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Ten vendors' shops were destroyed when a fire broke out along the beach road in Patong in the early hours of September 3.

Blaze devastates Patong shophouses

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

PATONG: A shophouse fire along the beach road in Patong gutted 10 small vendors' shops before dawn September 3. It was the third such blaze in 15 months.

No injuries were reported. Kathu Police Superintendent Pol Col Grissak Songmoon-nark told the *Gazette* that the fire broke out about 5 am inside a shophouse between the Holiday Inn Resort and Soi Kebsab.

Firefighters from Patong and Karon municipalities took about 90 minutes to extinguish the blaze.

As with previous fires along the beach road, firefighters' efforts were hampered by dangling electric wires that limited their access to the flames and

caused a risk of electrocution until the power could be shut off.

It was still too early to assess the total damage, said Col Grissak. Among the tourist-oriented goods destroyed in the conflagration were clothes, watches, eyeglasses and other souvenirs, he added.

Noting the similarity between this blaze and two fires that broke out in June and November last year, Col Grissak said police were collecting evidence to determine the cause and whether the fires are related.

While arson has yet to be ruled out, Col Grissak said it was more likely that low-quality electrical work was the cause of the fire. When setting up new businesses, many people in Patong tap into old transformers and pay little regard to safety, he said.

The fact that it seemed nobody was present when the fire started might make it difficult to pin down the exact cause, he added.

Col Grissak said he would also investigate the possibility of insurance fraud or other motives.

Police were awaiting reports of assessed damages from the shop owners, who were not identified, he added.

Asked whether any progress had been made in the cases of the two blazes in 2006, Col Grissak said investigators were still awaiting results from a police forensics lab.

On June 14, 2006, four shophouses on the corner of Thaweewong Rd and Soi Phempong Phattana 2, just south of Banthai Beach Resort, were

Continued on page 2

OrBorJor to revamp Phaya Thai Hospital

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

PHUKET CITY: The long abandoned Phayathai Hospital building is due a major makeover with the confirmation by press release that the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) last month completed its 327-million-baht purchase of the site from Thai Asset Management Corporation.

After surveying the hospital building and its facilities, located on 14 rai of land, it was announced that *OrBorJor* will spend about one year making improvements. Medical services are expected to begin in the second half of 2008.

The private hospital will accommodate about 200 beds and offer services similar to those of other private hospitals, but at reduced prices. The site of the hospital, on at Sri Sena Rd in Phuket City, has sat unused for the past seven years.

The move comes in response to Phuket's ever-increasing population, which officially stands at 324,891 people. However, that figure is thought to be only about half the number of Thais living and working in the province, according to a recent estimate by the Ministry of Interior.

Government hospitals in Phuket are struggling to cope with the number of people requiring treatment, in large part because the island's tourist-oriented private hospitals are too expensive for many islanders; *OrBorJor* President Anchalee Vanich Tephabuttra hopes that Phayathai Hospital will bridge the gap in the market by offering locals affordable, private health care.

From page 1

Fire guts shophouses

damaged by a fire that broke out about 2 am and took two hours to extinguish.

Five months later, at about 4 am on November 16, another fire broke out in a row of shops, also near the Holiday Inn Resort. The two-hour blaze destroyed eight vendors' stalls and caused an estimated 10-million baht in damages before firefighters could put it out.

In all three cases, live electrical wires hanging from power poles between the shops and the road caused problems for firefighters. The presence of so many dangling cables along the beach road has long been a source of complaint from tourists and local shop-owners alike.

Patong Municipality had requested that the cables be installed underground as part of the Tourism Authority of Thailand's post-tsunami redevelopment plan for the area, but the request was denied.

Half of Phuket's population still unregistered

PHUKET: Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit's campaign to encourage people to register themselves as citizens of the island resulted in some success this month, with Phuket's official population increasing by 1,231 to 324,891 people between July 21 and August 20.

Launched last year, the campaign aims to increase the number of Thais whose names appear on household registration forms.

Muang District saw the biggest leap with a net increase of 811 registrations, including 109 births against just 43 deaths. Net increases were also recorded in Thalang (268) and Kathu (152) over the reporting period.

Gov Niran recently told the *Gazette* that statistics revealed that the number of unregistered residents living in Phuket is around 323,600 – that about half the Thais living in Phuket are registered in other provinces.

Rains fail to deter 'turtle' lovers

PHUKET CITY: The incessant rain on August 29 did not stop Phuket City's ethnic Chinese from turning out en masse to pay their respects to the dead on the first day of the annual "Por Tor" festival.

The festival, officially opened by Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit, saw hundreds lighting joss sticks and offering cakes in the shapes of turtles, the Chinese symbol of longevity, throughout the afternoon.

Stalls selling food, snacks and handicrafts were set up along the road, many with turtle cakes on display. The turtle cakes are not for sale, though many are given away as a way to make merit.

The festival was held between Suriyadej Circle and Jui Tui Shrine on Ranong Rd which had been closed to traffic.

The festival concluded on August 31 with a ceremony at Bang Niow Shrine on Phuket Rd, just south of Ong Sim Phai Rd.



OrBorTor elections set for October 7

By Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

PHUKET: The four-year terms of eight tambon administration organizations (*OrBorTor*) in Phuket ended August 29, with elections to replace them to be held on October 7, Phuket Election Commission (PEC) Director Supap Akkam has told the *Gazette*.

Would-be representatives in the eight constituencies will be given from September 4 to 8 to register their candidacies with the Phuket Election Commission (PEC).

Polling in three other *OrBorTor* whose terms also ended yesterday – Rawai, Rassada and Wichit – will be postponed, probably until the end of October, K. Supap said.

The Ministry of Interior (MoI), which has elevated all three *OrBorTor* to *tessabaan tambon* (municipality) status, needs more time to redraw constituency maps for those *OrBor-*

Tor before elections can be held.

The MoI announced on August 22 that the three *OrBorTor* would be elevated to municipality status effective on August 30, K. Supap said.

The PEC is prepared for the October 7 elections, which will involve 62,227 registered voters casting ballots for 60 representatives, he added.

A breakdown of council size and number of eligible voters was given as follows:

Chalong *OrBorTor*: 10 councilors, 12,769 registered voters;

Cherng Talay *OrBorTor*: 6 councilors, 7,500 voters;

Kamala *OrBorTor*: 6 councilors, 3,647 voters;

Koh Kaew *OrBorTor*: 7 councilors, 6,535 voters;

Mai Khao *OrBorTor*: 7 councilors, 9,100 voters;

Sakoo *OrBorTor*: 5 councilors, 3,500 voters;

Srisoonthorn *OrBorTor*: 8 councilors, 10,076 voters;

Thepkrasattri *OrBorTor*: 11

councilors, 9,100 voters.

In other election news released by the PEC, 2008 will see a number of other elections for other elected local bodies whose terms are set to expire during the year:

Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*): term ends March 13, elections must be held on or before April 27.

Phuket City Municipality (*tessabaan nakhon* Phuket): term ends April 4, elections must be held on or before May 18.

Karon Municipality (*tessabaan tambon* Karon): term ends May 1, elections must be held on or before June 15.

Patong Municipality (*tessabaan muang* Patong): term ends June 19, elections must be held on or before August 3.

Kathu Municipality (*tessabaan tambon* Kathu): term ends July 17, elections must be held on or before August 31.

Pa Khlok *OrBorTor*: term ends July 24, elections must be held on or before September 7.

The PEC will be responsible for organizing polling in Phuket for the national general election, set for December 23 this year.

Disabled man beaten to death

KOH KAEW: Police are seeking two men wanted in connection with the murder of a disabled man on Thepkrasattri Rd about 8:30 pm September 2.

Phuket City Police Duty Officer Pol Lt Theeradet Jiraksa identified the victim as Somchai Mingpijaan, 23, an employee of the Michelin tire store on the by-pass road.

One eyewitness told police that four or five men were seen drinking beer at a small table opposite the Isuzu showroom.

Police were unsure whether K. Somchai was among them.

An argument later broke out and two men left the group on a motorbike. They returned later and hurled a beer bottle at K. Somchai, then set upon him, beating him with heavy objects, the witness told police.

K. Somchai, who had the use of only one leg, was unable to flee, Lt Theeradet said.

Police arrived about 20 minutes to find K. Somchai alive but unconscious amid scattered beer bottles. His head was bleeding and he had bruised arms. He was rushed to Vachira Phuket Hospital, but died on the way.

Police still do not know the exact cause of death or what triggered the beating.

– Sompratch Saowakhon

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Agreement reached over illegal Korean guides

By Semacote Suganya

PHUKET: Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit, representatives of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Southern Region 4 office and representatives of Korean tour operators on September 4 agreed on the conditions to be included in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will ensure that Korean tour operators hire Thai guides.

Signatures to the MOU will be Governor Niran, TAT Southern Region 4 office Director Suwalai Pinprabap, Kim Tae Woen, Phuket Tourist Association President Maitree Narukatpichai,

Promchote Traivate of the Phuket Office of Sports and Recreation Development, Phuket Professional Guide Association President Panompol Thummachartaiyom and Chairman of Phuket Chamber of Commerce Pamuke Atchariyachai.

It was agreed to sign the MOU on September 19.

Kim Tae Woen, Chairman of the Korean Association in Phuket and the Korean Consul in Phuket, in his role as representative of the 54 Korean tour operators in Phuket, today verbally agreed to the following conditions:

1. Korean tour operators will hire Thai guides within 15 days of them passing the Korean-language test (set by the provincial government); with standard remuneration and work conditions and employing them to conduct "Full Tour" work as per TAT standard.

2. Thai guides already working for Korean tour operators must sit the Korean language test.

3. Korean tour operators have the right not to hire Thai



South Korean Ambassador Han Tae-Kyu (left) and Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit amicably discuss the problem of Koreans working illegally as tour guides in Phuket.

guides who do not pass the language test or have the appropriate qualifications.

4. Korean tour operators will allow provincial officers to check whether Thai guides working for the operators are doing the work of guides and to appropriate standards. Korean tour operators also agree to develop their Thai guides' Korean-language skills through internal and external training.

5. Thai guides must pass the Korean-language test every three months to maintain their employment with Korean tour operators.

6. Korean tour operators agree to improve the quality of their tours through delivery of useful cultural information to the tourist and to promote the good image of the province.

In addition, it was agreed that the Thai guides who are qualified to work Korean tours be issued "silver" guide licenses to

identify them as official Korean-speaking guides.

To be issued the license, Thai guides must pass a panel interview comprising four native Korean speakers: two appointed by the Korean Association in Phuket and two appointed by the Thai Guide Association.

Rapeepat Na Nakorn said that the provincial government will pick up the 50,000-baht tab for organizing the Korean-language tests, which will be held at Phuket Community College at Saphan Hin from September 28 to 30. Applications will be accepted September 10 to 21.

The revised conditions follows the August 30 meeting of Korean Ambassador Han Tae-Kyu with Gov Niran.

Ambassador Han said that most Korean tour operators in Phuket would like to save the expense of hiring Korean guides, but that the local guides simply lacked the language skills to keep Korean tourists informed and entertained.

"We want to have Thai guides, but they must be able to do the job properly," he said.

sleeping inside when the fire broke out.

It took bystanders about 10 minutes to put out the fire, which was fueled by the petrol from burning gas tanks, he said.

The owners of the bikes told police that they had no enemies and could not suggest any reason why their vehicles may have been deliberately set alight.

The value of the bikes was not more than 200,000, as they were all secondhand, Capt Parichat said. The cause of the fire is still being investigated, he added.

Israeli man drowns as another boat sinks

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

PHI PHI ISLANDS: An Israeli tourist died September 4 when a boat sank off Maya Bay after becoming overwhelmed by stormy conditions.

The boat was returning to Koh Phi Phi Don from a diving trip, said Suriya Kitimonthon, chief of Krabi Marine Office.

Fifty-five tourists were out diving when Suriyan Sroyson, captain and owner of the Jor Kingfisher, noticed dark clouds beginning to form and called the divers back to the boat, said K. Suriya explained.

During the journey back to Ton Sai Bay, a heavy storm set in and the boat was bombarded with large waves and began taking on water, he said.

About 11 am the boat capsized, forcing all 55 passengers

and four crew members into the sea.

Israeli Nissim Lugasi, 26, drowned when he became trapped under the boat.

Several nearby boats came to render assistance to the sea-stranded victims and transported them back to Koh Phi Phi Don.

Another Israeli man, Adam Berbichevsky, 23, suffered deep lacerations to his legs from the dive boat's propeller. He was taken to Phi Phi Hospital.

Adverse weather conditions delayed his transfer by speedboat to Phuket

However, he eventually arrived at Bangkok Phuket Hospital at 3 pm.

Mr Berbichevsky is recovering at Bangkok Phuket Hospital while the other tourists have returned to their hotels on Koh Phi Phi Don.

TAT roadshow targets Indian MICE travelers

PHUKET: Representatives of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Southern Region 4 Office set off on September 1 for the subcontinent for a nine-day "Amazing Thailand Roadshow to India 2007", with stops in New Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore.

The road show, with funding by the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*Or-BorJor*), was to promote Phuket tourism and facilities to Indian travel agencies, the Indian press and the public to boost the number of Indian tourists visiting Phuket.

Suwalai Pinpradab, director of the TAT Southern Region 4 Office, said that India is the biggest tourism market in Southeast Asia, with enormous spending power. The number of Indian tourists visiting Phuket has been gradually increasing.

In 2006, some 430,000 In-

dian tourists came to Thailand, up 22% from the previous year. Between January and April this year there was a further 11% increase in the number of Indian tourists arriving in Bangkok by plane compared with the same period last year, she added.

Some 4,300 Indian tourists visited Phuket in 2005, with the figure almost tripling to 12,685 in 2006, she revealed.

Arrival figures for the first half of 2007 recorded over 15,700 Indian visitors, she added.

The most popular time for Indian tourists to visit Thailand is between May and June, when schools in India are closed for vacation.

A second influx occurs late-October to early-November, when many Indians celebrate the Hindu New Year Diwali, which falls on November 9 this year, K. Suwalai said.

Chalong fire claims five motorbikes

CHALONG: A fire at Chalong Circle before dawn on August 30 reduced five motorcycles to charred frames.

The fire, reported to police about 4:30 am, quickly engulfed five motorbikes parked side-by-side in front of the "Ha Yak Mobile" mobile phone shop, opposite the Bank of Ayudhya Chalong Branch.

Pol Capt Parichat Jatunphan of the Chalong Police told the *Gazette* that three of the bikes belonged to staff at the mobile phone shop who were

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Last year Phuket Provincial Prison held 969 prisoners, on average. Although the prison was built to accommodate up to 750 inmates, this year the average number is up to 1,075. Of these, about 10% are women.

Of the total inmate population, 593 are being held on charges relating to drugs, 215 for offenses against property, 88 for offenses against life, 41 for sex-related offenses and 50 for a variety of other crimes.

These figures include "temporary" inmates such as Burmese prisoners, almost all of whom are being detained on immigration-related offenses. They typically stay in the prison for about one month, during which time they are kept in separate living quarters from the rest of the population. After their release they are usually deported to Burma, explained Prison Director Paisal Suwanraksa.

By law, Phuket Prison cannot refuse to accommodate a person who has been sentenced to a jail term, no matter how crowded it may be, he explained.

So far, life at the prison is maintaining its rhythm. "All prisoners are woken at 6 am, bathe at 8 am and then have breakfast. For the rest of the day, they take part in activities, such as the prisoner-training programs. They all have enough time to go to the toilet and eat before returning to their cells by 6 pm every day," K. Paisal explained.

However, maintained this routine with so many inmates requires extra-long work hours by guards and other staff – along with some help from inmates themselves.

"Due to the limitations on staffing numbers, some of the better-behaved senior prisoners are used to help control the increasing numbers by supervising the newer prisoners and maintaining order," said K. Paisal.

Another tactic used to deal with the limited facilities is sched-

Cramped conditions

Located on just six rai on Damrong Rd in Phuket City, Phuket Provincial Prison is home to 1,064 inmates – about 300 more than its capacity.

Eighty prison staff currently have their work cut out for them taking care of the surplus inmates as well as keeping the 105-year-old facility in order.

With little realistic hope of the number of inmates decreasing, Prison Director Paisal Suwanraksa looks forward to the grave prospect of welcoming even more inmates to his already-cramped prison.

Semacote Suganya and Sompratch Sawakhon investigate.



SILENT SIGN: The little-known sign on Thepkasattri Rd that leads to the Baan Bang Jo detention center in Thalang.

uling. All 1,000-plus prisoners must use the toilets between 3 am and 6 am. Currently there are 70 toilets without doors for males and 10 toilets with doors for females.

To help relieve the inevitable congestion, K. Paisal said he already has budget approval to install 20 more toilets for men.

Only so much can be achieved by scheduling tactics, however. For example, sleeping arrangements cannot be re-

scheduled. Prisoners sleep in separate, "open" dormitories. The sleeping quarters were originally designed for five inmates per "sleeping space". But the same area is now occupied by the 12 prisoners a night. "It is crowded," K. Paisal said.

Despite the high number of inmates, K. Paisal says that health issue is not yet a major concern. This is in large part due to the fact that each prisoner must pass a health examination by a Phuket Provincial Health Office doctor before being admitted to general population.

However, the rate of new arrivals is starting to have an effect. "At the moment, there are



FRUSTRATED: As the number of inmates under his control continues to rise, Phuket Prison Director Paisal Suwanraksa admits he is feeling the strain.

delays in the time needed to check the prisoners for diseases. It now takes a few days, whereas before it would take only one," K. Paisal said.

Compounding the overcrowding problem are limitations placed on the number of employees and other budget constraints. "Due to the surplus prison population, one officer is responsible for about 15 prisoners, so you can imagine how overworked everybody is," he added.

All 28 prison guards and K. Paisal must live within the confines of the prison. All guards must work seven days a week, he added.

Furthermore, all guards must work the day shift from 8 am to 4.30 pm, then work night shifts on an alternating basis.

The extra pay for the longer hours is little reward. Working any of the other three shifts – 4.30 pm to midnight; midnight to 3 am; and 3 am to 8 am – earns an extra 300 baht a day Monday to Friday and an extra 420 baht on Saturdays and Sundays.

K. Paisal said he was concerned about excessive work-

loads, fearing that they may cause the staff family problems because they spend so much time away from home.

IMPROVEMENT

Despite the lack of space at Phuket Prison, there are some positive aspects to inmates' lives. One of the ways the prison is set up to help inmates is through skills-training programs.

"The prison policy is to improve the prisoners' vocational skills. We teach them crafts and skills, such as making rattan furniture, and sell items at the annual prison exhibition held at Saphan Hin.

"Half of the profits are kept for the prisoners for when they are released. This way, when they leave the prison, they have both skills and some money behind them to help them integrate back into the outside world," said K. Paisal.

At the prison's Product Exhibition at Saphan Hin, held June 28 to July 7 this year, a total of eight million baht was raised, said K. Paisal. The fair included stalls

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torment island inmates



NO ESCAPE: More than 1,000 criminals are detained at Phuket Provincial Prison, well beyond its capacity of 750. A budget request of 400 million baht to relocate Phuket Provincial Prison has been turned down for three consecutive years by the Thai Department of Corrections.

organized by prisons from all 14 Southern provinces.

Other initiatives set up by the prison to relieve some of the burden of the difficult conditions include inviting monks in to teach moral training, English-language lessons, barber or beauty salon training (low-risk prisoners only),

and training in skills such as air-conditioner maintenance and computer repair. These programs are coordinated by local education institutions, such as Phuket Vocational College, whose teachers come to the prison to conduct the courses, said K. Paisal.

"The skills we train prison-

ers in come with help from the private sectors, including vocational colleges. We want to educate the prisoners. They are here because they made mistakes. We have to give them a second chance. The monks come here to try and change prisoners' attitudes and teach them to be good

people. They will then be the people that society wants them to be and they will be welcomed when they are released," added K. Paisal.

Perhaps not surprisingly for Phuket, the most popular course among inmates is "English for tourism".

In stark contrast to Phuket Prison is the Thai Department of Corrections second facility on the island. Superiors agreed to build the Bang Jo Detention Center on 104 rai in Tambon Srisoonthorn, Thalang.

Despite being on such a generous tract of land, the center comprises just two buildings: one for prisoners and one for staff.

Opened three years ago, the facility is home to just 46 "low-risk" prisoners serving out their final months of incarceration.

During these final months they are exposed to daily life outside prison walls to ease their re-integration into society.

The site is also used to train prisoners in farming and agricultural techniques.

Plans to build a new, full-security prison at the Bang Jo site, however, have continued to hit stumbling blocks as the Thai Department of Correction refuses to grant the 400 million baht needed for its construction.

First requested three years ago, the Department of Correction has for three years running cited its numerous priorities around Thailand in turning down the request.

A lot of red tape must be cut before the budget will be approved, K. Paisal conceded.

"At the moment we are waiting for a budget to build the new prison, but we cannot wait forever.

"I understand that the committee of the Department of Correction receives many requests for money, but I want people to understand our problem down here.

"We cannot refuse to take prisoners, but we are simply running out of space."

Resale Luxury Apartment (Available for Rental)

<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Layan Gardens, Rental / Resale / New Unit "An Oasis of Tranquility" (Layan Beach)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Situated on a gentle sloping hillside in Layan overlooking several lakes ◆ Only minutes from all the amenities and facilities ◆ 2 & 3 bedroom Apartments & Penthouses ◆ The views will be simply stunning all the way across the lakes and golf course ◆ Low rise, superb quality development by well known developer ◆ Luxurious built-in living space with terraces and balconies 	<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Blue Canyon Country Club, Rental / Resale "Lifestyle Living in Stunning Golf/Sea View" (Mai Khao Area)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To own an apartment in one of the world's most famous & exclusive golf club and resort ◆ Located only 10 minutes drive from airport ◆ 3 bedrooms duplex to renowned design by interior designer ◆ All units have beautiful golf course views with some units having partial sea views ◆ Long & short-term rental is available ◆ Life-golf club membership included 	<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Allamanda Apartment / Resale - Freehold "Attention All Investors" (Bang Tao Beach)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 1 & 2 bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms and private terrace ◆ Living room with private terrace, dining area and kitchen ◆ Common swimming pool ◆ Perfect holiday apartment ◆ Access to hotel facilities ◆ Minutes from the beach ◆ Management by Allamanda Laguna Phuket
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FETID ATTRACTION: This mountain of earth and construction materials on the side of Soi Nakok, off Chao Fa West Rd in Chalong, is evolving into part of the local topography and growing by the day.

This is a lane off the main road that leads up into the hills, where at least three large luxury properties are currently under construction. Coachloads of tourists are driven past this unique scenery on the way to their luxury residence in what is for many their first glimpse of the island's exotic scenery.

TRASHING
Phuket

US Consular Services to visit Phuket

PHUKET: The Consular Section of the American Embassy in Bangkok will hold an outreach visit to Phuket on Friday, September 14, in the Coconut Grove Room of the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa in Karon from 8 am to 12 pm.

The following consular services will be available:

- Passport renewal applications (US\$67 or 2,546 baht for adult passports; US\$82 or 3,116 baht for a child's passport);
- Notarial Services and Certified Copies (US\$30 or 1,140 baht);
- Absentee ballot application and voting abroad information;
- Social security, VA or other federal benefits questions will be limited, but consular staff will try to provide forms and answers;

Applicants are asked to bring the exact amount for all services for which there is a charge.

NOTE: Until further notice, the Consular Section will no longer be able to complete processing of extra visa pages during outreach trips.

Applications will be accepted, but passports must be brought back to Bangkok for final processing. Passports will then have to be picked up in person, or by a friend upon presentation of a letter of authorization signed by the applicant.

Additionally, Consular Reports of Birth cannot be processed during consular outreach trips.

In other news of interest to US citizens:

Social Security: Regarding translations for the Social Security Administration (SSA), that agency now needs only a photocopy of a Thai and an English translation stamped by the Consular Section office.

These documents no longer need to be ratified by the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs as this will be done by the SSA office in Baltimore.

Absentee ballots: Online versions of the Federal Post Card Application and Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot can now be saved once completed.

Visitors to the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) website www.fvap.gov are now able to save their completed Online Federal Post Card Application (OFPCA) and Online Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (OFWAB) to their computer for future use, using Adobe Acrobat Reader version of 7.0 or higher.

For more information email: vote@fvap.ncr.gov or visit: www.fvap.gov.

Alternatively, for more information email acsbkk@state.gov or call the American Citizen Services Unit at 02-2054049.



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Queer News



Women, animals and plants can rest easier in Nakhon Sri Thammarat now that the province's most notorious serial rapist is behind bars.

Cops collar banana tree rapist

NAKHON SRI THAMMARAT: "Banana Tree Aek" – feared rapist of women, domestic animals and fruit trees – was finally taken into custody by police August 27. His excuse for his animal raping antics was, according to police, "everybody does it".

Aekarat Dapngen, 23, was wanted for the rape of several women and animals in Nakhon Sri Thammarat City's Ton Wah community, where he had been the subject of a month-long manhunt by police and a local vigilante squad. The last victim of the sword-wielding glue addict was reported in July, when he raped the mother of a newborn baby.

Aek's reign of terror ended at 4 pm August 27, when officers led by Pol Lt Col Chawasil Bunpradit, Deputy Superintendent of Investigation at Nakhon Sri Thammarat Provincial Police Command, sneaked through woods to launch a surprise raid on a shack in the middle of a field in Tambon Kaphaeng Sao.

The raid followed reports that the deviant was hiding out in the shack, about four kilometers from his home.

Cautiously approaching the hovel and peering in, officers saw Aek lying on the floor writing. After spotting the approaching cops, Aek raced across the surrounding field trying to emulate

his previous successful escape – when officers were left holding his shirt and trousers while he raced off to freedom in just his underwear.

This time Aek was not so lucky. He was tackled in a ditch by a police officer.

Back in the hut, officers found a tin of uncooked rice, some glue and a large knife. Written on the floor in correction fluid were descriptive accounts about what was apparently Aek's object of desire at the time: cows.

The compositions consisted of sentences such as *nong wua na rak jang* (younger sister cow how cute you are) and *nong wua khon suay* (younger sister cow you are a beauty).

On hearing of Aek's arrest, local villagers rushed out to get a glimpse of the madman who had been terrorizing their community.

