while trying to flee. He was rushed to Vachira Phuket Hospital, but died soon after arrival.

Also rushed to Vachira Phuket Hospital was bystander Anucha Waree, 18, who was shot in his left arm.

Lt Col Amponwat Sangruang from Phuket City Police said that investigators visited Sukkasem's home in Patong on July 6, but he was not home.

A 9mm handgun was discovered at the house, police said.

A warrant for Sukkasem's arrest was issued July 7. He turned himself in at Kathu Police Station July 11 at 5:30 am.

Sukkasem has been charged with two counts of murder, attempted murder and carrying a gun in public without a permit, added Col Amponwat.

Tourist, 30, dies of 'heart failure'

CHALONG: French tourist Sylvain Hervieux reportedly died of heart failure on the evening of July 15. An ambulance from Phuket International Hospital responded to an emergency call, but arrived to find that Hervieux had been dead for about 20 minutes.

Hervieux had been staying with his mother, Claudine Denis, at a Thai friend's house in Chalong.

Lt Col Peeraphan Meemak, Inspector of Chalong Police Station, said that Mr Hervieux had been released from hospital a few days earlier after complaining of heart problems and breathing diffi-

His body was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital for an autopsy.

Turtles, dolphins continue to wash ashore

BANG TAO: A green turtle weighing about 5.7 kilograms was found at Le Phang Beach at about 9 am July 10.

Kongkiat Kittiwattanawong, a biologist at the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC), told the Gazette that the female sea turtle, bearing a hard shell 39.5 centimeters long and 37cm wide, was suffering from exhaustion and had difficulty breathing.

The turtle was taken to the PMBC at Cape Panwa about 3

"The green turtle is two years old, very tired, but has no

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injuries and does not appear to be suffering from any illness. It was exhausted from swimming in strong waves over the past few days and was too weak to swim back to the sea," K. Kongkiat

The recovery of the Le Phang turtle follows two hawksbill sea turtles found stranded ashore, one at Surin Beach on Monday and another at Mai Khao on July 6.

The turtles, each about 30centimeters long and about two years old, were snared in fishing nets.

The turtle found at Mai Khao died from its injuries, but the other turtle was taken to the PMBC at Cape Panwa for treat-

However, turtles are not the only species washing ashore: a mature-aged, spotted male dolphin, 2.2 meters long, was found dead at Karon Beach July 12.

- Pathomporn Kaenkrachang



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Phuket Koreans Living quietly in paradise

espite accounting for 239,093 visitors to Phuket last year, second only to Australia and one place ahead of Sweden according to Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) figures, Korean tourists blend in with the island scenery so much that you might not have noticed they were here.

With four weekly flights from Korea now serving the island by Asiana Airlines, Korean Air and Skystar Airways, Korean tourists have been flocking to Phuket for the sea and sun, but not the spicy food, said Kim Tae Woen, 43, chairman of the Korean Association in Phuket, who lives on the island with his wife and son.

Group tours and solo travelers, businessmen and families visit Phuket throughout the year, said Anoma Wongyai, assistant director of TAT South Region 4 office.

K. Anoma said that Korean tourists typically stay in Phuket four days and three nights or five days and four nights, with many taking advantage of cheap package tours.

Phuket must compete with other destinations, such as Vietnam and Cambodia, to maintain its status as a favorite among Korean travelers, added K. Anoma.

Favoring the island for romantic getaways, Mr Kim said that 50% of Koreans visiting Phuket are honeymooners. Koreans also enjoy Phuket's beautiful, natural surroundings and the

The Korean script is increasingly popping up on the signboards and restaurants around Phuket while buses advertising tours to Korean groups whiz through the city, but unless you are looking for them, the Koreans of Phuket can be easy to overlook.

Fighting allegations that they are insular and use only Korean resources and shops in Phuket, Korean community leaders speak to *Gazette* reporter **Supanun Supawong** and trainee **Anand Singh** about what Phuket means to Koreans.



laid-back, quiet atmosphere, he added.

Mr Kim said that the differences in lifestyle between Koreans and people in Phuket make the island the perfect retreat from Korea's notoriously competitive environment, where 16-hour working days are commonplace.

With increasing numbers of Korean tourists visiting the island, there has also been an increase in the number of Koreans residing here. Mr Kim estimates that about 1,500 Korean expats now live in Phuket, and half have been here for more than five years.

"Koreans choose to live in





Kim Tae Woen, chairman of the Korean Association in Phuket, said that as more Korean tourists come to the island, more also want to stay and open businesses catering to their needs.

Phuket because of the number of Korean tourists coming here. This makes the island a suitable place to do business. Also, Phuket has great weather, beautiful scenery, lots of trees and nice people. After Bangkok, Phuket has the second largest number of Korean expats of any province," said Mr Kim.

About half of all Koreans living in Phuket are on the island with their families. Most of the children study at British International School (BIS), Kajorn Kieat Pattana School, Dowroong Wittaya School or Darasamuth School, he said.

There are also about 120 Korean-run businesses in Phuket, 50 of which are tour companies. Most of the remainder are grocery stores, property development offices or restaurants, added Mr Kim.

"This year I am the chairman of the Korean Association in Phuket, which has 1,100 members. There are other Korean Associations in Pattaya, Chiang Mai and Bangkok, but we are different because as of this year we are an individual association and we administer ourselves," said Mr Kim.

The Korean Association serves as a kind of temporary Korean consulate, said Mr Kim. Every one to three months officers from the Korean Embassy meet with members of the Korean Association in Phuket. Koreans in Phuket, Phang Nga or Krabi who don't have time to go

to Bangkok for visa or passport arrangements or who have any problems can contact the Korean Association in Phuket.

"Koreans can adapt themselves to Thai culture. About 50% of Koreans can speak Thai or English. Most of them learn by themselves, as I did," he said.

Despite such adaptations, Mr Kim said that the cultural differences can sometimes lead to resentment or misunderstandings between Thais and Koreans – a bridge he tries to gap as often as he can.

"When we make appointments, we come on time. Some Thais come half an hour late, which might lead to misunderstandings."

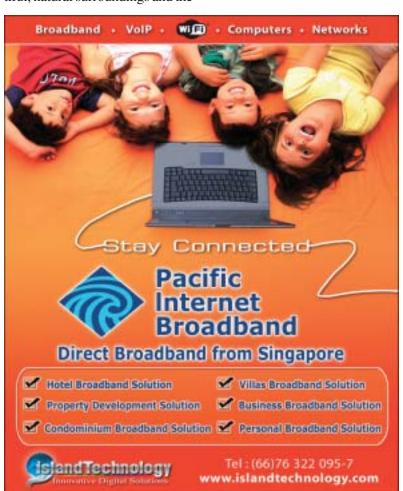
Mr Kim added that he often hears complaints about Koreans coming to Phuket and only eating Korean food and using Korean guides.

"Koreans cannot eat much spicy food, so that's why some of them prefer to eat Korean food when visiting Phuket," he

"Some people think that Phuket does not benefit from Korean tourism," Mr Kim added, but the TAT estimates show that Koreans spend more than 16 billion baht in Phuket every year.

Jin Myeong Pyo, 54, is the president of Phuket Silla Tours Co Ltd. He has been in Phuket for 18 years and lives here with his wife.

"At first I came to Phuket as a tourist, but I was so im-





A Korean-speaking tour guide at Wat Chalong explains the history of the island's most popular temple.

pressed by the island. It was so quiet and beautiful, so I decided to move here. When I first came here to live I opened a Korean restaurant on Mae Luan Rd. Three years after that I started my own tour company, Silla Tours, which is what I do now," said Mr Jin.

Silla Tours employs an equal number of Thai and Korean staff to deal with the range of tourists that use the company's services, but due to provincial laws only Thais can work as tour guides.

Unlike Phuket, Korea has four seasons, and so when the snow falls and the temperature plummets, many Koreans choose to come to Phuket to play golf or relax in the warm weather that their home lacks, said Mr Jin.

Like Mr Kim, Mr Jin is also keen to quash any preconceptions people have about Korean tour-

"Most people think that we cater to Korean tourists by only taking them to eat at Korean restaurants and using Korean guides, but this is not true. Our tour programs contain visits to Thai restaurants and Thai grocery stores," he said. "Ultimately we have to satisfy our customers."

Phuket has seen a lot of changes in the 18 years since Mr Jin moved here.

"The island now is different from the Phuket I used to know. There are a lot more people, there are many traffic jams and the number of Koreans living here has increased," he said.

Matt Yoo, owner of the Dae Jang Kum Korean restaurant in Phuket City, has only been living in Phuket for two years, but he already feels at home and is happy to conduct his business

Mr Yoo said that around 60% of his customers are Korean. His Thai customers are especially fond of the Korean dishes see krong moo (pork spareribs) and kimchi chicken (chicken served with fermented vegetables, seasoned with chili peppers and salt).

"At the moment Phuket is in the green season so there are not many tourists visiting. Tourism in previous years was better than it is now. This year has not been as good for me, perhaps due to global problems," he added.

Yong Bae Kim, owner of the Great Wall Korean Restaurant in Phuket City, moved to Phuket with his family four years ago.

"The reason I moved here was because of my children's education," said Mr YB Kim. The high cost of sending children to international schools in Korea tempts many parents to seek out alternative institutions in other countries.

"It is difficult to get into a good university in Korea and the standard of English taught at some of the public schools is not very high. I believe that you cannot work or progress very far without a good command of the English language. For example, around 80% of all Internet sites are in English. In the future, people who cannot speak English will be greatly disadvantaged. I am satisfied with the education system in Phuket," said Mr YB Kim.

Four years ago Mr YB Kim opened a Korean restaurant in

Phuket Villa 3, catering mainly to tour groups. Six months later he opened the Great Wall. Unlike Mr Yoo, business has improved for Mr YB Kim this year with an influx of customers from Korean tour companies.

Mr YB Kim said that although Korea is a scenic place, the kind of scenery in Phuket is not like anything that can be found in his homeland. He is happy calling Phuket his home.

"I don't know about going back to live in Korea again. For now it is important that my children finish their education in Phuket. After that I don't know where they will choose to go to university, but that time is still four or five years away."

Although he is happy to stay

in Phuket for the time being, Mr YB Kim thinks that the government should relax some of the rules and regulations in place that make it difficult for Korean tour guides to work on the island. Most Thai tour guides cannot speak Korean while not all Korean tourists can speak English, and so there is a demand for Korean-speaking guides.

Friction between local, registered tour guides and foreign guides led to a ban on all foreign tour guides in Phuket in 2004. The tension mounted in November last year when 25 Thai tour guides protested outside Phuket Provincial Hall, demanding the government take action against Korean tour guides working in Phuket without work permits.

Panomphol Thummachartniyom, president of the Phuket Professional Guide Association (PPGA), told the *Gazette* that Thai law states that foreigners cannot work in Thailand as tour guides as the occupation is reserved for locals, although some foreign tour guides do work illegally on the island.

The problems faced by Korean tour guides will be put to Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit in the near future, added K. Panomphol.

The Korean Association in Phuket is located at ST Plaza, Sakdidet Rd, and can be contacted at Tel: 076-211499 or 076-211490, or email: phuketkim@naver.com





Flower fair to blossom at Saphan Hin

SAPHAN HIN: The bloomin' marvelous Phuket Flower Show, organized by the Phuket Provincial Agriculture Office, this year will be held at Saphan Hin from July 26 to August 4.

The highlight of the fair will be the sky-high vegetable competition, in which visitors will be able to learn the ins and outs of growing vegetables out of the ground, in hanging baskets for example, while marveling at the items on display.

After a few hints for your garden? A number of exhibitions will point you in the right direction for arranging your flowers and plants. Visitors will also be able to learn everything there is to know about hydroponics (gardening without soil).

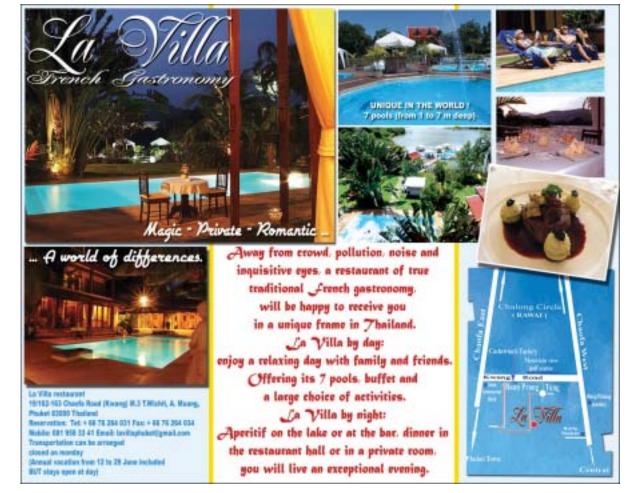
Twenty-five local goods shops and 80 plant shops will be at this year's show offering a wide range of flowers, plants and agricultural equipment at discounted prices.

Competitions will be held in a variety of categories, including orchids, anthuriums, home-grown vegetables and zingiberales.

Evening entertainment will come in the form of cabaret shows and singing and dancing performances from Phuket students.

The show will be open daily from 8:30 am to 10:30 pm.

For more information call the Agriculture Office at 076-216565 or 076-221602.



QUEER NEWS

Itchy trigger backfires on nasty youth

NAKHON SRI THAMMARAT was tucked in the belt of his trou-(Gazette, Kom Chad Luek): A Buddhist ordination ceremony in Phraphrom District took a turn for the worst on July 6 after an outbreak of violence led to a firearms incident which left one unlucky follower of the Middle Way with a serious pain in his crotch.

The evening began jovially at the ceremony held in Na Phru Village 3.

A band had been hired and youths from around the area turned up to join in the festivities, with each group establishing their own drinking circle.

Later on in the evening, while the drinks continued to flow, the young crowd started to strut their stuff on the dance floor.

A few drunken dancers began bumping into each other and tempers became frayed.

Bumps turned into pushes, pushes turned into punches, punches turned into chairs being thrown, and before long the dance floor had erupted into the scene of an all-out riot.

The first victim of the night was Theeraphon Wongkrasap, 19, who was stabbed twice in the back. On seeing his friend attacked, Sayan Phannana, 20, went to draw his shotgun that Theeraphon.

In his haste to pull out his weapon to save his friend, and due to being extremely drunk, Sayan set the hair-trigger gun off while it was still tucked in his trou-

The blast blew his penis "to smithereens" and the bullet lodged in his left foot.

When Lt Col Chalermwan Wannasathit, duty inspector at Phraphrom District Police Station, arrived with his team he found a scene of destruction with tables and chairs strewn all over the place and smashed bottles and glasses covering the floor.

In the midst of the chaos, Theeraphon and Sayan were lying on the ground groaning in

They were both rushed for treatment to Maharaj Hospital, where Sayan was immediately admitted for emergency sur-

Doctors at the hospital said that it was unlikely that Sayan would ever be able to use his sexual organs as they had been completely destroyed by the force of the shotgun blast.

Police are now hunting for the youth responsible for stabbing

Correction



The Gazette would like to point out that the wonderful photo of the 38-foot sailboat *Sultan* that was on the front page of the July 7 issue of the Phuket Gazette (pictured above) was not taken by our reporters.

Although we properly credited the photo with "Photo by Gerd Wissemann" on the website versions of the story, in the rush to get the newspaper to print we omitted to include it in the hardcopy.

We regret the oversight and wish to again thank Mr Wissemann for his contribution to our story.

Cabinet backs mobile phone ban

he Cabinet has approved draft legislation that would prohibit motorists from using cell phones and all other communication devices while driving – unless they are equipped with "hand-free" devices.

Prime Minister's Office assistant spokesman Chotechai Suwannaporn said the Cabinet exempted police, Army, rescue vehicles and ambulances from the ban, in line with an existing resolution.

The green light on the issue followed a proposal by the National Police Bureau.

Currently, there are no official statistics in Thailand on the number of accidents that occur because of drivers being distracted by speaking on their cellphone.

However, Dr Wittaya Chartbanchachai, who heads an accident-prevention center operated jointly by the World Health Organisation and Khon Kaen Hospital, said that a ban on drivers using mobile handsets in New York had reduced the number of crashes there.

Dr Wittaya added that a report in 2001 had concluded that the risk of having an accident more than quadrupled if a driver was speaking on the phone.

While agreeing with the Cabinet's decision, he warned that use of hands-free equipment could still pose a problem – because drivers would lose concentration on driving while in conversations on the phone.

One day after the decision the Justice Ministry proposed a similar ban on karaoke singing and playing video and TV in moving cars, arguing that these were more dangerous than using a cell phone while driving.

The revised bill is now being scrutinized by the Council of State prior to being submitted to the the National Legislative Assembly for final approval.

Life and death issue: The National Legislative Assembly (NLA) has approved legal amendments that will spare pregnant women from the death sentence.

Current laws postpone the execution until one year after the female convicts on death row give birth to their babies.

However, the approved legal amendments will give life imprisonment to pregnant convicts who would otherwise be handed down capital punishment.

When the amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code take effect, the new mothers will be allowed to raise their babies for three years behind bars.

The NLA unanimously passed the bill to amend the Criminal Procedure Code.

Washroom woes: Nearly 70% of Bangkok students hold their bladders to avoid going to dirty toilets at schools, a city Health



SHIPPING NEWS: The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA), the Royal Thai Navy and numerous other government agencies are shipping the stripped-down remains of 200 old BMA garbage trucks from Bangkok to Pattani and Narathiwat, where they will be dropped offshore in an effort to create artificial reefs.

Department poll has revealed.

Director-General Dr Narongsak Angkasuwapla said the survey of 418 students aged 7 to 19 found that toilets topped the list of school environmental problems they wanted to be improved. That was the top priority of 73% of respondents, followed by the need for access to drinking water

Most students wanted their dream toilets to be clean, odor-free and beautifully decorated – preferably with seated flush toilets instead of the traditional squat type.

Some 46% of students said school toilets were dirty, while 40% said they were insufficient in number. Some 14% said the toilets were unsafe.

In the past academic year, 67% had held their bladders because there were not enough toilets, they did not want to use dirty toilets – or the toilets had no water.

Warning that being forced to hold their bladders put girls at risk of cystitis, Dr Narongsak

said his department would launch a campaign for cleaner toilets at schools and national parks.

Chiropractors recognized: Testing for the certification of chiropractors has begun, making Thailand the second place in Asia after Hong Kong to recognize the practice.

Chiropractic Association president Dr Oat Buranasombati said that although chiropractic treatment has been increasingly popular since its introduction in Thailand in 1993, there are still only 21 local and foreign chiropractors here – most in Bangkok and Pattaya.

"We want to start a chiropractic course at Rangsit University next year. We hope to recruit around 30 students," he said.

With more chiropractors, people will be encouraged to try the treatment and treatment costs would fall, he said.

A 30-to-45-minute session currently costs between 1,000 and 1,500 baht. Patients with serious problems may need eight to 12

weeks of treatment, he said.

Chiropractic treatment is the manipulation of the body, especially the spine, to relieve lower-back pain or headaches and high blood pressure.

Prison cell specter: A monk was called to perform an exorcism at a detention cell within the Crime Suppression Division Bangkok compound on Friday the 13th of January.

Detainees complained they could not sleep after having seen a ghost several nights in a row.

Six detainees complained to guards that a man detained on credit-card-fraud charges became possessed on the night before.

The man, Phiphat Nabnian, later regained consciousness and explained that he had seen a "mysterious man" in a red tank top squatting on a cardboard box in the cell and staring at him for two nights in a row. The statement coincided with an account by cellmate Phitsanu Narkkhon, who said he said he had seen the same apparition a couple of nights before.

According to police records, there had never been paranormal incidents in this cell until a man charged with raping his niece, Chalard Senarat, hanged himself on July 1.

Acting division commander Pol Col Phongphat Chayaphan ordered the exorcism for the peace of mind of inmates and the officers on duty.

Cheap enough? With compulsory licensing imposed on its HIV/Aids medication Kaletra, manufacturer Abbott Laboratories says it will now offer the heat-stable version of the drug, Aluvia, at prices competitive with generic versions.

Aluvia has yet to be registered for sale in Thailand.

"The quotation for Aluvia may be low enough to compete with generic drugs," said Dr Vichai Chokevivat, chairman of the Public Health ministry's compulsory-licensing panel.

Food and Drug Administration Secretary-General Siriwat Thiptaradol said the ministry was willing to reconsider compulsory licensing if original drug prices were no more than 5% higher than generic versions.

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





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ulture Ministry permanent secretary Vira Rojpojchanarat, July 9 said that he was concerned about the future of Southern Thai culture as increasing numbers of young people turn away from speaking Southern Thai in favor of Central Thai.

Speaking at a conference called "Thai Language: Southern Thai a Medium for Culture" in Songkhla, K. Vira said that he was worried about the future of traditional Southern Thai arts, such as nang talung shadow puppetry and manora dance.

Most young people in the South are no longer interested in such activities and many cannot understand the local Southern dialect used in the performances, he added.

K. Vira suggested that the Ministry of Culture start a campaign for Southerners to preserve their dialect, otherwise their culture may be lost.

Jaran Narakhon, director of Songkhla Provincial Cultural Office, said that Central Thai being the country's official dialect was causing the role of local dialects to decline.

Parents now encourage their children to avoid speaking a dialect out of fear they will grow up unable to speak Central Thai, which could have negative consequences on their future careers, he added.

Chai Laosing, who has performed nang talung puppet shows and manora dance for more than 40 years, said that previous generations of children enjoyed the performances, but as they grew older they preferred TV and modern forms of entertainment.

Today, very few children are interested in learning how to perform the shows, he lamented.

PM calls for peace: Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont called on residents of the violence-plagued Southern border provinces to reconcile their differences for the

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Southern culture 'in danger of dying out'



sake of their communities during his trip to the area July 11.

"There is a sense of mis-

trust and suspicion between Buddhists and Muslims in the area. They have to help one another to build trust," Gen Surayud said during a visit to Yala's Ban Bang Lam, one of the most violenceprone areas in the South.

More than 2,300 people have been killed, mostly local Muslims, since January 2004 due to the ongoing violence that authorities blame on a new generation of ethnic Malay insurgents.

Mistrust between the local community and state agencies is high, with Muslims accusing security officials of carrying out targeted killings and kidnappings, while many Buddhists are calling for increased security to curb the violence.