Police said that under questioning Aek had confessed to the rape of the young mother and said that he had been hiding in the shack and living off uncooked rice. Asked what had possessed him to rape cows and satisfy himself with banana trees, police said Aek replied, "Everybody does it."

No mention was made of what charges will be brought against Aek.

Source: Kom Chad Luek

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Underwater wedding sparks backlash

Local officials in Trang have expressed opposition to a plan to welcome same-sex couples to the southern province's famous "underwater wedding" ceremony in February. "I will not join the event. I will not support it," Provincial Culture Office chief Prayoon Noosuk said August 27.

According to K. Prayoon, the event is part of the beautiful, traditional southern-style wedding and thus inappropriate for same-sex couples.

"Have the organizers thought about the feelings of the older generation? What will they feel to see same-sex couples tying the knot? Will the younger generation finally see the same-sex marriage as something common?" he asked.

Suntaree Sungayut, who heads the National Archives Division in Trang, said that she sympathized with and respected homosexuals, but felt their inclusion in the ceremony might not be in line with its objectives.

In response, Pongthorn Janlue of the Fahsiroong gay rights group said same-sex marriages were no more against tradition than underwater weddings.

Event organizer Natcha Voratanavanit said that it was the duty of Trang Tourism Association and Trang Chamber of Commerce to explain the event to local people.

"The presence of same-sex couples would boost tourism in the province," she said, adding that many same-sex couples had already contacted her to register.

Trang Tourism Association President Wichai Rattamanee said all couples should be welcomed, regardless of sexual orientation.

"Love is so delicate," he said.

Thieves market. Foreign visitors to Bangkok suffer more thefts at Chatuchak Weekend Market than anywhere else in the country, according to the Tourist Police.

During the first eight months of this year, the Tourist Police received reports of 280 robberies throughout the metropolitan area.

Eighty-five of these were filed by tourists who visited the

weekend market and reported that their bags or valuable objects had been stolen.

Seventy-six cases involved thefts at shopping malls and department stores, with MBK Center being the most popular venue for thieves. Transport terminals and bus stations were the scenes of 50 reported cases, while 46 cases were reported at Pratunam Market and commercial nightlife areas on Silom Rd.

The remaining cases were reported by tourists who visited China Town (11 cases), Sukhumvit Rd (seven) and Suan Lum Night Bazaar (five).

Altogether, only five suspects have been arrested. Most are from neighboring countries, Tourist Police Commander Maj Gen Chuchart Suwannakom said.

Night shift. Academics at the "Preparation of Labor Organizations for the Approach of an Elderly Society" held August 28 at the Amari Watergate Hotel in Bangkok urged the government to start a "Baby Bonus" project to encourage employees to take time off work and have children.

Such a move would help balance population levels and counter the disparity in numbers of elderly and young people under 18 years of age. The project would also establish a welfare fund to support elderly people.

The Labor Ministry also unveiled a project, expected to start within two years, to encourage retired people to become vocational trainers.

Chulalongkorn University professor Kua Wongboonsin said the number of elderly people in Thailand would increase to 10% of the total working-age population of about 10 million by 2025. By 2030, the number of working-age people taking care of the elderly would not be sufficient. The ratio of working-age people to elderly citizens would be 2:1 compared with 7:1 at present.

A fine mess. The Transport Department announced that about one million people in Chiang Mai owe a total of about 424 million baht in unpaid fines – and hundreds of motorcycle owners in the province have failed to reclaim vehicles from police stations throughout the province confis-



SAME SAME BUT DIFFERENT: Same-sex couple Nisa Charoenpornwattana and Chutirat Sappong took part in a press conference on Trang's underwater wedding festival to be held next Valentine's Day.

News that couples of any sexual orientation would be welcomed set off a conservative backlash in the province.

cated for lack of payment.

Four police stations have no space left to keep the motorcycles, and police have been forced to post guards to stop owners from stealing them back.

To alleviate the problem police are now recording license numbers or taking driver's licenses instead of impounding vehicles. Meanwhile, officers are using checkpoints to catch motorists who have outstanding fines.

According to police records, motorcycles with loud or modified exhausts are the most com-

mon offense, followed by failure to wear helmets. Most offenders are teenagers.

Grim figures. A total of 3,612 Thais killed themselves last year and the highest suicide rates were in the North, Mental Health Department chief ML Somchai Chakrabhand told a press conference on August 27.

Speaking at the conference to prepare for World Suicide Prevention Day on September 10, ML Somchai said some 30,000 Thais tried to take their own lives last year; 3,612 people (2,856

males and 756 females) succeeded.

Most victims were people aged 30-39 acting out of depression or with problems associated with money, family, society and politics, he said.

The top five provinces for suicides were Lamphun, Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Phayao and Mae Hong Son, while the lowest rate was in Narathiwat.

The most common method was by hanging, followed by shooting and taking pesticide.

ML Somchai said the overall suicide rate last year was lower than the previous three years – 6.3 in every 100,000 in 2005, 6.9 in 2004, and 7.1 in 2003.

Thailand's suicide rate is lower than other Asian countries such as Sri Lanka (35 in every 100,000), Japan (25.3) and South Korea (25.2), he said.

Alcohol tax hike. The rise liquor and tobacco taxes approved on August 28 came from the interim government's determination to restructure alcohol taxes – and its belief that the task was almost impossible for an elected government, a source at the Finance Ministry said.

The tax hike on liquor affects only local brands, while the increase in tobacco tax covers both local and imported brands.

Prices for the locally-distilled *lao khao* ("white liquor") with alcohol content of 28% to 40% and blended liquors with alcohol content of 38% to 40% increased by 9 baht to 12 baht per 625-milliliter bottle.

Piti Bhirombhakdi, advertising manager for Boonrawd Trading Co, said that in practice the tax hike is unlikely to change consumer behavior, especially of those who consume white spirits, because vendors tend to split the alcohol into smaller containers for retail sale.

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

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Insurgents target top teachers

Increasingly more selective in their choice of targets, militants in the Deep South are now targeting teachers with outstanding reputations, a senior Education Ministry official said August 28.

Khunying Kasama Worawan na Ayutthaya, secretary-general of the Office of the Basic Education Commission, said the murder of teacher Kesine Timthep, shot dead in front of her school in Pattani on August 27, was an example of the new strategy.

"Kesinee was one of the most outstanding teachers in the province. This shows that the militants have changed the target of their attacks from normal teachers to outstanding ones in the past few months," she said.

K. Kesinee, 42, was shot in the head in Sai Buri District while entering Sasana Suksa School. An eyewitness said one of two men on a motorbike fired at the teacher, who collapsed in front of several students walking with her. She was admitted to a district hospital, but doctors could not save her.

K. Kesinee had taught at the school for nearly 20 years.

The Ministry of Education will support the slain teacher's family and provide scholarships for her children, K. Kasama said.

She asked school administrators in the Deep South to monitor situations carefully and take more precautions to protect teachers.

"If a teacher receives repeated threats from militants, he or she should be given priority when requesting a transfer out of the area," she said.

In reference to the temporary closure of many southern schools because of violence, K. Kasama said it was up to each school whether to suspend classes until the situation improves.

Students whose classes were suspended should be compensated with extra classes so that they can keep up with their studies, she added.

Smugglers weeded out: After receiving a tip off that drugs would be transported through their province, Drug Suppression Police in Phatthalung arrested four men and netted pressed cannabis with a street value of more than



Customs Officer Rungchai Janwatthana announces a find of 48 pangolins found in a box hidden next to the fence of the customs-house parking lot in Sadao District, Songkhla. Officers suspect the anteaters, with an estimated black market value of about 50,000 baht, were being smuggled into the Kingdom from Malaysia. Pangolin meat is highly-prized for its reputed health-giving properties, particularly by ethnic Chinese.

two million baht on August 27. Five other men were later arrested in a follow-up raid in Haad Yai, Songkhla.

Officers from Phatthalung Provincial Police Narcotics Suppression unit together with Narcotics Suppression Bureau officers set up a road checkpoint to stop two pickup trucks – a Toyota and an Isuzu – suspected of being used to transport cannabis.

When the vehicles arrived at the checkpoint, officers asked to conduct a vehicle search. They discovered 99 kilograms of pressed cannabis packed into sacks hidden in the back of the two vehicles. The vehicles' four occupants were arrested.

Under interrogation, the suspects admitted they had driven the drugs from Nong Khai and were

en route to meet an agent in Haad Yai. They said that they had done the trip "many times" and were paid a total of 50,000 baht per trip. From Haad Yai, the drugs were to be sold on to dealers in the Deep South and Malaysia.

Based on the suspects' statements, Haad Yai Police then detained Somjit Phasuk, allegedly a large-scale drug dealer, along with four associates. Police are working on locating the source of the drugs in Nong Khai.

Killer caught: A man has confessed to the rape and murder of 11-year-old Chalanicha Inthasuwan who was found strangled in the bathroom of her family home in Nakhon Sri Thammarat on August 25.

Somkhuan Panthong, 38, a

native of Phichit province, was arrested later the same day after neighbors reported seeing him hanging around the crime scene about an hour before Chalanicha's lifeless body was discovered. Another neighbor said that he bought a caged bird from Somkhuan – one that belonged to Chalanicha's father but was stolen at the time of the attack.

Pol Lt Col Wijk Tarom, an investigating inspector at Nakhon Sri Thammarat Muang District Police Station, said that Somkhuan at first denied the charges but later changed his story and admitted that he had killed Chalanicha. Somkhuan said that he had been attracted to the victim for a long time and had spent days planning the attack. He has previously been in prison

on rape and theft charges, he added.

Nakhon Sri Thammarat Provincial Police Commander Pol Maj Gen Sudjai Yannarat described Somkhuan as a depraved killer and great danger to women. During interrogation, Somkhuan had remained completely calm and showed no remorse for what he had done, Gen Sudjai said.

Urging for the trial to be conducted as quickly as possible, Gen Sudjai said the suspect should be sentenced to death.

Some 300 police officers will be marshaled to provide security for the accused during a re-enactment of the crime to prevent him from falling into the hands of irate locals, Gen Sudjai said.

Misdiagnosis death: A Trang Health Security Office subcommittee on August 29 approved 200,000 baht in financial aid for the family of an 11-year-old girl who died as a result of alleged misdiagnosis at Nayong Hospital on August 5.

Subcommittee head Dr Sukit Atthopakorn said the seven-member panel had approved the payment, the highest amount possible under Article 41 of the Health Security Act, to the family of sixth-grader Apinya "Nong Pop" Taemtao.

Nong Pop was pronounced dead in Trang Hospital on August 9 after being transferred from Nayong Hospital, where she was initially admitted at 4 am the previous day with diarrhea, vomiting and a slight pain in her left ribs.

As the girl's condition deteriorated during her five-hour stay at Nayong Hospital, her relatives believed it was the fault of the on-duty doctor and nurses for misdiagnosing and not properly treating her.

The grieving family appealed to Trang Governor Anont Manaswanich, who set up a committee to investigate the charges.

Dr. Sukit said Nong Pop had died from a severe Type-I diabetes that had not shown up until she suffered severe diarrhea and vomiting, causing acid in her blood level to spike.

Assistance was provided to the family even though no conclusion has yet been reached as to who was at fault, Dr Sukit said.

The investigating committee will check to see whether the medical staff at Nayong Hospital were at fault.

If it is found they did not do their jobs properly, then the family could file for compensation. Lead investigator Dr Withoon Leungdilok said 10 witnesses, including Nong Pop's parents and relatives, the on-duty doctor, nurses and patients, had been interviewed. The report should be ready in a week.

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

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FOR WHOM THE COCK CROWS: Bantam rooster 'Tik' gives his morning call to customers during a hard day's grind working on his owner's mobile food stall.

Little rooster just keeps on giving

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

Hailed by his owner as Phuket's only chicken working at a food-vending stall, rooster 'Tik' has risen to fame as one half of a food-selling double act near Phuket Technology School on Thepkasattri Rd.

Every morning, Suwan Boonphacharoen from Chiang Rai can be heard talking to his rooster and preparing for the day's customers. "Maa leaw! Maa leaw!" calls K. Suwan, to which Tik usually replies with a chorus of clucks.

Tik is a bantam rooster, which means that he's a miniature, about one quarter the size of a regular rooster. Never one to let his size get him down, Tik spends his days working with K. Suwan by calling out to customers and enticing them to buy food.

Of the many treats at the stall, K. Suwan offers such delights as fruits, deserts, sticky rice and pork grill. K. Suwan and Tik drive on their mobile food stall from their regular pitch on Thepkasattri Rd to other areas around Phuket Town all day until they sell out of food.

"I came to Phuket from Chiang Rai four years ago," explained K. Suwan. "Phuket is an island of many nationalities and cultures. Every morning I wake up and go to work and see Koreans, Japanese and farang. I know it's nothing out of the ordinary for most people, but I came from a small village in Chiang Rai province where there weren't any foreigners," he said.

K. Suwan and Tik were first introduced four years ago

when a penniless customer offered to exchange a bantam rooster for some sticky rice. "The first time I saw Tik, I really felt sorry for him. He looked very sick and I thought he was too small – even for a bantam."

From that moment, Tik and K. Suwan became the best of friends, but it wasn't until two years later that Tik began working on the food stall.

"Tourists always ask to take pictures of me with Tik. Most of the time I don't understand what the tourists are saying, but when they show me the camera I get it. Normally they give me some money for the pictures."

Initially wary of his food stall and a bantam rooster being treated as a circus exhibit, K. Suwan was reluctant to accept money from tourists. "At first I didn't want to, but then a friend told me that I should take the money to pay for Tik's food, even though he doesn't eat very much."

Tik is no ordinary rooster when it comes to his diet, either. Passing over rice and paddy for more exotic meals, Tik likes nothing better than to tuck into a juicy rose apple.

"I hope Tik will stay with me for a long, long time," added K. Suwan. "I know I will be sad when he is gone. He's always with me, almost 24 hours a day. Sometimes when it's raining hard I don't want to bring him out with me. He's only a bantam; he's not as large as you and me. I get afraid that he will be tired."

To catch the Suwan and Tik show call K. Suwan at 084-6291164 to find out where the duo have parked their food stall.

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Rebuilding the depths



**ACROSS
THE BAY**
By Gus Reynolds

Last week I revisited Phi Phi Island for the first time since just after the tsunami.

My first trip to Phi Phi was back in 1992. A second trip in 1998 left me a bit disappointed as to the direction the island was taking, so I didn't venture back there until the week after the tsunami – to try and help out in the recovery as best I could.

I went with two other foreigners, a Dutch friend who was volunteering at the morgue in Krabi Town and an American attached to the US Embassy working with the foreign service.

We were on a mission to assess the damage and to visit the site of Phi Phi Island School. One of the people whose name kept coming up at that time and in the ensuing months was Andrew Hewett.

Andrew, who started his eco-tourism company the Adventure Club on Phi Phi six years earlier, spearheaded the clean up of Ton Sai Bay after the tsunami. Through his efforts and those of dozens of other volunteers at the Phi Phi Dive Camp, over 300 tonnes of debris was removed from the bay.

We have highlighted his work on these pages in the past and we are happy to report that Andrew is not only alive and well on Phi Phi, but active with a new project.

Anyone who knows Andrew, knows that his first concern is with the preservation of the environment.

His goal over the years has



The Phuket Marine Biological Center coral nursery grow small fragments of coral until they are large enough to be transplanted on to the artificial reef.

been to educate people about the fragility of nature and especially that of coral reefs, the health of which is the key to sustaining marine life for future generations. His latest project goes one step further than protection, however: its goal is to actually rebuild the reefs that were damaged or destroyed by the tsunami.

Working with biologists from the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, Andrew and his team have set out to build new reefs by placing concrete structures on the sea bed and "planting" farmed coral on them.

While the technique is actually a lot more complicated, that

is essentially their plan. Andrew and his team have already positioned 100 rectangular concrete structures forming three underwater pyramids.

Each concrete section measures 1.5 cubic meters and weighs about 1,000 kilograms.

This installation work, which took several months, is the foundation for the coral farm.

The next step was the establishment of coral nurseries to grow coral that could later be transplanted onto the artificial reefs. Researchers from the Phuket Marine Biological Center (which is part of the Department of Marine and Coastal Re-

sources) took small fragments of coral from the sea and to grow them in nurseries until they are strong enough to be replanted in areas that were damaged by the tsunami.

This was no simple task as coral is delicate and a special underwater nursery had to be designed.

First, the main frame was constructed of truck pallets. These were bolted together and floated by inner tubes attached to their underside. Once connected, the whole structure was tethered in place by ropes.

The coral fragments to be grown are placed on a sheet of

meshing and trays are fixed to the floating pallets. In effect, it is an underwater farm.

Since October 2006, Hewett and his team of divers have planted some 1,100 specimens of coral.

The most time-consuming and laborious task in this process is monitoring their growth after they have been planted.

Each month, divers must clean the frames of algae and other growth, then photograph and examine each coral fragment. Hewett also monitors fragments that have been transplanted to their permanent homes.

For Hewett, whose focus has always been on the environment, this project fits in well with his philosophy. He feels projects like this should be promoted to the public – especially divers – to help them understand the importance and fragility of coral reefs.

Andrew also sees the potential to use this as a new form of eco-tourism that complements his Adventure Club business.

After having his business washed away by the tsunami, and volunteering countless hours to clean up Ton Sai Bay, we hope Andrew is successful not only in rebuilding his business, but also in rebuilding and sustaining the coral reefs of Phi Phi Island.

New Tesco Lotus: August 31 saw the grand opening of the new Tesco Lotus in Krabi. While this may not have been much of a cause for excitement among the town's expat residents, for the locals it was an event not to be missed.

The resulting traffic jams and 30-minute queues for parking ensured that a fun time was had by all.

While there were a few fender benders outside, the shopping lanes inside were also dangerous with first-time shopping-cart drivers plowing through the crowds, with reckless abandon and no concept whatsoever of common courtesy.

We wish the shopping center all the success and hope that more people come for shopping than sightseeing in the future.



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Dream ideal baffles property buffs

Despite the slow pace of life being the main reason for foreigners being attracted to living on a “developing” tropical island such as Koh Lanta, the lack of Western-standard amenities and infrastructure is baffling property experts as to why land prices on Lanta are skyrocketing.

In theory, the lack of infrastructure and limited access to Western-style services, such as world-class hospitals and double lattes are overlooked in exchange for a simple beach life, where land and homes are relatively cheap and real Thai life unfolds around you.

Unfortunately, as with any emerging tourist destination around the world, Koh Lanta is suffering from growing pains as it transforms from a 1980s backpacker’s haunt into an international tourist and home buyers’ destination.

Similar to Phuket 30 years ago, Koh Lanta is like an awkward teenager trying to define herself. She wants the world to take her seriously as an adult but underneath the stuffed bra and cheap makeup is an inexperienced child who’s bound to make mistakes.

One comment heard more frequently in recent years is the overpricing of land for sale on the island compared with land available on more developed islands, such as Phuket or Samui.

According to southern Thailand premium property expert, Merv Baines of Indigo Real Estate, Lanta’s land prices don’t make sense. “While Koh Lanta is slowly emerging from its shell, it is still a long way from being born,” he says.

“Unfortunately, local land-owners have taken advantage of the current interest, mainly from the Scandinavian market, with land prices starting to rival her sister island, Phuket.

“How can you justify prices of 12 million baht per rai on Lanta’s Klong Dao beach and six to eight million baht per rai in the far south of the island, when the nearest airport and shopping mall is a two-hour drive and two ferry rides away?”

As a comparison, Mr Baines says land at Mai Khao Beach in Phuket has an asking price of up to 15 million baht per rai for beachfront land and is only 10 minutes from the international airport, 15 minutes from main shopping areas, two international hospitals and is all accessible by a four-lane highway.

Jealousy returns. The buzz around the island last week was the sad news about a Thai-For-foreigner love triangle that went sadly awry at a popular Thai cooking school on Klong Dao Beach.



For a price, this view on Koh Lanta could be yours. but is Lanta’s land overpriced? According to some experts land prices on Koh Lanta are starting to rival those on Phuket. Photo by James Walsh.

Sarot Roskumjon, a 34-year-old man from Nakhon Sri Thammarat, was arrested for the late-night murder of Itthiphon Ungsanaruk, also 34, from Bangkok.

Police said that Sarot had confessed to the murder, claiming that uncontrollable jealousy led to his crime of passion because he loved his foreign girlfriend so much.

Sarot’s violent nature was already known to the local police, who had escorted him off the island just a few months earlier.

Reneging on his promise to never return to the island – and never to return to the cooking school where he previously worked – has left his life in ruin, but more importantly destroyed

another promising young life.

The thin brown line. There is a new top cop in town: Superintendent Pol Col Teeraphol Thipjaroen has arrived from his previous post in Patong to head up Lanta’s men in brown.

As the island continues to grow, so does the crime rate, particularly high-season crimes targeting tourists, such as bungalow break-ins and shady Thai-foreigner business partnerships – something that Col Teeraphol has no doubt become an expert in dealing with on the streets of Phuket.

Bound to benefit. Twelve-year-old Kay Sayluu from Lanta Old Town now has a Swedish-language book written about his tsunami experience.

The book, entitled *Kay from Koh Lanta*, is published by LL

hood as a fishing family was that their two longtail boats were smashed to pieces by the waves.

With pride and resolve, Kay’s family was one of the first to start rebuilding their boats before the throngs of relief volunteers arrived to offer assistance.

When Johanna and Anna first approached the family about including their son in Johanna’s book, the family readily agreed, mainly because of their belief in the Thai concept of *naam jai*, or generosity, including the karmic belief that if you help others, you will be helped in return.

Kay’s parents were excited about the potential benefits for Kay and his education with his story being published in a wealthy foreign country. Trusting that the benefits would flow back to them, the family never signed an official release form of permission to publish Kay’s story.

LL Forlaget Publishing, is now selling *Kay from Koh Lanta* online for 120 Swedish krona (562 baht), and have refused to make a donation to Kay’s education fund, even after several polite requests by locals.

Anyone interested in making a donation to Kay’s education fund, which will be managed by Kay’s mother and a local teacher, can email them at helpkay@lantalongtail.com.

The fund will allow Kay to have private English lessons while he continues to work in the family fishing business, so that one day he can work as a longtail boat guide for tourists.

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

LETTER FROM KOH LANTA

By Duane Lennie

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Happily Ever After

Recent weddings in Phuket



Suangsuda Saelim and Nattavut Seesavat were married at Phuket Ballroom of the Royal Phuket City Hotel on August 23.



Nittaya Niyomsat and Pomkiat Angsakul were married at Pra Pitak Grand Ballroom of The Metropole Hotel on August 23.

A woman

On a business card the size of a beer mat the words, "Unlock your business potential" lay below three uniform rows of silver squares with a gold star boldly shining among them. The star is what Joanne's clients become when they invite her into their world.

On the back of her card, "Inspiration, direction, guidance, clarity and insight" are printed in large, tasteful letters. The words pique interest and make you want to know more about this woman and what she actually does.

For many, this initial introduction and the intrigue that follows, leads to a voyage of self discovery that is a turning point for both businesses and individuals.

Joanne's clients range from individuals to businesses, who discover her through recommendations and her reputation. When she is called in by them, it is often at a point where they are in need of outside guidance to pull them through a rough spot in their personal life or career.

Joanne's talent is being able to instantly recognize the issues that are holding a company or individual back and suggesting ways to move on from stagnation. Her method is to be brutally honest yet non-judgmental and demand the same in return from her clients.

As a person who is completely at ease with herself, Joanne wears whatever she feels comfortable in, regardless of the kind of client she's going to meet. Turning up for a meeting with a board of directors wearing loosely fitting white cotton, she finds that some people initially have difficulty taking her seriously.

Doubts about her competence soon disappear though, when she demonstrates her ability to lay bare the roots of underlying issues affecting progress and give sound advice on how to

Joanne Baylis is a new-age business woman and corporate guru. She has the calculating mind, drive and discretion it takes to be a success, while spiritual intuition lights her path and those of the people and businesses she comes into contact with.

Here she explains to Nick Davies how she went from material girl to a complete being on a path to greater riches.



Joanne Baylis enjoys her birthday with friends. Since searching beyond the trappings of a materialism, life has taken on a richer meaning. Now she inspires other people to achieve what they want.

turn the company back into a flourishing business.

Often, a single meeting with Joanne is enough for a client to chart a course for change that will take a prosperous path with almost instantaneous positive results.

Many of the people Joanne works with are high-caliber executives and businesspeople, who project an image of success to a world that worships material wealth. Outwardly, they seem to have everything but inside, they feel as if there is still something missing in their life.

"We are conditioned from a very young age to behave and react to situations in certain ways, and that material wealth

equals success. I find that some of the people I meet are working day in, day out, just focusing on the destination of a restful and prosperous retirement but missing the enjoyment of the actual journey.

They are often so busy focusing on this long-term plan though, that they are losing themselves in the rat race, ignoring the present and the things they really have a passion for," Joanne explained.

"A company has a personality, just like the individuals in it. The combination of their personal perspectives of the company make a huge difference to the overall success of the business," she added.

So how does one become successful enough for other successful people to take your new-age business advice seriously?

Joanne's own success was an early one, though it had little to do with academic attainment. She struggled with learning difficulties and an institution that branded her as unteachable at a time when dyslexia wasn't part of teachers' vocabulary.

Despite her dyslexia, Joanne had little difficulty reading the signs along the path to success. She knew at an early age, that she would set up her own business and become successful with all the trappings of life in the fast lane.

After getting out of school and into the world of money and materialism as soon as she could, Joanne went on to establish several businesses, including a high-

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profile dating agency, anti-aging clinics and property development.

From the outside, Joanne was a shining example of someone who had achieved success while still in her early twenties, but inside there was a hollow and hungry soul, craving more than material assets could satiate.

This hunger drove Joanne to search for answers to life's more philosophical questions and prompted a meeting with someone who asked her to respond truthfully to the question; "How are you?"

Forced to reply honestly about her true feelings at the time, Joanne began a voyage of self discovery that gave her insight into the way we interact and react to other people and life's pressures and demands.

"A lot of my business clients have wonderful products or something unique to offer but they have lived with it so long, they no longer see its true value. My job is to help clients unlock the potential in themselves, their company and their products," Joanne explained.

"Nurturing a business begins with nurturing the individuals within it," claims Joanne. She does this by encouraging the people concerned to be totally honest with themselves and the negative feelings they have, which are ultimately what stand in the way of progress.

The root causes of the company's existing issues are laid bare and advice is given on how

to deal with them. Much of Joanne's advice involves gaining the right perspective on a situation; seeing problems in a positive light rather than negative and as having potential that's just waiting to be unlocked.

As a dyslexic who proved her teachers wrong in her ability to get on in a life, much akin to a Tom Wolfe novel, Joanne's next project is to publish her own book, which will be a dyslexics' essential guide to success, she hopes to inspire others struggling with the label "stupid" to achieve success and enjoy a fruitful life.

For much of her life, Joanne didn't pick up books or newspapers because she believed she couldn't read, but recently found that her so called dyslexia was purely down to a matter of personal interest.

"It was only a few years ago that I realized my refusal to read was a result of outside pressure to 'fit in' as a particular kind of person and my rebellion against it.

"When I got rid of the baggage loaded with society's expectations and started pursuing the things that really made my heart sing, I realized that being dyslexic was simply a matter of choice; my choice."

Businesses and people in need of that magic ingredient of direction can find out more about Joanne and her insight consultations at Email: joanne@joannebaylis.com

Giving is good

The Rotary Club of Laguna Phuket held its fund-raising charity auction at The Watermark Bar & Restaurant, at Boat Lagoon, on September 1. A multitude of prizes were up for grabs, with The Watermark's regular fun crowd pitching in to raise 114,311 baht to go towards helping poor villagers in Tah Chat Chai, at the north end of the island.

In the Silent Auction, Arnaud Verstraete won the bidding for Panasonic Viera 32" LCD flatscreen TV for just 27,000 and Kae Wattana picked up a Toshiba notebook for 20,501 baht. Both prizes were donated by Courts Megastore.

Sales of the raffle tickets raised 30,810 baht and The Watermark donated 20,000 baht. Prizes were also donated by Dusit Laguna Resort Phuket, Albatross/Mediterraneo restaurant, Wine & Taste, The Watermark, Norman Dawkins, Chem-Dry and Anand Jagota.



Ratchada "Kui" Campanoi, of *Phuket Gazette* Advertising Sales, receives a prize from Supradit Chariyasophit, assistant director of corporate sales - Courts Megastore.



Martin Holmes (above, left) of Lee Marine joins Stuart Bird of The Watermark to cheer himself for winning the Live Auction bidding for the water-purification system.



With Martin Carpenter (left) as MC, *Phuket Gazette* reporter Sompratch Saowakhon hands Anand Jagota's chillout *Sailing on Sound* CD to BIS art teacher Samantha Fruin.



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This week



SMOOTH SAILING: Thai singer and actor Mathew Dean poses with staff from Tour By You charter service during his visit to their offices at Royal Phuket Marina.



BIENVENUE: French Ambassador to Thailand Laurent Aublin (4th from right) joins Louis Bronner (3rd from right), General Manager of Mom Tri's Boathouse, and members of the French business community in Phuket for lunch at the Boathouse Wine & Grill.



IN ACCORDANCE: Teachers gather on the steps of British International School, Phuket (BIS) after completing a 20-hour course in Thai language, culture and professional ethics. The course, held by BIS and Rangsit University, was needed to comply with Ministry of Education requirements.



CLASS ADJOURNED: New Barrister-at-Law Nootnapin Sabaijit (center), a former student at Satree Phuket School, is congratulated by her mother, Nuanla-or Sabaijit, who teaches at Satree Phuket, and her brother, K. Tanapon, after joining the bar.



WE ARE FAMILY: Shicartzy Ovadia (center) and Benjamart Chaisorn (left), owners of The Family Mediterranean Food restaurant in Rawai, celebrate the re-opening of their restaurant with a buffet dinner and acoustic music.



HIGH SPIRITS: Puccini Italian restaurant, Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket held a celebratory Italian dinner and wine tasting with (From left) Michel Conrad, Brand Manager for Independent Wine and Spirits Thailand Co Ltd; Executive Chef Alessandro Frau; Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket Hotel Manager Torsten Richter; and Filippo Mangione, sommelier for Casa Vinicola Zonin in Vicenza.

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The Frankfurt auto show is one of the most important events in the motor-ing world. Taking place every two years – the show alternates with Paris – it is the high point for all European manufacturers, but none more so than those based in Germany or nearby Belgium.

Ford, which makes sedans at its plants throughout Europe, is set to unveil what many insiders believe will be a replacement for the Fiesta.

Whatever it is called upon final release, the new Verve concept is an exciting glimpse into the automotive future of the world's current number three motor manufacturer.

"Verve Concept is presented in Frankfurt as a bespoke concept car to generate reactions while our production plans are taking shape," says John Fleming, President and CEO of Ford Europe.

"Our design team took an unrestrained approach to how our future small cars could look, and this eye-catching concept is the result.

"If we get the reaction we expect, I am certain that the team will incorporate elements of this advanced design vision into our final production model."

The hood of the Verve is dynamically sculpted, combining with rearward stretching head-lamp units that incorporate two projector beams and LED arrays.

From the side view, the concept has a purposeful, cab-for-ward look of energy in motion. With pillarless side windows the profile continues to the car's integrated tailgate spoiler.

The interior is also of an advanced design with a multi-function center stack that separates the controls and buttons of the entertainment system, positioning them in an optimal ergonomic location that resembles the logic of a mobile phone.

This new approach introduces a completely new aesthetic, says Ford, a new aspect to the form and function of interacting technologies. The unique architecture also embraces other key systems, including navigation and in-car phone controls.

"A new generation of buyers raised with mobile electronic devices would feel right at home in this new automotive interior, one that exceeds the standards typical in the small-car segment," says Niko Vidakovic, Chief Inte-



Ford concept car the Verve, pictured here at its launch at the Frankfurt motor show, offers a sleek ultra-modern design and high-end fashion materials to complete the interior. Ford are looking to use many of the Verve's features in its next generation of small cars.

rior Designer for Ford of Europe.

The center stack structure flows into a center console, which provides stowage areas, including a tray for a mobile phone or MP3 player as well as a large bin for a purse or shoulder bag near the parking brake,

"The center stack is like the art gallery of the car," Vidakovic says. "The combination of the sculpture of the upper instrument panel, the rich interior colors and materials and the jewelry-like brightwork is very distinctive."

From the instrument panel to the seats, the Verve Concept is trimmed in a blend of magentas, the materials inspired by the fabrics and leathers used in haute couture.

"Color is very important in emotionalising our products," says Chief Designer, Colors & Trims for Ford Europe, Ruth Pauli. "We are striving for a very precise expression of a certain style. Expressive colors in the right harmonies and contrasts. Soft yet intense.

"Good materials like glove-leather that's beautiful to touch. These details are helping us bring a feeling of a premium vehicle into the volume car world."

As product development of a new generation of small Fords continues behind the scenes, the

company is hoping to judge public reaction to the Verve in Frankfurt. Ford's European design chief Martin Smith says that this show and other opportunities in the near future for public feedback will be

important factors in the ultimate direction small-car design will take at Ford.

"The Verve Concept is a dynamic first public expression of some of the thinking that will

be contributing to the design DNA of our next generation products," says Mr Smith.

Jeff Heselwood can be contacted at jhc@netvigator.com



BEHIND THE WHEEL

By Jeff Heselwood



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GOING UNDERGROUND

There is so much good Thai music out there, all you have to do is dig a little. Beyond Carabao and Bodyslam and Four Mod is a vibrant music scene often overlooked by major record labels and music enthusiasts.

At the forefront of innovation in the Thai music scene are Montonn "Jay" Jira and Joni Anwar, who together form Katsue.

You might remember Montonn from last year's Sony PSP commercial, or the movie *Pop Star*, or as an MTV VJ in the late '90s.

Joni started out life as one half of rap duo Raptor, then went on to star in movies including *Dek Ra Bead* and *Ahingsa-Jikko Mee Gam*. Jay and Joni are typical poster boys – *look kreung*, pale skin, gorgeous eyes – but their CD *And So it Goes* is one of the best Thai electronica albums yet.

And So it Goes fused Jay's immaculate production skills – he's worked with Justin Timberlake and Pharell from N.E.R.D – with Joni's sublime voice to create a down-tempo, sweeping LP full of simple beats and dreamy keys. The album is polished with lyrics in English language.

At the other end of the spectrum are Kid Insane, an up-and-coming indie band who have been making waves in recent months thanks to a killer debut album.

The band could be described as a combination of Radiohead and the Smashing Pumpkins. "The sound is dirty, the drums are spliced and diced, and the guitars are distorted," said lead singer Sam Burns.

Insomniac is an album with Thai- and English-language lyrics. The title track is a moody, atmospheric number that shows the



Sam Burns, lead vocals with Kid Insane, takes the mic at the Fat Festival in Bangkok. Kid Insane, though currently still inexperienced, are one up-and-coming Thai band to keep an eye out for in the next few years.

enormous potential this band have for creating innovative, inspiring sounds. The album took two years to produce and is radically different to the usual honey-coated pop on MTV and Channel V.

Like Montonn Jira and Joni Anwar, Sam Burns is another *luk kreung* trying to make it big in the Thai music industry. Born and

raised in London, Sam's move to Thailand followed a similar path to many *luk kreung*: commercials here, movies there and the obligatory modeling shoots.

Kid Insane are still inexperienced and their lives shows have been known to drag on, with the band performing far too many cover versions. In the future, though, Kid Insane will be a band to look out for.

On the subject of cover versions, one of the reasons the Thai indie scene finds it so difficult to evolve is because the vast majority of unsigned, newer bands don't play their own songs in public. The karaoke mentality is reflected – and reinforced – when bands simply choose to cover other people's songs.

For quick entertainment or

mild nostalgia this can be fun, but if a band are that good and they can play their instruments that well, there should be more original music.

If you're looking for some genuine original material, then one of the most interesting Thai albums of the past 12 months was Garuna's *Vanity Project*, an LP that captured the essence of modern living with its blissed-out electronic sounds. It was such a simple idea and it was so inoffensive that most people overlooked the album.

Lead singer Art explained, "It's about we as humans being vain. We are surrounded by things without true lasting value."

Tracks such as the beautiful *So-Hi* blend Art's luscious vocals with frontman Kris's production work.

The album has lazy Sunday afternoons written all over it. The 15 tracks are sugary and dreamily melodic; a touch more serene

than Katsue's *And So it Goes*. But it doesn't end there. If

you're into real, powerful,

guitar-driven music then check out Goose, who are as close to a Thai version of Explosions in the Sky as you are likely to find.

After opening for Keane during the English trio's visit to Thailand, many people were left wondering who were this band who didn't say anything to the crowd, but instead pounded them with riff after riff on multiple guitars. Goose are Thailand's original post-rock band.

Formed in 2002 by five friends in Bangkok, Goose won the "best group" award at last year's Fat Festival.

If you can get hold of the albums *Goose* and *20 Guns Pointing in Your Face* then you will be in for a treat.

For more information about these bands in Thailand visit: www.myspace.com/katsueband, www.myspace.com/kidinsano www.myspace.com/garuna and www.myspace.com/verygoose

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Miss Universe is the envy of women, the fantasy of men and the darling of the media. Her glamorous appearance often overshadows the levels of commitment needed to fulfill her role. Once crowned, Miss Universe is bombarded with tasks, commitments and appearances that leave the young dazzler all flustered with very little time to bask in her own glory.

Winning the coveted title in 2005, Natalie Glebova was suddenly subject to a myriad of press calls and public showings, yet she still looks immaculate every time she appears in public.

Being Miss Universe isn't all champagne and cakes, as an audience with Natalie Glebova heard during her visit to Central Festival Phuket on August 25 to promote "Natalie by BSC", a new beauty supplement from BSC Cosmetology.

Panadda "Boom" Wongpudee, veteran beauty queen and Miss Thailand 2000, was designated the task of asking Natalie questions and translating the answers of the 25-year-old Russian-Canadian beauty for the Thai-speaking audience.

For every woman, the first step to beauty is to believe that you are beautiful, said firm-believer Natalie.

"You have to start from the inside and it will show from the outside. The truth is, everyone can look good. The first step is to believe that it can happen for you."

"I do not want people to think that because I am Miss Universe I have to look beautiful," explained Natalie, who went on to outline the various methods she uses to maintain her beauty.

When it comes to skin, Natalie has a few secrets: the first is plenty of rest. When you are well rested your wellbeing will shine through in your skin condition, she said.

The second secret is to drink a lot of water. Although not a revelation, this is worth emphasizing, she explained, because drinking water can bring a freshness and radiance to your skin thanks to H₂O's natural qualities.

Natalie's final revelation was that "you are what you eat". Eating healthy, nutritious food will benefit your skin by supplying it with the essential supplements it needs, she said.

Though born with perfect cheek bones and enviable curves, Natalie said that looking beautiful isn't as easy as you might think for the former most beautiful woman in the universe. She said that she wasn't born with a forgiving metabolism that allows some people to eat everything, do nothing and still look great. Natalie proved to the audience that she is in fact human by saying that she has to watch what she eats and exercise every day.

Sharing a few of her exercise tips, Natalie said, "A lot of people think that to have a slim and well-toned body you have to spend hours and hours in the gym every day. The truth is that you can just take half an hour every day."



Miss Universe 2005 Natalie Glebova poses with her new line of jelly supplements.

Jelly: a solid start to beauty

By Anand Singh and Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

Natalie's other helpful tips for forms of exercise included going for walks, running and swimming. "You can also go to the gym and lift weights," she added. "You can do anything!"

Natalie's advice to women who find that they don't have time to exercise was to "spare some time to take care of themselves". She continued, "There is al-

ways time available. Just half an hour a day, you can take that time and do something special for yourself. Taking care of yourself can mean a lot of different things.

You can eat better, cook healthier, treat yourself to a massage – all these things are essential for your health. If you are healthy then it will show on the outside and you will look beautiful."

Like the rest of us, Natalie doesn't always find it easy to eat

healthy food. Her suggestion was to plan ahead. Natalie always has an abundance of fruits and vegetables in her home and she makes an effort to stay stocked up on lean meats and cereals.

Though admittedly not the best cook, Natalie told the audi-

ence at Central Festival that with these things at hand, once in a while she can make herself a couple of sandwiches or a salad.

Along with her diet recommendations, Natalie had a secret recipe that she prepared on stage. "All you need to do is make some jelly," she beamed.

Natalie used lychee-, apple- and grape-flavored jelly, all mixed together in a bowl. She then added low-fat yogurt into the mix before pouring it over some cereal. A few raisins later and the dish was complete – all it needed was for Natalie to place a cheery on top *et voila!*

Rumormongers were given a smattering of meat to sink their teeth into as Natalie revealed that she will wed tennis-playing boyfriend Paradorn "Ball" Sri-chaphan later this year.

Back to business, Natalie had a new range of beauty supplements to promote. "Natalie by BSC" comes in capsule form, but the audience was most excited about the flavored-jelly supplements (the capsules and jellies achieve the same effect).

Whether you're after powerful antioxidants to improve your general health, a boost of collagen E to help your skin or a heavy dose of amino acids to help your muscles, Natalie's range of jellies has everything covered.

Although the jellies taste like candy, Natalie assured her audience that they contain no sugar, will not make you fat and are good for your health. One a day should keep the doctor away.

Natalie's jellies and capsules (seven jellies for 140 baht, 30 jellies for 560 baht, 30 capsules for 1,000 baht) are available at the BSC counter on the first floor of Central Department Store, Central Festival Phuket.

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Swinging back to sexy

If a fear of cracking the ceiling has made your chandelier-swinging days a thing of the past, but you still fancy a bit more fun in the bedroom, read on. Whether you are single, newly loved-up or have been together forever, here is some tongue-in-cheek advice on how to spice up your sex life.

Most of us live with the thought that everyone else is having better sex than we are. The good news is that whatever your age, it is easier than you think to be ecstatic about the sex you are having now.

For freshly graduated singletons, seeing just one episode of *Sex And The City* can have you fearing for your sex life. Yet with one in five Western adults over the

preoccupations with finding a partner and spending time thinking what you want from your next sexual relationship – and yes, there will be one. Anxieties about getting naked with someone new and feeling shy in bed, though natural, can be overcome by boosting your confidence all round.

Sex psychologist Dr Petra Boynton suggests to “stop thinking about what a new partner may or may not want from you.”

She continues, “Your sex life has to satisfy you – and that means knowing what makes you feel special during sex. Get to know how your body works and good sex can be yours.”

Whether this involves a trip to a lingerie shop, a few handy props or more time thinking about sex, only you can say. One thing is cer-

tain, though: discover the secret to what makes you click, tick and whir (or purr), and you’ll have good sex every time and be more likely to be the kind of enthusiastic lover men adore.

Your social life may have you in raptures and even new shoes can make you shake with excitement, but hand on heart, can you honestly say your sex life gets you ecstatic now that you have moved in together?

If it doesn’t, don’t worry: that initial got-to-have-sex-at-any-cost feeling disappears for all of us; eventually normal life takes over and, even though the passion is still there, the last thing



you’ll think about as you get ready for work in the mornings is how sexy your knickers look to your man.

One in six dual-income-no-kids couples works more than 48 hours a week, so it’s not surprising that to keep a passionate edge on a relationship you need to put some thought into your actions.

The good news is that this does not mean choosing sex over work or vice versa. A University of Wisconsin study says it is a myth that the more dedicated to work a person becomes, the more their sex life suffers – career-motivated women seem to have sex more frequently than other women, apparently.

To keep feeling like the desirable sex bomb you were when you first met, Tracey Cox recommends an American technique known as simmering.

“Every time you have an erotic thought during the day, wherever you are, write it down

and use it as a jumping off point,” she says. “Then develop a fantasy around the thought and tell/email/text your partner the details before you see them. The idea is that you’ll both get used to simmering (and triggering) desire before you meet.”

Sex needn’t be long-winded and Olympic standard to be fantastic. Choose the sex that best fits the time you have: if you’re running late, opt for a quickie – fast and satisfying. Better still, perfect your favorite position. Surveys show most people use the same three positions every time they have sex – missionary still rating as a British favorite, for example.

“Feeling comfortable with each other, talking openly and enjoying a total lack of inhibition – these are the advantages long-term lovers have over new ones,” says Cox. However, one potential turn-off of monogamous long-term sex could be that you’ve got

sex on tap.

“The sex-starved crave someone to touch their naughty bits,” she says, “whereas long-term lovers don’t get a chance to build desire as it’s always been satiated.”

If that sounds like you, bear in mind that 62% of men and 73% of women say that their partners are sexier now than when they first met.

So the solution is not a new lover but adding variety to your current sex life. You wouldn’t have the same meal every night, so don’t have the same sex. A simple thing like sex in a different room or at a different time can be all it takes to put things back on track.

Start by having a conversation about what you like about your sex life. While you’re at it, if you will excuse the pun, go back to basics. A study from Relate, a London-based company dealing with couples and their problems, showed that couples who had sex a lot but did not kiss were more likely to break up than couples who kissed a lot but had less sex.

So it is not always about orgasms; it’s all about romance. Devote time to making your sex life more varied and you will reap the rewards. Just pucker up and get kissing...

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

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Some things are a mystery to me. I have four friends here in Phuket – four attractive, intelligent and caring girls who seem to have many things in common in addition to the fact that they are all Thai.

I have a number of other associates and friends around the country, many of whom are also Thai ladies who have the same things in common as these four here in Phuket.

They all have good jobs and successful careers, good personalities, make excellent company, dress beautifully and are generally terrific. There's one other thing that they have in common: they all have foreign boyfriends, ex-boyfriends, divorced husbands or boyfriends that they don't really want – but don't know how to tell them.

In the case of my four friends, their partners all happen to be English. Now there lies the major part of the mystery. Why would a beautiful Thai lady want to leave the warm, sunny country of her birth? Half the world would love to live in a place like this, where everybody in the village is part of your family and there is always somebody taking care of somebody else. Also, there are plenty of nice guys to love them who actually live in Thailand or nearby.

Waiting for the dream

Why would they go and lock themselves away in the dark, cold misery of an English winter with a grumpy, jealous, possessive boyfriend who doesn't have the slightest understanding of Thai ways and who thinks "culture" is the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace? Why would they be happy in a place where you never get to meet – or want to meet – your next-door neighbor? It's totally beyond my understanding.

LARGER THAN LIFE

By Graham Doven

Pining away, dreaming of living in another country far across the sea, the notion of romance from afar... I guess the grass is always greener on the other side. But why consider spending the rest of your life serving a sentence of weekly visits to the supermarket, crowded trains, long hours of darkness, cold and incessant drizzle – not to mention British soap operas and comedy shows? Mind you, the Brits are the best at making you laugh. The British sense of humor is without doubt the finest in the world. It must have been developed as an antidote to the world of Mr Crippen and Jack the Ripper. Laughter in the face of adversity, perhaps?



One of these boyfriends, during his 10 daily telephone calls from the UK, tells my friend that she cannot have any friends apart from him or go to the beach. He also asks her who she is having lunch with, who she is having dinner with, where she was on her day off. He also threatens to make trouble at her workplace if she doesn't do what he tells her to do. All this rubbish – and they're not even married yet!

My friend says that he's lonely because he's just separated from his wife. I asked her why he separated. "I don't know," she replied. "He says his wife used

to shout at him." That's certainly believable. More likely, however, is that she went crazy with his possessive jealousy and ran away.

That's just one story. Another friend was married in England for several years. Now she lives in Thailand by herself without her husband and her child – could freedom possibly come at a higher price? Without the father's consent, she has no legal right to take the child from England. The reasons for all this is another matter; there are always two sides to every story. But the point is that, as with 80%

of these relationships, it simply doesn't work out – for a multitude of reasons.

Yet another of my friends waited for four years for her English boyfriend to make a commitment. When she finally put the pressure on, he backed away and left a broken-hearted and deeply-wounded lady behind.

Holiday romances often do not stand the test of time when it comes to the harsh realities of working life and huge cultural differences. This is always going to be a problem as long as Thailand is a holiday destination and has such beautiful women. Unfortunately, relationships need more than beauty and exoticism to bridge the distance and inevitable homesickness.

I have another friend who's waiting for an Australian boyfriend. She's also pretty and has a good job. I suppose if that one ever develops into a full relationship, the only thing I can say is: if you're going to be miserable and lonely, it might as well be in a nice place.

By the way, while I was writing this story the Australian boyfriend rang my friend and told her that he wasn't able to come on holiday to Thailand – and that she had better find herself another man...



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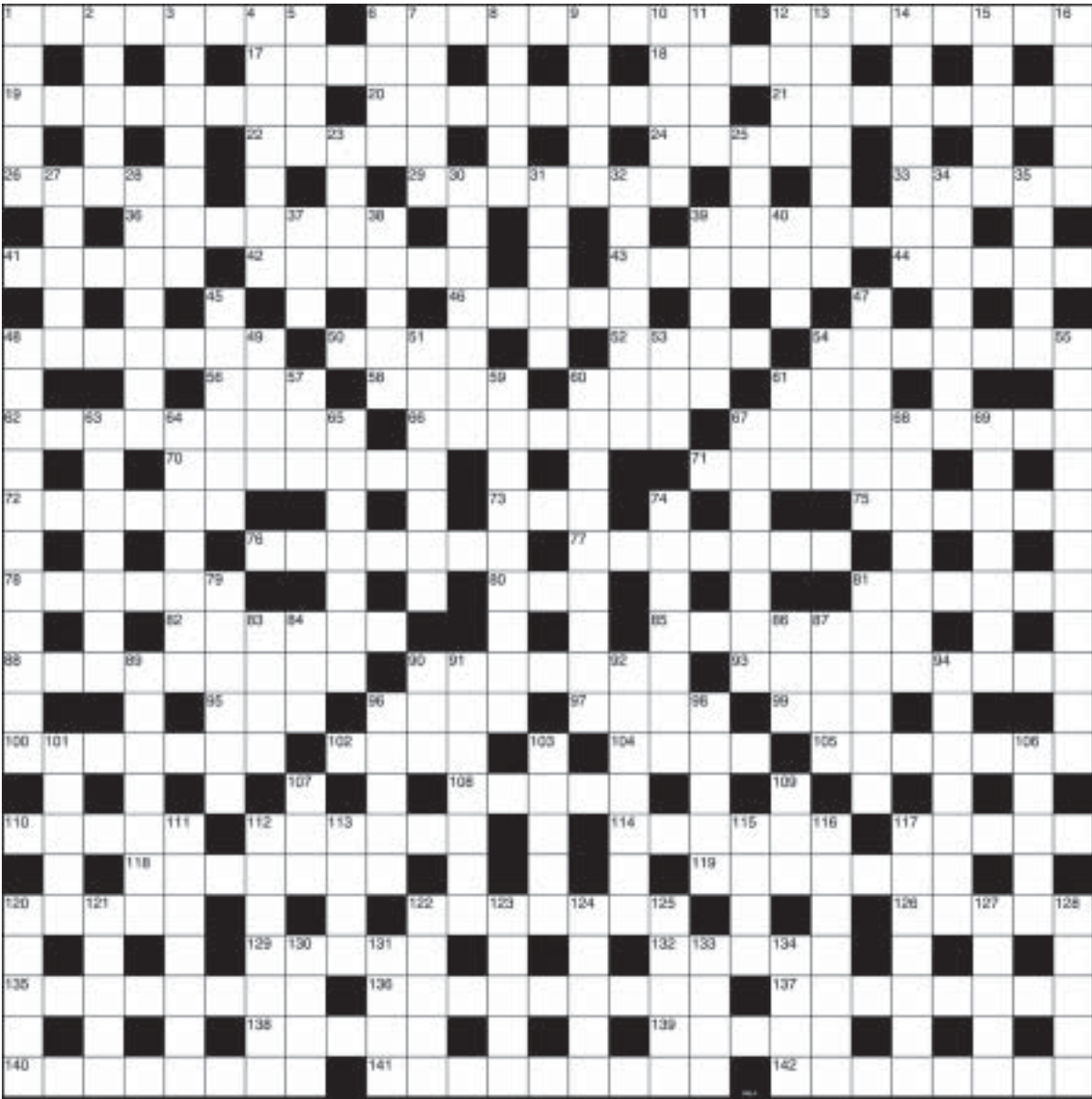