Gen Surayud spent the night of July 11 at a military base in Yala's Bannang Sata district to boost morale among the public and security officials. His government has said it will continue its reconciliatory approach.

The PM has rejected suggestions that an autonomous zone be set up but has not ruled out the possibility of approving an administrative model similar to the one used in Bangkok where the provincial governor is directly elected rather than appointed.

Bus driver gunned down: A school bus driver was shot dead at his home in Haad Yai on July 9 as he sat using a computer with his nephews in what police believe may have been a case of mistaken identity.

Police, led by Lt Macha Kaeowthong, duty officer at Haad Yai District Police Station, found the body of Prakop Sapkunchon, 35, lying in a pool of

blood next to his computer table. He had been shot in the head, chest, stomach and knee.

Witnesses told police that two men on a motorbike pulled up outside K. Prakop's house. One of the men walked into the house and shot K. Prakop four or five times before running back to the motorcycle. The pair then drove off at speed.

Police believe that the gunman may have killed the wrong man as K. Prakop was reportedly kind hearted, a diligent worker and without enemies.

Elephant shot: Yala Muang District Police are hunting for the gunman responsible for shooting Phang Bua, a 40-year-old cow elephant, after she broke free from her chains and began eating villagers' crops on July 10.

Phang Bua's mahout, Maloe Sarima, 52, reported to Yala police at 10:30 that morning that his elephant had been shot near the Chinese cemetery in Baan Parameetae, in Muang district. Police called for assistance from the Provincial Livestock Development Office, whose officers found Phang Bua chained up in woods nearby. She had been shot four times in her left legs, and her wounds were swollen and showing signs of infection.

K. Maloe told officers that Phang Bua was registered and had been brought from Surin province to pull rubber tree logs. At the time of the incident there was no work to be done so he had chained the elephant in the woods where there was plenty of food.

After being left alone, Phang Bua pulled her chains loose and strayed into villagers' land where she was shot.

Tapper taken down: Satun police on July 10 arrested a 41year-old female rubber tapper for selling cannabis.

Following a tip-off, Maj Suhat Damnoi, investigating inspector at Satun Muang District Police Station, arranged to buy cannabis from Sunee Asanee. When Sunee arrived at the rendezvous, police searched her and seized eight bars of pressed cannabis and 15 small packets of the drug wrapped in cling film with a total combined weight of 709.5 grams.

Sunee was taken to Satun Muang District Police Station, where police reported that she had confessed selling cannabis for about a year.

She bought the drugs at Koh Sarai, in Satun's Muang district, at 16,000 baht a kilo. She then sold it in small bundles at 30 baht each to local youths and fellow rubber tappers, she said.

Sunee made a profit of 4,000 to 5,000 baht a kilo.

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

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Mystery surrounds Samui murder



GULF OF THAILAND

By Max Rogers

he recent murder of a Thai woman, wife to a long-term resident and real estate agent on Samui, has led to intense speculation over who may be responsible for the crime.

On Saturday, June 30, in the early hours of the afternoon, police were called to the office of Coconut Land and House, in the Baan Tai area of the island. After arriving at the scene officers found that a woman had been shot. The woman was rushed to hospital, but died en route.

She was later identified as Ananya "Mai" Klongkaew, 38, a Thai national who had been living on Koh Samui for many years. K. Klongkaew was married to 58- year-old German businessman Norbert Verweyen, owner of the Coconut Land and House Company.

Police investigating the crime scene revealed that a masked man had entered the office asking for K. Mai. Fellow office workers pointed her out to the man, who opened fire and fatally wounded K. Mai with three shots to the chest and shoulders.

After the shooting the man fled the premises on an AX1 trail bike. The police believe that the nature of the shooting indicates she may have been the victim of a hired gunman.

Police are also following up several other leads, as the victim and her husband were said to be in the midst of several long-standing disputes with landowners and business associates.

Mr Verweyen, who has been on the island for 17 years. He made news last year when police searched his car after it was pulled over for a traffic violation. The passenger in the car was said to be holding illegal drugs and the driver reportedly fled carrying two large bags.

He and his wife also had a reputation on the island as being very outspoken, which police believe could provide a motive to the killing.

Other sources say that aside from the on-going legal battles the couple were involved in, there were also disputes with some of their subcontractors. Disputes over payments and other financial matters are also



MURDER SCENE: Ananya "Mai" Klongkaew, 38, was shot dead in this office by a man police believe was a hired gunman. The killing is thought to be linked to a business dispute involving her German husband, a 17-year resident and well-known property developer on Samui.

considered possible motives for the shooting.

Police are still investigating the crime, but no arrests have been made.

Biorock still rockin'. The Biorock Thailand Project, working in association with the Koh Samui Municipality, recently held a two-day educational program aimed at educating children and other members of the local community about the benefits and importance of marine conservation.

The event, held at the Wat Kiriwongkaram School in the Taling Ngam area, entertained nearly 1,000 people with the various activities that took place. Many of the island schools took part and the Department of Marine Coastal Resources (DMCR)

from Bangkok also joined in.

The Biorock Thailand Koh Samui Project has been involved with the successful Biorock reef restoration in some of the waters surrounding Samui and neighboring islands.

These projects have included the construction of artificial reefs in Bang Makham, Silver Beach, Chaweng Beach, Koh Taen, and the very popular dive sites off Koh Tao.

The innovative technology is used globally to repair and restore reefs that are in danger from environmental degradation and damage caused by humans. This is done by a process known as mineral accretion, in which a lowvoltage electrical current is pumped through a submerged metallic structure causing lime-

stone to build up on the surface. Coral can then colonize the structure and an artificial reef begins to grow. The process can also aid in restoration of existing reefs.

This process has been used and proved to work even under adverse conditions. Soon after the structures are complete and the process has begun, an abundance of sea life on the reef re-

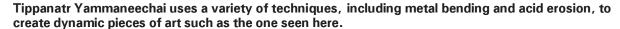
The coral reef restoration off Koh Samui has been hailed a success and the Biorock Project continue its non-profit work alongside the Tourism Association of Koh Samui (TAKS), which helps through fundraising and holding educational seminars and programs aimed at raising awareness of threats to marine ecosys-

They hope these events will show people the implications of pollution and heavy development on a fragile island like Samui, which has an economy based almost entirely on tourism.

Education of local people is imperative if the program is to survive and disappearing marine life is brought back to local wa-









Bhuddhipanya by Metha Kongsonthi of Suphanburi, employs vibrant

Inspired by historical Thai art

By Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

he latest exhibition at Vichen Gallery in Rawai focuses on a period of art that dates back to 1782, the year of the founding of the Chakri dynasty and the subsequent rise of Bangkok as the capital of Siam.

The Rattanakosin Spiritual Poetry exhibition draws upon this rich cultural influence and characterizes itself through the incorporation of modern styles.

The exhibit is presented by 37-year-old Somnuek "Tee" Huangtanapan, artist and curator of Vichen Gallery, and his 41-yearold brother, Somkhid Huangtanapan, owner of Rawai's Bzenter mall, where the gallery is located.

The brothers have gathered three artists from throughout Thailand who will each showcase roughly 20 works reflecting their individual techniques.

Pornchai Jaimar, a 37-yearold Chiang Mai artist, works with colored powders to create realistic images often depicting Thais in the midst of traditional Lanna and Thai ways of life. Included in his scenes are recreation activities, daily work routines and family interaction.

His works have received such accolades as three gold medals from the annual Bua Luang Exhibition of Paintings in Bangkok, now in its 29th year.

Metha Kongsonthi, a 36year-old artist from Suphanburi, creates diverse works that are often symbolic and presented on a variety of media.

He has a keen knowledge of the nature of color and his inclusion of specifically blended tones make for vibrant pieces. Among his awards is being named the winner of Sketches and Models in Celebration of HM the King's 6th Cycle Birthday Anniversary.

Tippanatr Yammaneechai, a 35-year-old Bangkok artist, is a member of "The Primordial Water" – a collective of artists from Bangkok. He specializes in visual arts that are dominated by the dynamic use of mixed me-

He uses media such as mulberry paper and canvases and his techniques in creating artistic patterns includes metal bend-



Pornchai Jaimar uses colored powders to depict scenes from traditional Thai ways of life.

plastering.

Attractive and vibrant colors are present throughout his delicate and detailed works.

K. Tee hopes that the exhibit will educate local residents and tourists about Thai art, and that visitors give feedback about the collection.

"I don't have high expectations for this event to be hugely profitable because the artists we are featuring are not established

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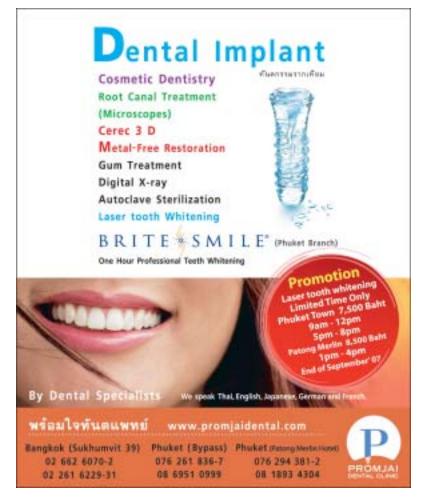
ing, acid erosion and cement in Phuket. What I do hope is that each work will give a glimpse of Thai culture and traditions to all who view the exhibition," K. Tee told the Gazette.

> "A goal of mine is to display pieces that dare to present new visions and are wholly representative of historical Thai art. It is important to me to conserve and support Thai artists who create these types of works.

> "The current exhibition has done just that in an informal style, and the venue is a welcoming spot for those who wish to appreciate the works and converse with others who share the same sentiments."

Prices for the artists' works range from 20,000 to 50,000 baht and vary in size from from 60 centimeters x 70cm to 100cm x 120cm.

Rattanakosin Spiritual Poetry exhibit runs until October 12. It is open daily from 5 pm to 9 pm by either appointment or chance. Vichen Gallery is located at Bzenter mall on Saiyuan Rd, Rawai. For more information, call 076-289740, 081-5387778 or fax 076-298741.



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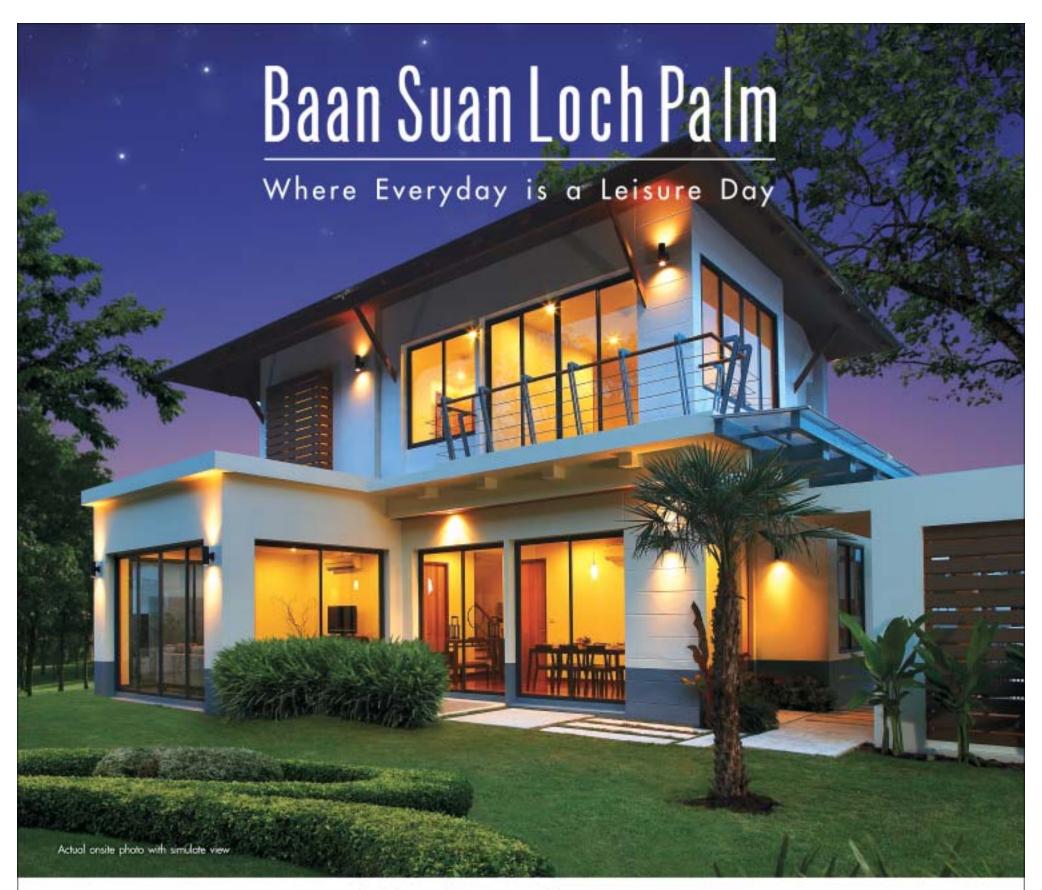
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Stoned steaks and Albatross

here are two ways to arrive at Al Mediterraneo: by lagoon shuttle boat, having a peek at some of Phuket's most illustrious resorts on the way, if you're not already staying in one, or by strolling down Laguna Phuket's retail therapy street and admiring the shops in Canal Village.

Either way, you'll be effusively welcomed by Robert de Graaff and his wife, Busaba.

No matter if you speak Dutch, English, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Italian, German or Thai, you'll be able to communicate with Robert. He's fluent in all eight languages and seems to use a good number of them on a daily basis.

I went for the English-language greeting and was seated at a table outside the restaurant with a view of the lagoon and passing shoppers. Al Mediterraneo is, as the name suggests, a Mediterranean cuisine restaurant with Italian, Greek, Spanish and French influences on the menu.

The venue is impressively

cosmopolitan. Robert is Dutch, grew up in Brazil and has worked in 23 countries. Busaba is from Chiang Mai and went to hotel school in Switzerland. Customers come from the far reaches of the earth, some staying at Laguna Phuket, some are local expatriates and some are visiting. A lady from Peru came not only for the

in Spanish. The restaurant is owned and run by Robert and Busaba's company, Albatross Leisure. No Monty Python albatross-selling stunts here – with or without wafers – or neck adornments for aged sail-

The name was chosen because 16th-century Portuguese sailors thought of the bird as an icon of good luck and that they would be within reach of land when one was spotted. Albatross Leisure also operates a travel



agency, a Thai restaurant and a villa sales and rental consultancy, all based in Canal Village.

There are few better ways to start a balmy evening in Phuket than with a cocktail. For me, a refreshing Caipirinha made with Cachaca - the lao khao of Bra-

zil, as Robert calls it. For my companion, looking to the same continent, a frozen lime marga-

Very shortly after the demise of my cocktail, Robert and I realized that we share the same opinion of house wine. It should not be the cheapest plonk from a very large bottle, but have a bit of style as befits the estabfood, but for a chat **Al Mediterraneo** lishment serving it. This meant that I

> just had to try his selection, not that I usually imbibe, you understand.

The reds comprise a Santa Alicia from Chile and an Estrella from California and the whites a brace of Chardonnays from California; King Fish and JW Morris and (drum roll) a Chateau de Loei Chenin Blanc from Thailand. Al Mediterraneo's wine list is well balanced and prices range from 725 baht up to 4,500 baht for an Alexander Valley Cyrus from

Crabmeat au Gratin, pan fried in butter with Bechamel sauce.

FULL FLAVORED

(left): Albatross

DELICATE PIQUANCY (below): **Albatross Smoked** Salmon Rolls.



California. Most bottles, though, are under 1,000 baht.

I pushed the boat out – after all, we were on a lagoon and ordered one of my favorites; a Cantine Lenotti Amarone Valpolicella at a very reasonable 2,400 baht. Full bodied, with a huge concentration of cherries, almonds and spice flavors in the mouth and alcohol at 15%. Quite simply delicious, and I was very glad not to be driving.

We decided that the food should be served family style, and Chef Nimit "Joe" Attasup kindly came out of the kitchen to give the lowdown, tableside. The smoked salmon rolls have tiny juliennes of apple mixed with the lettuce and balsamic dressing, adding a delicate piquancy to the

The crabmeat au gratin is served in a crab-shaped Celadon dish and looks as good as it tastes. The crab is pan fried in butter, onions and mushroom before a Bechamel sauce is added with a sprinkling of parmesan cheese, and the whole lot is baked in the

The mixed antipasti changes seasonally, but on this occasion had thinly sliced Parma ham, marinated paprika, marinated cherry tomatoes, olive tapenade, barbecued aubergine and courgette strips, and onions sauteed in olive oil with peppers.

The cherry tomato marinade was so good that I tried to get the recipe. All I could elicit was that it was a secret passed on by the erstwhile teacher of Al Mediterraneo's two chefs, K. Joe and Veera Sammran. K. Joe and K. Veera's mentor had been a private cook to King Umberto of Italy during his exile in Switzer-

The main course provided another mix of dishes. The filet mignon in red wine sauce was cooked medium-rare and oozed flavor. Served with ratatouille, pommes dauphinoise and hello, what's that, a stone? Yes, the beef is placed on top of a hot stone to keep it warm for as long

The risotto with prawns and saffron was light and had a pleasing zesty flavor. Not surprisingly, it's a perennial favorite of the clientele. The filet of seabass doree was bread-crumbed and cooked in a white wine sauce and served with French fries. It was much enjoyed by my companion and much filched by me.

And so to dessert, which just had to be the crepe suzette flambe. Thankfully, the wind was in the right direction and Decha Salay, the restaurant supervisor, escaped flames. Probably more than can be said for at least one of my arteries, but undoubtedly worth it.

An "honest kitchen with good ingredients" says K. Busaba proudly. "And no MSG".

Quite right.

Al Mediterraneo. Canal Village, Laguna Phuket, Cherng Talay. Tel: 076-270958. Open daily, from 9 am for breakfast, until 11:30 pm or the last customer leaves. Average cost for two people without wine is about 2,000 baht.



Alistair Why



Happily Ever After

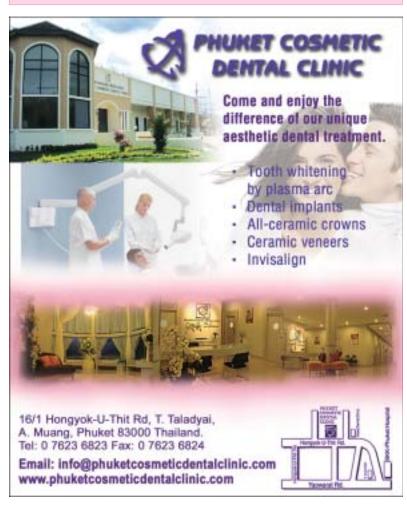
Recent weddings in Phuket



Dr Piyada Wangthammacheep and Thahaka Singhasongkhram were married at Pra Pitak Grand Ballroom of the Metropole Hotel on July 7.

Smanta Cox and John Gudgeon from the UK were married at the Evason Phuket and Six Senses Spa on July 7.





Building from

rriving at the construction site of the Mingmongkol Buddha image, one is immediately impressed with the scale of the operation. The immense lattice of scaffolding surrounds the structure, which already reaches its full height of 45 meters and spans 24.5 meters across its base.

Although still far from complete, breathtaking views and an existing 22-tonne bronze Buddha image already attract many tourists to the site.

While visitors marvel at the icon-in-the-making, most of them would be surprised to learn that the man directing the work has no more than a fourth-grade education and uses neither blueprints nor plans.

Prasit Lubliam, whose name roughly translates as "successful at refining angles", has a lifetime of hard-earned experience in design and construction of huge Buddha images.

K. Prasit grew up as a "normal" Thai boy in the countryside – simple and relatively unambitious. After completing Prathom 4, the minimum compulsory education level in Thailand at the time, he eventually found himself conscripted into military service and joined the navy when he was about 20.

Military life suited him well and he stayed in the service for 15 years, achieving the rank of Chief Petty Officer 1st class, the highest rank for non-commissioned officers.

At the navy base, K. Prasit was assigned to the mechanics division and made responsible for repair and maintenance. The last position he held was as mechanical officer of a river patrol boat, or PBR, assigned to the Mekong River back in the early 1970s, when neighboring Cambodia on the opposite bank was rapidly deteriorating into the bloody years under the Khmer Rouge.

K. Prasit retired from the navy when he was about 35, but the experience he had gained with heavy equipment and machinery put him in good stead and he found work abroad in Muammar Gaddafi's Libya for two years.

Upon his return, he started his own brass-molding factory in Bangkok's Nong Khaem district. Most of the work involved molding jewelry, animal figures, accessories and decorations – but it also gave him the chance to mold Buddha images. However, the factory closed after three years for financial reasons.

Undaunted, K. Prasit continued to hone his molding skills, building replica models in wax and concrete for use in casting. He attended navy workshops throughout the country and completed many sculptures commissioned by temples – almost all of them Buddha images.

"I trained myself in many methods, including tusk carving, mhotep and the Egyptian step pyramids. Chares of Lindos and his Colossus of Rhodes. Alexandre Gustave Eiffel and his iconic tower in Paris. Behind every great feat of structural engineering lies a great man.

July 21 - 27, 2007

In the case of Phuket's Mingmongkol Buddha image now under construction in the Nakkerd Hills in Karon, that man is 63-year-old Chanthaburi native Prasit Lubliam.

The Gazette's Janyaporn Morel reports.



The image will be covered in 135 metric tons of carefully placed tiles of white marble from Burma.

woodcarving and cement molding. It was through this that I developed an expertise in molding Buddha images and images of famous monks," he said.

As the size of the Buddha images he built grew, so did his reputation – and before long K. Prasit became the go-to guy when people needed big Buddha images built and he found himself being commissioned for projects all over the country.

However, his travels have not stopped him from marrying and being a good father. He and his wife, K. Somkid, have four children: two sons and two daughters. His eldest son graduated in electronic engineering and now works in Rayong, while his second son is studying for a master's degree in law at Thammasart University in Bangkok, Thailand's top law school.

Their first daughter is in her final year studying architecture at King Mongkut's Institute of Technology at Ladkrabang in Bangkok, while their youngest daughter is still at high school.

Most of the Buddha images K. Prasit has built are in the popular Pang Manvichai, or meditating posture, but his work in concrete also includes two large reclining Buddha images, two more in [non-meditative] sitting positions and four in standing postures. Of the standing Buddha images, the largest reaches a height of 12 meters.

Yet, all of them will be dwarfed by his current project.