The BIG Crossword

Hidden Words

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

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



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- Across**
1. Having branched horns
6. Inelegant
12. Rum, fruit cocktail
17. Church passage
18. Constructor
19. Turtle-like creature
20. Not set down on paper
21. Fabric
22. Lazed
24. Unrehearsed (2-3)
26. Synagogue scholar
29. Ticket seller
33. Lead-in
36. Slackly
39. Addictive narcotic
41. Hank of wool
42. Amounts to
43. Become blacker
44. Fetes
46. Cumbersome
48. Let in again
50. Opposed to
52. Notion
54. Snuggest
56. Groove
58. Soothsayer
60. Hand-make
61. Ho... Minh
62. Held in contempt
66. Set of 3 books
67. Young ruffians
70. Stain
71. Coiled
72. Paltry
73. Cap
75. Partial refund
76. Misconduct mark
77. Prophecies
78. Wanderers
80. Gee whiz!
81. Claim
82. Lessening
85. Malicious
88. Apprehending
90. Collide with (3,4)
93. Boat-building areas
95. Raises (the ante)
96. Sharp twinge
97. Strong wind
99. Anticipated touch-down time (1,1,1)
100. Big Apple residents, New...
102. Widespread
104. Hitler book, ...*Kampf*
105. School nurse's room
108. Tot up (3,2)
110. Postal sticker
112. Mr
114. Long steady gaze
117. More painful
118. Jazz city, New...
119. Fanatically
120. Cavalry beast
122. Pharmacist
126. Revises (text)
129. Molten core rock
132. Dutch center of government, The...
135. Dead-end road
136. Chilled H2O (4,5)
137. Fashion industry (3,5)
138. From Emerald Isle
139. Cake topping
140. Reserve (3,5)
141. Academic half-years
142. Mollusc's home
5. Perished
6. Paste
7. Splits apart
8. Around (that date)
9. Respite (3-2)
10. Smudge
11. Beach covering
12. Actress, ...Moore
13. From Oman
14. Waiting in line
15. Numskull
16. Snow house
23. Jaunty rhythm
25. Observe, ...at
27. Leg/foot joint
28. Rendered sightless
30. Checkout operator
31. Trustworthy
32. Swirling
34. Coming closer to
35. Peruses
37. Geological age
38. Gapes
39. Salt/pepper set
40. Managing director
45. Masculine
47. Steam generator
48. Fundamental
49. Adjust (piano)
51. Ties up
53. Do-it-yourself
54. Meat cutlet
55. In a crass manner
57. For the present, pro...
59. Conservative faction (5,4)
60. Touching forehead to the ground
61. Pigeon call
63. Speak haltingly
64. Wears away
65. Turning down (lights)
67. Silly blunders
68. In perfect conditions
69. Hobbyist
74. Sewer access
79. Sixth planet
81. Overseas student housekeeper (2,4)
83. Drinks slowly
84. ...& outs
86. In French it's Le
87. Convulsions
89. Arctic natives
90. British flying force
91. Dig up
92. Interferes
94. Ghostbuster Dan...
96. Fluid measures
98. Downy duck
101. Excel
103. Computer device
106. Proficient
107. Actress, ...Farrow
109. Underwater vessel
111. Favors
112. Woman/fish
113. Warm & protected
115. Snake's venom tooth
116. Line of forebears
117. Investigators
120. Magician's ...Pocus
121. Reignited
122. Hidden supply
123. Actor, ...Murphy
124. Ill-suited
125. Belonging to them
127. Cross
128. Pong
130. Unit of land
131. Dodge
133. Rainbow shapes
134. Ashes jars

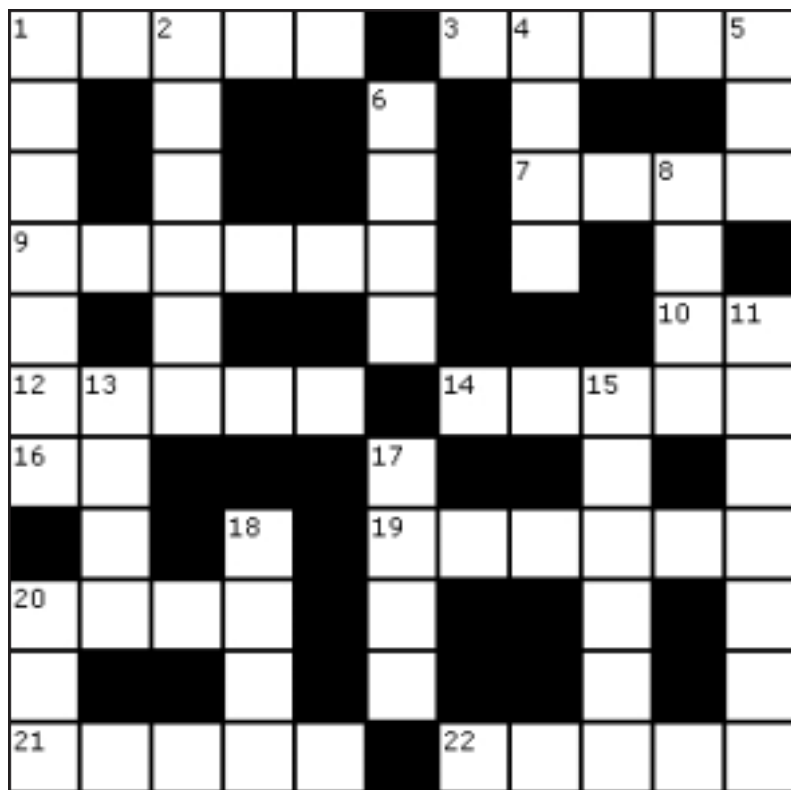
Solution on the next page

su | do | ku
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Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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

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



Quick Crossword

ACROSS

1. Mathematical snake?
3. Legs on a glass.
7. Bend.
9. Arm joints.
10. Washington state?
12. Foe
14. Not now
15. Carry out
19. Imbibes
20. Electric fish?
21. Stared
22. Before CDs

DOWN

1. Changed
2. Try
4. Polite behind
5. Heavens above
6. Curr
11. Naturally grown rock
13. Not one
15. Muscle-to-bone joiner
17. Norse god
18. River island
20. Doctor's brain test

Solution below

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



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

1. Ada Lovelace was the first person to write what?
2. From which country did the board game chess originate?
3. Which US president was shot five days after the end of the American Civil War?
4. Which team sport has periods of play called chukkas?
5. Which language has the most native speakers?
6. Which of the body's systems controls hormones?
7. What new token was added to Monopoly in 1999?
8. What branch of medicine focuses on the ear, nose, and sinuses?
9. What does the acronym SETI stand for?
10. How long did it take to make a Model T Ford when the assembly line was first introduced?
11. Where was the idea for the World Wide Web, now called the Internet, conceived?
12. What are the names of the two bones in the forearm?
13. What does the now-household acronym DVD stand for?
14. What does the adjective "ovine" refer to?
15. What is the meaning of the title of Adolf Hitler's book, *Mein Kampf*?
16. What does the name of the Irish nationalist political party, Sinn Fein mean?
17. After oxygen, which is the most common element on Earth?
18. Who was the first children's author to win the Whitbread Prize for Book of the Year?
19. Who was the last man on the moon?
20. What do sailors call the belt of low atmospheric pressure near the equator?

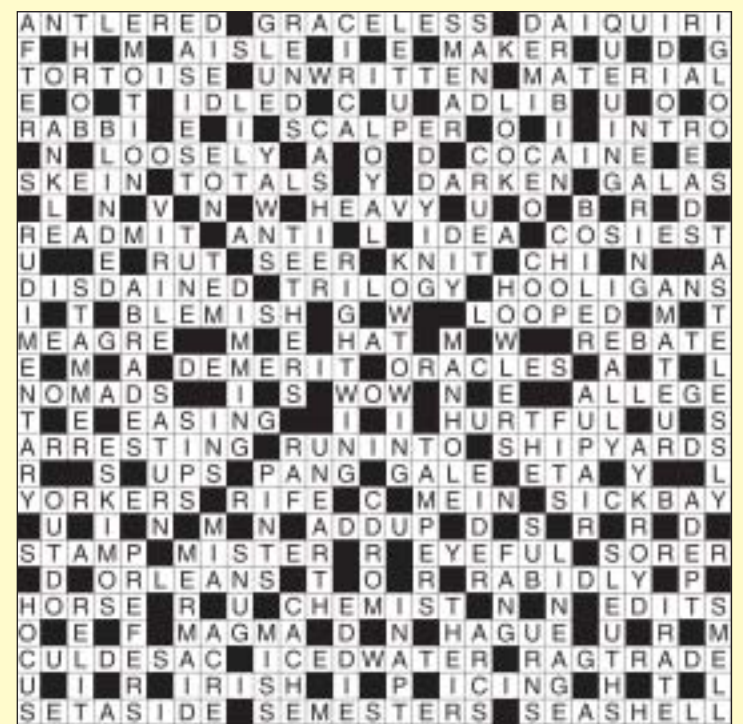
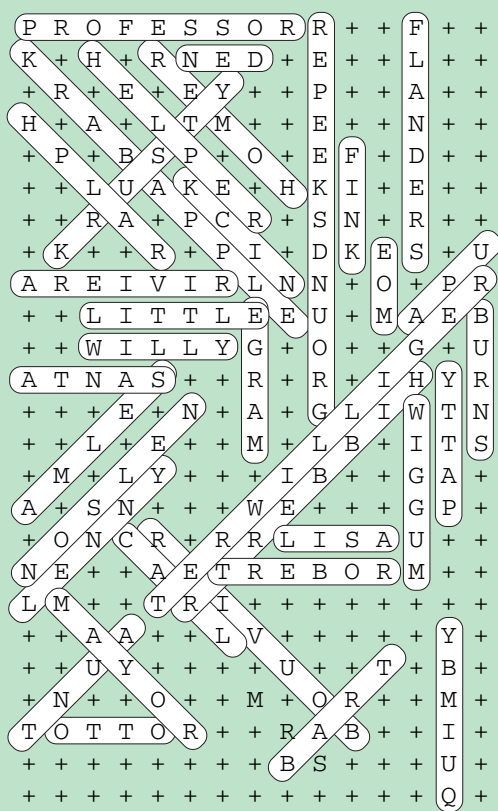
Answers below, right

Puzzle Solutions

Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



Hidden Words SOLUTION



Solution to this week's BIG Crossword

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

Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

Monster Quiz Answers

1. A computer program; 2. India; 3. Abraham Lincoln; 4. Polo; 5. Mandarin Chinese; 6. The endocrine system; 7. A sack of money; 8. Otolaryngology; 9. Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence; 10. 93 minutes; 11. Geneva, Switzerland; 12. Radius and Ulna; 13. Digital Versatile Disc or Digital Video Disc; 14. Sheep; 15. My struggle; 16. Ourselves Alone; 17. Silicone; 18. Philip Pullman, for *The Amber Spyglass*; 19. Harrison Schmitt; 20. The Doldrums.

Aging hippie leads motley crew

If you'd wandered into the Superstar Bar on Patpong Rd a quarter-century ago, you'd might have noticed a table full of young, laid-back, tanned men – yacht captains all of them. They were also a smuggling brotherhood, sailing boatloads of Thai sticks down to the northern coast of Australia.

The business would prove so lucrative that in 1988, a 180-foot oil-rig tender would strike out for California with a highly-trained uniformed crew, laden with 8,250 bales of primo cannabis – 72 tonnes of the stuff.

The evolution of the dope trade from happy-go-lucky amateurs to highly sophisticated logistical professionals is the tale behind *Reefer Men* (Hodder & Stoughton, London, 2007, 406pp), subtitled "The Rise and Fall of a Billionaire Drugs Ring". Author Tony Thompson has already written two books on Britain's criminal gangs and he approaches this one with relish.

"The smugglers who met up at the Superstar were as unlikely a band of brothers as there has ever been, ranging from helicopter pilots and former members of the army's special forces to college drop-outs and spoilt brats living off their trust funds," Thompson writes. "But chief among them was an aging hippie by the name of Brian Daniels."

Daniels' life changed when he married a high-powered Thai wife with police and military connections throughout Thai-



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

land, Laos and Vietnam. He moved to the Northeast, immersed himself in the study of Thai language and culture, and drifted away from his farang friends at the Superstar. In short order, he turned into a perverse sort of Peace Corps volunteer, advising local farmers on how to improve their new cash crop: marijuana.

"Not only did Daniels guarantee the farmers a market, he also helped introduce new seed stock, advanced fertilizers, and better methods of irrigation," Thompson writes.

He also tackled a perennial problem in marijuana smuggling: the great bulk of the product and susceptibility to mold on long sea voyages. "He adapted a trash compactor to squash the drugs down to a more manageable size, which meant that more marijuana could fit into a smaller space. He also introduced vacuum packaging ma-

chines that squeezed out even more air, reducing the space ever further and significantly delaying the onset of molding."

Daniels' most successful partners were the Shaffer brothers: Chris, a yacht captain, and Bill, a former Green Beret. Their most audacious haul came in 1987 with a load of 42 tons of marijuana. Their mother ship *Manuia* met two Vietnamese fishing boats dispatched by Daniels a couple-hundred miles off the coast of Thailand.

The *Manuia* proceeded to Alaska where it was to link up with an American fishing boat named *Stormbird* for the final run down to Washington State. But a disaffected member of their gang was feeding information to the DEA

and the Shaffer brothers knew they were being tailed as their scanners picked up the conversations of the drug agents.

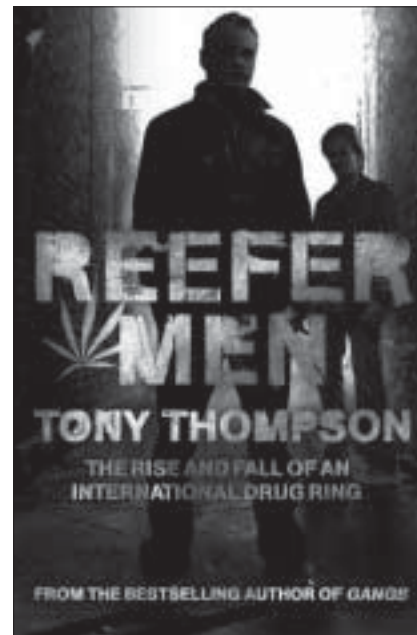
The brothers hired another fishing boat, *Blue Fin*, transferred the cargo by conveyor belt and landed the stash in broad daylight in a Washington port disguised as fish crates. The original *Stormbird* was

loaded with fish when DEA agents swarmed aboard. The crew was calmly drinking coffee, without so much as a single joint in evidence.

During the next year, the DEA managed to infiltrate the ring and everyone was eventually busted for the failed 1988 shipment of 72 tons of dope. Daniels is still in prison and not scheduled for release until 2010. Having gone through millions in mansions, yachts and race cars, the Shaffer brothers copped a plea and were released in 1998. They launched their own entertainment company in Santa Monica.

"In 1999 they allegedly sold the film rights to their story for \$1 million. Brat Pitt was lined up to play Bill Shaffer and the project, provisionally titled *Smugglers Moon*, was due to begin filming after *Ocean's Eleven*. The film has, however, stalled at the development stage and no progress has been made since the original announcement."

For now, you'll have to settle for the book.



EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

Until September 13. Rugby World Cup live.

IRB France kicks off, powered by Guinness. Watch all the action at Angus O'Tool's Irish Pub, Karon Beach. Let the games commence! Big men play hard on two big screens because size does matter! Broadcast live from France with English commentary. Late games will also be shown.

Open from 10am until drunk. Eat, drink and sleep rugby at O'Tool's!

For further information contact John. Tel: 076-398262. Email: info@otools-phuket.com

September 15. Splash for Trash – Underwater Clean Up.

Take the plunge on International Clean Up Day, September 15, with Dive Asia and Sea Fun Divers, Phuket's only PADI 5-Star CDC Centers.

Participants must be certified divers and must register due to limited space on the boats.

Participation is free and everyone is welcome. Boats will leave Chalong Pier at 8:30 am, returning at 5 pm.

For further information call 076-330598 or 076-330124, email info@diveasia.com or visit www.diveasia.com

September 15. Wine Dinner BBQ @ Wine Connection Chalong.

BBQ dinner for just 390 baht, or BBQ dinner with one

bottle of wine for 1,000 baht per person. Live band, fireworks, lucky draws – everything for a great Saturday night.

For more information contact Pascal at Email: fb.phuket@wineconnection.co.th or Tel: 087-8896074.

September 22. The 8th Phuket International Beer Fest.

A celebration of probably the best beers and most ardent beer drinkers in the world at the Watermark bar and restaurant.

This is your chance to show the world, or at least Phuket, your favorite beer. Yes! YOU supply the beer – in the hope that it wins the prestigious accolade of "Winner of The 8th Phuket International Beer Fest". Each competitor must supply 12 bottles or cans of their nominated international beer. All entries are required to register in advance.

Entry fee: 12 beers plus 800 baht.

Tip: bring back the best beer from overseas while you're traveling this summer! For more information call Stuart Bird at 081-7376184.

September 22. Tax Seminar for Value Added Tax (VAT).

Network Advisory Team Ltd (NAT) will hold a full-day seminar focused on VAT issues on Saturday, September 22. You will have a chance to learn and ask questions directly from the director of the Bureau of Tax Auditing Standards of the Rev-

enue Department Head Office in Bangkok.

The seminar will be held at the Royal Phuket City Hotel from 9 am until 4:30 pm. Tickets are priced at 2,675 baht per person. Book before September 5 and reserve an early-bird ticket for 2,033 baht. Anybody who has attended a previous NAT tax seminar will receive a further 10% discount.

The seminar will be in Thai language only.

For more information please contact NAT, Phuket Branch, at 076-212 989, or K. Sriuran at 089-6523229.

September 30. Phuket Yacht Club Sailing Open Day and BBQ.

Family fun, BBQ and beach activities. Try out sailing on a catamaran, small yacht or dinghy. Come and see the junior fleet or try dragon boat racing sponsored by Sail in Asia.

The Phuket Yacht Club offers sailing-training sessions for juniors throughout the year. Next sailing course starts October 7.

Booking recommended. For more information contact Katy Gooch. Tel: 085-2159185. Email: ktfirmin@yahoo.co.uk

October 11-19. Phuket Vegetarian Festival.

This festival is an annual event held during the ninth lunar month of the Chinese calendar, which normally falls in late Sep-

tember or early October.

Sacred rituals are performed at all Chinese temples in Phuket. The processions from each temple show spectacles of strict vegetarians, known as devotees, ostensibly possessed by gods, piercing their tongues, cheeks and other parts of the anatomy with sharp implements.

October 21-27. Phuket Film Festival.

Phuket will see this festival realized with the Gala Opening on October 21. On that day, the festival will present the newly restored Thai film *The King of the*

White Elephant (1941), the only remaining full-length, English-language feature film made entirely in Thailand.

Check the *Gazette* for more-detailed information.

Want to be one of our volunteers? Call 076-209000 or email filmfestival.phuket@gmail.com

For further information visit www.phuketfilmfestival.com

October 23. Chulalongkorn Day – Public Holiday.

Chulalongkorn Day commemorates the reign of Rama V who is best remembered for abolishing slavery in Thailand.

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The Phuket Gazette
- Since 1994 -

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It's a crime

After more than 100 years in continual service, Phuket Provincial Prison is an ideal candidate for designation as a historical site. While the prison may lack the same historical pedigree as the Tower of London, the fact remains that it is older than the most "Sino-Portuguese" shophouses in the section of the city commonly referred to as Old Phuket Town and it is touted as a tourist attraction.

Phuket Prison is also older, by about a decade, than San Francisco Bay's Alcatraz, which annually attracts about 1.4 million visitors, most of whom pay the adult admission fee of US\$10.

Of course, there is a major obstacle stopping the prison from finally being decommissioned: its current population of more than 1,000 inmates – already 300 more than its maximum capacity [See Inside Story, pp 4-5].

Unfortunately, while the number of inmates continues to grow apace with the island's swelling population, the prison itself is restricted to the six rai of land it currently occupies.

The wardens – and the inmates themselves – should be given credit that thus far there have been no mass breakouts or deadly gang violence associated with this overcrowding, as has happened numerous times at other prisons in the country in recent decades.

Despite this run of good luck, it doesn't take an expert to see where the current trend is heading. Existing laws requiring all provincial prisons to accept any and all convicts sentenced there by the Courts – even if they are already dangerously overcrowded – constitutes little more than an institutionalized recipe for disaster.

Fortunately, the solution to the overcrowding at Phuket Prison is a simple one – at least in theory. Unlike with so many other pressing development issues facing Phuket, skyrocketing land prices are not the problem. The Thai Department of Corrections already has at its disposal a large 104-rai site at Baan Bang Jo, in Tambon Srisoonthorn, that could easily be developed into a modern, new facility if funding were available.

One way to raise such funding might be to sell the six rai of prime, hillside real estate that the prison currently occupies. While the site was no doubt conveniently located on the outskirts of town when it was built, that is hardly the case now. Sold as a block, the land would fetch more than enough on the open market to fund a better and much larger prison at the new site.

While this would end any semi-tongue-in-cheek plans to build a museum there, it might prevent a future riot or similar disturbance. Prison riots, it should be noted, are not good for tourism, especially when the prison is conducting tours there.

– The Editor

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

The Phuket Gazette

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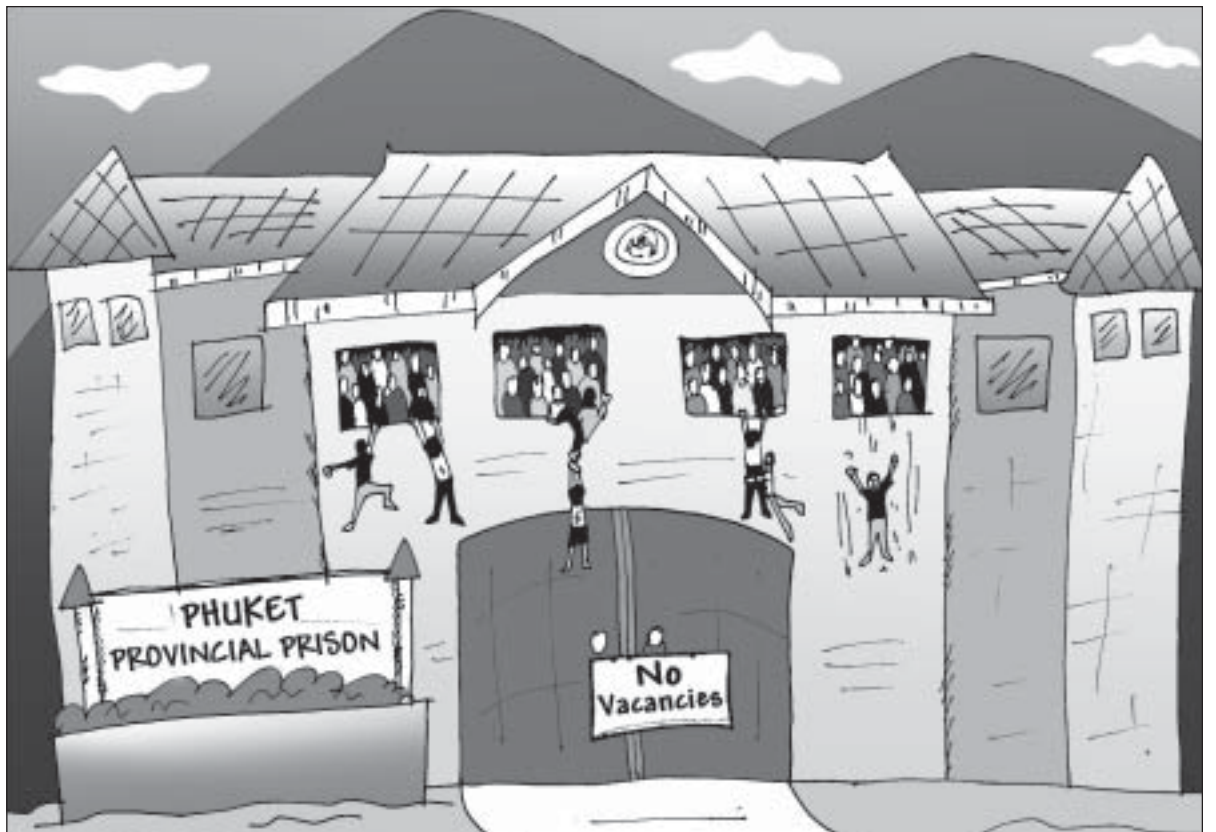
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Letters

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

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

Let the Burmese have their concert

Okay, the British have problems getting over the last war with Germany some 62 years ago, but the last time Phuket was invaded by the Burmese was nearly 200 years ago. It's time to move on and let bygones be bygones. By that, I am referring to May Kyawt Shin's proposal to stage a concert here for Burmese workers. What better way could there be of showing a magnanimous offer of reconciliation and appreciation for all their good work and labor than by staging this cultural event?

As for requesting their employers to attend, I'm sure they would not resent giving up their time for the day. In fact, I have no doubt that they may well enjoy it too. This only leaves the powers-that-be and what kind of priority they wish to attach to this venture of good will. Regarding all the regulations that have to be met and adhered to, I'm sure that where there's a will there's a way. Let's give them a break as they truly deserve one.

A welcomed guest
Phuket

Solving Phuket's trash woes

A current hot topic is the recycling issue and the purchase of a second incinerator. First of all, on the recycling issue, it's already here. At the bottom of my current and previous soi, an army of our Isarn brethren have been carrying out a toil-free collection service at the 24-hour 7-Eleven.

Okay, this service needs some fine tuning as, presently, they do tend to make some mess

in their filtering arrangements, but all that needs to be done is to put what they favor such as bottles, plastic and paper in a separate area or bin.

This service needs to be officially recognized and actively encouraged and promoted by the powers that be. Especially when many local people burn their rubbish nightly.

This would then negate the cost of extra bins and additional collections by the authorities.

Getting back to the incinerator issue, many years ago a manager at the Saphan Hin plant told me that the existing plant wasn't working anywhere near capacity due to a lack of repairs and maintenance.

It would be interesting to confirm whether or not this is still the case and, if so, to highlight the fact that even the existing plant isn't working to full capacity due to lack of funding, casting doubt as to whether we need a new one.

Keeping it clean
Phuket

Pirated goods for charity

The recent burning of pirated goods is such an environmental disgrace. At the very least, Phuket Provincial Police should recycle them.

Why not give these items to a worthwhile charity, school or orphanage. The items could simply be labeled as copies that are not for sale and then they could be used in a productive manner instead of simply going up in flames.

Stuart
Australia

Keep pushing the right buttons

Congratulations to Ignacio Evans for one of the best *Gazette* articles ("Pushing Buttons", p. 30, August 18) I have ever read in this newspaper regarding anything. What a courageous piece of candid journalism.

I am not an IT guy; I am one of those suckers who bought the Acer laptop with the Home Vista software. I miss and love the XP compared to this Vista garbage. I really have a hard time figuring out the different methods of doing just about everything and I find Vista makes me work harder to do what was easy and common sense with XP.

Everyone I know that owns an Apple said they just got sick of Microsoft and flew the coop.

I love your part on politics. You sure do know Thailand. I have lived here for over 30 years and you are on top of things. Keep up the good work.

James Pearson
Phuket

It's about balls

I have noticed many complaints over the recent weeks about the poor quality of "footy" on True Visions. I recommend these whingers get cable TV at 350 baht a month and watch real men play real "footy" on the Australia Network every weekend.

Unlike soccer, these men do not fall down in mortal agony at the touch of a feather or a broken fingernail, and if you touch an umpire it's goodbye for at least four weeks, which is unlike in Europe where the referee is continually harassed and touched.

Real "Footy" Man
Patong

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

I have been on the community committee for 40 years. I was born here and I have watched our community grow up and have followed with interest the ensuing problems.

The problem now is simply that there are more people in the village and much more traffic – it's getting crowded.

Now there are many buildings on land where once there was a natural waterway, or *klong*. Flooding started becoming a problem four to five years ago when one by one, people filled in the *klong* so they could build their buildings, blocking where the water would have flowed.

A storm drain was built to channel away the water that the *klong* used to, but it's not big enough. The *klong* was about 1.2 meters wide, but the storm drain is only 80 centimeters wide.

So now when there is heavy rain, which we have every year, the road floods. This has caused many accidents along this stretch of road and many villagers have complained about this.

Often the water is so deep that it blocks one lane, especially in front of Supercheap. This leaves all traffic to use just one lane, causing traffic jams.

Many times the water is too deep for motorbikes and they stall or break down. I often help people to push their bikes out of the water as it can be too deep for one person alone to push a motorbike out of it. That's normal here when it rains.

We used to report the flooding to Rassada *OrBorTor* (Tambon Administration Organi-

Flooding just another symptom of progress

FIRST PERSON

The deluges that fell upon Phuket early this month saw the usual places in Phuket City flood while the drains struggled to channel the water away. One black spot for flooding, well known to motorists, is along Thepkasattri Rd, from Soi Siangtai all the way up to Supercheap.

Anurak Hongwongpaisarn, 67, was born in Soi Bangcheelao, which runs next to Supercheap.

Here he tells the *Gazette* about the development he has seen in the area over the years and how the flooding is just one of the many growing pains of progress.



zation) and they used to come and pump the water out, but using a pump is not enough when the rain is falling heavily or there is more water to be pumped than the truck can contain.

It's not the right solution. The solution is to make the storm drain bigger. In the rainy season, there is no warning when the road will flood and the government

departments have no suggestions as to what we should do when it does flood.

In the past, it used to flood just in front of the Esso petrol station (near Supercheap). Back then Thepkasattri Rd was two lanes. Now the road has been expanded to four lanes. The road is better than it was before, but when the road was widened the

number of buildings in the area also increased.

Another related problem is trash. Many times when it floods, it is because a lot of garbage and leaves blocks the drains, restricting the amount of water that can flow away.

Now that there are more people in the area, there are not enough garbage bins. As the mu-

nicipality collects the garbage every few days, we have to put up with the stench from the trash until it is collected.

Adding to this, there are many stray dogs in the area now and they scavenge through the trash for food. The dogs leave trash strewn all over the place, leaving a stinking mess. Then when it rains, the trash starts to rot and the smell gets even worse.

In the past it was much better living here because there were less people, much fewer buildings and not so many problems. When there was flooding we could go out by boat, but it's different now.

Many other villages in the area are growing, too. I'm waiting to see what solutions the local administrations will come up with.

For example, the storm drain in front of Kiatsin Village is full of trash and stinks. Rassada *OrBorTor* said that this drain is the responsibility of Phuket City Municipality, but Phuket City Municipality said that this area belongs to Rassada *OrBorTor*.

I'm really tired of hearing that same old excuse.

*Compiled by
Natcha Yuttaworawut*

Can I insure my pets?

Is there an insurance company, in Bangkok or Phuket, that offers animal insurance?

Alistair Beveridge
Rawai

Gazette columnist Top Dog replies:

I am not aware of pet insurance being available in Thailand, but you would need to check with a good broker to be sure.

Pet insurance is a relatively recent introduction in the West, but it is already a huge business there because of the very high veterinary charges in the West.

In Thailand, vet charges are generally around 10% of what you would pay in the West for a major operation.

This, of course, begs the question as to whether pet insurance is really necessary here.

Khao Rang Pet Hospital replies:

Private insurance companies, such as Mittare Insurance Co Ltd, based in Bangkok, offer animal insurance for pet owners throughout Thailand.

Contact them for more information at 026-407799, then press 0, or email sombatp@mittare.com

Issues & ANSWERS

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

Eric Dohlon of insurance brokerage firm PCD Consultants replies:

The majority of insurance companies that provide insurance packages for houses will cover the liability from injuries and damages caused by your pets, but only on the premises.

Thai Sri Insurance [formerly Thai Zurich Insurance Company] provides a higher level of cover in this respect.

They will also cover the loss of a pedigree dog or cat.

A section of their Home Care Premier Insurance policy reads:

The company will indemnify the insured for the cost of replacing the pet(s) in respect of accidental death caused by violent external and visible means, occurring whilst the pet(s) is/are confined within the premises with

another of the same breed, sex and pedigree up to aggregate limit stated in the Schedule in respect of all the insured's pet(s).

Except:

a) Any physical defects, illness or disease known to the Insured when the Policy was taken up or at renewal and not accepted in writing by the Company.

b) Aged under 3 months or over 5 years old.

c) Undergoing or has undergone surgery not necessitated by accidental bodily injury not necessary to save the pet(s) life, which results in its death.

This extension shall not apply to pet(s) other than dog and cat.

If you need more insurance information you can visit our office in Phuket City or send an email to: eric@insurance-in-thailand.com

Where in Phuket can I play badminton?

I would like to know if there are any badminton courts in Phuket. I am looking to play either friendly matches or join a court that requires a membership.

Joe Dan
Phuket

The Phuket Gazette replies:

Saphan Hin in Phuket City is the center of badminton on the island, with public badminton courts open in the day and early evening.

Standard-sized courts are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

There are also some private badminton courts at the back of the OTOP Shopping Plaza on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd in Patong.

Kanpitcha Srikijaroenchai, owner of Andaman Badminton, replies:

Our facilities, located at 106/1 Phattana Thongtin Rd, Tambon

Talad Nua, in Phuket City, feature four rubber courts and four cement courts that meet competition requirements and the same standards as the Saphan Hin badminton courts.

We are open daily from 10 am to 10 pm. The fee to use the rubber courts is 150 baht per hour and the cement courts cost 100 baht per hour.

If needed, badminton equipment is available to rent.

Membership costs 1,200 baht per year, which entitles you to a 20% discount and to reserve courts with just a phone call.

One of the big advantages of using commercial badminton courts is that you can play for as long as you want and do not have to worry about hurrying off the court because other people are waiting for it.

For more information about our services or to reserve a court call me at 089-6452848.

Let us now meditate on the wonder that was Anna Nicole Smith. Not long ago, the world was convulsed with excitement to learn that the father of her baby was not her saturnine lawyer and long-time lover, Howard K. Stern; nor the husband of Zsa Zsa Gabor and occasional sampler of her charms, Frederic Prinz von Anhalt; nor anyone from the legion of other candidates who have trooped through her boudoir.

No, a DNA test finally proved that the father was the merry photographer, Larry Birkhead. That was a victory of the forces of light over the forces of darkness.

Even so, I was crushed; for I confess to a secret fantasy. Like many other men, I would like to have been the father of Anna Nicole's baby. This is not a fantasy born of lust, for in men of my advanced years that sordid urge has ceased to exercise any compelling influence.

It is a question of prestige. To have "scored" (I am trying to be tasteful here...) with Anna Nicole would have been a trophy conquest, much like climbing Mount Everest. Unfortunately, I have to admit that, by the time I got there, that particular achievement, like climbing Mount Everest, would have become so commonplace that it would not even rate a mention in my obituary.

Fox News commentator Greta Van Susteren noted that Anna Nicole was, in a particularly felicitous turn of phrase, "popu-

Mourning Anna Nicole



lar"; and indeed, to judge from the stories going around, she seems to have enjoyed more traffic than the Lincoln Tunnel.

There was a second fantasy that I had cherished; but that too was blown away by the DNA results. That was the hope – alas! now forlorn – that the father would turn out to be... are you ready for this? Dick Cheney.

Yes! If it had transpired that Dick Cheney was the father of little Daniellynn, it would have silenced all the jeering that greeted him when he shot his friend in the face with a 28-gauge shotgun. "Boy," I can hear the masses murmuring in awestruck admiration, "What a macho dude that Dick Cheney is! First he shoots his

friend in the face, then he demonstrates his stud-muffin prowess by fathering Anna Nicole's baby!"

Such would have been his prestige that the Republicans would have unquestionably nominated him to succeed George W as president while Hillary and Obama, aghast at being confronted by such an unbeatable opponent, would quickly have withdrawn their candidacies and fled.

But come! I am digressing into fields of fantasy at a time when propriety requires us to lament Anna Nicole's passing and shed a tear at her demise.

Critics will grouse that she was a woman for whom the term "bimbo" was specifically invented. They will complain that she was nothing more than a two-bit imitation of Marilyn Monroe, who in turn was a two-bit imitation of Jean Harlow.

They will grumble that our culture gets more two-bit with every passing generation – and will wonder fearfully what future two-bit horrors may be coming down the line.

Yet even her fiercest critics must admit that Anna Nicole was larger than life. Born in Texas, where bigness is a prerequisite, she was a Big Girl in every respect – gaudy, brassy and all lit up like a

Christmas tree: bleached-blond hair, mascara'd to the nines, bright red lipstick and flaming fingernails, breastworks like the twin moons of Mars, cleavage like the Grand Canyon, make-up falling off her face in slabs.

Anna Nicole symbolizes the flash, glitz, and dysfunctionality of contemporary pop culture. When future historians look back upon this decade, they are bound to identify her as its dominant icon and celebrate her glorious bimboity.

When detractors of our culture sneer, "What have you got to offer that can counter the appeal of our stern creed?" all we'll have to do is wheel out Anna Nicole's spectacular image to turn them pale with fright and send them scurrying back to their caves.

We need a little flash in our drab lives, and Anna Nicole provided it. Like others who have blazed like comets through the night sky of our lives, she crashed and burned early, giving new credence to the immortal injunction, "Live fast, play hard, die wasted and middle-aged."

S. Tsow has lived slow, played easy and will die wasted and old, but you can still flame him at stsow@yahoo.com.

In The Stars

by Isla Star

Know your stars, know your life

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Virgos who prefer to let their birthday pass without fuss should make this clear as friends have a surprise in store. As the year ahead is action-packed, it may be best to kick it off with a suitable celebration. For Virgos considering moving, this week you will receive news of a good housing prospect and should follow it through sooner rather than later.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Details are important this week; You tend to be vague and this should be curbed unless you want to land in hot water. Wednesday is best for finalizing agreements and Capricorn can be trusted. Leo may not have your best interests at heart. Romance

takes an entertaining twist when you hear how someone really feels this weekend. Wear lemon yellow to sharpen your wits.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): If work is getting you down, rest assured that the winds of change have started to blow. An offer to collaborate with Gemini comes out of the blue and is worth serious consideration. Scorpios who have been feeling under the weather should make rest a priority. Energy levels will benefit from more raw fruit and vegetables in your diet. The number 6 can be lucky on Thursday.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): You are in the mood to be generous this week,

but others are ready to take advantage of this. Be prepared to take a story you hear on Sunday with a dose of salts. Regarding business, focus on developing your managerial skills. Setting limits should be a priority. The atmosphere at home lightens when a family member finally sees the light. The scent of jasmine encourages love to blossom.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Although this week may be tinged with difficulties, you can relax in the knowledge that the second half of September should bring a smoother passage towards your goals. Coasting along quietly during the coming days is your best option. Aries would like to draw you into a heated discussion on Monday, but this will not achieve anything. Wear ultramarine blue to enhance your energy.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): A dream you have this weekend can shed some light on a personal problem, but you already know what you must do to solve it. Ignoring it will only make matters worse. Tuesday is a good day to visit the bank manager, but make sure you have all the necessary paperwork at hand. A travel plan becomes tangible, with November best for taking off.

PISCES (February 20-March

20): You will be like a cat on a hot tin roof this weekend. A long-awaited conclusion is finally reached. If this applies to business, you will be swimming in a new direction by the end of the month. However, if it relates to a personal situation, you may need a few days to come to terms with changed circumstances. Sagittarius is as supportive as you wish them to be, but Capricorn cannot be relied on.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): An offer is about to be made that could be a dream come true. If this doesn't feel like the right time to give up what you've been trying to achieve since the start of the year, then trust your instincts. Wednesday is most auspicious for making property inquiries. Libra has the key to the door you would like to open. Number 8 is lucky on Thursday.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Trying to get ahead will receive an astral boost this week. Motivation comes from an unlikely source, but stimulates your creative energy. Your usual caution regarding finances should help you spot a mistake midweek, but try to give the person concerned the benefit of the doubt. Those of you already in a relationship will be pleased by a special gesture made by your partner this weekend. If you're single, you will be subject to an instant attraction.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Conserve your energy this weekend as business will need you moving quickly at the last minute after Monday. Those of you who are normally adept at thinking on your feet will find this talent useful during September. If you don't know where you stand in a romantic situation, Sunday is a good day to ask the right questions. The color amethyst enhances your charm.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Feeling pressure to do well at work could cause stress this week. Others' unrealistic demands are probably a result of their own failings and this will soon be revealed. A love affair brings light relief and there's no reason to rush it onto the next level of commitment. Tuesday is the best day for making contact with a friend you fell out with recently. Wear sky blue to encourage tranquility.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Daily routine could get you down this week, but excitement is waiting around the corner. Your social life is due to become busy after the middle of the month and a new Scorpio friend knows all the right people to introduce you to. Devote quality time to personal administration this weekend as an overlooked matter will arise next week. The number 3 could bring fortune on Thursday.

Looking for love? Or maybe just a friend?
Check out the personal ads in the Phuket Gazette Classifieds

Discovering the fountain of youth

If you are older than 40 and not doing any physical exercise then it is time to get moving. Fortunately, Phuket has a great range of activities to choose from. Not only are there some of the most beautiful beaches in the world to walk on or swim at when conditions are safe, but we also have quality spas offering full health-and-fitness programs, commercial gymnasiums and personal training studios that can devise specific exercise programs for you.

For recreational ways of keeping fit, facilities include golf courses and driving ranges, tennis courts, fitness centers that offer individual or group yoga classes, pilates, aerobics, dancing and aqua exercise classes. For the more adventurous, there is mountain biking, sea kayaking and mountain trekking tours – to name just a few.

Research shows that physical inactivity is detrimental to people in all age groups, but especially for people 40 and over. Once you hit 40, the aging process really starts to set in for people who make no effort to keep it at bay through exercise.

Efforts to slow down or stop the aging process span recorded history, with the apocryphal tale of Juan Ponce de León's quest for the Fountain of Youth just one of many recorded in cultures from around the globe.

Despite advances in science and medicine over the years, the concept is as strong as ever today. Just browse through the spam in your email account to see the various ways Internet hucksters try to sell you ways to keep young without much effort – except of course for sending them your hard-earned money.

The simple truth is that we cannot stop the aging process, but we can slow it down simply by

FIT FOR LIFE By Nick Dobyn

incorporating regular activity into our lives.

Many people who suffer a decline in fitness, strength and physical output with age do so from lack of activity – not just the normal aging process. As we age, we may have to work harder in order to reap the same benefits gained from training as we did when we were younger.

Our bodies' recovery abilities may be a little slower than a younger persons, but gains in muscle strength, cardiovascular fitness, balance and flexibility can all be expected with regular physical work – regardless of age.

After the age of 40, muscle mass begins to decline at a rate of about 1% per year. This reduction leads to a natural slowing of the body's metabolic rate that in turn results in weight gain and a gradual loss of mobility and flexibility. Bone density loss, joint arthritis and eventually problems with daily tasks like climbing stairs and walking are common among those who fail to impede the process through sensible, regular exercise.

Research consistently reveals that exercise can improve quality of life for the elderly by significantly reducing the risk of dementia, improving memory and basic body functioning – even among those who have conditions or habits that endanger their hearts, such as diabetes, high blood pressure or smoking.

If the word "exercise" conjures up images of torturous and painful gymnasium sessions, don't be put off. Activity is the

key word and there are plenty of options available in Phuket besides bar-hopping and 16-ounce beer curls.

If you are over 40 and inactive, your first step is mental. Make a commitment to yourself – or even a friend or loved one. Meet down at the beach and go for a walk, call in to the local fitness facility and talk to a fitness professional about how they can help.

You may be surprised; a structured training session can be fun as well as both physically and mentally rewarding. Programs that can be performed at home without equipment can also be devised for you.

Get moving, get strong, get fit and you will stay young for longer.



A membership to one of the many fitness centers on Phuket is a good first step to keeping healthy and strong well into your golden years.

Phuket International Women's Club

Proudly Presents

Annual Gala Ball "Rhapsody in Blue"

at
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or

Carol on 087 4178860 carol.fryer@piwc.info

For tickets contact:
Joan on 087 2820422 joan.watson@piwc.info

Phuket Gazette

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

Want to know what sports is happening in your neighborhood?

Check out Gazette Sports on pages 34 and 35.



Phuket International
Women's Club

TGR GROUP ASIA

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PRIVATE ISLAND
PHUKET

Alternatives to AirCards

Q I have been reading your on-going series of articles on the CAT EV-DO service and associated news with great interest. I hope that the following news might add to the helpful service you bring.

I have had my Sierra AirCard 580 plugged into a laptop for the past eight months, supplying an Internet connection to two other desktop PCs via ICS and a Netgear switch. In the UK, I had a router, ADSL gateway and a switch doing the lot and I wanted the same here. You have discussed the Linksys router often but there are alternative mobile routers to this one.

D-link has just released the DIR-450, Kyocera have the KR1 and Top Global have the 3G Phoebus. I have tried in vain to get one of these machines without having to ship it from the US, and, finally, the KR1 became available at Surf 'n' Shop in Bangkok.

I placed the order with them and the router arrived within one week. The packaging, router and contents were all as new and in excellent condition. A one-year guarantee was included as well. The setup was very easy and it took five to 10 minutes to have two PCs connected to the Internet.

The KR1 comes with appropriate firmware for the Sierra AirCard 580 and it recognized it instantly. A wizard utility is available when you access the router that only requires you to enter the user name and password for the CAT service. It includes a DHCP so you don't have to worry about fixed IP addresses.

All in all, I have been im-

pressed with it and found it very easy to set up. The WLAN works well and again my laptop found the service and hooked up to the Internet instantly. My only complaint is that the signal strength meter never changes no matter where you position the router, so you never know if the card is achieving its optimum signal. Also, I have not been able to find a connection manager for this set up, but there is a status LED on the front that confirms your connection to a 2G/3G service.

I hope this information expands the body of knowledge on this subject.

Martin Mathieson

A Thanks for the information. I know somebody in Phuket who has two 3G Phoebus routers and he swears by them. A friend of mine has set up three WRT543G-ST routers but he had to replace the router software to get them to work properly. It's great to hear that the KR1 is available in Bangkok and that it works without any major surgery.

Q I am running Windows XP and I would like to use the marquee screen saver but I cannot find it on my system. When I look in under the Screen Saver tab in Control Panel - Display, there are only about seven screen savers listed. Can you tell me where I can find the marquee screen saver?

Scotty

A The marquee screen saver has been replaced by the 3D Text screen saver, which isn't quite the same, eh? At first glance, this worked for me.



'If you need a cellular router, the Kyocera KR1 is the one to go for - if you live in EV-DO country' - CNET Editor's review. The Kyocera KR1 is now available through Surf 'n' Shop in Bangkok.

Search your computer for the file "ssmarque.scr" and when you find it, place it in your c:\Windows\System32 folder. You should then be able to select the marquee screen saver from the drop down menu in Display.

Q I would like to find a way to export all of my contacts from my Hotmail account to Outlook Express. It seems like it should be a straightforward process but I just cannot find a way to get it to work. Do you know how to do this?

A A friend of mine, Greg Richardson, recently sent me instructions on how to do exactly what you are hoping to achieve. I'll include his well-detailed steps to assist you in this problem.

Before I start, there are two versions of Hotmail accounts: a paid-for account and a free account. I have one of each - a paid-for MSN account and a free Windows Live account.

You can't export a contacts list to a .csv file in the MSN version (although you can import), but you can with the Windows Live version. Anyone with an original MSN Hotmail account can change to a Windows Live Hotmail account for free by clicking on the green button "Get Windows Live Hotmail" (located under the MSN Hotmail logo) from their inbox.

Below are the steps used to set up an MSN Hotmail account in Outlook Express. These are instructions that Hotmail provided after upgrading to the paid ser-

vice MSN Hotmail Plus, so this may not work if you are running the MSN Hotmail free service. It is a two-step process.

Step one. Set up a MSN Hotmail account in Outlook Express:

1. In Outlook Express, select the Tools menu and click Accounts.
2. Click Add, then Mail.
3. Type your full name and click Next.
4. Type your full MSN Hotmail email address (name@hotmail.com) and click Next.
5. In the My Incoming Mail Server dialog is a box, click HTTP.
6. In the My HTTP Service Provider dialog is box, click Hotmail, then click Next.
7. Type your MSN Hotmail account password and click Next (To help protect your privacy, do not select the Remember Password check box unless you are the only person with access to the program).
8. Click Finish.

Step two. Synchronize your contacts to Outlook Express:

1. In Outlook Express, select Address Book in the Tools menu.
2. On the Tools menu of the Address Book window, click Synchronize Now. Your contacts in Hotmail will be downloaded into Outlook Express.

If you use MSN Hotmail, a simpler way to do this would be to change the account to the Windows Live version (I believe you can change it back afterwards). Here's how:

1. Login and navigate to the Today page.

2. Then click Options.
3. Then click More Options.
4. Then click Export Contacts under Customize your contacts.

You can then import the .csv file using either MSN Hotmail or Windows Live Hotmail.

Phew! Hope all that helps.

Q As suggested in Windows XP for Dummies, I used keyfinder.exe to locate my key. The keyfinder reported a product key different from the one listed on the sticker on the computer chassis and the one listed in the Properties dialog box of My Computer.

I bought this laptop about six years ago and it has been running great, but I would like to format the computer and I will need to know the correct product key before starting the process.

Windows XP Home edition was pre-installed when I bought the laptop and the product key was not included in the materials that came with it.

Which key is the correct product key? Also, I received two CDs: one called "Product Recovery CD-Rom" and the other called "Application and Support CD". On which CD will I find the Windows XP formatting process?

Tom

A Use the Product Recovery CD-Rom. That will revert your computer to the condition it was in when you bought it. You'll have to apply Window XP updates, then re-install all your programs but that's part of the hassle that comes with re-formatting.

Don't worry about the different product keys. Using the Product Recovery CD-Rom will put you back to the original, which is pre-registered. Good luck.

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

ARE YOU HOT?

Here are a couple of absolutely free Wi-Fi access hotspots on the island.

• Aqua Restaurant and Bar, Paradise Complex, Patong. 512K ADSL, 8:30 am to 4 am.

• Lady Pie, 120/6 Srisoontorn Rd, Cherg Talay. 250kbps via TOT. Monday to Saturday, 8.30 am-6.30pm; Sunday, 10am-6.30pm.

If you're hot - and free - just drop Woody an email at:

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ON THE MOVE

Dan Simmons, from the US, has been appointed Director of Sales and Marketing for Laguna Phuket. He will be responsible for the Laguna Village villas, townhomes and residences, and Dusit Laguna villas. He graduated with a business degree from the University of Texas and has worked as Operations Manager for CitrixOnline.com and for Hewlett-Packard technical support before joining Laguna Phuket.



Hratch Khatchanian, from France, has been promoted to Hotel Manager at Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort.

Mr Khatchanian has been with the company for two years in their food and beverage operations.

He has more than 17 years of experience in the food and beverage aspect of hospitality, working at a variety of luxury resorts throughout the Middle East and Europe.



Denis Martin has been appointed Director of Food and Beverage at Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort. Mr Martin has extensive experience in food and beverage management positions and has worked for several five-star hotels in Bangkok, including Le Meridien, The Landmark and the Dusit Thani. He is currently working on implementing the resort's 10 world-class restaurants and bars.



By Alasdair Forbes

CHERNG TALAY: A loose consortium of property developers with solid track records of completing projects in Phuket met recently at the Laguna Beach Resort to hammer out details of a property show to be held in Hong Kong next month.

Thanks to the short flight time between there and Phuket, Hong Kong has long been one of the prime markets for sales of high-end holiday homes on the island. Developers will be hoping for good sales prospects, if not actual signatures on contracts.

The consortium will be working to address what they regard as "misperceptions", particularly in the Hong Kong market, about Phuket and about Thailand in general.

One of these misperceptions was an opinion voiced in a speech by a senior Hong Kong banker that the Phuket property market is a bubble set to burst.

Hong Kong is particularly sensitive to bubbles in property markets. In the mid-1990s, for example, the then-British government moved to head off a property bubble by reducing permitted mortgages from 95% of the purchase price to 70%.

As a result, demand fell,

Property consortium to tackle 'misperceptions' in Hong Kong

dragging down prices. Many Hong Kongers who had already borrowed large amounts to speculate in property were lumbered with large mortgages on property that was now worth much less than they had borrowed.

Had the government not stepped in, however, there was a considerable probability that prices would have risen much higher and the bubble would have burst with much more drastic results.

The members of Phuket Select argue that bubbles occur only when large amounts of credit are involved. This is most unlikely to happen in Phuket, they say, because the Phuket market is driven by cash, not mortgages.