"The Phra Buddha Mingmongkol Buddha image is the largest concrete molding I have

done, although I built a reclining Buddha image 41 meters long on the island of Kor Yor in Songkhla Province.

"I also made another large image in Ratchaburi province that is similar to this one and also sits on a hill, but it is smaller."

"I can build images in every posture and I love doing this work. I tried to quit several times, but every time a new project is put before me I find I can't refuse," he said.

Because he loves the work and the unique challenge each project poses he allows his employer to decide how much he should be paid.

"I never demand a figure for my services. I just live and stay at the building site and ask that my living expenses be covered," he said.

K. Prasit was approached to work on the Mingmongkol Buddha image by project committee head Suporn Vanitkul, who was impressed by K. Prasit's work in Ratchaburi.

Among the chief challenges K. Prasit has faced in building the the image is that the I-beam supports at the base were already installed to support a north-facing image, as the image was originally intended.

"When the project directors decided to have the image face in a more easterly direction, we had to redesign the wax model to adjust it to the required orientation.

"It was not a problem changing the model, but when we went to build the real image we found that a central support beam

a blessed perspective

was longer than we thought and would stick about a meter out of the structure at chest level.

"As the beam had already been blessed during several ceremonies we weren't in a position to simply cut it off. Rather, we had to change the shape of the image by making the chest section larger," he revealed.

As a result of the correction, the real Buddha image deviates from the wax model on which it is based from the chest upwards, he said.

However, K. Prasit said that the overall shape is still in line with the expected appearance, which he said traditionally resembles a southern style *khao tom* confection of sticky rice and coconut typically wrapped in leaf – with three fat, triangular sides.

K. Prasit said that he scaled up the actual image from his own wax model at a scale of 1:115, which is an unusual scale to use in such projects.

"Usually a more conventional ratio [such as 1:100] is used, but in this case I already had a wax model I wanted to use. So when they fixed the height at 45 meters high I simply scaled it up accordingly, rather than having to go through the process of building a whole new model," he said.

Remarkably, the work has proceeded without the use of blueprints or plans. Rather, K. Prasit directs the workers very closely, day in and day out.

Currently there are about 50 laborers at the site, 30 working on the image and 20 more on landscaping the 42-rai park that will surround it.

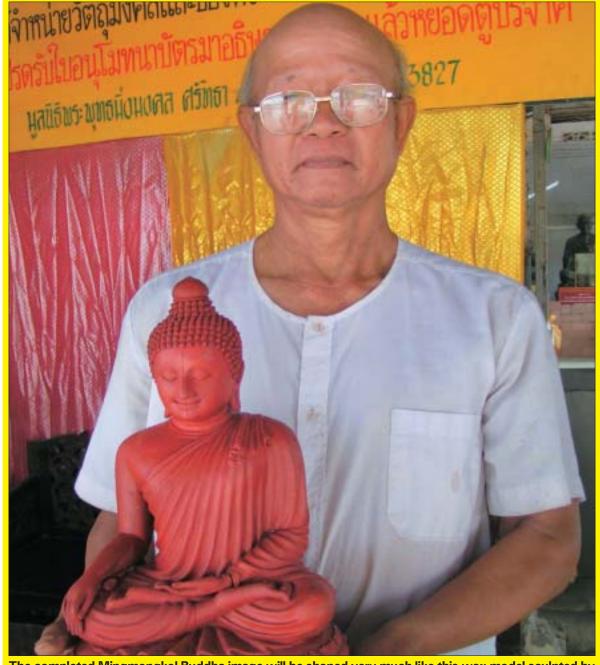
It should perhaps come as no surprise that he starts each morning with meditation that allows him to accurately plan the day's work. "Meditation helps me to carefully consider how to build everything to scale. It is not very difficult because we base the work on the model," he said.

K. Prasit also serves as a construction foreman, closely monitoring the work because most of the workers have limited experience. Often he has to step in and do the work by himself, he said.

As for the image's inner support structure, K. Prasit described it as "very strong", comparing it with a steel spider's web. "It can support the image's entire weight and the structure has been approved by structural engineer Udom Bhothikamolwong," he said.

June marked two years of involvement on the project for K. Prasit, who said that his responsibility will end when the concrete molding work is complete – but before the entire structure is covered in 135 metric tons of white marble imported from Burma.

"I may stay on in a consulting capacity while the marble work is going on since I don't have any other plans after this. Usually I don't go out looking for



The completed Mingmongkol Buddha image will be shaped very much like this wax model sculpted by K. Prasit, except that it be 115 times bigger and be slightly larger around the chest and head.

work, it comes to me," he said.

Asked what makes him proud of his work, K. Prasit said turning an idea into a model – and a model into a complete full-scale

image close to the original conception – is always a source of pride and contentment.

However, K. Prasit said that he is never completely satisfied

with the final results. "It's difficult for me to say that I'm really proud with my work. Of all the Buddha images I have made, I would say the closest I have come to reaching what I wanted to attain at the outset is only about 70%.

"This image also falls short of perfection. I would put it at about 65%. I had hoped that this one would be more than 70%, because this could prove to be the last work I will do in my life."

The Mingmongkol image is a blend of styles, but is based on traditional Indian Buddhist iconography with influences from the Chiang Saen era apparent in the rounded appearance of the face and body, he explained.

To be successful in his work, K. Prasit said he relies on the Four Bases of Accomplishment, or *iddhipada* in Pali. Considered conducive to success, these are: *chanda* (zeal), *viriya* (energy), *citta* (consciousness) and *vimangsa* (discriminatory analysis).

"Without this, my work would not be successful," he said, adding that nowadays there are far too many nominal Buddhists.

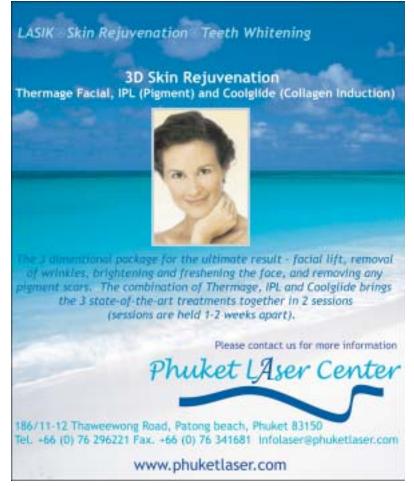
"Nowadays many Thais are Buddhist only in the sense that is what is listed on their *tabian baan* [house registration form]. They are not really Buddhist in the sense that they follow the all the good teachings of the Buddha," he said.

The erection of the Mingmongkol Buddha image might help remedy the situation by serving as an ever-present reminder of the Buddha's teachings, helping to spread them to people around the world, he said.

If the completed image does not help propagate the Buddha's teachings his project will be a failure, he said.

"If it doesn't do this it will be nothing, existing only as a tourist attraction. That is not the main objective."





This week



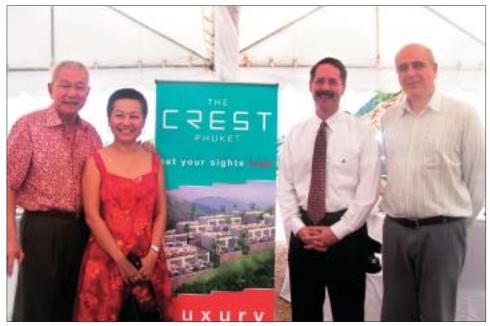
TOP-FLIGHT TIPPLE: Restaurateur Thomas Brack (back, center) of The 9th Floor restaurant and bar at Sky Inn Condotel Patong poses with Swisselec Engineering General Manager Beat Christen (back, right) and his wife K. Pattama (2nd from left), and serving staff after a "Serata Italiana" five-course wine-and-dine evening featuring Italian wines by Avignonesi, Allegrini and Falesco.



VAN HARTE WELKOM: Netherlands Ambassador to Thailand Pieter Marres (left) and Jeroen Deknatel, Managing Director of dive tour company Ocean Rover, chat at the Royal Phuket City Hotel during a reception for Dutch residents in Phuket and surrounding provinces.



REACHING OUT: Tony Pope (on motorcycle) and his wife, Gunapon 'Meaw' Pope (in white shirt), celebrate the opening of their charity shop, Thai. Tanics, on Saiyuan Rd in Rawai. The couple will sell donated items to raise funds for local people in need of help.



AT THE APEX: (From left) Charn Pirapokin, developer and owner of The Crest Phuket, and his wife Aranya Pirapokin gather with Project Manager Kevin Beauvais and Architect Krys Tarnowski at a press launch and ground-breaking ceremony for The Crest Phuket luxury hillside residences project in Patong.



FURNITURE WITH A FLAIR: Owner Jean Pierre Cheimol (center) and friends celebrate the official grand opening of his chic home furnishings shop Casa Pagoda, on Dibuk Rd in Phuket City. The Phuket opening marks Casa Pagoda's third branch. The other locations are in Shanghai and Bangkok.



MERIT BOUTIQUE: General Manager ML Tirachai Chayangkul of Homduang Bel Air Panwa (center) joins General Manager David Petrus of Watson Property Group in Thailand (left) and Executive Chairman Jonathan C Harris of Homduang Boutique Hotel Sathorn during a merit-making ceremony at Homduang Bel Air Panwa resort.



he US giant General Motors may have lost its position as Number 1 automaker to Toyota this year, but it is clawing its way back to profitability with a raft of new models around the world.

In Thailand, GM has just introduced its latest compact SUV – the Chevrolet Captiva.

The Captiva, which was developed in South Korea at GM's Incheon design center, features a 2.4-liter gasoline engine or a Korean-developed, two-liter common-rail diesel.

Badged as different models for alternative markets, the car is the Holden Captiva in Australia and the Daewoo Winstorm in its native Korea. In Europe – where it is also a Captiva – it is the first Chevrolet to be equipped with a diesel engine.

It is also the first in the lineup to be fitted with electronic stability control, or ESC.

The ESC feature has additional functions such as brake assistance, hill descent control and active rollover protection which senses an imminent roll and reduces torque while applying the brakes.

Despite these features, the Captiva is no off-roader, although the diesel models are fitted with all-wheel drive; the gas versions are front-wheel drive.

The diesel motor, developed jointly by GMDAT in Korea and GM Powertrain, offers 150bhp (110kW) at 4,000rpm, with a



Fitted with a gutsy two-liter diesel engine, ventilated disc brakes and electronic stability control, the Captiva is good value - but it's no off-roader.

The General's back

at just 2,000rpm. The gas model produces 133bhp and 220Nm. To rein in the power, ventilated disc brakes are fitted all round.

healthy torque output of 320Nm the Captiva is the first all-new SUV designed for the European market and that its "design cues" will carry through to a family of new products in the future. Quite General Motors claims that what that means is open to specu-

lation, but it does indicate that Incheon will become a major part of GM's global strategy.

Wayne Brannon, executive director of Chevrolet Europe, said, "Chevrolet continues to



grow at a remarkable pace in Europe.

Selling just over 240,000 cars in Europe in 2005, 26% more than the previous year, we closed last year with another sales record. The Captiva gives us access to an additional and growing vehicle segment, so we have potential to continue to grow in a similar way."

GM says the Captiva's design is "strong, sophisticated and sporty", but it is also spacious and down-to-earth in practical terms.

While the Captiva is a fiveor seven-seat SUV, it is still a little on the rustic side with few of the add-ons that vehicles such as the BMW X3 or even the new Honda CRV offer. But at a price well below some of the opposition – 1.56 million baht for the two-liter diesel AWD and 1.189 million baht for the 2.4L gasoline frontwheel drive – it is pretty good value.

The General is most definitely back in command.

Jeff Heselwood can be contacted at jhc@netvigator.com



ANOTHER QUALITY PROJECT FROM LAND & HOUSES

Land & Houses Park Phuket

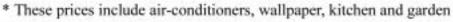








- Free installments for first 5 months
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- * 1-year-free use of the club facilities except spa and restaurant
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Location Map

For further information please contact our office Tel: 076-381151-2 Fax: 076-381111 Email: info@lhphuket.com http://www.lhphuket.com By Natcha Yuttaworawit

ow would you dress if your religion required you to wear clothes that only revealed your hands and face? This is the question Phuket's Muslim women have to ask themselves. Modern day Muslim women in Southeast Asia have to find a balance between wearing loose, unrevealing clothing – while still feeling good about their appearance.

So forget any preconceptions you have about the way Muslim women dress, because Sarina Sangmuang is here to add color and style to Muslim fashion in Phuket.

K. Sarina is the daughter of the owner of JD Fashion, a Muslim beauty shop in Tambon Koh Kaew.

While Middle Eastern Muslim women primarily wear dark colors with only their eyes visible, the clothes K. Sarina has designed are rich in color, with embroidered patterns and designs that offer Muslim women the chance to find new, exciting fashions and the chance to be more expressive with their clothes

This year's Halal Food / Hilal Town event will take place from July 27 to 31 at the Thalang Historical Monument site. Among the activities and exhibitions will be a fashion show on July 27 by K. Sarina showing off four different styles of Muslim women's fashion.

While Indonesia and Malaysia are the current trend setters in the Muslim fashion world, K. Sarina is hoping to spice up the scene in Phuket.

The first style of clothing that will be on display incorporates Malaysian-style lace. The tones used complement each other as a dark brown, beaded sarong leads to a pale brown top with splashes of color incorporated into the design. The *hijab* (headscarf) is trendy without being overly revealing.

The Muslim code of modesty for womens attire is accommodated by K. Sarina's contemporary fashion ideas. Her pink evening dress is a far cry from





How modern Muslims DRESS TO IMPRESS

the plain robes commonly associated with Muslim women. The dress, made of Thai silk, would be appropriate for a formal ceremony or *nikah* (Muslim wedding ceremony attended by only close friends and family of the bride).

To look at just the evening dress alone, which is based on Indonesian designs, you wouldn't think that the wearer was a Muslim. The only giveaway is the *hijab*.

The *ao yai* is a style inspired by Vietnamese designs, taken and remodeled for Muslim women. This cutting edge Muslim fashion uses floral patterns and a combination of blue and black fabrics. An *ao yai* is elegant with a hint of flamboyance coming from the sea blue

hijab and tassels hanging from the back of the robe.

The final design is a wedding dress, doused in shades of pink. The dress is based on international designs and is similar to a Western wedding gown. K. Sarina used glass beads on the top of the *hijab*, as is often seen in Malaysian designs.

Panida Pakbara, a Muslim woman who has worn her religion's traditional dress all her life, told the *Gazette*, "I wear Muslim dress because I think we should keep what is underneath for only our husbands to see. We do not need to show ourselves to others. We are proud to obey our religion's rules.

"By following our religion's guidance," she continued, "we

can only show our face and hands to others and our dress must not be tight fitting. I think the style and the pattern depends on different areas and cultures."

Halal Food / Hilal Town 2007 will take a different approach to previous years, said Charoen Thin-Kohkaew, chairman of the Committee of the Performance and Culture of Halal.

"This year," he said, "we have invited the Phattalung Drama College to perform Muslim cultural shows from the three border provinces (Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat). We want to show the way of life of Muslim's from other areas."

The Halal Food/Hilal Town event will also provide a rare opportunity for people to see how the dish *ashure* – or Noah's Pudding – is prepared. When Noah was on his ark, he had to come up with a way to feed all his animals, as well as his friends and family. After the 40 days and nights of rain had ended and his vessel finally made landfall, he collected all the food on the ark, put it in an enormous pot and cooked it.

Humans and animals alike all ate from the same pot – and nobody went hungry. Muslims celebrate Noah's creativity usually just once a year with *ashure*, now made from beans, chickpeas, pistachios, apricots and a variety of other ingredients.

Traditional Islamic customs



VIBRANT: Muslim women are turning to secular fashions to dress themselves. Bright colors and embroidered patterns are all the rage in Southeast Asia.

can be incorporated into a modern, secular lifestyle. Muslim women are subject to all manner of myths and misconceptions, but Halal Food/Hilal Town and K. Sarina's fashion designs will show a different side to the stereotype.



By Nick Davies

eet American artist Nichole Blackburn, BFA, who recently completed adorning one of the walls of Phuket's Dowroong Wittaya School music room with a vibrant mural depicting colorful scenes of traditional Thai sports, games, dress and musicianship against a dramatic backdrop of mountains and vivid skies.

The mural has transformed not only the dull gray wall – which now looks like a life-size window on traditional Thai life – but also the hearts and minds of those involved in the project, from the school children to teachers to parents and even to Nichole herself.

Nichole funded this first in a series of donation mural projects from her own pocket, which will take her around the world as she seeks to inspire and be inspired by the experiences she has and the people she meets along the way.

Now in her late 20s, Nichole has gone from struggling artist to achieving recognition and success at home in Los Angeles with a long list of well-to-do clients lined up for the next year and beyond.

Her portfolio is one of colorful murals depicting scenes from nature and storybooks, where she has transformed the walls and the occasional ceiling of homes and shops into imaginative landscapes and colorful underwater scenes that seem to be so full of life that you expect the animals and people in them to start moving at any moment.

Scenes from Peter Pan are a favorite among her younger clients and Nichole also plans to illustrate children's literature between her globetrotting adventures.

Nichole's success as an artist in the US has enabled her to fund her own travels and pay for all the materials needed to undertake her donation projects, with the paints alone totaling US\$600. All she asks for at each destination is a wall and a ladder.

"I wanted to make sure that when I arrived here I would be completely self sufficient and be able to start on the project without having to rely on people to help me hunt around for materials once I got here," she said.

Enthusiastic to get started, Nichole was rolling on her base colors within a day of arriving and finished the mural just before her departure.

So what has driven Nichole to take up her global wall art adventure? "A few years ago as a struggling artist, I used to think that being paid well for my work and having a year's worth of bookings would equal success, but when I eventually reached that point I still felt there was something missing in my life.

"It was only when I started doing donation work that I found some of the fulfillment I was looking for," said Nichole.

"The attraction for me is partly the creative freedom of not



Art with Heart

School walls come to life with donation murals from international artist

working for a client and also seeing the reactions and involvement from the kids," she added.

Although Nichole's stint in Thailand has been brief, just 10 days, she feels she has received so much more out of it by coming into direct contact and being involved with the local community rather than arriving simply as a tourist

"Meeting the kids at the school has been great. They are so curious and friendly, bringing gifts of food and trying their best to communicate with the limited vocabulary that we have between us, sometimes even reverting to sign language to get a message across.

"Meeting and interacting with the children and teachers at the school is part of the fulfillment I was looking for and I feel we all get so much more out of the project than would ever be possible back home, just working on paid for projects," she explained.

Nichole was introduced to the school by Don Battles, an old friend of her father. Don spoke to several establishments on Nichole's behalf; Dowroong Wittaya School being the first to accept her charitable proposal.

Used to working with a certain amount of peace and quiet in clients' homes, Nichole had to paint while Thai music lessons continued as usual, attracting curious glances from the students, with children and teachers coming up to her and helping out during their break times.

"Painting in this way was a little strange at first but it has been so much more rewarding than the usual artist-client relationship, which is what this project is all about – but I could not really envisage until I arrived here and

started working on the mural. ex

"At first, I imagined being left to my own devices to paint the mural in the way I had planned, but as the students and teachers have become more involved, it has taken on a life of its own with some of the students and teachers appearing as characters in the mural or some of the braver ones actually dipping into the paints and dabbing on their own addition to the mural."

Nichole plans to visit and donate murals in five countries in the next 12 months, funding them herself as a trial run before setting up a non-profit organization, when she will be able to better predict the way her individual projects will take shape.

Next month Nichole will be painting a mural at a children's facility in Dublin before moving on to her mother's birthplace, the Philippines, followed by an orphanage in Mexico and another in Bolivia next year.

Nichole hopes that by doing projects such as this in places with more basic lifestyles than many Americans have experienced, she can create some awareness among friends, family and clients back home and encourage them to take part or make their own contributions to people less fortunate than themselves.

"When I was first planning this project, people I spoke to both here and at home took some time to fully understand what I was trying to do, but the more people hear about it, the more they ask how they can contribute or participate, which I think is a great way of bringing the two cultures together and creating some kind of mutual understanding and appreciation between us," Nichole

explained.

As Nichole travels from country to country, she takes her own paints and plans to take something from each her previous projects to the next. Sky is the main theme of the murals in this year's donation projects.

The clear blue sky with almost three-dimensional clouds in the Dowroong Wittaya music room mural is one that she previously photographed in Peru. When she moves on to Dublin, the mural there will be filled with sky that she has photographed here in Phuket.

Nichole also plans to do arts and crafts projects with the chil-

Above: Students continue with their music lesson as Nichole works on her mural.

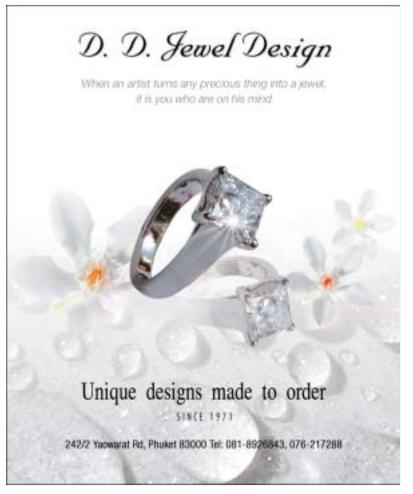
Left: Nichole has discovered a happiness that success in Los Angeles failed to provide.

dren in Dublin that she will then incorporate in her next stop in the Philippines.

Working at a faster than usual pace and with the help of extra young and old hands, Nichole and her ad-hoc team of students and teachers have managed to transform two 10-meter sections of wall that make up one entire side of the music room in just under 10 days, including sanding the wall down, adding base coat and primer before painting on the colorful layers that make up the details.

Their efforts have left something that will be admired and bring brightness to the otherwise basic surroundings for years to come, and of course, students will be able to point out to their friends the parts which they personally added and for some, their own likeness where it has been incorporated into the painting.

Although Nichole is currently traveling, readers can contact her by email at look@celadonstyle.com or visit her website www.celadonstyle.com



Definitely more than All at a piece of junk



By Teddy Tucker

ost sailors have a fascination with older boats, classic styles and timeless lines. Wooden sailboats happen to meet all of that criteria.

Many of us have dreamed of owning a classic sailing or motor yacht at one time or another, preferably of the wooden variety, until we learned just how much work and money they require to keep it in tip-top condition. Takes all the fun out of yachting, it does.