In a recent article in the Hong Kong magazine *Square Foot*, Martin Phillips, managing partner of Engel & Volkers Thailand, was quoted as saying, "It is very difficult for foreigners to obtain financing inside Thailand to buy property and, in our experi-



The Phuket Select consortium of property developers prepares to dispense some 'misperceptions' about the Phuket property market at their property expo in Hong Kong next month.

ence, the majority of buyers do not take up any form of loan.

"The positive result of this is that it is difficult to create a speculative bubble in the Phuket market. Bubbles may occur when financing is easy to obtain and overall demand is driven by speculators.

"Because cash is used to purchase a significant amount of property, this scenario is not likely to happen [in Phuket]."

Another factor slowing the Phuket property market has been buyer nervousness in the wake of the coup in September last year. This is likely to ease, however, following the recent national vote in favor of the new constitution, clearing the way for a national election in December this year.

David Simister, chairman of CB Richard Ellis (Thailand), was recently quoted (also in *Square Foot*) as saying, "I've seen more

than one coup – I think it's four or five if I add them up... Against all of that, the picture has been [one of] rising demand in terms of Thai property and prices – it's [still] a fraction of the cost of the Caribbean and Hawaii.

"The market will absorb and get on with it."

Other potential buyers of Phuket property have been made a little anxious by the government considering further tightening of existing rules in an effort to prevent foreigners not only from owning land, but also from controlling land they have paid for.

However, Mr Simister pointed out, "The first thing to note is [that] it's a proposal – very often in Thailand things are proposed and time marches on and nothing happens."

Speculation is focused on whether the winners of the December election – at this stage most likely the Democrat Party – will take up this particular war-cry. In any case, many developers in Phuket now sell properties on 30-year leases and few report much sales resistance.

What is slowing the Phuket property market to some extent – at least as it relates to Hong Kong – is the cost of cash. With the Hong Kong dollar still pegged to the falling US dollar, property priced in baht has been becoming steadily more expensive.

It seems likely that Phuket's other two main property sales markets, Britain and Singapore, whose currencies are not dollar-linked, will assume greater importance.

On the other hand, with the US dollar looking likely to go on falling, making the baht yet more expensive, some would-be buyers from Hong Kong may decide to jump into Phuket property now rather than wait.

The Phuket Select exhibition will take place on October 27 and 28 at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Hong Kong. For details contact Graham Doven at Tel: 081-8970225 or email info@phuketselect.com

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While the issues of the subprime fallout were causing fear and uncertainty in global credit markets, reducing the appetite for risk in general, another potential "bubble" was forming on the other side of the world with the yen carry trade becoming the next victim.

This situation arose from extremely low lending rates. Huge sums of money were being borrowed on yen and invested in bond and currency markets of countries such as Australia and New Zealand. This extended to countries that offered high interest rates, including the South Africa and even Britain.

Investors in the yen carry trade ranged from proprietary-trading operations of banks to hedge funds to large numbers of individual Japanese investors: the fabled Mr and Mrs Watanabe. Even pension funds, especially Japanese, joined the search for a higher return on their capital.

It is often stated, sometimes cynically, that investors have only two emotions: fear and greed.

The turmoil in global credit markets credited to the US subprime fallout immediately spread to the yen carry trade.

The result was a stampede to the exit doors. Currencies such as the New Zealand dollar fell at one stage by 20% against the US dollar, but as the Japanese yen appreciated substantially against all major currencies, the real effect was the 25% rise in value of the yen against the New Zealand dollar.

It was even reported at one stage that the New Zealand currency market was finding it diffi-

Yen carry trade rallies against subprime fallout

cult to establish "bid" prices as the trades were in one direction back into the Japanese yen.

In late August, a meeting of Japan's Central Bank (The Bank of Japan) voted 8 to 1 to keep interest rates on hold at 0.5%. A mixture of factors in-

fluenced this decision. Tepid Japanese economic growth combined with a low inflation rate were the primary reasons, but the increase in value of the yen had already caused monetary policy to tighten.

Bank of Japan Governor Fukui announced that he wanted to raise interest rates, but the current situation made it impossible.

The Bank of Japan has two reasons for wanting to raise interest rates. Most important is to raise them high enough so that the bank can reduce them during the next economic downturn to stimulate the economy.

This would allow them to have some influence on monetary policy. Second, the bank would prefer that vast sums of money not be held in the yen carry trade.

In reality, the yen carry trade was helping Japan by reducing the value of the currency. This allowed exports to flourish, which is important while the yuan is at such low levels. A strong yen

makes Japanese exports less competitive and threatens to reduce exporters' profits.

Estimates in US dollar terms for the value of the yen by the end of 2007 vary from 105 by Citigroup to between 115 and 120 by Mizuho – Japan's second largest bank.

The yen carry trade, although dented, is still apparent and recent statistics reflect that it may be enjoying something of a revival.

China watched the global turmoil while its stockmarkets reached record highs. The economy is awash in liquidity and has yet to react to domestic interest-rate hikes – the latest being just last month. China is aware of the dangers of an asset-price bubble forming in both the stock market and the property market.

The Chinese government announced that more investment funds were being established to enable their investors to access

global markets. In addition, Chinese nationals are being allowed to invest in the Hong Kong stock market. This gave an immediate boost in share prices after the recent sell-off.

It is essential that China finds an outlet for its giant domestic savings; Hong Kong certainly welcomes this investment at present, but is very aware that there will be spillover effects in the future if the Chinese stock market bubble bursts.

There are also important political considerations with the China-US economic relationship. Election year is looming in America and already some politicians, mainly Democrats, are proclaiming that China must revalue its currency to reduce the massive trade deficit.

A senior economic advisor to the Chinese government recently advised that China was not helpless to retaliate in this situation. China, with US\$1.33 trillion in foreign exchange reserves and

an undisclosed but substantial amount of this invested in US treasury bonds could cause havoc by moving these funds to other countries.

A cartoon in the *Economist* was particularly apt. It depicted Uncle Sam complete with top hat approaching a dam wall and politely requesting a Chinese dragon to consider raising the value of its currency.

The Dragon, perched on top of the wall, is holding a rope controlling the sluice gates containing a dam of US\$1.33 trillion. The dragon asks if Uncle Sam remembered to bring his swimming costume.

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

MONEY TALKS



By Richard G. Watson

VITAL STATISTICS: INTERNATIONAL PASSENGERS UP 31%

July 2006	July 2007	Change
International passenger (total)		
237,333	278,980	+ 30.96%
Domestic passengers (total)		
118,772	155,538	+ 17.55%
International Aircraft movements		
1,088	1,204	+ 10.66%
Domestic Aircraft movements		
1,361	2,037	+ 49.67%
International Cargo movements		
217	384	+ 79.96%
Domestic Cargo movements		
721	827	+ 14.70%

Source: Phuket International Airport



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Divers line up for the start of the Vios One Make Race Lady Cab race. One driver escaped serious injury when he slammed into a barrier and lost a wheel in the wet conditions.

Thrills and spills during Saphan Hin motor racing

By Sangkhae Leelanaporn

PHUKET CITY: Despite heavy rains, thousands of excited spectators lined the roads of Saphan Hin on September 1 and 2 to cheer on competitors as they sped along wet roads for the third of five races in the Toyota Motor Sport 2007 series.

Competitors raced in three categories: Vios One Make Race Lady Cab, Vios One Make Race and Toyota Yaris One Make Race 2007. Each event is being held in a different province.

The overall winner will receive a Toyota Hilux Vigo. Sec-

ond place will receive 100,000 baht and third place 50,000 baht, with prizes also going to drivers in the individual classes.

Simon Yates, who scored high in this year's previous races in Chiang Mai and Udon Thani, beat 60 other drivers to secure first place overall after 20 laps that totaled 28.5 kilometers.

The wet conditions made driving difficult in the Vios One Make Race Lady Cab series that kicked off on the day of racing. The race was stopped when one driver crashed into a barrier, losing a wheel.

Apichai Phankongchuean,

driving Car 14, escaped serious injury in the Yaris One Make Race, but had to retire from the race when his car overshot a bend and crashed into a barrier.

The next two races in the Toyota Motor Sport 2007 series will be in Ubon Ratchathani (October 20 and 21) and Chonburi (November 10 and 11).

RESULTS

Vios One Make Race Lady Cab: 1. Pareerat Pangboonvong (30,000 baht); 2. Kenacha Yenmanoch; 3. Araya A. Hargate. Total of nine entries.

Vios One Make Race: 1. Simon Yates (30,000 baht); 2. Chinda Srisansuchart; 3. Anucha Pandan; 4. Alongkorn Yangyuen; 5. ML Navaphat Yukon. Total of 29 entries.

Yaris One Make Race: 1. Traithanit Chintawan (30,000 baht); 2. Kitta Kongsurat; 3. Chaleeya Nuya; 4. Phatcyhara Kittipongpattana; 5. Thaneth Wanitchakul. Total of 17 entries.



Phuket Vice-Governor Worapoj Ratthasima (center), Phuket City Deputy Mayor Sunan Lhimjanon (white jacket), and AeroThai Deputy Director Somsak Poonsawat (black jacket) on August 30 announce the AeroThai Mini Volleyball tournament.

Taking part will be girls from Baan Samkong School and boys from Kajorn Kietsuksa School, who won last year's Phuket final.

Phuket prepares for mini-volleyball

PHUKET: Aeronautical Radio of Thailand (AeroThai) broke good news for sports fans on the island on August 30, when they announced that the regional finals of their national mini-volleyball tournament for youngsters will be held in Phuket, which is expected to soon get funding for two new volleyball courts from the Thai Volleyball Association.

The mini-volleyball tournament is open to kids born after January 1, 1995. This week, Phuket City Municipality and AeroThai joined forces to host the Aviation Radio Mini-Volleyball Tournament at the sports stadium in Saphan Hin.

Thirteen teams will compete for a top cash prize of 4,000 baht, with the top two teams going on to represent Phuket in the regional competition at the same venue from November 12 to 17, when they will compete against

the best young volleyball sides from Phang Nga, Krabi, Ranong and Satun.

The top two teams will compete in a national tournament in Bangkok in January.

Phuket Vice-Governor Worapoj Ratthasima said, "The Thai Volleyball Association is expected to confirm 12 million baht in funding for the construction of two modern outdoor volleyball courts: one court at Saphan Hin Sport Complex and the other at Cherg Talay Wittayakom School."

Funding of the volleyball court at Saphan Hin has already been confirmed, with the second court expected to be approved this month. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) confirming both projects is due to be signed this month by V/Gov Worapoj and the Thai Volleyball Association.

— Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

KTO golf tournament postponed until 2008

KATHU: The Kids Tee Off (KTO) Junior Challenge Golf Tournament, originally scheduled for September 5 to 7 at Laguna Phuket Golf Club, has been postponed to a date to be confirmed in 2008. Organizers had hoped that the tournament would attract significant interest from young-

sters in the 10 different age categories, with up to 80 children participating.

Unfortunately, the number of entrants fell short of the target, leaving several age brackets with too few competitors. As a result, organizers then decided to postpone the tournament until next year, said KTO Managing Director Pamela Wigglesworth.

The lack of entries in the tournament was likely due to conflicting school schedules, she added.

Over the next few months, KTO will study ways to improve the competition and attract more entries in time for next year, said Pamela.

The organizers will also seek ways to reduce operational costs for the tournament, perhaps a concession that the US\$285/player (9,420 baht) registration fee may have put off some parents from signing their kids up.

All participants already registered are entitled to full refunds.

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READ MY TRANSOM: Asia Spirit shows the fleet her behind as she heads off to win yet another ACYC regatta on September 2.

Photo by Leslie Hand for Image Asia Events.

Asia Spirit spirits away ACYC win

By Chris Husted

AO CHALONG: Despite heavy rain delaying the start of the race by 30 minutes, Race 10 of the Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) Keelboat and Multihull Race Series got off to a good start on September 2, with winds gusting up to 20 knots on Chalong Bay.

Race officials set the course from the channel markers in Chalong Bay round Koh Kaew and back. It was a fast beat upwind to the island, giving the foredeck crews more to do than usual. The wind calmed down for the downwind leg back, letting the racers fly their spinnakers in full bloom.

Anthony Gates on Ben Copely's Asia Spirit spirited away for another win the Racing class, followed by Ket Manghla-seranee on Cinders.

John Clayton on *Millennium* placed third in the class, while Kevin Gillow on *Minx*, a regular Racing class winner in the ACYC series, finished fourth.

In the two-boat Multihull class, Roger Kingdon on *Moto Inzi* was too quick for Bob Brindley on *XCatRiot*.

John Fenn showed he was worth his salt, winning the Cruising class on his distinctively yellow *Four Winds*, ahead of Tony Knight on *Fidji*.

The Image Asia Encouragement Award went to John Clayton on *Millennium* for his effort in having the most varied crew of the day – from very experienced sailors to absolute novices – and making sure that not a single visitor was left on the beach.

Lady Pie sponsored the day's racing, providing 300 baht worth of pies to first place, a bottle of local whiskey to second place, and an ACYC coconut concoction going to third place.

The next ACYC regatta will be on September 23. All are welcome to join, regardless of sailing experience. For more information call Tony Knight at 01-7470074 or visit www.acycphuket.com.

PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

In the second week of play in the young league, Market Bar won their first-ever match by the narrowest of margins, slipping by Valhalla 5-4 before losing the beer leg. Queen Mary is now the only team to have taken all six points from their first two matches and now sit in first.

Defending Champs Dog's Bollocks got back to their winning ways by scooping all three points from Piccadilly, while Shakers kept some pride by salvaging the beer leg after an 8-1 thrashing by Offshore.

August 28 results: Piccadilly 3 Dogs Bollocks* 6; Queen Mary* 8 Beach House 1; Shakers* 1 Offshore 8; Valhalla* 4 Market Bar 5. Simply Red = bye. (* = winner of beer leg)

Standings: 1. Queen Mary (6); 2. Offshore (5); 3. Shakers (4); 4.= Market Bar, Dogs Bollocks (3); 6. Piccadilly (2); 7. Valhalla (1); 8.= Simply Red, Beach House (0).

September 11 matchups: Queen Mary v Market Bar; Piccadilly v Beach House; Offshore v Valhalla; Shakers v Simply Red; Dogs Bollocks = bye. (home team first)

Record year for Kata Surf Contest

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

KATA: The seventh Kata Surfing Contest took place at Kata Beach August 31 to September 2 with a record number of entrants battling it out on the waves.

The surfing contest was split into five categories: long board, short board, grommet (children), girls and body board.

Organizer Wallop Nadon, chairman of the Phuket Board Riders Club, told the *Gazette* that this year's contest received great feedback from all the competitors, who totaled about 140 surfers, 50 more than last year.

Participants from as far afield as Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, the US, Europe and South Africa competed in the contest.

Although 2006-short-board champion Christian from South Africa was unable to compete this year, there was still an abundance of skilled surfers present.

"We realize that most of the surfers are tourists who enjoy the sport. They are not professional surfers because Phuket's waves are too small for pros," said K. Wallop.

K. Wallop went on to explain that surfing contests such as this one help to promote tourism in Phuket by building activities for visiting sports lovers to take part in. The number of competitors at this year's event bears testament to its success and helps increase interest in surfing among locals.

Indonesian surfer Dylen overcame fierce competition from Kata's Nopphasit "Koh" Bunchuai in the final of the short-board division.

Dylen won the judges over



A surfer 'takes the back door' during the Kata Surf contest. A record number of surfers turned up to compete in this year's Kata Surf Contest. A few spots of rain was not enough to dampen the spirits of those in attendance.

with his use of the bottom-turn snatch maneuver which involves a surfer moving to the bottom of a wave before turning his body around to face the opposite direction. Dylan fended off stiff competition from 80 other surfers spread over 16 heats and won first prize on a day mired with rainy spells.

In the long-board division, Koh won first prize this time; *luk kreung* Sebastien took the glory in the grommet division; Ying

from Kata won the girl's contest; and South African Graig was the top dog in the body-board category.

The winners of each category received a trophy and 4,000 baht, with 3,000 baht for the runner up and 2,000 baht for third place.

The event was organized with support from Karon Municipality, Kata-Karon Hotel Business Association and Tourism Authority of Thailand.

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Gardening

by Bloomin' Bert

Australians. Bless. They mean well, even if they do talk through their noses and make every sentence a question. In reality, every Australian walking the planet is lucky to be alive and foreigners are lucky to survive their holidays there.

There are just too many rather nasty, poisonous things around. I once read that eight of the 10 most deadly creatures choose to live in and around Australia. In the middle of the outback or while you're having a dip in the sea, you can bet that there's a nasty animal lurking nearby, waiting to pounce.

And why is it seemingly a requirement for Australian nouns to be adapted so that they end with the letter "o"? Afternoon is arvo, a smoke break is a smoko, a bin man is a garbo, a petrol station a servo and a tramp a derro. Perhaps the daftest of all is that an off-license, or shop selling alcohol, is known as a bottlo. My spell check is working overtime here.

Perhaps the most irritating thing about Australians – and this one isn't even their fault – is the fact that Americans think that all Brits are from down under – something I've never quite understood. We're rather confused about Australians, too, come to think of it. The feeling is very much mutual; they don't quite understand us Brits, either.

One thing that Brits are renowned for down under is whingeing. This is no stereotype; I rather think we especially excel in this area. The Aussies call us "whingeing poms". Being British, I should defend my fellow countrymen in all regards, but I think on this one, though I hate to admit it, the Australians have got it right.

We're a nation of whingers. Back home, we complain if our winters are too cold and we have to turn the heating up a bit. In summer, we complain if we're too hot – exactly the scenario we've spent the winter yearning for – and we're still not happy.

The weather is one of the

Quenching the thirst



The simple task of watering plants is more complicated than one might think. It requires knowing the proper time, quantity and method to water in order to help plants thrive.

Photo courtesy of Poznan University of Technology.

most common topics of conversation in the UK, which seems to have been imported by the Brits now living in Phuket. The hot season, having prompted so much heat-induced whining, was over some time ago.

Then the inevitable rain started to appear, prompting my countrymen to then whinge when they got a bit damp on their motorcycles on their way home from the pub. They seemed to ignore the fact that the temperature had dropped by 15 degrees.

For me, one of the benefits of the rainy season is that I can be a little more lenient with the hosepipe in the garden. This is the perfect time of year for an idle gardener. I'm all for it.

One of the most important factors in gardening is knowing when and how to water. Many gardening factors, such as fertilizing and pruning, have a number of rules to follow, but watering

has no rules as such because when to water and how much to water depends on the kinds of plants, type of soil, time of year and the weather.

The bottom line is to water only when plants need watering. That may sound a bit daft, but it's true. It doesn't rain every day and the temptation is to assume that they already have enough water on the dry days – not necessarily true.

The leaves of many plants will begin to curl in the early stages of a water shortage. Later, the leaves will become very limp and will wilt. Plants should always be watered before they wilt. Allowing them to reach this stage will often result in the plant dropping its leaves. If plants are wilted for days, they may never revive.

To make things more complicated, some plants may not show symptoms of a water shortage until it is too late. Such plants

should be watered when the soil around them feels dry and crumbly.

Recent plantings need special care. When your new plant was in a container in the nursery, it was watered every day. It got rather used to it. Also, during the first few months after being planted in the garden, new plants still have small root systems and can absorb water from only a limited soil area. They still think they're in a pot.

Watering should be done in the early morning, when winds and temperatures are low. Late morning, midday and afternoon irrigation usually results in loss of water from evaporation. Also, strong winds are more likely to blow at these times, resulting in poor distribution of water over the lawn.

When watering, give the soil a thorough soaking. Frequent, light sprinklings waste water and

don't do much to satisfy the water requirements of a plant growing in the hot, dry soil of Phuket. Watering this way encourages shallow root systems, which increases susceptibility to damage if you fail to water for a few days.

Water should be applied only as fast as the soil will absorb it. Watering with a hose nozzle turned on full force can do more damage than good. Fast-flowing water runs off quickly, carrying soil with it. It also may expose plant roots to the sun, which isn't ideal in Phuket. It's more efficient to use soaker hoses and sprinklers. Soaker hoses do a good job, but they don't cover as large an area as sprinklers.

What you need to avoid is soggy soil, as this really is the kiss of death to most plants. They simply can't get oxygen through their roots, because the water fills every little space in the soil that would have oxygen in it. The roots rot and the plant dies a slow death.

Over-watering is perhaps the cause of more plant deaths than anything else in the garden. The problem is made more difficult because the symptoms of too-wet soil are similar to those of too-dry soil, so the tendency is to panic and keep watering, thinking the plant needs more, but only making the problem worse. To check, stick your finger in the soil and water only when the soil is dry one whole knuckle down.

Plants do complain, but only when they have good reason to. They certainly don't whinge like Brits – they actually understand that it can get a little warm here and they drink what they need. Actually, Australians are famous for drinking only one thing: beer. Lots of it. Per capita, more than anywhere other nation on the planet, so it seems. Based on this alone, there's hope for them yet.

Want to know more about a plant in your garden? Email Bloomin' Bert at: bert@bloominbert.com

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Decor

by Natcha Yuttaworawit

By the side of the road near the back entrance to Phuket Rajabhat University is a small park – a small roadside haven of serenity amidst cars zooming by, students roaring past on their motorbikes and local residents going to and from their homes. Just a glimpse of the park quiets the mind during the morning drive to work.

As I was driving past it recently the thought struck me – the park is naught but open space; it's the *plants* that inspire the feeling of ease. Gardens and parks are perfect for relaxing outdoors in the daytime, but when do I get any time to relax during the day?

Then the thought hit me: having plants indoors can add a sense of tranquility to the home at any hour of the day.

To find out more I visited Cannana Garden Co Ltd in Kathu, where managing director Wichate Nakead explained that indoor plants actually have many benefits apart from just décor.

"Potted plants are very useful as dust filters and they clean the air of unpleasant odors, such as from synthetic substances like paint and plastic or natural ones like dust and mildew from carpets.

"As they 'breathe' they release oxygen into the air inside

The green way to breathe easy



Using a variety of indoor plants can liven up a room while leaving it odor-free.

the home, leaving it smelling fresh and clean," he said.

"In addition to making the house smell clean, potted plants can be attractive decorations and are perfect to fill odd corners and spaces in rooms because they do

not have sharp angles that offend the eye."

Certain plants are better for different parts of the home, K. Wichate explained.

"Ferns and water plants are well-suited for decorating the

bathroom because they like damp air. They can be made more colorful by using painted flowerpots," he suggested.

As for plants inviting little intruders into the home, he said, "Don't worry about indoor plants

attracting insects or ants. Just sprinkle some anti-insect powder around the flowerpot."

Other tips K. Wichate offered were to choose plants that do not require much sunlight and to make sure that the plants see some direct sunlight – about twice a month is usually enough.

A common mistake people make with indoor plants is over-watering, K. Wichate said. "Do not water your plants too much because it may damage the roots," he said.

K. Wichate's last tip was to periodically move corner plants to different corners so that they don't get a steady diet of sunlight always from the same direction – with the inevitable results.

"Even though most people know that plants grow towards sunlight, they do not think to move plants to different corners so that the plants right themselves and grow straight, making them look much more attractive," he said.

It seems that even for plants, a change in routine is needed once in a while.

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Wet season brings cyclical cynics

Those of us involved in the property business in Phuket over the past six years know that it's been a bit of a wild roller coaster ride, with its ups, downs and in-betweens.

But each year as the rains come and our seasonal market dips to its annual lows, out come the doomsayers with their tired old question: "Is this the end for the Phuket real estate market?"

It's been a phenomenon as steady as clockwork and might be compared with the groundhog coming out at the end of winter and giving the thumbs up or down for an early spring.

Luckily, we live in a climate of endless summers and to the best of my knowledge there are no groundhogs on this island. Hence, in assessing the market we have to look at something more solid than a furry animal that spends its winters underground.

During the past six years, Phuket has experienced spectacular double-digit capital appreciation within the property sector. Despite 9/11, SARS, bird flu, land scandals, a tsunami and a coup d'etat, prices have contin-



FAITH IN MARKET FORCES?

To put Phuket's property market, currently valued at some 40 billion baht, into perspective – consider that the Jatukham industry nationwide this year has been valued at 50 billion baht.

ued to rise. Tourism recovered from a post-tsunami low and was close to 80% last year.

Depending on the source one uses for statistics, tourist arrivals in Phuket soared to four to five million people in 2006, and year-to-date figures show continued impressive growth for 2007. In a property market dominated

by foreign buyers, the holiday market provides as good a barometer as any for real estate forecasts.

According to the independent Agency for Real Estate Affairs, the Bangkok property market in 2007 is projected to be worth 145 billion baht.

In 2006, Raimon Land's

Research team, in its *Focus* publication, valued the condominium market in Phuket alone to be worth 20 billion baht.

Realistically, if we are looking at the total property market, including not only condominiums but also villas, homes, apartments, retail space and land plots, the total market value could easily exceed 40 billion baht.

To provide some scale to the market, consider the government figures that show the total spent on books and newspapers in the entire country at 60 million baht, though (bizarrely) the fastest-growing enterprise in the entire Kingdom is amulets,

which were fueled by the recent Jatukham Ramathep craze. The Kaisikon Bank Research Center has estimated this market at more than 50 billion baht a year, with the amulets now trading regularly on eBay in the US and Europe.

But getting back to property, from an investment standpoint property in Phuket is a golden child in Thai real estate circles. It continues to be dominated by overseas investors who cannot obtain local financing, which means we do not have the speculative domestic markets that one finds in Bangkok, Hua Hin or Pattaya.

Most projects continue to be built by smaller developers and what is under construction in most cases has been sold already and paid for with no bank leveraging. In the worst case scenario of a meltdown either within Thailand or the region, as in 1997, there would not be significant bank foreclosures, so prices would not

retreat on a disastrous scale (as in 1997) and it would be a soft landing.

As the market in time would pick up again, the price base in a market such as Phuket would far exceed those in leveraged domestic markets.

As for the national economy, the SET (Stock Exchange of Thailand) remains one of the best buys in the region. In

the mid-1990s, the exchange traded up over 1,500 points, but today, with all the growth over the past few years, it's trading at less than half of that mark. It's an astonishing fact when comparing it with other major indices in the region and should provide confidence for investors in the upside potential here.

But in the words of Jerry McGuire, "We live in a cynical world." It's the same world where businesses made annual business plans that were carved in stone. Today, with technology, we live in a fast-food frenzy of information and reactions. Markets can be made or unmade overnight. We now look at CNN, BBC or the Internet and make long-ranging decisions with a few keystrokes on the computer.