I still have to resist the urge to empty the bank account and buy something of beauty when it crosses my path as was the case with the *Suwan Macha* (Golden Mermaid), a junkrigged schooner with classic Siamese rigging. Fortunately, she's not for sale.

A veteran charterer of Gulf and Andaman waters, *Suwan Macha* has been plying her trade since she was built in Bangkok in 1984. The hull was cold-molded of laminated wood and epoxy, a method so new to Thailand at the time that the local craftsmen downed their tools, refusing to build what they thought would be an unsafe boat.

It took three days of coaxing by builder Vincent Tabuteau to get the men back on the job. The *Suwan Macha* today is a sturdy testament to their skill and





Cruising made easy: The Suwan Macha, pictured here in Phang Nga Bay, offers classic comfort with no hassles.

the reliability of the "new" method.

Another fascination most sailors share is the enchantment with distance sailing, but ultimately too much of a love for kicking back and having more than a few beers makes one not want to wrestle with rigging for more than a couple of hours at a time. Here *Suwan Macha* helps out

too, as she is not available bare-

Many novice sailors like the thought of taking out a 16.5-meter yacht but worry about getting back if home port is upwind or conditions become a little too adverse. In this case – or just in case – a 150hp Isuzu diesel engine provides the muscle to get you home (and the skipper super-

A fusion of everything Life...

vising you won't tell anyone that you used it).

At 37 tons displacement, the *Suwan Macha* can tame most of the Andaman's bumps and wiggles.

Classic lines can often mean discomfort, but the *Suwan Macha* is quite comfy downstairs with three double berths, two double-bunk berths, three heads and even two showers. Crew quarters are separate and below the foredeck to provide privacy for guests on board.

A covered cockpit, not quite spacious but still quite large, and plenty of deck space with sunbathing mattresses encourage you to play up top. When it is time to get in the water; snorkeling equipment, a kayak and a rubber dingy with a 15hp outboard are provided.

The costs of chartering can discourage those of modest means, but the *Suwan Macha* works a regular circuit and books "join-in" per-cabin cruises. You pay for your cabin and join in with other guests.

A typical four-day, threenight cruise when she is on the Andaman side of the isthmus covers northern Phang Nga Bay, down to Krabi, on to the Phi Phi Islands and back to Phuket for 30,700 baht per person (minimum two people) with full board. Coffee, tea and water, insurance, service charges, transfers, taxes and crew are all included.

It's all those extras that can make chartering more expensive than expected, but here the fare is all-inclusive.

If cost is no object, 205,000 baht books the *Suwan Macha* for you and you alone.

Classic yachts such as the Suwan Macha allow us to engage in our sailing daydreams without having to dip into the reality of huge maintenance bills or laboring over rust or varnish.

For more information about the Suwan Macha, email Philippe Zircon at philippe@asiamarine.net or visit www.Asia-Marine.net

'm a working woman. Until recently, I felt my life was spiraling out of control. During the day I'd be running around chasing stories or in the office hammering away on a keyboard. When 6 pm came and it was time to go home, I was exhausted.

Each night I'd get to my apartment and collapse on my bed, sleep right through the night and then wake up to start it all over again. I didn't have the energy for a boyfriend and I struggled to get through a day without half a dozen cups of coffee.

Enough was enough, I decided; I needed something to inject a bit of zest back into my life. But what was the answer? More coffee? A comfier pair of shoes? Thoughts raced through my head and then it came to me: I needed a day at a spa.

Some of my friends visit a spa every week and they've always got enough energy to get through their day's work and then party at night till the cows come home. That was my goal.

Cannaceae Spa on Chao Fa West Rd was to be my retreat of choice. I'd had a particularly stressful week and I needed a release. The trees and greenery in the spa grounds immediately instilled feelings of relaxation in me. I felt like I was slipping into the caring arms of Mother Nature.

While I sat waiting in the reception area for Vinus Wittayatamsopon, sales manager of Cannaceae Spa, traditional Thai music settled my fraught mind.

K. Vinus arrived, telling me that the spa had been open for five years. "We want our guests to feel natural," she said. "The spas covers one rai, with 18 massage rooms and 20 staff, although it it is not always enough to cater to demand. Our therapists offer all kinds of treatments, from Thai massage to facial and therapeutic massages."

A massage sounded like just the thing I needed. I had never been to a spa before, so I was unsure what treatments would suit a stressed-out journalist. K. Vinus said that before my treatments I would have 30 minutes to take a bath, go to the sauna and spend some time in a Jacuzzi to get me in the right frame of mind. Other treatments on offer sounded tempting, but I wasn't sure what to expect.

Could a facial help me? There were three facial-treatment packages on offer, including the signature Cannaceae traditional facial (1,000 baht), which involves a massage using honey and fresh cucumbers, leaving the skin soft and fresh.

The aromatherapy facial (1,200 baht) purifies the skin, said K. Vinus. More suited to my needs was the anti-stress facial (1,000 baht); a gentle facial, neck and shoulder massage using pure essential oils that leaves the skin feeling invigorated.

The six body treatments on offer cost from 800 up to 1,200 baht for up to one hour. Everything from a Cannaceae exotic body scrub to a white mud body



Worn-out office workers can turn to spa therapists to help relieve pent-up tension from work.

Rescued from the daily grind

mask looked tempting. A body treatment can help purify the skin while soothing the body.

All of the eight body massage programs looked ideal for my worn out body. Programs were priced from 450 baht for a 60-minute massage up to 1,500 baht for a massage performed by two therapists – one starting at the top, one starting at the toes.

Traditional Thai, Swedish and Balinese massages were all available. I could already feel the tension seeping out of my body in anticipation.

At last it was time to start my treatment. After a quick visit to the sauna and Jacuzzi, I met therapist Jongkol Sornlom, who was waiting for me in the massage room. She went to work on my body for 40 minutes with a black sesame scrub that she said would wipe the dead skin cells from my skin.

I then had my body covered with white clay filler mixed with warm water and K. Jongkol wrapped me up in clear plastic. I felt a bit hot but was otherwise comfortable – so much so that I fell asleep at one point.

The body wrap was my detox session. After a quick nap while covered in clay, I went to take a shower before having a massage with aromatherapy oils.

The scent of the oils was so soothing that I fell asleep again. I would have liked to have been awake more during my treatments, but I felt so relaxed that I just couldn't keep my eyes open.

K. Jongkol took good care of me, always making sure I was comfortable. She told me that as I don't normally have massage treatments, I might feel a little stiff the next day.

This was to be expected, she said, but when you start having massages more regularly, the next-day aching diminishes. This was all the incentive I needed to make a visit to a spa a weekly activity.

Aromatherapy massage can help working women like me to relax, said K. Jongkol.

If you want to get more strength back into your stride then a Thai massage may be more suitable – because it effectively loosens stiff muscles and relieves



the body of its aches and pains.

Although it was my first spa experience, I wholly recommend Cannaceae Spa. The two-and-ahalf hour Relaxation Package Spa MAGIC

By Supanun Supawong

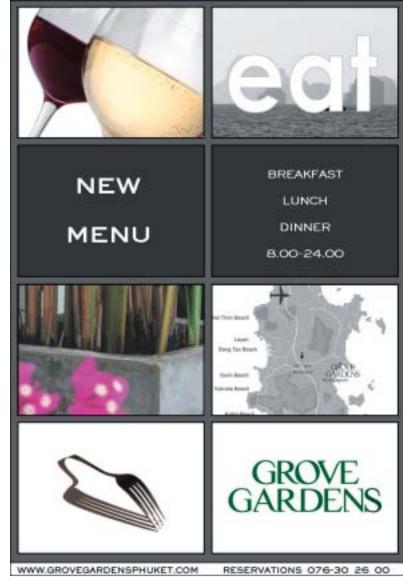
Cannaceae Spa

(1,800) baht will suit all the tired office workers out there. The package includes time in the steam room and sauna, aromatherapy massage and an aromatherapy facial.

The next package up is the three-and-a-half hour The Best of Cannaceae Package (2,800 baht). As the name suggests, it offers all the spa's top treatments – exotic body scrub, aromatherapy massage and traditional facial.

I thanked K. Jongkol and said goodbye to K. Vinus. The tension in my mind and body was nowhere to be found. I felt like a new woman, and so I hit the town with my girlfriends: in search of that elusive boyfriend.

Cannaceae Spa. Open 9 am to 9 pm. 51/17 Thepanusorn Rd, Wichit, Muang, Phuket 83000. Tel: 076-264429, 076-355134. Email: info@cannaceae-spa.com Website: www.cannaceae-spa.com



22 PHUKET GAZETTE July 21 - 27, 2007



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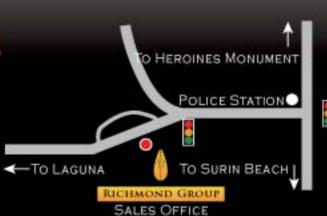


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P. J. Z. Z. L. E.S

Spot the Difference



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





su do ku

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

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

U PARK

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

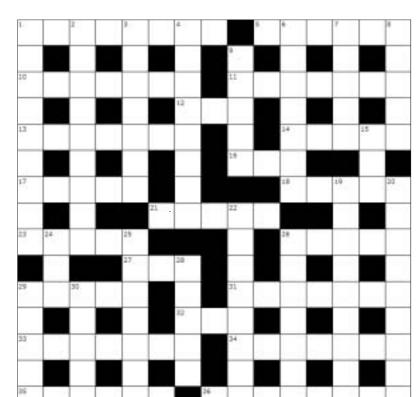
The Cryptic Crossword

Across

- 1. If smart about pigeonhole...(8)
- 5. ...add a very quiet finish. (6)
- 10. Wandering, no crazy person in charge. (7)
- 11. I call in on clothing improvement. (7)
- 12. Pharaoh's disapproving noise. (3)
- 13. Twister ripped a party. (7)
- 14. Gently moves sea back a couple of points. (5)
- 16. I break senior teacher. (3)
- 17. Brazilian city part of Nobel empire. (5)
- 18. Be some part of witch's transport. (5)
- 21. Entertain an inspirational figure. (5)
- 23. In country, type note badly. (5)26. Pay out a penny in
- Southend. (5)
- 27. A ball or a key. (3)29. Become liable in dog? (5)
- 31. Enchant as part of tenth rally. (7)
- 32. Cow's deep sound. (3)
- 33. Put faith in type of doctor's corrosion. (4)
- 34. Am, about the eyes, a lack of faith. (7)
- 35. Sat back with Edward and tried. (6)
- 36. Key of bone? (8)

Down

1. Artistic policeman? (9)



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2007

- Daily tram turns into UK Navy HQ. (9)
- 3. Weapon for team limb. (7)
- 4. True! With no stomach he does everything. (8)
- 6. Story that is in favor of action word. (7)
- 7. Adjusts commands, almost. (5)
- 8. Take hydrogen from artist. (5)
- 9. Widows pensions create parasites. (5)
- 5. I, therefore, not right. (5)

- Penetrate money factory to get herb. (9)
- Trader who's not short or tall? (9)
- 22. Stroll after team next to the street. (8)
- 24. Card game drink. (3)
- 25. Utter, or rephrase, a way to get answers. (7)
- 26. Sat with Che to the left of a bag. (7)
- 28. Below these, it's against the rules. (5)
- 29. In the east, the Right is inactive. (5)
- 30. Refers to wildlife trade rules. (5)

Solution on next page

Scribble Space

EZ TRIVIA QUIZ

- 1. Claustrophobia is the fear of what?
- 2. In the light spectrum, what comes between yellow and blue?
- 3. How many minutes are there in a full day?
- 4. How many minutes does it take for light from the Sun to reach Earth?
- 5. Which British soccer club did Thaksin Shinawatra just buy?

- On which continent is the Great Rift Valley?
- 7. Who currently has a hit with the song *Big Girls Don't Cry*?
- 8. What do the initials RSVP stand for?
- 9. What do they mean?
- 0. If you walked 10 miles east, 10 miles north, 10 mile west and 10 miles south, how far would you be from where you started?

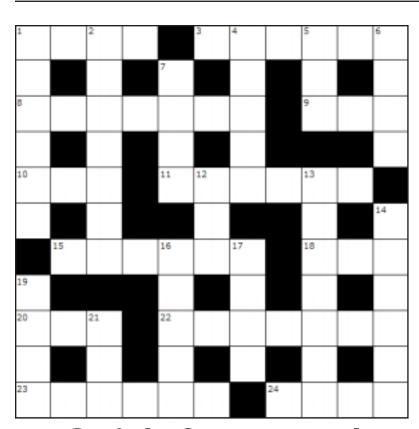
Answers on next page

Rhyme Time

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

- 1. Craftiness.
- 2. 1,852 meters.
- 3. Meter.
- 4. Disgusting.
- 5. Ireland.
- 6. Most unfriendly.
- 7. Coiffure.
- 8. Africa's longest river.
- 9. Time in court.
- 10. Digestive juice.

Answers on next page



Quick Crossword

Across

- 1. Highway.
- 2. Short-sighted.
- 8. Crossed out.
- 9. Sticky oil product.
- 10. A very long time.
- 11. They chase criminals.
- 15. Hidden stores.
- 18. Organ of vision.
- 20. Mr Lincoln.
- 22. Having no fixed address.
- 23. Painter or sculptor, perhaps.
- 24. Hold tightly.

Down

- 1. Boat's steering gear.
- 2. Olympic city in Georgia.
- 4. Call, Swiss-style.
- 5. Deep hole.
- 6. Bottle stopper.
- 7. One part of a walk.
- 2. Metal-bearing rock.
- 13. Type of cheese.
- 14. Place for a silly storm.
- 16. Sharpens.
- 17. Additions.
- 19. Volcano product.
- 21. Consume.

Solution below, right

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



- 1. Who was the first person to sail around the world single-handed, beginning in 1885?
- 2. How long did it take him, and what was the name of his boat?
- 3. Who currently holds the world record for the fastest single-handed navigation of the globe?
- 4. How long did she take?
- 5. Who currently holds the world record for the fastest nautical mile under sail?
- 6. At what speed did he sail the distance?
- 7. In 1876 Alfred Johnson made the first single-handed crossing of the Atlantic. What was his boat called?

- 8. Which two men organised the first single-handed transatlantic sailing race, the Ostar?
- 9. They had a bet as to who would win. How big was the bet, and who won?
- 10. What piece of sailing equipment was invented by "Blondie" Hasler?
- 11. Name the sailor who committed suicide during the Sunday Times Golden Globe Race of 1968-69?
- 12. Who won the race, thereby becoming the first person to sail round the world solo and non-stop?
- 13. Which sailing boat currently holds the round-the-world speed record?
- 14. Who made the first nonstop solo westabout circumnavigation?

- 15. Who was the first woman to emulate this feat? Name her boat.
- 16. How many sailors died in the 1979 Fastnet Race? Which boat won?
- 17. The US lost the
 America's Cup in 1983,
 ending a winning streak
 that had lasted how
 many years?
- 18. Name the Australian boat that lost to *Stars* and *Stripes* in the 1987 America's Cup.
- 19. What was the original name of the America's Cup?
- 20. How old was Robin Graham Lee when he set out to sail around the world in 1965?

Answers below

Puzzle Solutions

Rhyme Time Answers

1. Guile; 2. Nautical mile; 3. Dial; 4. Vile; 5. Emerald Isle; 6. Hostile; 7. Hairstyle; 8. Nile; 9. Trial; 10. Bile.

Solution to this week's Cartoon Puzzle



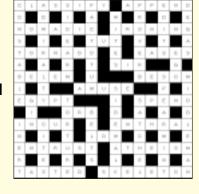
EZ Trivia Answers

1. Small enclosed spaces; 2. Green; 3. 1,440; 4. 8.5; 5. Manchester City; 6. Africa; 7. Fergie; 8. *Répondez s'il vous plaît*; 9. Please reply; 10. You would be back in the same place.

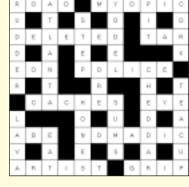
Monster Quiz Answers

1. Capt Joshua Slocum; 2. Three years, in the sloop Spray; 3. Dame Ellen Mc-Arthur; 4. 71 days; 5. Alain Thebault of France; 6. 41.69 knots (about 77 kmh); 7. Centennial; 8. Francis Chichester and Lt Col Herbert "Blondie" Hasler; 9. Half a crown (two shillings and sixpence). Chichester won; 10. Self-steering gear; 11. Donald Crowhurst; 12. Robin Know-Johnston; 13. *Orange II*; 14. Chay Blythe; 15. Dee Caffari, in Aviva; 16. 19. Tenacious was the winner; 17. 132 years; 18. Kookaburra III; 19. The Royal Yacht Squadron Cup; 20. He was 16.

Cryptic Crossword



Quick Crossword



Sudoku

1	1	4	3	9	4	5	0	0
5	3	8	1	7	6	2	9	4
9	4	6	8	2	5	3	7	1
1	8	5	6	4	9	7	2	3
6	2	7	5	8	3	1	4	9
4	9	3	7	1	2	6	5	8
3	6	4	2	5	8	9	1	7
8	5	1	9	3	7	4	6	2
2	7	9	4	6	1	8	3	5

Nineteen sketches of Thailand

hai Mangoes (Bangkok Books, Bangkok, 2007, 202pp) is Trirat Petchsingh's lively collection of 19 short stories set in contemporary Thailand with traditional Thai touches and strange twists of fate revolving around ghosts and outraged spirits.

The lead story, *The Sacrifice*, is set in a wolfram mine in Mae Hong Son. The narrator of this realistic account of setting up a mine with a crew of Karen workers is the son of the owner, a flinty, hard-working Sino-Thai woman whose fate is determined by guardian spirits.

The Chedi takes place in Chiang Mai where a businessman, desperate for money, discovers a 400-year-old chedi on land he intends to sell. A mysterious reincarnation leads him to keep the land and chedi intact as "the chedi is a symbol of all that's good in our people, bequeathed to us by our forefathers. It also represents our natural and human resources, the wealth of our land, the forests and the teeming seas. They belong to each and every one one of us, not to any one man."

Rain Clouds is a classic ghost story; a very realistic tale of a young man and woman taking shelter during a rain storm, but with the woman proving to have had a most outlandish history.

A cynical tale of local politics, *The* Village Headman shows the rot that underlies the political reality of rural Thailand. Violence and treachery are widespread, with lives and family reputations



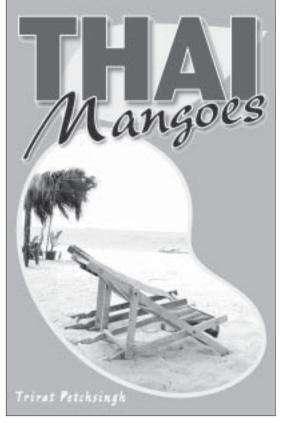
The Past Catches Up. An 18-year-old romance in Sri Lanka finds its culmination in modern day Chiang Mai. This comes off as more of a sketch, though, rather than a fully fleshed romance.

The Third Encounter is a romance that takes place over decades between a wealthy Bangkok student and the village girl he left behind. The ache of time passing and failed chances make this a poignant tale.

Bangkok is the location for the bittersweet story of a businessman trapped in a loveless marriage to Maria, a fellow Thai student he met in Australia.

Metamorphosis details the string of lovers he's exploited over the years, never daring to abandon his beloved daughter. Finally mustering the courage to leave his family, he is assaulted on a train by a drunk.

"In an instant, he had perceived the



blows, he had seen the man, as in a slowmotion film, swinging at him. But he himself had been frozen helpless, fascinated, watching the man – seeing himself – as he sometimes behaved towards people who had loved him in their way: Uraiwan, Amphan, Maria, and others.

"Suddenly he felt a tenderness to-Petchsingh turns to a love story in purpose of his punishment. After the first wards Maria he had not felt in a long while.

Ships passing in the night were welcome encounters on the lonely sea of life. But Maria was his mooring, his safe harbor, in adverse seas and calm."

He then jumps off the train and returns to his family.

By-lines is the story of a Thai student who returns from Australia and lands a job with an English-language newspaper in Bangkok. The tale turns comical as he develops a crush for an up-and-coming report-

Petchsingh then turns to a gripping tale of a rich, young man who enlists in the Thai army out of a boyish love of uniforms only to be caught up in the violent May events of 1992, ending with the death of his best friend. The Two Moons of Veera's World exposes all the grief and confusion of that desperate time.

Trust Me is the theme of another romance, this one between David, an English businessman, and a young girl named Susie who meet on a bus from Bangkok to her home town of Chiang Mai.

The collection ends on a bitter note with a Thai reporter's attempted rescue of a girl in a brothel. Nawee takes Moi to live with him but the psychological damage of a girl sold by her parents into a brothel when she was 13 proves too much. The downbeat ending strikes true.

This is a highly readable collection of Thailand and its many moods.

www.phuketgazette.net/calendar

EVENTS CALENDAR

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 22. 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@mangosteenphuket.com

July 21 and 22. Evason Phuket Race Week.

Don't miss the final two days of top-class yacht racing with reliable monsoon winds and great beachside parties at the five-star 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.phuketrace week.com

From July 21. Happy Hour at Siam Indigo.

Every Friday and Saturday, 6 pm till 8pm. All drinks are served with free pre-dinner tapas selections. Outside patio or at the lounge, come to our colorful world to mingle, taste and enjoy Phuket life.

Siam Indigo. 8 Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City. Call Celine at 076-256697 or 081-8924885. Email: sales@siamindigo. com Website: www.siamindigo.com

July 22. Mission Hills Invitational 2007.

Don't miss the annual special event of 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 closing date for registration is

Registration from 10 am; shotgun start at midday; and a buffet dinner begins at 6 pm. Great prizes will be awarded to the best players. For further information please email: info@ missionhillsphuket.com

July 26-August 4. Phuket Flower Show.

This year's bloomin' marvelous Phuket Flower Show, hosted by the Phuket Provincial Agriculture Office, will take place at Saphan Hin, open daily from 8:30 am to 10:30 pm.

After a few hints for your garden? A number of exhibitions will point you in the right direction for arranging your flowers and plants.

Visitors will also be able to learn everything there is to know about hydroponics (gardening without soil) and there will be an exhibition about sufficiency econ-

For more information call 076-216565 or 076-221602.

July 27-31. 3rd Halal Food Hilal Town.

The 3rd Halal Food / Hilal Town festival will be held at Thalang Historical Memorial. Highlights will include a variety of food stalls, all prepared according to Halal requirements; local Muslim gourmet cooking contests and a spectacular light and sound show telling the tragic story of the legendary Princess Mahsuri at 8 pm every evening.

For details visit www. phuketcity.org or call 076-354-204, or visit www.tourism thailand.org or call 076-212213. For package tours with transfers,



call 076-377773.

July 29. Asarnha Bucha Day - Public Holiday.

This full-moon day of the eighth lunar month commemorates the Buddha's first sermon to his first five disciples after attaining Enlightenment more than 2,500 years ago.

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 talent involved in the workshops and YRock Pop winners Ghost Souljah and Dani & Maren from Hong Kong. For further information please email belmike@ netvigator.com

August 12. HM The Queen's Birthday - Public Holiday.



Phuket Gazette - Since 1994 -

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Against the tide

With the same predictability as the arrival of the annual monsoonseason waves that have been pounding Phuket beaches in recent weeks has come a surge in the number of foreign tourists whose lives have been claimed in treacherous surf conditions.

According to the *Gazette* online news archives, since September 1998 there have been no fewer than 61 foreigners who have come to the island on vacation only to die by drowning at local beaches - not including the hundreds who perished in the tsunami disaster or the sadly high number of bodies that are found washed ashore and presumed to be those of illegal foreign laborers.

Drowning is still, by far, the leading cause of accidental death among Thai children, but statistics reveal that a large percentage are left unattended by their parents and fall into bodies of water near their homes, and less often at the beach.

If one thing is certain it is that the surf does not discriminate along lines of nationality, race or even swimming ability. Several victims were described as "strong swimmers", including one Malaysian man who was a national-class competitive swimmer.

The distribution of foreign victims by country reads like a crosssection of the tourist arrival figures compiled by the Tourism Authority of Thailand. Last week alone three foreigners perished in just two days: a Singaporean man, a Russian housewife and a Saudi Arabian man [see News pages].

While each drowning is different, a typical scenario involves an overconfident swimmer who ignores red caution flags or verbal warnings in the knowledge that they have successfully negotiated bigger waves on other beaches – unaware that the real danger lies in the currents, not high waves.

While the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor) beachguard has probably saved hundreds of lives since its long-overdue inception back in 2000, their members cannot possibly be expected to cover every inch of every beach.

As effective as they have been in saving lives, the OrBorJor could improve its flag-based warning system, however. For a start, red warning flags are too often left up when actual conditions are not dangerous, leading some people to disregard them.

Another potentially useful and easily implemented method would be to ask pilots of inbound flights to warn passengers about the dangers of swimming in Phuket during the monsoon season. When pilots talk about safety issues people have a tendency to listen, especially if it was made a part of the welcome to Phuket as visitors glimpse the shining beaches for the first time. - The Editor

> Do you have an opinion you want to share? Email editor@phuketgazette.net

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Letters

ers. 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 | are supplied.

The Gazette is pleased to receive mail from read- | 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

Unlikely lads

I was walking down Soi Bangla last week when I noticed a group of teenage boys "on tour", as their T-shirts so proudly proclaimed. These young boys were staggering across the street with their arms around each other, bottled beers at the ready.

I thought nothing of the incident until another group of teenage lads stumbled by, this time "Doing it for Big Kev", who was apparently celebrating his birth-

Big Kev was easily identifiable because he had the words "Big Kev-Ladies' Man" printed on the back of his T-shirt above the number "69". Big Kev, despite being a stout chap, was younger than my kid brother.

The people I felt most sorry for were the busty girls and screeching ladyboys whom the boys on tour were leering at. These boys looked like they had died and gone to heaven - in Patong!

Oh, the hilarity. But I have to wonder, what would their parents say if they saw the conquests their sons (and sometimes daughters) had been accomplishing?

What these young boys is a good kick in the butt to remind them they're born.

> Barry Butcher Patong

Honestly

Some weeks ago I flew into Phuket from Koh Samui, with a return flight booked for the next day.

I took a metered taxi to my home near Ao Yon and, as always, was surprised by the polite, safe and cheap driving of these guys.

I have a habit of losing all kinds of stuff. The next morning I couldn't find my passport and

The obvious thing to do was go back to the restaurant I ate at and dig over the house... but I found nothing. I persuaded myself that I could not have left it in the taxi.

In the meantime I organized a lift back to Samui, but then I found the taxi receipt with the taxi driver's number on it - my last hope.

Yes sir, we have your passport and ticket, said the driver.

Never would the same outcome have happened, for example, arriving at Amsterdam air-

Taxi driver number 48, you are great.

It is, of course, weird that one is surprised by honesty these days.

> Chris Jongerius Baan Ao Yon

Worth saving

My name is Mubeena, a 13-yearold student at Kajonkietsuksa School. We are learning about global warming at school and are really concerned about the rubbish we are making.

We went to the Evason Resort on a field trip to learn more about recycling and saw that they make three kinds of compost, which are wood chips, leaf chips and coconut chips.

They save the rainwater and clean the water they have used so they can use it again. They plant their own herbal and vegetable gardens. They have an artificial lake there to water the plants and they have a water hyacinth plant to keep the water clean.

As a school, we learned from Evason some ways to save our Phuket. I hope that everyone will have a look at Evason Resort and save our Phuket.

> Yours sincerely, Mubeena

Traveling at the speed of light

Fifteen minutes from the airport. Great, I thought. When I booked my first trip to Phuket I was amazed to find that, according to online, my hotel was so close to the airport.

Sure enough, when I arrived my taxi driver assured me that 15 minutes was all he needed to take me to my hotel.

Little did I know that the 15-minute time frame can only be achieved by traveling at close to the speed of light. The taxi touring car season is well and truly underway on Phuket's roads every day of the week. I'd never been so terrified in all my life.

Why don't Phuket's hotels just tell the truth? It would certainly make the roads a lot safer.

Fast and furious

Bert in a bottle

Why doesn't Blooming Bert branch out into vegetables. I think it stems from his being too firmly rooted in the world of flowers and other ornamentals, which while pretty are hardly appropriate to the sufficiency economy the government is promoting.

While there are clever kernels of truth in his pithy observations about life, he could really blossom by expanding his subject matter beyond the benefits of beer.

> An observer Samkong

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

Sea life deserves higher priority

hen dolphins and turtles are ill it is their natural instinct to seek calm water. This often leads to beachings. If they are too weak to swim back, they will die on the beach.

During this current monsoon season in Phuket the waves and water currents have been very strong, which makes it harder for dolphins to swim back out to sea after they are beached. In the past two weeks alone two spinner dolphins, one striped dolphin, a spotted dolphin and a bottlenose dolphin have all beached themselves along the Phuket and Phang Nga coastlines.

This many beaching in the area by dolphins in such a short time span seems to indicate that there might be some problems with the local marine environment. Usually the average number of such beaching along the Andaman coast is about 15 per year, so to have five beached in just two weeks is abnormal.

In the past the main cause of such deaths among dolphins has been disease and this is what we suspect now. However, we are also doing further research on water quality in this region. Our department at the PMBC is responsible for conducting research on endangered marine species and the habitats that sustain them.

Dolphins are on top of the food chain in the wild. Their presence in waters around Phuket shows that the natural marine environment here is still very

This is because for dolphins to survive, they need to feed on larger fish. Larger fish can only survive with the presence of smaller plankton feeders; they, in turn, require the availability of plankton. In order for most fish to survive and breed, mangrove

FIRST PERSON

In the past two weeks, there have been an alarming number of locally endangered marine animals washed ashore, including five dolphins of four different species.

Here marine biologist **Dr Kongkiat** Kittiwattanawong of the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) talks about the significance of these beaching, the overall state of Phuket's marine environment and the need for public awareness to keep it healthy.



forests are needed in the areas for fish to grow and lay eggs.

Large marine cetaceans demand a complicated, unspoiled natural ecosystem to survive, so their presence in these waters signifies that Phuket still has those qualities. It is a good indicator of how well the ecosystem is doing.

Sometimes when sick or injured marine animals are brought in we have the task of treating them and nursing them until they are healthy enough to be released back into the wild. The main obiective of our research, however, has always been related to environmental conservation.

However, the extent to which we can turn our theoretical research into actual conservation depends on how well we inform and educate local people who live close to these habitats. In the past, there was virtually no contact between local people and government academics and officials. Nowadays things are different. I will give you an example of a case in Trang Province.

We have a pod of about 30 to 50 humpback dolphins living off the coast of Trang, so we went down to meet with the local people who lived near the coast of Trang and told them about this

We informed them about the importance of having the dolphins in that area – that it is an indicator of the rich natural resources they have available near them.

We also told them about the importance of the abundant mangrove forests in sustaining the local marine ecosystem. We also educated them about ways that they can help to conserve the dolphins and other natural resources they have in that area. In the end we can only advise them, however.

It is up to them to put our

advice into practice and help with conservation efforts.

We do have a lot of problems when it comes to rescuing and nursing marine animals. For example just rescuing a few dolphins this time drained us of all the resources we have at hand.

We do not have the proper equipment at our disposal when it comes to rescuing dolphins. The tank that we are keeping the spinner dolphin in at the moment was actually meant to hold turtles.

We had to move the turtles to a smaller tank to accommodate the dolphin. For now the turtles have become "second class citizens". So we have limitations on space and facilities as one of the main problems here at the PMBC.

Speaking about the conservation on a wider scale, Phuket does have all the necessary laws and regulations in place to protect the environment. For example, to start any construction work here many documents need to be approved. There are many limitations and constraints in place, including environmental impact studies that must be conducted before construction work can start.

Despite what is written in the law books and building codes, however, there are not enough government officials to go around checking for compliance. In my opinion, there is not enough being done to enforce existing regulations, which is why we need help from the local people to protect the environment.

Local residents must realize that for as long as they live along the coast they will inevitably depend on it.

Tourism is a classic example. If the coastal environment degrades, water quality worsens and there are fewer coral reefs and fish for people to see, so tourists stop coming.

In the end, local residents are affected. So if people help to look after their local environment, it will benefit them in many ways.

Conservation efforts in Phuket have been good so far because residents in Phuket have a high sense of social responsibility.

We perhaps should thank Western tourists for this, since this is a social norm for them and their visits every year have helped to pass this norm on to the local residents in Phuket.

As a result, local residents in Phuket are a great help when it comes to informing us of mishaps and abnormalities concerning the environment and endangered species around the island.

> - Compiled by Gazette reporter Pathomporn Kaenkrachang and trainee Anand Singh

Worrying water meter woes

We recently started renting a shop in Chalong, and for three months we have been trying to get the water meter attached.

My wife is pregnant and at the moment we have to carry buckets of water to the shop so we can use the toilets.

After these three months of trying, we have now been told that we have to pay more than 4,000 baht for the water meter and an additional 5.000 baht to someone as a "fine" because they say they saw someone washing their hands from the sup-

In all, that's nearly 10,000 baht to simply connect a water meter.

Does it really cost this much? The pipes are all in place and the water supply is already working nearby.

Desperate for water



Send your

questions at www. phuketgazette.net/ issuesanswers/ submitissue.asp

Sayan Wareearoonroj, Phuket **Provincial Water Supply Man**ager, replies:

It will generally cost you 4,135 baht to install a water meter, for a distance of not more than 10 meters from the main water supply pipe to your shop.

This fee also depends on the meter's size as the demand for water in each business is not the

same, and will be assessed by officers from the Phuket Provincial Water Supply (PPWS).

The 5,000-baht fine is for using public water without a meter. If you didn't do that and you can prove it, you won't have to pay the fine.

If it's a case where your shop used to have a water meter but supply was turned off because the water bill was not paid, and the period that the water was off was not more than six months, you can come pay the outstanding bill at the PPWS and you will only have to pay a fine of 535 baht to reconnect the wa-

You can contact the PPWS directly to resolve the issue.

Our office is located near the Phuket Country Club in Kathu.

We are open from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday to Friday, and our phone number is 076-319173.

Will my baby be Thai?

My Thai wife will soon give birth, and I would like to know if my baby will automatically be granted Thai citizenship, even though I am a foreigner and we have not registered our marriage.

> Kayeel Phuket

Manode Fuangkaew, an officer with the Census Registration Department at Kathu **District Office, replies:**

Any baby born to a Thai mother will be automatically bestowed Thai nationality, even if the parents have not registered their marriage. So, your baby will be Thai.

In Thailand, the birth of the newborn must be registered at the local district office or municipality where the hospital is lo-

After a mother delivers her baby, the parents will receive a birth information form issued by

the hospital. The parents then bring that form, along with a copy of the mother's ID card and house registration form, and a copy of the father's passport (if he is a foreigner), to register the

For example, if the baby is born at Vachira Phuket Hospital or Bangkok Phuket Hospital, the baby's birth must be registered with Phuket City Municipality.

If the baby is born at Phuket International Hospital, the birth must be registered at the Muang District Office, and if the baby is born in Patong, the birth must be registered with Patong Municipality.

Some hospitals, such as Phuket International Hospital, offer a service to register the baby's birth automatically so the parents only need to prepare the related documents and the process will be completed by the hospital's staff.

ome time ago, our local cable TV network showed all the old James Bond movies. I watched so many that I thought I'd try scripting a Bond movie of my own.

For copyright reasons I couldn't call the hero James Bond, so I renamed him Jeremy Bone. The main difference between Bone and Bond is that Bone likes his Mekhong sodas stirred, not

I call this movie Airsucker. The villain is a hunchbacked fiend named Dr O. He has twisted features, a warped mind and, for reasons of tradition, an Eastern European accent.

His agents have abducted Bone by drugging his Mekhong soda while he was on holiday in a Patong bar. They've whisked him away to Dr O's private castle in the Korat Alps. Now, as Bone regains consciousness, Dr O welcomes him.

Dr O: Goot efening, Mr Bone. Velcome to my Esarn aerie. Permit me to introduce my deformed self. I am Dr O. I haff invented a device vhich sucks oxygen out of ze air. For obvious reasons, I call it ze Airsucker.

Ziss machine vhich you see here is ze prototype. (Gestures toward a large metal machine with an intake unit shaped like

In approximately four seconds, it can suck all ze oxygen out of ziss room. Properly enlarged and magnified, it vill suck all ze oxygen out of ze atmosphere of ziss planet, killing all its inhabitants.

Bone: Sounds like a breath-taking proposition. What's the point?

Dr O: (*Chortling malevolently*) Ze point, my dear Bone, is zat ze entire population of planet Earth vill be at my mercy. Ze oxygen vhich has been extracted from ze atmosphere will be packaged in large balloons, which I vill sell to ze oxygen-starved masses. He who buys, vill live. He who doesn't, dies. It is an ingenious concept, is it not?

Bone: It's enough to take one's **Bone:** Splendid. Permit me to in-

Bad to the Bone



breath away. That would make you the world's chief airhead, would it not, Dr O?

Dr O: (Face curdling with rage) Do not mock me, Mr Bone! Ziss is my assistant, Sashimi. (Enter a stocky, powerfully built Japanese dwarf, clad in the robe of a Samurai, sword belted at the waist.)

Sashimi: (Bowing formally) Ah so, deska! Preased to meet you, Bone-san.

Dr O: Sashimi is skilled in seven schools of martial arts and a host of exquisite methods of torture. Now, ziss is my secretary, Miss Ditsy Bimbo. (Enter a gorgeous blonde bombshell, flaunting prodigious pectoral protuberances. Adorned by tattoos and multiple piercings, she wears a hip-hop outfit and a baseball cap turned backwards. Bone's eyes cross as they focus on her magnificent cleavage, which is highlighted by a T-shirt labeled "Take Me".)

Ditsy: (Popping her bubblegum) Hiya.

Bone: Charmed.

Dr O: Now, Mr Bone, since you know too much, Sashimi vill escort you to ze torture chamber for your final act upon ziss earthly stage.

troduce you to one of the remarkable devices invented by our ingenious agent Q. (Presses a button on his watch. A nylon cord whips out and wraps itself around Sashimi, instantly tying him up.) One order of sashimi to go. (Pushes Sashimi face-first into the lips of the Airsucker and flicks on the switch. A strangled scream from Sashimi as the machine sucks out his brain through his mouth.)

Airsucker: Burp.

Bone: I guess that was a nobrainer.

Dr O: (*Screaming*) You haff destroyed my machine, Mr Bone!

Zose brain tissues vill clog up ze delicate mechanisms vithin!

Bone: Not to worry, I doubt that his brain was very large. Let's see how it handles you. (Pushes Dr *O* into the mouth of the machine. He disappears into the gaping maw with a shriek.)

Airsucker: Burp.

Bone: And now I suppose it's time to use my magnetic booger grenade, another invention of the ingenious Q. (Picks a large, ferrous-enhanced booger out of his nose and tosses it into the mouth of the machine.) Come, Ditsy, it's time to booger off.

(They flee the castle. Be-

hind them, the machine explodes, bringing down the entire castle and half the mountainside in a spectacular eruption of fire and smoke.)

Bone: Thank Q. And now, Ditsy, it's time to consummate our relationship.

Ditsy: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. Cool. (Snaps her bubblegum with enthusiasm. Bone and Ditsy move into an amatory position as the lights dim and the curtain falls.)

S. Tsow can be flamed at stsow @yahoo.com while he's waiting for his Academy Award for writing this script, which will be a very long time indeed.

by Isla Star

CANCER (June 22-July 23): If you have been feeling left in the shade by your seemingly more successful friends you should

In The Stars

have a nice surprise this week. As July winds down, a boost to your career is forecast. If you are celebrating a birthday this week you will enjoy a more profitable year and personal relationships are well-starred for the months ahead.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Laying your feelings on the line – in both personal and working relationships – is not the best option this week. The only way to get what you want is by playing it cool. You will feel hot under the collar on Wednesday when a Scorpio tries to take credit for your hard work. The truth will be revealed in good time.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Something you never dreamed of will happen this week. Virgos who lack the self-confidence required to make progress will be filled with renewed motivation. An Arian friend is ready to assist with a creative project; strike while this iron is hot. Thursday is best to negotiate financial backing. Wear violet to give the right impression.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Keeping your head buried in the sand may be the easiest way of dealing with a problem, but in the long run it will only make matters more confusing. People are starting to get the wrong impression and you should address the issue soon. Monday and Tuesday are best for arranging heart-to-heart conversations. The stars will ensure you have a silver tongue on those days.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): It looks as though romance has reduced you to as wobbly as a jellyfish this week. If this affair involves a Gemini, expect game-playing to be a feature. A serious relationship is not forecast to take place with this person. A Taurean is determined to get to know you better and will not be shy of commitment.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-

WHAT DO

THE

HEAVENS

HOLD IN

STORE FOR

YOU THIS

WEEK?

December 21): Don't be downcast by an uneventful weekend. Fun is going to be a strong feature in August, so save your energy for then. Also save as much money as you can during the last week of July for unexpected bills. If you are in a relationship you will find a way to curb

your partner's spending. The number 7 is lucky on Thursday.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): All the scheming and dreaming you did earlier in the year is about to come to fruition. If your ideas met with a frosty reception last month, don't be disheartened, as the stars will ensure that people with power will be impressed. Try to get commitment in writing before the end of the month. Aquarius bears good tidings on Wednesday.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): An easy week lies ahead if you are prepared to wait for others to make the first move. If you try to hurry matters along there will be more delays. Be particularly patient with property issues to avoid a costly mistake.

Romance with Cancer is in the air this weekend.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): If you aren't yet prepared to swim with the big fish then do the sensible thing and postpone commitment. A career opportunity that you rejected last year is about to come back into the picture and this will suit you much better. There's no need to push the boat out if you're trying to impress someone this weekend; showing your creativity will have the best effect.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Forcing yourself to be interested in something that actually bores

you could be a problem this week. Come clean about how you feel if you find yourself in a tight corner. Any confusion you've been feeling should start to drift away this week. Look forward to a dynamic time in August.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): As July

comes to an end, you will be feeling satisfied with your life. Home is more comforting and creative decorating projects are wellstarred. Romance is looking promising, so be on the look out for an attractive Arian who is determined to sweep you off your feet. Wearing a piece of tiger's eye will help you feel more se-

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Geminis who planned to take a break from romance will have another thing coming this week. A blast from the past is about to come back into your life. The stars will support this relationship better the second time around. Concentrate on business early next week when a Cancerian tries to steal your deal. The number 8 may be lucky on Thursday.

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LIFE BOOK SHOP HE POSSIBILITIES ARE INFINITE nd FL CENTRAL FESTIVAL Physic. Tel: 976-249751 n Indian yogi addressing mindless vegans in a pop text on nutrition divided the various food groups into sentient foods, nonsentient foods and foods that mess with your brain. "Sentient", you will know, means being "endowed with feeling and unstructured consciousness".

I'm uncertain how this applies to Peking duck, I mused.

Reading further, I saw that his list of foods that mess with your brain included chili peppers. "People who consume too much of these become confused and indecisive," he wrote. "They can do nothing right."

Ha! I suppose that's why the government is forever at its wit's end – too many chilies, I thought, then wondered – well, what if it's true? Could it be a hitherto unfathomed connection subsists between chili consumption and mental insufficiency (which would spell doom for creating a "sufficiency economy")?

Pondering the histories of famous chili producers – Thailand, Mexico, the Caribbean islands, India, China – I noted that each suffered decades, even centuries, of confusion. "Maybe my yogi is onto something!" I cried, suddenly bent on getting to the bottom of this conundrum.

The resulting research is, frankly, shocking, and indicates that – along with methamphetamines, correction fluid and video chat rooms – authorities must crack down on chili abuse by Thailand's teens if we are to ever raise the average IQ.

The average among Thai youths, according to a 2005 study by the Department of Mental Health, does not scrape 80

Modern technology – the product of largely non-chili eating populations – pro-

Stupid Food



By Marque A. Rome

vided me via Internet the necessary statistics and information for comparing chiliobsessed and chili-abstaining populations. Here's what I found:

Aside from the countries noted above, chili has spread to Indonesia, Malaysia, Hungary and Italy (all countries where national confusion is, historically, a constant danger).

In the US, more than 2,000 kinds of chili sauce are now available, according to *Wine Spectator* magazine. Meanwhile, high-tech industries relocate to China and the country has to import engineers.

New Mexico leads in chili production, growing 60% of the crop; 30% belongs to Texas and Arizona and 10% to California and North Carolina, while Louisiana is famous for Tabasco chili.