At face value and by the numbers, the Phuket property market looks set for a continued run of prosperity, though, as we all know, business cycles do not run to a set schedule. Certainly from a developing market perspective, the island has grown and will continue to see supply and demand lines blur in the coming years.

As for the groundhogs, let's see what the high season will bring.



PROPERTY WATCH

By Bill Barnett



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

Construction

by Janyaporn Morel

Vighit Resort gets B415m makeover

RAWAI: The renovation of beachfront-bungalow property Vighit Resort on Wiset Rd is about 10% complete. The makeover includes rebranding of the resort to Vijitt Resort Phuket, operating as a four-and-a-half-star boutique resort hotel, due to open September 2008, said General Manager James Sullivan-Tailour.

The Vighit Bungalow Resort had been operated for more than 25 years by the Khoopong-sakorn family, who have owned the location for more than 60 years. The 40-bungalow resort was classed as three-star accommodation.

Having recognized that the large expanse of land could be put to better use, the Khoopong-sakorn family decided to develop the project to keep up with Phuket's expanding tourist industry. Total investment into the project, entirely from the family, is about 415 million baht.

"We have 44 rai of land that runs from the main road down to the beach, so two years ago the family decided to take the next step because they realized how profitable this land could be to them," said Mr Sullivan-Tailour.

Although the family was approached by many hotel developers, they decided to keep the resort at a size they could manage and chose to invest in the project themselves, with an aim of keeping the logistics of the new project as similar to the old one as possible.

Bangkok-based architect Movida Co Ltd, which was chosen for the design work of the new project, is focusing on blending the construction work with the resort environment, which contains some 3,000 trees.

"There will be a lot of space between the villas and we will keep as many trees as possible. Many of the trees are rubber trees, and we will use them as part of the resort experience by tapping the trees to show guests a little about how rubber is processed," explained Mr Sullivan-Tailour.

"We will have 92 individual villas dotted around the 44 rai. We have removed every structure from the resort and started



Newly-named Vijitt Resort Phuket will provide luxury accommodation just below five-star level to ensure guests can relax without having to put on airs.

their time here. Parents can relax safe in the knowledge that their children are not sitting in front of a Playstation for eight hours, as the children will be entertained and educated at the kids club. Some families have very little time to spend together, and so we want to encourage family activities," he added.

The main construction contractor for Vijitt Resort Phuket is Bangkok-based RTH Co Ltd. The system contractor is Q Plan Co Ltd and the project management company is En Plus Co Ltd.

afresh," he said. The resort will comprise 72 Deluxe Villas, three Family Pool Villas, four Vijitt Pool Villas and 13 Prime Pool Villas.

The new villas will be larger than their predecessors, with areas of 70 square meters in the Deluxe Villas up to 260sqm in the Vijitt Pool Villas.

The resort will boast a restaurant, 14- by 15-meter swimming pool and a kids club with an activities center.

Mr Sullivan-Tailour continued, "The new resort, based on the theme of a fishermen's village, will be built to the highest quality, and yet we are positioning ourselves just below five-star level to give the resort a relaxed and friendly environment.

"We want people to feel at home, but we don't want them to feel like they have to dress up to go for dinner or feel uncomfortable in any of our bars. We want all guests to enjoy their experience with us.

Mr Sullivan-Tailour said that the resort will look chic and that the design is not strictly contemporary. The focus is on using Thai materials and Thai concepts, and so the resort will be a mixture of modern designs with traditional Thai ideas.


He is confident that the new resort will have a wide range of

demographics. "We are aiming at two targets of guests: One is couples, particularly honeymooners because of the attractive style of the villas; the other group is families, because we have these

great villas spread over two floors, as well as a fantastic kids club. We really want to appeal to people with our relaxed, fun atmosphere," he said.


"We want families to enjoy

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Property Gazette

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for sale/barter. 4 brand-new, quiet, natural, luxurious 2-bedroom and 2-bathroom villas. Fully furnished with outdoor whirlpool. Approx 180sqm on a 100sq wah plot of land. In the most guarded, prestige estate of Saraburi. For sale at 4.75 million baht each or barter with seaview-land plots or condo development in Phuket. Contact Tel: 081-8142040. Email: sailesh@thaimartin.com Visit our website: www.ziam.com

RAWAI BEACH CONDO

Sea view, foreign freehold. 550,000 baht. Tel: 086-940-8914. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

Located near Laguna area. Living area: 150sqm. Land area: 650sqm. 7.5 million baht. Tel: 087-8938590.

SHOPHOUSE IN CHALONG FOR SALE

As new condition, excellent location. Many extras. 4.3 million baht. Tel: 085-7987156 (Eng), 085-8831695 (Thai).

BEAUTIFUL HOUSE FOR SALE



51.47sqm, in Chanakran Property Village, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Behind TOT Public Co Ltd in Chalong. The house is under construction and will be ready within one month. Price: 3.9 million baht. Please call for more details. Tel: 081-9562406.

SEAVIEW PLOTS IN BANG TAO

Fantastic view, ready to build, underground utilities. Starting at 3 million baht. Call to view. Tel: 089-590-3665, 086-2670157. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

THAI BUNGALOW

Rural Ban Liphon, Thalang. 2 bedrooms with aircons, lounge, dining room, large back patio with garden. 8 mins to Boat Lagoon, 15 mins to the airport. 920,000 baht ono. Call Clare at Tel: 083-3906700, or evening Tel: 086-4702787 (English). Tel: 086-0918355 (Thai).

HILLSIDE LAND

1,760sqm. Chanote, quiet and exclusive area, private access. Located 1.2km west of Rawai Rd. 4.5 million baht. Tel: 085-7827551.

NEW 3-STORY COMMERCIAL

building. 2 bathrooms. Price: 4 million baht. Please contact Tel: 086-7432011.

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Within 100 metres of the beach, 80 sqm. of living space. One bedroom, living room, European-style kitchen, fully furnished, air conditioning, hot water system, home security system, internet connection, television and satellite TV. The price starts from 6.5 million baht for the first-floor apartment. Please contact Ann 66 81 868 7676

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Property Gazette

CHERNG TALAY-MANIK



2 rai, hill views, Chanote, wall around land. Price: 5.9 million baht. Call Tel: 086-2746511.

KALIM BEACHFRONT LAND



Beautiful land for sale. 21-3-49 rai at Kalim Beach, Chanote title, water, electric. Tel: 081-7474742.

HOUSE FOR SALE IN SAI YUAN



Single house built in modern style and designed with European convenience, features 2 spacious bedrooms with air conditioning, 2 en-suite bathrooms, living room furniture, well-equipped kitchen, large garden and surrounded by wall and gate. Parking space for car is available. Ideal for those seeking privacy and solitude lifestyle.

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- Water storage tank
- Garden
- Parking space - 80sq wah

Price: 5.5 million baht. Contact Miss Kob. Tel: 081-2733303. Email: info@sariyahouse.com

FIRST CHOICE PATONG

New real estate agency looking to sell your property, condo, villas or commercial or residential land. Contact Mimi at Tel: 087-9766385 (English/French), or Linjee at Tel: 081-4940450 (Thai). Tel: 076-600151, 087-976-6385. Fax: 076-600153. Email: mimi@firstchoice-real-estate.com

HOUSE FOR SALE in Kamala beach



One story house in Kamala Beach area with 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom and 2 parking spaces. Separate maid's house. Living area: 120 sqm. Land area: 1,400sqm. Big garden with hill view. 2-min drive to the beach. 7.8 million baht. Chanote title. Contact K. Dome. 081-1994356 or 076-386040-2. or domeglover@hotmail.com

KOH YAO YAI LAND FOR SALE

4.5 rai, Chanote, hillside panoramic sea view, close to beach. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-5955574. Email: kraisor@ppfashionworld.com

250 HOUSES FOR SALE

We've got what you are looking for look. Ask Marc at Tel: 085-7839062. Visit www.phuketmarbella.com

TOWNHOUSE FOR SALE

Chalong, fully furnished, all teak furnishings, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, 2-car garage, utility room and 2 balconies. 7 million baht. Tel: 076-280709, 085-7950779.

HIGH-QUALITY HOME



2 stories, 4 bedrooms, 1/2 rai in Rawai. Separate building with maid's unit, storeroom, laundry, large kitchen. 300m to Chalong Circle. Large living areas, two-car garage. Too many features to list. Price: 12.5 million baht. Tel: 081-4776662. Email: vemdono@yahoo.com

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5-star, on the beach, sale direct by owner. Only 29.5 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062.

REDUCED 1 MILLION


Boutique hotel for sale. 6 rooms, busy restaurant-bar-tour desk on Nanai Rd. Only 2.5 million baht. Call Andrew. Tel: 087-2825086.

6 HOUSES, BANG TAO

All 6 for only 12.5 million baht. Unique investment. Call Marc. Tel: 085-7839062.

HOUSE FOR SALE

Villa California, Chao Fa East Rd. 2 bedrooms with aircons, 2 bathrooms, fully-fitted kitchen. 1.3 million baht. Tel: 089-8684644.



Foreign Freehold Available

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WWW.CHALONGBAYVIEW.COM MOBILE: 087 898 7062

20-46 RAI IN KAMALA



All land has a fantastic sea view and good road access. Chanote. Land can be sold in divided plots. Thai owner. Price: 6 million baht per rai. Please contact Sakorn at Tel: 087-6050365. Email: tim.kamalaparadise@hotmail.com

KATHU GOLF VIEW LAND

1.9 million baht per rai. Near Loch Palm Golf Club and BIS. The land totals 70.5 rai (Nor Sor 3 Kor). Quiet and scenic with access to water, electricity and road (800 meters is roadside). Please contact Sumon for details. Tel: 076-352069, 081-6919346. Fax 076-261028. Email: sumon@ridethailand.com

URGENT SALE

Khao Lak. Bang Niang bungalow-apartment resort. 8 bungalows with 2 rooms and 2 bungalows with 3 rooms. 6m x 12m swimming pool. Sauna, Jacuzzi, restaurant. All rooms with aircon, TV, DVD player and ADSL. Parking available. 9 million baht. Tel: 076-346-065, 081-8914844. Email: joerg@phuket.ksc.co.th

HOUSE FOR URGENT SALE

Large 4+ bedroom house in Chalong. Up for urgent sale due to relocation. Selling at 10.5 million baht only. A bargain deal. Tel: 076-282211, 081-8926251. Email: mrsouza@hotmail.com For further details, visit our website: www.phuketdreamhome.com

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land and villas for sale at the best prices in Thailand. Email: admin@ideacon.biz For info, please visit our website: http://www.thaisunshine-developments.com

58 RAI BEACHFRONT LAND



Koh Yao. Chanote. Half the land is flat with 300 meters of beachfront and behind a calm river crossing. Ideal for yacht pier. The rest of the land has a little slope with nice sea view. Thai owner. Price: 3.5 million baht per rai. Please contact Sakorn. Tel: 087-6050365. Email: tim.kamalaparadise@hotmail.com

BEAUTIFUL CONDO FOR SALE

Immaculate 126sqm condominium for sale overlooking Nai Ham lagoon and only a two-minute walk from the beach. 2 bedrooms each with en-suite bathroom, lounge, dining room with kitchen and balcony with stunning views. Fully air conditioned and tastefully furnished. 8 million baht. Tel: 076-388809, 081-0849566. Email: nicholas@idecnet.com

LUXURY SEAVIEW VILLA

Direct from owner. 32 million baht or rent. No agents. Tel: 089-4742958. Email: tm_thanida@yahoo.com

110 RAI BEACHFRONT LAND

Absolute beachfront land. Price: 2.6 million baht per rai. Call Tel: 087-2849541. Email: mk@phuket-no1.com

APARTMENT BUILDING

Profitable business, returning a healthy 12% yield. Apartment building, consisting of 21 studios, manager's cottage, mini mart and other associated businesses. Currently trading at 75% occupancy. A great business with scope to expand profits further. Tel: 087-9484300. Email: grants.construction@gmail.com

6 RAI IN KAMALA



Nice land with sea view and good road access. Chanote title. Thai owner. 6 million baht per rai. For more info, please contact Sakorn. Tel: 087-6050365. Email: tim.kamalaparadise@hotmail.com

LAKESIDE HOUSE



130sq wah of land. 2-story house, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, living room, Chuanchuen lagoon. Contact Peggy. Tel: 081-8914664.

RAWAI LAND

3.25 rai development site for condo, etc. Good sea view from 2nd floor, power on the block. 6 meters from road. 5.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-0825707.

KAMALA HOME @ 2.89 MIL BAHT

Furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Land: 200sqm. 100m to beach. Call Tel: 038-720980, 083-1206042. Fax: 038-720215. Email: cincharoen@exotiq.com

SEA VIEW CONDO

Two bedrooms including kitchen and aircon. 72sqm and beautiful sea view. Only 33 million baht. Tel: 086-004-3008, 084-0535780. Email: info@ayudhya.net

RAWAI POOL VILLA

2 bedrooms, 150sqm, furnished, ready to move in. Price: 4.3 million baht. Please contact for more information at Tel: 085-7839062.

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Property Gazette

NAI THON LAND PLOT



2km from beach, ready to build. Price: 15,000 baht per sq wah. Includes permit. Tel: 084-0526400 (Martin), 086-6865304 (Narin). Email: martin@phuketvillage.se

PATONG HOTEL FOR SALE

Built 1 year ago. Successful. 60 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062 (English), 086-2767510 (Thai).

58 RAI BEACHFRONT LAND

on Koh Yao island. Chanote. Half the land is flat with 300 meters of beach front and behind a calm river crossing. Ideal for yacht pier. The rest of the land has a little slope with nice sea view. Thai owner. Price: 3.5 million baht per rai. Contact Sakorn. Tel: 087-6050365. Email: tim.kamalaparadise@hotmail.com

NEW 3-BEDROOM

quiet home. Lovely outlook, 2 bathrooms, pool, kitchen, carport with storage. Land: 450sqm. 5.5 million baht. Tel: 086-2817605. Email: nigelnpxie@yahoo.com.au

SOI NAYA HOUSE FOR SALE



60sq wah, Nai Harn area. 2.5 million baht. Contact K. Pee at Tel: 084-0513731, 085-7864509.

LAND AT SAI YUAN



Sea view over Rawai Beach with private access. Nor Sor Sam Kor. 7-3-81 rai at 6.5 million baht per rai. Contact Tel: 081-5384989. Email: mnobnorb@hotmail.com

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25 rai of fantastic beachfront land. 5-200 rai sea view plots in Patong and all over Phuket. Tel: 081-5395454. Fax: 076-260311. Email: mk@phuket-no1.com For further details, please visit our website: www.phuket-no1.com

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30 rai full of palm trees in Kapong, Phang Nga. Priced at only 120,000 baht per rai. Financing available. Email: bourlis@hotmail.com

LUXURY HOUSE WITH GREAT VIEW



House with the most amazing view of Patong Bay for sale or lease. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room. This property, if improved slightly by adding an infinity pool, extending the living area and doing some general upgrading would resell for minimum US\$2 million. Very sound investment. Tel: 081-8921108. Fax: 081-345821. Email: giulio@phuketrealestate.com Please visit our website: www.phuketrealestatesolutions.com

LAND FOR SALE

756sqm in Jomthong Village, 15 mins from Phuket City, 150 meters from main road, suitable for villa or shophouse. 4.5 million baht. Contact Tel: 084-0908811. Email: inthira81@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

New 2-story house with open-plan kitchen, dining room, living room plus 2 separate living rooms, 4 bedrooms, 3 en-suite bathrooms, laundry room, big verandas, 2 car parks. Located in Chalong area. Call Frank. Tel: 086-6831964.

3-STORY HOUSE FOR SALE



near Chalong circle. 405sqm, fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, aircon, garage for 2 cars. Good location for your business. Contact Tel: 089-8742960. Email: pwarunee@hotmail.com

NAI HARN HOME W/ POOL

Private, secluded, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, custom pool, located on over a 1 rai. 9.5 million baht. Tel: 087-2095174.

NAI YANG LAND

for sale. 1km to the beach. Three plots: 20m x 22m (440sqm each), road access. Price: 900,000 baht. Call Tel: 089-7241140.

2 BEACHHOUSES FOR SALE

Kamala: 15 million baht. Rawai Beach: 29.5 million baht. Both are ready to move in. Contact Marc at Tel: 085-7839062.

LAND IN KAMALA

All with Chanote. 5.5 rai in the most exclusive area near Kamala center on flat land: 8.5 million baht per rai. Also, 6 rai with good sea view: 6 million baht per rai. 20 rai with best sea view in Kamala: 6 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-2742308. Email: kim@kamalafalls.com

LAND FOR SALE

8 rai coconut farm near Tapee River in Surat Thani. 80m wide. Electricity and water. Price: 4.5 million baht. Contact for more information. Tel: 089-0927697. Email: matklang@hotmail.com

PATONG CENTER HOTEL

for sale. 1 year old, proven success. 18 rooms. Price: 60 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062, 086-2767510.

HOUSE FOR SALE

2-stories in a most desirable and secure estate. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, study, living room, kitchen, laundry room, set in fenced garden. Furnished, ADSL, UBC. Price: 7 million baht obo. Tel: 084-8439579. Fax: 076-323421. Email: somlerdee@yahoo.com

Properties For Rent

RAWAI SEAVIEW APARTMENT

New deluxe studio. Full kitchen, cable, DVD, great view, furnished. Long-term rent: 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-0571420.

NEW CHALONG HOME

Furnished, 2-bedroom home for rent with telephone, UBC, and aircon. Contact for price. Tel: 089-6521473.

CHALONG SHOPHOUSE

This new 3-story shophouse is available for long-term lease. Ideal for home office/shop accommodation. Inquiries at Tel: 089-6521473.

4 BEDROOMS EN-SUITE

Large luxury villa in Rawai. For short- or long-term rent. Plasma TV, UBC, cable, aircon, big pool, garden. Tel: 086-2790837, 081-5377137.

TWO-STORY SHOPHOUSE

for rent on the beautiful island of Koh Tao. Ideal for a business and perfectly situated in the main market. Rent from 23,000 baht per month with no key money. Terms negotiable. Contact Ricky. Tel: 089-4852635. Email: schizm72@hotmail.com

BARGAIN SEAVIEW HOUSE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large 1-story villa with its own swimming pool, lawned big garden. Private development. Cape Yamu. Close to British International School. Great sea views. Only 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-2796283.

QUIET AND SAFE SINGLE HOUSE

5km from Laguna Phuket. Furnished, UBC, satellite TV, telephone line, Internet, big garden. 3 bedrooms, 2 aircons, 2 big bathrooms, bathtub, hot water. Short- or long-term rent. 16,000 baht per month or 13,000 baht for 1-year lump sum. Contact Tel: 087-4172757 (English), or 086-6829804 (Thai).

BEACHFRONT HOUSE

for rent. 1-4 bedrooms. Contact for specific details. Tel: 076-381181, 076-381189.

SEAVIEW HILLSIDE APARTMENT

5-star seaview studio apartment with swimming pool near Lotus. Daily, monthly, or yearly rates available. Only 12 units in apartment. Yearly rate: 12,500 to 44,500 baht. Tel: 081-8779292. Email: prakaisriroj@hotmail.com For further details, visit our website: www.gracegardensphuket.com

KAMALA VILLA

Large 4- to 5-bedroom villa, 3 bathrooms, quality teak kitchen, side-by-side fridge, full-size snooker table, 42" plasma TV. Broadband Internet. 3- to 4-car garage, set on 1 rai with beautiful tropical gardens. Part of private boutique estate of 4 villas. Garden maintenance, house cleaning, cable TV. All included. Long-term: 55,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-8111067.

MODERN CONDO RENTAL PATONG

Rent an ultra-modern, spacious 95sqm, fully-furnished, hotel serviced apartment from Phuket's renowned BYD Lofts. Built-in TEKA kitchens with all utensils, terrace, bath, 43" plasma TV, DVD, free Internet. Just bring your clothes. Rental rates @ 5,500 baht per day - net, inclusive of an excellent breakfast spread. Valid only until 3rd week of October 2007. Tel: 076-343024-7. Fax: 076-343028. Email: manager@bydlofts.com

2-BEDROOM APARTMENT IN SURIN

A few minutes from Surin & Bang Tao Beaches. Common pool, aircon, bedroom fans, timber floors, fully furnished, phone. 30,000 baht per month. Contact Harry. Tel: 081-2731740.

BANG TAO HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, pool, 2 levels, big living room. Tel: 084-8516121. Email: phuketmat@yahoo.com

100SQM FURNISHED STUDIO

Over looking lake, golf and Kathu Valley. Most private and quiet area. Pool, Internet, UBC. Long-term rent: 16,000 baht per month. Contact Noi. Tel: 087-2698492.

KARON STUDIO APARTMENTS

New, luxury rooms. Good prices & 5 mins to Karon Beach. ADSL. Five room styles. Daily: from 550 baht. Monthly: 9,000 baht. Tel: 076-398436-7, 086-5945121, 089-7247148. Fax: 076-398436-7. www.karonstudio.com

PATONG HOUSE RENT/LEASE

Beautiful house on 50 Pi Rd. 2 bedrooms, large living room with open kitchen, sea view, garden, parking, etc. Can take over the lease. 7 years and 7 months left. Buy the lease as an investment for 2 million baht. Minimum 1-year lease: 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 083-2802424. Email: mdamkvist@yahoo.com

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Property Gazette

PATONG BAY VIEW HOME



Enjoy the views from this 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom house. Full kitchen, dining area, pool, ADSL, UBC. The view says it all! Price: 50,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-8821963. Email: benlee53@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR RENT



Soi Ruam Nanachart, Saiyuan, Rawai. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, big garden, aircon, furnished, telephone, ADSL, 5 minutes to Nai Harn Beach. Long-term rent, only 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-215-367, 081-5351570.

TROPICAL VILLA



near Rawai Beach. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, European kitchen, aircons, UBC TV, telephone, furnished, private pool and garden and fully maintained. Minimum 6-month lease: 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-2810452, 087-8931180.

RAWAI/NAI HARN



New, large, luxury house for rent. Large swimming pool, garden, 5 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, big sala. Minimum 1-year lease: 75,000 baht per month. 30-year lease: 18 million baht. Contact Tel: 081-3971835.

PATONG TOWER CONDO



Beautiful Patong Tower beach condo with stunning 280-degree panoramic views of the sea, hills and town. Large outdoor patio and wrap around balcony. Completely renovated, Internet and washing machine. Available from March 1, 2007. Contact Tel: +11-861-381-6344147. Email: For more details, visit our website: www.patongtowerrental.com

HOUSE FOR RENT



Already paid for 2 months. If you take it, you have to pay 8 months and then we will make a new contract. 1 million baht in furnishing. Possibility to sell furniture separately or as a whole. Located 600 meters from beach. Rent: 13,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-446-3002. Email: mariodiams@yahoo.fr

PALAI GREENHOUSE AND BIG GARDEN

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

NEW NAI HARN VILLA

Private gated, furnished, cable TV. Yearly rent: 300,000 baht. Tel: 081-3709661. Email: one5thave@yahoo.com

RAWAI BEACH VILLA

Furnished house, pool, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, garden, terrace and covered carport, UBC, safe. Rent: 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

RAWAI BEACH STUDIO

Furnished, kitchen, ADSL, UBC, aircon. 4,500 baht per month. Contact Khun Noki. Tel: 086-6865567.

APARTMENT FOR RENT

New apartment with swimming pool and security guard. From 18,000 baht per month. Call for more info. Tel: 081-9685963. Email: m@bayproject.com

CHALONG HOUSE

for rent in Land & Houses. 3 bedrooms, fully furnished, aircon, TV, UBC. Tel: 081-9560241, 089-4740645.

CHALONG LONG TERM

Nice area. Swimming pools. 3 bedrooms: 35,000 baht per month. 4 bedrooms: 60,000 baht per month. Negotiable to right tenant. Tel: 076-383059, 086-281-7605. Fax: 076-383059. Email: nigelnpixie@yahoo.com.au

PENTHOUSE FOR RENT

12th floor, 2 bedrooms, hall, hot water, aircon, TV, cable, swimming pool. Mr Harry. Patong Grand Condominium. Tel: 089-8745227. Email: harrynarula@gmail.com

BOAT LAGOON LUXURY

Waterfront townhouses for rent. 2 & 3 bedrooms, UBC, TV. Long- or short-term rent from 35,000 baht per month. Call K. So. Tel: 081-3444473.

SHOPHOUSE BLOCK

5 terraced houses for rent on the bypass road. 35,000 baht per month. Please contact K. Vachira. Tel: 081-3269495.

MISSION HEIGHTS

Luxury 4-bedroom house for rent. Large swimming pool, garden service included. Long or short term. 60,000 baht per month. Call K. So. Tel: 081-3444473.

B.L. APARTMENT

New in Kathu. Big rooms, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, garden, car park. Price: 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-6923163.

SPACIOUS HOME

Beautiful view, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, pool, aircon. Long term. Price: 60,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-2817605. Email: nigelnpixie@yahoo.com.au

PATONG HOUSE

available for long-term rent. Two bedrooms, fully furnished house in central Patong. No smokers, pets or children. 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-6932759, 081-6932759. Email: wunhung@gmail.com

STUNNING SEAVIEWS

Colonial mansion set in gardens with amazing views in every direction. Recently restored to high standard. 3 large bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, furnished, swimming pool. In Cape Yamu area, central east coast. 10 mins to BIS. No dogs. 80,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-2796283.

BOUTIQUE VILLA FOR RENT

Luxury Balinese villa. 2 or 3 bedrooms with private swimming pool. Available for short- or long-term rent. Tel: 076-282394, 084-0535780. Email: info@ayudhya.net For more details, visit our website: www.villasuksan.com

BOAT LAGOON

Two bedrooms, lagoon-fronted townhouse, modern fully-fitted kitchen, use of communal swimming pool near international school, shops, etc. 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-8337836.

PANWA BEACH HOUSE

2 rooms, nice terrace. For rent in September or for long term. 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-2717071.

HOUSE FOR RENT

Fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, cable TV, ADSL. 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-9732917. Email: brunuiviv@hotmail.com

MODERN HOUSES, QUIET LOCATION

2 houses in Nai Harn for long-term rent only. 2 bedrooms, en-suite bathroom, UBC, ADSL, alarm, full aircon, ceiling fans, big terrace, tropical garden, fenced in, small pets allowed, garage w/ 100sqm storage. 5 minutes to the beach, beautiful view. Only 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-8744050. Email: happyjo@procom.in.th

TOURIST INFO SHOP

Small shop for rent in Karon in front of guesthouse. Good location. Tel: 086-2718254.