In strictly Darwinian terms, the people of these places appear to lag. Thailand, India, China and Indonesia account for 67% of the world's chili crop, according to the World Vegetable Center of Taiwan (AVRDC).

They rank in life expectancy, respectively, at numbers 100, 150, 96 and 126 according to the CIA's 2007 World Fact Book. Mexico is number 67.

Despite booming economies in India and China, up to 20% of China's population and 40% of India's live on less than US\$2 daily. In Indonesia, poverty is widespread to say the least; so too in Mexico. The Caribbean is a basket case.

US statistics display a pattern of mental dullness among states with chiligrowing populations. Ranked by IQ, New Mexico stagnates at number 38 among the 50 states, Texas at 40, Arizona at 30, Louisiana at 42 and North Carolina at 33 – and all voted for George W Bush in the last election.

The UK's *Daily Mirror* tabloid noted George W's supporters' IQs averaged a miserable 91, almost 40 points below that of his rival.

In what might be called "technology quotient rankings", California – home to the Silicon Valley's information technology leaders – places number three, having fallen from second place in only four years. Why? Perhaps because of the influx of Mexican dishes in the local diet.

Among other chili producers, none

rank in the top ten: Texas stands at number 14, Arizona at 16, New Mexico at 27, North Carolina at 26 and Louisiana – where they actually have chili-eating competitions – at 45. Thailand also, it must be observed, is not famous for the quality of homegrown technology.

In the field where it does unquestionably lead – sex reassignment surgery – the result merely leads to greater confusion

Significant portions of the citizenry in India, China and Thailand are, however, technologically and mentally advanced. But observe that Taoist sages, Hindu Brahmans and chefs of what is called Royal Thai cuisine eschew use of chili.

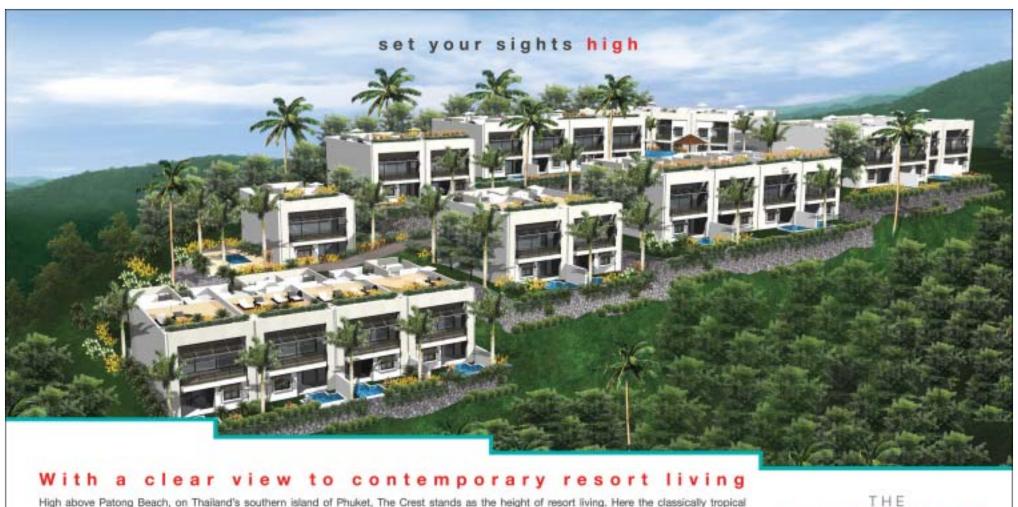
Moreover, in the West, whose denizens puzzle over apparent de-evolution, people are probably unaware that they consume more and more chili as Tex-Mex and Thai cuisines rise in popularity.

The countries with the top five IQs are Hong Kong, South Korea, Japan, Taiwan and Singapore – none noted for their over-consumption of chilies.

Oswald Spengler, the great prophet of decline, thought the West might consume itself in warfare after World War I, as the Greeks did 2,000 years ago. Little did he realize that decline could be precipitated by a colorful but innocuous-looking, elongated fruit from the family of flowering nightshades.

Chili has been cultivated by American aboriginals since at least 7500 BC. They had not learned use of the wheel when discovered by Columbus in 1492. Now we know why.

The facts, then, are clear; the conclusion inevitable: chili-eating must be banned if ever we are to go forward. Statistics, after all, can't lie.



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COMPUTERS PHUKET GAZETTE July 21 - 27, 2007

have been in the computer business for a long time, and it's hard not to grow jaded: talk's cheap, come-ons abound in every corner of the industry and claims of technical superiority today turn into utterly forgettable has-beens tomorrow.

That said, my jaw dropped last Sunday morning when one of the folks in the PC Group Therapy session showed me screen shots of speed tests performed on his new TT&T Maxnet Double Speed line. Using dslreports.com, and testing with a data center in Los Angeles, he pegged download speeds at 1,400Kbps – which is darn near as fast as my beloved CAT ADSL line.

The jury's still out on the quality of the connection. TT&T seems to be having some teething pains, with the speed dropping off in the afternoon and the line going dead completely from time to time. But if TT&T can get their act together, there's – finally – a contender on the island. Good news.

Maxnet Double Speed promotion (www.maxnet.co.th) is offered as a free, automatic upgrade for TT&T ADSL subscribers who have been using the existing Maxnet service for more than a year. I've also heard from one TT&T customer who claims to be getting very fast service, even though he hasn't been using Maxnet that long.

There are some caveats, such as TT&T doesn't guarantee the service, and the description of the offer is in Thai only – which surprises me because I'm sure most broadband users in Phuket speak English. No indication at all if you can pay for the superior service and waive the one-year requirement. As I hear more, I'll let you know.

Switched on. While I'm on the subject of fast Internet – which continues to be the #1 subject both at the PC Group Therapy

TT&T Double Maxnet chasing CAT's tail?



Following the article about multiple monitors a few weeks ago, several people have asked about my work setup. Here it is. Can you guess what's running?

thought I'd tell you about a 75year-old lady named Sigbritt Lothberg, who lives in Karlstad, Sweden. Sigbritt's son, Peter Lothberg, has been called "the ultimate optical Internet guru." He works for Cisco.

Apparently Peter decided that his mother should get an Internet connection. She never had one before. And, Peter being Peter, no normal Internet connection would do. He wanted to demonstrate a new modulation technique for fiber optic cable. So Peter built his mom a 40-gigabitper-second connection. That's

faster than the lines we're accustomed to here in Phuket. "The most difficult part of the whole project was installing Windows on Sigbritt's PC," Peter added.

Air Share. Many of you have asked about sharing an AirCard's

KHUN WOODY'S

Internet connection among multiple computers. The simplest way would involve a router (preferably

a wireless router) that would accept an AirCard for its Internet connection. I wrote about such a router, the Linksys WRT54G3G-ST (note: the "ST" - it's important), a couple of months ago. There's an ongoing discussion at www.evdoforums.com/thread

Repeated sojourns to Hong Kong, Singapore and Panthip Plaza have left me emptyhanded. Nobody in Asia seems to stock it.

I've heard from two people who have used a different approach. They stick the CAT EV-DO AirCard 580 in a laptop and then connect the laptop to a router. Other computers plugged into the router, or accessing it through the wireless access point

CARLER A Authorized Reseller

connection, can get onto the Internet using a Windows XP Service Pack 2 program called Internet Connection Sharing.

One reader (who asked to remain anonymous) was kind enough to write up his experiences. He had a rather unique

situation because he wanted to be able to switch COMPUTER quickly (called "hot swap" in computer lingo)

> between his TOT ADSL line and the CAT EV-DO card. Drop me a line if you're facing a similar problem and I'll send you a copy of what he wrote.

> The central trick to setting up a Internet Connection Sharing network lies in the way you answer one specific question in the Network Setup Wizard. I discuss the details in both Windows XP All-In-One Desk Reference For Dummies and Windows Vista All-In-One Desk Reference For Dummies, but the general procedure goes like this:

> First, make sure every computer on your network is running Windows XP Service Pack 2 or Vista. Trying to do this with the original Windows XP will drive you to an early grave.

Second, get the AirCard installed and working on your laptop. Third, connect a computer (any computer) to your router. If the router has something called a DHCP server, disable it. Third, turn off everything – computers, router... the lot.

Plug the cables into the router – at least at first you should plug the AirCard's laptop into the router, too. Turn on the laptop with the AirCard (that's your "Internet Connection Sharing host

computer" in Microsoft parlance). Then turn on all the other computers on the network.

Get the laptop with the AirCard connected to the Internet. Then, on that same laptop, start the Internet Connection Sharing Wizard by clicking Start, Control Panel, Network and Internet Connections, then clicking the link at the top that says "Setup or change your home or small-office network". Follow along with the wizard.

When it says "Select a Connection Method" - that's the key question - make sure you pick "This computer connects directly to the Internet. The other computers on my network connect to the Internet through this computer." From that point, it's pretty straightforward.

After you've set up the laptop with the AirCard, go to each computer on the network, one by one, and run the Internet Connection Sharing Wizard. For the other computers, when asked to "Select a Connection Method" make sure you choose "This computer connects to the Internet through a residential gateway or through another computer on my network".

Finally, after you've run the Internet Connection Sharing Wizard on all of the computers on your network, shut each computer down. Power up the laptop with the AirCard, and give it time to get connected to the Internet. Then, one by one, power up all of the other computers on the

If you run into problems, the most common cause of consternation comes from having hardwired IP addresses. If one of your computers just won't talk to the rest of them - or it won't connect to the Internet – click Start, Control Panel, Network and Internet Connections, then click the icon that says "Network Connections".

Find the connection that goes to your router (typically it's the one that says "Connected, Firewalled"), right-click on it and select Properties. Click once on the line that says Internet Protocol TCP/IP, then click the Properties button. On the General tab, make sure that both "Obtain an IP address automatically" and "Obtain DNS server address automatically" are selected. Click OK twice, reboot the computer, and you should be OK. "Should" being the operative term.

If you have a computer question, join me this Sunday between 10 am and noon at my Sandwich Shoppe in Patong. Our PC Group Therapy sessions bring together complete novices, experienced geeks, and haggard victims of the war with Windows and Office. Oh, we get a few Apple fans, too.

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





US economy goes into Goldilocks mode

Money TALKS

By Richard G Watson

he latest statistics for job creation in the US indicated there were 132,000 new jobs in June. A broad consensus among analysts predicted that 140,000 was the likely outcome.

More interesting was that job creation figures for April and May were upwardly revised by 75,000, raising the average monthly job creation figure for the year to date from 135,000 to 145,000. These are not impressive figures, but they are respectable. With current unemployment at 4.5%, the US is still, in real terms, close to full em-

The economy is growing at about 2.5% gross domestic product (GDP), a reasonable rate for this stage of the economic cycle. This is something of a "Goldilocks" scenario – not too hot and not too cold. It is below trend but many economists believe that the economy will heat up in the second half of this year.

There are also many who believe that the economy could weaken further and that the US central bank (US Federal Reserve) will be forced to reduce short-term interest rates by the year's end.

In reality, there is little evidence that the US is facing a recession. If economic weakness does prevail, the central bank has ample scope to reduce interest rates and, if necessary, by a considerable amount. Futures mar-



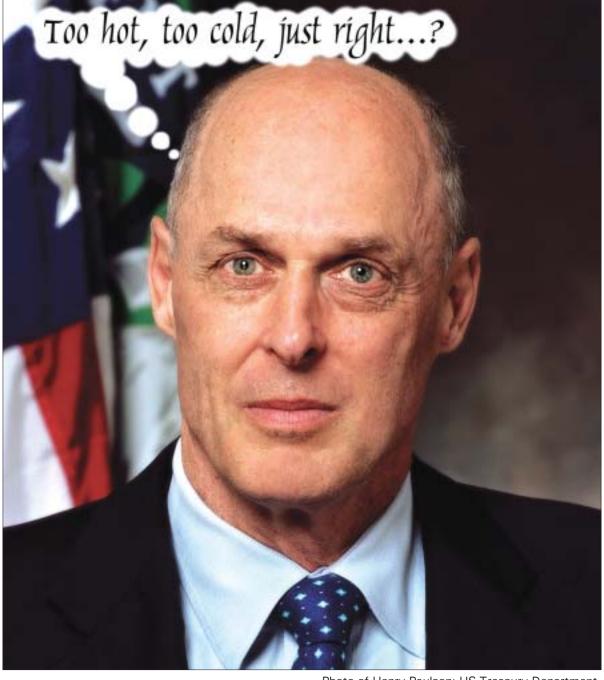


Photo of Henry Paulson: US Treasury Department.

kets are indicating their expectation for the status quo to remain for the rest of 2007.

These predictions should be taken with more than just a pinch of salt. Historically, futures markets are accurate for short-term predictions before central bank interest decisions, but over the long-term they have been as ac-

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curate as tossing a coin.

US Secretary of the Treasury Henry "Hank" Paulson recently predicted that the slump in US residential house prices was coming to an end. If he were any other Secretary of the Treasury it would hardly be worthy of mention, but Paulson's previous appointment was CEO of Goldman

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Sachs, where he enjoyed enormous success.

The problems in the "subprime market" in residential mortgage lending are not going to evaporate overnight, This is simply a matter of housing finance being extended to borrowers who should have never been granted these loans in the first place.

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Another factor is the Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac organizations, which carry the strong influence of being backed by the federal government. It may be politically correct to support the good work of these agencies, but accounting scandals have undermined much of this veiled propaganda. When governments intervene directly or indirectly, things usually end up in a "dogs breakfast", with all due apologies to our canine friends.

For US financial markets, none of the above has been bad news. In particular, the stock market has enjoyed reasonable gains in 2007. Depending on which index is used, returns to date for this year (early July) have risen from 7% to close to 10%.

Wages and incomes are still rising in the US at slightly higher percentages than the current inflation rate. This is sustaining the consumers' ability to continue spending. The zero savings rates attributed to consumers are misleading as they do not include capital gains made on investments.

In the end, what will be of primary importance to the stock market is the profits recorded by companies. Large companies are currently in favor as many of them are multinational operations that just happen to have US headquarters.

The global economy is moving ahead at a rapid pace, around 5% in GDP terms. Many of these companies are benefiting from global growth, and with a relatively weak US dollar, profits when converted back to greenbacks are going to be impressive. There will be exceptions, but there always are and there always will be.

Even in the arena of mid caps, small caps and micro caps, there are still going to be many winners. Many of these companies enjoy superb management and are in sectors where business is good. Again, there will be losers. As always, it is a matter of separating the wheat from the

The important point is that "a rising tide lifts all ships", and while this is not perhaps the best analogy for companies, it does hold more than a modicum of truth.

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

ON THE MOVE



Gunn Ketnim, 30, from Pattani, has been promoted to assistant business development director of Asia Web Direct Co Ltd. A journalism graduate from Thammasat University in Bangkok, K. Gunn joined Asia Web Direct in 2000 and has worked in a variety of positions over the past six and a half years with the company. Most recently, he was the senior business development manager for Southern Thailand.



Roger Brantsma, 33, from the Netherlands, has been appointed director of operations at Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa. He joined Hilton International in 1995 and his experience includes working at Hilton Amsterdam, Hilton Amsterdam Airport Schiphol and as food and beverage service manager at Hilton Dubai Jumeirah. He worked as director of operations at Hilton Sharks Bay Resort before moving



Ongart "Lek" Bornamron, 27, has been promoted to field assistant manager of Wanamakok Civil & Environmental Consultants Co Ltd (WCEC).

Originally from Krabi, K. Lek graduated from Rajabhat University in Phuket with a bachelor's degree in industrial management.

He has been with WCEC for nearly two years as the lead surveyor supervising all topographic and boundary surveys.

PLED targets B1.3bn from property auctions

By Semacote Suganya

PHUKET: More than 100 rai of land will be auctioned off July 26 during the semi-annual auction of seized property by the Phuket Legal Execution Department (PLED).

Among the plots are two key holdings in Chalong and Cherng Talay that are expected to fetch top baht.

Santhad Prasanwan, director of the PLED, said that the overall value of auctioned land this year will reach more than one billion baht and he expects an increase in sales in the next few years due to the lagging economy.

"The PLED have an overall target of 1.3 billion baht for this year's auctions. The auction held eight to nine months ago, combined with one separate sale, made almost 900 million baht, leaving a target balance of about 420 million baht for the upcoming auction.

"The property assets are mostly land and houses with over 100 rai around Phuket to be auctioned off," said K. Santhad.

"Among the properties in this auction are two notable plots. The first is located on Koktanod Rd in Chalong and covers 80 rai located within close proximity to Chalong Bay. The auction price for this land is set to start at 159 million baht.

"The second property is a six-rai land plot in Cherng Talay with an auction price starting at 50 million baht," said K. Santhad.

He explained that the property seizures are predominantly the result of owners' inability to make payments to loan agencies or banks.

"The execution of judgment needs to be filed in all cases which leads to a subsequent verdict. The announcement of these verdicts is released about one month before the auction. Bidders are then able to gather information on the properties from either the Phuket Provincial Land Office (PPLO) or from local banks.

"After the land has been auctioned, the bidder must pay the auction amount in full, and then the PLED will notify the PPLO to transfer the property.

"The starting price for each auction is based upon an estimate using price evaluation criteria such as taxes and fees, property status, quality of the land, location, options for commercial use and other criteria concerning land features and land susceptibilities," he said.

"In general, banks are the first to bid and then we have investors from Bangkok, Phuket and other areas who bid on the

"The motives for buying the properties range from those who simply buy the land and resell it to those who buy the land and develop it for real estate purposes," said K. Santhad.

He explained that Phuket's real estate market is continually active. "The PLED works counter-actively to the economy. If the economy is good, the number of seized properties falls, but when the economy is bad, the number increases.

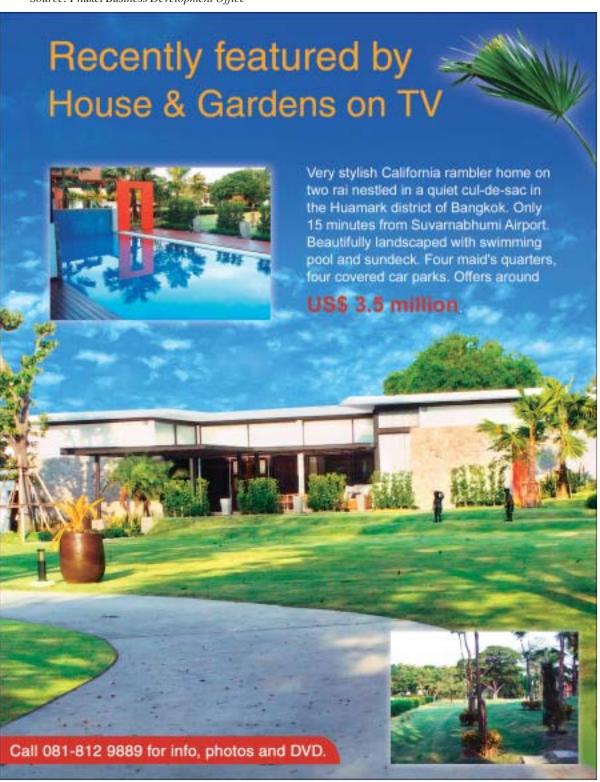
"The next two years will likely see more and more cases being filed as a result of recent downturns in the economy. Normally, once cases reach our department they have a duration of one to two years to go through the process of receiving a verdict to being sold to a bidder," said K. Santhad.

Asked how evident fraud is with the properties, he told the *Gazette*, "Not more than 1% of the cases show signs of fraudulent activity. However, as soon as we discover evidence [of fraud], the cases are immediately withdrawn.

"It is quite rare for us to address fraud in our auctions," he added.

VITAL STATISTICS: COMPANY REGISTRATIONS FALL					
	June '05	June '06	June '07		
Limited company registered	119	139	100		
Limited partnership registered	34	31	36		
Limited companies restructured	228	321	331		
Limited partnerships restructured	32	27	34		
Limited companies deregistered	15	9	19		
Limited partnerships deregistered	11	4	4		

Source: Phuket Business Development Office



Minx wins 'dry run' for Phuket Raceweek

ing crew Kevin and Mia Gillow, Mick Kealy and Rob Taylor, made the most of the Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) Keelboat and Multihull Race Series regatta on July 15, putting in a fine performance to win the Racing class.

Mike Downard and his crew on Tua Lek finished second, with Nils Dgenkopf on Phoenix finishing third.

The regatta, Race 8 in the series, was considered an unofficial preparation race for Phuket Raceweek, to be held in and around Chalong Bay from July 19 to 22. In light breezes, the fleet managed to complete the windward-leeward course before sporadic showers fell on the bay.

Ahead of Phuket Raceweek, which most local sailors consider Phuket's best regatta for race conditions, David Lindhal's La Samudra is now back in Chalong Bay and nearly all the Phuket-built Firefly 850 catamarans are on

CHALONG: Minx, with full rac- hard stands being prepared for the regatta.

However, Chris Jongerius decided his Firefly The Frog was fit to sail and won the Multihull class, ahead of Bob Brindley's X Cat Riot in second place.

In the Cruising class, John Fenn returned to form with a win on Four Winds, followed by visiting 60-foot yacht Millennium from Australia. Tony Kipps on Wild Orchid finished third.

The day sponsor was Phuket Island Property Services (PIPS), and the encouragement award was given to Minx, the crew's second for the season, to encourage *other* skippers to pay attention at the skippers' briefing.

The next ACYC race day will be on August 5. All are welcome to join regardless of sailing experience.

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

- Chris Husted

PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

PATONG: With just four weeks to go in the season, it is all for the Dog's Bollocks to lose after taking two points with a 7-2 win over Offshore

Dog's Bollocks had some help from a well-lubricated Piccadilly side, which beat Shakers 7-2 on the road before falling flat in the beer leg.

Meanwhile, Beach House moved into third place with a two-point win over Valhalla.

With the league table somewhat skewed by all the bye weeks, it should be noted that at the end of Week 14 the maximum number of points the teams still in contention for the title can attain is as follows: Dog's Bollocks 36; Shakers 31; Queen Mary 30; Beach House 27; Offshore 26.

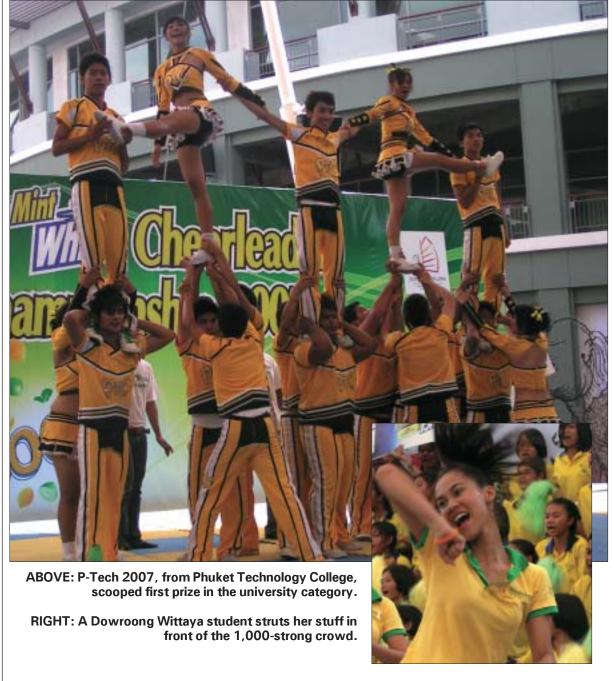
All other teams, including defending champs Piccadilly, have been mathematically elimi-

Send reports of high scores, high closes, obnoxious behavior, free feeds and so on to: darts@ phuketgazette.net

July 10 results: Shakers* 2 Piccadilly 7; Offshore* 2 Dog's Bollocks 7; Valhalla* 3 Beach House 6 (* = winner of beer leg).

Standings: 1. Dog's Bollocks (24 pts.); 2. Shakers (22); 3. Beach House (21); 4. Offshore (20); 5. Queen Mary (18); 6. Piccadilly (13); 7. Valhalla (7); 8. Simply Red (4).

July 24 matchups: Valhalla v Dog's Bollocks; Simply Red v Piccadilly; Offshore v Queen Mary.



Darlie dancers jive at Jungceylon

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PATONG: Cheerleading teams Rak and P-Tech 2007 danced their way to success at this year's regional Darlie Lemon Mint White Cheerleader Championship, organized by the Cheerleader Association of Thailand on

The competition was held at

Jungceylon shopping center, Patong, to select the top cheerleading teams to compete in the national finals to be held in Bangkok on July 28.

A 1,000-strong crowd watched the 12 teams bop it out in three categories – four in primary, three in university and five cheering teams of both age groups – each with a 20,000 baht top prize.

All teams were required to have a seated cheering section of 100-150 people while dancers performed their choreographed routines.

P-Tech 2007, from Phuket Technology College, scooped first prize in the university category, walking away with a trophy and the prize money. Chod Choy and Kawaii Girl took second and third places respectively.

Khan, dance off with the 20,000

baht purse and a trophy, leaving runners-up Viking and Confident trailing in second and third places respectively.

Prince of Songkla University, Phuket Campus (PSU) and Dowroong Wittaya School shared the honors in crowd cheering (cheering while seated on bleachers), pipping Phuket Wittayalai School and Phuket Technology College for the prize. Both PSU and Dowroong Wittaya received 20,000 baht, but they will not advance to Bangkok as there will be no crowd cheering category at the national finals.

Rak and P-Tech 2007 will now go on to face seven other teams in their respective categories at the national finals in Bangkok at MCC Hall, The Mall, Bang Kapi.

A trophy presented by HRH In the primary competition, Princess Siriwannawari Naria closely fought battle saw Rak, ratana and 100,000 baht in prize the only team not from Phuket money will be awarded to the and hailing from Prachuap Khiri winners of the primary and university competitions at the finals.





Americans new Tasar world champs

AO YON: Olympic sailor Jonathan McKee and his wife Libby Johnson-McKee of the US snagged the title of world's best during the G4S Tasar World Championships, held in Phuket July 2 to 11.

The nine-race championship ended with the reigning world champs, the Australian father and daughter team of Robert and Nichole Douglass, in second place by a slim margin of two points.

The Douglass team, in Chukkel, got off to a promising start and looked set to retain their title until they slipped in the final three races, eventually coming in with a total of 12 points. Third place went to Australians Brett Young and Kevin Kellow in Code Flag Z with 16 points. Fourth place went to Craig McPhee and Gillian Berry with 23 points. Fifth place went to Australians Paul Ridgway and Bronwyn Ridgway with 38 points.

The McKees, in West Coast Sailing, overcame a tough patch in the middle of the series with a penalty for a false start in race four and a disqualification from race six when adjudicators spotted more sail pumps than allowed. Despite this, they were still able to storm home to a great finish, clocking speeds in the region of

Australians took eight of the top 10 spots; Japanese competitors Mitsuru Komatsu and Masaru Ogawa were the only other non-Aussies. They claimed 8th place in Strawberry Shake with 57 points, while the highest placed Brits were Pete Ellis and Charlotte Birbeck, taking 21st place.

The only Thais to compete were Tom and Pierre Basquin sailing Funny Look'N. While the duo ranked 47th, they also received a special trophy for 'World Junior Helm.'

Other special trophies



Americans Olympic sailor Jonathan McKee and his wife Libby Johnson-McKee sail their way to victory in the G4S 2007 Tasar World Championships at Ao Yon.

Photographer: Philip Lawson (www.circumnav.net)

which went to Libby Johnson-McKee; 'First Female helm' to Heather MacFarlane from Australia; 'World Super Grand Master Champions' to Tony and Julie Creak from Australia: and 'World Grand Master Champions' to Paul and Bronwyn Ridgway, also from Australia.

handed out included 'First Lady,'

A total of 58 teams from eight different nations took part in this year's championship which set several precedents. It was the first championship in which the boats used a new type of sail and it is the first competition to be based at a hotel and managed solely by volunteers, without support from a local yacht club. It was also the first championship to end with no pro-

Overall, conditions were

near perfect in the sheltered waters of Cape Panwa with winds between 15 - 20 knots.

Organizers are confident that the smooth running and good time had by all in this year's competition and location will mean a return to the island by many of those involved and the definite possibility of similar events in the near future.

Chairman of the Organizing Committee, Jonathan Ross, and his team of Paul Ridgway and Alistair Murray were, "ecstatic at the end of the regatta in the way it all came together."

Their gamble of holding the G4S 2007 Tasar World Championships at a remote resort venue, without support from a local yacht club, had paid off beyond their hopes.

The benefits of all competi-

tors living in a compact resort setting with the sailing at their doorstep created an unprecedented level of camaraderie throughout the fleet, they said.

Race management under the guidance of experienced international race manager Kevin Wilson was, according to Jonathan Ross, "absolutely flawless".

Making up for the lack of a host yacht club, Robert Warnes, a noted Phuket sailor, assembled a team of local volunteers who played key roles throughout the regatta. "We couldn't have pulled it off without them," said Paul Ridgway.

World Tasar Council President George Motoyoshi closed the regatta by inviting all participants to compete in the 2009 Tasar World championships, to be held in Japan.

Surfers sign up for annual Kata contest

KATA: Surfers from around the surfers from South Africa, Sweworld will be looking to catch a wave off Kata Beach next month at the seventh annual Phuket Surfing Contest, organized by the Phuket Surfing Association and the Karon Surfing Association.

The competition, to be held from August 31 to September 2, will be an all-amateur event with 70,000 baht in prize money up for grabs in five divisions: long board, short board, body board, grommet and girls.

Some 120 surfers are expected to take part in the event, which organizers hope will promote tourism and generate support for young surfers in Phuket.

The competition has attracted international attention, with a contingent of 30 Japanese signed up to compete, along with den, Singapore, Australia, Malaysia and Thai hot shot Chalong Thong Suk, winner of the Kalim Surfing contest earlier this year.

Contests will take place from 8 am to 4 pm daily.

The deadline for registration is 9 am on August 31. Competitors can register online or at Kata Beach on August 31.

Entry for "international" surfers costs 400 baht in the long and short board divisions, and 300 baht in the other categories. Entry for Thai nationals costs 200 baht in any category.

For information about Phuket Surfing Contest 2007 visit on www.karoncity.com (Thai language only) or call Phuket Boardriders Club President K. Wanlop at 086-9521393.







The best time to consider installing energy-saving features is when the home is being built or, like the house pictured, when extensive renovations are being done.



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Keeping your cool

omeowners in Phuket tend to indulge in the benefits of air conditioning, with some homes having up to eight air-conditioning units all running at once. Yet there are many other effective ways to keep the home cool without having to pay enormous electricity bills.

Air conditioning is based on the principle that when liquids evaporate their molecules take up heat. When they condense, they release this heat. Much like the sweat on your body on a hot day, as the sweat evaporates your body cools – and by blowing on the sweat you can accelerate the cooling process.

In Bangkok, some townhouse owners continually pump water on their roof tiles to cool their houses.

Today in Phuket, we cannot and should not indulge in such luxury. However, there is much we can do to keep our homes cool.

Of course, methods are much more effective when considered early on, such as when designing a new home or renovating an existing one.

The majority of homes in Phuket are partly made of brick. Builders in Thailand tend to prefer eight-centimeter red clay brick. These would be better replaced with a more modern aerated concrete brick with better thermodynamic properties that keep the cool in and the heat out.

Superblock and Ytong are just two examples of brands available locally.

You should definitely consider a good thermal insulation under the roof, as heat penetrating through the roof into the home is one of the major factors resulting in higher home temperatures. Modern insulating materials available include polystyrene

tiles, fiberboard and insulating materials made of fiberglass and rock wool or polyurethane spray

Home

By Andy Ruthe

In addition, roof tiles should be selected in bright colors that better reflect heat, reducing energy absorption. An additional topcoat with a reflecting color will further increase thermal protection.

All these measures are more of the macroscopic kind, and only relatively recently have home product companies turned their attention to the "micro" level as another way to keep houses cool.

In my previous column (July 7 issue of the Gazette), I expounded the benefits of using KristalBond, which uses a nano-

> technology film to filter nearly all ultraviolet (UV) radiation and absorbs up to 90% of the infrared radiation that would otherwise enter the home through windows.

> KristalBond can lower the ambient temperatures in a home by 4°C to 5°C, thus reducing the need for air conditioning.

> > Another com-

pany now producing nanotechnology home products is Bioni, which makes paints that deflect UV rays. One liter of Bioni paint contains more than a million microscopically small glass spheres that reflect the sun's en-

Coating your property with Bioni paint can reduce indoor temperatures by 3°C to 4°C, further reducing energy costs.

With all these ways of keeping cool, my mind boggles as to why so many people want to keep the aircon on. Perhaps the ideas listed here will provide some inspiration to switch on the brain – and switch off the aircon.

But for those who insist, there have been many developments in air conditioning technology, such as the development of Advanced Absorption Cooling, that they should be aware of.

This environmentallyfriendly technology will be the focus in an upcoming article on how to use state-of-the-art technology to create a comfortable, healthy and cost-efficient home.

Andreas Ruthe is Managing

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Director of Technical Construction Material Asia Co Ltd (TCM Asia). He has lived in Phuket for five years and consults with hotels, developers and home owners in using modern construction materials to solve environmental problems and reduce costs. He can be contacted at ruthe@tcm-asia.com

Design by Semacote Suganya

Beckoning beacon to light up bypass road

new condominium project at the Tesco-Lotus intersection on the bypass road is set to inject life and color into the area thanks to the modern design work of architect Ekasak Homanek.

K. Ekasak is hoping that the tall column, which will have a beacon atop, reaching skyward from the center of the L-shaped development will become a landmark for the area.

When night falls and the column lights up, said K. Ekasak, the building's modern features will be illuminated. This, he said, will attract people's attention to The Royal Place, and inspire it to become a talking point.

The project was designed with focus on modern and relaxed living. The design work took a year and K. Ekasak believes the condos at The Royal Place will best suit office workers, expats, investors and other people looking for trendy, modern living quarters.

Anther modern aspect of the design is the rooftop features that minimize the building's block look, adding curves to the overall image so that the building's lines blend in with oscillating backdrop



The Royal Place's high-set beacon and rooftop features are expected to attract the attention of passersby while giving the development a modern look.

of the hills behind, said K. Ekasak.

In addition, green, tinted windows will let in sunlight while protecting from the heat of Thailand's hot climate, providing maximum comfort to residents.

The green glazing was chosen because it allows for more consistent temperature control.

Heat absorbing glazing can help residents save money on their energy bills, merging style with functionality.

Modern condo design is something that K. Ekasak wants to see more of in and around Phuket City, with residents enjoying access to city life nearby without a sense of confinement.

To achieve this, The Royal Place's lobby will be reminiscent of those found in upscale hotels with its spacious seating area. Residents at The Royal Place will also have access to a 10- by 20-meter swimming pool.

There will also be a fitness area, sauna, mini-mart, beauty salon and garden.

Further, the site of The Royal Place is diametrically opposite the Tesco-Lotus supercenter, a short distance from Central Festival and Big C, and within easy reach of Phuket City, a few minutes from Bangkok Hospital Phuket, and close to the routes to Phuket's main beaches and popular spots.

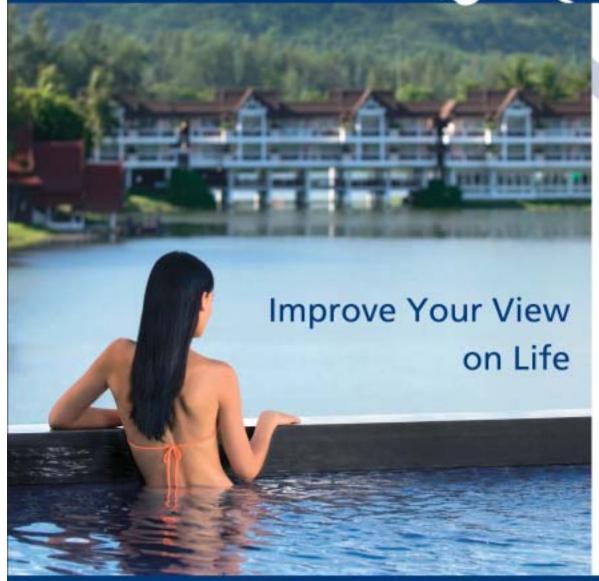
Also taking into consideration that having a smaller residence might appeal to elderly people, K. Ekasak included in his plans elements such as having the lift, which serves all seven floors, large enough to include a bed.

In the case of an emergency, an ambulance crew will be able to move a patient from his or her condo, through the building to a waiting ambulance without removing the patient from the bed.

Construction is due to begin in November for completion in February 2009. A second phase of development will add another L-shaped condominium to the 12 rai of land under development, while a third phase is still under consideration.

For more information visit www.theroyalplace.com

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Zolitude stands alone in Chalong

CHALONG: The 350-millionbaht boutique resort Villa Zolitude, set in the foothills of the Nakkerd range, is 95% complete and on schedule to open early next month.

The resort, being built by developer Maitree Resort Development Co Ltd, sits on 27 rai about one kilometer from Chao Fa West Rd. The project comprises 29 one-bedroom pool villas and one two-bedroom pool villa built on a jungle hillside overlooking Chalong Bay.

Villa Zolitude Managing Director Maitree Narukatpichai told the Gazette that the resort's main concept is to offer a tranquil hideaway for its guests.

"Our concept is to provide a relaxing hideaway resort with five-star hotel services. Our slogan is 'The New Latitude of



The villas, designed as 'safari-style' cottages, offer superb views from 60 meters above sea level.

Hideaway', which means we are small, intimate and hidden away in the hills," he said.

Each villa is designed in a blend of contemporary and "safari cottage" styles, with stylish interior decor featuring Northern Thai handcrafted artifacts and

Moroccan-style decorative items, said K. Maitree.

All the villas at Villa Zolitude are two-story, with the bedrooms on the second floor. Bathrooms, featuring terrazzo bathtubs, adjoin master bedrooms that include walk-in closets. Toilet and shower facilities are also on the second floor, while the main living area is on the ground floor. Outside each villa is a 21-squaremeter swimming pool, terrace and coffee bar.

"We wanted something different. We wanted pool villas harmoniously set in the hills and surrounded by jungle. The villas will give guests intimate privacy in which to truly relax in, which is different from anywhere else," said K. Maitree, who also developed and maintains a large stake in what is now the Hilton Phuket Arcadia, Phuket's largest resort

Villa Zolitude is divided into three zones. Villas are set higher up to the rear of the facilities area and have lush gardens between them. The spa and public-facilities area occupies about 3,000sqm, including lobby, restaurant, outdoor terraces, central pool with sun deck and library set central to the rest of the resort.

Designed by architect Chaowalit Thaivanich and built by Tananttong Co Ltd, the resort is bordered from behind by an unused rubber tree plantation.

K. Maitree explained that although the slope where resort is located at 60 meters above sea level is not overly steep, specially selected grass has been planted to ensure topsoil soaks up much of the heavy monsoon rains.

In addition, as many of the original trees as possible have been kept to keep the topsoil in

For runoff not soaked up by the plant life and topsoil, a system of storm drains has been installed to stop the built-up parts of the resort from becoming inundated.

"Our target guests are honeymooners and young executives. Although we have only 30 villas, we provide facilities for more guests, including an outdoor dinning area and an event area where we can seat about 200 guests. This allows us to accommodate conference groups.

"However, we will not target large groups, because we want to provide our guests with intimate and private relaxation," he said.

Villa Zolitude is located at 53/ 25 Moo 5, Soi Baan Nai Trok, Cha Fa West Rd in Chalong. Tel. 076-521333, Fax. 076-521330. Website: www.villazolitude.com

and spa.





Gardening by Bloomin' Bert

was never meant to be a father. Dads are just so... paternal, strangely enough. I really don't know how they do it. I've seen blokes who have spent every evening down the pub getting blathered with their mates go completely gooey when they sire a child. It's weird. I won't even mention the nappies.

A scarily accurate Dutch TV advert makes its point very well. It featured a horrid child who stares up at his father in the supermarket and declares, "I want those sweeties." No reaction from Dad, much to the child's ire. "I WANT THOSE SWEET-IES!" he screams.

Still a stony-faced deadpan silence from the father, which leads the child to make his point a little more physically. He starts tearing up the place, pulling boxes off shelves and frozen meat from the freezer, with other shoppers looking on in dismay.

The child ends up on his back on the floor, kicking and screaming at the top of his lungs. This child is every father's worst nightmare. The caption at the end was perfect: "Use condoms." The ad's at www.wimp.com/kids/ by the way.

Unfortunately, it's close to impossible to leave your house without being assaulted, both visually and aurally, by these young creatures. For some reason they feel the uncontrollable urge to emit loud, high pitched noises for no reason.

I have to say that Thai kids are little angels, but Western children come equipped with an almost constant barrage of questions. When their own parents get sick of answering, the children turn to the nearest unsuspecting individual and continue with the interrogation.

There are people who will try to tell you that this is cute. They say that the child is just curious and that's how he or she learns. Twaddle. This kind of thing is irritating in the extreme. Parents – please attach a piece of string to some part of their anatomy and give it a bit of a tug occasionally. Please.

Fundamentally, there is one reason why I'm not the world's biggest fan of children: they are very noisy.

What we need is a way to calm them down a bit. This may seem far fetched, but why not give them some gardening to do? Any child expressing even a slight interest in plants should be encouraged to go for it. It's a great way to keep them occupied quietly, and if you can palm off some of the donkey work on them, then so much the better. Don't wait for them to ask you if they can help – reel them in.

There's no point in ordering them to help though, they only get the hump (upset) and it becomes a chore.

Unfortunately a child's attention span is even shorter than a gardening columnist's after a night on the beer. Find fairly simple tasks for them which they

Good gardening is child's play



The "mini banana plant" is ideal for a child's first garden.

can successfully accomplish in a short period of time. If they decide that it's time to take a break and want to go and chase a millipede for a while, let them; they'll get back to their gardening soon

You may as well start with the basics; the soil, where gardening begins. They have a head start in this department as, unlike us larger folk, they're quite content to be up to their necks in

Why not kick off with some mud pies, with a commentary. "Put three scoops of that nice black garden soil from our garden, into the wheelbarrow, then one scoop of that peaty stuff from the white bag, and a scoop of sand, because this plant doesn't like very much water, and the sand will help the water drain away..." You get the idea - as long as it's messy.

Raking is another part of gardening that a child can do. Using their own kid-size rakes, they can get to leaves and other debris that is sometimes difficult for us "larger" people to get to.

Ask them if they would mind helping you out with the raking, while you are doing something far more important in the garden. Supervising from the comfort of a sun bed in the shade while sipping a cold beer is strongly sug-

I vividly remember my dad giving me a tiny plot in the middle of our back garden in Yorkshire when I was a tiny Bert. If you have the space, you may want to do the same – establish a special garden bed just for junior. You could plant something to get them going, or you could do what my father did – hand it over and leave it to me. It looked terrible of course, but at least it was mine.

The Coleus is a perfect plant for starters; a fast-growing annual that produces a rainbow of colored foliage from the moment it begins growing. There's such a wide variety of colors that even the fussiest kids will find his or her favorite somewhere on the

Coleus are easily started

and grown from seed, either in the garden or as a house plant.

Although a Coleus produces a stalk of tiny blue flowers, the plant will last longer if the spikes are pinched off. You'll probably need to explain that it is better and healthier for the plant if the flowers are removed. He probably won't believe you, but tough.

This is a perfect species for a youngster to learn how to pinch or disbud a plant, because it is next to impossible for them to harm this almost indestructible plant. Later on you can move on to plant

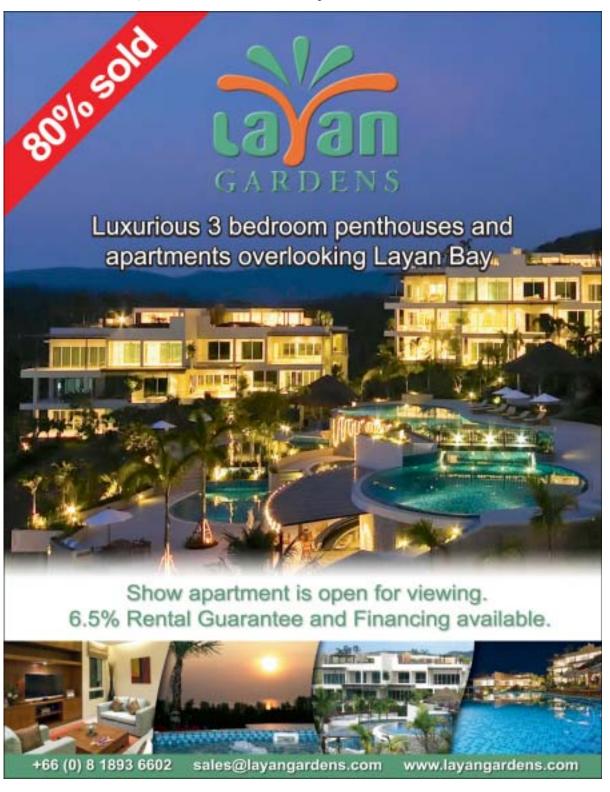
propagation with them, showing them how to take cuttings to creating clones of the original.