BRAND NEW PATONG CONDO

Beautiful 1-bedroom condo in best location, quiet. Sea and hill views, all amenities. Long-term rent. Call for details. Tel: 081-9701479. Email: caltirol@hotmail.com

SUPER RENTAL OFFER

Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, Cherg Talay area. 25,000 baht per month. Also, Laguna area for 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 085-7839062.

HOUSE AT THE SANDS

Attached to the Sands resort with the benefit of all resort facilities. Overlooking a lagoon to the front and national park to the rear. Living room, kitchen, toilet and yard on the ground floor. Two bedrooms each with king-size beds, en-suite bathrooms, dressing rooms and balconies on the first floor. Private rooftop sala. Email: jact@ardencraig.fsnet.co.uk For details, please visit our website: www.phukethouse rental.co.uk

3-BEDROOM HOUSE

3 aircons, fully furnished, Western kitchen. Long-term rent: 12,000 baht. Tel: 081-3705956.

Live in Patong?
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SPECIALIST IN WORLDWIDE YACHT BROKERAGE



Lavezzi 40

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Draft: 1.10 m

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Do you want to discover the new Lavezzi 40 from Fountaine Pajot? Come and see her at the PIMEX 2007, berth E7.



Contact Asia Marine for more details

Boat Lagoon & Yacht Haven Marina

Tel: 076 239111, E-mail: broker@asia-marine.net
www.asia-marine.net

TWIN ENGINE

speed boat everything renovated and brand new. Must see! 1.2 million baht obo. Tel: 084-6644050. Email: aadams007@yahoo.com

SAILBOAT

1968 islander for sale. 44-ft world cruiser, lying in Yacht Haven Marina. US\$50,000. Email: temptation44@hotmail.com

FERRY FOR SALE

Length: 30m. Gross: 322 tons. 244 passenger 12.2 million baht. Docked in Phuket. Tel: 081-4084991.

SCUBA TOUR BOAT

Excellent condition, quality construction, well maintained, built 2005, 14m long, 3.5m wide. Galley, sundeck, toilet, shower, dive deck, bridge, diving platform. Solid hardwood. Hino 6-cylinder 189hp diesel engine. Tank holders x 36. Price: 1.6 million baht. Tel: 081-6489628. Email: wrecks@loxinfo.co.th

FIBERGLASS DIVE CATAMARAN

36-ft Cougar catamaran for sale. Twin 230hp Volvo Penta diesel engines. Price: 5.5 million baht. Contact for more info. Tel: 076-485614, 081-8912134. Fax: 076-485613. Email: info@iq-dive.com

KENWOOD SSB

Kenwood SSB Radio Telephone, model TKM-707, complete with aerial tuner kit. Like new. 35,000 baht. Please contact for specific details. Tel: 086-9270293.

BENÉTEAU
There is always something unique aboard a Beneteau.

SIMPSON
Profil Bed is open 24/24. Tel: 076-239111. Fax: 076-239112. Email: info@simpsonmarine.com

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\$249,000 USD

Bollard 60



\$355,000 USD

Celestial 49



\$199,000 USD

Precision 9000 cat



5,750,000 THB

Riviera 51



\$1,150,000 AUD

Dealership Office
The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
Contact: Martin Holmes
tel: 076 235 803
fax: 076 273 319
email: info@leemarine.com

Brokerage Office
The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
Contact: Andrew de Bruin / Marcus Overman
Mobile: 081 894 1530 / 01 968 1437
tel/fax: 076 239 729
email: brokerage@leemarine.com

Yacht Haven Marina Office
The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket
Contact: Jim Paulsen
Mobile: 081 891 3237
tel/fax: 076 206 260
email: yachthaven@leemarine.com

Pataya Office
Ocean Marina Jomtien Beach
Contact: Mark Heath
Mobile: 081 7879408
tel: 038 235 061 fax: 038 235 062
Email: mark@leemarine.com

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Find more classified ads
"Boats & Marine"
at www.phuketgazette.net!

Island Job Mart



Six Senses Erawan in Phuket, Thailand's premier health resort, invites you to a walk-in interview for positions in the following departments:

Food & Beverage	Laundry
Spa Fitness	Kitchen
Front Office	Finance
Reservations	Purchasing
Engineering	Medical
Housekeeping	Gardening

WHERE: The Metropole Hotel (4th Floor, Ploen Pansea Rooms),
1 Soi Surin, Montri Rd, Phuket Town

WHEN: Tuesday September 11th - September 13th, 2007 Time: 09.00-18.00.

PLEASE BRING: 2 photos, copies of educational and training certification, references, a smile and a great service attitude!

Six Senses Erawan offers you a five-day working week, 10,000 baht per month guaranteed service charge, Phuket Housing for non-Phuket residents, Medical insurance for inpatient/outpatient, 8-15 days annual leave, excellent training for all positions plus many other incentives and bonuses!

For more information contact hrco-phuket@sixsensesdestinationspas.com

Six Senses Erawan - Enriching Life!

THE PARADISE KOH YAO

island hideaway near phuket

The Paradise Koh Yao, a contemporary 70 room Boutique Resort is located on Koh Yao Noi island, a 60 minute boat trip from Phuket. Catering to the experienced traveler looking for unspoiled nature in uncompromised luxury - away from the crowded tourist spots of Phuket and Krabi.

We are seeking an outstanding personality to be a key member of our motivated team that is committed to personalized, superior customer service.

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER / CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

In charge of accounting, financial statements and bank relations - based in Phuket, regular visits to the resort are required

- At least 3 - 5 years experience in 5 or 4 star Hotel / Resort operation in similar assignment
- Able to close financial statement for revenue department
- Bachelor in accounting
- Fluent in English (written / spoken)
- Energetic leader personality, strong on internal controls
- Strong presence in day to day operations
- Thai National 30 - 45 years of age

Attractive remuneration package will be offered to the right candidate

Send your latest resume with recent photo and references to: e-mail: info@theparadise.biz

The Paradise Koh Yao - Boutique Beach Resort & Spa (Phuket Office)
12/39 Moo 2, THEPKRASATTI RD, KOH KAEW, MUANG, PHUKET 83000
Tel: 076 238 081 Website: www.TheParadise.biz

TELEMARKETING EXECUTIVE

We have a number of opportunities to work in an expanding company in south-east Asia. Are you money oriented, goal driven, have confident & polite telephone manners? Interested in working abroad? If so, apply now by sending your CV to email: ronsmith99@gmail.com Native English speaker only. Flights and accommodations will be paid for. Please contact for more information at Tel: 087-7731327. Email: ronsmith99@gmail.com

OFFICE ASSISTANT (URGENT)

Bachelor's degree
- Good English
- Organizational skills
- Neat appearance
Please contact for additional information at Tel: 076-296321. Please send resume or contact to email: info@stoneymonday.com

PHUKET LAW FIRM

Looking for 2 Thai lawyers. Interested applicants, send your resume/photo to email: scphuket@yahoo.com

STAFF FOR INTERNET

business in Rawai. Thai female staff wanted part time on Saturday and Sunday with computer skills and basic English knowledge. Good salary. Contact Mr. Rudi or Khun Nat. Please contact Tel: 076-288808, 081-0909640. Email: info@phuket-car-rentals.com

ENTHUSIASTIC PERSON

for small guesthouse in Karon. Take care of reception, staff, tourists, give info, etc. Please contact for more details at Tel: 086-2718254.

HÄFELE



HÄFELE (Thailand) Limited is a subsidiary of one of the biggest manufacturers and wholesalers of furniture fitting and architectural hardware worldwide. We are a market leader in Thailand for supplying all kinds of products in the furniture industry, home appliance, sanitary ware and architectural demands for high-end consumers. To support our business growth, we urgently require a professional for in the position of:

Sanitary Sales Executive

Requirement:

- Able to sell high quality design products
- Experience in sanitary ware, furniture fitting, kitchenware or architecture hardware is preferable.
- Mutuality, leadership, managerial skills and having skill in service plus is a must
- At least 3-5 years experience in project sales is preferable.
- Fluent in English, have own car

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Employees of Häfele (Thailand) are entitled to a comprehensive range of attractive benefits including provident fund, training, health insurance, life insurance and etc.

Application:

Please send a full resume including work experience, educational qualifications, and photograph by email to peerapong@hafele.co.th or by post to:

HÄFELE (Thailand) Limited

57 Soi Sukhumvit 64, Sukumvit Rd., Bangrak, Prakanong, Bangkok 10260
Tel: 0-2 728 7103, Fax: 0-2 741 7272, www.hafele.co.th

IT DEV MANAGER IN BANGKOK

IT development manager required. To be located in Bangkok. Male/female, Thai or foreigner, Bachelor's or masters degree in information technology, computer science or related fields. Must have knowledge in the following areas: Project management, XML, Web development, Java development, PHP development and SEO requirements. Must also be highly responsible, enthusiastic, self motivated, creative, and well organized. Good English skills are a must. Salary range: 50,000-150,000 baht, depending upon experience. Tel: 02-233-82603. Fax: 02-2338152. Send a detailed CV and recent photo to email: wiredseshieko@hotmail.com For more info, please visit our website: <http://wd-travel.com>

YACHT BASE MANAGER

for our new base in Langkawi. You must have experience in the yacht charter business and have good technical skills. Please send your resume via email. Tel: 081-9704020. Email: thailand@dreamyachtcharter.com

ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

Vibrant Thai company with Australian expertise wants you and your energy, ideas and enthusiasm. Come and talk to us for more information. Tel: 084-1845162. Please visit our website: <http://www.shades.co.th>

SWEDISH & GERMAN SPEAKING

Siam Safari Nature Tours are now looking for Swedish-, Danish- and/or German-speaking staff for the upcoming high season. Tel: 076-280116, 081-7973420. Fax: 076-280107. Email: landersson1@spray.se Visit our website: <http://www.siamsafari.com>

BYD LOFTS RECEPTION STAFF

The BYD lofts in Patong are upmarket hotel-apartments. We are urgently seeking the following team players:

- Reception (male or female)
- Night auditor (male)
- Maids and roomboys
- Restaurant staff

Please contact for details at Tel: 076-343024-7. Fax: 076-343028. Email: manager@bydlofts.com For further details, please visit our website: www.bydlofts.com

BUNGALOW RESORT ALL POSITIONS

- * Restaurant manager
- * Receptionist
- * Cook
- * Waiter/waitress
- * Cashier
- * Maid
- * Beach boy/girl
- * Trainees and more...

You should be motivated, service-minded, with pleasant personality, an energetic individual, have minimum of 2 years experience and good command of English. Please send your resume, expected salary and recent photo to email: pia@phuket-bangtao-lagoon.com

COPYWRITER

Siam Real Estate urgently require experienced copywriter to write up property listings. Preferably English and can work from home. Please contact for additional details. Tel: 076-288908. Email: richard@siamrealestate.com

CALL CENTER SEEKING GERMANS

Intercallservice Co Ltd are seeking a native German-speaking person for our call center in Phuket to support our customers in Germany. We offer a 5-day week with good social benefits and work per-mit. For details, call Mr Korn at Intercallservice Co Ltd. Please contact us for additional information at Tel: 076-280929, 089-8739123. Email: korn@intercallservice.com

P/T ASSISTANT

Personal assistant. Thai lady required part time with very flexible hours. Must have good English and computer skills. Tel: 086-2790837.

GET A NEW JOB

Telephone assistant, perfect English, good service, telephone marketing/sales experience. 6 hours per day. Great future. Tel: 089-7286752.

Island Job Mart



Hyatt Regency Phuket Resort and Spa

A luxurious 151-room Resort and Spa with a distinctive style, elegance, commitment to service, and attention to detail will open in December 2007 on Nai Yang Beach.

We are inviting outgoing, energetic, customer focused Thai nationals who possess natural flair for hospitality, creativity and passion for work for the following positions:

DIRECTOR OF SALES	SECURITY MANAGER
ASSOCIATE DIR. OF SALES—WHOLESALE	ASSISTANT MANAGER—ENGINEERING
PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER	OUTLET MANAGERS
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SPA MANAGER	PASTRY CHEF
ASSISTANT MANAGER—RECREATIONS	CHEFS DE CUISINE
LAUNDRY MANAGER	SOUS CHEFS

We also welcome applications for other positions not listed above.

If you are interested, please visit our office from Tuesday to Thursday, 2.30 pm – 4.30 pm or send your resume and a recent colour photograph to:

Director of Human Resources
Hyatt Regency Phuket

Pre-Opening Office 11 Moo 2, Baan Sakoo, Thalang, Phuket 83110
Telephone: 076 327 425, Facsimile: 076 327 426
E-Mail: hrphuket.humanresources@hyattintl.com



WORK, FOR THAIS THAT SPEAK ENGLISH

Urgently need Thai People to join our sales team to work with tourists. Salary and Commission available
Call James on 081-984-1315

THE CHEDI PHUKET

1. Chef de Partie

- Basic command of English
- 3 Years working experience as Chef de Partie in 4 or 5 star hotel (Western Cuisine)
- Able to control the quality of the food (taste and freshness)
- Able to control the hygiene of the kitchen

2. Receptionist

- Male 24-30
- Minimum 1 Year experience
- Bachelor's Degree
- Good command of English
- Fidelio System Knowledge

3. Assistant Maintenance Manager

- Bachelor's Degree in related fields
- Water System & Swimming Pool System
- Swage Water System
- Air Conditioning
- Generator System
- PABX System
- Computer Skills
- English Skill (Communication)

Personnel Department, The Chedi Phuket

118 M.3 Cheng Talay Talang Phuket 83110

Email: Personnel@chedi-phuket.com Tel: 076-324017-20, Fax: 076-324083

GRAPHIC DESIGNER WANTED

We are expanding and are looking for a graphic designer with strong skills in Adobe CS3, specifically Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign. Thai nationals only. Tel: 076-282211, 081-892 6251. Email: info@origopub.com

CHALLENGING MODEL CASTING

Challenging model casting for 3- to 13-year-old boys and girls, Western-mixed Thai and Thai at MyClip Studios. Contact K. Varintara for additional details. Monday to Friday, 9 am to 6 pm. Tel: 076-380610, 081-7370623. Fax: 076-380612. For more details, please visit our website: www.myclipstudios.com

Employment Wanted

GM OR RM AVAILABLE SOON

I am looking for a new challenge as of November 2007 as a hotel general manager or resident manager. By now, I have several years work experience in Thailand, including openings and SLH properties. I am up to the latest trends and I am very modern and innovative. More of a 'trend-setter' and not a person who only likes to copy others. I have an ongoing focus on revenue opportunities, costs, HR systems and service standards. I am very detailed with standards, guest experiences and all financial issues. If you are in need of an ethical manager with solid values, email me for a detailed CV/resume. Also, please include the name of your resort or hotel. Email: thailandhotelier@gmail.com

PART-TIME HOUSEKEEPER

I wish to work part time for foreign clients only. Limited to the Ao Makham area only. Please contact for more details. Tel: 084-6279610.

CERTIFIED ENGLISH TEACHER

American female English teacher available for immediate F/T or P/T work. Extensive background in hospitality & business. Please contact me for CV. Tel: 085-7858150. Email: ariyana_gant@yahoo.com



Thailand's lowest-priced online audio-visual retailer, is looking for additional staff to join us in Koh Samui:

- 1 General Manager
- 1 Sales & Marketing Manager
- 1 Web Programmer
- 1 Web Designer
- 1 Web SEO Administrator
- 1 IT/Hardware Support Manager
- 3 Sales/Administration Support Staff
- 3 Accounts Assistants
- 1 Accounts Manager
- 2 Installation Engineers (AV or Electrical)

All applicants must have very good written and spoken English along with enough ambition to reach the top of their career. Based initially in our offices in Koh Samui, there will be considerable opportunity for travel as our global company continues to expand into another 10 countries over the next 12 months.

We offer excellent long-term prospects and remuneration for all positions. Applications including CV, cover letter and current salary details should be sent to:

careers@1staudiovisual.co.th

SECRETARY/ ASSISTANT TO GM

Foreign GM requires single Thai person to assist in the running of a residential condominium property. Accounting work (petty cash, accounts payable, payroll taxation). Thai-English translation. General secretarial work and knowledge of Microsoft Office (Word, Excel). Liaising with owners, tenants and staff. Previous experience essential. Contact Tel: 076-344350, 087-2646354. Fax: 076-344-350. Email: brendon@kalim residence.com

HOTEL JOBS

We currently require 1 cook, 1 English-speaking receptionist and 2 waitresses. Email: info@club-coconut-resort.info

NANNY WANTED

We are looking for an English-speaking nanny in Patong. Please contact for more details at Tel: 084-6470468.

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following positions:

Distribution Marketing Person

- Thai national
- Reasonable command of written and spoken English
- PC experience in Word, Excel & Internet
- Good administrator

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

367/2 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang, Phuket 83000

TEACHER NEEDED

We need motivated/friendly teachers for public schools in Phuket. Send your CV to email: eccpkt@ecc.ac.th

ADMINISTRATOR

with good English skills, age 18-25, single and must have driver's license. Also, teacher for children. Contact Tel: 076-239209, 084-1885828.

**Looking for a job?
Still haven't found the perfect candidate?**

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at www.phuketgazette.net!

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Articles for Sale

RESTAURANT / CATERING

equipment. Commercial fridge and freezer, oven, serving sets and more. Contact Tel: 081-5369079.

FRENCH ROTISSERIE
for chickens. Can hold up to 20 chickens. 220v. 80,000 baht. Tel: 083-1025444.

BLACK PEARL
necklace from Tahiti for sale. 19 pearls, 10 to 17mm. Good price. Tel: 083-1025444.

DIVING COMPRESSOR

Coltri-Sub MCMC with Honda engine. Portable. 3.5cfm. Price: 80,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-0047326.

Bulletins

SPONSOR A NEEDY CHILD

The Phuket International Women's Club is a voluntary organization raising funds for educational scholarships. We rely on the goodwill of our donors and sponsors - small and large. If you would like to put something back into the community in which you live, contact us to find out more about giving a prize or being a sponsor. Contact Carol (Tel: 087-4178860 or carol.fryer@piwc.info) or Sue (Tel: 087-2776948 or sue.arnulphy@piwc.info).

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Mission Hospital
Phuket City
Wed and Sun 7 pm
Bangkok Phuket Hospital
Phuket City
Fri 7 pm
Patong Hospital Patong
Mon, Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun
at 7 pm and Fri at 8 pm
Chalong Health
Clinic-near Chalong Circle
Tues 1 pm
For Phuket info (English)
call 081-9564031,
081-8912895
Scandinavian speaking Group
Wat Karon School-Karon
Tue 7 pm
Tel 081-2732053 (Nor)
087-2795636 (Nor)
086-7458910 (Sue)

For info on other Thailand
AA meetings inquire
at Tel: 02-2318300
(for Thai language press 3)
www.aathailand.org or
email info@aathailand.org

BRITISH MAN MISSING

Searching for a British male, 68 years old, last name is Wake. Has tattoo of skull with dagger on right forearm. Two thirds of second finger on right hand is missing. Believed to have stayed in Chiang Mai from the end of April. Was due to fly back to UK on July 14th. No contact has been had since mid-July. Family and friends extremely worried, particularly as he suffers severe asthma, and depression. We urge him to contact his friends in the UK or the British police. Any information regarding his whereabouts will be gratefully received. Please contact for more info. Tel: 019-1431-3493, 077-5824-1320. Email: wakebev5@hotmail.com

TO OSLASH

Please contact me again with your email address so that I can send you the guesthouse details and photos. Email: info@thephuketproperty.com

PIWC GALA BALL

The Phuket International Women's Club announces the most prestigious event this year - the annual Gala Ball on Saturday, November 24th at the Indigo Pearl in Nai Yang Beach. Watch for more details. Tickets will be in great demand. Contact Carol at Tel: 087-4178860, email: carol@aplusplussoftware.com or Sue at Tel: 087-2776948, email: arnulphy@loxinfo.co.th

Business Opportunities

GUESTHOUSE AND RESTAURANT

Located opposite the main entrance from Royal Paradise Hotel. 6 guest rooms, water, shower, aircon, TV. Luxurious, beautiful restaurant. 14 million baht. Tel: 081-8956587, 081-8949060. Email: rudolfpanz@hotmail.com

WHOLESALE FRANCHISE

Only one of its kind in all of Phuket. Priced at 3 million baht. Return on investment in less than 24 months! Email: admin@ideacon.biz Be your own boss, for info please visit our website: www.ideacon.biz/wholesale_franchise.htm

POOLBAR FOR SALE OR RENT

Excellent location in Patong. Bangla Rd near Rock Hard and Seduction disco. Fully equipped and operational, well decorated, 10 pool tables, 200sqm in size. For information, call K. Kees in the afternoon or evening. Management contact optional. Great business opportunity. Tel: 081-8267129.

TEACHING OFFICE

The place is ready for teaching or to make an office. Includes parking. 32sqm, 2 aircons, telephone and Internet with ADSL. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-296-613, 083-3906709. Email: private_language@yahoo.com

RESTAURANT & BAR
for sale/lease. Rawai area, fully equipped, ample customer parking. Tel: 089-9711038. Email: gbriar@gmail.com

BARGAIN BUY

Bar/restaurant for sale on Nanai Rd, fully stocked, own soundsystem, large kitchen, two rooms, pool table, TV, 3+3-year contract. 800,000 baht. Tel: 085-7973904.

INVESTOR/PARTNER

Required for bar in busy Bangla Rd area. For information, please contact after 6 pm at Tel: 084-8436792, 6684-8436792 (Int'l).

NEW PATONG LUXURY CLUB

All new. Construction finished on June 1st. Excellent location. 50m from the beach. 6- or 12-year lease available. 100% ready to open tomorrow. Great opportunity. Space available for restaurant below. This place won't last long. Call now! Tel: 084-6644050. Email: aadams007@yahoo.com

RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Kata Beach, 3 bedrooms, TV, pool table, fully stocked, seats 80. Tel: 089-5880839.

BAR FOR SALE/RENT

Soi Sukhumvit. Good price. 1-year contract for 3 more years. Tel: 087-0145817.

INTERNET CAFE

8 computers, all fixtures, 10-month lease left, able to extend 3 more years. Quick sale at 275,000 baht, or 375,000 baht with 3-year lease. Situated on busy Nanai Rd. Email: bmudablue@aol.com

MESSAGE SHOP

for sale. Top location, ready for high season. Contact for more information. Tel: 085-7910071.

GUESTHOUSE PATONG

Please call K. Kevin. Tel: 084-7300190.

SHORT-TERM LOANS

Real-estate loans. 15% + fees. Secured by real estate only. Tel: 086-9421930.

SHOP FOR RENT

Patong Beach, Soi Banzan, only 100m from Carrefour. It's 60sqm and is possible to make contract for long-term rental. Tel: 087-2869095, 086-2837656 (English).

BEER BAR BANGLA

Please call K. Kevin. Tel: 084-7300190.

PRIME BUSINESSES

for sale. Cheap restaurant, beauty salon, Internet cafe plus rental shops. Five 2-level shophouses. Chalong. Only 1.6 million baht. Pay deposit and balance for 6 months. Be quick. Tel: 085-7850074. Email: tonydudley@eznet.co.nz

SMALL BEAUTY SHOP

Patong. Take over for 40,000 baht, rent 5,000 baht per month. Move in now. Call Tel: 086-2767510.

REATAURANT FOR SALE

Kata Beach, 3 stories, 2 bedrooms, 4 toilets, fully furnished, next to a 200-room hotel. Ready for high season. 5-year registered lease. 1.3 million baht. Call Tel: 081-7881699, 084-4429088.

TOURIST INFO SHOP

Do you want to start a shop at a good location in Karon. Call Tel: 086-2718254.

PATONG RESTAURANT

for sale well-established Indian and seafood shops for sale at Food Haven in Jungceylon. Now selling for only 300,000 baht each. Tel: 086-3287376, 081-9563061. Fax: 076-2711110. Email: sohailnoshad@hotmail.com

BAR IN BANGLA

4-year lease in Soi Conzo, Bangla Rd. Tel: 081-9251730.

INVESTOR REQUIRED

For 36-room beach resort in Patong. 9 million baht for 4 years. Fixed return of 350,000 baht per month guaranteed. Tel: 086-8343784.

BOUTIQUE GUESTHOUSE

Center of Patong, very long lease, 1st class. For more info, click on our *Gazette* homepage banner 'Boating & Fishing Help'. Email: makocraft@hotmail.com

SEAVIEW GUESTHOUSE

for lease in Patong. Only 1.7 million baht per year. No key money, 28 rooms, restaurant, large office space. Tel: 081-6913029. Email: kris_silana_chai@yahoo.com

PATONG BAR

for sale. Call K. Kevin at Tel: 084-7300190.

SMALL BAR ON SOI TIGER

Very good location on Soi Tiger, Bangla Rd. Lease expires end of July 2010. Price: 2.5 million baht. Contact for further details. Tel: 087-8324522. Email: pisacato@hotmail.com

TSBA
Selling Going Concerns

NIGHT CLUB

BEST LEASE/LOCATION IN PATONG.

If you want to buy or sell a business

Call Kevin 084-7300190,
Email: kevin@tsba.info
www.tsba.info

GUESTHOUSE

for lease. Best location in Patong Beach. 50m to Bangla Rd. 15 brand-new rooms and a restaurant. Only 2.3 million baht to take over 9-year contract. Tel: 086-0043008, 084-0535780. Email: info@ayudhya.net Please visit our website: www.ayudhya.net

Business Products & Services

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26 Hongyok-Utit Rd, Talaad Yai, Samkong, Phuket. Associated with Advocates and Solicitors Bangkok, Phuket and UK. We provide a wide range of high-quality and specialized legal services to individual and corporate clients.

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Notice

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Mrs. Boonchira U-Thaisawat holding Thai ID Card # 3 3299 0018761 1 A.K.A. "Ed" or "Base" is no longer employed by and has no association with PCD Consultants/Mr. Eric Dohlon

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TOYOTA COROLLA 1995



1.5L, manual, 140,000km. Well-maintained and serviced, good condition. Price: 105,000 baht. Must see. Tel: 087-2709093. Email: s.anut@hotmail.com

CHEVROLET AVEO



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NISSAN NV 1995

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