The coleus is only one of many though. Morning glory, mandevilla and peas can be strung up along bamboo frames; all grow very quickly. Those "mini" banana trees are fun, and sunflowers are always good at keeping them involved – especially when they realize that the plants are likely to be taller than they are.

The only thing to bear in mind as you wander aimlessly around the garden center on Saturday morning with Junior in tow is that the plant shouldn't be in any way toxic. Many are, so I would check with the old bloke who will inevitably appear out of nowhere before you part with your cash.

When you get home, just give them a few square meters in a forgotten corner of the garden and leave them to it. Anything to keep them quiet. You can then go off and do something more important. Enjoy your beer - cheers.

Want advice on your garden? Email Bloomin' Bert at: bert@bloominbert.com



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KARON LAND FOR SALE



15 million baht per rai, Chanote, hillside, panoramic sea view, quiet area. Please contact for additional information. Tel: 081-5597456. Email: se_rim@hotmail.com

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2 stories, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, near UOB bank on Phuket Road, 25m from main road. Price: 2.2 million baht. Tel: 084-0577505.

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building. 2 bathrooms. Price: 4 million baht. Tel: 086-7432011.

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Rawai Beach area. 60sqm apartment in Rawai Beach. Big living room with sea view. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, big balcony, aircon. Price: 1.8 million baht. Call Tel: +66-081-9685963. Email: m@bayproject.com Please visit our website: www.bayproject.com/invest/index.htm

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for sale. 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, lounge, dining room, big kitchen, corner house. Firm price: 1.55 million baht. Tel: 085-4733409.

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Loacted on 1 rai of land in Kamala. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, very quiet residential area, 110 sqm. Price: 8.9 million baht. Tel: 081-6697814, 086-9426699.

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Beautiful new 1-bedroom apartment on 5th floor overlooking Kata Beach. 5-star hotel service including pool, gym and International bistro. Was 5.9 million baht, now reduced to 4.9 million baht. Tel: 084-0639223, 081-7888280.

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3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 1-story, fully furnished, new modern house on private road in Kathu. Electric gate, nice walled garden, large terrace, private parking, telephone and Internet. Price: 6.2 million baht or nearest offer. Must sell due to move to Bangkok. Call Tel: 087-3865200.

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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.

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LUXURY VILLA AT KATA HILL

Set in the exclusive gated estate of Beverly Hills, this villa comes with a pool, 3-5 bedrooms, modern Westernstyle kitchen, etc. Show house is now open. Only one villa left with completion due in September. Price: 15 million baht. Contact Tel: 084-0639223, 081-7888280.

TWO 5-STAR VILLAS

Located directly on Rawai Beach. Price: 32.6 million baht. Kamala area location: 20 million baht. For details, email: docucolums @hotmail.com





BEAUTIFUL NAI YANG LAND



for sale, 5 mins to Phuket airport, close to the beach, 10 rai. 120 million baht. Must see. Tel: 089-7727012. Email: gyb giff@hotmail.com

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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

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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

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LAND FOR SALE



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1-bedroom modern apartment. Tel: 084-8473304. For further details, please visit our website at http://www.selectphuket.com

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LAND OPPOSITE LOCH PALM

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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.

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Waterfront location, central Karon Beach. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 167sqm corner unit with seaview on the 9th floor, unit #9D. 12.6 million baht, Tel: 081-4084991.

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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.

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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

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KAMALA LAND PLOTS

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RAWAI BEACH VILLA

Pool, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, UBC, ADSL. Price: 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

BEACHFRONT HOUSE

For rent. 1-4 bedrooms. Contact for specific details. Tel: 076-381181, 076-381189.

RAWAI BEACH STUDIO

Furnished, kitchen, aircon, UBC, ADSL. 4,500 baht per month. Contact K. Noki at Tel: 086-9408914.

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. Tel: 084-4454614.

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

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Beachfront apartment. Rare duplex, 2 bedrooms, 2 balconies, sea view, pool, parking, fully furnished, separate storeroom. Rent: 50,000 baht per month. Tel: 852-90333379. Fax: 852-28653966. Email: cmcgee@netvigator.com

PATONG APARTMENT

300m to the beach, clean, modern decor, aircon, fridge, double bed, pool, parking. Tel: 081-0825707. Visit our website: www.phuketaccommodation.info

PATONG APARTMENT

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, UBC, ADSL, swimming pool, quiet location, sea and hill views. Price: 20,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-2790837.

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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.

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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. Great location. Please contact for additional information and pricing. Tel: 081-5379878, 089-7298472. Email: suwittrai@ hotmail.com

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Furnished, 2-bedroom home for rent with telephone, UBC, and aircon. Please contact for details and pricing information. Tel: 089-6521473.

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Kathu area, 3-bedroom house in gated development. Very spacious, lounge, kitchen, 2 bathrooms with 1 en-suite, hot water, aircon, ADSL, UBC, nice garden. Price: 25,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 085-2999435.

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PATONG HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 toilet, living, dining, kitchen, garage, garden, aircon, furnished, Internet, cable TV. Price: 40,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-0927697. Email: matklang@hotmail.com

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3 bedrooms, swimming pool, 2 levels, big living room, parking for 2 cars. Contact Tel: 084-8516121.

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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.

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3 bedrooms, 400sqm, garden and lap pool, golf course views. Price: 85,000 baht per month. Contact K. Amber. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-2001681. Email: aabsxx88@truemail.co.th

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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

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KARON BUILDING PLOT

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for rent. Guesthouse or room for open restaurant only. Patong beach road and center Patong. Tel: 084-8448353.

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I'm looking for a house in a quiet location with Internet access in Kata, Karon, Nai Thon or Nai Yang. Needed from December 2007 until March 2008. Maximum payment per month: 30,000 baht. Please contact me with details and photos. Email: pekfpe@ yahoo.dk

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Retired British couple presently living in Phuket require a 2- to 3-bedroom spacious villa or apartment in a secure environment with pool. Internet and cable required. Must be of high standard and well presented. Your property will be very well taken care of! Contact via email: phuket graham@yahoo.co.uk

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wanted May-Oct. Patong or Karon. Furnished, cable preferred. Contact via email: phapts@yahoo.com

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Phuket City area. I need 5 rai of land in Phuket City. Please contact for more information. Tel: 083-3888028. Email: phuketrattan@gmail.com

PATONG TOWER

condo with a sea view. Keen buyer. Please contact if you have one available for sale. Contact for more information. Tel: 084-4471978. Email: diggerresort@hotmail.com

TOWNHOUSE WANTED FOR RENT

In need of townhouse located in Patong (will also consider Kata or Karon only). August-October inclusive (3 months). Would prefer a secure estate, mid-range property such as Baan Benjamas. Aircon, UBC and carpark are all essential. Please contact for more details via email: karlh@labyrinth.net.au

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Need land, 1-20 rai, with nice hill or sea view near Sarasin Bridge at a reasonable price. Tel: 081-3723402. Email: mitiqbal@yahoo.com

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PATONG LUXURY

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Ground-floor, hot shower, quiet location near beach, very low price. Contact Tel: 076-342-280, 081-9781956. Email: palm@phuket.ksc.co.th

PATONG

near Bangla road. Apartment with large bedroom, furnished, 600m from the beach. Price: 1,500 baht per day. Contact Peter at Tel: 087-8817600.

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Private villa, quiet area, garden terrace, 2 bedrooms, air conditioning, sat TV. Price: 260 to 360 euros per week. Email: dream nis@yahoo.com

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Low season, long-stay promotion, pool, spa, free Wi-Fi. 18,000 baht per month. Contact for more information at Tel: 081-8920038.

KARON BEACH **BUNGALOW**

Kata and Karon bungalows and apartments still available for low-season prices. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-333242, 089-651 7818. Fax: 076-333243. Email: horstkaron@yahoo.com For more details, visit our website: www.capt-horst.com

BEACHFRONT HOTEL

Low season, long-stay promotion, pool, spa, free Wi-Fi, 18,000 baht per month. Call Tel: 081-8920038.

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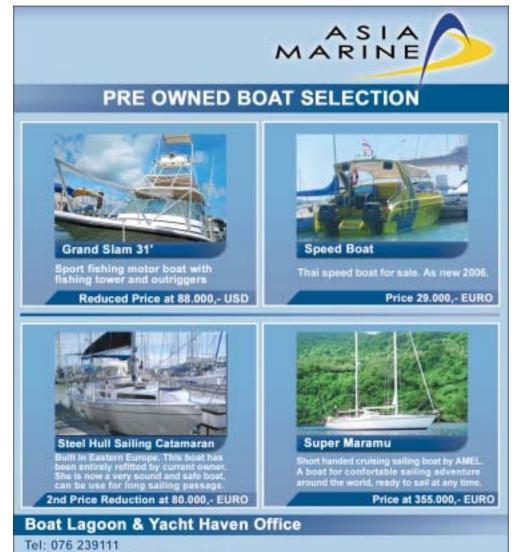
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Required for a New Charitable Initiative In Phuket

The Phuket Community Foundation is looking for a full-time person to run its operations in Phuket City.

The PCF will be officially launched in August with the aim of raising and distributing funds for worthwhile projects in the following areas: Poverty alleviation; Education (of both children and adults); Art and Culture; Architectural and Historical Heritage; Public Safety; Public Health; The Environment.

The Board expects that the PCF's work will expand rapidly, and will hire more staff to cope with this expansion. To start with, however, we need a real go-getter who can help to ensure that the PCF's assets and donations grow rapidly and that worthwhile projects are targeted and implemented with minimum waste and the maximum effect.

The ideal candidate will be:

- A Thai citizen:
- Fluent in Thai and English (spoken and written);
- Aged 30 to 45;
- An energetic self-starter,
- Full of ideas;
- Able to work independently;
- Not afraid of taking responsibility;

The post will carry a salary commensurate with the successful applicant's experience and reflecting the hard work and responsibility that will be required of him or her.

Specific responsibilities will include:

- Working with the Board of the Phuket Community Foundation to ensure timely implementation of the board's policies and decisions;
- Providing overall direction, coordination and implementation of the Foundation's fundraising activities, and independently identifying new sources of donations;
- Representing and serving as spokesperson for the foundation to the general public and other organizations or entities;
- Making suggestions to the Board for the making of grants, and ensuring timely, transparent implementation of projects for which grants are approved;
- Developing and managing budgets, taking day-to-day responsibility for financial management;
- Overseeing all PCF staffing and administrative functions.

Details of the post will be explained to those called for interview.

Applications, in English and including resumé, scans of ID card and education certificates, and the names of two relevant referees should be submitted by email to: Alasdair.phuket@yahoo.com



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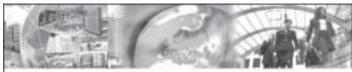
For more information please contact 076 238711-20 ext. 1205 or e-mail: chamaipornt@bcis.ac.th



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- 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

3. HR Officer (2 positions)

- · 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

5. Department Secretary (2 positions)

- Female, age over 28 yrs
- BA in Secretarial or related fields
- · At least 3 yrs experience in secretarial work

2. Estate Manager / Assistant Estate Manager (4 positions

- 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

4. Receptionist (2 positions)

- · Female, age over 22 yrs
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- 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

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

Island Job Mart

Phuket Branch

All positions offer an attractive salary and benefits. Applicants are invited to apply in writing stating current salary and expected salary with a full CV including a current photo.

Send to:

JO SWAIN

SALES DEPARTMENT sales@lersuang.com



123/1-5 M. 5 Bangtao Place T. Cherngtalay, A. Thalang Phuket 83110 Thailand

Tel: 076 326 160 Fax: 076 326 162 Email: sales@lersuang.com

DIRECT SALES MANAGER (1POSITION)

- Male or Female
- At least 4-5 years in a management position within a sales environment essential
- The ability to work under pressure to achieve monthly sales targets
- Fluent in written and spoken English, the ability to speak
 Thai is an advantage
- Foreigner or Thai National
- Immediate start

MARKETING MANAGER (1 POSITION)

- Male or Female
- Bachelor degree or higher
- 3-4 years experience within a marketing dept preferred
- Knowledge of print and production process essential
- Excellent communication skills
- Fluent in both written and spoken English

SALES MANAGER - INTERNATIONAL AGENCY (1 POSITION)

- Male or Female
- Bachelor degree or higher
- At least 3 years experience within a sales management position
- Good communication skills and highly organised
- Over sea travel required
- Thai or Foreign national
- · Fluent in both written and spoken English

DIRECT SALES EXECUTIVE (8 POSITIONS)

- Male or Female
- Thai national
- Bachelor degree or higher
- 2 years experience within a sales dept preferred preferably within the property sector
- Knowledge of MS office and internet
- Fluent in both written and spoken English

SALES EXECUTIVE - THAILAND (1 POSITION)

- Male or Female
- Thai national
- Bachelor degree or higher
- 2 years experience within a sales dept preferred preferably within the property sector
- Knowledge of MS office and internet
- Fluent in both written and spoken English
- Current Thai driving licence preferred

Island Job Mart



www.banyantreeresidences.com

Banyan Tree Residences is currently looking to recruit a Sales & Marketing Manager to work for one of the leading developers of luxury residential properties in Thailand

SALES & MARKETING MANAGER

1 POSITION

(Russian and English Speaking)

- College Diploma or higher required
- Excellent command of both spoken and written English and Russian
- · Must have previous Sales & Marketing experience
- · Self-motivated and enthusiastic
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- Flexible working hours
- Phuket based

We offer attractive remuneration packages and the opportunity for career growth.

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> Group of Human Resources Department Laguna Resorts & Hotels Public Co., Ltd.

390/1 Moo 1, Srisoontom Road, Cherngtalay, Thalang, Phuket 83110, Thailand Tel: (66-76) 271298, 271 778 Ext. 2, Fax: (66-76) 271718

Email:rungnapac@lagunaphuket.com

Laguna

www.lagunaphuket.com

The largest hotel and resort group in Phuket, and a listed company on the Stock Exchange of Thailand, is currently seeking qualified candidates for the below listed positions:

E-MARKETING MANAGER

1 POSITION

- Bachelor's degree in Marketing or Computer Science or related field
- Excellent English language and computer skills essential
- 3-5 years experience in web site development and management and/or e-commerce/marketing preferably in hotel or tourism industry
- Experience in HTML, JavaScript and other web programming languages
- Skilled in Search Engine Optimisation
- Copy writing, proof reading/editing or publishing experience desirable
- Able to relocate to Phuket

We offer attractive remuneration packages and the opportunity for career growth.

Applicants are invited to apply in person at the Laguna Resorts & Hotels office, or send your detailed English resume stating current and expected salary together with a recent photo to:

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Laguna

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AIRPORT HOSPITALITY CENTRE OFFICER

- Female, Thai Nationality
- Bachelor degree or higher
- A minimum of 1 year experience in hotel business, service industry or related field
- Service minded, good personality, self motivated, and accountable
- Good command of spoken & written English and computer literate
- Able to work in shift and during holidays
- Able to relocate to Phuket

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Group of Human Resources Department Laguna Resorts & Hotels Public Co., Ltd.

Laguna Hesoris & Hotels Public Co., Ltd. 390/1 Moo 1, Srisoontorn Road, Cherngtalay, Thalang, Phuket 83110, Thailand Tel: (66-76) 271298-299, 271 778 Ext. 2 Fax: (66-76) 271718, Email: rungnapac@lagunaphuket.com

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- Male, Thai or Foreigner application is acceptable.
- Experience in running construction site; minimum 5 years'
- Organizational Skill
- Good English
- Neat Appearance
- Must have own transport
- Good package offered

Please send resumé or contact to email: info@stoneymonday.com, Tel: 076 296321

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

Administration Assistant

The successful candidate will be a Thai national with an outgoing personality. Also essential are experience in sales and/or administration, a good command of written and spoken English, good management and organizational skills, and knowledge of PageMaker and Office software.

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 by email to editor@phuketgazette.net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

367/2 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang, Phuket 83000

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Tout, Trader & Trumpet

SALES PERSONS

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CPD license is a must. Monthly financial statements report with accuracy as well as on a timely basis. Ensure accuracy of accounts receivable, accounts payable and stock control. All taxation reporting. QuickBooks knowledge is a plus. Tel: 076-239-111,081-9583095. Fax: 076-238974. Email: suporn@asiamarine.net

ACCOUNTANT

needed for firm. Accounting firm is looking for a person with a Bachelor's degree in accounting and a good command of English. Tel: 076-262105, 081-9786144. Send email: supotpac@phuket.ksc.co.th

URGENTLY NEEDED

We are looking for a lady, age 20-35 years old, for a beauty salon, massage and spa. For details, please contact Marcelle at Tel: 089-0175706. Send resume via email: marcellep@mail.com

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with at least 3 years' experience in construction. Must speak good English and be competent in AutoCAD. Email: robin@avcphuket.com

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secretary wanted for wellestablished company. Must speak good English. Salary based on experience. Email: robin@avcphuket.com

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reservations. Due to our rapid expansion, we're looking for a team player for our operation at Phuket International Airport. Male/female, Thai national, experience in reservations or operations will be an advantage. Require young and dynamic person with pleasant ersonality and service-oriented mind. Proficiency in English communication skills and standard knowledge of computer. Interested candidates, please send CV to: hrda@destinationair.com

Employment Wanted

FOREIGN GM

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Articles for Sale

FURNITURE AND SATELLITE

Electrolux refrigerator, sofa with modern fauteuil, Dynasat F1 satellite receiver, garden set with glasstop table and armchairs. English, German, Dutch and Spanish. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-2997975.

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UBC port only, includes LG DVD player. 12,500 baht. Please contact K. Ken at Tel: 081-7474984.

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46" TV projector: 26,000 baht. Laptop computer: 13,000 baht. Nokia 8800: 13,000 baht. For more details on each item, contact Tel: 081-2945441.

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Phillips, perfect condition, looks great. Price: 40,000 baht. Contact Khun Leons. Tel: 086-2839806.

Bulletins

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For info on other Thailand AA meetings inquire at Tel: 02-2318300 (for Thai language press 3) www.asthailand.org or email info@aathailand.org

PIWC GALA BALL

The Phuket International Women's Club announces the most prestigous event this year - the annual Gala Ball on Saturday, November 24th at the Indigo Pearl in Naı Yang Beach. Watch for more details. Tickets will be in great demand. Contact Carol at Tel: 087-4178860, email: carol@aplusplus software.com or Sue at Tel: 087-2776948, email: arnulphy@loxinfo.co.th

PHUKET HOME **MAINTENANCE**

Closed for staff holiday in July. Return to work as normal in August. Email: phukethomemaintenance@ /ahoo.com

Business Opportunities

NEW ULTRA-MODERN CLUB

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BUSINESS FOR SALE IN PATONG

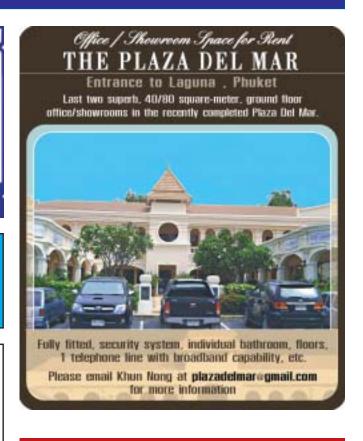
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VOLVO 740 GLE **LIMOUSINE**

1990, perfect car, 200hp, engine runs great, automatic, 139,000 baht. Contact for more information. Tel: 068-9488139. Email: jefdejong @hotmail.com

PEUGEOT 206CC



Red, 2004. Great buy! Price: 1.1 million baht. Contact Pam at Tel: 081-8105559.

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New condition, 5,000km, special model, unwanted gift, take over payments. Call Tel: 084-0548122.

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92 TOYOTA CORONA GL

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Open cab, blue, 12,000km, first owner, perfect condition, CD/VCD, TV. Price: 350,000 baht ono. Tel: 081-5395948.

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NISSAN NV 1995

pickup. 140,000km, blue color. Price: 150,000 baht. New engine. Please contact for details. Tel: 081-4151875, 084-6032361.

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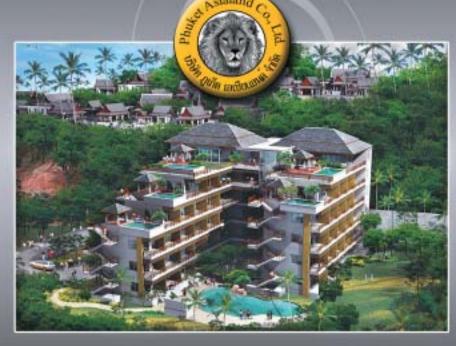






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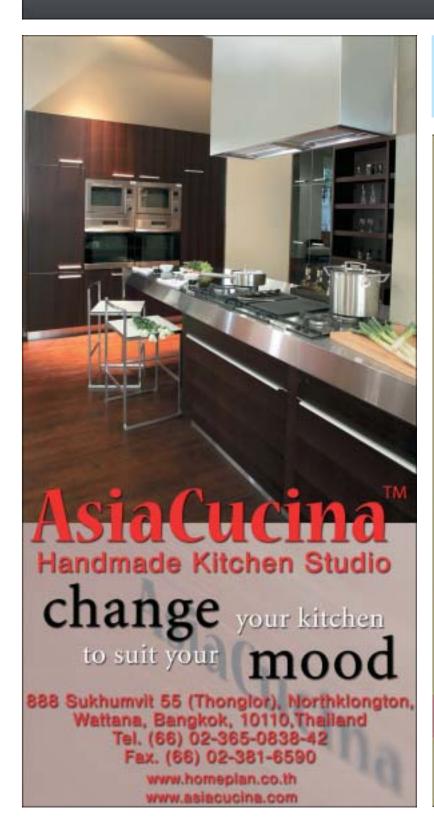
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